

ConNotations

Volume 17, Issue 3
June/July
2007

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

A Session with Terry Brooks

Transcribed by Lee Whiteside & Nadine Armstrong

Terry Brooks made a stop at the Poisoned Pen in Scottsdale, Arizona last fall (2006) on a tour to promote the release of *Armageddon's Children*, the beginning of a new series. He talked about the new series and answered some questions from Michael A. Stackpole and the audience.



© Lee Whiteside

Armageddon's Children comes out in a mass market paperback on July 31 with the second book in the series, *The Elves of Cintra*, scheduled for August 28th.

At the appearance, Terry seemed very relaxed and threw in some humorous comments in his answers. To start off the appearance, he teased the audience by reading a chapter from the start of the second book and after that talked a bit about the new series.

Terry Brooks: I'm writing a bridge series between *Word and Void* and *Shannara*, on the one hand. Most of you probably already know by this time or have figured it out if you read the book. On the other hand, I'm writing a stand-alone series. This is no mean trick, let me tell you, but nevertheless, I feel confident that the way the series is structured that you'll be able to jump in without having ever read another thing that I've done. I'm sure there are many of you in that

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ConNotations
ISSN: 1082-7765
PUBLISHED: Six times a year
BY: Central Arizona Speculative
 Fiction Society, PO Box 62613,
 Phoenix, AZ 85082
ISSUE NUMBER: Volume 17 Issue 3
SUBSCRIPTION: \$20 for 6 ISSUES

SF Tube Talk

TV News & Previews

By Lee Whiteside

We've got lots of new stuff hitting the cable channels this summer, a preview of a lot of new genre shows on the networks next season and a look at the first installment of *Babylon 5: The Lost Tales*.

First up on the agenda is the beginning of a new trend in the genre, original direct to DVD releases. Out of the gate first is *Babylon 5: The Lost Tales: Voices in the Dark*, which is being released on DVD on July 31st. This is the first installment in what is planned to be an ongoing *Babylon 5* anthology series that will be able to jump around the Babylon 5 Universe and time line as is needed. The first installment was written and directed by *Babylon 5* creator **J. Michael Straczynski** and features **Bruce Boxleitner** as President Sheridan, **Tracy Scoggins** as Colonel Lochley, and **Peter Woodward** as Galen the Technomage. According to **Straczynski**, the story covers "the same 72-hour period of time as Sheridan travels on board a Presidential Cruiser enroute 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." Also appearing in it are **Teryl Rothery** as an ISN reporter, **Alan Scarfe** as Father Kelly, and **Keegan MacIntosh** as Prince Regent Dius Vintari. The DVD will feature **Straczynski's** video diaries and some behind the scenes features as well as tributes to deceased *Babylon 5* cast members **Richard Biggs** and **Andreas Katsulas**. Look for preview material online on the www.Babylon5.com and www.Babylon5Scripts.com web sites as the release date approaches.

As indicated above, the *Babylon 5* Direct to DVD production is a new trend in genre TV and is the first live action one to be released. It has been done in the animated arena recently with some Marvel releases and Warner Bros. has several original animated DC Comics projects in the works as well. Coming up this fall will be two *Stargate SG-1* Direct to DVD movies as well as a *Battlestar Galactica* DVD movie. Those releases will also likely turn up on the SciFi Channel

shortly after their release while there has yet to be an announcement for a cable or broadcast outlet for the *Babylon 5* release.

Over in the cable universe, The SciFi Channel is reaching the end of the current seasons for the two *Stargate* series in June and will be returning *Doctor Who*, *Eureka*, *Ghost Hunters*, and *Who Wants to Be a Superhero* as well as launching *Flash Gordon*, a couple of new reality series, and a Monday night Anime Block.

June sees the final episodes of *Stargate SG-1*. In *Family Ties*, **Fred Willard** guest stars as Vala's estranged father, a con artist who seeks sanctuary on Earth after providing intelligence about a Jaffa plot to attack Earth. In *Dominion*, the SG-1 team devises a scheme to capture the Ori leader Adria using Vala as bait, but things go awry when Baal unleashes his own plan that could prove deadly for all of them. Finally, to end the ten year run of *Stargate SG-1* is the final series episode, *Unending*, which finds the crew trapped on board the Odyssey where they live out the rest of their lives together when Carter activates a time dilation field to save the ship from destruction. Needless to say, they do manage to break out of it to be able to continue the series on direct to DVD movies. Instead of wrapping up the Ori storyline with the Season Ten finale, the first DVD movie, *Stargate: The Ark of Truth* will theoretically finish up things with the Ori, leaving Stargate ready to move on to other stand-alone adventures in future productions. In *The Ark of Truth*, the Ori are planning to invade Earth but when Vala's husband, Tomin, the commander of the invading armies defects, SG-1 enlists his help in their own mission to the Ori home galaxy in search of the "Ortus Mallum" where they hope to find the "Ark of Truth" that can be used to end the war once and for all. Assuming they do take care of the Ori, the second DVD movie, *Stargate: Continuum*, will be a stand-alone time travel episode that will include an appearance by **Richard Dean Anderson** (who does not appear in the series finale or the first DVD movie). In *Continuum*, when Teal'c and Vala vanish, the remaining team members realize that the time line has been altered and the Stargate program never happened. A fleet of Goa'uld motherships led by Goa'uld lord Baal arrive to invade Earth and the remaining team members must figure out a way to fix the time line and save Earth and the galaxy.

Stargate Atlantis wraps up its third season in June and will return in the fall. In *Submersion*, the Atlantis team investigates an Ancient drilling station deep underwater and discovers a very old and very angry Wraith queen still alive. In *Vengeance*, **Connor Trinneer** returns as Michael, the Wraith. The Atlantis team investigates a village that had previously

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24 Frames

Movie News

By Lee Whiteside

There's a lot of stuff in the works for down the road later this year and into next in the way of science fiction and fantasy movies.

New film company, Fox Walden, is gearing up for its first set of releases. It is a partnership between Fox and Walden Media to produce family films mostly with a fantasy bent. Currently filming is an adaptation of *The Dark is Rising*, based on the fantasy novel by **Susan Cooper**, for release in October. It stars **Ian McShane**, **Christopher Eccleston**, **Frances Conroy** and **Alexander Ludwig** as Will Stanton. In November, they will release *Mr. Magorium's Wonder Emporium*, about a magical toy store where all of the toys - and the store - come to life. It stars **Dustin Hoffman**, **Natalie Portman** and **Jason Bateman**. Reports on the film's changes to the book have already met with anger by those who love the original book. Fox Walden will be producing a film adaptation of **Wendy Orr's** book *Nim's Island* with **Gerard Butler**, **Jodie Foster**, and **Abigail Breslin**. The story deals with a girl living on a tropical island with her father, whose

boat runs into trouble leaving the girl to fend for herself. She does still have internet access and starts emailing the author of a book she is reading, and with the author's help, she is able to manage on her own and eventually saves the island from tour companies who want to exploit it. Finally, on tap from Fox Walden for next fall is *City of Ember*, a science fiction adventure co-produced by **Tom Hanks** and **Gary Goetzman**, directed by **Gil Kenan**.

In the comic book arena, *The Dark Knight*, the next Batman movie, has added **Eric Roberts** and **Nester Carbonell** to its lineup. **Roberts** will play mafia boss Salvatore "The Boss" Maroni and **Carbonell** will play the Mayor of Gotham City. Other newcomers to the series will be **Heath Ledger** as The Joker, **Maggie Gyllenhaal** as Rachel Dawes, and **Aaron Eckhart** as Harvey Dent. There's not much news to report on *Wonder Woman* or the next *Superman* movie. According to **David Goyer**, the script for *The Flash* he has been working on is now dead at Warner Bros. However, he is working on a new DC Comics movie called *Super Max*, which will introduce The Green Arrow to the movie audiences. However, shortly into the movie, The Green Arrow's secret identity is revealed and he is incarcerated in a maximum

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SF Tube Talk

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gone missing, and discover a Wraith experiment that is creating large deadly insects. Atlantis wraps up its season with *First Strike*, where a new Earth ship, the Apollo, under the command of Colonel Abe Ellis (**Michael Beach**), arrives with a plan to wipe out an armada that the Replicators are building on their world. Atlantis finds itself under attack by a powerful energy beam and the team must take drastic measures to save themselves and the city. The episode will leave things in a nasty cliffhanger which will give the series a new direction for season four. Also appearing in the episode is **Jewel Staite** as Dr. Kelly, making her debut appearance as the new head of Atlantis's medical facilities.

Wednesday, June 6 sees the return of *Ghost Hunters* to SciFi as well as the debut of *Destination Truth*, the latest attempt by SciFi to have an investigative type series. This one features **Josh Gates**, “a world adventurer and eager truth-seeker” as he travels the globe investigating mysterious stories. In the six episodes scheduled to air, look for reports on the Malaysian Bigfoot, The Chilean Chupacabra, dinosaurs in New Guinea, a haunted village in Thailand, and a wolfman in Argentina.

Returning to SciFi on Friday, July 6th, is *Doctor Who* for the third series of the new run, only three months after it has aired on the BBC. SciFi will kick things off with the 2006 Christmas special, *The Runaway Bride*, that guest stars **Catherine Tate** as Donna, a bride whisked away to the TARDIS as she is walking down the aisle at her wedding. Needless to say, she isn't pleased about that and she soon finds herself tied up in an adventure with The Doctor with the future of Earth at stake. Next up is *Smith and Jones* which features the debut of The Doctor's new companion, medical student Martha Jones, played by **Freema Agyeman**. When the Doctor is investigating strange energy readings at a hospital, he finds it transported to the moon with it under siege by the alien Judoon. He teams up with medical student Martha Jones to return the hospital to Earth and stop the Judoon from invoking their deadly justice. In *The Shakespeare Code*, The Doctor takes Martha on a trip back in time to England meet up with Shakespeare and discover the truth about the “lost” play *Love's Labour Won* and thwart an invasion by the Carrionites. In *Gridlock*, The Doctor takes Martha to the far future where they visit New New York on New Earth only to find a massive gridlock of cars and a deadly terror below them. After that, it's a trip to 1930's New York where they find there's a secret behind the final stages of construction of the Empire State Building in the two-parter *Daleks in Manhattan/Evolution of the Daleks*.

Returning to SciFi for its second season on July 10th is *Eureka*. There's not much specific preview information on the new season, but there's a few tidbits of information about what to expect in the new season. First of all, show creator and executive producer **Andrew Cosby** is no longer an executive producer on the show and is pursuing other opportunities that have arisen as a result of the success of *Eureka*. SciFi's promotional tagline for the new season is “Same Town, Bigger Secrets.” Things do get turned on its head as a result of the explosion in the season finale. First of all, Nathan Stark (**Ed Quinn**) loses his job as head of the Global Dynamics facility and Allison Blake (**Salli Richardson-Whitfield**) is put in charge. With Nathan Stark going back to being a scientist, his relationship with Allison and her son is rekindled, leaving Jack Carter (**Colin Ferguson**) somewhat out of the picture. However, Carter's life gets more complex when his ex-wife Abby comes to town. The relationships will definitely continue being a major focus of the show in the new season, with the plots sometimes taking a back seat.

At the end of July will be the return of *Who Wants to Be a Superhero*, which will have ten episodes total, giving more time to each task and likely to learn more about each of the contestants. Look for several of last year's contestants to be involved, including Feedback and Fat Momma. Each week they will also have an online post show interview with that week's loser hosted by Major Victory. Look for the comic featuring Feedback, last year's winner, to be released by Dark Horse Comics in early July. Also debuting on July 28th is a new series featuring British mentalist **Derren Brown**, who has been described as “part James Bond, part Yoda.” According to SciFi, the show will be “6 jaw-dropping 1-hour episodes that must be seen to be believed.”

Debuting on August 10 will be SciFi's modernization of *Flash Gordon*. Starring as Flash is **Eric Johnson**, best known for playing Lana Lang's jock boyfriend Whitney in *Smallville*. **Gina Holden**, currently on *Blood Ties*, will play Dale Arden, with **Jody Racicot** as Dr. Hans Zarkov, and **John Ralston** as Ming the Merciless. There's not too much information about how it will be modernized, but they have admitted they will be making use of some sets created for the *Tin Man* miniseries for Ming's palace on Mongo. According to SciFi VP **Mark Stern**, Ming will not be a mustache twirling bad guy, but more of a heavy handed dictator in the mold of Saddam Hussein. One of the key plot elements will be Flash's father, who has been captured by Ming. As for the tone of the series, **Stern** told Crave Online “we're not looking for it to carry the mantle of a show like *Battlestar Galactica* but definitely, it's about taking something that's maybe a little pulpy and a little

more high concept and finding a way to modernize it. I don't think Flash is going to be attacking the pressing issues of day, the 2008 election. I think it's really more about taking that kind of fun romp, the humor and the energy of *Stargate* and really kind of applying it to the Flash Gordon franchise.”

As for *Battlestar Galactica*, SciFi has made a commitment for 22 episodes for the fourth season, with the weekly series slated to return in January. However, two of the hours in the 22 episode order will be produced as a TV movie with a DVD release that will air in November on SciFi. In an interview on www.Salon.com, producer **Ron Moore** indicated the “story will not pick up our cliffhanger at the end of Season 3. The story will be set on the Battleship Pegasus and will take place in the past, relative to where we are in Season 3. But the events set up in that story will then pay off in Season 4.” Look for **Michelle Forbes** to reprise her role as Admiral Cain as well as some flashbacks to a young Cain and a young Bill Adama. Also central to the storyline is Kendra Taggart, a Lieutenant under Cain who became Lee Adama's XO during the time the Pegasus and Galactica were on the run during the Cylon occupation. It is speculated that Taggart may play a role in season four. We'll also learn a good amount of the overall story of The Pegasus as well as how it works into the overall Galactica story. As for season four, expect the 20 episodes to be broken up into two halves. Despite some cast members indicating this is the last season, producer **David Eick** has stressed that they are keeping Galactica's story open-ended and are not planning to conclude the show with season four. SciFi does seem committed to the series due to its critical acclaim even with the shifting ratings.

Elsewhere in the cable universe, Lifetime has done well with *Blood Ties*, and has picked up the remaining episodes of the 22 being produced for the first season, planning to air the last ten episodes over five weeks in October. USA Network is bringing back *The 4400* and *The Dead Zone* in mid-June, running each show's 13 week seasons over the rest of the summer. On *The 4400*, **Billy Campbell** reprises his role as Jordan Collier as a series regular. His goal is to get everyone to take promicin to make everyone that survives it has a power. The government doesn't agree and outlaws it. The fight over the use of promicin will be central to this season. Kicking off the season is *The Wrath of Graham*, where a high school kid who takes promicin develops the power to make everyone treat him like royalty, with people mobbing him to do things for him, which leads to tragedy. In *Fear Itself*, Tom and Garritty investigate reports of people going crazy from seeing what they fear most. Is it one of the 4400 causing it or something

else? In *Audrey Parker Has Come and Gone*, 70 year old Audrey Parker takes promicin and is able to astral project herself as a 25 year old. In *The Truth and Nothing But the Truth*, Shawn is caught in a political mess related to the promicin war and Kyle has a secret meeting with Isabelle. In *Eat the Pie*, Kyle goes missing and Tom gets stuck in a mysterious small town and is told to eat the Apple Pie, which contains promicin! In *The Marked*, a third group, “The Marked” comes into play to make things even more complicated. In *Till We Have Built Our Jerusalem*, Jordan Collier claims to know a way to make God appear on Earth. On *The Dead Zone*, producers have been pretty quiet about what to expect for the sixth season other than to “Expect the Unexpected”. The only cast change that has been announced so far is that **Cara Buono** will join the show this season as a new detective in the town of Cleave Mills.

ABC Family is bringing back *Kyle XY* for a second season starting in June. It will air on Monday nights and may also get a repeat airing on the ABC network like they did last summer. For the new season, Kyle begins to learn the truth about his past and the full extent of his abilities. He also begins to find out about the dangers out in the real world. He returns to the Tragers and continues to lead a double life, secretly being trained by Tom Foss (**Nicholas Lea**). Kyle discovers some things have changed with the Tragers after he left them and he must adjust to them. Also, the mysterious Madacorp gets their hands on the “girl in the pod” (played by **Jaimie Alexander**) and puts her on the hunt for Kyle. When she works her way into Kyle's and the Trager's lives, it puts everyone at risk.

ABC Family also has *The Fallen* limited series returning in early August with four hours over three nights. **Paul Wesley, Rick Worthly** and **Fernanda Andrade** reprise their roles from the original two hour movie dealing with the journey of Nephilim, who has discovered he is a fallen angel. The series will continue to delve into the mythology of the fallen angels and how they are looking for the chosen one who will redeem them and allow them to return to heaven.

