

ConNotations

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

A Conversation with CJ Cherryh and David Cherry By Catherine Book

I asked CJ the obvious opening question: When did you start writing? She said her first book was published around 1975-6 but she was writing when she was ten years old. She was a very enterprising 14-year-old when she submitted her first piece to the Saturday Evening Post and received her first rejection slip. I commented that she must've been a very brave little girl and she answered no, she was just determined.

The next most obvious question we all ask is: Who had the most influence on your writing? She told me she read a lot of historical books, Edgar Rice Burroughs and Robert E. Howard. She learned scene-shifting from ERB at the amazing age of 11-12. She never had much use for 'creative writing' or 'modern fiction' classes. It seemed apparent to her at a



very young age that what *she* needed was to watch how someone did something and then copy it. And keep copying it until she got it right and then move on. By the time

she was a freshman in college she was ready to start experimenting with technique. She actually picked up a 'how to write' book while in grad school but I suspect she didn't find anything new in it by then.

I asked her what else interested her. Apparently...everything (except French-Rococco architecture.) CJ told me that from an early age she had books around her on everything from Roman and

Greek art and law to geology and paleontology. She once tried to make a compendium of Roman law and another time she tracked ethnic groups in bronze-age Greece. Legal systems fascinate her with their quirkiness. I asked her if these interests still contribute to her writing and she quickly answered yes. She said she frequently dips back into these things if she needs them while she's writing. She indicated that this varied background of knowledge is great to have

while world-building; it helps her define people, their attitudes and their culture. I was amused at her example of ancient

(Continued on page 10)

Featured Inside

SF Tube Talk

All the latest news about
Scienc Fiction TV shows

24 Frames

All the latest Movie News

Pro Notes

News about local
genre authors, artists and fans

Musical Notes

The latest news of Filk and Filkers
from Tom Tuerff

Costume Closet

Articles Covering Topics of interest
in the constuming field

ReAnimation

Reviews of Anime
on DVD and VHS

Screening Room

Reviews of current theatrical releases
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
Shrek 2
Van Helsing

In Our Book

Reviews of New SF/F Books

A Novel Idea

Upcoming books

Special Features

A Conversation with
C.J. Cherryh and David Cherry
by Catherine Book

Slogging through the Blogs
By Shane Shellenbarger

In Memorium

Katherine Lawrence

Plus our Regular Features:

CASFS Business Report

Event Calendar

Area events, TV premires,
DVD & Movie releases

FYI

News and tidbits of
interest to fans

Club Listings

Convention List & Generic Registration Form

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Editor's Assistant: Gary Swaty
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Calendar Editor: Mark Saint Cyr
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Catherine Book, Charles Cady, Craig L. Dyer, Michael Griffin, Brandon Huigens, Sean Martin, Dawn Mullan, Shane Shellenbarger, Gary Swaty, Tom Tuerff, Lee Whiteside, Randall Whitlock, Mike Willmoth

Layout & Design: Stephanie L. Bannon
Advertising: Catherine Book
Keeper of the Mailing List: Craig L. Dyer
Contributors:

Labeling Crew for Volume 14 Issue 2:
Catherine & Ron Book, Craig L Dyer, Ray & Pinkie Gish, Bob & Lori LaPierre, Sue & Jo Martin, Milly McCloskey, Gary Swaty, Bill Whitmore

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SF Tube Talk
TV News & Previews
By Lee Whiteside

It's summer which means there is lots of new stuff on cable for you to watch, especially on SciFi and USA Network (and a little bit on TNT) as well as a few leftovers on the broadcast networks. Starting at the beginning of June on USA Network is the third season of The Dead Zone. Joining the cast for at least six episodes will be Sarah Wynter (Kate Warner on 24) as Rebecca Caldwell, a woman Johnny meets when her sister, a campaign volunteer working for the charismatic but unscrupulous congressional candidate Greg Stillson, suddenly disappears. Rebecca, a therapist who has experience with criminal defendants, quickly focuses on Johnny as the prime suspect. Johnny is accused of murder and, as he becomes embroiled in an ongoing mystery, his relationship with Rebecca takes several turns. Johnny also will learn more about his relationship to the "future man" introduced late in the second season. Other upcoming episodes include Cold Hard Truth where comedian Richard Lewis guest stars as a radio shock jock who seems to have a death wish and also likes to target Johnny, Looking Glass where Johnny has a vision of a murder and the "murderer" claims that Johnny's visions are a violation of their civil rights, and No Questions Asked which looks at Sheriff Walt's less-than-perfect past and guest stars Greg Grunberg (Alias). Also coming up on USA network is the six hour limited series The 4400. It centers on the return of 4,400 people who, previously presumed dead or reported missing, reappear on Earth. Though they have not aged physically, some of them seem to have deeper alterations ranging from superhuman strength to an unexplained healing touch. A government agency is formed to track the 4,400 people after one of them commits a murder. 4,400 is created by Scott Peters (The Outer Limits), written by Peters and Rene Echevarria (Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Dark Angel) and executive produced by Francis Ford Coppola, American Zoetrope, and Ira Behr. Starring are Peter Coyote, Joel Gretsch, Jacqueline McKenzie, Michael Moriarty, Mahershalalhashbaz Ali, Laura Allen, Kaj-Erik Eriksen, and Chad Faust. It debuts with a two hour movie on Sunday, July 11th. Over at TNT, they've got a four hour miniseries based on Stephen King's Salem's Lot airing on Sunday June 20 and Monday June 21st. A dark terror has come to the picture-perfect town of Jerusalem's Lot, and it's up to a writer with a haunted past to uncover the horror that has taken over the town. On the surface, Jerusalem's Lot (affectionately referred to as Salem's Lot by the natives)

appears to be a picture-perfect small town, right out of a Norman Rockwell painting. But there is something evil festering in this Maine hamlet, and it seems to be emanating from the ominous Marsten House. Ben Mears (Rob Lowe) returns to Salem's Lot to wrestle with the demons of his past by writing a book about the town and its inhabitants. As a child, Ben had a horrifying experience in the house that left him emotionally scarred. But Ben soon discovers that he is not the only newcomer to town. An antique dealer named Richard Straker (Donald Sutherland) has also arrived to open up a new shop with his silent partner, Kurt Barlow (Rutger Hauer). Before long, strange things begin to happen. A series of mysterious deaths and disappearances eventually lead Ben, waitress Susan Norton (Samantha Mathis), high school teacher Matt Burke (Andre Braugher) and Father Donald Callahan (James Cromwell) on a quest to uncover the terrifying truth. What they find challenges their notions about the nature of evil, as horrors both human and inhuman threaten to destroy the town's way of life. Showtime will begin airing the second season of Dead Like Me on Friday nights beginning in early July. Not much is known about the new season, although star Ellen Muth has indicated that her character, George, will still have problems with authority but will have settled into her job as a reaper. As for when Showtime will air the remaining episodes of Jeremiah, no one, not even producer J. Michael Straczynski, seems to know. If it is summer, then SciFi breaks out a lot of new stuff. Kicking things off will be the five hour miniseries Five Days to Midnight airing for four nights beginning Monday June 7th with the first two hours and the remaining three episodes over the next three nights and a repeat airing of all five hours on Sunday, June 13th. College physics professor J.T. Neumeyer (Timothy Hutton) finds a mysterious briefcase containing a police file filled with details of a gruesome murder - his own. The file, complete with photos of his bullet-strewn corpse and a list of suspects, indicates the shooting will take place in five days. Though skeptical at first, when events begin to mirror those in the report, J.T. realizes the file is real and that his time is quickly running out. He has

(Continued on page 4)

24 Frames
Movie News
By Lee Whiteside

The summer movie season is well under way with Van Helsing, Troy, Shrek 2, and The Day After Tomorrow getting the box office off to a big start. We've got news on the currently filming Batman Begins, Elektra, and Hitch Hiker's Guide as well as news and rumors on other projects in the works. Production on Batman Begins is well under way in London and we have an official summary of sorts. When fate prevents him from avenging the deaths of his parents, young Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) flees to Asia where he seeks counsel from a dangerous Ninja cult leader known as Ra's al Ghul (Ken Watanabe). When he returns, Bruce finds that Gotham City has become overrun with crime and corruption, and that there are forces at work trying to remove him from his inherited place as the owner of Wayne Industries. Discovering a cave under Wayne Manor, Bruce assumes a new identity as a secret detective and guardian of the people of Gotham City against the criminals that plague them. Also starring are Michael Caine (Alfred Pennyworth), Morgan Freeman (Lucius Fox), Rutger Hauer, Katie Holmes (Rachel Dodson), Cillian Murphy (Dr. Jonathan Crane), Liam Neeson (Ducard), Gary Oldman (Sgt. Jim Gordon), and Tom Wilkinson (Carmine Falcone). Jennifer Garner is busy during her summer break from Alias filming Elektra, a sequel to the Daredevil movie. Follow-

ing the events of Daredevil, Elektra Natchios (Jennifer Garner), sai enthusiast and assassin for hire, is revived by the Order of the Hand, a group of assassins who helped train her. Assigned by the Hand's current leader, Kirigi, to kill a man, Mark Miller (Goran Visnjic), and his 13-year-old daughter, Abby, Elektra soon befriends them and decides to stand up to her Ninja peers. Elektra is especially motivated to do so when she discovers that Miller's grandfather was an ally of her former mentor, Stick (Terence Stamp), who is the blind martial arts teacher responsible for training a certain eyesight-challenged ex-boyfriend of hers... Together, the foursome must take on Kirigi's lethal quartet (which includes Tengu and Typhoid), before Elektra ultimately takes on Kirigi himself. In the burgeoning trend of TV series to the big screen, we've definitely got the Firefly movie starting filming in June, with all nine cast members from the series involved as well as David Boreanz (Angel) joining into the fray. According to lead Nathan Fillion, the movie is planned to be the first of a trilogy if it does well. The successful DVD release of Roswell may also spur a theatrical movie. Reports are that series creator Jason Katims is developing a movie to continue the adventures of the alien teenagers. Of course, there's also the Babylon 5 movie, which has yet to be announced, but more little tidbits keep working their way out. Latest word from J. Michael Straczynski is that the storyline may have something to do with the technomages and issues that would have transpired in the Crusade series had it continued. Readers of the Babylon 5 novels know

(Continued on page 5)

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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 3)

only days to solve the mystery of his own murder - and hopefully change the course of the future. **Nicole de Boer** and **Randy Quaid** co-star.

New movies in June on SciFi are **Post Impact** (June 12) which stars **Dean Cain** and **Nigel Bennett** in a near future Earth where a meteor crash has left nearly all of Earth uninhabitable. The survivors have formed a new government near the equator but when they detect other survivors in the frozen region of Berlin, they send a team to investigate. When the first team doesn't come back and a second team is sent to undertake a suicide mission to find out what is really going on. In **Decoy** (June 26), Corey Sevier is a college freshman trying to get noticed by the ladies, but when a rash of bizarre deaths start happening, he begins to suspect that the two hottest girls on campus aren't exactly human.

The big news on SciFi is the return of **Stargate SG-1** for its eighth season and the debut of its spinoff series, **Stargate Atlantis**. **Stargate SG-1** returns with a two hour opener, *New Order*, on Friday July 9th, following the events in the season finale that left Jack O'Neill near death in bio-stasis. The SG-1 team goes in search of the Asgard to try and save Colonel O'Neill, but discover that the Asgard's most deadly enemy has returned with a vengeance. The System Lords seek an alliance with Earth against a common enemy and Stargate Command will never be the same. This will tie into the debut of **Stargate Atlantis** which debuts the following week with its own two hour opening episode, *Rising*. Guest starring in the **Atlantis** opener are **Robert Patrick** as Colonel Marshall Sumner, **Richard Dean Anderson**, and **Michael Shanks**. Before we get into more about **Atlantis**, there's more to talk about on **SG-1**. **David DeLuise** will return as Pete Shanahan, Carter's new love interest, **Robert Picardo** will also return as Agent Woolsey, and **Jolene Blalock** as the Jaffa warrior Ishta. To accommodate **Richard Dean Anderson's** schedule, O'Neill will end up in charge of Stargate Command when Dr. Weir leaves to take command of the Atlantis team. This will make it easier for the writers to have stories where O'Neill doesn't have to be taken out of commission for half the episode.

Following the events in the **Atlantis** opener, O'Neill gets quickly bogged down in paperwork and is dealing with the latest Russian representative, Colonel Dimitri Karpov, who tries to get assigned to the SG-1 team. When Karpov appears to be stricken by a mysterious disease, O'Neill puts the base into *Lockdown* (the episode title), but they soon discover it is a disembodied alien presence trying to get through the Stargate. In *Avatar*, Teal'c is trapped in a virtual reality simulation, in which he must defend the base from a Goa'uld super-soldier incursion. *Zero Hour* sees O'Neill and the S.G.C. prepare for an important visitor, but face never-ending catastrophes -- including the

capture of SG-1 by the Goa'uld System Lord Baal.

SciFi describes **Stargate Atlantis** as "A whole new adventure with a new team begins in the successful **Stargate** universe. A secret base left by the originators of the Stargate is found in the most unlikely of places: on Earth, buried within the ruins of the legendary civilization Atlantis. The implications of this discovery lead the team to a distant galaxy, where they find a primitive human civilization threatened by a sinister new enemy." Leading the Atlantis team will be Dr. Elizabeth Weir, played in the series by **Torri Higginson**, who has been given the opportunity to lead an international team through the gate to a new galaxy on a grand mission to save all of humanity. Joining her will be Major John Sheppard, played by **Joe Flanigan**, a gifted military pilot, who once defied a direct order and flew his helicopter to rescue two Rangers trapped behind enemy lines. Though people might see a good-ol' boy exterior, he is also a closet mathematical genius. On board as the team's astrophysicist is the brilliant and arrogant Dr. Rodney McKay, played by **David Hewlitt**, who has been seen previously on SG-1, attempting to impress Samantha Carter and failing miserably. He is also one of the world's leading authorities on Stargate technology and the science of gate travel. For additional military support, they have Lt. Aiden Ford (**Rainbow Sun Francks**), who is a young officer who volunteers for the Atlantis mission and is a good man in a tight spot. The team's medical doctor is Carson Beckett (**Paul McGillion**) a Scottish man with a witty sense of humor who also possesses the rare gene that allows him to use the Ancients technology. Rounding out the team is Teyla Emmagan (**Rachel Luttrell**), a native of the post-apocalyptic alien world the Atlantis team first travels to. She joins with the Atlantis team to help fight against the new alien menace, The Wraith, and also develops a romance with Major Sheppard.

In the **Atlantis** opener, the team activates the Atlantis stargate, which will be their base and travel to a world that had been decimated by a race known as The Wraith, who may have been responsible for the defeat of The Ancients. They meet up with Teyla's people, who appear to be impoverished but still have control of some impressive technology, although they keep it hidden from The Wraith, who periodically show up to cull their human herd. Other episodes to follow include *Hide and Seek*, where the Atlantis base is threatened when the team discovers that an alien entity is in the city and McKay's experiment with alien technology goes awry, *Childhood's End* where Sheppard and the team visit a world where no one is over 24 years old - because of a ritual suicide practice they believe keeps the Wraith at bay, and *Poisoning the Well* where the Atlantis team gates to another world used by the Wraith as a feeding ground - but whose people are on the

brink of a discovery that may make them immune to their enemy.

In other SciFi news, there's lots of stuff in the works for later in the year and early next year. The big news is the return of **Farscape** to SciFi, for a four hour miniseries dubbed **Farscape Peacekeeper War**. It will likely air in October and will provide an ending for the TV series. Not much is yet know about the storyline, but expect lots of explosions. According to reports, they actually used up all available explosives in the continent during filming earlier this year and had to import more to be able to finish filming.

Filming for the **Anonymous Rex** TV movie has completed in Canada and a few new bits of casting information have been released. Playing Ernie Watson's dino daughter will be **Stephanie Lemelin** and guest starring as members of the ruling dino council will be **Faye Dunaway** and **Isaac Hayes**. SciFi's press release for the **Earthsea** miniseries airing in December revealed the major cast. "This epic fantasy, based on **Ursula K. Le Guin's** award-winning "*Earthsea*" novels, follows the adventures of a Ged (**Shawn Ashmore**), a reckless youth destined to become the greatest sorcerer that the mystical land of Earthsea has ever known. When Ged discovers that he possesses infinite magical powers, he seeks to master the ancient arts with the help of the legendary wizard Ogion (**Danny Glover**). As he battles unimaginable evils, Ged finds an ally in Tenar (**Kristin Kreuk**), the vibrant and devout pupil to High Priestess Thar (**Isabella Rossellini**).

New miniseries in development announced by SciFi include **Ringworld**, based on the **Larry Niven** novels, **Blackwater**, based on **Michael McDowell's** series, **History of the Devil** from **Clive Barker**, and the **Dresden Files**, based on the best selling novels by **Jim Butcher**. In development for possible series are **Witchhunter Robin**, a live action adaptation of the popular anime series, **Eureka**, about a think tank community in the Pacific Northwest where strange, amazing and bizarre things happen, **Motel Man**, where a police detective discovers a collection of mundane objects with strange powers, including a special motel room key, and **Kyra**, a series based on the movie **Chronicles of Riddick**, following the adventures Alexa Davalos' character as she joins a band of mercenaries in a search for her mentor. They also have some more alternative/reality series including **Stranded**, which looks at what would happen if two teams were stranded on an alien planet, **Monster Smash** which is described as WWE with actors made up to look like monsters, and the animated comedy **Amazing Screw-On Head**, based on the comic book created by **Mike Mignola**. Movies in the works for SciFi include **Species III**, a group of movies under the banner of "**Stan Lee Movies**", **Slipstream** with **Sean Astin** as a rogue scientist with a time travel device, **The Man With the Screaming Brain** and

Alien Apocalypse, both starring **Bruce Campbell**.

Filming has started on the weekly series for **Battlestar Galactica**. Original series star **Richard Hatch** (Apollo) will be making a guest appearance in an early episode as a prisoner of conscience, who escapes from the prison ship he is being held on. Producer **Ron Moore** and **Hatch** met at the **Galactica** anniversary convention last fall and were able to work things out so **Hatch** can make an appearance on the new series. **Moore** says the character could come back, but isn't making any commitments to it yet.

