

ConNotations

Volume 11, Issue 1
February/March

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

24 Frames Movie News & Reviews

By Lee Whiteside

Lord of the Rings Principal Filming Concludes

Peter Jackson and company finished principal filming on the three *Lord of the Rings* movies shortly before Christmas. Even though principal filming is completed, there is still a lot of work to be done before the first movie opens on December 19. **Ian McKellan** explains this process in a message on his website (www.mckellen.com):

"The answer lies in the lie that all filming is completed. 'Principal photography' of the actors is, indeed, finished and we don't expect to be recalled to New Zealand. But each of us has a double who may well be working again by the middle of January, shooting essential linking shots, 'pickups' that **Peter Jackson** and his editors need to mesh the final jigsaw together. In WETA's digital workshops Gandalf's image, shot against bluescreen, will be matched to backgrounds of deepest Moria or the highest sky, with a computerized battling Balrog and soaring Gwaihir carrying him to safety from the Tower of Orthanc. **Andy Serkis's** Gollum will take months to perfect. Even when the pictures are close to completion and Peter's final cut is ready for New Line's approval, the huge job of re-recording the dialogue has to be done, with a cast now working on or considering other projects in Australia, Europe, Asia or North America. Then there are sound effects and music to be composed. All in all a good year's work to be done — and so the world must wait." **Spidey & Other Super Heroes in the Works**

Filming has started on the *Spiderman* movie, which will star **Toby McGuire** as Peter Parker/Spiderman, **Kirsten Dunst** as Mary Jane Watson, **Willem Dafoe** as Norman Osborn/The Green Goblin and **James Franco** as Harry Osborn. The movie is being directed by **Sam Raimi**.

The script reportedly stays pretty true to the comic series, although things have been updated some. Instead of a radioactive spider biting Peter, it is a genetically altered one. Peter's web-shooters will be organic, not something created by Parker. "In the comic book, which I am a giant fan of, [Peter Parker] is a genius. And we're going to keep that. He's a very smart kid. But when he can develop a material that even 3M Corporation can't

seem to develop, it starts to distance him from a real human being," **Raimi** explained. "It distances him from the average kid in school. So we felt since he's bitten by this spider and he takes on the powers of this spider - crawling walls, the ability to leap like some spiders have, great proportionate strength relative to his size- it was a logical progression to let him also spin his own webs. And in that way he [would remain] a human being that we can identify with."

On the heels of his success with *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*, director **Ang Lee's** next project will be *The Hulk*, a movie based on Marvel's Incredible Hulk comic. It will be produced by **Gale Ann Hurd** and Marvel Studios president **Avi Arad** based on a script by **David Hayter**, who wrote the script for the *X-Men* movie.



Warner Bros is still developing two different *Batman* movies, one a live-action version of *Batman Beyond*, the other a movie based on **Frank Miller's** *Batman: Year One* graphic novel. Both are in the early development stages and have not yet been given a production green light by Warner Bros.

Star Trek X - Scripter is a True Fan

Work continues on the script for the next *Star Trek* movie, planned for release sometime in 2002. **John Logan** (*Gladiator*) is finishing up the first draft of the script. He tells the official *Star Trek* web site (www.startrek.com) that he has always been a big fan of *Star Trek*, "My mother tells me some of her earliest memories of our relationship was my arguing with her to stay up late and watch *Star Trek*," **Logan** said. "She says I was very non-confrontational as a child, but that obviously was important to me. While other kids went out to play

(Cont'd on Page 6)

ReAnimation

Anime Reviews

By Craig L. Dyer

Over the Holidays I had a chance to look a few tapes and DVD's. I have given them a one to five star rating.
* = Poor ***** = Fantastic

