

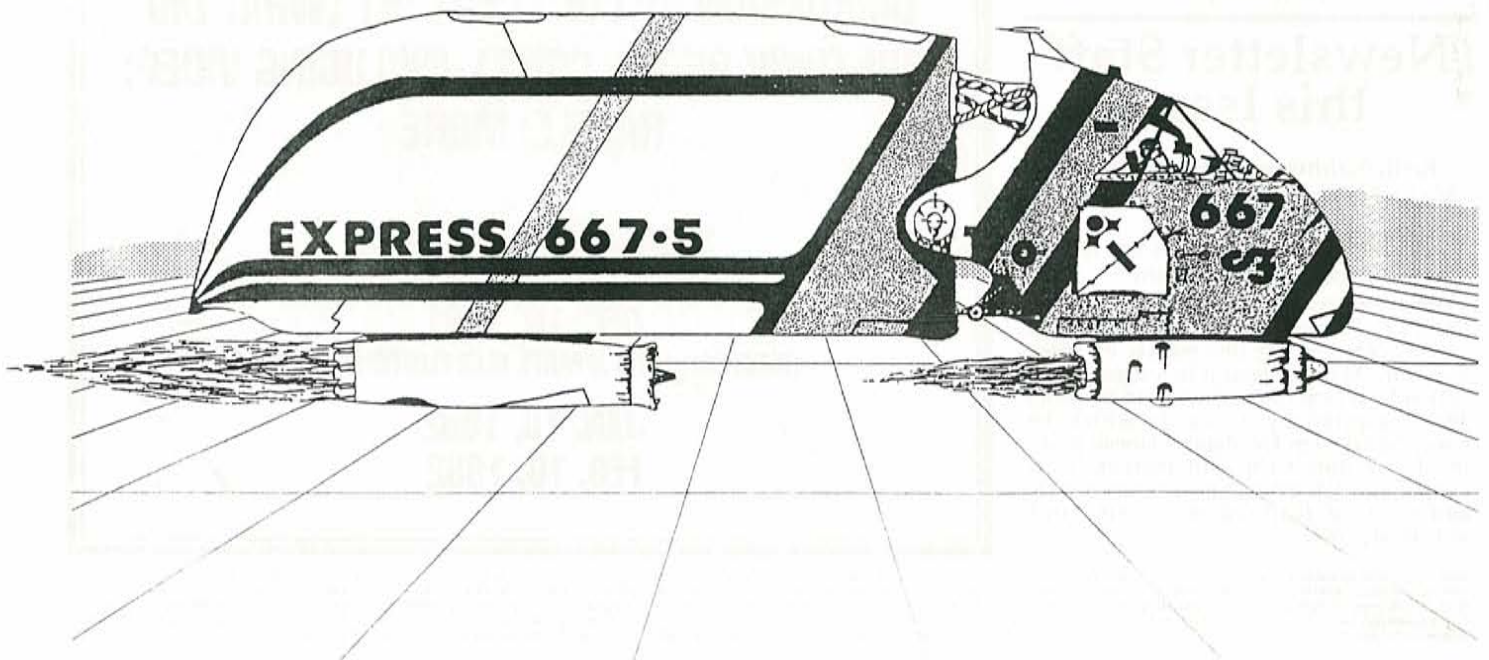
WARP

10010

The Official Newsletter of the Montreal Science Fiction & Fantasy Association

IN THIS ISSUE

- *SF on TV*
- *Con Reports: WorldCon '91, Montreal Creation Con, Ad Astra 11, Toronto Trek V*
- *MonSFFA Membership Survey*
- *The Art of Con•cept*



Roll Call

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Kevin Holden

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Michael Masella
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Newsletter Staff this Issue

Keith Braithwaite: Editing, Layout
Michael Masella: Typesetting, Layout,
Laser-printing
Bernard Reischl (Indentured Servant):
Photostats, Photoscans.

Cover up: The vehicle on this month's cover was rendered in fine line marker by Mark Burakoff. Mark entered it in a logo design contest for a local comic shop about ten years ago. Inspired by a vehicle which he remembered from Heinlein's *Starman Jones*, the design didn't win (but another of his designs did). We consider it a winner, though, and so have featured it on our third anniversary cover.

Warp is published six times a year by the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA). Address all correspondence to Warp, c/o MonSFFA, P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 2M4. Subscription rate is \$10.00 per year, however, the subscription fee is included in the annual membership to MonSFFA, which is \$20.00 per year. 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. The opinions expressed in Warp are solely those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of Warp or MonSFFA. Original material used herein is copyrighted. The use of previously copyrighted material in this newsletter is a non-~~no~~, but is not intended to infringe on any rights held by the legitimate copyright holders. Come on, people, lighten up. This is an amateur publication, intended for enjoyment only. If it weren't for the last minute, nothing would get done ~~source unknown~~.

NEXT GENERAL MEETING: SUNDAY, NOV. 18, 1991

1:00PM-4:30PM
DOWNTOWN YMCA
1450 STANLEY STREET, ROOM 307

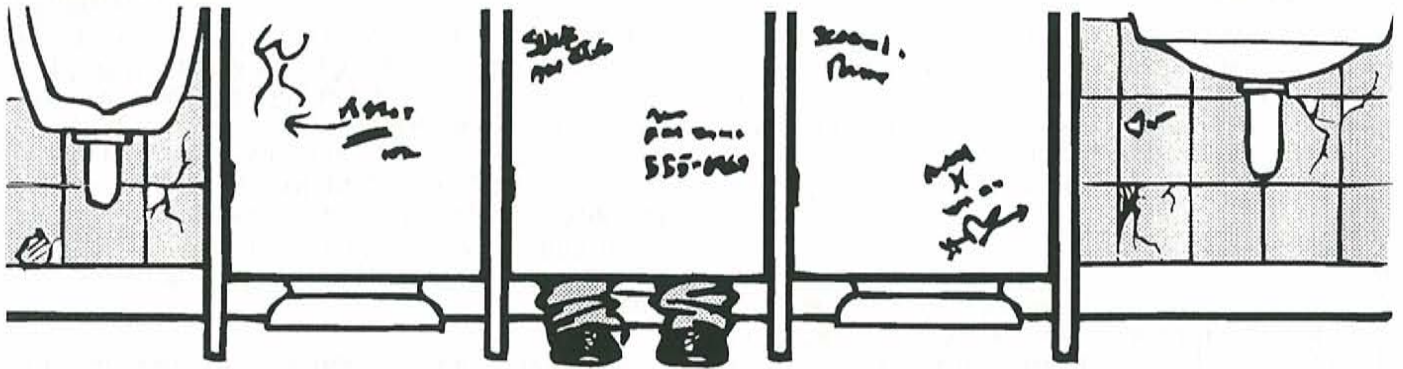
PROGRAMMING:
DISCUSSION OF CON•CEPT '91 (WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE CON?), INCLUDING VIDEO; RAFFLE; MORE

SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS:

DEC. 15, 1991
(CHRISTMAS/TREK VI PARTY, CLUB ELECTIONS, MORE)

JAN. 19, 1992
FEB. 16, 1992

From the CENTER Seat



Anniversaries. We celebrate several at this juncture. MonSFFA is three years old. Today's club began as MonSTA (The Montreal Star Trek Association) back in mid-1987, but by late summer 1988, MonSTA had expanded its scope to encompass all of science fiction, and fantasy, thus becoming the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. The club published a small, untitled newsletter in its early days before establishing this one, the first issue of which came out in October of 1988. That makes *Warp* three years old as well. We also celebrate the third incarnation of Con•cept this year. MonSFFA organized and ran the first Con•cept in November, 1989, and continues to be the driving force behind the con in 1991. This year, Con•cept offers twice the fun as it expands to a two-day format! And, *Star Trek* premiered 25 years ago last month and I think that many of us owe our interest in sf today to Kirk, Spock, McCoy and the rest of the *Enterprise's* crew.

Thanks and congratulations must go out to all the people who have contributed, over these past few years, to the success of our club, its newsletter and our con. Happy anniversary to all concerned and many more! And best wishes to *Trek*, too.

Originally, a special "Con•cept '91" issue of *Warp* was planned, which would have included the con's program book and been released at the con. The thought was that the coinciding anniversaries of MonSFFA, *Warp*, and Con•cept would make for a nice, celebratory issue.

However, the program book worked out to 24 pages, and slapping that many additional pages into even a pared down *Warp* would have resulted

in a newsletter too big for our resources to have managed within budget and on time. So, Con•cept has gone and printed its program book, and we've rescheduled September's *Warp* for this anniversary month of October, and expanded it a bit to include some of the stuff we wanted to feature in the special issue. All's well that ends well.

