

MonSFFA General Meeting

The MONTREAL SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY ASSOCIATION (MonSFFA) notifies its members of, and invites all newcomers to, its next GENERAL MEETING.

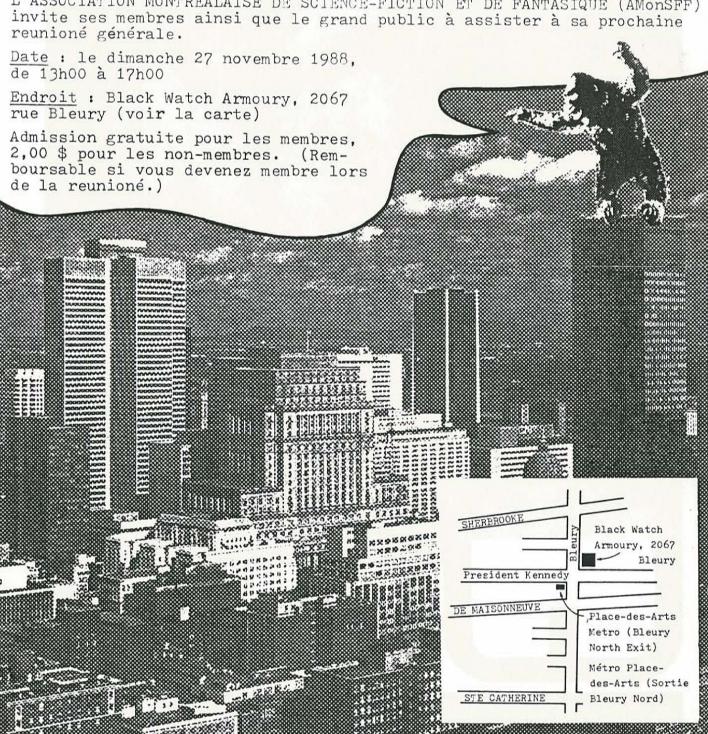
Date: Sunday, November 27, 1988, 1:00PM-5:00PM

Place: Black Watch Armoury, 2067 Bleury (see map)

Admission: Members, free; Non-members, \$2.00 (Join at this meeting and get your two dollar admission fee back)

Reunioné Générale de l'AMonSFF

L'ASSOCIATION MONTREALAISE DE SCIENCE-FICTION ET DE FANTASIQUE (AMONSFF) invite ses membres ainsi que le grand public à assister à sa prochaine reunioné générale.



KETH 1988

Roll Call

PresidentLuke A. Fallon

Vice-presidents Keith Braithwaite Capu"zine" R. Plourde

> Treasurer Emile Richard

Corresponding secretary
Trudie Mason

Recording secretary James P. Poon

Public Relations Capu"zine" R. Plourde

Newsletter Kevin Holden, Michael L. Masella

Advisors
Colleen Magnusson
John Matthias
Tapio K. Vocadlo
J.-P. Bastien
Christian Imbeault

Munchies Trudie Mason Colleen Magnusson

Cover up: This month's cover was provided by fantasy artist (and MonSFFA member!) Denis Beauvais and is titled "The Conflict". We apologize for our failure to credit the cover of Warp 10, which was a photograph of Capu "zine" (Peregrin) Plourde and David "Diesel" Laforce dressed in fantasy costumes made by Capu "zine". The photo was taken by Larry Elmore.

MonSFFA Membership Benefits

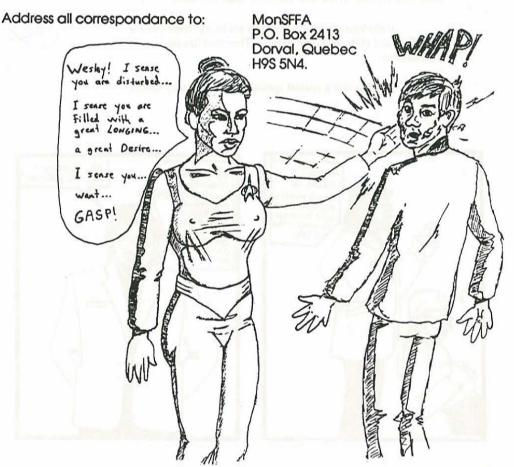
The Montreal Science-Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of science fiction and fantasy in literature, films and television, art, music, costuming, model-making, comics and fanzines, and gaming.

Based in the greater Montreal area, MonSFFA, is open to all interested lifeforms. The membership fee is currently \$20.00 per year. Elections for executives are annual, and any paid member may volunteer for a position.

Membership entitles you to the following: (1) A MonSFFA memership card; which allows you free admittance to all MonSFFA general meetings, and entitles you to a minimum 10% discount at sf/f oriented stores in the greater Montreal area; and (2) a subscription to MonSFFA's newsletter, Warp.

MonSFFA is regularly approaching stores and asking them to participate in its discount program. As yet, no legal contracts have been signed, but the following stores have agreed verbally to implement our program: (1) Ozz Comics, (2) Mars Comics, (3) 1 000 000 Comics, (4) The Comic Key, and (5) Librairie Astro. See these establishments for specifics. MonSFFA encourages its members to patronize these businesses.

The signing of an agreement between MonSFFA and these businesses regarding our discount program is currently being attended to. Subsequent newsletters will report any new information concerning this and any other membership benefits.



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

It's frightening to think that our children may only see the stars on the rarest of occasions.

Our distant ancestors lived under star-filled skies. The myriad of stars, the moon, the planets and the sun played a central role in their lives. Anyone who has ever seen the night sky far from any artificial light sources knows how awe inspiring it can be. Entire cultures were built on interpretations of the stars and what they believed their purpose was.

Ever since the Industrial Revolution, however, an increasing amount of air and light pollution has been obliterating stars from city skies. Now, only the brightest stars can be seen.

Some believe that the disappearance of the stars is either the cause of society's decline or a portent of coming disasters. An exageration perhaps, but it is indicative of the importance of those seemingly unremarkable little lights in the sky.

Conversely, science fiction has become increasingly popular in recent years. However, this popularity seems to be based mostly on "space hardware" and special effects. A large percentage of the population wrongly believes that high-tech sf movies are the epitome of the genre.

Although there is no clear definition of science fiction, it's clear that the human element does play a central role in it. The hardware and grandiose scenery are simply backgrounds against which human drama is played out. Human qualities, both good and bad, our strengths and weaknesses are all projected against fantastic situations. What is important is how humans deal with these new situations, not how fast their ships can travel.

Unfortunately, many sf novels are being written with a lot of flash and glitter and little content. They read like soap opera novelizations.

I have nothing against special effects, but they should

not overshadow the truly important aspects of sf. If science fiction is to survive and grow as a literary genre, its own readers and/or movie-goers must take it much more seriously.

Science fiction has always been a genre based on discovery and exploration. The best sf has been about the discovery of the "human-ness" of its characters. It's up to us to keep the stars of science fiction shining as brightly as possible.

Well, now that I've finished my chest-beating and have given my two cents worth, on to official business.

Our last general meeting was extremely successful. We managed to get a grand total of 40 memberships (both new ones and renewals). Right now, MonSFFA is the second largest fan club in Canada - certainly something we should all be proud of.

I would like to extend special thanks to Trudie Mason and Colleen Magnussen for preparing and providing those scrumptious goodies. Also, thanks to Keith and Capucine for those extremely entertaining video tapes.

Finally, I would like to <u>officially</u> welcome all members (both new and old) to MonSFFA's ranks. I hope that all of you are able to make close friends through our group. Next meeting, drop all of your inhibitions, go up to a total stranger and introduce yourself. Remember, all these people probably have the same interests as you do.

Until next time, peace and long life.

Luke Fallon el Presidente







FOR GOODNESS FRAKES!

by Trudie Mason

This interview was conducted in Los Angeles by MonSFFA member Trudie Mason, on assignment for CJAD radio, Montreal. MonSFFA thanks both Trudie and CJAD for permission to use the parts of the interview which appear here.

Question: Were you a Star Trek fan before you landed the role of Riker?

Answer: I was not as big a fan of it then as I am now. I was aware of it — you can't really live here and watch TV and not be aware of the cult following it had. After the first few auditions, I started to rent the tapes at the store and bring episodes home and try to get a feel for the style. I became more and more familiar as I got closer and closer to becoming a part of this family.

Q: Critics have said that reviving *Star Trek* after 20 years was a risky business. How do you react to that?

