

ConNotations

Volume 15, Issue 5
October/November
2005

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

A Conversation with Charlaine Harris

By Catherine Book

Charlaine Harris is not new to writing but rather new to our genre. She's been writing mysteries for years. Her first stand-alone mystery was published in 1981; but she came to our attention (and a goodly portion of America) when she first introduced us to Sookie Stackhouse.

Sookie is a telepathic barmaid whose life takes a decidedly different bent when she takes on a vampire as a boyfriend. The Sookie books are even being published in other countries. Along with Sookie came fame and book tours, which is

where I met Charlaine. She came to Scottsdale on a tour when her last Sookie book came out; and, now she has a new book due out in October 2005.

Charlaine has been writing since she could hold a pencil but it wasn't until her husband gave her the opportunity to stay at home and write that it really came together for her. She tries to work everyday from 8am to 1130am but admits it's often hard

to meet that since she's raising three teenagers. When deadlines loom, she tacks on a few more hours in the afternoon. And in addition to writing and publishing regularly, and raising her children, she finds time to be involved with several groups. She belongs to the

American Crime Writers League, Sisters in Crime and Mystery Writers of America.

I asked her of which of her series

was she most proud. She answered that she's proud of them all; she's never published anything that embarrassed her. Of course, Sookie makes her a lot of more money than either of her other series did for her. Her new book, "Grave Sight" is about a young woman who makes her living locating corpses. The first chapter is available on her website.

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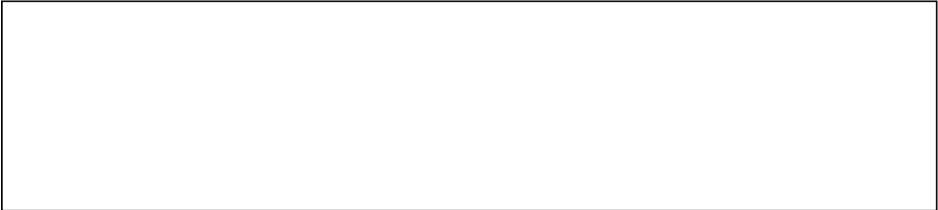
News and tidbits of
interest to fans

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Convention List & Generic Registration Form

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Salutations
July

- * Bill Whitmore raised the idea of CASFS donating some prizes for the Phoenix Library's teen summer reading program. After some discussion, Bill was appointed as the Summer Reading Committee to investigate further
- * Mike Willmoth proposed a Bylaw amendment which would allow the Board to override convention Chair personnel decisions. It got enough signatures and will be voted on at the August meeting.
- * The group voted to donate \$50 to Cowboys For Kids in commemoration of Jimmy Doohan's death.

- * HexaCon 15 happened. Attendance was down, we *may* have broken even, and there were problems with the hotel.
- * CopperCon 26 has an approved and signed hotel contract.
- * CopperCon 27 has an approved and signed hotel contract.
- * The Bylaw amendment proposed last month was discussed. The group voted to hold the vote on the amendment by secret ballot, rather than the customary show of hands. The amendment itself failed to pass.
- * Bob LaPierre was elected to serve out the remainder of Ray Gish's term on the Board of Directors.
- * The group voted to donate \$100 towards hard drive recovery for "Hazel's Picture Gallery," the largest and best-known online picture gallery of regular convention attendees.
- * The group voted unanimously to donate \$100 to Ray Gish's favorite charity.

No Longer the New Guy

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About ConNotations: *ConNotations* is the fan published newszine of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society (CASFS) an IRS-recognized 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Circulation is estimated at 7,000 readers for this issue, including CASFS members and attendees of recent CASFS conventions.
Subscriptions: The newszine is currently sent free of charge to anyone who has attended a CASFS sponsored convention in the last two years and to all CASFS members. Subscriptions are available. Cost for a six issue subscription is: USA: \$15/bulk. Corporate subscriptions are available, email for rates.
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Publication: Publications dates are February, April, June, August, October & December. Publication date of this issue is 09/28/2005; mailing date is 10/03/2005
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Contact Information: ConNotations and its contributors can be contacted by mail at PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or via email at editors@casfs.org

ISSN: 1082-7765
PUBLISHED: Six times a year
BY: Central Arizona Speculative
 Fiction Society, PO Box 62613,
 Phoenix, AZ 85082
ISSUE NUMBER: Volume 15 Issue 5
SUBSCRIPTION: \$15 for 6 ISSUES

SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

We’ve got a genre bonanza on the broadcast networks this fall as well as a few other things to look for over the next couple of months. How many of the new shows will make it through November sweeps will be the big question. In the meantime, we’ve got plenty of new shows to watch while the cable networks pretty much shut down until January except for a couple of exceptions.

It is the first fall since 1986 without a **Star Trek** series on the schedule, but thanks to the success of **Lost** and a willingness on the broadcast networks to give genre shows a try, we’ve got one of the busiest fall seasons for scifi and fantasy fans in several years.

First to debut was **Supernatural**, Tuesday nights on The WB. The initial episode did fairly well in the ratings and set up the ongoing thrust of the series with Sam and Dean Winchester tracking down evil beings throughout the country. They will make extensive use of urban legends, having an episode with the Hook Man early on. Other episodes scheduled for October include *Dead in the Water*, where the brothers investigate a ghost of a drowned man, and *Phantom Traveler* where they deal with a mysterious flight attendant who may be behind one or more plane crashes (and she’s on their plane!).

CBS’s **Threshold** debuted with it’s two hour opener on Friday Sept 16th, setting up the Threshold response team investigating the arrival of an extraterrestrial craft and how it affects those that come in contact with it or signals it emits. With **David Heyman**, **David Goyer**, and **Brannon Braga** behind the series and a well respected cast that includes **Carla Gugino** as team leader Dr. Molly Anne Caffrey, **Charles S. Dutton** as Deputy National Security Advisor J.T. Blaylock, **Brent Spiner** as NASA microbiologist Dr. Nigel Fenway, **Peter Dinklage** as languages and mathematics expert Arthur Ramsey, **Rob Benedict** as neurotic physicist Lucas Pegg, and **Brian Van Holt** as cover operative Cavennaugh, the series may turn out to be worth catching on a regular basis. Whether it will draw a large enough audience to keep CBS happy remains to be seen, though.

Continuing on with the alien invasion theme is NBC’s **Surface** which is on Monday nights. In this case, it’s a new form of sea life that has turned up suddenly all over the world. Instead of weekly terrors and scares, we may have more of a continuing story with how the various characters interact with the new life. In particular, the young Miles (**Carter Jenkins**) takes one of the creatures as a pet not really knowing what he has taken in. Oceanographer Laura

Daughtery (**Lake Bell**) discovers the unknown life form and in the process unearths a government cover-up operation led by scientist Dr. Aleksander Cirko (**Rade Sherbedegia**). Louisiana fisherman Richard Beck (**Jay R. Ferguson**) loses his brother in a suspicious diving accident that is tied into the creatures. Expect somewhat of a cross between **The Abyss** and **E.T.** Of the three alien invasion shows on the networks, this is probably the one with the least chance for survival.

ABC completes the alien invasion trilogy with their show, aptly titled **Invasion**. It’s about strange things that happen in conjunction with a devastating hurricane, where something is causing people in the small town of Homestead, Florida to act abnormal. The devastating hurricane aspects of the show may ring a bit too true following real-life events, though. With strange lights, an mysterious military presence, characters suspecting a conspiracy and others appearing to be taken over or having strange influences, it looks to follow in the creepy footsteps of one of **Shaun Cassidy’s** previous series, **American Gothic**. With **Lost** as it’s lead-in, it stands the best chance of survival of any of the new genre shows, provided it keeps the Lost fans tuned into ABC.

Going back to the supernatural side of things is ABC’s **The Night Stalker**, based on the original 1970’s series, **Kolchak: The Night Stalker** with former **X-Files** producer **Frank Spotnitz** at the helm. It follows **Alias** on Thursday nights. **Stuart Townsend** is Carl Kolchak, a newspaper reporter recovering from the murder of his wife by mysterious creatures, **Gabrielle Union** is Peri Reed, the lead crime reporter at The Beacon, **Eric Jungmann** is photographer Jain McManus and **Cotter Smith** is editor Tony Vincenzo. The pilot episode owes much more to the **X-Files** (the creepier episodes) than it does to the original **Kolchak** series, though, and **Townsend** has none of the charm that **Darren McGavin** had as the original Kolchak. Reports are that later episodes will have more humor, but the opener is very serious and may not be enough to bring viewers back for later episodes. If they make some changes, it might stick around. As it stands from the pilot, I’d rate it as a disappointment.

Finally, CBS gets into the psychic game

(Continued on page 4)

24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

Spider Man 3 - Rumors are that **Tobey McGuire’s** Spiderman will face three supervillains in the third Spiderman movie. According to FreezeDriedMovies.com, the villains will be Venom (**Topher Grace**), Sandman (**Thomas Haden Church**) and Hobgoblin (**James Franco**). Filming isn’t expected to begin until sometime next year with a May, 2007 release date planned.

Marvel Enterprises has re-organized with a new financial deal and will now be known as Marvel Entertainment. They have entered into a distribution deal with Paramount for any future Marvel film properties in an arrangement similar to Lucasfilm’s partnership with Fox. This will allow Marvel to produce their own movies and get a larger piece of the profits from them. Characters in development under this new setup include Captain America, the Avengers, Nick Fury, Black Panther, Ant-Man, Cloak and Dagger, Dr. Strange, Hawkeye, Power Pack and Shang-Chi.

When Worlds Collide - Following the success of **War of the Worlds**, **Steven Spielberg** will be producing a new version of **When Wolds Collide**. The original movie was released in 1951 and was based on the 1933 novel by **Philip Wylie** and **Edwin Balmer**. **Stephen Sommers** had been developing the movie but opted out when another opportunity arose. It’s likely **Spielberg** will update the story to the present day as he did with **War of the Worlds**.

Stephen Sommers (**The Mummy**) will be adapting **Milan Trenc’s** children’s book *The Night at the Museum* with **Chris Columbus** and **Michael Barnathan** producing.

Its about a security guard at the Natural History Museum that accidently activates a curse that brings to life the animals and insects on display in the museum.

Ivan Reitman is producing a superhero comedy, **Super Ex**. **Owen Wilson** stars as a man who discovers that his girlfriend (**Uma Thurman**) is a superhero and breaks up with her when she becomes too controlling for him. **Eddie Izzard** will play the supervillain Professor Bedlam and Anna Faris will be the new love interest for **Owen’s** character. Another scifi comedy in the works is **Used Guys**, which will be directed by **Jay Roach** and will star **Ben Stiller** and (maybe) **Jim Carry** as obsolete pleaser clones.

M. Night Shyamalan’s next film, **Lady in the Water** has started production. It is fantasy movie about a building manager who rescues a mysterious young woman and discovers that she is actually a character from a bedtime story. **Paul Giamatti** and **Bryce Dallas Howard** star.

Bruce Almighty 2 is in the works without either **Jim Carrey** or **Jennifer Aniston**. **Steve Carell** will take on the role of Bruce in the sequel in which he will be on a quest to build an ark in preparation for a great flood.

V For Vendetta has been delayed until March. Originally scheduled to open in early November, the graphic novel adaptation release was pushed back to accommodate the movie’s post-production schedule.

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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 3)

with *Ghost Whisperer* starring **Jennifer Love Hewitt** as Melinda Gordon, a newlywed who talks to the dead. Unlike *Medium*, where Allison DuBois is brought in to help solve crimes, Gordon will end up helping spirits resolve unfinished business, trying her best to bring emotional closure to both the living and the dead. **Aisha Tyler** is Andrea Moreno, Gordon's partner in an antiques store and **David Conrad** is Jim Clancy, Gordon's paramedic spouse.

There's also lots happening with returning shows this fall as well. *Lost* will introduce some new characters that survived the crash that were in the tail section and promises to show us what is in the hatch (which will open up new questions). *Medium* will continue with the fictional exploits of Allison DuBois. *Alias* will deal with **Jennifer Garner's** real life pregnancy, having Sydney Bristow pregnant. Rumors are that **Michael Vaughn** will not be around much longer on the show. Joining the cast will be **Rachel Nichols** as Rachel Gibson, a new operative that will be trained by Sydney.

Smallville will see Clark deal with the creation of the Fortress of Solitude and also lose his powers for a couple of episodes. Joining the show for a multi-episode arc will be **James Marsters** as Metropolis University professor Milton Fine (who will eventually be revealed to

be a Smallville incarnation of Braniac). **Carrie Fisher** will also guest star in an episode as Daily Planet editor-in-chief Pauline Kahn. Introduced in the episode *Aqua* will be swimming sensation Arthur Curry (played by **Alan Ritchson**) who is a Smallville version of Aquaman. Clark is suspicious of Curry, especially when he gets friendly with Lois Lane. The episode *Thirst* will have Lana fall under the spell of a vampire sorority, while Professor Fine investigates the Kryptonian spaceship that Lex has acquired following the events earlier in the season. In the episode *Exposed*, **Tom Wopat** will guest star as a senator who is an old friend of Jonathan Kent's (he was also **John Schneider's** co-star on *The Dukes of Hazzard*).

Charmed sees the three sisters going undercover since everyone thinks they are dead and the Underworld starts to take advantage of their apparent demise. Reports are that the budget has been cut for the show such that **Dorian Gregory** (Inspector Morris) will not be back and **Brian Krause** (Leo) will be in about half the episodes. Joining the cast for the first part of the season will be **Kelly Cuoco** as a witch in training and **Smith Jerrod** will have a multi episode arc as a romantic interest for Phoebe. As usual, there will be high concept episodes with titles like *Malice in Wonderland*, *Desperate Housewives* (with soap star **Michelle Stafford** sending up **Marcia Cross' Desperate Housewives** character), *Kill*

Billie: Vol 1, and *The Lost Picture Show*.

New shows on SciFi Friday are over with until January, however, SciFi's Saturday action movies never take a break. Coming up first in October are *Dungeons & Dragons II: Wrath of the Dragon God* (October 8) where five heroes undertake a quest to prevent the rise of a dragon god and an evil sorcerer who intend to subjugate the world under their reign of fire and shadow. **Mark Dymond**, **Bruce Payne** (reprising his role as Damodar from the original *Dungeons & Dragons*) and **Clemency Burton-Hill** star in the sequel to the movie based on the popular role-playing game. On October 29, *Cerberus* is unleashed when art historian Samantha Gaines (**Emmanuelle Vaugier**) is shanghaied into the search for the fabled Sword of Mars, a weapon of such infernal might that its possessor is said to be invincible. The sword is guarded by the Cerberus, a three-headed hellhound, that also stands sentry before a portal to Hell itself. **Sebastian Spence (First Wave)**, **Greg Evigan (TekWar)** and **Garret Sato** also star.