- ** Sol Bianca - The Legacy 1: Lost Treasures
- *** Sol Bianca - The Legacy 2: Separation
- **** Trigon 1 - The \$60,000,000,000 Man
- **** Trigon 2 - Lost Past
- **** Trigon 3 - Wolfwood
- **** Trigon 5 - Angel Arms
- ** Hyper Doll B Acts 1 and 2.
- ** Amazing Nurse Nanako 1 - Memories of You
- **** Dual 1 - Visions
- **** Black Heaven 1 - Legend of Rock Bottom
- ***** Nazca: Blade Of Fate (Episodes 1-3)
- ***** Nazca: Blood Rivals (Episodes 4-6)
- ***** Nazca: Betrayal Of Humanity (Episodes 7-9)
- ***** Nazca: Eternal Power (Episodes 10-12)
- ** Green Legend Ran
- * Catnapped

~~~~~  
Sol Bianca - The Legacy  
\*\* 1 - Lost Treasures  
\*\*\* 2 - Separation  
AIC/Pioneer LDC, 60 Min,  
English Dubbed, 13up, \$24.98 each

Sol Bianca is a space pirate ship whose crew is all female. The Legacy 1 - Lost Treasures is about the captain's family heirloom that is stolen and it's up to the crew of the Sol Bianca to recover it. But a young girl stows away may make things more difficult. Later, during a routine treasure hunt, Jun and Mayo get trapped between Heaven and Hell as the rest of the crew fights with the Blue Comets to get them out.

In The Legacy 2: Separation, a terrorist takes control of the Sol Bianca, but fortunately, he plays the situation to Jani's strengths and she is able to answer the situation in her favorite way with guns blazing.

This series is Fully Computer Generated

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## VideoPhile

**Farscape - Premiere / I, E.T.**  
\$24.99, ADV Films

If you've not had access to the SciFi Channel and have been wanting to see what this *Farscape* show is all about, now's your chance. If you are a *Farscape* fan and would like to get complete, uncut episodes with bonus material, you've really got your chance. ADV Films has obtained the rights to release *Farscape* on home video, and they'll be releasing it on VHS and on DVD with bonus features. First to be released is the "Premiere" episode and the second produced episode, "I, E.T."

In "Premiere", we see the start of the series where astronaut John Crichton travels through a wormhole during a test of his *Farscape* experimental spacecraft,

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**ConNotations Now Bi-Monthly**

Beginning with this issue, ConNotations will publish 6 times a year. Advertising rates remain the same but subscription rates have gone up \$2 to \$12 for 6 issues. We hope you enjoy the change.

**CASFS Sponsored Book Discussion Groups**

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

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

**March 1:** Cosmic Engineers by Clifford Simak

**April 5:** Road Marks by Roger Zelazny

**May 3:** Ghatti's Tale: Finder's Seekers by Gayle Greeno

**June 7:** Callahan's Crosstime Saloon by Spider Robinson

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

**BARNES & NOBLE METRO CENTER:** 4th Thursday of each month

**Feb 22:** The Arkadian by Lloyd Alexander

**Mar 22:** Seer's Blood by Doranna Durgin

**April 26:** Star Wars: Rogue Planet by Mike Stackpole

**May 24:** Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

**June 28:** Cities In Flight by James Blish

For information on the Barnes & Noble group contact Stephanie at 602-973-2341

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

**BORDERS FANTASY & SCI-FI BOOK DISCUSSION:** 4th Wednesday of each month at Borders, 7320 W Bell .

**Feb 28:** House Atreides by Brian Herbert & Kevein J. Anderson

**March 28:** Good Omens by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman

For contact Deborah and Tanya at 623-487-9110

**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. There is also a weekly email update. If you wish to receive the email update send your email address to Stephanie at leigh@casfs.org

**LOST & FOUND** If you lost anything at a LepreCon, HexaCon or CopperCon in the past two years, please contact Stephanie at 602-973-2341 and describe the item. I'd like to reunite these items with their owners if possible.

**AZ Book Festival**

The Fourth Annual Arizona Book Festival is a free springtime event hosted by the Arizona Humanities Council, on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at Margret T. Hance Deck Park (Third Street south of McDowell Road) in Phoenix. The Book Festival will feature the largest gathering of authors on hand for readings, discussions, to answer questions and sign

Faithful Reader,

As you all know, the biggest news in recent months involved election results. Unlike the lovely State of Florida, however, we managed to successfully elect officers—including a President—in just one night. CASFS doesn't have term limits, so our incumbent President and Vice President, David Hungerford and Lee Whiteside, remained in office. Two incumbent board members, Jim Cryer and Stephanie Bannon, also retained their positions. I would like to welcome the third and newest member, Bob LaPierre, to office. Congratulations, Bob; I'm sure you'll do a great job.

A bylaw was passed, eliminating Article X from the bylaws. Article X, for those of you who are interested, established a bid for the 1999 NASFiC under the aegis of CASFS. As the bid has been defunct for some years, the article is

books. Three stages will be dedicated to author discussions on a variety of topics all with a southwestern influence. And kids will enjoy an entertainment stage geared for the young reader.

In addition to the stages of entertainment, the festival will host a children's area with hands-on arts and crafts including papermaking as well as

unnecessary.

HexaCon 11 changed its dates, because of conflicts with another convention that attracts a large crowd. It is now scheduled to be held July 27-29, 2001. Members take note; and if you haven't bought your membership yet—why not? It's only \$20! Check out <http://www.casfs.org/hexacon/hex11/hex11.html> for more details on what to expect.

The biggest news to you guys, of course, is the announcement that *ConNotations* is going to be published bimonthly rather than quarterly. That's right, six issues of your favorite fannish zine, delivered right to you. Don't forget us at Hugo time. ☺ Special thanks to our tireless editor, Stephanie Bannon, for volunteering to take on the extra work.

Until next time,  
The Frantic Scribe

costumed characters. An assortment of exhibitors including CASFS, LepreCon Inc, booksellers, publishers, libraries, bookmakers, artisans and even reading groups will offer something for every interest and every level of reader.

For further information please contact: [info@azcurrentevents.com](mailto:info@azcurrentevents.com)

### Press Release – DarkCon 2001

When the Membership of the Dark Ones, Inc. voted to have DarkCon 2001 it was with a great degree of caution. As a new "Science Fiction / Fantasy" convention trying to become established in the valley there is of course some financial risk.

Due to losses at the first two DarkCons in 1995 and 1999 the membership set down goals to be met by the committee of DarkCon 2001. These goals would be the guidelines for moving forward on the convention and designed to minimize any losses.

The Chair, Secretary and Treasurer of DarkCon 2001 agreed to meet or exceed the goals when they were placed in their positions. If these goals were not met, then the Membership would at that time cancel DarkCon 2001 to avoid the potential financial losses to the corporation.

As of 12/31/00 DarkCon 2001 has not met these goals. Therefore it is the duty of the Board of Directors, on behalf of the Membership, to at this time to cancel DarkCon 2001.

Any further inquiries into this matter should be addressed to:

The Dark Ones, Inc.  
PO Box 82575  
Phoenix, AZ 85071

-or-

[www.darkones.org](http://www.darkones.org)

For those who purchased DarkCon 2001 Memberships, you will receive your refund via mail by February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Thank you to all the people who supported DarkCon 2001!

### Who's Who This Issue

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**Subscriptions:** The newszine is currently sent free of charge to anyone who has attended a CASFS or LepreCon sponsored convention in the last two years and to all CASFS members. Subscriptions are available. Cost for a six issue subscription is: USA: \$12/bulk, \$18/First class; Canada & Mexico \$18/First class or Europe \$25/airmail. Request rates for other countries.

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[leigh@casfs.org](mailto:leigh@casfs.org) or [dyer@maricopa.edu](mailto:dyer@maricopa.edu) or Mail: PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 Phone or FAX; (602)973-2341

**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. Mallett

Happy New Year...and New Millennium (since everyone KNOWS the new millennium started THIS January 1st, and not last...).

I hope everyone's holidays were great. I spent Thanksgiving in snowy Utah with friends (I hadn't been in the snow in probably 15 years); Christmas in warm California with family and friends; and freezing Minnesota for New Year's with friends.

The Big Event approaches for the western half of the SCA, and we're off to Estrella War XVII in February (Queen Creek, AZ).

**Brian W. Aldiss** sends: "As I expect you have seen, posters for **Steven Spielberg's A.I.** are already about. Beautifully clever and severe. You will have heard that Spielberg has been given a knighthood—quite a rare honour for an extraterrestrial—pardon me, I mean to say a foreign national. Let it be placed on record how genial and generous have been his dealings with me. The same certainly goes for Warner Brothers UK, and their Vice President, **Rick Senat**. U.K. publisher, House of Stratus, has bought two new novels from me: *The Cretan Teat* and *Jocasta*. I am expecting a U.S. sale when my New York literary agent comes through. Stratus is negotiating to buy another ten books from my back list. That makes four such batches they have bought."

**Mike Ashley** is "deep in my biography of **Algernon Blackwood**. I'm just over half way through and desperately trying to complete by the end of January. The book is to be published next November in readiness for the 50th anniversary of Blackwood's death."

**Marleen Barr** has had two books come out recently: *Genre Fission: A New Discourse Practice for Cultural Studies* (Univ. of Iowa Pr.) and *Future Females, The Next Generation: New Voices and Velocities in Feminist Science Fiction Criticism* (Rowman & Littlefield).

**David Bischoff** has been very busy. He has "three new books and an old one out from Wildside Press": novels *Philip K. Dick High* and *J. R. R. Tolkien University*, and a short story collection, *Tripping the Light Fantastic*, as well as a reprint of *Nightworld*. He also has "two book for Foggy Windows Press--*Diplomatic Touch* and *The Last Wild Ride* [as well as] lots of short stories in **Marty Greenberg** collections. I'm also writing articles for *Rampage* [edited by horror writer **Douglas Winter**] and *Sci Fi Entertainment*." He also has a story in *Heat*, a Foggy Windows anthology and writes music reviews for *Progression* and *Expose* and has a *FarScape* tie-in novel coming out soon called *Ship of Ghosts*.

Veteran writer **Ray Bradbury** was the keynote speaker at the "Wrangling with Writing" conference, presented by The Society of Southwestern Authors (19-20 Jan 2001) in Tucson, AZ.

**David Brin** says, "Soon I go to DC for speaking engagements...twice—January

11 (maybe), to testify for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' National Committee on Vital and Health Statistics. Then February 2, I'm back to give a keynote to The Association of Grantmakers about "The Future of Philanthropy" (of all things!) [see <[http://www.futurist.com/future\\_philanthropy.htm](http://www.futurist.com/future_philanthropy.htm)>]. **Cheryl** and I took a very quick trip to Paris and then Barcelona, where I gave speeches and interviews to help present The University of Catalonia Literary Awards. Paris was, of course, wonderful, despite being as dirty and rude as we recall from living there from 1990-92. Naturally, we ate like crazy and walked off every calorie, rushing about to see all our old favorite sites and many new ones. Paris in late November can be brutally cold, windy and wet, and yet all the museums were packed! What a racket they have going. Barcelona was warmer. It is a jewel of a city, filled with wonders and the most delightful people. The blend of old and hyper-new is better than anywhere I've seen. I was surprised to learn that the Catalan language is closer to French (actually Occitan) than it is to Spanish! The architecture of Gaudi is simultaneously so wonderful and offensive that it makes the brain hurt, provoking unexpected thoughts. That is what the best art should do, of course, even when it's painful. I've been busy with this new public speaking thing. In June, I spoke to a World Bank Conference in Miami, then to a Pentagon futurist meeting, then DARPA, The Library of Congress...and a certain "agency" [No Such Agency? -DFM] with the best gift shop [No Such Gift Shop -DFM] on the planet. The week before I was in Cincinnati, addressing the execs and techies of Procter & Gamble. I also spoke to SAP's Tech 2000 gathering in Las Vegas, where I met **Penn & Teller!** Penn is bigtime a sci-fi and technology fan. My prediction as a "noted futurist"? I predict my present surge of fancy speaking engagements will all dry up in 2002, when people, sick of "da futchah," will go nostalgia-crazy and want nothing but retro! In a few weeks I'm heading to Chattanooga for a science fiction convention, where I also hope to walk the site of The Battle of Lookout Mountain. It's the most amazing thing. Faced with an almost sheer slope, the Union generals could not imagine doing a frontal assault. Sherman's way into the South was blocked. Rebs on the ridge above kept peppering the Union troops below with harassing fire. Big mistake. Frustrated soldiers started coming out of their trenches, shouting defiance at the Rebs above. Then more emerged, yelling louder. Then more, stepping closer. Then more. Then, to the horror of Sherman and the brass, the whole Union Army started up, without any command. Like an angry swarm, clambering in the face of withering fire...and took the mountain and won the war. After that day, the South had no defensive line. Georgia lay open like a ripe fruit. It was the most important battle, and the soldiers themselves won it."

**Ed Bryant** has "confirmation that my

collection *The Baku* (Subterranean Press) is at the bindery and finished copies should be available by the end of the first week in the new year. And I'm reassured by **Dan Simmons** that his introduction for the collection *Flirting with Death* (Cemetery Dance) will be completed the first week in January. That'll mean this fairly hefty collection of my horror and suspense fiction can go into production for publication around mid-year."

Beat writer **Brio Burgess** says, "a chapbook of some of my poems--*Saratoga Ice & Rocking Horse Blues*—was brought out by **David Greenspan** of Butcher Block Publishers in Oneonta, NY on December 11, 2000. *WAIL!*, a book of memoirs published by **Daryl F. Mallett** at Jacob's Ladder Books, is to come out in the Spring of 2001. I graduated with my M.A. degree in English/Creative Writing on December 16, 2000 from The College of St. Rose in Albany, NY, and my short story, "Electric Eyes," is being published in the Graduate Chapbook of The College of St. Rose's English Department on January 29, 2001. I am also listed in *The Directory of American Poets and Fiction Writers 2001-2002*."

**Dan Case's** book, *The Complete Guide to Writing and Selling Magazine Articles* is "finally for sale now."

Artist "**Paul Castiglia** here, with the same old news: still writing the *Archie* comic book series, *Archie's Weird Mysteries*..."

**Sandra Chang** is releasing web animations from her futuristic series *Akemi*. They'll be seen at <<http://www.sypher.net>> and <<http://www.sandrachang.net>>. Installments of *Akemi* are released monthly in *YOLK Magazine* and published issues of *Akemi* can be seen at <<http://www.sypher.net>>.

Arizona's own **Paul Cook** reports, "I've got a mainstream novel coming out from Xlibris Books <<http://www.xlibris.com>> called *Thinking of You* in January. Xlibris is a print-on-demand company. It's really a novel of "high strangeness" with some SF twists toward the end. The SF novel I'm working on now is called *The Karma Kommandos*. I will be turning it into my agent probably sometime in the summer. I'm also writing classical music reviews for amazon.com, ClassicsToday.com, and Andante.com. Busy, busy, busy."

**John Clute's** SF novel, *Appleseed*, is due out the first week of April from Orbit/Little Brown in the U.K. "The Canadian release is simultaneous, and I'll be doing a very short tour (Toronto-Winnipeg) between 5-9 April 2001." A second SF novel, *Earth Bound*, is due for release in 2002.

**DarkTales** reports that it has launched its own line of horror merchandise. "**Cthulhu** t-shirts & sweatshirts, baby doll t-shirts for the ladies, DarkTales coffee mugs, Asylum mousepads, and more. Additional products will be added soon, and our shirt and mousepad designs will change every so often as well, so check back often." Go to <<http://www.darktales.com>> and click on "Merchandise Catalog" in the main menu to see the items available. "The month of

January will see the release of three new chapbooks to our line. *Holy Rollers*, by **James Newman**, *DeadFellas*, by **David Whitman**, and *Natural Selection*, by **Weston Ochse**. All chapbooks retail for \$8.99 and are deluxe quality with full color glossy covers and incredible interior design. More info will be made available later this month when the new catalog goes online after the end of the sale." DarkTales Publications editor **Victor Heck** has signed an agreement with Spanish publisher HT Editores to publish a Spanish version of *The Asylum* anthology series, as *El Manicomio*. More information can be found by visiting <<http://www.hteditores.com>> and clicking on the "Manicomio" button at the bottom. *The Psycho Ward* is scheduled to be released in Spain in June 2001. A brief glimpse of our upcoming titles for early 2001 follows (i.e., Feb.-May—this is by no means complete; more info always on the way so stay tuned): *The Compleat Levesque*, a deluxe chapbook poetry collection by **Richard Levesque**; *Six-Inch Spikes*, a tpbk. collection of erotic horror by **Edo van Belkom**; *Faust: Love of the Damned*, a tpbk. media tie-in screenplay book for the movie *Faust* by **David Quinn**; *Cold Comfort*, a tpbk. collection of horror stories by **Nancy Kilpatrick**; and *The Charm*, a tpbk. reprint of the novel by **Adam Niswander**.

