

ConNotations

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FREE

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

A Conversation with Jane Lindskold by Catherine Book

Jane and I had been trying to connect for about a year and finally found our opportunity during the Tucson Book Festival held on the UofA campus on March 13th of this year. It was a lovely, warm afternoon sitting in the shade of trees and brick buildings and we started with the obvious – how long had she been writing and what was she doing when she published her first story? Jane says her first short story was published in the late 1980s while she was an Assistant Professor of English at Lynchburg College. She related how she was in a bookstore in a mall when she first saw the published anthology, *Dragon Fantastic*, in which her story appeared. They didn't send copies to authors back then. She remembered how she was walking through the mall with the book peeking at her story and wondering why everyone else's story looked so professional and her own looked so dumb. But not so dumb, apparently, since Dennis McKiernan recommended it for a Nebula.

What influences still affect her writing? She loves mythology, legends and folklore. And she's intrigued by taking incongruous elements (like mahjong and the Chinese zodiac) and find out what evolves from them. So, if there was an influence working on her it's the idea of taking improbable elements and seeing them come together in an interesting fashion.

So, how does Jane write? Does she have a schedule? She likes to stay flexible, doesn't want to be in a box that might contribute to writer's block. On the other hand, she does tend to write five days a



week with weekends off... unless she's really jazzed about something. She also gives herself limits based on production – so if she has a good morning and produces enough pages, she might give herself the rest of the day off. Of course, if it's not a productive day she'll kick her butt back into the chair. She tries to complete a novel a year with short stories on the side. Can she write on more than one story simultaneously? Yes, she's done that but tends to find that one of them will suck her in and the other will languish for a while.

For years she wrote in a spare bedroom with nothing to look at except a computer screen. So, when she got a little

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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews By Lee Whiteside

We’ve got lots of new scifi TV over the next couple of months thanks to both BBC America and the SyFy channel and one new show from ABC, plus something on Disney XD with a ***Doctor Who*** connection.

The BBC and BBC America are in the back half of the current season of ***Doctor Who***. Picking things up in early June on BBC America will be the two-parter *The Hungry Earth/Cold Blood* where according to the BBC: “It’s 2015 and the most ambitious drilling project in history has reached deeper beneath the Earth’s crust than man has ever gone before – but now the ground itself is fighting back. In the latest episode of the time-traveling drama, written by **Chris Chibnall**, the Doctor, Amy and Rory arrive in a tiny mining village and find themselves plunged into a battle against a deadly danger from a bygone age.” In other words, the Silurians, or something akin to them, are back! Reports that events from the **Pertwee** Silurian stories are specifically mentioned and we’ll get more insight into the Silurian society and how it has evolved since those events. Up next is *Vincent and the Doctor*, written by **Richard Curtis**, which brings The Doctor and Amy face to face with Vincent Van Gogh and an Alien Menace. **Tony Curran** plays Van Gogh and **Bill Nighy** makes an appearance as Dr. Black, the Curator of the Musee D’Orsay. After that is *The Lodger*, which appears to be an adaptation of a comic strip of the same name by **Gareth Roberts** in *Doctor Who Monthly*. Due to the TARDIS skipping a “time track”, The Doctor and Amy are stranded a few days into the future and have to wait for the TARDIS to reappear. To bide their time, the Doctor tries to pass himself off as human and live a normal life. Of course, an alien menace is discovered and all bets are off. The close out of the season will be the two-parter *The Pandorica Opens/The Big Bang* which will tie together some of the season’s ongoing threads, especially the ominous “crack in time.” We’ll see reappearance by River Song, a visit to Stonehenge, some sort of museum or collection of The Doctor’s foes and possibly a few flashbacks. The Radio Times describes the finale as “A message on the oldest cliff-face in the universe, a puzzle box opening from the inside and a love that lasts thousands of years... The fates are drawing close around the TARDIS – is this the day the Doctor falls?”

Also currently running on BBC America on Tuesday nights is the second series of *Ashes to Ashes*. Detective Inspector Alex Drake (**Keeley Hawes**) continues her fiery relationship with Gene Hunt (**Philip Glenister**) and though she’s no closer to returning to the present day and reuniting with her daughter, she begins to really believe she is back in time and begins to accept her predicament. However, when news from the future starts appearing, she realizes nothing is as it seems. She discovers a mysterious stranger who may be in the same predicament and she wonders if he is someone who can help her get home or does he have a more menacing agenda?

Returning to BBC America on Saturday July 24th will be the second series of *Being Human*. **Russell Tovey**, **Lenora Crichlow** and **Aidan Turner** return as George, Annie and Mitchell, the three twenty-somethings trying to live as normally as possible despite being a werewolf, a vampire and a ghost. The new season picks up after the death of vampire leader Herrick, and the supernatural trio are hoping they can now get on with their lives. However, there is a lurking danger

from the human world in the form of the mysterious Professor Jaggat and her cold-hearted colleague Kemp, religious zealots who have discovered the existence of vampires, werewolves and ghosts, who are determined to carry out brutal experiments and destroy them. Meanwhile, George tries to live with Herrick’s blood on his hands, Michael must find a way to bring the vampire world under control, and Annie is determined to stand up and be counted in the real world.

Coming to Disney XD in July is the new **K-9** series featuring a regenerated K-9 Mark I following the adventures of the robot dog without the Doctor. K-9 co-creator **Bob Baker** is involved with the Australian/British co-production. It is definitely aimed for a younger audience but is fun to watch. **K-9** is set in London in 2050, with 14-year-olds Starkey and Jorjie, alongside a Professor Gryffen, who is experimenting with a Space-Time Manipulator, and a 15-year-old Darius who runs errands for Gryffen. K-9 Mark I follows the villainous reptilian warrior Jixen who came through a space-time portal created by the professor’s experiments and saves the Londoners. While protecting them, K-9 is forced to self-destruct, but is able to give Starkey instructions to rebuild and regenerate himself into a more advanced form. K-9 and the humans then form the front-line defense against alien menaces from outer space and other times.

Over on SyFy, we’ll see the first season finale of *Stargate Universe* the first two Fridays in June. New episodes of *Merlin* will continue through the end of June with the new seasons *Eureka* and *Warehouse 13* starting up in early July. Syfy’s remake of *Being Human* appears to not be appearing this summer since there’s been no news on casting or scheduling on the series but the **Stephen King** series *Haven* will be starting up in July.

Stargate Universe finishes off the season with the two-parter *Incursion* where the Lucian Alliance attacks and boards Destiny and takes several crewmembers hostage in an attempt to gain control of the ship. According to producer **Joseph Mallozzi** “the second script is a robust 53 pages (52 full) and contains what is, without a doubt, the biggest HOLY #0%&@! ending I have ever written. I mean, I knew what was going to happen but, as I was writing toward it and the different pieces of the story were falling into place, I decided to go with a little something different in the lead-up and ... well, it’s quite the eyebrow-raiser. Actually, a double eyebrow-raiser. Hell, the truth is, you don’t have enough eyebrows to make it work. Trust me.” Needless to say, the first season will be ending on a major cliffhanger that will have fans eagerly awaiting the return of the show in the fall.

Returning to SyFy on their respective nights (*Warehouse 13* on Tuesdays, *Eureka* on Fridays), look for a truckload of guest starts on both shows. It is almost a given on *Warehouse 13* that has a format that brings on a new character each week, but *Eureka* seems to be doing more of it this year as well. Joining the *Eureka* cast this season will be **James Callis** (Baltar on *Battlestar Galactica*) as Dr. Grant, a former Eureka resident who makes an unexpected return creating serious friction with Sheriff Jack Carter (**Colin Ferguson**) and possibly a re-ignition of a romance with Allison Blake (**Salli Richardson-Whitfield**). Also returning are **Matt Frewer** (Taggart), **Jaime Ray Newman** (Dr. Tess Fontana), **Joe Morton** (Henry Deacon), **Erica Cerra** (Jo Lupo), **Neil Grayston** (Douglas Fargo), **Niall Matter** (Zane Donovan) and **Jordon Hinson** (Zoe Carter). Guest starring in the early episode *All The Rage* will be **Wil Wheaton** as the brilliant Dr. Isaac Parrish, head of the Non-Lethal

Weapons Lab at Global Dynamics, who quickly gets on Fargo’s nerves. Guesting in *The Story of O2* will be **Jamie Kennedy** as Dr. Ramsey, the developer of a self-propagating oxygen technology intended to help colonize Mars begins to form a cloud in the atmosphere above Eureka threatening to blow the town up! All of this happens while the town is celebrating Space Week and Sheriff Carter is visiting his daughter Zoe at Harvard.

Over on *Warehouse 13*, the guest star parade continues with **Nolan Gerard Funk** in a four episode arc as Todd, a local tech expert who takes a romantic interest in Claudia (**Allison Scagliotti**) and their relationship is put to the test as they keep secrets from each other. Also joining the cast in a recurring role is **Paula Garces** as Kelly, a spunky headstrong veterinarian local to Univille who catches Pete’s (**Eddie McClintock**) eye. Other guest stars include **Philip Winchester** as 1950’s matinee idol Raymond St. James, who appears in increasingly dangerous scenes transmitted from an artifact discovered in Univille, **Lindsay Wagner** as Doctor Vanessa Calder, the warehouse’s doctor responsible for treating the team, and **Tia Carrere** as Agent Katie Logan, an Agent from Pete’s past who reunites with him on a new case. In the episode *Mild Mannered*, **Jewel Staite** and **Sean Maher** guest star. **Maher** is Sheldon, a mild mannered guy who is exposed to a dangerous object that brings about a shocking physical change. **Staite** plays Loretta, the object of Sheldon’s unrequited love who is in mortal peril from the changed Sheldon.

Also starting on Syfy in July on Friday nights will be *Haven*, based on the **Stephen King** novella *The Colorado Kid*. Syfy describes the show as following “the shrewd and confident FBI agent Audrey Parker (**Emily Rose**) with a lost past who arrives in the small town of Haven, Maine on a routine case. Before long, her natural curiosity lands her in the epicenter of activity in this curious enclave, which turns out to be a longtime refuge for people that are affected by a range of supernatural afflictions. As the townspeople’s dormant abilities begin to express themselves, Audrey helps keep these forces at bay while discovering the many secrets of Haven - including one surrounding her own surprising connections to this extraordinary place. Among the citizens who cross Audrey’s path along the way are local cop Nathan Wuornos (**Lucas Bryant**), who eventually becomes Audrey’s partner, and the mysterious and charming Duke Crocker (**Eric Balfour**).” The debut episode is being directed by **Adam Kane** and the behind-the-scenes personnel include **King** veterans from the *Dead Zone* such as **Scott Sheperd**, **Lloyd Segan**, **Shawn Piller**, **Sam Ernst**, and **Jim Dunn** (who co-wrote the pilot with **Ernst**).

Over on the broadcast networks, there isn’t much new this summer aside from ABC’s *The Gates*, which will air on Sunday nights. The setting is described as “nestled inside a private mountain community are The Gates. The image of perpetual suburban bliss, each street is lined with perfectly manicured homes protected by the massive iron gates, but a dark and delicious secret is buried just beneath the surface of this picturesque neighborhood.” The series focuses on the Monahan family, led by Nick Monahan (**Frank Grillo**), who takes the job of Police Chief in the suburb, and his wife, Sarah (**Marisol Nichols**) and their children Charlie and Dana all soon get swept up in the strange goings on which reportedly included vampires, werewolves and possibly other supernatural creatures. ABC is keeping things mysterious in the promos, though, trying to keep the revelations a surprise.

Pro Notes

by Catherine Book

Hi, Everyone! Thanks for reading ConNotations and my column. One new face and old friends to welcome back. We have a lighter return this month; I guess everyone’s hard at work or just enjoying their Spring.

We’ll start with **JULIE CZERNEDA** up in Canada. Julie is almost finished her first fantasy novel, “A Turn of Light” to be published by DAW Books in 2011. She describes it as romantic and warmly light-hearted, the kind of story to cuddle up with on a cool night, although there is a dragon, a curse, and a horse who eats rabbits. The setting is unusual for fantasy, being drawn from pioneer settlements in the Ottawa area of Ontario, as well as Balkan cities of the early 1800s. Her research involved everything from building scale models and reading biographies of early settlers, to tours of gristmills and barns. Julie also notes that her completely new website launched this past May at www.czerneda.com, filled with treats and information, so keep checking back. This fall, she returns to THE CLAN CHRONICLES to complete the story of Sira, Morgan, and the Clan. The REUNIFICATION trilogy, unlike “A Turn...”, will be the kind of story to read with all the lights on, and a pillow ready in case.

Moving down to Washington state, **ROBIN HOBB** reported that “Dragon Haven,” part two of the RAIN WILD CHRONICLES, will see publication from EOS books in the US. And that means she’ll be doing an author tour to promote the book. Readers can visit her website at www.Robinhobb.com for the freshest updates and more details as to when and where she’ll be signing books. In other news, Robin will be visiting Italy for ten days in June as a guest at the Parma Fantasy Festival. And, of course, she’s hard at working writing The Next Book. No definite title yet, but it’ll still be deep in the Rain Wilds with the Kelsingra expedition.

