

ConNotations

Summer 1999
Volume 9, Issue 2

The Quarterly Science Fiction, Fantasy & Convention Newszine of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society

SF Tube Talk

by Lee Whiteside

leew@goodnet.com

Goodbye DS9, Hello Crusade, and "What Happened to Tonight's Buffy Episode?!"

As we move into the summer months, we bid farewell to **Star Trek: Deep Space**

Nine episode occurred on Thursday, May 27th at the Museum of Radio and Television in Los Angeles. An audience of 150 people which included fans who bought tickets as well as Deep Space Nine production cast and crew watched the show together.

During the scene in Vic's near the end of the finale, the majority of the audience in the club were DS9 production crew and some of the supporting actors out of



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Nine, begin the (maybe) limited run of the Babylon 5 spinoff **Crusade**, wait for The WB to show us some episodes of Buffy they pulled and ponder the new fall season.

The two hour final episode of **Star Trek: Deep Space Nine** aired the first week of June in most areas. The show had been moving along towards its conclusion for the last half of the season, having resolved the fate of some characters and plotlines before the final episode, most notably Gowron & Worf, and The Grand Nagus and Quark. They left the resolution of the two-year plus war with the Dominion for the finale as well as finishing up the Bajoran Prophets/Pawraiths conflict, leaving Kai Winn and Gul Dukat dead and Captain Sisko with The Prophets (promising that "I'll be back", however). Most of the other characters ended the series with some sort of closure, although some were more important than others. It did leave things such that they could bring everyone back together at some point without too much trouble.

The first public screening of the final

their alien makeup. It was fun to realize some of them appearing on screen as extras were sitting right in front of me. They were also having fun spotting themselves and their colleagues onscreen.

(Cont'd on Page 6)

24 Frames

Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace - 2 Reviews

Star Wars - Episode 1: The Phantom Plotline

George Lucas has nothing to fear. The Phantom Menace is a success. With all the merchandising, everything from clothing, food, personal hygiene items, toys, video games to the PepsiCo partnership, George Lucas would not need to make a dime on the movie itself and he would still make a profit. He has programmed the public to respond to the words "Star Wars" the way Pavlov's dogs respond to the dinner bell. He could literally do no wrong with this film.

But, he has done wrong. He's hypnotized most of the viewers into believing that The Phantom Menace is a good movie, when instead, it is a special effects extravaganza with defects in every area.

The plot is simple enough for a six year old to follow, which therein lies the problem. It is not meaty enough for the adult audience. The lack of tension in many scenes leads to very boring passages. Many points in the plot were contrived. Why would Queen Amidala practically bestow a knighthood on R2D2 for simply doing his job as a maintenance droid?

One of the hallmarks of good character-

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Convention Information

(Check out the Conventions Listing for more details and contact info on these events and check our online events listings (www.casfs.org/events.html) for updated information between issues.)

DarkCon '99 is set for June 25-27 at the San Marcos Hotel in Chandler, Arizona. Special Writer Guests of Honor are **George Clayton Johnson** and **William F. Nolan**, the co-creators of Logans Run. **Garry Siler** is the Music GoH. The date is a week later than previously announced, so make your plans accordingly. (Check the Progress Report in the center of this issue for more information)

HexaCon 9 (Scottsdale AZ) **July 9-11, 1999** Arizona's Premiere Gaming Convention. Sunspree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (602)991-2400 GoH: **Derek Percy**, author of In Nomine; 24 hour NON-STOP Gaming - Sanctioned Magic Tournaments, Sanctioned RPGA Tournaments, US Chess Federation Sanctioned Chess Tournaments, LARP, Computer Gaming, Miniatures Painting Contest; 'Bot Bash, Game Auction, Full Consuite, Dealer's Room. Memberships \$20 at the door; HexaCon 9, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082 Email: leigh@primenet.com Webpage: <http://members.aol.com/boniece/index.html> (Check the Progress Report in the center of this issue for more information)

CopperCon 19, (Scottsdale, AZ) **September 10-12, 1999** Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona Author GoH: **David Weber**, Artist GoH: **Brett Bass** Memb: \$30 until May 1, 1999, \$35 at the door, Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under - free; Room rates are \$65 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. (800) 525-5205 ; Info: CopperCon 19, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602)973-2341, Email: cucon@casfs.org (Check the Progress Report in the center of this issue for more information)

FYI

Star Wars Memorabilia - ASU's Hayden Library has on display in Special Collections a moderately impressive collection of the current lot of Star Wars Memorabilia. This includes Posters, action figures, etc. It might be worth a look though aficionados likely have it all. The Display will be up through June. Science fiction turns to Science Fact!... at www.time-travel.com

Time Travel?? - This month's feature story presents shocking scientific evidence suggesting proof of time traveler visits to our distant past... millions of years before mankind had even evolved on the planet!!

Explore the Possibilities on the exciting new frontier of time travel with the Time Travel Research Center, a company dedicated exclusively to advancing efforts to help mankind realize time travel capabilities. Explore the Possibilities at www.time-travel.com

Book Discussion Groups

We have two monthly book discussion groups going, one at Glendale Public Library on the first Thursday of each month and another at Barnes and Noble in Metro Center on the fourth Thursday of each month. Here's a schedule of upcoming books:

Glendale Public Library: 1st Thursday of the month

July 1: Book of Night With Moon - Diane Duane

Aug 5: Komarr - Lois McMaster Bujold
Sept 2: Carnivores of Light & Darkness - Alan Dean Foster

Oct 7: Rebirth (aka Chrysalis) - John Wyndham

Nov 4: A Princess of Mars & The Gods of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs

Dec 2: Soldier Ask Not - Gordon Dickson

Barnes & Noble: 4th Thursday of the month

June 24: Star Wars Novelization - Terry Brooks

July 22: Sword Born - Jennifer Roberson

Aug 26: Priam's Lens - Jack Chalker

Sept 23: Six Moon Dance - Sherri Tepper

Oct 28: Twice upon A Time - ed. Denise Little

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER DATES WILL BE CHANGED DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS. CHECK ISSUE 3 OF CONNOTATIONS FOR THE CORRECT DATES

Nov: High Crusade by Poul Anderson (available from Barnes & Noble by special order - allow 4-6 weeks)

Dec: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

For more information on the Glendale Library group contact Sue Martin at (623)939-7815. For more information on the Barnes & Noble group contact Stephanie L Bannon at (602)973-2341.



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CASFS Business Report

Greetings again, Faithful Reader.

Summer is upon us already, and with summer comes... elections! The elections are being held June 18th. This is a date change due to DarkCon, which is being held June 25-27. (Be careful not to trip over that plug, F.R.) Up for election are the President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer, plus three board members. The Chairman and Banker for CopperCon 21 and HexaCon 11 will also be decided on the 18th. In order to vote, you need to have attended four out of the last six meetings, and the elections meeting counts.

In the months since my last letter, CASFS has purchased a credit card machine— look for its first appearance at HexaCon July 9-11-and sponsored a very successful booth at the 2nd Annual Book Festival. We had a good time, our authors had a good time, and we're eagerly anticipating next year. CopperCon 18 closed its books, reporting a financial success, and the sheds were officially inventoried. CASFS also sponsored a successful Star Wars event at the Metrocenter Barnes & Noble on May 24th.

The book discussion groups are still going on. If you're interested in joining in, one meets on the first Thursday of each month at the Glendale Public Library. The next book discussed will be Diane Duane's Book of Night with Moon.

The other group meets on the fourth Thursday at the Metrocenter Barnes & Noble. June 24th, we'll be discussing Terry Brooks' novelization of Star Wars Episode 1: The Phantom Menace.

Until next time,

The Frantic Scribe

P.S. Don't forget about the date change for the next CASFS meeting-June 18th!



© Sherlock

What is CASFS?

What is really behind putting on a convention? What the funds raised by a convention used for? Why not attend a meeting and find out? We're the sponsor of ConNotations, CopperCons, HexaCons, SmerfCons and other conventions. We are a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to further science fiction, fantasy and science fields in Arizona. CASFS currently meets at the JB's Restaurant at 2560 W Indian School Rd in Phoenix (NW corner of I-17 and Indian School). The meetings begin at 8PM and are held on the last Friday of the month Jan. Through Sept. And on the second Friday of the month Oct through Dec. Everyone is invited to attend two meetings as a guest (non-member). Membership rates are \$12/year plus an initial \$3 application fee and rates are pro-rated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info Call: Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 Webpage: www.casfs.org email: casfs@casfs.org

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Submission Info: Writers and artists are encouraged to submit work for publication. While we cannot pay you for your efforts your work will be seen by over 4,000 fans across the Southwest and the country. You will retain the copyright to your work for future publication. To submit your work or for more information please write to: ConNotations; PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or contact us via Email at Editors@casfs.org

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PRO NOTES

by Daryl F. Mallett

It's getting even warmer in Tempe, although we did have a brief bit of rain this week.

What's been happening in our world (besides *Star Wars*):

More sad news came recently, as long-time LASFS member **Gary Louie**, age 41, passed away in Los Angeles of a heart attack. Gary was a great guy and a familiar face at Los Angeles conventions and will sorely be missed.

LepreCon was a great convention this year. We had **Michael Whelan** as the Artist Guest of Honor. Spending time with him was great, and his family (hi, Audrey, Alexa, Adrian, and Nana!) is wonderful. We went for a good bit of Mexican food after the convention was over. Writer Guest of Honor was **Larry Niven**, who attended along with his wife **Marilyn (Fuzzy)**. It was nice, additionally, to see out-of-towners at the convention. Usually it's just us local yokels, but we were graced with the presence of the likes of **J. Gregory Keyes**, **Louise Marley**, **Darlene D. Bolesny**, and **Joanne Bertin** from all over the globe. **Alice** and **Marty Massoglia** were in from Los Angeles. Also in attendance, the

usual suspects: yours truly, **Bruce D. Arthurs**, **Liz Danforth**, **Emily Devenport**, **Ernest Hogan**, **Pete Manly**, **Dennis McKiernan**, **Melanie Rawn**, **Michael A. Stackpole**...etc. Many local fen attended as well, including: **Barry Bard**, **Jeff Jennings**, **Nola Yergen** (who won yet another masquerade, resplendent as Queen Amidala from *Star Wars*, Episode I: *The Phantom Menace*), and more.

Speaking of **Louise Marley**...a must read is her new book *The Terrorists of Irustan*. I picked it up one night and put it down very, very, very early the following morning, cursing because I had to get up in a few hours and work.

And speaking of *The Phantom Menace*...Wow...wow...WOW! That's my review.

The local media kept **Mike Stackpole**, **Jennifer Roberson**, **Alan Dean Foster**, and I busy. I had a two-day interview with KFLR 90.3 FM the week before the movie; I appeared on the night of May 2nd/morning of May 3rd at the KEDJ 100.3 FM Midnight Madness at Toys 'R' Us on Camelback Road, where the radio station gave out tickets to a special engagement breakfast showing of the movie. One family bought over \$2,500 worth of *Star Wars* toys and stuff...we gave them a signed copy (by most of the authors) of *Star Wars: Tales from*

Jabba's Palace. It was my birthday on May 3rd, so it was nice of George Lucas to release all the toys and books on that day! The week before, a huge group, led by **Nola Yergen**, **Jammie Soble** and **Jeff Jennings** gathered at Harkins Metrocenter to buy tickets. **Dan Harkins** came to keep us company while we waited, and Channel 3's beautiful and charming **Beth Perry** was there, talking with the crowd as well.