Quickly: Membership is on the rise, boosted by our recruitment efforts at the Creation Con this past summer. Thanks to all the members who helped out at our table. Many of you long-time members are due to renew this month and next—it's still only \$20.00, no GST! (Drop by MonSFFA's table while you're at Con•cept and we'll sign you up for another hitch right then and there!) The August General Meeting (our first stab at a summer meeting) was very successful; thanks to everyone who lent a hand. Our bank balance is quite healthy these days, hovering around a thousand smackers! Several of you have expressed an interest in becoming more involved in the running of the club. We can sure use the help and we'll be contacting you soon to set up a business meeting at which we'll let you know what you've gotten yourself into!

Also, I'd like to thank the various editors, the production staff and the many writers, artists and photographers who have contributed to this newsletter over the past three years. Deserving of specific mention, I think, are Mike Masella, Berny Reischl, Kevin Holden, Geoff Bovey, Daniel P. Kenney, Colleen Magnussen and Trudie Mason. Mike's dedication to turning out a sharp, professional

looking product is matched only by his patience and stamina at the keyboard. He's the only one of us regular staffers who's worked on every single issue. Berny has brought his considerable talents to bear on *Warp*, contributing not only to it's production, but also as one of our most prolific artists, writers and photographers. Kevin, in addition to editing numerous issues, has written many an article and editorial for us and is responsible for many of the really neat ideas that we've come up with over the years. Geoff Bovey edited the newsletter in its early days, also wrote extensively for it and laid down much of the foundation upon which we now work. Most of the photographs that have appeared in "MonSFFandom" these past three years were shot by Daniel. And, Colleen and Trudie have collated just about every newsletter, have overseen mailings (Colleen is currently Mailing Manager) and have both written for *Warp*.

Lastly, a nod of thanks to member Nadim Khalidi, who was transferred to Toronto a few months back. During his year, year-and-a half with us in Montreal, Nadim contributed enthusiastically to the club, and particularly to the con (he brought with him the experience of having worked on Winnipeg's KeyCon). When I spoke with him during the summer he told me that he had joined Ad Astra's con-com. Our loss is Toronto fandom's gain.

Keith Braithwaite
President, MonSFFA

MonSFFA Membership Benefits

The Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA) is a Montreal-based non-profit organization dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of all activities which engage and support the interests of science fiction and fantasy fans. The benefits of membership in MonSFFA include:

Membership Card

Your MonSFFA membership card identifies you as a MonSFFA member, allows you free admittance to the club's monthly events and entitles you to certain discounts at sf/f-oriented retailers participating in MonSFFA's discount program!

Monthly Events

Attend MonSFFA's regularly scheduled events, held about every month (except during the summer), and meet other sf/f fans! Share interests, exchange ideas, view current and classic sf/f movies and TV shows, enjoy guest speakers and special presentations, participate in workshops and discussion panels, get involved in various club projects, and more!

Discount Program

As a member of MonSFFA, you are in a position to save on your sf/f purchases, and your membership pays for itself within the year! If you buy and average of only \$4.00 worth of sf/f books, comics, collectibles, gaming and hobby items, etc. per week, your yearly MonSFFA membership will pay for itself in discount savings within the year! Full details of the discount program are printed in each issue of MonSFFA's newsletter.

Newsletter

You will receive a one-year subscription (six issues) to MonSFFA's newsletter, *Warp!* Produced by our

members for our members, *Warp* keeps you up to date on club activities and brings you general news from around the greater sf/f community! *Warp* is also a forum for you, the members—we want your book and movie reviews, opinion columns, short fiction and humour, artwork, etc! And, as a MonSFFA member, you are entitled to place (non-commercial) ads in Warp at no charge—sell your old sf book collection, announce that you're looking for gaming partners, or whatever!

As a MonSFFA member, you'll enjoy these benefits and more!

MonSFFA is administered, on behalf of all of its members, by an executive council, who are empowered to appoint officers and advisors to assist them with the operation of the club. Executive council members are elected annually by vote of the general membership; any member in good standing may run for office.

The fee for a one-year membership in MonSFFA is currently \$20.00.

Please address all correspondence to: MonSFFA, P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 2P4.

MonSFFA Discount Program

Listed on the next page are the sf/f-oriented retailers/dealers participating in the MonSFFA Discount Program. We encourage members to frequent these establishments. A valid MonSFFA membership card must be presented in order to take advantage of the discounts offered under this program. (Note: Certain exceptions with regard to the MonSFFA Discount Program may exist at some of these establishments. Conditions subject to change.)

Bulletin Board

I'm looking for partners to play the war game STAR FLEET BATTLES. I can also play BLOOD BOWL, WARHAMMER and BATTLETECH (badly!)
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MonSFFA Discount Program

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Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5G3
(613) 233-1159 Fax (613) 830-5811

10% off on all orders (include your name, MonSFFA membership number and expiration date when ordering).

COMPUTURE

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- 5345 boul. Decarie, Montréal, Qué (514) 484-0666
- 1070 rue Notre-Dame, Lachine, Qué (514) 637-0733

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and more

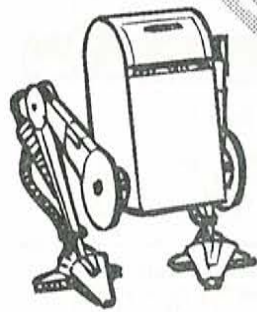
2198 St-Jacques, Montreal, Quebec H3P 2N1 (514) 273-0081
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10% off on most merchandise. Does not apply to discounts already offered by this establishment.

1,000,000
COMIX

5164 Queen Mary Road
372 Sherbrooke Street W.

20% off on most merchandise.



MonSFFA and *Warp*, welcome letters of comment and inquiry. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 2P4. Unless otherwise instructed, we assume all letters are intended for publication. Published letters become the property of MonSFFA. *Warp* reserves the right to edit letters where deemed necessary.

Dear Sirs,

Please find enclosed a cheque for \$20.00 US. I am sorry I could not give you \$20.00 Canadian, but this was a gift from my grandmother. Please sign me up for one year and keep the change.

Live long and prosper,

Matthew Aronson
Montreal, Quebec

*Thanks for your generosity,
Matthew, and welcome aboard!-Ed.*

Dear MonSFFen,

Hello, and thanks for another issue of *Warp* (July 1991). Yer editor Keith gave it to me during his stay in Toronto during Toronto Trek 5, so the post office didn't get a chance to chew on it.

Well, Ad Astra 11 has come and gone...it appears to have been another success, in spite of many factors, such as conflicting conventions in Vancouver, Indianapolis, and the Canadian Booksellers' Association in downtown Toronto; a different time of year than usual and other factors I've forgotten by now. Attendance was down, to about 680, but because of the forced change in weekend, we

were pro-low and fan-high in our panelists. Programming was well-received, the live band at the dance had mixed reviews (hey, we had to try it), the Art Show raked up record totals (including the sale of a Denis Beauvais original for \$1100.00) and the masquerade was once again graced by the presence of costumer extraordinaire Animal X. All our guests were terrific, including Barbara Hambly, Bob Eggleton and George Alec Effinger. Overall, the con broke even (or made a few bucks), so we're pleased, but for next year: a new hotel, our old weekend and guests Katherine Kurtz, Lois McMaster Bujold and Jan Howard finder. The hotel is bigger, so no membership cap! Hurray! But, as always, save some money by pre-registering early. The present membership rate is \$18.00, plus 7% GST (total \$19.26). We'll be announcing rounded-off rates that include GST later.

The mailbox yielded a package of flyers and pamphlets about fannish happenings in Nova Scotia. See, there *is* fandom in the Maritimes, and it looks busy. For example, Novacon '91 is happening November 8, 9 and 10 at the Halifax Holiday Inn. For more information, write to the Novacon Society, P.O. Box 1282 Main, Dartmouth, NS, B2Y 4B9. A regional letterzine has started up called *The Seeress* and it's attempting to find out what's happening in Atlantic fandom and fandom as a whole. An information sheet for the Atlantic Census of Science Fiction and Fantasy was included, which is asking who Atlantic fans are and what they want in conventions.

An interesting tale I heard on the radio...one day on the set of *Star Trek VI*, the cast was watching the dailies (the day's shooting) and Bill Shatner was aghast to see how large his derriere was, and how far it protruded from under his Federation uniform. After some heated exchanges, Shatner got Paramount to optically trim his butt! The last thing you'd expect out of the special effects department.

Additional to Maplecon '91...the Chimo Hotel has been confirmed. I hope a convention can be re-

established in Ottawa; past Maplecons have been a lot of fun. Restarting the con in a hotel will be the best way to make it live again for a long time.

Anyway, c'est tout. I'll let you know how WorldCon went. See you soon!

Lloyd Penney
Toronto, Ontario

Good to hear that, despite reduced attendance, Ad Astra 11 didn't lose any money. Also good to hear that Maritime fandom is a going concern. We are hearing that Maplecon '91 is having its troubles butt (sorry, Bill—couldn't resist!) we hope, like you, that it can overcome any problems by showtime and be a success.-Ed.

