

ConNotations

Volume 13, Issue 5
October/November
2003

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

The Hitchhiker's Guide to Harlan Ellison By Dawn Mullan

For all of his social improprieties and narcissistic compulsions, his philosophy protuberates underneath pretense and pretext. Subliminal. An asynchronous perforation of the subconscious mind making nothingness absorb realization, this irreverent revolutionist drives past mere conception and into the garage of visionary intellectualism.

In a room with an agminate of students, professors, and staff, Mr. Harlan Ellison uncannily chooses from the audience those subjects having car troubles on the intellectual super-highway of life. Although, the conclave doesn't appreciate that ignorance leaves us as stranded and vulnerable as growing flora on the side of the road with only the sunlight of knowledge able

to develop us into productive flowers.

Plucking these sprouting petals in a sadistic game of "love me, love me not", Mr. Ellison turns off the ignition and runs straight into the wilderness of our imagina-

tions. Some recoil. Some rejoice. Still others sit baffled and frightened hoping he won't ask them the next question.



© Shellnbarger

These tremulant minds ponder warily the unfathomable before them: What is this shadowy figure protruding into the recesses of our psyche? What type of

(cont'd on page 8)

Featured Inside

SF Tube Talk

All the latest news about Scienc Fiction TV shows
by Lee Whiteside

24 Frames

All the latest Movie News
by Lee Whiteside

ConClusion

CopperCon
by Lee Whiteside
Comic Con
by Shane Shellenbarger

Musical Notes

The latest news of Filk and Filkers
from Tom Tuerff

ReAnimation

Reviews of Anime
on DVD and VHS

In Our Book

Reviews of New SF/F Books

NonGenre By Genre

Non SF/F books by SF/F Authors
Andre Norton

A Novel Idea

Upcoming books

Special Features

Harlan Ellison's Phoenix Appearance
Ode To A Fantasy Seller
Love's Savage Bindings
General Research In Genetics

Plus our Regular Features:

CASFS Business Report

Event Calendar

Area events, TV premires,
DVD & Movie releases

FYI

News and tidbits of
interest to fans

Club Listings

Convention List & Generic Registration Form



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In This Issue

News & Reviews

CASFS Business Report	2
SF Tube Talk	3
24Frames	3
FYI	9
Musical Notes	10
ConClusion	12
ReAimation	14
In Our Book (Book Reviews)	17
NonGenreby Genre	21
A Novel Idea	24

Special Feature

Harlan Ellison in Phoenix by Dawn Mullan	1
Ode To A Fantasy Seller by Jeffrey Lu	7
Love's Savage Bindings by Euripides Pasov	16
General Research in Genetics By Radnor Lockwhite	24

Convention & Fandom

Calendar of Events	11
Club Listings	22
Convention Listings	24
Convention Registration Form	24

CASFS Business Report

Salutations!

* HexaCon 12 has closed out, returning about \$1,890 over all mandated expenses and disbursements.

* CopperCon 22 has closed out, returning \$2,446.75 over all mandated expenses and disbursements.

* CopperCon 23 asked for and was given a grant from CASFS to try to generate some extra publicity. It elected to spend the money on movie-theater pre-showing slides. There is great eagerness to know whether this will prove to be a cost-effective form of advertising for us.

* We elected Dawn Mullan as Chair of CopperCon 25.

* Our old web hosting provider unexpectedly shut down entirely. After some downtime and some minor technical difficulties, a new provider was selected and the sites were moved.

* Registration data from TusCon was entered into the database that serves as the circulation database for ConNotations.

* As is customary, DarkCon asked for and received permission to use our art flats, registration gear, and other supplies. Doing so helps fulfill our mission to promote science fiction here in the Valley.

* The first paperwork for next year's Arizona Book Festival has come in and is being dealt with.

* LepreCon 30 announced that David Drake will be their Author Guest of Honor.

* BuboniCon (Albuquerque, NM) announced attendance of 460, up from their usual 250.

The New Guy

Who's Who This Issue

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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews By Lee Whiteside

The fall season is mostly underway for the broadcast networks and we've got news and info on all your favorite shows and some more details on the newcomers. There's also lots of development news to report, everything from the long in development *Anonymous Rex* to a new adaptation of *The Flash* for the WB.

The new season of *Enterprise* started in early September with a more uptempo version of its opening theme song. *Faith of the Heart*. UPN is also having *Star Trek* put in front of *Enterprise* for promotional purposes hoping to remind viewers that it is set in the *Star Trek* Universe. With the new focus on the continuing Xindi storyline, UPN is hoping for renewed interest in the series. However, the opening week numbers were comparable to what the show drew for the season finale that introduced the storyline. They will be continuing the Xindi story arc at least into the November ratings sweeps. Upcoming episodes include *Raijin* where the NX-01 crew takes on a beautiful alien slave named Raijin while they work towards a showdown with the Xindi; *Impulse* sees the Enterprise respond to a distress signal from a Vulcan ship in the Expanse which contains insane zombie-like Vulcans; in *Exile*, a powerful telepath makes contact with Hoshi and offers to help Enterprise find the Xindi ... for a price; *The Shipment* sees Archer, Reed and Major Hayes infiltrate a Xindi-Sloth industrial colony to learn more about the weapon of mass destruction that will be used against Earth; in *Twilight*, Archer wakes up to find that the Enterprise is under attack, he is confined to quarters, and T'Pol is now Captain; and in *North Star*, the Enterprise comes across a Wild-West style town in the Delphic Expanse populated by Skagarans and humans (descendents of a Wagon train abducted in 1857). The episode's writer, **David Goodman**, has indicated the episode is intended to pay homage to original *Star Trek* episode like *Spectre of the Gun* where the Enterprise crew came across Earth like settings.

Teaming up with *Enterprise* on UPN on Wednesday nights is *Jake 2.0*. It is off to a fair start in the ratings (holding almost all of the *Enterprise* audience) but once the other networks roll out new episodes, it may not hold up as well. There is no advance info on episodes to report. As mentioned in the previous issue, the behind the scenes crew has a good pedigree and if given the chance, it may turn out to be a good show. At press time all I have seen is the pilot, which shows promise. In talking to *SciFi Wire*, **Christopher Gorham**, said that the show is a

metaphor for coming into your own. "It's kind of discovering yourself," **Gorham** said. "And I think the '2.0' kind of works on that level as well. It's like as you go through life, you're constantly upgrading [and] hopefully not downgrading. And each time you move into the newest version of yourself, there's new problems and there's new rewards, and you kind of have to learn all over again."

Over at The WB, *Angel* is off and running with their new locale at Wolfram and Hart. Following last season's finale that set up their new digs, we've got a few additional changes in store. First of all, Connor and Cordelia are no longer on the show and there's currently no word on if they will be making any appearances. **James Marsters** will be joining the show as a regular, with Spike initially appearing as a ghost or something of that sort. The producers have indicated that there will likely be a visit from **Sarah Michelle Gellar** next spring during February or May sweeps. Another familiar face turning up as a secretary at Wolfram and Hart will be **Mercedes McNab** as Harmony. One of the new semi-regular characters will be Eve, Angel's liaison to the senior partners. Opening episodes of the season include *Convictions*, where Angel deals with Wolfram and Hart spying on him and a client who says he will destroy California if they don't win his case; *Just Rewards* brings Spike fully into the picture as we learn more about the Amulet he used in the Buffy finale while Angel deals with terminating a client who is a necromancer; *Unleashed* brings on a female werewolf named Nina and when Angel must save her when she is captured to be this month's meal at a club that dines on exotic creatures; *Hell Bound* has Fred bring in a psychic in an attempt to help Spike when a spirit who sends other spirits into Hell is after Spike; and the last October episode is about Wolfram and Hart's annual Hallow-

een party where chaos ensues when Lorne's subconscious comes to the forefront.

The opening episodes of *Smallville* will deal with the after effects of the season finale where Clark's acts led to the death of the Kent's unborn baby. Clark has headed off to Metropolis and in the season opener *Exiles*, Clark gets involved with crime boss Morgan Edge (**Rutger Hauer**) who hires him to break into Luthercorp, Jonathan Kent tries to put his family back together and Lionel Luther accuses Helen of

(cont'd on page 4)

24 Frames

Movie News By Lee Whiteside

Batman is Back! Warner Bros. announced that **Christian Bale** (*American Psycho*, *Reign of Fire*) has been cast in the next *Batman* movie. Director **Christopher Nolan** indicated "he has exactly the balance of darkness and light that we were looking for." Warner Bros. has been silent on the plot of the movie and it appears to be a completely different project from others that had been in development. Rumors are it will involve Ras Al Ghul and be set partly in London. They are aiming for a Summer 2005 release.

As for *Superman*, latest rumors are that director **McG** and producer **Jon Peters** are no longer involved and Warner Bros. is starting over from scratch.

Star Wars Episode Three is wrapping up filming in Australia. There's all sorts of rumors and official and unofficial information about the movie circulating online. There will be a new bad guy in the movie, a light saber duel between Anakin and Obi-Wan, the first glimpses of Darth Vader, and a spectacular action sequence with Yoda according to effects supervisor **Dan Gregoire**. See the SF Tube Talk for more info on the *Star Wars: The Clone Wars* cartoon debuting on Cartoon Network in November.

Joss Whedon will be bringing his cancelled *Firefly* TV series to the big screen for Universal Pictures. **Whedon** will also direct and will incorporate the mythology of the series into the movie but keep it a stand alone effort with an epic feel. Negotiations are underway to bring all of the TV cast back for the movie.

M. Night Shyamalan's *The Woods* (the title will likely change) is in the works for an August, 2004 release. It is set in



Lee Whiteside

rural Pennsylvania in 1897 in a small village surrounded by mystical woods. Starring are **Bryce Dallas Howard**, **Joaquin Phoenix**, **Adrien Brody**, **William Hurt**, **Ashton Kutcher**, and **Sigourney Weaver**.

Also in the works for next summer is "*Alien vs. Predator*", set in the near future where a team of scientists investigating ancient pyramids in Antarctica find Alien face huggers. Once the aliens are uncovered, Predators start showing up to take them on. Sort of a prequel to the *Alien* movies and somewhat loosely related to the Dark Horse Comics line of books and related video games. Directed and written by **Paul W.S. Anderson** (*Resident Evil*, *Mortal Kombat*, *Soldier*, *Event Horizon*).

Halle Berry will be *Catwoman* next summer, with **Sharon Stone** co-starring. Based loosely on the DC *Catwoman* comics, **Berry** plays Patience Price, a Salt Lake City veterinary scientist who becomes Catwoman to fight against the cosmetics company she works for that is a front for the criminal activities of the husband and wife (**Stone**) that run it. Rumors are that **Michelle Pfeiffer** may make a cameo appearance to pass the torch to **Berry**.

Blade: Trinity will see **Dominic Purcell** (*John Doe*) as **Wesley Snipes'** nemesis in the third *Blade* movie. Also

(cont'd on page 7)

WANTED TO BUY!!!

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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 3)

killing Lex. In *Phoenix*, Lex returns to everyone's surprise and Clark and the Kents try to put their lives back together while Lionel and Morgan Edge both are looking at the sample of Clark's blood. *Extinctions* introduces a friend of Lana's who has been going around taking out the "meteor-freaks" since one of them killed his father. He gets ahold of Chloe's database and sets his sights on Clark. *Slumber* sees two newcomers in town that move next door to the Kents, a young girl named Sarah and her uncle. Sarah is in a comatose state likely as a result of the meteor shower. When Clark starts seeing her moving around outside, he begins to suspect there's more going on than it appears. In *Perry*, Clark meets up with a reporter named Perry White (**Michael McKean**) who comes to Smallville on an assignment while Lex begins seeing a psychiatrist, Claire Foster. *Relics* sees a story from the 1960's about Jonathan Kent's parents and Lex Luthor's grandparents dealing with a mysterious drifter named Joe. This looks to be similar to the *Roswell* episode where everyone in the cast played characters from an earlier time period to tell a story in the past. *Magnetic* sees a new Freak of the Week with magnetic powers that activate when he is given a MRI after a neck injury he got in a

fight. For more details check out www.kryptionsite.com on the internet. I've even turned up some advanced info on *Charmed* for once. Following the season opener where the Halliwell's dealt with Valhalla and Valkyries, in *Forget Me Not*, Wyatt conjures up a dragon that exposes magic to the world that has to be cleaned up by The Cleaners; in *Power of Three Blondes*, three ditzy sisters (all blond) from the 1920's steal the Halliwell sisters powers in an attempt to take over their identities; and in *Love's a Witch*, Paige gets a new boyfriend, a warlock that has a cursed family. Also on The WB is *Tarzan*, which will likely draw a decent sized audience but hasn't yet generated much online buzz. The most recent news about the show is that **Lucy Lawless (Xena)** will be joining the show as Kathleen Clayton, a publishing magnate and younger sister of **Mitch Pileggi's** Richard Clayton, the acting head of Greystoke Industries. Both Clayton's have their own ideas on how to handle their nephew, knowing that whoever controls Tarzan, controls Greystoke. This addition indicates that the show will not focus exclusively on the Tarzan and Jane relationship but will have a larger scope, thus the dropping of "Jane" from the title. Bringing *Lawless* in will give the show a dynamic similar to what is seen on *Smallville* with the Luthors. The WB has

also signed *Lawless* to a development deal for a possible series for next season, so if *Tarzan* doesn't make it, *Lawless* will likely get a chance to develop something of her own to star in. Starting up on FOX at the end of October is *Tru Calling* with **Eliza Dushku** as Tru Davies, a morgue attendant who gets messages from the dead and wakes up the previous morning with the chance to save them. She also has a brother, Harrison (**Shawn Reaves**), who gets into trouble gambling and a sister, Meredith (**Jessica Collins**), who has drug problems and she uses her second chance to help them out while she is literally running around town. Also regulars are **A.J. Cook** as Lindsay, Tru's loyal and

unsuspecting best friend and **Zach Galifianakis** as Davis, the quirky morgue attendant Tru works the night shift with. A computer geek friend who helps Tru out in the pilot has apparently been removed from the show. The initial batch of episodes include the *Pilot* where Tru firsts learns of her special power when a young woman's corpse says "Help Me" and she has to find out how and why she died and try to save her while dealing with her siblings problems as well; *Putting Out Fires* has Tru try to prevent a fireman's death while saving a family from a fire; *Brother's Keeper* has Tru's brother get involved with a married woman who kills her husband and Tru has to figure out who's telling the truth in the relationship; *Past Tense* sees Tru try to save five men

(Cont'd on page 5)



HEXA CON 14

Arizona's Largest Gaming Convention July 29*-Aug 1, 2004 Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ

Arizona's Largest Annual Gaming Convention will be even bigger in 2004. We're moving to the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe with a lot more room and tons of nearby restaurants and shopping. We'll have all of our regular events and activities plus more in the works. *Special events and gaming for Pre-registered members start Thursday, July 29
Gaming starts at 10:00 a.m. Friday, July 30 and runs non-stop until Sunday, August 1st at 3 p.m.

We are planning to have **Sanctioned Magic & CCG Tournaments, Steve Jackson Games, Board Gaming, Miniatures, multiple LARPs, Battletech, Computer Lan Gaming, Miniatures Painting Contest, Role Playing, Chess Federation Sponsored Chess Events, White Wolf, Dealer's Room, Used Game Auction, Anime Room and Full Hospitality Suite.**

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SF Tube Talk (Cont'd from page 4)

who are all poisoned at a bachelor party; *Haunted* has Tru trying to save a medical student who is experimenting with recovering suppressed memories through near death experiences; *Star Crossed* has Tru trying to save a high school couple who died in a car crash.

Elsewhere on the networks is *Joan of Arcadia* on CBS, about a teenager named

Joan (Amber Tamblyn) living in Arcadia that has God talk to her appearing as different people. Her father, Will Girardi (Joe Mantegna) is chief of police, her older brother Kevin (Jason Ritter) is recovering from a car accident that disabled him a year and a half ago, her younger brother brother, Luke (Michael Welch), is a computer geek, and her mother, Helen (Mary Steenburgen), is trying to deal with all of them. The pilot shows promise, with God directing Joan to get a job that figures

both into helping with an ongoing serial killer mystery her dad is working on plus giving her disabled brother some encouragement.

Andromeda moves into its fourth season in syndication and will be aired in wide-screen. Gone is Keith Hamilton Cobb as Tyr Anasazi (although he will be making an appearance or two during the season). According to a Tribune press release, Dylan Hunt and crew will work to keep the

operations for several intelligence and security agencies. Like the members of the Mutant X team, she was also the unwitting subject of genetic experimentation. As a result, she can bend light rays to become invisible and manipulate light to use as a weapon. The remaining mutants will learn that they are part of a much larger experiment that Adam had kept them in the dark about.

Over on Showtime, *Dead Like Me* has finished up its first season with no reports yet on if Showtime will pick it up for any more episodes. Taking over the Friday 10 pm ET/PT time slot on October 10th will be the second (and likely final) season of *Jeremiah*. As previously reported, Sean Astin (Sam Gamgee in *Lord of the Rings*) joins the cast as the mysterious Mr. Smith, who talks to God among other strange traits. In the season opening two-parter *Letters from the Other Side*, Jeremiah has come to Valhalla Sector and found his father but it seems Ezekiel was right - his presence may pave the way to disaster. With Markus and Erin also captives of Valhalla Sector's rulers, only Kurdy remains free to try to avert it. In part two, Kurdy meets the mysterious Mister Smith. Reluctantly, they join others from Thunder Mountain in Lee Chen's danger-ridden plan to rescue Jeremiah, Markus and Erin from Valhalla Sector.

