

# ConNotations

Fall 2000  
Volume 10, Issue 3

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

## SF Tube Talk

by Lee Whiteside

SF Tube Talk - 10.3

On the **Star Trek** front, there's not much new news on the future of the franchise. In speaking to the press during the summer TV Critics press tour, **Brannon Braga** said that he and **Rick Berman** were still in the "early conceptual stages" of developing a concept for the new **Trek** series, likely to debut late in 2001. "We want it to be 'Star Trek' at its core, but we also want it to ... change the concept to a radical degree," **Braga** said. "It's not enough to plop another captain in a starship. Not to sound pretentious, but it's got to be something that takes 'Star Trek' into the 21st century." The new series is being developed for Paramount television with it not yet clear if the show will be on a broadcast network (either UPN or CBS, both owned by Viacom now) or via first run syndication.

On the subject of the tenth **Star Trek** movie, the official **Star Trek** web site ([www.startrek.org](http://www.startrek.org)) has reported that **John Logan** (Bats) will be the primary screenwriter on the upcoming film. Other films that Logan has worked on include the screenplays for **Any Given Sunday** and **Gladiator**, as well as the original HBO movie **RKO 281**.

Tentatively scheduled for a Thanksgiving 2001 release, **Rick Berman** recently told the official **Star Trek** Communicator magazine that the new movie will feature "a very action-oriented story that revolves around a remarkable villain. A higher percentage of this film will take place in outer space than in our previous films."

**Voyager** started filming its seventh and final season early in July. Thanks to a Cinescape Online report on **Voyager** producer **Ken Biller**, we have some hard news on the new season. They'll resolve some of the ongoing storylines such as Janeway's single-minded quest to get her crew home, the Tom Paris/B'Elanna romance, Seven of Nine's quest to regain her humanity, Harry Kim getting a chance to captain his own starship, and a revival of the Starfleet/Maquis conflicts. We'll also see another episode or two featuring Reg Barclay and Counselor Troi, and November will see a two hour movie featuring The Doctor when **Voyager** encounters a group of self-aware holo-

grams that have revolted against their creators.

Other episodes will see the crew encounter a generational Klingon ship that has been travelling from the Alpha Quadrant to the Delta Quadrant for many years. Rumors about other episodes include Tom Paris getting the Delta Flyer II into some sort of competition ala the Pod Race in **Star Wars** Episode One, Seven of Nine dealing with her and the Borg children's human imperfections, Tuvok investigating crimes against Maquis crewmembers, and The Doctor dealing with the Delta Quadrant equivalent of an HMO!

### B5 Letterboxed on SciFi

There's some news in regards to **Babylon 5** and its moving to SciFi in late September. The series will be screened in letterboxed format, making



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use of the live action footage filmed with a wide-aspect ratio as glimpsed in the opening credits. Kicking off **Babylon 5's** move to SciFi will be that months edition of the **Sciography** series featuring **Babylon 5** on Sunday, September 24th. **Babylon 5** will start running daily on SciFi at 7 pm ET / 4 pm PT on Monday, September 25th.

You may know that **Jerry "Garibaldi" Doyle** is running for the House of Representatives in California as the Republican candidate on a pro-space platform. He's also been working on setting up a **Babylon 5** revival that would continue the story of **Babylon 5**, filling in the time between the end of Season 5 and "*Sleeping in Light*". He claims many of the actors are interested and that **Straczynski** would still be the main writer. Time will tell if any of this

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## 24 Frames

Movie News & Reviews

### Star Wars Episode II Casting

**Star Wars Episode II** began filming in Australia in late July and with that has come a lot of casting announcements from the official **Star Wars** web site. As reported last issue, **Hayden Christopher** will be taking on the role of the teenaged Anakin Skywalker in the new **Star Wars** movie. New actors with recognizable names are **Christopher Lee** as "charismatic separatist" and **Jimmy Smits** (L.A. Law, NYPD Blue) will portray Sen. Bail Organa of Alderaan (Leia's future adoptive father). Other actors include **Ayesha Dharker** (*Arabian Nights*) as a regal leader, **Temuera Morrison** (*Once Were Warriors*) as a bounty hunter, **Marton Csokas** (*Farscape*, *Lord of the Rings* - Celebron) as a planetary leader, **Jay Laga'aia** (*Draco on Xena*) as a security guard, plus many others in small roles. We'll also see other familiar characters in their younger days, including **Bonnie Piesse** as Beru, and **Joel Edgerton** as Owen Lars, the couple who raise Luke on Tatooine.

Returning from the first movie will be **Ewan McGregor** as Obi-Wan Kenobi, **Natalie Portman** as Padme (listed that way on the **Star Wars** web site, not as the Queen), **Ian McDiarmid** as Palpatine, **Pernilla August** as Shmi Skywalker, **Samuel L. Jackson** as Mace Windu, **Frank Oz** as Yoda, **Anthony Daniels** as C-3PO, **Andy Secombe** as Watto, and **Ahmed Best** as Jar Jar Binks. There's lots more casting info and continuing production updates on the official **Star Wars** site at [www.starwars.com](http://www.starwars.com), as well as fan sites like [www.theforce.net](http://www.theforce.net).

No real news on the **Lord of the Rings** movies other than that production is continuing in New Zealand until the end of the year. Occasional pictures of some of the sets have turned up on various fan web sites and a featurette was screened at the San Diego ComicCon. Reports are that some filming is being done in remote locations where they have to helicopter in most of the actors and support crew. The fourth (or is it the second?) **Highlander** movie finally has a firm release date of September 1st. It stars **Adrian Paul** (Duncan) and **Christopher Lambert** (Connor) with the story continuing more from the TV series than the other

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movies. Reportedly, Connor is appearing more as a mentor to Duncan, as **Sean Connery** in the first film. Reprising their roles from the TV series will be **Peter Wingfield** as Methos and **Jim Byrnes** as Joe Dawson. Duncan must go up against Kell (played by **Bruce Payne**) who has quasi-supernatural powers and doesn't care about The Game or the rules of the immortals.

### The X-Men Movie From Four Color to Wide Screen: An Uncanny Experience By Shane Shellenbarger

I've been reading X-Men comic books on and off since they were introduced in 1963. Professor Charles Xavier's School for Gifted Youngsters and the collection of misunderstood adolescents who were secretly mutants struck a cord in my pre-pubescent heart and it remains one of my favorite Marvel Comic Book series. I could identify with the anguish of being

( Cont'd on page 13 )

**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. Upcoming books are:

**GLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY:** 1st Thursday of each month

August 3: So You Want To Be A Wizard by Diane Duane

Sept 7: RedWall by Brian Jacques

Oct 5: The Naked Sun by Isaac Asimov

Nov 2: Wizard's First Rule by Terry Goodkind

Dec 7: Freedom's Landing by Anne McCaffrey

For more information on the Glendale group contact Sue Martin at (623)939-7815

**BARNES & NOBLE METRO CENTER:**

4th Thursday of each month

August 24: Officer Cadet by Rick Shelley

Sept 28: Harry Potter & The Goblet Of Fire by J. K. Rowling

Oct 26: Daughter Of The Blood by Anne Bishop

**Note: November and December discussions will move to the third Thursday of the month**

Nov 16: Stardust by Neil Gaiman

Dec 21: Lord Of Light by Roger Zelazny

For more information on the Barnes & Noble group contact Stephanie at

Faithful Reader,

June brought elections, and lots of changes. I'm pleased to welcome new members to both procedural and board positions.

David Hungerford has taken up the fearless leadership of the chaos of CASFS with his election to the presidency. Lee Whiteside gets the notoriously cushy job of Vice President. Brian Korn gets to sign the checks as Treasurer. And yes, I'm still frantically typing in the corner.

On the board side, Jeff George kept his seat on the board, and will be joined by

David Hungerford and Nick Schumacher.

I hope you'll join me in congratulating each of them.

If you missed HexaCon 10, you missed a great party—I hope you'll make up for it by showing up at CopperCon in September. Unfortunately, Philip Jose Farmer had to bow out because of a serious illness in his family. Award-winning author Poul Anderson has graciously agreed to step in as Guest of Honor. Please join us at CopperCon and make him feel welcome.

Until next time,  
The Frantic Scribe

(602)973-2341

If you would like CASFS to sponsor a book discussion group near you, please contact Stephanie at (602)973-2341

**INFORMATION LINE:** For up to date information on each month's CASFS and fan sponsored sci-fi related events call (602)973-2341 and select option 7 for a pre-recorded message.

**NEW CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING**

**COLUMN** - After many requests, we will begin running personal type ads, so if you are looking for a fannish type room mate or have something to sell of fannish interest feel free to submit an ad. Cost will be \$5 for up to 25 words and 10 cents for each word thereafter.

**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](http://www.casfs.org) email: [casfs@casfs.org](mailto: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](mailto:Editors@casfs.org)  
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# PRO NOTES

by Daryl F. Mallet

Hello from Tempe, Arizona again. It's been a pretty nice summer here so far, with almost enough rain to make us happy. We had a nice Leprecon in Scottsdale, AZ, with **John DeChancie** as our GoH, **Lubov** as our AGoH, and **Larry Vela** as our Local AGoH, and Hexacon, the gaming convention in Arizona, with **Steve Jackson** as the GoH. The travel season has begun; I'm off to Minneapolis/St. Paul for Diversicon and to visit friends and wolves, and then to Chicago for the World Science Fiction Convention.

The ever-gracious **Brian Aldiss** says: "On Thursday, 29th June, I drove over to the City of Reading (it is pronounced 'Redding'). At the University of Reading, I was installed as an honorary Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.). My presenter was Professor **Edward James**, the professor of history who also edits *Foundation*. He gave the assembled audience a lucid and generous summary of my career. Interestingly, he stressed the value of my critical work, in particular, *Billion Year Spree*, which challenged and changed thinking regarding the field. For the occasion, I wore a silken academic gown of cream and scarlet and a velvet academic hat. Champagne followed. My family were present to support me. I am now slowly recovering from this event!" Congratulations, Brian! Or, should I say, Dr. Aldiss?

**David Brin** reports: The "Out of Time" series of SF aimed for Young Adults (Avon Books) finished its first run with novels written by Nebula winners **Nancy Kress**, **Sheila Finch** and **Roger McBride Allen**." Created and edited by Brin, they have won several awards and seem to be a real hit with teen readers. *Foundation's Triumph*, completing the "Second Foundation Trilogy" and tying up many of the loose ends in **Isaac Asimov's** universe, has appeared on several bestseller lists. *Starline Rising* was optioned by Paramount Pictures and **Mace Neufeld**, producer of *Hunt for Red October*. "Interestingly, what's really burgeoned lately has been my career as 'futurist consultant' and public speaker. I've done keynotes for several major corporations lately, plus government agencies whose leaders seem deeply—and intelligently—interested in possible future opportunities and failure modes. Recent public speaking events include: The California First Amendment Coalition (September 1999); The Institute for the Future: Outlook Project Exchange (October 1999); The Association of Information Technology Professionals and "1984: Orwell & Our Future" at The University of Chicago Law School (November 1999); The Bar Association Conference on Alternative Dispute

Resolution; The Internet Everywhere Summit; The World Bank International Conference on Credit Reporting, The Procter & Gamble Innovation 2000 Trade Show, The "Out of the Box" Pentagon-Potomac Institute Brainstorm, SAP TechEd 2000 - Las Vegas and The Library of Congress Speaker Series (June 2000)."

From across the Pond, **John Clute** says: "The only thing to report is I'm publishing an SF novel next year...*Appleseed*, from Orbit/Little Brown UK, 2001."

**Paul Cook** reports: "I have a mainstream novel called *Thinking of You*, that will be available in September from Xlibris Books (a print-on-demand publisher). And I've just finished an SF novel that will take me about another year and a half to polish for my publisher. I also am still writing classical music reviews for amazon.com."

New anthologies out or about to be published by **Ellen Datlow** include: *Black Heart, Ivory Bones* (with **Terri Windling**)—the last of our adult fairy tale anthologies (Avon); *Vanishing Acts*—SF anthology on the theme of endangered species (Tor); *A Wolf at the Door* (with Windling)—a fairy tale anthology for 8-12 year olds (S&S); *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Thirteenth Annual Collection* (with Windling; St Martin's Press, August 2000). I bought **Jonathan Carroll's** new novel, *The Wooden Sea*, as Consulting Editor for Tor. Also bought **Paul McAuley's** next two novels for Tor: *The Secret of Life* is the first. I'm editing "SCI FICTION" full time for scifi.com. One original story a week and one classic reprint every other week."

Artist **Max Espinoza** is "waiting to hear about my new play, and when a theatre will produce it."

Know who has the most interesting life on the planet? **Alan Dean Foster**. He says he's "just back from three weeks in Brazil." He comments: "Look for PepsiCo's deal with Antarctica Beverages of Brazil to result in a major ad campaign to sell Americans on the delights of guarana soda. Guarana comes from a small red berry, infuses a soda that tastes like a slightly sweeter ginger ale, contains three times the caffeine in a comparable amount of coffee, and is the national soda of Brazil." Interesting. Guarana, of course, popping up in other drinks, like Sobe and Arizona Brand. Foster continues: "While in the Pantanal, I fulfilled a dream of swimming with the giant South American otter (see pictures on my website: [www.alandeanfoster.com](http://www.alandeanfoster.com))." Regarding his writing: "*Dirge*, the second book in 'The Founding of the Commonwealth Trilogy,' was the June hardcover from Del Rey. I will have short stories in the upcoming anthologies *Star Colonies*, *Far Frontiers*, and *Warriors Fantastic*, all from DAW Books. I'm presently working on a 'Montezuma Strip' novel for Warner, titled *Voiding the*

*Mock*. And I will be GoH in September at the Strannik SF Convention in St. Petersburg, Russia."

**Beverly Friend** tells us, "I'm up to my ears preparing the Academic Track for Chicon 2000, The 58<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention, scheduled for Chicago over Labor Day Weekend." See <http://www.chicon.org/> for more information.

