

AUGUST 1996 (VOLUME 10, NUMBER 3)

PRICE: \$4.95

WARPF 39

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE MONTREAL SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY ASSOCIATION (MonSFFA)



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COVER UP:

This issue's cover features MonSFFA member Nicola Stoeckert, an avid costumer, in full regalia as *Babylon 5's* G'Kar. Nicola's fellow MonSFFAn, Daniel P. Kenney, snapped the photo at Con•Cept '96, where Nicola was awarded "Best Journeyman" honours.

1996 MonSFFA EVENTS SCHEDULE

ALL MonSFFA MEETINGS HELD SUNDAY AFTERNOONS, 1:00PM TO 4:00PM (SOME MEETINGS INCLUDE MORNING ACTIVITIES, WHICH BEGIN AT 11:00AM) IN THE ARTIMON I ROOM OF THE MARITIME HOTEL, 1155 GUY STREET (CORNER RENÉ LÉVESQUE), DOWNTOWN MONTREAL

**EVENT PROGRAMMING
(SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER)**

Programming subject to rescheduling and/or change

SEPTEMBER 15 MonSFFA MEETING

1:00PM—We celebrate the 30th anniversary of *Star Trek*, examining the influential original series and its successors, and discussing the impact *Trek* has had—good and bad—on the science fiction genre.
3:00PM—Sylvain St-Pierre challenges our powers of observation with his interactive sci-fi game *Bug-Eye Bet*.

OCTOBER 20 MonSFFA MEETING

1:00PM—A look at the time-travel story, and with that, the genre's most interesting time paradoxes.
3:00PM—Sci-Fi Origami: Our experts will show you how to crease and fold a common sheet of paper into a spaceship or an alien creature!

NOVEMBER 17 MonSFFA MEETING

1:00PM—Model-Building Workshop
(tentative programming item)

JANUARY

21

FEBRUARY

18

MARCH

17

APRIL

21

MAY

12

JUNE

16

AUGUST

18

SEPTEMBER

15

OCTOBER

20

NOVEMBER

17

**X-MAS
PARTY:
DECEMBER
14**

Warp is published five or 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 2P4. A subscription to *Warp* is a benefit of membership in MonSFFA. MonSFFA is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to the enjoyment and promotion of science fiction and fantasy literature, film and television, comics, fanzines, art, music, costuming, model-making, gaming, etc. The opinions expressed in *Warp* are solely those of the individual writers and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of *Warp* or MonSFFA. The use of copyrighted material in this newsletter is—yes, we know—verboten, but is not intended to infringe on any of the rights of the copyright holders. Come on, people...lighten up! This is an amateur publication intended for enjoyment only. "The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage."—Mark Russell

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

My air conditioner was installed back in June so we must be in the middle of summer. I'm starting to feel so burned out I hardly noticed!

Summer is a great time to take a brief break from organized (*disorganized?*) fandom, enjoy the supposedly warm weather and go on vacation. I've been putting in some quality time working on my models, too, an activity I haven't had much time for lately.

Some people take the opportunity to attend out-of-town events while on holiday. Although there was no MonSFFA meeting last month (the club always takes a break in July), there are still enough conventions to keep you busy during the summer months. For me, there was Rebelcon in the Boston area (July 5-7) and *definitely* Toronto Trek (August 2-4). So much for taking a summer break from fandom! At least I was not involved in *organizing* these shows.

I must mention that several Montrealers were nominated for Aurora Awards this year. They include Chris Chartier over at Warp 9, Capucine Plourde of the KIDC, and of most interest to members of this club, our very own Warp editor, Keith Braithwaite (fanzine category), SF illustrator and MonSFFA member Jean-Pierre Normand (artist category) and myself (fan

organizational category). It was nice to be nominated; I hope you all took the time out to vote, and I hope MonSFFA members fared well when the votes were counted at this year's Convention in Calgary (July 19-21). We'll publish the results as soon as we get them from the Aurora committee.

As some of you have heard, Keith and his wife, Colleen, welcomed their son, Scott, into the world on April 28 (three weeks earlier than expected!); mother and baby are doing fine. Congratulations to the proud parents. Keith, of course, has put aside most of his MonSFFA duties to tend to baby, but is managing to devote what *little* free time he has these days to working on Warp. As always, I'm assisting by handling the photo-scans, though my free time is limited, too, because I've been putting in a lot of overtime at work lately. So, as I'm sure you've noticed, this issue of Warp is coming out *late*. But, along with Mike Masella, we are managing to get the newsletter done, *at least*, and we trust you'll bear with us through the summer. Keith informs me that printing costs are creeping up and so we'll probably be looking at ways to trim Warp down just a bit in order to stay within our allotted budget. Your input on this matter is welcome.

There are lots of summer films in theaters; the Hollywood SF/F trend this year is alien invasions. By the way, if you happen to go see the new *Mission: Impossible* film, pay close attention to the NFB animated short, *How Dinosaurs Learned To Fly*, which precedes it. I worked on it—look for my name in the credits.

Conventions, movies, Warp, partying or just plain relaxation—whatever you're doing this summer, have fun!



Lynda Pelley
President, MonSFFA

IN THIS ISSUE:

CON•CEPT '96 REVIEWED (PAGE 10)

PLANT 9 MEMORIES, PART II (PAGE 16)

MOVIE REVIEWS (PAGE 15)

AND MORE...

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 an 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 committee, who are empowered to appoint officers and advisors to assist them with the operation of the club. Executive committee 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 this and 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.)

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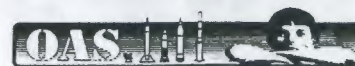


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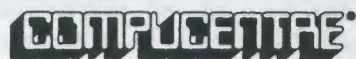
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EL PASO KOMIX



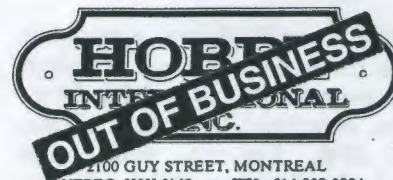
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489-4009

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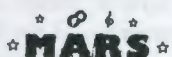
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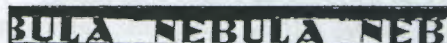


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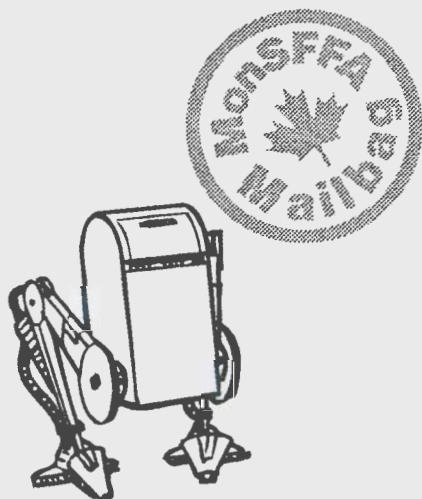
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MonSFFA and *Warp* welcome letters of comment and inquiry. Mail letters to: P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 2P4. Unless otherwise instructed, we assume all letters are intended for publication. *Warp* reserves the right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

MonSFFA received the following two letters at the beginning of the summer. We have responded accordingly, indicating our strong support (of course!) for the SFTv bid, and our keen interest in taking part in the proposed Star Trek exhibit at Complexe Desjardins. —Ed

L'AMonSFF a reçu ces deux lettres suivantes au début de l'été. Nous avons répondu à ces lettres, indiquant notre appui incontesté (naturellement!) au sujet de la demande de SFTv, et également notre intérêt à prendre part à l'exposition de Star Trek proposée et devant être tenue au Complexe Desjardins. —Ed

Dear Sir/Madame,

I am writing to you with a special request from SFTv Canada.

