

ConNotations

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

A Conversation with L.E. Modesitt, Jr By Catherine Book

I've met Lee casually several times over the past two or three years so it was a real pleasure to sit down and chat with him personally. We met in the basement of the Carnegie Library during the 2006 Arizona Book Festival. It was a lovely sunny day and the Festival was fun. Lee looked particularly dapper in a gold vest and tie with a brimmed, jaunty hat. I found him to be very articulate (not surprising) and gentlemanly with a very precise manner of speech.

Lee didn't publish his first novel until 1982 while working as a Director of Congressional Relations & Legislation for the EPA. He much prefers working for himself. He's been writing full-time since about 1992. I asked if he used his experiences with the EPA in his writing. I

detected some of that in a couple of his series. He admitted there was some of it, not that he ever wanted to be 'in your face' with his opinions; but obviously a writer's opinions are going to enter his work. He uses them more as a forum for

asking questions than for supplying the answers. What are the implications of uncontrolled population, ... environment

non-control or regimented control, deforestations...and so on. Lee wanted to be clear that he doesn't believe in 'absolute single value answers' ...that there's no simple answer to *any* question; but that people want one. In this time of great societal and technological uncertainty – people *hunger* for the

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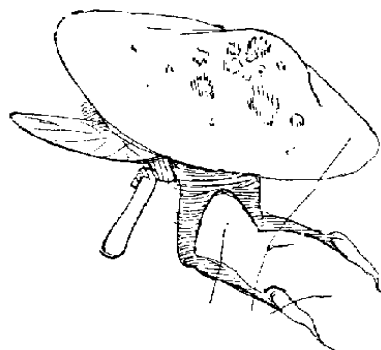
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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

As has been the case for the last few years, summer is the prime season for the cable channels running SF and fantasy shows to crank things up and this year is no exception. SciFi, of course, has the return of the two **Stargate** series and the new series **Eureka**; USA Network is bringing back **The 4400** and **The Dead Zone** while we've got **Blade** on Spike and even a few semi-genre shows on other networks. We've also got news on what the Broadcast networks have planned for the fall and the scoop on what shows will survive the merger of The WB and UPN turning into The CW. Of course, there's also the latest news from across the pond on **Doctor Who** and a few other shows of note.

The first two Fridays in June will see SciFi finish the first season of the new **Doctor Who** with the two part *Bad Wolf/Parting of the Ways* that sees The Doctor, Rose and Captain Jack return to Satellite Five and discover that there's something sinister going on behind the scenes of the lethal reality shows that are happening (and which they get trapped in). The ratings for the show on SciFi have been good, but not blockbuster. Considering the show is airing in the midst of repeats of other SciFi shows, it is expected that SciFi will pick up subsequent seasons and give the show a higher profile.

Before the weekly original dramas start up in July, SciFi will be having a couple of new movies in June. First up on June 10th is **Black Hole**, where a particle accelerator in St. Louis creates an artificial black hole that starts destroying the city and also creates a rift in time and space that an energy creature uses to come into our world, creating even more havoc. **Kristy Swanson** and **Judd Nelson** star. June 24th brings us **Android Apocalypse** where **Scott Bairstow** is an android hating working man who ends up being sent to a penal colony after getting in a barroom brawl. His transport is attacked by mutants and he ends up stranded in the wilderness with his android captor and they must both work together to survive. Look for SciFi to unleash two more movies on the world in July, but what they will be is not yet known.

Starting in June on Tuesday nights will be **Extreme Championship Wrestling**, a spinoff of the **World Wrestling Federation** that SciFi intends to be in tune with the SciFi lifestyle. Showing up on SciFi in July will be **Dark Angel** in a four hour block on Monday nights and **Dead Like Me** in a two hour block on Tuesday nights preceding **Eureka** and **ECW**.

Returning on July 14th will be **Stargate SG-1** and **Stargate Atlantis**, both an hour later than last year. Beginning on

July 28 will be episodes of the canceled ABC series **Night Stalker** at 8 pm ET/PT. Missing will be **Battlestar Galactica** which will not return with new episodes until October as SciFi looks to expand their new shows to a year round schedule.

Stargate SG-1 returns with the continuation of the Ori problems in *Flesh and Blood*. The Ori begin to invade Chulak, the Jaffa planet, and Vala and Daniel try to deal with the new Ori leader, Adria, Vala's daughter, who has been rapidly aged by the Ori. **Morpheus** is next and sees the SG-1 team on a mission where they all are overcome by a need to sleep while Vala deals with a psychiatrist. In *The Pegasus Project*, Daniel and Vala travel to Atlantis to search for information on Merlin's weapon to defeat the Ori and find out more than they anticipated while the rest of the team is on a mission with the Odyssey. **Atlantis** begins season three with *No Man's Land* which picks up where season two ended. **Connor Trinneer** returns as the Wraith Michael (after having a scheduling conflict in the season finale). Joining the cast on a regular basis is **Robert Picardo** as Richard Woolsey who has been assigned to Atlantis to review Dr. Weir's command decisions. In *Misbegotten*, Dr. Beckett finds himself trapped in an asylum when the inmates take it over. In *Sateda*, Ronon Dex is captured by the Wraith and brought back to his home world where he is forced to be a runner again.

Debuting on Tuesday July 18th with a two hour premier is SciFi's newest drama, **Eureka**. It has been described as a cross between **Northern Exposure** and **Twin Peaks** and is an attempt by SciFi to expand beyond the traditional science fiction drama associated with the channel with a healthy dose of humor and quirkiness. The fictional town of Eureka is in the Pacific Northwest and is a seemingly ordinary town to the casual observer. U.S. Marshall Jack Carter (played by **Colin Ferguson**) crashes his car in Eureka while transporting a teenage runaway. When a child disappears in the wake of an accident caused by one of the town's eccentric residents, Carter works with the local sheriff (**Maury Chaykin**) and a Dept of Defense agent (**Salli Richardson**) to investigate. In the process, Carter discovers Eureka is a secret government think tank with a lot of mystery, conspiracy and other secrets are hidden here.

SciFi's latest reality series, **Who Wants to be a Superhero?** will debut on July 27th for a six week run where **Stan Lee** and the producers of reality series such as *Meet My Folks* and *Who Wants to Marry My Dad?* search for the latest superhero concept. Eleven finalists will live together in a secret lair living as their superhero creations and will be tested each week with competitions designed to prove who will make the best superhero.

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24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

The Omen (June 6) - Just when you thought it was safe to go back to the movies, we find out that the Anti-Christ is making a comeback. Directed by John Moore, you can revisit the heartwarming tale of Damien as he helps prepare the world for Armageddon in this new remake of the 1976 movie. Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick is Damien, Julia Stiles and Liev Schreiber are the unwitting parents. Also starring are David Thewlis, Mia Farrow, Peter Postlethwaite, and Michael Gambon. Note that in a special marketing plan to commemorate June 6, 2006, the movie is opening on a Tuesday (6-6-06).

Cars (June 9) - Pixar's latest CGI action adventure film is about race cars. Lightning McQueen is a hotshot rookie race car traveling to the Piston Cup Championship in California. He detours through the town of Radiator Springs on Route 66 (nothing demonic about two 6's) where he runs into a bunch of offbeat characters (all cars, of course) who help him on his life's journey. Voice cast includes Owen Wilson, Paul Newman, Bonnie Hunt, Cheech Marin, Larry the Cable Guy, Richard Petty, George Carlin and more.

Garfield's A Tale of Two Kitties (June 23rd) - Bill Murray is back as Garfield and when Garfield's owner, Jon, takes him to England, the fat cat is mistaken for a look-alike cat that has inherited a royal castle. Jennifer Love Hewitt takes time out from talking with Ghosts to reprise her role as Liz and Breckin Meyer returns as Garfield's poor owner, Jon Arbuckle. Billy Connolly is the evil Lord Dargis, who wants to turn the castle into a resort. **Click** (June 23) Adam Sandler starts as a workaholic architect that comes across a special remote control that is able to actually control his life. When the remote control starts taking over his life, he realizes what he's been missing. Also stars Christopher Walken, Kate Beckinsale, David Hasselhoff, and Sean Astin.

Superman Returns (June 30) The long-awaited return of Superman to the big screen, directed by Bryan Singer, this is one of the most anticipated movies of the summer. Will it live up to the hype and expectations of the fans? We'll find out on June 30th. Relative unknown Brandon Routh looks the part of the last son of Krypton as well as his alter-ego Clark Kent. Kate Bosworth is Lois Lane, Kevin Spacey is Lex Luthor, Frank Langella is Perry White, and James Marsden is Richard White, Perry's son and Lois's love interest. Marlon Brando appears as

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SF Tube Talk

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The winner will be featured in a new comic book created by **Stan Lee** and will also be featured in a SciFi channel original movie. To help kick off the new series, SciFi will debut **Stan Lee's Lightspeed** starring **Jason Connery**, **Lee Majors**, **Daniel Goddard** and **Nicole Eggert** on Wednesday, July 26th.

Connery is Daniel Leight, who is able to move at light speed after an accident that crushes his legs and exposes him to radiation.

Also debuting on July 27th is the long in development animated series **The Amazing Screw-On Head**, about a robot in the civil war that has multiple heads it can use to disguise itself. SciFi will also be running a British series **Garth Marenghi's Darkplace**, a satire on 80's horror TV shows produced for Channel 4 in the UK last year.

SciFi has announced a few new things in development, including a **Battlestar Galactica** prequel series **Caprica**, that will be set 50 years before the current series and show how the Cylons came to rebel against their creators. When the series returns in October, expect even more web content including webisodes that will feature supporting characters and show events from their perspective and expand the overall story of the series. SciFi has also announced they have picked up **The Dresden Files** for a weekly series, ordering an additional 11 episodes and it will debut in January.

For this winter's big miniseries event, SciFi will debut the eight hour limited series **Motel Man**. It sees homicide detective Joe Miller stumble onto a motel room key that unlocks the door to a motel room that contains mundane objects that possess strange powers. Joe learns that other groups are trying to obtain some of the items and when his daughter disappears in the motel room, he becomes the focus of a police investigation.

SciFi has debuted an online broadband video channel dubbed The Pulse that will feature special video content including complete episodes, uncut movies, online pilots, and lots of behind the scenes video. SciFi will also bring back their film festival show **Exposure** and will have a weekly news show. According to SciFi Executive VP **David Howe**, "SCI FI Pulse' delivers on our commitment to exploit new digital opportunities for our audience to enjoy and get involved in our programming. Our broadband Channel is primed to be the category killer destination for genre content on the Web and will further strengthen our relationship with our viewers, building an even bigger online community." SciFi has also experimented with non-genre programming including a block of **Law and Order: SVU** that reportedly did better in the ratings than their regularly scheduled Thursday night movie repeats.

Spike TV will debut their initial entry into genre drama with **Blade** starting with the two hour premier on Wednesday June 28th. **Kirk "Sticky" Jones** stars as Blade, the half vampire, half human vampire hunter based on a **Marv Wolfman** comic creation that has had a successful run as movies featuring **Wesley Snipes**. While investigating the vampire house of Chthon, Blade forms an alliance with former military vet Krista Starr (**Jill Wagner**), who has been investigating the murder of her twin brother. There's not much advance information on the show's episodes, however, they have made it known that Blade will be riding a Harley-Davidson VRSCD Night Rod Motorcycle in the show.

Returning to the USA Network in June will be **The 4400** and **The Dead Zone** (for likely its final run of new episodes). First up is **The 4400**, which picks up on June 11 where the previous season left off where year old Isabelle has just transformed into a twenty year old (played by **Megalyn Echikunwoke**). Isabelle's father, Richard (**Mahershalalhashbaz Ali**), must deal with his daughter's sudden transformation and an even more surprising change in his wife, Lily (**Laura Allen**). Meanwhile, Tom (**Joel Gretch**) and Diana (**Jacqueline McKenzie**) pursue a radical 4400 organization called the Nova Group that has launched attacks against Dennis Ryland (**Peter Coyote**) and the other bureaucrats that they perceive as threats. **The Dead Zone** returns on June 18th with Johnny attempting to find a way to stop Greg Stillson from marrying Miranda Ellis, who Johnny believes is in grave danger if she goes through with the marriage while a political crisis develops that will bring Stillson closer to the White House. Johnny will continue to use his powers for good as he also tries to learn more about his role in the Armageddon he has foreseen. In upcoming episodes, he will take on a dangerous escaped convict, join a cult to try to prevent a Waco-like catastrophe, pose as a thief in order to keep a museum robbery from going bad; and investigate an apparent hate crime only to discover that the victims and the perpetrators are not who they appear to be, and multiple visions from an attacker, a victim and a rescuer wreak havoc with his own sense of reality and identity in one episode.

ABC Family will delve into the genre arena for two new series this summer. June 26th sees the debut of **Kyle XY**. **Matt Dallas** stars as Kyle, a mysterious teenage savant who is discovered wandering in traffic and put in an institution. Psychologist Nicole Trager (**Marguerite Macintyre**) brings Kyle home to stay with her family and as Kyle begins to show signs of brilliance, they work to solve the mystery of his origin. Seems a bit like a teenaged **John Doe** to me. Debuting Sunday July 23rd is **Three**

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Moons Over Milford that is set in the small town of Milford that will reflect the world's reaction to a cosmic explosion that is threatening Earth's existence. It focuses on the Davis family and their reactions to the news with **Elizabeth McGovern** as mom Laura Davis, **Teresa**



"Kyle XY" © ABC

Celentano as her daughter Lydia, and **Sam Murphy** as their 17 year old son Alex. Also starring are **Nora Dunn**, **Samantha Quan** and **Rob Boltin**.

The broadcast networks have announced their plans for the next season, although they are always subject to change. NBC kicked off the network upfronts by touting their corporate initiative, dubbed "TV 360" which will cover all of their networks, both broadcast and cable, that will expand their programming beyond their broadcast and cable outlets to the online broadband world. In addition to webisodes and special features like that planned for SciFi's Pulse web site, NBC Universal will also be setting up a series of FirstLook.com websites for each of their channels, debuting selected

episodes online of their regular series. This will include SciFi, USA Network and NBC.

