

ConNotations

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August / September 2010
FREE

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

An Interview with Melinda Snodgrass by Chris Paige

Melinda Snodgrass was one of the GoHs at LepreCon. In Trek circles, she is well known as one of the best writers for *Star Trek: The Next Generation* episodes; more recently, she has worked with *Wild Card* series originator George R. R. Martin, developing new characters and contributing to the next generation of storylines in such books as *Inside Straight* and *Busted Flush*. Independently, she has written *The Edge of Reason*, now out in paperback, and the newly published *The Edge of Ruin*. Melinda lives in New Mexico and keeps horses. There must be something about New Mexico that is good for creativity; Roger Zelazny lived in Santa Fe, as does Sherri Tepper. Maybe it's the scent of pinon in the air. At LepreCon, Melinda read aloud to a captivated audience and gave a copy of *The Edge of Reason* to a delighted fan. She then answered questions before going off to enjoy the rest of the convention. Comfortable in her own body and mind, rich in experiences, wise, something about Melinda Snodgrass made me want to call her "Mom." As it was, meeting her was one of the high points of attending LepreCon.

MS: I was invited to submit a story to a supernatural noir anthology that Ellen Datlow is putting together. I've written now two short stories set in the Edge universe; the first appeared in *Fantasy and Science Fiction* last August/September,

and it is a story about St. George and the Dragon - what really happened, what St. George really was and what the dragon really was. This story is set during the American Depression, and it features a character named Cross. He's an odd man, a strange man, and he works for a mysterious Howard Hughes-like billionaire who is in fact an ancient being, billions of years old, an alien who is Prometheus, and Lucifer [Light-Bearer], and Coyote, and Trickster. In this story his name is the Italian word for knowledge; in the books he is called Kenntnis, which means knowledge in German. I'm terrible at coming up with titles, and my friends facetiously told me to call it "Jesus Christ, P.I." I opted for "No Mystery, No Miracle."

CP: Isn't Kenntnis trapped at the end of *Reason*?
MS: He's trapped in spin glass. My boyfriend, Ian Tregillis, is an astrophysicist at Los Alamos where they've made the stuff in the lab. Spin glass can actually stop light. Now Kenntis is wearing a human body but he is really a light creature, and he gets trapped by his enemies. I called it called slow glass in the first book, but it is renamed and described in the second. Andrew was supposed to be here also, but he had to give a presentation in New Jersey. His new book *** is out; it's a secret history of World War II.

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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews
By Lee Whiteside

The broadcast networks have announced their plans for the new season and here's what you can look forward to starting in September.

NBC has dropped *Heroes*, but did renew *Chuck*, which will be back in the fall. In their new series, they appear to be avoiding any new science fiction or fantasy shows, but are optioning more for spies and action/adventure. They do have a comics-inspired offering, *The Cape*, which is still heavily rooted in the real world. **David Lyons** stars as Vince Faraday, an honest cop on a corrupt force who finds himself framed for a series of murders and presumed dead. He goes into hiding, leaving his wife (Dana - **Jennifer Ferrin**) and son (Trip - **Ryan Wynott**) behind, and takes on the moniker of The Cape, his son's favorite comic superhero and starts taking the law into his own hands with a goal of clearing his name so he can reunite with his family. Also starring is **James Frain** as billionaire Peter Fleming, who moonlights as a twisted killer, The Tempest, **Keith David** as Max Malini, the leader of a gang of bank robbers who mentors Vince and

trains him to be The Cape, and **Summer Glau** as investigative blogger Orwell, who wages war on crime and corruption via her blog.

The Event is described as "an emotional, high-octane conspiracy thriller that follows Sean Walker (**Jason Ritter**), an Everyman who investigates the mysterious disappearance of his fiancé, Leila (**Sarah Roemer**), and unwittingly begins to expose the biggest cover-up in U.S. history. NBC is not saying too much more about what is going on so there could be some genre element buried in the plot. They will also have *Undercovers* from **J. J. Abrams** described as a "sexy, fun, action-packed spy drama that proves once and for all that marriage is still the world's most dangerous partnership." It stars **Boris Kodjoe** and **Gugu Mbatha-Raw** as Steven and Samantha Bloom as retired CIA agents who are brought back into the spy business when one of the fellow spies goes missing. Expect to see a lot of Alias-type spy activities but no Rambalidi type machinations.

ABC has dropped *Eastwick* and *Flash Forward*, but have given *V* a mid-season pickup. Debuting this fall will be *No Ordinary Family* about an ordinary family who after their plane crashes into the Amazon River, they all discover they have new extraordinary abilities. It stars

Michael Chiklis as father Jim Powell, **Julie Benz** as mom Stephanie Powell, **Jimmy Bennett** as son JJ Powell, and **Kay Panabaker** as daughter Daphne. Also starring are **Stephen Collins** as Dr. Dayton King, Stephanie's boss at Global Tech.

CBS has dropped *Ghost Whisperer*, but have kept *Medium* around to kick off Friday nights. They do not have any new genre shows, but do have a couple with stars genre fans are familiar with. The remake of *Hawaii Five-0* is described as "a contemporary take on the classic series about a new elite federalized task force whose mission is to wipe out the crime that washes up on the Islands' sun-drenched beaches." Former vampire on *Moonlight* **Alex O'Loughlin** stars as Steve McGarrett, former *Lost* castaway and *Crusade* officer **Daniel Dae Kim** is Chin Ho Kelly, with former cylon **Grace Park** as Chin's cousin Kono. **Scott Caan**, who has no genre credits, stars as Danny "Danno" Williams. Executive producers include **Alex Kurtzman** and **Roberto Orci** of recent *Star Trek* and *Transformers* fame. The original Captain Kirk, **William Shatner**, returns to TV in *\$#! My Dad Says*, based on the popular Twitter feed by **Justin Halpern**. **Shatner** is Ed Goodson, "a forthright and

opinionated dad who relishes expressing his unsolicited and often wildly politically incorrect observations to anyone within earshot."

The CW will be bringing back *Smallville* for its 10th (and supposedly final) season, *Supernatural* (moving to Fridays to pair up with *Smallville* once again), and *The Vampire Diaries*. Joining the mix on Thursday nights will be *Nikita*, based on the original movie (which was turned into a TV series once already) and taking a more young-viewer approach to the story. **Maggie Q** is Nikita, who after having been rescued from death row and turned into a spy and assassin went rogue and vows to take vengeance on the covert group, the Division, that trained her. We also see things from the point of view of several new recruits for the Division. Also starring are **Lyndsy Fonseca** as Alex, **Shane West** as Michael, **Aaron Stanford** as Birkhoff, **Ashton Holmes** as Thom, **Tiffany Hines** as Jaden, **Melinda Clarke** as Amanda and **Xander Berkeley** as Percy. Expect lots of action as well as a fair amount of teen/20 something angst. For the final season of *Smallville*, expect to see some reappearances of some characters not seen for a while (including Pa Kent) but also expect to see some leave

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The Arizona Browncoats and The Arizona Corsairs present...

Can't Stop The *Serenity* Special Charity Double Feature Matinee Extravaganza

Featuring **The Ice Pirates**
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<http://azbrowncoats.org/csts>

In Tucson? Can't Stop The Serenity

Charity Screening of Serenity and Dr. Horrible

The Loft Cinema, Tucson - September 29



SFTube Talk (Cont'd from page 3)

such as Chloe early in the season. Hints given in the season finale seem to indicate that we may see Darkseid and other New Gods related characters as well.

FOX will be bringing back ***Fringe*** and ***Human Target*** in the fall and are tentatively planning on a mid-season debut of ***Terra Nova***, a new series produced by **Steven Spielberg**, **Peter Chernin**, **Brannon Braga** and **David Fury** is described as an “action-adventure series follows an ordinary family on an extraordinary journey back in time to prehistoric Earth as a part of a massive expedition to save the human race.” In the future as Earth is dying, scientists manage to create a fracture in the space-time continuum and send a group of humans back to the prehistoric era in the hope that they can change the past and create a better future. The series will focus on the Shannon family, who are part of the colony, but will also find the settlers dealing with prehistoric creatures and other forces that may threaten the colony and the world’s future. The series is still in the early stages and the only announced cast member is **Jason O’Mara** as Jim Shannon.

The broadcast networks are still only a small part of the genre landscape with the usual cable suspects continuing their genre offerings with new offerings in the works for AMC and TNT. AMC has given the go ahead for a six-episode series of ***The Walking Dead***, based on the Image comic series by **Robert Kirkland**, who is also serving as an executive producer on the series along with **Frank Darabont** (who is also writing and directing) and **Gale Anne Hurd**. The series follows a group of survivors after the Zombie Apocalypse and their adventures as they try to find a safe and secure place to live. The group is led by cop Rick Grimes (**Andrew Lincoln**) and other survivors include **Jeffrey DeMunn** as Dale, **Jon Bernthal** as Shane Walsh, **Laurie Holden** as Andrea, **Sarah Wayne Callies** as Lori Grimes, and **Steven Yeun** as Glenn. Look for the series to debut on AMC in October during their annual Fearfest.

TNT has given the go ahead to ***Fallen Skies***, a **Steven Spielberg** series about the survivors of an alien invasion. It stars **Noah Wyle** as Tom Mason and **Moon Bloodgood** as Anne Glass. Tom Mason is as a former college professor who becomes the leader of a group of soldiers and civilians struggling against an occupying alien force while Anne Glass is a therapist who works with the surviving children to help them cope with the traumatic situation. The series also stars **Drew Roy** as Hal and **Maxim Knight** as Matt, Tom’s two sons; and **Seychelle Gabriel** as Lourdes, an orphaned teenager who helps run the group’s commissary. **Will Patton** plays a fierce leader of the resistance. Look for the series to debut in

the summer of 2011.

Syfy kicked off July with the return of ***Eureka*** and ***Warehouse 13*** along with the debut of ***Haven***. ***Eureka*** changed the status quo in Founder’s Day with a trip back in time to the 1940’s that changed some things when they returned to the present, including bringing Dr. Trevor Grant (**James Callis**) with them. Upcoming episodes will find inspiration in the movies ***28 Days Later*** (Zombies) and ***Jurassic Park*** (dinosaurs) and the Eureka version of a soap box derby where the goal is to make a rocket that can make a round trip to the moon. Later in the season there will be crossovers with ***Warehouse 13*** where Fargo will visit Warehouse 13 and Claudia Donovan from Warehouse 13 will visit Eureka. Also look for a special Christmas episode from Eureka that delves into the Science of Santa that will feature a return appearance by **Matt Frewer** as Jim Taggart. ***Warehouse 13*** will continue with lots of known guest stars. There will be new artifacts each week, including one that is actually a gryphon and one where the artificat in question affects Pete to the point of him losing his sanity. Guest stars include **Lindsay Wagner**, **Tia Carrere**, **Rene Auberjonois**, **David Anders**, **Faran Tahir**, and **Philip Winchester**. There’s not much advance information on ***Haven***, which debuted with OK ratings in early July.

Doctor Who finished its current season with a wild and exciting finale with ***The Big Bang***, but still left many unanswered questions such as who is River Song really, and what does “Silence has fallen” mean? There will definitely be a Christmas special with The Doctor encountering The Yeti and more adventures early next year including one written by **Neil Gaiman**. ***Torchwood*** has found a new US home in Starz, that will be co-producing a fourth series with the BBC. Executive producer **Russell T. Davies** will still be in charge and **John Barrowman** and **Eve Myles** will definitely be back. With the destruction of the Torchwood Hub in the ***Children of Earth*** series, Jack and Gwen will team up with a more global group of operatives for the new season. Expect to hear some more news next time as this develops. Elsewhere on the BBC, ***The Sarah Jane Adventures*** will feature a guest appearance by **Matt Smith** as The Doctor and **Katy Manning** as Jo Grant. Still no word on when anything past the first season will appear on cable in the US, though.

BBC America just started up the second season of ***Being Human*** on Saturday nights. The new season consists of eight episodes and has an overall arc dealing with Professors Lucy Jaggart and Kemp, who are fundamentalist Christians who have discovered the existence of vampires, werewolves and ghosts - and are determined to destroy them or carry

out brutal experiments upon them. They believe that vampires are the Devil incarnate and must be destroyed; that werewolves contain an evil gene that can be removed by violent scientific experiments; and that ghosts must be forced over to the other side whether they like it or not. Other new characters this season are a vampire couple, Ivan and Daisy, who get involved with Mitchell, George, and Annie. When a vampire starts killing, Mitchell must get involved more with the vampire community and ends up in charge of the coven and also starts to organize a blood addiction group with mixed results. Mitchell also begins to have a more serious relationship with Lucy, but things don’t end up well between them. Annie discovers there are forces trying to sever her ties with Earth that will cause her to cross over and she works to keep that from happening. George tries to experiment with keeping his werewolf tendencies in check by taking tranquilizers on the day of the full moon. He also starts up a relationship with Sam, who he was set up with on an intended bad blind date which goes well. As things progress, Jaggart and Kemp’s plans come to fruition and things look really bad for all involved.

A Conversation

(Cont'd from page 1)

CP: What do they use spin glass for in the lab?

MS: It’s a way to figure out what happened at the moment of the Big Bang. It slows light down and can actually freeze it. Most of the research is out of California, and there are a number of articles on the subject. They are trying to create a means of communicating at super high speeds for super-computers that can store enormous amounts of information. But what they are finding out is that light degrades and it loses information content the longer it is frozen.

CP: Are you working on the next Wild Cards anthology?

MS: We are. The book is actually done. It’s called *Port Freak* and it’s about the police officers in Joker Town.

CP: Are you bringing back Bubbles?

MS: No, we’re creating new characters. I’m writing about the son of Francis Xavier Black, and he’s a normal person, not an ace.

CP: Where in New Mexico do you live?