Coming up on The Cartoon Network is (finally) the second season of *The Justice League* beginning October 4th. They will air both parts of each two part episode on Saturday nights at 10 pm ET/PT. Opening stories are *Tabula Rasa* where J'onn J'onzz has a crisis of conscience while Lex Luthor gains control of Amazo, a powerful android who can copy the powers of the entire Justice League.

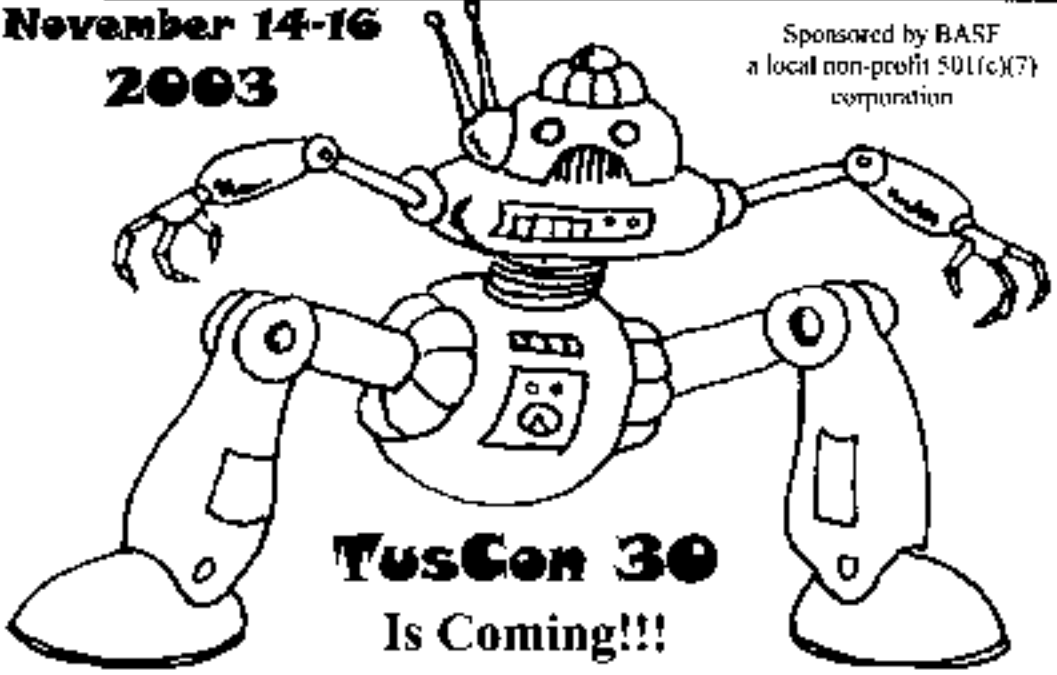
In *Only A Dream* members of the Justice League are trapped in a nightmarish dream world controlled by the evil Dr. Destiny where they are forced to confront their own darkest fears. *Maid of Honor* has Wonder Woman befriend a jet-setting Kasnian princess only to find herself enmeshed in a complex plot of intrigue and betrayal masterminded by the Justice League's old enemy, Vandal Savage. *Hearts and Minds* has John Stewart learn that Katma Tui, his old girlfriend from the Green Lantern Corps, is missing in action. He leaves Earth to try to rescue her from the clutches of the mad prophet known as Despero.

Debating on November 7th on the Cartoon Network is *Star Wars: The Clone Wars*. The first ten segments will air weeknights at 8 pm ET/PT for two weeks on the network in a five minute block leading off the hour. The shorts tell stories of events that happen between *Star Wars Episode II* and *Star Wars Episode III*. They are produced by Genndy Tartakovsky, creator of *Dexter's Laboratory* and *Samurai Jack*. The remaining ten

(Cont'd on page 6)

**November 14-16
2003**

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fragile Commonwealth from falling and we will also learn the true nature of Trance Gemini. We will also see Steve Bacic return as Telemachus Rhade. Opening the season is *Answers Given To Questions Never Asked* in which Dylan Hunt and the Andromeda must travel to the All Forces Nullification Point to save the Commonwealth congress that is on the verge of annihilation. In *Double or Nothingness*, while working to rebuild the Commonwealth fleet, Dylan falls in with a gambler who puts pilots into virtual reality fighter games who traps him into one of these games. In *Soon the Nearing Vortex*, Dylan stops a pirate transporting bio-organic body armor that leaves the wearer indestructible and mad. In *Exalted Reason, Resplendant Daughter*, Dylan rescues the daughter of a Commonwealth ruler from an outlaw but finds she has fallen in love with the rogue.

At *Mutant X*, there's plenty of changes in store there following the season finale that left the fate of most of the crew uncertain. Not returning at all is Emma (Lauren Lee Smith) and Adam Kane (John Shea) will be relegated to an occasional role. Taking charge will be newcomer mutant Lexa Pierce (Karen Cliche from *Adventure, Inc.*) whose shadowy past includes covert

episodes in the project will be aired sometime next spring.

Eric Garcia, creator of *Anonymous Rex* and writer of the book that the recent movie *Matchstick Men* was based on has reported on his official website, EricGarcia.com, that production on a two hour pilot movie for the *Anonymous Rex* series has finally been given a green light. The project has been in development for three years with SciFi and Alliance-Atlantis and has been slowly working out the problems of depicting dinosaurs disguised as humans which is a central piece of the premise. According to **Garcia**, the pilot movie is actually based on the story seen in the prequel book, *Casual Rex*, in which Vincent Rubio and his partner, Ernie, go after a back to nature dinosaur cult led by Circe. I'll definitely have more details as they become available.

Former *X-Files* executive producer and Phoenix native **Frank Spotnitz** is developing a supernatural series for the FX network called *The 13th Floor*. The show deals with a lawyer who serves as an advocate for dead people who believe they've been wrongly condemned to hell. **Spotnitz** is working with novelist **Brad Meltzer** and **Steve Cohen** on the series.

The WB has made a pilot commitment for a new series based loosely on DC comic's *The Flash*. **Todd Komarnicki (Resistance)** is writing the pilot and will executive produce the show. The show will be another re-imagining of a comics character with the Flash discovering he can travel very fast when he is fresh out of college. He also has the capability to run backwards and forwards in time.

One more **Gene Roddenberry** project is in development. Former *Star Trek: TNG* producer **Herbert Wright** has found financing for a series based on **Roddenberry's The Questor Tapes**. **Wright** told SciFi Wire that they are still determining if the series will go to a network, cable or into syndication. They intend to start off the season with a full two hour episode with 24 hour long episodes to follow. He expects the series to be ready for the 2004/2005 TV season.

Finally, it's time for the long awaited (or dreaded depending on your viewpoint) preview of the new *Battlestar Galactica* arriving on SciFi Channel in December. This will be a two part, four hour miniseries that will re-imagine the series and is not a continuation of the original series. If it does well, there is a chance SciFi will pick it up as a continuing series. Following an earlier attempt by **Bryan Singer** and **Tom DeSanto** to put together a new version of *Battlestar Galactica* (in addition to **Richard Hatch's** attempts to revive the series with his own ideas), Universal TV and SciFi went to **Ron D. Moore (Star Trek: Deep Space Nine, Roswell)** to come up with his own approach to a new version of the series.

Moore took the re-imagining approach, taking the basic concept but updating it more to today's expectations of what a science fiction show should be. However, in the process of doing so, some of the changes have been met with a fierce outcry from die-hard *Galactica* fans.

Taking on the role of Cmdr. William Adama is **Edward James Olmos**. Adama is in charge of the last remaining *Battlestar, Galactica*, and wants to avenge the deaths of billions of humans but is forced to flee with the remnants of humanity and lead the rag-tag fleet of space-ships to a safe haven away from the Cylons. Leading the remaining humans is President Laura Roslin (**Mary McDonnell**) who was 43rd in succession to be president and finds herself the new President when she is the highest ranking survivor Adama's son, Lee "Apollo" Adama (**Jamie Bamber**), is estranged from his father, having blamed him for the death of his brother, Zak. An accomplished viper pilot, Apollo must work to set aside his grudges to work with his father and others to fight the Cylons and save humanity. Now we come to where things start to be a little different from the original....

Lt. Kara "Starbuck" Trace (**Katee Sackhoff**) is an accomplished viper pilot, a loner, rebellious and always hungry for a good fight. When the Cylons launch their sneak attack on Kobol, she finds herself at the core of the Galactica's combat team defending the last of humanity. Lt. Sharon "Boomer" Valerii (**Grace Park**) is a young pilot, recently graduated from flight school. Besides having to come to grips with putting her abilities to the test, she also adopts a young orphan, Boxey. Dr. Gaius Baltar (**James Callis**) is an evil genius who has designed the defense systems for Kobol. His affair with what he thinks is a corporate spy, Number Six, leads to the downfall of humanity when he

learns that Number Six (**Tricia Helfer**) is not really a beautiful and sultry woman but an advanced Cylon android. Even though Baltar escapes with the Galactica, Six is still with him due to a memory chip implanted in Baltar's brain. Finally, Col. Paul Tigh (**Michael Hogan**), Galactica's Executive officer and Adama's right-hand man, is ill-tempered and an alcoholic, and believes that his wife is cheating on him.

SciFi has been heavily promoting the

series and it will air on Sunday, December 7th and Monday, December 8th. It is their big event miniseries for the fall and it will likely draw a large audience of viewers and more than likely will spawn a weekly series or additional mini-series. I'd suggest you watch it for what it is intended, a re-imagining of the whole thing and not get stuck on the changes made to it. Of course, having the original series released on DVD this fall will invite those comparisons....

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24 Frames (cont'd from page 1)

starring is **Kris Kristofferson, Jessica Biel and Ryan Reynolds.**

The **Ray Bradbury** short story, ***A Sound of Thunder***, is getting the big screen treatment by director **Peter Hyams**. It expands the short story about a hunter going back in time to hunt dinosaurs and changing the timeline to that of a DNA researcher played by **Edward Burns** who is using time travel to reconstitute extinct wildlife. The time travel trips lead to evolution going berserk. Also starring is **Ben Kingsley** and **Catherine McCormack**.

Fall Movies Preview

It's coming into the fall holiday season. This means a bunch of horror movies in time for Halloween and then all the big holiday blockbusters in November with December likely taken over completely by ***Lord of the Rings*** (all three movies). Here's a quick look at the genre movies opening over the next couple of months.

House of the Dead - A group of young partiers head to a remote island in the Straight of Juan de Fuca for a promised "mother of all Raves". What they find is an unspeakable evil and nightmarish horrors. Their only hope to survive is to take refuge in the "House of the Dead" in the center of the island. Stars a cast of mostly unknowns who will likely stay that way.

Kill Bill Volume 1 - **Quentin Tarantino's** latest action adventure stars **Uma Thurman** as a former assassin out for revenge on her boss, **Bill (David Carradine)** who betrayed her. After emerging from a coma, she must take on her former master and his squad of deadly assassins (played by **Lucy Liu, Daryl Hannah, Vivica A. Fox** and **Michael Madsen**).

The Texas Chainsaw Massacre - A remake of the original. Expect lots and lots of blood and gore.

The Singing Detective - A movie version of the offbeat 1986 BBC TV miniseries by **Dennis Potter** about a delusional writer who reworks the story of his first novel in his mind while bedridden. Stars **Robert Downey Jr., Robin Wright Penn, Mel Gibson, Katie Holmes**, and **Carla Gugino**.

Gothika - **Halle Berry** finds herself a prisoner in the mental institution where she works with no memory of how she ended up in her situation. She must fight to regain her sanity while dealing with a vengeful spirit using her as an earthly pawn. Also stars **Penélope Cruz, Robert Downey Jr., Charles S. Dutton**, and **Bernard Hill**.

Scary Movie 3 - Let's make fun of more movies, like ***Signs*, *The Ring*, *Eminem's 8 Mile***, and ***Lord of the Rings***. Stars **Anna Faris, Charlie Sheen, Anthony Anderson, Pamela Anderson**,

Leslie Nielsen, and **Peter Boyle**. It is directed by **David Zucker (*Airplane*, *Naked Gun*)** and does not involve the **Wayan's Brothers** who were part of the first two movies in the series.

Alien: The Director's Cut - A rerelease of the classic ***Alien*** movie, with some added footage.

Suspended Animation - When a Hollywood animator gets lost in the Michigan woods on a snowmobile trip, he is taken in by a pair of psychotic cannibal sisters living in a remote cabin.

Matrix: Revolutions - The final chapter in the ***Matrix Trilogy***. Neo goes up against the machines in real life in a last stand to save humanity and end the rule of the machines forever. Stars the usual suspects from the first two movies.

Elf - **Will Farrell** is a human who was raised by Elves at the north pole who goes in search of his parents in Manhattan. Also stars **Edward Asner, Mary Steenburgen, James Caan, Bob Newhart**.

Looney Tunes: Back in Action - The return of Looney Tunes mixed with Live Action with Bugs, Daffy, Porky and others dealing with **Steve Martin** as their nemesis with other humans played by **Brendan Fraser, Billy West, Jenna Elfman**, and **Timothy Dalton**. Look for some cameos by famous movie props in one sequence.

Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World - Action & adventure on the high seas with **Russell Crowe** and **Billy Boyd**. The crew of the H.M.S. Surprise do battle with a privateer in a chase that takes them to the far side of the world.

Dr. Suess' The Cat in the Hat - **Michael Meyers** is The Cat in the Hat, based on the classic Dr. Suess story. Also stars **Spencer Breslin, Dakota Fanning, Alec Baldwin**, and **Sean Hayes**.

The Haunted Mansion - **Eddie**

Murphy is a real estate agent who spends a weekend in a Haunted Mansion with his family. Also stars **Terence Stamp, Don Knotts, Jennifer Tilly**, and **Nathaniel Parker**. Will this be the second big success for a Disney theme ride inspired movie?

Timeline - Based on the **Michael Crichton** novel with a group of students time traveling back to 14th century France to rescue their professor, who has become trapped in that era. Stars **Paul Walker, Frances O'Connor, Gerard Butler, Billy Connolly**, and **David Thewlis**.

In December, New Line will be releasing to around 100-150 theatres the extended versions of the first two ***Lord of the Rings*** movies, ***The Fellowship of the Ring*** (Dec 5th) and ***The Two Towers*** (Dec 12th). They will also be having a three movie marathon on December 16th, culminating in the first screenings of the third movie, ***The Return of the King***, at 11 pm local time. Keep an eye out for when the tickets go on sale for the marathon and schedule your time off now!



Ode to a Fantasy Seller September 6, 2003

LepreCon,
CopperCon,
I see him at Cons.
He is and always will be
Among
Us
In memory and in our hearts.

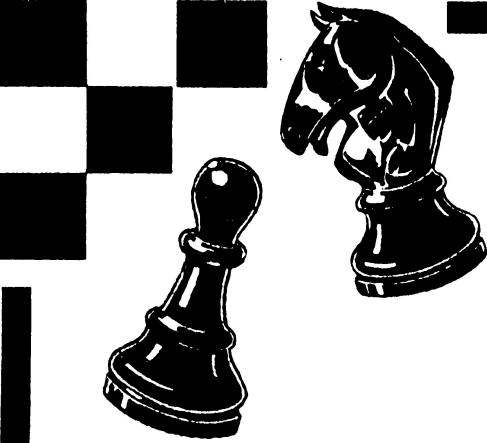
Iremember
His Groucho mustache,
His green flak jacket,
His stern look
(To Thieves everywhere),
And his love of books
Especially from a Barry we know.

I'll miss
His dry wit,
His wares of swords,
His hellos,
His greetings
And recognition
Of a fellow
Dreamer.

Sadly,
One Monday
His heart goes
From Fantasy
To Fact
As he sprout wings
And fly from our fans, friends, and family.

I will never know
Fellow Dreamer.
But I know
I will
Search for his table,
And see with great sadness
He is not there.

by Jeffrey Lu



GAME DEPOT

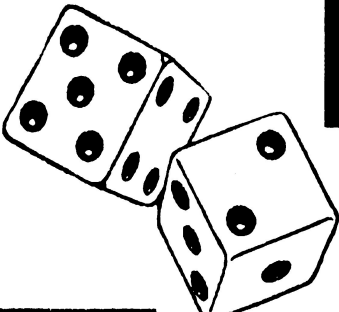
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Harlan Ellison (cont'd from page 1)

madman rips us open and dissects us from the inside while we are still breathing and conscious? Rarely in the universe could one person be so bold, but then again, why is there this one person that could affect us in this manner?

Perhaps, I could venture a guess. Though not as cosmopolitan, read, or fluent as Mr. Ellison, I hope that I, a mere mortal, may discern a fraction of his boundless wisdom in this quasi-lecture hall. So, I observe.

Parading around, the figure waves his hands into a tornadic revelry as the wilting petals shy away from his bombardment-style ideology. "Do a good deed every-day," he spouted and some of the flower petals began coming back to life. Listening at last to his words, questions emerge from the garden of repose.

