

VOTE FOR

TUSCON

35

There can
be only
One!



Mayes
08

A SPECIAL ENERGY PANEL:
Running on Empty?
Energy for the Future

Saturday, November 8 at 11 AM
St. Augustine Room

Dr. Alan Binder
Director of the Lunar Research Institute
Author of "Moon Quake"

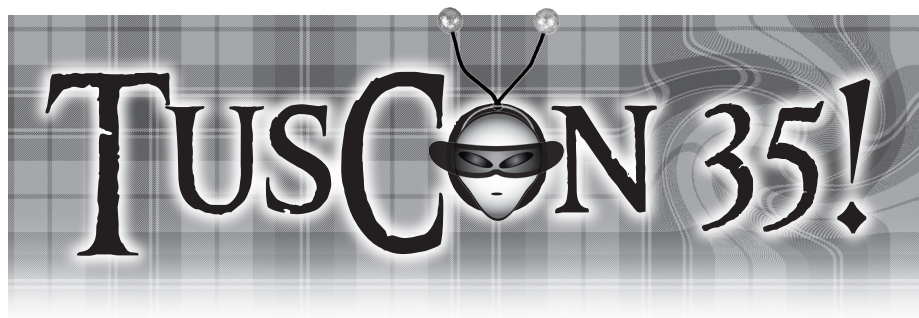
Keith Henson
Electrical Engineer and Writer on Space
Colonization, Cryonics and Memetics
Founding Member of the L5 Society

MODERATED BY
Ben Nault
Tucson L5 Space Society, Moon Society

Robinson Crusoe on Mars
A Classic SciFi Adventure Movie (1964)

DOOR PRIZES!!! FUN FOR ALL!!!
Saturday, November 8 at 8 PM

Sponsored by
TUCSON L5 SPACE SOCIETY
A Chapter of the National Space Society
www.tucsonspacesociety.org



November 7-9, 2008

Guest of Honor

Dianna Gabaldon

Coastmaster

Edward Bryant

Featured Guests and Panelists

Adam Niswander

Dr. Alan Binder

Ben Nault

Brian Gross

Bruce Wiley

Carol DePriest

Catherine Wells

David Brown

David Foster

David Lee Summers

Dave Qualls

Deb Dedon

Denise Agnew

Dennis McKiernan

Earl Billick

Elaine Charton

Emma Bull

Frances Robertson

Dr. Gloria McMillan

Homer Tilton

Ingrid Saber

Janni Lee Simner

Jeff Mariotte

Jill Knowles

Joe Palmer

John Vornholt

Karl Grotgut

Keith Henson

Ken Morse

Larry Hammer

Larry Vela

Liz Danforth

Melissa Lamberton

Nickolas Cook

Pamela D Lloyd

Paul Clinco

Scott Glener

Sue Thing

Yvonne Navarro

Weston Ochse

Will Shetterly

William Everist

TUSCON 35 COMMITTEE

CHAIRBEING AND CON GODDESS

PROGRAMMING

REGISTRATION

DEALERS ROOM

ART SHOW

VIDEO FILM PROGRAM

CON SUITE AND COOKIE FAIRIE

ANIME ROOM

COMPUTER/LAN GAMING

TABLE-TOP GAMING

PROGRAM BOOK EDITOR

PROGRAM BOOK LAYOUT & DESIGN

WEB SITE

GUEST HOSPITALITY

ADVERTISING AND HISTORIAN

SECURITY

FAN TABLES AND GROUP PARTIES

TUCSON SPACE SOCIETY LIAISON

PCC LIBRARY LIAISON

WEBMONKEY

STAFF

**Joe Palmer, Rebecca Hayes, Cat Mullen, Cristi Simila,
John Brownlee, Erica Brownlee, Bruce Wiley, Peggy Wiley,
James Kosky**

Sue Thing

Frances Gross

Mira Domskey, Marion Kawulok

Nora Rankin

Larry Vela, Julie Hamann

Wolf Forrest, Fred Kurtzweg

Marji Kosky

Cinder McDonald,

Brian McDonald

Avery Davis

TBA (possibly Boyan Radakovich)

Daniel Arthur

Debbie Arthur

Brian Gross

Yvette Tang

Carol DePriest

Gary Hayes

Scott Glenner

Ben Nault

Liz Danforth

Brian Gross

COVER

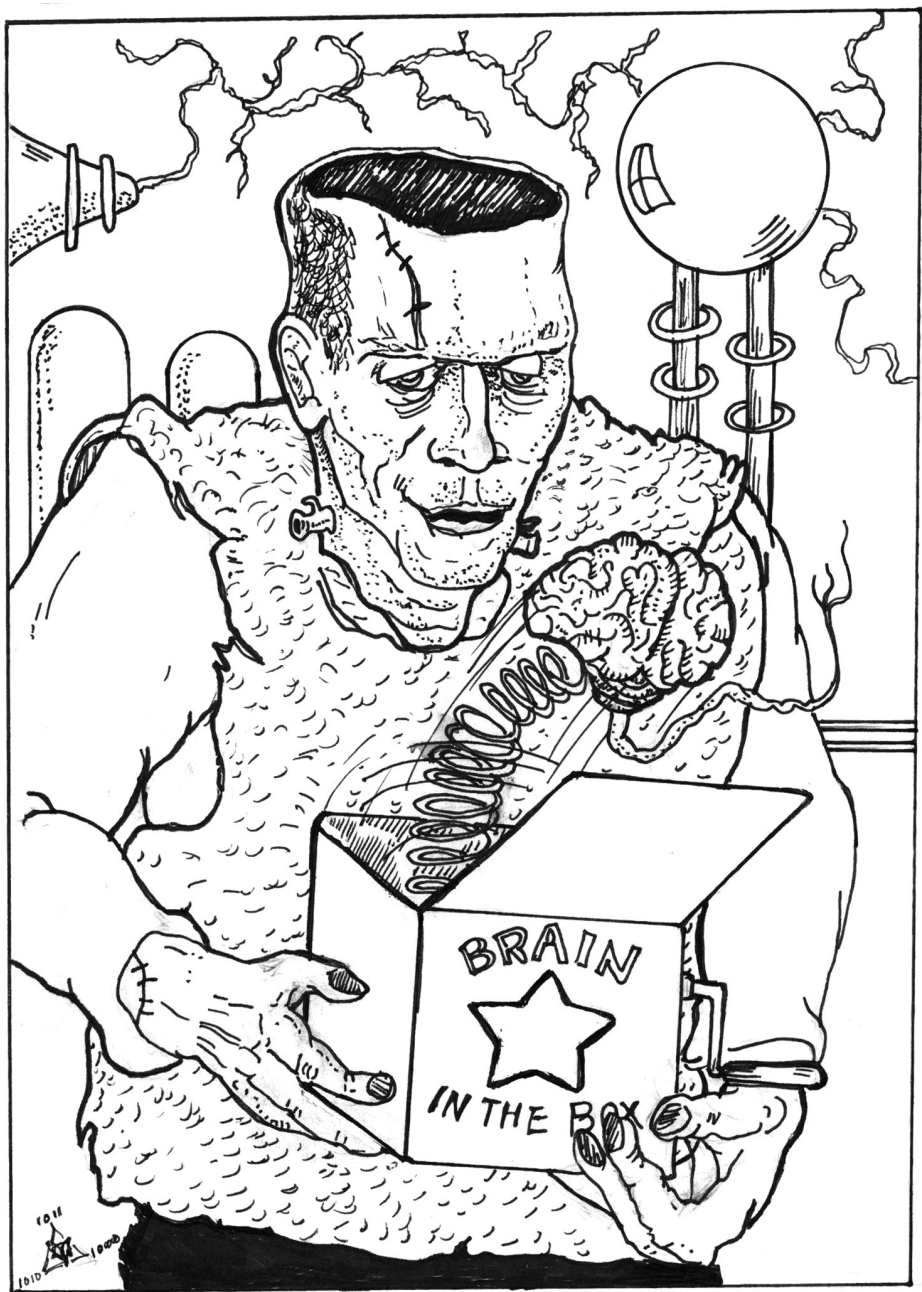
Gary Hayes

INSIDE ART

**Liz Danforth, Wolf Forrest, Gary Hayes, Earl Billick,
Debbie Arthur**

The TusCon 35 Program Book is published by BASEFA (Baja Arizona Science Fiction Association), a non-profit, 501(c)4 organization. Donations are not tax-deductible. Please send all inquiries to TusCon, PO Box 2528, Tucson, AZ 85702-2528.

View our web site at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>



EDITOR'S FIRST & LAST

The media is all up-in-arms over some financial crisis. It seems the harder they yell "the sky is falling" the more it falls. Funny how that works. Well, I've got the definitive answer. Just go to cons, independent book and comic book stores and spend all of your holiday money there and in the Dealers Room. They'll stay in business, keep schlepping their stuff to cons and help keep our way of life intact.

Then there's the election. By now, Opulent Obama or Maverick McCain has been elected (unless it was really close and there's another one of those appeals to the Supreme Court). Yawn. After three years of political posturing for the presidency, I don't know about you, I'm on overload.