**Philip Kaveny** and **Dr. Janice M Bogstad**, who was just promoted to Full Professor, are in the U.K. to present a workshop on "Internet Resources for Medieval Scholarship" for The Leeds International Medieval Congress, the largest such meeting in Europe. Bogstad will also be presenting on the work of a Medieval Chinese woman's poetry. Kaveny has been working, along with **Dr. Elizabeth Anne Hull** and **Dr. Beverly Friend**, to develop an academic track of programming for The World Science Fiction Convention. Kaveny also made a guest appearance on the syndicated television show *Midwest Book Review*.

The ever-delightful **Louise Marley** tells us: *Terrorists of Irustan* just came out in mass market reissue, and has been nominated for The Endeavour Award. It is also on the preliminary ballot for The Nebula Award and was long-listed for The Tiptree Award, as well as being selected by *Voyage Magazine*—a journal for young adult librarians, which was a surprise!—for its Best-of-1999 List. My new novel, *The Glass Harmonica*, comes out in September, and signings and events will be announced at the end of the summer." She will also be appearing in Chicago for Chicon.

**James A. Moore** "sold another novel, *Fireworks*, to Meisha Merlin Press. It's tentatively scheduled for February or March of next year. Once upon a time, it was going to be printed by Borealis, but that was a while back. I'm currently working on another novel, *Serenity Falls*, which is a sequel of sorts to *Under the Overtree*. But only in that one of the characters makes a reappearance. 'The Bedlam Anthology' has been pushed back to early next year instead of October as originally planned."

Artist **Ruben Gerard** is still creating new strips on his book featuring Penny and Wade.

Artist **Martina Pilcerova** sent me information that Istrocon, the Slovakian Science Fiction Convention's website can be found at <http://www.istrocon.sk>

**Joan Slonczewski** has a new book, *Brain Plague*, being released from Tor Books in August. The topic is: "What if alien microbes could give us whatever our brains imagined—at a price?"

Artist **Scott Vaughn** says he is "available as a freelance illustrator in any subject, for personal commissions, and any erotic art." See his website at: [www.doitnow.com/~dalek7/scott.htm](http://www.doitnow.com/~dalek7/scott.htm).

**Brian Stableford** writes: "Sarob Press

just published my novel *Year Zero*, and the 300-copy edition is nearly sold out; my U.S. agent, as usual, refused even to try to sell it, so this is the one and only chance to see it. I recently completed a collection of short stories translated from the French of **Jean Lorrain**, called *Nightmares of an Ether-Drinker*. It's under consideration at Ash-Tree Press, for whom I'll be introducing a collection of stories by **Vernon Lee**. I also delivered the **Brian Craig** novel *The Wine of Dreams* to Games Workshop. I just got a quarter of a job (it's 0.25 of a full-time post) teaching Creative Writing at King Alfred's College, Winchester."

**Sean Alan Wallace** says: "In late July, Wildside Press acquired from **Philip Harbottle** the title license to Cosmos Books, a publishing company based jointly in the United States (through partner Wallace) and the United Kingdom (through Harbottle). The Cosmos inventory, including *Fantasy Annual* and titles by **John Russell Fearn**, **Philip E. High**, **E. C. Tubb**, **Darrell Schweitzer** and many other British and American authors will be published by Wildside under the Cosmos Books imprint. Wallace has been named Senior Editor for Wildside Press and will select, edit, and oversee all books in this line. In addition to science fiction, Wallace is working to expand the Cosmos Books line to include scholarly and reference nonfiction titles. Wildside Press will release between 80 and 120 books next year under the Cosmos Books name. Wildside Press, with more than 200 books released over the last year and another 300 under contract, remains one of the leading print-to-order publishers in the science fiction, fantasy, and horror fields. Its titles include books by such popular authors as **Anne McCaffrey**, **Alan Dean Foster**, **Chris Bunch** and **Mike Resnick**. Wildside is owned by best-selling science fiction writer **John Gregory Betancourt**, who has been nominated twice for World Fantasy Awards for his publishing work. Wildside Press can be contacted at P.O. Box 45, Gillette, NJ 07933."

**Michael Whelan** reports: "My output has been slowed quite a bit since I was diagnosed with prostate cancer last March. I have been seeking alternate opinions and looking into my various options over the past few months and this has taken up much of my time. [Michael] settled on Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital, where [he underwent] surgery this May 18th. I'm looking forward to recovering as quickly as possible so I can get back to painting! I currently have five works in progress... Because of the above, then, I'm afraid I don't have a lot to report. I'm painting mostly for the two galleries who sell my artwork: "Tree's Place" in Orleans [Cape Cod] Massachusetts, and Glass Onion Gallery here in Danbury, Connecticut...though I get in an

(Cont'd on page 12.)

# Musical Notes

By Tom Tuerff

Well, folks, it's summertime, and for some reason, filk CDS are blooming everywhere, and creating quite a mess on my spacious desk here at ConNotations world headquarters.

Don't know if you've ever been here, but this entire magazine is written, designed and printed in a building overlooking the Caribbean on a small private island off Jamaica. We're all paid handsomely to sit around and write about stuff, and the oceanside view from every office window is a definite plus.

As I type this, I'm sitting in the nude on the beautiful white sands watching "Rude Boy," my hired rasta, trick the tourists out of their last 20 bucks.

Anyway, with the scenery as nice as it is, it would normally be tough to break away and write about CDS at a time like this, but hey, that's what they pay me six figures for.

I've got two CDS here, and both are worth your attention.

First, there's "**Screams of the Vegetables**" (three stars out of four), a "various artists" collection assembled by **Scott Dorsey** for Kludge Audio. It features 17 songs from 10 different artists, recorded at different times and (rather obviously) in different rooms at WorldCon in Baltimore, 1998.

If the title of the CD sounds familiar to

you, that's because it's from a song called "Carrot Juice is Murder," by the **Arrogant Worms**, which **Dr. Demento** has been playing pretty regularly for the last ten years or so. While that version does not appear here, it's covered quite nicely by **Clam Chowder**, a three-person group who I guess you could call the "featured" act on this disk (they get four songs). It's interesting their songs all receive thunderous applause by what sounds like hundreds of people. This is somewhat off-putting when the next song rolls around and it sounds like the only audience for the next guy are three bored people in a bar across the way.

One thing I'll say about this album is that it shows that when filkers really want to impress people, they're as good as any other performer in any other type of musical genre. This CD almost sounds like a song contest. Everybody's performing at the peak of their abilities, and when they don't have much ability the writing is still right up there. Producer Dorsey has a good ear for finding good songs and great performances.

The aforementioned **Clam Chowder** is quite a find, although soprano **Chris Patterson** is a bit overwhelming at times. Together, though, they sound quite a bit like the **Weavers**, with **Patterson** their **Ronnie Gilbert**. They have a great variety of tunes, too - in this bunch we get the one about veggies, a madrigal about lawyers, an old English fighting song (the percussion is a bit too close to the mikes on this one, causing a rather odd sound

that makes one think of giant, tap-dancing clams) and a Rocky Horror cover. I'd love to hear an entire set by these guys.

Arizona's own **Leslie Fish** checks in with two songs about leather and alien abduction, and my favorite new filk act, **Ookla the Mok**, sing about Aquaman and the lack of bathrooms on the Enterprise.

A word to the folks at Kludge: if you find yourselves doing a second printing, fix all the typos! One performer, **Bill Roper**, is also identified as "**Bill Rope**," **Richard O'Brien**'s name is spelled wrong, and other little nitpicky errors kinda get in the way.

Otherwise, this one is definitely worth your money.

So, too is "**Roundworm**," (three-and-a-half stars out of four), from Prometheus Music, but there is a caveat.

This CD is the brainchild of **Bob Kanefsky**. Like a lot of filkers, Bob writes parodies of other people's songs. What sets Kanefsky apart is that he writes filk songs based on other people's filk songs. So going in, you get the feeling that you're about to listen to a 60-minute private joke. Fortunately, Bob K. doesn't let that happen.

While each of these songs are indeed parodies of well-known (to some) filk tunes, each one stands on its own, so if you're not familiar with the song being spoofed, it doesn't matter. You will still get a laugh out of it, which is what Kanefsky wants. I think. (Sometimes I

think he's just in it to gross you out, which is fine by me, too.)

Performing on this disc are the cream of California filk: **Julia Ecklar**, **Heather Alexander**, **Kristoph Klover**, **Kathy Mar**, **Leslie Fish** and a bunch more. Quite often, they're singing parodies to their own tunes, which adds to the fun. The whole thing is very well-played and professionally recorded, kicking off with "Acts of Parody," a song written to **Katherine Faber**'s "Acts of Creation." This song is one of the highlights of the disc; a down home, guitar/banjo/harmonica hoot.

Nobody appeals to me more than someone who can write a great song about a splattered cat. Kanefsky is now my friend for life, after having written "Nobody's Moggy Lands," a parody of an **Eric Bogle** song. It is sick, it is crude, it is wonderful.

Not to be outdone, Kanefsky also sends up Mar's song "Velveteen," turning it into a song about necrophilia, as observed from the point of view of the victim. Very nice.

If you need a laugh, by all means pick this CD up. You can get it at songworm.com if you can't wait for the next con to roll through.

Now, if you'll excuse me, I need to mix up the margaritas for the staff meeting. See ya later.

Tom Tuerff is a Phoenix-based writer who writes about filk for ConNotations whenever anybody is brave enough to send him a disk. You can write to him at nudeadguy@aol.com.

## Book Crazy Radio KCTK 960 AM Saturdays at 12 noon

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for show and sponsorship information





# ConClusion

## Conolulu: The 53rd Westercon A Review, by Mike Willmoth

Westercon is the West Coast Science Fantasy Convention. This year's Westercon (#53) was in Honolulu, Hawaii, and was known as Conolulu. It was run by a couple based in San Francisco (the Daugherty's) who thought it would be great fun to hold a Westercon there. A majority of voting fans agreed when in 1998 Honolulu defeated Phoenix for the bid to hold the 2000 Westercon. It was held Saturday July 1 through Tuesday July 4 at the Sheraton Waikiki Hotel on Waikiki Beach.

Guests-of-Honor were Author **Dan Simmons**, Artist (Photographer) **Ctein** and **Fan John Lorentz**. **John** was also on staff with his wife, **Ruth Sachter**, due to the last minute work requirements of another group of Portland, Oregon, fans, who were scheduled to handle Site Selection (voting). Although the Chair, **Kathryn Daugherty**, insisted that **John** not do any work, he insisted that it was no trouble. **John** was the one who stepped in at LoneStarCon 2 (1997 Worldcon in San Antonio, TX) and streamlined registration so that folks could get their badges earlier than the original system could.

The Sheraton Waikiki was right on the beach. The function space used for the con was on the second floor with Registration next to the Dealers Room / Ctein Photo Exhibit / Fan Tables in the Kauai Room and the Maui Room, which housed Regency Dancing / Locus Awards Banquet / Masquerade. On the other end of this floor were the Programming rooms which housed the Convention Office (ConOps) and a couple of rooms for regular programming. The Con Suite was located on the 31<sup>st</sup> floor and overlooked the bay, Waikiki Beach and Diamond Head.

After losing the vote for 2000 the Western Science Fiction Association regrouped and bid for 2002 Westercon. One month out from this year's Westercon the Bid Chair, **Pat Connors**, had to resign due to health reasons. I was elected to take his place and headed the team going to Hawaii to present the bid to the fans there. The team going also regrouped and I was joined by **Bob & Lori LaPierre**. **Lori** is originally from Hawaii and this trip also gave her an opportunity to get together with her family again after the bid was over. **Bob & Lori** have plenty of food & beverage experience at local cons, so I felt confident that we could host a great bid party.

I left for Honolulu on the Thursday before the con. We had arranged for a condo near the hotel which would handle the 3 of us and a friend of mine from Canada, **Hugh Gregory**, a space flight

historian. He was scheduled to arrive Friday sometime after **Bob & Lori**, but instead came in Saturday due to a problem with his airlines. So, when **Bob & Lori** arrived Friday afternoon we oriented ourselves to the area, investigating which stores were nearby (a 24 hour grocery was 2 blocks away) and even visited the con hotel. I picked up my badge while **Bob & Lori** had to wait to process their transfer memberships. That's when we found out that there was only a single track of programming! We also heard that only about 200 fans would be at-con, making this Westercon about the smallest on record. I introduced **Bob & Lori** to the Site Selection folks and the Dealers Room folks and our competition, **Bruce & Elayne Pelz**, from Los Angeles. We were shown to our bid table, next to LA, in the Dealers Room. There were only 7 dealers scheduled and the Art Show, Ctein's Photography Exhibit, was at the rear of the room. Site Selection was across the room from the bid tables and next to the Boston in 2004 Worldcon bid table. Next to us was the Seattle in 2003 Westercon bid table. We wandered down the floor to find the programming rooms before heading out to dinner.

Saturday morning we hit the beach and went swimming before diving into the con activities. Once we got cleaned up we visited the grocery store nearby and bought supplies for the bid party that night. I was amazed that we could fit the 3 of us and 2 grocery carts into our condo's elevator. After unloading in the kitchen I took the carts back and we began to prepare what we needed. I cooked a southwestern dish, tamale pie casserole, for eating or dipping. **Bob** made salsa from fresh ingredients. While he finished up and waited for my casserole to finish baking **Lori** & I headed for the con with luggage full of con-related stuff. We reached our bid table and began to set up. I sent her over to site selection while I organized the maps, brochures and booklets we brought. Besides a laminated

layout map of the Sheraton Mesa Hotel and the Mesa Convention Center (our bid site) we also had maps of the Phoenix area and Arizona. The Mesa & Phoenix Convention & Visitors Bureaus had loaded us down with literature to convince folks that we were a real destination. **Bob & Lori** bought some cactus candy that we set out to snare fans. They also bought a stuffed Kokopelli to display on our table. I met up with the Facilities Director for Conolulu who handed me two room keys for the party suite. The convention was kind enough to give each bid a free night in a suite for a bid party. This helped out greatly in keeping our costs down for the party!