Coming up on SciFi in early December will be their big miniseries, *Triangle*. It sports an impressive list of creative talent, with **Dean Devlin** and **Bryan Singer** producing and **Rockne S. O'Bannon (Farscape)** handling the screenwriting and directing. **Sam Neill** is billionaire Eric Benerall, who wants to find out why he's been losing cargo ships and their crews in the region of the Bermuda Triangle. He picks a team to investigate that includes tabloid journalist Howard Thomas (**Eric Stoltz**), ocean resource engineer Emily Patterson (**Catherine Bell**), adventurer/scientist Bruce Gellar (**Michael Rodgers**) and psychic Stan Latham (**Bruce Davison**). Also along for the ride is **Lou Diamond Phillips** as a boat pilot who experienced the dangers of the triangle during a Greenpeace expedition. As they start to investigate the strange goings on, they start to have their own strange experiences.

Showtime will be getting back into the genre realm for a bit with the new series *Masters of Horror*, starting up on October 28. The series has been put together by IDT Entertainment and will feature 13 hour episodes directed by the Horror genre's master directors. Directors on board include **Dario Argento (Suspira)**, **John Carpenter (Halloween, Vampires)**, **Larry Cohen (It's Alive)**, **Roger Corman (Little Shop of Horrors)**, **Don Coscarelli (Phantasm)**, **Joe Date (The Howling)**, **Mick Garris (The Stand)**, **John Landis (American Werewolf in London)**, **Tobe Hooper (Texas Chainsaw Massacre)**, and **George Romero (Night of the Living Dead)**. Some will also be writing their own scripts, but others will be written by **Richard C. Matheson**, **Lawrence D. Cohen**, **Steve Niles**, and **David Schow**.

Scripts are being adapted from stories by **Joe R. Lansdale**, **Clive Barker**, and **H.P. Lovecraft**. Look for it to be a weekly dose of thrills and chills with the creators given free reign to tell their stories. For those without Showtime, a home video release will likely follow.

The producers of *Master of Horror* are also developing a *Masters of SciFi* series that will do a similar package of classic science fiction stories. Already on board are **Harlan Ellison**, who will do a script for "Repent Harlequin!", *Said the TicktockMan*", and **Ray Bradbury**, who will adapt "Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed." Other stories in the works include **Stanislaw Lem's "The Hunt"** and **Robert A. Heinlein's "Jerry Was a Man."** Look for more news as the series develops.

Across the pond there's news on the new series of *Doctor Who*, which still doesn't have a U.S. outlet. Filming started for the new series in August with **David Tennant** taking over the role of The Doctor for his first adventure in *The Christmas Invasion*. The big news is confirmation that **Elisabeth Sladen** will make a guest appearance as Sarah Jane Smith and she'll have K9 with her (voiced by **John Leeson**) in the second episode of the new series, *School Reunion*. Also guest starring in the episode will be **Anthony Stewart Head** (Giles on *Buffy*). The first episode of the second series will feature **Zoe Wanamaker** as Cassandra, the last pure human, obviously in an incarnation before the first series appearance in "End of the World". Due to his work schedule, **John Barrowman** will not be returning to the series as Jack Harkness, although he is hoping to return for the third series.

Doctor Who isn't the only sci-fi series unable to find a U.S. outlet. **Charlie Jade** has recently aired on Canada's Space: The Imagination Station and currently is airing on CHUM stations in Canada. It stars **Jeffrey Pierce** as the rogue detective Charlie Jade, who discovers that there are parallel Earths that can be traveled between. He comes from the AlphaVerse, a world overtaken by corporations and is propelled into the BetaVerse (our Earth) when he gets caught in an explosion at a covert test site while investigating the disappearance of a woman. He finds there is also the GammaVerse, a much more pristine and pacifist version of Earth. The series follows him as he searches to find out the truth about the different Earth's and the conflict happening between the three of them. It is a Canadian/South African co-production filmed in South Africa. Producer **Robert Wertheimer** and star **Jeffrey Pierce** previewed the series at CascadiaCon in Seattle and are encouraging fans to write the SciFi Channel to let them know there is an audience that is interested in seeing it. More details about the series can be found at www.charliejade.com

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and Fantasy Writers of America, Inc.



24 Frames (Continued from page 3)

Neil Gaiman and **Roger Avary** have completed a script for an adaptation of ***Beowulf*** that will be produced by **Robert Zemeckis**. It will be done using motion capture as with ***The Polar Express***, but will take advantage of improvements in the motion capture technology. **Angelina Jolie**, **Anthony Hopkins**, **Brendan Gleeson** and **Robin Wright Penn** will star in the movie.

Movie Previews for October & November

Tim Burton's Corpse Bride - If you loved ***The Nightmare Before Christmas***, you should make sure you catch the latest stop-motion work by **Tim Burton**. With a voice cast that includes **Johnny Depp** (big surprise), **Helena Bohnham Carter**, and **Tracy Ullman**, it should be fun. **Depp** plays Victor, who is about to be married, is instead taken away to the underworld and married to the Corpse Bride (**Carter**). Initial reviews have been very good for it.

Serenity - The return of ***Joss Whedon's Firefly*** on the big screen has been getting a lot of buzz from the Browncoat fans who have been selling out preview screenings across the country all summer in an inventive promotional campaign by Universal Studios. If it draws a big enough box office, expect to see more adventures of Captain Mal Reynolds and crew. If you are a fan, you've likely already seen it a few times by the time you read this. It is a good, rollicking space adventure with a good lineup of characters with much more character to them than most Hollywood movies. It's not required that you be a fan of the TV series to enjoy the movie, although some parts of it will have more impact if you have been with the characters through the whole story to date. It centers around River Tam, who has been experimented on by the Alliance and is on the run with her brother Simon on board Captain Reynold's ship *Serenity*. The Alliance sends out an special operative to track them down, causing much mayhem along the way.

Mirrormask - Opening in limited release and going wider if the initial box office is good is the **Neil Gaiman/Dave McKean** movie ***Mirrormask***. Made for the Henson Company on a \$4 million budget, it is the story of a fifteen year old girl, Helena, who tries to escape from the family circus she is living in and finds herself in The Dark Lands populated with all sorts of strange beings. In order to get back home, she has to find the MirrorMask. If you enjoyed **Gaiman's** kid stories such as ***Coraline*** and ***The Wolves in the Walls***, you should enjoy this if you get the chance to see it in the theatre.

Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit - At last, we have a full length adventure featuring Wallace and Gromit, who have been the stars of a popular series of short films from Aardman Animation. On the eve of the annual Big Vegetable Competition,

Wallace and Gromit, who have been running a humane pest control company - Anti-Pesto, are called in when a huge beast begins attacking the vegetable gardens and destroying potentially prize-winning vegetables. If you liked their previous movie, *Chicken Run*, or Wallace and Gromit's previous adventures, you should enjoy this one.

The Fog - With it being October, there's some scary movies afoot. Whether we need a remake of ***The Fog*** is another matter, though. **John Carpenter** is a producer on this remake of one of his more successful outings, with **Rupert Wainwright** directing this time out. ***Smallville*** star **Tom Welling** and **Selma Blair** lead the cast. In the movie, a coastal town is enveloped in a thick fog, much like one that wrecked a ship 100 years ago, drowning all the crew. The sailors are back and are killing anyone who gets caught in the fog.

Saw 2 - The other scary movie is ***Saw 2***, a sequel that continues the story and misdeeds of Jigsaw. This time, Jigsaw has a wider range of victims and detective Eric Mason is trying to stop him. Cast includes **Donnie Wahlberg**, **Franky G**, **Beverley Mitchell**, **Glenn Plummer**, and **Dina Meyer**. Expect lots of gore and violence in this one.

The Legend of Zorro - **Antonio Banderas** and **Catherine Zeta-Jones** revisit the Zorroverse with another action adventure. It is six years from the events in the first movie and Don Alejandro de la Vega (aka Zorro) has settled down with his wife, Elena, and their son, Joaquin, in San Francisco. When a threat to California's statehood arises, Zorro is back in action, this time with Elena by his side.

Zathura - From the creator of ***Jumanji*** comes ***Zathura***. Two boys begin to play a space game they find and soon discover they are actually in outer space. Each time they draw a game card, it manifests itself leading to many adventures. Directed by **Jon Favreau (Elf)**, it looks to be a good start to the holiday movie season.

Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire - Kicking the holiday movie season into full force is the fourth Harry Potter movie, based on the book of the same name. With each book getting bigger as the series goes along, expect to see less of the book appearing in the 2 hour 30 minute film adaptation. Harry is selected to be a contestant in the Triwizard Tournament, which pits the best young wizards against each other. As things develop, Harry learns he is not only fighting to win, but fighting for his life. All of the main cast are back, along with a few new faces such as **Ralph Fiennes** as Tom Marvolo Riddle and **David Tennant** as Barty Crouch, Jr.

Aeon Flux - Early December sees the live action adaptation of the classic MTV animated action series ***Aeon Flux***.

Charlize Theron stars as the assassin Aeon Flux who targets the leader of the last surviving city. **Frances McDormand** is Aeon's boss, known as 'The Handler'. Expect lots of action in this one.

Conversation (Continued from page 1)

Charlaine describes this new series as a bit darker and more serious. Sookie has quite a bit of humor about her. I asked if she were leaving Sookie behind and she laughed, answering No. After all, she said, she's got three children to put through college. But what about Aurora or Lily (from her mystery series), I had to ask. Charlaine confessed she simply doesn't have the time for either of them now. She feels she left them both in a good place. I got the feeling that Charlaine has grown past them. Maybe one day when Charlaine is well established and anything she writes sells, she can revisit Lily or Aurora and we'll all benefit from it. But, that's just my guess...

Charlaine tries to focus on just one big project at a time; although she might take a little time off to do a small one, like a short story. She *claims* she just doesn't have enough brain for it. {hah!} I asked what style of writing she uses.. She doesn't like outlines; she's more of a free-flow type of writer. Does she use any support groups to help her? She pointed out that she might be the only writer in southern Arkansas. But she does have a friend, a professional writer, who critiques her work – thank goodness for email!

As a woman writer, with lots of female leads in her work, I wondered if she felt any of her heroines were feminists. She admitted that her feminist leanings were more evident in Lily although all of them are strong women. Did she think today's readers are accepting of feminist women? Charlaine answered yes, a bit hesitantly. She added that she didn't think they wanted a militant or strident character; but *were* sympathetic to a character who 'sticks to her guns' and won't allow herself to be stepped on. But what about the sex, I wanted to know. Did she think readers were enjoying the sex in her books as a vicarious thrill...? She felt that it really depends on the reader. Her message board on her website is filled with conflicting responses. Many women seemed to remember only the sex although Charlaine tries to include it only if it's logical and necessary to the story, not as an end of itself. Well, then, I wondered – do readers like strong female characters *without* the sex? Charlaine hesitated and then answered wryly, "Yes, but then they might not buy so many books..." She laughed so hard at that. But she admitted that sex had not really been part of her books until Sookie came along. She had to admit that she's enjoyed writing it. I remarked that the sex that Sookie enjoyed was not only "logical and necessary" to the story but wholeheartedly real. I really *like* Sookie. Charlaine also really likes Sookie but added that she didn't think she could have a protagonist that she didn't like or least respect (I felt she might have been referring to her newest character, Harper, with that last caveat.)

So, what were her influences that might have gotten her to this point? Charlaine grew up reading Jane Austen and still does. It's a comfort read for her. It often calms her to simply open a familiar book and read a few pages. I commented that it certainly isn't the style she's writing in and she laughed. Charlaine has a hearty, thoroughly comfortable laugh that tells me she has a deep-seated sense of humor. But what influenced her style, I persisted. She sat back and told me that the best description she ever read of her own writing was one that called her "the bastard child of Laurell K. Hamilton and Janet Evanovich." She felt that was the fusion that contributed to her style.

Now that her Sookie series is really taking off (five books), I wondered how she keeps track of events. Readers, especially avid ones, do not often let a writer off when they find a discrepancy. Charlaine had a friend do a database but the format didn't really suit her work style so she's going to have to do it again because she recognizes that it really is important to keep things straight. Even if her editor and copy editor should catch it, she feels it's her responsibility to keep her characters accurate. After all, she laughs, most of her readers have read her books more than she has.

Since her writing is now crossing genres, between mystery and fantasy, I was curious how she saw the difference in the fans. She's been to mystery conventions, romance conventions and, now (with the advent of Sookie), science fiction conventions. (At this writing, she's scheduled to be the Writer GoH at VisionCon, a SF/F con in Missouri next February) Mystery writers cons are the most staid, she said; and SF/F cons have the most openly eccentric folks. Romance cons are, of course, predominately female and are about expressing fantasies which are becoming more and more erotic. Romance is making its way into other genres and fantasy is an obviously easy fit.

Well, our time was up when I asked Charlaine if she had anything else to add. She, almost shyly, told me that she'd had some great news that day, "Dead as a Doornail" was going into a second printing and was 14th on the New York Times Bestsellers list. I asked her how it felt to be a "successful" writer. It only took her 25 years, she commented wryly; but admitted it felt really good. It wasn't as if her first book skyrocketed – she's worked hard for over 20 years and published lots of books so it was a bit unexpected but sweet, she added. I asked if she's been invited to more book signings. "Just a few..." she laughed, a bit sarcastically. It may have taken her a bit of time, but I think her recognition is well-deserved.

In Memory

**Michael Billington
Ed Bishop
James Doohan
Ray Gish
GiGi
Bruce Hamilton**

**Michael Billington
December 24, 1941 - June 3, 2005.**

Michael Billington, best known as Paul Foster in UFO, died of cancer on June 3. Make memorial contributions to: Marie Curie Cancer Center.

**Ed Bishop
June 11, 1932. - June 8, 2005**

Ed Bishop, best known as Ed Straker in UFO, and various voices on the animated version of Star Trek died of an unknown virus on June 8, 2005

**James Doohan
March 3, 1920 - July 20, 2005**

James Doohan, best known as Scotty on Star Trek: TOS and the series of movies which followed, died of pneumonia/Alzheimer's. He was a father again at the age of 80 and is best remember with the line "Cap'n, I dunna know if we kin hold on much longa!" In 2004 he received his Hollywood star in 2004. Doohan's ashes are scheduled to be sent into space sometime in September 2005

**Star Trek TOS- Last Male Officer
With A Red Shirt- Scotty
(Tribute to James Doohan)
by Jeffrey Lu**

He was the man
On and off the board
To engineer his own
Enterprise.

By stories told
In real life
Like World War II,
He jests and jokes among the fans and
crew.

By voices,
The real Jim
Made the Klingon language
And voices of many (With one- a famous
Scottish accent).

By passing,
Scotty was an actor
Who went beyond the realm of "red shirt"
physics
And pass on to us- future engineers of
space.

To the heavens-
Warp 7, Scotty.

**Ray Gish
April 13, 1934 - July 30, 2005**

Ray Gish was born in 1934 to Katie and Roscoe Gish and was raised on a farm near Flora, Indiana. Ray's father died when he was twelve, so he became the responsible man of the house at an early age.

As Ray moved into his teenage years he became very involved in many aspects of 4H, raising animals, doing leadership activities, and growing corn. If fact, during high school he was Junior Corn King for the entire state and one of Indiana's representatives to the National 4H Congress that was held in Chicago.

After high school he was drafted by the Army and sent to Communications school in New Jersey before shipping out to Salem base on a mountain top in South Korea. There he and his buddies maintained the communications links between several cities in South Korea.

After he returned from Korea he went to work for Sayco, a plumbing fixture company, and married for the first time. At work he became floor manager and worked at Sayco until he developed a hernia which made lifting boxes of plumbing fixtures impossible.