MS: I live in Santa Fe now; I grew up in Albuquerque, but it’s gotten very big, and it’s gotten hotter so I moved a couple of years ago. But Albuquerque is the setting for some of the action in the *Edge* books.

CP: I love your premise that the gods are actually aliens who suck up the energy of scared, angry human beings. How did the premise form?

MS: It was New Year’s Eve, 1999, and I

was sitting at a Mexican restaurant we all love with Walter Jon Williams and Steve Gould and some other friends. We were watching the millennium celebrations around the world. I was thinking to myself and I said aloud, “Hey, where’s my air car? Where’s my moon base? What happened? We were supposed to get to the stars by the 21st century!” and “Why do people believe in b__t and reject science?” and I thought, well, maybe there’s a reason, and I sort of came up with the idea. What if there were nearby dimensions, multi-verses, that had these creatures that were attracted by sentience. Eventually, in the books, they are going to discover that the reason we’re not getting any signals from other civilizations on other planets is that because every time some race or species begins to develop cognizance and consciousness, these other-dimensional creatures intervene. So there *is* no one else out there, because they keep dying off in wars and upheavals. Kenntnis is fighting this desperate rear-guard action to save us from these creatures; we’re the last bastion. In part, it was a reaction to Fundamentalism in every religion.... I was a lawyer trained in Constitutional Law, and that was part of the mix too.

CP: Do you feel you are closer to your daimon as a writer than if you had followed law? Was it the right choice?

MS: Absolutely. I’ve always been torn between being a hard-headed pragmatist and a creator. I was a singer - I studied opera in Europe - and I danced, and did theatre. My dad had the same sort of dichotomy; he had a Dixieland jazz band, but then he ended up a business man. And so I had this dual pull. My dad wanted me to be a lawyer. I think he would have been proud of me becoming a writer, because he was torn too. I practiced law; I got my degree and practiced for three years, and I realized that I loved law and I hated lawyers. My best friend was a science-fiction writer at the time, Victor Milan, and he introduced me to all these great people like Fred Saberhagen, George Martin and Roger Zelazny - Roger and I became very good friends. He used to come over for role-playing games at my house with Jane Lindskold and all these other really great people. And I thought, these are the coolest people I ever met in my life! The people I practice law with, all they talk about is their billable hours and their wins.

CP: Who do you like to read?

MS: I love the books by Stieg Larsson, beginning with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. I’m reading the third one now. But I read very little for pleasure these days, because I spend all my time writing! I do re-read *The Wind and the Willows* every summer, and every two years or so I re-read *The Lord of the Rings*. Also *The*

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A Conversation

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Jungle Book. I love that one! In fact, at the end of the second *Edge* book there's an homage to Kipling. For relaxation, God help me, Ian and I play Dragon Age and Halo for *hours*!

CP: Thank-you so much for agreeing to this interview; it's been a great pleasure.
MS: Thank-you.

If you would like to meet Melinda Snodgrass, to talk or just get books personalized, she will be at BuboniCon in Albuquerque, NM, the last weekend of August. - Chris Paige

In Memory

James P. Hogan
(1941-2010)

Science Fiction author James P. Hogan was found dead in his house in Ireland on July 12. The cause of death has not yet been determined.

I first met Jim in 1986 when he was our Guest of Honor at CopperCon 6. The convention was held at the old Safari Resort Hotel on Scottsdale Road. I had read Jim's first book, *Inherit the Stars*, published in 1977 by Ballantine Del Rey as a paperback original. That was followed by a direct sequel titled *The Gentle Giants of Ganymede*, published in 1978, also by Ballantine Del Rey as a paperback original.

Also in 1978, *The Genesis Machine* was published. *The Two Faces of Tomorrow* came along in 1979. *Thrice Upon A Time* came out in 1980. And the third Giants novel titled *Giant's Star*, came out in 1981. Then came *The Voyage From Yesteryear* in 1982.

His most recent novel, *Migration*, came out from Baen Books in May of 2010 – just two months ago. There were a lot of other books – 5 collections, 16 stand-alone novels, and three series.

But the Jim Hogan I knew was a man who enjoyed good conversation over a beer, loved sharing what he had learned, and enjoyed explaining complex things so his listener could understand.

When I was still unpublished and trying to break in, I ran into Jim at the Universe 87 Convention in LA at the Airport Hilton. I had gone there as a Bookseller and had a table in the dealers room. What I did not know until arriving and setting up was that Universe 87 was a gamer's convention. The gamers had checked in, headed for the gaming area, and there was almost no one around. But the Con Committee had also invited a passel of writers, and the writers were all sitting in the Green Room trying not to be bored out of their minds. Knowing I was a wannabe writer, Jim invited me to come up and hang out with them.

It felt a lot like having an angel invite me to come hang out in heaven.

So a few minutes later, I had a seat

at the table with Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle, Dr. Robert Forward, Harry Harrison, A. E. van Vogt, and James P. Hogan - and I was pretty much blown away by how welcoming everyone was.

At the end of the con, Jim asked what my plans were for the next few days, and I said I didn't have any except to get home eventually. So he invited me to drive him back to his home up near Sacramento and stay a couple days with him and his family. Naturally, I accepted the invitation.

Of course, that kind of luck couldn't hold. I put his suitcase in my little red Fiero and promptly locked it and my keys in the trunk. That slowed us down a little while I went and found a locksmith. But Jim was good natured about it and we got on our way without too long a delay.

We talked about his novel *The Proteus Operation*. I was curious about how he had gained so much expertise in caving, and he told me he had made friends with the owner of the nearby Moaning Caverns. He talked about the convenience to a writer of being able to pick up the phone and ask questions of an expert – something I have never forgotten.

The drive was uneventful. We made good time. And we arrived at his home just before sunset, where I met his wife Jackie, a lovely lady, and his three young sons – three dynamos of constant energy and motion. After supper, he took me over to another house – which he kept as his office, and where I would spend the night.. In the morning, we were up early and we headed off to Moaning Caverns. It was a great day. The caverns were beautiful and a lot of work had gone into making them accessible – wrought iron stairways, pathways, and colored lighting. The owner was there and very gracious. He answered questions, gave us the guided tour, and was a great host.

That evening, sitting in Jim's living-room as the boys bounced on and off pretty much everything, Jim talked about writing ideas and had fun suggesting plots that Heinlein had already used so that both Jackie and I kept telling him they were used ideas. Jim allowed as how one could

learn to hate Robert Heinlein.

I saw Jim again at another California convention – don't recall which one - when my own first book, *The Charm*, had come out and I was promoting it. That time, Jim sat in our room with a beer and a smile and happily explained quantum physics to my ex-wife and me.

Unfortunately, we didn't cross paths or get together again after that. Jim had bought Killarny House in Ireland and was spending a fortune restoring it. I seem to recall he sold it eventually and was not aware he had bought another house in Ireland.

Naturally, I was saddened to hear of his passing. He was a gentleman, had a great sense of

humor, and was a remarkable writer.

And he was very kind to a wannabe writer seven years before my first book finally found a publisher. I will always be grateful.

Upon announcement of his death, the blogosphere was inundated with stories of how Jim was a Holocaust Denier – which is not true. But he was a researcher and a stickler for detail, and he resented and reacted to being told one could not question any topic – including the Holocaust. It wasn't that he did not think the Holocaust happened, but that he thought the official accounts were not accurate. Over the last several years he apparently embraced a number of controversial topics and developed positions on them. Some of those are discussed on his website. He and his son maintained it.

So I have hoisted a pint of ale (despite my gout) in remembrance of James P. Hogan. He was kind to me, an amazing individual and unique.

He will be missed.

Adam Niswander
Phoenix, Arizona
2010

Gamers Corner

Evony
Evony-Free Forever

Free forever is a possibility with this, however the game is designed to tempt you into paying a small fee to gain extras during beginners protection (bp). There are also ways to entice you after bp, I have several dozen gift chests in my inventory (the chests are free, but it costs \$30 for the key). The chests hold many useful items and can be a great help, however the former host of my alliance had at one time 43 chests, this means he could open them all for the measly sum of \$1,290.

The game itself is fun. I enjoy building and maintaining troops, finding the right mixture of buildings for your city,

and interacting with allies and enemies. There are basically 2 types of players, farmers who build their cities and attack the barbarian cities around them, and war-mongers who attack other players and take their resources. Both have their advantages and drawbacks, I run a combination of the two, I have some cities just for farming and some for viciously attacking other players.

Alliances are important, having players that will come to your aid if attacked (or at least avenge you) makes others think twice about attacking without provocation. There are many good resources for playing but the best is knowing someone who has played.

3.5 Stars out of 5

OgreOcre
Ken St. Andre

OgreOcre is a fast paced card game designed to be played with Flying Buffalo's 2010 Origins Poker Deck. The deck has 5 kings and 2 jokers. Each face card and joker has a special ability based on color. The red cards are positive and the black cards are negative. The object is to have the highest possible hand and win the pot. The rules are available from Drive-Thru RPG and cost two dollars for a PDF. A hard copy is available through Peryton Publishing for ten dollars. The game is easy to learn and good for killing time between games at a convention. Playing for pretzel sticks is not recommended as you tend to eat the winnings too fast.

4 Stars out of 5 See you next time. ~
Bob LaPierre

Warhammer Death and Dishonor
edited by Alex Davis, Nick Kyme and Lindsey Priestly
Black Library, \$8.99, 316 pp.

Here is a tome of nine short stories in the dark fantasy world of Warhammer. A few of these stories are with Warhammer's

(Cont'd on Page 6)



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Gamers (Cont’d from page 5)
favorite characters- Gotrek & Felix, Florin & Lorenzo, and Brunner the Bounty Hunter. All the stories are about the title of this book.

Liked it, overall. Recommended to dark fantasy and Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer 40,000 Sons of Dorn
by Chris Roberson
Black Library, \$7.99, 414 pp.

This story is about three young recruits who are selected for Imperial Fists Space Marines. Even though two of them have a blood debt secretly among each other, the trio will have to work together in order to survive the onslaught of Chaos Roaring Blades and the Chaos Sound Marines. Also, each of the three is from one world but different cultures and lifestyles. Yet, they must work as a team in order to overcome the enemy.

This is an Imperial Fists Novel.
Enjoyable. Read about Space Marines but never saw the process of making a person into a Space Marine. Also, liked the idea of three different cultures uniting against a common enemy. Recommended to dark sci-fi fans and Warhammer 40,000 readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer Knight Errant
by Anthony Reynolds
Black Library, \$7.99, 411 pp

Calard and his half-brother, Bertelis, are Bretonnia knight-errants. They are summoned by their sick father, Lord of Bastonne, to join a worthy national cause- repel the orc invaders. These sons will join other knights and knight-errants to defend their homeland. But there is more than literally meets the eye. There is something dark and sinister in Bretonnia. Something rotten.

Intrigue galore. Surprises. Liked it. Recommended for dark fantasy readers and Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer 40,000 Planetkill
Edited by Nick Kyme and Lindsey Priestley
Black Library, \$7.99, 313 pp.

Here are seven short stories in the Warhammer 40,000 universe. All of them deal with the doom of a planet in some way.

Interesting. Some surprises. Three of these short stories were previews for their own novels. Recommended to dark sci-fi fans and Warhammer 40,000 readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer Knight of the Realm
by Anthony Reynolds
Black Library, \$7.99, 410 pp.

Since the death of his father, Calard

now is the knight of realm. He will have to face a lot of responsibilities that he does not want. Yet, Calard will also have to counter a new thread among Bretonnia: Norscans- barbarians from the north. He will have to decide on a dark destiny which he will be partly responsible for the entire country’s welfare.

This is the second book in Warhammer’s Bretonnia series.
Tragedy. Dark. Interesting take on Lady of the Lake. Surprises. Recommended to dark fantasy readers and Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer 40,000 Angels of Darkness
by Gav Thorpe
Black Library, \$7.99, 282 pp.

Here lies a story of the Dark Angels Space Marines. An Interrogator-Chaplain Boreas hears secrets from a prisoner who had been with the Emperor, ten thousand years ago. That prisoner was also a Dark Angels Space Marine. Will Boreas act with the information he gathers from this ancient space marine or will something more subtle and sinister appear from the past?

This is a second printing.
Great tale. Lot of plots and controversies about Dark Angels Space Marines. Highly recommended to dark sci-fi fans and Warhammer 40,000 readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer 40,000 Storm of Iron
by Graham McNeill
Black Library, \$7.99, 413 pp.

This story is about one Chaos Space Marines, Iron Warriors, who are besieging an Imperial citadel for something important that even the Imperial defender do not know. Will the Iron Warriors sacrifice everything to take down this Imperial fortress or are there a few hidden agendas that they themselves do not know?

Interesting. This is first book in the Warhammer 40,000 that the bad guys win at a great cost. There are a lot of ups and downs on both sides- chaos and Imperial. Some things I did not expect in this tome. Great story, overall. Recommended to dark sci-fi readers and Warhammer 40,000 fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

**Warhammer Online-
Age of Reckoning: Empire in Chaos**
by Anthony Reynolds
Black Library, \$7.99, 413 pp.

Unlikely friends and allies are gathered together to fight the armies of orcs, goblins, and Chaos. Annaliese Jaeger and an elf are sole survivors from a strange village plague. A witch hunter, a knight and a dwarf are united with these two to warn a great city of invasion. Will they in time be able to survive in battle against the Chaos Raven’s army?

Enjoyable. Reminds me of one book of the Lord of the Rings but in a darker form. Recommended to dark fantasy and Warhammer readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer Mark of Chaos
by Anthony Reynolds
Black Library, \$7.99, 395 pp.

