

ConNotations

Fall 1999
Volume 9, Issue 3

The Quarterly Science Fiction, Fantasy & Convention Newszine of the Central Arizona Speculative Fiction Society

SF Tube Talk Fall Preview 1999 by Lee Whiteside

This time we take a look at what will be on our screens this fall when the networks and syndicators roll out new episodes of current and new shows as well as the latest behind the scenes goings on with Star Trek and Crusade.

Crusade Still in Limbo

We're most of the way through the 13 produced episodes of the Babylon 5 spin-off, **Crusade**, with the first five episodes produced currently airing to end its limited run on TNT in September. Current prospects for the series continue to look bleak, but it hasn't been completely declared dead yet. The latest word from creator/executive producer **J. Michael Straczynski** is that Warner Bros. is



waiting until the 13 episodes have all aired and will then determine if the ratings were good enough to pursue either a renewal with TNT or look elsewhere, such as with the Sci-Fi Channel. The sets are still in storage but the options for renewal on the actor's contracts were not picked up, so contracts would have to be renegotiated if the series continued. Ratings for the series on TNT have been fair, settling in at around 1.0 which is slightly lower than what shows like **Sliders** or **Farscape** get on the Sci-Fi Channel.

For now, about all we can do is wait and see what happens. Additional letters to the Sci-Fi Channel may help, but at this point the decision will likely be based on the ratings the episodes have received.

On the **Babylon 5** front, there's still some stories to be told in print. The third Psi Corps book by **J. Gregory Keyes** is almost out and next will be a trilogy on the Technomages by **Jeanne Cavelos** starting this fall, followed by a Centauri trilogy by **Peter David** starting next summer. **Straczynski** has written several short stories which are appearing in *Amazing Stories* magazine. The first, which appeared in the July/August issue, features Londo, the next will feature Lyta & G'Kar and the third will be set on Babylon 5, all of them taking place after the events of "*Objects at Rest*".

The first issue of Straczynski's comic book from Top Cow Comics, *Rising Stars*, is in comic shops now and Straczynski has been keeping busy writing a TV movie and other scripts once production on Crusade was ended in January.

Star Trek Voyager - The Lone Trek

Now that **Deep Space Nine** has ended, **Star Trek: Voyager** is the lone Star Trek series being produced. Fans were hopeful that the addition of some of the Deep Space Nine writing staff would give Voyager a boost, but shortly after production started on the new season, **Ron Moore** announced that he was leaving Star Trek: Voyager and Star Trek. No one would specifically say why he left, just that Ron felt it was time to move on. The most persistent rumors

were creative differences with **Brannon Braga**. But in any case, Ron has been a major contributor to Star Trek since he joined the staff of The Next Generation ten years ago.

Other rumors are circulating on how long Voyager will remain the lone Trek series. Rumors about a Starfleet Academy series were shot down by Braga in recent interviews and other rumors have talked about a series set several years or decades after the current Trek series time frame. Chances are we'll see a new series sometime in 2001.

Coming up this season on **Star Trek: Voyager**, we'll see the continuation of the fifth season's cliffhanger with the crew going head to head with the

(Cont'd on Page 5)

24 Frames

Movie News & Reviews

The big-budget movie based on Marvel's **X-Men** comics is finally in production with a Summer 2000 release planned. Leading the cast is **Patrick Stewart** as Professor Xavier, **Ian McKellen** as Magneto, **Doug Ray Scott** as Wolverine, **Halle Berry** as Storm, **Anna Paquin** as Rogue, **Bruce Davison** as Senator Kelly, and **Ray Park** as Toad. Based on a script by **Christopher McQuarrie** and **Ed Solomon**, it will be directed by **Bryan Singer**.

Peter Jackson's production of **The Lord of The Rings** trilogy is moving along with filming to start this fall in New Zealand. Jackson and New Line Cinema have budgeted around \$190 million U.S. to produce the three movies with the first one expected to hit theaters for Christmas 2000. No formal cast announcement has been made yet and likely won't be until all of the cast has been signed, but some of the major characters have leaked and the cast looks to be a good one. Taking on the role of Gandalf will be Academy Award-winning actor **Ian McKellen**, Frodo Baggins will be **Elijah Wood**, **Sean Astin** as Sam Gamgee, **Ian Holm** as Bilbo Baggins, and **Billy Boyd** as Pippin. Unconfirmed rumored casting is **Ethan Hawke** as Faramir, **Uma Thurman** as Galadriel and **Kate Winslet** as Eowyn.

Some other movies of note in production
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Convention Information

(Check out the Conventions Listing for more details and contact info on these events and check our online events listings (www.casfs.org/events.html) for updated information between issues.)

CopperCon 19, (Scottsdale, AZ) **September 10-12, 1999** Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona
Author GoH: **David Weber**, Artist GoH: **Brett Bass** Memb: \$30 until May 1, 1999, \$35 at the door, Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under - free; Room rates are \$65 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. (800) 525-5205 ; Info: CopperCon 19, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602)973-2341, Email: cucon@casfs.org (Check the Progress Report in the center of this issue for more information)

TusCon 26 (Tucson AZ) **Oct 22-24, 1999** at the Executive Inn. GoH: Laurell K. Hamilton Artist GoH: Lee Seed Memberships \$30 until 10/1; \$35 at the door. Children 3-12 half-price Artists interested in panels should contact Rebecca (520) 293-1455 immediately! We are selling out fast. Amateurs welcome. Dealers contact Cristi at (520) 881-3709. Tables are \$45 and include one membership. More info: TusCon 26, PO Box 26822, Tucson AZ 85726

FYI

Book Discussion Groups

We have two monthly book discussion groups going, one at Glendale Public Library on the first Thursday of each month and another at Barnes and Noble in Metro Center on the fourth Thursday of each month. Here's a schedule of upcoming books:

GILLENDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY: 1st Thursday of the month

Sept 2: Carnivores of Light & Darkness - Alan Dean Foster

Oct 7: Rebirth (aka Chrysalis) - John Wyndham

Nov 4: A Princess of Mars & The Gods of Mars by Edgar Rice Burroughs

Dec 2: Soldier Ask Not - Gordon Dickson
For more information on the Glendale Library group contact Sue Martin at (623)939-7815.

BARNES & NOBLE METRO CENTER: 4th Thursday of the month

Aug 26: Priam's Lens - Jack Chalker

Sept 23: Six Moon Dance - Sherri Tepper

Oct 28: Twice upon A Time - ed. Denise Little

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER DATES WILL BE CHANGED DUE TO THE HOLIDAYS. Dates will be set in September, call for more info.

Nov: High Crusade by Poul Anderson (available from Barnes & Noble by special order - allow 4-6 weeks)

Dec: Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone by J.K. Rowling

For more information on the Barnes & Noble group contact Stephanie L Bannon at (602)973-2341

On to Mars! Or, Mars Men Stay Home

By Michael Griffin

At long last, the preparations for a manned mission to Mars were shaping up. The preliminary robot ships had landed and were busy making rocket fuel from Martian resources. This would be used by astronauts for a return flight to Earth, as the trip to Mars would use up all the fuel that could be carried. On Earth, a short list of prospective volunteers for the mission was being reviewed by a NASA administrator, a Finn named Fori Akrmun.

Then, disaster struck. An unexpected sandstorm swept through the landing area and destroyed the robot ships. No more return fuel. A few days later, no more short list of volunteers for the mission.

NASA could not afford this disaster, for the world was eagerly awaiting the planned launch of the astronauts. If the program went off schedule, it would certainly lose all funding and die forever, such was the political climate. A bold move was secretly decided.

The public would not be told of the sandstorm and the loss of the robot ships. The mission would go on as scheduled, but now it would be a suicide mission, albeit unknown to the world. The doomed astronaut who remained on Mars would become a martyr to inspire future exploration.

However, no astronauts volunteered to become martyrs, not even for a one-man flight. A call went throughout NASA,

and eventually, three volunteers arose. Each was interviewed alone and in conditions of utmost secrecy. The only persons at the interview were the volunteers and one administrator, Fori.

The first volunteer was one of the janitors, Fred. When asked what it would take for him to give his life, he replied, "I live a simple life, but I have a family to provide for. I would want one million dollars to be given to them." Fori eventually thanked Fred and called in the next volunteer.

The second man was an engineer, Ric. What he asked for was two million dollars to make the flight. "One million dollars for my family, and another million to endow a research wing at my alma mater, named after me." Once Ric left the room, the last volunteer was called in.

The last man sat in a room. There was a knock on the door. Fori entered and took a seat facing his desk. This man, Brown, was an agency lawyer, on NASA's payroll. A surprising volunteer, Fori thought. Lawyers were supposed to be greedy and selfish. When asked what he would take to go on the mission, Brown responded, "Three million dollars."

"What? Three million? That's the most anyone's asked for! What would you do with that?" Fori said.

Brown leaned forward over the desk and spoke in low tones. "Simple. I'd keep one million for myself. I'd give you a million. And we'd take the other million and send Fred to Mars."

THE END?

Who's Who This Issue

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Submission Info: Writers and artists are encouraged to submit work for publication. While we cannot pay you for your efforts your work will be seen by over 4,000 fans across the Southwest and the country. You will retain the copyright to your work for future publication. To submit your work or for more information please write to: ConNotations; PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or contact us via Email at Editors@casfs.org

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CASFS Business Report

Dear Faithful Reader,

Everything Old is New Again.... In other words, our elections recycled most of the same folks in much the same positions during our June elections. Frances Burns is still President, David Hungerford is still Vice President, and I'm still frantically taking notes. On the Board side of things, we re-elected Pat Connors, Jeff George, and Jim Strait. However, I'd like to welcome aboard our new Treasurer, Nick Schumacher, and congratulate our newest convention officers: Stephanie Bannon, Chair of CopperCon 21, Pat Connors, her Banker, Bob LaPierre, Chair of HexaCon 11, and Stephanie Bannon, his Banker.

HexaCon 9 was a rousing success, with a good time had by all. Special events included the 'Bot Bash, tons of demos and tournaments, and a full computer gaming room. If you missed it this year, check it out next July-current plans have lots of the same stuff going on. If you did attend HexaCon, let us know what you thought, what you didn't like, and what you want to see again.

In other news, the CASFS meeting for August has been moved back to August 20-one week early-due to the NASFiC in Los Angeles the weekend of the 27th.

We're gearing up for CopperCon 19 in September, with Author Guest of Honor David Weber. Check out www.casfs.org/cucon for more information (and a special announcement about a raffle for members who rent hotel rooms!). See you there! Until next time,
The Frantic Scribe

P.S. Don't forget about the date change for the next CASFS meeting-Aug 20!!!

Correction: In ConNotations Vol. 9, Issue 2, *Neither Your Harlan Nor Mine: The Evening of Delicate Terrors, part 2*

By Shane Shellenbarger

"He entered the Parminton Hotel, once the premiere hotel of Painesville" should have read, "He entered the Parmly Hotel, once the premiere hotel of Painesville" The author regrets the error.

What is CASFS?

What is really behind putting on a convention? What the funds raised by a convention used for? Why not attend a meeting and find out? We're the sponsor of ConNotations, CopperCons, HexaCons, SmerfCons and other conventions. We are a charitable, non-profit organization that exists to further science fiction, fantasy and science fields in Arizona. CASFS currently meets at the JB's Restaurant at 2560 W Indian School Rd in Phoenix (NW corner of I-17 and Indian School). The meetings begin at 8PM and are held on the last Friday of the month Jan. Through Sept. And on the second Friday of the month Oct through Dec. Everyone is invited to attend two meetings as a guest (non-member). Membership rates are \$12/year plus an initial \$3 application fee and rates are pro-rated for the amount of the year remaining. For more info Call: Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 Webpage: www.casfs.org email: casfs@casfs.org

PRO NOTES

by Daryl F. Mallett

Monsoon season is upon us! There is nothing quite like watching lightning crawl across the desert skies. I love this weather.

In alarming news, Phoenix scribe **Rick Cook** was admitted to the emergency room on the evening of Monday, July 26, 1999. He said he had “almost no visible symptoms of anything” and was just feeling sick as a dog. It turned out that he was “severely diabetic and had major blockages in five of my coronary arteries.” After a successful quintuple bypass surgery, he is recovering well at home and says he’s probably going to hide there for the next three months while he heals. His words of wisdom apply to all of us: “Don’t assume that just because you’re feeling all right, you shouldn’t get yourself checked out thoroughly. Because otherwise you’re liable to find out the hard way. If I’d have waited any longer, I’d probably be dead. Talk about a wake up call! Time to eat better, change the old ways...” I know there are many others who will join me in expressing their relief that Rick is okay and will be with us for

DeForest Kelley Obituary

DeForest Kelley, the irascible Dr. McCoy of Star Trek fame, died on Friday, June 11, 1999, aged 79.

Born January 20, 1920 at Atlanta, Georgia, Jackson DeForest Kelley was the son of Baptist minister Rev. Ernest D. Kelley and Clara Casey Kelley.

Early in his life, he discovered that he enjoyed singing, which led to performances on radio station WSB in Atlanta, which, in turn, led to an appearance with Lew Forbes and his orchestra at the Paramount Theatre.

Moving to Long Beach, California, Kelley began working as an usher in a local theatre, and eventually met Rohn Hawke, who was performing at a nearby theatre. At Hawke’s behest, Kelley auditioned and won a part. During the run of the play, a talent scout saw Kelley’s performance.

Kelley acted at night with The Long Beach Theatre Group, and began writing and staging plays at a local radio station. He auditioned for the role of the baby-faced killer in *This Gun for Hire*. Alan Ladd won the role, and Kelley went back to Long Beach and the theatre group.

In 1942, Kelley appeared in “The Innocent Young Man” with the Long Beach Theatre Group. His co-star was a blonde, blue-eyed beauty named Carolyn Dowling, whom Kelley fell in love with. During World War II, Kelley joined the Army Air Corps, but the couple were married on September 7, 1945.