While he was recovering from that surgery he went back to technical school and got a degree in Electronics. At that point Carla, Ray and Katie decided to move to Phoenix for the broader opportunities that the Valley offered.

As soon as they arrived Ray got the job with Muzak, then part of the Harkins empire, and worked with Muzak for the rest of his career. The company went through many ownership changes, some good - some bad, but Ray was the stable force, doing installations, service calls and managing the service staff for over 20 years.

Soon after coming to Arizona, Ray and Carla parted company and Ray married Terry Thomas. It is that marriage that resulted in David and Sean, and Ray's involvement with Fandom.

Ray started working with conventions and art shows at AlterCon in 1980, the small, quickly-organized convention held as a substitute for LepreCon 6 and has been active ever since. He has been a board member of both CASFS and LepreCon, Inc, was a founding member and board member of WesternSFA, chaired LepreCon 14 and 24, and run art shows for LepreCon, CopperCon, WesterCon, NASFiC, World Fantasy Con, acted as treasurer for LepreCons and so forth. But basically if it had an art show, Ray ran it or helped run it. His driving interest has been that Phoenix art shows took care of artists and that Phoenix fans got to experience great fantasy and science fiction art. He has built art flats, spent hours doing paperwork, shipped art, done artist mailings because he loved the artists and

the fans. In addition, Ray was involved in other aspects of conventions, he will be missed for all the little things he did as well as the big ones, like ordering ribbons and just being a friend to those who needed it.

After Ray and Terry split up, Ray met and married Pinkie. With her he spent his time traveling, and just enjoying life. He finally got the marriage thing right. Pinkie added her children to his family and Ray relished spending time with her and them



Not many of the fans know that Ray's other love was car racing. Growing up in Indiana he became a fan of the Indy 500 and often went to practice and qualifying. After moving to Arizona, for many years he attended both Indy car races at PIR each year and listened to or watched the big Indianapolis race live and then avidly watch any after-race coverage. Those of you who know Ray, probably will not be surprised that each year he kept charts of average speeds, who was leading the race at 10 lap intervals and so forth. Like everything he loved he liked knowing as much as he could about the races, the drivers and the cars.

He was also involved in other community activities including running the sound room for Glass and Garden Church for many years and recently acting as his homeowner's association president.

He is survived by his wife Pinkie, his children, Sean and David, Sylvana, his step-children, Monique, Danita, Richard and Elizabeth, David. Grandkid's Joshua, Christie, Jacob, Valerie, Sonny, Tabitha, Emily, Tim. Great Grandkid's Alicia, Silas, Jacob, Michael, Brelyn. and lots of friends and fans. He will be missed in ways both big and little.

Donations to the American Cancer Society

**Guardian of the Art Show
(Tribute to Ray Gish)
by Jeffrey Lu**

Guardian of the Art Show,
I remember him.
He sat there like a hawk
With a gentle smile.

Flannel shirt,
Baseball cap,
And plastic glasses
Were things I remember him.

Each LepreCon to CopperCon,
I see him always at attention
With his friend Richard
And/or his wife Pinky.

Never did I expect
That his life will end
For the beauty of art
To his ageless support.

Guardian of the art show-
Rest, old friend.
Your job is done.

Ray of sunlight
Warms us creatures like cats and kittens
Sleeping soundly in a day
Before the corner of the night.

Ray of hope:
You are the guiding light of art shows
And fondly joining the direction of our
dreams-
Science fiction, fantasy and life.

Ray of today-
You are not forgotten.
You are known for your kindness and
care.
You are our Ray.

**GiGi the Staff Lounge Poodle
1983-2005**

GiGi the voiceless white poodle that attended so many local AZ and some out of state conventions passed away on September 12, at the age of 22 from liver failure. For many years she was a constant figure at Phoenix area convention staff lounges or ConKopelli bid parties.



She lived a long and happy life and will be missed by many friends and family members. If you feel you would like to do something in her memory please donate to the American Humane Society's Katrina Relief Fund.

In Memory (Cont'd from page 6)

A Poodle Named Gigi by Jeffrey Lu

Small white pillow who comes to you to
be petted
Or fed from scraps of meat from the hands
of humans.

The little one sleeps on a pillow
And bears content sleep with Stephanie's
and Craig's care.

She silently barks
And at times skittles across the floor.
She waits for no one
But loves the attention among the pack
and cats.

Gigi, the prized poodle.
She enjoyed 22 dog summers.
Dogs days in the Arizona's sun,
She left with a dog print in our hearts.

Bruce Hamilton Passes: A Disney Duck Aficionado Succumbs To Illness by Shane Shellenbarger

On June 18th, 2005 at 3:00 A.M., the comic book industry in general and Disney fine art collectors in specific lost a champion when Bruce Hamilton, age 72, lost his fight against complications from double pneumonia.

Hamilton, the driving force behind Gladstone and Another Rainbow Publishing, is known as a comic book historian, a fandom activist, and along with his partner, Russ Cochran, helped to bring "The Good Duck Artist," Carl Barks, out of the Disney shadow and into the spotlight of fan approbation.

Beginning as a dealer in Golden Age comic books and later expanding into heterogeneous areas such as cartoon cels, movie posters, and fine art lithography and porcelain, Hamilton was known by friends, fans, pros, and collectors for his ambitious plans and out-of-the-box thinking. No project was too big and no detail was too small for Hamilton's attention.

Hamilton's legacy includes his work as a radio DJ at various stations across the United States culminating at KBUZ in Scottsdale, Arizona in the '70's. He collaborated with musicologist, Jerry Osborne, and they developed over a dozen record price guides. While his friendship and influence aided in Robert Overstreet's development of The Comic Book Price Guide, he will be best known for his licensed Disney publishing and collectables.

In 1980, Hamilton and Cochran formed Another Rainbow and Gladstone Publishing, acquiring the Disney publishing license which Western Publishing had dropped. In 1981, they completed their first project, *The Fine Art of Walt Disney's Donald Duck*, which

included all 122 full-color pictures of Carl Barks' Disney oil paintings produced to that date. Originally selling for \$150.00, current prices are above \$2,000.00, if you can find a seller. That same year, "Sailing the Spanish Main," the first lithograph in a series, appeared. Limited to a single edition of 245 copies, it is the rarest and most valuable of all the Barks lithographs. As of May 2000, its estimated value is \$11,000.

Hamilton's greatest legacy would arguably be the Carl Barks Library, ten sets, each with three slip-cased books containing reprints of all the covers and stories Carl Barks did for Disney. Mostly in black and white, with seven in full-color, the library allows modern day fans to examine a piece of comic book history that would otherwise be unavailable.

Hamilton is survived by his wife, Helen, their daughter, Summer, her husband, Richard, and grandsons, Chase, Reese, and Hunter.
<http://www.brucehamilton.com/gladstone/AAA%20Steve%20Files/BRUCE%20PASSES.htm>

An American in England Part Seven: Oxford by Jeffrey Lu

Oxford, believe it or not, has over twenty colleges. No one knows for sure if this is the oldest one in the nation. Yet, there are interesting places to go even if one has only a few hours as my tour group had.

First, Bodleian Library in Oxford is where they filmed the "Harry Potter" library scenes. This library is not a lending but a reading library. One must make appointments to look over the books from a few private collections. Also, one must check in his or her backpack, purse, or other bags for fear of theft. What is different from other libraries is that

Bodleian library actually has a book secured with a long chain.

Second, "The Eagle and Child" is a pub. The locals call this, "bird and baby." What is cool about this drinking establishment is the history of a group of professors came there to drink after teaching their classes. One specific group was called, "The

We Need A Logo!

After 25 years of muddling along without one, we at CASFS (the people who bring you CopperCon and HexaCon) have decided we need a proper corporate logo. And while we can handle every aspect of putting on a convention that will inform and entertain hundreds of people, we're sadly short on graphic design talent. That's where you come in. We're running a contest looking for the best logo for us to use. If you win, you'll receive a free membership to your choice of either HexaCon or CopperCon in 2006.

Logo submissions should:

- * include the acronym "CASFS" prominently
- * be suitable for use both as (or as part of) a letterhead and on the web
- * include a version that is either monochrome or grayscale
- * preferably be submitted in Adobe Illustrator or other common vector-based format for easy scaling. Failing that, submissions should be at least 300 dpi. (Jaggies on our letterhead are *not* acceptable.)

All submissions become the property of CASFS. The winning creator will be credited on our web site for as long as we continue to use the logo. Electronic submissions to

logo@casfs.org

Mail (hard copy or PC compatible media) to CASFS Logo, PO Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082

**Submissions must be received by
November 10, 2005.**

Inklings." The known members were C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien.

Last, Christ College is where the famous staircase of Mr. Riddle in "Harry Potter and The Chamber of Secrets." What is really neat is the dining hall. The students still dine there to this day. They

are actually given a choice whether to eat there or at another place. All of them pick the dining hall, no matter what. This is where they filmed the Harry Potter's films as the dining hall of Hogwarts.
Next: "The British Museum."



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FYI

CASFS Book Discussions

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

Books scheduled for discussion are:

October 19: *Kushiel's Dart* by Jacqueline Carey. I think it's about a homicidal, masochistic courtesan. My kind of heroine!!

November 16: *The DaVinci Code* by Dan Brown. Paperback not due out until October. Loads of stuff to bash about, great fun!

December 14: (moved up a week to keep it away from Christmas) ***Dragonflight* by Anne McCaffrey.**

Please join us.

For more information contact

Catherine <books@casfs.org>

Other Book Discussions

Manga Bookclub Group at the Barnes & Noble in Goodyear Oct 15th, Nov 19th, 7pm,

Team SciFi Book Group, Barnes & Noble in Surprise Oct 25th, Nov 29th, 7pm,

Events of Interest

Fridays, 630pm Beginning Tarot class at **The Astrology Store**

Game Events

Fridays, 6pm, HeroClix at **Imperial Outpost Games**

www.imperialoutpost.com

1st & 3rd Sunday, **RPGA Shield of Almor, D&D, at Imperial Outpost Games** www.imperialoutpost.com

Oct 4th & 11th, **Flames of War League, at Imperial Outpost Games**

www.imperialoutpost.com

Oct 7th & 21st, Nov 4th & 18th, **Anachronism/History Channel game at Imperial Outpost Games**

www.imperialoutpost.com

Fridays, 7pm, **Warhammer 40K League at Imperial Outpost Games**

www.imperialoutpost.com

Oct 15th, **Flames of War Tourny, at Leviathan Games**

Oct 22nd **Warhammer 40K, at Leviathan Games**

Oct 15, noon, **Hero Clix Armor Wars** prerelease at **Game Depot**

Nov 5th, **Worldwide D&D Day at Game Depot**

Signings

Diana Gabaldon, Oct 11, 7pm, **Changing Hands** www.changinghands.com

Nov 27, 7pm, **Glendale Foothills Library**

www.glendaleaz.com/Library

Nov, TBD, **Peoria Public Library** <http://www.peoriaaz.com/library/>

www.peoriaaz.com/library/

A Star Trek Fans-Campaign for Deep Space Nine

by Jeffrey Lu

Being at the four Star Trek Captains (Kirk, Picard, Sisko, Janeway) convention on August 11-14, 2005, I waited in line to get a picture taken with Avery Brooks. A gentleman gave flyers to the crowd. He gave me a bumper sticker and a card. The card had this information: Join the Make a Deep Space Nine Television Mini-Series Campaign. www.ds9tvminiseries.net "It's Time to Visit Some Old Friends."

Points of Contact:

Gisele La Roche-

Giselelaroche@yahoo.com

Doug Ballinger- Lordtacaan@aol.com

Jay Lehmann- Jay@trekster.us

They seem to be for real. Maybe we can get the series back.

A Quest Finished- Seeing All The Star Trek Four Crews

by Jeffrey Lu

August 11-14, 2005 at Las Vegas Hilton, there was a Creation convention with the four Captains: Kirk, Picard, Sisko, and Janeway. I went there to see Picard and Sisko. They were the only two left of my childhood quest to see all Star Trek crew from TOS (The Original Series) to Voyager.

I was there not only a fan but also a family member. Strangers out of nowhere talked with me on our common love of

Star Trek. Stars of any of the five series walked and waved happily at the crowds. There were new friendships made and discoveries of cool stuff in the dealers room. (I literally went for broke. Boy, that was great.) Highlights- Picard and Kirk on stage hugging each other as brothers. A surprise visit from Penny to Avery Brooks. A Neelix costume. Some young "Picard" in a wheelchair. Dancing with a new friend to James Darren's singing, "Paper Moon." Finding new information on not one but two Star Trek cruises! Watching the composer of Deep Space Nine and Star Trek: Generations conduct the Las Vegas orchestra live. All of them priceless. I

finished my dream in meeting the crews. Maybe I should into Firefly and/or Stargate? We'll see.

A Harry Potter Book Party

by Jeffrey Lu

After a fannish open house of the editor, I went around 10pm to the Friday, July 15, 2005 Harry Potter Midnight Magic Party at Borders in Chandler, 870 N. 54th Street. I had reserved a book in advance.

There were wand making and wizard hat making tables for the kids. There were live owls displayed. There was a booth for book markers. There was a Harry Potter quiz. (The winners got in the top ten line.) There were people in costume from wizards to witches. There was some magic excitement in the air. At 12:01 am, Saturday, July 16, 2005, the lines were long yet the crowd was happy. New friends were made. Everyone received not only a book, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" but also a coupon for 25% off on a regular price of one item.

Now, I will have to wait for the last book party. Maybe...

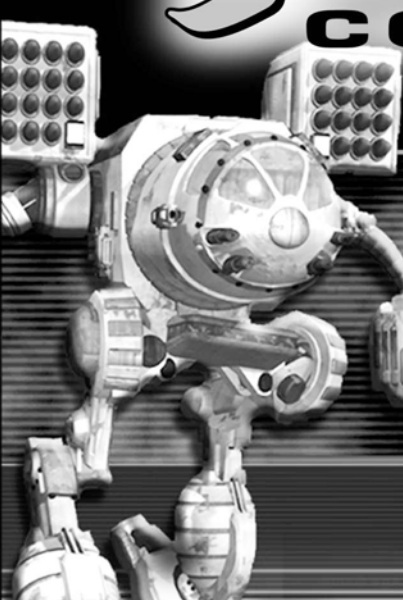


Pro Notes

Well... it's been a hectic month. I and most of the local fans just finished hosting CopperCon25 and it was a blast! But, now it's back to work for me. Nose to the grindstone and all that. I'm happy to add **Dan Simmons** to my ever-growing list of contributors. He's been working hard after the book tour for "Olympos" this summer, and says there's not much to report. He hopes to finish work on his novel "The Terror" in the next month. Set in 1845-1848, "The Terror" is a high-tension suspense novel based on historical facts surrounding the Sir John Franklin Expedition that disappeared north of Canada in 1845 while searching out the elusive Northwest Passage. We know a little bit about the fate of the Franklin Expedition -- more than 60 ships were searching for them in the 1850's, the largest search-and-rescue operation in history -- but most of the details surrounding their final weeks and months are still shrouded in mystery. The two ships -- HMS *Erebus* and HMS *Terror* (the same ice-breakers that had discovered Antarctica a few years earlier) were the most advanced such exploration ships on earth, the space shuttles of their day, and fitted out with enough food for the 129 officers and crew to last three years. Aside from a few messages and remains, no sign of them has ever been found. Based as tightly on fact as Dan could shape it, we enter the fictional realm of what was preying on them during the two long, dark winters frozen in the ice and why their

(Continued on page 9)

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Pro Notes (Continued from page 8)

later flight across the ice appears to historians to have been panicked -- as if they were fleeing *from* something. In some ways, Dan states, this is his most serious -- and certainly most frightening -- novel since his first one in 1985, "Song of Kali." It's also the first novel he's written since 1989 without a specific publisher waiting for it , so it's hard to say if it will ever see print. Speaking of "Song of Kali," a 20th Anniversary Limited Edition of that book is coming out from Earthling Press in November of 2005. There's a special introduction by the author. Dan's web site at www.dansimmons.com has more specifics on how "Olympos" is doing and what movie projects are thrashing around out there.