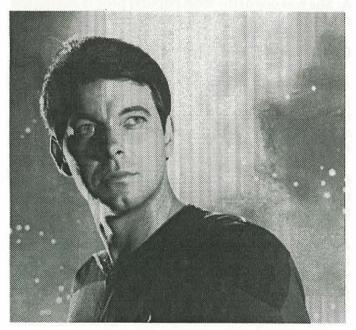
A: Comparisons were inevitable, and I think the critics were very skeptical. I think the entire audience was very skeptical of our show, as I would have been about any remake of something that had worked in the past. Primarily because of Gene Roddenberry, this one gelled and took flight. We're very, very lucky.

Q: Were the *Next Generation* cast members nervous about trying to fill the shoes of those who went before them — Shatner, Nimoy, and Kelley?

A: I expected success after meeting the people they'd hired. It was not a situation where there was any shortage of confidence on our part. They'd hired Patrick Stewart, who is now probably as good an actor as you are going to see anywhere on television. The rest of the company was from the theatre and were ready to dive in. The producers and writers encouraged us, saying that we were a new group — no one was actually playing Kirk or Spock. But as much as we pretended that there was no comparison, we certainly worried about it.

Q: How have the Star Trek fans reacted to the new show?

A: I think they're coming around, and they are wonderful about admitting it. They said, 'We wanted to hate your show, we wanted to hate you, we didn't want to watch you.' Now they've given it a chance and they seem to like what they're seeing, and are interested in seeing more. I think the key is that our



show has maintained the same flavour and colours and sense of family and morals which were so successful in the first show. When they saw that we were not violating any of those, if you'll forgive me, prime directives, then we were alright.

Q: You appeared in the soap opera *The Doctors* and you had a recurring role in *Falcon Crest*. You were also in the mini-series *Dream West* and *North and South*. What makes the *Next Generation* different?

A: On the other shows, I got to wear lovely, 3-piece Italian suits. Now I have to wear horrible spandex spacesuits. It's the worst side of the job because they're tight, uncomfortable, and hideous.

Q: What would you change in the first season if you could go back and do it again?

A: The thing that strikes me most is how far we've come and how nice it would be to go back, knowing what we do, and redo the pilot. Because of how well the actors know their roles, and know each other, I think that what we could have done with the beginning would have been quite different.

Q: What were some of the problems that came up during the first season?

A: A writers' crew that changed continually. It made the work of the actors much more difficult. In the last few months of the season, we were playing so close to the hip that we were getting pages as we were shooting them — sometimes after we shot them. This is not uncommon in television, just unfortunate.

Q: How do you feel about Denise Crosby's departure?

A: She was one of the most popular people among the cast members. She will be sorely missed.

Q: How was the 'skin of evil' effect done?

A: That thing was made of metamucil and black printer's ink — a pit of it! I had plugs in my ears and nose. Afterwards, they hosed me down outside the sound stage and took me to the showers in a truck. It was an absurd day.

Q: William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy were both concerned, at one time, with type-casting. Does being type-cast worry you?

A: I can think of far worse fates. It's not something that, after a year, I've had to lose sleep over. In many ways, it's part of the bargain. If the show does well, you will be recognized as part of that show. I would certainly take Shatner's career!

Q: Do you enjoy going to Star Trek conventions?

A: You are heaped with praise and love, and get to travel to cities you wouldn't ordinarily go to — it's a wonderful perk. The fans are very, very much in tune with the show — the specifics of things that happen in certain episodes. One man asked me a question and I passed it on to another trekker who had a very good answer for me. You have to learn to play on your feet, because you are at their mercy, and also at their beck and call. If you're honest enough to say, 'I don't know,' the fans come to your defense. I think they respect that.

Q: What draws people to Star Trek?

A: I think that what appeals most to people is the positive vision of the future that Gene Roddenberry believes in so strongly. His vision of where we're going — the human race is going — is very hopeful. It's certainly more uplifting to watch our show than it is to watch, or read, things in which the holocaust has come and there is no more world and no more human race. What he has done is given a lot of people a lot of hope.

Q: What are your plans for the future?

A: I'm not looking to leave this job, as some have. I'll certainly stay as long as I'm wanted.

Q: What would you do if you weren't an actor?

A: Run a bar, or a bait shop...in Maine.



1988 HUGO AWARD WINNERS

Taken from "Ottawa Science Fiction Statement", supplied by Chuck Mohapel.

Best Novel: "The Uplift War" (David Brin)

Best Novellete: "Buffalo Gals Won't You Come Out Tonight" (Ursula K. LeGuin)

Best Novella: "Eye for Eye" (Orson Scott Card)

Best Short Story: "Why I Left Harry's All Night Hamburgers" (L. Watt-Evans)

Best Non-Fiction: "Worlds of Wonder" (Michael Whelan)

Best Fan Writer: Mike Glyer

Best Semi-Prozine: Locus

Best Fanzine: Texas SF Inquirer

Best Other Form: "Watchmen" (DC Comics)

Best Pro Editor: Gardner Dozois

Best Pro Artist: Michael Whelan

Best Fan Artist: Brad Foster

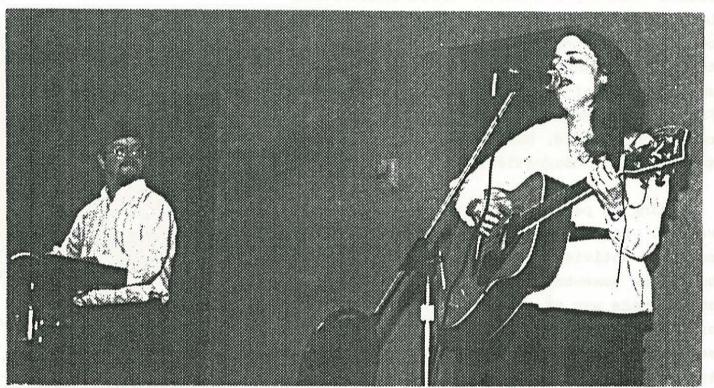
Best Dramatic Presentation: "The Princess Bride"

Big Heart Award: Andre Norton

Special Award: SF Oral History Association

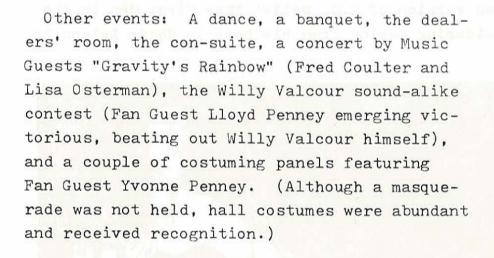
After more than a year of planning and preparation, a new science fiction/fantasy convention was born into the eastern Canada-north eastern U.S. region. Pinekone 1 took place over the weekend of October 14-16 in Ottawa. It was described as a "science fiction literary convention", and this was reflected in the program. Workshops and discussion panels devoted to writing made up about half of the schedule. Writer Guest of Honour Barry B. Longyear ("Enemy Mine", "A Time for Terror", "Saint Mary Blue"), and Fantasy Guests Will Shetterly ("Cats Have No Lord", "Witchblood") and Emma Bull ("War for the Oaks") spoke at many of these panels on topics such as "Fanzines and the Small Press", "The Computer as a Writing Tool", and "Mythology in Fantasy".

Unfortunately, a person cannot possibly do all that there is to do at a con, and so one selects those events which are of the most personal interest. As an artist, I naturally gravitated to the events which dealt with that medium. Artist Guest Bob Eggleton's panel on how to break into the professional sf/f art field was especially interesting. He answered questions on his work methods and illustrating techniques, and on the inner machinations of the sf/f illustrating business. He spoke of a pet project he is working on, due out next year; an illustrated version of H.G. Wells' "The First Men in the Moon". He is seriously considering moving from his home in Rhode Island to

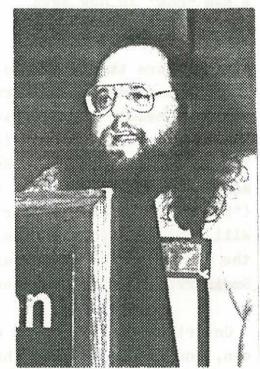


Music Guests "Gravity's Rainbow" (Fred Coulter and Lisa Osterman) in concert.

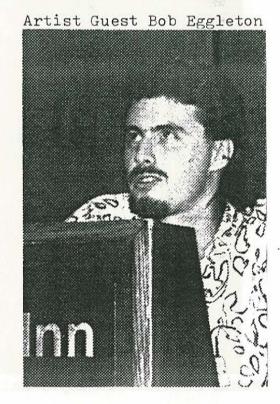
Canada, possibly Montreal. Ultimately, he would like to go to California and work in the film industry as a matte artist. A slide show of some of Bob's work followed this panel. Master of Ceremonies Larry "The Doctor" Stewart's dissertation on illustrating Wells' "The War of the Worlds" and Verne's "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea" was another noteworthy panel. Having extensively researched his subject-drawing from the descriptions given in the books-"The Doctor" came up with workable designs of the martian tripodal war machine and the "Nautilus". His design of the war machine appears in the Pinekone 1 program book. The art show exhibited a good number of quality works, both professional and amateur, not the least of which were several paintings by local fantasy artist Denis Beauvais, and of course, a selection of Bob Eggleton's work.