After chatting with quite a few fans the Dealers Room closed. **Bob** arrived in time to put up party flyers and help us

pack up the bid stuff for the party. We arranged with **Jane & Scott Dennis**, Fo' Paws, to take us to the condo with empty luggage and wait for us to load them with party supplies. Before we did that we took our stuff upstairs (upelevator, actually) and emptied them out. **Scott** drove us to the condo, we filled our bags with food and beverage, then had him drive us back to the Sheraton. 6 blocks on foot with food and drink in luggage was not my idea of fun. Thanks again, **Scott!** We set up for the bid party which was starting at 9PM. The bid stuff was mostly on a table as folks entered the party while the chips, salsa, casserole, margueritas, and sodas were in the living room area. We even used the posters for table cloths on the coffee table and dining room table. I ran downstairs (downelevator) to the Opening Ceremonies taking place on the lawn. It was catered but all the food was gone. Drinks were via a no-host bar. Suddenly, the hotel brought out more food. I managed to fight my way to a few chafing dishes and taste the salmon appetizer along with some other things which I never figured out. When I spotted **Bruce & Elayne** I hung out with them for a bit. **Bruce** mentioned that Conolulu should start a new award in honor of the guests and call it the locust award. I had to laugh as that's exactly what it looked like when fen moved on the food dishes. I returned to the party suite whereupon we headed out for a quick bite of food. We returned in time to open up and I talked for 2 straight hours. We had lots of folks come by the party and we outlasted LA's party by 30 minutes. However, due to the small number of attendees we still had 1/2 of our supplies remaining. Well, if we won the vote we wouldn't have to buy much. I let **Bob & Lori** stay in the suite while I returned to the condo to crash.

Some of the events we missed due to our schedule included the History of Westercon, What's It Like To Be A Writer In Hawaii, 1999 in Review, Cassini: A Status Report.

Sunday was the big day. It started with a formal bid presentation as part of the schedule. **John Lorentz** gave **Bruce** and me 15 minutes each and then we'd move on to questions from the audience. **Bruce** started and I finished. I had lots of answers up front, visual aids, etc. **Bruce** didn't. We then fielded questions. What restaurants are nearby? How about stores? How much does parking cost? Our bid smoked LA's on just about everything but temperature. After it was over I had many fans come by and congratulate me on doing a great job, better than LA. I thanked them and asked for their votes. Most had already voted for us. I returned to the bid table and relieved **Bob**. After he got some things done he relieved me so I could relieve **Lori** at Site Selection. I was there

for about an hour before rotating back to our normal positioning. Site Selection closed at 5PM along with the Dealers Room. We packed up our stuff and headed up to the suite where **John & Ruth** were staying. **Bruce & Elayne** joined us whereupon we opened the ballot box and began to sort votes. It became clear pretty early that we had lost the bid. By the time we had tallied all the votes, we did lose. There were 198 ballots cast. 2 were invalid (no known memberships in Conolulu, 1 for each bid). 2 voted for No Preference, 1 for Roswell and 1 for Chico. LA got 112 while we got 80. They got more than half. We congratulated them and offered to sell our party supplies to them for half rate. They graciously accepted most of our stuff. We then visited Con Suite to give them what we had left, but they also refused the margueritas. The **Dennis'** gratefully accepted them and we were free to mourn. Down on the second floor we commiserated together until some supportive fans came by to thank us for our efforts. They gave us some advice from their perspectives. We then left to do dinner and crash.

Some more events that we didn't attend due to the bid were: **Dan Simmons** Reading, Mars Pathfinder: A Status Report, **Simmons** GoH Speech, **Ctein's** Art - A Closer Look, Costuming Far From Home.

Monday was a long day. We were still mourning our loss, but satisfied that we did the best we could. Lots of attendees congratulated us for doing a great bid. **John & Ruth** encouraged us to go for 2004. The **Pelz's** did the same. So did the Chair of Conolulu. I attended the Westercon Business Meeting where the voting results were made public officially. **Bruce** announced that their convention would be known as Conagerie, It's A Jungle Out There. They then moved on to regular business. The Westercon organization dropped Sturgis' Rules of Order to return to Robert's Rules. They officially thanked the **Daughertys** for their efforts in a successful convention in Hawaii, but stopped short of asking them to do it again, this time on Maui. There were also lots of other boring details that I will leave for the reader to research. I missed **Hugh's** Soviet Space Disasters, but had seen it at numerous cons. I would have liked to see *Is Electronic Publishing The Wave Of The Future Or The Death Of Publishing*, but the title was so long that it was over by the time I finished reading it. I did catch the Upcoming Worldcon bid presentations. Chicago (2000), Philadelphia (2001) and San Jose (2002) had representatives to give quick summaries. No one was present from either 2003 bidder (Toronto or Cancun). Boston was there for 2004, but Charlotte wasn't. UK had a rep for 2005 and announced that they will be

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bidding for Glasgow again, but as a UK bid. There were also rumors about Japan for 2006 and Melbourne for 2007, but no reps were there to either confirm or deny. We know LA wants 2008 Worldcon (year of the rat, again).

After dinner the Masquerade started up. This was a very unusual Masq. It started out with tacky gifts on display followed by a contest where the audience picked which one they thought the most tacky. From there we held the tacky shirt contest, including one Hawaiian shirt of red and white with a target on the back (Star Trek theme). Once the show got started there were only a few entries. The funniest was Babylon 5-O with Centauri man and woman in Hawaiian shirts, Minbari in same and Kosh fully decked out like Steve McGarret from Hawaii Five-Oh. It was pretty funny. LA hosted their victory party in Consuite tonight, so we made our appearance and congratulated them again. We received further encouragement for bidding 2004 and thanked them all. We then left for the condo.

The final day of the con we hit the beach again. After cleanup **Bob & Lori** decided to hook up with her parents, so I went to the con for the last events. I missed the **Kathy Oltion** Reading, What Are Editors Actually Doing?, How Much Good Do Writers' Workshops Do? and caught the last event as it was ending, The Year In Review In Space with **Ctein**, **Hugh Gregory** and **Bridget Landry**. Afterwards I grabbed **Hugh** and we hit the buffet at the hotel for lunch. It overlooked the ocean, the pool, and the bikinis. Lunch in Hawaii was truly paradise. Since he was heading out that night we said our goodbyes to the con folk and went back to the condo. **Bob & Lori** were just leaving with her parents, so I got to meet them. They were staying until Friday while I was heading out late Wednesday. **Hugh** took off and I had the condo to myself. I left a message for a friend from online hoping to hook up with before I left, then went out to eat. I hit Con Suite one more time for good measure and found our margaritas there. It seems the **Dennis'** couldn't finish them off, either, so they gave them to Con Suite. I ate and chatted with fans, a group of us watched Alpha Centauri from the balcony, spotted turtles in the surf (before sunset). I even caught the fireworks on the western end of Waikiki by walking through the hordes that descended on the beach.

On Wednesday I managed to meet up with my friend from online, a native Hawaiian whom I had never met before, and she gave me a tour of Oahu before heading to the airport. It turns out she had a lifetime membership in the Red Carpet Room of United airlines, so we hung out there and chatted until my

departure. I returned home Thursday morning, had lunch with my wife who picked me up at the airport, and went to bed to get some sleep.

So, who else was at the con besides those already mentioned? **Steve Forty**, **Fred Patten**, **Larry Niven**, **Fred Duarte**, **Janice Gelb**, **G. David Nordley**, **Charlie Brown**, **Gardner Dozois**, **David Hartwell**, **John Hertz**, **George R. R. Martin**, **Jerry Oltion**, **Tappan King**, **Beth Meacham**, **John O'Halloran**, **Ben Yalow**, **Tom Doherty**, **Saul Jaffe**. Lots of others not on the program like Phoenix's own **Eileen Phillips** and **Joe Bethancourt**, **Seth Breidbart**, **Jordan Kare** and **Mary Kay Kare**. It seemed a lot like a SmofCon, not so much as a Westercon. Considering that the last 3 Westercons have averaged 1500 attendees, this one was really really small. But we had fun nonetheless. We just didn't win the bid for 2002.

Next year the Westercon will be in Portland. Then Los Angeles. Seattle seems to be the only bidder for 2003 at this time. And we're interested in 2004. Maybe someone else is, maybe not. We'll see.

### World Horror Convention 2000 Review By Mike Willmoth

This year's World Horror Convention (WHC) was held May 11-14, 2000, in Denver, Colorado, at the Adam's Mark Hotel downtown. Guests-of-Honor include **Dan Simmons** (Toastmaster), **Harlan Ellison** (Grand Master Award), **Peter Straub** (past Grand Master Award), **Melanie Tem & Steve Rasnic Tem** (Writers), **J. Michael Straczynski** (Media), **Graham Joyce** (Overseas), **Rick Lieder** (Artist) and **Ellen Datlow** (Editor). Other participants include **C. Dean Andersson**, **Randy Ashburn**, **Lawrence Barker**, **Trey R. Barker**, **Jennifer R. Baumer**, **Steve Beai**, **Jean-Daniel Breque**, **Phil Brucato**, **Denise M. Bruchman**, **Edward Bryant** (Chair), **Michael R. Burns**, **P.D. Cacek**, **Carnell**, **Darktales Publications**, **Dawn Dunn**, **GAK**, **Cindie Geddes**, **Mark Graham**, **Christie Golden**, **Rain Graves**, **Paula Guran**, **Rhias K. Hall**, **Chad Hensley**, **Michael T. Huycks Jr.**, **Charlee Jacob**, **Brian Keene**, **Seth Lindberg**, **Perianne Lurie**, **Anya Martin**, **Mark McLaughlin**, **Philip Nutman**, **Stewart O'Nan**, **John "Jack" Passarella**, **Garrett Peck**, **John Pelan**, **Tom Piccirilli**, **John R. Platt**, **Ken Rand**, **Joel S. Ross**, **Wayne Allen Sallee**, **Darrell Schweitzer**, **Bill Sheehan**, **Margaret Ballif Simon**, **Thomas Strauch**, **Lucy Taylor** and **John Wooley**.

When planning the trip to Denver earlier this year we talked about driving up, then decided to fly. Unfortunately, any flight from Phoenix to Denver was extremely high (~\$400 direct, ~\$300 puddle jump) for a 2 hr flight. In check-

ing out alternatives to get there I discovered that flights to Albuquerque were much less (~\$100) for a 1 hr flight. Since we'd have to rent a car either way we decided to fly to ABQ and then drive 450 miles to DEN. We flew up on the day before the con only to find my luggage missing. I chose the earliest flight on purpose so we could get an early start and play tourist on the way north. Unfortunately, we had to wait until the next flight from Phoenix to retrieve my luggage. The nice man in America West baggage handling was kind enough to give us lunch vouchers so we enjoyed a fine Mexican food meal there in the airport for very little out-of-pocket money. The car was upgraded to a full size including a GPS system, which was fun to play with and came in real handy in getting around downtown Denver.

It took us about 8 hours to get there, but we made a stop at Castle Rock to visit the outlet stores. Sony had a store there and we had hoped to find a refurbished digital camera we were interested in, but to no avail. We also opted to stay at a motel rather than the convention hotel due to the cost. Once we got into town I punched in the address and the GPS led us right to it, even speaking to us which way to turn and so on. After checking in we backtracked to find a Cajun restaurant we spotted on the way in, Pappadeaux, which closed 5 minutes after arriving. However, they were nice enough to serve us despite our tardiness.

Thursday of the convention we traveled around downtown to orient ourselves. We found the hotel, the big shopping mall (Cherry Creek Shopping Center) and the **Tattered Cover bookstore** across the street. It was 4 stories of heaven. If you ever make it to Denver you should visit this marvel. We had lunch nearby at the Canyon Café before I was dropped off at the con hotel. Once inside I found virtually nothing open, but many areas being set up. I stuck my head into Green Room, which was used as a volunteer center, and asked if they needed help. I was directed by **Thea** to lend a hand in the art show next door. Once there I assisted in them setting up the art panels and got to tape down plastic trays over the buffet counter holes for a work area and office. From there I went back into GR and folded name placards. They were having trouble printing new ones, so I helped get that going before the black ink cartridge ran out. We shifted gears and I ran next door to art show to print the rest as needed. As a side benefit I made several new friends, several from Denver, one from Fort Collins, CO, and one from Atlanta, GA.

Once things settled down I headed over to registration which began to hand out badges and sell memberships. Rather than wait in line all that time I sat down and chatted with some pros. One, **Ken Rand**, was very nice and we tried to

figure out where we had seen each other before. I think we concluded that it was Baltimore's Worldcon (Bucconeer) in 1998. Another fellow was from Tempe covering the event for an online horror e-zine that I can't remember the name of. One woman had been walking the floor at Comic Con in San Diego last year or so, was spotted by a director, placed in a movie and ended up helping to produce it. She now helps make independent films of horror for a non-profit organization. I then spotted the Chair of next year's WHC in Seattle, **Paul Carpentier**, and found out how things were going for them. I managed to obtain my badge, pick up my Program Book, Pocket Program, hotel floor map, attendance list and other handouts before wandering back to volunteer some more.

The hotel was interesting. There were two halves across the street from each other. The eastern half had all the function space for the con (which was a fraction of the total available) while the western half had the Hospitality Room. They were connected by a bridge on the 2nd floor over the street. Registration was south of this bridge in the foyer along with the freebie tables. East of reg was the ballroom where Opening Ceremonies was held that evening as well as the Mass Autographing Party, the HWA Bram Stoker Awards, etc. Next door was the Dealers Room with mostly book dealers, but some jewelry, clothing, etc. I was tempted to buy some collectible science fiction books, but decided to keep expenses in line and resisted.

Upstairs from this was the Silver Room where some programming occurred with audio/visual needs. North of the bridge were the three smaller rooms for programming including readings, Green Room and Art Show. In the other tower was Hospitality on the 8th floor and was quite good food-wise. I understand that the same woman ran it as at MileHighCon. I got to meet her while helping unload her car to transport supplies upstairs. I never got to eat at the hotel otherwise or partake in the lounges, but I did take a look around over the course of the weekend.