Dear Newsletter Ed,

Your newsletter being sent to Star Trek Toronto should really be addressed to:

Star Trek Toronto
Suite 0116, Box 208
65 Front St. West
Toronto, Ont., M5J 1E6

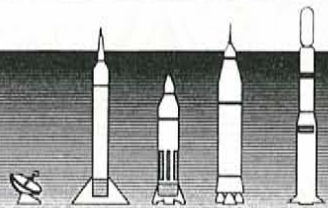
You've been sending them to me, the old editor of the *TrekLetter* and I'm not connected with the club now. I reckoned it was a bit evil for me to keep receiving and enjoying the *Warp* newsletter, depriving STT of their issue! So please send future issues to the STT mail box. Thanx!

Yours in *Trek*,

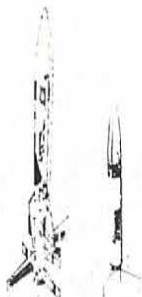
Jo-Anne Park
Toronto, Ontario

Thanks for the tip. Shame on us for not updating our address list. We'll go stand in the corner for a while until we learn our lesson!-Ed.

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MonSFFAandom

"ALL THE CLUB NEWS THAT FITS, WE'LL PRINT!"

August and September General Meetings

August's General Meeting was held on the 18th, September's on the 22nd, both at the usual place. August's meeting was our first try at a summer meeting—traditionally, MonSFFA has not run meetings during the summer months. The very strong turnout of 45-50 at the August event, and September's 40 or so, are testament to the popularity of the meetings, even during the lazy, hazy days of summer.

August's meeting featured a *Star Trek* rumours panel, hosted by Keith Braithwaite and Lynda Pelley. The upcoming sixth *Trek* movie dominated the discussion and Keith and Lynda let loose with everything they knew about the story, based on a fifth draft script they had read (see "Sensors" for all the latest dope). Members who preferred not to know what *ST 6* is all about were treated to a screening of the Japanimation favourite, *Akira* (English version). Con•cept '91 raffled off a few items to raise funds for the con towards the end of the meeting. Two additional items, donated by Lynda, were intended for raffle, but when members were told that a *Trek VI* movie poster and a copy of that fifth draft script were up for grabs, they insisted on being allowed to bid on them. About \$75.00 was raised by the time it was all over.

Baird Searles was the guest speaker at September's meeting. He is the author of *A Reader's Guide to Science Fiction*, *A Reader's Guide to Fantasy*, *Films of Science Fiction and Fantasy*, as well as the book reviewer for *Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*. He spoke on the state of sf publishing today, on just exactly what a book reviewer does and the differences between a reviewer and a critic ("A critic is a reviewer with more time"), on trends in sf and fantasy, on the golden age of the genre and on the history of fandom and the splintering of contemporary fandom. A question and answer period followed.

The last Con•cept '91 fund-raising auction was held during the later half of the meeting, bringing in about \$90.00. And, the club raffled off a few items, including a video of "The Cage," donated by Crystal Rothwell.

MonSFFA thanks Keith, Lynda, Baird Searles, all of the members who helped organize these two meetings, all those who generously donated stuff to the auctions and raffles, and all who attended.

MonSFFA at Creation Con

MonSFFA members worked security at the Montreal Creation Con in July. We also had a table set up to promote the club (and Con•cept). Many flyers were handed out, and as the President has indicated in "From the Center Seat" this issue, membership is up as a result. Thanks to all the members who participated. (see our review of this Creation con in this issue.)



MonSFFA handed out a great many flyers at the July Creation Con. As a result, membership is up.

Elections

The annual executive council elections will take place at the December 15 General Meeting. Any member in good standing may run for the positions of either President, Vice-President or Treasurer. Members should announce their candidacies no later than the beginning of the December meeting. The elected council is empowered to appoint officers and advisors; members wishing to hold such posts should approach the newly elected council and volunteer for the jobs.

MonSFFA Membership Survey

At June's General Meeting, members were asked to participate in a survey designed to gauge their level of satisfaction with MonSFFA. A questionnaire was distributed and members answered various queries concerning the General Meetings, *Warp*, etc. They were also asked to point out those aspects of the club they view as

negative and those they view as positive, and to suggest ways of improving things.

18 members filled out the survey form—10 male and 8 female—representing about half of the usual turnout at General Meetings and roughly 25% of total membership at the time of the survey. (Membership has since increased.) Here is what they said:

- 14 indicated their language of choice to be English, 3 listed French, 1 said he was bilingual.

- 8 have been MonSFFA members for over three years, 7 for between two and three years and 3 for less than a year.

- 12 said they attend more than five General Meetings a year and 4 said they attend between three and five. 2 of the 18 did not answer.

- When asked what they do or would most enjoy or do enjoy seeing at General Meetings, guest speakers, videos, discussion panels, games and gaming, and workshops topped the list with displays, *Trek*, and special projects rounding out the responses.

- Long and rambling club business announcements were universally panned when the question "What do you not like at meetings?" was asked.

- When asked if they would be willing to actively help with General Meetings, 11 said yes, 3 said no and 4 did not respond.

- When asked if they would like to see the club hold other events in addition to the General Meetings, 10 said yes, 1 said no, 6 did not respond and 1 thought she wouldn't have the time to participate in any such events. Parties, barbecues and picnics, video/film-making projects, movie-thons and group excursions to conventions were the preferred "other events" suggested by the 10 "yes" respondents. When asked if they'd be willing to help organize these other events, 7 of the 18 said they would, 1 said maybe, 5 said no and 5 did not respond.

- 10 take advantage of the club's discount program, 3 said they do not and 5 did not respond. Nebula Books, Kangourou Hobbies and Fantastique Fiction Fantaisie led the pack of retailers/dealers frequented. Komico, Librairie Astro, International Hobby and Metropolis Comics rounded out the list.

- 7 said they read two or three sf fanzines, newsletters or magazines, 4 said they read between four and six, 2 read over ten, 1 said "many" and 1 said "few." *Warp*, *Starlog*, *The OSFS Statement* (Ottawa) and *The Disruptor* (KAG Kanada) were mentioned most often. *Trek* and *Dr. Who* fanzines followed, with *De Profundis* (LASFS, Los Angeles), *Event Horizon* (OASFIS, Orlando, Florida), *Analog*, *Locus*, *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*, *Cinefex*, *Cinefantastique*, *Solaris*, and *Xenophile* (Calgary) completing the list.

- When asked to gauge how well *Warp* reports on club activities ("excellent," "good," "okay" or "poorly"), 10 checked off excellent, 8 good.

- When asked to gauge how well *Warp* showcases the talents of MonSFFA members, given the same four ratings, 6 checked off excellent, 9 good, 1 okay, 1 poorly and 1 did not respond.

- When asked if they thought *Warp* was a good ambassador for the club (it's mailed to sf/f clubs across the continent), given the same four ratings again, 12 checked off excellent, 5 good and 1 did not respond.

- 16 members said they read 100% of *Warp*, 2 said 50-75%; no one checked off "25-50%" or "I only look at the pictures." "MonSFFAdom," "Sensors," con reports and special features were marked down as the most popular features of *Warp*, with editorials, movie/TV reviews, *Trek* news, art and gossip rounding out the list. 15 said they have and/or would be interested in submitting something to *Warp*, 3 did not respond. The 15 also listed suggestions when asked what they would like to see in future *Warps*. Fiction, art, movie and TV reviews, humour and interviews were mentioned most often.

- When asked about the look (layout, graphics, etc.) of *Warp* and whether it is important to them, 10 members said that it was and that they wanted *Warp* to look professional, 1 said it was of no concern and that he didn't care what the newsletter looked like, and 7 said they fell somewhere in between those two views.

- When asked about the importance of the quality of writing in *Warp*, 12 said it should be as high a quality as possible, 1 said that grammar and typos did not concern him at all, and 5 said they were somewhere in between.

- When asked if it mattered to them that they receive *Warp* on time or not, 3 said they wanted it on time as much as possible, 11 said they could live with an occasional late issue, 4 said they didn't care as long as they got all their issues,

and 1 did not respond.

It seems, then, that member-satisfaction with the club is high. General Meetings and this newsletter were rated very favourably. Members seem prepared to become more involved and have many suggestions for improvements. Naturally, this is encouraging news for those of us who run MonSFFA on behalf of all its members. We intend, to act upon the

suggestions-for-improvements you have made to the best of our ability. As always, the more help we get from you, the better we'll all be able to make it all work.

For the Executive, Officers and Board of Advisors (BOA) of MonSFFA

Keith Braithwaite
President

A space for comments was included on the survey form; here is a sampling of what you had to say:

"The whole kit and kaboodle, laddies."

(Response to "What features in *Warp* do you enjoy most?")

"Club formalities—(get) straight to the good stuff."

(Response to "What do you not like at meetings?")

"Nerds."

(Response to "What do not like at meetings? What would you like to see phased out?")

"I'd like to help as much as I can—job, business travel, house, baby, wife, etc. permitting. Please keep me in mind."

"Phase out short fiction, no poetry."