Nothing is perfect. A few complaints were voiced. Dealers were unhappy with the lack of consumer activity in the dealers' room. The hotel was somewhat confusing to get around in, and signage was at a minimum. Some complained of a lack of french signs. A few events were moved and information as to new locales contradictory. But these complaints were minor and were easily outweighed by the positive



Pinekone 1 Chairman Joe Casey.



aspects of the con—all in all, it was fun: Considering that a few of the key positions were vacated, then filled at the last minute, the con-com did a respectable job of, as they put it, appearing Murphy.

Chairman Joe Casey reported attendance at over 300. "That means we'll break even", he added. An impressive start for what will, hopefully, become a regular yearly event. (Indications by those in attendance at the closing ceremony suggest that most will return in 1989, and in fact, Pinekone 2 is already set for October 13-15.)





ABOVE: Pinekone 1 treasurer Paul (Willy) Valcour, who failed to make the finals of the Willy Valcour sound-alike contest:

LEFT: Fan Guests Lloyd and Yvonne Penney of Toronto. Yvonne was <u>chairwoman</u> of last summer's Toronto Trek Celebration 2.

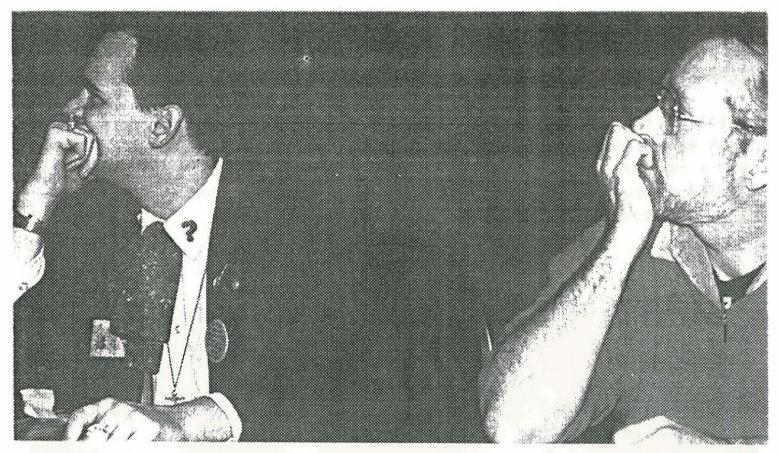
PRIMORDIAL SOUP by KGB







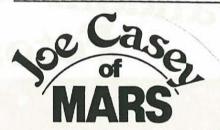




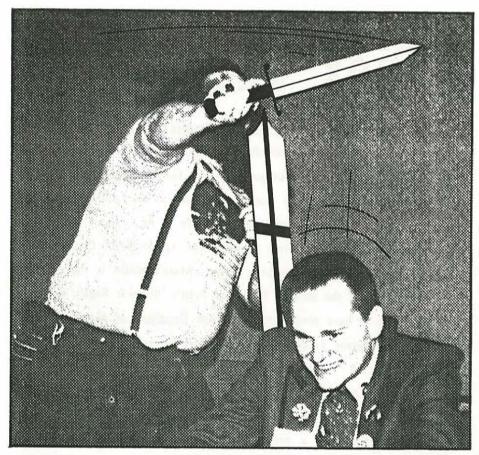
ABOVE: Pinekone 1 Master of Ceremonies Larry "The Doctor" Stewart, at left, and Guest of Honour Barry B. Longyear listen to speeches at closing ceremony.

BELOW: Fantasy Guests Will Shetterly and Emma Bull at closing ceremony.

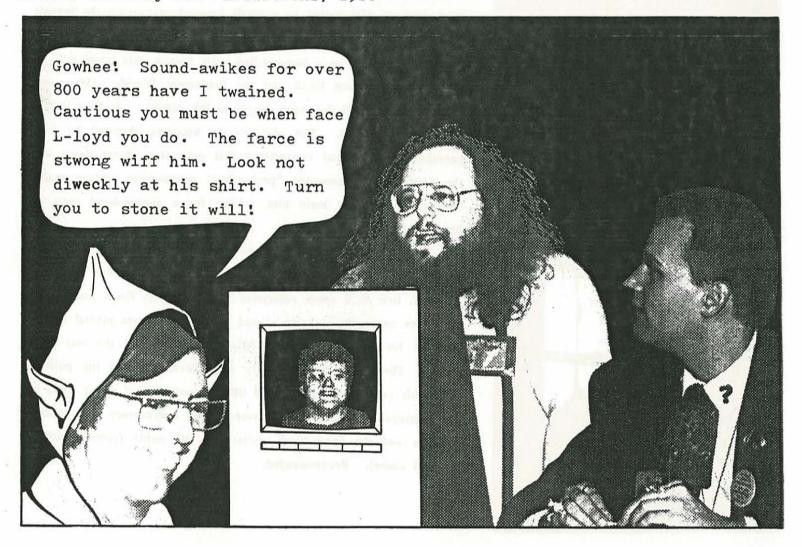




WARP brings you these exclusive scenes from the soon-to-be-released science fiction/fantasy epic "Joe Casey of Mars". Edgar Rice Borrowed's classic hero is joined in this sprawling space adventure by that irrepressible time lord, Dr. Who. LEFT: Joe (wielding sword) seeks revenge after losing a Willy Valcour sound-alike contest to the Doctor. BELOW: After the evil L-loyd (viewscreen) emerges as the ultimate victor in the sound-alike contest, Joe and the Doctor team up to defeat him and seek the help of master instructor Paul (wearing hood).



Photos courtesy KGB Productions, 1988



Fandom Fotos



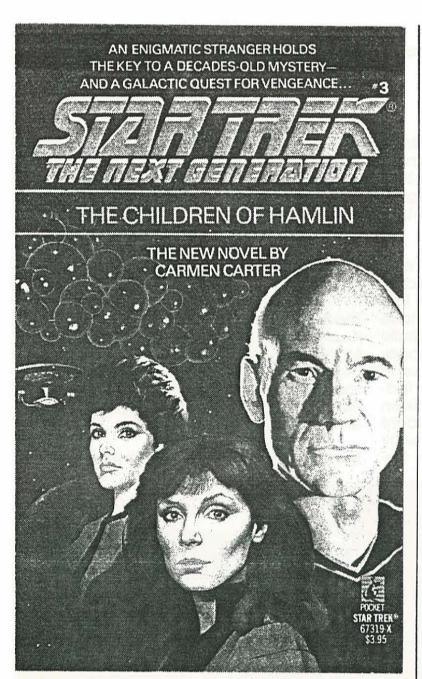


John Yaskowich BOOK REVIEW

First up is <u>Daughter of the Empire</u> by Janny Wurts and Raymond E. Feist. A beautifully crafted fantasy with good character definition, a well thought out society, well behaved magic and lots of court intrigue. Mara, the young daughter of the clan Acoma, is suddenly yanked from peaceful religious life to be head of the family clan, a clan deeply threatened by assassins, spies, Royal Court moves and battles against overwhelming odds. Mara's world is the one on the other side of the Rift in Raymond Feist's "Riftwar Saga", but you do not have to have read it to appreciate <u>Daughter of the Empire</u>. I only hope I never cross swords with anyone as calculating and as ruthless as Mara. Highly recommended.

Next, Farside Cannon by Roger MacBride Allen. Garrison Morrow is a geologist trained in off-Earth rocks who comes to Iceland to uncover proof of a prehistoric asteroid strike on Earth being responsible for the end of the dinosaurs. His findings cause riots on Earth and get him exiled to a small research station on the moon's Farside. Now another asteroid threatens Earth and Morrow must save the day. Set in a human-filled solar system, this novel tells of the struggle between Earth and the Settlement Worlds (Mars and some asteroids) with the moon caught in the middle. At least that is what it tries to do. The plot quickly becomes obscured by long passages of detail and expanations that only slow things down and the politics make annoying "peek-a-boo" appearances without really interacting with the main plot. Wait for a second-hand copy or borrow one from the library.

