

ConNotations

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

SF Tube Talk

by Lee Whiteside

We've seen the end of **Babylon 5** and we're seeing the end of **Deep Space Nine**, but there's still lots going on in the SF TV Universe.

We knew it was coming and the wait for the last five episodes to air seemed to take forever, but on November 25th, the final episode of the **Babylon 5** TV series finally aired. It had been filmed a year before when it was uncertain if there would be a season five but still provided an ending to the series with the passing on of John Sheridan and the demise of the Babylon 5 Space Station. I think the series will stand up as the benchmark for science fiction television for many years, just as the original Star Trek series was the best we'd had for many years. I'm also looking forward to the day when we'll be able to say of a new series that it is as good, or even better than, Babylon 5. The show has been a big part of my life for the last six years and I'm sad to see it end, and we should all give J. Michael Straczynski a big round of applause for bringing us the show that he's pretty much given his life over to for the last six years.

The series may be completed, but there's still room for more stories in the Babylon 5 Universe to be told. The next one comes on January 3rd, 1999 when the fourth (and last for the near future) Babylon 5 TV movie "A Call to Arms". It is set about five years after the events in Season 5 of the series and after the events of the Telepath War (which we may see on the big screen sometime down the road). The Drakh are still at it, and have a Shadow Planet Killer. They've tried it out on the homeworld of Dureena Nafeel (Carrie Dobro) and are looking to use it on Earth! Bruce Boxleitner, Jerry Doyle and Tracey Scoggins return with Tony Todd as Earth Force Captain Anderson and Peter Woodward as the technomage Galen. Sheridan and Anderson take out the prototype ships The Victory and The Excalibur to try stop the Drakh fleet.

At the end of "A Call to Arms", the Drakh fleet has been stopped from destroying Earth with the Planet Killer, but they have left behind a biogenetic plague in Earth's atmosphere that will destroy everyone on Earth in five years if it isn't stopped. In the sequel series

"**Crusade**", The White Star fleet, lead by the prototype starship Excalibur, will comb the ruins of ancient, advanced races to find a means to save Earth. Leading this effort on the Excalibur will be Captain Matthew Gideon (Gary Cole - Midnight Caller, American Gothic), second in command (and also a telepath) Lieutenant John Matheson (Daniel Dae Kim - The Jackal, Addicted to Love), IPX archeologist Max Eilersen (David A. Brooks - Melrose Place), and biogeneticist Dr. Sarah Chambers (Marjean Holden - Mortal Kombat: Annihilation, The Lost World). Carrie Dobro (Dureena) and Peter Woodward

(Galen) will continue with their roles from "A Call to Arms" and Tracy Scoggins will reprise Captain Lochley in about half the episodes. Other familiar faces will appear from time to time (Dr. Franklin, Vir, Zack, and even Bester, who's now on the run after the events of the Telepath War). Other guest stars appearing in the early episodes include Edward Woodward (The Equalizer), Peter Woodward's real-life father playing a friend of Galen's father and Gary Graham (Alien Nation) as a Psi-Cop. Crusade will not debut on TNT until June 2nd. It was originally scheduled to start

cont'd on page 8



Left to Right: Marijean Holden, David A. Brooks, Carrie Dobro & Michael J. Straczynski
Photo by Lee Whiteside

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Convention Information

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

For a good place to make a road trip, **The Tenth Planet of Gallifrey One** Feb 12-15, 1999 (President's Day weekend) in Van Nuys, California is a recommended destination. It's their 10th year, and they'll have **Nicholas Courtney** (The Brigadier) from Doctor Who as well as a slew of Doctor Who novelists. Also appearing are **Wayne Alexander** (Lorien), **Robin Atkin-Downes** (Byron), **Maggie Egan** (ISN Newscaster) and **J. Michael Straczynski** of Babylon 5 as well as **Tony Todd**, **Bjo Trimble** and others. Check out their web page

at www.gallifreyone.com for up to date details.

Arizona Convention Season starts back up with **LepreCon 25** May 14-16, 1999 at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in Scottsdale. This is the first LepreCon in the Phoenix Metro area for several years and they've got a great guest lineup with **Michael Whelan** as Artist GoH, **Larry Niven** as Author GoH, **Robert Peacock** as Local Artist GoH and **Lynn Gold** as Filk Guest with more in the works. This year's convention is a week earlier than normal (it is usually the weekend before Memorial Day) due to the new Star Wars movie opening on May 21st. LepreCon is working on some special events to help fans get ready for the movie. (For more details check the Progress Report in the center of this issue)

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

Next time we'll have details on **Agamemcon III** June 11-13 (road trip time!) in Burbank, California, **HexaCon 9** July 9-11 in Scottsdale, Arizona (see ad on page 7) and **CopperCon 19** September 10-12 in Scottsdale, Arizona. (Check the Progress Report in the center of this issue for more information)

FYI

by Lee Whiteside

Things are a bit slow in the area during the winter months, but once it starts warming up and the snowbirds head out, things start happening.

Before then, there is a special appearance by **Julie Caitlin Brown** (Na'Toth on Babylon 5) on January 16th at Imaginary World of Games in Tempe. Check out their ad on page 9 for more details.

Here in Phoenix, we've got a couple of monthly **Book Discussion Groups** going, one at Barnes and Noble in Metro Center and another at Glendale Public Library. Here's a schedule of upcoming books:

Barnes & Noble:

January: Star of Danger & Darkover Landfall by Marion Zimmer Bradley
February: Lucifer's Hammer by Larry Niven and Jerry Pournelle
March: And The Devil Will Drag you Under by Jack Chalker
April: Small Gods by Terry Pratchett
May: On Basilisk Station by David Weber

Glendale Public Library:

January: Foundation by Isaac Asimov
February: The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham
March: Cat's Cradle by Kurt Vonnegut
April: Anubis Gates by Tim Power
May: Darker Than You Think by Jack Williamson

For more information contact:
Stephanie L Bannon at 973-2341 (Barnes & Noble group) or Sue Martin at

938-7983 (Glendale Library group)

April 10, 1999 is the second annual **Arizona Book Festival** at the Margaret T. Hance Deck Park behind the Burton Barr Public Library on Central. CASFS will have a booth again this year with several local authors signing. Last year we had **Jennifer Roberson, John Vornholt, Adam Niswander, Emily Devenport, Ernest Hogan and Pete Manly** all appearing. This year we should have several repeats as well as some other local authors and we're also talking with several publishers to possibly bring in some other authors. Check out the event listings on the CASFS web page (www.casfs.org/events.html) for updates and check out the book festivals page (www.azbook.fest.org) for more details on all the other exhibitors at the festival.

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

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Chapter One

by Ladnar Lockwhite

The scene opens in a secret underground laboratory complex. An elderly man in a Napoleonic naval uniform regards a younger man in a tall, billed cap.

Crunch: Three years ago they came, changing the nutritional habits of mankind forever. We want you to be a double agent for the resistance. You are already deep into the Comrade organization. You could be a real boon to our cause.

Pop: They recruited me to be body-guard for the American comrade, B'Arney, right after my partners were killed in that bizarre milk accident. I can still hear the awful snapping and crackling.

Crunch: That was no accident. We also suspect them in the overthrow of King Vitaman in that coup by General Mills. That's why I staged my disappearance.

Pop: They weren't fooled. Those tricks are for kids.

Crunch: Nonetheless, I became suspicious after they seized my gravel quarry.

Pop: B'Arney took your pebbles?

Crunch: Yes. My organization believes the Comrades are using human resources

to influence the laws of probability and improve their chances of winning their war with the Quisp.

Pop: They're always after our lucky charms?

Crunch: From within, you can pass vital information to the resistance.

Pop: I don't know if I can turn against the Comrades. Their cyber implants have already fortified me with eight essential vitamins and minerals.

Crunch: Follow your nose, it always knows.

Pop: I'll think about it.

Crunch: I cannot over-emphasize the importance of your position. I gotta have my pops!

Pop: Alright, I'm in.

Crunch (Hands data card to Pop) He likes it! Here's my key.

This cereal is continued in 'Of Breakfast Champions,' the second chapter of Gene Crunchberry's EARTH: FINAL CORNFLAKED.



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

CASFS Business Report

Lots of good things have been happening! We passed two bylaws in September and two in November, accomplishing the following things:

- * Article II, Section 7, Subsection A, Paragraph 2 was amended to give the section a more businesslike tone.
- * The vote process was formally codified.
- * Convention officers may be replaced at the first possible meeting after the vacancy occurs.
- * Article IX, Section 3 was amended to require that a member be active to vote for convention officers.

If you would like a copy of the exact wording of the new bylaws, e-mail inverted@casfs.org.

The book discussion committee is in full swing, and is meeting once a month at Barnes and Noble and the Glendale Public Library. Contact ConNotations for more information on joining in or starting one somewhere else.

Robert "Ozzie" Osman passed away on August 20th, 1998. He was named Fan Guest of Honor at CopperCon 18.

Congratulations to Craig Dyer, who was elected to run CopperCon 19 at the October meeting.

CopperCon 18 was a success. Jim Cryer would like to thank everyone who attended.

Hotel contracts have been signed with the Holiday Inn SunSpree for HexaCons 9 and 10, and CopperCons 19 and 20.

A new account, for alternate HexaCon years, was opened.

CASFS had a presence at the very successful Science Fiction Festival at the Phoenix Public Library in October. The library reports a weekend attendance of around 2,000. - Angel Trinkle

Wanted - SF FAN (vaguely left leaning) with eye disorder needs correspondence on audiotape. My medical problems are extremely isolating and I could really use mail contact with SF-oriented people. Interests: Gene Wolfe, Ursula LeGuin, Sturgeon, Niven, Clarke, Dr Who, Prisoner, Red Dwarf, Blake's 7, Black Adder, Avengers, Babylon 5. Contact Jay Harber, 626 Paddock Lane, Libertyville, IL 60048

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

Well, this year's CopperCon was the finest CopperCon I've ever attended. Why is this, you ask? Well, the programming was actually quite diverse and interesting. There was actually a masquerade involving more than three people for the first time in eons. And the filk guests were all quite interesting (more on that in a minute).

But that's not why this CopperCon was the finest CopperCon in years. No, this was the finest CopperCon in years was because it was held **THREE MILES FROM MY HOUSE**. So rather than fork over a hundred bucks a night for what's basically a nondescript hotel room, we headed back to the Tuerff Hilton each night and saved a bundle. You should all have a con near your house some time.

This did have its drawbacks, though. See, I have kids, 8 and 13. Yeah, I know, those are strange names, but I change them every year on their birthdays. Anyway, 8 has never been up past 11:00 in his entire life, try as he might. And 13 has a biological clock that is colliding with his adolescent hormones and leaving stains wherever he walks. He **THINKS** he wants to stay up past 1 a.m. but his body knows better. So a good portion of the Con was spent searching darkened video rooms looking for the prone form that is 13.

This need for sleep caused a little rift in my coverage of filk at CopperCon, but we'll get to that.

The first night, Friday, I was part of a filk panel put together by Gary Swaty to explore the idea of "classic filk." I'm not sure exactly what this means except that all the songs we were supposed to sing were to be at least two years old and well known to filkers who show up for these sort of things.

Needless to say, I was honored to be on this panel, since at last count I have written exactly one song that might be constituted as filk, and I only know by heart maybe three other songs that fall into that category.

Fortunately, I was sharing this panel with my friend Nancy Freeman, who writes most of her own stuff, and Filk GOH Jeff Hitchin, who arrived late but was ready to go, in spite of the fact that the airlines had lost all of his luggage. He spent most of the panel singing Christine Lavin songs, which probably aren't filk either, but that made me feel better for singing an original song about genital piercing.

On Saturday, during the masquerade intermission, the entire con was treated to what is easily the most talented husband and wife filk duo I've ever seen—Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff. They did a filk song based on "Won't Get Fooled Again" that blew my socks off.