Ideas motivate conversation as contemplation turns into philosophy and speculation moves to debate. His words shrieking with conviction: Educate yourself. Read. Be clever and happy. Learn about international cuisine and cultures: order dim sum. Become students of deductive logic: read Sherlock Holmes. Most of all, the youth of today should "pay attention."



leave as their class comes to a close. For some buds, their petals wither away until the flower of knowledge is dry and brittle blowing the remains to the four corners. Yet, this breeze also carries hope as other buds awaken from winter's slumber into spring's warm comprehension as their petals soften becoming beautiful blooms. The sky slowly darkens on this good day, he redeems more than one. Even

though the task is finished and the day is done, he gazes around the room knowing that he saved some flowers from becoming a part of the dusty, arid landscape and led those freed minds into the Garden of Eden. As the room empties of petal and flower, he jumps in his car and turns the key. Awaiting his next destination on this lonely stretch of road, he offers one last

glance to this place from his '47 Packard and rides into the colorful desert sunset. Will I ever see this crazed man again? Will his philosophy ever change the simple into the prolific? Only time will tell whether or not his sermons reach the chosen few, but this petal -and anyone else who listens beyond the tangible- rather be a hitchhiker on his bumper than a stagnate flower sucking on the tailpipe of life.

© Shellnbarger

Knowing about the world, its people, places and things, allows us to manifest our own destinies. With cognition we are powerful and the less effect strangers will have on our lives. So that others in this world cannot control us by emotion or absurdity. Only we can control the steering of our lives, if we take the time to learn. Knowledge and perception promises us that the life we lead is our own. As his didactic messages permeate throughout the room, only the interested few grasp the concept of self-awareness and -reliance. Time passes and students

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David Drake

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Special Artist Guest **John Eassey**

Senior Illustrator on *Enterprise*, Illustrator on recent Star Trek movies and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *The Majestic* and *Terminator 2: Judgement Day*.

Local Artist Guest of **Sylvana Anderson**

LepreCon 30 is moving to the Sheraton Crescent Hotel with more function space where almost all convention activities will be under one roof. As always, LepreCon will feature the Largest Science Fiction and Fantasy Art Show in the Southwest with art from national and local artists, Programming with Panel Discussions on Art, Writing, Science and more, Art Demos, games and special family friendly programming. We will also have a Dealer's Room, Gaming, LARP, Video Room, Anime Room, LAN Party, Masquerade, Hospitality Suite, and a Charity Auction.

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FYI

It's A Boy

Samurai Comics owners Mike and Moryha Banks welcomed their son Connor Michael Banks into the world on September 25, 2003 at 10:40PM, 7 lbs 12.6 oz, 18 1/2 inches long. Congratulations!

Len Sippel

Len Sippel passed away suddenly on Sept 1, 2003. Many of you will remember Len from our local dealer's rooms as the gentleman with all the swords. We wish to express our sympathy to his family for their loss.

LOST & FOUND

We have a lot of items in our lost and found bin including some recent additions from HexaCon 13 and CopperCon 23. At HexaCon 13 we added a vest, a pair of sunglasses and a pair of prescription glasses to our collection. At copperCon we added a book and yet another pair of sunglasses. The book has gone home but the other items remain.

To be honest, I'm getting tired of storing this stuff so we decided that the deadline for claiming any of it will be October 31, 2003 since I didn't actually state a day in the last issue. After that we will consider all the items to be donations to our group and will dispose of them appropriately.

So, if you're looking for a missing item give me a call at 602-973-2341 and describe the item. I'd love to see some of this stuff go home.

Troma's Lloyd Kaufman at MadStone Theatres Oct 9th

To celebrate the 30th Anniversary of Troma Films, Madstone Theatre will be having a special event with Troma President Lloyd Kaufman on Thursday night, October 9th. Kaufman will be on hand to chat with fans from 7 pm to 10 pm and the theatre will screen two Troma films, *Cannibal the Musical* around 7 p.m. and *Citizen Toxie* around 9 p.m. (exact times are still being worked out at presstime) Lloyd will be at the theater between 7PM and 10PM and available for discussion and will introduce each film. The prices are \$6 for students and \$8 for adults. Madstone Theatres are located at 5835 W. Ray Road in Chandler, Arizona. For more info, call 480.785.SHOW.

Jacqueline Lichtenberg & Jean Lorrach

Jacqueline Lichtenberg reports: "I have a vampire novel (*Those of My Blood*) coming out in its first trade paperback edition in October, (it was a St. Martin's HC many years ago) andBenBella is also doing a nonfiction book, *Seven Seasons of Buffy* with articles by sf/f writers about Buffy The Vampire Slayer, and **Jean Lorrach** and I have articles in that one too. Jean has a vampire novel out now titled *Blood Will Tell*."

Fall Book Signings

After along dry spell of very few book signings by science fiction and fantasy authors touring to promote their latest books, we have several happening over the next two months. Please try to support these signings and hopefully the publishers will schedule more of them instead of skipping over the Phoenix area.

Diana Gabaldon will be launching her new book, *Lord John and the Private Matter*, at The Poisoned Pen, 4014 N. Goldwater, Suite 101, Scottsdale, AZ, 480-947-2974, on October 4th at 4 pm. Check out www.poisonedpen.com for all of their upcoming mystery and fiction writer signings, include a special event with British Mystery writers on October 25th. **Jane Lindskold** will be signing at Changing Hands Bookstore, 6428 South McClintock Drive, Tempe, AZ on Friday, October 17th at 7:00 pm. According to a message we recieved from Jane "The focus of the signing will be my new Release, *the Dragon of Despair*. Other of my novels, including *Wolf's Head*, *Wolf's Heart* (with a neat new paperback cover) and *Through Wolf's Eyes* should also be available. If you're interested in more information about the signing, call Changing Hands at 480-730-0205. For more information about my writing, including sample chapters, go to my website at www.janelindskold.com. I hope to have a chance to meet many of you at the signing."

R.A. Salvatore has scheduled a book signing for Saturday, Nov 1st at 2pm at Borders Books & Music, 1361 S. Alma School Road, Mesa, AZ 85210, (480) 833-2244

Del Rey will be bringing **James Luceno** into town to promote *Star Wars: New Jedi Order: Unifying Force* on November 5th. He will give a talk and sign starting at 7 pm at the Desert Ridge Barnes & Noble, 21001 N. Tatum Blvd. Suite 42, Phoenix, AZ 85050

Cult Movies and Rocky Horror at Spectrum Cinemas

With the success of the Rocky Horror Picture show and a recent screening of Hedwig and the Angry Inch at Spectrum Cinemas, they will start screening some cult movies on the weekends starting in

October. Friday night screenings are at 9 pm and Saturday night ones are at 8 pm. This is an experiment being tried by the theatre based on the success they have had with Rocky and its fans. It's a rare chance to see some of these movies in a theatre with 100 or more fans that you don't get to do at home watching it on DVD.

Tentative schedule is:

Oct. 3rd/4th - **The Lost Boys**

Oct. 10th/11th - **The Craft**

Oct. 17th/18th - **Interview with a Vampire**

Oct. 25th/26th - **The Crow**

Oct. 31st - Two Showings of **Rocky Horror**

Nov. 1st - Regular Showing of **Rocky Horror**

Nov. 7th/8th - **A Clockwork Orange**

Nov. 14th/15th - **Heavy Metal**

Nov. 21st/22nd - **Pink Floyd: the Wall**

Check with the theatre and at www.azrocky.com for any schedule changes. Admission for the cult movies will be \$5 with Rocky Horror Picture Show being \$6. Spectrum Cinemas (formerly UA Christown) is located inside the Spectrum Mall at 19th Avenue & Bethany Home Road.

We Are Such Stuff, As Dreams Are Made Of

Is our own fate free will or predestined? How do you know if you are dreaming or truly awake? These are some of the questions explored in Mesa Community College's season theatrical opener, **LIFE IS A DREAM** by Pedro Calderón de la Barca, October 9 through October 19, 2003. **LIFE IS A DREAM** was written by 17th Century Spanish playwright and ordained priest Pedro Calderón de la Barca. During the height of Spain's Golden Age of Theater, Calderón was one the leading playwrights of that century, serving as the court dramatist for King Philip IV. Born January 17, 1600, Calderón began writing plays at the age of 23 after studying law at the University of Alcalá and the University of Salamanca. **LIFE IS A DREAM** is one of his better known plays that was written and produced between 1635 and 1637 (sources vary). His was an active life, coming from a good family with money and connections, gaining a solid education that included the Jesuit College in Madrid before law school. He served in the military for some ten years (stationed in Italy and the Low Countries), then became a Knight of the Order of Santiago in 1637. Twelve years later, Calderón entered the priesthood, rising to become the Superior of the Brotherhood of San Pedro in Madrid. He died May 5, 1681.

Join us at the Theatre Outback Black Box / Green Room TH 2, 1833 West Southern Avenue in Mesa. Show times: October 9, 10, 11, 17, 18 -- 7:30 P.M., and October 12 and 19 Sunday matinees at 2 P.M. Ticket prices: \$10 general public; discounts for seniors, students, alumni, faculty, and staff. The box office number is (480) 461-7170.



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Musical Note

by Tom Tuerff

Weird Al Yankovic
Poodle Hat
Volcano B000095J7Q

This is kind of an odd album for **Al**. Or as he calls it, **AL-bum**.

For one thing, you get the feeling that he had problems finding any songs out

there worth parodying this time out. But that's okay, because it forced him to write some decent songs of his own, and with one or two exceptions, these rank among his best originals.

Case in point: '*Hardware Store*.' Lyrically, it's about a guy who just CAN'T WAIT for the new hardware store to open. (Reminds me of my wife. Personally I can't stand those places.) It culminates with a well-edited litany of things you can buy in a hardware store (okay, 'automatic circumcisers' is a stretch) sung at about a

thousand miles an hour, but clearly enough that you can understand every word. (It reminded me of the old song '*Life is a Rock but the Radio Rolled Me*' by **Reunion** from the '70s.) That in itself is amazing. But the arrangement, particularly the female choir, is FAN-TAS-TIC. Syncopated background singers add their countermelodies to the chorus. It's fun and well done.

From there, jump straight to the track called '*Bob*.' It's a parody of how **Bob Dylan** writes and sings, but the ingenious-

ness of it lies in the lyrics. Study the lyrics, people. And remember: **Lisa Bonet** ate no basil. (That's the best line in the song.)

If you don't get what's going on in '*Bob*,' then you're REALLY not going to get what's going on in '*Genius in France*,' but the fact that **Dweezil Zappa** appears on it should give you an idea. Pretend for a minute that **Al** had been given the opportunity to write a song with **Frank Zappa** before **Frank** left on his final tour. Lyrically, it gets pretty nasty and self-deprecating for the song's protagonist (I couldn't help but think of **Jerry Lewis** throughout this thing, although it just as easily could apply to French "icons" like **Charles Aznavour**, **Serge Gainsbourg** or even **Gerard Depardieu**), but musically, if you know your **Zappa**, this song is a minor masterwork. Musical FZ references abound, from obvious nods to '*In France*,' '*I'm the Slime*' and '*Dog Breath in the Year of the Plague*' to basic 'Zappaisms' like sudden tempo changes and low-voiced, recited lyrics.

The parodies? Eh. I'm 45 years old. I've never heard the **Eminem** song **Al** parodies here and don't care to. And it's about TV shows, very familiar territory that **Al** keeps going back to over and over and over.

Same goes for the parody of a song by **Nelly**, whoever she is, who apparently is so illiterate she can't spell the word 'here.' (The song **Al** parodies is called -- and I'm not making this up: "*Hot in Herre*." With two "r"s. Our educational system is going in the toilet.)

However, thanks to my teenage sons, I am more than familiar with the songs **Al** plays in his '*Angry White Boy Polka*,' and as usual, **Al** shows just how stupid some songs really are when you reveal them to be easy to dance the polka to. (When he starts singing '*Fell in Love with a Girl*' by **White Stripes**, I just about wet myself.)

So if you're a **Weird Al** fan, get this. If you're thinking about becoming a **Weird Al** fan, you might want to get a couple other discs first. And if you do buy this album and you don't know who **Bob Dylan** or **Frank Zappa** are, take some extra money to the CD store, boy. You got some learnin' to do.

Filk-related news:

Leslie Fish called me a couple days before deadline and mentioned that she and her roommate are looking for a third roommate to take up residence at their home on the west side of the Valley. Keep in mind that by the time you read this, they may very well have found someone, but if you're interested, email her at thefish@lesriefish.com

Nancy Freeman was recently the musical guest of honor at Confluence, an annual con held in Pittsburgh, PA every summer. Next stop for **Nancy** is a visit to New Zealand this winter, and if I know her she'll pick up some interesting musical inspiration while she's there.

If you're going to be at Tus-Con this November, DO NOT MISS your chance to hear **Jeff** and **Maya Bohnhoff** perform. I'm saying this even to those of you who would rather catch the SARS virus than spend two minutes with a filker. They are truly talented musicians and you will be impressed.

Tuppence (Pat Connors, Elizabeth Burnham and Chris Dickenson) will be (at least if I heard them right at the CopperCon filk) performing once again at the 2004 Arizona Renaissance Festival in February. Check them out when you go.

One group you will not be seeing anymore, sadly, is the **Bringers**, who officially split up, both professionally and personally, after their gigs at this year's Ren Faire. In their time, they put out two fantastic CDs. If you can find them, buy them. And when you see her, ask **Michi** the fiddler for a copy of her new solo CD of traditional melodies. It's mighty fine.

Good to see **Larry Warner** at CopperCon, where he was Filk GOH. He put on a nice concert that showed off his best stuff, including the wonderful "*Santa Monica Pier*." Having just been to Santa Monica this spring, he put me right back there with that song.

On a personal note, I'd like to thank **Randall Whitlock** for asking me to play the halftime show at the CopperCon masquerade. I had a blast, even though my personal mic stand had impotence problems. Anytime, dude.

Tom Tuerff writes filk and related music reviews for *ConNotations*. If you have a CD or tape that you'd like him to review, send it to him via this newspaper or wrap it up nicely in shiny paper and have it delivered to his house by a willing leather dominatrix with a 'thing' for eating cheese and crackers in bed. Or, you can just arrange to get Tom's address by e-mailing him at tuerff@aol.com. That's probably easier.

World Horror Convention 2004

APRIL 8-11, 2004

Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, Arizona

www.whc2004.org

World Horror Convention is THE annual event for Horror Professionals and Enthusiasts!

AUTHOR GUEST OF HONOR: Douglas Clegg

Author of *The Hour Before Dark*, *The Priest of Blood*, and *Red Angel* (writing as Andrew Harper)

ARTIST GUEST OF HONOR: Caniglia

An artist of strangely skewed visions of horror and the macabre. Illustrator and cover artist for many books and magazines in the genre.

EDITOR GUEST OF HONOUR: Stephen Jones

Stephen has been editor & writer of more than 70 books. He has accumulated over twenty awards including Bram Stoker Awards, British Fantasy Awards, World Fantasy Awards, and IHG Awards.

TOASTMASTER: David Morrell

Award winning author of twenty five novels of international intrigue, horror, and high-action thrillers including *Black Evening*, *First Blood*, *The Fifth Profession*, *The Totem*, *Assumed Identity*, *Extreme Denial*, and *The Protector*

MEDIA GUEST OF HONOR: Dee Snider

Star, writer and producer of Dee Snider's Strangeland, a horror cult classic movie, producer of Van Helsing's Curse -- a Halloween Orchestra stage show & album, singer for Twisted Sister Rock band, & host of The House of Hair radio show,

SPECIAL GUEST: Adam Niswander

Author of *The Shaman Cycle* novels as well as non-shaman novels *The Sand Dwellers*, and *The Repository*, *A Novel of Magik and the Occult*. His short fiction (including many horror stories) has appeared in numerous anthologies and magazines.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP GUEST OF HONOR: Mort Castle

Mort Castle has been writing since 1967 and writes everything from novels to poetry. He will be running the Writer's Workshop at this year's convention.

World Horror Convention 2004 will feature an Art Show, Programming and Discussion Panels on Horror Writing and Horror Art, Author Readings, a large Dealer's Room, & a Hospitality Suite. Special events include a Charity Auction, Artist Reception with Wine & Cheese Tasting, an Independent Film Festival, Writer's Workshop, Mass Autographing session, Flash Fiction Contest, Gross Out Contest, and World Horror Convention Grand Master Award.