On the genre side of things, NBC has renewed **Medium**, has not renewed **Surface**, but has picked up the series **Heroes** for the fall. **Heroes** will follow the lives of a group of ordinary people who discover they have extraordinary powers. It is an ensemble cast that includes **Greg Grunberg** as a down on his luck beat cop who discovers he can hear peoples thoughts, **Milo Ventimiglia** is a young man who believes he can fly, **Leonard Roberts** is a prison inmate who can teleport himself outside of his cell, **Hayden Panettiere** is a high school cheerleader who is indestructible, **Santiago Cabrera** is a drug-addicted artist who can paint the future, and **Masi Oka** is a young Japanese man who can stop time through sheer will power. **Sendhil Ramamurthy** is a genetics professor in India who learns of a secret theory of his father's that there are people with special powers in the world and that they have an ultimate destiny, to save the world. NBC plans to have a lot of associated online content including a regularly updated online comic to add to the back story of the events and the characters. Look for it on Monday nights this fall. NBC has also picked up for mid-season the series **Raines** that stars **Jeff**

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SF Tube Talk (Continued from page 4)

Goldblum as the eccentric LAPD detective Michael Raines who has the unique ability to be able to converse with the dead, allowing him to help solve their murders. Also starring are **Matt Craven** as Raines' boss Captain Daniel Lewis, **Dov Davidoff** and **Linda Park** as fellow officers Remy Boyer and Sally Lance, and **Luis Guzman** as Charlie, Raines' former partner and conscience. Look for it on Sundays in mid-season after Sunday Night Football completes its run.

ABC has not renewed **Invasion**. For their fall lineup, ABC has not picked up anything genre related for new shows. They have indicated that for the next season of **Lost**, they plan to run the episodes in two blocks, avoiding repeats of the show. It will debut in October and run for seven episodes, returning likely in February for an uninterrupted run through May. ABC has already announced a pickup for the IDT Entertainment series **Masters of Science Fiction**, although their commitment is for only four episodes. The show was conspicuously absent during their upfront presentation. I would be surprised if the show gets much of a promo push when ABC decides to air it. Regardless of its likely limited run on ABC, IDT is planning on producing an initial batch of six episodes while developing a full slate of thirteen scripts. Initial scripts likely to be produced include **Heinlein's "Jerry Was a Man"** with **Michael Tolkin** writing and directing, **John Varley's "Persistence of Vision"** scripted by **Michael Cassutt**, **Harlan Ellison's "Discarded"** co-scripted with **Josh Olson**, **Robert Sheckly's "Watchbird"** scripted by **J. Michael Straczynski**, and **Ray Bradbury** doing the script for his story "**Dark They Were, and Golden-Eyed**". Other scripts in the work include **Edmond Hamilton's "What's it Like Out There?"**, **Asimov's "The Last Question"**, and **Harry Harrison's "A Criminal Act"**. It looks like it will be a well produced, well-scripted series when we do finally get to see it.

CBS has renewed **Ghost Whisperer** and is returning almost its entire schedule, opening up two hours by dropping their Sunday night movie. In the genre field, they have picked up **Jericho**, which is about a small town in Kansas following a major nuclear assault on the US that has destroyed most of the major cities in the country and left the small town isolated from the rest of the world. It will deal with how they react to the possibility of life without civilization as we know it. The ensemble cast includes **Ashley Scott**, **Gerald McRaney**, **Alica Coppola**, **Erik Knudsen**, **Kenneth Mitchell**, **Lennie James**, **Michael Gaston**, **Pamela Reed**, **Skeet Ulrich**, and **Sprague Grayden**.

FOX has not picked up anything in the genre arena, setting adrift the pilot **Beyond** about JPL's response to a global



"Jericho" © CBS

crisis. The only thing of likely interest will be the summer 2007 reality series **On the Lot**, which will be a competition series for filmmaker's with Dreamworks TV and **Steven Spielberg** involved. FOX's My Network TV has sprung up to provide programming to stations left behind in the UPN/WB merger and has nothing of interest to genre fans, programming trashy tele-novellas six nights a week for two hours.

Finally, we've got The CW rising from the ashes of UPN and The WB and it looks like **Alex Luthor** took the two networks and bashed them together to make a new one (see DC's **Infinite Crisis** comic for the reference). The new network will be a mix of shows from the old networks, with **Smallville** and **Supernatural** surviving to be the lone genre series on the new network, the **Mercy Reef** pilot about a young Aquaman was left out to dry and was not picked up for a series. As usual, **Smallville** left things in a pretty dire state with the entire cast in peril of some sort, especially Clark.

Overall, this season has fewer new

genre entries to look forward to on the broadcast networks (NBC two (one mid-season), CBS one, ABC one (limited series), with FOX and The CW each at zero).

Over in the UK, the second series of **Doctor Who** has been well received, both critically and in the ratings. Remaining in the season that will be broadcast in the UK in June and July are the

two parter by **Matt Jones**, **The Impossible Planet/the Satan Pit**, where the Doctor and Rose visit a nightmarish alien world that is compared to Hell in one press description, **Love and Monsters** by **Russell T. Davies** which has been described as an offbeat episode that will feature a fan-created monster, the Abzorbaloff, **Fear Her** by **Matthew Graham** which is rumored to be about ghosts and/or the 2012 Summer Olympics (or both), and the season finale two parter by **Russell T. Davies**, **Army of Ghosts/Doomsday**, that sees the Cybermen awakened in our universe and in combination with something else from the Doctor's past (Daleks? the Gelf?), threatens the Earth. Expect a major season ending cliffhanger for the 2nd season finale. Production has started on the **Doctor Who** spinoff series **Torchwood** that is scheduled to start airing on the BBC in October. Not much information has been leaked beyond the initial casting reports. Indications are that the series will be very adult and is not intended for kids to watch.

In the animated TV world, Kid's WB will remain Kid's WB even with the demise of The WB. The CW decided that the Kid's WB brand was strong enough that they should not change it. They will be dropping **Pokemon** and **Yu-Gi-Oh!** in favor of more domestically produced series. Returning will be **The Batman**, which will see the addition of Robin to the lineup with appearances by Batgirl and villains such as Harley Quinn, Black Mask, Killer Moth, the Everywhere Man, a brand-new Clayface, the Joker, Penguin and Riddler. New this season will be the long rumored **Legion of Super Heroes** series. It will be in a different continuity from the other DC Animated series with Superboy joining with Lightning Lad, Saturn Girl, Brainiac 5, Phantom Girl, Bouncing Boy and Timber Wolf in weekly adventures. According to the Kid's WB press release "Together, this unlikely Legion of Super Heroes bands together to defend the rights of all free worlds and uphold the laws of the newly formed United Planets. That is, if they don't kill each other first. LEGION OF SUPER HEROES combines humor with high-stakes, grand-scale super heroics to create the ultimate sci-fi, super hero fantasy for kids of all ages. Each episode of this fast-paced, character-driven action comedy will pit Superboy and the Legion against otherworldly threats and adversaries who challenge the team on both super heroic and emotional levels." Also debuting will be a new Scooby Doo series, **Shaggy & Scooby-Doo Get a Clue!**, Scooby now has Scooby Snacks with nano-technology that allow him to become almost anything (a giant magnet, a towering robot) and a Mystery Machine that can morph into any mode of transportation.

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24 Frames (Continued from page 3)

Jor-El via unused footage from the Christopher Reeve movies and Jack Larson and Noel Neill, Jimmy Olsen and Lois Lane from the 1950's TV series, make cameos. In the movie, Superman returns from space after an absence of several years to find that Lois has moved on with her life and that his arch-foe, Lex Luthor, is planning to make sure Superman isn't around to thwart his plans for global domination.

Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest (July 7) Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp) returns in a new adventure sparked by the realization that he owes a blood debt to Davey Jones. Jack derails the wedding plans of Will Turner (Orlando Bloom) and Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) as he drags them along on his latest adventure.

A Scanner Darkly (July 7) Another Philip K. Dick movie adaptation, this time in animated form. Keanu Reeves stars as a reluctant government recruit spying on his friends and delves into the world of drugs, multiple identities and questions of who can you really trust. Limited release.

Lady in the Water (July 21st) M. Night Shyamalan's latest fantasy starts Paul Giamatti as Cleveland Heep, a building manager who rescues a mysterious young woman (Bryce Dallas Howard) from danger. He discovers she is actually a character from a bedtime story who is trying to get back to her world. Heep soon discovers that he and his fellow tenants are now also characters in the bedtime story that has come to life and that he has fallen in love with her.. They must work to protect her from the creatures that are trying to prevent her from going home.

Clerks II: The Passion of the Clerks (July 21) Kevin Smith revisits Randall and Dante ten year's after the first Clerk's movie to find that they have moved on to new horizons, Mooby's, a fast food empire. Jeff Anderson (Randal) and Brian O'Halloran (Dante) return, along with Kevin Smith (Silent Bob) and Jason Mewes (Jay). Expect lots of pop culture references and foul language.

My Super Ex-Girlfriend (July 21) Uma Thurman is Jenny Johnson, who is also the secret identity of the superhero G-Girl and Luke Wilson is her unknowing boyfriend. When he dumps her for being too needy, she uses her powers to make his life a living hell. Directed by Ivan Reitman.

Monster House (July 21) This animated movie with Robert Zemeckis and Steven Spielberg producing is about three kids who discover a neighbor's house is really a monster. They must find a way to stop the house and save the neighborhood. Voice cast includes Steve Buscemi, Maggie Gyllenhaal, Jon Heder, Kevin James, and Jason Lee.

Pro Notes

by Catherine Book

Hello everyone! I'm fresh from my first Nebula Awards weekend...wow, what an experience. Made a couple new contacts so you might be seeing a couple more new names show up soon... got one right away for this issue...

First up is **K.D. Wentworth** who just got back from Tempe where she attended her third Nebula Awards as a Short Story Finalist. She has finished a YA western fantasy and is now working on a sequel to "*The Course of Empire*" with Eric Flint for Baen. She has stories upcoming in *Weird Tales*, *Twenty Epics*, *Baen's Universe*, and *Realms of Fantasy*. She will be teaching at the Writers of the Future Workshop again this year with Tim Powers in August. Speaking of **Tim Powers** – Tim was spare in his contribution this time but he tells me that he has a novel coming out from HarperCollins in July, titled "Three Days to Never." It's about supernatural modern-day consequences of Einstein having lived in Pasadena in the early 1930s. Sounds like typical Powers... I can hardly wait. Also from California, **Larry Niven** updates us with the news that "Building Harlequin's Moon" (with Brenda Cooper) is out in paperback. "The Draco Tavern" is still available as a hardback. Ed Lerner and he have finished "Fleet of Worlds", set mostly on the Peirson's puppeteer homeworlds. It's with Larry's agent, Eleanor Wood, and two publishers have bid, but nothing concrete yet. "Inferno" (with Jerry Pournelle) is due online through Baen Books. They'll publish a slightly revised version when they publish the sequel, currently called "Inferno 2: Escape from Hell." That is not far enough along to nail down a pub date. Larry & Greg Benford are both moving, if slowly, on "The Bowl of Heaven." And Larry & Steven Barnes are at work on "The Moon Maze Game."

Joe Haldeman sent me this from Florida: Bicycling Hadrian's Wall was a wonderful trip. The trail wasn't quite finished; he and his wife were among the first dozen to try out parts of it. A certain amount of rain and mud, but also blue skies and the wonderful English countryside, and fascinating Roman ruins. Last month they took a two-week cruise to Italy, Egypt. Watch for a travelogue on his website, <http://home.earthlink.net/~haldeman/travel.html>, once he gets the new computer system to cooperate. Joe is still cranking on "The Accidental Time Machine," which he hopes to deliver before he goes off to teach at Clarion in mid-July.

September will be a busy publishing month for **Christopher Golden**. Del Rey will publish "Witchery: A Ghosts of Albion" novel, the second in the series he writes with Amber Benson. Ace will

publish "Stones Unturned," the third book in the MENAGERIE series that he writes with Thomas E. Sniegowski. Earlier the same month, Signet will release a trade paperback edition of one of his older novels, "Straight on 'til Morning," with a new introduction that Chris wrote, and a short story, "Runaway," that's sort of a prequel to the novel. He has also had two novellas published in limited edition recently—"The Shell Collector," from Cemetery Dance, and "Bloodstained Oz," which he wrote with James A. Moore for Earthling Publications. Christopher & Sniegowski are currently at work on "Crashing Paradise," the fourth MENAGERIE novel. The second book in the trilogy THE VEIL, which is entitled "The Borderkind," will hit from Bantam early next year. Next summer, Bantam will also publish a hardcover novel he did with Hellboy creator, Mike Mignola, called "Baltimore, Or, The Steadfast Tin Soldier and the Vampire." He just finished it this month, and Mike is doing more than a hundred illustrations to complement the text of their story . . . and even to help tell the story.

And from the Midwest, I was happy to hear from **Selina Rosen** who, with Laura Underwood, sold their gonzo mystery entitled, "Bad Lands," to Five Star Mystery and it should see print in 2007. Selina's science fiction/horror/ adventure novel "Strange Robby" will be released in June of this year by Meisha Merlin publishing, in a hardback and softcover trade edition. She is currently working on editing the next "Bubbass of the Apocalypse" anthology, "Houston, We've Got Bubbass," and writing the second Holmes and Storm mystery in collaboration with Ms. Underwood tentatively titled "Bad City." While from New Mexico, I have news from **Walter Jon Williams**. Walter has been concentrating on short fiction lately. He's written the novelette "Resurrection Day" for "Escape From Earth" an anthology edited by Gardner Dozois and Jack Dann. He's delivered the novelette "Pinocchio" to Jonathan Strahan for his anthology "The Starry Rift." And he's working on another, as-yet-unnamed story for yet another Gardner Dozois anthology, "The New Space Opera." And, perhaps most importantly: Walter is Guest of Honor at Westercon 59, Conzilla, July 1-4 in San Diego.

I have only one UK contribution this issue; from **Brian Aldiss** who just got back from Croatia, and **yes**, the Croats also hold conventions. He was GoH because two of his books were being published in translation: "Non-Stop", his first SF novel and, more amazingly, a travel book he wrote on Yugoslavia, "Cities & Stones." On its first appearance in 1965 it was banned in Belgrade. Brian said to the present publisher (a war hero), "But the book's ancient." He replied, "We regard it as history." "History,"

Brian lamented," I must be getting old..." At the moment, his time is devoted to compiling a "Science Fiction Omnibus" for Penguin Books, scheduled for 2007, lecturing and trying to prepare his journals for publication. He has a story coming up in Asimov's, while the Overlook Press has just accepted a new novel, "Harm!" set in the future, but about present-day torture by British and American forces.