Kelley’s first film appearance was in a

at least another half-century!

Well...off to Minneapolis for Diversicon, visiting the International Wolf Center, and kicking it on the shores of Lake Superior for a few days to relax, unwind and write. Then on to San Diego for the International Comic Con, where my first comic book will be released. Talk to you on the flip side!

Kevin Birnbaum and **Cassandra Marovich** are enjoying the cool weather at Aspen’s Edge on Rainbow Lake in Arizona’s White Mountains and invite everyone to come up and stay at their bed & breakfast. Be sure to ask for your fandom discount! Go to ww.aspensedge.com to find more information about their place. Kevin, meanwhile, is writing for *The Observer* newspaper as the Navajo County Correspondent, working on computer animation, and is about to ink a deal with an international aviation apparel distributor for his company, Cockpit Command.

Writer/cartoonist **Max Espinoza** is currently creating another project for children, as well as planning to follow colleague **Ruben Gerard’s** example by coming out with his own collection of comic strips in a as-yet-untitled book.

Laura Brodian Freas reports, “[**Frank Kelly**] [**Freas**] recently finished

Navy training film, *Time to Kill* (1945). A Paramount talent scout spotted Kelley in the film, which led to a three-year contract. His first film was *Fear in the Night* (1947), a low-budget production which took off and became a hit.

A couple of years later, the couple decided to try their luck on the New York stage. While Kelley sought work, Carolyn got a job in the main office of Warner Brothers. Kelley began working regularly on stage, for live television programs, and in films like *House of Bamboo* (1955); *View from Pompey’s Head* (1955); *Illegal* (1955); *Tension at Table Rock* (1956); *The Man in the Gray Flannel Suit* (1956); and *Raintree County* (1957). His portrayal of Ike Clanton in *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral* (1957) brought him recognition in the industry. More films followed, including *The Law and Jake Wade* (1958); *Warlock* (1959); and *Two Faces West* (1961).

Afraid of being type-cast, Kelley landed a role in *Where Love Has Gone* (1964), based on the Harold Robbins novel, where he appeared with Bette Davis, Susan Hayward, and George Macready, and then a television pilot called *333 Montgomery*. Kelley went on to appear in other films like *Gunfight at Comanche Creek* (1964); *Town Tamer* (1965); *Marriage on the Rocks* (1965); *Black Spurs* (1965); *Waco* (1966); *Apache Uprising* (1966); and *Ironside* (1967).

His true fame to the world came when he was cast as the irascible Dr. Leonard McCoy in the Star Trek series, appearing on the television show from 1966-69, and then in the various Trek films, Star Trek:

up 9 pictures for Precedence Publishing’s *Robert Jordan Game Card Set* based on the *Wheel of Time* series. Currently he’s finishing up the millennium cover and interior for *Analog Magazine*. Later he’s got a Martian frontispiece for a signed, first edition from the Easton Press, just not sure which of the two Martian stories he’s going to choose. After that, two more interiors for *Analog*.

Diana Gabaldon is “just back (barely) from book-touring all over Canada and the U.S.” and is busy, busy, busy. In terms of news, she reports, “*The Outlandish Companion* has just been released in the U.S. and Canada (hence, book tours). It obligingly hit #1 on most of the Canadian bestseller lists for fiction, and did well in the U.S., too—#5 on the amazon.com fiction list, and barnesandnoble.com, ditto for most of the bookstore lists. My editor called the week after it came out, and said, ‘The good news is that you’re #5 on *The New York Times* list.’ ‘Yeah?’ I said. ‘And the bad...?’ ‘The bad news,’ she said, ‘is that *The NYT* couldn’t make up its mind whether the book was fiction or nonfiction, and finally shoved it in the “How-to, Advice, and Miscellaneous” category—which only publishes the first four slots.’ Hmmm. As I said in

The Motion Picture (1980); *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* (1982); *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* (1984); *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* (1986); *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* (1989); and *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* (1991).

In between Star Trek projects, Kelley appeared in other films, like *Night of the Lepus* (1972); *Police Story* (1973); *Strike Force* (1981); and *Bull of the West* (1989). One of his last projects was to provide one of the voices in *The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars* (1998), based on the Thomas Disch book of the same name. In 1991, Kelley received his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. — Daryl F. Mallett

“He’s dead, Jim.”

An Appreciation of De Kelley
by Daryl F. Mallett

The world has lost an icon. I lost a kindly old friend who always had a twinkle in his eye and a joke on the run.

My first meeting with De was on the set of *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country* in 1991. I was a college student and my roommate Clint Zehner and I were extras in the film’s ice prison scenes (I’m the one throwing Bill Shatner’s stunt double through the fire). After Nick Meyer called “Cut!” on a scene, Bill Shatner and De were walking back to their starting marks. Bill accidentally sucked in a piece of plastic snow and started choking. Everyone rushed over to see if he was all right, and one extra quipped, “Help him, Bones!” De, doubled

response to this bit of information... ‘How to WHAT?!?’ Anyway, *The Companion* has been sold (so far) to the U.K. and Germany. It will be published in the U.K. in August, under the title *Through the Stones* (since they call the first book of the series *Cross Stitch*, rather than *Outlander*, “*Outlandish Companion*” wouldn’t work for them). Same book, different title, different cover art. They’re reissuing all of the series (in paperback) with new cover art at the same time, owing to a lot of screaming on my part about the awfulness of the old covers. The new ones are beautiful—vivid, striking, and adventurous, in Really Loud Colors. No idea when the German edition of *The Companion* will be out, but it’s presently being translated. The first Dutch edition of *Outlander* is just out (trade paperback); it’s titled *Die Reiziger* (which I have no idea what means), done by *Mulenhoff*. We’ve recently sold foreign rights for *Outlander* to Poland and Korea, as well; no translations yet.” In family news: “My son, **Samuel Watkins**, and I have a fantasy short coming out in a German anthology—published by Droemer—this September. The anthology is *Out of Avalon* (*Von den Avalon?* in German, I

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over from laughing, said, “Dammit, I’m an actor, not a doctor!” which sent all of us into gales of laughter and earned him a sour look and then a wry smile from Bill. De was always there on the set making us laugh or smile.

The next time I ran into De was when we were both guests at a Star Trek convention. I was standing backstage with Clint, when he approached me.

“Hello, Daryl.” After I picked my jaw up off the floor, he proceeded to make me drop it again. “So when’s the baby due?” I had no idea how he remembered me or how he knew my ex-wife and I were expecting Jacob. (He later admitted that someone else had told him about Annette being pregnant with Jake, but that he did remember seeing Clint and I on the set of ST6.) So, when we got to the hospital, we had to sign a form that says who will be allowed in the room during the birth. We wrote my parents’ names, her parents’ names, and...DeForest Kelley’s.

After that, we enjoyed a pleasant acquaintance, meeting at conventions and the like. We spoke on the phone briefly in February just to catch up and for an article I was writing. Two months later, I heard from friends that De had gone into the hospital again. I was afraid because the last time I saw him, he was looking even leaner than he had previously. De always joked that his trademark, “He’s dead, Jim” remark would probably be etched on his tombstone, but wouldn’t it be a fitting tribute from a legion of fans worldwide...

Live long and prosper, my friend.

Musical Notes

by Tom Tuerff

Nobody sent me any straight ahead filk albums this month, so I'm going to talk about Filk in the Mainstream—specifically, "The Saga Begins," **Weird Al Yankovic's** latest parody.

I know you've heard it by now, and you've probably seen the video at www.sagabegins.com. It's definitely a science fiction parody, but is it filk?

Well, if you follow the "standard" description of the term, which is "songs written about science fiction or fantasy, or parodies of existing songs that cover those topics," then, yes, I imagine it's filk.

However, many people put a caveat on that. If the song is recorded for personal financial gain, then in the minds of many of the faithful, it suddenly stops being "real filk."

Of course, people who believe this sort of thing still spend most of their money on tapes or CDS of filksingers, which they buy at conventions and play ad nauseam until the next convention when they can buy some more. These people ignore the fact that someone is making money by making those tapes! In some cases, they're even paying the **Leslie Fishes** and the **Nancy Freemans**, et al for being on the tape.

Filk is filk whether you're making money with it or not, and anyone who tells you different probably doesn't get

invited to too many parties.

So—is "The Saga Begins" true filk? You bet your wookiee it is. And it's a good one, too, the first cut on Al's new album, "*Running With Scissors*." Of all the songs to tackle, Yankovic picks Don McLean's "American Pie," and pretty much relates the entire "Phantom Menace" movie in four or five verses. It's a bold choice for a couple of reasons—first, it's a long song. Second, "American Pie" is not exactly a current popular hit, which is what Al usually uses when he wants to parody something (although not always—Yoda," his last Star Wars song, was a parody of the Kinks' "Lola," which was ten years old by the time Yankovic wrote the song). I wonder how many kids are hearing this song and thinking it's completely original.

I can't imagine it will be too long before this song is being sung at sci-fi conventions. It has chords that are a lot simpler than "Yoda," for one thing, and it's long, which seems to go over really well in filksings.

So, everybody now—sing it with me: "My, My, this here Anakin guy..."

(For another review of Weird Al's new album see Shane Shellenbarger's review on this page - editor)

Pokepiffle Dept: I like Anime. I don't spend hours and hours in the Japanimation rooms at conventions or anything, but I like to rent the occasional intelligent animated discourse about Catholic Lesbian Schoolgirls who Save the World in Bikinis, which is the plot of

98% of all Anime.

But people, this Pokemon stuff has got to stop.

My house is full of Pokegames, Pokeplastic, Poketapes, Pokeballs, Pikachus, Picacho Peaks and God knows what all.

And now my youngest son has inflicted a Pokemon Soundtrack CD on me.

GET IT AWAAAAY! AAAAAHHH!!!! I'LL TALK! I'LL TALK!

If you haven't had enough of that insipid TV theme song, the CD now allows you to hear an EXTENDED version of it! Aren't you excited?!!!!?

And the rest of the songs are so...so...so bad.

To its credit there's some video stuff on the CD that actually works on a MAC, which is the only computer worth having anyway.

So if you're in the kids' area of a book or record store in the near future, turn your kid's pokepuss away from the CD area. If you value your ears. You have been warned.

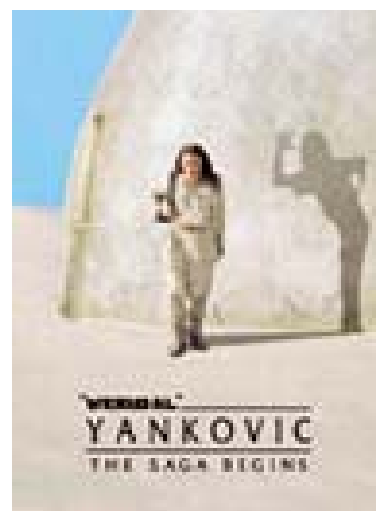
Don't know if you'll get this in time, but **Nancy Freeman** and I will be at Fiddlers' Dream, 17th Street and Glendale, at 8 p.m. on Friday, August 20, along with **Linda Kushma**. Then on September 25, I'll be at Fidd's again, this time with **Larry Warner** and a right hander to be named later. Hope to see you there!

Tom Tuerff needs filk stuff to review. Contact him at nudeadguy@aol.com.

Running With Scissors

"Weird Al" Yankovic
Volcano Entertainment /
www.sagabegins.com - www.weirdal.com

"Weird Al" Yankovic has been producing parodies of popular culture since his self-titled album appeared in the early 80's. "Ricky", "The Brady Bunch", "I Lost On Jeopardy", "George Of The Jungle", "Here's Johnny", "Money For Nothing / Beverly Hillbillies", "Isle Thing", "Stuck In A Closet With Vanna White", "I Can't Watch This", "Jurassic Park", "Talk Soup", "Gump", "Syndicated Inc." were all satirical pokes at mass media, but none of them were as universally embraced as was "Yoda". Based on 1980's, "The Empire Strikes



Dying To Be Heard

Bill Mummy
Renaissance Records / <http://skymarshall.com/renaissance>

"My name is William Robinson I'm forty two years old. I've seen the hot side of the sun I've seen blue icy cold. I've shot the one eyed giant down with laser in my hand, but I'll never see my home again or walk on Earth's green land." Thus begins Bill Mummy's musical tribute to the character he played on the television series, LOST IN SPACE, from 1965-1968 and wrote about in Innovation Publishing's comic book series from 1991-1994. Today, he is known for his character, Lenner, from the television series, BABYLON 5 and sharing the creation of the Nickelodeon series, SPACE CASES, with Peter David. Mummy has played with the bands, Barnes and Barnes, Seduction of the Innocent, and frontman for the new group, Be Five, with Claudia Christian, Mira Furlan, Peter Jurasik, and Andreas Katsulas on their new album, Trying To Forget.

"The Ballad of William Robinson" tells the story of the boy genius grown to manhood, his responsibility to his family and friends, his feelings of dismay and

what he has lost, and his hope for eventual rescue.

Mummy's voice is reminiscent of a young Bob Dylan, although his words aren't as drawn out as Dylan's are (i.e., "How does it feeeel?"). The music fits well with Mummy's vocals and the subject matter. The lyrics are more straightforward and

less ambiguous than the other eleven songs on the album, which have a tendency to rely more on the listener's imagination and interpretation of the song. None of the songs on the album are likely to chart on Billboard, but it's a solid effort and worth a listen. - Shane Shellenbarger



Back" and the song "Lola" by The Kinks, "Yoda" remains one of Yankovic's most requested songs when he performs on the road. That may soon change. On June 22, Yankovic's latest album, "*Running With Scissors*" hit the music stores and began climbing the charts, thanks in no small part to the single, "The Saga Begins", a parody of "Star Wars: The Phantom Menace", sung to the tune of Don McLean's classic, "American Pie."