Down the coast in California, I heard from **KIM STANLEY ROBINSON** who told me that this summer he had a short story collection from Nightshade called THE BEST OF KIM STANLEY ROBINSON, edited by Jonathan Strahan, mostly reprint stories with one new one. He will be guest of honor at the Worldcon in Melbourne in September. And he’s working on the first book in a three-book contract with Orbit; not a trilogy but three unrelated novels.

JACQUELINE LITCHTENBERG, here in Arizona, contributed this: her Romantic Times Award Winning SF novel, “Dushau” and its two sequels, “Farfetch” and “Outreach” are now available on Kindle, along with an omnibus edition of the two novels ACE published under her Daniel R. Kerns byline, “Hero” and “Border Dispute.” More Kindle availability to come for her Vampire SF Romances “Thos of My Blood” and “Dreamspy.” For descriptions, free chapters, and Kindle links see <http://jacquelinelichtenberg.com>

From New Mexico, we have two contributors this month. **DAVID MORRELL** has a major announcement coming up; perhaps in June, but at the moment he says he can’t say anything about it. It involves nine of his long out-of-print backlist titles

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Pro Notes

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and a new book “The Naked Edge.” The announcement will raise eyebrows. And **STEPHEN DONALDSON** (who will be a GoH at our local CopperCon this September) says that “Against All Things Ending,” Book Three of “The Last Chronicles of Thomas Covenant,” is scheduled for publication in mid-October (yes, 2010). One more book to go. And sometime in the next year, Subterranean Press will publish a “best of” anthology of his short fiction. Until last year, everything that he had ever published in the past 30+ years was still in print, both in the US and in the UK. Alas, his two short story collections, “Daughter of Regals and Other Tales,” and “Reave the Just and Other Tales,” were dropped in the US last year; and “Daughter of Regals” limped into the sunset in the UK. So Steve’s happy to report that Orion/Gollancz will give new life to “Daughter of Regals” in the UK this year. And of course he’s pleased that Subterranean will be restoring at least some of his short stories to print in the US.

JEAN LORRAH, Jacqueline Lichtenberg’s long-time partner, writes from Kentucky that “Coal For Christmas” by her and Lois Wickstrom placed in the top ten family screenplays in the 2009 TheMovieDeal contest. Last month she taught a two-day writing workshop in Knoxville, Tennessee and her website is still www.jeanlorrah.com.

And I’m terribly happy to welcome a new name: **CATHERINE ASARO**, who lives in Maryland. In July 2010, her SF novel “Diamond Star” will be released in paperback from Baen Books (hardcover, May 2009). In the novel, Del, a rock star, prefers his music to his duties as a Ruby Dynasty heir. His family wants him to stop, his record label wants to own him, and his enemies want to kill him. Del just wants to sing -- without starting an interstellar war. Using songs from the book, Catherine cut a CD with the rock band Point Valid that is a soundtrack for the book. Currently, she performs with musician Donald Wolcott. She will be a Guest of Honor at ApolloCon in June, a GoH of Fantasticon in Denmark in September 2010, and a GoH at Context, the New Zealand national sf convention. Donald will appear as a featured guest at all three cons, and they will perform as well as doing panels, signings, and other events. Recent reprints/reissues: “The Night Bird,” Catherine’s latest fantasy (Luna Books), trade; “Alpha,” a near future thriller (Baen), mass market paperback. Catherine’s work is also available in audio book and ebook format. And she loves to hear from her fans. You can reach her at www.Facebook.com/Catherine.Asaro (you don’t need to be on Facebook to access the site).

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 Enjoy your summer, see you in August.

Previous ProNotes columns and book reviews are posted on our website at: <http://casfs.org/ConNotations/>

A Conversation (Cont'd from page 1)

money they build a glorious (*her word*) office onto the house – 400 square feet with bookcases and a big picture window to watch the birds and bunnies. Not distracting, I asked? Nope, she said – it was designed so that she wouldn’t have to dread walking into work each morning. Her husband, Jim, works in there with her twice a week; unlike a lot of writers, she doesn’t mind the company.

She has gathered quite a fan following for her *Firekeeper* series. But she’s decided to stop after six books; before the series got trite and dried up. She felt she’d left the characters in a good spot to go ahead with their lives without her recording it. Her newest series is the *Breaking the Wall* – which is the first move in a mahjong game. So far she’s published three books; the newest one just came out in May, *Five Odd Honors*. She’d like to do more but sounded sad when she said it depends on the market.

Jane has more than one series under her belt and quite a few standalone stories not to mention scores of short stories. I asked her what she thought was best – writing a series or a standalone story. No best, she answered, both have their appeal. A series has the appeal of being able to develop more complex stories, more complex relationships with the characters; but a standalone has this bright diamond-hardness of focusing on one idea and no intention of going beyond it. Funny thing is, she related, the number one question she gets about her standalone novel, *Child of a Rainless Year*, is “when is the sequel coming out?” There are no plans for one, some stories are meant to just be that story and other stories really do need the chance to be developed over greater time.

I thought it was interesting to read in her bibliography that she’d written a couple Honor Harrington short stories. How in the world did she fall into that? Well...it started with David Weber’s car breaking down near her home and instead of directing him to a garage and motel, she brought him home with her for a week. After that week, they were close friends and the platonic friendship continued after each of them married. And Jane is the unintentional godmother of the Honor Harrington anthologies after introducing Weber to S.M. Stirling. She thought that two guys who both wrote military SF for Baen and both made the most humongous over-the-top salads she’d ever seen, needed to know each other. So, she has two stories already out and a third that will appear in a new anthology from Baen that hasn’t yet been announced.

What does Jane think is the most important element of a story: setting, plot or character? They all interrelate; they can’t be separated in her mind. It’s really how people interact in everyday life. They interact within their setting. For example, she illustrated: “today we are sitting in a beautiful sunny environment feeling good; but if it were raining and we were crammed into small spaces with people running around trying to fix things, our mood would be significantly different.” They all interweave for her.

Does Jane use sex in any of her stories? She wouldn’t use sex in a story just to sell it. She doesn’t think her readers particularly want to go in the bedroom with her characters. But she did in *Smoke and Mirrors* from 1996 because it was intrinsic to the story line of a touch-telepath prostitute/information broker.

How about her experience with fandom? It was rather strange that even though Jane grew up in Washington, DC which has an active fan community and finished college in New York City while gaming, she never knew about any SF related events. Which, she says, tells you that fandom needs to do more outreach. In 1989, while in graduate school, she had a limited correspondence with Roger

Zelazny and when she discovered that he would be a Guest at a local convention she went with some friends. She was completely and utterly overwhelmed. However, in the year since, she has come to appreciate the intelligence and creativity of fans – as well as the amount of social outreach and charity in which many groups are involved. She’s heard the whining about the ‘greying of fandom’ and thinks fandom needs to be more proactive about finding the fans without the grey.

Of all the stuff she’s written, what is she most proud of? She loves them all...for different reasons. For her, she’s still growing as a writer and each book, each story that she does usually ends up stretching her envelope in some way. They are all part of her life and she doesn’t play favorites. Is there anything she’d like to do-over now? There was one short story that had some historical elements that she might like to revisit to make sure it was accurate but other than that – no.

So what’s in her future? A couple of projects that she can’t talk about just yet. But she’s also working on a project of the heart – a novel with a working title of *Sundial Ring* which has various plot lines in different times and the question is “Why?” She can’t say what it’s really about until she finishes it. It’s the way she writes – she doesn’t know where she’s going until she gets there. Anything else coming up? She’s sure there will be, and then she’ll do it. But, she said emphatically, she won’t do a project, whether it be a novel or a short story, if she can’t be passionate about it. That’s why she writes; she doesn’t write to make a living. If someone offered her a million dollars to write something that she couldn’t be passionate about, she’d turn it down. After all, we only have this one life and she doesn’t intend to waste one moment of it doing something she didn’t like. No money can buy her back a moment in time spent on a project that she can’t get passionate about. Her days are what she gets and she’s going to spend them doing what she loves... and she really, really loves writing stories. Thank you for that, Jane.

A Quick Conversation with Brooks Branch

by Bob LaPierre

Brooks Branch is the writer, director and producer of *Multiple Sarcasms*, the film stars Timothy Hutton, Dana Delany, Mira Sorvino and Mario Van Peebles. The film is set in the early seventies in New York. Hutton portrays a man dissatisfied with his life and driven by his dissatisfaction to write a play about it.

Bob LaPierre: The film is set in the early seventies, and deals with a man suffering from the classic symptoms of clinical depression, how did you research for this movie?

Brooks Branch: Well, I spent some time in New York during that time and remember much of it; also I read a lot of books and saw a number of movies set in and around New York during that time. We also found pictures and sent our location scouts everywhere looking for just the right places. Gabriel was written as a product of that time, self absorbed, selfish, and just getting in touch with his feelings.

BL: When you wrote this did you have any stars in mind?

BB: Not specifically. However Tim Hutton was the top person in my mind for this. He had to portray someone who

is very selfish, but he had to do it in a way that the audience still roots for him. Many actors would have had the audience hating Gabriel and the film wouldn’t have worked. He was able to convey the sense of the bigger picture. Now actually Stockard Channing’s role was written with her in mind, the gravelly voice for the agent. That was who I heard in the role from the beginning.

BL: How much influence did you exert over casting? I noticed that you had several names listed under casting.

BB: Actually I was a pain. I had a very in-your-face method of getting who I wanted for these roles.

BL: A very hands-on approach?

BB: Yes

BL: It seems to have worked well. Why was Gabriel so enamored of what we would today call “chick flicks”?

BB: A lot of guys were then. That was the era when movies first started having male leads that were more in touch with their feelings. Look at the stars from that era, Alan Alda, Robert Redford; these are the sort of men who would show their feelings. Kramer vs. Kramer, the first movie to really deal with men as parents. He was just getting in touch with his feelings through his choice of movies.

BL: How difficult was it to make an independent movie in today’s market?

BB: Extremely, it was nearly impossible. The difficulties in finding an audience for your vision. Just incredibly tough.

BL: Having done it all yourself, how close to your artistic vision did the finished movie come?

BB: Remarkably close. Some parts better than others, but the changes were mostly subtle and sometimes you just have to roll with the changes and do what you can.

BL: Ok, I am probably the only critic to admit to this: I sit and watch all the credits. I figure if someone worked hard enough to get their name up on screen someone should see it.

BB: Bless you

BL: What was the deal with Mario dancing at the end of the credits?

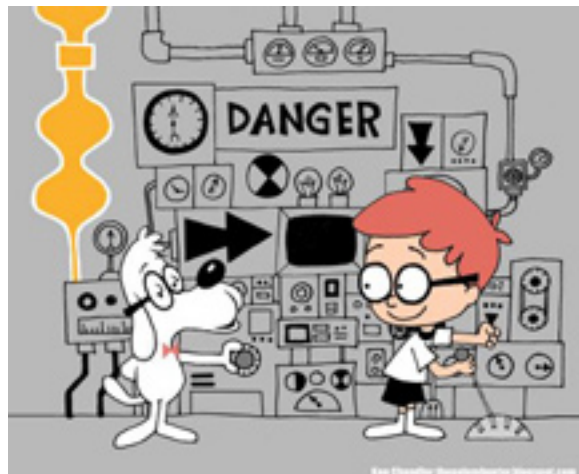
BB: Well, we have a couple of interns filming everything we do with 8mm to document the process. One day Mario was just fooling around getting into character and I saw it in the dailies. I thought that was a great way to do our “That’s All Folks” at the end of the movie.

BL: Well, that is all the time and space I have for this issue. I would like to thank you for your time and wish you well in the future.

BB: Thank you and I look forward to seeing this.

Many Parts Make Up A Whole Or Twos Company, Threes Too Loud.” It’s the 50th Anniversary of Rocky and Bullwinkle, Pt. 7 By Shane Shellenbarger

While Rocky, Bullwinkle, and their various friends and enemies were the main attraction to the show, other elements had been developed by Jay Ward and Bill Scott to explore a diversity of story lines. One of Ward’s favorites and often cited as the most imaginative was “Fractured Fairy Tales.” A source of satire, parody, and lampooner of classic fairy tales, this supporting feature was Ward’s baby. When concern grew about the quality of the Mexican animation, Ward pulled back several of his dearest “Fairy Tale” scripts for production in the Hollywood studio. The difference in animation style and quality is evident when compared to the



“Rocky and Bullwinkle” segments.

“Fractured Fairy Tales” were voiced by Rocky regulars, June Foray, Bill Scott along with the legendary Daws Butler. Joining them as narrator was Edward Everett Horton, who was hired to lend an air of class, sophistication, and reverence to predominantly irreverent stories. Horton’s delivery was clever, restrained, and wry, but he never took himself too seriously. He would often send up the versions of his 1930’s and 1940’s nervous characters.

