

ConNotations

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October/November
2004

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

A Conversation with Brian Herbert & Kevin J Anderson

By Catherine Book

I had the pleasant opportunity to meet and chat with Brian and Kevin at a local Borders store on August 28th while they were in Arizona talking about and signing their newest Dune

them. I had tried to do a little research on the web before I met them since I had not read all their books. I hadn't realized how prolific Kevin has been. I mentioned my attempt at



book, *Battle of Corrin*.

Brian and Kevin had a tight schedule that day as they had just left one bookstore and had just enough time to eat their lunch and talk to me before the next group of rabid fans expected

research and Brian told me that he has 20 books and Kevin has 90, plus 160 short stories. Where would I start? I commented on how amazed I was at the number of 'hits' I found on

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Fiske
Pearl Goddin

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Club Listings Convention List & Generic Registration Form

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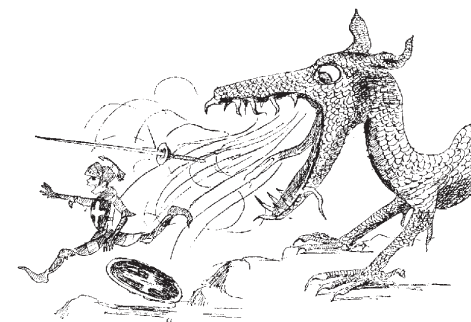
July

CopperCon 23 closed out, returning to
CASFS Main \$1,299.54 over and above
all required turnovers.
We ordered badge clips, lamination
sleeves, and a new badge punch.
We approved money to purchase
improvements to the pipe-and-drape used
in convention Masquerades.

August

Ivan Erickson has agreed to assume the
long-vacant post of CASFS
Quartermaster.
The badge laminates and clips arrived.
Ice Escape, a new author/publisher
convention running next March, asked
CASFS to run its charity auction in return
for being one of the charities benefitting
from it. We agreed to do this.

No Longer the New Guy



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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

This fall season is one of the least populated ones with genre shows in recent memory. With some of the returning shows (like *Alias* and *Tru Calling*) being held back, things seem even more barren on the genre TV landscape than normal. However, we do have the return of *Farscape* to our TV screens, if only for a miniseries and the promise of a reinvigorated *Enterprise* paying much more attention to the legacy of the original series than it has so far.

Debuting on Oct 17th and 18th (Sunday and Monday nights) will be the highly anticipated return of *Farscape* to the SciFi Channel in the four hour miniseries *Farscape: The Peacekeeper Wars*. Following the premature cancellation of the series by SciFi after its fourth season, the fan outcry was heard all over the world. This included some investors in the UK, who approached **Brian Henson** and the Jim Henson Company offering the financial backing to bring back *Farscape* for the miniseries. **Rockne O'Bannon** has said that "if there was not the tremendous, ongoing, never-ending, undying faith and passion of the fans there would have been no interest in doing the mini-series. Sci Fi didn't produce... had nothing to do with the mini-series, we sold the miniseries to Sci Fi after the fact. It was entirely the fan support." With that funding in place, **Rockne O'Bannon** scripted the miniseries to follow on from the weekly series and provide a more logical ending point for the show, but still leaving it open to continue in some form, be it theatrical movies, a spin-off series or some form to be determined. A lot will depend on how well the ratings are for the miniseries when it airs on SciFi in October. According to **Ben Browder**, "the mini-series is the continuation of the story of *Farscape*, leaving from the fourth season cliffhanger and then addressing elements of the series that have existed from season one. So we're basically getting the story to a point where it is a satisfactory, palatable conclusion."

Expect to see all of the main cast in the mini-series as well as possibly some surprises. It does resolve the situation that John Crichton and Aeryn Sun were left in at the end of the series fairly early on and has them attempting to settle down only to be drawn fully into a war between the Peacekeepers and the Scarrans. Reports are that the fans will be very satisfied but should make sure they have some tissues handy. Those who haven't been keeping up with *Farscape* should catch up on the series via DVD or watch the daily Marathons that SciFi will be airing leading up to the miniseries.

There will be lots of things different about the new season of *Star Trek Enterprise* debuting in early October. First of all, it will be airing on Friday nights at 8 pm ET/PT, 7 pm CT/MT, having been moved out of its former Wednesday time slot following a deal with Paramount to reduce the license fee to UPN. UPN is assuming regular viewers will follow it to Friday nights and are hoping they may regain some viewers with it not being up against *Smallville* as it was last season. The other major difference is that for the first time in many years (going back to the end of *Deep Space Nine*), **Brannon Braga** and **Rick Berman** are not the show runners for a Trek series. Taking over the reins for this season of *Enterprise* is Executive Producer **Manny Coto**, who came on board last year and contributed many of the better episodes in the season-long Xindi storyline. This season will not have a season-long arc, but will have several mini-arcs, generally three episodes worth and plans to bring the focus back to the series being a prequel to all the other Trek series that have preceded it.

Kicking off the season will be the two-part *Storm Front*, dealing with the Evil Alien Nazis seen at the very end of the last season following the destruction of the Xindi weapon. It seems that the Enterprise and Archer have time traveled back to 1940's Earth, but one where aliens have helped out the Nazis and parts of North America are under control of the Germans. Archer manages to get rescued by the resistance and helps in the fight against the Germans while the Enterprise crew has to try to resolve the Temporal Cold War issues that have created this timeline and get them back to their proper present. Following the resolution of the opening episodes, the Enterprise is finally about to get home in the episode "Home", where they are greeted as heroes and have to deal with various personal issues, repercussions of the Xindi attack, including a trip to Vulcan for T'Pol and Trip where a Vulcan marriage ceremony happens (is it T'Pol's?).

At the end of October begins a three episode mini-arc, "Borderlands", "Cold Station 12", and "The Augents," which will feature the return of **Brent Spiner** to *Star*

(Cont'd on page 4)

24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith is the official title of the last (?) *Star Wars* movie, debuting May 19, 2005. In talking with MTV about the movie, **George Lucas** indicated that it will be the last *Star Wars* movie and that he has no plans to film episodes 7, 8 and 9 as has been rumored. He also said that the last movie is darker and may have a stronger rating than PG-13. With the release in September of the original (although definitely not the original theatrical versions) movie trilogy on DVD and the additional batch of *Clone Wars* episodes in March, things are definitely starting to gear up for the conclusion of the *Star Wars* saga.

Filming on the live action *Aeon Flux* has been put on hiatus while **Charlize Theron** recovers from an injury she suffered when she was doing back flips and had a slipped disc that almost cut into her spinal cord. It is anticipated that she will make a full recovery and be able to finish the movie; however, it is likely there may be more use of stunt women in some scenes.

On the **Neil Gaiman** front, there looks to be a lot more happening with movies based on his work. The movie *Mirror Mask* that he wrote with **Dave McKean** is in post-production and will be released by Sony sometime next year. It centers on Helena, a 15-year-old girl in a family of circus entertainers, who often

wishes she could run off and join real life. After a fight with her parents about her future plans, her mother falls quite ill and Helena is convinced that it is all her fault. On the eve of her mother's major surgery, she dreams that she is in a strange world with two opposing queens, bizarre creatures, and masked inhabitants. All is not well in this new world - the white queen has fallen ill and can only be restored by the Mirror Mask, and it's up to Helena to find it. But as her adventures continue, she begins to wonder whether she's in a dream, or something far more sinister. It is produced in conjunction with the Jim Henson Company.

Gaiman's recent young adult book, *Coraline*, looks like it will be made into an animated film by **Henry Selik**, done in stop-motion photography as **Selik** did with *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. The book follows the adventures of a curious young girl who discovers a portal in her new house leading to a dark mirror universe inhabited by singing mice, a talking cat and creepy "other" versions of her parents whose sweetness and attentiveness mask sinister motives.

Gaiman has also announced that he will be adapting and directing a movie based on his *Death: The High Cost of Living* comic miniseries for New Line Cinema. It had been in development at Warner Bros. for a long time and got close to being made, but Warners decided it wasn't a big enough movie for them to bother with and **Gaiman** was able to take it to New Line and get it on track to be made.

(Cont'd on page 6)

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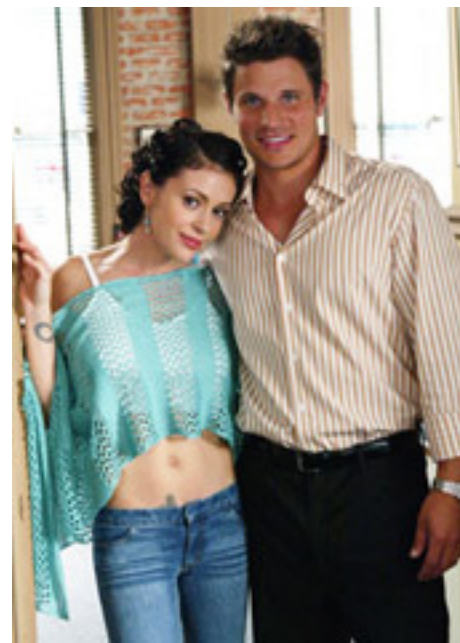
SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 3)

Trek in the role of Arik Soong, the great, great grandfather of Data's creator, Dr. Soong. Soong has been incarcerated in a high-security facility after stealing 20 embryos of genetically enhanced humans and bringing them to life. "He believes that genetic engineering was on the right track," **Manny Coto** explained at a press event. "He wants to improve humanity, and he believes that the Eugenics Wars were an aberration, that these individuals are the future of humanity. Of course, he's wrong." The enhanced humans, known as Augments, have grown up in isolation and begin to wreak havoc after they hijack a Klingon ship. Archer and the Enterprise crew are sent to stop them, but decide they need the help of the Augments creator, Soong, but find out that he's more than enough trouble by himself, always trying to escape and psychologically toying with everyone he comes in contact with. Also featured in the episode is an Orion slave market, complete with green Orion slave girls and a very large Orion slave trader played by the biggest wrestler in the WWE, **The Big Show** (7 feet, 1 inch tall and 450 pounds). The second episode deals with Soong joining up with his creations and trying to recover additional embryos so that he can make more Augments and the third supposedly deals with what happens when they turn on him and take control of the Enterprise. In *Forge*, Archer and T'Pol end up in the Vulcan desert investigating a cult that has bombed the Federation Embassy on Vulcan. Continuing the storyline in the next episode, *Awakening*, Archer and T'Pol meet up with the insurgent group of Vulcans, and meet their leader, T'Pol (yes, THE T'Pol). During his experience on Vulcan, Archer will also have a vision featuring the legendary Surak. **Manny Coto** and Paramount are trying to make a deal with **William Shatner** to appear in a three-episode stint later in the season. As for this being the last season of Enterprise, **Coto** told *Star Trek Communicator* "there's always the possibility this could be it, but nobody's assuming that at all. In fact, we are pulling all the stops; I want this year to be the best Star Trek year ever. Hopefully, that will translate into great ratings and fan love. If not, then the show will end - but it will end on a great note!"

Over on the WB, *Smallville* seems to be pulling out all the stops as well, bringing Lois Lane into the mix as well as pairing up the movie Lois Lane with the movie Superman by bringing **Margo Kidder** into the fold. At the end of last season, Clark was sucked into a Vortex by Jor-El, Lionel Luthor was put into prison, Lex Luthor drank a lethal cocktail, and Chloe appeared to be blown up as she was put into the witness protection program and Jonathan Kent went into a coma. In the season opener, *Crusade*, we were introduced to Lois Lane (played by **Erica Durance**), Dr. Swann's emissary

Bridgette Crosby (played by **Margot Kidder**), and Lana Lang's new boyfriend Jason Teague (played by **Jensen Ackles**) as things picked up three months later. Following things getting back somewhat to normal after the first two episodes (already aired by the time this is printed), we're back to a Kryptonite freak of the week in "*Facade*" where a disfigured girl named Abby undergoes a procedure that happens to include some Kryptonite IV bags. It greatly improves her looks, but when she kisses someone, she leaves them disfigured. In *Devoted*, there's some obsessive action by a cheerleader's boyfriend and not much other details about the main storyline of the episode. In *Run*, another DC Universe character makes an appearance in the form of Bart Allen, aka The Flash, a hustler with super speed ability that Clark tracks down following Bart's use of Jonathan Kent's stolen credit card. In *Transference*, Lionel Luthor meets someone in prison who has discovered the ability to do a body transference using the Kryptonian symbols and a stone artifact. He attempts to do a transference with Lex but ends up doing it with Clark. Finally, in *Jinx*, a foreign exchange student by the name of Mikail Mxyzptlk comes onto the scene and brings along the expected chaos of a character with that moniker.

Charmed has kicked off its seventh season with continued decent ratings for The WB and will be sporting a few familiar faces in guest starring roles. Turning up so far is **Charisma Carpen-**



Phoebe (Alyssa Milano) feels an attraction towards her new rival (Nick Lashey) in *CHARMED*'s seventh season opener. © The WB

ter (Buffy & Angel) as a seer and it is expected that her character will return in several episodes, **Kerr Smith (Dawson's Creek)** is a homeland security agent with an interest in the supernatural, and **Nick Lachey** will be Leslie "Les" St. Claire, who takes over Phoebe's advice column. Episodes coming up include *Charrmed!* where a cursed pirate captures the witches hoping they can help him to break the curse he's been under for a

couple of centuries. This all leads them to Treasure Island. In *Styx Feet Under*, the girls deal with a demon that is collecting the souls of people who die, but a spell backfires and their souls don't leave their bodies.

After having moderate success with their alternative programming on Thursday nights, SciFi is taking a stab at drawing in viewers on Wednesday nights with two new reality series *Proof Positive* and *Ghost Hunters* starting October 6th. *Proof Positive* will feature three stories in each hour episode exploring the blurry line between Science Fiction and Science Fact. Each story (dealing with reincarnation, encounters with ghosts and aliens, demonic possession, unexplained lights, etc.) will contain convincing evidence that the story is true. The evidence will undergo thorough forensics testing and scientific investigation and one of the three stories will be proven true. It is up to the audience to guess which one is "Proof Positive." *Ghost Hunters* features two ordinary guys that are plumbers by trade and ghost hunters by night. The show follows a group of real life ghost hunters, **Jason Hawes** and **Grant Wilson**, who head up The Atlantic Paranormal Society (T.A.P.S.) as they investigate reports of paranormal happenings. They aren't scientists or PhDs, but plumbers, office workers and psychic hotline gurus.

SciFi has scheduled the pilot movie for *Anonymous Rex* for Saturday, Nov 13th. Based on the novel series by Eric Garcia, it features Sam Trammell as private detective Vincent Rubio, who also happens to be a velociraptor disguised as a human. His partner, Ernie Watson (he's a triceratops), is being played by Daniel Baldwin. The premise is that dinosaurs didn't die out; they evolved, got smaller, and now co-exist with humans in disguise. They have a separate, secret, dinosaur society that humans are unaware of, including a dinosaur ruling council (where Issac Hayes and Faye Dunaway make cameos.) Based mostly on the second book in the series, *Casual Rex*, Sam and Ernie investigate a murder that leads them to a back to nature-dino cult led by a female dino named Circe (Tamara Gorski who also played Morrigan on Hercules.) Also starring are Stephanie Nicole Lemelin as Ernie's daughter, Gabrielle Watson, and Lori Anne Alter as Sam's girlfriend Louise (yes, she's a dino, too.) The novels have been marketed as mysteries, not science fiction or fantasy, so many genre fans are unaware of them. Unlike most of their Saturday night movies, this one is likely worth catching.