BBC America will also be stepping up their genre programming this summer, switching to a new format that will make each night of a week a themed night with Supernatural Saturdays and Adventure Sundays being the place to catch the science fiction and fantasy series on the channel. Kicking things off in June on Saturdays will be the return of *Hex*, with the remaining episodes of that series. At the start of the new run of episodes, the aborted baby has survived and is growing at an alarming rate and has unleashed a host of fallen angels bent on destroying humanity with Ella the best hope for survival. Ella is in a psychiatric hospital

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SF Tube Talk (Continued from page 4)
and vulnerable to attack and the ghost Thelma must work with Ella's mortal boyfriend, Leon, to try to help her fulfill her destiny. In the meantime, they have to deal with fallen angel Azazeal, Jez, an evil spirit posing as a teacher, and Perie the Faerie, sent by Azazeal to pose as Ella's nurse and prevent Ella from using her powers. To get caught up, BBC America will be running a marathon of the first ten episodes on Saturday, June 2nd, during the day before the series resumes.

Other series that will appear on Saturday nights as the year progresses include BBC's *Jekyll* (written by **Stephen Moffat**) in August, the U.S. debut of the *Doctor Who* spinoff *Torchwood* in September (paired up with the second season of *Doctor Who*), and the second series of *Life on Mars* in January.

The network upfronts happened in mid-May and it's looking like we'll see a lot of new genre shows this fall with something new on all of the networks. The success of *Heroes* has apparently gotten the programming execs wanting to give SF/F shows a chance for the new season. It was just two years ago that we had six genre shows debut (*Surface*, *Invasion*, *Threshold*, *Ghost Whisper*, *Night Stalker*, and *Supernatural*) in the fall, only two of which made it past the first season, both of which are continuing on to their third seasons. There's not quite as big a trend as the three alien invasion series in 2005, but we do have two series with angsty immortal guys looking for their true love, a re-imagining of a 1970's series, a movie spinoff, a time travel romantic drama, a couple of comedy/dramas about an ordinary guy thrown into an extraordinary situation, all adding up to a whole bunch of new genre shows for the 2007/2008 season. Here's a rundown of what the networks announced.

NBC - They have a lot of holes to fill and are very heavy on genre stuff. *Heroes* and *Medium* have both been renewed. NBC is also planning lots of online companion stuff to all of their shows, both old and new, and doing even more with *Heroes*.

Bionic Woman - Half of the creative team of the new *Galactic* (**David Eick**) one of the major contributors to *The X-Files* (**Glen Morgan**) re-imagines *The Bionic Woman*. British actress **Michelle Ryan**, best known for her role as Zoe on *Eastenders*, is Jamie Sommers, who after a devastating car wreck is outfitted with an assortment of upgrades and she has to learn to use her new abilities and deal with the personal sacrifices she has to make. Also starring are **Mae Whitman** as Jamie's younger sister Becca, **Chris Bower** as Jamie's boyfriend Will, **Miguel Ferrer** as Will's boss Jonas, **Will Yun Lee** as the team's operative Jae, Molly Price as Ruth, the teams second in command, and **Katee Sackhoff** as the

first woman to undergo the treatment. It will also be repurposed on SciFi like *Heroes* has been this year. We'll see if they can do for *The Bionic Woman* what **Eick** and **Ron Moore** did for *Galactica*.
Journeyman - A romantic mystery-drama about Dan Vasser (**Kevin McKidd**), a San Francisco newspaper reporter and family man who inexplicably begins to travel through time and change people's lives. In his travels he rekindles a romance with his long lost fiancé Livia (**Moon Bloodgood**), complicating things with his present day wife Katie (**Gretchen Egolf**) and his son, Jack (**Reed Diamond**). It is produced by former West Wing producers **Kevin Falls** and **Alex Graves**. NBC is hoping this will hold on to more of the *Heroes* audience on Monday nights. It seems a lot like *Quantum Leap*, but without Al and Ziggy or the novelty of jumping into other peoples bodies.

Chuck - A comedic spy thriller about a computer technician, Chuck Bartowski (**Zachary Levi**) who gets a server full of secret data downloaded into his brain. **Adam Baldwin** (*Firefly*) co-stars as NSA agent Major John Casey, who has been assigned to protect Chuck. Chuck is also partnered with top CIA agent Sarah Walker (**Yvonne Strzechowski**), who Chuck apparently takes a very strong liking to. The premise is definitely SF, how much the actual show will be remains to be seen. With **Adam Baldwin** in the cast, it could be a fun show to watch as long as it doesn't take itself too seriously. Or it could join *Jake 2.0* in perpetual repeats on the SciFi Channel in a year. It is created and produced by **Josh Schwartz** (*The O.C.*) and McG.

Heroes: Origins - A companion/spinoff to *Heroes* where we will meet new Heroes and fans can vote on one them to be part of the cast for season three. Supposedly will air at the end of the

season, following the season finale, but it may get interspersed throughout the season in place of repeats. In any case, it is good to see NBC is optimistic about the parent show going on to a third season.

CBS - They have fewer holes to fill, so fewer dramas and only one new genre show. They did not renew

Jericho, but have renewed *The Ghost Whisper*, *Numbers* and their *CSI* trio.

Moonlight - Mick St. John (**Alex O'Loughlin**) is a private investigator who also happens to be a vampire with a lot of baggage who uses his powers and abilities to help the living instead of preying on them. Sixty years ago, he was turned by his bride, Coraline (**Amber Valletta**), but he was sickened by the other vampires who view humans as sources of food. Mick spends his time helping the living and fighting other vampires who want to take advantage of them. After 60 years, he's wondering if it is time to pursue the love of a mortal. He has his eye on Beth Turner (**Shannon Lucio**), a beautiful and ambitious reporter who he wonders if she will be able to accept him for what he is. It is produced by **Joel Silver**, **Rod Holcomb**, and **Ron Koslow**. Do we really need more vampire angst? Will *Moonlight* even make it to Halloween? Sandwiched between *Ghost Whisper* and *Numbers*, it might manage to stick around.

ABC - ABC has a couple of genre entries slated for this season. In other pilots they were looking at, the Americanized *Life on Mars* or *Mr. & Mrs. Smith* didn't make the grade. ABC has renewed *Lost* for three more seasons of 16 episodes each, airing each season in a continuous block in the spring. They also still have *Masters of Science Fiction* gathering dust on their shelf and may burn it off sometime this summer.

Pushing Daisies - **Bryan Fuller** and **Barry Sonnenfeld** get together for "an unprecedented blend of romance, crime procedural and high-concept fantasy." Ned discovers he can bring the dead back to life, but if he touches them a second time, his recipient is dead again. Things get complicated when he brings his childhood sweetheart back to life, but he

can never touch her again. It might do well in the fall, being located at 8 pm ET/PT Wednesdays, but will have tough going in the spring up against *American Idol*. This does appear to be one of the critics favorite shows, though. Of course, that doesn't always mean success or that the series will live up to the pilot.

Eli Stone - "A unique, character-driven drama that explores the very different worlds of law and spirituality in a humorous and heartfelt way. The show explores whether we can change the course of our lives in midstream." Eli is a mercenary attorney who begins "hallucinating larger-than-life visions of pop stars and his dead relatives" which causes him to decide that he is a prophet of some sort, leaves his high paying job in a top law firm and starts his own practice where he can do good. It has been picked up for midseason by ABC. It stars **Jonny Lee Miller** as Eli Stone, **James Saito** as Dr. Chen, **Natasha Henstridge** as Taylor Wethersby, **Sam Jaeger** as Matt Dowd, and **Victor Garber** as Jordan Wethersby. Created and produced by **Ken Olin**, **Marc Guggenheim** and **Greg Berlanti**.

Cavemen - The Geico Cavemen commercials are adapted into a half hour sitcom about how three cavemen living in modern times must adapt to survive in the real world The premise has some SF/Fantasy mixed in it, but expanding the Geico commercials into a half hour sitcom probably means it will all be jokes as current as It's About Time" when the astronauts brought the cavemen back with them.... Maybe someday we'll get a re-imagining of "My Mother the Car".

FOX - Still looking for some new dramas to fill in when *American Idol* isn't on or when viewers have gotten tired of *House* repeats. They have renewed *24* for two more years and will be bringing back *Prison Break* and *Bones*.

(Continued on page 6)



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SF Tube Talk (Continued from page 5)

New Amsterdam - An immortal homicide cop, John Amsterdam (**Nikolaj Coster Waldau**), has been living in New York since 1631 when it was New Amsterdam. When he rescues a native Indian girl he is rewarded with a spell that will keep him immortal and he won't age until he finds his true love. After many decades he's beginning to think it will never happen but when he is almost killed he realizes that his soul mate was nearby and he may finally be at the end of his long journey. In the meantime, he and his partner, Eva Marquez (**Zuleikha Robinson**) must continue to track down murderers. **Stephen Henderson** stars as Omar, John's lifelong friend and confidant with his own history, and **Alexie Gilmore** as Dr. Sara Dillane. FOX will pair this up with **House** on Tuesdays in the fall and then move to Fridays in the spring when **American Idol** comes back.

The Sarah Connor Chronicles - Are **Terminator** fans really wanting to know what happened between the second and third movies? Or will this change the time line so the third one never happened? It stars **Lena Headey** as Sarah Connor and **Thomas Dekker** (Zack on **Heroes**) as John Connor. It does have **Summer Glau** as Cameron, a mysterious classmate of John's who turns out to be his protector. **Richard T. Jones** stars as James Ellison, an FBI agent on their tail. The big question is, can they get a cameo by the Governor? FOX plans to run it in the spring on Sunday nights once football season is over.

The CW - With losing two of their long running dramas, **Seventh Heaven** and **Gilmore Girls** as well as dropping **Veronica Mars**, The CW has a lot of space on their schedule. They have renewed both **Smallville** and **Supernatural** and will keep them paired up on Thursday nights.

Reaper - A comic drama about Sam, a bounty hunter for the devil, played by **Bret Harrison**. Sam has been a slacker with a dead end job, having skipped college and spending most of his time playing video games. He'd never been encouraged to excel in anything, unlike his brother. When he turns 21, he finds out his parents sold his soul to The Devil (**Ray Wise**) and now he has to fulfill the contract and become a bounty hunter for The Devil, capturing souls that have escaped from Hell using the vessel provided for him by The Devil (usually something like a Dirt Devil mini-vacuum - can you spot product placement?) Hijinks ensue when he enlists his slacker friends to help out. The pilot was directed by **Kevin Smith**. Sounds like a neat concept for a **Kevin Smith** movie, but whether it will hold up on a weekly basis will depend a lot on the writing and the acting. It will run on Tuesdays following **Beauty and the Geek**.

On the other side of the Atlantic, the third series of **Doctor Who** is in full swing with the final episodes of the current series airing in June. The BBC has confirmed there will be a fourth series and that **David Tenant** will be back for it as well as **Freema Agyeman** as Martha Jones. Finishing up the season will be **Blink**, a **Steven Moffat** episode with a good dose of horror. It is also the episode with less screen time for the Doctor. After that is **Utopia**, where The Doctor and Martha visit Malcassairo where they meet a lonely and patient professor (**Derek Jacobi**) that is giving his all to save his people from extinction. They also run into Captain Jack Harkness, who joins back up with The Doctor for the rest of the series. Finishing things up is the two parter **The Sound of Drums/The Last of the Time Lords** where we finally meet the mysterious Mr. Saxon (**John Simms** of **Life on Mars**) and find out whether The Doctor really is the last Time Lord!

24 Frames (Continued from page 5)

security prison along with a plethora of super villains, which makes life interesting for our hero as he tries to find a way to escape.

In the Marvel Universe, things are moving along with several projects in the works. They are planning a movie telling the origin story of Magneto, written and directed by **David Goyer**. It will follow a young Magneto from his days in the concentration camp to his days of friendship and resulting split with Charles Xavier. Look for this to likely be released in 2009. In the nearer future, the next Marvel movie will be **Iron Man** with **Robert Downey, Jr.** as Tony Stark, in May 2008. Directed by **Jon Favreau**, it also stars **Gwyneth Paltrow** as Virginia "Pepper" Pots, **Jeff Bridges** as Obadiah Stane/Iron Monger, and **Terrence Howard** as Jim Rhodes. After that will be a new **Incredible Hulk** movie, revamping the series completely. It will star **Edward Norton** as Bruce Banner/the Hulk and **Liv Tyler** as Betty Ross. Down the road there are adaptations of **Ant-Man**, **Captain America**, **Nick Fury**, **Thor**, and **The Avengers** all in development with scripts in process. Also in the works with Universal is a **Sub-Mariner** movie, with the latest rumors being that **David Boreanaz** is in line to star as Prince Namor, the Sub-Mariner.

Frank Miller is putting together a movie adaptation of **Will Eisner's The Spirit** and is in the process of casting. Currently, he has **Samuel L. Jackson** in negotiations to play the mysterious villain The Octopus.

The movie coming out this summer I'm most looking forward to and should be on your list to see is **Stardust**, **Matthew Vaughn's** adaptation of the story and graphic novel by **Neil Gaiman**

and **Charles Vess**. There have been some screenings of the nearly complete film that has gotten very positive reviews. On his web site, www.greenmanpress.com **Charles Vess** said, following a screening of the film he attended, "everything that I could have wanted was all there; action, humor, romance, a touch of horror, special effects that were there in service to the story being told, an epic scope as well as many wonderfully intimate quiet moments. **Matthew** and co-screenwriter **Jane Goldman** have managed to capture the essence of the novel and then have skillfully edited as well as extended plot and characters where needed to transform those elements from one medium to another. For those of you who love the original novel there are indeed changes aplenty, so prepare yourself. But there were just as many scenes and little moments that come directly from the book." Other reports on the small screening at the Tribeca Film Festival indicates that **Robert de Niro** steals the film in his role of Captain Shakespeare, a character created for the movie when the portion with the pirates was expanded from the original story.

JUNE & JULY MOVIE PREVIEWS

The big summer movies continue.

Spider-Man 3 opened to record numbers, with **Shrek the Third** and **Pirates of the Caribbean 3: At World's End** hot on Spidey's heels to finish up May. Coming up in June and July are a bunch of new genre films, with **Harry Potter** and the **Transformers** duking it out for the box office in early July. Miller has written the screenplay and will also direct the movie. **Fantastic Four: The Rise of the Silver Surfer** (June 15) When the Silver Surfer shows up heralding the doom of the Earth, the Fantastic Four must rise to the occasion and solve the mystery of the Surfer and also deal with the return of Dr. Doom. **Ioan Gruffudd** (Mr. Fantastic), **Jessica Alba** (Invisible Woman), **Chris Evans** (Human Torch), **Michael Chiklis** (The Thing), and **Julian McMahon** (Dr. Doom) return in the sequel. **Doug Jones** is the body of Silver Surfer with **Laurence Fishburne** providing the voice. Rumors are that when Galactus appears in the movie, he will be totally unlike his original comic incarnation. **DOA** (June 22) - Yet another release date for the video game adaptation with sexy women taking part in a Dead or Alive fighting competition. Stars **Natassia Malthe**, **Jaime Pressly**, **Devon Aoki**, **Brian J. White**, and **Holly Valance**. **Captivity** (June 22) - Yet another movie pushed back from an earlier release date. It's seeming like Deja Vu here... A fashion model and a chauffeur are held captive by a serial killer and they fall in love with each other and must survive their ordeal. Sounds like a perfect date movie to me! Stars **Elisha Cuthbert**, **Pruitt Taylor-Vince**, **Daniel Gillies**, **Laz**

Alonso, and **Michael Harney**. **Evan Almighty** (June 22) A sequel to **Bruce Almighty** with **Steve Carrell** as Evan Baxter, a newscaster who was just elected to congress being contacted by God (**Morgan Freeman**) and given a holy task. He uproots his family to Northern Virginia where he is asked to be the new Noah by God. Hilarity ensues as Evan works to build a giant Ark and his family wonders if he's totally gone round the bend. Also stars **Lauren Graham**, **John Goodman**, and **Jimmy Bennett**. **Transformers** (July 4) It's the movie all the grownups who watched the Transformers as a kid have been waiting for (as well as their kids). Its live action (with lots of CGI) mayhem when Earth gets caught in the middle of a war between two races of giant robots who can transform into just about anything. Executive produced by **Steven Spielberg** with **Michael Bay** directing. **Shia LaBeouf**, **Bernie Mac**, **Jon Voight**, and **Kevin Dunn** star. **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** (July 13) Harry is hot on the heels of the **Transformers** as he joins in the fight to save the Earth from the rampaging robots by trouncing them in the box office a week after they debut. Based on the fifth book in the series, Harry returns to Hogwarts after a dull summer and is worried about what will happen with the revival of the evil Lord Voldemort and must also deal with a crush. Expect an even darker movie as the series and the characters grow up. **Imelda Staunton** is the new Defense Against the Dark Arts teacher, Dolores Umbridge, **Evanna Lynch** is Luna Lovegood, and **Helena Bonham Carter** will be Bellatrix Lestrange. **The Simpsons Movie** (July 27) FOX brings The Simpsons to the big screen for a really big episode of the long running TV series. Reaction to the film in some preview screenings has been pretty good. If you like the TV series and want to see even more of it bigger and better, here's your chance. Oh, and there will likely be donuts! **Skinwalkers** (July 27) Two sects of werewolves battle one another for control of a child, half-human/half-wolf who has the power to end their curse. **Matthew Knight** is Timothy, a half-breed werewolf who is about to turn 13 and when he does he will have power over all the werewolves and can determine their destiny, to continue as skinwalkers or to become human. The ones who want to stay werewolves want to kill Timothy before his transformation to preserve their way of life, while the werewolves who want to become human want to save him so that he can make them human. Lots of blood and werewolf fighting will be involved.