Daws Butler and his partner, Stan Freberg, were an early influence on “Fractured Fairy Tales.” The two men scripted an audio satire, “St. George and the Dragonet” and recorded it on August 26, 1953 for Capital Records. On September 21, 1953 it was released as a 45 rpm single (Capitol F2596). The spoof combined the tale of “St George and the Dragon” with the popular 1950s radio-TV series, Dragnet. It became a #1 hit, selling over one million records in the first three weeks. The cast featured Freberg (doing a great Jack Webb take-off), Butler (as a Jerry Lewis-like knave and the dragon), June Foray (doing a superb Brooklyn princess, grandmother, and Little Blue Riding Hood) and Hy Averback. Jay Ward had also been a fan of *Time for Beany*, a TV puppet show showcasing the talents of Freberg and Butler, and written by Bill Scott from 1949-50.

Ward had favorite character voices as performed by June Foray and Daws Butler, and he demanded their return often. Foray’s battle-ax voice can be heard coming forth from old hags, witches, or fairy godmothers. Butler performed a fey, swishy nobleman/prince voice which can be heard often on the show, as well as absentminded elderly gentlemen and kings through his impression of Charles Butterworth, a 1930s character actor who gave new meaning to the term

“befuddled.” This impression by Butler eventually developed into the Quaker Oats cereal commercial, Cap’n Crunch.

Another side light to the main attraction was “Bullwinkle’s Corner” in which the knowledgeable moose recites poetry which often ends with a wry twist. There were thirty-nine brief segments and when the segment moved to *The Bullwinkle Show*, it was transmogrified into “Mr. Know-It-All” a fifty segment bit in which Bullwinkle delivers off-skew lectures, and it finally changed into ten of the “The Rocky and Bullwinkle Fan Club” segments, one of which includes a cameo by Dudley Do-Right.

Lastly, there was “Peabody’s Improbable History” featuring the adventures of Mr. Peabody, a brilliant, bespeckled dog, and his pet boy, Sherman, who travel through time in the WABAC (pronounced Way-Back) Machine. In addition to the novelty of an intelligent dog having a pet boy, “Peabody” was not merely an observer of historical events, but he had a direct hand in straightening

out historical figures so that events transpired as they were recorded in the history books. Originally developed by cartoonist Ted Key, the concept of a boy-owning-dog tentatively called “Danny Day-Dream,” grew from Key’s observation of animals and determining that we all take orders from our cats. The cat became a smart dog originally called Beware. Ward suggested the voice of actor Clifton Webb as portrayed in the role of “Mr. Belvedere.” Beware was later named “Peabody” after Bill Scott’s real-life dog. He became a hyper-intelligent beagle who had invented his own time machine. The boy

became Sherman, named for a UPA technical director, Sherman Glas. One of the hallmarks of “Peabody” were the puns. One might call them “pun-tastic” Peabody was voiced by Bill Scott who had some difficulty performing the precise, contemptuous Clifton Webb impression. He had to speak softly, very rapidly and tighten his lips. He often had to repeat lines because the tautness of his mouth would cause him to stumble over his words. Sherman was voiced by 38-year-old Walter Tetley, an actor whose voice never broke due to a hormonal condition. Tetley had been a radio-film actor and had done several animated cartoons and starring as Andy Panda from 1945 to 1949. Injured in a motorcycle accident during the late 1960s, Tetley

suffered numerous health issues and died on September 4th, 1975. Several of the “Peabody” episodes became a bone of contention between Jay Ward and either the ad agency or the network. Louis Pasteur, Alfred Nobel, Ponce de Leon, George Washington, Confucius, Leonardo da Vinci, Robinson Crusoe, and Jim Bowie all were subjects of scripts which came under close scrutiny and were modified in some way.

Join us again next time when we ask the question, “If You Up Your Budget, Can I Up Mine?”

For more info go to: <http://tinyurl.com/Shane-Info-Blog>

An American in New Zealand Part 11: Auckland- Sting Rays & Penguins by Jeffrey Lu

I walked inside “Kelly Tarlton’s Antarctic Encounter and Underwater World.” I heard this was a unique aquarium. Well, it was more than that. I went there to see live penguins.

The difference from seeing penguins in the wild and on an island is that in this place, one actually can see an independent penguin walking/swimming within ten feet without it knowing you are there. The problem was that I had to be in a mock fully covered “snow mobile” with shaded windows on a one-way conveyor belt. I did not care. I just wanted to see this tux-feathered bird up close.

What I had found out later was this whole colony of certain penguins were endangered. They emigrated to Auckland but had problems adapting to the heat and to the new enemies- i.e. stray cats. One New Zealand businessman thought of a great idea and proposed it to the government. He was granted permission to save these penguins in a public aquarium.

A person with a huge parka covering his or her face will have a hose that gives 3 tons of snow daily for the penguins. The birds at first was startled but later found this “thing” was no threat to their colony. Also, the layout of the colony was similar to the movie “Happy Feet.” There was a pool where the penguins can swim. There were one-way mirrors that humans can watch these creatures in private. There was even a location where the male penguins guarded the eggs. Another, the mock snowmobiles on the conveyor belt were for regular people like me to be given a tour about this live penguin colony.

By the way, these penguins are now out of danger. The tourists, including me, enjoyed the birds and their new home. I exited the mock snow mobile.

Afterwards, there was a window facing south. I’ve been told in a clear day, one can see Antarctica at a distance. Unfortunately for me, I saw only fog. Rats!

Frustrated, I walked through a hallway with a large tank of water that was about five feet high. Without thinking, I tried to pass by the exhibit quickly. Instead, I jumped.

What the heck was that? I could have sworn I saw a flying... carpet? Oh, was that a manta ray? No. What I saw was a sting ray.

Didn’t Steve “*The Crocodile Hunter*” Irwin die from its sting?

I stopped. Respectfully, I looked at another sting ray as it glided past me. Its tail had a wicked barb.

More of these creatures swam past me in their tank. I kept my distance and quietly exited.

Next in An American in New Zealand Part 12: Karaoke and Boris Karloff (August/Sept)

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff – Grated Hits (Mystic Fig Records)

Almost like clockwork, I’ve come to expect a new CD from the Bohnhoffs about once every two years. And I’m never disappointed—either in the timing or in the music. Back in full parody mode after *Moebius Street*, their last excellent album of totally original tunes, *Grated Hits* delivers the goods musically, sonically and parodically (*if that’s even a word, which Spell Check says it isn’t.*)

See... Jeff Bohnhoff is kind of a rock parody perfectionist when it comes to music. He tries to match, as closely as possible, the musical sound of the songs he and Maya are skewering. That way, you might really think you’re hearing “Baba O’Reilly,” until Maya turns it into “Baba McDonalds” (I love Mrs. Fields/I eat between meals/I get some snacks into my living).

Baby Boomers that they are, the Bohnhoffs plumb the endless depths of rock “classics” and come up with winners every time. You can guess that some of these songs are based on simply by the title “Viva Mos Eisley” “Our Meds are Cheaper”, “I am the Walmart”, etc.) while others don’t become obvious until you hear the song.

Hopeless Star Wars fans that they are, the movies get more parodies on here than any other genre or subject (including the extremely ambitious “Midichlorian Rhapsody” which Jeff Bohnhoff says was nearly an album’s worth of work).

Grated Hits is just what you need for those times when you realize just how pompous most music is and you just want to do your part at putting it in its proper place. Pick it up! By the time this hits press, it should be available at CDBaby.com. Read more at www.mysticfig.com



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The Costume Closet



Like “The Leatherstocking Tales,” but with Duct Tape

by Randall Whitlock

The “duct tape dummy” is a popular and useful item among costumers. The concept is simple. Have a friend wrap your body in several layers of duct tape over an old t-shirt or other expendable substrate, then cut an escape hatch through the back. Tape the shell back together and stuff it with packing peanuts to create a custom-shaped dresser dummy around which to fit your clothing projects. The Southwest Costumers Guild is planning a duct tape dummy making session for this summer. Check www.southwestcostumersguild.org for details.



Excellent example of a duct tape dummy built by Frances Burns, Diane Harris and Tasha Cady. Frances described how to build the stand from plywood and common plastic plumbing parts in Cactus Needles 12.3, March 2005.

A few years ago it occurred to me that this process could be applied further south. I’d seen something similar done by a custom boot maker at the Arizona

Renaissance Festival.

I needed shoes for a medieval jester costume I was building for Halloween. The costume was to be particolored in alternating panels of black and white.

My inspiration for the shape of the boots was a pair of Minnetonka brand boot moccasins I had previously altered for renaissance faire use by removing the fringed cuffs, increasing the number of lace holes, and adding brass grommets to reinforce the new holes. The basic boots can be found in most western stores and many online sources.



I started by pulling a dollar-store nylon stocking over my right leg in proper Joe Namath fashion (You’ll probably have to Wikipedia that joke if you’re under forty). This was to protect my leg from the tape’s adhesive without adding too much thickness. I applied a couple of layers of duct tape all around my foot and lower leg up to just below the knee. The tape was applied closely, but not too tight. I wanted to mimic the shape of my leg, not change it.

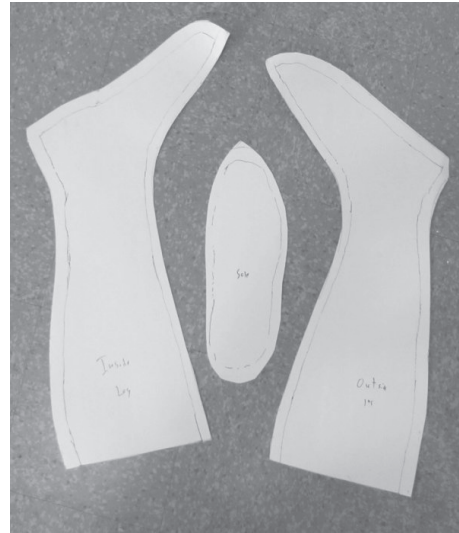


I marked out lines around the sole of my foot, up the back of the leg, and down the shin to the toe. I cut along these lines with medical scissors, as though removing bandages.

The result was three pieces – a sole, an outer leg, and an inner leg. I immediately

mashed these pieces flat against a sheet of cardboard and traced around them before the tape could shrink under its own tension.

I traced a half-inch seam allowance around each of the pattern pieces, smoothing the curves as I went along, and cut them out. The marked side is top for the right boot.



Since this costume was for Halloween parties and SCA courts, not serious outdoor wear, I made the boot pieces out of craft felt. Leather or sturdy canvas would be a better choice for longer-lasting boots. My one concession for durability was to attach the rubber sole from a pair of dead house slippers by hand stitching. The left boot was made by flipping the right boot pieces over to form their mirror images.

The pieces were sewn together around the sole, along the back of the leg, and over the top of the foot. The upper front was left open. Eyelets were mounted and laces installed along this closure. Cross garters around the outside of the boot would have worked as well.



This pattern is really more of a sock than a proper boot. A serious boot pattern would have a more sophisticated cut with a tongue and heel. (Try www.yatahai.com for a variety of boot moccasin patterns.) This pattern does have several potential uses for SF and fantasy costumes, including those close-fitting boots worn by old-school comic book heroes. If the uppers were made of an adequately stretchy material, the front opening could be omitted. Foam insoles would help considerably against heel shock and other comfort issues. Reinforced outsoles might be made from thick leather, polymer sheeting, or prefabricated soles.

ConClusion

Con-Nichiwa in Tucson

Con-Nichiwa was overflowing with energy, costumes, Japanese snacks, anime merchandise and excited fen. Vic Mignogna packed the big tent and spoke entertainingly of his life and career for about 2 hours, and then did it again on a smaller scale during a signing session the next day. All the guests of honor were great – they signed virtually anything you brought to them, including portions of anatomy, and swapped anecdotes of voice-over acting and ad-libbing on the sets. The panels ranged from Lost Treasures of Anime to Tea House concerts. One hugely popular event was the photographing of fans in costume. All weekend long, fen lined up to get snapped professionally, and the results are on line at pichaus.com/+con+connichiwa/ for your viewing pleasure.

Fortunately, large chunks of the convention were also recorded and can be visited at www.tradecurrencies.com/currency-trading-videos/index.php?key=Con-Nichiwa Just because you missed the weekend is no excuse for missing the experience. See you at the next Con-Nichiwa. ~ Chris Paige

Videophile

Hi, I’m a Marvel ... and I’m a DC.
www.youtube.com

Yet another series of funny confrontations between toy action figures, this time inspired by the TV ads of the Mac versus PC computers. One Marvel superhero stands next to one from DC Comics, and the sarcastic banter flies. The pair-ups will be identified in parentheses after the main title. I watched all the ones with characters from Watchmen paired off with Wolverine. Both sides took hits and got laughs from me. The voices match the characters well, proving that it’s not little kids who made this. Fun for fanboys and fangirls of all ages. Typical length is a few minutes. ~ Mike Griffin

Trivia Questions

1. What novel won the first Nebula Award?
2. The only Discworld novel where Death never speaks?
3. What was the first year the Hugos were awarded?
4. The Land of Oz has attracted literally hundreds of authors but who wrote the most stories?
5. Who won the 2009 Hugo for his childrens book?
6. Who coined the term “robotics?”
7. Who is the reigning Queen of the SFWA Musketeers?
8. When did the “Adventures of Superman” first air on TV?
9. Torchwood was founded by this royal individual in 1879.
10. Who was the third author of the Fuzzies stories?