Memberships are US\$120.00 thru 3/31/04

Embassy Suites Phoenix North

2577 W. Greenway Rd.,
Phoenix, AZ 85023
(602) 375-1777

Room Rates: \$88 S/D/T/Q plus tax
Group reservation code "OWH"

Contact Info:

World Horror 2004, c/o Leprecon, P.O.
Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285
Phone: (480) 945-6890
Fax: (480) 941-3438
Email: whc2004@leprecon.org

Calendar of Events -October-November 2003

To have your event or meeting listed please email calendar@casfs.org - **Deadline for Dec/Jan Submissions - October 25, 2003**
(This is a free service. All release dates are tentative)

October 2003

October is Teen Read Month

Samurai Comics will be doing seminars at several Phoenix area libraries showing clips from popular Japanese Anime programs, discuss the history of anime, give seminars on writing and drawing comics, and demoing various games. Here are the dates and places:
Oct 05 - Yucca Branch 2 PM
Oct 08 - Harmon Branch 6 PM
Oct 16 - Century Branch 6 PM
Oct 18 - Cholla Branch 2 PM
Oct 22 - Accia Branch 5 PM
Oct 25 - Palo Verde 2 PM
Oct 26 - Mesquite 2 PM

October 1

Meeting: ConNotations Staff Meeting - 7PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road. Info Stephanie <laetitia@doverkeep.com>
Tournament: Indy Clix Sealed Booster Tournament 6PM at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com
TV: Smallville (WB) Season Premiere, Angel (WB) Season Premiere

October 3

Event: Mirridon Release Party for Magic the Gathering at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com

October 4

Tournament: Dungeons & Dragons Miniature Battle 3PM at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com
Meeting: ConRunners Day Long Seminar. 9AM - 6PM Embassy Suites North, Room 3005, Info Stephanie <laetitia@doverkeep.com>
Meeting: World Horror Con 2004 Hotel Walkthru & Committee Meeting - 12Noon at Embassy Suites Phoenix North Hotel, I-17 & Greenway Rd. Info contact Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com> 480-945-6890
TV: Beyond Reanimator (SciFi)

October 5

Meeting: ConNotations Labeling and Potluck - 4PM - Stephanie's house. Info Stephanie <leigh@doverkeep.com>
TV: Tarzan (WB) Debut

October 7

DVD-TV: Andromeda Vol 2.5, Farscape Vol 2.5, Beastmaster Season 2, Deep Space Nine Season 5, Dr. Who: Talons of Weng Chiang
DVD-Movies: Willard

October 8

Autograph party with Raven Gregory at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com

October 10

Meeting: CASFS Meeting !!!**NOTE DATE CHANGE !!!**!- 8PM at JB's (I-17 and Indian School) Info Stephanie <laetitia@doverkeep.com>
Movies: House of the Dead, Kill Bill Volume 1
TV: Jeremiah (Showtime) - Season Premiere

October 11

Meeting: CopperCon 24 Committee Meeting - 2PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road. Info Bob LaPierre <the_lop@doverkeep.com>
Meeting: Westercon 57 Meeting - 4PM - at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road. Info Craig <craig@doverkeep.com>

October 14

DVD-Movies: Matrix: Reloaded, Mimic 3: Sentinel

October 17

Meeting: Fannish Open house - Craig and Stephanie's monthly open house and potluck Info Stephanie <laetitia@doverkeep.com>
Movies: The Texas Chainsaw Massacre, The Singing Detective

October 18

Meeting: World Fantasy Con 2004 Hotel Walkthru & Committee Meeting - 2PM - Tempe Mission Palms Hotel, 5th St. & Mill Ave. Info Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>, 480-945-6890.
Meeting: HexaCon 14 Meeting - 4PM at Tempe Mission Palms, 5th St. & Mill Ave. Info Mike Willmoth at 480-945-6890 <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>
TV: Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde (Bravo)

October 21

DVD-TV: Battlestar Galactica: The Complete Series, Dark Angel Season 2, Forever Knight Season 1, Hercules Season 2, Steven Spielberg Presents Taken
DVD-Movies: Batman: Mystery of the Batwoman, Charlie's Angels Full Throttle, Adventures of Indiana Jones (three movies)

October 22

Book Discussion: Border's SF Book discussion - Border's Books at 75th Ave and Bell Rd. Book TBA Info contact Tanya at 623-487-9110

October 24

Movies: Gothika, Scary Movie 3

October 25

Event: Anime Fest Cosplay Halloween Costume Contest & Party at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com
TV: Bone Snatcher (SciFi)

October 26

Meeting: On The Spot meeting for Independent Comic Publishers at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com
Meeting: SouthWest Costumers Guild Meeting - 1PM - at Randall's place. For more info contact Randall <webmaster@southwestcostumersguild.org>

October 28

TV: 24 (FOX) - Season Premiere
DVD-TV: Alien Hunter, Dark Shadows Collection 8, Earth: Final Conflict Season 5, Farscape Season 2 Box Set

October 30

TV: Tru Calling (FOX) - Debut

October 31

Movies: Alien: The Director's Cut, Suspended Animation

November 2003

November 1

DEADLINE - ConNotations Submissions Deadline
Tournament: Hack//ENEMY Tournament at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com
TV: Phenomenom 2 (ABC)

November 4

DVD-TV: Deep Space Nine Season 6, X-Files Season 8

November 5

Movies: Matrix: Revolutions

November 7

Movies: Elf

November 9

Meeting: Westercon 57 Meeting - 5PM - at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road.-Info Craig <craig@doverkeep.com>
Meeting: LepreCon Inc Quarterly Meeting - 7PM at JB's at I-17 and Indian School Road. Info Mike Willmoth at 480-945-6890 <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

November 10

DEADLINE - ConNotations Ad Deadline
Tournament: Mech Warrior 6PM at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com

November 11

DVD-Movies: Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines

November 14

Movies: Looney Tunes: Back in Action, Master and Commander: The Far Side of the World

November 15

Anime Fest - 11AM to midnight at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.com

November 18

DVD-TV: Highlander Season 3
DVD-Movies: The Two Towers Extended, Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life

November 21

Meeting: Fannish Holiday Open house - Craig and Stephanie's monthly open house and potluck. Info Stephanie <laetitia@doverkeep.com>
Movies: Dr. Seuss' The Cat in the Hat

November 25

DVD-TV: Profiler Season 2, Dark Shadows Collection 9
DVD-Movies: X2: X-Men United

November 26

Movies: The Haunted Mansion, Timeline

We are pleased to welcome

Mark Saint Cyr

as our new Calendar contact. Please email your events to Mark at the email address listed above

INFORMATIONLINE

For up to date information on each month's CASFS and fan sponsored sci-fi related events call (602)973-2341 and select option 3 for a pre-recorded message. There is also a weekly email update. If you wish to receive the email update send your email address to Stephanie at meetings@casfs.org

Ongoing Events

Wednesdays

6pm

New Comics Arrive!

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

6pm

Mech WarriorTournaments

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

Thursdays

6pm

Camarilla Anarch Game

Kiwanis Park

www.titheofsouls.com

6pm

Dragonball Z Tournaments

Atomic Comics-Phoenix

www.atomiccomics.com

Fridays

6pm

Magic the Gathering

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

7pm

Anime Club Meeting

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

Saturdays*

3pm

Mage Knight Tournaments

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

3pm

Classic Battletech

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

4pm

Hero Clix Tournamets

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

4pm

Star Wars CCG

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

4pm

Magic Tournaments

Atomic Comics-Paradise Valley

www.atomiccomics.com

Sundays*

Noon

YU-GI-OH Tournaments

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

3pm

Dragonball Z Tournament

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

3pm

Creepy Freaks

Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback

www.samuraicomics.com

ConClusion

CopperCon 23 Chair’s Report

CopperCon 23 happened over September 4-7 and a good time was had by all. Things kicked off on Thursday with activities for pre-registered members. First up was Author Guest of Honor **Connie Willis** doing a reading from her upcoming Christmas story in **Asimovs’** where **Everywhere** is having a White Christmas. I’m sure everyone there will be buying the issue to see how it all ends up. Next was a special event with our **Farscape** guests, **Lani Tupu** and **David Franklin**, providing commentary to go with some **Farscape** clips and the episode “*Into the Lion’s Den Part II*” where Captain Crais (**Lani Tupu**) sacrifices himself. The two actors enjoyed seeing the clip collection, which included the first appearances of their characters (**David Franklin** had no recollection of filming the scenes in his first episode) as well as some other highlights from the series for their characters. During the episode, they didn’t say as much, since neither of them had really seen it completed and enjoyed watching it. They did spend some time afterwards talking with the fans about the episode and answered some other questions.

Friday started off mid-afternoon with panels and question and answer sessions from first **David Franklin** and then **Lani Tupu**. Evening activities included Velavision’s *What’s My Byte* game, U.F.P.’s *SciFi Jeopardy*, Artist Guest of Honor **David Mattingly’s** Art Show walkthrough, and a screening of **Caribou Motion Picture’s “Planet of the Killer Robots”**.

Saturday morning we had a live broadcast of weather reports by **Ron Merrit** for the KPNX-12 Saturday Morning News. We rounded up a stormtrooper and Jedi Knight to talk with them and they also interviewed **David Mattingly**.. Later in the day, we realized that at no time during the weather forecast did they mention storms or the possibility of tornado warnings, which we had in the afternoon. Saturday daytime saw panels and presentations by all of our guests. Some highlights during the day were **David Mattingly’s** workshop on digital painting, **Mark Greenawalt’s** latex body painting turning a model into an elvish work of art, **Connie Willis** joining in a panel on **Near Death Experiences** and finding out how prolific **Mike Willmoth** and **Randall Whitlock** are with puns on **The Dubyas** pun panel. **Larry Warner** gave a fun filk concert and **Lani Tupu** and **David Franklin** did a Q&A session together and visited with fans and signed autographs in the dealer’s room. We had Space Science panels featuring our local expert **David Williams** plus **Louise Kleba** from the

Kennedy Space Center and had many other authors and artists taking part including several from outside our area such as **Tee Morris** and **Kevin A. Murphy**. Finishing off the afternoon was the charity auction which raised \$2,170 for out two charities, **Reading is FUNDamental** and **ACTOR (A Commitment To Our Roots)**. We’d like to thank everyone who donated items and especially everyone who opened their wallets for this event. It is the largest amount we’ve raised in a charity auction in recent memory.

Saturday night was the Masquerade which had a good turnout of participants and a full house in the audience. Best of show was **Duel of the Fates** with **Steven Colston** as a very impressive Darth Maul. Other impressive costumes were **Parry Norton’s Sven the Viking King**, **Kevin O’Conner’s Sentinel Soldier**, and **Judy Mowbray’s Lady of the Masquerade**. There were also plenty of parties including Westercon 57, LosCon, The Dark Ones for DarkCon, San Diego Westercon ’06 Bid, and The Corsairs. The most popular one by far was the one put on by Xcentricities, who were set up to show off their line of corsets and other interesting clothing. Reports are that a certain **Farscape** actor (named David) was hanging out and being very helpful with people trying on the corsets. Look for Xcentricities to be back for future conventions in the area.

Sunday started off with **Barry Bard’s** movie previews, which looked very good on the projection system that was set up for it. As always, there were lots of movie promotional goodies for those in attendance. **Alan Dean Foster** made it to the con for a short time on Sunday, signing a few books and joining a panel before heading on to the airport. The day ended with the end-of-con panel which garnered mostly praise from the attendees and participants present.

Foster has committed to being Author Guest of Honor for CopperCon 24 next year, joining Artist Guest of Honor **Todd Lockwood** and Local Author Guest of Honor **Catherine Wells**. Based on the reception for the **Farscape** actors at this year’s convention (and the good time they had with us), there’s a good chance we may have more media guests next year.

Overall the convention was a success with a bit over 600 memberships in total. I personally received many thanks and notes of appreciation during and after the convention. Our guests were great and were very available to chat with attendees. **Connie Willis** spent a lot of time chatting with fans when she wasn’t on a panel. **Connie**, **David Mattingly** and his wife, **Cathleen**, also judged the masquerade. I enjoyed the time I got to spend with them during the convention. I’d like to thank everyone who attended and participated and especially the committee, staff and volunteers who made the convention happen.

We will be having some pictures and

other post convention reports up on the web site at www.coppercon.org for everyone to look at. If you have any you would like to share, please let us know.

Lee Whiteside
CopperCon 23 Chair

Comic-Con Limited Edition: In Search of the Elusive Collectable By Shane Shellenbarger

“You can’t always get what you want.”
Rolling Stones

As I’ve done for nearly every year since 1973, I was headed for the San Diego Comic-Con. This year I had in tow my wife, Laurie, and her mother, Bobbi. My friend, Terry Hanks, had hoped to go, but while hope can spring eternal, finances can often throw up roadblocks. “Anything I can get you?” I’d asked. “Well,” said Terry, “There are a few things I was going to try to get the first day . . .” He e-mailed me the list with corroborating photos and I was good to go.

After arriving in San Diego on Thursday, July 17th, we checked into the hotel, registered at the convention, and then we began our search, our treasure hunt, if you will. Little did we know that the treasure hunt would turn into more of a scavenger hunt.

I’ve told you before how big the programming areas are: There is 204,114 sq. ft. of meeting room space, comprised of 72 meeting rooms, and there are two 40,000 sq. ft. ballrooms. The thing that you need to know is that the Exhibit Halls are even bigger. In September of 2001, Exhibit Halls D-H were added, more than doubling the size of the Hall to it’s present size of 525,701 square feet, or about 100 miles if you could walk each foot. This place is big, huge, ample, massive, gigantic, enormous, capacious, and humungous! Believe me, it is large. The first thing that we learned was that you don’t want to travel through the Exhibit Halls in order to travel to your destination. If your plan is to walk from exhibitor’s table to exhibitor’s table, you don’t have much choice, but we had three specific exhibitor’s (old school definition: dealers tables) areas that we needed to get to: Electric Tiki Design at 4631, DC Comics at 2731, and Hasbro at 3515. Fortunately for us, Hall H wasn’t being used this year, so there was that much less Hall to walk. With the press of people, each with their own agenda, random directional choice, and often expanding costumes, our progress was slow. If I were to set out on such a mission today, I’d walk through the Lobby area that runs along the North side of the Halls and then enter the Exhibit Hall at the doors nearest the booth I was seeking. I didn’t and that was Mistake #1.

My logic was to start at the furthest

point and work our way back toward the programming arena. We entered at Aisle 2700 and headed toward Aisle 4600, three salmon awash in the chaotic white water river rapids comprised of comic book fans of every shape, size, and complexion. Bobbi had been to other conventions, but never to a San Diego Comic-Con and never to an Exhibit Hall of this enormity, so I periodically needed to stop, retreat, and gently pry her away from the toys, comic books, posters, or anime that had captured her attention. I was quickly losing “favorite son-in-law” status.

After what seemed like hours, we spotted our quarry, Electric Tiki came into view. The people attending the booth were pleasant, and after a bit of searching they located the maquette of Little Dot in a blue dress, only 50 available at this convention for the price of \$40.00 each. Imbued with the thrill of completing our first quest, I made Mistake #2, I asked to buy three Little Dots, one for each of us. I wasn’t going to keep any for myself, but I was



sure that Terry wouldn’t mind having two extra figures, perhaps to trade or sell with other collectors. Perhaps I should call this Mistake #2 and #3, because after I convinced the dealer to sell Laurie, Bobbi, and myself each one of the Harvey Comic Book Heroine figures, he agreed provided we paid in cash. I readily concurred and plunked down \$120.00, gathered up the three boxes, and headed to the second stop, Hasbro on Aisle 3500. We’ll come back to Mistake #3.

Hasbro wasn’t a booth so much as it was a block of approximately 36 booths. We fanned out (as much as three people can fan out) and started asking the employees where we could get the silver Boba Fett. “You can’t get that here,” we were told. “You have to go to the Star Wars Fan Club Booth.” We headed in the direction indicated (back the way we had just come from, of course) and we eventually found the line. Well, we found the middle of the line, so we backtracked until we found the end of the line, near the South end of Aisle 4800. The problems were these: LucasArts were only distributing 300 figures each day and their booth

(Cont’d on page 13)
Volume 13 Issue 5

ConClusion (cont'd from page 12)

(the front of the line) was in the middle of Aisle 4200. Doing the math, we tried for a more sure thing: the Batman figure at the DC block between Aisles 2900 and 2700, taking us past the Hasbro block of booths.

The DC block had multiple lines, snaking in all directions. We'd get into a line and then ask our fellow travelers what we were in line for. After several false starts, we found the right line. "Wow," I thought to myself, "This line is going fast. They must have an efficient method worked out." Little did I know, DC wasn't selling the Batman figure yet, they were only stamping badges and distributing tickets for a raffle that gave you the CHANCE to buy a figure after 2:00 p.m. We got our badges stamped, took our ticket stubs, and Laurie and Bobbi headed back to the Boba Fett line and I left to attend programming.

I found out later that when the ladies went looking for the line it had all but disappeared, so they stepped up to get into the short line near the LucasArts booth. "Sorry," the Jedi costumed woman stated, stopping them, "but the limit has been reached for today. Comeback tomorrow." Nobody sees the Great and Wonderful Wizard of Oz, not nobody, not no how!

At around 4:30 p.m., Laurie arrived to hold my seat in the "From the Cradle to the Keyboard" panel and I followed Bobbi back to the DC block. They had both been able to buy the Batman figure and they had confirmed that my number had come up, as well. When we made it to the head of the line, I presented my badge, ticket stub, and asked if they took credit cards. "Nope, sorry, but it's cash only," said the DC employee, smiling as he took the twenty dollar bill. Quickly adding in my head the \$120.00 for the Little Dot figures and the \$60.00 for the Batman figures, Mistake #3 reared its ugly head: I hadn't counted on needing so much cash. Fortunately, I was able to borrow money from Bobbi and I repaid her later.

