

ConNotations

Volume 13, Issue 4
August/September
2003

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

Harkins Debuts New Cine Capri With Charlie's Angels & Star Wars

In January 1998 The old Cine Capri went down with *Titanic*, a big blockbuster with an epic story, and in June 2003 the new Cine Capri debuted with *Charlie's Angels 2: Full Throttle*, a fast paced, titillating action adventure. Part of the Scottsdale 101 Multiplex at Scottsdale Road and the Loop 101, **Dan Harkins** opened the doors on the new Cine Capri theatre with two charity screenings that raised almost \$50,000 total. Wednesday, June 25th, was a \$50 a ticket charity screening benefitting the Scottsdale Foundation for the Handicapped. For this screening, they had an advance screening of the new *Charlie's Angels* movie. The real opening for most fans was the next night, a charity screening of *Star Wars: The Special Edition* that benefitted the Child Crisis Center in Mesa. While those tickets were only \$8, **Harkins** also donated the money they collected from attendees towards the charity (the June 25th screening saw free refreshments for attendees).

Both nights saw **Dan Harkins** address the full theatre, thanking them for their support in trying to save the original theatre and acknowledge the efforts everyone put in with petitions. During the opening weekend, 15,000 numbered commemorative tickets were handed out to moviegoers, each containing a swatch of

the original theatre's gold curtains. **Harkins** gave ticket #1 to fan ?????, who spearheaded the "Save the Cine Capri" drive and also saw *Star Wars* there over 100 times back in its original run. Garnering ticket #2 was **Pat McMahon**, who was the most notable local celebrity to help with the campaign. Outside of the new theatre in the lobby is a Cine Capri Museum with artifacts and memorabilia from the original theatre and a video reel with interviews and news clips on the original theatre.

So, the real question is, does the theatre live up to the name and memories of the old theatre? Yes, and No. Yes, it has a big screen (slightly bigger and brighter than the original), a dynamite sound system (144 speakers in total), and the gold curtains that open and close around the movie. It also has stadium seating instead of the very gently sloping seating of the original (which was always a problem for kids and short people) and can seat around 600 people. It doesn't seem as big as the original one, which was very spacious with it's large circular auditorium, and being part of a multiplex makes it seem more like the biggest box in the complex, even though it is a pretty nice bix box. Based on the reactions of the early crowds at the charity screenings

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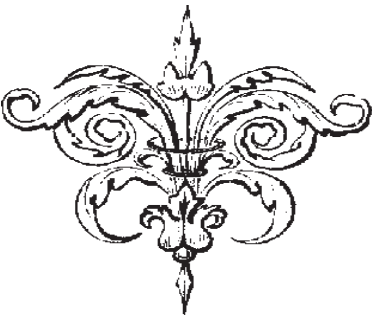
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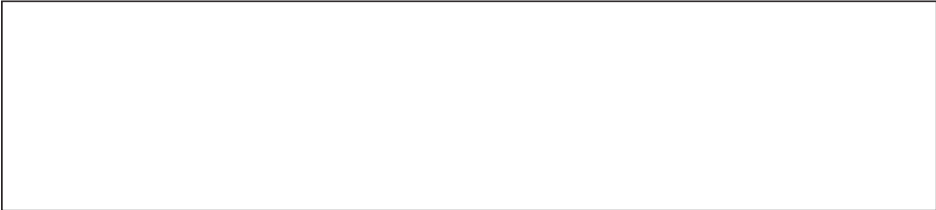
FYI

Convention List & Generic Registration Form



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CASFS Business Report

Supernal Readers

Final Reconciliation of the CopperCon 22 Art show books is pending thus the convention books remain open. A profit has clearly been made. All pass-throughs, Seed Money Repayment and Mandatory Overhead Payments to CASFS Main Account will occur. The precise amount left after that is known but not exactly how we got there.

Lee Whiteside reports that Lani Tupu of Farscape has been selected as CopperCon 23 Media Guest. This is in addition to our previously announced Guests, Connie Willis (Author), David Mattingly (Artist) and Larry Warner (Filk).

Bob LaPierre has replaced Joe Levee as Chair Person of CopperCon 24.

CASFS needs an Archivist. A Qualified Individual should volunteer.

Officers elected in June were Mark Boniece, President; Lee Whiteside, Vice President; David Hungerford, Procedural Secretary, Stephanie L Bannon, Treasurer. Board members elected were David Hungerford, Lee Whiteside and Mark Boniece.

Elected also were Chairman of HexaCon 15, Rick Andrews and Banker Stephanie Bannon. CopperCon 25 Banker will be Jeff George. No one stood for Chairman. That election was deferred until the July meeting at which time it was decided that the board would handle CopperCon 25 chair duties until such time as a willing volunteer steps forward.

The Busy Scribe
(Next issue the Hungry Scribe will report
Bye, it's been FUN!!)

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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews By Lee Whiteside

We've got the final stretch of the summer season upon us with the dawn of a new fall season on the horizon this time. We've got a new approach for **Enterprise**, lots of new genre shows that might even last more than a couple of episodes, even more **Stargate** in the future, and the second season of **Jeremiah** finally hitting our screens. Throw in some details on the **Battlestar Galactica** mini-series and even some rumors of a **Farscape** resurrection and we've got a full plate this issue.

First of all, we're in the last few weeks of new episodes for cable favorites **Stargate SG-1** and **The Dead Zone** as well as the continuing adventures of Reaper George on Showtime's **Dead Like Me**.

Leading things off is **Stargate SG-1**, which has been making the SciFi Channel very happy on Friday nights this summer, especially with the return of **Michael Shanks** as team member Daniel Jackson. **Corrin Nemio's** Jonas Quinn departed in one piece, so we may yet see him again. The big news is that SciFi and MGM like how well the show is doing that they have committed to an eighth season of **Stargate SG-1** and are also moving ahead with the spinoff series **Stargate: Atlantis**, which may start airing next year along with SG-1 Season Eight. We've got only a few episodes left this summer before the long wait until January, unfortunately. In August look for **Avenger 2.0** where an SGC scientist (**Patrick McKenna** as Jay Felger from last season's "**The Other Guys**") creates a virus that can shut down a stargate and inadvertently shuts down the entire gate network. Next is **Birthright** (a **Christopher Judge** script) has the SG-1 team find a fugitive colony of Jaffa women, who must prey on other Jaffa to acquire symbiotes. **Enterprise's Jolene Baylock** guest stars as Ishta, the Jaffa temple priestess who gets friendly with Teal'c. Ending the summer season is the first half of the two parter **Evolution** where Dr. Jackson is taken hostage when he goes in search of an alien device in South America. O'Neill is sent to rescue him, while Carter and Teal'c investigate the appearance of a powerful new enemy. To be concluded in January, most likely. Things to look forward to next year include the two part episode "**Heroes**" which both **Don S. Davis** (General Hammond) and **Amanda Tapping** (Sgt. Carter) indicated at ComicCon was now their pick for best episode of the entire series. In it, a film crew arrives to document the work of the S.G.C., but may capture more than they planned for when SG-1 is called into action. Ending the season and likely setting up the **Stargate: Atlantis** spinoff will be the two part episode "**The Lost City**" that has Anubis launching an assault on Earth while SG-1 frantically tries to find the Lost City of the Ancients to have more powerful weapons to fight

Anubis with.

Elsewhere on SciFi, **Tremors** has ended its run of original episodes and likely is not being renewed for a second season, although they have reportedly filmed a **Tremors 4** movie along with the series run that will likely turn up on home video in the future. SciFi did renew **Scare Tactics** for a full season of 22 episodes so there will be a few more episodes airing into September. Coming up in the way of original movies on SciFi are

The Dead Zone is finishing up it's brief Summer Seven run and will await word from USA Network on if it has been picked up for a third season. The last two episodes of the run are **The Combination** where Johnny goes public with his vision that a heavyweight contender will be killed in an upcoming fight. All that does is make it into the biggest pay-per-view event of the year. In the season finale **Visions**, Johnny sets out to discover the secret of a mysterious man who appears to be stalking him, only to discover he has a life-changing message for him. Hopefully there will be a third season for Johnny to follow on from the likely cliff-hanger ending. Stay Tuned.

SciFi Channel movies over the next couple of months include **Deep Shock** (Aug 9th) in which **David Keith** and **Simmone Mackinnon** take on a massive electric eel when their arctic oil drilling team unearths a slimy menace, **Absalon** (Aug 23rd) has **Christopher Lambert** as a detective in a near future Earth that is menaced by a disease brought on by the destruction of the rain forests. A scientist who's cure for the disease, Absalon, is murdered and Lambert must take on the evil duo of **Ron Perlman** and **Lou Diamond Philips** to preserve the cure. In the last new SciFi movie for the summer, **Antonio Sabato Jr.** and **Angie Everhart** star in **Bugs** (Sept 6). Giant, mutant bugs take over a city's subway tunnels, eating

through any human who crosses their paths! A city engineer teams with a biologist to exterminate the insect problem — but can they finish the job before the queen breeds a new batch?

Over on Showtime, **Dead Like Me** has gotten off to a good start, capturing fans with it's quirky and unique look at death and the afterlife. Featuring **Ellen Muth** as George, a slacker teen who becomes a Grim Reaper and has to work part time to

(cont'd on page 4)

24 Frames

Movie News By Lee Whiteside

Short previews of movies opening in August and September. Movie News to return next issue so we can bring you full coverage on the Cine Capri new and old. **American Splendor** - Sundance Film Festival award winner about a file clerk struggling to find success as a comic book writer.

Freddy Vs. Jason - Freddy Kreuger and Jason Voorhees go head to head (or blade to blade) in this combining of two horror movie franchises.



Jeepers Creepers 2 - An ancient evil known as The Creeper is ending its periodic 23 day days of terror when a high school bus with basketball players, cheerleaders and coaches breaks down on a remote stretch of highway. Fun and hijinks ensue.

The House of the Dead - When a group of young people charter a boat to get to a remote island that is supposed to be having "the Mother of all Raves", they find what actually resides there is an unspeakable evil and the House of the Dead.



Lee Whiteside

Underworld - Kate Beckinsale (the female vampire warrior Selene) and **Scott Speedman** (the peace loving werewolf Michael) star in this tale about a war between vampires and werewolves and the romance that develops between the Selene and Michael. Looks to be a must see for all goths.

The Order - Heath Ledger is a rebellious priest who goes to Rome to investigate the death of a friend and discovers it may be the work of the ancient evil known as The Sin Eater.

Non-Genre pick of the Two Months: **Matchstick Men - Ridley Scott** film starring **Nicholas Cage** as a con man who has a teenage daughter (**Allison Lhoman**) land on his doorstep. The story was written by **Eric Garcia**, creator of **Anonymous Rex**, which may someday be made into a TV series or movie.

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support herself at Happy Time while keeping her appointments with other people's deaths. It's 15 episode run will continue into September. Upcoming episodes include "Reaper Madness" in which George has her first affair in the afterlife with a living schizophrenic whose disease allows him to see her true form, "Sunday Mornings" where George saves Charlotte from suicide and becomes fast friends only to discover that Charlotte is having an affair with George's father, "A Cook" where Rube takes a part time job as chef at Der Waffle Haus, "Business Unfinished" where Rube and Daisy work a scam on a psychic who is charging people for obtaining messages from the afterlife, "The Bicycle Thief" sees George get a bicycle and a full time job, leaving Happy Time, "Nighthawks" where it's the annual Reaper evaluation, "Vacation" where Rube gives the crew a day off following their evaluations, and "Rest in Peace" where George goes back to Happy Time to get her old job back.

Returning to Showtime on Sept 19th for its second season will be **Jeremiah**, starring **Luke Perry** as Jeremiah and **Malcolm Jamal Warner** as Purdy. When we last saw our heroes, Jeremiah had been captured by his father and those in charge



of the Valhalla Sector with Purdy left on his own. For the new season, Jeremiah must deal with his captivity and the fact that Thunder Mountain has been compromised. Joining the cast will be **Sean Astin** (Sam Gamgee in *Lord of the Rings*) as the mysterious Mr. Smith. According to **Astin** in a recent interview "He's sort of an unwitting prophet or a fool. I, Sean, was an actor, a vessel, through which [series creator J.] **Michael Straczynski** could sort of explore his relationship with God. And the character, you know, claims that God is speaking through him. So it was richly rewarding and stimulating to my own spiritual [nature]. ... I loved it. " **Astin** will appear in 13 of the fifteen episodes and is contracted for eight more if Showtime elects to pick it up for a third season. However, if it does get picked up, series Executive Producer & showrunner J.

Michael Straczynski has indicated he would not return for a third season. In a recent message from **Straczynski** he said "I have zero desire to return to a third season of Jeremiah. Showtime was great, no mistake, but MGM [which produces the show] has overall been the most heinous, difficult and intrusive studio I've ever worked for. I've worked for, and had great relations with, Viacom, Universal, Warner Brothers and a bunch more. But I will never, ever, work for the present administration at MGM." So, what does this mean for the current season? According to **Straczynski** "... none of this should be taken as a diss of the coming season. I honestly think that the second season is miles better than our first season. It's more consistent, takes more chances, it's really a very strong season." During his panel at ComicCon, he indicated that in spite of the

problems with MGM, they were pretty much able to do with the series what they wanted to accomplish.

There's more to genre life than just cable, so let's see what the broadcast networks have in store for us at the start of the new season.

First off is UPN, which has been fighting lower ratings for its lone returning drama, **Enterprise** and sees it going head to head with The WB's **Smallville** this fall with a new series, **Jake 2.0**, following it. As we saw in the season finale, Captain Archer and the crew of the Enterprise have a more real and immediate threat to Earth to deal with from the Xindi, which killed millions (Including Trip's sister) in an unprovoked attack (albeit brought on by information from the future that Earth would destroy them). To kick off the new season, the Enterprise is heading into Xindi space with an independent T'Pol wanting to explore her emotions and different outfits and hairdos, a lot of extra marine/security types (Military Assault Command Operations, or MACO) and a new mandate to find the Xindi and prevent any future attacks from happening. At the recent Television Critics Association press tour, **Bakula** indicated for Archer that "the idea of being the peaceful 'We-come-in-friendship' [guy]...that guy is gone."

(Cont'd on page 5)

HEXA CON 14

Arizona's Largest Gaming Convention

July 29*-Aug 1, 2004

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ

Arizona's Largest Annual Gaming Convention will be even bigger in 2004. We're moving to the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe with lots more room and tons of nearby restaurants and shopping. We'll have all of our regular events and activities. *Special gaming and events for Pre-registered members start Thursday, July 29

Gaming starts at 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 30 and runs non-stop until Sunday, August 1st at 3 p.m.

We are planning to have **Sanctioned Magic & CCG Tournaments, Steve Jackson Games, Board Gaming, Miniatures, multiple LARPs, Battletech, Computer Lan Gaming, Miniatures Painting Contest, Role Playing, Chess Federation Sponsored Chess Events, White Wolf, Dealer's Room, Used Game Auction, Anime Room and Full Hospitality Suite.**

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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 4)

Producer **Rick Berman** indicated that the temporal cold war and the Suliban definitely haven't gone away and will be an integral part of the Xindi storyline as it develops.