This fall sees *Andromeda* become a SciFi co-production, with episodes airing first on SciFi on Friday nights and then in syndication the following weekend. Not too many details have come out about the new season other than it will be very different from prior seasons following the end of the fourth season where it appeared that a lot of the cast may not

survive. However, it appears that they do manage to all come back together on the other side of the Route of Ages that Dylan went through at the end of the season. The android avatar of Andromeda will not be returning, but they will have a new android named Doyle, played by **Brandy Ledford (Invisible Man)**. They are now stranded in the Setra system, where there isn't any overriding entity, so it's more like the wild west in space. They do plan to tie things back to the character's mythology during the season but also have the chance to deal with different issues and situations that they didn't have before. It is very likely that this season will be the final one for the series, since star **Kevin Sorbo** has already announced that he's developing a sitcom for ABC for next fall.

Of course, it wouldn't be SciFi without one of their Saturday movies. Coming up on October 9th is *Frankenfish* where "an enormous amphibious fish is accidentally released into the Louisiana bayou, where it terrorizes an isolated houseboat community. The ragin' Cajuns learn the hard way that when this bottom-feeder comes up to hunt, humans move to the bottom of the food chain."

With Halloween coming up, cable viewer swill be treated to two different versions of *Frankenstein*. First up on the Hallmark Channel on Oct 5 & 6 is a four hour miniseries that is an adaptation of the **Mary Shelley** novel. It stars **Alec Newman ("Children of Dune")** as Dr. Frankenstein, **William Hurt** as Professor Waldman, **Donald Sutherland** as Captain Walton, **Luke Goss (Blade II)** as the creature, and **Nicole Lewis** as Elizabeth. It was directed by **Kevin Conner** and produced by **Robert Halmi, Jr** and claims to be "the most elaborate, tragic, and chillingly faithful version of Shelley's classic macabre tale." Taking a very different approach is the USA Network with a two hour movie debuting on October 10th. This version is a back door pilot for a weekly series with a script by best-selling author **Dean Koontz**. **Adam Goldberg** and **Parker Posey** are detectives in modern-day New Orleans who discover that Dr. Frankenstein (**Thomas Kretschmann**), now known as Victor Helios and his monster (**Vincent Perez**), now known as Duecalion, are still alive having survived hundreds of years through scientific intervention. Helios is planning on creating a race of people to replace humanity and his creations have already been infiltrating society. Duecalion teams up with the detectives to stop Helios. Assuming this does go to a weekly series, it's likely there's a lot of creatures out there to be tracked down and taken out to keep the trio busy for a few years.

Elsewhere on the USA Network, the limited series *The 4400* did very well in the ratings, setting records for its debut and its weekly run. With those results, you'd think it would be a lock to return as

(Cont'd on page 5)

SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 4)

a weekly series. Unfortunately, according to **Brian Sullivan** of the *futoncritic.com*, the series has gotten bogged down in corporate issues stemming from the NBC takeover of USA Network. The series is produced by Paramount (part of Viacom) and when it was originally set up, USA was part of Vivendi Universal, not part of the NBC/Universal family. NBC, in picking up the series, would like the option to repurpose it on one of their channels, in direct competition with CBS and UPN. Viacom doesn't want to give them that option and is holding firm. To complicate things even more, none of the actors had options in their contracts for a weekly series and, of course, all would like more money considering how well the series performed, making production costs increase significantly. USA does have the option to move the production elsewhere, possibly to its own Universal Television production. It is likely that something will be worked out so that production on a 13-episode run can begin early next year for a return of the series next summer.

The Dead Zone benefited greatly from having **The 4400** as its lead-in, bringing its ratings up to some of its highest levels ever. USA has ordered a fourth season of 22 episodes, the most episodes ever ordered in one batch for the show. They also have the third season finale left to air that was held back to have a cliffhanger to keep fans awaiting the next batch of episodes, likely to debut early next year with production resuming in November. From the USA press release, "Over the past three seasons, Johnny has been on an extraordinary journey of self-discovery that will continue in season four as he embraces a new romance; confronts the potentially life-threatening deterioration of the "dead zone" in his brain; forges a deeper relationship with his young son; and recommits himself to saving the world from the widespread destruction he's foreseen in his visions of the future."

Mid-season looks to be more and more genre-friendly with **Alias** and **Tru Calling** debuting early next year and a few more shows in the works. The latest to be announced is **Point Pleasant** from FOX that is described as a mix of "Peyton Place" and "The Omen," and revolves around a beachside community that is turned upside down when a mysterious girl (**Elisabeth Harnois**) washes ashore. FOX has ordered 13 episodes for mid-season airing. Former Buffy scribe, **Marti Noxon**, co-created it with **John McLaughlin**. The WB is filming a pilot for **Global Frequency** for a possible mid-season pickup. It stars **Michele Forbes** (Ensign Ro on **ST:TNG**) as Miranda Zero, a former NSA agent who heads up Global Frequency, "an independent, illegal, covert intelligence agency determined to prevent international politics from undermining the security of the global community." Based

on a graphic novel series from **Hellboy** creator **Mike Mignola** and produced by **Mark Burnett** (**Survivor**, **The Apprentice**), **Josh Hopkins** will play the agency's newest recruit, suspended cop Sean Ronin, while **Jennie Baird** is cast as Dr. Katrina Finch, a shy scientific genius. NBC is also getting back into the epic miniseries game with a new four-hour miniseries based on **Hercules** produced by **Robert Halmi**. Filmed in New Zealand, it will follow Hercules as he is compelled to redeem himself by completing several classic challenges, including slaying the multi-headed Hydra and dreaded Nemean lion. Starring as Hercules is **Paul Telfer** with **Sean Astin** as Hercules music teacher Linus, **Leelee Sobieski** as Hercules second wife Deianeira, **Timothy Dalton** as his stepfather Amphitryon, and **Elizabeth Perkins** as his mother Alcmena.

Production is proceeding on the new series of **Doctor Who** in the UK. Indications are that it will hit British TV screens starting in March and Canada shortly thereafter. No official word has been released about where it will air in the US, but reports are that SciFi Channel has obtained the rights to the original series, taking it away from PBS stations, which is a very strong indication that SciFi is looking to broadcast the new series as well.

After off and on negotiations, The Doctor's most widely known adversaries, The Daleks, will indeed be a part of the new series. After first announcing they would be in it, then announcing they wouldn't, the BBC did manage to come to terms with the estate of **Terry Nation**, creator of the evil pepperpots, to be able to use them in the new series. Other returning foes include The Autons as well as a rumored resurrection of The Master. Actors confirmed so far include **Simon Callow** as Charles Dickens, **Camille**

Coduri (Jackie Tyler), **Noel Clarke** (Mickey Smith), **John Barrowman** (Captain Jack), **Mark Benton** (Clive), **Navin Chowdhry**, **Penelope Wilton**, and **Annette Badland**.

A recent BBC Worldwide publicity release has a very good summation of the new series:

Christopher Eccleston's Doctor is wise and funny, cheeky and brave. An alien and a loner (it's difficult keeping up with friends when your day job involves roaming through time and space), his detached logic gives him a vital edge when the world's in danger. But when it comes to relationships, he can be found wanting. That's why he needs Rose.

Rose Tyler (Billie Piper) is a shop girl from the present day. From the moment they meet, the Doctor and Rose are soulmates. They understand and complement each other. As they travel together through history and across the universe, the Doctor shows Rose things beyond her imagination. She starts out as an innocent, fettered by earthly concerns. But she ends up an adventurer who, by the end of the series, can never go home again...

As the two forge a friendship across time and space, brace yourself for some exhilarating experiences and deadly confrontations. Far, far in the future, Rose witnesses the natural end of the world, as the sun expands and the solar system dies. Journey back to Victorian times for an encounter with Charles Dickens and the mysterious Geith — gaseous monsters with deadly plans for humanity. While back in 2005, an alien crash-landing diverts attention from a conspiracy that leads to the very heart of the government.

Wherever they go, whoever they meet, every story will come back to Earth. For all the danger and tension, this is a fundamentally optimistic series. The human race will survive - but only with

the Doctor's help. Prepare for brand-new, spellbinding adventures in the human race...

On the animated front, Kids WB new animated **Batman** series debuted to strong numbers but lackluster acclaim. It's nowhere near as compelling as the recent animated series overseen by **Paul Dini** but will still likely appeal to younger fans. **Teen Titans** and **Justice League** continue on the Cartoon Network. Upcoming **Teen Titan** episodes include **Haunted**, where Robin sees Slade once again and he's determined to stop him once and for all, **Spellbound** sees Raven discover a charming young wizard named Malchior trapped in one of her ancient books, **Revolution** sees Mad Mod interrupt the Titans July 4th celebration and he uses his magic to make himself younger while Robin is turned into an old man, **Wavelength** sees the return of Brother Blood, who has stolen Cyborg's technology and is using it to build a Doomsday weapon, and in **The Beast Within**, Beast Boy starts changing into an angry beast against his will.

Justice League Unlimited returns in November with its batch of latest episodes. **Ultimatum** sees the JL go up against the Ultimen, a group of young heroes who are about to discover their own horrifying secret origins, in **Dark Heart**, The Atom is the only hero that can stop an alien invasion, **Wake the Dead** has Solomon Grundy rise from the grave and an old friend of the JL comes out of hiding to help, and in the two-part **Once and Future Thing**, in chasing a time-traveling villain, Batman, Wonder Woman, and Green Lantern travel to the past and team up with heroes of the old west and then journey to a futuristic Gotham City where they meet up with that era's Batman and their Justice League Unlimited counterparts.



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Milla Jovovich has been busy. *Resident Evil: Apocalypse* has just been released (and she's indicated she's up for a third movie, if there is one) and she just finished filming on *Ultraviolet*, which she filmed for seven months in China and Hong Kong under writer/director Kurt Wimmer. It deals with a near future war between humans and those infected with a virus that turns people into superhuman,

vampire-like creatures. Her character becomes infected and embarks on a suicide mission to blow up a government building to destroy the establishment. According to Jovovich her character gets "thrown in with this 9-year-old boy, and I have to be like a mom. ... It's like a remake of *Gloria*, but in the future, with lots of great martial arts and special effects."

The latest *Superman* news is that Bryan Singer has indeed taken on the

role of director for the movie. Singer is working with Dan Harris and Michael Dougherty on a completely new script, which is rumored to feature Lex Luthor and another villain, possibly Metallo or Brainiac. Open casting calls have been going on to look for an unknown actor to play the lead role, although there have also been rumors that Jim Caviezel has already been given the role.

With Singer taking on the directing role for the *Superman* movie, he has been dropped from directing the third *X-Men* movie and has vacated his offices at FOX studios. Rumors now are that Joss Whedon may take on *X-Men III* after finishing up the *Serenity* movie. Following the news of Singer's move to *Superman*, Whedon indicated that he'd be interested in taking on the *X-Men* and some trade papers have indicated that a deal may be in the works for Whedon to write and direct the third *X-Men* movie.

In a recent financial statement from Marvel, the following planned movies are in the works for the next few years: 2005 releases include *Elektra* (Jan. 15), *Fantastic Four* (July 1), *Iron Man* (November or else Summer 2006), *Luke Cage and Man-Thing*. For 2006 & Beyond: *The Avengers* (Lions Gate - animated DVD early 2006), *X-Men 3* (May 3, 2006), *Namor* (Summer 2006), *Ghost Rider* (Summer 2006), *Black Widow* (2006), *The Punisher 2*, *The Hulk 2*, *Deathlok*, *Spider-Man 3* (May 4, 2007), *Dr. Strange*, *Iron Fist*, *Silver Surfer*, *Ant-Man*, *Black Panther*, *Captain America*, *Nick Fury* and *Thor*.

Elsewhere on the comic front, *Hellboy 2* is in the works with a story from creator Mike Mignola that will be more in line with the spirit of the comic books and deal with its mythology and

folklore. Selma Blair and Ron Perlman are both definitely returning. *Fantastic Four* has completed its casting and is in production in Vancouver. Chris Evans (Johnny Storm), Michael Chiklis (Ben Grimm/The Thing), Ioan Gruffudd (Reed Richards/Mr. Fantastic) and Jessica Alba (Sue Storm/the Invisible Girl) are the fantastic foursome and Julian McMahon takes on the role of Doctor Doom. Jennifer Garner has finished up filming on *Elektra*, a sequel to the *Daredevil* movie focusing on her character on her own without Daredevil around to help out. Joining her is Goran Visnjic as Mark Miller, whom Elektra is assigned to assassinate by Kirigi (Will Yun Lee) and The Order of the Hand. She ends up working with Miller to fight off Kirigi's Ninja assassins.

Kevin Smith is working on a script for a *Green Hornet* movie and initially indicated he would be directing it. However, Smith has since said that he will instead, be directing a sequel to *Clerks*, called *The Passion of the Clerks*, saying that he wanted to do a smaller, lower budget movie instead of a big Hollywood production.

IN THEATERS SOON:

Shark Tale - (Oct 1) Oscar (Will Smith) is a fast-talking little fish who dreams big. But his big dreams land him in hot water when a great white lie turns him into an unlikely hero. At first, his fellow fish swallow Oscar's story hook, line and sinker and he is showered with fame and fortune. It's all going along swimmingly, until it starts to become clear that Oscar's tale about being the defender of the Reef is all wet. Oscar is finding out that being a hero comes at a Market Price when his lie threatens to make him the Catch of the Day. Now he has to tread water until he can get the scales to tip back in his favor again.

Primer - (Oct 8 - limited release). Four amateur inventors are surprised by the success of their latest breakthrough, an extremely powerful device which has the potential to change the world forever. Grand Jury Prize for Best Dramatic Film, Alfred P. Sloan Prize (2004 Sundance Film Festival)

Team America: World Police - (Oct 15) This politically-minded comedy action adventure tells the story of Team America, a group of superhero-style adventurers who travel the world fighting terrorism and other evils. Specifically, the story focuses on a typical "action hero" who is recruited to join Team America for a special mission, as a satire of the typical Hollywood action movie, using a combination of wood marionette-driven action sequences and stirring tongue-in-cheek musical numbers. Trey Parker and Matt Stone of *South Park* fame put it all together.

(Cont'd on page 7)

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Robert J. Sawyer is the Hugo award winning author of the *Neanderthal Parallax Trilogy* (*Hominids*, *Humans and Hybrids*) plus *Calculating God*, *Flash Forward* and more.

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Director of the paranormal team--The MVD Ghostchasers--since 1995. She investigates haunted historical locations in Arizona.

Special Guest: Phoenix Lights Author LYNEE KITEI, M.D.

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24 Frames (Cont'd from page 6)

The Dust Factory - (Oct 15 - limited release) A mute teenager (**Ryan Kelley**) falls from a bridge into a fantasy world where he meets his mysterious grandfather (**Armin Mueller-Stahl**) and a beautiful girl (**Hayden Panettiere**).

The Grudge - (Oct 22) The Grudge is the curse of one who dies in the grip of a powerful rage. Those who encounter this murderous supernatural curse die and a new one is born, passed from victim to victim in an endless, growing chain of horror. Based on the Japanese original and starring **Sarah Michelle Gellar** and **Jason Behr**.