Friday dawned overcast and somewhat foggy. We got ourselves together and headed to the Exhibit Hall, Laurie and Bobbi to get in line first thing and me to take a sharp right and head for programming. At this point it should occur to you that I have a very understanding and somewhat indulgent wife and mother-in-law and you would be right. The two ladies were going above-and-beyond the call of duty. Laurie and Bobbi arrived at the Exhibit Hall doors only to be directed to the Sails Pavilion, the center section on the upper level. They trudged more than

half the length of the convention center, went upstairs, and sussed out a better way. They wound their way through the Exhibit Hall along the south wall, banded together with other intrepid souls, and found the line. They worked their way along the line until they found a costumed Jedi at the end. "Are you the end of the line for the Boba Fett figure?" Laurie asked. "Yes," he replied. They moved to get behind him. He stopped them with a word, "No, I'm the end of the line. They aren't selling anymore figures today." Other plans prevented further attempts. This prevented us from making Mistake #4: Not knowing when to cut your losses and give up. Thus, that was most definitely that.

When we got home and I'd shipped Terry his figures, Mistakes #2 and #3 came back to haunt me. By buying Terry two more Little Dot figures than what he'd asked for, I caused him more work. He needed to prepare ads and put up for auction the two Little Dots that he had no need for. I had strapped myself for cash by getting caught up in the thrill of the hunt and not sticking with his original request for a single figure. Fortunately, he was able to unload the figures and made a tidy little sum. Alls well that ends well.

While checking out Terry's auctions

on e-bay, I got curious. Were there other limited convention collectables? This is what I found: There were nearly fifty convention exclusives, everything from Hulk, Ultimate Spider-Man, and yellow shirt Captain Kirk by Art Asylum, Mezco's Dick Tracy Meets The Blank Mez-it's 2-Pack, to a Thundarr Action Figure with Glow-in-the-Dark Sword by Toynami. If you are one of those collectors who want to "collect'em all", I wish you luck, all the luck in the world.

But if you try sometimes you might find you get what you need." Rolling Stones

<http://www.comic-con.org/Pages/CCIWhatsNew.html>
<http://www.comic-con.org/Pages/CCIExhibitorList.html>
<http://www.comic-con.org/Media/CCI-July8.pdf>
<http://www.comic-con.org/Media/booth.PDF>
<http://www.sdccc.org/>
<http://www.sdccc.org/sdconcenter/floorplansframes.html>
<http://www.aftimes.com/conexclusives/index.shtml>
http://www.electrictiki.com/blue_dot.html
<http://www.hasbro.com/starwars/pl/page.headlines/id.947/dn/default.cfm>
<http://www.wizarduniverse.com/conventions/batman2.cfm>
http://starwars.paizo.com/news/pressreleases/bobafett_051203.shtml
<http://www.action-figure.com/>

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www.darkcon.org
darkcon@darkones.org
(623) 435-9700

...Fantasy is just the beginning...

ReAnimation

**** **Stitch! The Movie**
**** **Hellsing 1: Impure Souls**
*** **Hellsing 2: Blood Brothers**
**** **X (One)**
**** **X(Two)**
***** **Armitage:Poly Matrix/**
Armitage Dual-Matrix
**** **Lupin The 3rd Vol 1: The**
World’s Most Wanted
**** **MahoRomantic: Automatic**
Maiden 1: CombatMaid
**** **Chobits - Vol 1: Persocom**
**** **Chobits - Vol 2: The Empty City**
**** **Chobits - Vol 3: Darkness**
Descends

**** **Stitch! The Movie**
Disney, 64 minutes, G
VHS \$22.99 DVD \$29.99

Stitch! The Movie is a sequel to last year’s hit *Lilo & Stitch* and is a lead in to the new Disney TV series *The Adventures of Lilo & Stitch*.
The story sets the stage for the TV series nicely. Lilo’s “ohana” now includes not only Stitch (aka Experiment 626) but Dr. Jumba (David Ogden Stiers) who has brought the other 625 experiments to Earth. Evil Dr. Hamsterviel (Jeff Bennett)schemes to kidnap Dr Jumba and the other experiments and use them to reule the galaxy. It’s up to Lilo and Stitch to save the day...



DVD Extras include a Trivia challenge, where you play Dr. Hamsterviel’s trivia pop quiz; the Experiment Finder in which you help Dr. Jumbo find his experiments; the Experiment gallery where you can meet more alien experiments and discover their powers; and the “Aloha, E Komo Mai” music video.
This made for video sequel is not quite the same quality as the original but it is still lots of fun for the whole family. I’d rate it at 4 out of 5 stars and a must for those who enjoyed *Lilo & Stitch*. -
Stephanie L Bannon

**** **Hellsing 1: Impure Souls**
Pioneer, 75 mins, 16 up
DVD \$29.98

Following in the tradition of *Vampire Hunter D* the *Hellsing* series tells the tale of vampires and those who hunt them. The Royal Order of Religious Knights, headed by Sir Integra Hellsing, is responsible for hunting down the artificially created vampires that are attacking people. As the vampires increase in number, they begin to threaten the human police forces which forces the Hellsing Organization’s to deploy it’s ultimate weapon - the rogue vampire, Arucard!
Arucard saves a special police operative, Victoria, from death by turning her into a vampire. Working together they an army of vampires as well as her newfound hunger for blood.
This series is rated 16+ for it’s violence, sexual situations, and language. This is not for anyone who faints at the sight of blood. It’s a bloody graphic violent story and a good one at that. If you liked *Vampire Hunter D*, you will love the *Hellsing* series. - **CLD**

*** **Hellsing 2: Blood Brothers**
Pioneer, 75 mins, 16 up
DVD \$29.98

Continuing the series *Hellsing 2: Blood Brothers* finds Arucard, Victoria and the Hellsing Organization facing two threats, a traitor in their midst and a TV reporter who wants to expose the Hellsing organization. Then the Valentine Brothers, Jan and Luke, lead their army in an attack on headquarters, which ends in a wave of violence. Yes, it is a bloody graphic wave of violence.
While it’s not as good as the first DVD, it still worth watching. This second DVD sets the stage for the next two volumes in the Hellsing series, *Search and Destroy*, and *Eternal Damnation*. Both will be reviewed next time. - **CLD**

**** **X (One)**
Pioneer, 100 mins 16 up
DVD \$29.98

X is a manga series, turned into a movie and then into a TV series. *X (One)* contains the first three episodes of the TV series plus a bonus Episode 0 that gives an overview of the entire series, however you may want to skip Episode 0 as it could spoil the series’ plot for you..

The series pits the Seven Dragons of Heaven (the good guys) against the Seven Dragons of Earth (the bad guys) to decide the fate of Earth. Kamui Shiro is being watched by both sides since his psychic powers may well will tip the scales and seal the world’s fate so both sides want to recruit him. Reluctantly Kamui becomes involved though his involvement soon puts those he cares about in danger.
This is a wonderful dark fantasy with an intricate plot and plenty of character development. In some places it is a little bit hard to follow the plot but all in all I enjoyed this DVD. This is a very good series that holds your attention from start to finish. - **CLD**

**** **X (Two)**
Pioneer, 75 minutes, 16 up
DVD \$29.98

As the Seven Dragons of Heaven assemble in Tokyo, Yuzuriha and her dog spirit Inuki, Arashi and Sorata Hinoto learn that Kamui is the key to the upcoming battle that will take place between the Dragons of Heaven and the Dragons of Earth. The fate of the world depends on whether Kamui joins the Dragons of Heaven or the Dragons of Earth and so he walks out on everything.
More questions are answered, but Kamui still has even more unanswered questions. *X Two* is just as good as *X One*. The *X* series is really worth getting. There are six DVD’s out so far and I’ve heard that eight may be the total number of DVD’s. - **CLD**

***** **Armitage: Poly Matrix/ Armitage Dual-Matrix**
Pioneer (2-disc set), 180 mins, 16 up
DVD \$39.98

This special set contains both *Armitage III: Polymatrix* and the *Special Edition of Armitage Dual Matrix*. These are stories about technology and emotion, about love and hate, but ultimately about a human on the edge of becoming a machine and a machine who is about to become human.
In *Poly Matrix* it is 2179 and: Mars has been colonized by Earth. The population consists of humans and “Second Types” robots that were made to do the menial tasks humans won’t do. But there are also “Third Types” that were made by an underground nationalist force; illegal humanoid robots that look and behave exactly like humans. These “Third Types” have been living peaceful on Mars’s until; Rene Danclaude declares war on them, kicking things off with a massacre
Thus arrives Naomi Armitage, an undetected “Third” who is a cyber-punk Martian cop in hot pants, with an attitude as deadly as her gun. Her partner, Ross Sylibus, hates robots since his previous partner was killed by one. When he is injured he receives a cyernetic replacement for his lost limb, making him kin to the “monsters” he hates, and thus begins to realize that there is more to being human than flesh and blood.
Ross joins Armitage in her fight against D’anclaude and together they try to discover why the ‘Third Type’ robots were created to begin with..

(Cont’d on page 15)

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ReAnimation (cont'd from page 14)

In *Dual Matrix* Naomi Armitage (Juliette Lewis) and Ross Sylibus return. They've changed their names and along with their daughter Yoko, are living as a happy and normal family on Mars.

When a robot riot breaks out on Earth at an anti-matter plant Armitage goes to earth to investigate. She finds that the riot is a plot to cover up evidence of illegal research and development of more "Third Robots". She discovers the most powerful enemy she has ever encountered - replicas of herself!

Both DVDs feature: 5.1 Surround Sound (both audio tracks), English spoken language, English closed captions and Japanese subtitles

Polymatrix features Production Notes, Original Theatrical Trailer, Letterbox format, THX Certified. While *Dual Matrix* features an "Assembling Armitage" Featurette, and Character design gallery.

These are some of the best action filled plots I have seen in a long time. I was glued to *Poly-Matrix* and *Dual Matrix*. So much so I watched both DVD's twice in one day. In my book this is a classic animation set. A five star set. - **CLD**

**** **Lupin The 3rd Vol 1: The World's Most Wanted Pioneer, 150 minutes, 13 up DVD \$24.98**

Lupin travels all over the world chasing beautiful women and exotic treasures with his companions in crime, master marksman Jigen and samurai Goemon, all the while being pursued by Interpol Inspector Zenigata. Although they somehow always manage to lose the loot they do manage to escape every the clutches of Inspector Zenigata every time.

Lupin has been around since 1971 and the animation quality isn't up to today's standards but the humor and characters overcome this easily to make this one a favorite.

This DVD contains the first six episodes from the second TV season: *The Return of Lupin the 3rd*, *Buns, Guns, and Fun in the Sun*, *50 Ways to Leave Your 50-Foot Lover*, *Gold Smuggling 101*, *Shaky Pisa*, and *Cursed Case Scenario* - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**** **MahoRomantic: Automatic Maiden 1: CombatMaid Pioneer, 100 min, 16 up DVD \$29.98**

Mahoro is a combat android, designed to fight alien invaders, is nearing her

expiration date. She is given the choice of 37 more days as a combat robot or 398 days of honorable retirement with her weapons removed. She chooses retirement since she believes she has a debt to her old commander. She becomes the maid of 14 year old middle school student Suguru Misato who is the orphaned son of her former commander. With much enthusiasm Mahoro turns the grungy old house into a sparkling showplace while cooking wonderful meals and caring for Suguru.

This is a strange mix of slapstick comedy and pending doom as Mahoro's time slowly winds down. It's rated 16+ for its nudity - **Stephanie L Bannon**

**** **Chobits - Vol 1: Persocom **** Chobits - Vol 2: The Empty City **** Chobits - Vol 3: Darkness Descends Pioneer, 100 minutes each, 16 up DVD \$29.98 each**

Chobits is the latest series from the female artists' studio Clamp that brought us *X* and *Cardcaptor Sakura* and while is another tale about the geek who meets a lovely, female android don't expect it to be the playful, innocent fun you find in *Cardcaptor Sakura*. It is more adult in its theme thus earning a 16+ ranking from Pioneer. Feminists will need to look past the obvious in this series (such as boobly jokes) and focus on the issues of relation-

ships and identity or take a pass. *Persocom* introduces us to 18-year-old Hideki Motosuwa, who leaves his family's farm and travels to Tokyo to attend prep school. Once there the poor country boy is amazed by the fantastic technology he finds, especially the Persocoms, personal computers in the form of people, or animals. Luckily, since he can't afford one, he finds a persocom, Chi, in the trash. His friends, Hiromu and Minoru tell him that Chi might be a Chobit, a super-Persocom that everyone thought didn't really exist. Hideki must teach her how to survive in the real world, while juggling school, work and the quest to find out her identity.

The Empty City is named after a book that catches Chi's eye at the local bookstore. Hideki spends his dwindling funds to buy the book for Chi. As she reads the fairy tale she finds that the main character seems to be a Persocom who wanders alone in a city full of human couples, searching for love and companionship. Since Hideki's paycheck from the restaurant isn't enough to support them Chi goes out to find a job. First a stranger cons her into a peep show that is also broadcast online. He encourages her to strip down and ends by sticking his hand between her legs. He pays the price as a large burst of energy demolishes the peep show as well as disabling almost all the

(Cont'd on page 16)



Art by Todd Lockwood

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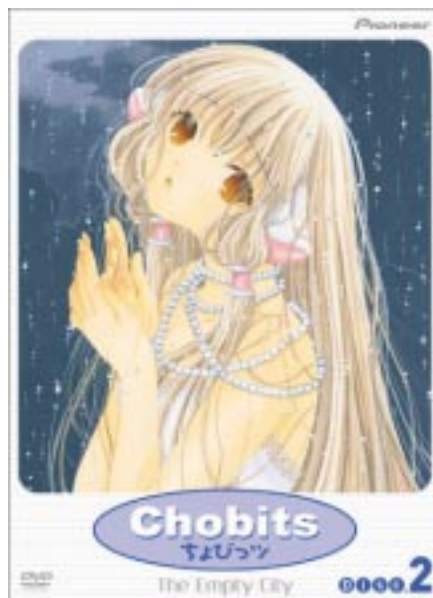
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ReAnimation (cont'd from page 14)

Persocoms in the city. Luckily Chi's next job is in a bakery while she continues to learn more everyday skills

In *Darkness Descends* the series begins fleshing out the characters and



more tension arises from the rumor that Chi may be a Chobits.

Yumi, Hideki's co-worker, is the first character to be more deeply explored. When she invites him to a movie, even though they are having fun, her attitude suggests she dislikes Persocoms and this turns out to be an attitude that is common with other characters in the series.

In other action, when Chi decides to buy Hideki a porn maghe doesn't have yet, she finds the sequel to a fairy tale book he had bought for her earlier. Throughout the series, Chi will continue to find and buy the sequels to the book, which turns out to have a surprising author.

There are also two lighter episodes on this volume, one which has Hideki's stressing out over having to teach Chi how to take a bath. The other is a spooky thriller in which Hideki believes the floor below him contains the ghost of a knife-toting murderer.

I almost gave up on this series after the first volume but I am glad I gave it a chance. The characters and plot far outweigh the boobey joke nonsense. I look forward to watching the remaining episodes of this series. - **Stephanie L Bannon**



Love's Savage Bindings

by Euripides Pansov, F.B.I.¹

You see them next to the checkout at any grocery store, those steamy historical fantasy novels whose covers feature a buxom maiden in a passionate kiss with some un-shirted body builder, both of their long hair streaming in the breeze².

These books are called "**Bodice Rippers**" because they inevitably include a scene where our sensuous-but-not-too-far-from-innocent heroine and the desert

prince, pirate captain, wounded confederate soldier, or other dashing-but-socially-unacceptable leading man lose control and tear out of their period costumes for several pages of sweat-soaked literary exposition.

Now wait just a whale-boning minute here!

Bodices and corsetry for most of these historical periods were marvels of structural engineering, with stiff boning, sturdy stays, and strong cordage. It's no coincidence that an armored breastplate is called a "corselet." Zippers weren't invented yet. Unless Fabio has a can opener³, the unmentionables aren't coming away quickly. Actual tearing or cutting isn't a good idea since our heroine needs something intact to wear for the long coach ride home.

The lovers are no boy scouts, but they could learn something from the motto, "Be Prepared." With a bit of advance planning, this technical problem can be avoided.

Suppose clever Lady Yoyoknickers were to use an alternative method to lace up her corset?

Instead of crossing the two ends of a cord over and over each other through the eyelets in the traditional manner, she⁴ could form loops of cord to be drawn through each pair of eyelets. Each loop passes through the previous loop in a kind of chain stitch, in much the same way that feed sacks are closed. A button hook would be useful at this point⁵.

The end result is a complex slip knot. Pull the ripcord and "Geronimo!" the celebrated "heaving bosom" is deployed and ready for action.



About the Author: Euripides Pansov is a pseudonym for Sue Donim, which is a nom de plume for Norm D. Bloom, which is one of the pen names used by Penn Ames, which is a name used by Anna N. Mosely when writing anonymously, which may be a made-up name for Mae Dupp. We lost the paper trail at that point.

Notes

1. Freelance Bodice Inspector
2. Apparently wind storms have previously undocumented aphrodisiac effects.
3. Not available until Napoleon's time.
4. Or her comic-relief handmaiden.
5. Now you know why your great-grandmother kept her button hook as a sentimental heirloom.