Atlantis Communications and Allarcom Pay Television have joined forces to operate a specialty channel (SFTv Canada) in Canada. SFTv will be a showcase for Canadian past achievements and future talent in science fiction, fact and fantasy, and a chance to establish a powerful venue for our unique imaginative heritage.

The Atlantis/Allarcom application is a most extensive and

effective proposal to develop Canadian science fiction. It will provide new opportunities and new markets for Canadian SF writers, as well as our directors, producers and actors. SFTv is an attractive programming option that Canadians cannot receive now and our surveys have demonstrated that they want.

I am collecting material on the popularity of science fiction in Canada. Could you please contact me with information on how many members belong to your club.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thanks in advance for your help.

Sincerely,

Maureen Prentice
Allarcom Pay Television Ltd.
Edmonton, Alberta

Bonjour,

Nous sommes actuellement à la recherche de partenaires et collaborateurs en vue d'organiser le plus grand rassemblement de Trekkers et d'artéfacts reliés au monde fantastique de *Star Trek*. C'est sur la place publique du Complexe Desjardins que nous souhaiterions exposer objets, photos, maquettes, affiches, etc. de *Star Trek* et en même temps y regrouper tous les adeptes.

Nous envisageons organiser cet événement grandiose du 9 au 21 septembre 1996, ce qui nous permettrait d'en faire le coeur de notre promotion d'automne. Il est d'ores et déjà acquis qu'un maximum d'efforts publicitaires et promotionnels seront fournis pour optimiser l'impact du projet. De plus, notre expertise et nos équipements (vitrines, panneaux, cimaises, kiosques, etc.) permettront à nos intervenants spécialisés de bénéficier de facilités, d'une logistique et d'une équipe technique professionnelle.

Enfin, nous vous invitons à lire le dossier ci-joint pour mieux juger de la qualité des événements qui ont marqué la vie du Complexe Desjardins et de l'importance et du sérieux que nous accordons à cette promotion.

Nous souhaiterions donc vivement obtenir votre collaboration et celle de vos membres pour nous aider et nous guider dans nos

démarches. Aussi, nous vous invitons à communiquer avec nous pour toute information additionnelle.

Dans l'attente de vos nouvelles, nous vous prions de recevoir, Madame, Monsieur, l'expression de nos meilleurs sentiments.

Serge Gauthier
Place Desjardins Inc.
Montréal, Québec

Dear MonSFFen,

Thank you for the issue of *Warp* 37. Here goes with comments...

Addendum to my published letter: add Prisoners of the Knight to the list of Toronto and area cons that have been cancelled, a disturbing trend that I hope has solved itself. I was told that chair Dave Gracey got cold feet and cancelled the con, although what he needed were experienced people running the con for him. Many of us who have some con-running experience phoned him with offers of help, but he never returned any of his calls.

I wish we could have gone to Con•Cept '96, but finances just wouldn't allow it.

The Globe and Mail recently profiled Mark Shainblum and Gabriel Morrisette (any relation to Alanis, I wonder?) and it's great to see the success that they and *Angloman* have enjoyed. I gotta save up \$10 and pick up a copy.

TT9 (reviewed by Lynda Pelley) was an okay con for me. Fan-run cons are finding that interest in *Star Trek* is drifting, so more *B-5* and *X-Files* programming is being substituted. At Odyssey Trek in Niagara Falls, after the con lost Ethan Phillips as a guest, they got Richard Biggs from *B-5*, which may have saved the con right there. A *Trek* con with no *Trek* guests? We may have to get used to it, and *Trek* cons may redefine themselves as general media cons.

Yes, I would agree with the scientific study ("Sensors") that says that one out of every 10 *Trek* fans is maladjusted. This really is a non-news report, one tailored for the press, who like to attack groups like *Trek* fans. I'd also expect that one out of every 10 people *everywhere* are maladjusted. Let's take the positive spin on this report: 9 out of every 10 *Trek* fans are normal, everyday

people! I guess that kind of spin wouldn't sell newspapers.

Yes, Creation Entertainment has left Canada, but I'd also heard reports that Creation had filed for bankruptcy! Any word on this?

Thanks for printing the Science Fiction Saturday flyer; bye for now.

Lloyd Penney
Brampton, Ontario

Dear MonSFFen,

Thank you for issue 38 of *Warp*. Looks like you enjoyed Terry Pratchett at Con•Cept as much as we did at Ad Astra a few years ago.

The one-in-10 factor of *Trek* fans being maladjusted (discussion topic, February MonSFFA meeting) is harsh, agreed, but I can't really say that one in 10 at a con is the same way. That one out of the 10 is usually discouraged from going to a con by the efforts of the other nine, which means your local con is a great place to go to meet decent people who share your interests.

A message from Yvonne: she saw a tape of *Plant 9 From Outer Space* at a fan party in Toronto a while back and she says don't give up your day jobs! What's next, a vampire movie based on the club called *MonSFFeratu*? Doesn't Berny look so realistic in the role of a geeky fan? Hmmm... type-casting, perhaps?

Visions '95 (reviewed by Lynda

Pelley) sounded like it was fun. I'd been told that Michael O'Hare wasn't pleased to be doing these shows because he really isn't into having fans; he is an actor, after all (sniff). Mira Furlan loves the fans. We met her at Toronto *Trek* and she's a sweet lady. (We gave her one of Yvonne's patented tacky shirts!) It was local fans Martin Hunger and Christina Carr who were in the Delenn and Kosh costumes.

I will wait expectantly for the next issue to see what the general response to Con•Cept was. I gather some of the local media fans weren't happy, but I want to read all the commentary about the con.

Take Care All,

Lloyd Penney
Brampton, Ontario

Two in row, Lloyd! Hey, keep' em coming!

We're not absolutely sure, but we don't think Gabriel is any relation to Alanis. Now, most definitely, go out and buy a copy of Angloman! You won't be disappointed.

*We share your views on the public's waning interest in *Trek* in favour of B-5, X-Files and other fare. Indeed, cons that have begun catering to these newfound interests are merely obeying the law of the marketplace.*

Like your spin on the "maladjusted Trekkie" study.

As far as we know, Creation is still

in business.

Tell Yvonne that it's just a goddamned hobby and we have no plans to quit our day jobs! Interesting idea and title for another video-film; you'll get the appropriate screen credit if we ever go ahead and do it. Don't mess with Berny! He is an actor, after all (sniff).

Thanks for I.D.-ing the B-5 costumers for us.