(Comment on content of *Warp*)

"Make the photographs larger in *Warp*—they are so small and blurry, sometimes it is difficult to tell who is in them."

"Keep bold title on top of cover page—that vertical stuff last issue (*Warp* 5, May 1991) was awful."

"Leather bondage parties!"

(A suggestion for club events other than General Meetings)

"Pinups."

(A suggestion for *Warp's* pages)

"Too much rewriting on *Warp*—okay, fix typos, spelling, grammar but not entire sentences."

"Earth needs more studmuffins!"

"I like the present mix—keep it up."

(Comment on content of *Warp*)

"You tell me."

(Answer to whether the respondent is male or female)

"Whatever Keith happens to have."

(Response to a question asking what sf publications the respondent reads)

"General yakking."

(Response to a question concerning what the respondent most enjoys at General Meetings)

"I hope it helps."



As the new TV season gets under way in earnest, *Warp* takes a look at some of the small-screen science fiction (and fantasy) being offered up around here these days, new shows and old, beginning with a review of a miniseries that aired late this summer:

Stephen King's *Golden Years* (Doo Wop Wop)

Look what *Twin Peaks* hath wrought. A year ago, in the midst of another dreary television summer schedule of reruns, failed pilots and tax-write-off-made-for-TV movies, ABC took a chance and let fly with David Lynch's damn fine surreal soap opera/miniseries about murder, madness and doughnuts in a Northwestern logging town. Forget about the long, pointless, turgid, take-the-money-and-run regular season series that followed. That first series was a tremendous smasher, both critically and, more importantly (Hey! This is TV!), commercially. As they say, imitation is the sincerest form of television, and so now we have *Eerie*, *Indiana* and the recent *Golden Years* or, more precisely, *Stephen King's Golden Years*, a seven-part miniseries specifically created and written for television by the Kingster.

Not that *Golden Years* is just a rip off of *Twin Peaks*. Thankfully, King is more ambitious than that. And the

miniseries format should suit King well, given his propensity for long-windedness and the increasingly cheesy adaptations of his novels into films. You can see the potential. Just think: a King story, told in one-hour chunks, stretched out over the latter part of the summer, with a definite end in sight. The very form of television, hopefully, would cut down on King's philosophical rambling and the pointless digressions that have plagued his recent novels (coming next year, the fourteen volume unedited version of *Cujo*).

So, did they pull it off? Well, yes and no. *Golden Years* may not be great art, but it's good television, a pastiche of pop culture reference points. A 70-year old janitor at a top-secret US government compound is caught in an explosion when a hush-hush experiment goes awry (just like all those Marvel Comics superhero origins) and he is exposed to what? Chemicals? Radiation? Second-hand smoke? Whatever, the plucky custodian survives, only to be put under observation by some spooky CIA/military types when it soon becomes apparent that he's getting younger (sort of a spin on King AKA Richard Bachman's *Thinner*). When it turns out that he's become a specimen to be studied, poked and prodded—and probably ultimately dissected—our hero decides to take it on the lam in a sort of sci-fi version

of *The Fugitive*, with healthy doses of Robert Ludlum-type paranoia/spy fiction tossed in.

And, except for the janitor and his salt-of-the-earth wife, everyone in the cast is seriously skewed, à la *Twin Peaks*. There's the decidedly-mad, over-achieving scientist whose screwed-up experiments started it all. There's the stone-cold sociopath CIA-type sent in to do "damage control." There's the preening, balding general who has some kind of kinky hots for his security chief, a be-all-you-can-be ex-spy who's had it with cloak-and-dagger games. There's the Barney Fife-clone security guard. Then there's the janitor's blind, hippy-dippy daughter who pals around with some self-styled radical sproutheads. The various plots and subplots whiz around, weaving in and out of focus, demanding you pay attention, just in case something important slips by. Everyone seems to have hidden agendas and secret motives. The cast, a collection of unknowns and character actors (where have I seen that guy?), is always adequate and sometimes more than that. R.D. Call is simply chilling as the maverick CIA type. And Keith Szarabajka as the janitor does a very credible job of portraying a 70-year old man in a 65, no 60, no 55-year old body. Kudos to ace make-up men Carl Fullerton and Neal Marty for the incredibly credible, subtle make-up job on Szarabajka.

The scripts, for the most part, were quite good, although the two episodes not scripted by King suffered from some horrible dialogue and some out-of-place cutesy humour. The story unravelled slowly and the payoff seemed promising; a nice, late summer drift down a lazy video river, if you will, AND THEN THE STUPID LAST EPISODE CONCLUDED WITH "TO BE CONTINUED..."

We've been had.

Again.—Kevin Smith

Take The Leap!

What are you doing Wednesday nights at ten? I, for one, am busy hopping through time warps and enjoying myself immensely in the process. I watch *Quantum Leap*.

The show's premise seemed to

me a bit iffy at first. Some guy takes over a person's body, solves the person's problems in an hour and relinquishes said body just before the last commercial. Roll credits, fade to black. A lot of ways to screw up, right? Well, it might very well be awful, save for the two stars of the show.

Scott Bakula, who plays time-leaping scientist Sam Beckett, is charming in a warm-hearted, bumbly sort of way, not unlike another hero of mine, Tom Selleck/Thomas Magnum. To see Bakula bumble about in a dress and high heels (when he happens to leap in to a woman's body) is a real treat.

Dean Stockwell's portrayal of Sam's only connection to his own time, the holographic Al, is a study in wry humour and endearing cadishness. His sometimes helpful, sometimes not comments on Sam's predicaments are punctuated with a waving cigar and a wise kernel of truth.

I don't know if this show qualifies as bona fide science fiction—there are no space ships, aliens or laser guns—but most of the episodes are well written: catch last season's Halloween show, it's a classic. And, Bakula's buns are a must-see for the ladies!

Sam always learns something new about himself and the "worlds" he visits, as do the people he helps. Even the irascible Al comes away having gained something. Most importantly, though, the viewer gains and has fun along the way. *QL* gives us an entertaining look at the years we grew up in from a '90's perspective.

If you haven't had a chance to catch it, I highly recommend giving over an hour of your Wednesday night to checking it out. Go ahead, take the leap! It's a lot of fun. The look on Sam's face at the end of each week's show as he leaps in to another body and into another set of problems, along with his "Oh boy," is sure to hook you into tuning in next time. If you don't come away liking *Quantum Leap*, I'll eat my propeller beanie!-*Jen Devereaux*

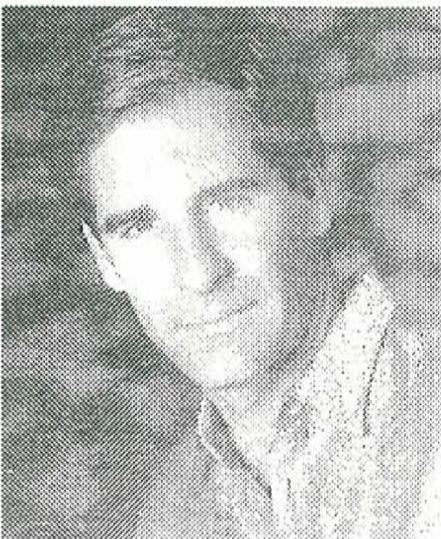
This past summer, NBC featured a "Quantum Leap Week," in which five selected episodes were aired, one each night. NBC's plan was to

increase interest in the show, which enjoys a small, but dedicated, following and suffers from so-so (but steadily improving) ratings.

The new season began with Sam and Al discovering that they have switched places after zapping out of last season's metal hospital—Al is now the quantum leaper, Sam the hologram (which means that Sam is finally home). The scramble has also caused the two to have taken on some of each other's personality traits; Sam is the lech, Al the choirboy!

Home at last (in 1999) and reunited with his wife, Sam faces a difficult decision. Time is running out on Al, who has inhabited the body of a returning WWII soldier about to be murdered. In order to save Al, Sam must leap to the rescue, with slim chance of being able to again return home. With scant seconds to spare, he enters the time machine, promising his wife that he'll come back to her.

QL plans to tackle a few controversial issues this season, including the use of animals in laboratory testing—Sam will leap in to the body of a test-chimpanzee (scientist Jane Goodall is contributing her expertise to that show, which will emphasize the importance of animal testing, but equally, the importance of treating animals humanely). Sam will also embody a disabled war veteran in a second-rate hospital, a woman who has been raped and a black female singer in a Supremes-like Motown group.-*Ed.*



Scott Bakula

Spock to Visit *Star Trek: The Next Generation*

ST:TNG picked up where it left off last season, in the midst of a Klingon civil war. The fifth season premiere saw Worf's situation resolved and revealed that the blonde Romulan commander, played by Denise Crosby, is Tasha Yar's daughter. (After going back in time aboard *Enterprise-C*, Tasha and a few of her new crewmates were apparently taken prisoner and spirited back to Romulus where a Romulan general agreed to spare the lives of Tasha's crewmates if she'd sleep with him.)

