

# ConNotations

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FREE

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

## An Interview with Dani & Eytan Kollins by Chris Paige

Brothers Dani and Eytan Kollin are the authors of *The Unincorporated Man*, which just won *The Prometheus Award for Best Novel at the 66<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention*. *The Prometheus Award*, bestowed by the *Libertarian Futurist Society*, honors SF that explores themes of freedom or “dramatizes the perennial conflict between individuals and coercive governments.” *The second in the series, The Unincorporated War, is newly in print; The Unincorporated Woman is*

*the fine points, challenging each other’s assumptions and justifications until, from their entirely different perspectives, they agree the story and the characters ring true.*

Q: Who are some of your favorite authors?

D: I have two types of favorite writer and one type of ultimate writer. The ultimate



The Kollins brothers, Eytan (left) & Dani (right)

writer for me is someone like Ray Bradbury, who not only is a beautiful crafter of words but is also an idea guy. So to be able to seamlessly integrate the craft of writing and beautiful ideas is the ultimate goal. Oftentimes I’ll find writers who are unbelievable crafters of words but I’m not particularly down with their ideas. I love Ursula K. LeGuin

*in editing, and they are now planning a fourth book in the series. Eytan starts the books, writing sometimes for hours non-stop to get the initial inspiration on paper. But as he himself says, “I’m an A-D man; I tend to skip the B and the C. Dani goes over what I wrote and fills in the middle.” Then they argue back and forth over*

and I’ll always read almost anything she writes, but I tend to find that I don’t really love the idea. I love Lois McMaster Bujold; she is one of my favorite storytellers. I read her books for the wonderful worlds she creates and how she

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# SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews  
By Lee Whiteside

The Fall season is under way and we've got lots of new stuff to watch over the next couple of months plus some news on things to look forward to next year.

NBC is bringing back **Chuck** for its fourth season with lots of changes in store. Now that Chuck's sister and brother-in-law know he is a spy, Chuck and Sara are a couple, the Buy More has been blown up and Chuck has a new personal mission, to find his mother. In the new season, the Buy More is rebuilt and is now run by the CIA, keeping on the store's supporting cast but now having it run more efficiently. Guest starring as Chuck's mom is none other than **Linda Hamilton**. Other guest stars include **Robert Englund**, **Dolph Lundgren**, **Harry Dean Stanton**, **Timothy Dalton**, **Eric Roberts**, **Armand Assante**, **Olivia Munn**, and **Isaiah Mustafa** (best known as The Old Spice Guy). **Robert Englund** will be in the Halloween episode, *Chuck Versus Aisle of Terror* and plays Dr Stanley Wheelwright, "an evil scientist who can make your waking life a nightmare."

NBC's new series, **The Event**, has been quiet about what "The Event" of the title actually is. According to creator **Nick Wauters** "We will follow our characters as things lead up to the event, throughout the event and then after the event. So the event is not the endgame, and things will happen past the event in the series. That's pretty much all I can tell you at this point." NBC describes the series as "an emotional, high-octane conspiracy thriller that follows Sean Walker (**Jason Ritter**) an everyman who investigates the mysterious disappearance of his would-be fiancée, Leila (**Sarah Roemer**) and unwittingly begins to expose the biggest cover-up in U.S. history. **Hal Holbrook** will guest star as Dempsey, a businessman with shadowy intentions, who will be revealed as an antagonist to President Martinez (**Blair Underwood**). It is still not clear if there are any fantastic elements in the show, but NBC is definitely promoting to that audience.

**Fringe's** third season will explore much more of the alternate universe with Olivia B returning to the main universe while Olivia A remains in the alternate universe. According to executive producer **Jeff Pinkner** "they are being more proactive this season. It also goes for Walter and everybody. You will watch each character define their own course. Last year, and season one as well, they were reacting to the situation. Whereas now they have enough information to form their own opinions and make their own decisions." Of course, keeping who is from which universe and such may cause many viewers heads to explode.

**Human Target** will first deal with the season ending cliff-hanger and as the season progresses, will be adding two new female regulars. **Indira Varma** plays Ilsa Pucci, a wealthy woman whose husband was murdered. She joins with Charlie and her wealth provides some additional backing for their jobs. Also joining the cast is **Janet Montgomery** as Ames, a thief who takes part in some of the jobs.

ABC brings back **V** in November, where a familiar face from the original series, **Jane Badler**, will join the cast in a recurring role as Diana, Anna's (**Morena Baccarin**) mother, who Anna has been keeping prisoner on the mothership. Other new cast includes **Bret Harrison** as Dr. Sidney Miller, an evolutionary biologist who is sought out by Erica (**Elizabeth Mitchell**).

**No Ordinary Family** is ABC's attempt to get a new hit buzzworthy series focusing on an ordinary family who

become endowed with extraordinary powers when their plane crashes in the Amazon. The series will focus on **Jim Powell** (**Michael Chiklis**), a police sketch artist who now has the capability to make a difference in things. Working with his best friend **George St. Cloud** (**Romany Malco**) and occasional assistance by the rest of his no longer ordinary family. **Julie Benz** is Stephanie, Jim's wife, while **Kay Panabaker** is Daphne Powell and **Jimmy Bennett** as JJ Powell. It may be a good series if they bring something new to the table, but it also may seem to derivative of *The Incredibles* or even *The Fantastic Four*.

**Smallville** kicked off its tenth (and final) season in late September with *Lazarus*, which resolved the season nine cliffhangers, leaving Clark alive with his powers, Lois knowing his secret (which he doesn't know she knows), Chloe missing, and threats of a great darkness looming over everyone. We will revisit many of the DC Universe characters we've seen before including Hawkman (**Michael Shanks**), Supergirl (**Laura Vandervoort**) and meet some new ones. Shield follows on the season opener with Lois (**Erica Durance**) meeting with Hawkman and we'll also get a flashback sequence where we see Hawkgirl (aka Shayer, played by **Sahar Biniaz**.) We'll also meet Cat Grant (**Keri Lynn Pratt**) and Deadshot (**Bradley Stryker**), the latter of which should play into the introduction of the Suicide Squad, which Oliver Queen (Green Arrow) will get involved in. Next up is Supergirl, which, as you might guess, sees the return of **Laura Vandervoort** as Supergirl, who once she is revealed to the world and becomes a media darling, takes on the secret identity of Linda Lee Danvers. For the 200th episode,

*Homecoming*, we'll get a return visit from **James Marsters** as Braniac 5, the future Legion of Super-Heroes member, not the villain he played previously on the series. After that, we'll meet Isis in the episode of the same name. Reportedly, Lois is transformed into Isis when she puts on a necklace found in Egypt. In *Harvest*, Lois and Clark find themselves in a ghost town and Clark has lost his powers. The producers promise a scary and creepy Halloween episode. In *Ambush*, General Lane (**Michael Ironside**), Lucy Lane (**Peyton List**) and Rick Flag (**Ted Whittall**) of the Suicide Squad all

appear. We'll also see the return of **Alan Ritchson** as Arthur Curry/Aquaman in another episode in November. Also building during the season will be hints about the arrival of Darkseid and other Apokolips related characters. The CW/Warner Bros. are supposedly looking into a Booster Gold/Blue Beetle series that could follow on from **Smallville** and **Geoff Johns** has confirmed he is writing a **Smallville** episode featuring the characters. Recent test footage of a Blue Beetle transformation visual effect has been released featuring the Jamie Reyes version of Blue Beetle.

**Supernatural** joins up with **Smallville** on Friday nights continuing the ongoing battle of the Winchester Brothers against the forces of evil. As detailed in the renewal press release "Season six will be a season of mystery and shadow. Heaven and Hell have been left in complete disarray since the apocalyptic events of season five. And now, monsters, angels and demons roam across a lawless and chaotic landscape. And so Dean Winchester, who has retired from hunting and sworn never to return, finds himself being pulled back into his old life - pulled

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## SFTube Talk (Cont'd from page 3 )

back by none other than Sam Winchester, who has escaped from Hell. The two reunite to beat back the rising tide of creatures and demon-spawn, but they quickly realize that neither are who they used to be, their relationship isn't what it used to be, and that nothing is what it seems." There's not much other detail about what is planned for the sixth season, but considering the original plan was for five seasons to end with the Apocalypse being averted, it's somewhat hard to top that. Expect to see more standalone episodes focusing on the two brothers and their place in the world, and how the recent events have changed it.

The CW kicked off the new season of *Vampire Diaries* and debuted *Nikita* in early September, garnering very good ratings for both, even when up against a highly rated Thursday night NFL game. *Nikita* stars **Maggie Q** as Nikita, a spy and assassin that has gone rogue and works to free other recruits from the clutches of Division. Neither series has much advance episode information available to report on at press time.

Debuting on Halloween on AMC with a 90 minute episode will be the TV adaptation of **Robert Kirkman's *The Walking Dead*** comic. This looks to be the biggest horror series to hit TV in a long time and rumors are that AMC is already having them prep a second season. It's all about life after the Zombie Apocalypse and follows a group of survivors as they try to find a safe place to live and deal with the constant threat of the living dead. Leading the cast is **Andrew Lincoln** as police officer Rick Grimes with **Jon Bernthal** as Shane Walsh, Rick's police partner, **Sarah Wayne Callies** as Rick's wife, Lori, **Chandler Riggs** as Rick's son Carl, with **Laurie Holden**, **Jeffrey DeMunn**, and **Steven Yeun**. The series is executive produced by **Frank Darabont**, **Gale Anne Hurd** and comic creator **Robert Kirkman**. Expect the initial episodes to follow the comic fairly closely, so if you want to be really spoiled, just pick up the first volume of the series, which is still going strong after seven years and should provide plenty of source material for an ongoing TV series. The buzz is very positive on this and it looks to be the big breakout hit of the year.

Syfy has changed things around this fall with their returning shows, dropping Friday night as their main night for drama with the debut of WWE's Friday Night Smackdown (yes, just what we all wanted on Syfy, MORE wrestling). *Stargate Universe's* second season is now running on Tuesday nights followed by the second half of the first season of *Caprica*, which Syfy had originally planned to hold until January. In order to accommodate the early return of *Caprica*, *Sanctuary* has moved to Friday nights, following wrestling at 10 pm ET/PT, following the end of *Haven's* first (and likely only) season on October 8th.

In its second season, *Stargate Universe* will take on some new recurring characters from the Lucien Alliance with **Julie McNiven** as Ginn, **Mike Dopud** as Varro and **Robert Knepper** as Simeon. According to producer **Paul Mullie** at Blastr, "The other bigger aspect that plays out throughout the whole first half of the season is finding out a little more about the ship and gaining control over the ship. So exploring the ship, finding parts of the ship we haven't been to before, and eventually gaining some measure of control over the ship. That becomes part of the arc of the first half of the second season." The producers seem to be not as forthcoming with details on the episodes this year, so not much is known plot wise, but we do have some comments about some of the episodes, primarily from producer **Joseph Mallozzi's** blog.

First up in October is *Aftermath*, the second episode of the season described by producer **Joe Mallozzi** on his blog as "The best laid plans of mice and men ... Things come apart in a big way, and our heroes are left to pick up the pieces. Gut-wrenching." Next up is *Awakening*, which features some of the best visual effect ever done on a *Stargate* episode. What the story is actually about, they haven't said. *Pathogen* is directed by star **Robert Carlyle** and will feature both Camille and Eli making use of the communication stones to visit Earth. *Cloverdale* and *Trial and Error* follow with little revealed about those episodes beyond the titles. *The Greater Good* was originally planned for late in season one but was bumped to season two when the finale grew to two episodes. **Mallozzi** promises for this episode "plenty of secrets, surprises, and shocking revelations." *Malice* features some location filming in New Mexico and **Mallozzi** describes the episode as "They say that vengeance is a dish best served cold, but this episode makes a great case for serving it hot -- as in the scorching environs of an alien world where a deadly game of cat and mouse plays itself out." *Visitation* sees the crew "fathom a baffling encounter" and "involves a visitation from some unexpected guests." The mid-season finale *Resurgence* will have "plenty of eye candy for the discerning space battle aficionado."

When *Caprica* returns on October 5th, according to Syfy's press release "the second half of season one will transport us from stunningly vivid, twisted Virtual realities to the fascinating outer worlds of the 12 Colonies. Along the way, revolutionary tensions rise, family power shifts and our characters grapple with the physical and emotional consequences of their questionable decisions. As the season races towards its stunning conclusion, each episode lays the groundwork for the inevitable (and brutal) clash between the new Cylon race and its human creators." In what is becoming a common thread, there's not much detailed information about the episodes even though filming was completed early in the year.

*Sanctuary* will now return on October 15th with *Kali Part 3*, resolving the cliff-hanger from the end of the second season. The third season will consist of 20 episodes instead of 13, allowing the show to have bigger story arcs as well as have some stand-alone episodes. According to interviews with **Amanda Tapping**, they will delve more into Helen Magnus' backstory as well. In an interview earlier in the year, **Tapping** indicated "I think what 20 episodes allows us is the ability to do a bigger story arc. So we have two major threads that we're going to be pursuing this season. Last year, it was like an anthology, and now there will be much more of a common through line. We get to bring back Tesla. We get to really dig into stories. And we get to go back in history."