Artist **Max Espinoza** tells us, "I'm going for my play called *Weather Permitting* getting its first staged reading in February, with hope for a full production next year. **Ruben Gerard** is still hard at work with his comic strip *Penny and Wade*, and is going for his second book which we hope can be printed late this year. We currently have our website up (<<http://www.californiacaricatures.com>>) for any and all who need artwork and graphics and we're getting ready to come out with new books of satire this year—no plans yet, however, to appear in a booth at con this year..."

Artist **Adam Gastelum** sculpted the props for The Labyrinth of Jareth Masquerade in December. He is also finishing the works for his new exhibit "SOMINIUM," which opens in March in San Francisco and Los Angeles, as well as drawing the last chapters of the dark cyberpunk series *Dragon's Edge*, with **Shawn Strider**.

**Brian E. Gross** reports: "My first story, "Last Chances," will be published (under the name **Earl W. Parrish**) on a limited edition, signed CD-ROM anthology titled *Extremes 4: Darkest Africa* from Lone Wolf Publications (<<http://www.lonewolfpubs.com>>). It will be released some time in 2001. *Extremes 1* is out now, *Extremes 2* will be out in Jan 2001, *Extreme 3* and *Extreme 4* will be out later in 2001."

Veteran writer **James E. Gunn's** book, *The Science of Science Fiction Writing* has been released from Scarecrow Press. He says "you can sample it on my website (<<http://falcon.cc.ukans.edu/~sfcenter/>>), as well as the information on the summer program" for the Center.

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# ConClusion

## LosCon 27 Review

By Mike Willmoth

Mwillmoth@compuserve.com

The Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society (LASFS) puts on an annual science fiction / fantasy convention called LosCon. This was the 27th annual one held in Burbank, California, at the Airport Hilton Hotel. It ran Friday November 24 to Sunday November 26, 2000. Guests-of-Honor were **Orson Scott Card** (author), **Bob Eggleton** (artist), **Harry Knowles** (cybercelebrity - Ain't It Cool News), **Robert Hewitt Wolfe** (producer - Andromeda), **Craig Miller** and **Genevieve Dazzo** (fans) and **Frank Kelly Freas** (illustrator). Chairs of this year's con were **J. Shaun Lyon** and **Christian B. McGuire**. Programming was done by **Mike Glycer**

(File770, Worldcon 1996 Chair).

My family and I have attended all but one LosCon in the last decade and they can be a lot of fun. We usually travel over on Thanksgiving Day (for those in the U.S.) and return the Monday following. We flew the first few times, but found it a real pain to eat out without wheels. We now drive over. As we did this year, although we got started late and had TD dinner at one of the few open restaurants in town before we hit the road. At least they didn't run out of turkey until we had gotten our dinners!

I think we rolled into the hotel about 1:15am local on Friday. I had reserved a Junior Suite which last year worked out real well; it had a separate bedroom from the living room. Unfortunately, this year they had us in a smoking JS, not non-smoking as we are both asthmatics (which is not to be confused with mathematics, but that was my major in college). In order to accommodate us they gave us a board room in the west tower. Usually, we're in the east tower with the parties, so that wasn't so bad. It turned out to have a double murphy bed (instead of two doubles) and no sleeper sofa. Fortunately, my mother-in-law doesn't sleep horizontally, but sitting up. So, this worked out on the regular sofa. The meeting table was folded and put away in the closet along with the stack of meeting chairs. Even with the armoire holding the TV we still didn't use a quarter of the room. Plenty of space.

After a good night's sleep we hit the restaurant in the hotel for breakfast/lunch. Yet again the menu had changed from the year before. They also had a buffet going for breakfast, so we did that. We also saw lots of fen in the restaurant. Although we ate through the first set of program events, we split up when we left the restaurant. I attended a portion of Galileo Mission To Jupiter with **Robert**

**Gounley** and then Small Telescope Astrophotography. The latter was handled by **Michael Weesner** whom I had met at Honolulu's Westercon. He was an amateur astronomer as I am, but brought his equipment to view the skies from Hawaii. In Burbank he was showing a display from his laptop for his web site with photos he'd taken using an analog, then digital camera. It was pretty impressive. I don't have the web address (URL) for you or I would list it here. Just do a search on his name and it should pop up.

Next I stuck my head into Alternate History with **Harry Turtledove**, **Barbara Hambly**, **Rick Foss** and **Will Shetterly**. As I left there I ran into some friends from the east coast and we caught up on things in the hallway. I also visited briefly The Best SF Films of the Century with **Harry Knowles**, **Craig Miller**, **Larry DiTillio**, **Michael Engelberg** and **Eric Hoffman**. The taping of Hour 25 (LA radio show that has moved to the web) was done by **Warren James** and **Suzanne Gibson**; they interviewed the GoHs. I got to see this last year with **Connie Willis** and others, too, and it was quite good. We went out to eat dinner, then returned to the Ice Cream Social which had already run out of supplies. Actually, they still had sherbert, but it's not the same. The Regency Dancing with **John Hertz** was going well when I went in for a spell. He did our RD for Westercon in '92 here in Phoenix. Later, the modern dance also had energy, but not like what I'd seen last year at Gallifrey One. Please see my previous review of that con.

This year LosCon had lots of parties. Last year it was just a few with Phoenix hosting one for the 2002 Westercon bid (that we lost to LA in Hawaii this last summer). We were back for the 2004 bid, but only doing it Saturday night. All the parties were on two floors this year, so it was easy to take the elevator to the higher floor and walk the hallways until you reached the other end, then jog down the stairs to the next floor and repeat. Besides the Worldcon parties (Boston and Charlotte were in attendance for the 2004 bids) there were the Gaylaxians (didn't stay long at that one), San Diego fans, Los Angeles (Westercon 2002), and a whole lot more that I can't recall immediately. It was quite impressive for LosCon.

Saturday brought more programming. Guest-of-Honor speeches, CGI: The New Stars, Mojo: Foundation Imaging (got to see this one, he's always entertaining), Andromeda: The Writing Team with **Ethie Ann Vare**, **Ashley Miller** and **Zack Stentz**. There was synergy between these 3 writers and they talked about their backgrounds, how they came about to be writing for the show, etc. **Robert Hewitt Wolfe** then gave a talk about Andromeda TV show, how he came to the rights to do it, where the characters' names came

from, etc. It seems he was given a pile of notes by **Majel Barrett Roddenberry** on the concept and he took it from there. His wife came up with the name for Trance Gemini while they were driving on a road trip. There were lots of little tidbits like that. **Ray Bradbury** was supposed to give a talk, then do a signing, but he didn't show up. So, **Forrey Ackerman** came in instead and chatted with fans. I moved to Ancient Medieval Economic Systems and got stuck there rather than moving on to Plans For Space Exploration For The Next 20 Years. Oh well.

We did dinner with some more friends before returning for the evening activities. My wife was upset at having missed the Celtic Cabaret with **Rick Foss** since it got moved to Friday from Saturday; I had stumbled into it the night before, but she had already returned to the room. We found out later from Rick that he had requested Friday all along due to all their schedules, but it got moved to Saturday without his knowledge. So, he had it moved back. We missed the Masquerade which was reinstated this year. So, off I went to the parties. Ours was this night and I needed to help out. Before I did that I wanted to hit the others. Near the elevators I had a lengthy chat with **Tom Veal** (Worldcon Chair Chicago 2000) and **Scott Dennis** (Fo' Paws Merchandising) about elections, politics, etc. It felt like watching a ping pong game in China. Slam left then slam right (in a friendly way). Once I made it to our party I ran into some native Arizonans, one of whom had moved to California and the gal he was dating was from Gilbert. We got to compare notes and get updates on our parts of town (since I'm from south Scottsdale). Again we received lots of accolades for our efforts to pursue the 2004 bid and we expect to remain unopposed throughout the bid, with any luck. San Diego is regrouping after their primary sponsoring organization had a problem with their legal status, so they plan to bid for 2006 instead. We sold some pre-support memberships both at the party and at the fan table in the foyer of the convention center (next to the east tower). I think we may have even paid for the party!

Sunday brought Two Millennia Of Roman Rule, Cleaning Up The InfoDump, Film Trailers (movie previews), **J. Michael Straczynski** spoke about his upcoming project with Showtime on Jeremiah. It takes place in the future after a plague wipes out post-puberty humans. Now that the kids are reaching puberty they have to decide: do we continue living off what's left or do we rebuild society. We didn't bother with Closing Ceremonies, so we hit a Russian restaurant with the Foss' and their relatives. It was an interesting experience (we had done it last year as well) and our waitress was a trip. She could only do one

thing at once and she was the only server in the whole place. Shortly after we got there a large group of Russians came in for a pre-ordered dinner, so our service stopped for quite awhile as she served them en masse.

What is it about Sunday dinner?

During the con we had time to visit the Art Show and Dealers Room. The former was well stocked and some really nice stuff was available from Eggleton, but those payments were killers. The DR had some of the usual items: clothing, jewelry, artwork, books (new and used), gaming stuff. I missed the Fan Lounge since last year it was used as the Video Room. I also visited Anime' briefly several times, but couldn't get into what was being shown at those times. The gaming room had computers, but there was some sort of strange arrangement for them. It seems they got them donated by Princess Cruises, but the hotel would only give them one phone line to use for the Internet. I hope they plan better next year. I also understand that they had lots of problems with the hotel this year due to staffing changes, so lots of stuff got passed over or dropped through the cracks. I seem to recall that they'll be there next year, too.

Before leaving the LA area we usually try to visit a shopping area and we stopped in downtown Burbank. There are some locally available things that we can't get here, so even though some of the stores are chain stores, we still hit them for treasures. And because my wife bought lots of artwork I had to wrap it for the trip back home. We got packing tape from Office Depot and managed to fit the large framed piece in the station wagon without damaging it. I couldn't see out the back window, but that's not important when driving freeways in LA. Somehow, we made it home safely on Monday and rested up from another interesting convention. All in all we had a great time. It wasn't the best LosCon we'd had, but it was one of the top ones. If you've never been, then I encourage you to try one and see. Perhaps I'll see you there and we can compare notes. Until next time.



© Sue Dawe

## Filtered Memories: The Wallace and Ladmo Show By Shane Shellenbarger

Do you remember Mr. Bubble, Acquanetta, and Funny Face Drinks? How about Roger Ramjet, Donkey Basketball, or Fizzies? Super Chicken? Legend City? The one thing they have in common is a 35 year television program that was supposedly for children, but in actuality it appealed to all ages

For those of you who don't have direct experience with *The Wallace and Ladmo*



*Show*, you may still know about Wallace, Ladmo, and Gerald. Or Aunt Maud, or Boffo the Clown, or Captain Super, or Marshall Good. If you know who all of these people are, you have a chance to relive your youth and refresh old memories. If you don't know who those characters are, you can be a kid again, at least for the two hours of the play, *The Wallace & Ladmo Show*.

Written by Ben Tyler, Directed by Cathy Dresbach (an actor and writer for the show from 1984 to 1989) Produced by Bill Thompson (Wallace) and Pat McMahon (Gerald, Aunt Maud, Hub

Kapp, etc.) with Set Design by Matt Marich, *The Wallace & Ladmo Show* is a production that spares every expense but laughter. Originally produced for the larger stage of Desert Foothills Theater in March of 2000, Marich's set combines elements from several periods in the shows history and doesn't greatly suffer from being scaled down to the smaller stage of Herberger's Stage West in the production last June or it's current third run through January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The play is told from the perspective of Mike Condello (Christian Miller), the Musical Director of the show who started when he was fifteen. It's set in late March of 1989 and the fall of 1964. While old time fans of the show will recognize favorite skits (Mr. Grudgemeyer "Balloons! Balloons!"), those who didn't grow up with the show can still appreciate the humor, the comradery, the pursuit of happiness, and what it takes to walk away from a "deal with the devil."

Much of the play's humor is derived from local events and characters such as the aforementioned Donkey Basketball in which Wallace (Wes Martin), Ladmo (Hamilton Mitchell), Gerald (Bob Sorenson), and Condello would play Basketball against the staff of such local high schools as Bagdad High. On donkeys! Really! The cast also makes references to actress, Acquanetta, "The Venezuelan Volcano" who was born on an Arapaho reservation in Wyoming and grew up in Norristown, Pennsylvania before she became a Manhattan model who moved to Hollywood to appear in such "B" movie classics as *Tarzan and the Leopard Woman (1946)* and *Captive Wild Woman (1943)* before she married Arizona car dealer, Jack Ross. One of the great trips down Nostalgia Lane comes when the cast talks about Compton

Terrace at Legend City, Arizona's largest (read "only") amusement park, which was scrapped in the 80's to make way for a Salt River Project expansion. Glimpses of the old park can be caught in the video collage for the song *1954*, produced by Sharon Kelly and KPHO TV. Movie House Mogul Dan Harkins makes a cameo appearance when Wallace and Ladmo use their Time Machine to journey to the year 2001!

They say you can't go home again. Things change, people change. The last *Wallace and Ladmo Show* aired on Dec. 29th, 1989; Ladimir Kwiatkowski (Ladmo) died on March 2<sup>nd</sup> 1994; and Mike (Commodore) Condello left us on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 1995. Nothing is as it was. However, for two hours you can be a kid again, maybe even enjoy a childhood you never had. I was heartened to feel a chill go up my spine at both the Desert Foothills Theater and the Herberger Stage West when Ben Tyler introduced Pat McMahon. I joined the audience in a standing ovation to one of the partners who holds a special place in my childhood. If you've missed the current production, contact the Herberger Theater Box Office at 602-252-TIXS (8497) and tell them you want to "Tune in" to *The Wallace and Ladmo Show*. Ho ho ha ha hee hee ha ha!

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

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

<http://www.johnnyfranklin.com/wallaceandladmo.html>

<http://viewdesigns.com/book.html>

<http://www.herbergertheater.org/index.htm>

<http://www.azcentral.com/rep/music/articles/1214bestband7.html>

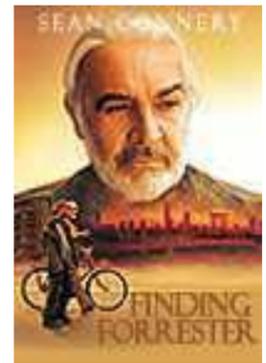
<http://www.azcentral.com/rep/music/articles/1228moments28.html>

## Forrester' Found To Be Great By Shane Shellenbarger

Despite what you may have heard, this film isn't about being poor, or Black, or having Hoop Dreams. *Finding Forrester* is about making and breaking connections with other people.

Jamal Wallace (played by newcomer, Robert Brown) is accepted by a prep school because of his test scores and incidentally because of his talent with the Round Ball. While playing Basketball with his friends, Jamal notices "The Window" is watching his group. On a dare, Jamal sneaks into the Bronx apartment, intent on removing an item to prove that he made it in. Instead he is so distracted by the collection of books he finds that he is startled by the inhabitant and leaves behind his backpack.

The next day, his pack hangs in the window facing the Basketball court. Jamal notices that the man who delivers to "The Windows" apartment has pulled up in his BMW. Both the car and the man are out of place in this neighborhood and Jamal tries to engage the slightly nervous man in conversation. After showing the man his is more than he appears to be, Jamal is surprised to find that his backpack has been returned to him in a slightly unconventional manner. Further, he is amazed that his writings contained in the pack have been read and expertly commented on by the Man in the Window.