But I have lots from some of our authors in Canada. I welcome **Ed Greenwood** to our fold. From his farmhouse in rural Ontario, Canada, it's (as usual) swords & sorcery time. He's hard at work on the 2nd book in the KNIGHTS OF MYTH DRANNOR trilogy, "Swords of Dragonfire," to be published in hardcover by Wizards of the Coast in 2007. The first KNIGHTS book, "Swords of Eveningstar," will be published in hardcover in August of this year, and goes back in time (in the popular Forgotten Realms fantasy setting) to when teenagers, hungry for adventure in the uplands of Cormyr, first got together, won their charter, and set off on the road to become a famous adventuring band. Ed's also working on "Warrior of Niflheim," to be published in hardcover by Tor Books in 2007; the first in a new series set in vast subterranean kingdoms. In 2006 and 2007, he'll have short stories or novelettes in several anthologies, including "It Came From The Swamp" in Astounding Hero Tales (an anthology of new pulp adventure tales, from Hero Games), "King Harrowhelm" in Heroes in Training (from DAW Books), and "Beowulf and the Wraith" in Further Tales of Beowulf – Champion of Middle Earth (from Carroll & Graff / Avalon Publishing). Ed's "really big news" must still remain secret for the time being, but when he sends me an update, as various projects reach the "can be talked about" stage, I'll pass it on.

And, from one of my favorite Canadians (*actually, an all-around favorite*), **Robert Sawyer**: Robert J. Sawyer recently launched a new blog at sfwriter.com/blog.htm. He sold serialization rights to his next novel, called "Rollback", to Analog, which will publish the full text of the book in four parts starting in the October 2006 issue; Tor's hardcover will follow in April 2007. Rob's novella "Identity Theft" is a current Hugo finalist, and a sequel, entitled "Biding Time," has just appeared in the DAW anthology "Slipstreams" edited by Martin H. Greenberg and John Helfers. In the last month, Rob has optioned film rights to his novels "Mindscan" and "The Terminal Experiment" and his short story "The Shoulders of Giants." Just a polite reminder that nominations are now open for the Hugo Awards. If you had a membership in last year's World Science Fiction Convention in Glasgow or this

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Pro Notes

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year's World Science Fiction Convention in Los Angeles, you're entitled to nominate. The works Rob has hopes for are: In the Novel category: "Mindscan" from Tor Books. In the Novella category: "Identity Theft" (from Down These Dark Spaceways.) He'll be Writer-in-Residence at Odyssey, a six-week-long science-fiction and fantasy writing workshop in New Hampshire being held June 12-July 21, 2006. And he'll be facilitating his usual week-long SF&F workshop at the Banff Centre for the Arts September 18-23, 2006. <http://www.sfwriter.com/workshop.htm> And, as an editor, he's just acquired novels by Terence M. Green (*Sailing Time's Ocean*) and Matthew Hughes (*The Commons*) for his Robert J. Sawyer Books imprint at Calgary's Red Deer Press.

And almost lastly, but certainly not leastly... is **Spider Robinson**. Some time ago, in issue 15.3, May 2005, Spider announced that he was writing a Robert Heinlein book. Well, it's finished! It's going to be a Spider September. In his "relentless quest to ensure that there are plenty of Christmas gifts for your loved ones, friends, and strangers you want to impress, I have broken the publishing industry to my will, and caused them to issue five of my novels at once, that month!" First and foremost, obviously, is "Variable Star," his collaboration with Robert A. Heinlein. Spider relates: "I think I pulled it off: it's some of the best writing I've ever done." Tor's giving it a nice cover, and there's going to be a publicity supernova on release. (*At this point, I feel...well, imagine you've just finished arranging, producing, recording, mixing and pressing the first new John Lennon album in nearly 20 years, starting with some low-fi mono cassette tapes and a few scribbled lyrics, and you're pretty sure it's something he would have liked a lot....and it will be four more months before anybody but you and a few friends have heard it.*) Next, Baen Books will finally release the paperback edition of Spider's latest solo novel "Very Bad Deaths." It's the first book in a new sf/mystery series, about an Odd Trio of misfits who thwart crime in present-day Vancouver BC, with frequent flashbacks to the 60s, and it contains the creepiest villain he's ever written. He's just about to start the second in the series, "Very Hard Choices." Spider is excited about the series because it lets him sound off about both the Good Old Days, and the Brave New World that has ensued. Finally and by NO means least, Baen will also be reissuing THE STARDANCE TRILOGY in a single hardcover volume for the first time ever. That's all three of the novels that he wrote in collaboration with his choreographer wife, Jeanne Robinson, about zero gravity dance and

its pivotal role in human evolution: "Stardance," "Starseed," and "Starmind." Their original novella "Stardance" won the Hugo and Nebula, assorted other portions of the trilogy were Hugo finalists, and he thinks it's some of the best writing he's done yet, like "Variable Star." A close friend of the late Virginia Heinlein recently stunned Spider & Jeanne by telling them it was Ginny's favorite series, and one of Robert's favorites too.

I'll wrap up with a couple of our local Arizonan authors, **Jennifer Roberson** and **Alan Dean Foster**. **Jennifer's** new book is in the stores, titled "Karavans." This novel, one in a series, is the first new world Roberson has created since the very popular SWORD-DANCER series. And **Alan's** "Sagamanda," a novel set in a city of 100 million in near-future India, will be published by Pyr Books in October. "The Candle of Distant Earth," the third and final book of THE TAKEN trilogy, will be published by Del Rey in June. "Trouble Magnet," the next FLINX & PIP adventure, will appear later this year, to be followed by "Patrimony." Del Rey will subsequently publish "Exceptions to Reality," his 7th collection of short fiction. And, "Quofum," a stand-alone COMMONWEALTH novel; and "Flinx Transcendent," a big novel that resolves everything Flinx has been up to in the course of all his preceding books and adventures. Also appearing in various venues will be an assortment of short fiction, notably the novella "Mid-Death," in the collection of original novellas "Forbidden Planets," from the SFBC, and the ICERIGGER novelette "Chilling," in Baen's Universe.

Our resident experts in podcasting science fiction, **Michael Mennenga** and **Evo Terra**, rarely have time to catch their breaths. They have formed a new company called FarPoint Media (<http://farpointmedia.net>) which is acting as sort of an "incubator" for creative people interested in podcasting, blogging and more. What started out as simply The Dragon Page has now morphed into 13 (as of this printing) different podcast properties. Best selling author Tracy Hickman has already signed on with FarPoint, and together with Mur Lafferty they are hosting the Parsec Awards to recognize excellence in fiction podcasting. Ten awards in multiple categories will be awarded at this year's Dragon*Con convention in September. If you're interested in the world of podcasting science fiction and fantasy, these are the guys to talk with!

That's it for this month. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. 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

X-Men - The Last Stand
Starring: Hugh Jackman, Halle Berry
Director: Brett Ratner
Running Time: 107 minutes
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: May 26, 2006

The basis for "The Last Stand" is that a pharmaceutical company has found a "cure" for the mutants. Of course Magneto (Ian McKellen) does not view this as a cure and declares himself the cure for mankind. Prof Xavier (Patrick Stewart) has a more tolerant view. Mutants are offered the cure when clinics are opened and the clinics are picketed by other mutants who believe that no mutant should take the cure (looks like what we have seen on the news at abortion clinics). Jean Gray is reincarnated into Phoenix (Famke Janssen), more powerful than ever, and a struggle begins between Magneto and Prof Xavier to try and convince Phoenix to join their side culminating in a scene that is quite intense with some exciting special effects. The Beast's role is played by a new actor to the X-Men films (Kelsey Grammer) who holds a new government cabinet position named "The Department of Mutant Affairs". Given the current illegal immigration debate this seems quite appropriate. Wolverine (Hugh Jackman)

gives us a great performance and some laughs. To anyone who dislikes San Francisco there is much enjoyment when the Golden Gate bridge is slightly dislodged in another very existing special effect. *X-Men: The Last Stand* has just about everything I enjoy for this type of film. The story is pretty good and the special effects are outstanding. The closer you sit the more you will enjoy this film (the railing seats are ideal and also give you a place to rest your legs). Oh, one more suggestion: stay until after the credits as there is a scene after the credits. I rate the movie a solid "A". - **Len Berger**

Over the Hedge
Dreamworks Studio
Starring: Bruce Willis, Garry Shandling
Director: Tim Johnson, Karey Kirkpatrick
Running Time: 83 minutes
Rated PG
Release Date: May 19, 2006

Over the Hedge is based on a comic strip. Having seen the movie I would recommend having it in our local paper. I went expecting to enjoy a cute kiddie film but instead I saw one of the funniest movies so far this year.

The cast was about as perfect as could have been chosen. Despite my misgivings
(Continued on page 8)

ConRunners

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Screening Room

(Continued from page 7)

about Bruce Willis as the raccoon RJ he pulled the movie off great. Garry Shandling has revealed his true self as Vern. But the two best performances were by Wanda Sykes as Stella and Steve Carell as Hammy.

The story begins with RJ trying to get the last bag of chips out of a vending machine, failing at that he decides to take some food from his friend Vincent (Nick Nolte) a hibernating black bear. He is caught and has to replace all the food he took, in one week. He decides to take advantage of a group of naive animals awakening from hibernation. The animals led by Vern are supreme foragers and are soon investigating the new suburbs that grew up while they were asleep. This being a Dreamworks movie there is a lot of silliness but no real violence.

The ending was extremely funny and while the premise was predictable the manner in which it was carried out was not. Don't leave before the end of the credits you won't be sorry. 5 stars -

Bob LaPierre

Conversation

(Continued from page 1)

simple answer. How else, he asked me, do you account for the incredible rise in evangelical Christianity and other very simplistic forms of religion? Perhaps, I mused, because the world has gotten so complicated that people grab onto anything that might make just one part of their life simpler. He agreed but did caution that it wouldn't make their life any easier; and in fact, might complicate it. It could make one technologically sociologically schizophrenic. Lee really just wants people to *think*. He's been faced with a reader asking him why he has made conflicting statements and accused him of being hypocritical. He wants to be clear that what he tries to do is raise questions. So when his characters say conflicting things, it's not necessarily Lee's viewpoint, but that he is simply raising valid questions.

Moving along, I asked him if he ever worked on multiple projects. Not exactly, he answered. He only creates one book at a time; although, that adds up to about 2.5 books a year... So, while he might be writing one book, he'll also be editing a second and checking galley proofs on a third. At the pace he's set for himself, I was curious if he ever took time off. Maybe a week between, he said. Well, what did it feel like *not* to be writing? He admitted that he does get a little antsy if he's not working but not too often as there are always stories to be written. How does he research or does he need to? Well... there is the researcher who buries himself in research and then goes to write the book, and then there's the writer who researches as he goes, as Lee does. He's

continually doing research; whether its technical journals or periodicals, non-fiction as he tries to stay current in a lot of fields.

His work encompasses both science fiction and fantasy – how does he distinguish between the two? His answer was pretty surprising. He points out that all writing, even non-fiction, is still truly fiction. No biography is ever the complete truth – they reflect the literary judgement of the writer, so in that sense, the biographer is just as much a fictionalist as a novelist. Every writer picks and chooses what stays and what goes – after all, the reader isn't interested in mundane bits of information that are unessential to the main story or theme whether it's fiction or non-fiction. Editing real life makes a better read.

I was curious if Lee had much demand for short stories. In the past few years, he has been asked to contribute more. About 3 or 4 years ago, he was first asked to contribute a short story due to his experiences in Vietnam, when he was a pilot, to an anthology named “In the Shadow of the Wall.” Then Andrew Greeley asked him to write an Irish-themed story called “Emerald Magic.” Then the offers came more often; mostly notably a “taboo-breaking” story for “Flights: Extreme Visions of Fantasy.” And he's working on others right now. One will be for “Future Weapons”, and the one for Baen's Universe will be a Recluce novelette.

Lee thinks he's a bit hard to categorize – his short stories and novels are significantly different, his readers tend to gravitate towards his Recluce or Spellsong stories, or his science fiction stories, or his Ghost books. His short stories are ‘quietly unsettling.’ I think Lee is happiest when he can challenge his reader.

There are 13 published Recluce novels (and he's working on #14) – an intimidating number of books to me. Not so, he assures me. They are not a continuing storyline. They cover 2000 years, 15 different cultures, and 5 continents. No more than two books are about the same character. They aren't even all written in the same tense. Should I read them in chronological order or published order? Well, obviously, Lee would prefer that they are read in the order published (written.) However, if the reader wants to know the chronological order they can find that on his website. Since Lee does have a fairly long set of books in a series, a couple of series actually – I asked him if he thought writers should keep a series alive as long as the fans want them or if the writer has the responsibility to end a series when he/she no longer has anything new to offer. The latter, he said firmly. He's been asked if he would write more Spellsong books and he says, while it's not impossible, it's very unlikely as he doesn't know what

more he could add to that universe. On the other hand, Recluce with the broad span of time, geography and culture is a wider field with lots more opportunity. While he would like it if readers would read as many of his books as they can, he'll be damned, he said, if he'd ‘blackmail’ his readers into reading every single book in a series just so they can reach the ‘end of the story.’ Recluce wasn't written as one big story. Each book stands alone. They're about life, they are not about ‘getting to the end of the story.’

Does he have any new ideas or series breaking ground in his mind? He's still writing the Corean Chronicles and just finished ‘Soarer's Choice,’ the 3rd book in the second trilogy which will publish in November 2006. There will be, undoubtedly, a new series in the future but Lee hasn't thought of it yet. Which made me wonder who his audience is...are they different for each series? He believes he has a very diverse audience: romance readers, mystery readers, science fiction readers, as young as 11 and as old as 80, blue-collar and PhDs. What they all have in common is that they are people who like to think.

E-books are a controversial medium. Lee thinks they run against people's proclivities. People tend towards that which is the easiest and cheapest. Paper books are obviously low-tech while fancy electronic readers are getting more and more consumer friendly, lightweight and inexpensive. But the high-tech readers will still always cause the owner to spend more time and effort protecting his investment; while if a paperback book is forgotten on a plane, it doesn't become a crisis. Books don't require batteries or power supplies. As long as you can see the page, you can read the story.

