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

SF TUBE TALK: Walking Dead Gets Animated on AMC

by Lee Whiteside

PHOTO CREDIT: Gene Page/AMC

The new season is underway and we've got a few new genre shows hitting the broadcast networks as well as a few new shows and shows with new episodes on cable and elsewhere.

ABC has debuted their new take on Charlie's Angels, and while the debut was OK in the ratings, the general reaction has been lukewarm at best. None of the main characters seem to have struck a chord with the viewers and unless the ratings hold steady or the writing improves, I don't expect it to stick around for long. Debuting later in October on Sundays nights on ABC will be Once Upon a Time, in which Emma Swan (Jennifer Morrison), a 28 year old bail bonds collector, is reunited with her ten year old son she gave up for adoption. Her son tells her he has learned that she is the missing daughter of Snow White (Gennifer Godwin) and Prince Charming (Josh Dallas) from an alternate universe where FAIRY TALES ARE REAL (gasp)! She was sent away to protect her from the Evil Queen's (Lana Parrilla) curse and the fairy tale world was frozen in time. The other escapees are living in Storybrooke, but don't have their memories of the fairy tale world and when Emma goes there with her son, she starts to learn more about her past and the dangers she may be facing. The show does have some producers and writers with a good track record behind it, including Adam Horowitz and Edward Kitsis from Lost, plus Jane Espenson (Buffy, Angel, Torchwood: Miracle Day) as well. So it be worth checking out since it appears to be taking an approach that might result in a good ongoing story, not unlike Bill Willingham's comic series Fables.

Over at NBC, their take on FAIRY TALES ARE REAL is Grimm, which debuts in late October on Friday nights, and focuses on Nick Burkhardt (David Guintoli), a homicide detective who learns from his ailing Aunt Marie (Kate Burton), that he is the latest in a long line of Grimms, hunters who keep the supernatural monsters at bay and protect humanity. As he learns

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Unveiling the Mystery of the Horsemen of the Apocalypse

by Don Wiest

Contrary to popularly held beliefs, the account of the 4 Horsemen, visualized and subsequently penned by John the Beloved while exiled on the Isle of Patmos, is not a prediction concerning key political figures, natural disasters, super plagues, aliens from space, or catastrophic events raining down upon the earth from the heavens. John himself tells us that he had no idea of the purpose or meaning behind these mysterious yet ominously foreboding visions but he faithfully recorded what he saw.

It is important to note that this particular vision lies within the book of Revelation (Chapter 6: 1-8) which means it was specifically intended for people witnessing last day prophesies scheduled to occur prior to the return of Christ. It is also necessary to point out

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more about his Aunt's past, he "he will have to shoulder the responsibility of his ancestors -- and contend with a larger-than-life mythology of the Brothers Grimm that is now all too real." Other cast includes Bitsie Tulloch as Juliette Silverton, Reggie Lee as Sgt. Wu, Russell Hornsby as Hank Griffin, Sasha Roiz as Captain Renard, and Silas Weir Mitchell as Eddy Munroe. Jim Kouf ("Angel") and David Greenwalt ("Buffy the Vampire Slayer," "Angel") are the creators/executive producers of the series, so there is some experience with making this type of show and hopefully make it more than just a "Monster of the Week". If they can do more than just the standard cliches, this show might have a chance, but it's Friday time slot doesn't give it much of a starting point, but with NBC is in such dire straits, OK ratings may be good enough for Grimm to survive. Returning to NBC on Friday nights in late October is Chuck, for its fifth and final season. With Chuck and Sarah now married and having started up their own spy company, they find out that things aren't less complicated than they were before. Carrie-Anne Moss (The Matrix) turns up as Gertrude Verbanski, who runs a competing spy agency and also generates some sparks with Casey. Morgan has ended up with the Intersect, and his life gets more complicated, while Big Mike hooks up with Morgan's mom, and Jeff and Lester have relationship issues.

CBS has two new shows with some genre elements, A Gifted Man, on Fridays, is about Michael Holt (Patrick Wilson), a work-obessed surgeon to the wealthy, begins to be visited by the ghost of his deceased ex-wife, Anna (Jennifer Ehle), who was an idealistic free clinic doctor, who convinces him that he needs to take over for her. As described by CBS, Michael is "touched by those in need and accepting of Anna's compassionate "presence," Michael's attitude toward serving the rich and poor is turned upside down, and he begins to see that there's room in his life for everyone." CBS seems to be trying to cater to fans of The Ghost Whisperer with this one. On Thursdays CBS has Person of Interest, which stars Michael Emerson as Finch, a wealthy inventor who has created a program that uses pattern recognition to identify potential victims of violent crimes. He recruits Reese (Jim Caviezel), an ex-CIA operative who is believed to be dead, to join him in a crusade to take justice into their own hands and prevent these crimes from happening. The executive producers have a good track record, and include J. J. Abrams, Bryan Burk (Lost), Jonathan Nolan (Momento), David Semel (Heroes) and Greg Plageman (Cold Case) and if the pilot is any indication, this could be the hit new show of the season..

FOX has what is probably the most expensive new genre show with Terra Nova, which will air on Monday nights this fall. The basic premise is that the Earth of the future (2149) has been screwed up enough, that a group of colonists are sent back in time to try to start things over and do it right, effectively setting up an alternate timeline (which, of course, allows them to keep interacting with people from the future). The series focuses on the Shannon family, part of the group of settlers in the Terra Nova colony. Led by Jim Shannon (Jason O'Mara) and his wife Elisabeth (Shelley Conn), they are joined by their 17 year old son Josh (Landon Liboiron), their fifteen year old daughter Maddy (Naomi Soctt), and

PHOTO CREDIT: Greg Nicotera/AMC

their five year old daughter Zoe (Alana Mansour), who has a secret that may endanger the Shannon's future with the colony. Also starring are Stephen Lang as Commander Nathaniel Taylor, Allison Miller as Skye (who hooks up with Josh), and Christine Adams as Mira, the leader of a splinter colony of renegades. It has Steven Spielberg as Executive Producer (Jurassic Park, etc.) with Rene Echevarria and Brannon Braga as EPs actually running the show and a host of others getting their fingers into the mix. As of press time, I've not seen the pilot, and reports of behind the scenes production issues haven't given me much hope that the series will actually be any good. But, it will have DINOSAURS!, and that may be enough to keep it going, although as expensive as it reportedly has been to produce, the ratings will likely need to be outstanding before FOX will invest in another season beyond the 13 episodes being produced for the first season. FOX also has Fringe returning to Friday nights, following on from the game changing season finale. Reports are that the new season will be a good starting point for new viewers who might be concerned about the very complex back story. Initial ratings were decent (comparable to the season finale), so it should stick around for the full season, but whether it will get any more will depend on how the ratings hold up.

Over on The CW, with Smallville gone, Nikita has moved to Friday nights and a new series, The Secret Circle, based on a novel series by Vampire Diaries creator L. J. Smith, pairs up with Vampire Diaries on Thursday night. it stars Britt Robertson as Cassie Blake, a high school girl who moves in with her grandmother Jane in the small town of Chance Harbor, Washington, after her mother dies in a (possibly suspicious) fire. Cassie soon finds out she is a witch, and has special powers and that she has a destiny to fight the rising dark powers (or something along those lines). She teams up with a group of classmates, and form The Secret Circle to contend with the opposing forces. The first couple of episodes have paired up well with Vampire Diaries, so it may stick around for a while. Vampire Diaries executive producer Julie Plec has said about the new season "we are fortunate in that this season, as a result of where we ended last season, there's a lot of new roads to travel down, both for our characters who we think we know, and also in the supernatural world that we had only previously tapped into, which is werewolves and vampires." Supernatural has picked up from the sixth season finale, dealing with Castiel's revelation that he is God and the ramifications of that. Sam and Dean will also continue hunting down other supernatural threats including a doppleganger, ghosts, a witch, and more.

Sanctuary is returning to Syfy on Friday nights, following Wrestling, for its fourth season of 13 episodes. With the arrival of the Hollow Earth refugees, the balance between Abnormals and humans is severely upset. In order to keep the peace, Magnus and team must throw out the rulebook. But forging their own way means they're not just dodging dangerous Abnormals anymore, now they've got world governments and new villains nipping at their heels. As part of their 31 days of Halloween event, Syfy will debut the original movie Zombie Apocalypse on Saturday, Oct 29th, which stars Ving Rhames as part of a group of survivors of a Zombie Apocalypse who fight their way cross country to a rumored refuge on the Catalina Island. For Halloween night, Oct 31, Ghost Hunters will once again be live, this time from the streets of New York City.

Syfy's big miniseries this year will be Neverland, airing over two nights on Sunday and Monday, Dec 4 & 5. Syfy describes it as "an original prequel to author J.M. Barrie's classic Peter Pan, sweeps in time from the turbulent seas of the pirates of the Caribbean and the back alleys of Dickensian London to a world of pure imagination." It stars Rhys Ifans as James Hook, Keira Knightley as the voice of Tinker Bell, Anna Friel as Captain Elizabeth Bonnie, Bob Hoskins as Smee, Raoul Trujillo and Charlie Rowe as Peter Pan.

Walking Dead returns to AMC on Sunday, October 16, with a 90 minute episode, followed by six more episodes in the fall, with the show returning for the rest of the season in February. The second season will see Rick and the survivors venture out of the cities and find a refuge on Hershel's Farm. According to Walking Dead creator/producer Robert Kirkman "that'll be a place that they stay in for a while, and so we'll be introduced to Hershel, who is a big character from the comic book series, and Maggie, who in the comic book series has a relationship with Glenn. So we'll possibly see a little bit of romance between Glenn and Maggie as we move forward into the second season." Joining the show will be Scott Wilson as Hershel Greene, Lauren Cohan as his daughter, Maggie, and Pruitt Taylor Vince as Otis. In addition to the cable series, AMC is also producing a web series focusing on Bicycle Girl, telling her origin story and how she became the Zombie that turned up in the series. Also airing on AMC will be The Talking Dead a weekly half hour after show hosted by Chris Hardwick (The Nerdist) and will feature interviews with cast and crew as well as fans of the show. It will air

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that the practicalities of presenting a prophetic vision of events, set to occur almost 2,000 years after the death of its author, was a considerable challenge for the heavenly messenger as well! This could only be accomplished through the use of symbolic images which might be gibberish to someone in John's time but completely understandable and meaningful to modern day readers. Christ employed this strategy very effectively in His teachings when He conveyed complex ideas through the use of timeless symbolic parables.

This particular apocalyptic vision was actually intended to herald the emergence of major geo-political institutions. Human governments have always been necessary as a means of avoiding anarchy and civil breakdown which undoubtedly occurs in their absence. Unfortunately most human governmental systems are created and deployed by its ruling class, who inevitably manage to live above the law while effectively subjugating, persecuting, or decimating its populations. If this statement seems harsh then consider the staggering death tolls represented by some of these apocalyptic institutions. It is conceivable that the true villains of humanity may not be plagues, wars, or natural disasters, but instead human governments.

The description of each horse along with its rider is significant therefore they are presented below in the order of their appearance. Each symbolic horse and rider can be categorized within two types of governing institutions. The first and last horses represent religious governments. By this we mean their primary method of control is through religious-based political intrigues to subjugate its masses. For example, "do as we say or we will punish you with excommunication, starvation, military invasion, selective execution"...and the list goes on. The second and third horses represent governments which are based on economic principles. A good analogy for these governments would be "eat what you kill," or the polar opposite which is, "we will confiscate what you kill and redistribute it as we (the government) decide".

The first vision to appear was a white horse bearing a rider with an enormous crown and holding an empty bow. We are also told that this horse rode out to win many battles and gain the victory. This was the first appearance of a major religious-based government and it was called Catholicism. In its hay-day the Catholic Church represented a very powerful ruling force throughout the known world. Its political strength was not gained through provincial commerce or the maintenance of its own standing army but through the control of secular rulers who could be threatened with excommunication, economic sanctions, or invasion by other allied countries, if they didn't obey. The political intrigues initiated by the Holy Roman Empire, against secular kingdoms, was extremely effective, empowering them to instigate numerous battles where victory for the church was assured. The fact that the church used other countries to fight their wars is represented by the empty bow. The extensive use of white within the papal diocese leaves no doubt as to the symbolism of the white

horse, and the large oversized shape of the distinctive Papal Tiara explains the enormous crown worn by the symbolic rider.

This religious monopoly began to lose its stranglehold in 1517 when Martin Luther challenged the Catholic Church over the issue of indulgences, plus other lesser offenses. The next major blow occurred approximately thirteen years later when Henry VIII declared that his right as a God ordained English king trumped the coronation of a foreign vicar located in Italy. Henry then proceeded to nationalize monasteries throughout England, which incidentally created an enormous windfall profit at the expense of the Vatican! The power of the Holy Roman Empire was finally broken by Napoleon Bonaparte in the early 1800's when he conquered the European provinces, removed incumbent cardinals, and instituted secular dictatorships.

The second vision to appear was a red horse bearing a rider holding a large broadsword and the authority to remove peace from the earth. This major government is based on economic principles and is embodied in the Utopian doctrines of Communism. Few will argue the fact that the national color representing Russia is, without a doubt red, thus validating the red color of the apocalyptic horse. The fact that the rider carries an oversized sword is also an indicator of its militant source of power. Since its revolutionary inception in the 1900's, the advance of Communism has historically been recognized by its ability to destabilize all other forms of government and thus replace peace and tranquility with conflict. The reason for this is that Communism successfully incites the masses against the ruling aristocracy via the doctrine of revolution. This, in turn, usually results in a civil bloodbath. Even in its own country, the Russian Revolution was responsible for the deaths of countless millions. The infamous Stalin purge alone murdered 35 to 50 million of its citizens, depending on which historians one chooses to read. No one really knows how many millions perished during the Chinese Civil War as a result of military clashes between Communist and Nationalist parties. At present the doctrine of Communism appears to be waning in popularity since many nations now recognize that socialistic ideals encourage laziness because the working class invariably lacks the incentive to work harder when the reward is an equally distributed portion.

The third symbol to appear was a black horse with a rider holding a pair of balance scales and chanting "a loaf of wheat bread or three loaves of barley for a day's pay. And don't waste the oil or wine." The balance scales, along with the chant of a proportional exchange rate, instantly gives our horse and rider away as representing the institution of Capitalism. Though the color black has historically represented death, in this example that is not the case. Economically speaking, the most lucrative shopping day of the year in the United States is the day after Thanksgiving, the day we universally refer to as "Black Friday". It is named as such because it represents the expectation of every merchandiser to balance their ledgers in the black instead of the red. The "Don't Tread on Me" black snake on a yellow background or orange snake on a black background, were the dominant battle flags used during the American Revolution.

The Declaration of Independence was a unique document that, for the first time in history, placed the power of the individual first, the power of the state second, and the power of the nation last. This revolutionary concept transformed an insignificant collection of 13 colonies into the richest and most powerful governmental institution on earth. On the other hand government intrusion through prohibitive taxation, over-regulation, and excessive entitlement programs, is an anathema to the principles of Capitalism. If allowed to flourish, it will quickly destroy this form of government.

The fourth and last symbol is a pale horse bearing a hate-filled rider wielding a sword. This religious government is the last institution to rise to power and is identified as the institution of Islam. It is important to note that the word pale is actually a mistranslation which appears in most Bibles today. It was originally translated from the Greek word chloros, which literally means green. This was an unfortunate error, for if we understand that the symbolic horse was green then we can immediately identify Islam as this religious government since that is the dominant color used in the majority of its national symbols and flags. We also know this rider is filled with rage and hate because the text literally states that "Death was the name of its rider and hell followed after him." More importantly, we learn that this religious government would be given authority over twenty-five percent of the world's population to kill with the sword, famine, disease and/or by wild beasts.

Today Islamic doctrine along with its form of religious government is the fastest growing institution in the world with over 1.5 billion souls in attendance (which incidentally is approaching one quarter of the earth's population). There is no doubt that once Islam's fanatical rulers gain control over a population they routinely instigate its slaughter by starvation or by the sword if the religion of Islam is refused by its victims. If the reader doubts this then observe the current on-going destabilization efforts conducted in many African countries where an Islam-based government has infiltrated! It is by far the most ruthless and oppressive form of government ever conceived by man. It is so devastating that it is prophesied to herald the advent of global catastrophes and the subsequent appearance of the antichrist along with the final wars of annihilation. While it has not yet achieved its stated goal of taking over the world and dispatching the last infidel, it continues to use relentless subversion and terrorism in an all-out effort to achieve its mandated mission.