Michael Moorcock is back this month with the news that he just published "The White Wolf's Son," the very last Elric book and the final fantasy book he intends to write, though he says he might still do some comics. He also published an issue of "Elric: The Making of a Sorcerer" graphic novel with Walter Simonson. Coming up is "Moorcock's Miscellany," an anthology of work taken from popular magazines of the last 170 years, designed by John Coulthart, published by Constable/Robinson this autumn. In February, Cape will publish the final PYAT novel, "The Vengeance of Rome", which takes place mostly in fascist Italy, Nazi Germany and Franco's Spain, as well as contemporary London. This will be published in a uniform edition with the previous three books in the sequence which Vintage will do as trade paperbacks -- "Byzantium Endures", "The Laughter of Carthage," and "Jerusalem Commands." Reissued from Overlook Press is "Behold the Man." Also published in the US this year was "Silverheart," written in collaboration with Storm Constantine, from Pyr Books. Immanion Press published Jerry Cornell's "Comic Capers" (The Chinese Agent and The Russian Intelligence) as a POD book. Michael's been publishing a lot of reviews of general fiction and non-fiction in The Guardian and The Daily Telegraph and is working on a text which will accompany previously unpublished pictures by Mervyn Peake, to be published originally in French in France by Denoel, 2006. And, he is also continuing work on his memoir of Mervyn and Maeve Peake. In the works is a new autobiographical novel, "Pete's Rules". The Elric movie is also in progress at Universal. Also from California, I heard from **Vernor Vinge**. He finally turned in the novel he's been working on almost this whole century, "Rainbow's End." This is a near-future science fiction novel from Tor Books. It takes place mainly in San Diego county. The protagonist is a recovering Alzheimer's patient. The book is almost a prequel to the novella "Fast Times at Fairmont High." Publication

should be in May 2006. Vernor will be taking a little time off but will then probably start his next project which is sure to be a direct sequel to "Deepness in the Sky" wherein Pham and Anne & company will act against the Emergency. (*big Hooray from his fans!*)

Doug Clegg checked in this month with the news that his vampire novel, "The Priest of Blood, Book One" of THE VAMPYRICON, a fantasy set in an alternate medieval world, comes out on October 5, 2005 from Penguin's division, Ace, in hardcover. Around the time of that launch, there will be TV spots for the book, in-cinema advertising in Manhattan, podcasts, and various collectibles launched around the book through contests and giveaways. Readers can keep up with "The Priest of Blood" at either www.Vampyricon.com or www.DouglasClegg.com And from **Stephen Jones**, we discover that he has delivered "The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror, Volume 16" to Robinson Publishing (UK) and Carroll & Graf (USA) for publication around Halloween, as usual. Contributors to this year's volume include: NEIL GAIMAN (two stories), IAIN ROWAN, RAMSEY CAMPBELL, TANITH LEE, POPPY Z. BRITE, JAY RUSSELL, KELLY LINK, KIM NEWMAN, DALE BAILEY and LISA TUTTLE. Jones is now considering stories and novellas FIRST PUBLISHED between December 2004 and December 2005 for "Best New Horror, Volume 17." He is also interested in looking at novels, collections, anthologies, magazines, art books and graphic adaptations, which will be mentioned in the comprehensive overview of the year in horror. For information about submissions go to: <http://www.herebedragons.co.uk/jones/>

I heard from **David Drake**, out in N. Carolina, (*well ahead of news of Ophelia, I hope for the best for him.*) Oddly enough, he says, the thing he's most excited about is selling (as unpaid agent) a new and hugely expanded edition his friend Barry Malzberg's wonderful history/criticism/evocation of "SF, The Engines of the Night." He's going to more than double its contents. There are memoirs of life in SF by writers (Fred Pohl's *The Way the Future Was* is a great one) and academic criticisms of specific works and the field as a whole. What Barry did (and is redoing) is unique: an insider's view of the field which manages to be both detached and intensely personal at the same time. Baen Books will be publishing it. "The Fortress of Glass," the first of David's concluding trilogy of ISLES fantasies, will be coming out from Tor in April 2006. Tor's also bringing out a \$3.99 edition of "Lord of the Isles," the first book in the series, at the same time. He's halfway into "Some Golden Harbor," a Leary/Mundy space opera, for Baen Books. It's scheduled for September, 2006. And David sold Baen Books

another collection of military-themed stories under the title of either "Other Times Than Peace" or "War Times." He and Jim Baen seesaw back and forth on which it'll be. And finally, he reports that the first of the Night Shade "Complete Hammer's Slammers" will be a December release. It collects all the short fiction, with a wonderful intro by Gene Wolfe.

Back on the homefront, lots of our local Arizona authors contributed this time. **Alan Dean Foster** wrote me from Quito in Ecuador -- his forthcoming works include "Running From the Deity," which is the next FLINX & PIP story, coming from Del Rey this fall; followed in 2006 by "Trouble Magnet." In the chronology of the COMMONWEALTH (and Flinx's life) these novels 'bookend' 1972's "Bloodhype." Alan also has lots of short fiction due out: "Box of Oxen", a novella, in the next issue of Argosy (*could be out right now, this news is old*), "Ali Babette" in Feline Tails from DAW, "Mr Death Goes to Washington" in Children of Magic from DAW, "The Man Who Knew Too Much" in FutureShocks from ROC, "Venting" in Slipstreams from DAW, "Mid-Death", a novella set on MIDWORLD, in Forbidden Planets, a special anthology exclusive to the SF Book Club, "Perception" in Firebirds Rising, a Penguin/Firebird release, and "The Last Akialoa" in F&SF. No publication dates announced on any of the short fiction -- which is dependent, of course, on

publisher's schedules...and whims. **Dennis McKiernan** tells us that since last we talked, he's finished the five-book Faery Series, two of which have been published--"Once Upon a Winter's Night", and "Once upon a Summer Day" - with the next three yet to come: "Once Upon an Autumn Eve" (due in April 2006), "Once Upon a Spring Morn" (due, possibly, in April 2007), and, finally, "Once Upon a Dreadful Time" (due, if the pattern holds, in April 2008). Of the five books (published by Penguin Putnam under their Roc imprint), each of the first four are based upon known fairy tales, but the fifth and last novel is based upon the first four books in the series. In addition to that "quintology," Dennis has also put together a collection of his shorter works (21 stories, 3 poems, 3 short essays) tentatively titled "Reflections". (Perhaps it'll come out in April 2009, although it might be an "in-between" book, released concurrently with one of the novels.) He's currently contemplating writing a ghost story probably set in the 1980s and he plans to attend TusCon in Tucson in November, and hopes to see some of his readers there.

Diana Gabaldon signed in this month with news...and greatly out of breath and panting... Her newest OUTLANDER novel, "A Breath of Snow and Ashes" (No, it's *not* the last one! There's cer-

(Continued on page 10)

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BACK TO THE SIXTIES!

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Pro Notes (Cont'd from page 9)

tainly one more, maybe two), has been published in September—September 6th in Germany, September 27th for the English-speaking countries (US, UK, Canada, New Zealand, Australia). She then plans to spend the next few weeks doing book tours to Europe, Arizona, the rest of the U.S. and then Canada. Bertelsmann, the German publisher, has bought a book (to be published in 2006) that will include three (or maybe four) “Lord John Grey” short stories—this will include “Lord John and the Hellfire Club” and “Lord John and the Succubus” (originally published in the LEGENDS II anthology, ed. Robert Silverberg), plus one or two new, unpublished novellas. The volume is titled “Lord John and the Whiff of Brimstone”—and in all likelihood, will also be published next year in the US, UK, etc. Meanwhile, she’s working on the second Lord John Grey novel, “Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade,” a contemporary mystery novel, “Red Ant’s Head,” and the *next* of the big OUTLANDER novels—no title, since whenever she gives a working title, the nimrods at amazon.co.uk seize it and start taking preorders for it. **Michelle Welch** let me know that her third book in the FIVE COUNTRIES series, “Chasing Fire,” is due out at the end of September. It will also be released as an ebook -- very exciting. She still doesn’t know whether the publisher has any plans to convert the first two to ebooks, but she’s looking into doing a podiobook version of those two. No final plans as yet; Michelle is waiting on the audio rights to revert back to her, and is trying to figure out whether her voice will hold up for that much reading...

Up in Northern Arizona, **Doranna Durgin** reports that she’s had a busybusy year...she had a June book that made it to the Waldenbooks Bestseller list, “Checkmate.” The “Fantastic Companions” anthology--edited by Julie Czerneda--has hit the stands. It’s a wonderful collection, and she was very pleased to have a story included. September sees “Beyond the Rules” hit the shelves, October is the release of “Young Warriors,” a Random House anthology edited by Jo Sherman and Tamora Pierce, and December holds the release of the hardcover mystery “Nose for Trouble.” It’s definitely one of those years where random publishing elements made everything come together at once! The hectic pace is slated to continue next year, when Doranna’s big goal is to find a little reading time for herself... From **Jennifer Roberson**, we find that she has finished and delivered “Karavans,” the first volume in a brand new fantasy universe. It will debut from DAW in

hardcover in April 2006, along with three 2-volume trade-paperback omnibus editions of the Sword-Dancer series. She is currently working on the second KARAVANS novel.

Evo Terra from DragonPage had news this month: The Dragon Page is popular on XM! Due to overwhelming listener response, The “Dragon Page Cover to Cover” will now be aired four times a week on XM Satellite. Another Michael and Evo show, “Slice of SciFi,” recently won the coveted People’s Choice Podcast Award in the Top Rated category. Evo will be accepting the award at the Podcasting and Portable Media Expo in November in Ontario, California. There’s still time to be a Kick Ass Mystic Ninja! Producer Summer Brooks and reviewer Joe Murphy have branched off and created their own website and podcast, of which more information can be found at <http://kickassmysticninjas.com> And speaking of podcasting, Evo’s book, “Podcasting for Dummies” (of which Tee Morris is the co-author) should be in stores by November 7th. If you’re interesting in podcasting, this book will get you well underway.

And for our gamers, I heard from Jessie Foster of **Steve Jackson Games**: This summer saw the release of the GURPS Character Assistant software. This application puts the power of GURPS at your fingertips. You can create literally any character from any genre with this extremely effective computer aid. All GURPS characters used at this years Phoenix Con Games and HexaCon were generated and printed using GCA. The most recent cosmic-powered release from SJG is Super Munchkin. Fans in attendance at HexaCon 15 got plenty of opportunities to be “Bathed in Strange Energies, wear their “Underwear on the outside,” and brandish the “Telezapinator” to avoid the “Giant Whirling Blades” trap, and defeat “Doctor Deathbreath” with the help of their “Talking Car” sidekick. All in the name of gaining levels... er I mean... in the name of Justice (and levels!). GURPS fans have been anxiously anticipating GURPS Banestorm. The new all-color hardback update to the Fantasy world of Yrth presented previously in GURPS Fantasy, now expanded, and ready for adventure. Appropriately, the latest edition in the Munchkin family can be seen haunting gaming stores in October. Last year, you delved into the dark world of all things howling, flapping, and morphing, in Munchkin Bites! This All Hallows Eve, don’t be caught unawares at the “Pants Macabre.” New powers such as “Recreation”, Traps like the dreaded “Tattoo Removal,” and tough protection in the form of “Wolfskin Armor” (of course, don’t let your Werewolf friends catch you wearing it). So don your Black Nail polish and Black Lipstick, and howl the night away with your ghoulish friends. Just remember to stake them in the back just before dawn, or you might not make it home either. See you at the conventions!

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CONTINUING TO ROLL THE BONES

That’s it for this month. Thanks for being there for me! And, as always - if anyone wants to contribute or knows someone who knows someone...please write to ConNotations or email me at Editor@casfs.org – **Catherine Book**.

Screening Room

Corpse Bride

Running Time: 77 mins

Rated: PG

Starring: Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter

Opens Nationwide: September 23, 2005

The official studio web site synopsis says: “*Corpse Bride* carries on in the dark romantic tradition of Tim Burton’s classic films *Edward Scissorhands* and *The Nightmare Before Christmas*. Set in a 19th century European village, this stop-motion, animated feature follows the story of Victor (Johnny Depp), a young man who is whisked away to the underworld and wed to a mysterious Corpse Bride (Helena Bonham-Carter), while his real bride, Victoria (Emily Watson), waits bereft in the land of the living. Though life in the Land of the Dead proves to be a lot more colorful than his strict Victorian upbringing, Victor learns that there is nothing in this world, or the next, that can keep him away from his one true love. It’s a tale of optimism, romance and a very

lively afterlife, told in a classic Tim Burton style.”

This is a wonderful tale told in typical Tim Burton style. The characters are fully developed and it is a hard choice for Victor to make between Victoria and the Corpse Bride, indeed, in some ways he may have more in common with the



Corpse Bride than he does with Victoria as a charming piano duet shows us. The story moves along well, the score is delightful (I will be adding the soundtrack CD to my collection) and the stop animation shows just how much progress

(Continued on page 11)

Screening Room

(Continued from page 10)

has been made in the years since *The Nightmare Before Christmas* was made. While the eventually resolution is predictable getting there is a treat. Highly recommended. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Serenity

Running Time: 119 mins

Rated: PG-13

Starring: Nathan Fillion, Gina Torres,

Alan Tudyk, Morena Baccarin

Opens Nationwide: September 30, 2005

From the official studio web site"

"Joss Whedon- the Oscar®- and Emmy-nominated writer/director responsible for the worldwide television phenomena of *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel* -now applies his trademark compassion and wit to a small band of galactic outcasts 500 years in the future in his feature film directorial debut, *Serenity*. The film centers around Captain Malcolm Reynolds, a hardened veteran (on the losing side) of a galactic civil war, who now ekes out a living pulling off small crimes and transport-for-hire aboard his ship, *Serenity*. He leads a small, eclectic crew who are the closest thing he has left to family - squabbling, insubordinate and undyingly loyal. When Mal takes on two new passengers-a young doctor and his unstable, telepathic sister- he gets much more than he bargained for. The pair are fugitives from the coalition dominating the universe, who will stop at nothing to reclaim the girl. The crew that was once used to skimming the outskirts of the galaxy unnoticed find themselves caught between the unstoppable military force of the Universal Alliance and the horrific, cannibalistic fury of the Reavers, savages who roam the very edge of space. Hunted by vastly different enemies, they begin to discover that the greatest danger to them may be on board *Serenity* herself. *Serenity* is written and directed by Joss Whedon; produced by Barry Mendel; and executive-produced by Christopher Buchanan, David Lester and Alisa Tager." The first thing that needs to be said is that when we saw *Serenity* I had not actually watched *Firefly*. That said, I can assure you it is not necessary to have seen the TV show in order to enjoy this rip-roaring space adventure. On the other hand, having seen the movie I did go home and watch the entire series on DVD over the weekend.