FYI

CASFS Book Discussion

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

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..

July 17 - *Undead and Unwed* by Mary Janice Davidson - Betsy Taylor—former model, newly unemployed secretary, 30, and still single—wakes up after being flattened by a small SUV in a tacky coffin wearing cheap knock-off shoes. It seems that Betsy is an anomaly: a vampire who doesn't burn in sunlight, can fight the urge to feed, and is not repulsed by religious articles, all of which may make her the prophesied Queen of the Vampires. Teaming up with gorgeous vampire Eric Sinclair, who is in her opinion a major pervert, she takes on Nostro and his minions. Sexy, steamy, and laugh-out-loud funny, Davidson's chick-lit foray into the paranormal is delightful

August 21 - *Dead Until Dark* by Charlaine Harris - First of the Sookie Stackhouse Southern Vampire novels. Read the book and then meet the author at CopperCon 27 in September

September 18 - *Dragonflight* by Anne McCaffrey - This is the one that started it all... The first novel in the Pern series. The first segment of *Dragonflight* was a Hugo award winning novella (called *Weyr Search*) prior to publication of the entire book.

October 16 - *When Worlds Collide* by Philip Wylie & Edwin Balmer - Sven Bronson, a South African astronomer, discovers that a pair of runaway planets, Bronson Alpha and Bronson Beta, will soon enter the solar system. The larger one, Alpha, will pass close enough to cause catastrophic damage. Eight months later, after swinging around the Sun, Alpha will return to pulverize the Earth and leave. It is believed that Bronson Beta will remain and assume a stable orbit. Scientists led by Cole Hendron work desperately to build ships to transport enough people, animals and equipment to Bronson Beta in an attempt to save the human race. {Another film adaptation is scheduled for release in 2008}

November 20 - *There Will Be Dragons* by John Ringo - 1st in a series. In the future there is no war, no disease nor ill-timed death. The world is a paradise-and then, in a moment, it ends.

The world had been a paradise until the Fall, when the holders of the control codes for the world-spanning program called "Mother" fell out in civil war. Scattered across the face of the earth are communities that have returned to the natural life of soil and small farm. In the village of Raven's Mill, Edmund Talbot, master smith and unassuming historian, finds that all the problems of the world are falling in his lap.

December 18 - *Mutineer's Moon* by David Weber. For Lt. Commander Colin MacIntyre, it began as a routine training flight over the Moon. For Dahak, a self-aware Imperial battleship, it began millennia ago when that powerful artificial intelligence underwent a mutiny in the face of the enemy. The mutiny was never resolved-Dahak was forced to maroon not just the mutineers but the entire crew on prehistoric Earth. Dahak has been helplessly waiting as the descendants of the loyal crew regressed while the mutineers maintained control of technology that kept them alive as the millennia passed. But now Dahak's sensors indicate that the enemy that devastated the Imperium so long ago has returned-and Earth is in their path. For the sake of the planet, Dahak must mobilize its defenses. And that it cannot do until the mutineers are put down. So Dahak has picked Colin MacIntyre to be its new captain. Now MacIntyre must mobilize humanity to destroy the mutineers once and for all-or Earth will become a cinder in the path of galactic conquest.

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUPS

Barnes & Noble Desert Ridge
Harry Potter #7 discussion group
June 15, 7pm

Barnes & Noble, Goodyear
Manga Bookclub
Jun 16, 7pm
Jul 21, 7pm

Serenity on the Big Screen

Thur, June 21 - 7 pm
Harkins Centerpoint Theatre, Tempe

Sat, June 23 - 7pm
The Loft Cinema, Tucson

The Arizona Browncoats (*Firefly*/*Serenity* fans) are participating in a global fundraising effort by hosting twin screenings of the movie *Serenity*. Both screenings benefit the women's rights advocacy group Equality Now. Additionally, the screenings each support a local charity (GIFT and WFSA). Each event will have a costume contest, prize raffles and merchandise for sale that *Firefly*/*Serenity* fans will enjoy (cash only). Tickets are on sale now for \$10; \$12 at the door. Tickets for Tempe can be purchased at any Bookman's location statewide. Tickets for Tucson can be

purchased at The Loft Cinema. The Tucson screening will also feature a *Buffy* sing-along, available with a separate admission. <http://www.arizonabrowncoats.com>

Nebula and Andre Norton Award Winners

The winners of Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America's Nebula Awards® for 2006 were announced on May 12, 2007, following a banquet at the New York Marriott Financial Center.

Novel: "Seeker" - Jack McDevitt (Ace, Nov05)

Novella: "Burn" - James Patrick Kelly* (Tachyon Publications, Dec05)

Novelette: "Two Hearts" - Peter S. Beagle (F&SF, Oct/Nov05)

Short Stories: "Echo" - Elizabeth Hand (F&SF, Oct/Nov05)

Scripts: "Howl's Moving Castle" - Hayao Miyazaki, Cindy Davis Hewitt, and Donald H. Hewitt (Studio Ghibli and Walt Disney Pictures, U.S. Premier 10 Jun05. Based on the novel by Diana Wynne Jones.)

Winner of the second ever **Andre Norton Award for Young Adult Science Fiction and Fantasy:** "Magic or Madness" - Justine Larbalestier (Penguin Razorbill, May05)

Also recognized were James Gunn as **Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master**, D.G. Compton as **Author**

Emeritus, and Brook & Julia West for **Service to SFWA**

Kitties Anyone?

An unpaid and wholly voluntary advertisement for Leslie Fish's Cats

Fen and cats go together like champagne and chocolate or green eggs and ham. But for some of us, experience indicates that most cats are a few French fries short of a Happy Meal. Take my old tom – but you probably wouldn't want him due to his habit of peeing in slippers. I was resigned to life without a cat purring in my lap until I found out about Leslie's cats, courtesy of ConNotations.

Bright, good-natured cats for **FREE**. It seemed too good to be true. But it wasn't. Two months later, our new Fish cat sleeps with the dogs, walks on a leash, and follows me all over the house. And best of all, he's charmed my husband, a dyed-in-the-flesh dog lover. I don't know that he's psychic, but he **has** learned the house rules unbelievably fast. I do wish I'd discovered Leslie's cats years ago.

So, if you're thinking about a feline fur-pal, check with Leslie before you fall for a sloe-eyed kitty at the mall. She's spent 30 years refining the strain and it shows. To adopt an adult (or get on a waiting list for kittens), send an email message to lesliefish@cox.net. - Cathie Yankovich

(Continued on page 8)



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AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Emma Bull & Will Shetterly
July 12, 7pm
Poisoned Pen bookstore, Scottsdale

Diana Gabaldon
August 28, 7pm
Poisoned Pen bookstore, Scottsdale

SCIENCE EVENTS

Bookmans Central
Phoenix Astronomical Society offers to you, at no cost, a chance to get to know your telescope by daytime. Bring your scope, charts, questions, etc, to Bookman’s back room and learn with PAS. An RSVP is required.
Jun 10, 4:30pm

Challenger Space Center, Peoria
Sagging
Jun 23, 7pm
Aug 4, 7pm
Starlab
Pratim
Jun 16, 1130am and 1230pm
Jul 14, 1130am and 1230pm
Aug 4, 1130am and 1230pm

SPACEFEST 2007
August 17-19 at the Mesa Convention Center, sponsored by Novaspace and The Planetary Society. SPACEFEST will cover all facets of space exploration, manned and unmanned programs by way of Astronaut appearances, speakers, space art, exhibits, vendors, and a space memorabilia auction. Complete info at: <http://www.spacefest.info> .

GAMING EVENTS

Bookmans Mesa
Dungeons and Dragons RPG Night!
Mondays, 6pm

Hero Clix-Super Hero Gaming Night!
Sundays, 6pm

Bookmans Tucson-Central
Video Game Tournaments
Saturdays, 12:30-2:30pm

Drawn to Comics
Heroclix, open play
Every Tuesday, 4pm-7pm

Heroclix tournament
Every Sat, 3p-6p

Game Depot
“On The Rocks” pirate game National Tournament
June 1, 5:30pm-8pm

Worldwide RPG Day
Jun 23, noon-7pm

Heroclix Tournament
Every Wednesday, 5:30pm-7pm

Samurai Comics
7th St & Camelback:

Mechwarrior Tournaments
Format varies
Wednesday at 6pm

Friday Night Magic Tournaments.
Sign-ups start at 5pm, with tournament play beginning at 6pm.
Entry fee and format varies

Heroclix tournaments
Format varies
Saturday at 2pm

Anachronism card game tournaments
Most Saturdays

Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournaments
Sunday at noon

Samurai Comics
107th Ave & Indian School:

Friday Night Magic Tournaments
Entry fee varies
Fridays at 6pm

Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournaments
Saturday at noon

Heroclix Tournaments
Saturdays at 3pm

OTHER GENRE RELATED EVENTS

Bookmans Central
Arizona Browncoats meeting
First Saturday, 7-9pm

Browncoat Knitting Guild
Third Tuesdays, 7pm

Drum & Dance circle, dancers of all types are welcome. This is an ‘exchange of energy’ “Cyrclе” so please come & share. Hosted by Dave Frankus.
Jun 6, 7pm
Jul 4, 7pm
Aug 1, 7pm

Scimitar-Talon is a group of people wanting to enjoy recreating portions of the middle ages prior to 1600 AD. Classes on Medieval Arts and Sciences.
Jun 2, 1:30-3:30pm
Jul 7, 1:30-3:30pm
Aug 4, 1:30-3:30pm

Bookmans Mesa
Psychic Saturday – free psychic readings
Jun 2, 12:30pm

Bookmans Tucson-Central
Mystical Tuesdays – intuitive vibrational readings, astrology & tarot readings
Tuesdays, 6pm

Borders, Avondale
Metaphysical Wednesdays discussion
Wednesdays, 7pm

Borders, Glendale
Metaphysical Mondays discussion
Mondays, 7pm

Borders, Paradise Valley
Metaphysical Fridays discussion
Fridays, 7pm

Check the websites for confirmation, location and more information.
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<http://www.bookmans.com>
<http://www.barnesandnoble.com>
<http://browncoats.lagemann.org>
<http://www.imperialoutpost.com>
<http://www.azchallenger.org>
<http://www.samuraicomics.com>
<http://www.drawntocomics.com>
Game Depot, 480-966-4727

Session (Continued from page 1)

boat and you’ll be able to get caught right up and with any luck you’ll feel you need to go out and buy the rest of them. My kids will thank you, my creditors will thank you, that sort of thing.

What is this story about? This is a reflection of my mood at the moment, so I’m writing about the destruction of this world. I’m picking on a small subject here. I’m going to tear it down and build it back up again. At the moment, I’m in the process of tearing it down, so we have a collapse of civilization, essentially. Governments basically are done, countries have ceased to exist, the population has been decimated by upwards of 80%. We have a series of cataclysmic events, some of them man-made, some of them natural: plagues, poisoning of the environment, climactic changes of a major scale, nuclear attacks, and if I’ve left anything out, please let me know, I’ll see if it is in the next book.

We’ve reduced civilization to a very primitive level and what we have left are the remnants of civilization living in compounds which tend to be fortified complexes, mostly sports stadiums. I thought they’d come in good for something someday, converted into fortresses. We have people living in the outback and on the streets.

In the first book, we get to meet the Knights and the Ghosts. The Knights are the Knights of the Word from the first series who are the good guys. Their job in the *Word and Void* series was to keep the

balance of magic in check. Well, they failed miserably, it didn’t happen. As a result, we have this cataclysm. They are now living in the dreams they had of what would happen if they failed. They have failed, so they are living their nightmares. We have two of them that we are following closely. Logan Tom, who is 28, and Angel Perez, who is much younger. They have a lot of power, but they are all by themselves out there and there are a lot of bad guys and the bad guys are hunting them down.

We also have the Ghosts. The Ghosts are street kids. They are a small family of nine or ten members who range from 23 down to about nine or ten years of age. They are all up in Seattle in Pioneer Square.

There are also the freaks. The freaks are mutants who have been altered in one form or another of the poisoning. They are various types. There are croaks, spiders, lizards, and various other things that are too disgusting to talk about.

Michael Stackpole: Can you tell us about your writing routine?

TB: My routine, these days, is different than it was 30 years ago. When I had another job, which I had for many years, I worked when I could find the time to work. You had to squeeze it in. I also had kids at that time who were still living at home. Now I don’t have another job, and I don’t have kids living at home, although they hang out a lot. My schedule tends to be... Also, I’m a lot older, so my energy level drops off fast. So I’m good from about 6 in the morning to about 2 in the afternoon. After that, I find I’m not very productive on the creative front and I answer mail or take phone calls. That’s my basic plan and I work under contract as Michael does and all of us who are professionals. It means that you have to produce on a regular basis. I’m on a book a year and some intermittent work as well. I know it takes me 8 to 10 months to do a book. I factor that in when I start to work on something. For me, it’s a case of stick-and-carrot: I say “if I get so many chapters done by the end of the month, then I’m a good guy and I get a reward.” I’m never really sure what that is, it must be something. So I try to work and say each month “I have to do so many chapters.” If I do it at the beginning of the month, that’s great, if I have to put in overtime, I put in overtime to get it done.

MS: You’ve got magic and technology working here. You’re using a mixture of magic and technology at the same time in this series. Did you find special challenges with that as opposed to just writing fantasy? Mixing the two can often be challenging.

(Continued on page 9)

TB: For those of you who are readers of the *Shannara* series, you know that in the last six books in that series I've reintroduced some small forms of science as a part of the way in which the world is evolving. So we're moving away from magic into science rather than the other way around which is what happens in The Great Wars. Here we're starting out with science at the point of its destruction and collapse and we'll start to see the rise of magic come in. Obviously you have to find a balancing point to make that happen, but what's real important, I think, is that you have to be real careful to not to rely on one or the other at the wrong time and let them interact in a way that doesn't feel right. Fantasy, as we can both tell you, is very, very difficult to write from the point of view that it has to be believable. Particularly, not funny fantasy, but epic fantasy or any kind of dark contemporary fantasy. You have to believe it. If you do not believe what we're writing, if you don't believe in the characters, then the whole thing falls apart and you aren't going to stay with us. I think that's what we have to work hardest at.

Audience: Do you outline before you start?

TB: I am the guru god of outlining. Yes. I have friends who are not this way and I try hard to change their habits-sometimes I am successful and sometimes they just ignore me. But yes, I believe strongly in writing to an ending. I know my endings and I write to that ending and I like to have building blocks in place along the way. Does that mean I will follow that path? No, it does not. But it's a nice blueprint to look at from time to time and the fact is I do change my mind quite

frequently, because as any writer will tell you the writing of a story always is the thing that determines where it needs to go and how it needs to evolve.

Audience: I want to know: when do you think you might be doing another book for Landover?

TB: Well, Landover... here's the thing about Landover. Actually, the publisher has paid me to write another book about Landover some time ago and they ask this question very often. However, I have managed to stave them off by optioning the rights to Universal Studios to the series so I say we shouldn't do that book until we see if they're going to make that movie, and then if they're going to make that movie then we should do that book and bring it out commensurate with the movie and just think how many more copies we'll sell and their eyes light up. So for the moment I've put them off, but I'll have to do something in the next three to five years but I haven't put a timetable on it.

Lee Whiteside: At what point did you decide that *Shannara* was the future of Earth after the Apocalypse?