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What all this means is that we are left with choices. If we are a Humanist, we must believe that man carries within himself the immutable hope for a future which embodies the gradual improvement of human-kind through knowledge, spirituality, technology, and social enlightenment. We must embrace the expectation that as a species we can eventually overcome this specter of corruption which seems to creep in and remind us of our human failings...yet despite these failings, we remain determined to strive towards a more peaceful, considerate, and loving world.

If we are a Believer we must accept that imperfect man, if left to his own devices, is decidedly incapable of sustaining a perfect government. We must also accept that even when humans manage to envision a perfect government, the seeds for its eventual corruption and downfall will invariably rest with evil men who will always empower themselves at the expense of others. The unshakeable hope of a Believer is the Biblical promise that human governments will end when King Jesus returns and establishes the Millennial Government . . . a perfect government ruled by a perfect Creator and intended for recreated humans who are made perfect through the elimination of evil.

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Don is an enthusiastic student of history and archeology, especially as it relates to the Bible. As well as writing a book, he has directed and produced a number of multi-media presentations and has been the featured guest speaker at numerous churches, symposiums, and public functions.

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each Sunday night following the encore airing of that nights new Walking Dead episode.

New to cable is BBC America's Bedlam, about a group of residents in a housing project who discover that the building's past as an insane asylum now means that there's lots of unhappy spirits to contend with in their residence.
The series stars Charlotte Salt, Theo James and Ashley Madekwe. It is only six episodes and reports are that it has not been renewed for a second series by its UK home, ITV.

FX debuts American Horror Story on Wednesday, October 5, and it might be the next big thing on cable. It revolves around The Harmons, a family of three who move from Boston to Los Angeles as a means to reconcile past anguish. Unfortunately, the house they move into has been the scene of multiple murders and appears to be haunted, really haunted. It was co-created by former Nip/Tuck executive producers and current Glee co-creators/ executive producers Ryan Murphy and Brad Falchuk. The cast includes Dylan McDermott as Ben Harmon, a psychiatrist; Connie Britton as Ben's wife Vivien Harmon; Taissa Farmiga as Violet, the Harmon's teenage daughter; Jessica Lange Constance, the Harmon's neighbor; Evan Peters as Tate Langdon, one of Ben's patients; and Denis O'Hare as Larry Harvey. Also appearing is Alexandra Breckenridge as Moira O'Hara (Young) and Frances Conroy as Moira O'Hara (Old), their housekeeper who keeps changing back and forth between an old lady and a young woman. There's not been much revealed about the series itself, although critic reaction from a press screening indicates that there is lots of gore and blood and might be a "fetishist's and horror fan's dream." In any case, it's likely to stir up a lot of interest, especially for horror fans.

In the cartoon realm, the Cartoon Network has finally started showing new episodes of both Young Justice and Batman: The Brave and the Bold as well as the fourth season of Star Wars Clone Wars. Sometime in November, they will also start airing Green Lantern: The Animated series. It focuses on Hal Jordan's Green Lantern as he is sent off to deep space to fight the evil Red Lanterns. Joining him is Green Lantern Kilowog and other heroes as they work to keep the Red Lanterns at bay. Bruce Timm is Executive Producer, so fans are expecting similar quality as was seen with the previous Batman, Superman and Justice League Unlimited that Timm was in charge of.

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AUTHOR JACQUELINE CAREY

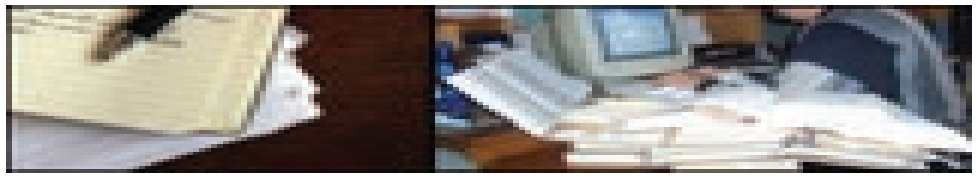
ACTORS MEG FOSTER

MAKEUP CLASSES WITH BILL MYER

ART CLASSES WITH RUTH THOMPSON

GAMING AUTHORS
JOHN WICK & KEN ST ANDRE

THE DARKNESS APPROACHES



FROM THE NEW MANAGING EDITOR:

I'd have to admit that I had a lot of flourished things to say over this last week to everyone from potential advertisers to publicists, and our readers about the changing of the guard for ConNotations. But, now that I sit here to write something for all the regular readers of the newspaper, I am void of all those words that sounded so good last week.

Being the managing editor of ConNotations has been a wish of mine for many years; 21 to be exact. I have been a convention goer for that many years and, during all of them an avid reader of this rag. I had never realized, until this opportunity literally fell in my lap, that ConNotations is 21 years old, so I have been an admirer for that long. But even when I found out the position was empty, for whatever the reason was, I still did not jump at it. I told others closest to me of my long-standing wish, but had swore that if it was not asked of me, I would not offer to take the position.

WHY? You may ask.

Basically, this position takes a lot out of anybody. I know how our previous managing editor for more than a decade could have grown very weary of the job. But, I also held back because I have responsibilities to the clients served by my own company. So, whenever I make a decision that will take my time away from them, I must know that I am meant to go that direction.

Did I make the right decision? Only time will tell, really. Because honestly, I have to say that the political issues that have followed this position are much greater than I had considered. It really worries me as a long time convention goer that we have such divided factions in our conventions here in Arizona.

Going headlong into both the CASFS organization and also as the LepreCon 38 programming director, I thought that it would be a terrific opportunity to bring to bear my years of publishing and graphics design experience for both organizations. However, I find opposition instead. It is only my desire to help make the ConNotations NewsZine become a solvent publication, while also bringing together advertisers with our customers for the NewsZine and the program books for both CopperCon and LepreCon.

There are a handful of individuals who move pretty easily, back and forth in positions for all the cons here in Arizona, so why not open lines of communication and offer ways where all convention organizations can work together to the benefit of our organizations and healthy growth into the future. Now, during these hard economic times, is not the time to stay divided, but to consolidate for the benefit of the organizations and even more important, for our present and future members of the speculative-fiction convention goers. I hope to introduce my grandchildren to these cons.

These last 21 years, I have been a part of the Arizona speculative-fiction convention scene, mainly as a spectator. I can't imagine how my life would have been different without the influences of these cons, their organizations, and the NewsZine for over three decades. I would like to see them go for another three decades or more.

I went to college to be a journalist, until I found out how biased the newspapers were in Arizona. I may be an old-fashioned idealist, but I believe a newspaper should be produced to inform and to be an open-minded, unbiased medium. So, I am telling you now, to do this job, I plan to be open-minded to all cons in Arizona or outside our borders. I really work for all those who go to the conventions now and into the future.

---- And that's all I have to say about that.

Patti Hultstrand -- Managing Editor, ConNotations NewsZine

CONVENTION REVIEWS:

KILLER CON: Not for the Weak Hearted

By Darryl Dawson Brown

KillerCon is the ultimate gathering of purveyors and consumers of the twisted and terrifying, and the perfect way to prepare for Halloween season. This past weekend marked its third incarnation, and by all indications, this event will only become bigger and more popular as word gets around. Held at the Stratosphere Hotel in Las Vegas, KillerCon is the creation of hardcore horror author Wrath James White (The Ressurectionist, His Pain), who, after asking himself a rhetorical question--"Why can't there be a horror convention in Las Vegas?"--decided to attempt the impossible and give it an answer. He, with the help of fellow authors, Bailey Hunter and Tucson's, R.J. Cavender, established a fun-filled chautaugua in Sin City, packed with top-tier authors and up-and-comers like myself, in an environment where we can all learn from, and party with, each other. Among this year's activities: a blood-splatter demonstration, panels on pitching a book and writing extreme horror, an erotic horror fiction contest, a "gross-out" contest (bring your own vomit bag!), and readings from Jonathan Maberry, William Nolan, Jack Ketchum, Ben Etheridge and many others. I spent most of my time in the Dealer's Room, which was reasonably priced and well-attended, especially during the Mass Autograph Session on Saturday!

Do yourself a favor: reserve some time in late September of next year and give yourself a much-deserved Vegas vacation at KillerCon 4. Just like a vivid nightmare, it will leave a lasting impression!

ROC-CON: Rocked Rochester last weekend

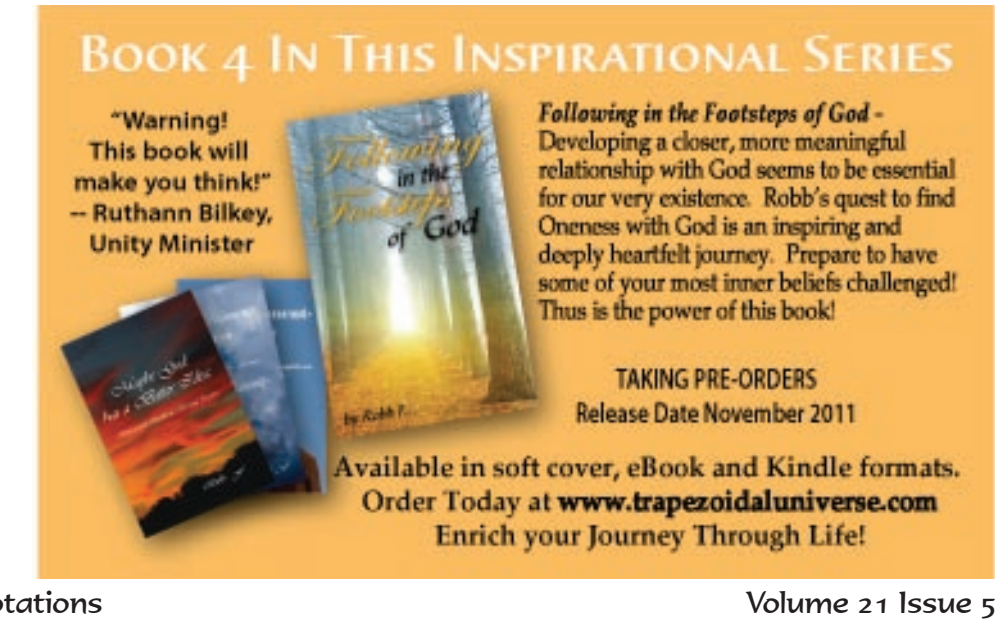
By Michael D'Ambrosio

Roc-Con debuted in Rochester this weekend (9/24) at the historic Armory on Main Street. With an array of vendors, costuming and programs, Roc-Con was a success. Things went so well that next year, the Comicon-style convention will go to two days on September 22 and 23rd of 2012. With plenty of room to grow, anything is possible. Alicia Lurye, the convention's organizer, and her army of volunteers have plenty to be proud of. Follow their website at http://rochesterscifianimecon.com/ for upcoming details for next year's convention programs and guests in historic downtown Rochester.

SPOOKY EMPIRE'S ULTIMATE HORROR WEEKEND: Will be October 7-9, 2011 at Wyndham Orlando Resort

By Michael D'Ambrosio

I will be out at the Spookie Empire in Orlando and it is really big. They also run the Mayhem Madness convention in May over the holiday weekend. Their website is http://www.spookyempire.com/. They are multi-genre but primarily target horror.



CON HEADLINE NEWS

LoneStarCon 3 wins 2013 Worldcon bid for San Antonio

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE August 20, 2011

RENO, Nev. – The World Science Fiction Convention will return to Texas for the first time since 1997 after voting results announced Aug. 20 at Renovation, the 2011 Worldcon, awarded the right to host the international conference to the Texas in 2013 bid.

LoneStarCon 3–the 71st World Science Fiction Convention–will be held Aug. 29-Sept. 2, 2013, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, Texas. The Mariott Rivercenter and Mariott Riverwalk will serve as the host hotels.

The guests of honor list for LoneStarCon 3 includes Ellen Datlow, James Gunn, Norman Spinrad, Darrel K. Sweet and Willie Siros, with Paul Cornell serving as toastmaster and featuring special guests Leslie Fish and Joe R. Lansdale.

Founded in 1939, the World Science Fiction Convention is one of the largest international gatherings of authors, artists, editors, publishers and fans of science fiction and fantasy entertainment. The annual Hugo Awards, the leading award for excellence in the field of science fiction and fantasy, are voted on by Worldcon membership and presented during the convention.

LoneStarCon 3 is sponsored by ALAMO, Inc., (Alamo Literary Arts Maintenance Organization), a 501(c)3 organization. Membership for LoneStarCon 3 may be purchased at www.LoneStarCon3.org. In addition to individual memberships , LoneStarCon 3 will also offer a family rate. For more information about LoneStarCon 3, memberships or hotel information, visit www.LoneStarCon3.org.

About the Guests of Honor for LoneStarCon 3:

Paul Cornell is a writer of science fiction and fantasy in prose, television and comics, and is the only person to have been a Hugo Award nominee for all three media. He's written Action Comics for DC Comics and Doctor Who for the BBC. His novels are Something More and British Summertime. His forthcoming novel, an urban fantasy, will be published by Tor in 2012.

Ellen Datlow has edited science fiction, fantasy and horror short fiction for three decades. She served as fiction editor of Omni magazine and SCI Fiction, and has edited many anthologies for adults, young adults and children. She has won multiple Locus, Hugo, Stoker, International Horror Guild, Shirley Jackson and World Fantasy Awards. She was the recipient of the 2007 Karl Edward Wagner Award for "outstanding contribution to the genre."

Leslie Fish is one of the best-known authors of filk songs including "Banned from Argo," a comic song parodying Star Trek which has spawned more than 80 variants since first performed.

James Gunn is a science fiction author, editor, scholar and anthologist. His most significant writings include fiction from the 1960s and 70s and his scholarly Road to Science Fiction collections. Gunn is a founding director of the Center for the Study of Science Fiction. He won a Hugo Award for non-fiction in 1983 and was honored in 2007 as a Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master by Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Joe R. Lansdale is the author of more than 30 books and is known to his fans as Champion Joe, Mojo Storyteller. His is known for his horror stories, the Hap and Leonard mystery/thriller series and the theatrical film Bubba Ho-Tep. Lansdale's many awards include 16 Bram Stoker Aawards, the Grand Master Award from the World Horror Convention, a British Fantasy Award and the American Mystery Award.

Willie Siros was instrumental in starting the long-running Austin science fiction convention, Armadillocon, serving as chair of the first three editions. Siros also contributed to the founding of the Fandom Association of Central Texas, the original LoneStarCon (the 1985 North American Science Fiction Convention) and Adventures In Crime & Space Books. He is a former para-librarian at the University of Texas Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center where he developed its speculative fiction collection.

Norman Spinrad is the author of more than 20 novels, including Bug Jack Barron, The Iron Dream, Child of Fortune, Pictures at 11, Greenhouse Summer and The Druid King. He has also published approximately 60 short stories collected in a dozen volumes.

Darrell K. Sweet is an artist most famous for providing the cover art for the fantasy epic saga The Wheel of Time. He is also the illustrator for the well-known Xanth series by Piers Anthony, the Saga of Recluce series by L.E. Modesitt, Jr., and the Runelords series by David Farland.

CoN

PHOENIX IN 2014 NASFIC BID - A bid for the 2014 North American Science Fiction Convention

As was taken from the website at:
http://www.leprecon.org/phoenixin2014/

In years in which the Worldcon is held outside of North America,a NASFiC (North American Science Fiction Convention) can be held. Since London in 2014 is the current uncontested bid for Worldcon in 2014,this leaves an opportunity to have a NASFiC that year. Leprecon,Inc. has announced at Renovation,the 2011 Worldcon in Reno,our intentions to bid for NASFiC in 2014,voting for which,provided London wins the 2014 Worldcon,will be held at Lone Star Con 3 in Austin,TX in 2013. We are planning to hold the convention early in August,which will not overlap with the planned dates of the London WorldCon or EuroCon.

Our planned location is the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe,Arizona. It has been the site for previous events sponsored by Leprecon,Inc.,including the 2009 North American Discworld Convention, FiestaCon (Westercon 62),the 2006 Nebula Awards Weekend,and World Fantasy 2004.

Phoenix in 2014 NASFiC Bid Pre-Support Levels can be found on the following web page:
http://www.leprecon.org/phoenixin2014/membership-information/ CoN

BID FOR LONDON IN 2014 FOR WORLDCON

As taken from the website:
http://www.londonin2014.org/

London in 2014 - for the bid to bring the 72nd World Science Fiction Convention, or Worldcon, to London in August 2014. The site for 2014 will be selected by vote of members of the Chicon 7, 2012 Worldcon. Between now and 2012, the bid committee will be publicizing and promoting the bid to science fiction fans all around the world.