Answers on page 16

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*** Surprises ***

Screening Room

Shrek Forever After
Starring: Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, Cameron Diaz, Antonio Banderas, Walt Dohrn
Director: Mike Mitchell
Runtime: 93 minutes
Rated: PG
Release Date: May 21st, 2010
Reviewed by: Len Berger
(ConNotations Film Editor)

Shrek Forever After continues the *Shrek* saga. We join Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) as a father, a domesticated Ogre and simply bored with his repetitive life. However, it's the first birthday party for Shrek and Fiona's (voiced by Cameron Diaz) babies and that ought to cheer up Shrek, but does not. The townsfolk are no longer afraid of Ogres and Shrek longs for the day he would scare everyone he encounters.

Rumpelstiltskin (voiced by Walt Dohrn) overhears Shrek's rants and convinces Shrek he can help. All Shrek has to do is sign a magical contract titled "Ogre for a day" that will trade one day of Shrek's past life with one day of Rumpelstiltskin's life. What could be simpler than that? Well, like all simple contracts created by evil doers there is in fact a lot of complexity and many things can go wrong.

Shrek signs the contract and sure enough everyone screams when they see Shrek. Shrek couldn't be happier. Of course Shrek's friends do not recognize him and that includes Donkey (voiced by Eddie Murphy), Puss in Boots (voiced by Antonio Banderas) and of course the lovely Fiona. The fun begins.

There is the usual mix of humor as well as some visually pleasing scenes

such as the witches' trailer park seen early in the film. Donkey is quoted as saying to his wife "Nice landing, now don't eat the valet" as the Shrek family and friends arrive at Far Far Away for the birthday party. There are a couple of awesome 3D "chase" scenes.

Shrek Forever After will be the final film in the series. Shrek is showing in 3D, 2D and IMAX. The 3D version was very entertaining and is the recommended format to view the film.

Rated PG.

Shrek Forever After is rated B.

Robin Hood
Starring: Russell Crowe, Cate Blanchett, Mark Strong
Director: Ridley Scott
Rated: PG-13
Running time: 140 minutes
Produced: Universal Pictures, Imagine Entertainment, Relativity Media, Scott Free Productions
Distributed by: Universal Pictures
Release Date: May 14th, 2010
Reviewed by: Bob LaPierre,
ConNotations Film Critic

This is the story of one of England's favorite fairy tales being placed in cold hard reality. In the tale of Robin Hood, as seen previously, the story ends with Richard returning from the crusades. In reality, Richard died on his way back from the crusades. In the tale, John usurped his brother's throne. In reality he was, as poorly as he did it, legally the king. So when you see this film you might want to keep the truth in mind.

Our story begins in Nottingham and there we see the poverty that King Richard's crusades begat upon the land. After the introduction of Lady Marion (Cate Blanchett) we go to the siege of a

French castle. After lighting the gates on fire the main body of the army returns to camp for food and relaxation. King Richard (Danny Huston), restless and curious, wanders hooded among them. A chance blow knocks him down and Sir Robert Loxley (Douglas Hodge) announces the King. When questioning how the fight started Richard decides that Robin Longstrides (Russell Crowe) is a bold and honest man. Richard then asks a question he says he wants answered truthfully. We know how that goes, don't we? So Robin and his friends are in stocks during the next day's battle and are freed by a scullery boy when Richard is killed.

They make for the coast and on the way they come across an ambush of Robert Loxley and the King's guard. After chasing off the French brigands led by Godfrey (Mark Strong), a traitor to the crown, they discover that Loxley is still alive. He asks Robin to return his father's sword to him in Nottingham. Robin agrees and they soon decide that the best way to reach England is as knights returning the crown. So they strip the bodies and make for the coast. Returning the crown they see the new king crowned and Godfrey sees them.

Godfrey vows to collect the taxes owed by the northern barons and begins a campaign using French troops to discredit King John. The story is good, the history solid and the acting was tremendous. Max von Sydow was superlative as the blind Sir Walter Loxley.

Four stars out of five.

VOICE 2010: The Disembodied Voice Takes Center Stage

by Shane Shellenbarger

The VoiceOver International Creative Experience started in Las Vegas, 2007 as a gathering of approximately 500 voice-over professionals, followed in Los Angeles 2008 with over 1,500 attendees, went on hiatus for 2009, and now it's returning like a juggernaut on June 2nd, 2010 to the Hyatt Regency Century Plaza Hotel.

VOICE was organized by the founders of Voice Acting Academy in San Diego, James Alburger, author of "The Art of Voice Acting," and Penny Abshire, as a means of bringing together the community of voice performers who are often heard but rarely seen. The conference will host some of the biggest names in voice-over. Previous guests included Don LaFontaine (known for his movie trailers which often began "In A World . . ."), Eddie Carroll (the voice of *Jiminy Cricket* from 1973-2010), and Bill Farmer (the current voice of *Goofy*.) Returning this year are Key Note Speaker, Marc Cashman (producer, director, and working voice actor), Patrick Fraley (37-year veteran performer and teacher), Bob Bergen (current voice of *Porky Pig* and numerous other Warner Bros. characters), Scott Brick (narrator of over 400 audio books), and Richard Horvitz (voice of *Invader Zim*.)

There will be an Exhibitors Hall where all manner of materials and equipment related to the voice-over field will be available for purchase. Program panels include audio books, commercial narration, medical mumbo-jumbo, telephony trees, improvisation, promos and movie trailers, foreign language voice-over, social networking, and

(Cont'd on page 9)

Westercon 63 and ConChord 23 have partnered to bring you:

WesterChord

Thursday, July 1 through Sunday, July 4, 2010

With our honored guests:

Writer Guest of Honor: Rudy Rucker / Fan Guest of Honor: John D. Berry

Artist Guest of Honor: Marc Schirmeister / Toastmaster: Paul Kwinn

Music Guest of Honor: Seanan McGuire

Interfilk Guest: Stone Dragons (Tom Jeffers & Sue Posteraro)

Since 1948 the Westercon has been the floating social feast where fans gather annually to celebrate Science Fiction & Fantasy this side of the Rockies. Join us in 2010 to reunite with old friends, meet new friends, and share in our corner of fandom. We've partnered with ConChord 23, Southern California's home filk convention, to infuse a musical balloon that will lift the weekend. ConChord's distinctive features include musical performances, one of which is the infamous Totally Tacky and Tasteless Revue, at which musicians perform songs they would not normally perform on stage.

WesterChord will be held at the **Pasadena Hilton**, 168 S. Los Robles Ave, Pasadena, CA 91101. The room rate is \$129 a night for s/d/t/q occupancy and valet parking is \$15 a day. Call (626) 584-3112 and tell them the convention code: WESTER to receive the reduced rate.

Attending Membership for all 4 days is \$60 (it goes up after June 1).

For more information or to register view our websites: www.westercon63.org , www.conchord.org or email: info@westercon63.org.

VOICE

(Cont'd from page 8)

equipment and technology.

The convention opens on the evening of June 2nd with a Red Carpet Reception, a meet-and-greet for program panelists and attendees. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday will have panels and programming covering all areas of voice-over. Saturday evening will wrap-up the festivities with a banquet which includes a special appearance by Rob ("Pinky") Paulson and Maurice ("The Brain") LaMarche, capping the night off with music and dancing.

Current attendee prices are as follows: \$697 for a regular, full price tuition through May 30, 2010. \$797 for late and walk-in tuition May 31, June 1 & 2. \$250 for a 1-Day-Pass for Thursday, Friday,



or Saturday. \$50 for an Exhibits-Only Pass is good all three days. The Celebrity Banquet is \$105 for the Closing night event which includes dinner & program with preferred seating, or \$65 for the Closing program only with no meal and side area seating.

This is a conference for aspiring voice actors as well as professionals, and every range of talent in between. Newcomers can test the waters to determine if this is a field in which they can compete. Old timers can brush up old skills or learn about the newest technologies and market trends. In addition to all of that, this is a gathering of people who don't see enough of the competition who might also be their friends.

<http://voice-international.com>
<http://www.voiceacting.com/VOICE>

FYI

CASFS Book Discussion

Bent Cover Books
12428 N. 28th Drive, Phoenix
3rd Tuesdays, 7pm, in the Coffee Bar
Sponsored by Central Arizona
Speculative Fiction Society (CASFS)
email questions to book@casfs.org

Come do some face-to-face interaction with your fellow readers and SF/Fantasy fans! Haven't read the book? Don't worry, there's no quiz or anything. You can use the rest of us as your personal book reviewers to see if it's something you'd like. We start out with the book discussion, but the conversation can go anywhere. The get-together is held in the coffee shop of Bent Cover Books near 28th Drive and Cactus Road in Phoenix. We welcome potential new friends.

June 21 - The Hitch-Hikers Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams

July 20 - Burning Alive by Shannon Butcher

August 17- On Basilisk Station by David Weber

September 21 - Keeping It Real by Justina Robson

October 19 - The Devil's Eye by Jack McDevitt

November 16 - Cordelia's Honor by Lois McMaster Bujold

December 21 - A Game of Thrones by George RR Martin

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Aprilynne Pike
Poisoned Pen bookstore. Jun 8, 7pm

Janni Lee Simner
Barnes & Noble, Eastside, Tucson. Jun 19, 2pm

Diana Gabaldon
Poisoned Pen bookstore. Sep 21, 7pm

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Oro Valley Library, Tucson
Science Fiction Book Club, 4th Tuesdays

SciFi Book Group
Barnes & Noble, Eastside, Tucson.
Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 10, 730pm

GAMING EVENTS

DRAWN TO COMICS

Star Wars Miniatures. Fridays 730p-11pm, Sundays, 1pm-4pm
Sit-and-Sketch with local artists.
Saturdays, 4pm-8pm
HeroClix. Sat 2pm
Check FaceBook for other events

GAME DEPOT

Flames of War Tournament, June 19 11am
Magic 2011 Pre-Release Jul 10, noon
HeroClix. Wed, 530pm-8pm
Magic, The Gathering Thur 6pm.
Malifaux. Fri, 4pm-7pm

GAMER'S INN

Warmachine/Hordes Shattered Grounds League. Jun 7, 2pm.
Magic Phoenix PTO. Jun 19, 10am.
Magic Arch Enemy Release Event. Jun 19, 5pm.
Free RPG Day. Jun 20, 10am
The Magic Gamer's Inn \$2K Standard Tournament. Jul 13, 10am

IMPERIAL OUTPOST GAMES

Federation Commander. 2nd Saturday, noon
RPG. 1st & 3rd Sundays
Boardgames & Demo Nite. Mondays & Thursdays, 6pm.
Magic Booster Drafts. Fridays, 7pm
War Machine. Wednesdays, 4pm

SAMURAI COMICS

(check website for correct store location)

Independent Day. Jul 4, 10a-6p (Phx)
Autographs, party with local comic creators.
Magic, The Gathering Tournament. Mon 6pm (Phx), Thurs 6p (Phx) Magic, The Gathering. Friday, 6p at both locations, & Tues, 6pm (west valley) & Sat 1pm (Phx)
Yugioh Tournament. Sundays, noon (Phx) & Sat, noon (west valley)
Anime Club. Sundays, noon (west valley)
Pokemon. Sundays, 2pm (west valley)

SCIENCE EVENTS

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear.
Opened Jan 31, 2010
Summer Science Camp at Biotechnology Medical Institute Jul 12-16 & Jul 19-23.
Summer Science Camp for all future engineers, pilots, doctors and astronomers, ages 6 to 12, June thru July.
Pre-school Science. Jun thru Sep, various topics.

Junior Weather Forecasters program. Fall dates TBA
Family-friendly talks about biology topics.
Jun 5 "Multiplicity: Human Cloning."
Ongoing Exhibits:
Dorrance Planetarium
Evans Family Skycycle
My Digital Worlds
Forces of Nature
New Rock Wall for climbers aged 8 and above
Adults Night Out, 1st Fridays, check website for topics & time

ASU

Science lectures and news: <http://asunews.asu.edu/news/science>

CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER, PEORIA

Stargazing. Starlab Planetarium. *Check website for dates and times*
"Understanding the Nature of Light".
Fridays, 2pm.
Adventures in Space Summer Camp, ages K-garten thru 8th grade, June & July
Columbia Shuttle Memorial Display
ASU Meteorite Exhibit
Iridium Satellite Model
Atlantis Space Shuttle Model
Journey Thru the Space Program
Lowell Observatory Display

MOON SOCIETY MEETING

3:00 PM on the third Saturday at Denny's on the Southeast corner of US60 and Rural Road. For more info contact Craig Porter at portercd@msn.com

PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM, TUCSON

New Volunteer Orientation. Jun 12, Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Sep 18, 930am-1030am.
Science Saturdays. Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug 28, 10am-330pm. Age 8 and up.
Night Wings. Jun 26, Jul 24, Aug 28, 5pm-9pm. Space Gallery exhibit. See an Apollo space capsule, moon rock, Phoenix Mars Mission.