The con got started in the evening with Opening Ceremonies. I had to leave in the middle of it when my wife arrived to pick me up. We then did dinner and I dropped her off at the motel to return later in the evening to the con hotel. Other events that day were Outside the Envelope: Magic Realism, Neo-Gothic, & Beyond; An Hour with GoH **Ellen Datlow**; Hillbilly Horror!; readings by **Hodge/Streeter/Golden/Kasturi/Lebbon/Christian/Bruchman/Jonas/Hyde**; **Halden Wofford & The Hi-Beams** (live music and dance); Morbid Curiosity Open Mic; and Late Night w/ **Ed Bryant**. I spent some time in Hospitality, then the Hyde reading before

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comes to pass.

**X-Files Mulder Lite**

With the formal renewal of **The X-Files** comes varying reports on how many episodes **David Duchovny** will actually appear in as Fox Mulder. Some rumors are that he would appear in the first couple of episodes of the new season starting in November and then disappear until February sweeps. Others are that he won't appear at all until then or that any early in the season appearances will be of the flashback type.

In the meantime, Scully will have to go on without Mulder. Since she and Skinner are now pretty much believers, if reluctantly, the show obviously needs a non-believer in the mix. This will bring on a new regular, not specifically Scully's partner, but another agent brought in to help investigate Mulder's disappearance. Actor **Robert Patrick** (Terminator 2, The Sopranos) will join the cast as Agen John Doggett, a former NY Police detective and US Marine, who is a "blue collar man's man and a knee-jerk skeptic," according to X-Files creator **Chris Carter**. Other actors reportedly in the running for the role were **Chris Noth** (Law and Order, Sex & The City), **Bruce Campbell** (Jack of all Trades), **Hart Bochner** (Anywhere but Here) and **Lou Diamond Philips** (Picking up the Pieces)

For those of you not too excited about a Mulder-less X-Files, there is **The Lone Gunmen** spinoff series to look forward to in January on FOX. It stars the three guys behind the Lone Gunman conspiracy newsletter, Byers (**Bruce Harwood**), Langley (**Dean Haglund**) and Frohike (**Tom Braidwood**) as well as the mysterious Eva Del Harlow (**Zuleikha Robinson**). In the pilot episode, the trio deal with a government anti-terrorist conspiracy that plans to crash a jetliner into the world trade center in order to boost arms sales. Byer's father is apparently killed to cover it up and a lot of the episode focuses on Byers finding out the truth about the whole thing culminating with them averting the disaster. The show definitely has a more humorous edge to it, especially with Frohike as the show's literal fall guy (he gets dangled from a winch, slips on a wet carpet and falls face first into some mud). Langley is the least developed, pretty much over-reacting to things and getting upset when he can't hack into things. We don't really get to see enough of Harlow to get a good feeling for how her character will fit into the weekly series. The pilot is an enjoyable hour and will make for a good alternative to the other network's fare on Thursday nights, but may not appeal to enough viewers to keep it going.

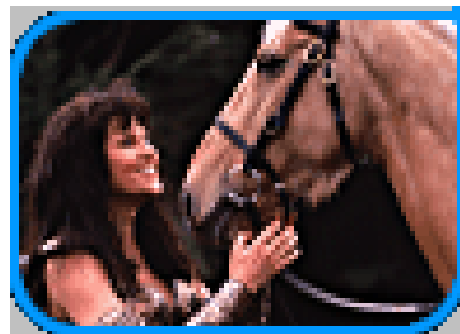
**Buffy & Angel**

**Buffy's** new cast member has been announced, and it is **Michelle**

**Trachtenberg**, a 14 year old actress most famous for her lead role in **Harriet The Spy** and as Penny in Disney's **Inspector Gadget** movie. She will be playing Dawn, a teenager with psychic powers who gets involved with the Scooby Gang and is a little sister of sorts to Buffy. She also develops a crush on Xander. But don't be afraid that she's there just for the cute factor, according to **Joss Whedon** in Entertainment Weekly, "The WB certainly didn't say, 'Can you add a moppet? Everyone likes a moppet! Dawn is not there to be cute and cuddly.'" As to what the overall storyline of the season will be, there's not much to report.

Over on **Angel**, we've got the surprise reappearance of Angel's sire, Darla, during the season finale. Expect to see some flashbacks to Angel's early days as a vampire and maybe some flashbacks to more recent, pre-Buffy, events in Angel's long life.

Over in the **Xenaverse**, there's some changes afoot in the aftermath of the Twilight of the Gods storyline. The season will start with a two-parter dealing with Lucifer coming to Earth to fulfill the prophecy of Xena's eternal damnation to



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Hell and Xena and Gabrielle have to thwart Lucifer in order to save the world. After that, they meet up with Gabrielle's sister, Lila, and learn what has happened to Gabrielle's family in the past 25 years. They head off to North Africa with Gabrielle intending to take revenge on those who have been responsible for her families misfortunes. After that they'll head North to Germany dealing with Wagnerian themed episodes meeting up with Beowulf. In guest stars, look to see return appearances by Alti, Aphrodite and Ares. Any appearances by Joxer will likely be flashbacks since **Ted Raimi** is not under contract for this season and his character will stay dead. Eve and Virgil will likely be in the season's early episodes but won't be seen much after that.

In other RenPic news, there is conflicting reports on the status of **Bruce Campbell's Jack of All Trades**. Some say it will not continue past its first season, which will end this fall. Campbell has said that things are still in negotiation. **Cleopatra 2525** will definitely continue but will not likely expand to an hour if Jack is canceled, but would be paired with another new half hour show.

**Witchblade on TNT**

Debuting on Sunday, August 27th on TNT will be the **Witchblade** pilot movie based on the Top Cow comic book series. It stars **Yancy Butler** as New York detective Sara Pezzini who obtains an ancient, intelligent, living weapon called the Witchblade. Also starring is **David Chokachi** as detective and former surfing king **Jake McCartney**, Eric Etebari as the mysterious Ian Nottingham, **Anthony Cistaro** as the enigmatic billionaire Kenneth Irons, and **William Yun Lee** as Sara's partner, detective Danny Woo. The movie deals with Sara's coming into contact with the Witchblade for the first time and her experiences as she learns about it and learns to use it. Irons is obsessed with it, having attempted to use it but he was rejected by it since it only works with women. He uses Nottingham to manipulate Sara in the hopes that he can control her, and thus, the Witchblade.



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The movie follows relatively closely the initial storyline of the comic book, but presents it in a much more realistic fashion than the comics. This makes it much more accessible to the casual viewer, but may disappoint the die-hard comics fans. The skin revealing outfits Sara wears in the comics are not evident in the pilot, although they could turn up if the show goes into a series. As with the comic, the movie is played seriously, with little in the way of humor or light moments. Since Sara is dealing with the murders of her father, her best friend and her partner in the movie, she doesn't have much reason to joke around or even smile. The production is high quality, although some of the fight scenes are done more with creative cutting and shadows than real action. I'd give it a thumbs up for what its intended to be, although its appeal may not be as broad as TNT was hoping for.

**SciFi Expands Original Shows**

The debut of **The Invisible Man** in June set records for viewer ship for SciFi with over 1.5 million households tuning in. The ratings have kept well above the channel's average and SciFi recently announced that they have picked the



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series up for the full season order of 22 episodes. If you don't have SciFi, you can still catch the series in syndication, running on stations covering 75% of the country with the episodes being two-three weeks behind the ones airing on SciFi.

SciFi also announced that they are picking up **Roger Corman's Black Scorpion** TV series starting early next year. **Corman** produced an entire season at his own expense based on TV movies that he produced for Showtime. The series stars former Miss Kansas **Michelle Lintel** as the straight-laced cop by day who turns into sexy crime fighter Black Scorpion at night. The series also stars **Scott Valentine** and will feature **Adam West** (Breathmaker), **Lou Ferrigno** (Slavemaster), **Soupy Sales** (Professor Prophet), **Charles Fleischer** (Dr. Praktus), **Frank Gorshin** (Clockwise), **David Landers** (Greenthumb), and Playmate of the Year **Victoria Silvstedt** as voluptuous villainess, Hourglass.

In new shows this summer, SciFi debuted their monthly **Sciography** series in July with a show on **Battlestar Galactica**. In August will be one on **Quantum Leap**, and September will see **Babylon 5**. Other shows in the works include ones on **The Incredible Hulk**, **The Twilight Zone**, and **The Bionic Woman**. The producers have been talking to the shows creators, actors and fans to present an informative show dealing with the history of each of the series they are covering.

Also starting this summer is the weekday **S.C.I.F.I. World**, which will feature daily six hour mini-marathons of different TV shows with a theme setting. Check SciFi's web page for schedules.

**Farscape** has been confirmed for a third season and is currently well into the second season on SciFi. There's not a lot of advance info on the episodes, but they continue to try to do different things. They will be looking back via flashbacks at what happened with Zhaan at the beginning of the season when we pick up several weeks after the events in the first season finale. In the currently airing three parter, we got a return visit from Scorpious and learned about the origins of Moya.

SciFi will be finishing up the second season of **Lexx** in early August and will finally be airing the first series of four TV

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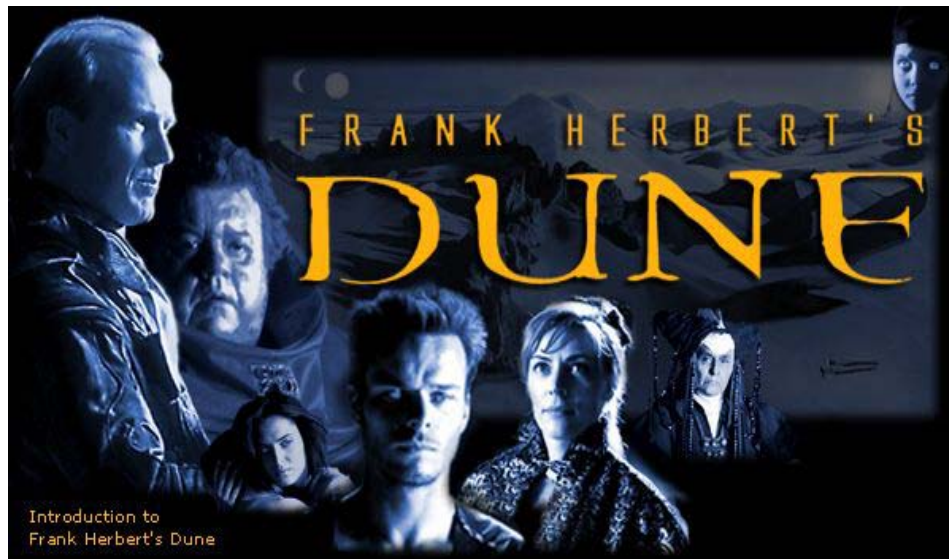
movies that set up the series each night on August 7-10. They will then immediately move on to the third series, with the umbrella title of "Fire and Water" on August 18<sup>th</sup>. This is a 13 episode season with a continuing storyline which finds the Lexx crew trapped in orbit around two warring planets, Fire and Water. At the start of the season, the Lexx has run out of food and needs to eat but there isn't



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any available. The crew put themselves into suspended animation while Lexx drifts for 4,000 years, being awakened when the ship gets trapped in orbit around the two planets. Guest starring in a continuing role is **Nigel Bennett** (Forever Knight) as Prince, the ruler of Fire. Prince, of course, would like to see the Lexx destroy Water, and people from Water feel the same about Fire. Stan, Zev, and Kai travel back and forth between both planets, meeting some familiar faces, and finding out more and more about these two planets that make's them start to wonder what is really happening there. This series also has a good amount of nudity and sexual content, which will likely get blurred or excised by SciFi.

Coming up December 3-5 will be the six hour miniseries **Frank Herbert's Dune**, presented in wide-screen format. The cast will feature **Alec Newman**, **Matt Keeslar**, **Saskia Reeves**, **Ian McNeice**, **PH Moriarty**, **Julie Cox**, Italian screen icon **Giancarlo Giannini** as the Emperor and Academy Award-winning actor **William Hurt** as Duke Leto. The film is written and directed by



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**John Harrison**. The mini-series will be able to follow the original novel in much more detail than the theatrical movie, filming at many exotic locations and one of the largest sound stages in Europe, Barrandov Studios in Prague.

Over on the USA Network, they've started up a couple of new genre half hour series on Sunday nights. The first is "**The War Next Door**", which was originally titled "**Kill, Kill, Kill**". It's about two spies who spend each episode trying to kill each other, with one of them succeeding. But at the start of the next episode, they are both alive. It sounds like a live action Spy vs. Spy crossed with South Park's Kenny to me. The other half hour is **Manhattan, AZ**, which is about a New York cop who moves to a small town in Arizona where strange things happen.

**New Network & Syndicated Shows this Fall**

There's not much yet to add to news about the other new shows debuting this fall on the networks and in syndication. FOX's "**Fearsum**" has changed it's name to "**Freakylinks**", I assume to identify the show more with its online website ([www.freakylinks.com](http://www.freakylinks.com)). Reviews of the pilot episode have not been very favorable. Other network shows debuting this fall are **James Cameron's "Dark Angel"** (FOX - Tuesday), "**Night Visions**" (FOX - Friday), **Freedom** (UPN - Friday), and "**Level Nine**" (UPN-Friday). Debuting in syndication are "**Queen of Swords**", "**The Immortal**", and "**Sheena**" (Check your local listings for stations and times).

**Andromeda Preview Part Two**

**Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda** looks to be following even more in the footsteps of the original **Star Trek**. In addition to scripts from head writer/producer **Robert H. Wolfe** and his writing staff, they have scripts lined up from science fiction and fantasy authors **Walter Jon Williams** and **Stephen Barnes** with other authors to be announced.

In the opening episode, the Andromeda will endure a time-warp caused by the interaction between the ship's anti-gravity generator and the event horizon of

a black hole. Not all of the original 4,000 member crew survives and Captain Dylan Hunt (**Kevin Sorbo**) must pull together a new crew to help in his efforts to restore chaos to the collapsed United Commonwealth.

