

ConNotations

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2007

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

A Conversation with Jewel Staite By Catherine Book

Jewel is, of course, the actress in *Firefly* (TV series) and its subsequent movie, *Serenity*, who plays Kaylee Frye, the ship's mechanic. While I haven't interviewed an actress before, mostly due to lack of opportunity, I was awfully glad of this opportunity. Jewel was the main Guest of Honor at a local convention, DarkCon, held January 4-7, 2007 and the convention was kind enough to invite me to facilitate her Q&A sessions. So, this is the highlights of those two hours during the convention. She was a delightful guest who seemed genuinely happy to be talking to her fans. She was funny, self-deprecating and very, very personable. I cannot begin to convey her personality adequately...

I started by asking her what projects she's currently working on. She just finished filming the lead in a movie titled *The Tribe* about five young adults stranded on a desert island with savages. She plays a 'Ripley-esque' role. Jewel describes it as an action-adventure and not a horror movie. And, of course, Jewel has been



contracted to appear in *Stargate Atlantis* in a recurring role as a doctor. She jokes that she's moving up in the world – from mechanic to doctor. I asked her if she were a 'good' doctor or a 'bad'. She answered 'I'm good' and the whole audience laughed with her. She still won't say exactly how many episodes we

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Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society
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CopperCon 26 - Still waiting for banker to provide final numbers
CopperCon 27 - have guests, hotel, most committee, found an Art Show director.
Next meeting Dec 15 at Bookmans Phoenix
CopperCon 28 - still need hotel first, then will proceed with rest. Building committee
HexaCon 16 - Probably will lose money, close out by January
HexaCon 17 - Still searching for hotel - Tempe Mission Palms approached for HexaCon 17 and 18 plus CopperCon 28
HexaCon 18 - Starting to look for hotel
ConNotations - Printed, mailed
Book Discussion - Moves to The Bent Cover starting in January

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Assistant to the Editor: Gary Swaty
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Staff Writers: Pam Allen, Stephanie L. Bannon, Catherine Book, Shane Bryner, Craig L. Dyer, Michael Griffin, Bob LaPierre, Jeffrey Lu, Shane Shellenbarger, Gary Swaty, Tom Tuerff, Lee Whiteside, Randall Whitlock
Layout & Design: Stephanie L. Bannon
Keeper of the Mailing List: Craig L. Dyer
Contributors:
Labeling Crew for Volume 16 Issue 6: Cathy & Ron Book, Craig L. Dyer, Mike Griffin, Jeffrey Lu, Marguerite Murray, David Rood, Vik-Thor Rose, Walter Sanville, Gary Swaty
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SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

We're through the holiday doldrums and back in the middle of things with the current crop of SF & Fantasy shows on the air. We've got new shows on the networks as well as on cable over the next couple of months, so there's plenty of new stuff to watch.

First up on NBC is the big hit of the year, **Heroes**. After a few weeks break over the holidays, the show returned with episodes introducing **Christopher Eccleston** as Claude, an invisible man who has had his power for a while, and **George Takei** as Hiro's father. Reports are that **Eccleston's** character will be a regular or recurring character while **Takei's** appearance, for now, is limited to two episodes. The show is getting a lot of press and starting to get some recognition with Golden Globe nominations for the show and for **Masi Oka** for supporting actor. It has been doing quite well in the ratings and NBC is making a lot of effort to make sure fans can catch up on episodes making them available for free online on www.NBC.com as well as a special catch-up DVD from Netflix. The only real threat to the show's continuing popularity is the return of **24** to FOX in the same time slot.

As with the nature of the show, there are not too many details about the new episodes coming up in February before it likely takes a break for part of March and April. We do know that Hiro will be on a quest to find the sword he has seen in Isaac's painting of him and the dinosaur. Niki will be spending some time in prison and Matt will be on the trail of Claire's dad. We have been told another Hero will die and that Niki's and Matt's storylines will begin to merge with the overall one as the season progresses. One upcoming episode will deal with Mr. Bennet's past, serving as a "secret origin" episode for him. Claire will continue to search for her real parents in the wake of her realization about her father's involvement with all of the heroes. According to producer **Bryan**

CASFS Business

Budget - lots of discussion of CASFS Finances ending with approval to increase ConNotations annual funding to \$3000 Elections:
William Whitmore resigned from his board position due to work schedule so there was an election to fill the remainder of his term.
Elections:
President: Mark Boniece [Acclamation]
Vice President: Gary Swaty [Acclamation]
Board: [filling the remainder of Bill Whitmore's term] Mike Willmoth
Board: Susan Uttke, Jeff George, J.B. Talbott [Acclamation]



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Fuller in an online interview, they are already making plans for the second season. He also indicated they have a definite ending to the first season. When asked if Charlie and Eden were really dead, he indicated that they were. He also said that none of the heroes will be a pure good guy or bad guy, with all of them having some shades of grey to their characters. Some of the non-powered supporting characters will have major roles in how things turn out. **Fuller** also said that Hiro will meet himself from the future and have an adventure. Finally, when asked if the big explosion will really happen, Fuller first answered "Yes.", then backtracked to "maybe." In an interview with *Wizard Universe*, show creator **Tim Kring** gave a few more details about what to expect in the rest of the season. First of all, Sylar is not part of a conspiracy, just someone who got carried away with his powers. Claire's dad wants to kill him, but whoever he is working for wants to find out more about how Sylar's powers work. **Eccleston's** character will be a Yoda for Peter and will help him learn how to use his powers more effectively, like pulling things out of a filing cabinet when needed. There will be more revealed about who Mr. Bennet is working for and what they are trying to accomplish.

NBC's **Medium** has done OK since it returned to the schedule but there's not much advance buzz about upcoming episodes and storylines. About the only recent newsworthy bit of note was *TV Guide's* **Michael Ausiello** remarking that one of his sources says the show is a mess on the set, with scripts getting updated and changed very last minute, causing the show's production to be chaotic and going over budget. NBC's other paranormal show waiting for midseason, **Raines**, has had its order cut down to seven episodes from thirteen. It is slated to take over **Las Vegas's** time slot on Friday night when **Vegas** ends its season in March. **Raines** stars **Jeff Goldblum** as Michael Raines, an L.A. cop who imagines he is talking to

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24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

Movies coming up in Feb/Mar and a rundown of movies to mark on your calendars for the rest of the year. There's a good number of horror-tinged movies coming out over the next couple of months. I guess there's just too many to release them all around Halloween.

The Messengers (Feb 2) - Horror season continues in a film set on a run-down sunflower farm. When a family moves in to bring the farm back to life, they notice strange things going on including some disturbing changes in their father's behavior. Stars Kristen Stewart as Jess Solomon, Dylan McDermott as Roy Solomon, Penelope Ann Miller as Denise Solomon, and John Corbett as John Burwell.

Hannibal Rising (Feb 9) - The story of how Hannibal was made into who he turned out to be (i.e. Hannibal Begins). Gaspard Ulliel plays the young adult Hannibal Lecter, and Gong Li is Lady Murasaki, the widow of his uncle who takes Hannibal in. The story follows Hannibal's life from his days in a Soviet Orphanage to his time at medical school where he learns his craft that he will put to use as a serial killer.

Behind the Mask: The Rise of Leslie Vernon (Feb 14) - Just what we need for Valentine's Day, more horror! A documentary crew follows legendary horror actor Leslie Version. Things don't go as expected. Starring Robert Englund as Doc Halloran, Zelda Rubinstein as Mrs Collinwood, Scott Wilson as Eugene, Nathan Baesel as the documentary's subject Leslie Vernon, and Angela Goethals as the filmmaker Taylor Gentry.

Bridge to Terabithia (Feb 16) A young boy befriends the class outsider, a young girl, and together they create their own imaginary world of Terabithia, inhabited by trolls, giants and other magical creatures. Based on the novel by Katherine Paterson, it stars AnnaSophia Robb as Leslie, Josh Hutcherson as Jess Aaron, Zooey Deschanel as Miss Edmunds, Lauren Clinton as Janice Avery, Bailee Madison as Maybelle Aarons, and Robert Patrick as Jess Aaron's Father.

Ghost Rider (Feb 16) The latest Marvel hero to be brought to the screen stars Nicolas Cage as Johnny Blaze, a motorcycle stuntman who makes a pact with a dark force in order to save his girlfriend. When she isn't saved and the bargain goes bad, Blaze is transformed into Ghost Rider! Also stars Wes Bentley as Blackheart, Eva Mendes as Roxanne Simpson, Matthew Long as Young

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SF Tube Talk

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dead people to help him solve crimes. **Matt Raven** is Raine's boss, Captain Daniel Lewis, while **Dov Davidoff** and **Linda Park** play his fellow officers. Also starring are **Nicole Sullivan** as a civilian employee and **Luiz Guzman**, who is Raine's ex-LAPD partner and also serves as his conscience. Look for it in late March or early April and don't blink or you may miss it.

Over on CBS, ***Jericho*** will return in late February after a few months hiatus. CBS has kept things warm for the series online during the break and will air a "story so far" special on February 14th. The first new episode back will be a flashback to the day before the nuclear attacks started, giving viewers some background and some understanding of some of what they've seen so far. In regards to additional info about upcoming episodes, there's not much floating around. CBS has given it a full season order of 22 episodes and will run the remaining 11 episodes pretty much straight through to the end of the season. CBS's ***Ghost Whisperer*** does have a bit of info circulating for it on upcoming episodes. First up in February is ***Speed Demon***, dealing with two brothers and their sister, who owns a family auto repair show. When one brother is killed racing, trying to win money to save the business, the other decides to take over for him. The dead brother's ghost enlists Melinda's help to convince the living brother to live his own life. In ***Mean Ghost***, Melinda tries to help a dead cheerleader cross over when another former cheerleader is casting spells on the other cheerleaders. In ***The Cradle Will Rock***, Melinda gets involved in a staged jewelry store robbery that went awry, Melinda has two ghosts associated with the robbery come to her for help and in the process she gets put in jeopardy and held hostage.

ABC brings back ***Lost*** in February, promising to have a nearly continuous run through the end of the season. Episodes in February will focus on Juliet, Desmond, Jack, and Hurley. Guest stars include **Bai Ling** in a Jack flashback that will explain his tattoos, **Mira Furlan** returns as Frenchwoman Rousseau, and **Cheech Marin** will appear as Hurley's dad in the Hurley flashback episode. In case you were wondering what happened to ***Day Break***, the show that was supposed to fill the time during the ***Lost*** hiatus, ABC pulled the plug on it after only six episodes. It may turn up online but at this point ABC is acting like the show never existed... ABC may also decide to air the limited series ***Masters of Science Fiction*** sometime in March, especially if one of their mid-season shows doesn't perform well. They have committed to airing four of the episodes that have been produced so far. It will likely be done without much

fanfare, though, or much advance notice.

Over on The CW, ***Smallville*** ramped things up as it came back from the holiday break with an appearance of the prototype Justice League and the Martian Manhunter (played by **Craig Morris**). Starting off February is ***Crimson***, where Clark once again is exposed to Red Kryptonite and goes on a massive kissing spree with his inhibitions falling away and his emotions taking control. Other episodes include ***Trespass***, where Lana and her baby are in danger, and ***Freak***, where a young man who was blinded in the second meteor shower is able to detect other Kryptonite infected people. Info on other episodes is currently sparse, but expect to see some sort of followup with Green Arrow, the Martian Manhunter and possibly more of the Justice League as the season progresses. ***Supernatural*** will feature an episode where Dean and Sam meet up with a friendly spirit, for once. They have to confront a twisted priest who believes he is one of God's soldiers. In ***Tall Tales***, the boys investigate what appears to be a ruthless alien, when it is a janitor inspired by the tabloids!

Moving to the cable universe, SciFi is making a big change in their first run programming by moving ***Battlestar Galactica*** to Sunday nights from their long time SciFi Friday setting. SciFi has seen dwindling ratings all year on Fridays, a good amount of which can be attributed to viewers with DVRs recording the shows and watching them later in the weekend. This has led to series lows for ***Galactica***, and ***Stargate Atlantis***. SciFi is hoping the larger number of viewers on Sunday nights will equate to higher overall ratings for their new episodes. ***Battlestar Galactica*** returned on January 21st on SciFi with the conclusion to the mid-season cliff hanger and will run straight through to the end of the season in late March.

Upcoming episodes for Battlestar Galactica include ***The Woman King*** where Helo finds out things are not well in one of the medical ships where a doctor is making life and death decisions depending on which colony people are from. When Hot Dog and Hera, Helo's daughter come under that Doctor's care, Helo decides he must take action. In ***A Day in the Life***, Adama reminisces about his wife on their wedding anniversary and how his career ruined his marriage. It also includes a lot of Lee Adama and how their breakup affected him and his brother, Zak. In ***Dirty Hands***, we find out more about Tyrol and his role as New Caprica union leader and it deals with issues of labor and class, focusing on the people who do the dirty work. ***Maelstrom*** has Kara knocked unconscious while on a mission and has dreams and flashbacks of her mother and life before the attacks while air is venting from her cockpit. Lee Adama is searching for her and picks up her distress signal, but will he reach her in

time? To say any more would go way into spoiler territory. ***The Son Also Rises*** has Lee Adama working to get the fleet's legal system back on track and he argues for a fair trial for Baltar instead of outright execution. Ending the season is a two parter, ***Crossroads***, where we will see Baltar's trial with Lee Adama heavily involved with it. We will also learn more about the unseen other five cylon models and more about Hera's role in things to come. It will also probably leave viewers anxiously anticipating the fourth season with multiple cliffhangers.

The Dresden Files debuted in late January on Sunday nights, paired up with ***Galactica***. As with the novel series by **Jim Butcher**, Harry Dresden is a wizard in present day Chicago, who makes a living as a private investigator when the supernatural is involved. When there's a crime with supernatural elements, Detective Connie Murphy of the Chicago Police Special Investigations team brings Harry on board as a consultant. Helping Harry out is his literal spiritual advisor, Bob, a medieval wizard whose spirit is bound to a skull that Harry keeps in his lab. Other characters we will be seeing are Harry's Uncle, Justin, who was his mentor who turned evil that Harry had to kill, Harry's dad, Colm, who died when Harry was young, Susan Rodriguez, a reporter friend of Harry's, and Kirmani, Connie Murphy's partner on the police force, and Butters, the mortician who is a big polka music fan. We will also learn about the Wizard High Council and their Warden, Morgan. Three years prior, Harry used black magic to kill his Uncle Justin. The High Council ruled that it was in self-defense, but Harry is on probation and Morgan is keeping a close watch on him. We will learn more of that back story and see flashbacks to Harry's life before then and growing up with his father. Some characters and aspects have been changed for the series from the books, mostly to make better television. Some stories will follow some storylines in the books, but may not always be exact adaptations. Producer **Robert Wolfe** has indicated that since the books tend to be more like big action movies, the TV episodes will be smaller stories with the occasional big event story. They can't have zombie T-Rex's or a big vampire vs. ghouls bash every week on a TV show.

SciFi opted to not start the series with ***Storm Front***, which was filmed as the pilot movie and has since been trimmed down to an hour episode. The debut episode, ***Birds of a Feather***, they felt was stronger for launching the series. ***Storm Front*** should air at the end of February. It is based closely on the first book in the ***Dresden Files*** series where Harry is brought in to investigate a gruesome murder that has ties to the vampire court of Bianca and gets the Wizard High Council involved via Ancient Mai and the Warden Morgan. Other episodes coming

up include ***Hair of the Dog***, where there's a werewolf on the loose in Chicago, and Harry has to work around some FBI agents who may or may not know that the serial killer they are looking for is a werewolf, and ***Rules of Engagement***, where Harry is hired by a beautiful young woman who wants to recover money stolen from her Aunt. When Harry tracks down the culprit, he finds him murdered by a deadly supernatural force. Harry soon finds out that nothing the woman has told him is true, and he has to risk his life to save her from a similar fate.

SciFi is rebranding their Saturday night movies as ***SCI FI Saturday: The Most Dangerous Night of Television***. It will still feature the same type of B-movie creature features, but with a new branding campaign. Coming up in February is ***Pumpkinhead: Blood Feud***, the fourth movie in the ***Pumpkinhead*** series. The plot of this movie combines Romeo and Juliet and the feud of the Hatfields and McCoys. "Romeo" summons the demon Pumpkinhead after the death of his sister to wreak revenge on the "Capulets" of the story. Also scheduled is ***Fire Serpent*** that stars **Nicholas Brendan** and **Robert Beltran** as firefighters fighting a major blaze that is caused by a fire creature spawned by the Sun.