Assuming the bid is successful, the convention will be held from Thursday 14 to Monday 18 August 2014 in the new International Convention Centre, which is part of the ExCeL exhibition centre complex in London's Docklands.

AUTHOR LOCAL HEADLINE NEWS: LENNIE ROSS
Author of "Blow Me" novel, visits Phoenix

Interviewed on KWOD Radio Blog Talk Show
on Monday, September 26, 2011 by Patti Hultstrand

Lennie Ross writes a blog on dating in Los Angeles called Lennie Ross Writes and works as a researcher, story editor, and story consultant for other screenwriters. Under a pseudonym, she wrote several screenplays for Playboy's now defunct film division, Indigo Entertainment. She has also written several romantic comedy and suspense thriller feature film scripts. Her screenwriting credits include: writing and hosting a documentary on asthma; writing, producing, and starring in her own sitcom pilot, and writing and starring in her own play, I Think I'm Falling In Love With You. Lennie wrote two episodes of the Japan-Canada co-production animation series, Cyber- Six, and has had several TV movies optioned.

While pursuing a screenwriting career, Lennie has worked as a producer, talent agent and assistant casting director for roughly ten years. Prior to her adventures in the screen trade, Lennie wrote advertising copy for print and television, and fashion and travel articles for regional, national, and international publications including Beautiful B.C., Canadian Inflight, Adventure West, Pacific Northwest, Western Living and Vancouver Magazine.

About Blow Me:
Blow Me is the story of three single women—Skylar, Dawn, and Chloe—all hovering precariously close to forty, and stuck in a lifestyle that they have long outgrown. Aware that the women's magazines of their youth sold them a false bill of goods about having it all—the amazing career, the baby, the house, the husband—each woman is desperate in her own way to achieve some sense of stability. Skylar, a hairdresser/ executive assistant who lost her job and burned down her apartment after a fondue party, is living out of her car; Chloe, a struggling actress/real estate agent with a heavy French Canadian accent who has never sold a house and doesn't have her SAG card, is trying to find a way to stay in the United States; and Dawn, an MBA-educated dating service matchmaker who can't find a decent guy, is hedging her bets against the ticking clock by freezing embryos. Not having achieved any of their goals, their lives are in complete chaos and their only hope now is to be rescued through marriage or by a Hairy Godfather. Situated in the shallow world of Los Angeles, this provocative novel in the style of Sex and the City provides a humorous, edgy look at aging, dating, and being single in the new millennium.

What inspired you to write your novel?
I read a lot of women's contemporary fiction or "chicklit" and it all seems to be based out of New York, and I wanted to represent Los Angeles. I think the life of women, particularly single women, in Los Angeles is very unique and intriguing.

What is the main message of your book?
It's a novel, so it's primarily an escape read. The kind of thing you take on vacation, or read while the kids are taking a nap. But, the general theme is about single women and their struggles to find a decent man, about how sometimes they look up too late before they realize it's time to get married and have children. I don't thin women have found a perfect balance between working and being a woman. I think we all struggle with this.

You talk about The Wonder Woman Complex, which is a phrase you coined, correct?
Yes, I often use the term in my blog. What I mean by this is that in addition to providing women with more freedom and choices, women's lib put more pressure on women as women are still expected to be all the things they were before they were working women. Now we have to earn a six-figure salary, be a sex kitten, a mother, a wife, a homemaker, a personal assistant, event coordinator for the family, etc. Society puts that pressure on us, men put that pressure on us, and we put that pressure on ourselves.

Are you saying we can't have our cake and eat it?
I'm saying it's very difficult to do that. I think it puts great stress on us, and I think we are juggling too many balls, and in doing so, every once in a while, one is going to drop. Let's hope it's not the baby! One of the most common statements I hear from single men or divorced men is, "My ex was bi-polar." When I hear this, I think to myself, she wasn't bi-polar, she was just having a nervous breakdown from all the stress on her. I think we need to give ourselves a break every once in a while and say, "no, I'm not going to do it all. I don't have to do it all."

So, the girls in your book, are suffering from the wonder woman complex?
To a degree. They are also suffering from fear and anxiety. Basically, they didn't plan their lives well, and they wake up one day and realize they don't have the great career, the great husband, the great home, and the 2.5 kids. They have none of that. I guess it's a precautionary tale. But it does have a happy ending.

And by happy ending, you mean happily ever after?
Uh, yes. My bad. I mean happily ever after! The girls in my book are looking for their happily ever after, and two out of three get it. Those aren't bad odds. Another message I want to convey to women is that even with women working and having careers, it's okay to still want to find your Prince Charming and to want a happily ever after.

So two of your characters find get rescued by men?
I wouldn't say that. I'd say they rescue themselves through learning to have healthy relationships with caring, supportive men who do not come in the cookie-cutter package. One is older and rather heavy; the other while young and handsome is short. I read in Psychology Today that women like strong male characters in romance novels. They fantasize about doctors, hedge fund managers and princes—not accountants and bartenders. Accounting is not sexy.

If you could give women one piece of advice, either through your blog or through your book, or through this interview, what would it be?
I see a lot of women struggling with self-esteem issues and it breaks my heart. I used to have terrible self-esteem issues. It's not possible to have a healthy relationship when you don't feel confident inside. So, my message is to never sell yourself short in a relationship. Aretha Franklin said it best: RESPECT. Allowing a man to open a car door for you does not make you inferior; it is not sexist. It does, however, send a message that you deserve to be treated well, like a goddess or a princess, and that you want your man to be a prince. There is nothing wrong with wanting a good man who loves, respects and cares for you as well as wanting a career.

About Lennie Ross:
- I write a blog on dating in Los Angeles called www.lennierosswrites.com
- I used to write screenplays for Indigo Entertainment. Prior to that I did some TV movie development, prior to that I wrote magazine articles
- I used to produce TV commercials for a living and also worked as a talent agent and in casting.
- I live the "glamorous" fashionista Carrie Bradshaw single life in LA and its not as pretty (or glamorous) as it looks.

Lennie Ross came to town on Monday and Tuesday, September 26 and 27th, to interview with us and to appear at her book signing event at Park Avenue Blow Dry & Beauty Bar from 6-8pm.

She signed copies of her new Sex and the City style novel, "Blow Me" and had her fabulous "Blow Me" tank tops for sale!

The Cake Contessa provided some yummy treats for this event.

CoN

TALK LIKE A PIRATE DAY 2011

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR THE AZ CORSAIRS
HALLOWEEN at The Phoenix Zoo
Time: October 28, 2011 at 6:30pm to October 29, 2011 at 11pm
Location: The Phoenix Zoo
Street: 455 N Galvin Pkwy
City/Town: Phoenix, AZ 85008
http://azcorsair.ning.com/events/howl-o-ween-the-phx-zoo

Pirates fighting in true sword buckling fashion and in full pirate garb at the Corsairs recent Talk Like a Pirate Day 2011 @ Westgate City Center! Saturday, September 17, 2011 in Glendale, AZ

Everyone was involved, even some mermaids who hung out for this event.

Avast ye dogs an' wenches!

X MARKS THE SPOT -- On October 16th, 2011

The Arizona Corsairs and the Captains of Fleet Scelestus, cordially invite you to a Pirate Feast to please every palate!
At Everharts on Elliot Rd. in Gilbert for an evening of dining, entertainment and open rapier tournament.

As you dine with fellow pirates, enjoy entertainment by dancing girls from local belly dance troupes and live musicians including an on key bagpiper (we are still looking).
Rapier fighters don't over indulge too much. Prepare for the exciting first ever, open rapier tournament with a cash prize purse of gold coins (US Gold Dollars). That's right you dogs, a cash purse! Be that worth a small fee and proof of insurance?

And of course the feast!

Our crew of pirate chefs will tempt your appetite with a rich Gazpacho that any pirate captain would treasure and Salmagundi Salad - a favorite of Bartholomew Roberts. Roast pork loin with savory caramelized apples, honey glazed parsley carrots, and baked potato, appease every sailor's hunger, but don't fill your gullet just yet. Dessert for this fine buccaneer consumption consists of hearty bread pudding with sauce made of every sea dog's favorite drink, rum! Soft drinks and lemonade are available with dinner purchase, alcoholic beverages – beer and wine – with special ticket stamp.

First Annual Pirate Feast

Tickets prices "Arr" as follows and must be purchased prior to the event:
$20 Full Ticket plus (21+ Only) – Meal, entertainment, and tournament entry, access to Tavern, beer and wine (please drink responsibly).
$15 Full Ticket - Meal with beverages, entertainment, and tournament entry.
$10 Tournament and Hospitality Ticket
$5 Hospitality Ticket - Entertainment and non-alcoholic beverages.
$5 Tournament entry ONLY
***Full food and beverage tickets are limited, so please purchase early!**

October 16th, 2011, 5:00PM – 8:00PM - AT 2675 E Elliot Rd - Gilbert Az 85234
www.piratefeast.info
Theodoric Brandywine - email: maxxidious@aol.com

(Many thanks to the Everharts, for the warm welcome, and the the use of their property for this event)

24 Frames: *by Jeffrey Lu*

COMMENTS:

Trick: Scary stuff, these coming months. Mostly repeats, revisions, updates, and endless sequels coming to a theatre near you. The horror of it all...

Treat: No 3D on every movie. Also, a strange movie for a holiday...

IN THE PRODUCTION NEWS:

Man of Steel- production is now moved to Vancouver.

Underworld Awakening- will be in IMAX 3-D, next year.

Tarantino's next movie will be "***Django Unchained***." Date release: Christmas, 2012. Kevin Costner exits out of Tarantino's next movie, "***Django Unchained***."

J.J. Abrams will direct the ***Star Trek (2009) sequel***. Date release: 2013?

Stephen Rea to be in Universal's updated version of ***Wolfman***.

October/November Schedule:

Friday, October 7, 2011 -

The Ides of March (Thriller) Sony/Columbia, Rate R, Producer/actor/writer/director- George Clooney.

Real Steel (Action Drama) Buena Vista, PG-13, Director- Shawn Levy, Actor- Hugh Jackman

Friday, October 14, 2011 -

Footloose (2011) (Musical) Paramount, Not Yet Rated, Director/Writer- Craig Brewer

The Thing (2011) (Sci-fi Horror) Universal, Not Yet Rated, Writer- Eric Heisserer

Friday, October 21, 2011 -

Paranormal Activity 3 (Horror) Paramount, Not Yet Rated, Producer- Oren Peli

The Three Musketeers (2011) (Period Action), Summit Entertainment, PG-13, Actors: Milla Jovovich, Orlando Bloom

Friday, October 28, 2011 -

In Time (Sci-fi thriller) Fox, PG-13, Director/Writer: Andrew Niccol, Actor: Justin Timberlake

Anonymous (Period Drama) Sony/Columbia, PG-13, Director: Roland Emmerich, Actor: Rhys Ifans, Vanessa Redgrave

Johnny English Reborn (Action Comedy) Universal, PG, Actor: Rowan Atkinson

Friday, November 4, 2011 -

Puss in Boots (Animation) Paramount (Dreamworks), PG, Director: Chris Miller, Voices: Antonio Banderas, Bill Bob Thornton

A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas (Comedy) Warner Bros. (New Line), R, Actor: Kal Penn, John Cho

Friday, November 11, 2011 -

Immortals (Fantasy Drama) Relativity, Not Yet Rated, Director: Tarsem, Actor: Henry Cavil, Mickey Rourke

Friday, November 18, 2011 -

Happy Feet Two (Animation) Warner Bros., Not Yet Rated, Producer/Director/Writer George Miller, Voices: Elijah Wood, Robin Williams, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn (Part One) (Romance) Summit Entertainment, Not Yet Rated, Director: Bill Condon, Actor: Robert Patterson, Kristen Stewart, Taylor Lautner, Michael Sheen

Friday, November 23, 2011 -

Arthur Christmas (in 3D) (Animation) Sony/Columbia, PG, Director: Sarah Smith, Producer: Peter Lord

Hugo (Family Adventure) Paramount, Not Yet Rated, Director: Martin Scorsese, Actor: Sacha Baron Cohen, Richard Griffiths, Ben Kingsley, Jude Law, Christopher Lee

The Muppets (Family Comedy) Buena Vista, PG, Director: James Bobin, Writers/Producers: Jason Segel, Nick Stoller

Piranha 3DD (Horror Comedy) Weinstein/Dimension, Not Yet Rated, Director: John Gulager, Actor: Christopher Lloyd

Rumors:

The Man from U.N.C.L.E. remake?

Blair Witch modern take?

New Evil Dead movie without character Ash?

Silk movie redo?

Sigourney Weaver's choice: Avatar 2 or Ghostbuster 3- to be decided in 2012.

Ghostbuster 3 movie may not have Bill Murray.

Parting Shots:

Have a safe Halloween, folks. Enjoy the turkey (and not the fish with teeth) on Thanksgiving. CoN

www.leprecon.org/lep38

LepreCon 38

April 6-8, 2012

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ

Artist Guest of Honor **Franchesco!**
Author Guest of Honor **Joe Haldeman**
Music Guests **Jeff & Maya Bohnhoff**
Gaming Guest **Todd VanHooser**
Local Artist Guest **Mark Greenawalt**

LepreCon 38 will have an art show, charity auction, expanded gaming, hospitality suite, filk & music, and more.

We'll be at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe with many nearby restaurants and easy access via Light Rail.

Membership Rates

$30 thru 10/31/11
$35 thru 12/31/11, more later
Kids 7-12 - $15*,
Kids 6 and under Free*
*with Adult Membership

Tempe Mission Palms Hotel
60 E. Fifth St., Tempe, Arizona

Room Rates: $125.00 per night
S/D/T/Q + tax (including hospitality fee)
Hotel Booking Code 2TQ83F
Call 800-547-8705 or 480-894-1400

LepreCon 38 Contact Information

Write: LepreCon 38, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285
Phone: (480) 945-6890
Email: lep38@leprecon.org

Science Exploration

Space Pollution: Orbital Debris

By Donald Jacques

Prior to 1961 there were less than 60 manmade objects in orbit around the earth. Today there are several million floating around up there creating increasing issues for space science, astronomy, and future human missions to space.

In the same way that the collection of consumer waste and overflowing sanitation systems create threats to our health here in our cities, so the increasing numbers of dead, dying, and discarded satellites is increasing the risk to both manned and unmanned space vehicles placed in orbit to tell us more about our world. Just as human wastes play hosts to bacteria and viruses that can sicken and cause death in our cities, so too our man-made objects are colliding and breaking apart into smaller and smaller pieces that represent real threats to not only spacefaring vehicles, but on occasion fall out of the sky and injure people below.

NASA, among others continues (after 50 years) to study the problem using what else? more sattellites. But here is a curious thought; NASA tells us in this page that the LDEF was launched in '82 and retrieved in '90, yet here, NASA LDEF Data Page they say it was launched in '84 and retrieved in '90. Granted, the difference is only two years, but if they cannot keep track of the true data from one sattellite, how can we expect them to keep track of thousands of active satellites, hundres of dead ones, and the millions of pieces of deady bolts, tools, and other bits of metal threatening any new project for space.

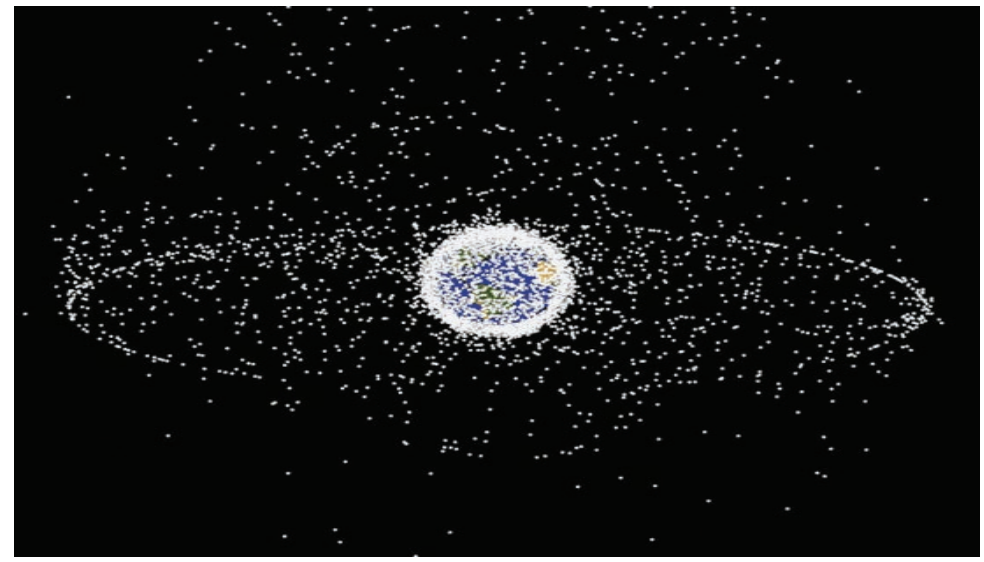
So, ... what now? I can imagine a host of interesting sci-fi stories of the future challenges to space travel, in fact, I can remember reading at least one or two in my life already. While intriguing, we must become far more aware of our environment - the plastics we buy that do not degrade, the food wrappers, and coffee cups, and cigarettes we indiscriminately discard out of the car window must each be re-thought. We must begin holding our legislators to task for self-serving decisions that ultimately threaten all of us from both our landfills and "orbital space-dump".

