

ConNotations

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

Monkey and Bear - An Interview with Elizabeth Bear by Nadine Armstrong

Elizabeth Bear shares a birthday with Frodo and Bilbo Baggins, so her fate was sealed from birth. Before becoming a full-time writer, she worked as a test digger, a stable hand, a technical writer and various other things. Now, of course, she has "the best job in the world." She began publishing in 2000, and to date, has published more than 20 short stories, 8 novels, along with a monthly column on writing on the website Storytellers Unplugged, and of course, a blog. She has won several awards, including the Compton Crook Award, the Locus Award for best first novel (both for the Jenny Casey novels), and the John W. Campbell Award at Interaction for best new writer.

This year alone we'll see 5 books from her - science fiction novels *Carnival* and *Undertow*, the second Promethean Age titled *Whiskey and Water*, mosaic novel *New Amsterdam*, and upcoming from Tor in October, her first book with writing partner Sarah Monette, the fantasy *A Companion to Wolves*, as well as 12 short stories. She very graciously took time from her schedule to allow me to send her some questions via e-mail, and here are her answers.

Q: Recently, you posted on your blog about your first sale to Asimov's. Does



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this mean you originally thought of yourself as a science fiction writer?

A: I'm not sure I understand the question. I am a science fiction writer. Well, a speculative fiction writer, which is to say that the vast majority of what I write falls into the genre marketing categories of fantasy, SF, or one of their derivative subgenres.

Q: In your blog the other day, you mentioned that you felt you don't

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CASFS Business Report

July.....

*CopperCon 26 is not closed. No pass thru list yet.
*CopperCon 27 is set for September 7 - 9.
GOH Charlaine Harris, Michael Stackpole.
*HexaCon 17 is still trying to complete a hotel contract. No date set, December ?
*Combination locks purchase approved, 10 to be picked up by Lori by next meeting.
*Prescott Book Fest on Sept 15 opening. Vote is no, \$90 a booth too much right now.
*QuarterMaster position is question; Ivan has not been able to make meetings. Access to the sheds needs to be addressed. Mark is made quartermaster protem. Locks re-keyed.
*After the meeting Randal announces that Pete Manly passed earlier this day.

August.....

*CopperCon 26 is not closed. The books are to be closed by corporate treasurer. No pass thru list, departments are to report any staff with enough time worked at CopperCon26.
*CopperCon 27 will have Super Heroes. The people who try out for the TV Show will show and tell what they do.
*HexaCon 17 no hotel contract yet.
*HexaCon 18 not set, waiting on 17's date.
*New Business. HexaCon 17 cannot get a good hotel contract, motion made to cancel the con. Motion passes, as least expensive choice. HexaCon 18 date may be set sooner.
*Bob LaPierre resigns as banker of CopperCon 29, stating health reasons. A replacement election chooses Stephanie.

Who Is Who This Issue

Managing Editor: Stephanie Bannon
Assistant to the Editor: Gary Swaty
Graphics Editor: Craig L. Dyer
Film & Video Editors: Len Berger & Craig L Dyer
Promotions Directors: Len Berger, Richard Bolinski, Craig L Dyer
Advertising: Catherine Book
Proof Readers: Catherine Book, Bob LaPierre & Gary Swaty
Reporters: Craig L Dyer, Jeffrey Lu
Staff Writers: Pam Allen, Nadine Armstrong, Stephanie L Bannon, Catherine Book, Shane Bryner, Craig L. Dyer, M.L. Fringe, Michael Griffin, Bob LaPierre, Randy Lindsey, Jeffrey Lu, Christina Paige, Shane Shellenbarger, Gary Swaty, Tom Tuerff, Lee Whiteside, Randall Whitlock
Layout & Design: Stephanie L. Bannon
Keeper of the Mailing List: Craig L. Dyer
Contributors:
Labeling Crew for Volume 17 Issue 4: Len Berger, Cathy Book, Shane Bryner, Tanya Cropper, Craig L Dyer,Caitlin Gilson, Mike Griffin, Jeffrey Lu, Gary Swaty
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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

We've got a lot of new stuff just started on the networks, with some of them possibly not sticking around too long. There's also a good amount of new shows on cable this fall including the new season of *Stargate Atlantis*, the return of *Blood Ties* and a special *Battlestar Galactica* movie.

NBC is taking the plunge with three new genre shows, framing *Heroes* with two of them on Monday nights. Leading off Mondays is *Chuck*, starring **Zachary Levi** as Chuck, a computer tech member of Buy More's Nerd Herd who has the contents of a secret computer downloaded into his brain, making him the target of spies and other government agencies. Assigned to protect him are agent Sarah Walker (**Yvonne Strahovski**) and John Casey (**Adam Baldwin**). Other regulars include **Sarah Lancaster** as Chuck's sister Elle, **Ryan McPartin** as her boyfriend, and **Joshua Gomez** as Morgan, Chuck's best friend and co-worker. Created and produced by **Josh Schwartz** (*The O.C.*), with director **Joseph "McG" McGinty Nichol**. as an executive producer, expect lots of action, comedy and twenty-something angst (maybe) for Chuck. Bringing in *The O.C.* connection will be **Rachel Bilson** guest starring in a multiple episode arc as a romantic option for Chuck. After *Heroes* will be *Journeyman* with **Kevin McKidd** as a San Francisco newspaper reporter who starts having blackouts and now is traveling through time where he appears to be tasked with changing the lives of others but is also tempted to change the lives of those around him. Aside from the pilot episode, there is virtually zero information on how the series will play out in the future (and past), assuming it holds on to enough of the *Heroes* audience to have a future on the network. On Wednesdays will be the remake of *The Bionic Woman* starring **Michelle Ryan** as Jaime Sommers, **Kate Sackhoff** as Sarah Corvus (the first B.W.), **Chris Bowers** as Will Anthros, Jaime's boyfriend, **Lucy Kate Hale** as Jaime's computer geek sister, with **Will Yun Lee** and **Miguel Ferrer** as operatives in the Berkut Group that want to take over her life. The show is being produced by **David Eick**, who has had some success in reimagining *Battlestar Galactica*, and **Jason Smilovic**. The show is rumored to be having some creative problems, though. Initially, Jaime's sister was going to be deaf, but reaction to her in the original version of the pilot was lukewarm, so she was re-cast and re-imagined. They hired controversial actor **Isiah Washington** (essentially kicked off of top-rated *Grey's Anatomy*) for a multiple episode role as a secretive operative of the Berkut Group. Most recently, producer **Glen Morgan** (*The X-Files*) left the show and NBC has asked **Jason Katims** (*Roswell*, *Friday Night Lights*) to come on board as a creative

consultant, splitting his time between *Bionic Woman* and *Friday Night Lights*.

Returning to NBC on Monday nights will be *Heroes*, which picks up the new season four months after the first season finale, giving some hints as to what transpired during that time, but not all of the details. The season opens with Hiro in feudal Japan, where he meets Kensei (played by **David Anders**), who is definitely even more than the legends made him out to be. Hiro will also be learning about his family history and fall in love with a princess. Claire and HRG are in California trying to start a new life and other Heroes are in new situations. Rumors and spoilers are somewhat spotty, but things you should expect to see include **Kristen Bell** turning up in a multiple episode arc as a mysterious woman who may or may not be on the good side of things, plus many other new characters including (**Dania Ramirez**) and her twin brother Alejandro (**Shalim Ortiz**), who are trying to make it to the US from their home in the Dominican Republic. We'll find out more about the connection between Molly and Suresh's sister, and start to see the results of a new threat to the Heroes in someone attacking and killing them. **Dominic Keating** will turn up as an Irish gangster in a new storyline that will tie into the initial mystery for the new season. Turning up in the fourth episode, *The Kindness of Strangers*, will be **Nichelle Nichols** as Nana, a New Orleans doyen who whose daughter died during Hurricane Katrina but is also Micah's great aunt. When Micah is sent to live with her, he discovers that one of Nana's grandchildren has some special abilities, too. Later in October, they are planning a "Four Months Ago" episode that will reveal more of what happened after the big explosion in New York.

CBS will debut *Moonlight* on Friday nights, hopefully providing them a better bridge between *The Ghost Whisper* and *Numbers*. **Alex O'Loughlin** is vampire detective Mick St. John with **Sophia Myles** as Mick's love interest, internet investigative reporter Beth, and **Jason Dohring** as Mick's best vampire friend Josef. Former *Angel* producer **David Greenawalt** came onto the show as a show runner and shortly left citing exhaustion. There's a bit of info on the early episodes including *Out of the Past* in which a convicted murderer from Nick's past is released from prison and could reveal Mick's true nature to Beth. In *Dr. Feelgood*, a doctor is turned into a vampire when he tries to help the victim of a hit and run and goes out of control and Mick has to find him and stop him. In *Fever*, Mick is stricken with some sort of fever while trying to protect a murder witness being kept in a safe house that ends up not being that "safe". *Arrested Development* sees Mick and Beth trying to find a runaway Iowa farm girl turned escort and run into a young looking vampire that preys on them.

The Ghost Whisperer returns for its third season on Fridays and **Jay Mohr** joins the cast as a series regular,

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24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

Things are heating up in some areas of filmdom and cooling down in other areas; in part, due to upcoming possible labor outages. There are several deadlines looming over Hollywood, with a Writer's Guild contract expiring in October and Screen Actors Guild and Directors Guild contracts expiring next June; Hollywood is scrambling to get some projects on the fast track while others are being delayed. The Writers Guild is apparently going to join in with the other guilds in negotiations, with all three of them working together to get a better deal for a slice of the revenue from the new digital landscape.

One movie moving up fast is a *Justice League of America* movie that is reportedly going to be done via motion capture animation instead of live action. D.C. has also green-lighted *Watchmen* with **Zach Snyder** directing, so they could end up with a bunch of DC related projects on the big screen next year. One other project trying to get off the ground before the strikes is a *Land of the Lost* movie, based on the TV series. Disney is moving up filming on the third Narnia movie, *Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, to beat the strike as well; even while post production is going on with the second movie.

Matthew Vaughn is getting things set to do a *Thor* movie, his first film following *Stardust*. He plans to keep a comic-book sensibility to it, even though it deals with Thor and Odin and Asgard, but keeping it firmly set in the Marvel universe. Other comics movies in the works include *Magneto*, on which **David S. Goyer** is in preproduction. According to **Goyer**, it will be the origins of the X-Men with Magneto and Charles Xavier. **Goyer** is also still developing the *SuperMax* movie, which would put Green Arrow wrongly imprisoned in a high security prison with a lot of super villains, most of whom will be third tier DC villains since the bigger names are already tied up on other projects. **John August** is currently working on the script for a *Shazam* movie that will focus on 13 year old Billy Batson who becomes the superhero Captain Marvel when he utters "Shazam!" August says it will be more of an action comedy.

Things are progressing towards the start of filming of the **J.J. Abrams** directed *Star Trek* movie. At the San Diego ComicCon, **Abrams** introduced two actors that would be playing Spock, **Zachary Quinto** (Sylar on *Heroes*) AND **Leonard Nimoy** (the original Spock). Other casting that has been announced or leaked includes **Zoe Seldana** as Uhura and **Anton Yelton** as Chekov. At this point, **William Shatner** is not going to appear in the movie as an old Kirk, although **Abrams** indicated at ComicCon that they are still looking into the possibility of working him into the movie in some fashion that will be more than just

a cameo.

The fourth *Indiana Jones* movie has a name, *Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull*. **Shia LaBeouf** stars with **Harrison Ford**, **Cate Blanchett**, **Karen Allen**, **Ray Winstone** and **John Hurt** in the new film due in May 2008. **Jim Broadbent** has a small role as an academic colleague of Indiana Jones.

Disney will have a new *Witch Mountain* movie, a follow-up to *Escape from Witch Mountain*. It will star **Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson** as a Las Vegas cab driver who picks up two kids with magical powers. Yes, it will be a family movie, so get your mind out of the gutter.

New horror films in the works include *The Haunting in Connecticut*, which is directed by **Peter Cornwall** and written by **Adam Simon** and **Tim Metcalfe**. It is described as "an *Exorcist*-like take on a family's experience with supernatural forces after settling into a new home." It will star **Virginia Madsen**, **Elias Koteas**, **Martin Donovan** and **Kyle Gallner**. Just finished and bought by the Weinstein Co. is the latest **George Romero "Dead"** sequel movie, "*George A. Romero's Diary of the Dead*." Coming out soon is *Evilution*, about a microscopic alien life form used by the government to resurrect dead soldiers that decides to fight back. It stars **Rocker Billy Morrison**, **James Duval**, **Jonathan Breck**, and **Sandra Ramirez**.

Upcoming Movie Releases in Oct/Nov

The Seeker: The Dark is Rising (Oct 5) An adaptation of *The Dark is Rising* by **Susan Cooper**, but with an American kid and car chases. It stars **Alexander Ludwig** as Will Stanton, a young boy who is the seventh son of a seventh son and is the last of a race of immortals destined to fit the dark forces of evil. But since he's a typical American kid, he's not real keen on doing it and becomes a reluctant hero. A warning: if you really liked the original book, you probably want to avoid this adaptation. Also starring is **Ian McShane** as **Merriman Lyon** and **Christopher Eccleston** as The Rider.

Rogue (Oct 12) A travel writer in the Australian outback is stalked by a giant crocodile while on a river cruise. Stars **Sam Worthington**, **Michael Vartan**, and **Stephen Curry**. Expect to see it soon on SciFi Channel's Saturday night movies....

30 Days of Night (Oct 19) Based on the comic series by **Steve Niles** where the remote town of Barrow, Alaska, is under siege by vampires during the period where the sun never rises for 30 days and nights. Directed by **David Slade**, it stars **Josh Hartnett** and **Melissa George** as the husband and wife team of Eben and Stella Olemaun that fight to save themselves and the town. Also starring are **Danny Huston**, **Jon Bennett**, and **Mark Boone, Jr.**

Sarah Landon and the Paranormal Hour (Oct 19) **Rissa Walters** stars as 17 year old Sarah Landon who experiences

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SF Tube Talk

(Continued from page 3)

continuing his recurring role as Professor Payne, who has an encyclopedic knowledge of the spirit world. He hides his concern for Melinda's safety behind his irreverent sense of humor. Also this season, the town of Grandview begins to show some of its history and why it has chosen Melinda. We'll find out that there is a literal underground world below the town and Melinda will learn more about its supernatural history and how she is connected to it. They will bring back Melinda's ghostly father as well as Gabriel, the other Ghost Whisperer that may be Melinda's brother. Episodes airing in October include *Don't Try This at*

Home where a group of college girls try out the "Bloody Mary" superstition on a mirror and when one of them dies, she begins to haunt them, believing herself to be the Bloody Mary. *Haunted Hero* focuses on Matt, a friend of Jim and Melinda, who has recently returned home from an overseas military stint. While there, an incident left all of his unit dead except him, but he doesn't remember what happened. When the ghosts of Matt's comrades turn up, Melinda helps Matt to remember what happened. In *No Safe Place*, Melinda helps an attorney being haunted by his dead stalker, but she soon finds out the real truth about the attorney. In *Weight of What Was*, Melinda helps the ghost of a woman that had been

imprisoned in a church and is wanting to find out what happened to her baby. When Melinda and Professor Payne start searching historical records, a group of ghosts work to prevent them from finding what they are looking for.

ABC will have *Pushing Daisies* and *Cavemen* as its genre entries this fall. *Cavemen* takes the GEICO ad concept to a sitcom venue and I'm not going to bother to describe it any further. *Pushing Daisies*, however, looks to be a good, quirky, show that might finally be the show that **Bryan Fuller** has a success with after having minor success with *Dead Like Me* (which he left mid-way through the first season despite having created the show) and *Wonderfalls*, which

was another in a long line of genre shows disowned by FOX. With **Barry Sonnenfeld** co-producing and directing the pilot episode, this may be able to draw viewers and keep them tuned in for the long haul. **Lee Pace** is Ned, a pie baker with the ability to bring dead things back to life. However, if he touches them a second time, they go back to being dead. When his abilities are discovered by private detective Emerson (**Chi McBride**), he works with him to solve murders and split the reward fees. When one of the victims is his childhood girlfriend Chuck (**Anna Friel**), he can't bear to have her die again and she hangs around for one of the stranger romances seen on TV, coming up with ways to interact without touching. The show will be a mixture of fairy-tale fantasy, romance and murder mystery and has garnered a lot of attention from the critics.

FOX was going to have a new genre show this fall, *New Amsterdam*, about an immortal cop in New York looking for his true love. FOX decided to push it back to mid-season, so expect to see it sometime in the new year (or maybe earlier if one of their new shows tanks really fast.). Also in mid-season for FOX will be the *Sarah Connor Chronicles* featuring Sarah and John Connor following the events seen in *Terminator 2*.

The WB has a new genre show in *Reaper*, which stars **Bret Harrison** as Sam Oliver, a slacker working at a Home Depot-like store that discovers when he turns 21 that his parents sold his soul to The Devil (**Ray Wise**). Instead of going to Hell, Sam gets to work as a bounty hunter for Satan collecting escaped souls using a special vessel (a dust devil minivan to start with) to collect them. Sam enlists his friends and co-workers Bert "Sock" Wysocki (**Tyler Labine**), Ben (**Rick Gonzalez**), Josie (**Valarie Rae Miller**), and Andi (**Missy Peregrin**) in his ongoing adventures as he fulfills his destiny. Early episodes see Sam and company go after a demon who sucks on power lines and travels through them, an escaped magician who uses his power to kill people, and a killer who claims he was innocent and that someone else committed the crime he was sent to Hell for. The pilot was directed by **Kevin Smith** and has gotten a good response and created a lot of Buzz. The CW is hoping for a new "*Buffy*" and the combination of humor, action, and "task of the week" may do the trick for them.

Returning to The CW for its seventh season is *Smallville*. After dealing with Bizarro in the first episode, Clark meets his cousin, Kara (**Laura Vandervoort**) in the episode named *Kara*. Kara's arrival also coincides with Lex being rescued once again by a mysterious person who just might have been Kara, leading Lex to try to find out who or what she is. Kara's trip was delayed and she expects Kal-El to be a baby, but eventually finds out who he is. In *Fierce*, Clark takes Kara to the fair and she enters the Miss Sweet Corn Pageant, only to find out that some of the competitors are using powers of their own to eliminate the competition. In *Cure*,

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AND ARMIN SHIMERMAN,
A.K.A. QUARK

November 8, 2007 at 7:30 PM
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SF Tube Talk (Continued from page 4)

Sasha Goodman returns, claiming to have been cured of her Meteor power that caused problems back in the first season. The person doing the curing is Dr. Knox, played by **Dean Cain**, who may or may not be another D.C. character (the immortal Vandal Savage) **Phil Morris** returns as The Martian Manhunter to help out Clark. *Action* sees Lionel Luther being held captive in a cabin by a woman named Marilyn and Clark gets involved with the filming of a movie based on the Warrior Angel comics where the star's life is being threatened by an outraged fan. In *Lara*, we'll meet Clark's Kryptonian mother, Lara, who is being played by **Helen Slater**, who played Supergirl in the theatrical movie. Also in the episode, some government agents connect Kara to the crashed ship and capture her. In *Wrath*, Lana gains Clark's powers in an accident and Clark finds out what Lana has been keeping secret from him.