The new season of *Enterprise* will start early on September 10th, getting a three week jump on *Smallville*. Opening episodes for the season will be "The Xindi" where six weeks into the Delphic

Expanse, Captain Archer and his crew learn of a Xindi working at a mining colony, and set out to track him down and gain information about the mysterious antagonistic race. We'll meet several types of Xindi aliens, including humanoid, sloth, reptilian and aquatic. In "Anomaly", Enterprise starts experiencing the effects of spatial distortions pervading the Delphic Expanse, and falls victim to predatory aliens taking advantage of the

crippling conditions. "Extinction" sees the appearance of an alien that can take the form of Enterprise crew members and "Enemy Advances" has Archer, Reed and Trip reportedly head into an alien bazaar in search of information on the Xindi and a formula for synthesizing trellium.

Following *Enterprise* and also debuting on September 10th is *Jake 2.0*. The series stars **Christopher Gorham** (*Popular*) as an NSA computer technician

who accidentally gets injected with nanotechnology which gives him superhuman abilities. Yes, it's been done before and sounds pretty lame, but from watching the pilot, it might be worth watching (assuming you can also watch or tape *Angel* at the same time). The series was created by **Grant Scharbo, Gina Matthews and Silvio Horta**, who were also responsible for the underrated *The Chronicle*, late of the SciFi Channel. Joining them as showrunner is **David Greenwalt**, who co-created *Angel* and also produced ABC's "Miracles". Also joining the staff is veteran genre writer **Javier Grillo-Marxuach** (*Charmed* & *The Chronicle*). With this group of behind the scenes talent, the show definitely has promise. As producer **Horta** told Zap2it.com, "This relies on whether people like Jake and Jake's journey through life as a superhero, how he grows into one. End of the day, it's Jake on a date with a girl, having to keep his powers under wraps and still kill the guy in the next room."

Over on The WB, *Smallville* kicks off its new season on October 1st in its new time slot picking up several months after the events in the second season finale

with a two part season opener set mostly in Metropolis. Clark has been in Metropolis for several months when Lana comes to town looking for him. A new character from the Superman comics, Morgan Edge, head of the Intergang crime syndicate and Clark may be working for him. For more details and up to date spoilers, check out the web site www.kryptionsite.com.

The WB also has "Charmed" returning for its Sixth season on Sept 28 with a two hour opener and has "Tarzan" (formerly "Tarzan and Jane" debuting on October 5th in the following time slot. I've seen the pilot for "Tarzan" and it does a fair job of updating the Tarzan mythos to modern day New York, they have a lot of work to do to keep it from just being a rehash of *Beauty and The Beast* (expect he's not disfigured and is a real hunk). I hope to have more info on this series next issue. Watch for **Mitch Pileggi** (*X-Files*) as Uncle Greystoke who definitely has different ideas on what should be done with his nephew.

Returning for its fifth season on October 1st on The WB will be *Angel*. Picking up where they left off last season, Angel and company are now in charge of Wolfram and Hart. Things to look for early in the season are Spike's ex girlfriend has turned up in Los Angeles and gets a job at Wolfram and Hart, the entity at the top floor takes a special interest in Gunn, Lorne has all of W & F's employees sing for him, and somehow or another, **James Martsters** joins the series as Spike (or some form thereof).

Over on FOX, the **Eliza Dushku** series *Tru Calling* won't debut until after the World Series on October 30th. How long it will last on Thursday night is unknown. Other debut dates are *Alias* (ABC - Sept

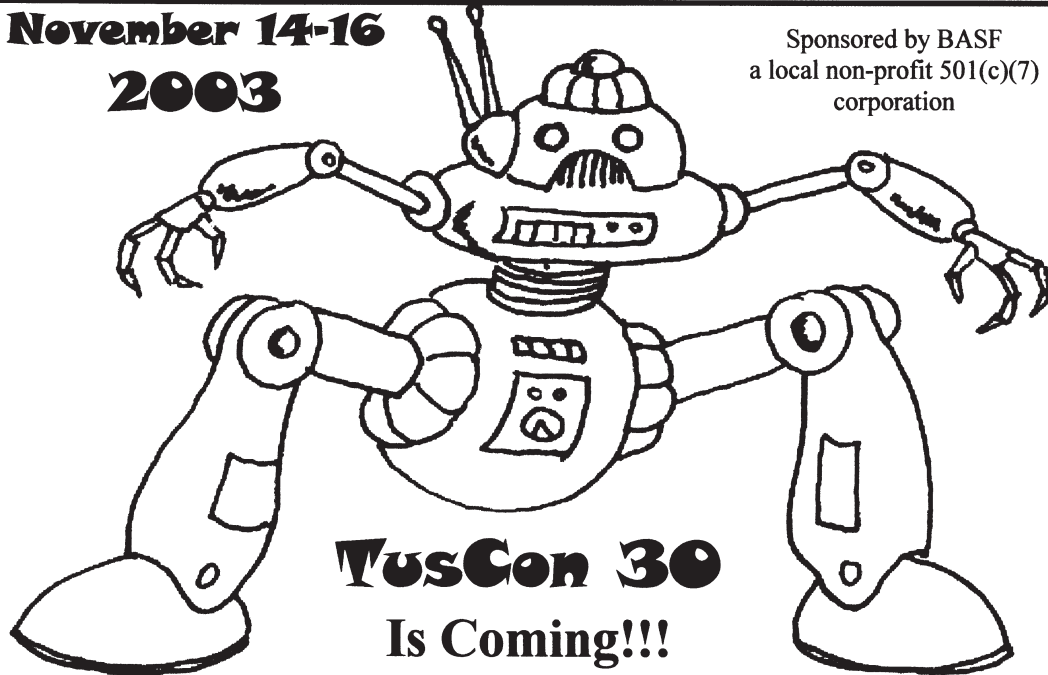


28th), *Joan of Arcadia* (CBS-Sept 26) and "24" (FOX-Oct 28th). Pushed back to mid-season are *Fearless* (The WB), *Wonderfalls* (FOX) and "Still Life" with the limited run series "Stephen King's *Kingdom Hospital*" scheduled for February on ABC.

In syndication, the returning first run
(Cont'd on page 6)

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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 5)

genre series are **Andromeda**, **Mutant X**, **She Spies** (sort of genre), and **Starhunter** (as **Starhunter 2300**) plus the syndicated run of season six of **Stargate SG-1**. There's not much in the way of details leaked about **Andromeda** other than the old news that **Keith Hamilton Cobbs** Tyr Anasazi will not be a regular in the new season (but may make a couple of appearances). Following in the tradition of other Tribune produced series, **Mutant X** will get an overhaul with it's third season. **John Shea** (Adam) will only be a "special recurring character" and **Lauren Lee Smith** (Emma) will not return. Joining returning cast members, **Victor Webster** (Brennan), **Victoria Pratt** (Shalimar) and **Forbes March** (Jesse), will be **Karen Cliche** as Lexa Pierce, who was the unwitting subject of genetic experimentation gone awry and as a result, has special powers that allow her to manipulate light in amazing ways. According to a Tribune press release "Everything the Mutant X team thought they knew about their world and Sanctuary no longer applies. They learn, both through Lexa and their missions, that they are part of a much larger experiment than their leader, Adam Kane, had led them to believe. Just as the team thinks they're starting to put the pieces of the puzzle together, Lexa makes them realize once again how naive and sheltered they have been. " Those Tribune folks just love to use the reset button.

Starhunter will continue as **Starhunter 2300** with **Clive Robertson** taking on the lead as Travis Montana, with **Michael Paré** not returning as Dante Montana. Returning will be **Tanya Allen** as Percy Montana, **Murray Melvin** as Caravaggio (hologram), and **Stephen Marcus** as Rudolpho. Also joining the cast is **Dawn Stern** as Callista Larkadia. Expect more of the same from this low-budget, late-night Canadian import. **She Spies** looks to continue with their tongue firmly in cheek style of stories and, of course, **Stargate SG-1** season six (the one without Daniel Jackson) is the first season to run in syndication following it airing on basic cable, not pay cable. It will be interesting to see how the show's syndicated ratings hold up this season.

In the news and rumors department.... While the FOX network has given up on **Firefly**, **Joss Whedon** and Fox Entertainment hasn't. A DVD set of the entire series including the three unaired episodes, bloopers and other features is scheduled for December release. **Whedon** is also in the process of writing a script for a feature film featuring Captain Mal Reynolds and his crew and there is apparently interest from FOX in making a theatrical movie. Time will if we see the *Serenity* up on the big screen. We'll definitely have the chance to watch the full series on DVD.

The latest word on **Farscape** is "no comment". That's the official word from

Brian Henson via producer Rick Manning at the recent San Diego ComicCon in response to rumors that a miniseries continuation of **Farscape** was in the works. The Jim Henson Company is in the process of being bought back from the German company EM-TV by **Jim Henson's** kids, headed by **Brian Henson**. They have indicated that once they have control of their own destiny they definitely plan to try to resurrect **Farscape** for television in some manner. There's no

word if SciFi will be involved or if another cable channel is interested. My hunch is that The BBC may be the driving force since the series did very well in the U.K. Once control of the Jim Henson Company is formally transferred in early August, I'd expect some sort of formal announcement about the future of **Farscape**. By the way, SciFi and USA network are currently part of very public auction of Vivendi Universal entertainment assets. Possible future owners of SciFi include Viacom, NBC, MGM and several media moguls. How this will affect the current leadership at SciFi is unknown.

Blake's 7 is in the news of late and may finally see a resurgence. Reports are that a group lead by **Paul Darrow** (Avon in the series) have bought the rights to the series from creator **Terry Nation's** widow and are working on arranging financing for a series that would pick things up 25 years after the series ended, with only Avon still around.

Of course, coming up is the 40th Anniversary of the first telecast of **Doctor Who** on the BBC in the U.K. So, will we see new Doctor Who on the television finally? Not this anniversary, unfortunately. The BBC will be doing an official fully animated online series featuring **Richard E. Grant** as the Ninth Doctor. *The Screem of the Shalka*, written by popular **Doctor Who** author **Paul Cornell**, will be a six part adventure

that will be broadcast on the BBC's online BBCi website starting in mid-November. According to **Cornell**, this is a fully approved new incarnation of The Doctor and that is only the beginning. If this does well, expect to see more stories and maybe even a live-action version. There will definitely be new BBC books based on the Ninth Doctor as well.

Finally, it's time for the long awaited (or dreaded depending on your viewpoint) preview of the new **Battlestar Galactica**

arriving on SciFi Channel in December. This will be a two part, four hour miniseries that will re-imagine the series and is not a continuation of the original series. If it does well, there is a chance SciFi will pick it up as a continuing series. Following an earlier attempt by **Bryan Singer** and **Tom DeSanto** to put together a new version of **Battlestar Galactica** (in addition to **Richard Hatch's** attempts to

(cont'd on page 7)

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revive the series with his own ideas), Universal TV and SciFi went to **Ron D. Moore** (*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Roswell*) to come up with his own approach to a new version of the series. **Moore** took the re-imagining approach, taking the basic concept but updating it more to today's expectations of what a science fiction show should be. However, in the process of doing so, some of the changes have been met with a fierce outcry from die-hard *Galactica* fans.

Taking on the role of Cmdr. William Adama is **Edward James Olmos**. Adama is in charge of the last remaining Battlestar, *Galactica*, and wants to avenge the deaths of billions of humans but is forced to flee with the remnants of humanity and lead the rag-tag fleet of spaceships to a safe haven away from the Cylons. Leading the remaining humans is President Laura Roslin (**Mary McDonnell**) who was 43rd in succession to be president and finds herself the new President when she is the highest ranking survivor Adama's son, Lee "Apollo" Adama (**Jamie Bamber**), is estranged from his father, having blamed him for the death of his brother, Zak. An accomplished viper pilot, Apollo must work to set aside his grudges to work with his father and others to fight the Cylons and save humanity. Now we come to where things start to be a little different



FYI

LOST & FOUND

We have a lot of items in our lost and found bin including some recent additions from HexaCon 13. At HexaCon 13 we added a vest, a pair of sunglasses and a pair of prescription glasses to our collection.

To be honest, I'm getting tired of storing this stuff so we decided that the deadline or claiming any of it will be Saturday, September ??, 2003. After that we will consider all the items to be donations to our group and will dispose of them appropriately.

So, if you're looking for a missing item give me a call at 602-973-2341 and describe the item. I'd love to see some of this stuff go home.

WANTED - CONNOTATIONS CALENDAR EDITOR

ConNotations is in need of someone to solicit, accept and collate the submissions for our calendar page.

The ConNotations staff meets on the first Wednesday of every other month at 7PM at the JB's restaurant located at I-17 and Indian School Road. Our next few meetings are August 6, October 1 and December 3.

If you are interested in the position, or just interested in helping with ConNotations, please join us or call Stephanie at 602-973-234.

Update on Ellison Appearances at Community Colleges by Shane Shellenbarger

Award winning author, Harlan Ellison, will be returning to the Valley of the Sun to speak on September 10th, 2003 at Estrella Mountain Community College and at Glendale Community College. A Learning Grant applied for by Rod Freeman, EMCC English Department Head, facilitates



Ellison's speaking engagement. The other academic involved in the project is Hannes Kvaran, GCC faculty member in economics and mathematics. Kvaran's Learning Grant in 1999 brought Ellison back to speak in the Phoenix Metro area for the first time since he served as Guest of Honor at the 1978 World Science Fiction Convention, IguanaCon.

Entitling the talk, "Dreams with Sharp Teeth: Weaving Biting Commentary Into

Fiction,"

Professor Freeman told me that the presentation is not only for the students of the two colleges, but is open to the community at large. For the community, Kvaran said that Ellison will be speaking at the GCC Student Union Lounge at 12:30 P.M. and Freeman stated that Ellison will be speaking at EMCC in the Community Room at 6:00 P.M. EMCC students will hear Ellison speak at the Center for Teaching and Learning from 9:30 – 11:00 A.M.

People on the outside think there's something magical about writing, that you go up in the attic at midnight and cast the bones and come down in the morning with a story, but it isn't like that. You sit in back of the typewriter and you work, and that's all there is to it. - Harlan Ellison

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Cine Capri (cont'd from page 1)

and two preview screenings (T3 and LXG) in the opening weeks, it is definitely now THE place to see a big action movie. Look for the studios to follow up on that, making sure their big movie is showing in the Cine Capri. There is one thing to look out for that is yet to be unveiled at the new theatre, though, the digital projection system that is installed. None of the initial movies that have screened have been available in that format. Maybe they can put *Finding Nemo* in there later in the summer when things slow down. All in all, the theatre is definitely worth the drive for a big movie.