In other Syfy news, *Eureka* will see a return visit by **Wil Wheaton** along with **Felicia Day**, who will play an eccentric scientist who had been offered a position at Global Dynamics, but had turned it down. *Warehouse 13* and *Eureka* will also have Christmas episodes airing sometime in December. Syfy's adaptation of *Being Human* for US TV has started filming. **Sam Witwer** will be vampire Aidan, **Meaghan Rath** will be ghost Molly and **Sam Hunington** will be the werewolf Josh. Also joining the cast is **Mark Pelligrino** as Adian's mentor Bishop. According to the syfy press release, the reimagining of the UK series "follows three paranormal, 20-something roommates living in Boston - vampire "Aidan", werewolf "Josh" and ghost "Sally" - as they struggle to hide their dark secrets from the world, while helping each other navigate the complexities of living double lives and trying to be human." With the moving up of *Caprica*,

there's a good chance that *Being Human* may debut on Syfy early in 2011. Syfy also has several pilots in the works for possible series. *Alphas* "follows a team of ordinary citizens whose brain anomalies imbue them with extraordinary mental and physical abilities. Taking the law into their own hands, the unlikely team, led by Dr. Lee Rosen (**David Strathairn**) investigates cases that suggest other Alpha activity to uncover what the CIA, FBI and Pentagon have not been able or willing to solve. These gifted individuals must balance their quirky personalities and disparate backgrounds with their not always visible powers as they work to solve crimes, stop the ticking time bomb and catch the enemy." Also starring in the pilot are **Ryan Cartwright**, **Malik Yoba**, **Warren Christie**, **Laura Mennell**, **Callum Keith**, and **Azita Ghanizada**. Also scheduled is *Three Inches* in which "professional daydreamer and underachiever, Walter Spackman (**Noah Reid**) is struck by lightning, and develops a unique "super" power -- the ability to move any object using just his mind... but only a distance of three inches. He's soon recruited by a covert team of superheroes each gifted with their own extraordinarily ordinary abilities. Together, the unlikely band of heroes proves that "super" is simply a state of mind." Also starring are **James Marsters**, **Andrea Martin**, **Stephanie Jacobsen**, **Antony Del Rio**, **Naoko Mori**, and **Kyle Schmid**.

In the world of *Doctor Who*, filming on the second series of **Matt Smith** episodes has started with this year's Christmas special, about **Steven Moffat** has said has said that it will be the most "Christmassy Christmas special ever." and "We're going for broke with this one. It's all your favourite Christmas movies at once, in an hour, with monsters and the Doctor and a honeymoon and -- oh, you'll see. I've honestly never been so excited about writing anything. I was laughing madly as I typed along to Christmas songs in April. My neighbours loved it so much they all moved away and set up a website demanding my execution. But I'm fairly sure they did it ironically." Guest stars for the Christmas special include **Michael Gambon** and **Katherine Jenkins** and reportedly will be inspired by **Dicken's Christmas Carol**. We do know that writers include **Neil Gaiman**, **Mark Gatiss**, and, of course, **Steven Moffat**. In a recent talk, **Moffat** revealed that the new season will be split into two halves with a game changing cliff-hanger and plot twist at the end of episode 7. According to the BBC Press Office " "By splitting the series **Moffat** plans to give viewers one of the most exciting *Doctor Who* cliffhangers and plot twists ever, leaving them waiting, on the edge of their seats, until the autumn to find out what happens."

The new series of *Torchwood*, being co-produced with Starz has the overall title of *Torchwood: The New World*. According to producer **Russel T. Davies**, this season will be a ten episode arc telling a complete story with a team of writers that will include **Jane Espensen**, **John Shiban**, **Doris Egan**, and **John Fay**. New characters joining Jack, Gwen and Rhys will be CIA agent Rex Matheson, who comes across a major global threat and seeks out the legendary Torchwood for help and when the two groups come together, expect some difficulties. The series will take place in the US and in the UK, not completely abandoning its Welsh roots. Expect to see the new series sometime in mid-2011 on Starz and the BBC.

## A Conversation (Cont'd from page 1 )

tells about them.

E: Heinlein.

D: Heinlein too, with regards to creating a complete story.

E: For me, definitely Heinlein. It's the way he has a belief system, it's there, you know it, he's not afraid to tell you about it. I also like the action-adventure elements. I look to him more than to the others. As for what I read, I like S. M. Sterling; I like Harry Turtledove; I just like the grand "the world is now different, here's how it is; or, you're in a different world, flash of light, what are you going to do?" I like those -- basically, the plotlines of the old TV shows writ large. But you can do that so much better in a book than in a show.

Q: What shows have you liked?

D: More than I could possibly count.

E: Oh! I loved the old *Battlestar*, when I was that age; I love the new *Battlestar*, except for the last set of episodes which I'm trying to forget. I loved *Highlander: The Movie*; all my friends warned me from watching all the others. I loved the first *Alien* and the second *Alien* movie, 'cause they were so completely different and so unbelievably excellent; sadly, no one warned me about the third, so I was subjected to that. The first two *Star Wars* films were wonderful; the next one, eh; the last three... edit, edit, edit. Loved the cartoon, though: *Attack of the Clones*. It's really poignant, there's a lot of stuff there. Any of the *Stargates*, especially the first one; lot of fun! The TV show had one of the best arcs of progression I had ever seen, where the technology slowly gets adapted, and they get better and better with it, and have their mess-ups. In TV shows, one of two things usually happens: either they find an alien spaceship and next year they're all flying around in spaceships, which doesn't make sense; or they have all this technology, and nothing ever changes. In *Stargate*, you can see them making improvements, and at the end of the ten year story arc they are all flying around the galaxy in spaceships.

Q: *Eureka*?

E: I like *Eureka*; it's playful, but it's like cotton candy. In terms of shows that actually make you think and you care about, *Stargate*, and *Dr. Who* I really liked. We always have this debate because I loved the old Doctors, the first ones I ever saw. My favorite is Tom Baker; I think the best, though, is Patrick Troughton. I think he is far and away the best Doctor, because he had the hardest job. If he had blown it, there wouldn't have been any more Dr. Whos. He was the first one who had to say, "Alright, my body transformed and now I am the Doctor; believe this!" and because he pulled that off, you can have all the others.

Q: Do you consider him the best for simply having done that so admirably, or do you consider him actually the best manifestation of the Doctor? It was a tough task; give him the badge of honor. But is he your favorite?

E: No, Tom Baker is my favorite.

Q: How 'bout you?

D: Well, my favorite Doctor is David Tennant. But, in essence, he's my first Doctor. I never saw the series as a kid. As a matter of fact, my background is not at all in science-fiction. I would read the

(Cont'd on page 5 )



## A Conversation

(cont'd from page 4)

occasional book and see the occasional show, but this partnership of writing these books together came about sort of as a fluke, and I am now thrown into a world I was never much part of as a kid. ... I started finding my inner geek when I realized that I was in love with a one year show called *Space: Above and Beyond* that dealt with some very serious moral human issues, some very *Blade Runner*-y issues, and that caught my attention. *Blade Runner* is my all-time favorite movie for the concept of if you create a human, you become God, and now, what are your responsibilities? Those kind of movies, *Gattica*, where racism is now genetic, those kind of movies blew me out of the water before I ever thought I wanted to be a science fiction writer. ... I told Eytan, I don't want to write things that aren't Heinleinian; I want a message; I want to be passionate about what we're writing, like *The Unincorporated Man*. The question we are attempting to answer in that series, what price freedom?, is such an important question that I'm willing to sink hours and months of my life into perfecting that storyline. A regular old story? I didn't want to do that; but Eytan's been slowly chipping away at my resolve. E: I gave him the outline of something that was just a crapload of fun and I finally got him to go, "Okay!"

Q: Which one is that?

E: It's called, "Confessions of a Vampire Knight in the Zombie Wars." It's basically an anti-Twilight screed. It's about –

D: And I was humoring him. I was, "Okay, you know what? We're between books. We haven't got our creative edit back yet on the next book. Okay, fine. Give me your zombie-vampire whatever you want to call it, which has no social value whatsoever." So he sent it to me and I read it and go, Damn! This is fun! This is a guy you love to hate! And when you get to the end of it you realize, oh, there's a reason why you're hating him or why you're loving him; there's a wonderful twist. So I started working on that, and it took about two weeks to turn around; but at the end of it I was like, okay, we can step off the sociological implication train every now and then. ... We have an alt-history story that Eytan thought of many, many years ago in which we place Napoleon and Washington on the same battlefield. That's probably going to be a novella.

Q: It seems to me both men would want to meet, talk, and realize they're really on the same side of virtually every issue; form an alliance, change the world, liberate humanity...

E: But change one little thing, and not quite. The Revolutionary War was neither won nor lost; it was a draw. Washington starts The Continental Reserve in England, and he's the only land force in England.

D: Another book we're working on is *Father Figure*, in which most of the males of the planet died in the Flu Epidemic of 1918, so the world is run by women now. How would that world be different? Would World War Two even happen?

Q: I want to hear about your talk show.

E: When our book first came out we were told by our publisher, "Guys, you need to market yourself!" A friend of mine, a marketing genius, decided to help. He said, "Okay, you need to do something on the web that is *not* your book." He asked, "What do you like about science fiction? What do you like about cons and the whole interactive thing?" And I

said, "I like the panels. The panels are the neatest possible thing. That's where you talk with people; that's where the audience participates; that's where you get challenged." And he said, "Fine, We'll do a website that is nothing but panels." So we started a website, www.neverendingpanel.com. The thing is, each panel is only ten minutes, so it's very concentrated. Most people don't have time to devote 40, 50 minutes to an online panel; but ten minutes – most people have ten minutes. And we've had some amazing panels!

D: Niven and Pournelle, that was one of the best.

E: We've done a series, "In Defense of" SF movies that got bad reviews.

E: Have you done a web version of the Flying Spaghetti Monster panel?

D: No! We should definitely do that.

Q: So did this ploy work? Did it get your book noticed?

E: We don't know yet! The truth of the matter is we're having so much fun doing it because we love the world of science fiction.

Q: So: *Unincorporated Man*; *Unincorporated War*; *Unincorporated Woman*. What's the forth title going to be?

E: We submitted a couple of names, but since that book isn't coming out for two years we don't know what they're going to choose.

Q: Do you have a favorite?

E: We're leaning toward *The Unincorporated Divide*.

D: That's our working title.

Q: Given that Prometheus tried to benefit mankind by defying the powers that be, is it particularly gratifying to win this, of all awards?

E: Without question.

D: I guess we de-livered the goods.

## Pro Notes

Hi, Everyone! Thanks for reading ConNotations and my column. No new faces but some old favorites are back. I was late sending out my requests so we don't have too many responses this month. Blame it on CopperCon, I was a bit distracted...

I got a follow-up from **David Morrell** from the last column when he promised some big news. Here it is: Morrell is releasing a new, never-before-published, full-length thriller, "The Naked Edge," along with nine of his previously published books, in electronic book format exclusively in the Kindle Store at Amazon.com. This is one of the first times that an established author has released a full-length, never-before-published novel exclusively as an e-book. There won't be a print edition for years. The announcement becomes more unique because of the scope of the backlog that is being released as e-books along with "The Naked Edge." These ten titles will only be available electronically in the Kindle Store exclusively for one year.

Next up is **Linnea Sinclair** from Florida. Linnea's biggest news: she has a short story in the Gardner Dozois and George R. R. Martin anthology, "Songs of Love & Death" (Simon & Schuster, Nov. 2010). Her offering, "Courting Trouble," joins other shorts by Neil Gaiman, Tanith Lee, Jo Beverly, Mary Jo Putney, Jim Butcher, Diana Gabaldon, and more in this fabulous anthology that highlights the crossover of science fiction, fantasy, and romance. Her "Hope's Folly" (book #3 in the DOCK FIVE UNIVERSE) took first place in the 2009 PEARL awards (<http://paranormalromance.org/pearl/winners.php>) and second place in the 13th Annual Prism Awards (<http://www.romance-ffp.com/contests.cfm>). {Big Congrats, Linnea!} For the aspiring writers, in October she's teaching a four-week online workshop on conflict in fiction titled: Character Torture 101. Sounds awfully fun...

**Jack McDevitt** who hails from Georgia was short but sweet: his current novel is "Time Travelers Never Die." Due out at the end of October is "Echo," an ALEX & CHASE mystery. Up in Ohio, **Mike Resnick** was a bit more wordy. It was just announced early in September that he will be the Guest of Honor at Chicon 7, the 2012 Worldcon. This past summer McFarland published "The Business of Science Fiction," which

Mike co-authored with Barry Malzberg. Coming in October is "Blasphemy" from Golden Gryphon. December will see the publication of "The Buntline Special" from Pyr. Currently under contract are "The Doctor and the Kid" from Pyr, "The Cassandra Project" (with Jack McDevitt) from Ace, "The Gods of Sagittarius" (with Eric Flint) from Baen, and an as-yet-untitled collection from Subterranean Press, all in the USA, and "Masters of the Galaxy" from PS in England. Shorter fiction: Subterranean Magazine is currently running his novella, "Six Blind Men and an Alien", and will shortly run "Weekdays" and "King and Mrs. Kong." Asimov's is currently running "The Incarceration of Captain Nebula", and "Report from the Field" (with Lezli Robyn) just appeared in IS ANYONE OUT THERE? Coming up before year's end are "Bad News from the Vatican" in an as-yet-untitled Robert Silverberg tribute anthology; "El and Al vs. Himmmler's Horrendous Horde from Hell" in CLASSICS MUTILATED; "Observation Post" in 2012: YEAR OF THE APOCALYPSE; "The Second Civil War" in THE ALTERNATE CIVIL WAR; "Dark Doings at the Field Museum of Natural Mystery", a stand-alone Chicon Bidzine; "A Weighty Affair" for Postscripts; "Incident on the Low Seas" for HIGH SEAS CTHULHU 2; and "The Close Shave" (with Lezli Robyn) for BLOOD LITE 2.

