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Roll Call

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Cover up: This month's cover, inspired by Samuel R. Delaney's late 1960's novel *Nova*, was rendered by Rick Harris, whose credits include numerous freelance illustrations for FASA's game "Battletech", and for GDW's "Space 1889".

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 life-forms. 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 membership 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. The following stores have agreed verbally to implement our program: (1) Ozz Comics, (2) Mars Comics, (3) 1 000 000 Comics, (4) Komico, (5) Librairie Astro, (6) Hobby International, Inc., (7) all Kangaroo Hobby stores, (8) I.D.AHHS, and (9) Nebula. Further, a legal agreement with Compucentre Fairview and El Paso Comix has been reached. See these establishments for specifics. MonSFFA encourages its members to patronize these businesses.

The signing of an agreement between MonSFFA and the rest of 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.

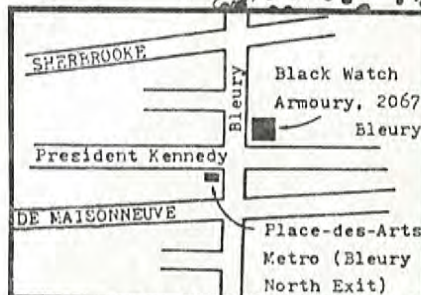
Address all correspondence to:

MonSFFA
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Quebec
H2W 2P4.

*Next meeting June 11, 1989, at the
Black Watch Armoury, 2067 Bleury
St., 1-5 p.m.*

*Admission: Free for members, \$2.00
for non-members.*

Theme: Fantasy



Letter from the Editor

Being the editor of *Warp* is not without its drawbacks. I recently gave an ear to criticisms and suggestions at a newsletter meeting held at Bryan Ekers's home on April 23. Resulting from that meeting, as well as from before, were some editorial decisions that should alter the look of the newsletter.

Readers may have noticed a gradual increase, with each succeeding issue, of club in-jokes. Because very few people, other than the BOA and newsletter staff, understand, let alone find funny, the jokes (such as the quotes in the Roll Call, the typesetter text notes, or the "billion tons of death" jokes), I have simply eliminated all of them. However, I reserve the right to include editor's notes, when necessary, to clarify ambiguous body text.

Another major topic of the meeting was the issue of printing. In *Warp 4*, I mentioned that the facilities MonSFFA used to print *Warp* for the last twelve months are no longer available to us. We have yet to find facilities so financially cheap. In fact, if we do not find facilities that charge us no more than what it costs to purchase the paper needed, we will have to either change the proofs used for *Warp* from laser prints to dot-matrix (which is a serious reduction in quality), or reduce *Warp's* length to six or four pages. I may even have to implement *both* changes, in order for us to afford to make *Warp*. If any of *Warp's* readers can provide cheap printing services, such as I have described, I implore you to contact me at 695-7982, or Keith Braithwaite at 692-4692, because I do not—and I am sure you do not—want to see *Warp* decimated due to expenses.

Other topics were discussed, such as *Warp* covers, improvements for content and layout, and rates for advertising. Notwithstanding the importance of all these topics, none exceeded the importance of finding new printing facilities, and soon.

Anyway, it is time for me to go. Once again, I urge readers to write us with their suggestions, comments, and criticisms. Until next time, ciao!



Geoffrey Bovey
Editor

President's Letter

One of the principle things—arguably *the* principle thing—that science fiction and fantasy fans do is attend sf&f conventions. Montreal does not have a strong "con" tradition; most of the cons we see in this city are comics conventions, and comics are but one aspect of sf&f fandom. There is so much more.

Few of you MonSFFA members, I suspect, have ever been to a full-blown sf&f con, and until a year ago, neither had I. Since then, I've been to five, and I *highly* recommend the experience.

There are more things to see and do at a typical sf&f con than you'll have time for. A large part of the programming is devoted to lectures and discussion panels, at which fans exchange views (on a wide variety of topics) with the con's guests, and with each other. Most cons feature an art show, where both pro and amateur pieces are displayed and sold. A costume competition, called the masquerade, is another common feature. Some cons offer you the opportunity to take in an old sf movie classic that you may not yet have seen, or catch an exclusive preview of an upcoming flick. In the dealers' room, fans are offered a selection of sf&f merchandise: books, videos, art reproductions and posters, model kits, sf&f collectables, handcrafted sf&f jewelry, to list just a few. Any con worth its salt will throw a few parties, at which fans and con guests alike can unwind a little after a day's activities. You will find that the guests are, for the most part, very approachable and quite willing to share a drink (not necessarily alcoholic) and some time with the fans. I, for instance, have spent several fascinating hours talking *Trek* with *ST* authors Diane Carey, Diane Duane, and Peter Morwood; I've quaffed a few and discussed the state of the television industry with writer, and *Beauty* and *the Beast* producer, George R. R. Martin; and I've talked with award-winning sf artist Bob Eggleton about illustration techniques. Such encounters offer a great chance to ask, and have answered by someone in the know, any questions you may have about the professional side of sf&f. You'll also meet many a fellow fan at cons, and perhaps form a new friendship or two. All in all, an sf&f con is an experience not to be missed.

Summer is the prime time con-going season around these parts, and there are a number of cons within reasonable driving distance of Montreal: Ad Astra (Toronto, June), Maplecon (Ottawa, July), Toronto Trek 3 (Toronto, August), and Convention/Pinecone (Ottawa, October). Also, Montreal's own Con•cept, a one-day general interest sf&f con, will debut in November; and the grand-daddy of all cons, the World Science Fiction Convention (WorldCon), is being held, this year, in Boston (see the Convention Calendar in this issue).



Keith Braithwaite
President

MonSFFA Discount Program

One of the *benefits* of being a member of the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA) is that you are entitled to **receive certain discounts** on merchandise you purchase at the establishments shown on this page.

These businesses have very kindly agreed to help support and to encourage MonSFFA by implementing our **Discount Program**, and we, in return, *encourage our members to frequent these stores*.

The discounts offered by each store are listed below their business card. Ex-ceptions may exist; ask the specific dealer for details.

You must present a valid **MonSFFA membership card** in order to take advantage of these discounts.



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MonSFFAndom

May General Meeting

Our General Meeting, held on May 7, featured a *Batman* theme and a presentation on role-playing games. Several members brought in a variety of *Bat*-items including home-made *Batman* and *Robin* Halloween costumes, a toy *Batmobile*, and a number of rare comics. Keith Braithwaite and Berny Reischl displayed and sold prints of their *Bat*-art, and Berny gave an airbrushing demo, rendering one of his *Bat*-prints as an example. *Batman* himself (Bruce Wayne...well, really John Matthias) made an appearance and posed for photos with members to help raise money for Con•cept. Trudie Mason baked a *Bat*-cake and two 'Robin' cakes; monies from the sale of these went to offset club expenses. Members also had the opportunity to view the 1966 *Batman* movie, and many of them did so. Holy reruns, *Batman!* The Con•cept doorprize, a model kit of the TV series *Batmobile*, was won by Sylvie Beaulieu. (Sylvie, it should be noted, brought in a table-full of *Star Wars* items, as she missed the chance to display her collection at our *SW* theme meeting in April. Better late than never!) Invited guest Craig McNamee, from the Concordia U. Gaming Club, gave a talk on role-playing games, explaining the whats and hows of rpg's, then fielded questions from the membership. He, along with fellow Concordia gamer Bob Louvaris, brought in a wealth of gaming-related material, including some of Bob's extensive collection of gaming miniatures. Also, member John Zmrotchek, who had displayed some of his miniatures at our last meeting, brought in even more of them to augment the gaming sub-theme of this meeting.