SETI Institute's Weekly

Science Radio Program - Mondays, avail as podcast -- <http://radio.seti.org> and <http://podcast.seti.org>

Titan Missile Museum

Titan Missile Museum Tours.
Reservations only - The only publicly accessible Titan II missile site in the nation. Tour the underground missile site.

See the 3-ton blast doors, 8' thick silo walls and an actual Titan II missile in the launch duct. Visit the launch control center, experience a simulated launch, and more. Top to Bottom Tours: Check web site for 2010 dates

OTHER GENRE-RELATED EVENTS

13TH ANNUAL HIGHLAND CELTIC FESTIVAL,
Jul 18-19, Foxglen Park, Flagstaff
<http://www.noachs.info/festival.shtml>

BARNES & NOBLE TEMPE MARKETPLACE

IFC Screenwriting Group, Wednesdays, 7pm

BOOKMANS, GRANT RD, TUCSON
Pirates of the Sonoran Desert, interactive pirate adventure, Jun 3, 10am

BOOKMANS, PHOENIX

Across+ Anime Club meeting, Sundays, 6pm
Browncoats Shindig, first Sat, 7pm
Phoenix Astronomical Society - Free Telescope Training Workshop July 25, 3:30pm

BORDERS, CAMELBACK

Metaphysical Thursdays, 7pm
LOFT THEATRE, TUCSON
Screenings of movies, many SF genre.
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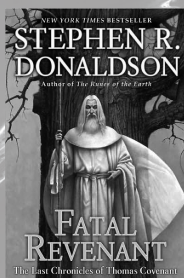
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email: info@coppercon.org web: www.coppercon.org

24 Frames

by Jeffrey Lu

Comments:

A funny story. About five years ago, I had one day at my editor’s party asked what were these extra two boxes of unread books doing here next to the regular book review box. She told me they were Warhammer and Warhammer 40,000 and no one wanted to read them. So, I asked if I can try them. She graciously allowed me to try if I don’t return them back. In hindsight if I knew what I know now, I should be screaming out the front door and never come back. Yet, I’m still here reading them (Some are actually quite good) and doing book reviews. (By the way, I finally finished those two boxes. Whew!)

Another funny story. Recently, I was curious and asked Stephanie (Queen Bee, editor, friend, former auction foe) about who’s doing 24 Frames, now? She replied that the person who was doing it did not have enough time. He was too busy doing the other column. Being brave (or rather, stupid), I asked if I can give it a shot. So, here it is.

Thanks to Craig Dryer, Bob LaPierre, Stephanie L. Bannon, and Lee Whiteside for their help and direction in this old column. Cheers!

In Production:

Thor. This is a beginning adventure of a Marvel superhero, Thor. “Partially disabled medical student Dr. Donald Blake discovers his heretofore unknown true form, Thor, the Norse God of Thunder” (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0800369/>).

Release date: May 6, 2011. Currently filmed in New Mexico. Kenneth Branagh is directing. Chris Hemsworth is Thor. Natalie Portman will play Jane Foster. Anthony Hopkins will be cast as Odin.

Transformer 3. Release date: July 1, 2011. Sam’s boss will be John Malkovich.

Mission Impossible IV. Brad Bird (The Incredibles) is the director. The movie release will be Dec. 16, 2011.

Men In Black III. Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones will be back! Release date: May 25, 2012.

Rise of the Apes. A Planet of the Apes prequel. “Peter Jackson’s WETA Digital will handle the visual effects on the film (which will render photo-realistic apes rather than using actors in monkey suits). Here’s the film’s logline: *‘Rise of the Apes* is an origins story set in present-day San Francisco. The film is a reality-based cautionary tale, where man’s own experiments with genetic engineering lead to the development of intelligence in apes and the onset of a war for supremacy” (<http://movies.ign.com/articles/108/1088234p1.html>). Release date: June 2011.

Ice Age 4. Release date: July 2012.

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn. Release date: Nov. 2011.

X-Men: First Class “Before Charles Xavier and Erik Lensherr took the names Professor X and Magneto, they were two young men discovering their powers for the first time. Before they were archenemies, they were closest of friends, working together, with other Mutants (some familiar, some new,) to stop the greatest threat the world has ever known. In the process, a rift between them opened, which began the eternal war between Magneto’s Brotherhood and Professor X’s X-Men. *Written by Twentieth Century Fox*” (<http://www.imdb.com/title/tt1270798/plotsummary>). Release Date: June 2011. Matthew Vaughn will be directing.

June/July 2010 releases on the screen:
Fri, June 4th- Splice (horror sci-fi)
Fri, June 11th- The A-Team (action)

The Karate Kid (action drama)
Fri, June 18th- Jonah Hex- a DC anti-hero (Western)
Toy Story 3 (animation)
Wed, June 30th- The Twilight Saga: Eclipse (romance)
Fri, July 2 The Last Airbender- a live action movie. Directed and written by M. Night Shyamalan.
Fri, July 9 Predators (sci-fi horror)
Inception (sci-fi action)
The Sorcerer’s Apprentice (fantasy)

Rumors:

Chris Pine (Captain Kirk in Star Trek XI) is in talks about doing a friend spy comedy, “This Means War.”

There might be another superhero movie from Marvel. They are considering doing a Luke Cage movie.

The next Iron Man (III) may have the next supervillain, “The Mandarin.” This is confirmed by an interview with the director of the two past Iron Man movies, John Faureau. Yet, this is too soon after this May’s Iron Man II premiere.

Parting Shots:

2012 will be a very interesting year. Three major movies will be competing for the major super summer movie spot: Star Trek XII (Release date: June 29, 2012), Spider-man (IV? Rumors has it that this will be a new cast and that Spider-man will be set in high school...) (Release date: July 3, 2012), and Batman (III? What’s the new next name after “The Dark Knight?” Batman villain(s)?) (Release date: July 20, 2012) (By the way, Christian Bale will be again Batman and Christopher Nolan will also direct).

In Our Book

Dragon Keeper
by Robin Hobb
EOS/Harper Collins, \$26.99, 474 pp

Ms. Hobb continues to deliver entertaining ideas; this time the action takes place in the Rain Wilds – a boggy rainforest kind of environment. The events take place either at the same time as her Live Ship trilogy or immediately thereafter. I can’t be sure as I skipped that trilogy – which I am now regretting. The dragon Tintaglia had made a bargain to protect the Trader cities from incursions from their enemies. In return, she wanted the humans to nurture and care for the next generation of dragons. In previous stories, it was illustrated that the dragon species had all but disappeared until Tintaglia found a group of sea serpents (which metamorphose into dragons) and gave over their care to the humans. Once the dragons had hatched, Tintaglia disappeared.

Unfortunately, circumstances were much less than ideal and while many of the sea serpents died in their cases, never to emerge as dragons, others did emerge but were malformed or witless. So the humans who had contracted to nurture the next glorious generation of dragons had, instead, a pitiful handful of dragons who might not even live long. Before long, the handicapped dragons were, themselves, tired of living a hopeless existence and their human keepers were tired of having to hunt and care for them. Both dragons and humans had expected the dragons to be self-sufficient by this time. The dragons decide that they would rather take their chances in a journey to find a long-lost utopian city where dragons of yesteryear lived in harmony with humans. They manipulate the humans into believing it is their idea to move the dragons.

To complete such a journey means that the near-helpless dragons will each need a Keeper to hunt and care for them – enter Thymara, herself a social outcast and therefore expendable. And from the other spectrum of society, young Alise, who had led a pampered and protected life

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but endured a loveless marriage. Alise has devoted herself to a scholarly study of all things draconian and announces that she is only person suited to accompany the dragons as a resident expert to observe and report on the success of the journey.

The first two-thirds of the book sets up the characters – the motley crew of Dragon Keepers and the dynamics among that group, and Alise and her friend/chaperon Sedic who has his own nefarious agenda. The last third of the book has the dragons and their young, inexperienced Keepers finally beginning the journey.

Ms. Hobb is a very capable and inspired author so I had the highest expectations for this story. I felt, however, that the build-up was rather uninspired and way too long. It took too long to get the journey started and once it was, it was rather uneventful. The author told me that it was originally a single book but the editor thought it too long and split it into two novels. Unfortunately, this book was rather abruptly cut off at 474 pages with nothing resolved and loads of unanswered mysteries and questions. I don’t mind a planned series but I do mind spending time reading a book that doesn’t have any particular climax or resolution of at least

some issues. The story idea is certainly entertaining and hints at a climax where humans discover they are not and have never been the Dragons’ masters; but I have to read the next book to determine if I’ve wasted my time or if the second book is the payoff for time invested in this book. Fortunately, the second book is already out. ~ Catherine Book

A Drop of Red: Vampire Babylon
by Chris Marie Green
Ace Books; \$15; 324pp

This is the beginning of a second trilogy concerning the adventures of Limpet and Associates, an organization of vampire hunters. They rooted out a lavish vampire Underground in Los Angeles in the previous three books and have now moved on to London. The group comprised of Dawn, Dawn’s vampire dad, Frank, Kiko and various ethereal “Friends” have been joined by a new member from Romania named Natalia who hears voices of the dead.

The group’s mysterious leader Jonah is still hunting down blood brothers. They are members of a very ancient vampire clan who are an advance force for an uber

(Cont’d on page 12)

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 11)

vampire called the Dragon who awaits resurrection, as it were, once the blood brothers establish their power throughout the world.

Dawn still has the hots for Jonah—well actually she has the hots for Costin who also resides in Jonah's undead body. (You need to read the other three novels if you want the scoop on this). The whole Jonah/Costin business is a wonderful complication to this tale. Jonah is a good guy but subtly, not as good a guy as Costin. In this novel, Costin has the upper hand personality-wise. Jonah only gets to surface on occasion.

Anyway---Limpet and Associates have set up shop in London to track down the site of a London Underground (not the subway system, of course). Through the discovery of a vampire cemetery of dismembered bodies at a London construction site, the clues lead them to a group of girls at the exclusive Queenshill school in St. Albans outside of London. Blanche, Polly, Violet and Della are all newbie vampires whose master "Wolfie" oversees their lives until they are experienced enough to join the actual London Underground situated in Highgate Cemetery. The quartet of young vampires is an interesting mix of personalities whose nocturnal activities called "nightcrawls" has led to a series of murdered women. The vampires in this Underground are a lot nastier than the previous Underground. To my mind, they are much more gothic and traditional in set-up. And not that the previous novels weren't grim, it's just that this novel is already much darker in tone than the previous books. Maybe it's because it's not set in sunny Southern California.

Green has a very smooth contemporary style of writing. She is a real pleasure to read. My only caveat with this novel was it was slow to start for me and I felt the ending could have used more zing. But I am still moving on to the next novel: *Path of Razors*.

This book was published in March of 2009 and volume six has just been released. ~ Sue Martin

Deep in the Woods: Vampire Babylon by Chris Marie Green Ace Books; \$15; 310 pp

This is the sixth and concluding volume in Green's current Vampire Babylon series. The first three books took place in Los Angeles and these last three take place in London. Limpet and Associates have moved their operations to London to take on another Underground of vampires, led by the rather spacey (but still nasty) "Wolfie." (To reiterate: This brotherhood was created by the Dragon who's the baddest darn vampire in the whole wide world. The Dragon sleeps in a coffin of his native earth awaiting the creation of an army of loyal vamps who will do his bidding as he takes over the world in a glorious blood bath.)

Dawn and her cohorts: Kiko, Natalia, Frank (Dawn's dad and a vampire) the ethereal Friends and their leader, the complex Costin/Jonah persona, have tracked down the London Underground to Highgate Cemetery.

Being the last in this series, there's a ton of action as the team gets closer and closer to not only destroying the Underground but actually finding the slumbering Dragon whose resting place has remained a mystery until now. The dragon's existence has been protected for centuries by keepers called *custodes*—genetically altered humans whose sole purpose is to breed more *custodes* and protect the dragon at all costs. And they are real kick butt, high tech defenders too. They are more than a match for Dawn and friends.

The vampire teenaged girls from the exclusive Queenshill school in St. Albans are back with a vengeance in this tale. And, boy, does mousy Della get her groove on! Claudia, Wolfie's vampiric cohort reveals a few pertinent surprises as well.

Green excels at really great, snappy dialogue and vivid description. The layers of her characters add a lot of depth. No one is what they seem; everyone has an agenda complicating the plots nicely and keeping them from being trite. All the loose ends are tied up---and there's even a bit of a teaser for more to come. But the ending took 82 pages to finish. I wish it had been tighter and punchier at the end. It dragged, even though Green creates a satisfying though slightly vague conclusion for the whole Dawn/Costin/Jonah triangle. ~ Sue Martin

Intelligent Design edited by Denise Little DAW Books, \$7.99, 307 pp

This anthology is eleven stories on the concept of intelligent design – that attempt to reconcile traditional religion with the theory of evolution. Basically, intelligent design holds just what its name says: that the evolved design of the living world was guided by God. When it is a kind of last-ditch defense of fundamentalism (often so), it's most easily refuted. In contrast, these stories are more modernist religious shadings of intelligent design, which merely take off from the limits of science. To get a sense of the overall attitude of this, perhaps it could be called a sequel to Arthur Clarke's classic story 'The Nine Billion Names of God' - if you liked that story you'll like these too. While the overall theme is science fiction, some of these stories are more clearly fantasy, which can result in some funny tales. The tone varies from serious to light-hearted in this collection. The following contributors live up to their best standards: Kristine Kathryn Rusch, Brendan DuBois, Jean Rabe, Jody Lynn Nye, Michael Hiebert, Sarah A. Hoyt, Bill McCay, Janny Wurts, Dean Wesley Smith, Peter Orullian, and Laura Resnick. See: real pros in our genre, and not a crusading religious fanatic among them. I didn't regret any of the time spent reading. ~ Mike Griffin

The Alchemy of Murder by Carol McCleary Forge, \$24.99, 386 pp

The Alchemy of Murder is a debut novel and the first of a new series of historical-suspense mysteries.