Over on Cartoon Network, the final episode of the **Justice League** series, **Starcrossed**, aired in late May with a July video release planned (just in case you missed it). Debuting in August will be **Justice League Unlimited** which incorporates a bold new look and a much larger scope. Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman and Green Lantern continue to lead the universe's most powerful superheroes in an effort to stop criminal plots and alien threats that endanger the universe. In **Justice League Unlimited**, they are joined by an even greater collection of heroes, some of whom are well-known, like Supergirl, Green Arrow and the Atom, as well as some that are less familiar, like Booster Gold, Hawk & Dove, Elongated Man, The Question, Mister Miracle, Big Barda and Zatanna. Each half-hour will tell a power-packed story, combining some of the original heroes with new ones as they band together to battle alien invasions, powerful sorcerers, vast shadowy conspiracies and even ancient gods.

Debuting on Kids WB this fall (and airing later on Cartoon Network), will be a new Batman series, called **The Batman**. The series, which will feature a continuity unrelated to the classic **Batman: The Animated Series**, will be about a young Batman in the third year of his crime-fighting career as he struggles to establish himself as the protector of Gotham City while balancing his crime-fighting role with his public persona as billionaire bachelor Bruce Wayne. Such classic Rogue's Gallery villains as the Joker, the Penguin, Catwoman, Mr. Freeze, the Riddler and the Man-Bat will appear in stories that detail Batman's first encounters with them. The series' theme song will be performed by U2 member **The Edge**. **Rino Romano** will voice Bruce Wayne, **Michael Richardson** The Joker, **Tom Kenny** the Penguin, **Alastair Duncan** will voice Alfred, **Adam West** will appear as the Mayor and **Gina Gershon** will voice Catwoman.

At press time, we're in the middle of the broadcast networks up front presentations laying out their plans for the fall and into the next year. Several are touting that they are going to more of a year round schedule as FOX has been doing and we'll be seeing a few series running continuously for several months instead of being spread out over a season

(Continued on page 5)

SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 4)

with repeats and preemptions. The amount of new genre shows is pretty low and several higher profile pilots (like **Dark Shadows** and **Lost In Space**) were not picked up, but could possibly show up on another network or cable. Of course, there's lots more reality shows which is also limiting the number of slots available for scripted dramas. All in all, we're definitely in a bit of a downturn and nothing newly announced looks to reverse the trend much.

First up was PAX, which is continuing **1-800-Missing**, but renaming it just **Missing**. They will likely be continuing the psychic element of the show, but it may get downplayed some. PAX will have a series based on the **Left Behind** novels which deals with the aftermath when in one cataclysmic moment, millions around the world disappear leaving the world in turmoil as the remaining people search for their loved ones and wonder why they have been **Left Behind**.

NBC is dipping it's toes back into the genre waters a bit, with a paranormal drama **Medium** and an end of the world series **Revelations**, both slated for mid-season. **Medium**, stars **Patrica Arquette** as someone who sees dead people, all of the time and really doesn't like it, but has learned to live with it. Her challenge is to convince law enforcement agencies that she's the real deal. **Jake Weber** co-stars as her logical husband who is also a rocket scientist with **Miguel Sandoval** as D.A. Devalos. Dipping into the biblical area (I guess they didn't note the lack of success for **Miracles**) will be **Revelations**. It stars **Bill Pullman** as a "scientist faced with the toughest personal, professional and philosophical challenges of his life. Dr. Richard Massey is searching for reasonable explanations - to explain signs that seem to indicate the apocalyptic end as foretold in Scriptures is in motion. To save humanity, Massey will have to let go of scientific facts and embrace faith. His first step in his quest to conquer the impending evil is to align himself with a nun (**Natascha McElhone**) whose devout beliefs are unshakeable. Despite many obstacles, including their own fears and doubts, the two remain determined to prove that Man can regain control of fate. Time is literally running out in their thrilling, fast-paced race around the globe to thwart Armageddon - and restore hope."

ABC will be experimenting with running several of their series straight through. **Alias** will be one of those and will not start airing until January. Taking over the **Alias** time slot in the fall will be **Desperate Housewife**", which seems to be a standard domestic soap opera with a bit of a supernatural twist. We will be seeing things through the eyes of deceased housewife Mary Alice, who killed herself (or did she?). **Sheryl Lee** stars as Mary Alice, with **Mark Moses**, **Cody Kasch**, **Teri Hatcher**, **Marcia Cross**, and

Felicity Huffman part of the ensemble cast of friends and neighbors. Never mind that the never aired FOX series **Still Life** had somewhat the same premise, but a deceased son watching over his family.

New for ABC on Wednesday is a series from **Alias** creator **J.J. Abrams** titled **Lost**. It's about a group of 48 survivors of a plane crash on a Pacific island that have to learn to work together and survive. It's "an action packed adventure that will bring out the very best and the very worst in the people who are lost". There are also mysterious creatures on the island stalking the jungle. Leading the cast is **Matthew Fox** as Jack, with **Dominic Monaghan** (Hobbit Alert!) as Charlie, **Evangeline Lilly** as Kare, **Ian Somerhalder** as Boone, and **Daniel Dae Kim** as island native Jin.

The WB does not have any new genre shows for the fall, having passed on **Dark Shadows** and **The Robinsons: Lost in Space**

CBS had only one genre series in development, **Colderon**, based on the movie **Practical Magic**. The pilot starred **Kim Delany** and **Jeri Ryan**. Other than that, look for more **Joan of Arcadia** and not much else other than three hours of the **CSI** franchise each week.

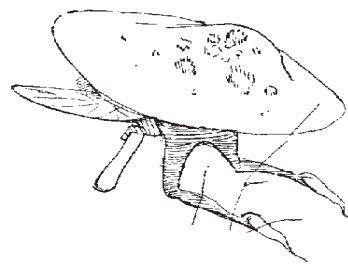
FOX has decided to stick with the low-rated status quo in a couple of areas, including renewing **Tru Calling**. The series steadily grew in its ratings over the season and adding **Jason Priestly** to the mix helped both with adding viewers and giving the series more focus and brought some series mythology to the forefront. FOX also has in development **Point Pleasant**, a drama described as a cross between **Peyton Place** and **The Omen** that takes place in a town shaken one summer when a mysterious girl washes ashore.

Finally, UPN is pretty much abandoning genre TV other than keeping **Star Trek Enterprise** around for one more

season. If it doesn't shore up it's ratings, a fifth season will not be likely, though. The only other genre series UPN was looking at was **Silver Lake**, which is about a record store owner who uses his psychic abilities to communicate with the dead and help them resolve issues they left behind. Enough with people talking to the dead, already! **The Sixth Sense** came out several years ago....

Across the pond, the BBC is moving ahead with the new **Doctor Who** series. As reported last time, **Christopher Eccleston** will be the new Doctor, having worked with series producer **Russell T. Davies** on the miniseries **Second Coming**. The Doctor's companion, Rose Tyler, has not yet been cast but should be announced soon since filming starts in July. The producers have been negotiating with the estates and various people who co-own rights to some of the classic Doctor Who monsters, including a quarter million pound deal with the estate of **Terry Nation** to be able to use The Daleks. The first episode is rumored to have an appearance by The Autons. Reports are the BBC may launch the series over the Christmas holidays. There is still no word on where the series might end up airing in the U.S. or Canada.

Doctor Who fans were also saddened by the news that **Anthony Ainley**, who played The Master in the 1980's and 1990's, passed away in early May after being ill for some time.



24 Frames (Cont'd from page 3)

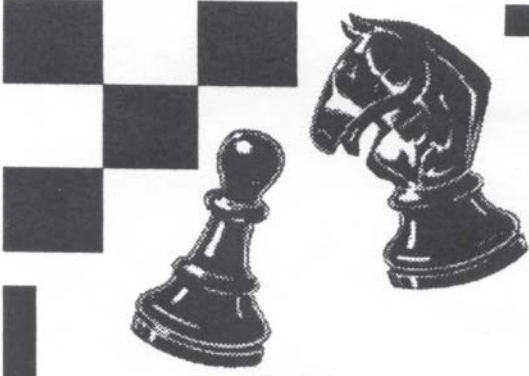
that there is a direct tie between the Technomages power and the Shadows and that could play a large part in the movie.

The release date for **Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow** has been pushed back to September 17th due to extra work needed for the visual effects (the movie is almost entirely CGI with the actors having been filmed on a sound stage).

In the rumor department, **Bruce Campbell** has responded to rumors about tying together **Evil Dead**, Jason and Freddy into a single movie. He says it's not out of the question, but also not imminent. He told SciFi Wire that "you have 17 lawyers, each going, 'Yeah, look at my franchise. Yeah, look at my franchise.' So you have to get past that. Then you have to get past the question of 'how will the characters be treated?' What would you do with Ash? There's no way I'd be in it if I lost. No way. The good guy has to win, especially in that movie. You couldn't kill two whole franchises, but we could sure maim them." There is apparently a sequel to **Freddy Vs. Jason** definitely in the works, to start filming later this year.

Other rumors include a new **Flash Gordon** movie being directed by **Stephen Sommers** (**Van Helsing**, **The Mummy**), although it could be pushed back if they decide to do a **Van Helsing** sequel. **Darren Aronofsky** is rumored to be in line to direct a movie version of the classic comic series **The Watchmen**. **Stephen Spielberg** and **Tom Cruise** are supposedly eying New Zealand as the location of a new movie based on **H. G. Wells War of the Worlds**. Also in the works is a movie based on **The Talisman**, by **Stephen King** and **Peter Straub**, which has **Ed Zwick** (**The Last Samurai**) rumored to be in talks to direct.

(Continued on page 6)



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24 Frames (Cont'd from page 5)

In the sequel department, the modest success of *Hellboy* has gotten a sequel in development with writer/director **Guillermo del Toro** working with *Hellboy* creator **Mike Mignola**. Director **Jon Favreau** (*Elf*) is in preproduction on a film adaptation of the children's book *Zathura*, the follow-up to 1995's *Jumanji*, written by **Chris Van Allsburg**.

Filming on *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* movie is underway and the major casting has all been announced. **Martin Freeman** of *The Office* will be Arthur Dent, **Mos Def** is Ford Prefect, **Zooey Deschanel** is Trillian, **Bill Nighy** is Slartibartfast, **Sam Rockwell** is Zaphod Beeblebrox, **Warwick Davis** will be Marvin the Paranoid Robot, **John Malkovich** is Humma Kavula (a religious cult leader created by **Douglas Adams** for the movie), and **Steve Pemberton** is Mr. Prosser. Expect regular updates on the official movie web site at www.hitchhikersmovie.com.

Movie previews for June & July
Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban - Harry is back and he's being hunted by escaped Wizard Sirius Black (**Gary Oldman**). Expect a fast paced adventure with a lot from the book left out to make the movie much shorter.

The Chronicles of Riddick - The further adventures of Riddick (**Vin Diesel**) continue five years later, as the escaped convict with the ability to see in the dark finds himself caught in the middle of a galactic war between two opposing forces, with the key figure being the Lord Marshal (**Colm Feore**), the leader of a sect called the Necromongers waging the "10th Crusade" in the 26th century. Helping Riddick is Aereon (**Judi Dench**), the Ambassador of the "Elemental" race, who helps Riddick unearth the secrets of his origin and Kyra (**Alexa Davalos**), who has grown up since Riddick knew her as a preteen girl in the first movie. Attempting to free himself and Kyra from a subterranean prison, Riddick ends up on board the Necromonger flagship, where he gets his chance to face off against the Lord Marshal in a battle over the future of all beings in the galaxy, both living... and dead.

The Stepford Wives - A young couple moves from Manhattan to the upper class suburb of Stepford, Conn., and discover that the Stepford men are replacing their wives with compliant robots. **Nicole Kidman, Matthew Broderick, Christopher Walken, Faith Hill, and Bette Midler** star.

Around the World in 80 Days - This version of the classic novel set in 1872 focuses on Passepartout (**Jackie Chan**), a Chinese thief who steals a valuable jade Buddha and then seeks refuge in the traveling companionship of an eccentric London inventor and adventurer, Phileas Fogg (**Steve Coogan**), who has taken on a bet with members of his gentlemen's club that he can make it around the world in a mere 80 days, using a variety of means of

transportation, like boats, trains, balloons, elephants, etc. Along the way, Passepartout uses his amazing martial arts abilities to defend Fogg from the many dangers they face. One major threat to their adventure is a detective that's following them. Why? Just as Fogg and Passepartout left London, a major bank was robbed, with Fogg suspected of using the "around the world" trip as an excuse to escape. Their path from London and back includes stops in Paris, Turkey, India, China and the

United States of America. Also appearing are **Jim Broadbent, Kathy Bates, and John Cleese**.

Darkness - A teenage girl (**Anna Paquin**) moves into a remote countryside house with her family, only to discover that their gloomy new home has a horrifying past that threatens to destroy the family. (**Lena Olin** plays her mother, Maria; **Iain Glen** plays her father). From Dimension films, which has had this on the shelf for two years.
Spider-Man 2 - Peter Parker does battle with Otto Octavius (aka Doctor Octopus) as he struggles with his relationship with Mary Jane and his best friend, Harry Osborne, who wants to kill his Spiderman alter-ego. **Alfred Molina** plays the bad guy, **Tobey Maguire** returns as Peter/Spiderman, **Kirstin Dunst** as Mary Jane, and **James Franco** is Harry. Also introduced is J. Jonah Jameson's son, astronaut John Jameson (**Daniel Gillies**), who is also Mary Jane's new boyfriend.

I, Robot - **Will Smith** stars in this action thriller inspired by the classic short story collection by **Isaac Asimov** and brought to the big screen by director **Alex Proyas** (*Dark City, The Crow*). In the year 2035, robots are an everyday household item and everyone trusts them, except one slightly paranoid detective (**Will Smith**) investigating what he alone

believes is a crime perpetrated by a robot. The case leads him to discover a far more frightening threat to the human race. The key word is "inspired" since previews indicate a lot of action and mass robot rebellions, which **Asimov** never wrote. Also starring are **Bridget Moynahan, James Cromwell, Bruce Greenwood, and Alan Tudyk** as the reference for the robot.

Catwoman - Set in Lake City (ie, not Gotham City), this is the story of Patience

Price (**Halle Berry**), a graphic artist who is murdered when she finds out a dark secret about the cosmetics company she works for, Avenal Beauty, which is a front for criminal exploits of the husband (**Lambert Wilson**) and wife (**Sharon Stone**) team that run it. Price is brought back to life, however, by an Egyptian Mao cat who is indebted to Patience for saving its life. Reborn with a new attitude, Patience Price becomes the new

(Continued on page 7)

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24 Frames (Cont'd from page 6)

Catwoman and sets out to see vengeance for her murder and to stop the evil doings of Avenal Beauty.

Thunderbirds - Set in the year 2065, this is the story of ex-astronaut and USAF Colonel Jeff Tracy (**Bill Paxton**) and his five sons who form a rescue team called International Rescue (nicknamed "The Thunderbirds") that uses a fleet of vehicles, from rockets to boats, to race into action whenever their unique services are required. Helping the Tracys are Brains (**Anthony Edwards**), a technological genius who invented the amazing rockets used by International Rescue; Jeff's assistant Kyrano and his daughter Tin-Tin; the lovely Lady Penelope (**Sophia Myles**), and her driver, Parker. In this adventure, Tracy Island is attacked by an evil mastermind, Aristotle Spode, AKA The Hood (**Ben Kingsley**), who wants to use the International Rescue vehicles to commit acts of crime. The emphasis of the story will be on Alan (**Brady Corbet**), the youngest of the clan, who will have to rescue his father and brothers from Spode's villainous clutches, with the help of two of his friends. Directed by **Jonathan Frakes**. No strings will be visible in this live action version of the classic Supermarionation series from **Gerry Anderson**.

The Manchurian Candidate - Captain Bennett Marco (**Denzel Washington**) and Sgt. Raymond Shaw (**Liev Schreiber**) served together during the Persian Gulf War (the first one), and were part of a platoon of U.S. soldiers who were kidnapped by the enemy, and brainwashed to become pawns once they return home. Now, ten years later, Raymond Shaw is climbing the political ladder, as his mother's (**Meryl Streep**) new husband is a powerful senator helping a presidential candidate. Marco, however, is not

dealing with the adjustment after the war as well, and eventually remembers being brainwashed. Knowing that it's just a matter of time before Shaw is called to service by his handler, Marco contacts Shaw to try to get through to him before something terrible happens... Yes, it's an update of the classic movie about brainwashing. **The Village** - Set in rural Pennsylvania in 1897, this is the story of the small village of Covington (population 60) surrounded by a woods inhabited by a race of "mythical creatures," and the romance that blossoms between Kitty (**Judy Greer**), the daughter of the town's leader (**William Hurt**), and Lucius (**Joaquin Phoenix**), a young man who questions the policy of keeping Covington's citizens completely confined to the village. Directed by **M. Night Shyamalan**

Musical Notes by Tom Tuerff

Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff - "Aliens Ate My Homework"

Self-production-Mystic Fig Studios ****

"**Aliens**" is the second CD of filk parodies by the **Bohnhoffs** (the first being "**Retro Rocket Science**" from a few years back) and features some time- and contested favorites that **Jeff** and **Maya** have been playing over the past few years.

As I write this, I just found out that one song here, "**We Are the Cubs Fans**," was played recently on the Dr. Demento Show to herald the start of the baseball season, and as a Cub fan myself, it's my favorite track here. Done to the tune of **Queen's** "**We are the Champions**," it shows off **Jeff Bohnhoff's** uncanny ability to literally re-create the sound of the original song in many cases, which, if you're hearing the song on the radio, can trick you into thinking you're hearing the

real thing until **Maya's** vocals begin.

As kids who came of age in the 70s, the **Bohnhoffs** like to play in that field for inspiration, and that's just fine with me. "**Carry Ons**" kicks off the album, a fine re-tooling of **Kansas's** "**Carry On Wayward Son**," but lyrically it talks about how you're only allowed on carry-on on a plane anymore, so people pack them to the point of bursting.