Way over in Colorado, I heard from **James Van Pelt**. This past July his latest collection, "The Radio Magician and Other Stories," won the Colorado Book Award which is given by the Center for the Book through the Colorado Humanities. James related that it was an honor to accept. You can see the Locus announcement with a link to the Colorado Humanities site at <http://www.locusmag.com/News/2010/07/james-van-pelt-wins-colorado-book-award/>. Currently, James is into book two of the LOW-HIGH series, a young adult science fiction/fantasy that is seeking representation.

**Lee Modesitt** lives in Utah and shared that his next book is "Empress of Eternity," which, despite the title, is hard SF, and will be released in November from Tor. Next will be "Lady-Protector," the eighth book in the COREAN CHRONICLES, a March 2011 release. Tor will release "Scholar," the fourth book in THE IMAGER PORTFOLIO sometime late in 2011 or early in 2012. He has a

(Cont'd on Page 6)



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# Pro Notes

(Cont'd from page 5 )

RECLUCE story in an anthology from Subterranean Press entitled "Speculative Horizons," which comes out this November. There's also a story entitled "A More Perfect Union" coming in 2011 in John Joseph Adams' anthology from Tor, "The Mad Scientists' Guide to World Domination."

We have a wealth of writers in my own state, Arizona, and I have two of them for this issue. **Michelle M. Welch**, speculative fiction author and editor of Theme and Variations, would like to announce the second volume of her podcast anthology.

Theme and Variations is a podcast anthology of speculative fiction with music as a theme. The second volume of the anthology, Opus 2, launches August 2 and has six new audio episodes by authors of science fiction, fantasy, and horror. Some of the episodes feature original music. Visit [themeandvariationsanthology.com](http://themeandvariationsanthology.com) to listen, download, or subscribe for free.

And, one of my favorites: **Alan Dean Foster**. Del Rey will release "The Human Blend," the first book of THE TIPPING POINT trilogy, on November 23. Upcoming short fiction includes "Pike's Peek" (New Tales of Zorro) and "Free Elections" (a new MAD AMOS MALONE story) in Nov/Dec F&SF. A second new MAD AMOS MALONE story will also appear in F&SF (but no pub date yet for that one). "Garden Variety Javelinas," an op-ed piece on reaction to Arizona's SB 1070 law, appeared Aug 9 on the front page of the New York Times. And he has a short story "Rural Singularity," in the anthology "The Mad Scientist's Guide to World Domination." No publication date yet, the editor is Gordon van Gelder.

Last, but certainly not least, is **Spider Robinson** up in Canada. Spider wanted me to share this: With infinite sadness, Spider Robinson reports that his best friend, lover, teacher, first reader, sometime collaborator, singing partner, and wife of 35 years, Jeanne Marie Robinson, died at 62 of biliary cancer on May 30, without pain, surrounded by her loved ones, and sustained by her Zen faith. <<http://www.spiderrobinson.com/index2.html>> I remember Jeanne best for her novella "Stardance," about the first zero-gravity dancer which she and Spider collaborated on in 1976, and became the first woman to win a Hugo and a Nebula for her first published work. Spider says his current novel in progress, "Orphan Stars," will be indefinitely delayed; he's having difficulty getting it restarted without the accustomed help of his chief enabler, first reader, enthusiastic groupie, and merciless editor. But he won't quit; he says it's his only way to repay the literally thousands of fans who've sent him emails and cards of condolence, words of solace and support, and gifts and kindnesses of all kind.

"I had the very best of it, for 35 years," Spider says. "That's 10 years longer than my own parents were granted, 15 years more than Jeanne's parents got to have. And for every one of those years, I've been the happiest-married man I knew or ever heard of. I am confident that we will meet again and again in lives to come. Maybe next time, she'll get to dance in space."

That's it for this month. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. And, as always - if anyone wants to contribute or knows someone who knows someone...please write to ConNotations or email me at [Editor@casfs.org](mailto:Editor@casfs.org) Enjoy your autumn, see you in December.

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

## 24 Frames

by Jeffrey Lu

### Comments:

Hello, people. There are a lot of horror movies releasing in October. (Surprise, surprise). So far, there is not much news on sci-fi/horror/gaming/fantasy production of movies. Just rumors.

### In Production:

*Judge Dredd*. Karl Urban (Dr. McCoy from 2009 Star Trek movie) will be playing the main character. He made a promise to keep wearing the helmet like in the Judge Dredd comics. Release date: undecided.

*Ghostbusters III*. New team. Yet, there will be appearance of the old crew as well. Story- unknown. Release date: undecided.

### October/November 2010 Releases On The Screen:

#### October

1 *Case 39*- Horror, Thriller

*Let Me In*- Horror

8 *My Soul to Take* (in 3D)- Horror

15 *Jackass 3-D*- Comedy

22 *Paranormal Activity 2*- Horror

29 *Saw 3-D*- Horror

*Monsters*- Sci-fi

#### November

5 *Megamind*- Animation

19 *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows*

(Part One in 3D)- Fantasy

24 *Red Dawn* (2010)- Action

*Tangled*- Animation

### Rumors:

In the new *Spider-man* movie, who will play the love interest of Peter Parker (Andrew Garfield/Spider-man)? The ladies going for the role are Hilary Duff, Emma Roberts, Teresa Palmer, Ophelia Lovibond, Imogen Pats and Lily Collins. Rumor has it that the love interest is not Mary Jane Watson but someone else. (Gwen Stacy?)

Pixar wants to CGI the *Doctor Strange* movie. This should be interesting since Disney now owns Marvel.

There might be another *Kick Ass* movie. Mark Miller has been contacted to write another script.

There is script being worked on *Clash of the Titans II*.

### Parting Shots:

In the new *Spider-man* movie, who is the next villain? Also, the same question applies to the next *Batman* movie. Both are still under secret. Both will be released in 2012.

*Red Dawn* remake? Why is Hollywood making sequels from the 1980s? I think people want entertainment but not repeats i.e. *The A-Team*.

Happy Halloween, everyone. May you have a safe Trick or Treat!

## Diamond Anniversary of Charles Schulz's Peanuts: 60 Years of Heart-Warming Characters and Social Commentary, Part One.

By Shane Shellenbarger

Outside, it reached 110 degrees on August 1st, 2009, the day that the PBS program, "Antiques Roadshow," came to the Phoenix Civic Center. Inside, the temperature often dipped below 75, despite the crowds of people carrying, dragging, and wheeling their treasures through the cavernous halls, cueing up in lines, awaiting the appraisal some had traveled hundreds of miles to receive. A Stuffed American eagle, a Highboy dresser, a 1956 TWA poster, several oil paintings, Swiss watches, a scrimshaw yarn swift, a 1917 First Woman Yeoman's Battalion banner. Each of these items had their proponents, each had their fans, but few caused as much excitement as the items brought by a woman into the "Prints and Posters" area that day. She had original *Peanuts* art.

The middle-aged, blond woman who appeared as if she had been someone's soccer mom not too many years before, was swiftly approached by one of the show's producers who conferred with her for a few moments and then chaperoned her to an area previously prepared for close-up ideography. After a few moments, Gary Sohmers, appraiser of toys, collectables, and memorabilia for All Collectors, arrives and is introduced to the blond woman, Coni Kiper, and begins to examine her collection of dailies and Sundays original *Peanuts* art. Sohmers concludes his examination, talks to one of the show's producers and soon the videotaping begins. Kiper tells Sohmers how she and her son began by collecting *Peanuts* toys and plush dolls in New York, California, and Phoenix. Eventually Kiper's son outgrew the toys and dolls so they began to collect signed lithography and in the early 1990's they began to collect original newspaper art. Some of the art was in the \$400-\$500 range, some would cost \$50-\$100 more if Snoopy (her son's favorite character) made an appearance as the Red Baron, although Charlie Brown always was her favorite. A portion of her collection included four daily strips which comprised the near-Earth passage of Halley's Comet, which included the October 18th, 1985 strip below:



Kiper's earliest piece was a strip from 1952 and she has a Sunday from 1953 depicting a multitude of snowmen. When Kiper took the framed pieces off of the wall and pulled the rest out from under her bed and brought her estimated \$35,000 investment to the Antiques Roadshow, she was hoping it had appreciated into the \$50,000 range. If you've seen the show, you know she grew quiet when Sohmers appraised her 1953 Sunday panels of snowmen at \$75,000. If your television monitor is an HD model you

might even be able to see the blood drain from Kiper's face when she is told the entire collection is evaluated for insurance purposes at \$450,000. Upon returning home, signed lithographs replaced the originals which once hung on the wall and they have been moved to a safer location than under Coni Kiper's bed.

No one would have been more surprised that his original art was so highly valued than Charles Schulz. Despite the fact that worldwide merchandising topped \$1 billion in 1989 and Schulz's income soared to \$62 million in the same year, this only child of a barber and a housewife scarcely believed people so highly valued the 18,977 comic strips he had drawn for over fifty years.

Born Charles Monroe Schulz on November 26, 1922 of Carl Fred Schulz and Dena (Halverson) Schulz, "Sparky" was given his nickname after the horse, Spark Plug in the *Barney Google* comic strip. Raised in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Schulz was a shy child who grew into a lonely and awkward teen whose fear of abandonment grew as his mother's illness from cancer worsened. Schultz has stated his love of cartooning started at the age of six. His earliest published drawing was of his dog "Spike" which appeared in the Robert Ripley strip, *Ripley's Believe It or Not!* Schulz took art correspondence classes before he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1943 and he became an art teacher at Art Instruction, Inc when he was honorably discharged in 1945.

On June 8th, 1947, the *Minneapolis Star-Tribune* began publishing *Li'l Folks*, which soon moved to the *St. Paul Pioneer Press and Dispatch*. In 1948, Schulz began attempts to syndicate his strip, *Li'l Folks*, but the deal fell through and in January of 1950 the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* dropped it. While working at Art Instruction, Inc., Schulz dated Donna Mae Johnson, who became the model for the Little Red-Haired Girl. After six months, Donna broke off the relationship and on October 21, 1950, she married Alan Wold and became Schulz's Long Lost Love.

October became a pivotal month for Schulz when his hard work finally paid off and United Feature Syndicate presented *Peanuts* to the world. Schulz hated the name, but UFS was concerned by a lawsuit threatened by Tack Knight, creator of the defunct 1930's strip, *Little Folks*. Another concern was the dog scheduled to appear in the strip would be named Sniffy, until Schulz discovered a new comic book about a dog with the same name. He remembered a conversation he'd had with his mother about a proposed family dog to be named Snoopy. The name *Peanuts* had come from the character Chief Thunderthud of *The Howdy Doody Show* who called the kids of the audience, Peanuts. Schulz never did any more than accustom himself to the title.

Schulz drew from his childhood friends and his co-workers for the inspiration in naming and character development of his *Peanuts* creations. Charlie Brown worked at Art Instruction, Inc., his old friend, Sherman Piepler, became Sherry, Judy and Ruth Halverson (whom he dated briefly) became the models for the first two female characters, Violet and Patty. Schulz had yet to meet the Halverson sister who would be the

(Cont'd on page 7)



## Diamond (Cont'd from page 6)

model for Lucy Van Pelt and the woman who became his first wife: Joyce.

We identify with the *Peanuts* characters and the world they inhabit. Their world is tinged with melancholy and sadness mingled with optimism and hopefulness. We all know fuss-budgets and insightful but insecure individuals. How many of us have felt alone, unappreciated, frustrated by the world? Yet, we press on, striving to do better work, to be better people. Charles Schultz captured the range of humanity in his four-panel creations, his life ending just one day before the final original *Peanuts* strip ran on Sunday, February 13, 2000. Aren't we all richer for having experienced his work?

Check back next time for more of the *Peanuts* gang.

*Peanuts* Motion Comics, released on DVD March 9th, 2010: <http://bit.ly/bYvblo>  
Motion Comics, samples: <http://bit.ly/d9RSDC>, <http://bit.ly/ddLTTC>  
Gary Sohmers: <http://www.allcollectors.com/bio.html>  
**Show finds fortune in 'Peanuts':** <http://bit.ly/bLwhfe>  
**Schulz and Peanuts: A Biography** David Michaelis

## ConClusion

**Picard and 7 of 9, I Presume? Creation Las Vegas Star Trek Convention August 5-8, 2010**  
by Jeffrey Lu

This was the last time that this special Star Trek convention will be held in the Las Vegas Hilton. I was there with friends and fans. Some were rather noteworthy:

\*Seeing Jerry Ryan (7 of 9 in Star Trek: Voyager) and Sir Patrick Stewart (Captain Picard in Star Trek: The Next Generation) were there. Rather cool. Glad to see them both. Found both of them had special guest stars in their talk. Best one was in Patrick Stewart's question session. There was an annoying questioner that Patrick suddenly stopped. It was Bret Spiner ("Data") from Star Trek: The Next Generation.

\*Sally Kellerman made an appearance. (She was Dr. Elizabeth Dehner in "Where No Man Has Gone Before" Star Trek The Original Series). I did not know that she has done movies like M.A.S.H.