World Fantasy Convention 2004 October 28-31, 2004

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Author Guest of Honour

Gwyneth Jones

Gwyneth Jones is a writer and critic of Fantasy and Science Fiction and also writes as Ann Halam, a writer of teenage fiction. She has been awarded two World Fantasy Awards, a BSFA short story award, the Children of the Night Award from the Dracula Society, the 2001 Arthur C. Clarke award for *Bold As Love*, and is a co-winner of the Tiptree award.



Artist Guest of Honour **Janny Wurts**

Janny's award winning paintings have been showcased in many exhibitions of imaginative artwork and she has been awarded three Chesley awards by The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists (ASFA). She is also the author of eleven novels, a collection of short stories, and the internationally best selling Empire trilogy written in collaboration with Raymond E. Feist.

Editor Guest of Honour **Elle Datlow**

Award winning editor of many fantasy, horror and science fiction anthologies including *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* for sixteen years. She has won the World Fantasy Award six times, the Bram Stoker Award once, and the 2002 Hugo Award for Best Professional Editor. Datlow consults for Tor Books, was fiction editor for OMNI magazine for 17 years and is currently the editor for SCI FICTION, the fiction area of SCIFI.COM.

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In Our Book

Area 51: Nosferatu
by Robert Doherty
Dell Books, 310 pp., \$6.99

This is the eighth novel in an open series, with the ninth already announced for 2004. Take the following TV series and mix them together: *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, *Stargate*, *Earth Final Conflict*, and you may get this storyline. By this novel, World War Three has ended and Earth defeated the remnants of aliens who were the gods of Atlantis and Egypt. Traces of the aliens and their powers remain, such as five vampires, including the original Dracula. This novel tells their own story, ranging through history from ancient Egypt to conclude in the present. While the undead vampires were many influential conquerors of the past, I get the impression this is their first appearance in the series, a sideline to the world war that is over. Their story wraps up in this book, while the next one is subtitled *Legend*. That could be about anything or anyone. Many paranormal pop-culture icons get tied into this series, like King Arthur's sword Excalibur and Area 51 and Nazis and foo fighters and the Holy Grail and a secret society of Watchers and haven't we seen all this before? That's OK, it's still fun to see it all tied together yet again. - **Mike Griffin**

Bit At Large
by Theron Gibbons
illustrated by
Christy A. Moeller-Masel
\$12.95, Euclid Press, 211 pp

This story is a brave attempt to project the reader into a personal relationship with the characters. It feels a bit haphazard, the author bounces us very rapidly between characters and scenes. There were times when I felt left behind. The pacing of the story was designed to be fast; but, unfortunately, turned out to be more jerky. The author could have made the transitions between scenes, characters or times more smooth. The main character, Bit, a twelve-year-old angel who has to stop an interplanetary war, is actually pretty charming in a Heinlein-esque way. I didn't mind the plot though I found it a bit simplistic. The most unfortunate thing about this book was the way the end collapsed into confusion. It reminded me irresistibly of the end of Heinlein's *Number of the Beast*. - **Catherine Book**

The Best of Dreams of
Decadence
edited by Angela Kessler
ROC Books, 338 pp., \$6.99

And now for that genre which is based on sublimation of sexuality: I refer, of course, to vampires. If you need proof that fangs and stakes piercing bodies are a transposition of sex, read *Dracula*. Or you could read this magazine collection from the years 1995 to 2001. Okay, I confess: if there wasn't a hint of adult erotica, I wouldn't have read it. There, are you happy? That said, this book had too little sex and too much biting fangs. Maybe I'm not like most people. I don't like getting scared, and I'm not attracted to repulsive things, especially supernatural. The only horror-inspired poetry and fiction I ever cared for was Poe and Lovecraft. A couple Stephen King short stories put me off him, and I've tried twice to get through *The Vampire Lestat* but couldn't. This collection is not changing my tastes. But these are darn good stories. And there's poetry to boot, not just sanguine or sappy but darn good. If you like vampires, that is. And some of the stories and poems played down the bloody fangs thing so much that even I liked them - **Mike Griffin**

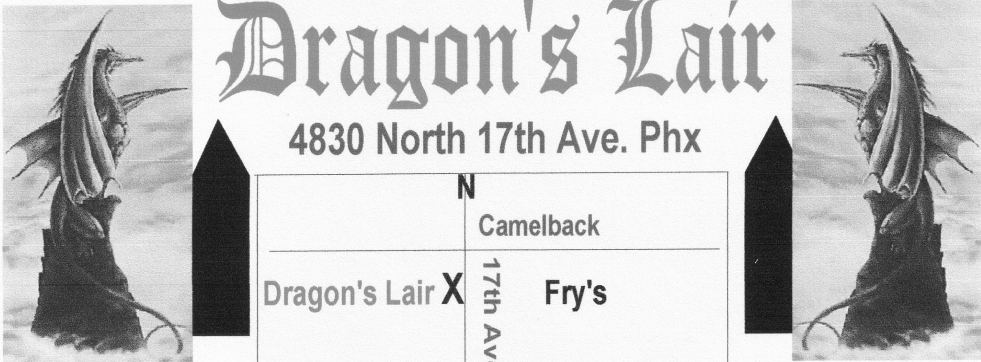
The Summer Country
by James A. Hetley
\$14.00, Ace Books,
softcover, 361 pp

I loved every minute of this novel. Charles deLint - Watch out! Hetley brings a dark, sharp-edged touch to fantasy. His people are well-developed and obviously have minds of their own. The plot moves along without any help from anyone, as far as I can tell. I felt like I was watching a movie on paper. Maureen and Jo are sisters, as alike as night and day and just as important to one another. Maureen is slightly mad since all her life she's been plagued by voices from trees and a sense of another world. Jo, a bit more grounded in reality, shares the same heritage but not the same connection with the earth. Maureen's madness is also linked to a horrifying

event in her past, something she hides even from her sister in order to protect her. Their lives are changed irretrievably when Maureen meets the Pendragon, Brian. He saves her from becoming the slave of one of his relatives but she is unable to completely trust him. This leads her to being kidnapped by Brian's brother and sister. Jo follows her sister into the other world without knowing how she did it. Brian and Jo's lover, David, follow both women only to fall victim and become

enslaved themselves. Maureen is the only one who can save everyone but only if she saves her own mind first and Jo can only save David if she acknowledges her shared heritage with the new world. I'll be watching for more from Mr. Hetley. - **Catherine Book**

(Cont'd on Page 18)



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In Our Book (cont'd from page 17)
Shadows and Lights
By Anne Bishop
ROC Fantasy,421pp., \$6.99

I hope you have been reading these books by Ms. Bishop. She is the author of the *Black Jewels Trilogy* and *“The Invisible Ring.”* These are rich tales of the Fae, humans and the “wiccanfae” (witches) who live in Sylvalan.

The Fae are arrogant and reclusive and live in a land removed from Sylvalan called Tir Alainn. They enter the mundane world through magical roads, usually to dally amorously among the wiccanfae and humans. And when they are done, they return to Tir Alainn.

But events in Sylvalan have escalated downhill and an evil manifested by the Inquisitors, called Black Coats, are killing the witches because they think they are a blight upon the land. As a matter of fact, they have also spread a doctrine of making womenfolk utterly beholden to the men in their lives and have their actions and their tongues curtailed. The Inquisitors have even begun to burn books and artwork created by women.

But it is the witches the Inquisitors really want to eradicate because the witches anchor the Old Places, which are imbued with magic to the human world and usually have paths called “shining roads” that allow the Fae to enter the human world. And all magic to the Inquisitors is anathema.

The Fae, who sound like very arrogant elves, all gorgeousness and powerful realize that their world is being threatened by the death of the witches. However they do not want to lower themselves by helping, dismissing the witches as expendable supporters of Fae desires and wishes.

Of course, there is an exception to this arrogance: a Fae couple, The Bard and The Muse.

“Shadows and Light” deals with their desperate race through Sylvalan to stop the destruction of the witches and with them, the Old Places and access to Tir Alainn. As well as make the people aware of the insidious plot of the Inquisitors.

The Inquisitors speed up their attacks on the witches and the Old Places. The Bard and The Muse, Aiden and Lyrra, having given up on trying to persuade the Eastern clans of the Fae for help, turn to their estranged Western clans. These clans have remained apart from the other clans and not much is known about them. Aiden and Lyrra discover that the Western clans may hold the salvation of all of Sylvalan.

Bishop is a very enjoyable writer. Easy to read and a great hand with developing her characters and their environment, all colored with a nice dry sense of humor

and a wonderful lusty sense of life. She tells a compelling story that cares the reader effortlessly to the end. - **Sue Martin**

Shadows Over Baker Street
New Tales of Horror
Edited by Michael Reaves and John Pelan
Del Rey 445 Pages \$23.95

Shadows gather and Holmes and Watson face a raft of new foes. The Necronomicon with all that it portends comes across from Innsmouth. Visitors from Miskitonic University arrive and Strange Creatures from Dimensions Beyond crawl through the London Fogs and invade the Hinterlands of Britain. From the pens of some the finest Horror, Fantasy and Science Fiction writers living today come new tales. These are tales of Holmes and Watson with the true flavor and ambience of Lovecraft.

Contributing stories were Neil Gaiman, Elizabeth Bear, Steve Perry, Steven-Elliot Altman, James Lowder, Brian Stableford, Poppy Z. Brite / David Furguson, Barbara Hambly, John Pelan,

The severest criticism that can be mounted against this anthology is that in the main it adheres too closely to the original format of the Sherlock Holmes stories. Of course this is unfair since it sets out to be an anthology of Sherlock Holmes stories set in the Cthulhu Mythos. Except for Neil Gaiman who turns the whole concept of the anthology on its head and Elizabeth Bear’s fine Irene Adler piece, the stories are just good well written tales of Sherlock Holmes which might have come from the pen of Conan Doyle himself. But they didn’t.

Those who expect new stories typical of the authors will be disappointed. These are Sherlock Holmes stories narrated by Dr. Watson. One story uses the ship Dracula traveled to England in as a frame,

but does not involve the Count or any of the characters in the Dracula novel. It is just an unrelated event occurring at the same time as events in the novel. The back drop of the beached ship lent added enjoyment. Other uses of Victorian backdrops and characters are there to be found by the observant reader. The book is fun. I recommend it. – **Gary Swaty**

Duel
Terror Stories By
Richard Matheson
Tom Doherty Associates 394
Pages Paperback \$15.95

This Anthology is an interesting and fairly representative collection of Matheson’s short fiction. There are no notes in the text, but I recognize a number of them as having been dramatized, notably *Duel*, *Little Girl Lost*, *Shipshape Home*, *Third from the Sun*. All of these were wonderful stories when I read them and made excellent film dramas.

They are typical of the spare technique used by Matheson to achieve his affects. Usually the horror is achieved not by piling up numerous awful events but rather by choosing one bad thing and going with it. In *Shipshape Home*, it was the Janitor with his third eye. In *Third from the Sun* it was the fear of being caught and stopped. In *Lover when you’re Near me*, it was the awful realization of who the Lover’s mate was. In *Being*, it was the waiting to be consumed. A single idea in every case artistically executed to achieve the impact. He uses the same technique in his TV and Movie scripts.

This volume will have to do until they come out with the Matheson’s Complete Short Fiction: The One Volume Edition. Recommended. – **Gary Swaty**

The White Dragon
by Laura Resnick
Tor, 491 pp, \$25.95

The White Dragon is part one of *In Fire Forged*, a two book sequel to *In Legend Born* and will be completed with the release of *The Destroyer Goddess* in December, 2003.

It is a time of change for the island nation of Sileria. Having formed a fragile alliance to overthrow the Valdani under the leadership of Josarian,”the Firebringer”. The alliance disintegrates with the Waterlord, Kilorans magical slaying of Josarian beginning a take over of Sileria. Josarians sworn blood brother, Tansen must form a new alliance to combat the Waterlord, and make way for the new leader foretold by the destroyer goddess, Dar, through the guardian, Mirabar. A complex story with many integral sub-plots woven in, this is a book truly needing the split volume presentation the publisher makes. There appears to be no unnecessary pieces. The plots are tightly woven and realized. The characters both conflicted and wall drawn, the action effective and well done. Cant wait to read volume two. This truly deserves the term Epic Fantasy. - **Pam Allan**

Seeds of Betrayal
by David B. Coe
Tor, 540 pp, \$27.95

Seeds of Betrayal is book two of the Winds Of The Forelands tetralogy. The Forelands have enjoyed a relatively peaceful nine centuries since the defeat of the Qirsi, but a series of brutal murders have brought the Forelands to the brink of civil war. The Qirsi, a race of sorcerers, have served as advisors, and second class citizens to the conquering race, but nine hundred years have only served to

(Cont'd on page 19)

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In Our Book (cont’d from page 18)

heighten the resentment of some of the conquered. Could the murders destabilizing the forelands be part of a rumored conspiracy? Tavis, a young noble blamed for the brutal murder of his fiancée, is on the run seeking the real killer, accompanied by Grinsa, a Qirsi trying to stop the conspiracy. The assassin they seek is Cadel, who has been hired by Qirsi ministers who suspect another minister of being part of the conspiracy. Can the loyal Qirsi, Tavis, and Grinsa, the only one with the power to stop the leader of the conspiracy, stop the fracture of the now fragile peace, and can they survive to do so among the complex of intrigues in play?

The book is well written with complex characters, plots and subplots playing out against a rich tapestry of political intrigue with plenty of action. One can get caught up in the fully realized characters read long past your bedtime. Recommended, and cant wait to read the next volume. - **Pam Allan**

Living Dead
by T. H. Lain
Holtzbrinck Publishers

The Living Dead is an interesting fantasy book based on the third edition of the Dungeons and Dragons role playing game. The tale revolves around two main characters, Mialee, a wizard, and Devis, a bard. Devis has a love for Mialee from the very first time he met her and this love led him to join her on the adventure. Mialee’s adventure occurs because her teacher, Favrid, has gone missing. Along their way to find Favrid they meet with an eccentric cleric, Zalyn, and a rogue, Hounds-eye.

Differing from the other books T. H. Lain released this book focus’s much more on the interaction and love between the two main characters (or lack of). The interactions between the characters are very intriguing and many times are funny. The books lack of battle scenes however proves that its not always quantity that is needed, the few the book includes are very descriptive and action packed. I would say this book is good for someone in the fantasy genre who enjoys love stories, I will warn you however this book is short. But good things do come in small packages.

The Four Winds Saga: Wind of Honor
by Ree Soesbee
Holtzbrinck Publishing

The Wind of Honor is the first book (besides the prelude) in *The Four Winds Saga*. The main character Tsuado is the daughter of the emperor and commander of the Imperial Legion. Quickly into the book her father dies and she and her 3

other siblings are left to decide who will rule the thrown. However she must contend with the warring clans first, yet quickly she finds a greater enemy that she must face and destroy.

This book is a joy to read for anyone, but for anyone who knows The Legend of the Five Rings, or has played in the Dungeons and Dragons Oriental Adventures game, they will love the use of game terms, descriptions, and the history presented in the core rule books. The details in this book clearly illustrate an Asian nation and its beliefs and values. Though there are many wonderfully detailed battles the greatest part of this book is the political and social interactions between the characters. Every character is fleshed out, and almost anyone will find a character they can identify with. This is a great book for anyone who enjoys the fantasy genre or anyone who loves tales of ancient Asia.

The Savage Caves
by T. H. Lain
Holtzbrinck Publishing

The Savage Caves is one of the many books written by T. H. Lain based on Wizards of the Coast’s Dungeons and Dragons role playing game. At the beginning of the book we are quickly introduced to the two main characters, Jozan, a cleric, and Redgar, a fighter. They soon find Lidda, a halfling rogue, in trouble with the local authorities. Jozan decides to free her from this punishment by forcing her to come along with them to solve the towns problem of monstrous spiders attacking live stalk. As they are finding the trace of this problem they find the sorceress Naull. Mean while the book shows us the troubles of the goblin tribes below, as a hobgoblin, Rezrex, causes tribal fueds in the dark caves. These two plots slowly intertwine in a compelling story filled with great amounts of action and suspense.

I would recommend this book for anyone who has played the third edition of Dungeons and Dragons and is curious as to what the characters mentioned in the players handbook have evolved towards. They will also note how the book contains many parts of the rules introduced in the Players Handbook. Many who enjoy the fantasy, especially those who enjoy action will find this book wonderful. It’s interesting creatures and many battle scenes will keep the reader intrigued throughout the entire story. This book is a tad on the short side, and an easy read, so it is a great book to pick up for a short, but enjoyable read.

Sea of Swords
by R.A.Salvatore
Holtzbrinck Publishing

The Sea of Swords is a very vivid and interesting fantasy book. This book features the “Companions of a Hall” a group many people may know, and more specifically Drizzt Do’Urden. One of the companions, Wulfgar the barbarian, is missing and so the companions set out to search for him. As they search for Wulfgar, he searches for his lost war hammer, and the part of himself which he has lost. All the while an elf searches for revenge that she wishes to take out on Drizzt Do’Urden. All these quests slowly unravel and combine to make a very enthralling book.