MonSFFA wishes to thank everyone who helped out with our May meeting: Colleen Magnussen, Bryan Ekers, Berny Reischl, Keith Braithwaite, Trudie Mason, Iggy Battaglini, Crystal Rothwell, Alain Carrier, Geoff Bovey, Ken Carroll, John Matthias, John Zmrotchek, Robert Gomes, Sylvie Beaulieu, and our invited guests from the Concordia Gaming Club, Craig McNamee and Bob Louvaris. Also, special thanks to OZZ Comics for donating the Con•cept door prize, and for loaning us the *Batman* costume worn by John Matthias.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, June 11 (same *Bat*-time, same *Bat*-place), and feature a fantasy theme.

Con•vention

Four of our members, including con-com chairman John Matthias, attended a workshop, in Ottawa on April 1, on how to organize a convention. "Much valuable info was passed on to us from experienced con organizers from both Ottawa and Toronto, info which we will be able to use on Con•cept," said John. After the workshop, a party was held and notable Ottawa sf fan Larry "The



Batman items on display at the May General Meeting.



Keith Braithwaite and Trudie Mason with *Batman* and *Robin* cakes. Holy munchies, *Batman!*



Artist Berny Reischl demos the use of an airbrush.



Invited guest speaker Craig McNamee (center), of the Concordia Gaming Club, talks rpg's with members.

Doctor" Stewart was given a gift in appreciation of his contributions to Ottawa area cons. Thanks to workshop and party host Paul Valcour for both an educational and entertaining time.

Convention chairman John Matthias confirmed to MonSFFA that Con•cept will be held on November 12, 1989, at the Maritime Hotel located at the corner of Guy and René Lévesque (aka Dorchester) streets. Con•cept is now actively searching for convention staff. For legal reasons, Con•cept will operate separately from MonSFFA; however, individual MonSFFA members are certainly welcome to contribute their time and efforts to the success of this con. For more information concerning Con•cept, write to: Con•cept, P.O. Box 61, Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, H2W 2M9.

The Con•cept con-com wishes to thank

OZZ Comics, Cards, and Collectables, Inc.

for their donation of the door prize awarded at MonSFFA's May General Meeting

Party Zone

A small, but dedicated, crew of party-goers showed up at the Party Zone, held at Emile Richard's apartment on April 22. A good time was had by all. Thanks to Emile for his hospitality.

BOA

Three members of the BOA™ have taken temporary leaves of absence: Treasurer Emile Richard, attending to business matters, will soon return to his MonSFFA duties; Recruitment Officer Alan Keeping,



Door-prize winners Iggy Battaglini and Sylvie Beaulieu



Paul Valcour (left) and Larry "the Doctor" Stewart (right) at Paul's April 22nd Party in Ottawa.

visiting with family out of town, will return sometime in June; and PR Officer Kevin Holden has returned to his home in New Brunswick and expects to return to Montreal in the Fall. Other BOA™ members are currently shouldering the responsibilities of their absent colleagues. Any assistance with BOA™ duties from you, the general membership, would be greatly appreciated. Contact us if you feel you can lend a hand. As reported in *Warp 4*, the Special Activities Officer position is open, and a by-election will be held at the June General Meeting. Any member interested in running for this position should present him or herself at that time.

Newsletter

Production costs for this newsletter have risen drastically of late, but the righteous crew of *Warp* struggle to curb skyrocketing expenses! (See "Letter to the Editor".)

Model Expo

MonSFFA has been invited to participate in the Model Expo being held at the Dollard Civic Centre, Dollard-des-Ormeaux, on the weekend of June 3 and 4. MonSFFA intends to use this opportunity to publicize our club and recruit new members. Thanks to Model Expo organizer Daniel Brotman for extending to us this gracious invitation. A full report will appear in the next issue of *Warp*.

New Address

MonSFFA has changed its address from P.O. Box 2413, Dorval, Quebec, H9S 5V1 to **P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, H2W 2P4**. All correspondence to MonSFFA should be addressed to this new location; however, material sent to our old address will be forwarded to us until **July 31, 1989**. So *you better get used to the idea!!*



Bat-kiss!

in poses with fans.

Editorial

This column is open to any sentient being who has an opinion on anything at all to do with sf/f and fandom. Note that the opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect those of MonSFFA, or this newsletter. Please submit your editorials to Warp c/o MonSFFA.



Within the U.S. based PLANETARY SOCIETY, there is a lively debate raging over the philosophy behind Terran exploration of space. An article, "Phobos: A Surface Mine or an Interplanetary Park", published in the September/October issue of the *Planetary Report*, discussed the merits of scientific exploration vs. "evil" commercial exploration of the resources of Phobos. Subsequent letters to the 'Members Dialogue' column of the *Report* (a forum for readers to voice their opinion) seem to indicate that preservation of the moon is preferable to letting it fall into the hands of presumably greedy industrialists.

The PLANETARY SOCIETY, although not well known, is nonetheless influential, by grace of the prominence of its directors and advisors. The president is renowned astronomer Carl Sagan. Former NASA administrator and now U.S. National Commission on Space chairman Thomas O. Paine sits on the board. Authors Ray Bradbury and Arthur C. Clarke are advisors. Others include astronaut Sally Ride and, curiously, actor Paul Newman. The upshot is, when the PLANETARY SOCIETY speaks, the powers-that-be listen. And when the SOCIETY promulgates such a one-sided view of the benefits and drawbacks of commercial exploration of space, it's crucial that other voices be heard as well.

It is unthinkable that humans will be able to mount viable space projects without contributions from the private sector. A cynical view, perhaps, but a realistic one. As the song goes, "Money's too tight to mention", and nowhere is that more evident than at NASA, to use one example. It can be argued that the *Challenger* disaster was a project of too much ambition and too little money— a budget squeeze which put everyone from the toppest dog to the lowliest engineer on the hotseat. In fact, without the aptly-named payloads the shuttles carry into space for telecommunications firms and the like, NASA's nuts would probably be roasting over a financial fire right now.

Members of the PLANETARY SOCIETY argue that commercial interests should keep their hot little hands off of space because their money lust would turn all they touch into a wasteland. Images of cosmic pollution and wasted planets are conjured up to support this notion. Preserve Phobos, these naïve people argue; turn it and other moons and planets into research stations, not strip mines. Picture children in bubble-headed spacesuits frolicking in the craters of the Moon, whilst Mom and Dad prepare a picnic lunch of dehydrated Spam sandwiches. All this, while nearby, friendly and dedicated scientists conduct experiments which will help wipe out famine back on Earth, or, possibly, cure the common cold.