You'll find a review of Con•Cept '96 in this issue, and yes, the media fans had good reason to be disappointed.—Ed

Dear MonSFFA,

I am a member of MonSFFA and I have been very satisfied with the club since my subscription one and a half years ago. Your issues of *Warp* are very informative.

I would like to publish a non-commercial advertisement in the next two issues of *Warp* to exchange or sell some interesting items.

Thank You For Your Help,

Stéphane Thériault
Montreal, Quebec

*Thank you for your words of praise, Stéphane. We are pleased that you are enjoying your membership in MonSFFA. One of the benefits of said membership allows you advertising space in *Warp* and we have begun running your ad, as requested.—Ed*

Bulletin Board

FALCON

SF & FANTASY CONVENTION,
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"ALL THE CLUB NEWS THAT FITS, WE'LL PRINT!"

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Have you moved over the summer? If so, be sure to advise MonSFFA of your new address and, if applicable, your new phone number.

MonSFFA MAIL DELAYED

A glitch down at the post office may have delayed delivery of some of the club's incoming and outgoing mail. The problem has now been cleared up and we are assured that MonSFFA's mail is back on track.

RECENT MonSFFA MEETINGS

March 17

The club's March meeting drew some 35 MonSFFen while the city's annual St. Patrick's Day parade formed up on the street just outside our Maritim-Hotel meeting room. With Ireland's patron saint in mind, we began the afternoon's programming with a discussion of Celtic influences in fantasy literature. Guest speaker Cynthia Dudley, along with MonSFFA members Graham Darling and Marc Durocher, made up our panel and gave an historical overview of the Celts, spoke of their folklore and of how many fantasy writers have mirrored Celtic mythology in the creation of their stories.

As it happened, the club's *Plant 9 From Outer Space* video-film was fresh out of the editing suite and the group was treated to a special, small-screen sneak preview (*Plant 9*'s public premiere would take place the next weekend at Con•Cept '96). Response was very positive and the folks who had acted in the production got an extra kick out of seeing themselves on screen.

Andrew Weitzman and Cathy Palmer-Lister capped the afternoon off with a primer on the works of

Terry Pratchett, author of the wickedly humorous Discworld series, and Con•Cept Guest-of-Honour the coming weekend.

April 21

Keith Braithwaite and Lynda Pelley led off with a preview of the coming summer season's SF/F movie fare. They gave brief outlines of the movies (*Barb Wire*, *Dragonheart*, *Independence Day* and others) and offered their guesses, based upon pre-release buzz, as to whether each was likely to be worth the price of admission.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to a look at SF/F film production techniques, amateur and professional.

Sylvain St-Pierre spoke of the importance of pre-production. Script, production designs, storyboards and detailed production notes, he explained, must be squared away before the cameras roll. These form the blueprint of a film project, giving you a good idea of what the final result will look like. Sylvain brought along examples of pre-production work for an amateur computer-animated short that he's producing.

Lynda then screened raw footage from the set of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, illustrating the lengthy process of creating what would end up being a brief scene of only a minute or two. Perhaps an hour of footage was shot in total, covering many different angles to furnish the director with plenty of options, and allowing for the insertion, later, of special effects. The completed scene, as it aired, was shown at the conclusion of Lynda's presentation in contrast to the raw footage.

The screening of the *Plant 9 From Outer Space* "Making of..." Bloopers reel gave the audience a look at how a minimal-budget homemade production is put together. While the TNG professionals worked their scene from all sorts of angles, the

amateurs putting *Plant 9* together kept things simple, permitting no more than two or three angles per scene, and generally keeping the actors to no more than a couple of takes.

An encore screening of *Plant 9* closed the afternoon's programming.

May 12

Mother's Day, not unexpectedly, saw a few less than our usual 30-35 in attendance.

Josée Bellemare and Liz Marcotte were up front during the first half of the meeting; the topic: PSI powers in sci-fi. The discussion centered on various, well-known film and television characters possessed of PSI powers (TNG's Deanna Troi, B-5's Bester, *Star Wars*' Luke Skywalker and Darth Vader), the ways in which their powers are given play and the challenges faced by writers who must be careful to sufficiently limit the powers of these characters for dramatic purposes. The debunking of versus the belief in such powers was also touched on, including talk of societal reaction—past and present—to persons who claim to be gifted with PSI powers.

Georges Dodds and Lynda Pelley presided over a lively discussion of genre heroes and villains during the second half of the meeting. Audience members cited favourite examples and those qualities which make for a great hero or villain were listed. It was noted that the genre offered few well drawn female heroes, more often presenting us with unfortunate stereotypes. Sidekicks and lackeys were also given their due.

Thanks

The club thanks March-meeting guest speaker Cynthia Dudley, and MonSFFen Josée Bellemare, Keith Braithwaite, Graham Darling, Georges Dodds, Marc Durocher, Liz Marcotte, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Lynda

Pelley, Sylvain St-Pierre and Andrew Weitzman for each doing their piece of the programming these three meetings. We give, too, a nod of thanks to Berny Reischl, who came through with a TV for the March-meeting *Plant 9* screening after our hotel-supplied set crapped out on us! Also, a second thank-you to Graham and Keith, who saw to the giant-screen projection TV used at April's meeting. And thanks, as always, to those members who took care of our customary raffle and snack table.

DISCOUNT PROGRAM UPDATE

Please take note that Galaxy Enterprises has changed addresses; they are now at P.O. Box 340, Grimsby, Ontario, L3M 4H8. Meanwhile, we have received

word that Out of This World has decided to shut down operations. We thank them for their patronage.

PLANT 9 IN THE BLACK!

Sales of copies of the MonSFFA-made video-film *Plant 9 From Outer Space* have far overshoot expectations and pushed the project's ledger well into the black! Sales of a deluxe edition of *Plant 9's* script added a few more dollars to the coffers. MonSFFA had expected to recoup some of the money it put up to produce *Plant 9*, but not even the club's most optimistic projections anticipated actually making a profit.

The *Plant 9 From Outer Space* video (VHS) includes a short promotional teaser and a 20-minute "Making of..." / Bloopers reel. Cost: \$9; available while in stock at any

MonSFFA meeting. (Note: Mail-order copies are available at a cost of \$15 each, shipping and handling included. Send orders to the MonSFFA post office box; make cheques or money orders payable to MonSFFA; remember to include your complete address; allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.)

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The cost of running MonSFFA rises from year to year and your membership renewals are vitally important in seeing that this club continues to operate; please be sure to renew on time. Note: MonSFFA has not raised its yearly membership fee in over six years! We remain one of the best bargains in town for the discriminating SF/F fan.