Supernatural returns for its third season, adding a couple of new demon hunters to the mix. Joining the cast as recurring characters are **Katie Cassidy** as Ruby and **Lauren Cohen** as Bela, two demon hunters who are mostly business and not intended to be love interests for the Winchester Brothers (at least at first). With the season two finale seeing hundreds of demons escaping from the Devil's Gate, the brothers start working on tracking them down. In *The Magnificent Seven*, they find seven demons that are the physical manifestations of the Seven Deadly Sins in Nebraska and must work with other demon hunters, who blame the brothers for the mass escape, to take them out. In *The Kids are Alright*, Sam and Dean hunt changelings that target mothers and their children, leading Dean to a reunion with someone he had a fling with 9 years ago and her son, Ben, that reminds Dean of himself. In *Bad Day at Black Rock*, the mentee of a fellow hunter kidnaps Sam and beats him. Dean searches for him and crosses paths with the new hunter Bela. *Sin City* sees the brothers pose as insurance investigators to find out what really happened when someone commits suicide in a church. Dean is enamored by an attractive demon and disappears while Sam must find and rescue him before it's too late. In *Bedtime Stories*, the brothers investigate a girl that was poisoned by her stepmother leaving her in a coma while her angry spirit causes the fairy tales her father reads to her to come to life. In *Red Sky at Morning*, the brothers and Bela look into a drowning possibly caused by ghosts from a sunken ship. *New Blood* sees the brothers go up against a vampire who is trying to build a new vampire family so that he won't spend eternity alone.

Over on SciFi, the news hasn't been very good ratings wise. *Flash Gordon* debuted with a 1.5 rating, which was noted as the highest rated debut for a new series on SciFi this year, slightly ahead of *The Dresden Files*, which debuted with a 1.4 rating and *Painkiller Jane*, which drew a 1.3 rating for its first episode.

However, *Flash* quickly followed the route of *Painkiller Jane*, dropping almost half of its audience with the second episode and ending up with a 0.8 rating for its third episode. *Painkiller Jane* also dropped quickly and was well below a 1.0 and has not been renewed by SciFi. While *The Dresden Files* held up in its ratings, SciFi elected not to renew it. It appears there may have been some financial issues involved with Lionheart, the shows producers, and SciFi that led to the non-renewal, but none of the production parties have been forthcoming with any details. The return of *Who Wants to be a Superhero?* paired with *Mind Control with Darren Brown* also failed to register on the ratings charts, drawing below a 1.0 rating for their run. The third series of *Doctor Who* hasn't done much better, either. When it has made the SciFi top ten ratings list, it has been at a below 1.0 rating as well. *Eureka* has held up in its ratings for its second season, generally doing a 1.6 to a 1.8 rating and likely on track to be renewed for a third season. The summer run of *Ghost Hunters* performed fairly well, consistently getting ratings in the 1.1 to 1.3 range. Of course, their Saturday night movies continue to do well, usually drawing numbers above a 1.5 rating when they debut and continuing to draw around a 1.0 rating in multiple repeats. What with their ratings woes, SciFi is hoping the return of *Stargate Atlantis* for its fourth season will bring viewers back to the channel. Once things get going in October, SciFi's Friday lineup will consist of repeats of NBC's new *Bionic Woman* at 7 pm ET/PT, followed by repeats of former Showtime series *Odyssey 5* at 8 pm ET/PT, with *Flash Gordon* at 9 pm ET/PT and *Stargate Atlantis* finishing off the night at 10 pm ET/PT. Depending on how well *Atlantis* does with *Flash Gordon* as a lead-in, don't be surprised if the Friday schedule gets shuffled around a bit. If *Flash* continues to be a ratings sinkhole, I'd expect SciFi to move *Atlantis* to an earlier time. As for information on future

Flash Gordon episodes, there doesn't seem to be much news escaping from their set, so there's not much to report.

Odyssey 5 stars **Peter Weller** as Chuck Taggart and **Christopher Gorham** as his son, Neil Taggart. They are crew members of a space shuttle stranded in space when the Earth is destroyed. They are rescued by an alien being called The Seeker who

offers to send their consciousnesses back in time five years so that they may be able to prevent the Earth's destruction. The series deals with their efforts to figure out what happened and stop it, while trying to keep history from being changed and possibly speeding up the Earth's destruction.

Stargate Atlantis picked up with the city lost in space following the replicator attack in the season finale and in "Lifeline", Rodney McKay is shocked to find out that Samantha Carter is now in charge of the station. Meanwhile, Colonel Sheppard and his team go on a risky mission to steal a Z.P.M. power module from the Replicators. In *Reunion*, Ronon is reunited with some of his people who enlist the aid of Atlantis to raid a Wraith weapons facility where they run into an unexpected conflict. Look for a cameo appearance by **Christopher Judge** as Teal'c in the episode. In *Doppelganger*, Colonel Sheppard becomes a host to a crystalline alien entity which begins to affect other crew members causing them to have horrifying nightmares, all featuring Colonel Sheppard. In *Travelers*, Sheppard is once again in the hot seat, having been captured by the beautiful leader of a generational ship who wants to make use of Sheppard's ability to control Ancient technology. *Tabula Rasa* finds the crew affected by a virus that causes amnesia except for Teyla and Ronon. They must work with the crew to find a cure before they lose all of their memories. In *Missing*, Teyla and Dr. Keller go in search of Teyla's people, who have gone missing from the new home they settled on and run into a primitive warrior tribe. In *The Seer*, they meet Davos, a man with prophetic abilities who is dying but wants to share what he knows with Atlantis. Teyla finds out some information on her missing people and is also told of a few other surprises. Meanwhile, McKay has discovered something about the Replicators and The Wraiths. In *Miller's Crossing*, McKay is reunited with his

sister, Jeannie Miller. However, both have been captured by Henry Wallace, president of Devlin Medical Industries who wants their help in using nanites to save his daughter, who is dying of leukemia. Sheppard and Ronon come to Earth and utilize N.I.D. and Stargate Command to try to find their missing comrade.

The *Battlestar Galactica* movie *Razor* will debut on SciFi on Nov 24th with a DVD release of the movie on December 4th. Starting in October, SciFi will begin airing eight webisodes that will follow a young William Adama (played by **Nico Cortez**) who discovers a dangerous Cylon weapon that will come back to haunt him 40 years later. Reports are these will air first during *Flash Gordon* and will then be available on the SciFi.com website and will also be on the DVD release of *Razor*. These segments were originally intended to air as part of *Razor* but had to be cut for time, but will be incorporated into the movie in the DVD version. The movie itself will focus on The Pegasus, giving us a look at what happened during the start of the Cylon War, how they discovered that Gina (aka one of the sixes) was a Cylon and how they treated her after that. We will meet Kendra Shaw, who was a lieutenant under Admiral Cain who broke down when the Cylon attack happened. She was busted down a rank but when Lee Adama takes over the Pegasus, he promotes her to Major and made her his XO. During the Lee Adama portion of the storyline, he sends Kara "Starbuck" Thrace and Kendra on a mission to investigate some Cylon activity. Kendra appears to also be playing a role in season four of the series. Indications are that season four of *Galactica* will debut on SciFi in January but that they haven't yet decided how quickly they will air all of the final season.

SciFi will be getting into the Halloween spirit with a 13 Days of Halloween promotion which will see them air pretty much every horror movie that

(Continued on page 6)



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SF Tube Talk (Continued from page 5)

they have the rights to in the last 13 days of October. They will also have a live *Ghost Hunters* broadcast happening on Halloween night, October 31st, this time from the haunted Waverly Hills Sanitarium in Louisville, Kentucky. It will start at 9 pm ET/PT and run until 3 am ET/PT. Coming up on SciFi's Saturday movies are *The Wraiths of Roanoke* on October 13th. It stars **Adrian Paul** and will tell the "real" story of what happened in the disappearance of the Roanoke colony. On Saturday, October 27, SciFi will debut "*Headless Horseman*" which is a new take on the legend with SciFi promising an "original" and "very scary" take on it. It was directed by **Anthony C. Ferrante**, who got his start with the fan film *The Surreal World: Tatooine Episode 1.5* and also directed the horror movie *Boo*. The movie stars **Billy Aaron Brown** and **Richard Moll**, best known as Bull on *Night Court*. It follows a group of young friends who get stranded in Wormwood on Halloween night and soon find themselves being pursued by the Headless Horseman. In a *Fangoria* interview, effects director **Todd Masters** explains "We have some really gory, grotesque things in the movie. At a certain point, chopping off heads can potentially get really boring, so the goal was to try to find myriad different ways to chop off heads, and also how to present them in creative, unexpected ways; one of the nastiest involves a bear trap."

SciFi will also be airing the *Tin Man* miniseries in early to mid-December. It is

a new take on the *Wizard of Oz* (haven't we heard that before?) It stars **Zoë Deschanel** as DG, who is an intelligent and rebellious waitress at the Hilltop diner. DG lives with her parents Hank and Em in a farmhouse until she is whisked away to the Outer Zone (O.Z.) by a twister. She meets up with Cain, a Tin Man, played by **Neal McDonough**, an ex-cop who spent years imprisoned in a metal suit watching a holographic loop of his wife and child being abducted by Azkadellia's soldiers; Glitch, played by **Alan Cummings**, a former genius inventor who had half his brain stolen when he was imprisoned by Azkadellia; Raw, played by **Raoul Trujillo**, a half human, half wolverine who is a psychic that had his second sight ability stolen by Azkadellia; and The Mystic man, played by **Richard Dreyfuss**. As you might guess, the focus of the adventure is for them to recover from Azkadellia (played by **Kathleen Robertson**) what was taken from them. She is a sorceress with the ability to suck the souls from her victims and has overthrown the O.Z.'s previous ruler Lavender Eyes (**Anna Golden**) and now rules it absolutely with her longboat storm troopers and Mobat (monkey-bat) spies. D.G. and her companions embark on a journey to restore order to the O.Z. and hopefully give the SciFi Channel some ratings muscle.

Lifetime will resume *Blood Ties* on Friday nights at 11 pm ET/PT starting October 12th, airing the remaining ten episodes from the first season, although Lifetime appears to be calling it a "second season". The series just recently started

airing in Canada, which is the primary market it was made for, so it is still a bit early for a decision on a season two renewal. Author **Tanya Huff** is encouraging fans to write to Lifetime asking for a second season, hoping that they will commit to ordering more episodes of the series. First up is "*D.O.A.*" which sees Vicki investigating the death of Paul Deeds, a longtime friend of Vicki, who was killed while he was working undercover, when his ghost shows up asking Vicki for help in finding out what happened to his body. When Paul turns up alive, Vicki has to convince Henry and Mike that the spirit in Paul's body isn't the original one. "*Wild Blood*" has Mike seeking Vicki and Henry's help in solving a case where the victim was attacked by a wild animal, which leads Vicki to a family of "skinwalkers" who can take the shape of animals. "*5:55*" sees Vicki having a Groundhog Day adventure where she keeps waking up on the same day at 5:55 am, with a nightmare foreshadowing of the world's demise. "*Bugged*" sees Vicki checking out an underground club when investigating the death of a man killed by bugs. Henry believes that his creator, Christine, may be in town following several deaths in "*The Devil You Know*." Henry has an exhibit of art at an art gallery and Vicki suspects that Henry's friend, Maya, may be involved with something unnatural in "*Drawn and Quartered*." In "*Wrapped*", Vicki deals with an ancient mummy played by **Danny Trejo** that has been brought back to life.

An inmate who confessed to crimes ten years ago claims now that he didn't commit any of them and Vicki and Mike investigate in "*The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly*." Vicki helps a boy who has been reincarnated multiple times over the centuries track down his lost love in "*We'll Meet Again*." To finish off the season, when Vicki's assistant Coreen (**Gina Holden**) visits a psychic, she is possessed by the demon Astrof, and Vicki, Mike and Henry must work together to save her in "*Deep Inside*." I think they may be too late and she is forced to spend a season as Dale Arden on *Flash Gordon*!

Torchwood has debuted strong for BBC America, garnering its highest ratings ever for the debut of a drama series. Coming up in the rest of the first season are *Small Worlds* in which the Torchwood crew investigate a withdrawn child whose suppressed anger is taken advantage of by fairies; *Countryside*, a very creepy episode about a clan of killers in an old village in the Brecon Beacons; *Greeks Bearing Gifts* that has a telepathic alien taking advantage of Toshiko in an attempt to return home; *They Keep Killing Suzie* has the Torchwood team investigating a series of murders where "Torchwood" is written using the victim's blood. They find a link to the retcon drug Torchwood uses to cause amnesia and try to find out who of the 2000 plus people they've used it on has turned into a killer; *Random Shoes* where a hit and run victim who was obsessed with aliens survives in ghost form and follows Gwen Cooper around as she tries to solve his murder;

Out of Time sees a plane from the 1950's land in Cardiff and Torchwood tries to integrate them into modern society; *Combat* sees Weevils being abducted and forced to fight each other and Owen is sucked into the subculture when he investigates; *Captain Jack Harkness* sees Jack and Toshiko transported back to the time of the London Blitz where Jack meets up with himself and faces an unexpected secret from his past; *End of Days*, the season finale where the Cardiff Rift ruptures unleashing an epic battle with Torchwood caught in the middle.

Over on the BBC, they have started airing the *Sarah Jane Adventures* on Children's BBC, with ten half-hour episodes comprised of five two-part stories. We'll see some familiar monsters like the Slitheen make appearances in the series as Sarah Jane Smith and her associates investigate strange happenings. As for *Doctor Who*, the BBC has announced their future plans for the series, making some time for **David Tennant** to do a lengthy stint with the Royal Shakespeare company next year in a production of *Hamlet*. Following this year's Christmas special and 13 episodes of season four, they will produce three specials for airing in 2009 with the series resuming for a full run of 13 episodes for a first season in 2010. The BBC has indicated that **Russell T. Davies** and **David Tennant** will be on board through the 2009 specials but were a bit vague on who would be involved with season five for 2010.

24 Frames (Continued from page 3)

strange goings on in the town of Pine Valley. When she visits her late friend's grandmother, she discovers the guest house she is staying in is haunted and soon discovers the town's dark secret.

Saw IV (Oct 26) It's October, so it's time for another installment in the exciting adventures of Jigsaw. They thought he was dead, but once again, someone is thrust into a series of interconnected traps trying to avoid getting sawed.

The Signal (Oct 26) If *Saw IV* isn't enough for you, *The Signal* is "a horrific journey towards the discovery that the most brutal violent monster might actually be within all of us." Presented in three parts by three different directors (**David Bruckner**, **Jacob Gentry**, and **Dan Bush**), it promises "brutal bloody violence throughout, pervasive language and brief nudity" according to the ratings guide.

Bee Movie (Nov 2) In this animated feature from Paramount Pictures, **Jerry Seinfeld** is a bee fresh out of college who discovers there's more to life than making honey. When he meets up with a florist (**Annette Bening**), he finds out that humans are mass consumers of honey and decides to sue the human race for stealing it from the bees. Also providing voices are **Matthew Broderick**, **Chris Rock** and **Kathy Bates**.

Martian Child (Nov 2) Adapted from the partially autobiographical **David**

(Continued on page 7)

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Gerrold story about a science fiction writer who adopts a six year old boy that may or may not be an alien. Stars **John Cusack** as David, **Joan Cusack** as Liz, **Amanda Peet** as Harlee, and **Bobby Coleman** as six year old Dennis.

After Dark’s Horrorfest 2 (Nov 9-11) The second annual After Dark Horrorfest takes over 500 theatres for the weekend screening a number of horror movies. Details at www.horrorfestonline.com

Southland Tales (Nov 9) **Richard Kelley’s** long-in-production science fiction movie set in a near-future Los Angeles following a series of nuclear attacks where an action star stricken with amnesia, a reality star, and a Hermosa Beach police officer all come together to fit a secret conspiracy. A new power source using ocean currents has started the Earth to spiral out of control into space, ripping holes in the fabric of time and space. Cast includes **Dwayne Johnson** (aka “The Rock”), **Seann William Scott**, **Sarah Michelle Gellar**, **Jason Lee**, **Janeane Garofalo**, **Kevin Smith**, **Miranda Richardson**, **John Larroquette**, and **Jon Lovitz** with music by Moby.

Beowulf (Nov 16) **Robert Zemeckis** directs an adaptation of *Beowulf* by **Neil Gaiman** and **Roger Avary** using the latest motion capture technology to produce a unique looking action movie in 3-D. **Ray Winstone** stars as the warrior Beowulf, **Angelina Jolie** as the Queen of the Darkness, **Crispin Glover** as Grendel, **John Malkovich** as Unferth, **Anthony Hopkins** as King Hrothgar, and **Robin Wright Penn** as Queen Wealhtheow. Portions screened at the San Diego ComicCon were well received and it looks to be a big hit ala 300.

Mr. Magorium’s Wonder Emporium (Nov 16) **Dustin Hoffman** stars as Mr. Magorium, whose toy store is the most wonderful toy store in the world, where the toys and the store itself come to life. Also starring in the G-rated movie is **Natalie Portman** as Molly Mahoney, **Jason Bateman** as Henry Weston, and **Zachary Mills** as Eric Applebaum.

The Mist (Nov 21) **Frank Darabont** directs this **Stephen King** tale in which a freak storm envelops a small town in Maine, unleashing a horde of blood thirsty creatures that have arrived through a dimensional rift. Stars **Thomas Jane** as David Drayton, **William Sadler** as Jim Grondin, **Laurie Holden** as Amanda, and **Chris Owen** as Norm.

Enchanted (Nov 21) The beautiful princess Giselle (**Amy Adams**) is banished from her fairyland environment to modern day Manhattan. When she meets up with a handsome lawyer and begins to fall in love, things get a bit more complex when her prince and other cohorts make the trip to rescue her. **Susan Sarandon** is the evil Queen Narissa, **James Marsden** is Prince Edward, and **Patrick Dempsey**.

In Memory

Robert Jordan
Madeline L’Engle
Peter Manly

Robert Jordan
1948-2007

James Oliver Rigney Jr., who wrote fantasy as Robert Jordan and historical fiction as Reagan O’Neal and Jackson O’Reilly, passed away September 16, 2007 at the age of 58.

Jordan was best known as the author of the Wheel of Time series .Other novels includes many Conan books, and two short series, Eye of the World and Great Hunt.

He was survived by his wife Harriet McDougal with whom he lived in his hometown of Charleston, South Carolina; a son, William Popham McDougal of Housatonic, Mass.; and a brother, Reynolds W. Rigney of New Orleans.

Robert Jordan
1948 - 2007

I never met the man.

It appears we were contemporaries of sorts, similarly aged, both having served in Nam, but, from reading of his decorations, James Oliver Rigney, Jr. had a more active war than I did.

He was also Robert Jordan.

I read his obituary today, the day after his passing. He was married. My condolences go to his family.

From everything I have heard of him, from people who knew him, he was a wonderful man.

I’m sure I would have been honored to know him.