The Bohnhoffs showed up that evening's filk circle, as well, and did a

whole shipload of songs that were just fine. It was a big circle of people in this room. Many of us came to do our bits.

This is where the biological clock of 8 and 13 come into play.

I showed up at about 9 for the filk circle, and sat near the far end, away from most of the other players, simply because that's where the available chairs were.

I don't know if you've ever been to a filk circle before, but each one seems to have its own rules. This rules for this one appeared to be:

1. Take turns in a counterclockwise fashion, until one of the singers makes a request of one of the others who had already played.

2. Then that person plays another song, and then hands off to the person to his/her right, and repeat, usually stopping with the same person who made the original request.

3. This left a good 70% of the rest of us with guitars wondering when the hell we were gonna get a chance to play.

I sat there patiently waiting for the baton to be passed down to the ass end of the room, to no avail, when ten o'clock arrived, and right on cue, 8 showed up to say "Dad, I'm tired. We need to go." So, I didn't get to play that night. (My buddy Lon Austin, who puts on the annual folk events at Encanto Park, told me it was near **MIDNIGHT** before he got to play a song.)

Perhaps at future cons the rules of

order should be listed in the filk room.

NEW CDS:

Last time I showed up in these pages, I reviewed an album by a San Francisco-based band called Four Shillings Short. Well, since then they've put out a second album, "The Boggy Spew" (**** out of four), which, like the first, features a wild collection of instruments playing traditional and original Celtic songs (including an old Irish tune played on dumbek and sitar).

I do like this CD a bit better, as the band gets away from their "everything including the kitchen sink" approach to the first CD, which, at times, made it a little heavy going.

The Band's two main members, Christy Martin and her partner (in music and life)

Aodh Og O Tuama (pronounced aaaaY-Ohg O Too-uh-muh), comprise the touring portion of the band, and they recently came to town to plug the new CD.

The new album has some surprisingly neat moments—Martin, who studied several years under a student of Ravi Shankar, plays some amazingly melodic tunes on her sitar, which for most western ears is a never-acquired taste. O Tuama's delightful Irish voice is the perfect compliment. And the instrumentals are all done with an excitement that you don't capture too often on CD. And a big "hats off" to them for taking some risks with a neat version of Sandy Denny's

"Who Knows Where the Time Goes."

I suspect you will be seeing this CD on Con tables in the dealer's room soon, and I double-suggest you pick it up. It's a good one!

Tom Tuerff (sometimes known as the Con Curmudgeon) writes filk-related columns for ConNotations. If you have a CD that you want reviewed, mail one to Tom at the ConNotations address, or contact him at nudeadguy@aol.com for his home address.



PRO NOTES

by Daryl F. Mallett

Hello from now-cooling Tempe, Arizona. It's nice now that the heat has gone and we even got some rain!

Busy times here. Writers descended on the Phoenix Public Library in mid-October as they hosted a science fiction and fantasy symposium. It brought the sf/fantasy/horror community out in force. In attendance, both officially and unofficially, were local writers and artists like **Rick Cook, Liz Danforth, Emily Devenport, Alan Dean Foster, Alan Gutierrez, Ernest Hogan, Daryl Mallett, Pete Manly, Don Markstein, Bob McCall, Dennis McKiernan, Adam Niswander, Melanie Rawn, Ken St. Andre, Mike Stackpole, and John Vornholt**, among others. Imported specially for the event were **Tim Zahn, Harry Turtledove, Jane Lindskold**, and Del Rey editor **Steve Saffel**. I saw BNFs (Big-Name Fans) and other prominent people in the local fan community in attendance, such as **Barry Bard, Jean Goddin, Mike Willmoth, Jeff Jennings, Nola Yergen, Lee Whiteside, Jo Webber, Doug Cospser, Ethan Moe, Shahn & Rachel Cornell, Chuck Jarvis**, and more. It was a great turn-out.

TusCon took place in Tucson in November, as well. In attendance were many of the folks we saw at the Phoenix Library, as well as **Janni Lee Simner, Catherine Wells, Larry Hammer**, and others. **Ed Bryant** caught a cold and couldn't make it, so **Mike Stackpole** took over admirably as Toastmaster.

Paul H. Cook's novel, *The Engines of Dawn*, is forthcoming from Roc SF in February 1999. He reports that "The Doc Savage Fans of Bronze (Arizona) will be holding a mini-PulpCon in March or April that will allow Arizona and California pulp-era fans—not just Doc Savage fans—to get together to kibitz, buy, sell, or trade."

Alan Dean Foster has been busy. His novel *Phylogenesis*, the first volume in "The Founding of the Commonwealth," will appear in hardcover from Del Rey in June 1999, to be followed in succession by *Dirge and Diuturnity's Dawn*. He reports, "Forthcoming from Warner in mid-1999 will be *A Triumph of Souls*, the second volume in the "Journeys of the Catechist" trilogy; from HarperCollins, *The Hand of Dinotopia*; plus assorted short subjects. *Our Lady of the Machine* was the opening episode for the new series, *Welcome to Paradox*, showing on The Sci-Fi Channel."

Frank Kelly Freas' artwork was commissioned by and shown on the History Channel's program, *In Search Of: Legends of the Werewolves* on October 26 and re-aired November 13

and 14. Kelly turned in a cover to Tor Books for **Poul Anderson's** novel, *Operation Luna*; delivered a cover and interior double-page spread for the January '99 issue of *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*; and completed a commission for a spooky-themed painting in a fancy frame as an heirloom piece for a Victorian dollhouse. It was an approximately 2" x 2.5" painting done on ivory in classical miniature technique. "The client was extremely pleased and ordered two more paintings." Kelly is currently working on the cover and double-page spread interior for *Analog's* April issue and, in December, began work on a cover for issue number 4 of Day 1 Comics' Astounding Space Thrills in full color and in realistic style.

Laura Brodian Freas is keeping busy as Executive Director of Kelly Freas Studios, as relief announcer at KKGO-FM radio in Los Angeles, where she hosts the classical music programs and voicetracks commercials for the station and as host of Delta Symphony's announcer on voicetrack selections of classical music for in-flight entertainment programs aboard Delta Airlines.

Artist **Alan Gutierrez** has been working on interior art for *Marion Zimmer Bradley's Fantasy Magazine*. His next published work will be a cover for TSR's "Forgotten Realms" line, a book called *The Dream Spheres*, to be released in March 1999.

Fiona Kelleghan had her first professional short story appear in the October issue of *Realms of Fantasy*.

Pam Keesey reports "I'm currently working with **Rick R. Reed** on an anthology of short horror fiction entitled *Out of the Shadows and Into the Night*, which should be published in the late spring of 1999."

Katherine Lawrence says to "look for *ReBoot* to air on The Cartoon Channel starting in January. Season 3 will finally air in the U.S., including my episode, 'Megaframe.' Also look for *War Planets* and episode #7, "'J' Accuse" (also by me), in syndication. My *Jim Henson's Muppet Babies* and *Beetlejuice* episodes appear on Nickelodeon in constant rotation."

Daryl F. Mallett continues to write nonfiction essays for St. James Press, turning in seven in the latest batch, and is writing for *Vocational Biographies* and Salem Press' *Critical Survey of Long Fiction: Second Revised Edition*, among others. A nonfiction book, *Pilgrims & Pioneers: The History and Speeches of the Science Fiction Research Association Award Winners*, ed. with **Hal W. Hall**, will be released from SFRA Press in early 1999. He just finished editing *The Whispering Gorilla* by **Don Wilcox** and *Return of the Whispering Gorilla* by **David V. Reed** for Gryphon. He and **Kevin Birnbaum** have finished technothriller novel, *White Horse*, and

are shopping it around, along with the screenplay of the same name. Daryl is now working on novel *Lava* with **Max Espinoza**, based on the comic book character of the same name created by Espinoza & **Ruben Gerard**; *Like the Awesome Gleam of Crystal*, a novel based on **E. C. "Ted" Tubb's** 1954 classic, *Alien Life*, "which I hope will turn into a collaboration with Ted"; and solo novel *Morpheus*, based on the CD-ROM game of the same name. Daryl's writing website is at www.geocities.com/Area51/1295 and www.bluefiretech.com is his business site.

Book #2 of **Dennis L. McKiernan's** "Hel's Crucible" duology, *Into the Fire*, a hardcover, came out in September, along with the mass market paperback of Book #1, *Into the Forge*. Dennis reports, "I am currently working on *Silver Wolf, Black Falcon*. It is the sequel to the entire Mithgarian story arc, and as such may be the last of the 'Mithgar' books (I mean, after 13 or so 'Mithgar' books, I should wrap it up with the 14th, don't you think?)." His short story "Final Conquest," is coming out in an anthology in December, edited by **Margaret Weis**.

Texas firebrand **K. Hutson Oper** had a series of shorts called "Test Patterns in Red" published "in the local fantasy magazine, *Underglass*. Local is, of course, the Austin, Texas area." She reports, "Currently I am hawking my historical fantasy piece on the lives of Queen Elizabeth and Mary, Queen of Scots entitled *Spence's Sidhe Queen*. I have just begun the research for my first military science fiction novel, which was inspired from the **Wil McCarthy/Elizabeth Moon** debate at ArmadilloCon." She also told me that she "will be appearing daily at the University of Texas English Department until I receive my Masters degree."

Jennifer Roberson is finishing up *Lady of Sherwood*, which is due out in December 1999; and editing *Out of Avalon*, an Arthurian anthology. She reports, "Next up for me will be serious world-building for an entirely new fantasy universe/series I'm tentatively calling 'Caravans,' including a world overview, outlines of the first two books, plus sample chapters for the first novel, so my agent can begin marketing the package in the Spring. After that I'll write *Sword-Sworn*, the seventh 'Sword-Dancer' novel."

Kenneth St. Andre has been writing reviews for *kluttered visions* and has been busy with his web pages. He says, "If anyone would like to buy some SF and comic magazines from the Seventies and Eighties, have them get in touch with me. I'm trying to sell my *Heavy Metal* collection, and I'd also be willing to sell back issues of *Weird Tales* and some other things from that time period. Anyone interested should look at

www.geocities.com/Area51/Cavern/9921 and scroll down toward the bottom of the page to find the link to the *Heavy Metal* and other magazines listing." He also reports, "Simon & Schuster has released Volume 1 of *The Scribner Encyclopedia of American Lives*. Among hundreds of entries it also contains a 1,000-word biography of **Philip K. Dick** authored by me. Dick is the only science fiction author in the book."

Janni Lee Simner's novelette, "Raising Jenny," will appear in the Roc anthology *Not of Woman Born*, edited by Constance Ash, coming out in March 1999.

Scott P. Vaughn and **Tamera K. Frahm** are working on issues #1/2, #2 and #3 of their comic book, *Hero-Lore* and the next issue of *M&V MagaZine*.

Sean Alan Wallace and **Philip Harbottle** report that their agency, The Cosmos Literary Agency, will soon be entering the small press publishing market with four books, starting in early 1998 with *Malkar*, by **E. C. "Ted" Tubb**, a new fantasy novel. Distribution will be through Ingram Books, and the format will be trade paperbacks with full four-color covers by British SF artist Ron Turner. Sean also reports that *The Tall Adventurer: The Works of E. C. Tubb*, by Philip Harbottle and Sean Wallace, was published recently by **Roger Robinson** of Becon Publications in a limited press run of 300, and is currently being offered for £2 or US\$20. It offers the collector, reader, and researcher some 200 pages of comprehensive critiques and listings of everything E. C. Tubb has written in his career. It also includes 20 pages of black-and-white cover reproductions of his books and magazine appearances. In the UK the book can be ordered straight from Robinson at Becon Publications; 75 Rosslyn Ave.; Harold Wood; Essex, RM3 0RG ENGLAND. In the U.S., copies are now available from **Chris Drumm** Books, or it can be ordered directly from Wallace.