Clearly NASA can no longer keep its information accurate, much less mitigate space junk, any more than a politician can tell the truth. But is it realistic to cease all future launches until the mess is cleaned up? I am not sure, but I DO believe that the time for us as individuals to reach out and pay attention to what our bureaucracies are up to, and make them accountable for the increasing number of "messes" they keep leaving us, the public, to deal with. The Whipple shield represents a single effort to protect satellites in space from this junk, but I was unable to find any references to any other tool in use. NASA is true to it's form of selecting one track and "sticking to it" no matter how limited it's application is.

I do believe that private space companies hold the cards in the opportunity they represent. It is private companies that represent (at least for now) the energy, vision, and enthusiasm we need to tackle the challenges that face us. SpaceX, Bigelow, Virgin are just a few who are exploring different ideas to further our push into space.

And just to offer my own idea ... How about a gas-charged parasol of mylar on a mile-long cable that acts like an anchor for satellites that have outlived their usefulness. Align the satellite so the parasol points to earth, fire the charge, sending the parasol deeper into the atmosphere like an air-anchor or air-brake. It could be built from inexpensive materials, mass-produced for satellites. Hey, its an idea, clearly something NASA is short of these days.

CoN



Space debris populations seen from outside geosynchronous orbit (GEO). Note the two primary debris fields, the ring of objects in GEO, and the cloud of objects in low earth orbit (LEO).

Donald Jacques is currently the Executive VP, and a past president of the Moon Society of Phoenix, and spearheading multiple projects exploring technologies for the colonization of space. Donald is owner of Wiz Kidz, International, a web design and hosting company, Weavers of Dreams dot com, an author tools website, and is the author of three novels.

Personal Website: www.DonaldJacques.com

Settlement Site: www.LunarSettlement.com

New Books Published on Space Nuclear Power

- September 21, 2011

A three volume series on the history and engineering of space nuclear power and propulsion systems has just been published. Written by 50-year space nuclear program veteran David Buden, these books provide a comprehensive look into the space nuclear systems that may play a critical role in enabling human missions to the planet Mars.

The first book, Space Nuclear Radioisotope Systems, describes the technical workings of radioisotope systems, the requirements and safety design considerations of these systems, the different systems using this technology that have been developed, and their operational history, including information on the two Viking missions using radioisotope system technology.

The second book, Nuclear Thermal Propulsion Systems, explores the fundamentals of nuclear rockets, including the safety issues, mission requirements, developmental history of various concepts both in the U.S. and Russia, and a summary of the key developmental issues of this technology. This book also includes a comprehensive history of the Rover / NERVA rocket programs, which took NTP systems from the drawing board to the verge of flight tests as part of NASA's post-Apollo plans to achieve human missions to the Red Planet by the 1980s.

The third and final book of this series, Space Nuclear Fission Electric Power Systems, discusses the components that make up nuclear fission power systems, the principal requirements and safety issues involved, various development programs, status developments and development issues. Such systems are key for enabling the production of rocket propellants on the Martian surface, thereby making possible mission plans such as Mars Direct.

The author of this series, David Buden, is an engineer whose career spans five decades of space nuclear research and development and was involved in the development and management of various advanced nuclear power systems from the days of the nuclear airplane to the SP-100.

As a technical resource, these books are essential for anyone interested in the engineering of space nuclear power systems. All three books are currently available for purchase at www.amazon.com.

For further information about the Mars Society, visit our website at www.marssociety.org.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SCIENCE GROUPS

ARIZONA SCIENCE CENTER

FAMILY EVENTS
URL: http://www.azscience.org/

October:
New! Real Pirates Fall science Camp for kids ages 6 - 12.

Body Depot Workshops every Saturday and Sunday:
11:30 am Monster Manual or Venom
1:00 pm Busy Bones

Rocking Rock Cycle Saturday Science

Family workshop Oct. 1st:
10:00 - 11:30 am
Preregistration required;
call 602-716-2000 ext. 2529

See what happens to rocks when they are exposed to different geological events! Identify rocks by their physical and/or chemical characteristics. Learn to create beautiful crystals at home.

Ahoy There Matey!
Saturday Science Family Workshop
Oct 29th; 10:00 to 11:30 am
Preregistration required; call 602-716-2000 ext. 2529
Yo, ho ho, it's a pirate's life for me! Dress like a pirate and hop aboard as we explore the science and technology of pirates who traversed the seas. Learn about tying knots, navigation and how pirate ships were affected by ocean currents.

November:
Body Depot Workshops every Saturday and Sunday:
11:30 am Monster Manual or Venom
1:00 pm Busy Bones

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY
URL: http://iho.asu.edu/events_lectures

BECOMING HUMAN:
30th ANNIVERSARY LECTURE SERIES
(for additional information on lecture series go to iho.asu.edu/30thlectures)
All lectures will take place at 5:30 pm at the Carson Ballroom, Old Main. The Museum of Anthropology will be open from 7:00 to 8:00 immediately after each lecture.

Origin of the Genus Homo
Thursday October 6 5:30 - 7:00 pm.

CHALLENGER SPACE CENTER ARIZONA
URL: http://azchallenger.org/calendar-of-events
21170 N. 83rd Avenue, Peoria, AZ 85382; phone: 623-322-2001

October:
Saturday October 1st
10:30 am Special Viewing (Legends of Flight)

10:30 am Simulated Space Mission (Reservations Required)

11:30 am Properties of Liquid Nitrogen

12:30 am Properties of Flight (Whirlybirds)

1:00 pm Simulated Space Mission (Reservations Required)

1:30 pm Properties of Liquid Nitrogen

2:30 pm Properties of Flight (Paper Airplanes)

Sunday October 2nd
10:30 am Special Viewing (Legends of Flight)

10:30 am Simulated Space Mission (Reservations Required)

11:30 am StarLab Planetarium Program

1:00 pm Simulated Space Mission (Reservations Required)

1:30 pm Nature of Light Presentation

2:30 pm Properties of Flight (Whirlybirds)

SETI INSTITUTE
URL: hppt://www.seti.org/
There are no scheduled events available at this time.
Info for Media - Fact Sheets Available
SETI Institute at a glance
SETI History
The Future of SETI Research

TITAN MISSILE MUSEUM
URL: hppt://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/
1580 West Duval Mine Road, Sahuarita, AZ
Open hours Monday thru Sunday from 8:45 am - 5:00 pm.

The Titan Missile Museum south of Tucson must surely be considered unique and a chilly reminder of the Cold War. Go underground and see one of the old Titan ballistic missiles watch the roll-back silo door open, follow operations at the launch control center, and watch demonstrations of countdown procedures. Tours begin every half hour.

To reach the Museum go south on I 19 and take exit 69 to the Duval Mine Road and follow the signs.

THE MOON SOCIETY PHOENIX
URL: http://www.msphx.org/

Meets the third Saturday of each month at Denny's on the month at 3:00 pm. Denny's is located on the Southeast corner of US 60 and Rural Road.

Saturday October 15th there will be a wet run of the Teleprescience Remote Control Racing Cars. This run will be Video taped and will be available for viewing on our website, www.msphx.org.

Saturday November 19th we will be reviewing the ongoing Chapter's ongoing projects, Lunar Agriculture, Lunar Homesteading, Lunar Ground Transportation, Lunar Industrialization and others.

PIMA AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM - TUCSON
URL: HTTP://WWW.PIMAAIR.ORG/
6000 E. Valencia Road
Tucson, AZ 85756
Open 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Last admittance at 4:00 pm
520-574-0462

The Pima Air & Space Museum is one of the largest aviation Museums ion the world, and the largest non-government funded aviation museum in the United States. The Museum maintains a collection of more than 300 aircraft and spacecraft from around the globe, including many rare and one-of-a-kind, and more than 125,000 artifacts.

October
1st 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Model Airplane Make and Take (Children 5 and older and their adult companions.)

Program free with paid or member admission.
Reservations are suggested - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail mstafford@pimaair.org

8th 9:30 am - 10:30 am
NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
(Every second Saturday of the month.)
8th 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

IMAGINE ROCKETS (Children 8 years and older bring an adult to experience the power of rockets.Reservations are recommended - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail mstaffordpimaair.org
22nd 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
YOUNG FLYERS FUN
(For children 4 - 7 years old and their adult companions).
Reservations are required - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail mstafford@pimaair.org
28th 5:00 pm - 9:pm

NIGHT OF FRIGHT (Family friendly safe Halloween event).
Old fashion carnival games and a Costume Contest.
Admission for this night is free for children under 12 and $12.00 for children over 12 and adults.
Contact Meghan Marum e-mail mmarum@pimaair.org
November 5th 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

TUCSON RC CLUB MODEL AIR PLANE DISPLAY

Join members of the Tucson Radio control Club as they show off their aircraft in Hanger 4.
Free with paid or member admission. Contact Mina Staffod e-mail mstafford@pimaair.org

5th 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
WINGS AND WHEELS
A show case of historic military vehicles, aircraft, jeeps, trucks and motorcycles.
Regular admission applies. Contact Meghan Marum e-mail mmarum@pimaair.org

5th 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
Model Airplane Make and Take (Children 5 and older and their adult companions.)
Program free with paid or member admission.
Reservations are suggested - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail mstafford@pimaair.org

12th 9:30 am - 10:30 am
NEW VOLUNTEER ORIENTATION
(Every second Saturday of the month.)

12th 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm
IMAGINE ROCKETS (Children 8 years and older bring an adult to experience the power of rockets.
Reservations are recommended - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail mstafford@pimaair.org

26th 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm
YOUNG FLYERS FUN (For children 4 - 7 years old and their adult companions).
Reservations are required - Contact Mina Staffod e-mail mstafford@pimaair.org

AUTHOR SIGNINGS

Upcoming Signings / Events at
The Poisoned Pen
4014 N Goldwater Blvd. Suite 101
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
www.poisonedpen.com
1-888-560-9919

October 18 – F. Paul Wilson signs Dark at the End and S. J. Rozan signs Ghost Hero – 7 pm

October 22 – Richard Kadrey signs Aloha From Hell - 5 pm

November 4 – John Connolly signs The Burning Soul and Infernals – 7 pm

November 19 – A Study in Sherlock Anthology Event with editors Leslie Klinger and Laurie R. King with other contributors - 6 pm

November 29 – Diana Gabaldon launches The Scottish Prisoner at the Arizona Biltmore – 7 pm

December 3 – Holiday SF/F Authors Event with many local science fiction and fantasy authors appearing. Details TBA

Monday, October 3 - Scott Westerfeld signs Goliath - 7:00 pm at Changing Hands, Tempe

Tuesday, October 4 - C. J. Hill signs Slayers - 7:00 pm at Changing Hands, Tempe

Wednesday, October 5 - Scott Westerfeld signs Goliath - 7:00 pm at Barnes & Noble, Dana Park, Mesa

October 18 – F. Paul Wilson signs Dark at the End and S. J. Rozan signs Ghost Hero – 7 pm

October 22 – Richard Kadrey signs Aloha From Hell - 5 pm

Friday, October 28 - Joseph Nassise signs Eyes to See, Barnes & Noble, Desert Ridge 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 29 - Halloween with Tom Leveen - 7:00 pm at Changing Hands. YA author Tom Leveen (Party, Zero) directs a cast of local actors in this creepy, fun evening of readers' theatre, featuring classic and contemporary works from EC Comics' The Haunt of Fear and The Vault Of Horror, Lord Byron, Ray Bradbury, Edgar Allan Poe, and more!

November 4 – John Connolly signs The Burning Soul and Infernals – 7 pm - Poisoned Pen

November 19 – A Study in Sherlock Anthology Event with editors Leslie Klinger and Laurie R. King with other contributors - 6 pm - Poisoned Pen

November 29 – Diana Gabaldon launches The Scottish Prisoner at the Arizona Biltmore – 7 pm - Details via Poisoned Pen

December 3 – Holiday SF/F Authors Event with many local science fiction and fantasy authors appearing. Details TBA at the Poisoned Pen

The Poisoned Pen, 4014 N Goldwater Blvd. Suite 101, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 www.poisonedpen.com

Changing Hands, 6428 S McClintock Dr., Tempe, Arizona www.changing-hands.com

B&Ns locations can be found at BN.com

AUTHOR EVENTS

SEDONA BOOK FESTIVAL and Scottsdale Society of Women Writers
Saturday, October 1 · 9:00am - 5:00pm
Location: Yavapai College Sedona
4215 Arts Center Drive, Sedona, AZ
More Info:
SEDONA BOOK FESTIVAL
Third annual event
www.sedonabookfestival.com
AUTHORS and VENDORS and SPEAKERS MUSIC and FOOD FREE to the public. Get out of the heat and come to the Red Rocks!

JAMMIN FALL FESTIVAL
Sunday, October 23 · 3:00pm - 7:00pm
Location: JAM
6938 E. 1st Street
Old Town Scottsdale, 85251
Arts, Crafts & Antiques for YOU!
We'll be jammin right into Fall @ jam. Located in the historical Charles Miller home in Old Town Scottsdale in the newly developed Charles Miller Square.

AZ AUTHORS FALL WRITERS CIRCLE - publishing experts to speak
Saturday, October 8 · 9:00am -12:00pm
Location: McKeown Landscape Conference Room
8028 W. Thunderbird Road, Peoria, AZ

AZ AUTHORS ASSOCIATION WELCOMES Patricia L. Brooks and Kathleen Cook
PLEASE NOTE OUR New Location: McKeown Landscape Meeting Room
www.azauthors.com
FREE to all participants - registration recommended info@azauthors.com
9:00 a.m. KATHLEEN COOK - Publishing on Amazon's Create Space
10:30 a.m. PATRICIA L. BROOKS - Publish Yourself as the Expert

MEET UP WRITING WORKSHOPS OR CRITIQUE GROUPS:

East Valley Writing Workshop
Wednesdays, 6:00 PM
at Village Inn in Mesa, AZ

East Valley Writing Workshop
Sunday Oct 02, 1:00 PM at Shadow Mountain Village - Main Clubhouse in Scottsdale, AZ

Publishing, Networking, and Marketing Meetup -- FIRST Saturdays, monthly
Shadow Mountain Village - Main Clubhouse - 1pm - 3pm
8780 E Mckellips Road, Scottsdale, AZ

READING GROUPS

The CASFS Book Discussion is held at: Bookmans - 8034 North 19th Avenue in Phoenix (NWC 19th Avenue & Northern). Community Room in the back of the store.

October 18, 2011 - The Man with the Golden Torc by Simon Green

November 15, 2011 - Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep by Philip K Dick

OTHER EVENTS

Women Arising Conference
October 9 and 10
An empowering boutique women's event featuring inspirational women presenters at the glorious Enchantment Resort in the awe-inspiring red rocks of Sedona.

Celebrate EFAZ's 10th Anniversary
October 13 - 6:00-9:00pm
The Hackett House, Tempe, AZ
Tickets are $29/person.
efaz.org
Environmental Fund for Arizona (EFAZ) is a vibrant partnership of 29 envrironmental and conservation nonprofits all across Arizona. We serve to connect Arizonans with the amazing variety of 'green' causes across the state, and to provide education, volunteer opportunities, and ways to donate to the causes you love.

The breast cancer race/walk - sunday, Oct 23, 2011
Registration online today at:
Active.com --- Keyword: The Breast Cancer Race/Walk 2011
Liana@breastcancersociety.org
Phone: 480-284-4014 x 109

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

HARD ROCK CAFE PHOENIX HOSTS "JACK AND WHITE" FEATURING "AMERICAN IDOL" BROOKE WHITE AS PART OF GLOBAL PINKTOBER™ BREAST CANCER AWARENESS CAMPAIGN - Event to Benefit The Breast Cancer Society

Phoenix, AZ, September 20, 2011 – Hard Rock Cafe Phoenix brings together musicians and fans for the 2011 PINKTOBER™ campaign – supporting a cause that affects millions across the globe. On Friday, October 7, 2011, Hard Rock Cafe Phoenix will host live performances by "American Idol" Finalist and Arizona native, Brooke White and her band "Jack and White" and local band Chicks With Picks. Proceeds from the event will benefit The Breast Cancer Society, an Arizona-based organization that is one of the only national breast cancer charities with a primary focus on providing direct help and financial aid to those suffering from breast cancer.