I have read The Wheel of Time Series.

And the world has lost a great writer.

The world of fantasy fandom is a strange place. I have heard people denigrate and minimize his work. I have spoken to devoted fans. I have wondered why people have such a visceral reaction to Jordan’s work.

Many wonderful authors did the pioneering in fantasy: William Morris, H. Ryder Haggard, Abraham Merritt, Arthur Machen, Robert Chambers, Edgar Rice Burroughs, C. S. Lewis, Lord Dunsany, Alan Garner, H. P. Lovecraft, Clark Ashton Smith, Robert Howard, and others explored both the light and the dark of magical, fantastical lands

When J. R. R. Tolkien came along, he lifted the whole field and brought it a level of sophistication that allowed readers to laugh and dance and sing as well as brave magnificent adventures.

And he ushered in a host of newer writers who have given us a wealth of rich literature.

And then this Jordan guy came along.

He wrote a lot of books, expanding on the Conan stories, writing about the South, but he was best known for The Wheel of Time.

Big books. An epic landscape. A cast of thousands. Legends and myths. Love and betrayal. Danger and Derring-Do. Destiny. Absolute evil. Good that was not

quite as pure as everyone might wish. And a story so complex that people will be studying and analyzing it for years to come. And book after book came out, year after year, and the tale kept unfolding.

Eleven books in the series from 1990 until 2005, and a prequel.

But then he was diagnosed in 2005 with a rare blood disease and grandiose plans for other expansions and exploration of the Wheel of Time suddenly had to be surrendered and narrowed down.

Up until the time of his death, he was working very hard on completing a twelfth and final book – a conclusion to his epic series. He wanted to finish it. He felt an obligation to finish it for the fans.

And now time has run out.

His death was expected, of course. He even wrote about his progress in a periodic blog.

I don’t know where his work will fall in the great canvas of history, but I do know that I have concluded he was one of the truly great writers of our time – perhaps of any time.

I never met the man in person, but I met the man who told the story of the Wheel of Time every time I sat down to read his work. And I always waited impatiently for the next book.

I think history will place him high on the list of Masters of Fantasy.

Rest In Peace James Oliver Rigney, Jr.
Rest In Peace Robert Jordan.
You will be missed. But you will not be forgotten.

Adam Niswander
Phoenix, AZ

Madeline L’Engle
1918-2007

Madeline L’Engle, who was best known for writing the fantasy novel *A Wrinkle in Time*, died Thursday September 6, at a nursing home in Litchfield, Connecticut. She was 88.

A Wrinkle in Time won the John Newbery Award as the best children’s book of 1963. L’Engle also was honored with the Sequoyah Award, Lewis Carroll Shelf Award, National Religious Book Award, Regina Medal and the World Fantasy Convention Lifetime Achievement Award. She is survived by two daughters, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Crosswicks Foundation, Ltd., 924 West End Ave., New York, NY 10025. Founded by L’Engle and her husband, Crosswicks has given money to community and arts organizations in New York and Connecticut for over 20 years.

Peter Manly
1945 – 2007

Peter Manly, long-time Phoenix area fan, died on July 27, 2007.. He would have been 62 on September 8th.

In his lifetime, Pete was an Air Force officer, an astronomer, an engineer, a journalist and an author. He was a long-time member of CASFS serving several terms as a board member, a member of the

Southwest Costumers Guild and a readily recognizable presence at all Phoenix area local conventions.

Gone West – Pete Manly
9/8/1945 - 7/27/2007

Younger members of Phoenix fandom may not remember Pete Manly. Over the past few years, chronic illness forced his withdrawal from most activities. But if you were in Phoenix fandom during the 1990’s, you knew him. A short, silver-haired ball of energy, he seemed to be everywhere, sharing his knowledge with everyone who would listen. From astronomy to warfare to rockets, he’d done it all – and told us *how* it was done on science and engineering panels. When he dived into writing fiction with *Dragon Three-Two Niner*, he added writing panels to his appearances. And during spare moments at conventions, he held court in the lounge or at parties, entertaining everyone with his stories. His repertoire included dozens, perhaps hundreds of anecdotes, most centered on him. And no matter how often we heard a tale, we listened one more time, just because Pete was a born story-teller.

He was the guy who got my husband flying again after years of denial. For years, Pete spent Saturday afternoons up at Deer Valley Airport hammering aluminum to restore decrepit WW II warbirds; during one convention we got to talking and he convinced Mike to join him. Twelve years later, Mike is still flying because of that conversation. Pete’s passion for aviation enabled him to wrangle rides that had other aviation addicts drooling with envy – he flew in antique war planes, with the Thunderbirds and on Concorde. His last article for *America’s Flyways* covered the first flight of SpaceShipOne.

I had a special relationship with Pete; for some reason known only to himself, he decided I was his second favorite artist. (His favorite was, of course, his daughter Susan. I remember him sharing her latest drawing with so much pride he seemed ready to explode into a fountain of fireworks.) The first piece I illustrated for one of his stories was for *Unfinished Symphony*, which he wrote with Rick Cook. I did other pieces for him because his enthusiasm was hard to refuse. He always came with an idea for what he wanted and I’d come up with a different one. We’d grumble and grouse at each other for a while, I’d come back with a sketch of my idea, and he always said it was just what he wanted. Talk about charming the savage artist!

Pete could be unexpectedly thoughtful. He made sure I ended up with an *Analog MAFIA* pin (Many Articles Found In Analog), something I still keep in my jewelry box. He thought I might find the Full Moon Club interesting; it was a “group of writers who get together for food and conversation,” when the moon was too bright for astronomical observation. Members included Rick Cook, Ernie and Emily Hogan, Harry Stine, Pete, and an assortment of spouses

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In Memory (Continued from page 7)

and friends; the conversation was stimulating, intense and often at deafening volumes. I miss those days...

Pete wasn't perfect. He was opinionated. He couldn't understand people who didn't share any of his interests. But everyone has flaws. He was also bright, funny, and passionately interested in life. But more than that, he was my friend and I miss him very much.

CF Yankovich

Note: Although "gone west" is a Tolkien-like phrase, it is also slang used by aviators to signify the death of a pilot. An aficionado of puns, Pete would have appreciated the dualism.

"To The Stars (A Tribute to Peter Manly)"

by Jeffrey Lu

Whether by telescope,
By flight,
Or by imagination,
Peter Manly saw stars.

Weather or not,
He once sat in his wheelchair
And spoke fondly
About science and science fiction.

Peter was here
In paving a way for Arizona
To dream and to see
Stars that Manly once saw.

He was Peter.
He was Manly.
He was here
But now among the heavens.

Conversation

(Continued from page 1)

have a specific "voice" as such. Do you have any ideas about why that is?

A: Not really, actually. Each story tends to come with its own narrative voice. Sometimes they sound "like me," or at least, the way I think of me sounding. And sometimes they sound like something else. Attempting to change them is futile, though. It never works.

Q: Frankly the fact you can and do change it up so well is one of the things I like best about your writing - I just find that very interesting.

A: Thank you. *g*

Q: You mentioned learning a lot about the basics of craft since you wrote your first books - what specifically did you have the longest learning curve on, and why?

A: Oh, I'm still learning all sorts of things. So that's really hard to say. I'm fortunate that I have a pretty good innate understanding of structure and character. But clarity is always a struggle for me: I tend to be somewhat obscure and layered. And I like layers, of course. But it's also helpful to provide the reader with something they can understand. One of my editors likes to describe her job as "translating from Bear to human."

Q: I love your titles-I always have reactions about them, and find myself playing a bit with allusions and thoughts about them. How do you come up with them?

A: Often, they just pop into my head. Sometimes I go through five or six before I find one I like. Sometimes the editor or the marketing department makes me change them; after I find one I really like. But at that point, the title of the book never changes in my head. The Stratford Man will always be *The Novel Formerly Known As The Stratford Man* in my head, no matter what we eventually wind up calling it.

Q: Recently you have been doing heavy rewrites on the first three novels you wrote - what are a couple of things that you can bring to them now?A: I'm a better writer now. By which I mean, I have a better understanding of prosody, narrative, characterization, structure, and just about everything else that goes into a book. At least... I hope...
Q: I'm finishing up Carnival and I'm finding that the tone and, to some extent, the relations of the characters, remind me of LeCarre and other traditional "Great Game" writers. Am I totally off base or were you trying for that sort of feel?

A: Absolutely. And thank you for noticing. I definitely had the tradition of the spy thriller in mind when I wrote it.

Q: With regard to New Amsterdam and "Lucifugous" in particular (I love that title by the way) - what made Sebastian become a detective?

A: That's a story answered in the book, actually. Look at it this way: you have to do something...

Q: Your collaboration with Sarah Monette is coming out later this year - did your process have to change drastically with a co-writer?

A: No, not really. It's kind of pleasant to collaborate, because when you get stuck, you send it to the other guy and say "fix this." And she does. *g* And then she gets stuck, and sends it to you, and says "Fix this." And you do. It's almost always easier to fix somebody else's work than your own!

Q: What is your single best piece of advice to a new writer?

A: That would have to depend on the writer, wouldn't it? We all have different strengths and weaknesses, and different needs. Generally, the best advice is whatever you least want to hear.

Q: Recently you've started teaching at writer's workshops - what in particular have you enjoyed about it?

A: I've been a member of writers communities, in person and on the web, for something like twenty years now. I don't think of teaching at workshops as being that much different. It's all about the exchange of ideas and inspiring each other.

Q: How do you deal with being stuck on something?

I'm not allowed to get stuck. This is my job. If you get stuck, you write it anyway.

Q: Elizabeth's work often deals with gender issues: she has been long-listed for the James Tiptree, Jr. award, and also nominated for the Lambda award, so we talked about that. So, I asked her: Could you talk a little about why gender issues fascinate you so much?

A: I don't understand why they don't fascinate everybody. There are all these constructs and expectations that totally dominate our world; which vary from culture to culture and family to family, and which influence every single thing we do and choices we make. They're the basis for stereotype, discrimination, and have far more influence over our lives

than our biological sex does. I suspect I'm more aware of them than most people because I was raised to be — I was raised in a queer household surrounded by queer people, and I have friends who fall everywhere along the continuum of human gender identification and human sexuality. So I don't default, I guess, as most people do, to heterosexual. Or even to considering everything associated with gender on a male/female axis. People are people. Gender and sex are just facets.

Q: This whole women in SF thing — I, as a reader, tend to notice the lack of books by new women writers - and on the whole, they seem to me to be more likely found in paperback than in hardcover - which explains the large presence of women on the Philip K. Dick ballot. I don't see the magazines that much, so I can't comment. Do you see a lot of gender bias? I think the Hugos are a sort of red herring - my partner is a big con-runner and most of the core Hugo base are white males over 40 - but for the rest of it?

A: I think there's a certain amount of gender bias, but I think it's largely irrelevant to sales. Women, these days, read more fiction than men.

Q: I love your "Presumptuous Cat" entries on your blog. This next question is for Mebd (pronounced Maeve). Hi Mebd! I'm a big fan-so please tell me what the monkey's schedule should be?

A: Via Bear: Meow.

Q: Also, catnip or no catnip?

Catnip. Occasionally.

Q: Recently, Elizabeth has taken up geocaching (orienteeering with a GPS unit), and I couldn't resist asking her questions about it. What kind of GPS unit do you use for geocaching? Can you recommend one?

A: I'm not actually very up on the technology. I have an older model that suits me fine.

Q: Are you racing to find the Tupperware first or devising puzzles for others? How does someone start doing it?

A: I'm not doing either, actually — there's no race element in it for me. I just like wandering around in the woods looking under rocks and seeing if I can figure out where somebody hid something. Getting there first has no appeal. But then, I'm not overly competitive by nature. *g*

Q: Finally, I asked her about her television watching... You've mentioned your liking for cop shows - what are some of your other favorites? Do you like legal dramas?

A: I'm not much for legal dramas. Back in the dim mists of history, I used to beg to be allowed to stay up and watch Kojak and Quincy. Later on, I was addicted Cagney and Lacey and Hill Street Blues, all of which were probably totally inappropriate to my age group.

My current cop show drug of choice is CBS's Criminal Minds, which is a complete obsession — essentially, it's a show about seven very smart, very damaged geeks trying to stay at least marginally sane while they do a fairly brutal job—and I think I've managed to addict half the internet to it.

I'm also fond of a certain subgenre of spy shows — The Sandbaggers, Mission:Impossible, The Man from U.N.C.L.E., The Avengers, Secret Agent, and I Spy being the notable representatives. I'm not sure exactly what it is that they all have in common, but whatever it

is really clicks for me. I really like the BBC Jeremy Brett Sherlock Holmes.

I'm very fussy about science fiction, fantasy, and horror television: mostly, I find it unwatchable. I liked Farscape a great deal, and I was very fond of a one-season TV show called The Others. I'm also a fan of Sapphire and Steel, for all its flaws, and of the short-lived Dead Like Me, and the first three seasons of Buffy: the Vampire Slayer. And Dark Shadows, which was oh-so-bad and oh-so-much fun. Essentially, any SF or fantasy show I like is doomed. With the exception of Doctor Who. Although I have not seen anything like all of them, I've been a fan of that show since I first saw it in syndication on the local independent TV channel and PBS. (Remember independent TV channels? This was back in the days before cable TV.)

And, um, The Greatest American Hero. Which is actually less bad than I remembered, from my childhood, and which in all its campiness, I still adore.

+++++

Look for *Carnival* and *Undertow* in paperback from Bantam, *Whiskey and Water* from Roc, all available now. *A Companion to Wolves* with Sarah Monette from Tor available later this month. Her mosaic novel *New Amsterdam* from Subterranean Press sold out upon release in a limited hardback and will be available next year in a trade paperback edition. She has short stories recently published in Subterranean Magazine, Baen's Universe and other short story collections with upcoming stories in Asimov's, Realms of Fantasy, and more short story collections. You can find Elizabeth's blog at <http://matociquala.livejournal.com> and her official website at <http://www.elizabethbear.com>

FYI

CASFS Book Discussion

The CASFS Book Discussions are at The Bent Cover 12428 N 28th Drive on the third Tuesday of each month at 7PM. If you haven't read the book, stop by anyway. Our discussions are rarely limited to just the book scheduled for that month. Email questions to book@casfs.org

October 16 - When Worlds Collide by Philip Wylie & Edwin Balmer - Sven Bronson, a South African astronomer, discovers that a pair of runaway planets, Bronson Alpha and Bronson Beta, will soon enter the solar system. The larger one, Alpha, will pass close enough to cause catastrophic damage. Eight months later, after swinging around the Sun, Alpha will return to pulverize the Earth and leave. It is believed that Bronson Beta will remain and assume a stable orbit. Scientists led by Cole Hendron work desperately to build ships to transport enough people, animals and equipment to Bronson Beta in an attempt to save the human race. {Another film adaptation is scheduled for release in 2008}
November 20 - There Will Be Dragons by John Ringo - 1st in a series. In the future there is no want, no war, no disease nor ill-timed death. The world is a paradise—and then, in a moment, it ends. The world had been a paradise until the

(Continued on page 9)

FYI

(Continued from page 8)

Fall, when the holders of the control codes for the world-spanning program called "Mother" fell out in civil war. Scattered across the face of the earth are communities that have returned to the natural life of soil and small farm. In the village of Raven's Mill, Edmund Talbot, master smith and unassuming historian, finds that all the problems of the world are falling in his lap.

December 18 - *Mutineer's Moon* by David Weber. For Lt. Commander Colin MacIntyre, it began as a routine training flight over the Moon. For Dahak, a self-aware Imperial battleship, it began millennia ago when that powerful artificial intelligence underwent a mutiny in the face of the enemy. The mutiny was never resolved-Dahak was forced to maroon not just the mutineers but the entire crew on prehistoric Earth. Dahak has been helplessly waiting as the descendants of the loyal crew regressed while the mutineers maintained control of technology that kept them alive as the millennia passed. But now Dahak's sensors indicate that the enemy that devastated the Imperium so long ago has returned-and Earth is in their path. For the sake of the planet, Dahak must mobilize its defenses. And that it cannot do until the mutineers are put down. So Dahak has picked Colin MacIntyre to be its new captain. Now MacIntyre must mobilize humanity to destroy the mutineers once and for all-or Earth will become a cinder in the path of galactic conquest.

CopperCon 27 Masquerade Winners

Judge's Choice

#104 - Yogi - Bernard (no one knows last name - not on form)

#212 - Vulcan High Priestess - Janeen O'Kerry

Most Funny - #108 - When Animes

Collidge - Alix, Jo, Jessica, Cindy

#107 - Avalanche Sisters - Tea, Bri and Rachel

#310 - Showing Off - R.J. Amblade

Best In Class - Novice - #111 - Black

Dalek - Bernadette Lee

Best In Show - #104 - Yoji - Bernard

The 2007 Hugo Awards

The results of the 2007 Hugo Awards, as announced at Nippon 2007, the 65th World Science Fiction Convention, in Yokohama, Japan, on September 1, 2007, are as follows:

Best Novel: Rainbows End by Vernor Vinge [Tor, 2006]

Best Novella: "A Billion Eves" by Robert Reed [Asimov's Oct/Nov 2006]

Best Novelette: "The Djinn's Wife" by Ian McDonald [Asimov's July 2006]

Best Short Story: "Impossible Dreams" by Tim Pratt [Asimov's July 2006]

Best Related Non-Fiction Book: James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B Sheldon by Julie Phillips [St. Martin's Press, 2006]

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form: Pan's Labyrinth (2006) Screenplay by Guillermo del Toro. Directed by Guillermo del Toro [Picturehouse]

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: Doctor Who - "Girl in the

Fireplace" (2006) Written by Steven Moffat. Directed by Euros Lyn [BBC Wales/BBC1]

Best Editor, Long Form: Patrick Nielsen Hayden

Best Editor, Short Form: Gordon Van Gelder

Best Professional Artist: Donato Giancola

Best Semiprozine: Locus ed. by Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong and Liza Groen Trombi

Best Fanzine: Science-Fiction Five-Yearly ed. by Lee Hoffman, Geri Sullivan, and Randy Byers

Best Fan Writer: Dave Langford

Best Fan Artist: Frank Wu

The winner of the **John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer**, sponsored by Dell Magazines and administered on their behalf by the World Science Fiction Society, is: Naomi Novik

Book Discussion Groups

Fantasy/Sci-Fi Discussion Group
4th Wed, 7pm
Borders, Glendale

Path of the Craft Discussion group discusses Neopagan theories inspired by both fiction and non-fiction books about magic, nature, mythology, and spirituality.

4th Sunday, 6pm
Borders, Phoenix Camelback

Sci-Fi Fantasy Book Club
2nd Thursday, 7pm
Changing Hands/Wildflower Bread Company

Manga Bookclub
1st Tuesdays, 7pm
Borders, Chandler

Manga Bookclub
Oct 20, 7pm
Nov 17, 7pm
Dec 15, 7pm
Barnes & Noble, Goodyear

Graphic Novel Book Club
2nd Sunday, 8:30pm
Four Peaks Brewery, Tempe

Author Signings

Oct 4, 7pm Diana Gabaldon
Changing Hands bookstore

Oct 14, 2pm Stephen R. Donaldson
Michael A. Stackpole
S.M. Stirling
Poisoned Pen bookstore

Nov 27, 6pm Diana Gabaldon
Poisoned Pen bookstore

Dec 29, 7pm James Sallis
Poisoned Pen bookstore

Writer Workshop Seminars

Oct 13. Lorelei Shannon, Yvonne Navarro, Weston Ochse — talking horror. Valencia Branch Library, 202 W. Valencia Road, Tucson.