Then, the night before the big event...Mike and I were guests of KSLX 100.7 FM's party at Planet Hollywood, where we were interviewed briefly and watched as the DJs gave out toys and tickets to the movie. The following morning, Mike headed to Harkins Metrocenter to appear on KTAR 620 AM's morning show, and I went to KEDJ's breakfast showing at Harkins Arizona Mills. Local amateur filmmaker **Brian Thorson** was in the audience that morning, as well as Toby from All About Books & Comics, who showed up as Darth Maul. He'd shaved his head and really looked the part, complete with horns and the like. He went to traffic court immediately afterwards...and I wish I could have been there to see it. That evening, all four of us, along with **Liz Danforth** showed up at Harkins Metrocenter, where nearly 400-strong, the Dark Ones, CASFS, Staghold,

Schadenfreude, most of the local SCAdians, and other assorted friends and family members converged for the evening showing. (There were only 441 seats in the theatre, so we practically owned that show.) **Michael Wildes** of AA Best Limousines graciously chauffeured us to the event. Afterwards, it was on to The Cadillac Ranch for drinks and food and friends.

With all the excitement of the new film, as well as conventions, I didn't get a chance to query everyone for this issue, so last issue's news will have to hold you over.

In the meantime, get ready for Highland War (Flagstaff, AZ; June); Agamemcon III (Burbank, CA; June); and DarkCon (Chandler, AZ; June), the latter with special guests **William F. Nolan** and **George Clayton Johnson**, authors of *Logan's Run*. I invited actor **Michael York**, who regrettably cannot attend this year, and actress **Jenny Agutter**, who has not responded from London yet (keep your fingers crossed). A new movie is in the works, to be tentatively produced by **Joel Silver**, whose most recent work was *The Matrix*.

That's it for this round. If you want to see something, email me at (bluefire@zwolf.net), etc. See you next time!

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

"FAVORITE SINGS" IS MAR-VELOUS
These Are a Few of My Favorite Sings
Kathy Mar

**** (out of four)

Prometheus Music, PM-1000

www.prometheus-music.com

Kathy Mar is a filk legend, I'm told. She's even a member of the Filk Hall of Fame, which I was totally unaware of until her agent sent me to the website.

Other filkers I talked to about Mar describe her as a "militant filker," that is, she stands up for the right to sing at conventions and goes ballistic if filksings at cons are compromised at all. (Good thing she wasn't at Leprecon, but I'll get to that later.)

Anyway, Mar has made a name for herself in the filk world and if her latest album, "My Favorite Sings," is any indication, it's easy to see why. Here we have 16 tunes, all written by others, which Mar puts her own signature on. And quite honestly, this album is fantastic.

Surrounding herself with excellent musicians including Margaret Davis (see the last issue of ConNotations for my review of her latest) and producer

Kristoph Klover, Mar has made an album that jumps from subject to subject and mood to mood, like any good folk album should.

She's not concerned with whether there's a science-fiction or fantasy bent to this music. She just knows it's good and she wants you to hear it. And she has a wonderful voice and the musical talent to pull it all off—beautifully.

Highlights include a very nice, "everybody sing" kind of rendition of Steve Goodman's "The 20th Century is Almost Over," which Goodman wrote around 1977 when there was considerably more time to sing it and be relevant, but nevertheless, you still have time to enjoy Mar's version without feeling left behind.

Kudos too to her great recording of Christine Lavin's "Santa Monica Pier," which brightens things up even if you're in a good mood already.

I'm a critic, and I need to critique something, so I'll say that if there's a weak song on here for me, it's Zander Nyron's "No Such Thing," and that's mostly because I don't like child singers. The kids on this song don't change my mind.

Also, "Water, Fire and Smoke" is one of those "invocation of nature and the elements" songs that just doesn't do anything for me. Hell, it's all I can do to invoke six bucks for a movie.

Also, I don't know what Ms. Mar looks

like in person, but I doubt it's like the singing nun hitching for a ride depicted on the front cover of the CD.

The production on this album is fantastic. I want Klover to produce my CD if I ever get around to it.

Write the name of this album down and start looking for it at conventions. Buy it. You'll like it!

CONVENTION NOTES

Leprecon had an interesting to-do on Saturday night up in the filk suite, when the hotel, in violation of the Con's contract, put a so-called "Mundane" in a room right next to the usual rowdy bunch of singin', hollerin' and yellin' folks, yours truly included. The festivities were shut down for about an hour, while filk first officer Gary Swaty went down to the front desk to show the staff the contract and punch a few guys out. (Editor's note: While it was inconvenient for the mundane guest and the hotel it was not a violation of the contract and the hotel handled the situation quickly and gracefully as soon as the proper LepreCon Committee member - Hotel Liaison - was informed of the problem. Had that person been contacted when the problem first arose it would have been handled in 10 minutes instead of an hour)

Anyway, once things got into high gear again, I got to hear some great songs from filk GOH Lynn Gold, and all the usual gang of singers, including Leslie

Fish, Nancy Freeman, the Duras Sisters (whom I had been told by several people had broken up, but apparently they had reformed by the time the con took place), and a few others whose names escape me at the moment. I got to play some of my stuff too, and we all had a good time. Except for the guy next door.

On Sunday, Nancy Freeman performed what will probably be her next album, "Stardust County," in its entirety. An interesting and exciting narrative about supernatural things in the Old West, some of the songs she performed are still buzzing around in the back of my head as I write this, especially the one about the sand. Nancy's gonna play this again at Dark Con, so if you didn't get a chance to hear it, you have another chance.

Till next time, find something good to sing and share it with people! Tom Tuerff writes filk reviews for ConNotations. Send him your CD for review and he will be painfully honest. Address: 3013 W. Tonopah Dr., Phoenix, AZ 85027



ConClusion

LepreCon 25 Review By Mike Willmoth

This year's LepreCon was the 25th annual event. It was held Friday May 14 through Sunday May 16, 1999, at the Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. This year's Guests-of-Honor were artist Michael Whelan, author Larry Niven, local artist Robert Peacock and Filker Lynn Gold.

Pat Connors, who, though he'd been on a number of committees, had worked never chaired a convention before did a great job! Pat worked with the existing committee members, added a few new ones, and put together a successful convention. The GoHs had a great time, the attendees had a great time, and the convention made a profit. From the preliminary reports LepreCon 25 may have made a record surplus, it certainly broke the previous record for Art Show sales, and brought in a recent record number of attendees. Thanks, Pat & Committee/Staff/Volunteers!

The convention officially opened at 12 noon on Friday with some areas already open, such as Convention Operations / Security, ConSuite, Staff Lounge, Green Room / Program Operations, Registration, Japanimation and Video Room, Gaming, Dealers Room and Art Show. Programming started at 2:30pm and ran until around 12 midnight. Some of Friday's events were Tarot Through The Ages, Robert Peacock Art Demo with Acrylic Paints, Celtic Harp Concert, Russian Space Program Updates, GoH Filk Concert, NASA's Current Planetary Missions, Brew Your Own Mead and Cordial Making, and Introductory Astronomy by the pool.

Saturday started at 10 am for some with programs such as Beginner's Guide to Copyright Law, Paper Airplane Contest, The International Space Station Update, GoH Rainbow Mars Book Discussion, Rotary Rocket Presentation, Charity Auction benefitting Reading Is Fundamental (which raised around \$1500!), Masquerade, Regency Dancing and Violence & Horror in SF Art.

Sunday was our short day with Tube Talk and At The Movies, Killing Off Characters, Lost Wax Art Demo, Squirt Gun Battle, World's Smallest Fusion Reactor Demo, Calligraphy Workshop, Art Show Auction and the ever-present Con Evaluation.

My role for the convention pre-con was Electronic Publicity and Online Liaison. Not only did I handle incoming requests for information, but I also regularly posted our general con info on the Internet (Usenet) newsgroups, online services (CompuServe, Bix, etc.) and kept the fandom websites apprised of changes as

needed. At-con, I assisted the Guest Liaison, Lee Whiteside, with picking up Michael Whelan and family at the airport with the assistance of my wife, Jean Goddin. Since he was bringing in 5 total, we put the luggage into Lee's truck while we split the family into my car and Jean's.

Once we got them to the hotel, they wanted to eat so the Treasurer, Shahn Cornell, and I took them to Denny's at 11pm. Also at-con, I assisted Programming Director, Kitty McDonald-Neal, with picking up some participants at the airport and taking them back on Sunday or Monday. These included: Hugh Gregory, space flight historian, from Vancouver, BC, presented the Russian Space Program Update; Louise Kleba, Boeing engineer, who did the ISS presentation; and Diana Challis, planetary geologist, currently working for the Adler Planetarium in Chicago.

Besides this, I also participated pre-con with the program creation and at-con on the program itself. Friday started out with me driving Michael Whelan and son to Channel 3 TV studios for an interview with our Chair, Pat Connors. It went very well and they showed Michael's artwork, Larry Niven's books and other sf stuff. Afterwards we hit Phoenix's ice cream parlor, Mary Coyle's, for homemade ice cream to celebrate. Next I attended the Guest-of-Honor dinner at Black Angus on Friday and the Meet-the-Pros reception afterwards, then I lent a hand at the Astronomy Intro by the pool. Pete Manly brought his hand-built telescope made to the specs of Galileo from circa 1600; I'm glad I have modern binoculars. We met a nice couple from Florida, John and Debbie Mina, whose aunt lived here in the valley. John was also on programming.

Saturday, I was on The Art of Collecting with Jim Webbert, Shane Shellenbarger and several others; since they knew more than I did, and spent more on artwork too, I only stayed a few minutes. We also held a Bix Bash for those on the Bix online service; G. Harry Stine's widow, Barbara Stine, attended as did Jean, her mother & I, and a friend from outside Tuscon, John Davis, ever present at our local cons helping Program Ops or Con Ops this year. We visited Julio G's Mexican Restaurant and pigged out on Sonoran cuisine.

On Sunday, I was on The Do's and Don'ts of Convention Bidding; I couldn't stay long since I had to run someone to the airport, but since Arizona is bidding for the Westercon in 2002 (West Coast Science Fantasy Convention) it was important to be there for as long as I could.

At the last minute we decided to move the Leprecon Inc. board meeting to a week later since several board members were unavailable due to having to be out of function space by 5pm for the hotel.

Some of the participants this year

include: Arizona authors Emily Devenport & Ernie Hogan, Pete Manly, Daryl Mallett, Don Markstein, Dennis McKiernan, Melanie Rawn, Ken St. Andre & Michael Stackpole; Arizona artists Alan Gutierrez, Michael-Scot McMurry, James Reade, Larry

Vela & Cathie Yankovich; authors David & Christine Beaucage, Joanne Bertin, John Davis, Doris Egan, J. Gregory Keyes, Tom Marcinko, Louise Marley, Patricia Matthews, Susan Matthews, Milly McCloskey, Glenn Meganck, John Mina, & Cary Osborne; scientists/engineers Hugh Gregory, Aleta Jackson, Louise Kleba, Tom Ligon Jr., & Henry Vanderbilt; many fans from Phoenix, Tucson and California.