So, it's time for TusCon. Time for a break from all the hoo-ha. Diana Gabaldon is one of the most entertaining speakers I've ever heard. If you miss her Guest of Honor panel, you're likely to miss at least one story which will leave a blush on your face, your sides heaving with laughter and a twinkle in your eye as you sit with rapt attention.

This year brings the return of our successful anime room from last year, more wondrous Wolf and Fred-gnawed videos (schedule, selection and remarks slaved-over by Wolf Forrest in a dark, dank, water-dripping musty vestibule, a secret, forgotten corner of his abode, for six months prior to the Con). Also art show, panels, readings, board and computer gaming, and those unforgettable parties. Not to mention one of the new seven deadly sins, Marji Kosky's freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies in the ConSuite. Plus, the conversation of a lifetime! What more could any sentient want?

So, go enjoy the con. Shoo! I have to go, I can smell a fresh batch of cookies just coming out of the oven.

Daniel Arthur





MERIEN

21 Dayford 45/75

Diana Gabaldon



This year we are ecstatic to have Diana Gabaldon as our Guest of Honor at TusCon. She is the author of the award-winning, NYT-bestselling OUTLANDER novels, described by Salon magazine as “the smartest historical sci-fi adventure-romance story ever written by a science Ph.D. with a background in scripting “Scrooge McDuck” comics.”

Her adventure began in 1991 with the classic OUTLANDER (“historical fiction with a Moebius twist”), continued through five more New York Times-bestselling novels--DRAGONFLY IN AMBER, VOYAGER, DRUMS OF AUTUMN, THE FIERY CROSS, and A BREATH OF SNOW AND ASHES--and a nonfiction (well, relatively) companion volume, THE OUTLANDISH COMPANION, which provides copious details on the settings, background, characters, research, and writing of the novels. Gabaldon (it’s pronounced “GAH-bull-dohn”—rhymes with “stone”) has also written two historical mysteries, LORD JOHN AND THE PRIVATE MATTER, and LORD JOHN AND THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE BLADE, as well as several novellas featuring Lord John Grey (which appear together in volume form as LORD JOHN AND THE HAND OF DEVILS).



Diana is presently working on the seventh volume in the main series, to be titled AN ECHO IN THE BONE, the third Lord John novel (LORD JOHN AND THE SCOTTISH PRISONER), and a graphic novel (based on the OUTLANDER books) for Ballantine.

In addition, she is penning a contemporary mystery series, set in Phoenix, and has written Highly Scholarly Introductions (with masses of footnotes) to recent Modern Library editions of Sir Walter Scott’s IVANHOE, and

Thomas Paine's COMMON SENSE.

A BREATH OF SNOW AND ASHES, the most recent novel in the main OUTLANDER series, opened simultaneously at #1 on the bestseller lists of four countries (wow!), and won both a Quill Award and the Corine International Literary Prize for fiction.

Dr. Gabaldon holds three degrees in science: Zoology, Marine Biology, and Quantitative Behavioral Ecology, (plus an honorary degree as Doctor of Humane Letters (though no one has yet explained to her just what a humane letter is) and spent a dozen years as a university professor with an expertise in scientific computation before beginning to write fiction. She has written scientific articles and textbooks, worked as an editor on the MacMillan ENCYCLOPEDIA OF COMPUTERS, founded the scientific-computation journal SCIENCE SOFTWARE QUARTERLY, and has written numerous comic-book scripts for Walt Disney. None of this has anything whatever to do with her novels, but there it is.

She and her husband, Douglas Watkins, have three adult children and live in Scottsdale, Arizona.





Ed Bryant:

ALIEN OR EARTHER?

— DANIEL ARTHUR

I was wracking my brain, trying to figure out what to write about Ed last year. It was tough, agonizing over possible ideas. What can you do to follow an all-star ConCom and Pima College Faculty production of: “The Seven Faces of Dr. Ed” from TusCon 33? Ed’s been the TusCon Toastmaster since, well, since about Methuselah’s time. So practically everyone on the planet who has even heard of Ed has written three or four puff pieces about him. I finally thought of something, and furiously penned it out. Unfortunately, Ed couldn’t show up at the con last year to read my slaved-over offering. Sigh. In his defense, he was stuck in Denver under doctor’s orders not to travel.

This year the well started out dry again. However, a comment from Frances Gross at a recent TusCon meeting provided the necessary grease, and we considered a horrific possibility, forcing sobering lumps in our throats. The meeting was getting started, and Sue Thing asked if anyone had heard from Ed. There was a moment of silence. Frances Gross then intoned matter-of-factly: “well, something unusual happened in that Ed replied immediately to my TusCon query that he’ll be able to attend.” The fabric of the universe shifted in a stunned silence. Slow-motion pan of surprised, glazed looks all around the room. What, Ed replying right away?

Sue Thing piped up: “Dear God, that’s unusual; maybe Ed was replaced by Pod People.” A few of us let go with a nervous chuckle. But then we started to look at each other thoughtfully. What DID happen to Ed in the hospital last year? What if Ed really was replaced by aliens? Hmmm....would he lose all emotion and stop wearing see-through shark ties, settling for white t-shirts and overalls? Would he start getting off buses at strange desert cafés, eating nothing but steak and smoking cigarettes? Or, wait. Would he relive his role as Jarvis the bus driver from “The Laughing Dead” in an endless loop? Maybe he might start half-hazardly nibbling on his Nebula Awards. Perhaps he would start writing about bizarre subjects like zombie love stories. Wait. He’s done that already.

All I know is I think we should watch Ed very carefully at this year's con. We should be able to tell within the first few seconds of his annual remarks at the "Meet The Authors" event on Friday night whether or not Ed is still "our Ed" or not. Then, if he has been taken over, we need a plan to get the original back. I'm thinking we ought to be able to think of something, between Wolf Forrest, Sue Thing and her flying monkeys. Maybe we could barter. I mean, maybe the Pod People might have a dumb blonde singer fetish or something. We could trade Jessica Simpson and/or Britney Spears for him. If not, we'll just have to meet in a panel and decide what to do. Yes, we should be able to think of something, just as long as we have Ed back before Chili on Sunday.



ART Show

Calling all art lovers! Come see the fabulous artwork in this year's art show. Put a bid on a piece that you would like to own and then attend the art auction on Sunday. The art show will be open:

Friday	3:00 PM to 10:00 PM (closing 7:00–9:00 for meet the authors)
Saturday	10:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Sunday	10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Any time changes will be posted at the art show. The auction will be Sunday at 1:00 PM, and you can pay for and pick up your artwork after the auction is over. We will be accepting cash, checks, and credit cards this year. If you are buying a piece for the direct sale price and need to leave early, arrangements can be made with the art show director for early payment and pickup. The art show director is known to have a fondness for dark chocolate and good coffee (this is a hint).

There will also be a print shop for those of us on a limited budget. Print shop purchases can be paid for at the time of purchase.

As always, there will be no food or drink, no photography (this includes

those little camera-cell phones), no large bags, and no nether-realm demons allowed in the Art Show. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Unaccompanied children will be turned over to the ConSuite for Sunday's chili.

If you have any questions about the show or would like to volunteer to help (please, please, please help), you can find me in the Art Show.

– Larry Vela & Julie Hamann
Art Show



RandomCon

A NEW Gaming Convention comes to Arizona

May 8-10, 2009

Phoenix AZ



WHERE?

The Grace Inn
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www.graceinn.com

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HOW MUCH?

\$15 until December 31, 2008

\$20 Jan 1 to April 30, 2009

\$25 at the door



ALSO

Consuite
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CONTACT

RandomCon
PO Box 67457
Phoenix AZ 85082
www.randomcon.org
info@randomcon.org

WHEN?

May 8-10, 2009
Special Events on
Thursday night, May 7, for
our Pre-registered members
ONLY

WHAT?

AmberDRPG - based on the
works of Roger Zelazny
known to fans worldwide as
"The Chronicles of Amber"
using a revolutionary system
with ranked attributes and no
dice are necessary to play!

RPGA - Preliminary plans
include Living Forgotten
Realms, Arcanis and Path-
finder.



Console Gaming - Prelimi-
nary plans include Rock Star,
DDR and Supersmash Broth-
ers

If you are interested in run-
ning a game check our web
site for details

Anime Room

C'mon down to the Anime Room! We'll have a variety of favorites available. This year we want to try something different. Rather than adhering to a regular schedule, we're going to have time blocks devoted to various types such as Mecha, Superheroes, Vampires/Supernatural, Chibi, Magic, Samurai, plus many more.... You the viewer decide what to watch. We may even throw a little Japanese live action into the mix to shake things up! We're right off the lobby, same location as last year. Our hours of operation will be Friday 5:00pm-midnight, Saturday 10:00am-midnight, Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm. (Times may vary due to availability of volunteers.)



ConSuite

This year's ConSuite features the return of Marji's infamous chocolate chip cookies (they're guilt-free, it's a Con). Hours are as follows:

Friday opens at 2:00 pm, closes 7:00-9:00 for meet the authors, then 9:00 until ?
Saturday open at 9:00 am, closed from 5:00-7:00, then 7:00 - ?
Sunday 9:00 a.m - ? Dead Dog at 4:00 pm

Yes, the son of the uncle of the revenge of Bruce's Chili will be served Sunday afternoon!