It may be a pretty picture, but it's no more probable than Geraldo Rivera contracting a permanent case of laryngitis. The U.S. and the U.S.S.R. are the nations closest to achieving interplanetary travel and exploration. Both are preoccupied at the moment, with mundane problems such as widespread homelessness and stagnant economies. Can either afford to mount major space expeditions without contributions from the well-heeled and eager private sector? Wake up and smell the greenbacks! Any ambitious exploration project will need the money and expertise of industry. And don't think for a minute that exploration of space resources and their preservation are mutually exclusive. Of course, the scientific community is needed to keep a tight rein on development, to prevent the Lunar equivalent of Chernobyl, but make no mistake—big business would be a big boon to space exploration. Joint scientific-commercial forays into space are the wave of the future. There's no other way to the stars.

Trudie Mason

The *Planetary Report* is published six times yearly by the PLANETARY SOCIETY. Annual membership is \$25.00 U.S. Write the *Planetary Report*, 65 North Catalina Avenue, Pasadena, California, USA, 91106.

Pet Sematary

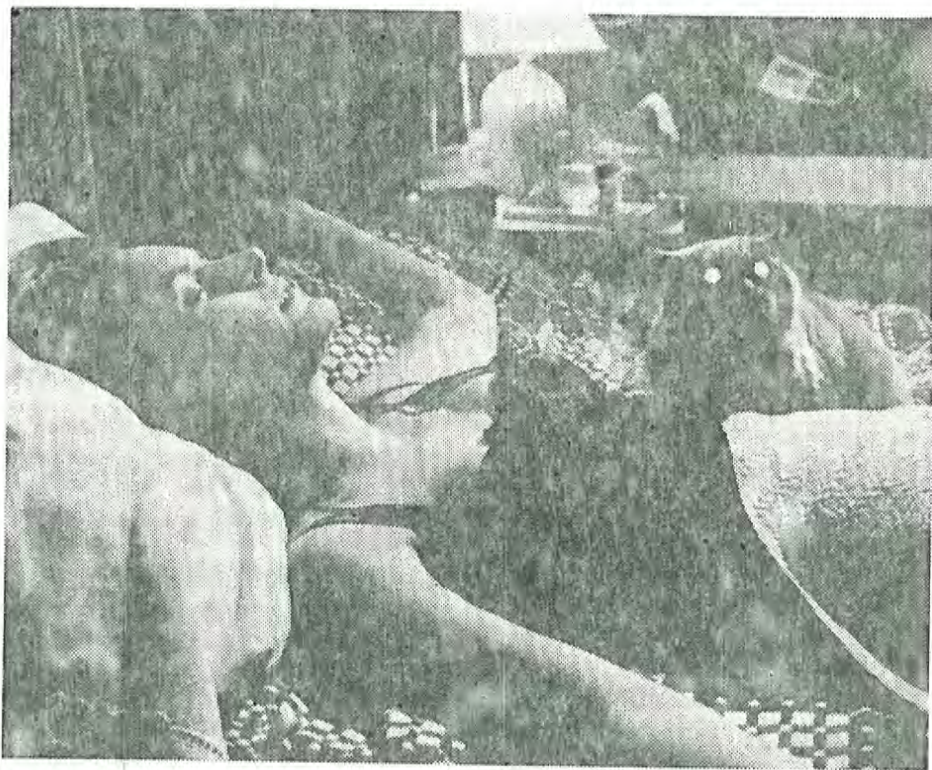
A review by George Wessel

I haven't read the book, so I won't be making any comparisons to it. I find it inappropriate, in any case, to compare movies to the books they're based on. It's pretty near impossible to successfully translate *all* the elements of a book to the screen—books and movies are two very different animals, and should be viewed in that light. But I digress...

Director Mary Lambert, best known for her directing of music videos (including Madonna's controversial "Like A Prayer"), has crafted a superior example of horror cinema in *Pet Sematary*. This visually striking film delivers on all levels. The blood and gore is there, in abundance, but unlike the Freddy/Jason-like movies, *Sematary* goes beyond mere B&G. It doesn't just gross you out, it *scares* you. And not with cheap, unimaginative tricks (although there are a few of those), but with the use of a couple of elements that have been sorely lacking in contemporary horror movies: an eerie, unsettling atmosphere is prevalent throughout; and the suspense that Lambert manages to build, particularly during the climactic sequence in which young Gage Creed returns from the dead, would do Hitchcock proud.

Stephen King pushes all the right buttons in his screenplay. He plays on many of our most common childhood fears, including that one about monsters being under our beds.

Dale Midkiff puts in a competent lead performance as Dr. Louis Creed, a man driven to extremes in order to bring back his dead son, but Fred Gwynne (*The Munsters*) steals the show with his interpretation of the Creeds' small-town-Maine neighbour, Jud Crandall. Only Denise Crosby's less than convincing portrayal of Rachel Creed and a predictable, very clichéd ending prevent me from scoring this film a 10. I give it an 8.



Above: Denise Crosby and Church, the recently croaked cat, in *Pet Sematary*.

Below: Fred Gwynne as Jud Crandall.



Science Fiction in Scholarly Circles

It might be difficult to understand why the treatment of science fiction by academics should be of any relevance at all to sf fans, but there are two good reasons to read this article. First of all, it is unfortunately true that academics largely determine the future's conception of "culture." Shakespeare is better known today than Beaumont and Fletcher largely because his dramatic works have been studied and admired for the last 350 years. We should all be eager to ensure that sf is not treated as second-class literature.

Secondly, and more importantly, sf fans share a love for literature (even individual genre, undefinable though it may be). Most sf fans seek for ways to integrate their hobby and their careers, but usually think first of movies and television, or perhaps even magazine publishing. A much-underrated and often overlooked alternative lies in the groves of academe, in the ivory tower of literary studies.

Science fiction fans have always been able to find university literature courses which include the seventeenth and eighteenth-century predecessors of science fiction. These are seldom sf classics, but they are "mainstream" literature: More's *Utopia*, Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, and even Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*.

In recent years, most university English departments have added "general interest" courses in sf, although they usually appear camouflaged under such titles as "Utopian & Dystopian", "Romance," or "Gothic Literature". In the rare cases that the dreaded initials "sf" appear, they denote "speculative fiction." These courses are inevitably light in twentieth-century content, but then Humanities departments are usually bastions of the conservative.

The University of Western Ontario offers a course in "Forms of Romance," and the University of Toronto boldly labels one "Science Fiction," but in neither case are the courses considered a serious contribution toward a degree in literary studies.

My attempts to arrange for a graduate reading course in sf at U of T have met with considerable opposition from the department of English. Ironically, Toronto is the home of the largest public sf library—the regrettably-named "Spaced-Out Library."

This conservative attitude is particularly surprising (although perhaps not for Southwestern Ontario) in view of the major advances sf has made in scholarly circles of late.

Brian Aldiss has recently released "Trillion Year Spree", a careful and academic investigation of the history of science fiction. Likewise, academic publishers are releasing an increasing number of bibliographical indexes on everything from Asimov to Zaxxon.

For 28 years now, Kent State University Press has published a scholarly quarterly, *Extrapolation*, which treats the study of sf literature as seriously as the *Shakespeare Quarterly* treats the Bard of Avon. Articles such as "Deconstructing the Balzacian Mode:

Postmodern Fantasy" or "Ursula K. LeGuin and Arthur C. Clarke on Immanence, Transcendence, and Massacres" appeared in 1987. The Editorial Board includes Brian Aldiss, Merritt Abrash, and Thomas D. Clareson.