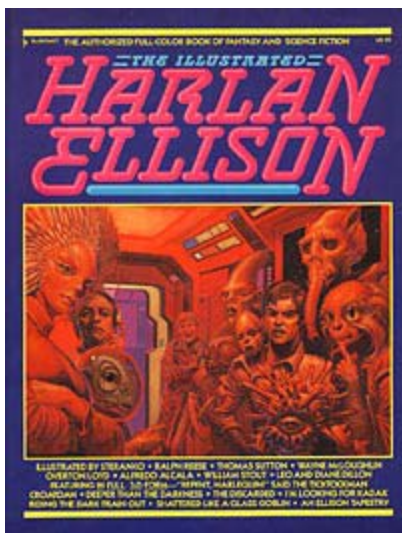
Yankovic blends six songs of his own writing with a polka arrangement of songs by The Backstreet Boys and Smash Mouth (among others) and parodies of The Offspring, Barenaked Ladies, Puff Daddy, and the Cherry Popping Daddies for a combined total of twelve tracks, thirteen if you can find the secret file on your computers CD-ROM.

Yankovic always puts on a good show and this latest album is no exception. While I was unfamiliar with some of the songs he was parodying, they were still funny and entertaining. With all of the exposure on MTV and VH-1 that this album in particular and Yankovic in general are getting, this may become his best selling album. Yankovic will be appearing at the Arizona State Fair on October 7th. - Shane Shellenbarger

The Graphic Novel Comes of Age

By Shane Shellenbarger

Twenty-one years has a magical connotation for the young as a dividing line between childhood and adulthood. Twenty-one is the legal drinking age in most states, an age that declares a certain level of maturity has been achieved. Twenty-one years ago, the legendary writer-artist, Will Eisner, brought comic books of age when he coined the term "graphic novel" to describe his one hundred and eighty four page creation, *A Contract with God*.



The graphic novel is the name often used interchangeably with trade paperback, but they aren't the same. Graphic novels contain new material written for a length of about one hundred or more pages. *Night and the Enemy* by Harlan Ellison and Ken Steacy is a graphic novel. A trade paperback collects stories from several comic books or mini-series. *The Death of Superman* was compiled from five different comic book series. *Kingdom Come* by Mark Waid and Alex Ross grew out of a four-issue mini-series. For our purposes, the graphic novel will be the umbrella term that covers the collection of comic issues (*The Sandman: Preludes & Nocturnes* by Neil Gaiman and various artists) collected mini-series that work as a single unit (*The Tale of One Bad Rat* by Bryan Talbot) and original graphic novels (*To the Heart of the Storm* by Will Eisner). While the books can be found in a variety of sizes (6 3/4 X 10 1/8, 7 X 10 1/2, and 8 1/2 X 11), they generally come in the full size 7 X 10 and the 5 X 7 digest size reflected in the Japanese manga books. Graphic novels and trade paperbacks come in styles that range from black and white stapled newsprint through color perfect bound glossy lithography on up to limited edition hardbacks books.

While graphic novels are very much a group effort with writer, penciler, inker, colorist, letterer, cover artist, and editor combining their efforts to produce a

finished product, the writer and artist are predominately acknowledged as the stars of the team. Graphic novels are usually a collaborative effort between a writer and an artist: *Watchmen* by Alan Ross and Dave Gibbons, *Love & Rockets* by Gilbert and Jaime Hernandez, and *Violent Cases* by Neil Gaiman and Dave McKean. Sometimes the talents of writing and drawing combine into one extraordinary person: *Invisible People* by Will Eisner, *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns* by Frank Miller, or *Concrete* by Paul Chadwick. Graphic novels are not the exclusive domains of men. Women have laid their own foundations in this art form: *A Child's Life and Other Stories* by Phoebe Glockner, Colleen Doran's *Distant Soil* books, and the *Desert Peach* collections by Donna Barr have all left their mark on the graphic novel landscape. Several women have been nominated for the industries Eisner Award: The story of Marilyn Monroe as told by Kathryn Hyatt in *Marilyn: The Story of a Woman*, Katherine Arnoldi's examination of an abused girl in pursuit of a college education in *The Amazing "True" Story of a Teenage Single Mom and Castle Waiting: The Curse of Brambly Hedge* by Linda Medley.

Some graphic novels affect and throw into sharp relief the world beyond the comic book field by presenting a different perspective on life. *Maus* by Art Spiegelman won a Pulitzer Prize in 1992 for its depiction of the Holocaust as told



through the device of utilizing animals as characters representing the warring nations. In *Concrete*, *Think Like a Mountain*, Paul Chadwick presents his view of the radical environmental movements in the Western United States. Howard Cruse shows his audience the experience of growing up gay in the South during social and civic turmoil in *Stuck Rubber Baby*.

The graphic novel covers subjects as broadly as does the regular publishing industry. Lea Hernandez gives a manga/action/adventure tone to her steampunk thrillers: *Cathedral Child* and its sequel, *Clockwork Angels*. *The Big Book* series utilizes over one hundred writers and artists in its non-fiction books that range

in subjects from conspiracies to urban legends. *Strangers in Paradise* by Terry Moore is a contemporary tale of relationships, some conventional and some off-kilter. The personal fears that haunt each of us arise in Harvey Pekar and Joyce Brabner's story, *Our Cancer Year*, with art by Frank Stack. War, modern technology and genocide meet in Joe Kubert's 1997 Eisner and Harvey Award winning, *Fax from Sarajevo*. Writer-artist Seth in *It's a Good Life if you Don't Weaken* mines the experience of rural life in Southeastern Canada. Stan Sakai combines anthropomorphic characters with manga-style art to create a rabbit Ronin in *Usagi Yojimbo*. Even the conventional topic of comic books, superheroes, can undergo a metamorphosis in Alan Moore and Dave Gibbon's classic, *Watchman*. Just like it's nearest relatives, film and books, graphic novels are at their best when they affect us on an emotional and personal level.

Television and film have often been sources for graphic novels: STAR TREK: DEBT OF HONOR by Chris Claremont, Adam Huges and Karl Story and *Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire* by John Wagner, Kilian Plunkett and John Nadeau. Sometimes the reverse is true and the influence flows the other way: *The Crow* by James O'Barr and *The Mask* by John Arcudi and Doug Mahnke.

SF Tube Talk

cont'd from page 1

Equinox in a battle for survival. In *Survival Instinct*, we'll have a flashback ten years back with Seven of Nine when the crew discovers three other Borg that have been separated from the collective (written by Ron Moore before he departed). After that will be "*Barge of the Dead*" where we'll get a look at Klingon Hell when Torres has a spiritual experience. We'll also have the Doctor featured in an homage to James Thurber's "*The Secret Life of Walter Mitty*" titled "*Tinker, Tenor, Doctor, Spy*". Other things we will see early in the new season are a species that has been in stasis for an extended time, a planet where civilizations rise and fall within seconds, a long-range telescope pointed at Earth, a mysterious ship that tries to lure Chakotay away to be its Captain, and The Voyager being caught up in a Hiroshima-like event.

GvsE Winning the Battle

The new supernatural action/comedy series *GvsE* debuted on the USA Network in July to decent ratings and critical response. It's about agents for "Good" fighting agents of "Evil" in Hollywood. Its offbeat and fun and worth catching on Sunday nights. They've been featuring a variety of guest stars in recent and upcoming episodes. Guest appearances include Webster star **Emmanuel Lewis** in

More information on graphic novels can be found at your local library, comic book store, or on these web sites:

- <http://www.colba.net/~minhta/>
- <http://www.rzero.com/books/all.html>
- <http://www.comicdepot.com/comxlinux.html>
- <http://www.friends-lulu.org/recommend.html>
- <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/2855/links.html>
- <http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/2855/more.html>
- <http://www.chebucto.ns.ca/Recreation/CMA/CMA.html>
- <http://www.instepsw.com/users/lprosperi/school/thesis.html>
- <http://www.maths.tcd.ie/pub/mmm/ReviewsFromTheForbiddenPlanet.html>
- http://dir.yahoo.com/Entertainment/Comics_and_Animation/Graphic_Novels/

The field of the graphic novel is too large to be completely covered in one article: estimates put the number of published graphic novels at over two thousand with ten to twenty new books being released each month. In the ever-changing comic book industry the graphic novel has seen childhood end and adulthood begin.

an explosive cameo, film actress **Theresa Russell**, WWF superstar **Mankind**, former Incredible Hulk **Lou Ferrigno** and four of "TV's most famous women," including *The Love Boat's* **Jill Whelan**, Dallas' **Charlene Tilton**, *Happy Days'* **Erin Moran**, and *Dawn Wells* from *Gilligan's Island*.

X-Files Prepares for Final(?) Season

Recent reports about the *X-Files* have indicated that **Chris Carter** and **David Duchovny's** contracts run through this season, but **Gillian Anderson's** continues for an eighth season. Carter has confirmed that he is willing to talk to Fox about continuing the TV series although recent interviews with Duchovny indicate that he would not continue with the series on TV but would be involved with any subsequent films. The season opener on October 31st will deal with the problems left in the season finale cliffhanger as well as some follow-up on how the Conspiracy is going on with the Syndicate having been destroyed. Following episodes will see Scully and some scientists trapped in a room with a black hole of some sort, an episode where Mulder and Scully are trapped in some ice and think they are going to die, leading to some interesting conversation between the two, a visit to a town where people's vices have gone out of control, and a "*Night of the Living Dead*" like episode penned by **Stephen King**.

cont'd on page 6

Sliders Final Season

The Sci-Fi Channel has confirmed that this season would be the last for **Sliders** although the cast changes for the new season haven't really hurt the ratings for the show on Sci-Fi. Remaining episodes will resolve the fate of Wade, have them meet up with Dr. Geiger (**Peter Jurasik**) one more time, see them land on a pirate ship, and a series finale that may wrap things up to some extent.



Hercules' Swan Song

The final episodes of **Hercules: The Legendary Journeys** will air this fall with the final eight episodes concluding in late November. As reported last time, **Kevin Sorbo** passed on a full season so that he could pursue other projects with **Majel Barrett Roddenberry**. One of the **Gene Roddenberry** based projects in development that Sorbo may star in is **Phoenix Rising**, which is a starship-based series. Rumor is that former Trek writer **Robert Hewitt Wolfe** is developing it for Majel Barrett Roddenberry and Tribune Entertainment for fall 2000.

Xena and **Gabrielle** may have died at the end of last season, but they'll be back for a full run. Not much is known about the path the new season will take. Rumors are that the duo will meet up with **Vlad the Impaler**, likely around Halloween time.

Buffy

Buffy has gotten a lot of press over the WB's holding back the season finale until mid-July and the other pulled episode, "**Earshot**", until September 21st. Once things do get going this fall, we'll have the one-two punch of **Buffy** and **Angel** back-to-back on Tuesday nights on The WB. One word of warning, if you've been catching **Buffy** on WGN on cable, The WB will no longer be available that way starting this fall so you'll need to make sure what your local station is that airs The WB.

Starting out the season in Sunnydale will be **Willow**, **Buffy** and **Oz** attending Sunnydale University while **Xander**

hangs around a lot. **Giles** will still be around, although it is unknown if he'll be at the University. **Anya** and **Joyce** will be recurring characters and **Spike** will return to Sunnydale to make regular appearances. New characters for this season will be the professor of Demonology at Sunnydale U (unless that's where **Giles** ends up) and **Riley Finn**, who may be Mr. Right for **Buffy** and has a secret life. The casting notice describes him as "if **Angel** were **Bruce Wayne**, **Riley** would be **Clark Kent**".

Over on **Angel**, the only **Buffy** regulars moving to the new show are **Angel** and **Cordelia**, who moves to Los Angeles to try to get into show business. Joining them is **Doyle**, played by **Glenn Quinn**, who is part demon, part human and will help guide **Angel** in his battles with demons and other problems in Los Angeles. Latest word is that a recurring female character, **Kate**, played by **Elisabeth Rohm**, will be a possible love interest for **Angel**. We'll also likely see some crossover with **Buffy** with some of the regulars and recurring characters appearing on each show.

NBC's **Profiler** will get a new lead character, **Ally Walker** is leaving the show and will be written out in the season's opening two-parter, which will also introduce **Jamie Lumer** as **Rachel Burke**, the new **Profiler** that will be the focus of the show.

On **Earth: Final Conflict**, the season starts off with the Resistance crushed, **Lili** captured and arrested for treason and **Liam**, **Augur** and **Doors** in hiding. **Lisa Howard's** **Lili** will be absent through the first half of the season while she is on maternity leave. Joining the cast will be **Jayne Heitmeyer** as **Renee Palmer**, a security officer for **Doors**.

We've got a few new shows debuting this fall, but nothing that really jumps out at you as a must watch. FOX's new genre entry is "**Harsh Realm**" from **Chris Carter** that will air on Friday nights in the time slot **Millennium** had for the last three years. The series is based loosely on a comic book of several years ago. It features **Scott Bairstow** as Lt. **Thomas Hobbes** who survived action in **Sarajevo** but is woken up in the middle of the night to be taken to a secret installation where he is connected to a highly complex and realistic virtual reality "game". He's sent in to take out



Roswell

the highest scoring player, **Omar Santiago** (**Terry O' Quinn**), who has taken control of the world within the game. He meets up with other soldiers who have been sent in and are still

connected such as **Mike Pinnocchio** (**D.B Sweeney**) as well as virtual representations of people from the real world, including his fiancée **Sophie** (**Samantha Mathis**). The pilot sets up the premise well, but leaves you wondering what else they can do week after week, especially since if he succeeds in his mission, the series is over.

The lone new genre show on the big three networks is "**Now & Again**" on CBS, which is somewhat of a \$6 million man for the new millennium. The show is about a middle-age insurance salesman, **Ben Wiseman** - played by **Eric Close** - who is killed in an auto accident and his brain is transplanted into a new body giving him a new life as a government agent. One condition is that he is not suppose to have contact with his family and friends, but since his family and friends are regulars, that won't last long. The show was created by **Glenn Gordon Caron** ("**Moonlighting**"), so expect some comedy along with the action.

