

ConNotations

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2004

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

The Borg Invade Las Vegas by Lee Whiteside

The Star Trek Experience at the Las Vegas Hilton has stayed pretty much the same since it opened in 1998. The Klingon Encounter ride has been a popular one, with fans being able to visit the bridge of the Enterprise D from Star Trek: The Next Generation and experience a motion simulator shuttle ride that ends up on a now outdated flight down the Las Vegas Strip. Aside from some updated displays in the History of the Future museum for the last Trek movies and Enterprise TV series, the attraction has stayed pretty much the same. That has now changed with the introduction of the Borg Invasion 4-D that opened in March.

Using current high definition technology, live actors and visual and physical effects, the new ride creates a very realistic Star Trek experience. As visitors tour a futuristic research facility, the terrifying drones of the Borg Collective launch an attack to capture and assimilate guests using 24th century cybernetic technology. The 3D and 4D effects will merge to create a chilling realization as the action culminates in a state-of-the-art theater providing an all-immersive tactile experience for visitors to the attraction. The associated film features Robert Picardo (The Doctor), Alice Krige (BORG Queen) and Kate Mulgrew (Admiral Janeway) as the starship Voyager gets involved with the events. In addition to traditional motion simulator

techniques, other effects are used (poking, air blasts, moving floors, and surround sound) to create a fuller experience.

Behind the scenes of the visual effects is Threshold Digital Research Labs and a team led by George Johnsen, former Babylon 5 producer, with visual effects artists such as Mojo working on it. They have created multiple 3-D images that are displayed on multiple screens on the ride to give the feeling of being in space and to heighten the tension when the Borg are attacking. According to George Johnsen, in order to make the effects work, they had to invent some new camera and CGI technology. “In order to replicate the way the human eye sees, we literally had to reinvent the way movies are made, from building a new camera for the live-action shoot to the animation and editing process,” Johnsen told the Hollywood Reporter. They also developed what they call “infinite focus” which makes the 3-D images look real no matter where the viewer is looking from.

This is also the first Star Trek production to be shot totally digitally, the first multiple angle 3-D production, and the first attraction to use 2K digital cinema projection, which produces the highest-resolution digital projection commercially available. “This experience is much like

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CASFS Business Report

Salutations,
January

* We purchased 5,000 badge laminates and 2,500 clips. We will be purchasing another 2,500 clips and a new badge punch.

* We approved the purchase of QuickBooks Pro for the Corporate Treasurer, as it makes integrating the information the individual conventions store in Quicken much easier.

* There was a complaint from LepreCon, Inc. regarding access to the FanMaster database. After discussion, the complaint was resolved with no action necessary.

* We donated \$50 to the Arizona Animal Welfare League in the name of recently-deceased member April Rice.

February

* HexaCon 15 has signed a contract with the Tempe Mission Palms hotel to hold the convention there.

* Book discussions will be starting up again, now that new venues have been located.

— The New Guy



Who's Who This Issue

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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

The BBC has announced who will play the lead role in their new series of **Doctor Who**. It will be British actor **Christopher Eccleston**. His most recent appearance seen in the U.S. is as Major Henry West in **28 Days Later**. He was also in the BBC miniseries **"The Second Coming"** as **Stephen Baxter**, which was written and produced by **Russell T. Davies**, who is doing the same for the new Doctor Who series. In regards to **Eccleston**, **Davies** commented "This man can give the Doctor a wisdom, wit and emotional range as far-reaching as the doctor's travels in time and space. It's going to be a magnificent, epic, entertaining journey, and I can't wait to start!" Filming is scheduled to start soon in the UK for broadcast in 2005. There is still no word on where it will turn up in the U.S.

The fate of the **Star Trek** franchise may be in the hands of the Nielsen viewers during the final batch of **Enterprise** episodes in April and May. Executives at CBS and Viacom have indicated they are not happy with how **Enterprise** has been performing and may elect to go with other programming next year if they feel they have something better to show. With the continued success of **America's Next Top Model** and their comedies, UPN looks to only have Wednesday night for drama and if there's two new shows they like more, **Enterprise** may not get renewed or may end up taking a back seat. During March and April, the show has been moved back an hour during repeats so that UPN can showcase their CGI comedy series **Game Over**. When **Enterprise** resumes new episodes on April 21, it is expected to move back to it's regular time slot.

New episodes will resume with Damage, following the cliffhanger from the last new episode, **Azati Prime**, the Enterprise is left virtually helpless with several crew members dead and many injured. They must work together with the crew from an Illyrian vessel that has been crippled by spatial anomalies. In **The Forgotten**, two high-ranking Xindi offer to stop the launch of their super weapon if Archer can prove they've been manipulated while the crew deals with the loss of a fifth of the Enterprise crew from recent events. **E2** has an attempt to use a Xindi subspace corridor leading the Enterprise into a bizarre encounter with another Starfleet ship, an Enterprise from the future! In **The Council**, Archer approaches the Xindi Council on their home turf to argue why they should make peace and not deploy the planet-destroying weapon on Earth. In **Countdown**, despite dissenting factions within the Council, the Xindi prepare to initiate's the weapon's arming sequence while Archer crew works to stop it from commencing. According to producer **Rick Berman**, **Zero Hour** - the season finale, will not be a cliffhanger but may not fully resolve the Xindi storyline, allowing it to continue into a fourth season, if it happens.

The WB has announced that it will not be renewing **Angel** for a fifth season and made the announcement early so that **Joss Whedon** had a chance to properly

conclude the series. The announcement mentioned the possibility of future TV movies, but **Whedon** has indicated that there is nothing currently in the works. With the advent of the **Firefly** movie (see 24 Frames), **Whedon** will likely be pretty busy with that for a while. Whether any of the **Buffy** regulars will turn up to help end the series is unknown. Expect a few surprises, though, when things finish up in late May. When new episodes resume in mid-April, yet another **Firefly** regular will turn up in the Buffyverse with **Adam Baldwin** (Jayne on **Firefly**) showing up as Angel's new liaison to the Senior Partners, Hamilton, who is also trying to track down Eve. Angel and crew now realize that their agreement to join with Wolfram and Hart was a mistake and look to figure out a way to get out of it. This includes tracking down Lindsey, who is trapped in hell (or something like it), Other episodes will see a return of Angel's son, Connor, and some of the ramifications of his new life. Gunn will also break up a deal for a sacrifice, likely drawing the ire of the Senior Partners. Also happening will be more with Illyria/Fred where Illyria's hold over Fred's body starts to break down leading to multi-dimensional activities. Spike and Angel will make a trip to Rome, looking for a being called The Immortal who is apparently now hanging out with a certain Slayer. Whether we will actually see Buffy or just fleeting glimpses of someone with a blonde wig is not yet known. Expect somehow for all of this (Illyria, Wolfram and Hart, and The Immortal) to all come together in a surprising way to finish off the series.

Tru Calling has managed to stay on the air despite expected low ratings opposite **Friends** and **Survivor** and will likely be getting a new push from FOX for it's final run of episodes. Beginning in late March, **Jason Priestly** has joined the show as Jack Harper, a new forensic attendant at the morgue where Tru Davies works. Although he seems like a nice guy, he has a secret that may hinder Tru's ability to go backward in time to save people who die unjustly. Upcoming episodes include **The Getaway** where Tru is being trailed by a reporter when she is trying to stop a couple on a crime spree. In **Death Becomes Her**, Tru tries to save an actress who is a bit too successful at faking her own death because she is being blackmailed. **Two Pair** sees Tru and Harrison try to save two people that get killed in a high stakes poker game. In **Rear Window**, Tru tries to save the life of a man, Chris, who has had his identity stolen by a woman, now using his name. As the season

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 4)

24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

Lots of stuff in the news this issue including talk about the hoped for prequel to **The Lord of the Rings**, Comic Films updates and a **HitchHiker's Guide** movie finally.

Following it's sweep of the Oscars, what's left for **Lord of the Rings**. Well, there is the DVD release of the theatrical version on May 25th and the extended DVD release for the holiday season. But what about that other Tolkien Tale that should be brought to life as the trilogy was? No, it's not the **Simarillion** we're talking about, but **The Hobbit**. **Peter Jackson** has expressed interest of late of turning the book into a movie. **Ian McKellen** has been loud and long champing at the bit to play Gandalf one more time. But the movie rights are tied up in a bit of limbo right now. New Line does have the rights to make a movie based on the original book, but MGM (via United Artists) owns the distribution rights. There may also be some parts of the rights controlled by the Tolkien estate. Assuming that New Line is able to make everything come together, the earliest that production could likely start is 2006, after **Peter Jackson** is finished with his remake of **King Kong**. **Hobbit** fans will just have to be patient and they may eventually get rewarded.

As mentioned above, Peter Jackson's next project is a remake of **King Kong** that he's been wanting to do and almost got started before he embarked on his **Lord of the Rings** Odyssey. **Jackson** had actually been developing this movie back in 1997 when it was shot down by the studios. Now that **Jackson** has a bit more clout, he

is making it next and also enlisting the services of Weta Digital and Weta Workshop. **Jackson** wants to make this a faithful update of the original movie with current technology. The only cast announced so far is **Naomi Watts** as Ann Darrow. Expect more cast to be announced soon as production gets underway. Don't be surprised to see some LOTR alumni in a few roles. Universal has this planned for a December 2005 release.

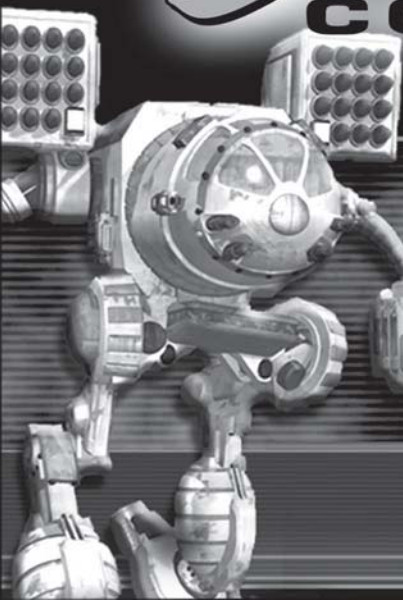
Walt Disney will be jumping into the epic fantasy arena with a live action production by Walden Media of **Lewis Carroll's** Narnia story, **The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe**. Directing will be **Andrew Adamson (Shrek)** and it will be filmed in New Zealand and will enlist the services of Weta Workshop. Rumors have **Nicole Kidman** being lined up for a major role, likely the White Witch. Walden Media does have the rights to all of the Narnia books and hopes to make this into an ongoing series. Look for it in fall of 2005.

Over in the comics world, Warner Bros. is gearing up for **Batman Begins** with casting set and filming underway starting in early March. Starring as a young Bruce Wayne (aka Batman) will be **Christian Bale**, **Ken Watanabe** will be the villain Ra's Al Ghul, **Michael Caine** will be Wayne's butler Alfred Pennyworth, and other cast includes **Morgan Freeman** (Lucius Fox), **Katie Holmes** (Rachel Dodson), **Cillian Murphy** (Dr. Jonathan Crane), **Liam Neeson** (Ducard), **Gary Oldman** (Sgt. Jim Gordon), and **Larry Holden** (D.A. Fisk). The movie will focus on a young Bruce Wayne shortly into his career as Batman as he travels to London to deal with Ra's Al Ghul.

Elswhere in the D.C. universe, we do have the **Halle Berry Catwoman** coming out this summer, with a tenuous connection to the actual comics character. The

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SF Tube Talk (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

progresses, Tru will learn more about Jack, and Jack will learn more about Tru, possibly leading to a major confrontation by the end of the season.

Mid-March saw the debut of **Wonderfalls** on FOX on Friday nights. There's not much advance info on episodes, though. Here is how FOX described the show in their press release for the series debut: Jaye Tyler is a smart young woman who's having some trouble finding direction in her life. Beautiful and well-educated, she lives in an unlikely place: a trailer park near her parents' home in Niagara Falls. She spends her days as a sales assistant in a gift shop for tourists that overlooks the Falls. But it's here that her life takes a strange turn, when the animal-shaped figurines on the store's shelves spontaneously begin talking and giving her cryptic advice. The show looks to be quirky and fun, if somewhat in the same vein as **Joan of Arcadia** but with a less serious bent. The series is scheduled to air for seven weeks in the 8 pm MT time slot. Where the remaining episodes will air after that is unknown.

CBS's mid-season genre entry **Century City** also debuted in mid-March on Wednesday nights for a short run. **Nestor Carbonell, Viola Davis, Hector Elizondo, Ioan Gruffudd, Kristin Lehman and Eric Schaeffer** star in this futuristic drama where lawyers at the firm of Crane, Constable, McNeil and Montero find that

the laws change but that people remain the same. CBS describes the show as "In a time when judges can go before lawyers as holograms, the firm takes on such morally and ethically ambiguous cases as parents suing their doctor for withholding critical results of their unborn child's genetic mapping, and a man accused of robbery when he "steals" back his identity from his ex-fiancé who has uploaded his presence onto all of her electronics. As this diverse group of attorneys find themselves in uncharted legal territory, their cases provide an eye-opening look into issues confronting society in the not-so-distant future."

When **Smallville** returns in mid-April, it will bring back **Christopher Reeve** as Dr. Swann in "Legacy". Lionel Luthor has a meeting with Dr. Swann who then warns Clark that Lionel is getting close to the truth about him. According to producer **Miles Millar** "When we bring Chris back, it's always a mythology episode. He always gives a piece of Clark's mythology, his destiny. So for us, it's always a big moment when he comes into the show. And I think it basically ... sends Clark into a new direction. And it's something that will actually be going into next season. And it will be significant. I think it will be every intriguing for people to hear what he has to say and the information he has for Clark." In "Truth", Chloe sneaks into a LutherCorp lab and is exposed to some kryptonite gas that gives her the ability to

make other people tell the truth, with dangerous results. "Memoria" will see Lex having sessions to gain back some of his memories, leading to flashbacks to much earlier in his life. Clark will also undergoes the procedure and have flashbacks to his departure from Krypton. Beyond that, there's not much advance info on the last few episodes of the season. Stay tuned for a likely cliffhanger...

The debut of SciFi's new Thursday lineup has been a success, at least initially. Household ratings numbers for the debut of **Mad, Mad House** were 1.35 (1.57 million viewers), **Scare Tactics** season two debuted with a 1.5 rating (1.58 million) and **Tripping the Rift** debuted with a 1.8 rating (2.08 million), which is the second highest rating ever for the debut of a new series on SciFi behind the debut of **Tremors: The Series**. SciFi is already casting for a second series of **Mad, Mad House**, wanting to cast other types of alts such as a necromancer, a yoga master and other offbeat lifestyles. The show somewhat works as a cross between **Fear Factor** and **Survivor**, putting the normals through various tests. The initial show didn't have much time to dwell on the day to day lives of the alts, which will likely get featured more as the number of normals decrease. As for **Tripping the Rift**, it definitely follows in the tradition of the original animated short, but may get a bit old trying to keep up the frenetic pace and bad taste consistently over twenty minutes of

episode each week.

In other SciFi news, **Battlestar Galactica** has been given the go-ahead for a weekly series, main casting has been announced for both the **Stargate: Atlantis** series and **Anonymous Rex** pilot movie, and current episodes of **Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda** have joined the Friday lineup.