Finally, I wanted to ask him about his experience with SF conventions. With his schedule I guessed he'd restrict his attendance; obviously, a writer at a convention isn't...writing. Oh, yes, he answered – no more than 5 or 6 a year. Well that was a bit startling...I though 5 or 6 would be a huge amount for a working author. And he's still more prolific than many other writers! There are two conventions that he tries to hit every year: World Fantasy and his favorite local con, Conduit, in Salt Lake City.

When we talked about whether he wrote for personal pleasure or if he tailored his work for the publisher, he had difficulty answering...it's a blurred issue, he explained. He has a lot of things to say that are worthwhile but if he can't write an entertaining story it doesn't matter because no one will read it. On the other hand, he doesn't write merely for entertainment – empty entertainment isn't what he wants to produce. Again, we're back to Lee's need to push people to *think*. And although he may not always succeed, it's always his goal.

40 Years of Star Trekking Across The Universe

by Shane Shellenbarger

It was Friday September 27, 1968. I had just turned twelve-years-old the day before and I was about to violate my parentally enforced bedtime in order to see Mr. Spock turn traitor. I snuck down the long, carpeted hallway, past the kitchen, slowing as I approached the relative openness of the living room. Peering around the corner, my ear caught the caught the familiar NBC theme signaling the beginning of a television show. I moved quickly to my first cover: a high-backed, turquoise colored lounge



chair. From this vantage point, I could see the 25-inch color television in the Family Room. I caught the fading image of the NBC peacock and the words “In Living Color” as it was soon replaced by a black, star-strewn field, with the U.S.S. Enterprise moving diagonally from left to right, with Dr. Leonard McCoy giving a troubling medical log entry about his concerns that Captain Kirk was under a great deal of strain. I settled in to watch “The Enterprise Incident.”

You know the story; at least you do if you're a follower of Kirk, Spock, and “Bones” McCoy. Kirk takes the Enterprise into the Romulan Neutral Zone under the cover story of a nervous breakdown. A Vulcan Death Grip, some plastic surgery, and a stolen cloaking device later and the Enterprise set Warp Drive for home. Oh, and Spock gets the girl in the form of the exotic Joanne Linville as the Romulan Commander. I also made my escape, cloaking myself behind various pieces of living room furniture during the commercial breaks and heading back to my room under Full Warp as the Enterprise and the sea of stars through which she traveled faded from the

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40 Years of Star Trek

(Continued from page 8)
TV screen. As I lay in my bed, replaying in my mind’s eye the adventure I had just witnessed, I could not know that would be the last television season for the NCC-1701 Enterprise and her crew. The cancellation of *Star Trek* was not a death, of course, but the slumber of a sleeping giant.

Star Trek has been the backdrop for a major portion of my life. Before I bought my first video tape recorder (a Panasonic ½” reel-to-reel vtr in 1976), I wired the speaker of the family television so that I could use my compact cassette recorder to tape the audio of the show. I’ve since supplanted those audio tapes first with the complete series on Betamax tapes in 1987 and again in 2004 with the DVD boxed sets. I have no plans to purchase either a Blue-Ray nor a HD-DVD set. You’ve got to draw the line somewhere. That’s not to say I haven’t spent my fair share on Trek merchandise. I had to replace the model of the Klingon Battle Cruiser my sister broke when she was swinging at my brother, didn’t I? And who among us hasn’t purchased two or three or twenty variations of the Playmates or Galoob or Mego series of action figures, or the paperback books, the posters, 35mm film clips, soundtracks, Christmas ornaments, plates, decks of cards, board games, video games, arcade games, pinball machines, or marbles?

I’ve also done my time in the fan community as a promoter of Star Trek. In the late 70’s, I was a member of the U.F.P: United Federation of Phoenix. I’ve worked on Star Trek conventions as both staff and committee. I’ll admit to having attended a Creation Con or two, although I do prefer the less structured, homespun chaos of a fan-run convention. In the early 80’s, I met my wife through the U.F.P and we’ve just celebrated our 20th Wedding Anniversary; nearly twenty-one years after seeing Walter Koenig and Mark Leonard portraying the middle aged Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn in the stage production of “The Boys in Autumn.” In 1982, I was staffing a San Diego Comic-Con dealers table when the convention was held in the old El Cortez Hotel. I was encouraged by my “friends” to do my Pavel Chekov impression. “Keptin, Keptin, firing photon potatoes,” I exclaimed, to the perceived delight of my “friends.” Little did I know what I had actually been afforded was the opportunity of embarrassing myself in front of Walter Koenig who was one table away. He looked up from the merchandise he’d been perusing, looked me in the eye, smiled slightly, and walked past the table without comment. Not nearly so embarrassing, was the time in 1987 when Comic-Con has held at the old convention center across from the Civic Theatre in downtown San Diego. Harlan Ellison was on a panel and I asked him if

he had any plans to write for Star Trek: The Next Generation. I don’t recall if his response was, “Hell NO!” or it may have been “Bloody unlikely!”, but I would direct you to his book, *City on the Edge of Forever* for a more detailed explanation.

Koenig wasn’t the only member of the original cast with whom I’ve had a close encounter. I’ve seen William Shatner perform selections from his album, *The Transformed Man* at Arizona State University’s Gammage Theatre in the late

70’s, I attended Houston Con in 1975 and discovered during an autograph session that Jimmy Doohan was missing the middle finger of his right hand, but the most inspiring presence to me was that of Gene Roddenberry when he spoke at Mesa Community College in the early ‘80’s.

Roddenberry believed in the community of man, humanity showing tolerance for other political, religious, and sociological ideas and ways of living. He was able to convince the audience that he believed in Infinite Diversity in Infinite Combinations.

“The franchise,” as Star Trek has been called, has had its vicissitudes, both financially and artistically. The original series was canceled in 1969, but syndication and *Star Trek: The Animated Series* began the first revival in 1973. By 1979, at an estimated cost of \$35 million, *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* kicked off the movie run, grossing approximately \$139 million. The most profitable of the ten films (and generally considered the best) is *The Wrath of Kahn*, which grossed an estimated 8.82 times its budget. The decline (definitely financially, and in my opinion artistically) began with *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*, which cost an estimated \$27.8 million, but only grossed \$70.2 million. However, the worst financial return on investment (and most likely the nail in the film series coffin) was the \$97.5 million gross after 2002’s *Star Trek*:

Nemesis cost \$70 million to make.

While *Enterprise* has taken the heat for the demise of the franchise, all of the series sequels have had their detractors and growing pains. Many TOS fans initially resented *Star Trek: The Next Generation* for not making use of the original cast and for perceived poor quality scripts. Appearances by DeForest Kelly, James Doohan, and especially Leonard Nimoy somewhat mollified the detractors. Scripts of the caliber of

“Measure of a Man”, “The Inner Light”, “Below Decks”, “I, Borg”, “The Drumhead”, and “Chain of Command, Part II” proved that TNG could rise above the standard fair of dramatic television. *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* premiered under the cloud of suspicion that it was a Paramount clone of *Babylon 5* and *Star Trek: Voyager* hadn’t even left space dock before Geneviève Bujold pulled out,

(Continued on page 10)

www.coppercon.org

COPPERCON 26

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Arizona’s Annual Literary Oriented Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention

Author Guests of Honor
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Peter Morwood
Author of the *Clan Wars* and *Tales of Old Russia* novel series.
Co-writer with Diane Duane of the *Dark Kingdom: The Dragon King* TV miniseries.

Marc Scott Zicree
Co-author of the *Magic Time* novel series, author of the *Twilight Zone Companion*, screenwriter for *Sliders*, *Babylon 5*, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Forever Knight* and more.

Artist Guest of Honor: Sarah Clemens
Fantasy artist with the popular *Magnus & Loki* series.

Music Guest: Seanan McGuire
(Sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle)

CopperCon 26 will be a four day convention (Friday-Monday) over Labor Day weekend at the Tempe Mission Palms in the heart of downtown Tempe, Arizona.

CopperCon 26 will feature programming with many authors, artists, & scientists including special programming to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of *Star Trek*
Also planned are an Anime Room sponsored by Anizona, Art Show and Auction, Gaming, Hospitality Suite, Filk, Masquerade, Charity Auction, Dealer’s Room, & more!

CopperCon 26 Memberships
\$35 thru 6/30/06, \$40 thru 8/15/06, \$45 at the door
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Email: cu26@coppercon.org

40 Years of Star Trek

(Continued from page 9)

being replaced by Kate Mulgrew in the role of the captain.

One theory for the current death of *Star Trek* on television maintains that it isn't the quality of the programs as much as the quality of the venue. The theory holds that by appearing on the also-ran



UPN network, *Enterprise* was doomed from its inception. With WB and UPN networks merging into the CW Network, there does seem to be some credence to that theory. Another theory maintains that the fans had been sold a bill-of-goods concerning the level of technology in *Enterprise*, which was set 150 years before *Star Trek: The Original Series*. The transporter was originally supposed to be used exclusively for cargo, the ships top speed of Warp 5 put the Klingon Home World only four days away from Earth, the ships charged hull plates were just a mechanical version of *ST:TOS* energy shields (no mention was made of the navigation deflector), the grappling hook substituted for the tractor beam. Another concern of fans was the alien races encountered. Denobulans, Suliban, and other races introduced in *Enterprise* never appeared in *TOS* or any of the other series. Doubtless, many factors led to the decline of fan and Paramount executives' interest in *Enterprise*. There are many paths to failure and far fewer lead to success.

With over 700 television episodes in syndication, ten feature films, and thousands of comic books, novels, non-fiction books, and fan projects, *Star Trek* will continue to have a vast audience until the next revival when the sleeping giant awakes and the next generation of writers and fans boldly go where no one has gone before.

http://www.bugimus.com/comics/cm_x_conrpt1998.html
<http://www.u-f-p.org/>
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<http://www.thestate.com/mld/thestate/living/14291329.htm>
<http://www.star-fleet.com/ed/warp-chart.html>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Warp_drive



We need a logo!

The Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society (CASFS) is looking for a graphic logo to use on letterhead, business cards, web pages, etc.

The logo should:

—Tell the world what we do.

We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to promotion of science fiction and fantasy literature. We host fan-run conventions including the annual CopperCon SF convention and HexaCon gaming convention. We publish the fandom newspaper "ConNotations."

Graphic possibilities include spacecraft, planets, monsters, aliens and other fantastical creatures, books, etc. Our name or initials should be in there somewhere.

—Tell the world we're in Arizona.

Possibilities include the state outline, cactus, roadrunners, etc

—Be scalable.

The logo should look good and be easy to recognize at all sizes, from business cards to posters. Line art is better than anything that depends on colors or gradients. Simple is good.

The winning designer will receive a free membership to any CASFS-sponsored convention and the right to boast "That's my design!"

Send your designs by **August 1, 2006** to:

Attention Logo Contest

Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society

PO Box 62613

Phoenix AZ 85082

or by e-mail to randwhit@casfs.org

FYI

CASFS Book Discussion

The CASFS Book Discussions are moving to the third Tuesday of each month and also moving location to the Bookmans in Phoenix at 8034 N. 19th Ave at 7PM. Email questions to book@casfs.org

June 20: *Crystal Soldier* by Steve Miller and Sharon Lee. A new Liaden story.

July 18: *The Book of Night with Moon* by Diane Duane. The leader of a team of cat-wizards who help maintain the transit portals in New York's Grand Central Station, has to content with a young feral tom cat, Arhu, just starting his Ordeal to become a wizard.

August 22: *Coyote Kings of the Space-Age Bachelor Pad* by Minister Faust.

There's something for everyone: African Canadians, Comic-book fans, gamers and sci-fi geeks.

September 19: *Silverlock* by John Myers Myers. A fantasy romp in which a dreary young cynic named A. Clarence Shandon is shipwrecked on the shores of the living land of all human imagination, where every character of myth and fiction great enough to be remembered for generations -- is.

October 17: *Arrows of the Queen* by Mercedes Lackey. First book of the Valdemar series. And if you don't agree, come argue with us...

November 21: *Game of Thrones* by George R.R. Martin. If I have to explain this one, it's already too late for you...

December 12: *Accidental Goddess* by Linnea Sinclair. A sexy, out-of-this-world adventure about Gilliane who became a goddess while she was time-traveling after her ship was attacked.

Signings

Jasper Fforde signing at Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, Aug 8th, 7pm

James Sallis signing at Poisoned Pen, September 6

Poisoned Pen, www.poisonedpen.com

Events of Interest

Mark Greenawalt, our local body-painting artist of note, will be appearing at the Herberger Theatre on June 13th, 530p-730p. It is part of the 'Second Act' cultural happy hour.

Contact: www.herbergertheater.org

Barnes & Noble Events

www.barnesandnoble.com

Manga Bookclub, Barnes & Noble Goodyear, Jun 17, 7pm & July 15, 7pm
 Team Sci-Fi Book Group, Barnes & Noble Surprise, Jun 27, 7pm & Jul 25, 7pm

<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>

Imperial Outpost Events

www.imperialoutpost.com

Warhammer 40K Tournament, Imperial Outpost, Jun 3, 10a-8pm

HeroClix tournament, Imperial Outpost, Fridays 7p-11p

VS CCG tournament, Imperial Outpost, Tuesday, 730pm

Shield of Almor, Imperial Outpost, 1st & 3rd Sundays

(Continued on page 11)

Game Depot Events

Game Night, Game Depot Mesa, 3rd Saturdays
Contact: Game Depot, (480) 966-4727

Bookmans Events

www.bookmans.com

Tucson Bookmans Events

Dungeons & Dragons night, Bookmans Tucson-Speedway store, 1st & 3rd Sunday, 6pm

Phoenix Bookmans Events

8034 N. 19th Ave
Phoenix, Az 85021

Bookmans Great Video Game Challenge, Jun 17th, win an Xbox360
Phoenix Astronomical Society Telescope Workshop, July 9th, 430pm
"B" Movie Night, May 26th, 7pm, "The Revenge of Dr. X"

Bookmans Creative Writing Circle, every 3rd Sunday, 5-8pm

Mesa Bookmans Events

1056 S. Country Club Dr
Mesa, AZ 85210

Hero Clix-Super Hero Gaming Night!, Sundays, 6pm
Dungeons and Dragons RPG Night!, Mondays, 6pm

WesternSFA ConRunners Seminars

WesternSFA is holding a series of "mini"(4 hours) ConRunners seminars at the Bookmans in Mesa located at 1056 S Country Club Dr. Dates are June 18, July 23, August 20, September 24, October 29, November 19 and December 17.