It's All About Love - (Oct 29 - limited release) Set in a near future besieged by flash ice ages, the disappearance of gravity in Uganda, and a fatal disease that freezes the hearts of those that experience devastating grief and loneliness; this is the story of two separated lovers, one of whom is a famous ice skater, who are reunited in New York so he can sign the divorce papers. Her entourage greets him warmly, but the patriarch of the clan has a malevolent plan of appalling proportions that endangers the couple's lives. Cast includes **Claire Danes, Joaquin Phoenix, Sean Penn, Alun Armstrong,** and **Harry Ditson**.

Saw - (Oct 29) A young man named Adam (**Leigh Whannell**) wakes to find himself chained to a rusty pipe inside a decrepit subterranean chamber. Chained to the opposite side of the room is another bewildered captive, Dr. Lawrence Gordon (**Cary Elwes**). Between them is a dead man lying in a pool of blood, holding a .38 in his hand. Neither man knows why he has been abducted; but instructions left on a microcassette order Dr. Gordon to kill Adam within eight hours. If he fails to do so, then both men will die, and Dr.

Gordon's wife, Alison (**Monica Potter**), and his daughter will be killed. Recalling a recent murder investigation by a police detective named Tapp (**Danny Glover**), Dr. Gordon realizes he and Adam are the next victims of a psychopathic genius known only as "Jigsaw." With only a few hours left to spare, they must unravel the elaborate puzzle of their fate in the midst of mounting terror. The killer has provided them with only a few clues and two handsaws - too weak to break their steel shackles, but strong enough to cut through flesh and bone.

Alexander - (Nov 5) Chronicles Alexander's journey to become a living



Teaser poster for Oliver Stone's ALEXANDER. © Warner Bros

legend. For as Virgil wrote: "Fortune favors the bold." And no king or emperor, either before or after, ever achieved such fortune, or indeed was ever so bold, as Alexander the Great. Cast includes **Colin**

Farrell (Alexander the Great), **Rosario Dawson** (Roxanne), **Anthony Hopkins** (Ptolemy), **Angelina Jolie** (Olympia), **Val Kilmer** (Philip, King of Macedonia), **Jared Leto** (Hephaestion), **Connor Paolo** (Young Alexander), **Jonathan Rhys-Meyers** (Cassander), **Ian Beattie** (Antiginous), **Raz Degan** (Darius III, Shah of Persia), **Brian Blessed** (Leonidas), and **Elliot Cowan** (Young Ptolemy).

The Incredibles - (Nov 5) An animated action-adventure comedy about a dysfunctional family of undercover superheroes, who, though struggling to live a quiet suburban life, are forced into action to save the world. From the mind of **Brad Bird** (*The Iron Giant*) and the CGI wizards of Pixar. Definitely the most anticipated movie of the season.

Seed of Chucky - (Nov 10) Following the events of *'Bride of Chucky,'* killer dolls Chucky and Tiffany are now faced with the challenge of raising their child, Glen, becoming a family of killer dolls.

Polar Express - (Nov 10) Believing in Santa Claus isn't easy when all of your friends and family insist he's just make-believe. A boy's faith is rewarded one Christmas Eve when he's awakened by a steam train that pulls up in front of his house and takes him and other children to the North Pole to meet Santa. It's all CGI (Computer Generated Images), based upon live-action motion-capture actors.

Tom Hanks stars and **Robert Zemeckis** directs.

In Memoriam

Pearl Goddin

Longtime AZ fan Jean Goddin lost her mother, Pearl Goddin, 91. Pearl was an avid reader and enjoyed sf/f in addition to mysteries and romance books. Pearl attended conventions with Jean and Jean's husband, Mike Willmoth, including Worldcons around the world and Westercons around western North America. Pearl lived with them part-time starting 1991 and full-time starting 1999. Pearl was a native of West Virginia, worked as a school teacher for 30+ years, then as a social worker for the elderly. She loved meeting the wonderful people who enjoyed conventions.

Private family services were held in WV where she spent most of her life. For those who feel the need please make a donation to your favorite charity in the name of Pearl Goddin.

Fiske
GONE WEST

Fiske, the popular gray chow who attended Arizona SF conventions for over a decade passed away on September 1, 2004, after an extended illness. A gentle fur-person, for many years could be found at cons curled up next to his mistress, greeting old friends and teaching new ones the basics of canine etiquette. His interest in fine art was well



known to art show staffers, who greeted him with doggie biscuits and hugs. A seasoned traveler, Fiske loved to travel, exploring Arizona from Bisbee to Flagstaff and even managing several jaunts to California where he attended PlanetFest and visited the Disneyland kennels. (He talked about Disneyland for hours!)

Fiske is survived by MH Volckmann, CF Yankovich, Poppy Dog, and Schwartz Katz. In his honor, the pack will be adopting a rescue chow.

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Has Comic-Con Grown Too Big For Its Britches? by Shane Shellenbarger

For years I've written about the growing immensity of the Comic-Con International in San Diego; starting with a few hundred attending members at the U.S. Grant Hotel, this year's attendance was approximately 85,000, up from last year's approximately 70,000 attending members. The Convention Center has 525,701 sq. ft. of contiguous exhibit space, 90,000 sq. ft. of additional space in the glass-enclosed Sails Pavilion, 204,114 sq. ft. of meeting room space, including two 40,000 sq. ft. ballrooms, 284,494 sq. ft. of lobby, function and registration space plus there is underground parking for 1,975 vehicles, for a total of 2.6 million gross sq. ft. If Galactus were a convention center, this is the convention center he would be.

Well, so what? It's big, but they still do a pretty good job of processing the attendees through registration (an hour wait isn't unusual), you can see just about any and every example of fandom and programming you could ask for (even if you have to leave panels early or arrive late in order to traverse the over one-half mile length of the facility), they offer a free shuttle bus service (even if you may have to wait for two or more buses and then get to ride for forty minutes or more), more restaurants come and go from the area every year and what

International, the Acura Tennis Classic and the opening weekend at the Del Mar Race Track. Still, it does put a bit of a chill down one's spine when one is told that room rates per night are \$500.00, or \$667.00, or \$1,000.00. So what can you do, stay in Mexico? That is exactly what some fans did do; they found lodging in Tijuana and commuted each way by car, bus, and trolley. There has to be a better solution, but what?

Two proposals have been made: Comic-Con International may need to move to another city or the dates may need to be changed. If Comic-Con were moved to Anaheim tens of thousands of hotels and hundreds of thousands of rooms would become available. The city of San Diego would despair the loss of (very conservatively) \$30,000,000.00 in lost hotel, food, transportation, and miscellaneous revenues. In addition, it would have a negative impact on the convention committee due to the additional cost and inconveniences. On the other hand, it has been proposed that the convention change its date to a time when lower seasonal rates are in effect. This could benefit hotels, giving them greater revenue during a slower period, it would free up rooms for tourists, and convention attendees wouldn't be competing for restaurants seats, airline seats, or tourists' attractions during the tourist glut of summer.

The convention committee must be giving these and other ideas serious consideration. They run one of the most



about the Padres' PETCO Park Stadium (I cannot even imagine what the crowds of people and vehicles will be like along Harbor Drive when the first At-Home game concurs with the Comic-Con.) But even these complaints aren't the worst things to consider - that would be hotel price gouging.

Let's be fair. One man's price gouging is another man's "profit opportunity." The reason that room rates went toward the orbit of Mars is due to the concurrence of three events during the same week in July: Comic-Con

well-attended, if not THE most efficient, conventions in the world. It's only a matter of time before a difficult decision will have to be made.

<http://www.comic-con.org/>

<http://www.sdccc.org/>

<http://marvelite.prohosting.com/surfer/galactus/>

<http://www.theglobeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040820.gtmovie20/BNStory/Technology>

http://www.newsfromme.com/archives/2004_08_02.html#008801

Pro Notes

I'm back with more tidbits of pro-information. We have some returning favorites and some new faces. I hope you enjoy it. (If you don't see your favorite author here, email me and I'll see what I can do...)

We'll start with our genre artists this time...I met **Donato** at our last LepreCon in May. Donato is a Chesley Award winner and is an extremely busy artist. He has a painting in a National Geographic magazine and it's currently featured on the National Geographic site as a weekly wallpaper choice. It's titled "Golden Days." He's also working on three video games for Lucas Arts: one is called "Knights of the Old Republic" - sketches done, maybe package art too; another is "Age of Empires III" - about the French-Indian War recreation, both package and box art. The third is "A Bard's Tale" - a medieval fantasy for both the package and box art. He recently turned in the cover art for a new David Drake book, "Master of the Cauldron." His cover art is also on a Tor book "Godslayer", due out in late 2004 and his stuff is on a SFBC title "Between Worlds." Our own (*very popular at the con*) local body-painting artist, **Mark Greenawalt** did a fascinating cheetah, posed in a very real desert setting. She can be seen on Mark's website: <http://www.futureclassx.com> (mature content). Mark also painted a model with the UPN45 (*a local TV station*) logo to strut around a fight ring holding signs during the Aug 7th *Rage in the Cage* at the Dodge Theatre. Mark often appears at local events; check his website for dates and places.

New author names this month include **Michael Moorcock** who is currently working on "The White Wolf's Son" which is the third in the series including "The Dreamthief's Daughter" and "The Skrayling Tree." He's trying to finish it by September for Jaime Levine at Warner. He thinks it should be out by next summer but otherwise isn't sure about the publication date. **Selina Rosen**, from out in the sticks somewhere, tells me she's working on a medical/horror/ghost

novella titled "Material Things," and the second HOLMES AND STORM mystery with the working title, "Bad City," with Laura Underwood. The first of these books "Bad Lands," is in the can and she'll be looking for a publisher for it this fall. "Chains of Freedom" is currently being considered for a video game. Her new novel "Reruns" which is a political satire/super hero spoof, is now available at <http://www.yarddogpress.com> at a considerable discount over its Amazon price. I'm tickled to death that **Robert Sawyer** sent a contribution this month. He'll be our Guest of Honor at CopperCon 25 next year. Rob has completed final revisions on "Mindscan", his sixteenth novel, for David G. Hartwell at Tor; due out in April 2005. Meanwhile, Rob has sold a 25,000-word novella "Identity Theft" to Mike Resnick for the Science Fiction Book Club hard-boiled SF-detective anthology "Down These Dark Spaceways", and a 5,000-word short story "Flashes" to Lou Anders for Roc anthology "FutureShocks", coming in July 2005. Meanwhile, as editor of the Robert J. Sawyer Books imprint published by Calgary's Red Deer Press, Rob has recently acquired "The Engine of Recall", a short-story collection by Karl Schroeder, and "Rogue Harvest", a first novel by Danita Maslankowski. Rob is currently a finalist in all three professional categories for the *Auroras*, Canada's top honor in SF: in the novel category for "Humans", in the short-form category for "Come All Ye Faithful," and in the "Other" category for his stint as Writer-in-Residence at the Toronto Public Library's Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy.

David Drake shared that he's roughed out (as of Sep 10th) the four plot threads of the first book of the new ISLES trilogy "Crown of The Isles, Book 1: The Fortress of Glass." He took a break in the middle of the plotting to write a HAMMER'S SLAMMERS short story (explaining the murder of Joachim Steuben) for an online prozine, *Oceans of the Mind*; it'll be bound in with the limited edition HAMMER trilogy from

(Cont'd on page 10)

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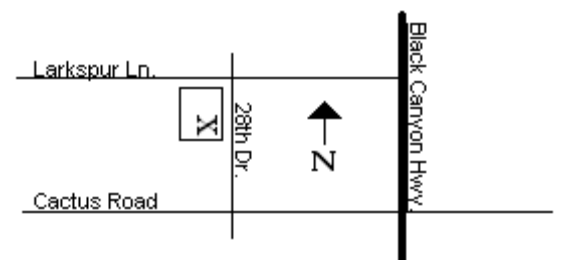
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Author Guest of Honour **Gwyneth Jones**

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 SCIFL.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.

Other Guests Writer/Illustrator **Yvonne Navarro**, Award winning artist **Don Maitz**

World Fantasy Convention 2004 Will feature:

An Art Show with pieces of original art work from many artists in the Fantasy and Horror genre. We will also have a print shop available with prints from our artists.

A Dealer's Room with many book dealers and publishers of fantasy and horror books including many rare and signed books.

Hospitality Suite - A place to relax and mingle.

Thursday - Opening Ceremonies – Meet our Guests of Honor

Friday – Autograph Reception – All attending authors (100+) should be present and available to sign books)

Saturday – Artists Reception – Enjoy the art show, mingle with the artists and other guests

Sunday – World Fantasy Awards Banquet

Check our web page at wfc2004.org for a full schedule.

The World Fantasy Charity Auction will be held Saturday afternoon and will benefit the **Charles L. Grant Emergency Medical Fund**. Charles L. Grant is a three time World Fantasy Award winning author who has been diagnosed with COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Charles and his wife, Kathryn Ptacek, are without health insurance and the fund has been set up to help them with their ongoing medical expenses. Please check our website for more details including a list of items that have been donated pre-con.

Attending authors at the convention include: **David B. Coe, Charles de Lint, Stephen R. Donaldson, David Drake, Doranna Durgin, Kate Elliott, Jo Fletcher, Eric Flint, Alan Dean Foster, Andrew Fox, David Gemmell, Joe Haldeman, Barbara Hambly, Thomas Harlan, David G. Hartwell, Nancy Holder, Kij Johnson, Graham Joyce, Katharine Kerr, Laurie R. King, Jane Lindskold, Brian Lumley, Louise Marley, Dennis L. McKiernan, Patricia A. McKillip, L. E. Modesitt, Jr., Kevin A. Murray, Adam Niswander, Melanie Rawn, Fred Saberhagen, Sharon Shinn, Dana Stabenow, Michael A. Stackpole, Judith Tarr, Gordon Van Gelder, Michelle M. Welch, & Chelsea Quinn Yarbro.**

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**World Fantasy 2004 Memberships are
US\$160 currently and at the door.**

World Fantasy Awards Banquet will be Sunday,
Oct 31 at 1 pm. \$53 and is either a beef, chicken,
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World Fantasy 2004 Contact Info:

World Fantasy 2004,
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P.O. Box 26665,
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Phone: (480) 945-6890

Fax: (480) 941-3438

Email: wfc2004@leprecon.org

Pro Notes (Cont'd from page 8)

Night Shade Books as well. And for the heck of it, David told me he got his first single-action revolver, a Ruger Blackhawk Convertible. He plinks in the afternoon as a break from writing. In the past he's used double-action revolvers or autoloaders, but has since decided to expand his skill set. I recently read a horror book by **Christopher Golden** (see last issue of *ConNotations* for the book review) and was so impressed that I asked him if he'd like to contribute. He said he recently finished a new novel for Bantam, "Wildwood Road," which will be out in late March, 2005, and he started "The Myth Hunters", the first in the VEIL trilogy, also for Bantam. With Thomas E. Sniegowski, he's recently finished "Tears of the Furies," the second novel in the MENAGERIE series for Ace. Earlier this year, Amber Benson and he wrote "Ghosts of Albion: Embers," the second hour of their online animated series for the BBC, which will premiere online this fall. Subterranean Press is publishing a limited, signed edition of their novella "Astray," and they're at work on the first "Ghosts of Albion" novel for Del Rey, which will be published late next year. Still on horror: **Stephen Jones** has delivered "The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror, Vol 15" and "The Mammoth Book of New Terror" to Robinson Publishing in the UK and Carroll & Graf in the USA. Both volumes will be published towards the end of this year in trade paperback. And, Stephen is accepting submissions for Vol 16 of "...Best New Horror" due out in 2005.