At the winter Television Critics Press Tour, SciFi announced that they are co-producing a new weekly series based on the ***Flash Gordon*** comics. It is planned to debut in July, and will also appear in syndication starting in Fall 2007 or Fall 2008. They indicated the series will be a "contemporary retelling" of the classic ***Flash Gordon*** adventures, but have not yet announced any cast or creative team. Reunion Pictures of Canada will be the primary production company with RHI (**Robert Halmi, Sr. & Jr**) also on board. Reunion has been involved in the ***Masters of Horror***, ***Masters of Science Fiction***, ***Legends of Earthsea***, and ***Merlin's Apprentice***.

SciFi will be doing a nationwide casting call for the second series of ***Who Wants to be a Superhero?*** including a stop in the Phoenix area on February 3 and 4. Details will be available at www.whowantstobeasuperhero.com SciFi announced a bunch of new shows in development including a miniseries based on **Neal Stephenson's** novel ***The Diamond Age***, ***Avery House***, a series about a mysterious mansion in New England, ***Revolution***, about a future space colony having to defend itself from their homeland, Earth, ***Middletown***, about a small town in the Midwest having to defend the earth from a race of aliens who have made their town the first stop on their invasion of Earth, and ***Starcrossed***, a comedy series with **David Hewlett** (***Stargate Atlantis***) about the behind-the-scenes life on a long running science fiction space opera, sort of ***Galaxy Quest***

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SF Tube Talk

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meets the *Larry Sanders Show*.

In case you've been wondering what happened to the *Stargates*, SciFi will bring them back to air in April to conclude their current seasons, *Stargate Atlantis*' third and *Stargate SG-1*'s tenth and final season. Episodes have already been airing in Canada and the UK, leaving the U.S. about the last place to see them. MGM has officially confirmed the production of two *Stargate SG-1* direct to DVD movies that will be produced this year and released in the Fall. The first, *Stargate: The Ark of Truth*, will tie up the Ori storyline and see the Stargate team travel to the Ori galaxy to obtain The Ark of Truth, an Ancient artifact that can end the threat of the Ori.. The second movie, *Stargate: Continuum*, will have the SG-1 team take on the Gao'uld System Lord Ba'al in a stand-alone time travel story where on the eve of his execution, Ba'al manages to have the Stargate program never exist and Carter, Daniel, and Mitchell have to try to set the time line back. They have confirmed that series regulars **Ben Browder**, **Amanda Tapping**, **Michael Shanks**, **Christopher Judge**, and **Claudia Black** are all on board and negotiations are in process with **Beau Bridges** and **Richard Dean Anderson**. If the DVDs sell well, MGM hopes to make it an annual production to continue the *Stargate* franchise.

There will be some changes in the fourth season of *Stargate Atlantis*, with some new faces and less screen time for some of the current cast. The fourth season finale will set things up to take the show in a different direction, leading to more adventures away from the Atlantis base. Cast member **Paul McGillion** (Carson Beckett) will be leaving the series late in the third season and **Torri Higginson** will be demoted to a recurring character. Joining the cast in a recurring role will be **Jewel Staite** (Kaylee on *Firefly*) as Dr. Keller, a brilliant young medical doctor. **Staite** wanted to make it clear to the fans that she is not replacing Dr Beckett; she is being brought on the show as a completely new character who is quite different from her predecessor. As those who attended DarkCon know, she is really looking forward to the role, especially since it films in Vancouver where she lives. She really enjoyed working with the *Stargate Atlantis* crew when she played a Wraith in an earlier episode. It was also her first time doing any prosthetic makeup and she did not enjoy that aspect of it and wants to continue playing humans, not aliens.

Debating on SciFi in April will be the *Painkiller Jane* series starring **Kristanna Loken** and according to a notice on their web site, SciFi plans to bring back *Doctor Who* for its third series in July, airing it only a couple of months after it airs on the BBC. So far there's been no word on

SciFi picking up *Torchwood*, but it would be sensible for them to air it before they air the third series of *Doctor Who*. Stay tuned for more details next time.

USA Network has confirmed that **Billy Campbell** will be returning to his role of Jordan Collier in *The 4400* this summer as a series regular for the new season. As with the last couple of seasons, it will be a 13 hour summer series and should debut sometime in June, along with *The Dead Zone*.

In other direct-to-DVD news, post production is going on with the first installment of *Babylon 5: the Lost Tales*. Titled *Voices in the Dark*, it will feature **Bruce Boxleitner** as Interstellar Alliance President Sheridan, **Tracey Scoggins** as Colonel Lochley, and **Peter Woodward** as the technomage Galen. Also appearing are **Teryl Rothery** as an ISN reporter, **Keegan MacIntosh** as Centauri Prince Regent Dius Vintari, and **Alan Scarfe** as a priest. According to **J. Michael Straczynski**, the first DVD "covers the same 72 hour period of time as Sheridan travels on board a Presidential Cruiser en route to Babylon 5 from Minbar for a celebration marking the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Interstellar Alliance. One part of the story follows Sheridan as he picks up an unexpected visitor on the edge of Centauri space, Prince Regent Dius Vintari, and a warning about what will come afterward delivered by the techno-mage, Galen. The other part of the story is set aboard Babylon 5, as Colonel Lochley summons a priest from Earth space to deal with a problem that may have dark supernatural overtones. The two parts of the greater story intersect at certain key plot and thematic points, so that they overlap and complement each other while telling separate, but simultaneous, stories." Plans are for online promotional content to include a

director's blog by **Straczynski** as well as interviews and other special features for the DVD release. Current plans are for the DVD to be released the last week of July.

Coming up on BBC America is the debut of the new *Robin Hood* series from the BBC. Expect to see it on their schedule sometime in

March. It is a more modern approach to the legend of Robin Hood and it has done well enough for the BBC that it has already been picked up for a second series. **Jonas Armstrong** is Robin Hood, who is Robin of Locksley, who has returned home from fighting in the Crusades to find that Nottingham is now under the tyrannical rule of Sir Guy of Gisborne (**Richard Armitage**) and the new Sheriff (**Keith Allan**). When Robin confronts the Sheriff about the state of things, he makes an enemy and becomes an outlaw, banding together with a motley crew to fight the injustice happening. He first joins up with Will Scarlett, Alan A. Dale, and Much and when he runs into Little John, they are captured and Robin is taken to the Sheriff for the reward that has been posted for Robin. When Little John's wife runs afoul of the Sheriff, Robin rescues her but has to surrender. Little John then bands together with the other outlaws and along with Maid Marian, rescue Robin from the Sheriff. With the group fully together by the third episode, they have to contend with various plans of the Sheriff to get to Robin including staging some assassinations to frame Robin, threatening to kill the mother of one of the men if he doesn't kill Robin. Robin also breaks up a slave labour ring started by the Sheriff as a solution to a miners' strike and tries to steal some of the tax money collected so he can return it to the villagers.

BBC America has also started airing the BBC sci-fi comedy *Hyperdrive* on Friday nights as well as is continuing to air the first series of *Doctor Who* starring **Christopher Eccleston** on Tuesday nights. Other genre shows on the channel, *Hex*, *Afterlife*, and *Life on Mars*, will return to the channel later this year for their second, and final (for all three), seasons.

Moving across the pond, the BBC and

Sky One had plenty of new stuff over the holidays that should eventually show up on screens in the U.S. Satellite channel Sky One aired a four hour miniseries adaptation of *Terry Pratchett's Hogfather*, which ended up having the highest ratings ever for Sky One and non-terrestrial broadcast channels for a non-sports event, unseating BBC 3's *Torchwood* from the top spot which had set the record when it debuted in April. The BBC concluded the first series of both *Torchwood* and *Robin Hood*, announcing that both series would return next year, with *Torchwood* getting an upgrade to debuting on BBC2. Also screened by the BBC was a new adaptation of *Dracula*, an adaptation of **Phillip Pullman's Ruby in the Smoke** (starring **Billie Piper**), the *Doctor Who Christmas Special The Runaway Bride* (with an associated *Doctor Who Confidential* as well as a broadcast of the Children in Need Doctor Who Celebration concert), and the debut of *The Sarah Jane Adventures* with **Elisabeth Sladen** reprising her role of Sarah Jane Smith, saving the world from aliens planning on taking over the Earth using a special brand of organic soda. The third series of the new *Doctor Who* should begin in April on the BBC and sometime in the spring they are expected to air the second, and final, series of *Life on Mars*.

On the animated front, Kids WB continues to slowly dole out new episodes of *The Batman* and *Legion of Super Heroes*. Expect to see three or four new episodes of each during February and the remainder of their current seasons in May. The animated *Fantastic Four's* short run last fall on Cartoon Network has now been explained as a "preview" and that the series will return to the network sometime this spring as a lead up to the second *Fantastic Four* movie, being released this summer.



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24 Frames (Continued from page 3)

Johnny Blaze, Peter Fonda as Mephistopheles, Donal Logue as Mack, and Sam Elliott as Caretaker.

The Astronaut Farmer (Feb 23) When an astronaut quits NASA to save his family farm, he doesn't abandon his dream of space travel and starts to build a space ship in his barn. The media latches on to the story and the government isn't happy with him. Stars Billy Bob Thornton, Virginia Madsen, Bruce Willis, Bruce Dern, Tim Blake Nelson, and J. K. Simmons.

The Number 23 (Feb 23) Jim Carrey is Walter Sparrow, who comes across a book called Number 23. His life unravels as he reads the book and realizes it is based on his own life and predicts dire consequences for him. Also stars Virginia Madsen, Danny Huston, Rhona Mitra, and Logan Lerman.

The Hills Have Eyes II (Mar 2) A sequel to a remake or it is a remake of a sequel? A group of young National Guard trainees are having a training session in the New Mexico desert. Things get nasty when they are attacked by flesh eating mutants!

300 (Mar 9) Based on the Dark Horse Comics limited series by Frank Miller, it tells the tale of the Battle of Thermopylae, in which a small band of Spartan warriors defended Greece from the massive armies of the Persian Empire. It was filmed against green screen with all of the backgrounds done in CGI. Directed by Zack Snyder, it stars Gerard Butler as King Leonidas, Lena Headey as Queen Gorgo, Michael Fassbender as Stelios, Dominic West as Theron, and Tom Wisdom as Astinos.

Fido (Mar 9) In the aftermath of a zombie war, the zombies were defeated and domesticated. When 11-year-old Timmy's mom brings home a zombie servant (that Timmy names Fido), Timmy finds a new best friend, even if he occasionally eats someone. Stars Henry Czerny, Carrie-Anne Moss, Tim Blake Nelson, Billy Connolly, and Dylan Baker.

Captivity (Mar 16) In a unique love story, a fashion model and a chauffer are kidnapped by a serial killer and held captive in a small room while the killer terrorizes them. The victims fall in love as they draw strength from each other to try to survive and escape. Stars Elisha Cuthbert, Pruitt Taylor-Vince, and Daniel Gillies and is directed by Roland Joffe.

Premonition (Mar 16) Sandra Bullock is Linda Hanson, who has a premonition about her husband being killed in a car crash. As she works to prevent his death, other strange events start happening to her. Julian MacMahaon is her husband, Jim. Also starring are Mark Famiglietti, Kate Nelligan, and Nia Long.

Sunshine (Mar 16) Fifty years in the future and Earth's sun is dying and humanity with it. A space ship launches with a device intended to re-ignite the

sun, but as they get closer to their destination, the mission, and their sanity, start to unravel. Stars Michelle Yeoh, Cillian Murphy, Chris Evans, Troy Garity, and Rose Byrne.

Dead Silence (Mar 23) A young man has gone home to attend to his dying father when tongueless corpses start piling up. He enlists the help of a former high school girlfriend to try to solve the gruesome murders. Stars Leigh Whannell, Amber Valletta, Ryan Kwanten, Donnie Wahlberg, and Christina Cox.

Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (Mar 23) The return of the Turtles in a new animated film. After defeating Shredder, the heroes have gone their separate ways. When Tech-industrialist Max Winters begins to put together an army of ancient monsters to take over the world, Splinter works to bring the team back together one more time.

Meet the Robinsons (Mar 30) A new animated Disney movie where a boy genius creates a machine to recover the lost memory of the past and unlocks a future, a family and a world whose survival depends on him. Stars the voices of Angela Bassett, Spencer Fox, Jordan Fry, Tom Kenny, and Harland Williams.

The Reaping (Mar 30) Hillary Swank is a myth debunker who tries to disprove that a small boy was not responsible for the supernatural devastation of a small, religious, Texas town. Also stars AnnaSophia Robb, David Morrissey, Idris Elba, and Manolo Cardona.

Aqua Teen Hunger Force: The Movie (Mar - TBA) One weekend in March, the movie adaptation of Aqua Teen Hunger Force will be unleashed on the country. It is "an action piece that leads into an origin story that unfolds in a very 'Aqua Teen' way," according to show creator Matt Maiellaro.

For the rest of the year, you can look forward to *Spider-Man 3*, *28 Weeks Later*, *Shrek the Third*, and *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End* in May, *Fantastic Four 2: Rise of the Silver Surfer*, *Evan Almighty*, *Live Free or Die Hard*, and *Ratatouille* in June, *Transformers*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *The Simpsons*, and *Stardust* in July, a live-action *Underdog*, and a remake of *Halloween* in August, *Resident Evil: Extinction*, *The Dark is Rising*, and *Mr. Bean's Holiday* in September, *Trick or Treat*, *The Martian Child*, *30 Days of Night*, and *Saw IV* in October, *Beowulf*, *Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium*, and *Enchanted* in November, and to finish off the year in December, we'll see *His Dark Materials: The Golden Compass*, *I Am Legend*, *Alien Vs. Predator 2*, *The Eye*, and *National Treasure 2*.

FYI

CASFS Book Discussion

The CASFS Book Discussions are at The Bent Cover 12428 N 28th Drive on third Tuesday of the month at 7PM

If you haven't read the book, stop by anyway. Our discussions are rarely limited to just the book scheduled for that month. Email questions to book@casfs.org

February 20 - Storm Front by Jim Butcher. The first of the "Dresden Files" books, soon to be a TV series. A working-stiff wizard/private eye in Chicago. Harry Dresden is the best at what he does. Well, technically, he's the *only* at what he does. So when the Chicago P.D. has a case that transcends mortal creativity or capability, they come to him for answers. For the "everyday" world is actually full of strange and magical things -- and most of them don't play well with humans. That's where Harry comes in. Takes a wizard to catch a -- well, whatever. An awful lot of fun.

March 20 - A Secret Atlas by Michael Stackpole. In a world where strong enough talent can engender magic, the family of the Royal Cartographer stands in a unique position. For these bold relations not only draw the maps, but also explore uncharted territories, expanding and updating the existing knowledge about the world. Only sometimes, drawing a new land can be enough to bring it into being. And when tragedy strikes the family, the tormented dreams of one young woman feed back to the Royal Cartographer himself, sending him slowly mad. And maybe also creating a new land where those dreams have become a tangible reality...

April 17 - A Princess of Roumania by Paul Park. Miranda is a Romanian orphan raised in Massachusetts. And when she entrusts to a new friend a mysterious book left by her parents, all that she knows changes when he burns the book. She's left in a primeval Massachusetts where all humans host an animal spirit, her friends have changed, and they must battle two villains...one of which isn't a typical villain.

May 15 - Perdido Street Station by China Mieville. An example of the "new weird" - not a typical fantasy. In a world of some of the most bizarre creatures imagined, an overweight mad scientist type who loves a human-insect, whose unthinking actions result in wreaking terrible havoc upon innocents, and Yagharek, an exiled warrior-bird whose wings were cut-off as punishment for a horrible transgression against his kind -- both seek redemption. And both achieve it, though in startlingly different ways. Lots of literary kudos to this one...

June 19 - Declare by Tim Powers. A cold war espionage tale with a supernatural twist. A world where the Soviet Union is willing to bargain with unthinkable

entities and the Western powers send their best agents to literally keep the cork in the genie's bottle. Absolutely fabulous storytelling..