With *Star Trek VI* coming to a theatre near you December 13, Leonard Nimoy will certainly generate interest in *The Undiscovered Country* by appearing as Spock in a two-part *NG* episode set to air in November. Watch carefully, says Nimoy, there's a reference to the movie in the TV episode.

Wesley Crusher will appear in a couple of episodes this season and Worf's son will be back. One episode will guest-star Paul Winfield as an alien who speaks in imagery and can't communicate with Picard. Another storyline: a young boy who has suffered through a great tragedy will befriend Data and begin to believe that he is an android like Data. A few time travel stories are also promised and we'll learn more about Guinan, as she will be featured more prominently. Lastly, Gene Roddenberry has said that this season will include a few episodes featuring "gay crew members in day-to-day circumstances." A letter-writing campaign by the Gaylactic Network, a group of homosexual sf fans, is cited as having convinced Roddenberry to take this bold step.-*Carl Phillips*

Surreal Town is Eerie

If Rod Serling had written *Tom Sawyer*, NBC's new show, *Eerie, Indiana*, might have been the result. *Gremlins* director Joe Dante is the creative consultant on the show, which follows the exploits of 13-year old Marshall Teller (played by Omri Katz, formerly J.R.'s son on *Dallas*), recently transplanted from a Jersey suburb of New York City to the small, and decidedly weird, town of

Eerie, Indiana. Here, Bigfoot eats out of the garbage cans, Elvis is one of the customers on Marshall's newspaper route and aliens land their space ships in his back yard. And when Marshall tries to clue people in to the strange goings-on, no one, except his 10-year old friend, Simon (Justin Shenkarow), believes him!

The premiere saw Marshall and Simon discover that the neighbourhood Foreverware (sort of the ultimate Tupperware) sales lady and her chunky twin sons (Bert and Ernie) are a lot older than they look. Foreverware, it seems, keeps more than a baloney sandwich as fresh as the day it was made. Sleeping in bed-sized Foreverware containers has kept the twins and their mother

some of Spielberg's *Amazing Stories* can also be detected in substantial doses. The writing, acting and visual style are all excellent, making *Eerie, Indiana* one new show worth watching.-Stéphane Roi

And Speaking of Indiana...

Lucasfilm is producing *The Young Indiana Jones Chronicles* for ABC. "This is not an action/adventure series," says Indy's creator George Lucas. "This is a series about a boy coming of age. So it's much more like *Wonder Years*."

Fourteen episodes are being shot on location all around the world, including in Spain, Egypt and England (where young Indy will fall in love). Corey Carrier will play the

nine-year old Indy in half the episodes, 22-year old Sean Patrick Flanery will play Indy at 16 in the other half.

Lucas, who says he hasn't had as much fun with a project since *Raiders*, plans to focus each episode on actual events so that Indy's learning experiences can be shared by the TV audience as they find out how he became an archeologist. Lucas wants Indy to be a

kid who likes to learn and is not a nerd—for young viewers.

Look for Indy on the small screen in February.-Carl Philips

Dinosaurs

Allosaurus Earl Sinclair and his prehistoric family are back in ABC's *Dinosaurs*. Popular with the kiddies during its brief run this past spring, the show is after more adult viewers this season. The laugh track is gone and scripts will aim at greater character development. One story

will deal with daughter Charlene finding herself the only girl in her class who has not lost her stub tail and developed a long, beautiful tail. "It's a metaphor for the first (menstrual) period, a coming-of-age experience," says executive producer Michael Jacobs. Charlene will also have to deal with babysitting the Sinclair baby after having insisted that her parents give her more responsibility. And Earl will explain to son Robbie just why they are carnivores and not those misguided herbivores, only to learn that plant-eaters and plants do have a place in the world.-Denis Saure

It's a Dog's Life

CBS's animated series, *The Family Dog*, has been postponed twice because of the perfectionism of its producers, Steven Spielberg and Tim Burton (*Batman*). The show will deal with a dog's life from the dog's point of view. CBS hopes to have it ready as a replacement for one of the inevitable cancellations.-Ed.

Freddy VII

Well, not quite. Freddy Krueger died in the sixth and final *Nightmare on Elm Street* film, but Robert Englund, who played Freddy, is all set to go as one of the proprietors of a very strange little café in *Elm Street*-producer Wes Craven's *Nightmare Café*. Also starring are Jack Coleman and Lindsay Frost. NBC has slotted this one in as a mid-season replacement.-Ed.



Omri Katz moves from Dallas to Eerie, Indiana.

from aging! (Michael Jackson, I'm sure, would pay big bucks for such a bed.) But the twins want to grow old—30 years in the seventh grade is too much for anyone to stand—so Marshall agrees to help them escape the domination of their mother and her Foreverware.

Twin Peaks broke the ice for this kind of show and *Eerie* owes much to *Peaks*, but flavours of *The Twilight Zone*, old E.C. Comics like *Weird Science* and *Tales from the Crypt*, and



Englund: waiting in the wings

Convention Reports:

WorldCon '91 Report

by Sylvain St-Pierre

WorldCons have been with us since 1939 and although they are supposed to be world events, they have rarely been so.

This is not necessarily a bad thing as Chicon V demonstrated. Conventions held on this continent traditionally have a rather small proportion of non-North American members in contrast to, for example, last year's WorldCon, ConFiction, in The Hague. But the resources we have available here are so much greater that comparisons are hardly fair.

Chicon, the 49th WorldCon, was held in the Hyatt Regency/Swissôtel complex in Chicago. The convention site was well suited to an event of this kind and service at both major hotels was superb in most respects. The city itself is not terribly exotic to a Montrealer, but does offer some interesting spots.

Most appreciated was the large choice of restaurants/snack bars in the vicinity, including a number of sensible food counters in the hallways, offering hearty food at reasonable prices.

Perhaps because money is tight these days, most of the items in the Dealers' Room were affordable for a change. The choice was most impressive and I spent more than I should have. (Hey, it was a *WorldCon!*)

In the next room, the Art Show: one of the best I have ever seen, with high quality art and a lot of variety in styles. And it was *big!* Acres of dragons and aliens and fairies and spaceships. My favourite: James Gurney's Dinotopia world.

There were several historical and fannish exhibits of great interest, a comprehensive selection of old television shows for the nostalgia buff, a showing of most of the best movies in the genre and a large selection of Anime that, quite amazingly, ran on time!

How about the panels, you ask?

I stopped counting those listed in the program book after I reached 200. I did not attend a single one of them.

I am told that quite a few extraordinary Hall Costumes were to be seen all over the place but, (just my luck) I never did get to see that chain-mail string bikini! Given the size of the con, seeing any particular person was a feat in itself; I met some of our fellow MonSFFA members only by sheer chance.

The Masquerade was somewhat disappointing by WorldCon standards, with only 49 entries and not as much talent as one would expect. Canadian costumers held their ground very well, accounting for many of the more pleasing presentations. The Masquerade, as well as the Hugo Awards Ceremony, was broadcast on the hotel's in-house TV channel. This was a good idea, but the technical quality of the show left much to be desired. In all fairness, it should be mentioned that lighting was handled by union workers, despite the committee's objections



The biggest yet: The 49th WorldCon.

Chicago's close proximity to the Canada/US border probably accounted for the large proportion of Canucks among the members. No doubt many of them voted for Winnipeg in '94, but that bid could not have been successful without the support of the many Americans who voted for that city too. It was close: Winnipeg won by only a 65-vote margin! Total voter turn-out was over 2000, the largest in years, if not ever. With a voting fee of \$20.00 US, you have to be really dedicated to cast your vote these days.

I did a little probing and it seems that a lot of people find the idea of a WorldCon in Montreal to be very attractive. Anybody interested?

The Chicon V newszine, *Son of Daley Planet*, listed the winners of the various awards handed out at the WorldCon in its last issue (Number 6, Monday Morning). Quebec-based artist Denis Beauvais was voted Best Artist in the Macabre (Professional) category by his peers for his painting "Tasmanian Devil." Bob Eggleton, who hopes to attend Con•cept '91, picked up a Chelsey Award for Best Magazine Cover Illustration (*Aboriginal SF*, January 1990). The Chelseys are awarded by The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists. Superstar sf/f artist Michael Whelan picked up numerous awards including a Hugo for Best Professional Artist and a Chelsey for Artistic Achievement (for the body of his work). Keith Parkinson's "Fire Sea" proved to be popular with both fans and attending artists; he got the nod as Best Fantasy Artist (Professional) by both groups. The Elizabeth Pearse Award, given out by the Art Show management and named for the late Ottawa fan and leader of "The Team, Eh," went to Jeff Adams for his "Wall of Serenity." Chicon V gave Andrew Porter a special award of excellence for his many years editing *Science Fiction Chronicle*. The John W. Campbell Award went to Julia Ecklar and the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award was given to Robert A. W. "Doc" Lowndes. Masquerade results

were listed as unavailable, despite repeated attempts by the newszine staff to get them!