Bulletin Board

FOR SALE: SF COVER ART REPRODUCTIONS

Limited editions, signed and numbered by the artist; matted and framed

1. **Rails Across The Galaxy, Frank Kelly Freas** (multiple Hugo winner)
Cover from October 1982 Analog: \$75.00 (*BONUS*: the same issue of Analog)
2. **The Dark Tower, Michael Whelan** (another multiple Hugo winner)
Illustration from Stephen King's Gunslinger series: \$100.00
3. **Covers from Asimov's five Foundation novels, Michael Whelan**
Foundation, Foundation and Empire, Second Foundation, Foundation's Edge, Foundation and Earth: \$900.00 for the set (*BONUS*: The first four foundation novels [paperback], autographed by both Asimov and Whelan)
4. **The Unicorn Trade, Tom Kidd**
Cover of a short story collection by Poul Anderson: \$50.00
5. **Persephone, Tom Kidd**
Publication unknown: \$50.00

Phone Joe: 514-697-7211, before 9:30PM

CONVENTION REVIEW

I give Con•Cept '96 (March 22-24) generally good marks across the board. That said, however, the con came up *noticeably* short in one, important area, which I'll deal with last.

Fan-Friendly Guests

Con•Cept's guests over the years have always proven quite congenial with their fans and this year was no exception. Guest of Honour Terry Pratchett—friendly, *very* approachable and of a devastating wit (not surprisingly!)—packed them in at his panels and held court less formally out in the halls. Pratchett, author of the popular Discworld series, is a pretty big name and the past few years have seen Con•Cept attract such A-level guests, a healthy trend which continues next year with fantasy writer Lois McMaster Bujold and illustrator Wayne Barlowe the scheduled headliners. A welcome returnee (he didn't make last year's Con•Cept) was the con's perennial guest and a long-time friend of Montreal fandom, Larry "The Doctor" Stewart, a rather unique fellow who never fails to amuse and entertain. As is their practice, Con•Cept's con-com recruited many local and regional SF/F pros and semi-pros, who were put to good use on the *four* tracks of programming running throughout the weekend. One of these tracks operated in French, run by the Boréal people. Con•Cept is to be commended for inviting the French-language lit crowd aboard; their participation brought a distinct flavour to the con.

Local SF/F Clubs Missed

MonSFFA was pleased to host a half-dozen panels. Our efforts were well received and our panelists had a lot of fun doing their thing. MonSFFA, however, seemed to be the *only* local genre club that was sponsoring any panels! This I found unusual; in previous years Warp 9, the various Klingon groups and others have always kicked in with their share of contributions to

CON•CEPT '96

Reviewed by
Keith Braithwaite

Photos by:
Daniel P. Kenney (DPK)
Kevin Holden (KH)

programming. This year, for some reason, they were not represented. I don't know why they didn't take part, but their contributions were missed and Con•Cept would surely have benefitted from their involvement, as in years past.

Plant 9 a Hit

We must thank the Con•Cept programming people for slotting MonSFFA's public premiere of *Plant 9 From Outer Space* in prime-time, Saturday afternoon. *Plant 9*, the club's amateur video-film (completed shortly before the con), played to an enthusiastic and appreciative standing-room-only crowd. Within an hour of the screening, MonSFFA

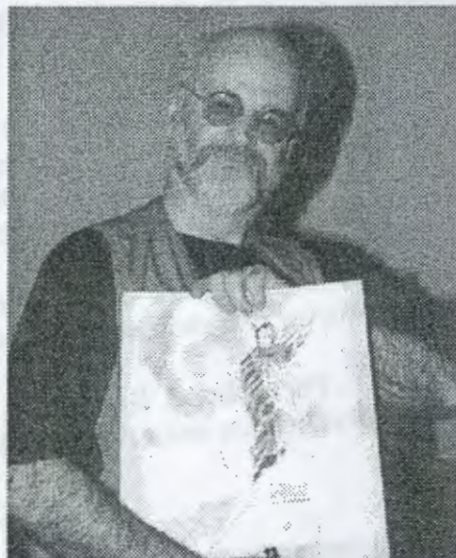
members staffing our club table upstairs reported *selling out* the remainder of our stock of *Plant 9* videos and scripts! Lead actor Graham Darling's appearance in the Masquerade a few hours later as his *Plant 9* character drew recognition and laughter, confirming that *Plant 9* was a hit with Con•Cept '96's attendees.

Some Con Features Downsized

On the subject of the Masquerade: less than a dozen participants, but some mighty fine costumes, including two crowd-pleasers from MonSFFA: Nicola Stoeckert and Cindy Hodge. This Masquerade was modest in comparison to those of a few years ago and I noted that the Art Show and Dealers' Room were as well. I did not visit the Dealers' Room and so I can't comment on it first hand, but I can say that I've heard post-con grumblings about poor sales from some of the dealers. The Art Show I did visit, and while the smallest in Con•Cept's history, it featured a selection of excellent work. The local sci-fi art scene is quite robust if the quality of the pieces on display be any indication. The Model Competition showcased some fine work and hadn't down-



Fan-Friendly Guests: Terry Pratchett (left), in costume, with Larry "The Doctor" Stewart (KH)



Warped Art: Pratchett poses with the Warp-38-cover-art original, which depicted his "arrival in Montreal" for Con•Cept (KH)

sized nearly as much as other of the con's features. The Saturday night Dance clicked with some, not with others; comes down to one's taste in music, I suppose. In my humble opinion, the DJs should have offered a more varied selection. The Con Suite, meanwhile, served up a wide assortment of snacks and drinks, and at reasonable prices. Well done!

Hotel Panned

Again this year, the host hotel's inadequate elevator service and convoluted layout proved frustrating for attendees, who at the bitch panel beseeched the con-com to move the con to a more user-friendly hotel next year. My information at this time is that Con•Cept is considering a change of site. Further, the con will move from spring back to its original fall dates in '97.

400 Attendees

Con•Cept '96 brought in something over 400 paying attendees, logged record room nights with the hotel (which helped to trim the con's function-space rental costs) and covered all expenses, with perhaps a small profit left over. Good numbers, in my view.

Media Fans Shortchanged

As I mentioned at the outset, the con came up noticeably short in one, important area: *programming content for media fans*. I've always held that one of Con•Cept's best features has been its broad-based programming, appealing to literary, media, fannish, scientific, etc. interests. Montreal's SF/F fans—the con's core supporters—are a diverse bunch, and Con•Cept was founded upon the principle that local fans be served by offering up a diverse spread of programming. Over the years, the con has, for the most part, given attendees a little bit of everything. This year, however, the interests of a considerable segment of SF/F fandom were *woefully* underrepresented. While literary, science and (particularly!) computer fans, as well as the fannish and vampire crowds fared well this year, *media fans* were fed *mere morsels*. There were not a *handful* of panels which focused on

Since the second "F" in MonSFFA stands for fantasy, I thought it might be interesting to describe Con•Cept from a fantasy angle. So put away your phasers and star charts and gaze into the crystal ball for a look at:

THE GREAT FAIR

For several years now, a group of people have been organizing a Great Fair on the Island of The Royal Mountain. People come from far and wide to gather in the meeting halls of an inn located at the base of the mountain, in the heart of the city. From times past, present and future, all kinds come: merchants bring their goods, artists and craftsmen bring their best work to put on display, and hopefully to win contests; storytellers, stargazers and dreamers—they all come to the Great Fair. Whatever their appearance, all are welcomed.