For the past 14 years, Concordia University has published the quarterly *Science Fiction Studies*, containing such scholarly erudite articles as "Androgyny vs. Bifurcation: A Psychological Reading of *Frankenstein*," or "*Back to the Future*: Oedipus as Time Traveller." *SFS*'s Editors and Editorial Consultants include Samuel R. Delaney, Stanislaw Lem, Northrop Frye, and Ursula K. LeGuin!

Underlying all this scholarly research in sf is the *Science Fiction Research Association* (SFRA), founded in 1970. The SFRA consists of nearly 500 members in 20 different countries, including professors, authors, librarians, and students. It holds an annual convention (modelled on the scholarly conventions of the MLA), at which the Pilgrim Awards are presented, and publishes a newsletter ten times a year. Members also receive subscriptions to *SFS*, *Extrapolation*, and *Fantasy Review*.

(Incidentally, annual dues are \$42 US, or \$32 US for students. Inquiries can be addressed to the Treasurer: Charlotte P. Donsky, 1265 South Clay, Denver, Colorado, USA, 80219.)

Even Margaret Atwood, the darling of Canadian English departments everywhere, has gone so far as to write *The Handmaid's Tale*, professedly sf, although pretty shabby sf and even pretty shabby Atwood.

Yet academics are obstinately conservative. The explanation is simple enough: this is a time of financial restraint for humanities departments everywhere. Recent increases in government funding are primarily earmarked for the professional and science faculties. Currently U of T's English department can afford to hire only one professor for every three who retire—and you can be sure that U of T is in considerably better financial shape than the country's smaller institutions. Faced with the alternatives of hiring a Shakespeare expert or a LeGuin expert, department chairmen have little choice (although our choices might be different). The sf fan intrigued by the academic possibilities of his literary interests generally must seek out the smaller universities, such as Concordia or Kent State, or the more radical ones, such as UCLA, in order to pursue serious study, unless, of course, he discovers that the boundaries of sf are less limiting than he thought, and that many of the qualities most fascinating about the alien worlds of science fiction can also be found in the worlds of Sir Walter Scott or William Shakespeare. With adequate patience, it might even be possible to sidestep the conservative academics, and postpone his sf research until Southwestern Ontario is ready for it. But in the meantime, he won't hold his breath, and he won't stop reading science fiction.

Kenneth B. Steele, January 1988

Convention Calendar

by Capucine R. Plourde

Information for this column is gathered from a variety of sources and is as accurate as can be, but always check with the convention before going as dates, guests, and programming may change without notice.

I've included a more detailed report on this year's Worldcon—Noreascon 3, to be held in Boston from August 31 to September 4

Some commercial outfits put on many cons each year, many of which are held as often as once a month or more. These are basically comics and media-related flea markets with the dealers' room as the main centre of activity. They often have one or more special guests. For more information on these chain-cons you can write to the following:

CREATION CONS, 145 Jericho Turnpike, Mineola, NY, USA, 11530
BILL GOUVALARIS, Box 1415, Saugus, MA, USA, 01906
DREAMWERKS PRODUCTIONS, Box 90, Millwood, NY, USA, 10546

That's it for now. Happy con-going, folks!

Capucine

AD ASTRA, Toronto, Ontario; June 9-11
Emphasis: science fiction, fantasy, and costuming. Guests: John Varley, Kerry O'Quinn, Steven Brust, Tanya S. Huff, Guy Gavriel Kay, Donald Kingsbury, Shirley Meier, Judith Merrill, Robert J. Sawyer, S. M. Stirling, Kevin Davies, Martin Springett, Jim Baen, Barbara Bova, Ben Bova, Dean Coldham, Pamela Dean, Bob Eggleton, Ru Emerson, R. S. Hadji, Katherine Kimgrel, Joel Rosenberg, Josepha Sherman, Andrew Weiner, Toni Wesskopf, Clyde Caldwell. Events: con suite, autograph sessions, readings, writers' workshop, masquerade, master-class costume display, costumers' workshop, dance, dealers' room, art show, midnight buffet, floor show. Membership: \$20.00 until May 15, \$25.00 at the door. Expected

attendance is approximately 1000 to 1100. Will be held at the Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Road, near the airport. Room rates are \$79.00 for single or double rooms. Masquerade info: Caroline Julian, Box 784, Adelaide St. PO, Toronto, Ontario, M5C 2K1. General info: Box 7276, Station "A", Toronto, Ontario, M5W 1X9.

EMPIRECON '89, New York, NY, USA; June 30-July 2
Emphasis: sf/fantasy. Guests: Frederic Pohl, Jack Williamson, L. Sprague and Catherine DeCamp, George Perez, Robin Curtis, Sam Moskowitz, Ted White, David Kyle, Kent Williams. Events: panels, readings, slide presentations, films, art shows, masquerade, gaming, parties, autographs, book raffle. Weapons policy for this con is that weapons are only allowed in the masquerade and must be peace-bonded. Membership: \$20.00 (US) until June 1, \$28.00 (US) at the door. Will be held at the Holiday Inn Jetport, 1000 Spring St. Rts. 1&9 South, Elizabeth NJ. Room rates: \$59.00 (US) single and double, \$69.00 (US) triple and quad. INFO: Box 682, Church St. Station, New York, NY, USA, 10008.

CONTEXT, Edmonton, Alberta; June 30-July 3
Emphasis: written sf, written fantasy. Guests: William Gibson, Charles DeLint, Brad Thompson, Leo & Diane Dillon, Frank Robinson, Dave Duncan, Candace Jane Dorsey, Judith Merrill, and many more. Events: panels, workshops, short story contests, science panels, art show, con suite, barbecue, parties, dance, videos. No masquerade, no gaming, and no weapons allowed. Membership: \$20.00 until June 30, \$25.00 at the door. Approximately 500 people expected. Info: 10523 100th Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 0A8. (403) 424-7764.

CONVERSION 6, Calgary, Alberta; July 21-23
Emphasis: sf/fantasy. Guests: Harry Harrison, Barry Longyear, Christopher Stasheff. Events: writ-

ers' workshop, dealers' room, art show, video room, short story contest and lots of other contests. Membership: \$20.00 until June 30, \$25.00 at the door. Info: Box 1088, Station M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2K9. (403) 242-1807.

MAPLECON 11, Ottawa, Ontario; July 28-30
Emphasis: sf/fantasy and comics. Guests: Kim Stanley Robinson, Martin Springett, John Romita Jr., Michael Lennick, Al Magliochetti, Ron Sutton, Dan Day, Mark Shainblum, Charles DeLint, Hal Clement. Events: dealers' room, videos, masquerade, art show, short story and poetry contests, gaming, parties, con suite, panels, workshops, live-action murder mystery. Will be held at Carleton University. Membership: \$20.00 until June 30, \$25.00 at the door. Info: Box 3156, Station D, Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 6H7. (613) 741-3162.

MYTHCON 20, Vancouver, British Columbia; July 28-31
Emphasis: high fantasy, J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Charles Williams. Guests: Guy Gavriel Kay, Eileen Kernaghan, Michael Coney, Raymond Thompson. Events: panels, art show, masquerade, bardic circle music (filking), poetry, plays and other entertainment, banquet, writers' workshop. Will be held at University of BC. Info: Box 806, Station A, Nanaimo, British Columbia, V9R 5N2. (604) 756-1359 or (604) 756-0138.