Catherine Wells' novel *Beyond the Gates* is due out in June 1999 from Roc. She reports, "I've just finished up a novel called *The Crystal Desert*, which my agent is shopping, and I'm in the very early stages of a sequel to *Beyond the Gates*, tentatively entitled *Builders of the Leaf Houses*." She appeared at TusCon in November, and will appear at ConDor in San Diego, CA, Feb. 12-14, 1999.

That's it for this round. If you don't see someone on the list that you think should be, let me know, nudge them to email me (bluefire@zwolf.net), etc. See you next time!

Come to the 'oasis'



Arizona in 2002 Our Bid for the 55th Westercon

About the Bid

Fans in Arizona conduct three annual literary sf cons (TusCon, CopperCon and LepreCon), a gaming convention (HexaCon), and publish a 2,000 circulation 'zine called ConNotations (published four times annually and distributed free to attendees of Arizona conventions). There are other fan-run conventions, such as CorsairCon, DarkCon, and gaming conventions.

We've also hosted larger and national/international events. Members of our Bid Committee have been involved in the 1982, 1988, and 1992 Westercon, 1987 NASFIC, 1985 and 1991 World Fantasy Convention, and the World Horror Convention.

Our local conventions feature such guests as Stephen R. Donaldson, Larry Niven and David Weber. With guests like these for local conventions, imagine what we will do for our Westercon!

Membership

To support our efforts to win the Westercon for Arizona, we are offering memberships in the bid. Members of the bid who vote at the 2000 Westercon will become attending members of the convention.

Ask about our
"Frequent Fan
Plan"

Pre-support \$10.00 - Pre-Oppose \$20.00

Ask us about Bid Committee positions and information.

Send check to: WesterCon 2002, PO Box 745 1, Phoenix, AZ 85011 (Make payable to: AZ in '02)
Membership Type: pre-supports @ \$10.00 pre-opposes @ \$20-00

NAME: _____

BADGE NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

24 Frames

by Margaret Grady

PREVIEWS

The Big News

Star Wars: The Phantom Menace - stars Liam Neeson, Natalie Portman, Ewan McGregor and Samuel Jackson (among many). Much awaited, at least by me. Star Wars was a life-changer for me, so this one has a lot to live up to. The trailer debuted here in the Valley on the big screen on Nov. 17, but I saw it on the net. (Rumor has it, though, that sell-out crowds turned out to see "The Siege" and then left immediately following the exclusive showing of the SW trailer.)



© Lucas Films

Samuel Jackson was gloating over having the first action figure out. But of course, how could he not?

My hope for this movie is that the young Queen, as portrayed by Natalie Portman, will be revealed to be a very strong character (and Leia or her line will take on more potential depth as an eventual result). We will also get confirmation that Leia's odd hairstyles are genetic.

Well, May 21 is the date to mark on your calendar. (Didn't #4' debuted here on May 21 in '77, too?) A long time to wait, if you ask me. Fortunately for us, Mr. Lucas is already at work preparing Episode 2, which coincidentally, he plans on having ready by the year 2.

Star Trek: Insurrection - stars the NextGen cast, associate produced by Patrick Stewart, and directed by Jonathan Frakes.

Well, they finally dumped the numbering scheme, and what a good idea that was! Now all will forget the old even-odd/good-bad comparison and just take each film as it is! (Plus, I'm sure they'd rather not remind us how many of these we've sat through, or we might just stop going.) I must admit, while I thought that the trailer was designed to be inspiring and get you to feel emotional about their

"mission," it seriously fell short for me. I will go see the movie because it is a Star Trek movie...but not because of the preview. Blech. (Hmm. Well, after all, it is #9....)

Rumors from folks who've seen the rough cut (and who knows what'll make it in the end): Riker and Troi are together in a tub, where she shaves off his beard; there is some unbearably cute alien pet (aack!); the 'Riker Maneuver' is memorable; Geordi sans visor; Picard gets some nookie from older but pretty alien; Worf goes through Klingon puberty; excellent comedy throughout; Worf and Picard sing to a malfunctioning Data; Worf gets a zit; there's references to Jadzia Dax; and a guest appearance by Quark at the end

The movie is scheduled to open December 11. See you there!

Supernova — A movie about the search and rescue patrol of a deep-space medical ship and its six member crew. When they answer a distress signal from a distant comet mining operation, the crew soon finds itself in danger from the mysterious young man they rescue, the alien artifact he's smuggled aboard, and the gravitational pull of a giant star about to go supernova. This movie stars James Spader and Angela Bassett, and is set to open in the first quarter of 99.

Lord of the Rings - Yes, you read that right. While only in the development stages, New Line Cinema has committed to creatively and financially support this three film project, which will be shot back-to-back in New Zealand. Director Peter Jackson says "...we will be treating Tolkien's work with the respect and integrity it deserves." I hope he's right.

End of Days - In early production, it will be an action movie, and star Arnold Schwarzenegger vs. (could it be?) Satan!

I Am Legend - Ridley Scott is working on this new version (originally starring C. Heston, called Omega Man)... and it was going to be starring Arnold, until he backed out and went with End of Days. Now rumor has it that they're looking at Kurt Russell... but the whole project seems to be on ice.

Highlander: The Search For Connor - Adrian Paul (Duncan) and Christopher Lambert (Connor) are both slated to star in this one. I don't think filming has even started on this one yet.

REVIEWS

(In Current Release)

Enemy of the State - stars Will Smith, Gene Hackman, and Jon Voight. Good thriller, less obsessive and more realistic (in some ways) than Conspiracy Theory. But then I think everyone's out to get me. And, I think Will Smith could run for President in several years and win. (Heck, just look at Jesse "the Mind" Ventura, the current governor of Minnesota?)



© Paramount

Meet Joe Black - good flick, just a bit too long. There were scenes I would have trimmed, and I cringed at the daughter's total unquestioning at the "end", but overall, I definitely liked it. (BTW, Brad Pitt has abnormally small ears, IMHO.)

Elizabeth - Fabulous movie! I don't know "facts" about the time period, so I wasn't lost keeping track of inaccuracies, and therefore simply enjoyed my movie-going experience. Good flick about a strong independent woman, making the most of her life and that of her country, given the limitations of her situation. I suspect Cate Blanchett has a good shot at this year's Oscar.

Very Bad Things - Starring Christian Slater, Cameron Diaz, and more. Can you

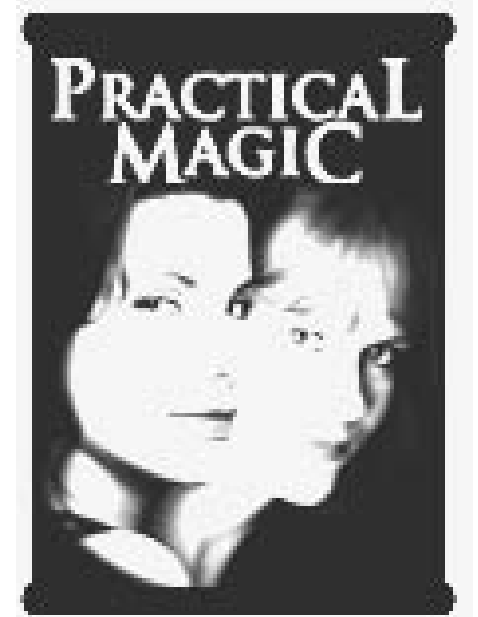


say Black Comedy? I laughed quite a bit, and at things I wouldn't normally. Sick, sick, sick. But I laughed! The trailer gives away too much of the fun, though.

Babe: Pig in the City - Not as cute as the first, and barely has James Cromwell in it at all. A couple of disturbing scenes for animal lovers, but an intriguing concept for Everycity.

Pleasantville - Like The Truman Show, Pleasantville has deeper philosophical messages. I enjoyed the play on discrimination against Coloreds... and Jeff Daniels does a better job here than in anything else I've seen him in.

A Bug's Life - You HAVE to stay to watch the credits... they're the best part! (But you can go after they're done talking... the only thing you'd miss after that is the cute credit "Filmed on Location.") Stars the voices of Dave Foley, Julia Louis-Dreyfus, and Kevin Spacey, among others. The only voice that kept throwing me was Kevin Spacey's character, Hopper. His voice was too smooth and likable to be this bad guy....



Practical Magic - Stars Sandra Bullock, Nicole Kidman, and Aidan Quinn: all do a fine job. (And the aunts, played by Stockard Channing and Dianne Wiest, were delightful.) Decent story, but I didn't like the last scene.

John Carpenter's Vampires - What the hell was he thinking?? I am a big JC fan from way back, and I put up with a lot back in the days of a smaller budget. But, I'm sorry, now he has no excuse. No serious complaints about the directing, per se, but the writing SUCKED.

What Dreams May Come - Stars Robin Williams and Annabella Sciorra. Fabulous effects... what a lot of work! Loved the color imagery, and agreed with much of the message. Lost some of the impact in the end, IMHO... too pat and quickly resolved. (For another review of this movie see below)

cont'd on page 10

HEXACON 9

Arizona's Gaming Convention

July 9 -11, 1999 Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale

Sanctioned Tournaments:

RPGA

Magic CCG

US Chess Federation

GoH: Derek Percy, Author of In Nomine

Other Guests TBA

Board Gaming

Miniatures

Computer Network Gaming

LARP

'Bot Bash

Miniatures Painting Contest

Dealer's Room

Game Auction

Video room

Full Consuite

Gaming starts at 10:00 AM on Friday, July 9 and runs NON-STOP until Sunday, July 11 at 3PM

Membership Rates: \$15 until 5/31/99 \$20 at the door

Hotel Information:

Holiday Inn Sunspree
7601 E Indian Bend Rd
Scottsdale, AZ
(602) 991-2400
Room: \$59 S/D
Suite: \$98 S/D

Memberships & Information:

HexaCon 9
PO Box 62613
Phoenix, AZ 85082
email: boniece@aol.com
Website:
<http://members.aol.com/boniece/index.html>

in January but was pushed back due to several factors. The original first episode was to start off with the crew together and off on their mission. After some discussions with TNT, a new first episode was written that follows almost immediately after the events of "A Call to Arms" and shows us how Captain Gideon brings together his team. TNT's other new series, **Witchblade**, has been much slower to begin production and has not even started filming yet, thus making it not available until later to start up along

Tuvok has a relationship with an alien; "Latent Image" has the Doctor discovering his mind has been tampered with and the clues are in the photographs he's been taking as a hobby; "The Bride of Chaotica" which has aliens from a parallel dimension make first contact with the Captain Proton villain, Dr. Chaotica. Supposedly takes place entirely on the holodeck and in black and white; "Bliss" has the crew lured into a fake wormhole that is actually a predator; "Disease" has Harry Kim catch a strange virus after being intimate with an alien (will we see ads for Trojans

back to "Arizona" a few times. Upcoming episodes are "Terms of Endearment" with Bruce Campbell as a demon who may be responsible for some strange births in a small Blue Ridge town; "Tithonus" where a photographer sees people in black and white when their deaths are imminent; "S.R.819" sees the return of Mitch Pileggi as Skinner (he's had some time off to film a movie). He's been poisoned and has 24 hours to live unless they can find who poisoned him; "Rain King" has a TV weatherman causing some strange weather and Mulder and Scully crashing a high school reunion to investigate; and during February sweeps we'll have a two-part "Mythology" episode with all the regulars. We'll also see another Lone Gunmen focused episode as well as a return of Darren McGavin as former agent Arthur Dales with flashbacks to the early days of the X-Files in several episodes later in the season.