Here is a story of a Captain von Kessel who is wrongfully accused as a child as a thing of Chaos. His uncle, the Count of Ostermark, has spared his life after putting his grandfather to death and his father to banishment. The captain’s face was scarred in an early age as a mark of chaos. In this tale, the captain will have to use his wits and experience with an Imperial army to fight a seemingly unlimited great Chaos hordes. But will his past come back to haunt him?

Good story. Recommended to dark fantasy readers and Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer 40,000 Daemon World
by Ben Counter
Black Library, \$7.99, 405 pp.

This is a world where all types of Chaos- dameons, gargoyles, humans, and Chaos marine- fights to stay on top. Yet, there is one Chaos marine who will get his final revenge on the main Chaos planet. Something with an alien’s help.

Dark. Loved it. Lot of twists and turns. Did not expect the ending. Recommended to dark sci-fi/fantasy and Warhammer 40,000 fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer Fantasy Roleplay
The Corrupted
by Robert Earl
Black Library, \$7.99, 252 pp.

This story is about a wizard who obtains an illegal spell that went haywire at Altdorf. He left to the forbidden Chaos North in a hurry. The leader of the Colleges of Magic sent another wizard to “solve” this problem. Also, a team of witch hunters are in pursuit of this renegade wizard. All will change but not for the better.

Interesting. Dark. Recommended to dark fantasy readers and Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer
Brunner The Bounty Hunter
by C.L. Werner
Black Library, \$15.00, 764 pp.

In these pages, this tome has tales of a bounty hunter in a fantasy setting. His name is Brunner and he is brutal.

This tome has the three novels- Blood & Steel, Blood Money, and Blood of the Dragon. This also includes the short story, “What Price Vengeance.”

Overall, liked it. Dark but never boring. Recommended to dark fantasy

readers and Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer 40,000 Bringers of Death
edited by Marc Gasconigne & Christian Dunn
Black Library, \$6.99, 253 pp.

Here are the short stories that deals with death in the Warhammer 40,000 universe. One of the these stories started a line of one of my favorite series.

Recommended to dark sci-fi readers and Warhammer 40,000 fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer Day of the Daemon
by Aaron Rosenberg
Black Library, \$7.99, 253 pp.

Treasure hunters Alaric and Dietz are trying to counter a major Chaos plot with the help of a few allies. Little will they know that one of them will be a secret Chaos priest.

Dark. Enjoyable. This is like a pulp story in a fantasy setting. Recommended to dark fantasy and/or Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer 40,000
The Ultramarines Omnibus
by Graham McNeill
Black Library, \$10.99, 765 pp.

Here is a collection of stories with the space marines, Ultramarines. In this volume, Captain Uriel Ventris and the Ultramarines will lead against the foes of mankind- dark eldar, chaos marines, and others.

This tome has the short story, “Chain of Command.” It also contained three novels: Nightbringer, Warriors of Ultramar, and Dead Sky Black Sun.

Liked it. Good science fiction military stories with a flavor of horror. First time seeing a space marine more human. Recommended to dark fantasy readers or Warhammer 40,000 fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Warhammer The Enemy Within
by Richard Lee Byers
Black Library, \$7.99, 253 pp.

Dieter Schumann, a Celestial wizard, is being set-up as a spy for a witch hunter group. He is to infiltrate a Chaos cell and find the mysterious boss. Little will he know that he will be corrupted and betrayed in this adventure. Will he survive against Chaos?

Good story. Recommended for dark fantasy readers and Warhammer fans. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Gamer (Cont'd from page 6)

Runefang
by C.L. Werner
Black Library, \$7.99, 412 pp.

This book is about a group quest for a lost Solland runefang, one of 12 magical swords for human leaders. The reason for this is to find this weapon that could destroy a seemingly invincible monster, a wight. This monster also commands a large zombie army that keeps growing after each successful battle. Can this undead horde be stopped in time? Interesting tale. Full of betrayals. Surprises galore. Recommended to dark fantasy readers and Warhammer fans. ~

Jeffrey Lu

ConClusion

Phoenix Comic-Con (May 27-30, 2010) at Phoenix Convention Center
by Jeffrey Lu

A policeman looked puzzled as he gave directions. He said, "What the hell is Ghostbusters doing here? Is there something that I don't know about?"

Without skipping a beat, I went to him and told him that it was a comic convention, a few blocks away.

Yep, there were more stares from not only the normals but also from the other convention goers- a national volleyball tournament- on Batman to Mario costumes on a hot summer day in downtown Phoenix.

I was there to meet not only the usual celebrities like Wil Wheaton but also the fans in costumes. Some were amazing like one couple- Spider-man with Black Cat.

The Phoenix Comic-Con was to be in one of the four convention spaces. This was definitely bigger space from last year's event. At least twice the size. There were two hallways for convention meeting rooms, one large merchant area, one ballroom for the main event and volunteer booth, one large area for snacks and drinks, and a major registration/information/photo-ops place.

Little did I know that there will be an attendance record of 13,988 people. This was double from last year's convention in Mesa.

I was there to see a few old friends and hunt for an elusive "holy grail." Instead, I had to help out a sick friend. Instead of going to see a whole bunch of panels and/or meeting celebrities like Stan Lee (creator of Iron Man, Hulk, Spider-man), I went and waited in line for someone I had once had no clue. My ill friend helped me a few months before to see "Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog" and "The Guild." I was waiting outside in the Phoenix hot sun for Felicia Day.

Being stubborn (and maybe stupid), I

held my position for at least two hours. I was happy when I finally got inside the air-conditioned building. Later, I did met her. Felicia is a nice lady and seems to be like a geeky Mary Jane in the Ultimate Spider-man comics.

Afterward, I did bump into my find. I bought it and happily walked out.

Overall, the whole place was packed. I think the next Phoenix Comic-Con needs at least two more convention spaces. Will this be another San Diego Comic-Con? We'll see.

LepreCon 36 (May 14-16) at Phoenix Marriott Mesa in Mesa, Arizona.
by Jeffrey Lu

George R.R. Martin and Charles Vess. They were the main author and artist guests.

I had to be there.

Even though I had to work, I made time to go to this event.

I am a fan of both. First, George was one of my favorite authors in his Wild Card series. I also have four of his Song of Ice and Fire fantasy books. I had two of the fantasy series signed at the dealer's room. He was generous.

Second, Charles Vess is known as an artist who worked with Neil Gaiman. I had him not only signed my copy of "The Book of Ballads and Sagas" but also made a drawing within the cover of the book. Cool.

To be honest, I did not know what Mr. Vess looked like until I went to the convention. I was at a ConSuite one morning drinking sodas and eating chips. I overheard a conversation about art. I sat near two people and listened. Unwisely, I mentioned in passing about why didn't one of them go meet Charles Vess to settle their art question. One of them

smiled. He said, "Hi. I'm Charles Vess." I swallowed and apologized for my error. He forgave and did a wonderful sketch. Overall the convention was small but nice. I had a good time.

In The Cards: RandomCon 2010 on July 9th to 11th 2010 at Windemere Hotel and Convention Center
by Jeffrey Lu

A few old gaming buddies were there playing a *Firefly* deck. It was made by a lady friend as an experiment with some Steve Jackson's Munchkin cards. She told me that this will never be because of the copyrights dealing with *Firefly*.

I find this sad because other game companies are making money with the rights of theme of movies and T.V. shows. For example, there is the popular *Monty Python Fluxx* game.

Yet, there were a few demos in this convention. One was a live action zombie survivor game. Another was something to deal with pirates. I was interested in card games. I looked around.

I decided to try *Orgeocre*. This card game was invented by Ken St. Andre, creator of *Tunnels and Trolls*. I tried it twice and lost both times. The game was complex but only needed a deck of cards, a rulebook, and dice. This was just a demo.

Later, I saw a few gaming friends and chatted with them. There were some discussions about life in general. One of them met his wife in a gaming convention. Another will be a high school teacher, this fall.

Curious, I asked registration about the convention. Volunteer Lisa-Marie Brown told me that the count was 245 people.

In this convention, I enjoyed myself.

Even though this may be the first gaming convention that I did not win, I made new friends and renewed old acquaintances in our love of gaming- new and old.

I plan to be back.

Trivia Questions

- 1) What is Asimov's 3rd Law of Robotics?
- 2) Which Heinlein story took place partly in The Land of Oz?
- 3) Who was originally considered for the role of the Terminator in the first movie?
- 4) What famous writer used the nom de plume of Andrew North?
- 5) What was James Cameron's directorial debut?
- 6) Which actor on the TV show Sliders was the only actor to appear in all 5 seasons?
- 7) Which famous artist painted the destruction of the TARDIS?
- 8) In Sookie Stackhouse's world, what did the Japanese develop that enabled the vampires to "come out of the coffin?"
- 9) What was the name of the first Earth-orbiting satellite?
- 10) Which well-known character actor participated in all five Star Trek TV series, all the movies thru the latest Star Trek and all the animated versions?

Answers on page 20



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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.

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

BARDS BOOKS – A REVIEW

By C. Yankovich

If you're looking for another Bookman's, you'll be disappointed; Bards is not a superstore. Located in a strip mall on Seventh Street, one block north of Osborn, the small store with plenty of atmosphere has been in this location for nearly a year. Huge threadbare oriental rugs on the floor add color. Soft music plays in the background. Bookshelves stretch upward, almost touching the ten-foot ceilings. A small Community Room stocked with plump sofas takes up one corner of the store. A calendar of events lets customers know what is happening for the next month from new age classes to book signings.

They offer a sizable crafts section; one eight-foot –tall shelf is labeled "Sewing and Quilting." Unfortunately, this is misleading. I did find a book on couture techniques, but pickings were slim. Still, I have to give them credit for being hopeful. I didn't notice anything on fashion, but they did have a nice art section and a couple four-foot by eight-foot shelves filled with cookbooks.

If you're in downtown Phoenix, you might want to check out Bards and give the owner some encouragement. He's a nice guy.

Plus, after picking up some reading, try Urban Bean coffee shop, across the parking lot. They're another small local business that treats folks right.

Bards Books
3508 N Seventh Street, Suite 145
Phoenix, AZ 85014
www.bardsbooks.com
602.274.7530

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Dorling Kindersley Publishing Staff presents *Star Wars: The Clone Wars Character Encyclopedia*, a visual guide to the characters of Star Wars: The Clone Wars TV series published in the summer of 2010.

Barnes & Noble, Desert Ridge. **Aug 21, 2pm**

DIANA GABALDON, her new Graphic Novel *Windmill Inn*, Tucson (see Pima Library website), \$35. **Aug 28, 4p-6p.** Scottsdale Center for the Arts. (see Poisoned Pen webpage) **Sep 21, 7pm.** Barnes & Noble, Eastside, Tucson. **Oct 2, 2pm**

Smart Chicks Kick-It Author Event
HOLLY BLACK, KELLEY ARMSTRONG, SARAH REES BRENNAN, KIMBERLY DERTING, BECCA FITZPATRICK MELISSA MARR, & ALYSON NOEL
Scottsdale Civic Library Auditorium. **Sep 17, 7pm.**

J.S. LEWIS signing "Grey Griffins #1: The Brimstone Key"
Barnes & Noble, Dana Park Village Square, Mesa. **Sep 17, 6pm**

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

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

SciFi Book Group
Barnes & Noble, Eastside, Tucson.
Aug 10, Sept 14, Oct 12, 730pm

SPECIAL BOOK RELEASES

This listing is to introduce you to smaller publishing houses that offer exclusive or limited edition books that you wouldn't be able to find at your local chain bookstore.

Cemetery Dance Publications

"The Painted Darkness" by Brian James Freeman
"Futile Efforts" by Tom Piccirilli

Edge SF & F Publishing/Tesseract Books

"Cinkarion" by J.A. Cullum

PS Publishing

"Clowns at Midnight" by Terry Dowling
"Quartet and Triptych" by Matthew Hughes
"The Library of Forgotten Books" by Rjurik Davidson
"Brighton Shock" edited by Stephen Jones

PYR Publishing

"The Buntline Special: A Weird West Tale" by Mike Resnick
"The Cardinal's Blades" by Pierre Pevel
"Cowboy Angels" by Paul McAuley
"Elfsorrow: Legends of the Raven I" by James Barclay

Subterranean Press

"Kraken" by China Mieville
"The Ammonite Violin & Others" by Caitlin R. Kiernan
"The Adventures of the Princess and The Thing Beneath the Bed" by Pat Rothfuss
"The Sky That Wraps" by Jay Lake
And too many more to mention....

GAMING EVENTS

DRAWN TO COMICS

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

GAME DEPOT

HeroClix. Wed, 530pm-8pm
Magic, The Gathering. Thurs, 6pm.
Magic, The Gathering 2011 GameDay. Aug 14, noon
D&D Dark Sun. Aug 21, all day
Warhammer Ardboyz Tournament. Aug 28, noon
D&D Redbox Day. Sep 11, noon-7pm

GAMER'S INN

Pokeman Pre-Release. Aug 8, 10am
M11 GameDay. Aug 14, noon
D&D Worldwide Dark Sun GameDay. Aug 21, all day
Flames of War 1750. Aug 29, 10am
Magic: Scars of Mirrodin Pre-Release. Sep 25, 10am

IMPERIAL OUTPOST GAMES

Federation Commander. 2nd Saturdays, noon
RPG. 1st Sundays
Boardgames & Demo Nite. Mondays & Thursdays, 6pm.
War Machine. Wednesdays, 4pm
Hammerhead 40K Club Meeting. Wed & Thurs, noon
Hammerhead Club 40k tournament. 1st Wed, noon
Magic Booster Drafts. Fridays, 7pm

SAMURAI COMICS

(check website for correct store location)

Magic, The Gathering Tournament. Mon 6pm (Phx), Thurs 6p (Phx)
Yugioh Tournament. Sundays, noon (Phx) & Sat, noon (west valley)
Anime Club. Sundays, noon (west valley)
Pokemon. Sundays, 2pm (west valley)

Magic, The Gathering. Friday, 6p at both locations, & Tues, 6pm (west valley) & Sat 1pm (Phx)

SCIENCE EVENTS

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

Goose Bumps! The Science of Fear.
Opened Jan 31, 2010
Pre-school Science. Aug thru Sep, various topics.
Digital Daze, game design technology. Aug 6, 10a-4p
Family-friendly talks on variety of topics. Sep TBA
Science Café informal discussions with ASU Professors, see webpage for topics and dates. Sep 17, Oct 15, Nov 19
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
Space Place events for Future Astronauts. Check website for events in Sep.
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. Aug 14, Sep 11, Sep 18, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, 930am-1030am. Science Saturdays. Aug 28, 10am-330pm. Age 8 and up.
Night Wings. Aug 28, 5pm-9pm.
Aviation's for Girls, Jr. Girl Scout Program. Sep 25, 9am-330pm
Volunteer Presentation Series. Oct 16, Nov 20, Dec 11, Dec 18, 10a
Space Gallery exhibit. See an Apollo space capsule, moon rock, Phoenix Mars Mission.