Science Events

Phoenix Astronomical Society offers to you, at no cost, a chance to get to know your telescope by daytime. Bring your scope, charts, questions, etc, to Bookman's back room and learn with PAS. An RSVP is required - 601-561-5398

Nov 11, 4:30pm
Bookmans Phoenix

Challenger Space Center, Peoria
Stargazing
Oct 13, 7pm
Nov 24, 7pm

Starlab Planetarium

Oct 13, 1130am and 1230pm

Nov 10, 1130am and 1230pm

The Space Place is a 2-hour interactive program for little ones with big imaginations! Designed for children ages 3 through 6, the program features age-appropriate activities designed to teach preschoolers about our planet and solar system. 3rd Mondays, 930am-1130am

SETI Institute's Weekly Science Radio Program
Mondays, avail as podcast
<http://radio.seti.org>

Gaming Events

Worldwide D&D Day
Nov 5, events all day
Game Depot

Pokemon Battle Road Tournament
Oct 7, 10am Free!
Samurai Co mics, Westside location

Family Game Day
Oct 14, noon-6pm
Samurai Comics, 7th St location

Dungeons & Dragons Night
Oct 15, 5pm
Nov 5, 5pm
Nov 19, 5pm
Bookmans, Central

World of Warcraft TCG Tournament
Sundays, 1pm
Entry fee \$5 for regular events \$20 for Marquee Events
Samurai Comics, west side store


Hero-Clix-Super Hero Gaming Night!
Sundays, 6pm
Bookmans Mesa

Dungeons and Dragons RPG Night!
Mondays, 6pm
Bookmans Mesa

Heroclix, open play
Every Tuesday, 4pm-7pm
Every Saturday, 2pm-5pm
Drawn to Comics

Heroclix Tournament
Every Wednesday, 5:30pm-7pm
Game Depot

(Continued on page 10)




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Magic Tournament
Fridays, 6pm, entry fee varies
Samurai Comics, west side store

Other Genre-related Events

Beyond the Star Trek Universe presented by Center for Fundamental Concepts of Science. Featuring Lawrence Krauss, author of "The Physics of Star Trek" and Armin Shimerman, aka Quark from Star Trek: DS9.
Nov 8, 730pm
Tempe Center for the Arts

Psychic Saturday free psychic readings
Oct 6, 12:30pm
Bookmans - Mesa

Scimitar-Talon is a group of people wanting to enjoy recreating portions of the middle ages prior to 1600 AD. Classes on Medieval Arts and Sciences.
1st Saturday, 130pm-230pm
Bookmans Phoenix

Drum & Dance circle, dancers of all types are welcome. This is an 'exchange of energy' "Cyrle" so please come & share.
Hosted by Dave Frankus.
Oct 3, 7pm
Nov 7, 7pm
Bookmans Phoenix

Metaphysical Mondays discussion
Mondays, 7pm
Borders, Glendale

Metaphysical Wednesdays discussion
Wednesdays, 7pm
Borders, Avondale

Metaphysical Fridays discussion
Fridays, 7pm
Borders, Paradise Valley

Across Plus Anime Club
Sundays, 7pm
Bookmans, Central

Beginner Bellydancing
Fridays, 5pm
Bookmans, Central
Thursdays, 7pm
Bookmans, Mesa

Metaphysics Group
2nd & 4th Mondays, 7pm
Bookmans, Speedway, Tucson

Check the web sites for confirmation, location and more information.

<http://www.borders.com>
<http://www.poissonedpen.com>
<http://www.bookmans.com>
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>
<http://www.changinghands.com>
<http://browncoats.lagemann.org>
<http://www.imperialoutpost.com>
<http://www.azchallenger.org>
<http://www.samuraicomics.com>
<http://www.drawntocomics.com>
Game Depot, 480-966-4727
<http://www.library.pima.gov>
<http://www.novaspace.com/Spacefest/>
<http://www.seti.org>

Pro Notes

Hello from sunny (*still!*) Arizona. We just finished our Fall convention, CopperCon 27. I don't know about everyone else, but I had a great time. Well, actually, I guess I do know. Lots of folks came up to me and said they really enjoyed the programming. If any of my out-of-state readers ever get down here for one of our conventions (particularly CopperCon), I hope you come and find me.

Maybe it's the time of the year or maybe it's just a lot of looming deadlines, but I didn't have a whole lot of responses for this month's column. I'm sure I'll have a lot more news next time.

I've one newcomer this month — **Jane Yolen** who hails from Massachusetts. After 20 years, she has finally written the fourth book of the PIT DRAGON trilogy. Yes, she knows—a fourth book in a trilogy is strange. But it's occasionally done. (Think of Le Guin.)

She's calling this one "Dragon's Heart" and will start the revisions as soon as the editor gets her his notes. It will come out first in hardcover, then in paper from Harcourt, hopefully next fall. She said she wrote it because of getting letters and email every week for twenty years from desperate fans, some who read the books in their teens and still, ten and fifteen and twenty years later wanted a fourth book. So, Jane hopes it answers many of the questions she's been asked about what happens to Jakkin, Akki, and the dragons of Austar IV.

Still on the east coast, from New York, **Anne Bishop** shares that the trade editions of "Daughter of the Blood" and "Heir to the Shadows" are now available in the US. (The Trade edition of "Queen of the Darkness" will come out in October.) Several of her other titles have been published abroad. And a number of her books have become available in electronic editions, including the BLACK JEWELS trilogy. "Tangled Webs," a BLACK JEWELS novel, will come out in March 2008 in the US and in April 2008 in Australia. (Check her web site -- www.annebishop.com -- around the end of November to read an excerpt.)

"Dreams Made Flesh" will come out in Portugal around December. "Belladonna" will come out in paperback in the US and also in Germany around March 2008. And a short story called "Stands a God Within the Shadows" will be published in the DAW anthology "Imaginary Friends" around the end of 2008. This year Anne is writing another novel set in the BLACK JEWELS world. It has connections to "The Invisible Ring," but has mostly new characters—along with guest appearances by some of our favorites, like Daemon and Lucivar. The pub date for that one is March 2009.

Larry Niven in California told me that "Fleet of Worlds" with Edward Lerner is ready for October. Ed and Larry have also finished and turned in "Juggler of Worlds".

Finished and in the pipeline is "Inferno 2: Escape From Hell" with Jerry Pournelle. And in Arizona, the only news I have is from

Ernest Hogan who has published another short story, "Human Sacrifice for Fun and Profit" — a wacky romp in which life in the twenty-first century catches up with a renegade science fiction writer! Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. Read it in "Voices for the Cure: A Speculative Fiction Anthology" to Benefit the American Diabetes Association edited by James Palmer. There are also stories by Robert J.

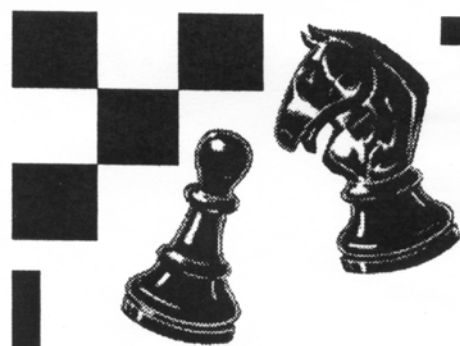
Sawyer, Mike Resnick, Cory Doctorow, and other wild minds. And it's available as a \$9.05 paperback or a \$3.00 download from Lulu.com. Order yours now! Ernest's "Brainpan Fallout," a cyber-gonzo thriller is available on the Red Dog Journal of LaSilencia.com, as if the world wasn't in enough trouble!

Brian Aldiss wrote from the UK to say that his newest novel "HARM" is doing quite well - here and in the States. On Sep 20th, Brian is again in London where the Canadian critic, John Clute, will interview him. Main subject, of course, is again "HARM", so Brian will talk about the new book and old age. He is writing a long article for the 'Sunday Times' and many other shorter items for elsewhere, and is also spawning several short stories for good and bad causes. The U.S. movie "Waiting for the Son", in which Brian has a cameo role, is nearing completion. See www.waitingfortheson.com for a trailer.

Speaking of Canadians, I had several respond this month. First up is **Charles deLint**. His fans rejoice: September sees the release of two books from the beloved author! For younger readers, de Lint offers a delightful combination of realism, magic, humor, and hope in "Little (Grrl) Lost" (Viking Children's Books), a story about a fourteen-year-old girl who makes a surprising new friend: a six-inch-high, punked-out teenage Little who has run away from home. For older readers, "Promises to Keep" (Subterranean Press) sees the return of Jilly Coppercorn, last seen in "Widdershins," in an urban fantasy set in the fictional city of Newford. Charles is on book tour until September 24th. Locations and details are on his website: www.charlesdelint.com.

Ed Greenwood has a great deal to share with us. The novel "The Sword Never Sleeps" (third book in the KNIGHT OF MYTH DRANNOR trilogy) is due out August 2008 from Wizards of the Coast. "Dark Vengeance" (the second NIFLHEIM book from Tor Books) is due out in the fall of 2008, and "Archwizard" (the second book in the FALCONFAR trilogy) from Solaris [an imprint of Black Library, published in the United States by Simon & Shuster], is also due out in fall 2008. The game book is "Embersea," a new fantasy world setting he has created, and it will, in the fullness of time, be published in hardcover by Studio 2 Publishing. Ed is also at work on the usual dozen or so short stories for various anthologies, such as "Too Many Princes" in REALMS OF WAR, due out in early 2008 from Wizards of the Coast. The game front has seen the Wizards of the Coast release in hardcover of "Expedition to Undermountain" (a "super-adventure" Ed co-wrote with three other authors), and his CASTLEMOURN fantasy world from Margaret Weis Productions, also a hardcover. In October "The Grand History of the Realms" (co-written with Brian R. James and four others) will see print (yes, in hardcover) from Wizards of the Coast. He also contributed to "40 Years of Gencon" (edited by Robin D. Laws and published in hardcover by Atlas

(Continued on page 11)



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Pro Notes (Continued from page 10)

Games) and “Hobby Games: The 100 Best” (edited by James Lowder and published by Green Ronin Publishing). The fall of 2007 will see the publication of three new Ed Greenwood novels, and a collection of three older ones. The new releases, all hardcovers (with mass market versions to follow) are “Swords of Dragonfire” (second book in the KNIGHT OF MYTH DRANNOR trilogy, from Wizards of the Coast), “Dark Warrior Rising” (the first NIFLHEIM novel, from Tor Books), and “Dark Lord” (the first book in the FALCONFAR trilogy, from Solaris; there will also be an audiobook version). The collection is “The Annotated Elminster,” due out in November from Wizards of the Coast, which collects together the past bestsellers “Elminster: The Making of a Mage” (1994), “Elminster in Myth Drannor” (1997), and “The Temptation of Elminster” (1998). These first three Elminster books are interspersed with his annotation “essays” and a few line drawings, some of the latter done as long ago as the 1970s.

And, finally... **Rob Sawyer** is proud of his latest award. On Aug 26th, he won China's most prestigious science fiction award, the Galaxy Award, as the “most popular foreign author of the year.”

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*.

ReAnimation

***** **Ergo Proxy Vol. 4 Wrong Way Home**
**** **Ergo Proxy Vol. 5 Terra Incognita**
**** **Case Closed AKA Detective Conan**
**** **Witchblade The Animated Series**

***** **Ergo Proxy Vol. 4 Wrong Way Home**
Geneon, 100 minutes, PG
DVD \$29.98

Back Cover: “Re-I, Vincent and Pino have been re-united but the danger is far from over. Pino enters a cave and discovers a mysterious giant, Re-I is taken over by a not-so-pleasant doppelganger, and Vincent is forced to participate in a game show with deadly results for the loser. Each encounter that obstructs the journey ahead is connected to an inevitable fate and a betrayal no one could expect.” Contains episodes 14-16

I would say that this was the best volume so far. Just like the first three volumes, it draws you in. The game show episode just blew me away with it's change of pace and off the wall craziness. I was delighted with the whole volume. What a ride. One of the most interesting series I have watched in some time. **CLD**.

**** **Ergo Proxy Vol. 5 Terra Incognita**
Geneon, 100 minutes, PG
DVD \$29.98

Back Cover: “The journey to Mosko is approaching its end but not before Re-I, Vincent and Pino discover an appalling revelation about humanities fall from grace. As they wander through Vincent's city, they realize that the answer to his lingering question lies not in the wreckage of the destroyed dome but back in Romdo. All roads lead to the same conclusion and the journey to the end must inevitably lead to a new beginning.” Contains episodes 17-20

Well some of the pieces to the story are coming out in this DVD. Still more questions arise as we start to close in on the conclusion with the sixth DVD. This series is just a mental workout with some action to boot. Once again this series blows me away with a dream episode 19 of Pino's. She is alone in a city called Smile Land that is run by a hand sketch artist called Will B. Good. He looks like Walt Disney. What a trip. How this fits into the rest of the story is your guess. Just weird is all I have to say. **CLD**.

Case Closed AKA Detective Conan
Funimation, 225 minutes, NR
DVD \$ Starter Set \$44.98
Created by Gôshô Aoyama

This is a great series for children and parents alike. You follow the adventures of teenage crime sleuth Shinichi Kudo (American dub it is Jimmy Kudo) who after a case is attacked by two thugs, given a injection of a strange serum and then left for dead. Shinichi recovers but finds himself the age of a child. Taking on the name Conan he convinces his girlfriend Ran Mori (Rachel Moore) and her father the great detective Kogoro Morito (Richard Moore) take him in.

Most of the episodes are stand alone with some having two or three parts. Conan solves varies murder cases all the while trying to find who is responsible for causing his condition. So far in America they have 83 episodes out. In Japan they are up to episode 483. There are also plenty of movies and Mangas to go with this series and there will soon be a video game coming out for the Wii. - **ninjakittyofdoom**

Witchblade The Animated Series Vol 1
Funimation, 100 minutes, NR
Directed by Yoshimitsu Ohashi
DVD \$29.99 Starter Set \$44.98

Being a mother is hard. For Masane it is even harder not only is she a mother but she is also the current Witchblade. Masane and her daughter Rihoko struggle to survive in Tokyo. Everyone seems to be after Masane, a major corporation, the police, and monsters after the Witchblade, even child protective services.

This new series by Gonzo and Top Cow takes the Witchblade story a whole new direction. If you liked the Witchblade comic or live action series you will enjoy this. Oh be warned they have cleaned up the animation and censoring for the DVD release. - **ninjakittyofdoom**

An American in Canada
Part Seven: Prince Rupert's
“Fish Sticks”
by Jeffrey Lu

SeaTrek's final port was Prince Rupert. I decided to pay up and go for the crab fest on a private boat. Little did I know that excursion was going to be the best one I ever had.

Our male guide told us that we'll be eating first. There were crab legs and butter. I ate my fill.

Later, the boat stopped. The male guide asked if there were volunteers to pull first cage. I had my hand up.

The guide gave me one rope. I pulled. There were twelve live crabs in a cage. The guide looked at me for a second. He then told me that they just set the traps for less than an hour. Usually, the fishermen would set the traps for at least a day. He did not expect me to get that many crabs in a short time.

Two other volunteers also obtained a similar number of shellfish.

The male guide shrugged and smiled. He took a ruler and measured all the crabs. He lectured which were females and the legal size of crabs. He then showed which ones stayed for dinner. Out of my cage, I had only two. The rest were thrown back.

Afterwards, he led me and a few other people to the back of the boat. He

demonstrated with three male guests in how to quickly kill a crab. He showed by hitting the crab's head against the railing. The three followed his lead. Last, the guide asked if I wanted to try. I shook my head no.

The touring boat headed for an abandon port. The male guide grinned and lifted something from a cooler. He had two bags of about forty popsicles. He said to me, “Come upfront and get your camera ready!”

Puzzled, I asked what were those frozen things. “Minnows” he said with a laugh. The boat stopped. He then took one and threw it like a stick grenade around twenty feet in front of the boat.

A statue of a bird came to life. It was a bald eagle. The graceful animal swooped down and snatched the fish. It then returned to a tree branch and snacked.

The eagle gave a cry. Not a war cry. Not a sad cry. But something like “Hey, guys! Free lunch!”

Less than a minute, I saw at least twenty of these birds flying near our boat.

One came to me about fifteen feet. I was stunned in seeing these live wild birds up close and personal.

After the last “fish stick” was thrown, the eagles departed to the blue clear sky.

I want to come back with a better camera.

Next up: An American in Canada Part Eight: Final Words

HexaCon 17
CANCELED

It is with regret that we announce that due to the inability to acquire a suitable venue HexaCon 17 has been canceled. We are busy seeking a venue for HexaCon 18 and hope to announce a site and dates before the end of the year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

If you registered for HexaCon 17 you have two choices.

1. If we do not hear from you, your membership will roll over to HexaCon 18 (Pass thrus will automatically roll over to HexaCon 18)

2. If you want a refund, please contact us at
HexaCon 17
PO Box 62613
Phoenix AZ 85082

HexaCon will return in 2008, stronger and better than ever before. Watch our website at www.hexacon.org for updates

If you are interested in helping behnd the scenes or running a game at HexaCon 18 please contact us at the above address or by email at hex18@hexacon.org

Screening Room

Resident Evil: Extinction
Highlander: The Source
Stardust
The Last Legion

Resident Evil: Extinction
Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter,
Iain Glen, Oded Fehr
Director: Russell Mulcahy
Running Time: 95 minutes
Rated: R
Resident Evil Productions, Constatin
Film Produktion, Davis-Films, Impact
Pictures
Distributed by: Sony Pictures
Release Date: September 20th, 2007

I watched this hoping to get at least a two and a half star movie like the first two. I had a surprise waiting, this is a solid four out of five star movie. The action was paced perfectly for my tastes, when there was a break in the action it was just long enough to allow your heart to slow to a regular pace before causing it to jump again. The zombies were perfect foils and even got a power boost during the movie, being injected to be **more** aggressive.

The plot is very basic, the Raccoon Corporation failed to contain the “T-virus” and it killed ninety-five percent of everything. The few surviving humans survive by constantly moving, the zombies are attracted to life and show up whenever humans stay in one place very long. The Raccoon Corp. has several deep complexes and are still experimenting to stop the zombies and recreate Alice.