As you can see, we had a great convention. Next year's LepreCon (26) has a new Chair as well who is working on tying down a hotel contract. We'll announce that as soon as it is official. Meanwhile, please plan to join us next year when we attempt to out-do ourselves again. Please let us know what you liked or didn't like, any suggestions you may have, etc. You may use my postal address, email address or phone number, or any of the LepreCon addresses found elsewhere in this issue.

Thanks for all those who supported the convention and we'll see you next year!
Mike Willmoth - Chairman, Leprecon Inc., P.O. Box 8068, Scottsdale, AZ 85252, 480-945-6890
mwillmoth@compuserve.com



This space reserved for an ad from Lunar Traders

Neither Your Harlan Nor Mine: The Evening of Delicate Terrors, Part 2

By Shane Shellenbarger

After completing his talk and book signing at Glendale Community College, Harlan Ellison remained for a meal and conversation in the Teachers Lounge. Two kinds of people dominate a conversation: those who prattle on without regard to the glazed look in the eyes of their victims and those whose audience hangs on their every word. Whether it's an audience of one thousand or an audience of one, Ellison can grab and hold his listener like no other speaker.

After lunch, Harlan and Susan Ellison made their circuitous way through Glendale road construction and traffic problems to their hotel for a well-deserved rest before the evening presentation at the Arizona State University West campus. Following another meal with school officials and braving the trials of evening traffic, the Ellison's arrived at ASU West, prepared for the long evening ahead.

Susan Ellison set out books on a long table while Harlan talked to fans and old friends. Soon enough, Professor Rob Taylor of ASU West introduced Professor Hannes Kvaran of G.C.C. who introduced Ellison and the ride began.

Ellison was not given any guidelines or constraints concerning his talk, so he spoke on an amazing variety of subjects. He began with a Jesus joke, moved on to Henry Kissinger's apology for Richard Nixon's racism, proceeded to point to TNT Television selling out the common man, despaired that America is becoming Jerry Springer World, pilloried rude fans, commented on the Mount Everest that was Frank Sinatra's ego, and detailed the duplicity of Gene Roddenberry. Ellison spoke about his commentaries on the Sci-Fi Channel, checkbook journalism, James Cameron's "borrowing" the plot line of The Terminator from Solider and Demon with a Glass Hand, Linda Tripp's appearance, Clinton's mistakes, Ronald Reagan and the California School District, and about carrying a gun for Crazy Al Wilson, a man known for keeping his clothes in a filing cabinet . . . all in the first thirty minutes.

Ellison took questions from the audience. No, he didn't drop a chandelier on a group of people. Yes, he did flip a fraternity brother off of a fire escape into a garbage shed three stories below. Part of his treatment for Chronic Fatigue Syndrome was meeting with a psychologist who practiced in Beverly Hills. It turns out that it was one of his frat brothers. After two sessions with Ellison

the doctor reported that the author was clearly deranged, but that he puts his animosity to worthy ends. He continued by stating that Ellison turns his anger outward and it becomes a valuable expulsion in his writing. He concluded by saying there was nothing further he could do for Ellison and "he's about as sane as we're going to get him." Ellison ended the story with a smile and noted that the audience might be learning more about him than they care to know.

When asked about revealing himself through public appearances, Ellison said his talks were primarily smoke and mirrors designed to sell his books and recordings. He imparted a bit of his philosophy when he said that what ever wasn't nailed down was his and whatever he could pry loose wasn't nailed down.

The subject of television arose and



Ellison picked up where he left off in his books, "The Glass Teat" and "The Other Glass Teat." Ellison considers television one of the most powerful forces to dominate the landscape and the perfect opiate. With the national average of six and one half viewing hours a day, Americans are turning their minds to prune yogurt. Ellison considers television cheap entertainment that creates in-your-face drones who'll buy any garbage that is presented in the right lighting or with the right camera angle. He declares that you can't go five minutes without a fast food ad tempting you to become another member of the growing statistics on heart disease in this country.

While on the subject of television, Ellison commented on some of his own appearances in the medium. During one of his early guest shots on Tom Snyder's Tomorrow Show, Ellison tried to tell a story about a particularly nasty ABC executive. Each time Ellison would begin the story, Snyder would interrupt him or go to commercial. Ellison never did get the story out and people complained about Snyder's cutting off his guest. Eventually, Ellison realized that Snyder

was preventing the author from putting his foot in his mouth because Ellison had just sold a series to ABC.

A member of the audience told Ellison that she was from his town of Painesville, Ohio and while they reminisced, Ellison remembered a particular incident. Ellison believes firmly that there is a balance to the Universe that manifests itself as nothing less than revenge. In the '60's, during the height of his television writing career, Ellison took a trip back to Painesville just to style, to show off a little. An extraordinarily beautiful actress, traveling in his gunmetal blue Austin-Healy with a louvered bonnet rigged for racing accompanied him. He wanted to roll past all of the people who had said he'd wind up in prison to see his \$1,500.00 Harry Cherry suit with the red lining, a goddess on his arm, and his car

which was worth more than any of them made in ten years.

He entered the Parminton Hotel, once the premiere hotel of Painesville, and now a rundown dowager; soot stained shadow of its former self. Seated at the bar was Jack Wheeldon, the bully who beat the living daylight out of Ellison everyday that he had attended Lathrop Grade School. Wheeldon had aged into a fat, miserable failure. He slid from his barstool and began advancing on the writer. Ellison had been through Ranger basic training, had studied martial arts, and had the memory of all of those years of abuse at the hands of Jack Wheeldon. Maybe it was the way Ellison stood, maybe it was something in his unwavering look deep into Wheeldon's piggy eyes. Whatever it was, Wheeldon stopped his advance, hesitated a moment, and then lumbered back to his stool. In that moment, Ellison felt the weight of those childhood years lift from his shoulders and he was free of their curse. He left Painesville and never returned.

As one might expect, Ellison was asked what advice he had for someone who loves to write. Get an honest job was his

reply. Ellison said that if he had to do it over again he'd become a plumber or an electrician. Unless you're a Borges, Kafka, or Dostoevsky you should get a job that helps people and write in your spare time. Send your work out to market and if it's any good it'll be bought and if it isn't it'll be rejected. When asked if he wanted to change his life, Ellison responded that he was exactly and precisely who and where he wanted to be. He feels that we are each responsible for our lives and if you're not happy with who you are, go and become somebody else.

Questioned about his writing for comic books, Ellison conveyed his intent to work on future issues of "Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor". He also talked about his current project: a Superman graphic novel called "Exorcising Demons" about a television writer who returns to his hometown in Ohio. The book will contain cameos by Robin Williams and Julius Schwartz.

Susan Ellison's presence emboldened one audience member to ask how the couple met. "We met cute," Ellison replied. Around 1984, Ellison was scheduled to be the Guest of Honor at a convention in Glasgow, Scotland. He had just finished a grueling stint as an instructor at the Clarion Writers' Workshop and he would have one day to fly home, empty the clothes from his suitcase, repack and leave for Scotland. To make matters worse, the workshop was located near a breeding ground for mosquitoes who had found Ellison a particularly tasty morsel. By the time he made it home, Ellison was too sick to travel further. He contacted the convention committee, arranged for Norman Spinrad to replace him, and got on with the business of being ill. Soon there after, Ellison shipped a box of books to Dave Britain of Andromedia Books. He had planned to bring the books with him to Scotland to sell at the convention. Included in the box were a dozen French edition trade paperbacks that Ellison believed would sell in Britain, little knowing that most of the British wouldn't be caught dead reading French.

Fast-forward one year to the next convention in Glasgow. Ellison followed Dave Britain to his table in the dealer's room to retrieve the unsold books, which included the French editions. As he hands the box to Ellison, Britain pulls the box back saying he feels bad that the books didn't sell and he'd continue to try to sell the remainder. Ellison pulled back on the box, thanking Britain for the books he had sold. Back and forth the box went until a whirlwind appeared out of nowhere, shoving the box into Ellison's chest, shouting, "We don't need your bleeding books!" Ellison took one look at Susan and in his words, "My heart became a sunshine frog jumping up and

(Cont'd on page 6)

down in my chest.”

The convention committee had asked Ellison what his favorite science fiction film was because they planned to screen that film at a local movie house. Ellison’s choice was Seconds with Rock Hudson. Susan agreed to attend with Ellison and when she was seated he returned to the snack bar to begin the conquest of her heart. A few minutes later Ellison staggered back to his seat, his arms full of sweets, drinks, and popcorn. Susan is reported to have said, “I’m yours!” The Ellison’s will be celebrating their fourteenth wedding anniversary on September 7th.

The audience felt encouraged to ask Ellison about a few of his favorite things. His favorite works are his recording of “Paladin of the Lost Hour”, his short story “Grail” to be found between the pages of “Stalking the Nightmare”, and his novella “Mefisto in Onyx”. His favorite writers are Gerald Kersh, Donald Westlake, and Mark Twain. “I just chortle like crazy reading Mark Twain,” Ellison said. His reading habits account for the three stacks of to-be-read books, each five feet tall and the 250,000 book library contained within his home. Ellison recently finished “Backlash” by Donald Westlake/Richard Stark, “It’s the Stupidity, Stupid” by Harry Shearer, and a book on Egyptian mummification. The latest comic book read by Ellison is issue two of “The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen” by Alan Moore. His favorite comic book is the 1944 issue 6 of Jack Cole’s “Plastic Man.” His favorite actor is Tom Hulce from Amadeus and some of films he has enjoyed recently are Montana, Big Night, Juliet Poe, and A Bugs Life.

When asked about the movie reviews he once wrote for “The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction”, Ellison said, “In a nation that thinks Fargo is a good movie, what place is there for me other than to point out that the Emperor has no clothes.” He continued by saying, “I don’t think there is much to say about an industry that thinks remaking The Mod Squad is a viable project. I don’t think much of an industry that allows a little piss ant like Gus Van Sant to take the script that Joseph Stefano wrote from Bob Bloch’s book and remake Psycho.

The last question from the audience concerned Ellison’s appearances on Politically Incorrect. Of the sixteen times that Ellison has appeared on P.I., the one that stands out in his mind had guests Fyvush Finkel from Picket Fences, Rhea Perlman from Cheers, and former welfare mother turned right wing radio commenta-

tor, Starr Parker. The topic concerned Elia Kazan, one time film director and snitch for the House Un-American Activities Committee. On that day the Hollywood Film Critics had denied Kazan their Achievement Award. At one point during the show, Parker put forth the opinion that McCarthy had done a lot of good. Ellison corrected her, saying the McCarthy hearings took place six years after the HUAC. Eventually, Ellison asked Parker on what history of the blacklists she had based her opinion. She told him that the staff of P.I. had provided her with an article from the New York Times. “How dare you come on television an express and opinion as if it had anything behind it other than hot air?” Ellison asked. He points out that should they repeat that episode the audience should watch the end credits where they freeze-frame a shot of Ellison in mid-air as he goes for Parker.

After speaking for nearly two and one half-hours, Ellison signed books and talked with fans for nearly another hour. Finally, it was just a small group of us as we made our way out to the parking lot and then just Susan, Harlan, and me as we drove back to their hotel. We said our good byes and I drove home, going over in my mind the day and one half I’d spent with two nice people and one of the most intense personalities I have ever met. He’s neither your Harlan, nor mine, but very much his own man. Oh, and if the chance ever presents itself, ask him about the time the French Secret Police arrested him for the attempted assignation of the President of Poland. I hear the story takes about twenty-six minutes to tell properly.