Over the years there have been individuals and groups from many different time periods. Knights in shining armour side by side with Klingon warriors, a princess from the future, royalty from medieval times—ambassadors from many different times, places and species. Some even claim to have seen dragons, tribbles and mechanical dogs over the years. Why not, it's possible!

Many choose to dress differently strictly for fun, in the spirit of the Fair. Some dress more elaborately and enter contests, hoping to win prizes and recognition for their craftsmanship and imagination.

After the fashion contest there is always a dance in the great hall and many smaller, private celebrations in some of the rooms.

Throughout the three days of the Fair you can see demonstrations of skill by various experts. Conferences on a great variety of subjects can be heard in the smaller meeting halls and ideas and opinions are freely exchanged, no matter where you come from or what language you speak.

Various groups have booths set up in order to make themselves known and increase their numbers. Some groups even take to the streets, much to the surprise of the local inhabitants.

So it doesn't matter what age the mortal calendar says you are, if your heart, your mind and your spirit are filled with magic and opened to the stars, then join us every year at The Great Fair on the Island of The Royal Mountain.

—Lady Astra (aka Josée Bellemare)



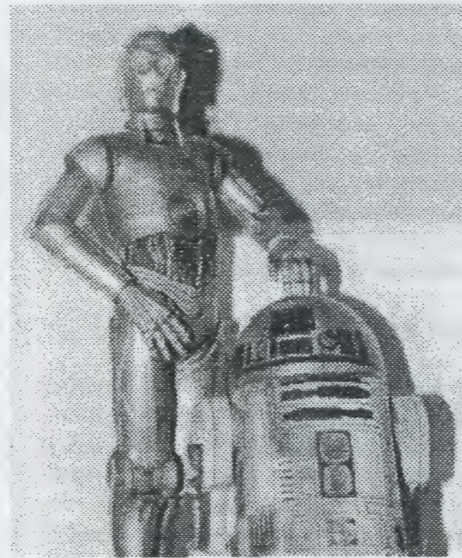
Above: "Princesses" Lynda Pelley (left) and Josée Bellemare on the dance floor Saturday night (KH)

Below: Fans observe as artists create paper-plate art at one of the con's panels (DPK)



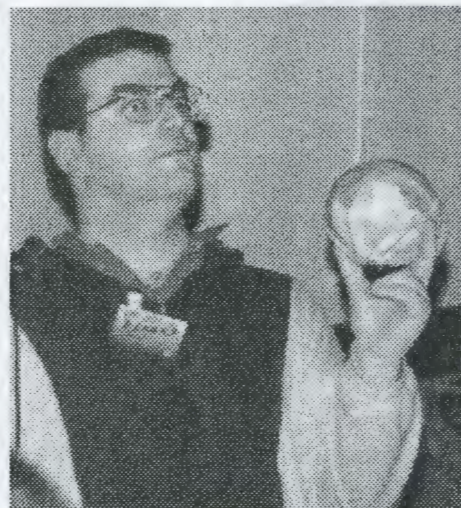
the interests of media fans. I don't think it unreasonable for media fans—*no small group, remember*—to expect a multi-interest science fiction and fantasy convention to include a *respectable* portion of media programming. Con•Cept '96 saw fit to offer its attendees a "Self Defense Seminar and Workshop"—*what connection that has to SF/F is beyond*

me!—but inexplicably, left Trekkers, X-Philes and such others with nada! I've heard some of Con•Cept's people, in essence, *write off* Montreal's media fans. While I question the wisdom of a con dismissing such a bread-and-butter market as media fans, I can see *some* merit in the argument presented that other local cons (almost all of them media-

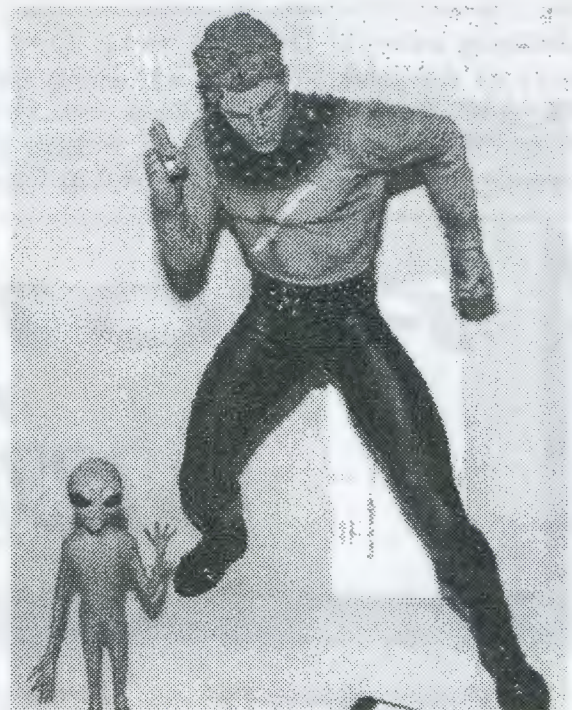
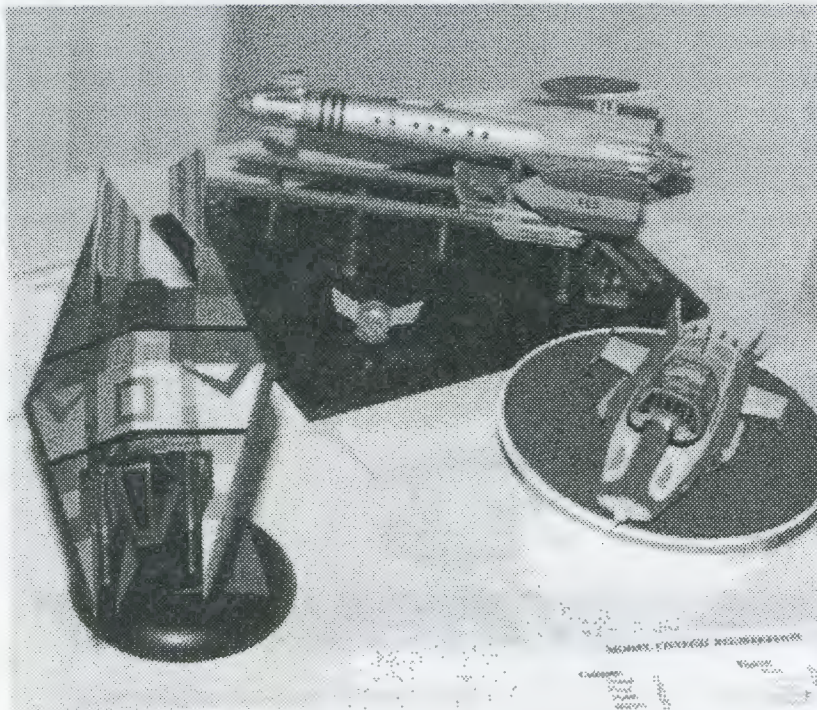


Model Competition: Star Wars' star droids in miniature, among the fine examples of modelling on display at the con (KH)

oriented) are in a better position to cater to media fans. Con•Cept's people must have noticed, however, that while this might have been true a couple of years ago, it is *not* the case now, for those other cons are *no longer running*, leaving Con•Cept the only game in town. I think it behooves one of Montreal's first SF/F conventions—and now its *only* con—to offer programming that will appeal to *as many* of this city's fans as possible, and certainly to such a sizable, *membership-buying* group as the media fans. That would only be in keeping with the founding principle upon which Con•Cept was built.