The story is a non-stop adventure, the special effects are great, the characters are interesting and the dialogue is the wonder we have come to expect from a Joss Whedon production. I hope this does well in theaters so we will see many more adventures of the crew of the *Serenity*. Highly recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Costume Closet



The Jedi Belt Project By Randall Whitlock

Dave and I had a long conversation this spring about upgrading our Jedi hall costumes. Dave and I are both what you might call "Unorganized Jedi." We do the costumes and the persona to some extent, but aren't connected with any of the established Star Wars recreation groups. Consequently, we had no local costume gurus to turn to, and were left to do our own research.

Unlike Old Ben in the original trilogy, who appeared to be using World War II surplus equipment, the Jedi of the prequel trilogy wear a very distinctive utility belt. Up to this point Dave had been using a molded latex-and-Velcro belt purchased from a studio-authorized manufacturer while I had put together various combinations of vinyl belting and ribbon, which tended to slip and slide a lot. We decided to build something durable out of proper leather.

First, the research: Dave's molded belt, based on the one worn by Qui-Gon Jinn, was helpful. It provided the basic dimensions and shape. There are clear photographs of the belts in the "Star Wars Visual Dictionaries," with a particularly good picture of Anakin's belt in the Visual Dictionary for "Attack of the Clones." It doesn't hurt to watch the movies a few dozen times.

The Jedi belt is really two belts in one. It has a three-inch wide inner belt, surrounded by a one-inch wide outer belt. The outer belt overlaps itself through a loop in back. The loop is held to the belt by four rivets. The belt passes through the inside aspect of the loop, so its end is concealed when worn. Since I was working with a very thick leather stock, I did not overlap the edges of the loop. I stitched them together with waxed sinew. It is not obvious from the molded belt or



the Visual Dictionary images whether the outer belt passes above or beneath this loop.

In some of my early, quick & dirty vinyl belts, I used the back loop to conceal a large conventional buckle or Velcro. This let me use nonfunctional one-piece buckles in the front of the outer belt while the outer belt was stitched in place.

The outer belt is centered on the inner belt with four pairs of metal studs as guides. These studs are called "Sam Browne Buttons" after the 20th Century military and police pistol belt style for which they were designed. They are shaped sort of like a trailer hitch ball and are held in place by a rivet driven from the back side of the belt.

The outer belt is closed in the middle of the front with a clasp buckle (a buckle that divides into two parts). No two Jedi buckles worn in the films are exactly alike, so you have a great deal of freedom here. Appropriate clasp buckles can be found in fabric stores or hiking stores. I chose a buckle commonly used on backpacks. It is plastic with a faux metal finish.

Hidden away in a drawer, I have a brass buckle in the shape of a circle that breaks into halves along an S-shaped line to form the "Yin and Yang" symbol. Since some of the concepts of The Force were inspired by Taoism, this might make a very appropriate buckle to use on a later belt.

The outer belt bends back on itself on either side of the buckle through leather keeper rings. This allows for size adjustment. The same appearance can be achieved by binding the outer belt with leather thong. It is not obvious from the Visual Dictionary images whether the inner and outer belts are actually attached to each other. For convenience, I chose to attach the two belts with a single rivet on one side of the buckle.

I used cowhide for belt material since it was available in the extra-wide size I wanted for the inner belt. It comes with a plain, natural finish which I modified with mahogany leather dye. I left the inside undyed since I feared the dye might rub off onto my sash and tunics (Fear leads to the Dark Side). The cowhide proved to be very thick and stiff. If I try this project again, I will probably use latigo leather, which comes already dyed and oiled. It's a bit thinner and much more supple than the plain cowhide.

All of the leather supplies described above can be purchased off the shelf at Tandy/Leather Factory stores. There are three of them in Phoenix and Tempe and I visited all three during this project. The shopkeepers were enthusiastic about my project and very helpful. At full retail, you can expect to pay about fifty bucks for the parts. Deep discounts, however, are available for professionals and members of the store's sponsored hobby clubs. The latter are easy to sign up for.

You can bring the price down significantly by using vinyl belting in place of leather, with a commensurate decline in durability and appearance. I made one of these as a proof-of-concept piece while I was experimenting with different kinds of studs and buckles. Vinyl belt strapping can be found at the SAS fabric stores (two locations in Phoenix, one in Tempe, one in Tucson). Examine the strapping

material closely before buying. It can lose strength and crack when stored too long on store shelves.

Late in the project, I found *The Padawan's Guide* online at www.padawansguide.com. This is an amazing resource for Star Wars costumers, with lots of pictures, discussions, and instructions. I graciously tip my Jedi hood to Maggie, the webmaster! The site includes an article at www.padawansguide.com/belt.shtml on several ways to build a Jedi Belt, including one using thrift store resources. This could work very well, but may require a great deal of legwork to find used leather belts wide enough and in good condition. The online article also includes a link to a source for authentic Anakin-style buckles.

The Jedi belt is meant as a tool belt for the active hero. Items seen attached to Jedi belts in the films include utility pouches, little cylinders of various colors, and of course, the lightsaber. The pouches appear to be made of molded leather with a pattern of diagonal lines. Reproductions of the pouches can be found on eBay. These pouches presumably house the commlink (made from a Gillette brand razor handle) and the emergency breather seen in the films.

The cylinders are labeled as "food concentrate" in the Visual Dictionaries, but I'm not entirely satisfied with this explanation. Why carry six or eight meals worth of trail rations if you don't have a water flask? Who cares, they look way cool! I'm told by Wade Stimson (winner of Best in Show at the Coppercon 25



Masquerade) that these were made from the caps of Staedtler brand pens bonded to a plastic ball to seal up the base.

The prequel trilogy lightsabers were slung from Covertex brand pager clips. (Remember pagers?) I haven't found a local source for these, so I'm currently using a cell phone clip kit that can be found at local dollar stores. Like the Covertex clip, these clips have a slot which engages a plastic button. The button is easily attached to your lightsaber with the included adhesive patches. The adhesive eventually wore out, so I reattached the button to my lightsaber with 5-minute epoxy.

Musical Note

by Tom Tuerff

Time was, filk music recordings were extremely low-tech endeavors. For years, tapes and even CDs that were sold at conventions were chancy affairs at best; the bulk of them were usually recorded live on whatever cassette recorder in the room had the best batteries and the closest condenser mic to the performer.

IF you were lucky.

Thankfully, in the last decade or so, as Mac Pro Tools (Yay!) and its PC-based clones (Boo!) have made their way into the hands of the unwashed, filk recordings have achieved the kind of quality that any performer deserves in order to be heard.

The two CDs I'm reviewing this month are perfect cases in point.

Tom Smith – “And They Say I’ve Got Talent”

Pretzel Productions,
www.tomsmithonline.com

Smith is a Michigan-based singer-songwriter known as the “fastest filker in the universe” for his ability to improvise songs on the spot. At his best he is dead-on funny, at his worst, incredibly amusing. In other words, you can't go wrong with this guy.

“Talent” contains a goodly amount of songs you'd expect from a filker, based on TV shows, comic books, etc. But it also covers some topics that most people wouldn't bother to write songs about, and I like that in a person.

The album's title track kicks off the CD. In general, it's a rather acerbic, yet poignant poke at media-created musical divas. Specifically, it's a spear to the heart of singer-songwriter Vanessa Carlton, whose songs Smith refers to as being nothing but “second-hand Tori Amos.”

Still, it's obvious he feels sorry for these performers, and hints that they probably all have much better songs in their books that their labels won't let them perform.

Kinda deep stuff for kicking off a filk album, but Smith lightens matters quickly with the next song, “Howie's Norwegian Blues” a blues song as it might be performed by a Minnesota dairy farmer. ‘Nuff said.

Other highlights include “The Illuminati Polka” which is as bizarre as it sounds; “The Trans-Poly U Fight Song” (I have to admit I have no idea what Smith is singing about but my son and my wife assure me it's funny and I need to get with it, fer chrissakes), and “Talk Like a Pirate Day,” the OFFICIAL song for that wonderful holiday.

Not many complaints here, except that Smith's somewhat matter-of-fact vocal delivery is a little off-putting at times. He seems to know the songs are funny and feels he doesn't need to push the punch

lines. And maybe he's right, because I've been listening to this CD pretty much every day since I bought it. But this minor quibble shouldn't keep you from picking this up. It's one of the better CDs from a filker I've heard in a long time and you're gonna love it.

Harmony Heifers

Mystic Fig Productions

What do you get when you combine two-thirds of one of the West's best a capella filk groups and THE best husband-and-wife filk teams going?

You get Harmony Heifers. Ex-Duras Sisters Chris Dickenson and Elizabeth Burnham teamed up with Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff and the results are fantastic.

Jeff Bohnhoff's seemingly innate ability to arrange songs provides for some very surprising moments, especially with songs that I've heard the Duras Sisters sing in the past, and with songs written by musicians outside the group.

Case in point: Two Nancy Freeman songs are covered here. “Broken Goddess”, based on the book of the same name, absolutely rocks here, with arresting time-signature changes at the chorus and a marvelous performance by Maya Bohnhoff.

Freeman's other contribution to the album, the hilarious “Buffy”based “Leather Pants of Evil,” gets the edge it deserves here, with Jeff B.'s shredding guitars and a great performance by the ladies.

Two parodies are included: A DS9 song based on Neil Sedaka's “Breaking Up Is Hard To Do” and a LOTR song based on John Fogerty's “Lodi” (Note to the Heifers: on future reprints, which you will undoubtedly have, acknowledge the songwriters! An angry Neil Sedaka is beyond imagining.)

In short, this coupling of groups has created a filk supergroup. Break into the kid's college fund and buy this CD. Be honest – you've only got twenty bucks in there anyway.

Tom Tuerff is a Phoenix-based singer-songwriter and ad man, whose first CD, “Something To Sell At My Gigs” is still getting airplay on radio shows and stations that should know better. He can be reached at ttuerff@aol.com. His second CD, “But Wait – There's Moore” should be available by Christmas. But that's what he said last year, too.



ConClusion

Dragoncon
Sept. 1-5, 2005

Atlanta, GA

Review by Tom Tuerff

A few years ago, some friends of ours moved to Virginia. As fate would have it, a couple of years later, some other friends of ours moved to the very same town in Virginia. They all became friends and started driving down to Atlanta every Labor Day weekend to attend Dragoncon, one of the largest entertainment conventions you can possibly imagine in your fertile little minds.

My friend Jean was adamant that I go to one of these conventions and check it out.

“This is unlike anything you've ever seen!” she said. “Two hotels, constant programming, and more costumes than you could ever imagine!”

Okay, what else?

“Performers who've been played on Dr. Demento, just like you were!”

“That's pretty cool. But I dunno...”

“More tits than a dairy farm!”

“Okay, I'm there.”

We arrived in Atlanta via the most direct route Priceline.com could arrange for the lowest price: Phoenix to Atlanta via Milwaukee, Auckland, Frankfurt, Denver, Shanghai, Honolulu, Singapore, Rio de Janeiro and Seattle. And the plane had actual wings that flapped. But we got there Thursday night, September 1, in time for early registration.

Early registration is a good thing when the average daily attendance of a con is about 20,000 people.

That's right, 20,000. We're not talking some well-attended NASFIC here. We're talking Lord God King of Conventions-caliber attendance.

Equipped with badge and digital camera, I hit the ground running Friday morning, and began snapping costumes, which pretty much took up all of my day, save rummaging (as much as one can in a room full of people) at the two (count 'em, two) dealer's rooms.”

Pick a character from any movie, TV show, video game, book, random thought, or whatever. I can guarantee you that even if you just made something up, there was somebody at DragonCon dressed up like it.

The primary draw to the con this year was the bulk of the cast of “Serenity” a movie that will no doubt be out by the time you read this, based on a very popular DVD box set of a TV show that nobody watched except for those of us “in the know.” Not being one of the people who “knew” I acquainted myself with the series before we left for the con so that I'd at least recognize obvious Firefly references that didn't involve Groucho Marx.

Getting anywhere near the cast required standing in line for autographs

amidst other well-known (and sadly, less well-known) actors assembled for the task of picking up a few extra shekels by a professional autograph-arrangement company. Dragoncon called this the “Walk of Fame” My wife astutely called it the “Walk of Shame,” as there were many people here who not only looked like they needed the dough, but were being completely ignored.

Case in point: Lorenzo Lamas. We didn't see a single person get his autograph all weekend. He looked pissed.

Other big draws on the Walk: The Phelps Twins, who play the Weasley Twins in the Harry Potter movies. They were the stars of a massively-attended Q & A that featured a moderator who I wanted to shoot almost immediately due to her extremely annoying habit of starting EVERY SINGLE QUESTION with the word, “SSSSSO!.....” I swear, you could hear firearms cocking in the room, which was filled mostly with “Tiger Beat”-reading early teens who came to ogle their dreamy pin-up Potterian lovebuckets. (We did get a chance to meet them and they are genuinely nice guys.)

I also chatted up Robin “Saavik” Curtis, who I used in a couple of TV commercials some years back. She remembered those, and handed me a flyer to attend a reading of her one-woman show “Not My Bra You Don't” on Friday evening. The show is essentially Robin Curtis talking about her sex life. She has had a lot of sex. She's very proud of this

And she should be. She's also not afraid to tell you virtually everything, beyond what you really want to know. The reading wasn't bad; she just needs to tweak it a bit, play up the funny stuff and learn how to deliver punchlines. This was the first time she'd read it to a mixed audience; previous presentations had been to women's writing groups and the like. There's something there but don't expect to see it at the Orpheum any time soon.

BIGGEST GRIPE ABOUT DRAGONCON:

Whoever programs this thing (about 20 tracks running simultaneously) desperately needs to pull their heads from their posteriors and put some attention to assigning the right-sized rooms for the appropriate panels.

It became very obvious very quickly that whoever was in charge of this went about it like this:

Bonehead Example #1:

“Well, Harry Potter is a kid's book, and I don't read it, so nobody reads it. There aren't that many kids at DragonCon, so I'll put all the Potter programming in the smaller rooms.”

Result: 70 people crammed into a room that seats 40, 68 adults, 2 kids and 50 people standing outside the room, unable to get in. This happened all weekend.

Bonehead Example #2:

“Nobody filks. Nobody likes to hear filkers. So, I'll put the performance by Tom Smith, the Filk GOH, in the smallest

(Continued on page 13)

ConClusion (Cont'd from page 12)

room I can find in the STEAMY BOWELS of the Hyatt, somewhere below sea level and barely locatable on the convention map.”

Result: 30 people jammed in a room meant for 20; another 30 flowing out the door, straining to hear Mr. Smith.

You get the idea.