For the 12th year, Hard Rock locations worldwide support the cause through the multifaceted PINKTOBER campaign. Get spotted at your local Hard Rock partying for PINK, while listening to the sounds of rising stars at live-music events, benefiting local breast cancer organizations. Or be seen sipping Hard Rock's non-alcoholic PINK drinks and dining on PINK menu offerings at Hard Rock Cafe locations throughout the month.

Is shopping more your style? Rock the season's hottest color with Hard Rock's PINKTOBER merchandise including the limited-edition 2011 PINKTOBER pin, a wearable replica of "Artist Ambassador" and breast cancer survivor Melissa Etheridge's custom Ovation PINK guitar. Additional offerings include the 2011 PINKTOBER T-shirt, robe, PINK sheets, pin and more. Products are sold exclusively at Hard Rock properties worldwide, including Cafes, Hotels, Casinos and on www.hardrock.com. Proceeds from the sale of PINKTOBER products will benefit The Breast Cancer Research Foundation (US) and The Caron Keating Foundation (UK) with 75 percent of the retail price of each pin and 15 percent of the retail price of other products going directly to the cause.

When: Friday, October 7, 2011
7:30 p.m. Event begins
Where: Hard Rock Cafe Phoenix
3 South 2nd Street, Phoenix, AZ
602-261-7625
Admission: $10 Suggested donation
All ages welcome

FEATURE ARTICLE:
Which Type of Sci-fi Reader Are You?

By Melanie Tighe

Many bookstores still shelve sci-fi and fantasy together, a practice that drives most Sci-Fi readers to fume and mutter while they scan the shelves for something new to read. Who can seriously believe that the works of Tolkien and Asimov have anything in common? At Dog-Eared Pages, one of the first things I did was to separate them. However, after three years of helping readers find new authors, I believe the science fiction section could be divided even further.

I could be wrong, although I rarely am, (just don't ask my husband). There have been no studies or experiments to back up my theory, but I believe there are different reasons why people read the genre. While all sci-fi lovers share the common expectation that the advancements and achievements in technology are paramount and the science behind them better be accurate and believable, I think there are two distinct types of readers. I call them trekkies and warriors. I have successfully used this method, for the past two years, to help guide my customers in their search to find new books to enjoy.

Trekkies, of course, enjoy reading the series Star Trek. They read to learn the philosophy of the future. I have found they also savor Asimov's Foundation series, Herbert's Dune series, Orwell's 1984 and Heinlein's Stranger in a Strange Land. It's not so much about the advanced technology, but the more subtle and profound thoughts these books force their readers to tackle. Trekkies love to read about the possible futures of mankind, both good and bad. They relish the politics, belief systems and schools of thought about the future. Trekkies often ponder and anguish over which direction we are headed for now.

Warriors, are a completely different breed. They devour the Star Wars series. They're usually drawn to authors such as Cherryh, Bova, Card and Clarke. Warriors read for adventure. Warriors want their battles complete with lasers swords swashing and titanium helms buckling. They root for the good guys and see themselves in the midst of the action. Above all, they crave a great story.

Are you a Trekkie or a Warrior? Or do you think there should be a third category? Do you believe my theory lacks substance and should be shoved into the theory disposal unit? I'd be interested to hear your thoughts. I'm still considering whether to break my sci-fi section down into these two categories, and would love to hear from some hard-core sci-fi readers.

Anna Questerly author of The Minstrel's Tale and manager of Dog-Eared Pages bookstore in North Phoenix. Anna can be reached at www.annaquesterly.com or www.dogearedpagesusedbooks.com or through Facebook as either Anna Questerly or Dog-Eared Pages.

Dog-Eared Pages, LLC
(602) 283-5423
16428 N. 32nd Street, Suite 111
Phoenix, AZ 85032
www.dogearedpagesusedbooks.com

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The Poisoned Pen

Upcoming Signings / Events at The Poisoned Pen

October 18 – F. Paul Wilson signs *Dark at the End* and S. J. Rozan signs *Ghost Hero* – 7 pm

October 22 – Richard Kadrey signs *Aloha From Hell* - 5 pm

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The Poisoned Pen
4014 N Goldwater Blvd. Suite 101
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
www.poisonedpen.com 1-888-560-9919

In order to participate in the signing, we ask that customers purchase the author's new book from the Poisoned Pen.

CONTINUED FEATURE ARTICLE:

An American in Iberian Peninsula Part 5: Lifeboat Drill B

By Jeffrey Lu

"Why are we wasting time? Why do we do this stupid thing?" said an American tourist with an over-sized Mae West life jacket.

I replied, "I'm sure The Titanic would have loved to have this."

He paused and looked at me. With a shrug, he said, "I stand corrected."

The reason for this outing on the first day of the cruise was to go to one's quarters, wear a life jacket, and walk to where the lifeboats were. The down side was not only the long hours of waiting in a very crowded area with the afternoon sun shining but listening to German, Italian, French, Spanish and English instructions,

Not fun but necessary. One of the crewmen adjusted my life jacket.

I looked across the ocean. I was packed with other passengers like sardines but did not mind the fuss. It was an initiation and wake-up call to the harsh cold sea. Anything can happen here. Including the thought of a sinking ship.

Anyway, I chatted with friends and allies to pass the time. Then the ship's blared its horn for the last time. The final announcement was thanks for waiting. The crowd slowly dispersed.

I walked back to my cabin to put away my orange rectangle floatation device. Hoping on this cruise, never to use it.

NEXT ISSUE: An American in Iberian Peninsula Part Six: Genoa, Italy

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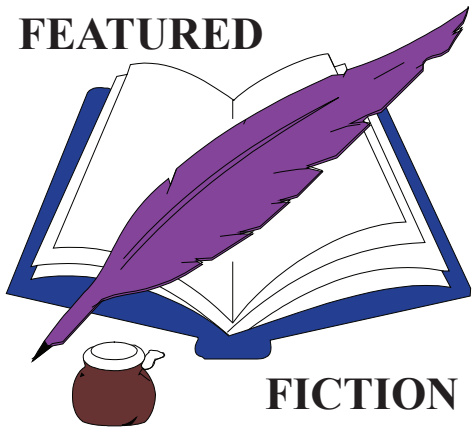


Jacob

By Risa Peris

I had run out of gas near a dirt driveway at a bend in a long road, weaving its way through the forest. I was far into the Appalachian Mountains and had been crisscrossing through its terrain for days. I had no destination and my only goal was to explore. That is what I told myself, but really I was running from a life I didn't like.

I had a job as waitress that bored me, and a boyfriend more enraptured by comic books than me. When my Aunt Agnes died two weeks ago I was given her old Lincoln Continental and the balance of one of her savings accounts, which amounted to $685.06. I sold my decade old Honda Accord and was able to collect an additional $550.00. I was flush with money and decided to take a vacation from work and my boyfriend and hit the open road. The Appalachians were my first choice, full of mist and mystery. The roads were often bumpy but I had yet to blow a tire. At night, I stayed in little motels and inns off the side of the road. Each night I would check the mattress for bed bugs.

I had been driving through the mountains for hours and forgot to check the gas. The blue green mountains, crisp sky and deep forests had distracted me. I was surprised when my car chugged, spurted and then died. At first I thought my engine had malfunctioned and then I looked at the gas gauge.

"Damn, damn, damn," I yelled.

I couldn't remember how far back a gas station was and I couldn't remember any signs indicating that a gas station was up ahead. I got out of the car and looked around me. The narrow highway was girded by dark trees and even darker hills. I was about to start crying in frustration when I saw a mailbox. It had 638 etched onto it. I walked over to the mailbox and opened it. It was empty, but I could see that the dirt path was really a driveway and I felt hopeful. I pulled my purse out of the front seat and locked my car.

I trudged up the driveway breathing hard and practically panting. The driveway was on a steep gradient and I was not at my physical best since I had been smoking for three years and had virtually shunned aerobic exercise.

The house was large and yet it seemed compact. It was a series of interlocking cubes, which gave the house the appearance of a child's toy. The house was dark and I wasn't sure if anyone was home. I walked up the stairs on the porch and was about to knock when the door opened.

"Oh, hello." The man who opened the door look flustered, as if he had been in an argument and had lost.

"Hello," I said. "My car ran out of gas by your driveway. Do you know how far away a gas station is?"

The man blinked. "I have extra gas in my garage."

"Oh, good. I can pay you. Thank you."

The man closed the door and headed to the garage on the left side of the house. I wasn't sure I should follow him, so I stayed on the porch. The man emerged a minute later holding a red gas can with a long spout. He started walking down the driveway. I ran to catch up with him. The man seemed much focused, as if he were concentrating on a difficult task.

"My name is Arlene," I said.

"Jacob," uttered the man quickly. Jacob was slightly shy of six feet. He had dark hair threaded with gray and was wearing an oversized gray sweater with brown slacks and suede shoes. He had the ruffled and astringent look of a professor.

"How long have you lived here?" I asked.

Jacob looked at me and shook his head. "I don't remember."

I thought the answered odd but didn't press him. We were coming close to the highway and Jacob broke into a sprint when he saw the mailbox. He stood in front of it for a few seconds and then opened the latch. He peered in and then looked confused.

"I never seem to get mail," he said.

"You are definitely in the boonies." I looked at Jacob and smiled. "I can pour the gas."

Jacob looked down at the red container. "Nonsense. I will pour the gas." He walked to the right side of the car and opened the gasket. He fitted the spout into the gasket and tilted the container up. It only took a few minutes for the gas to empty into my tank.

"Have tea with me," said Jacob.

"I really shouldn't impose." I was anxious to drive and find an inn to hole up in for the night.

"No imposition. I rarely get visitors and would love to chat."

I couldn't say no. The man had just given me gas. "OK."

"Wonderful." Jacob started up the driveway and I followed him.

In the house, he led me to the living room. The furniture was dusty and the fireplace was full of ash. I sneezed and coughed. Jacob didn't seem to notice.

"I will get the tea." Jacob disappeared into the foyer, which I assumed led to the kitchen.

I looked around and noticed several photos of two dark haired girls – one had a toothy grin and the other had a toothless grin. I also noticed a picture of a woman with lustrous black hair. She wasn't smiling and looked terribly sad.

As I stared at the photos I felt a rush of cool air and the presence of something heavy. I looked at my arms and noticed that I had goose bumps and my fine hair was standing straight up as if pulled by a magnet. I looked around me and saw nothing.

"Jacob," I called. There was no answer. I wandered to the fireplace and looked at the mantel. There were more pictures of the girls and the woman, and as I gazed at them I heard footsteps. I turned around and saw nothing.

"Jacob," I called again. There was still no answer. I suddenly had a heavy sense that all was not right. I looked out the window and saw that dusk was shading into night and that the forest was gradually becoming draped in deep black.

I heard a distinctive creek. I looked up and saw Jacob standing a few feet from me. He had an ax in his right hand and he was swinging it gently.

"They wouldn't listen." Jacob was staring at the mantel.

I felt a strong jolt of alarm. "Who wouldn't listen?"

"The girls, my wife…they just wouldn't listen."

"What happened to them?" I asked as I edged towards the front door. Jacob looked at me, but he had a blank stare and I could tell he wasn't really looking at me.

"They went away," said Jacob.

"I need to leave Jacob. It is getting late and dark. Thank you for the gas Jacob. I am leaving. OK?" I was only a few steps from the front door when Jacob reached out his hand and grabbed my arm. He was still swinging the ax with his other arm.

"Women always leave," said Jacob in a low voice. I pulled away from his arm and opened the front door. My heart was pounding so hard in my chest that I thought I might faint.

I ran down the driveway and almost fell two times as my speed and the descending gradient caused me to stumble. When I saw the car I stopped to pull my car keys out of my purse. My hands fumbled and finally caught hold of the surfing board key chain that had "California" stamped on it.

My car started after two tries and I slammed on the accelerator and sped down the highway. I drove 80 MPH until I saw a sign for a motor inn about a half hour from the house. It was called the Snooze Inn and when I saw the lights and the cars parked in the parking lot I breathed a strong sigh of relief.

I went to the front office and asked for a room. The desk attendee was old and he was smoking Marlboros.

"You look like you have been through a war," said the man in a raspy voice.

"I think I need to talk to the police," I told him.

"What happened?" I told him about running out of gas, the dark house, the ax and Jacob.

"I know what house you are talking about," said the man. "Shame what happened to that family. They were killed by Jacob. Practically split each of them in two with an ax. It was the biggest story to come out of this place in almost six decades."

"We should call the police," I said frantically. "I just saw Jacob."

"Not possible. He killed himself with a shot gun."

"But I just saw him."

"I don't know what to tell you. No one has lived in that house for two years. The grandparents can't sell it because of the massacre."

"But…"

"Relax. Here is your key."

I grabbed the key and walked numbly out of the office. I stared into the night full of nocturnal sounds. Tomorrow I would drive far away from Jacob and that strange house on the hill. But somehow I knew Jacob would weave his way through my mind for years to come. I thought of the pictures of the girls and the woman. I shivered and headed to Room 6 where I would check for bed bugs and quell the hard fear in my stomach with vodka and orange juice.

CoN

MOVIE/VIDEO REVIEW:

X-Men 1st Class

By Chris Paige

X-Men 1st Class is first-rate. Stan Lee himself had a hand on the helm, and made sure that this film steered true.

Viewers who have never picked up a comic book can enjoy this movie for its strong, focused story-telling, action sequences, character development, and the eye candy component. (Lots of eye candy!!) Aficionados can savor the nuances of forming and shifting alliances, and historians can get a kick out of the cultural depictions. One reviewer sneered fiercely at an ethnically stereotyped scene later in the film, but the very stereotyping of that scene is a historically accurate example of how strongly held prejudices were getting exploded in the 1960s. It's an embarrassing steryotype now; back then, it was a game-changer. And the cold war showdown, laid over a bed of simmering fury left over from World War II, is utterly riveting.

As with all reboots, some historical revisioning occurs, but much less than in most Marvel transitions to film. The X-Men, after all, are probably the team closest to Stan Lee's heart, and not just because of their success. They have been the team that challenges our social prejudices and reflects our social moods; they deal with political fallouts; they are the Platonically just men (and women) who act justly even when there is no reward for doing so, even when they are vilified; under writer Chris Claremont, they introduced concepts of spirituality and philosophy radically new to many readers; and over the years, as villains became heroes and heroes became villains, the X-Men have exemplified themes of redemption, wrath, despair, and hope with compassion and complexity.

The movie starts by showing two boys with completely different backgrounds and experiences of World War II. Eric is interred in a concentration camp and tortured to trigger his mutant powers, while wealthy, privileged Charles, who is clearly more intelligent than any of the adults around him even without his ability to read (and control) minds, befriends an outcast, runaway shape-changer named Raven, virtually adopting the blue-skinned girl as his sister. The three mutants evolve into a one man obsessed with avenging his past, another who thoughtlessly uses his powers to his own advantage, and a shy woman who hides in the shadow of the "brother" who ignores her feelings. They meet when Charles saves Eric's life, and all three humanize each other. Eric genuinely befriends Raven: he thinks she is beautiful and he admires her power; meanwhile, in the process of arguing ethics with Eric, Charles' own conscience gets a much needed upgrade. Eventually, these three form the core of a government-assembled cadre of young mutants. Some have minor abilities, some have awkward, hard to control powers, and not everyone wants to join - such as a certain irate, bearded, beer-swilling Canadian. Then things turn ugly.

For Eric's nemesis, the man who killed his family and tortured him, has figured out that the massive radiation released by the bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, not to mention all the subsequent testing of bombs by cold war world powers, has caused a spike in the occurrence of children born with mutant powers. He wants to encourage this evolution of the species, and the fastest way to make more mutants while simultaneously clearing the field of competition it to initiate a third world war, one that will blanket the planet in radiation. Humans will die, mutants will flourish. An elegant solution, is it not? With his own assembled team of ruthless and extremely powerful mutants, he is goading the United States and the USSR into attacking each other with nuclear weapons, while simultaneously attacking the stronghold where the young mutants are held - not to assassinate them, to recruit them! And really, which would you choose? On the one side, there is the government agency which isolates you from the world and whose agents ridicule you because they fear you, but there are also your friendships and a budding sense of shared purpose; on the other side, an invitation to be winners and creators of a new world, even if your new boss is creepy-scary and has a murderous henchman who sports horns and a tail.