Plant 9 From Outer Space: Bryan Ekers in thrall of hostile space cabbage; MonSFFA's video was a hit with Con•Cept crowd (KH)



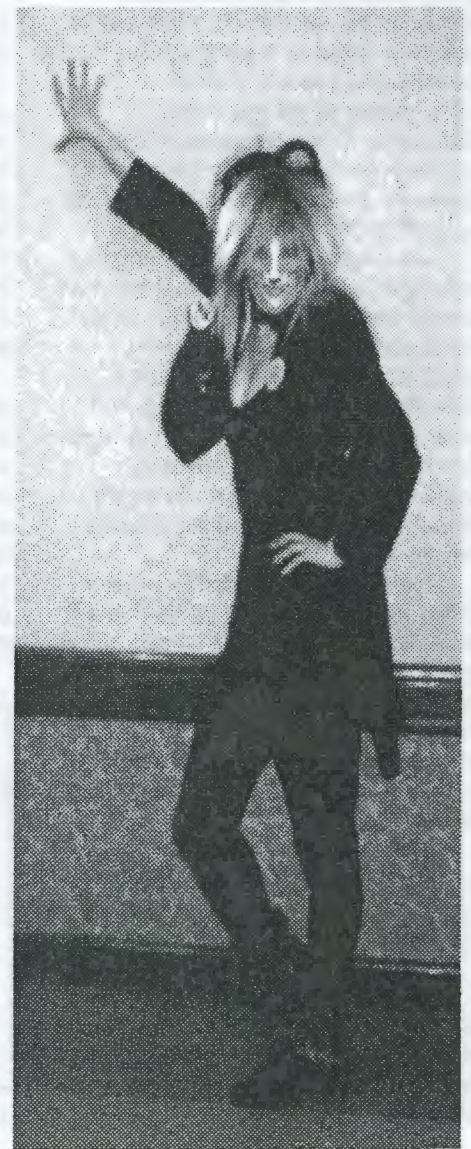
Above, Left: Spaceship models (KH)

Above, Right: Sci-fi figures (KH)

Below, Left: Josée Bellemare in costume, with LGM—Little Green Muppet! (DPK)

Below, Center: Award-winning costume, Con•Sept '96 Masquerade (DPK)

Below, Right: Meeow! (DPK)



An innocent Muppet is brutally attacked! But nothing is as it seems. Who was behind the dastardly assault? *The truth is out there...somewhere.* Two years later, though, after layer upon layer of devious plotting has been peeled back, the truth remains elusive and victimized Muppets have taken matters into their own hands. *Warp(ed)* reporter Josée Bellemare, MonSFFA's Muppet expert, offers our summer readers a follow-up on the crack(ed) investigative piece she published in *Warp* 32 (February '95). Now, there is, at least...

PROTECTION FOR THE MUPPETS

Two years ago, during a PBS pledge-drive on the weekend of March 12-13, on the Saturday night when the phones were manned by an out-of-town science fiction club—many of whom were Klingons—Elmo of Sesame Street was *brutally* attacked by Barney the Dinosaur! Barney was subsequently charged, tried and convicted.

One year ago, after an intensive investigation, it was discovered that Barney had only been a *pawn* in the attack and that the *real* culprits behind this horrible crime (for a while thought to be the Klingons) were, *in fact*, the holographic images of *certain* of the club members, including their *president*! Barney's conviction was overturned and he was set free.

The question of whether these holograms were acting of their own free will, or if they were under orders from the Klingons, remains unanswered. The holograms that were present on that fateful weekend have disappeared and their flesh-and-blood counterparts aren't talking.

Since then nothing has happened. Many thought that the whole matter was simply going to fade from public memory.

Not so.

We have just learned that in the past year Muppet Labs have been *quite* busy with several projects, all aimed at protecting Muppets at future PBS pledge-drives and other

public appearances.

First, in the electronics division, Dr. Bunsen Honeydew, with the help of his assistant Beaker and the vast resources of Disney Studios, has been working on a device that can *neutralize* the hardlight drive of a hologram's projection unit, rendering the hologram immaterial and unable to interact with anything or anyone. We were unable to get the details of how the device operates but we have been told that a portable, lightweight model is already in the works.

We have also learned that the medical division of Muppet Labs, in a setting that looks and sounds like it was taken from a science fiction movie, has been conducting *genetic experiments* of an even more secretive nature. Convinced that the Klingons were somehow involved in Elmo's attack and that they might try again at a future date, Muppet Labs has

been breeding and training a new breed of *attack tribble*. These tribbles have arms, legs, hands and feet, and a complete face but still retain that genetic trait which seems to render Klingons totally helpless. Their training, under the tutelage of Animal, Miss Piggy, Bean Bunny and other qualified instructors, has turned them into perfect bodyguards for Muppets: they look and act *cute* but the moment a Muppet is threatened, they spring into action with incredible speed and agility.

The Muppets say that they can't change what happened two years ago and since it seems that the law can't fully protect them, they just have to make sure that it doesn't happen again in the future. Whether these measures are enough to keep the Muppets safe, only time will tell.

—Josée Bellemare
Muppet Expert, MonSFFA



Top secret plans for hologram-neutralizing device (left) and portable version of same (right).

REVIEWS:

This summer has brought moviegoers a big science fiction blockbuster and a swashbuckling fantasy epic. Our reviewers have a few quick words on each, along with an opinion on the new adventures of Doctor Who.

INDEPENDENCE DAY

This summer's blockbuster harkens back to those great old '50s alien-invasion flicks (*War of the Worlds*, *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*), and would do '70s disaster-movie mogul Irwin Allen proud, as well. This is one *spectacular* movie, if nothing else. But hey, it's summer; who *wants* anything else? The sheer visual power, *alone*, of those strikingly composed shots of gargantuan alien spaceships hovering over Earth's cities is enough to forgive a film chock-full of plot holes, cheesy dialogue and forced one-liners. The waves of incendiary destruction that soon follow are just icing on the cake!

Don't go in looking for anything more than big explosions and testosterone-fueled thrills in this one,

then sit back and enjoy the ride.—*reviewed by Carl Phillips*

DRAGONHEART

The CG dragon, of course, is the star of this movie and the reason most will go to see it. Certainly, the digital wizards at ILM have come across (as always) with a wonderful piece of animation built around the solid presence (in voice) of Sean Connery.