Following is the list of Hugo Awards given out at Chicon V, the 49th WorldCon:

Best Novel: *The Vor Game* (Lois McMaster Bujold)

Best Novella: *The Hemingway Hoax* (Joe Haldeman)

Best Novelette: *The Manamouki* (Mike Resnick)

Best Short Story: "Bears Discover Fire" (Terry Bisson)

Best Non-Fiction Book: *How to Write Science Fiction and Fantasy* (Orson Scott Card)

Best Professional Editor: Gardner Dozois (*Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine* and *The Year's Best Science Fiction*)

Best Semi-Prozine: *Locus* (Charles N. Brown)

Best Fanzine: *Lan's Lantern* (George "Lan" Laskowski)

Best Fan Writer: David Langford

Best Professional Artist: Michael Whelan

Best Fan Artist: Teddy Harvia

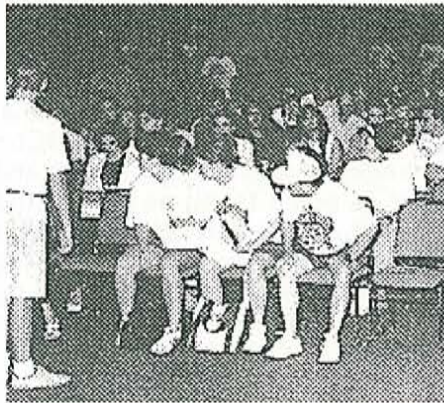
Best Dramatic Presentation: *Edward Scissorhands* (20th Century Fox)

Creation Comes to Montreal

by Carl Philips

Creation Entertainment came to Montreal for the first time back in July. Creation is an American commercial outfit that puts on some 100 cons a year all over the US, and now in Canada as well. They cater mostly to *Trek* fans and feature *Trek* actors at their events.

Nichelle Nichols was the guest at the two-day Montreal con. Fans shelled out 20 bucks a pop per day to attend; only the real die-hards came on both Saturday and Sunday as



Top: Nichelle Nichols, star attraction at Creation Con in Montreal

Center: Fans await the appearance of Uhura
Above: Nichols autographing souvenirs

programming was virtually identical both days. The con took place in two huge rooms at the Palais des Congrès, one a dealers' room, the other a theatre set up to run videos, show slides, stage contests and an auction, and ultimately, to bring out the star attraction.

Nichols was on for about 35-40 minutes. She was friendly, open and appreciative of the fans, enthusiastically answering their questions and, later, autographing their souvenirs. As one might expect, the dealers' room offered a great many items, some of them good deals, some over-priced crap.

While the con was certainly a financial success—over 2000 attended—its critical success is not as clear cut. Some fans thought the whole affair was just wonderful and long overdue in this town. Others complained that there was little to see and do, that Nichols' appearance was rather brief and that \$20.00 was pretty damn steep for what was being offered. There didn't seem to be much middle-of-the-road opinion.

Creation has promised to return to our city, probably sometime in March or April and possibly with William Shatner (they're hoping to arrange a three-city tour—Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal—with our hometown boy).

Report: Ad Astra 11

by Sylvain St-Pierre

Ad Astra is one of the oldest and best conventions in Canada, and I have yet to be disappointed by it. Number 11 kept a tradition of excellence alive and well with a solid core of time-tested programming and enough new ideas to prevent fossilization and boredom.

I heard that the Art Show and the Dealers' Room suffered a little from the GST, but both had much in common with Ali Baba's cavern, down to a magic lamp or two. The Intergalactic Dating Game was back for a third year, and it remains a hoot not to be missed. You should have seen MonSFFAN Capucine Plourde's date, both of him! We got an update on Canada's position in the Solar Sail race, saw the crowning of Mr. Ad Astra (work on those pecs, guys), oogled the bare bottom of a shapely femfan (pant, pant, pant), dipped in to a very successful Con Suite (smoking and non-) and met charmingly nutty people we don't get to see much in mundania.

There were only 23 entries in the Masquerade, which is a little low for Toronto, but the quality of the show more than made up for any dearth of costumers. For those who could not get in, some WorldCon level creations could be seen all weekend long in the Costume Display Room.

A *Star Trek* spoof was one of the highlights of the con, but in my

opinion, it still needs a little polishing. There were good moments, but too many lulls and scene changes.

A few events ran on Standard Convention Time—that is to say, a little late—but on the whole the schedule was pretty much respected. I have become more forgiving of such delays since I became involved in the programming of Con•cept and learned of what goes on behind the scenes while con-goers are having fun.

The Con-com was extremely helpful to us Montrealers. It was they who suggested that Con•cept advertise in Ad Astra's program book and they generously played our con promo-spot in the Video Room. Also we held a well-attended Con•cept room party and the fire alarm remained mercifully silent.

The hotel itself, the Airport Howard Johnson's, still suffers from planes trying to land on the roof and food that is desperately bland to a Montreal palate. This may explain why Toronto fans are so fond of heavily spiced dishes in the Con Suite: overcompensation.

Ad Astra will change its location next year, to far better facilities I am told. This shows that the organizers are not resting on past glories and have an eye to the future. (See Lloyd Penney's letter in "MonSFFA Mailbag" for details on next year's Ad Astra.-Ed.)

The bottom line is that this con was a most enjoyable one and that Toronto fandom has not lost its touch, even after a decade. Keep the flame burning fellows!

Toronto Trek V: A Review

by Keith Braithwaite

Over 3000 people attended fan-run Toronto Trek V at the end of this past July. Those kinds of numbers are comparable to some of the major commercial Trek cons. TT5 featured principle guests Michael Dorn, Walter Koenig and author J. M. Dillard; a full-size mock-up of a starship bridge; two well-stocked dealers' rooms and a well-stocked con-suite; numerous club tables flogging everything from SeaTrek to Quantum Leap to the Klingon way of life (the presence of two Klingon

groups testified to the growing popularity of this latest subdivision of Trek fandom); and the usual panels, art show, masquerade, dance and auction (the proceeds of which went to charity).

Overall, TT5 ran smoothly. There were the expected minor glitches and I could list all of the things that I think didn't quite fly, including a Trek rumours panel that degenerated, at one point, into a gossipy session about Gates McFadden's pregnancy. (Note to programming: stick to the subject; McFadden's kid is not Trek!) But I don't want to dwell on those little things; all cons are subject to minor, and sometimes unavoidable, problems. If I'm going to complain about something, I'll complain about the hotel and about seating capacity.

While the rooms were quite nice, the hotel wasn't the easiest place in which to find your way around, on-going renovations notwithstanding. The video room was tucked away in some back closet and I only found the dance by homing in on the music. The con-staffer manning a con info-desk set up in the main function area couldn't tell me how to get to the con-suite ("Down that hall...I think")! On Saturday evening, I found myself redirected through a completely unfamiliar part of the hotel because a non-con event was taking place in (or near) the main function area. And, I thought the prices charged for even a simple meal at the hotel's restaurant were absolutely outrageous. I'd suggest a change of venue for next year. In fairness, there may not have been much that TT5 could have done about the hotel—I recognize that hotel management can be, and often is, the bane of con-coms—but the organizers certainly could have done something about seating capacity.

Now, I think it's only reasonable for a con-goer, having paid his pretty-close-to-being-outright-pricey admission, to expect that he'll get a seat at the

appearances of such major guests as Dorn and Koenig. Surely, the con-com has calculated that just about everyone at the con will want to be in the room when the stars hit the stage. *If the facilities can't accommodate everyone, then cap attendance at a level which can be accommodated, or get bigger facilities!* Leaving paying customers standing against a wall, however, is just plain unacceptable.

On the positive side, I'd give high marks to TT5's programming and add that Michael Dorn, and especially Walter Koenig, were most entertaining (Walter floored me with some of his very amusing Trek anecdotes). TT5 is to be congratulated for bringing in such top-flights guests. Very few fan-run cons can afford to even think about an actor guest, let alone two, and so most of us see the stars at commercial cons, where the programming is generally not as varied and not up to the quality of your typical fan-run event. TT5, then, gave us the best of both worlds.



Above: Michael Dorn chats with fan at Toronto Trek V
Below: Klingon at TT5 with the Empire's next generation



SENSORS

FACT, RUMOUR AND SPECULATION FROM AROUND SF/F-DOM

Information for this article was culled from the OSFS Statement, *Creation Entertainment*, *The Star*, *The Montreal Gazette* and the general fandom grapevine.

Winnipeg Wins WorldCon Bid!

Winnipeg fandom has won its bid to host the 1994 WorldCon. They beat out their only rival, Louisville, by a tight 55-vote margin. Voter turnout was higher than it has been for some time.

The '94 WorldCon will be only the third ever held in Canada. The first and second took place in Toronto.

Congratulations to the Winnipeg Bid Committee and good luck with Conadian A, the 52nd WorldCon.

Fans urged to Boycott Creation; Creation Responds to Accusations

"Creation Conventions suck" begins Jon Lane in an editorial that appeared in *Tricorder Readings* (number 28), the newsletter of the USS Avenger, a New Jersey *Trek* club.