For several hours after seeing the movie I found myself wondering, if I were such and such character, what would I have done? Would I have behaved differently?

The true indicator of a movie's achievement is not only how many times you make sounds like Homer Simpson to express your approval, but also, how long it lives with you after the lights come up.

CoN

GAMERS CALENDAR:

Saboten Con
For the Otaku in you!
Sept 30 - Oct 2, 2011
http://sabotencon.conmagick.com/index.php/site/index

GAME DAZE:
ALL EVENT CAN BE FOUND ONLINE AT: http://www.gamedaze.com/GameDaze-Whats-Happening.aspx

GAME DAZE CORPORATE
1407 W. 10th Place, Suite #A-105
Tempe, AZ 85281

ARIZONA MILLS
5000 Arizona Mills Circle #530
Tempe, AZ 85282

ARROWHEAD TOWNE CENTRE
7700 W. Arrowhead Towne Center #2256
Glendale, AZ 85308

CHANDLER FASHION CENTER
3111 W Chandler Blvd #2416
Chandler, AZ 85226

PARADISE VALLEY MALL
4550 E. Cactus Road #302
Phoenix, AZ 85032

SUPERSTITION SPRINGS CENTER
6555 E. Southern Ave. #2026
Mesa, AZ 85206

TUCSON MALL
4500 N. Oracle Road #166
Tucson, AZ 85705

PARK PLACE MALL
5870 E Broadway Blvd # 258
Tucson, AZ 85711

POP CULTURE PARADISE
707 S. Forest Ave. #A, on ASU Campus
Tempe, AZ 85281 (480) 557-6640
Calendar: morethancomics@yahoo.com
or get calendar online at http://www.popculture-comics.com/

EMPIRE GAMES
1766 S Greenfield Rd #102, Mesa, AZ 85206 - 480-813-1525
http://www.empiregamesaz.com/pmwiki.php?n=Main.Calendar

GAME NIGHTZ
10225 N Metro Pkwy E
Phoenix, AZ 85051-1515
(602) 870-8501
http://www.gamenightz.com/calendar

GAMING & COMIC EVENTS
DRAWN TO COMICS
Marvel vs Capcom 1st Fridays 6pm
HeroClix. Sat 1pm
Sit-and-Sketch with local artists. 3rd Saturday, 6pm-8pm
Check FaceBook for other events

GAME DEPOT
HeroClix. Wed, 5:45pm-8pm
D&D Encounters. Wed, 6pm-8pm
Magic, The Gathering. Thurs, 6pm.
Open Game Day. Fridays all day
Flames of War Fridays 2pm
30th Store Anniv, lots of events Aug 6
L5R cardgame Aug 20 noon
WarHammer 40K 2-day NOVA tournament Sept 3-4
Magic the Gathering Celebration Sept 10 noon

GAMER'S INN
Check website for upcoming events

IMPERIAL OUTPOST GAMES
Federation Commander. 2nd Saturdays, noon
RPGA. 1st Sundays
Monday Night Magic Standard Format. Mon, 7pm.
Boardgames & Demo Nite. Mondays & Thursdays, 6pm.
Magic Drafts. Tues, 7pm
War Machine. Wednesdays, 4pm
Hammerhead 40K Club Meeting. Wed & Thurs, noon
Hammerhead Club 40k tournament. 1st Wed, noon
Magic The Gathering League. Wed, 6pm
Friday Night Magic. Fridays, 7pm

SAMURAI COMICS
(check website for correct store location)
Yugioh Tournament. Sundays, noon (Cmlbk) & Sat, noon (west valley)
Anime Club. Sundays, noon (west valley)
Pokemon. Sundays, 2pm (west valley), Wed 5pm (Cmlbk)
D&D Encounters. Wed, 6pm (Cmblk)
Magic, The Gathering. Friday, 6p (both stores), Tues, 6pm (west valley), Sat 1pm (Cmlbk), Mon 6pm (Cmlbk)

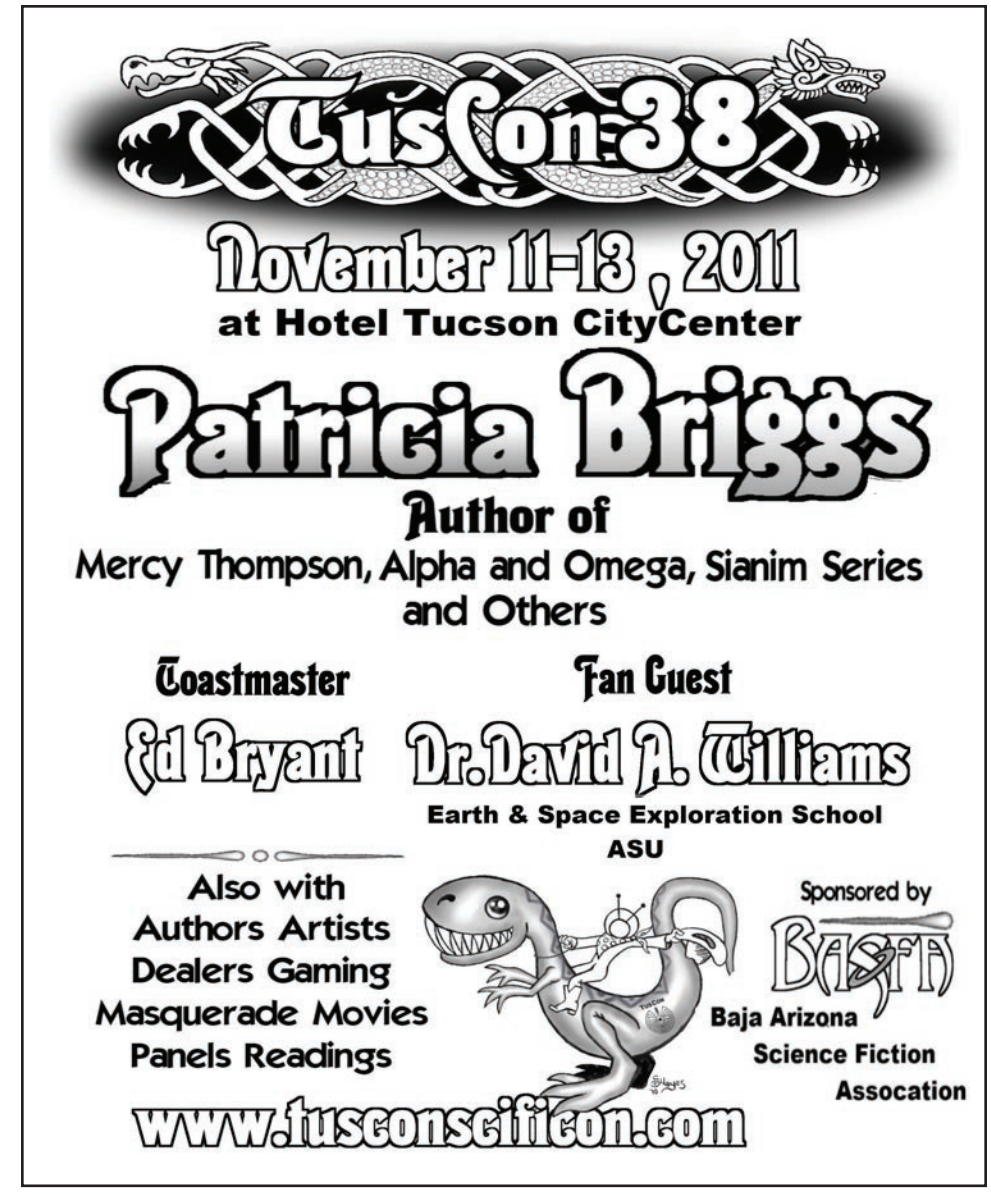
Check web sites or contact stores for more info:

Game Depot, 480-966-4727
http://www.azscience.org
http://store-locator.barnesandnoble.com/storelocator/stores.aspx?x=y&
http://beyond.asu.edu
http://www.bookmans.com
http://www.borders.com/online/store/LocatorView
http://www.cemeterydance.com
http://www.contact-conference.org/
http://www.devastationevent.com/
http://www.drawntocomics.com
http://www.edgewebsite.com
http://www.azchallenger.org
http://www.gamersinnaz.com/
http://www.imperialoutpost.com
http://www.library.pima.gov
http://www.loftcinema.com/showtimes
http://madcaptheaters.com/
http://www.pimaair.org
http://www.poisonedpen.com
http://www.pspublishing.co.uk
http://www.pyrsf.com/catalog.html
http://www.samuraicomics.com
http://www.scottsdalepublicart.org/TheLibraryTheGallery.php
http://www.seti.org
http://www.subterraneanpress.com/
http://www.titanmissilemuseum.org/
http://tucsoncomic-con.com/
http://tucsonfestivalofbooks.org/

GAMERS CORNER:

GAMING Mini-Cons Take the Valley by Storm
By Jason Youngdale

Gamers across the valley have taken up the quest to keep board game, card game, and RPG events alive and well outside the realm of hobby stores and conventions. One day mini-cons are the new rage, with them being hosted at someone's house for a more intimate setting that is laid back. These events are free, though donations are accepted as free food and drink are the norm at these events. Come out and try a new game or make new friends while getting out of your house. The Guise Knights, AZ Men In Black, Time Renegades, and other official valley gaming groups are in regular attendance, and several events at both ends of the valley will give you a chance to hang out. Volunteers are also always welcome. See you at the next one!



In Our Books

www: WONDER

by Robert J. Sawyer
Ace Books, 2011, $25.95, 338 pages

www: WONDER followswww:WAKE and www: WATCH. These three books constitute a genuine trilogy - not a massively large single story that got published in three volumes, not a "trilogy" that expands into an unending series, but an actual trilogy like the Greek playwrights used to construct, each with its own thesis, antithesis, and synthesis, each contributing its part to a story arc; the ending is definitively The End, and a most satisfying one it is. All together, they make for one of the best SF reading experiences to come along in the last 3 years. I simply cannot say enough good things about these books - just, WOW!

If you haven't already discovered how good a writer Sawyer is, this is a great time to discover him, and to share the adventure. This series, with its young heroine, qualifies as SF/Young Adult cross-genre, and makes for an excellent gift set.

There are three subplots that develop and intertwine in these books. First, Caitlyn Decter, 15 years old and blind from birth, good at math and science with a strong online persona, is invited to participate in an experimental surgery that might make her sighted. Second, the world-wide web is developing sentience. And third, a bonobo-chimp hybrid named Hobo is at the heart of a research project studying cross-species communication. The potentials of cross-boundary communication is the theme at the heart of the trilogy.

In this, the third volume, Caitlyn her friends and family are trying to protect a still fragile Webmind from Government agents who want to shut it down while they still can. Webmind has some good ideas on how to demonstrate his benign nature, and he wins lots of friends as he uses his information sorting and synthesis skills to help humanity. Even so, said agents are ungrateful and terminally paranoid. While the US government tries to directly destroy the basis for Webmind's existence, the Chinese government erects a firewall that effectively divides Webmind in two separate entities - with disastrous results, for the parts are considerably less than the whole.

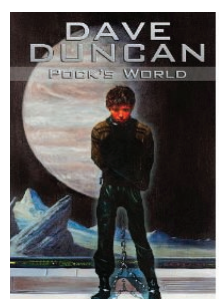
I refuse to provide spoilers, because the revelations are brilliant, and each reader deserves the chance to discover this treasure trove for him/herself. Not only are the plotlines intriguing, the characters are wonderful. These include Caitlyn's mother, an expert in Games Theory; Caitlyn's dad, a mathematical genius who happens to have Asperger's' Syndrome; Hobo, who confronts no less august body than the United Nations, and tells members the truth about themselves; and Wai-Jeng, a hacker who risks his life to make communication possible in Communist China. How can you not love a book in which a nerd with Asperger's is one of the heroes?!?

The book was published weeks before a certain international event that had huge political ramifications, but other events, such as the 2012 election, are anticipated with unusual warmth - even heat. It is increasingly rare for SF to take on politics with any directness; but with all the leverage and censorship politicians exert on scientific endeavors, it is past time for writers to return the compliment.

For all the book is sheer fun to read, it is hugely informative. Very, very few writers provide an education along with their story; Sawyer is one of the best. I hope he gets a Hugo nomination for this one. ***- Chris Paige***

Pock's World

by Dave Duncan
Edge Science Fiction, 2010, $15.oo, 250 pp



Pock's World examines the human tendency, or temptation, to play God. Five men and women, each of them influential in very different ways (political, moneyed, media-sleaze, corporate, and religious) are sent to evaluate whether the population of an entire planet needs to be "sterilized" to eliminate an "alien" influence from taking hold. But just how alien are they, really? The so-called Diallelon abominations are nothing other than extensively genetically modified synthetic hominins - "supermen" - deemed heretical by the Catholic Church, and feared by colonists. The question is, are they feared for themselves, or for the repercussion of sterilization that is visited upon planets infected by hubris incarnate? Or is the Church simply looking for an excuse to get rid of a planetary population that enjoys a heretical, happy freedom of its own? Theoretically, by sending five investigators, only one of whom is a priest, an objective and fair assessment will be made. Hmmm.

Five different agendas - more, when you factor in the citizens of Pock's World and the diallelons - jostle for pre-eminence in this story, and the reader gets to make up his or her own mind as which has the ring of truth, or if all of them are variations on a theme of self-deception.

The cover art is designed to appeal to the young adult market, but there is YA and YA. Pock's World is in Golden Compass territory, not to be confused with teen angst or Heinleinian chest-thumping. ***- Chris Paige***

Kings of the North

by Elizabeth Moon
Del Rey, 2011, $26.oo, 478 pp

When an author returns to a trilogy after an absence of 20 years and extends it, there is invariably a shift; the author herself has changed, hence, so does the story-telling. Moon's style of writing is less romantic in tone, less Tolkienesque, more pragmatic, even as she describes wonders and terrors, magic, necromancy, elves and daskdraudigs.

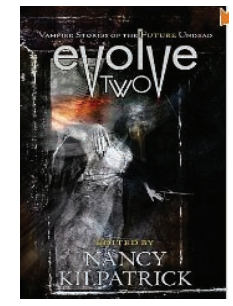
Kings of the North is the 5th in the epic Deed of Paksenarrion continuum. The focus has shifted away from Paksenarrion herself to the men she made kings: Kieri and Mikeli. Paks still shows up, but she is very much on the sidelines, at least for now.

Kieri is under pressure to re-marry and provide heirs to the kingdom, preferably heirs who will strengthen the elven-mortal ties and be able to wield magic. He is reluctant to make a merely political alliance, especially when adjacent kings are sending their young daughters as either hostages or assassins. Furthermore, he is distracted by warning messages from ghosts, and by the incomprehensible, erratic behaviour of his elven grandmother who is the co-ruler of the kingdom. Most problematic of all, how could he, a half-elf who can expect to live for centuries but will not live the millennia elves enjoy, impose or endure the burden of age-discrepancy upon a wife? A mortal young enough to bear children would be a mere child in his eyes; and the elven maids who show an interest are ... old enough to be his mother. Heck, they all remember his mother. And honestly, he has more pressing concerns, like protecting the kingdom from invasion.

Mikeli has his own hornets' nest to deal with. ***- Chris Paige***

Evolve Two

Edited by Nancy Kilpatrick
Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, 2011, 263 pp



This anthology presents a variety of vampiric futures, all of them exploring aspects of predator-prey relationships, some with humor, some via horror, several with truly original twists of the tail. The demarcations of hunter and hunted are often ambiguous. Stories are organized into three groups: Pre-Apocalypse, Post-Apocalypse, and New World Order. Some of the Pre-Apocalypse stories, however, are already set in extreme conditions of over-population and global warming that are far past the tipping point, barely this side of the breakdown threshold.

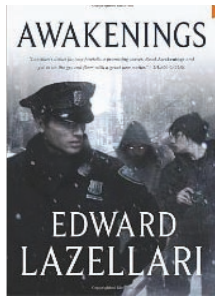
One of my favorites is "Six Underground" by Michael Lorenson: in a neat reversal of the film Twelve Angry Men, a lone juror who is convinced that a Guilty verdict should be returned, sets out to convince the other 11. The story has cunning layers of logic and revelation, and more SF packed into its pages than any other three stories combined. "Toothless" is another standout; a detective story set in a near future where a few minutes of exposure to sunlight is enough to boil anyone's skin. (In both these stories, the differences between humans and vampiresarevanishing.)Thedescriptions of how vampires are being affected by all the ambient radiation, and by human adaptations, are simultaneously hilarious and ghastly. "Nosangreal" by Ivan Dorin is the weirdest contribution, and yes, that's a compliment. The other two I enjoyed the most were "Out with the Old", a Post-Apocalyptic story by William Meikle, and Sandra Kasturi's "The Slow Turning of the World", which is the end piece, and an unusually successful example of pure narrative.