Programming

Friday, November 7

FRIDAY 4:00 PM - **Some like it hot.** What's causing Global warming? Pollution? Cosmic rays? Can we do anything about it? Volcano anyone? Carol DePriest, Brian Gross, John Vornholt

FRIDAY 5:00 PM - **What is urban fantasy today?** Where did it start? How has it evolved? Pamela Lloyd, Jill Knowles, Yvonne Navarro, Janni Lee Simmer

FRIDAY 6:00 PM - **The Phoenix Mars Scout Mission.** The inside story. Melissa Lamberton

FRIDAY 6:00 PM - **Story vs. Craft (1) - what's most important?** And what the hell is Voice? Diana Gabaldon, Ed Bryant, David Lee Summers, Will Shetterly

FRIDAY 7:00 PM - **Meet the Guests**

FRIDAY 8:30 PM - **Blurring Genre lines (1) - Is it mystery? Horror? Romance? Historical fiction? Suspense?** What are readers (and editors) looking for in each? If you read it, where do you find it, and if you write it, how do you sell it? Diana Gabaldon, Nickolas Cook, Adam Niswander, Elaine Charton, Jill Knowles

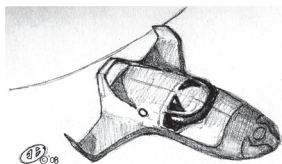
FRIDAY 8:30 PM - **Will religion always be with us? (1)** Is it hardwired? Does it have a practical purpose? Catherine Wells, Ingrid Saber, Keith Henson, Emma Bull

FRIDAY 9:30 PM - **Where does Science-fiction leave off and fantasy begin?** Catherine Wells, Pamela Lloyd, Adam Niswander, Dennis McKiernan

FRIDAY 9:30 PM - **December 21, 2012.** Why is the end of the world so popular? How will it end? Larry Vela, Bruce Wiley, Carol DePriest

FRIDAY 10:30 PM - **How much CGI is to much?** David Brown, Dave Qualls, Nickolas Cook, Larry Vela

FRIDAY 10:30 PM - **How is the appeal of horror distinct from that of other speculative genres?** Is it true that it's more popular during Republican administrations? Weston Oches, Ed Bryant, Nickolas Cook, Sue Thing



Saturday, November 8

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - Paranormal research.

What is the science? Brian Gross, David Brown, William Everest, Scott Glenner

SATURDAY 10:00 AM - Genre snobbery - You read That? Why? What does your secret sin supply that other genres don't? Denise Agnew, Nikolas Cook, Larry Hammer, Paul Edwards

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - Running on Empty? Energy for the future. Ben Nault, Keith Henson, Alan Binder, PhD

SATURDAY 11:00 AM - An Hour with Diana Gabaldon

SATURDAY 12:00 NOON - You've got a story written, now what? The nuts and bolts of submitting your work. Jeff Mariotte, David Lee Summers, Jill Knowles, Dennis McKiernan



Pima County Public Library

In September and October,

the Pima County Public Library put on a three-event series **The Fantastic in Word and Image**. In partnership with TusCon, the events spotlighted the behind-the-scenes endeavors of authors, artists, comic book scripters and inkers who work in sf/f, comics, and manga. It requires many people to put together such an undertaking. These people deserve recognition and thanks:

Foremost: Leila Duncan, who spearheaded the whole project from start to finish. That the program happened at all is because she shouldered an impossible burden.

Thanks to the program presenters: Bridget Wilde, Sarah Clemens, Will Shetterly, Robert Vardeman, Adam Beechen, Paul Fini, and Benjamin Ilka.

Many PCPL staff worked to make the events possible, sometimes on very short notice: Jen Maney, Natalie Fruciano, Anita Barrios, Shawn Flecken, Kendra

Davey, Matt Landon, Tanya Fernandes, Steffannie Koeneman, Beth Matthias-Loghry, Helene Woodhams, Robin Samitz, Sarajeon Harwood, Debra Boyle, Ruth Grant, Beth Petrucci, Helen Gutierrez and Ann Dickinson.

Thanks to those on the Nerds and Geeks team who did the initial read-through for the short story writing contest, and the members of the YA Committee who judged the art contest. Thanks to authors Will Shetterly, Bob Vardeman, as well as Dennis McKiernan, John Vornholt, Emma Bull, Yvonne Navarro, and Weston Ochse for judging the short story finalists.

Profound thanks to Rick Keefe at R-Galaxy and Sarnoff Artist Materials who donated materials for the teen drawing contest winners. Equally profound thanks go to David Lee Summers of *Tales of the Talisman* for his donations. Thanks to Brian and Frances Gross for working with Fo'Paws and for their support. Finally, thanks to others who shall remain nameless.

And of course the programs wouldn't have come to pass without the partnership with TusCon and BASFA, so deepest thanks go to the concom for working with the quirky bureaucracy of the library. Thank you all.

Illustration by Liz Danforth
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Saturday, November 8 - cont'd.

SATURDAY 12 NOON - **Not your parents' science fiction** - the boom of YA SF and Fantasy. Liz Danforth, Larry Hammer, Janni Lee Simner

SATURDAY 12 NOON - **Psychic Investigation.** How is it done? True life tales. Brian Gross, William Everist, Deb Dedon, Rebecca Hayes

SATURDAY 1:00 PM - **Time Travel: Is it possible?** How? Should we change events? Diana Gabaldon, David Brown, William Everist, Larry Vela, Earl Billick

SATURDAY 1:00 PM - **Doesn't that just rip your bodice?** How does Paranormal Romance differ from Fantasy, SF, and Horror - or does it? Are paranormal romances stealing readers from the other genres? Catherine Wells, Denise Agnew, Jill Knowles, Yvonne Navarro, Larry Hammer

SATURDAY 1:00 PM - **Magic mirrors.** How are telescopes made? New binocular telescope. Adaptive optics. Getting rid of twinkle. David Lee Summers, David Foster

SATURDAY 2:00 PM - **Designing human beings.** Genetic manipulation. Body mods. Who will do it first? How will society adapt? Ken Morse, Ingrid Saber, Deb Dedon, Paul Edwards

SATURDAY 3:00 PM - **Psychic testing.** Zenner cards. Remote viewing vs. precognition. Brian Gross

SATURDAY 3:00 PM - **Is a picture worth a 1000 words?** Graphic novels: who reads them? How are they different from "real" novels. Diana Gabaldon, Jeff Mariotte, Joe Palmer, Larry Hammer



SATURDAY 3:00 PM - **Can we get there from here?** Star travel propulsion: laser pulses, solar cells, rockets, fuel caches. Keith Henson, Homer Tilton, Dave Qualls, David Foster

SATURDAY 4:00 PM - **New York vs. small press vs. self-publishing.** Is NY stagnating? Catherine Wells, Ed Bryant, Weston Oches, David Lee Summers, Janni Lee Simner

Saturday, November 8 - cont'd.

SATURDAY 4:00 PM - **What is consciousness?** If we are largely a sequence of electro-chemical reactions, can we ever up-load our consciousness? NDE's, astral travel, past lives. Transcendent experiences. David Brown, William Everist, Deb Dedon, Dennis McKiernan

SATURDAY 5:00 PM - **What is love?** Speed dating by smell. Emma Bull, Denise Agnew, Scott Glener

SATURDAY 5:00 PM - **Have e-books and web publishing finally broken out?** Is this the beginning of the end for print? David Lee Summers, Will Shetterly, Elaine Charton, Jill Knowles

SATURDAY 7:00 PM - **Quest for immortality. Exercise, calorie deprivation, and telomeres.** How will the resulting stratified society function? Paul Jablonka, Dave Qualls, Carol DePriest, David Foster

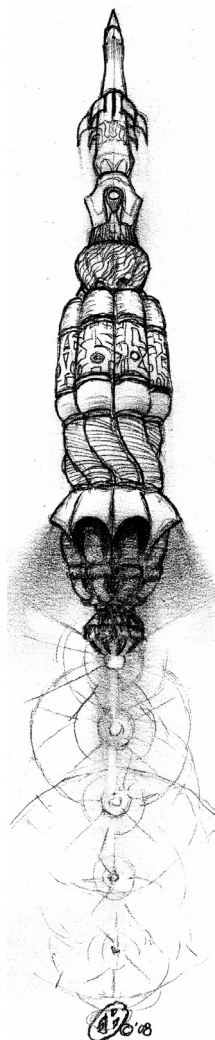
SATURDAY 8:00 PM - **I'm not a rocket scientist or dominatrix, just a good researcher.** Authors reveal their sources. Diana Gabaldon, Emma Bull, Adam Niswander, Jill Knowles

SATURDAY 8:00 PM - **Blurring Genre lines (2)** - Is it mystery? Horror? Romance? Historical fiction? Suspense? What are readers (and editors) looking for in each? If you read it, where do you find it, and if you write it, how do you sell it? Ed Bryant, Will Shetterly, Dennis McKiernan, Yvonne Navarro

SATURDAY 9:00 PM - **You made the world, now you've got to write in it.** How does your world shape your story, or does your story shape your world? Catherine Wells, Emma Bull, Dennis McKiernan, John Vornholt

SATURDAY 9:00 PM - **The coming plague years** - drug resistant bacteria, bugs released from melting ice caps, bio warfare, computer viruses. David Brown, Brian Gross, Bruce Wiley, Earl Billick, Carol DePriest