Of course, no child of the "Me" decade could resist sending up "**Stairway to Heaven**," and **Jeff Bohnhoff** doesn't disappoint. "**Railway to Hogwarts**" is a nearly note-for-note version of the **Led Zep** song that is a great addition to the rapidly growing (and very needing) repertoire of good Harry Potter filk out there.

Even the **Beatles** get filked here. "**Come to Mordor**" parodies "**Come Together**," telling the **Lord of the Rings** tale from the view of the Wringwraiths.

The 80s serve up even more candidates for the **Bohnhoff** wit. "**Every Mouse Just Wants to Rule the World**" is Pinky and the Brain meet **Tears for Fears**, and in "**Who's That Squirrel**," a parody of the **Eurythmics'** "**Who's That Girl**," Natasha starts to wonder if maybe jumping from the dark side (with Boris) to the good but weird side (with Bullwinkle) might be a good idea.

There are 16 tracks in all here, and most stay true to the original arrangements of the songs being spoofed. However, I have to give a thumbs up to **Jeff** and **Maya's** arrangement of "**The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down**," which in their hands becomes the Iron Chef's nightmare "**The Night Kaga Brought the Lutfisk Down**." This is a cool, origianl little arrangement that conjures up neither **The Band** or **Joan Baez**, and it's great.

You should be able to find this for sale aplenty at Westercon. Definitely pick this one up.

See you all at Westercon!

Tom Tuerff recently returned from a massive worldwide tour of Richmond, Va. find out if

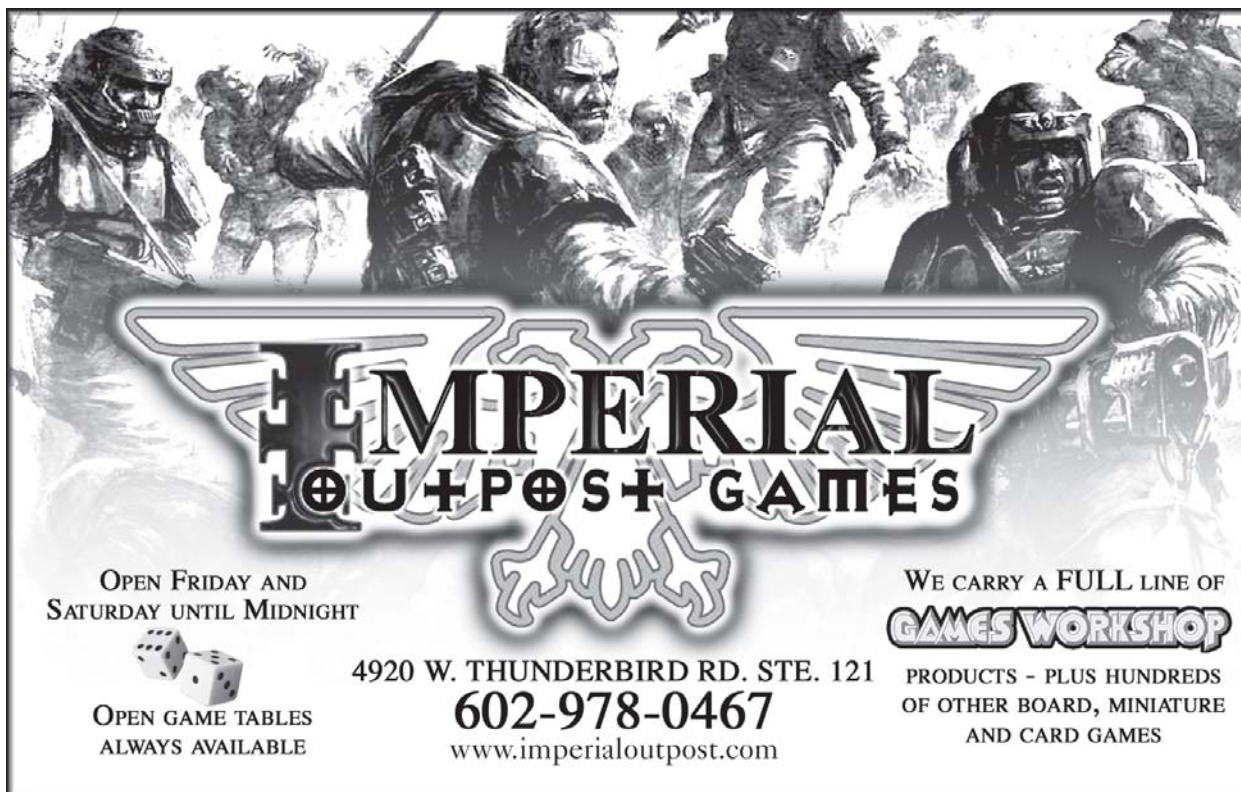
IN MEMORIAM

Katherine (Selbert) Lawrence
1954 – March 25th, 2004
by Shane Shellenbarger

On March 27th, hikers found the body of author, Katherine Lawrence, 80 miles southeast of Tucson, Arizona, along the banks of the San Pedro River. It was later determined that Lawrence died at about sunset on March 25th, an apparent suicide.

Her body of work includes the direct-to-video *The Secret of Mulan*, animated series *Legend of the Dragon*, *Stargate Infinity*, *X-Men Evolution*, *Kong*, *Roswell Conspiracies*, *War Planets (aka Shadow Raiders)*, *ReBoot*, *Conan the Adventurer*, *Dungeons & Dragons* (all credits prior to 1990 were as Kathy Selbert), live-action television series *Hypernauts*, *Captain Power and the Soldiers of the Future*, computer games *Stratosphere*, *This Means War*, *Humongoids* (with Christy Marx), *BattleVision* (with Christy Marx), non-fiction works including *Laurence Yep*, *Life in the Desert*, *Jean-Claude Van Damme*, and short fiction in *The Shimmering Door* (The Silicon Sword), *Enchanted Forests* (The Forest's Not For Burning), *The Ultimate Silver Surfer* (The Tarnished Soul), and *Weird Tales from Shakespeare* (No Sooner Sighed).

I knew Katherine Lawrence from that period in the 90's when Genie, CompuServe, and Prodigy were bigger than the Internet. She often exchanged ideas about writing with Judith Tarr, J. Michael Straczynski, and Christy Marx, among others. In addition to knowing her in cyberspace, I'd met Katherine at Phoenix conventions, several San Diego Comic-Conventions, and once at her apartment in Tucson with my wife, Laurie, and our friend, Larry Warner. I always found Katherine an interesting and intelligent conversationalist, and I am dismayed and saddened that her physical and economic troubles would lead to the depression that caused her to take her own life. Life has a way of causing time constraints and people find themselves drifting away from each other. It had been almost two years ago that I spoke to Katherine, and I regret that now. To those friends and family of Katherine Lawrence, please remember the good times and work at life, it's the only sure thing.
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Pro Notes

by Catherine Book

Welcome back to ProNotes. I think I'm getting the hang of it now. (If you don't see your favorite author here, email me and I'll see what I can do...)

This issue I have voices from within the horror genre. I was fortunate enough to meet some very interesting authors at World Horror who generously contributed to this issue. **Doug Clegg** tells me that he's finishing up the final draft on a novel called "Night Cage", which comes out under his pseudonym, Andrew Harper. Additionally, under his real name, a new paperback, "Nightmare House" comes out in May. He's been mainly writing, getting out on the bicycle to get a little exercise with the good weather, and hoping to settle in for the summer, working on yet another book, but won't mention what it is just yet. **David Morrell** is currently reading proofs of his story "Time Was" that will appear in "Taverns of the Dead," edited by Kealan Patrick Burke, from Cemetery Dance. Meanwhile, the paperback of "The Protector" will be in stores in May, and his new dark-suspense collection "Nightscape" will be published this summer. For details, see www.subterraneanpress.com. Next year's book will be a sequel to "The Protector," the final pages of which he's now writing. His website is www.davidmorrell.net.

Our own horror writer, **Adam Niswander**, had his short story collection, "Blurring the Edges of Dream: The Short Fiction of Adam Niswander," released by Prime Books, an imprint of Wildside Press last month. Still scheduled for publication later this year by Prime Books is the trade paperback release of "The Sand Dwellers" (originally published in 1998 by Fedogan and Bremer), and Adam's new young adult fantasy titled "Golden Dreams," the first book in THE HISTORIES OF LIGHT AND DARK. "Golden Dreams" is a story of the 'real Peter Pan.' 2005 should see the start of Meisha Merlin's releases of "Adam Niswander's Shaman Cycle Novels: Wind and Fang" (containing "The Charm" and "The Serpent Slayers") and "Adam Niswander's Shaman Cycle Novels: Heaven and Earth" (containing "The Hound Hunters" and "The War of the Whisperers"). *{About fri**ing time!}* Two of them were scheduled for release in 2004, but have been postponed until next year. Adam reports he has completed the fifth Shaman book, "The Nemesis of Night," and is currently working on the sixth Shaman book, "The Primal Pipers." He still plans to complete all thirteen planned novels. **Ramsey Campbell** reports that Tor has just published "Alone With The Horrors" with an expanded introduction and his very first published Lovecraftian tale. Babbage Press just

brought out a reissue of "The Height of the Scream" with a new introduction. Due later this month from PS Publishing is "The Overnight," his new supernatural novel, and right now he's at work on rewriting the next novel, "The Secret Stories." **Harry Shannon** just handed in the final novel in his NIGHT TRILOGY - "Night of the Daemon." This one is set for hardcover release by Medium Rare Books in August of 2004. Shannon is also busy promoting his first noir effort, "Memorial Day (A Mick Callahan Novel)" coming in May from Five Star First Edition Mysteries. Harry's protagonist is a disgraced former television psychologist on the comeback trail, who (like most of his other characters) runs into trouble in a spooky little Nevada town. And, last, but certainly not least, **Nancy Kilpatrick** tells me how much she enjoyed being the GoH at WHC. Apparently, she was really impressed by our con. She taught the editing workshop at the convention and from the responses of students, it was a hit. Even her guest editors: Stephen Jones, Don D'Auria, and Ramsey Campbell said they had fun. Nancy is just finishing up the anthology she and Nancy Holder are co-editing for Roc/NAL. "Gothika" will be handed in shortly and should see release in 2005. Nancy's POWER OF THE BLOOD series is being re-released by Mosaic Press. "Child of the Night" came out the end of last year and "Near Death" will be released in May. "Reborn" is coming in the fall, with "Bloodlover" to follow in 2005. Another re-release is Nancy's DARKER PASSIONS series of erotic horror, which she wrote under the pen name **Amarantha Knight**. Circler Press is doing the series and will follow-up with "Dracula" and "Frankenstein" with "Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde" and "Camilla" in 2004. They'll publish two titles a year thereafter.

On to the fantasy/S-F genre contributors: **E.T. Ellison** shared that 2004 is shaking out to be a pretty busy time on Bear Mountain: he just finished the second draft of a youth fantasy novel called "Night Funnels." And, he's hard at work on Book Two of the LAST NEVERGATE CHRONICLES -- "The Masks of Madonna 13"-- much of which takes place in what is currently known as Arizona. He's also underway with a new series of techno-thrillers being co-written with his brother, Scott (author of the forthcoming "Thodkin's Speak.") "Vegas Freaks" is the first title in the SOLVER series. **Jane Lindskold** reports that her latest novel, an archeological adventure fantasy titled "The Buried Pyramid," was released in May to some great reviews. She's anticipating the release of "Wolf Captured," the fourth novel in the FIREKEEPER SAGA this November. In June, she turns in the manuscript of "Child of a Rainless Year," a contemporary fantasy set largely in New Mexico. Currently, she's working on the fifth

FIREKEEPER novel. In between, she has squeezed in a couple of short stories, including three featuring a new continuing character named Andrasta. I heard from **Brian Aldiss** in England! -- He'll be at the Worldcon in Boston later in the year. Before that, he'll be at Jim Gunn's place at the University of Kansas, where he's been twice before. We're talking the Seattle Hall of Fame. His latest novel, "Affairs in Hampden Ferrers," is about to be turned into an unabridged audio book. He goes to the studios next week, to read "every damned word aloud." This week, he was in London at a broadcasting studio, part-scripting and compering an Archive Hour survey of Radio SF for the BBC. He has a house in the county of Norfolk coast. Right now, a film company is shackled up there, commencing filming of his novel, "Brothers of the Head." The story is horror/rock-n-roll. Two books of his are due to be published next year; "Sanity and the Lady," from Postscript Publications and "Jocasta" from the newly founded Rose Press. He's hoping that Little Brown may also bring out a new collection of surreal tales entitled "Cultural Breaks." He wrote an opera, a veritable opera, no speech, only song and recitative, OEDIPUS ON MARS. A friend in Santa Barbara is composing the music even now. He has about 65,000 words on the computer of a forthcoming novel, "The Walcot Novel," about which he is greatly excited. *(I had no idea he was so ...energetic... when I asked him to contribute...)*

On a briefer note, **Steven Barnes** says he's working on a murder mystery set in prehistoric Africa entitled "Great Sky Woman." His Star Wars novel, "The Cestus Deception" will be out in June, and an accompanying e-book, "The Hive" comes out a little sooner. He and his wife, **Tananarive Due**, are collaborating on a horror/SF novel, "Devil's Wake." **Sharon Lee** and **Steve Miller** have just turned the manuscript for next February's novel, "Crystal Soldier," over to their agent and have started on a book for 2006. Buzzy Multimedia has picked up their novel "Local Custom" to be an audiobook; no news yet as to who will read for it. They've sold a LIADEN UNIVERSE short story -- "Fighting Chance" -- to the anthology Women of War, edited by Alexander Potter and Tanya Huff; it'll be a DAW book -- no publishing date yet. Also, coming soon to Absolute Magnitude, is the LIADEN UNIVERSE story "Sweet Waters" in the first US publication.

I was excited to hear from **Ben Bova** who says it's a busy year for him. In May, Tor released "The Silent War," Book III of the ASTEROID WARS series. The ASTEROID WARS are a part of the larger GRAND TOUR series (Mars, Moonwar, Jupiter, Venus, etc.). He just finished the novel "Mercury," and he's starting on "Titan." Since he's a member of the Arizona

Astronomy Board, he got an early peek at the infrared mapping they're doing, and saw methane seas on the surface of Titan, beneath that moon's smoggy clouds. One of those seas is shaped like the letter H lying on its side. One of the board members, an Arizona rancher, dubbed it the Lazy H Sea. We'll see if the name sticks. Ben will be teaching a science fiction writing workshop at the Taos Institute of the Arts (Taos, NM) 21-25 June, and at the Maui Writers Retreat and Conference, 26 August - 6 September. Then he'll be GoH at Archon 28 in St. Louis, 30 September - 3 October. **Jody Lyn Nye** wanted me to announce to fans of the TAYLOR'S ARK series that the long-awaited third book, "The Lady and The Tiger" (Ace Books), hit the bookshelves in March. Also, she's been working with Robert Asprin on further novels in his MYTH-ADVENTURES series. They released a chapbook of short stories, "Myth-Told Tales", and a novel, "Myth Alliances," last fall from Meisha Merlin. "Myth Alliances" will be published in mass-market edition by Ace Books in June 2004. This September, their second novel, "Myth-Taken Identity," will premiere just in time for WorldCon and DragonCon. She's also proud to announce her first military SF book, "Strong Arm Tactics," first of three novels in the WOLFE PACK, an original series contracted with Meisha Merlin, will also come out in September. She's got a few fun stories appearing in various anthologies, but she's especially pleased to be a contributor to the new THIEVES' WORLD series, edited by Lynn Abbey. The second anthology, "Enemies of Fortune," including her story, "Consequences," will appear in October from TOR. **Mike Shepherd-Moscoe** just finished the copy edits for "Kris Longknife -- Deserter" so it's on schedule for a Nov 04 release. At the Nebula weekend, Ginjer Buchanan at ACE asked for treatments on "Kris Longknife-Relieved of Command" and "Kris Longknife-a Very Independent Command" (as in - maybe the next galaxy over from the one with her father in it) so they can be put under contract. Ginjer also asked how soon "Relieved of Command" might be available; she may not want a full year break between "Deserter" and "Command." "The Strange Redemption of Sister Mary Ann" should be in an issue of Analog appearing later this year. He's really looking forward to that story and peoples' reactions to it.

And I don't think I could write this column without input from some of my favorite locals: **Judith Tarr** reported that she published recently: stories in Janis Ian and Mike Resnick's "Stars," Noreen Doyle and Harry Turtledove's "The First Heroes," and Andrew Greeley's "Emerald Magic." Forthcoming in November: "Rite of Conquest" from Roc--a historical fantasy about William the Conqueror.

(Continued on page 9)
Volume 14 Issue 3

Pro Notes (Cont'd from page 8)

She’s working on the sequel to that now, tentatively titled “King’s Blood,” about William Rufus. (Friends and fans can follow the adventures of the books and the horses on her website, <http://www.sff.net/people/judith-tarr> . Then, of course, there’s Judy’s good friend and fellow Lipizzan breeder, **Caitlin Brennan**, whose first fantasy novel, “The Mountain’s Call,” will be published by Harlequin Luna (with a gorgeous cover, and yes, those are Lipizzans on it) in September. This is the first of a trilogy (about Lipizzans, of course!), and she is currently working on the second volume, tentatively titled “Song of Unmaking,” to be published next year. **Jacqueline Lichtenberg** recently finished the first draft of “Sime-Gen: The Farris Channel.” (news, free chapters, and updates available at www.simegen.net) **Jean Lorrah**, her sometime collaborator on the SIME~GEN books, is currently writing the third story in the trilogy they started years ago with, “First Channel,” and “Channel’s Destiny.” “Companions” never got written for various reasons, but now that Meisha Merlin has picked up the SIME~GEN books and contracted for new material, they can finally finish that saga. It is scheduled to be published next year as “Sime-Gen: Fort Freedom.” June 2004 should see release of “Sim-Gen: To Kiss or To Kill” (2 all new SIME~GEN novels) in e-book format from embiid.com, in advance of the publication from Meisha Merlin of HC and TP versions later this year. July should see release of the first e-book version of “Sime-Gen: House of Zeor” also at embiid.com.