Ms. Kilpatrick did fine work here, and her Introduction essay is good to

read in and of itself. Anyone looking for reading group material, or for examples of modern fiction to share with a literature class, should consider assigning some of these. Definitely recommended. **- *Chris Paige***

Awakenings

by Edward Lazellari
A Tor Book, 2011, $24.99, 348 pp



A band of guardians from another dimension were sent to our world to find, protect, and serve a lost prince, but in a miserable fluke of the transport, they all arrived with wiped memories, strangers and orphans in a strange land. To the best of their abilities they are leading 'ordinary' lives, but their natures warp reality around them to a certain extent. Callum MacDonnell is a policeman with a family, a man of integrity, courage, and honor. Seth Raincrest is a trickster who seems to survive every situation, no matter how disastrous it proves for others. Daniel is in foster care, and no matter how hard he tries to do the right thing, violence erupts around him, overwhelming him and others.

Now a former ally Lelani has followed after to find and reactivate the guardians, but the whole situation is a mess, complicated by a rival group who have arrived with memories intact, even if their powers are somewhat abated by our world's dampening effect on magic. That's not too much of a problem if you also have brute strength and cunning on your side, and can coerce cooperation, as disgraced detective Colby Dretch finds out. Now it's a race to locate the missing prince, and there are no rules.

This first novel straddles Young Adult and SF genres like a Colossus, which is not all that surprising, given Lazellari's background as a writer (and artist!) for Marvel Entertainment, DC Comics, and Jim Henson Productions. A blend urban fantasy, romance and realism, this is the first volume of a projected series that should appeal to a wide range of readers. It isn't often that a single book reminds me of both Tolkien and Steven King, for the story has epic resonances, even as the scenes and characterizations are entirely modern.**- *Chris Paige***

Rigor Amortis

Edited by Jaym Gates and Erika Holt
Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, 2011, $9.99, 134 pp

The Canadian New Wave of edgy fiction continues with this collection of short fiction and poetry of Zombie erotica. It is appropriately broken down into categories of Romance, Revenge, Risk, and Raunch. If you loooove zombies, or if you want a dementedly fresh (heh!) take on erotica, this is the book for you. It's a quality paperback with gorily lurid illustrations throughout by Galen Dara, Miranda Jean, and Robert Nixon. The mixture of passion, love, lust, and horror in these short stories - most of them are less than a 1000 words - is astonishingly arousing. This could be the year's outstanding gift book for fetishers, either for the holidays or next Valentine's Day, because it will probably put your partner in a playful mood. **- *Chris Paige***

The Infernal Game: Ghost Dance

by Rebecca Levene
Abaddon Books, 2010, $9.99, 277 pp

Two story lines converge in this supernatural thriller about Alex, an unwilling agent for the CIA, and Morgan, a street operative on the other side of the pond who works for an organization called the Hermetic Division. He gets called up to deal with things almost as nasty as himself. The Alex storyline is supernatural with horrific components, the Morgan parts are the inverse ratio. Very yin-yang.

Sixteen year-old Alex gets conscripted after she calls a California TV station to complain about their coverage of a high school massacre - before it happens. Her call had been dismissed as mere drug-induced looniness by Patriot-Act funded listeners, but then reality catches up with her foresight. Alex does not want to become a spirit world snoop, but her passive-aggressive maneuvers prove futile. Her controller is determined to use her talents, first to verify torture-induced confessions, then to infiltrate a cult that is sending shockwaves through the supernatural ether. Alex's partner, PD, wishes he had the talent she loathes, so tensions, resentments, and misunderstandings are inevitable.

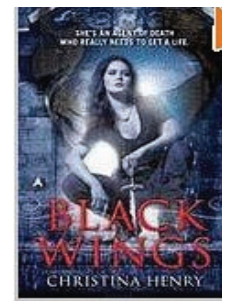
Morgan is an all-purpose Shiva, impossible to destroy, but dangerous as hell to be around - the splash zone can be a problem. Morgan is on the trail of a murderer who seems to be after immortality - why else the obsession with 15th century alchemist John Dee and his works?

Levene brings startling elements together: alchemy, Old Testament conflicts, angels, demons, shape-changers and tricksters. She is good with details, from the high-school assassin wearing a George W. Bush mask, to Alex's forays into a realm where truths are ugly and lies hurt the speaker like knives, to the emotional undertows that drag characters into dark waters. The climax takes place in a very ... surprising place, and what happens there is all kinds of problematic. Honestly, you will want to see where she takes this in the sequel.

Of all the speculative genres, horror, because it deals with inner scapes and strong passions, tends to be the most gripping. Horror tends to ask, indirectly, the tough questions, questions like What do you want? What will you pay to get it? and Are you the sort of person who tries to cheat on the Deal? Every now and then, it can be cathartic to take a long look in that dark mirror. **- *Chris Paige***

Black Wings

by Christina Henry
Ace Books, 2011, $7.99, 295 pp



Black Wings kicks off a new series in the urban fantasy genre. It has stylish cover art to catch they eye, with enough subtlety to hold attention. The writing is lucid, and besides carrying the action narrative, it swirls and eddies into some lovely side-waters.

Madeline Black makes a rather incongruous Agent of Death, being short and cute, but she has an impressive wingspan. She and her fellow agents are responsible for moving souls on to the Great Beyond, although some souls get lost, or refuse the guidance, and irrevocably become ghosts. Maddy gets some guidance of her own from a stone gargoyle; unfortunately, she often ignores its advice. So a tall, dark, handsome stranger, with a name that should have sent "Uh-Oh!" alarms ringing in our heroine's head, moves into her duplex. Hey, she needed the rent! Next a demon comes terrorizing Chicago, and being one of Death's Agents proves to be no protection.

Supernatural magic abounds, and there are plenty of romantic complications tangling our heroine's movements and creating an emotional cliff-hanger. Just like real life, that.

According to Carrie Vaughan, it is very important to support the series you like while they are still new. If the first one sells well, there will be more. But if readers wait to see if the series succeeds before they commit, it won't. So if you've ever wondered what happened to so-and-so's oh so promising series that petered out after only two installments, now you know: too many readers held off, and that killed the publisher's commitment. So try to find at least one enjoyable new author a month and actually buy a book, e-format or paper, to keep them viable. **- *Chris Paige***

7th Sigma

by Frederik Pohl
An Orb Book, 2011, $16.99, 267 pages

It is quite important to read the quotes at the beginnings of parts and chapters of 7th Sigma; not only do they explain the title and prepare the reader for what follows, they make amply clear that this fantastic book is a science-fiction version of Rudyard Kipling's young adult novel, Kim. Yes!!!!!

Just as Pat Murphy's There and Back Again was an SF (and gender-bending) tribute to The Hobbit, and Charles Sheffield's Billion Dollar Boy was a space-age cover of Captain's Courageous, Steven Gould has invented a new setting for the coming of age story of a resourceful boy who encounters a very wise teacher with whom he travels. Kipling poured all his love for India into his original book, and his own frustrated desire to be a player in The Great Game was sublimated into Kim's adventures as a junior field agent for the British Secret Service.

So, what if Kim were to live in a time of space colonies? **- *Chris Paige***

Man Plus

by Steven Gould
Tor Book, 2011, $24.99, 384 pp

This republication of a 1976 classic is remarkably timely, concerned as it is with the affects of overpopulation, dwindling resources, war, and the dangers of colonizing another planet offset by the imperative to survive well. A mystery component ends the book with a revelation that kicks the whole story up an octave, like the final chorus of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Limpidly well-written, it is startlingly on the mark in its predictions of politics and environmental breakdown.

This is a man-alone adventure about Roger Torraway, who is torn away from

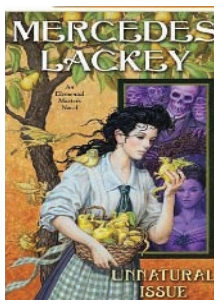
Continued from Page 19

his good life as a back-up astronaut to undergo radical alteration and then sent away to Mars to establish a footing so that others, unenhanced, can follow. He is at once sacrifice and pioneer, crucified in the laboratory and launched into near-immortality on the red planet.

It takes a slight mental shift to read SF written before social networking rewrote our templates, but this one is most rewarding, definitely worth the adjustment. ***- Chris Paige***

Unnatural Issue

by Mercedes Lackey
DAW Books, 2011, $25.95, 361 pp



Unnatural Issue is primarily a retelling of a fairy tale that goes by many names: Cattikin, Many-Furs, Donkey-Skin, etc. In most versions, a queen dies, a heart-broken king refuses to marry anyone who is not a match for his dead queen, and a princess must flee her father's amorous intentions. I recommend finding Cattikin, for in that variation, the princess is quite resourceful. First she tries to postpone the marriage into oblivion by asking for impossible gifts: dresses of sunlight, moonlight, and starlight, each of which fits into a walnut shell; and a cloak made from 1000 different furs. When delaying tactics do not suffice, she removes herself from the unhealthy equation and takes a position as kitchen maid in a neighboring kingdom. There she prepares soup of exquisite deliciousness, attends dances attired in her magical dresses, and gives mysterious gifts to the king, hidden in his bowl of soup. The king is intrigued and eventually figures that the irrational-seeming discrepancies lead to the discovery of his beloved.

Robin McKinley previously novelized the motif in Deerskin, but that book is rough-going, because in her version, the worst is not averted, it happens.

Mercedes Lackey resets this gem of a story in her Elemental Masters series, bringing back most of her previous main characters in cameo roles, as well as introducing new main ones.

Instead of being a king, Richard Whitestone is a hereditary Earth Master, landed gentry with a good estate, and a trusted member of the White Lodge. Tragically, while he is in London tracking a murderer who has employed dark Earth Magic, his wife dies in childbirth. Enraged and embittered, Richard Whitestone disowns his baby daughter, Suzanne. He becomes a complete recluse and brings a blight upon the very estate his family has protected for generations.

Suzanne is raised by the servants, learning, not the social airs and graces of a young lady, but practical, homely skills - and magic. Robin Goodfellow, Puck himself, straight out of Rudyard Kipling's Puck of Pook's Hill, is her teacher. It is Suzanne who creates boundaries to contain the blight cast by her father's wretchedness, and who establishes good will with the local elementals: the fauns, brownies, and other earth-spirits of Old England.

In his secret study, Richard turns to the writings of necromancers in search of a way to bring back his wife from the dead, but he is stymied by the need for a body to serve as a vessel for her soul. Then, from his curtained window, he sees 20 year old Suzanne, the very image of her mother. From that point on, all his energies are bent on making his wish a reality.

Suzanne discovers her danger in time to escape. She flees across the moors and finds refuge at Branwell Hall, where Earth Magic is understood, and welcomed.

Meanwhile, Richard's meddling with necromancy has caused ripples which alert the White Lodge, and, somewhat belatedly, Lord Aldridge sends an Elemental Master to investigate and intervene.

At this point, Lackey performs a bit of literary necromancy of her own, re-animating one of the great characters of all times: Lord Peter Whimsey, created by Dorothy L. Sayers. In Unnatural Issue, he is slightly changed into Lord Peter Almsley - he is, after all, a gift to any story in which he manifests - a Master of the Element water, with a flair for infiltration. Almsley appeared previously in The Gates of Sleep in a supporting role; now he is the heroine's complement. Alchemically, he has evolved from side-kick quicksilver to hero's gold.

Lord Peter gets himself installed as Branwell Hall's new gameskeeper in order to suss out Suzanne - her magical ability, her history, and whatever she might know of an elusive necromancer.

Richard Whitestone is not about to give up his plans, and now he has no compunctions about conjuring and commanding legions of the dead, and even nastier things like trolls and redcaps. Once he discovers Suzanne's whereabouts, he declares war on Branwell Hall and all who dwell therein. And when European unrest erupts into the unholy mess that becomes "The Great War," Whitestone finds the perfect grounds to continue his revenge against all who sheltered Suzanne.

One of the best features of this book is how Lackey portrays aspects of World War One: the horror of it, the ghastly conditions of the trench warfare, the stupidity and lies that propagated it, the conditions that nurses endured and the responsibilities they shouldered, and how those who knew better could only mitigate the horrors. Suzanne doesn't get to dance in dresses woven of sunlight, moonlight, and starlight; she dons a nurse's uniform in Mons behind the Front.

Furthermore, Lackey uses the language of magic to portray, if not always facts, then certainly truths. Many of us really do experience the kinds of sensitivities her magicians employ as they wield magic; this series is one of the rare validations of the numinous experiences we rarely have words to describe. (I submit this with some trepidation, having read Lackey's recent internet posting, reminding her readers forcibly that she is writing F-I-C-T-I-O-N. I agree with everything she had to say.)

This ability to sum up, to epitomize, and to transform experiences that society is vigorously relegating to under the carpet or behind the curtain is Lackey's greatest talent. In her various writings, she has shone a clear light on the self-deceptions of survivor guilt and co-dependency in abusive relationships; she has invented characters who became paradigm shifts for readers who were consequently able to go from victim status to survivors and even heroes in their own life stories; she has incorporated into her stories the grim realities that soldiers and rescue workers undergo, so that their neighbors can have some comprehension of their ordeals; she has parsed the big lies that politicians and their flunkeys love to tell, tearing off the genial mask to reveal the monstrous greed and cruelty beneath the façade.

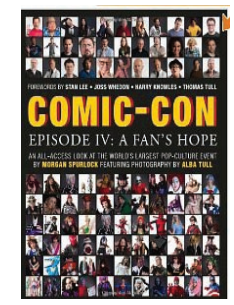
Lackey is, quite simply, a fantastic writer. Consider the range, the contrast, of the following. In one scene, Suzanne and another girl are systematically using their Earth Elemental magic in the dairy to protect the milk, cream, and butter from spoilage. In another, an Earth Mage is being overwhelmed by animated corpses on a battlefield, and the earth elementals of the ravaged land, including a unicorn, come to his rescue, even as they are themselves dying. I wept unabashedly at this scene.

The author shows a tremendous appreciation for the coexistence of "old ways" and religious traditions so characteristic of Old England. She portrays the persistence and validity of the former, and she slips in a corrected translation of a diabolically (I use that word advisedly) mis-translated, and infamous abused passage of the Old Testament. This was very well done, and may even make up for not including Rudyard Kipling or Dorothy Sayers in her Dedication. Misty may not always acknowledge her sources, but she does her homework.

Editorial comment: there are a couple of continuity errors in this first edition. Early in her escape, Suzanne burns a magical bundle; later on, she is using it again. And a time anomaly presents one character in the trenches in December, then shifts forward - to November. These are minor annoyances in an otherwise enjoyable confection. ***- Chris Paige***

Comic-Con Episode IV: A Fan's Hope

by Morgan Spurlock and Alba Tull
DK, $24.99, 192 pp.



Here are photos and words from people in San Diego Comic Convention 2010. Inside are costumes, celebrities, and cool stuff.

By the way, found out this book never had episodes one to three. Only, Morgan Spurlock has done this documentary about a small peak on this convention. I guess he's a big fan of Star Wars...This book gives a glimpse of the biggest fan gathering in the U.S. (130,000). Awesome. Recommended to fans of San Diego Comic Con. ***- Jeffrey Lu***

Graphic Novels and Manga:

by Jeffrey Lu

GRAPHIC NOVELS:

1) ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer The Long Way Home by Joss Whedon and Georges Jeanty, Dark Horse,*** $15.99

Buffy and her friends, Willow and Xander, are back. She will have an army of slayers. They will not only have to battle supernatural forces but also the military with someone known as "Twilight."

This is volume one. This starts as "season eight." Violence. Amusing. Different from what I generally read. Need to see the entire TV series to understand what's going on. Strange but enjoyable. Recommended to fans of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

2) ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer No Future For You by Brian K. Vaughan, Georges Jeanty and Joss Whedon, Dark Horse***, $15.99

More stories of Buffy the Vampire Slayer. In one story arc, Amy is give a secret mission by Giles. Her job is to take out another slayer in England.

This is volume two. Continuing as "season eight." Violence. Interesting. Liked it. Recommended to fans of Buffy the Vampire Slayer.

3) ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer Retreat by Espenson, Jeanty, and Whedon.***

Buffy and her friends are trying to lose their magical powers. Why? So, they can disappear from their magical enemy, Twlight and his allies. But Buffy and her friends will be found out and they will have to fight against a military invansion...