There will also be two day long ConRunners held at the Phoenix Bookmans located at 8034 N 19th Ave on June 24 and October 28. For more information check the web site at www.westernsfa.org

L.A.con IV Announces World Science Fiction Convention to Celebrate Star Trek's 40th Anniversary

Forty years ago, on September 8th, 1966, Star Trek debuted on television screens across America, forever changing the landscape of television and science fiction. But days earlier, the show's creator, Gene Roddenberry, flew to Cleveland, Ohio and the 24th World Science Fiction Convention to preview his new series for the science fiction

fans gathered there.

He came, along with Sam Peeples, a writer for the series, and screened two episodes: the original pilot, The Cage, and What Little Girls Are Made Of. They spoke, extolling the wonders of their series. They also brought three women's costumes and models to display them.

With that association, how could L.A.con IV, the 64th World Science Fiction Convention not commemorate and celebrate the 40th anniversary of Star Trek?

This year the convention will have hundreds of speakers and program items over its five day run at the Anaheim Convention Center, with topics covering the literature and business of science fiction books, movies & television, science & space and more. Top authors, artists, filmmakers, scientists from around the world will all take part in the convention's program. And a portion of that program, as well as the convention's extensive exhibits, will be dedicated to Star Trek, the people who created it, and the fans who love it.

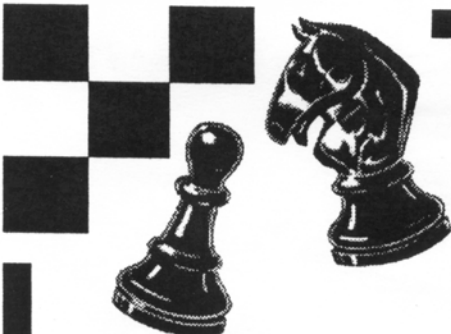
The program is still in the works and the convention is still contacting people involved with Star Trek in all of its incarnations, but already scheduled are:

- Appearances by stars from the original Star Trek series Walter Koenig and BarBara Luna as well as Star Trek: The Next Generation's Marina Sirtis, Star Trek: Voyager's Richard Herd, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine's Andy Robinson, and Suzie Plakson, who appeared on Next Generation, Voyager, and Enterprise. More stars expected but not yet confirmed.
- Writers from the original series including DC Fontana, David Gerrold, and Robert Sabaroff, talking about crafting a legend.
- A display of costumes actually used on the series.
- Writers and producers from Star Trek: The Next Generation, Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Star Trek: Voyager, and Enterprise.
- Graphics, miniatures, and props.