After taking some time to work out the details which included extending the actor options a month, SciFi has committed to a weekly series of **Battlestar Galactica** with an initial order of 13 episodes. The series will be produced in association with Sky One, the UK outlet for the series. **Ron Moore** will be the executive producer and show runner for the series and has said that the weekly series will pick up shortly after the miniseries left off. "A few days have passed since the miniseries, and we're in sort of a dire situation right from the get-go," Moore said in an interview. "I think one of the hallmarks of the series will be that it's always going to be a tense situation. These people are always going to be one step away from disaster. Which doesn't mean that the Cylons will be attacking them every week. But I think the nature of their situation and the reality of what they're facing out there alone, with most of them left with the clothes on their back and whatever food and supplies they happen to have on those ships when the events of the pilot occur is only, God, the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 5)



Art by Todd Lockwood

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SF Tube Talk (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

beginning. And it's going to take a long time for them to get to any kind of stability or normalcy." Moore also indicated he is open to having actors from the original series be part of it with guest roles as new characters and he may revisit some of the storylines from the original series, but nothing has been decided early on.

Stargate: Atlantis's core team will **Joe Flanigan (Profiler, Tru Calling)** will play Maj. John Sheppard, a courageous and gifted pilot, while **Torri Higginson (TekWar)** will portray Dr. Elizabeth Weir, head of the mission and a diplomatic relations specialist. Rounding out the cast are **Rainbow Sun Francks** as Lt. Aiden Ford, an enthusiastic young officer who becomes Sheppard's second-in-command, **David Hewlett**, reprising his **Stargate SG-1** recurring role as astrophysicist Dr. Rodney McKay, and **Rachel Luttrell** as Teyla, a beautiful young leader among the primitive alien civilization that the Atlantis team encounters. **Robert Patrick (Terminator 2, The X-Files)** will appear as Col. Marshall Sumner in the two hour opener along with **Richard Dean Anderson** as SG-1's Col. Jack O'Neill and **Michael Shanks** as Daniel Jackson. There will be 18 one hour episodes in addition to the two hour opener beginning in July, where it will be paired up with the Eighth season of **Stargate: SG-1**. SciFi describes the spinoff as: **Stargate: Atlantis** follows the adventures of the Stargate Atlantis team, which is formed after a secret base, abandoned by the original builders of the Stargates, is found buried in the ice of Antarctica. Their discovery leads to a daring expedition to the distant Pegasus galaxy, where they encounter a primitive human civilization and a sinister new enemy that threatens human life everywhere.

When **Stargate SG-1** resumes in July, expect a few changes there following the season ending cliffhanger. Expect to see a promotion for Jack O'Neill with General Hammond no longer in charge. There will likely continue to be episodes focusing on the other SG-1 team members as well as the return of some other characters such as Carter's boyfriend Pete Shanahan (**David DeLuise**), the Jaffa warrior Ishta (**Jolene Blalock**) as well as now Vice-president Kinsey (**Ronny Cox**).

The **Anonymous Rex** pilot movie started filming in March for SciFi in Vancouver. Leading the cast is **Sam Trammell (Going to California)** as Detective Vincent Rubio (who is also a velociraptor) and **Daniel Baldwin (Homicide: Life on the Street)** as his partner, Ernie Watson, who is also a dinosaur. The pilot is based on the second book in **Eric Garcia's** mystery/scifi series, detailing the adventures of Vincent Rubio, private eye, who also happens to be a dinosaur disguised as a human. The premise of the show is that dinosaurs didn't die out, they evolved, got smaller, and now live among us disguised as humans with elaborate latex outfits (and lots of buckles). The books go into the underground dinosaur subculture quite a bit and the pilot movie will deal with a back to nature cult that wants to see dinos get back to their roots. The series has been in development for several years and finally got the green light for the pilot movie last fall after the

producers felt they could do justice to the dinosaur disguised as human visual effects needed for the show. On the casting of the two leads, Garcia said "we got to see the two of them test together, and the vibe was electric, which is exactly what you want when you're pairing up two actors who have to spend a good 50% of each show playing off each other. You can really believe, watching these two, that they're old friends, and that **Baldwin** has **Trammell** under his wing -- er, his talon." Look for it to possibly air late in the year or early next year.

SciFi has picked up **Gene Roddenberry's Andromeda** as part of a deal with Tribune Entertainment that gives SciFi the rights to the first four seasons of **Andromeda** and makes them the place for the first airings of season five this fall. Currently, **Andromeda** has joined the Friday night lineup running current episodes the week after they have aired in syndication. This will likely give the show a chance to gain some new viewers who have given up trying to figure out where the show airs locally. The deal also included the three seasons of **Beastmaster**, which will likely turn up on SciFi soon.

SciFi has also given the green light to a miniseries production of **Ursula K. LeGuin's Earthsea**, adapted from the first two of **LeGuin's** famed **Earthsea-trilogy** novels: **A Wizard of Earthsea** and **The Tombs of Atuan**. The script will be written by **Gavin Scott (The Mists of Avalon)** and will be filmed in New Zealand. **Earthsea** follows the tale of a reckless youth destined to become the greatest sorcerer that the mystical land of Earthsea has ever known. When the young wizard Ged discovers that he possesses infinite magical powers, he seeks to master the ancient arts. As he journeys to manhood, he will combat dragons, fall in love, cross death's threshold, and ultimately wield the power to reunite a kingdom. SciFi has scheduled it for their December event airing.

Debuting on SciFi in June and airing

over five straight nights will be **Five Days to Midnight**. The story revolves around college professor J.T. Neumeyer, who stumbles upon a mysterious briefcase containing a police file filled with details of a gruesome murder — his own. The file, complete with photos of his bullet-strewn corpse and a list of suspects, indicates that the shooting will take place in five days. Though skeptical at first, J.T. realizes, when events begin to mirror those in the report, that the file is real and time is quickly running out. He has only days to solve the mystery of his own murder and hopefully change the course of the future. Leading the cast as Neumeyer is **Timothy Hutton**. **Nicole De Boer** will play Chantal Hume, the wife of Brad Hume, the brother of J.T.'s deceased wife. **Angus McFadyen** will take on the role of Roy Bremmer, a shady figure and a suspect in J.T.'s future murder. **Randy Quaid** plays Irwin Sikorski, a homicide detective whose aid J.T. enlists. The cast also includes **David McIlwraith** as Brad Hume and **Kari Matchett** as Claudia Whitney, J.T.'s girlfriend, who has a mysterious past.

Andromeda will resume new episodes in mid-April, leading to a two part finale in late May. Episodes will also run on SciFi on Friday nights as mentioned previously. Since they weren't sure if they were going to go to a fifth season when filming the season finale, two different endings were filmed. The one not used will likely end up on the DVD release in the future. Episodes for the rest of the season include "**Lost in a Space that Isn't There**" where one of the crew betrays Dylan and the Abyss strikes out again against the Andromeda, "**Abriding the Devil's Divided**" where an enemy from last season makes a comeback in a big way and draws Harper into his plot. (Written by **Gordon Michael Woolvett**), "**Trusting the Gordian Maze**" with **Peter DeLuise** is the guest star (no other info released), "**Asymmetry of Imperfection**" which is a Rommie episode that has all the incarnations (the AI, hologram and ship) working with and against each other, "**Time Out of Mind**"

where we get a glimpse of Beka when she was a little girl, and the two part "**The Dissonant Interval**" where fans should get out their hankies. It is describe on the official bulletin board by a crew member as "There are some great, great character moments in this. **Kevin Sorbo** and **Lisa Ryder** deserve some sort of award, everyone does a great job but those two really stood out (to me). I won't spoil this one, all I can say is "sometimes you have to lose the battle to win the war." Very emotional, the music used is Mozart's "Requiem".

Finally, there's a few more things in the works for the networks, some of which may get announced for the fall schedules (projects that have been green lighted are noted).

Empire (ABC) Historical drama about the power struggle in Rome following the death of Julius Ceasar - Stars **Jonathan Cake ("The American Embassy")** and **Santiago Cabrera ("MI-5")**. ABC has already ordered at least eight episodes.

Lost (ABC) - **J.J. Abrams (Alias)** created show about a group of plane crash survivors stranded on a Pacific island. Stars include **Dominic Monaghan ("The Lord of the Rings")**, **Ian Somerhalder ("Smallville")**, and **Jorge Garcia ("Becker")**.

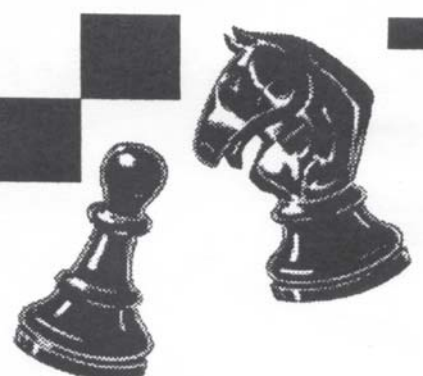
Medium (NBC) Drama about a woman (**Patricia Arquette**) who struggles to balance her psychic abilities with her family life.

Revelations (NBC) - Deals with the final showdown between God and Satan as foretold in the Bible's Book of Revelations. Six episode limited series.

American Dad (FOX) Animated family comedy from **Seth McFarlane (Family Guy)** that focuses on Stan, a right-leaning C.I.A. agent; his wife; their two kids, including a liberal daughter; a housebound alien named Roger; and a french-speaking goldfish.

Mr. Ed (FOX) - A re-imagining of the 1960's comedy **David Alan Basche** taking over the Wilbur Post role and **Sherman**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 6)



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SF Tube Talk (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)

Hemsley as the voice of Mr. Ed. Also stars **Sheryln Fenn** as Wilbur’s wife.

Point Pleasant (FOX) - Drama described as a cross between “**Peyton Place**” and “**The Omen**” that takes place in a town shaken one summer when a mysterious girl washes ashore.

Spellbound (FOX) - A romantic comedy about a male witch who falls in love with a mortal, creating family turmoil.

Dark Shadows (WB) An updated version of the classic 1960’s gothic soap opera (also remade in the early 1990’s on NBC). This looks likely, especially following the cancellation of **Angel** and the ordering of six additional scripts.

Global Frequency (WB) - Adaptation of DC/Wildstorm comic about an independent defense intelligence organization connected by a worldwide telecommunications web that uses ordinary individuals as agents around the world to fight black ops projects, unexplained phenomena and other problems the government agencies have struggled with. Probably too complex a premise for them to make it a series...

The Robinsons: Lost in Space (WB) Update of the 1960’s series. Stars **Brad Johnson** (John Robinson), **Ryan Malgarini** (Will Robinson), **Jayne Brook** (Maureen Robinson), **Adrienne Palicki** (Judy Robinson) and **Mike Erwin** (Don West). There is no Dr. Smith but there is a robot. John Woo and Doug Petrie are producing. The WB is likely to go for a series if the pilot looks good.

Silver Lake (UPN) **Aaron Spelling** drama that revolves around a record store owner who uses his psychic abilities to communicate with the dead and help them resolve issues they left behind.

Dead Lawyers (SciFi) - A drama about a law firm on earth composed of dead lawyers, all trying to right miscarriages of justice in order to redeem themselves. Stars **F. Murray Abraham** and **Sean Patrick Flanery**.

The Coven (Lifetime) A drama about a group of modern-day witches.

Frankenstein (USA) - 21st century take on the classic “**Frankenstein**” story as the doctor and his monster are discovered in present-day Seattle. Scripted by **Dean Koontz** with **Martin Scorsese** producing.

24 Frames (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

Superman movie seems to be back in limbo for now with a major rewrite in the happening and most of the previously identified production personnel going off to other projects. **Wonder Woman** is the only other DC property with any likelihood of happening anytime soon but it has mainly been rumors about **Sarah Michelle Gellar** or **Charisma Carpenter** in line for the role. Don’t hold your breath on that one.

One DC related project is getting made, though, **Constantine**. It is based on the DC/Vertigo comic book **Hellblazer** and written by **Kevin Brodbin**, **Mark Bombback** and **Frank Capello**, **Constantine** tells the story of irreverent supernatural detective John Constantine (**Keanu Reeves**), who has literally been to hell and back. When Constantine teams up with skeptical policewoman Angela Dodson (**Rachel Weisz**) to solve the mysterious suicide of

her twin sister (also played by **Weisz**), their investigation takes them through the world of demons and angels that exists just beneath the landscape of contemporary Los Angeles. Caught in a catastrophic series of otherworldly events, the two become inextricably involved and seek to find their own peace at whatever cost. Look for it to hit the screens in September.

On the Marvel front, we’ve got **The Punisher**, **Spiderman 2** and **Blade: Trinity**, and **Man-Thing** coming out this year. Next year will see **The Fantastic**

Four, **Elektra**, **Iron Man**, **Ghost Rider** and **Luke Cage** all planned for 2005. According to Marvel Studio’s Avi Arad, planned for 2006 are **X-Men 3**, **The Hulk 2**, **Namor**, **The Punisher 2**, plus **Iron Fist**, **Black Widow** and **Deathlok** as possibilities. Don’t expect to see a third **Spider-man** movie until 2007, though. Marvel is also looking into bringing **Captain America** and **Nick Fury** to the big screen as well.

On the adaptation front, the movie version of **Douglas Adams’s Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy** is finally going forward with filming starting in April. It is based on a script from **Douglas Adams** with a rewrite by **Karey Kirkpatrick**(**Chicken Run**) and will be directed by **Garth Jennings** (first time movie director from the “**Hammer and Tongs**” music video and commercial production team). Starring as Arthur Dent is **Martin Freeman**, **Mos Def** (Ford Prefect), **Zooey Deschanel** (Trillian), **Bill Nighy** (Slartibartfast), **Sam Rockwell** (Zaphod Beeblebrox), and **Warwick Davis** (Marvin the Paranoid Robot).

Also in line for a new adaptation is **Logan’s Run**. **X-Men** producer/director **Bryan Singer** will direct a remake of the 1976 movie **Logan’s Run** for Warner Brothers and producer **Joel Silver**. **Singer** says that he will bring the mandatory death age down to 21 as it was in the original novel. According to **Singer**, “This deals with a utopian society,

but also with the obsession of youth and mortality.” The script is currently being written and they hope to have it in theatres in 2005.

Finally, in the TV to film realm, there’s lots of action happening. **Joss Whedon** has the green light for a movie based on his **Firefly** TV series about a group of spacefaring renegades. The movie will be called **Serenity** (which is the name of the ship, which is a Firefly class) and will feature the cast from the TV series. According to **Whedon**, “The movie is

bigger, more epic than anything you can do in a series.” The movie will be set about six months after the events in the TV series. Whedon will direct with filming starting in June.

Rumors and a few facts are still floating around about a possible **Babylon 5** theatrical movie. **J. Michael Straczynski** has been writing a script for a **Babylon 5** project of some sort, but is not able to admit what it is until it gets formally announced by the production companies

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 7)

WORLD HORROR CONVENTION 2004

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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 many 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.