INTERESTING TIDBITS

DragonPage, Podio Books, FarPoint Media

FarPoint Media, the newest go-to team for podcast entertainment and audio solutions, received a huge boost in interest after the Parsec Awards ceremony at Dragon*Con 2006, and they've taken that momentum and are running with it for 2007. Plans are underway for the 2nd Annual Parsec Awards to be held at Dragon*Con 2007, and there's so much more in the works. After partnering with Hollywood production studio Earthbound Entertainment, Michael R. Mennenga and Summer Brooks joined forces with Jeffrey Willerth to expand podcasting's reach into the halls of the entertainment industry. High profile projects such as ZombieChannel.com and StarshipSmackdown.com are just a few of the new ideas being developed right now. Also new for 2007, Chuck Tomasi of ChuckChat.com adds his technology expertise to the FarPoint Media fold, adding his four podcasts and enhancing the variety of shows to choose from for FarPoint Media's overall audience. Now at 25 shows and counting, the sky isn't even close to being the limit! Evo Terra, former co-host at The Dragon Page, has launched into celestial territory of his own with Podiobooks.com, a groundbreaking way to deliver audiobooks in podcast form to anyone with an iPod or an MP3 player when it launched in October 2005. Still dedicated to providing top quality audiobook entertainment for free, the selection of audiobooks and audio dramas is increasing weekly, as are the number of dedicated subscribers to their offerings. For more information, visit: FarPoint Media <http://www.farpointmedia.net> The Parsec Awards <http://www.parsecawards.com> Podiobooks <http://www.podiobooks.com>

Steve Jackson Games

Steve Jackson Games has kicked off the year with a couple of blockbuster releases. First, another contribution to the world of Munchkin - this time bringing looting and leveling to the world of the super-spy. Change loyalties, expend "resources" and outwit your nemesises, nemesai, uhh. nemeses. It was a huge hit at DarkCon. If that's not enough insanity for you, just wait... In March, Munchkin Cthulu will emerge from the murky shadows to poke at the Mythos. February will see the long awaited expansion to Illuminati. The Bavarian Fire Drill adds up-to-date cards such as Bloggers, Reality Shows, and Intelligent Design. Is your conspiracy

(Continued on page 7)

FYI

(Continued from page 6)

ready for Artifacts? We'll see. GURPS fans will rejoice at the release of GURPS Ultra Tech, the sourcebook for sci-fi tech from the near future to the farthest reaches of the imagination. Look for the Arizona Men in Black at your local conventions. I'd tell you when and where, but you're not cleared for that. FNORD.

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<http://www.asu.edu/piper/conference>

EVENTS OF INTEREST

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

David Morrell
March 14, 7pm
Poisoned Pen bookstore, Scottsdale

Jim Butcher
April 15, noon
Poisoned Pen bookstore, Scottsdale

Charlaine Harris
May 14, 7pm
Poisoned Pen bookstore, Scottsdale

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Metaphysical Mondays discussion
Every Monday, 7pm
Borders, Glendale

Metaphysical Fridays discussion
Every Friday, 7pm
Borders, Paradise Valley

Manga Club
First Tuesdays, 7pm
Borders, Chandler

Manga Bookclub
Feb 17, 7pm
Mar 17, 7pm
April 21, 7pm
Barnes & Noble, Goodyear

Team Sci-Fi Book Group
Feb 27, 7pm
Mar 27, 7pm
Barnes & Noble, Surprise Marketplace

GAMING

Strategy Gaming Night
Feb 3, 5pm
Bookmans, Phoenix Central

Hero-Clix gaming
Sundays, 6pm
Bookmans, Mesa
Dungeons & Dragons RPG
Mondays, 6pm
Bookmans, Mesa

RPG night
Tuesdays, 7pm
Bookmans, Flagstaff

Dungeons & Dragons
1st & 3rd Sundays, 6pm
Bookmans, Tucson on Speedway

RPGA: Shield of Almor
1st & 3rd Sunday, 11am
Imperial Outpost Games

VSCCG Tournament
Tuesdays 7:30 pm
Imperial Outpost Games

Hero Clix tournament
Friday, 7pm
Imperial Outpost Games

SCIENCE EVENTS

Arizona Science Center
Feb 28, 7pm
UofA Evolution Series: Animal Evolution:
Recycling Ancient Genes for New Uses
Mar 28, 7pm
Human Evolution: Tracing Our Origins
with DNA
Apr 21, 10am-10pm
Astronomy Day
Apr 25, 7pm
Disease Evolution: The Examples of HIV

Challenger Space Center, Peoria
Stargazing
Feb 10, 7pm
Mar 10, 7pm
Apr 21, 7pm
Starlab Planetarium
Feb 24, 1130am and 1230pm
Mar 17, 1130am and 1230pm
Apr 7, 1130am and 1230pm

Check the websites for confirmation,
location and more information.

www.azchallenger.org
www.azscience.org
www.barnesandnoble.com
www.bentcoverbooks.com
www.bookmans.com
www.borderstores.com
www.changinghands.com
www.imperialoutpost.com
www.poisonedpen.com

NonGenre by Genre

Chad Oliver

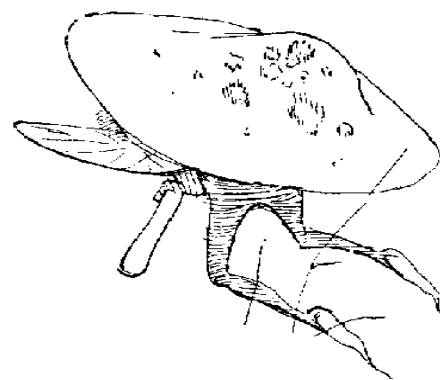
One of my favorite Authors has been Chad Oliver. As a child I read his *Mists of Dawn* which takes a teenager back to 50,000 B.C. where he survives by hooking up with the Cro Magnon. Later I read *The Winds of Time* in which a California Doctor encounters extra-Terrestrials who have been sleeping in a mountain cave for thousands of years hoping that they would find spaceships to take them home when they awoke. (Not to mention *Shadows in the Sun*, *The Shores of Another Sea*, and several volumes of short stories.)

Always his stories take you back to the sheer understanding of different cultures and different ways. That was the focus of everything he wrote. The two non SF publications I located scream this theme and validate it.

Oliver, Chad, *Ecology and cultural continuity as contributing factors in the social organization of the Plains Indians* / by Symmes C. Oliver, Berkeley : U. of California Press, 1962 [Doctoral Dissertation]

Oliver, Chad, *The discovery of humanity : an introduction to anthropology* / Chad Oliver, New York, Harper & Row, c1981.

I think they will be worth a look.



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Conversation (Continued from page 1)

can expect to see her in.

We all want to know: how much of Kaylee is Jewel? She paused and answered ‘depends on the day... and the moment...’ She thinks most actors put a bit of themselves into the part. (Although she hopes that’s not the case with Hannibal Lector...) But she thinks Kaylee has more of a sense of wonderment than she has. She liked that Kaylee was a bit naive yet experienced in other areas... without being skanky – just horny. She said most everyone had a bit of their character in them...except Adam. Adam was the father figure, she explained. The audience had trouble believing that one. No, really, she insisted. He’s a very gentle man who’s really wonderful with his three children. Nathan was the annoying little brother type. And Gina is a great source of gossip and stories. Whenever she’s with Alan Tudyk, she always seems to have the worst hangover and Alan *is* Wash. And, yes, he did keep the dinosaurs. And how was Michael Fairman who played the character Niska (a particularly nasty bad guy)? Oh, she said, he was so sweet, happy-go-lucky and just awesome – *nothing* like his character.

I always wanted to know if she got to keep that frothy, pink ballgown from *Shindig*. Oh no, she protested, she didn’t want it – it was horribly uncomfortable. . She initially was so excited to wear something other than a jumpsuit...but 15 minutes later she was done with it. Every time she had to use the bathroom, someone would have to unhook the hoop underneath it and then she would have to shuffle to the bathroom holding yards of dress and hope she didn’t pee on it. What mementoes did she get to keep? She got her Kaylee’s room door sign and her hammock from the engine room. Nathan took everything else that wasn’t nailed

down. He tried to take the head from Jayne’s statue but Adam was like “Dude...I don’t think so.” She was also happy that she got her waterbra. They gave it to her to make her boobs look big (Jewel is actually a slim, petite woman). She destroyed a lot of illusions with that revelation.

What was her favorite episode in *Firefly*? She loves watching either “Out of Gas” or “Objects in Space.” Her favorite one to film was “Jaynestown” where everyone did a lot of laughing. Her least favorite to watch was “Heart of Gold”...understandably. And least favorite to film was “Objects in Space” which was really hard to do. I’ve always been impressed with the scene where the bounty hunter leaves her tied up in the engine room. I asked her how she managed that scene. It’s Joss, really, she replied. He writes the dialogue and sets the scene. She felt a bit sorry for the actor playing the bounty hunter who kept saying to her “I’m sorry.” Her favorite scene to watch is in *Serenity* when Simon got shot, and she really thinks Book’s death scene was wonderful.

And how was that scene where Mel is naked? Was it a closed set or did she get to watch? She laughed with that one. When Morena or she had a scene where they were partially naked, it was a very closed set. But... when Nathan had his, every woman from Production down showed up to watch. So, when he walks up the gangway the crew and cast can see the nude thong. Well...after a few takes Nathan finds a picture of Joss Whedon and tapes it to the front of his thong. As he walks up the gangway, the whole crew is cracking up and they just kept rolling the camera. Jewel wasn’t sure but she thought they might have used some of that take.

What happened to that wonderful haunting music from *Firefly*? Why wasn’t

it used on *Serenity*? That was a Joss thing, she told us. He had a plan and he didn’t want to use the same music. We’ll have to ask him directly someday.

On the extras DVD with *Serenity*, we saw how the crew enjoyed using the set to relax when they weren’t working. How was that? It was boring, she admitted, just sitting in her room. So, they would tend to gravitate back to the set and just watch the others work – which was really cool. But it was not fun sitting in the common areas. It turns out that there were several cats living in the set and quite possibly using the couch as their litter box – it really stank. They’d all groan if the scene included sitting on the couch – bring the Frebreeze... What happened to the set? Is it in storage...waiting? No, she said quietly (the room groaned), they broke it down.

Was she a sci-fi fan before she started acting? No, not really, she answered. She likes certain movies and actors. Has her interest increased with exposure? No, not really, she answered. It’s still just a job. Is it more fun to act in this genre than a typical drama or soap opera? Oh, yes, she said – because of the cons. She had no *idea* that these went on at all. After *Firefly*, she was invited to a con in the UK and had fun. She’s been to lots since so I asked her – do you think we really are all that weird? No, she protested, she loves us. “If you scared me, I wouldn’t come.” Funny enough, she confessed, Nathan gets his butt pinched more than she does at cons.

Will we ever see our Big Damn Trilogy (the other two movies)? She thinks there is hope. Whedon is currently wrapped up in Wonder Woman but she hopes that after... And what happened at Flanvention (the con in Burbank that was cancelled)? No idea, she said. She wasn’t able to get there.

And what about the Chinese that was

spoken on the *Firefly* show? Does she ever find herself still using it? Only sometimes she might say *Gorram*...but only sometimes. Maybe ‘shiny’ once in a while. But most of it was just too weird to say in public.

Will she always be an actress? Well, she thinks she’d like to write a book...but she’ll probably always do this.

After all, she says self-deprecatingly “I don’t have a lot of other skills.” It’s all she’s ever done, it’s fun and satisfying and an amazing job to be able to have. If she wasn’t an actor, she says she’d probably be a party planner.

I asked with whom she’d like to work with in the industry. She likes actors who don’t take themselves too seriously and just see the part as a job. That’s all it is, she asserts, just a job – just make-believe...roleplaying... for *money*. She’d love to work with Meryl Streep – so I promised to be sure to mention that here... Anthony Hopkins, Kevin Spacey, Kate Blanchett, and, of course, Matthew Fox. How about directors? Scorsese – absolutely. And it would probably be fun to work with Christopher Guest (*Best in Show*.) And what part would she like to do? I’ve always wanted to play a superhero, she said, making the audience laugh. She’d like to play a really strong, sexy but smart, superhero who saves the world. Even a supervillain would be fun.

How was that episode of *Dead Like Me*? Not fun, she relates. It was too fast, no time to get to know anyone, and then she had to do that closet scene... And *X-Files*? Well, that was better. David Duchovny had to give her mouth-to-mouth for hours but since she was only 13, it was really gross. She says it was really tough and emotional but after that she wasn’t afraid to do anything else. What was she most proud of? Definitely Kaylee. She says it’s not everyday that an actress gets an opportunity like Kaylee. She’s also very, very proud of her work on *The Tribe*. It was difficult and dirty and she got hurt everyday on the set. But she’s happy that she got through it and, again, feels stronger and able to handle anything from here on. *Wonderfalls* was an awful lot of fun. Playing a bitch is always a lot of fun, she stated. And the clothes were so out-of-control...

She was funny describing how it was to play a *wraith* on the *Stargate Atlantis* episode. She apparently didn’t know how much was involved in “some prosthetics required.” But the set was fun and relaxed. When asked if she’d like to come back, she was fine with that - just not as a *wraith*. So she was real happy they asked her back for this new role as a doctor...with no prosthetics.

Someone from the audience wanted to know how she and her husband balance their time. They have a rule, she explained, that they aren’t apart for more than two weeks. She thinks that’s really, really important. She thinks it’s nice being married to another actor ‘cause he understands what she’s doing.

Someone in the audience asked her about the ‘bird-flipping’ contest she had with Nathan (Fillion). She doesn’t remember how it got started, but she and Nathan would try to find creative ways to flip each other off. It started simple

(Continued on page 10)



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Conversation (Continued from page 8)

enough but then got really complicated. Once he made her a really beautiful jewelry box, and presented it to her with a pretty speech...the box was sitting on the palm of his hand...and he opened it...and he'd cut a hole in the bottom...well, you can imagine the rest. And then, Jewel made him a valentine card with a lot of really creepy sentiments as if from a rabid fan. Then she put it in his mailbox so it seemed like this fan knew where he lived. He was worried until he noticed another envelope inside that had a photo of Jewel giving him the finger... He framed it and put it on his mantle. And then...Later, at the wrap party for *Serenity*, as the film credits are screening, the words come up: For Jewel. Oh no, she thought at the time. Sure enough: Nathan had a 'Caleb' doll someone had given him (Caleb was an evil character from a *Buffy* episode that Nathan played) and they put the doll in the credits giving the finger. And finally...at DragonCon, she did a Q&A in front of thousands of people with Nathan. Peter David, a SF writer and friend of Jewel, was there and decided that he had to help her get back at him. So, they planned to print up a bunch of flyers to distribute to the room that instructed the audience that at the planned cue, they would all stand up and give Nathan the finger. And it went beautifully – two thousand fingers... Nathan was completely shocked and apparently, indulged in some inappropriate response. After that? Well, there's no getting past this one, Jewel says "I won..."

And the rest of the crew? She sees them as much as she can whenever she's in LA. Morena was her maid-of-honor and Nathan was the bestman at her wedding. It's not an act, she says, they really are that tight. She's still amazed at the fact that nine people got along so well. It's just unheard of. She attributes it to Joss Whedon's casting ability. And every once in a while, she gets a text message from Nathan that simply says: "finger."

Jewel was picked out of a crowd in a shopping mall when she was five for a commercial. At first she said no, but when her mother suggested she could make money for more clothes... And shopping is still what it's all about, according to her. Aside from shopping, she enjoys reading, dancing and has recently discovered cooking and the Food Network. And whose work has influenced her own? No one and everyone – she really enjoys just watching good actors work and being inspired by really good movies. Trouble is, she says, she just doesn't take the work that seriously – she doesn't have much patience apparently for actors who obsess over their 'craft.' It's just a *fun* job.

Jewel lives in Vancouver which she just loves and thinks is the most beautiful city she's ever been to. She expects she'll

probably have to live in LA someday, if she ever gets picked up for a series that doesn't get cancelled...{more laughter} But she'll probably always have a home in Vancouver. She's actually in a very good place right now. She's waiting for filming to begin again for *Stargate* – next March. She sees several scripts a week – few that are good – and is happy that she's able to wait for the next right thing. She says she's worked before just for the money and it really sucks; it doesn't feel good and she'd go home feeling uninspired.

Would she ever want to do *Saturday Night Live*? Oh, yes – in a heartbeat, she enthused. She also wouldn't mind being Wonder Woman... or, at least, her sidekick... And, she wants to be Elphaba in *Wicked*... Is anyone taking notes?

An American in Canada Part III: Fjord, Anyone?

by Jeffrey Lu

According to the Internet, Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia said, "A fjord (or fiord) is a narrow inlet of the sea between cliffs or steep slopes, which results from marine inundation of a glaciated valley. Typical characteristics of a fjord include: a narrow inlet, a bottom that is glacially eroded significantly below sea level (allowing deep-draft vessels to navigate easily), steep-sided walls which continue to descend below the sea surface, greater depths in the upper and middle reaches than on the seaward side, and communication with the open sea."