Thus begins a student-mentor relationship that seesaws back and forth as the teenager and the man each shares and betrays the hard-won trust of the other, but they remained bound by their common love of the written word. Sean Connery's performance as the curmudgeonly irascible, one-novel genius, William Forrester, is filled with fire and is as cluttered with nuance as his apartment is crammed full of books. Brown as Jamal is low-key and subtle, but he's no *Shrinking Violet* in Connery's presence. This is an intimate story that is well worth the time of anyone who can appreciate the affect words and the people who speak them can have on us all. As Forrester says, "Family isn't always what you're born with-sometimes it's the people you find, sometimes it's the people who find you."

# Michael's Magic



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

Cowboys and Indians, I was playing Kirk and the Klingons. "When I got this job, it was a good feeling to call up my mother and say, 'See? All this really paid off!'"

Picard and crew will face off against new aliens and some familiar ones, including Romulans. **Logan** has created a new foe for Picard that he thinks ranks up there with Kirk's nemesis Khan. As a fan of the show, **Logan** will be paying attention to the details of the Trek universe. "There will be lots of little things that fans will recognize," **Logan** says. "I want to put in a lot of cool stuff that no one in the main audience will understand, but fans will see and get it right away. One of the best parts about writing this is that I get to do things with the races, the characters and the homeworlds that I've always wanted to do."

"The very fact that they hired me and are supportive of what I am doing with *'Star Trek X'* should show fans something. This is a very ambitious story, and it takes some risks," says **Logan**. "I think what I will bring to it is my love for the characters and the world of *Star Trek*. At age 39, to be able to sit in the captain's chair is a dream come true; my hope is that it will form every part of my writing."

**Star Wars: Episode II Well Into Post-Production**

George Lucas and editor Ben Burtt

have been busy editing *Star Wars: Episode Two* into recognizable form aiming towards a two hour plus cut. According to producer **Rick McCallum** "There's a lot of work to do, you go through various emotional stages when reviewing this footage. At times, you have to face the truth of what you didn't get and what you hoped for. The second stage is that you're amazed by all the things you did get that you didn't even think you got. And then the third stage is that you see certain things are infinitely better than you could have even imagined."

**Lucas** screened the first three and a half reels of the movie to staffers at Industrial Light and Magic to give them an idea of what they have to look forward to working on. "It's the first time **George** has gone through every single scene," explains **McCallum**. "ILM is ready to pounce on this."

### Upcoming Movie Release Dates

Feb 2 - *Valentine*  
Feb 9 - *Hannibal*  
Mar 30 - *Spy Kids*  
Apr 6 - *Pluto Nash*  
Apr 11 - *Monkeybone, Pokemon 3*  
May 11 - *The Mummy Returns*  
May 18 - *Shrek, American Outlaws, Cheaters*  
May 25 - *Pearl Harbor*  
Jun 1 - *A Knight's Tale*  
Jun 8 - *Dr. Dolittle 2, House of a Thousand Corpses*

Jun 15 - *Tomb Raider, Atlantis, Swordfish*

Jun 29 - *A.I.*

July - *Jurassic Park 3, Kiss of the Dragon, Evolution, Final Fantasy, Planet of the Apes*

August 2001 - *Osmosis Jones, Collateral Damage, Jason X*

Fall 2001 - *Queen of the Damned, 13 Ghosts, Bones, 2001: A Space Odyssey (re-issue), Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Monsters, Inc. Fellowship of the Ring*

### Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within By Shane Shellenbarger

If you've attended a few films during the Thanksgiving through New Years period and you weren't in line for popcorn during the previews, you're going to be nodding your head in agreement with what I have to say next: go see *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within*.

If you haven't seen the trailer for this July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001 release and you don't know what I'm talking about, read on.

You may be familiar with the SquareSoft video Role-Playing Game series, *Final Fantasy*, with FFX (9) the current release available for the Sony Playstation, and FFX (10) and XI (11) in the works for On-Line gaming and Sony Playstation2. If you haven't played the games you've probably seen clips that

have appeared on television. While it has been reported that the film is not based on the game that same sense of wonder, that "WOW" factor, also permeates the trailer for *Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within*. The detail is so amazing you can see the wrinkles, eyelashes, even the pores on the skin of the characters. You can count the freckles on the face of the heroine, you can almost feel the breeze that caresses her hair, and you can sense the shockwaves from explosions. It's been reported that sixteen cameras are being used to digitize actor's bodies so that the motion capture computations will allow for realistic movement and action. This will be a beautiful film! Few details about the films plot are currently available other than it takes place on a post-apocalyptic Earth in 2065, involves a fight with invading aliens, and deals with the questions of what is life and what happens after death.

The director is Hironobu Sakaguchi (producer of the games *Final Fantasy I-VIII*), and the screenwriters are Al Reinert (cowriter of *Apollo 13*), Jeff Vintar (cowriter of *Long Hello and Short Goodbye*) and Hironobu Sakaguchi (debut)

The actors who lend their voices include Ming-Na (Doctor Ani Ross) whose previous voice acting included Disney's *Mulan* and her other feature film credits include *12 Bucks, One Night Stand, Street Fighter, The Joy Luck Club* and the

(Cont'd on page 7)



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## Fantasy

(cont'd from page 6)

independent feature "Call O' The Glen" She was a regular on the NBC series "The Single Guy" and she can currently be seen on the NBC drama, "ER", as Dr. Deb "Jing-Mei" Chen.

Alec Baldwin (Captain Grey) starred in the recently released *State and Main*, *Thomas and the Magical Railroad*, and *Outside Providence*. His film credits include *The Hunt for Red October*, *Mercury Rising*, *The Edge*, *Beetlejuice*, *The Marrying Man*, *The Juror* and *Ghosts of Mississippi*.



James Woods (General Hein) is a two-time Academy Award nominee for *Salvador* (Best Actor, 1987) and *Ghosts of Mississippi* (Best Supporting Actor, 1997). Animation fans will remember his

fall-down-funny performance as Hades in Disney's *Hercules*. His recent feature credits include *Any Given Sunday*, *The General's Daughter*, *True Crime*, *The Virgin Suicides*, John Carpenter's *Vampires*, *My Name is Bill W.* and *Contact*.

Donald Sutherland (Doctor. Sid) was recently seen in *Space Cowboys*. His other feature film credits include *Instinct*, *Virus*, *The Puppet Masters*, *Fallen*, *The Lifeorce Experiment*, *A Time to Kill*, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* and *Six Degrees of Separation* as well as the classics *Klute*, *M\*A\*S\*H*, *The Day of the Locusts* and *Ordinary People*.

Ving Rhames (Ryan) earned a Golden Globe nomination for his performance as Don King in HBO's *Don King: Only in America*. His feature film credits include *Mission: Impossible 1 & 2*, *Entrapment*, *Out of Sight*, *Con Air*, *Rosewood*, *Striptease*, *Jacob's Ladder*, *The People Under the Stairs*, *Kiss of Death* and *Pulp Fiction*.

Steve Buscemi (Neil) will next be seen in Betty Thomas' *28 Days*. Buscemi's other film credits include *Armageddon*, *Big Daddy*, *The Wedding Singer*, *Barton Fink*, *The Hudsucker Proxy*, *Con Air*, *Escape From L.A.*, *Pulp Fiction* and *Fargo*.

Peri Gilpin (Jane) plays Roz Doyle on the NBC series *Frasier*. She has lent her voice talents to the animated series *Hercules* and *The Lionhearts*, appeared in the independent film *Spring Forward* as

well as the telefilms *The Secret She Carried* and *Fight for Justice: The Nancy Conn Story*.

It's been reported in *Variety* that Square USA will start production on *Final Fantasy 2* soon after finishing this film in early 2001. They expect that they will be able to trim a third off the four years spent on the first that puts the FF2 release sometime in 2004. The only details given about the sequel is that the film will develop the characters further and take place in the same setting.

### The Film:

<http://www.finalfantasy.com/>  
<http://www.spe.sony.com/movies/finalfantasy/>

<http://www.squareusa.com>

<http://www.movie-list.com/f/finalfantasy.shtml>

<http://starbulletin.com/1999/01/15/features/story1x.html>

### The Actors:

[www.ming-na.com](http://www.ming-na.com)

### The Games:

<http://www.squaresoft.com/> (You only need to register for on-line play)

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

<http://www.eyesonff.com/> (Slow to load)

[http://geocities.com/ericqkh/final\\_fantasy\\_9.htm](http://geocities.com/ericqkh/final_fantasy_9.htm)

<http://www.geocities.com/~squarezone/ff9.html> (Music and animation may slow down)

<http://www.ffshrine.com/main.html>

<http://members.tripod.com/ff-9/>

<http://geocities.com/rinoa242/>

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

## ReAnimation

(Cont'd from page 1)

Digital Animation. The Graphics were very good. Sol Bianca - The Legacy 1 and 2 - Lost Treasures and Separation would make a lot more sense if you saw the two previous tapes Sol Bianca 1 and 2. -CLD

\*\*\*\* **Trigun 1 - The \$60,000,000,000 Man 100 Min**  
\*\*\*\* **Trigun 2 - Lost Past 75 Minutes**  
\*\*\*\* **Trigun 3 - Wolfwood 75 Minutes**  
\*\*\*\* **Trigun 5 - Angel Arms 75 Minutes**  
**Pioneer Entertainment, English Dubbed, Rated: 13up \$24.98 each**

Based on the comic by Yasuhiro Nightow, Trigun is a post-apocalyptic future comedy western. The legendary Vash the Stampede is a gunfighter so ruthless that he has a \$60 Billion bounty on this head and entire towns evacuate at the rumor of his arrival. Fortunately, the real Vash the Stampede is more heroic than ruthless, even if he does act like a complete idiot sometimes. Wherever Vash goes disaster is sure to follow which is why Meryl, a perky insurance agent is searching for him to stop him from causing more damage. The story follows Vash's travels in his attempts to live in peace, while everyone else wants Vash for reasons of their own.

(Cont'd on page 8)



## Mesa in 2004 Westercon 57 Bid July 2-5, 2004



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Craig Dyer at (602)973-2341 - Email: [chair@az-sf.org](mailto:chair@az-sf.org)

or

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



## ReAnimation (Cont'd from page 7)

I really liked the story of Trigun and the character of Vash the Stampede. It's one of those that once I started to watch, I couldn't stop until I had watched all the tapes I had. Trigun was a joy to watch. -CLD

**\*\* Hyper Doll - Acts 1 and 2.**  
**Pioneer Entertainment 80 Min English Dubbed, Rated: 13up, \$14.98**

Mew and Mica are super heroines from space that get stuck here on Earth. They disguised themselves as mild mannered high school students but in reality they are fighting a never-ending battle to protect the people of Earth. These two are out to keep the nasty giant jellyfish away from the populace while keeping their clothes on.

In Act 2 Mew and Mica are just trying to get through the day without things going wrong when Mt Fuji unexpectedly erupts and a giant worm shows up to terrorize Japan.

The target audience for Hyper Doll is about a 12 to 14 year old boys' and it shows. I was not impressed with Hyper Doll at all, but I'm not a young teen either. It is cheaper to buy the DVD than the two tapes. The tapes cost more than double the DVD. -CLD

**\*\* Amazing Nurse Nanako 1 - Memories of You**  
**Pioneer Entertainment 60 Min English Dubbed, Rated: 16up, \$24.98**

Dr. Kyoji Ogami is the world's leading surgeon, scientist and bio-engineer, Nanako Shichigusa, an addle-minded whining troublemaker with over developed breasts, is his nurse, and housekeeper. Despite Nanako's flaws, she is

about to become the subject of Dr. Ogami's greatest experiment.

Nanako whined so much it was annoying and her overly developed breasts bouncing again and again and again was demeaning. All of this got very old very quickly. The plot was choppy and tiring. Not done very well. -CLD

**\*\*\*\* Dual 1 - Visions**  
**Pioneer Entertainment, 100 Min English Dubbed Rated: 13up, \$24.98**

Kazuki is a nerd plagued by visions of giant, destructive robots that no one else can see. Before he knows what's happening, a pretty girl ensnares Kazuki, and then a mad scientist's experiment throws



him into his world of visions! Now the danger is very real and his allies are twice as strange as he ever imagined! On the plus side, he gets to drive the robots!

I really enjoyed this one. Of course I am a Robo-Tech fan and this is somewhat close to it. Can't wait to see the next one. -CLD

**\*\*\*\* Black Heaven 1 - Legend of Rock Bottom**  
**Pioneer Entertainment, 100 Min English Subtitled, Rated: 13up, \$24.98**

Oji is a middle-management drone whose only grip on sanity in the drudgery of his corporate lifestyle are the few shreds of hope surrounding his past life as the amazing guitarist of Black Heaven, a heavy metal band that almost made it. In his bleakest moment, the magic of performing is restored to him when a beautiful and mysterious woman informs him that only his special sound can save the universe from an evil alien invasion. Even though this was subtitled I enjoyed the music and the feeling of being there. Most married men will relate to this one. Very well done, pass the air guitar. I can't wait to get the next tape. -CLD

**\*\*\*\*\* Each**  
**Nazca: Blade Of Fate (Episodes 1-3)**  
**Nazca; Blood Rivals (4-6)**  
**Nazca: Betrayal Of Humanity (7-9)**  
**Nazca: Eternal Power (10-12)**  
**Pioneer Entertainment, 75 min each, English Dubbed, \$24.98 each, 13+**

Kyoji is the reincarnated, immortal soul of an Incan warrior, as is his Kendo teacher, Tate. As their immortal souls awaken, these close friends become the enemies they were in their ancient Incan past. Tate wishes to release the power of Iriyatesse to destroy the world while Kyoji seeks to stop him. Joined by other awaken mortals should both Tate and Kyoji refight their ancient battle over the fate of the world?

This was an interesting story line, so much so that we watched all 12 episodes in one sitting. The characters aren't one dimensional, there are some subplots along with the main storyline and as such

this may well appeal to not only the Anime fan but to those who like a good story. The 13 and up rating is more for the occasional four letter word than for an real gore. - Stephanie Bannon

**\*\* Green Legend Ran**  
**Pioneer Entertainment, 120 min, English Dubbed, Rated: 13 up \$24.98**

On a polluted Earth, mysterious objects fall from space and suck up air, water and living beings leaving the remaining inhabitants to live on a planet with no oceans or rainfall and a landscape dominated by a huge monolith type object called Rodo. Generations pass - the Rodo has become an object of worship, served by the Rodoists who enjoy clean air and water and control the restricted zones. The Rodoists are opposed by the Hazard who wish to end the Rodoists control of the world.

Ran is an orphan who wishes to join the Hazard and overthrow the Rodoists. While attempting to join the Hazard, Ran meets a beautiful and mysterious girl named Aira. When she is taken away by Hazard officers, Ran recognizes one of them as the person he blames for the death of his mother.

In his attempt to rescue Aira and exact revenge for his mother's death Ran becomes involved in events that will change him as well as the entire world.

The story is sort of Dune meets Star Wars meets Boy Comes of Age story and the conclusion is no surprise. Shown on the Sci-Fi channel, this is more less PG rated. There is no inappropriate language nor is there blood and guts type violence. This is OK for an afternoon with the kids but the older Anime fan may find it too slow and predictable to truly enjoy. - Stephanie Bannon

**\* Catnapped**  
**Pioneer Entertainment, 75 min, English Dubbed, \$24.98, Rated 8 & up**

Catnapped tells the story of two young children, Toriyasu and Meeko, who travel to the hidden world of Banipal Witt, a world that belongs only to cats, in search of Toriyasu's dog, Papadoll. In Banipal Witt the sun changes creatures from the real world into monsters and this is the fate that has befallen Papadoll. The evil sorcerer cat, Burburina, is using Papadoll along with the talent to turn any living thing into a balloon with just a touch, in an attempt to control the world. Can the kids, along with the help of a group of feline engineers, save Papadoll and defeat the evil sorcerer Burburina?

My gut reaction is "Who cares?". The animation is ok but the voices are so shrill they gave me a head ache. While the rating says 8 and up I don't think the average 8 year old would be interested, this seems more aimed at the 5-6 year old crowd, though portions of it might frighten them. All in all I don't think I'd recommend buying this one ... wait for it to show up on the Cartoon Channel. - Stephanie Bannon

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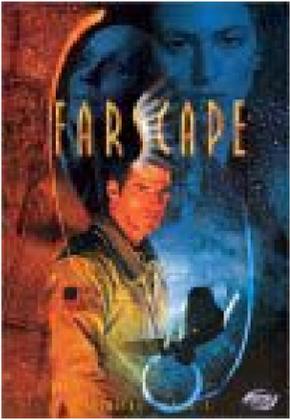
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## Videophile (cont'd from page 1)

coming out on the other end in the middle of a space battle. Crichton crashes into an alien spaceship, killing its pilot, and then finds his ship is pulled onto the sentient starship Moya. He discovers that Moya is a Peacekeeper prison ship that has been taken over by its prisoners, D'Argo the Luxan Warrior, Zhaan, the Delvian Priest, and the deposed Dominar of Hynerian Empire, Rygel the Sixteenth. They are joined by Peacekeeper Officer Aeryn Sun, who is deemed contaminated by her Captain, Bialar Crais, and joins the rest of the crew of Moya in escaping Crais's pursuit.

In "I, E.T.", Moya crash lands on a backward planet in the Uncharted Ter-



ritories where the locals had never had a Close Encounter of any kind. While some of the crew work to disable a homing beacon that would lead Crais to them, Crichton, Aeryn, and D'Argo venture out to find an anesthetic they can use on Moya. They find the locals are afraid of them and they are soon running for their lives.