The WB has picked up **Roswell**, which had been in development for FOX. The last time they pulled that move was with **Buffy**, although I doubt if **Roswell** will do as well as **Buffy**. Its about high school students in **Roswell, New Mexico**, who discover that some of their classmates are actually aliens who were orphaned on earth after the **Roswell** crash. Producer/ Creators include **Jason Katims** ("**Relativity**" "**My So-Called Life**), **David Nutter**



Harsh Realm

("The X-Files", "**Disturbing Behavior**") and **Jonathon Frakes** ("**ST:TNG**"). Cast includes **William Sadler**, **Colin Hanks** (**Tom Hanks'** 19-year-old son), **Shiri Appleby** and **Jason Behr**.

UPN is trying to jump on the retro-spy bandwagon (which didn't succeed on ABC with "**Spy Game**" a couple of seasons back) with **Secret Agent Man**. This looks promising in that it is produced by **Barry Sonnenfeld** and **Barry Josephson** and will take a tongue-in-cheek approach to the whole genre. The series focuses on a trio of covert, jet-setting agents of P.O.I.S.E., a top-secret arm of the government that monitors high-stakes global espionage. There's **Monk**, **Costas Mandylor** ("**Picket Fences**"), a guy who does it with panache, high-tech gadgetry, and if necessary, physical strength. He's partnered with the highly-skilled, no-nonsense beauty **Holliday**, **Dina Meyer** ("**Starship Troopers**") and together, they shepherd the agency's newest recruit, **Parker**, **Dondre T. Whitfield** ("**Between Brothers**"), whose straight-laced manner is in stark contrast to **Monk's** freewheeling style. If UPN

gives the show a chance, it might do well.

UPN is also moving their movie night to Friday's, renaming it "**Blockbuster Video's Shockwave Cinema**" but continuing their slate of action/adventure/sci-fi movies. Promised for the new season are movies from creative talent which includes **Neil Moritz** ("**Cruel Intentions**", "**I Know What You Did Last Summer**"); **Robert Duncan McNeill** ("**Star Trek: Voyager**"); **Bennett Cohen** ("**Chameleon**"); **Ian Barry** ("**Inferno**"); **Parker Stevenson** ("**Baywatch**"); and **Glen Larson**, creator of "**The Six Million Dollar Man**," who brings the next generation of bionics to life with "**Platinum Man**." Also scheduled is a movie based on **Robert Heinlein's** only original television screenplay, "**The Novo Bomb**."

Over on the syndicated side, Renaissance Pictures will be replacing **Hercules** in January with two half hour series "**Cleopatra 2525**" and "**Jack of All Trades**". **Cleopatra** is about an actress and part-time exotic dancer in 2001 who is cryogenically frozen. She is awakened in the year 2525 by two female warriors. She learns that earth is under the rule of evil robots and she joins the warriors in the battle to liberate humanity. "**Jack of All Trades**" was originally developed with **Bruce Campbell** in mind, but he passed on taking on the series. It revolves around an aristocratic James Bond-like spy in the British Secret Service named **Jack Styles** in 1699. He is aided by **Emilia**, a highly successful working class agent posing as the daughter of a long lost cousin of Governor **Don Carlos**.

Rysher's "**Relic Hunter**" features **Tia Carrere** as a cross between **Indiana Jones** and **Tomb Raider's** **Lara Croft**. She's an archeology professor who searches the globe for rare artifacts. Carrere has described her character, **Sydney Fox**, as, "sexy and tough, but she also kicks ass" even as she seeks out antiquities and encounters danger. Carrere also revealed that her heroine doesn't use a gun, choosing whenever possible to use her physical skills to knock out, kick or toss foes.

For SFTV schedule listings, news, and links, check out the **Magrathea/SFTV** Web page at <http://tv.acmecity.com/scifi/4>. You can also email me at leew@goodnet.com if you have any SFTV questions or comments.



Secret Agent Man

tion are **Dungeons and Dragons** from producer **Joel Silver** that is currently filming in Prague in the Czech Republic. The story is about an evil wizard (**Jeremy Irons**) who is trying to overthrow a kingdom ruled by a benevolent empress. Other cast members include **Zoe McLellan, Justin Whalin, Marlon Wayans, Thora Birch, Kristen Wilson** and **Tom Baker** as the elf Hallvarth.

John Travolta is starring in a movie adaptation of **L. Ron Hubbard's Battlefield Earth** currently filming in Canada. The movie will cover the first half of the book, leaving it open to do the second half as a sequel. Travolta is the alien Terl, the head of security for the extraterrestrials who have enslaved Earth. **Barry Pepper** is Jonnie Goodboy Tyler, who leads a human revolution.

Also in the works and still in pre-production are "**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy**" which is now being developed for Disney by **Douglas Adams** and director/producer **Jay Roach**. Adams said recently in a London Times interview that he thinks it will finally get made after several aborted attempts with other studios and producers. Roach has commented that Adams thinks that **Hugh Laurie** would be good as Arthur Dent for the movie.

One other British institution may finally have a good shot at the big screen. Producers **Paul Anderson** and **Jeremy Bolt** (Event Horizon and Soldier) are reportedly working on developing a **Doctor Who** movie. Nothing has been finalized with the BBC but this may be able to get off the ground when others haven't. As expected, there's various rumors about who would be The Doctor, none of them confirmed or acknowledged. I'd say the only sure bet casting wise would be that **Sean Pertwee, Jon Pertwee's** son would be in the cast since he's had a major role in Anderson's other two recent SF movies. - Lee Whiteside

Austin Powers, The Spy Who Shagged Me

This is a delightful, eclectic spoof of your traditional spy movies. Actually it touches on James Bond, Flint, Star Wars, The Six Million Dollar Man and too many others to list. The movie fan will see off-the-cuff references in every scene. Sometimes the entire scene spoofs a scene from another film. No film category is safe.

Also the movie is delightfully obscene, reminding one of Aristophanes at his best.

The film cannot be said to have a rigorous plot but he does save the Earth, get the girl, fly to the moon and thwart Evil. I left the film laughing. What more can one ask. — Gary Swaty

UPCOMING GENRE RELEASE SCHEDULE (schedules subject to change)

August 6th - **Mystery Men, The Sixth Sense, The Iron Giant, The Ninth Gate**
August 20th - **Universal Soldier: The Return, Teaching Mrs. Tingle**
August 27th - **The 13th Warrior, The Astronaut's Wife, Stigmata**
Sept 17th - **A Stir of Echoes**
Oct 8 - **Lost Souls**
Oct 15 - **Scream if You Know What I Did Last Halloween**
Oct 29 - **Princess Mononoke, House on Haunted Hill**
Nov 5 - **The Messenger: The Story of Joan of Arc, Man on the Moon**
Nov 19 - **The World is Not Enough, Sleepy Hollow**
Nov 24 - **The End of Days, Toy Story 2**
Dec 10 - **Scream 3, Stuart Little, Galaxy Quest**
Dec 17 - **The Green Mile**
Holiday release - **Bicentennial Man**
Jan 1 - **Fantasia 2000** (Imax only)
Jan 15 - **Supernova**

Videophile

Cruel Intentions

Sarah Michelle Geller, Ryan Philippe, Reese Witherspoon
Columbia Pictures 97 min R

Kathryn (Sarah Michelle Geller) and her step-brother, Sebastian (Ryan Philippe) are twisted siblings playing games with other people's lives. After seducing his therapist's daughter Sebastian is looking for a new conquest, which Kathryn happily provides. She challenges Sebastian to seduce the new headmaster's virgin daughter, Annette (Reese Witherspoon). The stakes? If Sebastian succeeds he gets to bed Kathryn, if he loses, she gets his most prized possession. All goes as planned until Sebastian falls in love with his intended victim.

A modern day reworking of Dangerous Liaisons, this movie actually works well. The plot moves along at a good pace and it is a delight to watch Sebastian work his way into Annette's life and Annette work her way into Sebastian's heart. - Stephanie L Bannon

Inferno

James Remar, Stephanie Niznik
Paramount 90 min PG-13

A massive solar flare is headed towards earth sending temperatures soaring and causing environmental disasters. Will mankind survive when the solar flare engulfs the earth, sending temperatures into the 140 range? Obviously a made for TV movie, this disaster of the week is actually kind of interesting. The plot has

a few holes and none of the characters are truly engrossing but the pace is quick and I'm a sucker for end-of-the-world scenarios. - Stephanie L Bannon

Tale of the Mummy

Jason Scott Lee, Louise Lombard
Dimension 88 min Not Yet Rated

Egypt, 1948. The previously undiscovered tomb of Talos is found and opened, tragedy strikes and the tomb is blasted shut. Fast forward 50 years, the tomb is reopened and while there are a few strange incidents, things go as planned and the artifacts are sent to the British Museum.

London, 7 months later and just days before an alignment of the planets. A museum guard is injured, the mummy wrappings of Talos are stolen. Strange, ritualistic murders follow as Talos reclaims his lost body parts from his reincarnated followers in order to achieve immortality. American Detective Reilly (Jason Scott Lee) is hot on the mummy's trail as is Sam Turkel (Louise Lombard), granddaughter of the archeologist who first discovered Talos' tomb.

The special effects are interesting and the plot is coherent enough to hold you until the end. Probably not a good one for the little kids, my guess is that it will get a PG 13 rating. Actually, this and Inferno would make a good Saturday night double feature. - Stephanie L Bannon

Timelock

Maryam D'abo, Arye Gross,
Jeff Speakman
MTI Video 100 minutes

Riley (Arye Gross) is a nice con man and computer hacker who is caught making large computer withdrawals without the banks permission. He is supposed to be sent to a minimum-security prison but there is a snafu and he is sent to the maximum-security asteroid.

The prisoners on the ship he is brought in on revolt and breakout the most dangerous prisoner in the galaxy (Jeff Speakman). Riley and the beautiful pilot of the prison transport ship (Maryam D'abo) must stop him or he will kill them while exploding the asteroid, which will then destroy an inhabited planet.

Definitely a 'B' film, but very good entertainment. Keeps your interest, lots of action, some love, and no nudity.

Rent for a Saturday evening's entertainment. -- Barry Bard

Southie

Donnie Wahlberg, Rose McGowan
Sterling Home Entertainment, 96 min

This movie was billed as an action film but it was really a very good drama. I thought the male lead did a great job as a man who comes home to his family to help them and finds himself. Rose

McGowan is interesting as the sister following her older brother's path to alcoholism. The other brothers were more like afterthoughts that were never quite fleshed out. Ann Meara did such a great job as the mother of these four that I almost recognized her as a neighbor of mine in Massachusetts. The movie is set in Boston and one of the subplots pits two rival Mob factions against each other. Having grown up in the area I found these two very believable and wouldn't be surprised to see either of them in the paper. Despite the type of movie and the appearance of violence there is little real violence and you could see this with most PG crowds. -- Bob LaPierre

Blood, Guts, Bullets, & Octane Lions Gate Films / Universal, 87 min

I read the quote on the box "A better film than **The Usual Suspects**" attributed to *The Village Voice*. I believe the quote referred to the actual quality of the film the movie was recorded on. I have been accused of being able to sit and watch paint dry; I couldn't take this movie. I brought in some professional couch potatoes, my family, and watched their reactions. It was like watching them get tortured by "Klingon pain sticks". They left the room after thirty minutes. As the reviewer I had to watch it all. Let me save you from that. The movie is Very, Very Bad. If someone suggests it to you, run away. I won't even give it a 1 out of 10. Avoid at all costs!! -- Bob LaPierre

Battle Athletes Victory

Pioneer 85 min

This is a piece of Japanese animation that is geared to 13 to 18 year old girls. I don't know, maybe I'm reading too much into it but, except for the competitor from Africa, the girls seem stereotypical members of their nationalities. The competitor from Africa on the other hand seems a vicious slam to people of African decent in particular and everyone else in general. She is portrayed as animalistic, superstitious, and lacking in control. Other than that the video is typical of the genre, big eyes, big breasts, and a heroine with bad luck. I won't rate this one. -- Bob LaPierre

Prisoner of Love

Eric Thal, Naomi Campbell
Sterling Home Entertainment 94 min

Another piece by Sterling, I like their movies but they need to classify them properly. This movie is maybe, if you stretch it, an action flick. I consider it a quirky romance movie. I enjoyed it, though some of the characters were over the top. Considering the violence (mostly out of scene), the eroticism (None), and the suspense (missing) you can't really

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call this an erotic thriller. Still the interplay between the characters was mostly believable. Don't expect nudity or suspense and you'll like it. 6 out of 10 -- Bob LaPierre

The Confession

Alec Baldwin, Ben Kingsley
Sterling Home Entertainment. 114 min

Wow. It took me a while to find the words to describe this movie. Alec Baldwin stars as a lawyer who'll do anything to get his clients off. Well that is why he is being considered for the District Attorney's office. Ben Kingsley is a very devout man who murders three care givers because they wouldn't help his son. This is a gripping drama and I for one am sorry it didn't go to the big screen. I don't want to spoil the movie but the box says it all "Trust No One". 9 out of 10. See it; help encourage more of this quality. -- Bob LaPierre

Pro News

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think), edited by **Jennifer Roberson**, and the piece is titled "The Castellon." Dragon-ladies, ravens, and blood. I did a short romantic fairytale farce ("Dream a Little Dream for Me") with my eldest daughter, **Laura Watkins**, for a U.S. anthology called *Mothers and Daughters*; this is now out in paperback from Signet. And I did a short nonfiction piece ("A Stillness at the Heart") for a companion anthology called *Fathers and Daughters*—also Dutton/Signet, out this past June in hardcover." In the short story realm, "I have a 'short' (well, it's 11,000 words, but it's not a *novel*, at least) piece titled Hellfire, originally published in *Past Poisons* ("The Ellis Peters Memorial Anthology of Historical Crime"—Headline, U.K.), now available through an e-publisher, Dreams Unlimited (www.dreams-unlimited.com). Thought it would be a good opportunity to dabble in e-publishing, and learn a bit about the potentials and pitfalls. Let's see...oh, and the UNabridged (i.e., perfectly huge) audiotope version of *Voyager* has just been released; the unabridged audio of *Drums* will be released in September—all the *Outlander* books are done in UNabridged (i.e., complete) format by Recorded Books, Inc. These are wonderful tapes, done by an actress named **Davina Porter**—just great! I think that's all the hard news at the moment. We got a couple of production companies who want to do a two-night TV miniseries of *Outlander*, but I just said I'd talk to them—no deals made yet. Oh—conferences and appearances; I guess I should give you those, too (in case you have a whole lot of blank space left over ;-)). I'm doing book-signings in Nottingham (U.K.) on August 13, York on August

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14—and an 'event' (reading, talk, etc.) for the Edinburgh International Book Festival, August 16th. Then I'll be signing books (and possibly reading) at the Pleasonton Highland Games in Pleasonton, CA (where else?) over Labor Day weekend; I'll be at the Scottish Images booth, probably both Saturday and Sunday, certainly Saturday. I'm doing two workshops for the Celtic Women International conference in Milwaukee, WI, October 7-9, and various workshops, talks, etc. at the Surrey Writers Conference in Surrey, BC (near Vancouver) October 21-24, and will be giving the keynote talk (and doing a public signing) for a romance-writer's conference in Dallas, Nov. 20th."