- A slide presentation on Star Trek: Phase 2, the first planned revival of Star Trek, from 1977, which was dropped at the very last minute in order to bring Star Trek to the motion picture screen instead.
 - A slide show by John & Bjo Trimble on the history of Star Trek Fandom.
 - Panels with fans of Star Trek, talking about the first fan-run conventions, keeping Star Trek alive between its cancellation in 1968 and the debut of Star Trek: The Motion Picture.
 - A show by Star Trek designer Mike Okuda, showing behind-the-scenes graphics from various versions of Star Trek.
 - A presentation by Star Trek: TNG, Voyager, and Enterprise Special Effects Supervisor Ronald B. Moore.
 - Behind The Camera From Behind A Camera A slide show of crew-taken photos of behind-the-scenes moments on Star Trek Enterprise.
 - A lesson in speaking Klingon from the director of the Klingon Language Institute.
 - The creators behind Star Trek: New Voyages and Hidden Frontier, the two internet series continuing the adventures of the Starship Enterprise.
 - A screening of Free Enterprise, followed by a talk by Mark A. Altman and Robert Meyer Burnett, the film's writers, producer, and director.
 - A screening of Galaxy Quest, followed by a talk by Robert Gordon, the film's writer.
 - The convention's traditional first-night welcome reception, this year themed to the Babel Conference Ambassadorial Reception, with David Gerrold as Master of Ceremonies.
- And much, much more. Keep checking our website for more details and future announcements.
- ~~~~~
- L.A.con IV, the 64th World Science

Fiction Convention, will be held August 23-27, 2006, in Anaheim, California. Our Guests of Honor are Connie Willis (author), James Gurney (artist), Howard DeVore (fan), and Frankie Thomas (special). See us on the internet at www.laconiv.org Worldcon, World Science Fiction Convention, Hugos, and Hugo Awards are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary association.





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- * **Harry Potter Live Action Event**
- * **Charity Auction**
- * **Elevator Bob's Con Run**
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Classes conveniently scheduled before
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L.A.con IV, c/o SCIFI, P.O. Box 8442 Van Nuys CA, 91409

www.laconiv.org

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The Costume Closet



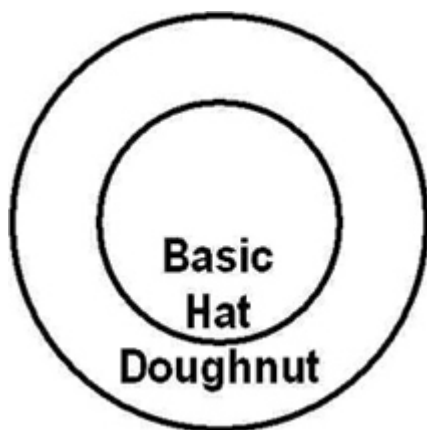
Costume

A doughnut can solve many problems. This is Homer Simpson's basic philosophy, but it also has applications in hatmaking.

Many hats worn through history and fantasy are mainly a circle with a hole for your head. The pattern is easy to make.

First, measure the circumference of your forehead just above the eyebrow. For most adults, this number is in the 21 to 25-inch range. Find the radius of the circle with the same circumference as your forehead by dividing the circumference by 2 Pi. Call this number "R." My forehead circumference is 23 inches so $23 / 2(3.14) = 3.66$ inches.

Find a suitable piece of light cardboard for your pattern. A pizza box works well. Use a drawing compass to



scribe a circle of radius R. Scribe a second circle outside the first with the same center and a radius of 6 inches. This size is good for relatively floppy renaissance hats. If you wish to make a somewhat closer-fitting hat, like a contemporary military beret, use a smaller radius of 5 or 5.5 inches. Cut out the inside and outside circles to make a doughnut-shaped pattern.

You can use your doughnut pattern to make many kinds of hats.

Berets Modern berets are made by stretching a hood of heavy felted wool over a mushroom-shaped block. This is rather specialized work. Fortunately, you can fake a beret quite well with your doughnut. Lay out your pattern on a suitable fabric, such as heavy felt or the felted wool used to make overcoats (SAS is a good source in the Phoenix and Tucson areas). Lay out and cut one solid disk for the crown and one donut for the

underside. Sew the two pieces together then turn the hat rightside-out. If you want a lining, sew a second hat of lighter-weight material and slip it inside your hat shell without turning it rightside out. Pin the hat and lining together along the head opening.

Cut a rectangular strip of material about two inches wide and a bit longer than your forehead circumference. This will be the headband of your beret. Finish the ends of the band by turning under and sewing. Fold the band over along its long axis to form a one-inch strip and sew the raw edge to the head opening of your hat. Since the resulting headband is hollow, you can slide a ribbon into it to create a drawstring for size adjustment.

Berets are good for many costume looks, including military. Berets are part of contemporary US Army uniform and the uniforms of many other fighting forces in the real world and the worlds of science fiction. Make a white one for a starship captain from David Weber's "Honor Harrington" continuity. Make your beret out of lighter, floppier material for medieval and renaissance looks.

Tams are simply slightly floppier berets with a "toorie" (yarn pom-pom) mounted in the center of the crown. Suitable pom-poms can be purchased in hobby stores. So can the kits to make your own. Tams are often made of tartan (scotch plaid) fabric for a Scottish or golfer look. Center your doughnut pattern at some suitable intersection of stripes in the plaid. The earliest tams were knitted and knitted tams are frequently seen at renfairs and highland games. Solid-color tams were worn by some UK military units during World War II (See Alec Guinness's men in "Bridge on the River Kwai.") The characters in G. Harry Stine's "Warbots" series wore a blue tam with a yellow toorie.

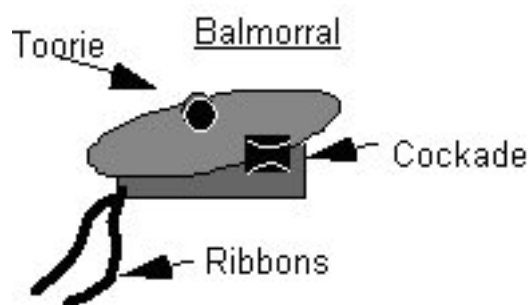
The Balmorral is a Scottish style which is a variation on the tam. It's made of heavy woolen fabric like the beret, but

includes a toorie at the top, trailing or tied ribbons at the back of the headband, and a patch of ribbon called a "cockade" on its underside. The cockade is positioned between your left eye and your left ear, in the same place as the unit patch on a military beret. A Scotsman's clan badge is worn pinned through the cockade.

Flatcaps are popular at renaissance fairs and variations on the style are seen in many portraits



Balmorral



Flatcap



Tam

from the period, including Henry the Eighth, Lorenzo DeMedici, and Leonardo DaVinci. To make a simple flatcap, cut four disks of fabric. One of the disks is solid, to form the crown of the hat. The other three disks are doughnuts. One is sewn to the crown piece along its outside edge. Sew the other two doughnuts together along their outside edges then turn them rightside-out. This will form a brim for the hat. Sew the brim to the crown along the edge of the head opening. Heavy velvets and brocades are suitable for renaissance flatcaps. Flatcaps are often worn with brooches, feathers, and other affectations.

ConClusion

AniZona 2- Paradise Found by Jeffrey Lu

No famous big guests, this year. I expected the turnout to be lower than last year. I guessed around 400 but no more than 800. To my surprise, the anime convention sold out again. The limit was a record - around 1,200 memberships!

Is that possible?

Looking at the waiting crowds on Friday, April 14, I saw the answer staring right back in my face. Nearly everyone on that line waiting were dressed up as some sort of character, anything from Rama ½ to Lupin III. These folks love anime and/or manga. God, I love these people.

After getting my badge, I then waited in line for the vendors' room. The crowd went wild when the doors finally opened. With limited funds, I had to choose. Last year, I bought Robotech stuff. This year, I originally planned to buy my years worth of manga.

Nope. Instead, I paid all I had for a male Chinese costume in either a Matrix film or "Kung Fu Hustle."

Why? Generally, everyone was wearing a hall costume. This means a regular costume for fun. I wanted to do that too so I swallowed my pride and bought the outfit. I wore it at the convention for a couple of hours. A guy dressed up in a Berserker costume walked pass. Neat.

Some had martial arts uniforms. Maybe not so neat. I found out later they were actually martial artists.

I chatted with others in manga/anime costumes like a lady in a Chobit's costume and a guy with yellow spiked hair with a red raincoat from "Tri Gun." These people were having fun. Most of them were fans and not, I repeat, not a fashion designer. They could have fooled me. The costumes were great.

It is nice to see the regulars really involved.

Phoenix actually loves anime/manga. Sign me up. I will be there, next year.

Innocent Insider: The Nebula Awards in Tempe by Jeffrey Lu

On reflection, I should have brought all my books. The ones I have in my house that are gathering dust bunnies. Not only do I read them, but I cherish the tomes in my bookcases and in my closets. The problem of bringing all of them were obvious- I would need to see each author at the Nebula for at least a month. So, I brought only a few old magazines for two authors- Connie Willis and Harlan Ellison.

Yet, I'm glad I did not have to drag boxes upon boxes. Most of the authors

were there. Some were not. Rumors came and went like the hot Arizona wind. Two were confirmed. The two that were not listed came to see and speak for Harlan Ellison as Grandmaster- Peter David and Neil Gaiman.

I have met Peter before. He was at an Arizona local convention, a few years back. I admired him for his work including Star Trek: The New Frontiers. In the Nebula first charity auction, he outbid me for the Peter Jackson's movie, "King Kong" chess set. I planned to up the ante turned and stopped when I recognized the bidder. I decided to let him get it because he is more passionate than me for "King Kong." I liked it. He adored it. I learned early never go against someone who is passionate and has lots of cold hard cash. Peter deserved the win.

The first time, I saw Neil Gaiman unofficially was when I was doing a soda run for the staff. I nearly smacked into a guy with a leather jacket in the Arizona heat. We were about the same height- 5' 9". I thought at first he was a biker. He was near the glass doors talking to someone inside. Then, I heard a gentle English accent. I stood there stunned. This was Neil Gaiman, writer of "Sandman," "American Gods," talking. He arrived a couple of hours before the Nebula Awards Ceremony. Gaining my composure, I sidestepped around him and grabbed the sodas at the Consuite. Later after the awards, I asked him for autographs. He signed happily.

Believe it or not, Neil was in a suit. He looked great. Never did I expect to see him in a suit. He was still, pardon the pun, in my book, a gentleman.

I also had the chance to meet the Toastmaster, Connie Willis. She has been going to the Nebula Awards for almost a quarter of a century. She smiled and signed my magazines.

Harlan Ellison, the Grandmaster, also signed my old dusty magazines. This was my fourth time meeting him in Arizona. I told him about a lecture he made in Glendale Community College over two years ago. To be brief, Mr. Ellison was talking about how to be a reporter. With his suggestions, I indirectly became a reporter and columnist for this wonderful paper, ConNotations. Harlan, on the other hand, stared at me in disbelief. I smiled and handed him the recent two issues. (Yep, you angry old righteous man, you have done good in guiding me to become a reporter. Take a bow, Harlan.)

After the awards, I was at the Consuite for the last time. I met the winners and losers. I saw the Nebula awards up close. I chatted with friends and ate like a king. A friend of mine made a bet with me to see if one of us can get this neat Nebula Award in the future. We'll see.

Around 1am on Sunday morning I left Consuite and wandered down to the room where the Nebula Awards 2006 Ceremony had been. Harlan Ellison, his

wife Susan, and friends and/or followers were still there. I took a seat at the far side of the room and listened to Mr. Ellison's story about meeting Robin Williams. He later asked his wife if she wanted to go somewhere to eat. Susan instead wanted to go to sleep. He respected her wish. The crowd dispersed. Harlan recognized me in the corner and waved goodnight to me. Being the last person, I closed the doors and left. I went home and looked at my home library. One day, I will write a book. One day...

An American in England Part Eleven: Three War Museums.

by Jeffrey Lu

Smoke-stack-sized cannons from a battleship greeted me in front of the Imperial War Museum in London. I entered

Inside, I saw reminders of WWI and WWII - one-man submarine, tanks, airplanes, rockets, artillery pieces, and other weapons of destruction. They were relics of the past. Three of them I recognized immediately: the V1, the V2, and the Spitfire. The V1 and V2 were rocket versions from Hitler's Germany. The Spitfire was the hero from "The Battle of Britain." The lion of Britain

during WWII was Winston Churchill.

Being curious, I later rode the subway and walked to Churchill's Underground War Rooms and Churchill's Museum. I entered a dark, cramped hallway that led into the maze of rooms. I began to appreciate the sounds of sirens and old British radio shows, underground. The place was rather eerie - radio operators tapping, the echo of soldier's hurried feet - something or someone still waiting for the defense against the WWII invasion of Britain that never happened.

Later, in the underground, I went to the new addition, Churchill's Museum. The place had a history of Churchill's life from his young days as a baby to the day of his death. What was very impressive was the speeches gallery. Each picture was of Churchill making a speech at Parliament or wherever. To hear it, you have to break a beam of light. Each picture has a speaker overhead that will begin to broadcast Churchill's radio speech until the end.

In the gift shop, I grabbed a coaster with Churchill's face and words, "Never Give Up." I paid and paused. I can still hear the WWII sirens blaring. I exited slowly with a smile and a victory sign- 2 fingers in a V-shape- on my right hand. **Next:** Final Words on England

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Nebula Awards Photo Montage

all photos by Shane Shellenbarger



Shane Shellenbarger & Harlan Ellison



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ReAnimation

ReAnimation 16-3

- ***** **My Neighbor Totoro (2-Disc Set)**
- **** **Burn Up Excess Complete Collection**
- ***** **Howl's Moving Castle**
- ***** **All Purpose Cultural Cat Girl Nuku Nuku Dash! - The Complete Collection**
- ***** **Whisper of the Heart**
- ***** **The Cat Returns**
- *** **Chicken Little**
- ** **Lilly the Witch: Vol. 1**
- ** **Lilly the Witch: Vol. 2**

*******My Neighbor Totoro (2-Disc Set)**
Walt Disney, 86 minutes, G
DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: “Critically acclaimed as one of the most delightful and charming family films ever, *My Neighbor Totoro* is a stunning animated treat full of magical adventure from Hayao Miyazaki.

Follow the adventures of Satsuki and her four-year-old sister Mei when they move into a new home in the countryside. To their delight, they discover that their new neighbor is a mysterious forest spirit called Totoro, who can be seen only through the eyes of a child. Totoro introduces them to extraordinary characters -- including a cat that doubles as a bus! -- and takes them on an incredible journey.

Full of wonder and heart, this spectacular 2-disc set features the voice talents of Dakota Fanning and Elle Fanning. *My Neighbor Totoro* is a magical experience for the whole family!”

The story, simple and beautiful, is one of Hayao Miyazaki’s best. There is no violence, nothing to frighten the youngest of viewers and yet it will hold the whole family spellbound, from the youngest child to the oldest adult. The previous Fox version has a better dub though the transfer from film to DVD is highly superior on this Disney version. Recommended for all Miyazaki fans as well as families. For the purist I recommended buying both the Disney and the Fox version. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

******Burn Up Excess - Complete Collection**
ADV, 325 minutes, Rated 15+
Vol 1: To Serve and Protect
Vol 2: Crimes and Missed Demeanors
Vol 3: Under the Gun
Vol 4: The Case of the Black Diamonds
DVD: \$59.98

Description from the ADV web site: “Ready, aim, and fire up for another animated adventure with Team Warrior!

Volume 16 Issue 3

Join rowdy Rio and her partners - the machine-gun maniac Maya, the lovely Lilica, tech talent Nanvel, guy Friday Yuji, and their boss Maki - as they take on



their hottest cases ever! Mechanical insects, firefighting jewel thieves, panty raiders, sexy sheiks, and fawning fathers - there’s never a dull moment when the babes of *Burn Up Excess* are on the job!”

This collection is just as good as *Burn Up W*, the first series. It has a high action and comedy relief. I enjoyed watching *Burn Up Excess*. It is more sexy than most, but done in a funny way. The adventures of the Team Warrior are just so zany, that you have to have this one in your Animation Collection.

DVD features include production sketches, clean opening and closing animation, a *Burn Up Excess* trailer, previews and the famous Jiggle Counter. - **Craig L Dyer**

*******Howl's Moving Castle**
Disney, 119 minutes, PG
DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: “In Hayao Miyazaki’s latest animated masterpiece, journey beyond imagination and enter a “breathtaking fantasy world” (Kenneth Turan, Los Angeles Times) filled with adventure, humor and heart.

Sophie, a quiet girl working in a hat



shop, finds her life thrown into turmoil when she is literally swept off her feet by a handsome but mysterious wizard named Howl. The vain and vengeful Witch of the Waste, jealous of their friendship, puts a spell on Sophie. In a life-changing

adventure, Sophie climbs aboard Howl’s magnificent flying castle and enters a magical world on a quest to break the spell.