Our heroine is Nelly Bly, intrepid female reporter in a male dominated profession. While researching her famous expose of the New York mental hospital on Blackwell's Island, Nelly stumbles across a mad murderer, know to the inmates and staff as "The German Doctor". Though he escapes justice in New York he cannot escape Nelly's interest as she follows clues that first lead her to London and the infamous Jack the Ripper murders and then to France to investigate similar murders of prostitutes in Paris. The police do not want to upset the tourists that are in Paris for the 1889 World's Fair so Nelly must investigate in secret. She enlists the aid of such historical figures as Jules Verne, Dr. Pasteur and Oscar Wilde. There is mystery, intrigue, science both appropriate for and ahead of its time, and a villain sure to live in your memory.

The action is non-stop and the ending is satisfying while leaving room for the follow-up novel which apparently will tell of Nelly's secret adventures on her trip "Around the World in 72 Days" with a hinted-out repeat appearance by Jules Verne. I heartily recommend this book and eagerly await the next in the series. ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Shalador's Lady by Anne Bishop Roc, \$24.95, 476 pp

I've been a fan of Bishop's Blood books since the beginning. The first three books were wonderful and original. The 4th book was weak and disappointing. The next one was fine and then there was another rather weak story. She appeared to have taken a break to write two books in another series and then came charging back with a mature, well-plotted story – "Shadow Queen" – in 2009. And here we are in 2010 with another wonderful, well-crafted story that follows the story begun in "Shadow Queen."

Center stage is Lady Cassidy, a witch who wears Rose jewels (4th level on a scale to 13) but who may have the potential to be a very capable ruler in spite of her low-scale power. Her strongest weapons are her heart and mind. She had been enlisted by Prince Greyhaven to bring order back to his realm and help restore his birthright which had been stolen by corrupt Queens; but only for a year's contract. In the previous story, she found a treasure left by his ancestors which breathed life back into a society that had been crushed and decimated by the corrupt rule of generations of bad Queens. She thought this would solidify her relationship with Prince Greyhaven and insure she would be acceptable to him and all the Blood of his realm to continue as their Queen.

Along comes Queen Kermilla whose greediness and petty selfishness had cost Cassidy a previous court and broke her spirit. There ensues a struggle between Cassidy and Kermilla and both the fate of the entire country, and Cassidy's heart and soul are at stake. There are some very interesting behind-the-scenes machinations by other characters that advance the story and both intrigued and amused me.

I loved this story. The characters were just as interesting as in the first three books. All of the main characters were strong and well-defined. Characters from the first 6 books all had parts to play without overwhelming our new, central characters. The plot was strong and kept me in my chair until way past my bedtime. ~ Catherine Book

Secondhand Spirits by Juliet Blackwell Penguin Group, 2009, \$6.99, 325pp

Juliet Blackwell was one of several authors signing books at the AZ Book Festival. She is a charming woman, with a strong background in anthropology. Her knowledge of paranormal activities is based on both her academic research and personal experience. From these sources she spins urban fantasies that are closer to Jane Austen than you would guess the genre could be.

The protagonist is Lily Ivory for whom fashion sense and awareness of the significance of appearances are intrinsic. Her sensitivity runs deeper than the surface, however. Lily is a psychometrist who can "read" objects for the residual energies and impressions they hold. Lily owns a vintage clothes shop and uses her talent to find fine garments and match them to suitable recipients – good vibrations all around. She practices magic for protection, helping, and healing.

When a friend is murdered and a child goes missing, the police include Lily in their investigation. The interrogation scenes serve as a literary device, allowing the author to answer some of her readers' questions about witches and magic in the voice of Lily answering the cops' questions. Intriguingly, one of the policemen has a touch of magical ability himself which he experiences as hunches and the ability to read people. An investigative reporter named Max

Carmichael gets in on the action as well, providing a frisson of romantic tension.

The sequel, *A Cast-Off Coven*, is already in print; a 3rd is in the pipeline, and Ms. Blackwell is writing her fourth Lily Ivory mystery, so if this is your cup of tea you can satisfy your thirst with more. ~ Chris Paige

Dead in the Family by Charlaïne Harris Ace, \$25.95, 320 pp

Following the events of *Dead and Gone* we find Sookie struggling to recuperate both physically and mentally from the events of the devastating Faery War while being thrust, yet again, into the midst of politics and intrigue, both supernatural and human.

This installment moves more slowly than previous books but that is fine because the main thrust of this installment is character development and the exploration of family in all its many forms, both human and supernatural. Sookie and Eric grow closer to each in some ways and farther apart in others. Sookie shows a somewhat harder, more pragmatic side of herself, she is no longer the same innocent girl that rescued Bill in that dark parking lot oh-so-long, or not-so-long, ago. She has to deal with werewolf politics, Eric's maker and his insane "brother", her telepathic nephew's visit, her faery cousin Claude making himself into a house guest, attempts to frame her for murder, Bill's poor health and political demonstrations at Merlotte's.

I read this in one sitting. Once I picked it up I simply could not put it down. I am firmly hooked on this series and can't wait for the next installment. Highly recommended. ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Warriors Edited by: George R.R. Martin and Gardner Dozois Tor, \$27.99; 736 pp

Twenty short stories about warriors. Warriors, traditionally, are hired muscle, sellswords who offer their services with their weapons to attack or protect someone or something that needs it. They are not automatically heroes although most fantasy generally starts with a warrior and he becomes a hero by the end. Conan is the perfect example, he began as a simple warrior and through his choices became revealed as a hero. Sometimes the warrior never becomes more than that as in the short story "Ancient Ways" found within this volume. There, the warrior, although the central character, is just support for the true heroes.

Regardless of how they are used, the warriors in this book have one thing in common, they fight, and they fight for a reason. Be it money or fame or belief they all put their lives on the line for a reason. And that, my friends, is the difference between a warrior and a fighter.

The stories are varied, as are the warriors, but they all have one important commonality, they are all well-crafted and engrossing. When I picked up the volume the size was daunting; however, when I was reading I barely noticed the size and it seemed far too short when I was finished. The names of the authors are some of the top names in today's fantasy. Both editors, plus David Weber, Naomi Novik, S.M. Stirling, Diana Gabaldon, Tad Williams, and many others have contributed new stories for this volume. Picking a favorite among these is like picking a favorite ice cream, it's all good. You just have to decide what your mood is.

Highly recommended. ~ Bob LaPierre

(Cont'd on page 13)

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 12)

Where Angels Fear to Tread: A Remy Chandler Novel by Thomas E. Sniegowski ROC; \$14; 288 pp

This is the third novel in Sniegowski's series with the character Remy Chandler who's a wonderful supernatural thriller creation. Remy Chandler has two personas. One is a human widower who relentlessly hunts evil and nastiness in the world as a private investigator living in Boston. And his second persona is a *real* big help with this. You see, Remy Chandler is also Remiel, one of God's Seraphim. An angel who, though he renounced living in Heaven and lives here on Earth, is still a terribly fierce warrior for God. Don't get him riled up because there is little a Seraphim cannot take on! (In a previous novel he took on preventing the Apocalypse. Apparently a very Biblical one.)

In this book, the story centers around Deryn York and Carl Saylor who are parents of an autistic six-year-old daughter named Zoe. She constantly draws pictures about things that haven't happened yet. The child has been brought to Boston to get help for her autism. But before that can happen, she and Carl disappear, bringing Deryn to Remy for help.

Zoe is a very special child who just might hold the fate of the world inside her. What's fascinating is who wants her. First we have an ancient Sumerian deity named Dagon who, of course, wants to reincarnate and rule the earth once more (he starts off by being a leader of a cult.) Then there's Delilah. The Biblical Delilah of Samson and... She likes immortality and she's not delicate about taking souls to survive. She already has (obviously) lived past her normal life span because God cursed her to live on while everything she loves dies, including multiple husbands and many, many children. Delilah and Dagon want the spark of divine energy that has been harbored in secret by various sects, most recently in a hidden Vietnamese temple. This divine spark has been here on earth since God spoke creation into being.

So it could be really big doo-doo if someone with not such a nice agenda controls this energy. To escape Delilah, who was homing in on it in Vietnam, the divine spark fled and took up residence in little Zoe.

Of course, there is a huge battle between Dagon, his worshippers, Delilah and her minions against Remy who gets help from Samson (see above) who has also lived forever and bred many children so he can seek revenge on that which he still loves most: Delilah.

There's gore and grossness (the bad guys are really pretty darn horrible) and little Zoe has a very bad time of it, but the novel ends on an even keel.

(God does NOT make an appearance. He lets his Heavenly hosts do the fighting)

Sniegowski has a smooth, easy style which makes this novel a quick read. Though the plots are connected by some previous actions and characters, I had no problem as a newbie dealing with Remy's world. Once the story got rolling I did get a little bit of déjà vu as it reminded me a bit of the Eddie Murphy film "The Golden Child."

Nevertheless, this book cooks right along. And I really like it that Remy not only talks to his lab, but Marlowe answers with appropriately short doggy thoughts. ~ Sue Martin

Changes Jim Butcher Roc, \$25.95; 442 pp

Harry Dresden returns in his twelfth novel. So with this novel we

discover something important about Jim Butcher - he is the ultimate master of understatement. Calling this book "Changes" is like calling a book about nuclear winter "Cold Snap."

Almost every character that is a) still living and b) helped Harry at some point in his career, appears in this novel either physically or as referenced with a small few exceptions. The werewolves do not appear, nor do the Summer Knight and her friends.

The story begins with Harry receiving a phone call from his former lover Susan Rodriguez. "*They've taken our daughter.*" With that Harry sets upon his most dangerous, most far reaching adventure yet. After all what would you do, what methods would you consider, who would you go to, to save your daughter?

His enemies are effectively the entirety of the race of red court vampires. The white council has its own problems. The grey council has another engagement. He finds who he can really count on, and the sacrifices made will forever change him.

I will say I was pleased to see Thomas back and more in control of himself. Some of the changes are not just about Harry, many of his friends are changed including a very important change to Karrin Murphy.

This is, in my opinion, the best book of the series. However, if you haven't read the earlier books it might be a bit hard to follow.

4.5 out of 5 stars ~ Bob LaPierre

Torn Turned by Julie Kenner ACE, \$7.99 each, 304 pp each

Books 2 and 3 in the Blood Lily Chronicles, following *Tainted*.

Torn picks up immediately where *Tainted* leaves off. Lily is in trouble of the deepest kind. She managed to save her sister but not before Rose is possessed by her demon rapist. She was tricked by the forces of evil into killing what she thought were "demons". Now, Lily finds herself torn between her desires to save her sister by helping the demons and helping half-angel, half-demon Deacon Camphire, keep those same demons from opening the gates of hell.

Turned finds Lily in possession of the Oris Clef and a dilemma - Should she wield the Oris Clef and become the demon queen, thus giving herself over to evil but maybe averting an apocalypse or should she throw herself into the portal to Hell when it opens, sacrificing herself to an eternity of suffering but permanently sealing the portal or should she and Deacon search for the legendary Ninth key - the one that can lock all nine of the portals to Hell?

This is an action-packed trilogy and the ending, while very reminiscent of a popular TV series, clearly wraps up the series. There is room left for follow-up books in the series but even if there are no more, this is a highly satisfying series as it stands. The story is tight and the characters show growth as they face their personal issues and resolve them along with saving the world. I highly recommend this trilogy. ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Touched by an Alien by Gini Koch Daw, \$7.99, 389 pp

First of all, you should know that Gini Koch is a pseudonym for Jeanne Cook. This is a thinly disguised romance/sex story with aliens. The aliens in question come in two flavors - one is a race of totally hunky males and gorgeous females. The others are superstrong and supernasty parasites that look for human hosts. Our spunky, beautiful, intelligent heroine is in the wrong place at the right time and

takes down one of the bad guys. This gets the attention of the studly aliens who are very interested in recruiting her to their cause of hunting down and killing the bad aliens. From the instant she meets her first Armani-clad alien, he persists in harassing her by telling her how beautiful, intelligent and spunky she is and that they are destined to be married. This spurs a constant banter and streams of euphemisms between them. There's a side story about another of the aliens, his cousin, and our lovely heroine. There's also a side story about her mother and how daughter didn't fall too far from that tree. There is awesome sex, of course, and loads of exposition to explain how all this occurred. The author couldn't spend the time to develop the story and 'show' us; it would have twice the number of pages unless she could force herself to thin out the spirited, spunky banter that permeates this story. It wasn't really a bad book; I did derive some entertainment from it but it doesn't belong in our genre. It was really a romance story and the aliens could easily have been fairies...or, *choke*, vampires and it wouldn't have made any difference. ~ Catherine Book

Frankenstein Makes a Sandwich by Adam Rex Simon & Schuster, 2006, \$16.00, 40pp

This is a monstrous rhyming romp for your youngsters to enjoy. Big, Green, and Ugly is joined by the Creature from the Black Lagoon, the Phantom of the Opera, Wolfman's dog, Dracula, Dr. Jekyll, Mr. Hyde, dancing zombies, a little mummy, and others. The rhymes and the pictures are a balancing act of humor and light horror. In one verse, the Invisible Man is getting a haircut; in another, Dracula's son has to go to the dentist. Here's a representative poem title: "Count Dracula Doesn't Know He's Been Walking Around All Night with Spinach in his Teeth." And what 6-9 year old wouldn't want to hear you read aloud "Godzilla Pooped on my Honda"?