Had enough of authors? How about our genre artists? **Don Maitz** is currently working on a second feature animated film as a conceptual designer. The film, “Ant Bully”, is being produced by DNA Productions, through Tom Hank’s production company - Playtone with Warner Brothers as the studio. DNA Productions and it’s director, John Davis, are responsible for the Academy Award nominated animated film - “Jimmy Neutron Boy Genius.” Bob Eggleton, Fred Gambino, and Don Maitz are among the artists who worked on the Jimmy Neutron Boy Genius film; and these artists and a similar team are at it again on the Ant Bully project. The studio is anticipating a 2006 release. An on-going display of four pirate paintings by Don Maitz are hanging at the Key West Museum of Art and History at the Custom House in Key West, FL. A series of Don Maitz glow-in-the-dark fantasy jigsaw puzzles are available at Target, K-Mart, and Walmart outlets. He’ll be attending World Fantasy Con in Arizona this fall. His wife, **Janny Wurts**, also wrote me. She just turned in the finished manuscript for the next book in the WARS OF LIGHT AND SHADOW series, “Traitor’s Knot,” scheduled for release in Britain at the end of the year, with negotiations in progress for a US edition. Check her website for that announcement: (www.paravia.com/ JannyWurts) On the easel are paintings for three reissues of earlier titles, and the

cover and interior illustrations for the new one. She’ll be writing a short story in June, and painting again in July; both for the US edition cover, and for the WFC program book cover. She’ll be resuming the draft for “Stormed Fortress” in August and then she’ll be visiting Arizona as a GoH at WFC.

And, No, I did not forget our gamers: our favorite MIB in Arizona, **Jessie Foster**, tells me that this summer the big push for Steve Jackson is GURPS 4th Edition. They’ve spent the past two years developing it based off of fan feedback of over a decade. The new books will be bigger and bolder, definitely worth checking out. The official release date is August, but you might get a peek at G4E before that at some of the “big” conventions this year. In addition to that, Munchkin fans will rejoice at seeing Munchkin Blender hit the shelf soon. It brings some ultra powerful cards for use when you mix all of the Munchkin sets together. Look for Greed Quest and Illuminati: Crime Lords at this summer’s conventions as well as your Friendly Local Gaming Store.

And, finally, for something a bit different: we have a local radio show hosted by **Evo Terra** and **Michael Mennenga** called The Dragon Page Live Fire. It’s a sci-fi/fantasy based talk radio show on AM 550 KFYI every Sunday night at 6:00. If author interviews are more your style, catch The Dragon Page Cover to Cover, a weekly broadcast covering all literary aspects of fantasy and science fiction. More information at <http://dragonpage.com>.

That’s it for this issue. I continue to be thrilled at the response I get from authors and artists. If anyone wants to contribute or knows someone who knows someone...please email

Screening Room

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
136 minutes, PG

By now the premise of the Harry Potter films is familiar to us all. In *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* we follow Harry in his third year at Hogwarts.

The film opens with a token scene with Harry’s muggle family in which Harry “accidentally” causes horrible Aunt Marge tp blow up, well inflate, and float away. The beginning scenes with Harry’s muggle family are quickly over with Aunt Petunia, Uncle Vernon and the annoying Dudley making only a token appearance before Harry runs away. He is picked up by a magic purple bus that transports him to The Leaky Cauldron pub where the Minister of Magic awaits his arrival. Expecting to be expelled from Hogwarts for unauthorized magic use Harry is surprised when he is not punished but sent off to Hogwarts as usual. The reason everyone is so easy on Harry comes to

light as Mr Weasley warns him about Sirius Black, a mass murderer who has escaped from Azkaban prison and is seemingly after Harry.

Once at school Harry has to deal with a yet another new “Defense against the Dark-Arts” teacher and strange behavior from Hermione, not to mention that the school is surrounded by Dementors, unearthly guards from the prison at Azkaban, who are “protecting” Harry and the school from the infamous Sirius Black.

The film starts abruptly with the short scene at the Dursley home and seems somewhat rushed from that point on, almost a series of unrelated vignettes, until close to the end. There are a couple of long special effects scenes such as the bus ride to The Leaky Cauldron and the scenes with the hippogriff, Buckbeak are seamless, the flying scene with Harry has such wonderful tiny details as Buckbeak trailing a paw (hoof?) in the water as he flies Harry across the lake, making for a much more believable creature. . The Dementors succeed in being as creepy on screen as they were in the book but over all this is not a effects driven movie.

Michael Gambon seems to be a worthy successor to Richard Harris as Dumbledore and all the regulars seem to have returned, not only in the main characters but the supporting ones as well, such as Matthew Lewis as Neville. I find I need to reread the books since I didn’t remember Malfoy as being quite so, well, whiny.

That said, this is probably the weakest of the three films so far. This is actually a film that should have been driven more by plot advancement instead of the ooos and ahhs of the earlier films when we first saw the school (who can forget the chill up the spine wonder of that first glimpse of Hogwarts as the boats crossed the dark lake?), the grand hall with its glorious candles and ghosts, and, of course, our first Quidditch match. Obviously it is impossible to put all the book into one film, unless one wants a 8 hour film, but even at 2 hours and 16 minutes this film seemed, I don’t know, rushed and incomplete, particularly since it seems like the end credits took over 15 minutes!

I enjoyed the film and would give this installment a rating of 4 stars out of 5 (with the first two films being 5 stars) but I must admit I left the theater feeling a little disappointed. I will note that the numerous children in the audience seemed spellbound throughout the film and there was very little fidgeting from the small fry. A must for the Harry Potter fan but I am already anticipating the DVD release in order to see the deleted scenes that would have made this film so much more satisfying. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Shrek 2
93 minutes, PG

Shrek 2 picks up right after the end of the first one, with Shrek (Mike Myers) and Fiona (Cameron Diaz) returning to

Shrek’s cozy cottage in the swamp to find two surprises waiting for them, Donkey (Eddie Murphy) has more or less moved in and, more ominously, a letter from Princess Fiona’s parents arrives, inviting the happy couple to dinner. After some negotiation the couple embarks on the journey to the Kingdom of Far Far Away with Donkey tagging along for the trip. The Kingdom of Far Far Away is quite a change from the swamp, a wonderful take off on Hollywood including the sign “Far Far Away” in huge letters on the hillside.

The king and queen (John Cleese and Julie Andrews) are surprised to find that their daughter is still an ogre and, worse yet, married to an ogre as well. Fairy God Mother reminds the king about a deal they agreed on years ago that Fiona should of married Prince Charming (her son). The king then hires a cat named Puss-in-Boots, a sword fighting cat and ogre slayer (Antonio Banderas) to kill Shrek.

This is a worthy sequel that is as much, if not more, fun than the original. Puss-in-Boots is a delight from beginning to end, the parodies and n jokes abound (repeat viewing is a must in order to catch them all) and the message of true love and acceptance are a refreshing change in this day and age of reality shows that teach back stabbing as a path to riches and rewards. Definitely 5 out of 5 stars - I’d give it more if possible. If you see one movie this year, go see *Shrek 2* - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Van Helsing
132 minutes, PG-13

Famed monster hunter Dr. Gabriel Van Helsing (Hugh Jackman) dispatches Mr Hyde (Robbie Coltrane, totally wasted in minor 3 minute appearance) and then reports to his bosses in the Vatican, sort of a late 19th century MI-5 in a cave under the Vatican, complete with fancy inventions and weapons and a friar named Carl (David Wenham) who is assigned to accompany Van Helsing on his new assignment. The task - go to Eastern Europe and help Anna (Kate Beckinsale) save her family from eternal damnation by killing Count Dracula (Richard Roxburgh). Dracula is plotting to use Frankenstein’s Monster (Schuler Hensley) in a scheme to bring baby vampires to life..... Oh yeah, Wolfman makes an appearance as well.

This was a beautifully photographed film with seamlessly integrated CGI monsters and really spiffy special effects. What it didn’t have was a coherent plot, or any real plot at all, coherent or otherwise. I understand that Van Helsing will be an animated TV show in the fall and this film would probably have worked better as a one hour TV show instead of a 2 hour movie. I give it 2 stars out of 5 - mostly for Hugh Jackman but also for the Frankenstein Monster. Wait for the DVD release - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Costume Closet



Pirate Soft Wear by Randall Whitlock

When I was a kid (in the days before VCRs) I'd stay up late on Saturday night whenever a local TV station ran any pirate movie, whether it starred Errol Flynn, Tyrone Power, or was one of the zillion remakes of *"Treasure Island."* I'm delighted with the popularity of last year's *"Pirates of the Caribbean Curse of the Black Pearl"* with lots of pirates and *"Master and Commander The Far Side of the World"* with its gritty realistic pirate hunters. I look forward to a whole new wave of cinematic adventures on the high seas.

Pirate hall costumes have been with us all along at SF conventions, but what do we mean by "Dressed like a pirate?" The

first pirate ship probably set sail about ten minutes after the first merchant vessel, so any historical period is fair game. Pirates of any period would have dressed the same as other able seamen, especially the ones they robbed.

Most of us, influenced by pirate movies, think of the Buccaneers of the Spanish Main in the 17th and 18th centuries. Costume features such as knee

britches, puffy shirts, long coats with turned-back cuffs and lots of braid, buckled shoes with tall stockings or cavalier boots with turned-down cuffs; scarves tied around the head and/or hats with turned-up sides. Fortunately, these things are fairly easy to make or buy.

Baggy knee britches can be made using any basic four-panel drawstring trouser pattern. You can simply turn a pair of sweat pants inside out and trace the pieces. Add ties, buttons, or buckles at the knee and you're there. Tall, striped stockings can be found on the merchants' row at medieval, renaissance, and wild west events.

There are many patterns available for puffy sleeve shirts, though simply wearing an oversized, worn-out dress shirt will do for a start. Ties at the elbows and cuffs can help the look.

While the long coats of the period were tailored at the shoulders and waist, this isn't essential for starters. A waistless

A-line coat built down to knee length will do. Just make sure it has lots of nonfunctional buttons, full skirts, braid, and turned-back cuffs and you'll look like the guy on the rum bottle.

Cocked hats go well with the look. Start off with any broad-brim hat, such as a garage sale cowboy hat or one of the heavy felt hat blanks sold at medieval and renaissance events. You can fold (cock) one side up on your sword-arm side and add a plume for the earlier part of the period. You can cock two sides to form a "bicorn" hat, like those worn by Napoleon or Captain Aubrey. Later these were worn with the folds toward the front and back, as seen on Captain Aubrey's lieutenants. Cock three sides to form a "tricorn" like those worn by Captain Jack Sparrow. Common accessories for cocked hats include plumes, feathers or trim around the edges, and "cockades," which were patches of ribbon folded into a square or rosette.

Nautical accessories might include an astrolabe, drinking jack, eyepatch, etc. Check with your local convention for how they feel about cutlasses and replica flintlocks.

Jewelry and temporary tatoos with skull and crossbones themes are easily found, but I have a problem with the logic. The last thing a real pirate would do

on shore is advertise the fact. The jolly roger is fine for a pirate flag, but displaying it in port would be the same as wearing a "hang me" sign in front of royal navy officers. On the other hand, there is little risk of a drum-head court breaking out at a con.

Good sources of historical patterns for pirate garb include Alteryers (www.alteryers.com), Patterns of Time (www.patternsoftime.com),

and Smoke and Fire Company (www.smoke-fire.com). Smoke and Fire Company is heavily into the Revolutionary War period, so they have patterns for long coats, knee britches and folding cocked hats. They also sell buckled leather shoes and other accessories.

Of course, we are into SCIENCE FICTION, so we have many possibilities not covered in the historical sources. We can dress as pirates who sail oceans that never were, or the bounding main of outer space. A space pirate costume might be modeled after your favorite literary hero/villain or something that sailed straight out of your own imagination. You might take some of the movie pirate costume ideas above and use alternate materials, such as metallic fabrics and flashing LEDs. Add a cybernetic eye patch, a robot parrot, a bubble helmet, or anything else you like. I've done a "software pirate" costume a few times, with accessories made from disks, cables, and network cards.

Arrrrrr!

Cherry (Cont'd from page 1)

Icelandics who made appointments with their enemies to schedule a cattle raid - quite civilized.

Her interests include photography, continuing to play several musical instruments (she was in a marching band when she was younger) and her current passion is ice skating. Everything is grist for her mill, even the unpleasantness of life. Her favorite cartoon is the writer slumped over his typewriter bemoaning his life falling apart: his wife left him and took the dog, he has writer's block, the water heater broke, etc. Then in the next frame, he is smiling and typing happily about the broken water heater and his wife leaving him with the dog ...

I often ask writers *how* they write and up 'til now they've all described a particular method that works for them - but only one method. Apparently, one way isn't enough for CJ. Sometimes she makes an outline, sometimes she fills in the outline until she has a book, sometimes she ignores the outline, sometimes she just writes by the seat of her pants. I got the idea that her method depends on the story, or the weather, or ... whatever. I asked her if she writes everyday. She said she tries to but sometimes it's better to water the plants or spend some time thinking forward, past the 'sticky' spots. CJ is also an accomplished artist; although, I didn't get that from her, David told me. But it explains what she meant when she described taking time to sketch or draw to free up her subconscious or hindbrain. CJ is a true renaissance woman with remarkable drive and energy.

After that it seemed logical to find out how CJ and fandom first met. At the end of the year her first book published, she was teaching Latin and Ancient History at a high school when she got a call from someone at the University of Oklahoma. They asked her to speak to a group as a Science Fiction Author at a local Chinese restaurant. She went through 3 pots of tea without anyone showing up. Turned out that none of the fans had a working vehicle... (Sidebar: David relates that Sis was nominated several times for Teacher of the Year and was the best Ancient History teacher he ever had. Kinda weird, though, having your big sister as your teacher.)

The next year she was asked to be Guest of Honor at WorldCon in Kansas City. At first, she believed one of her students was pulling a prank. But, after some research, she decided that it sounded like a good idea. (What she didn't tell me and I had to get from David was that she was honored as the Best New Writer of the Year.) So, she dresses in professional clothing complete with heels and brings along her brother, David, in a three-piece suit. (David reported that she was a big hit and everyone seemed to think he was hotel security.)

She left me with: "I find the joy in creation is doing it the right way and not to hurry the process." She makes it sound so easy...

David was the little brother, by seven years. He tells me he was the only six-

year-old who knew the human figure was seven heads tall and where the dividing lines were. He enjoyed some notoriety in school as 'the artist' since he could draw a human figure. His first art teacher was his 13-year-old precocious sister. When I asked him what influenced him first he was happy to explain how fascinated he was when, at 13, he discovered all the art books his sister had filled the house with had wonderful pictures of naked men and women. Consequently, his opinion of



what is good art was irretrievably formed by Hellenistic sculpture. He believes that the Hellenistic period was the best work man has ever done and no one has ever made better art. I asked about the 'great masters' and if he appreciated any of them. He was impressed by daVinci and loved Michaelangelo. But he's spent his life studying the Hellenistic period of sculpture and attempting to replicate it in drawings. And he described to me (in exacting detail) what makes them so great - that you can look at a sculpture from any angle and they are always graceful - "it's magic."

His favorite painters were the French and English Royal Academy artists. He admired Lawrence Alma-Tadema, Jean Leon Gerome and Waterhouse. He is particularly impressed by their technical expertise; in that, their technique was so expert that one could not 'see' the technique, only the picture. He gave me a fascinating history lesson in why the French Royal Academy was usurped by the impressionists (which I will not repeat here. You'll have to ask him yourself.)

Surprisingly, with all this intense interest in art, David became a lawyer. More than art, David wanted to be a father. His reasoning was that, while art is great stuff, lawyering would probably pay the bills better and he needed to be ready when the future mother of his children came along. Unhappily, it was many years down the road with no takers. Eventually, he did finally marry - an artist. And instantly became a father to 5-year-old Kira (now a challenging 17-year-old.) He also dotes on his daughter, Kasi, a sweet ten-year-old. He tells me that there is nothing in the world more important than his two daughters.

(Continued on page 15)
Volume 14 Issue 3



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Special Guest Tony DiGerolamo of South Jersey Rebellion Productions

The Tony DiGerolamo Bio

written by: Mark Mammon AKA: Fix



What can I say about a man who spells as well as a third grader and takes cheese steaks as an advance? My industrious biographer, Tony, is, to say the least, prolific.

Starting in high school, he made short films and convinced his teachers he was an auteur in the making. And, even though this did not garner him any awards, he did manage to elude taking Physics and "adjust" the school computer, so he would graduate 3rd in his class.

During his stint at Ithaca College, he was part of the award-winning comedy show, *The Nothing Special*. The skills he learned there were to come in handy during his one-year stint as an obnoxious pizza delivery driver after graduation.

From then on, he was a freelance scriptwriter, receiving rejections from TV shows like *Moonlighting*, *Star Trek* and *Saturday Night Live*. He eventually landed a joke-writing job on *Politically Incorrect with Bill Maher* and was the screenwriter for a horror movie called *The Evil Within* and a Mafia movie starring Leo Rossi called *The Father, The Son....* The film he is most proud of is an award-winning short called *Ten Cents a Minute*. Tony likes to spend his free time performing improv comedy with The Ninjas in Philadelphia.

But his big break was when he produced/hosted a local TV show in Philadelphia called *The Comic Book Show*. The show aired for about 2 years and afterwards, Tony embarked on his publishing career, making comic books at his own imprint, South Jersey Rebellion Productions. He currently writes and publishes *Jersey Devil*, based on the 300 year-old legend and *Rodney: The Alien That Smoked Pot*. He also created and writes *The Travelers*, a fantasy/comedy comic book, which was published at Kenzer & Company and Wingnut Games. He writes my comic, *The Fix* and my biography, *Fix in Overtime*. Tony wrote Volumes 1 thru 8 of the *Hacklopedia of Beasts* and *Slaughterhouse Indigo* for the Hackmaster RPG adventure. He currently writes *Everknights* for Kenzer & Co and writes for *The Simpsons* and *Bart Simpson* comic books at Bongo.