Left over from the original crew is Tyr Anasazi, a Nietzschean first officer played by **Keith Hamilton Cobb**. **Cobb's** six-foot-five height makes him taller than **Kevin Sorbo** and enables him to be the genetically engineered human that is a Nietzschean. He's one of the few remaining Commonwealth officers left on the



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ship, thus he is very dedicated and loyal to Hunt.

In talking with Space.com, **Wolfe** said "Very few of the regular characters are trained military officers and they have a lot of attitude. They are not very disciplined. They don't always follow the orders given to them. They never say "sir." They rarely say "captain." They never salute. They're never in uniform. It's just a different feel. They're definitely a bunch of scurvy dogs. They all have their own agendas, which really gives a nice charge to scenes where they may discuss different options to solve a problem."

**Beka Valentine (Lisa Ryder)** is the Captain of the freighter Eureka Maru, which rescues the Andromeda. Beka is a survivor who was born and raised on the Maru and has been scrambling her entire life. The alien crewmembers will be more mysterious than the human ones. **Rev Bem (Brent Stait)** is a reformed Magog alien, and **Trance Gemini (Laura Bertram)** is of unknown origin within the show. All she will say is that she is purple. **Wolfe** says we'll likely not find out more about her origins until much later in the series, keeping her origins and motivations a mystery to the viewer and the crew.

**Seamus Harper (Gordon Michael Wolvett)** is the engineer on the ship, who comes with a lot of attitude. He also has a plug on the side of his head that he can use to plug in various programs. He's also got a bad immune system, so he's prone to getting sick a lot. And he's also in love with their sentient ship Andromeda. Andromeda will be embodied by **Lexa Doig** in various forms. We'll see her face

on screens throughout the ship, hear her voice coming from computer consoles, droids and robots, see her as a holographic projection and eventually she will have a human-looking body to interact with the crew. We may even see her interacting with herself as she works out solutions to problems.

The series is filming in Vancouver from May to December, so that they won't have to deal with winter for any location shooting. Within the show, it will be explained that as humans were terra forming planets, they used pine trees a lot, thus the Vancouver forests can double for many alien planets and it will look a lot nicer than the rocky planets seen in the original **Star Trek**.

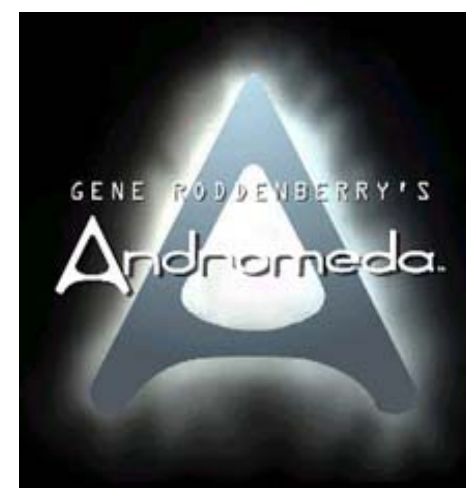
**Wolfe** has not said much yet about the actual episodes we'll see at the start of the season, so there's not much to report on that end. As it gets closer to the debut in early October, the official website at [www.andromedatv.com](http://www.andromedatv.com) should have more



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details on the actual episodes. The weekly interviews with **Wolfe** on Space.com should continue as well. Getting a stream of info on the series as it films is highly reminiscent of the early days of **Babylon 5** when **Straczynski** was constantly updating fans about the progress of the filming of the show.

For more news, schedules and SFTV info, check out [www.sftv.org](http://www.sftv.org), webmastered by **Lee Whiteside**.



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## The Dark Ones: Past, Present and Future

CopperCon 20 marks the Dark Ones 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of throwing parties at Conventions. In true Dark Ones fashion we plan to have a big party at this year's CopperCon to commemorate the event. Most people don't realize that there is a lot more to the Dark Ones than a group that throws great parties. The Dark Ones have evolved over these last ten years from a handful of gamers who wanted something to do after the Game Room closed to a diverse group with fifty members. Interests now span subjects like computer programming, costuming, gaming, science, science fiction and fantasy movies and literature as well as organizing and running larger events such as conventions.

### The Challenge Book

The initial group formed through "The Challenge Book" which was a series of notebooks kept at the Game Keeper at Metro Center. "The Challenge Book" was an ongoing Dungeons and Dragons type campaign that was literally played by gamers who would come to the store, read past entries by other players and add their own adventures to the book. Most of the players had never met, and kept their "book identities" a tightly guarded secret. At one point Kretin coined the name "The Dark Ones" for the adventuring group they traveled with. The rest is

history. The name was popular. Characters evolved in "The Challenge Book". Darkyr, Kretin, Shadowstalker, Wilgar, Mordaryn and Knight Rider (now known as Night Flier) met and adventured together in the book.

Then came the fateful day when one of the players suggested that they have an actual barbecue to coincide with one taking place in the book! A time and place was settled upon and what followed lead to the first Dark Ones parties.

### The Four Crown Alliance and Sanctuary

They became great friends and even roommates. Darkyr named their house "Sanctuary". They gamed a great deal, but they also explored other diversions as well. Mordaryn, Raven, Rhowyn and Shadowstalker began "The Four Crown Alliance". The members of this sub-group of the Dark Ones were fighters. They had tournaments in the back yard at Sanctuary. Many of the people who fought in the Alliance are now fighters in the SCA. Shadowstalker has stated that the Dark Ones might have become an SCA household if they had known of the SCA when they formed.

### The First Convention Party

Shortly after they met, a friend took Night Flier and Shadowstalker to their first convention. They wandered around the game room amazed. "That looks like a lot of fun" they said, "wish we could play."

By their next convention they were running tournaments and winning

gaming awards. Later they discovered that by the time they were done gaming and wanted to socialize all of the convention parties were winding down. They decided to throw a party that started after 10 pm. They made a few posters, got two boom boxes (set at either side of the room to create stereo sound) and put beer in the bathtub. A few people wandered into the party. "There's beer in the tub, help yourself." A guest was told. The man came out with a Michelob in his hand an amazed expression on his face. This group had REAL BEER not some cheap canned stuff, but nice bottled beer! The Dark Ones were hooked. Throwing great parties is a lot of fun!

### Incorporation

In 1993 The Dark Ones decided that they needed to formally become a corporation. They wanted to throw a Convention of their own. They needed legitimacy to do that. They became The Dark Ones, Incorporated on June 6, 1993. The Dark Ones have Bylaws like any other corporation. We are a 501(c)(10) "not for profit" consanguineous (fraternal & sororal) organization.

### The Family

The "Dark Ones" were a tight knit family. When new people wanted to join the group the "Dark Ones" faced a dilemma: How to grow yet not lose the feeling of family within the group? In 1993 Lefty Two-Blade came up with an idea, a second level of membership. The Dark Ones Associates (D.O.A.'s) were born. That "Dead Man's Party" 13 people

became D.O.A.s. Joining the Dark Ones family was now a two-stage process involving paperwork and getting the official opinion of all the other members.

### The Dark Ones Diversify

The Dark Ones help people move as fundraisers for their events. We have helped over 20 people move within and around the Valley.

Shadowstalker of the Dark Ones was the first to gather the group together to attend movie premiers. Over 150 people went to the "Star Trek: Generations" Premier. Most recently we gathered over 400 people to attend "Star Wars I, The Phantom Menace" on its opening day.

As the group has gotten older the inevitable occurred. We bred. So several of the new parents in our group, notably Candles and Ozzy, have thrown children's events. Candles offered innovative

and exciting children's programming at the last DarkCon. Each house party we throw now provides off site kid's activities for parents who wish to attend a Dark Ones party. There have been birthday parties for children of the Dark Ones and D.O.A.s and other fun events. Darkyr has shown a special talent for entertaining the children (still being a child himself).

Last year the Dark Ones began a "Dinner Club". Each month a group of people go to dinner together. We try out new restaurants each month. We look for restaurants with atmosphere and excellent food. So far we have tried thirteen restaurants, from champagne brunch at the Top of the Rock to Italian at Mancusos and my personal favorite, seafood at the Salt Cellar.

We have now started The Dark Ones Travel Club. A group of us went to Mexico City this year and explored Aztec ruins and the city. We plan to go to Europe in the next year or two, and Asia two years after that.

### DarkCon

In 1995 a major dream for the Dark Ones came true. The group threw its own convention. It was not just a gaming convention, but a well rounded convention with two tracks of programming, con suite, hucksters room, art show, banquet and of course a Dark Ones party. It was my first convention in the valley. I had been in Phoenix less than a week when my mother handed me a membership and sent me to the con (don't you wish your mother was as cool as mine?) I went and loved it. I have been to a lot of Cons over the years including seven Worldcons, a few Balticons, Darkover, etc. and I am speaking honestly when I state that DarkCon ranks up there with the best.

For DarkCon 1999 a gem of a hotel was discovered in Chandler, a Phoenix suburb. Everyone that I spoke with agreed that DarkCon 1999 was a great convention. It will go down in history as the "Best kept secret in Arizona" that year.

**DarkCon 2001** is currently in the works. We will have full Programming for all types of interests. Programming will include a large Gaming area, a Banquet, a Masquerade, an Art Show and all the other trimmings of a great convention. The Special VIP membership package will allow you to get the "Royal Treatment".

The 10<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary Dark Ones party at CopperCon 20 this year will be amazing. Please stop by and say hello. Buy a DarkCon T-shirt and buy a membership at the \$20 price. Have a drink and some munchies. Dance into the night.

**This closes the first ten years; watch for us as we march into the future...**

Chameleon D.O.A.

(Edited by Shadowstalker O.T.D.O. and Darkyr O.T.D.O.)

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# Mesa in 2004

## Westercon 57 Bid

### July 2-5, 2004

Arizona has not had a WesterCon since 1992 and we are EAGER to host another one. We've hosted many different conventions, from WorldCon (1978) to WesterCons (1982, 1988, 1992) to World Fantasy Cons (1985, 1991) and World Horror Cons (1994, 1998), three regional conventions per year, and lots of experience on regional conventions throughout the West. Now it is time for us to host another Westercon but we cannot do it without YOUR HELP.

**We need to hear from YOU by September 30, 2000**

Please support our bid for the 2004 Westercon and help us bring Westercon to Mesa. By becoming a member of the bid you can make your voice heard. Currently, we are planning 4 levels of support:

Pre-supporting memberships: \$10  
Friend of the Bid: \$50  
Sponsor: \$100

We also are looking for those interested in supporting the bid in an ongoing manner via monthly dues. Each level of support has it's own advantages. Check our website or see us at CopperCon for details.

You can contact us at: Mesa in 2004, PO Box 67547, Phoenix AZ 85082,

or

Craig Dyer at (602)973-2341 or Email: [dyer@maricopa.edu](mailto:dyer@maricopa.edu)

or

Mike Willmoth at (480) 945-6890 or Email: [mwillmoth@compuserve.com](mailto:mwillmoth@compuserve.com)

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heading back to crash.

Friday events started at 10AM with Sturgeon's Law: Why Is There So Much Really Bad Horror Fiction Out There?; Making A Living As A Writer (which I heard was quite good); The Color Of Terror: Illustrating The Dark Fantastic; Mining The Subconscious: Where Do Ideas Come From?; The Bookshelf That Drips Blood: Morbid But Useful Reference Books; Subtlety In Horror; An Hour On The Dark Side Of GoH J. Michael Straczynski; HWA Workshop, Session 1; Meet The Pros / Autographing; International Horror Guild Awards; The Details Are In The Devil: Satan's History & Evolution; Edgar Allen Poe One-Man Show; Artists Reception with Wine & Cheese Tasting; The Haunted Spaceship: Horror & Science Fiction; and Straczynski On Tape (video presentation). We played tourist during the day, so I arrived at-con in the late afternoon. I attended the mass autographing. After going out to eat at a restaurant on the 16th Avenue Mall (pedestrian with busses) with some other volunteers I managed to catch the last two events before returning to the motel.

Saturday started with An Hour With GoH **Melanie Tem**; 90 Minutes With GoH **Harlan Ellison**; An Hour With Artist GoH **Rick Lieder**; Town Meeting On The Future Of The Dark Fantastic; Navigating Hell: Putting Place In Your Horror; You Are What You Read: Research & Recreational Reading; Breaking The Barrier: How To Get Published; HWA Writers Workshop, Session 2; readings by many writers; art show tours by **Jill Bauman** and **Alan Clark**, both past Artist GoHs; HWA Bram Stoker Awards and Banquet; On The Air: Melanie & Steve Rasnic Tem's "Mama" - adapted for 'radio' by Trey Barker; and the 5th Annual Visceral Horror Grossout.

I arrived late again after touring around, doing lunch, etc. I ended up playing a board game, *Seafarers of Katan*, with some friends/volunteers while **Neil Gaiman** gave a 3-hour marathon reading of his new work. The entire text. Without stopping. We heard the crowd erupt when it was all over and we were down the hall quite a ways.