Adam Rex is a graduate of the University of Arizona; he was one of the featured artist/writers at the recent Arizona Book Festival on the U of A campus in Tucson. As an illustrator he has contributed to numerous children's books, including the *Lucy Rose* books by Katy Kelly, and *Guess Again!* by Marc Bennett. *Frankenstein Takes the Cake*, *Tree Ring Circus*, and *Psst!* are all written and illustrated by Adam Rex, the new crowned king of kid's verse. ~ Chris Paige

Tales of the Otherworld Kelley Armstrong Bantam Books, \$25.00; 388 pp

This is the second volume of short stories from Kelley's website. This volume, like *Men of the Otherworld*, is being sold to promote World Literacy of Canada. There is one new story but the remainder are available on her website. There are wonderful stories in here about Paige and Lucas, Clay and Elena, Logan, and the new story that tells the tale of how Eve Levine came to carry Kristoff Nast's daughter (Savannah's origin story).

The tales are full of the richness expected from a master of her craft. And her love of the characters carries onto the page. Seeing from Clay's perspective as Elena meets Jeremy for the first time and in another story set years later seeing the same scene through Jeremy's eyes shows a depth of understanding of her characters I seldom see.

The stories span her career. Her work, like most master craftsmen, continues to improve; but, like those typically at the top, the improvements are more felt than seen. You cannot point to anything in particular but the phrasing seems more natural, the dialogue more concise.

I have yet to read something of

hers that I cannot say: Very highly recommended. ~ Bob LaPierre

The Marks of Cain by Tom Knox (Sean Thomas) Viking, 2010, \$26.95, 438 pp

The plot boasts a mysterious summons, dangerous opponents, concealed knowledge, and an alluring female companion, which are all fairly standard. The setting, however, is unusual: the Basque region of the Pyrenees between France and Spain, where residents speak a language totally unlike any other in the world. The author, himself a reporter, got his material on various assignments and has fascinating information to share about the history of the region and its peoples. Much of the history is tragic, with persecutions, witch hunts, and the genocide of the *Cagots*, some of it centuries old, some recent; underlying all of this violence and fear is the question, "What defines the boundaries of humanity? What behaviours and phenotypes? And which ones are beyond the pale?" Knox does a good job involving the reader in his protagonists' quest for knowledge and understanding. Anyone with interests in genetics, anthropology, weird architecture, and European history should consider this novel or at the very least go to Knox's website, www.tomknoxbooks.com.

There is, however, a disturbing misogynist component to his writing, much as he would probably disagree with that charge. "Do I not present a brave, beautiful heroine and give her a satisfying, fulfilling happy ending?" Yes, but she's treated brutally along the way, and one character, himself a reporter, blames *all* the violence of the human species on females because they choose their mates for aggressive tendencies. Knock, Knox! Who's there? Logical Fallacy. Logical Fallacy who? The logical fallacy that women get to do all the choosing. Do I not hear shouts and hoots of derision?

If you read *The Da Vinci Code* for the thrills and secret revelations, the formula here is quite similar and similarly enjoyable - lots of writers are cribbing from Dan Brown - but if you like nobility of spirit in your characters, this one just misses the mark. ~ Chris Paige

Goop Soup A Nathan Abercrombie, Accidental Zombie novel by David Lubar Starscape, HB \$17.99, TPB \$5.99, 176 pp

This is the third in a series, following *My Rotten Life* and *Dead Guy Spy*.

Nathan has become a zombie, a fact known only to a couple of friends but not his parents. While training for his first mission with the secret organization BUM, Nathan is side tracked by two problems - green goop is coming out of every faucet in town and, possibly more frightening, Nathan's mother has made a doctor's appointment for him. Surely the doctor will notice he is a zombie!

This is a clever idea, sure to appeal to the young reader in your family. Well-written and a quick read it is also a fun evening for the young at heart reader. Recommended, and I intend to find the first two in the series. ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Blackout by Connie Willis Ballantine Books, 2010, \$26.00, 491 pp

Blackout is the newest of Connie Willis' connected novels about time travel in which historians conduct field research in the past, under restrictions which protect the timeline. For example,

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In Our Book (Cont'd from page 14)

it simply isn't possible to access times and events that are potential turning points, susceptible to the Butterfly Effect. The historians themselves may be profoundly affected – they can even be killed – but established history is resilient and reasserts itself. At least, that has been the working hypothesis for over 40 years of time travel. Now the system is becoming chaotic, and one theorist is warning of an imminent collapse. But who minds theory? To fully appreciate chaos, you need to be a field agent contending with last-minute schedule changes, memory download-overload, wardrobe snafus, inaccurate historical records, drop gates that don't open, time slippage, and the horror of uncertainly when you thought fore-knowledge would be a reliable guide.

The story follows three convoluted threads. Merope Ward lives up to her name on assignment as an overworked maid caring for relocated children, including one who might grow up to be a famous actor. Her assignment gets involuntarily extended when her charges are quarantined for a measles epidemic – hey, at least it's not the Black Death! – and then she gets saddled with the task of escorting three children to London, just as the Blitz is beginning. These are no angelic cherubs a la *Journey for Margaret* (one of the most moving WWII films ever made); these are pull-your-hair-out-with-frustration agents of the Tester. Having missed her originally scheduled retrieval, Merope hopes to find a colleague and a usable drop gate.

Polly Churchill is on assignment to observe pre-Blitz behaviours and post-Blitz coping skills. The two prove to be almost identical. Polly travels from an air force base that runs ambulance services and may be involved in espionage, to a London shop that is supposed to be safe from the bombing runs. But slippage disrupts her carefully laid plans, and we get to glimpse the enormity of destruction through her eyes.

Michael Davies experiences the worst disruption of all. A juggled schedule sends him, not to the Pearl Harbor for which he has prepared, but to Dover on the eve of the Dunkirk Evacuation; and instead of being able to safely interview heroes upon their return, he becomes a participant, *knowing* he is at one of the critical points of history and he may have irreparably altered the outcome. Then he gets injured.

If Colin Templer is your favorite character, rejoice, for he plays an important part in this installment too. Colin is in love with the much older Polly. There is a scene in which he asks her what she prefers in men, so he can become that. In some ways he is comic relief; personally, I truly hope he evolves into leading man.

Of all the newly introduced characters, and they are many, and no writer alive today is better than Connie Willis at celebrating Allah's Diversity of Creatures, Godfrey Kingsman is the masterpiece. In the space of 15 minutes I went from laughing so hard tears were leaking out my eyes to outright weeping, and it all turned on this character. There is an inner light about Godfrey that draws your attention, and draws out your heart.

Willis' trademark is to include chapter headings that set the tone. You do yourself a disservice if you ignore them – savour them, rather. They range from the common-place, to the wry, to political and literary. Each is a perfect match for the chapter's contents that follow.

And don't worry that you'll have to wait another seven years for the next installment of heroic historians. *Blackout's* sequel, *All Clear*, is due out this fall. ~ Chris Paige

The House of the Stag by Kage Baker Tor, \$14.99, 352 pp

The House of the Stag is a prequel, explaining the background that becomes the setting for *The Anvil of the World*.

Ms. Baker brings us a modern fairytale, chronicling a young man's struggles after his people, the peaceful Yendri, are invaded by a violent people called the Riders. As the Riders kill or enslave Gard's people, a strange figure appears, who takes on the role of a prophet. Refusing to accept the prophet's message of pacifism, Gard soon finds himself accused of murder, exiled and thrown in the world beyond his familiar lands.

What follows is a voyage of discovery, rich in detail with complex characters. This is wonderful book. When Ms. Baker passed away the world lost a masterful storyteller and we are the poorer for her loss. Highly recommended ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Federations edited by John Joseph Adams Prime Books, 2009, \$14.95, 379 pp

This anthology is a mixture of previously printed and new material, all of which explore the theme of how civilizations interact on galactic scales. The collection is geared towards *Next Generation* Trek fans - it is even endorsed by one of the cast members – and in keeping with Gene Roddenberry's original vision, many of the stories have a message, either hopeful or admonitory, while others present serious challenges to our cherished assumptions. Some of the best names in hard SF are gathered here, and if your favorite author hasn't contributed a fresh offering, give the up-and-comers a chance to impress you. I've had to add several new names to my look-for-these list as a result of what I found here.

For example, "Carthago Delenda Est" by Genevieve Valentine is an ironic gem, an SF *Waiting for Godot* about galactic delegates responding to an invitation to meet with a hyper-advanced civilization. The waiting period has extended over several centuries, and each group has evolved different coping mechanisms. The narrator is a member of the tech crew responsible for cloning – and terminating - replacements of the original Earth delegate.

S. L. Gilbow's "*Terra Exulta*" is a tail-twisting double-take on human evolution and galactic expansion.

"Different Day" by K. Tempest Bradford would make a good *Twilight Zone* episode, and while it makes allusions to certain classic alien encounter storylines ("To Serve Mankind," "Final Solution") it is a fresh riff. It's also highly politicized, because why should talk show radio hosts, like the one who used to keep me glued to the set watching *Babylon 5*, have all the fun? Bradford adds a little color to the mix.

Yoon Ha Lee's story is set on a ship of exiles whose task is to commemorate the swanships, spaceships that transport passengers to a black hole. For some transportees, the trip is their nation's greatest honor; for others, it is execution. Exquisite and concentrated, not only is "Swanwatch" a most original contribution, it is the one I most want to read in expanded form with an audio accompaniment.

A more familiar name is Alan Dean Foster, whose "Pardon Our Conquest" is light-hearted reverse psychology. And Canadian author James Alan Gardner waxes romantic in "The One with the Interstellar Group Consciousnesses" which he describes as an episode of *Friends* between self-aware star systems. The poignancy award goes to Mary

Rosenblum for "My She," a tale about the emotional and communicative ties between species that have been pragmatically bioengineered. I had to keep revising my mental images as I read – a good exercise. But Jeremiah Tolbert wins the sheer fun award for "The Culture Archivist," an irreverent what-if a future Federation had the morals and mindset of Wall Street CEOs and the nanotechnology to go anywhere, do anything?

Of the reprints, I was glad to find Georges R.R. Martin and Guthridge's "Warship," a hard to find classic from 1979. Orson Scott Card's "Mazer in Prison" gives a glimpse into the life and mind of that most enigmatic character from the *Ender's Game* universe; it is a well-written, wry, clever piece of work. It's also bathetic, because everything Card writes is emotionally manipulative, but that's not necessarily a fault.

This is one of the outstanding anthologies of the last year. Look for it! ~ Chris Paige

Riverworld by Philip Jose Farmer Tor, \$17.99 448pp

Riverworld combines the first two novels of Philip Jose Farmer's epic series, *To Your Scattered Bodies Go* and *The Fabulous Riverboat* released to coincide with the SyFy Channel's TV movie of the same name.

Riverworld is a mysterious planet, where every person who has every lived is resurrected along the banks of a endless river.

To Your Scattered Bodies Go finds us following Sir Richard Francis Burton as he wakes on a strange new world made up of one ongoing river. As he explores he discovers that he is only one of billions of previously dead personalities from throughout Earth's history stretching from the Neolithic age through the mid twentieth century that have been resurrected along the riverbanks. After it becomes clear that their basic needs are taken care of, Burton decides to find the beginning of the river. Along the way he meets Nazi war criminal Hermann Göring and discovers the existence of a mysterious organization responsible for the resurrection of humanity.

The Fabulous Riverboat follows Sam Clemmons (aka Mark Twain) as he searches for the iron needed to build a metal riverboat. He reluctantly travels with Brain Broadaxe who shares his quest for metal. Along the way he searches for his wife, Livy, and meets such figures as German aviator Lothar von Richthofen, a World War One ace and brother of the famous Red Baron, the English King John Lackland, and Cyrano de Bergerac, who has become Livy's lover.