Sea of Swords will appeal to many different readers, even if they aren’t familiar with the legendary heroes of Icewind Dale. The book has many emotions, love, anger, and hatred to name a few, and each character is fleshed out through the use of these emotions. The vivid details of characters, landscapes, and battles will easily captivate any reader. Another great feature of the books are the many different plot lines and point of views that build upon each other to form a great plot.

The Golden Orb
by Douglas Niles
Holtzbrinck Publishing

The Golden Orb is an action adventure fantasy tale written by Douglas Niles. There are two main characters, Kerrick, an exiled elf living with the humans in Icereach, and Grimwar Bane, the king of the Ogres. While these two characters are extremely different Mr. Niles uses these two different points of view to tie the story together in an intriguing way, allowing you to choose your protagonist in some ways. The book takes place in the world of Krynn, specifically in the land of Ice reach a cold and dangerous land similar to Alaska yet to a much stronger degree of danger. The story’s plot involves the Ogres attempt to overrun Brackenrock, a mighty human fortress in Icereach, through the use of a new and powerful weapon. There are also many Man Vs. Self conflicts within the novel.

The Golden Orb is the second book in a series of books, however I found this book easy to pickup as it gave thorough descriptions of each character, in both looks and personality. Someone looking for action will definitely enjoy the battles within this book, they vary in not only size but also in the environments and the different opponents. However, the largest draw of this book is the intricate plot and man vs. self conflicts within the book.

Hyperthought
By M.M. Buckner
Ace, 177 Pp, \$5.99

Hyperthought is a stand alone Sci-Fi thriller. Jolie Sauvage is a Parisian tunnel rat, who has Jolie’s Tours, excursions to Earth’s toxic surface for the rich. Most of the world belongs to the coms, giant multinational companies who hold lifetime contracts on the workers who live in the tunnels beneath the surface. Jolie, an orphan, despises them all. Jin is the son of a com CEO, a movie star, but his mission is to overthrow the tyranny of the coms but has no idea how. He decides to try experimental neurosurgery to unleash the hidden potential of the brain in an effort to define his destiny. Jolie must free him, and save him from his father, the surgeon, and the forces of the coms and the com wars, and stay alive. With a few good friends, Jolie and Jin must save the world.. Can she also save Jin from the changes in his brain? This is a real page turner, well worth the price. Enjoy. - **Pam Allan**

HumansBook Two of the Neanderthal Parallax
by Robert J. Sawyer
TOR, 381 pages, \$24.95

In this book Ponter convinces the High Gray Council to reopen the portal between the worlds. Reunited with Mary the two of them explore what a relationship between the two of them would mean and what it would cost. This is a very intriguing method which allows the author to explore the most basic concepts which underlay our society. What is justice? Is religion a foolish myth? What makes a person human?

While this book does not have the action adventure that I usually look in a good story, it still kept my interest. The emotional conflict suffered by the protagonists is intriguing. The unusual viewpoint used to explore our society is novel. I enjoyed this book very much and anyone who has read *Hominids* will be eager to see how the story is continued in *Humans*. I enjoyed the Neanderthal Parallax and would recommend it to anyone who is interested in exploring the truly unique world view offered by Mr. Sawyer. - **William B. Whitmore**

Wit’ch Star
by James Clemens
Del Rey, 544 pp, \$24.95

Wit’ch Star is the fourth book of *The Banned & The Banished* series [the Witch War saga]. It can stand alone.

The three deadly Weirgates have been destroyed, but the threat of the Dark Lord remains. Elena, the Wit’ch of spirit and stone, and her companions have gone to prepare for their final stand. Elena has

(Cont’d on page 20)

In Our Book (cont’d from page 19)

gone for R&R to A’loa Glen. Along comes Harlequin Quail, a spy acting as Jester [or is it the reverse] arrives telling them they have one month to counter certain doom. One Weirgate remains. The Dark lord will use it to usher in a reign of evil without end. Hunted by the Dark Lord and his followers, with betrayal on all sides, the faithful companions will find that love and magic will be tested to the breaking point.

With shades of Robert Jordan, *Wit’ch Star* has all the elements of classic fantasy. It also has distinctive details and well drawn characters that make well worth reading. But save a couple evenings. At 544 pages, with no excess words, it will take some time to finish. - **Pam Allan**.

Enemies

by Lee Hogan

ROC, 416 pages, \$6.99

Enemies is the sequel to *Belarus*. In *Belarus* the star spanning Republic fell. now a thousand years later the Union is trying to reunite the lost worlds that survived the fall. But the planet Belarus is special for here is the only world where both men and the ENEMY live. But in a thousand years of sharing the world with the ENEMY the people of Belarus have become a very stubborn, stiff-necked and intolerant people. The Union representatives are vexed and exasperated by the rulers of the planet but still they must try to bring the people of this world into the Union for it is the only place in the galaxy where man has met the ENEMY and not been exterminated in the most horrible manner.

Enemies is a fast paced novel of intrigue and suspense. It’s references to things which happened in *Belarus* are well explained. The characters readily engage your sympathy and I would gladly recommend this book. It is a good stand alone novel and an even better sequel. - **William B. Whitmore**

Ombria in Shadow

by Patricia A. McKillip

298 pp, \$14.00

Ombria In Shadow is a stand alone fantasy.

When Ombria’s prince, Royce Greve, dies, he leaves his son, and his mistress in the hands of his great aunt Domina Pearl, a ruthless and ambitious sorceress. The mistress is thrown out in the streets with no expectation of survival. The son and heir has little more with the Black Pearl as regent. The principality loses hope, and the portents of change appear with memories of the shadow Ombria that exists in parallel with gates between the two if only you knew where to look. Ducon Greve, the bastard of the king, fights his own battles against rebels who would

overthrow the regent and kill the heir. At the same time he must protect the heir from the Black Pearl. The mistress, Lydea, also wishes to protect Kyel, the son of her late lover. She survives, with the help of Mag, the” waxling”. She wants to protect Ducon and Kyel. All seek the aid of Faey, Mag’s mistress who lives between the worlds. Can any of them survive the malicious power of Domina Pearl, and how does this effect the fate of Ombria?

This is an extraordinary book. A fascinating journey through a maze of truth and illusion, of love and loss, of bravery and magic. It has beautiful characterization and witty and intelligent prose that borders on poetry. If you weren’t a McKillip fan before, this could transform you. Your library is incomplete without it. - **Pam Allan**

The Devil and Deep Space

by Susan A. Matthews

ROC, 362 pages, \$6.99

Book four of the Judiciary series. Surgeon/torturer Andrej Koscuisko is due to depart on home leave when a terrible training accident occurs. With the Captain dead, First Officer tries to save her crew and ship from the machinations of the corrupt and venial officials who will not hesitate to kill her whole crew to cover-up their own activities.

Ms Matthews has written a good novel of political intrigue. Her antagonists are corrupt and self-serving while her protagonists are all too human. Torn by conflicting demands on their time and loyalty they muddle through, trying to do what is right in a universe where “reasonable people” only think in terms of personal power and profit.

This is the first book by Susan A. Matthews that I have read and I found it an interesting and well written story. While frequent references are made to actions that have happened in prior novels enough explanation is provided so that this makes an acceptable stand alone novel which I am sure fans of MS Matthews have eagerly awaited. - **William B. Whitmore**

Hidden in Sight

by Julie E. Czerneda

Daw, 496 pp, \$6.99

Hidden in Sight is the third volume of the Web Shifters series.

Esen-Alit- Quar is the youngest, and she believes, the last member of Ersh’s web. She, and her human friend, Paul, have formed Esen’s Web, but they are hunted by those who would destroy all web beings. Still, they have made a good life as importers on a planet far from Picco’s Moon. When they find that Picco’s Moon is being illegally mined, and Ersh’s mountain desecrated, they make plans to

return and put a stop to the invasion. Before the can set off, they find themselves attacked on every front. Can Esen and Paul survive, much less return to Esen’s former home, protect the indigenous tumblers, get rid of the invaders, and stop the Granthor fleet from destroying everyone.

Hidden in Sight is one of those rare books that successfully tell a story from an alien’s point of view. Her likeable characters, and realized species would make it good reading. The plot twists and surprises make it more so. Enjoy, fellow readers. I will go hunting the first two books. - **Pam Allan**

The American Fantasy Tradition

edited by Brian M. Thomsen

TOR, 602 pages, \$27.95

Mr. Thomsen claims that this book is an overview of American fantasy fiction. With 43 short stories spanning 200 years of American literature this is a truly amazing work. With authors as divers as Washington Irving, H.P. Lovecraft, Alan Dean Foster and David Drake, to name just a few, this book makes an excellent introduction to a wide variety of authors and I would recommend it without hesitation. It would be an excellent introductory book for any young reader and it is also an interesting collection of familiar favorites for an experienced reader. I especially applaud the editors courage in resisting the pressures of the politically correct. While the works of many of the pre-civil war authors are now considered offensive by the narrow minded liberals with no understanding of history, Mr. Thomsen has resisted their pressure and chosen to included several stories because of the important contribution that they made to American literature. I think we should all applaud Mr. Thomsen’s courage and include this fantastic anthology of American fantasy fiction our libraries. - **William B. Whitmore**

XANTH; The Quest for Magic

by Piers Anthony

Del Ray, 774 pages, \$18.95

Xanth, The Quest for Magic is a three novel omnibus of the first three Xanth novels [of 21] issued in a hefty trade paperback. Celebrating 25 years of Xanthian publication.

In A Spell for Chameleon, Bink has no apparent magic in a kingdom that exiles everyone that doesn’t evidence magic by age 25. After an adventurous quest to the Good Magician Humphrey, neither Humphrey, or Beauregard the Genie can identify what that magic is. Although Humphrey writes a note to the [senile] King, declaring he does have magic, Bink is exiled to Mundania.

There he begins his second series of

adventures with The Evil Magician Trent in which nothing is what it seems. In *The Source for Magic*, the King wants to know what the source of Xanth’s magic. He sends Bink, and his companions out on a quest for truth. Harried by an unseen creature determined to stop them, and having allies become enemies it will become a battle of wits and luck to prevail.

In *Castle Roogna*, Millie the former ghost had taken up being the Nanny to Bink and Chameleon’s son Dor. But the sprightly Millie pines for the Zombie Master, Jonathan. To help Millie, Dor embarks on a journey to get the elixir that will restore Jonathan to full life with Millie. It, too, is an adventure filled with Xanthian surprises.

The first three Xanth novels, classics in their sub-genre, have less word play than the later novels, but does make a splendid way to spend a rainy afternoon. - **Pam Allan**

DeathDay

by William C. Dietz

ACE, 355 pages, \$7.50

Suddenly and without warning the world is under attack. Satellites, communication centers, all forms of radio broadcast sites and military bases are ruthlessly pounded. In three hours almost 3/4 of the planet’s population is dead and dying and no one knows by who or why. And then things start to get really bad. What? You don’t think things can get any worse? Then you need to read *DeathDay* by William C. Dietz because I assure you Mr. Dietz’s fertile imagination finds a way for it to get worse, MUCH WORSE.

DeathDay is a vividly written post apocalyptical drama of amazing scope. the story line is compelling, the characters are well developed and easy to identify with, the human drama is suspenseful and compelling, and the action scenes are well written and believably choreographed. I think most sci-fi fans will find something to like in this novel and recommend it to all. - **William B. Whitmore**

Holder of Lightning

by S.L. Farrell

Daw, 472 pages, \$23.95

Holder of Lightning is Volume one of The Cloudmages, a projected multi-generational epic. Jenna Aoire is a naive 17 year old herding sheep on Knobtop mountain when the legendary magelights flare up in the night sky. When Jenna finds a pretty, if plain, pebble it not only heralds the beginning of a new age of cloud magic, but also takes over the lives of Jenna and her family. It also spawns war, betrayal, intrigue, and death. As first holder of the Lamh Shabhala, the most powerful cloch,

In Our Book (cont'd from page 20)

which wakes the other clochs in existence. The holder cannot give it up, and almost every one wants it regardless of who must die.

Set within the milieu of Celtic culture and tradition, it is a fantasy realm where magic and myth ebb and flow with the ages. The characters are well drawn, both flawed heros and sometimes sympathetic villains illustrating power has a heavy price. The plotting is tight. Action is fast paced and this reviewer couldn't put it down. I can't wait for volume 2. This is a must have for every fantasy library. - **Pam Allan**

**Exile to the Stars
Book One of the Alarai
Chronicles
By Dale B. Mattheis
Ardent Pub., 533 pages, \$27.95**

This story starts out as your standard disaffected modern youth magically transported to a fantasy realm of sword and sorcery novel, but then Mr. Mattheis makes it uniquely his own. The hero of our story is Jeff Friedrich, a professor of cultural anthropology who has lost his girl friend, been fired from his job, and beaten up by a gang of thugs. All in one really bad weekend. To clear his head he goes out camping in the Cascade Mountains near Seattle Washington. A huge earthquake hits and the next thing he know he is someplace with two moons, carnivore deer, and telepathic wolves. Totally confused Jeff struggles to survive and make a new life for himself, and then things really start to get difficult!

Mr. Mattheis has written a very good novel. His tightly knit story line is fast paced and held my interest. His character development is superb, by the end of the novel I was left truly caring about what was to become of the lead characters. While the action scenes were not plentiful they were well written and show a detailed knowledge of wilderness survival techniques.

The promo material that came with this book states that this is the first book of a five (possibly six) book series. I look forward to the release of the planned books and would recommend *Exile to the Stars* to anyone who likes heroic fantasy series. - **William B. Whitmore**

**Deathstalker Legacy
by Simon R. Green
Roc, 472 pages, \$23.95**

Deathstalker Legacy is apparently a continuation of a multi volume epic. I have not read the prior volumes. The book does stand alone quite nicely. Three generations after Owen Deathstalker was elevated to legend, the Empire was enjoying a golden age. When Prince Douglas ascends the throne, he appoints Lewis Deathstalker as champion instead of Finn Durandal, the most famous "paragon" of all. Finn decides to topple Douglas and the Empire in revenge. All hell breaks loose. We see the end of Camelot..literally in the plot. This is a fast paced space opera, a romp through intrigue and battles, love between Lancelot and Guinever, whoops, I mean Jesemine and Lewis, who flee the Empire. We may have seen the plot before, but it is a fun book, with quirky characters [minor] and some fun banter. It holds your interest with fast paced action, A good read. - **Pam Allan**

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Numerous sources were used to compile this but the most useful was the online Bibliography at:
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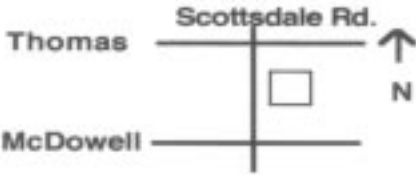
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Club Listings

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Please check your club listing for errors. Please send corrections and updates to the editor in writing to P.O. Box 62613, Phoenix AZ 85082 or via email at clubs@casfs.org)

ADRIANEMPIRE 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.

Aerial Mirage Jugglers. Meets Wednesday 7-10pm in Encanto Park, 15th Avenue, south of Encanto. No dues, everyone welcome. All levels skill exchange in many areas of object manipulation Dave Davis <aerialmirage@gnerds.com>, 602-955-9446; or Ron Harvey <rbh1s@yahoo.com>, 602-863-0284 for more info or impromptu juggling sessions.

ARIZONALANBASHERSLEAGUE 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@earthlink.net Web: <http://www.lanparty.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 Local Tuscon science fiction group that puts on TusCon. Contact us at PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 or basfa@earthlink.net. our website at home.earthlink.net/~basfa/

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

C.R.O.F.T. Celtic Reenactment of Fellowship and Trades is Phoenix based Reenactment group specializing in the western European renaissance. As an organization, it is our goal to promote fellowship while researching lifestyles and trades concurrent with the Celtic Peoples from 400 BC until 1746 AD. Although most members claim Scots, Irish or Welsh ancestry and do Celtic re-enactment, it is our intent to open participation to anyone with an interest in period crafting and entertainment, no matter what his/her ethnicity. The sense of being a real village surrounding Croft is vital to promote a feeling of family and fellowship which was a reality in earlier times. Croft is a family-oriented and kid-friendly organization. C.R.O.F.T. members can be found demonstrating in events such as the Highland Games, Scarborough Fair, and the Arizona Renaissance Festival. Web page <http://www.crofters.org>

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

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, belly dance, camping and of course, SF. Membership is free (18 or over) and is attained by group vote after you attend two meetings or holt-related get-togethers. Meetings are usually the first Saturday of each month; for more info, call Tom or Janice at (602) 581-2258. They have a website up at <http://members.home.net/jeanderson/daystarholt.html>

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 Web: www.galandor.org

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, 480-945-6890, Email mwillmoth@compuserve.com www.lepercon.org

MIB The Men in Black is the official organization of field operatives for Steve Jackson Games. They attend local conventions to demonstrate and promote products of Steve Jackson Games. The also schedule demos in local gaming stores. If you have a gaming store or convention that you would like to have official Steve Jackson Games representation at, please contact the MIB Arizona Cell Leader at MIB.6361@cox.net

ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB meets last Wednesday of every month (except Dec.) We frequently have author guest speakers. You're all welcome to come if you're in the area. We meet in Fullerton, about 5 miles north of Disneyland. For more details ph. Greg at [949] 552-4925 or send a message to our listserv@OCSF@yahoo.com

PAReX is a non-profit, just for fun organization dedicated to the proliferation of robotics as a hobby. Monthly meetings will be held and will be announced under the Meeting Information page, <http://www.parex.org/meetinfo.htm>. All interested persons are invited to participate. We are currently in the process of getting organized and becoming an official organization with tax status. Web page: <http://www.parex.org/> E-mail Contact: John Kittelsrud, johnkit@teamdroid.com

THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY A Phoenix based club interest-ed in the entire realm of SF, Fantasy and Horror film. PFFS has been in existence for 25 years, meeting every 6 weeks in member's

homes. Dues are \$10 per year. Membership includes newsletters, an annual film awards and various outings. For information, contact PFFS, P.O. Box 34023, Phoenix, AZ 85067 or call David Storck at (602) 274_7404, e_mail:Menzeez@aol.com.