Cine Capri Memories by Lee Whiteside

But what about the original Cine Capri theatre at 24th Street and Camelback? The theatre opened in the 1966 with CinemaScope in mind and usually had just two showings a day and even had a dress code. Later it was able to show 70 mm films on its big screen and it was the first local theatre to get Dolby Sound. When the original *Star Wars* came out, it was the only theatre screening the movie for over a year (well before the days of movies opening on 3,000+ screens nationwide). It had many premiere screenings over the years and special events like the *"Sit Long and Prosper" Star Trek* movie marathon in 1992. In the late 1980's, the theatre was not kept up as well and was losing business to all the new multiplexes sprouting up. **Dan Harkins** took over the theatre in 1988 and fixed it up some, but couldn't get a long term lease on the property to commit to a major renovation. As it turned out, the landowners decided to have it torn down for an office complex and despite an emotional public campaign (collecting over 250,000 signatures) to save the theatre, it was shut down in January 1998, with it's final showing being the movie *Titanic*.

For my Cine Capri memories, I've seen a lot of movies there over the years, always wanting to catch them on the big screen if possible. My first memorable experience was seeing a charity preview screening of *The Empire Strikes Back* in 1980, getting to see it a day before everyone else. The movie was very impressive in 70 mm on the big screen there. I've waited in line outside the theatre for many other movies on the opening night or weekend, a lot of times going with a large group of friends and saving one of the wide rows in the middle so that we could all sit on the same row. One memorable opening was for *The Lion King*, where they had a cage with lions from *Out of Africa* on display. It became a running joke with some friends to what they would have in a cage for the next big

movie (Trekies for a Star Trek Movie? Martians for Mars Attacks?). For the final screening of *Titanic*, I went with several friends to pay tribute to the theatre one last time (I hadn't even seen the movie yet). It was sad to see the curtains close for the last time and many people hung around taking pictures and grabbing what pieces they could for souvenirs.

From Michael Sigmon Fallai: "I saw *Star Wars* here in 1977... I was 12, stood in line in the July afternoon heat to see a matinee show. I saw the restored *Lawrence of Arabia* back whenever that was. Glorious! The only way to see a **David Lean** masterpiece. I saw *Titanic* the final week or so before it closed. Glad I did. Seeing a movie at the Cine Capri was a show. The multi-screen complexes of today are like going to the airport."

From Tom Tuerff: "The Cine Capri was where you went to see movies that were IMPORTANT. My fondest memories: 1. Seeing *"Star Wars"* in the Cine Capri, before it was STAR WARS. No waiting. It was the summer after my freshman year of college and I honestly was not that excited about seeing it. Then I saw it. WOW. 2. Walking out after the end of *"Empire Strikes Back"* and revealing to my wife the sudden realization: "Mark my words: Leia's Luke's sister!" I had to wait three years to settle that bet... 3. *"Aliens."* Big. Huge. Scary. Boo. 4. Last movie I saw at the Cine Capri: *Starship Troopers*. I remember it was in kinda shabby shape since they knew they were gonna tear it down. I still look for the theatre when I drive past 24th and Camelback. That big black behemoth made a much bigger statement architecturally than that mostly-vacant overpriced office building that's there now. "

From Diane Elliott: "I saw the Original

Star Wars movie at the Cine Capri Theatre, when I was a little little kid. I remember the theatre being big and imposing and impressive, and I was in total awe of the movie. I don't think any other theatre would have done as well. My best memory of the theatre, other than the night that it closed, was sitting with the rest of the U.F.P. (local *Star Trek* club, totally

awesome, you should check them out, you'll have a blast) watching the **Kevin Costner** version of the *"Robin Hood" legend, The Prince of Thieves*. When **Costner's** character of Robin Hood appeared on the screen, and this supposedly Middle English dude started talking in a Cornbelt American accent, there was nothing in the world like having 999 people around you, sharing in the laughter. I was in the last crowd of people to ever watch at the Cine Capri, and it was an extremely sad night. The movie was *Titanic*, fittingly enough; and not just because of the movie's theme. *Titanic* was big and expensive and impressive, and burned itself into the imaginations and culture of the nation. I can think of no more fitting movie to go out on."

From Shane Shellenbarger: "It's Tuesday, May 24th, 1977 and my luck has taken a turn for the worse. The good side of my luck was winning two passes from a radio station for a sneak preview of some film called *"Star Wars"*, but the bad side of my luck is that I can't get anyone to go with me. Work, prior commitments, general disinterest, and other excuses are all given and they leave me disheartened: who will I discuss the film with if no one will go? Finally, after nine "no's" I get a "yes" from **Curt Stubbs**, a literary science fiction fan I've worked with on several conventions. Curt meets me at the biggest single-screen theatre in Phoenix, the Cine Capri, and we settle into the plush seats armed with popcorn and soda pop. Nearly two hours later, the lights come up and Curt comments, "Not bad, but the aliens were too anthropomorphic." Being a less discriminating nineteen year old, I simply sat there with my mouth hanging open, mind completely blown by the film I'd just experienced."

From John Wheeler: My most abiding memories of the original Cine Capri revolve around Star Trek the most. The time I went to the *Star Trek Marathon* back in '91 and we all watched the movies back to back. The time when the club was doing a presentation at *Star Trek "Generations"* and we had **Jimmy Doohan** on hand to see the movie. The Cine Capri was a throw-back to an era in Movie history when it was a more personal feel. Not the 30 screen mega-complex you now have. It reminded me of when I was a younger person. The office complex that now sits where the Cine Capri once was is not progress to me. The Cine Capri was a bit of history. Now it is history. The slick new one is undoubtedly NOT going to be the same. It can't be. Such a shame.

And finally, from Jim Strait: While most people are avarice to be first in line at any movie, the last showing at the Cine Capri was different. The last single great theater. I don't know who the first person in line to see the first showing was those many years ago, but I was the last person in the line for the last showing at the Cine Capri. There were stragglers that wandered in later after me, and possibly a slight 2 or 3 person bottleneck or two later might have occurred, but when the crowd started to move into the theater for the last time, it all ended with me. I got the ticket taker to sign my ticket as such.

Through the years anxious crowds flocked to THE theater of choice to see the new feature that obsessed them. To some one who hasn't felt it, the feeling would be silly. But the rush was always emotional matched to physical as you go through that door into that large lobby. This is it! This is what I've been waiting for, this is THE movie in THE theater here and now.

(Cont'd on page 9)



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Cine Capri (cont'd from page 8)

And the Cine Capri lobby ahead was the entrance to an exciting dream over and over. And with my step it all ended. Any one behind me later would be singularly late. They could have come sooner but they didn't. The one and only line of people move forward like an expanding train. The first had better not trip, because the rest have a momentum that pulls them forward. It is the momentum of the crowd, and the draw to Wonder. And the last person flows in with the rest, to stop, to turn around and look at that empty doorway. I wish I could describe the emotion of that moment.... An excitement suddenly frozen in bitter ice; childhood ended with a deflated balloon. That was it.

I'm Just Wild About Harry / The Trouble With Harry

by Shane Shellenbarger

I, along with about 8.5 million fellow readers, have been patiently (okay, anxiously) awaiting the release of "*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*" since I finished the last page of "*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*" in 2000. So what do you do when you want to recreate that feeling of excitement at reading the adventures of characters you've come to love? You reread the books, you listen to the excellent dramatizations of the books by Jim Dale, and you wait.

Fast-forward three years and the day arrived: June 21, 2003. I pre-ordered the book as had about 5 million of you and I realized that I had a problem: vacation. I was flying to Seattle at 7:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 21st. I knew that the book I'd pre-ordered wouldn't arrive until after I was gone and I really, REALLY wanted to read "*Harry Potter and the Order of the*

Phoenix" while I was on vacation. Did I want to show up at a bookstore at midnight, wait with the masses until my number came up and I'd be allowed to buy the book I'd been waiting three years to read? No, not really. I didn't want to get three hours of sleep, disrupt my wife's sleep, and then be too tired to read the book on the flight. Since I was going on a cruise, I wouldn't have the opportunity to buy a copy of the book except at the airport and I was reluctant to pay \$29.99 plus tax. So now what? There were some grocery stores and a certain big box store that would be open before we headed to the airport so I made some calls and I found that the staff wasn't sure if they had the book, would have the book, or when they would be able to put the book out on display. What now?

Laurie (my wife) suggested we try Osco, Walgreens, or just suck it up and pay full list price IF the book was available at the airport or in one of the gift shops on board the cruise ship. Since we had arrived at Friday and the options were limited, we went with that plan. Saturday arrived; we loaded up the car and headed over to the 24 hour Osco. When the cashier finished with the only other patron in the store, I asked about the book. She thought for a moment and told me to wait. The cashier disappeared into a locked room, and I waited anxiously with Laurie speaking soothing words to calm me down. The cashier reappeared with a rather large blue-black book. How much, I asked? \$19.99 she replied. Sold, I said!

I didn't spend an inordinate amount of my vacation reading "*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*", but I did find moments here and there and by the time our plane had landed in Phoenix (Arizona, that is.) I was up to page 679. I finished the remaining 191 pages over the next couple of days and I began to digest what I'd read and I began to form an opinion about the entire Harry Potter series to date.

When I'd finished "*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*," I was quite taken with the young Mr. Potter. Despite great adversity and overwhelming odds, Harry (with some help from his first true friends) overcame his enemies and triumphed. And after I'd read, "*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*," I appreciated Harry's loyalty to his friends, his determination to prove Hagrid's innocence, and his bravery while seeking to save Ginny Weasley. In spite of the accusations that were flying around Hogwarts about Harry being the heir of Slytherin, Harry, Ron, Hermione, the Sorting Hat, and Fawkes the Phoenix defeated Tom Riddle aka Lord Voldemort. "*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*" dealt with darker subjects, blind hatred and prejudice, but it also extolled patience and compassion. By the time of the fourth book, "*Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*," J.K. Rowling was writing about death not on a vague or abstract level, but on an immediate and personal level, a pretty weighty subject for a "children's book."

From this point on I'll be writing about material in "*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*" that will be considered **S*P*O*I*L*L*E*R*S!**

You have been **warned!**

Harry is beginning to bug me a bit by this book. Consider all that he has gone

through up to this point and you'd think that he'd "get it", "it" being "the bigger picture." Harry subscribes to "The Daily Prophet" but he only scans the headlines and doesn't dig deeper for hidden clues to what Lord Voldemort is up to. He hides in a bush under the Dursley's living room window, but he can't be bothered to read the paper? Harry needles Dudley, but he can't take Dudley commenting about Harry's nightmares about Cedric's death? You'd think that he'd have a bit thicker skin. Hermione, Professor McGonagall, and others warn Harry to tread lightly around Dolores Umbridge, but he doesn't heed them and he gets to "enjoy" two rather gruesome and painful detentions with her. Is his stubbornness to be commended or are his actions more exasperating than laudable? Harry's temper and his inability to curb his tongue make it very easy to believe the misinformation that "The Daily Prophet" is spewing about him being mentally unbalanced. The fate of Sirius will weigh heavy on Harry and I don't believe that we've yet seen him reach his boiling point.

Hermione seems to "get it" for most of the book. She understands that Harry shouldn't be left to stew about being excluded from the information loop by the Order of the Phoenix. She's perceptive enough to understand that Umbridge is Fudge's instrument for spying and manipulation at Hogwarts. She knows how to fight a propaganda war by using Rita Skeeter, she suggests and organizes the formation of the Defense Association. Hermione is smart and has become shrewder in this book than ever before. So why does she throw common sense out the window when she tells the centaurs that she wanted them to drive off Umbridge?

Ron is given the opportunity to move out from Harry's shadow in this book. Being made Prefect and Keeper gives Ron a chance to prove himself TO himself and to build up his self-esteem. He makes many of the same mistakes he's made in previous books and invents a few new ones, but he seems to be on the far side of the stubborn anger that Harry is hitting with a full head of steam.

Despite these qualms and others too numerous to list here, I liked "*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*." Granted, I didn't get warm fuzzies when I finished the book, but there were moments that gave me a smile and I know that I'll be right there in some line some where when J.K. Rowling completes the next installment in the adventures of The Boy Who Lived.

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Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 & Under Free*
* with Adult membership

Art by Donato Giancola

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Write: LepreCon 30,
PO Box 26665
Tempe, AZ 85285
Phone: (480) 945-6890
Email: lep30@leprecon.org

ConClusion

ComicCon: Reissued by Dawn Mullan

In beautiful San Diego, California, July 17th – 20th, 2003, ComicCon International opens to hungry collector, comic book, and cartooning enthusiasts alike. The Exhibitors’ Hall is lined wall to wall with new and exciting products. Many exhibitors giving away samples of role playing games, comic books, postcards, posters, books –some are autographed with a wait in line. Raffles and lotteries are being won daily by elated winners. With favorite television, movie, and comic books stars gracing the list of participants and panelists, this year’s ComicCon is as breathtaking as it has been in years past.

The highlights for ComicCon are innumerable. **Wil Wheaton** discussing his non-fiction book in the panel “*From Cradle to Keyboard*” is motivational. Mr. **Wheaton** is a quick-witted and fun-loving young man; the panel would not have been the same without his humor. **StarGate SG-1** actors **Amanda Tapping** and **Don S. Davis** are happily surprised to find a legion of fans awaiting their arrival. Many supporters are patient to wait in line to hear the actors’ presentation and the chance to win prizes. And yes, Ms. **Tapping** is as funny and beautiful in person as she is on screen. Mr. **Davis** also is wonderful and likes wearing loud Hawaiian shirts.

Consecutive throughout Saturday, **Star Wars** panels include presentations from Del Rey, Hasbro, and Lucas Arts, but continually had technical difficulties. The authors **R.A. Salvatore**, **Troy Denning**, **Aaron Allston**, **Greg Keyes**, and **Matthew Stover** are talented panelists smoothly transitioning through each audience members’ points. However, the gentlemen were unable to answer certain questions due to constraints from Skywalker Ranch. Some secrets only **George Lucas** knows did at times hamper the Q&A leading to the frustration of some audience members hoping to seize resolution to their queries. Hasbro, though beginning their session late, presents the 2003 collection. There is no preview for 2004 toys. During the Lucas Arts presentation with many executives, the audience receives a preview of the DVD release of the **Indiana Jones** trilogy. Quickly the scene turns to **Anthony Daniels**, C-3PO, in Australia where filming of the last episode is already in progress. There are many favorites returning to the **Star Wars** films in Episode 3 including Mon Montha and Chewbacca. As well as some ominous warnings of underlying evil and deceit in the next film that is not emanating from who we believe is the true conceiver of darkside plans. With the darkest film coming in May of 2005, **Star Wars** fans wait patiently for their turn to know what lies beneath.

Battlestar Galatica’s panel receives uncer-

tain applause as the three actors and two writers grace the stage. Some audience members boo the quintet. **Tricia Helfer**, **Katee Sackhoff** and **Jamie Bamber** who play Number Six, Lieutenant Kara Trace (Starbuck) and Captain Lee Adama (Apollo), respectively, were in attendance as well as the writer and executive producer **Ronald Moore** and executive producer **David Eick**. With a new vision and updated characters, this innovative spin on an old favorite may revitalize this franchise. The writer, producers and cast are confident in their rendition of this series. These five individuals are articulate and talented in person, hopefully translating well onto the screen providing great entertainment. Premiering December 7th, 2003, the darker and richer version will keep on the same premise beginning with the Cyclon attack on humanity. Cast includes **Edward James Olmos** as Adama, **Mary McDonnell** as Laura Roslin and Lieutenant **Sharon Valerii** (Boomer); there will be no Daget but Boxey is returning to the screen.