After a short break, joining us onstage were Executive Producers Rick Berman and Ira Steven Behr, actors Avery Brooks, Rene Auberjonois, Nana Visitor, Alexander Siddig, Armin Shimmerman, Michael Dorn and Nicole deBoer.

Highlights of the session were Avery Brooks’ thoughtful answers. Brooks felt that it was a miracle that he lasted the seven years. One of the most important things was that for seven years you saw an ongoing father/son relationship, and that they were brown. He was pleased with how Sisko ended up, leaving us with a sense that Sisko will return.

All of them were sad to see it end, but it hadn’t really sunk in yet since they were in the normal hiatus period. Rene Auberjonois felt it had been an extraordinary seven years working with this group. Nana Visitor felt she had grown personally and professionally over the seven years. When asked about doing more if offered a part on a new Trek series, she’d jump at the chance. She’d done enough garbage on TV and film that having the quality work she’d have no compunction about signing on for another series.

Alexander Siddig commented that these seven years had been a fifth of his life and it was the longest he’d been involved with anything. He’d made many friends through the show, one of whom he’d be going to bed with that night (meaning

Nana, who he has married, but Armin Shimmerman reached over and put his hand on Siddig’s leg giving him a wistful look).

Armin Shimmerman felt that seven years of playing Quark had taught him to be a better actor, that working with this cast constantly inspired him to do a better job. Armin admitted that he hadn’t been happy with his character arc until *The Dogs of War*. He was enormously grateful for the events in that episode, that it had snuck up behind him and bit him on the head.

Michael Dorn has been at it for twelve years, playing Worf on **Star Trek: The Next Generation** for its seven years and five on Deep Space Nine. The twelve years had gone quickly and been a career for him. The work has been great and he’s enjoyed the luxury of working and meeting with people you like. Nicole deBoer noted that this had been the biggest job of her life and that she was pretty nervous when she first started, but that the other cast members made her feel at ease, especially Armin who was the first one she worked with. Ending the series left her feeling sad that she hadn’t been around for the first six years but was happy to have done the one.

Rick Berman felt the ending was bittersweet. He thought that they had gotten better each year. When questioned about the next movie, he said they didn’t yet have planned what the next movie would be. On the prospects of a fifth series, he wouldn’t commit to when it was likely and that he felt it would be good to give **Voyager** some breathing room.

Ira Steven Behr was happy about how they ended the show and felt they had accomplished everything they set out to do. However, when talking with fans afterwards, he admitted he had a great idea for a Deep Space Nine movie. With his bald head and sunglasses, he’s also the most noticable of the production crew in the crowd at Vic’s.

After the final question was answered, the audience gave the cast and crew a long round of applause. Some of the cast hung around and signed some autographs for the appreciative fans. The screening and subsequent Q&A session were a nice way to end the series, allowing some of the fans to be involved. For those who weren’t there, the session should be available to check out and view from the Museum’s archives.

Hot on the heels of the end of Deep Space Nine, the Babylon 5 sequel series **Crusade** debuted on TNT on June 9th. The thirteen episodes produced will air on TNT on Wednesday nights at 10 pm ET/PT. As mentioned last issue, there is no chance that TNT will continue it, but the Sci-Fi Channel is interested. If the initial ratings on TNT are decent enough, there is a good chance the Sci-Fi Channel

(Cont’d on page 7)

will commit to a second series before the options on the actors contracts expire in mid-July. As mentioned last issue, if you want to show the Sci-Fi channel you want to see more of Crusade, write to:

SFC/USA Networks
 Barry Diller, CEO - USA Networks
 Stephen Chao, President - USA Networks
 Ms. Bonnie Hammer, Senior VP of Programming
 1230 Avenue of the Americas
 New York, NY 10020-1513

Buffy The Vampire Slayer

The other major story in the last couple of months has been how the response to the Littleton, Colorado shootings have had on some of the TV shows, especially **Buffy The Vampire Slayer**. The first new episode scheduled to air after the shootings was *Earshot*, where Buffy overhears details of a mass murder plot at the high school. The WB felt that the subject matter of that episode wouldn't be appropriate a week after the shootings and pulled it.

That most people agreed was the right course of action. As they approached the airing of the two part season finale, which is the culmination of the ongoing conflicts with The Mayor and Faith, the WB became uneasy about some of the events in the final episode, where the students arm themselves to attack the Mayor after he ascends into his demon form. After saying they would air both parts after requesting some edits from the producers, The WB changed their minds before part 2 would air. By this point, the episode had already aired in Canada and

Crusade Preview

Here's a preview of each of the thirteen episodes of Crusade that will air over the next several months:

The series opener, *War Zone*, shows how Gideon put his crew together in the aftermath of the Drakh attack on Earth seen in **A Call To Arms** and their encounter with the Drakh when they investigate a crashed Drakh ship on a planet that also has an IPX expedition led by Max Eilerson, who ends up joining the crew. As I've noted before, the original opening episode, *Racing the Night*, picked up several months into the mission and is now scheduled to air as the ninth episode. TNT felt that doing a "bring the crew together" episode would be a better way to start, giving the audience a chance to see the crew's initial meetings. The episode does suffer some from the need to spend a lot of time introducing the crew and might not have been as good of an episode to draw in new viewers or to keep Babylon 5 viewers interested.

The next episode, *The Long Road*, focuses on Gary Cole's Captain Gideon and Peter Woodward's Galen with a guest appearance by Edward Woodward (Peter's father) as a technomage who stayed behind when the rest of them left during the Shadow War. It is a lighter episode and gives the audience a chance to learn more about Galen and the technomages.

Third to air (June 23) is *Well of Forever*, which also focuses on Galen, who commandeers the ship to search

for the Well of Forever, a mystical crossroads somewhere in the vastness of hyperspace.

Airing fourth (June 30) is *The Path of Sorrows*, which is an episode that TNT didn't want them to do because it is mostly backstory. We see how Galen and Gideon first met and how Gideon acquired an Apocalypse Box. We also learn of Galen's lost love and about an incident Matheson was involved in during the telepath war.

In *Patterns of the Soul* (July 7), The Excalibur learns that some people left Earth during the Drakh attack and may be infected with the plague. They track them down and when they investigate to determine if they are infected or not, they find out more than they anticipated.

Ruling From the Tomb (July 14), which is written by Peter David, brings the Excalibur to Mars for a conference on the plague. Gideon meets up with Captain Lochley, who is helping provide additional security. They have to deal with a group of religious zealots.

In *The Rules of the Game* (July 21), Gideon comes to Babylon 5 to negotiate for the rights to land on the Lorkan homeworld. The Lorkans feel they are superior to humans and are not very cooperative. Max Eilerson's ex-wife is also there, and needs Max's help.

Appearances and Other Deceits (July 28) has visiting political officers determine a new look for the Excalibur and its crew in order to improve morale back home while the sole survivor aboard an

alien spaceship threatens the mission.

This episode is the last one produced and transitions into the airing of the first five episodes produced.

Racing The Night (August 4) was the original opening episode. The crew investigates a seemingly abandoned planet that turns out to have the same problem as Earth.

The Memory of War (August 11) finds the crew investigating a vanished civilization and finding a weapon of capable of incredible destruction, and they discover other weapons that are not as dormant as they thought.

The Needs of Earth (August 18) has Gideon making a clandestine trip to meet with an alien fugitive who guards a storehouse of alien knowledge.

In *Visitors From Down The Street* (August 25), The Excalibur picks up two paranoid aliens who believe that humans have been meddling in their planet's affairs for years and that there government has been covering it up. Yes, it is an **X-Files** parody.

The last episode to air, *Each Night I Dream of Home* (September 1), has the Excalibur taking part in a top-secret experiment to help them learn more about the plague. It features a guest appearance by Richard Biggs as Dr. Franklin and what is noticeably the first time that Gideon and Lochley meet, even though they've previously met in episodes that have already aired.



Angel

in my opinion, the scenes appearing in the episode are there as part of the solution to the big problem, not the focus of the episode. Airing it with some sort of taped statement of concern from one of the cast members would have been fine in my opinion.

Latest word is that the two episodes may air as early as July or may wait until right before the start of the new season in September. Keep an eye on your local listings for when they will turn up.

Sliders

Sliders fifth season, and likely

its last, started up on the Sci-Fi Channel June 11th. Not returning for the new season are the O'Connell brothers, forcing them to dispose of Quinn and Colin Mallory off-camera as the new season starts. Replacing them will be Robert Floyd as Mallory, who has had Quinn merge with him in a lab experiment interrupted by the Vortex the Sliders arrive in. Also joining them is Tembi Locke as Diana, one of the scientists conducting the experiment. Peter Jurasik guest stars in several episodes as Dr. Oberon Geiger, Diana's mentor who causes even more problems for them. Jerry Doyle and Julie Caitlin Brown will also guest star in separate episodes.

Other News

Unlike Buffy, most of the other shows that ended their season with a cliffhanger planned them that way. **Star Trek: Voyager** leaves us with Janeway about to be attacked by an alien and Seven of Nine unconscious on the Equinox. If there's anyone willing to bet that either of them will meet their demise, I'll take them up on it. Considering news has leaked that

Kate Mulgrew has signed on for a full seven seasons of Voyager and they're not likely to off Seven of Nine, don't be too surprised this fall when they survive. There will be some behind the scenes changes, though, with several members of the Deep Space Nine writing staff (most notably Ron Moore) moving to Voyager, so the writing should improve some.

The **X-Files** ended their season quite differently than had originally been reported, opting for a single episode instead of two episodes to set up a season ending cliffhanger. Instead of dealing with the upcoming alien invasion, we got a new twist on aliens that may have written the Bible for us (or something along those lines).

'**Xena**' had its season ending cliffhanger a week early, running a clip show with a present day setting as the wraparound as the last new episode of the season. In the cliffhanger, Xena and Gabrielle get crucified and die, but as we've seen several times in the Hercules and Xena universe, death isn't that final. Real life events will have an effect on both shows next season. Xena star Lucy

(Cont'd on page 8)

Lawless is pregnant and they will have to work around it for the first part of the season, likely using more stunt doubles and fewer full body shots of Xena. On 'Hercules,' Kevin Sorbo's contract ends after eight more episodes and will not be doing any more than that, having already signed on to star in one of two series produced by Majel Barrett Rodenberry based on concepts created by Gene Rodenberry.

Series that ended their runs this year include **Millennium**, which fell victim to low ratings and the availability of a more trendier Chris Carter series, **Harsh Realm**, which will take its time slot this fall. **The Sentinel** appears to be gone after having been resurrected for mid-season (although there may still be a few new episodes left). **Highlander: The Raven** won't return, never having really rekindled the Highlander spirit or ratings. **Nightman** will be ending after two seasons. **Mystery Science Theatre 3000** will end after its current season, its tenth overall.

The broadcast networks announced their fall schedules in May. As expected, there's a handful of new genre series. Here's a summary of the new shows, with more details next issue.

NBC and ABC have no new genre shows, although NBC did renew **3rd Rock From the Sun**, **The Pretender** and **Profiler**. CBS picked up **Now and Again**, which is about an insurance agent (Eric Close) killed in an accident who is given a new, younger body by the government and becomes a government operative. They also renewed **Early Edition**.