Elsewhere in the SFTV Universe, **Buffy The Vampire Slayer** continues to change things around with the characters leaving viewers guessing as to what will happen next. Advance info on upcoming episodes is scarce to dig up as well. Expect to see Angel head off to Los Angeles soon and for Cordelia to end up

recent news on the fate of **Hollyweird**, which likely means it will never make it to air. UPN has had some success with **7 Days** and has given it a full season order. They pulled the plug on **Mercy Point** after only three shows, however, and the ratings for their Thursday night SF movie have been fair at best. They've made a big commitment to those movies, so don't expect them to go away anytime soon. They plan to launch the animated **Dilbert** series early in January and will be bringing **The Sentinel** back in March.

In the syndicated arena, **Hercules** and **Xena** battle on with Herc having spent a lot of time wondering around (Ireland and Norway) after seeing Iolaus killed(?) by Dahak. As we broke for the holiday repeat season, Dahak has returned possessing Iolaus' body and has headed off towards Greece with Hercules, Nebula and Morrigan in pursuit. Before they continue on with the story, they'll have another episode where the actors on Herc and Xena play the production crew on the show as they brainstorm ways to add "spice" to Hercules. Xena and Gabrielle will end up traveling to India later in the season for several episodes. Worth checking out is the **Young Hercules** show on Fox Kids, currently airing Tue-Fri at 3:30 pm. It expands on the Young Herc flashbacks we've seen in the regular show and occasionally features some of the Gods we've seen Hercules deal with as a grownup. They're pretty good quality for a half hour kids show and if you're a fan of Hercules, set your VCR to catch Young Hercules in action.

Earth: Final Conflict has undergone some changes in addition to replacing their lead actor. Reports are that some new producers and writers are being brought in for the latter part of the season in an attempt to get the show back on track and Majel Barrett-Roddenberry and David Kirschner will be more involved. The first part of the new season has not been near as compelling as the first season was and the powers-that-be have apparently realized it and are attempting to fix it.

Highlander: The Raven has gotten mixed reviews from Highlander fans. Expect things to pick up when new episodes resume early next year when we get a guest appearance by Jim Byrnes as Joe Dawson and Valentine Pelka (Kronos in Highlander) appears as the Immortal Andre Korda, her former mentor who is now after her head. As with Highlander, they will move the action to Europe for the latter half of the season.

Starting in January on Kids WB is **Batman Beyond**, which is set some 50 years in the future where a new Batman takes over, assisted by an elderly, reclusive, Bruce Wayne. Look for a smattering of new animated **Superman** and **Batman** episodes during February and maybe May. The Sci-Fi Channel has picked up



Crusade. Throw in the uncertainties with the NBA player's strike/lockout, and TNT decided to hold off the start of the series until June, when playoffs (assuming there are any) are all over and they can launch the new shows when everyone else is in repeats.

We'll have much more on Crusade next issue, including a look at how they are making sure the science is right, more details on the characters and the people who play them, and how things have changed at Babylonian with the changeover to the new series.

Leaving behind The Babylon 5 Universe, we find that there's still a lot going on in the Star Trek universe. Besides the continuing adventures of the Next Generation crew in **Star Trek: Insurrection** (now in theaters), we've got the continuing journey of **Voyager** to check up on as well as the final season of **Deep Space Nine** to continue with.

Over on **Voyager**, in real life they had to contend with a fire which set off all the fire sprinklers resulting in a lot of fire damage. If you noticed very few bridge scenes for a few episodes, that's why. Upcoming episodes include "Refugee", where Voyager comes across a powerful race that persecutes telepaths. When Voyager takes on some telepathic refugees, they also have to hide the Vulcans as well; "Gravity" has Tom Paris and the Doctor trapped on a planet while

with this episode?) and "Dark Frontier", a two part Borg story where the Borg try to re-assimilate Seven of Nine and it will feature a guest appearance by Alice Krige, reprising her role as the Borg Queen from "Star Trek: First Contact."

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine continues on with its final season, tying up some loose ends as they work their way towards the two hour series finale. Upcoming episodes include "It's Only a Paper Moon" which has Nog dealing with his injuries sustained on AR558 by retreating to the holosuites; "Prodigal Daughter" which introduces us to Ezri's family and shows us what her life was like before joining with Dax; "The Emperor's New Cloak", which is the final Mirror Universe episode and has The Grand Nagus going to the mirror universe to try to set up trade and Quark and Rom following to rescue him; another episode which gets Bashir involved with the covert Section 31 organization on a mission to Romulus and Odo finds another Changeling "baby" played by J.G. Hertzler (Martok).

The **X-Files** finally started their season in early November, following up on the movie and last year's season finale with a show set in the Phoenix metro area. Where those "Rolling Hills" of Mesa are located is still a big mystery, now that the show has moved production to L.A. don't be surprised if their story lines bring them



there as well to set up the Angel spinoff show.

Of the new shows on the networks, **Charmed** has been the biggest hit, out drawing most everything else on The WB (including Buffy). One of the writers for the show, Javier Grillo-Marxuch, commented at LosCon that they continually have some ideas shot down because they've already been done on Buffy. Over on FOX, **Brimstone** has done fair in the ratings and has had some compelling shows dealing with the various escaped souls that need to be sent back. Fox recently gave the show an order for an additional six episodes. There's been no

“**First Wave**” produced by Francis Ford Coppola to start airing in March. It centers around a man who has discovered a vast conspiracy of alien infiltration of Earth. He is framed for the murder of his wife and is now on the run from the police, a mysterious government agent as well as the aliens. Debuting in January should be “**Far Horizon**” from the Jim Henson company about a 20th century astronaut catapulted across the galaxy to an alien world. They will also air the fourth season of **Poltergeist: The Legacy** starting early in the year and should run the rest of the fourth season of **Sliders**. They have picked up **Sliders** for a fifth season, but it will continue without the O’Connells, introducing some new characters to replace them at the start of the season being played by Robert Floyd and Tembi Locke.

Midseason on the networks will see “**Strange World**” on ABC, created by former X-Files producer Howard Gordon. It follows the investigations of Paul Turner (Tim Guinee - Vampires) who contracted a deadly illness in the Gulf War but is kept alive by an antidote delivered to him on a regular basis. In the



Robot head 790 & Zev in “Lexx”

series, science has gotten out of control and is being abused by corporations, governments and individuals. Turner helps to investigate and stop these abuses as part of a covert team while being somewhat of a puppet to whoever keeps bringing his antidote. It looks to be an interesting series but may get derailed by ABC’s lack of commitment to anything genre related.

Showtime will debut **Total Recall 2070** in March starring Michael Easton and Cynthia Preston. It is based very loosely on the Total Recall movie and from some reports of the pilot is much more like a series based on “Blade Runner” than “Total Recall”. Look for it in syndication next fall. Elsewhere in the world, the weekly series of **Lexx** is starting, based on the four TV movies aired in the U.S. on the Movie Channel as “**Tales From a Parallel Universe**”. So

far no outlet has been arranged in the U.S. Over in the U.K., the new season of **Red Dwarf** starts airing in January or February, so look for the new episodes to turn up on the PBS stations that carry the show a few months after the U.K. airings.

Short tidbits:

The Crow: Stairway to Heaven has done a good job translating the setting of the first movie to a weekly TV series. It has gotten decent ratings and is a good bet to continue to another season.

Fantasy Island has been pulled by ABC, which hasn’t been happy with the show or its ratings, and it is being retooled before coming back to the air with more involvement by producer Barry Sonnenfeld.

Conan has been canceled in its current incarnation, but it apparently isn’t quite dead yet. The producers of Mortal Kombat have picked up the rights and plan to relaunch it next season as a “grittier” show.

Other shows in the works for syndication next fall include “**Beastmaster**”, “**Dragonriders of Pern**”, and “**The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne**”. Also in the works for FOX is a mini-series based on Kim Stanley Robinson’s Mars novels produced by James Cameron, who also has a 13 episode commitment from FOX for a weekly “futuristic drama”.

Videophile

“Armageddon”

Buena Vista / Touchstone Pictures.

In this disaster film Bruce Willis saves the world again. Actually this is a very fun action/adventure films with one of the better antihero, Bruce Willis.

A meteor, the size of Texas is heading for earth. NASA decides the only way to save earth is to drill an 2800 foot hole in the meteor and ignite a hydrogen bomb in it. This will split the meteor and it will miss the earth. The only one on earth really qualified to do this is Bruce and this team of misfit oil rig drillers. NASA doesn’t quite trust these misfits and the adventure proceeds from there.

If you are an action/adventure fan you need to see this film. - Barry Bard...

“**Mulan**” 87 Mins Disney.

Finally Mulan is out on video. After several so-so Disney animated films, Disney has put out another animated film everybody should see and own. Through not well publicized this film is extremely enjoyable.

This is the legendary story of a young

Chinese girl who impersonates a boy, joins the army to save her father and becomes one of the great heros of China. The movie is an adventure, love story, and comedy. With Disney renown expertise at creating comedy sub characters, nasty villains, beautiful heroines and strong heros, children of all ages will be memorized by this film. A must to have in your film collection. - Barry Bard...

Video Releases

“Good Will Hunting”	12/01/1998
“Scream 2”	12/01/1998
“The Wedding Singer”	12/01/1998
“Blade”	12/22/1998
“The Rescuers”	01/05/1999
“Freeriders”	01/12/1999
“54”	01/12/1999
“Smoke Signals”	01/19/1999
“MAFIA”	01/19/1999
“Rush Hour”	01/26/1999
“Mulan”	02/02/1999
“101 Dalmatians”	03/09/1999

Additional Movie Reviews:

What Dreams May Come - Diving right in, I found WHAT DREAMS MAY COME a moving and thought provoking film. The movie examines the meaning of life and death in a unique way that compels the audience to examine the why and wherefore of existence. Directed by Vincent Ward, the film was written by Academy Award winner Ron Bass (Rainman) from the novel by fantasist Richard Matheson (Somewhere in Time, Incredible Shrinking Man). The outstanding cast also includes Cuba Gooding, Jr. and Max Von Sydow

The scenes of real life were filmed in as stylish a manner as were the more surreal scenes of Heaven and Hell. This movie is a wonder to behold, although it's not without it's flaws. Several flashbacks were jarring in their abrupt transition.

"To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, that is all." Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

S*P*O*I*L*E*R*S - You've been warned!

Robin Williams plays Christy, a man who lives for four years with the deaths of his two children in an automobile accident only to be hit by a car himself when he goes to the aid of a man trapped in an overturned vehicle. The story is about the love he has for his family, his

wife, Annie (Annabella Sciorra), and the life and souls they share before and after death.

"Life is what happens while you are making other plans." John Lennon (1940-1980)

Robin Williams once again proves his worth as a comedic actor who can make you cry. In turn he is gentle, tough, generous, demanding, understanding, and oblivious. This role recalls his work in THE WORLD ACCORDING TO GARP, but it has a greater range and depth. I'll be surprised if he isn't nominated for an Oscar.

The sequences in Heaven and Hell were classic in their view and grand in their scope. After his death, Christy's Heaven is awash (literally) in a landscape of oils. The pigments of the flowers, grasses, and trees have a thickness, texture, and a depth that make you feel as if you have been transported into a painters' freshly created world. The surrealistic scenes in Hell reminded me of the work of the 15th/16th century Flemish painter, Hieronymus Bosch, a man I'm sure Sigmund Freud would have enjoyed analyzing.

As the film built to the conclusion, I began to fear the ending. Would Christy's love of Anne compel him to join her in her suicide induced Hell, would he admit defeat and return to his rediscovered children, or would they all live happily

ever after in a syrupy sweet happy ending. My fears were without substance and I felt that the ending was satisfying.

One member of the audience called this, "An \$80 million dollar art film," but I feel that it's more mainstream than most art films and contains more art than most mainstream films, and therein may lay a problem. WHAT DREAMS MAY COME is a beautiful film that may never be seen by people who could benefit most from it's messages about life and what it means to be a human being. I recommend this film.