"Creation is...now seeking exclusive contracts with the *Star Trek* stars so that they can do only Creation Cons. Marina (Deanna Troi) Sirtis has just signed one. You'll not see her at a non-Creation con anymore," writes Lane.

He also argues that Creation's new merchandising agreement with Paramount "spells financial doom for the various dealers who sell *Star Trek* merchandise at conventions," and explains why he thinks so: "The dealers will now have to buy most of their *Trek* merchandise wholesale directly from Creation. In other words, every time you go to a Creation Con, you'll see the exact same *Trek* merchandise on each table, expect that on the Creation table, the stuff will be just a little bit cheaper. The dealers, who already pay exorbitant prices to Creation just for table space at cons, will have to pay

Creation even more, only to be undersold by those same suppliers."

He also suggests that Creation might act to protect its investment and go after dealers selling unlicensed merchandise (the blooper reel, *Ships of the Star Fleet*, fanzines, etc.). "Creation enforcers will either tell the dealers to put away any unlicensed merchandise on their tables, confiscate the merchandise, or just kick the dealers out."

Lane urges fans to boycott Creation. "I am not giving them another penny of my money," he says.

Jon Lane is not the only fan with a beef against Creation these days. The grapevine is buzzing with talk of boycotts. Computer bulletin boards are full of messages accusing Creation of trying to corner the *Trek* con and merchandising arenas. "If Creation signs all the stars to exclusive contracts, the fan-run cons can't get them and they don't get the attendance...they fail. Meanwhile, since Creation is the only place fans can see the stars, Creation gets all the business," says one. Another message reads: "Creation Conventions, in addition to putting on what, I am told, are pretty lame conventions, is now beginning to take action that implies that they may be trying to corner the market on *Star Trek* conventions. Creation has signed a licensing agreement with Paramount whereby they provide dealers at their cons with licensed material, and will not allow dealers there to sell unlicensed products. They have also claimed that they will take steps to enforce their license both at their own cons and at other cons!"

Flyers have been circulated at various conventions, including last summer's fan-run Toronto *Trek V*, calling on fandom to boycott Creation: "If Creation gets their way—total control of merchandise and actors—conventions like Toronto *Trek* will become almost impossible

to run. And with such blatant money-grabbing ploys as 'reserved seating' and 'full-weekend memberships only,' the fans are only going to lose out. Fortunately, actors like George Takei and Michael Dorn are not co-operating, but we must let Creation and those actors who have or might sign on with Creation know how we feel as well!"

Creation's critics suggest that concerned fans write to Creation and complain.

The boycott movement seems centered in the northeastern States and elements of Klingon fandom appear to be distributing at least some of the flyers we've come across. The evidence presented is largely anecdotal. *Warp* contacted Creation and asked them if they wanted to respond to the allegations being made against them. They sent us a lengthy reply; here is some of what they had to say:

Addressing the issue of signing *Trek* actors to exclusive contracts—

"This all started when a company named Devlin Associates (who run several shows a year) booked a big *Trek* star on a location exclusive basis tying up this star for a year. In our 20 years we have never heard of any convention promoter doing anything like this. To protect our interests after the above, we discussed contracts with a few *STNG* actors (as did other convention promoters), but as it turned out only Marina Sirtis will be with us on a contracted basis in 1992. Marina wants to work a certain amount of times a year and we wanted to present her those many times. End of contracts, end of deals, no other stars are involved nor will they be in the future."

On *Trek* merchandise and the accusation that they are out to monopolize the sale of same—

"For over 25 years, the fan

market for *Star Trek* items has basically been unlicensed. In the past year, Paramount has actively licensed a great number of companies to produce licensed merchandise. Creation is but one of those companies and our license allows for the manufacture of T-shirts, all forms of apparel, photos, buttons, etc. A percentage of all licensed items sold goes to the actors and producers of *Star Trek*. And deservedly so. It is not Creation's place to police the fan market; Paramount is the copyright holder and the choice is theirs. It is our belief that Paramount feels that with more and more licensed material finally out there, the unlicensed bootleg stuff would eventually dry up. In the meantime, we at Creation are quite proud of the licensed goods we have already manufactured; it's tons of stuff that basically has never been available before, and because it must go through the proper approval process, the quality and look of our items is quite good. And, thankfully, our items have been selling through the roof. Feedback as to the type of items we'll be doing is greatly appreciated. The bottom line is that there will be hundreds and hundreds of new items available on top of what has always already been on sale. We are not stopping anyone from selling anything; however, if someone rips off one of our products (the design, or they copy one of our photos, etc.), we would naturally be upset. And of course, our merchandise is readily available at wholesale rates. Best of all, our merchandise is priced at the same prices fans have been paying for years (\$5 a photo, \$14 a shirt, etc.) and now the actors and producers are also getting their fare share."

Creation went on to dismiss charges that they have confiscated unlicensed merchandise at some conventions, saying "This is ridiculous."

Addressing the accusation that they are out to shut down fan-run cons, thus eliminating the competition—

"We at Creation are fans of the subject matter we cover. Creation does not wish to compete with any fan shows in any way. Our events

are designed for people who enjoy the programs we're highlighting. They are not designed for the 'super fans' who are into the intricate details of the series and enjoy endless discussions about minute matters of the program. Fan shows are organized by committees of fans who work for a year to produce one event. Creation organizes 100 events a year. The two entities are not comparable. And we would imagine that many 'super fans' have crossed over into in-depth fandom by first attending the better advertised Creation events and finding out about fans clubs, fandom and fan conventions at our events. And Creation has never programmed one of our events intentionally near another show. We wish we could say the same about other promoters. After running over 1000 conventions, has there been times when by accident a Creation show has been near a fan-run event? Yes."

On ticket prices and preferred seating—

"We determine ticket prices based on cost of the venue and guests. The preferred seating which we have been offering helps keep the general admission tickets down. Most other conventions now offer this service as well."

In addition, creation had this to say: "It is our guess after looking through hundreds of pages of computer network dialogue that the false rumours we've addressed above were started by a group of fans who are active in promoting their own brand of conventions. While we have nothing against these folks, they have pompously printed falsehoods in a public forum which has incited other fans. We have tried to address all concerns on the computer networks and certainly everyone is entitled to their opinions. However, we reject the notion that it is acceptable behaviour to print lies without even trying to make an attempt to find out the truth."

They signed off by talking a bit about what they are up to these days: "...we are developing exciting conventions built around movie premieres (for instance, we had Arnold Schwarzenegger in person at

our T2 Convention). Also, *Star Trek* team-up tours like Shatner and Nimoy together at *ST VI* premiere dates. After two decades, we are still out there trying to offer quality programs for our fellow science fiction media fans. Hope you'll stick with us!"

Batman Returns

Tim Burton's sequel to his mega-hit, *Batman*, is called *Batman Returns*. Michelle Pfeiffer is cast as Catwoman, replacing Annette Bening, who bowed out because of her pregnancy. Danny DeVito is the Penguin and Paul Reubens, AKA Pee Wee Herman, has been offered a small part (no denigration of Pee Wee's manhood intended) as the Penguin's pop! Another spin on this has him playing the Riddler. Winona Ryder asked for \$2,000,000 to play Robin but producers are going with the more reasonably priced unknown Marlon Wayans, a comedian. Seems all those rumours about Michael J. Fox playing the Boy Wonder were just that.

Thank Youze

Photos appearing in "MonSFFAandom" and "Con Reports" by Daniel P. Kenney, Berny Reischl and Capucine Plourde.

Header illustrations by Keith Braithwaite and Berny Reischl.

Thanks to Jack Gutman and Associates and Unison Metal Products for their assistance in producing this newsletter.



Warp is pleased to be able to bring you these exclusive stills from the upcoming *Star Trek VI: The Undiscovered Country*.

Above: Spock, Lt. Valeris (Kim Cattrall) and a klump of Klingons on Khitomer.