TB: I really only made that decision recently. Obviously it's something I've been asked over the years and I've kind of put that question off by saying "what do you think?" It's my favorite response for questions I have no answer for. And I didn't think about it too much because I didn't think it was important, I thought it was one of those things that best happens in the mind of the reader. But even when I wrote *The Word and the Void* series, I had not at that point decided that that was a lead-in to that. The only thing I really knew when I finished that series was that when I went back into it, it would be through the dreams of the Knights of the Words and that it would be the future and

it would be dark and Road Warrior-ish and so forth. It wasn't until about 24 months ago when I started working on what I thought would be the next installment that it struck me it was an opportunity if I wanted to take advantage of it. A kind of scary opportunity but I just thought "you know, I really kind of think this is maybe where it's all been pointing at, and I'm going to talk to my editor about it." She got all excited about it and I said "well, I guess I'll give it a shot."

Audience: Now that you've decided to blend the *Word and the Void* series with the *Shannara* series, are we going to see any books that tie them together more closely?

TB: The set of books required to cover this time, which in *Shannara* is about 1000 years, I'm figuring at least 6 to 9 books. I'm not going to do them all at once, I'll get brain cramp, but I figure I'll do the first three and then take a break to do something else and then get back into it. You know 300-500 years in the future we'll have new characters, a new setting and so forth. It's a long-term project. No question about it I'm going to have to bear down.

Audience: Do you have any characters that are your favorites or that are close to your heart that you've written about?

TB: They're all so marvelous. Gosh, you know - I don't know that I could pick any particular character or set of characters. I mean, they all mean something to me or they wouldn't be in the book. I'm about as much attached to the evildoers. I mean, all characters are all reflections on who we are in a weird sort of way. I don't think you can completely disassociate yourself, or you couldn't write about them at all. So that's hard to say. They all mean something to me in different ways. I kind of like the loners and the outcasts as much

have a reason for it, it has to advance your story, there has to be a purpose behind it or it gets out of control. I remember quite well, when Lester Del Rey was my editor on the first book - I killed off a lot of people he brought back to life. He said "What are you doing? You can't just kill off all these people, you're going to lose every reader that ever cared. You've killed off everybody that matters." And I said, "yes, but it's so dramatic!" "Get over yourself" was Lester's reply.

Audience: How involved are you in the publishing process?

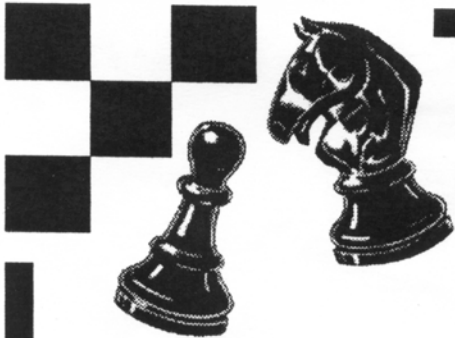
TB: I'm fairly involved these days. I've been with the same publisher since the start of my career. This has the benefit of having outlived everybody I started with, or at least outlasted them. They've all moved on to other things. In fact, there's no one there who knows or has read all the books because there's been such a turnover so they have to rely on me. And you know, that's sad, because my memory's shot all to pieces. I have control over my cover art. I work with an artist and my editor on what the covers will be for my books. I approve what happens with their marketing, all that sort of thing. I plan my tours so I have a fair amount of control. I don't determine size of print runs or packaging or anything like that because that's not really in my purview. That's up to them to make those kinds of determinations. I probably have as much to say about what goes on as anybody in the field these days. Live long enough you get something for it.

as I do anybody. Kind of a vague answer...

Audience: Is it tough to kill characters?

TB: Nope. I think that you have to be willing to kill off anybody; at least, I know I am. There just has to be a reason for it. You don't just wake up and decide "well it's time to kill that guy off." I think you have to





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Pro Notes

Hello again, everyone. Winter's over and Spring is here. It's funny but I feel more like reading when the weather perks up than in the cold dark winter. So I become more interested in what our authors share with me. And I start looking for new talent as well. This issue's offerings are from all over the country this time- from Maine to Florida and New York to California.

Ben Bova from Florida told me that his "Sam Gunn Omnibus" came out in February (from Tor) and the fourth book of the ASTEROID WARS, "The Aftermath," will be out in August (Tor again). He'll be the dinner speaker at the International Space Development Conference in Dallas, 25 May, and Guest of Honor at ConGlomeration in Louisville KY 10-12 August. Other than that, he says he's "pecking away at my keyboard every day, working on the third MARS novel, "Mars Life." Going up through Georgia, brought us **Jack McDevitt** who is currently making his last pass through "Cauldron," which will be released in November 2007.

David Drake, in N. Carolina, told me that he finds it amusing that the things he's most excited about regularly aren't the things that pay him the most money (by a long way). That right now, the most exciting thing is his fantasy/horror collection "Balefires," just out from Night Shade. This is the book he thought in 1971 that Arkham House might publish (in five years or so when he'd written enough stories to fill a book, of course). It isn't from Arkham House and it took a lot longer than five years; but then, he says "...I didn't expect to have written sixty or so other books before this one appeared." Night Shade has also brought out the first two volumes of his "The Complete Hammer's Slammers;" there's one more to go. As with "Balefires," the volumes are something of a vindication (and the SFBC is picking them up also, something it didn't do when the material was originally written in the '80s and '90s). He just turned in a Leary/Mundy space opera, "When the Tide Rises," to Baen, and he's busily plotting "The Gods Return," the final book of the CROWN OF THE ISLES trilogy, for Tor. It'll be the final novel in the ISLES series also; his editor's said publicly that he's not sure that David won't do more—but as David told me "...he wouldn't say that if he knew how I'm going to climax the book." The paperback of "The Fortress of Glass," the first book of the CROWN OF THE ISLES, has just come out, and the hardcover of "The Mirror of Worlds," the second book, will be out from Tor in June. (Both have stunning Donato covers.) In closing, David shared that he's been

thinking of his friend Jim Baen who died last summer; his ashes are scattered in the grove beside David's house. David confides that he frequently says, 'Hi,' to Jim. They were close for many years, and David's glad they're still close.

James Hetley hails from Maine and is one of my favorite new writers. He shares that his fourth novel, "Dragon's Teeth," came out last November from Ace. Reviews have been good. {see this writer's review in this issue} "Ghost Point," in the same story group as "Dragon's Eye" and "Dragon's Teeth," is out looking for a publisher now, as is the completed manuscript of "Signatures." The latter is a "fantasy detective noir."

He's currently working on "Powers," an urban fantasy with demons and amnesiac gods, not related to any of the previous books.

And then from Pennsylvania, **Michael Swanwick** joins us for the first time. He's an awfully busy man. He just finished assembling a new collection, "The Dog Said Bow-Wow," for Tachyon Publications due out this fall. None of the stories in it have ever appeared in any of his previous collections, three are Hugo Award winners, and one, "The Skysailor's Tale," is original to the book. It's about a young man from early nineteenth century Philadelphia who joins a circumglobal airship voyage, and it's the most

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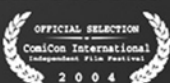
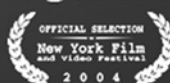
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autobiographical thing he's written since "The Changeling's Tale." He's also finished a novel! "The Dragons of Babel" comes out from Tor Books early in 2008. It's definitely not a sequel to "The Iron Dragon's Daughter" but it's set in the same world, with the same dragons, and a character from the earlier novel makes a brief cameo appearance. Parts of this book have been revised and published as "King Dragon," "The Word That Sings the Scythe," "An Episode of Stardust," "Lord Weary's Empire," and "A Small Room in Koboldtown." "But," Michael says "I defy anybody who's read them all to predict where the story goes from

(Continued on page 12)

Pro Notes (Continued from page 11) there.” And, Michael just returned from Moscow, where he was researching his next and as-yet-unnamed novel. In it, his peripatetic Post-utopian con men, Darger and Surplus, finally and after many a detour, reach Russia. He plans to begin writing it just as soon as he takes care of the stacks of half-written stories and essays that are cluttering up his desk.

We’ll skip the Midwest this time and go straight to Utah, where **L.E. Modesitt, Jr.** lives. His “*The Eternity Artifact*,” just came out in hardcover in February, and a new RECLUCE book – “Natural Ordermage” — coming out in hardcover from Tor September 2007. In between are two shorter pieces, “The Difference” in a DAW anthology called “Man vs. Machine” and a novella “The Lord-Protector’s Daughter” in the August 2007 issue of **Baen’s Universe**. Then in March 2008, Tor will be issuing his very first story collection “Viewpoints Critical” which also contains three brand new works, including a COREAN CHRONICLES “alternate world” story. As for appearances, Lee will be at MileHiCon in Denver in mid-October, and at World Fantasy at Saratoga Springs New York in November. He may have other appearances scheduled around the release of “Natural Ordermage.” As for work in progress, he’s currently working on the first fantasy novel book set in an entirely new universe. Oh... and his story “Ghost Mission” was selected for David Hartwell’s year’s best in fantasy “Year’s Best Fantasy 7” due out in July, while last year’s “Sisters of Sarronnyn, Sisters of Westwind” was selected for “The Best of Jim Baen’s Universe,” also due out in July.

Walter Jon Williams wrote to me from New Mexico, that he’s finished the first draft of his new novel, “Implied Spaces,” and will shortly deliver it to Night Shade Books. This will clear the decks to write his next novel, “The Game Calls,” for Orbit US. July 8-21 he’ll be teaching with Connie Willis and George RR Martin at Taos Toolbox (www.taostoolbox.com), a workshop he started for aspiring science fiction and fantasy writers.

Our own local (Arizona), **Doranna Durgin** tells us that she’s back into the shapeshifting theme with a new series for Nocturne, “Sentinels” —just now polishing up the first manuscript, and she’s waiting to see what they do for the cover! Also for publication next year, she’s in the middle of a sequel to her “Nose for Trouble” mystery with the veterinarian/Beagle duo... “Scent of Danger” will also be a hardcover release, “though” she says “half the reward is the fun of writing it!” The very next book to hit the shelves, though, is a fancy French flap re-release of the award-winning “Dun

Lady’s Jess.” The book still hovers on a release date, but early summer should see it available. After all these years of reluctantly responding to queries with the information that the book is out of print and into collector’s status, Doranna is full of glee at the chance to see it available again, and with such delightful packaging to boot! Otherwise, life up in the high country is about being with the animals—training the dogs and Lipizzan. The Lippi is moving forward in his schooling and is so pleased with himself that he spends time out in the paddock practicing various noble poses. The agility dogs are now competing for the very highest available titles, and are moving up in rally obedience as well. Connery Beagle currently ranks #12 nationally among Beagles in MACH competition, which is quite the thrill for Doranna. Short-lived, no doubt, since other areas have longer trialing seasons than we do, but Doranna’s says she’ll enjoy while she can. **Ernest Hogan** and **Emily Hogan** (a.k.a. Emily Devenport/Maggy Thomas/Lee Hogan) are co-authoring YA Fantasy novels as E. E. Hogan. Their first book, “The Terrible Twelves,” is being shopped around New York now, and they’re at work on a second. Ernie is also finishing up a couple of short stories, “Atomic Grass” and “Human Sacrifice For Fun And Profit.” and Em is hammering away at two other YA Fantasies under the Lee Hogan moniker. And Ernie added that there’s a Russian version of his anthology “Witpunk” and a Russian-language podcast of his story, “Coyote Goes Hollywood.” They call it “Santa Bonkers American humor.” “Brainpan Fallout,” a bizarre experiment in writing for new media, is now back online in the 1997 Red Dog Journal gallery of lasilencia.com. Ernie laughs “Looks like if I turn my back on my career for a few days, it goes out and does weird things without me.”

News from California was brief but sweet: **Kim Stanley Robinson** says he’s writing a novel about Galileo, and will go to the Chicago Festival of the Humanities in November. And **Vernor Vinge** says he’s working on a Tines World sequel to “A Fire Upon the Deep.” And congratulations to Vernor for his most recent novel, “Rainbows End,” that made it onto the Hugo ballot: http://www.nippon2007.us/hugo_nominees.php

And finally, from another new voice: After another grueling winter writing season, **John Ringo** took a look up to see what was happening in the publishing world. Fifth book in the PALADIN OF SHADOWS series (“A Deeper Blue,” Baen Jul ’07)? *Check*. Three sequels to “Into the Looking Glass” complete (“Vorpall Blade,” Baen September ’07, two unscheduled)? *Check*. Sequel to “Cally’s War” (“Sister Time”)? *Check*.

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How hard can it be to steal a train?

Out-of-the-blue muse-mugging-not-affiliated-with-any-contracted-series novel (“Centurion”)? *Check*. (Gotta have at least *one* per year.) “Can I take a break, now? No...? Relentless b*****s. Fine! One Mike O’Neal book (“Eye of the Storm”) coming up. *Then...* I’m going fishing.”

Always nice to hear from our artists in the genre. Donato Giancola in New York offered that one of his most recent works is a large triptych on the Battle of Agincourt

that he’s been working on intermittently for about a year and a half and has recently finished. Other projects include a set of UN Stamps that are scheduled for release this fall, and of course the various book covers that he’s been doing. Some of the more recent covers are “Name of the Wind” by Patrick Rothfuss and “Mirror of Worlds” by David Drake. As always, his newest images and news updates are available on his website: www.donatoart.com. And our local, Mark Greenawalt, reports that he will definitely be returning to CopperCon this year. He hasn’t nailed down the details of what he’ll be doing, but with Charlaine Harris on board, there’s no doubt that his painting demo will involve vampires. He’s recently read Stoker’s Dracula, King’s Salem’s Lot, and Rice’s Vampire Chronicles so he’s obviously a fan of the genre. In other news, Mark will be teaching at the US Bodypainting Competition in Albuquerque in September (<http://www.usbodypaintingfestival.com>) and has been doing a lot of promotional work. He recently did a bodypainting with the reigning WWE Women’s Champion Melina.

And last but not least by any means, is news from our folks from DragonPage, AKA Far Point Media. The only really big news coming up is that the Slice of SciFi team has been invited to emcee events at the Tempe and Tucson “Can’t Stop the Serenity” charity screenings, on June 21 and June 23 respectively. <http://browncoats.lagemann.org/> FarPoint Media has also added about 10 new

shows to the network, including music shows from indie artist George Hrab and new music showcase hosted by Mike Wills.

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**.

An American in Canada Part Five: Egging on to Bird Island (or Eagles, Seals, and Puffins, Oh My!)

by **Jeffrey Lu**

Originally, I was planning to sleep on board. I looked at the tours for Sydney, Nova Scotia. What caught my eye were the words, “Bird Island.” Thinking of Ian Fleming’s “Dr. No,” I remembered faintly about the island invaded by some mysterious force. This time, maybe a tour group with me in it. Curious, I read about the type of animals either on or near the island for this tour. Maybe go on this tour, no?

“Bald Eagles.” Seen them. (YAWN!) Result: no.

“Seals.” Really? Seen them at a zoo. But a wild seal? That sounds cool. (One-eye opened) Result: Hmm... maybe. “Puffins.” What? Flying penguins? (Both eyes opened) Result: Yes! Now, I gotta see this. Then, I signed up for a separate, special tour boat.

Tons of seabirds flocking around the Bird Island: cliffs and rocky terrain. The sounds of panicked birds sounds like the soundtrack from Alfred Hitchcock’s “The Birds.” I questioned one of the boat crew if this was our fault. One of the tour guides told me that it wasn’t. Instead, we were witnessing an unusual event- bald eagles hunting at Bird Island.

A few splashes came to my attention. One of the crew told us about the migration of seals. I looked around

expecting to see only one wild seal. Staring for a few seconds at me were five to eleven pair of eyes. All their heads turn together to the right and splashed away. Then, they surfaced again and looked at me, the boat, and the people for a few more seconds. These wild seals had a puzzled expression at what the heck were we and what were we doing here. I had no idea how to respond.

I decided to smile. Then, I waved at the perplexed seals. Seeing this family of seals was cool. After the initial shock, the seals were tired of seeing me waving like a fool and splashed away.

Afterwards, the boat turned around Bird Island. Something in the water sped by. I saw people pointing at the front and at the sides of the boat. Again, something near the water fast past us. One of the crew members whispered in my ear, “Puffins.”

Carefully, I took out my binoculars and looked. The puffins were floating on the water. (I found out later these birds were out in the water to avoid being eagles’ snack.) These creatures flew by when the boat got too close.

In conclusion, just seeing these birds was definitely worth the trip. After the tour, I went back to my nest...er, bunk and slept.

Next in An American in Canada Part Six: Help from Halifax or a Titanic Blunder.