Diana Gallagher Burke moved to Florida and is now writing *Buffy, The Vampire Slayer* novels. Her first mass market paperback in this series, *Obsidian Fate*, will be released in September 1999. She has three additional *Buffy* adult and YA books in progress. Her seventh novel based on the ABC series *Sabrina, The Teenage Witch*, entitled *Reality Check*, is scheduled for release next May.

Cartoonist **Ruben Gerard** has just completed a collection of his new comic strip, *Penny and Wade*, and has bound them together in a book entitled *More Chocolate, Less Stress*. It is an independent work which prompts him to look for a distributor at the current time. But he is making headway by booking himself into bookstores like Bookstar and B. Dalton for signings and demonstrations.

Alan Gutierrez reports, "I've just finished a painting for a game called *J.U.M.P. (Justified Use of Military Power)*. I also have art that appeared in a two-page spread in *Popular Mechanics*' July issue, entitled "Anatomy of Alien Nation." Have a cover appearing in the Sept. issue of the *Sedona Journal of Emergence*.

Gerald Hausman says, "I have two new books coming out. *The Coyote Bead*, a novel published by Hampton Roads (October 1999). It is the true story of The Long Walk of the Navajo, comparable to the Cherokee Trail of Tears. Also forthcoming, *Dogs of Myth* a collection of stories about superdogs published by Simon and Schuster (November 1999). This book is lavishly illustrated by award winning artist **Barry Moser**."

Katherine Lawrence's latest animated offering will appear on BKN (in syndication) beginning Spring 2000. Titled *Roswell Conspiracies: Aliens, Myths & Legends*, it's a cross between *The X-Files* and *Men in Black*. Lots of action, lots of conspiracies within conspiracies. Look for episode #30, titled "Monster Within." She also recently expanded her freelancing to include marketing/public relations writing. A full list of credits in all media can be found at www.wordmagik.com along with copies of three scripts.

Daryl F. Mallett just completed twenty

essays for *Encyclopedia of Major Marketing Campaigns* to be released later this year by Gale Research Corp./St. James Press. Other essays will also appear in various editions of *Vocational Biographies* and Salem Press' *Critical Survey of Long Fiction: Second Revised Edition*, among others. A nonfiction book, *Pilgrims & Pioneers: The History and Speeches of the Science Fiction Research Association Award Winners*, ed. with **Hal W. Hall**, will be released from SFRA Press in 1999. He just finished editing a new edition of *Lord of Atlantis: A Golden Amazon Adventure*, by **John Russell Fearn**, for Gryphon.

Technothriller novel *White Horse*, written in collaboration with **Kevin Birnbaum** is being considered by a small publishing house, and a screenplay of the same name is making the rounds. Daryl is now working on novel *Lava* with **Max Espinoza**, based on the comic book character of the same name created by Espinoza & **Ruben Gerard** and *Like the Awesome Gleam of Crystal*, a novel based on **E. C. "Ted" Tubb's** 1954 classic *Alien Life*, "which I hope will turn into a collaboration with Ted." *Morpheus*, a project based on the CD-ROM game of the same name, died with the company's entrance into Chapter 11 Bankruptcy. An interview with **Stephen R. Donaldson** can be found on *Phantastes: The Online Journal of Fantasy Criticism*; www.nocturne.org/phantastes is the URL. Daryl's writing website is at www.geocities.com/Area51/1295 and www.bluefiretech.com is his business site.

Peter L. Manly's novel *Dragon Three Two Niner* was published on-line "using **Michael McCollum's** web site. An e-mail download costs \$5.00 on your Visa card at <http://www.scifi-az.com/manly> and includes a downloadable cover art by **Armand Cabrera**."

Jack McDevitt reports that his "newest novel is *Infinity Beach*, due out from HarperPrism at the end of the year. (It will be released in the U.K. as *Slow Lightning*.)"

Marianne O. Nielsen says she attended "a weekend retreat of about twenty Canadian speculative fiction writers and editors (and families) in Clear Lake Alberta the July long weekend." Marianne mumbled something about "...trained Canadian killer attack mosquitos..." and then the line went dead...

Adam Niswander says, "*The Repository*, a novel of magick and the occult, will premiere at CopperCon in September 1999. It is a trade paperback and will cost about fourteen bucks. My short story, "The Licentious Lycanthrope," will be in Pulp Eternity's *Alternatives* anthology around January 2000. A nonfiction piece called "A True Story" will appear in *Hot Summer Nights*, the July special issue of *Bloody Muse*, an online e-zine which can be found at the following URL: [<http://westwood.fortunecity.com/chanel/338/>

bm/bm.htm]. There are two other completed novel projects in submission, both by request, but contracts haven't been signed yet. I'll let you know when they are."

From **Jennifer Roberson**: Coming soon to a bookstore near you: *Lady of Sherwood* (November 1999) "is a sequel to *Lady of the Forest*, my take on the Robin Hood legend from Marian's point of view, with another lovely dustjacket by **Yvonne Gilbert**. A great Christmas gift! According to the publisher, Kensington, Advanced Reading Copies will be given out at WFC." In a new deal: "I have just signed deals with Goldmann (Germany) and DAW (U.S.) for the first three volumes in my *Karavans* fantasy universe, with combined payment terms in excess of a half-million U.S. dollars. *Karavans*, which will be comprised of stand-alone novels, as well as duologies and trilogies, will feature humans, gods, demons, magical beasts, and immortals living, dying, and metamorphosing in a sentient world that shifts times and places at will. The first *Karavans* novel will probably appear at the end of 2001, as I must first write *Sword-Sworn*, the sixth novel in my *Sword-Dancer* series, which is due out in Y2K." Outward bound: "As this is being written, I am heading off for a 3-day whitewater rafting expedition on the Tuolumne River outside of Yosemite National Park. Other local SF notables along for the ride are **Mike Stackpole**, **Liz Danforth**, **Melanie Rawn**, **Dennis McKiernan**, and Dennis's wife, **Martha Lee**."

Spider Robinson says, as far as public appearances go, "all I have to report is, **Jeanne [Robinson]** and I will be co-GoHs at Exoticon II in New Orleans, November 19-21, 1999." But in other notes, "Tor will re-release *Callahan's Crosstime Saloon* in paperback in January 2000, and will publish a new novel of mine, *The Free Lunch*, in hardcover in June 2000. Bantam will be publishing the latest Callahan-series book, *Callahan's Key*, sometime in 2000 in hardcover; it's been delivered and accepted but not yet scheduled. (It will move Jake and the entire gang from Long Island down to Key West...where they always belonged in the first place...and where they hope to help Nikola Tesla atone for having accidentally caused Tunguska.) Reprint rights to *Starmind*, the third and final book in the *Stardance* series (all collaborations by Spider and Jeanne Robinson) have been sold to Baen Books, which has already reprinted the first two books (*Stardance* and *Starseed*) in a single volume called *The Stardancers*. And Baen has also just bought a story collection, *By Any Other Name*, containing the Hugo Award-winning story of the same name. Neither has yet been scheduled." On short stories: "Sorry, haven't written one in years. For

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assorted reasons." Regarding journalism: "Eight weeks ago, I shut down "The Crazy Years," my regular triweekly Op-Ed column in Canada's national newspaper, *The Globe and Mail*, after a run of over three years and 50 installments. Two weeks after THAT (that is, six weeks ago), I began a NEW triweekly column—not in Op-Ed but in *The Globe's* Technology section—titled "Past Imperfect, Future Tense." The columns can be found at *The Globe's* website; the most recent installment, "Senator Soxdryer and the Two Million Dollar Boondoggle," ran Thursday, 15 July; next one should run Thursday 5 August. That's all I got for now. Except that I quit smoking tobacco 27 days ago. (That's one reason I've scheduled no cons for the next year: hard to imagine getting through one without a cigarette or fifty...)"

Scott P. "Doc" Vaughn reports that "issue #3 of *Mules & Vaughn Magazine*, with stories and contributions by **Tamera K. Frahm** and **Daryl F. Mallett** went to the printers over a week ago, *Hero-Lore* #1/2 (M&V's first comic book title) went to the same printer last week, and *Hero-Lore* #1 was sent (completely digitally—oooooh!) to another printer yesterday. Our comic is finally in print!!! Thanks to everyone for all their help and support, and I'll be announcing any and all books' return in full printed form the day they arrive!"

Sean Alan Wallace reports that "Cosmos Books, a U.S./U.K. publishing company, entered the small press market with *Death God's Doom*, by **E. C. 'Ted' Tubb**, in early March of this year. It soon was followed up with a sequel, *The Sleeping City*, in early July. Projects planned for later this year and the next include *Fantasy Annual 3*, an original science fiction anthology containing short stories by such authors as Tubb, **Sydney J. Bounds**, **Norman Lazenby**, **Andrew Darlington**, **John Russell Fearn**, **Philip E. High**, **Eric C. Williams**, **Ken Alden**, and **David Somers**; *Manton's World*, by Fearn; and a short story collection by High. Early next year, Cosmos Books will complement its fiction publications with several nonfiction book projects. The first, planned for March 2000, will be a definitive and comprehensive bibliography of **A. E. van Vogt**, by **Daryl F. Mallett**, with an introduction by **George Clayton Johnson**, to be published as a limited edition hardcover. All books are and will be available through various outlets, including specialty SF bookstores and online bookstores, including amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. Further inquiries regarding all these projects may be directed to: Sean Alan Wallace; 415 Merriman Road; Akron, OH 44303 or sean.wallace@usa.net

That's it for now! I'm in the wilds of Minnesota right now, so I'm e-filing this column. Ain't technology grand?
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In Our Book

Virtual Girl

Amy Thomson
Ace Books, 248 pp., \$4.99

This is a well-written novel that brought a tear to my eye, and not for the usual button-pushing reasons. The virtual girl is the robot Maggie, who started out as an artificial intelligence (AI) computer program. Her creator, Arnold, has broken the law, because AI programs are illegal in the mid-21st century. Thus, Maggie and Arnold have become fugitives, adventuring from Seattle across the country to New York. They get separated, and Maggie must go it alone for years. Along the way, she learns about sex, violence, street crime, homeless people, and riding railroads as a hobo. She makes friends with a few people in her travels. Maggie also finds another sentient AI program, Turing, overlooked in a library's computer system. By the end of the book, all of the characters have grown and changed with their experiences: Maggie, Arnold, Turing and others.

This set-up allows Thomson to make insightful observations on our world, using the device of the objective outsider. Maggie "wonders" a lot, and sometimes comes to conclusions. For example, she realizes that people can't have the ultimate closeness that AI programs can have by sharing memories. Instead, the best we can do is to have sex, and that's just nowhere close if you're an AI robot.

The book's title is clever and trendy, but not really apt given that Maggie is a robot. That is my only complaint, but I wouldn't change the title. It's just that this is not a story with any "virtual reality" in it. We don't have people trapped in a computer network, a common science fiction motif. Instead, we have the other common motif of a computer character loose in the human networks, but most of the time she is in her robot body. She is a virtual girl because she has compassion, or virtual humanity. And that is an authorial accomplishment. Thomson writes so well that I really cared about Maggie. Her story is a personal odyssey in which she discovers life and the real world, overcoming loneliness and finding friends. So what, you may say? She a robot with real feelings, that's what. --Michael Griffin

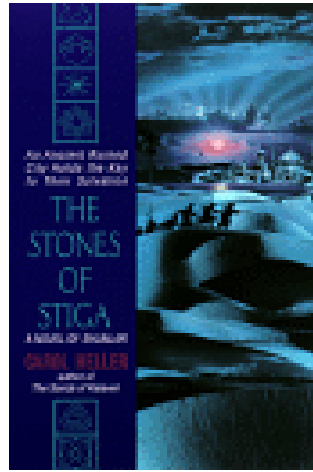
The Stones of Stiga

Carol Heller
Avon Eos Books, 308 pp., \$5.99

This is book three of the Shunlar Chronicles, a fantasy revolving about a desert Bedouin-like culture. While most of the characters are essentially human, all possess varying degrees of telepathy and mind shields. Shape shifting creatures exist, including Shunlar, a woman

who can turn into a dragon. The novel starts with Shunlar bringing her baby son to his unknowing father Ranth in the city of Kalaven. Once reunited, they must go on a dual quest: to save Ranth's life from bad magic tattooed on his back, and to return Shunlar's shape shifting friend Bimily to her own people, else she too will die.