EDITOR’S WORKSHOP GUEST OF HONOR: **Nancy Kilpatrick**

Nancy Kilpatrick is the author of 13 novels, the forthcoming non-fiction book *The goth Bible: A Compendium for the Darkly Inclined* and editor of 8 anthologies, including *Gothika* (co-edited with Nancy Holder). Nancy will be hosting the **Self-Editing Horror Fiction Workshop** at this year’s convention with guest editors **Don D’Auria**, **Jo Fletcher**, and Editor GoH **Stephen Jones**.

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**, **IHG Awards Ceremony**, and **World Horror Convention Grand Master Award**.

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24 Frames (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

involved. Rumors are that it will be a theatrical film produced in England. Where it will fit into the *Babylon 5* storyline is unknown. It's name is unknown, however **Straczynski** has indicated an abbreviation for it *B5: TMOs*. As he said in a recent posting, "The only things I can say right now about *B5: TMOs* is that now that all the correct agreements have been signed, sealed and delivered, the draft has gone in, met with great enthusiasm all around, notes have been received, and the next draft is in process and has to be delivered within two weeks so that certain other steps can be set into motion. I still can't tell you what it *is* because that has to come from the proper people through the proper channels at the proper time...but I can tell you a few cases of what it *isn't*...it isn't a novel, or a short story, a comic, an animated series, a radio drama or a stage play. Beyond that, deponent sayeth not."

Also starting filming this summer is a movie based on *Bewitched*, with **Nicole Kidman** as Samantha Stephens and **Will Ferrell** as Darrin Stephens. Also just announced is that **Kevin Smith** will be writing and directing a *Green Hornet* movie set for release in August 2005. Smith says the movie will be a serious approach and true to it's source.

Movie Previews for April and May

The year's genre movie season is kicking into full gear over the next two months. April features with two comic adaptations and the conclusion of **Quentin Tarantino's** *Kill Bill*. May picks up more steam with *A Universal Monsterfest*, an epic fantasy, a sequel to one of the biggest non-Disney animated films, and Roland Emmerich's look at the end of the world.

Hellboy - When a Nazi mystical experiment goes awry in 1944, the target of a wizard's spell, the child of Satan, Hellboy, is wrenched from his home, and adopted by the U.S. agents who intercept his arrival. Raised as a force of good, Hellboy grows up to be a full-fledged demon in the form of a man, complete with

fierce red skin, a tail, a giant armored glove, and two large circles where his horns should be (if they ever grow back, Hellboy is quick to break them off). Now, the adult Hellboy, an investigator of the paranormal, is sent on a mission that brings him back in touch with the evil genius that started it all... that Nazi wizard (and just who is *he* anyway?). Accompanying him along the way are other agents, including Liz, a pyrokinetic woman Hellboy has feelings for, and Abe Sapien, a mysterious amphibian hominid... Stars **Ron Perlman** as Hellboy with **David Hyde Pierce**, **Doug Jones**, **Karel Roden**, and **Jeffrey Tambor**.

Ella Enchanted - Ella (**Anne Hathaway** of "*The Princess Diaries*") lives in a fanciful and magical world where all children are given a "gift" from a fairy Godmother at the moment of their birth. Little Ella's birthright is the gift - and curse - of obedience. As a result of this unfortunate circumstance, Ella cannot refuse any command, and is often left at the mercy of unscrupulous personalities. In a bid to regain control of her life, Ella goes on a quest to free herself from this mysterious curse. Ella must outwit a kingdom filled with ogres, giants, wicked stepsisters, talking books and evil plots. And, if she's lucky, she may find love along the way. Also stars **Joanna Lumley**, **Cary Elwes**, **Minnie Driver**, and **Steve Coogan**.

Kill Bill Vol 2 - An assassin called the Bride is shot down, with child, by her employer, Bill and other members of their assassin circle, at her wedding. Everyone at the wedding is shot as well, and Bride receives a bullet to the head, that keeps her in a coma for five years. Emerging from the tranquil state, the Bride wakes up pissed off, soon setting out to seek revenge on her former master and his deadly squad of assassins. One by one, she kills the various members of the assassin group. She saves Bill for last. The second half of **Quentin Tarantino's** three hour movie that was split in half. Part two sees **Uma Thurman's** Bride confronting **David Carradine's** Bill. Expect even more

action than the first half.

The Punisher - Frank Castle (**Thomas Jane**) is a man who has seen too much death in his life, first as a Delta Force Op and later as an FBI special agent. He has managed to beat considerable odds, and is finally moving out of the field and into a normal life with his wife and son. On his final assignment, Castle plays his undercover role perfectly, but the operation spins out of control. This places the FBI on the wrong side of Tampa businessman Howard Saint (**John Travolta**) and his glamorous wife Livia (**Laura Harring**). Notwithstanding their glossy social profile, the Saints are no genteel Florida couple; behind their copious wealth are violent beginnings, underworld ties - and a chilling capacity for brutality. Castle's worst nightmare is about to come true, as Howard Saint and his lieutenants unleash hell at the Castle family reunion. But Castle, to his everlasting torment, survives. Drawing upon all he has learned in 20 years, Castle sets in motion a brilliant plan to punish the murderers. He takes up residence among in a dilapidated tenement building on Tampa's industrial waterfront, where his fellow tenants include Joan (**Rebecca Romijn-Stamos**), a waitress at a nearby diner who is trying to put her life back on track. Castle's neighbors become his last link to the idea of human community and warmth. It is this makeshift family - forgotten men and women with no one to protect them - who enable Castle to find the one thing he least expects: redemption.

Godsend - After their young son, Adam (**Cameron Bright**), is killed in a freak accident, a couple (**Greg Kinnear**, **Rebecca Romijn-Stamos**) approach an expert (**Robert De Niro**) in stem cell research about bringing him back to life through an experimental (and illegal) cloning and regeneration process. When Adam comes back to them, however, he's... different.

Van Helsing - Set in the late 19th century, monster hunter Dr. Gabriel Van Helsing (**Hugh Jackman**) is summoned to a mysterious land in East Europe to

Troy - Legolas & Boromir Alert! In 1193 B.C., Prince Paris (**Orlando Bloom**) of Troy stole the beautiful Greek woman, Helen (**Diane Kruger**), away from her husband, Menelaus (**Brendan Gleeson**), the king of Sparta, setting the two nations at war with each other, as the Greeks began a bloody siege of Troy using their entire armada, led by Achilles (**Brad Pitt**), that lasted over a decade. Also stars **Eric Bana** as Hector, **Sean Bean** as Odysseus, **Peter O'Toole** as Priam, and **Brian Cox** as Agamemnon. Directed by Directed by **Wolfgang Petersen** and based on some poem by some guy named Homer. Look for a sequel called *Odysseus* if this does well...

Shrek 2 - Picking up exactly where the first movie left off, this movie takes us to the kingdom of Far, Far Away as Shrek (**Mike Myers**) and Fiona (**Cameron Diaz**) return to her homeland to tell her parents (**John Cleese**, **Julie Andrews**) the good news. Not everyone is happy to find her married to an ogre, with the most irate in this group being Prince Charming (**Rupert Everett**), who was supposed to be the one who lifted Fiona's curse. We're also introduced to the mysterious Fairy Godmother (**Jennifer Saunders**), and a bar called the Poison Apple, where the villains of the fairy tale world hang out, including the great ogre-slayer, Puss-in-Boots (**Antonio Banderas**). Yes, **Eddie Murphy** is back as well, making a donkey of himself again.

The Day After Tomorrow - This movie takes a big-budget, special-effects-filled look at what the world would look like if the greenhouse effect and global warming continued at such levels that they resulted in worldwide catastrophe and disaster, including multiple hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tidal waves, floods and the beginning of the next Ice Age. At the center of the story is a paleoclimatologist (a scientist who studies the ways weather patterns changed in the past), Professor Adrian Hall (**Dennis Quaid**), who tries to save the world from the effects of global warming while also trying to get to his son, Sam (**Jake Gyllenhaal**), who was in New York City as part of a scholastic competition, when the city was overwhelmed by the chilling beginnings of the new Ice Age. In addition to all of the other challenges Dr. Hall faces, he's also going against the flow as humanity races south to warmer climes, and he's nearly the only one going north. Produced and directed by **Roland Emmerich** (*Independence Day*, *Godzilla*).

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban - It's based on the third book by **J.K. Rowling**. Starting during the summer before Harry's third year at Hogwarts, this is the adventure that happens when he has to go on the run after an incident where he was unable to control his anger... getting on a bus, he hears about Sirius Black, a renegade wizard who was a Prisoner at Azkaban. What Harry doesn't suspect is that Black escaped to look for... him. Everyone will be back except for **Richard Harris**, who passed away after the second film. **Michael Gambon** takes over the role of Dumbledore and **Gary Oldman** is Sirius Black.

Also coming out later in the summer are **The Chronicles of Riddick** (June 11), bringing back **Vin Diesel's** *Pitch Black* character of Riddick for the first of several



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vanquish evil forces... evil forces with names like Count Dracula (**Richard Roxburgh**), the Wolf Man (**Will Kemp**), and Frankenstein's Monster (**Schuyler Hensley**). Assisting him once he gets there is Anna (**Kate Beckinsale**), the heir of a long-running family committed to hunting down and destroying Dracula.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 8)

planned movies, *The Stepford Wives* (June 11) with **Nicole Kidman** as a housewife discovering there is something very artificial about her new neighborhood, *Around the World in 80 Days* (June 16) with **Jackie Chan** as Passepartout and **Steve Coogan** as Phileas Fogg, Garfield (June 25) with **Bill Murray** (voice of Garfield the Cat), **Breckin Meyer** (Jon Arbuckle) and **Jennifer Love Hewitt** (Dr. Liz Wilson), *Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow* (June 25) that has a very cool trailer with **Jude Law** (Captain Joseph Sullivan, AKA Sky Captain) and **Gwyneth Paltrow** (Polly Perkins), *Spider-Man 2* (July 2) with **Alfred Molina** (Dr. Otto Octavius) taking on **Tobey Maquire's Spiderman**, *King Arthur* (July 7) with **Clive Owen** (Arthur, AKA Arturius), **Stephen Dillane** (Merlin), and **Keira Knightley** (Guinevere), *I, Robot* (July 16) with **Will Smith**, *Catwoman* (July 30) with **Halle Berry** as *A Catwoman*, *Alien Vs. Predator* (Aug 6), *Thunderbirds* (Aug 6), and *Blade: Trinity* (Aug 13).



CASFS Book Discussion Returns

The book discussion group will meet on April 21st, 7PM, at Mary Coyle's ice cream shop, 5521 N. 7th Ave, north of Camelback. We will discuss and dissect 'Good Omens' by **Terry Pratchett** and **Neil Gaiman**.
On May 19th, at 7PM, we'll be back at the Barnes & Noble bookstore at Metrocenter, 10235 N. Metro Parkway East. We'll discuss and dissect 'Fahrenheit 451' by **Ray Bradbury**.
For more information contact Catherine <cathypendragon@qwest.net>

Buffy Fans Will Celebrate The Slayer in Chandler, AZ on April 24, 2004

CHANDLER, Ariz. Her fans say she saved the world. A lot. And now they can show their appreciation. For seven years the television show Buffy the Vampire Slayer entertained millions of people all over the world. On April 24, 2004, Buffy fans of all ages in Chandler and surrounding cities are invited to attend a unique event at the Chandler Public Library.
On Patrol in Chandler, AZ: A gathering of *Watchers*, *A Celebration of The Slayer*, will be held from 9AM. to 6PM. in the

Council Chambers on the second floor of the downtown library, 22 S. Delaware St.
Festivities include a costume and look-a-like contest, trivia and art contests, writing and poetry contests, and showings of some of the best episodes from the seven seasons of Buffy Contest rules and entry information are on the Chandler Library Web site at www.chandlerlibrary.org.

The keynote speaker for the event is **Bill Goodykoontz**, the television critic for the Arizona Republic, who has been an avid Buffy fan since it premiered and who helped introduced many others to the show through his column.
The event is free and food and beverages will be available for purchase in Pages, the library coffee shop. There will also be prize raffles with tickets available for purchase. Local businesses that would like to contribute raffle or door prizes or sponsor portions of the event can call (480) 782-2701 for more details. All proceeds from this event will benefit the library's Youth Programs, which help give local teenagers positive social and learning opportunities.
People who have never seen the show or are just casual fans can attend and learn more about the appeal of the show and its characters. The show has spawned thousands of Web sites, hundreds of fan clubs, dozens of books, numerous

conventions, several music CDs and some of the best-selling DVD collections on the charts.
The City of Chandler Public Library, and the Friends of the Chandler Public Library are the sponsors of On Patrol in Chandler, AZ. For more information, contact Craig Younger at (480) 782-2701.

David Levy Lecture on Space Policy and America's Future

On Feb 18 David Levy delivered a passionate polemic on the future of Man in Space. I attended thinking I would be exposed to a dry exposition of Government Space Policy and discovered a man as passionate as I am about the absolute necessity of manned space exploration. He feels that exploration and discovery are as necessary to man as food and drink, especially for Americans with our tradition of moving ever onward.
He illustrated his theme with Poetry at the beginning, middle and end. He was cheerful, enthusiastic and forceful throughout. His primary message seemed to be the absolute necessity of moving forward as any other course would mean the end of the American nation and ultimately of the species. Move on or perish.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 9)

HexaCon 13 Thank You!

HexaCon 13 would like to thank the many volunteers whose tireless efforts enabled us to present HexaCon 13.
In appreciation would like to present complimentary memberships to HexaCon 14 to the following people:

Almor #001, Shield of	Andrews-lyn, Dawn	Florschutz, Heather	Martin, David	Smoker, David
Almor #002, Shield of	Bannon, Stephanie	Foster, Jessie	Massoglia, Ben	Stanley, Russ
Almor #003, Shield of	Barger, Jarrod	Francis, Jennifer	Mcelfresh, Phil	Staples, Scott
Almor #004, Shield of	Beard, Billy Dee	French, Chuck	Morris, Michael	Stephan, James
Almor #005, Shield of	Beckwith, Rob	Goodman, Gary F	Moulton, R.e.	Stoltz, Dan
Almor #006, Shield of	Boniece, Mark	Hedges, Joe	Mulvey, Sam	Swaty, Gary
Almor #007, Shield of	Boyd, Jennifer	Hensley, Brian	Munk, Kyrie	Talbott, Jb
Almor #008, Shield of	Cady, Sam	Herrin, Harley	Munk, Amanda	Talbott, Gus
Almor #009, Shield of	Chauvet, Chris	Herrin, Lori	Myers, Wayne	Tanton, Paul
Almor #010, Shield of	Chueng, Tiffany	Hungerford Iii, David	Myers, Charles	Uttke, Sue
Almor #011, Shield of	Combs, Lonnie	Jackson, Michael	Novaco, Mariellen	Vela, Larry
Almor #012, Shield of	Costrisciano, Antonio	Johnson, Zachery	Polack, John	Walrath, Brian
Almor #013, Shield of	Couleur, Peter	Kelly, Ian	Pratchett, Randy	West, Wayne
Almor #014, Shield of	Culver, Chris	Kneip, Ray	Pyle, Josh	Whiteside, Lee
Almor #015, Shield of	Davis, Avery	Lapierre, Lori	Quarentell, Justin	Wolf, Ian
Almor #016, Shield of	Denebien, Jay	Lapierre, Bob	Raush, Kurt	Woodward, Elizabeth
Almor #017, Shield of	Devault, R. Loup	Lieberman, Rachel	Rice, Helen	Youngdale, Jason
Almor #018, Shield of	Drews, Jt	Lieberman, Myron	Robinson, James	Zaller, Ric
Almor #019, Shield of	Dyer, Craig L	Lloyd, Bridget	Ross, Carlos	
Almor #020, Shield of	Erickson, Mary	Lloyd, Jade	Ross, Christi	
Almor #021, Shield of	Erickson, Judy	Malys, Darkyr	Saint Cyr, Mark	
Almor #022, Shield of	Erickson, Ivan	Mandall, Ben G	Sato, Jason	
Amberson, Rachel	Ewing, Tony	Martin, Jeremy	Scott, Thomas	
Andrews, Rick	Faoro, Jim	Martin, Cheryl	Shepard, Jonathan	
Andrews, Matt	Florschutz, Scott	Martin, Kim	Simila, Cristi	

If you have any questions or would like to check on your badge name please contact the HexaCon 14 banker, Stephanie Bannon <laetitia@doverkeep.com>

He addressed the filled Katzin Concert Hall holding the audience spellbound with his passionate and cogent arguments. Mr. Levy, best known as one of the co-discoverers of the spectacular Shoemaker-Levy 9 comet, is offering the course "From Shakespeare to Space" at the Barrett Honors College at ASU this semester. He is holder of the John J. Rhodes Chair in Public Policy and American Institutions for the Semester. He has discovered of 21 comets since 1984. He is author of 30 books on science and astronomy and is science editor for Parade Magazine. He will give at least one more public lecture for the Spring 2004 semester and is hosting regular telescope nights at the university. These are open to all comers.