NOREASCON 3 (WORLDCON), Boston, MA, USA; August 31-September 4
This year's Worldcon is being held in Boston, Massachusetts and is called Noreascon 3. It is being held at the Sheraton-Boston Hotel and the Hynes Convention Center. Guests include Andre Norton, Ian and Betty Ballantine and the Stranger Club (Boston's first SF Organization). Membership rates are \$80.00 (US) until the end of preregistration on July 15, 1989. All memberships after that time must be purchased at the door. Children

under the age of 12 years old will be admitted for \$50.00 (US). On-the-spot registration will be open long hours to facilitate matters, and the con staff have promised to keep the lines for preregistrants as short as possible. Your membership entitles you to voting privileges at the Hugo Awards and on the site selection of the 1992 Worldcon. All members registered before the convention will receive copies of the progress reports and program book. Most con activities will run from Thursday morning, August 31, through till Monday afternoon September 4. The first major event will be the Gala Anniversary Party on Thursday night. Noreascon 3 will present a varied and interesting program on a wide range of topics, including science fiction, fantasy, fandom, science and art. The film program will include obscure or classic films and shorts that are not likely to find their way into your local video store, and they will be using Cinemascope whenever possible. The art show will be situated in the ballrooms of the Sheraton-Boston Hotel and over three thousand pieces are expected to be on display! Other exhibits and activities include a Hugo Award exhibit, sf/fantasy clubs exhibit, an *Alice in Wonderland* exhibit, a scavenger hunt, the Hugo Awards ceremony, as well as panels and discussions, amongst other things. The masquerade will take place on Sunday evening and run for

about two hours. If you are interested in being a competitor, the cut-off date for the masquerade preregistration is around the beginning of August.

Convention hotel rates can only be arranged through Noreascon 3, and will only be made for attending members. If you would like to purchase your membership in advance (which is a very good idea) or would like to have more specific information on Noreascon 3, you can contact the convention at: Noreascon 3, Box 46, MIT Branch Post Office, Cambridge, MA, USA, 02139. Noreascon 3 is also pleased to offer users of various electronic mail services the chance to bypass the US Postal System for routine inquiries, comments and correspondence *only*:

CompuServe: 76107.270

GEnie: NOREASCON3

Internet:

noreascon3@ringwld.UUCP

or

ringwld!noreascon3@XAT.Xerox.COM

or

{decvax!linus}xait!ringwld!noreascon3

Please do not attempt to conduct business transactions via the networks, they will not be accepted. Also remember to include your full name, mailing and electronic address, and membership and phone number if appropriate. Your response from Noreascon 3 may be slight delayed and will not necessarily be by E-Mail.

Classified Ads

Anyone interested in Star Trek starship combat gaming, call Norm at 487-2284.

Batman art prints still available. Signed and numbered prints of original *Bat-art* featured at MonSFFA's May General Meeting are available in lg. or sm. format. Call Berny at 286-4215, evenings.

For sale or trade: Model kits, comic books. Looking to trade computer programs (IBM, Commodore 64), BBS, animation videos (especially Japanese). Steven K. 733-9690.

Get the Macintosh that made this and many other *Warp* newsletters! PageMaker! Illustrator '88! And much, much more! Call Mike at 631-8624, evenings! Don't delay, operators are standing by!

Looking for videocassette copies of *Otherworld* TV series. Only seven episodes aired on CBS, Spring '85. Call Geoff at 695-7982.

Movie posters, magazines, comics, posters, buttons, artwork, books, science fiction, Walt Disney & sports memorabilia, and other miscellaneous material. For more info., please call M. Whitelaw at 767-8975 or 933-6691. Evenings only.

Classified Ads are free to all MonSFFA members, \$1.00 per ad (30 words, max.) for non-members. Forward ads to MonSFFA c/o Classified Ads.

by **T** rudie Mason

CROSSWORD

E
K

Here are the answers to the Crossword that appeared in *Warp 4*.

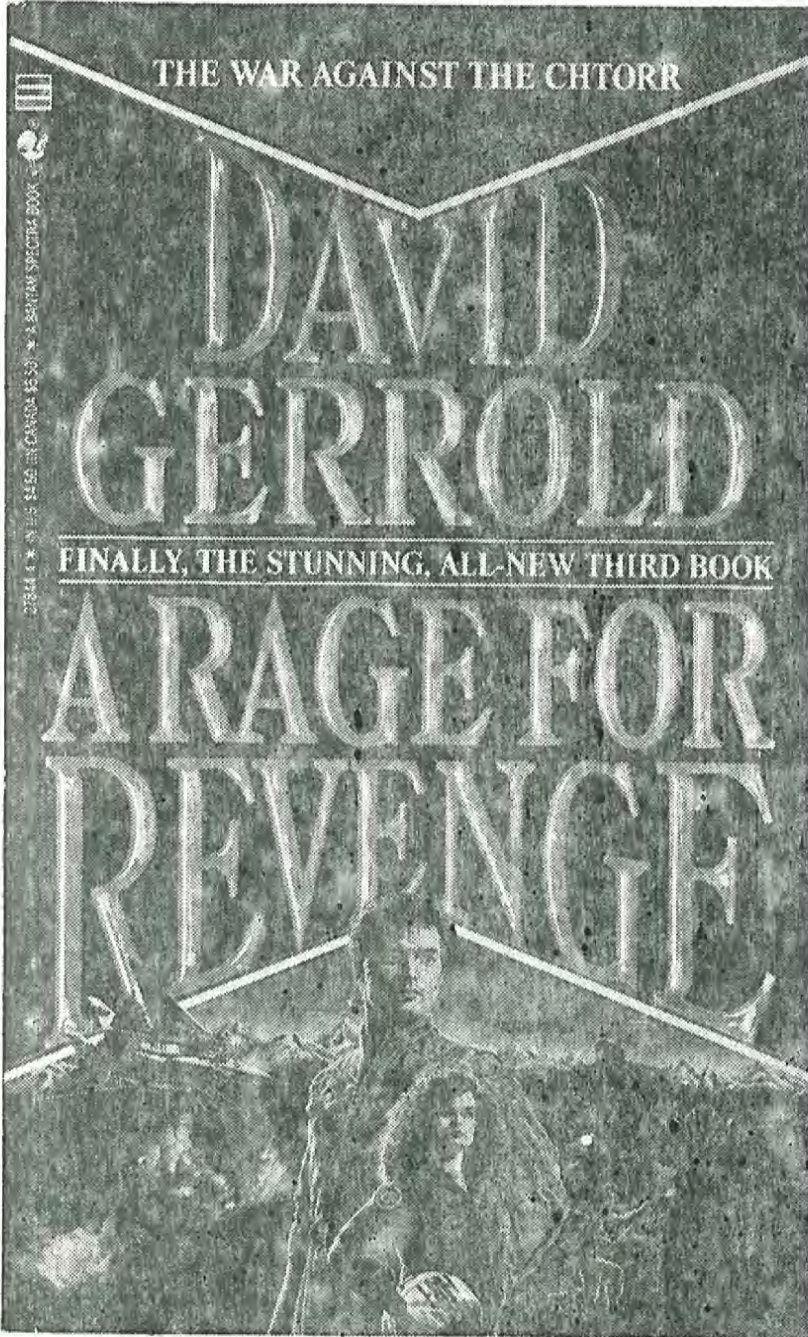
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Bizarro

By Dan Piraro



Book Review



A Rage for Revenge (David Gerrold)

A Rage for Revenge is the third installment in David Gerrold's *War Against the Chtorr* series. So as not to waste your time, I will state here that, in my opinion, the book stinks. Now, that's done, if you care to learn why I feel that way, read on.