This book is unusual in two ways. Aside from Frank Herbert's *Dune* or C.J. Cherryh's *Faded Sun* novels, I don't know of any series so centered upon a desert culture. More significant, this novel is centered upon more mature characters, not just irresponsible youths searching for their identities. That is standard heroic quest formula, the youthful quest for identity, typically transmuted into saving the world. Instead, we have Shunlar torn between two men, with a baby to raise. And Ranth



must confront the unexpected reality of fatherhood. And we still get a sense of wonder from the world painted by Heller, if you like deserts and ancient ruined cities like Stiga. If you don't, what are you doing living in the SouthWest?

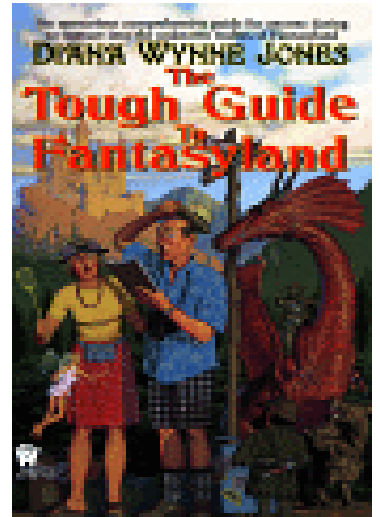
Since this is the third in a series, there are two prior novels to enjoy, which I'm sure I would. Some thoroughly evil characters reappear in this book, well conveyed by the author. Telepathic mind control allows these villains to start a war, which does give short shrift to human motivations, in part. And the final ten pages does wrap up everything with as much violence as possible, which does keep the story at an adventure level. But that's OK given some of the other innovations in the story. Do you know what happens to dragon's hearts when they die? And what about Lifestones, which bond with people and become their personal guardian angels and protective talismans? I won't reveal some of the wondrous surprises of the whole series. You get the picture: it's fun. ----
Michael Griffin

The Tough Guide to Fantasyland

Diana Wynn Jones
DAW, 303 pp. \$6.99

Have you found yourself unsure of the rules in your latest fantasy? Been unable

to tell a gryffin from a wyvern or identify some strange creature desiring to end your life? Truly, you need *The Tough Guide to Fantasyland*. Make your next adventure more enjoyable with this handy travel guide written in Diana Wynn Jones's tongue-in-cheek satirical style. Her fans would have to have it anyway, and there can never be too much fun on an adventure. Even fantasy haters might enjoy this perspective. --Pam Allan



Changer

Jane Lindskold
Avon, 498 pp. \$5.99

"Changer" is a modern fantasy officially described as a novel of the Athanon by the author of "Brother to Dragons," "Companion to Owls," and "When the Gods Are Silent." As the increasingly technological world approaches the new millennium, the current persona of Gilgamesh and King Arthur administers the Accord protecting his subjects (immortal as well) from discovery by the human race. Unfortunately, some think it is time the mundane world learns that many of the supposed creatures of myth live among or along side of them. Unfortunately, manipulating them, the forces of Loki, Nimue, and a creation of Merlin known as the head, wish to bring down Arthur and the Accord which has stood since Ragnarok. In their plans, they arouse one of the ancients, the Changer, a shape shifter older than man, and brother to the King of the Sea himself. When they destroy all but one special coyote puppy of the changer's family, they set in motion their own Nemesis. The action flows from the wilds of New Mexico to the rain forests of Brazil. The bottom of the sea to the New Mexico State Fair and involves almost all of the supposedly mythical creatures.

You won't want to put this one down, specially if you love urban fantasy. I have always preferred to think that the creatures of myth might still be just around the corner of my consciousness. This rousing story not only meets my literary requirements, but gives a thrill to my illogical hopes. I need more fantasy and less Kosovar reality. -- Pam Allan

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Helm

Steven Gould
Tor, 468 pp, \$6.99

“Helm” is a science fiction/adventure by the author of “Jumper” and “Wildside.”

When global devastation wipes out Earth, colonists flee to the moon and send other remnants to a distant terra-formed world-in-process. Unable to provide the technology, they send imprinters to pass on the needed knowledge.

As centuries pass, Luddites destroy all but one imprinter. One person in each generation. Usually the heir to the province of Laal takes arduous training to survive the imprinting to advance knowledge in the land. But times change, and it is the fourth son who climbs the forbidden rock and dons the helm. Imprinted, he must go through tortuous trial before beginning training. Meanwhile, the rival states begin a war to conquer the rest of the new world. Can Leland de Laal foil the wars of conquest and bring peace without the training the helm usually requires, without madness, agony and death that has taken the others who have donned the helm unprepared?

Steven Gould continues as the worthy successor to Robert Heinlein. For an afternoon of reading with a book that holds your interest, buy this one. If you don't like SF adventure but are into Martial arts you'll like it just as well. -- Pam Allan

Science Fiction Theater

Brian Forbes, Editor
MGM, 221 pp, \$12.95

“Science Fiction Theater” may be based on the series, but the compilation of four novellas and a short story by five authors of note is definitely worth reading.

The first story, “The Mendalian Lamp,” with its biotechnology running amok, is by Paul Levinson. The second, “Leader Of The Club” by Marc Scott Zicree, is for all those who wonder if Disney is taking over the world. Third, is Gregory Benford's “Dance To Strange Music,” the purest science fiction of the lot. Kevin Anderson's “Human Martian, One Two Three” deals with the human costs of change. The final story is part fantasy pitting the Norns against technological man (my favorite).

All of the stories are excellent, with something for every one. Though they vary in concept and content, they share good writing and interesting ideas. Though the price makes my wallet cringe, I have to recommend it. --Pam Allan

Signal To Noise

Eric S. Nyland
Avon, 370 pp, \$6.99

“Signal To Noise” is SF by the author of “Dry Water.” Jack Potter is a mathematician and computer cryptogra-

pher in a cutthroat academic world. He has a history of black-hacking operations for the government. When a fellow academic frames him to get tenure, Jack is on the run. But Jack has found a signal in background radiation that sets him up as the middleman with the aliens that want to do business.

Before long, Pandora's Box has opened, and everyone wants a piece of the pie. Soon no one can be trusted, and the ultimate price is a hostile takeover and destruction of Earth.

This is a fast moving story, with good characters, and lots of plot twists and action. Despite all the math thrown around, usually a horror to us mathematically challenged, I couldn't put it down. This one's a keeper. -- Pam Allan

Luna Marine

Ian Douglas
Avon, 402 pp,\$5.99

“Luna Marine” is book 2 of The Heritage Trilogy and sequel to “Semper Mars.” It is a military space opera with the usual political overtones.

In “Semper Mars,” The discovery of the Builder's ruins on Mars revived cults centered on outer space gods who will show us the way, and given impetus to the US, Russian, Japanese alliance versus the UN war. The Marines, of course lead the charge in the space part of the war. When the US consortium finds that there are new alien discoveries on the moon, the marines land to take over the alien technologies, (with the usual problems of political officers that view their men as cannon fodder, and ignore dangers.)

What they find is a new alien race that may have held the Sumarian culture as slaves until another bunch of aliens wiped them out within our historical context. The Hunters of The Dawn who wiped out the Builders, and the new found An appear to have a history of killing off societies that reach a level that indicates a possible future rivalry. But can mankind drop its petty divisiveness long enough to prepare for a return?

The book follows a marine officer, an archeologist, and a new marine recruit in discovery of the alien tech, and an understanding of the alien threat. It also sets us up for a book three.

Although a reasonably good read for the military space opera, it does suffer from its own indecisiveness in theme. We see the pro marine and pro science, anti-politics bias with out clear orientation as to what should replace it (other than the career marines enviable loyalties) Hopefully, we shall see the results in the final volume. Meanwhile, the lovers of the military space opera will want to read it, and watch the development of the author's talents. -- Pam Allan

(For the best of the sub-genre try David Weber's Honor Harrington series, this year's CopperCon GOH)

Child Of The River

Paul J. McAuley
Avon, 306 pp, \$6.99

“Child Of The River” is the first book of Confluence by The author of “Eternal Light” and “Fairyland.”

Long ago in a Galaxy far, far away, the Preservers created a world of sentient animal bloodlines, bureaucracies, Laws, and stagnation. They also left the seeds of a heresy that has split the world into armed camps. The preservers then vanished.

Now, we have a baby, of unknown bloodline plucked from the coffin of a dead woman floating down Confluence's version of the Ganges. Yama is raised by a local administrator, and craves to know where he came from, and to be a hero. In the first chapter, we learn he has a gift for controlling machines and watchdogs (often mechanically augmented).

Folks try to kidnap him, reinforcing his belief in his destiny, and he is sent to the capitol, Ys, to studied for a Bureaucratic role. He decides to take off on his Quest of discovery. He collects a street person/squire, Pandaras, and a Cateran, a feline amazon, Tamora. He survives an adventure or two and by the end of the book is little closer to finding his bloodline and purpose. He does find that his kidnappers were good guys sent by a sort of holographic avatar, who disappears again right after confusing our hero a bit more. We are left as confused as Yama...to be continued.

We do have an imaginative bit of world building, and several nicely drawn characters. The author's reading of Joseph Campbell is obvious. However, I would have liked the pilgrim to have a bit more progress on his quest to draw me into the next book. This felt more like 306 pages of exposition, than a book that can stand alone. Maybe book two will pull it together for the reader. However book one is not one I would rush to the bookstore to purchase at this point. “Ancient Of Days” will be volume two. -- Pam Allan

Return To Mars

Ben Bova
Avon Books, \$25.00

Normally, I don't read sequels if I have not read the first book in the series but in Ben Bova's case I'll make an exception. This is the second book in his series which started with “Mars.” The sequel stands alone and you don't have to read the first one to know what's going on. Indeed, only one major character in “Return To Mars” appeared in the original book and after reading the sequel you'll want to go back and buy the first one.

The book is a classic tale of exploration; a small expedition far from any possible rescue, working with limited resources and relying on their own wits to survive a harsh environment. Now add a half a

dozen different personalities and let them interact. The results become interesting and the characters learn something about themselves. This is really a character driven book, although the exotic backdrop of Mars does provide some spectacular scenery and, of course, a little danger. It's a good read and a page turner all the way through. After over 50 novels, Bova shows us that he still has the Right Stuff. -- Pete Manly

Until...

Timmothy B. McCann
Avon Books, 272 pp., \$12

I'm a sucker for romances; read 'em all the time: Regencies, bodice-rippers and all. It's a secret vice...whoops, well, not so secret now..

Anyway, this is a charming romance about two career-oriented people in Gainesville, Florida, who realize there is more to life than just getting ahead.

Betty Robinson is the first African-American hired by a prestigious southern law firm and on the verge of being made partner. She's just won a big lawsuit for them and has just moved into her first house. And she has the satisfying love of a wonderful man in her life, Evander.

Of course, this is too good to last. Enter Andrew Patrick Staley “Drew” who runs a successful insurance company whose business about to take off with a big sale...but he's still trying to come to grips with the death of the love of his life, Felicia.

One night, on line, Drew meets “DeltaDream” (Betty) And they find they have so much in common, but both are naturally cautious about pursuing too closely the person behind the fine, smooth words on a computer screen and so don't reveal their real names or that they both live in Gainesville.

The course of true love never runs smooth and so it is no different with these two. Betty's affections for Evander are pushed to the limit and Drew's feelings for Felicia are tested by information he receives at the reading of her last will.

Both Drew and Betty then must make decisions that will change how they feel about each other, and the future.

This is an easy, slow-going romance, like a long afternoon with plenty of iced tea. If you like contemporary romances, this one's a pleasant summer read. --- Sue Martin

Yanked!

Nancy Kress
Avon, PB, 246 pp. \$4.99

“Yanked!” is the first book in a new young adult series, David Brin's “Out of Time,” in which teenagers from the present are pulled into the 24th century to help solve the problems the people of the future. The future is a Utopia with no

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war, pollution, disease, crime or violence but it comes at a price. The "grit" necessary to face tough challenges is lacking in the youth of the future making it necessary to pull teens from the past into the future.

In the first book, Jason and Sharon are pulled from 1999 to 2339 to join Jofrid from 987, Robbie from 1810 and Sor from 2239 on an mission to rescue the children of a lost colony and find a missing message. Aliens appeared in the galaxy six years earlier giving mankind gifts of technology and setting steps to help mankind progress to the next level.

The teens of today teach the teen of the future a few things while learning to believe in themselves and their abilities. Well written and not preachy, this looks like a good series for the younger science fiction fans (as well as some of us older ones). I look forward to the second book in the series. - Stephanie L Bannon



The Ultimate Star Wars Sticker Book
The Ultimate Star Wars Episode I Sticker Book

DK Publishing, PB, 8 pp, \$6.95

This eight page booklet is filled with shapes and information on the Star Wars characters, equipment and universe. Use the 4 pages of reusable stickers to match with the shapes and create your own color storybook. Looks like fun for the younger Star Wars fans. - Stephanie L Bannon

Star Wars Episode I
Incredible Cross-Sections

David West Reynolds
 DK Publishing, HB, 32 pp, \$19.95

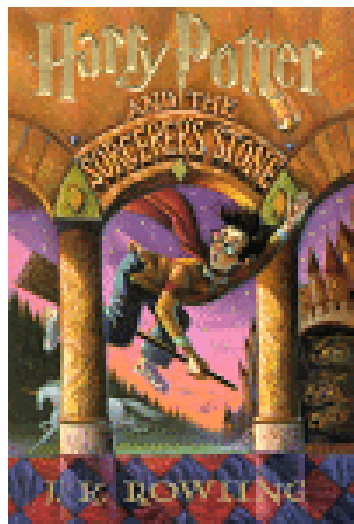
This book is chock full of all the information you want about the inner workings of most of the vehicles and spacecraft featured in Star Wars: The Phantom Menace. Included are the Naboo Queen's Royal Starship, Anakin's Podracer, Sith Infiltrator and a landing ship. The details are incredible and the artwork is a delight. A must for every true collector. - Stephanie L Bannon

Star Wars Episode I
The Visual Dictionary
 David West Reynolds
 DK Publishing, HB, 64 pp, \$19.95

This book provides a great deal of background information on many of the characters and peoples from Episode I. Beautifully illustrated it is a must for the serious collector and a delight for the casually interested fan. - Stephanie L Bannon

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
 J.K. Rowling
 Scholastic, HB, 509 pp, \$16.95

Harry Potter lives unhappily with his terrible aunt and uncle and horrid cousin until his eleventh birthday, when an owl delivers a letter of acceptance from Hogs-



warts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, and so begins Harry's adventure.