"Death does determine life....Once life is finished it acquires a sense; up to that point it has not got a sense; its sense is suspended and therefore ambiguous. However, to be sincere I must add that for me death is important only if it is not justified and rationalized by reason. For me death is the maximum of epicness and death." Pier Paolo Pasolini (1922-75) Italian filmmaker, author. - Shane Shellenbarger

Very Bad Things - Starring Christian Slater and Cameron Diaz Also Starring Daniel Stern, Jean Tripplehorn, Jeremy Riven, Jim Favreau, Leland Orser

This film should be NC 17 if it isn't. The dismemberment scene near the beginning and the ridiculous reassembly scene at the burial in the desert would strain the stomachs of a large portion of the potential audience.

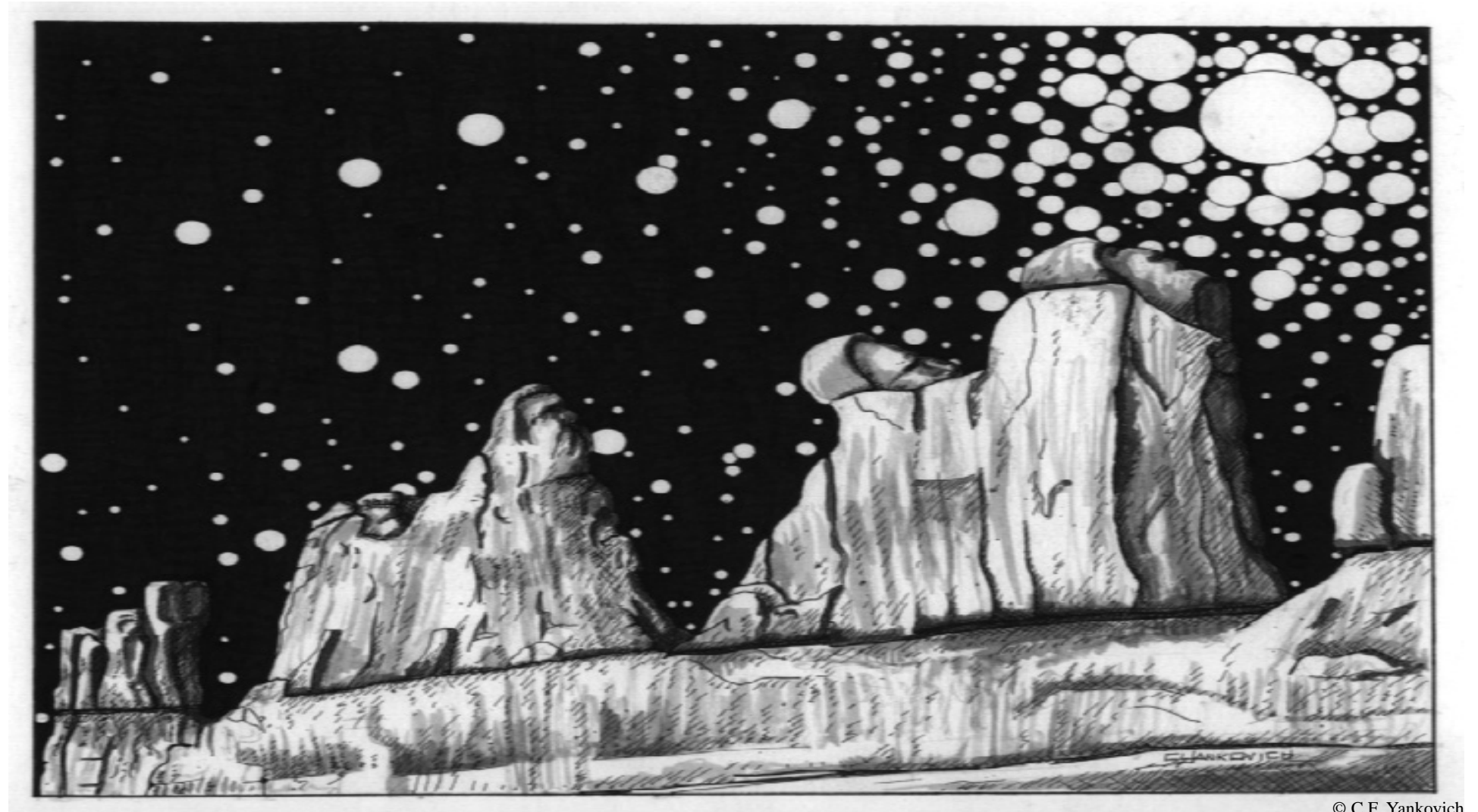
It begins with a ridiculous accidental death at a bachelor party in Los Vegas, continues on to multiple murders accompanied by some rather good comedy. The directing was excellent, the acting superb, the characters well developed.

Christian Slater was excellent a the weirdo real estate sales person, whose craziness led the five friends into the whole mess. He was amoral, convincing and obviously sociopathic. The only reason you can believe that four ordinary stodgy men would follow him is the fact that the plot makes it clear that he had been leading them around by the nose since third grade.

Cameron Diaz is awesome as the bride whose fixation on marriage to Jim Favreau's character remains strong as she finds out about the deaths and becomes active in planning and executing more mayhem.

Jim Favreau shines as the befuddled bridegroom to whom all of this just happens without him having to contribute the least effort (except at the beginning when he slipped on the wet floor while interacting with the stripper in the bathroom).

The movie moves through to a conclusion where everyone is either dead or in such miserable circumstances that they wish they were. Justice is served. If you have a strong stomach and like grim comedy which ends with no hope or optimism, this is your movie.-Gary Swaty



© C.F. Yankovich

ELFQUEST: WOLFRIDER!

The current series in the double decade old saga -

by Shane Shellenbarger

The back cover of an issue of ElfQuest says the following: “Twenty Years of Pointed Ears.” When you’re the creator of a series that has been around for twenty years, you have to think up new ways to update the old story. To make the story fresh may mean introducing new characters, revamping old characters, or allowing new hands to shape the lives of new and old characters. Wendy Pini has begun working with Christy Marx (SISTERHOOD OF STEEL, BABYLON 5) in ELFQUEST Vol. 2, Num.19 with the story “Wolfrider.” Marx recently answered a few questions about this collaborative effort.

SS: How were you approached to write for this twelve issue series?

CM: Wendy and I have been talking about me writing an ElfQuest story or series for years. For one reason or

another, it never quite happened. Usually, I was too wrapped up in other things to come up with a story to pitch. Then one day I was visiting with Wendy and she told me about the Wolfriders saga she wanted to have someone do. She asked me if I’d be interested. I loved the idea instantly. It was a perfect match, dealing with characters I really love.

SS: Did you write the entire series as one story and then go back and divide it into twelve parts or did you write each issue segment as one twelfth of an over arcing story?

CM: Wendy had overall notes on what she wanted the series to cover, and the tone and feel of it. I wrote the entire 12-part arc up in segments, working out the major beats. We went back and forth over this until I had a beat-by-beat outline to work from. I’m writing it one chapter at a time.

SS: You share story credit with Wendy Pini. How was the writing divided between the two of you?

CM: I’m doing all the writing, though Wendy adds her polish and changes to it once I turn it in.

SS: Did you two co-plot the story?

CM: Wendy and I had many long, wonderful sessions where we plotted out the events, what would happen to the characters, great pieces of action and drama, crossflows of emotion —

everything but the specific beats which I did after taking lots of notes during the plotting sessions.

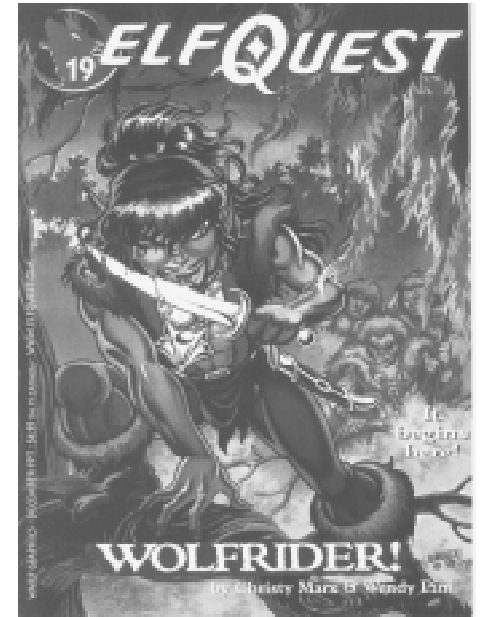
SS: Which do you find more difficult, to write your own stories alone or to work with someone else in their own universe?

CM: It depends on the universe. Wendy and I think alike, which makes it much easier for us to be in tune on the series. At the same time, it’s much harder for me to get the dialogue exactly right for someone else’s characters. Wendy has lived with the characters in her head for 20 years. I can never match that. Whereas when I’m writing my own stories, obviously I have those characters’ voices firmly fixed in my head, so that’s easier.

I’m pretty good at tapping into other creators’ universes, but not always. There are some that simply don’t resonate with me, and I’ll never be able to write for them. Given a choice, I’d rather be doing my own original series. In reality, nearly all my work involves working inside someone

else’s universe. I have no choice except to be good at it.

With ElfQuest, that’s a lot easier because I love the series and have read and collected it since it first appeared. This isn’t just a writing job; it’s a labor of love for both Wendy and me. And let me say, too, she is a gem to work with. I couldn’t be having a better time. She’s brilliant, talented and a wonderful friend.



ConClusion

LepreCon 24 Review

By Mike Willmoth

LepreCon 24 was held May 15-17, 1998 at the Francisco Grande Resort in Casa Grande, AZ, about 45 miles south of Phoenix. LepreCon has been at this site since Lep21. Once again we filled the hotel with around 400 science fiction & fantasy fans, pros and staff.

This year's Guests-of-Honor were: Artist Janny Wurts, Author Tim Powers, Featured Local Artist Cathie Yankovich, Media GoH Marc Scott Zicree, Filk GoHs Jeff Bohnhoff & Maya Kaatherine Bohnhoff, and Special Artist Don Maitz. Janny Wurts is not only an artist (Master of Whitestorm cover), but an author (Cycle of Fire trilogy, amongst others). Tim Powers writes fantasy (On Stranger Tides, The Stress Of Her Regard, etc.). Cathie Yankovich has had her work published in Analog and Marion Zimmer Bradley Fantasy magazines and has been displayed at over 30 exhibitions. Marc Scott Zicree is a producer on the 4th season of Sliders and sold scripts to various SF-related TV series. The Bohnhoffs have tapes out of their music as well as Maya being a published author (4 books and in Analog magazine). Don Maitz is best known for his Captain Morgan's Spiced Rum pirate, but has won the Hugo award numerous times for other works, and is married to Janny Wurts!

The convention was different for me this year as I was unwinding from World Horror Convention the previous weekend. I had a friend come in from out of town, so I didn't commit to much but having fun. We arrived at-con from Sky Harbor Airport on Friday in time to run the Bix Bash which is an event where online friends from the Bix service (owned by Delphi Internet Services) get together to bash ourselves with good humor, puns and food. This year was the first where G. Harry Stine couldn't make it due to his early passing from this plane of existence to the next. So, our bash was in his memory and we had a great time, Harry. We'll miss you.

Next came the Meet-the-Pros session to be followed up by the party cruising phase of the evening. I had to make a run to Scottsdale to feed my elderly father and his pets, so I started partying pretty late. The Dark Ones were in full gear when I arrived with loud music, munchies and liquid refreshment. I think I crashed around midnight.

The next morning we ran into some computer friends downstairs, so we all did breakfast, caught up on things and went to some programming. Later in the day we held the Memorial Model Rocket

Shoot for G. Harry Stine. The rocket I had didn't launch, so I left to attend the LepreCon Inc. meeting to vote in a new chair for Lep25 since Jay Patton resigned. Congratulations to Charles Jarvis for winning that position. We did some more programming and went offsite for dinner into Casa Grande. Upon returning I made the nightly run into town and returned to help run the Delphi/Bix Consuite that Glenn Battis sponsored. He's running SF Consuite on Delphi and is the head honcho over the SF conference on Bix. We had demos available, food and drink. Although it wasn't swamped, we had about 30 fans drop by. I hit a few parties once I was off duty and crashed.