Farscape. There are not enough words to express the fans and actors’ love for this significant and historic science fiction television series. Trying to extend past cancellation with a miniseries, telefilm, or fifth season, **Farscape** seems to have taken on a life of its own. With perseverance or luck, new life will be breathed into **Farscape** soon, so we all know how it really frelling ends.

Once again, **Mark Hamill** captivates ComicCon attendees with his panel about “Comic Book: The Movie.” Utilizing the talents of **Donna D’Errico**, **Billy West**, **Roger Rose**, **Jess Harnell**, **Daran Norris**, **Lori Alan**, **Chase Masterson**, **Tom Kenny**, **Stan Lee**, and **Hugh Hefner**, **Mark Hamill**’s improvisational movie is a hit at ComicCon. Filmed last year at the convention, many attendees are actual extras in the film and the panel’s room is packed with many fans awaiting their turn on the big screen. Previewing some rough footage, the crowd is happy with their performance and awaiting the release slated for the fall.

As ComicCon comes to a close and the twenty plus miles walked, the San Diego Convention Center grows quiet once more until July 22nd of next year.



LepreCon 29 Shadowfist Events Reported by Michael Jackson

Shadowfist, the collectable card game (CCG), is the mile-a-minute, sword-clashing, butt-kicking, Uzi-spraying, boat-exploding, car-chasing, monster-crunching, Hong Kong cinematic action card game that is so epic it would take John Woo to film and a cast the likes of Jackie Chan, Jet Li, Chow Yun Fat and Michelle Yeoh. And that’s just in the first five minutes!

LepreCon 29 hosted three Shadowfist events. First up was a demo during which Jason Hiatt, Paul Tanton, Ken St. Andre, Corey St. Andre, Daniel Hernandez, Russ Stanley, Sean Martin, Michael Montemayor, Harley Herrin, William Jensen and Travis Neal all sat down to sharpen their Shadowfist skills and fine tune their decks to prepare for the later events.

The Shadowfist Baptism of Fire, wherein each player received a Shadowfist starter deck and three boosters to pump it up with, took place Saturday and put Travis, Jason, Paul, Michael, Ken, Corey and

Daniel through two rounds of stiff competition and moved Travis, Michael, Paul and Jason into the final round. Travis emerged from the flames as the victor! Sunday was single round Final Brawl with Travis, Sean, Daniel and Harley competing for the prize using constructed decks. Travis came out on top with a devastating Purist faction deck.

I will be running these events again at the upcoming Hexacon. Come on in and learn the game and compete against others with the best CCG around, Shadowfist! I like to thank everyone who made LepreCon 29 possible, too numerous to mention but they know who they are! I’d also like to thank Z-Man games and the Game Depot for their support! A special thanks to Wayne Myers for bringing Diana Vick by the Shadowfist table to sign some of the cards for which she had done the artwork, thanks Diana!



ConRunners 6
October 4, 2003
Embassy Suites North, Phoenix
2577 West Greenway Road
Room 3005

A day long seminar on fan-run science fiction conventions. Are there things you would like to see at local conventions? Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in planning a convention? Then this is the place for you! Come, let your ideas be heard and pick up some tips from others.

Registration opens at
8:30AM.

Morning Session
9AM to 1PM
Topic Chair’s Duties,

Lunch Break 1PM-2PM

Afternoon Session
2PM to 4PM:
Picking a Theme
4PM-6PM
Post CopperCon 23
discussion.

Membership: \$15
For more info: ConRunners, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082 or call
602-973-2341 ConRunners@westernsfa.org www.westernsfa.org

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ConNotations

Volume 13 Issue 4

Calendar of Events -August-September 2003

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

AUGUST

August 1 - Friday

CASFS Meeting 8PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School, info@doverkeep.com

August 2 - Saturday

WesternSFA Quarterly Meeting and Potluck - 6PM at Craig's house - craig@doverkeep.com

August 5 - Tuesday

DVD - Deep Space Nine Season Four
DVD - Earth: Final Conflict Season Three
DVD - Agent Cody Banks

August 6 - Wednesday -

ConNotations Staff Meeting - 7PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road.-
info@doverkeep.com

August 8 - Friday

TV- Tremors: Season Finale (SciFi)

August 9 - Saturday

ConNotations Labeling and Potluck - 4PM - Stephanie's house, laetitia@doverkeep.com

August 10 - Sunday

World Horror Con 2004 Meeting - 4PM - JB's Restaurant at I-17 & Indian School - Mike Willmoth
<mwillmoth@compuserve.com>
World Fantasy Con 2004 Meeting - 5PM- JB's Restaurant at I-17 & Indian School - Mike Willmoth
<mwillmoth@compuserve.com> .
LepreCon 30 Meeting - 6PM- JB's Restaurant at I-17 & Indian School - Mike Willmoth
<mwillmoth@compuserve.com>
LepreCon Inc Quarterly Meeting - 7PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road Mike Willmoth at 480-945-6890
<mwillmoth@compuserve.com>
TV - Futurama - Series Finale (FOX)

August 12 - Tuesday

DVD - Babylon 5 Season Three
DVD - Farscape Vol 3.4
DVD - Futurama Season Two
DVD - House of 1,000 Corpses - House of 1,000 Corpses

August 15 - Friday

Fannish Open House at Craig and Stephanie's house Info Stephanie
<laetitia@doverkeep.com>

August 17 - Sunday

HexaCon 14 Meeting - 2PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road. Mike Willmoth
<mwillmoth@compuserve.com>
CopperCon 23 Meeting - 4PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road. Lee Whiteside
<leewsftv@yahoo.com>
TV - Dead Zone Season Finale (USA)

August 19 - Tuesday

DVD - Mutant X Vol 1.3

August 23 - Saturday -

Westercon 57 Meeting - - 4PM - at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road.-Info Craig
<craig@doverkeep.com>

August 24 - Sunday -

SouthWest Costumers Guild Meeting - 1PM - Pool party at Tasha's place. Contact Randall
<webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org>

August 26 - Tuesday

DVD - Andromeda Vol 2.4
DVD - Beastmaster Season 1
DVD - Jim Henson's The Storyteller Complete Series
DVD - Lexx - Complete Season Three
DVD - Lord of the Rings - Two Towers Theatrical Edition

August 27 - Wednesday

Border's SF Book Discussion - *The Years of Rice and Salt* by Kim Stanley Robinson - Borders Books 75th Ave and Bell - Tanya 623-487-9110

August 29 - Friday -

CASFS Meeting - 8PM at JB's (I-17 and Indian School) Contact Stephanie
<laetitia@doverkeep.com>

SEPTEMBER

September 2 - Tuesday

DVD - Alias Season One
DVD - Angel Season Two
DVD - Outer Limits - Original Series Season Two
DVD - Stargate SG-1 Season Four
DVD - Xena Season Two
DVD - Darkness Falls

September 5-7 - Friday to Sunday

CopperCon 23 - Embassy Suites North - www.coppercon.org

September 9 - Tuesday

DVD - 24 Season Two
DVD - The Core

September 10 - Wednesday

ConNotations Submissions Deadline - laetitia@doverkeep.com
TV - Enterprise Season Premiere, Jake 2.0 Debut (UPN)

September 12 - Friday

Westercon 57 Meeting - - 7PM - at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road.-Info Craig
<craig@doverkeep.com>

September 14 - Sunday

TV - Carnivale - Debut (HBO)

September 15 - Monday

ConNotations Advertising Deadline - laetitia@doverkeep.com

September 16 - Tuesday

DVD - Mutant X - Vol 1.4

September 19 - Friday

Fannish Open House at Craig and Stephanie's house Info Stephanie
<laetitia@doverkeep.com>
TV - Jeremiah Season Premiere (Showtime)

September 21 - Sunday

TV - Charmed Season Premiere (WB)
TV - Tarzan Debut (WB)

September 23 - Tuesday

DVD - Black Scorpion Complete Series
DVD - Smallville Season One
DVD - Lexx - Vol 4.4

September 24 - Wednesday

Border's SF Book Discussion -*Storm of Swords* by George R.R. Martin - Borders Books 75th Ave and Bell - Tanya 623-487-9110
TV - Smallville,
TV - Angel Season Premiere (WB)

September 26 - Friday

CASFS Meeting - 8PM at JB's (I-17 and Indian School) Contact Stephanie
<laetitia@doverkeep.com>
TV - Joan of Arcadia Debut (WB)

September 28 - Sunday

SouthWest Costumers Guild Meeting - 1PM - at Tasha's place. Contact Randall
<webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org>
TV - Alias Season Premiere (ABC)

September 30 - Tuesday

DVD - The Tick Complete Series (Live Action)

Due to server problems casfs.org email addresses were unavailable for the past month. Please check all events listed to make sure they are accurate before you plan to attend

INFORMATIONLINE

For up to date information on each month's CASFS and fan sponsored sci-fi related events call (602)973-2341 and select option 3 for a pre-recorded message. There is also a weekly email update. If you wish to receive the email update send your email address to Stephanie at meetings@casfs.org

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays

6pm Hero Clix Tournamets
6pm Mech Warrior Tournaments

Thursdays

6pm Camarilla Anarch Game
6pm Dragonball Z Tournaments

Fridays

6pm Hero Clix Tournamets
6pm Magic the Gathering
7pm Anime Club Meeting

Saturdays*

Rocky Horror Picture Show
3pm Mage Knight Tournaments
3pm Classic Battletech
4pm Star Wars CCG

Sundays*

4pm Magic Tournaments
Noon YU-GI-OH Tournaments
3pm Dragonball Z Tournament

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Kiwanis Park
Atomic Comics-Phoenix
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Spectrum Theatre (Spectrum Mall)
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Atomic Comics-Paradise Valley
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback
Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

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COPPERCON 23



Sept 5-7, 2003

Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ

THE ONE CON TO RULE THEM ALL!

www.coppercon.org

Author Guest of Honor:

Connie Willis

SF Author of *Doomsday Book*, *Passage*, *To Say Nothing of the Dog* and *Bellwether*. Connie has been awarded 8 Hugo Awards, 9 Locus Poll Awards and 6 Nebula Awards.

Artist Guest of Honor:

David Mattingly

Illustrator of over 500 science fiction and fantasy covers including the "Honor Harrington" series for author David Weber.

He is a two-time winner of Magazine and Booksellers

"Best Cover of the Year" Award, & winner of

The Association of Science Fiction Artists "Chesley" award

Music Guest: Larry Warner

(sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle)

Special Media Guests:

Lani Tupu

Fan Favorite *Farscape* actor as **Captain Crais** and the voice of **Pilot**.



Captain Braca on *Farscape* & Brutus on *Xena* plus movies such as *The Matrix: Reloaded*.

David Franklin



Join us for a full weekend of Science Fiction & Fantasy Events and Activities at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North

Additional CopperCon 23 Activities include Art Show & Auction, Masquerade, Dealer's Room, Charity Auction to benefit Reading is FUNDamental and ACTOR, Video Room, Anime Room, Hospitality Suite, Modern Dance, Regency Dance, Gaming, LARPs, Filk Suite, LAN Party and more.

Please visit our web site for much more info at www.coppercon.org

Memberships

\$35 thru 8/25/03, \$40 at the door

Kids 7-12 half price*

Kids 6 & Under Free*

- with Adult membership

Pay online using Paypal!

Daily Memberships will be available at the door only.

Embassy Suites Phoenix North

Room Rates: \$79 S/D, \$89 T, \$99 Q +tax

Rooms include FREE made to order breakfast & nightly happy hour. Kids under 18 stay free!

2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, Arizona

(602) 375-1777

Online Reservation Group Code: CCC

Make your reservations by August 17th to guarantee the convention room rate.

Make sure you arrive early on Friday afternoon for Q&A sessions with our media guests Lani Tupu & David Franklin. Pre-Reg members can see them at our special Thursday night event as well.

Lani and David will be available throughout the weekend in our dealer's room. They will have photos available and will sign autographs for an additional fee.

Please check our website for the full autograph policy.

Contact CopperCon 23 at:

Write: CopperCon 23

PO Box 62613

Phoenix, AZ 85082

Phone: (480) 423-0649

Email: cucon@casfs.org

www.coppercon.org

COPPERCON 23

Sept 5-7, 2003

Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ

CopperCon 23 Programming

Help us celebrate epic Fantasy and Science Fiction by joining us in a wide range of program items geared to the best in literary and media fantasy and science fiction! Aspiring writers will want to attend one of our many writers' workshops. Not interested in writing? We'll have a room dedicated to readings from our great lineup of authors. Are you looking for something a little more interactive? Then why not try one of our roundtable discussions, where you--the attendee--talk with others about issues ranging from unexplained phenomena to why animation and comics are still perceived as mediums for children.

But we're not stopping there. UFP will host their popular Sci-Fi Jeopardy game once again. What's That Byte will be returning with all new sound bytes to puzzle your brain. And if that wasn't enough, we'll be hosting a radio control car and truck obstacle course for those brave enough to bring their vehicles to the challenge. Want more? Then try our Family Friendly Programming--programming which is geared towards families with fans ages six to twelve. We'll have something there for everyone, so join us at the one con to rule them all and in the fan community bind them!

Confirmed participants as of August 1st for this year's convention are:

Greg Benford, Billy Bishop, Cathy Book, Mike Cassidy, Yvonne Coats, Sonni Cooper, Kate Daniel, Bruce Farr, Joseph Formichella, Wolf Forrest, Jerry Goodz, Mark Greenawalt, Bennie Grezlik, Carol Hightshoe, W.J. Hodgson, Emily Hogan, Ernest Hogan, Louise M. Kleba, Mark Kreighbaum, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Benjamin Massoglia, Alice Massoglia, Marty Massoglia, Kathleen M. McDonald-Neal, Michael R. Mennenga, Robert D. Miles, Allison Mitchell, Tee Morris, DL Mullan, Kevin Andrew Murphy, Janeen O'Kerry, Michaelene Pendleton, David Perrine, James G. Reade, Ken St. Andre, Michael A. Shea, Mark Siegel, Paul Donald Peter Tanton, Evo Terra, Larry Vela, Michelle M. Welch, Catherine Wells, John T. Wheeler, Randall Whitlock, Dr. David Williams, Mike Willmoth, & Gail Wolfenden-Steib.

CopperCon 23 Art Show

We are proud to announce **David Mattingly** as our **Artist Guest of Honor**. He will be displaying samples of his art in the art show plus he will host a guided tour of the art show Friday evening.