One more: I attended a very neat lecture by Roger Dean, the designer of the Yes album covers. He had a slide show that finally worked. He had 100 or so interested people. He was in a room with 300 chairs, easy. Dumb, dumb, dumb.

There are famous people who come to Dragoncon just to BE there. Harry Belafonte was there. Jewel was there. Oh by the way, you haven't lived until you've seen a whiskey-sipping Belafonte having a good time singing “Day-O” with four women in corsets.

Did I mention there were women in corsets? Easily the most popular item of apparel at DragonCon.

NOTE TO ANYONE WHO WANTS TO WEAR A CORSET, A BUSTIER OR ANYTHING ELSE INTENDED TO BOOST YOUR “YAYS”

Ladies, I like breasts as much as the next guy, and in the case of the attendees at Dragoncon, as much as a goodly share of the women. But when you put on a really tight corset, and the end result causes your breasts to sag OVER the top of your corset, to the point that you look like a melting titty sundae, your corset to IS TOO SMALL. This does not look good. You look desperate. No woman at a con ever needs to look desperate. Trust me.

Funniest thing I saw all weekend: The Klingon Beauty Contest. The eighth ANNUAL Klingon Beauty contest, complete with Klingon ushers who used subtle Klingon suggestions to usher you to your seat (HURRY UP! GET IN HERE! SIT DOWN!), and friendly suggestions when the audience wasn't reacting enough (LAUGH! HAPPY! SWAY! NOW!)

One of the contestants, for her talent portion, performed Tribble poi. (Not the taro root; poi is the art of spinning fire at the end of sticks; but in this case, instead of fire it was tribbles, complete with a synced noise of a tribble spinning faster and faster – hilarious!)

Suffice to say, by the time Monday rolled around, the whole family was ready to go home. Don't know that I'll ever go to Dragoncon again, but I do know that if you ever do, expect more to do than you'll ever experience, more to see than you'll have time for, and more waiting in lines than registration day at a community college.

Next year, I'm doing Westercon.

(The post-Labor Day posts on my blog have some pictures; let your imagination go wild: <http://ttuerff.blogspot.com>)

San Diego ComicCon Montage All Photos by Shane Shellenbarger



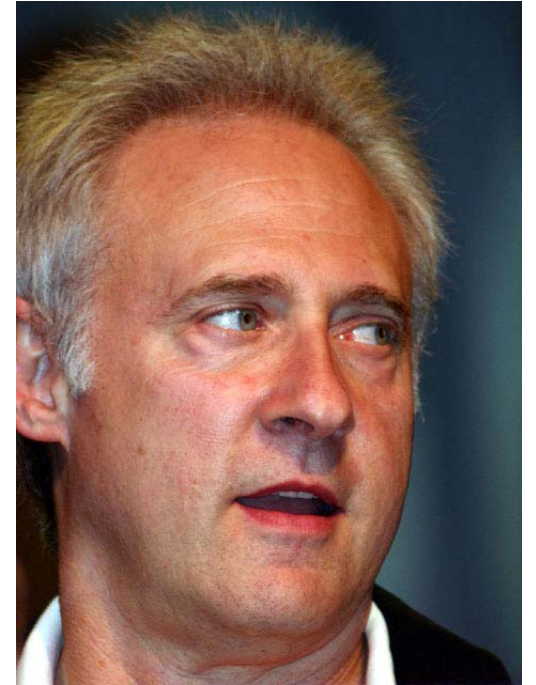
Lego Vader



Ray Harryhausen
Stop-Motion Animator



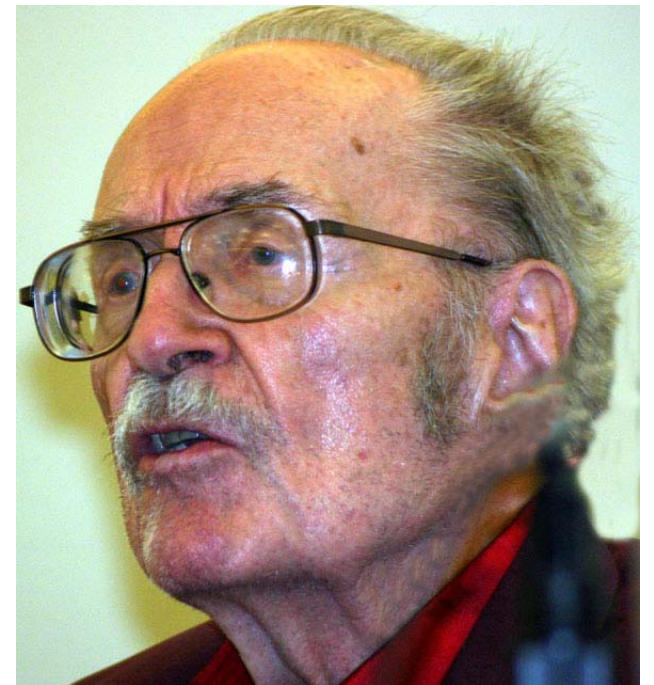
Batman



Brent Spiner
Threshold



Cast of Threshold



Forry Ackerman



Brent Spiner & Brian Van Holt
Threshold

ReAnimation

*****+ **Stellvia - Foundation I (Vol. 1)**
***** **My Neighbors The Yamadas**
**** **The Melody of Oblivion:**
**** **Volume 1 Arrangement**
**** **The Melody of Oblivion:**
**** **Volume 2 Monotone**
**** **Pom Poko**
*** **Jubei Chan 2: The**
Counterattack of Siberia Yagyu:
Volume 1Resurrection

*****+ **Stellvia - Foundation I (Vol. 1)**
Release date: September 21, 2004
Geneon., 100 min, 13+
DVD: \$24.98

From the back cover: “A green universe filled with gas. This is the universe that I know. But I long to see the color of the universe as it appeared to the people of the past when they had gazed upon it. -Shima Katas. In 2167, the Earth was catastrophically damaged by a nearby supernova that had exploded. The explosion sent an electromagnetic wave of radiation that swept over the Earth. Now 186 year later, another more destructive wave, known as “The Second Wave”, is on it’s way to Earth...



15 year-old computer genius Shima Katase has been dreaming of going up into space longer than she can remember. So when given the chance to enter space piloting school she jumps at the chance. However, piloting is a lot more complicated than programming a computer. But what if she were to combine the two... Genius or troublemaker, Shima is certainly going to be making a name for herself among the faculty as the Second Wave approaches...”

This is the first 4 episodes of 26. There are 8 DVD’s in this set from Geneon Entertainment (USA) Inc..I would buy all them and take a weekend to watch all of them in a row. Yes Stellvia is one of those must see sets. It starts out slow, but it is building characters for the first two episodes. The third and fourth episodes are great. The only thing that could be better would be the space backgrounds. I would rate Stellvia as one of the my top ten. - **Craig L Dyer**

***** **My Neighbors The Yamadas**
Release Date: August 16, 2005
Buena Vista, 119 min, PG
DVD: \$29.99

From the back cover: “Join in the adventures of the quirky Yamada family - from the hilarious to the touching -- brilliantly presented in a unique, visually striking comic strip style.
Takashi Yamada and his wacky wife Matsuko, who has no talent for housework, navigate their way through the ups and downs of work, marriage, and family life with a sharp-tongued grandmother who lives with them, a teenage son who wishes he had cooler parents, and a pesty daughter whose loud voice is unusual for someone so small. Even the family dog has issues!
Experience the little victories in life with MY NEIGHBORS THE YAMADAS -- featuring the voice talents of comedic stars Jim Belushi and Molly Shannon.”

My Neighbors the Yamadas is a look into a suburban Japanese family’s life and is based on a long-running Japanese comic strip. We quickly become involved in the little trails and successes of a family’s life such as a girl calling the teenaged son, the daughter getting lost in a department store, a lost umbrella and many of the vignettes ends with a haiku, a really nice touch. This may well be best described as a Japanese *Ozzie and Harriet* or *The Family Guy*.
I thoroughly enjoyed this DVD - the extras are standard fare but overall I rate this as a must have addition to my Anime collection. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**** **The Melody of Oblivion: Volume 1 Arrangement**
Geneon, 100 min, 16+
DVD: \$29.98

From the back Cover: “During the 20th century, the world experienced a large-scale war. A war between humans and monsters. Words could never describe the violent bloodshed of the war that the monsters had won. Time has passed and new century has begun. And the people have forgotten that Melody?
Life continued on as normal except for a mysterious sacrifice here and there. However, Bocca felt that this was wrong and when he heard of the Warriors of Melos, people who still rallied to defeat the monsters, he decided to become on as well. But this isn’t an easy path and there was still much to be learned about the Melody of Oblivion.”
This was a very interesting story line and concept that kept moving. I would say that *The Melody of Oblivion Volume One* was above average animation. There are a lot of underlying meaning throughout this first volume. There was some good character building in the first two

episodes.
The Monsters designs and actions were cool to watch. That got points in my eyes.
I was looking forward to watching the next volume. Viva the Monster Union!!! - **Craig L Dyer**

**** **The Melody of Oblivion: Volume 2 Monotone**
Geneon, 100 min, 16+
DVD: \$29.98

Back Cover: “Is the saving of innocent lives a worthy cause when everyone else condemns you for the act? This burden weighs on Bocca’s heart as he continues his fight against Midnight Hiyoko. But who is the real enemy? Later Bocca and Sayoko arrive at a town filled with mechanical mice and meet a girl who could be a warrior of Melos if it weren’t her hatred of warriors.”
Well, I was not disappointed with the second volume of the ‘*The Melody of Oblivion - Monotone*’. It continues with more underlying meanings throughout this DVD as well.
The monsters unions were a very interesting concept and that kept me watching. I gave it points for that. The character Sayoko adds to the storyline with her trying to get Bocca in bed with her. And Bocca doing the guy thing and not seeing her hints. The animation was a little bit better that the first DVD volume. Now I am look for the Third volume is to be release this October 2005.
I won’t have long to wait for it. - **Craig L Dyer**

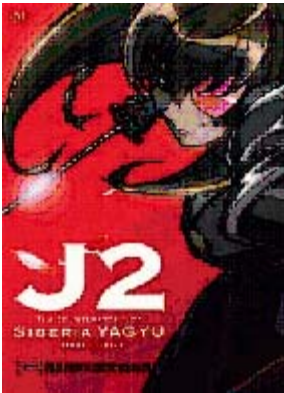
**** **Pom Poko**
Release Date: August 16, 2005
Buena Vista, 119 min, PG
DVD: \$29.99

From the back cover: “*Pom Poko* is a tale of the clash between modern civilization and the natural world.
The Raccoons of the Tama Hills are being forced from their homes by the rapid development of houses and shopping malls. As it becomes harder to find food and shelter, they decide to band together and fight back. The Raccoons practice and perfect the ancient art of transformation until they are even able to appear as humans.
In often hilarious ways, the Raccoons use their powers to try to scare off the advancement of civilization. But will it be enough? Or will the Raccoons learn how to live in balance with the modern world? Celebrate the magic of the forest and the beauty of the creatures who live among us in POM POKO - on DVD for the first time ever.”
The story, in many ways, plays more like an animated nature documentary. While there is some typically off beat Japanese humor this is mostly a drama as the raccoons attempt to drive away the

construction workers. A warning for parents - one tactic used by the raccoons is inflating their testicles and using them as weapons - in one scene they are so huge they obscure a truck’s windshield. Disney has handled this by calling the testicles “pouches”, which I will grant I found odd.
The extras are disappointingly sparse without even a “Behind the Microphone” feature and consist of a couple of trailers and TV spots. With the theatrical success of Disney/Studio Ghibli’s *Howl’s Moving Castle* there appears to be increased interest in Studio Ghibli productions, however, be warned - this is not the typical Studio Ghibli film- For those who are not already fans of Anime I would recommend either *Kiki’s Delivery Service* or *Spirited Away* but for those who enjoy Anime steeped in Japanese culture this is a treat. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

*** **Jubei Chan 2: The Counterattack of Siberia Yagyu -Volume 1: Resurrection**
Geneon Entertainment , 100 min, 13+
DVD: \$29.98

From the back Cover: “You Imposter... I am the true Yagyu Jubei the Second!” Jubei vs. Jubei!? The spirit of a legendary samurai, Yagyu Jubei, is resurrected in two teenage girls. One is in Jiyu Nanohana, an ordinary junior high student who unwillingly channels the power of the great swordsman through her “Lovely Eye Patch.” Then there’s Freesia Yagyu, who claims to be the daughter and the rightful successor of Yagyu Jubei herself... A showdown 300 years in the making is about to begin! “



I would say that the sword fighting is what kept me watching this to the end. Parts of the plot were vague or related to the first series and may lose you if you have not seen the first series. It jumped around quite a bit and kept moving. It lost points in my book then it went to 2D flat characters to show emotions. This was way over done. The eye patch idea was a great concept and got added points. Overall not too bad and worth watching. I think that I would watch the first series before this. - **Craig L Dyer**

In Our Book

Blood Rites by Jim Butcher Roc, \$6.99, 372pp

Wow! Where I have I been that I've missed this series? I didn't notice the little words at the bottom that said this was Book SIX and I'm really, really glad of that. I might have passed it by. Harry Dresden is a professional wizard and a private detective. He does seem to have a knack for the more ...unusual assignments – one of which involved dodging flaming monkey poo. This time, though, he gets involved in a very bizarre mystery that involves a very powerful family of vampires. He has to protect a group of actors that seem to have a death curse hanging over the company. And he has to figure out exactly who in the company is the one attracting the curse and why.

The story is exciting and dramatic and humorous. It sped along at warp speeds and I thoroughly enjoyed the ride. Science fiction and mystery have always been bed-partners and I have seldom seem a better pairing. – **Catherine Book**

Stolen Magic by M. J. Putney Del Rey/Ballentine; \$23.95; 337 pp

Fun, fun, fun!

This is SO my kind of tale.

Set in an alternate London where magic resides side-by-side with scientific development in 1748, this novel deals with a wizard, Simon Malmain, the Earl of Falconer, a member of a group known as the Guardians (who protect the unwary against the dark magicks and evil wizards and the like) and a young woman he comes across during one of his investigations.

A nasty, powerful wizard, Lord Drayton (ostensibly a Guardian and supposedly above reproach), has kept a woman named Meggie enthralled for 10

years for the great magical energy she possesses. Her energy combined with Drayton's makes him very powerful indeed. Poor Meggie is so enthralled however she remembers nothing of her past life or her family, not even her whole name. Her outward demeanor is that of a simpleton, who loves animals and being outdoors.

Simon's mission to Lord Drayton's house goes awry, and Simon triggers a spell that turns him into a unicorn.

Terrified and bewildered, he is able to leave the house before being caught by Drayton and loses himself in a nearby wood.

But there is a method to Lord Drayton's magic. Knowing how powerful a unicorn is, especially his horn, the evil wizard sets a lure for the ensorcelled Simon so he can be forced to add his magic to Drayton's.

The lure? A virgin, of course. And Meggie will do.

So the simple-minded woman is staked out in the woods, guarded by some of Drayton's men, and Simon, unable to resist, finds Meggie and lays his head in her lap.

But, yay! Drayton's plan is foiled and the two escape.