Sunday brought a few more panels, I missed the art auction, but caught the gripe session at the end of the con. There were very few problems that came up. Everyone had a good time. I really liked the Art Show this year, especially with Maitz & Wurtz and Yankovich represented as well as some carry-overs from the WHC art show. The Dealers Room had some of the usual dealers and some new ones. I didn't have any money to spend, so I just cruised through a couple of times. Gaming seemed well attended, Video Room showed the remaining Neverwhere episodes I missed at WHC, Consuite was stocked with munchies and Staff Lounge had substantial food. I missed the Masquerade and the Adult one Sat eve. Perhaps another reviewer can supply that info. The Filk Suite was crowded when I dropped by, too.

I had a good time. I relaxed, socialized, and helped out here and there. All my work was pre-con, so I could enjoy the con and spend time with friends. That's what I needed and that's what I did. If you didn't make the con, then you missed a good one. Well, perhaps next year then. If you have any questions or comments, please let me know using the contact info below. See you at Lep25!

ConCept - Westercon 51 Review

By Mike Willmoth

This year's Westercon (#51) was in San Diego, CA, and called ConCept. This was run by the same folks who bring you Condor each February. I was on the pre-con and at-con Programming teams, although I was unable to work full time for either and just lent a hand here and there.

Due to pet sitting problems we weren't able to attend the entire convention. Instead, we drove over Saturday July 4th arriving around 12 noon at the Marriott Mission Valley Hotel, and returned Sunday July 5th around 1030pm to Phoenix. The actual convention dates were Thursday July 2nd through Sunday July 5th. Since Phoenix was bidding for

Westercon 53 we had to express mail our votes over to the bid chair, Pat Connors, in time to be counted. We lost by 20 votes anyway.

Once we arrived we checked into our room early as it was ready. Next we picked up our badges and got one for my mother-in-law, Pearl. After saying hello to folks and checking on the above vote, we headed over to the Pavilion outside for the Babylon 5 Presentation by J. Michael Straczynski. This was south of the regular function space, rather light inside, rather warm (by San Diego standards) and we couldn't see anything on the big screen from the back. They also had trolleys going by about every 5 minutes or so that drowned out JMS using the microphone. Needless to say this didn't go very well. I found out from the Programming Director that there would be another showing at 10pm that evening. That was ok.

We wandered through the Dealers Room, which was kind of small for a Westercon, but would have been about the same size as a LepreCon or a CopperCon. Many of the dealers weren't happy about it, either. We saw Alicia Austin in there, plenty of book dealers, videotapes and audiotapes, CDS, jewelry, clothing, swords, etc. Essentially, they had what you normally find at a local con. However, it was located right along the main pathway so it really got lots of traffic. Registration Table was in this same pathway. Next to it were bid tables, the con merchandising table, freebies, etc. On the glassed side of this pathway was Program Operations (no Green Room, yes you read that right), Daily 'Zine table, more bid tables, etc. Behind Reg was programming rooms that were used that night for the JMS presentation. Behind the merch table was Dealers Room. Around the corner (actually, to the west of DR) was more programming rooms as well as across the hall from there, too. They had lots of little rooms and very few large rooms. Art Show was north of all these in another separate, but connected outside, room and run by locals Bruce & Lea Farr. I got to peruse it once before a panel I was supposed to moderate and they had plenty of wonderful artwork available.

I ran into some California friends from LA and they bought me a drink right before I was on. Wonderful. No lunch, moderate a panel, only thing on my stomach was rum & coke. It was interesting. The panel was on the Decline & Fall of the American Republic and featured Scott MacMillan (an American living in Ireland), Gerald Pearce and his son (I forget his first name), and Raul Reyes. We discussed the problems with our fair country and how to solve some of them. The general consensus was that we need more

politically active folks, that is, voting people. It was also determined that our taxation situation needed fixing and abolishing the IRS would be a good start. I basically stayed out of the line of fire, but kept the panelists on course. Everyone seemed to enjoy it.

We wandered into and out of several other panels before heading out to meet some local fans for a July 4th Party at their house. Hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, you get the idea. When it got dark they headed for the park to watch fireworks while we returned to the hotel to watch from there. Phoenix was supposed to hold another party, but it was closed when we arrived. Of course, the fire alarm had gone off on that floor and everyone had vacated the rooms, but we didn't know. We hit some other parties before going to the JMS presentation.

Besides getting to see that one in a dark room, and getting to see season 5 2nd half bloopers, and sneak previews of Crusade series coming up, and a brief glimpse at the CGI rendering of their ship, Excaliber, he also showed Thirdspace movie before it aired! It was a good movie, somewhat horrific for our tastes, but otherwise enjoyable. We staggered back to our room around 1:30pm to crash.

The next morning we tried to arrange for late checkout (instead of 11am) to no avail. Ok, then we'll go offsite to eat breakfast. We got back in time to beat the 11am checkout and attended more programming. We managed to catch a reading by Phoenix native (now living in Seattle) Lorelei Shannon. We caught the tail end of the Europa Slide Show and I listened to the Gripe Session. They had just under 1200 members with fewer in attendance. Although that's better than El Paso's 400 in 1996, it's rather small compared to our 1600 in 1992. It seems to be going down recently. Most folks thought the function space was too small, but otherwise folks enjoyed themselves.

Before departing I had an opportunity to chat with other Phoenicians about the failed bid as well as some Californians who voted either way and their opinions. We filled up the car nearby, hit a fast food restaurant for dinner, and hit the road around 6pm. This Westercon was a whirlwind trip, but we made part of it. Any excuse to visit San Diego is wonderful. And we got to see some old friends we usually don't get to see. So, we had fun. If you didn't get to go, there's always Spokane, WA, next year. Harder to drive to, but should be cooler than Phoenix! - Mike Willmoth (602)945-6890 or mwillmoth@compuserve.com

In Our Book

Neverwhere

Neil Gaiman
Avon: \$6.99; 370 pp.

“Dear Diary,... On Friday I had a job, a fiancé, a home and a life that made sense. ... Then I found an injured girl bleeding on the pavement, and I tried to be a good Samaritan. Now I’ve got no fiancé, no home, no job, and I’m walking around a couple of hundred feet under the streets of London with the projected life expectancy of a suicidal fruitfly.”

Thus reluctant hero Richard Mayhew describes his situation early in the novel.

He and his chance-met companions venture into London below. The girl Door (the one Mayhew rescues) seeks justice for her slain family. Mayhew just wants his life back. The eccentric Marquis de Carrabas wants... ?

Pursued and harried by hired killers, Croup and Vandemar, aided by the Marquis de Carrabas and Hunter, they set off to seek the Angel Islington whom they believe can provide answers.

Along the way, they meet a rich cast of characters who variously aid or interfere with their progress. The London Underground provides transport both allegorically and literally as Richard and Door find the Floating Market, Black Friars (at Black Friars, of course), Earl’s Court (an actual Court of an Earl on a subway train), Old Bailey (a roof dweller) etc.

L. Frank Baum could have written this except that this story has the added dimensions of character and poetry.

With each choice Door and Richard grow and develop. Things are in no way what they seem. The novel is a rich tapestry of character, complex plot and poetic beauty.

It is well worth anyone’s time. - Gary Swaty

Stardust

Neil Gaiman
Hardcover \$22.00; 256 pages (on sale Jan. 6, 1999)

Life moves at a leisurely pace in the tiny town of Wall, named for the stone barrier that surrounds a beautiful meadow. For hundreds, perhaps thousands of years, armed sentries have guarded the sole gap in that stone barrier. Once every nine years, on May Day, the guard is relaxed when a fair comes to the meadow.

Tristan Thorn, resident of Wall, ventures into the land beyond the barrier on a quest to find his heart’s desire. For the promise of the beautiful Victoria’s hand and heart, Tristan vows to retrieve a fallen star and deliver it to his love.

Passing through the gap in the wall he

meets many strange and interesting people, living and dead, friendly and dangerous.

Having thoroughly enjoyed Neil Gaiman’s “Neverwhere,” I couldn’t wait for this book to fall into my hands. It more than lived up to the teaser included at the end of “Neverwhere.” I read it cover to cover in one sitting and can heartily recommend it to everyone. I can hardly wait for Neil’s next book. - Stephanie L Bannon

Star Trek: New Frontier - Captain’s Table Book 5: Once Burned

by Peter David (Pocket Books).

Once Burned is part of the latest set of theme books covering the Star Trek spectrum from Pocket Books. While the other five deal with Star Trek Captains we’ve seen on screen, this one is concerned with Mackenzie Calhoun, Captain of the starship Excalibur in the New Frontier series of Novels by Peter David.

The Captain’s Table is a mysterious bar where all captains end up at one point or another where they can share their stories of command with other captains over a friendly drink or two. In the previous New Frontiers novels, mention has been made of a disastrous mission Calhoun was involved in that ended up with him leaving Starfleet for a time. In this novel we get the full story of what happened on that mission.

Calhoun is assigned to be first officer on the starship U.S.S. Grissom under Captain Norman Kenyon, a good captain who is respected and admired by everyone. Kenyon’s brother and daughter are diplomats who the Grissom takes on for a diplomatic mission to resolve a long-going dispute between two worlds. When the negotiations go very bad and they are brutally murdered, this starts a turn of events leading to disaster that Calhoun has to try to stop.

Through this novel, we learn a lot more about Calhoun and what he’s gone through to get to where he is. We also get to see how a captain can use his crew’s loyalty and respect to do things he shouldn’t be able to do. Unlike most stories, it is not a tidy ending. As far as Calhoun is concerned, it ended as a failure and he left Starfleet because of it.

David tells a good story and manages to add some levity to a deadly serious situation. We meet some new characters, some of whom we may see again in future New Frontiers novels. Once again, Peter David proves that there is a place for stories within the Trek universe that doesn’t necessarily have to involve the crews we’ve seen on TV or in the movies. - Lee Whiteside

Babylon 5: Dark Genesis - The Birth of the Psi Corps

by J. Gregory Keyes (Del Rey)

The Babylon 5 novels are now being published by Del Rey after a mixed bag of novels from Dell. The initial novels from Del Rey will delve into the background of the events we’ve seen on the TV series, based on outlines provided by Babylon 5’s creator, J. Michael Straczynski. The first one is the start of a trilogy about the Psi Corps that covers the discovery of telepaths among humans and the beginnings of the Psi Corps.

We see most of the events through Senator Lee Crawford, who learns of provable research that proves that telepaths exist. The novel spans over 70 years and introduces us to the parents of both Alfred Bester and Lyta Alexander and even a Vorlon. It covers a lot of characters through the span of the novel but Keyes manages to give most of them some depth and allows us to see how they contributed, whether it was positive or negative, to the Babylon 5 universe. - Lee Whiteside

Once Around the Realms.

I found this book to be thoroughly enjoyable. The characters are a romp through the world of entertainment. It runs the gamut: from a visit to a mute Harper named Marks to a stay on “Fantasy Island,” to an encounter with an irascible martial arts master named “Chuin”. This book has fun following our heroes around the world of Faerun. There is plenty of heroics and magic for fans of the genre and enough comedy to delight even the most staid of readers. - Robert La Pierre

Eye of the Serpent

Robert N. Charrette, Harper Fantasy, 328 pp. \$5.50

“Eye Of The Serpent” is the second book of a continuing series, The Chronicles of Aelwyn. I have not read the first one.

Apparently in volume one, Mage Tan Tanafres and Teletha, a warrior, were held in a time spell from which they won free. Since that time, they have wandered far seeking the lost city of the Dark Ones. But now the quest is interrupted by war. The Bregil are butchering every one and acting in concert which is not their usual behavior.