David Levy is a fascinating man. His degree is in English Literature. He made his mark in science as an amateur astronomer. He has an extensive group of telescopes at a private observatory located at his home near Tucson. He is presently working on his doctorate in English Literature. It is his background in the Liberal Arts which gives him a unique perspective on science and astronomy. - Gary Swaty

Convention X Announces its First Ever Gathering

Minneapolis, MN ;Convention X announces that they will be hosting their first ever gathering from November 26th ; November 28th 2004, to be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, and at the Millennium Hotel, in Minneapolis.

2004's Convention X will have a Science Fiction, Fantasy, and Gaming theme, as well as promoting a positive atmosphere focusing on wellness and well being, with an emphasis on metaphysical and healing arts. There will be speakers and events from such diverse areas as film making, martial arts, wellness experts, and other diverse areas. Other surprises are planned as well.

"Everyone who attends should have a great time, no matter what their background is," said one of the organizers of the event. "This will be an event that will attract the interest of not only the gaming community and hard-core sci-fi fans, but families with younger children, teenagers, music fans, and that's really just the tip of the iceberg."

Confirmed guests of Convention X are **Mike Jittlov, Dave Arneson, and Allison Crowe.** <http://www.convention-x.com>

Borg Invasion (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

when stereo went to surround sound," Johnsen said. "You'll never go back again."

Putting this all together makes for a pretty impressive ride. It uses some of the techniques seen in Terminator 3D with actors in the audience crossing over to the 3D screen with the Borg characters and joining in the action. The screen effects are very realistic, and when your damaged shuttle is pulled into the Borg Cube with a tractor beam, the various effects simulates the action quite well. When The Borg starts trying to assimilate the audience, the added effect in the seats add to the experience. The ride also can handle more people at a time (approximately 50) as opposed to the 27 with the Klingon Encounter. However, with a larger crowd, more room is required for the larger group, making things move a bit more slowly. The nice thing with the original ride, is it is a small enough group of people, that they can move quickly and can get into a smaller, more confined space, especially a turbolift. Also, being on one side of the group means that you may not see all that is going on with the Borg attack.

In case you are wondering what this new ride will set you back, it is now \$29.99

admission, which gets you one ride on each of the two rides, the original Klingon Encounter and the Borg Invasion. No all day or multi ride passes are currently available. That does ensure that people will generally take both rides, which will give them a chance to see how much difference six years of technology can make on the ride experience.



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.**

Location Information:



Tempe Mission Palms

60 E 5th St, Tempe, AZ 85281

(800) 547-8705

www.missionpalms.com

(online code of "HEXAC")

Room Rates \$85 S/D/T/Q

Membership Rates:

\$20 through June 30, 2004,

\$25 at the Door.

Pay Online using PayPal!

Contact HexaCon at:

Hexacon 14

P.O. Box 62613

Phoenix, AZ 85082

Phone: (602) 973-2341

Email: hex14@hexacon.org

Web: www.hexacon.org

LEPRECON 30

May 7-9, 2004

Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ

Annual Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention With an Emphasis on Art

Artist Guest of Honor **Donato Giancola**

Renowned Science Fiction and Fantasy Artist. recipient of six ASFA Chesley Awards including the 2002 Chesley Award for Artistic Achievement. Illustrator of over 100 Science Fiction and Fantasy novels & Magic Cards for Wizards of the Coast.

Author Guest of Honor **David Drake**

Author of mercenary military science fiction with his best-selling *Hammer's Slammers* series, and heroic fantasy such as *Lord of the Isles* and *Goddess of the Ice Realm*.

Special Artist Guest **John Eaves**

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 Honor: **Sylvana Anderson-Gish**

Music Guest: **Mara Brenner** (sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle)



Art by Donato Giancola

The Art of Film Making

Welcome to a new feature of programming. Filmmaking will be a separate track with panels and workshops that will show how to create a movie. This year we will introduce you to the process and you can take part in the making of the teaser/trailer for LepreCon 31's movie. The trailer will be shown on Sunday at the Barry Bard movie preview panel at LepreCon 30. The panels and events will be an overview/introduction to screenplay writing, concept design, prop building, costuming, filming, lighting, special make-up effects, editing and computer effects. The art and costuming panels will briefly show how art and graphic design are a necessary part of the movie making process. Even though amateurs and professionals of this craft will present these events, the events and panels are not meant to take the place of certified teachers.

Due to the time constraints of the convention some of the elements will have to be started before the convention and we invite you to participate. If you would like to be apart of our filming adventure Pre-con work and At-Con panels please e-mail us.

LepreCon 30 Masquerade

Attention Costumers & Masquerade Participants!

The LepreCon 30 Masquerade will be different – the theme is “future military” (to match the convention) and will require advance communication with contestants.

If you think you might be interested in participating in the masquerade, please email the Masquerade Director Margaret Grady at mgrady@eigi.com or call her at (602) 220-0150.

Pre-Registration Contest!

Pre-Register for LepreCon 30 AND book a hotel room at the Sheraton Crescent and be eligible for one of these great prizes:

**Two Memberships to World Fantasy 2004,
A Free Room Night, or
2 Memberships to LepreCon 31!**

Pre-Reg deadline is April 25th

LepreCon 30 Art Show Information

The LepreCon 30 art show will feature art from our Artist Guest of Honor Donato Giancola, our local Artist Guest of Honor Sylvana Anderson-Gish, and hundreds more pieces of the best of science fiction and fantasy art.

We are asking that artists planning to hang art limit it to originals and limited run prints. We will feature a print shop -- an area for artists to sell multiple prints of some of their more popular work.

We are anticipating a great art show this year, so be sure to come down and see the pride of a lot of super artists. If you have any questions, or if you are interested in reserving display space, please contact Ray Gish at 2527 N. Silverado, Mesa, AZ 85215, call 480-641-3997, or email at RGASAS@aol.com.

Sheraton Crescent Hotel

2620 W. Dunlap Ave., Phoenix, AZ

Room Rates:

\$79 S/D, \$99 T/Q +tax

602-943-8200 or 800-423-4126

A limited number of suites are available

Book online at <http://tinyurl.com/2hm9c>

Memberships

\$35 thru 4/15/04,

\$40 at the door

Kids 7-12 half price*

Kids 6 & Under Free*

*with Adult membership

Pay online with PayPal!

Contact LepreCon 30 at:

Write: LepreCon 30,

PO Box 26665

Tempe, AZ 85285

Phone: (480) 945-6890

Email: lep30@leprecon.org

IN MEMORIAM

Michael L Jackson Sameul Edward Konkin III Mark Siegel Ken Unferth

Michael Lee Jackson 1964-2004

Michael Lee Jackson, born on August 9, 1964 at Macon, Missouri, passed away unexpectedly on March 8, 2004 at Maricopa County Medical Center leaving behind his mother, Sharon Kay Stalter, sister Julie Firebaugh, brother Ken Jackson, anam chara Kathleen McDonald-Neal and countless friends. Michael was an avid World War I aircraft history buff; a founding member of the Frank Luke Air Corps; a frequent volunteer staff member at local speculative fiction conventions; and an enthusiastic fan of the card game Shadowfist which he actively supported by running regular tournaments at his favorite game store. He had recently been employed by Artifact Entertainment’s MMORPG Horizons. Michael will ever be remembered by those who knew him for his playfulness, his supportiveness and for the loving and forgiving way he treated everyone. He will be sorely missed.

In lieu of flowers, please send a donation in Michael’s name to the Museum of Flight in Seattle, Personal Courage Wing (Champlin fighter collection) 9404 E Marginal Way South, Seattle, WA 98108, 206-764-5700 specifying that funds are to be used for preservation of WWI aircraft.

Samuel Edward Konkin III 2004

Longtime Fan & Mac User Samuel Edward Konkin III was discovered in his apartment having collapsed in the shower, cause of death is presumed to be natural causes.

Westercons and Worldcons which have representatives in G.B, Europe or even Austalia, have nothing on VegaCon I. VegaCon I now has a representative in a whole other realm. Sam is the Publications Director of VegaCon I (Following the LSFS motto, death is NOT going to release him!).

Having recently returned to L.A. after a couple of years in Las Vegas, Sam was a an activemember of the Vegas SF Association (VSFA) and recent member of SNAFFU (The Southern Nevada Area Fantasy Fiction Union). As a longtime resident of LA, he has attended the LSFS scores of times over the past 30 years and longtime member of LosCon. Sam attended every LosCon through the 70s and 80s.

To know Sam was not necessarily to love him, however, it CAN be said that to know him was most certainly to excite much passion. Sam has left many friends behind, but he was never one to leave you wondering where you stood with him. There are those, with whom he clashed. Although he made a living as a typesetting and layout professional, he was most proud of his Fan publishing credentials. In this regard, he would certainly agree that even bad publicity is good publicity.

Sam has been in Fandom since attending St LouisCon in 1969, cochaired Volume 14 Issue 21`

by Las Vegas’ own Joyce Worley. St LouisCon was Sam’s first SF Con and he went on to become well known by scores of Fans across the country. Sam was a diehard anarchist Libertarian, he considered those who join the Libertarian Party to be “sellouts” to the cause. In 1969, the Libertarian Party was formed at a political convention in St. Louis, MO during the same weekend as St LouisCon. Sam traveled to St. Louis from NYC to attend this seminal event in Libertatian Politics and took advantage of the opportunity to attend the WorldCon (and he was hooked).

Sam went on to attend cons across the country and even made it to a WorldCon or two in Europe, he was originally from Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. In his 20s he went to NYC for Graduate School and also attended a school in Madison, WI. Sam was a founding member of the SF Club at NYU and participated in other NYC Fan Clubs.

Sam pubbed his ish 101 times weekly over a two year period in the 70s. New Libertarian Weekly attracted much attention due in part to its uniquely regular publication schedule and in part to its hard hitting policy of giving voice to all factions within the Libertarian movement. Its slogan, “Everyone appearing in this publication disagrees”, celebrated this practice.

New Liberterian Weekly contained much news about such SF notables as Robert A. Heinlein and other material of interest to SF Fans. In fact entire issues were devoted to SF as a way to influence the culture in a Liberterian direction, in the tradition of Orwell, Bradbury and Huxley.

Sam has also pubbed his ish, Daily FreFanzine, designed to compete with the official daily organ of the given Con. Sam pubbed Daily FreFanzine each day of every con he attended since its inception at the El Paso Westercon.

Sam leaves behind a brother in Edmonton and his son, Samuel Konkin IV, in addition to those in his chosen Fan and Libertarian families.

Memorial Services are being planned for the L.A. area. Woody Bernardi VegaCon I ConChair The Vegas SF Association (VSFA)

Mark Richard Siegel 1949-2003

Mark Richard Siegel, 54, of Mesa, AZ, died unexpectedly on November 12, 2003.

Mark was a native of Buffalo, NY. He had a BA from Williams College, an MA from SUNY Buffalo, PhD from University of Arizona and a JD from Arizona State College of Law.

From the early 70’s to the mid 80’s he was an English Professor, mostly at Arizona State University and the University Wyoming, with a stint in Japan.

He became a lawyer in Phoenix, AZ in 1991. He ran the People’s Law School from the Arizona Trial Lawyer’s Association and was a founding board member and Chairman of the Modest Means Project, which provided free legal assistance for the working poor.

Mark wrote half a dozen books and a hundred articles on literature, film and popular culture. In 1991, he wrote a true crime book called *Rocky Point*, about the Willoughby Murder case.

His genre work includes the novel,

Echo and Narcissus, and a biography of James Tiptree, Jr, as well as short stories in *Writers of the Future XVI*, *Ideomancer*, *Chiarascuro* and other publications. His “The Ghost of my Sex Life With K” won the Coffeehouse Short Fiction Award in 2001.

Donations in Mark’s memory can be made to the American Foundation for AIDS Research, 120 Wall Street, 13th Floor, New York, NY 10005-3902.

John Kenneth Unferth

Local fan, gamer, and UFP member, Ken Unferth, 38, died on March 19, 2004. Survivors include his parents Nancy and Robert Unferth, sisters Deb Olin Unferth and Katherine Amy Unferth, and grandmother Rosalyn Olin Porte.

He sometimes went by John or Kenny. He worked at Christown at the magic shop for a while. Ken was a long time friend of the late Robert “Ozzie” Osman and would make balloon animals for kids in the Con suite to make up for Ozzie’s loss.

Memorial contributions may be made to Make-a-Wish Foundation, 711 E. Northern Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85020.

The Waldorf Conference: Microphones, scripts, and actors - Part 2 By Shane Shellenbarger

To briefly recap, it was the evening of November 24th, 2003, and my wife, Laurie, and I were attending a benefit for the Hollywood American Civil Liberties Union and the Writers Guild Foundation, “The Waldorf Conference”, a radio play performed at the Writers’ Guild of America Theatre in Beverly Hills. The show was written by Nat Segaloff, Daniel M. Kimmel & Arnie Reisman, produced by Nat Segaloff and Directed by John de Lancie with the following cast: Edward Asner as Louis B. Mayer, James Cromwell as James F. Byrnes, John de Lancie as Eric Johnston, Harlan Ellison as Barney Balaban, Michael Laskin as Mendel Silberberg, Paul Mazursky as Samuel Goldwyn, Kenny Morse as Spyros Skouras, Ethan Phillips as Harry Cohn, Robert Picardo as Dore Schary, Lawrence Pressman as Albert Warner, Jacob Snyder as William Goetz, and Alan Toy as Nicholas Schenck.