Tony's current project is *Tony DiGerolamo's Complete Mafia for d20* which will be published by Living Room Games (www.lrgames.com) in November 2004. His disgraceful website is at www.thefixsite.com.

Tony is 38 years old and currently lives with his parents (loser) and hopes you will buy his comics and books so he can finally move out or at least buy a cheesesteak.

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The Annual Western Regional Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention

July 2-5, 2004

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Our Theme: Mythology of the Southwest

ConKopelli is the annual Western Regional Science Fiction and Fantasy convention. It will feature programming and panels with our Guests of Honor and many other participants (authors, artists, scientists, fans, etc.) from all over the U.S. Other events and activities include Masquerade, Dancing (Regency and Modern), Filk, Dealer's Room, Art Show and Auction, Gaming, Anime, and Video.



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www.conkopelli.org



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ConKopelli - WesterCon 57



ConKopelli Programming

ConKopelli programming is coming right along. Our major tracks are **Arts, Literary, Mythology, Media and Science.**

Please check our web site for an up to the minute list of program participants but to tease your interest some of our currently scheduled participants are:

Durlyn Alexander, Earl Billick, Pam Binder, Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff, Pat Broussard, Mike Cassidy, Mitchell Burnside Clapp, T. J. Burnside Clapp, Sarah Clemens, Jim Cobb, Brenda Cooper, Kevin Dahl, Richard Dahm, Kathleen Dalton-Woodbury, Howard Davidson, Sue Dawe, Emily Devenport, Michelle Dockrey, Bobbie DuFault, Doranna Durgin, Raymund Eich, Rick Enloe, E. T. Ellison, Jane Fancher, Wolf Forrest, Laura Freas, Miki Garrison, Janice Gelb, ElizaBeth "Lace" Gilligan, James C. Glass, Scott Glenner, Lynn Gold, Hugh S. Gregory, Roberta Gregory, James Hay, Ernest Hogan, Mark Horning, Bobbie Benton Hull, Angela Johnson, Keith G. Kato, Louise M. Kleba, Tony Laconte, Meghan Lancaster, Meg Lambert, Deborah Larson, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Jane Lindskold, Jean Lorrain, L. Pierce Ludke, Pat MacEwen, Sandy Manning, Louise Marley, Marty Massoglia, Patricia Mathews, Todd McCaffrey, Loretta McKibben, Dennis L. McKiernan, Beth Meacham, Henry Melton, Darragh Metzger, Tee Morris, Mike Moscoe-Shepherd, Pati Nagle, Vera Nazarian, Rod Ossowski, Challenger Space Center, Carole I. Parker, Earl W. Parrish (Brian Gross), Kevin Radthorne, Melanie Rawn, Robert Reginald, Jennifer Roberson, Selina Rosen, David Silver, Janni Lee Simmer, Al'e Smith, Crystal Smith, Ken St. Andre, Marina Stern, Moira Stern, Jeff Sturgeon, Anita Taylor, Michael Underwood, John Vornholt, Jonathan Vos, Vicki Visconti-Tilley, Ray Vukcevic, Chris Welborn, Leslie What, Randall Whitlock, David A. Williams, Connie Willis, Dameon Willich, Gail Wolfenden-Steib, Frank Wu, William F. Wu, Ben Yalow, and C.F. Yankovich

Our program schedule will be posted on our web site in mid-June. Some of our planned events include : **Trebuchet Water Balloon Launch** Bring your swimsuits, we will be supplying the trebuchets and balloons. Friday night we will be having **Packing Box Costuming Wars** The convention will be providing boxes of *stuff* to make a costume. Teams may consist of up to 3 people. The model should be in a leotard. The teams may trade their stuff with other teams if they want to. The time available will be 90 minutes. The finished costumes will be modeled at **Meet the Pros**. How many teams can participate will depend on how many boxes of *stuff* we collect before the convention.

ConKopelli Art Show

Our plan is to offer the best of science fiction and fantasy art to the fans.

We will be featuring many panels and tables of science fiction and fantasy art as well as a print shop and the Art Auction which will be held Monday, July 5.

Artists that have reserved space: David Cherry, Michele Ellington, Kathleen Lowe, Larry Vela, Sylvana Anderson-Gish, R. Merrill Bollerud, Amy Schulz, Theresa Mather, R. Stephen Adams, Mary Bullock, Margaret Carspecken, Lela Dowling, Mark J. Ferrari, William J. Hodgson, John F. Kaufmann, L. Pierce Ludke, Patricia McCracken, Betsy M. Mott, Mai Q. Nguyen, Robert Peacock, Nicole Pellegrini, Mark Roland, Robert Ross, Abranda Sisson, Nancy Strowger, Mishell Swartwout, Cassandra L. Sweep and Deborah Woods.

If you have any questions, or if you are interested in reserving display space, please contact Ray Gish at 2527 N. Silverado, Mesa, AZ 85215 or call 480 641 3997 or email at RGASAS@aol.com.

The Masquerade at ConKopelli

At the end of Saturday evening the only thing that matters about the Masquerade is that everyone enjoyed the show, including you.

To make it more enjoyable don't hesitate to ask any question any time. I am your Masquerade Director, Carlos, and you can contact me at gacataba@yahoo.com Please check out the website for full Masquerade rules and information.



Dealer's Room

Currently scheduled to be in the sold out ConKopelli Dealer's Room are: **Alter Years, Angelwear Creations, Banner Knife & Garb, Book Universe, Cargo Cult Books, Dragon's Keep, Fantasy - Past, Present, & Future, Fo'Paws Productions, Hutchison Books, Mannatt Fine Book, Massoglia Books, Nighthawk Studios, Odds and Bodkins, Pegasus Publishing, Random Factors, Sign of the Unicorn, Therri Moore Designs, Wonders and Delights, Yard Dog Press, and Ygor's Books.**

English Regency Ballroom Dance

Our Fan GOH, **John Hertz**, will be hosting a Regency Dance. John is a joy to watch and dance with. Bring your best threads and dancing gown and come and dance. If you just enjoy the dance for itself, come in whatever you're wearing. John is a very patient and sympathetic instructor, so don't be shy or timid.

Modern Dance

This year's Modern Dance is presented by The Confusion Crew who will be hosting two events at the convention. Chill on Friday night in the Velavision Suite and ConFusion on Saturday Night in the convention Center starting at 10 p.m. both nights.

Friday Night - Come on in and Chill out with us for a while. Cyber DJ's Moekandu and DieterK have created an eclectic mix of music specifically designed to soothe the savage beast. We'll have glow sticks, munchies and mood lighting so you can relax and have some fun.

Saturday Night - We've got more power, more music, more lights, and eye candy! Get ready to rock with Cyber DJ's Moekandu and DieterK in a pulse-pounding mix of Techno, New Metal, Breakbeat, House and Alternative Rock! Welcome to ConFusion!

ConKopelli Charity Auctions

We will be hosting two separate Charity Auctions. One will be our traditional Charity Auction which will feature books, art, posters, toys and other Science Fiction and Fantasy memorabilia donated by local businesses, dealers at the convention and artists from the Art Show. The other will be a special auction of books. Only First Editions or an Advance Reading Copy that has been autographed by the author will be presented. All books that are presented as a First Edition are done so at the best judgement of our Charity Auction Director. No guarantee is made by either Catherine Book or ConKopelli-Westercon. If you have any questions, please ask via e-mail or inspect the book prior to auction.

The charities that will benefit are Reading is FUNdamental (RIF) and The Challenger Space Center of Arizona located in Phoenix and the Challenger Center for Space Science Education located in the Pima Air and Space Museum in Tucson. T

Books in the book auction include autographed books by Greg Bear, Lois McMaster Bujold, Terry Brooks, Orson Scott Card, Peter David, Neil Gaiman, Mercedes Lackey, George R.R. Martin, Julian May, Larry Niven, Andre Norton, Terry Pratchett, Fred Saberhagen, David Weber, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro, and Timothy Zahn. Please visit our website for a detailed list.

Anime

T.H.E.M., a local AZ non-profit group, will be taking care of the Anime Room for ConKopelli so plan on seeing the best of the best. If you have any suggestions or questions please contact us at: cross@themanime.org

Gaming

Game Masters needed. How would you like to showcase your game mastering skills at the regions finest convention? All types of games are needed; board games, card games, role-playing, miniatures, dice, etc. Contact me early so you can be sure to have a table reserved for your games. Space is limited and going fast. Contact Jessie D. Foster via e-mail at JustJessie@cox.net.

Filk

We have The Paloverde Room for One Shots, Concerts and Panels during the day. At night we have Bardic Circle in The Paloverde Room and Chaos in the Fireplace Lounge.



Art by Todd Lockwood

COPPERCON 24

Sept 10-12, 2004

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

Author Guest of Honor: Alan Dean Foster

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

Artist Guest of Honor: Todd Lockwood

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

Local Author Guest of Honor: Catherine Wells

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

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

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

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

CopperCon 24 Art Show

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

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

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 at RGASAS@aol.com

Artist setup will be Friday: 9 AM-12 noon.

CopperCon 24 Programming

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

Confirmed program participants include Rachel Amberson, David R. Beaucage, Christine Beaucage Ph.D, Pat Broussard, Christine Carmichael, Dave Duncan, Bruce Farr, Joseph Formichella, Bennie Grezlik, Maryelizabeth Hart, Paula Lary, Jacqueline Lichtenberg, Michelle Lyons, Jeff Mariotte, Ben Massoglia, Alice Massoglia, Marty Massoglia, Allison Mitchell, Adam Niswander, Janeen O'Kerry, David Perrine, Robin Roberts, Ken St. Andre, Michael A. Stackpole, David Lee Summers, Paul Tanton, Evo Terra, Kit Townsend, Christopher Turco, Michelle M. Welch, John Wheeler, Randall Whitlock, Mike Willmoth, and C.F. Yankovich.

Check our website at www.coppercon.org for more as they are added.

Memberships

\$35 thru 8/27/04,

\$40 at the door

Kids 7-12 half price*

Kids 6 & Under Free*

* with Adult membership

Embassy Suites Phoenix North

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

2577 W. Greenway Rd., Phoenix, Arizona

(602) 375-1777

www.coppercon.org

Contact CopperCon 24 at:

Write: CopperCon 24,

PO Box 62613

Phoenix, AZ 85082

Phone: (480) 423-0649

Email: cu24@coppercon.org

Cherry (Cont'd from page 10)

So I had to ask him how in the world he discovered he wanted to do fantasy art. Well – while he was at WorldCon, wandering around in his 3-piece suit (after all, he was a lawyer, that was all he owned) he found the art show. Michael Whelan was showing and Michael Whelan was a name he recognized as Michael had just done a cover for one of CJ’s books. So he spent some time in the Art Show. Whelan had just done the cover for Marion Zimmer Bradley’s “The Bloody Sun” and the original was just hanging there – with a minimum bid price on it that was less than \$300! Guess who owns *that* now?

So, he developed an obsession to be a book cover artist like Michael. He and a buddy of his formed a mutual support society and encouraged each other. That buddy was Bob Eggleton. (I am easily impressed and David just blew me over repeatedly with his “oh, yeah, he (fill in the name) and I are friends.”)

But I still wanted to know how he went from lawyer to artist. CJ was doing a book with Don Grant and needed some inside illustrations and a cover. She also wanted an artist that she could control and/or influence so the pictures would actually portray the story accurately (some authors are soooo picky...) David initially turned it down. I don’t think he wanted a job just because of his sister; but, Don Grant told him bluntly that if his work was good he’d have a job and if it wasn’t he wouldn’t. He got the job. The unfortunate thing was that David had discovered he was deathly allergic to oils, linseed oil and turpentine; so, he did the cover with cheap Japanese watercolors.

Big Sis took one of his drawings and did a print run of it. And gave him all the prints! He finally came to the conclusion that it might be more fun to sell his art than to argue for a living. And, appar- ently, he was appreciated as he has garnered three Chesley Awards. Unfortu- nately, for his admirers, the exigencies of fatherhood decreed that he needed a ‘real’ job. He moved to Dallas and has been working for Ensemble Studios for four years. Ensemble designs the box art and marketing art for computer games.

David is enthusiastic about his job. While he sometimes misses freelance work, he feels he is a much improved artist due to the time spent at Ensemble and the new techniques he’s learned. Recently, he learned 3-D art on the computer and he’s ecstatic about it. Techniques he worked on in the past that would take days, weeks or even months to complete or experiment with now take minutes or days. He now works in Photoshop, drawing on a graphics tablet with a pencil. He believes that Photoshop is something a good fairy created just for him. He speculates that someday he might like to return to freelance work. He did enjoy the opportunity to do a little of that when he was asked to design a picture for the cover of the WesterCon programming book. I expect him to blow us all away one day with a more refined technique. I can hardly wait.

Slogging Through The Blogs: A Weblog that’s well worthwhile By Shane Shellenbarger

In these pages I often use URL’s or Uniform Resource Locator’s as a way of augmenting the information I’m trying to convey. The URL is a springboard to other ideas and subjects. In this article the URL I’m going to speak about is the pool we’re going to play in and an Olympic- sized pool it is.

In actuality, I’m here to tell you about two URL’s authored by the same man, Mark Evanier: <http://www.povonline.com> and <http://www.newsfromme.com>. Evanier has written comic books (every- thing from funny animals to superheroes), television comedies (including *Baby, I’m Back*, starring Demond Wilson, *The McLean Stevenson Show*, *The Nancy Walker Show*, and *Welcome Back, Kotter*), variety shows (including the infamous *Pink Lady and Jeff*), cartoon shows (including *ABC Weekend Special*, *CBS Storybreak*, *Garfield and Friends*, *Mother Goose and Grimm*, *Rickety Rocket*, *Scooby Doo*, *Plastic Man*, *Superman: The Animated Series*, *Thundarr the Barbarian*, and *The Trollkins*,), but his three best known projects would be the comic book *Groo the Wanderer* (<http://www.povonline.com/Groo.htm>) (art and creation by Sergio Aragonés <http://www.sergioaragones.com/>), his weekly column work for *The Comic Buyer’s Guide* (<http://www.collect.com/interest/periodical.asp?Pub=BG>) *Point of View* (<http://www.povonline.com/POV.htm>) and his involvement with voice actors (<http://www.povonline.com/Cartoon%20Voices.htm>).

Evanier’s *Point of View Online* website (<http://www.povonline.com>) is eclectic in the best sense of the word. Subjects include comic books, comic strips, animation, television, movies, cartoon voices, comedy, Jack Kirby, Hollywood, Broadway, Las Vegas, Incessantly-Asked-Questions, and the elite of the eclectic: Miscellaneous (<http://www.povonline.com/Miscellaneous.htm>). POV is the storehouse of the two websites, a collection of information in an easily referenced local. The other site is more of a stream-of- consciousness place, covering the day-to-day minutiae of life for over a year.

News From Me (<http://www.newsfromme.com>) is usually updated each day, depending on Evanier’s writing deadlines, convention appear- ances, and the amount of time he can dedicate to keeping his readers updated on the subjects important to him, and the range is certainly varied. For the week of May 2nd through May 8th, Evanier com- ments included: a speech Jim “Garfield” Davis gave to the National Press Club carried on C-Span, Evanier’s return from

WonderCon, Terry Jones of Monty Python fame, various links to the war in Iraq, strange and poignant happenings in the *Gasoline Alley* comic strip, retractable modular phone cords, the contract that Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy signed to authorize the publication of the *Laurel and Hardy* comic book that came out in 1955, Disney’s censorship of Michael Moore’s latest movie, the standup comedian Lewis Black, the possible strike by the Writers Guild of America, the death of DC artist Fred Guardineer, the 4:00 a.m. taping of *The Late Show With David Letterman*, EC Comics, organizing websites, *The Dick Van Dyke Show Revisited* special on CBS, The Joyce Compton Shrine, and voice actor Rob “Yakko Warner/Dr. Otto Scratchensniff/ Pinky” Paulsen. That was one week, ONE WEEK! Whew!

Both websites are well worth your time and effort to peel back the layers. POV Online is random and subject driven, while NFM is linear. If you’d like to start at the beginning of the News From Me experience, head to <http://www.newsfromme.com/archives.html>, and look for Wednesday, April 23, 2003, the date when it began.

This article is dedicated to the memory of my father, John Shellenbarger, April 4th 1928 – May 8th, 2004

ReAnimation

- ***** Vandread The Second Stage: Survival (Vol 1)
- ***** Vandread The Second Stage: Sacrifice (Vol 2)
- ***** Vandread The Second Stage: Revelations (Vol 3)
- ***** Vandread The Second Stage: Final Assault (Vol 4)
- ***** Ai Yori Aoshi Volume 1: Faithfully Yours
- ***** Ai Yori Aoshi Volume 2: My Dearest
- ***** Ai Yori Aoshi Volume 3: Hugs and Kisses
- ***** Ai Yori Aoshi Volume 4: Truly Yours
- ***** Ai Yori Aoshi Volume 5: With All My Heart
- **** Chobits 6 My Only Person
- ** Chobits 7: Chat Room
- *** Sugar A Little Snow Fairy
- *** Volume 6: Sugar Baby Love
- *** Baby Einstein -
- *** Baby McDonald
- *** Kim Possible The Secret Files
- *** Kim Possible: A Stitch In Time
- ** Stanley Spring Fever
- ** Bionicle Mask of Light
- * Winnie The Pooh -
- * Springtime With Roo

- Vandread The Second Stage: Survival (Vol 1)
- Pioneer, 100 mins, 13 up
- Vandread The Second Stage: Sacrifice (Vol 2)
- Vandread The Second Stage: Revela- tions (Vol 3)
- Vandread The Second Stage: Final Assault (Vol 4)
- Pioneer, 75 mins, 13 up
- DVD \$29.98 each

This series is a sequel to *Vandread* which starts where the 2001 TV series ended. These four volumes contain the entire series.

The story of *Vandread* is set in a future where men and women live separately. Our heroes, Kibiki, Duero and Bart are the only men on the Nirvana, which has an all female crew.

In *Survival* the crew discovers a drifting space capsule, acquires two new crew members and gets closer to learning where the aliens came from.