The attackers wear magic-activated moonstone amulets, almost like an eye. There is also the Drakenree, dragon-like creatures from the ancient times, who are thrown into the fray.

In the war that ensues, Tan is captured, and must learn the drakenree magic. That ain’t easy for someone who has no battle magic. In fact, the bumbling absent-

minded mage reminds me a bit of Flubber meets Fantasy. The common sense seems to be all Teletha’s, along with the battle skills.

Somehow, during the climactic battle, Tan, slave to the Drakenree mage, uses Drakenree magic to kill the mage and win the war. - Pam Allan

Wizard Of Bones

Robert N. Charrette, Harper Fantasy, 376 pp. \$5.50

“Wizard Of Bones” is the third volume of the Chronicles Of Aelwyn.

The Aelwynian version of the religious right decide that Tan is of questionable loyalties after his battle-winning magic of volume two. However, accompanied by Teletha, a local knight, and a captured drakenree, they are sent to find who was behind the previous war. (Afterwards, the priests may get rid of Tan.)

They cross the Sea of Storms, captained by a Bregil with his own agenda and travel perilous country in pursuit of the most dreaded necromancer of all, the wizard of bones. The aged, but powerful mage defeats the equally powerful head priest, but cannot defeat the magic of Tan. There are few of them left to make it home, but boy, do they have a story to tell.

I do not know how long the series will be. It is pleasant reading. Light but with good characters. A pleasant way to pass the afternoon. ..Pam Allan

Galaxy Seven

Joseph David Collins, 380 pp, Caesar III Publishing 1996

This book has everything. Within this intricately threaded narrative is: Love, Conspiracy, Faith, Stupidity, Foolishness; practically every quality mankind manifests. Eight major narrative threads follow the activities of aliens of several ilks: Really Major Villains, Heroic Humans, Weak Humans, Funny and Sad Humans, and, of course, Profoundly Stupid Humans.

The story builds from a warning vision experienced by many of a great disaster which threatens the Earth. Throughout the various narratives, information becomes available to more and more people in spite of the efforts of the sinister government agency known as The Special Investigations Bureau.

Rescue is on the way from a distant Galaxy in the form of a Fleet of giant Star Ships. This Rescue will be either in the form of intervention to stop the disaster, or removal of those endangered people who agree to be rescued. The aliens themselves do not know which will happen. They formulate their decision as events unfold on Earth.

The narrative style is somewhat akin to

cont’d on page 15

that used by Adam Niswander in “The Charm.” The novel also borrows heavily from the literature of UFOlogy. All of the conspiracy theories are grafted in: the multiple aliens, the implants, the cross-breeding, abductions, the mind control...

In spite of this, the author has managed to produce a readable and enjoyable book. The ending was a real surprise for me.

The book is available at Changing Hands Bookstore and several other independent book stores. - Gary Swaty

Child of the Journey

Janet Berliner and George Guthridge, Borealis, White Wolf, 471 pp., \$5.99

“Child of the Journey” is volume two of the Madagascar Manifesto. It is described as dark fantasy but reads more like mainstream fiction. What it is is powerful, shocking, and moving. It is not a comedy.

“Child of the Journey” is set in Holocaust Germany. Miriam Freund, now Weisser, has married a Nazi in an effort to save her beloved husband from a concentration camp. In her youth, she, Solomon Freund, and Erich Weiser were best of friends. But Erich has lied to get her to repudiate her Jewishness, and her Jewish husband in an effort to have her for himself. Solomon, safe in Amsterdam, returns to Berlin and discovers the situation. He, in turn, is captured and sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp and it's horrors.

Erich's climb up the Nazi promotional ladder is entangled with Sturmbannführer Otto Hempel who runs over Erich with impunity. They all become part of Hitler's plan to move the Jews to Madagascar, turning the island into an expanded concentration camp to dominate the shipping lanes. They reach Madagascar, but war breaks out with Poland.

Presumably, volume three will deal with the island and the relationships.

This is not a light-hearted romp. Hitler's Madagascar plans, The Holocaust, and WWII are a part of history. What you do have here is the triumph of the human soul, love and caring in an atmosphere of despair, and survival under impossible conditions. It has characters who reach true nobility and characters so venal that evil becomes too kind a term. But the characters ring true in the reality of their world. It is very much worth reading.Pam Allan.

The True Knight

Susan Dexter, Del Ray fantasy, 323 pp. \$5.99

“The True Knight” is the third book of the Warhorse Of Esdragon series. I have not read the previous two books, however this one does stand alone.

Titch was orphaned early, inheriting only a sword, an aging warhorse, and a

strong desire to be a knight like his father.

He challenges another at a bridge to win a warhorse to replacing his mount, the aging Grey. He loses but throws in with the winner to save him from being taken by pursuing riders. The pursuers catch him, shoot him and leave him for dead in a marsh where he is found by a mage's amnesiac apprentice, Wren. He is healed and goes on to a tourney where he is rejoined and taken advantage of by the self-same knight who got him shot. While concussed, he is sold to a mercenary group by that perfidious knight, Gerein.

As mercenaries, he and Gerein are sent on a quest to gather up all the mages, and bring them to the mad Queen Melcia. Melcia, however, is the person that killed Wren's parents, tried to kill her and caused the traumatic amnesia that possesses Wren. The group of mages and soldiers are attacked, and Titch saves Wren and the warhorse, who turns out to be the stolen magical stallion Valadan.

The trio go off to complete the queen's quest in order to save Wren's master. They do, but the rescued swan didn't want to be prince again. Titch saves them, again, and they flee the castle with Gerein's help. They then get caught by Gerein's pursuers and are brought to Esdragon to stand trial. Gerein is wounded so Titch stands trial by combat for him.

Wren is discovered to be the missing daughter of the king's sister and a queen in her own right. Titch tries to leave, but Valadan won't let him. He gets knighted, and wins the warhorse, and Wren (now Savrin).

This is a very pleasant read, nicely done with believable characters. If not terribly original, it still can make a pleasant afternoon's reading.Pam Allan

Starless Knight

R. A. Salvatore, TSR, 331 pp.; \$5.95

“Starless Knight” is a part of the Forgotten Realms series by one of TSR's better writers.

Drizzt Do'Urden is a renegade drow {dark Elf} from Menzoberranzan, the underground city of the dark elves. He has joined the surface world and now defends them. To find out what evils are being planned, he returns to the underground world by slipping away from his friends one night. His loss is duly noted by Catti-brie, the warrior princess of Mithral Hall. She follows him with a magic locket, magic mask, and the calling figure for the giant cat who lives on the astral plane, Guenhwyvar.

They all fight lots of battles, pick up an old enemy as a temporary ally, and go through lots of trials before they successfully return home. (No doubt to set up for the next book).

This tale holds your interest primarily

because of Salvatore's writing. He leavens the story with humor and battles to make for a pleasant read. His characters are some of the more believable in TSR's stable of writers. However, I trust they'll bring back Guenhwyvar, my favorite character, even if the sexless (in the wording) feline does have a Gaelic spelling of Guenevere, Arthur's mythical mate.....Pam Allan

Brave New World

Aldous Huxley, HarperPerennial, 268pp.; \$10

Last issue, I reviewed “Fahrenheit 451.” Now I'm covering the other two classics of a trilogy of dystopias.

First, is Huxley's masterpiece.

As with “Fahrenheit 451,” we have a novel that becomes more timely as the years pass. In Huxley's world, nobody reads, everybody takes happy pills and goes to movies; birth control has allowed total promiscuity, and people are cloned in factories instead of going through natural childbirth. Society is rigidly stratified; most peoples' minds are deliberately stunted while they're factory embryos. The hero is an outsider from the wilderness, who grew up with his natural mother and with books to read. He doesn't fare well in the modern world, and comes to a bad end.

Because this novel is mainstream literature, an unhappy ending and the science fiction setting are unexceptional. Still, any fan who hasn't read this is missing a major piece of science fiction history.

There are also two TV movies of this story, with Leonard Nimoy in the recent one. Both adaptations are different enough from the novel that I'd say: Read the book.

Also, Huxley followed up his novel with a collection of essays titled “Brave New World Revisited.” That's still in print, too. - Michael Griffin

1984

George Orwell, Signet Classic, 268 pp.; \$5.95

Orwell's novel is the second of my so-called classic dystopian trilogy. It was written in 1948 and had the date transposed to make the title. It has some similarity to “Fahrenheit 451,” since it also portrays television gone amok. There is a TV in every room, and each set has a two-way viewer interactive function. Sound like a familiar goal of current modern society?

Unfortunately, Huxley's world is divided between two tyrannies, and the ubiquitous TV screens are monitoring everyone to enforce totalitarian conformity. The hero of the story is a man who has entered into an illicit love affair with

a younger woman. They have trysts in an old room which they think has no TV set. Ultimately, the couple are caught: he is tortured and his spirit broken.

Unhappy ending.

As with “Brave New World,” it's unremarkable for a literary novel to end that way. Its purpose is to scare the hell out of you and to inspire eternal vigilance which is the price of liberty. Orwell's tale succeeds, and thankfully, the book remains in print.

And yes, there are also two filmed versions of this story (and another in the works, with Mel Gibson attached to it? ed.); but...read the book. - Michael Griffin

Cinnabar Shadows

Lynn Abbey, TSR Inc., 312 pp., \$5.99

This is Book Four of the Chronicles of Athas. The series is part of the Dark Sun World, a setting based on TSR's role-playing games. TSR has at least one other Dark Sun series of books, the Prism Pentad.

I've never played any of these TSR games, and this is the only Dark Sun book I've read. It stands on its own as a fantasy novel you can enjoy, apart from the series and apart from any knowledge of the games.

There are, however, various pages of exposition which recapitulate the previous three novels. These recaps do help move the story along, usually by reinforcing a character's motivation.

Abbey skillfully tells two heroes sagas instead of one, while mixing in the stories of supporting characters.

The first hero is the woman-creature Mahtra, who goes on a quest of vengeance against the man who killed her adopted family. Her quest overlaps with the career path of the second hero, Pavek. He is ordered to join her by the sorcerer-tyrant of his country. It seems the villain is trying to kill everyone in the country, not just Mahtra's folk, so the tyrant also wants Pavek dead. Pavek is accompanied by a couple of young sidekicks, which makes the core group four good guys.

Even though we have a quest story here, surprises and twists keep it so you can't predict things, right up to the last page.

As for the book's tone, it has a dark edge, with no humor or cute stuff. There is evil, corruption, poverty, violence, ugliness and gore. These however, are balanced out by heroism, a budding romance, offstage sex and landscapes imbued with mystical beauty.

It makes for a nice variation on the standard hero quest, while still ringing the in the required changes.

I suppose that's the way the role-playing games are supposed to work out, too. - Mike Griffin

Club Listings

(To have your club listed or correct your listing contact the editor.)

ADRIAN EMPIRE A medieval and renaissance recreationist club. Sword-fighting, arts, banquets, masquerades, dances. meets every Wednesday night from 7-10pm at Encanto Park. All are welcome. Free. For details, call (602)582-6990.

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

ARIZONA LANBASHERS LEAGUE A collaboration of computer gaming enthusiasts, the Arizona LANbashers League throws quarterly LANparty events. Between parties, support is given to local groups who wish to advertise their own gatherings. We have no set genre of games and play anything from strategy games to first-person shooters to driving/flying simulations. No annual membership is required and admission to an event ranges from \$5-\$15. See our webpage for current events. Email: azlanbashers@earthling.net Web: <http://www.gibbed.com/all> VoiceMail: 602-306-9339

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

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

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

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

THE DARK ONES (Dark-wunz) n. 1) An organization formed for the expression and exploration of various cultural themes including, but not limited to, the Dark Ages and the Renaissance through forms of art including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, writing, photography, spoken word, and acts of characterization. 2) a member of this organization. 3) Information available at (602) 978-9314.