The cast was excellent, quickly weaving a tapestry of words and emotions that drew the audience into a willing suspension of disbelief. Soon, the theatre was gone, the stage was gone, the microphones disappeared and the illusion of twelve men fighting for survival and wrestling with their ethics became real before the eyes of the audience. There was no intermission in this play of approximately ninety minutes and no interruption would have been welcome. Without the distractions of costumes, set design, sound effects, and all of the elements that make up a “fully staged production,” the audience was able to contribute elements

of their own vision to those of the writers, director, and actors. “*The Exonerated*,” a play by Jessica Blank and Erik Jensen concerning death row inmates who were innocent, is also a ‘staged reading” that allows the actors and the audience to concentrate on the performance. Less, in both of these plays, is definitely more

The passion of the actors brought to life twelve men condensed down from the forty-eight movie studio executives who met on November 24th, 1947 to decide the fate of the movie industry in the United States of America. As audience members, Laurie and I were amazed at the talent amassed on the stage before us. Visions of Lou Grant, Neelix, The EMH Doctor, and Q faded as the talented actors supplanted the characters they are best known for with the motion picture moguls of a bygone era. Harlan Ellison proved that his acting is as worthy of note as is his writing. Outstanding in this superlative cast were Ed Asner as Louis B. Mayer and Robert Picardo as Dore Schary. Their battle of words and wills on that stage gave insight and substance to the real men they portrayed.

After the play, we spoke to Susan Ellison who had seen the play with friends. While waiting to speak to Harlan Ellison, Robert Picardo (The Doctor on *Star Trek: Voyager*) approached us and graciously thanked us for our support. We were speaking to the Ellison’s when I asked Harlan to do me the favor of introducing Lauren to Ed Asner. Harlan agreed and called out, “Hey, Eddie, I’ve got some people I want you to meet!” “What is it now, Ellison?” asked Asner, who turned in our direction as we approached. “For some reason, my friends Laurie and Shane Shellenbarger want to meet you. Don’t ask me why,” replied Ellison. Asner turned to us, “You need a better class of friend,” he joked, shaking our hands and creating an unforgettable moment in our lives.

We spoke to the Ellisons for about thirty minutes more when Harlan said, “I suppose that since you came all the way from Phoenix you want to go out with us?” I fought down the urge to say, “You bet!” and instead I remarked that he looked tired and it was perfectly fine if he wanted to call it a night. Ellison allowed as how it had been a long week as well as a draining day and he welcomed the opportunity to go to bed early. Laurie and I walked the Ellisons to their car where we said our goodbyes. As Laurie and I drove back to our hotel room near LAX we reveled in experience and felt not a little remorse that the night and the performances by those actors would only be contained in the memories of we few fortunate folks.

[http://www.waldorfconference.com/
http://www.waldorfconference.com/
audio/prologue.mp3
http://www.waldorfconference.com/
prologue.html
http://www.waldorfconference.com/
production.html](http://www.waldorfconference.com/http://www.waldorfconference.com/audio/prologue.mp3http://www.waldorfconference.com/prologue.htmlhttp://www.waldorfconference.com/production.html)

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

Balticon Tapes -- 1978-2003 *
Kludge CD-120**

Filk recordings, as a rule, run the gamut in quality, as well as coincidence. More often than not, if a filker gets recorded at a convention, it is only because somebody has brought a hand-held recorder, or an old cassette recorder with questionable batteries, and recorded the proceedings as they occur.

Of course, these tapes usually sound terrible, but it doesn't keep fans from passing them around.

Which is what makes "Balticon Tapes" all the more remarkable. Most of the performances here were recorded over a 25-year period by Scott Dorsey of Kludge Audio (note to Scott sign your liner notes next time!), who started recording filk on an old Nagra tape deck in 1978, and basically hasn't stopped. He's gone to Balticon, the annual Baltimore SF convention, every year since or has tracked down cuts from other tapes if he was missing something.

This is a remarkable 2-CD set. For the most part, the songs have been well-engineered to sound as if they're coming from the same source. You can't tell

(usually) what time period any song is from by just listening to it. (Come to think of it, you can't tell that by reading the liner notes, either, which don't date the songs at all.)

What this CD does, better than anything, is show to filk snubbers that a typical filk session is not song after song about Mr. Spock's nose hairs. There are some straight-ahead folk songs on here, totally original stuff about nothing in particular, and everything in between.

Standouts Leslie Fish's take on the old standby, "Which Side Are You On," Duane Elms's interpretations of his own "Dawson's Christian" and "Falling Down on New Jersey," and several tunes from the ever-goofy Michigan songwriter extraordinaire Tom Smith.

Dorsey went out of his way to choose an incredible lineup of different performers and song titles. This is a very entertaining set. Look for it the next time you're at a con CD table and give it a shot.

**Joe Bethancourt, Naked Banjos
RF-1007 ******

I know what some of you are thinking. "Naked Banjos?" Again? Didn't Joe Bethancourt already have an album called "Naked Banjos?"

Well, yes and no. Parts of that original album, originally released on cassette, are

here, but he's augmented them with a live, all-banjo performance from 1996. So you get more cuts for the price of one CD. Nifty, eh?

With Joe Bethancourt, you get what's promised, 18 banjo tunes and a lot of Joe's bizarre, between-song humor. (Those of you who remember when Joe played out at the now-defunct Funny Fellows may want to whip up a toasted-roll hoagie and a brewski, with a side of chips, served in a red plastic basket, before popping this on for full effect.)

He can go from silly ("Cindy Cindy") to serious ("Lonesome Water") at the drop of a hat, and have you hanging on every note. And while he usually stays away from being political, even his pro-gun song, "Me and My 30.06," makes fine points that even a gun-control activist can't really argue with.

Joe doesn't get out to local cons much anymore, so if you need a banjo fix, I suggest going to random-factors.com right now and picking this up.

*Tom Tuerff writes filk and folk reviews for ConNotations.
If you have a tape or CD that you'd like him to review, parade naked in front of John Ashcroft's house until word gets back to Tom that you have a CD for him. Or, take the easy route and contact Tom at ttuerff@aol.com to get his mailing address.*

feel of the land. Something, or someone, pulls you toward these residences. The other motivating factor, the feeling of being watched as you move through the buildings and property.

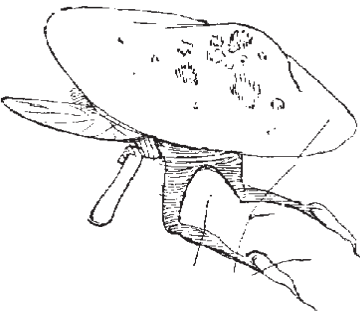
The Opera House looming large seems to watch visitors even from afar. Walking into the first floor, the heavier the place feels toward the stage. Though no orbs came from pictures taken at the stage, other pictures taken in the reception area of the hall do reveal that orbs were watching us investigate.

The Victorian House northwest of the entrance is open to visitors, but the home was only for observation as the rooms were sectioned off by ropes. Several investigators noticed on a light breeze day at the back of one of the rooms with no air current that the curtains moved by themselves on the far side of the wall. On my visit, I felt as if a presence was there of a small child and when I went out the back door onto the porch, a small voice murmured to me. Another investigator heard a dog barking in that vicinity, but there are no dogs on the property only penned chickens, wild rabbits and other natural desert wildlife.

Jack's House stood the farthest to the north and west on the property and was intriguing since one of the other investigators saw the shadow of a child sitting at the kitchen table. Peering through a window, this investigator found a vase with plastic flowers that had been dumped on the floor from a nearby bookcase even though no visitor is able to get into the house. Only one open door with bars is given to see the old furniture inside but this gate is padlocked. Readings on the temperature gauge showed erratic shifts bolting across the room like a small child running back and forth in front of the door as if to play with our meter.

The historical museum is also full of wonders and items from Arizona's Territorial past from the 1880's to 1912 including a blacksmith, bank, jail, teacherage, church, dress shop, gun fights and fascinating pioneer objects from scissors to eyeglasses. Learning about the west and how far Arizona has come since Statehood is a truly unique and exciting experience. Though, if you like your history haunted, well, the Pioneer Living History Village has that too.

The Pioneer Living History Village is located by taking I-17 North to Exit 225 (Pioneer Road), one mile north of Carefree Highway. Website: <http://www.pioneer-arizona.com/>



Haunted History

By Dawn Mullan

When visitors first enter the Pioneer Living History Village, they see the dirt and desert landscape with preserved, refurbished, and sample buildings scattered about the property exhibiting Arizona's Territorial days. What visitors may not realize is that the grounds are alive with history in more ways than was specified on the website. Walking around from building to building, some visitors have seen and heard unexplainable things as well as had strange feelings when entering a few of the buildings on the property

At least four of the museum's buildings give even the most skeptical visitors a weird sensation. Two of these buildings have had recent sightings. The Opera House, the two story building near the entrance, has had a specter of a woman in 1800's period clothing seen in one of the upstairs rooms. At another building, strange occurrences abound when one morning a security guard wrote in the log about someone leaving a light on, though there is no electricity or any other light source connected to this particular building.

While investigating the village, there was no problem finding the four buildings that had sightings just by the

ConRunners 8

June 12, 2004

Site: TBA

Admission: \$15

ConRunners is WesternSFA's thrice annual one-day seminar on various aspects of Fan-Run Science Fiction Conventions. If you are interested in the behind the scenes aspects of fan-run conventions then this is the place for you.

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Topics this time are:

9 a.m. —12 Noon
Hot Topics for WesterCon

2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.
Website Design

12:00 Noon — 2:00 p.m.
Lunch

4:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.
LepreCon 30

Analysis and Discussion

For more information check our web site at
www.westernsfa.org or
contact us at info@westernsfa.org

ConRunners,
PO Box 67457
Phoenix AZ 85082

Calendar of Events - April/May 2004

To have your event or meeting listed please email calendar@casfs.org - **Deadline for June/July Submissions - May 15, 2004**
(This is a free service. All release dates are tentative)

April

April 2 - Friday

Movie: Hellboy

April 2-4 - Friday - Sunday

Event: Gilacon www.gilacon.com

April 3 - Saturday

Event: MLB Clix Marquee Tournament at Samurai Comics www.samuraicomics.org
Event: Phoenix Book Festival Carnegie Center, Phoenix Info: www.azbookfestival.org

April 4 - Sunday

Event: Phoenix Comic Con www.phoenixcomicon.com
Meeting: ConNotations Labeling & Potluck Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

April 5 - Monday

TV: Star Trek: Deep Space Nine debuts on Spike TV

April 6 - Tuesday

DVD: Matrix: Revolutions

April 8-11 - Thursday - Sunday

Event: World Horror Convention www.whc2004.org

April 9 - Friday

Movie: Ella Enchanted

April 13 - Tuesday

DVD: Kill Bill Vol 1
DVD-TV: Babylon 5 Season 5, Highlander Season Four

April 16 - Friday

Movie: Kill Bill Vol 2, The Punisher
Event: Fannish Open House at Craig & Stephanie's Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

April 17 - Saturday

Meeting: ConKopelli Committee Meeting 2PM, CopperCon 24 Committee Meeting 4PM - JB's I-17 & Indian School. Info: Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

April 18 - Sunday

Meeting: LepreCon 30 Committee Meeting JB's I-17 & Indian School. Info: Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>
Meeting: HexaCon 14 Committee 4PM, World Fantasy Committee 7PM - Tempe Mission Palms Info: Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

April 20 - Tuesday

DVD: The Haunted Mansion
DVD-TV: The Lost World Season Two

April 21 - Wednesday

Book Discussion: CASFS Book Discussion: Mary Coyle's Ice Cream Parlor Phoenix 7PM Info Catherine <cathypendragon@qwest.net>

April 22-24 Thursday-Friday

Event: Space Access '04 at Ramada Hotel Downtown Phoenix Info: Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

April 24 - Saturday

TV: Dinocroc - SciFi Premiere 9 pm ET/PT

April 25 - Sunday

Meeting: SouthWest Costumers Guild 1PM - www.southwestcostumersguild.org

April 27 - Tuesday

DVD: Big Fish, Timeline
DVD-TV: Mutant X Season Two

April 29-May 2 Thursday-Sunday

Event: Camarilla's Southwest Regional Event - Embassy Suites Phoenix Airport Info www.swre.org

April 30 - Friday

Movie: Godsend
Meeting: CASFS Monthly Meeting 7PM JB's I-17 & Indian School Info laetitia@doverkeep.com

May

May 2 - Sunday

Meeting: LepreCon Inc Quarterly Meeting 7PM JB's at I17 & Indian School Info Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

May 4 - Tuesday

DVD-TV: Samauri Jack Season One

May 7 - Friday

Movie: Van Helsing

May 7-9 Friday-Sunday

Event: LepreCon 30 - Sheraton Crescent Hotel Phoenix Info www.leprecon.org

May 11 - Tuesday

DVD: Scary Movie 3, Shrek 3-D Short
DVD-TV: Johnny Quest Season One, Jetsons Season One, X-Files Season Nine

May 14 - Friday

Movie: Troy
Meeting: WesternSFA Quarterly Meeting 7PM Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

May 16 - Sunday

Meeting: ConKopelli Committee Meeting 2PM, CopperCon 24 Committee Meeting 4PM - JB's I-17 & Indian School. Info: Mike Willmoth <mwillmoth@compuserve.com>

May 18 - Tuesday

DVD-TV: Star Trek: Voyager Season Two

May 21 - Friday

Movie: Shrek 2
Event: Fannish Open House at Craig & Stephanie's Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com

May 23 - Sunday

Meeting: SouthWest Costumers Guild 1PM Info www.southwestcostumersguild.org

May 25 - Tuesday

DVD: LOTR: Return of the King
DVD-TV: Buffy The Vampire Slayer Season Six, Smallville Season Two

May 28 - Friday

Movie: The Day After Tomorrow
Meeting: CASFS Monthly Meeting 7PM JB's I-17 & Indian School Info laetitia@doverkeep.com

May 30 - Sunday

Meeting: ConNotations Labeling & Potluck Info: laetitia@doverkeep.com



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Ongoing Events

Wednesdays		New Comics Arrive!	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	6pm	Hero Clix Tournamets	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	6pm	Mech WarriorTournaments	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	6pm	L5R CCG	Imperial Outpost, 49 th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
Thursdays	6pm	Camarilla Anarch Game	Kiwanis Park	www.titheofsouls.com
	6pm	Mechwarrior Dark Age Tournament	Imperial Outpost, 49 th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	6pm	Magic ThG type 1.5 Tournament	Imperial Outpost, 49 th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	6pm	Warmachine League	Imperial Outpost, 49 th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
Fridays	6pm	Magic the Gathering DCI Sanctioned	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	7pm	HeroClix Tournament	Imperial Outpost, 49 th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	7pm	Magic: The Gathering Tournaments	Game Daze 2140 E 5 th St #11, Tempe AZ 85281	
Saturdays*	AllDay	Warhammer Fantasy & 40K	Imperial Outpost, 49 th Ave & Thunderbird	www.imperialoutpost.com
	Noon	Hack Tournament	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	Noon	Duel Masters Tournaments	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	3pm	YU-GI-OH Tournaments	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
Sundays*	6pm	Anime Club Meeting	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	Noon	YU-GI-OH Tournaments	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com
	3pm	Dragonball Z CCG Tournament	Samurai Comics, 7th St & Camelback	www.samuraicomics.com

Pointless Meanderings by Brandon Huigens

After returning from the Alternative Press Expo in San Francisco this past February (my first time as an exhibitor at a comics convention), one might suppose this article would be relative to that subject—anyone that knows me knows that APE has become the single event I look forward to each year. However, for this issue of ConNotations, I was given an opportunity to write about something more important than my own experiences as a comics creator. So, APE next time, folks.