The episodes serve as a good introduction to the show for the virgin Farscape viewer. The picture quality is very good, and the audio quality is outstanding. They also have six minutes of additional footage not seen on SciFi in the episodes, which is a big plus for regular Farscape viewers. On the DVD, both episodes have a separate audio commentary track, with creator Rockne S. O'Bannon, Brian Henson and Ben Browder (Crichton) on "Premiere", and Claudia Black (Aeryn Sun) and Anthony Simcoe (D'Argo) on "I, E.T.". Other special features on the DVD include a "Making of a Space Opera" Documentary, an actor profile of Ben Browder, plus a section with some of the conceptual drawings and another with an image gallery. The weakest part is the image gallery, which puts the image in a frame that makes them take up only the middle of the screen. The conceptual drawings are neat to see, but a zoom capability would be nice, especially for those viewers without a large screen TV. - Lee Whiteside

**Titan A.E.**  
**Twentieth Century Fox, 95 mins,**  
**\$19.95, Rated PG**

I have discovered a wonderful new format for home video, DVD. (OK, so I

haven't been paying attention to recent developments until now.) For the holidays we got a DVD player and some DVDs and I'm truly enamored of this format and all it has to offer. Titan A.E. is one of the first DVDs we watched.

This is the story of a young hero, Cale, who, reluctantly at first, goes on a quest to save humanity and find them a new home.

Earth, 3028. The evil Drej, fearing what humanity has the potential to become, totally destroys Earth and most of the humans. Cale's father gives him a ring and sends the child to safety while he takes the Titan, part ship, part something unexplained, into hiding.

Fifteen years pass and Cale (voiced by Matt Damon) has grown into a disillusioned young man, one of the few humans on the Tau 14 salvage station. Enter Korso (voiced by Bill Pullman) who has tracked Cale down in order to enlist his aid in finding the titan using the map genetically coded in the ring Cale's father gave him.

With the Drej in hot pursuit Cale travels across the universe with the crew of the Valkyrie; Akima (voiced by Drew Barrymore) and Stith (voiced by Janeane Garofalo) in a desperate attempt to find the Titan before the Drej find and destroy it.

The animation is wonderful - at times it is so real it seems to be live action. The story, for the most part, moves quickly and smoothly and holds the attention of both the adults and youngsters watching.

Extra features on the DVD include deleted scenes, a music video, trailers and TV spots, a still gallery and a choice of English or Spanish subtitles and English or French soundtrack in Dolby Surround Sound. Also included is "The Quest For Titan" featurette, which is a "making of" feature, a director's commentary, which intriguingly, is the movie with a voice over from the directors in place of the dialogue soundtrack and an interactive Titan game to play on the Internet via your PC. - Stephanie Bannon

**TITAN A.E. (After Earth)**  
**20th Century/Fox Animation**

This movie did not deserve to take the blame for killing Phoenix's Fox Animation Studios. It does deserve the title of state of the art for American animation, and Fox could have built upon this. Those 300 employees could have all kept their jobs churning out more great stuff. Supposedly the box office receipts were only a fourth of the production cost: \$20 million versus \$80 million. But it is a truism in Hollywood that any movie can break even on cable and video sales. So was the executive decision based on profit margins? The video includes a promo trailer on the making of the movie which shows where costs could have been cut way down. Big-name stars were used for voices that any unknowns could have done. And the stars didn't draw the crowds! The studio was apparently given a blank check to build facilities. A lot was spent reinventing the wheel and duplicating resources that could have been off-

the-shelf with no loss in product quality. And the marketing? Who wants to go see a movie that is only portrayed as the destruction of the earth? Hey, it's got a happy ending that reverses that! So rent the video and see what greatness Fox threw away. - Michael Griffin

**Sleepy Hollow**  
**Paramount, 105 min, \$29.99, Rated: R**  
**Directed by Tim Burton**

Sleepy Hollow is a dark fantasy that has little resemblance to the original story. Icabod Crane (Johnny Depp) is a police investigator sent to Sleepy Hollow to investigate a series of murders supposedly caused by a headless horseman. Katarina Van Tassel (Christina Ricci) is somehow connected to the murders. Throw in some real supernatural events, a wonderfully dark atmosphere along with a few comic touches and the stage is set for a wonderful story and a memorable film.

This is definitely a Tim Burton film. The effects are quite good, there are several cameo appearances by notable actors and all in all I think this will become a long time favorite film in anyone's collection.

The DVD contains several extra features including the director's commentary, cast bios and a making of feature. - Stephanie Bannon

**Princess Mononoke**  
**133 min., animated,**  
**by Hayao Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli**

This 1997 movie is touted as the state of the art, but I think 'Akira: Ring of Destruction' from a decade ago is still just as good. The difference is that 'Akira' portrayed an urban, science fiction setting and 'Mononoke' shows a rural, fantasy setting. Both anime are so good that you'll forget you're watching animation and just get overwhelmed by the imagery. 'Mononoke' has a luminous forest with magical creatures and animal gods. It involves a princess girl raised by wolves and a village boy cursed by demon blood. The story, dubbed in English, takes place in medieval Japan and has a fine ecology theme. For a violent tale of apocalyptic war, that theme is still conveyed with the subtlety and beauty of haiku. - Michael Griffin

**MVP**  
**Warner Bros., 93 min, \$19.96, PG**

I'll admit that when we sat down to review this film I wasn't thrilled. For the most part, the recent crop of kid's movies have been just that, movies that amuse kids and leave the adults watching the clock waiting for the end. So it is with surprise and pleasure that I can say MVP doesn't fall into this category, this is actually a film the whole family can watch together and enjoy.

The premise is this: Jack is a sign-language speaking chimp who lives at a college and is part of an ongoing teaching experiment. The opening sequences of Jack in his very home like "cage" sets the stage well for the action that follows.

Funding for the project has been cut off and the professor is going to send Jack home to the El Simian Nature Preserve to live with his chimp family. But, inevitably, the professor dies before this can be done and the evil college administrator sells Jack to a medical experimental lab. Jack and his friend, the janitor, overhear this plan and arrange Jack's escape to return to the nature preserve.

Meanwhile in the frozen north, we meet the Westovers. The son, Stephen, wants to play hockey and joins the lackluster, local hockey team. His sister Tara, who is deaf, is having trouble fitting in with her new classmates

Of course, they find Jack, who has overshot his stop for the nature preserve and is lost in their small Canadian town. In typical kid movie fashion Jack helps Tara make friends at school and teaches the guys on the hockey team about having pride in themselves and doing their best, helping the team go to the championships for the first time.

The characters are well-defined and the humor will appeal to both adults and kids. All in all this was a thoroughly enjoyable movie. - Stephanie Bannon

**Komodo**  
**Sterling Entertainment; 90 mins,**  
**\$29.95, Rated: PG-13**

In typical, monster movie fashion we begin with a clandestine boat landing by smugglers bringing in exotic animals and endangered species. While transporting the animals, one smuggler dumps a smelly batch of eggs into the island's swamp and drives away.

Fast forward 19 years and we find Patrick (Kevin Zegers) and his family arriving on the island for a last vacation before the oil company finally drives everyone away with their drilling. While exploring, Pat is attacked by an unseen something. Escaping he and his dog, Buster, rush home to an empty house. Before he knows it, Buster has been pulled out of the house through the dog door, into the darkness. What's worse, he hears his parents on the front porch calling him, horrified screams and then an ominous silence. Pat is alone.

Weeks later, suffering from Post Traumatic Stress, Pat is brought back to the island by a psychologist, Victoria (Jill Hennessy) and his Aunt Amy, in an effort to help him remember the events surrounding his parent's disappearance.

Meanwhile the oil company, knowing full well what is loose on the island, has completely closed the island and sent Oates (Billy Burke) to eradicate the endangered Komodos. The hunt is on as the humans hunt the Komodos and the Komodos hunt the humans.

The plot is a little thin, in particular Oates' motivation to serve the oil company instead of exonerate himself, but overall this was an enjoyable little monster romp. There isn't a whole lot of gore, the acting is OK and the Komodo dragons are done nicely, though I think the scale to the humans is off. - Stephanie Bannon

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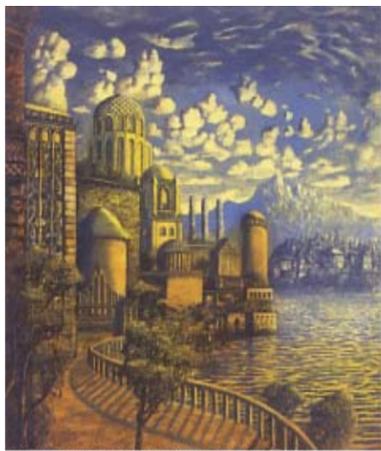
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## GAMERS CORNER

By Bob LaPierre

Ever since I picked up my first copy of "Chainmail" I have been hooked on fantasy RPGs. I have adopted numerous "house rules" to play, because the rules have always been confusing, complex, contradictory, or non-existent for certain circumstances. Now Wizards of the Coast has come out with a new version of Dungeons and Dragons. At first I was skeptical, after all I had been promised strange and wonderful things with the previous versions. I joined the discussion lists, and talked to play-testers. I was told of Eric Noah's website (www.rpgplanet.com/dnd3e) a veritable cornucopia of information. Finally in August I bought the new Players Handbook.

It took several sessions to re-align my thinking to the different style, but it was well worth it. The system is more intuitive, and less complicated than previous versions had been. Arbitrary limits have been removed, you can gradually improve your base scores, and multiclassing is now easier and more logical than ever. Looking back I see my hesitation as fear that we were being sold a "pig in a poke" again. But the new version has allowed me to explore the limits of character development and I can't break the system. The skills and feats are balanced so well that whatever I do I have tough choices to make.

Ryan Dancey of WotC championed creating something called the d20 system. This system uses D&D as its base and allows the creation of compatible scenarios by others. This is a remarkable move for WotC, to allow others to create modules and creatures for their best selling RPG. When they announced this project numerous companies began gearing up to take advantage of it. The most remarkable was Sword and Sorcery Studios. They are the result of a collaboration between White Wolf and Necromancer Games. They brought out an alternate to the Monster Manual called the Creature Catalogue. Now for the important thing: They brought it out ten days BEFORE the WotC book. Comments from WotC? Cool, I like <monster name>. There are now more non-WotC d20 products than WotC. I think the system is going to bring about a new era in cooperation between game companies that will result in gamers receiving higher quality products, and being able to try other games without learning new systems.

Next issue I'll discuss some of the companies involved and their products. May all your skill checks be 20s  
Bob LaPierre

(If you have a gaming related product you would like us to review please send it to us at ConNotations, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082 - if using FedEx or UPS please contact us for the address to use)

## SF Tube Talk (cont'd from back cover)

ancient prophecy. In *The Void*, Voyager falls into an empty area of subspace where there is no apparent means of escape. Janeway has to decide how to manage to survive and try to form an alliance with other ships trapped in the area. In the big budget two part episode *Workforce* (airing on consecutive weeks, not in the same night), the Voyager crew is captured and are forced to become laborers on an alien city, with no memory of their past lives. When Chakotay, Neelix and Paris find Voyager missing when they return from an away mission and have to track the crew and missing ship down and rescue them from their new lives. Of course, many of them don't want to leave their new lives, including Janeway who is happy and in love! According to **Kate Mulgrew** "I think viewers will be surprised and delighted by



Voyager

© Paramount

it. In it, Janeway is in an altered personality. But she's terribly happy. You've never seen her act this young, this happy or this in love. She comes to learn in a very difficult way that this persona is not her reality, and she has to say good-bye to it. It's beautifully done."

Other episodes in the works include one with the return of Q and his now-teenaged son, one where The Doctor decides to pen his memoirs, and another where Seven of Nine starts experimenting with a fantasy life, trying to recapture some of what she felt in Unimatrix Zero. Next time we'll preview the final episodes of **Voyager**, which will culminate in May on UPN with special shows on Tuesday, May 22nd and the series finale on May 23rd.

On the subject of the next **Star Trek** series, the pilot movie has supposedly been written but (yet again) TLPAWS has left things uncertain as to when it would start production. Other rumors are that Paramount is hesitant to run it on UPN, considering the networks uncertain future. In any case, it is highly likely that the 2001/2002 season will be the first since the start of *The Next Generation* in 1987 without any new first run **Star Trek** on the air.

However, the 2001 fall season will see the debut of **Star Trek: The Next Generation** on The National Network (formerly known as the Nashville Network). TNN has acquired the repeat cable rights for all three recent **Star Trek**

series, starting with **TNG** in Fall of 2001, **Deep Space Nine** in Fall of 2004, and **Voyager** in Fall 2006. TNN outbid SciFi and TNT for the rights, hoping to use **Trek** as a means to draw a broader audience with their new emphasis on more mainstream programming.

Elsewhere on UPN, they've already cancelled one of their new genre shows, **Freedom**, and **Level 9** is likely to disappear from Friday nights as well once UPN has finished airing its initial order of 13 episodes. UPN plans to debut their mid-season genre shows sometime in March, nights to be determined (although at least one of them on Friday nights is a good bet).

First is **All Souls**, as described in UPN's press release: "From prolific producer



All Souls Cast

© UPN

**Aaron Spelling** comes **All Souls**, a chilling hospital drama that prescribes a healthy dose of terrifying paranormal occurrences and gripping medical emergencies, all with the added shot of a detective mystery." Set in a 300 year old hospital in modern Boston, it stars **Grayson McCouch** as an enthusiastic first year medical resident Dr. Mitchell Grace. He begins to suspect that things are not what they seem at the hospital, including the mysterious death of his father at the hospital 20 years earlier.

Next is **Special Unit 2**, as described in UPN's Press release: "This sci-fi detective series tracks the wild stories of Special Unit 2, a secret, high-tech precinct of the Chicago Police Department devoted to battling malicious, paranormal creatures that are "missing links" between man and beast. The only hope in stopping them is Special Unit 2, especially its brash hotshot Detective Nick O'Malley (**Michael Landes** - **Lois & Clark's** original Jimmy Olsen), a vociferous Link-hater, and his new partner Kate Benson (Alexandra Lee), who has had a sixth sense about Links since childhood." Also starring is **Richard Grant** as Captain Richard Page and **Danny Woodburn** as Carl, a gnome-like Link and compulsive petty thief who is a constant thorn in Nick's side. Among the Links they have to combat are Gargoyles who are looking for humans to feed their incubating babies; Thropes, sharp, yuppie-types by day who turn werewolf by night; a Merman, who sucks the souls out of virgins; and a Japanese Samurai Mummy.

Over on The WB, **Buffy** and **Angel** are moving along, keeping their fans on the edge of their seats. On **Buffy**, we've seen the sudden departure of Riley and Spike's growing infatuation with the Slayer. With the arrival of The Council, more people

will find out about Dawn's true nature (including Dawn) and we'll see more of Glory and the mysterious Ben, finding out more about them and why they are here. In *Crush*, a Valentine's Day episode, Spike reveals his true feelings to Buffy and Dawn gets a crush on Ben. In *"I Was Made to Love You"*, Buffy and the gang encounter a robot dangerously in love with her creator. We'll have a crossover episode at the end of sweeps when Angel finds out that Spike is smitten with the Slayer, he visits Sunnydale to warn Buffy, although he is unaware of Spike's chip (you'd think they'd at least let Angel know about that!) It's rumored that a time travelling sentinel will help out in the battle with Glory that has been appearing as a background character in a few episodes already. Anya will find a way to become a vengeance demon again and has to choose between Xander and immortality. On **Angel**, Angel's dark turn continues, with Wesley, Cordelia and Gunn starting their own agency, and getting some assistance from Virginia. Angel will continue thwarting Darla, Dru, and Wolfram & Hart. We'll see Gunn's best friend in *The Thin Dead Line* played by **Jarod Crawford** of **Felicity**. The last two episodes will be part of the crossover with Buffy, starting on Angel in *"The Remains of the Day"*, continuing on Buffy the following week and concluding on Angel that night. It will reunite Darla and Dru with Spike and Angel.