At school Harry makes friends, learns about magic, becomes a star athlete in an interesting sport called "Quidditch" and foils an ancient foe. Along the way he meets a giant, a dragon, ghosts, and gets a pet owl that delivers messages.

This is a delightful book that will capture children as well as their parents. I started it one evening with the intention of reading a chapter or two before bed and couldn't put it down until I had finished it. There will be one book for each year Harry is at school and I look forward to each and every one. - Stephanie L Bannon

Sisters of the Night: The Angry Angel
 Chelsea Quinn Yarbro
 Avon Books, 359 pp., \$13.50

OOoh, I love Chelsea Quinn Yarbro's vampiric St. Germain novels, and the satellite novels dealing with Olivia Clemens. So I was really looking forward to a new series of vampiric tales with a new character.

Well, actually, he's an old character (Dracula) and his relentless influence on a Greek girl named Kelene, that Yarbro postulates is one of the three "weird sisters" that appeared in the original

Bram Stoker work.

This is a grim tale set at the beginning of the 1500s as Kelene and her family are escaping Salonika, Greece from the marauding Turks who are taking over most of the Balkan states. Her family travels north, hoping to find some sympathetic branch of the family tree to help them out of their difficulties and allow them to reestablish themselves.

And thanks to Kelene's ongoing prophetic dreams (she's had them since she was four) from what they call one of the Militant Angels, her family is given advance warning of disasters and sage advice to help on their journey.

Her father thinks she is blessed by holy visitations, but as the demands and the dreams from 14-year-old Kelene's dark angel get more and more uncompromising and erotic, Kelene begins to realize this is not a dark, stern angel from God, but a dark unholy spirit whom we all know as Dracula.

And the story gets more and more grim as Kelene is sucked into the world of vampire and eventually becomes one of Dracula's handmaidens in his Transylvannian fortress who preys on travelers. Granted, Yarbro has Kelene struggle constantly with the growing horror of her condition and her moral repugnance, but of course, this is finally swept away by Dracula's overpowering desires. And at the end, the taking of one of her prey is a sad, twisted event, to show us how truly she is Dracula's heart and soul.

This book is developed with Yarbro's wonderful attention to historical detail and her ability to give the reader a real sense of time and place.

But I admit, the reason I've always like Yarbro's vampires are because they were moral beings who didn't prey on the helpless, but made something interesting and productive of their very long lives.

Dracula is a character that has never had any appeal to me: his "life" is an endless cycle of hunting and trapping souls for their blood, and maybe their souls, which to me, has always seemed rather, well, a dead end. Not much else can happen with a vampire: they must seek out fresh blood of some kind and they must not go out in the sun, sleep on their home soil, garlic is no good, etc. It's a tight cycle with little room for advancement or "growth," except on Yarbro's approach with St. Germain. And it's not like I feel: "Okay Yarbro, don't try anything new; stick with what you've been successful with," it's just I'm not interested in the real vampire tales of blood, horror and gore. I've never read the original Stoker, and have no desire to. Nor have I ever been able to get through Interview with a Vampire (though I tried twice). I'm just a wuss when it comes to dark scary, evil stuff with no redemption or hope.

There are two more books to come,

about the other two "weird sisters" which I shall pass on. -- Sue Martin

Aramaya
 Jane Routley
 Avon Eos books, 278 pp., \$13.50

This, the third in a series, is an entertaining little foray into a fantasy world loosely based on Renaissance period Czarist Russia.

And like any good Russian tale, takes place mostly in a winter landscape.

Dion Holyhands, the Demonslayer of Gallia, goes to the country of Aramaya to track down an errant niece, Dally, whom she believes may be dabbling in necromancy and demons. And it all may have something to do with her old nemesis Bedazzler, a demon.

Saving the ship sailing her from her native Moria when it hits a vicious storm, she lands in Aramaya and is befriended by Prince Nikoli, a dark, handsome mage, close to the Aramayan emperor and a demon hunter. They take a shine to each other, and Nikoli proves a good, but complicated friend with his own agenda.

Lady Dion is not only traveling with her sympathetic friend Kitten (an adventurous and magical actress) but is leaving a miserable home-life: her husband has divorced her for being barren. And being barren is an obsession with Dion throughout the book.

Of course, she finds out she may not be barren after all...

Routley peoples this novel with wildly colorful magics, demons, nature spirits and a evil fortress, along with throwing in dollops of love and longing in a glittering world of imperial courts, fancy balls and the genteel life of the pseudo-Russian monied class, while Lady Dion sorts out her life and tracks down her niece. Her niece, it seems, maybe under a dark spell which proves very hard to break and takes them all: Kitten, Lady Dion, her good friends and servants the Simonettis, Prince Nikoli, Dally and even her just-divorced husband Shad, who comes to plead his case as a victim of fraud, to the steamy mysterious marsh world of the Crocodile Men.

Fast-paced, especially near the end, and fun, the only qualifier I have with this is that the character's obsession with her childlessness got a bit, well, TOO obsessive and intrusive. In her dark moments, Lady Dion constantly goes back to this subject and it got old, real quick. But otherwise, I really enjoyed the Czarist flavor of this book and may go and seek the other two books: "Mage Heart" and "Fire Angels." -- Sue Martin

End of Days

Dennis Danvers

Avon Eos, 384 pp, Hardcover/ \$16.00

OK first let me say this is a sequel to a book I did not read. I was able to follow the story and even enjoyed it; however, I felt much like I did when I watched "Thirdspace" from Babylon5. I didn't know all the relationships at the beginning and had to figure it all out. But also, like the movie it was understandable all



by itself. The Idea of "downloaded personalities" is not new and here it is a little more common than in say, the later "Heechee" books, but with similar questions about the nature of "LIFE". More character study than action as indicated in the title, I liked this book and I'll give it 8 out of 10. Go read it. - Bob LaPierre

Far Horizons

ed. by Robert Silverberg

Avon Eos, 496 pp, Hardcover/ \$27.50

This short story collection has a great premise, revisiting the authors best known or personal favorite worlds. This is a tall order. One, I'm happy to report, completely fulfilled. I can't claim to have read all of the series this book represents or even to have liked all the ones I have. But this book successfully captures the flavor of those I know and has given me a taste of those I don't know. I am unfamiliar with the works of Dan Simmons but I will be looking for his work after reading "Orphans of the Helix". I hope to see more of this type of book in the future. This is why I subscribed to Asimov's for so many years, the chance to be introduced to authors I haven't read yet. You probably won't like them all but there is a large enough mixture to insure you will like most. I give it 9 out of 10. Enjoy it and most importantly Share it! - Bob LaPierre

Club Listings

(To have your club listed or to correct your listing please contact the editor in writing.)

ADRIAN EMPIRE A medieval and renaissance recreationist club. Sword-fighting, arts, banquets, masquerades, dances. meets every Wednesday night from 7-10pm at Encanto Park. All are welcome. Free. For details, call (602)582-6990.

ARERIAL MIRAGE JUGGLING CLUB International Juggling Association affiliate club meets 7-10pm Wednesday evenings at Encanto Park. No dues, everyone welcome. All levels skill exchange in many areas of object manipulation. Devils' Club meets Fridays 5pm north of the Hayden Library on the ASU campus. For more info, call (602) 585-7623, or write 2326 E. Electra Lane, Phoenix, AZ 85024.

ARIZONA LANBASHERS LEAGUE

A collaboration of computer gaming enthusiasts, the Arizona LANbashers League throws quarterly LANparty events. Between parties, support is given to local groups who wish to advertise their own gatherings. We have no set genre of games and play anything from strategy games to first-person shooters to driving/flying simulations. No annual membership is required and admission to an event ranges from \$5-\$15. See our webpage for current events. Email: azlanbashers@earthling.net Web: <http://www.gibbed.com/all> VoiceMail: 602-306-9339

THE AWAY TEAM: The Away Team, is a general sci-fi appreciation group that meets once a month for discussion of various sci-fi news regarding several mediums to include: television, movies, video, books, comics, magazines, collecting, and so forth. The meetings are comprised of news, review and comment, BBS/computer news and help, meeting new members, video presentations, games, and socializing fun! Food and drinks are provided, via a \$3 munchie fee (per meeting) to compensate the host. (No other fees are involved.) The electronic home of the Away Team, is the Lightspeed Space Station BBS at (520) 325-6674.... Member ages for the group range from 13-40-something with both male and female members. Other activities include null-modem link gamefests, group theater movie viewings, convention trips and more. Have sci-fi fun in a relaxed, low-structure environment. **NO RUBBER EARS ALLOWED!!** For questions, you can call the BBS, or write to: LSS c/o R. Martin; 2522 N. Sparkman Blvd.; Tucson, AZ 85716

BASF Baja Arizona Science Fiction Association, a non-profit organization. Puts on TUS-CON Convention annually.

CENTRAL ARIZONA SPECULATIVE FICTION SOCIETY, INC. (CASFS)

The non-profit corporation that puts on CopperCon conventions, SmurfCons, HexaCons, occasional regional cons, and publishes Con-Notations. Best described as SF/F generalists with a strong bent towards literary SF/F. Guests welcome - meets at 8pm on the last Friday of each month in January thru September and the second Friday in October, November and December at JB's Restaurant, 2560 W. Indian School in Phoenix, AZ. Write PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082-2613 or call Bruce Farr at (602) 274-3014 or Stephanie L. Bannon (602)973-2341 for more information. Web: www.casfs.org

THE DARK ONES (Dark-wunz) n. 1) An organization formed for the expression and exploration of various cultural themes including, but not limited to, the Dark Ages and the Renaissance through forms of art including, but not limited to, painting, drawing, writing, photography, spoken word, and acts of characterization. 2) a member of this organization. 3) Information available at (602) 978-9314.

DAYSTAR HOLT Arizona's first and longest-running Elfquest fan club. Daystar meets to talk about EQ and related stuff, develop characters, publish stories in our 'zine *Playelf* and create an annual calendar. Other common interests include music, bellydance, camping and of course, SF. Membership is free (18 or over) and is attained by group vote after you attend two meetings or holt-related get-togethers. Meetings are usually the first Saturday of each month; for more info, call Tom or Janice at (602) 581-2258. They have a website up at <http://users.aol.com/daystarelf/daystar.htm>

DESERT LURKERS Tucson based Babylon 5 fan club. Meets and communicates via listserv over the Internet. Anyone with e-mail access can subscribe to the Desert Lurkers by sending e-mail to b5-l-request@dragon.org and putting "subscribe" (minus the quotation marks) in the subject line. Interested people can contact Alexander Goodrum at E-mail address: goodrum@AZStarNet.com

EARTHLINK SCI-FI CLUB SF generalists with some focus on comics and environmental issues. Meets at various conventions and occasions. Publishes a quarterly newsletter called *Cosmic Wavelengths*. For information contact them at 8508 E. San Lorenzo, Scottsdale, AZ 85258, or call Nohl Rosen at (602) 991-8847.

THE EMPIRE OF CHIVALRY AND STEEL, INC. The Empire of Chivalry and Steel specializes in the general recreation of the culture of the Middle Ages including all of the Art Forms, Events (Feasts, Tournaments, Ceremonies and Wars) and Combat Arts covering the years of 800AD up to 1650AD and any location within Europe or its explored territories. For more information contact Bart Smith (Phoenix) (602)937-6995 or Leonard Bird (Tucson) (520)742-2432

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF JEDI KNIGHTS

Members of the Tatooine Base have revised the International Brotherhood of Jedi Knights, a not-for-profit fan club dedicated to Star Wars. Membership is \$8.00 U.S. and/or \$11.00 (Canada/foreign) and includes a membership packet consisting of a one year subscription to *The New Jedi Times* (published 6 times a year), membership card, IBOJK charter & bylaws information on Jedi studies and a free gift. Checks should be made to either Patty Vance or Elizabeth Laignel. For further information send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: The I.B.O.J.K.; P. O. Box 5459; Glendale, AZ 85312-5459; or call either Patty or Lilly at (602) 843-8303. May the Force show you the way of the Jedi!

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION COUNCIL

Meets every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month. Meeting at the Westridge Mall (75th Ave. and Thomas Rd. Phoenix, AZ. The IFC is regimental (Using Ranks and structured similiarly to ST) but has social events as well. Attends local Creation And Trek Production Cons, and ST Movie premiers. POC for IFC is A/Fleet Admiral John Nelson (602) 934-3987 or by voice mail (602) 409-7169 or c/o P.O. box 14370 Phoenix, AZ 85063-4370. E-Mail: Bnelson502@aol.com Membership Approx 35-50. The Bi-Monthly newsletter is *Cactus Log*.