A much better example of the struggle for independence is The Island Worlds, by Eric Kotani and John Maddox Ford. Thor Taggart, a rich kid, heir to a space enterprise fortune, leaves Earth just as the anti-space sentiment is being stirred up. He becomes pivotal in the struggle for survival of the off-Earth dwellers and the war with Earth. The characters are fairly well developed and the politics reasonable (although, just once I'd like to read a novel where Earth is not portrayed as the stagnant, over-bearing bureaucracy with storm-troopers and the space-bases society as the noble frontier with a justified cause). Recommended.



by Arthur R. Cjadski

I will start this review by stating that I have not enjoyed many of the Trek novels written in the past few years. The level of writing in The level of writing in them seldom manages to rise above the amateur level.
That is why it is such a pleasure to be able to
recommend the latest NEXT GENERATION novel THE CHILDREN OF HAMLIN . Author Carmen Carter (Dreams of the Raven) has woven a dramatic story concerning the attempt by the Enterprise to retrieve thehathildren of a devastated colony from the advanced race of marauders who kidnapped them and destroyed their world. To complicate matters aboard the ship is a typically arrogant beaureaucratic oaf with a passion for secrets, and a load of Amish-style oat with a passion for secrets, and a load of Amisi-s religious fanatics who have mastered the fine art of being irritating to new levels. (Wesley teaches them) Missing from this work are the problems that plague many Trek works; overindulgence in the culture of alien races, (If I have to read one more book that Vulcan-Romulan-Klingon hybrid female and her talking cat In gonna fwow up!), and preppie, perky space cadets who seduce the captain and save the day. Instead this who seduce the captain and save the day. who seduce the captain and save the day. Instead this story manages to move along at a brisk, dramatic pace and keep you wondering what is going to happen next. Picard manages not to wimp out TOO often, and the lother characters pull their weight pretty well also. If you don't mind having Wesley take up an inappropriate amount of the story, and a few internal plot boo-boos, (like a ship changeing its class from one chapter to the next.), then this book is recommended.

BUDGET '89

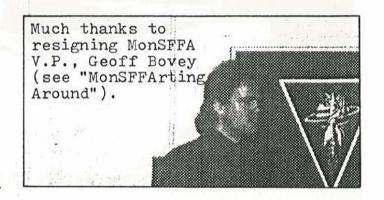
This is MonSFFA's general operating budget for the period of January 1st to December 31st, 1989, presented, and accepted by the general membership, at the October 23rd general meeting.

REVENUES

• Membership Fees	\$2000.00
TOTAL REVENUES	\$2000.00
EXPENSES	
Recruitment	\$300.00
General Meetings	\$400.00
•Newsletters	\$475.00
Mailings	\$250.00
Administration	\$75.00
Organizational Expenses	\$300.00
Contingency	\$200.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$2000.00

Budget prepared by Emile Richard, Treasurer.

Note: Budget subject to revision should need arise, pending approval of membership.



Monsfrarting Around?

MonSFFA General Meeting

The most recent meeting of the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Assoc., was held on the afternoon of Sunday, October 23rd., at Centre St. Denis. Approximately eighty people attended, and thirty three memberships were purchased.

After the ususal business was discussed, and the BOA members all gave their little speeches (gee, it was keen), the members broke into seperate groups for gaming (a Trek scenario based on the LOST GENERATION episode Deadlock, as featured in STARLOG magazine, run by Mike Masella), a panel discussion (Star Trek books: "Literature or budgie fodder?", run by Trudie Mason and Colleen Magnusson), a model display by resident model maker Berny Reischl, an art show by Con Artists, Ink., and a video debate be-

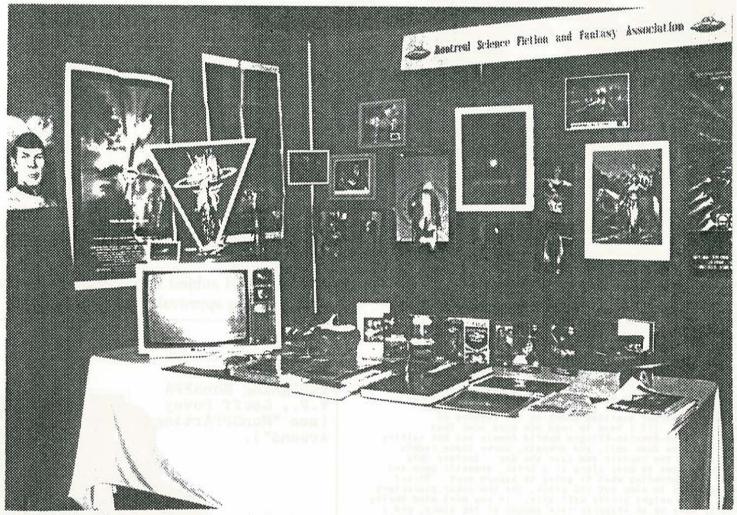
tween the cast of *Star Trek* and writer Harlan Ellison on the merits of the show.

All in all it was a successful little get-together, although somewhat low-key compared to previous gatherings. Geoff Bovey, founder and Vice-President announced his resignation as Veep, but plans to remain as active in the club as his time will permit.

The Montreal Hobby Show

As a part of our overall publicity campaign, MonSFFA established a recruiting booth at the annual Montreal Hobby Show which took place at the Exposition Centre in Place Bonaventure on Thanksgiving weekend, October 8th, 9th and 10th.

Thoughout the weekend, members staffed



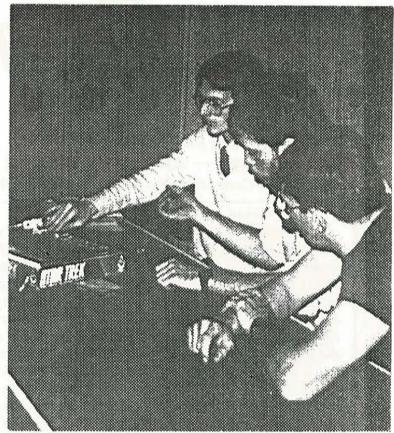
MonSFFA's Hobby Show booth before the show opening Saturday morning

the booth and met with the vast multitudes who approached them, sometimes all at once. Using the resource material provided by our members (posters, videos, photos, models, etc.), the club managed to mount a very impressive display. Particularly noteworthy were Berny Reischl's model kits, Daniel Kenney's photos, and Keith Braithwaite's video ad for Warp. Special thanks to Marc Viau for generously donating his Wrath of Khan photo cards as giveaways.

The attendees at the show, numbering well into the thousands, responded warmly to our display, walked off with over 800 membership applications and bought about 60 newsletters. Many of the people we met have since become active members.

We had initially expected to have some dificulty finding enough people to staff the booth all weekend long, but ironically, we never seemed to have less than five members mulling around at once. According to Daniel Brotman, one of the show's organizers, our's was one of the most popular displays at the show, and we thank Daniel for his kindness and concern. His admirable organizing skills helped make this show a success for everyone involved. Following is a list of the members who participated in the show. We thank them all and hope to have them back next year.

- Geoff Bovey
- ▼ Keith Braithwaite
- Luke Fallon
- Kevin Holden
- ✓ Christian Imbeault
- Daniel Kenney
- Colleen Magnusen
- Mike Masella (& Macintosh™)
- □ Trudie Mason
- Andrew Nugent
- → Capu"zine" Plourde
- James Poon
- → Berny Reischl
- \$ Emile Richard
- Marc Viau



A few members get into gaming at the October MonSFFA meeting



Members at the opening of the meeting

Gaming

Computer role-playing game review of... Might and Magic — Book One — The Secret of the Inner Sanctum by New World Computing, Inc. Programmed by Jon Van Caneghem

by Michael Masella

Although it is a game that has been out for quite a while, Might and Magic (M&M) has not been noticed as much as some of the other computer role-playing games (CRPG) on the market, like the Ultima series (particularly Ultima V, since it's such a time-consumer), or the King's Quest series by Sierra. Even the Bard's tale series which is only up to number 3 has overshadowed the computer gaming market with it's own flavor for the fantasy CRPG.

But now, M&M has joined the battle for supremacy in the CRPG arena. With a map of its world on the cover of the box, it entices adventurers to sally forth into its realm. Within, you will find some mapping sheets, an operating instructions pamphlet for your kind of computer, a colourfully illustrated map of the Land of Varn, game disks, and an instruction manual. This manual is your key to the adventures within.

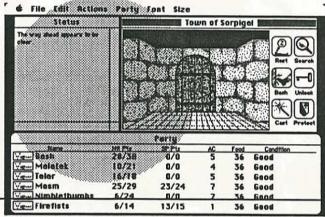
The manual covers such subjects as character creation, commands while outside combat, and commands while engaged in combat. Further, it devotes an entire chapter for newcomers to role-playing. Such subjects as The World, your characters, weapons & equipment, monsters, quests, and spells. Finally, two appendices cover the details of charater specifics and spells specifics, respectively. The book is concluded with a map of the town of Sorpigal (the home town of your characters) and on the back cover is a concise list of all spells used by the clerics and sorcerors.