Featuring the voice talents of Jean Simmons, Christian Bale, Lauren Bacall, Blythe Danner, and Billy Crystal, Miyazaki’s artistry comes to life on DVD with inventive characters, unique storytelling and richly detailed animation”

I saw this movie in the theater and could not wait for it to be released on DVD, I was not disappointed. The story is one that never grows old and the animation is some of Miyazaki’s best. We’ve already watched the movie three times since it arrived in the mail last month.

The two disc special edition has several interesting special features including both the original Japanese soundtrack and an English language soundtrack and English subtitles for those who want to see the original Japanese. There is also a Behind the Microphone featurette with the English language voice cast and footage from the dubbing sessions and a truly wonderful feature Hayao Miyazaki Visits Pixar Animation Studios with Pixar director John Lasseter and the fascinating view of the movie in the complete story boards set to the movie soundtrack.

Like all Miyazaki films, this one is highly recommended for all Anime fans as well as families looking for a wonderful film the whole family can enjoy together. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

***** **All Purpose Cultural Cat Girl Nuku Nuku Dash!**
The Complete Collection
ADV Films, 300 minutes, 13up
DVD \$44.98

Description from the ADV web site: “Contains the entire groundbreaking anime series in a single affordable thin-pack.

Synopsis: Ryunosuke Natsume has no idea his household helper is really the super sexy hero Cat Girl Nuku Nuku, he just feels lucky to have the lovely girl so close. Nuku on the other hand, while trying to take care of her newly adopted family, battles with the temper of Ryunosuke’s mother, Nuku’s lost memories and the evil that lurks inside Mishima, the most powerful company in Maneki City! As Mishima unleashes new and more terrorizing weapons in an attempt to take down Nuku, placing Maneki City in a clear and present danger, Nuku faces the ultimate choice—save herself or the people she loves!

A DVD-only release including all 12 episodes of the anime series, presented in both English 2.0 and Japanese 2.0 with English subtitles.”

This was created by Yuzo Takada, the same person behind *3x3 Eyes* and *Blue Seed*. I loved both of them so it makes

sense take I would love *Cat Girl Nuku Nuku*. The graphic animation is pretty good. The motion flows well and the costumes are better than the first series. You can just sit down and enjoy this collection from start to finish. This series is well worth buying. The characters have more depth to them. It makes it seem almost real. - **Craig L Dyer**

*******Whisper of the Heart**
Disney, 111 minutes, G
DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: “From the creators of the Academy Award(R)-winning *Spirited Away* (Best Animated Feature Film, 2002) comes a tale based on the screenplay from the legendary animator Hayao Miyazaki.

During summer vacation, a schoolgirl named Shizuku, who longs to discover her true talents, observes an ordinary-looking cat riding by himself on the train. Intrigued, she decides to follow him. This chance encounter leads her to the mysterious Seiji, a boy who is determined to follow his dreams, and The Baron, a magical cat figurine who helps her listen to the whispers in her heart. Soon, Shizuku’s exciting adventures carry her far beyond the boundaries of her imagination.

Featuring extraordinary storytelling, enchanting animation, and an all-star voice cast, this 2-disc set will inspire dreams and warm hearts of all ages.”

This story is a beautiful, magical coming of age story handled with Hayao Miyazaki’s usual deft touch. One of Studio Ghibli’s overlooked masterpieces this is an absolute must for any serious Anime fan. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

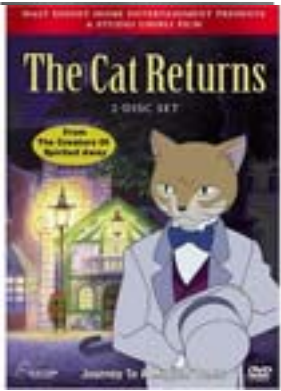
*******The Cat Returns**
Disney, 75 minutes, G
DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: “From the creators of the Academy Award® winning *Spirited Away* (Best Animated Feature Film, 2002) comes the visually stunning *The Cat Returns*, a spectacular animated journey to a world of magic and adventure. Haru, a schoolgirl bored by her ordinary routine, saves the life of an unusual cat, and suddenly her world is transformed beyond anything she ever imagined. The Cat King rewards her good deed with a flurry of presents, including a very shocking proposal of marriage to his son! Haru embarks on an unexpected journey to the Kingdom of Cats where her eyes are opened to a whole other world and her destiny is uncertain. To change her fate, she’ll need to learn to believe in herself and appreciate her everyday life. Featuring the sensational voice talents of Anne Hathaway, Cary Elwes, Tim Curry, and Elliot Gould, *The Cat Returns* is a magical animated adventure that will

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ReAnimation
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delight and inspire everyone”

The Cat Returns brings back Muta, the cranky fat cat, and Baron von Gikkingen,



the elegant statue, from the feature *Whisper of the Heart*. While this feature was released first on DVD it is best to watch it after viewing *Whisper of the Heart*. Hayao Miyasaki’s Studio Ghibli is responsible for this lovely film with first time director Hiroyuki Morita at the helm. The short running time means there is not as much character development as one might want but the entire group watching, from kids to adults, all enjoyed the film immensely. I look forward to more work from this new director. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

*****Chicken Little**
Disney, 81 minutes, G
DVD \$29.99

From the back cover: “Experience a fantastic world of breathtaking action in Disney’s hilarious new movie *Chicken Little*. It’s “the perfect family film,” raves Scott Mantz of Access Hollywood. When the sky really is falling and sanity has flown the coop, who will rise to save the day? Together with his hysterical band of misfit friends, Chicken Little must hatch a plan to save the planet from alien invasion and prove that the world’s biggest hero is a little chicken. Overflowing with incredible music and bursting with exciting bonus features, including alternate openings, an exclusive “making of” featurette, games, and much more, this sensational DVD is truly something to cluck about.



I missed this film in theaters so we snapped up the DVD as soon as it was

released. The story here is a blending of the traditional Chicken Little fable and alien invasion stories.

Briefly, Chicken Little is struck on the head, creates a panic with “the sky is falling” and becomes a laughing stock (the traditional Chicken Little story). Having embarrassed his father Chicken Little works hard over the next year to regain his father’s respect as well as his social standing with the other kids. Then, on the anniversary of the first incident Chicken Little really does get hit on the head by a piece of sky. Now he and his friends, a piglet named Runt, an “ugly duckling” named Abby and a fish that wears a diving helmet filled with water named, appropriately enough, Fish out of Water, must save the world from the alien invasion.

I am not sure I will watch this film more than the one time. I enjoyed it immensely though I am not sure it would hold up for repeat viewings as well as *Ice Age* or *Shrek* do. At least not for adults as I will note my nephew has already watched the DVD four or five times. The extra features offer three alternate openings including an interesting one where Chicken Little is a girl as well as most of the actors doing their voice performances. Recommended for families and the young at heart. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

****Lilly the Witch: Vol. 1**
****Lilly the Witch: Vol. 2**
Brand Xtensions. 130 minutes each, NR
DVD \$7.98 each

Lily the Witch is apparently a TV show though I was unaware of it when I got these two DVDs.

The show follows the adventures of Lilly. She is a perfectly normal girl with a sense of adventure and then she find a magical book complete with a tiny dragon named Hector. With the Hector and the book Lilly has the ability to travel in time and off she goes on numerous adventures from the Lost City of Atlantis, the Stone Age, the Wild West and Scotland’s Loch Ness. Lilly has to keep the book’s power secret in case someone steals it and uses it for evil.

I borrowed a couple of the neighbor’s kids and we sat down to watch. I found the stories simple if uncomplicated, the 10 and 12 year olds were bored but the two younger kids, 4 and 6, enjoyed them and want more. Based on that, these appear to be best suited for children up to 6 years of age. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

In Our Book

Harrowing the Dragon
by Patricia A McKillip
Ace Books; \$23.95; 310 pp

This is a selection of 15 short stories by renowned fantasy author Patricia McKillip. They span the years from 1982 to 1999.

The title story is a nifty beginning to this collection, being an unusual tale of a huge dragon holding an island in thrall with eternal winter and of course, the brave soul who frees the island.



The tales in this collection run from really great to okay—like most story collections. McKillip’s strongest asset is her writing style and use of words which really quite carries you along. She describes things beautifully; i.e.: “She had no names for the trees, only pictures in her head that each wood scent conjured: some were dark and bristled, green all year; others stood pale and slender, wore leaves like lace and rustled with secrets at every breeze.” This is a simple description of a character’s ability to smell trees in the story “Ash, Wood, Fire.”

A couple of her tales are derivative: “The Lion and the Lark” is an interesting version of “Beauty and the Beast.” And “Star Crossed” is what might have followed the end of “Romeo and Juliet.” McKillip tells the story of a soldier engaged by the Prince of Verona to uncover the cause of the unusual murders in the Capulet’s vault. And though I am sure it is just coincidence, as I read “The Witches of Junket,” all I could think of was “The Witches of Eastwick.”

My favorite story was a basic love triangle between a man and two women: Plain Gerda who is married to gorgeous Kay, who then meets with the scintillating Neva, all icy, sharp corners who entices the foolish Kay away. Called “The Snow Queen,” it also is derivative (obviously), but I found the characters and the plot interesting and piquant nevertheless.

The one thing that I find frustrating, and it is not just with McKillip’s stories, but a great many short stories, is that they are such *little* candies: Sweet at the beginning, a quick taste of the middle, and

then, they’re gone. And some of the endings in this collection are just sort of a smoke screen of lovely vague verbiage hiding an unexceptional finish.

But if you are a fan of fantasy short stories, I am sure this will be just your book. Otherwise, I’d stick to McKillip’s novels. - **Sue Martin**

Path of Blood
by Diana Pharaoh Francis
Roc, 452 pp, \$7.99

Path of Blood is the concluding volume of the *Path of Fate* trilogy.

Chaos rules in the kingdom of Kodu Riik. Plague ravishes the population. Armies of Aare slaughter everything in their way to put a madman in power. The rift between the kingdom and Cemamahual widens as uncontrolled magic threatening to destroy every living thing.

Only Reisil and her goshawk Saljane have a chance to breach Mysane Kosk and seal the fracture.. With here lover Yohuac, Reisal must cross the war torn land and undergo trials to control the magical symbols, to balance the warring magics created by the power mad sorcerers and reclaim the land.

Francis has created a unique fully realized fantasy world that combines classic fantasy with coming of age. Worth the read, with one of the most stubborn heroines to ever meet her destiny. Save a few hours because it is hard to put down. - **Pam Allan**

The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror,
Eighteenth Annual Collection
Edited by Ellen Datlow, Kelly Link,
and Gavin J. Grant
St. Martin’s Griffin Pub., cxxviii + 480
pp., \$19.95

Forty-four stories from as many authors and almost as many sources; the only repeats I noticed were two from F&SF magazine and four from SCI FICTION. Plus, almost a hundred pages of genre overviews in 2004: fantasy, horror, media, comics and graphic novels, anime and manga, music, obituaries, honorable mention stories not in this anthology. Fantasy has certainly kept up its literary quality besides its wondrous, fantastic imagination that one might presume comes from the trashy-pulpy gutter instead. Some stories manage to combine such disparate elements successfully. For example, Stepan Chapman’s ‘Revenge of the Calico Cat’ seems to mix the crime noire into pure fantasy. An afterlife for animals is a city full of crude violence, gangsters, and a giant calico cat and gingham dog that chase and alternate killing each other every night. The intro blurb describes it as “A surreal and surprisingly moving tale of balance and destruction.” For all that, I

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In Our Book
(Continued from page 18)

get a realistic question out of it: maybe people won't think or act in the afterlife any differently than they do in this one. The animals in the story are doomed by their decisions in their earthly lives. Are we? How's that for literary quality mixed into pulp? And in a pure fantasy story, no less. Yes, this anthology shows us quite an interesting genre. It ain't all just fairy tales any more – but then it never really was, was it? - **Mike Griffin**

Slipstreams
Edited by Martin F. Greenberg and John Helfers
Daw, 307 Pp. \$ 7.99

Slipstreams is an anthology of stories that cross genre lines, melding Science Fiction, fantasy, mystery, westerns, romance and horror,
Here we have a mountain man tackling an aggressive demon using Yellowstone park as a feeding ground, a butchers widow who encounters a dybbuk with a serial killer past, the last survivor of his race searches for a planet where he can replace what was lost, and Nick St. Clause becoming a PI, trying to find the killer of Jack Frost. These are only a fraction of the stories that tickle the imagination and truly can be called Speculative fiction.
This an ideal book for pocket or purse, to read on break, or pass the time in a waiting room. It is a well edited anthology with no room for boredom. - **Pam Allan**

The Clone Republic
by Steven L. Kent
ACE, \$7.99, 384 pg.

Private Wayson Harris was a clone. But like all of the other clones that make up the Unified Authority's military he has been programmed to think that he is an orphan who was brought up in a military orphanage. Now out in the real world his first assignment is to a backwoods, or I should say a back sand dune, planet assigned to a unit of misfits and has bens. His confusion only deepens when people start trying to kill him. But when a full fleet admiral stats taking a hand in his career he Knows that he is in REALLY DEEP DOO DOO. Stir in the beginnings of a civil war and you have a very interesting adventure story. Of course with all the loose ends that the author leaves it is obvious that he has a sequel planed.
While I liked this book I am really not ready to start another series. I hate waiting a year to three years for the next book. Unless Mr. Kent has already written the whole series and convinced the publisher to release them at, say 2 month intervals this is not a series that I am going to be

looking forward to. Sorry Mr. Kent, you are a good writer but I have to just say NO to another series. - **William B. Whitmore**

Bridge of Dreams
by Chaz Brenchley
Ace, 409 pp, \$24.95

Bridge of Dreams is the first volume of a new series by the author of the *Outremer* series.
For a thousand years, the city of Sund stood independently, withstanding the Marisi,.but the Marisi used black sorcery to build a bridge over the walls that poisons all in its shadows. Now called Marisi-Sund, Magic is outlawed in the former nation of water mages. The populace is ground into poverty and fear. A few would rebel as one of the few remaining water mages teaches an underground school. Issal, a poor water seller and thief is found and recruited to the school
In Maris, Jendre is the daughter of a general, married to the Sultan, but he is injured soon after their wedding night. She manages to save him. But he is poisoned and Jendre is a threat to the new ruler.
In this first volume, the two stories run parallel and set us up for changes to come. If Brenchley's characters were not so compelling, his world so complete, one could cavil at the open endings, Instead the reader is anxiously awaiting the next volume to see what's coming . If you liked the *Outremer* series, you have to read this. - **Pam Allan**

Eclipse
by K.A. Bedford
EDGE Sci-fi and Fantasy publishing
\$14.95, 309 pg.

James Dunne is a new graduate of the Royal Interstellar service Academy off to his first ship, HMS Eclipse. Having always dreamer of being a spacer he is eager to be off. Unfortunately all is not well in the world.
Mr. Bedford has created a world of real people and disposable people with out really explaining which is which, and it appears that a person can switch from one to the

other with frightening speed and fatal results. His military is the worst horrors of the British boarding school system run amuck. Midnight beatings and rapes are normal forms of punishment for pissing off a superior. And all of his characters find this normal and accept it with resignation as “just the way the universe is.”
This is Australian Sci-fi at it's worst. This book bills itself as “a taut Psychological thriller set in the claustrophobic confines of a starship.” I found the story dull and uninteresting. After 105 pages I simply could not muster enough interest to finish the book. I do not recommend this book.. - **William B. Whitmore**

Chasing Fire
by Michelle M. Welch
Bantam Spectra, 403 pp, \$6.50