\*David Gerrold (ST: TOS writer of "The Trouble With Tribbles") spoke in three events. I was surprised that this convention had a Hugo and Nebula award author. He also had a writing workshop called, "The Trouble with Scribbles." Wish I had the money and time to be in that workshop.

\*Julie Newmar still looked great. (She was Eileen in "Friday's Child" in ST:TOS). She was a former dancer and did a role as Catwoman in the 1960s TV Batman series.

\*A Guinness Book's world's record was attempted for "The Most Star Trek Costumed People in One Place." The goal was over 507 characters. They made it.

With friends in the Star Trek community, I had a chance to see them in person. Some are old friends from my travels. Most of them are new.

I look forward for the 45th anniversary of Star Trek at a new hotel, Rio, next year.

**CopperCon 30 September 3-6, 2010**  
by Jeffrey Lu

Some say I'm a loser. In this convention, I guess that's the case.

Three times I went for movie goods but nearly came in last. Well, to be honest in UFP (United Federation of Phoenix)

Jeopardy contest, my team came in last place...(again). I just can't win but did obtain two baseball hats and a top.

But I would rather be a loser with friends in this local sci-fi/fantasy/horror/gaming community. Why?

There are friends who are a pleasure in being there with you. Even though you lost, you can still have the time of your life... Especially the parties and the random meetings of old buddies.

In one party, I was at the UFP 35th anniversary party. To sum it up, I have made new friends who were the founders of UFP. Very cool. There was much rejoicing.

In another, I met a pal from a gaming store in the early 1980s. We talked about our present lives.

Had random chats with an ASU professor and his wife. Also, talked from fellow gamers to book dealers. Life is good.

Even when I lost, I win by my fellow dreamers in this CopperCon.

Hope to be there, next year.

## Trivia Questions

1. What is Mr. Spock's blood type?
2. Who was the actor who played James Bond as President of The Time Lords?
3. What year did the Russian satellite Sputnik launch?
4. What famous horror/SF/fantasy writer used The Land of Oz in one of his books?
5. August 2010 saw NASA press release the discovery of two Saturn-sized extra-solar planets discovered using the transit method. What mission/spacecraft made this discovery?
6. What is the name of Harry Dresden's oldest pet?
7. Who was the pioneering SF author who earned his nickname of "Doc" with a PhD in food chemistry?
8. America's first Earth-orbiting satellite was named what and launched when?
9. What is the origin planet of the Original Cybermen?
10. What was Friday of Robert Heinlein's story of the same name?

(Answers on back page)

## "I Don't Mean To Stunt Your Growth, I'm Just Doin' It For The Publicity" It's the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rocky and Bullwinkle, Pt. 9 By Shane Shellenbarger

Promoting the show came second nature to Jay Ward, although his publicity stunts often gave ulcers to the NBC executives. Ward often used his shows as an outlet for his mischievous jibes at the network. NBC was conservative and highly sensitive about its image (it took nearly fifty years for them to allow a show such as *30 Rock* to poke fun at their expense) and Ward's "stunts" often went unappreciated. In 1961, *The Bullwinkle Show* had a hand puppet host depicting the much-antlered moose who opened one show like this: "Attention, black-and-white TV viewers! Would you like to see *The Bullwinkle Show* in color tonight? Just follow these easy instructions. Think of Mr. Khrushchev's latest speech. Have you got it? Think of your next year's income tax. Now think of the mean things

a *Sing Along with Mitch* parody in which Bullwinkle satirized NBC's low ratings.

At the end of the first episode, the hand-puppet moose made the following suggestion: "... But first a message to all you KIDS who are watching. Did you know that the knobs on your television set will come off if you pull on them? Right now, why not pull off the knob that changes the channels? It's loads of fun, and that way you'll be sure to be with us next week, and the week after that, and the week after that, and the week after. . . ." NBC executives saw red, proclaiming twenty thousand children ruined their families' television sets. Jay Ward told the sponsor, General Mills, that he didn't believe that number, but he would add a message to the next show which should fix the issue, which the moose puppet spoke in this manner: "... A couple weeks ago I told you to take the knob off the TV set so you'd be sure to stay tuned to *The Bullwinkle Show*? Well you can put it back now . . . if you can find it. A little glue will hold it in place. On the other hand, a lot of glue will keep it stuck on this channel. So use your own judgment, and a lot of glue. Bye." NBC was not amused. Citing possible FCC rules violations, the network requested the removal of the puppet.



Mr. Disney said about your black-and-white set. Makes you see red, doesn't it? I thought so. So now in glorious red color, here's *The Bullwinkle Show*." In promotional mailers, Ward's group wrote

Come back next time for "Please don't make me walk the Prank or Take One Step Closer and I'll Fracture Your Fairytale" For more info go to: <http://tinyurl.com/Shane-Info-Blog>



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email questions to [book@casfs.org](mailto:book@casfs.org)

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

**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

**2010 HUGO AWARDS**

The results of the 2010 Hugo Awards, as announced at Aussiecon 4, the 68th World Science Fiction Convention, in Melbourne, Australia, on September 2-6, 2010, are as follows:

**Best Novel:** TIE: *The City & The City*, China Miéville (Del Rey; Macmillan UK); *The Windup Girl*, Paolo Bacigalupi (Night Shade)

**Best Novella:** “Palimpsest”, Charles Stross (*Wireless*; Ace, Orbit)

**Best Novelette:** “The Island”, Peter Watts (*The New Space Opera* 2; Eos)

**Best Short Story:** “Bridesicle”, Will McIntosh (*Asimov’s* 1/09)

**Best Related Book:** *This is Me, Jack Vance!* (Or, *More Properly, This is “I”*), Jack Vance (Subterranean)

**Best Graphic Story:** *Girl Genius, Volume 9: Agatha Heterodyne and the Heirs of the Storm* Written by Kaja and Phil Foglio; Art by Phil Foglio; Colours by Cheyenne Wright (Airship Entertainment)

**Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form:** *Moon* Screenplay by Nathan Parker; Story by Duncan Jones; Directed by Duncan Jones (Liberty Films)

**Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:** *Doctor Who: “The Waters of Mars”* Written by Russell T Davies & Phil Ford; Directed by Graeme Harper (BBC Wales)

**Best Editor Long Form:** Patrick Nielsen Hayden

**Best Editor Short Form:** Ellen Datlow

**Best Professional Artist:** Shaun Tan

**Best Semiprozine:** *Clarkesworld* edited by Neil Clarke, Sean Wallace, & Cheryl Morgan

**Best Fan Writer:** Frederik Pohl

**Best Fanzine:** *StarShipSofa* edited by Tony C. Smith

**Best Fan Artist:** Brad W. Foster

And the **John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer (presented by Dell Magazines)**: Seanan McGuire

**AUTHOR SIGNINGS**

**Weston Ochse** “How to Survive the Zombie Apocalypse”  
Barnes & Noble, Eastside, Tucson. **Oct 16, 1pm**  
**Connie Willis**, hosted by **Laurie R. King**  
Poisoned Pen bookstore, **Oct 29, 7pm**

**BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS**

Oro Valley Library, Tucson  
Science Fiction Book Club, 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays  
  
SciFi Book Group  
Barnes & Noble, Eastside, Tucson.  
Oct 12, Nov 9, 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 Secretary of Dreams, Vol 2” by Stephen King  
“Shivers VI” with a long lost novella by Stephen King  
“Riding the Bullet” by Mick Garris and Stephen King

**Edge SF & F Publishing/Tesseract Books**  
“Evolve” ed. Nancy Kilpatrick  
“Immortal Quest” by Alexandra Mackenzie  
“Pock’s World” by Dave Duncan  
“Hell Can Wait” by Theodore Judson

**PS Publishing**  
“Tales from a Fragrant Harbour” by Gary Kilworth  
“Stonewielder” by Ian Cameron  
Esslemont

**PYR Publishing**  
“Burton and Swineburne in the Strange Affair of Spring Heeled Jack” by Mark Hodder  
“Demonstorm, Legends of the Raven 3” by James Barclay

**Subterranean Press**  
“Return, An Innkeeper’s World Story” by Peter S. Beagle  
“Toast” by Charles Stross  
“The Juniper Tree” by Peter Straub  
“The King of the Elves” by Philip K. Dick  
And too many more to mention....

**GAMING & COMIC EVENTS**

**BOOKMANS - INA Rd, TUCSON**

Sanctioned Magic: The Gathering league, as well as Dungeons & Dragons! Magic will be every Wednesday, with D&D adventures continuing every other week. 100% free with prizes awarded!

**DRAWN TO COMICS**

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

X-Force Day, all day event with artists.  
Oct 6, 1pm-9pm  
Oddity Commodity Release Party. Oct 23, see website for times  
Halloween videogame tournament with Gamestop. Oct 30 (tentative) see website for detail  
Check FaceBook for other events

**GAME DEPOT**

HeroClix. Wed, 545pm-8pm  
D&D Encounters. Wed, 6pm-8pm  
Magic, The Gathering. Thurs, 6pm.  
Open Game Day. Fridays all day  
Magic, The Gathering Scars of Mirrodin pre-release. Oct 2, noon  
Battletech. Oct 16, noon  
Gamma World Game Day. Oct 23, noon  
Warhammer 40K Random-o-matic. Nov 6, 11am  
National Boardgame Celebration. Nov 27, 10am-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. 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturdays, noon  
RPG. 1<sup>st</sup> Sundays  
Boardgames & Demo Nite. Mondays & Thursdays, 6pm.  
War Machine. Wednesdays, 4pm  
Hammerhead 40K Club Meeting. Wed & Thurs, noon  
Hammerhead Club 40k tournament. 1<sup>st</sup> Wed, noon  
Magic Booster Drafts. Fridays, 7pm

**SAMURAI COMICS**  
(check website for correct store location)

Magic, The Gathering Launch Party. Oct 2, noon (Cmlbk). Oct 3, 1pm (west valley)  
Anime Fest/Cosplay contest. Oct 23, noon-8pm (Cmlbk)  
Magic, The Gathering Game Day. Oct 30, noon (both stores)  
Magic, The Gathering, ProTour Qualifier. Nov 6, 8am (Cmlbk)  
Yugioh Tournament. Sundays, noon (Cmlbk) & Sat, noon (west valley)  
Anime Club. Sundays, noon (west valley)  
Pokemon. Sundays, 2pm (west valley), Wed 5pm (Cmlbk)  
D&D Encounters. Wed, 6pm (Cmlbk)  
Magic, The Gathering. Friday, 6p (both stores), Tues, 6pm (west valley), Sat 1pm (Cmlbk), Mon 6pm (Cmlbk)

**SCIENCE EVENTS**

**ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER**

Galaxy 2011 Gala Event. Feb 5, 2011  
Revved Up Science! Exhibit designed by St.Louis Science Center and X-Prize Nat’l Education Program  
BioBuzz Family Series, family friendly

short talks in bioscience.  
Science Café informal discussions with ASU Professors, see webpage for topics and dates. Oct 15, Nov 19  
*Ongoing Exhibits:*  
NEW! All About Me Gallery, interactive exhibit on human body  
Dorrance Planetarium  
Evans Family Skycycle  
My Digital Worlds  
Forces of Nature  
New Rock Wall for climbers aged 8 and above  
Adults Night Out, 1<sup>st</sup> Fridays, check website for topics & time

**ASU**

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

**ASU BEYOND CENTER**

Shoemaker Memorial Lecture: “Roving Mars: Spirit, Opportunity, and the Exploration of the Red Planet” by Steve Squyres. Oct 7, 7pm

**CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER, PEORIA**

Stargazing. Starlab Planetarium. Check website for dates and times  
Space Place events for Future Astronauts. Check website for event dates & times.  
Family Fun Day. Oct 30, Nov 27, 10am-4pm  
Understanding the Nature of Light, Fridays, 2pm.  
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 [portercrd@msn.com](mailto:portercrd@msn.com)

**PIMA AIR & SPACE MUSEUM, TUCSON**

New Volunteer Orientation. Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, 930am-1030am.  
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.

**SETI INSTITUTE**

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  
Titan Overnight Experience – spend the

(Cont’d on page 9 )



## FYI ( Cont'd from page 8)

night in the crew quarters. Check website for details.

Special Event: Join Titan II authors David Stumpf and Chuck Penson on a special tour, Oct 23, 830am

### OTHER GENRE-RELATED EVENTS

#### TUCSON COMIC CON

Nov 6 at The Hotel Arizona, Tucson.  
Free!

**BARNES & NOBLE, TEMPE MARKET PLACE**  
IFC Screenwriting Group, Wednesdays,  
7pm

#### BOOKMANS, PHOENIX

Join Jennifer S. Gerhardt G. for an informative two hour workshop on "How to Read Tarot Cards". Make sure and bring your own deck! Oct 16, 2pm-4pm  
Essential Oils Class: The Natural Way to Heal and Protect Yourself. Oct 23, 3pm-4pm. Nov 27, 3pm-4pm.  
Phoenix Astronomical Society Presents a FREE Telescope Training Workshop. Oct 24, 330pm-430pm. Nov 14, 330pm-430pm.

#### LOFT THEATRE, TUCSON

Screenings of movies, many SF genre. Check website for times and listings.

#### MADCAP THEATRE

Bookmans Underground Cinema Presents a Double Feature : "Halloween" and "Night of the Living Dead". Oct 8, 8pm. Oct 9, 8pm.