This is volume six. Need to read the first five to know what is generally going on. Recommended for mature audience. Adult situations. Violence. Interesting. Recommended to Buffy The Vampire Slayer graphic novel readers.

4) ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer Twilight by Meltzer, Jeanty, and Whedon***.

Buffy is a superheroine. Also, Twilght is revealed. Enough said.

This is volume seven. Need to read the first six to know what is generally going on. Recommended for mature audiences. Adult situations. Violence. Not surprised at who Twilight is. Good story. Recommended to Buffy The Vampire Slayer graphic novel readers.

5) ***Conan The Hand of Nergal by Robert E. Howard, Timothy Truman, Tomas Giorello, Dark Horse***, $17.95.

Here is a Robert E. Howard's piece that was not complete. With Mr. Truman's help, the story is finally told. Conan the Barbarian will face many obstacles to save a friend. He will also fight something unnatural.

This is Volume 6. Reading volume 4 and 5 will help making this story clearer. Suggested for mature readers. Graphic violence. Cool. Lots of twists and turns. Great story. Recommended to Conan the Barbarian fans.

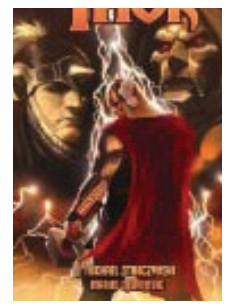
6) ***Sandman Mystery Theatre The Hourman and The Python by Matt Wagner, Steven T. Seagle, Guy Davis and Warren Pleece, Vertigo***, $19.99, 199 pp.

Wesley Dodds a.k.a. The Sandman and his love, Dian Belmont, are investigating two cases. One of them will be a future friend and ally. Another will be a return of an enemy. Hints of World War Two loomed in the background. Suggested for mature readers. Cursing. Graphic violence. Cruelty. Surprises in the usual pulp hero story. Recommended to Sandman pulp hero graphic novel readers.

7) ***Pax Romana by Jonathan Hickman, Image,*** $14.99.

The Vatican found that time traveling is possible. With this information, they decided a team should go in the time of Constantine and change history... Suggested for mature readers. Graphic violence. Adult situations. Different. Liked it. An interesting what-if story. Recommended to dark time traveling graphic novel readers.

8) ***Thor by J. Michael Straczynski and Marko Djurdjevic, Marvel***, $14.99.



Dr. Doom and Loki are plotting to take out Thor. Will friends of Thor be able to counter this threat before Thor is seriously damaged? This is volume three and final with J. Michael Straczynski. Need to read the other two to know what is happening. Good story. Recommended to Marvel Thor graphic novel fans.

9) ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer Wolves At The Gate by Goddard, Jeanty, and Whedon, Dark Horse***, $15.99.

Buffy will have to deal with a theft from Japanese vampires. She will need Xander's old friend, Dracula, to counter these foes. This is volume three. Need to read the first two to know what is generally going on. Recommended for mature audience. Adult situations. Violence. Different. Amused in seeing Buffy's sister, Dawn, fighting a metal monster of herself. Recommended to Buffy The Vampire Slayer fans.

10) ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer Time of Your Life by Whedon, Moline, and Loeb, Dark Horse***, $15.99.

In this book, Buffy time travels to met another Slayer, Fray. Also, Dawn changes and Willow in the future is pure evil. This is volume four. Helps to read the last three to know what's going on. Recommended for mature audience. Violence. Also, Winner of the 2007 Eisner Award for Best New Series. Good story. Recommended to Buffy The Vampire Slayer fans.

11) ***Buffy The Vampire Slayer Predators and Prey by Whedon, Espenson, DeKnight, Greenberg, Krueger, Petrie, and Jeanty, Dark Horse***, $15.99.

Buffy's old classmate, Harmony Kendrall, is now a vampire with her own TV reality show. The popularity of the show makes vampires the hottest thing on the market. But there is a catch, the Slayers will be the new enemy. And oh yes, Buffy's sister, Dawn, changes again.

This is volume five. Helps to read the last four to know what's going on. Recommended for mature audience. Violence. Liked it. Definitely different in vampire TV reality show. Entertaining. Recommended to Buffy The Vampire Slayer fans.

12) ***Daytripper by Fabio Moon and Gabriel Ba, Vertigo***, $19.99.

Here is Bras de Oliva Domingo. In this book is different chapters of his life. Each chapter will have some meaning to his life. Each end of the chapter will be his death...Suggested for mature readers. Nudity. Adult situations. Potential violence. Different concept of dying at the end of each story. Touching. Sad. Overall, cool. Surreal but life's interesting steps to fulfillment. This is an amazing work. Can't believe this is the first time for the brothers. Highly recommended to a life-well-lived graphic novel readers.

MANGA BOOKS:

1) ***Cirque Du Freak Allies Of The Night by Darren Shan, art by Takahiro Arai, Yen Press,*** $11.99, 188 pp.

Darren Shan will face something more trouble as he goes back to school. He will also meet an old friend and an old ally. Yet, the vampaneze are still murdering innocents in a city Darren once called home. Will Darren and his allies able to counter them in time?

This is volume eight. Read first seven to understand what is going on. There is a teen level warning.

Surprises. Dark. Recommended to dark supernatural readers.

2) ***Cat Eyed Boy by Kazuo Omezu, Viz***, $24.99, 532 pp.

Cat Eyed Boy is somewhat the horror narrator but also trys to help out in most of the stories. In one, he will attempt to prevent tsunami monsters from destorying a village. He suceed but at what cost? This is volume one. This is

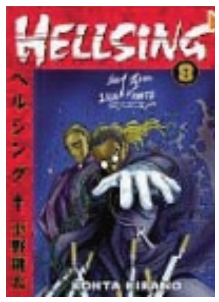
Continued from Page 21

rated T+. In other words, recommended for older teens. Graphic. Dark. Creepy but well done. Recommended to horror manga fans.

3) ***Cat Eyed Boy by Kazuo Omezu, Viz,*** $24.99, 487 pp.

Cat Eyed Boy is again trying to help humans from the coming horror. He will do his best but not all will be a success. This is volume two. Need to read volume one to understand what is going on. This is rated T+. This is recommended for older teens. Graphic. Refreshing. Like the story, /The Meatball Monster/. Highly recommended to horror manga fans.

4) ***Hellsing Vol. 8, Kohta Hirano, Dark Horse and DMP,*** $13.95, 202 pp.



A year and a half later, this volume finally comes out. The story is about a battle among Vatican fighters, vampire Nazis, and a British Hellsing who has a secret weapon- Dracula. But in this issue, Dracula is going againt a Vatican team of experts, an Archbishop and monster fighter, Anderson.

For Readers 13+- Violence, Mild language. Need to read first seven to know what's going on.

Worth the wait. Dark. Cool battles. Recommended to horror action graphic novel fans.

5) ***Hellsing Vol. 9, Kohta Hirano, Dark Horse and DMP,*** $13.95, 226 pp.

In this book, the battle between Anderson and Dracula finally ends. Another, Hellsing's butler, Walter, betrays his master. Something foul is going on in England...

For Readers 13+- Violence, Mild language. Need to read first seven to know what's going on.

Dark. Did not expect this encounter with vampires all over the place. Recommended to horror action graphic novel fans.

On Science Fiction: Rebuttal to M L Fringe

By Mike Griffin

M L Fringe certainly has lots of religious fanaticism for one who claims so much nihilism. Let's see, based on both articles in the last paper issue of Connotations, MLF doesn't like: any traditional religion, movies, mainstream literature, literary critics, or any supernatural or fantasy genre. That leaves ... science fiction? Well, actually no it doesn't. The big point MLF seems to have missed is that there's a good reason a spaceship sits on its own Genre Peaks of the Metaphor Mountains. Most of science fiction literature is impossible fantasy just as unrealistic as anything "supernatural." If you look on tvtropes.org for the "Mohs Scale Of Science Fiction Hardness" you can get some idea of how wrong most science fiction is, but it gets worse than that. Even the most "hard" science fiction is making wishful leaps beyond what we know, for example with assumptions of faster than light (FTL) space drives - relativity rules reality, dude. So a logical extrapolation of MLF's criteria would make the one true religion only that newest of identified sub-genres in science fiction: mundane science fiction!

This is so new a term that I should explain it. In fandom, mundanes are people who aren't fans - earthbound, get it? Infidels? So "mundane science fiction" is like an oxymoron. It isn't totally earthbound, but is limited to only what we now know is possible: no FTL, no space aliens, no time travel, only space travel within our solar system generally. There's a website for it at mundane-sf.blogspot.com if you want to learn more. Mundane sci-fi has perhaps always been written a little bit, but how limited in imagination! Is this what Fringe wants?

And as long as nobody gets hurt anymore, what's wrong with religious tolerance? Let me give a quote to counter all of his, from Al Franken: "The point is that it doesn't really matter what religion you are. God has 1000 faces and you only need to have one of them smiling upon you ... I don't care what kind of nonsense you believe, I can tell you that religion will be a crutch which you can lean upon in times of adversity." I'd call a helpful crutch a human thing, and good. And no, MLF, I'm not going to limit my reading to mundane science fiction or anything else spun by fanatics who know what's best for me. Chill out, dude. Read something fun, like speculative fiction maybe?

Helpful sites:
http://mundane-sf.blogspot.com/
http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/MohsScaleOfScienceFictionHardness
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mundane_science_fiction

Convention Listings:

TusCon 38 (November 11-13) at the Hotel Tucson City Center, 475 North Granada, Tucson AZ 85701. Guest of Honor: Patricia Briggs, Cost $40 thru 6/30, $45 thru 11/1 and $50 thereafter and at the door. Paypal available, Room rates $69 studio, $79 suite, $89 Jacuzzi suite. Hotel phone 520-622-3000. Website: http://home.earthlink net/~basfa/ -- eMail: basfa@earthlink.net

LepreCon 38 (April 6-8, 2012) Artist Guest of Honor; Franchesco! Author Guest of Honor, Joe Haldeman; Local Artist GoH, Mark Greenwalt; Gaming GoH, Todd VanHooser; Music Artists GoH, Jeff & Maya Bohnhoff. Website: www.leprecon.org/lep38
eMail: lepreconprogramming@yahoo.com

CopperCon 32 (Aug. 31 - Sept. 3, 2012) Author Guest of Honor; Ari Marmell, Local Author Guest James A. Owen. Cost: $40 thru August 15, 2012 - More at the door. No checks or credit cards will be accepted at con. Website: www.coppercon.org
eMail: info@coppercon.org

CLASSIFIEDS:

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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 discuses 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. Our members are very friendly, respectful, and fun. We welcome any and all. For more information, contact Todd Miles at acrossplus@acrossplus.org

ADRIAN EMPIRE - A medieval and renaissance recreationist club. Sword-fighting, arts, banquets, masquerades, dances. meets 3rd Saturday 10am at El Oso Park. Web: http://www.kingdomofumbria.com/events.html All are welcome. Free.

AERIAL MIRAGE JUGGLERS - Meet Wednesday, 7:30-10 PM. Encanto Park, 14th Avenue, south of Encanto. Elliot Goldstein, 602-266-4391, e-mail jugglearts@aol.com, 5535 N. Eleventh Street, Phoenix, AZ 85014; or Timmie Ann Schramm, 602-585-7623, 2326 E. Electra Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

ARIZONA BROWNCOATS - A social group and state non-profit devoted to continuing the spirit of Joss Whedon's inspired series Firefly through charity events, a presence at local conventions, and social events. We are all over Arizona with monthly shindigs in Phoenix and Tucson. In September, both cities will be hosting screenings of Serenity to benefit Equality Now. For more details, visit our website at http://azbrowncoats.org and follow our twitter @azbrowncoats.

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. Web: www.lanparty.com/all/

AZ 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/

AZCorsairs - "Founded in 1971 as a branch of the Society for Creative Anachronisms, or SCA, our primary focus is 16th - 18th century European culture and the pirate lifestyle of the time. The Corsairs will extend pirate portrayals as far back as Phoenician, Roman Era or to future Space, Science Fiction genre, and more publicly recognizable Hollywood styled pirate. Corsair membership is largely volunteeroriented, gathered together for fun and while helping others out.

Members of the Arizona Corsairs are, much like their historical counterparts, masters of their own destiny. Creation of characters, complete with backstory with correlation to history, period costume, and emulation of pirate traditions and arts, rests on each performer, creating varied storylines and deep, interesting characters.

For more information, please contact Captaim Max - Ambassador, AZCorsairs cptmax@myway.com 602-799-6184.

AZ MIB - The Men in Black is the official global organization of field operatives for Steve Jackson Games. The Arizona Cell attends local and regional 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@gmail.com . We are also recruiting new MIBs in some areas of Arizona. If you're interested, contact us. You can also find additional information about us on our Facebook group, Arizona Men in Black.

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 Denny's, 2360 W Northern Ave 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 Gatherings are held at the Irish Cultural Center on the 2nd Saturday of every month. The center is located at 1106 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ, 85004, phone number 602-258-0109, across from the Burton Barr Library. The Board meeting will be at 12:00 Noon with the General meeting starting at 12:30 pm.

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

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 Web: http://www.ecs-galandor.org/.

GATHERING OF PLAYERS - Find Your Adventure - Our club is running into our sixth year. Join us for games and adventure set in the Dungeons and Dragons realm. We offer Living Forgotten Realms and Pathfinder Society. We welcome both new and experienced players. Visit http://www.warhorn.net/gathering, to see what we have coming up. If you have any questions email us at agatheringofplayers@gmail.com.

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

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: parexteam@cox.net.

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 12noon-5pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (623) 849-9515.

SHIELD - The Shield 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.

SOCIETY FOR CREATIVE ANACHRONISM - The Kingdom of Atenveldt is part of the Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA), a not-for-profit educational organization that studies western European history by recreating the "best" pastimes and crafts of the Middle Ages. The Atenveldt branch of the SCA encompasses all of Arizona and small parts of Utah and California. 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.

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.

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.

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-FP.org.

USS LEONIDAS - The Leonidas is a member of Region IV of STARFLEET International. The chapter is an opportunity for those that share a love of Star Trek to have fun and help the community at the same time. The Leonidas stresses uniforms or other costumes to have the ability to participate actively in various events as they present themselves but they are not required.

Membership with Starfleet International is required. www.sfi.org Upon joining STARFLEET a member is a Cadet. Upon passing the Officer's Training School Exam at the Online Academy, the member becomes a Commissioned Officer aboard the Leonidas. The chapter does not have dues as of yet. The dues to be a member of STARFLEET International are $15 a year. No newsletter, but members do receive an activities E-mail update. No web site yet. Contact : Arthur Fesler-Butts, Jr. feslerbutts22@msn.com.

WESTERN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION - (WesternSFA) A nonprofit corporation that sponsors AniZona, RandomCon, 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 Anime, 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, check our website for meeting location Guests are welcome. For more info contact Craig Dyer at WesternSFA, PO Box 67457, Phoenix AZ 85082 Email: info@westernsfa.org Webpage: www.westernsfa.org.

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CopperCon32 presents Ari Marmell

Among the many games Ari has worked on are "Vampire: the Masquerade", "Vampire: the Requiem", "Mummy: the Resurrection", "Pathfinder", "Dark Ages: Vampire", "Dungeons & Dragons" Both 3rd and 4th editions. As well as many tie-in novels for thee and "Magic: the Gathering".

He also has three novels written in his own worlds. "The Conqueror's Shadow" and "The Warlord's Shadow" are both set in the same world and have the same protagonist, Corvis Rebaine a former warlord and "Terror of the East". The third is set in a world where the heroes keep winning the battles but never, quite, winning the war. Also this is following the goblin's point of view, as the hardcover says "May the best man lose."

His website mouseferatu.com has comments on all the works he has done, and several excerpts from his books. He has a regular column on several sites including EnWorld and Suvudu as well as an active Twitter account and Facebook.

CopperCon32 presents James A. Owen

James A. Owen has been working professionally as an illustrator and storyteller for more than two decades. To date, in addition to numerous illustration and design projects, James has written and illustrated two dozen Starchild comics and books which remain in print as the six-volume Essential Starchild set.

In 2003 "Mythworld" the first in a series of novels written by James won the AI award for Best Novel, and was also nominated alongside novels from illustrious authors Stephen King and Michael Crichton for the Phantastik Pries award for best Novel.

The first book in the Chronicles of the Imaginarium Geographica, "Here, There be Dragons", was published by Simon & Schuster in the Fall of 2006, followed by "The Search for the Red Dragon", "The Indigo King", "The Shadow Dragons" and "The Dragon's Apprentice". At least two more books are in the planning stages, as well as a few related surprises…

www.coppercon.org