FOX will have Chris Carter's **Harsh Realm** series, based on a short run comic series dealing heavily with virtual reality. Returning will be **The X-Files** for its final season and **Futurama**.

They also have ordered **Dark Angel**, from James Cameron for mid-season (or earlier if a hole in their schedule opens up). It is about Max (Jessica Alba), a genetically-enhanced human prototype hunted by her former military handlers through the edgy, underground street life of 21st century San Francisco.

The WB will have the Buffy spinoff **Angel** on Tuesdays right after Buffy. Angel will move to Los Angeles and be joined by Cordelia, Amy the Witch (who we'll assumed gets de-ratted by Willow), and a new character, Doyle (Glenn Quinn). They also picked up **Roswell**, based on a series of young adult novels about high school students in Roswell who are really aliens abandoned in the famous crash. It had been in development for FOX and is produced by Jonathon Frakes. The WB also renewed **Charmed** for its second season.

UPN picked up **Secret Agent Man**, which appears to be somewhat of a tongue-in-cheek approach to the spy

genre produced by Barry Josephson and Barry Sonnenfeld. They also renewed **7 Days** and **Star Trek: Voyager** and will be continuing their movie night on Fridays under the name **The UPN Blockbuster Shockwave Cinema**.
Lee Whiteside leew@goodnet.com



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24 Frames cont'd from page 1
ization is that we care about the characters. In *The Phantom Menace*, few characters elicit audience concern.

Jake Lloyd is unbelievable as Anakin Skywalker. His acting is flat and his reactions ring untrue. The contrived budding romance between Anakin and Amidala as her handmaiden, Padme Naberrie was hard to swallow. For nearly 2 hours and 12 minutes, Queen Amidala is stern. Natalie Portman's only time to shine as an actress is when she plays her own handmaiden. Liam Neeson did a workman like job as Qui-Gon Jinn. Nothing exceptional there. Frank Oz as Yoda was the most true to character, but Ewan McGregor as Obi-Wan Kenobi was quite believable. He even picked up some of Sir Alec Guinness's mannerisms. We look forward to seeing him in the next two films.

Jar Jar Binks is an annoyance from beginning to end. The only reason he could possibly have been introduced was to appeal to the Dumb and Dumber audience. He had no redeeming value. He was a klutz, a clod, and a cretin. His accent was as thick as a good jambalaya, but not nearly as satisfying.

The willing suspension of disbelief was stretched to the limit with the introduction of so many CGI characters. We haven't come that far from *Mary Poppins* cavorting with penguins. For a movie with characters we are supposed to take seriously, the credulity is lacking. This is one step removed from the human and animated characters introduced in *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*

One of the highlights of the film is the light saber play. The action in those areas appeared realistic and exciting. These scenes added much needed energy to a generally sluggish plot. On the other hand, the banter of the original trilogy was missing. The only comedy relief came from poorly conceived slapstick that would have made the *Three Stooges* grimace in pain at its ineptitude.

We are glad that we chose not to stand in line for weeks, days, or even hours to get tickets for *The Phantom Menace*. After a 16 year wait, we would have been even more disappointed than we already are. George Lucas may have tried to recapture the wonder and excitement of the original Trilogy, but in the words of Yoda, "Do or do not, there is no try." - by Shane and Lauren Shellenbarger

Star Wars Episode One: The Phantom Menace

Written and directed by George Lucas

My favorite thing about the new 'Star Wars': It is so nice to be back in George Lucas' universe again. It's so nice to see all those aliens and special effects which have grown by leaps and bounds since 1977 and the days of bad matting. And to

hear all that wonderful John Williams music.

It was also really interesting to see that Anakin Skywalker created C3PO (who obviously in Chapter 4 has been made to forget his Tatooine origins and doesn't know the gawky teenager who cleans him is the son of his creator or that he was previously friends with R2D2).

I liked the basic story line well enough, the film itself careens around at the speed of its spectacular podrace, but I wish we'd had more background on Qui-Gon Jinn and Obi-Wan's relationship. And more importantly, Anakin and his mom.

Thankfully, there is a little more balance between the male and female characters, even an older woman fighter pilot. (But why are ALL the toys (just about) geared towards boys? I have some discretionary cash and have no qualms about supporting an all-devouring marketing blitz.)

So, what's not to like? Well, we do have



to wait another two years for the next installment and though Lucas says the next one is a romance, I suspect something unpleasant to occur to Anakin's mom. I get the feeling that that will have something to do with Anakin's turning to the Dark side.

I wish the dialogue had had more zip, as I think it had a lot to do with the pedestrian performances. I really didn't want to see all that screen time eaten up by Jar Jar Binks, comic relief to little purpose (though my daughter, who is 7, thinks he was funny). His lame whining and comments over-stating the obvious irritated me, compounded by that pseudo-Caribbean patois. He doesn't have nearly the appeal of C3PO's similar place in Episode IV. (Please, let's hope he's not brought back for Episode II!) Also: wouldn't Qui-Gon have known Padme and Amidala are the same? He's a Jedi Master for the Force's sake: why wasn't he aware of the deception going on with Padme and Queen Amidala? How did it get by Obi-Wan as well? I mean, a grubby little boy on backwater planet whom he's

never met before and he has no problem picking up unsettling vibes from him: but an active deception...over his head. Kinda hard to believe

Of course: I know most of this is preaching to the converted (weren't most of you there opening night with the *Dark Ones?*).

But you know, when all is said and done, all the totals added up: Is this a bad movie or a good movie? As "ahrt" (nose in air please) its commercial. But, more importantly, to all of us SF fans who remember where we were the summer of 1977, this movie shall remain memorable. Always. It's inevitable: It adds more to the mythos, and for that I am grateful (and Qui-Gon Jinn was a pretty tasty addition) and like so many of our loves in the SF world (*Red Dwarf!!!!* Arghhh!) it is a guilty midnight chocolate death kind of pleasure.

I shall probably see it many times, bad bits notwithstanding. - Sue Martin

Tarzan (opens June 18)

Directed by Kevin Lima and Chris Buck

This is Disney Animation's annual summer entry. And like a certain previously mentioned podrace, it too careens around at top speed, loads of dipping and swooping camera moves, with only a few breaths in between.

Having not read the Edgar Rice Burroughs tale of the Englishman raised by apes, I don't know how the storylines compare, but in this version we have a baby rescued by a gorilla mom Kala (voice by Glenn Close), who has just lost her own child to probably the self-same leopard who has killed Tarzan's parents. She takes him back to the group she lives in and convinces the doubting silver-backed male leader Kerchak (voice by Lance Henriksen), that Tarzan should stay.

We have a little of the Bambi idyllic childhood scenes: truly lovely, lovely backgrounds of lush rain forest and comic-relief pals: an elephant named Trantor (voice by Wayne Knight) and a

cocky gorilla child named Terk (voice by Rosie O'Donnell).

Once Tarzan (voice by Tony Goldwyn) grows up, he discovers that really nasty ape, homo sapiens. But of course, he also finds Jane Porter (voice by Mini Driver) and in this Disney universe, it is marvelous watching the two of them get acquainted, as he rescues her from rampaging baboons, and especially the scenes where they are watching a lantern slide show in Jane's camp.

The heart-racing swinging through the vines and sliding along tree branches was pretty nifty (kids: don't try this at home) and the music by Phil Collins and Mark Mancina is especially good. There's a soundtrack that'll go platinum.

But cute animal pals or not, this particular animated feature is more adult in theme than the others, my daughter did not gush about it as she did *Mulan*—but then again, maybe it was just one too many high speed chases on top of another. - Sue Martin

Videophile

Arrival 2

Starring: Michael Sarrazin, Patrick Muldoon, Jane Sibbet
Artisan Entertainment - Rated R

Well, I should preface this by saying I was dreading/hoping for a sequel to "The Arrival" for a year now.

This was a good attempt but it was still a sequel, it had to follow some predetermined pattern because it worked in the first movie.

That said, I can report that it was an enjoyable movie. I like the way it tidied up the loose ends of the previous installment while leaving the possibilities open at the end for more movies. The acting was good with strong performances from the leads and supporting actors. Something to remember is these characters apparently have NEVER seen any American movies or TV. After both of their credit cards are refused they try to get money from a bank. Like, we couldn't have predicted that the money would be gone already. He is supposed to be a programming genius and she is an investigative reporter.

Other than that one unintelligent, moment the movie keeps you going and guessing until the end. I won't reveal all the secrets but remember the young neighbor from the first movie and expect betrayal from everyone.

Despite it's predictability and faux pas I give it 7.5 out of 10. Just don't expect high intelligence and you'll enjoy it. - Bob LaPierre

In Our Book

In the Company of Mind

by Steven Piziks, Baen
339 pp, \$6.99

“In the Company of Mind” is a space opera that takes place in the future, and in the mind of the protagonist.

John Lance Michaels Blackstone II seems to have everything growing up: every luxury money can buy, famous dad, brilliant mom, a personal bodyguard. But he is also the abused, tortured pawn of a vicious power mad controller who has had his son remade in his own image while turning him into an emotionally broken child.

As Blackstone II mind fragments into multiple personality disorder, his equally abused mother plots to free them.

Escaping at last, they followed their own paths. The mother into communications, Lance into security analysis. They both become successful.

But the monstrous father/husband can't stand to be thwarted, and sets up an insidious trap to reclaim his possessions.

Lance and his mother, on a space station using nanobots for a hostile takeover and Lance must takeover the company in his mind to survive.

The use of flashbacks to set the mindscape and situation keep it from the standard linear space opera, but there is more than enough action and intrigue to keep you going.. A good read. Enjoy. - Pam Allan

The Shadow Eater

by Adam Lee
Avon Fantasy, 334 pp, \$5.99

“The Shadow Eater” is the second volume of “The Dominions of Irth.” It is a sequel to “The Dark Shore” but stands alone well.

In the first volume, Reese Morgan, alias Ripcat in his bestial form, rose up to save the dominion from an overwhelming evil. But heroism doesn't matter when the unborn, nameless goddess child no longer moves. If the babe isn't saved, the future of all worlds will dissolve. The dreams of existence will die. So the goddess sends an elderly gnome, and the sentinel of light to purge the worlds of the evil, and restore the unborn goddess to activity before the Dark Consort wakes and destroys everything.

Old Ric collects a diverse collection of allies, (both living and dead) and they persevere through thick, thin, low fantasy, high myth, adventure, philosophy and humor to save the worlds, and themselves whenever possible.

With many a twist and turn, (and slip) it is one adventure after another to please the fantasy lovers heart. A worthy sequel. Well worth the read even if it is hard to put down when duty calls. - Pam Allan
Volume 9 Issue 2

Octoberland

by Adam Lee
Avon Fantasy., 308 pp, \$13.50, TPB.

“Octoberland” is the third and final volume of “The Dominions of Irth.”

Evil has again launched another assault on the Dominions of Irth. In Manhattan, an incredibly old wizard has spent three millennia turning the planet Earth into a giant talisman for eternal life for himself, and a challenge to the gods themselves.

Reese Morgan, now a mage without magic, is called to stop the invasion of Goblins. Jyoti Odawls is ousted as Margravine by her weakling brother Poch under the control of witches and goblins with the help of the greedy managers of Dogbrick's financial Empire while Dogbrick himself is stranded on Earth with the Sasquatch, and without his memories.