A returning favorite, **Larry Niven**, gives me the following rundown: "Tales of the Draco Tavern" from Tor, is still due date unknown. (*Nuts...I've been waiting for that one*) "Burning Tower" with Jerry Pournelle, from Simon & Schuster is due summer of 2005. "Building Harlequin's Moon" with Brenda Cooper, also from Tor, is due Spring 2005. And, "The Magic Goes Away Omnibus" from Simon & Schuster is due Spring 2005. But Larry's not kicking back just yet; he's working on "Life of Waldemar Eleventh" and others... And our local talent includes **Alan Dean Foster**, who tells us that "Sliding Scales," the next FLINX & PIP book, will be out from Del Rey in October. "Sagramanda," a novel set in near-future India, is currently at a publisher. He is half-way through with the FLINX & PIP book that bridges "Sliding Scales" to "Bloodhype." Beginning in November, iBooks/Byron Preiss will re-release all of the SPELLSINGER books, with new covers. **Doranna Durgin** has another year of new stuff! The stories in the DAW SIRIUS and REVISIONS anthologies are out, and "Exception to the Rule" is just now on the shelves. (It was "Exception to the Rules" but when someone in production left the plural out

and it ended up on the cover...oops, title change.) She's currently writing the sequel and has another two books contracted and waiting for their turn. And she's also working on a mystery, currently titled "Death by Disobedience." That'll be a Five Star Press offering (in 2005, hopefully). Next year will also see a couple more anthology stories--both in YA collections, which is a fun new direction for her.

Still locally, I heard from **Dennis McKiernan** that his book, "Red Slippers:

More Tales of Mithgar," was released in May 2004, and email is coming in from fans who want him to continue the series; however, with "Silver Wolf, Black Falcon" he finished the Mithgarian story arc. (*give it up, people...*) "Red Slippers," a collection of short stories, was written to tie up some loose ends left over from the series; it is also a well-deserved valentine to his fans. He is closing in on finishing "Once Upon a Spring Morn," book 4 of the projected 5-book FAERY series, probably by September. Each novel in this series retells a well-known fairy tale, all but the last one, and in it he will tell a fairy tale of his own. His writers' group is still going strong, as well as his gaming group, but in both he says they do miss Katherine Lawrence (*who passed away earlier this year*). Martha Lee and Dennis will be at the World Fantasy Convention October 29-31. After that they'll be at TusCon, November 5-7, and that will wrap up their conventions for the year. One last thought: the next THIEVES' WORLD anthology is set for publication in December, and in it

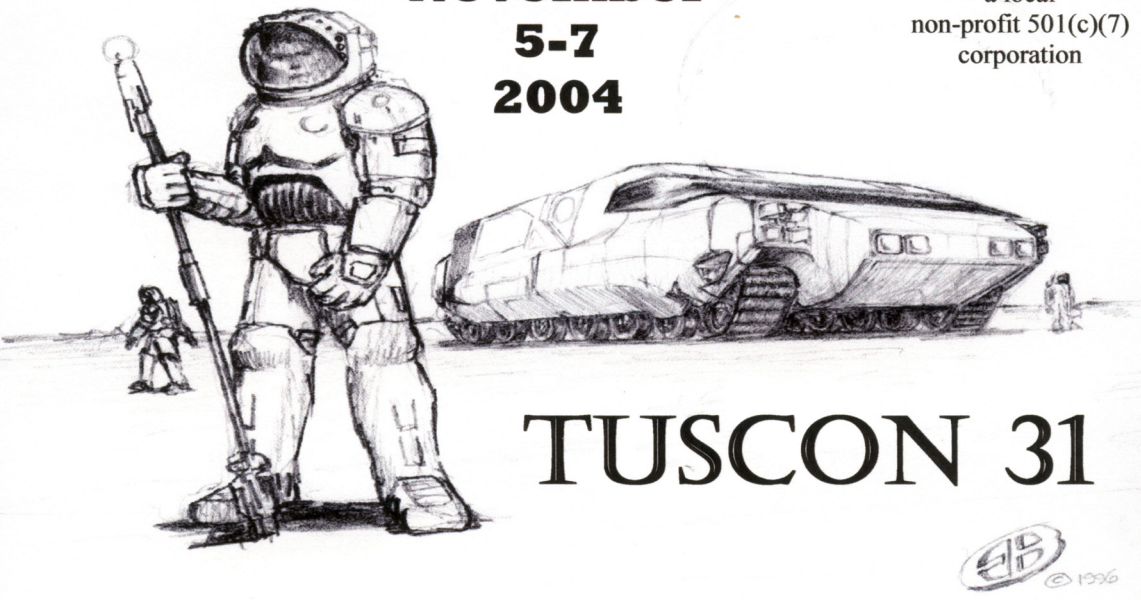
he has another story of Halott and Rogi called "Pricks and Afflictions." **Michelle Welch's** "The Bright and the Dark," sequel to "Confidence Game" (see the review in this issue), was released in August and seems to be doing quite well. Bantam Spectra just made an offer on the third book in the series, "Chasing Fire," and she's working on putting finishing touches on the manuscript to turn it in this fall, with an expected 2005 publication date. She's also working on another fantasy novel, unrelated to the FIVE

COUNTRIES series, and her agent is shopping several of her short stories. More about her and other SF/F authors can be found at www.sff.net. **Lee Hogan** is working on a Fantasy proposal and a Romance proposal, veering away from SF for a while. She also managed to sell Israeli rights for her novels, "Belarus" and "Enemies," and Italian rights for her **Maggie Thomas** (one of her aliases) novel, "Broken Time." **Ernest Hogan** is shopping an action/thriller titled "That

(Cont'd on page 11)

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TUSCON 31

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Writer's Workshop (Deadline : 10/1/03)
LARP; Computer Gaming; Game Room (EXPANDED)

Zapotec Thing" around New York and finishing his mainstream novel, "Walter Quixote."

And, finally, for something a bit different. I may be stretching my mission here but I think the **501st Stormtrooper Legion/Dune Sea Garrison** are pros in our world. Check out their website at www.az501st.com (currently being

rebuilt.) The 501st is very active in the community and fandom and here are some of the events in which they'll be participating:

Star Wars Day at Bookman's in Mesa on October 10th from 10am – 10pm. **Halloween Mill Ave. Invasion** on 31 October, 2004. **Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith** – AZ Line up & opening night (Date unknown at this time.) **MS Walk on the Wild Side** in

March 2005. **Star Wars Celebration III** on April 21 -24, 2005 in Indianapolis, IN. They'll also be coming out to play at our **LepreCon 31** convention on May 6-8, 2005. They'll be providing: a Full Prop Replica/Costume display, Panels on props & costuming, possibly Workshops on RTV & Resin casting and How to Build a Junk Gun. They'll also host the *Empire vs. Rebellion: The Great Debate* and the Masquerade Half Time Show. And, I also have a update on our previous ProNotes

An American in England - Part One:

Pizza and Harry Potter.

By Jeffrey Lu

Sometimes, magic *is* in the air. The sky is dark and stormy. Sometimes, something strange comes and needs to be noted for future generations. This time it was bouncing multiple weather balloons of *someone's* aunt floating over crowds of children and adults in the premier, "Harry Potter and The Prisoner of Azkaban." This was in the West End of London. The date was Sunday, May 30, 2004. Rain in England came and went in this witching hour.

To summarize the event: I came, I saw, I wondered.

Actually, I came into this crowd near the West End movie theatre. I was looking for souvenirs. I heard and saw gigantic TV screens blaring and showing trailers and interviews of the Harry Potter cast. I saw teams of English policemen blocking the orderly gates in and out the area. Curious, I asked one what was going on. A lady cop looked up at me and politely told me that in a few hours that the cast of Harry Potter would arrive in person.

So, I decided to wait and watch. Feeling hungry, I went to the nearest pizza parlor for lunch.

There was a special of a medium pizza and a drink for around 5 pounds (This is about \$10). I glanced at the menu and ordered "American Pizza." Waiting, I looked around and witnessed the customers eating pizza *with knife and fork!* The waitress later set down my drink and a pizza of medium pepperoni. (That's an *American* pizza?) Being a foreigner, I took my lunch and went to the darkest corner. I cut the pizza into four slices and ate in secret. I dined like a barbarian (or typically American). Looking outside, I saw a double-decker bus with a large Harry Potter advertisement. Time to go.

Refreshed, I came back and stood in the rain. At different times, all the cast and crew including J.K. Rowling and her husband, Neil Murray, appeared from the endless taxis and went inside. Only the V.I.P. people were allowed to go inside. I walked back to my hotel.

The next day, I went and purchased a ticket. In England, I found out one is assigned a seat in the movie theatre. I enjoyed the movie but wanted the "aunt" weather balloon.

Sadly, the ushers were guarding them. I would have loved to walk with Harry's Aunt to CopperCon.

Next- An American in England: The Tower of London

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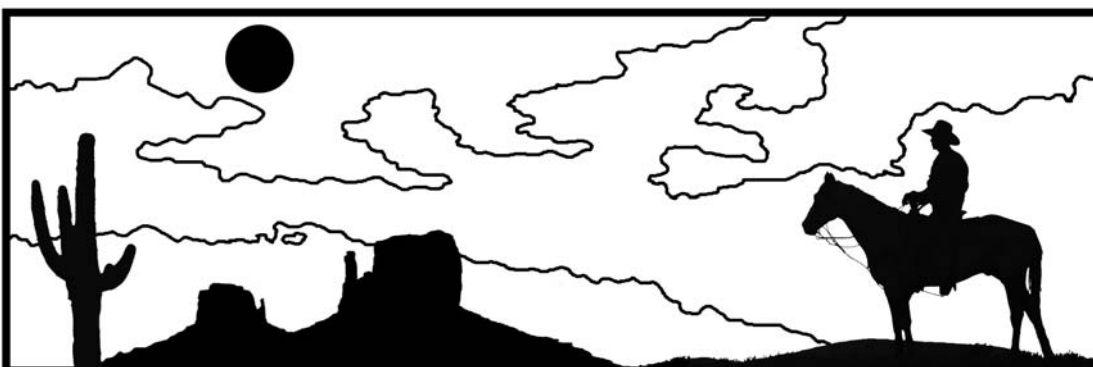
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writer, **Daryl Mallett**, who is now Editor at World Publishing Corp. in Mesa. He is editor of four newspapers (ALTA MESA TIMES, RED MOUNTAIN TIMES, SUPERSTITION SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWS, TRAILS & PATHS (LAS SENDAS)) and two magazines (THE FALCON FLYER, GOLD CANYON NEWS), and associate editor of four other newspapers (INSIDE OCOTILLO, THE PRIDE OF COOPER COMMONS, VAL VISTA LAKES COMMUNITY NEWS, THE ISLANDS CURRENT), and a contributing writer for 4U: THE MAGAZINE.

That's it for this issue, we'll get together again in about three months. I continue to be gratified from the response I get from authors and artists. If anyone wants to contribute or knows someone...please write to ConNotations or email me at

Editor@casfs.org –

Catherine Book.

Well, ConNotations fans - here's your chance to be heard. We'd like to know what you like and don't like about our publication. We're in the throes of doing lots of new things and we really need to know what we're doing right ...or wrong. You can address your comments to the publication in general or to any particular staff writer or contributor. Our Letters Editor, Catherine Book, will screen all letters and direct them to the addressee or relevant party for a response. Letters and responses will be printed, space permitting. So, please, take a moment to write and let us know we're being read. You can reach us at:

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PO Box 62613
Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613

Signings at Poisoned Pen Bookstore in Scottsdale

October 26 - 7PM **Diana Gabaldon**
October 28 - 7PM - **Stephen R. Donaldson, Carole Nelson Douglas, Barbara Hambly, Michael Stackpole**
December 5 - Time TBA - **Christopher Moore**

CASFS Book Discussion

The CASFS Book Discussion is held monthly at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at Metrocenter, 10235 N. Metro Parkway East. We meet on the third Wednesday of each month at 7pm in or near the coffeeshop.

On **October 20** we will discuss *Scanner Darkly* by **Philip K Dick**. Future selections are: **November 17 - 1632** by **Eric Flint**, **December 15 - Citizen of the Galaxy** by **Robert Heinlein**, **January 19 - Guilty Pleasures** by **Laurel K. Hamilton**, **February 16 - St. Patrick's Gargoyle** by **Katherine Kurtz**, **March 16 - Summon the Keeper** by **Tanya Huff**, and **April 20 - The Eyre Affair** by **Jasper Fforde**. Please join us for interesting and fannish discussions. For more information contact Catherine books@casfs.org

1985 Twilight Zone Series Soon To Be Released

Picture a television series so influential that it is reincarnated not once, but twice. A series of stories that so touches the human heart that it can convey both fear and compassion in equal measure. Travel with me now to a place of social commentary that doesn't appear on any map. The signpost up ahead directs us to... The Twilight Zone.

From October 1959 until June 1964, Rod Serling hosted all of and wrote 92 of the one hundred-fifty-six 30 and 60 minute episodes of the original series. From September 1985 until April 1989, one hundred-ten episodes of varying lengths aired on *The New Twilight Zone* with Charles Aidman as the narrator from 1985-1987 and Robin Ward narrating from 1987-1988. In September 2002 through May 2003 forty-three 30 minute episodes (aired together in a 60-minute block) showed on UPN, hosted by Forest Whitaker.

While the original series have been available in a VHS tape box set since September 7, 1999, the series has only been available in a linked DVD collection (they are NOT collected in air date order) since April 3, 2001, ending with Volume 43, released on June 26, 2001. On September 7, 2004 the complete 43-episode UPN series was released in a six disc set.

In January of 2004, it was announced that the 110 episodes of the 1985 *Twilight Zone* series would be released on DVD, with the first season DVD set coming out in July and Seasons 2 and 3 would be released in October. In May, the Season One release was pushed out to August, with Seasons Two and Three remaining as an October release. Before the end of May, the 1st season release was pushed out to November 2nd, with the single box set of the 2nd and 3rd seasons release to be January 25th, 2005. As of August, the first season is to be released on December 28th and the second and third season box set will be released on March 29th, 2005.

On September 10th, Harlan Ellison confirmed that he was approached by Image Entertainment to provide material for the first season DVD set. Ellison said, "In the wake of subsequent intervention by Jim Crocker, my friend and the then-Producer of TZ, I went to the Image studios yesterday, with Susan, and recorded more than two hours of voiceover commentary for my four TZ episodes—*Paladin of the Lost Hour*, *Gamma*, *Shatterday*, and *One Life, Furnished in Early Poverty*." Not confirmed and still in the realm of rumor are commentaries by Wes Craven and other directors, producers, and writers for the 1985 series.

This television series and its various incarnations have been on a strange journey of twists and turns, of impossible circumstance and impractical influence. The question is begged: Will the 1985 *Twilight Zone* come out on DVD as advertised? A good question that can only be answered in the future or in ...The *Twilight Zone*.

Note From the Editor

Recently ConNotations received a letter from a disgruntled fan concerning Westercon 57. After checking with the

committee of ConKopelli we have decided not to print the letter as it would just inflame the most negative portions of fannish politics. If you are interested in what this person had to say and the response from the committee of ConKopelli please email us at editor@casfs.org and we will email you the complete text of the letter as well as the committee's response.