(Cont'd on page 9)
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SETI Institute's Weekly

Calendar of events on the website.
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

TUCSON COMIC CON

Nov 6 at The Hotel Arizona, Tucson.
Free!

**BARNES & NOBLE TEMPE
MARKETPLACE**

IFC Screenwriting Group, Wednesdays,
7pm

**BARNES & NOBLE,
TUCSON EASTSIDE**

Desert Sky Bookfair. Aug 14, 9am.
Write Your Book in 5 Days or Less
seminar. Aug 25, 7p

BOOKMANS, PHOENIX

Across+ Anime Club meeting,
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Aug 7, 1230p-330p
N.E.R.D.S. Meetup. Gamers,
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Geeks and just plain Nerds – just for fun.
Aug 14, 2p. Aug 21, 6p
Zombie Research Society – Public
Meeting. Aug 21, 11am
Browncoats Shindig, first Sat, 7pm
Arizona Ghostbusters appearance. Aug
21, 6p

BORDERS, ORACLE RD TUCSON
Mensa Group, Aug 18 5:30pm

CHANGING HANDS BOOKSTORE

Workshop: 20 Ways to Kill Your First
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Metaphysics, Aug 16, 6pm

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**“Is That A Budget In Your
Pocket, Or Are You Just Here To
Balance The Books?”**

**It's the 50th Anniversary of
Rocky and Bullwinkle, Pt. 8**
By Shane Shellenbarger

1959 had been a financially rough
year for Jay Ward. In addition to the
unexpected expenses involved in
correcting the Mexico studio failings,
Ward had been unable to sell any of his
proposed series. So it was with great relief
when in December it was announced that
the budget for *Rocky and His Friends*
had risen to \$26,000.00 per show, nearly
tripling what it had been. This gain
wasn't an early Christmas present from



a generous sponsor or ad agency. Ward
had spent months detailing to General
Mills the difficulties and expenditures
his company had undertaken in order
to produce the show. In addition, Ward
and Bill Scott agreed to relinquish some
quality control, General Mills had begun
to see some of the finished work, and
(much to Ward's regret) a clause had been

added to the contract giving General Mills
the U.S. television rights to all of the
half-hour shows forever. A mixed “Merry
Christmas” at best.

1959 became history and Ward had
plans for 1960 and Val-Mar: The Mexico
studio would receive predirected material
six to eight weeks before the delivery date
of “Rocky” and “Bullwinkle's Corner”
segments, five to six weeks prior for
“Fairy Tales” and “Peabody” episodes.
1960 also saw a change in personnel in the
Mexico staff: Dun Roman's contract was
up and George Singer was hired to replace
him. Singer worked with Pete Burness at
the Hollywood studio for a month to get a
feel for the characters before joining new
hires Dave Fern and Dan Jurovich at Val-
Mar.

While work at the Mexico studio
seemed to be improving under Rudy
Zamora's direction and supervision,
Ward had his hands full with poor quality
sound: sound effects were missing,
inappropriate, or so distorted dialogue
that it was unintelligible. Ward was also
having censorship trouble from General
Mills and ABC. The cereal company was
concerned about a “Peabody” episode
in which the brilliant dog aided Francis
Scott Key in the composition of “The
Star-Spangled Banner.” They were also
concerned about the depiction of the



Wright brothers. General Mills feared
backlash from educators and patriotic
groups. In addition, they believed that
kids would be laughing at American
history, which was exactly what Jay Ward
and Bill Scott were after. At about the
same time, ABC worried that the voice
dialects Paul Frees and Bill Scott were
doing burlesqued many ethnic groups.
Ward was polite, but firm and he stuck to
his guns. Eventually the episodes were
approved and aired as written.

Ward continued to look beyond the
plucky squirrel and the steadfast moose
and began work on two new projects:
“The Piper's Show” and “Cosgrove the
Magician.” “The Piper's Show” would

(Cont'd on page 12)

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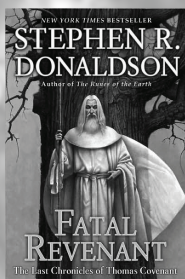
COPPERCON 30

Science Fiction Convention

**Author
Guest
Of
Honor**



**Stephen R.
Donaldson**



Stephen R. Donaldson

Donaldson made his publishing debut with the first “Covenant” trilogy in 1977. He lives in New Mexico. His works have received 19 awards including the World Fantasy Award (“Reave the Just and Other Tales.”) He has published the science fiction “Gap” series and the “Man who..” series of mysteries among his 40 publishing credits.. In 1993 he received a Doctor of Literature degree from the College of Wooster, and in 1994 he gained a black belt in Shotokan karate. Donaldson recently spent quite some time “on vacation.” However, he is currently hard at work on “The Last Chronicles of Thomas Covenant.”

**Author
Guest**



**Weston
Ochse**
Bram Stoker
award winner

Weston Ochse was born in Wyoming, began writing professionally in 1997 and won the Bram Stoker Award for his first novel, “Scarecrow Gods”, in 2005. His co-written collection of short stories titled “Appalachian Galapagos”, was nominated for the Pushcart Prize for Short Fiction. His novella “Redemption Roadshow” was a finalist for the Bram Stoker Award in 2008. Weston holds a Bachelor of Arts in American Literature and a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. He travels extensively to book signings and conventions. He is a frequent speaker at libraries and schools. He has been an adjunct faculty member for Cochise Community College and runs the online Guerilla Fiction Writing Workshop. He currently lives in Southern Arizona with his wife, and fellow author, Yvonne Navarro.

**Author
Guest**



**Yvonne
Navarro**
Bram Stoker
award winner

Yvonne Navarro has published over 20 books. Several were solo novels and fiction. Her next novel to be published is “Highborn”, which is scheduled for publication in September 2010 by Pocket/Juno Books. She has written seven novels related to the fictional ‘Buffyverse’, one of which won The Bram Stoker award, and numerous other novels, including Hellboy, Elektra, Species, Species II, Aliens: Music of the Spears and Ultraviolet. Yvonne has contributed the story “Meet Me on the Other Side” to the collection The Children of Cthulhu and has had nearly a hundred other short stories published. A number of her black and white illustrations have also appeared in small press magazines. She lives in Arizona and is married to author Weston Ochse.

**Author
Guest**



**David Lee
Summers**
Writer, Editor,
Astronomer

David Lee Summers is an author, editor and astronomer living in Southern New Mexico. He edited the anthology Space Pirates for Flying Pen Press and edits Tales of the Talisman Magazine. He is the author of five novels: “The Pirates of Sufiro”, “Children of the Old Stars”, “Heirs of the New Earth”, “Vampires of the Scarlet Order”, and “The Solar Sea”. His short fiction has appeared in such magazines as Realms of Fantasy, Aoife’s Kiss, and Science Fiction Trails. His work also appears in the anthologies Bad-Ass Faeries. In addition to his work in the written word, David works at Kitt Peak National Observatory outside Tucson Arizona. When not at Kitt Peak, he lives in Southern New Mexico with his wife Kumie and his daughters Myranda and Verity.

**Music
Guest**



**Mark
Horning**
Musician &
Physicist

Mark Horning is a Physicist and avid folk musician. Originally from California, he moved to Arizona in 1996. He is known for his space and SF based songs, and is often seen in the company of a 6 or 12 string guitar. His first professional CD, Space & Freedom, was officially released at the 62nd annual Westercon, in Tempe AZ. Mark has physics degrees from Cal Poly (BS), and Arizona State (MS.) While at ASU, he developed a hybrid lighting system to calibrate the sensors used in the Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT) located at the Mt. Graham Observatory. Mark works in the aerospace industry designing and certifying lighting solutions for aircraft and ground applications. He may often be found at conventions with his wife and three children who are, naturally, also SF fans.

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Bullwinkle

(Cont'd from page 9)

collect the best puppet shows and cartoons from around the world into half-hour spots, introduced by a well-known host, with background music provided by an animated piper. Ward and his team would write the translation, narration, and music. Originally, the piper was going to be named and the series would have been called "Pongo Presents," but Ward wanted to add a bit of sophistication and changed the series name to "Monsieur Pipeaux." He was talked out of that title and the series became simply "The Piper Show."

"Cosgrove the Magician" was designed as a series of five-minute cartoons for a five-day-a-week run, possibly during the six and eleven o'clock newscasts. However budget restraints prevented Ward and his crew from creating any presentations, and the idea died even as it was being born. Another idea had more promise, based on a storyboard about a small, jumping frog which Chris Jenkyns had drawn for "Fractured Fairy Tales." Originally named Hippety Hopper, then the Green Hopper, and finally Hoppity Hooper. Bill Scott felt this frog could be a star, and by the end of January 1960 the storyboard was ready and on February 2nd the voice track was recorded. Money was raised

for the promotion of the series pilot by selling shares in "Hopper Productions" to Jay Ward's employees: \$500 bought a quarter of one percent of the show. The series would contain three episodes of "Hoppity Hooper," with an episode or two of "Clobbered Classics," in which the team would take a satirical look back at classic books such as "The Man in the Iron Mask" and "Treasure Island."

At the same time, Ward was considering reviving the 1948 Television Arts property "Dudley Doright of the Mounties." Alas, it would be another year and a half before the bumbling Canadian would mount his trusty steed, Horse, and save Inspector Fenwick's daughter, Nell, from the clutches of the sinister, scheming Snidely Whiplash.

Ward proposed a third project entitled "The Super Chicken Show," based on a concept by Chris Hayward and Lloyd Turner. A major change for this series was the attempt to use "name" voices so that General Mills wouldn't feel the new series was too similar to "Rocky." Dennis Day and Carl Reiner were proposed for the lead with the part going to Don Knotts and faithful Fred to be played by comedian, Louie Nye. Under consideration for the narrator were Herschel Bernardi (Charlie Tuna in the StarKist ads,) Westbrook Van Voorhis (*March of Time* narrator,) and Don Wilson, announcer for Jack Benny, with

the part going to radio veteran, Marvin Miller, who had worked with Paul Frees for several seasons on *The Millionaire*. These people were all pros and respected in their field, but the chemistry was wrong for the zany nuttiness of a Jay Ward production and two weeks later several of the supporting characters were re-voiced by Bill Scott and the legendary Mel Blanc.

This was the first and last time the Warner Brothers voice actor would work for Ward. While extremely professional, Blanc was perceived as aloof and cold by his fellow actors. Bill Scott stated he never much cared for the experience of working with Mel, a sentiment echoed by Daws Butler and June Foray, but not Paul Frees. Frees felt that Blanc was the undisputed king of the cartoon voice world, without peer.

Additional segments were written to support "Super Chicken": "Farcical Fables," (which later surfaced as "Aesop and Son"), "The Piccadilly Squares," and "Colonel Swagger of the O.O.E" (which stood for Office of Odds and Ends). At this time there were three other animated series which had been confirmed for nighttime viewing: *The Bugs Bunny Show*, *The Flagstones* (which became *The Flintstones*) and *Mr. Magoo*. Ward felt sure that the potential for his super-powered poultry protagonist was poised for a prodigious pilot, unfortunately

this proved impossible. Ward was being labeled "ahead of his time" which meant that the-powers-that-be felt he was "too clever" (read "subversive"). Bill Scott overheard one TV executive mumble, "You're too clever, we can't have that." The only upside for all of their efforts came in the renewal of *Rocky*. Even this bright spot had a dark cloud overhead. ABC announced in March of 1960 that *Rocky* would expand to twice-weekly showings in the fall. This was perceived as an attempt by the network to hasten the shows cancelation by airing two seasons worth of shows in the space of one season. However, if this was in fact ABC's plan, it backfired: the January ratings showed that *Rocky* was number one, well ahead of its nearest competition, *Rin Tin Tin* and *My Friend Flicka*. The following survey showed a 13.9 rating which put *Rocky and His Friends* in the number one position for daytime television. Jay Ward and his team were on top and General Mills was extremely happy. The next story line "The Box Tops Robbery" would dull their joy.

Come back next time for "Counterfeiting Cereal Box Tops for Fun and Market Monopolization or Mr. Peabody Pokes Fun at His Pal, Pancho Villa"

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Musty Tomes

The Other Critical
Comic Book of the 1980s

American Flag! Volume 1
(reprints issues 1-7)

By Howard Chaykin

2009, Dynamite Entertainment, \$19.95,
192 pages

American Flag! Volume 2
(reprints issues 8-14)

By Howard Chaykin

2009, Dynamite, \$19.95 Entertainment,
256 pages

One of the seminal aspects of *Watchmen* which made it so significant was that it seemed to be the only mainstream comic book that dealt with American politics (the British equivalent was *V for Vendetta*). However, just a few years before (in 1983), there was another: *American Flag!* Published by an independent company, First Comics, it differed from *Watchmen* in most ways, yet stands beside it as the other important work to critique America. Let me count the ways.