My favorite two scenes were first, the homage to Hitchcock’s **The Birds**. I’ve never liked crows and this scene just gave me more reason to be distrusting of them. The second is the final scene and I won’t say anything more to prevent spoilers. I thoroughly enjoyed this movie and recommend it to anyone who enjoys gaming or zombie films. - **Bob LaPierre**

Highlander: The Source
Starring: Adrian Paul, Peter Wingfield
Director: Brett Leonard
Running Time: 102 minutes
Rated: R
Davis-Panzer Productions
Distributed by: Lionsgate
Release Date: September 15th, 2007

I watched this movie hoping against hope for a good movie, I would have settled for a “not cr-p” movie. Well so much for hope. I not only won’t recommend this movie I strongly encourage people to avoid it like the “t-virus”. There wasn’t any kind of rhyme or reason to what went on. I will go as far as to say that the original version of *Highlander II* was several magnitudes better than this tripe.

The plot was supposed to be about finding the “best” of the immortals for a special prize from this source. The prize was cr-p, the opponent was cr-p, and the fighting scenes were the worst kind of cr-p. I couldn’t find any sympathy for any of the characters, not even Duncan.

I won’t even deign to rate this movie. - **Bob LaPierre**

Stardust
Directed by Matthew Vaughn
Screenplay by Jane Goldman
and Matthew Vaughn
Based on the novel by Neil
Gaiman. Released by
Paramount Pictures. PG-13
Release Date: August 10

I was *utterly* swept away by this film. *Utterly* charmed.

It’s a lovely fantasy with a lot of delicious left turns; one of which is the pirate Captain Shakespeare performed by Robert de Niro. This is De Niro as you’ve never seen him before. Trust me!

This is the tale of a naïve lad Tristan (Charlie Cox) who must go beyond the Wall of his village (named Wall) in England to the land of Stormhold, where anything can happen and magic abounds. He has decided to find a fallen star for the young and vain Victoria-whom he thinks is the love of his life.

Of course once he finds his fallen star, it turns out the celestial body is indeed, a body—a young woman named Yvaine (Claire Danes).

Ah, the adventures these two go on!

All conspires against them. An evil witch named Lamia played to a sour and evil nicety is Michelle Pfeiffer who wants Yvaine’s power to remain young. (for herself and her two sisters).

Then there is the last surviving Prince of Stormhold who was told by his dying father (Peter O’Toole) that he needs to bring back the star which will prove he’s the one son worthy to be king. Septimus (Mark Strong) is the last prince standing. (He’s number seven—all the others have been killed off—and their shades follow him around providing a hilarious Greek chorus)—so he’s in a real tear to find the star.

And a grubby hedge witch named Ditchwater Sal (Melanie Hill) provides an ongoing obstacle to their journey - she’s in over her head - but plows right along anyway.

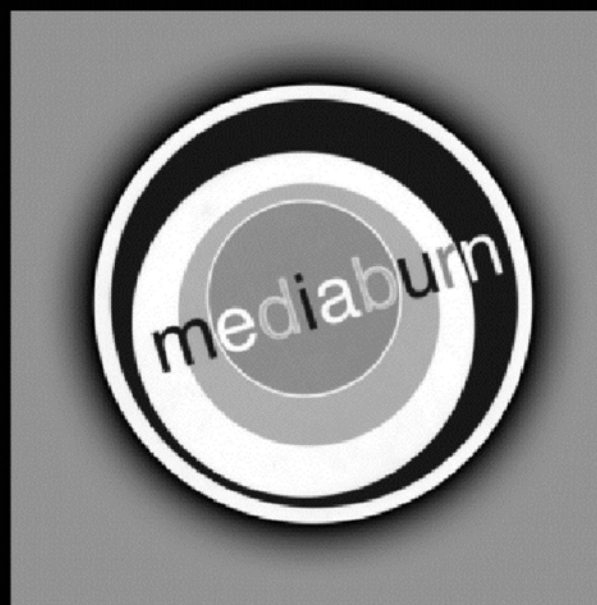
As Tristan and Yvaine make their way back to the village near Wall—they also meet up with Captain Shakespeare and his flying air ship. He and his... *fearsome* crew collect lightning and sell it for profit.

They capture Yvaine and Tristan—and well, you have to see what happens on this ship. Oh my Lord, there is sword fight and battle above and below decks when Septimus catches up with them that will bring tears to your eyes it is so well choreographed and so very funny.

Like all good fairytales—there are morals aplenty—and really—no surprise—a happy ending. But oh, the journey is so full of wonder and humor. There is a satisfying dearth of magical critters and such. There’s magic, but it’s mostly humans transformed. There’s a unicorn and a flying ship and an ensorcelled princess—and witches. All set against dramatic Icelandic and Scottish backgrounds.

For me, this will remain right up there with the “Princess Bride.” It’s not as sly

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and adult (and doesn’t have the amazing array of actors)—but the writing is as satisfying and the actors are engaging and marvelous. Matthew Vaughn who’s known for “Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels” proves a deft hand at moving the fantasy right along. I found no draggy moments.

And the narration provided by Ian McKellan was a nice touch.

Don’t miss this. - **Sue Martin**

Stardust
Starring: Michelle Pfeiffer, Robert De
Niro, Claire Danes, Charlie Cox, Peter
O’Toole
Director: Matthew Vaughn
Runtime: 127 minutes
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: August 10th, 2007
Reviewed by: Len Berger
(ConNotations Film Editor)

Stardust, based on the book by best selling author Neil Gaiman, is a delightful fantasy about love, murder most foul, pirates and magic. The story begins in the Village of Wall so named because it is separated by a cobblestone wall from Stormhold, a mystical magical place where no one from the village is allowed. Luckily for our adventurous residents there is a hole in the wall (present for hundreds of years due no doubt to the failure of FEMA).

Tristan (Charlie Cox) who is in love with Victoria (Sienna Miller) promises to retrieve a fallen star to prove his love for her. Unfortunately, the fallen star has landed outside the wall in Stormhold. Of course, everyone in Stormhold wants the fallen star for their own diabolical purposes and the race is on.

The star turns out to be a beautiful

woman named Yvaine (Claire Danes). Yvaine delivers an outstanding performance as a slightly naive star.

Peter O’Toole is the king of Stormhold but must pass on his reign of power to one of his seven sons. The rules are very simple – kill off the opposition and may the best son left standing win. The ghosts of the eliminated sons are prevalent throughout the film keeping a watchful humorous eye on all the action.

Lamia (Michelle Pfeiffer) is one of three aging witches living in Stormhold. Yvaine can provide them with youth for many many years and Lamia’s quest for Yvaine is filled with adventure and humor.

Captain Shakespeare (Robert De Niro) steals the show as the captain of the flying pirate ship. The fight scene is something to behold and later the captain’s secret is found out by the crew in one hilarious scene. Will the crew turn on the captain or will they remain loyal?

The film is a delight to watch with its outstanding cinematography. The score is equally impressive and sets the mood for the audience scene after scene.

Check out the website: www.stardustmovie.com. Rated PG-13 for some fantasy violence (oh don’t we love this stuff) and a bit of crude humor.

This film is just plain FUN. Sit back, relax and enjoy your trip to Stardust, it’s worth the price of admission. I would highly recommend the film and rate it an “A”.

The Last Legion
Starring: Colin Firth, Ben Kingsley,
 Thomas Sangster, Aishwarya Rai
Director: Doug Leffler (Dragonheart: A
 New Beginning)
Runtime: 110 minutes
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: August 17

As history would have it, around 470 A.D. the last of the Caesars fell to an assassin's blade; an event that closely preceded the fall of the great Roman Empire. In *The Last Legion*, the young emperor takes a different path. With the remnants of his personal army; General Aurelius (Colin Firth), the sage teacher Ambrosinus (Ben Kingsley), a warrior woman from the Eastern Empire – Mira (Aishwarya Rai), and three soldiers, they set off in search for the Ninth Legion, located in Britannia. This, in the hopes that the lost legion will pledge their loyalty to the newly crowned emperor and return with him to wrest control of the Roman Empire away from the Germans.

Their journey is plagued by the efforts of Wulfila (Kevin McKidd) and his band of German warriors. Wulfila killed Romulus' (Thomas Sangster) parents during the attack on Rome and would like to put an end to the Caesars lineage by killing the young emperor.

The movie is based on the novel by Valerio Massimo and as original a premise as this story presents, I plan to pick up the book and see how comes across in its original form. There is a little twist to the story that makes for an interesting ending and I will leave it to the viewers to discover that on their own.

On the week I saw the movie, there were limited theaters that had it and the one I attended had only a single showing in the morning. Personally, I enjoyed the movie, but it may have been too cutesy for many. The quality of the writing and acting in it were closer to a made-for-tv movie than what I expect from a feature film. Colin Firth is excellent in most of the roles I have seen him, but I couldn't accept him as a tough general leading the finest fighting troops the world knew at that time.

Aishwarya Rai is beautiful and it was a joy to watch her fight choreography. She is the romantic interest in the story apparently because one is expected to be there. The motivation for deserting her nation in order to fall in with this band of rebels is marginal at best. And since she is there with the handsome and heroic Aurelius you expect her to fall in love with him, but it would have been nice to know what it is she sees in him that escaped my notice.

I regret not having taken my children with me, as they would have thoroughly enjoyed the film. There is a lot of action, some funny characters, and nothing objectionable for the very young to see or hear. For those of you who like the Hercules and Xena television series, you should enjoy this – probably more so as a rental. In fact, I plan to do exactly that and watch it again, this time with my children.
 - Randy Lindsay

ConClusion

**Comic-Con International 2007:
 The Galactus of Conventions**
 By Shane Shellenbarger

I did it again. I subjected myself to rubbing elbows, hips, and other body parts with nearly 130,000 perfect (and imperfect) strangers for the 38th Annual San Diego Comic-Con International (my 34th and possibly last.) The huge exhibit hall, the massive media presence, the recreation of the Bataan Death March (courtesy of the Fire Marshal.) Yes, it was the best of times; it was the worst of times. I did it; I survived to tell the tale, so here we go.

If you've never gone to Comic-Con (hereafter referred to as S.D.C.C.) and you have any interest in comic books, films, or television, go. It's as simple as that, go. S.D.C.C. is an E*X*P*E*R*I*E*N*C*E*!

If you haven't been to S.D.C.C. since it's moved from the U.S. Grant Hotel, or Muir College, or the El Cortez Hotel, or the Sheraton on Harbor Island, or back to the El Cortez, or to the Convention and Performing Arts Center, or back to the El Cortez, or back to the Convention and Performing Arts Center, or to the San Diego Convention Center (its present home since 1991,) give serious thought to what you are about to undertake: Crowds in the thousands, hotel costs nearing six Benjamin's (and that's for a crummy room,) inflated food prices, transportation nightmares each day, and other issues too numerous to go into. However, if you want the opportunity to see and hear the movers and shakers from a multitude of industries, if you want to bear witness to the pioneers of comic book history, if you want to encounter the new wave of artists and performers, then there is nothing like S.D.C.C.

As for me, I was able to manage (just able) this year by staying away from the massive media events in Halls H and 20: *Lost*, *Heroes*, *The Simpsons Movie*, *Battlestar: Galactica*, *The Bionic Woman*, and Zachary Quinto and Leonard Nimoy for *Star Trek XI*. I'm sure that Lee Whiteside covered many of those events (he seemed to be reasonably healthy and sane when I saw him at the Spotlight on Joe Straczynski.) As long as you didn't need the use of a lavatory, food, or drink (it is all interrelated, you see) you could easily campout in a single room all day, since the committee doesn't clear the room after each program.

Even so, limiting my program attendance to programming rooms 1-8 still involved entering the room through one door, exiting the room through another door, entering a hallway from the East side, exiting down and around the hall on the opposite side, and spending more time than I cared for to plot the shortest route from Room 8 to Room 1. It wasn't until Sunday when I heard that restroom re-entry passes were available (the pass let you re-enter the programming room after you'd gone to the restroom, you silly goose.)

One nice thing about the convention is getting together with old friends. Granted, most of my friends who used to attend

"...may be the most ambitious filk project ever undertaken by anyone...if you simply like a good fantasy story, you're going to like *Stardust County*."

-Tom Tuerff, *ConNotations*

"It's gorgeous. Go buy a copy."

-Steve Savitzky, *The Mandelbear's Musings*

STARDUST COUNTY
 .com

S.D.C.C. have given up on Comic-Con, but some of them are forced by their employer to attend. I was able to get together on Friday evening with John Clark, Gemstone Publishing's editor-in-chief for the Disney comics line; and since I hadn't seen John in about a year, spending time with him was the highlight of the convention.

However, I was able to listen to Rob Paulsen, Jess Harnell, Cory Doctorow, Syd Mead, Gary Owens, Andrea Romano, Mark Evanier, Mark A. Altman, Robert Meyer Burnett, Daren Dochterman, Jeff Bond, The Pixar Story: To Infinity and Beyond, Harry Turtledove, Peter David, R.A. Salvatore, Paul Dini, Orson Scott Card, Richard Christian Matheson, Wally Wingert, Kathy Garver, Joe Alaskey, Max Allan Collins, David Morrell, Scott Shaw!, Maurice LaMarche, Joe Straczynski, Mike Nelson, Kevin Murphy, Bill Corbett, Alana Ubach, Carlos Alazraqui, Tom Kenny, Michael Bell, April Stewart, and Gregg Berger.

Oh yes, I lived and I mostly enjoyed it, but I've been asking myself if it's all worthwhile. I'll have to let you know.

Comic-Con International 2007

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

Shane Shellenbarger's Blog

<http://0wanderingattention.blogspot.com/2007/09/comic-con-international-2007-galactus.html>

J.M. Straczynski at Comic-Con 2007

<http://movies.ign.com/articles/808/808908p1.html>

"Heroes" at Comic-Con 2007

http://www.nbc.com/Heroes/video/video_display.shtml#mea=135233

Tim Kring at Comic-Con 2007

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Tom Spurgeon's comments on attending Comic-Con

<http://www.comicsreporter.com/index.php/>

Mark Evanier's comments on Comic-Con 2007

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[YouTube videos of Comic-Con 2007](http://www.cinematical.com/2007/07/30/comic-con-interview-kevin-bacon-talks-to-us-about-death-senten/)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXtAAogokW8>

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Comic Con
 By Lee Whiteside

The San Diego ComicCon International is so big that you basically need to decide what convention you want to make for yourself. Do you want to concentrate on comics, movies, TV, Anime, or a specific creator/author/artist? This year, I elected to make my ComicCon experience primarily focus on Neil Gaiman, but I still took in other things as well.

The convention pretty much takes over the San Diego convention center downtown and fills up any available hotel

room in the area, running for four full days (Thursday through Sunday) with a three hour preview night where attendees get a chance to shop in the exhibit hall without having to worry about catching any panels. The crowd for Wednesday night's preview night was very big with the aisles in the exhibit hall as crowded as most days usually are. Fans were jostling for the various exclusives and giveaways being handed out by the vendors.

One of the highlights of this year's ComicCon International were some special screenings arranged for three movies based on Neil Gaiman works. First up was one for *Beowulf*, for which a screening was held on Wednesday night with Neil Gaiman and co-screenwriter Roger Avary. I wasn't able to make it to it due to the lack of information at the Paramount booth on the screening. From reports of the screening, Gaiman and Avary introduced about twenty minutes of 3D footage of *Beowulf* that impressed the audience members who were able to get in.

With the bigger crowd expected on Thursday, the convention arranged for two of their big movie studio presentations to happen in the big Hall H on Thursday for the first time. Paramount Pictures filled the hall and rewarded fans with short panels on multiple films, including a look at *Stardust* with Neil Gaiman and screenwriter Jane Goldman, *Beowulf* with co-screenwriters Neil Gaiman and Roger Avary, J.J. Abrams talking briefly about his monster movie codenamed *Cloverfield*, a Star Trek movie panel where they introduced who is playing Spock (Zachary Quinto AND Leonard Nimoy) in the movie, a look at the upcoming *Spiderwick Chronicles* with Holly Black, and the first screening of *Iron Man* footage. They even arranged for a live video feed from the set of *Indiana Jones IV* with Steven Spielberg and the cast including announcing that Karen Allen would indeed be returning as Marion Ravenwood. Lionsgate followed Paramount with a look at their upcoming movies such as *3:10 to Yuma* and *Saw IV*.

Thursday night was a preview screening of *Stardust*, with Neil Gaiman and Jane Goldman introducing the movie and holding a short Q&A session afterwards. As it grew nearer to the start of the *Stardust* screening, the theatre filled up and Neil and Jane were introduced and did a short introduction for the film before it was screened and then did a Q&A session afterwards. After the film ended, the audience gave Neil and Jane a standing ovation as they went back to the front of the stage for the Q&A session. As Neil had indicated onstage earlier in the day, the movie is different from the book in such a way as to describe the book as the Earth-1 version of the story while the movie is the Earth-2 version. The story was restructured a bit so that we actually met up with Tristan Thorne much earlier in the movie and he has a much quicker journey to where the star has landed. When asked about the role of Captain Shakespeare and if it was expanded for the movie because they signed up Robert DeNiro, Goldman indicated that the role had been expanded as part of creating the

movie script and that it grew a bit more when DeNiro was brought on board. Gaiman talked about when he visited the set and was able to walk around on the full-size flying ship set. He recounted that he put a flying ship in the story because he thought it would be neat to have Charles Vess draw a flying ship as part of the illustrations. It took him a few minutes to write it, and probably a few hours for Charles to draw it. When he was standing on the set that took workers two months to build and several million dollars, he started to feel a bit guilty about it, though.

During the run of the convention, there was always lots to see on the exhibit floor. Movie studio exhibits included a giant *Pirates of the Caribbean* ship, life size polar bears for *The Golden Compass* and the Lucasfilm pavilion celebrating *Star Wars* (including a life size Jabba the Hut). The comics companies were busy as usual with a lot of writers and artists on hand to sign books and comics. There was a good turnout from book publishers, with Del Rey, Random House, Tor and other publishers on hand with some of their authors signing at their booth or up in the autograph area after a panel. This included Orson Scott Card, Laurell K. Hamilton, Cory Doctorow, Tad Williams and others. Down at the far end of the hall were a lot of fantasy illustrators including Donato Giancola, Kinuko Y. Craft, Stephen Martinieri, Charles Vess and Brian and Wendy Froud. Fan groups had tables up on the Mezzanine including Browncoats, Klingons, and Stormtroopers and there were always a lot of fans running around in costume.

Friday was a busy day at the convention with a full slate of movie and TV panels, and lots of comic panels. MGM had panels on *Stargate SG-1* and *Stargate Atlantis*. Warner Bros. spotlighted their upcoming movies including *Watchmen*. The CW's *Reaper* was originally scheduled to screen earlier in the day, but that was changed to screen it during Kevin Smith's panel in Hall H, since Smith directed the pilot episode. FOX pulled out of the convention claiming they didn't have enough material ready to screen at the con, causing a bit of a hole in Hall H that was filled by a Trailer Park presentation of movie trailers and expanding some of the other presentations before and after the scheduled time.

Neil Gaiman's spotlight panel was on Friday and was well attended. He didn't have anything prepared so took questions from the audience for an hour covering topics on a wide range of subjects including how Alan Moore nicknamed him Scary Trousers, his early experiences at ComicCon, his first time working with Charles Vess, and an update on the current status of the various film projects based on his work.