Stephanie Bannon
Editor/ConNotations

A Novel Idea

October/November 2004
by Dawn Mullan

This fall sees a cornucopia of titles being released in the science fiction and fantasy genres. Books being released extend from pure science fiction to the paranormal as authors embrace the many facets of these genres.

First in October, readers are given a wide variety of storylines. These titles include: *Alien Log* by Robert Farrell; *Most Haunted* (Route 666, Book 2) by Tony Bedard & Glenn Yeffeth; *Stepping Through The Stargate: Science, Archaeology And The Military in Stargate SG-1* by P. N. Elrod & Roxanne Conrad; *Orphan Star* by Alan Dean Foster; *The Shadow of Saganami* (The Saganami Island) by David Weber; *Star Wars Republic Commando Hard Contact* by Karen Traviss; *Star Wars, The New Essential Guide to Weapons and Technology: Revised Edition* by W. Haden Blackman; *The DisContinuity Guide: The Unofficial Doctor Who Companion* by Paul Cornell; *Wizardry and Wild Romance: A Study of Epic Fantasy* by Michael Moorcock; *J.R.R. Tolkien: Interviews, Reminiscences, and Other Essays* by Douglas A. Anderson & Marjorie J. Burns; *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy Deluxe 25th Anniversary Edition* by Douglas Adams; *The Blue Girl* by Charles De Lint; *Battlestar Galactica: Rebellion* by Alan Rodgers & Richard Hatch.

Settling into November 2004, books being released will surely end up on some readers wish lists. Those released this month are: *Gundam SEED Vol. 3: Mobile Suit Gundam* by Masatsugu Iwase; *Crache* by Mark Budz; *Haunters of the Dark* by Philip A. Shreffler; *Starfist: Lazarus Rising* by David Sherman & Dan Cragg; *Yoda: Dark Rendezvous: A Clone Wars Novel* by Sean Stewart; *Two Secret Passages* by Jennie Kent & Maria Akl; *In Lands That Never Were: Tales of Swords and Sorcery from The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* by Gordon Van Gelder; *New Worlds: An Anthology* by Michael Moorcock; *Pirates, Bats, and Dragons* by Mike Davis & William Simpson; *The Rise*

of Tolkienian Fantasy by Jared C. Lobdell; *The Winter Dragon* by Caroline Pitcher & Sophy Williams; *Singularity* by Bill DeSmedt; *L.o.s.t.* by Debbie Federici & Susan Vaught; *The New World Order* by Ben Jeapes; *Star Wars* by David Sherman & Dan Cragg; *Stephen King's The Dark Tower: A Concordance, Volume II* by Robin Furth; *Battlestar Galactica: Paradis* by Brad Linaweaver & Richard Hatch; *Blade: Trinity* by Natasha Rhodes; *Ray Bradbury Presents Dinosaur Empire* by Stephen Leigh & John J. Miller.

Have a wonderful fall reading these great titles. For more information on fall releases, please visit your local bookstore or the internet.

ReAnimation

***** **Lion King 2: Simba's Pride**
***** **Aladdin - Special Edition**
**** **The Three Musketeers**
***** **Haibane-Renmei 1-4**
**** **Someday's Dreamers 1-3**

Lion King 2: Simba's Pride
Disney, 81 mins, G
DVD \$29.99

Simba's Pride picks up the story of Simba (voiced by Matthew Broderick), and Nala (Moirra Kelly) and their new baby girl cub, Kiara (Neve Campbell). Like Simba when he was small, she goes on an adventure and ends up outside of the Pride Lands and into the territory where the evil Scar's followers live. There she meets Kovu (Jason Marsden) and the two cubs become best friends until their parents find out. Kovu is the son of Zira (Suzanne Pleshette), leader of the Outland lions and both sets of parents forbid the two young cubs to see each other.

Time passes and Kiara and Kovu are reunited as young adults, Simba invites Kovu into the pride where Kovu teaches Kiara to hunt and she teaches him how to laugh and play. All is well for awhile until Simba and Kovu are ambushed by Outland lions and Simba is injured. He believes Kovu has betrayed him and sends Kovu into exile. Kiara follows Kovu into exile where they stay until the Outland lions attack Pride Rock. They return to try and end the battle but Zira is enraged and attacks Kiara - both fall into a ravine and only Kiara survives. The two groups of lions, Pride Lands and Outlands, are joined as one in the Circle of Life and Kovu and Kiara live happily ever after - or at least until *Lion King 3*.

I figured this was a good DVD to try out on my younger nieces and nephews (aged 4 to 9) so I popped some popcorn and we all settled on the couch to watch. The kids were enchanted and, surprisingly enough, I enjoyed it as well.

(Cont'd on page 13)

ReAnimation (Cont'd from page 12)

The extra features we skimmed through were a hit with the two older kids. This is definitely a good addition to the DVD collection - the following weekend we did a *Lion King* day and watched *Lion King 1 & 2* back to back and the kids enjoyed them as much the second (or third or more) time around as they did the first time. Highly recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Aladdin - Special Edition Disney, 90 min., G DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: "Soar away on a magic carpet ride of non-stop laughs and thrills in one of the most spectacular adventures of all time! Now meticulously restored and enhanced - experience the wonders of *Aladdin* like never before, from the Academy Award-winning music to the unforgettable moments of sidesplitting comedy and adventure.

In the heart of an enchanted city, a commoner named Aladdin and his mischievous monkey Abu battle to save the free-spirited Princess Jasmine from the schemes of the evil sorcerer Jafar. Aladdin's whole life changes with one rub of a magic lamp as a fun-loving, shape-shifting Genie appears and grants him three wishes, sending him on an incredible journey of discovery.

Enter "a whole new world" of entertainment in this astonishing, fun-filled 2-disc Special Edition, featuring the deleted songs "Proud of Your Boy", games, movie secrets and so much more - it's everything you could ever wish for!"

My older nieces and nephews loved Aladdin when it was released theatrically so I borrowed them and my younger niece and nephews to try out the DVD. It was a hit all the way around. The younger set was enchanted and the older set still loved it.

The extra features are a treat in and of themselves. The deleted song was delightful and the two music videos were a hit with the girls (ages 7, 14 and 17). Definitely a good investment for your family DVD collection. Highly recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Three Musketeers Disney, 75 min., G DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: "Best buddies Mickey, Donald and Goofy are small-time janitors with big dreams of becoming Musketeers. Their lives are turned upside down when Peg-leg Pete, captain of the Musketeers and his sinister lieutenant Clarabelle use them in a dastardly plot to rid the kingdom of Princess Minnie - the only mouse standing in Pete's way of the throne. Mickey, Donald and Goofy may not look like heroes, but they have a surprise for Pete. Powered by teamwork and friendship, they soon learn that they can

accomplish anything if they work together."

I used the same sets of nieces and nephews to screen this DVD. The younger ones, under 10 liked it best and the three adults in the group enjoyed it as well. The use of classical music was a really nice touch and the adults enjoyed the special feature "The Many Hats of Mickey" which lets you select one of 9 different hats and see a scene from classic Mickey Mouse cartoons like *Fantasia*.

All in all, this one was a hit, though possibly not as much as *Aladdin* or *Lion King 2* but certainly a welcome addition to the collection. Recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Haibane-Renmei Vol 1: New Feather 100 min, 13 Up Vol 2: Wings of Sorrow Vol 3: Free Bird Vol 4: Day of Flight 75 min each, 13 Up DVD \$29.99 each

From the covers: **Volume 1:** "In a long-forgotten walled town, humans coexist with the Haibane, angelic-like beings of unknown origin. Rakka becomes the newest Haibane, after she awakens from a strange dream and finds herself hatching from a massive cocoon.

With no memories of her previous life, Rakka struggles to adjust to her new surroundings; however, burning questions

distance herself from everyone and prepares to face the bitter darkness that will soon engulf her, resigned to her fate as a cursed and unforgiven Haibane.

With little time remaining, Rakka painstakingly attempts to set into motion a course of redemption that may provide salvation and help Reki achieve her "Day of Flight" Can Reki be saved after all, especially when she doesn't even want to save herself?"

Haibane-Renmei is the story of children reborn into a walled city with no memory of the past. They work towards a mystical "day of flight" when they will leave the town. Complete with wings and halos they remind us of angels.

The series begins with Rakka's arrival in the walled town and as she grows and learns we too learn about her, Reki and the other Haibane. This is a beautifully crafted series, beautifully drawn, wonderful music and a thought provoking story. If you are looking for slap stick comedy or non-stop action this is not the Anime for you. On the other hand, if you want a real story with richly developed characters this is a series you must watch. Highly, highly recommended. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Someday's Dreamers 1-3 Vol 1: Magical Dreamer Vol 2: Power of Love Vol 3: Precious Feelings 100 mins each, 13 Up DVD \$29.99 each

From the covers: Volume 1: "Yume Kikuchi is a 17-year old girl living in the countryside of Japan. The only thing unusual about this ordinary girl is her ability to make miracles! This summer, Yume has reached an age required to work in Tokyo as an apprentice mage. There she meets her mentor, the handsome and mysterious master mage, Masami Oyamada, who will teach her the most important lesson in life."

Volume 2: "Until she started her apprenticeship, Yume never doubted that one day she would become a full-fledged licensed mage. But through her training, mistakes, and interactions with new friends, she realizes that she has lots of growing up to do.

Angela, an apprentice from England, is amazingly talented but she has emotional hang-ups that prevent her from using her powers properly. Inoue, a kind hearted and good intentioned apprentice, just can't seem to do anything right.

Then there is Smiley (Kera), who desperately wants to become a mage to save someone very important to him... What will Yume learn from her new friends? Will she ever overcome her self-doubt?"

Volume 3: "The mage apprenticeship is almost over, but Yume does not feel ready for the final certification exam at all. She even starts to doubt the value of Special Powers, as she sees negative consequences from her attempts to help

(Cont'd on page 14)

HEXAACON 15

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remain in the back of her mind. What is Haibane and what is their purpose? What lies beyond the huge, forbidden town walls? Thus, Rakka begins her wistful journey of self-discovery and wonderment."

Volume 2: "Rakka works with Nemu at the library to find her place in life and renews her curiosity about the outside world. Kuu, a younger Haibane who is normally bright and cheerful, helps Rakka to find her place in the Old Home, but then becomes subdued and her halo begins to fade! Rakka's worries become a desperate search when Kuu goes missing... is this somehow related to the "Day of Flight"? Overwhelmed with sadness, Rakka is further shocked by a revelation about Reki's past!"

Volume 3: "As winter approaches, Rakka is still depressed as she struggles over the loss of Kuu. Falling deeper into sadness, Rakka discovers the connection between her and the mysterious birds and seeks to touch the forbidden walls of the town. Unfortunately, she soon falls ill with a deadly fever. While nursing Rakka, a pensive Reki reflects upon her own troubled past and pays a visit to the Communicator, who warns her that she doesn't have much time left as a Haibane."

Volume 4: "Amidst the Passing of the Year Festival, Reki begins to

ReAnimation (Cont'd from page 13)

people with her mage abilities.

Her final exam, ordered directly by Master Chief Ginpun, confuses her even more as she is only told to use her special power on Masami Oyamada. All Yume knows is that all summer she has lived and learned from Oyamada and that she wants to save him from the suffering he hides deep within his heart."

The series starts out in a somewhat fluffy vein as we follow naive country girl Yume to the big city of Tokyo for her mage training. Slowly over the course of the episodes the series shows a bit more substance than the first few episodes

would lead you to expect as Yume works through her feelings of self doubt to reach her full potential.

Reminiscent of *Kiki's Delivery Service*, though not quite as good, this is still an enjoyable coming of age story wrapped up in beautiful animation.

Recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Conversation (Cont'd from page 1)

the net. I asked them if they ever went looking for their own name. To my surprise, I discovered that Brian doesn't use the Internet. If I'd bothered to think it through, I should not have been surprised. After all, isn't the overriding theme of *Dune* the battle of man against machine and technology? Brian agreed that he didn't care for the infernal machines; nor did his father, Frank. Brian has issues with the Internet that I sympathize with but he decided not to use our time up by getting on his soapbox.

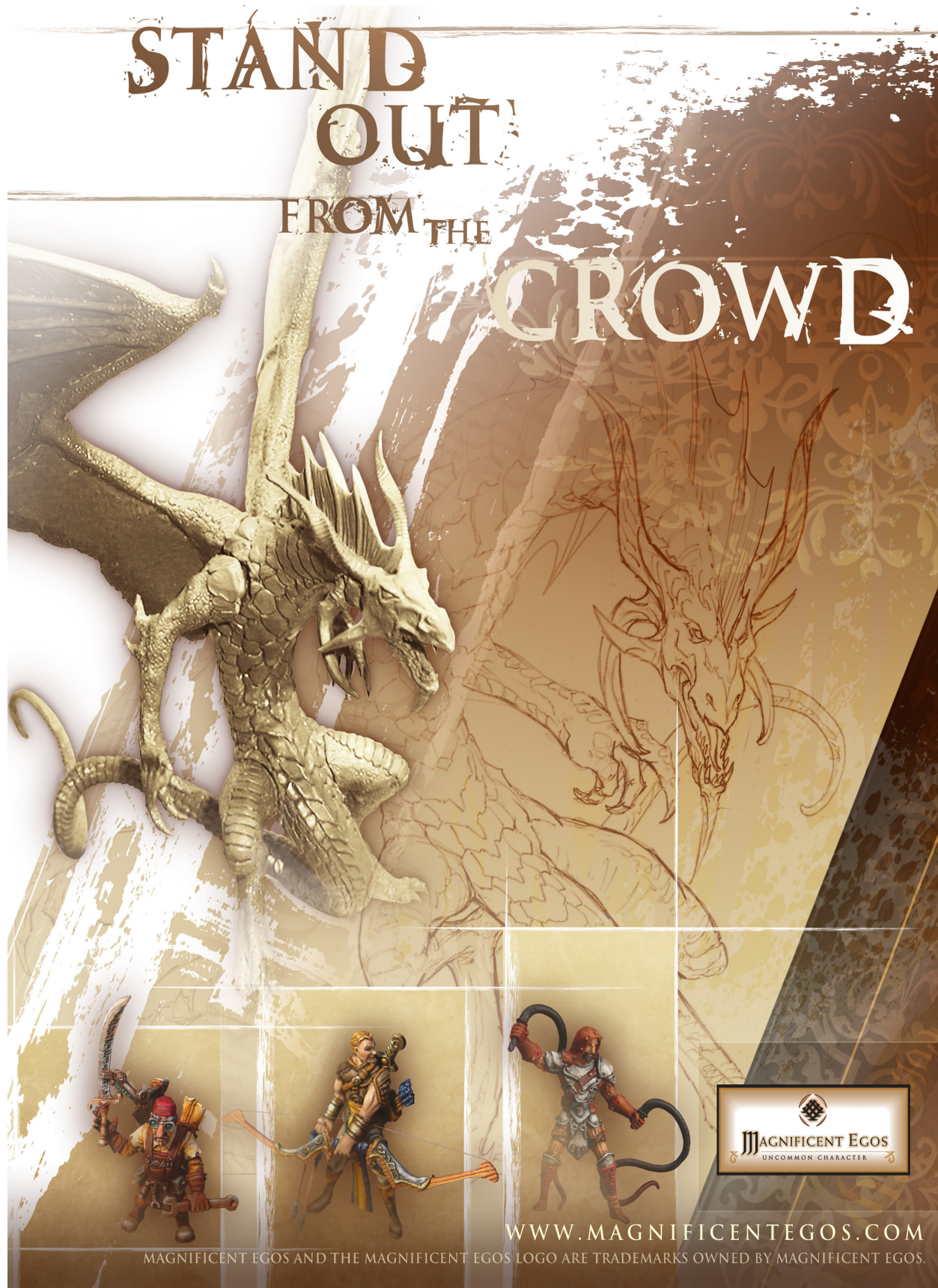
Kevin didn't admit to looking for his name on the Internet but he did marvel at his bookshelf at home where all his books are: four shelves, all books that he wrote, all those words. Kevin said he occasionally just stops and looks at the shelves and says to himself "I wrote all those words. And it's kind of amazing." Brian commented that between the two of them, they've written a million words together and in all that time, they've only had *one* five to seven-minute argument in seven years. I thought that was very remarkable. Better than

most marriages...