There's not much advance news on **Roswell** to report. In an interview, **Katherine Heigl** (Isabel) had this to say about her character: "Isabel is becoming, I think, a far more interesting young woman, who is very complex, but who is taking the things and experiences she's dealing with and turning them into something that is shaping her and who she is and who she will be. I'm really loving the evolving process of this character. She's sort of coming into her own now." Heigl also said that the season will culminate in a big surprise but she's in the dark about it until they film it. "I don't know, because they won't tell me. I keep trying to get information out of them, and they won't tell me. But I think there's something big going to happen. I just don't know what."

**Andromeda** continues to be the highest rated syndicated hour drama and will have these episodes to finish of the Latest batch of new episodes: *The Mathematics of Tears* has Andromeda encountering her damaged sister ship, the Pax Magellanic, and leads the crew of the Andromeda Ascendant on an eerie mission. In *Music From a Distant Drum* an amnesiac Tyr crashes and takes refuge on a world where humans are enslaved by Nietzscheans - the same Nietzscheans who murdered his family years earlier. *Forced Perspective* sees Dylan captured and put on trial for a crime he's accused of committing three hundred years earlier.

According to co-writer **Joe Reinkemeyer**: "We find out something about Dylan's backstory, which suggests

( cont'd on page 13 )  
Volume 11 Issue 1

that he is less than the Boy Scout that he appears to be. It's a really nice episode because the character is forced to confront a little darker choice than happens in some of our episodes." In *Harper 2.0*, A fugitive Perseid entrusts Harper with a



Lexa Doig as Andromeda  
© Tribune Entertainment

secret that makes Andromeda the target of an interstellar bounty hunter. Harper ends up with the knowledge of the universe downloaded into his brain, becoming a complete mess. Ending this batch of new episodes will be *Star Crossed*, guest starring **Michael Shanks** (*Stargate SG-1*) as the avatar of another ship that Andromeda falls in love with, only to be betrayed.

**Xena** has some different episodes coming up during sweeps, including the last **Xena** clip show. *The God You Know* features **Ares (Kevin Smith)** and **Aphrodite (Alexandra Tydings)** and supposedly guest stars **Alexis Arquette** as Caligula. It also deals with Aphrodite losing her powers (and you know she'll not be happy about that). The next episode, *You Are There*, guest stars **Hercules Michael Hurst** in an homage to the CBS news show "You Are There", where historical figures are interviewed while they are making history. The show will supposedly follow Xena as she works to restore Ares' and Aphrodite's powers. Things get more serious in "Path of Vengeance" where the Amazons capture Xena's daughter, Eve, and put her on trial for her crimes as Livia. As a result of the trial or something, "To Helicon and Back" looks to be an episode long battle sequence featuring lots and lots of Amazons, sort of "Xena tries to save Private Ryan". Rounding out the latest batch of new episodes will be "Send in the Clones" where a present-day scientist played by **Claire "Alti" Stansfield** manages to clone and resurrect Xena and Gabrielle. It's rumored that the episode may playfully satirize the online Xena fan community. In the last batch of new episodes in May will be a flashback episode with Joxer, another musical episode and a trip to Japan for Xena and Gabrielle for the series finale.

**Cleopatra 2525** will be changing over to hour long episodes in February, now that **Jack of All Trades** is over. According to **Jennifer Sky** at a recent convention, there were only six hour long episodes produced and they look to all be airing through February. According to

Sky, the shows do have more character moments and the final episode did take into account that it was likely the last episode.

In other syndicated news, **Earth: Final Conflict**, **Beastmaster** and **The Lost World** have each been given orders for another season next fall. **Sheena** is doing well and is likely to return as well. Ratings for **Queen of Swords** and **The Immortal** have not been very strong and their fates are much more uncertain.

Over on Cable, SciFi's broadcast of the six hour **Dune** mini-series was their highest rated programming ever, almost doubling their previous highest rating. Writer/Director **John Harrison** is busy working on the script for a follow-up miniseries, covering parts of the next two novels. A DVD release with extra footage of the miniseries is scheduled for a March release.

In January, SciFi debuted new episodes and new series after several months hiatus. **Farscape** finished off it's second season with a fast moving set of episodes resulting in a pretty nasty cliffhanger with Aeryn Sun apparently dead and both Crichton and Moya in pretty bad shape. The third season is scheduled to start in mid-March, which will be a tough six weeks for **Farscape** fans to wait to see what happens. **First Wave** kicked off its third season on Mondays with **Traci Lords** joining in the fight against the aliens, breathing some life into the series.

**Lexx** continued the crew's adventures on Fire and Water, seeing return appearances by Mantrid and Lyekka. February will close out the 13 episode third series of **Lexx**. In *Battle*, the Lexx crew fight a gondola war with Prince and his minions, only to have Xev get stranded in the desert on Fire. In *Girtown*, Stan meets up with the Queen, who looks like old foe Gigerotta, and Xev and Kai contend with



Xev from Lexx  
©SciFi

some gay seamstress dudes, inciting them to revolt. However, in *The Beach*, Stan and Kai fall from their moth to Water and both die, leading to Stan meeting up with Prince on a beach that is "between Fire and Water" where Stanley is judged. In the season finale, "Heaven and Hell", we find out the true nature of the two planets. SciFi will also be showing the first four Lexx TV movies on Saturday, Feb 17th from noon to 8 pm ET/PT.

Debuting on Friday nights were **Black**

**Scorpion** and **The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne**. **Black Scorpion** has had a very negative reaction from most fans while the response to **Jules Verne** has been much better. However, the ratings for both shows dropped around 20% from their debut to the second week while **Farscape** rose 25%. In fact, the daily repeats of **Babylon 5** have been doing as good or better than some of the other SciFi first run shows. **Babylon 5** creator **J. Michael Straczynski** has been hinting that he may be involved with producing something related to **Babylon 5** for the SciFi Channel, with an announcement



Jules Verne Cast  
© SciFi

expected very soon at press time. In an interview, SciFi's Programming Executive Bonnie Hammer confirmed that they had been talking about possible **Babylon 5** movies with **Straczynski** and are likely to be picking up the produced episodes of **Crusade** to air on the channel.

Shows being pitched to stations at the annual NATPE convention in late January include **Mutant X** from Tribune and Marvel about genetically engineered humans with special powers (which isn't based on the recent Marvel comic of the same name), **Starhunter**, starring **Michael Pare** as an intergalactic bounty hunter on a ship named Tulip, **Tracker** starring **Adrian Paul** as an Alien bounty hunter on Earth, tracking down escaped alien criminals, **Colesseum** starring **Andrew Dice Clay** as a Bronx boxing promoter who gets transported back to ancient Rome via a magical amulet where he ends up as the booker for the Colesseum, and a weekly movie series from Full Moon hosted by **William Shatner** called **William Shatner's Full Moon Fright Show**.



© Sherlock

**Fiona Kelleghan** is happy to report that "There are TWO pictures of me in the current *Locus* from the World Fantasy Con." A book she edited, *Magill's Choice: 100 Masters of Mystery and Detective Fiction*, (Salem Pr., 2001), will be available in the spring. "I hope. I have other publications but I don't think any of 'em have appeared yet."

**Daryl F. Mallett** is pleased to report that *Pilgrims and Pioneers: The History and Speeches of the Science Fiction Research Association Award Winners*, co-edited with **Hal W. Hall** (SFRA Press, 2000), has finally gone to press and will be shipped on January 26. *Wail!*, by Beat writer **Brio Burgess** (Jacob's Ladder Books, 2001) and *Sherlock Holmes: The Great Detective in Paperback*, by **Gary Lovisi** (Gryphon Publications, 2001), both edited by Mallett, have been turned in. Mallett and fellow Arizona writer **Adam Niswander** are working on two scripts for a new television series being pitched to Fox, and he is working as a co-producer/co-screenwriter/co-author on a film called *First Rose of Spring* with fellow SCAdian & writer **Sheryl Flournoy**, in which he will also play the role of Zar the Wizard/Narrator.

**Louise Marley** is "making a round of appearances at bookstores with **William Wilde Zeitler**, virtuoso of the glass harmonica, and we are recording a CD in January of music for glass harmonica and voice, all composed by William. He was my consultant and invaluable resource for the novel, *The Glass Harmonica*, which came out at the end of September.

**Susan R. Matthews** reports: "I went to Orycon in November and had an absolutely lovely time. What a nice convention! I'll be at Rustycon in January and at VCon in April; I'll be going to the local anime convention, Sakuracon, in April as well, but as a fan, not as a pro guest =>). I turned in the manuscript for my sixth novel, *Angel of Destruction*," in November, and am now working on the editorial revisions received from **Laura Anne Gilman** at Roc. We may change the title to *Malcontent*. This is a stand-alone novel set within the Koscuisko universe, but featuring characters who have been secondary in the Koscuisko novels themselves, to wit: Garol Vogel (and, to a lesser extent, Jils Ivers), and takes place between the action of *Prisoner of Conscience* and *Hour of Judgment*."

**James A. Moore** of *Werewolf: The Apocalypse* fame has a book called *Fireworks* due out in April or May.

Minnesota writer **Lyda Morehouse's** debut science fiction novel, *Archangel Protocol* is being released by Roc on May 8, 2001. Lyda has also agreed to be a preliminary judge for the paranormal/time travel/fantasy entries for The Third Annual Merritt Contest (<<http://www.sara.com/merritt>>), sponsored by The San Antonio Romance Authors. The contest deadline is February 1, 2001. Winners will be announced at The Merritt Conference in San Antonio on April 7, 2001. For more information, see

## Pro Notes (cont'd from page 13)

her website at <<http://www.lydamorehouse.com>>. Her story, "Twelve Traditions" (*SF AGE*, May 1999), is in its final year of eligibility for The John W. Campbell Award.

Kiwi writer **Till Noever** has sold a novel called *Keaen* and "more info will be sent when it cometh my way."

Artist **Martina Pilcerova** is busy helping plan *Istrocon 2001*, "an annual convention taking place in Bratislava. It is attended by approximately 700 people from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Austria, Hungary and Poland. Slovak Television and many magazine editors are present to conduct interviews and write articles. Our *Istrocon 2000* guests were writer **Mike Resnick** and actor **Ted Raimi** (Joxer of *Xena* fame—thank you, Daryl for helping us get Ted here!). This year's invited writer guest is fantasy writer **Robert Holdstock** from England, and the media guest is as yet unannounced."

**Melissa Shaw** has "great news—the French translation of my short story, "The Sea Hag" (originally published in *Silver Birch, Blood Moon*) has just come out in a French anthology called *Il Etait Une Fee (It Was a Fairy)*, from Oxymore Books (<<http://www.oxymore.com>>)." Her website can be seen at <<http://home.earthlink.net/~melissapaul>>.

**Will Shetterly** says, "My latest novel, just released at the end of December is *Voyage of the Basset #4: Thor's Hammer*."

Artist **Virgil Simpelo** is currently working on the elfin fantasy series *Among Green Leaves*" and the animation of the series. Virgil also built a small exhibit of works based upon the fantasy series which was shown at The Labyrinth of Jareth Masquerade and will appear at The Alternative Press Expo.

**Joan Slonczewski** reports: "My main news this year is my new book, *Brain Plague*, which came out to stunning reviews—links here: <<http://www2.kenyon.edu/depts/biology/slonc/books/new2000.html>>."

**Brian Stableford** says, "Things have been quiet since the last update. Sarob Press will do *Knightshade*, a translation of a **Paul Feval** novella, some time in the Summer of 2001. I think *The Cassandra Complex* is now due from Tor in March and *Pawns of Chaos* by "**Brian Craig**" should be out from Games Workshop sometime in between the two. **Sean Alan Wallace's** *Cosmos Books* should be making some texts available on a POD basis, but I've no hard information yet as to which ones and when. **Ben Jeapes** hopes to put out *Swan Songs* (an omnibus of the "Hooded Swan" novels) sometime in the summer."

**Shawn Strider**, while finishing up his work on *Among Green Leaves* and the dark cyberpunk series *Dragon's Edge*, is also setting up a collection of writings to be released cooperatively through Sypher Studios and Barnes & Noble. The softcover collection will feature over a dozen published and unpublished stories, poems and artwork by **Adam Gastelum**. The collection (the title will not be

released yet) is tentatively slated for late Summer 2001. He is also currently working on a fantasy sequel to the graphic novel *Among Green Leaves*. He also reports that The 4th Labyrinth of Jareth Fantasy Annual Fantasy Masquerade Ball took place on January 12, 2001 in Los Angeles, CA and featured the band Civilization. "Lords and ladies danced under fey enchantment and reality faded into the night. Fantasy and imagination gained precious breath as faerie wings and dark wanderers stepped through the crowds, joining the revels, losing themselves within the ambiance of the Goblin Court. Eyes wandered across sculpted displays and fantastic imagery in the darkened halls, tinged with velvet. Wandering up the Goblin's tower, a secret faerie market was found. Climbing higher, the tower's peak appeared, where Sypher's guardian waited with fiery minions blazing through the realm and watching over the doorway to the Goblin's Court. Inside the main chambers, while the goblin bartenders served fey drinks, the floor was awash with lights and projections. Haunting music floated throughout the castle..." It was a great event, as usual, and more information can be found at <<http://www.sypher.net/loj>>.

Grand Master **Jack Williamson** says, "Cheerfully willing to celebrate a dual New Year, I'm now willing to agree that the new century [began] on Monday [January 1, 2001]. I've seen 92 years of the old one, and I feel that it has been remarkably generous to me. I'm still feeling well, able to live alone, enjoying the support of good friends and loving relatives, working with due deliberation on a new story, and looking hopefully forward to the incoming century. I no longer attend many conventions, but I look forward to our annual SF lectureship at Eastern New Mexico University here in Portales on March 2. Our guests this year are to be **Scott Edelmant, Kristine Kathryn Rusch** and **Dean Wesley Smith**. My new novel, *Terraforming Earth*, is due out from Tor in April. *Spider Island*, Volume 4 of my collected shorter fiction, is coming from Haffner Press, perhaps in time for the lectureship."

**Sara T Wrench**, the author of *The Duke of Sumava* (Baen Books, 1997), "now unfortunately out of print," has "lots of copies to sell at conventions. I plan to be at *Norwescon* and *Westercon* in 2001. I'm still trying to find a publisher for my second novel, *The Wild Boar's Legacy* (another historical fantasy set in Sumava), and am currently writing a humorous fantasy and a space opera."

That's it for now. If I've missed anybody, I apologize for the oversight. 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! Hope you all had a great holiday season and a Happy New Year and New Millennium!

## In Our Book

**Anonymous Rex: A Detective Story**  
by **Eric Garcia**  
**Vivard Books, Trade PB: \$11.95**

*Anonymous Rex* is one of those books that sounds stupid on the surface, but once you get into it, it's quite enjoyable and worth the read. The star of the book is Vincent Rubio, a down on his luck private eye in Los Angeles who just happens to be a Velociraptor disguised as a human. It seems that dinosaurs didn't die out, but got smaller and now co-exist with humanity wearing guises to make them appear human. The tone of the novel is the usual hard boiled private eye novel, with Rubio always getting beat up while slowly making progress on the case.

Vincent Rubio is down on his luck after



the mysterious death of his partner, and takes on a case investigating a nightclub arson. He discover leads that take him to New York and deeper into the biggest case of his life, assuming he lives through it. As he gets deeper into the case, Rubio finds that things aren't as they seem when he learns the truth about a murdered wealthy dino who was engaging in interspecies sex, a dino taboo.

We get a good look at the secret dinosaur society, how they have infiltrated human society, and how they keep their secrets from being discovered. The other dinos and humans we meet are well fleshed out characters that really add to the atmosphere. There's a good deal of humor and a good detective yarn all rolled up into a fun read. - **Lee Whiteside**

**The Death Prayer**  
by **David Bowker**  
**Borealis-White Wolf, 220 pp., \$11.99**

At first I was afraid this was a horror novel, but I was relieved to discover it's a fine detective story instead. Like all detective novels, this one is a quick read. Unlike most such, it crosses genres into the supernatural thriller. The main characters are a male-female pair of British detectives. They're on the trail of grisly murders done by supernatural forces. The villain: a new-age con man who's abusing Hawaiian Kahuna magic. This book could easily have been converted into an X-Files TV episode, but it's better than that. It's a well-written, spiritually interesting story, whether you like either genre it covers. - **Michael Griffin**