Somehow, with the help of the aged professor, Mary Felix, (youth restored). They must work together to drive Evil out, and close the charmways. No more paths between the worlds. When all is done, they must find new lives on Earth and Irth to complete the cycle.

Adam Lee has completed his trilogy with style. character, humor, and adventure with a twist of an ending that somehow seems just right. This trilogy is one you'll want to complete even though the individual books stand alone. - Pam Allan

Speaking Stones

by Stephen Leigh
Avon EOS, 319 pp, \$5.99

“Speaking Stones” is a sci-fantasy with a basis in Hopi mythology. It is set in the world of Dark Waters Embrace but is not specified as part of a series. It does stand alone.

A colony of humans was stranded on the planet Mictlan with an indigenous tri-gendered population. Troubled with physical mutations and birth defects, the small human colony develops a third sex similar to the Miccail. The two populations have lived in uneasy truce until a human Sa (third sex) child is kidnapped and found dead. The half-buried animosities and prejudice flare into violence and only sacrifice and communication will allow the warring species to survive.

This is a complex and involving book, flashing back to diaries of the past and relationships of the present. Myths, dreams and evolution combine into a survival situation complicated by the incipient loss of the “ghost”, an AI who has guided the humans in the current environment. The crippled spaceship in orbit is dying. Will it's plan to whip out the Miccail army using itself as a giant meteorite help or destroy the survival of the humans?

This is a good book, enough action to entertain, enough thought to intrigue, and

enough characterization for the reader to care. This makes a good enough read for me to hunt the prequel. - Pam Allan

Legacies And Lies

by Nancy Holder
Avon EOS, 292 pp, \$5.99

“Legacies And Lies” is book two of “The Six Families” series.

Six families of mafioso dominate the moon which has become Las Vegas in space.

Deuce McNamara, former bagman for the Borgioli family has become the right hand man of Hunter Castle, an earthsider and wealthy businessman who is building a new casino city on the darkside of the moon. When a powerful explosion rips Castle's fabled Gambler's Star, presumably destroying Hunter Castle with it, Deuce finds himself in a bloodbath. Not only must he deal with the competing families but a campaign of terror from the Moonsider liberation front. He must stop the slaughter, and prevent the Earth from imposing a tyranny of decency on the moon.

This is an entertaining book by the author of the Buffy The Vampire Killers series and The Angel Chronicles. Lots of plot twists and self-deprecating humor. Definitely worth a read. - Pam Allan

Vigilant

by James Alan Gardner
Avon Eos, 374 pp, \$5.99

“Vigilant” is science fiction that does not appear to be part of a series.

On Demoth, the Ooloms and humans get along fine but a plague wipes out millions of the Ooloms and leaves the humans untouched.

Faye Smallwood nurses the dying while her father finds the cure. Later, her father dies in a freak accident.

Many years later, Faye becomes a member of the Virgil, a group that oversees government actions to root out corruption. Linked to the planetary oversoul (combined intelligence and data source), Faye can access available intelligence on request, but finds herself targeted by robot assassins. Her Oolom partner is killed and her new partner is “zenned” out.

Tic has his own approach that helps find the trail of the perpetrator. Unfortunately, a strange phenomena that has saved her makes her a target for an out-of-control military group who thinks she can reveal a new weapon.

Before long, a new plague that targets humans is released, and Faye, Tic and Festina Ramos must band together to stop the plague, find the criminals while finding an alien technology thousands of years old capable of great destruction.

This is fun, entertaining, and hard to put down. the plot moves and the characters are engaging. Well worth the read.- Pam Allan

The Book Of The Spear

by Diana Paxson
Avon, 200 pp, \$10.00

“The Book of the Spear” is volume 2 of “The Hallowed Isle,” which is the Arthurian Legend from the Saxon point of view.

The Sixth century was a violent time regardless of point of view. Oesc is a descendant of royal blood who comes to Britain fleeing the drowned and desolate world he grew up in. Though sworn to the spirits of his new land, he also serves the older Germanic gods to whom he was dedicated at birth and the ancient power of the spear.

Captured and held hostage by Arthur's army, led with his sword of power, he returns to Cantium to assume the kingship left by his grandfather's death. He has become Arthur's friend, but when his wife and child are stolen, his home destroyed, and his people slain by Cautar, a Briton, he finds himself at war trying to reclaim them.

Written with Diana Paxson's usual richness of myth and legend, the changing points of view in the series make it a must read for lovers of fantasy, Arthurian legend, and Paxson fans. So far, the first two books have been well worth the trade paperback price. - Pam Allan

The Sea Came in at Midnight

by Steve Erickson
Avon Books, HB, \$23.00

I don't normally write a negative review of books, preferring to simply pass on writing anything bad, but this book deserves it.

It is not even speculative fiction other than a couple of impossible bad science technical details (not germane to the plot) which indicate the author simply didn't do his homework.

The book starts out looking like a Y2K millennium novel but then it goes South into self-analysis of the first-person protagonist. The premise is that the new millennium started years ago when somebody's mother disappeared without explanation.

The book is chronologically disjointed and the author switches character viewpoints often. You can read a page and a half into a new chapter before realizing that this isn't the person discussed in the last chapter and the action is taking place 20 years earlier among characters the author hasn't introduced yet who won't reappear again in the book until 40 years later, at which time we'll hear their stories of what they perceived 40 years earlier.

Those tales will be randomly spotted in later yet-to-be-read chapters, in nonparticular discernable order.

There's a half-hearted attempt to recreate the “golden days” of the litera-

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ture scene of struggling artists in the cafes of Paris, California and even Spain. That worked for Kerouac and Hemmingway but it doesn't work for Erickson. Every event and feeling, no matter how trivial, is analyzed in an orgy of self-doubt and angst well into the noise level and beyond by most of the characters. This results in page after page of psychobabble with no action or dialogue in the book.

Pornography and the pornographic industry are examined in minute detail, vaguely related to the plot but it's certainly not erotic. It turns out that most of the characters are related in some way to each other but one needs a diagram to perceive that a minor and unnamed character in one chapter is the father (though he doesn't know it) of another character introduced earlier and who won't reappear until the end of the book under a different nickname. In this, the author follows Tolstoy's tradition of confusing the Hell out of readers but Erickson adds the twist of writing nonchronologically — and not telling the reader he's jumped in time, location and character viewpoint from paragraph to paragraph. As the book wears on, one can come to predict that at any point where a character has a choice, he will choose absolutely the worst possible alternative. Thus it is a catalogue of losers or, perhaps, a cautionary tale.

While there's a minor subplot alleging that dreams and cultural memories can be stored, transmitted and sold on a black market, it doesn't seem to have much to do with the characters or action. There are some interesting events described, and for people who don't have a life of their own, this book may prove interesting. If you think you'd enjoy this book then first see your analyst (be prepared for a long session), each of your therapists, your astral calendar keeper and the lady who makes custom scents for your mood rings. If they all concur that the Moon is in the proper house and the visions in the dripping wax of your harmony candles shows good portent, then by all means dive right into this tome.

P.S. If the author's agent gets hold of this review I bet she'll proudly proclaim that Erickson has been compared with Kerouac, Hemmingway and Tolstoy. - Pete Manly

Star Wars Episode One: The Phantom Menace

by Terry Brooks
(Based on the screenplay by George Lucas)
324 pp. Del Rey: \$25

Didja like the movie? You're gonna like the book.

Enuf said.

No, just kidding. I'll say a little more.

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Terry Brooks has a bright, engaging writing style (which I've enjoyed in all those Magic Kingdom of Landover novels) which is perfect for filling in the bare bones of a script, even an alien-and-technological-marvel-crammed effort by George Lucas.

Though I can only recall one extra scene (probably in the script at the time Brooks got it) that is not in the film, it is still pleasant to read of the adventures of Qui-Gon Jinn, Obi-Wan Kenobi, Queen Amidala and Anakin Skywalker (his nickname is written "Annie"! Why not "Ani"? That struck me as an odd choice) and see the scenes so very clearly in your head.

That's the best thing about novelizations of movies you like: it's all there in real(italicise) Technicolor in your head (and with all those charming actor's faces (and the costumes!) so firmly attached to each character).

So, granted it's a \$25 movie (But really, cheaper if bought at Barnes and Noble, say, where it is 30% off) but just think of all the wear and tear you'll save on your car and pocket book (\$7 a ticket!!! plus popcorn!)

Heck, play the film score while you read it and you've got practically the whole experience! - Sue Martin

Singer from the Sea by Sheri S. Tepper 426 pp, Avon: \$24

Tepper's recent concerns have been humanity's balance with the natural world (see: "The Family Tree") and this remains the central theme in this engrossing "eco-romance" novel that concerns the singer of the title and her search for self, love and her place in the world, a planet called Haven.

The people who first landed on Haven were descended from the Maori, "swimmers to the stars," so Tepper uses some Maori words and phrases throughout the book.

Haven is an anachronistic world of lords and ladies, commoners and slaves; dukedoms and sultanates. It is also mostly ocean with just two main land masses—one mostly temperate, the other half temperate and half desert.

And the twain have an uneasy trade agreement.

You see, there's this substance, P'naki, which although the general populace believes it is a fever cure—it is really a longevity drug which only the very chosen few (all men) have access to. And because of it's scarcity, it is a valuable and much sought-after trade item.

It's manufacture is the pivot of all the characters. Most especially, Genevieve—the singer from the sea.

She's here to change just about everything. Her adventures and conflicts with the powers that be, including her irascible father, carry the story along.

Her long-hidden ability to really sing (noble woman have never been encourage to sing) and her connection to the sea begins the domino effect that changes Haven forever.

I've always loved Tepper's characters: they're meaty and unique and the ones in "Singer from the Sea" are no different. And like I said earlier, there's a strong romance in here too, as well as harrowing escapes and bizarre situations.

All uniquely flavored, wonderfully written and entertaining. - Sue Martin

Hell-Fire

David A Wilson
Lorien House \$8.00

"Hell-Fire" is a collection of short stories the author had rejected by the "best science fiction magazines". This is stated in the intro. What the author forgets to mention is that the quality of the reviewer is NOT an indication of the quality of the item reviewed.

This book was largely an opportunity for the author to stroke his ego. The title story has several ridiculous points. The one that stands out the most is the fact that none of the rescuers have as much sense as a kitten. They "discover" on the way that rather than 350C the area will be 530C. That should have been known long before, also they refer to it as a jump in temperature but it should have already been registering on the equipment. The other stories aren't as bad but the book doesn't have a keeper in the lot. Sorry, I have to say Pass it up. 2 out of 10 for interesting story titles. - Bob LaPierre

Prophets for the End of Time

by Marcos Donnelly
Baen Books \$6.99

The author presents us with an interesting situation: God has run away so we force him back by bringing about the end of the world. I dunno. If he is the prime mover and shaker then couldn't he just ignore it or prevent it without coming back? I don't know if he did this on purpose but I couldn't find much to like about any of the protagonists and I did feel sorry for the evil characters. Although the story drags at points you need all the information to understand the ending. I found it to be interesting enough to finish but boring enough that I probably won't reread it.