Our plan is to offer the best of science fiction and fantasy art to the fans of Phoenix. Art show panels (a panel is 4 ft. X 4 ft. flat brown pegboard) may be reserved for a fee of \$5.00 per panel. 3D artwork can be displayed on 6 ft. X 2.5 ft. tables, with a fee of \$10.00 per table, or \$5.00 for 1/2 table. The convention will take a 12% commission on these sales. We will feature a print shop -- an area for artists to sell multiple prints of some of their more popular work, with the convention taking 15% commission on these sales. There is no fee to display in the print shop.

Artists that have reserved space include: **Theresa Mather, Betsy Mott, Abranda Sisson, Mai Q. Nguyen, Lubov, Sylvana Anderson-Gish, Allison Mitchell, R. Merrill Bollerud, Deborah Woods, Ellisa Mitchell, Monika Livingstone, Albrecht & Lee Seed.**

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

We are anticipating a great art show this year, so be sure to come down and see the pride of a lot of super artists. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in reserving display space, please contact Ray Gish at 2527 N. Silverado Mesa AZ 85215 or call 480-641-3997 or email RGASAS@aol.com. Artist setup will be Friday: 9 AM-12 noon.

Special Events at CopperCon 23

The Following Events are Planned at CopperCon.
Schedules are Subject to Change.

Thursday night Pre-Registered Members Only Event at 8 p.m.

Lani Tupu and David Franklin will take part in a live commentary of a classic Farscape episode. This is open for pre-registered members only. We may also have activities with some of our other guests and participants. Check our web page for updates.

Friday Night Movie Screening of Caribou Moving Pictures' SciFi Feature Film Planet of the Killer Robots! -- Join the producers and other crew members for a special screening of this locally produced Science Fiction film.

Our **Charity Auction** Saturday afternoon will benefit both **Reading is Fundamental** and **ACTOR** (A Commitment to Our Roots). The latter in memory of fan and comics enthusiast **Dave Brown**.

You won't want to miss **David Greenawalt's Latex Body Painting Demo** Late Night Saturday. Pictures of past sessions are available at his website: www.futureclassx.com

Show off your costuming skills at the **Masquerade** Saturday night and win accolades and prizes. The Masquerade is open to all skill levels including kids. Joining us at halftime will popular musical comedy performer **Tom Tuerff**. (Dr. Demento approved!)

We'll have spotlight panels with all of our featured guests (Connie Willis, David Mattingly, Lani Tupu and David Franklin) on Saturday during the day including a Filk Concert with music guest Larry Warner.

Janeen O'Kerry will be hosting a Writer's Workshop.

We're planning to have a special exhibit by the **Arizona 501st Stormtrooper Legion**.

Preview **Upcoming SF and Fantasy Movies** with **Barry Bard** on Sunday morning where the best freebies at any convention will be handed out. CopperCon Chair and SFTV Guru **Lee Whiteside** will preview **Upcoming SF and Fantasy TV shows** on Saturday Morning.

The Confusion Crew will host their popular **ConFusion Modern Dance** on Saturday night following the Masquerade. We'll also have **Regency Dancing** on Friday night.

We have a great lineup of participants in addition to our featured guests. Authors **Greg Benford, Kate Daniel, Bennie Grezlik, Emily Hogan, Ernest Hogan, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Robert D. Miles, Tee Morris, Kevin Andrew Murphy, Janeen O'Kerry** and **Catherine Wells** will be joining us this year. Also participating are **Michael R. Mennenga** and **Evo Terra** of the Internet Science Fiction Radio Show **Dragonpage.com**, **Louise Kleba** from NASA will do a presentation on the Space Station, and **ASU's Dr. David Williams** will be updating everyone on the latest NASA Planetary Exploration Missions.

Check our web site at www.coppercon.org for all the latest programming and participant information.

Videophile

The Day The Earth Stood Still
Fox Home Video, 92 mins, G
VHS \$9.98, DVD \$19.98

The Day the Earth Stood Still is one of the all time classic science fiction movies of all time. The story is simple enough, a spacecraft lands in Washington, D.C., carrying Klaatu, (Michael Rennie) a messenger from another world who has come to warn to the people of Earth to cease their violent behavior. Predictably enough people panic when he lands and a nervous soldier shoots him. Gort, his large robot companion, destroys a few weapons and tanks before the Klaatu can stop him. Collapsing he is taken to a human hospital as world leaders and their armies debate what to do next.

As people worldwide panic Klaatu escapes from the hospital and finds refuge in a boarding house. There he meets a mother Helen (Patricia Neal) and her son Bobby (Billy Gray) and through them he learns about humanity.

This DVD release is to be commended. The movie has been fully restored and the extras are great. The Commentary by director Robert Wise and Nicolas Meyer is wonderful and the 70-Minute “Making the Earth Stand Still” Documentary is full of details. Others extras include the Movietone Newsreel (1951), a Restoration Comparison, 5 Still Galleries, the Shooting Script and the Theatrical Trailer. There are, apparently, no extras on the VHS edition.

This is a classic and should be in every science fiction fan’s collection. I can not recommend this highly enough. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Haunting
Warner, 112 mins, G
DVD \$19.98

The 1963 version of *The Haunting* bears virtually no resemblance to the glitzy, special effects filled version released in 1999. Indeed, this version is vastly superior. While both versions are based on Shirley Jackson’s novel *The Haunting of Hill House* the Robert Wise version remains one of the greatest haunted house movies I’ve ever seen.

The movie begins with a voice over that tells us all about Hill House’s dark history of death and ghostly possession. Soon four daring guests arrive to investigate. First to arrive is Eleanor Vance (Julie Harris), a shy vulnerable woman who is racked with guilt and grief over the recent death of her mother. She is joined by Theodora (Claire Bloom), who has acute extra-sensory abilities, and Dr. Markway (Richard Johnson), an anthropologist who is conducting a study of the house. The last two arrivals are playboy Luke Sanderson (Russ Tamblyn)

and finally, Markway’s jealous and headstrong wife (Lois Maxwell). The spooky house is anything but welcoming to the visitors and reacts with strange noises (everything from muffled crying to deafening pounding), unexplained writing on the walls, a door that seems to breathe and a spiral staircase that seems to have murder on its mind. And soon it becomes clear that while the house wants the others to leave, it wants Eleanor to become one of its permanent residents.

Filmed in black and white and lacking anything like today’s glitzy special effects, this film’s growing sense of terror comes from the psychology of the characters and Wises’ use of sound, camera angles and the power of suggestion. Much like the shark in the original *Jaws*, what you don’t see is much more terrifying than anything a film maker can put on screen.

I am thrilled that this is finally available on DVD. The extras include a commentary by Julie Harris, Claire Bloom, Russ Tamblyn, director Robert Wise, and screenwriter Nelson Gidding as well as Theatrical trailer(s), a stills gallery and a “Things That Go Bump in the Night” essay. This classic is an absolute must for any true fan’s collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Thing From Another World
50th Anniversary Edition
Warner Home Video, 87minutes, NR
DVD \$19.98

In our group I have a reputation for loving schlock. To a degree, *The Thing*

From Another World qualifies with its rather unusual alien (James Arness as sort of a giant carrot) but for its time (1951) this was one of the most influential science fiction movies ever filmed. While it was redone with a bigger budget, bigger stars and spiffy special effects in 1982 this version is still enjoyable as well as being Howard Hawk’s lone science fiction film.

The story is familiar, military men are sent to an Arctic research station where scientists have reportedly found a space ship frozen under the ice. The ship blows up when they try to retrieve it but they do manage to save the body of its pilot, which they take back to the research station. When it accidentally thaws the group is faced with a blood thirsty monster

who begins to kill them one by one. The lack of extras on this 50th Anniversary Edition is disappointing but it is till a must for the serious science fiction fan’s collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Omega Man
Warner Home Video, 98 mins, PG
DVD \$19.98

Continuing this issue’s theme of classic science fiction films we come to *The Omega Man* starring Charlton Heston as the last human left on earth.

The ultimate biological weapon, a deadly plaque, has swept across the world leaving two groups of survivors; a small band of humans who are immune to the plaque and a group of vampires. The infected humans are led by Mathias (Anthony Zerbe) who is a charismatic man set on destroying all the non infected humans on earth. Robert Neville (Charlton Heston) has developed a vaccine while trying to gather the uninfected survivors together. While the uninfected try to protect themselves by night from the growing group of infected plague victims (Check out Rosalind Cash as his Afro-haired, gun toting girl friend) it becomes a race to see if humanity will survive.

The DVD extras include Theatrical trailer(s), an Introduction by screenwriter Joyce H. Carrington, Paul Koslo (“Dutch”), and Eric Laneuville (“Richie”), as well as two featurettes, “The Last Man Alive: The Omega Man”, and “Charlton Heston: Science Fiction Legend”.

I am a sucker for the end of the world scenarios that were so popular in the 1970’s and this is one of my favorites.

While it isn’t “great art” it is a fun and thought provoking outing that is a welcome addition to my collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Buffy The Vampire Slayer Season 4
Fox, 999 mins, NR
DVD \$59.98

This six disc set brings us the complete fourth season of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. This 22 episodes of this season took Buffy into new territory, she started college, got a new boyfriend, Riley, went to frat parties, learned her best girl friend Willow was gay, and, oh yes, discovered a secret military project that was experimenting on demons and vampires.

Season four showed that Buffy could not only survive the loss of several main characters (Angel, Cordelia, Wesley) she could get better. This season also brought us the return of Spike (who developed a crush on Buffy), added vengeance demon Anya as a full-time cast member and saw the brief return of Faith. This season also includes the Emmy-nominated “Hush,” in which weird “Gentlemen” rob Sunnydale of its collective voice, and, in this nearly dialogue-free episode, Buffy and Riley finally come face to face with each other’s hidden identities.

The extras on this set are also impressive with commentary by Joss Whedon on ‘Hush’ and ‘Restless’, by Joss Whedon, Marti Noxon, and Seth Green on on ‘Wild at Heart’, by writer Doug Petrie on ‘The Initiative’ and ‘This Year’s Girl’ and by Jane Espenson on ‘Superstar’. Also included are a Season 4 Overview and the

(Cont’d on page 15)



Samurai 侍 COMICS

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Videophile (cont'd from page 14)

Featurettes: Hush, Spike Me, Oz Revelations: A Full Moon, Buffy Inside the Music, The Sets of Sunnydale as well as Original scripts for 'Fear Itself,' 'Hush,' 'Who Are You?,' and 'Restless' and the obligatory cast bios and still gallery.

Buffy is one of my all time favorite TV shows. I enjoyed this season four set and eagerly await the release of the remaining seasons. I just wish they would release them quicker - **Stephanie L Bannon**

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

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

Our story finds the evil dictator Sador (John Saxon) threatening the planet of Akira with his super weapon, the Stellar Converter. Akira's pacifist population is unfit to fight Sador but young hero Shad (Richard Thomas) decides to fight back even if no one else will. He borrows the ship of notorious mercenary Zed the

Corsair and goes off to recruit a band of mercenaries, each of whom has a personal reason to join the fight. He manages to hire a lizard-like humanoid (Morgan Woodward), a space cowboy (George Peppard), a zaftig female warrior (Sybil Danning), and brooding killer-for-hire Gelt (Robert Vaughn, reprising his Magnificent Seven role). With its strong cast, script by John Sayles and Roger Corman touch *Battle Beyond the Stars* (including space ships designed by *Titanic* director James Cameron) is a delight for repeat viewers as well as newcomers.

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

Highlander Season One
Anchor Bay. NR
DVD \$89.95

The first Highlander the film, starring Christopher Lambert as Connor MacLeod hit theaters in 1986. Six years later we got Highlander The Series starring Adrian Paul as Duncan MacLeod, a clansman of Connor. For those unfamiliar with the premise, Highlander (both movies and series) tell the tale of a race of Immortals

who battle one another throughout history. They compete by taking the heads of other Immortals, thus gaining all that Immortal's knowledge and power, with the ultimate goal being to be the last one standing. "There can be only one!"

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

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

Season 2 is being released on July 29,

2003, too late for this issue, but it will be reviewed in a future - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Winnie the Pooh,
A Very Merry Pooh Year
Disney, 65 mins, G
VHS \$22.99, DVD \$29.99

Winnie the Pooh Bear and his pals in the Hundred Acre Wood celebrate Christmas and New Year's Eve in two adventures. In the first one Winnie plays Saint Nick to his friends after he fails to get their wish list off to Santa. In the second story the gang changes identities as Piglet inherits Tigger's hop and Eeyore becomes a cheerful honey lover.

DVD extras include "Covered in Snow" game, "New Year's Eve party countdown, Song selection, Sing Along feature and an Enchanted environment

Our reviewer, Luc Henderson age 5, was not very excited about this one. His comments were brief and frank:

"I liked the Pooh and the Honey and that's ALL!" Other comments: The story was too long. He did not like the music and the show was for "younger kids than me." - **Luc Henderson**

(Cont'd on page 16)

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Joyride
Artisan Home Entertainment
VHS, \$19.98, 92min, R
1996 release to theatre
2002 release to DVD

This movie was obviously released to DVD after the lead, Tobey Maguire, started becoming well-known. It actually is a better film than I anticipated. Maguire always had the talent we recognize today. The story was rather mundane and trite but I enjoyed it. Maguire is the son of a motel owner, Wilson Cruz is his buddy and Amy Hathaway is a voluptuous young blond whose father is pimping her out of a motel room. Christina Naify is the hit woman who's checked in to do in a local doctor who sexually abused women. Maguire is bored and fatalistic about his prospects for leaving the town. One night while he and Cruz are drinking, the three kids decide to go on a joyride but his

friend's car won't start. Maguire decides that taking the car of that strange woman in room 7 would be a thrill. When they stop later, they discover the body of the local doctor in the trunk with a bullet hole in his head. Now, life has gotten real serious as they contemplate whether to return the car or keep it and what to do about the body. Plus they have to dodge the questions of the local detective who discovers the body after they dump it. There are some enjoyable scenes where Maguire stands up to the hitwoman, simply because it won't make any difference in his life. While I didn't anticipate Naify's solution to all their problems with the law, I did see the end coming even while I enjoyed it. -

Catherine Book



Pointless Meanderings by Brandon Huigens

Interview Small Press Creator : Jeff Brown

Welcome back. This is the second small-press creator interview being done in accordance with my February trip to the Alternative Press Expo. Enjoy!

This time around, we're featuring an incredible new talent that cemented a permanent place on my bookshelf with an amazing little book about the exhilaration and desperation of needing someone: **Clumsy**. That talent's name is Jeffrey Brown.

Brown is a young man that recently took the independent comics world by storm with his very first published work-the graphic novel **Clumsy**. His debut was so impressive that he was nominated for the prestigious Ignatz Award for Best New Talent; the good guys at Top Shelf jumped at the chance to begin publishing his material at the behest of indy comics superstar James Kochalka Superstar, whose right-on description of the book bears mention:

"...Clumsy is the story of a new relationship and it's stunning in its' realism and honesty. The frailty of the drawn line perfectly matches the human frailty portrayed within the story. It's just so damn human. This is my favorite graphic novel ever. Even if Jeffrey Brown never draws another line again, he has already won a permanent place in my heart. Still, I want more."