These books were among the first science fiction I read. Written in the 1970s, I was pleased to see that they are just as enthralling today as they were almost 40 years ago, Recommended. I look forward to the rerelease of the remaining three *Riverworld* novels. ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Not Less Than Gods by Kage Baker Tor, \$25.99, 320 pp

Not Less Than Gods is a set in the same world as Ms. Baker's *Company* novels. While the main character, Edward Fairfax, appears in two of the later *Company* novels, this book stands alone and does not require knowledge of the other books.

Unmarried Lady Amalthea R. gives birth to a boy in 1825 London, then abandons him to be raised by others. Edward Fairfax, raised first by the Bells, who neglect him, is soon shipped off the boarding school. In school his talents makes him a loner. After school, he joins

the British Navy but again fails to fit in. Edward joins the *Company* with its scientists and undercover agents and, along with his tutor Dr Ludbridge, he travels to the Holy Land, Constantinople, and St. Petersburg in an effort to achieve his concept of a "better world."

Lots of steampunk fun and gadgets along with Ms Baker's usual, well-written and engrossing story telling. A good start for those who are not familiar with her *Company* novels and a welcome addition to those of use who are. Highly recommended. ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Shatnerquake by Jeff Burk Bizzaro, \$9.95, 100pp

From the cover: "After a reality bomb goes off at the first ever ShatnerCon, all of the characters ever played by William Shatner are suddenly sucked into our world. Their mission: hunt down and destroy the real William Shatner. Featuring: Captain Kirk, TJ Hooker, Denny Crane, Priceline Shatner, Cartoon Kirk, Rescue 9-1-1 Shatner, singer Shatner, and many more. No costumed con-goer will be spared in their wave of destruction, no red shirt will make it out alive, and not even the Klingons will be able to stand up to a deranged Captain Kirk with a light saber. But these Shatner-clones are about to learn a hard lesson . . . that the real William Shatner doesn't take crap from anybody. Not even himself."

I'm not quite sure how to describe this - if it were a script it would make a great horror/comedy/slasher film. There is humor. There is gore. There is action, lots of action. There is William Shatner, actually lots and lots of William Shatners.

At 83 pages this is a quick read. I laughed out loud, I groaned out loud.... all in all I had a great time. And I'd love to see it done as a film *grin* Recommended ~ Stephanie L Bannon

Earth Strike: Star Carrier by Ian Douglas Eos, \$7.99, 357 pp

Welcome to the 25th century. The navy is rushing to the rescue of the First Marine Expeditionary Force, 1st MEF, currently besieged on the planet disparagingly known as Ate. Aboard the task force is Boot Lt Grey, a navy fighter assigned to the Star Carrier, America.

And so starts a new series by Mr. Douglas who states that the new series is intended to explore the lives of navy star-fighter pilots.

I found this book to be a very good read. It is an action-filled adventure with good character development. Lt Grey's soul searching quest for his feelings about being in the navy exposes the greasy underside of life in the 25th century. Espousing superiority about how enlightened and egalitarian they are, a seamy undercurrent of bigotry and discrimination is still present against those who do not conform to society's norms.

I would gladly recommend this book to anyone who enjoys good military sci-fi. ~ William B. Whitmore

Death's Mistress by Karen Chance Onyx, \$7.99, 422 pp

Death's Mistress is a continuation of the *Midnight's Daughter* series

Dory Basarab is a half human, half vampire subject to uncontrollable rages and unacceptable to any side of her ancestry and subject to being called for jobs by the Vampire Senate. She is hired to find a magical fey relic, but as she hunts the relic, they find that someone is killing members of the Vampire Senate. If Dory can't stop the murderer, she may be next.

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In Our Book

This is a collectable among the kick-ass supernatural action series, plenty of action, character and pithy one liners abound. What's not to love.[maybe excepting lack of time to read the series] Enjoy. ~ **Pam Allan**

How To Defeat Your Own Clone
by Kyle Kurpinski and Terry D. Johnson
Bantam Books, \$14.00, 180 pp

This book gives insight of the future problems dealing with clones. There is some humor dealing with biology and too many movies dealing with clones. They point out what clones are and what they are not in today's world.

Interesting. Reality bites the dust in this timely clone book. Prepare to battle yourself! ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

The Breach
by Patrick Lee
Harper, \$7.99, 372 pp

The Breach is a debut novel.

Trying to get his life back in the Alaskan wilds, ex-cop Travis Chase stumbles upon a 747 crashed, its passengers murdered including the first lady of the United States. Chase is drawn into the future revolving around an amazing artifact.

Allied with a covert operative he saves, he must save mankind as the Apocalypse begins.

A new author to look forward to with the sequel due this fall. Though an action-adventure, there are cerebral questions postulated and paradox explored, a novel/series that is hard to put down. If you like your action adventures with a mind you'll love this one and anxiously await volume 2. ~ **Pam Allan**

Cat's Claw
by Amber Benson
Ace, \$7.99, 311 pp

Cat's Claw is the sequel to *Deaths Daughter*

Calliope Reaper-Jones is stuck in a boring job, coveting fashion accessories. As Death's daughter she can afford whatever she wants, but she seeks a normal life. She keeps getting hauled back to the paranormal world. Now Cerberus, guardian of Hell, wants her to repay a debt and, boy, do things get interesting.

Cat's Claw has more twists than a pretzel factory as well as one-liners zinging through the pages. This book is fun! Plenty of action, good characters and a great heroine you will want to collect. If you like humor with your action, this is a must. Go get your copy. [I'll be out looking for *Death's Daughter* to add to my collection.] Enjoy. I did. ~ **Pam Allan**

Heart of Veridon
by Tim Akers
Solaris, \$7.99, 473 pp

Heart of Veridon appears to be a debut novel.

Jacob Burn: pilot, criminal, disgraced member of one of the founding families, finds a strange artifact. His world comes crashing down as he runs from both the law and former friends. As he is hunted by machines and strange creatures, he is stalked by something that will make him question everything he thought he knew.

This is a complicated book, an enigma wrapped in a conundrum, there is action on action and a cerebral subplot, with even lesser characters spinning plots. This is a hard book to put down. It will definitely keep your attention. Enjoy. ~ **Pam Allan**

A Magic of Nightfall
by S.L. Farrell
Daw, \$7.99, 640 pp

A Magic of Nightfall continues the Nessantico cycle.

Twenty five years ago the Nessantico empire has begun to fall apart. A boy-king rules, but is ill and can be manipulated. There are factions awaiting his vacating the throne. The holdings have been split in half, the Concenzia faith has also been sundered with rival archigos [leaders.] In the west, there is war with the Tehuantin and their agents are watching.

Now events are set in motion, a threat that will take Nessantico to the edge of destruction.

Farrell writes a sprawling complicated novel never losing control of any strand. The characters have no moral ascendancy over another, but rather are a mixture of villainy, sympathy and some just downright ambiguous. What they are not is boring. This is epic Fantasy Enjoy. ~ **Pam Allan**

Club Listings

ACROSS PLUS - So you live in North Phoenix and are interested in anime? Well there is a club out there available for you people.

Across Plus is a social club that discusses anime, video games, manga, other animation, and the Japanese culture. We meet at Bookman's on 19th Ave and Northern on Sundays at 7:00pm until 9:00pm.

In general, we explore anime, manga, and other styles of animation, creative educative demonstrations, participate in interactive discussions, attend local Arizona conventions, and make cosplay.

We are willing to gain any new members out there who are interested. Our members are very friendly, respectful, and fun. We welcome any and all.

For more information, contact Todd Miles at acrossplus@westernsfa.org

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 <rbhl1@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

AZCorsairs "Founded in 1971 as a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, or SCA, our primary focus is 16th – 18th century European culture and the pirate lifestyle of the time. The Corsairs will extend pirate portrayals as far back as Phoenician, Roman Era or to future Space, Science Fiction genre, and more publicly recognizable Hollywood styled pirate. Corsair membership is largely volunteer-oriented, gathered together for fun and while helping others out.

Members of the Arizona Corsairs are, much like their historical counterparts, masters of their own destiny. Creation of characters, complete with backstory with correlation to history, period costume, and emulation of pirate traditions and arts, rests on each performer, creating varied storylines and deep, interesting characters.

For more information, please contact Captaim Max - Ambassador, AZCorsairs cptmax@myway.com 602-799-6184"

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 Denny's, 2360 W Northern Ave 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 sixth year. Join us for games and adventure set in the Dungeons and Dragons realm. We offer Living Forgotten Realms and Pathfinder Society. We welcome both new and experienced players. Visit <http://www.warhorn.net/gathering>, to see what we have coming up. 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 existence 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

(Cont'd on page 20)

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 15)

we know you will eventually become a member anyway Web page: <http://www.parex.org/> E-mail Contact: 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.nyrond.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 Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or RandallWhitlock@casfs.org or www.southwestcostumersguild.org

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

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

TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/ Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. **TARDIS** meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, games, and occasional outings with more to come now that Doctor Who is returning from hiatus. Many members maintain an active presence at conventions. You can contact us at 2243 W Wagon Wheel Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85021, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@cox.net or visit us at <http://members.cox.net/tardisaz/tardis.html>

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

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

TUCSON FAN ALLIANCE E-Mail Address is Bkoehler@Juno.com or 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 LEONIDAS The Leonidas is a member of Region IV of STARFLEET International. The chapter is an opportunity for those that share a love of Star Trek to have fun and help the community at the same time. The Leonidas stresses uniforms or other costumes to have the ability to participate actively in various events as they present themselves but they are not required. In an effort to expand membership the USS Leonidas has assisted in the formation of a High School Star Trek club called the STARFLEET Science and Tactical Academy. Students participate in a wide range of activities with the hope that they will become interested in Star Trek and join STARFLEET as officers. The USS Leonidas has a crew of 30. Starfleet Science and Tactical Academy has 52 cadets. Members age from 14-65 years old. Average age is 20-25. Club meeting locations vary due to scheduled away missions and such, but usually meet in a classroom at Apache Junction High School. Membership with Starfleet International is required. www.sfi.org Upon joining STARFLEET a member is a Cadet. Upon passing the Officer’s Training School Exam at the Online Academy, the member becomes a Commissioned Officer aboard the Leonidas. The chapter does not have dues as of yet. The dues to be a member of STARFLEET International are \$15 a year. No newsletter, but members do receive an activities E-mail update. No web site yet. Contact : Jonathan Krieger, 480-677-0269, LAHCommander@mchsi.com

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

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors AniZona, the ConRunners seminars, Across Plus Anime Club and sponsored the 2004 Westercon. Dedicated primarily to educational activities relating to literature, music, and visual and performing arts, especially in the genres of Anime, 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, check our website for meeting location Guests are welcome. For more info contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082 Email: craig@westernsfa.org Webpage: www.westernsfa.org

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

Convention Listings

RandomCon 2010 (July 9-11, 2010) Windemere Hotel and Conference Center in Mesa, AZ. Guest of Honor: Ken Ste Andre. Our game plans include **RPGA** - plans include Living Forgotten Realms, Arcanis and Pathfinder. **Amber Diceless** - In the tradition of AmberCons across the World, RandomCon brings you the Chronicles of Amber in roleplaying form in a variety of games. **PLUS Console Gaming, Card Games, Board Games, Miniature Gaming, LARPs**, and much more! There will be a consuite and a small dealer room. Our venue is the Windemere Hotel 5750 East Main St. • Mesa, Arizona 85205 • Ph: (480)985-3600 • Toll Free: (800) 888-3561 Room Rate: \$59 S/D/T/Q and includes breakfast and free Internet. Membership cost is \$20 from January 1 to June 30, 2010 and \$25 at the door. Pay now via Paypal on our web site at www.randomcon.org or mail check or money order to RandomCon, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082. Memberships also available at Imperial Outpost, 4920 W. Thunderbird, Glendale, AZ 85306. Check our web site for updates or contact us at info@westernsfa.org

CopperCon 30 (September 3-6, 2010) Windemere Hotel, 5750 East Main St., **Mesa, Arizona** 85205, Ph: (480)985-3600 • Toll Free: (800) 888-3561 Room Rates \$59 S/D/T/Q. <http://www.resortmesa.com/> Rooms include Complimentary gourmet deluxe breakfast buffet served every day and fresh baked cookies served every evening. The hotel has 114 rooms so there is a good chance we can have the entire hotel for ourselves. Guests: TBA. Memberships rates: \$30 until December 31, 2009, \$35 Jan 1 thru April 30, 2010, \$40 May 1 thru August 23, 2010. Please check the web site at www.coppercon.org or contact us at info@coppercon.org for more info.

Trivia Answers

- 1. Dune by Frank Herbert
- 2. The Wee Free Men
- 3. 1955
- 4. Ruth Plumly Thompson who wrote 19, five more than Baum himself
- 5. Neil Gaiman
- 6. Isaac Asimov
- 7. Esther Friesner
- 8. 1951-58
- 9. HM Queen Victoria
- 10. Ardath Mayhar

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

CASFS Business Report

The business report will return in the next issue

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, Copper-Cons, 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 Denny’s Restaurant at 2360 W Northern Ave in Phoenix 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. Every-one is invited to attend two meetings as a guest (non-member). Membership rates are \$12/year plus an initial \$3 application fee and rates are pro-rated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info: Webpage: www.casfs.org Email: info@casfs.org