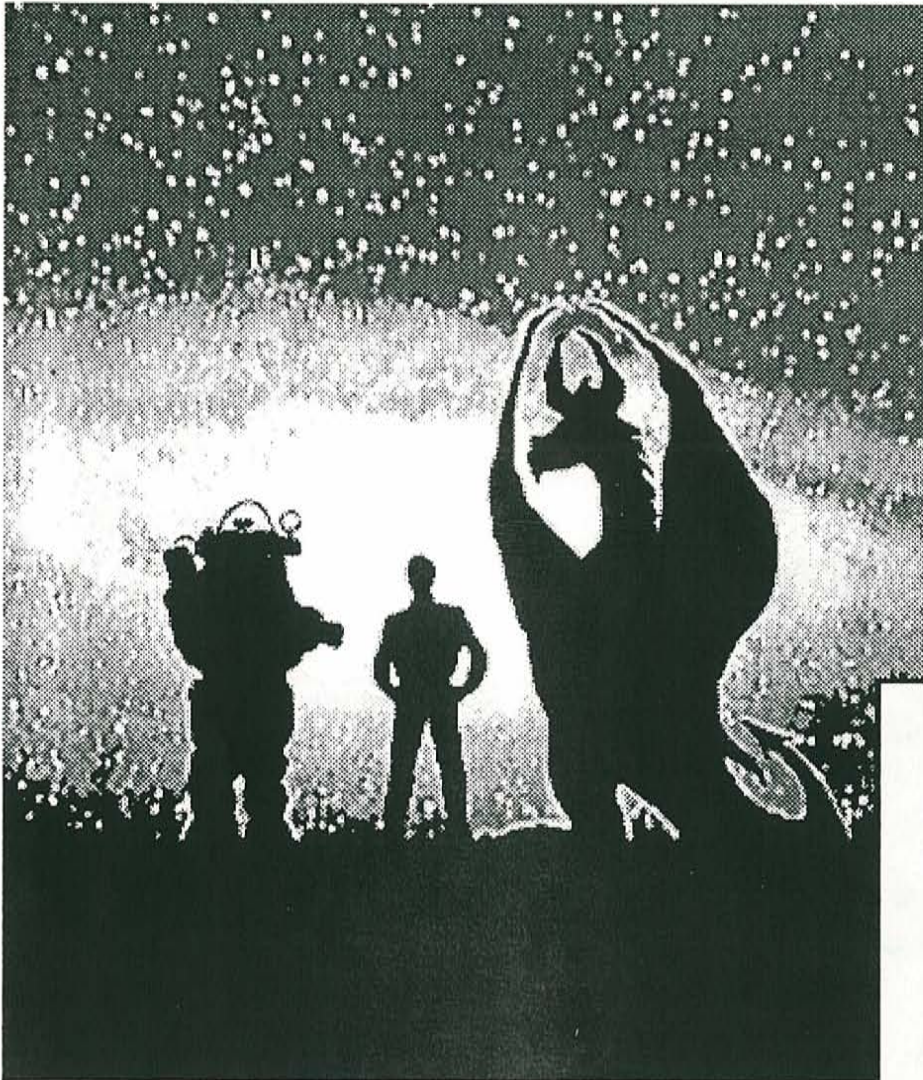
Below: Kirk and McCoy are tried in a Klingon court. General Chang (Christopher Plummer, next to McCoy) is their accuser, Colonel Worf (Michael Dorn, far left) their defense attorney.





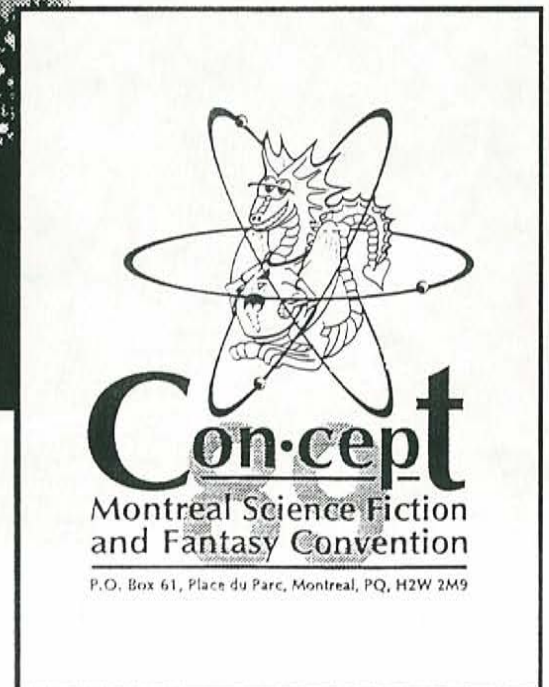
Main Viewscreen is a semi-regular feature of *Warp* which showcases the artwork of MonSFFA members and members of fandom in general.

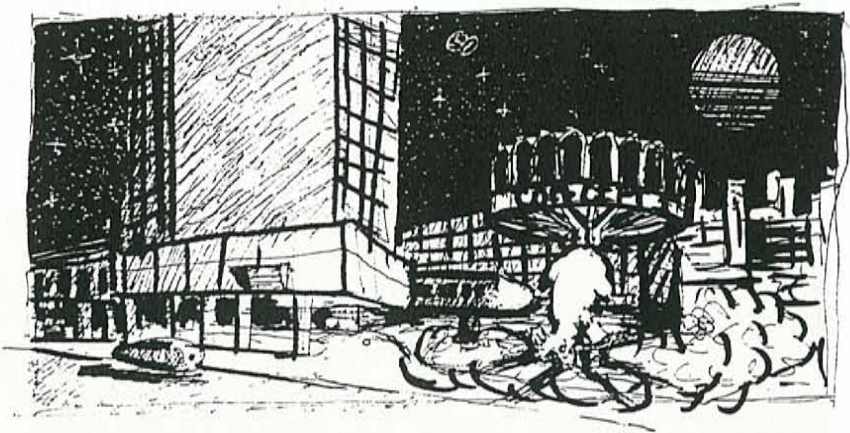
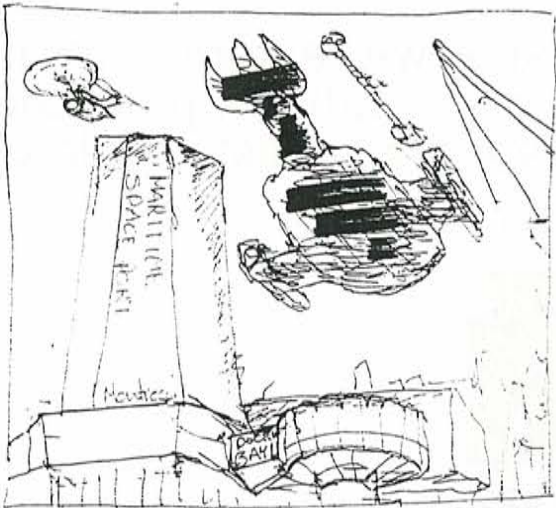
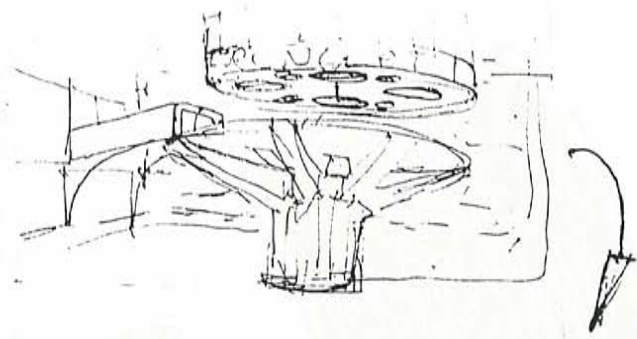
In this issue, we feature a small sampling of the artwork produced for Con•cept these past couple of years.



Above: Berny Reischl produced this painting for Con•cept '91's promotional poster, program book cover and T-shirts.

Right: The original Con•cept symbol, Morrie Al the Dragon, rendered by John Matthias.





A number of well-known, fictional spaceships hover over the Maritime Hotel (convention site) in an idea sketch for a promo poster. Circa Con•cept '89, art by John Matthias.

Another of John's poster ideas, depicting the Maritime's unique saucer-shaped room as a flying saucer lifting off. Circa Con•cept '89.



T-shirt art for Con•cept 1990, by Keith Braithwaite.



Cartoon included in Con•cept '91's Dealer Information/Registration Kit. Drawn by Keith Braithwaite

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.

MonSFFA

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

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.

AMonSFF

C.P. 1186, Place du Parc
Montréal (Québec)
Canada, H2W 2P4

The Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA): Membership Application

Name _____

Birthdate (optional) _____

Mailing address _____

Apt. _____ City/Town _____

Province/State _____ Postal Code _____

Telephone (home) _____

(work) _____

Interests (optional)

Science Fiction _____

Others _____

Fantasy _____

Horror _____

Movies/TV _____

Writing _____

Art _____

Gaming _____

Others _____

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.

Please do not pass on any of said information.

Formulaire d'adhésion à l'Association Montréalaise de Science-Fiction et de Fantastique (AMonSFF) :

Nom _____

Date de naissance (optionelle) _____

Adresse _____

App. _____ Ville _____

Province/État _____ Code Postal _____

Téléphone (rés.) _____

(trav.) _____

Intérêts personnels (optionels)

Science-Fiction _____

Autres _____

Fantastique _____

Horreur _____

Films/TV _____

Écriture _____

Art _____

Jeux de rôles _____

Autres _____

Il arrive que d'autres organismes nous demandent la liste de nos membres afin de les contacter. Veuillez indiquer ci-dessous si vous nous autorisez à transmettre les renseignements inscrits sur ce formulaire à ces organismes.

Je vous autorise à transmettre ces renseignements.

Veuillez ne pas transmettre ces renseignements.

We've been Warped for three years! If you'd like to be Warped too, fill in the other side of this sheet.