This time learning how to create comics, as relevant literature, in school. And not at an elementary level.

Personally having the time to only attend class in small segments, I recently learned of an amazing opportunity to learn about comic books and sequential art at a collegiate level. The class is the first of its kind in the country—a course exclusively dedicated to teaching students how to write in the field of comics. Most comics creators will tell you that in general college (and sometimes art schools), instructors are rarely supportive of creative aspirations in the field of comic books and graphic novels. That said, there have been boundless opportunities for artists to attend schooling about the visual artistic aspect of comics, such as the renowned Joe Kubert School of Cartoon and Graphic Art. What there haven't been, though, are how-to write comics classes.

Enter Phoenix College Creative Writing professor Hershman John.

Mr. John, a familiar face to any comics retailer in Phoenix the last decade, is owed a debt of gratitude from every comic fan that's ever dreamed of writing a Spider-man or a Batman story, or a comics story about a troubled relationship, but wasn't sure how to go about doing so. How does one script a comic for an artist? How much does continuity really matter to my stories? Where does one go for reference? These were some of the questions I personally had, having self-published and never having to work with an artist or on any characters that required extensive research.

Recently, I was able to talk a bit with Hershman John about the course he's teaching, his love for comics, and how it's time for comic books to stop being ignored as literature. Enjoy!

Brandon Huigens: What prompted you to approach the PC faculty about teaching comics scriptwriting?

Hershman John: What prompted me to create the class basically was my love for comics. I have been reading comics for about 22 years now. My journey first started as a Christmas present, three consecutive issues of the Teen Titans. Ever since then I was hooked. I spent every nickel and dime of any money I have ever received on comics since. After high school, I went onto college and received a degree in Creative Writing—in the area of poetry.

BH How did that educational and teaching experience in other literary fields develop into your wanting to teach people about how to write comics?

HJ I couldn't ever forget my roots. Along with reading poetry and poetic theory, I

had my latest copy of Superman or the X-Men nearby. After getting my Masters, I began teaching full time at Phoenix College (PC). It was there at PC that I found I had enough freedom to begin developing the course.

Up to this point, I was teaching a combination of composition, creative writing (poetry) and some American Indian Literature, but I have always had the desire to teach my abilities, and understanding the process of comics is one of them.

Growing up, going to school, I first learned everything I knew from reading comics. However, it was never taught. Not in high school, not in college, not even in the real world. The only places I ever saw others passionate about this subject was the local comic book store or the major comic book conventions. I would love to have studied literature through reading graphic novels, or take a creative writing course in comic book writing. But, alas, there were no such courses at ASU or the community colleges.

As a result, I took it upon myself. I approached our Creative Writing program and suggested the concept. I was told "it sounds like a great idea."

So came my first proposed course in Creative Writing CRW 271 Introduction to Comic Book Writing. This is the first such course I've ever heard of—I've even gone on line to many universities to check out their course schedules and found no similar class. I was trying to find a

successful course that someone else was doing, but there were none. I had to start from scratch and just began developing and imagined if I was a student in such a class, what would I like to learn about?

With the first course in the new PC course catalogue, would anyone sign up? That I didn't know. A week before school started I found out that the course was full. And this was a late-start course too. I was surprised as only a few new creative writing classes ever get enough students to make it a "go" for the course. But, here I

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2004

October 28-31, 2004

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, Arizona

www.worldfantasy2004.org



The 2004 edition of the World Fantasy Convention in Tempe, Arizona has a theme of **Women of Fantasy and Horror**. It will feature a Dealer's Room, Art Show, Programming featuring our Guests of Honor and other participants including discussion panels, workshops and readings, the World Fantasy Awards Banquet, Autograph Reception, Artists Reception, and more.

Join us at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe, Arizona!

The Tempe Mission Palms has a wide variety of restaurants, shopping and nightlife in the immediate area plus recreation at Tempe Town Lake and Karsten Golf Course.

Free airport shuttle and free parking are available at the hotel.

The average daytime high temperature in late October is 85 degrees.

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 Honor 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 Honor: Ellen 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.

Publisher Guest of Honor: Betty Ballantine

Betty Ballantine and her husband Ian Ballantine were a team for over 50 years, helping to form Bantam Books in 1945, launching their own firm, Ballantine Books, in 1952 and becoming freelance consulting editors/publishers in the 1970s. Ballantine Books was one of the earliest publishers of original SF books, with authors ranging from Arthur C. Clarke, to Anne McCaffrey, and H.P. Lovecraft. They published the first "authorized" edition of J.R.R. Tolkien's works, the art book *Faeries*, and James Gurney's *Dinotopia*.

Toastmistress: Jennifer Roberson

Since 1984, Jennifer Roberson has published 22 solo novels, among them fourteen bestselling fantasy novels: the 8-volume *Chronicles of the Cheysuli*, about a race of shapechangers and a divine prophecy; the 6-volume *Sword-Dancer* saga the author describes as "Conan the Barbarian Meets Gloria Steinem," and *The Golden Key* with Melanie Rawn and Kate Elliott.

Memberships are US\$140 through April 30, 2004, US\$150 through July 31, 2004 more later and at the door.

Tempe Mission Palms

60 E. Fifth St., Tempe, Arizona 85281

Room Rates: \$155 S/D/T/Q plus tax
(Kids 18 & under stay free with adult)

Call 800-547-8705 (or 480-894-1400)
for hotel reservations.

Register online at Missionpalms.com
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World Fantasy 2004 Contact Info:

World Fantasy 2004,

c/o Leprecon, Inc.

P.O. Box 26665,

Tempe, AZ 85285

Phone: (480) 945-6890

Fax: (480) 941-3438

Email: wfc2004@leprecon.org



was with a new course in my hand and it was full.

BH Why do you feel comics are only now, after years of publication, receiving more merit/consideration as a relevant, worthwhile form of literature?

HJ I feel comics are only now being viewed as literature as they have stood the test of time since World War II and the Depression. Furthermore, Maus has gone onto win the Pulitzer Prize, something unheard of for a work of this type.

Like I said before, I would have like to have learned some of my literature from

comic books. For example, I consider Stan Lee / Steve Ditko's run on Spider-Man, a great American novel. I have enjoyed the Watchman and grittier stories that followed. I like the creation of the many characters in Comic-dom and consider them greats. Greats like Steinbeck's characters from the Grapes of Wrath or Toni Morrison's Beloved. Maus, Super-man, The X-Men, Fathom-these are my classics.

Furthermore, from the success of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 15)

Pointless (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

movies comes more notoriety of [comic book] characters. The characters have become living icons for the many comic book companies out there. It's rare to see many of our "literary" classics become big icons like Superman. However, many of the comic book superheroes/villains achieve this level. It is a level where their stories should become worthwhile literature.

BH Since the initial class has been a success so far, what are your future plans for classes of this nature, at Phoenix College and elsewhere?

HJ I guess initial success means that the class met with the required amount of students and no one has dropped yet. I notice each week, the students are interested in learned how Stan Lee, Devin Grayson, Michael Turner, and Brian Michael Bendis writer their stories. How do they do it? Well, this is the class for you.

BH What are your future plans regarding teaching comics writing?

HJ My future plans are to create new courses in Comic Book writing. I will teach an Intermediate Comic Book Writing course in Spring 2005, open only to students who have completed the Introduction to Comic Book Writing course. Be on the look out for this. I also plan to develop a literature course where we spend our time studying graphic novels like The Watchmen, Maus, Ultimate Spiderman, Wonder WomanThe Hiketa... We read and react and write on the greats or drawback of comic books. One day, after the success of the courses, I'll develop a Graphic Novel Literature course.

Along with the success, I'm trying to get some courses started at ASU, as well. The idea of teaching comic books, I believe is essential to creative writing. It is a genre that has been universally ignored, unlike poetry, fiction, non-fiction, playwrighting, music, etc.

BH What makes writing comics unique?
HJ Comic book writing is so different from any creative writing genre. It's different in its ideals and format. It may follow some elements of play/screen writing, but it does not follow the rules.

Comic book writing is detailed in dialogue and history. It is riddled with staying true to characters that have been in over 200 serialized issues. It is a genre for someone who loves to read comic books. This genre is very collaborative, unlike other genres like poetry, which is very personal and private. It is unlike fiction writing, which likewise is private, and takes years to write a book. Comic book writing is quick...3-weeks for a script. A lot of collaboration goes on between the editors, the writers, and the artists. Ideas are bounced back and forth; as a result, comic book writing is not a private journey. I know the word about this course is getting out as I am giving a workshop at the University of Hawaii, in Hilo, on this very topic. My presentation is called "Taking & Teaching Comic Book Writing."

BH You've mentioned something about asking a major comics company to provide incentive of some sort to your students-could you elaborate on that?

HJ This summer I'm going to try to

develop some partnerships with comic book companies and hopefully some thing more in the way of sponsorship could come about.

But, I won't know anything until I propose and speak to different people at the different comic book conventions. Keep your fingers crossed, I guess.

BH What should students expect of your class? Do interested parties need previous knowledge of specific comics?

HJ What should you know before taking my comic book writing course Well, anyone can take the course. However, the course is based first on the superhero genre. You should have some foundation of reading comics. You should have some love for writing. Come to the class with your knowledge of your favorite comic book heroes / villains.

Our texts include Ultimate Spiderman (vol. 1 trade paperback), Wonder Woman-the Hiketa (trade paperback), and a text on comics scriptwriting called Writers On Comic Script Writing. All three of the books delve into understanding the genre of comic book writing. I encourage anyone who wants to become a comic book writer, or who just wants to be in a classroom full of your peers who love comics, take the course. Come and enjoy this new and unique learning experience.
BH Thank you, Hershman. Amazing what passion and drive can do. I'm taking this course right now, and I love it.

In just a short time thus far, Mr. John's class has been extremely helpful. It provides a much-needed forum - a sounding board, for ideas about everything from scripting format, to how to write believable dialogue, how to use the revisionist myth technique, and even how to communicate with an artist. This in itself is helpful in that the consensus is of your serious creative peers in an educational environment, not in a book, and not online where one can't be sure of other's intentions.

These tools, and more, have proven immensely valuable to me personally thus far, as I am currently developing a property for a comic book company, and scripting for a penciller is required.

Which tools have worked specifically? Well, for that, you'll have to take Hershman John's class.

For those interested, the next course offering at Phoenix College will be Fall 2004 for CRW 271Introduction to Comic Book Writing. The class will take place Tuesday night, late start, 12 weeks, 600 – 920pm.

Also of note Spring 2005CRW 271Intermediate Comic Book Writing, Tuesday night, late start, 12 weeks, 600-920 pm. AND CRW 271Introduction to Comic Book Writing, Thursday night, late start, 12 weeks, 600-920 pm. Check the Phoenix College class schedules for correct times / start dates.

(Remember only those who have completed the introductory course are allowed into the intermediate course.)



Screening Room

Hildago
133 mins, PG-13

Frank T. Hopkins (Viggo Mortensen) and his Mustang, Hildago (T.J.) entertain in Wild Bill Cody's Wild West Show but Frank does more drinking there then entertaining the audience as he tries to run away from the past. While he was a dispatch rider, he gave important instructions to the cavalry and leaves. Instead of disarming the Native Americans, the soldiers over-reacted and killed everyone in the tribe. Hildago hearing the initial scuffle turns the concerned Frank around and heads them back to the scene of the gunfire. Frank is mortified believing he had assisted in the massacre. From then on Frank is an unproductive member of society taking in more liquor then doing his job as an entertainer.

Considerable time passes before two men confront Frank and Bill Cody. Insulted by the show's claim that Frank T. Hopkins is the best endurance rider in the world, the two men challenge Frank to the ultimate test: a three thousand mile race across the Arabian Desert called the "Ocean of Fire" against the purest bred horses in the world.

On this journey, Frank must not only fight for his pride and honor but for his identity. Only Hildago and Frank's courage will be able to sustain them both against the harsh sun, lack of water, sand storms and treachery. Though the race brings Frank back to himself, he embraces who he is only in his darkest hour. Being half Native American and hiding his heritage from the white culture of the time, Frank comes to terms with his ancestry. In doing so, he becomes whole and wins more then money can buy.

Even though this movie is "based on a true story," this statement may not be accurate. Frank T. Hopkins wrote Hildago and his adventures but there are no records confirming any part of this story that can be found. Don't see this movie based on historical significance; see this film for its adventure, cinematography, heroics, and of course, Viggo Mortensen. - **DawnMullan**

Haunted Mansion
99 mins, PG

Jim Evers (Eddie Murphy) is a real estate salesman along with his wife Sara (Marsha Thomason) and they go to visit a mansion the owner would like to sell. Supposedly going to the "lake" for a break from the real estate business, Jim Evers cannot pass the chance to sell the property and make money. His increasing antics upset his wife and children as the family becomes stuck at the mansion because of a sudden rain storm that floods the property.

Little does anyone know that the real reason that the owner, Master Gracey, asks for Mrs. Evers to sell his home is because he believes Sara is the reincarnated spirit of his lost lover who he found after she committed suicide. Her death prompts Gracey to hang himself and thus the house becomes cursed. Those souls who catered to the house in the past remain after death. Master Gracey and

Ramsley, the evil butler, need Sara to marry Gracey in order to break the curse. Jim and his children Michael (Marc Jefferies) and Megan (Aree Davis) stand in the way of heavenly bliss as well as their accomplices: the Servant (Wallace Shawn), the Maid (Dina Waters) and Madame Leota (Jennifer Tilly).

From the last few Eddie Murphy films, I expected this film to be horrible. Instead Haunted Mansion was an above average movie. Obviously, this movie is geared toward children as the plot of the film and points of overacting contends even though some of the images are disturbing for those under ten. This film is fun and funny, better than I thought it would be. - **DawnMullan**

Videophile

Splash
Cold Creek Manor
Sing Along Songs - Home On The Range
Lizzie McGuire: Star Struck & Totally Crushed
Brother Bear
Pirates of the Caribbean
Freaky Friday
Eloise At the Plaza

Splash - 20th Anniversary Edition
Buena Vista, 111 mins, PG
\$29.99 DVD

We are all familiar with the plot of *Splash*. Allen Bauer (Tom Hanks) is a workaholic who is completely convinced he can't fall in love. Then a mystery woman (Daryl Hannah) rescues him from a boating accident. She and Allen are swept up by romance until the world learns her secret.

Ron Howard was relatively unknown as a director when he cast Tom Hanks, Daryl Hannah and John Candy in this film. It made stars of all of them. I thought the film might be dated after 20 years but it remains a wonderful romantic comedy/fairy tale for grown ups.