Kevin related a time when they were at a book-signing in Beverly Hills and watching a TV news program where people were discussing what they'd always wished they could do. Kevin commented to his wife, rather flippantly, that he always wanted to go on a big book-signing tour. She asked him what he thought it was they were doing. He stopped and realized that that very day they'd just found out they were on the NY Times Best Seller List for the sixth year in a row with *Battle of Corrin*, they were sitting in an extremely expensive Beverly Hills hotel, the day before they'd had lunch with Dean Koontz, Kevin had done two book signings that day and an interview, and Brian had met with a movie producer that morning. "You know, this really is everything that I had imagined it could possibly be," he confessed. I commented that it didn't get any better than that and Kevin agreed saying "You can't complain because then no one sympathizes with you."

I finally got to ask the question that had been on my mind so long. Is Book Seven going to be the last one? Both of them had said in previous interviews that Book Seven would be the climax to the series; but, that to get there they had to set the stage with several books (two trilogy sets of prequels.) I want to read Book Seven but feared it would be like the end of a relationship - *Dune* would be finished. I feel a bit sad and conflicted over that idea. Brian assured me that although Book Seven would be the chronological climax they have lots of other stories to write. Kevin offered that while they were on this tour, they had just finished the last chapters of next year's *Dune* book which is titled *The Road to Dune*. This book will be a Compendium and will include the 20 rejection letters Frank received for *Dune*, Frank's notes on unpublished chapters, the four original short stories Brian and Kevin wrote in chapbooks, Frank's correspondence, and a short novel based on Frank Herbert's original outline for *Dune*, titled *Spice Planet* which is a totally different view of *Dune*. It was a detailed outline, sort of a "beta test version of *Dune*," as Kevin described it, which Frank set aside to write what we all know as *Dune*. So Kevin and Brian have

(Cont'd on page 15)



Conversation (Cont'd from page 14)

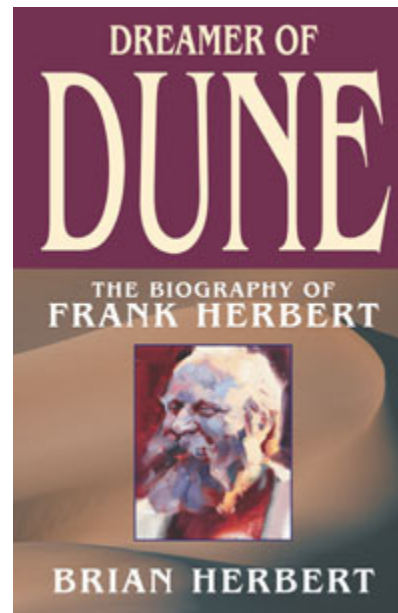
written a story of “the Dune that might have been.” Brian pointed out that *Spice Planet* is not a ‘throw-away secondary story’ but an alternate version of Dune, just as *The Dune Encyclopedia*, published years ago, is an alternate view of the Dune universe.

Then, *finally*, they will begin work on Book Seven, probably in January. Frank had left an outline for Book Seven that ties up all the story threads into a chronological grand finale of the six books that Frank wrote plus the six prequels. But, according to Kevin, after they read over this amazingly detailed outline, they realized they needed 1500-1600 pages to complete this gigantic story. So they are planning two books, titled “*Hunters of Dune*” and “*Sandworms of Dune*.” Frank had actually chosen these titles. Brian & Kevin are planning to show us what is beneath the planet; down where the sandworms live. Brian joked that the subtitle would be “*Beneath the Planet of the Worms...*” After that, they have a trilogy planned to explore the

eleven years between *Dune* and *Dune Messiah* which will expand on Paul’s early years and his bloody Jihad taking over the galaxy.

Brian talked to me a bit about his father and mother. His mother had also been a writer but gave it up to care for her family. (If you’re interested in Frank’s history and Brian’s relationship with his father, you really should read *Dreamer of Dune*, recently nominated for a Hugo.) Brian’s mother was a very strong woman and both are married to strong women so it’s no surprise that they have such a woman in Norma Cenva in their stories.

I asked them then about their writing styles. I had supposed that since they don’t live in the same state, that perhaps they simply swap chunks of story. That’s true, they confirmed. I theorized that since Brian’s style tends towards philosophical discussion and Kevin, with his Physics degree, likes to blow things up, that each one probably injects his own tendencies into the other’s piece. As Kevin said “I blow things up and he (Brian) has characters feeling guilty



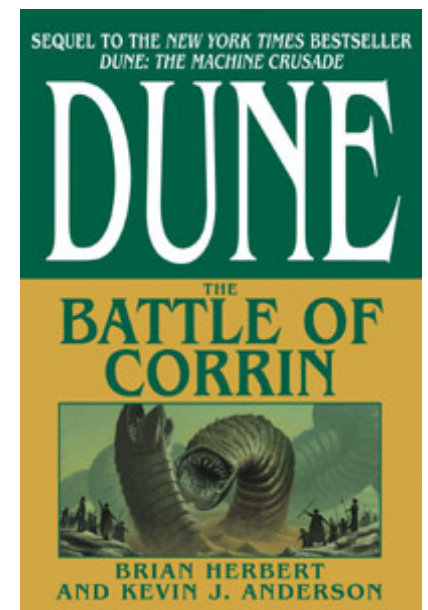
about blowing things up.” Brian agrees that Kevin adds action to his philosophy, religion and politics and Kevin said that while Brian has characters standing around discussing things, he would rather have them fighting each other with ninja swords... while discussing things. But they both agreed that while their writing styles and syntax are similar, they do completely rewrite each other’s material. Pretty seamless effort as far as I can tell.

As Kevin pointed out, to write continuing Dune novels requires one to really understand the history and how all the pieces fit together. Brian has compiled a ‘history’ book of Dune that both he and Kevin use as a reference guide. This keeps the novels ‘honest’ and minimizes the mistakes that we fans delight in discovering. Don’t expect to see this reference guide on the bookstore shelf; they don’t intend to publish it.

I was curious what other authors had influenced them, besides the obvious: Frank Herbert. Brian read a lot of Aldous Huxley, John Steinbeck, particularly *Grapes of Wrath*, plus some Pearl S. Buck and Ayn Rand. He liked books of big social purpose stories... go figure. Kevin, on the hand, grew up with Larry McMurtry. *Lonesome Dove* is one of his favorites plus *The Godfather* and *Gorky Park*, a thriller-mystery. In science fiction, he felt influenced by Ray Bradbury and H.G. Wells. When a teacher wanted to assign his class to read *Brave New World* by George Orwell, which he felt was boring, he convinced her to assign *1984* instead. I totally agree, by the way.

Kevin also spent some time discussing his series “The Saga of Seven Suns” and how his experience writing the Dune epics with such a huge scope, plotting, lots of planets, characters, and storyline has influenced his solo writing. “It’s like Dune with a little bit of Stars Wars thrown in, with aliens, robots, space battles and fantastic planets.” He has already published three novels, with a graphic novel prequel. The fourth has been written and the series will go to at least six books. Kevin feels strongly that it’s the best original thing he’s ever done. He feels that everything he’s read, learned, seen (monster movies) on TV and written to date was training for this effort. It’s an ambitious effort but in Kevin’s mind, the stories keep getting bigger, characters keep interacting and, of course, the planets keep getting blown up. I asked if the fans like it and he responded that he’s received lots of fan mail and that the series is catching on better than anything else he’s done. Except, of course, the highly recognizable Dune novels.

Kevin and Brian enjoy being accessible to their fans and try to do several conventions and book signings each year. Kevin will be our Guest of Honor at LepreCon 31, in May of 2005 and we look forward to seeing him again. Bring your Dune books, I guarantee he’ll sign all of them while he tries to get you to read his “...Seven Suns” novels. I greatly enjoyed this interview and hope I have another opportunity to enjoy the company of both men, they were fun to meet. (*Next issue is an interview with Anne McCaffrey and Todd McCaffrey. Try not to miss it.*)



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Screening Room

Sky Captain

and the World of Tomorrow

Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow,

Casey Affleck, Angelina Jolie

Directed by: Kerry Conran

107 min. Rated PG

“Join the Resistance”. This movie is not for everyone, part Serial and done in a fashion to reflect movietime reels of the 1930’s it’s a unique ground-breaking film. The movie was entirely filmed on blue screen and the background was added in digitally later. They intentionally gave it soft edges and a comic book feel. It combines the fear of war in the 30’s and the dream for the future with spaceships, flying fortresses and robots that were portrayed in comics at the time. The story follows Sky Captain (Jude Law), leader of a mercenary group for hire as he tries to solve the mystery of disappearing world scientists, the appearance of advanced futuristic machines and thwart the plans of a mad scientist bent on world domination. Assisting him is the intrepid reporter



Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow) who at times can be annoying, and Captain “Franky” (Angelina Jolie) leader of the government troops who also have advanced weaponry. This movie is pure fantasy and designed to take you away from the real world and enjoy the vision of what someone’s twisted mind can come up with. I loved it, it was a little slow at times but overall a great time at the movies. [A-] - Jeff George

Sky Captain

and the World of Tomorrow

Starring: Jude Law, Gwyneth Paltrow,

Casey Affleck, Angelina Jolie

Directed by: Kerry Conran

107 min. Rated PG

Around the world scientists mysteriously disappear. The most recent disappearance from the zeppelin

Hindenberg III is investigated by reporter Polly Perkins (Gwyneth Paltrow). As she attempts to trace the scientist, giant robots invade the city leaving a path of destruction until they are stopped by Sky Captain Joe Sullivan (Jude Law). Joining forces, the two ex-lovers search the world for the evil Dr. Totenkopf (interestingly enough, portrayed by the late Sir Laurence Olivier.) With the help of Dex (Giovanni Ribisi), a genius inventor and Franky Cook (Angelina Jolie), the commander of an all-female amphibious squadron, the heroes save the world.

Set in an alternate version of the 1930’s, *Sky Captain* is obviously inspired by pulp SF comic books and Saturday morning movie serials. Technically, the film is making history. It was filmed almost entirely in CGI (only the main actors and props they held are “real”). The film begins with a wonderful sequence of a zeppelin docking atop a Manhattan sky scraper, transforming robots attacking the city and a dazzling battle but, for me, it never really took off. This is the same territory that Steven Spielberg covered with the *Indiana Jones* movies but it isn’t done nearly as well. The acting is wooden and the characters are flat, leaving one to wonder if it is just lack of chemistry between the leads or lack of anything for the actors to interact with. I went in the theater prepared to love *Sky Captain* and, unlike the rest of our group, I left vaguely dissatisfied and disappointed. [C+] - Stephanie L Bannon

Shaun of the Dead

Starring: Simon Pegg, Kate Ashfield, Lucy David, Nick Frost, Dylan Moran
Directed by: Simon Pegg, Edgar Wright
99 min. Rated R

When was the last time you took a date to a GOOD “romantic zombie comedy?” Here is your chance with the release of the British cult hit ‘*Shaun of the Dead*.’

Shaun (Simon Pegg) and Ed (Nick Frost) are best mates. Everybody in the movie is in a rut. Shaun is a low level manager and Nick is a computer game-playing, roommate, bum (think college.) Both, going nowhere. Liz, Shaun’s girl friend, is re-evaluating their relationship (ie: she breaks up with him.)

THEN the dead rise. This doesn’t change much except the zombies want to eat everybody who isn’t a zombie. The zombies can be stopped if you hit them in the head with a cricket bat or a shovel. This begins the adventure where Shaun tries to save his friends and love.

Simon Pegg, Nick Frost and director Edgar Wright were in town for the premier of *Shaun of the Dead* and did a press conference.

They said that they decided to do a zombie film in the tradition of *Dawn of the Dead*, with slow zombies and a lot of blood and guts. This is different from the modern fast action zombie films. There is one other difference from tradition



zombie films, this is a romantic-comedy, horror film.

To get extra (zombies) they advertised on the Internet for people they couldn’t pay, couldn’t transport, but could only feed. They got over 1000 e-mails.

During the press conference the three said that they tried to base the characters on real life so they would be more real. Both Nick and Simon admitted they had been both Shaun and Ed at different times in their lives. Liz is the only character that Simon and Edgar consulted other than themselves to make sound real. (They talked to Kate Ashfield so Liz would sound like a real girl friend and she does sound real.)

Nick said the worst part of the film was the blood. Every department had different blood, there were dozens of types blood (blood everywhere). The worst was the corn syrup that they covered Nick in one scene.