I had to be at the convention Sunday early (9AM) for the World Horror Society Board Meeting. This is where the current convention updates the board on how things have gone and receives comments. Additionally, future cons are represented such as Seattle in 2001 and Chicago in 2002. Seattle was selling memberships there, updated the board on some of the known details, etc. Chicago is still negotiating with hotels and may or may not be downtown. There was supposed to be a bidder for 2003, but no one was

present to do so. We then closed the meeting to just board members and discussed details on a number of things related to the conventions. From there I ran into a friend who had attended the GoH Brunch earlier. Apparently **JMS** overslept and missed it. He later made it up by taking those who came to see him out for drinks. That was very kind of him to do so. I managed to get some lunch and stick my head in a few events before Closing Ceremonies was started in the foyer near reg. All the GoHs had name placards with a podium off to the left. Chair **Ed Bryant** started things with some music and announcements. The next Chair was brought up to promote Seattle next year. Toastmaster **Dan Simmons** took over with introductions of each guest before brief speeches by each. Notably, **Harlan Ellison** was not sitting up with them, but instead was in the rear of the audience. When it came down to only **Harlan** left **Simmons** found that he had moved in behind him rather than at the table. The Toastmaster then turned over the podium to **Ed Bryant** who introduced **Harlan**. **Ed** then awarded him with the Grand Master Award (which **Harlan** said looked like his first mother-in-law) as well as a laser carved box with toy figures inside. Apparently **Simmons** had suggested different contents but **Bryant** resisted the temptation. **Harlan** then gave a talk about the condition of the hotel on his sinuses and his wife's, the temperature of the rooms (referring to a meat locker), the attitude of the attendees when asking for his books to be signed (apparently the autographing lines were long and they were cut off before everyone got theirs signed only to be approached later by many), the elevation and aridity of Denver, etc. He was remarkably negative and unappreciative about it all. I later found out that **Simmons** and **Ellison** had tangled in a previous event so ferociously that **Ellison** left the room before it was over. Knowing **Simmons** as a gentleman from WHC94 (Phoenix) where he was one of our Author GoHs I must conclude that

**Ellison** had really crossed the line. The day before I heard nothing but glowing reports about his generosity towards volunteers, even forcing some to attend the brunch he was in and eat despite not having tickets. Yet, the next day he was fighting a headache and exploded at these same folks when asked for his book to be autographed. I was very disappointed in his attitude towards his fellow professionals, too.

So, on that note, the convention ended. I helped break down the various areas of the convention, pack up Hospitality in a rented truck, and went out to dinner with fellow volunteers. We unwound together and had a great time. I got back to the motel early, managed to get some sleep before packing the next morning for the long drive back to New Mexico. We knew that there was a fire at Los Alamos Laboratory, which might affect the freeway, but it turned out to be open all the way. It was shut down for about an hour due to a smaller fire, but that was squelched before we arrived. We took 7 hours to drive back which put us in about 2.5 hours early. So, we repacked stuff, checked in, ate dinner (at the same Mexican restaurant) and flew home. Once there we unpacked enough to crash and go back to work the next day.

In summary, the trip was fun. Denver is a neat city and we didn't have nearly enough time to explore it. The convention was well run overall and the Chair received a standing ovation when it ended. Next year's con should also be a good one with quite a lineup of GoHs. It will be held over Memorial Day Weekend (May 25-28, 2001) due to hotel availability. Check out WHC2001 via email using whc2001@uswest.net or follow the link from the WHS site ([www.worldhorror.org](http://www.worldhorror.org)) when it becomes available. You can also contact me for more information.

I hope to see some of you there.  
Mike Willmoth  
mwillmoth@compuserve.com  
480-945-6890

illustration here and there. The last one I did was for **Joan Vinge's** book *Tangled Up in Blue*, published by Tor Books. The next one will be for **Tad Williams'** next novel in the Otherland series. I believe it will be titled *Sea of Silver Light*. Awards and stuff? My painting "The Reach" won the latest Spectrum Gold Medal for Unpublished Painting. I had a couple of pieces selected for the latest Society of Illustrators show, but they had both been sold and were thus unavailable to show. The year is still young, though, and I have high hopes for the upcoming months! My web site, [www.michaelwhelan.com](http://www.michaelwhelan.com), registers an amazing number of hits per month, which has been very gratifying. Glass Onion Graphics continues to sell prints and posters of my artwork, but we are seeking a major distributor/publisher to take over the limited edition end of things. In the past several months, I've done three lectures or slide shows for art educators and other groups, and I helped judge the last Society of Illustrators annual show, but I haven't been able to attend any conventions since the World Fantasy Con last year. [I had a **great** time there, I want to say!] Since then, I've had to cancel any plans for convention appearances for the time being. When my health improves I'll see what my schedule will allow." Michael also wanted to thank all of his fans for their interest and appreciation in his work.

**Janine Ellen Young**, author of the cyber-thriller, *Cinderblock*, will be attending the San Diego Comic Con over the weekend of July 20-23. She will also be at World Con 2000 in Chicago (Chicon) over Labor Day weekend, where she will be promoting her new book, *The Bridge*. One reviewer said: "Take **Carl Sagan's** *Contact* and the most lethal contagion that **Robin Cook** ever imagined and you might come close to what Janine Ellen Young has accomplished here. *The Bridge* is, at once, science fiction at its best—complete with all that we've come to expect of the genre—and a very personal story of understanding and hope brought to the reader through fully realized characters."

That's it for now. If I've missed anybody, I'm sorry, and please pass this along to your pro colleagues (artists, writers, actors, etc.) and have them let us know what we're doing so we can publicize it!





## 24 Frames (cont'd from page 1)

different in a society that rewarded conformity and condemned the unconventional. Cyclops, Marvel Girl, The Angel, Iceman, and the Beast were all characters with whom I could identify.

My interest in the X-Men waxed and waned until the release of Giant-Size X-Men in May of 1975. Written by **Len Wein** and drawn by **Dave Cockrum**, the issue introduced the Native American, Thunderbird (killed off in the third issue of the new series); the Russian superhero, Colossus; the Kenya born, Storm; the furry blue German who could teleport, Nightcrawler; and reintroduced the Cana-



© Fox

dian Weapon X, Wolverine; who had originally appeared in The Incredible Hulk #180. The series had been revived, but the real impetus to the book was **Wein's** assistant who started contributing material in the second issue and had completely taken over the writing duties by

the forth issue: **Chris Claremont**. In late 1977, **John Byrne** took over the Penciling duties. The characters were also undergoing transitions. Marvel Girl, who had become known only as Jean Grey, was transformed in 1976 into Phoenix, when she merged with an alien life form of awesome power. By 1980, Phoenix was so out of control that **Claremont** wrote the multi-issue story saga of the Dark Phoenix in which Jean Grey pays the ultimate price for the megalomaniac nature of the alien life force within her.

The 1980's saw the introduction of new mutants. **John Byrne** created Kitty Pryde, who could pass through solid matter and was the youngest X-Man at thirteen. He also originated the Canadian version of the X-Men, Alpha Flight. In 1982, The New Mutants debuted Karma, Cannonball, Sunspot, Wolfbane, Psyche, and in 1984 Warlock was introduced. Issue #100 saw the end of The New Mutants, but the characters became charter members of the new mutant group, X-Force. The February 1986 introduction of X-Factor revitalized and revised the original X-Men (Cyclops, The Angel, Iceman, and the now animal-man Beast) including the previously deceased Jean Grey, aka, Marvel Girl/ Phoenix. April 1988 saw the introduction of the paperback for Excalibur, a mutant team with a bit of humor included former X-Men Kitty Pryde and Nightcrawler, with the first issue of the comic book in October 1988. In November of 1988, the first issue of Wolverine was published.

In 1989, "Pryde of the X-Men" was an animated show that revolved around Kitty

Pryde, aka Shadowcat. From 1992-1998 saw the welcome introduction of an animated X-Men series involving Professor X, Cyclops, Jean Grey, Rogue, Wolverine, Jubilee, Storm, Gambit, Beast, and others such as Cable, Apocalypse, and Magneto. This series was the most successful translation of Marvel characters from the pages of the comic book to the small screen, just as X-Men: The Movie is the best translation to the movie screen.

With a good plot, dialogue, and sufficient action, **X-Men: The Movie**, is a treat for X-Men fans and action/adventure fans alike. While the film doesn't pay slavish obedience to characters and situations introduced in the comic books



© Fox

and plays fast and loose with the history as portrayed in the books, this movie is true to the tone and feel of the books. The comics conveyed a sense of fluid exchange between what was real and what might become real especially when time travel changed the lives and deaths of the

characters. This film capitalizes on this fluidity by moving characters ages forward and backward in time: Rogue (**Anna Paquin**) is seventeen and so is Bobby, who we are led to believe will later be known as Iceman. In another scene a tongue-in-cheek nod is made to the comic books, when Wolverine states that he can't believe that the X-Men go out in public wearing costumes that resemble black motorcycle racing leathers to which Cyclops replies, "What would you have us wear, yellow Spandex?"

The rest of the characters are closer to their comic book counterparts. Wolverine (**Hugh Jackman**) is the wisecracking, cigar-chomping, anti-hero we've come to know, but he only remember snatches of his creation as Weapon X. Professor Xavier (**Patrick Stewart**) is the calm, cool, collected, but impassioned mentor of the group. Storm (**Halle Berry**) is quiet until provoked and then you don't want to fool with "Mother Nature." Cyclops (**James Marsden**) has a quiet leadership quality about him and with his special visor and scarlet tinted glasses worn throughout the film the actor won't have much trouble with over-enthused fans bothering him. Jean Grey (**Famke Janssen** without the trademark auburn tresses) shows off her telekinetic and telepathic abilities to good use, with no hint of the Phoenix rising. Magneto (**Ian McKellen**) is a villain that you can understand: his passion to protect his fellow mutants blinds him to the damage he is doing to his own cause. Sabretooth (**Tyler Mane**) is little more than a mindless killing machine with more than a streak of sadism. Mystique (**Rebecca Romijn-Stamos**) uses her shape-shifting



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ability to good purpose, which is to say evil ends. Toad (**Ray Park**) leaps about and darts out his 12-foot tongue more often than Gene Simmons of KISS. Senator Robert Kelly (**Bruce Davison**) gets a taste of his own prejudices when he become the first human guinea pig for Magneto's plan to change the world.

This film is well worth the price of admission and I give it six adamantium claws up. <http://www4.x-men-the-movie.com/>, <http://www.x-men.com/flash.html>, <http://www.eonline.com/Features/Features/Xmen/>

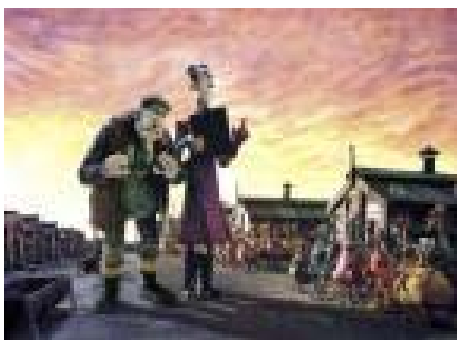
(Cont'd on page 14)



**CHICKEN RUN: No Dumb Clucks**  
By Shane Shellenbarger

I first discovered the work of Aardman Animations creators, **Peter Lord** and **Nick Park**, while attending an animation film festival in 1989. "Creature Comforts" is a stop motion clay animation short film about Zoo animals with a twist: the audio portion is culled from actual interviews with people on the street and in nursing homes. This funny and clever piece won the 1990 Oscar for Best Animated Short Film.

After "Creature Comforts", Aardman Animations went on to produce the Oscar nominated short films "Adam", "Wats Pig", and "Humdrum", but they are best known for the Nick Park creations, Wallace and Gromit. Wallace is a dim-but-loveable inventor and Gromit is his long suffering-but-loyal dog. Parks first adventure with these two characters was "A Grand Day Out", created over a six year period and released in 1989 while Park was at the National Film And Television School, in which inventor Wallace designs a rocket ship so that he and Gromit can travel to the Moon and replenish their cheese lauder. The 1993 Oscar winner, "The Wrong Trousers" finds Wallace and Gromit involved with techno-trousers and a chicken impersonating penguin named Feathers McGraw. The 1995 Academy Award for Best Short Film went to "A Close Shave", where in Wallace and Gromit have to battle a sheep-rustling dog who isn't what he appears to be and who is misusing Wallace's latest invention: a sheep shearing machine. Aardman Animations also worked on Peter Gabriel's 1986 music



© Dreamworks

video, "Sledgehammer" and on the current Chevron gas station commercials. All of this leads up to their feature length film, "**Chicken Run**", a delightful movie filled with homage's to everything from "The Great Escape" to "Star Trek" "Chicken Run" is the story of a group of British chickens who are trying to escape the slavery of egg laying imposed upon them at Tweety's Farm. Lead by Ginger (voice by **Julia Sawalha** best known as Saffy in the 1992 British situation com-

edy "Absolutely Fabulous"), the chickens step up their escape plans when the Tweedy Farm begins a conversion to a chicken pot pie enterprise. Their chances improve (or so they think) when an American flying rooster named Rocky Roads (voice by **Mel Gibson**) drops into their lives. Can Rocky teach them to fly before they all become chicken potpies? You'll have to trot out to your local theater for the answer.



© Dreamworks

"Chicken Run" is a delicious film filled with humor and intelligence. Unlike Disney's "Dinosaur" which depicted animals eating each other and sent a howling child screaming from the theater in which I saw the film, "Chicken Run" has only slapstick violence and the one character who dies does so off-screen in a subtle manner. I would recommend this film to all and advise theatregoers to wait through the end credits for the aperitif. Bon Appetite!