The book, or more accurately, the series, involves a future Earth which is invaded by an alien ecology. Not flying saucers, but an entire ecosystem: plants, animals, microscopic life...the works. At the top of the food chain and presumably behind it all are the Chtorran worms, huge carnivorous caterpillars which see humans as walking snacks. The human race is under siege from the worms and the other alien life forms from a distant planet. The resistance is led by the army, and our hero James McCarthy, a brilliant worm-killer. Fine.

A nice expansive and plausible scenario with boundless possibilities for stories. The main problem with this chapter in the series is that it does little to move the story forward at all. The protagonist is captured by renegades, humans who worship the worms and want to subvert humanity. Brainwashed by the cult leader, McCarthy struggles to retain his identity and regain his zealous hatred of worms. The bulk of the story is didactic dialogue between McCarthy and his mentor, the charismatic renegade Jason. It comes across like Zen philosophy; nothing substantial, revealing, or even engrossing—just second-hand Shirley MacLaine psychobabble.

It is hard to believe our hero is transformed by this stuff, unless, like Gerrold, he spends too much time in California.

To further discourage you, Gerrold decided to reveal his protagonist, McCarthy, as a practicing child molester, who is constantly seducing children and morally justifying it through his psychobabble. It is hard to sympathize with a pedophile who abuses children and then self-righteously struggles to retain his personality. Finally, the book simply does not even begin to deal with the actual issue of the invasion until its final chapters and, predictably, leaves you waiting for more books. The whole episode seems to exist for little more than to help Gerrold pay his rent, and pad out the series with fluff.

Reviewed by Kevin Holden

Science News

The following article appeared in the *Montreal Gazette*

Soviets will send new crew to Mir in mid-August—April 19, 1989.

MOSCOW(AP)—The Soviet Union will send a new crew to the space station Mir in mid-August, the deputy flight director said yesterday.

Viktor Blagov said no technical problems had cropped up in the Mir, the 3-year old orbiting complex that is the showcase of the Soviet space program. He said three cosmonauts aboard the space station will be brought home next week. He said plans to keep Soviets aboard the station continuously were abandoned for several reasons, including saving money.

Blagov also said Soviet scientists were swamped with information gathered from Mir—the Russian word for peace—since its launch Feb. 20, 1986.

They now must pause to review "what we have accomplished and decide what's next."



Earthshattering Trumors



Media

Back to the Future

Amblin Entertainment and Universal Pictures will shoot two sequels to *Back to the Future* at the same time, both of which will star Michael J. Fox and will be directed by Robert Zemeckis. The first will be released this Christmas, the second in the summer of 1990. *BTF II* will pick up where the original left off and feature a trip forward in time. The stories have been developed by Zemeckis and Bob Gale; Gale will pen both scenarios.

Flesh Gordon

The sequel to the culture porn classic *Flesh Gordon* will be called *Flesh Gordon Meets the Cosmic Cheerleaders*, and will feature in the title role kick-boxer Vince Murdocco. In the film, Flesh must defeat the infamous Emperor Wang, whose Ray-Gun renders Earth's men impotent.

Saturn Awards

The Academy of Science Fiction announced *The Blob*, *Beetlejuice*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* and *War of the Worlds* are among the movies and TV shows nominated for the 16th Annual Saturn Awards. Besides *War of the Worlds*, nominees for best TV program are *Beauty and the Beast*, *Freddy's Nightmares*, *Friday the 13th: The Series*, *Out of this World*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and *Superboy*. This year's nominees for best science fiction film are *Alien Nation*, *The Blob*, *Cocoon: The Return*, *My Stepmother is an Alien*, *Short Circuit 2: More Input*, and *They Live*. Best fantasy film nominations include *Big*, *The Land before Time*, *Scrooged*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?*, *Willow*, and *Without a Clue*. *Beetlejuice* earned a nomination for best horror film along with *Child's Play*, *Dead Ringers*, *Halloween 4: The Return of Michael Myers*, *Hellbound: Hellraiser II*, *Nightmare on Elm Street 4: The Dream Master*, and *Waxwork*. Saturn Award winners will be chosen by the Academy's 1000 members and announced at the end of the summer.

Horror

Forrest J. Ackerman, the guru of sf&f fan-



Scenes from *Indiana Jones and The Last Crusade*. An inside source reports that *Indy III* is one terrific flick! (See "Inside Dope".)



A scene from *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*. Things don't look good for *Trek V*. (See "Inside Dope".)



William Shatner directs *ST V*. If the picture flops, it could spell the end of Shatner's directing career.

dom, will appear in the horror film *Evil Night*, as well as Somtow Sucharitkul's upcoming scare flick *The Laughing Dead*, in which Fory apparently plays a corpse. Ackerman was last seen in the vignette-film *Amazon Women on the Moon*.

Clive Barker, fresh from the *Hellraiser* movies, will script from his own novel and direct *Night Breed*, starring Craig Shaeffer, David Cronenberg, and Charles Hall.

Dawn of the Dead make-up coordinator Taso Strakkakis will direct *Fatal Turn-On*, in which a young biochemist discovers a potion that makes folks rather maniacal when they are, well, "rarin'-to-go".

Robert "Freddy Kruger" Englund will star in a low-budget version of *The Phantom of the Opera*, while Dustin Hoffman is being wooed for the Wolfgang Petersen directed version set during the Hitler years.

Animation

Roger Rabbit will appear in a full-length sequel film in addition to the short slated to appear as a tack-on to the film *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids* starring Rick Moranis.

Steven Spielberg will produce a syndicated TV cartoon series entitled *Tiny Tunes*. The show will feature the classic *Looney Tunes* characters in their baby days.

Richard Williams, the animation wizard for *Roger Rabbit*, is attempting to launch his feature cartoon *The Thief and the Cobbler*, a film which he has worked on for over 10 years, but has never completed because of other projects.

From Print to Pictures

Going against Hollywood's habit of making sf&f films twenty years out-of-date, Harold Pinter has written the script to Margaret Atwood's critically acclaimed 1985 novel *The Handmaid's Tale*. So far, the film will star Natasha Richardson, Aidan Quinn, Robert Duvall, and Elizabeth McGovern.

In addition, John Varley's *Millennium*, also a contemporary work, will be made into a film starring Kris Kristofferson, Cheryl Ladd,

and Daniel J. Travanti. *Millennium* was supposed to be out by now, but its release date has been pushed back to Fall.

Finally, Orion is reversing the trend by producing the film version of Mark Twain's 1889 classic *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*.

Dick Tracy

Scheduled to appear in Warren Beatty's film, *Dick Tracy*, are George C. Scott as the treacherous Big Boy, Madonna as chanteuse Breathless Mahoney, Seymour Cassel as sidekick Hank Keichum, and Michael J. Pollard as a hood. Sean Young, who was to play Tess Trueheart, has left the production after only a few days of work.