Sacrafice has the Nirvana attacking the alien harvesters but when the attack fails, tempers flare, especially between Misty and Dita who are still competing for Hibiki. One crew member sacrifices herself and this inspires the rest to work together and form one giant super mecha.

Revelations features a fierce battle during which Hibiki is stranded on a planet of telepaths. While stranded he learns about his true nature and the secret of his past is revealed. Then, when the Nirvana reaches Tarak space a shocking secret about one of the crew is revealed.

Final Assault is the conclusion of the series and what a conclusion it is. Hibiki has grown from the loud mouth annoying character of the first season into a character who cares for others. With the secret of his past revealed he is able to get the two groups, the all-female world of Mejale and the all-male world of Talek, talking to each other again just as the Harvester fleet attacks. As they battle the enemy together we reach the spectacular conclusion.

Vandread: Second Stage starts where the *First Stage* left off. I recommend that you watch *Vandread: the First Stage* before viewing the Second Stage or you will be lost. The emotional seesaw continues and gets more intense in these episodes. It’s unique mix of crazy antics, serious times, and humor gave it a balance that keeps me glued to the screen. On the whole, *Vandread* series is one of the best I have seen in some time. - Craig L Dyer



Ai Yori Aoshi
Volume 1: Faithfully Yours
Volume 2: My Dearest
Volume 3: Hugs and Kisses
Volume 4: Truly Yours
Pioneer, 125 mins each, 13 up
Volume 5: With All My Heart
Pioneer, 100 mins, 13 up
DVD \$29.98 each

Ai Yori Aoshi tells the story of Aoi Sakuraba and Kaoru and the rocky road true love sometimes takes. Both were children of wealthy families, Aoi as heiress to the Sakuraba fortune and Kaoru as the adopted son of the Hanabishi clan. The families planned for them to marry when they got older but Kaoru fled the emotional and physical abuse of his family and renounced all ties to them and their fortune. He goes to Tokyo where years later Aoi searches for him and finally finds him by accident. Aoi has convinced her mother and her nanny Miyabi of her love for Kaoru so they help her. Miyabi, Aoi and Kaoru move into a Sakuraba mansion together where they pose as landlady, manager and tenant in order to preserve Aoi’s reputation. Soon others girls move in as well, all of whom develop a crush on Kaoru. The course of true love is never smooth....

This is a surprisingly captivating Anime. Both lead characters, Kaoru and Aoi, are well developed. Kaoru is not the typical awkward hero but a mature college student whose love for Aoi is totally believable. Aoi is not the usual spineless, whiny heroine. She shows strength and depth of character as she follows her dream against the wishes of her family. The side characters, while typical for the genre, add to the story rather than detract. I found the story captivating and alternated between laughter and tears for the last few episodes. Not everything is neatly tied up after episode 24 leaving room for a sequel. Highly recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Chobits 6: My Only Person
Pioneer, 100 mins, 16 up
DVD \$29.98
Chobits 7: Chat Room
Pioneer, 75 mins, 16 up
DVD \$19.99

Chobits follows 18-year-old farm boy Hideki Motosuwa, who finds a uniquely powerful Persocon (human-like robots that have achieved cell phone-like status and popularity) in the trash. At first she can only say “Chi”but soon she begins to learn new words and ideas at a tremendous rate. Hideki and his various friends spend their time working, studying and trying to find out who and where Chi is from; and if she is indeed from the legendary class of Persocons called Chobits. *Chobits 1: Persecon*, *Chobits 2: The Empty City* and *Chobits 3:Darkness Descends* were reviewed in Volume 13

Issue 5. *Chobits 4: Love Defined* and *Chobits 5: Disappearance* were reviewed in Volume14 Issue 1.

Chobits 6: My Only Person brings the story to a conclusion that is both satisfying and touching having grown from a light comedy into a true romance story. The ending does leave the door open to follow future their lives together.

Chobits 7: Chat Room contains three flash back episodes that rehash the entire series. I’m not sure what the point was. The 2 minute longs “Chibit” special was fun but not worth the price of DVD.

This series is entertaining enough if one overlooks the sometimes sexist tone and instead focus on the issues of identity and relationships that make this a truly enjoyable series. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Sugar A Little Snow Fairy Volume 6:
Sugar Baby Love
Pioneer, 100 mins, 3up
DVD \$29.98

Saga, living in a small European town, meets a tiny little fairy that no one else can see. The fairy’s name is Sugar, and she looks for a “Twinkle” to become a full-fledged Snow Fairy! After Saga takes Sugar home, her life is full of fairies as Sugar’s friends Wind Fairy Pepper and Sun Fairy Salt arrives to play and help keep Sugar out of trouble. Volume 6 finds both Pepper and Salt getting their “Twinkle” and preparing to return to the fairy world. How will Saga and Sugar cope?

Sugar A Little Snow Fairy Volume 1-5 were reviewed in Volume 14 Issue 1. Since the kids who watched the first 5 volumes aren’t available until they arrive for summer vacation I skimmed through the first five before watching this one. Volume 6 wraps up the series nicely and the story, while not my normal choice for Anime watching, was good. These will stay in the collection for sure. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Baby Einstein - Baby McDonald
Disney, 30 mins, G
DVD \$19.99

From the back cover: “”Baby MacDonald” introduces babies and toddlers to the sights and sounds of life on a real farm. Meet the animals, plant the crops, ride the tractor, celebrate the harvest and much more! This playful exploration combines traditional nursery rhymes live-action images with visuals of puppet shows children, toys, and real-world objects set to beautiful music by Schubert, Schumann and Strauss.

Baby Einstein uses real-world objects, music, art, language, science and nature to introduce young children to the world around them in fun, fascinating ways. All our videos are set to music specially reorchestrated for little ears. We encourage you to watch with your baby and enjoy the sights and sounds together!”

My sister-in-law shard this DVD with a friend who has a young child who is

autistic and it was an instant hit. The farm sights and animal sounds engaged his interest and he watches it over and over. Definitely a hit, so much so we are plan to get more in the series. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Kim Possible: The Secret Files
Disney, 71 mins, NR
Kim Possible: A Stitch In Time
Disney, 66 mins, NR
DVD \$19.99 each

From the back cover of *The Secret Files*: “From the TV series, It’s Kim Possible! Just your average teenage girl out to save the world. She foils sinister plots around the globe with her sidekick Ron Stoppable and still makes it home in time for dinner. It’s big fun as Kim takes on some seriously wacko bad guys in this way cool series of adventures.”

From the back cover of *A Stitch in Time*: “It’s Kim Possible’s most extreme adventure yet! In her race against time, she travels through the years in her first way-cool full-length movie.

Here’s the ‘stitch’: When Shega and her evil henchmen capture the all-powerful Time Monkey and start monkey-ing around with time, a visitor from the future - Rufus 3000, a buffed-up, talking descendent of everyone’s favorite naked mole rat - alerts Kim to the plan. Kim, along with her faithful sidekick Ron Stoppable and Rufus must triumph in the present and the past or the future will be history!”

The Secret Files is comprised of three episodes from the TV series. In *Attack of the Killer BeBes*, KP, her sidekick, Ron Stoppable , his naked mole rat, Rufus, and super-genius Wade take on a bunch of evil robots that are controlled by her arch-enemy, Drakken. Then *Downhill* introduces a new enemy, DNAmY, an evil scientist who creates horrible hybrid creatures. The third episode, *Partners*, which apparently wasn’t shown on TV, has Kim and Ron breaking up their partnership.

A Stitch In Time is a movie as opposed to three TV episodes strung together and also includes a lot of back story for the characters, such as Kim’s first mission.

Kim is a great little super hero, she is tough and the dialogue is witty without falling into the rude, sarcastic child syndrome seen in so many shows aimed at children. The kids enjoyed both DVD as did I. These are recommended highly for the 5-11 age group. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Stanley Spring Fever
Disney, 44 mins, G
DVD \$19.99

From the back cover: “ Join Stanley, the curious little boy with a big imagination, as he searches the animal world for clues about life and himself. With his good friends and a clever goldfish named Dennis, Stanley makes every day an

educational safari.”
I tried this one on my nephew, age 6, and he thought it was too young for him. We both agreed that Stanley was OK and he liked Dennis the gold fish but over all we decided that we like Rollie Pollie Ollie better. This Disney Playhouse cartoon is aimed mostly at pre-schoolers and should work well for children 4 and younger-**Stephanie L Bannon**

Bionicle Mask of Light The Movie
Buena Vista, 70 mins, PG
DVD \$29.99

This is a movie based on a comic that is based on a toy (or maybe a toy based on a comic, I’m not clear which came first). The plot focuses on a robot tribe, the Matoran, who live on the island of Mata Nui. Their island is protected by six guardians called the Toa. Two of the tribe find a sacred mask that seems to indicate that a seventh guardian will be coming.

This is sort of a coming of age, grand quest film that, apparently, requires a lot of back story that Bionicle fans already know in order to follow the story on all but the most superficial level. That said, it was enjoyable and the CGI was beautiful. Judging by the group that watched it you need to be either a Bionicle fan or 5 years old to thoroughly enjoy this film. It is good for the youngsters with little violence and no real gore. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Winnie The Pooh - Springtime With Roo
Disney, 65 mins, G
DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: “Every year Rabbit plays the Easter Bunny... but not this year. No bunny means no “hunny” for Pooh, no Easter Egg Hunt for Tigger, no basket for Piglet, no fluffy bunny ears for Eeyore... and no fun for Roo. Rabbit expects them to all spring into action: scrubbing, dusting, sweeping and mopping instead! But Roo’s love and wisdom show Rabbit that special days are to be shared in special ways.”

This is more aptly titled “ An Easter Carol” as Rabbit is taken back in time to last year’s joyous Easter and forward in time to see what will happen if he doesn’t have Easter. I showed this to my test audience of 3 neighbor kids (ages 2, 5 and 7 - Disney’s target audience with this DVD) and only the 2 year old enjoyed it. The other two didn’t like the way that Rabbit was so mean in this story and wouldn’t sit still for the end. All three preferred the two extras, “*Honey For A Bunny*” and “*Trap As Trap Can*” which are two Easter themed shorts from the series *The Wonderful World of Winnie the Pooh*. None of them was interested in the games. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Calendar of Events - June/July 2004

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

JUNE

June 2 - Wednesday

Meeting: ConNotations Staff Meeting - JB's (I-17 & Indian School) 7PM Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

June 4 - Friday

Movie: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

June 11 - Friday

Movie: The Chronicles of Riddick, Garfield, The Stepford Wives

June 12 - Saturday

Event: ConRunners 8 - Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park 8:30AM-6PM Info: conrunners@westernsfa.org

June 16 - Wednesday

Book Discussion: Barnes & Noble at Metro Center. Info: cathypendragon@qwest.net
Movie: Around the World in 80 Days

June 18 - Friday

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

June 19 - Saturday

Meeting: ConKopelli Committee Meeting 2PM - JB's (I-17 & Indian School) Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com
Meeting: CopperCon 24 Committee Meeting - JB's (I-17 & Indian School) Info: the_lop@doverkeep.com

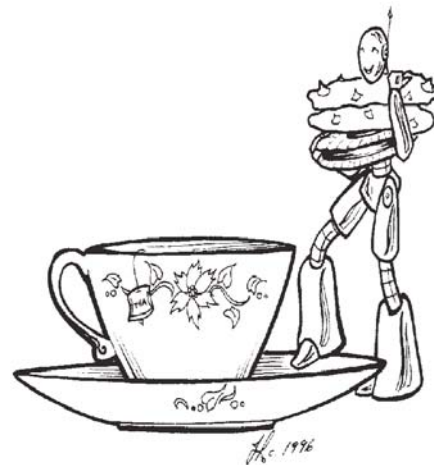
June 25 - Friday

Meeting: CASFS - 8PM - JB's (I-17 & Indian School) Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

June 27 - Sunday

Meeting: SouthWest Costumers Guild Info: www.southwestcostumersguild.org
June 30 - Wednesday

Movie: Spiderman 2



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JULY

July 2-5 - Friday-Monday

Event: Westercon 57 - Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park Info: www.conkopelli.org

July 7 - Wednesday

Movie: King Arthur

July 16 - Friday

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

July 21 - Wednesday

Book Discussion: Barnes & Noble at Metro Center. Info: cathypendragon@qwest.net

July 23 - Friday

Movie: Catwoman

July 25 - Sunday

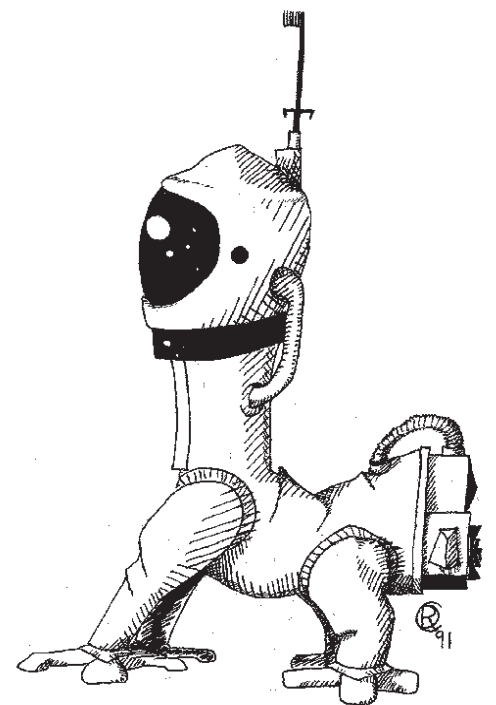
Meeting: SouthWest Costumers Guild Info: www.southwestcostumersguild.org

July 30 - Friday

Meeting: CASFS - 8PM - JB's (I-17 & Indian School) Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com (This meeting may change dates due to the conflict with HexaCon)
Movie: Thunderbirds, The Manchurian Candidate, The Village

July 30-August 1 - Friday-Sunday

Event: HexaCon 14, Tempe Mission Palms Info: www.hexacon.org



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Ongoing Events

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

In Our Book

The Light Ages
by Ian R. MacLeod
Ace Hardcover \$23.95, 456 pp

A wonderful curio of a book. The kind you turn over and over in your hands trying to figure it out. Not that the tale is obscure, but that your feelings about it are a bit...changeable.

I started this book and plowed right along through it, until I got two-thirds of the way through. And then I put it down for months. And I am not sure why. The story is wonderfully eccentric and refreshingly weird---it has very much the flavor of William Gibson/Bruce Sterling’s “The Difference Engine.”

The world, In MacLeod’s universe is run by aether—a mystical magical substance mined from the earth, I am not sure what aether actually is, but it is what powers the engines of the world: lights, trains, telegraphs, etc. The setting of the book is mostly a alternate world pseudo-Edwardian England: things are on the cusp of change in this world of industry, factories and guilds. Automobiles just on the horizon. And a new Age about to spring forth from the ragged mess of the current Age.

An Age that is rift with the have and the have-nots. Those that work themselves to an early grave, and those who live the high life that the various Guildmasters and Grandmasters do. MacLeod makes references to “spells” that get things to work along with the mechanical devices. There is an edge of “faerie” to this tale---but it remains just a faint whiff.

The novel is bracketed by a present-day set piece from the narrator of this tale, one Grandmaster Robert Borrows, who tells his story to a fey creature named Niana, who lives in the muck at the outer reaches of London in the uncertain waters of the Thames.

The heart of this story is Robbie’s climb from poor lad with a strange mum, to an impetuous member of the revolution (whose first bark goes hideously awry---ala the January 1905 revolt in Russia before the Winter Palace in St. Petersburg.) to settled Grandmaster.

There is a girl of course. Named Annalise Winters or Anna who is Robbie’s muse, inspiration, desire. She flits in and out of the story, her personality strange and ephemeral, the most “fey” creature in the book. Robbie first meets her in the higher strata of society and becomes enamored of her. But nothing is consummated. Even their friendship remains undefined and a bit tenuous. They get together for convenience sake.

Finally of course, the revolution does take place and is successful when it is realized that the whole of society, the whole of its financial support has well---disappeared. And has gone missing for sometime.

Do I recommend this book? If you indeed liked “The Difference Engine” or

perhaps Michael Swanwick’s “The Iron Dragon’s Daughter,” you’ll like this.

But it is a strange bit of business. - **Sue Martin**

Drowning World
by Alan Dean Foster
\$23.95, Del Rey/Ballantine, 296 pp

This story is set in Foster’s Commonwealth universe but is not obviously linked to any other book. It seems to stand alone; not having read any other Commonwealth stories, I can’t say for certain.

The world is Fluva where it rains most of the time. That is to say, it rains continually for all but one month of the year. It is an extremely fecund world where fortunes can be found in the flora or fauna. The Commonwealth has a presence on the world in the person of Chief Administrator Lauren Matthias. She has her hands full. The indigenous species, the warlike Sakuntala, are bent on killing every last Deyzara and the only thing stopping them is fear of reprisal from the Commonwealth. The Deyzara were imported (read: immigrated) by the Commonwealth some generations earlier as workers since the Sakuntala were too busy warring with each other. The Sakuntala hate the Deyzara for all their differences; while the Deyzara are busy finding new ways to extract credits from either the Sakuntala or the Commonwealth (*think Ferengi*.) The Sakuntala clans have finally found common ground in their hatred of the Deyzara and a mysterious supporter from off-world who is supplying them with weapons and tactics. They have devised an ingenious way of getting rid of the Deyzara. They are destroying all their homes and businesses and forcing them to run to the Commonwealth port which becomes overrun with refugees.

Chief Administrator Matthias has other problems, too. It seems a bioprospector has gone missing in the depths of the most deadly jungle imaginable. As he is human, and a citizen of the Commonwealth, she is obligated to send a rescue team. She chooses one Sakuntala and one Deyzara, one to track and the other to pilot. Inexplicably, their craft malfunctions just as the human’s did. All three find themselves stranded with little hope of immediate rescue. And, of course, the three must work together to find civilization without being eaten by any number of deadly predators. Pretty standard fare, actually.