Warner Home Video also held a panel to preview *Babylon 5: The Lost Tales* with B5 creator J. Michael Straczynski on hand along with cast members Bruce Boxleitner (President Sheridan), Tracey Scoggins (Captain Lochley), and Peter Woodward (Galen). They screened a couple of clips from the DVD and took questions from the crowd. Peter Woodward had a ball making good-natured quips about visiting Tracey at Hooters and Bruce in the old folks home.

Friday night was the Eisner Awards for the best of the year in comics. What was reported about the most, however, was Jonathon Ross snogging Neil Gaiman when they were presenting together as a tribute to the Britney Spears/Madonna kiss at the MTV Video awards. That's what happens when you share the stage with a British comedian/talk show host....

Saturday saw a somewhat lighter crowd than Friday due in part to the convention limiting Saturday memberships so that they wouldn't have the situation last year when they had to stop selling tickets. Hall H as usual had a lot of movie stuff going on, the most talked about was the panel for *Resident Evil: Extinction*, part of the Columbia/Screen Gems panel where they had a hundred models all dressed like Milla Jovovich's character from the movie (she has a bunch of clones made in the movie) parading around the exhibit hall and ending up in the hall during the panel. TV Panels on Saturday included screening of the pilots for *Pushing Daisies*, *The Sarah Connor Chronicles*, and *Bionic Woman*,

panels on *Who Wants to Be a Superhero*, *Kyle XY*, *Smallville*, and a TV Guide panel with a group of actors from popular shows. Filling up Hall 20 (which seats around 4500 with many left in line) were panels on *Battlestar Galactica* and *Heroes*.

Also on Saturday were spotlight panels on J. Michael Straczynski and Joss Whedon, both of whom had good crowds for their sessions and updated fans on their various projects. Straczynski talked about how his career has reached a high point with his recent script sales to big-name Hollywood producers and feels like he has finally made it. Whedon talked a bit about dropping out of the *Wonder Woman* film and indicated that he might be gearing up to produce the long discussed *Ripper* miniseries for the BBC that will feature Rupert Giles.

During the Rogue/Focus pictures panel in Hall H on Saturday, Neil Gaiman once again took the stage, this time with director Henry Selick to talk about the stop motion 3D animated movie based on

(Continued on page 16)

FiestaCon

(Westercon 62)

July 2-5, 2009

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, Arizona

www.fiestacon.org

FiestaCon Guests of Honor

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Author Alan Dean Foster

Editor Stanley Schmidt

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Membership Rates

(Through 12/31/2007)

\$50 full attending , \$30 Supporting
See fiestacon.org for info on discounts if you pre-supported or voted in site-selection.

FiestaCon Contact Information

Chairman: Mike Willmoth

Mail: FiestaCon
c/o Leprecon Inc
PO Box 26665
Tempe AZ 85285-6665

Phone: 480-945-6890

Email: fiestacon@leprecon.org,
mwillmoth@earthlink.net

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AniZona 4

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Our Guests

Richard Epcar is well known to Anime fans, starting with the original 'Robotech' series. He is the voice of "Etamon" in *Digimon* as well as 'Batou' in the 'Ghost in the Shell' movie, the game, the series, 'Ghost in the Shell-Stand Alone Complex', 'Solid State Society' and 'Ghost in the Shell 2-Innocence', which he also adapted and directed into English. Most recently he can be heard as 'Zangetsu' in 'Bleach'

Ellyn Stern started in Anime with the original 'Robotech' series- in which she played several characters. She has also voiced characters in *Digimon*. Most recently she can be heard as 'Yu's Mom' on 'Noein' and 'Jack's Mom' in *Mar*. She voiced 'Haraway' in 'Ghost in the Shell 2-Innocence'

David Vincent is from the hit series *GUN X SWORD* as the voice of Van. He can also be heard as Fikusuke Hikyakuya in *Naruto*, and in video games as Chester in *Tales of Phantasia*, as Lt. Dan Rhodes in *QUAKE 4*, Grimmjow Jeagerjaques in *Bleach: Shattered Blade* and as Ray in *Disaster: Day of Crisis* for the Nintendo Wii. Other recent credits include TV appearances on *Criminal Minds* (CBS) and *NCIS* (CBS).

Chris Hazelton - Manga Artist working on films such as "End of Days", "The Hurricane", "Thirteen Days" and "Spy Game". In 2002, Chris produced his first comic online and in print, "Building 12". Chris began pursuing drawing comics as a full time career and in 2006 signed on with Demented Dragon to write and illustrate the comic series "A Steel Wing Shattered".

Amanda Tomasch is the publishing editor for the manga division of Demented Dragon. Some of Amanda's early work included Saturday morning TV shows and a few independent animated films. She is the author and concept artist along with the artist Aachen Li for a new manga series of three graphic novel books titled "Midnight Blue" set for release in mid 2007.

Toshifumi Yoshida is a producer who got his start as a founding member of Animag and then spent time at VIZ working on *Inuyasha*. He is currently working as a translator on the *Negima!* Manga series for Del Rey.

Trish Ledoux is a voice actress and translator who often works with her husband Toshifumi Yoshida. Her credits include *Outlanders* as Princess Kahm, *Macross II* as Wendy Ryder and *Fatal Fury: The Motion Picture* as Reiko Chiba.

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Natz started his music career as a guitarist in 1994 in Saitama, Japan in a band called LUPPY. In 2002, he came to the US to study and now lives in CA. His music is influenced by Japanese pop and rock though he also listens to 80's metal.

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ConClusion (Continued from page 14)

Gaiman's Hugo, Nebula, British Science Fiction, Locus Poll, and Bram Stoker award winning story *Coraline*. They formally announced a special screening that night with passes being handed out at the Rogue Focus pictures booth later that afternoon. I managed to get by the booth and get a pass, although it appeared that the passes that were more popular were those for a preview screening of *Balls of Fury*.

The crowd was a mixture of Gaiman fans (a couple of girls dressed up as Death and Delirium), industry types and Gaiman's family (his daughter Maddy and son Mike) as well as his assistants who had been watching over him all weekend. Neil Gaiman and Henry Selick sat down in the front of the theatre and started with showing various test footage of each of the major characters including Coraline (voiced by Dakota Fanning), her Mother and the Other Mother (both voiced by Teri Hatcher), her rubbernecked Father (voiced by John Hodgman), the obese Miss Forcible and top-heavy Miss Spink (voiced by Dawn French and Jennifer Saunders, respectively). Selick noted that French and Saunders had originally been cast with the other roles (French as Miss Spink and Saunders as Miss Forcible) but that when they were doing readings, something seemed to be missing. When they had them switch parts, it really clicked and that is how it has ended up. The look of the character design in the movie is different from the Dave McKean illustrations in the original book and were primarily developed by visual designer Tadehiro Uesugi. We saw test footage of characters walking and moving as well as some test footage with syncing the faces up to the dialogue. In most footage there was still a line below most characters' foreheads that is part of the physical puppet. Selick indicated that they planned to remove those for the final film as well as the visible support beams needed for some characters. Gaiman indicated he kind of liked those lines on the face and hope they stay in. I guess we'll find out when the movie is released next year how it ends up. After concluding showing us the test footage, they asked us to put on our 3D glasses and screened a mostly completed section of the film lasting about ten minutes that showed Coraline discovering the door between her house and the Other house and ending with the discovery of the Other Mother with her noticeable difference from her real mother. The 3D is more subtle in the real world and is more noticeable in the Other world. The footage looked very good and the look of the film is really outstanding visually. Selick said that when they decided to do it in 3D, they redesigned and rebuilt some of the sets to make it work better in 3D and it really did look good. I think this will set a new standard for stop motion animation and will be worth catching by viewers of all ages. After the screening was done, Gaiman and Selick took a few more questions and then it was announced that those with pieces of paper stuck under their seats with stars on them would be getting a special poster made for this event and that Gaiman and Selick would sign.

Sunday was the wrapup day, which still featured TV panels on *Tin Man*, *The Page 16*

4400, *Jericho* and a TV Guide panel on *Super(natural) Women*. According to the organizers, this year's attendance was at the 125,000 level again, with more of the attendees being there on Thursday and Sunday in response to overcrowding issues from last year. They have indicated they are contracted with San Diego for several years and have no plans on moving the convention elsewhere. So, if you plan to go next year, start making your plans now at www.comic-con.org

You want Authors? We got Authors! and some Green Slime, too! A Report on BuboniCon 39 by Lee Whiteside

I made it to Bubonicon (for the second time last weekend) which is a small, but growing, convention that's been going for quite a while, 39 years to be exact. It was held at the Airport Wyndham hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico this year. The majority of the local new Mexico authors come out to take part and they usually have a good number of authors coming from nearby areas as well as a few from out of town. It is a fairly relaxed convention and a lot of the authors hang around to chat with fans and each other, hang out at the bar or in the lobby, or sit in the audience for panels with other authors.

This year's Author GoH was Vernor Vinge, with William Stout as Artist GoH and Jane Lindskold as Toastmaster. Other authors participating included Connie Willis, Daniel Abraham, Walter Jon Williams, Melinda Snodgrass, Carrie Vaughn, and more. George R.R. Martin wasn't scheduled to participate, but did show up to hang out and participate in the group signing.

Bubonicon has steadily grown in recent years from an average attendance in the 300 range to drawing consistently over 500 attendees, but keeping it more like a smaller con. They had two and a half tracks of programming, with a main room for most of the discussion panels and special events, a second room with mostly readings and smaller panels, and a third room used about half the time for demos, workshops and fan panels. Their con suite was well stocked, their art show had a good selection of art, and the dealers room had a good selection of merchandise, especially books from several vendors. They had a gaming room that usually had quite a bit going on throughout the convention.

Highlights for me included Connie Willis' "50 Minutes With" where she discussed the current state of her new novel, *All Clear* (she's still working on it and it's been five years, World War II is *big*, but it is nearly done), and also read from her new novella, "All Seated on the Ground," being published in the December Asimov's. It is a pretty funny story and I'm glad we won't have to wait too long before being able to read the rest of it. It's about a group of aliens who land in Denver, come out of their ship, and just stand there. For months. Without anything getting a reaction from them - until they all sit down when hearing a Christmas carol. Connie left us with the line "Whatever you do, don't play them any more Christmas carols!"

Friday night saw their late night

charity auction, running very late but raising a good amount of money for Jane Lindskold's Wild Spirit Wolf Sanctuary and the Jack Williamson collection. Some of the auctioned books were bought and then immediately turned over to the Williamson Collection's curator as a direct donation in addition to the cash raised.

Saturday's main attraction was the mass autographing session mid-afternoon where almost all of the participating authors were available to sign their books. Mark Ferrari was one of the authors on hand, happy to sign copies of his first novel, *The Book of Joby*. Ferrari recently decided what he really wanted to be was a writer even with a successful career as an artist. George R.R. Martin was on hand with the jacket cover of the new Wild Cards collection being published by Tor with Carrie Vaughn, Ian Tregillis, Daniel Abraham and Melinda Snodgrass contributing. Also on hand were Stephen R. Donaldson, Walter Jon Williams, Matthew Jarpe, and S.M. Stirling.

They also held a remembrance panel late in the day on Saturday, with Connie Willis and Melinda Snodgrass talking about Jack Williamson and Fred Saberhagen, both of whom passed away in the last year. Members of Williamson's family were not able to attend due to services for Richard A. Hauptmann, a friend of Jack who passed away on August 20th. Connie, Melinda and other authors and fans related stories about Jack, Fred and Richard. Robert Vardemann related one anecdote about Jack Williamson during the Phoenix WorldCon in 1978. Jack was SFWA President and Robert was Vice-President. With the hotel being a stickler on corkage, they knew that if they bought their drinks through the hotel, there wouldn't be enough for Jerry Pournelle, let alone everyone else. So Jack and Robert went shopping and loaded up their luggage with the booze, carrying it past the hotel staff to the SFWA suite. Walter Jon Williams related a party he attended one year where Fred Saberhagen was showing off some vampire teeth he had recently had made through a dentist.

Saturday night's masquerade had a few entries and the Darth Maul's Dance Hall seemed to be a big success.

Jane Lindskold interviewed Vernor Vinge for the author Guest of Honor spotlight panel on Sunday and Steven Gould did a presentation on the *Jumper* movie coming out soon based on his novel series.

During their Sunday fund raising auction, one of their annual traditions is auctioning off a copy of John Lymington's *Froomb!*, a really bad novel that is auctioned off each year with the winner having to read it and write comments in the book. This has been going on for several years and they have recently added a copy of Lymington's other novel, *The Green Drift*, to the package. This year it went for \$100!

To close out the convention, the Green Slime awards was presented by Kathy K. Kubica. There wasn't a really outstandingly bad movie this year, but *Underdog* was awarded for being a movie that really wasn't needed. Other awards went to SciFi for mucking with the *Dresden Files* and then canceling it

without giving it a chance, Laurell K. Hamilton for her continuing decline as an author, The Creation Museum, and a Superman toy with sound effects and glowing eyes when his heat vision comes on that looks demonic.

CopperCon 27- Spotter, Please! by Jeffrey Lu

I usually go to both Barry Bard's Memorial Previews for free stuff. (I actually ended up near last but I got an Epic Movie t-shirt and a hat "The Greatest Game Ever Played." I might use the hat if I ever again win a poker tournament. Yeah, right.) Also, I go to the United Federation of Phoenix, a Star Trek club, for their Jeopardy game on a Friday night. (First team went last. The next round was second place.)

Comically, I went to a Costume Guild party on Friday night. Little did I know that the next day Masquerade (costume contest) would need help.

To put a long story short - after drinking a few, I volunteered as a "spotter." (Spotters were people in dark clothes near the stairs to assist the costumed contestants down the stage to the floor without falling on their tush.) I had no clue what I was to do but the job was the next day around 5pm.

Well, I was there with others to lift equipment from a truck and put up curtains for the stage. Later, I became again, a chair person. (With others, I had to arrange some chairs for the judges and the audience).

Finally, I did my job as a spotter. The costumes were amazing.

During halftime, I sat and watched the music show. It was good but strangely, very long. Kids were sleeping on the floor. Others were exiting in pairs.

Curious, I decided to find what was going on with the judges. I went behind the curtain and found out there were some computer glitches. One problem was the program that kept triplicate each contestant's award.

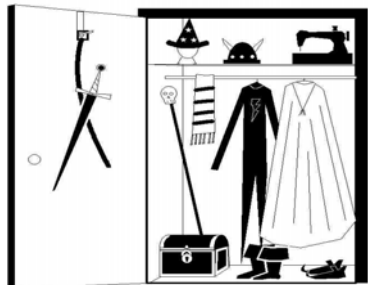
Returning back, I noticed the filk singer was packing his guitars. I then proceeded to be at my station to help the judges and costume contestants up and down the stage.

Afterwards, I helped put the curtains down and move the equipment back to the truck. Next time, I'll be in a costume.

CORRECTION

The photo of Heather Stern in the CopperCon 27 program book was not properly credited. The photo was taken by Ian Kluff. We regret the omission

The Costume Closet



Outfitting the Firefly 'Verse Part the Second: The Rest of the Big Damned Heroes

by Randall Whitlock

With its wild west metaphors, Asian influences, and sprinklings of unexpected high tech, The 'verse of Joss Whedon's "Firefly" and "Serenity" provides a rich canvas of characters, well-suited to the interests of SF convention hall costumers. I began this article last issue with a detailed discussion of Captain Malcolm Reynolds costume. Let's finish up with some quick sketches of the other "Big Damned Heroes."

Zoe's clothes bear some resemblance in style to Captain Mal's, being very western-inspired and including a work shirt and tall boots. Zoe even had her own version of a browncoat, though it was more of a tan. To my mind, Zoe's most distinctive garment is her leather vest (revealed to be body armor). This has a V neck line and fitting seams from the underarm to the hem not unlike the bodice of an Austrian "dirndl" peasant dress. The vest was somewhat open at the sides, secured with four pairs of straps and buckles. She wore a leather belt with a flat, square brass buckle over the vest. Zoe's sidearm, a sawed-off, lever-action carbine, might be worth re-creating.

Wash's look often involved a dull green or brown flight suit, sometimes surmounted by a bright Hawaiian shirt. A molded harness over the flight suit was added for the film. Suitable flight suits can be found at military surplus stores. I've had some truly tasteless ideas for Halloween, but I won't give details about cinema's most infamous spoiler.

Kaylee was most often seen in mechanic's coveralls, with or without sleeves. The sleeveless ones revealed bright floral blouses underneath. The coveralls featured embroidery with gentle, often childlike motifs such as teddy bears or flowers. Her paper parasol makes for a good hand prop. The more ambitious hall costumer might try to recreate her layer-cake gown from "Shindig."

Jayne's outfit usually consisted of BDU cargo trousers and boots with a brown T-shirt. His shirts had art motifs, brand logos, and mysterious slogans in Chinese or English. Over this were harnesses of assorted deadly weapons. A trip to the surplus store should outfit you just fine. The knit hat with earflaps made by Jayne's mother has become as much a symbol of Firefly fandom as the browncoat itself.

Inara's elegance was expressed simply, with deeply colored, shiny satins and brocades arranged into saris and long, slinky dresses with shawls. If you can get the long, wavy, glossy black hair right, you'll get quick recognition from the other fen.

Dr. Simon Tam's clothing seems to be divided into formal and casual modes. In formal mode, he is often seen in dark

trousers and coat, white shirt, tie, and any of several satiny patterned vests with high necklines. These vests can be purchased at menswear stores, usually as part of a set with matching bow tie to be worn with a tuxedo. The round sunglasses from his first appearance in the pilot episode would make a nice touch. These can be found at Wild West Mercantile.

In casual mode, Simon is likely to wear a British commando sweater with leather patches at the shoulders. Look for these in militaria catalogs. Both costume modes may be difficult to pull off if you

don't bear a strong physical resemblance to the character. Simon's "Member of Parliament" disguise from "Serenity" would be a worthwhile project in itself, especially the short staff he seems to have borrowed from Daredevil.

River Tam arrived on Serenity without a stitch to her name. All of her clothes are borrowed and therefore mismatched. She tends toward short dresses or long sweaters, always with her dancer legs revealed. Sometimes she is barefoot to emphasize the dance moves, other times she wears clunky granny boots for contrast. River is another character that would be difficult to pull off without some resemblance to the actress. Her unitard with metal plates from the "Academy" would get instant recognition.

Shepherd Book's most recognizable garment is the gray dickie (sleeveless, flat-fronted vest thing) with white ecclesiastic collar. Be sure to get the hair right, whether you go for the white bun in back, its exploded form from "Jaynestown," or the cornrows seen in the big damned movie.

Other notable characters from the series include the criminals Badger and Niska. Badger wears a somewhat careworn suit with coat vest, tie and NO SHIRT, as well as his trademark bowler hat. Work on your east London accent.

Adlai Niska wears a double-breasted pinstriped suit in the fashion of old-time movie gangsters, but the coat has no lapels. His distinctive eyeglasses can be ordered from JAS Townsend and Son, Inc. at www.jas-townsend.com. These frames meet all standards for prescription eyewear

and you can have your optician do them up with your prescription. I have two pairs, one for indoors and the other as prescription sunglasses.