The DVD extras include Tom Hanks and Daryl Hannah's auditions as well as commentary by Ron Hanks and a new "making of" featurette. A wonderful addition to our collection and one we are sure to watch over again. Recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Cold Creek Manor
Buena Vista, 119 mins, R
\$29.99 DVD

From the back cover: "New Yorkers Cooper Tilson (Dennis Quaid), his wife Leah (Sharon Stone), and their two children move into a dilapidated old mansion still filled with the possessions of the previous family. Turning it into their dream house soon becomes a living nightmare when the previous owner (Stephen Dorff) shows up, and a series of terrifying incidents lead them on a spine-tingling search for clues to the estate's dark and lurid past."

This wasn't as frightening as the TV commercials made it seem. It is an OK thriller whose thrills are mostly predictable. Still and all, it is an entertaining evening's viewing.

The extras include the obligatory commentary, two featurettes, deleted scenes and an alternate ending. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 16)

Videophile (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)

Sing Along Songs - Home On The Range
Disney, 97 min, NR
\$14.99 VHS, \$19.99 DVD

From the back cover: “Get set to raise the roof and bust a moo with none udder than Maggie—that lovable, wiscracking cow from Disney’s hit “*Home on the Range*.” Count on the wacky wit of this bovine beauty to keep the hilarity and harmony going strong from song to song! With foot-stompin’, toe-tappin’ musical numbers from “*Home on the Range*,” all-time classic tunes and more, this Sing Along Song title takes you on a rip-roarin’ romp through a Wild West wonderland of knowledge, excitement and entertainment that’s tons of fun for the entire family.”

This DVD contains 11 songs as well as three vocabulary activities and a karaoke feature. I have no idea what the movie itself is going to be like since I am writing this review before the movie’s release but this sing along DVD is a great hit with my 5 year old nephew who has watched it over and over for the last two days. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Lizzie McGuire (TV Series)
Volume 3: Star Struck
Volume 4: Totally Crushed
Disney, 87 min each, NR
\$19.99 each DVD

These are volumes 3 and 4 in a compilation of episodes from the *Lizzie McGuire* TV series. For those unfamiliar with the series it’s all about the adventures of a junior high student and her two best friends as they try to deal with the ups and downs of school, popularity, boys, parents, a bratty little brother and life in general

Volume 3 - Star Struck contains the following episodes: *Here Comes Aaron Carter* - when Aaron Carter does a video shoot for “I Want Candy” and Lizzie and the gang sneak in; *Lizzie in the Middle* - where Frankie Muniz comes to town and hangs with Lizzie; *Xtreme Xmas* - where Steven Tyler helps make Lizzie’s Christmas parade float by singing “Santa Claus is Comin’ To Town”; *Grand Ole Grandma* - where Doris Roberts plays Gordo’s grandma and stays with Gordo while his parents are away and finally *El Oro De Montezuma* - where Lizzie and the gang go on a Spanish game show

Volume 4 - *Totally Crushed* contains the following episodes: *First Kiss* - where Lizzie goes out with her paper boy; *The Greatest Crush of All* - where Lizzie has a crush on her substitute English teacher; *Just Friends* - where Lizzie tries to become Ethan Craft’s perfect girl; *Scarlett Larry* - where Lizzie and Larry Tudgeman are an item and finally *The Courtship of Miranda Sanchez* - where Miranda has a crush on a guy in her drama class and Lizzie tries to get them together, but eventually leads to the guy thinks that Lizzie likes him and not Miranda

Since this show appears to be aimed at girls 9-14 I borrowed the neighbor’s daughter and her three friends, all aged about 12. They sat still and watched both volumes and, judging by the giggles, thoroughly enjoyed all the episodes. They were disappointed I didn’t have Volume 1 and 2 for them to watch. Overall these seem to be successful and the girls want to have their own copies at home for repeat viewing. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Brother Bear
Disney, 85 mins, G
\$24.99 VHS, \$29.99 DVD

Brother Bear is a coming of age story about a young hunter named Kenai

(voiced by Joaquin Phoenix) in prehistoric North America who kills a bear then is turned into a bear himself and hunted by his own brother. The story focuses on the growing relationship between Kenai and an orphaned bear cub named Koda (voiced by Jeremy Suarez) as Kenai learns a lesson about love and loss. The pair of moose voiced by Rick Moranis and Doug Thomas in their McKenzie brothers/ Canadian dude mode almost steal the movie.

This 2 disc set is chock full of extras and contains two widescreen anamorphic formats: 2.35 (theatrical) and 1.66 (family-friendly), as well as Fully Animated Outtakes, an hilarious commentary by the moose brothers Rutt & Tuke, deleted Scenes, a fascinating featurette Paths Of Discovery: The Making Of “Brother Bear” (48 mins.), two games, songs from Phil Collins and more.

I picked this up for the kids and ended up enjoying it as much as they did. This is a permanent addition to our collection. Highly recommended. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Pirates of the Caribbean:
The Curse of the Black Pearl
Disney, 143 mins, PG-13
\$24.99 VHS, \$29.99 DVD

A dream sequence opens the film as Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) at the age of ten sails on a ship with her father, the Governor, to the Caribbean Fort in Port Royal on the crossing from England. Soon enough, Elizabeth sees a parasol floating on the water then a boy about her same age. Upon calling the attention of the crew the boy is brought aboard just in time to see the merchant vessel in flames.

Waking but for a moment the two children exchange introductions. Passing out again the boy is in Elizabeth’s care as such she notices the pirate’s medallion around his neck and hides the trinket from the crew. Curiously Elizabeth glances toward the ocean to see the ghostly ship of the Black Pearl sailing away into the unknown. With that, Elizabeth wakes with a start and brings out the medallion from a secret compartment in her bureau drawer. Taking the medallion with her to the ceremony for the Commodore, she faints in her new tightly-fitted dress and lands in the ocean below the fort.

Immediately, the medallion calls to the Black Pearl. The ship returns that night to reclaim its gold, but not before the pirate, Captain Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp), saves Elizabeth from the ocean, is arrested, escapes, and confronts Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), the boy who was saved from the merchant vessels eight years prior.

After the encounter with Will, the pirate captain is again caught and put into a jail cell awaiting his execution as the Black Pearl comes for its bounty. Pirates raid the settlement of Port Royal, taking Elizabeth and leaving with their gold. Will doing his best to fight the pirates is rendered unconscious and upon his waking he boldly makes a stand to find Elizabeth but is turned away by the Commodore and the Governor. Will then goes to the jail to enlist the assistance of Captain Sparrow. Following Sparrow, the two commandeered one vessel, the Dauntless, to trick the fleet to giving him another, more speed worthy vessel, the *Interceptor*.

Unable to catch the pair, the Commodore watches Sparrow and Turner sail away with a ship of the fleet in his sabotaged vessel. Next the two ship stealing comrades go to Tortuga to find a crew and then speed off to rescue Elizabeth, but not before Will discovers he is the son of a pirate. Unsure of his

feelings, Will is mired with hatred for pirates and the actions of becoming one in order to save his childhood love. Then the real fun begins . . .

What a ride! Love this movie. Johnny Depp was brilliant and creative. Orlando and Keira are wonderful. Last but not least, Geoffrey Rush is the best villain on the high seas. AHHRRrrgh! Apple anyone?

Of course be sure to watch this DVD with several not-to-be-missed extras including 19 deleted or altered scenes, a blooper reel, and a script scanner until the next adventure is released. Read along the movie and see what lines were changed or omitted. The extras are great and easy to use for instance: Audio Commentaries from Cast and Film Makers. Change your appearance with the Special Effects Studio. A history of Pirates and the Disney attraction are included along with the Producer’s Photo Gallery, Scene Progression, Image Galleries, Story Board Viewer and more. This set comes with two separate DVDs for all the swag that’s aboundin’ on them for your treasure chest. - **Dawn Mullan**

Freaky Friday (12/2003)
Disney, 97 mins, PG
\$24.99 VHS, \$29.99 DVD

In *Freaky Friday*, teenager Anna (Lindsay Lohan) and her forty-something psychiatrist mom Tess (Jamie Lee Curtis) have sunk into a rut of frustrated bickering—until a magic spell causes them to switch bodies. Suddenly Tess finds herself faced with the perils of high school, while Anna has to cope with her mother’s patients and her fiancée (Mark Harmon).

This is the third version of this film which is based on the Mary Rodgers book. It was filmed in 1977 with Barbara Harris and Jodie Foster and then again as

a made for TV film in 1995 with Shelly Long and Gaby Hoffman. This update of the original film is masterfully done. The casting is superb and it is sure to be as much of a classic as the 1977 original (which is being released in June) I highly recommend this film to everyone, a wonderful afternoon of entertainment. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Eloise At the Plaza (11/2003)
Disney, 90 mins, G
\$19.99 VHS, \$24.99 DVD

Eloise at the Plaza is based on the best-selling children’s books. Eloise (Sofia Vassilieva) is a fun-loving six-year old girl who lives at the Plaza Hotel in New York.. With her wonderful nanny (Julie Andrews) chasing after her, Eloise finds adventures everywhere she looks. As she tries to arrange an invitation to the society event of the season, the Debutante Ball, Eloise also looks for a Prince who is supposed to be at the hotel and plays matchmaker for Nanny.

This is a delightful family movie that will appeal to the kids as well as their parents, who probably grew up reading the Eloise books. The casting is superb and elevates what could be cliched material into a wonderful romp through the several sub-plots.

I borrowed three kids for and afternoon, ages 4, 7 and 9, and they were spell bound. Not only that, I enjoyed it as well. There aren’t many extra features on the DVD, only two, but the making of featurette was interesting and the kids enjoyed the art lesson by Hilary Knight. Highly recommended. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

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In Our Book

Lord of Snow and Shadows
by Sarah Ash
Bantam Spectra, \$21.95, 480 pps.

Boy, this was a fun and entertaining read. My kind of fantasy. Magic, strange locales, costumes, castles, and romance too.

I have not read Ms. Ash before, but if this book is any indication, I shall seek her other novels. She writes very well and her descriptions are wonderful without being over done.

This is the story of the poor farm boy who will save the galaxy---no wait, sorry, wrong tale! Anyway, this is about a young man Gavril Andar, a genteel portrait painter, who lives in a warm southern clime called Smarna with his mother. And he falls in love with one of his commissions, Astasia Orlov, daughter of the Grand Duke. But of course, he is not in her class.

Shazaaam! Everything changes, when news reaches he and his mother that his mysterious (and hitherto unknown) father has died. His father, the Drakhaon, has been murdered, making Gavril the next Drakhaon of Ashkendir, an icy land to the north.

Before Gavril can think, he is kidnapped by his father's right hand Bogatyr, Kostya and taken to Ashkendir. There he finds himself embroiled in dark secrets, blood feuds, mysterious alchemical workings---and his rather frightening heritage.

And then there's a young woman named KiuKiu, a kitchen drudge in the "kastel" Drakhaon---who is also more than she appears. She discovers she has not only an unexpected heritage as Gavril does, but an unexpected talent that just might save Gavril, and Ashkendir.

There are plenty of folks, of course, who do not want Gavril to survive as the next Drakhaon. We have a prince with delusions of being emperor. We have a conniving court lady Liliias, who claims she is carrying Gavril's half brother---but is she? Liliias is playing several ends against the middle. There is a spymaster (Count Velemir) manipulating the strings of several characters. There are even revolutionaries stirring the populace. (shades of Lenin!)

Gavril, confronted by a world he does not understand well and dealing with people with several agendas, works hard to keep his humanity in all the machinations swirling around him.

I loved it.

The whole world of "Snow and Shadows" is based loosely on Imperial Russia. Prince Eugene sounds very much like Peter the Great, even to the building of Peterhof (Eugene calls his palace Swanholm). There is the land of Muscovar (Muscovy?) and Mirom (St. Petersburg?) on the river Nieva (the Neva?). There are pseudo Russian names

and titles and the hierarchy sounds very tsarist.

This is a meaty, rich novel. And with plenty of wonderful sections full of fire and ice and dramatic battles.

This is also (of course) the start of a series and I say, bring them on! - **Sue Martin**

Flinx's Folly
by Alan Dean Foster
Del Rey/ Ballantine Books
Hard Cover \$24.95

This, the eighth book in the ever popular Flinx of the Commonwealth series continues his journey of discovery to find out who and what he is and where he comes from. Foster begins the story with Flinx being wheeled into the emergency room. We later find out the reason is that he along with several others were struck unconscious. We also find out that there are new enemies searching for him, the Order of Null. The Order is composed of beings who are awaiting the "Great Emptiness" that awaits. It is apparently a sentient entity of evil. I like the Order; they are very calm collected individuals, who believe

Flinx must die to allow Death to come for us all. Flinx is the key to stopping this but he doesn't know how.

Flinx also returns to his great crush Clarity Held. He explores his thoughts and feelings about her and how it affects his future. Her current boyfriend has reservations about Flinx and her feelings for him. Pip continues to protect her master and friend, but new ways are found to avoid her lethal venom. Unlike most of the series this one is more of a bridge and you need to know something of the other books to get it's full impact. That said I think it answers almost as many questions as it poses and is an important piece of the story. - **Bob LaPierre**

Matrix Warrior: Being the One
by Jake Horsley Thomas
Dunne/St. Martin's Griffin Books, 223 pp. \$13.95

"Perhaps one in a thousand of those who see the movie will recognize or even notice its true message," writes the author, citing it as the method to unplug yourself from the illusion of consensus reality, to take control of your own life and destiny,

to become a free person like the movie's hero Neo. This is a nonfiction work, reading popular philosophy out of the trilogy. It's written in a hip, informative, easy-to-read style.

The author cites Carlos Castaneda and Philip K. Dick as his inspirations while he analyzes The Matrix. Let me just say that the only movie I've ever seen that resembled PKD's work so much that it seemed directly written by him is the Oscar-winning 'A Beautiful Mind.' But I suppose you can achieve enlightenment from herd mentality if you follow this book, or does that make you part of the author's herd? Ahhh, philosophy. - **Mike Griffin**

The Rough Guide to The Lord of the Rings
Paul Simpson, Helen Rodiss, Michaela Bushell, editors
Penguin Books; 304 pp. \$12.95 US

The Rough Guides are better known for their travel handbooks than for literary expertise, so the reader might be justified in mistaking this pocket-sized volume for a bit of fluff tossed off to ride the Peter Jack-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

ARIZONA'S BEST KEPT SECRET!!!

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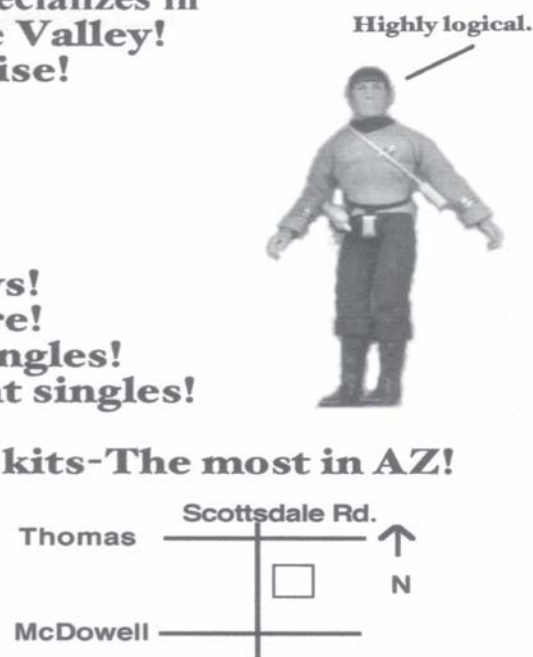
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In Our Book (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)

son wave. On the contrary, the contributors obviously love their subject and have employed TARDIS technology to pack 300-odd pages with fact, folklore, and trivia. Included are a biography of Tolkien; the books, their influences, and journey to publication; the screen adaptations; criticism and pop-culture (Leonard Nimoy, anyone?); and yes, a tongue-in-cheek chapter devoted to sightseeing and accommodations in Middle-Earth.