But *Dragonheart* manages to work quite well *beyond* its star critter. It nicely balances the qualities of a classic fairy tale with those of something more Disneyesque. Good acting, all around, and a fine message about those knightly values—compassion, honour, bravery, self-sacrifice—which insure that good be always victorious over evil.—*reviewed by Susan Denham*

DOCTOR WHO TV MOVIE

Not being all that familiar with the venerable British SF television

series, I came to the new, American-made *Doctor Who* (aired mid-March, Fox network) wondering if I'd need to know all about the Doctor's history in order to follow what was going on. Turned out that my limited knowledge was enough, as producers were no doubt aiming to attract an audience made up of more than *Doctor Who* fans. I venture to suggest that a decidedly American-style chase scene, and the romantic play between the Doctor and Grace Holloway (the story's female lead) may not have sat well with *Who* purists.

These elements worked just fine in my view, though, and while the plot was typically mediocre sci-fi fare, terrific performances by Paul McGann as the Doctor and Eric Roberts as the Master were the movie's saving graces. Standing out, for me, as a cheap shortcut on the part of the writers was the implausible ease and quickness with which the Grace Holloway character accepted all of the unbelievable goings-on that she found herself in the middle of. I would imagine that a noted heart surgeon like Dr. Holloway would be far more *Scullyesque* in her reasoning.—*reviewed by Keith Braithwaite*

Bulletin Board

Save Our Show

Help Save "Space: Above and Beyond"

Write to:

Mr. John Matoian,
President, FOX Entertainment Group
and/or

Mr. Chase Carey,
Chairman, CEO, FOX Entertainment Group

FOX Broadcasting Network
P.O. Box 900
Beverly Hills, CA, 90213

According to FOX, *each letter* is counted as representing 10,000 viewers!! Please write!

For more information, or to join the Canadian "Space: Above and Beyond" Fan Club, contact:

JJ Reischl
34 - 9th Avenue
LaSalle, Quebec
H8P 2N6
kilroy@cam.org
<http://www.cam.org/~kilroy/1900hrs.html>

PLANT 9 MEMORIES

PART II

by Keith Braithwaite

Warp editor Keith Braithwaite concludes his recollections of working on *Plant 9 From Outer Space*, the amateur video-film produced by MonSFFA members under the banner of the club's Ed Wood Video Project. Keith was writer/director of *Plant 9*. (Part I of "Plant 9 Memories" appeared in *Warp* 38, March '96.)

The shooting of *Plant 9 from Outer Space* took about 16 straight hours. Sylvain St-Pierre and I would take about the same time to edit the video-film, add music, sound effects, voice-overs and computer-generated special effects and titles. Unlike the shoot, however, we'd break the work up over a more leisurely couple of days and evenings (out the window by now was the original plan of completing the whole project in a single weekend).

Before arriving at Sylvain's Laval home to begin our post-production chores, I had viewed the two and a half hours of raw footage in the can. I was checking, against the written record that had been kept on the day of the shoot, the order in which scenes had been committed to tape, the number of takes on each shot, etc. to be sure that the written record accurately reflected what was on the tapes (it did). This record would serve as an indispensable guide during editing. Sylvain, meanwhile, had begun putting together the opening titles using his computer's digital drawing and animation programs to full effect. He was just about done when I arrived, needing only the cast/crew list I brought with me to put names to credits.

Once the opening-title sequence was complete, we began stringing together the various shots, building our scenes in accordance with the script. Raw footage played back on the camcorder was dubbed down onto a VHS VCR. All of this went quite well, with only the occasional need to redo an edit—Sylvain's equipment is top-of-the-line and

editing on his machines goes very smoothly. The most time consuming part of the editing process is the locating of shots on the raw-footage reels—back and forth, rewinding and fast-forwarding. Because, of course, *Plant 9* had not been shot in sequence, the collection of shots we'd need to make up a scene would often be found at *opposite ends* of our tapes.

Once we'd edited a scene, Sylvain's equipment allowed that we could enhance the soundtrack by *overlaying* a combination of music, voice-overs and sound effects, recorded on a second audio track. We made few errors mixing the sound, but the one, big mistake we *did* make more than offset our otherwise snafu-free work. After editing a particularly lengthy scene, we set up to overlay music and a couple of sound effects. We rolled tape, I brought up the music on cue and Sylvain stood by, ready to go with the sound effects at the right moment. What we'd forgotten is that we'd *already* overlaid a voice-over for a brief sequence within this scene! Of

course, when that sequence came up, the voice-over was erased, replaced by the sound we were now overlaying. We had to start all over again, mixing the music and sound effects, *and* the voice-over in what became the production's most complex sound overlay. We pulled it off, with only the slight hitch of our timing being *just* a little off—the voice-over did not quite match up with the visuals. We thought about trying it again, trying to get the sync exactly right, but decided not to, afraid that we wouldn't be able to come as close to perfect as we just had. In any case, as Sylvain pointed out, the slightly out of sync voice-over simply adds to the concept of a *bad* movie, Ed Wood-style.

In a few cases, we had to improvise for shots which, by error of omission, had not been videotaped during the shoot. Fortunately, all of these were of minor importance and we were able to simply leave them out or use, instead, parts of outtakes or other shots.

Adept as he is at computer



Sylvain St-Pierre at work in his editing suite
(Photo by Keith Braithwaite)

animation for home video, Sylvain took no more than 15 or 20 minutes to create the individual CG elements needed, which were then melded with the raw footage during the camcorder-to-VCR dubbing procedure. There was one shot which I had originally envisioned doing *entirely* in CG—thus, live footage had not been shot—but which I now felt wouldn't look cheesy *enough* (!) if realized on the computer. We needed a quick few seconds, live, of a potato, aflame as it enters Earth's atmosphere! We had to rig this shot out in Sylvain's backyard (*what* must have his neighbours thought upon seeing two grown men videotaping a flaming potato suspended from the end of a pole?). But first, of course, we'd need a potato, a broomstick, some wire and some lighter fluid. Sylvain could supply the broomstick and thought that a small grocery store down the street might have the rest of it. Then he added, jokingly, that I might be taken for some kind of *MacGyveresque* anglo terrorist fashioning a homemade bomb if I walked into a *depanneur* and asked for a potato, some wire and a bottle of lighter fluid!

We wrapped post-production just a couple of weeks prior to Con•Cept '96, where we planned the public premiere of *Plant 9*. Most of the folks at MonSFFA's March 17

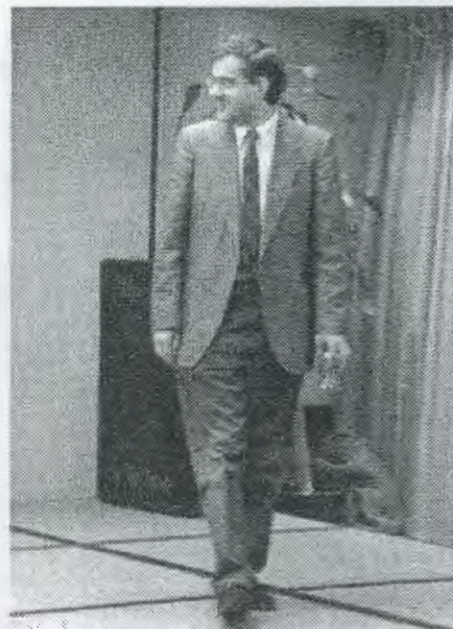
meeting had participated in the project and were eager to see the final cut, so we gave 'em a small-screen sneak preview. They loved what they saw (an encouraging sign), but Sylvain and I knew the acid test would come at the video's Con•Cept premiere, where the audience would include people who had not been involved in the production.