American Flag! is set one hundred years in the future, after a global meltdown of economies and nations in 1996. Instead of chaos, civilization has reorganized. Each continent has one super government except America, which is still fragmented. The dominant form of city-state is called a plex, short for plex-malls. These are super-sized shopping malls, with police power held by the Plexus Rangers. Outside the plexes, whether in the city or not, people live subject to the whims of biker gangs and militias.

There are NO super-powered superheroes (OK, ignore the robot who shows up later - he's comic relief) (and the talking cat, while a major character, isn't exactly super-powered). Our main hero is Reuben Flagg, a washed-up actor who joins the Rangers and is based in Chicago. Volume One starts with his arrival and abrupt rise to become Chief Ranger of Chicago Plex. His boss gets mysteriously murdered. Flagg also inherits a pirate TV station from his boss. The global PlexCorp tightly censors the media, and Flagg has to use blackmail to get his station legalized. Life in the plexes is also disrupted by marauding biker gangs, and Flagg discovers that the gang violence is caused by subliminals in the official TV broadcasts.

In Volume Two, Flagg travels to a Ranger conference in Havana. Hazards include Irish air pirates on a zeppelin, Russians, Nazis, and a scheming internal affairs officer of the Rangers. Not to mention the last hereditary king of England, trying to live in anonymous low-budget obscurity, hiding from the world. Chaykin also added a new solo episode to end this volume.

The main political issues Chaykin

deals with are abandonment. Government has become privatized to Plex-Corp, as the national rulers and corporate elites have left Earth to live on Mars. Political parties only exist to provide entertainment with their turf-war gun battles in the streets. The approaching USA tricentennial is also just a hollow media diversion. While the media is constantly censored, sex is a legal tool to exploit. Plex-malls have brothels, and public fashions for women permit lingerie-only as regular daily attire. We have a future that has devolved into a mix of corporatism and libertarianism. And Reuben Flagg is trying to restore America, becoming more of a public figure as he does.. As a handsome former actor, this does not preclude his bedding any beautiful women who want him. There is a morning-after pill that kills any and all venereal diseases - oh brave new world.

The monthly series went on for sixty-two issues (to 1989), and we can hope that the rest of it will also appear in trade paperback collections. It has aged well, with only a couple of obsolete technologies in it: video tapes and land line telephones. Like most scifi writers, Chaykin didn't foresee the effect of cell phones and the internet on society, but if he had it might not have changed his stories any. For pirate TV station substitute pirate website, and the phone uses that were integral to the stories may just as well have been on cells. Aside from that, this is a series that just gets more relevant as the future unfolds. ~ M.L. Fringe

24 Frames

COMMENTS:

Greetings, everybody. There is a lot of interesting news in Hollywood and elsewhere.

IN PRODUCTION:

Cowboys and Aliens. Actors: Daniel Craig and Harrison Ford. Director Jon Favreau will be making this Sci-fi and Western theme comic book movie filmed now in Santa Fe. Release date: July 29, 2011.

Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides. Johnny Depp will be back as Captain Sparrow. The story will be something to deal with the fountain of youth. Release date: May 20, 2011.

Ghost Rider II: Spirit of Vengeance. Script by David Goyer, directors Mark Neveldine and Brian Taylor ("Crank"), and Nicolas Cage. Release date: undecided.

Kung Fu Panda: The Kaboom of Doom. Release date: May 27, 2011.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2010 RELEASES ON THE SCREEN:

Aug 6 *Thru the Moebius Strip* (Sci-fi/Adventure)

Aug 13 *The Expendables* (Action/



Adventure)

Scott Pilgrim Vs. The World

(Comedy)

Aug 18 *Vampires Suck* (Comedy/ Spoof)

Aug 20 *Piranha 3D* (Horror)

Aug 27 *The Last Exorcism* (Horror)

Centurion (Drama/ Thriller)

Sept TBA *The Task* (Horror)

Sept 10 *Resident Evil: Afterlife 3D*

(Action/ Sci-fi/ Fantasy)

Sept 17 *Alpha and Omega 3D*

(Animation)

Sept 24 *Legends of the Guardians: The Owls of Ga' Hoole* (Fantasy, Animation, 3D)

RUMORS:

Who will be the next Spiderman? This is Spiderman next movie's Peter Parker short list: **Anton Yelchin** (recent *Star Trek 2009* movie Chekov), **Jamie Bell** (*Billy Elliot*), **Aaron Johnson** (*Kick-Ass*), **Andrew Garfield** (*The Social Network*), **Logan Lerman** (*Percy Jackson and*

the Olympians: The Lightning Thief), **Alden Ehrenreich** (*Tetro*), **Frank Dillane** (*Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*) and **Michael Angerano** (*Lords of Dogtown*). The winner is **Andrew Garfield**.

There might be a couple superhero movies from Marvel. They are considering doing a Doctor Strange and/or Ant-Man movie(s).

There might be a Flash Gordon in the works. Director **Breck** (*The Crazies*) **Eisner** wants to do this.

Chris Columbus (director of the two "Harry Potter" movies and the recent "Percy Jackson & The Olympians") might be directing the next *Superman* movie.

A Conan movie is in the works. **Jason Momoa** will be Conan with **Robert Nispel** directing.

The director, **Guillermo Del Toro**, recently quit on doing "The Hobbit"

(Cont'd on page 14)

24 Frames (Cont'd from page 13) movie. There are rumors that the replacement might be **Alfonso Cuaron**, **Tim Burton**, or **Peter Jackson**. Also, there is a debate in shooting *The Hobbit* in 3-D. Another is having *The Hobbit* in 2 to 3 movies.

PARTING SHOTS:

2011: This will be an interesting year. The movies that will hopefully be out except ones mentioned in production are: *The Green Hornet*, *Green Lantern*, *Captain America: The First Avenger*, *Smurfs 3D*, *The Adventures of Tintin*, *Secret of the Unicorn*, *The Greatest Muppet Movie Ever Made* and *Happy Feet 2* in 3-D.

Cowboys and Aliens is supposed to be in Arizona but they are filming this in New Mexico.

An American in New Zealand Part 12: Karaoke and Boris Karloff

by Jeffrey Lu

Believe it or not, I'm not a professional. I just sing for fun.

I was not drunk. I was not pressured to do this. I was goofing off with friends by imitating voices like Yoda.

Also, I still have not memorized the words to "Monster Mash." Others think this is my song.

Well, sort of.

What does this "Monster Mash" have to do with New Zealand? Well, there was a karaoke competition night near the shore of New Zealand. It was on a cruise ship and no one told me.

Friends of mine were singing country songs to show tunes. There were over twenty entrants. I was there to have fun. Nothing more.

I was nervous but did my best Boris Karloff imitation. I did this song as a tribute to Bobby "Boris" Picketts. He passed away that year. I did this song because I was a big fan of Dracula, Frankenstein, and other cool horror movies of yesteryear.

Afterwards, the three judges just looked at me. One said I actually sound better than Boris Karloff when he was alive. (Ouch!). So, I smiled and thought no way that I'll be even in the top three contestants in the ship's version of "American Idol."

Well, almost. The judges announced the three winners. I was going out the door. Someone grabbed my arm. It was a lady friend. She told me to wait.

I heard my sentence. One of the judges said this is not normal but announced

there was a fourth winner. He called my name.

To say the least, I was stunned. To say the most, I was not ready. I thought some guy in a three-piece suit will begin, "Beyond this door is another dimension..." Instead, one of the judges told me that even though he thought the impression was good, he wanted to hear me sing my real voice.

Rod Serling? Where are you? Why me?

So, I did what any reasonable person would do: panic. I was told I could not sing "The Monster Mash." I later found out there was a limited selection of songs on a Filipino karaoke microphone. Unless one know the Filipino language, I had to select two out of a random hundred lyrics. Luckily, I knew one song by heart. The other? I had to go to one New Zealand town to find the words. I had to know them well.

On that fateful day, four of us were in the back of the stage. Each of us were presented in turn to three new judges. Then, we had two rounds to sing karaoke.

With me on the first round, I was rather surprised at the Filipino karaoke. Let me explain. On stage, there were two screens: one for the audience and one for the solo performer. During my first song, John Denver's "Annie's Song," I saw the usual lyrics on screen. Unexpectedly, there was an image of a cow walking through the lyrics. What-the-hey? I had to sing this with a straight face.

The audience laughed. I didn't care. I could only see the multiple stage lights.

The second and final round, I did a Queen's song, "We Will Rock You." I was not exactly a rock. I tripped. I fell. I smacked into the back curtain. I misjudged one of the lights as I hit it with my head like a soccer ball.

Afterwards, there was a vote from the audience. I thought I blew it but strangely enjoyed it. My mouth dropped at the results. I found out the audience liked all of us and could not decide the clear winner.

So, the judges selected one lady to be the winner. I was told that all of them could not figure how I even got on stage.

Later, I had support from my Star Trek friends. I thought this was great. But I found I had another group who supported me even though I did not see this coming: the old crowd.

One little old lady told me that I should be in comedy. Another thought I was better than the other performers on stage. I smiled. I was humbled and enjoyed this brief silly moment in singing on stage near a port in New Zealand. Next in An American in New Zealand Part 13: Last Words (Oct/Nov)

Pre-Con News

CopperCon 30 Programming News

Well, CuCon 30 is almost upon us. September 3-6, 2010 is just around the corner. Come join us at the lovely Windemere Hotel and Conference Center in Mesa, Arizona for a wonderfully good time! I know, it will still be hot—but hey—the pool is open 24 hours, so come on over!

We have a very full and diverse program set up. For Art, we have the head Curator from the West Valley Art Museum coming in for panels such as "How Do I Get MY Art in a Show?" Of course, it wouldn't be a proper CuCon if we didn't have Mark Greenawalt demonstrating his (for adults only) body painting on Friday night. We also have Alison Paul, a very talented local artist who will be teaching how to draw Manga characters and how to draw nightmare characters. Trust me when I tell you: This young Lady is amazing!

There are panels for the Kids: Imagine a Costume, Decorating a Hat, Origami, Plastic Craft Lacing, and more. For the Tweens and Teens there will be a Writing Workshop with Janeen O'Kerry! They need to bring something they written, IF they have something (if not, come anyway!) This workshop will help them get started.

As for Demo's, we have the Sensei's from the Henkai Dojo coming in on Saturday Morning. Amtgard is coming in on Saturday afternoon for a LARP; the Filker's will be having a Filk Circle Saturday night. On Sunday, the Society for Creative Anachronism, Inc. (S.C.A. Inc.) will be demoing in the afternoon, and there will be a Drum and Dance circle at 9:00 p.m. on Sunday night.

We have Costuming panels as well. From what material to pick to how to dye the material to the right shade you need it to be. There will be a Steampunk panel and a Steampunk Pieces and Parts panel. And while we are on Costumes, don't forget the Masquerade. Enter to win prizes (hint to all you sewers out there, they are Gingher products.) Categories are: Youth, Novice, Journeyman, Master, Hall Costume, and Performance Only. That's right, it wasn't a typo. I am allowing Hall costumes, because I don't know about you, but I put a lot of work into my Hall Costumes!

As far as the Fan category goes, we have everything from Autograph sessions with our guests to various survival courses to Ghost Hunting with professional ghost hunter Debe Branning, to Cordial Making with Craig Dyer. There will be Kaffee Klatsches with each Guest and a Rock Band Show. Oh, and let's not forget the Water Pistol Fight scheduled for Sunday morning on the main lawn!

Moving into the Lit category, there are just too many to mention each one

individually, but here are a few: "Buffy and Crew as Anti-Heroes" with a panel that includes award-winning author Yvonne Navarro; "Copyright Basics" a discussion and a Q&A session with lawyer Connie J. Mableson, who has represented Stephanie Meyers and Allison DuBois among others; there are 3 different Lovecraftian panels with local expert Adam Niswander; "From Book to Screen: Our Favorite Sci-Fi/Fantasy Screen Adaptations"; A Publishing Seminar with local publishers Patti Hultstrand and Donald Jacques; Readings by several of the authors in attendance—who knows, you might just discover a new favorite! We are also having a writing workshop for the adults, it is called "Writing the Hook: A Writer's Workshop" you need to bring in the opening paragraph of your short story or novel (if you have it) for on the spot feedback. This workshop always goes over really well when she holds it, aspiring authors find it quite helpful.

Our Media category is quite intense, as well. It starts with "Anti-Heroes of the Star Trek Universe"; moves on to the "Barry Bard Memorial 'At the Movies'"; discusses "Captain Jack Harkness – Torchwood"; and covers "Censorship and the Media". If you've ever wanted to do your own Indy Film, then "Lights! Camera! Action!" is the panel for you. On Friday night we will be featuring "Local Short Genre Films featuring DIETRICH with Director Q & A" produced by local filmmaker Michael Wentz. Then there is the ever-popular Sci-Fi Jeopardy put on by the United Federation of Phoenix.

We've beefed up our Science track this year, just for you hard science lovers! We start with Astrobiology, follow it up with Astrophysics, discuss "The Europa Jupiter System Mission: Exploring the Emergence of Habitable Worlds around Gas Giants", then move on to "The FAA on Commercial Space Progress." One of our Guests, David Lee Summers, who is an Astronomer, will discuss, "Infrared Astronomy: The Unseen Universe." We have a NASA space Update from Dr. David Williams. We have Dr. Kimberly Smith discussing Climate Change Basics, Radiation and Life, and Women in Science. Henry Vanderbilt will be on hand to discuss the Space Access Society among other things.