Check web sites or contact stores for more info

Game Depot, 480-966-4727

<http://www.azchallenger.org>

<http://www.azscience.org>

<http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/storelocator>

<http://beyond.asu.edu>

<http://www.bookmans.com>

<http://www.borders.com/online/store>

<http://www.cemeterydance.com>

<http://www.changinghands.com>

<http://www.conlanpress.com>

<http://www.dragoonmoonpress.com>

<http://www.drawntocomics.com>

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

<http://www.imperialoutpost.com>

<http://www.library.pima.gov>

<http://www.loftcinema.com/showtimes>

<http://madcaptheaters.com/>

<http://www.pimaair.org>

<http://www.poisonedpen.com>

<http://store.pspublishing.co.uk/>

<http://www.pyrsf.com/catalog.html>

<http://www.samuraicomics.com>

<http://www.seti.org>

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

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

<http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/>

<http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/>

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

## Non Genre by Genre

Stephen R. Donaldson under a pseudonym has written four mystery novels in the Hardboiled alcoholic P.I. tradition. My reading of reviews gives me the impression that the main character, Mick "Brew"

Axbrewder, is as conflicted and quixotic as Thomas Covenant. Also the stories are gritty to the extreme and full of physical and sexual violence. One reviewer, Gavrielle Perry, who likes Thomas Covenant was put off by the graphic nature of the violence. These books are not for the faint of heart.

The Man Who... detective novels were published under the pseudonym Reed Stephens. They have been re-issued as by Donaldson

The titles are *The Man Who Killed His Brother* (1980), *The Man Who Risked His Partner* (1984), *The Man Who Tried to Get Away* (1990), *The Man Who Fought Alone* (2001). -- Gary Swaty

## The Costume Closet



The Costume Closet  
Begin the Biggin  
by Randall Whitlock

A biggin is a close-fitting hood or skull-cap that covers the ears and ties under the chin. They are very popular among medieval and renaissance reenactors as a simple, practical cap for insulation or sun protection. Watch the background characters in "Monty Python and the Holy Grail" for many variations.

Biggin is a 17th-century word derived from the "Beguines," a lay sisterhood within the Roman Catholic Church who were active in northern Europe during the middle ages and may have worn a

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similar cap. The word has a completely different origin than the ballroom dance and the Cole Porter song it is danced to. (I couldn't resist the pun for my title.)

The name may be of 17th century origin, but the basic shape of the hat goes back more than a thousand years. Two-panel hoods resembling biggins have been found in archaeological digs at 10th century Norse settlements near Coppergate, England. Logically enough, these are called "Coppergate Caps" among reenactors.

The pattern presented here (on the next page) makes a simple, close-fitting biggin



in three panels. The center strip is a long ellipse cut off at the ends. It is sewn to two side panels that mimic the sides of your head. The neck opening more or less follows your jaw line. I've printed the center strip pattern in dashed lines projected across a fold line and placed it inside the side panel pattern to save space. Trace or photocopy before you cut.

The pattern is based on my head size, which is about 23 inches around the forehead. It works fine for smaller heads,

with a looser fit. You can scale the pattern up or down if needed. Just measure your forehead circumference in inches, divide by 23, then multiply by 100 to find the percentage you need to shrink or enlarge the pattern. Apply this setting to a copy machine.

This pattern will work with all manner of fabrics. Lightweight muslins and linens are good for summer. Felted wool is good for heavy winter caps. Fleece works fine if you aren't constrained to look very "period." Some of those Monty Python characters were wearing leather caps. Vinyl or rubberized cloth might make a retro bathing cap.

If your fabric has a right and wrong side, be sure that the two side panels are mirror images of each other. The center strip is symmetrical end for end and side to side, so you can't mess up. If your fabric has a direction of stretch, it should run sideways across the panels, not up and down. Do not cut on the bias.

Cut two side panels and one center strip. Pin the edges of the center strip to the curved edges of the side panels. If you have cut and pinned carefully, the length should match up perfectly. Adjust by moving your pins if you need to.

Sew the side panels to the center strip using a 1/4-inch seam allowance. An overlock serger works very well for this.

Cut a few inches of macramé cord, shoestring or narrow grosgrain ribbon for ties and attach these to the lower portion of the face opening.

Finish the edges of the face opening and neck opening by turning under and sewing. I like to run a serge around the edge first. If you serge the edges, do this before you apply the ties and turn under.

Its easy to make a lining for your biggin or make your biggin reversible. Just make

( Cont'd on page 10)



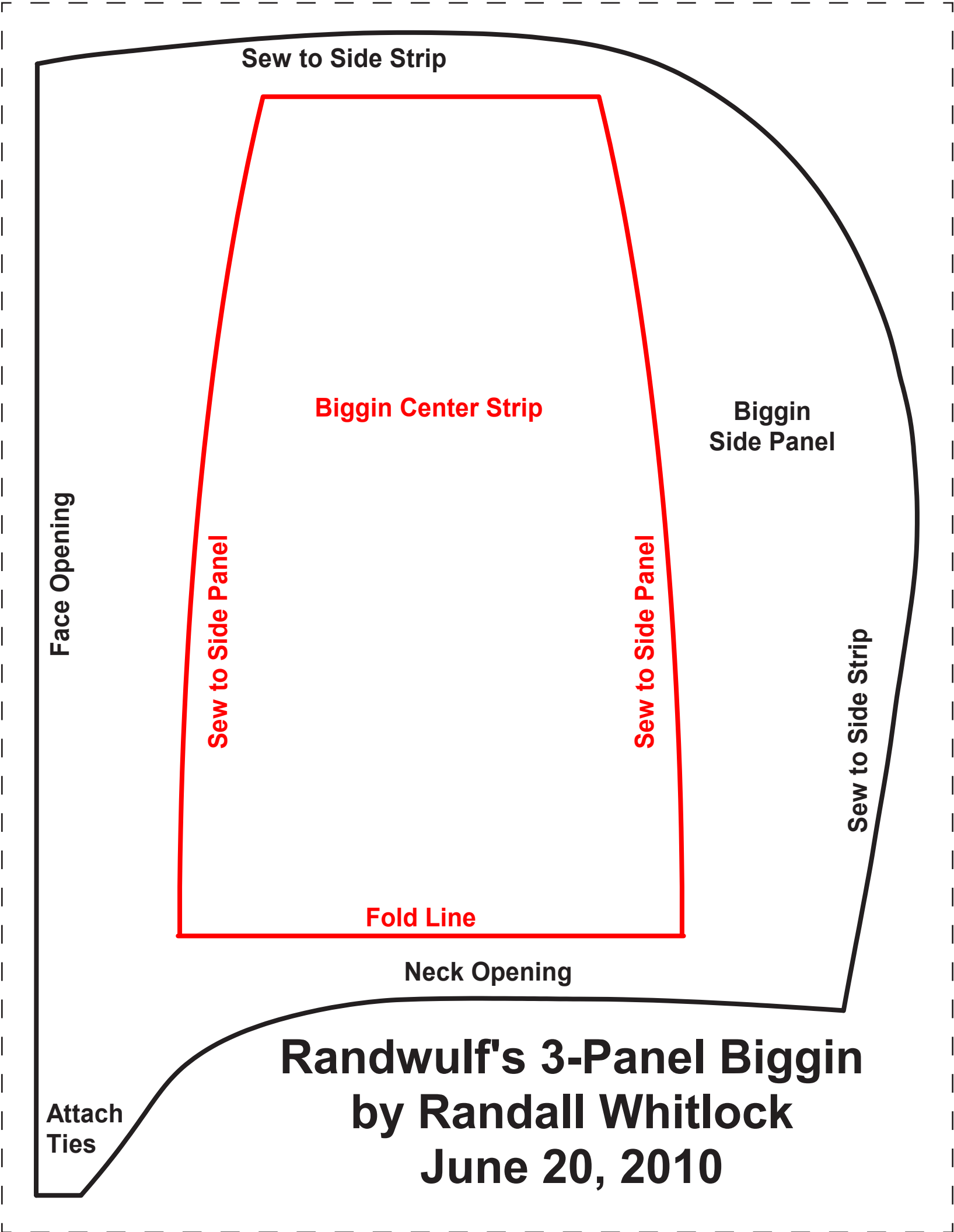
Costume

(Cont'd from page 9 )

two biggins as described above and pin them together, right sides together and

seams facing outward. Sew the lining to the shell by stitching around the edge. Leave a couple of inches at the back of the neck unsewn. Turn the biggin rightside out by pulling it through this unsewn opening.

Smooth out the edges and topstitch to finish the edges and close the gap in back.





# An American in New Zealand Part 13: Last Words

by Jeffrey Lu

As I gather my belongings, I sighed. I was tired but happy. Yet, I missed a few things. They are:

- 1) I need to see more places to see where they filmed The Lord of The Ring movies. I really want to see the Elvish land and the place where Frodo and his friends first meet the wraiths.
- 2) I need to eat at a Mexican restaurant in New Zealand. I'm curious how different it is compare to U.S.
- 3) I need to look into the Maori culture. There were great opportunities to experience but was busy doing LOTR tour.
- 4) See a live kiwi (bird) in person. Been busy watching live wild penguins instead.
- 5) Go to a live salmon fishery.

With a few souvenirs, I boarded the plane home. Hopefully, I'll walk these shores again. At least I have one excuse: I did not finish this list.

Maybe, I'll visit New Zealand in the future? Only time will tell.

## Jeffrey's Travel Tidbits

### Hoover Dam

by Jeffrey Lu

As I write this, the new bridge over the Hoover Dam will be built. The bridge named over the Arizona side will be called the Pat Tillman Bridge.

Since 9/11, the security for this place has increased. The tours are more restricted. There are state checkpoint for each car, each way. Every vehicle besides a semi-truck must roll down its windows for inspection. No big deal.

Yet, I was able to be there. I wanted to be there due to the fact that I have not been at a dam tour for at least over thirty years. I wanted to see any changes and note any new observations.

There were.

First, I didn't know that the dam was one of the seven wonders of the modern world. Second, I didn't know that this dam was worth \$165 million dollars. It already has paid it back through electric power alone. Third, I did not know that this area had major floods before this project was built. Last, this government dam project was finished under budget. I was amazed at this engineering feat.

After the tour, I walked around the memorials. Some were dedicated to the workers who died in making this project possible.

Later, I went to the gift shop. I picked up a Hoover Dam 75th anniversary coin and a refrigerator magnet. Cool.

In reflection, I am glad I had a chance to see this. Now, I hope to see the other six modern wonders. We'll see.

## Walking Through The Atomic Testing Museum, Las Vegas Style

by Jeffrey Lu

I knew this was a gamble. I have seen this brochure at a Burger King restaurant and thought about going.

So, I went.

I did not expect much. Instead, I thought this would be boring.

It was anything but. I was amazed at the information, the artifacts and the movies in this brief history of atomic testing. What impressed me most was a nuclear rocket that was made in the late 1960s. This was supposed to have been used for a trip to Mars in maybe early 1970s. Budget cuts killed this project.

As I further walked in, I felt I was like I was in the Twilight Zone and/or X-files. I found out how area in Area 51 came about. The "area" was first to describe where new atomic bombs tested. For example: in around 1950s, there was experimental cannon that shot an atomic bomb into one of those areas, miles away. Scary stuff. Yet, vital to see this was possible.

What was also cool was finding out there are volunteer response teams from all over the world come, every year, in the Nevada desert to practice in dealing with nuclear mock disasters. Wow.

Some hands-on exhibits were amazing. One was seeing a film of a controlled nuclear explosion, underground. I thought at first this was an earthquake as the picture shake from side-to-side. Another one had a computer game about different types of radioactive waste and how to dispose it. Next, there was a mock red button. There was a sign about what happens when one touches it- what the power of the nuclear bomb and its aftereffects. Humbling.

In the last exhibit, I saw an I-beam from the Twin Towers. This was on loan at the time. This was also the only exhibit that allowed photography.

Overall, impressive. Definitely got my money's worth.

Atomic Testing Museum at 755 East Flamingo Rd., Las Vegas, NV. (atomictestingmuseum.org) Admission Prices: Adults \$12, Nevada Residents/Seniors (65+)/Students (with ID),

Youth (7-17), Military (with ID) \$9, Children (6 & under)/NTSHF Members FREE. Hours: Monday-Saturday 10am-5pm, Sunday 12pm-5pm, Admission booth closes at 4:30 pm daily. Closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Years Day. This museum is affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution.

## SpaceQuest Bar at Las Vegas Hilton- Last Call at a Bar No More

by Jeffrey Lu.

"Set in the 24th century, the SpaceQuest Bar features an out-of-

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this-world experience. Enjoy the latest and best video poker while sipping on your favorite cocktail along the sleek, elevated bar. Giant space screens feature contemporary videos and today's hottest music, overlooking the 20,000 square foot SpaceQuest Casino." (<http://www.lvihilton.com/Eat/Bars-Lounges>).

This bar and casino used to be next to Star Trek: The Experience. The entrance to the theme park is blocked now with Hilton ads. Last year, there were post-it notes with complaints about bringing this place back. Now, there was only a single poster with a marker. It is signed, scribbled, and singled out as the last words of goodbye. In a few days, the one last sci-fi themed Las Vegas bar and casino will be going out of business.