SATURDAY 10:00 PM - **The three greatest horror/SF movies of all time.** Ed Bryant, Gloria McMillan, Paul Edwards, Sue Thing



Sunday, November 9

SUNDAY 10:00 AM - **Along Genre Lines** - SF, Fantasy, Horror Poetry Larry Hammer, David Lee Summers

SUNDAY 10:00 AM - **Was “classic SF” as good as we remember?** Jeff Mariotte, Gloria McMillan, Sue Thing, John Vornholt

SUNDAY 11:00 AM - **Remembering Asimov, Heinlein, and Clarke.** How did they shape modern SF? Weston Oches, Ben Nault, Keith Henson, Adam Niswander

SUNDAY 11:25 AM - **Barry Bard Memorial Movie previews.** Daniel Arthur, Richard Bolinski, Fred Kurtzweg

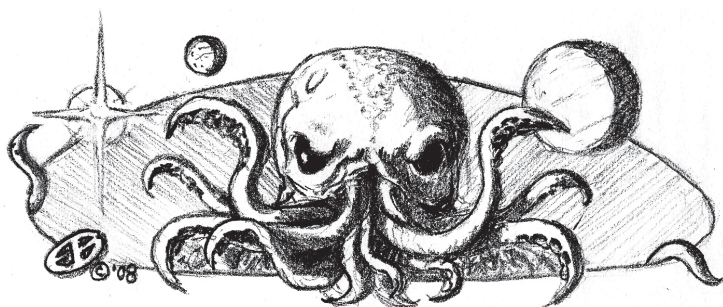
SUNDAY 12:00 NOON - **Story vs. Craft (2) - what’s most important?** And what the hell is Voice? Emma Bull, Dennis McKiernan, Yvonne Navarro, Janni Lee Simmer

SUNDAY 1:00 PM - **Does role playing make you a better person or destroy your morals?** Do face-to-face FRP games have a different influence than computer games? What about MMOs? Brian Gross, Weston Oches, Liz Danforth, Dennis McKiernan, Sue Thing

SUNDAY 2:00 PM - **Will religion always be with us? (2)** Is it hardwired? Does it have a practical purpose? David Brown, Pamela Lloyd, Will Shetterly, David Foster

SUNDAY 3:00 PM - **Getting that perfect art effect** (shading, texture, color, etc.). Gloria McMillan, Liz Danforth, Earl Billick

SUNDAY 4:00 PM - **What makes a “bad” movie become a cult favorite?** Nickolas Cook, Joe Palmer, John Vornholt





**The North American
Discworld Convention
Sept 4-7, 2009**

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, Tempe, AZ

**Guest of Honor
Terry Pratchett**

**With Diane Duane, Peter
Morwood, and Esther Friesner
More Guests to be Announced**

THE TURTLE MOVES!

www.nadwcon.org

**The first North American Discworld™ Convention will
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**We are planning for panels and presentations with Terry
Pratchett and our guests. Events and activities will
include a maskerade, exhibit room, hospitality suite, a
charity auction to benefit the Orangutan Foundation and
Alzheimer's research, and more. There will also be a
banquet for an additional cost (to be announced). The
convention will be at the Tempe Mission Palms hotel in
downtown Tempe, Arizona with a variety of nearby
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Hospitality Fee of \$9.75 per room per
night includes airport shuttle, valet
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All rates are in US dollars and do not
include tax.

Membership Rates

(all rates good through 3/31/09)

Full Attending Membership : \$80

Supporting Membership: \$30

Child Membership (ages 6-12): \$40*

Children 5 & under free*

***with paid adult membership**

Memberships are non-refundable but
are transferable

Contact Information

**Write: North American Discworld Convention, c/o Leprecon, Inc.
PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285**

Phone: (480) 945-6890

Email: info@nadwcon.org

FiestaCon

July 2-5, 2009

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ

www.fiestacon.org

FiestaCon Guests of Honor

Artist Todd Lockwood Author Alan Dean Foster

Editor Stanley Schmidt Fans Jim & Doreen Webbert

Toastmasters Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden

FiestaCon will be hosting the 1632 Minicon for fans of Eric Flint's 1632 series with Eric Flint and others participating.

FiestaCon is the 62nd annual Westercon. We are planning programming that will feature local and regional authors, artists, and scientists. We will have a Masquerade, Art show & Auction, Charity Auction, Writing Workshops, Dealers Room, Gaming, and more. Join us at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe, AZ, where there's a variety of nearby restaurants, easy access to the Phoenix Light Rail, and a great view of the Tempe July 4th Fireworks!

**Membership Rates: \$70 attending thru 12/31/08,
\$75 thru 3/31/09, more later**

**Tempe Mission Palms, 60 E. Fifth St.,
Tempe, Arizona**

**Room Rates: \$119.00 per night S/D/T/Q plus tax
www.missionpalms.com**

**Mail: FiestaCon, c/o Leprecon Inc,
PO Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285
Phone: 480-945-6890
Email: info@fiestacon.org**

Westercon is a registered service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc.

Video Room

by Wolf Forrest

Again, a sad nod to the politics of life that is mortality for all. In addition to those memorialized in our film program, following is a list of those Prince Sirki has reclaimed since last we spoke. There will never be a dearth of tribute films, as long as death remains a viable option. Would that the video room could go on for a week (to the horror of Fred) to acknowledge those listed here who contributed in some way to the world of entertainment, and to highlight some who were just plain cool. Thanks, and farewell all:

Neil Hefti, Levi Stubbs, Edie Adams, Jack Narz, Paul Newman, Richard (Pink Floyd) Wright, David Foster Wallace, Joan Winston (Star Trek organizer), Anita Page, Don LaFontaine, Michael Pate, Jerry Reed, Steve Foley, Fred (GWTW) Crane, Bernie Brillstein, Bernie Mac, Isaac Hayes, Randy Pausch, Estelle Getty, Les Crane, Larry Harmon, Kermit Love, Bo Diddley, Yves Saint Laurent, Mel Ferrer, George Carlin, Harvey Korman, Jim McKay, Sydney Pollack, Bob Asprin, Joseph Pevney, Eddie Arnold, Kay (THE BLOB) Linaker, Jules Dassin, Paul Scofield, Ivan Dixon, Dave (THE ROCKETEER) Stevens, Gary Gygas, Kon Ichikawa, Heath Ledger, Lois Nettleton, Bobby Fischer, Brad Renfro, Johnny Podres, Don Sinclair Davis, Fred Haines, Anthony Minghella, Raymond Leblanc, Buddy Miles, Sir Edmund Hillary, Ira Levin, George Grizzard, Roy Scheider, Sigrid Valdis, Bobby Mauch, Deborah Kerr, Teresa Brewer, Joey Bishop, Porter Wagoner, Senkichi Taniguchi, Sonny Bupp, Peter Viertel, William F. Buckley, Robert Goulet, Norman Mailer, Laraine Day, Joe Nuxhall, Peter Haining, Sidney Coleman, Randy Tallman, Mel Tolkin, Evel Kneivel, Slew O' Gold, and CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON stars Ben Chapman and Perry Lopez.

THE BIRDS (SUZANNE PLESHETTE TRIBUTE)

USA 1963 119 MINUTES PG-13 SUNDAY 7:35 PM

Hers was a life remembered fondly as the suffering wife of Bob Newhart on his eponymous TV show, and for one of the great moments in television history on the later NEWHART. She lost her battle with lung cancer on January 19, and her outcome as the doomed Annie Hayworth in this, Hitchcock's follow-up to PSYCHO, shocked viewers in its initial release. Based on Daphne du Maurier's novel, the title characters seem to prey on those with corrupted relationships. Melanie Daniels (Tippi Hendren) is pursuing Mitch Brenner (Rod Taylor), whose mother issues stand between them. This example of a nature-gone-mad movie falls neatly between the giant creature-induced-by-radiation films of the 1950s and the eco-backlash entries of the 1970s. THE BIRDS is more malevolent--there seems to be no underlying cause for their rampage.

BLOOD TEA AND RED STRING

USA 2006 70 MINUTES NR SATURDAY 5:10 PM

David Lynch, meet Beatrix Potter. Christiane Cegavske creates a disturbingly charming world of tiny, stop-motion inhabitants, one which took her thirteen years to finish. Like the award-winning 20

RED BALLOON, it's a dialogue-free film that tells of the struggle between the White Mice and the Creatures Who Dwell Under the Oak, a struggle involving a doll that invokes the legend of King Solomon. The White Mice have commissioned the Oak Dwellers to create such a doll, who then become so enamored with their own creation that they refuse to give her up. When the Mice resort to thievery, the Oak Dwellers take a strange journey to reclaim their love. Although it may appeal to children, it's more a fairy tale for adults. What really happens when the Mice consume too much blood tea, and the Oak Dwellers eat the yellow fruit?