Everybody, even non-horror fans enjoyed the film, BUT there is graphic violence including the evisceration of people. I would recommend this for any movie buff over 13, especially horror film buffs. - Barry Bard

Alien vs Predator

Starring: Sanaa Lathan, Raoul Bova
Director: Paul W.S. Anderson
87 mins, Rated PG-13

“Whoever wins... We lose.” During an archaeological expedition in the Antarctica, a team of archaeologists and other scientists find themselves caught up in a battle between the two legends. Soon, the team realizes that only one species can win. To sum this movie up in one word: **lacking**. It starts out slow and then they don’t build up the suspense and terror enough to give you those On-The-Edge-Of-Your-Seat moments like they did in other Alien movies. They solve the mystery pretty quickly from vague references inside the pyramid and it ends up stealing it’s conclusion from another movie. Twentieth Century Fox’s attempt to reinvigorate this franchise like Freddy vs. Jason did last year just falls flat. In

this case they just didn’t take it to its full potential. That doesn’t mean it didn’t have some exciting parts but they were just far and few in-between. And short of their reason for coming to earth and the brief cameo by a new creature, it just didn’t expand on the Alien or Predator universe. The battle scenes are dark, quick and usually flash around so quickly you can’t see what’s going on. The pyramid was interesting but they don’t explore its mysteries beyond a couple rooms and hallways. It’s also difficult to tell where this movie falls in the time-line of the others, but I believe it falls somewhere in-between the Predator and Alien movies. [C+] - Jeff George
MOVIE TRAILER http://www.apple.com/trailers/fox/avp/internet_trailer/
OFFICIAL WEBSITE <http://www.avp-movie.com/>

Resident Evil Apocalypse aka Resident Evil 2

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Sienna Guillory

Director: Alexander Witt
93 mins, Rated R

“My name is Alice and I remember everything”. This sequel closely follows the first movie *Resident Evil*. After narrowly surviving the lab incident in the Hive, the secret laboratory under Raccoon City, Alice awakes in the Raccoon City hospital to find herself



surrounded by the undead. The Umbrella Corporation has decided to re-open the Hive, which from our side of the screen we knew what the result would be, and the T-virus spreads like a plaque. Now she must escape before the Umbrella Corporation’s newest creation, Nemesis, finds her... I’ve never played the video game and don’t know how closely these two movies follow the story line. But I liked this one better than the first; there was a lot more action and it was very exciting. [A] - Jeff George

Calendar of Events - October/November 2004

To have your event or meeting listed please email calendar@casfs.org - **Deadline for October/November Submissions - November 10, 2004**
(This is a free service. All release dates are tentative)

October

October 6 - Wednesday

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

October 8 - Friday

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

October 9 - Saturday

Event: ConRunners - 8:30AM to 6PM at Embassy Suites North, I-17 & Greenway. Info: Conrunners@westernsfa.org

October 15 - Friday

Event: Fannish Open House at Craig & Stephanie's place - Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

October 17 - Sunday

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

October 20 - Wednesday

Book Discussion: 7PM at Barnes & Noble Metro Center. A Scanner Darkly by Philip K Dick Info: books@casfs.org

October 24 - Sunday

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

October 26 - Tuesday

Signing: Poison Pen Bookstore 7PM Diana Gabaldon Info: www.poisonedpen.com

October 28 - Thursday

Signing: Poison Pen Bookstore 7PM - Stephen R. Donaldson, Carole Nelson Douglas, Barbara Hambly, Michael Stackpole Info: www.poisonedpen.com

October 28-31 - Thursday-Sunday

Event: Would Fantasy Convention - Tempe Mission Palms Info: www.leprecon.org



November

November 1 - Monday

Deadline - ConNotations Submissions

November 5-7 - Friday - Thursday

Event: TusCon at the Innsuites Hotel Info: <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

November 10 - Wednesday

Deadline: ConNotations Advertising Submissions

November 12 - Friday

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

November 13 - Saturday

Meeting: WesternSFA Quarterly Meeting: Craig's house Info: info@westernsfa.org

November 17 - Wednesday

Book Discussion: 7PM at Barnes & Noble Metro Center. 1632 by Eric Flint Info: books@casfs.org

November 19 - Friday

Event: Fannish Open House at Craig & Stephanie's place - Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

November 21 - Sunday

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

November 26-28 Friday-Sunday

Event: Loscon at LAX Marriot Info: www.loscon.org

December

December 1 - Wednesday

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

December 5 - Sunday

Meeting: ConNotations Labeling & Potluck - Stephanie's house Info: editor@casfs.org

December 10 - Friday

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

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays	6pm	New Comics Arrive!	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	6pm	Hero Clix Tournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	6pm	Mech WarriorTournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
Thursdays	6pm	L5R CCG	Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	6pm	Camarilla Anarch Game	Kiwanis Park	www.titheofsouls.com
	6pm	Mechwarrior Dark Age Tournament	Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	6pm	Magic ThG type 1.5 Tournament	Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
Fridays	6pm	Warmachine League	Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	6pm	Magic the Gathering DCI Sanctioned	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	7pm	HeroClix Tournament	Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
Saturdays*	7pm	Magic: The Gathering Tournamets	Game Daze 2140 E 5th St #11, Tempe AZ 85281	www.imperialoutpost.com
	AllDay	Warhammer Fantasy & 40K	Imperial Outpost, 49th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	Noon	Hack Tournament	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	Noon	Duel Masters Tournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
Sundays*	3pm	YU-GI-OH Tournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	6pm	Anime Club Meeting	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	Noon	YU-GI-OH Tournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	3pm	Dragonball Z CCG Tournament	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	6pm	Dragon Page Live Fire SF/F Radio Talk Show -	KFYI 550	www.dragonpage.com

In Our Book - Young Adult

Hoping to capitalize on the Harry Potter craze, Del Rey is reissuing classic science fiction and fantasy titles aimed at an entirely new generation of readers aged 12 and older. The Imagine program is issuing these titles in attractive new trade paperback editions priced at \$6.99. I will confess that these titles are also ones that appeal to my interests and I hope to review 2 or 3 each issue. This issue we have:

The Oathbound Wizard by Christopher Stasheff Ballantine, 416 pps, \$6.99

From the back cover: “Matt Mantrell had discovered the gift of poetry in a place where it worked magic. He won fame and power; but, as a commoner, he could not marry his true love. He swore against fate, and that he’d conquer a kingdom, if that’s what it took to claim his bride. Then he discovered that such an oath can’t be broken. Marching off against a tyrant to win a land, he was about to face the loathsome and evil Gordogrosso. If he was to win this lopsided war, Matt was going to need more than a few stout companions and some well-worded verse....”

Somehow I missed this when it first came out. This is a delightful story with which to introduce young readers to fantasy as well as literature. Second in the series, this easily stands alone and does not suffer from one not having read the first book..

In a world where words are taken literally, Matt makes the mistake of vowing to conquer a kingdom. Along the way he is joined by a dracogriff, a cyclops, a lady in distress and, possibly, a ghost and receives assistance from a saint. For those looking for a good read to share with their kids these are a good choice. It is a rousing adventure story without any explicit violence or sex or language. Highly recommended for kids and adults as well. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Orphan Star by Alan Dean Foster Ballantine, 240 pps, \$6.99

I haven’t read any of the Flinx novels so this was an introduction to the series for me. Apparently, Flinx was an orphan who has been adopted by Mother Mastiff. Accompanied by his dragon Pip, he goes in search of his parents in order to learn about the mental powers that he has inherited from them. On the planet of Ulru-Ujurr he finds clues to his past, finds new friends and saves the day.

While it is recommended to readers 12 years and up, I read it to my 8 year old

niece and she loved it. This is a great book for kids and parents to read together. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Have Spacesuit Will Travel by Robert Heinlein Ballantine, 240 pages, \$6.99

This is one of the first Heinlein novels I ever read and it remains one of my favorites. It still works just as well now as it did when Heinlein first wrote it.

Kip Russell has an old space suit. He takes it into the backyard to check it out and the next thing he knows he has been captured by space pirates and whisked into space. He finds other prisoners on board and learns they are being taken to the Moon and a fate “worse than death”.

Heinlein juveniles are a great introduction to science fiction/fantasy for both young and old readers. I heartily recommend this... in fact, it will be a perfect gift for the young readers on your holiday shopping list. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

In Our Book

ReVisions edited by Julie E. Czerneda and Isaac Szpindel, DAW Books, 312 pp., \$6.99

This anthology is the perfect extra reading material for a high school history course. Not that adults can’t enjoy the stories, too - I did. The theme is alternate history, fifteen tales of “what if?” something in our past had been different, and changed the world. The educational nature of the work is enhanced by the authors’ afterwords, called Revision Points. No introductory quips by the editors, instead short lessons of real history with the authors commenting on their own stories. Subjects include deep sea diving, dogs, printing, mathematics, genetics, religion, cold fusion, the internet, Black Death Plague, and AIDS disease. People include Nikola Tesla, Leonardo Da Vinci, Albert Einstein, Galileo, and the Pythagoreans.

Teachers may note that DAW has three more anthologies in this series: Space Inc, Space Stations, and Conqueror Fantastic. This last is another alternate history work, including legendary figures. - **Mike Griffin**

Confidence Game by Michelle M. Welch Bantam Spectra, \$5.99, 419 pp

An extraordinarily complex book for a first novel. Elzith is a trained assassin/soldier with inhuman skills. She’s recuperating from a terrible mission that damaged her severely. She takes up residence with a bookbinder, Tod; both of

them have secrets, both of them need healing. Elzith is unused to trust or confidence in anyone but herself; but, to heal, she’ll need both. Todd is the epitome of a trustworthy and honorable man and he may be the only one who can help her. Elzith’s growing confidence in Tod takes place against the political gaming of the Justices who run the government. Add to the mix, two mysterious groups of people, Sages and Magus’, who are tolerated in society but not understood. While Todd struggles to understand his position in the political machinations, Elzith has to unravel secrets of the Sages to understand why she is being targeted by shadowy forces.

Ms. Welch devotes most of her effort to plotting, then to characters. She also has a distinctive style and pacing. The plot is interesting but not the best thing here. The characters are distinctive and clearly drawn but not the best thing here, either. Her style is curiously paced and the only criticism I will offer is that I felt off-balance and unsure of the direction of the story for almost half the book. I had trouble telling what the story was about: the political maneuverings and imperialism of Elzith’s country or Elzith and Todd. The best thing here is actually all three: plot, characters and style. The whole is better than the parts. Ms. Welch doesn’t waste words; I think every one was carefully selected. The characters were fascinating; although, I think the villains needed a bit more fleshing out. I enjoyed the story and hope to hear more from Elzith and Tod. – **Catherine Book**

Tomorrow Now, Envisioning the Next 50 Years by Bruce Sterling Random House, 335 pp., \$13.95

Cyberpunk pioneer Bruce Sterling has also found a career as a professional futurist, speaking to corporations that pay. Here we get views based upon Shakespeare’s seven stages of life from ‘As You Like It’: infant, student, lover, soldier, justice, rich elder, and senior citizen. These translate into genetics-microbiology, information technology, product design, global terrorism as freebooting, media-politics, the information economy, catastrophes and post-humanity. No technical jargon, just a popularization crammed with intelligence. The author’s hip attitude remains, tempered by middle age. This just makes the bon mots more heavy hitting. Well worth the read.- **Mike Griffin**

Midnight Harvest by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro Aspect/Warner Books, \$24.95, 434 pp

This, the latest Saint-Germain story, is a real goodie. I haven’t enjoyed one of these so well since *Writ in Blood*. For the

uninitiated: Ferenc Racogzy, Comte de Saint-Germain is a 4000+-year-old vampire. While he is not a ‘vampire with a soul’, he has more soul and compassion than most humans. In his far past, he was content for a while with the traditional horror-inspired passion from his victims; but, eventually he learned that passion inspired by love was far more satisfying.

Saint Germain starts in Spain in the mid-1930’s and is forced to leave, as he has had to so many times in so many places, when the country falls into civil war and the Fascists take over (and he saves a beautiful young woman, of course). From there, he decides to go to America and visit Rowena Saxon in San Francisco. Rowena was last seen in *Writ in Blood* in 1910; she’s a mature woman now, still single, and still painting. But California in the 1930’s is not a paradise. The Great Depression affects everyone and the ideals of white supremacy seem attractive to many. Racogzy owns a winery in Sonoma County that suffers predation from local white supremacists until he finally takes a hand. At the same time, Racogzy discovers he is being stalked by someone who has no compunctions about killing anyone who is inconvenient to his plans. But, the main point of the story is simply about Rowena – will she or won’t she – decide to join Saint-Germain as one of his blood.

Ms. Yarbro does her usual enthralling best with this story. If you’ve never read one of these gems, you’ll find it is not your run-of-the-mill vampire story; either by plot or style. The plot is deceptively simple, the choreography is artistic, the style – unique. I was enchanted by the small things she shared throughout the book. My favorite was discovering the origin of Saint-Germain’s resort in Tahoe, which we were introduced to in *The Chronicles of Saint-Germain*, in one of my favorite short stories of the Comte. Be reassured, this one is a keeper. – **Catherine Book**

Supertoys Last All Summer Long, and Other Stories of Future Time by Brian Aldiss St. Martin’s Griffin Books, 232 pp., \$13.95

If you’ve never read anything by this classic master, this is as good a place as any to start. As the cover blurb notes, the title story was inspired the Steven Spielberg film *A.I.* It also includes two sequel stories, and a foreword about working with Stanley Kubrick on the movie. Oh yes, and 16 other stories. Gems of wonder, with titles like ‘*The Old Mythology*’, ‘*A Matter of Mathematics*’, ‘*The Pause Button*’, ‘*Three Types of Solitude*’, ‘*Dark Society*’, ‘*Galaxy Zee*’, ‘*Marvells of Utopia*’, and a revised ending of Shakespeare’s ‘*The Tempest*’. Be warned, Aldiss is of a literary bent.

(Cont’d on page 19)

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 18)

Some stories have sad or neutral endings. Yet all still partake of that sense of wonder that is so essential to true science fiction. A classic master, indeed. - **Mike Griffin**

Remnant Population by **Elizabeth Moon** Del Rey, \$12.95, 325 pp

For forty years Ofelia has lived on the colony planet, she has survived two husbands and buried all but one of her children. She's done everything she was told to do. She obeyed her father, her first husband, her second, her remaining son and her daughter-in-law. But she's decided **not** to obey the Company. Sims Bancorp Company has decided to disband the failing colony for economic reasons. Everyone must leave for a new planet; one to be selected by the Company. Ofelia sees no good reason to risk what little is left of her life in cryo-sleep, nor any good reason why she should work again at raising a new colony. She has everything she needs right where she is. And she'll have more once everyone is gone. She'll have peace and quiet. She'll have freedom.

Ofelia finds her new freedom to be an emotional and moral challenge but overall, it's a definite improvement; until the Company sends a new colony to her

planet. The Company had deduced that the reason for the colony's failure was a poor landing site. The new colony was set down on the other side of the planet. Ofelia listened with some fear to the communications from space and the new site. Then she listened with horror as a terrible something decimated the entire crew and colony on the ground. The indigenes, once the marauders were disposed of, began to discuss a similar landing they had observed some forty years earlier at a great distance from them. What they had originally dismissed as unknowable and unimportant has taken on a greater significance in the light of the recent invasion. They send a team to investigate.

This is a first contact story with some typical plot characteristics. What is not typical is Ofelia. She gives me hope for my encroaching old age. She creates her own happiness and contentment from her own needs and repressed desires. It is a perpetual cry from women, even in our enlightened age, that we have to sublimate our needs and desires until our loved ones are satisfied. Ofelia's strengths are what make the difference in her growing relationship with the indigenes. She doesn't realize it but who and what she is gains her the respect and value from alien people that she never got from her own.

This book sang to me. It was a soft symphony that ended quickly; but oh, so satisfyingly. It raced at a sedate pace and I could hear Ofelia's voice. Ms. Moon captivated me and that is not easily done. - **Catherine Book**

Angel-Seeker by **Sharon Shinn** ACE; \$23.95; 483 pp

Boy, is this my kind of book. Having read Shinn's "Archangel Trilogy," I was really looking forward to this. And it was NO disappointment.

On the planet Samaria there lives a pre-industrial human civilization. The normal things divide them: landscape, trading and politics. But all believe in the god Jovah and his intermediaries, the angels. Yes, real angels with feather wings and ungodly beauty. Well, actually godly beauty, I guess. They help people by singing for Jovah's literal blessings: a shift in the wind to turn aside a damaging storm, or the reverse, much needed rain; or pills and medicines that fall from the sky to stave off the plague, infections, fevers, etc. Every year, on the Plains of Sharon all the angels and humans gather in thanksgiving to sing a glorious Gloria to Jovah. I will leave the discovery of who Jovah actually is to you. You can meet him in the Archangel Trilogy.

Now, for this book, it's a wonderful romantic drama about two sets of star-crossed lovers and their impact on the world around them.

The title of the book comes from the fact that angels are not perfect (though they try hard) they are not numerous and do not reproduce easily. As a matter of fact, angels have great difficulty breeding amongst themselves and usually seek a human mate or lover. So angel-seekers are women and men who seek out an angel as a sexual partner. It does not matter if they are married. What matters is if they produce a baby that is an angel.

So, first we have Rebekah who is of the Jansai people. They are great traders and merchants. However, they keep their women separated from other men not related to them and they must cover their faces at all times. They cannot engage in trade. Their marriages are arranged. Even the rooms they inhabit have no windows, save for a skylight in a fabric room, where ladies make clothing, mend and embroider. The Jansai are very isolationist, especially since the Archangel Gabriel (the ruler of Samaria) has freed all their slaves, the people who are called the Etori.