**Snake 'N' Bacon's Cartoon Cabaret**  
by **Michael Kupperman**  
**HarperCollins, 128 pp., \$13.00**

This DC Comics writer has an underground side, both in his writing and art. We have an entire alternate universe full of comic book formatted stories and characters. Most of these characters aren't super, though. Instead, we get 'Cousin Grampa', 'Pablo Picasso - His Amazing Life', 'Dick Crazy', or the team of a snake and a talking piece of bacon. Some are super, like '19th Century Hercules' or 'The Mannister.' Mixed in with the panels are parody comic book covers. Not for kiddies, but just right for the absurdist rebel in all of us adults. - **Michael Griffin**

**Abduction**  
by **Robin Cook**

If you're lucky, no one knows that you read science fiction; otherwise someone may suggest that you read *Abduction* by Robin Cook. Dr. Cook (a real MD) has written a carload of mainstream medical thrillers and two science fiction novels. His first foray into SF, *Invasion*, was so-so. Readers are not as lucky with *Abduction*..

The plot is simplistic:

An oceanic exploration company is drilling into a seamount along the mid-Atlantic ridge when a volcanic eruption occurs; a deepsea exploration ship with crew and 2 divers are lost. Well, not really. They're really captured by humans residing in the Mohorovic discontinuity beneath the sea in the world of Interterra. It seems that this is the second time that humans evolved; they originally showed up about a half billion years ago. The first humans are peaceful, loving, civilized, technologically advanced - in contrast to us primitive Homo Saps. Along the way, there are a couple murders, an escape, and a semi-surprise ending. In other words, this is Jules Verne without the Victorian charm.

In the case of this novel, having any knowledge of geology is a detriment. Cook makes such bloopers as stating that there are no fossils of the Interterrans because they developed on the only continent, which was completely submerged about 400,000 years ago. This conveniently ignores the Canadian shield, the lowest strata of the Grand Canyon, and rocks in Greenland which are in the billion plus date range. Ooops.

And those Interterrans - it's been a long time since I've read about such boring, one-dimensional characters! I spent over half the book waiting for the mask to slip! Why can't advanced civilizations have some variety? The abducted humans didn't fare much better. We figure out by the second chapter that the 2 divers are going to be the bad guys - they had abusive fathers, so naturally they are violent, heavy drinkers, bigoted, etc...The female oceanographer is brilliant, highly attractive, civilized - a boring copy of a classic pulp heroine. The company president is almost as boring.

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

In other words, if you want to read something by Robin Cook, pick up a used copy of *Toxin, Vector*, or one of his other medical novels. - **C.F. Yankovich**

### **Inside The Worlds Of Star Wars Episode I By Kristen Lund DK Publishing, 46 pps, \$19.95**

This large format book shows us the inside story of many of the locations of Star Wars Episode I including Naboo, Tatooine, Anakin's hovel, Galactic senate and much more. The team was given access to the original blueprints, scale drawings and models at Skywalker Ranch. The book is suggested for ages 10 and up but it will be a welcome addition to the avid Star Wars fan who wants more information and detail than the films provide. The fold out diagram of the Mos Espa Arena is truly stupendous, as is the overview of the Grass Plains Battle and Otha Gungun, the glowing bubbles of the underwater city. These views include information on areas not seen in the film as well as an overview of some that makes the relationship of the movie scenes more easily understood. This is a welcome addition to the fine Star Wars guides from DK. - **Stephanie Bannon**

### **Colony Fleet by Susan R. Matthews HarperCollins, \$6.50**

"She would go to Allmeet and tell the Jneers there that they were mistaken about Mechs and resources. She owed it to the *DecCee* to do that much at least. It would not be a popular message, but they would have to believe it coming from her; they knew she was as good a Jneer as the next, Comparisons notwithstanding. Didn't they?"

Or would they discount her words as evidence rather of her revealed Mech basic nature, and not evidence of having been mistaken all these years at all?

The colony was going to need flexible people. The colony could not afford to be directed by people who would rather deny a woman her birthright than acknowledge that wrong had been done. Hilbrane felt a sickening sense of certainty that the Jneers at Allmeet would do just that, however, and reject solid testimony as contrary to their preconceptions. Hadn't she watched it happen, and to her, before her very eyes?"

And so our heroine grows up. Susan R. Matthews has given us a very good book in *Colony Fleet*. It is a well crafted story that grabbed my attention and held it to the very surprising end. Her character development is excellent and the interpersonal conflict between characters makes you want to hiss at the antagonists.

I would strongly recommend this book. - **William B. Whitmore**

### **Island of the Sequined Love Nun By Christopher Moore Avon Books, Inc., 322 pp, \$13.00**

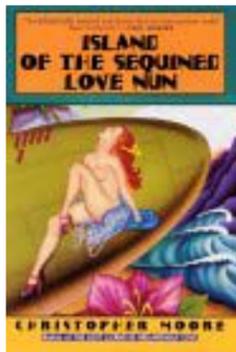
I'm not sure what genre this book falls  
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into. We may have to coin a new genre just for Christopher Moore. It's sort of a cross between a murder mystery and fantasy with a little humor thrown in for good measure.

Our "hero" (I use the term loosely), Tucker Case, is a hopeless drunk and womanizer who crashed his employer's pink plane during a mid-air sex romp. His best friend helps him find a new job after his licence is pulled and he believes Mary Jean Cosmetics is out to get him for destroying the plane. The new job is on a really, really remote island in Micronesia. It's so remote, it doesn't even belong to anyone. He's supposed to fly medical supplies for a missionary - in a Lear!

One mishap after another keep Tucker from reaching the island and he finally becomes so desperate (he's afraid they'll hire someone else if he's late) that he hires a boat and guide to take the last leg. The boat is a skiff and the guide is a Filipino cross-dresser who keeps a talking fruitbat as a companion. Of course, they get blown off route by a tropical storm and then picked up and nursed back to health by the Shark People. Coincidentally, the Shark People know all about the good doctor whom they call the Sorcerer. The Sorcerer's main job is announcing the arrival of the Sky Priestess who brings the islanders much good cargo. It seems the islanders are a cargo cult. They worship the WWII pilot, Vincent, who saved them from the Japanese and brought cool stuff like coffee and sugar. The plane was called the Sky Priestess.

Tucker is eventually taken in by the doctor and his lovely wife and then held in seclusion until required to fly the plane. His flights seem to coincide with the Sky Priestess' appearances to the natives and they only go to Japan and back. His flights also seem to coincide with one of the villagers being "chosen" by the Sky Priestess. At first Tucker is content with his lot, he's healing up



nicely after his adventures, he has plenty to eat and the lovely wife is screwing his brains out. The down side is that he doesn't know what happened to his guide (who's living with the villagers' token cannibal) and the lovely wife seems to have multiple personalities: perfect housewife and nurse and erotic, sexy, bloodthirsty goddess.

The story progresses quickly and hilariously through Tucker's growing realization that he has to take responsibility; something he's never been very good at. 'Course he did get some nudges along the way from the Vincent apparition who

wants him to save his people, the talking fruitbat, and the camaraderie he enjoys with the islanders during the nightly drink circle. Not to mention the prospect of the blond Sky Priestess deciding to use him for the "choosing".

Mr. Moore is very good at what he does (whatever this is...) and I enjoyed this story very much. The author is skilled at story development. Character development was adequate for the story (we didn't need to know what their childhood was like). The humor wasn't laugh-out-loud as Robert Asprin does for me, but it was definitely worth a bunch of smirks. The most amazing thing about this story is how Mr. Moore combines such characters as the cross-dressing Filipino, his fruitbat, the cannibal, a dead WWII pilot, a mad doctor and a crazed blond sex goddess and makes it work! Take a break from SF and fantasy and dip into this one. - **Catherine Book**

### **Singer From The Sea By Sheri Tepper Avon EOS, 526 pp \$6.99**

A fascinating premise - that a world has a soul. To get to this premise, Ms Tepper takes us on a journey of discovery through the experiences and awakening realizations of a young noblewoman, Genevieve.

Genevieve lives on a very isolated, poor world, Haven, that is ruled utterly by a single man who enjoys, apparently, an unnaturally long life. On the other hand, Haven, seems to be quite deadly for noblewomen in their late 20's who have just had a baby. Genevieve, like her mother, has true visions. Some of her "dreams" are of the sea, which she has never seen and of a great voice calling to her.

Genevieve is something special, bred to a special purpose. She's not the only one; she's just the one whose mother lived long enough to complete her training. She is not what the men expect. And, she is determined to achieve this purpose, no matter the cost; because the price is the whole world.

Ms Tepper creates some memorable characters and some very interesting mysteries. All of the mysteries and questions have a single answer. Like any good mystery writer, Ms Tepper give us tiny hints along the way but we cannot see the answer any more than can Genevieve or her love, Aufors. We are led to the conclusion just as Genevieve is; perhaps, with divine guidance. It's just not the Divine that you might expect.

Ms Tepper may be known to some as a rather militant feminist author. It is true that many of her stories seem strongly anti-male; I see them as strongly pro-female. Her women become empowered to take control of their lives and by doing so, correct injustices perpetrated by men, often to their relief. Therefore, I reluctantly caution you, gentle readers, this is a story for women. - **Catherine Book**



### **Circle at Center Douglas Niles Ace Fantasy 400 pp \$13.00**

The first time I encountered Douglas Niles' work was when I was given his "Circle of Light" series as a gift. I am pleased to say reading this book returned me to those times. His world starts as one that has already defeated chaos once and has taken pains to insure that it doesn't arise again. The changing roles and conversion from pacifism to war was logical and well thought out. Everybody knows that nothing is forever (except maybe taxes) so it should come as no shock that chaos arises again. I thought the book was well written, if a little predictable, and I will seek out the other volumes in the series. . - **Bob LaPierre**

### **The Devil's Workshop Stephen J. Cannell Harper, 421 pp, \$6.99**

The Devil's Workshop is a biological warfare thriller, rather than traditional Science Fiction.

In *The Devil's Workshop*, a section of the Army theoretically concerned with defending against bio-terrorism is actually developing biological weapons in secret, and against the law of the land.

Stacy Richardson, in process of taking her doctorate in microbiology, is informed that her husband has committed suicide. However, she had spoken to him just before the reputed event, and finds that it is a cover up for murder. Just before his death, he had E-mailed her information about the secret research which she discovers after her return home. Her refusal to accept the suicide as fact costs her doctorate through funding pressure on the university. She sets out to expose the illegal research.

Meanwhile, Chris Cunningham, a decorated war hero, has lost his daughter to congenital abnormalities caused by his Gulf War exposure to biological weapons. He has hit the skids, becoming an alcoholic hobo. In *Vanishing Lake*, another biological experiment causes the death of a hobo pal. and the destruction of an entire area, either by the escaped mosquito vector, or the efforts to contain it. The two link up to expose the group. While still another plot develops.

A fanatical white supremacist preacher decides to use the bio-toxins to target people of Jewish or black extraction. If he can't use the bio-toxin in his plan, he will blow up a toxic waste train in Washington, DC.

Add in another subplot, nicely integrated, with a cocaine snuffing movie producer and you have an entertaining page turner that will make a splendid action flick or TV movie.

Though not Sci-fi, it's worth a read. - **Pam Allan**



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**Such a Pretty Face**  
**Ed. Lee Martindale**  
**Meisha Merlin Publishing, 312 pp,**  
**\$16.00**

Being a plus-sized individual, I was curious about what Lee had in store for us with this book. I was expecting more comic relief characterization and empty stories. I found realistic heroes and thoughtful stories. One of the most outstanding was also one of the smallest, "Eleven to Seven." The author list reads like a who's who of current SF/Fantasy. And I haven't found a clunker in the book. Not all of the characters are likable, nor are they all on the side of right, but they are all well thought-out and despite their size quite often are larger than life. The book is not for everyone but if you have ever felt even the slightest bit discriminated against, you will find people here who understand and offer solace.. - **Bob LaPierre**

**Death of the Dragon**  
**Ed Greenwood & Troy Denning**  
**Wizards of the Coast, 376 pp, \$21.95**

For those of you who don't know, this book is set in the "Forgotten Realms." The dragon is King Azoun IV of Cormyr. This novel deals with the fulfillment of prophecy and the signs of true leadership. The foreshadowing and the title kind of give away the fact the King Azoun dies. But this novel is more about the strength of his character and that he is truly the epitome of what it means to be a King. The good of the kingdom comes before the safety and desires of the king. The court intrigues were well-written and by having an outsider present, it allows things to be explained for those of us who don't intuitively know about courtly matters. It was enjoyable, especially so for people familiar with Ed Greenwood's Forgotten Realms. I recommend this for all gamers who want to see how a "good" handles adversity.. - **Bob LaPierre**

**Titan**  
**Stephen Baxter**  
**HarperPrism \$23.00**

Can NASA launch a successful manned mission to Saturn's moon Titan? Using Skylab and Shuttle technology? The heroes of this book believe they can and are willing to bet their lives on it. Opposed by entrenched bureaucrats, rogue air force officers, and a cost cutting Congress, they still manage to launch.

But will they make it to Titan? Read the book to find its surprising ending.

I found this book to be unevenly written. Its slow beginning was a slog. Its high points are interspersed with long sections of sociological BS. If I had not agreed to review this book, I never would have finished it as a pleasure read. It's apocalyptic view of the future is depressing and the story line fragmented. I do not recommend this book. - **William B. Whitmore**

**Hunted**  
**James Alan Gardner**  
**Eos, 419 pp, \$6.99**

Hunted is a quirky, funny, and action-packed space opera perfect for a lazy fall day [or winter] .

Edward York, son of Admiral Alexander York, was illegally gene tweaked along with his twin sister, Samantha. Unfortunately, they didn't give him the brains of his father or sister. As he grew up, he was always under the aegis of his sister, acting as her body-guard. As an Outward Fleet Explorer, he accompanies her to the troubled planet Troyen, the home of the Mandasar.

Sam and the Alien queen, {who was Edward's "consort"} are killed. Edward is exiled to Troyen's moon for twenty years, until escalating violence forces evacuation. On the way home, the entire crew of the starship is wiped out as bad guys. The ship still makes it to its destination, but Edward finds himself being hunted as the only witness. Fellow explorers help him flee the ship, and he finds that his consort-ship gains the devotion of the ex-patriot Manama on the planet.

This starts him on a journey into his past, and his future, both fraught with more twists than the double helix that appears to rule the present. Fortunately, he has the greatest Explorer, Admiral Festina Ramos, aiding him. Together, they enter a future that requires them to unravel a secret conspiracy that will either bury the hopes of Mankind and the Mandasar, or lead them out of the wilderness.

Did I say the book was a page turner that can keep you enjoyably occupied for hours. I found a desire to read more of this author's work. I think you will too..  
**Pam Allan**

**Lord Of The Fire Lands**  
**Dave Duncan**  
**Eos, 456 pp, \$6.99**

Lord Of The Fire Lands is the second volume of The Kings Blades series. The first book is The Gilded Chain. The books stand alone.

Raider and Wasp are students at Ironhall, They are graduating as some of the finest swordsmen in the realm. A Kings Blade is forever bound, [till death does them part] to bodyguard the person they are sworn to defend. When it is revealed that Raider is actually Radgar, the heir apparent to the Fire Lands, Wasp becomes bound to him through choice. They both are plunged into treachery and intrigue. To survive, Radgar must return to the Fire Lands, gain the ruling of this land once ruled by his assassinated father and punish the destroyers of his family. They both must face not only political and military opposition, but must banish a fire Drake before it cremates the land.