I know that's a mouthful. Well, my take is that the Saguenay Fjord was breathtaking. It is hard to describe it in words. The feeling was like in "The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring" for the first time. The scene is in the river when the crew saw the huge stone figurines? Well, imagine two cliffs that could be the foundations for those stone figures.

Not sure if Canada want to put anything "modern art" on the fjord. Maybe in this century, nature will take its course on this fjord. Maybe. Next: Goofing off at Green Gables or Who is Anne at Prince Edward Island?



Pro Notes

Happy New Year to everyone. I hope the blessings of your favorite holiday were upon you all. I have a few new names and lots of returning favorites.

From our wealth of local authors in Arizona, I heard from **Dennis**

McKiernan in Tucson who told me that since last we talked, books three and four of the five-book FAERY Series have been published—"Once Upon an Autumn Eve, and "Once upon a Spring Morn" - with the final one yet to come: "Once Upon a Dreadful Time" (due, sometime in 2007). Of the five books (published by Penguin Putnam under their Roc imprint), each of the first four is based upon known fairy tales, but the fifth and last novel is based upon the first four books in the series. In addition to that "quintology," Dennis's collection of his shorter works (21 stories, 3 poems, 3 short essays) "Reflections" is tentatively set for a 2007 publication. Under the pen name of Tanner Grant he finished writing a ghost story set in the 1980s (even as you read this it is making the rounds of publishers). He is currently working on a new MITHGAR novel, and he reports his writers' group (the Tanque Wordies) is still going strong, as is his gaming group. As a side note, when Dennis moved from Ohio to Arizona in 1995, he left behind a group of gamers, who, sniffing and scratching (withdrawal symptoms), contacted him a year or so later and asked him if he would host them for an annual role-playing marathon (arrive Friday, play Saturday and Sunday, sightsee Monday, play Tuesday and Wednesday, and leave Thursday), and Dennis and his wife Martha Lee have done so every March since 1997. Dennis and Martha Lee are bracing once more, for the horde is due to descend upon them again for the annual March event.

Our neighbor in Chandler, **Jacqueline Lichtenberg** doesn't have any projects ready yet; however, she did want me to mention to you that she's looking for a fan who is a native speaker of Russian. Her *sime-gen* stories have sold in Russia! Contact her through her website: www.simegen.com Her friend and co-author, **Jean Lorrah**, who lives in Kentucky, writes children's books with Lois Wickstrom and they will be available through the Amazon/Booksurge/Borgo project within the month. The books are "Nessie and the Living Stone," "Nessie and the Viking Gold," and "Nessie and the Celtic Maze." These books have been best-selling ebooks at Fictionwise for several years, but this is the first time they've had a *tree* publisher for them. {A tree publisher is one who still uses paper...}

Don Maitz and his wife, **Janny Wurts**, who live in Florida, inform us

that the manuscript for "Stormed Fortress," last in the Alliance of Light arc of the LIGHT AND SHADOWS series is going in, finished, this month. (January) Hopefully, it will have a release date in 07. Two short stories related to that are coming out, the nearest to appear in "Under Cover of Darkness," edited by Julie Czerneda and Jana Panaccia. Other stories on a wide range of subjects came out in 06, in the anthologies titled "Liftport," "Fantasy Gone Wrong," and "Elemental," which benefitted the *Save the Children Tsunami Relief Fund*. On the art front, Janny's painting "Dragon's Run" (in the collection of the Delaware Art Museum) is hanging in their Illustration wing, and was included in their Night Kitchen project, where children write stories based on paintings. The next major project coming to the easel will be covers for British reissues of several more of her LIGHT AND SHADOWS series, and of course, cover art for "Stormed Fortress."

For fun side trips, Don gave her a portable easel box to steal some time outside painting, and a nice new bunch of materials for drawing character portraits. Stay tuned to the website at www.paravia.com/JannyWurts for sneak peeks, excerpts of new stories, and the latest art. On the appearance calendar, Midsouthcon in Memphis March 23-25; Fantasy Entertainment Expo/Valleycon in Fargo, Sept 21 - 23, and Conclave in Detroit Oct 12 - 14, with perhaps some pirate reenacting shoved in between. Don also added that recently he received a Gold Award in the Fine Art category of Aphrodisia; a juried publication dedicated to the art of the female form. The painting awarded is titled "Fire Rose." The work featured Janny as the model. He also received an Award of Excellence from the 27th Annual International Marine Art Exhibition at the Mystic Seaport Gallery. The painting awarded was titled "A Sheet to the Wind," and features a crew of drunken pirates sailing badly. This work appears in the second issue of Pirates Magazine which ran an interview of Don and his pirate art. Currently, Don has a 8' painting hanging at the Mariner's Museum in Newport News, VA, titled "Forty Thieves". It will travel on to Bradenton, Florida where it will join some other of his piratical paintings as part of a pirate exhibit at the South Florida Museum from May-September. His work will show in several shows, check their webpage for detail. Lastly, he and Janny invested in a large format printer and will soon be able to produce decent quality reproductions of their art right from their studio.

Moving up the coast to Massachusetts, **Christopher Golden** just recently completed "The Lost Ones," the third book in THE VEIL trilogy. Book

(Continued on page 11)

Pro Notes (Continued from page 10)

two, "The Borderkind," will be released from Bantam Spectra in trade paperback in March, while the first book, "The Myth Hunters," {a really *terrific* book – cb} appears in mass market paperback at the end of January. No publication date has yet been set for "Baltimore, Or, The Steadfast Tin Soldier and The Vampire" —the novel he's co-written with HELLBOY creator Mike Mignola, and for which Mike has done 150 illustrations, but it *will* be out from Bantam in hardcover in Fall 2007.

2007 will be a special year for Canadian SF writer **Julie E.**

Czerneda. It marks the tenth anniversary of her first published novel, "A Thousand Words for Stranger," a book that ultimately led to the TRADE PACT UNIVERSE trilogy. To celebrate, Julie returns to this universe with the prequel "Reap the Wild Wind (Stratification #1)," release date September 07. "Reap..." shows the Clan as they were before first contact with humans — a big surprise awaits many readers who thought they knew or guessed the whole story. There will also be parties. Ten years, with all her titles still in print? Many parties... Earlier in 2007 saw the release of two anthologies — "Polaris, A Celebration of Polar Science" marks not only the International Polar Year, but also is the first title to be published under Julie's new imprint with Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Star Ink Books. Look for "Polaris..." in January. In February comes "Under Cover of Darkness" from DAW Books, co-edited by Jana Panaccia. Jana's conviction that no one does a secret society story better than SF and F writers turned out to be absolutely correct. Later in 07, Star Ink Books is proud to publish the long-awaited reprint of Doranna Durgin's award-winning fantasy, "Dun Lady's Jess." Julie is currently busy at work on the second prequel to the TRADE PACT, "Riders of the Storm (Stratification #2)," while researching for her fantasy novel, "Turn of Light." She'd like to inform fans of the blue blob that Esen will shift again in the near future. DAW has just bought the first of the new WEB SHIFTER Library titles, "Search Image."

Also from Canada, over in Quebec, is horror writer **Nancy Kilpatrick** whose novel "Hunted" is being delayed until March/April 2007. She has stories in the upcoming anthologies: "Monsters Noir" from PostScripts Publications; and "The Phantom Chronicles: New Tales of the Ghost Who Walks!" And the recently released "Mondo Zombie" from Cemetery Dance. Nancy will be one of two writer guests-of-honor at the 2007 World Horror Convention.

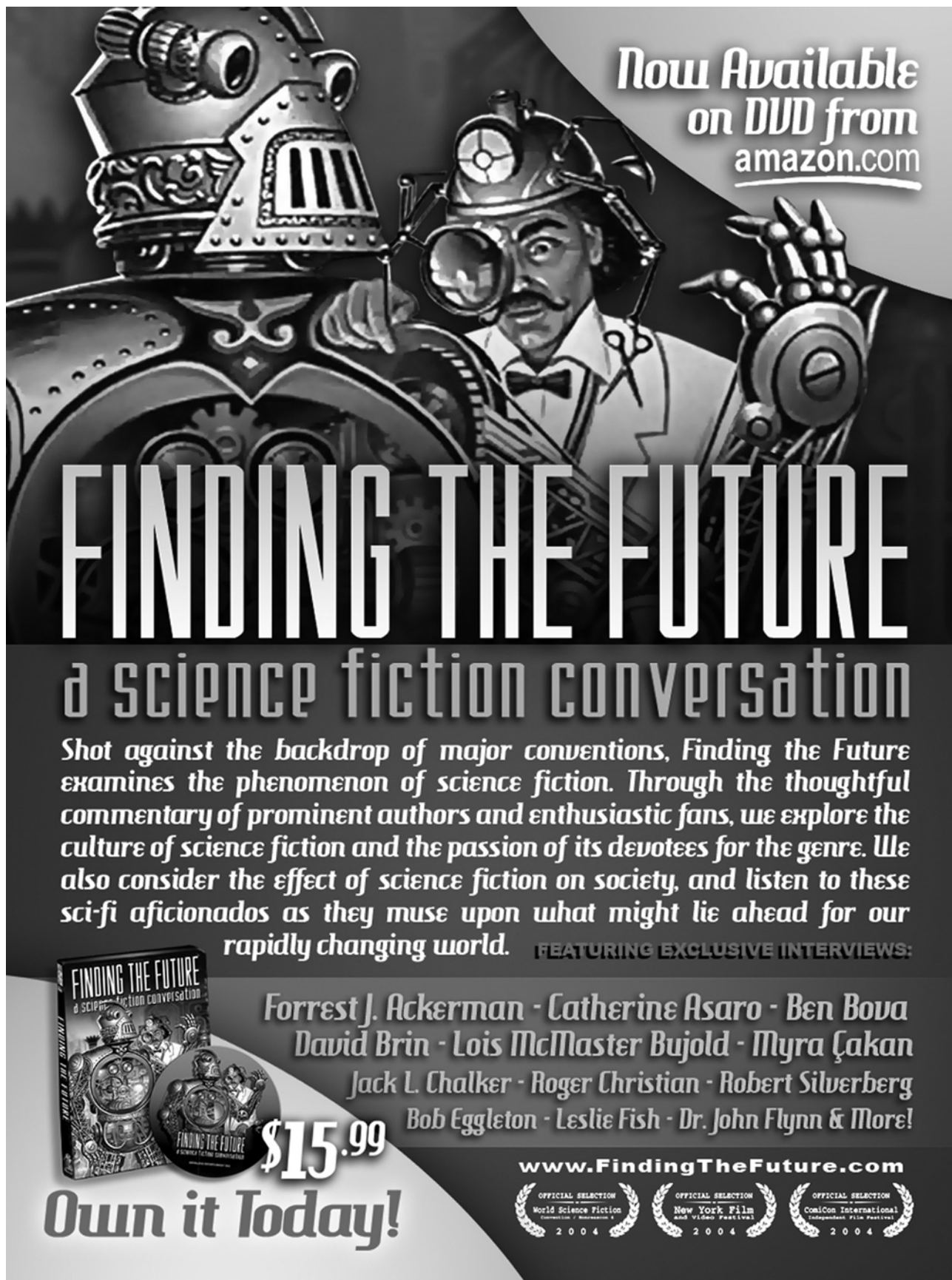
Cutting across the country, I heard
Volume 17 Issue 1

from **Jacqueline Carey** in Michigan who just finished reviewing the final page proofs for "Kushiel's Justice," which comes out in June 2007. She's delivered the manuscript for "Kushiel's Mercy," the final volume in Imriel's trilogy. While she awaits her editor's notes, she's doing research for a possible new project... but nothing is ready to divulge yet! And, from down in Texas, we were able to add **Elizabeth Moon** to our contributors. The next VATTA'S WAR book, "Command Decision," is coming out at the end of February, and she'll be visiting four cities on the West Coast: Portland, Oregon on February 28, Salt Lake City on March 1, San Francisco on March 2

and 3, and San Diego on March 4. Details are up on her website at: <http://www.elizabethmoon.com/conventions.htm> In April, she'll be in Australia for SwanCon—and she's really looking forward to that. She remembers that her one previous trip to Australia was wonderful. The fifth and final VATTA'S WAR book, will go in to the publisher later in the spring. All she'll say about that is "...having promised to do so years ago, a lot of people I know and love are going to a glorious death. ..."

Stephen Donaldson gave up that "Fatal Revenant," Book Two of THE LAST CHRONICLES OF THOMAS, has been scheduled for publication in October

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2007 by Putnam/Ace in the US and Orion/Gollancz in the UK. Meanwhile, the idea of a "Lord Foul's Bane" film seems to have gone the way of all flesh, but interest in a possible "GAP" film is increasing incrementally. And, Stephen made his TV acting debut in "Heatherly and Julie's Fantasy Bedtime Hour" (www.fantasybedtimehour.com), Episode 37 (not yet available). Of course, Stephen appeared on Fantasy Bedtime Hour once before (Episode 26) as an "expert," but this time he had a chance to play one of his own characters: a performance of near-Shakespearian intensity as *Drool Rockworm*. {Wow,

(Continued on page 14)

Pro Notes (Continued from page 11)

Stephen!!!} Also, in New Mexico, **Suzy McKee Charnas** is struggling with Hollywood, as well. Her “Vampire Tapestry” has been optioned several times but to no avail; however, the option was recently renewed. This could be a Very Good Thing ... except for that the screenplay that was sent to her with ambiguous antecedents. But with a bit of luck, maybe sometime in the next 5 or 6 years, we’ll see a horror movie about Suzy’s vampire, Dr. Weyland, complete with crawling girls with hair hanging over their faces.

And from Colorado, **James Van Pelt** signs in with the news that his first novel, “Summer of the Apocalypse”, will be released in time for World Fantasy by Fairwood Press. His second collection, “The Last of the O-Forms and Other Stories,” which came out last year, is currently a finalist for the Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award (although none of the stories were written specifically for young adults—they are reprinted from Asimov’s, Analog, Realms of Fantasy and other for-adult markets). “The Last of the O-Forms and Other Stories” made Locus’s Recommended Reading list for this year. Also, a short story that appeared in Analog last year, “The Inn at Mount Either,” is a finalist for this year’s Theodore Sturgeon Award. *{Big Congrats!}*

And finally – from California - I’m thrilled that **Peter S. Beagle** joins us. Peter is finishing up a short story called “We Never Talk About My Brother,” and another from his INNKEEPER’S WORLD series, called “The Tale Of Zivinaki.” After that he’s got six or seven other short pieces to work on between now and fall, including a spring-themed podcast story for *The Green Man Review*, a darker story called “Warm Letters,” and a piece for Marvin Kaye’s “Wizards and Enchanters” anthology. Also, any day now he’ll be receiving the art from Lisa Snellings-Clark that he’s supposed to use as inspiration for two stories for “Strange Roads,” which will appear in the chap-book series she’s doing with DreamHaven Press (Gene Wolfe and Neil Gaiman are the other writers in the series, so far.) They are hoping to have that one out at this year’s ComicCon. Peter is also wrapping up a YA fantasy novel called “I’m Afraid You’ve Got Dragons” - Firebird will publish it in hardcover this summer - and continuing work on another, a 1950’s baseball fantasy called “Sweet Lightning Strikes.” That one will be out from Tachyon Publications in the spring of 2008, just in time for the start of the major league season. And then, of course, he’d like to work on the full novel sequel to “The Last Unicorn,” the one that follows on from “Two Hearts,” but he hasn’t started on that one yet. And



with a little luck “Summerlong” will finally be coming out in 2007, from Conlan Press. In film, Peter says he’s constantly schlepping his elderly body down to many, many Hollywood meetings related to getting feature film versions of “Tamsin,” “Summerlong,” and a live-action of “The Last Unicorn” off the ground. Most important to him - at least in the short term - is that he’d like everyone to know about the new (and greatly improved) DVD re-release of the animated THE LAST UNICORN. It will be in stores on February 6th, 2007. Currently, Peter is still fighting to get the film’s owner, Granada Media, to pay him what the contract says they still owe. Which is a lot of money. And they still aren’t doing anything about it. But Lionsgate - the American distributor - has astonishingly agreed to make Conlan Press a retail web outlet! So if you buy either the autographed or unautographed version through Conlan Press (<http://www.conlanpress.com>), more than half the money will go straight to Peter, to aid in the legal battle with Granada. So, to any fan who wants a copy of the new DVD - PLEASE keep that in mind.