This is another adventure that requires patience because, like other fantasy CRPG's you have to build up your characters to a high enough level to even begin thinking about adventuring outside of your own town (there is a cavern below the town of Sorpigal). Once you have found your first quest somewhere in the caverns below, you are then ready to set out on your journey to other towns and castles.

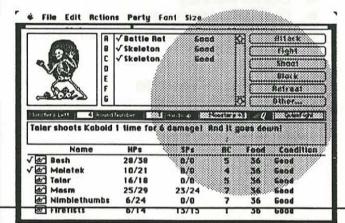
But beware! Once outside the relative safety of town, you are at the mercy of the elements and the denizens of the land of Varn. Fortunately, M&M gages your level to the encounters you meet (give or take some). However, if an encounter is a fixed one, and you aren't strong enough to overcome it, you may have to return from the last town from whence you hailed (saving characters is done by registering at an inn — if you are not registered when you quit the game neither will you booty be registered).

As you can see, the indoor graphics are nicely done. However, the outdoor graphics are made in the same way, thus producing a cardboard scenery effect like out of some 40's movie. Walls of trees, followed by a board of mountains, etc.

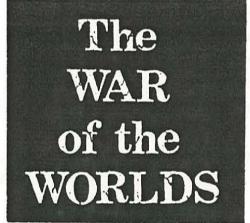
So aside from that, the game works very nicely (especially on the Mac, with its digitized sound). On a scale of 1 to ten dingbats, I give it: 🗸 💠 📥 🗢

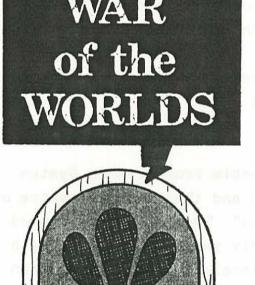


This is the first thing you see upon leaving the pleasant inn of Sorpigal. Since towns are in caverns because of the tyranny of the dragons of old, the town is more like a dungeon.



Combat is controlled either by mouse or by keyboard. Depending on the agaility of your character, he may attack before the other monsters deliver their lethal blows. (check marks indicate melee range for attack)





THE NIGHT MARS INVADED AMERICA

by Keith Braithwaite

"Ladies and gentlemen, I have a grave announcement to make. Incredible as it may seem, both the observations of science and the evidence of our eyes lead to the inescapable assumption that those strange beings who landed in the Jersey farmlands tonight are the vanguard of an invading army from the planet Mars."

> -Announcer, radio broadcast of "The War of the Worlds" by the Mercury Theatre on the Air, October 30, 1938

This October 30 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the night Mars invaded America, courtesy of Mr. Orson Welles and his Mercury Theatre on the Air. Their adaptation of H.G. Wells' classic science fiction novel, "The War of the Worlds", is one of the most famous radio broadcasts ever, and the nation-wide panic it caused make it, without ques-

tion, the Halloween prank of all time.

The Mercury Theatre on the Air started broadcasting in mid-September of 1938. CBS had scheduled them opposite the favorite show of the day, ventriloquist Edgar Bergen's Chase and Sanborn Hour, and Welles and his Mercury players found it virtually impossible to lure listeners away from Bergen and his popular dummy, Charlie McCarthy. About the only chance they had of doing so came when Bergen introduced a guest performer; if the guest was not especially good, listeners would often flip the dial to other stations to hear what else was on before tuning back to Bergen. More than a month of Mercury Theatre shows had been largely unsuccessful in keeping listeners who briefly tuned them in from returning to the Chase and Sanborn Hour, and it didn't seem that Welles' planned Halloween show, an update of a forty year old science fiction story about an invasion of Earth by men from Mars, would be any more able.

Welles instructed his writer, Howard Koch, to dramatize "The War of the Worlds" in the form of news bulletins. After reading the novel, Koch felt that in order to fulfill that demand, he would have to abandon the story's turn-of-the-century-English settings—only the idea itself and the descriptions of the martians and their machines could translate to a contemporary American setting—and write an almost completely original hour-length play. He asked for more time, but Welles was adamant; the show was slated to air in six days. This was Welles' favorite project. Koch recalls the days leading up to the broadcast as a nightmare of frantic writing and rewriting, up until the last minute. Then it was time to go on the air: eight o'clock Sunday evening, October 30, Halloween Eve.

The show began with the announcement, "The Columbia Broadcasting System and its affiliated stations presents Orson Welles and the Mercury Theatre on the Air in 'The War of the Worlds', by H.G. Wells." Then Welles delivered a brief introduction: "We know now that in the early years of the twentieth century this world was being watched closely by intelligences greater than man's, and yet as mortal as his own. ...across an immense, ethereal gulf minds that are to our minds as ours are to the beasts in the jungle; intellects vast, cool, and unsympathetic regarded this Earth with envious eyes, and slowly and surely drew their plans against us." A fictional dance music program followed, soon to be interupted, ever more frequently, by "news" bulletins telling of; first, unusual explosions on Mars; then the crashing

to Earth of a "huge, flaming object" near Grovers Mill, New Jersey; and finally, the martian attacks, culminating in their conquering of New York City. Not having heard the beginning of the show, which framed the story as fictional, the millions of listeners who idly tuned in CBS while Bergen's guest was on heard the authentic sounding bulletins and took them to be fact. This time they stayed tuned.

Sources differ as to whether or not Welles has counted on this happening; had, in fact, contructed his show to deliberately mislead his audience and keep them tuned to CBS, anxiously awaiting further news. His prior work in radio and theatre reveals a fascination with just this kind of intentional blurring of the present-



Orson Welles

ational differences between fact and fiction; making the make-believe seem real by presenting it as if it were, without the usual trappings of fictional presentation (mood music, for example) which let us know that we're hearing/viewing a made-up story. The news bulletins were believed by America because they sounded genuine, as they would have had martians really been invading Earth.

Welles had instructed the actor playing newsman Carl Phillips—sent to investigate the Grovers Mill meteorite—to mimic the excited, rapid-fire, breathless, searching-for-the-right-words delivery of real-life reporter

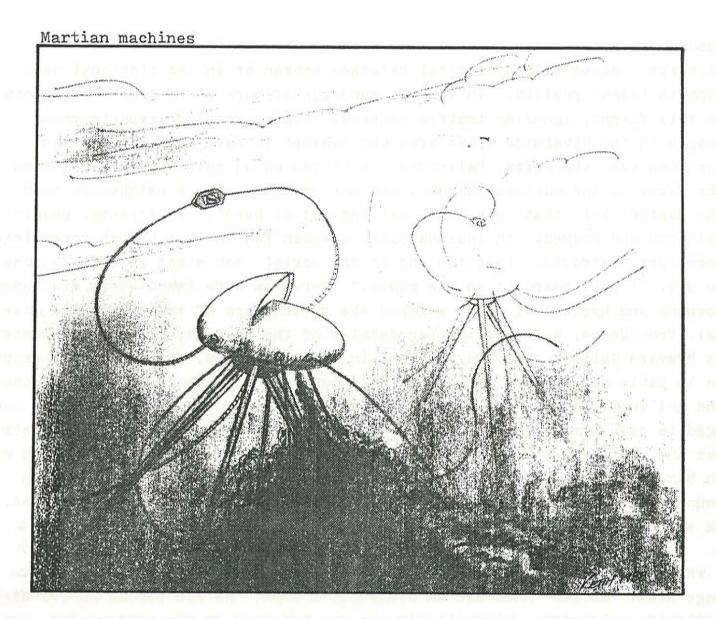


Welles on the air

Herb Morrison, who had described the destruction of the "Hindenburg" a year and a half earlier. With the sounds of amazed onlookers and a howling wind in the background, the effect was terrifyingly real: "Ladies and gentlemen, this is the most terrifying thing I've...I've ever witnessed Good heavens! Something wriggling out of the shadow like a gray snake. Now it's another one, and another one, and another one. They look like tentacles to me. I can see the thing's body, now. It's large. It's large as a bear. It glistens like wet leather....Ladies and gentlemen, it's indescribable. I can hardly force myself to keep looking at it, it's so awful. The eyes are black and they gleam like a serpent. The mouth is...is kind of V-shaped with saliva dripping from its rimless lips that seem to ...quiver and pulsate... The thing's rising up now, and the crowd falls back I can't find words... I'll pull this microphone with me as I talk. I'll have to stop description 'til I