This is a page turner, with lots of twists and turns, wit and character in a break-neck speed adventure. I couldn't put it down. Recommended as a good read, but should have a printed warning....Hazardous to bedtimes, and tv.  
**- Pam Allan**

# 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 Con-Notations. Best described as SF/F generalists with a strong bent towards literary SF/F. Guests welcome - meets at 8pm on the last Friday of each month in January thru September and the second Friday in October, November and December at JB's Restaurant, 2560 W. Indian School in Phoenix, AZ. Write PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or call Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 for information. Web 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 listserv over the Internet. Anyone with e-mail access can subscribe to the Desert Lurkers by sending e-mail to b5-l-request@dragon.org and putting "subscribe" (minus the quotation marks) in the subject line. Interested people can contact Alexander Goodrum at E-mail address: goodrum@AZStarNet.com

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

**THE EMPIRE OF CHIVALRY AND STEEL, INC.** The Empire of Chivalry and Steel specializes in the general recreation of the culture of the Middle Ages including all of the Art Forms, Events (Feasts, Tournaments, Ceremonies and Wars) and Combat Arts covering the years of 800AD up to 1650AD and any location within Europe or its explored territories. For more information contact

( Cont'd on page 18 )  
Volume 11 Issue 1



# Hexacon 11



Arizona's Largest Gaming Convention

July 27-29, 2001

AT THE HOLIDAY INN SUNSPREE RESORT

These games were played last year and currently are tentatively planned for Hexacon 11:

### BOARD GAMES

- Age of Renaissance
- Air Baron
- American Megafauna
- Axis & Allies
- Battle Cry by Avalon Hill
- Dawn Patrol
- Graduation Day:
- History of America
- Insecta
- Jump Into The Unknown Demo
- Junta
- Lords of the Sierra Madre
- Rio Grande's Lost Cities'
- Risk
- Robo Rally -
- Settlers of Catan
- Silverton
- Successors

### CCG

- Legend of the 5 Rings
- Magic ThG
- Pokemon
- Star Trek
- Star Wars

### GURPS

- Car Wars
- Chez Geek
- Dino Hunt
- In Nomine
- OGRE
- Tile Chess
- TOON
- Zombie Hunt

### LARP

- Pokemon

### CHESS

- Double Bugout
- Kreigspeil
- Speed Chess
- Team Chess

### RPGA

- Champions
- Classic AD&D Scenarios
- Ravenloft Scenarios

### MISC:

- BattleTech
- MECCG Sealed Deck
- The Great Dalmuti
- Warzone

### PLUS

- RSI
- PAREX
- (Phoenix Area Robotics eXperimenter)
- Anime
- Consuite
- Dealer's Room
- Miniatures Painting Contest
- Used Game Auction

### Location Information:

#### Holiday Inn SunSpree

7601 E Indian Bend Rd  
 Scottsdale, AZ  
 (480) 991-2400  
 Room: \$67 S/D/T/Q  
 Suite: \$100 S/D/T/Q

We apologize for the inconvenience but the SunSpree is a **NO PET** hotel.

**There will be a raffle for those who pre-register with the convention and reserve a hotel room before 06/15/2001**

Our **4 winners** will each get a choice from the following prizes:

- GURPS Book autographed by Steve Jackson
- Free room night
- \$50 in coupons usable in the dealer's room
- Two memberships to Hexacon 12

If you have trouble making reservations, contact Stephanie at 602-973-2341 or Stephanie@casfs.org

**On Thursday, July 26**, there will be a special **RPGA Event** as well as other events and prizes available **only** to those who preregister for the convention. Gaming starts at 10:00 AM on Friday, July 27 and runs **NON-STOP** until Sunday, July 29 at 3PM

### Membership Rates:

\$20 until 06/25/2001  
\$25 at the door

### Dealer's Room Info

**Cost: \$50 per table:** Dealer's tables include 1 full membership and 1 dealer's room only pass. Dealer's room passes are upgradable for one half the current registration rate. Limit 2 tables per dealer. Contact Michael Bauerlein at 480-325-7485

### Contact Information:

#### Hexacon 11

PO Box 62613  
 Phoenix AZ 85082  
 Phone/FAX (602)973-2341  
 Email: the\_top@casfs.org  
 Webpage: www.casfs.org

Game Director: Craig Hier <games@casfs.org>  
 Used Game Auction: J.B. Talbott  
 <auction@casfs.org>  
 Miniatures Contest: Gus Talbott  
 <mini@casfs.org>  
 Ads: Stephanie Bannon <Stephanie@casfs.org>

### Ad Rate Info & Deadlines

|                            |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Back Cover:                | \$125       |
| Inside Cover:              | \$115       |
| Full Page:                 | \$100       |
| Half Page:                 | \$ 50       |
| Quarter Page:              | \$ 25       |
| Two (2) Business Cards:    | \$ 25       |
| Special Request placement: | \$ 10 extra |

Accepted submissions : Camera Ready, Word, .tif  
 .gif .bmp **Deadline: July 5, 2001**

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

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 similiarly to ST) but has social events as well. Attends local Creation And Trek Production Cons, and ST Movie premiers. POC for IFC is A/Fleet Admiral John Nelson (602) 934-3987 or by voice mail (602) 409-7169 or c/o P.O. box 14370 Phoenix, AZ 85063-4370. E-Mail: Bnelson502@aol.com Membership Approx 35-50. The Bi-Monthly newsletter is *Cactus Log*.

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

**LEPRECON, INC.** One of the two Phoenix area corporations that put on yearly conventions. Best described as SF/F generalists with a main thrust into SF/F art. Guests are welcome. The meetings are quarterly on the second Saturday of February, May, August & November unless otherwise notified. August is the annual meeting where board positions are determined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 ; call Mike Willmoth at (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 horor 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 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 inter-ested in all facets of historical, cultural, science fiction, fantasy, and humor cos-tume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes atmost local and regional Science Fiction Convention masquerades. They meet on the last Sun-day of each month at various mmbers' 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/guild.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 rgular mail only and the newsletter nad materials will not be reproducd 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>

# Convention Listings

**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 and Paul Darrow of Blake's 7 Memb: \$50 at the Door. Info: Gallifrey Conventions, PO Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609 (818) 752-3756, info@gallifreyone.com Web: www.gallifreyone.com

**AZ Book Festival, April 7, 2001**

The Fourth Annual Arizona Book Festival is a free springtime event hosted by the Arizona Humanities Council, on Saturday, April 7, 2001 at Margret T. Hance Deck Park (Third Street south of McDowell Road) in Phoenix. The Book Festival will feature the largest gathering of authors on hand for readings, discussions, to answer questions and sign books. Three stages will be dedicated to author discussions on a variety of topics all with a southwestern influence. And kids will enjoy an entertainment stage geared for the young reader.

In addition to the stages of entertainment, the festival will host a children's area with hands-on arts and crafts including papermaking as well as costumed characters. An assortment of exhibitors including CASFS, LepreCon Inc, booksellers, publishers, libraries, bookmakers, artisans and even reading groups will offer something for every interest and every level of reader.

For further information please contact: info@azcurrentevents.com

**ConFurence 12** (Burbank, CA) **April 19-22, 2001** Hilton Burbank Airport Hotel and Convention Center. Guests of Honor: Writer-Jymn Magon, Artist-Monika Livingstone, Illustrator-Mike Kazaleh

**What is CASFS?**

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

Pre-Registration Attending Membership \$35 through March 12, 2001 The ConFurence Group, c/o Darrel L. Exline, P.O. Box 84721, San Diego, CA 92138-4721 Voice: 619-223-9482, Fax: 619-523-9814, Email: info@confurence.net, Website: http://confurence.net

**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 and 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

**BayCon 2001** (San Jose, CA) **May 25 - 28, 2001** San Jose Double Tree Hotel. Writer Guest of Honor - Rudy Rucker, Artist Guest of Honor - Bill Hartmann, Fan Guest of Honor - James and Kathryn Daugherty, Special Guest - Poppy Z. Brite. (\$60 12/1/2000 - 2/28/2001)(\$65 3/1/2001 - 4/30/2001)(\$70 5/1/2001 on & at the door) BayCon 2001, Attn: Registration, P.O. Box 610427, San Jose, CA 95161-0427 Website: http://www.baycon.org

**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

**Gathering 2001: City of Angels** (Los Angeles, CA) **June 22 - 25, 2001** The Fifth Annual Gathering of the Gargoyles, Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Universal Terrace Parkway, Universal City, CA 91608 Tel: (818) 980-1212, Toll Free: (888) 627-7186, Fax: (818) 985-4980. Special Guests: Marina Sirtis, Thom Adcox-Hernandez, Crispin Freeman. Memberships: \$40 Adult (age 15 and up) - 1/1/2001 to 5/15/2001, \$20 Child (age 10 to 14) - 1/1/2001 to 5/15/01, \$FREE Hatching (age under 10) before 5/15/2001. Website: <http://gathering.gargoyles-fans.org>

**CritterConDiego** (San Diego, CA) **July 20 - 21, 2001** The ConFurence Group, P.O. Box 84721, San Diego, CA 92138-4721 619-523-9814 (evenings), Email: info@confurence.net, Website: http://confurence.net

**HexaCon 11** (Scottsdale, AZ) **July 27-29, 2001 NEW DATES!!** 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\_top@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

**Costume College 2001** (Van Nuys, CA) **July 27 - 29, 2001** Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave, Van Nuys, CA Call: 1-800-350-1111 for room reservations. \$65 ICG/CGW Members until June 15, 2001, \$90 Non-ICG/CGW Members until June 15, 2001, Join CGW (\$12 one year Membership) Make Checks Payable to Costumer's Guild West, P.O. Box 3052, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-3052 Info: Call (818) 343-0723 or Email: Carolyn@costumecollege.org Website: <http://www.costumecollege.org>

**Bubonicon 33** (Albuquerque, NM) **August 24 - 26, 2001** Guest of Honor: Sarah Zettel, Toastmaster S.M. Stirling Memberships: \$20 thru Feb. 14, 2001, Send All Payments, Suggestions & Inquires To: NMSF Conference, P.O. Box 37257, Albuquerque, NM 87176 General Info: (505) 266-8905 or (505) 232-2892 - Noon to 9:30 pm Art Show: (505) 796-0933 / (505) 293-8671 Website: members.aol.com/bubonicon

**CopperCon 21** (Scottsdale, AZ) **Sept 7-9, 2001** Holiday Inn SunSpree Resort. Author Guest: Julian May; Artist Guest: Mark Roland, Local Author: Diana Gabaldon, Music Guest: Heather Alexander. Membership \$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 21, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Email: leigh@casfs.org Phone (602)973-2341

**Generic Convention Registration Form**

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

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

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

(See calendar for mailing address)  
More info on  Masquerade  Art Show  Volunteer  Other

# SF Tube Talk

By Lee Whiteside

Welcome to the first bi-monthly edition of SF Tube Talk. With the beginning of February comes the February Sweeps where we get all new episodes of your favorite shows. Leading off this column is the latest news on **The X-Files** and other FOX shows.

**The X-Files** brings us the beginning of a three-part story that will bring Mulder back as well as introduce a new recurring character. Before we get there, there's several Mulder & Doggett adventures leading up to it. Starting off the month is "The Gift", where a case Mulder kept secret from Scully comes to light as Doggett investigates circumstances that may ultimately relate to Mulder's unexplained disappearance. This episode does include flashback sequences with Mulder as well as Skinner and The Lone Gunmen. In *Medusa*, Scully and Doggett race to investigate a string of bizarre deaths in the tunnels of the Boston subway system linked to a mysterious killer which is in the form of an algae that consumes human flesh. Don't eat dinner during this one! After that is *Per Manum* in which Scully and Doggett are called in to investigate reports of alien impregnations of human subjects. As they discover more disturbing clues, Scully is forced to question whether she should reveal the secret of her pregnancy to Doggett. Clues to the identity of who — or what — the father of Scully's baby may be revealed. The final sweeps episode, "This Is Not Happening", the search for Mulder intensifies as FBI agent Monica Reyes joins the hunt for the missing Mulder in the first of a three-episode story arc. As Scully and Doggett's difference of opinions about the missing Mulder heighten, Doggett enlists Reyes' help to bring her own viewpoint to the case. Needless to say, the end of the episode will leave fans hanging until the second part, which won't air until early April. The next part is rumored to include appearances by the Lone Gunmen, Krycek, as well as Jeremiah Smith. It is also reported to have Mulder's

funeral as well. Don't expect him to stay dead, though.

The last episode of the February sweeps will introduce us to agent Monica Reyes, played by **Annabeth Gish** (Desert Bloom, Mystic Pizza). Gish will play a major role in the three part mini-arc and may be a regular if the series continues on to a ninth season. Reyes is brought on board the Mulder case by John Doggett, with who has a previous history with her. She is stationed in New Orleans, and her speciality is ritualistic crime detail dealing with satanic cults. Chris Carter says "She is quite unlike any of the other agents. She has been neither a firm



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believer nor a major skeptic, either."

After the February Sweeps, instead of getting **X-Files** repeats, FOX will debut the **X-Files** spinoff series, **The Lone Gunmen**. As previously reported, the series will star the **X-Files** supporting trio of **Bruce Harwood** as John Byers, **Tom Braidwood** as Melvin Frohike, and **Dean Haglund** as Richard Langly. Joining them will be **Zuleikha Robinson** as Vyves Adele Harlow, and **Stephen Snedden** as Jimmy Bond. Harlow will be one of the Gunmen's competitors and sometimes co-hort, if the pilot episode is any indication. Bond was not part of the produced pilot episode and his role is as of yet unknown, although from the photos, it appears he could have been added for sex appeal. He will likely be introduced in the second episode, "Bond, Jimmy Bond". The series has been described as a "misguided **Mission: Impossible** team lacking social skills." **Chris Carter** says "Right now, they're not dealing with the paranormal...[Their cases] have more to do with what I'd call contemporary crime and injustice. The

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kind of stuff where the government is lying to us. Also white-collar crime and we've got a story about the legendary water-powered car. We've got a story about a philandering senator. We've got a story about a possible Nazi war criminal, who is a woman living in America." Where the show will end up after it's initial run in March will depend largely on how well it does in the ratings.

Also likely turning up sometime in March on FOX will be the live action version of **The Tick**. It stars **Patrick Warburton** as the big blue dense superhero, **David Burke** as Arthur, **Liz Vassey** as Captain Liberty, and **Nestor Carbonell** as Batmanuel. The show is produced by **Barry Sonnenfeld** (*Men in Black*) and **Larry Charles** (*Seinfeld*, *Dilbert*) and Tick creator **Ben Edlund**. Also on board as a writer/producer is **David Sacks** (*The Simpsons*) and one of the early episodes was directed by **Dean Parisot** (*Galaxy Quest*). Making an appearance in the pilot is **Christopher Lloyd** and both **Edlund** and **Sonnenfeld** make cameos when The Tick's feet go through a ceiling. Not much more is known about the individual episodes, but if the pilot is any indication (where some Russians bring the robotic assassin The Red Scare out of mothballs when **Jimmy Carter** is in town), the show should be worth catching even if the Neilsen families snub their nose at it.

**Dark Angel** continues to do well in the ratings, making it a good bet to continue for another season. During February, Max has to take drastic measures when the Red Menace returns, she has to deal with Zack, who escapes from Manticore after months of mental and physical

torture, and Logan consults with a doctor, only to learn that she has a price on her head and a Manticore assassin on her trail. As you may have noticed, FOX put **Freakylinks** on hiatus through most of November and December, bringing it back in January. The Ratings Gods have not been kind, though, and it is being pulled for February sweeps. Needless to say, FOX has not ordered any additional episodes of the series. FOX has also been pretty silent of late about their other mid-season shows, **Night Visions** and **Ultra-violet**. It is possible they may hold those back to be used in case The Likely Pending Actor and Writer Strikes (hereafter referred to as TLPAWS) go on for months.

UPN has managed to stay alive by reaching an agreement with **Rupert Murdoch**, owner of the Chris-Craft station group, to extend their affiliate agreement for 18 months, effectively to the end of the 2001/2002 season. UPN was hoping for a longer time span, but was not able to get it. With the departure of **Voyager** in May and (again) TLPAWS, that could be all the longer that UPN lasts.

Before we get to **Voyager's** finale, however, we've got quite a few episodes left, including a new batch through the end of February that features a big budget two-parter. Early in the month should be *Prophecy* (formerly titled *Descendants*) with the Klingon generation ship reported on last column. It seems that when some of the Klingon's find out about the Paris/Torres baby, they believe it is the coming of a new Klingon messiah to fulfill an

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