Michael Cassutt is actually involved in one Do Not Tell project, complete with an 8 page Non-Disclosure Agreement, as well as a negotiation he is loathe to jinx by announcing before signature. In the past few months, Michael saw the shelving of his collaboration with David “Farscape” Kemper on a Sci-fi Channel miniseries version of Clarke and Baxter’s TIME’S EYE and the non-filming of his adaptation of John Varley’s “Persistence of Vision” for MASTERS OF SCIENCE FICTION. He recovered his creative equilibrium by serving as writer for the 16-hour webcast of the WIREFLY X-PRIZE CUP in late October. Among other projects, he is currently developing an SF feature with David S. Goyer.

And finally, I was also very pleased to hear from **Michael Moorcock** in California. He tells us that “The Vengeance of Rome,” the final COLONEL

PYAT novel, was published in January 2007 by Vintage in paperback, uniform with reissued editions of “Byzantium Endures,” “The Laughter of Carthage” and “Jerusalem Commands” from the same publisher. Pyr Books are to publish “The Metaphysical Detective,” featuring Sir Seaton Begg, the investigator frequently at odds with Monsieur Zenith, an albino with a black sword... This will appear in Fall 2007. He recently signed a contract with Del Rey to produce a series of six ‘Collectors Edition’ ELRIC books, containing previously uncollected material and published in original published order (as opposed to internal chronology). They will be illustrated throughout by several artists including John Picacio and Michael Kaluta. Del Rey will begin publication in early 2008. Recent short material included “The Floating Forest” (a Rakhir story) in CROSS PLAINS UNIVERSE; “Cake” and “The Third Jungle Book” (a Mowgli story) in Paraspheres, published by Omnidawn; “Forbidding Planets” in Forbidden Planet ed. Peter Crowther. “The Affair of the Bassin Les Hivers” in Tales of the Shadowmen, Volume Three. “A Portrait in Ivory,” an ELRIC story, will appear in the anthology “Logorhea.” Mike’s review of Thomas Pynchon’s “Against the Day” recently appeared in the London Daily Telegraph. Most of his recently published non-fiction can be found at his website <http://www.multiverse.org/> “Mervyn Peake: the Man and his Work” has also recently appeared, featuring two pieces by Mike on Maeve and Mervyn Peake. The text for Peake’s “Sunday Books,” to be published this fall by Denoel; accompanying some wonderful previously unseen Peake drawings. Gallimard, also of Paris, will be reprinting Mike’s WARLORD OF THE AIR series in France

That’s it for this month. I hope you enjoyed yourselves. And, as always - if anyone wants to contribute or knows someone who knows someone...please write to ConNotations or email me at Editor@casfs.org – **Catherine Book.**

Zuner or later, Microsoft will get it right

By Shane Shellenbarger

Picture if you will: a group of hardware and software technicians listening intently as upper management gives them the following directive: build an iPod-killer. The technicians retreat to their respective laboratories (cubicles), laboring from dusk till dawn, day after day, fueled by their passion (or Pepsi, Coke, Starbucks, and Red Bull) to produce a superior product, a product they themselves have yearned for, a product that will topple Apple from the 70% market share-mountain it has built from the sale of iPods. Then, one day the technicians emerge from their dark lairs, unveiling the fruit of their labors, and they call it ZUNE.

Since Microsoft’s Zune is going head-to-head with Apple’s iPod, let’s compare their features. The Japanese company, Toshiba, manufactures the Zune and the Chinese company, Inventec, produces the iPod. Each comes in a 30 Gigabyte size, the Zune for \$249.99 and the iPod for \$249.00, roughly \$8.34 per gig. Apple also offers an 80 Gig version for \$349.00, or about \$4.36 per gig. The Zune comes in black, white, and the very collectable brown while the iPod is available in black and white. The Zune is 4.4 inches high, 2.4 inches wide, 0.58 inches deep, and weighs 5.6 ounces. The iPod is 4.1 high, 2.4 inches wide, 0.43 inches deep, and weighs 4.8 ounces. The 80GB iPod is 4.1” H, 2.4” W, 0.55” D, and weighs 5.5 ounces.



The audio formats include Windows Media Audio, MP3, and AAC. The iPod plays AAC, MP3, Audible, Apple Lossless, AIFF, and WAV.

As for video, the Zune plays WMVideo, H.264, and MPEG-4 while the iPod plays H.264, M4v, MP4, MOV, and MPEG-4. The iPod has a 2.5-inch (diagonal) QVGA transfective, over 65,000-color liquid crystal display with white LED backlight at a 320 x 240 in resolution. The Zune has a 3-inch screen at 320 x 240 in resolution with portrait and landscape viewing. The Zune supports JPEG images while the iPod

(Continued on page 15)

Zuner or later,

(Continued from page 14)



supports JPEG and BMP.

Currently, Zune does not work with Mac's Operating System or Microsoft's OS Windows Vista (!), and it does not natively support podcasts, although you can use such software as Doppler, iPodderX, Juice, WinAmp, and TvTonic to retrieve podcasts and then sync the Zune to the downloaded audio file. The Zune has built-in FM radio reception, while the iPod requires a separate accessory. The Zune control disc is not a touch-sensitive wheel as on the iPod, but is instead a 5-position tactile click controller. Both players use a built-in rechargeable lithium-ion battery. Early reports put the battery life for the Zune at 11-12 hours of audio playback, with the video playback length yet unknown. The 30GB iPod has 14 hours of audio playback and 3 ½ hours for video, the 80GB iPod has 20 hours of audio and 5 ½ hours of video playback.

Both the Zune and the iPod connect to a computer using USB 2.0, and the Zune is 802.11b/g Wifi enabled. The Zune Wifi is crippled in that it cannot be used to surf the Internet, it cannot be used to connect to the Zune Marketplace, it can only be used to "squirt" songs among other Zune uses within range. If you are in range or in a Wifi-enabled area and your Zune shows other Zunes with songs you may want you need to seek out the owners, ask them to send you a song, accept the song when they send it, and then the song is only available to play for three times or three days, whichever comes first. Can



Microsoft add any more barriers to usage? Yes, they can! The Zune Marketplace requires you to buy "Zune Points" in \$5.00 blocks, with 79 points equal to 99 cents, thereby attempting to make the customer think they are getting more for less. For \$14.99 per month, you can buy a

Zune Pass, an "all-you-can-eat" subscription service similar to Napster or Rhapsody is available, and if you have audio from those other services or iTunes forget about playing them on the Zune. The Zune will not play any material that contains digital rights management (DRM) other than its own. DRM protects material downloaded from the Zune Marketplace, including material "squirted" between Zunes. Microsoft claims it has over 2 million tracks available.

The Zune comes preloaded with both audio and video files, which will be deleted by most people to utilize the hard drive space. Independent music and video production companies appear to be the principal content providers.

For you Xbox 360 owners, connect your Zune to the Xbox 360 and use audio tracts from the Zune in your Xbox 360 game play, so you can play "Need for Speed" and create your own soundtrack.

Microsoft sometimes does things differently, but one of the odd things they are doing is giving Universal Studios a cut for each Zune sold. Reports are that Universal Studios and Microsoft have reached an agreement in which Universal will receive revenue from Microsoft for songs downloaded through their Zune Marketplace, which is an industry standard. The weirdness enters into the equation when Microsoft agreed to pay Universal a flat fee of \$1.00 (some reports state it's more) for each Zune that ends up in a customer's possession. Who agreed to this? Microsoft and Universal are treating each Zune customer as if they have already stolen from Universal Studios. How long will it be before other music industry producers come to Microsoft with their hand out?

Another oddity occurred during the week of the Zune launch when Bill Gates said the iPod was "phenomenal, unbelievable, fantastic" - something the public had taken to heart. Gates stated Microsoft's goal with the Zune is "more modest" than replacing the iPod. "It's a growing market... we can get some of the new users and some of the switchers. We need to excite people about the concept - the idea of sharing music and video through Zune's built-in Wifi," he said. It sounds like Gates is prepared to accept Steve Jobs leavings.

The Zune had great potential. It might have been a real challenge to Apple's iPod, but when Microsoft made odd choices for the transfer of files, for revenue participation choices, for DRM and Zune points, turning control over to lawyers and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) they slapped the face of every customer they sought to gain and then turned their backs on them. I, for one, will not turn the other cheek.

<http://www.zune.net>
<http://www.gizmodo.com/gadgets/>

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Annual Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention with an emphasis on Art

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Author Guest of Honor KAREN TRAVISS

Music Guest EMMA BULL

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LepreCon 33 will have many artists on hand for demos, workshops and panels. We'll also have many authors, scientists and other experts participating. We'll have Programming with Panel Discussions & Demonstrations, Art Show & Auction, Dealer's Room, Gaming, LARP, Film Festival, Masquerade, Hospitality Suite, Charity Auction & more.

Join us as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of Star Wars at Leprecon 33. We plan special panels and presentations on Star Wars related books, costuming and art.

Our author GOH Karen Traviss will join us to give us the latest on the Star Wars Republic Commando and Legacy Force titles.

Leprecon's focus is on art and visual media. We'll have two tracks of programming exploring everything from the latest in technology and online gaming, to hands-on art demos, from world building and space exploration to alternate lifestyles and vampires.

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* with Adult membership

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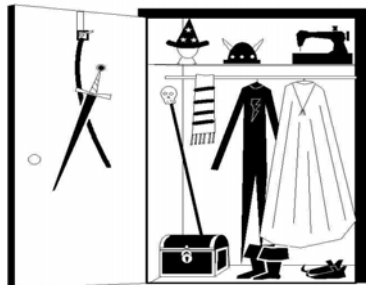
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The Costume Closet



The Costume Closet Randwulf's Swag Bag by Randall Whitlock

One of the coolest things about SF conventions is FREE STUFF! There are books, comics, posters, t-shirts, and collectible cards out on tables for the taking. Add that to your purchases from the dealer room and art show, and it does not take long for your arms to be overloaded.

Back in the 1970s, one could find small collapsible backpacks that would fold up into a pocket set into their back panels. I haven't seen a new one in years, though I grab them whenever they turn up at garage sales.

Earlier this year, I was given a clever promotional item. It's a simple, flat drawstring bag, printed with the logo for the company that makes my employer's stationery supplies. The drawstrings extend beyond the sides of the bag and terminate at its lower corners. When the bag is closed, these drawstrings form straps that allow the bag to be worn as a backpack.

These bags two ideas that belong together.

Presenting Randwulf's Swag Bag:
You'll need

--One-half yard of fabric. The fabric should be strong enough to carry your swag, but thin enough to fold up tightly. The fabric should not have significant stretch. Nylon is a good choice. Trouser-weight twills and poplins will work too. The bolt width should be at least 45 inches.

--Four yards of cordage. Since the drawstrings will double as pack straps, a thick macramé cord is best.

--About two inches of Velcro.

--Thread (Match the fabric color).

Directions:

Cut out a rectangle of fabric about 40 inches long and 18 inches wide. Fold the fabric in half to form an 18 by 20-inch rectangle. You can adjust this size and proportion for different-sized bags. I chose this size for a good fit to my back.

Scribe two quarter-circles, each three inches in radius and centered at the ends of the fold.

Form drawstring channels by folding over about 1.5 inches of the top edges of the bag and sewing them down.

Your bag will be more durable if you finish the ends and edges of the draw-

string channels by tucking under the raw edges. You may need to cut one-half inch slits at the ends of the channels to enable the fold-under. Use quarter-inch seam allowances for the rest of the pattern.



The back pocket will consist of two overlapping half-circles.

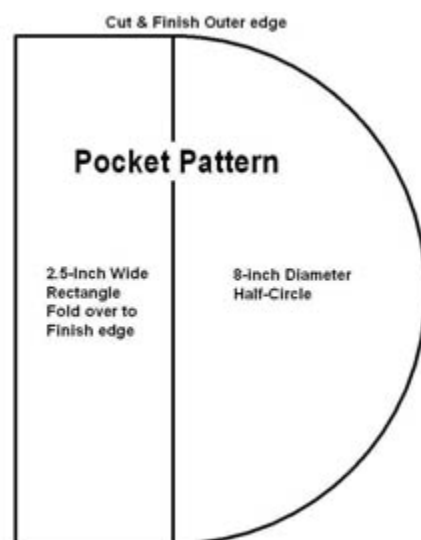
Make your pocket pattern by scribing an 8-inch diameter half-circle, then extending the flat side 2.5 inches away from the half circle. Cut out two of these D-shapes of fabric. Turn under and sew one inch of the flat edge of the D.

Apply the Velcro to the middle of each finished flat edge. The hook side of the Velcro goes on one panel while the loop side goes on the other. The Velcro wraps completely over the edge. This way, it will be able to close the pocket in both unfolded backpack and folded pocket configurations.

Place the two half-circles together so their flat sides overlap by one inch and the Velcro patches match up. Finish the outer edges of the circle. I use a serger for this, but you can simply turn the edges under.

Attach the circle to the middle of the back panel of the pack (the side that will face outward from your back when worn) by sewing all around the circle. If you finished its edge by turning under, run a second row of stitching inside from the edge to conceal the raw edge when the pack is in the folded pocket configuration.

You can sew a loop of cord into the outer seam of the pocket. When the pack is folded up, this will provide a convenient carrying strap. When the pack is unfolded, this strap will be inside the pocket.



Sew up the sides of the pack.

Install the two drawstrings in the drawstring channels. Each string passes into one end of the channel, out the opposite end, then back through the other channel to wind up back where it started.

The quarter-circle arcs cut out of the lower corners of the bag are gussets to provide fullness to the pack bottom. pull on the opposite sides of the arc to collapse it into single, straight line with the pack's side seam in the middle. Insert the ends of the pack strap/drawstring into the end of this line. Choose the end that will be toward your back when the pack is worn. Sew along the line to close the gusset. This seam takes quite a bit of tension when the backpack is carried, so make the seam extra strong by double-sewing it.



Your pack is finished. For storage, turn the pack inside out through the opening in the pocket.

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Do you enjoy CopperCon? HexaCon? Any of the other local volunteer, fan-run conventions? CopperCon and HexaCon and the others are staffed completely by unpaid volunteers, from the chair person to the volunteer that helps for only one hour.

If you enjoy our events and want them to continue then please consider helping any or all of Arizona's fan run events.

For information on available CopperCon positions please contact us at cu27@coppercon.org or www.coppercon.org

For information on available HexaCon positions or to volunteer to run a game please contact us at hex17@hexacon.org or www.hexacon.org

Our parent organization, the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society (CASFS) is also looking for new members. Check our web site at www.casfs.org for information on meetings and upcoming events or contact us at info@casfs.org

Screening Room

Eragon

released by 20th Century Fox.

Running Time: 104 minutes

Rated: PG

Director Stefan Fangmeir

Screen Play by Peter Buchanan from the novel by Christopher Paolin

Staring Edward Speleers as Eragon, Jeremy Irons as Brom, Sienna Guillory as Arya, Robert Carlyle as Durza and John Malkovich as King Galbatorix.

Any criticism of this film based on it being eclectic in its sources can also be applied to the novel. I confine my discussion to the film itself.

The film is an excellent conversion of the novel to film. The character of the farm boy Eragon, the imprisoned princess Arya, the former Dragon Rider Brom and the other important characters are well drawn. Eragon is a coming-of-age adventure story.

The backdrop is a country ruled by an Evil King, a Dragon Rider who betrayed and murdered his fellow Dragon riders and has ruled the land with cruel tyranny for many years. Eragon and his Dragon are the hope of a new bright future.

The movie is a fine romp carrying from the find of the dragon egg, to his education as a Dragon Rider, to the rescue

Arya and on to the first victory in the war against the Evil Monarch.

Recommended. — Gary Swaty

Pan's Labyrinth [Labirinto del Fauno]

Running Time: 120 minutes

Rated: R

Directed by Guillermo del Toro,

Starring Ariadna Gil, Ivana Baquero,

Sergei Lopez, Maribel Verdu, Doug

Jones, Alex Angulo. Language Spanish

with English subtitles.

Pan's Labyrinth is two tales running in parallel. In one, a fairy princess whose soul has been trapped in successive human bodies for centuries undergoes trials to prove she is worthy of returning to her kingdom. In the other there is a grim battle in the aftermath of the Spanish Civil war between Communist holdouts and a sadistic Spanish Captain and his small force.

The Spanish Captain is a self-taught torturer who enjoys his work and cares only for the son his wife is about to bear. The wife is an empiricist who has survived by attaching herself to the Captain.

Her daughter is a lover of tales who survives personally by closing out the grim reality with tales. She even tells her brother-to-come tales while leaning against her mother's stomach.

The housekeeper is the sister of a rebel. She sends supplies and information to the rebels.