can take a new position. Hold on will you please, I'll be right back in a minute." Having Phillips pause to "take a new position" was the sort of detail which fooled listeners into accepting the described events as actually happening. One can easily imagine a news reporter in the field dragging his cumbersome equipment along as he struggles to keep up with the action. After a brief wait, during which interlude-type piano music played, a station announcer returned listeners to the action: "We now return you to Carl Phillips at Grovers Mill." Phillips continued: "Ladies and gent -- Am I on? (another example of convincing detail) Ladies and gentlemen ... From here I get a sweep of the whole scene. I'll give you every detail as long as I can talk, and as long as I can see. More state police have arrived. ... the captain and two policemen advance with something in their hands. I can see it, now. It's a white handkerchief tied to a pole-a flag of truce....Wait a minute, something's happening! A humped shape is rising out of the pit. can make out a small beam of light against a mirror.... There's a jet of flame springing from the mirror and it leaps right at the advancing men: It strikes them head-on: Oh Lord, they're turning into flame:...It's spreading everywhere, coming this way now, about twenty yards to my ri-" The contrast between the frantic reporter's description of the action-highlighted by the bizarre humming and beeping noises of the martian machine and the screams of the burning men-just before he is cut off, and the few moments of absolute silence which followed was horrifying. Then the station announcer came on: "Ladies and gentlemen, due to circumstances beyond our control we are unable to continue the broadcast from Grovers Mill. Evidently there's some difficulty with our field transmission." But everyone listening "knew" that Phillips had just been killed and the field transmitter destroyed by that "jet of flame".

And so it went, bulletin after bulletin describing the onslaught of the martians and the efforts of the police and the military to stop them. Listeners were told of the masses of fleeing people clogging the highways. At one point, they learned that Carl Phillips had, indeed, been killed by what was described as a "heat-ray". The final bulletin was set atop the CBS building: "I'm speaking from the roof of Broadcasting Building, New York City. The bells you hear are ringing to warn the people to evacuate the city as martians approach...No more defenses. Our army is wiped out—artillery, air force, everything wiped out. This may be the last broadcast. We'll stay here to the end. People are holding service here below us in the cathedral.
...Wait a minute: The...the enemy is now in sight above the Palisades: Five ...five great machines. The first one is crossing the river—I can see it from here—wading...wading the Hudson like a man wading through a brook. A



bulletin is handed me. 'Martians cylinders are falling all over the country'.
...Now the first machine reaches the shore! He stands watching, looking over the city. Steel, cowlish head is even with the skyscrapers. He waits for the others....Now they're lifting their metal hands. This is the end, now. Smoke comes out, black smoke drifting over the city. People in the streets see it, now. They're running towards the East river, thousands of them, dropping in like rats. Now the smoke's spreading faster... People are trying to run away from it, but it's no use. They're falling like flies. Now the smoke's crossing 6th avenue. 5th avenue. (Begins choking) A...a hundred yards away. It's... (choking, gasping for breath) it's fifty feet—"
The reporter dropped to the floor, overcome by the poisonous smoke, then after several moments, a ham radio operator was heard: "2X2L calling CQ, New York. Isn't there anyone on the air? Isn't there anyone on the air?

By this time, roughly forty minutes into the show, the panic had begun.

Thousands of listeners were already fleeing the imaginary invaders. The highways clogged with hysterical refugees spoken of in the fictional news reports became reality. In Newark, hundreds of cars raced down the streets in full flight, ignoring traffic signals. Police received reports from people in the Riverside Drive area who claimed to have seen the martian machines over the Jersey Palisades. A Boston woman said that she had seen the fires of the martian rampage, and she and many of her neighbours told the Boston Globe that they "were getting out of here". In Atlanta, people gathered and prayed. In Indianapolis, a woman ran in to a church screaming: "New York destroyed: It's the end of the world: You might as well go home to die. I just heard it on the radio." Services were immediately dismissed. Weeping and hysterical women swamped the switchboard of the Providence Journal, Providence, R.I., asking for details of the "massacre". Five students at Brevard College, Brevard, N.C., fainted at the news, and the campus erupted in panic as students fought for telephones to call their parents to come and get them. A few students who knew the broadcast was a dramatization managed to calm everyone down. A Kansas City man loaded his family into their car and wanted to know of a safe place to which they might go. A defiant man in San Francisco volunteered to fight the martians. In Pittsburgh, a man found his wife ready to take poison rather than face death by the martians. He stopped her in time.

The following morning, the broadcast and the panic it caused were front page news. Welles' name was on everybody's lips. He had become an overnight, worldwide celebrity. Miraculously, no one had died in the pandemonium, but there had been numerous injuries. \$200,000 worth of lawsuits would be brought against Welles, however his lawyer, Arnold Weissberger, had spared him the ruin these would bring by including a rider in Welles' contract with CBS absolving him of any responsibility for anything resulting from his broadcasts. He was off the hook legally, but the public had not yet decided whether he was a hero or a villian. When influencial columnist Dorothy Thompson wrote that Welles had done the country a service by demonstrating how vulnerable America was to a panic reaction in the event of war, the tide turned in Welles' favour.

His career, and those of the principles involved in the broadcast, took off. He transported the Mercury players to Hollywood, and in 1941 released his landmark film, "Citizen Kane". His co-producer, John Houseman, became a respected producer and actor, perhaps best remembered for his portrayal of Professor Kingsfield in the movie and TV series "The Paper Chase". Actor Joseph Cotten achieved stardom, and scriptwriter Howard Koch was signed to a

seven year contract with Warner Brothers. His first assignment was to complete the script for what would become a movie classic: "Casablanca".

As I mentioned earlier, sources differ as to whether or not Welles had planned to mislead his audience into believing that his martian invasion was real. He, afterwards, denied having so intended. I don't buy that! way in which the show was constructed strongly suggests that he knew exactly what he was doing, although he, perhaps, did not anticipate how effectively his hoax would work. The prankster in me likes to believe that Orson Welles planned and executed the most elaborate, incredible Halloween prank of all Consider his own remarks, made at the close of that now famous broad-"This is Orson Welles, ladies and gentlemen, out of character to assure you that 'The War of the Worlds' has no further significance than as the holiday offering it was intended to be-the Mercury Theatre's own radio version of dressing up in a sheet and jumping out of a bush and saying 'boo!'. Starting now, we couldn't soap all your windows and steal all your garden gates by tomorrow night, so we did the best next (Welles' mispronunciation) thing. We annihilated the world before your very ears and utterly destroyed the CBS: You will be relieved, I hope, to learn that we didn't mean it, and that both institutions are still open for business. So goodbye everybody, and remember please, for the next day or so, the terrible lesson you learned tonight; that grinning, glowing, globular invader of your living room is an inhabitant of the pumpkin patch, and if your doorbell rings and nobody's there ... that was no martian, it's Halloween."

Canada may join search for intelligence in space

TORONTO (CP) - The National Research Council wants to turn one of its mothballed observatories into a listening post for signs of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe.

The Algonquin Radio Observatory has been closed since 1986, but the NRC is negotiating with the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration to include the observatory and its huge telescope in NASA's proposed Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence program.

NASA scientists have visited the site and are enthusiastic.

would be in there right now," said a NASA official.

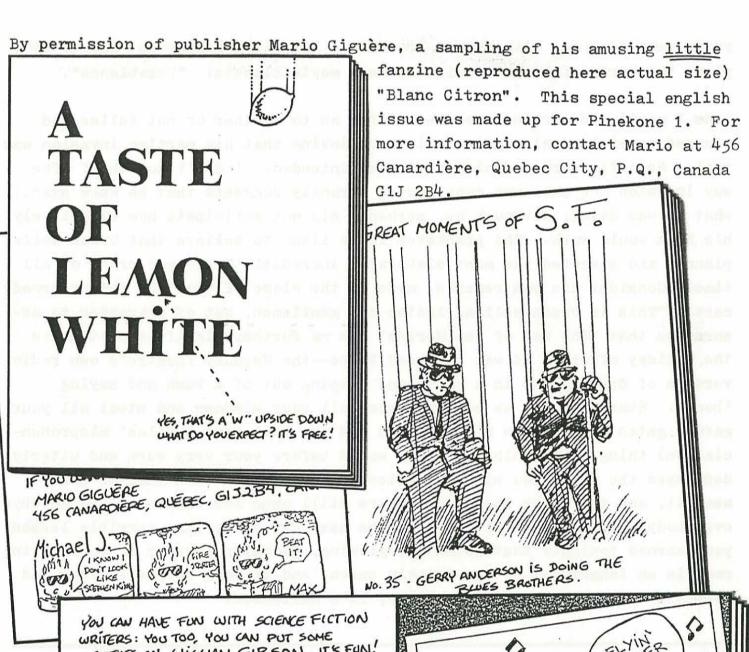
"If we were not so broke we

LAST MINUTE CLUB INFO..