I give this book a 6 out of 10. Good enough but not really good enough, if you know what I mean. Well, until next time. Keep reading! - Bob LaPierre

Superheroes

Eedited by John Varley and Ricia Mainhardt
Ace Books, 369 pp., \$5.99

This an original anthology, containing 25 stories about superheroes of the comic

book variety. But these are all new characters, created just for this book by science fiction and comic book writers. Some of the more prominent contributors are Michael A. Stackpole, Alan Dean Foster, John Varley and Roger Zelazny. Perspectives range from serious to funny, and all stories were enjoyable to this fan of superhero comics.

I'd also recommend the February 1999 issue of "The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction," for its story "The Archetype" by comics writer Peter David. He takes a negative view of Jungian archetypes as manifested by superheroes. What if synchronicity makes bad things happen, to give superheroes something to do? It's a tale of dark humor. Perhaps it could be included in a sequel anthology, say "Superheroes 2." Yes, Ace Books, why don't you do that? That way, you could print the conclusion of the Riftworld series, maybe as a novella contribution (see the series review in this issue)? Ah, to dream comic book dreams.

There is also an Isaac Asimov's Wonderful Worlds of Science Fiction anthology #3, "Supermen," which may interest fans of superheroes. It collects magazine stories from various big-name authors, written in the 1950s and 1960s. Science fiction supermen can resemble comic book superheroes, as this book demonstrates. - Michael Griffin

Stan Lee's Riftworld: Crossover Villians

Roc Penguin Books, 254 pp., \$4.50

Roc Penguin Books, 256 pp., \$4.50

Boulevard books, 424 pp., \$5.99

all by Stan Lee and Bill McCay

What if our normal, contemporary world was suddenly visited by giant people with superpowers? What if they were discovered by a comic book company, given uniforms and identities as superheroes? And what if some of them were really supervillians, pretending to be heroes so they could take over the world? This is Stan Lee's basic premise and plot, written out by Bill McCay. Now, Stan is the famous head of Marvel Comics, while Bill is a "New York Times bestselling author," so we've got a competent series here.

The sympathetic main character is John Cameron, a minor comic book artist who has the ability to teleport between dimensions of reality. Cameron opened the Pandora's Box which let the giants come to Earth, and soon he's running for his life. Cameron, his love interest Peg Faber, and Stan Lee-surrogate Harry Sturdley flee to the giants homeworld to try to round up good guys to come and save the Earth.

But there the Riftworld series stops. It seems to have suffered problems, for it changed publishers. The first two novels

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came out in 1993 and 1994, and the promised third entry did not appear until 1996. To make matters worse, Bill McCay is now engaged in writing the spinoff novels of the Stargate TV series. Will he ever return to finishing the story?

This series is definitely unfinished, for it fits the comic book story formula. The heroes have to come back and defeat the villains. Aside from that, part of the appeal is a behind-the-scenes look at the dirty office politics that goes on in the comic book business. I found that the most interesting of all. I want more!

Similar material can be found in Richard Lupoff's 1976 novel, "The Triune Man" which also tells the adventures of a comic book artist who saves the world. It also has office politics, including a Stan Lee-surrogate character. It's a better book, but Lupoff is an old pro. The only other genre novels about the comic book scene that I know of are three murder mysteries: "The Comic Book Killer" also by Lupoff and Ron Goulart's pair, "A Graveyard of My Own" and "The Tijuana Bible."

For completion's sake, two more sources can be mentioned. Harry Harrison's short story "Portrait of the Artist" is all about the troubles of comic book artists. It is in his collection "Stainless Steel Visions." And Philip K. Dick's novel, "The Zap Gun" also has a comic book artist help save the world from an alien invasion, but it's not really about the industry.

My, what a rarified subject! But see the anthology review also in this series. - Michael Griffin



Club Listings

(To have your club listed or to correct your listing please contact the editor in writing.)

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. For details, call (602)582-6990.

ARERIAL MIRAGE JUGGLING CLUB International Juggling Association affiliate club meets 7-10pm Wednesday evenings at Encanto Park. No dues, everyone welcome. All levels skill exchange in many areas of object manipulation. Devils' Club meets Fridays 5pm north of the Hayden Library on the ASU campus. For more info, call (602) 585-7623, or write 2326 E. Electra Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

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@earthling.net Web: <http://www.gibbed.com/all> VoiceMail: 602-306-9339

THE AWAY TEAM: The Away Team, is a general sci-fi appreciation group that meets once a month for discussion of various sci-fi news regarding several mediums to include: television, movies, video, books, comics, magazines, collecting, and so forth. The meetings are comprised of news, review and comment, BBS/computer news and help, meeting new members, video presentations, games, and socializing fun! Food and drinks are provided, via a \$3 munchie fee (per meeting) to compensate the host. (No other fees are involved.) The electronic home of the Away Team, is the Lightspeed Space Station BBS at (520) 325-6674.... Member ages for the group range from 13-40-something with both male and female members. Other activities include null-modem link gamefests, group theater movie viewings, convention trips and more. Have sci-fi fun in a relaxed, low-structure environment. **NO RUBBER EARS ALLOWED!!** For questions, you can call the BBS, or write to: LSS c/o R. Martin; 2522 N. Sparkman Blvd.; Tucson, AZ 85716

BASFA Baja Arizona Science Fiction Association, a non-profit organization. Puts on TUS-CON Convention annually.

CENTRAL ARIZONA SPECULATIVE FICTION SOCIETY, INC. (CASFS) The non-profit corporation that puts on CopperCon conventions, SmurfCons, HexaCons, occasional regional cons, and publishes Con-Notations. Best described as SF/F generalists with a strong bent towards literary SF/F. Guests welcome - meets at 8pm on the last Friday of each month in January thru September and the second Friday in October, November and December at JB's Restaurant, 2560 W. Indian School in Phoenix, AZ. Write PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or call Bruce Farr at (602) 274-3014 or Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 for more information. Web: www.casfs.org

DAEMON HORDE Gaming group intent on putting the ROLE back into role-playing. Our group runs a myriad of games ranging from collectible card games to RPGs to Live Action Gaming. Meetings are held every first Saturday of the month, and gaming is held every weekend. Dues are \$5/mo. For more information, call Wild Thing (Tammy Deissler) (602) 464-1691 or Small One (Cynthia Carman) (602) 655-9557.

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 (602) 978-9314.

DAYSTAR HOLT Arizona's first and longest-running Elfquest fan club. Daystar meets to talk about EQ and related stuff, develop characters, publish stories in our 'zine *Playelf* and create an annual calendar. Other common interests include music, bellydance, camping and of course, SF. Membership is free (18 or over) and is attained by group vote after you attend two meetings or holt-related get-togethers. Meetings are usually the first Saturday of each month; for more info, call Tom or Janice at (602) 581-2258. They have a website up at <http://users.aol.com/daystarelf/daystar.htm>

DESERT LURKERS Tucson based Babylon 5 fan club. Meets and communicates via listserv over the Internet. Anyone with e-mail access can subscribe to the Desert Lurkers by sending e-mail to b5-l-request@dragon.org and putting "subscribe" (minus the quotation marks) in the subject line. Interested people can contact Alexander Goodrum at E-mail address: goodrum@AZStarNet.com

EARTHLINK SCI-FI CLUB SF generalists with some focus on comics and environmental issues. Meets at various conventions and occasions. Publishes a quarterly newsletter called Cosmic Wavelengths. For information contact them at 8508 E. San Lorenzo, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, or call Nohl Rosen at (602) 991-8847.

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 Bart Smith (Phoenix) (602)937-6995 or Leonard Bird (Tucson) (520)742-2432

THE HORDE Gaming group intent on putting the ROLE back into role-playing. Our group runs a myriad of games ranging from collectible card games to RPG to live Action gaming. Meetings are held the first Saturday of every month at Things for Thinkers, 2155 E University, Tempe, AZ. Dues are \$5/month. For more information call Wild Thing (Tammy Deissler) (602)464-1691 or Small One (Cynthia Shepard) (602)954-4050

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF JEDI KNIGHTS Members of the Tatooine Base have revised the International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights, a not-for-profit fan club dedicated to Star Wars. Membership is \$8.00 U.S. and/or \$11.00 (Canada/foreign) and includes a membership packet consisting of a one year subscription to *The New Jedi Times* (published 6 times a year), membership card, IBOJK charter & bylaws information on Jedi studies and a free gift. Checks should be made to either Patty Vance or Elizabeth Laignel. For further information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The I.B.O.J.K.; P. O. Box 5459; Glendale, AZ 85312-5459; or call either Patty or Lilly at (602) 843-8303. May the Force show you the way of the Jedi!

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION COUNCIL Meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Meeting at the Westridge Mall (75th Ave. and Thomas Rd. Phoenix, AZ. The IFC is regimental (Using Ranks and structured similiarly to ST) but has social events as well. Attends local Creation And Trek Production Cons, and ST Movie premiers. POC for IFC is A/Fleet Admiral John Nelson (602) 934-3987 or by voice mail (602) 409-7169 or c/o P.O. box 14370 Phoenix, AZ 85063-4370. E-Mail: Bnelson502@aol.com Membership Approx 35-50. The Bi-Monthly newsletter is *Cactus Log*.

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THE JEDI KNIGHTS Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information call Carol Alves, Publicity, (760)244-9593 or write Jedi Knights, c/o Jim Lowerre, 12291 Meade Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841-3629

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 determined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 ; call Mike Willmoth at (602) 945-6890 or Email: mwillmoth@comupserve.com

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY Film society for classic SF/F film. Membership is \$25 lifetime dues. PFFS also rents projectors, films, and video tapes. Contact PFFS, Box 30423, Phoenix, AZ 85067.

PHOENIX JAPANIMATION SOCIETY Local chapter of Japanimation/general animation oriented fans - meets monthly. Membership is free, though optional monthly newsletter is \$5/year or \$.50 per month. Call Tom Perry at (602) 996-2196 or write 3241 E. Altadena, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

RAGE ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST A Live Action Theatre Troupe based out of the ASU campus in Tempe, AZ. It is dedicated to the game Werewolf: The Apocalypse by White Wolf publishing. Contact Mike McLaughlin at (602)461-5842 or write 1730 W Emelita Place #2025, Mesa AZ85202-3144 or email to 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 Carrow's Restaurant at 7th Street & Monte Vista in Phoenix every Sunday from 3pm-9pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (602) 849-9515.