Under Social, you could learn some Arabic drum rhythms, some basic belly-dance moves & belly-dancing with props. Dr. Stacey Schwartzkopf, an anthropologist from ASU-West Campus, will be on hand to discuss "Are We Doomed To Repeat our Past?" Of course there is a charity auction, proceeds to be split between the Local Challenger Space Center in Peoria and the Children First Academy (Formerly known as the Pappas Schools for Homeless Children). The ever-popular Men in Tights makes a return

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Pre-Con (Cont'd from page 14)

visit. As mentioned previously, there is a Drum and Dance Circle on Sunday Evening. Last, but certainly not least: The Varient Universe Modern Dance is on Friday Night, hosted by DJ Lilith Syn.

Get your membership now so you can take full advantage of all the Friday night pre-reg events with no extra charge. Go to <http://www.coppercon.org>.

We are trying to have something for everyone, so no-one gets bored! I look forward to seeing all of you at CopperCon 30! Take care...

Nyki Robertson
Program Director

In Our Book

Twice Bitten
by Chloe Neill
New American Library, \$15.00, 355 pp

This is the sequel to *Some Girls Bite* and *Friday Night Bites*, urban fantasy set in Chicago, with vampires outed but accepted and drinking bottled blood like spring water. Shapeshifters, on the other hand, are jealously guarding the fact they exist for fear of being turned into lab specimens. But in the aftermath of a vampire gone rogue, supernaturals are losing popular support and Chicago may not be a safe place for vamps – or shapeshifting weres – much longer. And here's the rub: last time mortals got a hair up their collective butt about being vampire slurpees they went around staking and torching vampires across Europe and the Americas. The shapeshifters had avoided the whole mess by going to their haven in Alaska, leaving the other supernaturals to the nonexistent mercies of the mortals. If another war is going to erupt, the modern vampires would really appreciate it if the weres would stick around this time and help out.

Merit was made a vampire by Ethan, Master of Cadogan House, to save her life after the showdown with the rogue vampires. But as a mortal, Merit had friendships across all the divides: with human magicians, with vampires, and with shifters. In addition to these alliances, her martial arts skills are formidable, so Ethan wants her along as House Champion and Sentinel during negotiations with the shapeshifter clan leaders. What Ethan doesn't know is that the Red Guard, the elite secret service of the vampire community, wish to recruit his Sentinel. Ah, politics!

The tensions of mutual attraction have been building between Merit and Ethan, but "dual role" doesn't even begin to cover all the complications and ethical violations inherent in such a relationship. So when things, shall we say, come to a head, the emotional fallout is spectacular. On the plus side, all the women who sympathize with Merit's dilemma rally round her in a girlfriend brigade; and sometimes friendships are more important than sex.

Chloe Neill has a strong following, and it's easy to see why. Some writers think they are witty; some desperately want to be; a few are geniuses; and some consistently rise to the occasion. It is unpleasant to read the first and excruciating to read the second. Ms. Neill, fortunately, is solidly in the last camp. Her chapter titles are especially fun precursors to the action, and her dialogue is quotable. When she gets down to the serious fights the pace is quick and exciting. I just wish, perversely, that not everyone in her story

was drop-dead gorgeous. In the literature of childhood, one of the essential lessons is to get past evaluating others by appearance; I hate to see this wisdom kicked to the wayside. Apart from the aesthetic elitism – or is it eugenics? – this is one of the more enjoyable series of the genre. – **Chris Paige**

Sic Semper Tyrannis:
A Novel of Liberty and the Future of America
by Seamus Branaugh
Silver Lake Publishing, \$19.95, 594 pp.

This novel was more enjoyable than I expected.

All too often, novels intended to deliver a message are dreadful, with far too little story struggling to carry far too much political baggage. The introductory Author's Note (which cites both Robert Heinlein and Ayn Rand as inspirations) only increased the trepidation caused by the novel's ponderous title. Fortunately, Branaugh comes close to striking a good balance, with enough focus on storytelling to make his broader goal less obtrusive and more palatable.

Despite a slow and somewhat cumbersome start, the pace picks up as Branaugh settles into telling a tale of a post-"Reckoning" United States in which all federal and state government is gone, and local government has been replaced by walled cities run by private corporations. The tribulations and power struggles of the two main characters--the soon-to-be disgraced former CEO of Tampa and the heir to the family that owns the controlling interest in that city--are presented quite well on the whole, although the ending is a bit weak and unsatisfying.

If the editing (and especially the proofreading) had been better, *Sic Semper Tyrannis* could have been an excellent novel. As it stands, however, it is simply average. ~ **Kevin McAlonan**

The Web of Titan:
A Galahad Book
by Dom Testa
A Tor Teen Book, \$16.99, 256 pp

This sequel to *The Comet's Curse* includes a summary of the first book, but to really appreciate these characters and what they go through you should read the books in order, because this series is intensely character- and relationship-driven. 251 teens have been sent away on the spacecraft *Galahad* from a poisoned Earth where a plague is killing all the adults. They've survived a sabotage attempt, and now they are on a rendezvous mission to pick up a message pod sent from a science station in orbit around Titan. Those scientists have also been exposed to the comet-carried plague, but hopes are high that they were able to send some of their findings before succumbing. Triana, Lita, and Gap, three of the *Galahad* Council members, are anxious and excited about the mysterious pod's contents, especially after the spaceship's AI computer, Roc, deciphers a message that implies that someone – or something – in the pod will be in need of cryogenic revival.

At the same time, some serious problems are developing. The taciturn Bon, the Council member responsible for overseeing the farms and food supply, is finding engineering glitches that threaten to destroy the agricultural system, and half his crew, as well as Bon himself, are incapacitated by crippling headaches.

Is this a legacy of the saboteur?

A young artist, Hannah, is the first to detect a curious anomaly originating from Saturn's moon, one that may have affected the scientific colony, and may now be targeting them.

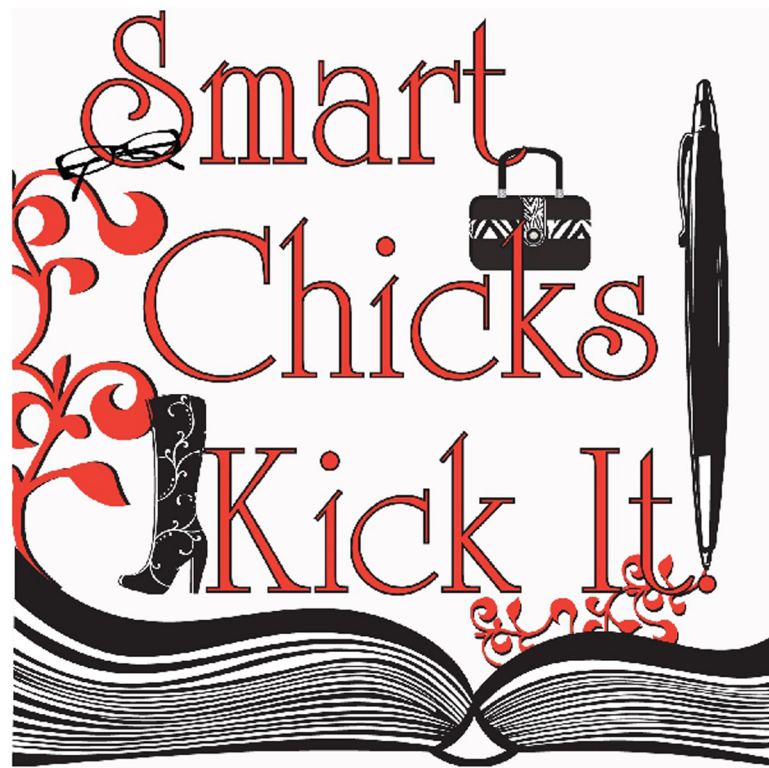
These young leaders and their friends are also struggling with social stressors and conflicting attractions. Even as the plot develops quickly, much of the narrative explores these internal and intrapersonal turbulences.

If you like the action-oriented, rapid-fire delivery of classic SF juvenilia you may find yourself impatient with Testa's

style, but newer readers will probably appreciate his social orientation, even if, along with me, they wonder how these 251 teens are avoiding 115 cases of pregnancy. Maybe extended latency was a prerequisite for selection, in keeping with the theory of Lamarckian evolution and delayed neural pruning.

One likeable feature of the *Galahad* books is that these kids are worthy of the ship's name. There are no bad apples in the barrel, no Sir Kays or Mordreds, no "us versus them," this isn't *Animal Farm*

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Kelley Armstrong
Sarah Rees Brennan
Kimberly Derting
Becca Fitzpatrick
Melissa Marr
Alyson Noel
Holly Black

Friday September 17th - 7:00pm
Scottsdale Public Library
www.smartchicksaz.blogspot.com

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 15)

or *Lord of the Flies*. This is one for the optimists, the gentle of soul, the kind of heart. ~ **Chris Paige**

Dragon Haven
by Robin Hobb
EOS/Harper Collins, \$27.99, 507 pp

This book is really the second half of a story begun with *Dragon Keeper* – see my review in last issue. In that review, I complained that the first book was slow and it stopped without any resolutions... a real cliff-hanger. The author had explained to me that it was really intended to be one book but the editor thought it too long and chopped it in half. So, here's the final half and it most certainly does not stand alone. It is a really great story but only if you read both books.

The second half follows the continued journey upriver to find the fabled city of Kelsingra where dragons and Elderlings had lived in harmony a century before. There is a terrible catastrophe which is integral to some of the characters development but where the author is very generous and allows just about everyone to survive. I liked that. This was the very best part of the entire story when you really get to see what some of these people...and dragons...are made of. There weren't any real Aha! moments; the characters discovered things in a logical and meaningful way. I'm trying not to give away too much because this was such an enjoyable book. I still think the first book was overlong in the buildup but overall the plot was good and the character development was superb. – **Catherine Book**

Edge of Ruin
by Melinda Snodgrass
Tor Books, \$27.99, 365 pp

This sequel to *The Edge of Reason* is not a stand-alone; read that excellent book first - and for a mere \$7.99 you can get it in paperback - then come back for this one.

The premise of this series is that Lovecraft was right: the gods are hungry alien entities that regard humanity as buffet items, and their favorite flavors are human misery, fear, and anger. So, and this does rather explain a lot of human history, the religions these gods foster promote gullibility, cruelty, prejudice, fear, ignorance, and holy wars. The major exception is the god called Prometheus by the Greeks, currently calling himself Kenntnis. All his names mean some variation of “knowledge” or “light-bringer.” Kenntnis wishes to see humanity retain their natural heritage and advance in arts and sciences and diplomacy; officially, he is a philanthropist and sharp man of finance, secretly, he spearheads a supernatural war against the elder gods. One of his weapons is a schizophrenic god called Cross, the manifestation of loving kindness.

Kenntnis recruited an Albuquerque cop named Richard Oort when Richard proved to be immune to some of the powers of the elder gods. Richard is what Kenntnis desperately needs: a champion, although Richard considers himself ill-equipped for the responsibility. At the end of Reason, Richard and his allies prevented a nuclear detonation, but Kenntnis was trapped in slow glass and left behind in enemy territory.

So now Richard is in command of Kenntnis' enterprises. But his already dubious confidence has been undermined, both by the loss of Kenntnis and by the torture he endured. His father and sister, who had saved his life, are kibitzing his every action and inaction. Rhiana, the young girl Richard had rescued in the first book, turns out to be the daughter

of an elder god, and so her loyalties are dangerously divided. Worse, the elder gods have found a counterpart to Richard, a champion of their own, who is sociopath enough to relish the prospect of unleashing misery and destruction.

The core tension of the story is the question, how does a hero act when the mentor is gone? What inner resources can one conjure when external guidance is utterly lacking - or worse, is contradictory? The author presents this quandary with a rare clarity, so that the readers feel Richard's dilemmas right along with him.

Remember how, in *The Empire Strikes Back*, Luke had to fight himself? It seemed to me that he failed that lesson because he attacked first - Luke fights offensively, when Yoda is trying to teach him to assess the situation instead of jumping to assumptions. Richard is trying to assess situations while everyone around him is clamoring for him to attack! attack! and his enemies have figured out how to undermine him - by hurting the people he loves.

Three people prove to be instrumental in reversing the fortunes of war: the televangelist Reverend Mark Grenier, who turns to Richard for protection when he has lost favor with the elder gods who made him rich and powerful; Dagmar Reitlingen, a financial manager of some of Kenntnis' investments and, like Richard's sister, Pamela, a horsewoman; and the necessary nerd, the scientist who has know-how, network connections, and enthusiasm, the alchemical quicksilver to Richard's gold, Eddie Tanaka. The author draws on her own experience with human nature, horses, and scientists to make the scenes with these characters wonderfully engaging and vivid.

Richard is a protagonist with very human appeal. He's not a 1950's hero, muscle-bound, condescendingly perfect, with a throwaway girlfriend in the wings and a male companion for all his adventuring. Richard is slight, but powerful, with a gymnast's training and a musician's ear for truth and lies; he wants to coordinate his resources, not “prioritize” them; and for all that he has three women all but throwing themselves at him (to his sister's chagrin), he is bisexual. We all have difficult, painful failures and truths that we either evade or confront; as Richard confronts his, he behaves as a true hero. That's the way it's done, Luke. ~~~ **Chris Paige**

Tongues of Serpents
by Naomi Novik
DelRey, \$25.00 274 pp

If you think Naomi Novik's *Temeraire* series is another military/naval/warfare type story – think again. It is set during the Napoleonic era with its attendant culture and language but naval/military battles are not the standard. And it's not necessarily a standard dragon-plot type story. It's true that the relationship between dragon and human is not terribly original but there are some twists. For instance, while dragon and human bond at the birth of the dragon, and the dragon can choose as it pleases – here's the twist – sometimes it doesn't choose at all. And it is true that our heroes – Capt Will Laurence and his Celestial dragon Temeraire – are embroiled in the war to keep Napoleon off Britain, the story is never just about the battle. The underlying theme is Temeraire's education (which has been a trifle unorthodox) and his and Laurence's effect on their society. Laurence and Temeraire serve as messengers in this ongoing story – they travel to different societies and bring back new ideas – most of which are rejected as these things tend to be. I can see the series is building to a point when British government and society will either have to embrace change or sink into obscurity.