Chasing Fire returns to the world of *the Bright and the Dark*, and *Confidence Game*.



Rindell Jorren, the twenty year old son of a governor of Dabian, is unsuited to follow his father's footsteps. Rindell wants only to delve into the poetry and songs of the romantic cavaliers of yesteryear. His father has other plans. He has arranged a marriage to a heathen

Azassian, daughter of a neighboring ruler.. She is mad, she is racked by nightmares, bound to the past, and is sought out by the wanderers on the fringe of reality. Elzith, the sage, sees clearly: a city burning, a search for faith, and a way that can save the world from the plague, but it will take all of them, and their companions to bring about the change.
Plenty of plot lines and action as well as good characters make this worthy of any fantasy lover's library. I might have to go back and find her other books. It is a shared world rather than being promoted as a series. - **Pam Allan**

Working For The Devil
A Dante Valentine Novel
by Lilith Saintcrow
Warner books, \$6.99, 382 pg.

Dante Valentine is a necromancer. True she is the best necromancer around, but that does not explain why a Demon should be knocking on her front door. And so start a fast paced action adventure set in a world where psi and magic mix. From a traumatic trip to Hell, to the gritty low income neighborhood of a very strange city, to the palace of a South American Crime lord, Dante's journey takes some very strange twists.
This is a very interesting sword and sorcery fantasy set in a slightly skewed near future. Ms. Saintcrow has skillfully blended high tech with sword and sorcery to make a consistent and believable world for her plot lines to unfold in. Her characters are well developed and multi dimensional. I liked this story very much and would heartily recommend it. - **William B. Whitmore**

(Continued on page 20)

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A simple street map showing the intersection of N. 28th DR. and BLK CANYON HWY. A small rectangle marks the location of the store at the corner. A north arrow points upwards.

In Our Book

(Continued from page 19)

City of Saints and Madmen

by Jeff Vandermeer

Bantam Spectra , 410 pp., \$14.00

City of Saints and Madmen is a collection of short stories set in the fictional city of Ambergris by the author of *Veniss Uderground*.

Defining the *City of Saints and Madmen* is like trying to define a multistory interwoven series of fantastic hallucinations. Ambergris is a city of elegance and squalor, a would be suitor finds a sunlit street can be a killing ground in a nanosecond, An artist is invited to a beheading, A patient in mental hospital believes he made up Ambergris, and is really from Chicago

By turns, the book is sensuous, terrifying, and hallucinatory. This interwoven series of stories “histories,” and “eyewitness” reports turns into a fantastic universe within a puzzle or is it a paradox where you can lose, or find yourself in a fully fleshed and realized till you wonder if Ambergris or Phoenix is the real city.. The book also has won 2003’s World Fantasy awards for Best collection and best Novella.. If you like Michael Moorcock or post modern fantasy, this is a must have for your library. - Pam Allan

Crown of Stars by Kate Elliot Daw, 541 pp, \$25.95

Crown of Stars is the concluding novel of the *Crown of Stars*, [a seven volume saga.]

The land is beginning to recover from the great cataclysm of the return of the lost Aoi land. But the world has been transformed. Allies have departed, but new alliances are forming. Not just Aoi are marching but Sanglant’s own friends



and family are warring against him seeking to wrest the crown, block his marriage to Liath, his partner and consort and take the land for themselves.

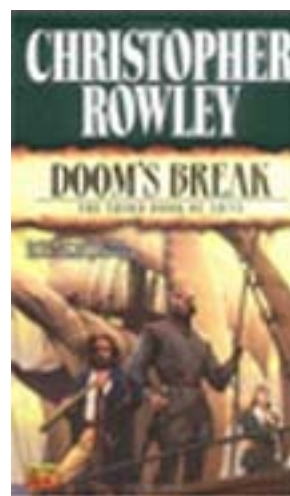
The epic ties up more threads than a needlepoint sampler with lots of action,

plotting and intrigue. The characters are well drawn, with villains . You love to hate and imperfect protagonists well worth the read, but make sure you have time set aside, it’s hard to put down. - Pam Allan

Doom’s Break by Christopher Rowley Roc, 441 pp, \$7.50

Doom’s Break the third book of the *Arna* series.

It is the fifth year of the war of Man vs the Watermots. The men attacking the



land of the Mots slaughter and eat the Mots, and their families. The Mots, a peaceful people, have had to learn war, but are holding their own. But now the war has moved to the sea. And thru Gillo, the Mot weaver/war hero, has gone to sea. Nobody has seen him for months. But he returns, with the Emperor of Man, deposed by the dark priesthood, who want’s to end the War. He must also choose between the three women who hold a part of his heart, and have become part of the war effort. How can the Emperor get man and mot to accept each other , end the war and defeat the dark forces that oppose them.

Lots of action and good characterizations of the two species. Well worth the read and perhaps purchasing the set. - Pam Allan

Knighthood Of The Dragon by Cris Bunch Roc, 408 pp, \$15.00

Knighthood of the Dragon is the 2nd Book of the *Dragonmaster* trilogy.

Hal Kalais is already a hero, and leader of dragon flier squadrons. When land and air assaults push the Roche back, they dig in in the mountains and the war stalls. Then Hal is captured and wounded by the enemy who realize who they have in their possession. After an abortive escape attempt, they take him to a prison no one has ever escaped. Bound in the prison by sorcery, Hal escapes, and returns to his army, [and to his beloved] only to be sent by his king back into battle. This time, the dragon flier has



some tricks up his sleeve.

Bunch has created a complex world full of real people, and lots of action. A hard book to put down. Although the novel stands alone and the ending appears complete, I personally hope he finished the third volume before his passing in 2005. I’d like to read it. This one deserves a place in your library as well as being a whopping good read. - Pam Allan

Living Next Door to the God of Love by Justina Robson Bantam Spectra, 453 pp, \$13.00

Living Next Door to the God of Love is a novel by the author of *Natural History*.

Francine is a young runaway looking to find a definition of love she can trust.



In Sankhara,, a Unity bubble world, she finds a palace where rooms are made of bone, flowers, and the hearts of heros. She finds a scientist mapping the human mind, a boyfriend, and Eros itself in the form of Jalaeka.

But not everyone loves The god of love. Unity is one who wants to assimilate Jalaeka and every other living soul in any universe. Can Love save the universe as the gods collide.....?

Robson uses her world building as not only cosmologically correct science fantasy, but to expose the buried fears and desires of the human mind to the light of day. Ordinary Redemption in an extraordinary world with beautifully realized characters in a world vision that chills the soul. Another gotta have in the world of postmodern fantasy by a provocative and talented author . I’ll look forward to her next book. - Pam Allan

HELP WANTED

Do you enjoy CopperCon? HexaCon? Any of the other local volunteer, fan-run conventions? CopperCon and HexaCon and the others are staffed completely by unpaid volunteers, from the chair person to the volunteer that helps for only one hour.

If you enjoy our events and want them to continue then please consider helping any or all of Arizona’s fan run events.

For information on available CopperCon positions please contact us at cu26@coppercon.org or www.coppercon.org

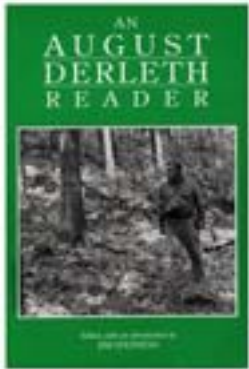
For information on available HexaCon positions or to volunteer to run a game please contact us at hex16@hexacon.org or www.hexacon.org

Our parent organization, the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society (CASFS) is also looking for new members. Check our web site at www.casfs.org for information on meetings and upcoming events.

NonGenre by Genre

August Derleth

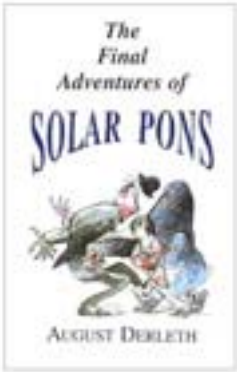
August Derleth was a fine writer of Horror and has always been associated Lovecraft and the Cthulhu Mythos. Some have seen his Holmeslike Solar Pons stories. Most are unfamiliar with his Wisconsin Stories and his Sac Prairie Stories. Fewer still are those who have run across his Judge Peck Mysteries. These last are difficult to find and expensive. Of his miscellaneous novels I have read his



St. Ignatius and the Company of Jesus and his Father Marquette and the St. Lawrence. My memory claims that they were Juvies but it has been a long time. I do remember that I enjoyed them.

The Solar Pons Stories are Holmes Pastiche. The character is Holmes in all but name. They are great fun. The Sac Prairie and Wisconsin Stories are among the best local color novels I have ever seen. They are worth considerable study. The mysteries I cannot comment on. I hope to get some soon. The books are listed below. The list may not be complete.

- Mystery
- Judge Peck [Series]
- The Man on All Fours (1934)
- Murder Stalks The Wakely Family (1934)
- Sign of Fear (1935)
- Three Who Died (1935)
- Sentence Deferred (1939)
- The Narracong Riddle (1940)
- The Seven Who Waited (1943)
- Mischief in the Lane (1944)
- No Future for Luana (1945)
- Fell Purpose (1953)
- Sac Prairie [Wisconsin Local Color]
- Still Is the Summer Night (1937)
- Atmosphere of Houses (1939)
- Restless Is the River (1939)
- Evening in Spring (1941)
- Village Year (1941)
- Sweet Genevieve (1942)
- Shadow of Night (1943)
- The Shield of the Valiant Scribner's (1945)
- Village Daybook (1947)
- Countryman's Journal (1963)
- Wisconsin Country (1965)
- Wisconsin [Local Color]
- Bright Journey (1940)
- The House on the Mound (1958)
- The Hills Stand Watch (1960)
- The Shadow in the Glass (1962)
- The Wind Leans West (1969)
- Solar Pons [Holmes Like character]
- The Adventures of Solar Pons (1945)
- The Memoirs of Solar Pons (1951)
- The Return of Solar Pons (1958)
- The Reminiscences of Solar Pons (1961)



- The Casebook of Solar Pons (1965)
- Mr Fairlie's Final Journey (1968)
- The Chronicles of Solar Pons (1973)
- [And Collected]
- Solar Pons Omnibus Edition Volume 1
- Solar Pons Omnibus Edition Volume 1
- Novels
- Father Marquette and the Great Rivers (1955)
- Walden West (1961)
- The Beast in Holger's Woods (1968)
- Saint Ignatius and the Company of Jesus (1999)
- The Milwaukee Road (2002)
- Gary Swaty

Legends of the Past... Voices of the Future...

You'll find that and much more at





Michael and Evo take science fiction, fantasy, horror, fandom and general geekiness to the next level with **The Dragon Page**, a family of unique, high-energy talk shows that comes to you on the airwaves, on your computer, or wherever you choose to be through the wonders of podcasting.

From the current buzz in comics and gaming, to in-depth conversations with influential people in the sci-fi/fantasy industry, to news of the downright weird, **The Dragon Page with Michael & Evo** offers you up a delectable slice of sci-fi.

"COVER-TO-COVER"

Cover To Cover is a book-focused show airing on XM Satellite and syndicated radio, talking to speculative fiction authors, both new and established



Slice of SciFi turns its attentions to the fantastic realms of TV and film, and the fandoms that keep them alive

"WINGIN' IT"

Wingin' It is a show about everything and nothing in particular... from beer to gaming to SF conventions, you can find it in this show

Featuring past interviews with authors and actors such as Ray Bradbury, Cory Doctorow, Kevin J. Anderson, Ellen Datlow, Kage Baker, Bruce Campbell, and Wil Wheaton, you wouldn't want to miss a show!





<http://www.dragonpage.com/>

<http://www.sliceofscifi.com/>

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 determined. 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.) in Fullerton. The meetings are built around guest speakers. We've had authors such as Octavia Butler and Greg Benford. Non-members are welcome. For details of current events and location see our website www.ocsf.org or email info@ocsf.org

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

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: myrddinal@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/tardisaz/tardis.html>

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

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

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

(Continued on page 23)

Club Listings
(Continued from page 22)

Phoenix area. The UFP has been meeting for over 30 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

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

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (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, at the Bookmans located at 19th ave. and Northern in Phoenix 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: Webpage: www.casfs.org Email: info@casfs.org

Convention Listings

WESTERCON 59: CONZILLA (Jul 1-4 '06) San Diego Marriott Mission Valley, San Diego CA. GoH: Walter Jon Williams. AGoH: Bob Eggleton. FGoH: Bobbi Armbruster. TM: Kevin J. Anderson. Memb: \$70 to 6/15/06, \$80 at door. Info: Conzilla, Box 845, Ramona CA 92065-0845; email: info@conzilla.info; website: www.conzilla.info

Phoenix Con Games (Mesa AZ) **July 27-20, 2006** at the Hilton Phoenix East. Current Membership Rate: \$25.00 We'll have special events on Thursday night, July 27st, for pre-registered members and a prize drawing from among those who both pre-register with the convention and the hotel. Register your membership online today at <http://www.conevents.com/page/p06/main.asp>

BUBONICON 38 (Aug 18-20 '06) Wyndham Airport Hotel, Albuquerque NM. GoH: Ben Bova. TMs: Catherine Cogswell, David Mattingly. Guest Artist: Kathleen Lowe. Memb: \$35 to 7/31/06, \$40 at door. Info: NMSF Conference, Box 37257, Albuquerque NM 87176; Craig Chrissinger, (505) 266-8905; email:

cwcraig@nmia.com; website: <http://bubonicon.home.att.net>

L.A.CON IV / WORLDCON 64 (Aug 23-27 '06) Hilton Anaheim / Anaheim Marriott / Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim CA. GoH: Connie Willis. AGoH: James Gurney. FGoH: Howard DeVore. Special Guest: Frankie Thomas. Memb: \$175 / C\$210 / 150 / £100 / A\$225 to 7/1/06. Info: L.A.con IV, c/o S.C.I.F.I., Inc., Box 8442, Van Nuys CA 91409. International Agents: Canada: Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706 - 24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, Canada (Canadian cheques to Lloyd Penney). UK: John Harold, Robbie Bourget, 8 Warren Close, Langley Slough, Berkshire SL3 7UA, UK (UK / Euro cheques to John Harold); Australia: Edwin Scribner, 12 Richmond St., Cronulla, NSW 2230, Australia (Australian cheques to Edwin Scribner). Email: info@laconiv.org; website: www.laconiv.org

CopperCon 26 (Tempe AZ) **Sept 1-4, 2006** Tempe Mission Palms Guests Authors Marc Zicree; Diane Duane, Peter Moorwood Memberships \$30 thru 3/31/06 Hotel Rates \$91 S/D plus tax Tempe Mission Palms, 60 E 5th St, Tempe, AZ 85281 (800) 547-8705 CopperCon 26, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone(480) 949-0415 Email: cu26@coppercon.org Web www.coppercon.org

Phoenix Cactus Comicon (Mesa AZ) **September 23-24, 2006.** Saturday and Sunday at the Mesa Convention Center for two days of a comic book cornucopia including dealers, panels, workshops, guests, and contests. Guests Terry Austin, Josh Blaylock, Bret Blevins, Amanda Conner, Ron Garney, Justin Gray , Jimmy Palmiotti, and Devils Due Publishing. Early-bird registration is \$15 for a 2-day pass. Register online today! Kids 10 and under get in for free with paid adult admission. More info at <http://www.phoenixcomicon.com/>

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 Movie Previews and Giveaways (tentative) Memb: \$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

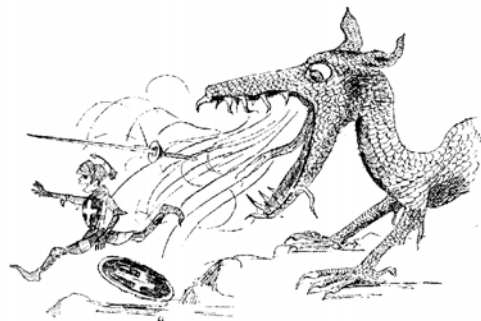
World Fantasy Convention 2006: ROBERT E. HOWARD CENTEN-NIAL (Nov 2-5 '06) Renaissance Hotel, Arboretum, Austin TX. GoHs: Glen

Cook, Dave Duncan. TM: Bradley Denton. Editor GoH: Glenn Lord. AGoH: John Jude Palencar. Robert E. Howard Artist Guest: Gary Gianni. Memb: \$125 to 7/31/06. Info: FACT, Inc., Box 27277, Austin TX 78755; website: www.worldfantasy.org

TUCSON 33 (Nov 10-12 '06) InnSuites Hotel, Tucson AZ. TM: Edward Bryant. GoHs: TBA. Memb: \$35 to 5/8/06, \$40 to 9/5/06, then \$45. Info: TusCon, Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528; fax: (520) 571-7180; email: basfa@earthlink.net; website: <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa>

LOSCON 33 (Nov 24-26 '06) Los Angeles Airport Marriott, Los Angeles CA. Theme: Exploring the Golden Ages of Science Fiction. GoH: William Tenn. FGoH: Fred Patten. Memb: \$35. Info: Loscon 33, C/O Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood CA 91601; email: info@loscon.org; website: www.loscon.org

SMOFCON 24 (Dec 1-3 '06) Hotel Phillips, Kansas City MO. Convention runners con. Info: www.smofcon.org



Mailing/Subscription Information

ConNotations is sent free of charge to those who have attended a CASFS sponsored convention in the past calendar year (currently 2005). Attendees of CopperCon 25 or HexaCon 15 will receive ConNotations Volume 16 Issues 1 thru 6.

ConNotations updates it's mailing list each December.

Individual subscriptions are available for \$20 for 6 issues beginning January 1, 2006.

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:

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

CONZILLA

WESTERCON 59

(WEST COAST SCIENCE FANTASY CONFERENCE)

*JULY 1ST THROUGH 4TH, 2006
MISSION VALLEY MARRIOTT SAN DIEGO*

**GUEST OF HONOR
ARTIST GUEST
FAN GUEST
TOASTMASTER**

**WALTER JON WILLIAMS
'ZILLA' BOB EGGLETON
BOBBI ARMBRUSTER
KEVIN J ANDERSON**

MEMBERSHIPS

ATTENDING

\$50 UNTIL JUL. 31, 2005

\$60 UNTIL DEC. 31, 2005

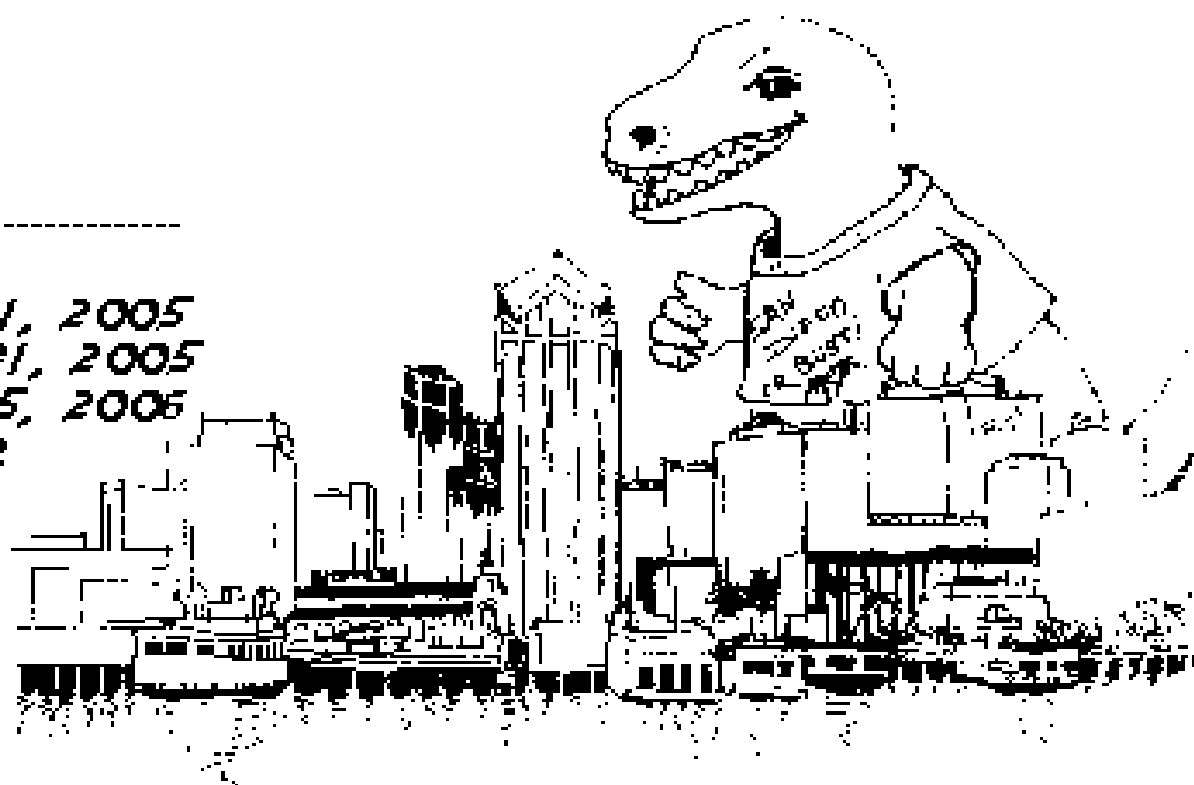
\$70 UNTIL JUN. 15, 2006

\$80 AT THE DOOR

SUPPORTING \$30

CHILD \$25

(13 AND UNDER)



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ADDRESS 2

CITY, STATE, ZIP (POSTAL)

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