ROLE PLAYING GAMES CLUB (RPGC) The official gaming club of Az. State University. Activities include: live-action roleplaying games, tabletop gaming, conventions, parties, etc. General meetings are open to the public and are held every Friday at 6pm in ASU's Memorial Union. Dues are \$5/semester. For more info, contact Michael McLaughlin, 1730 W. Emelita #2025, Mesa, AZ 85202-3144, or call (602)464-3144; RPGC@asu.edu

SCIENCE FICTION CONTINUUM

The Science Fiction Continuum: An Independent Star Trek and Sci-Fi club in Phoenix, AZ. The SFCOM is an active club that participates in Local Phoenix, and Southwestern Star Trek and Sci-Fi conventions and movies. The SFCOM has three different divisions. The SFCOM itself, a free group where fun is the name of the game. The Deep Space SolarFlare (DSSF) an active member club in the International Federation of Treker's (IFT). This group is based on DS9 (a space station). And the IKV Sto-Vo-Kor (Independent Kilngon Vessel). A Klingon Bird of Prey, roming the desert looking for battle. Are the Fed's too soft, looking for combat, feel the call to glory. This is the ship for you. Membership in the SFCOM is free! To join DSSF or the Sto-Vo-Kor a nominal fee for the national clubs involved and uniforms. For further information contact President John Nelson at (602) 409-7169 or on the internet at; BNelson502@aol.com or check out our web site. <http://members.aol.com/bnelson502/index.html>

SFACE (Speculative Fiction And Computer Enthusiasts) Phoenix College's one and only connection to the worlds of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, and horror as well as table top, live action and internet gaming, SFACE also serves as a guide through the Internet - both teaching basic use and utilizing as a source of speculative fiction. For more info, contact citizenjustice@hotmail.com

SHADOWKEEP BBS Intelligent conversation, awesome graphics, stupendous door games, unworldly filebank, RPG forums, QWK message system and online RPG BBS-moderated games! Our BBS is mainly RPG oriented and we offer many services to GMs and players. No fees necessary for users who post intelligent messages! \$5 in credits to new users. Over 20 conferences and 10 doors to choose from! Shadowkeep BBS - PCBoard 15.2/M - US Robotics 28.8 Modem. Phoenix, AZ (602)245-0919; Connect at 2400-28800

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 thy past tomorrows thou mayest contact Mistress Myrddina o Dolwyddelan (Terry Schwartz) PO Box 584, Sonoita AZ 85637 (520)455-5835 Email: myrddina1@aol.com www.atenveldt.org/aten

THE 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 most 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. Call, write or email for details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or call Randall Whitlock at (602)995-7514, email randwhit@aol.com or Website: <http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/guilg.html>

STARBASE TUCSON Tucson Arizona based Star Trek club. For info call Geof Wood at (520) 746-1822 or write Starbase Tucson ; 3314 E. Benson Hwy ; Tucson AZ 85706. Email:pegasis409@aol.com

STONEHENGE BBS Enjoy over 60 online games including TradeWars 2002, StarFight, The Pit, Dirty Play, Usurper, LORD, and Battle Grid (new, like Battletech). Topical message boards, E-Mail, and Network Echoes. 1000's of files to download: utilities, games, GIF pictures, & more every day! Stop by and give us a try at Stonehenge BBS (602) 947-2223, FidoNet 1:114/120, 300-9600bps, V.32/V.42bis, 24 hours a day.

TARDIS 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, fund-raisers, auctions, games, camping trips and outings. We also maintain an active presence at local conventions. TARDIS publishes a monthly informative newsletter, *The Index File*, with a national circulation which is included with membership. Annual membership is just \$12.50. You can contact us at P.O. Box 63191, Phoenix, AZ 85082-3191, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@primenet.com or visit <http://www.primenet.com/~jgeorge/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. T.H.E.M. is ASU's science fiction and fantasy club. Weekly meetings are held in the Memorial Union, with dates to be announced after the semester starts. For more information, contact Becky Fox at E-mail rowan@asu.edu or phone 884-0793 or (after May 12) 863-1543 To subscribe to our listserve, send a message to them-request@asu.edu.

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

TUCSON X-PHILES: The "Tucson X-Philes" are an X-Files appreciation group that meets once a month to socialize, discuss and review the program's episodes.. Currently, the newsletter fee is \$2.00 per issue. The electronic home of the "Tucson X-Philes" is Lightspeed Space Station BBS (520*) 325-6674 (Tucson), in conference #7. There is currently no fee for membership in the group. Member ages range from 16-40-something, with both male and female members. Those having questions, can call Joyce Kleikamp in Tucson at (520) 883-2813. (Address upon request.)

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 20 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$10/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

UNITED WHOVIANS OF TUCSON A well-informed and very active Dr. Who club. \$15 yearly membership includes four issues of their fanzine - TARDIS Time Lore - written by semi-pros and other dedicated fans. For more information, contact The United Whovians of Tucson at P. O. Box 13541, Tucson, AZ 85732-3541. Also, you can contact the president at kfbuwot@aol.com or the vice-president at uwotwww@aol.com. The web page for the club is located at: <http://www.azstarnet.com/~hgadlng/uwotclub.htm>

Convention Listings

DarkCon 1999 (Chandler, AZ) **June 25-27, 1999**, San Marcos Hotel, Chandler, Arizona Special Writer Guests of Honor: George Clayton Johnson and William F. Nolan, Music GoH: Gary Siler. Memberships \$30 until 4/30/99, \$35 at the door. VIP memberships \$199 (includes room). Rooms \$55 S/D, \$65 T, \$75 Q (800) 528-8071; Info: Darkcon, PO Box 5833, Glendale, AZ. 85312, phone: (602) 978-9314, Email: darkcon@darkcones.org

Empirecon/Westercon 52. (Spokane, WA) **July 1-5, 1999** City Center Doubletree Hotel, Spokane, WA; (509)455-9600 or (800)848-9600. GoHs: C.J. Cherryh and Kristine Kathryn Rusch; AGoH: Alicia Austin; FGoH: Larry Baker; TM: Betty Bigelow. Memb: \$40. Info: Empire 52, PO Box 7477, Spokane, WA 99207; (509)482-5288; Email: westercon52@webwitch.com Webpage: <http://www.webwitch.com/westercon52/>

HexaCon 9 (Scottsdale AZ) **July 9-11, 1999** Arizona's Premiere Gaming Convention. Sunspree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (602)991-2400 GoH: Derek Percy, author of In Nomine; 24 hour NON-STOP Gaming - Sanctioned Magic Tournaments, Sanctioned RPGA Tournaments, US Chess Federation Sanctioned Chess Tournaments, LARP, Computer Gaming, Miniatures Painting Contest; 'Bot Bash, Game Auction, Full Consuite, Dealer's Room. Memberships \$15 until 5/31/99, \$20 at the door; HexaCon 9, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082 Email: leigh-@primenet.com Webpage: <http://members.aol.com/boniece/index.html>

Costume College '99 (Van Nuys, CA) Fin de Siecle: The Nineties at the end of the Nineties, a regional conference on costuming topics and techniques, **July**



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23-25 1999, Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406. Lectures and workshops as well as a Time Traveler's Gala. Attendance limited to 250. Memb: \$30 for members of the Int'l Customers Guild, \$50 non-members until Feb. 1, higher after. Info: P.O.Box 3052, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-3052. E-mail: msjess@earthlink.net, <http://members.aol.com/ZBLGilbert/cgw.html> (Also: **Costume College 2000** (June 30-July 4, 2000) at the same site & info.) **Conucopia/NASFIC '99** (Anaheim, CA) **August 26-29, 1999**, Anaheim Marriott; (714)750-8000. GoH: Jerry E. Pournelle, FGoHs: Richard & Nicki Lynch. Memb: \$70 until 7/5/98; \$20 supporting. Info: NASFiC '99, c/o S.C.I.F.I. Inc., PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409; Email: info@99.nasfic.org. Webpage: <http://www.99.nasfic.org/>

Aussiecon Three/1999 Worldcon (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia) **September 2-6, 1999** World Congress Centre, Melbourne, Australia. GoHs: George Turner, Gregory Benford, Bruce Gillespie. Memb: A\$175/\$140. Info: Aussiecon Three, GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia; U.S. Address: PO Box 266, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-0266.

CopperCon 19 (Scottsdale, AZ) **September 10-12, 1999** Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona Author GoH: David Weber, Artist GoH: Brett Bass Memb: \$30 until May 1, 1999, \$35 at the door, Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under - free; Room rates are \$65 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. (800) 525-5205 ; Info: CopperCon 19, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602)973-2341, Email: cucon@casfs.org

Incon '99 (Spokane, Wa) **October 17-19, 1999**, Spokane Valley Red Lion (509) 924-9000 GoHs: Charles de Lint and Margaret Organ-Kean Memb: \$15 until May 1, higher after. Info: Incon '99, P.O. Box 9112, Spokane, WA 99209-9112. E-mail: incon@juno.com <http://www.cet.com/~triad3/incon.htm>

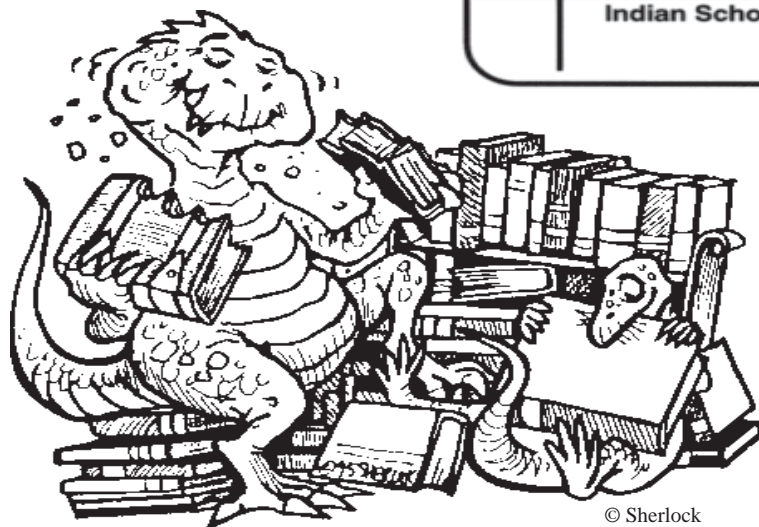
TusCon 26 (Tucson AZ) **Oct 22-24, 1999** at the Executive Inn. GoH: Laurell K. Hamilton Artist GoH: Lee Seed Memberships \$30 until 10/1; \$35 at the door. Children 3-12 half-price Artists interested in panels should contact Rebecca (520) 293-1455 immediately! We are selling out fast. Amateurs welcome. Dealers contact Cristi at (520) 881-3709. Tables are \$45 and include one membership. More info: TusCon 26, PO Box 26822, Tucson AZ 85726

Loscon XXVI (Burbank, CA) Thanksgiving weekend, **Nov 26-28 1999**, The Burbank Airport Hilton. GoHs: Connie Willis, Alex Ross.. Info: Loscon XXVI c/

o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. E-mail: loscon26@lasfs.org, www.lasfs.org/ loscon26

Chicon 2000, the 58th Worldcon (Chicago, IL) **August 31-September 4, 2000** (Hyatt Regency, Chicago) GoHs: Ben Bova, Bob Eggleton, Jim Baen, TM: Harry Turtledove. Memb.: \$135, higher later, \$40 supporting. Info: P.O.Box 642057, Chicago, IL 60664 E-Mail: Infobot address: info@chicon.org, chi2000@chicon.org and <http://www.chicon.org/>

BATS 2000 (Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London, England) **Oct 27-29, 2000** The multimedia Halloween convention of 2000! With guests from the various facets of the horror genre. We're staging a convention for Halloween 2000! After a suggestion to an English woman at Visions 98 by Nigel Bennett (of Forever Knight, Psi Factor etc) that he would attend a British con and would she organize one, she contacted five other people she knew only from the Internet and we all met in Leicester in January. Bats 2000 is now being organized by a committee of six with limited experience but lots of determination and stamina! All proceeds go to charity. Web: <http://www.burple.com/bats2000/> Email: bats2000



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Generic Convention Registration Form

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 Enclosed is \$ _____ for _____ memberships for
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(See calendar for mailing address)
 More info on Masquerade Art Show Volunteer Other

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