The SpaceQuest bar was closing after the last Creation Star Trek convention. There were drink specials that were once on the menu of Quark's Bar within the Star Trek: Experience. Yet, the casino outside once prospered until the demise of the special theme park. This area is like a ghost town. Creation Star Trek yearly conventions are now at another hotel.

So, I ordered a Saurian brandy and toasted a place that will be but a distant memory. Sad but I'll remember. Cheers!



# Videophile

**Planet Hulk**  
**Starring: Kevin Michael Richardson, Mark Hildreth**  
**Directed by Jamie Simone**  
**Running time: 82 minutes**  
**Rating: Unrated**  
**DVD: \$14.99**  
**Reviewed by Randall Whitlock**

I had a free online movie rental coming from Amazon.com, so I checked out the Lionsgate animated feature *Planet Hulk*.

It seems that all this Hulk smash! stuff has finally gotten to be too much, so Iron Man and other heroes have packed the big green guy onto a robot spacecraft and shot him off to a quiet planet where he can't hurt anyone. Unfortunately, the ship has gone off course and crashed on another planet. It's the same planet where every pulp hero winds up -- the one where all the technology belongs to the tyrant's city dwellers and everyone else wanders the desert fighting with swords. I don't remember its proper name, so let's call it "Barsoomongor." Naturally the Hulkster winds up as a gladiator alongside the ragtag band of rebel heroes.

Not too original, but somehow the film still works. The animation is crisp and smooth, the landscapes, monsters and aliens well designed, the cast flawless, the action sequences fast and PG-13 gory, and the storytelling well paced. For all the Dejah Thoris -vu, I had a great time.

# MangaZone

**Dark Entries- A John Constantine Novel**  
**by Ian Rankin**  
**Art by Werther Dell'edera**  
**Vertigo Crime, \$19.99, 214 pp**

"Haunted Mansion" is a reality show that is now the biggest ratings on TV. Yet, the producers are concerned. There is some stuff that they have not expected. Something sinister. Something not natural by technology. Enter occult detective John Constantine to solve the mystery why there are some supernatural stuff happening to the contestants. But John will find something more than what he bargained for.

Dark. A few swearings. A few surprises. A good detective horror story. Recommended to noir mystery manga/graphic readers and/or horror fans. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

**The Chill**  
**by Jason Starr**  
**Art by Mick Bertilorenzi**  
**Vertigo Crime, \$19.99, 188 pp**

Dead male bodies are appearing in New York during summer. There seems to be a serial killer. What is strange is that "the chill" are what the bodies are found-frozen. Only an Irish Boston cop named Martin Cleary may help this case. But will the NYPD believe him in time?

Bleak. Noir. Sex, swearings, and killings. Great story. Good information concerning a Celtic myth. Surprise ending. Recommended to dark mystery manga/graphic novel readers. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

**Hellboy Volume 10: The Crooked Man and Others**  
**by Mike Mignola**  
**Art by Richard Corben, Duncan Fegredo, and John Dysart**  
**Dark Horse Books, \$17.99**

In this book, there are four Hellboy stories. One of them is an Appalachian

folktale with a devil. Another is a story about someone finding Blackbeard's lost head. Next, a strange story about an artist and his artwork. Last, a tale of Hellboy's mole. Included are the introduction from Gahan Wilson, artists' comments on their sketchbook, and the John Pelan's essay on Manly Wade Wellman.

This is volume 10 of the series. All of these short stories are dark. Loved it. Recommended to Hellboy fans and dark horror manga/graphic novel readers. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

**Megatokyo Vol. 6**  
**by Fred Gallagher**  
**DC comics, \$10.99, 268 pp**

This graphic novel is a continuing story of an online strip. This tale is about two fanboys- Piro and Largo- stuck in Tokyo. In this book, Piro is helping a new idol lady friend named Kimiko. Yet, Largo will be making his life complex with assistance from other women- a magic girl, an ex-idol, a robotic named PING, and a past "evil" magic girl. Good stuff. Also have references to game zombies and believe it or not, Godzilla...

This is number six of the series. Suggestion- need to read number one to five in order to understand what is going on. This can be all read online- (www.megatokyo.com).

Overall, enjoyable. Interesting story arcs. Clean generally. Recommended to manga readers. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

**The Mice Templar: Destiny Part One**  
**by Byron J.L. Glass and Michael Avon Oeming**  
**Image Comics, \$29.99, 205 pp**

Karic is a young mouse who has been just recently knighted as a Templar. He is being trained by Cassius to know the duties of a protector of their realm. Little will both know that their destiny will be more than a teacher and study. The past of Cassius comes back with a vengeance.

This is the 2nd part of the series. Lot of fighting. Graphic. Good insights from past fantasy classics in making this story possible. Recommended to dark fantasy readers. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

## In Our Book

**The Unincorporated War**  
**by Dani & Eytan Kollin**  
**Tor, \$25.99, 462 pp**

If I were just a bit superstitious I'd think these boys were channeling Robert Heinlein. They seem to have the same attitudes about politics and religion as Heinlein and those attitudes drive most of the plot. I enjoyed the first book (their first!) and *really* enjoyed this one.

I reviewed the first book, *The Unincorporated Man*, in a previous issue; but, just to recap: Justin Cord, from the 21<sup>st</sup> century, was cryogenically suspended and awakened into a world with no abject poverty, no unemployment, no hunger. Everyone is taken care of because someone, somewhere, owns a piece of them -- Incorporation. This, of course, is contrary to Justin's most fundamental belief in freedom. And this, of course, leads to war. On one side is Justin's Alliance -- formed from those hardy individuals who live off-Earth and tend to be more susceptible to the ideal of freedom. On the other are, of course, the big corporations on Earth and one man who wants to rule everyone, with any means possible.

Justin continues to think he owns the moral high ground as do all of his adherents. Those who support Incorporation believe the same -- they are fighting to maintain their way of life. The authors have a fine line to balance upon. They start off trying to be fair

about Incorporation but their intent is to make you believe freedom is worth any price. They even take our hero's wife and put her into the position of defending Incorporation because she believes too many lives will be lost if the Alliance wins. But, in order to truly characterize the Corporation as evil, her beliefs come from some good old-fashioned brainwashing. This has the effect of hardening the hearts of the Alliance and pushing them to also believe the ends justify the means. Justin has to work hard to maintain goodness amongst the millions of lives lost in a long war. This makes for some really great drama.

Sometimes the most interesting plots are actually two or more stories that run in tandem until the end. So, the other side of this tale is all about the AIs who live in the cyberspace of the humans' pocket computers. Their struggle mirrors what happens in the real world. I couldn't really decide which battle was uglier. And the battles -- I don't care a lot for military SF but the boys didn't overwhelm the story with too much battlefield detail. It was enough to make the story move but not too much to make me skip pages.

Their writing is so mature; it's amazing to consider this is only their second novel. One of these days, I'll have to ask them what they cut their teeth on. The plot is first rate, the characters are very good and the storytelling was great. My only complaint for this book -- I *hate* cliffhangers! And I have to wait -- what? another year??? ~ **Catherine Book.**

**Blood Law**  
**by Jeannie Holmes**  
**Dell Books; \$7.99; 387pp**

Ms. Holmes has set her novel in a small Mississippi town called Jefferson with a whole passel of vampires (and their detractors) running amok. Vampires who have gone public with their existence. And humanity is a bit uneasy about the whole thing. Hm. Sound a 'bite' familiar?

But luckily for us---not *too* familiar. The heroine, Alexandra Sabian, very kick-ass and an Enforcer of the Federal Bureau of Preternatural Investigations (FBPI), is knee deep in the serial murders of vampires in Jefferson. Currently a resident of the town, she gets along with the local populace and the police pretty well---but the local sheriff---not so much. Alexandra doesn't have much of a personal life in these pages---though she is a cat lover. She has a Maine Coon named Dweezil that's her bud. We do learn quite a bit about her past. But this tale is mostly her dealing with the ugliness and murders at hand. So there's a lot more 'CSI' than "True Blood" to this tale. And lots of nasty scenes with decapitated corpses.

So, who's killing the vampires of Jefferson, Mississippi? Is it the fundamentalists who think vampires are the spawn of the devil? Is it just one disgruntled human with a really twisted agenda? Could it be the sheriff himself who's made it very publically clear he thinks vampires are scum? Or even other vampires?

Alexandra has a full work load here. But she does get the help of another vampire Enforcer with the FBPI---Varik Beaudelaire, a real hottie who drives a black Corvette. His description reads very much like Tom Cruise in "Interview with a Vampire"---or maybe Antonio Banderas. He and Alexandra have quite some history---they were engaged six years ago---but now, it's all they can do to just snipe at each other. However, as the corpses pile up they realize they are on the same path to justice.

Amidst the escalating violence, the situation becomes much more personal for Alexandra when a member of her family is kidnapped.

Holmes writes very briskly and non-nonsense. The plot moves along at a fast clip and here's tons of action. There's even a loose thread or two at the end for the next book to come "Blood Secrets." ~ **Sue Martin**

**Null-A Continuum**  
**by John C. Wright**  
**Tor Books, \$7.99, 424 pp**

**DISTILLED ESSENCE OF A.E. VAN VOGT:** Van Vogt is a hard act to follow. His style was to write in 800-word chunks and then have something seriously change, to keep it interesting. He did this in the good old days when novels were only 140 pages or so long. Wright has successfully copied this style for a novel three times that long, and the effect is dizzying. Do not even try to figure out what will happen next; you can't, but it always seems to fit into an actual plot design, in this the fourth (or third) novel about the Null-A man with two (or three) brains, Gilbert Gosseyn (sounds like go-sane).

What I didn't like in the third novel has become the main feature of Wright's: Gosseyn's new-found ability to teleport himself or other objects. What is nice is that this doesn't make him invulnerable. Wright even kills him a couple times, but if you read Van Vogt's trilogy you know that upon death Gosseyn's mind reawakens in cloned bodies. Wright has expanded the scale of conflict. Whereas Van Vogt used interplanetary wars to illustrate principles of Non-Aristotelian (Null-A) General Semantics, Wright has a black cloud eating entire galaxies, guided by an evil entity. That entity uses Enro, a villain from Van Vogt's third novel.

Wright doesn't stop at using just the Null-A books, though. Similar to Asimov's and Heinlein's last works which wrapped all their stories together, Wright amalgamates Van Vogt's other stories into this universe, albeit in brief passing remarks. We hear of Ptath, Nexialism, the Violent Man Syndrome, the Man With 1,000 Names, No-Men, and doubtless others I didn't recognize. True to form, each chapter starts with a quote from Alfred Korzybski (uncited) about General Semantics. He was the founder in the 1930s of this mental discipline to analyze language use and try to make human thought more sane. His Institute of General Semantics still exists, and its journal *ETC* is still in print. You may not have heard of it, but it has had a little success in the general culture. Its most famous quote has been widely adopted: "The map is not the territory." That begins Chapter One in this novel, and perhaps that's the principle most clearly illustrated in Wright's tale. Always - every 800 words or so -- just when Gosseyn thinks he has things figured out, he learns that he doesn't. I bet Van Vogt would have added a bit more commentary to the nonstop action in this tale, but he's gone and now we have a very strong dose of his style. Enjoy it, and then go read the rest of Van Vogt's stories. ~ **M.L. Fringe**

**The Chamber of Ten**  
**by Christopher Golden & Tim Lebbon**  
**Ballantine Books, \$7.99, 369 pp**

Another fun and successful collaboration. This is part of a series called *The Hidden Cities*. What this series has in common is simply the theme. No location or character continues from the previous two books. The theme is, apparently, what goes on in a city just below the day-to-day life -- in the underground or the heart of a city. This is dark fantasy. And, this time, the city of choice is Venice.

Our protagonists are an archaeologist, Geena, and one of her students, Nico, -- with whom she happens to be in love. And with whom she shares thoughts, literally. One day her team uncovers a hidden library of great significance but as they explore it, they discover an even more hidden room below the library. And this room had great political and historical significance to the city of Venice. This room was where the Council of Ten met; the ten men who truly ruled the old Venice. The ten men who decided who would be Doge and who would not. And they were led by one formidable magician

(Cont'd on page 13 )



## In Our Book

( Cont'd from page 12 )

who had been their leader for several hundred years. The question that Nico has to decide, once he's been possessed by the dead magician, is whether he is evil or not. It's rather important to Geena, as well, because she's sharing the thoughts and memories of both men now. And the magician's thoughts are anything but nice.

It's a bit confusing as the magician runs Nico all over the city gathering up ingredients for a spell, attacking Geena, while being just as arrogant and ruthless as he was when he was alive. But after a time, Nico begins to believe the magician's goal will be critical to the survival and future of the wonderful old city. Geena is less sure that the magician's motives are pure; she worries that the old spirit won't want to give up the fresh body he now inhabits. This is not a story for the squeamish, lots of blood...

This was a great plot! I loved the main characters, I loved the plot, I loved the story. Oh...did I say I loved this book? There was some small sacrifice in the supporting characters who were relegated to the wings. But the writing is so good and this collaboration is seamless. And what a great ending. I so look forward to the next city these guys visit. — **Catherine Book.**

**Dracula in Love**  
by Karen Essex  
Doubleday, \$25.95, 368 pp

*Everyone has a secret life. Perhaps yours is merely a gossamer web of thoughts and fantasies woven in the hidden furrows of your mind. Or furtive deeds ... that, if revealed, would change how you are perceived.*

So begins *Dracula in Love*.