THE BRAVE LITTLE TOASTER (THOMAS M. DISCH TRIBUTE)

USA 1987 90 MINUTES G SUNDAY 8:30 AM

Disch took his own life on July 4, after a long depression resulting from the death of his partner and threats of eviction from his rent-controlled apartment in NYC. He'll be best remembered for novels like *THE GENOCIDES*, *CAMP CONCENTRATION*, and the story collection *FUN WITH YOUR NEW HEAD*. He also wrote children's books, and this adaptation was made within a year of its release. *TOASTER* is a delightful romp with dark undertones—as five household appliances in a family's summer home go looking for their young master who has failed to show up for several years, themes of abandonment and loneliness surface while the appliances face dangers in the big city. Pixar animator John Lasseter was initially involved in the project, ultimately directed by Jerry Rees, his friend from their days working together on *TRON*. *THE BRAVE LITTLE TOASTER* was the first animated film to be shown at the Sundance Institute.



DANGER: DIABOLIK! (JOHN PHILLIP LAW TRIBUTE)

ITALY/France 1968 100 MINUTES PG-13 SUNDAY 1 PM

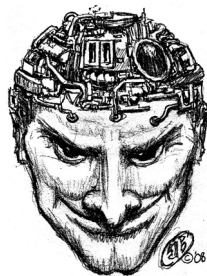
Law, who spread his wings and flew off into the ether on May 13, is best remembered for his role as the angel Pygar in *BARBARELLA*, although with his Aryan good looks, he got his break playing a submarine sailor in *THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING, THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING*. Mario Bava directed this film with typical flourish, combining elements of the fumetti (Italian comic book) on which it's based, James Bond, Batman, and 60's European mod sensibilities. Diabolik (Law) is patterned after the mythic anti-hero Fantomas—he's a master thief who often wears a skintight black suit (looking like a male version of Catwoman). The luminous Marisa Mell is his sidekick, and his disdain for capitalist conventions like the tax collector through anarchistic destruction engages our

sense of outrage at that we cannot control. Ennio Morricone, whose compositions for spaghetti westerns are legendary, creates a playful and disarming score that underlines the mood of the film, and Terry-Thomas adds a seasoned note to the campy atmosphere.

THE FREAKMAKER aka THE MUTATIONS (JULIE EGE TRIBUTE)

UK 1973 92 MINUTES R SATURDAY 6:25 PM

Ege, who died April 29 from cancer, parlayed her fame as Miss Norway and a Penthouse pet into a role as a "Bond Girl" in *ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE* (1969), and then made a big splash in Hammer's *CREATURES THE WORLD FORGOT* (1971). In *THE FREAKMAKER*, she plays a student of Professor Nolter (Donald Pleasence) who is trying to ensure human survival by introducing plant DNA into his unwilling subjects. A terrific cast includes Jill Haworth, Tom ("Dr. Who") Baker as Nolter's hideous assistant Lynch, and the incomparable Michael Dunn (*THE WILD WILD WEST*'s Dr. Loveless) in his next-to last film, supported by a population of real circus oddities (this film is ostensibly a remake of Tod Browning's *FREAKS*), and one of cinema's most bizarre creations, the Venus Flytrap Man.



THE GREAT YOKAI WAR aka YOKAI DAISENSO

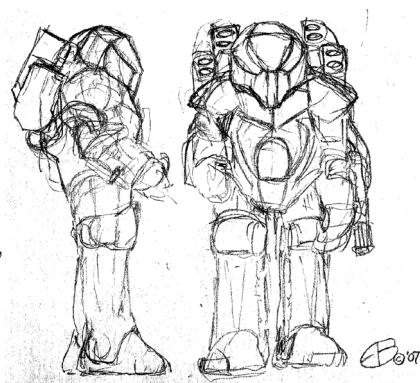
JAPAN 2005 126 MINUTES PG-13 FRIDAY 10:45 PM

Yokai are demons or spirits whose frequent contacts with humans lead to interesting battles. Here's the classic myth of a young boy becoming the Chosen One (in this case, "Kirin Rider") to lead a group of spirits friendly to mankind in an epic struggle with some really outrageous creatures, even by Japanese standards. Imagine *CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON* mating with *DESTROY ALL*

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MONSTERS (shown at TusCon 30) and you get the idea. They are not your daddy's monsters—rubber-suited technicians traipsing clumsily over miniature sets bedecked with model trains and toy cars. They range from the ridiculous, to the sublime, to the terrifying Hitodama, Rokurokube, and Yuki-Onna. Takashi Miike directs with a scattergun approach, throwing at us every special effect technique available, with mixed results. If you like killer robots, beehive hairdos (check out Chiaki Kuriyama from *KILL BILL*), sexy water nymphs, and you thought the characters in *HELLBOY 2: THE GOLDEN ARMY* were tasty....



HANDS OF ORLAC aka ORLACS HANDE

GERMANY/AUSTRIA 1924 112 MINUTES NR FRIDAY 3:45 PM

Conrad Veidt and his director from *THE CABINET OF DR. CALIGARI*, Robert Wiene, join forces again to explore the Maurice Renard novel about a concert pianist whose hands are mangled in a train accident, and whose ability to play is restored by having the hands of a murderer grafted onto his wrists. But do these hands have a life of their own? Remade as *MAD LOVE* in 1935 (shown at TusCon 30), *HANDS OF ORLAC* in 1960, and *HANDS OF A STRANGER* in 1962, this expressionistic masterpiece shows the emotional range of Veidt (who created masterful performances in *CASABLANCA*, *THE THIEF OF BAGDAD*, and who, at one point, was considered for the role of Dracula). Even as a silent film it still has power, and in this newly restored version that power is evidently derived from the rampant sexual innuendo and Freudian imagery.

THE HIDEOUS SUN DEMON aka BLOOD ON HIS LIPS (A VERY LATE ROBERT CLARKE TRIBUTE)

USA 1959 75 MINUTES NR SATURDAY 2:15 PM

Clarke died June 11, 2005, and his tribute film was delayed because of other programming conflicts. He not only stars in, but also produced and directed this film—an interesting reversal on lycanthropy. As Dr. Gilbert McKenna, his accidental exposure to radiation in his lab mutates his genetic structure so that he becomes a reptilian murderer under the influence of the sun, not the full moon. The rubber suit cost only 500 dollars but it's a terrifically ghastly piece of work, and Clarke shot the film over twelve consecutive weekends to take advantage of a reduced rental rate on equipment. The film was spoofed in 1983 by being re-edited and turned into a feature-length commercial for suntan lotion!!! Clarke's other genre credits include *THE MAN FROM PLANET X*, *BEYOND THE TIME BARRIER*, and *THE INCREDIBLE PETRIFIED WORLD*.

MAKE MINE MUSIC

USA 1946 75 MINUTES NR SATURDAY 8:30 AM

Called "the poor man's *FANTASIA*", this collection of Disney shorts is set to both classical and popular music of the era. The ongoing stain of political correctness has caused the parent company to excise one cartoon, aired in its initial TV release, for the domestic DVD—"The Martins and the Coys", about feuding hillbillies with guns. What, they were going to offend rednecks? We are showing the European DVD with that segment intact, so that you may judge the level of offense for yourself. The remainder of the set can still recall fond memories of childhood, and delight most

any current kid—including “The Whale Who Wanted to Sing at the Met”, “Johnny Fedora and Alice Bluebonnet”, “Casey at the Bat”, and “Peter and the Wolf” (narrated by Sterling Holloway).

THE MALTESE BIPPY (DICK MARTIN TRIBUTE)

USA 1969 91 MINUTES G SUNDAY 4:25 PM

Martin joined his partner Dan Rowan in that bastion of sketch-comedy-in-the-sky on May 24. Although having absolutely nothing to do with the Humphrey Bogart vehicle its title spoofs, this film was produced to capitalize on the popularity of their show LAUGH-IN, but was not well-received by critics or the public. It still has its moments of charm, and how can you not like the premise of a neurotic filmmaker with an uncontrollable urge to howl (he may be a werewolf) living between a spooky house and a cemetery, and who has vampires as his next-door neighbors? Rowan and Martin run a low-budget, soft-porn film production company and then get caught up in a murder investigation involving three strange Hungarians and an ancient Egyptian diamond, which ultimately plays out like a video board game of “Clue”. This film has a great cast of 60’s tv stalwarts, like Carol Lynley, Julie Newmar, Fritz Weaver, Robert Reed, Mildred Natwick, Leon Askin, and Arthur Batanides. If you like THE SPIRIT IS WILLING (a highly underrated movie) or THE GHOST AND MR. CHICKEN, this movie is for you.

MAN MADE MONSTER

USA 1941 60 MINUTES NR SATURDAY 11:35 AM

After his breakout role as Lennie in OF MICE AND MEN, and before his signature flourish as the doomed Larry Talbot in THE WOLF MAN, Lon Chaney, Jr. made this quick programmer (B movie) as carnival performer “Dynamo Dan the Electrical Man” who survives a bus accident that kills everyone else. He’s taken in by Dr. Lawrence and Dr. Rigas (Lionel Atwill)—electrobiologists who want to experiment on Dan’s unusual tolerance for heavy current. The mad Dr. Rigas has plans to create a race of men fed by electricity, and Dan meanwhile develops a crush on Dr. Lawrence’s niece June. Screenwriter Harry Essex (IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE, THE CREATURE FROM THE BLACK LAGOON) fashions a taut narrative, as Dan begins to grow increasingly dependent on Rigas’ regular infusions. Although it’s no FRANKENSTEIN, this movie has some kick-ass lab equipment and nice visuals from SFX wizard John P. Fulton.