Batman

With the June 23 release date of *Batman* drawing closer, the film continues to generate controversy. At a screening of the current trailer, in which Michael Keaton can be seen in his RoboCop-like Batman outfit, the audience erupted in a chorus of boos the moment he opened his mouth. Warner Bros. executives have said a lot of Keaton's lines will be redubbed since it was difficult for him to speak in that huge suit.

Pop star Prince has recorded nine songs for the *Batman* soundtrack, including a reworking of the old TV series theme and a duet with Sheena Easton.

From Comics to Celluloid

Besides *Batman* and *Dick Tracy*, a number of other comic favourites are scheduled to appear on the big screen: *American Flagg*, from producer Larry Gordon; *Swamp Thing II*, due out this summer; *The Shadow*, possibly to be directed by Robert Zemeckis and written by Howard Franklin; *Sub-Mariner* and *Wolverine*, from New World Pictures; *Watchmen*, from Fox producer Joel Silver and director Terry Gilliam; *Judge Dredd*, written and directed by Tim Hunter; *The Fantastic Four*, from producer Bernd Eichinger of *Neverending Story* fame; and *Spider-Man*, from Cannon. Possible TV

adaptations include of *Tales from the Crypt*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* (live action), *The Punisher*, with Dolph Lundgren, *Plastic Man*, *Sergeant Rock*, *Dr. Strange*, and *Blade* (from the *Tomb of Dracula* comic).

Star Trek Stuff (see also "Inside Dope")

Trek V has returned for re-editing after less than favourable fan reaction at several test audience screenings. Not a good sign, Jim! One of the reasons for a reduced FX budget (by *Trek* standards) in *Trek V* was that Shatner and Nimoy each received 6 million dollars for their efforts. DeForest Kelley didn't do too badly either: he got 2 million.

Gene Roddenberry is no longer executive producer of *ST:TNG*. His rumoured replacement is none other than Harve Bennett!

Paramount has announced that it will be releasing the entire animated *Star Trek* series, as well as a full-colour version of *The Cage*, on VHS videotape and laserdisc (apparently Paramount is following the lead of other movie companies in dropping the Beta format) at the time of *Trek V*'s release this summer. I guess it'll only be available in French here in Quebec!

Odds 'n' Ends

ILM is bringing its considerable special effects expertise to bear on the advertising business. Yes, ILM will be producing ("shudder") commercials.

Steven Spielberg has stated that one of his reasons for directing *Indy III* was to apologize for *Indy II*. Apparently *Temple of Doom* was as much a disappointment to him as it was to many Indy fans.

Roger Corman will produce *Time Trackers*, in which Ned Beatty and Wil Shriner play time travellers who come back from the future to stop an evil scientist from blowing up the Earth.

Patrick R. Johnson will direct *Martians*, a film starring Doug Barr, in which aliens from Mars pick up a broadcast of Orson Welles' *War of the Worlds* and decide to land on Earth to help their brothers con-

quer the planet. Meanwhile, Randy Quaid and Anita Morris will star in director David Odell's *Martians Go Home*. It seems that the billion or so green Martians that come to Earth simply won't leave. Well, the immigration officials will certainly be busy in this film.

Inside Dope!

These last minute media trumours, received moments before we went to press: *Indy III* is terrific, *Trek V* stinks. Our inside dope comes from a reliable source who has seen both films at special pre-release screenings. *Indy III*, involving a search for the Holy Grail, lives up to, and perhaps surpasses its hype. *Trek V*, on the other hand, will likely disappoint fans. The movie opens and closes with Kirk, Spock, and McCoy sitting around a campfire singing "Row, Row, Row your Boat". The theme, apparently, is "Life is but a Dream". The new *Enterprise* is a mechanical mess, constantly malfunctioning throughout. At one point, the loose arm of the captain's chair squeaks, causing Kirk to comment, "I miss my old chair." Also, the special FX are reportedly unspetacular.

Majel Barrett (Roddenberry) has stated that the crew has been signed to do *Trek VI*, but it will only be made if *Trek V* makes of over 95 million dollars.

Books

A new SF magazine

A new magazine, entitled *SF*, has been made available by Spectra/Foundation. The first issue is a

complimentary copy featuring an interview with Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman, excerpts from books by Pat Murphy, R.A. MacAvoy, and David Gerrold, plus tons of new information on upcoming book releases. *SF* is published three times a year and is devoted exclusively to books. For more info, contact Bantam Doubleday Dell, Inc. at 666 Fifth Ave., New York, New York, USA, 10103. In the meantime, pick up the first issue—it's free, and available at a book store near you.

Piers Anthony

Piers Anthony has sold to the Putnam/Ace publishing house two sequels to his book *Virtual Mode*. The books, entitled *Fractal Mode* and *Chaos Mode* respectively, were included with an independent work called *Killobyte*. Meanwhile, *Xanth* novels 13 thru 15, *Isle of View*, *Question Quest*, and *The Color of Her Panties*, were sold to Avon as paperbacks, and *Firefly*, a non-sf&f novel, was sold to Morrow as a hardcover. The entire package is reportedly worth over \$1 million, and was negotiated by Anthony's agent, Kirby McCauley.