Rebekah does the unthinkable. While out on a trip with her family, one of their wagons has a mishap and they are stuck in the desert until the problem is fixed. Rebekah is sent to nearby oasis for water. What she finds at the well is a badly injured angel named Obadiah who has been shot down by a "firestick." (a kind

of light beam weapon). Because the Archangel Gabriel had decided it was time that the Jansai become less isolationist than they are, he sent Obadiah to their main city of Breven as a diplomatic envoy. After a visit with one of the headmen, Uriah, Obadiah is headed back to the angel enclave Cedar Hills when he is shot in the desert where Rebekah finds him.

Regardless that he is an angel, Rebekah should not touch nor speak to him. But she cannot leave him as he is and so every day, on the pretense of fetching the water, she comes and tends to the angel's wounds, feeds him and helps make a temporary tent for him. Obadiah tries to get Rebekah to reveal her veiled face to him but she will not...save for the last day when she tells him she has a surprise for him...and reveals her face. And Obadiah is captivated by her. Now he not only knows she is a strong woman, practical and good-hearted, but she is beautiful too. He gives her a bracelet of silver and sapphire that is a distinctive piece of angel jewelry. As Jansai women normally tend to wear a lot of jewelry she feels she can hide it amongst the bracelets she already has.

Now we turn to Elizabeth, who, as a youngster, was orphaned and left with distant relations where she did scullery and was miserable. But she dreams of finding an angel lover. Someone who will love her for herself and shore up her self-worth by giving her an angel baby, thereby giving her status.

She finally takes her chance and leaves the house with a worker who is going to the new angel enclave being built, Cedar Hills.

And she actually does take on an angel lover. She hires herself out as a laundress at the dorms of the unattached angels and eventually finds an angel lover named David. Shinn makes it clear, angel or not, he is not much of a lover and though they sleep together a handful of times, no baby results.

Elizabeth is really at her wit's end as the enclave of Cedar Hills represented a new life for her. And now, even though she has had her much-desired liaison with an angel, it has proven very disappointing.

But one day, an injured angel is brought to the dorms of Cedar Hills (it is Obadiah) and Elizabeth, as a laundress, is asked to find clean strips of cloth to be used as bandages. When she reaches the sick room with the much need material, the healer, Mary, asks her to help, and once they are done, to keep an eye on the angel's recovery.

And now, Rebekah and Elizabeth, will soon find their lives changing more than they had dreamed possible.

Obadiah finds he is very fond of Rebekah and tries to see her whenever he

(Cont'd on page 20)

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In Our Book (Cont'd from page 19)

comes to Breven where she lives. She can't help herself and does what she can to meet with him, going as far as to sneak out of her home dressed as a boy.

Elizabeth, now apprenticed to the healer Mary, gives first aid to a man badly injured in a construction accident in Cedar Hills. While tending to him, she meets an Edori man named Rufus, a co-worker of the injured man. After this meeting, Rufus slowly woos her, and she surprises herself by responding to his warmth and attention.

So here are the couples: Rebekah, feeling trapped by centuries of tradition, but yearning for Obadiah. Obadiah, chancing the tentative overtures of friendliness between angels and Jansai for love of Rebekah. Then we have Elizabeth who has been disenchanted with her angel-seeking, who unexpectedly meets with an Edori man, a tribe of wanderers who until recently had been bound as slaves to many people in Samaria.

And how these two couples fly against ALL their traditions for the hope of true love is the meat of this novel. It is a delight to read and very engrossing.

If you have read Ms. Shinn's work, you're in for another all-involving tale with real characters whom you root for in a book that's hard to put down. If this is your first meeting with Shinn: Welcome! The reading is fine! - **Sue Martin**

The Day I Swapped My Dad For Two Goldfish by Neil Gaiman Harper, 64 pps, \$17.99

"I'll swap you my dad," I said.
"Oh-oh," said my little sister.

When a young boy decides to swap his dad for a friend's goldfish he finds out that his father is the best bargaining chip around ... it seems everyone has always wanted to own an adult. In fact, dad is so popular that the kids trade him all around the neighborhood happily making deal after deal until the boy's mother comes home and finds dad gone. The boy and his sister are sent to retrieve dad and return all the items traded along the way.

Neil Gaiman's text combined with Dave McKean's artwork makes for a wonderful story book for adults and kids. Included in this limited special edition is a CD on which Neil Gaiman reads the story. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

High Druid of Shannara: Tanequil by Terry Brooks Del Rey, 357 pps, \$26.95

In the second volume of the current Shannara trilogy, Terry Brooks continues the saga of Pen Ohmsford and his journey to rescue his cousin, Gianne Ohmsford, from the dimensional prison known as

The Forbidding. Brooks follows the events in several different locations of the Shannara world, taking us back and forth between them as things move along. The Druid who banished Gianne, Shadea a'Ru, struggles to maintain her newly won control of the Druids, trying to track down and capture or kill the one person that can rescue Gianne, Pen Ohmsford, and dealing with Prime Minister Sen Dunsidan who is working on his own plans to gain control of the Druids and the world with the aid of an escaped demon from the Forbidding. Pen is on a dangerous journey to find the Tanequil, that will help him to bring back Gianne, but he and his companions must evade the Druids searching for them and survive a dangerous journey to get to the Tanequil. Gianne is just trying to survive The Forbidding, being brought to bring forth her darkest powers by the Straken Lord, Tael Riverine, who is trying to bring her under his control. Brooks continues to develop the Shannara world, advancing some of the non-magic technology introduced in the prior trilogy with it being used to create a powerful weapon that may be more than anyone can defeat and giving the reader more background on The Forbidding, which was created to banish demons and other creatures long ago. As it is the middle book of a trilogy, things are definitely not resolved by the end of the book, but progress has definitely been made by many of the characters, both good and evil, leaving the reader ready for the conclusion to this current series. - **Lee Whiteside**



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Worlds of Tomorrow: The Amazing Universe of Science Fiction Art by Forrest J Ackerman Collector Press, 176 pps, \$39.95

From the cover: "As citizens of planet Earth, we owe a lot to the great science fiction writers, illustrators, and moviemakers of the past century. From their gleaming, towering, futuristic cities

comes architectural inspiration. From their prophecies and positive thinking comes true scientific discoveries and investigation. From their predictions of war and devastation comes humanity.

The artwork displayed on the covers of these publications fueled much more than children's imaginations. It fueled the minds of future physicists, scientists, and scholars."

(Cont'd on page 21)

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 20)

This is a lovely coffee table book full of gorgeous full color illustrations of the pulps and books of an earlier era. The illustrations are interspersed with interesting commentary by Forrest Ackerman and Brad Linaweaver; however, my one real quibble with this book is that while each illustration notes the name of the publication, the month and year published, it doesn't list the artist's name. Still, this is a worthy addition to the serious fan's collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

(Editor's note: Check out the Q&A with Forry elsewhere in this issue)

The Charnel Prince by Greg Keyes Del Rey, 518 pps, \$23.95

"The Charnel Prince" is the second book (of four) in *The Kingdom of Thorn and Bone* that is a tale of human survival when long-sleeping creatures are

awakened and other fantastic events happen. At the end of the first novel, "The Briar King," events were orchestrated to revive the Briar King and other dangerous creatures that will bring about the end of humanity. The King and two of his daughters have been murdered by his brother, who is now the living dead and has claimed control of the Kingdom of Chrothy, banishing the Queen Muriel to a prison. Her surviving daughter, Princess Anne, has been in hiding and is the key to undoing all that has happened and preventing the end of things. Anne and her companions are trying to get her back to her home while avoiding the unnatural assassins who are trying to kill her. Hunter Aspar and his companions embark on a mission to destroy the Briar King but learn that this may not be the best course of action, and knight Neil MeqVren seeks our Princess Anne at the request of Queen Muriel before she is imprisoned. Keyes weaves a complex tale that keeps you eager to see what happens next while giving you plenty of plot twists and turns along the way. He introduces a few new characters in this book that help move the story along, as well as provide a different perspective on the events going on. This takes the spotlight away from some of the characters that were more prominent in the first book, but

they are still in evidence and will likely play a more significant role as the tale progresses. The medieval setting, based in reality (the humans are transplants to another world including the disappeared Roanoke colony) but having changed over generations, gives the setting a familiar base for the fantastic elements that exist in the world. By the end of the book, the heroes have made significant progress and come together, reaching a satisfying stopping point, although still with plenty of obstacles in their way. - **Lee Whiteside**

No Phule Like An Old Phule by Robert Asprin and Peter J. Heck ACE, \$7.99, 316pp

For those of you looking forward to the further adventures of Captain Willard Phule sorry. This novel deals with other characters in the series. When Willard's father shows up at the Last Chance casino looking for his son and

generally making a pain of himself, the staff decides to teach him a lesson; of course the lesson is not going to come out as planned. The two kidnappers that tried to get Willard in the last book are at it again. And the Reverend has teamed up with Sushi and DoWop for unusual results.

All in all, I enjoyed this book. It had some unusual plot twists and a fair amount of humor. If you liked the prior books in the series you will probably like this one. - **William B. Whitmore**

Dragon and Soldier by Timothy Zahn TOR, \$17.95, 299 pp

Draycos and Jack are back in book two of the Dragonback series. For those of you who did not read book one: Draycos is an unusual person, part of each day he spend in his three dimensional form and the rest of the time he must spend in his two dimensional

form in direct skin contact with a humanoid. The fact that he looks like a golden dragon makes him a very impressive sight in ether form. Jack is a young thief, and quite proud of his profession, and has agreed to help Draycos try to find out who is trying to exterminate Draycos' people. Since the only clue the two have is that mercenaries are involved, Jack joins a mercenary band in an attempt to steal more information.

The promotional material that came with the book is advertising it to the young adult market, but at 45 years old I still found it an enjoyable read. The characters are well written, the action is believable, and the story line is fast-paced. I would gladly recommend this book to readers of all ages. - **William B. Whitmore**

(Cont'd on page 22)

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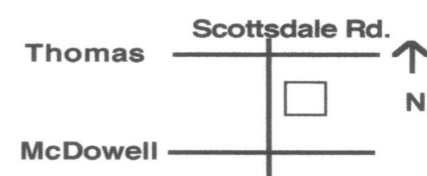
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Deathstalker Return
by Simon R. Green
ROC, \$23.95, 474 pp

Have you ever started a book you just could not stop reading? Well, then you were surely not reading this one! I waded through 138 pages before I stopped and I just could not generate enough interest to finish it. With the repetitive story line, unbelievable characters, and boring action this book is terrible.

Lewis Deathstalker has been named an outlaw, just like his ancestor.

He has gathered a band of misfits to help him vindicate himself, just like his ancestor.

They go off in search of a mythical hero, just like his ancestor.

They face impossible odds but they persevere, just like his ancestor.

Come on, Mr. Green, admit it! The well has run dry! If you can't come up with some new ideas, let the series end.

I do not recommend this book. -
William B. Whitmore

Pandora's Star
by Peter F. Hamilton
DelRay, \$26.95, 768 pp

Man has mastered the wormholes! With all the settled planets in human space connected by wormholes, travel is a simple matter of hopping a train to whichever planet you want to go to. Life is good until Two Dyson's spheres are located.

An expedition to one of the spheres finds that it is a prison confining a violently aggressive life form to a single star system. But why is the prison opened when humans arrive? Why does the imprisoned life form send forces 1,500 light years to attack the human race?

I found "Pandora's Star" to be an interesting and entertaining story. I liked the characters, and the subplots were intriguing. I am looking forward to reading the conclusion to this adventure when book two comes out. - **William B. Whitmore**



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 info email Ashley3795@yahoo.com

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

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

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

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 22)

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

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY A Phoenix based club 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. Meet-ings 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. Member-ship 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 neces-sary 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 Con-vention 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 confer-ence on the technology, politics, and busi-ness of radically cheaper space trans- portation, 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."

(Cont'd on page 24)

JB's is family

2560 W. Indian School Rd.

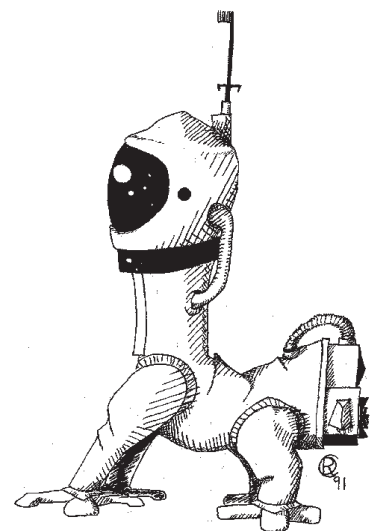
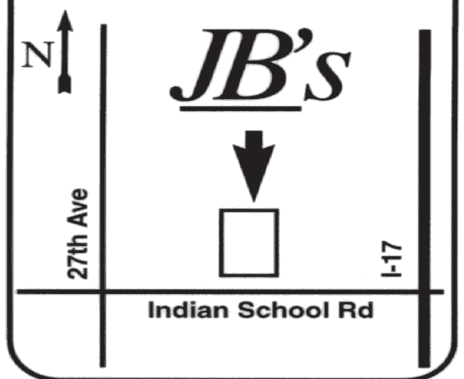
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wishes to thank
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Call to make reservations!

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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)

TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. TARDIS meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, fund-raisers, auctions, games, camping trips and outings. We also maintain an active presence at local conventions. TARDIS publishes a monthly informative 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

Convention Listings

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; [websitewww.wfc2004.org](http://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 1/2 current adult rates. Hotel InnSuites Hotel, 475 North Granada, Tucson AZ 85701 Per night rates are \$79 (studio room) or \$89 (2-room suite). Reservations1-877-446-6589, Fax520-623-8922, Local520-622-3000 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>

Worlds of Tomorrow Q & A Forrest J Ackerman

Following is the transcript of a radio interview with Forry Ackerman concerning his new book Worlds of Tomorrow (reviewed in this issue)

Q: You have been an icon in the science fiction and horror movie industry for many years. What keeps you going these days, what is inspiring you?

A: New cameos (106 to date), invitations to speak about "my life in a time machine," and to be a guest of honor at conventions.

Q: Why did you accept the offer to work on this project?

A: Because it is a novel concept.

Q: Movies have become hugely influential and sophisticated. How do you see that science fiction as a genre has been affected by movies?

A: Not at all.

Q: You are big collector of science fiction memorabilia, what are some of your favorite pieces?

A: The last Martian war machine from *War of the Worlds*, *Metropolis* Robotrix replica, Bela Lugosi's Dracula cape and ring.

Q: What do you love about the pulp and book covers found in *Worlds of Tomorrow*?

A: Their awesome imagination.

Q: Whose work do you admire most - in terms of writers, artists, or moviemakers, and why?

A: Writer Heinlein, artist Frank R. Paul, and director Fritz Lang. Their consummate artistry.

Q: Many people know you and remember you as the founder of *Famous Monsters of Filmland*. What was that experience like for you, and do you miss it?

A: Perpetually rewarding. After 200 issues, yes!

Q: Do you have any favorite new trends in science fiction, horror, or fantasy?

A: No, waiting for the classics (*Slan*, *The Forever War*, *Childhood's End*, *Pellucidar*, *The Master Mind of Mars*, *The World Below*) to be discovered by Hollywood and morphed into amazing "imagi-movies."

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