THE MASQUE OF THE RED DEATH (HAZEL COURT TRIBUTE)

USA/GB 1964 89 MINUTES NR

SATURDAY 12:40 PM

Her elegance and screen presence always a plus to everything she did, Court met Death (red or not) in the flesh on April 15. In Roger 2+

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Corman's best entry into the world of Edgar Allan Poe, Vincent Price is the mad Prospero and Court his mistress Juliana, enjoying a masked revelry in their castle, sequestered from the plague-ridden population outside their walls. However, a mysterious stranger dressed in red enters the fray, and Prospero, who worships Satan, is convinced that it his master. Co-written by "Twilight Zone" alumnus Charles Beaumont, the film incorporates another Poe tale, "Hop-Frog", into its sub-plot, and invokes one of Corman's many psychotic dream-sequences--a staple in this sub-genre.

MIKADROID: ROBOKILL BENEATH DISCO CLUB LAYLA

JAPAN 1991 73 MINUTES NR FRIDAY 5:45 PM

Although it could have been filmed as anime, this live-action drama begins in the closing months of World War 2, in a secret underground military installation in Tokyo where scientists are creating warrior cyborgs to turn the tide of conflict in their favor. After a successful prototype is completed, the experiment is shut down when it's apparent the Japanese will lose the war. The scientist in charge of the project releases two subjects before their transformation. As the city is firebombed, the lab is buried under rubble. Flash forward more than forty years---after a discotheque has been built above the ruins, the lone cyborg is accidentally reactivated---ready to kill anyone who gets in the way.... A great example of steampunk SF, it's produced by the legendary Toho Studios and features a cameo by cult horror director Kiyoshi Kurosawa (CURE, EYES OF THE SPIDER).



THE OMEGA MAN (CHARLTON HESTON TRIBUTE)

USA 1971 98 MINUTES PG FRIDAY 2PM

Heston was permanently silenced on April 5 after a long battle with Alzheimer's. His commanding presence on the screen from Biblical epics to bouts with damn dirty apes is unparalleled. This second film version of Richard Matheson's I AM LEGEND (after THE LAST MAN ON EARTH) reveals Heston not as the neurotic victim beset by vampires, but as a gun-toting type-A personality, albeit a doctor immune to the plague that has killed most of earth's population. He also enjoys watching WOODSTOCK in one of the abandoned movie theaters. The leader of "The Family" (Anthony Zerbe), a group of zombie-like survivors who shun the daylight, targets Heston and all vestiges of science as the instrument of this disease, while exhorting his medieval followers to hunt him down. Although the novel ends on a decidedly downbeat note, Heston's persona keeps the movie from being an indictment of humanity's future.

PUMPKINHEAD (STAN WINSTON TRIBUTE)

USA 1988 86 MINUTES R FRIDAY 9:10 PM

Winston, who died June 15 from multiple myeloma, will be remembered as a special effects creator and makeup artist on films like GARGOYLES and JURASSIC PARK, but PUMPKINHEAD was his first directorial effort. In a remote mountain village, teenagers accidentally kill a boy while dirt bike racing. The dead youth's grieving father summons up a demon with the help of a witch named Haggis to wreak vengeance on the teens---something he experienced himself as a child. Eventually the father (Lance Henriksen) begins to regret the evil he has unleashed---it's called "Pumpkinhead" by the locals because of its emergence from the "Pumpkin Patch Graveyard"-- the myth of one "always watching and waiting for retribution" continues. Something about this film has the same feel as the THRILLER episode "The Hollow Watcher" and the TZ episode "Jess-Belle". Bucolic horror, in the style of writer Manly Wade Wellman, always has a special glister to it.

ROBINSON CRUSOE ON MARS

USA 1964 110 MINUTES NR SATURDAY 8 PM

Given the flurry of activity by local astronomers on the current Phoenix Mars Mission, it seems appropriate to look back at a film that was released even before the Mariner 4 fly-by in 1965—our first close-up look at the Red Planet. Scenarist Lb Melchior (who wrote and directed *THE ANGRY RED PLANET*) and director Byron Haskin (*WAR OF THE WORLDS*) made the film as technically accurate as possible, even though much of what is depicted is no longer true. They were reasonably prescient, and the film is still highly entertaining. Two astronauts (Paul Mantee and Adam West) orbiting Mars leave their mother ship in pods to descend to the surface, with disastrous results for one of them. As in the Defoe novel on which it's based, a "Friday" appears to help the lone survivor cope with a hostile planet and its strange inhabitants. Melchior was also supposed to direct the film, but dropped out of the project to work on *THE TIME TRAVELERS*. Sponsored by the Tucson Space Society.

ROBO MAN (ALGIS BUDRYS TRIBUTE)

UK 1973 92 MINUTES PG SATURDAY 3: 35 PM

Budrys, who died June 9 from metastatic melanoma, was a true enigma, like the character Martino in his novel *WHO?* This film is an adaptation of that award-winning book. Elliott Gould stars as U.S. agent Sean Rogers, who's trying to determine the true identity of an American scientist injured in a car crash behind the Iron Curtain. The scientist has been outfitted with cyborg parts which mask his face, and now may be spying for the Russians. Or is the *KILL MACHINE WITH THE MEGATON MIND*—as the tagline for the movie articulates—really another man sent to throw the Americans off the scent? That may be overstating the true purpose of the scientist Lucas Martino, but in changing the focus of Budrys' novel from an essay on identity (he's abducted by the Soviets) to one of Cold war espionage, we get only a glimpse of what might have been. Trevor Howard is the Soviet interrogator Azarin who plays a deadly game of cat-and-mouse with Agent Rogers.

SHE

USA 1935 102 MINUTES NR SATURDAY 9:50 AM

From the director of *DESTINATION MOON*, and the producer, screenwriter, and composer of *KING KONG* comes this third version (previously shot in 1911 and 1925) of H. Rider Haggard's novel—the template for *RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK*. Randolph Scott, Helen Mack, and Nigel Bruce travel to Siberia in search of the mystical "Flame of Life" which can guarantee immortality, then discover an underground empire replete with cannibals--and ruled by a powerful matriarch in the Kingdom of Kor named Hash-A-Mo-Tep (seriously!). With its impressive Art Deco sets, stunning costumes, intense choreography, and a nod to Maxfield Parrish, *SHE* is a rollicking adventure surrounding a love triangle between Scott, Mack and Helen Gahagan, who plays the titular *SHE-WHO-MUST-BE-OBEYED*. Gahagan later married actor Melvyn Douglas and then became a U.S Congresswoman—and gave Richard Nixon his "Tricky Dick" sobriquet.

TO THE DEVIL A DAUGHTER (RICHARD WIDMARK TRIBUTE)

UK/W. GERMANY 1976 93 MINUTES R SUNDAY 6 PM

Widmark was a versatile actor. He left us on March 24 after complications from a fall in his home. Although known for characters with a bruising, no-nonsense style, in real life he was a pacifist who hated violence and guns. Here Widmark plays occult novelist John Verney, who uncovers a

conspiracy to have a young nun give birth to the Devil's child after taking the girl into his home upon the advice of his friend—who just happens to be the father of the novice. Hammer's previous success with *THE DEVIL RIDES OUT* (also based on a Dennis Wheatley novel), and the box-office returns from *THE EXORCIST* was more than enough motivation to produce *TO THE DEVIL*. It recalls a litany of other novels and films who pay lip service to the world of Aleister Crowley, like Somerset Maugham's "The Magician", Crowley's own "Moonchild", and Ira Levin's "Rosemary's Baby". With a fine supporting cast featuring Christopher Lee, Honor Blackman, and Denholm Elliott, and the first major role for Nastassja Kinski, the efforts of Crowley to bring the Devil's progeny into the world are recounted vividly in this handsome production. This was Hammer Studio's last movie.

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY (ARTHUR C. CLARKE AND HARRY LANGE TRIBUTE)

USA/UK 1968 139 MINUTES G SATURDAY 10:15 PM

It's surprising that so little of Clarke's work has been adapted for the screen. When he died March 19, *RENDEZVOUS WITH RAMA* was still in pre-production after years of inactivity. "2001" remains his most visible screen accomplishment, and the details of the movie are so well known, recounting them here to an SF crowd would be redundant at best. Harry Lange, one of the production designers on Kubrick's magnum opus, lost his life on May 22, three years after suffering a stroke. This author was fortunate enough, in 1982, to take Harry and his wife Daisy on a tour of Old Tucson, shortly after Harry had completed work on *THE DARK CRYSTAL*. Now you know why the HAL 9000 computer sings the song "Daisy" as he's being deactivated by astronaut David Bowman, right before the infamous "Stargate" sequence.

VAMPIRA: THE MOVIE (MAILA NURMI TRIBUTE)

USA 2006 70 MINUTES NR SUNDAY 10:10 AM

Nurmi, who died (again) January 10, claimed to be related to the 1920's Finnish Olympic track star Paavo Nurmi. Appropriately released on Halloween, this documentary of television's first horror show host features film historian David Skal, SF fan extraordinaire Forrest J. Ackerman, and character actor/*SPIDER BABY* alumnus Sid Haig. Although the retrospective glosses over her Las Vegas nightclub career, and the clips from her old show on KABC-TV are tantalizingly sparse, it does give the viewer a summary of the nightmarish world of 1950's television monster emcees. Vampira's progeny include Zacherley (formerly known as Roland), Ghoulardi, "Chilly Billy" Cardille, Dr. Shock, and my own personal favorite (for the name)—in Nashville, "The Phantom of the Opry". Anyone who grew up from the late '50s to the early '70s remembers sitting up late on Saturday night for a favorite Universal horror film or Bert Gordon giant bug-fest to magically appear on the TV screen, introduced by their local ghoul.