The Doctor is also a rebel supporter who sends supplies and provides medical aid when he can. His main assignment from the Captain is the safety of the Child soon to be born.

As the daughter and her mother traveled to join the Captain, the mother had to stop to throw up and the girl got out of the car, found an eyeless Nordic-looking statue, picked the eye up off the ground and replaced it. Thus began the magic. A fairy, in the form of a large insect, followed her to the Captain's and lead her into the Labyrinth where a faun told of her of the three trials which she must complete before the full moon.

The dark tone of the events verges on Horror. The dark grimness of the Labyrinth is juxtaposed with stark horror of the Captain's torture of captives and his callous disregard for human feeling. Even the rebels with their killing of wounded in the field are corrupted by the environment.

Both plots move towards a grim end, but, at the last, ends on note of hope. The princess comes into her kingdom and the grieving rebels show mercy to the newborn son of their enemy.

I recommend this film, but it is not for children and some scenes will distress sensitive adults. — Gary Swaty.

ConClusion

Discovering DarkCon 2007

by Jeffrey Lu

Three times was the charm.

I had twice received my check back for the membership. I hoped the DarkCon 2007 will make it. I had high hopes to meet someone from the original game players and maybe meet Jewel Staite, "Kaylee" from "Firefly" and "Serenity." Right, and pigs can fly...

Well, the last football did make it to the Superbowl. I did that and more.

Luckily, I had a membership with United Federation of Phoenix. The club had a chance in meeting Jewel first for only half an hour. She was cool and charming. Hope there will be a sequel for "Serenity."

What was a bonus is to met a Wookiee. Yep, Chewie from "Star Wars" was there. Peter Mayhew was there signing autographs for a small fee. I obtained two.

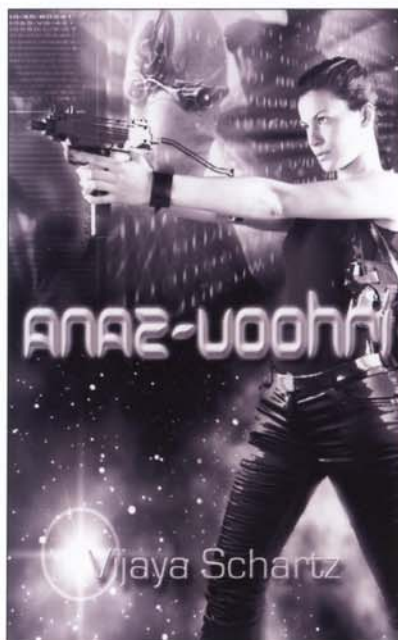
Went to the Dark Ones party on Saturday. Found out the Dark Ones are really just a bunch of gamers who like to party.

Also, ate my fill of sushi at the Anime party on Saturday.

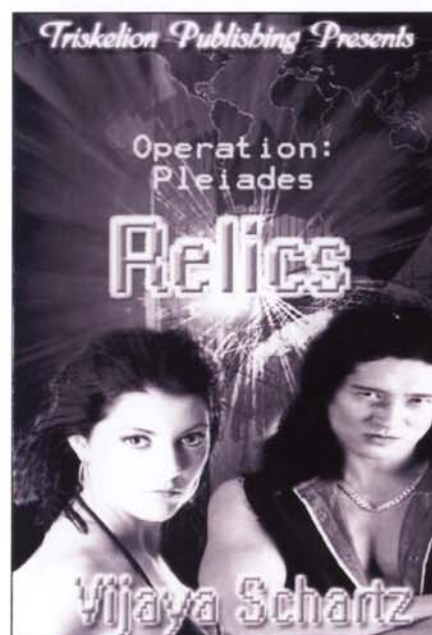
Talked to one of the friends of the original Dark Ones. He seemed happy in getting his life in order. Hope him well.

Overall, I enjoyed my first DarkCon. Look forward to the next one.

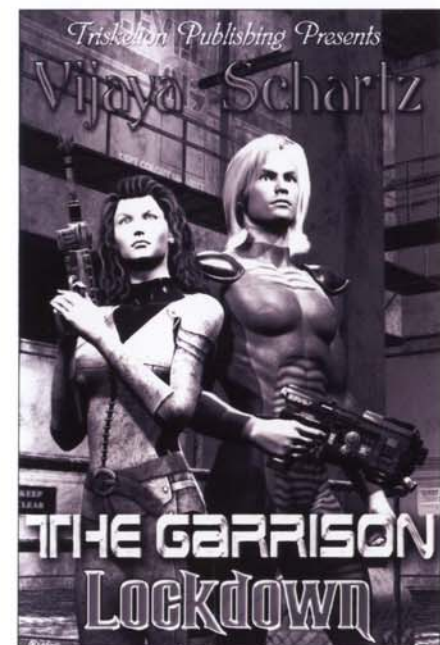
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In Our Book

Airs Beneath the Moon
by Toby Bishop
Ace Fantasy; \$6.99, 326 pp.

This is a tale about an elite Academy that trains young women to ride winged horses. Horses whose wings are fleshy webbing between bones and not feathered like Pegasus. These winged horses are exclusive to the Duchy of Oc and are used by its Duke to not only do graceful “airs above the ground” but to defend the duchy’s borders and provide swift transport for messengers. The animals can only be ridden by women and are nervous and fidgety around men, no matter their intent.

Enter Larkyn Hamley, a young woman of the rustic Uplands who finds a wingless mare starved and abandoned in the hills and about to give birth. And once settled at Larkyn’s farm, she soon drops a winged colt. (The poor mare dies.) Larkyn names the colt Tup—the name of a two-penny coin because Larkyn’s brother didn’t think the foal had a tuppence’s chance to live.

And now Larkyn’s adventures really begin.

The officious prefect of the nearby town sends to the Academy for a Horsemistress to come and see the unusual winged colt. A colt that should have never been born beyond the confines of the Duke’s stables. The intelligent and no-nonsense Larkyn, who has bonded deeply with the foal, as all riders of winged horses do with their mounts, soon finds herself amongst an interesting array of mostly highborn women to train at the Academy. She also, of course, finds herself boot-deep in intrigue and suspense.

Toby Bishop, a *nom de plume* for the excellent Louise Marley writes an engrossing and well-detailed story. This was a quick read. It charts not only Larkyn’s progress with Tup, but the dastardly plot by the ruling Duke Frederick’s creepy son William to take over the kingdom. William also has a particularly ugly plan to take control over the winged horses.

Oh, and there is a missing princess in the mix as well.

The tale ends practically in the middle of a scene so it is real obvious there will be more to this story and more books about the wonderful winged horses of the Duchy of Oc and their fascinating riders. – **Sue Martin**

Kushiel’s Avatar
by Jacqueline Carey
TOR, \$27.95, 702pp

Although this story is three years old now, I felt it worthy of a review to, perhaps, convince more of you to read this wonderful new writer. This book is

the third in a trilogy; and granted, due to the size of each book, it’s a lot to read. But if you’re looking for some new, original, adult fantasy – this is worth the effort.

Phedre is a woman of many gifts, not all welcome. She was trained by the best to be a courtesan of surpassing talent and a spy. And she was chosen by the gods – several of them – to be their avatar. The gift from the gods that most defines her and gives her both her greatest joy and sorrow is from Kushiel. Phedre is an *anguissette* – one to whom pain and pleasure are the same. She has used this trait to both seduce and betray enemies of her Queen. And she will need all of that experience to survive what she now faces – at the behest of all her gods. She must save the son of her most deadly enemy, topple an evil empire and find the Word of God that will save her oldest and most beloved friend from an eternity of immortality with aging.

Carey has created some of the most fascinating gods I’ve ever encountered. Her characters are so well defined they leap off the page into my dreams. And her plots...are just wonderful and enthralling. And I don’t use these excessive descriptions lightly... – **Catherine Book**

Mistral’s Kiss
by Laurell K. Hamilton
Ballantine Books, New York 2006, 212 Pages, Hardcover.

Gloom! I find myself unable to appreciate what Ms. Hamilton is doing here. The novel covers less than one day, is filled with tempestuous sex and not much else. The Meredith Gentry story arch from the last book is not advanced detectably. In short, the novel has far too much sex (well written, I admit) and far too little plot. Not recommended. – **Gary Swaty**

Bloodring
by Faith Hunter
ROC Books; \$14; 337 pp.

It’s a good hundred years after the biblical Apocalypse has arrived---without the Rapture. The seraphim appeared all over the world and the plagues came and millions died. The world is still dealing with the effects of a nuclear winter. Electronics and mechanical things are just beginning to be more common. (Most people get about by horseback and the occasional train). No appearance from God, or Jesus. Just the warrior angels referred to as “seraphs” here.

(And interestingly enough, Hunter sets it up so there are people who actually believe that the seraphs are part of an alien invasion. And there are some interesting hints near the end of the book concerning this).

The story here centers on a rogue

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“neomage” whose existence has remained hidden in Mineral City in the Carolinas. Mages are highly regulated and must live in specific enclaves. Thorn St. Croix is a stone mage: all rocks, from jewels set in rings to giant granite boulders, respond to her and give her magic-wielding strength.



And strength is needed, because not only are there prickly and distant seraphs living in enclaves called “Realms of Light” but there are, of course, very strict religious folk who consider mages or a “witchy-woman” in Thorn’s case—an

“abomination” who should be destroyed. The Darkness has proliferated throughout underground. And they, of course, will attack and eat anything human after dark. Humanity’s only defense against this evil spawn is the mages—which are called the “First Unforeseen” because they are the results between matings between human and seraphs and then there is the “Second Unforeseen” who are very similar but are mostly considered “mules” for they usually cannot reproduce. These folks are an unforeseen result of the Apocalypse.

The seraphs remove themselves mostly from human affairs and rarely appear, even though the Darkness has made its appearance. Humans, after all, have souls and because they are innocent they will go onward either to heaven or hell. However, mages are considered soulless. And because they have no hope of an afterlife, they may call upon the help of seraphs when they are in “dire” need and threatened with death.

Thorn St. Croix of course, gets into trouble.

This is a wonderful, strange tale. St. Croix is a town jeweler who runs a business with several friends. She was married once to Lucas who cannot keep his hands to himself. They are now divorced. But now Lucas has been attacked by the Darkness (his abduction was caught on a security camera) and has

(Continued on page 19)

In Our Book (Continued from page 18)
gone missing.

And then, a half-breed “kylen” (a result of mages and seraphs mating) Thaddeus Bartholomew comes to town to investigate Lucas disappearance. The author has decided that the seraphs and mages have an almost unstoppable compulsion to mate. So Thorn has to fight the urge to fling herself on the detective who does not really know he’s part seraph because a ring he wears (which he has had forever) damps down his magical heritage.

And that’s one of the very nifty things about this novel: all the magics that are used or not used. The fact that the seraphs are unearthly beauties—but not particularly kind or interested in humans, except if they break the rules (mostly established by the Bible—but there are still Muslims and Jews and Hindus—so it is not solely a Christian world). That mages have sprung up and help in the fight against the Darkness.

This is great fun. I found it enticingly different.

The characters are very interesting and so is the story.

And more importantly: undoubtedly there will be more.

Can’t wait. (Especially to see if Thorn finally gets together with the oh-so-compelling Thaddeus Bartholomew!) - **Sue Martin**

The Looking Glass Wars
By Frank Beddor
Dial Books/Penguin Group, Hardcover,
\$17.99, 358 Pages.

Her Aunt Redd murdered her parents. Her friend Dodge hides her under a banquet table and her protector, Hatter Madigan, bears her away and jumps with her into the Pool of Tears, a gate to many places on our world. She lands in central London, he in Paris. Now Princess Alyss Heart, small child and heiress to the Wonderland throne is stranded alone on Earth. She must survive the streets, endure an orphanage, deal with an adoption and cling to the memories of her Wonderland Heritage.

She confided her problems to the Reverend Dodgson who writes badly distorted version which angered her greatly, but did eventually attract the attention of Hatter. But her problems get worse. The Redd’s Assassin Cat is seeking her and she and Hatter flee back to Wonderland where she meets again her childhood friend Dodge, now a rebel against Redd.

Can Alyss, still a young person, rally supporters, defeat Redd, and rebuild Wonderland to its former glory?

The novel is a marvelous skewed version of Lewis Carroll’s tale. All of the old characters are present. The multi-lived [Cheshire] Cat is the Assassin. Bibwit

Harte, a giant white Albino, is the royal tutor. The nobles are suited as Diamonds, Clubs and Spades. Redd has mostly eliminated the Hearts. Hatter Madigan is obvious.

The story is consistent, fast-paced and wonderful. Recommended. - **Gary Swaty**

The Year’s Best Fantasy and Horror, Nineteenth Annual Collection
Edited by Ellen Datlow, Kelly Link, and Gavin J. Grant

St. Martin’s Griffin
Pub., cxxiii + 480 pp.,
\$19.95

Forty stories from as many authors and almost as many sources; repeats I noticed were five from F&SF Magazine and three from SCI FICTION. Plus, almost a hundred pages of genre overviews in 2005: fantasy, horror, media, comics and graphic novels, anime and manga, music, obituaries, honorable mention stories not in this anthology.

This has got to be the one anthology you can read to keep up to date on the best in both genres – arguably the two oldest forms of storytelling in all of history. Think about it. Did Poe really invent the horror short story? How’s about all those scary tales told about the campfire before civilization existed? And as for fantasy, that predates mainstream psychological realism by about as long an epoch. Imagine a fine realistic tale told around the campfire in prehistoric times. What would it consist of? A report on the day’s hunt, or a squabble between those who remained in the caves that day? This is not a story, it is a report.

Do you know what drove Don Quixote crazy? He read two hundred fantasy books printed in his time and finally came to believe that they were true. It seems one of the early uses of the printing press was for fantasy literature. The trend continues to this day. Rather than go

crazy, we can turn to this excellent anthology to guide us through. - **Mike Griffin**

Variable Star
by Robert A. Heinlein and Spider Robinson

They say dead men tell no tales. That might work for ordinary men, but not for the immortal Robert A. Heinlein.

It seems a novel outline written by the

Grandmaster in 1955 (near the creative peak of his young adult fiction period) was discovered among his papers a couple of years back. The principals of the Heinlein estate presented the outline to Spider Robinson to complete. Are you familiar with the phrase, “Right man for the job?”

Joel Johnston is a talented young musician from the Ganymede colony and

(Continued on page 20)

The poster for the Arizona Book Festival features a central graphic of an open book with a green cactus growing from it, topped with yellow flowers. Above the book, the text "ARIZONA BOOK FESTIVAL" is written in a red, stylized font. Below the book, it says "Presented by the Arizona Humanities Council, Maricopa County Library District, Arizona State Library, and Salt River Project" and "www.azbookfestival.org". At the bottom, the date "Saturday, April 14th" is prominently displayed. Surrounding the central graphic are several book covers, including "Jim Butcher White Night", "Cartomancy" by Michael A. Stackpole, "Cursor's Fury" by Jane Yolen and Robert J. Harris, "Prince Across the Water", "elseWHERE", "Candle of Distant Earth", "War for the Oaks", "Once Upon a Spring Morn", "Chasing Time", and "Trail of Time".

SF & Fantasy Authors scheduled to appear at the 10th Annual Arizona Book Festival

**Jim Butcher, Lois Duncan, Jane Yolen
Emma Bull, Alan Dean Foster, Diana Gabaldon, Emily Hogan,
Ernest Hogan, Jeff Mariotte, Dennis L. McKiernan,
Adam Niswander, Will Shetterly, Michael A. Stackpole,
Michelle M. Welch, John Vornholt, and more.**

**Carnegie Center, 1101 W. Washington Street, Phoenix, Arizona
Hours: 10 am to 5 pm - FREE Admission**

**For more details and updated information visit
www.azbookfestival.org and www.casfs.org/azbookfest**

In Our Book (Continued from page 19)

he's deeply in love. At least he thinks so. When his fiancé reveals she is the scion of the solar system's most powerful industrial family, it's more than he can take. These folks can buy you, sell you, and manipulate the price. Joining that clan would mean being remolded into a completely different person, and not one Joel would like. He bolts.

Joel volunteers for a one-way trip on the starship Sheffield, bound to found a colony on the newly discovered planet Brasil Novo. On the Sheffield, Joel learns to fit into the flying-small-town filled with fascinating persons with 20 subjective years to kill before they can expect to take up their real jobs. The characters are drawn as Spider does best. Callahan fans will enjoy the free-flowing dialog. Expect something to hit the fan.

The story starts out firmly in Robert Heinlein's "Future History" continuity, but goes down its own emotional roller coaster of a fiction from there. Mr. Robinson explains in his thoughtful afterword that those plot elements were inspired by speeches given by Mr. Heinlein during the final year of his life.