If the name Karen Essex sounds familiar, it's because she is the author *Leonardo's Swans* and *Stealing Athena*, among others. She is respected for the wealth and accuracy of detail invested in her historical fiction, and, it turns out, she has the intuitive gift that augments research so that her fiction is closer to truth.

Here is the Bram Stoker story that Started It All, all the current and lucrative fascination with vampires, whether they be menacing or sexy, humorous or sparkly. But now we get the low-down from Mina Murray Harker herself, narrator, witness, and participant in the events described so luridly by the red-haired author who not only Started It All, but Got It Wrong in certain essential details. She is writing to correct his errors in apprehension and omission, and to provide the ladies' perspective. And what a perspective it is, from the Irish orphan who walks in her sleep, and sometimes hears the thoughts of others, or sees what is invisible to others.

One character Stoker completely missed observing was Kate Reed, Mina's best friend after the blonde, beautiful heiress Lucy Westenra. The three main females, Mina, Lucy, and Kate, exist in an intricate counterpoint to each other, and disrupt any banal tendency to binary analysis. Stoker was too busy posing women on pedestals or casting them as diabolic temptresses to reckon the emergence of women like Mina's friend. Kate is a journalist; she smokes and drinks and attends meetings of The Fabian Society, the progressive socialist circle started by George Bernard Shaw and E. Nesbit. Kate's great ambition is to get published in *The Woman's World*, the magazine edited by Oscar Wilde. Her hobby is to expose frauds and charlatans. On one such foray, however, a photograph is taken of Mina with the spectral image of the count behind her, with fatal consequences.

The true horror described in this novel is not the horror of seduction and the sin of lust — although both of these are present as very real and terrible threats — but the horror of arrogance and the sin of pride. Drs. Helsing and Seward

wish to eugenically improve the human race by strengthening women with the nobler blood of men via transfusions. They assign diagnoses of nymphomania to young, beautiful women and then supervise treatments at their asylum for the insane. Not knowing this, Mina ignores the warning and offer of safety the count makes, and delivers herself into the hands of tormentors while seeking help for Jonathan Harker.

The writing is exquisite. There is an entirely apposite reference to Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and a sly poke at George Sand. One nice element of suspense is that the count goes unnamed until page 266, when he begins to unfold the tale of "this particular life trajectory" to a listening Mina. There are wonderful remarks like "Though you were not, by any means, defenseless, you believed you were. It amounts to the same thing." or "Out of the *discomfort* of silence, the most interesting *information* is revealed." But the writing is not epigrammatic; it is smooth and rich and full of ideas. I hope that this book becomes an essential companion-piece alongside Bram Stoker's original in every household that treasures the latter.

— **Chris Paige**

**Tir Na n'Og**  
**Marni L.B. Troop**  
Red Frog Publishing, \$10.00, 186 pp

This is the story of the elves in Ireland and about why and how they went into the eternal twilight. It is told from the point of view of a girl just becoming a woman and as such is slightly colored by her perceptions. The book is called a journal and is just the first of several.

The story has been told before but not with the same verve. I found the characters engaging, the dialogue mostly believable, and the descriptions of the land wonderful. The book could have used a good proof-reader, there were several points where the words were spelled correctly but obviously not the word the author wanted used.

I am looking forward to the next journal.

4 out of 5 stars ~ **Bob LaPierre**

**Cthulhu's Reign**  
Edited By Darrell Schweitzer  
DAW, \$7.99, 308 pp

This themed anthology of new stories is particularly seminal. Although it includes creatures added by later authors, its tone is entirely that of the universe as H.P. Lovecraft saw it. Man is an insignificant blob barely noticed by the ancient and alien visitors from another dimension. We are helpless before them. We are a not too important snack.

The stories are set in the immediate aftermath of the triumph of Cthulhu and his associates. They follow various people and observe how they face their doom. The stories feature people from all walks of life: a farmer and his family, a theologian, a bus load of tourists, a Japanese billionaire, a Remote Viewer for a U.S. Government agency, two H.P. Lovecraft fans, a woman berthing a monster etc.

In Jay Lake's story, *Such Bright and Risen Madness in Our Names*, the omniscient narrator observes "All that saves us now is inattention." They are too insignificant to notice so they survive for a while.

Several authors contributing to this anthology are better known for their Science Fiction; namely Ian Watson, Jay Lake, Brian Stableford and Richard A. Lupoff. Darrell also contributed a story. Ten other authors wrote stories.

I recommend this book highly. Kudos to Darrell for bringing this interesting project to fruition. ~ **Gary L Swaty**

**Shades of Milk and Honey**  
by Mary Robinette Kowal  
TOR Books, 304pp, \$24.99

This is a novel that burns a candelabrum to the delicate Regency

novels of Jane Austen. It is a *very* refined novel. Very much in Ms. Austen's style—including using "shew" instead of "show" and "chuse" instead of "choose."

This is a homage to the nth degree. Even more so than the other Austen homages I have read: "Pemberley" by Emma Tennant, the wildly erotic novels of Linda Berdoll and the delightful tales of Mr. Darcy's daughters by Elizabeth Aston. So, if you love Jane Austen and are very conversant with her style; you will quite enjoy this novel.

It is set in the English countryside and deals with the loves of two sisters Jane and Melody Ellsworth. There are the ever-so-correct Mr. Dunkirk and his sister Beth living nearby; the odd and brooding Mr. Vincent, a glamourist who is doing a "glamural" for the rigidly correct Viscountess Lady FitzCameron. The viscountess's nephew, the dashing Captain Livingston, is also in the neighborhood.

Being a glamourist is the fantasy element in this novel. Both Jane and Mr. Vincent are proficient at a talent of weaving strands of the "ether" into glorious pictures that are like moving *tableaus vivants*. They can be added to things to perfect their rough edges. They can cover a normal dining room so the diner (in a specific instance) can not only see a forest glade but feel breezes, see the branches bend and smell the faint smell of honeysuckle. Though it uses quite a bit of energy over the long run, most people in this alternate Regency era have the ability to weave glamour, if nothing more than to hide a pair of overly protuberant teeth or make a nose a bit more pleasing.

Jane and Mr. Vincent have quite extraordinary gifts, though Jane needs the refining fire of passion to get to the heart of hers.

The problem for me with this novel is perhaps it is *too* delicate and refined. Not much happens in the first half of the book save Jane is always fixing situations emotional and otherwise for her prettier, younger, sillier sister and her terribly

hypochondriac mother. Jane's female relatives remind me of Mrs. Bennet and Elizabeth Bennet's youngest sister, Lydia. But since Ms. Kowal did not create the Bennets, the insubstantial antics of her Ellsworth family are more annoying than entertaining.

Perhaps this novel was too much of a homage and though gently spiced and taken out of the norm of Regency novels with the existence of weaving glammers, the shades of milk and honey are too close in flavor and color and the tale is not robust enough. As I read it, I kept waiting for something more to happen or for the characters to break out of their so very restrained behavior. The novel is an endless procession of Jane visiting people and then returning home to deal with Melody's tantrums or her mother's dithering hysterics. Finally, events escalate, but not until the last fifty pages or so of the novel.

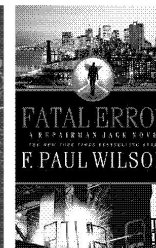
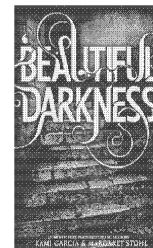
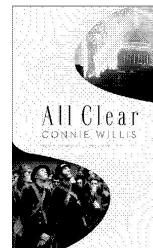
If Ms. Kowal writes another novel to glorify Ms. Austen, I hope she creates characters that are less slavish examples of specific people in Jane Austen's world and more flavorful creatures of Kowal's own imagination.

(And though I know it helps in marketing---but how remarkable that the cover of this novel is very much like the hardcover edition of Jon Spence's biography "Becoming Jane Austen.") ~ **Sue Martin**

**Robert A. Heinlein**  
**In Dialogue with His Century**  
**The Authorized Biography**  
**Volume One: Learning Curve 1907-1948**  
by William H. Patterson Jr.  
Tor, \$29.99, 633 pp

This volume takes us from the humble beginnings to his marriage in 1948 to Virginia (Ginny) Gerstenfeld. We see many of the early influences on his life and writing. Included in this is the doctor

(Cont'd on page 14 )



**Oct 13 - F. Paul Wilson signs *Fatal Error***  
7 pm at the Poisoned Pen

**Oct 14 - Margaret Stohl & Kami Garcia sign *Beautiful Darkness***  
4 pm at the Poisoned Pen

**Oct 24 - Larry Correia signs *Monster Hunter: Vendetta***  
2 pm at the Poisoned Pen

**Oct 29 - Connie Willis signs *Blackout* and *All Clear***  
hosted by Laurie R. King  
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In Our Book

(Cont'd from page 13 )  
that became the basis for Lazarus Long's grandfather.

I am not particularly fond of biographies, and this one has an obscene amount of notes and it takes over 100 pages of the book. My personal preference is for the notes to be on the same page they are referenced on; the constant back and forth makes the reading difficult. Compounding this is the fact that the numbering begins anew with each chapter and if you hit the wrong chapter in the index you are left totally clueless.

The information is cool but very dry and lackluster. Not a fitting tribute to a man who wrote as beautifully as R.A.H. Moderately recommended for fans of RAH who want to know how he became the greatest writer of his time. ~ Bob LaPierre

Kings of the North  
by Cecelia Holland  
Tor Forge, \$27.99, 416 pp

This novel, a sequel to *The High City*, is a historical romance with powerful supernatural intrusions, telling the adventures of Raef of Jorvik (York), Leif of Iceland, the noble Aethelstan, and a young Knut (Canute), son of Sweyn Forkbeard the king of Denmark, during the worst years of the reign of Ethelred the Redeless (i.e., clueless) up to his death in 1016. Ethelred the Disastrous would have been a more fitting epithet, but the British have long favored understatement. This was the sorry excuse for a king who paid ineffectual Dane-geld, who allowed England to be plundered and burned, who instigated a massacre on Saint Brice's Day, and who married a French princess, setting in motion the Norman invasion and centuries of British-French hostilities. Basically, a Bush without a two-term limit. But the focus is one the heroic men and women who try to form true alliances and make an England that can be a home and a haven.

The author admits to taking liberties with the history, and is careful to set the record straight in her Afterward. This is a good one for the SCA literary circle, and would actually make for a fantastic LRPg. ~ Chris Paige

The Sleeping Beauty  
by Mercedes Lackey  
Luna Books, \$24.95, 345 pp

I just love this series – The Five Hundred Kingdoms. They are charming retakes on familiar, and not so familiar, fairy tales. In this world, Tradition is a magical force that often drives people's lives whether they will or no. For example, if you are born with milk-white skin, ebony hair and lips red as cherries then you'll probably be a Snow White. Or, you might be the youngest son of a King and destined to be a Hero who rescues the Princess in the tower – no matter that you really don't want to marry a Princess. The trick is to maneuver the Tradition in the direction you'd rather go and that takes some finagling. And the only ones trained to manipulate the Tradition are the Fairy Godmothers. All of the books in the series have a Godmother who has some problems or issues that take all her imagination and usually a good dollop of humor.

This particular one, as you can tell by the title, is about a Sleeping Beauty; or, rather, a woman who doesn't want to be a sleeping beauty. But her story gets a bit twisted when she's kidnapped by seven brutish cruel little dwarves. It's also about a Hero who is supposed to waken a sleeping Shield Maiden in a burning circle. The poor man knows how the story ends (*badly*) so he spends his life traveling and avoiding all sleeping maidens in burning circles. Our heroine, Rosamund, has an evil stepmother, of course, but she isn't what she seems to be.

Rosamund and her 'evil' stepmother have to defend their rich, but small, kingdom when Rosa's father dies. And

their solution is nothing short of ingenious and devious. Our Hero, Siegfried, who knows he's smarter than he looks is really smarter than he knows. But just because he's a Hero doesn't mean he necessarily gets the Princess. It seems pretty certain that a true Prince who is everything a Prince should be – cultured, sophisticated, handsome – is the one who will undoubtedly get the Princess; although she's not too terribly impressed with him. But *everything* depends on how well the Godmother can nudge the Tradition without the whole mess blowing up in her face. And there is still the little problem of her magic mirror...

This story is like candy – sweet and eaten fast. The plot is clever but not unduly complicated. The characters are fully realized and the pacing fast. A thoroughly enjoyable story; real storytelling. ~ Catherine Book.

The Sword of the Dawn  
by Michael Moorcock  
Tor, \$14.99; 222 pp.

This is a trade paperback re-issue of the third book in the Dorian Hawkmoon saga. The story is unchanged but there is wonderful new artwork from Vance Kovaks.

The story follows Hawkmoon as he attempts to find the Sword of the Dawn a legendary blade that allows the possessor to summon a legion of warriors to battle their enemies. He brings along D'Averc to assist him and they travel across planes to reach the sword.

The story is very intricate and was one of the best examples of blending science fiction with fantasy.

Highly recommended. ~ Bob LaPierre

As Lie the Dead  
by Kelly Meding  
Dell Books, \$7.99, 423 pp

This is a sequel, but don't let that stop you from picking it up if you like taut urban fantasy with lots of street-fighting. It begins with the survivors of the violent showdown of *Three Days Dead* cleaning up the unholy mess – take that literally, as a demon was involved, not to mention goblins and lots of half-vampires – left in the wake of a Pyrrhic victory. At some point previous in time, a rift occurred between the worlds and magic entered ours, but most humans do not realize this, and those that do wish to keep supernatural intrusions to a minimum. An alliance between the fey elite and the knowing mortals tries to keep a lid on things, and for years it's been pretty much a matter of Handlers training up Hunters to police the streets and kill Dregs who prey on humans. Then things began getting weird.