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

Joe Bethancourt – *Ride Back in Time*
Random Factors RF-1011

You can have a pretty loud and heated argument over who is – or who deserves to be – Arizona’s official balladeer. Regardless of who the state recognizes as its official songster these days, their guy doesn’t hold a candle to Joe Bethancourt. And Joe’s latest CD is proof.

“Ride Back in Time” is exactly what the title makes it out to be. Bethancourt visits 15 of his favorite old-timey songs, and mixes in some round-the-campfire tall tales that make for a great listen.

Bethancourt starts things off with a rousing chorus of “Buffalo Gals,” in which he mixes some Native American drums to give the song a different little twist.

Joe does that a lot here. He knows the songs are well-worn; some come ready-packed with the label “chestnut” on them. But he makes them sound wholly new with some very original instrumentation. His version of “Rye Whiskey” is a good example. Rather than play it on the guitar or banjo for the millionth time, he sings over a mouthbow accompaniment, laid over some rather space-y sound effects.

The playing, as always, is as damn

near perfect as you would expect from Bethancourt; I particularly liked his version of “Attitudinal Cat Rag,” a fine guitar piece that Joe plays like he wrote it.

In short, this is another fine CD from the only balladeer in Arizona who really matters. And you should pick it up.

FILK NOTES: Nancy Freeman is, at press time, putting the finishing touches on her latest project, the sweeping and unbelievably huge “Stardust County.” Conceived as a song cycle, it quickly became a folk opera, with plenty of action, magical spells, werewolves, a glass guitar and a whole bunch more.

The 2-CD set is scheduled to be ready for release at Westercon this year, and features lots of local and national filk celebrities: Jeff and Maya Bohnhoff, Michelle Dockrey, Larry Warner and a whole bunch of others. Yours truly shows up in a couple of places, as well.

Be on the lookout...

Tom Tuerff is a local musician by night and ad man by day. He has two – count ‘em, two – CDs out: “Something To Sell at My Gigs” and the still rather new “But Wait...There’s More!” Both are available at www.cdbaby.com or from Tom himself. Better you have them than let them sit in his garage.

Thirty years ago at a theatre near you: Star Wars

by Shane Shellenbarger

It’s Tuesday, May 24th, 1977 and my luck has taken a turn for the worse. The good side of my luck was winning two passes from a radio station for a sneak preview of some film called “Star Wars”, but the bad side of my luck is that I can’t get anyone to go with me. Work, prior commitments, general disinterest, and other excuses are all given and they leave me disheartened: who will I discuss the film with if no one will go? Finally, after nine “no’s” I get a “yes” from Curt Stubbs, a literary science fiction fan I’ve worked with on several conventions. Curt meets me at the biggest single-screen theatre in Phoenix, the Cine Capri, and we settle into the plush seats armed with popcorn and soda pop. Nearly two hours later, the lights come up and Curt comments, “Not bad, but the aliens were too anthropomorphic.” Being a less discriminating nineteen-year-old, I simply sat there with my mouth hanging open - mind completely blown by the film I’d just experienced.

1977 saw the beginning of the blockbuster special-effects films and the movie industry would never be the same. The January 31st, 1997 release of the *Star Wars: Special Edition* demonstrated that audience interest hasn’t flagged: Just eight

weeks of *Star Wars* box office returns captured \$60 million (from 1977-1984 *Star Wars* grossed \$400 million in worldwide rentals). Total returns for *The Empire Strikes Back* equaled \$290 million, *Return Of The Jedi* has grossed a respectable \$306 million dollars, *The Phantom Menace* has earned \$926 million, *Attack of the Clones* \$311 million in the U.S.A. alone, and \$380 million in U.S. grosses for *Revenge of the Sith*, to date.

It’s hard to argue with success, and the *Star Wars* films (and subsequent DVD sales) are nothing if not successful. Not only are they the first films thought of when a moviegoer talks about “blockbusters”, but they are the champs when merchandising revenues for toys are tallied: Between 1977 and 1984, Kenner and the other principal *Star Wars* toy manufacturer, MPC, sold over 300 million toys based on the films. The marketing blitz continues to this day with books, graphic novels, comic books, coloring books, trading cards, pinball machines, board games, video games, computer games, and the ever-present toys not only based on the original three films, but also the second trilogy beginning with *The Phantom Menace* and (possibly) concluding with *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*. Since then, the soon-to-be released *Star Wars: The Force*

Unleashed, a game designed for next-generation gaming systems and the tentative, (but possibly definitive) “Grand Saga” DVD/HD-DVD/Blu-Ray set will continue the *Star Wars* merchandising juggernaut. The United States Postal Service hopes that “The Force” will be with it as they release a fifteen-stamp-pane on May 25th celebrating the 30th anniversary of *Star Wars: A New Hope*. In addition, for only the second time in its 256-year-history, the U.S. Postal Service has invited the public to vote on a favorite stamp, with the winning stamp becoming its own stamp sheet.

“Where did you see *Star Wars*?” is probably one of the most asked questions when fans discuss the film. At a Fantasy and Science Fiction seminar in Scottsdale, Arizona, several authors spoke about that very subject. Author of *Lady of the Glen*, the *Sword-Dancer* series, the newly released *Karavans*, and a contributing author to the anthology, *Star Wars: Tales from the Mos Eisley Cantina*, Jennifer Roberson: “I spent the summer of ’77 at the Cine Capri Theater in Phoenix. I remember I was standing in line for the first regular showing on the first full day when I commented to a friend that they would have to go quite a ways in order to beat *Star Trek*. A young man in line ahead of us turned around and said, ‘Trust me, it

(Continued on page 14)

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Thirty Years (Continued from page 13)

is better.’ I recoiled and said, ‘You’ve seen it already and you’re back in line THIS SOON?’ ‘Yep!’ he said. After the showing I walked out of that theater and said, ‘I have been saved!’ I spent that summer finding people who hadn’t seen *Star Wars* and hauling them to the theater so that I could enjoy it vicariously all over again. I think I saw it twenty-three times that summer.” The Cine Capri Theater, exclusive location for *Star Wars* that summer, closed in 1998.

Author of *Midworld*, *The Howling Stones*, the soon-to-be-released *Patrimony*, and universally acknowledged as the writer/adaptor of the 1976 paperback, *Star Wars: from the Adventures of Luke Skywalker*, Alan Dean Foster: “I wrote the paperback, so my story is a little different, but this is the version that I usually tell. I saw it first at the cast and crew screening at the old Academy Motion Picture Arts and Sciences screening theater in Los Angeles. It was the first time that a lot of the people who had worked on the picture had seen the completed film. There were people who had done modeling and people who had done costuming and nobody knew what it would look like. I had seen a few pieces of the rough cut, but very few. I was making small talk with the producer, Gary Kurtz, telling him that it would be neat if they ran *Duck Dodgers in the 24th and ½ Century* before they ran the film. He shrugs, so my wife and I go sit down and she nudges me. ‘Do you know who’s sitting behind you?’ she asked. I look around and there’s this geeky looking, long-haired guy sitting there. ‘No, who’s that?’ ‘That’s Alice Cooper!’ And I said, ‘Who’s Alice Cooper?’ I knew very little about rock music at that time, I was a classical music buff. She explains it to me, waits a little while, and then says, ‘Well, say something to him!’ I said, ‘I don’t know the guy, I don’t know anything about him, if you want to talk to him why don’t YOU talk to him?’ Well, she can’t talk to him but she gets me to talk to him. Apropos of what I’d just discussed with Gary Kurtz, I asked Cooper if he liked old Warner Bros. cartoons. ‘Oh yeah, you too?’ So for the next six minutes before the film came up we talked about old cartoons, Chuck Jones, Bob Clampett, and Tex Avery. After the film ended, we’re walking out of the theater knowing that cinematic history has been made and my wife gives me a hard elbow to the ribs, POW! ‘What’d you do that for?’ I asked. ‘You spent six minutes talking to Alice Cooper and all you could talk about is cartoons!’ she said. By the way, they did show *Duck Dodgers* before the film to lighten up the crowd, because many careers were riding on the success of *Star Wars*. Of course, Gary Kurtz didn’t give that away while I was suggesting it.”

Author of the series *The Chronicles of Thomas Covenant, the Unbeliever*, *The Man Who Fought Alone*, and the soon-to-be-released *Fatal Revenant*, Stephen R. Donaldson: “You know it’s interesting, but there are ways in which I remember the first time I saw *Star Wars* better than I remember any of my marriages. As it happens, it was in May of 1977 in Cherry Hill, New Jersey and it was very nearly my last official act as a resident of the state because I had just sold my first book and I used the money to move away from New Jersey. But, before we left, *Star Wars* was opening and we all drove up to the Cherry Hill Mall to see the show. It was a transcendent experience, in a certain kind of way. We had seen movies with stunning special effects before. I certainly remember *2001: A Space Odyssey*, but that film seemed more about the special effects and part of what I loved about *Star Wars* was it had all of the special effects in the world and they were still subordinate to the storytelling, they never got between you and your vicarious enjoyment of the action. That seemed pretty special to me.”

Author of *The New World: Book Three in The Age of Discovery*, *Dark Tide: New Jedi Order* series, and the *Star Wars: X-Wing* series, Mike Stackpole: “I grew up in Vermont, which is, in many ways, still in the 1950’s, so science fiction serials were not unexpected then. My brother, my best friend, and I had a tradition of shopping the day before Christmas. You could shop much faster, the selections were smaller, and consuming the morning doing that, we would kill the rest of the day by going to see a movie. We saw *The Gauntlet* and while I remember very little about the movie, I remember the trailer that opened it was *Star Wars*. I was stunned. The next day I took one of my presents, a gift certificate for the Little Professor Bookstore, and bought the paperback, read it, so by the time the movie opened in May, I was primed. A co-worker and I left work early, went to the 11:00 a.m. showing, and sat in the theater with about seventeen other people. And I remember that the first time I saw that Star Destroyer with that wedge-shape being driven down and across the screen, it was like a wedge being driven into my brain, blowing it wide open.”

Each of these authors had a different, but overwhelmingly positive reaction to the film that began a cinematic dynasty. Like any dynasty, some members of the line stand out as giants and benefactors, some as petty dictators, and some as fools. Fortunately for George Lucas, *Star Wars: A New Hope* and *Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark* are sharp in the memories of their fans while *Howard the Duck* and *Willow* grow dim and fade away. Jar Jar Binks will remain on film, a failed experiment in computer generated characterization (barring any “Special

Edition” by Lucas), while N Sync’s appearance in *Attack of the Clones* will remain “what might have been.”

1997 was the year of the *Star Wars* Special Edition Trilogy and it saw the beginnings of *The Phantom Menace*. While he briefly toyed with the notion of 12 *Star Wars* films, Lucas seems to have settled for six films. While the new trilogy may not have inspired theatergoers to make as many return trips to the box office as did their predecessors, I do know that the comradeship of standing in line for hours with your best friends, swapping rumors with strangers, and feeling that electric rush as the words “A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away” appear, isn’t the same for me now, thirty years later. The hype that the *Star Wars* marketing machine has created was an artificial excitement that could not be justified by *The Phantom Menace*, *Attack of the Clones*, nor *Revenge of the Sith*. I hope that someday George Lucas will be able to rekindle the sense of wonder I felt back in 1977 and if that happens I want to be sitting next to some kid as the lights come up whose first comment is “WOW!”

<http://www.starwars.com/episode-iv/>
<http://www.lucasfilm.com>
<http://www.uspsjedimaster.com/main/splash.html>
<http://us.imdb.com/Goofs?0076759>
<http://us.imdb.com/Trivia?0076759>
<http://us.imdb.com/AlternateVersions?0076759>
<http://us.imdb.com/Quotes?0076759>
<http://www.ifilm.com/search?query=%22star+wars%22&s=Video+Search>

Shane Shellenbarger is a freelance writer who lives with his wife, Laurie, and several thousand books in Phoenix, Arizona. He first attended Comic-Con when it was located on Harbor Island in 1973.

The Chaotic Afternoon and Unruly Evening Hanging with Harlan Ellison: Part 1 of 2 By Shane Shellenbarger

On April 19th, I drove alone to spend some time with the most unique person I’ve ever met: Harlan Ellison. I left Phoenix at about 7:00 AM and headed west, aiming for Beverly Hills. The trip was uneventful save for a rekindling of my appreciation of the mountains and deserts of Arizona and California and my disappointment in tasting a Hadley’s Date Shake. They’re not as good as I remembered they were. MapQuest/Google Maps are okay, but not perfect. An up-to-date, handheld, foldout map is hard to beat. Maybe I should have bought one.

When a hotel says, “Under

renovation” believe them. The exterior of the Beverly Pavilion Hotel was completely covered by scaffolding, but the appointments of my room were quite nice. I spent a total of six hours (four sleeping) in the room, so I hardly had a chance to enjoy the Dell plasma TV, the hardwood floors, or the clock/radio with the iPod dock. I had just enough time to check-in and head to the 3:00 PM meet-up at Pink’s. Getting from the Pavilion to Pink’s Hot Dogs (*Prince Myshkin, and Hold the Relish*) was no problem. Finding parking (if you aren’t driving a 1947 Packard) is nearly impossible. Meters on La Brea are limited to one hour. Meters on Melrose are limited to two hours. I know that . . . now! More about that later. I walked down the block to Pink’s, got in line behind about twenty people, and waited to order. It was 2:40. At around 2:55, the aforementioned ’47 Packard, smoke pouring from the right wheel-well, pulled up to the curb. Harlan Ellison had arrived.

Harlan & Susan Ellison, Rick (HarlanEllison.Com) Wyatt, Tim (*Fingerprints on the Sky*), Andrea, and Alexia Richmond emerged from the smoking Grey Ghost as Steve Barber placed orange safety cones front and rear. The party could begin.

The reasons friends and fans of Ellison were meeting at Pink’s, located at 709 North La Brea Avenue, were twofold: The documentary, *Dreams with Sharp Teeth: A Film about Harlan Ellison*, was being shown at the not-too-far-off Writer’s Guild of America Theater and Pink’s Hot Dogs was the setting of Ellison’s short story, *Prince Mishkin, and Hold the Relish (Angry Candy)*. The witty Ellison told quips, made observations, and exchanged repartee with the assembled individuals. One of the stories he told concerned a contestant on the TV game show, *The Weakest Link*. Harlan and Susan looked on as the host asked the following, “Who acted in the film, Lawrence of Arabia and wrote a syndicated newspaper bridge column for the *Chicago Tribune*?” The contestant thought about it for a minute and replied, “Naomi Campbell.” The answer was so bizarre, skewed, and off-the-wall it became the source of much humor around the Ellison household as the answer to all questions: “Who was the 37th president? Naomi Campbell! Who discovered the islets of Langerhans? Naomi Campbell! Who is buried in Grant’s tomb? Naomi Campbell!”

We’ve all experienced time compression when we’re enjoying ourselves, but have you ever had that sinking feeling when you suddenly realize the parking meter has raised the red flag, you’re heading back to feed the meter, you see the meter man from across La Brea, you inform said meter man that you

(Continued on page 15)

Harlan (Continued from page 14)

are returning with funds for said meter, you weigh the value of your life against the flash of traffic and opt for the crosswalk, to run up and start pumping coins into the meter as (you'd swear) the meter man informs you that he's already ticketed you? I've had that feeling and that experience. I've also had the feeling of relief as the meter man is walking back



© Shane Shellenbarger

to his car and says, "I didn't ticket you." I finished pumping nickels, stood there for a second processing what I'd just heard, turned and thanked the meter man profusely.

If the evening with Harlan was to be unruly, the afternoon should be classified as chaotic: A select few pushed the '47 Packard (aka, The Grey Ghost) across Melrose to the Chevron Gas and Candy Bar Emporium where Harlan exchanges insults and pleasantries with A Made Man. If you don't know that phrase, think *Sopranos*. Then there was the 4 o'clock clearing of the streets by L.A.'s Finest. Yep, if you're parked along La Brea Blvd at 4 p.m. it's move it or lose it. I was the last car on the East side to get underway. Was that a tow truck I saw down the block? Yes it was, but this tow truck was a flat bed requested to rescue the ailing Grey Ghost. Ellison was seen stroking the bumper and whispering words of comfort to the beautiful car just before it disappeared into the southbound traffic on La Brea. The boxes of books for autographing later that evening were placed into my Saturn Vue and we all returned to Pink's to continue the congregation.

Gloria Pink, daughter-in-law of the original owners, exchanged pleasantries with Harlan and Susan and greeted the rest of us warmly. She had four foot-long dogs made stating, "Pink's Loves Harlan Ellison" spelled out in mustard. After photographer Steven Barber snapped a shot, the dogs were rearranged to state, "Harlan Ellison Loves Pink's" and another photo was taken. The group found out later that Gloria Pink had been kind enough to host the event. When you hang with Harlan, you get the singular pleasure of meeting mensches. Gloria Pink is a mensch!