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

DESERT LURKERS Tucson based Babylon 5 fan club. Meets and communicates via listserver over the Internet. Anyone with e-mail access can subscribe to the Desert Lurkers by sending e-mail to b5-l-request@dragon.org and putting "subscribe" (minus the quotation marks)

in the subject line. Interested people can contact Alexander Goodrum at E-mail address: goodrum@AZStarNet.com
EARTHLINK SCI-FI CLUB SF generalists with some focus on comics and environmental issues. Meets at various conventions and occasions. Publishes a quarterly newsletter called Cosmic Wavelengths. For information contact them at 8508 E. San Lorenzo, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, or call Nohl Rosen at (602) 991-8847.

THE EMPIRE OF CHIVALRY AND STEEL, INC. The Empire of Chivalry and Steel specializes in the general recreation of the culture of the Middle Ages including all of the Art Forms, Events (Feasts, Tournaments, Ceremonies and Wars) and Combat Arts covering the years of 800AD up to 1650AD and any location within Europe or its explored territories. For more information contact Bart Smith (Phoenix) (602)937-6995 or Leonard Bird (Tucson) (520)742-2432

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

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF JEDI KNIGHTS

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

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION COUNCIL Meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Meeting at the Westridge Mall (75th Ave. and Thomas Rd. Phoenix, AZ. The IFC is regimental (Using Ranks and structured simmially 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 (602) 945-6890 or Email: mwillmoth@comupserve.com

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

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

RAGE ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST A Live Action Theatre Troupe based out of the ASU campus in Tempe, AZ. It is dedicated to the game Werewolf: The Apocalypse by White Wolf publishing. Contact Mike McLaughlin at (602)461-5842 or write 1730 W Emelita Place #2025, Mesa AZ85202-3144 or email to warlok@aztec.asu.edu

RAW GAMES (Role-players & Wargamers, Inc.) Role-players & Wargamers, Inc. is the Valley's oldest role-playing and wargaming club. Currently meeting at Carrow's Restaurant at 7th Street & Monte Vista in Phoenix every Sunday from 3pm-9pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (602) 849-9515.

ROLE PLAYING GAMES CLUB (RPGC) The official gaming club of Az. State University. Activities include: live-action roleplaying games, tabletop gaming, conventions, parties, etc.

General meetings are open to the public and are held every Friday at 6pm in ASU's Memorial Union. Dues are \$5/semester. For more info, contact Michael McLaughlin, 1730 W. Emelita #2025, Mesa, AZ 85202-3144, or call (602)464-3144; RPGC@asu.edu

SCIENCE FICTION CONTINUUM

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

SFACE (Speculative Fiction And Computer Enthusiasts) Phoenix College's one and only connection to the worlds of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, and 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 citizenjustice@hotmail.com

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

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM The kingdom of Atenveldt doth lie in the state of Arizona. Within the fair kingdom can be found six Baronies: Atenveldt, Mons Tonitrus, Twin Moons, SunDragon, Tir Ysgithr

and Ered Sul. For more infor-maton on any of these or for general information on thy past tomorrows thou mayest contact Mistress Myrddina o Dolwyddelan (Terry Schwartz) PO Box 584, Sonoita AZ 85637 (520)455-5835 Email: myrddina1@aol.com www.atenveldt.org/aten

THE SOUTHWEST COSTUMER'S GUILD

The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose organization of persons interested in all facets of historical, cultural, science fiction, fantasy, and humor costume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes atmost local and regional Science Fiction Convention masquerades.They meet on the last Sunday of each month at various mmbers' homes in the greater phoenix area. Call, write or email for details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or call Randall Whitlock at (602)995-7514, email randwhit@aol.com or Website: <http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/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) 590-5674, 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 Brian Korn at 345-7230, or E-mail them@asu.edu. To subscribe to our listserve, send a message to them-request@asu.edu.

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

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

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX A Phoenix area Star Trek and general SciFi fan club. We are a social club that meets every two weeks at various locations around the Phoenix area. The UFP has been meeting for over 20 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$10/per year prorated when you join; no restrictions. Membership includes membership roster and monthly newsletter. Come to any two meetings at no obligation. For information, write the UFP at PO Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203. Web page: <http://www.primenet.com/~strait/ufp.html>

UNITED WHOVIANS OF TUCSON A well-informed and very active Dr. Who club. \$12 yearly membership includes four issues of their fanzine, written by semi pro's and other dedicated fans. For more information contact Karen at P.O. Box 77513, Tucson, AZ 85703 or call (602) 750-8311. Also you can contact: don2397@aol.com or uwotveep@aol.com



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"World Science Fiction Convention" is a registered service mark of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

Convention Listings

The Tenth Planet of Gallifrey One (Van Nuys, CA) **February 12-15, 1999**, Airtel Plaza Hotel, Van Nuys, CA. Guests: Nicholas Courtney, Elisabeth Sladen; Casey Biggs, Robin Atkin Downes, Mojo, Herb Jefferson Jr., Anne Lockheart, Jack Stauffer and Bjo Trimble. Memb: \$35 to October 31, \$40 to January 31, \$45 at the door; Info: Gallifrey Conventions, PO Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609; (818) 752-3756, Email: info@gallifreyone.com Webpage: http://www.gallifreyone.com

Con-Dor 1999 (San Diego, CA) **February 12-14, 1999**, Town & Country Hotel, San Diego. GoH: Tim Powers, Media special Guest: Lara Parker, Memb: until Jan. 31, 1999 \$25, \$30 at the door. Phone: (619) 653-0350. Info: Con-dor, P.O. Box 15771, San Diego, CA 92175, E-mail: dkeais@home.com Webpage: http://members.home.net/dkeais/condor/

Consonance: The San Francisco Bay Area's Filk Music Convention (Santa Clara, CA) **March 5-7, 1999**, San Jose Biltmore Hotel, 2151 Laurelwood Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95054, (800) 255-9925 or (408) 988-8411 GoHs: Clam Chowder, Cecilia Eng. Memb: \$30. Info: Consonance, 1658 E. Capitol Expressway, Suite 233, San Jose, CA 95121. Webpage: http://www.rahul.net/figmo/consonance

ConFurence X...the Fur is out there... (San Diego, CA) **April 1-4, 1999**, The Town and Country Hotel and Convention Center, San Diego, CA, (800) 854-2608 or (619) 291-7131 GoHs: Cynthia McQuillin, Mary Hanson-Roberts, Patricia C. Wrede and Robert and Margaret Carspecken. Memb: \$25 til Jan.1, \$30 after, \$35 at the door Info: (714) 530-4993 ConFurence, P.O. Box 1958, Garden Grove, CA 92842-1958. E-mail: Internet:info@confurence.com Webpage: http://www.confurence.com

SPACE ACCESS '99 (Phoenix Arizona) **April 22-25, 1999** Thursday evening through Sunday morning. Space Access Society's seventh annual conference, focussing exclusively on the technology, business, and politics of radically cheaper space transportation, featuring many leading figures of the new reusable launch vehicle/low-cost launch industry. \$120 at the door, \$100 in advance, student and Arizona fan discounts available. Check www.space-access.org for more information, or call 602 431-9283.

LepreCon 25 (Scottsdale, AZ) **May 14-16, 1999**, Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona. Author GoH: Larry Niven, Local Artist GoH: Robert Peacock; Filk Guest Lynn Gold, More Guests TBA; Memberships \$20 until 1/01/99, \$30 until 5/01/99 and \$35 at the door. Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under Free. Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (602) 991-2400. Standard Rooms \$70 + tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$150 + tax S/D/T/Q Info: LepreCon 25, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ. 85285 Email mwillmoth@compuserve.com or pmc@primenet.com

BayCon '99 (San Jose, CA) Memorial Day weekend, **May 28-31 1999**, San Jose Double Tree Hotel. GoHs: Nene Tina Thomas, Kevin J. Anderson and Rebecca Moesta, Kent Brewster TM. Memb: \$40 though 2/1, \$50 to 5/1 and \$60 at the door Info: BayCon '99, P.O. Box 610427, San Jose, CA 95161-0427. E-Mail: www.BayCon.org

AgamemCon III (Burbank, CA) **June 11-13, 1999**, Hilton Burbank Airport and Convention Center. GoHs: Many members of the crew from both Babylon 5 and Crusade, as well as people from other SF shows. Memb: \$35, \$45 at the door. Info: AgamemCon. 92 Corporate Park, Suite C-330, Irvine, CA 92606. E-mail: orrock@ix.netcom.com (949) 643-8352 http://www.agamemcon.org

DarkCon 1999 (Chandler, AZ) **June 25-27, 1999**, San Marcos Hotel, Chandler, Arizona Special Writer Guests of Honor: George Clayton Johnson and William F. Nolan, Music GoH: Gary Siler. Memberships \$25 until 1/1/99, \$30 until 4/1/99, \$35 at the door. VIP memberships \$199 (includes room). Rooms \$55 S/D, \$65 T, \$75 Q (800) 528-8071; Info: Darkcon, PO Box 5833, Glendale, AZ. 85312, phone: (602) 978-9314, Email: darkcon@darkones.org

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

HexaCon 9 (Scottsdale AZ) **July 9-11, 1999** Arizona's Premiere Gaming Convention. Sunspree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (602)991-2400 GoH: Derek Percy, author of In Nomine; 24 hour NON-

STOP Gaming - Sanctioned Magic Tournaments, Sanctioned RPGA Tournaments, US Chess Federation Sanctioned Chess Tournaments, LARP, Computer Gaming, Miniatures Painting Contest; 'Bot Bash, Game Auction, Full Consuite, Dealer's Room. Memberships \$15 until 5/31/99, \$20 at the door; HexaCon 9, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082 Email: leigh-@primenet.com Webpage: http://members.aol.com/boniece/index.html

Costume College '99 (Van Nuys, CA) Fin de Siecle: The Nineties at the end of the Nineties, a regional conference on costuming topics and techniques, **July 23-25 1999**, Airtel Plaza Hotel, 7277 Valjean Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91406. Lectures and workshops as well as a Time Traveler's Gala. Attendance limited to 250. Memb: \$30 for members of the Int'l Customers Guild, \$50 non-members until Feb. 1, higher after. Info: P.O.Box 3052, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670-3052. E-mail: msjess@earthlink.net, http://members.aol.com/ZBLGilbert/cgw.html (Also: **Costume College 2000** (June 30-July 4, 2000) at the same site & info.)

Conucopia/NASFIC '99 (Anaheim, CA) **August 26-29, 1999**, Anaheim Marriott; (714)750-8000. GoH: Jerry E. Pournelle, FGoHs: Richard & Nicki Lynch. Memb: \$70 until 7/5/98; \$20 supporting. Info: NASFiC '99, c/o S.C.I.F.I. Inc., PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409; Email: info@99.nasfic.org. Webpage: http://www.99.nasfic.org/

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

CopperCon 19 (Scottsdale, AZ) **September 10-12, 1999** Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona Author GoH: David Weber, Artist GoH: Brett Bass Memb: \$20 until Jan 1, 1999, \$30 until May 1, 1999, \$35 at the door, Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under - free; Room rates are \$65 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. (800) 525-5205 ; Info: CopperCon 19, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602)973-2341, Email: cucon@casfs.org

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

TusCon 26 (Tucson AZ) **Nov. 6-8, 1999** at the Executive Inn. Artists interested in panels should contact Rebecca (520) 293-1455 immediately! We are selling out fast. Amateurs welcome. Dealers contact Cristi at (520) 881-3709. Tables are \$45 and include one membership.

Loscon XXVI (Burbank, CA) Thanksgiving weekend, **Nov 26-28 1999**, The Burbank Airport Hilton. GoHs: Connie Willis, Alex Ross. Memb: \$25 until March 1, higher after. Info: Loscon XXVI c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. E-mail: loscon26@lasfs.org, www.lasfs.org/loscon26

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

Generic Convention Registration Form

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