The writing is smooth and the story flows easily. The problem with it is that it’s really a short story disguised as a novel. There were several characters that were not fully developed (possibly their background is well-known from a previous novel) and the plot was quite simple. Foster has done better, many times before. This was light fare and pleasantly readable. - **Catherine Book**

Deconstructing the Universe
of Harry Potter
By Shane Shellenbarger

“Any sufficiently advanced technology is indistinguishable from magic”
Arthur C. Clarke’s Third Law.

One of the reasons for the popularity of the Harry Potter series of books is the attention to detail. J.K. Rowling has built her world of witches and wizards with an eye towards historical detail and physical laws. Skills and abilities that are vague or insubstantial can be developed and enhanced. The world of Harry Potter is that of a meritocracy: if you work hard enough, you can learn the “expelliarmus” spell like Neville Longbottom or become and unregistered Animagus like James Potter or Sirius Black (Peter Pettigrew was given help by his school chums and doesn’t count.) Rowling also allows for mutation: Tonks is the perfect spy due to her ability to camouflage herself as a Metamorphmagus, an ability with which she was born.

Dr. Roger Highfield seriously delves into Harry Potter’s magical world and examines the contents with a scientist’s eye. While serious in his scientific explanations on how Harry’s universe can be defined in what is substantiated and what remains theoretical in the scientific community, Highfield can also be lighthearted and speak with tongue firmly in cheek. Flying on a broomstick and levitating frogs by diamagnetism are given equal weight (pun intended), but the dry British humor isn’t far below the surface.

Chocolate Frog cards and the Marauder’s Map could be explained as electronic displays. Gringotts bank carts are similar to robotic mail carts that currently glide through muggle high-tech offices. The red enveloped Howler seems a logical extension of internet voice mail and e-mail that deliver stills, animations, and music at the click of a mouse, or perhaps those annoying pop-up ads would be closer to the mark.

Highfield divides his book into two fields. The first deals with “how can it be done?” and the second concerns the origins, legends, and mythos of magical thinking. Physics, chemistry, biology, fractal geometry, and other sciences meet hover charms, Snapes potions, Aragog, giants, and other denizens of the Forbidden Forest.

Highfield has given great thought and research to his comparisons and explanations, making this book a bit challenging for non-scientists. However, fans of the Boy Who Lived will find new perspectives on Harry’s World in the book and it will give them something to mull over while they wait for J.K. Rowling’s next chapter in the Harry Potter saga.
<http://www.twbookmark.com/authors/43/1330/>
<http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org/>
http://www.harry-potter-games.com/Harry_Potter_Book_6.htm

“jump the shark” misses the mark
By Shane Shellenbarger

Jumping*the*shark \’j mp-ing-th - ‘shärk\ n : the precise moment when things go bad—terribly, irrevocably bad.

We’ve all experienced those moments: things turn sour in school, on the job, with friendships, in romances. We had positive thoughts, high hopes, and great expectations about so many areas of our lives and we eventually analyze the situation: where did it all go wrong? This book by Jon Hein, at least in part, answers that question.

The book comments on television, music, celebrities, sports, and politics. The title is derived from the *Happy Days* three-part episode entitled “Hollywood” #89-91 at the beginning of the 5th Season which aired on 09/13/77 and 09/20/77 when Fonzie accepts a challenge to jump over a shark while water skiing, thus the title of the book and website.

I had high hopes that this book would be entertaining and for the most part it was. However, I began to call into question the validity and accuracy of the material when I got to the entry on “Star Trek”. And I quote: “The next season found an oddly behaving Spock killing Kirk and *Bones* (who were alive just on tri-ox), Scotty still trying to get more power, and Kirk falling for every woman, alien, or otherwise, he could get close to.” For those in the know, Bones provided the coma inducing tri-ox and was not victim to it.

Other questionable research is contained in a box marked *Time Travel: Memorable eras visited by the original Star Trek crew*. Included were Nazi Germany (not an “era” visited, but a culture recreated), OK Corral (again, a time and place recreated, this time by the Melkotians), Earth, 1994 (nope, 1966 in “Tomorrow is Yesterday” or 1967 in “Assignment Earth”), Gangland Chicago (recreated by the inhabitants of Sigma Iotia II, based on the book, *Chicago Mobs of the Twenties*), and Ancient Greece (once more recreated, this time by Apollo in “Who Mourns for Adonais”).

In fact, the only true time travel episodes were “The Naked Time”, “Tomorrow is Yesterday”, “Assignment Earth”, “All Our Yesterdays”, and “City on the Edge of Forever”, He might as well have included “Plato’s Stepchildren”, “Space Seed”, “Catspaw”, “Bread and Circuses”, and “Menagerie” given how loose and inaccurate was his definition of “Time Travel.”

While my knowledge of other shows isn’t as great, the fact that the Hein has made such errors with as popular and accessible a show as *Star Trek* calls into question the material presented throughout the book. His choice for *Star Trek* episode “jumping the shark” was (as quoted in the book) “‘The Way to Eden,’ when Spock sang with a rescued musician, Adam—who was traveling with

(Continued on page 19)

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 18)

space hippies—and broadcast a concert ship wide to distract the Enterprise crew.” (End quote) I submit that “Spock’s Brain” is a better candidate, given that at least “The Way to Eden” was dealing with issues current to the time it was aired. That’s really Hein’s problem: he doesn’t get it. The classic *Star Trek* dealt with concerns and issues of the late ‘60’s and with ethical issues that are timeless. Religion, political ideologies, racism, sexism, xenophobia were all explored. Hein only saw the “space hippies” and not the message that underlay “The Way to Eden”: Peace must be sought, but violence isn’t the way to achieve it. Let the reader beware and take the validity of the rest of the book with a grain of salt. <http://www.jumptheshark.com/> <http://www.sitcomsonline.com/happydays.htm> <http://www.ericweisstein.com/fun/startrek/>

Thief Of Lives By Barb & J.C. Hendee ROC 410 Pages

This book is a sequel to *Dhampir* by the same authors. Our protagonists are Magiere, daughter of a male vampire and a female human, and Leesil, son of Elven female and a human male. Magiere is the Dhampir with the strength and power of a vampire without their reaction to sunlight. She knows nothing of her father and her mother died when she was born. Leesil grew up with his parents who were slaves of a noble lord. They acted as assassins for their noble master. Leesil, too, was trained as an assassin, but ran when he could not kill any more. He believes his parents to be dead.

After clearing the town of Miiska of Vampires, except for one who escaped, they are all set to settle quietly in Miiska as tavern owners. Alas the word is out and they are compelled to proceed to the coastal city of Bela where their escapee has settled. Their career as vampire slayers is not over.

Arriving in Bela they find a confusing mix of events and come to feel that there is more going on below the surface than they can see. Gradually they unravel the skein, but will they ever penetrate all the levels of deception. Eventually they achieve their purpose but are left facing new challenges.

The villains are wonderful. the guttersnipe vampire, Ratboy, is truly evil. His girlfriend, Sapphire, is the ultimate self centered hedonistic egoist. Crane, the vampire Noble, is complex and wonderful. You wonder if there is not some good in him. The councilman, Lanjov, whose daughter was slain by the vampire provides a window into the complex political situation and the policeman, Chetnik, is your honest cop who has the welfare of the people of the city as his primary consideration. The Guild of Sages led by Tilwith and henchwoman

Wynn add a richness to the plot. And behind all is the manulator, Welstiel.

There is enough action, enough tension between our heroes, enough magic, enough intrigue, enough blood, enough ..

The story is engrossing and carries one along, but at the end one realizes that not much has been solved and we must wait for the next book to learn more. I enjoyed the book and recommend it to anyone who is willing to stay the course and hang in there to find out what happens. —Gary Swaty

The Salt Roads by Nalo Hopkinson Warner Books, 397 pp., \$22.95

Nalo continues to blend magical realism and historical fiction in her newest novel. Ezili, a warrior goddess spirit, inhabits the lives of black women via time-shifting. The main character is Jeanne Duval, the mistress of the 19th century French poet Baudelaire. Next most is a fourth century Nubian prostitute who becomes Saint Mary of Egypt. Haitian slave women in 19th century San Domingo also figure in. Lots of graphic sex, lots of oppressed black women. It’s another work which can be classed as speculative fiction, since it has few things in common with fantasy genres. A shifting female perspective across time has been done before by women science fiction authors. Offhand, Judith

Merril, Joanna Russ, and Marge Piercy come to mind. In this case, Ezili seems more like a linking device to tell mundane tales. Great writing, but fantasy? Not really, it’s way too real. - Mike Griffin

High Druid of Shannara: Jarka Ruus by Terry Brooks Random House, 398pp, \$27.95

Terry Brooks has completed another intriguing, yet predictable as always,

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2004 October 28-31, 2004

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, Arizona
www.worldfantasy2004.org



The 2004 edition of the **World Fantasy Convention** 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, Autograph Reception, Artists Reception, and more.

Join us at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe, Arizona!

The Tempe Mission Palms has a wide variety of restaurants, shopping and nightlife in the immediate area plus recreation at Tempe Town Lake and Karsten Golf Course.

Free airport shuttle and free parking are available at the hotel.

The average daytime high temperature in late October is 85 degrees.

Author Guest of Honour Gwyneth Jones

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

Artist Guest of Honor Janny Wurts

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

Editor Guest of Honor: Ellen Datlow

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

Publisher Guest of Honor: Betty Ballantine

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

Toastmistress: Jennifer Roberson

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

Memberships are US\$150 through July 31, 2004, US \$160 after and at the door.

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World Fantasy 2004,
c/o Leprecon, Inc.
P.O. Box 26665,
Tempe, AZ 85285
Phone: (480) 945-6890
Fax: (480) 941-3438

Email: wfc2004@leprecon.org

Shannara novel. I don’t mean to make it sound like he’s a bad author; quite the contrary. His writing style is fluid and his use of language is masterful. Unfortunately, the Shannara world is too well-used, sporting similar challenges to similar characters whose development always follows the same path: character is young and inexperienced, problem arises, youth stands up to adversity and overcomes every challenge. In the first book of a new trilogy, the “*High Druid of*

Shannara: Jarka Ruus,” the character of Penderrin Ohmsford faces the daunting task of rescuing his aunt, Grianne Ohmsford, founder of the Third Druid Council, from the vastly dark Forbidding, a world which contains creatures of evil nature banished forever. However, as Brooks has done in almost every other Shannara book he’s written, the future is told by a powerful being at the beginning

(Continued on page 20)

In Our Book (Cont’d from page 19)

of the journey. And though the actual unfolding of the foretold future is interesting to read, this book is by no means anything new to fans of the series.- **Jon Graves**

The Da Vinci Code
by Dan Brown
Doubleday, 454 pp. \$24.95

I usually avoid bestsellers, assuming they’re tripe. Word of mouth persuaded me that this is an exception to the rule, and I am so glad. In this novel, art scholar Langdon and French detective Sophie are racing to find the Holy Grail or die trying. Genre: murder mystery. Milieu: Paris, the Louvre, London, Westminster Cathedral, other artsy tourist spots. Content: art symbolism, cybers, riddles, the pagan roots of Christianity, the Priory of Sion secret society. Story: fiction. Details: true facts. Did you know that Da Vinci’s painting The Last Supper shows Mary Magdalene at Jesus’ right hand side? Find out what this means. While the story is a fast paced thriller, the flavor is somehow satisfying to a fantasy fan. That’s not too unusual, perhaps. Many masters of our genres were and are also mystery writers. But I cannot imagine what would happen if this guy joined those ranks. It’ll never happen, but at least we have this one. - **Mike Griffin**

Any Man So Daring
by Sarah A Hoyt
Ace Hardcover; \$23.95; 327 pp.

This is part of a series of stand alone books Ms. Hoyt has written involving that well-known playwright, William Shakespeare. You know, that Elizabethan scribbler who wrote a few sonnets and a couple of well-known plays..... Ms. Hoyt apparently has Shakespeare actually involved with the realm of Fairy and the Kingdom under the Hill (Titania’s and Oberon’s old haunt). In this particular novel, we also have Christopher Marlowe’s ghost (Another Elizabethan playwright, NOT as well-known as Shakespeare, but whom many think Shakespeare plagiarized. Marlowe died tragically at a very young age) haunting good ol’ Will. And Will? He’s utterly stumped, wrestling with a huge case of writer’s block. Wants to write a tragical romance of star-crossed lovers...And the major shareholder of the Lord Chamberlain’s men is getting anxious. And then, he finds his son Hamnet has been kidnapped and taken to the perilous *crux*---where all magic is from. Will gets himself sent there through the auspices of a witch, though he fears for his immortal soul.

In the meantime, in the land of Fairy, the current elvish king, Quicksilver, has just put down a nasty revolt from a relative who craved his throne. But Quicksilver wins this battle and kills the

relative, leaving behind the adult son, who, of course, vows vengeance. Proteus, the aforementioned son, goes to the land on the edge of Fairy land---a dark brooding place, where the Hunter lives seeking a magical book (The Hunter is a mythical man/elf who dispenses justice and is followed by a pack of hounds). There of course, he meets the beauteous and innocent Miranda who all unknowing, has great magical abilities. The magical, powerful Hunter is the adoptive father of this sweet, innocent elf-maid and has raised her from an infant. Miranda has a hairy, awkward troll of a servant/companion named Caliban and they too get whisked off to the crux...and there all will be explained and confronted and concluded. Do you like novels where every line of dialogue reads as if Shakespeare penned it? Do you like a novel where the characters are endlessly questioning themselves and others? Do you like a sweet tale of passion and redemption and remorse and innocence and regret? Okay, this is your book. It’s an easy read, and a very sweet tale, obviously Midsummer Night---ish. But I really did get tired of all the characters not only asking questions, but repeating themselves. Endlessly. Constantly. All the time. Let me give you a verbose example: These will be Miranda’s thoughts about Proteus and how she doubts his affections and actions. “...Her mind held, impressed upon it, the image of Proteus’s ungallant behavior, his pressing close an unarmed adversary, his pushing for the blood of one who would gladly have surrendered all to Proteus’s claims. “Proteus,” she sobbed. “Ah, Proteus. Beautiful tyrant. Fiend angelical. Dove-feathered-raven. Wolvish-ravens lamb. Despised substance of divinest show. Just opposite to what you justly seemed. A damned saint, an honorable villain. Oh nature. What had you to do in hell when you did bower the spirit of a fiend in almost immortal paradise of such sweet flesh?” I got it!! He is not how he appeared!! He’s a cad, a bounder, a two-timer.... You get the picture. And the novel is full of these tiresome litanies. So, I suggest, reading good ol’ Will. Forsooth, in a certainty, you will have a better, nay, a more glorious time. Unless you like a novel of elves and magics and innocent maids duped by duplicitous persons and.....- **Sue Martin**

SPACE, INC.
edited by Julie E. Czerneda
\$6.99, Daw Books, 319 pgs

This is a collection from 14 writers who speculate on the question of employment in the future and off-world. I enjoyed the Josepha Sherman tale of a couple of dock workers, one human, one not, who had a ‘cultural exchange’ with another species, that terminated in murder

– or was it suicide? Although the story is really about the definition of honor. The Derwin Mak story was intriguing but seemed familiar somehow. I can’t think of an identical story but it feels like deja-vu. It’s a question of intelligence and whether we should judge intelligence by the physical appearance. Doranna Durgin had a very enjoyable contribution that followed a reluctant pet keeper-come-veterinarian and the question of priorities. When human lives are at risk, does anyone consider the value of our pets? Of course, we do. We run into burning buildings all the time to save our inhuman friends. But would we do it in space? Sean Fodera gave us a fun story that examines the perils of being an Editor off-world. He explores the questions of how to find talent and the best way to market it on several worlds. And my favorite of the whole batch is by Tanya Huff - a funny and colorful story of a bartender. A usually mundane job (unless you’re Callahan or Quark) but made more challenging by being in a space station ... and a woman. I enjoyed all but a couple of the stories in this anthology. I hope Julie does another one. - **Catherine Book**

Jenna Starborn
by Sharon Shinn
Ace Books, \$7.99; 369 pp.

I really, really like this author’s writing. She has an easy way with words and a great imagination. If you have not read the “*Samaria*” trilogy of books dealing with genetically manipulated “angels”, I recommend them highly. As for this novel: What a hoot. This is a science fiction gothic tale, in the old sense of the word, based on the novel, “*Jane Eyre*!” It’s wonderful. It is done in the first person narrative, with Jenna Starborn speaking to her “Reeder” (a Palm Pilot type device used as a journal) and there are characters corresponding to Jane Eyre and Mr. Rochester (even a character named Janet Ayerson). There’s a large manor house on an isolated planet terra-formed and devoted to mining. And “Jenna Starborn,” the story’s heroine (unloved, self-reliant, created in an artificial womb) comes to Thorrastone Park to maintain the nuclear generators that keep the force fields going and providing a livable atmosphere for the estate. There is even the important character that is not spoken of and who remains a mystery until about halfway through the book. This was just a delight. Even though Shinn must describe highly technical things such as the process Starborn must go through to achieve deep sleep for a very long space journey and discuss force fields and “aeromobiles” the whole tone, the very verbiage is gothic in manner and tone. I read so very few science fiction romances (save the kind that are out and out bodice-rippers and written specifically for the romance readers) this was delightful. There is drama and tragedy and

heartbreak and shallow rich characters. Even several dark and stormy nights. Really, if you like late 19th Century English gothics---this is your cup of tea. Save it for a rainy nasty day! - **Sue Martin**

The Rise and Fall of Shimmerism
by James Kracht
Writers Club Press, \$21.95, 405pp

Simon Shadow is an ordinary guy. When he is nearly killed by a crazy coworker he decides to get away from it all and emigrate to the colonies (Mistake Number One). So he goes to a friend of his who is a Realtor and gets a “great deal” on a one way immigration package to Reetar, a distant planet recently colonized. Do you want to guess what Mistake Number Two was? Arriving on Reetar he finds that he was royally screwed by his former friend in real-estate, and then things start going down hill. This is a quirky offbeat story which could have easily been titled “How to Turn an Ordinary Joe into a Mass Murderer in Three Easy Steps.” When the author gave me this book he said “This book is very popular in England” and when I started reading it and found that the first character introduced is convinced that giant spiders have stolen his brain and is upset because they won’t give it back I understood why. This book is written with the off beat humor typical of British sitcoms. I found this book offbeat and amusing and would recommend it to anyone with a slightly warped sense of humor. - **William B. Whitmore**

Coalescent
by Stephen Baxter
Del Ray Hardcover, 485 pp, \$25.95

Coalescent, is the first volume of a proposed trilogy, *Destiny’s Children* exploring three radically different futures in the evolution of man. George Poole is a dissatisfied forty five year old man, divorced, childless, and in a dead end job. He wants a change, but lacks direction. When his father dies, he stumbles on family secret. He has a twin raised by an enigmatic cult that has dwelled beneath Rome for almost 2000 years. George sets out to meet his twin and discovers their descent from Regina, an orphaned girl who set out to save her family in the dissolution of the Roman Empire. Now, two millennia later, he meets his sister who says the Order is his family as well as hers. Joined by his boyhood friend with his own agenda, he finds that they have evolved into a new evolutionary path, one that may be superior to homo sapiens. Stephen Baxter’s previous work has won numerous awards. *Coalescent* suggest there are more to come, with an

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 20)

intricately drawn story that keeps you reading past your bedtime. This one is a must read. - **Pam Allan**

**Fire and Sword
Keys of power#2
by Simon Brown
DAW, \$6.99, 420 pp**

We return once more to the kingdom of Grenda Lear. Prince Lyan has made it to the safety of the Chetts. But how is he to regain his rightful place in the world when his only followers are a splintered band of horse nomads? Can Prince Lyan unite the independent tribes which make up the Chett people? Can he forge them into an army capable of winning back his throne? Will his sister Queen Korigan give him the time he needs to prepare?