Four years ago, Evy Stone was a freshly trained Hunter, assigned to a Triad – a team of three Hunters – as replacement for the Hunter Cole, killed in action and sorely missed by his team-mates. Now she inhabits a new body, her memories, talents, and loyalties a mixture of her own and of Chalice Frost, whose body she magically and unprecedentedly inherited when both young women died. As Evy assesses the carnage, causalities, and consequences of this most recent battle with Dregs, she realizes that something is still missing – like an explanation for the thoroughness of the uprising. Goblins and Halfies have never been this organized before.

All Evy wants is a bath and some down-time, but that's not about to happen.

One way or another, Evy has a lot of blood on her hands, and when a shifter offers her a chance to save the lives of the last few members of his kind, Evy knows they wouldn't *be* the last of their kind if not for her. Compelled by a sense of honor, she agrees; but she has to renegotiate the terms of her promise when the shifter clans demand a blood-price for the lives lost, and the price is one of her fellow Hunters. Evy commits herself to bring responsibility home

to the ones who distance themselves from all consequences of their policies and commands, the ones with plausible deniability and comfortable offices, *and* to ferret out the mastermind behind the Dregs' newfound sense of purpose.

By page 130, I was disturbed by the whole "us versus them" tone of the book. Wasn't this one more instance of positing the Other as enemy, just using the supernatural as a way to define the Other as wholly bad? Here the Other are called Dregs, and the goblins and Halfies are presented as utterly disgusting and dangerous; but shifters are also called Dregs, at least when humans talk among themselves. Was I the only reader profoundly bothered by this, or by how the protagonist tortures a Halfie for information? Was the all too human tendency to force Otherness upon others a factor or a meta-factor in shaping the plot? The ghosts of millions of people, targeted and slain for their Otherness, shuddered beside me as I read, and I thought of all the millions of people living now under the shadow of some stigma and a rude, dehumanizing label.

And then, a shift ... happened, and I gradually identified the story behind the story. There's even a clue: one of the characters is named Tybalt. The theme of star-crossed lovers manifests on several levels: there's Evy's dual-role relationship with her Handler, Wyatt Truman, and a tragic back-story involving a human and a shifter. But as the players move and shift across the stage, a deeper story behind the story is slowly revealed. It's the one memorialized by Walt Kelly: "We have seen the enemy ... and he is us."

Meding is a *pucca* writer, with clear prose, sharp dialogue, the technique of concealing and then slowly revealing her intent comparable to LeGuin's presentation in *The Left Hand of Darkness*, and a nice employment of foreshadowing. ~ Chris Paige

The Stainless Steel Rat Returns  
by Harry Harrison  
Tor, \$24.99, 304 pp

Jim DiGriz is back, doing what he does best, surviving and confounding the opposition. A visitor from his past brings him a new way to spend his wealth and disrupt his relaxation on Moolaplenty.

Jim's cousin Elmo shows up with all of his relatives and a whole passel of porcuswine (sort of a cross between a pig and a porcupine). They had to leave the homestead and were taken by a dishonest captain, who is holding them hostage against recovering his charges.

As usual the adventure is in what he does to make things right. He agrees to take the herders to a planet where they can raise their porcuswine and make enough to live on. They have sabotage on the ships systems, missiles fired by a hostile planetary government, and a war on pink skins on another planet. In short a typical Stainless Steel Rat trip.

Very highly recommended. ~ Bob LaPierre

Rides a Dread Legion  
by Raymond E. Feist  
Eos, \$7.99, 402 pp

So begins book one of *The Demonwar Saga*.

A universe long imperiled is now facing grave catastrophe. Midkemia has been finding demons appearing and the long-gone Clan of the seven Stars is coming back with demons at their heels and believing all other races are subservient. The magician, Pug, knows what horrors will follow the elfen invasion unless he can get everyone to fight together. The demons are coming through the rift. The alternative is the annihilations of every living thing.

Here we have an episodic action fantasy that always pulls together foes, and fast-paced action. The characters,

(Cont'd on page 15 )

**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**

**Music Guest: Seanan McGuire**

**Confirmed Participants include Emma Bull, Sarah Clemens, Gilead, Larry Hammer, Ellen Klages, Gini Koch, Will Shetterly, Janni Lee Simner, Michael A. Stackpole, Sam Sykes, Ian Tregillis, John Vornholt & more.**

**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, expanded 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.

<b>Membership Rates</b>	<b>Tempe Mission Palms Hotel</b>
<b>\$30 thru 10/31/10,</b>	<b>60 E. Fifth St., Tempe, Arizona</b>
<b>\$35 thru 12/31/10, more later</b>	<b>Room Rates: \$109.00 per night</b>
<small>Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under Free*</small>	<small>S/D/T/Q + tax (including hospitality fee)</small>
<small>*with Adult Membership</small>	<small>Call 800-547-8705 or 480-894-1400</small>

**LepreCon 37 Contact Information**

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

**Phone: (480) 945-6890**

**Email: lep37@leprecon.org**



## In Our Book (Cont'd from page 14 )

even the anti-hero, are engrossing. Pug, the unassuming savior is fascinating as well as the con man magician, the warriors, and even the minor ones are fun. This is a keeper that you'll enjoy as it progresses through the series. Enjoy! ~ **Pam Allan**

### Game of Cages by Harry Connolly Ballantine Books, \$7.99, 338 pp

This is the second book in the "Twenty Palaces" series.

Ray Lilly, a wooden man in the Twenty Palaces society, has been wondering if he has been forgotten by the society. It has been six months since Hammer Bay and he is worried/happy he has been left alone. Along comes Catherine with an assignment for him, help her investigate an auction of an unknown predator.

They go to the into the Cascades to find a quaint little town preparing for its Christmas festival all the while a predator called the sapphire dog is slowly subverting the wills of their fellow citizens. There is enough death for three books, enough magic for an epic saga, and enough one liners for a couple of Die Hard movies. We learn more about the society and how outsiders view it as well as more about how magic works and how spells have generations. The story is fairly straightforward, the characters well-written, the magic very consistent.

Recommended ~ **Bob LaPierre**

### Night of the Living Trekkies by Kevin David Anderson and Sam Stall Quirk Books, \$14.95, 253 pp

This story is a cross between "Night of the Living Dead" and a Star Trek convention. Enough said.

Overall, this book was amusing. Enjoyable. Even though I've been through a lot of Star Trek conventions, I saw flaws with zombies going through Houston in August. Why? One, there is a bigger convention in the southwest at that time. Yet, the book is accurate in the Star Trek universe. Recommended to Star Trek horror fans and readers who love zombies. ~ **Jeffrey Lu**

### Stars and Gods Larry Niven Tor, \$25.99, 366 pp

This is basically a collection of "chap-books". It is broken up into nine main sections. The second and largest section is short stories. All of this is from the last six or so years, since the publication of Scatterbrain.

The excerpts in the first chapter are from books he wrote alone, there are four chapters on collaborations. He writes in his introduction that writing isn't becoming any easier but he is producing more quickly. He attributes that to the collaborations. I think his writing has become more accepted by the mainstream public and so will be in print for many years to come.

Choosing a favorite chapter or non-fiction piece is almost impossible, but I do have favorites among the shorts. I recommend "Fly-by-Night," a Beowulf Shaeffer story; "The Hunting Party," a white hunter story; and "The Gatherer's Guild," a story of tax men run amuck.

The worst thing about this volume is that it will make you want to spend money buying the books from which this all came.

Very Highly Recommended ~ **Bob LaPierre**

## 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](mailto: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](mailto:aerialmirage@gnerds.com)>, 602-955-9446; or Ron Harvey <[rbh1s@yahoo.com](mailto: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](mailto:azlanbashers@earthlink.net) Web: [www.lanparty.com/all/](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:info@casfs.org) Web [www.casfs.org](http://www.casfs.org)

\*\*\*\*\***C.R.O.F.T.** Celtic Reenactment of Fellowship and Trades is a 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:agatheringofplayers@gmail.com)

[www.warhorn.net/gathering](http://www.warhorn.net/gathering), to see what we have coming up. If you have any questions email us at [agatheringofplayers@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:mwillmoth@earthlink.net) Webpage: [www.leprecon.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://www.mvdghostchasers.com) or [Nazanaza@aol.com](mailto:Nazanaza@aol.com)

**ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB** meets last Wednesday of every month (except Dec.) in Fullerton. The meetings are built around guest speakers. We've had authors such as Octavia Butler and Greg Benford. Non-members are welcome. For details of current events and location see our website [www.ocsfc.org](http://www.ocsfc.org) or email [info@ocsfc.org](mailto:info@ocsfc.org)

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

**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](mailto: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

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Club Listings
(Cont'd from page 15)
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](http://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/](http://games.groups.yahoo.com/group/AZ_RPG/) or you can sign up for games at [www.nyrond.org](http://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](mailto:seneschal@atenveldt.com) Web [www.atenveldt.com](http://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](mailto:costumers@casfs.org) or [www.southwestcostumersguild.org](http://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](mailto:Space.Access@Space-Access.org) Web page: [www.space-access.org/](http://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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:them@themonline.org) Web [www.themonline.org](http://www.themonline.org)

**TUCSON FAN ALLIANCE** E-Mail Address is [Bkoehler@Juno.com](mailto:Bkoehler@Juno.com) or [DMitchell1@Juno.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:craig@westernsfa.org) Webpage: [www.westernsfa.org](http://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](mailto:z-philes-subscribe@egroups.com)

CASFS Business Report

July/August

There were no changes to the CASFS Board in the July elections except that Kevin McAlonan has stepped down as Board Chairman. Chairman: Bob LaPierre, Vice Chair: Tina "Nyki" Robertson, Secretary: Mark Boniece, Corporate Treasurer: Stephanie L Bannon, Board Member: Kevin McAlonan, Board Member: Gary Swaty, Board Member: Susan Uttke. Procedural Officers are unchanged. President: Mark Boniece, Vice President: Gary Swaty, Secretary: Gary Swaty, Treasurer: Stephanie L Bannon. Much innovative publicity was developed in the leadup to CopperCon 30. Regular Email Blasts were sent out to the past Convention members. FaceBook and Twitter were used. We had slides on all screens in 10 Harkins Theatres. We were listed on dozens of event listing websites. We also had the usual ad in ConNotations and the two sided color postcards were placed in book stores, gaming stores and various other outlets. The shed keys have been located and distributed to the appropriate people. The coffee pot has been located, was used at CopperCon 30 and is now in the shed.

Convention Listings

**TusCon 37** (November 12-14, 2010) Hotel Tucson City Center, 475 N. Granada, **Tucson, AZ** 85701. Rates \$69 1-room; \$79 2-room suite; \$89 suite with jacuzzi - call 1-877-446-6589 and tell them you're with TusCon to get the low room rates - before October 10 deadline. Guests of Honor Jim Butcher & Shannon K. Butcher; Fan Guests of Honor Bjo & John Trimble; Toastmaster Ed Bryant; Special Guest Noel Neill, the original Lois Lane on TV's Adventures of Superman. Programming includes panel discussions, cosplay, readings, gaming, anime, videos & a lot more. Memberships are \$35 through March 31; \$40 through June 30; \$45 through November 1; & \$40 thereafter and at the door. For further info please see our website <http://tusconscificon.com/>.

**MythosCon** (January 6-9, 2011) **Tempe, AZ** This is a convention honoring H.P. Lovecraft and his works. There are over 60 mythos authors and other professionals participating in programming as well as a hospitality suite, dealer's room, art show, music, video and gaming tracks. Located at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, 60 E. 5th St. Tempe, AZ 85281 - Phone:(800)547-8705 - Web: [www.missionpalms.com](http://www.missionpalms.com) - The hotel's room rate is \$165.95/night (single/double/triple/quad) - Alternate hotels available. Memberships are \$75 until 10/31/2010. Special "minion" rate available for helpers. Don't miss the Cthulhu Prayer Breakfast! Please check the web site at [www.mythoscon.org](http://www.mythoscon.org). Contact us via the web site for more info.

Trivia Answers

1. T-negative  
2. Timothy Dalton  
3. 1957  
4. Stephen King in The Dark Tower IV.  
5. NASA's Kepler space telescope, designed to search for Earth-sized extra-solar planets.  
6. Mister, a large grey tomcat  
7. E.E. Smith  
8. Explorer I in 1958  
9. Mondas  
10. An artificial person

What is CASFS?

What is really behind putting on a convention? What are the funds raised by a convention used for? Why not attend a meeting and find out? We're the sponsor of ConNotations, CopperCons, HexaCons, SmerfCons and other conventions. We are a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to further science fiction, fantasy and science fields in Arizona. CASFS currently meets at the Denny's Restaurant at 2360 W Northern Ave in Phoenix The meetings begin at 8PM and are held on the last Friday of the month Jan. through Sept. and on the second Friday of the month Oct through Dec. Everyone is invited to attend two meetings as a guest (non-member). Membership rates are \$12/year plus an initial \$3 application fee and rates are prorated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info: Webpage: [www.casfs.org](http://www.casfs.org) Email: [info@casfs.org](mailto:info@casfs.org)