And because Simon IS a wizard and a unicorn, he is able to release Meggie from Drayton's thrall. Well, mostly. Drayton's magic is very strong, convoluted and intricate and a bit of a bear to undo. The capable Simon however is still able to release the intelligence and personality of Meggie, now known as Meg, for the first time in ten years.

And so, the two are caught up in a wonderful adventure, trying to foil Drayton's plans to take over England (he already has a Ministry post), by gathering together at a huge scientific symposium, all the current great inventors. The minds that will lead England eventually into the Industrial Revolution.

But Meg is still vulnerable to Drayton's manipulations. And poor Simon finds if he gets angry enough, he'll turn back into a unicorn. (And on one

occasion he does...in a carriage!)

Of course the two are falling in love. Simon knows that the untrained Meg is quite powerful magically and sets about getting her lessons with other Guardians. And that as a virgin still, her power is even more formidable.

The two of them struggle with their passion and their carnal desires as they work to oppose Drayton with all of their unadulterated strength. And in the process, Meg discovers there are other young minds being held in thrall by Drayton that she decides to rescue.

And so the race is on: Will they find these other ensorcelled youngsters before Drayton succeeds in his dastardly plot? Will the two of them finally succumb to temptations of the flesh?

Oh, do not hesitate to read this wonderful, rich romance by the very well-known Mary Jo Putney, writer of many, many popular and meaty historical romances. – **Sue Martin**

The Best of the Best, 20 Years of the Year's Best Science Fiction edited by Gardner Dozois, foreword by Robert Silverberg St. Martin's Griffin, xix+655 pp., \$19.95

An anthology of anthologies of stories of Asimov's, F+SF, Omni, Analog, Interzone, SCIFI.COM, Stardate, Starlight, New Legends, Moon Shots, and Not of Woman Born. That is, these stories are selections from the annual Year's Best Science Fiction. Twenty years does not mean 20 stories, but 36. Got a favorite author among these? Greg Bear, Gene Wolfe, Lucius Shepard, Nancy Kress, Howard Waldrop, Bruce Sterling, Pat Cadigan, John Crowley, William Gibson, John Kessel, Eileen Gunn, Mike Resnick, Robert Silverberg, Terry Bisson, Connie Willis, Robert Reed, Joe Haldeman, Brian Stableford, Maureen F. McHugh, Greg Egan, Ursula Le Guin, Michael Swanwick, Ian McDonald, Tony Daniel, William Sanders, Paul McAuley, Ted Chiang, Stephen Baxter, David Marusek,

James Patrick Kelly, Walter Jon Williams, Steven Utley, Geoff Ryman, Charles Stross, Ian R. MacLeod, Molly Gloss. Words filling up ... so many names ... so many great stories ... got to hold on ... give it one last effort... – **Mike Griffin**

Phoenix and Ashes by Mercedes Lackey DAW, \$24.95, 405pp

Ms. Lackey has recreated Cinderella with a decidedly darker and slightly more contemporary bent. In this case, Eleanor spent years convincing her Papa to send her to Oxford only to have the

opportunity snatched away from her by her conniving evil stepmother. After her father dies, Eleanor is enslaved by her evil stepmother and finds herself surrounded by spells that prevent her from leaving her home, forces her to work and prevents anyone who knew her from remembering or recognizing her. However, Eleanor has inherited her mother's magical power of Fire and is slowly coming into her inheritance. The evil stepmother and her two nasty daughters are heir to the magic of Earth. And, then along comes our Hero, the son of the manor house to the village where Eleanor lives. Our Hero, Reggie, is of the Air magicians. But Reggie has just returned from the war – WWII. And he's suffering from more than shellshock. He had a particularly nasty experience with Earth demons and has buried his magical abilities deep within his mind in an attempt to deny them. Unless Reggie can find the strength to use his powers again and unless Eleanor can gain enough mastery over her powers to render the binding spells powerless, both of them will die horribly at the hands of the evil stepmother, Alison.

A charmingly dark telling of a familiar fairytale.

The author is, of course, an expert storyteller and an extremely good writer – a powerful combination. The plotting is tight and compelling, the characterizations are well-fleshed. My preference is for a bit more description to pull me into the story but it's a small complaint. – **Catherine Book**

Beauty: A Retelling of the Story "Beauty and the Beast" by Robin McKinley Eos Books; \$6.99; 325 pp.

This is a reprint of a 1978 novel by Ms. McKinley, so this was not written to jump on the coattails of Disney's delightful 1992 animated feature.

I really enjoyed her take on this classic French tale. She is a wonderfully descriptive writer. The story flows along and there are lots of delightful touches. Her Beauty is a well-rounded character.

What is interesting, is her Beauty is a bit of a plain Jane actually, and though her sweet father makes the same mistake the one in the tale does (taking "just one rose" from the Beast's garden for his dear Beauty's sake), Beauty does not have nasty sisters and is surrounded by those who love her. She is much more interesting because she is *not* a raving beauty, but a rough edged outdoors kind of woman. Beauty's real name is Honour and when she asked her father what "honour" meant when she was five, she got confused by his explanation and said, "Huh. I'd rather be Beauty." And so the nickname stuck.

(Continued on page 16)



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In Our Book (Continued from page 15)

McKinley pulls you right into the story by having Beauty narrate the tale.

Like the original fairytale, she tells of Beauty's father's harrowing night at the Beast's castle and the promise he made to the monster.

Honour-bound to fulfill her father's promise, Beauty goes to meet her destiny at the huge castle hidden deep in the woods.

Her Beast is a bit leonine from her description, but he is hard for me to picture. He's huge, that much is certain, and he is no young prince either, having been ensorcelled for 200 years, aging one year for every ten according to his reckoning.

McKinley does not tell us why a wizard (not a witch) cursed the prince. She mentions his family was very pious and proper...but does not say exactly what he did to bring down his curse.

Invisible servants care for Beauty and slowly, she is able to hear what they say, which is mostly regarding the poor beast and his fate, which definitely piques her interest in her bewitched host.

The Beast is ever polite and kind to Beauty and does not hide all day from her. He keeps out of her way at first as he supposes that is what she wishes, but of course, she discovers he IS kind and intelligent and, even, charming. So they spend more time together.

She even persuades the great horse that carried her to the castle that the Beast will not eat him. And for the Beast, this is an important event as most animals are terribly afraid of him and have kept away from the castle for decades.

This was just a very sweet tale. There isn't much that is horrifying, though of course it is quite sad when Beauty finds the Beast close to death and saves him by declaring her love.

The ending is a VERY Grand Finale and any lover of fairytales should enjoy this immensely. - **Sue Martin**

Superman Lives!

Batman: The Complete Knightfall Saga

Time Warner Audiobooks, \$22.98 each,

These two audios deserved to be reviewed together. Both are BBC Enterprises full-cast audio plays based on DC Comics mega-story arcs from the early 1990s. Originally released on audio cassette in 1994, they have recently been re-released on CD.

Superman is dead, or at least he used to be. It was one of the most publicized and hyped comic book stories ever. It made the national newscasts and even *Saturday Night Live* sketches in the early 1990s. This full-cast audio play traces Superman's climactic battle with the monster Doomsday, the year he spent

dead (for tax purposes?), the four new supermen who sprung up to fill his boots, and his timely return to face an invasion by the tyrant Mongul. This story arc launched the careers of Steel and the "new" Superboy.

The story is entirely told in dialog, in the grand old radio play tradition. This has some drawbacks when telling a comic book story. It's difficult to get a solid visual without the pictures. I first listened to this audio before I bought the boxed set of comics. Consequently, I didn't really have a handle on what Doomsday, let alone the lesser-known characters looked like. You will have a definite advantage in listening to this play if you're an old comics geek like myself. Nonetheless, I thoroughly enjoyed the production. Drop it in the CD player next time you have a three-hour drive.

I had much less trouble visualizing *Batman: The Complete Knightfall Saga*. The characters were generally more familiar. This is the story of Batman's first war with the venom-juiced supervillain Bane. Bane has since been used very well in *Batman: The Animated Series* and very poorly in the film *Batman and Robin* (Poison Ivy's chauffeur? Gimme a break!)

Bane's plan is simple. Wear down the Batman by turning loose every psychotic supervillain in Arkham Asylum. Batman is crippled and nearly killed by Bane, but he has an ace up his sleeve. He has befriended Jean Paul Valley, the last descendant of a long line of avenging knights. After his father's death, he takes up the armor of Azrael. Unfortunately, cruel childhood mental conditioning has made Azrael into a very violent alter personality. Will Azrael, now in the cloak of the Batman, completely lose control? Can Bruce regain his health and combat skills in time to prevent Batman's reputation from being destroyed?

This was another fine use of three hours of drive time. I recommend both productions. - **Randall Whitlock**

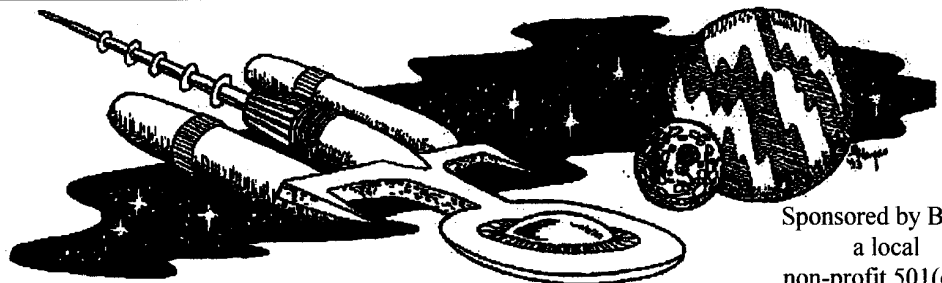
Song In The Dark [The Vampire Files]
By P.N. Elrod

Ace Books, New York 2005, Hard Cover, \$24.95, 378 p.

Pat Elrod has written yet another of her tales of the Vampire and night club owner, Jack Fleming, and his adventures

in the Gangland Chicago of the 1930s. At the end of the previous novel, Jack was tortured by Hog Bristow and now is trying desperately to cope with the trauma of that while attempting to head off a New York takeover of his badly injured friend Gordy's Chicago gang fiefdom. The story is full of wonderful characters. His night club, The Lady Crymsyn is haunted by the wonderful and expressive Myrna. One of the New York

(Continued on page 17)



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In Our Book (Continued from page 16)

Mob types, Croun, turns out to be a real surprise. The various mobsters are deftly drawn and are not stock characters. We have random murder and mayhem added to confuse matters and danger to his beloved Bobbi. The result is a complex and wonderful story that will hold the reader to the not quite conclusive end. One is certain that we have not seen the last of Mr. Fleming.— **Gary Swaty**

Od Magic by Patricia McKillip Ace Books; \$22.95; 315 pp.

Full of color and sparklies, this is a charming fantasy about magic that is learned by rote and carefully controlled and magic that just is: full of clouds and earth and the unexpected.

In the city of Keilor in the land of Numis, there is a wizard school founded by a legendary wandering magic user named Od who travels with a menagerie of animals clinging to her hair and skirts

and following close at her side. Her visits are few and far between and each one is portentous. She is the Earth Mother personified. As this story begins, she finds a kindred soul in a simple gardener named Brenden who she sends to the wizard school in Keilor, something that has not happened in many, many years.

In Keilor, all the threads of the story run together to make a colorful and enjoyable novel. A mysterious wizard named Tyramin brings his troop to entertain in the lively nights of the Twilight Quarter. But because his magic

is unknown and his exploits considered quite legendary to the wizards of the school, he is feared and the king's wizards want him brought before them. Brenden makes his way to Keilor and becomes the new gardener of the wizard school, but he is not happy there. A young, rather officious wizard named Valoren, set in his ways and soon to marry the king's daughter, is disturbed by Tyramin's appearance and the strange gardener and begins an investigation.

The king's daughter, Sulys, feeling cornered by a betrothal to the by-the-book Valoren, decides she needs to discover who exactly she is and what she wants in life before being trapped into loveless marriage.

To add to all this there is an unnamed, unsettling *old* magic in Skrygard Mountain not terribly far from Keilor. An ancient magic that might just change everyone's view of the nicely ordered magic currently being taught in Keilor.

The ending is satisfying and no-nonsense. Everything is straightened out and the spark of new ideas is enkindled.

This was an easy read, and the descriptions was especially fine.

However, the names of the characters bothered me. Granted, it's a strange thing to niggle about, but they bothered me because they were uneven in nature. Tyramin, Arneth, and Valoren are interesting names. Mistral and Brenden are kind of normal. And Great Grandmother Dittany—named for an herb....And then Yar and Od are well...awkward. Od especially bothered me because it obviously describes the wizard's peculiarity. A case of overstating the obvious. I guess, for me, it was as if McKillip wanted to make darn sure the reader knew that Od was unusual. As if her personality and history weren't "odd" enough.

To my mind, Od needs a better name. But there you go.

Still, a charming book and certainly worth a read. - **Sue Martin**

Harry Potter and The Half-Blood Prince

By J.K. Rowling

Scholastic, \$29.99, 652 pp

(Got this at the Harry Potter Midnight Magic Party for 30% less)

Overall, this book is a great addition to the "Harry Potter" series. There are twists and turns with some rewards in store for those who read the other books in the series. Yet, there are still more mysteries to be had.

To summarize the book without giving much away, Harry will finally find Lord Voldermort's vulnerability. Sadly, two characters will die- one minor and one major. Also, the mystery of who the Half- Blood Prince is will be revealed.

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(Continued on page 18)

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In Our Book (Continued from page 17)

This book is enjoyable though it can be confusing if one has not read the other books. One must have read the previous five books in order to appreciate the background material of Harry's life and adventures.

Can't wait for the next one.- **Jeffrey Lu**

Mammoth

by John Varley

Ace hardback; \$23.95; 364pp

This is a *great* book to throw yourself into for a weekend. It's fast and fascinating and easily devoured.

And it all starts with the discovery of a very well preserved mammoth and two humans in Nunavut, in northern Canada.

And a *really* interesting anomaly.

But, hey, that's not all. This tale also has a rather charming romance. Between a nerdy math whiz named Dr. Matthew Wright and a veterinarian who specializes in elephants named Dr. Susan Morgan, whose last gig was working the circus.

The wealthiest American in the world named Howard Christian (made in the Howard Hughes mold) wants to clone mammoths. He has brought the two doctors together, because of course, they are the absolute best in their fields and he wants to be the **ONLY** one with cloned mammoths.

And then there's this business with a time machine. (The real reason Matthew Wright is brought into the picture).

I also really enjoyed this book because it's set in L.A. where I lived for many years. There is this especially wonderful image of mammoths rampaging down Wilshire Blvd. (and into the neighborhood south of there) near the tar pits between the L.A. County Art Museum and the George C Page Museum.

Howard Christian's well thought out plans for the mammoths get tossed away by circumstances he thought he could control. Because there is always that unpredictable human element to squirrel things up! Along with a few mammoths.

And of course, there is also a daring escape and the subsequent chase to keep the tale edgy.

Near the end of the novel, we actually have mammoths living on the West Coast. And best of all, the story makes a very interesting, complete circle.

I have always enjoyed John Varley. I really liked "*Millenium*" and the tale "*Press Enter.*" And this book is no disappointment. It is an engrossing read and well worth the cover price. - **Sue Martin**

Smoke and Mirrors
by Tanya Huff
Daw, \$24.95, 374 pp

Smoke and Mirrors is a new addition to the Henry Fitzroy series.