Around 5 o'clock, photographer, M. Christine Valada and her husband, Len

Wein (*Swamp Thing*) arrived, ordered food, and joined the group. Wein and Ellison traded quips between bites of hot dogs that have a certain snap to them. The jocularly continued until 6:15 p.m. It was time to head for the Writers Guild of America Theater. Just how unruly could the evening get?

Next time: The event, after the event, Rick Wyatt and the Richmond's entrust me with their lives, the deer that got out of the

road, Sunny California, HA!, the breakfast that didn't happen, the road ahead, the most I've spent for gas (to date), etc.

<http://harlanellison.com>
<http://www.pinkshollywood.com>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pink%27s_Hot_Dogs
http://www.creatvdiff.com/harlan_ellison.php,
<http://harlanellison.com/heboard/archive/dreams.htm>
<http://mysite.verizon.net/res7n0zi/id30.html>
<http://mysite.verizon.net/res7n0zi/id32.html>
<http://mysite.verizon.net/res7n0zi/id31.html>
<http://www.documentaryfilms.net/index.php/dreams-with-sharp-teeth/>
<http://mcvalada.blogspot.com/2007/04/social-whirl.html>
<http://0wanderingattention.blogspot.com/search/label/Harlan%20Ellison>

The Costume Closet



Dealing With Mal-Wear Being Part One of An Introduction to Costuming in the Firefly 'Verse by Randall Whitlock

Over the last few years, one of the most active and growing segments of SF fandom has been the "Browncoats;" those of us who love Joss Whedon's brilliant but too short-lived television series "Firefly" and its sequel film "Serenity."

Firefly is set in a distant solar system of terraformed frontier worlds in a difficult future unencumbered by aliens or FTL drives. The 'verse is recovering from a devastating civil war. Consequently,

much of the culture and clothing is metaphorically connected to the American west in the post civil war reconstruction period. Stirred into this is a heapin' helping of Chinese and other Asian cultural influences. It's a rich universe full of mostly poor folks, rightly inspiring to SF convention hall costumers.

The show revolves around nine principal characters who travel together in the transport ship *Serenity*. They're called the "Big Damned Heroes" (BDH's for short) by Browncoats. Any of the BDH's make fine fodder for hall costumes.

Certainly the most western-looking of the BDH's is Captain Malcolm Reynolds. Mal is usually seen in cavalry trousers with suspenders, tall brown boots, and a coarse work shirt with sleeves rolled halfway up the forearms. The good captain is the basis of my favorite hall costume, so I'll dedicate the bulk of this article to his garb.

The pants, with their distinctive high waist, back adjustment buckle, and lack of a belt, can be purchased off the shelf from stores that serve wild west reenactors. Manufacturers of suitable pants include Wah Maker and Frontier Classics. These can be purchased locally at Wild West Mercantile in Mesa, Arizona. You can also find lots of suitable clothing at wildwest festivals, such as Festival of the West, the Single-Action Shooting Society's Winter Range, and the annual reenactment of the Battle of Picacho Peak. There are, of course, many online dealers.

Mal's boots are tall, brown, and close-fitting. The originals have zippers up the side and a look reminiscent of both cowboy boots and motorcycle boots. I faked my boots by purchasing ordinary oiled leather western work boots and sewing extended leather cuffs to the tops.

Mal is the wearer of the original "Browncoat", the coarse three-quarter length leather jacket that has given our fandom its name. Its lines are similar to a late 19th century frock coat, but it is fuller in the body, has turned-up cuffs on the sleeves, and has vents in the sides for a fast draw. There is a detailed drawing in "Firefly: The Official Companion, Volume I", which shows the locations of all the seams. This book is well worth the purchase at any price.

Not having the budget for leather, I built my browncoat from synthetic suede, borrowing the sleeve from Laughing Moon's frock coat pattern and laying out the body by eyeball. The coat is closed with distinctively shaped brass spring buckles, not unlike those used on old-fashioned "slicker" raincoats. I found some close-but-no-cigar buckles at a local fabric remnants store. One of these days, I'll build the real thing out of sheet brass stock. One could probably assemble something fairly convincing out of brass conchos and narrow strips of brass to hook the pairs of conchos together.

Mal's sidearm is a true work of art.

The detailed description of its making is another good reason to read the Official Companion books. It mystified me for years before I saw the writeup. Turns out the prop was built around a Taurus double-action revolver with molded bronze side panels and a faux magazine added to imply a semi-automatic action, while allowing the original revolver to fire blanks for action scenes. Quantum Mechanix has released a highly detailed replica. Lesser plastic replicas can be found on the net.

Mal's costume was changed a mite for the "Big Damned Movie." The trousers were darker brown and somewhat closer fitting, the new shirt featured small metal clasp buckles in place of buttons, and the suspenders were much heavier and more detailed. The browncoat and pants had heavy patches on one shoulder and one leg. I suppose these were meant to imply padded bracing points for a heavy battlefield weapon.

I've yammered on long enough about the Captain. I'll pick up again next time with some hints about costuming the rest of the BDH's and other memorable characters from the Firefly 'verse.

Before closing, I'd like to introduce you to some good friends, The Arizona Browncoats. Check us out at www.azbrowncoats.com We have a very active e-mail discussion group and forums. We get together for a "shindig" on the first Saturday evening of each month at the Bookmans Entertainment Exchange at the northwest corner of 19th Avenue and Northern Avenue in Phoenix.

The Browncoat Knitters Guild gets together at the same Bookmans location on the third Tuesday evening of the month to teach general knitting, like Jayne's cunning hat.

With the generous sponsorship of Harkins Theaters, The Loft Theater and Bookmans, the Arizona Browncoats are participating in "Can't Stop The Serenity," a series of public screenings of "Serenity" for the benefit of the women's rights advocacy charity "Equality Now." Additionally, some of the proceeds from the Arizona screenings will go to GIFT (Growth Improvement for Female Teens) and The Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona.

The showings will be on Thursday June 21, 2007 at the Harkins Centrepoint 11 Theater at 730 South Mill Avenue in Tempe and Saturday, June 23, 2007 at The Loft Cinema at 3233 East Speedway Boulevard in Tucson. Purchase your tix for the Tempe screening at Bookmans. Purchase your tix for the Tucson Screening at The Loft. Go to the Arizona Browncoats web site for full details.

Each screening will have a costume contest and they've got some fabulous prizes for those who can best represent the Whedonverse with their shiny outfit. Tucson, with its double feature, welcomes both *Serenity* and *Buffy* themed costumes.

Screening Room

**Pirates of the Caribbean
at World’s End
Surfs Up
Shrek the Third
The 300**

**Pirates of the Caribbean
at World’s End
Starring: Johnny Depp, Orlando
Bloom, Keira Knightley, Chow Yun-
Fat, Geoffrey Rush
Director: Gore Verbinski
Running Time: 168 minutes
Rated: PG-13
Release Date: May 25th, 2007**

The third installment of Pirates of the Caribbean did not disappoint. Even though it’s a bit longer than Pirates of the Caribbean Dead Man’s Chest the combination of action and story lines will keep you involved from the start to the end (by the way there is a scene after the credits).

The film begins with the East India Trading Company suspending rights and hanging all the pirates that they find. Lord Beckett (Tom Hollander) teams with Davy Jones (Bill Highy) and the powerful Flying Dutchman to rule the seas. Will Turner (Orlando Bloom), Elizabeth Swann (Keira Knightley) and Captain Barbosa (Geoffrey Rush) must convene the Brethren Courts consisting of the Nine Pirate Lords to determine how they will respond to this serious threat to their very existence. Of course Jack Sparrow (Johnny Depp), one of the Lords, is nowhere to be found – he’s in Davy Jones Locker.

Our heroes take a trip to Singapore to secure a ship and maps that will take them to world’s end where they hope to find Jack. The trip to world’s end is quite exciting and the supernatural world where Jack and the Black Pearl exist is quite strange. For those who like Jack there are countless Jack’s in this supernatural world. After Jack and the Black Pearl meet up with the rescue team they must find their way back to the land of the living. This proves to be most difficult until Jack solves the puzzle.

Jack and Captain Barbosa are constantly fighting over who is the real captain of the Black Pearl with some funny scenes.

Jack has some of the funniest lines in the film. An example is when Jack declares that we (pirates) have very little imagination in naming things, Jack’s example is a pirate that lost an eye and both arms that was named Larry. Other characters have some funny lines as well. One example is when Lord Beckett declares “Its nothing personal Jack its just good business”.

The film is a wee bit complicated at the beginning with many story lines from

the previous two films but the story lines come together nicely as the film progresses.

The special effects throughout the film are clear and detailed. It is really hard to tell which part of a set is real and which part is CGI. The man/sea creatures on the Flying Dutchman appear more detailed than ever. If you like a good seafood dinner you might go home hungry. One interesting technical note is that the full sized versions of the Black Pearl and the Flying Dutchman weighed in at over one million pounds each.

I highly recommend the film and hope you enjoy the film as much as I did. I rate the film an “A-“. - Len Berger, ConNotations Film Editor

**Surf’s Up
Starring: Jeff Bridges, Shia Labeouf,
Zooey Deschanel, James Woods, Jane
Krakowski
Director: Ash Brannon, Chris Buck
Running Time: 90 minutes
Rated: PG
Release Date: June 8th, 2007**

Surf’s Up (A Major Ocean Picture) is an animated mockumentary comedy about the discovery that penguins invented surfing. The mockumentary crew takes you through the beginning of surfing, the champions of the sport and the young penguins as they strive to become the next champion. The crew covers the “10th Annual Big-Z Memorial Surf-Off” and like any other competition there are those who follow the rules and those who will do anything to win. The Surf-Off memorializes Big-Z who was a role model and hero to millions before his fatal surfing accident.

Cody Maverick (voiced by Shia LaBeouf) leaves his home in Shiverpool, Antarctica to enter the Surf-Off. He befriends Chicken Joe (Jon Heder) who seems oblivious to exactly what is going on and does everything for the fun of it, friends and surfing. Cody eyes a cute penguin lifeguard named Lani (Zooey Deschanel) and she takes him on one great adventure sledding down a huge underground cavern, lava and all (don’t penguins hate the heat?). The mockumentary crew also covers Surf-Off’s promoter Reggie Belafonte (James Wood) who will manipulate anyone or any thing to increase his earnings from the Surf-Off.

Cody faces difficulties as any young adult and must learn what is important in life and what is not. The film’s penguin bully Tank (Diedrich Bader) is one hell of a surfer and will do whatever it takes to add the 10th annual trophy to his collection.

SPEN (Sport Penguin Entertainment Network) is covering the Surf-Off but you won’t find the channel on Cox. You’ll have to go to the film to see who wins the Surf-Off.

Check out the website: <http://www.sonypictures.com/movies/surfsup/index.html>

The film kept the kids in their seats and adults will enjoy the film as well. For parents there is a bid of fish chopping, some crude humor and some mild language.

I rate Surf’s Up a “B+“. - Len Berger, ConNotations Film Editor

**Shrek the Third
Starring: Mike Myers, Cameron Diaz,
Eddie Murphy, Antonio Banderas,
Rupert Everett
Director: Chris Miller, Raman Hui
Running Time: 93 minutes
Rated: PG
Release Date: May 18th, 2007**

The Third installment of Shrek (voiced by Mike Myers) concerns the heir to the throne of Far Far Away. Shrek is attending state functions while King Harold (Shrek’s father-in-law oops frogger-in-law) is terribly ill. Shrek screws up every event he attends including the sinking of a ship he was to christen. King Harold (John Cleese) lets Shrek and Fiona (Cameron Diaz) know that they are the heirs to the throne with one other possible heir, Artie (Justin Timberlake). King Harold’s death scene is something to behold. His funeral is highlighted by the singing of the James Bond song “Live and Let Die” by a choir of frogs. Many other songs throughout the film are from this era.

Shrek sets out on a quest to find Artie who is attending a medieval high school and is a real loser. Shrek also finds out Fiona is pregnant and a dream sequence about caring for the baby ogres is pretty funny. Back at the Far Far Away castle Fiona receives some gifts at her baby shower including a “pooper scooper”, a must for any ogre parent.

Meanwhile Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) talks a gang of thieves, including Captain Hook, to join him in his own quest to take over Far Far Away. It takes a village (oops can’t resist politics) to fight back and there are some pretty intense battles – you’ll have to guess if the good guys win.

Puss In Boots (Antonio Banderas) and Donkey (Eddie Murphy) are wonderful throughout the film and especially hilarious when they switch bodies. To quote Donkey (really Puss In Boots) “I feel all exposed and nasty!”.

Animation is superb and I highly recommend the film to adults and kids alike. I rate the film an “B+“. - **Len Berger**, ConNotations Film Editor

**The 300
Directed by Zack Snyder
Starring Gerard Butler and Lena
Headey
From a graphic novel by Frank Miller.**

Every once in a while, there is a rare moment in human history when it really does fall to one man to save the entire world. According to this movie, King Leonidas of Sparta was one such, a man who was doomed to save the free world from “mysticism and tyranny.” That evil centered in the Persian god-king Xerxes, of 480 B.C. Leonidas took his 300 Spartans and other Greeks to hold the pass of Thermopylae, delaying the Persian invasion of Greece just long enough for the Greeks to rally and defeat Xerxes.

War is certainly one of humanity’s worst behaviors, yet this act of 300 Spartans showed humanity at its best, men who sacrificed all for the freedom of their families and western civilization. The political significance is never lost in this film, and I fear it may help fan the flames of the current agenda to start a war with Iran. After all, we’re in a clash of civilizations that has been going on for thousands of years, right? It’s us or them, logic and freedom against mysticism and tyranny? Such long-range ideology translates into nothing concrete. We are not Spartans.

Leonidas’ Queen Gorgo shows that sometimes a woman’s single act can also save the free world. She plays her strong part, albeit that of a wife and queen in jeopardy. What other roles for women in The 300 are only one visionary and many temptresses for an outcast. This IS a movie about men fighting, for the most part.

I heard a radio review condemn this movie as nothing but video-game blood and gore, a glorification of violence. We do get the slow-motion, stop-picture, show every drop of blood techniques. I did not come away from this inspired or shaken or in catharsis. It didn’t thrill me or sicken me. Rather, I felt that dull sorrow of one who might be getting a realistic glimpse of history, seeing the terrible waste of lives, resources, and wealth, assembled so gloriously and then destroyed.

Why do we have war? Why do men organize to bully victims and serve a tyrant? And why do other men who love freedom organize just to kill the bullies? Human history is such a chronicle of stupidity and the lost lives to oppose it. Let’s not forget the varieties of traitors, too. The 300 showcases two kinds: the clever self-serving politician and the seduced outcast. Perhaps their motivations are easiest understood, more than all of the nameless, faceless hordes who march in the armies of evil. Maybe there’s only

Screening (Continued from page 16)
traitors and bullies and the free who fight them. To get a feel for all of that, see this movie. - **M. L. FRINGE**

The 300
Directed by Zack Snyder
Starring Gerard Butler and Lena Headey
From a graphic novel by Frank Miller

Bring out the spears and arrows of outrageous fortune...
Frank Miller’s visual stunning movie, “The 300,” brings us the great last stand of the 300 Spartans against the Persian armies.
Ironically, Hollywood thought this would be a dud. No one wants to see a tragedy. No one wants to see a military movie. No one wants to see a “boring” historical movie that was already done, a few years back.
No one listens to Hollywood, anymore. The people had spoken. They voted with their money and their feet.
I should know. I’m one of them.
Even though there are violent scenes in the movie, I like the stunning graphics. Surprisingly, the movie was generally faithful to Frank Miller’s graphic novel, “The 300.”
Recommended to war gamers and anyone who likes “combat movies.” - **Jeffrey Lu**

In Memory

Lloyd Alexander
Jamie Bishop
Jason Sato
Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.

Lloyd Alexander
1924 - 2007

Fantasy writer, Lloyd Chudley Alexander died in his Drexel Hill, Pennsylvania home on Thursday, May 17, 2007. His wife of 61 years, Janine Denni died two week earlier.
Alexander was best known for the Chronicles of Prydain series of novels. During his career he published at least forty books. His final work *The Golden Dream of Carlo Chuchio*, is due out in August.
He was honored the National Book Award, the Newbery Medal and the Life Achievement World Fantasy Award.

Jamie Bishop
1971-2007

Christopher James Bishop, son of SF writer Michael Bishop, died in the shooting rampage at the Virginia Tech University on April 16, 2007.
A scholarship fund has been established in Jamie Bishop’s name for German majors at Virginia Tech.