WARLORDS OF ATLANTIS (CYD CHARISSE TRIBUTE)

UK 1978 90 MINUTES PG SUNDAY 2:50 PM

Cyd Charisse—“Beautiful Dynamite”, according to Fred Astaire, was the quintessential onscreen dancer. She departed to that well-choreographed stage on June 17. Though the obvious tribute film that fit the parameter of this convention might have been BRIGADOON, WARLORDS was chosen because it’s less well known, and frankly, the only musical that fen would sit through would be ROCKY HORROR. She plays Atsil in this film, Atlantean queen and Inquisitor for the Council of the Elite, wearing costumes that still show off her fabulous legs. Her underwater world is invaded by father-and-son archaeologists (Donald Bisset and Peter Gilmore), an engineer (Doug McClure), and treasure hunters whose ship and submersible have already been attacked by a giant octopus and a kraken. Atraxon, the Atlantean leader, wants to use Professor’s Aitken’s intellect to help conquer the upper world, while imprisoning the rest of the crew with humans captured from previous expeditions. They develop a plan of escape, but must first battle yet another cadre of rubber monsters to do so. It’s also revealed that the Atlanteans originally come from Mars!!! From a script by DOCTOR WHO writer Brian Hayles (creator of “The Celestial Toymaker”).

“INTELLIGENCE IN PLANTS AND VEGETABLES IS AN OLD STORY MR. SCOTT—
OLDER EVEN THAN THE ANIMAL ARROGANCE THAT HAS OVERLOOKED IT.”

– Dr. Stern, to the incredulous newspaperman Scotty, in THE THING (1951) –

Barry Bard Memorial Movie Previews

Sunday at 11:25 a.m.

This is it! The annual TusCon Barry Bard movie previews and gala freebee give-away! It will never be the same without Barry, but we’re doing our best to keep his spirit alive. We’ll hand out tickets, start with a short Barry Bard video, then previews courtesy of Richard Bolinski, followed by some free movie SWAG: posters, t-shirts and other interesting sundries. Thanks to Fred Kurtzweg for grunt-work and assistance transporting posters!

– Daniel Arthur

Video Room Late Night

Friday Late Night – 1:00 am to 8:30 am

Saturday Late Night – 12:40 am to 8:30 am

We will be showing the latest Sci-Fi and Fantasy from Great Britain (The Sarah Jane Adventures, Merlin) and assorted other surprises!

Special thanks to Chris Babbie with Location Sound (<http://members.cox.net/locationsound/>) for the loan of his video projector!

Thanks to the tireless work of Wolf Forrest and Fred Kurtzweg in putting on the video show and bringing all of the equipment!



Dealers Room

Friday 3:00-6:00

Saturday 10:00-6:00

Sunday 10:00-3:00

Yes, we have dealers. Whether you want jewelry, books, lotions, potions or T-shirts, the Dealer's Room is the place to buy all of your specialty gift, fan and holiday needs. Stop by and check them out!



A Farewell To - **THE SULTAN OF ARROGANCE** (BUT OH, AT HIS PALACE, WHAT A TIME THEY HAD)



It's official title was THE SCIENCE FICTION, HORROR AND FANTASY WORLD EXPOSITION, but most everybody who attended refers to it as NudelCon (or NoodleCon, if their opinion of said promoter was less than stellar), after its promoter/creator who died on May 8 of this year at the age of 52, after returning to Tucson to take care of his father. It was held in June of 1977, neatly occupying a black hole between DesertCon and TusCon here in the Sonoran desert. Bob Nudleman was either loved or hated (more the latter) by the time the convention closed its doors, and he fled Tucson for Tinsletown, engaging himself in thirty years of preservation work in L.A. in an attempt to save many of that town's glorious old movie venues and other buildings.

But, we're getting ahead of ourselves.

The fen of Southern Arizona were giddy with a surfeit of fannish activity that year, given that the toddler TusCon had just celebrated its fourth birthday the previous November, a media-heavy event called DesertCon (on the U of A campus) was in its penultimate exercise, and many were in the thick of preparation for IguanaCon, the World Science Fiction Convention slated for Phoenix in 1978. Nudelman's own vision of his convention seemed so grandiose that many who met him at DesertCon believed it would never come off. It was based at the Tucson Marriott Hotel (now the Hotel Arizona), just west of La Placita downtown, and activities spread to the Community Center, the Music Hall, and the Temple of Music and Art.

Boy, were there activities.

The guest list alone was something a WorldCon would envy.

Imagine spending time with John Agar, Buster Crabbe, Johnny Weismuller, Poul Anderson, Robert Bloch, Roger Corman, Frederik Pohl, Clarence Nash (the voice of Donald Duck), Harlan Ellison, Philip Jose Farmer, George Pal, A.E. van Vogt, Robert Heinlein, Jim Danforth, Whit Bissell, Jim Steranko, James Doohan, Carl Sagan, Jack Williamson, Jack Haley, Frank Kelly Freas, Roger Zelazny, Forry Ackerman, Ray Harryhausen, and many others. Now imagine that you're sharing them with less than a thousand of your peers. The ratio is pretty staggering. And that's just what the paying patrons got (for the ridiculous sum of ten dollars, in advance) – plenty of face time with their heroes, if they chose.

There were several tracks of film programming, panels, a banquet, and props to boot.

What survives after thirty years is the mystery of how much publicity was generated to entice such a cadre of luminaries in the first place, how most of the guests were lured to Tucson by Nudelman during the worst time of year weather-wise, how they got to the convention itself, and whether or not anyone was paid upfront (unlikely) – except for

Ellison, who was on a reconnaissance mission prepping for his GoH turn at Iggy the following year. Few can, or care, to remember the essence (or lack) of organization, which made it all happen. There seemed to be no official ConCom or staff, just people pressed into service at the last minute to put out fires. Apparently Nudelman had a nervous breakdown before the convention, and a public relations firm managed the essentials. Not the pistoning of a well-oiled machine, but the smoke and mirrors of a practicing graduate of the Barbizon School of Legerdemain had brought this many of science fiction, fantasy and horror's household gods together. Writers scheduled impromptu readings when it was obvious there was going to be deviation from the printed programming (a program book was never issued, just hurriedly typed pages with listed events). The lack of a formal schedule left guests "vulnerable" to attendees for long stretches. Folks witnessed the inchoate, the obvious, the sublime, the ridiculous, the terrifying, and the dizzying coalescence of fun from chaos. Where else could you plop down beside Buster Crabbe, tanned and still fit, and listen to his dream of reprising his Flash Gordon role in the upcoming remake?

- Or witness Johnny Weismuller, drunk off his ass, doing his "Tarzan yell" in the hotel bar.
- Observe John Agar (also drunk), recounting to anyone who would listen, what it was like to shtup "America's Sweetheart".
- Find the Tin Man, Jack Haley, eager to talk to a fan because he was otherwise unengaged.
- Sit in at a panel comprised of Agar, Richard Matheson, George Pal, Jack Arnold, and Whit Bissell.
- Thrill to Clarence Nash, doing THAT voice for squealing kids in the hotel restaurant.
- Get swept up in Robert Heinlein's blood drive (which began at MidAmeriCon the previous year).

There were outrageous displays of coveted items like:

- Kenneth Strickfaden's electrical equipment from the original FRANKENSTEIN on view and operating for the amazement and amusement of the guests and conventioners.
- A slew of Frank Frazetta originals (displayed only after the truck drivers who brought the items were finally paid what they were promised).
- The submarine from ATLANTIS THE LOST CONTINENT, and a Martian war machine from WAR OF THE WORLDS.

What organization there was seems to have been self-generated. Guests and conventioners realized that unless they wanted a complete breakdown of society's rules, they would have to run the convention themselves. Some of the best memories seem to be of the impromptu parties that sprung up. Did "Twilight Zone" writer George Clayton Johnson really pass around an enormous bong in his hotel room that was open to the public? To keep some semblance of order, Bob Asprin, the author of the "MythAdventure" series who lost his life on May 22 of this year (the same day as "2001" production designer Harry Lange), was in charge of the Dorsai Irregulars (a fannish security phalanx that made their first appearance at DisCon II in 1974). Although the weekend did not completely dissolve into anarchy, rumblings were already about as to the convention's dysfunctionality and serious financial problems.

The mystery continued, as nobody seems to recall seeing Nudelman at the convention, and he left Tucson shortly thereafter.

Rumor has it that Nudelman's father had to take out a second mortgage on his house to placate the hotel (which still lost money) and a few other aggressive creditors. Even then, many bills went unpaid and guests were never compensated. The debt estimate: around 75,000 dollars.