The following is an interview with Jeffrey Brown; you'll find his take on art refreshing, his sincerity extraordinary, and room on your own shelf for a book with Jeffrey Brown's name on the binding.

Brandon Huigens: Where are you from, and how old are you? Where did you attend college and what did you study?

Jeff Brown: I'm originally from Grand Rapids Michigan, though I've lived in Chicago for about 2 ½ years now. I'm 27. I first went to a small college in Holland, Michigan, [and earned] an Art Major/English Minor. Then I sat around in Grand Rapids for 3 years trying to figure out what art was and what I wanted to do with it. I decided to go to The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, thinking I'd become a fine artist, painter type. I finished my MFA there last year, although I stopped painting and started drawing comics halfway through

BH: How long have you been creating comics? Are you working at another job?

JB: I've been drawing comics forever, off and on, but always one-panel things, one-page things. **Clumsy** was the first real comic I drew so I've been doing comics for a couple years. Yeah, there's not much money in comics if you're not doing superhero stuff-I manage the music department of a major book store retail chain store in a Chicago-area suburb (I won't say which chain here, since I don't want to get in trouble if I'm not supposed

to associate them with my comics or something like that).

BH: What kind of career goal do you have regarding comics?

JB: Hm. I don't think of it as a career. I've always drawn and made art and I think I always will. What I like about comics is that I can communicate with so many people, and I guess one goal I have is to break over into an audience that doesn't normally read comics.

BH: Why did you start creating comics? How has the experience been overall?

JB: I started drawing comics because I wasn't happy with my paintings, and the faculty at SAIC didn't like my paintings. I was fed up with what I perceived to be excessive bullshit, posturing, fakeness, etc. in the "art world"...I didn't see much humanity in the work of most artists and somehow, comics suddenly became a way to achieve the most honesty, to be un-ironic...I wanted to make art that was as human as possible.

BH: You've succeeded in that...Your self-published graphic novel **Clumsy** is extremely personal and detailed, and it has a profound effect on your readers. Describe what the book is about and how its' success has affected you both personally and professionally.

JB: **Clumsy** is about celebrating being in a relationship, including the down times but mostly the good times, although we broke up before I finished it, and I just rewrote the 4 pages of breaking up over the phone. It basically describes the relationship and the feelings involved through snippets, fragments of memory, all jumbled up in the way we remember things like relationships. The success has been extremely encouraging in terms of making art, and has been satisfying in how I've been able to affect so many people. It's also helped me make more work-that is, in terms of being able to make more copies of books and getting wider distribution.

BH: Do you still talk to Theresa (Jeff's ex-girlfriend that **Clumsy** features) at all? Do you know how she feels about **Clumsy**?

JB: Um, we've talked off and on, though off for a while now...ever since she started dating this new guy and I got weirded out because he had been kind of a friend of mine, by coincidence. She liked **Clumsy**, although sometimes I worry about what she thinks of the attention it's getting.

BH: Since you mentioned that you and Theresa broke up before you finished **Clumsy**, were you going to publish it with a different ending?

JB: The only thing that changed was the 4 page story "The End," which was originally something about us seeing a movie together or something, which would've totally changed the whole book, probably. But the stories that follow "The End" were already set.

BH: Was it difficult to put those feelings and moments on paper and share them?

(Cont'd on page 17)

Pointless (cont'd from page 16)

JB: It wasn't as hard as you'd think. I've always been a bit of an introvert, so this was kind of a cathartic release to express all this emotion that I had been trying to express in my art before but never quite getting it right. I just put down whatever I thought and felt; it's like-I think Mark Twain said this-you don't have to remember if you tell the truth? So with **Clumsy**, I was just honest, so I didn't have to edit.

BH: Do you ever feel awkward around people that have read the book, knowing so much about your personal experiences?

JB: Sometimes. I try not to think of the book being about me. It also depends on how the reader reacts; the more comfortable they are, the less awkward it is, and I've had friends who didn't want to touch the thing, but my parents and brothers have read it. My oldest brother told my Mom he liked **Unlikely** (my next book) better because it had less sex in it. And of course, there's so much that's left out in the book, it's misleading to think you know me just from **Clumsy**...there was more to the relationship than I could show, and there's more to me, and I've changed since then...

BH: The book reminds me so much of my own relationships, mostly my first significant one, as I'm sure many people have told you-are you happy so many people can relate, and has anyone said anything about it that's really stuck out in your mind?

JB: Yes, I'm both happy and surprised that my own unique experience seems to be so universal...it never ceases to jar me when people pick out some little incident and say that's EXACTLY what they went through.

BH: Did you begin your career self-publishing? Do you now have a publisher?

JB: Yes, **Clumsy** was self-published, and then Top Shelf was distributing it...they've actually taken me on...they're putting out my next book **Unlikely** this summer and I'm assuming they'll publish more of my projects. I'm also doing stories for different anthologies, some self-published, some from other publishers like Drawn & Quarterly. I do still have other projects I will definitely self-publish...

BH: It's amazing that you self-published a graphic novel to begin your career. Have you been nominated for any awards, and have you won any?

JB: I was nominated for the Ignatz Award for Promising New Talent last year, but I didn't win.

BH: Do you keep a daily comic diary? If so, do you plan on ever putting them into a collection?

JB: I don't...so much of my work is like diary anyway, but with a little perspective...

BH: What would you like fans to know about you and your comics?

JB: Um....I don't know. I'd like the fans to get whatever they can out of my work, and they don't really need to know

anymore than what's there.

BH: What's been your best experience in comics?

JB: Meeting other cartoonists has been great, especially guys like Chris Ware, but just as much lesser knowns like the other guys on www.theholysconsumption.com...meeting fans has been fun too, and finding out people you've never seen have crushes on you is kind of cool...

BH: What are your plans for 2003 as far as comics releases? What do you currently have out?

JB: Currently out are **Clumsy** and **I Am Going To Be Small**, which is a collection of gag like funny stuff. Coming out in July is **Unlikely**, a 256 page book about losing my virginity to my first girlfriend. If I have the money, a limited edition book called **Any Easy Intimacy** will be out this fall, and I do mini comics on a limited basis, usually just for conventions that I go to.

BH: Man...Unlikely sounds great! Where on the web can fans find your work, and where can retailers order your books from? Do you have a website?

JB: Retailers can go through Diamond or Top Shelf for my major releases; everyone can shop at theholysconsumption.com which showcases my work and 3 other great Chicago-area cartoonists who have mostly been self-publishing so far. It's a website created by my friend Paul Hornschemeier to sell his comics along with mine, plus those of Anders Nilsen and John Hankiewicz. We're all Chicago area cartoonists, all up and comers, who have mostly self-published so far. It's all about great comics. We rotate weekly with "Sunday Services" which showcases sketches and upcoming projects, and you can buy fun stuff like shirts and things also.

BH: Have you read comics all your life? If so, who've been your influences? Do you have any influences outside of comics that come out in your work (or don't come out)?

JB: Yes, as long as I've been able to read. Influences: Chris Ware, Dan Clowes, Julie Doucet, James Kochalka, Chester Brown, Joe Matt, Moebius, Art Adams, Debbie Dreschler, Adrian Tomine, John Porcellino, um, there's more that I can't think of right now, I'm sure. Outside of comics, David Shrigley, Raymond Pettibon, Egon Schiele, and above all, Charlotte Salomon, who did this incredible work called **Life? Or Theatre?**

BH: James Kochalka has been instrumental in promoting your book, even going as far as helping convince Top Shelf to publish your work. How did you meet James, and how has your guys' relationship been?

JB: I just sent him books, and he liked them. I met him at SPX last year, and I did a one page strip for the Free Comic Book Day issue of **Peanut Butter & Jeremy**. We don't keep in touch too often, but I love his work, and he's been a great help in spreading the word about my work.

BH: Where will your next few appear-

ances be?

JB: I'll probably be at the San Diego Comic Con in July, and for sure will be at the Wizardworld Chicago in August. I also have plans for an Unlikely release party at Quimby's the last weekend of July...

BH: What's Quimbys?

JB: Quimby's is one of the best alternative comics shops in the world and its here in Chicago. Their website is, I think, www.quimbys.com or something obvious like that. Chris Ware did all their signage and they don't really carry any mainstream stuff, plus they carry tons of 'zines and self-published mini comics.

BH: What kind of music, movies, and television are you into?

JB: I like cheesy WB shows like 7th Heaven which is hilarious, Dexter's Lab and The Powerpuff girls, Farscape, Ed, Blind Date, Judge Mathis...I watch entirely too much TV. Music, I like indie/alternative rock stuff - yoLaTengo, Low, Elk City, Polyphonic Spree, Cat Power, Built To Spill, Modest Mouse, Elf Power, Microphones...I have over 600 CD's, which is also entirely too many...movies: anything by Wes Anderson, Terry Gilliam, and David Lynch...

BH: Pretty nice and developed tastes...a buddy of mine is always talking about Cat Power. So how much time per day do you spend drawing and creating comics?

JB: I spend probably an average of 3 hours a day actually drawing, and then I'm

always thinking about stuff, plotting or figuring out how to draw a particular panel or story.

BH: Okay-that's it. Thanks for the great interview, Jeff!

Upon arriving in San Francisco, the first person I met that was going to the APE Convention was Jeffrey Brown, in the hotel lobby where we were both staying. We had a very quick and casual conversation; if it were a movie, that meeting would've been some fantastic foreshadowing, because Jeff and **Clumsy** ended up being my favorite and most significant memory I have of the trip. On Sunday, the last day of the convention, I approached Jeff and asked him to do a sketch for me-just something with him in it. It is easily the best five bucks I've ever spent. This is that sketch:



Thanks, Jeff.



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In Our Book

One Knight Only
by Peter David
Ace, 384 pages, \$23.95

This is the long-awaited sequel to Peter David’s novel *Knight Life* about King Arthur being alive in the present day (along with Merlin and Lancelot with Guinivere having been reincarnated as his wife Gwen) and running for political office. The original novel was re-issued last year in an updated and expanded hardback version that is now available in paperback which is recommended reading, but not required, for *One Knight Only*.

The new novel picks up the story several years later, where Arthur is now President of the United States and trying to deal with terrorist threats to the country while his long time mentor, Merlin, is a statue in the Rose Garden and his aide, Lancelot, is missing. Through flashbacks we learn of the events that catapulted Arthur to national fame and left Merlin a statue. A terrorist attack following Arthur’s State of the Union address leaves Gwen in a coma and Arthur in shock. Meanwhile, Lancelot has discovered the location of the Holy Grail in it’s current form which is being held by the original High King, Gilgamesh, on a remote island in the Florida Keys. Arthur sets out to exact revenge on the terrorist leader and retrieve the Grail so that Gwen can live, but will he succeed or die trying?

As you can see by the summary, the novel covers a lot of ground, bringing the reader up on what has happened since the first story, introducing the new characters and situations and showing how the national spotlight has made things difficult for Arthur and Gwen. David also works in plot elements mirroring recent real-world events with the terrorist leader, Sandoval, playing more than a minor role in the overall story. Having the real world events echoing in this story makes it more serious of a novel than the first one and there are also consequences to the actions the various characters take, but it is not lacking in humorous moments which David is very good at. The dilemma Arthur finds himself in following the terrorist attack on his wife and the decision he makes to avoid a war makes you wonder what our real-life president would have done in a similar situation (albeit without magical assistance available).

If you enjoyed the original novel, you’ll be glad to revisit these characters once more. If you haven’t yet discovered Peter David’s fantasy work, this would be a good place to start. - Lee Whiteside

Talon of the Silver Hawk
(Conclave of Shadows Book One)
by Raymond E. Feist
Eos, 400 pages, \$24.95

The latest Raymond E. Feist novel set in the fantasy world of Midkemia is somewhat of a departure from his prior novels. It concentrates mainly on a central character, a young boy, Kieli, Talon of the Silver Hawk, who is the lone survivor of a mountain tribe massacred by an army controlled by the evil Duke of Olasko. He is taken in by Magnus, a powerful sorcerer, Robert de Lyis, a man of wealth and Caleb, a hunter/warrior and taught how to fight as well as how to function in high-bred society so that he can be used as a weapon in the fight against evil by the secret organization called The Conclave of Shadows.

While prior Midkemia and Riftwar novels were more of an epic feel with lots of characters and epic quests, this novel is told mostly from the point of view of Talon. When we first meet him, his is a naive boy who has been orphaned and had been left for dead. We follow along as he learns to fit into a more normal lifestyle while still retaining his wild edge. He is taught many skills including hunting, fighting, cooking, how to be a servant, painting and other more high-bred traits, and also given a painful lesson in love. All of this is orchestrated by the Conclave to prepare him for a grander destiny that they are keeping a secret from him. By the end of the novel, he is a suave sportsman, fighting to survive in a major sword fighting championship where some of his opponents are more interested in making sure he doesn’t win that putting on a fair fight.

Readers of Feist’s other Riftwar novels should enjoy this one that gives you a different perspective on this fantasy world. There are a few familiar characters with Pug, Nakor and Miranda being the most notable. They still take a back seat to the

story of Talon’s growth and maturing into the hero he has become by the end of the novel, ready to proceed into the next installment of the series. Prior knowledge of Midkemia is not a requirement for this novel and might actually help in following along with Talon’s perspective on the events that transpire around him. - Lee Whiteside

Devil’s Bargain
by Judith Tarr
ROC, 385 pages, \$16.00

This is a lovely fantasy story set in the Holy Land during the Third Crusade. Sioned, an illegitimate child of a Celtic princess and the late King of England, is commanded by her brother, King Richard the Lionheart, to help save his crusade. Pulling strings in the background is Eleanor, King Richard’s tyrannical mother,

(Cont’d on Page 19)



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In Our Book (cont'd from page 18)

who is well-trained in magic but given to the dark side. She has made a pact with an evil sorcerer, to assassinate Saladin, the Sultan who opposes Richard. Sioned has magic even though she is untrained. While with Richard, she meets Saladin's brother, Saphadin, and her heart is lost to the enemy. She also meets a mysterious lady, Safiyah, who begins to train her in magic. The forces of magic, Sioned, Saphadin and Safiyah, experience bonds that transcend the politic forces that cause them to be enemies. Together, they must find a way to defeat the evil sorcerer who will cause them all great pain and distress. Along the way, Sioned acquires the protection and assistance of a great host of jinn. It is also Sioned who must brave the evil sorcerer's refuge to steal the talisman to save her brother. A very enjoyable read..- **Catherine Book**

**Magic: The Gathering
Odyssey Cycle Book II:
Chainer's Torment
By Scott McGough
Wizards Of The Coast, Inc. pb: 2001,
311 pages., \$6.99**

The stage is set and pit is ready. For fighters death is not a high price to pay for possessing the magical and powerful orb called the Mirari. Even though most individuals who touch the orb become insane, still an infinite numbers flock to win the mystical energy for themselves. This book is an extension of the role playing game of the same name; Magic: the Gathering. The storyline revolves around Chainer, a young dementia caster and pupil of Skellum, who allies himself with Kamahl, the barbarian from the Pardic Mountains. Together the two men enter the pit fights.