There are numerous references to events and characters in other Heinlein

novels, but don't worry. You don't really have to any homework. If you must choose only one Heinlein book to read beforehand, I'd recommend "Revolt in 2100," which includes the short novels "If This Goes On" and "Coventry." These tell the story of the fall of the theocratic dictatorship founded by Prophet Nehemiah Scudder and the rise of the Covenant, a peaceful constitutional government that rises from its ashes. Mr. Robinson cannot help but relate those events to today's world situation. It's eerie when you consider that the Future History was outlined more than fifty years ago.

So is this a Robert Heinlein novel or a Spider Robinson novel? You decide. You can't lose either way.

Proceeds from *Variable Star* go to support the annual Robert A. Heinlein Prize for accomplishments in commercial space activities. - **Randall Whitlock**

Variable Star by Spider Robinson & Robert Heinlein

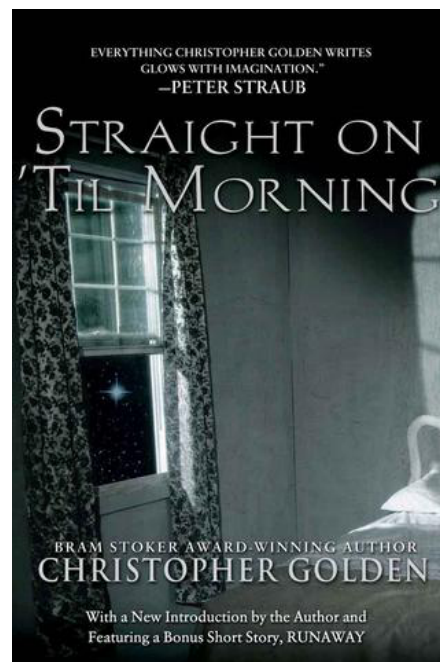
I placed Spider's name ahead of Heinlein's deliberately. Although the book has a decidedly Heinleinesque flavor, it is definitely a Spider story. It was a typical Heinlein plot with typical Heinlein archetypes but with darker characterizations. I loved the beginning, got bored in the middle (too much science) and was entertained but not particularly surprised at the ending. - **Catherine Book**

Straight On 'Til Morning by Christopher Golden \$14.00, Roc Books, 320 pp

Christopher Golden is doing well enough these days that he can reprint his earlier work - this story was originally published in 2001. This is always a good thing for authors but not always for readers. However, I think I can say that the reader will not feel cheated. While this story does not show the sophistication that his more recent work does, it does entertain.

We see one summer through the eyes of Kevin, a 13-year-old, his brother and their friends. Kevin and his friends are tormented by a group of older boys; one of which is currently dating the love of his life, Nikki. Nikki is a wild child who already has a history of dating the wrong sort of guys and Kevin has never had the nerve to tell her that he loves her. But when Nikki is taken by the boy she believes she loves; it's Kevin who will do anything to save her; and Kevin's brother and friends will do anything to save him.

I remember being thirteen...kinda. I just don't remember being as sophisticated as these children. I know young teens experience their first emotional reactions to the opposite sex (otherwise known as 'love') very intensely but I



don't think the average teen has the level of self-awareness that do these children. On the other hand, by the time you're my age, youth has the musty flavor of distance and remembered emotions are dimmed - so what do I know...?

The title gives it away...really. Even I remember where Peter Pan lives: second star on the right and straight on 'til morning. Golden mashes together the gentle story of Peter Pan and more dire stories of faery folk and shapeshifters. It's an entertaining story but lacks the depth and complexity Golden has shown more lately. It lacks originality and has strong hints of a couple of Stephen King stories: *Stand By Me* and *IT*. - **Catherine Book**

Childe Morgan by Katherine Kurtz ACE, 279 pp, \$24.95

Childe Morgan is a new novel of the Deryni.

Alaric Morgan has been pledged to the King's service since birth. For his Deryni blood makes him ideal to ensure that Prince Brion shall have the protection of his hereditary Haldene magic. But the fear of the populace is fostered by members of the Church; especially Bishop Oliver de Noir, who has made it his personal crusade to wipe out the Deryni and especially Lady Alycede Morgan, Alaric's mother, whose testimony lead to the execution of the Bishop's younger brother.

The Camberion Counsel despises Alaric's mixed blood, but he has the King's protection and his future mapped out if he grows up since Alaric is only four years old.

Katherine Kurtz's writing is fluid, characters moving and Human. The medieval world of Gwynnedd is seamless and true with the characters. I look forward to new volume like a child at Christmas. Isn't it time to treat yourself, friends and family? - **Pam Allan**

Bloodstone by Barbara Campbell Daw, 566 pp, \$7.00

Bloodstone is book two of the Tricksters Game

It has been years since Darek's world had almost been condemned to endless winter. He is now the memory Keeper, his wife is the tribe's healer. Now, the oldest son, apprentice to the tree father, has used his power to fly with an eagle, an act forbidden by tribal law. He loses his apprenticeship and runs to warn the village of slavers but is captured by them. Darek is on the trail immediately. This is the first step toward their worst nightmare.

This is a complex tale with good world building and plenty of plot and action told from several viewpoints. Well written, it is another hard-to-put-down book that holds your interest till the end; you will want to add this book to your library. - **Pam Allan**

Cursor's Fury by Jim Butcher Ace, 442 pp, \$24.95

Cursor's Fury is Book three of the *Codex Alera*.

The power-hungry Lord of Kalare has launched a brutal rebellion against the aging First Lord, Gaius Sextus. Caught off guard, Gaius must fight for the survival of the realm. Countess Amara, cursor for the First Lord, is tasked with the rescue of valuable hostages taken by Kalare with the Countess of Aquitaine, who may have her own agenda that does not include the First Lord. Sent away for his protection, Tavi of Calderon joins a new unit of Legionaries who are sent to guard far away from the fighting. But Kalare has allied with the Canim, and after treachery takes out the command the untrained unit will have to fight the Canim and their version of sorcerers in overwhelming numbers with a green troop legion and treacherous men in his own ranks. They are the only barrier to the forces that could save the kingdom.

Good world building. Full of engaging characters, plot twists, a new kind of magic and ACTION. In some ways it's David Weber goes Fantasy. Hard to put down. Enjoy! - **Pam Allan**

Hinterland by James Clemens Roc, 462 pp, \$24.95

Hinterland is book two of the *Godslayer Chronicles*.

Following the Battle of Myrrwood, darkness stirs and all of Myrillia is struggling with unease. In the south, an artifact is found, a skull of a god corrupted by dark graces. The work of the Cabal, a faction of daemonic naethryn

(Continued on page 21)

SORCERESS SEEKS APPRENTICES

Those of you who have caught my act at Pagan Pride Day, or the Witches' Ball, or various local ceremonies, take note: I will teach all my knowledge of Bardic Magick - music, poetry, psionics, and the relationships between them - to any qualified person willing to rent a room in my house in west Phoenix. The house is in a quiet residential neighborhood near 59th Avenue and Thomas Road, within walking distance of a shopping center and within easy bus-ride of two community colleges. \$360 per month plus a share of the housework covers rent and utilities, including phone, cable TV and cable Internet connection. Yes, I'm willing to teach complete beginners. Applicants must tolerate cats, smokers, and musicians who keep odd hours. If interested, phone me at 623-247-7809 evenings.

Leslie the Bard

In Our Book

(Continued from page 20)

intent on destroying the Nine Lands. Tylar, former knight and the new regent of Chrismferry must unravel the mystery of the skull, before Mtrilla is destroyed. But that is not the only threat: To mend a growing rift with Tashijan, Tylar returns to the home of the Shadowknights to regain his knighthood. He is trapped by the ravening forces of Ulf, the god of ice, and the rising dark forces from the depths of Tashijan, an order of corrupted

shadowknights whose grace has been turned to the dark. To save the nine lands, Tylar and friends must enter the Hinterland a desolate land in which is filled with rogue gods, dark graces and traps from which no shadowknight has ever returned. *Hinterland* is a compelling book, well written, with well-drawn characters, and more plot twists than Heinz has pickle varieties. Save some uninterrupted time as it is hard to put down. You'll want to collect the series for your library. - **Pam Allan**

Odyssey
by Jack McDevitt
Ace, 407 pp, \$24.95

Odyssey is a stand alone novel by the author of *Chindi* and *Omega*. Space has not been profitable. The Academy, [read: NASA in the future] is under budgetary fire and looking at major cutbacks that will cripple it. The long-ignored greenhouse effect is taking its toll on Earth. And mitigation takes money. In an effort to revive public interest in the program, a mission is sent to find out

about the moonriders, strange lights seen in a nearby system. Along for the ride are Gregory McAllister, famed journalist against the program, the Academy's public relations director, and the fifteen-year-old daughter of the Senator who wants the program to be shut down. But along the Blur Route, is the tourist Path for Orion Tours. The moon riders have made no attempt to communicate with any ship but appear to be harmless. Then the Orion resort under construction is destroyed and they appear to be targeting an occupied planet. The mission to spot moonriders has more significance when aliens give a warning about a scientific program that can tear a hole in space/time and destroy the universe and gives a deadline to stop. It is given to a teenager who is ignored. When the academy goes, one ship, out there as the academy finds the threat of the project to the universe is possible. The scientist won't believe till the collider towers are destroyed. Academy flight director is scrambling every ship she can find to rescue the scientists. Can they get there in time? And whose agenda is this anyway? Well written, with shades of Arthur C. Clark. It is a winner. One that every hard SCI FI reader will want. It

suggests a future in space politics that is all too apparent. One to buy - **Pam Allan**
Princess at Sea
by Dawn Cook
Ace, \$7.99

Princess at Sea is the sequel to *the Decoy Princess*. One day Tess was the Crown Princess of Costenopolie. The next day she found a beggar's child, a decoy to keep the real one from assassins. Her flair for politics, self defense and shopping, along with newly discovered magic defeated Costenopolie's enemies and restored the real princess to her throne. Now, as ambassador, she must keep the new princess from tripping over her feet or putting them in her mouth. As chaperone for the honeymoon voyage, queen Contessa and her new husband, she must also referee the royal battles. When they are captured by pirates and held for ransom, she must free them and get them to the capitol city. This is a fun young adult with complex characters, and some creative world building. So get ready to get your feet wet. - **Pam Allan**

Runner
by William C. Dietz
Ace, 424 pp, \$24.99

Runner is a stand-alone, but could be the first of a series of Runner stories. In the distant future, humans have immigrated to the stars, using portals [star gates] to travel between systems. But Earth is now a myth, technology crumbled and few even know where the remaining portals may exist. Interplanetary travel depends on a few AI ships who are unreliable; vanishing without warning as systems fail. Only the foolhardy and the runners of the Interstellar Couriers Guild travel, delivering valuable assets and messages from place to place. Jak Rebo is a courier delivering a small boy to take a test to determine the next religious leader. But two different temples wish to control the faith and one sends assassins in droves to pursue and kill the red temple's candidate, Twa Lee, before he can contest the leadership with their candidate. Add to this: a beautiful "sensitive" a medium who channels the spirit of the man who built the star portal system, and who wants to start humans back on the road to technology without his mistakes. The technos want his knowledge for power. He will only manifest through Norr. They want to capture him and kill the others. The runner is, indeed, running for their lives as he delivers those who will change the future.

Full of fast paced action with great world building, characters, and plotting. I couldn't put it down. Time to charge to

(Continued on page 22)

FARPOINT MEDIA

Audio Entertainment changed, right when you were looking at it. Portable Media expanded and exploded before you had fully grasped the meaning of the name.

iPods, Video iPods, Sony PSP, iRivers, and more... so many players to choose from, and you still have the option of burning a show to a CD to listen to in your car.

What began as The Dragon Page with Michael and Evo has evolved into something greater, reaching farther into the entertainment industry with a broader selection of shows that appeal to a wider variety of tastes and interests, from humor to high quality audio drama productions, and from fiction to the latest news and entertaining interviews, there's something here for everyone.

The New **Cover to Cover** features hosts Michael R. Mennenga and fantasy author Michael A. Stackpole, and has expanded its coverage to include occasional forays into mysteries, thrillers and the writing process, while still highlighting the newest in science fiction and fantasy.

Slice of SciFi is the favorite of SF fans hungry for the latest news and developments in upcoming films and television, featuring interviews with the cast, producers and creators of our favorite shows, films, fan films, comics and more.

Technorama, with hosts Chuck Tomasi and Kreg Steppe, takes a lighthearted look at the world of tech, science, sci-fi and all things geek, spotlighting recent tech and science news, interviews with respected industry leaders, all interspersed with original humor.

Sit back and take a listen to any of our shows. We think you'll enjoy what you hear.

www.farpointmedia.net

In Our Book

(Continued from page 21)
the book store for a great hard sci-fi
action adventure. - Pam Allan

This Forsaken Earth
by Paul Kearny
Bantam Spectra, 316 pp, 12.00

This Forsaken Earth is book two of the *Sea Beggars*.
Rol Cortishane is now a ruthless pirate roaming the lawless sea preying on warships and Slavers. But the truth is more dangerous and complicated than even Rol can guess. As he begins to learn of his destiny, Canker, the self titled King of Thieves is back and has a proposition he is forced to take. As he joins with his half sister, Canker has already sold them out to rule Rowen’s kingdom, and at the same time, rid it of any legitimate pretenders. Rol escapes and with his steadfast followers, they cross the mountains in winter reaching Ganesh in time to find that Canker has brought a fleet to kill them all. Rol must take the ships and save as many as he can as he flees toward a destiny to save the world as his enemies will try to destroy it.
Kearny writes a gritty fantasy, visceral and full of well-written characters. The

WITCH CATS

For more than 20 years I’ve been breeding Oriental Shorthair cats for intelligence, disease-resistance, and psychic ability - and my current collection of cats has them all. For tales of the adventures of some of my cats, see <http://www.kayshapero.net/FishTale.htm>

The Oriental Shorthair breed was derived primarily from the Siamese, so these little imps have the faces, voices, slender body-builds and personalities of Siameses, but they also come in other colors. At present, my cats are either “colorpoint” - Siamese style - or coal black. They have eyes ranging in color from pale blue to chartreuse-green. Yes, they’re beautiful creatures.

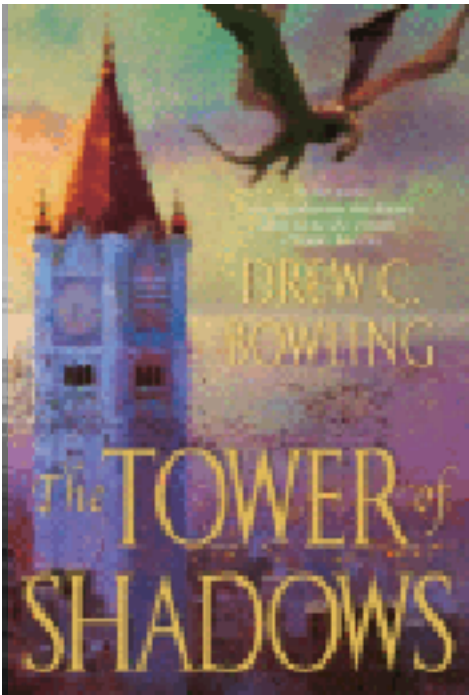
Right now I have a bunch of these super-intelligent cats who need homes: kittens from four to eight months old, and some young adults from 10 months to two years old. I’ll give them free, along with their pedigrees, biographies and instruction manuals, to any serious cat-loving Pagan who’s willing to take one. Please get hold of me at lesliefish@cox.net or 623-247-7809, afternoons and evenings.