<http://www.aardman.com/makingof/>  
<http://www.reel.com/reel.asp?node=chickenrun>  
<http://www.chickenrun.co.uk/>

**Upcoming Releases**

- August 4: **The Hollow Man , Space Cowboys**
- August 11: **Bless the Child**
- August 18: **The Cell, Godzilla 2000**
- August 25: **The Art of War**
- Sept 1: **Highlander: End Game**
- Sept 15: **Urban Legend 2: Final Cut, The Exorcist (re-issue)**
- Oct 6: **The 6th Day, Get Carter, Imposter**
- Oct 13: **Lost Souls**
- Oct 27: **Blair Witch 2, Little Vampires**
- Nov 3: **Red Planet, Charlie's Angels**
- Nov 10: **Little Nicky**
- Nov 17: **How the Grinch Stole Christmas**
- Dec 8: **Vertical Limit**
- Dec 22: **Seed of Chucky, Dracula 2000**
- Dec 29: **Shadow of the Vampire**
- Release date unknown - **Bedazzled, The Crow: Salvation**

**In Our Book**

**Black Heart, Ivory Bones**  
Edited by Ellen Datlow and Tern Windling  
Avon Books, 369 pp., \$13.50

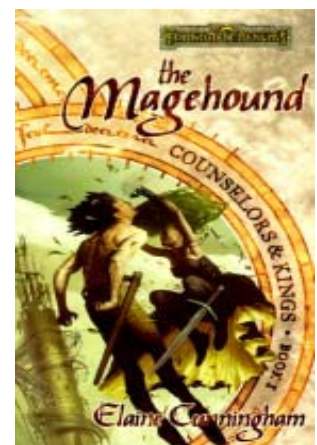
This trade paperback is the sixth of an anthology series on new fairy tales. It includes big names like Joyce Carol Oates, Neil Gaiman, Tanith Lee, and Charles de Lint. Nine male and 11 female authors have created 20 tales, taking new spins on familiar classics such as Rapunzel or Goldilocks. Sometimes funny, serious, erotic, always entertaining, these stories are not just to put children to sleep at bedtime. They are written to be read rather than to be spoken. In short, they are works of literature, with the freedom of expression



that fairy tales exemplify. The human condition can be examined and illuminated, but there is no extra baggage as with mythology, no semi-religious purpose. Scholars debate which came first, fairy tales or myths, and which developed into the other. Perhaps the two forms are unrelated, depending on how one wants to define them. That too is up for academic debate. This book includes a bibliography which can direct you to scholarly sources and lots more books of modern fairy tales. It also has author bios and story afterwords by each of its 20 contributors. It's as if it were a special issue of The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction. Higher praise I cannot make. **Michael Griffin**

**The Magehound**  
by Elaine Cunningham  
Wizards of the Coast, 312 pp., \$5.99

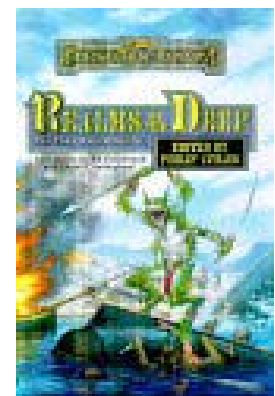
Wizards of the Coast publishes fantasy books which tie in to their role playing games. This is Book One of the Counselors and Kings series, part of the Forgotten Realms setting. While the RPG flavor is obvious in the battle scenes, the story telling is still top notch, bringing in motivated characters. The main pair are Matteo, a young member of the school of non-magical counselors, and Tzigone, a young woman who is a freelance thief with magical abilities. When she's not seeking after her family origins, Tzigone shadows Matteo and saves his life a lot. The author does a lot of things in pairs:



two rogue counselors (Matteo is one of them), two evil elves (one male and one female), two swamps to conquer (both full of undead creatures that live on magic), two evil superbeasts (one lives in a swamp), two amnesiac females (Tzigone is one of them). The style shows details we could expect of RPG battles, such as who can carry what weapons and fight what creature. That didn't detract from my enjoyment of this story, though. - **Michael Griffin**

**Realms of the Deep: the Threat from the Sea**  
Edited by Philip Athans  
Wizards of the Coast, 342 pp., \$5.99

Realms of the Deep is a four-book series in the Forgotten Realms setting, based upon the publisher's role playing games. This third book in the series is a departure from the other three. Instead of a novel, we get 12 stories by different authors, proceeding in chronological order through half a calendar year. The calendar itself is presented in an appendix. The stories fit in with the main plot



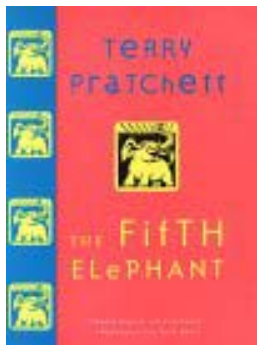
of a sea-based invasion of the land of Faerun. All three novels in this series are by Mel Odom, and he contributes a short story here, too. Odom's short story uses one of the main characters in the series, the conqueror Iakhovas. If you like lots of action against a variety of sea creatures, this book stands on its own quite well. - **Michael Griffin**

(Cont'd on page 15)  
Volume 10 Issue 3



**The Fifth Elephant**  
**By Terry Pratchett**  
**HarperCollins; \$24; 321pp.**

It took me three tries to get into this book. It starts off with a couple of doofus coppers in Ankh-Morpork in Pratchett's Discworld dithering on the streets. I wasn't in the mood for dirt-for-brains characters. A third time got me past the opening scene and into the meat of the



book, which was very satisfying.

This is only the second book of the Discworld series I've read. (The other being "Small Gods," which I enjoyed). According to the press material, Pratchett is the most popular writer in England; 1% of all books read in England are Pratchett's. It's an impressive fact, and I can see why.

This particular novel is almost 90% dialogue, with no chapters, just breaks. This means you can read this really quickly. And enjoy it.

The tale concerns a new Low King of the dwarves in Uberwald, a darkly forested, mountainous area near Ankh-Morpork. Some conservative dwarves are not happy about this; afraid the new king will be a bit too non-traditionalist. So plots abound and people are murdered and the Scone of Stone (for the regal rear-end, and an absolute necessity for the coronation) is stolen. Sam Vimes, also His Grace of Ankh-Morpork must represent his city at the coronation. The Patrician, Lord Vetinari of Ankh-Morpork feels he is just the man. It also helps that Commander Sam Vimes is a very able police officer (unlike some of his staff) and will be able to get to the bottom of all the murders and shenanigans going on in Ankh-Morpork and Uberwald. He has able assistants: his wife Sybil, the dwarf Cheery, Angua the werewolf and Detritus the troll. Oh and there is Captain Carrot and Gaspode the talking dog. In Uberwald we have a tee-totaling vampiress, more werewolves, dwarves and the vicious Wolfgang with delusions of grandeur. It's the usual band of Discworld oddities and flavorful characters.

When the book focused on Vimes and his efforts in Uberwald, the book really cooked. But the secondary plot, dealing with a by-the-book sergeant made captain

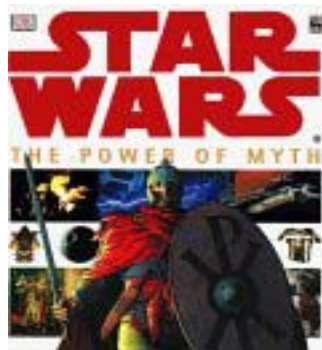
in Vimes absence was weak and uninteresting. Luckily, these scenes weren't too long and didn't detract from the events in Uberwald too often.

Oh, and the Fifth Elephant? A Discworld legend. Four elephants hold up the world you know, and a fifth elephant crashed into the world, splitting up the land into continents and forming the wonderful Shmaltzberg vein of grade A fat (along with gold and iron from its bones.) Shmaltzberg is in Uberwald and one of the sources of its wealth. - **Sue Martin**

**Star Wars, The Power Of Myth**  
**Dorling Kindersley**  
**Lucas Books \$12.95**

The authors attempt to link the multi-part Star Wars saga to traditional myths from Viking and Greek roots to contemporary heroes and heroines. This is a "slick" book, only 48 pages long and finished in magazine format, one of at least five books in a set covering various aspects of the the Star Wars phenomenon. Obviously, the books are aimed at fans who want more details on their favorite screen characters.

While the authors think Star Wars represents one of the great mythic stories, all they showed was that Lucas chose well when borrowing mythic ideas. They do carefully explore the elements of myth



starting with heroes. The parallels between Luke Skywalker and King Arthur are explored from their humble beginnings, early recognition of natural abilities, overcoming great odds to meeting a mentor or advisor such as Obi-Wan Kenobi or Merlin. Having been provided with a powerful weapon (light saber or sword) and a means of transportation (either a starship or a mighty horse), the hero is off and ready to go adventuring. Usually his first adventure is where he meets his faithful if bumbling sidekick. Just as Don Quixote has his Sancho Panza, Luke has his droids. This formula has been followed up through Sheriff Andy of Mayberry and his fumbling Deputy Barney Fife.

Heroes also need a talisman, usually from a missing parent. Thor had his hammer and Luke Skywalker has an old light saber. They also get to rescue a princess (who will be eternally grateful). Although in Luke's case he later finds

she's his long-lost sister, the Greek myths also have a couple of sister rescues. Just to make the tales interesting, throw in a bit of sacrifice, maybe a betrayal or two and a hairy escape to spice up the saga.

The book is lavishly illustrated with historical drawings of ancient myths and current production sketches of Star Wars paraphernalia. Costumers will especially appreciate fine renderings of clothing, weapons, armor, helmets, insignia and amulets. Techie types will appreciate the phantom views of land speeders and starships showing engineering details not previously seen. - **Pete Manly**

**Ancients of Days**  
**Paul J. McAuley**  
**[Avon] EOS, 404 pp, \$6.99**

ANCIENTS OF DAYS is the second book of CONFLUENCE, and the sequel to CHILD OF THE RIVER.

As a child, Yamamama, to be called Yama had been found floating down the river with his dead mother and a few machines. Adopted by the Aedile [the local magistrate] he is raised as a son, his differences unremarked. Now a young adult, he must find his bloodline among the ten thousand bloodlines seeded in this artificial world.

But everyone wants him, to be the messiah for the "unchanged" and aboriginal peoples, to be a tool of war for the Department of Indigenous Affairs in their bloody civil war, and ancient hidden powers who want control of the future.

Yama must survive, as the last scion of the builders, to learn the powers he didn't anticipate, and find his identity as the end of the world approaches.

This is an epic, entertaining, fast moving, with complex characters and ideas in a remarkably vivid world. I look forward to the next installment. A must for those who like ideas with their action and fun. - **Pam Allan**

**Sky Coyote**  
**Kage Baker**  
**Avon Eos, \$5.99, 292 pps**

In the twenty-fourth century a research group, Dr Zeus, develops a method for time travel. Unfortunately, it turns out to be prohibitively expensive and, of course, you can't change history. In order not to waste the discovery of time travel the



company "recovers" lost art treasures and makes investments in the past. To save the expense of having people travel back to do these things a single expedition was sent to the Lower Paleolithic times to implement another company discovery, immortality. A permanent base was established and the company set about turning Neanderthal and Cro-Magnons into immortal cyborg agents of the company set to manipulate time for the betterment of the company and its clients.

It is 1699 and Facilitator Joseph has just finished a hard assignment with the Spanish Inquisition and is enjoying a little R&R at the company spa, a Mayan city with force fields, hot showers, computers and all the other modern conveniences of the early 24<sup>th</sup> century. While Joseph is here we learn more about the company and its policies as well as its methods of "recruiting" agents.

Soon Joseph is off on his next assignment, to save a pre-Columbian culture from the encroaching white man., by posing as a god, Sky Coyote. He is accompanied by his protégée, Mendoza, who is still annoyed over an incident during an assignment in Elizabethan England and there is a sub-plot dealing with the company and its eventual plans for the cyborgs.

All in all, I enjoyed this. The juxtaposition of the modern technology against the ancient cultures they are trying to save was interesting. The characters are fleshed out, even many of the minor characters. And the author doesn't make the prehistoric culture or people idiots, either. They have a very well developed society, one many present day Californians can relate to.

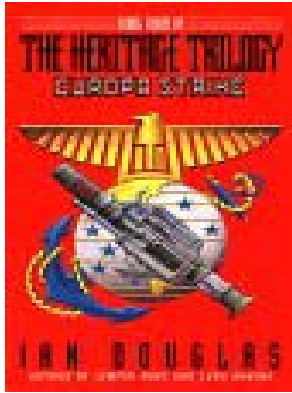
Things seem to be left hanging a little in the end, hopefully leaving the door open for a sequel, or perhaps a series of adventures for Facilitator Joseph. This is a keeper and I would enjoy seeing more. - **Stephanie Bannon**

**Europa Strike**  
**Ian Douglas**  
**Avon Eos, 403 pp. \$6.50**

Europa Strike is Book Three of The Heritage Trilogy, but can stand alone. In Europa Strike, the next generation of space marines are called to Jupiter's moon to guard a scientific camp touching Europa's frozen boiling ocean where an alien artifact has been found "singing" under the ice cap. China, now having reunited the territory it had lost, wants the alien technology enough to go to war. They ambush the ships in space, and the Lab on Europa. The few marines that make it to the surface must defend Europa, as the congress votes to let them die. An illegal rescue attempt is mounted by the marines on Earth knowing it may end their careers if it does not end their lives. The marines hold the line with high

(Cont'd on page 16)





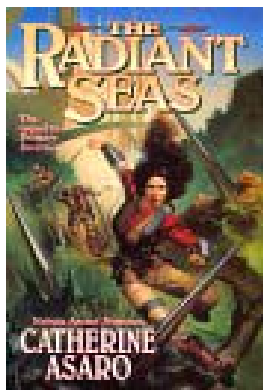
casualties, while inventing weapons and strategies to survive.

But the Singer awakes, and contacts the AI of the marine commander, and comes alive. Who, or what, is the singer? How will it respond to the war? What does it bode for the future of Earth? This quintessential military space opera is a page turner, and leaves itself open to continue the space marine saga with another trilogy. For lovers of military Sci-Fi, and action this is a gotta read, specially if you read Semper Mars, and Luna Marine - **Pam Allan**

**Primary Inversion**  
**Tor, 317 pp, \$21.95**  
**The Radiant Seas**  
**Tor, 487 pp, \$6.99**  
**Both by Catherine Asaro**

**Primary Inversion** begins a series [without a series title] that is continued in **The Radiant Seas**. I am reviewing them together although either can be read as an independent. Although continuation is not noted in the jacket notes, the door is left open at the end of **The Radiant Seas**.

**Primary Inversion** is set in a far future where faster than light travel is provided



by the inversion drive, and communication is instantaneous using the psi powered Skolian Net. The human race is represented by three groups, The everyday human [the Allied Worlds] who neither believe in Psi phenomenon, or the sadistic activities of the Traders [the Eubean empire]. However the traders have been enslaving the Skolian's [providers of the Skolian Net] for the pleasure they draw from the psi-enhanced pain. The Skolians have been bred, and

inbred for psi powers. The Traders for tolerance for pain. Anyone not an Aristo of Eube is considered a subhuman slave by the Traders.

The Heir to the Skolian Empire is cybernetically enhanced Primary [admiral] Sauscony Valdoria, a fighter pilot. On leave on the neutral planet of Delos, she meets Jabriol Qox, heir to the trader throne, who has been illegally bred for psi ability to break into the Skolian Net. He could not only conquer Skolia, but lead to the enslavement of the human races. Sauscony must determine if he should live or die. They must find a third option to prevent the destruction of both their worlds. [As Tina Turner sings "What's Love Got To Do With It.]"