We are not here to malign the dead, not to set them up straight. Nudelman at one point in time created a maelstrom of myth, with Scylla and Charybdis lurking nearby. A myth is partly defined as a story-cycle with no artifice of hard evidence, save for those who repeat the stories. It's interesting that no photos of the event have ever surfaced.

His talents for evasiveness and manipulation notwithstanding, this plenipotentiary without a key to the city left something remarkable in his wake, the likes of which will not soon pass this way. Conventions and their operations have changed drastically since 1977 (perhaps partly due to the infamy of "NudelCon"). Anyone who was there won't forget it. It is said the end justifies the means and yet, the devil is also in the details. One could cop a line from Ed Wood's propheteer Criswell and state: "Based on the secret testimony of the miserable souls who survived this terrifying ordeal..." these recollections exist.

When Nudelman died, his Tucson obituary was cursory and to the point, like a police blotter, as if the sting from the crime scene he left thirty-one years ago was still evident. The Los Angeles papers glowingly touted his efforts at helping to save some of the local architecture, as it related to film history and made no mention (and were probably not aware) of the Convention that irritated as many as it thrilled.

We may never know if he used his Svengali-like powers of persuasion to help out Forry Ackerman during his legal and financial woes of the late 90's.

It's appropriate that in L.A., home of the Dodgers, Nudelman continued to be an artful dodger himself.

— Wolf Forrest (with thanks to Jim Corrick, Carol de Priest, Trini Ruiz, Sue Thing, and Chris Wheeler for their input, and to David Schow for letting me crib his 2002 essay BLOODSTOCK – for more particulars on the subject of NudelCon, er, the Science Fiction, Horror, and Fantasy World Exposition).

Rest In Peace 2008

TusCon would like to remember those who enriched our lives:

BOB ASPRIN

ALGYS BUDRYS

ARTHUR C. CLARKE

ALEXANDER COURAGE

THOMAS M. DISCH

GARY GYGAX

JANET KAGAN

BOB NUDELMAN



TusLAN

TusCon Computer Gaming

Computer gaming at TusCon will combine a video gaming room with a LANparty called TusLAN, held at TusCon since 2000. LANparty participants are invited to bring their own computers and set them up with a local area network provided by TusLAN. Additionally, computers and video gaming consoles will be provided by TusCon and/or its sponsors for TusCon members to use. This will allow participants to play multi-user computer and video games without the time lag experienced on the Internet, and with personal interaction with the other players.

TusLAN Computer gaming is in the Copper Ballroom! The ballroom is 70' x 60' with great wiring, so power will not be a problem. The ballroom will be shared by Role Playing and Board Gaming.

HOURS OF OPERATION: Friday, 5pm to 11pm; Saturday, 10am to 11pm; Sunday, 11am to 3pm.

Tournament specifics are still being determined. Let us know your preferences!

Primary games anticipated are: Unreal Tournament 2004 and mods, especially ChaosUT and the ECE Bonus Pak; Star Wars: Battlefront2; Battlefield 2 and World of Warcraft. We will also have LAN console games, such as Halo3.

OUR SPONSORS INCLUDE:

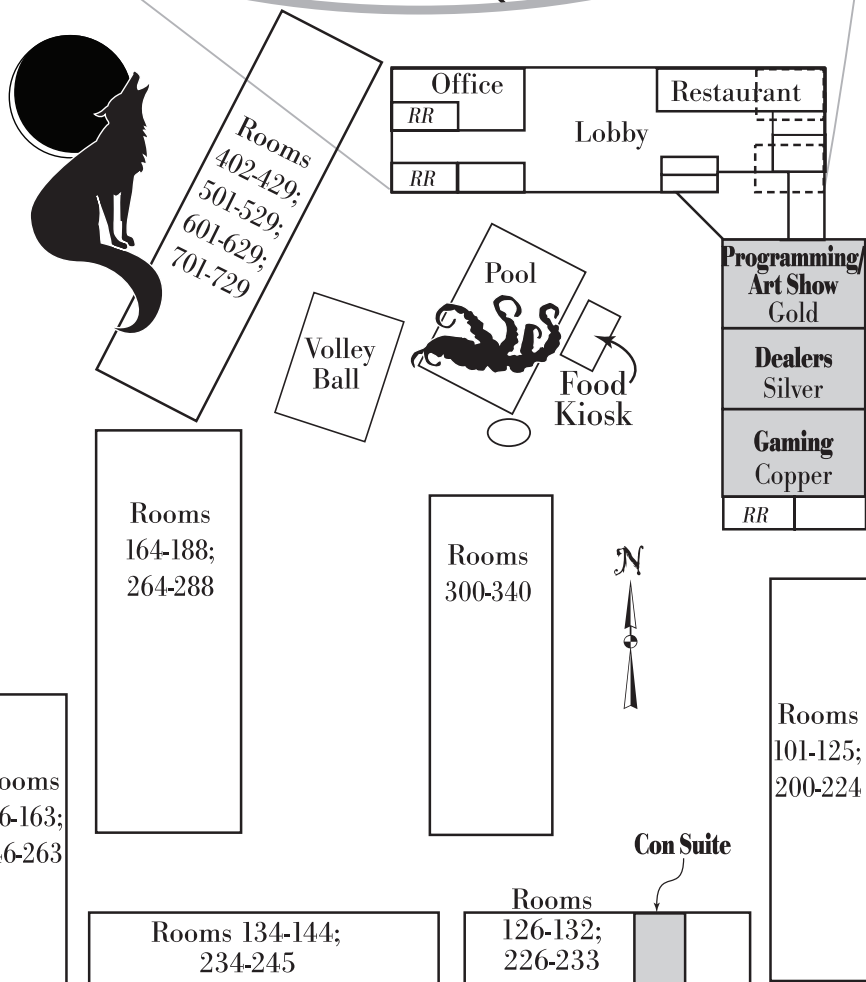
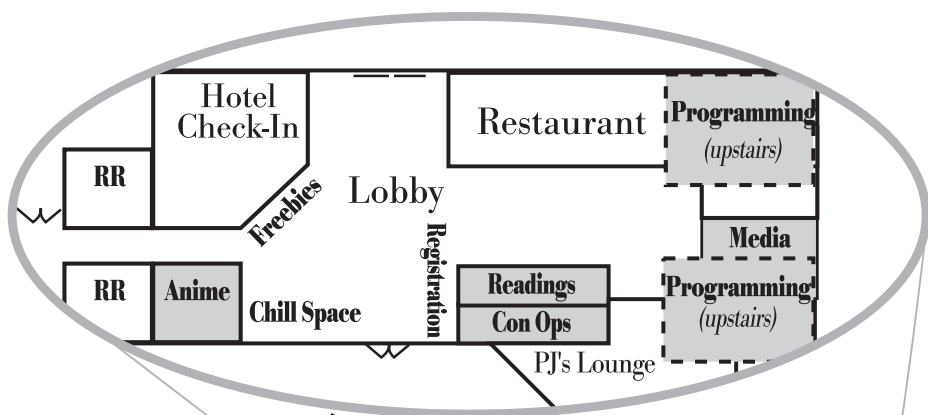
Extreme Mobile Gaming, www.extrememobilegaming.com, featuring their Mobile Gaming Center (parked behind the Copper Ballroom).

Cross Bones Gaming, www.crossbonesgaming.com, providing several demonstrator PCs.

Hi-Tech Computers, www.hi-tech-computers.com, providing several demonstrator PCs.



- Avery Davis www.tuslan.net, tuslan@earthlink.net



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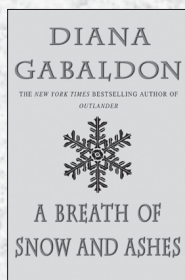
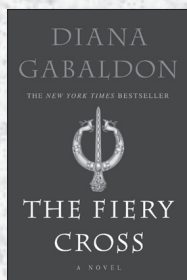
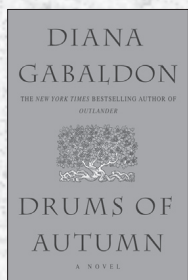
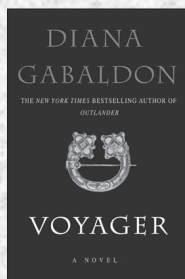
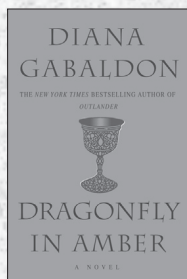
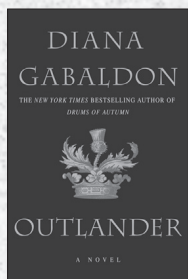
Watch For Regular Updates:

www.DarkCon.org

For Questions or to
Join Our team,
Contact us at:

Ozzy@DarkOnes.org

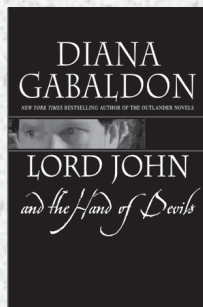
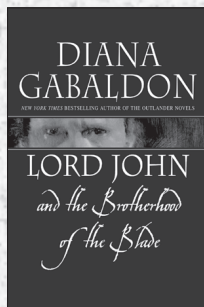
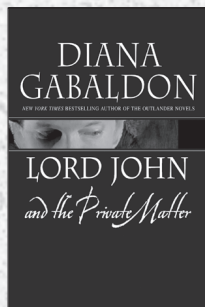




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