Surprisingly, the Rough Guide to LOTR goes into more detail than most books of its type. For example, any survey of Tolkien will mention his friendship with C. S. Lewis, but few discuss their differences. The pop-culture section includes communes and long-forgotten bands that came out of the Great Tolkien Scare of the 60's. The chapter titled "Locations" covers England and New Zealand, but also influential places from Tolkien's childhood in South Africa. Numerous references, mostly on-line, provide pointers to more in-depth information on just about every subject covered.

What makes this book an especially fun read is its breezy and occasionally cheeky voice. The photo-caption writer in particular seems to be under the influence of whimsical mushrooms – unfortunately the many movie stills lose something when shrunk to 2X3.

The Rough Guide is the LoTR book to buy if you only buy one. It's also handy when you want to look up a quick fact without digging through your entire Tolkien reference library. - **Nancy L. Freeman**

**The X President
by Philip Baruth
Bantam Books, 370 pp., \$11.95**

I wish I could say this is the weirdest book ever written about recent ex-president BC, but it isn't. Let's say it's the most favorable weird book about him. Baruth is critical of him, but from an objective viewpoint, not going to the extremes of partisan politics. It's truly speculative fiction, blending mainstream realism with science fiction of the time travel type. Sally, a college professor and biographer of 109-year-old BC (he's never named, it's just BC), is sent back in time to change history. For BC's anti-tobacco policy led to US tobacco companies flooding the third world, which caused world wars. The USA is losing to China, and a secret military project drafts Sally. Her teammates: a hard riding colonel man in charge, a seductress to lure young BC, and James Carville (!!). Target years: 1963 and 1995. What's weirdest about this novel is that it could all be true: BC didn't cause the tobacco wars in his term, so our timeline has avoided that disaster. That's just part of the fun, satire, and seriousness. In this time of presidential campaigns, this is the perfect read. - **Mike Griffin**



Club Listings

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

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

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@gnersds.com>, 602-955-9446; or Ron Harvey <rbh1s@yahoo.com>, 602-863-0284 for more info or impromptu juggling sessions.

ARIZONA LANBASHERS LEAGUE A collaboration of computer gaming enthusiasts, the Arizona LANbashers League throws quarterly LANparty events. Between parties, support is given to local groups who wish to advertise their own gatherings. We have no set genre of games and play anything from strategy games to first-person shooters to driving/flying simulations. No annual membership is required and admission to an event ranges from \$5-\$15. See our webpage for current events. Email: azlanbashers@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 fellow-ship 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.leprecon.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. They 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 listserve OCSF@yahoogroups.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 interest-ed 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.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 19)

Club Listings (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18)

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. Meet-ings are held every Saturday night at 6pm at Samurai Comics, 5024 N. 7th St.. Mem-bers 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 Independ-ent Star Trek and Sci-Fi club in Phoenix, AZ. The SFCOM is an active club that participates in Local Phoenix, and South-western 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 too soft, looking for combat, feel the call to glory. This is the ship for you. Member-ship 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 Com-puter 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/>

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THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACH-RONISM 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 Conven-tion masquer-ades. 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! 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 confer-ence on the technology, politics, and busi-ness of radically cheaper space trans-portation, 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 conven-tions. TARDIS publishes a monthly inform-ative news-letter, *The Index File*, with a national circulation which is included with mem-bership. 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 mater-ials will not be reproduced electron-ically. 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 Storm-bringer is a correspondence Star Trek fan club chapter of Starfleet, Intl. based out of Tucson AZ. The chapter was commis-sioned 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 Star-fleet Intl.. Members are scattered world wide 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 ASSO-CIATION (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

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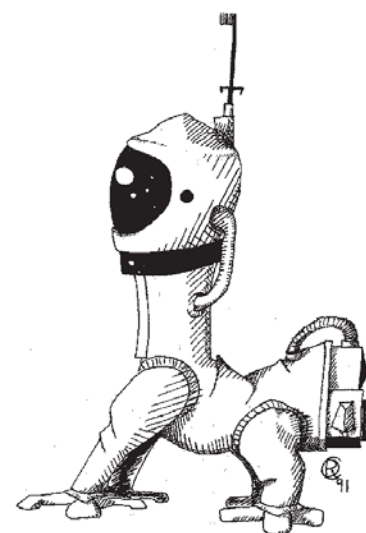
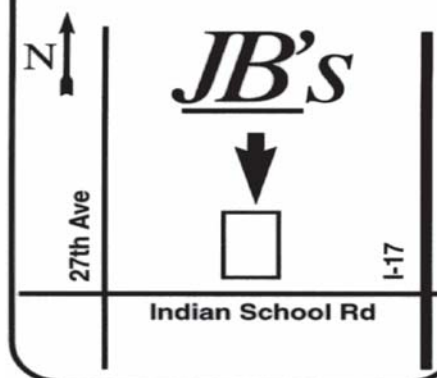
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Kenny & Maureen Borden



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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

Convention Listings

World Horror Convention 2004, (Phoenix, AZ) **April 8-11, 2004**, Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ Guests: Author Guest of Honor: Douglas Clegg; Artist Guest of Honor: Caniglia; Editor Guest of Honour: Stephen Jones; Editor’s Workshop Guest of Honor: Nancy Kilpatrick, Media Guest of Honor: Dee Snider; Toastmaster: David Morrell; Special Guest: Adam Niswander; Writer’s Workshop Guest of Honor: Mort Castle Memberships: US\$120 thru 3/31/04, US\$130 after and at the door 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.whc2004.org

GaylaxiCon 2004: (San Diego, CA) **Apr 8-11, 2004** Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, San Diego CA. GoHs: David Gerrold, Joe Phillips. Memb: \$50 to 2/29/04, \$60 at door (checks to Gaylaxicon 2004). Info: Gaylaxicon 2004, 1010 University Ave., PMB #946, San Diego CA 92103-3395; email: Gaylaxicon2004@aol.com; website: www.gaylaxicon.org/2004/index.htm

Space Access ’04 Conference (Phoenix, AZ) **April 22-24, 2004** Space Access Society’s twelfth annual conference on the business, politics, and technology of radically cheaper access to space, at the Ramada Hotel Downtown at the center of Phoenix, Arizona. Our conference hotel room rate is \$79.00 per night, S/D, plus tax. For reservations call (602) 258-3411. Space Access ’04 registration is \$100 in advance, \$120 at the door, \$10 off for SAS members. Day rates and \$30 Student rate at the door only. One year’s SAS membership is \$30, please include your email address for Updates. Contact: SA’04, 4855 E Warner Rd #24-150, Phoenix AZ 85044. Watch our web site, http://www.space-access.org, for updates on the conference

SWRE - The Camarilla’s Southwest Regional Event (Phoenix AZ) **April 29th - May 2nd, 2004** at the Embassy Suites/Phoenix Airport Hotel. Further information: http://www.swre.org. The Camarilla is White Wolf’s official fan club, bringing together roleplaying game enthusiasts from around the world.

LepreCon 30 -(Phoenix, AZ) **May 7-9 ’04** - Sheraton Crescent Hotel, Phoenix, AZ Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention with an emphasis on art Artist GoH: Donato Giancola;

Author GoH: David Drake; Special Artist Guest: John Eaves; Local Artist GoH: Sylvana Anderson; Music Guest: Mara Brenner 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 \$35 thru 4/15/04; \$40 at the door; 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

Tinhare (Chandler AZ) **June 4-6 2004**, San Marcos Hotel, Chandler AZ Annual LARP (Live Action Role Playing) Convention weekend, hosted by Tithe of Souls, a local domain of The Camarilla USA - the official Fan Club of White Wolf(tm)’s World of Darkness - Vampire the Masquerade, Changeling, Werewolf, Mage. Further information & registration: http://tinhare.titheofsouls.com

ConRunners 8 (metro Phoenix AZ) **June 12, 2004** - Site TBA, check our website for updates, Registration 830AM Morning Session 9AM-1PM, Afternoon Session2PM-6PM. Membership \$15. Info 602-973-2341 or conrunners@westernsfa.org or Web www.westernsfa.org Mail PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082

ConKopelli, WesterCon 57 -(Litchfield Park, AZ) **July 2-5, 2004**, Wigwam Resort, Litchfield Park, AZ Guests: Author GoH: C.J. Cherry; Artist GoH: David Cherry; Music GoH: Heather Alexander ; Fan GoH: John Hertz; Local Author GoH: Diana Gabaldon Memberships: \$75 thru 5/31/04; Supporting \$30; Conversion is Current rate minus \$30 Hotel Rates: \$105 standard rooms, \$135 Suites, Wigwam Resort, 300 Wigwam Blvd., Litchfiled Park, AZ (623) 935-3811 Info: ConKopelli, WesterCon 57, PO Box 67457 Phoenix, AZ 85082; info@conkopelli.org; Web: 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: \$20 thru 7/15/04, Hotel: Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ (800) 547-8705 Room Rates: \$85 S/D/T/Q, Info: www.hexacon.org or 480-945-6890

CopperCon 24 (Phoenix AZ) **Sept 10-12, 2004** ; Literary oriented SF/F Convention Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix,

Arizona Guests: Author GoH: Alan Dean Foster, Artist GoH: Todd Lockwood; Local Author GoH: Catherine Wells; Music Guest: Leslie Fish Memb: \$30 thru 4/30/04, \$35 thru 8/27/04, \$40 at the door Hotel Rates: Embassy Suites Phoenix North, 2577 W. Greenway Rd, Phoenix, AZ (602) 375-1777. Rooms: \$84 S-Q (plus tax) Info: CopperCon 24, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602) 973-2341 , Email: cu24@coppercon.org ; Website: www.coppercon.org

Vegacon (Las Vegas, NV) **Oct. 15-17, 2004**. Plaza Hotel, downtown Las Vegas. Pro GoH: Steven Brust; Filk GoH Kathy Mar. Membership \$25 until 4/15/04; \$35 until 10/01; \$45 at door. Mail to VSFA, 2800 Las Vegas Blvd. So., Suite 11, Las Vegas, NV 89109. Plaza Hotel special low rates may increase after April 15. \$75/night Fri. & Sat., \$55 Sun-Thurs. includes tax. : For convention registration or room reservations contact Terry Wilsey AanswerTravel@hotmail.com or 702-731-2114 For all other info contact vegacon@hovc.com

Musty Tomes

Conjure Wife by Fritz Leiber reprinted in “Dark Ladies”, Tom Doherty Assoc., Sep 1999 Reviewed by Catherine Book

I usually try to bring you books that I feel are classics; stories that I think are still worth reading. This is, of course, my own humble opinion but then so is this review. *Conjure Wife* is 50 years old this year and eligible for the Retro-Hugo. It doesn’t deserve it. The story is simple: very successful, very lucky college professor believes he has a wonderful, lucky wife; right up until he discovers she’s a witch and has been charming his life. He demands she stop everything and destroy all the charms. (Anyone see a TV show here?) As soon as all the charms are destroyed, terrible things began to happen to him. This is when he discovers, to his horror, that three of his colleagues are also unknowingly married to witches - witches who are out to destroy him to advance their husbands’ careers. And, they have diabolical plans for his now defenseless wife. The story is too simplistic and the writer takes full advantage of 210 pages to discourse on the nature of men and women and of rationalism vs. mysticism. Perhaps the subject was still fresh enough in 1953 to interest the reader but I don’t enjoy pages of lecture. I want to see character and plot development. I want to enter the book through the writer’s words and live with the characters. The thing that really offends me, though, is the writer’s treatment of women in general. I know, that in 1953, the ideal that was touted in schools and women’s magazines was to be the perfect wife. The definition of which was essentially “to find happiness in your virtual slavery.” In this, Mr. Leiber faithfully reflects his times. The women are venal, stupid and jealous. They are incapable of rising to nobility and, in fact, have never even been able to advance their ‘craft.’ The women are portrayed as too jealous to teach their daughters so the knowledge is fragmented and women practice it alone rather than share with their sisters. All their efforts

are for the benefit of their man, with the notable exception of one particularly nasty witch who wants it all for herself. It takes the rational men, working outside of their experience, to find the key to “higher witchcraft” that saves our happy couple. The closing scene is reminiscent of hundreds of B-mystery movies. Blecchh!.

For Us, the Living A Comedy of Customs By Robert A. Heinlein Reviewed by Randall Whitlock

You’ve undoubtedly read the standard bioblurb that Robert A. Heinlein was inspired to write his first short story, “Lifeline,” by a 1939 writing contest in Thrilling Wonder Stories. What few people knew was that RAH had already written a complete novel. That novel, *For Us, The Living* was finally published in late 2003 after literally being rediscovered in a grad student’s garage. Perry Nelson is a young naval aviator, killed in a 1939 automobile accident. He awakens in a new body (the How and Why are never explained) to find the year is now 2086 and American society has undergone many, many changes. Guided by kindly Diana, he explores this new culture and learns to leave his 20th century prejudices behind. As pointed out in the thoughtful foreword by Spider Robinson and enlightening afterword by Robert James, this is a classic Utopian novel, inspired by the likes of Bellamy’s *Looking Backward* and Wells’ *The Sleeper Awakes* (RAH had an autographed copy of the latter). Utopian novels are generally as dry as a communion wafer, and surrounded by just as much preaching. Heinlein’s flair for dialogue, apparently the first of his writing super-powers to develop, saves this novel from such creeping dryness. You still get the preaching, but you’ll probably shout “Amen” to some of it. (My metaphor is ironic since the preaching is often against the political power of organized religion.) Heinlein fans will find much familiar in *For Us, The Living*. RAH used many of its concepts and future history in his later work, including Scudder’s theocratic dictatorship from “*If This Goes On*,” the economic system of “*Beyond This Horizon*,” and the justice system of “*Coventry*.” I felt a strange sense of role reversal as I read *For Us, The Living*. You see, I read (and hopefully grokked) most of Heinlein’s work when I was between the ages of fourteen and eighteen, starting with the juvenile novels he wrote in his forties. These works, planted in my high school library by some blessed subversive, profoundly influenced my personal philosophy. Now I’m in my forties and reading a work the grandmaster wrote in his own younger days. I perceive some naiveties in this future vision that certainly wouldn’t have appeared in his later works, those written after he saw how the New Deal politics of 1939 played out in the long run. I greatly enjoyed *For Us, The Living*, but I would not recommend it for beginning readers of Robert A. Heinlein. Read a bunch of his better known works first, then come back for a fresh glimpse into the mind that would redefine science fiction forever. P.S. - Alfred Bester won that Thrilling Wonder Stories contest.