I have followed this series from the

beginning with increasing interest. They are well-plotted and I am satisfied with the characters. The tone of the stories is a bit stiff but is appropriate for the era; and, more importantly, feels genuine. The Temeraire character has been the most interesting from the beginning, I really enjoy his voice. I found Laurence to be a bit too stiff and uncompromising in the first books for my taste. However, his character has reason and opportunity in this latest offering to be so different. In her newest book, Temeraire and Laurence are sentenced to be transported to the penal colony in Sydney, Australia. Well... Laurence is sentenced; Temeraire goes where Laurence goes and good luck to anyone who tries to make him do something he doesn't want to do. The sentence was precipitated by events in the previous book but I think there was enough background provided to keep a new reader from feeling adrift. This story was more about discovery – the bunyips do exist and, I suspect, might be related in some way to dragons as well as the serpents of the title. And this was an opportunity for Laurence to explore his own feelings and come to terms with his treatment at the hands of his own government. There were some very intriguing comments about the advancement of dragon culture in America amongst the Iroquois. Maybe our heroes will have some adventure there one day.

The story was interesting and I kept anticipating the next event; it was quite enjoyable. It didn't seem to take the underlying theme along the path I expected and I will be very interested in the next story to see if she takes our heroes back to Britain. It's not too late to get involved in this series, I'm pretty sure all the previous books are available in paperback. And...film director Peter Jackson has acquired the film rights so it's possible this could be a big-picture epic someday. – **Catherine Book**

Mission of Honor
by David Weber
Baen Books, \$27.00, 600 pp

This, the long-awaited 12th novel in the Honor Harrington series, has less in the way of hard action than previous installments, for almost the entire narrative is told through conversations or from characters' perspectives in the form of internal musings - even space battles are largely described through dialogue. Nevertheless, the story arc is significantly advanced. The Solarian League escalates its war against the Star Empire by attacking the Spindle System, which must be defended by Honor Harrington's best friend, Admiral Michelle Henke. Harrington herself is sent on a diplomatic mission to Haven, where she finally meets Eloise Pritchart, to negotiate with a mixture of self-serving weasels and honorable men like her counterpart, Admiral Thomas Theisman. One of the best scenes is when her treecat, Nimitz, gives true-names to Pritchart and Theisman that astonish Honor. Both the Manticoran Star Empire and the People's Republic of Haven, aided by the sentient and empathic tree-cats, finally figure out the extent to which they have been manipulated and duped by the organization Manpower, which traffics in genetic engineering, slave cloning, and nanotech-based mind control, as well as old-fashioned bribery and blackmail. But it is almost too late, for Manpower now has the technological edge to stage devastating sneak attacks on enemy planets that even Manticore's defense system cannot stop. The book ends with a cliffhanger, as a Solarian armada is en route to attack the devastated Manticore system of homeworlds, and Manpower is poised to make its penultimate move to gain control of the galaxy. This being the case, I hope Weber doesn't make us wait

another 3 years for the sequel - that would be dishonorable.

Scenes I'd like to see in a future volume: Pritchart, Shannon Forraker, and Theisman getting adopted by tree-cats; Thomas Theisman and Empress Elizabeth falling in love; Honor and Nimitz in an adrenaline-pumping showdown with the masterminds of Manpower, telepathy versus nanotech; a tree-cat nursery in the wake of new events; and Harkness doing something devious and brilliant to the computers of Mesa. ~ **Chris Paige**

SpellCrash
by Kelly McCullough
Ace Books, \$7.99, 292 pp

SpellCrash continues the misadventures of Ravirn, a descendant of Lachesis, one of the three goddesses of Fate, that began with *WebMage* and continued through *Cybermancy*, *CodeSpell*, and *MythOs*. This is a fantastic series, a heady mixture of classic Greek (and Norse) mythology, computers, programming, and hacking; romance, humor, and danger.

In much the way that Roger Zelazny's *Amber Chronicles* was a family feud between immortals against a backdrop of Amber and the Courts of Chaos, with an anti-hero named Corwin who moves through shadows, this series depicts a family feud between immortals as some struggle to impose order on the multiverse while others are agents of Chaos. Principal among the latter is Eris, goddess of Discord - you know, the one with the apple who started that whole Helen of Sparta/Troy war. Eris loves to provoke and unsettle the gods of Olympus, their offspring, and everybody else for that matter. She especially enjoys tormenting Ravirn, an antihero who moves through worlds and data streams, because as a Trickster he is a fellow agent of Chaos, and has a knack for inadvertently causing almost as much trouble as she does deliberately.

Ravirn has just returned from exile to the Norse MythOs, where he managed to disrupt the inevitability of Ragnarok. His girlfriend, the Fury Tisiphone, chose to remain in that world for there she was free of the compulsions - and the powers - of being a Fury, and she preferred her weakened condition with the attendant gift of liberty. Her choice has interesting consequences in the Greek MythOs, for now there is a vacancy that must be filled; and the new Fury is... none other than Ravirn's former girlfriend and distant cousin, Cerice, who is already mad at him for causing the death of her laptop-familiar, the web-demon Shara, while he was almost unmaking the world in an effort to free Persephone from Hades.

Ravirn has plenty of other un-friends who wish to see him enjoying the permanent hospitality of Hades with some creative and eternal torments, with Hades himself heading the list. Fortunately, Ravirn also has one or two friends in high places, notably Demeter and Persephone.

The trouble Ravirn initiated when he disrupted Necessity's computer system and fatally weakened that goddess is still reverberating through the multi-verse. It has created a window of opportunity for a power grab, and anyone with enough arrogance, power, and ambition can wrest control away from Necessity and the Fates.

You'd think this state of affairs would please Eris no end, but she understands, better than some of the other deities, that for Chaos to have its play there must be something to play with - creation, with its rules and laws and customs. But a god with sufficient lust for power could unmake the worlds, breaking her toy and destroying her and all the other gods in the process. So Eris, overcoming her

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In Our Book (Cont'd from page 16)

own compulsions to maximize disorder, presses Ravirn into her service, to save the worlds he knows not how, from a god he knows not whom.

McCullough is quite good at ratcheting up the dramatic tension; at the same time there are passages of lyrical soul-baring, not to mention laugh-out-loud wordplay. A number of issues that appeared in earlier books are herein resolved satisfyingly, so much so that the series might be complete, but I truly hope there are more to follow. But if not, I accept the final line as an invocation and invitation. In any event, it seems evident that in addition to his wonderful support team of family and friends, McCullough was also kissed by the muses. ~ **Chris Paige**

A Cast-Off Coven by **Juliet Blackwell** Penguin Books, \$6.99, 323 pp

Lily Ivory is back in another Witchcraft Mystery, this time to clear a building of a dangerous presence that instigates crimes of passion, general violence, and seduction. Formerly a convent, the building, one of the few to survive the San Francisco 1906 earthquake and the fires that followed, is now a Fine Arts school, and the talented students are all too susceptible to the malign influence. As are the faculty!

Lily is a powerful but only partly trained witch who has come to California to make a fresh start. She has opened a vintage clothing shop that is being well-received, and is forming a circle of friends - some magical, some mundane - and acquired a familiar who disguises himself as a pig. Alongside of the work of vanquishing a demon, Lily is trying to cultivate a romance with the skeptical reporter Max without compromising her responsibilities.

The characters are layered and distinct, each with his or her own voice and style, so that as new cast members are introduced they contribute to an orchestral effect. It's obvious that the author has a trained eye and a good ear for observing people and the details of individuality. This is a most enjoyable series, well-written, lighter in tone and setting than most of the urban fantasies out there; so if you like mysteries with a spice of the supernatural, look for Blackwell's books. ~ **Chris Paige**

Blood of the Demon by **Diana Rowland** Bantam, \$7.99, 369 pp

Blood of the Demon is the sequel to *Mark of the Demon*.

Kara Gillian is a cop who has the ability to summon a demon and othersight which lets her see what others can't. As the evil in Beaulac flowers, so do the deaths of the powerful by a murderer who consumes their essence [souls.] If that isn't enough, a demon lord wants her to be his summoner, oh - and he is drop-dead gorgeous and a great lover which complicates Kara's relationship with a FBI agent who also has arcane powers and jealous tendencies. Kara realizes there is far more to the arcane than she knows and very little time to learn it and survive.

Rowland has combined police procedural and urban fantasy, melding them with a sure hand, plenty of action and romance with both human and arcane all whipped together with its share of suspense. This is a series to collect and enjoy. ~ **Pam Allan**

Moon Called by **Patricia Briggs** Ace Fantasy, \$7.99, 288 pp.

This is a tale of Mercy Thompson, lady mechanic and shape-shifter (coyote).

She will not only be involved with fae and a vampire, but also a next-door alpha werewolf with his pack. And, she will tell her story of growing up with werewolves. Yet, she is her own person among them.

This is a Mercy Thompson Novel. This is the first of the series.

Enjoyable. Mercy Thompson is a loyal friend who kicks tail. Recommend to dark fantasy readers. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

Roadkill by **Rob Thurman** Roc, \$7.99, 633 pp

Roadkill continues the Cal Leandros series.

The old gypsy woman had almost caused Cal's brother Niko's death with an uncalled-for back stabbing. Cal only wants revenge. When she shows up with a job, Cal doesn't want it, but this stolen coffin contains the evil known as the "plague of the world"...it makes the plague seem like a fond memory. But the thief and the coffin have left town so the brothers must hit the road. If they are exceptionally lucky, there will be a return trip. If not, there may not be a world to return to.

This is Dark Urban Fantasy. Though it is an action-packed roller coaster ride, it is dark. But there is no doubt if you like noir in the description, you'll love this series. Enjoy. ~ **Pam Allan**

Blood Bound by **Patricia Briggs** Ace Fantasy, \$7.99, 292 pp.

Mercy will help a vampire friend, Stephan, for a past favor. Little will she know that her life will go south when they meet something worse than just a vampire - a demon-sorcerer variety.

This is a Mercy Thompson Novel. This is the second of the series.

Clever. Mercy turns into one hell of a vampire slayer. Recommended to dark fantasy readers. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

Jade Man's Skin by **Daniel Fox** Del Ray, \$15.00, 419 pp

Jade Man's Skin is the sequel to *Jade Man in Chains*.

The dragon is free, the rebellion smashed and the young emperor is ambitious to strike back. With General Ping Wen pouring his agenda into the

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emperor's ear, no one can reason with him. Prolonged exposure to magical jade is changing him radically.

With the dragon patrolling the sky above and the strait below, the emperor is trapped until a goddess interferes. But neither dragon nor goddess can determine the ultimate result. The fate of the war lies in the blood bond of the dragon and the boy Han. What price are they willing to pay?

Fox's writing mirrors the delicate touch of ancient Chinese art and poetry. He weaves a tapestry of ancient myths

into a fantasy world of brutal war, immortals, and mystical creatures. You find yourself drawn into the saga as reflecting one's own world. ~ **Pam Allan**

Iron Kissed by **Patricia Briggs** Ace Fantasy, \$7.99, 287 pp.

A lady mechanic, Mercy Thompson, is summoned to help a friend who is jailed for murder. She will have allies among the

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fae and werewolves to solve this mystery and release her friend. But at what cost? This is a Mercy Thompson Novel. It is the third book of the series. Very dark. Well done in Mercy overcoming something tragic. Recommended to dark fantasy readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Falconfar
by Ed Greenwood
Solaris, \$24.99, 347 pp

Falconfar is the third book of the series by the same name. Rod Everlar, a science fiction writer, is drawn into a fantasy world of his own creation. Now it appears the evil wizards are seemingly defeated. Rod faces his greatest challenge; with war descending, he must find the power and knowledge to fight the first archwizard, the most feared Doom of all, Lorentar. Greenwood extends his fantasy world, with his well-designed world and plenty of action. If you enjoy Greenwood, you'll love this one. ~ Pam Allan

Bone Crossed
by Patricia Briggs
Ace Fantasy, \$24.95, 309 pp.

Mercy's garage is filled with graffiti by humans... and *vampires*. She had found out that a vampire queen, Marsilia, is punishing her for destroying her dream of power. Ms. Thompson will realize the harsh vampire politics that will involve her vampire friend, Stefen, and an old college acquaintance. Yet, she will have to battle another vampire known as "Monster" in order to make things right. This is a Mercy Thompson Novel. This is the fourth of the series. Enjoyable even though it's twisted. Recommended to dark fantasy readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

The Dark Eyes War
by David B. Coe
Tor, \$27.99, 363 pp

The Dark Eyes War is book three, of *Blood of the Southlands*. The Southlands have been under a curse, Magic is uncertain, and with thousands of lives at stake, survival depends on also surviving the misdeeds of the past on both sides. Coe takes on some weighty issues as the plots are complicated with characters that are sympathetic despite being selfish or acting viciously. His characters are unique as is the magic. Salted with politics we have an intriguing epic that will hold your interest. You will want to read the first two as well. ~ Pam Allan

Silver Borne
by Patricia Briggs
Ace Fantasy, \$24.95, 342 pp.