If you are a big, heavyset guy, Niska's enforcer, Crow, might make a good look for you. Just look out for engine intakes. Other possibilities include Nandy's girls, or the infamous Yo-Saff-Bridge.

Perhaps the best option for a general purpose hall costume is not to reenact a specific character, but to go for a general Firefly "look." You can combine elements from several of the better-known

characters, or just clothes that look right together. Cowboy boots, pants with suspenders, frock coats, long "duster" coats and other western items combined with the odd high tech prop or piece of Chinese clothing (frogged hemp jackets, dragon robes, etc) would work well. T-shirts marked "browncoat" or with the Serenity ship logo are seen all over the con and the mundane world.

Get paid, keep flying, and have fun at the convention.

Special thanks to Shawna Trpcic for creating such inspiring costumes for Firefly in the first place.



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In Our Book

Breakfast with the Ones You Love
by Eliot Fintushel
Bantam Books, \$12.00, 275 pp

The cover by Stephen Youll shows a young woman from the cheekbones down, with Angelina Jolie lips, bracelets whose colors denote various virtues on her right arm, Goth stud jewelry on her left, a rocket ship and 2 stars dangling from her belt chain, and a comet in a crystal ball hovering between her hands.

Lea is 16, an orphan, and she inadvertently makes people sick or even kills them if she gets upset. To control her wild talent, she has cultivated a dead face, a frozen heart, and a 'you don't see me' approach to apparel. She works as a dishwasher in a joint called the Wee Spot and lives in the home of a lonely old lady, Mrs. Bobson, whose own daughter died years ago in a car accident. Lea despises and ignores Mrs. Bobson, slipping in and out of the house when she is asleep. She also stiff-arms her boss, Sarge, and the waitress Sylvia. Tule, a cat, is her only companion. All this began to change the night she used her ability to kill to save the life of Yakov, a young man who frequents the Wee Spot. Now the two of them, the Yid and the Shiksie, as they call each other, are preparing a sacred space – a spaceship – in which a miracle can occur: the joining of the earthbound 13 and the 3 supernal souls, and their departure for the supernal Ishrael. Yakov is one of the 13. Lea wants to go along, and there is one extra berth for a translator, so she takes up languages. She also starts wearing eye-catching, heart-stopping outfits left behind by Mrs. Bobson's daughter.

As she and Yakov are falling in love, everyone wants a piece of Lea. The mob wants to use her talent to ensure that a certain fight ends profitably. There is a mysterious stranger with a nose ring who is following Lea. Sylvia has her own agenda. And the Devil Himself wants to prevent the 13 and 3 from coming together and departing. He takes an increasingly active and direct role in interfering. Lea and Yakov have allies, however: the 10, the *minyan*, whose prayers power the spaceship, and whose interactions provide comic relief such as Shakespeare would envy.

I have one editorial quibble. On page 15, Lea says, "I'm not a *goyim*." Is she supposed to be too ignorant of Yiddish to know *goy* is the singular form of the plural *goyim*? The trouble with grammatical errors, even in-character ones, is they annoy readers who know better; worse, they perpetuate and confirm the ignorance of readers who don't.

Jack Dann's review compares Fintushel to R.A. Lafferty and "P.G. Wodehouse (on speed) collaborating with Isaac Basheves Singer, Harlan Ellison, ... and Barry N. Malzberg." In other words, the writing is wry, acerbic, and drop dead funny, and sometimes it wrings your heart.

When you pick up this book, you've got a gem on your hands. – **Chris Paige**

Darkfever
by Karen Marie Moning
Dell, 349 pp, \$6.99

This is an interesting trip into the paranormal universe of romance fiction.

Ms. Moning's *creatures'd'jour*, however, are not vampires (well, okay - one is) or werewolves (none sighted yet) but the Seelie and Unseelie courts of the Fae in Ireland. In Dublin to be specific. The Seelie are creatures of the Light and the Unseelie of course, are creatures of the Dark. And the twain, each with their own agendas, are not fond of the other.

Trust me: this is a pretty dark tale. MacKayla Lane from Ashford, Georgia goes to Dublin seeking closure on her sister's mysterious, messy death. A student at Trinity College, Alina Lane was found rather mangled in a dark, dank alley way. And the Dublin police haven't any leads.

Mac, as she is known, is a carefree, pink-nail-polish-and-gold-sandaled sun worshiper. A happy, 22-year-old bartender whose worst nightmare has been running out of her favorite nail polish.

Once settled into Dublin--MacKayla becomes NOT so happy-go-lucky. She uncovers, bit by bit, a dark world of monstrous creatures preying on humans. Preying on humans hidden by a glamour so they appear drop-dead gorgeous.

MacKayla's sister Alina left her a cell phone message a few hours before she died, telling her, among other things, that she must find something called the *Sinsar Dubh* (Gaelic for a Dark Book of terrible magic) before anyone else does, especially the Unseelie or the world as we know it will go to hell in a very large hand cart.

MacKayla's attempts to unravel her sister's frantic final phone message lead her to Jerricho Barrons and his odd bookstore. The two make an uneasy alliance since both are looking for the *Sinsar Dubh*.

And as MacKayla tries to unravel her sister's murder, she discovers she is a *Sidhe*-seer, one who can see through any fae-glamour: She can see the terrors for what they are.

So off we go--monster hunting through Dublin. The tension is great, the story very creepy and different. Written in first person, it's snarky—but not too chic/hip.

And Jerricho Barrons remains a delicious enigma through out the story. We (and MacKayla) know very little about who or what Jerricho is, but he's very buff, drop dead gorgeous and sexy—and able to drop from the rafters of a warehouse 30 feet to the ground without flinching.

And, after MacKayla gets in an awesome battle with a great many of the Unseelie (and the afore-mentioned vampire), Barrons is able to do a little speed healing on her as well.

Of course, there is another book coming out.

And dang—I can't wait! - **Sue Martin**

Plague Year
by Jeff Carlson
Ace Books, \$7.99, 292 pp

The first few lines of a novel can be critical to its success. *Plague Year* opens with this one: "They ate Jorgensen first." Immediately you're hooked. In just four words the tone of this post-apocalyptic tale is set.

A garage laboratory, researching a cancer cure, has unleashed a sea of nanotechnology which has been dubbed "The Machine Plague." The plague is capable of infecting its victims through

breathing passages, the soft tissue of the eyes, and open wounds. Plague victims are then eaten from within.

Fortunately for mankind, the nanotech fails at high altitudes. The communities above the 10,000 foot mark, like Denver, will ensure that mankind will survive, but for a handful of survivors on a California mountain top, they are one summer of meager scavenging away from serving each other up for lunch. Then comes a message of hope, in the form of a young man who has braved the trek between peaks to bring Cam Najarro and the others back with him where a second batch of survivors have food enough for both groups.

The story switches to the space station crew in orbit around the earth. Ruth Goldman is a nanotech expert and desperately working on a solution for the Machine Plague. Her problem is that in the zero-g environment and with the limited resources that are available to her, she is not effective in her efforts. She demands that the shuttle bring her back to earth and eventually what is left of the United States government agrees to evacuate the space station.

And then Carlson, as a good author will do, takes us in a different direction. Up to this point we have the pretty standard tale of survivors attempting to prevail. It takes a third of the book before we discover that one of the cannibals in California helped create the nanotech plague and develop a solution. That would be great, except the government in Colorado doesn't exactly want the problem to go away.

The characters in this story are in a desperate situation and Carlson does a good job of making it gritty enough for

the reader to feel it. I especially enjoyed his treatment of nano-technology as a virus. A man-made, mechanical, bio-engineered virus that makes E-bola look like the weak baby brother in the disaster family. I felt the story was at its best when the California survivors crossed through the sea of nanites to reach the other peak. This section felt like the typical post-holocaust novel.

This is a first novel for the author, who has had short fiction appear in Asimov's, Strange Horizons, and Writers of the Future XXIII. I believe his inexperience shows in the early part of the book. During the trek between peaks, he used a series of flashbacks that didn't move the story forward as much as they interrupted its flow. Additionally, the formatting breaks intended to emphasize the movement from scene to scene made it seem a bit jumbled to me. Despite these minor imperfections, *Plague Year* was a good read. I expect that we will be seeing more novels coming from Mr. Carlson in the future. – **Randy Lindsay**

Light
by M. John Harrison
Bantam Spectra, 418 pp., \$6.99

Imagine a world where the 1970s New Wave movement in science fiction didn't die out, in which the leading authors remained critical outsiders of their society, and wrote stories exploring the meaning of life and human relations. As these authors matured over the decades, their stylistic skills may expand, to latch onto more common literary styles, yet maintain that edgy insight into the universe. What would we see? Chapters

(Continued on page 19)

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In Our Book (Continued from page 19)

in novels may have clever titles of their own, like ‘Disillusioned by the Actual’ or ‘The Circus of Pathet Lao.’ The author’s voice could be as clever and hip as the chapter titles, yet no longer trying to be different just for the sake of difference. He’s ready to tell a story about the purpose of humanity, the science fiction purpose to explore in a spaceship.

Before he gets to that grand conclusion, though, we need the lives of three characters to intersect: the gambler Ed, the woman-turned-into-pirate-spaceship Seria Mau, and the spacetime researcher Kearney, who happens to be a serial sex killer on the side. This seemed a bit gratuitous, though it did give some suspense every time he interacted with his wife. The author adds his two cents to the explanation of why such killers do it, but that’s not really a mystery these days. Fortunately he doesn’t go into any gory details of killing, which raises the prospect of symbolism he’s making. Mad scientists as the ultimate sicko killers? This sicko is on the run from a creature called the Shrande, and their final meeting ties up all the story strands quite nicely. Yet, to judge by the cover art, there will be a sequel: Nova Swing. Where does it go from here? - **M.L. Fringe**

The Gospel of the Knife by Will Shetterly TOR, \$25.95; 319 pp

This is a standalone sequel to *Dogland*, which I have not read yet, so I cannot comment on continuity, but I can vouch for this book on its own considerable merits. I would call this one a masterpiece, but that would be peculiarly ironic, for one of the thematic elements of this story is the interplay of compulsions, persuasions, sacrifices, and challenges between the people who want to be masters, those who are willing to be servants, and those who desire freedom.

The story is told in an unusual second person voice, which involves the reader much more subtly than either first person or third. In Part I, ‘Wasteland,’ Chris Mark Nix is 14 years old in 1969. He wears his hair long, he has studied martial arts, he sees the world in terms of how he would draw and write it as a comic book, he is in constant conflict with his father, and he is having a really bad day.

When 3 good ol’ boys take violent exception to his appearance and temerity, they chase him off the road into thick woods. Chris is on his bicycle, and they are on foot, but that is only a slight advantage. In sheer desperation, Chris rides his bike into a pond, hoping not to sink in the mud. To everyone’s utter amazement, Chris actually gets across, but when one of the three pursuers jumps in to give chase, he disappears under the water. And here we see what kind of person Chris is, through the haze of hormones and attitude: when the two standing bullies are too stunned to act, he yells at them to find a stick and pull their buddy out. Wet, puzzled, and spooked, the three return to their truck, leaving a sodden and sore Chris to make his way home. There he gets into a yelling match with his Dad that escalates to such a pitch that Chris runs away from home.

It just gets keeps getting better. He meets a girl with sass and an Afro named CC; they hold hands while they go to the

mall, setting off racial tensions every step of the way. Aggressive CC invites him to her home, and Chris gets to go further than he dared hope, until he almost gets his head split open by CC’s outraged Aunt Ida. Then the cops show up. (The dialogue between the cops is spot on, and the interplay is hilarious with horrific implications; teachers should use this scene for character analysis.) They escort Chris to their car when the Aunt declines to press charges, and bring him home to face paternal military justice. But worse than any humiliation or physical pain is the loss of CC.

Then a mysterious stranger shows up with an invitation for Chris to attend a private school, on a full scholarship, because Chris’ World War II grandfather had saved a man’s life. Now that man, Jay Dumont, is wealthy, powerful, and grateful. Once Chris finds out that the Academy is co-ed, he agrees to go.

And now Chris enters the world of the extraordinary, not just the world of extraordinary wealth, but the worlds of miracles and power. Jay Dumont (names are significant) has recently lost a beloved son, Josh, and has decided to groom Chris as a surrogate, because Chris also comes from a bloodline of power. So Chris is given access to the power that works miracles. He can compel people, he can bring the recently dead back to life, and he can recognize others with the bloodlines of power. He is also strongly encouraged to produce an heir.

But in spite of the possibilities and the lure of master of the world status, Chris does not want to compel people, or be compelled. He wants to find out what happened to his predecessor, Josh, he wants to hold his own in the strange world of the privileged, and he wants to find CC.

What Chris finds is the Gospel of the Knife, a good double-meaning title, for it concerns a blade of power, a god-slayer, and it was scribed by a member of a clan of assassins. The mysterious text provides Chris with crucial information which Dumont and his servants had withheld, and Chris decides to act according to the light of conscience.

My favorite moments are Chris’ running commentary on the behaviors of rich men and their offspring, and the mental mobius-strip ride of the Gospel. The next time I see Will Shetterly at a convention, I am going to ask him about his sources, for he must have done enough research to earn a doctorate.

If you loved the controversy at the heart of *The DaVinci Code*, this is the book for you; others may take umbrage here or there; but I invite readers to read, and think, and evaluate for themselves. It’s a story. Enjoy the ride! – **Chris Paige**

The Becoming by Jeanne C. Stein \$7.99, Ace Fantasy, 293pp

Anna was a Bounty Hunter before she became Vampire. And her life hasn’t changed...much. She’s hunting the vampire who created her - a rogue by vampire society standards. So Anna has the mentorship and assistance of a powerful 300-year-old vampire who wants to protect his own. Trouble is, Anna can’t figure out who exactly the bad guys are. She’s not even sure she isn’t one as well; despite her best intentions. She worries that she won’t be able to restrain her need to feed when with her mortal

DEA-agent boyfriend. She worries about the irresistible attraction she has to her mentor and she worries about his motives. On top of all that are the Revengers, a group of highway patrolmen who hunt vampires.

The good news first: this was a fast and entertaining read. The writing is very good, the plotting was good and the characterization of our heroine was good. The bad news is that there just wasn’t any depth to the story. As you can tell from the brief synopsis, this is a very formulaic story. It was kinda like watching a TV movie. But sometimes that’s okay – as long as you know what to expect, you won’t be disappointed. I’ll probably pick up the next book because I liked the heroine and I want to see how the loose ends are tied up. - **Catherine Book**

InterWorld By Neal Gaiman and Michael Reaves Eos/Harper Collins, New York 2007, Juvenile, 239 Pages

Unknown to himself Joey Harker is a World Walker. He has the ability to cross to other probable universes. When he does this accidentally while on a school assignment, he sets off alarms across the probability lines.

It seems that there are three groups interested in intercepting Joey for their own purposes. They are the forces of Hex or Magic and the forces of Binary or Science; both of whom wish to dominate the lines of probability. They are at eternal war. Between them is the force of InterWorld or Balance whose purpose was to see that neither Binary nor Hex achieve their aims. InterWorld’s chief minions are World Walkers like Joey. In fact, all of the World Walkers are Joey in some form or the other. Some were male, some female and some not quite human, but all were Joey.

So all three groups sought Joey. In the first world Joey walked to, he found himself a girl, in the second he had drowned the year before. He narrowly escaped the Scientists and dodged the familiar sounding recruiter from InterWorld. He sought advice from a trusted teacher at his High School and was intercepted by the Witches and taken aboard a piratical ship that sailed in the Nevernever between probabilities.

And it goes on from there. Joey must make choices which will determine the immediate course of the Worlds. He chooses the forces of Balance but is ultimately rejected, mind wiped and sent back home. He remembers and seeks out his companion selves. Can they save the Balance?

The book is great fun and a wonderful reiteration of one of my favorite themes in SF harking back to Van Vogt’s *Recruiting Station*, Williamson’s *Legion of Time* and Norton’s *Quest Crosstime*. There are even elements of Heinlein’s Space Cadet. I recommend it and not just for children. – **Gary Swaty**

The Devil You Know by Mike Carey Warner Books \$24.99; 400 pp

There’s something about Mike Carey’s face that reminds me of Steven King, although their features are quite different. Perhaps it is the writer’s version of ‘the mark’ by which magicians recognize each other, as Jadis explained to Digory in *The Magician’s Nephew*.

Set in London, *The Devil You Know* is a rollercoaster ride that takes you into some very dark, scary places. Felix “Fix” Castor (don’t you love the connotations of Castor oil and deft luck?) is an exorcist by default – he didn’t want to be one, but he has a natural aptitude, and the dead are now nearly numerous as the living in the world. Castor uses music, played on a penny whistle, to lay ghosts and zombies to rest; but he has quit this line of work since a mistake he made caused a friend, Rafi, to become fused with the essence of the devil Asmodeus. No one likes this arrangement. Castor is out a friend; Rafi is confined to an insane asylum; Rafi’s girlfriend, (who happens to be Castor’s landlady) Pen, is lonely; Asmodeus is bored and furious. But even though Asmodeus is malicious, he is the devil Castor knows, and he just might offer a better deal than certain humans who offer Castor their own versions of damnation and death threats.

First off, Castor earns the undying hatred of a cop when a birthday party goes seriously wrong. Castor had been hired as the magician entertainer, but Birthday Boy and his buddies are not amused, except when they are bullying Birthday Boy’s stepbrother. Castor might not have interfered, except that there is also a ghost in the house. By the time he is escorted out the door, Castor has shifted the family dynamics drastically, but he does not get paid.

Then Castor is offered a job exorcising a ghost in an Archives storage facility. Like the tip of an iceberg, the really dangerous stuff is under the surface. Castor has to find the key to communicating with a ghost who can’t talk, and when she can, it’s not in any language he knows. Opposed to his investigations are many whose works are threatened by investigative light shone into dark places, including a slime ball of a crime lord, his loup-garou heavy, and a succubus who really won’t take no for an answer.

If the name Mike Carey rings a bell, it might be because he has been writing for Marvel’s *X-Men* and *Ultimate Fantastic Four*. He also has a movie in production: *Frost Flowers*, which we’ll probably review in a future issue. – **Chris Paige**

Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade by Diana Gabaldon Delacorte Press; 494 pp. \$25

It is always great fun to return to the world Diana Gabaldon initiated by “Outlander.” This is another engrossing tale about Lord John Grey, the younger son of the deceased Duke of Pardloe(—He Whose Name Must Not Be Spoken—sort of like Lord ‘whatsis’ from Harry Potter. (I can’t help myself. Your pardon, dear readers!)

You see, there is a dark mystery surrounding the death of Lord John’s father, seventeen years earlier. His father ostensibly committed suicide under unusual circumstances and if that was not bad enough, he was also stained by the onerous shadow of being a “Jacobite” sympathizer (A supporter of James II, a Catholic and a pretender to the throne of England). Lord John’s older brother Hal so distances himself from his dead father, he styles himself the Earl of Melton, not the Duke of Pardloe.