In **The Radiant Seas**, They are discovered and Jaibriol taken back to Eube and used as a drugged puppet leader after the death of his father. Sauscony must hide their children, take over the Skolian leadership, and rescue her husband before the traders enslave the world.

The basic plot would seem to space opera, but tight plotting, and intense characterization throw the books into a whole new dimension. The scientific speculation seems to be based on sound physics, but the fictional world glows with the growth and humanity of its characters. I couldn't put them down. If you like the Honor Harrington series [David Weber] You'll love these. If you don't, I suspect you'll love them anyway. I can't wait for the next installment. If I had stars, I'd give them five. These are keepers. - **Pam Allan**



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**Invasions**  
**Nancy Holder**  
**Eos Science Fiction, 243 pp., \$5.99**

**Invasions** is Book Three of the **Gambler's Star** series. It will stand alone.

When the League Of Decency took over the earth, Six families, [Mafioso] took over the moon. If anyone wanted to have fun, a trip to Moonbase Vegas was in order. You want it, got cash' to spend, you got it. Everything goes by the families rules including vendettas. Want to muscle in? Forget about it. But the rules are changing since Hunter Castle dropped in, and started building Darkside Vegas. Lowly bagman for the tacky Borgioli family Deuce McNamara has become "Godfather to the Moon. Earth has declared war on the Moon, and the League of Decency is taking over. Contracts are out. Deuce's wife, Sparkle de Lune, Showgirl and kick boxing champion, takes off with Hunter Castle and takes the Kids along.

What's a guy to do, especially with Earth and every family targeting you, and the !kth are planning an invasion using your kids to test the jump gate. and only Deuce can stop them. It's enough to make a sober gambler throw in his cards.

But the Deuce ain't Godfather to the Moon for nothing. He contracts a contingency marriage with the Mormon general leading the rebels who thinks he is the messiah, and with the help of an alien [D'inn] sets off to save mankind, wife, kids, and anything else. Earth catches him, he is dying, and still gets away with the help of his friends to charge the jump gate as the !kth Invade.

But what if reality is on the other side, and all of this just a game with vastly bigger stakes. What if the !kth are the prototype for the devil, and the D'inn for angels. Is all of this a scam?

Nancy holder writes a quirky, witty adventure with the use wise guy linguistics that reminds me of the old Damon Runyan stories [and Newyorkese] You can't help liking the characters who's quirks invigorate the plot. Well written, with fast action, you'll want to read the whole series. I really would like to see a book four - **Pam Allan**

**Speculative Fiction: the Newest, Latest, Next Anthology**  
**Edited by A Hack**  
**Any Press, 500 pp., \$6.99**

Look out, authors over 3b years old! There's a new generation of trendy young writers, ready to rebel against all of the established forms that used to be hip. In this first of a new series, edited by the prolific Mr. Hack, the new breed demonstrates their superb skills at adapting to the latest discoveries in science, leapfrogging over all of the cliches of the past. These camp followers have grabbed the lab coats' tails and swung the bandwagon clearly in front of the march of progress. New classics crowd each other between the covers. Who will forget the tale of 'The Plastic Cup', a piece of litter that becomes the last thing left after the universe collapses? And you've never read a story about quantum nanotechnology before. Or how's about a time paradox that proves that we've already read this book? That'll certainly be true by the time this new generation is the old generation. And who comprises this new brood? One third of the authors are male, one third female, and another third brazenly refuse to disclose their gender. Such bold innovation shows in their style and technique. Don't miss this one! - **Michael Griffin**



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# Club Listings

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please check your club listing for errors. Please send corrections and updates to the editor in writing or via email)

**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 ConNotations. 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 Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 for information. Web [www.casfs.org](http://www.casfs.org)

**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://members.home.net/jeanderson/daystarholt.html>

**DESERT LURKERS** Tucson based Babylon 5 fan club. Meets and communicates via listserver over the Internet. Anyone with e-mail access can subscribe to the Desert Lurkers by sending e-mail to [b5-l-request@dragon.org](mailto: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](mailto: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

**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 simmialrly 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](mailto:Bnelson502@aol.com) Membership Approx 35-50. The Bi-Monthly newsletter is *Cactus Log*.

**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

## Club Listings (Cont'd from page 17)

**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 (480) 945-6890 or Email: mwillmoth@comupserve.com

**THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY** A Phoenix based club interested in the entire realm of SF, Fantasy and Horror film. PFFS has been in existence for 25 years, meeting every 6 weeks in member's homes. Dues are \$10 per year. Membership includes newsletters, an annual film awards and various outings. For information, contact PFFS, P.O. Box 34023, Phoenix, AZ 85067 or call David Storck at (602) 274-7404, e-mail: Menzeez@aol.com.

**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://www.thesfcom.com>

**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 Dr Ray Bromley at bromley.ray@a1.pc.maricopa.edu. The SFACE Web site is found at <http://www.pc.maricopa.edu/departments/studentact/organizations/sface/>

**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: myrddinal@aol.com [www.atenveldt.org](http://www.atenveldt.org)

**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. For details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or call Randall Whitlock at (602)995-7514, email: costumers@casfs.org 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 moneyorder 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 Erik Wennstrom, email: ew@asu.edu Phone: 480-968-5257. To subscribe to our listserve, send a message to them-request@asu.edu.

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

**Z-PHILES** are the ariZona x-PHILES. We maintain a mailing list for news and get-togethers of fans of the X-Files living in Arizona. We get together in both the Phoenix and Tucson areas. To subscribe, send an empty message to z-philes-subscribe@egroups.com

**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 UWOT webmaster at unitedwhovians@aol.com Web page at: <http://www.azstarnet.com/~hgadlng/uwotclub.htm>



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# Convention Listings

**Farscape Convention** (Burbank, CA) **Aug 5-6, 2000** Burbank Airport Hilton, Burbank, CA Guests Ben Browder (Commander John Crichton) Claudia Black (Officer Aeryn Sun) Virginia Hey (Zhaan) Anthony Simcoe (D'Argo) Gigi Edgley (Chiana) plus Kent McCord and members of the production team TBA. General Admission \$17 per day advance, \$20 at the door, Reserved \$45 per day, Gold passes \$150 for weekend. Creation Entertainment, THE GALLERIA TOWER, 100 W Broadway #1200, Glendale, CA 91210 (818) 409-0960 ext. 225, www.creationent.com

**CHICON 2000/58th WORLDCON** (Chicago, Illinois) **Aug 31-Sept 4, 2000** Hyatt Regency Chicago. GoH: Ben Bova; AGoH: Bob Eggleton; EGoH: Jim Baen; FGoHs: Bob and Anne Passovoy; TM: Harry Turtledove. Memb: \$150; \$40 supporting. Info: Chicon 2000, PO Box 642057, Chicago IL 60664; email: chi2000@chicon.org Webpage: http://www.chicon.org

**Bubonicon 32** (Albuquerque, New Mexico) **August 25-27** Howard Johnson East, Author GoH: Walter John Williams, Artist GoH: Lela Dowling, Mistress of Toast: Mary Ann Cornett A literary-oriented SF/Fantasy con with two-track programming. Events include panels, an art show, gaming, dealer's room, Filk and more. Memb: \$22 until 5/31/00, \$25 to 8/14/00, \$28 at the Door. Discounts for under 16. Hotel: Rooms \$50 or \$55 (with fridge) S/D/T/Q. Howard Johnson East 15 Hotel Circle NE (I-40 and Eubank), Reservations: (505) 296-4852 or (800) 877-4852 Info: NMSF Conference, PO Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176 Phone: (505) 266-8905 Email: cwcraig@nmia.com Website: http://members.aol.com/bubonicon

**COPPERCON 2000** (Scottsdale, AZ) **September 8-10, 2000** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. The 20th Annual CopperCon Convention Author GoH: Poul Anderson; Artist GoH: Vincent Di Fate; Filk GoH: Cecilia Eng; Local Authors Jennifer Roberson and Adam Niswander. Memb: \$30 thru 8/26/00, \$35 at the door, Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under - free when accompanied by an adult. Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 991-2400; Room rates are \$65 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. Info: CopperCon 20, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602)973-2341 Email: cucon@casfs.org or mwillmoth@compuserve.com

**TusCon 27** (Tucson, AZ) **Nov 10-12, 2000** at The Executive Inn. Author GoH: Catherine Wells, Artist GoH: Liz Danforth, Fan GoH's: Craig and Stephanie!, TM: Ed Bryant. Memberships: \$30 until 10/1, \$35 thereafter, children (3-12) half price. Panels, Readings, Meet the Authors, Art Show, Childrens' Zone, Video Room, "Men in Black" LARP, LAN Computer Gaming, and Consuite. Artists interested in panels should contact Rebecca (520) 293-1455 immediately! Dealers contact Cristi at (520) 881-3709. The Executive Inn: 333 W Drachman, Tucson, AZ 85705, (520) 791-7551, Rooms \$45 single, \$50 double, and \$65 suite (until Oct 10). More info: TusCon 27, PO Box 26822, Tucson, AZ 85726 Webpage: http://www.azstarnet.com/~basfa

**LosCon 27** (Burbank, CA) **November 24-26, 2000** Burbank Airport Hilton Guests: Author GoH: Orson Scott Card, Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton, Special Media Guest: Harry Knowles, Fan Guests: Craig Miller and Genny Dazzo. Info: LosCon c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd, North Hollywood, CA 91609 Email: loscon27@lasfs.org http://www.lasfs.org/loscon27

**The Twelfth Regeneration of Gallifrey One** (Van Nuys, CA) **February 23-25, 2001**, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Guests: Sarah Sutton, Mark Strickson and Bonnie Langford from Doctor Who. Memb: \$30 to 6/30/00, \$35 to 9/30/00, \$40 to 11/30/00, \$45 to 1/31/01, \$50 at the Door. Info: Gallifrey Conventions, PO Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609 Phone: (818) 752-3756, info@gallifreyone.com Web: www.gallifreyone.com

**LepreCon 27** (Scottsdale, Arizona) **May 18-20, 2001** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort Artist GoH: Stephen Hickman, Author GoH: Michael A. Stackpole, Local Artist: Robert Ross, Music: Echo's Children. Memberships \$25 through 8/31/00, \$30 through 12/31/00 \$35 through 5/01/01, \$40 at the door. Kids 7-12 half price, Children 6 and under are free when accompanied by an adult Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 7601 E. Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 991-2400. Rooms \$73 + tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 + tax S/D/T/Q Info: LepreCon 27, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 Phone: (480) 945-6890 Email: lep27@leprecon.org, WWW: www.leprecon.org/lep27

**AgamemCon V** (Burbank, CA) **June 8-10, 2001** Burbank Airport Hilton, Babylon 5 and SF Media oriented convention. Guests include: Tracey Scoggins, Alexandra Tydings, David A. Brooks, Bear Burge and more! Full Science programming track Memberships \$30 to 8/31/2000; \$40 to 11/30/2000; \$50 until 5/15/2001 and \$60 at the door. Kids 8-12 half price, 7 and under are free.

Info: AgamemCon, PMB# 330, 92 Corporate Park, Suite C, Irvine, CA 92606; Email: orrock@ix.netcom.com; www.agamemcon.org

**HexaCon 11** (Scottsdale, AZ) **July 20-22, 2001** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. Arizona's Largest Annual Gaming Convention Memberships: \$15 until 12/31/2000, \$20 thru 06/25/2001, \$25 at the door. Special Thursday night events for pre-registered members only. Info: Hexacon 11, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082 Phone: (602) 973-2341; Email: the\_lop@casfs.org Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 991-2400. Rooms: \$67 + tax S/D/T/Q. Suites \$100 + tax S/D/T/Q

**DarkCon 2001** Summer 2001 in Phoenix, AZ. Semi-annual fantasy and science fiction convention. "The best kept secret in Arizona." Check out our website at www.darkcones.org. Updates regularly. Rates are \$20. For more information call: (602) 978-5592 or (602) 978-9314.

**CopperCon 21** (Scottsdale, AZ) **Sept 7-9, 2001** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. Author GoH: Julian May; Filk GoH: Heather Alexander. Membership \$20 thru Oct 1, 2000, \$25 thru Dec 1, 2000, \$30 thru April 1, 2001, \$35 thru Aug 1, 2001, \$40 at the door. Kids 7-12 half price, 6 and under free with paid adult membership. Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (480) 991-2400; Room rates are \$67 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. Info: CopperCon 20, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Email: leigh@casfs.org Phone (602)973-2341

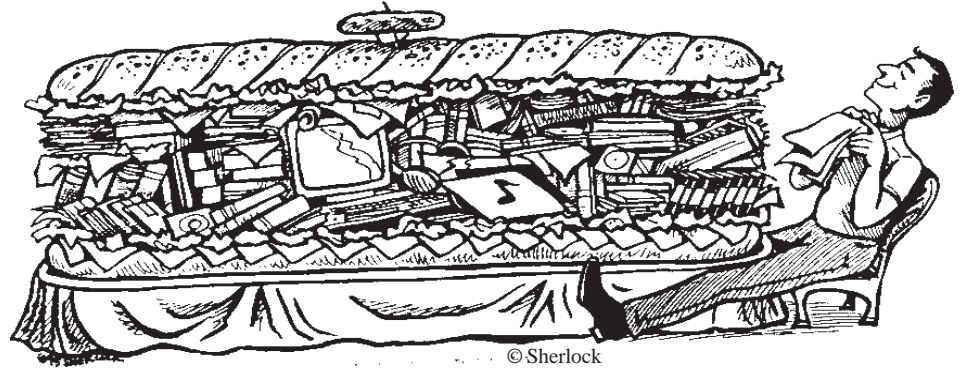
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**Generic Convention Registration Form**

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Badge Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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City/State/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_ memberships for \_\_\_\_\_ convention.

(See calendar for mailing address)

More info on  Masquerade  Art Show  Volunteer  Other

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