For the answers to these and other questions welcome to *Fire and Sword, Keys of Power #2*. Those of you who have not read the first book in the series, *Inheritance*, are probably scratching your

head and asking "what is he talking about?" The second book in Mr. Brown's series is just that, a second book. For those of you who enjoyed the first book *Fire and Sword* is an excellent continuation of the story. For those of you who have not read the first book I encourage you to go out and get them both, they are the start of an excellent sword and sorcery series. - **William B. Whitmore**

**The Punisher
by D.A. Stine
Del Rey, 309 pp, \$ 6.99**

The Punisher is a novelization of a script by Jonathan Hensleigh.

Frank Castle's final case before retiring from undercover work and taking a desk job to be with his family is a lulu. A two years undercover operation to catch an illegal arms dealer results in a shoot out triggered by the wannabe buyer. The deceased wannabe turns out to be the son of money launderer, Howard Saint, who wants to run for Governor. When he learns of the death of his son, Saint decides on a ruthless revenge.

Celebrating his retirement from undercover work, Frank, his immediate and extended family are enjoying an island vacation when Howard Saint's death squad attacks. Everyone but Frank is killed and it is believed that Frank has died too. Months of healing on another island where he washed up brings him back with one thought. Punish the perpetrators. Saint has other thoughts and

continues to try to eliminate him. Only one of them will walk away.

This will make a good action movie. What is amazing is the amount of characterization Stine manages to develop in what is basically a comic book character. If you like action, this book's for you. - **Pam Allan**.

**There Will Be Dragons
by John Ringo
BAEN, \$25.00, 538 pp**

It is the 41'st century and earth is a paradise. Nano technology and plentiful clean energy lets people be what ever they want. You want to be a mermaid? Go to the doctor and have the change made! Everything is perfect, until civil war brings paradise crashing down around everyone's ears. All power distribution is cut off bringing this high tech civilization crashing to a halt. Who can pick up the pieces? Who has the knowledge and skills needed to live in a muscle powered society? Why your friendly neighbor

hood SCA of course! As small groups of historical re-enactors band together to rebuild they are also forced to take sides in the civil war.

There Will Be Dragons is the first book in a new series by John Ringo. I found it to be well written with an engaging plot and likable protagonists. I liked this novel and eagerly look forward to the release of the rest of the series. - **William B. Whitmore**

**Storyteller
by Amy Thompson
Ace trade paperback, 372 pp, \$14.00**

Storyteller is a stand alone by the author of *Through Alien Eyes*.

On the planet Thalassa, history is passed on by stories from generation to generation, told by storytellers who travel from village to village.

For Teller, storytelling is her life. As she travels the world's oceans with her harsel, a sentient telepathic leviathan she meets and adopts a n orphan street boy

whom she eventually takes on as an apprentice. As he grows up, he will learn Teller's secret - one that will profoundly change him and his future plans.

This a complex and moving story, intricately developed, with characters you become deeply involved with. Even the alien species, the harsel, becomes a part of your reality. [Is Abeha really an alien? After all, he is the native not the human settlers]

This is a book you can't put down. It deserves a literary award, and a permanent place in your library. It has one in mine. - **Pam Allan**.

**The Road to Damascus
by John Ringo & Linda Evans
BAEN, \$25.00, 688 pp**

This is a Bolo novel. For those of you who do not know what a Bolo is think of a tank the size of a 20 story office building and then give it a positronic brain so that it can think for itself. This is the

(Continued on page 22)

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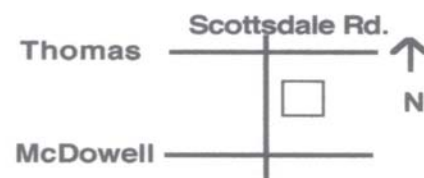
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In Our Book (Cont'd from page 21)

story of Sonny, SOL 0045 officially, an old and obsolete Bolo who has been sent to a backwater world as all of the protection the Concordiant can afford to spare. Of course the fact that this one obsolete war machine carries enough fire power to turn the world into a radioactive waste land helps to keep the people of that world from thinking that he is just political gesture.

Sonny’s orders say that he is sent to protect the world and that he is to work with the government to do this. But what happens if the government changes? What if it becomes corrupt and brutally oppressive? What if the government itself is destroying the world through mismanagement and short sighted greed? Then where does a machines duty lay?

This novel is an interesting exploration of the concepts of duty, morality, and civil disobedience. What is a persons responsibility when a government becomes corrupt and immoral? Is legal behavior the same thing as moral behavior? How far can you go to oppose the immoral behavior of a government that makes the laws making the behavior legal?

I think this novel is a fine story and recommend it to everyone. - **William B. Whitmore**

**The Riven Shield
by Michelle West
Daw,828 pp, \$6.99**

The Riven Shield is the fifth volume of the *Sun Sword* series.

Valedon is the last survivor of the ruling clan and has forged an alliance with his ancestral enemies and must ally with the Tyr’agnate Mario di’Lamberto. Unless he can gain possession of the Sun Sword and survive it’s wielding.

Jewel of House Terafin has joined with the Voyani bringing with her the warlord Avandar. Hunted by the demonic Kailli, they must join Valedan’s army.

Jewel’s den is caught up in the infighting and political intrigue of Averalaa, they must take up the difficult roles placed on them by the Terafin herself.

Kiriell, half demon, born of a mortal woman is torn between the two worlds and tries desperately to rejoin her family with the northern army for if they cannot unite their forces and prevail, the Lord of Darkness and the furies of the Hells will be released upon the world.

This is a complex weaving of tales and plotting that holds your . interest. Set some time aside for this on. - **Pam Allan**

**Beyond Infinity
by Gregory Benford
Warner Books, 337 pp, \$23.95**

Beyond Infinity is a new novel springing from his award winning novella, *Beyond the Fall of Night*. written with Arthur C. Clarke.

Cley is an Original, a genetically pure form of Ur-Human with a few modifications. Like her forest dwelling tribe. she expects a lifetime of working in the Great Library Of Life. the library contains the history and genetic coding of all humans and other life forms

One day, without warning, her tribe is wiped out, only her almost dead body remains and the library is under attack. The genetic codes from which her people were recreated are destroyed. She is saved by Seeker Of Patterns a genetically altered racoon like creature infinitely old, and with his own agenda.

Brought back to the library for healing, she is cared for by the Supras, a genetically enhanced group that look down on her even as they “protect” her. Cley and Seeker escape and travel through myriad landscapes and eventually worlds to find why they are being attacked and why Cley is the key to defeating a powerful entity named the malign who is destroying whole galaxies in its efforts to destroy Cley.

The physics are wild and the enigmatic Yoda-like Seeker are fascinating characters holding you nose to the page as they seek the answers. If you like hard science fiction at all, you’ll love this book and must have it for your collection. - **Pam Allan**

**The Devil’s Armor
by John Marco
Daw, 680 pp, \$24.95**

The Devil’s Armor is the sequel to *the Eyes of God*. The ending sets up a third volume.

Akeela, the mad king of Liiria is dead. His Library, and home to Figis’ thinking machine is held by a few loyalists waiting for Jazana Carr and her mercenary armies to finish Norvor and strike at Liiria.

Lukien, the bronze knight is in self imposed exile in Jador and wears the amulet known as the Eye Of God. He rides to protect the seekers of Grimhold’s healing magic from the desert’s violent bandits.

But Grimhold’s other secret is the indestructible armor of a sorcerer who infused his spirit into the armor and has been waiting for a victim to possess. He finds it in Baron Glass who dons the armor to fight Jazana Carr, only to have the sorcerer change sides and make him her minion again. The Armor’s spirit would rule all.

Who can try to stop him and must return to Liiria to try to break the sorcerer’s power? Lukien, but he reach his old friend or will he die, himself.

A lot of trees died for the epic, but the writing carries you through. The plotting and characters are good and hold interest. Save lots of time for this one. Your wrist will be sore before you can put it down. - **Pam Allan**

Club Listings

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

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

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

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

BASFA Local 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 org-anization, it is our goal to promote fellow-ship 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 enter-tainment, no matter what his/her ethnicity. The sense of being a real village surround-ing 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 demon-strating 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) Infor-mation 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 inc-luding 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 gene-ralists with a main thrust into SF/F art. Guests are welcome. The meetings are quarterly on the second Saturday of Febr-uary, May, August & November unless otherwise notified. August is the annual meeting where board positions are deter-mined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285; call Mike Willmoth, 480-945-6890, Email mwillmoth@compuserve.com www.leprecon.org

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 22)

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 listserve OCSF@yahoo.com

PAReX is a non-profit, just for fun organization dedicated to the proliferation of robotics as a hobby. Monthly meetings will be held and will be announced under the Meeting Information page, <http://www.parex.org/meetinfo.htm>. All interest-ed 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, johnkitt@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 OUT-POST 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.

Volume 14 Issue 3

SAMURAI OTAKU ANIME CLUB The Samurai Otaku is a group of fans of anime, manga, and Japanese pop culture. Meet-ings are held every Saturday night at 6pm at Samurai Comics, 5024 N. 7th St.. Mem-bers discuss anime and manga, work on a web comic, discuss fund raisers, and schedule club events. After each meeting the club views selected anime DVD's and plays games. Open to new members. Contact Moryha Banks—(602)265-8886, moryha!samuraicomics.com

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

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

SHADOWKEEP BBS Intelligent conversation, awesome graphics, stupendous door games, unworldly filebank, RPG forums, QWK message system and online RPG BBS-mode-rated games! Our BBS is mainly RPG oriented and we offer many services to GMs and players. No fees 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](mailto: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 SPACEMODELING SOCIETY is Arizona's club for builders of model and high-power rockets and those who love to see them fly. Launches are held on the second Saturday morning of each month in Rainbow Valley. SSS hosts the annual G. Harry Stine Memorial Rocket Launch every October. Visit www.sssrocketry.org for membership information, directions to the launches and meetings, and to read the monthly newsletter, "Newton's Minutes."

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

TEKWAR FAN CLUB Sanctioned by the series' production companies and the USA Network! It is THE information conduit between the fans and the series! Fan club membership will bring you the following 1) subscription to the info filled Tek Informer newsletter; 2) official TekWar Fan Club membership card and kit. Membership is by regular mail only and the newsletter and materials will not be reproduced electron-

(Continued on page 24)

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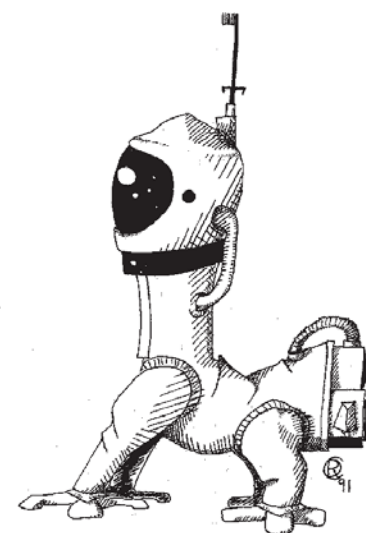
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What is CASFS?

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

Club Listings (Cont’d from page 23)

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

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

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

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSO-CIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors the ConRunners seminars and is sponsoring the 2004

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

Convention Listings

Tinhare (Chandler AZ) **June 4-6 2004**, San Marcos Hotel, Chandler AZ Annual LARP (Live Action Role Playing) Convention weekend, hosted by Tithe of Souls, a local domain of The Camarilla USA - the official Fan Club of White Wolf(tm)’s World of Darkness - Vampire the Masquerade, Changeling, Werewolf, Mage. Further information & registration: http://tinhare.titheofsouls.com

ConRunners 8 (metro Phoenix AZ) **June 12, 2004** - Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park AZ, Registration 830AM Morning Session 9AM-1PM Topic: Hot Topics for Westercon, Afternoon Session2PM-4PM Topic: Website Design; 4PM-6PM Topic: LepreCon 30 Membership \$15. Info 602-973-2341 or conrunners@westernsfa.org or Web www.westernsfa.org Mail PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082

ConKopelli, WesterCon 57 -(Litchfield Park, AZ) **July 2-5, 2004**, Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, AZ Guests: Author GoH: C.J. Cherry; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Music GoH: Heather Alexander ; Fan GoH: John Hertz; Local Author GoH: Diana Gabaldon Member-ships: \$75 thru 5/31/04; Supporting \$30; Conversion is Current rate minus \$30 Hotel Rates: \$105 standard rooms, \$135 Suites, Wigwam Resort, 300 Wigwam

Blvd., Litchfiled Park, AZ (623) 935-3811 Info: ConKopelli, WesterCon 57, PO Box 67457 Phoenix, AZ 85082; info@conkopelli.org; Web: 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: \$20 thru 7/15/04, Hotel: Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ (800) 547-8705 Room Rates: \$85 S/D/T/ Q, Info: www.hexacon.org or 480-945-6890

CopperCon 24 (Phoenix AZ) **Sept 10-12, 2004** ; Literary oriented SF/F Convention Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, Arizona Guests: Author GoH: Alan Dean Foster, Artist GoH: Todd Lockwood; Local Author GoH: Catherine Wells; Music Guest: Leslie Fish Memb: \$30 thru 4/30/04, \$35 thru 8/27/04, \$40 at the door Hotel Rates: Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. Rooms: \$84 S-Q (plus tax) Info: CopperCon 24, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602) 973-2341 , Email: cu24@coppercon.org ; Website: www.coppercon.org

Vegacon (Las Vegas, NV) **Oct. 15-17, 2004**. Plaza Hotel, downtown Las Vegas. Pro GoH: Steven Brust; Filk GoH Kathy Mar. Membership \$25 until 4/15/04; \$35 until 10/01; \$45 at door. Mail to VSFA, 2800 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Suite 11, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Plaza Hotel special low rates may increase after April 15. \$75/night Fri. & Sat., \$55 Sun-Thurs. includes tax. : For convention registra-tion or room reservations contact Terry Wilsey AanswerTravel@hotmail.com or 702-731-2114 For all other info contact vegacon@hovc.com



A Novel Idea by Dawn Mullan

Half way through 2004, and the season is alive with more genre book releases. The months of June and July are full of exciting novels to read for your summer vacation.

For June, the book releases range from science fiction to the paranormal with **A Forest of Stars**, Kevin J. Anderson; **Foundation**, Isaac Asimov; **Foundation and Empire**, Isaac Asimov ; **The Girl from Farris’s**, Edgar Rice Burroughs; **Forge of Heaven**, C. J. Cherryh; **Nightmare House**, Douglas Clegg; **Retribution: A Small Percentage**, Jim Cline; **Bonds of Vengeance**, David Coe; **The Wild Wood**, Charles de Lint; **Crisis**, David Drake, et al.; **Lost and Found**, Alan Dean Foster; **Sign of the Raven**, Julie Hearn; **Ghost Shi: The Mysterious True Story of the Mary Celeste and Her Missing Crew**, Brian Hicks; **Speak With the Dead: Seven Methods for Spirit Communication**, Konstantinos; **Moon of Ice**, Brad Linaweaver; **A Feast For Crows** George R. R. Martin; **Moons’ Dancing**, Krause Marguerite; **The Scrolls of the Ancients**, Robert Newcomb; **Darkness and Dawn**, Andre Norton; **That Darn Squid God!**, Nick Pollotta ; **Exile**, R. A. Salvatore; **The Awakening**, Ardy M. Scott; **Haunted Cemeteries**, Edrick Thay; **Dragon and Soldier**, Timothy Zahn.

Expect more book releases in July with **Horizon Storms**, Kevin J. Ander-son; **The Locus Awards : Thirty Years of the Best in Science Fiction and Fantasy**, Charles N. Brown; **AVP: Alien vs. Predator : The Movie Novelization**, Marc Cerasini; **Premonitions and Psychic Warnings**, Jo-Anne Christensen; **The Children of Odin: The Book of Northern Myths**, Padraic Colum; **Goddess of the Ice Realm**, David Drake; **The UFO Files**, Martin H. Greenberg; **Elvenbred**, Mercedes Lackey and Andre Norton; **The Bad Place**, Dean R. Koontz; **Where Crawls the Lizard? (Spider-Man, No 2)**, Marvel Comics; **Shattered Twilight**, Yvonne Navarro; **Iron Sunrise**, Charles Stross; **Terminator 2: Hour of The Wolf**, Mark W Tiedemann; **Druid Power: Celtic Faerie Craft and Elemental Magic**, Amber Wolfe

Want more releases? Please visit your favorite publisher or author online today for more information about new summer genre books

Generic Convention Registration Form

Name:

Badge Name:

Address:

City/State/ZIP:

Phone:

Email:

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

(See calendar for mailing address)

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