THE JEDI KNIGHTS Meetings are the 3rd Sunday of each month. For more information call Carol Alves, Publicity, (760)244-9593 or write Jedi Knights, c/o Jim Lowerre, 12291 Meade Street, Garden Grove, CA 92841-3629

LEPRECON, INC. One of the two Phoenix area corporations that put on yearly conventions. Best described as SF/F generalists with a main thrust into SF/F art. Guests are welcome. The meetings are quarterly on the second Saturday of February, May, August & November unless otherwise notified. August is the annual meeting where board positions are determined. For more information, write PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285 ; call Mike Willmoth at (602) 945-6890 or Email: mwillmoth@comuserve.com

(Cont'd on page 14)

Club Listings Cont'd from page 13
THE PHOENIX FANTASY FILM SOCIETY Film society for classic SF/F film. Membership is \$25 lifetime dues. PFFS also rents projectors, films, and video tapes. Contact PFFS, Box 30423, Phoenix, AZ 85067.

PHOENIX JAPANIMATION SOCIETY Local chapter of Japanimation/general animation oriented fans - meets monthly. Membership is free, though optional monthly newsletter is \$5/year or \$.50 per month. Call Tom Perry at (602) 996-2196 or write 3241 E. Altadena, Phoenix, AZ 85028.

RAGE ACROSS THE SOUTHWEST A Live Action Theatre Troupe based out of the ASU campus in Tempe, AZ. It is dedicated to the game Werewolf: The Apocalypse by White Wolf publishing. Contact Mike McLaughlin at (602)461-5842 or write 1730 W Emelita Place #2025, Mesa AZ85202-3144 or email to warlok@aztec.asu.edu

RAW GAMES (Role-players & Wargamers, Inc.) Role-players & Wargamers, Inc. is the Valley's oldest role-playing and wargaming club. Currently meeting at Carrow's Restaurant at 7th Street & Monte Vista in Phoenix every Sunday from 3pm-9pm (except during conventions and other special events). Open to new members - call (602) 849-9515.

ROLE PLAYING GAMES CLUB (RPGC) The official gaming club of Az. State University. Activities include: live-action roleplaying games, tabletop gaming, conventions, parties, etc. General meetings are open to the public and are held every Friday at 6pm in ASU's Memorial Union. Dues are \$5/semester. For more info, contact Michael McLaughlin, 1730 W. Emelita #2025, Mesa, AZ 85202-3144, or call (602)464-3144; RPGC@asu.edu

SCIENCE FICTION CONTINUUM The Science Fiction Continuum: An Independent Star Trek and Sci-Fi club in Phoenix, AZ. The SFCOM is an active club that participates in Local Phoenix, and Southwestern Star Trek and Sci-Fi conventions and movies. The SFCOM has three different divisions. The SFCOM itself, a free group where fun is the name of the game. The Deep Space SolarFlare (DSSF) an active member club in the International Federation of Treker's (IFT). This group is based on DS9 (a space station). And the IKV Sto-Vo-Kor (Independent Kilngon Vessel). A Klingon Bird of Prey, roming the desert looking for battle. Are the Fed's too soft, looking for combat, feel the call to glory. This is

the ship for you. Membership in the SFCOM is free! To join DSSF or the Sto-Vo-Kor a nominal fee for the national clubs involved and uniforms. For further information contact President John Nelson at (602) 409-7169 or on the internet at; BNelson502@aol.com or check out our web site. <http://members.aol.com/bnelson502/index.html>

SFACE (Speculative Fiction And Computer Enthusiasts) Phoenix College's one and only connection to the worlds of speculative fiction, including science fiction, fantasy, and horror as well as table top, live action and internet gaming, SFACE also serves as a guide through the Internet - both teaching basic use and utilizing as a source of speculative fiction. For more info, contact citizenjustice@hotmail.com

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

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

THE SOUTHWEST COSTUMER'S GUILD The Southwest Costumers Guild is a loose organization of persons interested in all facets of historical, cultural, science fiction, fantasy, and humor costume. Members are often seen on stage and behind the scenes at most 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. Call, write or email for details. Southwest Costumers Guild, PO Box 39504, Phoenix, AZ 85609 or call Randall Whitlock at (602)995-7514, email randwhit@aol.com or Website: <http://members.aol.com/souwesgld/guild.html>

STARBASE TUCSON Tucson Arizona based Star Trek club. For info call Geof Wood at (520) 746-1822 or write Starbase Tucson ; 3314 E. Benson Hwy ; Tucson AZ 85706. Email: pegasis409@aol.com

STONEHENGE BBS Enjoy over 60 online games including TradeWars 2002, StarFight, The Pit, Dirty Play, Usurper, LORD, and Battle Grid (new, like Battletech). Topical message boards, E-Mail, and Network Echoes. 1000's of files to download: utilities, games, GIF pictures, & more every day! Stop by and give us a try at Stonehenge BBS (602) 947-2223, FidoNet 1:114/120, 300-9600bps, V.32/V.42bis, 24 hours a day.

TARDIS TARDIS is a Phoenix-based General SF/Fantasy Fan Club, specializing in International media SF/Fantasy since 1983. TARDIS meets every two weeks at different locations around the valley. Activities include watching videos, discussions, parties, fund-raisers, auctions, games, camping trips and outings. We also maintain an active presence at local conventions. TARDIS publishes a monthly informative newsletter, *The Index File*, with a national circulation which is included with membership. Annual membership is just \$12.50. You can contact us at P.O. Box 63191, Phoenix, AZ 85082-3191, Voice Mail at (602) 864-0901, E-mail TARDIS-Info@primenet.com or visit <http://www.primenet.com/~jgeorge/tardis.html>

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

T.H.E.M. T.H.E.M. is ASU's science fiction and fantasy club. Weekly meetings are held in the Memorial Union, with dates to be announced after the semester starts. For more information, contact Becky Fox at E-mail rowan@asu.edu or phone 863-1543 To subscribe to our listserve, send a message to them-request@asu.edu.

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

TUCSON X-PHILES: The "Tucson X-Philes" are an X-Files appreciation group that meets once a month to socialize, discuss and review the program's episodes.. Currently, the newsletter fee is \$2.00 per issue. The electronic home of the "Tucson X-Philes" is Lightspeed Space Station BBS (520*) 325-6674 (Tucson), in conference #7. There is currently no fee for membership in the group. Member ages range from 16-40-something, with both male and female members. Those having questions, can call Joyce Kleikamp in Tucson at (520) 883-2813. (Address upon request.)

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 20 years of continuous activity. Dues are \$10/per year prorated when you join; no restrictions. Membership includes membership roster and monthly newsletter. Come to any two meetings at no obligation. For information, write the UFP at PO Box 37224, Phoenix, AZ 85069, or call Jim Strait at (602) 242-9203. Web page: <http://www.U-F-P.org> or Email to Info@U-F-P.org

UNITED WHOVIANS OF TUCSON A well-informed and very active Dr. Who club. \$15 yearly membership includes four issues of their fanzine - TARDIS Time Lore - written by semi-pros and other dedicated fans. For more information, contact The United Whovians of Tucson at P. O. Box 13541, Tucson, AZ 85732-3541. Also, you can contact the president at kfbuwot@aol.com or the vice-president at uwotwww@aol.com. The web page for the club is located at: <http://www.azstarnet.com/~hgadlng/uwotclub.htm>



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Convention Listings

Conucopia/NASFIC '99 (Anaheim, CA) **August 26-29, 1999**, Anaheim Marriott; (714)750-8000. GoH: Jerry E. Pournelle, FGoHs: Richard & Nicki Lynch. Memb: \$70 until 7/5/98; \$20 supporting. Info: NASFiC '99, c/o S.C.I.F.I. Inc., PO Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409; Email: info@99.nasfic.org. Webpage: http://www.99.nasfic.org/

Aussiecon Three/1999 Worldcon (Melbourne, Victoria, Australia) **September 2-6, 1999** World Congress Centre, Melbourne, Australia. GoHs: George Turner, Gregory Benford, Bruce Gillespie. Memb: A\$175/\$140. Info: Aussiecon Three, GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia; U.S. Address: PO Box 266, Prospect Heights, IL 60070-0266.

CopperCon 19 (Scottsdale, AZ) **September 10-12, 1999** Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona Author GoH: David Weber, Artist GoH: Brett Bass Memb: \$35 at the door, Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under - free; Room rates are \$65 plus tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 plus tax. (602) 991-2400 ; Info: CopperCon 19, PO Box 62613, Phoenix, AZ 85082, Phone (602)973-2341, Email: cucon@casfs.org

Incon '99 (Spokane, Wa) **October 17-19, 1999**, Spokane Valley Red Lion (509) 924-9000 GoHs: Charles de Lint and Margaret Organ-Kean Memb: \$15 until May 1, higher after. Info: Incon '99, P.O. Box 9112, Spokane, WA 99209-9112. E-mail: incon@juno.com http://www.cet.com/~triad3/incon.htm

TusCon 26 (Tucson AZ) **Oct 22-24, 1999** at the Executive Inn. GoH: Laurell K. Hamilton Artist GoH: Lee Seed Memberships \$30 until 10/1; \$35 at the door. Children 3-12 half-price Artists interested in panels should contact Rebecca (520) 293-1455 immediately! We are selling out fast. Amateurs welcome. Dealers contact Cristi at (520) 881-3709. Tables are \$45 and include one membership. More info: TusCon 26, PO Box 26822, Tucson AZ 85726

The 2nd Annual DOC SAVAGE CONVENTION (Scottsdale AZ) **October 23, 1999**, The Ramada Inn, 6850 E. Main Street, Scottsdale, Arizona. Noon until Midnight; Sponsored by THE ARIZONA FANS OF BRONZE. Friends, are you tired of getting blank looks and hearing "Doc who?" when you mention your hero, Doc Savage? Are you fed up with living without the camaraderie of friends who know and love Doc

Savage as much as you do? Well, here is what you have been waiting for! Cost is \$15, The Arizona Fans Of Bronze, 2415 West Temple Street, Chandler, Arizona 85224 (make check payable to: Rob Smalley) Call (480) 814-9468 before 9PM MST and ask for Rob. Email at: robsmalley@netvalue.net Webpage: http://members.netvalue.net/robsmalley/AZDocCon1999.html

4th Annual "Rocky's Autograph Picture & Collectible Show" (Tucson, AZ) **October 30, 1999** from 10AM to 4PM at the Viscount Suite Hotel, 4855 E. Broadway in Tucson, Arizona. Various actors and actresses including a High Chaparall reunion. Admission is \$5.00 per person. Kids under 6 are free with a paid adult. Tickets may also be purchased in advance by contacting Beverly at M.A.D.D.. 100% of all admission & the silent auction will go to M.A.D.D. this year. Contact: MADD Pima County Chapter, 4021 E Grant Rd., STE 102, Tucson AZ 85712 Phone: 520-322-5253, Arizona Toll Free: 1-887-255-MADD Email: Aautograph@aol.com, Web: http://www.clix.to/rocky

Loscon XXVI (Burbank, CA) Thanksgiving weekend, **Nov 26-28 1999**, The Burbank Airport Hilton. GoHs: Connie Willis, Alex Ross.. Info: Loscon XXVI c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601. E-mail: loscon26@lasfs.org, www.lasfs.org/loscon26

The Eleventh Hour of Gallifrey One (Gallifrey 2000), (Van Nuys, CA) **February 18-20, 2000** at the Airtel Plaza Hotel. Confirmed guests to date include Terrance Dicks (script editor), Stephen Cole (BBC editor), Gary Russell & Jason Haigh-Ellery (Big Finish Dr. Who audios), Bill Baggs (BBV producer), SF novelist John DeChancie and Doctor Who novelists Kate Orman, Justin Richards, Jonathan Blum, David McIntee, Keith Topping, Paul Cornell, and Mike Tucker. At least 2 Doctor Who actors and other SF actors are to be announced. Memberships are \$35 until Sept 30, \$40 til Nov 30, \$45 til Jan 31 and \$50 at the door. Info: Gallifrey Conventions, P.O. Box 3021, North Hollywood, CA 91609, Telephone: (818) 752-3756 http://www.gallifreyone.com or email info@gallifreyone.com.

LepreCon 26 (Scottsdale, AZ) **May 19-21, 2000** Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, Scottsdale, Arizona. Artist GOH: Lubov, Author GoH: TBA, Local Artist GoH: Larry Vela; Filk Guest: Marilyn Miller, More Guests TBA; Memberships \$20 until 1901/99, \$25 until 1/1/00, \$30 until 5/01/00 and \$35 at the door. Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 and under Free. Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort, 7601 E Indian Bend Road, Scottsdale, AZ (602)

991-2400. Standard Rooms \$72 + tax S/D/T/Q, Suites \$125 + tax S/D/T/Q Info: LepreCon 26, PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ. 85285 Phone: (480) 945-6890 or Email: mwillmoth@compuserve.com or inverted@primenet.com

Chicon 2000, the 58th Worldcon (Chicago, IL) **August 31-September 4, 2000** (Hyatt Regency, Chicago) GoHs: Ben Bova, Bob Eggleton, Jim Baen, TM: Harry Turtledove. Memb.: \$135, higher later, \$40 supporting. Info: P.O.Box 642057, Chicago, IL 60664 E-Mail: Infobot address: info@chicon.org, chi2000@chicon.org and http://www.chicon.org/

BATS 2000 (Radisson Edwardian Hotel, Heathrow, London, England) **Oct 27-29, 2000** The multimedia Halloween convention of 2000! With guests from the various facets of the horror genre. We're staging a convention for Halloween 2000! After a suggestion to an English woman at Visions 98 by Nigel Bennett (of Forever Knight, Psi Factor etc) that he would attend a British con and would she organize one, she contacted five other people she knew only from the Internet and we all met in Leicester in January. Bats 2000 is now being organized by a committee of six with limited experience but lots of determination and stamina! All proceeds go to charity. Web: http://www.burple.com/bats2000/ Email: bats2000



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Kenny & Maureen Borden

Generic Convention Registration Form

Name: _____

Badge Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

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

(See calendar for mailing address)

More info on Masquerade Art Show Volunteer Other



CopperCon

19



September 10-12, 1999

Author GoH: David Weber

Artist GoH: Brett Bass

Also apperaing: Robert Daniels

Filk GoH: Mitchell Burnside Clapp

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