As the fights commence, other threats emerge. Recovering from his failure at obtaining the Mirari, Ambassador Laquatus begins his quest to acquire the artifact once more. However, he has a new enemy, Llawan, Aboshan's widow who is determined to sit at her dead husband's throne once more. A new leader of the Order, Major Teroh gathers his forces against the Cabal. No more will he allow the Cabal to influence Otaria or Kamahl to live.

Meanwhile Ambassador Laquatus allies himself with Chainer and the Cabal. Hungry for conquest, he desires the throne and Mirari, even though betrayal of his loyalties is his only way to secure his ultimate goals. The tension mounts between Laquatus and Llawan to the brink of Civil War. In the end Llawan wins as she cuts Laquatus off from mercantile commerce and he is faced alone in his defeat.

Kamahl's sister and former mentor; Jeska and Balthor respectively; search for Kamahl but find instead Chainer's powers have expanded far beyond his mental

capacity. Slowly with the use of the Mirari, Chainer is losing his grasp on reality. Kamahl is faced with a terrible decision to choose between friendship and Otaria.

Scott McGough has a firm grasp on the characters, plot and magical references for a satisfying book. Entertaining book even for non-magic folks, the role playing novel is full of plot twists and turns. In the future I hope this author expands his repertoire to include the science fiction universe as well as the RPG format - **Dawn Mullan**

**Magic: The Gathering
Onslaught Cycle Book I: Onslaught
By J. Robert King
Wizards Of The Coast, Inc. pb: 2002,
312 pages, \$6.99**

Another book in the Magic: The Gathering saga finds that Kamahl has won the powerful orb, Mirari, for himself but at a great price. While on a quest for revenge, his sister Jeska is transformed by Braids into Phage -a dangerous pit fighter. The two women join the Cabal to craft a great coliseum.

Kamahl desperate to save his sister faces great odds to restore her. Jeska as Phage destroys a powerful illusionist's only love, the beautiful Nivea. In mourning for his love Ixidor's dreams came to life creating an angelic creature named Akroma. Together the two plot to avenge the death of Nivea and kill Phage. Kamahl finding his sister as Phage and allying himself with the Cabal, the barbarian fights the darkness that is Phage until Jeska can reclaim her mind.

Once Jeska returns, the darkness that was Phage unleashes itself onto the world and begins devouring life as deathwurms. Knowing that there was only one chance to save the world, Jeska takes back the darkness into herself becoming Phage once more.

Kamahl did not want to lose his sister again but wavers under her insistence and

wisdom. Indeed Jeska is right, Kamahl had saved himself and the woman she once was. Now Kamahl had to let her go and for himself find peace among the forest.

J. Robert King writes cleanly and deliberately as he fleshes out all the characters into a neat and concise plot. This book was a joy to read even to those people not familiar to this role playing world. - **Dawn Mullan**

**Star Wars New Jedi Order
Force Heretic I: Remnant
By Sean Williams & Shane Dix
Del Rey pb: 2003, 413 pages, \$6.99**

The last trilogy of the New Jedi Order, Force Heretic I: Remnant is book 15 in the series. With their first strong victory over the Yuuzhan Vong in the near past, the New Republic changes its color and mission to become the Galactic Federation of Free Alliances, or simply the Galactic Alliance. Since the Yuuzhan Vong war, the New Republic has struggled to defend itself from the enemies within and out of its borders. With the Empire and Chiss as well as other factions separate and aloof, the New Republic found little backing to its cause against their new enemy. However this challenge is one of many that need to be addressed and a new government to solve these issues. In order to accomplish this task the Galactic Alliance wants to bring the diverse populations of their galaxy together into one coalition to provide a sound government, safer environment, and collective military.

The series begins with the Galactic Alliance needing to reform its communication system and former military strength in order to win the war. Han and Leia with Jaina, Jagged Fel, Tahiri and the Twin Suns Squadron decide to investigate the worlds taken by the enemy and develop a plan for the future re-establishment of communications. Luke, Mara, Jacen, Danni, Saba and

Tekli travel to the Outer Regions. Searching for a lost, but living planet identified as Zonama Sekot by Vergere, the Jedi led by Mara and Luke set out in the Jade Shadow only to find a weakened Empire. All the while Nom Anor living with the Shamed Ones begins to unravel the system he once invoked without question. The Yuuzhan Vong outcasts who worship the Jedi could be his salvation.

In this novel, I especially enjoyed the romances between Danni and Jacen -he needs something to bind him to the universe except philosophy- as well as the romance between Jagged Fel and Jaina, who needs positive reinforcement to keep her from the Dark Side of the Force. On the other hand, Tahiri has an intriguing storyline as she fights the mental brain-washing the Yuuzhan Vong implemented before Anakin Solo's death and the other personality that keeps creeping into her consciousness. The story should become pretty interesting trying to tie up these loose ends by the end of the trilogy.

This book is about average for the New Jedi Order Series but the storyline has a few slow places. Though a rough start for the Williams/Dix team, I am confident the pacing will pick up in the second novel. - **Dawn Mullan**

**Star Wars New Jedi Order
Force Heretic II: Refugee
By Sean Williams & Shane Dix
Del Rey pb: 2003, 397 pages, \$6.99**

The last trilogy of the New Jedi Order, Force Heretic II: Refugee is book 16 in the series. Our heroes and nemeses begins where the last storylines ended: the Jedi searching for Zonama Sekot, a team investigating communications breakdowns, and the Yuuzhan Vong resisting shame. This novel serves to bridge the gap between conflict and resolution.

Again, our heroes in their quests find that sometimes what is on the surface is

(Cont'd on page 20)

Things For Thinkers!

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In Our Book (cont'd from page 19) not what lies underneath. Teaming up with the Empire, the Jedi led by Luke and Mara enter the Unknown Regions where the team encounters the Chiss. Unfortunately, the Chiss believe the Jedi's search is a lost cause. Even though the Chiss feel the time expended on the quest is futile, the hosts humor their Jedi guests by letting them search for Zonama Sekot in their paper resource library.

On the other side of the galaxy, Han and Leia's group finds Bakura at odds with itself. The Bakurans and P'w'ek, the Ssi-ruuvi slave caste, are joining forces. The positive side this alliance would shield the races against the Ssi-ruuvi and Yuuzhan Vong. The negative side is that not everyone on Bakura is content with the idea. The political and social repercussions have begun with protests and rebellions sprouting up on the planet. Of course, Han and Leia find out what lies

beneath the differing factors between the three races as the Yuuzhan Vong have their spies amidst the fury too.

Speaking of whom, Nom Anor continues his power quest among the Jedi worshipers in the ruins of Coruscant and takes on a slave of his own. The Supreme Overlord is having difficulties. Supply line problems left Coruscant untransformed completely by the Shapers and the lower caste churned in resistance as their heresy grew. Shimrra now realizing that the heresy has gone too far and that a new threat has risen with the power to destabilize the Yuuzhan Vong hierarchy.

A solid novel by the Williams/Dix team as the story evolves from conflict into a mysterious semi-solution. Not to say the authors give anything away, but the references make for good questions about the trilogy's conclusion. For instance, Tahiri and Riina of Domain Kwaad what will happen to these two distinct person-

alities? What of the Zonama Sekot? Is it friend or foe? How could these two factors lead to a resolution to the Yuuzhan Vong war?

This trilogy slow to start has picked up hopefully to a good resolution in the third installment. - **Dawn Mullan**

Future Wars
edited by **Martin H. Greenberg**
and **Larry Segriff**,
DAW Books, 317 pages, \$6.99

My, isn't this a timely anthology. Ten authors wrote all-new stories: Barry Longyear, James H. Cobb, Kristine Kathryn Rusch, William H. Keith Jr., Kathleen Massie-Ferch, Bill Fawcett, Ron Collins, Robert J. Sawyer, R.J. Pineiro, and Robin Wayne Bailey. Apparently these stories were made just for this book, as there are no prior publication credits. The topic is not treated as the standard military genre glorification, but rather as a part of the human heritage. As the cover blurb says, "the many possible ways in which conflict may be carried out, resolved, or avoided in the future." These future times vary from later in this century to uncounted years away in galactic cultures. There's even a sequel story to H.G. Wells' Time Machine, told from the morlock point of view. There's enough action for any space opera, but more to these tales than mere escapism. You don't have to be pro-military or antiwar to enjoy them, just curious about a sad feature of humanity. - **Michael Griffin**

The Machiavelli Interface
by **Steve Perry**
Ace Books, 197 pages, \$5.99

This is the fourth in a five-book series, yet is apparently the last of three that Ace is reprinting. It came out in 1986, and is now part of Ace's fiftieth anniversary output. Author Steve Perry is a New York Times bestseller, and it shows. While you can't avoid knowing you're in only part of a story, that part is interesting on its own. This is a tale of an evil galactic confederation overthrown by an elite corps of bodyguards called matadors. They have an oriental-like martial art called the 97 steps, and they're marksmen with non-lethal darts that incapacitate people for six months. This book focuses on their charismatic leader's battle with the evil ruler, and also on a top matador squad of three women and three men. While there's no explicit sex, the ruler is a child molester and some matadors are lesbians. There is lots of explicit violence. If you want action combined with in-depth character studies, try this one. - **Michael Griffin**

The Firebrand
by **Marion Zimmer Bradley**
ROC, 593 pages, \$15.95

The Firebrand is an interesting retelling of the story of the Trojan war from the point of view of the women. Treated as possessions by the men in their life, manipulated like chess pieces by the gods they have a lot of resentment. This resentment manifests itself in their efforts to change the course of event for their own purposes. *The Firebrand* is an interesting new twist on a very old story. It is a well written fast paced story that I enjoyed reading and I am sure all of Ms. Bradley's fans will enjoy it as well. - **William B. Whitmore**

The Steerswoman's Road
by **Rosemary Kirstien**
Del Ray, 653 pages, \$15.95

This book is a single volume re-release of the first two novels in the steerswoman's saga. Our hero, Rowan, is a steerswoman. This means that she travels the land asking and answering Questions. For hundred of years steerswomen have wandered the land with no problems. So why are the wizards trying to kill Rowan? All she has done is to ask questions about some blue gems that she found. The quest to answer that question will take her from the heart of a wizard's fortress to the wild land of the frontier, and the answers she finds reveals a secret that is impossible to believe.

The Steerswoman's Road is an interesting action adventure novel with a novel plot twist. The characters are well developed and very likable. This is the second time I have read these books and I enjoyed them as much the second time around as I had the first. I strongly recommend this book. - **William B. Whitmore**

The Lost Steersman
by **Rosemary Kirstien**
Del Ray, \$14.95, 432 pages

This is book number three in the steerswoman's saga. Rowan is searching the records of the steerswomen's archives for clues as to the location of the head wizard's fortress. Thinking that she has found a clue to the location she goes into the Black Grass land and finds the unexpected. The planet has a native sapient life form! Oh how this complicates the problems faced by Rowan. How do their presence complicate the ethics of routine bioform clearance? Where is the head wizard? How will the outskirters continue to find red grass for their herds?

The Lost Steersman is a good novel but it would be best to read the first two novels first. Ms. Kirstien is an excellent author. This book is well written, colorful and imaginative. I liked this novel, and

(Cont'd on page 21)

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2004

October 28-31, 2004

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, Arizona

Artist Guest of Honor:

Janny Wurts

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



Editor Guest of Honor: Ellen Datlow

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

More Guests to be Announced

The World Fantasy Convention is the annual professional convention for Fantasy Authors, Artists, and Editors. The 2004 edition in Tempe, Arizona has a theme of Women of Fantasy and Horror. It will feature a Dealer's Room, Art Show, Programming featuring our Guests of Honor and other participants including discussion panels, workshops and readings, the World Fantasy Awards Banquet, Mass Autographing Session, Artists Reception, and more.

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www.worldfantasy2004.org

In Our Book (cont'd from page 20)

strongly recommend the series. - **William B. Whitmore**

Humans

**Book two of the Neanderthal Parallax
by Robert J. Sawyer
TOR, 381 pages, \$24.95**

In this book Ponter convinces the High Gray Council to reopen the portal between the worlds. Reunited with Mary the two of them explore what a relationship between the two of them would mean and what it would cost. This is a very intriguing method which allows the author to explore the most basic concepts which underlay our society. What is justice? Is religion a foolish myth? What makes a person human?

While this book does not have the action adventure that I usually look in a good story, it still kept my interest. The emotional conflict suffered by the protagonists is intriguing. The unusual viewpoint used to explore our society is novel. I enjoyed this book very much and anyone who has read *Hominids* will be eager to see how the story is continued in *Humans*. I enjoyed the Neanderthal Parallax and would recommend it to anyone who is interested in exploring the truly unique world view offered by Mr. Sawyer. - **William B. Whitmore**

Wit'ch Star

**by James Clemens
Del Rey, 544 pages, \$24.95**

Wit'ch Star is the fourth book of *The Banned & The Banished* series [the Witch War saga]. It can stand alone.

The three deadly Weirgates have been destroyed, but the threat of the Dark Lord remains. Elena, the Wit'ch of spirit and stone, and her companions have gone to prepare for their final stand. Elena has gone for R&R to A'loa Glen. Along comes Harlequin Quail, a spy acting as Jester [or is it the reverse] arrives telling them they have one month to counter certain doom. One Weirgate remains. The Dark lord will use it to usher in a reign of evil without end. Hunted by the Dark Lord and his followers, with betrayal on all sides, the faithful companions will find that love and magic will be tested to the breaking point.

With shades of Robert Jordan, *Wit'ch Star* has all the elements of classic fantasy. It also has distinctive details and well drawn characters that make well worth reading. But save a couple evenings. At 544 pages, with no excess words, it will take some time to finish. - **Pam Allan**.

Enemies

**by Lee Hogan
ROC, 416 pages, \$6.99**

Enemies is the sequel to *Belarus*. In *Belarus* the star spanning Republic fell.

now a thousand years later the Union is trying to reunite the lost worlds that survived the fall. But the planet Belarus is special for here is the only world where both men and the ENEMY live. But in a thousand years of sharing the world with the ENEMY the people of Belarus have become a very stubborn, stiff-necked and intolerant people. The Union representatives are vexed and exasperated by the rulers of the planet but still they must try to bring the people of this world into the Union for it is the only place in the galaxy where man has met the ENEMY and not been exterminated in the most horrible manner.