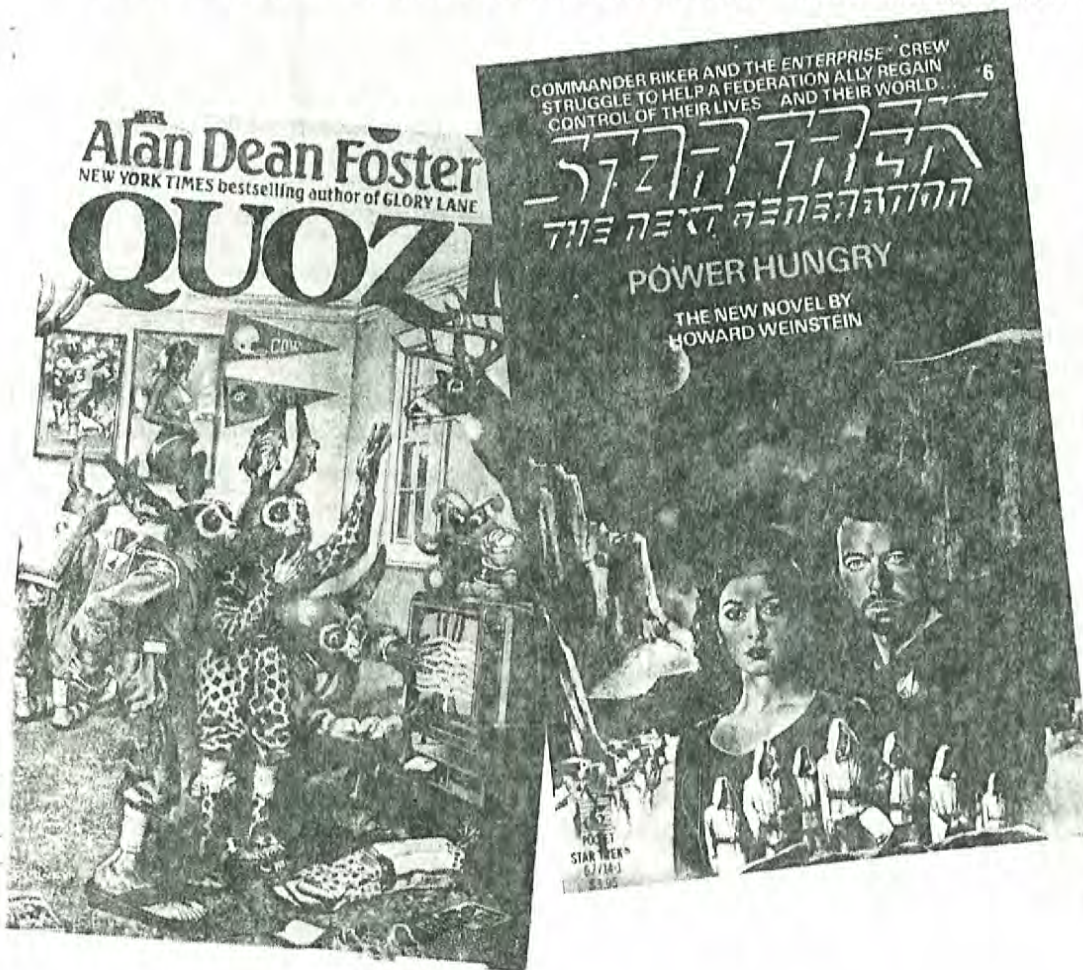
Stephen King

Stephen King's four novel deal with Viking/Nal is reportedly worth between 33 and 40 million dollars and is exclusively for U.S. rights. The books have apparently been sold to a German publisher for an additional \$3 million.

King has also published an original short story entitled "Rainy Season" which is in the third issue of

May releases (the prices quoted are American currency)

- *Callahan's Lady* by Spider Robinson, Ace Publisher, \$16.95 hardcover
- *Quozl* by Alan Dean Foster, Ace, \$4.50 paperback
- *Rose of the Prophet, Vol. II: The Paladin of the Night* by Margaret Weis and Tracy Hickman, Bantam, \$4.50 paperback
- *The Elenium, Book 1: The Diamond Throne* by David Eddings, Del Rey, \$18.50 hardcover
- *Novelty* by John Crowley, Doubleday & Company, \$18.50 hardcover, single-author anthology
- *Power Hungry (ST:TNG)* by Howard Weinstein, Pocket, \$3.95 paperback
- *Reign of Fear: Fiction and Film of Stephen King*, Don Herron, ed., Underwood-Miller, \$75.00 hardcover, signed and numbered; \$150.00 leather bound
- *Cyberbooks* by Ben Bova, Tor, \$17.95 hardcover



Midnight Graffiti.

Dungeon

Byron Preiss Visual Publications has sold to an unspecified publisher Japanese rights to their 6-novel *Dungeon* series. Based on an idea by Philip Jose Farmer and written by Dick Lupoff, Charles deLint, Bruce Coville and Robin Bailey, the package is reportedly worth \$48 000.

Bill, the Galactic Hero

Preiss, Avon, and Gollancz (U.K.) publishers are collaborating on a 6-novel continuation of Harry Harrison's *Bill, the Galactic Hero* series. The first book will be by Harrison alone; the balance will be followed by collaborations with David Bischoff, Arthur Byron Cover, Jack C. Haldeman, Robert Sheckley, and one unspecified author.

Collier Books

Jim Frenkel has arranged a deal for Collier Books to publish Jack Williamson's *Darker than You Think*, John Brunner's *The Complete Traveler in Black*, and Philip K. Dick's *Eye in the Sky*.

Lloyd Arthur Eshbach

Lloyd Arthur Eshbach has turned in the fourth and final volume of his *The Scroll of Lucifer* fantasy tetralogy to Del Rey publishers. The title of the book was changed when another publisher issued a book with a similar title, and Eshbach has said the book is written in such a way as to insure that more sequels cannot be tacked on. He says that sequels annoy him when they should not have been written in the first place.

An Apple A Day...

Frank B. Long, suffering from pneumonia, entered the hospital in the middle of February. At the beginning of March, his condition was listed as "satisfactory".

Donald A. Wollheim is recovering from a stroke he suffered on November 3, just after he returned home from the World Fantasy Convention in London. Although the stroke mostly affected his left

side, it did not seriously affect his speech.

Finally, Juanita Coulson was rushed to the Blackford County Hospital emergency room in Indiana on the night of February 13. She underwent a gall bladder operation the following morning and went home two days later with a souvenir package of gallstones.

Comics

Kitchen Sink Press is offering a series of *Will Eisner City Scene* limited edition prints in May. Each print is 27"x19", printed on high-quality, acid-free stock. The series will be limited to an 800-copy run, signed and numbered by Eisner. "The Late Train", "Street Casino", "Turf War", and "The Last of Yesterday" are the four prints costing \$40.00 each. The series is very limited, so Eisner fans should order now.

Doc Savage Annual #1, available in May will be 64 pages long and cost \$3.50. Newcomer Mike Barr, writer for the monthly *Doc*, will join Gabriel Morrissette for the DC story of Doc and his original team, who must stop Adolf Hitler from sabotaging the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany.

The *Question* and *Green Arrow* will cross over in their respective Annuals in late May and early June for a story in which together they consider the price that must be paid for a truly crime-free America. Denny O'Neil will write both annuals; Bill Wray will illustrate

The Question Annual #2 while Ed Hannigan does *Green Arrow Annual #2*.

Readers who may have missed the acclaimed *Justice League #1-7* will be able to see those stories in a *Justice League International* trade paperback, due out in mid-May. The \$12.95 book will have a new cover by Kevin Maguire, whose artistic debut is featured in those first issues.

Because of the success of the limited series *Nick Fury vs SHIELD*, Marvel Comics has given the go-ahead for a new series that will feature stories on the ultra-secret organization. *SHIELD #1* will be chronicled by Harras, Hall, and DeMulder, and will be available in late May.

DC Comics is scheduled to ship its comic version of the *Batman* movie to book and comic shops on Thursday, June 22, one day before the current North American release date of the film. It should reach most stores on Friday, allowing readers to see the film and read the adaptation at the same time. However, DC has said in the event of any delay by Warner Bros. of the film's release, the book's release will be delayed also. The adaptation will be written by *Batman* editor Denny O'Neil, illustrated by Jerry Ordway (*Adventures of Superman*), and coloured by Steve Oliff (*Gilgamesh II*); Ordway will do the book's cover painting.



If you would like to join, please fill in the membership application and mail it to **MonSFFA**, along with a cheque or money order made out to **MonSFFA** for the amount of \$20.00. Feel free to write us for more information.

Si vous voulez vous joindre au club, veuillez remplir le formulaire d'adhésion et nous le faire parvenir à l'adresse si-dessous avec un chèque ou un mandat-poste, payable à l'ordre de l'**AMonSFF**, au montant de 20,00 \$. N'hésitez pas à nous écrire si vous avez besoin de plus amples renseignements.

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(Work) () - _____

Interests (optional)

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- Fantasy _____
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- Movies/TV _____
- Writing _____
- Art _____
- Gaming _____

We are sometimes approached by other organizations interested in soliciting our members. Please indicate whether or not you give your permission to pass on the information contained in this application to any such organizations.

You have my permission to pass on said information.

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Téléphone (rés.) () - _____

(trav.) () - _____

Intérêts personnels (optionels)

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