Mercy Thompson is trying to return a fae book. Little will she know that her life will be more interesting when a major fae tries to kill her for that book. Also, one of her friends is trying to end himself. Mercy will have her hands full. This is a Mercy Thompson Novel. This is the fifth of the series. Liked the ending. Overall, good. Recommended to dark fantasy readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Star Wars: Fate of the Jedi: Outcast
by Aaron Allston
Del Ray, \$7.99, 370 pp

Allston is also the author of a number of other *Star Wars* novels. The galactic Alliance is in trouble, politicians and generals converge on Coruscant to restore order, but what is far more important is the future of the Jedi as the Chief of State orders the arrest of Luke Skywalker for failing to prevent Jacen Solo's turn to the Dark Side. A hostile

government fuels an anti-Jedi backlash; while Luke and his son Ben try to unravel the truth, another Jedi Knight, gone mad, is headed on a mission to destroy the Galaxy. Filled with heroic Jedi and madmen, in a world of political intrigue - can the Jedi save the galaxy and themselves? Those into the Star Wars world have a new plotline to continue the epic and won't be able to turn away from this one. ~ Pam Allan

Zig-Zagging- A Memoir
by Tom Wilson
HCI, \$17.95, 212 pp.

This is a collection of observations from Ziggy cartoonist, Tom Wilson, Jr. He had to take over his father's job due to Tom Wilson, Sr.'s heart problems. He also had to deal with a major depression when his wife died from cancer. He is now a single parent with two sons. Learned something due to similar cancer losses from friends and family. Helpful to know one is not alone in life's difficult times. Inspired. Highly recommended. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Heretics
by S. Andrew Swann
Daw, \$7.99, 367 pp

Heretics is book two of the *Apotheosis* series. Two centuries after the collapse of the confederacy, everybody is jockeying for control of human space. When strange transmissions come from beyond the fringes, the race is on to get there first. Now all hell is about to break loose. The alien AI, Mosasa has been destroyed by another surviving AI, Adam. Adam is about to launch a plan of conquest that has been centuries in the making. If he succeeds. he will rule all sentient life as a god. Only a few know the truth but even with unexpected allies, does the human race have any chance of defeating him? Well-plotted and ingenious, we have an action-packed page-turner with genetically engineered super-warriors, and interstellar sabotage and trigger-happy mercenaries full of technology and colorful characters [even the AIs.] Get ready to tie up your reading time. ~ Pam Allan

Amelia Rules!
The Tweenage Guide to Not Being Unpopular
by Jimmy Gownley
Simon and Schuster, \$10.99, 187 pp.

Amelia McBride is a kid who is trying to be popular at school. Instead, she and a friend get in trouble with their classmates over a successful project. They will learn popularity has a huge price tag. This is the fifth of the series. Enjoyable. Realistic (Scary- this reminded me some part of my childhood). Clean. Recommended for young readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Conspirator
by C.J. Cherryh
DAW, \$7.99, 381 pp

Conspirator is part of the *Foreigner* series. The civil war among the alien Atevi has ended. The ruler and his human Paidhi, Bren Cameron have returned; but the opposition remains. To avoid conflict, Bren decides to visit his country estate. The aiji's son sets off to join Bren, without permission, for an adventure. But loyalties have changed and the estate may be a trap. With Bren, Cajjeiri, and his grandmother, Ilisidi under one roof the trap is baited, and another coup attempt is in the offing. Complex, sophisticated, Cherryh has

more than proved her anthropological talent. Her lucid story telling makes her idea-driven stories fascinating, her action riveting. If you want a book that captures adventure and thought, you found it here. Long may she write. ~ Pam Allan

The Good Neighbors Book One- Kin
by Holly Black and Ted Naifeh,
Scholastic, \$16.99, 117 pp.

This is Rue Silver's story. She will attempt to solve two mysteries- one is the disappearance of her mother and a murder that is pinned on her father. Yet, she will discover something more frightening- something her mom neglects to mention- her half side as "The Good Neighbors." Interesting concept. Liked it. Waiting for part two. Recommended to young adult fantasy readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Spellwright
by Blake Charlton
Tor, \$24.99, 350 pp

Spellwright is Charlton's first novel. Nicodeamus Weal was trained in wizardry but cannot cast a spell. His attempts corrupt the spells into something dangerous. When a powerful wizard is murdered by a misspell, Nicodeamus and his mentor are suspected. Politics raise their heads to prove that he is a prophesy incarnate. He just wants to know who he is and why he can't spell. Now if he can only stay alive. This is an original. Dyslexia preventing magic use and a magic system that depends on words. And more importantly, it is an action fantasy with a new formal system of magic and characters with whom you can identify. Well-written and absorbing, it is a page turner for either young adult or average reader and still produce some thought provoking ideas. This is not only an enjoyable read but one to collect. I look forward to reading more from this author. Is it too early to place an order for his next one? ~ Pam Allan

Dark Wraith of Shannara
by Terry Brooks
Illustrated by Edwin David, adapted by Robert Place Napton
Del Rey, \$13.95, 184 pp.

A young Jair Ohmford must use his magic, "wishesong," in order to help his friends against a group of evil lizards led by a witch. But the problem is that his power can lose himself into something dark. This tale is supposed to be after "The Wishesong of Shannara." This is the first graphic novel in the world of Shannara. Nice story. Also, the extras are good. Enjoyable in seeing a glimpse of how a story is being made into a graphic novel. Recommended to fantasy readers. ~ Jeffrey Lu

Star Wars, Fate of the Jedi. Omen
by Christie Golden
Del Rey, \$7.99, 291 PP

Omen is by the author of *Allies* and thirty plus other novels in the *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* series. The Galactic Alliance is trying to recover from Civil war. The Jedi are in crisis mode, and the Sith are on the rise. Two Jedi knight are deep in Psychosis, criminal charges leveled at Luke Skywalker for failing to control his psychotic son have forced him into exile. Anti-Jedi sentiment has turned the Jedi into scapegoats. But a greater threat has reared its head. A Sith starship crashed on an unknown planet in a past millennia and a side of the force has been nurtured and the Sith are prepared to rise take over the galaxy with the Jedi ostracized. Can the

(Cont'd on page 19)

www.leprecon.org/lep37

LepreCon 37

May 6-8, 2011

Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe, AZ

Artist Guest of Honor: John Picacio

Author Guests of Honor: Elizabeth Bear and Sarah Monette

More Guests to be announced

shadow unit Mini-Con

As part of LepreCon 37, we will be having a 'con within a con' focusing on **Shadow Unit**, the best TV series never made. Shadow Unit creators Emma Bull, Will Shetterly, our author GoHs and others will be taking part. For more information on Shadow Unit, visit shadowunit.org .

LepreCon 37 will have an art show, charity auction, gaming, hospitality suite, filk & music, and more. We'll be at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe with many nearby restaurants and easy access via Light Rail.

Membership Rates	Tempe Mission Palms Hotel
\$25 thru 8/31/10,	60 E. Fifth St., Tempe, Arizona
\$30 thru 10/31/10, more later	Room Rates: \$109.00 per night
Kids 7-12 half price*,	S/D/T/Q + tax (including hospitality fee)
Kids 6 and under Free*	Call 800-547-8705 or 480-894-1400
*with Adult Membership	

LepreCon 37 Contact Information

Write: LepreCon 37, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285

Phone: (480) 945-6890

Email: lep36@leprecon.org

In Our Book (Cont'd from page 18)

Skywalker coalition save it once again?

I am not a fan of series that run forever. Despite this caveat, the action is fast, the characters palatable, and reasonably well-developed in the Star Wars parameters. If you like the series, you'll want to put the series together and enjoy the ongoing plot. ~ **Pam Allan**

The Summer Country
by James A. Hetley
Ace, \$14.00, 368 pp

This is a debut novel.

For twenty eight years, Maureen had lived a comparatively normal life till she met Brian Albion and everything changed - seems she has the blood legacy of the old blood. Control of her life is joined to the summer country- if she can believe it or will she be destroyed as a threat to someone's power.

Wow. This is a debut novel? It springs, as from the head of some unknown literary god with everything this reviewer holds dear, resonant with rich characters, quiet joys amongst a fantasy with no soft and fuzzy world but touched by the cruel realities of both sides of the barrier. The characters grow, make choices, secrets revealed and lots of nuance leading you deeper. I can't wait for more. ~ **Pam Allan**

The Machinery of Light
by David J. Williams
Spectra, \$16.00, 405 pp

This is the third volume of *the Autumn Rain* trilogy.

October 1, 2110, the American president is assassinated and world war three is begun by a surprise attack against the Eurasian Coalition. The rogue unit begins a final run and heads for the lunar tunnels with the fleets on their heels and a final secret about to be revealed.

I can't say the cyberworld of Autumn Rain is one I want to live in but it is all too plausible. This is an action-packed don't-blink cyberthriller that grabs you and holds your attention. There are enough twists and turns to bend your mind into a pretzel, but it never lets you down. Want a cyber series for your library? Grab the trilogy. You will want to read it more than once and in order though each stands alone. ~ **Pam Allan**

Arcadia Falls
by Carol Goodman
Ballantine, \$25.00, 355 pp

Ms. Goodman is also the author of *the Night Villa*.

Meg Rosenthal has moved to Upstate New York to start a new life and hopes to make a career at the boarding School, but when one of the girls falls to her death, and the investigation begins to reveal long kept secrets, and strange choices, Meg finds the past threatens not only her daughter but herself in ways she never dreamed,

The author's literary noir is illuminated by luminous prose and clarity of vision you'll love. Combining strong characters with gripping suspense and artistic themes makes it a gothic with bones and teeth that enthralls. Like suspense? Get your checkbook out. ~ **Pam Allan**

Unholy Ghosts
by Stacia Kane
Del Rey, \$7.99, 346 pp

Stacia Kane is the author of the Chess Putnam series of novels

The Dead have risen and the living are under attack. The Church of Real Truth has sworn to reimburse the citizens being harassed. Chess Putnam is a tattooed witch and ghost hunter with a talent for

banishing the wicked Dead. However, the church doesn't know she is in hock to a murderous drug lord named Bump who has her paying him back with a dangerous job that involves everyone she didn't want to meet. Who will survive all the wicked energy, black magic demons and human sacrifice? Bet on Chess.... by a hair.

What we have is a fast-moving adventure with vivid characters, suspense, a little forbidden romance and a believable weird world. It makes for a good read. It is a fun read under the air conditioning. You may well end up getting the series. ~ **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 <rbh1s@yahoo.com>, 480-775-4690 for more info or impromptu juggling sessions.

The ARIZONA BROWNCOATS are a social group and state non-profit devoted to continuing the spirit of Joss Whedon's inspired series Firefly through charity events, a presence at local conventions, and social events. We are all over Arizona with monthly shindigs in Phoenix and Tucson. In September, both cities will be hosting screenings of Serenity to benefit Equality Now. For more details, visit our website at <http://azbrowncoats.org> and follow our twitter @azbrowncoats.

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 Captain 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.ocsf.org or email info@ocsf.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 we know you will eventually become a member anyway Web page: <http://www.parex.org/> E-mail Contact: parexteam@cox.net

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Club Listings
(Cont'd from page 19)

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY A Phoenix based club interested 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 Randall Whitlock at costumers@casfs.org or www.southwestcostumersguild.org

SPACE ACCESS SOCIETY Space Access Society’s sole purpose is to promote radically cheaper access to space, ASAP. We think it’s possible within ten years, with a little luck and

a lot of hard work. Join us and help us make it happen! SAS membership is \$30 for one year, which gets you emailed Space Access Updates the instant they pass final edit, plus discounts on our annual conference on the technology, politics, and business of radically cheaper space transportation, featuring leading players in the field. Email us at: Space.Access@Space-Access.org Web page: www.space-access.org/

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

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

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

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

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

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX A Phoenix area Star Trek and general SciFi fan club. We are a social club that meets every two weeks at various locations around the 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

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.

CASFS Business Report
July 15, 2010

COPPERCON 30 – [September 4-6, 2010 - \$40 until August 15, 2010 \$45 at the door] We have put in place the most extensive publicity program in the history of CopperCon using fliers, ConNotations ads, Convention listing sites, local newspaper event lists, Harkins in theater slides, FaceBook, Twitter etc. Our Guests are Author Guest of Honor, Stephen Donaldson, Author Guests, David Lee Summers, Weston Ochse and Yvonne Navarro plus our Filk Guest of Honor Mark Horning. **COPPERCON 31** -- Chairman Nyki Robertson. The CopperCon 31 Guest of Honor is Carrie Vaughn, Author the “Kitty” werewolf novels. The Committee is complete. Our hotel has changed to The Hilton Garden Inn located on the far west side at Avondale Blvd and I-10. It is a nice hotel with somewhat lower function costs and those are further lowered by room nights.

CASFS BOOK SOCIAL – Randall Whitlock. The Book Social is held in the Coffee Shop of the Bent Cover on the West side of 28th Drive North of Cactus Road in Phoenix at 7 p.m. On the Third Tuesday of each Month. In January We discussed *HitchHikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. We had god attendance. Next we discuss *Burning* by Shannon K. Butcher on July 20th.

GENERIC COPPERCON PROMO SHIRT. The shirts are here. Anyone who signed up for one can get it at the CASFS meeting on July 30th. **ELECTIONS** – Existing officers were re-elected. The Board and elected officers are unchanged. The election of the 2012 CopperCon Chairman was delayed until the December meeting. CASFS Officers as of the July 25, 2009 Election. **CASFS Board of Directors:** Kevin McAlanon, Tina “Nyki” Robertson, Mark Boniece, Corporate Treasurer: Stephanie L Bannon, Bob LaPierre, Gary Swaty, Susan Uttke. **CASFS Procedural Officers:** President: Mark Boniece, Vice President: Gary Swaty, Secretary: Gary Swaty, Treasurer: Stephanie L Bannon

Gary Swaty
Secretary

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

Trivia Answers

- 1) A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.
2) The Number of the Beast
3) Lance Henriksen
4) Andre Norton
5) Piranha II: The Spawning
6) Cleavant Derricks as Rembrandt Brown
7) Vincent Van Gogh
() Trueblood, a synthetic blood
9) Sputnik
10) Majel Barrett-Roddenberry