Leslie <:)))><

action is fast paced. His world building is solid and reflective of a love of the sea and true friends. This series continues to please. I trust you are reading and collecting. Because I suspect that you’ll want all ten that have been written to date. - Pam Allan

The Tower of Shadows
by Drew C. Bowling
Del Ray, 286 pp, \$19.95

The Tower of Shadows is both the debut novel and beginning of a series.
Eons ago, vainglorious spirits battled the three gods for dominion over the lands. Defeated, they were banished below the earth. Eventually, one broke free and destroyed a village in Ellynrie. Few survived. Corin was saved by the wizard, Dale, his brother Cade was abandoned to the flames. Mercenary



Wren Tident saved his daughter Kayla from the fate that claimed his wife with the help of Dale.
When Cade reappears, he dives into the black arts and the dance of destiny begins to exact retribution on the demon. Cade will employ sorcery, a dagger of unearthly power, and the blood of his brother Corin. But all the magic and anger is no match for the demon and the evil set free upon the earth. It is left to a fledgling wizard, a tormented warrior, and a young girl to save the world.
This is a fast paced exciting adventure with spare elegant prose that lets the reader participate in the adventure. This is hard to put down, and I can’t wait for the next. It has not only the characters you care about, and the action to keep the reader curled up with it till it is done. Bowling is another young author we can continue to enjoy for years. This is a keeper. - Pam Allan

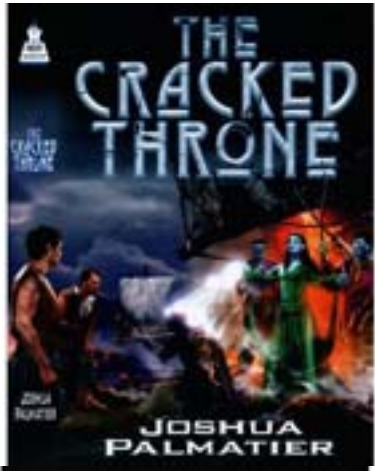
The King Imperiled
by Deborah Chester
Ace, 363 pp, \$ 7.99

The King Imperiled is one of her untitled series.
Twelve years ago, King Faldane and his beloved warrior-wife, Queen Alexeika rescued their two daughters kidnapped by the Grethori. Since that time, he has warred against the tribe, seeking the chieftain who killed his son on that tragic day, and the sorceress behind him. As the war ends, the captured sorceress strikes with a powerful life-threatening curse sealed with her life. She has also left a boy to take her place when the time comes.
The king struggles home surviving only by drinking from the chalice of life. Meanwhile, his talented but arrogant daughter becomes the student of the dark side of magic. The king will be betrayed by one closer to him than he might imagine.
Chester writes an entertaining novel for a wide age range from young adult to a more mature reader looking for pleasant afternoon read. - Pam Allan

The Cracked Throne
by Joshua Palmatier
Daw, 436 pp, \$24.95

The Cracked Throne is the second book of an untitled trilogy. Book three is due in 2007.
Fifteen hundred years ago, Amenkor turned back an unstoppable invasion by combining magic, and created the Skewed Throne.

Then, a thousand years ago, the city, caught in “ the white fire,” came through leaving madness, famine and disease in its passing. Amenkor started its descent, the second fire swept through and Varis, a child of the slums, survived, changed by the fire. Eryn, the current mistress of the throne, reigned on but Amenkor’s slide accelerated. Eryn, herself, seemed to be going mad. Powerful people saw Varis’s potential. After a confrontation that most could not survive, Varis became Mistress of the throne, a position she did not

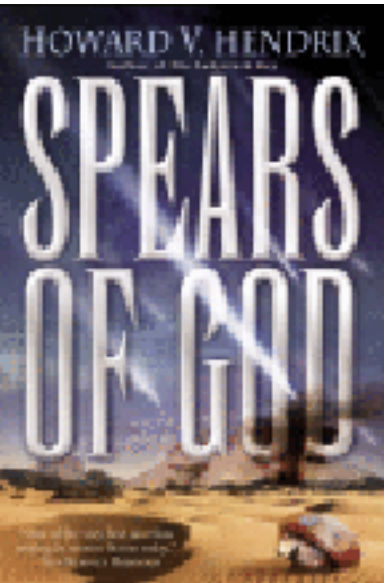


to discover the secrets that fell to earth. But the key to survival lies with children who unwittingly hold the secret to earth’s survival or destruction.
A thriller of a near future full of intrigue and action. Episodic in nature, it is still fast paced and well-drawn. Worth a place in your library. - Pam Allan

desire, as she ascended the throne, untrained, unprepared for her destiny. Amenkor was facing starvation, and more. The invasion of the past was almost in the harbor. Varis must save the city and it’s people from the vision she and Eryn shared and prevent the death of Amenkor.
This intense fantasy, well written with good plotting and characters you care about. You will have difficulty putting it down as you wonder how the gutterscum assassin can save the world..
Fantasy lovers will mark this as a “gotta have,” getting both it and the first one as well. - Pam Allan

Spears of God
by Howard V. Hendrix
Del Ray, 416 pp, \$14.95

Spears of God is a stand alone novel
The world’s oil resources have dwindled. The rich are richer and the powerful more ruthless. The US and China are engaged in a new cold war. The human race does not appear to have evolved at all. Two scientists searching for meteorites and a lost people find the tribe slaughtered and their sacred stone stolen. At first, they thought there were no witnesses, but discover four children who don’t speak.
On the international scene, the arms race is on again. The competitors include a double-crossing NSA director, a vengeance seeking meteor hunter, shamans, zealots, and madmen all trying



to discover the secrets that fell to earth. But the key to survival lies with children who unwittingly hold the secret to earth’s survival or destruction.
A thriller of a near future full of intrigue and action. Episodic in nature, it is still fast paced and well-drawn. Worth a place in your library. - Pam Allan

Club Listings

ACROSS PLUS - So you live in North Phoenix and are interested in anime? Well there is a club out there available for you people. Across Plus is a social club that discusses anime, video games, manga, other animation, and the Japanese culture. We meet at Bookman's on 19th Ave and Northern On Sundays at 7:00pm until 9:00pm. In general, we explore anime, manga, and other styles of animation, creative educative demonstrations, participate in interactive discussions, attend local Arizona conventions, and make cosplay. We are willing to gain any new members out there who are interested. Dues are only \$2 per month. Our members are very friendly, respectful, and fun. We welcome any and all. For more information, contact Shane Bryner at ninjakittyofdoom@gmail.com

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@gnerds.com>, 602-955-9446; or Ron Harvey <rbh1s@yahoo.com>, 480-775-4690 for more info or impromptu juggling sessions.

ANIZONA ANIME CONVENTION INC The group that sponsors Arizona's premiere Anime convention each year. Monthly meetings alternate between the east and west valley at Bookmans. If you are interested in Anime and conventions this is the group for you! Visitors welcome. For more information check our website at www.anizona.org or email to info@anizona.org

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: www.lanparty.com/all/ VoiceMail: 602-306-9339

ARIZONA PARANORMAL INVESTIGATIONS We are a highly trained, non-profit paranormal investigation group, registered with the state of Arizona, providing service to Arizona and the Southwest since 1994. Having served the public for 12 years, we are one of the oldest, most respected paranormal investigation groups in Arizona. We are primarily science based and don't go on an investigation looking for ghosts, we go looking for answers. There is never a charge for an investigation. Contact us at by e-mail at info@arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com or visit our website at: <http://www.arizonaparanormalinvestigations.com/>

THE AWAY TEAM: The Away Team, is a general sci-fi appreciation group that meets Volume 17 Issue 1

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 Tucson science fiction group that puts on TusCon. Contact us at PO Box 2528, Tucson AZ 85702-2528 or basfa@earthlink.net our website at <http://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. For information: write PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or email info@casfs.org Web www.casfs.org

*******C.R.O.E.T.** Celtic Reenactment of Fellowship and Trades is Phoenix based Reenactment group specializing in the western European renaissance. We research lifestyles and trades concurrent with the Celtic Peoples from 400 BC until 1746 AD. We emphasize Scots, Irish or Welsh crafts and do Celtic re-enactment. We open participation to anyone with an interest in period crafting and entertainment. Demonstrations occur at the Highland Games, Scarborough Fair, and the Arizona Renaissance Festival. Web page <http://www.crofters.org> We meet in Tempe at the Pyle Adult Center SW corner of Rural and Southern on the 2nd Saturday of every month, phone number (480)350-5211. The Board meeting will be at 2:00 pm with the General meeting starting at 2:30 pm.

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

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 Leonard Byrd (Tucson) (520)742-2432 Web: www.galandor.org

A GATHERING OF PLAYERS-Find Your Adventure Our club is running into our fourth year. Join us for games and adventure set in the Dungeons and Dragons realm. We offer Living Greyhawk and Xen'drik Expeditions. Visit <http://www.warhorn.net/gathering>, to see what we have coming up. We will have character creation sessions to get you started and answer all questions. Our group has been together, and growing, for four years. We're a good group of friends that believe in gaming fun first. Our member group's ages range from 13 to 49. We welcome both new and experienced players. 10:00 a.m. Character Creation - We will have a session to create characters for all of the campaigns we run. AGoP will have all books available for reference. We encourage you to purchase the books if you like the game. All character materials are provided; character sheets, master item logs, adventure records, etc. Dice will be loaned to you if you don't have any yet. In other words, all that is needed for the first day is for you to join us and have fun. If you have any questions email us at agatheringofplayers@gmail.com.

THE JEDI KNIGHTS (Founded 1977) Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information call Carol Alves, Publicity, (760)244-9593 or write Jedi Knights, c/o Carol Alves 8038 "I" Street, Hesperia CA, 92345-7066.

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 deter-mined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285; call Mike Willmoth, 480-945-6890, Email mwillmoth@earthlink.net Webpage: www.leprecon.org

MIB The Men in Black is the official global organization of field operatives for Steve Jackson Games. We attend local conventions to demonstrate and promote products of Steve Jackson Games. We also schedule demos in local gaming stores as well as community service events. If you have a gaming store, convention, or community service that you would like to have official Steve Jackson Games representation at, please contact the MIB Arizona Cell Leader at MIB.6361@cox.net. We are also recruiting new MIBs in some areas of Arizona. If you're interested, contact us. You can find additional information about the Arizona MIB at our website <http://members.cox.net/mib.6361/>

MVD GHOSTCHASERS—The MVD Ghostchasers are a paranormal team established in 1995. This band of ghost hunters conducts regular investigations of haunted, historical locations throughout Arizona. They also research and investigate "house call" hauntings for the public. The MVD Ghostchasers lead Spirit Photo Workshops/Tours to various haunted locations across Arizona. These workshops give ghost hunters, paranormal team members and folks wanting to learn the art of ghost hunting a chance to work and learn techniques together. The MVD Ghostchasers team are guest speakers at many venues and have appeared on TV news reports and the subject of several newspaper stories. For more information contact: MVD Ghostchasers—Debe Branning,

Director—480-969-4049 Web page: www.mvdghostchasers.com or Nazanaza@aol.com

ORANGE COUNTY SCIENCE FICTION CLUB meets last Wednesday of every month (except Dec.) in Fullerton. The meetings are built around guest speakers. We've had authors such as Octavia Butler and Greg Benford. Non-members are welcome. For details of current events and location see our website www.ocsfc.org or email info@ocsfc.org

PAReX is a non profit organization dedicated to building and promoting Autonomous robotics. The club has been in existance since 1998. Meetings are currently conducted twice a month at two different Phoenix, Arizona locations., <http://www.parex.org/meetings.shtml>. Club dues are on an annual basis: Regular members \$20 Student members \$15 Of course visitors are always welcome because we know you will eventually become a member anyway Web page: <http://www.parex.org/> E-mail Contact: John Kittelsrud, parexteam@cox.net

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 30 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

SHIELD OF ALMOR The Shield of Almor is a RPGA club located in the greater Phoenix area. If you are interested in Living Greyhawk catch one of our meetings the 1st Sunday of every month at Imperial Outpost Games (www.imperialoutpost.com) in Glendale. If you are interested in Living Arcanis or Living Spycraft catch us on the 3rd Sunday of every month also at Imperial Outpost Games. The Shield of Almor hosts RPGA events at the local Phoenix conventions. For more information visit us at games.groups.yahoo.com/group/AZ_RPG/ or you can sign up for games at www.nyrond.org. Or you can just stop by the 1st Sunday of the month. Meeting starts at 10am. Hope to see you there.

THE SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM The kingdom of Atenveldt doth lie in the state of Arizona. Within the fair kingdom can be found six Baronies: Atenveldt, Mons Tonitrus, Twin Moons, SunDragon, Tir Ysgithr and Ered Sul. For more information on any of these or for general information on contact the Kingdom Seneschal. Email: seneschal@atenveldt.com Web www.atenveldt.com

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

SPACE ACCESS SOCIETY Space Access Society's sole purpose is to promote radically cheaper access to space, ASAP. We think it's possible within ten years, with a little luck and a lot of hard work. Join us and help us make it happen! SAS membership is \$30 for one year, which gets you emailed Space Access Updates the instant they pass final edit, plus discounts on our annual conference on the technology, politics, and business of radically cheaper space transportation, featuring leading players in the field. Email us at: Space.Access@Space-Access.org Web page: www.space-access.org/

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

TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/ Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. TARDIS meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, games, and occasional outings with more to come now that Doctor Who is returning from hiatus. Many members maintain an active presence at conventions. You can contact us at 2243 W Wagon Wheel Dr, Phoenix, AZ 85021, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@cox.net or visit us at http://members.cox.net/tardisaz/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

What is CASFS? What is really behind putting on a convention? What are 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 prorated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info: Webpage: www.casfs.org Email: info@casfs.org

regular mail only and the newsletter and materials will not be reproduced electronically. To join the action and initiate your annual membership, make check or money order out for \$12.50 to: Official TekWar Fan Club (Membership section), 2522 N Sparkman Blvd., Tucson AZ 85716-2417

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

TUCSON FAN ALLIANCE E-Mail Address is Bkoehler@Juno.com or DMitchell1@Juno.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 30 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

USS STORMBRINGER The Stormbringer is a correspondence Star Trek fan club chapter of Starfleet, Intl. based out of Tucson AZ. The chapter was commissioned as the USS Stormbringer NCC-74213, attached to Division 31, Starfleet Covert Operations, on

10/31/98. As of 11/29/98 there were 32 members. There are no dues other than the \$15 for joining 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

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION (WesternSFA) A non-profit corporation that sponsors the ConRunners seminars and sponsored 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, at the Bookmans located at 19th ave. and Northern in Phoenix Guests are welcome. For more info contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082, (602) 973-2341, Email: craig@westernsfa.org Webpage: www.westernsfa.org

Convention Listings

WORLD HORROR CONVENTION 2007 (Mar 29-Apr 1 '07) Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Center, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. GoHs: Michael Marshall Smith, Nancy Kilpatrick. AGoH: John Picacio. MC: Sephera Giron. Publisher GoH: Peter Crowther. Editor GoH: Don Hutchison. Info: email: amanda@whc2007.org; website: www.whc2007.org

ANIZONA 3 (April 5-8,2007) Mesa AZ - Arizona's First Anime Convention - Guests include Kaite Bair, Jodon Bellafanto, Michael McConnohie, Melodee Spevack and Arizona Shinkendo. Wendee Lee, Haruka Miyabi, Amanda T , Kenyth Mogan, Yoko Molotov, Greg Ayres, Katie Bair, David Beaty, Jodon Bellofatto, Michael McConnohie, Melodee M. Spevack and Midnight Mirage Location: Phoenix Marriott Mesa Membership is capped at 2000 and there will be NO memberships sold at the door. \$40 thru March 31, 2007. Mail check or money order to AniZona 3, PO Box 67641, Phoenix AZ 85082 Web: www.anizona.org Email: info@anizona.org

LEPRECON 33 (May 11-13, 2007) Mesa AZ Arizona's Annual Art Oriented Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention

featuring the largest SF/F Art Show in the Southwest! Guests: Artist - Jael, Author - Karen Traviss Membership: \$30 thru 10/31/06, \$35 thru 1/31/07, more later Kids 7-12 half price, Six and under Free with Adult Membership Hotel: Phoenix Marriott Mesa Contact: LepreCon 33 PO Box 26665 Tempe, AZ 85285 Phone(480) 945-6890 Email: Lep33NOSPAM@LepreCon.org Web: www.leprecon.org/lep33/

PHOENIX CONGAMES (June 14th - 17th 2007) Mesa AZ Mesa Convention Center & Phoenix Marriott East in Mesa Arizona. Membership \$20 thru November 30th, 2006, \$25 thru January 31st, 2007, \$30 thru April 30th, 2007, \$35 at the door http://www.conevents.com/page/phx/main.asp



Mailing/Subscription Information

ConNotations is sent free of charge to those who have attended a CASFS sponsored convention in the past calendar year (currently 2006). Attendees of CopperCon 26 or HexaCon 16 will receive ConNotations Volume 17 Issues 1 thru 6. ConNotations updates it's mailing list each December. Individual subscriptions are available for \$20 for 6 issues beginning January 1, 2007. Some non-CASFS groups give their membership lists to CASFS and purchase a bulk corporate subscription so their attendees may also receive ConNotations Currently these groups are:

Generic Convention Registration Form

Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

(See individual convention listing for mailing address)

More info on _____ Masquerade _____ Art Show _____ Volunteer _____ Other _____