Tony Foster is a street kid, rescued by Henry Fitzroy [Vampire, romance writer, and bastard son of Henry the eighth] Relocated to Vancouver, Tony has found a job with CB productions as a production assistant on the Darkest Night [A vampire detective series] But the show's location has different plans for the cast and crew. When a little blood is released in the house it comes to life, locking the cast and crew in with bloodthirsty ghosts who keep replaying their many murders. Add the cast and crew and the boss' bratty daughter to their menu and it is up to Tony to use his barely fledgling wizardry to save them all.

Tanya Huffs light touch with the fantasy mystery sub genre has long been popular.. *Smoke and Mirrors* is no exception. This is one we can all enjoy at the end of a hard day or a lazy afternoon. This is an anytime book to relax with . Enjoy - **Pam Allan**

Murder of Angels
By Caitlin R. Kiernan
Roc, \$14.00, 335 pp

Murder of Angels is that increasingly rare creature, a stand alone book.

A decade ago, Niki and Daria Parker saw something horrible happen in an old Alabama farm house. Daria has denied it, throwing herself into a frenzied music career and a bunch of addictions. Niki was diagnosed mentally ill and has lived in a fog of anti psychotic drugs. But now the nightmares are breaking through driving her to revelation and release.

The forces of darkness are at play and move inexorably toward the house they have both tried to forget. The sisters must face what really happened if they are to save the world and them selves.

This is an exceptional book. The darkness is lyrical, the fantasy gritty and the real world characters are fully fleshed and deal with true emotional straits that draw you in. I rank it as a keeper, one you'll want to keep despite some disturbing images. Could well be an award winner. - **Pam Allan.**

Prince of Ayodhya
by Ashok K. Banker
Warner, \$24.95, 374 pp

Prince of Ayodhya is book one of the *Ramayana*.

In the capital city of Ayodhya, the seer mage casts a warning, Ravana, the great demon of the netherworld, plans to conquer the mortal plane.. He will unleash the largest and most vicious army of demons the world has ever seen

Humankind's only hope is one pure

soul: prince Rama, heir to the throne. He must become the world's champion. He, his brother, and the seer mage must embark on a dangerous quest. For Rama to succeed, he must be altered by extraordinary magic into who he must become.

This is a new telling of the *Ramayana*, an ancient and beloved Hindu tale full of gods, demons and magic. The war between darkness and light is personified in this epic tale. This series may well become the classic of a sub genre of fantasy. Well worth the purchase. Might even read the original to see the superb job Mr. Banker has done in bringing it to life. - **Pam Allan**

Scardown
by Elizabeth Bear
Bantam Spectra, \$6.99, 368 pp

Scardown is a sequel to *Hammered*. A third volume is expected in fall, 2005.

Jenny Casey, after years on the run, is back in the in the Canadian Armed Forces. A fifty year old Cyborg perfectly suited to pilot the starship, Montreal, to find new worlds for Earth to expand to as Earth begins to run out of time.

But all the multinational forces are still in play. Casey must challenge her enemies, and with the help of a brilliant AI, an ex-crime lord, and the man she loves, save the world. If they last long enough.

Tightly written, with a world that I hope I never want to live in, Well written military SF with quirky but well realized characters, Elizabeth Bear writes a real science fiction page-turner. Definitely a series to keep up with. - **Pam Allan**

Califia's Daughters
by Leigh Richards
Bantam Spectra, \$6.99, 489 pp

A first science fiction effort for mystery writer, Laurie R. King

In the dark aftermath of the 21st century, after bombs, and plagues, that have made men a rarity. A few pockets of women have made peaceful agrarian communities, and protect their viable males.

When a party of women, bearing a viable male as a gift, come to ask if they may move in down the valley, it is up to Dian, the woman warrior in charge of the valley's security, to find the truth of their motives. It is a mission that could cost her everything....including her life.

This is a superb post disaster novel with believable characters you get to know, and a fully developed world. If you want a good page turner that holds your interest and leaves you a few thoughts to ponder, this is your book. I'll look forward to her next. It will also leave you with a warm spot for Irish Wolfhounds. - **Pam Allan**

Club Listings

ACROSS PLUS - So you live in North Phoenix and are interested in anime? Well there is a club out there available for you people. Across Plus is a social club that discusses anime, video games, manga, other animation, and the Japanese culture. We meet at Bookman's on 19th Ave and Northern On Sundays at 7:00pm until 9:00pm. In general, we explore anime, manga, and other styles of animation, creative educative demonstrations, participate in interactive discussions, attend local Arizona conventions, and make cosplay. We are willing to gain any new members out there who are interested. Dues are only \$2 per month. Our members are very friendly, respectful, and fun. We welcome any and all. For more information, contact Shane Bryner at ninjakittyofdoom@gmail.com

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

AERIAL MIRAGE JUGGLERS. Meets Wednesday 7-10pm in Encanto Park, 15th Avenue, south of Encanto. No dues, everyone welcome. All levels skill exchange in many areas of object manipulation Dave Davis <aerialmirage@gnerds.com>, 602-955-9446; or Ron Harvey <rbh1s@yahoo.com>, 480-775-4690 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: www.lanparty.com/all/ VoiceMail: 602-306-9339

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

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

basfa@earthlink.net
our website at <http://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. We research lifestyles and trades concurrent with the Celtic Peoples from 400 BC until 1746 AD. We emphasize Scots, Irish or Welsh crafts and do Celtic re-enactment. We open participation to anyone with an interest in period crafting and entertainment. Demonstrations occur at the Highland Games, Scarborough Fair, and the Arizona Renaissance Festival. Web page <http://www.crofters.org> We meet in Tempe at the Pyle Adult Center SW corner of Rural and Southern on the 2nd Saturday of every month, phone number (480)350-5211. The Board meeting will be at 2:00 pm with the General meeting starting at 2:30 pm.

THE DARK ONES (Dark-wunz) n. 1) An organization formed for the expression and exploration of various cultural themes including, but not limited to, the Dark Ages and the Renaissance through forms of art including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, writing, photography, spoken word, and acts of characterization. 2) a member of this organization. 3) Information available at www.darkones.org

THE EMPIRE OF CHIVALRY AND STEEL, INC. The Empire of Chivalry and Steel specializes in the general recreation of the culture of the Middle Ages including all of the Art Forms, Events (Feasts, Tournaments, Ceremonies and Wars) and Combat Arts covering the years of 800AD up to 1650AD and any location within Europe or its explored territories. For more information contact Leonard Byrd (Tucson) (520)742-2432 Web: www.galandor.org

THE JEDI KNIGHTS (Founded 1977) Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information call Carol Alves, Publicity, (760)244-9593 or write Jedi Knights, c/o Carol Alves 8038 "I" Street, Hesperia CA, 92345-7066.

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

MIB The Men in Black is the official global organization of field operatives for Steve Jackson Games. We attend local conventions to demonstrate and promote products of Steve

Jackson Games. We also schedule demos in local gaming stores as well as community service events. If you have a gaming store, convention, or community service that you would like to have official Steve Jackson Games representation at, please contact the MIB Arizona Cell Leader at MIB.6361@cox.net. We are also recruiting new MIBs in some areas of Arizona. If you're interested, contact us. You can find additional information about the Arizona MIB at our website <http://members.cox.net/mib.6361/>

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 Disney-land. For more details ph. Greg at [949] 552-4925 or send a message to our listserve OCSF@yahooogroups.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, johnkit@teamdroid.com

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY A Phoenix based club interest-ed in the entire realm of SF, Fantasy and Horror film. PFFS has been in existence for 30 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

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

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 Web www.atenveldt.com

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

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

SUPERSTITION 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, games, and occasional outings with more to come now that Doctor Who is returning from hiatus. Many members maintain an active presence at conventions. You can contact us at 2243 W Wagon Wheel Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85021, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@cox.net or visit us at <http://members.cox.net/tardis-info>

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

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

(Continued on page 20)

Club Listings (Continued from page 19)

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

USS STORMBRINGER The Stormbringer is a correspondence Star Trek fan club chapter of Starfleet, Intl. based out of Tucson AZ. The chapter was commissioned as the USS Stormbringer NCC-74213, attached to Division 31, Starfleet Covert Operations, on 10/31/98. As of 11/29/98 there were 32 members. There are no dues other than the \$15 for joining 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 sponsored the 2004 Westercon. Dedicated primarily to educational activities relating to literature, music, and visual and performing arts, especially in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, costuming, gaming and science. Applicants for membership in WesternSFA must be sponsored by a current active WesternSFA member. Dues are \$10 yearly plus a \$5 non-refundable application fee. General Meetings are held on the first Friday of February, May, August and November, usually at the home of a member. Guests are welcome. For more info contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 87457, Phoenix AZ 85082, (602) 973-2341, Email: craig@westernsfa.org Webpage: www.westernsfa.org

What is CASFS?
What is really behind putting on a convention? What are 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 prorated 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

Convention Listings

Conjecture 4 (San Diego CA) **October 7-9 2005.** Literary oriented SF&F con. Doubletree Club Hotel, Mission Valley, San Diego. GoH Jack McDevitt. Theme: Action/adventure SF. Mad Science Fair, Seat-of-the-Pants Engineering Contest, Iron Hack competition, and more! Vote on panel topics at our website. Memberships \$40 until September 15, \$45 at door. Mail to SanSFis, PO Box 927388, San Diego, CA 92192 or register on our website. Hotel room rate: \$99, any occupancy. Website: www.conjecture.org.

SiliCon 2005 (San Jose CA) Sci-Fi Through the Ages to be held **October 7-9, 2005** in San Jose, CA. We're an annual, non-profit, fan-run general science fiction/media convention with gaming and anime tracks. Info: info@siliconventions.com. Our 2005 website is www.siliconventions.com.

TusCon 32 (Tucson AZ) **November 18-20, 2005** InnSuites Hotel in Tucson, AZ. We'll again have a Short Story Writing Contest. We will offer gift certificates for prizes and the word limit will be 5000 words. So start writing! The Short Story Contest deadline is October 10, 2004. This year's Author GoH will be David Brin! Memberships are \$35 until 5/9, \$40 until 9/12, and \$45 after that and at the

door. One-days are \$15/30/15 for Fri/Sat/Sun. Children (ages 3-12) are ½ current adult rates. Also, we are now able to accept PayPal payments for membership registration: For more info write us at: TusCon, PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 (note: this is a new PO Box and Zip as of 4/15/2003) FAX us at: 520-571-7180 TusCon email: basfa@earthlink.net

Loscon 32 (Los Angeles CA) **November 25-27, 2005** Author Guest of Honor: Steven Brust Artist Guest of Honor: Rowena Morrill Fan Guest of Honor: Bruce Farr Membership Rates: \$35 (Adult) or \$17.50 (Kids) <http://www.loscon.org/loscon/32/>

Gallifrey 2006 (Los Angeles CA) **Feb 17-19, 2006** 17th Annual Doctor Who convention, The Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel, Los Angeles, CA Guests: John Barrowman, Nicola Bryant, Mary Tamm, Louise Jameson & More Memberships: \$50 to Nov 30 2005, \$55 to Jan 31 2006, \$60 at the door Hotel Info: \$109 S/D/T/Q)plus tax), The Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel, 5855 West Century Boulevard, Los Angeles, CA (310) 641-5700 Info: Gallifrey Conventions, P.O. Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609, email: outpostemail@gallifreyone.com web: www.gallifreyone.com

Gilacon 2006 (Phoenix AZ) **March 31 - April 2, 2006** Holiday Inn Phoenix - Midtown 4321 N. Central Ave., Phoenix AZ (602)200-8888 We will be featuring several Nyronnd regional scenarios, Living Arcanis, and D&D Minis

AniZona 2 (Phoenix AZ) **April 14-16, 2006** Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ Arizona's Own Anime Convention Guests TBA Memberships \$25 until 07/30/05, \$40 at the door Membership limited to 850. Hotel rates \$99 S/D, \$109 T/ \$119 Q (plus tax) (602) 375-1777 www.anizona.org, Email chaira@anizona.org

Leprecon 32 (Phoenix AZ) **May 5-7,2006** Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention with an emphasis on art; Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix AZ. Artist GoH: Alan M. Clark, Author GoH: John Vornholt, Local Artist Guest: Gilead; Media Guest: Bill Blair; Music Guest: Bill Laubensheimer; Special Tribute for Ray Gish; Memb: \$30 thru 10/31/05, \$35 thru 1/31/06 Hotel Rates: \$95 S/D, \$105 T, \$115 Q (plus Tax), Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777 Info: LepreCon 32, Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285; (480) 945-6890; e-mail: lep32@leprecon.org; website: www.leprecon.org/lep32

Nebula Awards Weekend 2006 (Tempe AZ) **May 4-7, 2006** Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ Toastmaster: Connie Willis; More Guests To Be Announced. Memberships: Full Weekend (including Nebula Awards Banquet) \$100 thru 12/31/05, \$110 thru 3/31/06, more later; Panels & Parties (All events except the Award Banquet) \$25 thru 12/31/05, \$35 thru 3/31/06, more later; Hotel Info: Room Rates: \$137 S/D (+ tax); Tempe

Mission Palms, 60 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona 85281, (480) 894-1400, 800 547-8705 Info: SFWA, PO Box 877, Chestertown, MD 21620; (480) 423-0649; Email: nebulas2006@gmail.com Web: <http://www.sfwawards.org/awards/2006>

CopperCon 26 (Tempe AZ) **Sept 1-4, 2006** Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ Guests To Be Announced Memberships: \$25 thru 12/31/05, \$30 thru 3/31/06, more later; Hotel Info: Room Rates: \$91 S/D (+ tax); Tempe Mission Palms, 60 East Fifth Street, Tempe, Arizona 85281, (480) 894-1400, 800 547-8705 Info: CopperCon 26, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone: (480) 949-0415 , Email: cu26@coppercon.org Website: www.coppercon.org

HexaCon 16 (Phoenix AZ) **October 13-15, 2006** Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ Gaming starts on Friday and runs 24 hours until Sunday 4PM. Planned events include RPGA, LARP, LAN Party, CCG, Battletech and much more. Also Anime and a full consuite. *THURSDAY EVENTS for pre-registered members only include Barry Bard's Movie Previews and Giveaways. Memb: \$15 thru 1/31/06; \$20 thru 9/30/06 Hotel: Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W Greenway - Rooms \$109 S/D. All rooms include breakfast and happy hour. Info: www.hexacon.org

Mailing/Subscription Information

ConNotations is sent free of charge to those who have attended a CASFS sponsored convention in the past two years (currently 2003/2004). Attendees of CopperCon 23, CopperCon 24, HexaCon 13 and HexaCon 14 will receive ConNotations Volume 15 Issues 1 thru 6.

ConNotations updates it's mailing list each December.

Individual subscriptions are available for \$15 for 6 issues.

Some non-CASFS groups give their membership lists to CASFS and purchase a bulk corporate subscription so their attendees may also receive ConNotations

Currently these groups are: **WesternSFA** - If you attended Westercon 57 you will receive Volume 15 Issues 1 thru 6

Generic Convention Registration Form

Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

(See individual convention listing for mailing address)

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