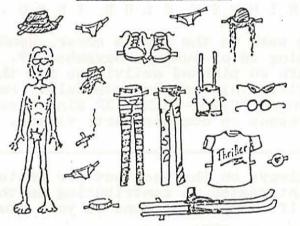
As you've seen on the inside cover, MonSFFA's next meeting is on Sunday, November 27. The latest info on planned activities for this meeting gives this partial schedule: Panel discussion on "Cyber-punk"; SF Win, Lose, or Draw; Workshop on computer art; videos.

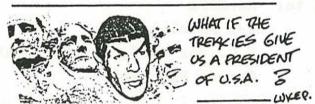
WARP is always on the look-out for writers & artists interested in contributing to the news-If that's you, send us your stuff: letter. Mail it to: MonSFFA

> c/o Newsletter P.O. Box 2413, Dorval, Quebec Canada H9S 5N4



CLOTHES ON WILLIAM GIBSON, IT'S FUN!







AZ ELUIS HAS BEEN SPOTTED ABOARD A UFO. * OUR REPORTER BRINGS BACK THIS INCREDIBLE PROOF



Earthshattering Trumors





In the new season of Star Trek: The Next Generation, as previously reported, Whoopi Goldberg will join the crew of the U.S.S. Enterprise as a semi-regular. Her character will be the manager of a ship-board lounge. Meanwhile Geordie LaForge, formerly the helmsman is now slated to become the chief engineer. He will remain on the bridge. Wesley will become (can you believe this) the new helmsman. Doctor Crusher will be reassigned to another ship. The character will not be killed off. The new chief surgeon will be played by veteran trekker Diana Muldaur. Her character, Doctor Kate Pulaski, will be Picard's new love interest.

Season begins on the week of November 21st. Check local listings.

STAR TREK V: THE FINAL FRONTIER is ripe with rumours about the plot, some of them down right scary. One report has Mr. Spock's long lost twin brother showing up. (If it's an evil twin, I'm going to hang up my pointed ears.) Another rumour has actress/bodybuilder Spice Williams portraying a Klingon female.

Who You Gonna Call?...Your Agent!

Sigourney Weaver has been signed to reprise her role in *Ghostbusters II*. Originally she demanded equal pay with co-stars Akroyd and Murray. Studio Execs nixed the deal and wrote her out of the script. However, after the success of *Gorillas in the Mist*, Weaver can write her own contract. Execs now see Weaver as Box Office Bonanza material and have agreed to her terms, meaning her character will be reposessed.

Terminator/Aliens team of James Cameron and Gale Ann Hurd are back together for a project titled The Abyss. On board are Aliens veterans Michael Biehn and Lance Henriksen. Also starring are Ed Harris (The Right Stuff) and Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio (The Colour of Money). Now shooting with extensive underwater scenes, in South Carolina.

Lee Majors/Lindsay Wagner are to reprise their bionic roles once again in an NBC movie. Project co-producer Richard Anderson is also back as Oscar Goldman, as is Martin Brooks as bionics scientist Rudy Wells. This movie will introduce a new bionic couple, who it is hoped, will go on to star in their own new series.

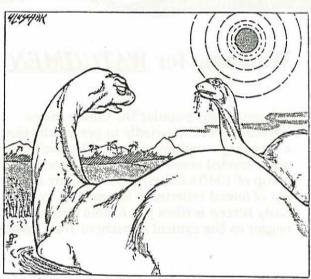
Michael J. Fox and Christopher Lloyd will reprise their roles in Back to the Future II. Bob Zemeckis directs once again. Bob Gale joins him again as co-scriptwriter.

Rumour has it that ex-Monty Python member John Cleese will play Dr. Who in the Dr. Who movie. Cleese denies the rumour. He has appeared in an episode of the series in a cameo, playing an art gallery patron where the TARDIS suddenly materialized. Nudge, nudge... wink, wink...say no more!

E. T., the video, is expected to become the video sales champ (well over 10 million sold to date). A sequel will definitely not be made. Spielberg is rumored to be splitting up with his wife, Amy Irving. A spokesperson denies this. Gremlins II is being scripted at this time, and Amblin Entertainment is also interested in Straub/King's The Talisman.

Anthony Zerbe (Omega Man) joins the cast of Liscence Revoked, the next James Bond film. He will play marine biologist Milton Kreet

A Klingon Konvention is planned. Set to attend are Mark Lenard, Michael Dorn, Michael Ansara, John Colicos, John Larroquette, and John Schuck.



"GREENHOUSE EFFECT- WHAT ALARMIST RUBBISH!"



HOLY SHIT BATM.... BOOM

Robin, the Boy Wonder has been sentenced to death by DC Comics readers. In a phone-in referendum, Batman readers decided to snuff out the little punk by a 2-1 margin. Long time readers of the story will know that this particular Robin is not the original. Dick Grayson, the original Robin has long since graduated to his own comic, and the Robin who will bite the "big one" in this forthcoming special, is a mere replacement. Apparently few people approved of the new character and voted to have him blown to bat-crispies by the nefarious Joker, who will then get his own ticket punched by the vengeful Batman. Watch out for *A Death In The Family*.

Bruce Wayne's love interest, reporter Vicky Vale, will be played by Sean (Blade Runner) Young in *Batman: The Movie*.

Along with stars Michael Keaton and Jack Nicholson, rumour has it that the Catwoman will be played by Cher.

Indiana Jones Jr.

River (Stand By Me) Phoenix will play Indiana Jones as a young boy in the flashback sequences of Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade.

Watching for WATCHMEN

The amazingly popular DC Comic series WATCHMEN is reportedly in pre-production as a very major motion picture. The twelve issue multi-leveled comic series concerns a group of 1940's superheroes who are forced out of forced retirement to save the world. Early screen scribes peg Arnold Schwarzennegger as the cynical superhero The Comedian.

WARP IS LOOKING FOR KNOWLEDGABLE COMIC FANS TO REPORT ON THE LATEST COMIC NEWS. INTERESTED VOLUNTEERS CAN WRITE TO US AT OUR MAILING ADDRESS (SEE PAGE 3).





More Earthshattering Trumors

Movies...

The animated Amblin Entertainment/
Don Bluth co-production, "The Land
Before Time", is due to come out
November 18.

"Cocoon—The Return" (The entire original cast of "Cocoon" returns for this sequel. ILM is doing the special effects.), "Scrooged" (Bill Murray plays a miserly TV executive in this update of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol".), "High Spirits" Steve Guttenburg, Daryl Hannah, and Peter O'Toole star in this comedy about a group of tourists visiting an old, Irish castle who fall in love with the various ghosts inhabiting it.), Hellraiser II (Sequel to—you guessed it—Hellraiser.)

Coming out December 9: "!
Stepmother is an Alien".

IT'S DEAD, JIM:

Final Frontier, the magazine, is dead. After 3 issues, this Montreal-based science fiction and fantasy magazine has been forced to fold. The reason: financial problems brought about by serious managerial differences between publisher Chris Daly and the rest of FF's staff. is reported that some of these ex FF staffers have teamed up with a new group interested in putting out an sf/f 'zine. This new publication is expected out some time in early to mid-1989. Future issues of WARP will keep you appraised of further developements.

Coming in '89: "The Fly II", "Back to the Future II", "Millenium", "Licence Revoked", "Batman", Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade", "Ghostbusters II", "Star Trek V—The Final Frontier" "The Abyss".

A BOO FROM THE Q:

The Q, an organization promoting sf in Quebec, are planning an event for late '89, probably a Halloween oriented mini-con in October. Stay tuned to WARP for further details.

Note: It has come to our attention that Colleen Magnussen's last name has appeared under several different spellings in this newsletter. This is clearly a communist plot, designed to upset the delicate balance of world military power! Any other spelling errors are also highly suspect (Godless commies!!). WARP is investigating this outrageous assault on our freedoms (don't laugh...today a few harmless spelling errors, tomorrow a soviet ICBM up your kazoo); in the meantime, Colleen's last name is correctly spelt:

M A G N U S S E N.

Aliens back Brian

IF Prime Minister Brian

Mulroney loses the election he should consider leaving the planet.

Although he may not believe in them, space aliens believe in Mulroney, an expert told the Daily News at last weekend's ESP Psychic EXPO.

The extra-terrestrials use Deep Trance Medium Donna Kinniburgh's voice when they have something important to tell the world.

But these days space beings are saying: "Take us to your old leader."