A wonderful “who-done-it” combined
(Continued on page 20)

In Our Book (Continued from page 19)

with great detail and the minutia of life in mid 18th Century England; Gabaldon spins this tale out with great finesse, as usual. A fascinating trail of clues weaves in and out of this story as Lord John and his brother Hal prepare to go overseas and join the Prussians in fighting The Seven Years War. Pages from one of the Duke of Pardloe’s missing journals, vicious attacks on Lord John’s person, and most interestingly, the tangled connections several disparate people have to the event. Including, oh yes, Jamie Fraser, who at this point in the tale is still a groom at Helwater and still a prisoner on parole after the Battle of Culloden.

And Lord John, bless him, still has very strong feelings for Mr. Fraser, which makes their meeting all the more intense, even though Lord John is currently involved with Percy Wainright, his brand new brother by marriage. They are not only involved, but are also part of the same group of soldiers being sent to the Rhineland to bolster the forces of Frederick II of Prussia. During their time in the Rhineland, Lord John not only catches his lover Percy in *flagrante delicto* with a Prussian soldier, he is severely wounded during an engagement with the French. All hell breaks loose. And the tension of the tale ratchets up several notches. Lord John is torn between his love for

Percy and the fact, as his commanding officer he might have to denounce him in court...and not only bring down Percy but his family’s honor, the honor he has been struggling to reinstate by unraveling the mystery of his father’s death. And honor is the heart of this novel. A wonderful addition to Ms Gabaldon’s *oeuvre*. - Sue Martin

The SFWA European Hall of Fame Edited by James and Kathryn Morrow \$26.95, Tom Doherty Associates, 328 pp

This anthology is a labor of love on the part of the editors and translators, whose meticulous work made this collection of 16 stories available this side

of the Atlantic. You may have to go to a library to find it, or place a special order, but it is worth the effort.

“Separations,” by Jean-Claude Dunyach, is a good hard SF story reminiscent of Timothy Zahn’s “Cascade Point,” but with a harder, deadlier edge. “Sepultura,” by Valerio Evangelisti, was the stand-out for me. The editorial intro points to its sources in Dante’s *Inferno*; even so, it struck me as extraordinarily original. Set in Brazil, the Ministry of Security policy of genocide of Amazon *indios* has taken the pragmatic approach of paying bounties that target children. A fraternal rivalry, sealed by mutual death threats, between Olavo and Fernando is set aside to work a prison break from Sepultura, even though one brother is collecting bounties, and the other is a resistance fighter. Bottom line is, both have friends in Sepultura. But prisoners just don’t get out of there. Their legs have been imbedded in a communal pit of elastine, which fuses with the skin, holding them inexorably in a pit of ectoplasm. Smuggled chemicals and an Umbanda religious ceremony evoking the trickster god, Exu, and *egun*, or spirits, of a massacred tribe change the equation significantly.

Some of the other contributions are lyrical; in fact, sound and speech are thematic elements in many of these stories, especially “A Birch Tree, A White Fox,” “Yoo Retroont, Sneogg, Ay Noo,” “Athos Emfovos in the Temple of Sound,” and “Verstummte Musik.”

The latter’s premise is that Eurwest has a fixed population limit of 900,000,000, so every year, adults face a reckoning of their life’s social worth to determine whether they get to live another year, or have their bodies converted into bricks for the Palace of Humanity. The plot may sound like a variation of *Logan’s Run*, but the style and delivery are fresh. Strongly recommended. “Athos Emfovos,” by Panagiotis Koustas, describes how a war refugee compels Audeus, god of music, to prevent a war. Rich in allusion, poignant, hopeful, this story, it seems to me, owes some of its conviction to the Ukrainian uprising that used song and mass protests to defy and overturn a rigged election in 2004.

“Wonders of the Universe,” by Andreas Eschbach, is the song of a dying astronaut, alone on Europa. “Baby Doll,” by Johanna Sinisalo, is an all too imminent, horrifically realistic take on a society that uses surgically enhanced nine-year-olds for soft porn advertisements. If your brain lacks a functioning ‘Delete’ button, be very careful about reading this one; it falls firmly into the category of things ‘terrible to see, terrible to hear’ that classic Greek theatre eschewed until Euripides.

Then there is the Borgesian “Between the Lines,” by Jose Antonio Cotrina. This one is great. Apparently, it is part of a story arc, and I fervently hope I can find more of them. Cotrina is one of those writers who drives you to learn a second, third, or nth language just so you can read MORE! Alejandro is a college student who inadvertently – but not accidentally – enrolls himself in a course of Advanced Reading Techniques, in which he discovers that he can read stories inscribed between the lines of printed material. He goes on to discern hidden aspects of our world, and recognize others who do so. I just wish someone would annotate Cotrina’s stories so I could comprehend all the allusions.

I confess that I did not read all the stories; I rarely do with anthologies, for by their very nature the nets are cast wide to appeal to a diversity of creatures. Some of you are bound to love the stories that repelled me as forcibly as like charged particles. But I hope the ones I describe appeal to you anyway. – Chris Paige

Nightmare on Elm Street: Dreamspawn by Christa Faust Black Fame, \$7.99; 407 pp

This is a fast, fearsome, and frequently funny read. Christa Faust is observant, with an acerbic talent for character depiction, and her bio blurb is fascinating. But there are no happy endings on this outing. In the wake of the Columbine and Virginia Tech massacres, neither innocence nor virtue is sufficient protection.

Freddy’s focus this time is a girl named Rose who, by age seven, has lived through enough horror to bring Freddy back and make her his pawn and willing accomplice.

After Rose’s Prologue, the story shifts ground to Jane DeHaan, who is starting her senior year at Hemingway High, her sixth school in four years. Jane is a misfit, so the cheerleader clique immediately bestow upon her a ghastly nick-name (in this case that means a name old Nick would approve) and in all ways make her

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In Our Book (Continued from page 20)

life miserable. The teachers turn a blind eye to the social bullying. When Jane forms an alliance with the other pariah, Lola, the two engineer an imaginative revenge on their tormentors, with a surprising outcome. Jane and Lola now begin to enjoy their salad days.

But then Rose, now 14 years old and much the worse for her foster home experiences, comes to Hemingway High. Another outcast, she is befriended by Jane and Lola. Rose's banked fury and hatred, however, turn their Underdog heroics down a darker, destructive path, spawning a bloodbath. Rose is their evil genius, the Robespierre of their Revolution, and even Jane's boyfriend Brandon is no match for the symbiosis of Rose and Freddy Krueger.

This is lurid, literary, thought-provoking horror, teen-age angst at its most vivid and tragic. – **Chris Paige**

From Black Rooms
by **Stephen Woodworth**
\$6.99, Bantam Books, 334pp

Natalie was a Violet, an elite crime-fighter with the power to channel victims. But these days, Natalie only channels legendary painters. It's not necessarily lucrative since she works on her own now rather than for the North American Afterlife Communication Corps. And the job has its dangers – such as psychotic painters who don't want to go back to being dead after she's finished a commission. But all that is nothing next to the news that her ex-lover, Evan Markham, has escaped from prison. Evan

had come to believe his mission was to kill all Violets to release them from the hell of their own lives and talents. Funny thing was – most Violets enjoyed their particular genetic talent.

Violets who work for the Corps could expect to enjoy a well-compensated career. Enough compensation that it made some men start thinking of how nice it would be to be able to find more Violets. Or even manufacture more... When one geneticist finally figures out how to do just that, he also realizes that he doesn't want anyone to have his secret. So, he destroys all the evidence, including himself. Trouble is, once he's dead, he can be channeled. And one man knows exactly how to motivate his spirit to giving up the secret. Now, it's up to Natalie to stop Evan from channeling the dead geneticist and then from finishing his original mission – kill her and her daughter, who happens to also be a Violet.

It's an interesting premise but for the most part, this book read like a standard crime drama. Not that most science fiction doesn't lend itself easily to just about any other genre, but there was little about this story that felt like science fiction. It was much more a crime drama that happened to have a SF factor. It was a very competently written story. The characterizations were good. It was well-plotted and I did enjoy the conclusion. I just wasn't very excited or intrigued by the story. – **Catherine Book**

Fortune's Fool
by **Mercedes Lackey**
Luna Books \$24.95; 362 pp

After reading swaths of horror fic for reviews, *Fortune's Fool* was as refreshing as sherbet after a meat course. This is another of the 500 Kingdoms titles, which began spectacularly with *The Fairy Godmother* and continued with *One Good Knight*. The premise of these books is that the quasi-sentient Tradition of fairy tales tries to make things come out 'according to plan' for the lives of the people it touches; but not all the plans are nice. Who wants to be Patient Griselda or Rapunzel? Or one of the 99 suitors for Sleeping Beauty who end up impaled on thorns? So certain beings, such as Fairy Godmothers and Champions, acts as guardians and gardeners of the Tradition: redirecting it, modifying it here or there, serving it, occasionally assisting the ones who get left by the wayside in the Tradition's wake, and opposing wicked sorcerers and such who also derive power from the Tradition.

The hero of *Fortune's Fool* is Sasha, a seventh son and a prince of the small seaside kingdom of Led Belarus. (So we are treated to the Eastern block traditional fairy tales: Baba Yaga, Rusalkas, Katschei the Deathless, swan maidens.) His lot in life as the seventh son is to be the Fool, a Trickster of sorts, who seems to stumble about aimlessly, when he is actually promoting the Luck of the kingdom. The heroine is the Sea-King's daughter, Katya, who has the rare ability to move as freely on land as under water. She is often sent on missions to investigate dangerous or suspicious activities. On one of her reconnoiters, she meets Sasha. They quickly prove to be the cure to each other's loneliness – there is one explicit bedroom scene you may wish skip if you are reading aloud to child. But duty calls them in different directions, until Katya is kidnapped by a Jinn who collects magical maidens. Sasha sets out to rescue his true love, and Katya organizes the maidens into a sabotage and strike team. Mercedes Lackey tackles issues in almost all her stories. Some of her recent books have had very pointed passages describing the malfeasances of 'kings' (read presidents, prime ministers, and pulpit-pumpers) and the responsibilities of people to not be gullible. She has also been writing some serious military setting stories; her son has been in Iraq, so she has a source for realistic detail. This issue is comparatively subtle. The Jinn's affects on the realms bears a certain resemblance to the real and present dangers of global warming. But this is a spirit-lifting, fun story, which helps you see the glinting flash of magic in everyday things. – **Chris Paige**

Plague Year
by **Jeff Carlson**
Ace, 292 pp, \$7.99

Plague Year is a debut novel. Nanotechnology was designed to fight cancer; instead it evolved into the machine plague, killing nearly five billion people. Life on earth was changed forever.

The nanotech has one weakness. It self destructs at altitudes above 10,000 feet. Those few who managed to escape are struggling to stay alive at the highest altitude. Time is running out, with famine, War, and the environment is cashing

down world wide. The few survivors have made use of the Donner option as the population drops. Humanity's last hope lies with a nanotech researcher aboard the international space station, and the small party of survivors in the Sierra Nevada mountains who will risk their lives below the death line.

This is a disaster novel. A high tech world brought to its frostbitten feet by an enemy that is as small as a microbe and invisible to the naked eye, yet powerful enough to take over the world. Can the answer be found in time? In many ways, this is true horror. The cold, desperation and despair are as much an enemy as the plague. The characters are well-drawn. The virtues and flaws apparent, the action moves apace. It pays homage to hope and the human will to survive. Well worth the read. – **Pam Allan**

A March into Darkness
by **Robert Newcomb**
Del Ray, 638 pp, \$26.95

A March into Darkness is volume two of the *Destinies of Blood and Stone*.

Wulfgar was defeated by Tristan, but rejoicing will have to wait. Wulfgar's spouse, Serena has not given up stealing the scroll of the Vigors [good magic] and avenging the death of Wulfgar and their daughter. Tristan prepares to sail for Serena's stronghold. However, on the eve of the mission, Xanthus, an invincible warrior will come through the Azure Wall, torturing innocents to death unless Tristan returns with him to an uncertain fate. There he learns about his and his sister's destiny.

While he is gone, his sister takes the fleet against Serena's citadel. But many traps await them with Hellish creatures summoned by the heretics [bad magic]; while Serena prepares a spell that can bring her dead daughter back to life.

Here be epic fantasy with complex characters, a fully realized complex world light and dark strive to rule over generations. The destiny of the twins is to bring the two sides back into balance. Maybe next volume. Fantasy lovers will want to get their hands on this. – **Pam Allan**

Wolf's Blood
by **Jane Lindskold**
Tor, 532 pp, \$27.95.

Wolf's Blood is the culmination of the series begun with *Through Wolf's Eyes*

Firekeeper was raised by language-using sentient wolves. When she returns to the human lands, it takes all of her wolf knowledge helps her survive. She learned that magic was feared and despised. The story is more complicated: In coming to land of the Liglim, she finds that magic is alive and well. But in opening the gate, the plague, targeted against Magic wielders returns. It is up to Blind Seer and her to find the nature of the plague and destroy it before wipes out the humans.

The series has been exciting from the beginning, and the "culmination" does not disappoint. Her characters live; I feel I know Blind Seer. When you mix worlds, politics, treason and intrigue with characters and emotional depth, you have a page-turner extraordinary in scope. Lindskold is a writer to watch and I am waiting for more. – **Pam Allan**.



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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

ARIZONA PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS We are a highly trained, non-profit paranormal investigation group, registered with the state of Arizona, providing service to Arizona and the Southwest since 1994. Having served the public for 12 years, we are one of the oldest, most respected paranormal investigation groups in Arizona. We are primarily science based and don't go on an investigation looking for ghosts, we go looking for answers. There is never a charge for an investigation. Contact us at by e-mail at info@arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com or visit our website at: <http://www.arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com/>

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. For information: write PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or email info@casfs.org 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

A GATHERING OF PLAYERS-Find Your Adventure Our club is running into our fourth year. Join us for games and adventure set in the Dungeons and Dragons realm. We offer Living Greyhawk and Xen'drik Expeditions. Visit <http://www.warhorn.net/gathering>, to see what we have coming up. We will have character creation sessions to get you started and answer all questions. Our

group has been together, and growing, for four years. We're a good group of friends that believe in gaming fun first. Our member group's ages range from 13 to 49.

We welcome both new and experienced players.

10:00 a.m. Character Creation - We will have a session to create characters for all of the campaigns we run. AGoP will have all books available for reference. We encourage you to purchase the books if you like the game. All character materials are provided; character sheets, master item logs, adventure records, etc. Dice will be loaned to you if you don't have any yet. In other words, all that is needed for the first day is for you to join us and have fun.

If you have any questions email us at agatheringofplayers@gmail.com.

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

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

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

MVD GHOSTCHASERS—The MVD Ghostchasers are a paranormal team established in 1995. This band of ghost hunters conducts regular investigations of haunted, historical locations throughout Arizona. They also research and investigate "house call" hauntings for the public. The MVD Ghostchasers lead Spirit Photo Workshops/Tours to various haunted locations across Arizona. These workshops give ghost hunters, paranormal team members and folks wanting to learn the art of ghost hunting a chance to work and learn techniques together. The MVD Ghostchasers team are guest speakers at many venues and have appeared on TV news reports and the subject of several newspaper stories. For more information contact: MVD Ghostchasers—Debe Branning, Director—480-969-4049 Web page: www.mvdghostchasers.com or Nazanaza@aol.com

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.ocsfc.org or email info@ocsfc.org

PAReX is a non profit organization dedicated to building and promoting Autonomous robotics. The club has been in existance since 1998. Meetings are currently conducted twice a month at two different Phoenix, Arizona locations., <http://www.parex.org/meetings.shtml>. Club dues are on an annual basis: Regular members \$20 Student members \$15 Of course visitors are always welcome because we know you will eventually become a member anyway Web page: <http://www.parex.org/> E-mail Contact: John Kittelsrud, parexteam@cox.net

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 12noon-5pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (623) 849-9515.

SHIELD OF ALMOR The Shield of Almor is a RPGA club located in the greater Phoenix area. If you are interested in Living Greyhawk catch one of our meetings the 1st Sunday of every month at Imperial Outpost Games (www.imperialoutpost.com) in Glendale. If you are interested in Living Arcanis or Living Spycraft catch us on the 3rd Sunday of every month also at Imperial Outpost Games. The Shield of Almor hosts RPGA events at the local Phoenix conventions. For more information visit us at games.groups.yahoo.com/group/AZ_RPG/ or you can sign up for games at www.nyron.org. Or you can just stop by the 1st Sunday of the month. Meeting starts at 10am. Hope to see you there.

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 contact the Kingdom Seneschal. Email: seneschal@atenveldt.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

(Continued on page 23)

Club Listings
(Continued from page 24)

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

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

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 DMitchell@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 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

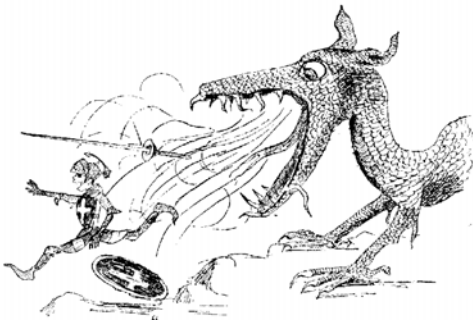
WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors AniZona, the ConRunners seminars and sponsored the 2004 Westercon. Dedicated primarily to educational activities relating to literature, music, and visual and performing arts, especially in the genres of science fiction, 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 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082, (602) 973-2341, Email: craig@westernsfa.org Webpage: www.westernsfa.org

Convention Listings

TusCon 34 (Nov 9-11, 2007) Inn Suites Hotel, **Tucson, AZ** Author GoH: John Ringo; Toastmaster: Ed Bryant Memberships: \$40 until 9/5, then \$45 after that and at the door. www.home.earthlink.net/~basfa

LOSCON 34 (Nov 23-25 '07) LAX Marriott, **Los Angeles, CA** GoH: Robert J. Sawyer, writer; Theresa Mather, artist; Capt. David West Reynolds, fan; Dr. James Robinson, music. MEMBERSHIP RATES Currently \$35 Until May 31st (\$40 until August 31st \$45 until October 31st \$50 at the door) Kids 4-12 are 1/2 Price Website: www.loscon.org/34/index.html

LepreCon 34 (May 9-11, 2008) Francisco Grande Hotel & Golf Resort, **Casa Grande, AZ** Artist Guest: Howard Tayler; Author Guests: Emily & Ernest Hogan; Local Artist Guest: Liz Danforth; Special FX/Makeup Guest: David Ayres Memberships: \$25 thru 8/31/07, \$30 thru 10/31/07 Info: LepreCon 34 PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 (480) 945-6890 Email: lep34@leprecon.org web: <http://www.leprecon.org>



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 cu27@coppercon.org or www.coppercon.org

For information on available HexaCon positions or to volunteer to run a game please contact us at hex17@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 or contact us at info@casfs.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 2006). Attendees of CopperCon 26 or HexaCon 16 will receive ConNotations Volume 17 Issues 1 thru 6.

ConNotations updates it’s mailing list each December.

Individual subscriptions are available for \$20 for 6 issues beginning January 1, 2007.

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



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PARTIES! * "QUEEN OF SCREAM" CONTEST! * AUTOGRAPH SESSIONS! * MORE!**

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