Contributions may be sent to:
Jamie Bishop Scholarship
Virginia Tech Foundation
University Development
902 Prices Fork Road
Blacksburg, VA 24061

Jason Sato Remembrance
by James Walker

Jason Sato was my friend for 29 years. We first met when he was an attendee at Iguanacon, the 1978 World Con, held here in Phoenix. Over the next several decades I came to know Jason as a powerful competitor across hundreds of game boards, as a creative role player and game master, and as a staunch companion.
Gaming was just one of Jason’s many interests, however. He was a stolid reader of science fiction, being a great fan of Larry Niven, C. J. Cherryh, Poul Anderson, and Robert Heinlein. He collected comic books, Japanese video, and media-oriented collector cards. He enjoyed Babylon 5, Warner Brothers Cartoons, Dr. Who, and pro-wrestling.
He supported science fiction fandom and comics fandom by attending local and regional conventions. He supported gaming fandom by working on local gaming conventions such as Hexacon and Congames. He attended Origins and Gencon, as well as regional gaming conventions.
Fandom, indeed - the world, will be a darker place without Jason Sato in it; however, you can dispel some of that darkness by digging out one of those old board games you have in the back of the closet and playing it. It’s what he would want you to do.

A Gamer’s End
(In Memory of Jason Sato)
by Jeffrey Lu

Spell me the words of memory
To a Magic Rat, I once knew:
Diving into “Comic Encounters” with an edge,
Dungeon Mastering with “Tunnels and Trolls” and “AD&D,”
Laughing a win away in “Europe Railroad” before the crowds,
Solving riddles in “Champions” and moving “Heroclixs,”
Trying the endless new games from cards to boardgames,
Defeated often but never gave up,
Winning glories in endless battles of history-in-the-making,
He grinned like a rat with trays of cheese by his side...
Jason Sato-
So gracious in losing,
So giving to friends,
So gone too soon,
He left
Among us
Who knew him along the way.
We honor him in tactics and in time.

In memory of Magic Rat-
Onward, play!

Jason Sato Remembered

Jason Sato was a Japanese-American master gamer. Game Master at Hexicon I, employee of Flying Buffalo and Atomic Comics, great gamer, and a good friend. He passed away with a brain hemorrhage on Friday, April 13, 2007. There was a gaming night in his honor at Game Depot on Saturday, April 21.
Jason Sato was not only a gamer but he was THE gamer. If he was on your side, you have a great ally. If he was your opponent, you were generally toast. I should know. I played a few games with him at local game conventions. I lost more than I really want to say.
He was a game lawyer but always was nice and polite. After a game, one could chat with him about anything. Also, he was the first to try out new games from anywhere on the planet. Jason is always in my mind, a cool guy. I’ll miss him at the gaming conventions. -Jeffrey Lu

Kurt Vonnegut, Jr.
1922 - 2007

Writer and artist, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr. died Wednesday, April 11, 2007, following brain injury received in a fall at his Manhattan home a few weeks earlier.
During Vonnegut’s career he published essays, plays, 2 biographical collages, 3 short story collections and at least 15 novels including such memorable science fiction works as Cat’s Cradle, The Sirens of Titan and Slaughterhouse Five.
His work was adapted for stage, television and motion pictures. He made cameo appearances in a number of movies, most notably portraying himself in Rodney Dangerfield’s Back To School.

Non Genre by Genre

In his checkered writing career, Robert E. Howard wrote *King Kull*, *Conan*, *Solomon Kane* and a number of Oriental Mystery stories. Most of his output falls into Fantasy and Adventure categories.
But one group of short stories falls into what I call the rustic humor category. They are a total departure from the rest of his work. Donald M. Grant collected them in three volumes. Until you have read and enjoyed the skewed worldview of the Elkins family you have not grokked Robert Howard.
Howard, Robert E. - *Gent from Bear Creek* (currently in print from <http://www.vintagelibrary.com/>)
Howard, Robert E. - *Mayhem on Bear Creek*
Howard, Robert E. - *Pride of Bear Creek*
Gary Swaty

ConClusion
Entering Manga Madness (at Mesa)and Other Fun Stuff: Anizona III by Jeffrey Lu

Curious, I looked around on a Thursday, April 5, at Mesa Convention Center. There were people in “Bleach” costumes. There were others in “Final Fantasy” or “Full Metal Alchemist.” There were many manga and/or anime fans waiting in a long line of hundreds for their badges.
It’s great to see all these people. Really cool.
One of them came from Utah. Another came all the way from Tucson. This one from Tucson could only afford to go to one convention a year. She looked forward to the four-day convention. She smiled. Looking around the room, I saw that all these people had stories to tell.
Onward: I had played in the gaming room with mostly strangers on “Gauntlet Legends” and “Revolution X.” I had talked with the owner of a one-dance arcade machine. Believe it or not, he used this for daily exercise.

Another, I walked in and out of panels. I was curious at JPop and JRock. Later, I saw one guest that was cool and I bought the manga of the recent series in order to see the anime for this year.
His name is Greg Ayres. Originally, I was planning to see the fellow Arizona artists and writers in anime/manga. Instead, I sat and watched his presentation of “BECK: Mongolian Chop Squad.” Impressed, I went to dealer’s room for manga, “Beck: Mongolian Chop Squad.”
Luck would have it; I found my manga Beck 1-2. To those who have no idea what a manga is, the English translation from Japanese is “rough sketch.” Manga is a graphic novel that is uniquely Japanese.
Being in the dealer’s room, I looked and snatched books and other goodies.
On Sunday, I decided to go for the next Anizona. See you.



ReAnimation

***** **Ergo Proxy, Volume 1:**

Awakening (Eps #1-4)

***** **Ergo Proxy, Volume 2 RE-**
L124C41+ (Eps #5-8)

***** **Ergo Proxy, Volume 3**
Cytotropism (Eps #9-12)

***** **Ergo Proxy, Vol. 1: Awakening**
(Eps #1-4)

***** **Ergo Proxy, Vol 2 - RE-**
L124C41+ (Eps #5-8)

***** **Ergo Proxy, Vol 3 - Cytotropism**
(Eps #9-12)

Geneon, 100 minutes each volume, 16+
DVD, \$29.98 each volume

Ergo Proxy is from Manglobe Studio who also produced Samurai Champloo and was originally a TV show. There are 23 episodes. They did a great job on this one. This is with out a doubt an adult anime. Some what slower paced anime, but very engrossing. For more info check out their web site at <http://www.ergoproxy.com>

Back cover Volume 1: "The domed city of Romdo is an impenetrable would-be utopia where humans and robots coexist, and everything is under complete government control, or so it appears. While working on a mysterious murder case, Re-I Mayer, a female detective from the Civilian Intelligence Office, receives a foreboding message that something is going to "awaken." That night, she's attacked by a deformed super-being...what was this unidentified monster that attacked her, and who was the figure that came in between them? As Re-I attempts to unlock this spiraling mystery, a metaphysical battle cry leads her to the unknown outside world..."

The first thing that I heard was the intro music, Wow. The graphic detail and shadowing are very well done, a class above most Anime. To describe Ergo Proxy in a nut shell. Take NIS and add Bladerunner and Omegaman with dark twisted violence and that gives you Ergo Proxy.

Back cover Volume 2: "Re-I leaves the safety of Romdo in order to bring Vincent back and clear his name. Leaving the shelter of the city is a test of courage, but dealing with the realities of life outside the dome is a test of conviction. The idyllic illusion of life within Romdo begins to crumble for Re-I and Vincent as they forge into the darkness that surrounds them and travel away from the light".

The basic setup entering the second volume of Ergo Proxy is that everything continues to change and evolve from there. What are the proxys? What does Vincent have to do with their appearance? Some answers will be given and some more questions will be raised. While not everything is laid out for you, Ergo Proxy

continues to divulge its secrets at a pace that keeps you crawling back for the rest. I could not stop watching. Hand me volume three.

Back cover Volume 3: "Vincent finds himself in an unfamiliar room where a mysterious individual who seems to know him quite well confronts him. While Vincent struggles against his inner demons, the delicate balance of control in Romdo begins a slow descent into chaos as Raul and Daedalus agree to work together and fix the growing threat. However, their intent is not entirely pure as each one of them has a deep and ugly ulterior motive."

Episodes 9-12 provides plenty enough reasons to keep watching: good pacing, intriguing plot developments, a strong soundtrack, and lead characters that are finally showing some real personality. It is a solid addition to an already-solid series.

Yes, I sat and watched the first three volumes in one sitting. The plot and characters just suck you in. It is very hard to stop watching. Ergo Proxy - Wrong Way Home (DVD 4) will be released 2007-05-29. I can't wait for the next Volume to come out. - CLD

PreCon News

CopperCon 27, Sep 7-9, 2007

We've got a pretty good crew to staff CopperCon this year. Bob LaPierre is our Chair. We've got Charlaire Harris as our Author Guest of Honor. Charlaire has become extremely popular the past few years with her southern vampire series. She's also one of the nicest people I've met in a long time. She will have some very interesting panels, I'm sure. I did the programming for the last two CopperCons so if you liked the last couple cons, then you don't want to miss this one. I'm planning on some new children's programming with some enthusiastic helpers. The kids will be able to design their own superhero powers and even make a costume for themselves. I've also confirmed that Mark Greenawalt, our well-known body-painting artist, will be at CopperCon. I don't know exactly what he's planning but it will have something to do with Creatures of the Night.... We'll have a very exciting LARP run by some very experienced folks. Across Plus, a local Anime club, will be providing Anime programming. I know they've got some new stuff planned.

Saturday evening at CopperCon 27 will feature our traditional stage masquerade. The physical setup is like a fashion show. We will provide a stage, a Master of Ceremonies to announce you, a sound system to play the music or narration you provide, and a stage crew to bring it all together. An appreciative audience will provide itself: Your 15 minutes of fame on a silver platter! There will even be

prizes! Contact randwhit@casfs.org with questions on how to show a costume or volunteer for the crew.

There will be a DJ-hosted dance and a Filk Concert. Probably Regency Dancing. Some interesting.... late-night programming for adults only. And there's sure to be a party or two. Oh, and don't miss the Charity Auction - items are already posted on our webpage.

We'll look forward to seeing old friends and hopefully, lots of new ones. Please buy your membership soon and help out our pre-registration. There will probably be a couple special events on Thursday evening for those who have pre-registered. Keep watching our webpage for updates: <http://www.casfs.org/cucon>

Catherine Book, Programming Director

In Our Book

Dante's Girl
by Natasha Rhodes
Solaris Books, \$7.99; 495 pp.

This book is like a continuous loop of the fourth acts from 'Terminator' movies: Loud, loads of action, lots of gore, high body counts and outrageous alien life-forms. And it all takes place in L.A.

For Rhodes, Hollywood is an easy mark. And a useful setting for excess.

Vampires and werewolves are in a vicious, bloody battle to rule the world. The werewolves want immortality and the vampires are not happy about that. The microcosm of the world is the nasty, stylish *noir* streets of Los Angeles and Hollywood. I don't recall much daylight in this novel.

The heroine Kayla Steele runs the gamut from clueless to kick-ass babe with high-tech weapons. She's not too screechy—thank goodness—but she's a rather two note character. Either bewildered or running on adrenaline. But she's a babe, make no mistake. Though she is constantly compared to other women in the book and found lacking—she sounds perfectly, well, like a "babe" to me. I mean, she is working a perfume counter somewhere in a West L.A. department store. Do the math.

Caught up in the vampire-werewolf turf war through the untimely death of her boyfriend Karrel Dante, Kayla is plunged willy-nilly into a highly violent world. And everyone in this novel not only has agendas, they switch loyalties as if they were channel surfing. And boy, there are lots of big shiny weapons too, including swords.

And amazingly enough—the city at large is clueless to the existence of

(Continued on page 19)

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In Our Book (Continued from page 18) vampire and werewolves (as was Kayla), in spite of the constant gory deaths, explosions, weird armored vehicles racing the night streets and big noisy battles between ‘wolves, vamps and armed humans.

There are no quiet moments in this book. There are only hints of sex. And, as I said above, next to no daylight.

This is pretty much written at the same level throughout. Ms. Rhodes’ previous writing credits have been novelizations of films: “Blade: Trinity,” “The Nightmare on Elm Street: Perchance to Dream” as well as three “Final Destination” movies. She learned her lessons well.

But I found the novel, compared to a lot of other vampires-and-werewolves-in-nourish settings to be a bit too derivative.

And too loud. - **Sue Martin**

Dragon’s Teeth
by **James A. Hetley**
\$14.00, Ace Books, 327pp

James has become one of the writers I watch for. This is his fourth book and the second in this particular world... and as enjoyable as the first three. This series is basically about a small Maine town and the families who have lived there as long as there is history.

The Morgans are descended from real pirates but that’s not all that distinguishes them. Aside from their still piratical leanings, they have otherworldly talents as well. The Morgans enjoy a unique relationship with something that lives in the sea that not even they understand or know. Gary is the last of the Morgans and quite troublesome to his father and his uncle who raised him. Gary has fallen in love with a woman who may rival the Morgans in ruthlessness and may threaten their very existence.

The Haskellts have been around longer than any European voyagers that landed in Maine. Their roots are with the Naskeag Indians but they are more than that. They are known as the Haskell witches. They have a House whose main purpose for being seems to be the overall protection of women in general, and the witches in particular. The Haskellts and the Morgans have often been at odds over the generations but now they find themselves becoming more interdependent since there is now one who comes from both families – Caroline. Caroline is looking for a special ancient doll that was stolen from an Indian tribe in Arizona – a very dangerous and powerful doll.

There’s another family in town with roots that may be as old and are certainly more obscure – the Rowleys. Alice Rowley is the Haskell Witch’s lover, the town constable and the only one who can talk to rocks and earth. And her own daughter may be responsible for several dead bodies.

There are dead bodies galore and increasing evidence that the nasty Peruvian sorcerer that all believed to be dead may still be in town. And it’s going to take more magic than even the Haskell Witch has to put him down for good. It may take Alice’s connection with the land, Caroline’s doll, and Gary’s volatile and unpredictable new love.

This is not an epic novel but it is a well-rounded and satisfying story. It is always interesting to me when a man attempts to write from a woman’s perspective. I can’t say that James has any unique insight that makes him any different or better in the attempt. I think if a woman wrote this story, it could have become an epic and it really doesn’t need to be. His efforts are satisfactory and not insulting. And there are moments where he really nails it. (and that’s *not* a pun!) It’s a story that works for me. And he’s left enough loose ends for at least one more story. Another story... right, James?? – **Catherine Book**

Kitty Takes a Holiday
by **Carrie Vaughn**
Warner, 336 pages, \$6.99

In this third outing we find our werewolf DJ taking some time off after her rather public outing in *Kitty Goes to Washington*. Holed up in a cabin in the Colorado mountains, Kitty is supposed to be writing a book but she finds the allure of staying wolf is becoming almost too strong to resist. Up pops someone trying to run Kitty out of the area by laying a curse that results in some really nasty surprises left on her doorstep. Just about the time Kitty is ready to leave, her lawyer Ben and his cousin, werewolf hunter Cormac, drop in needing Kitty’s help. They are followed by an evil that turns out to be something no one expected. As they band together to defeat the evil, events will come to pass that will change the dynamics between Kitty, Cormac and Ben forever.

I cannot say enough good things about the Kitty books. The premise of a werewolf named Kitty who is also a night time talk DJ was just too fascinating to pass up with the first book, *Kitty and the Midnight Hour* and the fun continues in each succeeding volume. I can’t wait for the next Kitty book. Highly recommended. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Seraphs
by **Faith Hunter**
Roc Fantasy; \$14; 356pp.

This is a high-speed, intense sequel to the previous (and first book in the series) “Bloodring.”

The novel continues the tale about Thorn St. Croix, a “neomage” with a deep connection to stones. (Neomages have affinity with elements like water and

(Continued on page 20)

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Explore Our Universe of Games

In Our Book (Continued from page 19)

earth, etc.). Thorn has been living in secret, hiding her abilities behind ownership of a jewelry and mineral store in a post-apocalyptic world where the biblical Apocalypse has occurred but without an appearance from God or Jesus. Awe-inspiring seraphim or “seraphs” and archangels have not only appeared but manage human affairs when necessary.

The Darkness has stepped up its gory predations of the people of Mineral City (located somewhere in the Carolinas) and Thorn and her friends are besieged by dark callings from a mountain nearby called the Trine, a mountain created during the Apocalypse and now a haven for the Dark. The townspeople find themselves sharply divided about Thorn’s now seraph-sanctioned presence and things get very tense.