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 AZ 85202-3144 or 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 8159 W. Weldon in Phoenix every Sunday from 3pm-9pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (602) 849-9515. www.rawgames.org

REBEL LEGION - JUNDLAND OUTPOST The Jundland Outpost is a small band of Rebels which form a part of the rapidly growing Rebel Legion. While it's main focus is Star Wars costuming, much like it's 501st counterpart the Dune Sea Garrison, the Jundland Outpost's mission is to brighten up the lives of children and Star Wars fans of all ages across the Phoenix Metro area and eventually other parts of Arizona as well. Members also make appearances with other Star Wars organizations as part of a joint effort to help with Charities and events around Arizona. If you have an event you would like us to appear at, please contact us at azrebellion@cox.net.

SAMURAI OTAKU ANIME CLUB The Samurai Otaku is a group of fans of anime, manga, and Japanese pop culture. Meetings are held every Saturday night at 6pm at Samurai Comics, 5024 N. 7th St.. Members discuss anime and manga, work on a web comic, discuss fund raisers, and schedule club events. After each meeting the club views selected anime DVD's and plays games. Open to new members. Contact Moryha Banks— (602)265-8886, moryha!samuraicomics.com

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 Klingon Vessel). A Klingon Bird of Prey, roaming the desert looking for battle. Are the Fed's

(cont'd on page 23)

Club Listings (Cont'd from page 22)
too soft, looking for combat, feel the call to glory. This is the ship for you. Membership in the SFCOM is free! To join DSSF or the Sto-Vo-Kor a nominal fee for the national clubs involved and uniforms. For further information contact President John Nelson at (602) 409-7169 or on the internet at; BNelson502@aol.com or check out our web site. <http://www.thesfcom.com>

SFACE (Speculative Fiction And Computer Enthusiasts) Phoenix College's one and only connection to the worlds of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, and horror as well as table top, live action and internet gaming. SFACE also serves as a guide through the Internet - both teaching basic use and utilizing as a source of speculative fiction. For more info contact Dr Ray Bromley at bromley.ray@a1.pc.maricopa.edu. The SFACE Web site is found at <http://www.pc.maricopa.edu/departments/studentact/organizations/sface/>

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

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM The kingdom of Atenveldt doth lie in the state of Arizona. Within the fair kingdom can be found six Baronies: Atenveldt, Mons Tonitrus, Twin Moons, SunDragon, Tir Ysgithr and Ered Sul. For more information on any of these or for general information on thy past tomorrows thou mayest contact Mistress Myrddina o Dolwyddelan (Terry Schwartz) PO Box 584, Sonoita AZ 85637 (520)455-5835 Email: myrddina1@aol.com www.atenveldt.org

THE SOUTHWEST COSTUMER'S GUILD The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose organization of persons interested in all facets of historical, cultural, science fiction, fantasy, and humor costume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes at local and regional Science Fiction Convention masquerades. They meet on the last Sunday of each month at various members' homes in the greater Phoenix area. For details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or Randall Whitlock at costumers@casfs.org or www.southwestcostumersguild.org

SPACE ACCESS SOCIETY Space Access Society's sole purpose is to promote radically cheaper access to space, ASAP. We think it's possible within ten years, with a little luck and a lot of hard work. Join us and help us make it happen!

Volume 13 Issue 5

SAS membership is \$30 for one year, which gets you emailed Space Access Updates the instant they pass final edit, plus discounts on our annual conference on the technology, politics, and business of radically cheaper space transportation, featuring leading players in the field. Email us at: Space.Access@Space-Access.org Web page: www.space-access.org/

SUPERSTITION SPACEMODELING SOCIETY is Arizona's club for builders of model and high power rockets and those who love to see them fly. Launches are held on the second Saturday morning of each month in Rainbow Valley. SSS hosts the annual G. Harry Stine Memorial Rocket Launch every October. Visit www.sssrocketry.org for membership information, directions to the launches and meetings, and to read the monthly newsletter, "Newton's Minutes."

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 2243 W Wagon Wheel Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85021, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@primenet.com or visit <http://www.primenet.com/~jgeorge/tardis.html>

TEKWAR FAN CLUB Sanctioned by the series' production companies and the USA Network! It is THE information conduit between the fans and the series! Fan club membership will bring you the following 1) subscription to the info filled Tek Informer newsletter; 2) official TekWar Fan Club membership card and kit. Membership is by regular mail only and the newsletter and materials will not be reproduced electronically. To join the action and initiate your annual membership, make check or money order out for \$12.50 to: Official TekWar Fan Club (Membership section), 2522 N Sparkman Blvd., Tucson AZ 85716-2417

T.H.E.M. is ASU's science fiction and fantasy club. Weekly meetings are held on the Arizona State University campus, with dates and places to be announced after the semester starts. For more information, them@themonline.org www.themonline.org

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

USS STORMBRINGER The Stormbringer is a correspondence Star Trek fan club chapter of Starfleet, Intl. based out of

Tucson AZ. The chapter was commissioned as the USS Stormbringer NCC-74213, attached to Division 31, Starfleet Covert Operations, on 10/31/98. As of 11/29/98 there were 32 members. There are no dues other than the \$15 for joining Starfleet Intl.. Members are scattered worldwide but the primary clusters are in Tucson, AZ and Plano, TX. They don't meet on a regular basis since they are a correspondence chapter. Their web site is: <http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Vault/9505/> and their contact/CO is Capt. Dave Pitts, thepitts52@hotmail.com.

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

UNITED FEDERATION OF PHOENIX A Phoenix area Star Trek and general SciFi fan club. We are a social club that meets every two weeks at various locations around the Phoenix area. The UFP has been meeting for over 25 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$15/per year prorated when you join; no restrictions. Membership includes membership roster and monthly newsletter. Come to any two meetings at no obligation. For information, write the UFP at PO Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203. Web page: <http://www.U-F-P.org> or Email to Info@U-F-P.org

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors the ConRunners seminars and is sponsoring the 2004 Westercon. Dedicated primarily to educational activities relating to literature, music, and visual and performing arts, especially in the genres of science fiction, fantasy, costuming, gaming and science. Applicants for membership in WesternSFA must be sponsored by a current active WesternSFA member. Dues are \$10 yearly plus a \$5 non-refundable application fee. General Meetings are held on the first Friday of February, May, August and November, usually at the home of a member. Guests are welcome. For more info contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 87457, Phoenix AZ 85082, (602)973-2341, Email: craig@westernsfa.org. Webpage: www.westernsfa.org

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

JB's

is family

2560 W. Indian School Rd.

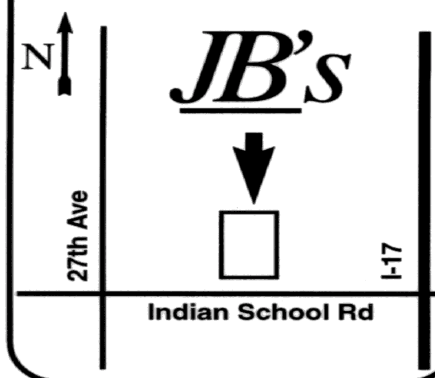
JB's Family Restaurant

wishes to thank
CASFS
for their patronage
over the years.

Our banquet room is
available for large groups.
Call to make reservations!

(602) 264-3608

Kenny & Maureen Borden



Convention Listings

ConRunners 6 (Phoenix AZ) **October 4, 2003** Room 3005 at the Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. A day long seminar on fan-run science fiction conventions. Are there things you would like to see at local conventions? Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes in planning a convention? Then this is the place for you! Come, let your ideas be heard and pick up some tips from others. Registration opens at 8:30AM. Our Morning Session will be from 9AM to 1PM Topic Chair’s Duties, Lunch Break 1PM-2PM and Afternoon Session 2PM to 4PM: Picking a Theme 4PM-6PM Post CopperCon 23 discussion. We will provide soda, coffee, tea and light munchies Membership: \$15 For more info: ConRunners, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082 or call 602-973-2341 ConRunners@westernsfa.org www.westernsfa.org

Britcon, Oct. 25, 2003 10 am-4 pm, Fee: \$20. The Courtyard Marriot, 3313 N Scottsdale Rd., (800) 835-6205; (480) 429-7785 Scottsdale AZ. Room rate: \$109. Mark Billingham, Stephen Booth, Caroline Carver, Lesley Horton, Jane Jakeman, Simon Kernick, Gemma O’Connor, Danuta Reah, Zoe Sharp. Call 888 560-9919 or email joanne@poisonedpen.com.

TusCon xXx (30) (Tucson, AZ) **Nov 14-16, 2003** at the InnSuites Hotel, GOH: Yvonne Navarro, Musical GOHs: Maya and Jeff Bohnhoff. Memberships: \$40 until Sept 6, 2003, and \$45 after that and at the door. Children (ages 3-12) are 1/2 current adult rates. Hotel: InnSuites Hotel, 475 North Granada, Tucson AZ 85701 Per night rates are \$69 (studio room) or \$79 (2-room suite). Reservations: 1-877-446-6589, Fax: 520-623-8922, Local: 520-622-3000 Info: TusCon, PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 or at basfa@earthlink.net. Web: http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/

Loscon 30 (Burbank CA) **November 28-30, 2003** Burbank Hilton and Convention Center Writer Guest: Fred Saberhagen; Artist Guest: Teddy Harvia; Fan Guest: Jack L. Chalker. Membership: \$35 thru 7/31/03 Hotel Rates: Burbank Hilton, 2500 Hollywood Way, Burbank CA (818)843-

6000 Rooms: \$98 S/D/T/Q Suite \$118 S/D/T/Q. Info: Loscon 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601 Phone: (818) 760-9234 [LASFS Club-house; leave message E-mail: Loscon30.info@loscon.org Web: http://www.loscon.org/loscon/30/index.html

DarkCon 2004 (Phoenix, AZ) **Jan 9-11, 2004** Winter Gaming & SF/F Convention Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ Memb: \$20 Hotel Rates: Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. Rooms: \$79 S/D, \$89 T, \$99 Q (plus tax) Info: (623) 435-9700; website: www.darkones.org Email: darkcon@darkones.org;

Gallifrey One’s Fifteen Minutes of Fame (Los Angeles, CA) **Feb 13-16, 2004** The Airtel Plaza Hotel, Los Angeles, CA Guests: Colin Baker, Peter Davison + many more Memb: \$30 thru 5/31/03, \$35 thru 8/31/03, \$40 thru 11/30/03, \$45 thru 1/31/04 and \$50 at the door. Info: Gallifrey Conventions, Post Office Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609 Email: info@gallifreyone.com

World Horror Convention 2004, (Phoenix AZ) **April 8-11, 2004** Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ Guests: Editor Guest of Honour: Stephen Jones; Toast-master: David Morrell; More To Be Announced Memberships: \$100 thru 3/31/03, \$110 after Hotel Rates: \$88 S/D/T/Q (plus tax); Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777 Info: World Horror 2004, c/o LepreCon, Inc. PO Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285; (480) 945-6890; e-mail: whc2004@leprecon.org; website: www.leprecon.org/whc2004

LepreCon 30 (Phoenix AZ) **May 7-9, 2004** Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention with an emphasis on Art Artist GoH: Donato Giancola; Local Artist GoH: Sylvana Anderson; Other Guests TBA Sheraton Crescent Hotel, 2620 W. Dunlap Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85021 Room Rates: \$79 S/D, \$99 T/Q +tax 602-943-8200 or 800-423-4126 Memberships are \$25 through 8/30/03, \$30 thru 12/31/03; Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 & Under Free (with Adult membership) Write: LepreCon 30, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285, Phone: (480) 945-6890 ,Email: lep30@leprecon.org Web: http://www.leprecon.org/lep30

ConKopelli, Westercon 57 (Litchfield Park, AZ) **July 2-5, 2004** Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, AZ Guests: Author GoH: C.J. Cherryh; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Music GoH: Heather Alexander ; Fan GoH: John Hertz Info: Arizona in 2004 PO Box 67457 Phoenix, AZ 85082 Email: info@conkopelli.org Web: http://www.conkopelli.org

HexaCon 14 (Tempe AZ) **July 29*-Aug 1, 2004** Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ, Gaming starts on Friday and runs 24 hours until Sunday 4PM. Events include RPGA, LARP, LAN Party, CCG, Battletech and much more. Also Anime and a full consuite. ***THURSDAY EVENTS** for pre-registered members only include Barry Bard’s Movie Previews and Giveaways Memb: \$15 until 12/31/2003, Hotel: info: Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ (800) 547-8705 Room Rates: \$85 S/D/T/Q, Info: www.hexacon.org or 602-973-2341

World Fantasy Convention 2004 (Tempe, AZ) **Oct 28-31, 2004**, Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ Guests: To Be Announced Memberships: \$100 thru 5/30/03, \$110 after Hotel Rates: \$155 S/D/T/Q (plus tax); Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ (800) 547-8705 Info: World Fantasy 2004, c/o LepreCon, Inc. PO Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285; (480) 945-6890; e-mail: wfc2004@leprecon.org; website: www.leprecon.org/wfc2004

General Research in Genetics by Ladnar Lockwhite

Documents recently obtained by the author under the Freedom of Made-Up Information Act have revealed that, inspired by the film *The Boys From Brazil*, unnamed Department of Defense officials once authorized a program to create genetic duplicates of some of the greatest American military minds of the second world war.

Since the company had unparalleled experience at making copies, the project was contracted to Xerox and completed under top secret classification at the Palo Alto Research Center (P.A.R.C.), a facility believed by the public to be used only for computer science.

The project was a boondoggle from the beginning, fraught with enormous technical and conceptual problems. Attempts to clone General Bradley went badly. The research on General Patton could not be patented. Efforts on General Doolittle did little.

A particularly grisly incident occurred when the MacArthur at P.A.R.C. melted in the dark. This left the research team moody and blue.

The most successful project focused on General Eisenhower. The replicant grew up healthy and well-adjusted. While he does not possess his progenitor’s military genius or political prospects, he has enjoyed a successful career in the ice cream business and inspired his company’s popular advertising slogan: What Would You Do for a Cloned-Ike Bar?

A Novel Idea By Dawn Mullan

A slower pace rides the wave of autumn changes as seen in the releases in the science fiction and fantasy realm, but the lessened quantity does not mean diminished quality. Though a slimmer line of books being released for the beginning of autumn, many novels are from notable and celebrated authors such as **Margret Ball, Peter David, Diane Duane, David Drake, Robert A. Heinlein, James Luceno, Stephen King, Mercedes Lackey, Anne McCaffrey, and Elizabeth Moon**, to name a few, return with new tales to entice their readers. Some novels to look forward to this fall include *Tolkien*, *Star Trek*, and *Star Wars* series.

The book releases for October 2003 are as follows: *The Maps of Tolkien’s Middle-Earth* by **Brian Sibley** (Author), **John Howe** (Illustrator); *The Lone Drow* by **R. A. Salvatore**; *Star Trek: New Frontier: No Limits* by **Peter David**; *Lucinda’s Secret (The Spiderwick Chronicles, Book 3)* by **Tony DiTerlizzi** (Illustrator), **Holly Black** (Author); *Gods Above (Star Trek New Frontier, Book 13)* by **Peter David** (Author); *Stone and Anvil (Star Trek New Frontier)* by **Peter David** (Author); *Baudolino* by **Umberto Eco** (Author), **William Weaver** (Translator); *A Wizard Alone: The Sixth Book in the Young Wizards Series* by **Diane Duane** (Author); *The Wizard’s Holiday: The Seventh Book in the Young Wizards Series* by **Diane Duane** (Author); *The Far Side of the Stars* by **David Drake** (Author), **James Ban** (Editor); *Expanded Universe* by **Robert A. Heinlein**; *The Deed of Paksenarrion* by **Elizabeth Moon**; *Digital Knight* by **Ryk Spoor**; *Planets of Adventure* by **Murray Leinster**; *The Immortality Option* by **James P. Hogan**.

November opens with releases by fan favorites and some new faces. *Cobo’s Quest*, Book Two in *The Last Gate* series by **Elizabeth A. Merz**; *The Unifying Force (Star Wars: The New Jedi Order, Book 19)* by **James Luceno**; *The Dark Tower V* by **Stephen King**; *There Will be Dragons* by **John Ringo**; *Tinker* by **Wen Spencer**; *Brain Ships* by **Anne McCaffrey**, **Mercedes Lackey**, **Margret Ball**; *War of Honor* by **David Weber**; *For King and Country* by **Robert Asprin**, **Linda Evans**; *The Helverti Invasion* by **John Dalmás**