Enemies is a fast paced novel of intrigue and suspense. It's references to things which happened in *Belarus* are well explained. The characters readily engage your sympathy and I would gladly recommend this book. It is a good stand alone novel and an even better sequel. - **William B. Whitmore**

**Hyperthought
By M.M. Buckner
Ace, 177 Pp, \$5.99**

Hyperthought is a stand alone Sci-Fi thriller. Jolie Sauvage is a Parisian tunnel rat, who has Jolie's Tours, excursions to Earth's toxic surface for the rich. Most of the world belongs to the coms, giant multinational companies who hold lifetime contracts on the workers who live in the tunnels beneath the surface. Jolie, an orphan, despises them all. Jin is the son of a com CEO, a movie star, but his mission is to overthrow the tyranny of the coms but has no idea how. He decides to try experimental neurosurgery to unleash the hidden potential of the brain in an effort to define his destiny. Jolie must free him, and save him from his father, the surgeon, and the forces of the coms and the com wars, and stay alive. With a few good friends, Jolie and Jin must save the world.. Can she also save Jin from the changes in his brain? This is a real page turner, well worth the price. Enjoy. - **Pam Allan**

**Between Darkness and Light
by Lisanne Norman
DAW, 752 pages, \$6.99**

Between Darkness and Light is book seven of the Sholan Alliance. A long and intricately woven tail of suspense, intrigue and personal development it makes an interesting stand alone novel. While there are frequent references to events that happened in prior books there is also enough explanation given so they are not detrimental to the story line.

This is the story of Captain Kusac's efforts to free his son from the clutches of his arch enemy. It should be easy, he is only a couple of hundred light years from home, weaponless, a guest on his enemy's space station, with his son's mind conditioned to force unconditional loyalty to his captor. Oh and just to make thing interesting the captain had to steal a star ship and be declared a traitor at home in order to rescue his son without causing an

interstellar war.

Ms Norman has done an excellent job and I am sure all of her fans are eagerly awaiting the release of this her newest book in the Sholan Alliance. - **William B. Whitmore**

**Ombria in Shadow
by Patricia A. McKillip
298 pp, \$14.00**

Ombria In Shadow is a stand alone fantasy.

When Ombria's prince, Royce Greve, dies, he leaves his son, and his mistress in the hands of his great aunt Domina Pearl, a ruthless and ambitious sorceress. The mistress is thrown out in the streets with no expectation of survival. The son and heir has little more with the Black Pearl as regent. The principality loses hope, and the portents of change appear with memories of the shadow Ombria that exists in parallel with gates between the two if only you knew where to look. Ducon

Greve, the bastard of the king, fights his own battles against rebels who would overthrow the regent and kill the heir. At the same time he must protect the heir from the Black Pearl. The mistress, Lydea, also wishes to protect Kyel, the son of her late lover. She survives, with the help of Mag, the" waxling". She wants to protect Ducon and Kyel. All seek the aid of Faey, Mag's mistress who lives between the worlds. Can any of them survive the malicious power of Domina Pearl, and how does this effect the fate of Ombria?

This is an extraordinary book. A fascinating journey through a maze of truth and illusion, of love and loss, of bravery and magic. It has beautiful characterization and witty and intelligent prose that borders on poetry. If you weren't a McKillip fan before, this could transform you. Your library is incomplete without it. - **Pam Allan**



WORLD HORROR CONVENTION 2004

APRIL 8-11, 2004
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ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR: Caniglia
An artist of strangely skewed visions of horror and the macabre. Illustrator and cover artist for many books and magazines in the genre.



EDITOR GUEST OF HONOUR: Stephen Jones
Stephen has been editor & writer of more than 70 books. He has accumulated over twenty awards including Bram Stoker Awards, British Fantasy Awards, World Fantasy Awards, and International Horror Guild Awards.

TOASTMASTER: David Morrell
Award winning author of twenty five novels of international intrigue, horror, and high-action thrillers including *Black Evening*, *First Blood*, *The Fifth Profession*, *The Totem*, *Assumed Identity*, *Extreme Denial*, and *The Protector*

MEDIA GUEST OF HONOR: Dee Snider
Star, writer and producer of Dee Snider's Strangeland, a horror cult classic movie, producer of Van Helsing's Curse – a Halloween Orchestra stage show & album, singer for Twisted Sister Rock band, & host of The House of Hair radio show,

WRITER'S WORKSHOP GUEST OF HONOR: Mort Castle
Mort Castle has been writing since 1967 and writes everything from novels to poetry. He will be running the Writer's Workshop at this year's convention.

More Guests To Be Announced

Memberships are US\$110.00 thru 9/30/03, US\$120.00 thru 3/31/04

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Email: whc2004@leprecon.org

www.whc2004.org

Club Listings

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

ADRIANEMPIRE 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.

ARIZONALANBASHERSLEAGUE 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 Tuscon 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

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.lepercon.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. The 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 listserv@ocsf@yahoo.com

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

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY A Phoenix based club interest-ed in the entire realm of SF, Fantasy and Horror film. PFFS has been in existence for 25 years, meeting every 6 weeks in member's

homes. Dues are \$10 per year. Membership includes newsletters, an annual film awards and various outings. For information, contact PFFS, P.O. Box 34023, Phoenix, AZ 85067 or call David Storck at (602) 274_7404, e_mail:Menzeez@aol.com.

RAGE ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST A Live Action Theatre Troupe based out of the ASU campus in Tempe, AZ. It is dedicated to the game Werewolf: The Apocalypse by White Wolf publishing. Contact Mike McLaughlin at (602)461-5842 or write 1730 W Emelita Place #2025, Mesa AZ 85202-3144 or warlok@aztec.asu.edu

RAW GAMES (Role-players & Wargamers, Inc.) Role-players & Wargamers, Inc. is the Valley's oldest role-playing and wargaming club. Currently meeting at 8159 W. Weldon in Phoenix every Sunday from 3pm-9pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (602) 849-9515. www.rawgames.org

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

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

SFACE (Speculative Fiction And Computer Enthusiasts) Phoenix College's one and only connection to the worlds of

(cont'd on page 23)

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 22)

speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, and horror as well as table top, live action and internet gaming, SFACE also serves as a guide through the Internet - both teaching basic use and utilizing as a source of speculative fiction. For more info contact Dr Ray Bromley at bromley.ray@a1.pc.maricopa.edu. The SFACE Web site is found at <http://www.pc.maricopa.edu/departments/studentact/organizations/sface/>

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

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM The kingdom of Atenveldt doth lie in the state of Arizona. Within the fair kingdom can be found six Baronies: Atenveldt, Mons Tonitrus, Twin Moons, SunDragon, Tir Ysgithr and Ered Sul. For more information on any of these or for general information on thy past tomorrows thou mayest contact Mistress Myrddina o Dolwyddelan (Terry Schwartz) PO Box 584, Sonoita AZ 85637 (520)455-5835 Email: myrddina1@aol.com www.atenveldt.org

THE SOUTHWEST COSTUMER'S GUILD The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose organization of persons interested in all facets of historical, cultural, science fiction, fantasy, and humor costume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes at local and regional Science Fiction Convention masquerades. They meet on the last Sunday of each month at various members' homes in the greater Phoenix area. For details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or Randall Whitlock at costumers@casfs.org or www.southwestcostumersguild.org

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

SUPERSTITION SPACE MODELING SOCIETY is Arizona's club for builders of model and high power rockets and those who love to see them fly. Launches are held on the second Saturday morning of each month in Rainbow Valley. SSS hosts the annual G. Harry Stine Memorial Rocket Launch every October. Visit www.sssrocketry.org for membership information, directions to the launches and meetings, and to read the monthly newsletter, "Newton's Minutes."

TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. TARDIS meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, fund-raisers, auctions, games, camping trips and outings. We also maintain an active presence at local conventions. TARDIS publishes a monthly informative newsletter, *The Index File*, with a national circulation which is included with membership. Annual membership is just \$12.50. You can contact us at 2243 W Wagon Wheel Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85021, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@primenet.com or visit <http://www.primenet.com/~jgeorge/tardis.html>

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

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

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

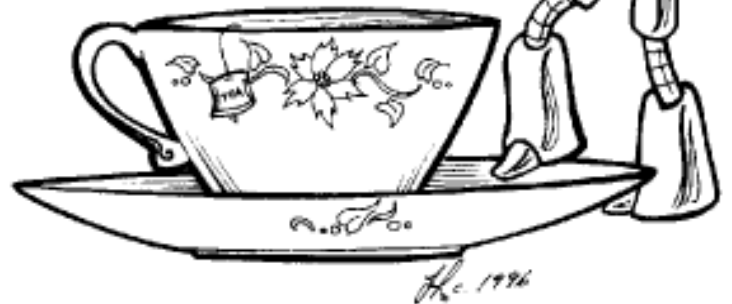
USS STORMBRINGER The Stormbringer is a correspondence Star Trek fan club chapter of Starfleet, Intl. based out of Tucson AZ. The chapter was commissioned as the USS Stormbringer NCC-74213, attached to Division 31, Starfleet Covert Operations, on 10/31/98. As of 11/29/98 there were 32 members. There are no dues other than the \$15 for joining Starfleet Intl.. Members are scattered world wide but the primary clusters are in Tucson, AZ and Plano, TX. They don't meet on a regular basis since they are a

correspondence chapter. Their web site is: <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Vault/9505/> and their contact/CO is Capt. Dave Pitts, thepitts52@hotmail.com.

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

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIXA Phoenix area Star Trek and general SciFi fan club. We are a social club that meets every two weeks at various locations around the Phoenix area. The UFP has been meeting for over 25 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$15/per year prorated when you join; no restrictions. Membership includes membership roster and monthly newsletter. Come to any two meetings at no obligation. For information, write the UFP at PO Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203. Web page: <http://www.U-F-P.org> or Email to Info@U-F-P.org

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



What is CASFS?

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



2560 W. Indian School Rd.

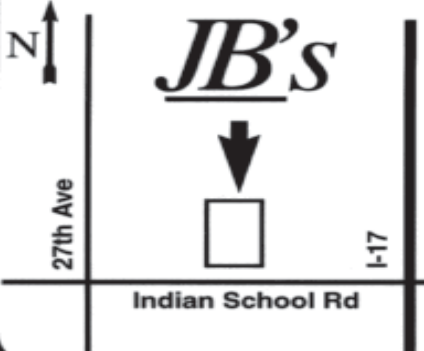
JB's Family Restaurant

wishes to thank
CASFS
for their patronage
over the years.

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

(602) 264-3608

Kenny & Maureen Borden



Convention Listings

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

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

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

ConRunners 6 (Phoenix AZ) **October 4, 2003** Room 3005 at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. A day long seminar on fan-run science fiction conventions. Are there things you would like to see at local conventions? Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in planning a convention? Then this is the place for you! Come, let your ideas be heard and pick up some tips from others. Registration opens at 8:30AM. Our Morning Session will be from 9AM to 1PM Topic Chair’s Duties, Lunch Break 1PM-2PM and Afternoon Session 2PM to 4PM: Picking a Theme 4PM-6PM Post CopperCon 23 discussion. We will provide

soda, coffee, tea and light munchies Membership: \$15 For more info: ConRunners, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082 or call 602-973-2341 ConRunners@westernsfa.org www.westernsfa.org

TusCon xXx (30) (Tucson, AZ) **Nov 14-16, 2003** at the InnSuites Hotel, GOH: Yvonne Navarro, Musical GOHs: Maya and Jeff Bohnhoff. Memberships: \$40 until Sept 6, 2003, and \$45 after that and at the door. Children (ages 3-12) are 1/2 current adult rates. Hotel: InnSuites Hotel, 475 North Granada, Tucson AZ 85701 Per night rates are \$69 (studio room) or \$79 (2-room suite). Reservations: 1-877-446-6589, Fax: 520-623-8922, Local: 520-622-3000 Info: TusCon, PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 or at basfa@earthlink.net. Web: http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/

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

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

Gallifrey One’s Fifteen Minutes of Fame (Los Angeles, CA) **Feb 13-16, 2004** The Airtel Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, CA Guests: Colin Baker, Peter Davison + many more Memb: \$30 thru 5/31/03, \$35 thru 8/31/03, \$40 thru 11/30/03, \$45 thru 1/31/04 and \$50 at the door. Info: Gallifrey

Conventions, Post Office Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609 Email: info@gallifreyone.com

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

LepreCon 30 (Phoenix AZ) **May 7-9, 2004** Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention with an emphasis on Art Artist GoH: Donato Giancola; Local Artist GoH: Sylvana Anderson; Other Guests TBA Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021 Room Rates: \$79 S/D, \$99 T/Q +tax 602-943-8200 or 800-423-4126 Memberships are \$25 through 8/30/03, \$30 thru 12/31/03; Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 & Under Free (with Adult membership) Write: LepreCon 30, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285, Phone: (480) 945-6890 ,Email: lep30@leprecon.org Web: http://www.leprecon.org/lep30

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

HexaCon 14 (Tempe AZ) **July 29*-Aug 1, 2004** Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ, Gaming starts on Friday and runs 24 hours until Sunday 4PM. Events include RPGA, LARP, LAN Party, CCG, Battletech and much more. Also Anime and a full consuite. ***THURSDAY EVENTS** for pre-registered members only include Barry Bard’s Movie Previews and Giveaways Memb: \$15 until 12/31/2003, Hotel: info: Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ (800) 547-8705 Room Rates: \$85 S/D/T/Q, Info: www.hexacon.org or 602-973-2341

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

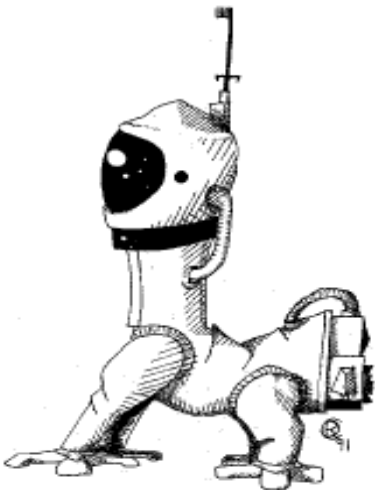
Musty Tomes

When Harlie Was One
By David Gerrold
Ballatine Books, Inc., 247 pp
Out of print

I think this book rightly belongs in the category of cyberpunk. H.A.R.L.I.E. is a Human Analog Robot Life Input Equivalents computer. He is the computer that can think and learn; therefore, the author argues, he is essentially human. Our hero, David Auberson, is HARLIE’s psychologist. David is forced by the corporation that built and owns HARLIE to justify the expense of continuing the project. In other words, the bookkeepers want to kill HARLIE. David challenges HARLIE to devise a profitable reason for his continued existence. HARLIE gives them G.O.D., a Graphic Omniscient Device. This computer would be able to answer all questions. ALL questions, including the one about *our* existence.

The author presents a clever story where you have to determine who is second-guessing who - the scientists or HARLIE. HARLIE is much more than the scientists know, which is very insulting to the scientists since everything HARLIE is and can do was programmed by the researchers. Gerrold doesn’t give his scientists much intelligence when their creation can do things that take them by surprise. Past that, the fundamental question is, I think, whether we should do a thing just because we *can*. Should we build a computer that can answer all our questions? What would that do to us? Gerrold glosses over that question, preferring instead, to focus on the miracle of HARLIE’s awareness.

I enjoyed this story, despite how dated the technology and references were. In fact, it was amusing to read while considering where the technology was in 1972; at times, prophetic. It won a Nebula for Best Novel in 1972. - Catherine Book



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Generic Convention Regestration 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