St Croix must confront the evil again even though she knows the Darkness wants her for her blood and the power she holds. The neomage goes into the heart of evil’s lair to free a seraph and a cherub who have been bound and used to breed evil mutations in hopes of utilizing power similar to Thorn’s mage abilities. The Darkness is actually learning things, and becoming not only more powerful but more wily, something the angelic hierarchy did not think it could do.

The action and the force of this tale propel it forward to a really exciting climatic battle, much like the one that ended the first book. However, being a second book, the novel leaves you wanting more of course. A great deal more.

And as for romance: Lucas, Thorn’s ex-husband gets back into her life. And she and Thaddeus Bartholomew still haven’t gotten together! - **Sue Martin**

Kushiel’s Scion
by Jacqueline Carey
\$26.95, Warner Books, 753pp

This is the 4th novel in Carey’s *Kushiel’s Legacy* series. The supposition is that the apostles to the son of god, were themselves gods and actually walked the earth and founded a nation on their principles and gifts. Phedre is a legacy of one of them – Kushiel. Phedre, who was raised in a house of pleasure, and was adopted by a man who also taught her more...esoteric skills. Skills to read a person’s face and body and know the truth, skills to know what words to use at a moment when history could change on one person’s whim, skills to win the heart of any man or woman. Phedre’s greatest pleasure came from pain; which made her the most sought-after courtesan in the country. But that was not her only destiny. Her unique combination of talents helped her save her own country, forged an alliance with another nation,

defied a god, saved her best friend from immortality, saved the whole world from a heinous evil, and rescued the son of her greatest enemy. (*Is this great story-telling, or what?*)

This is the beginning of her foster son, Prince Imriel’s, story. Imriel’s mother was the greatest traitor the country had ever known; and his fostermother, Phedre, is its greatest heroine. It’s a challenge to know where he fits in. So, when he’s of an age, he leaves for a university, to live as a commoner. But his life is anything but common and too many people either want him dead or on the throne – neither of which suit him. And he’s just beginning to understand that the bloodline that he shares with Phedre may be the reason for the dark desires he’s experiencing.

The first three books were an increasingly complex story of Phedre with a wonderfully satisfying conclusion. I can see that this new trilogy will be much of the same. *Kushiel’s Scion* lays the foundation for an equally complex rendering of Imriel. Carey is a marvel. Her stories are wonderfully complex, layered, deeply insightful of human desires, and marvelously characterized. The plotting is amazing, as well. In the words of a popular redneck comedian... “it don’ get no better ‘n this.” -

Catherine Book

Moon Called
by Patricia Briggs
ACE Fantasy, 304 pages, \$7.99
and
Blood Bound
by Patricia Briggs
ACE Fantasy, 292 pages, \$7.99

Moon Called and *Blood Bound* tell the story of a VW mechanic named Mercedes who just happens to be a shapeshifter. Mercy, who can turn into a coyote at will, was raised by werewolves but left the pack when it became clear she didn’t really belong. In a world where the preternatural are slowly making themselves known she now owns a repair shop she purchased from Zee, a gremlin, lives next door to the local Alpha werewolf and has a vampire friend whose van is painted like the Scooby van. Who could resist a set-up like that?

Both novels are packed with action. The plots move along quickly, the characters are well rounded and the romantic triangle is wonderfully tense and fun. Even the auxiliary characters are interesting such as Stefan the vampire and Warren the gay werewolf. This promises to be a delightful series and, having read the first two books in two days, I look forward to the next one. (Due January 2008 aarrgghhh!) - **Stephanie L Bannon**

Grave Surprise
by Charlaïne Harris
\$23.95, Berkley Prime Crime, 295 pp

We know Charlaïne from her Sookie Stackhouse stories and while it’s true that this is a perfectly splendid murder mystery, it is also true that our protagonist is not a perfectly ordinary woman. So, it may be a stretch to include this in our book reviews but I’m willing to do it.

Harper Connelly was hit by lightning and survived to discover that she can now find dead people. So, like any reasonable person, she uses this ability to make a living. Her stepbrother, Tolliver, is her manager and they share a common dysfunctional family history. But when they took a job that was obviously intended to ‘debunk’ Harper, they never expected to find the lost body of a little girl they had been hired to find some years earlier – and failed to do so. A most

confusing trail – the body hadn’t been there the whole two years, she had been recently buried in the turn-of-the-century church graveyard. And this was another city entirely from where she’d been abducted. In fact, her parents had recently moved to this city – how suspicious was that? Her parents appeared to be devoted to each other. And her step-brother, who had been a prime suspect two years earlier, seemed to be quite genuine in his grief and affection for her. She had loving grandparents and uncles and aunts....all very sincere and desperate for closure. And they all looked to Harper for that closure. But although Harper could tell them what the last few seconds of life were to poor little Tabitha, she wasn’t able to say who did it.

But somebody must think she can because she’s being setup for additional murders. The family has lots of secrets

(Continued on page 21)

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We want to bring Westercon back to the Phoenix metro area. Phoenix in 2009 has filed with the Gnomeward Bound committee and is on the ballot for the Westercon 62 voting at Gnomeward Bound (Westercon 60), June 30-July 3, 2007 in San Mateo, CA.

If you are an attending or supporting member of Gnomeward Bound, you can participate in the vote.

If you pre-supported the Phoenix in 2008 bid, you have pre-supporting credit towards the 2009 bid.

The ballot and full voting details are now available on our web site at <http://www.leprecon.org/w62>.

We are planning a Westercon in downtown Tempe, Arizona, at the Tempe Mission Palms with many nearby restaurants and a great view of the annual Tempe July 4th fireworks.

Our room rate at the Tempe Mission Palms will be \$119 single/double/triple/quad plus tax. The Mission Palms has a free airport shuttle and will be located right next to the downtown Tempe light rail stop.

Pre- Supporting Memberships

Groovy Guy/Gal (Pre-Support)	\$10 US
Rat Fink (Pre-Oppose)	\$20 US
Fab Friend	\$50 US
Cool Cat	\$100 US

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Contact Phoenix in 2009 at:
Write: Phoenix in 2009
PO Box 26665
Tempe, AZ 85285
Phone: (480) 945-6890
Email: w62bid@leprecon.org
www.leprecon.org/w62

(Continued from page 20)

This is the second in Charlaine's new series and just as good and satisfying as the first. A very competent murder

All Together Dead
by Charlaine Harris
Ace, 336 pages, \$24.95

From the book cover: “Being surrounded by all varieties of undead, changling and preternatural beings has

The summit, which has attracted undead power players from all over the central U.S., is sure to be a tense situation. The vampire queen of Louisiana is in a precarious position, her power base

Sookie has been hired by the Queen of Louisiana to go to the vampire summit and read the minds of the human companions that will be there. While Sookie looks forward to the trip up north and seeing fellow telepath Barry the Bellboy, she is not so happy with the idea of being a witness at the Queen's trial for murdering her husband, the King of Arkansas. Add to that a few vampire murders, fanatic anti-vampire protesters, bombs, vampire politics and the fact that Sookie's past lovers, Eric and Bill, are on site as well as her new lover Quinn - well maybe this trip up north wasn't such a good idea after all.

The Sookie Stackhouse novels are a treat. All the characters are well rounded, the plot moves along so quickly and smoothly that I was surprised when I reached the end of the book. I look forward to the next book. Highly recommended. - **Stephanie L Bannon**

I think you will enjoy these delightful and well-written stories more if I don't give away the plots. They are worth the read and the cover price, especially if you are NOT a vampire fan, because they show how excellent tales of those 'that hunt the night' can be. - **Sue Martin**

Now Allie wants to be a demon hunter, just like her mom. Both Allie and Kate continue to investigate the death of Kate's late husband, Eric, since it appears to have been murder related to his demon hunting activities instead of a simple mugging. The mysterious martial arts teacher, Cutter, helps with the investiga-

(Continued on page 22)



In Our Book

(Continued from page 21)

tion into Eric's past and he and Allie turn up information that makes Kate begins to worry that she didn't know her late husband as well as she thought she did. Even more doubts creep in when the beautiful rogue hunter Nadia shows up in town. Current husband Stuart is still in the dark about Kate's past, and current, demon hunting activities since he is focused on his political campaign.

And then there are the demons - Andramelech who is trying to make a come back into this world. And his minions that keep attacking Kate looking for some unknown relic.

Political campaign for the current husband, late husband worries, car-pools, play dates, housework, stay at home mom to a toddler - Kate has a busy life even without the demon hunting tossed in.

This is a fast paced, action-packed book, the plot moves along well and the characters are real. In between battling demons Kate worries about fitting into a new dress to seduce her husband, friend Laura deals with a divorce and their daughters deal with the perils of high school. A truly wonderful series. I wish the next book was coming out sooner than summer of 2008 *sigh*. Highly recommended - **Stephanie L Bannon**

The Strange Adventures of Rangergirl by Tim Pratt

\$12.00, Bantam Spectra, 399 pp

Marzi manages a coffeeshop with a singular history and writes a comicbook on the side. The inspiration for the comicbook heroine, Rangergirl, came to her along with a pretty significant mental breakdown. Marzi doesn't want to remember what she experienced. She also doesn't want to admit to a connection with the monster who whispers on the other side of the painted door in a storage room. But, eventually, as these stories go, she does have to start realizing that her imagination that gives her Rangergirl is responsible for letting the monster out. But that isn't all that Marzi has to deal with. One of the coffeeshop regulars seems to have lost most of the crayons in his box. He's determined to free the earthquake god who is imprisoned in the storeroom. And he's got company - a murdered woman who is now totally living mud and equally determined to free her goddess who's being imprisoned in the coffeeshop by Marzi.

And just to really make Marzi's week - she's discovered that she's really the guardian who's responsible for warding the monster and since she let it out, she has to figure out how to stop it. And other 'creatures' from beyond the painted door, are pretty insistent that it's her job.

Beyond the painted door is the west that Rangergirl lives in; along with the twisted rules of that country. And the monster that managed to escape into our world is a bad man in black with a harsh western way of talking. It looks like Marzi has to have a showdown...at noon.

This was a fun story. It appealed to me because it dealt with a woman who writes and draws a comicbook. It had comicbook heroes and monsters. It had a pretty good plot. I have to admit the cover art is what really sucked me in - a girl packing a six-gun wearing a red plastic bangle bracelet. This was a good story. It was not a great story. It had a bit more depth than a comicbook but not too much more. The characters were interesting but not very real to me. But sometimes I'm in the mood for something light. - **Catherine Book**

The Good Girls' Ghouls' Guide to Getting Even by Julie Kenner

Penguin, 247 pages, \$9.99

From the back cover: "Beth Fraiser's ticked off. Her junior year of high school was going fine. Amazing grades. Early admission to college. And a date with the star quarterback. But no. Thanks to a bunch of jerkwad vampire jocks, she ended up dead. Or rather *undead*, and with a thirst that a thousand Diet Cokes couldn't quench.

Now she's out for blood - and revenge. She knows exactly what to do. Beth's read *Salem's Lot*. Just wipe out the crowd that did her in. But with so many creeps in high school it's hard to separate the good vamps from the bad. On top of that, she's got to figure out how to be mortal again. Unless universities start accepting dead girls..."

This is Julie Kenner's first young adult book and it is a delight. It perfectly captures the woes of being smart, but not popular, in high school and the pitfalls it leads to, though most won't find themselves joining the ranks of the undead because they join the cheerleading squad. Her method of revenge is wonderfully devious.

Recommended for teens and anyone looking for a quick fun read. Book two in the series will be out in October. -

Stephanie L Bannon

Dawn by Tim Lebbon Bantam, 400 pp, \$12.00

Dawn is the sequel to *Dusk*.

Noreela teeters on the brink of annihilation. At its center grows a stronger magic. A boy carried the seeds of this magic within, a promise of a new golden age until the exiled mages extracted the power, and warped it to their own ends.

Now the mages have raised an army of unstoppable war machines and warriors under their most trusted Lieutenant to destroy Noreela through an almost inconceivable reign of bloodshed.

But the last survivors will not gently into the night. Kosar the Thief becomes the reluctant leader of a desperate band of rebels. They include a dreaming librarian, a fledge mine, and a witch. In those dreams, Alishia finds the past they must follow. A prophecy that says the future of the land lies in the womb of the land will emerge in an unborn child.....if she can stay alive till dawn.

Lebbon has continued his fantasy with well-drawn characters, a literate handling of the horror of war and people coming to their destiny. The final battle leaves the loose ends begging for a sequel for resolution. This is fantasy noir, dark and twisted but with seeds of hope. If you like horror with your fantasy, you will love this one. - **Pam Allan**

Season of the Witch by Natasha Mostert Dutton, 395 pp, \$24.95

Season of the Witch is the fourth novel by the author of *The Midnight Side*, *The Other Side of Silence*, and *Windwalker*. It might be termed an Occult mystery-fantasy.

All his life, Gabriel Blackstone has been a remote viewer, someone who can enter the most private and personal thoughts. When his arrogance might have cost a kidnapped woman her life, he ceased the practice of his gift. Instead he became a data thief. When his ex-girlfriend asks him to find out what happened to her stepson, old feelings surface. And when he agrees, his search leads him to a pair of sexy solar witches, students of alchemy and the ancient Art of Memory.

Gabriel is soon convinced that one of the Monk sisters is the murderer of the young man. But determining who requires deepening involvement with the sisters. When he tries remote viewing, he finds himself being scanned. The hunter becomes the hunted and his hacking of the computers cannot tell him who is the diarist. Meanwhile he is seduced into their erotic world. As people start dying, he finds himself under psychic attack. Will he survive? Will the sisters?

This page-turner is filled with erotic action, chilling twists and erudite turns. It gives a whole new meaning to "it's all in your mind." Great characterization, and beautiful imagery will have me looking for more by this author. - **Pam Allan**



May 9-11, 2008

Francisco Grande Hotel & Golf Resort,
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Annual Science Fiction and Fantasy
Convention with an emphasis on Art

Artist Guest of Honor Howard Tayler

Author Guests of Honor Emily & Ernest Hogan

Local Artist Guest of Honor Liz Danforth

Special FX/Makeup Artist Guest of Honor David Ayres

LepreCon 34 will have many artists on hand for demos, workshops and panels. We'll have many authors, scientists and other experts participating. We'll have Programming with Panel Discussions & Demonstrations, Art Show & Auction, Dealer's Room, Gaming, Hospitality Suite, Charity Auction & more.

Membership Rates

\$25 thru 8/31/07,
\$30 thru 10/31/07, more later
Kids 7-12 half price,
Kids 6 & Under Free*
* with Adult membership

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Tower Rooms: \$109 S/D/T/Q + tax
Jr. Suites: \$129 S/D/T/Q + tax
(800) 237-4238 • (520) 836-6444

Contact LepreCon 34 at:

Write: LepreCon 34
PO Box 26665
Tempe, AZ 85285
Phone: (480) 945-6890
Email: lep34@leprecon.org
www.leprecon.org/lep34

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 3

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.F.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

(Continued on page 24)

Club Listings
(Continued from page 23)

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

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

CopperCon 27 (September 7-9. 2007) Phoenix, AZ Embassy Suites North, 2577 W Greenway. Membership: \$35 thru 6/30/2007, \$40 thru 8/15/2007, \$45 at the door. GoH Charlaine Harris, Music GoH Heather Stern & Alison Stern. More info www.coppercon.org

TusCon 34 (Nov 9-11, 2007) Inn Suites Hotel, Tucson, AZ Author GoH: John Ringo; Toastmaster: Ed Bryant Memberships: \$40 until 9/5, then \$45 after that and at the door. www.home.earthlink.net/~basfa

LOSCON 34 (Nov 23-25 '07) LAX Marriott, Los Angeles, CA GoH: Robert J. Sawyer, writer; Theresa Mather, artist; Capt. David West Reynolds, fan; Dr. James Robinson, music. MEMBERSHIP RATES Currently \$35 Until May 31st (\$40 until August 31st \$45 until October 31st \$50 at the door) Kids 4-12 are 1/2 Price Website: www.loscon.org/34/index.html

LepreCon 34 (May 9-11, 2008) Francisco Grande Hotel & Golf Resort, Casa Grande, AZ Artist Guest: Howard Tayler; Author Guests: Emily & Ernest Hogan; Local Artist Guest: Liz Danforth; Special FX/Makeup Guest: David Ayres Memberships: \$25 thru 8/31/07, \$30 thru 10/31/07 Info: LepreCon 34 PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 (480) 945-6890 Email: lep34@leprecon.org web: http://www.leprecon.org



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

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(See individual convention listing for mailing address)

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