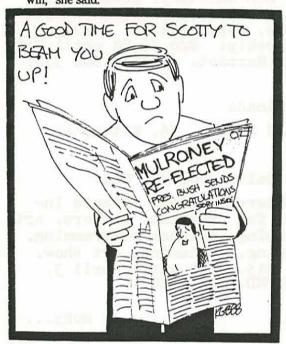
"All they said is that Mulroney will be chosen," said Kinniburgh, who says her polls of creatures throughout the universe reveal an inter-galactic Conservative bias.

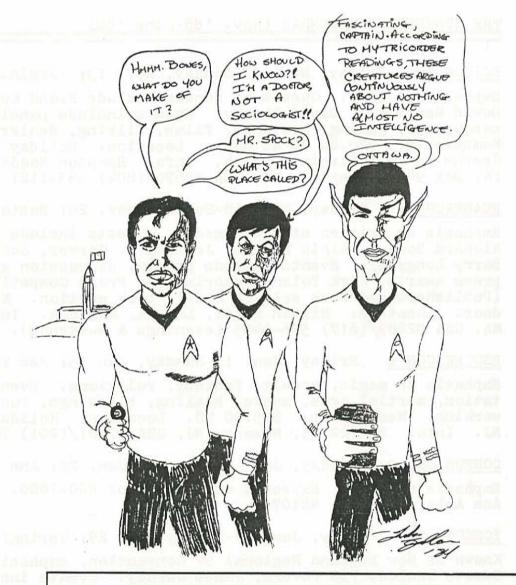
"The voice changes radically," she said ref-erring to the times when she is just a mouthpiece for pro-PC extra-terrestrials.

Kinniburgh says her voice often lowers dras-

tically in pitch.

"They spoke of Mulroney having the vital leadership quality to win," she said.





THANKS

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SCICON 10 Friday, Nov. 11-Sunday, Nov. 13; Virginia Beach, VA, USA.
Emphasis on sf&f. Guests of Honour include Frank Kelly Frank David Be

Emphasis on sf&f. Guests of Honour include Frank Kelly Freas, David Brin, David Mattingly, David Cherry. Events include panels, readings, videos, masquerade, gaming, art show, films, filking, dealers' room, con-suite. Membership: \$20.00 US at door. Location: Holiday Inn Executive Center, Greenwich Rd., Virginia Beach. Info: Hampton Roads SF Association, Dept. FA, Box 9434, Hampton, VA, USA 23670/(804) 583-1121 (Tom Edsall).

READERCON 2 Friday, Nov. 18-Sunday, Nov. 20; Boston, MA, USA.

Emphasis on written sf&f, no media. Guests include Samuel R. Delaney, Richard Bowker, Algis Budrys, Jeffrey A. Carver, Scott Edelman, Janice Eisen, Barry Longyear. Events include panels, discussion groups, readings, small press awards, Kirk Poland Memorial Bad Prose Competition, dealers' room (Publishers and book sellers only), book auction. Membership: \$20.00 US at door. Location: Hilton Hotel, Lowell, MA, USA. Info: Box 6138, Boston, MA, USA 02209/(617) 576-0415 (evenings & weekends).

ESOTERICON 6 Friday, Jan. 13-Sunday, Jan 15; New York, NY, USA.

Emphasis on magic, occult, fantasy, religions. Events include tarot, meditation, martial arts, music, healing, blessings, runes, I Ching, crystal working. Membership: \$25.00 US. Location: Holiday Inn Jetport, Elizabeth, NJ. Info: Box 22775, Newark, NJ, USA 07101/(201) 743-7647 or (201) 672-9244.

CONFUSION 10 Friday, Jan. 20-Sunday, Jan. 22; Ann Arbor, MI, USA. Emphasis on sf&f. Expected attendance of 800-1000. Info: AASFA, Box 8284, Ann Arbor, MI, USA 48107.

BOSKONE 26 Friday, Jan. 27-Sunday, Jan 29; Springfield, MA, USA.

Known as New England Regional SF Convention, emphasis on written sf&f.
Guests include Tim Powers; James Gurney. Events include art show, dealers'
room, filking contest. Membership: \$25.00 US until Dec. 31, \$40.00 at door.
Info: Box G, MIT PO, Cambridge, MA, USA 02139/(617) 625-2311.

LUNACON '89 Friday, March 10-Sunday, march 12; New York, NY, USA.

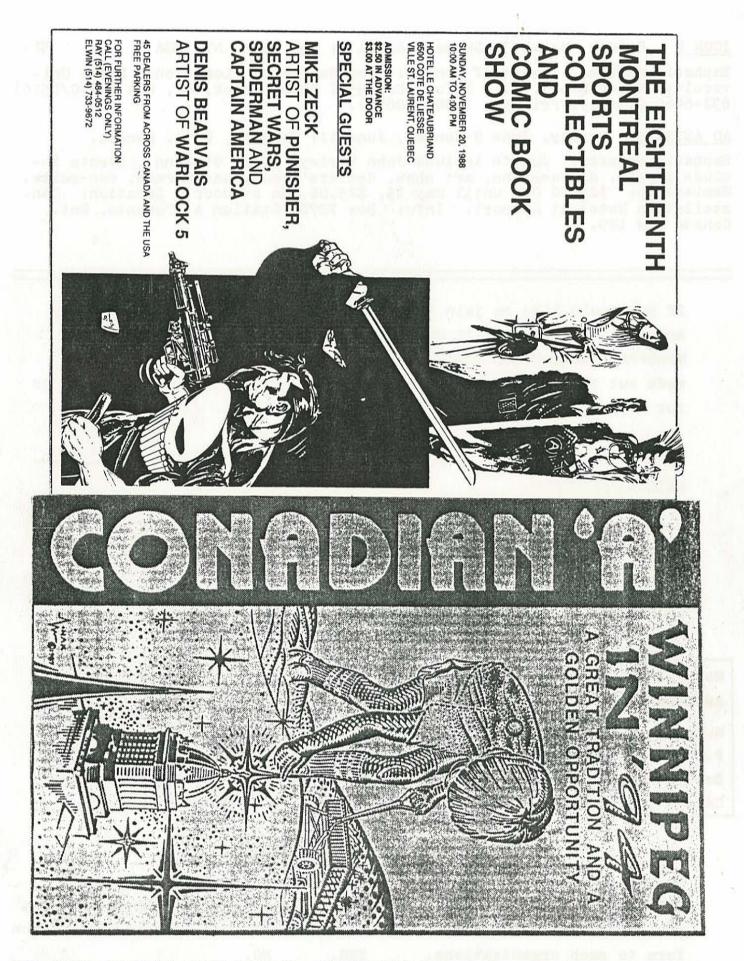
Emphasis on sf&f. Guests include Roger Zelazny, Ron Walotsky, David Hartwell. Events include art show, masquerade, book exhibit, book raffle, dealers' room, autograph sessions, panels, discussions, Japanimation, gaming (including live action role playing game). Membership: \$20.00 US until Feb. 29, will be more at door. Location: Westchester Marriot. Info: Box 338, New York, NY, USA 10150/(609) 261-8316.

WILFCON 5 Saturday, March 11; Waterloo, Ont., Canada Emphasis on sf&f. Info: Dennis Mullin, 69 Donald Street, #6, Kitchener, Ont., Canada N2B 3G6/(519) 743-9485.

BALTICON 23 Friday, March 24-Sunday, March 26; Baltimore, MD, USA. Emphasis on sf&f. Guests include C.J. Cherryh, Steven Stiles. Events include amateur films, writers' workshops, filking, fan programs, authors, art programming, writing programs, children's programming, science programming, dealers' room, films, panels, computer games, gaming, costuming, art show, autograph sessions, bardic circle. Membership: \$15.00 US until April 3, will be more at door. Info: Box 686, Baltimore, MD, USA 21203.

versity, Stony Brook	uest of Honour: Joe Haldeman. Location: State Uni-, NY. Info: Box 550, Stony Brook, NY, USA 11790/(516) idays, 1:00-5:00PM).
AD ASTRA 9 Friday	June 9-Sunday, June 11; Toronto, Ont., Canada.
Membership: \$20.00	uests include John Varley, Kerry O'Quinn. Events insions, art show, dealers' room, masquerade, con-suite. Cdn until May 15, \$25.00 Cdn at door. Location: Con-Airport. Info: Box 7276, Station A, Toronto, Ont.,
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solicit our men you permit us t form to such on	times approached by other organizations wishing to bers through the mail. Please indicate whether or not o pass on the information contained in this application ganizationsYESNO.

ICON 8 Friday, March 31-Sunday, April 2; New York, NY, USA.



THE NEXT ISSUE OF WARP WILL BE OUT IN JANUARY, 1989. Until then, MonSFFA wishes all of its members and friends the best of the season, and a very happy new year.