In preparation for the con, Sylvain dubbed a handful of sale copies of the video while I came up with a full-colour, *Plant 9* promotional poster showing a space cabbage descending upon an unsuspecting Earth over the tag line "When the space invaders come, they won't be little green *men*!" I also put together a few sale copies of our script, in deluxe format, featuring complete storyboards and a copy of the poster. Word had come from Con•Cept's programming people: *Plant 9*'s premiere was scheduled for Saturday afternoon, a prime-time slot.

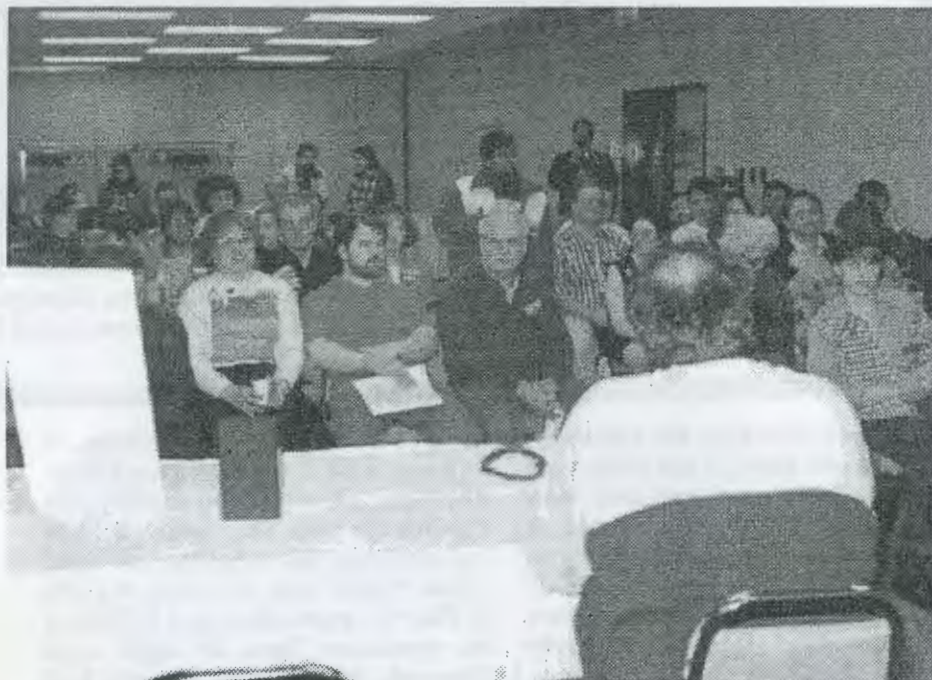
MonSFFA's table at Con•Cept, of course, sported a lot of *Plant 9* paraphernalia—props, a large-size version of the poster, the copies of the video and the deluxe scripts, and a Brussels sprout (miniature cabbage!) dressed up with alien bug-eyes and antennae. We all talked up the video to the con's attendees at every opportunity, encouraging

everyone to come to the premiere. Sylvain had put together a short teaser, which we ran repeatedly on the TV set at our table.

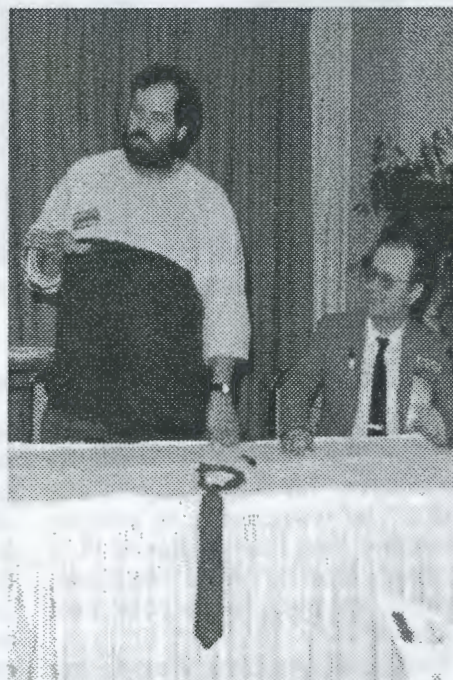
As the hours passed and the video's premiere approached, I began to have doubts. Maybe *Plant 9* wasn't as cheesy or funny or clever as I thought and hoped it was. I'd been so very close to the project that perhaps I'd lost my ability to objectively evaluate it. Project co-



Graham Darling enters Con•Cept's Masquerade as his *Plant 9* character (Photo by Daniel P. Kenney)



I watch as the audience gathers for the public premiere of *Plant 9 From Outer Space* (Photo by Daniel P. Kenney)



Sylvain and I intro *Plant 9* to an expectant crowd (Photo by Daniel P. Kenney)

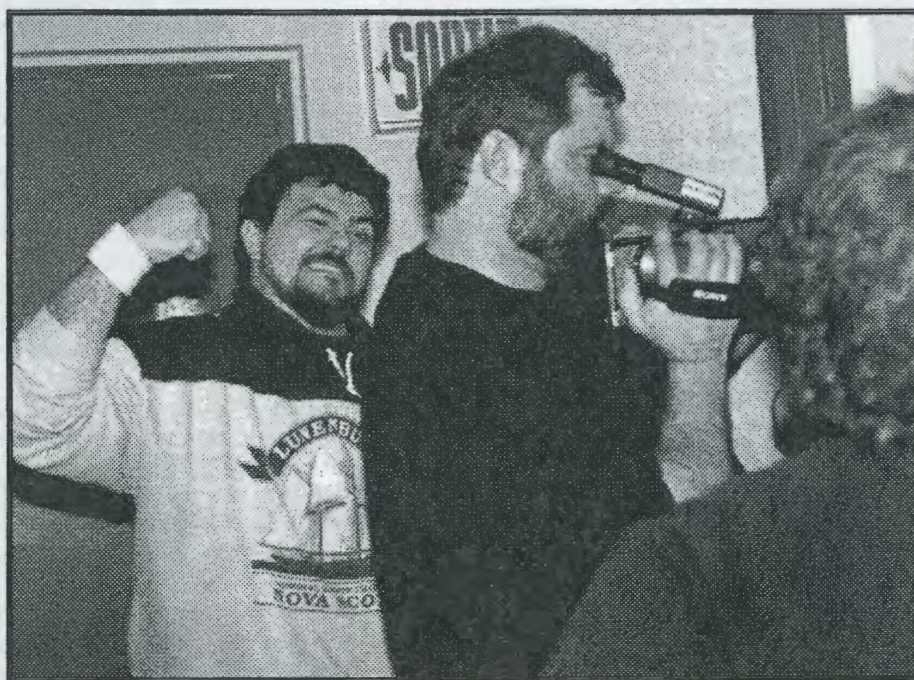
Photos by:

Constantine
Papacosmas (CP)

Daniel P. Kenney (DPK)



Classic 1950s creature-feature-poster pose (CP)

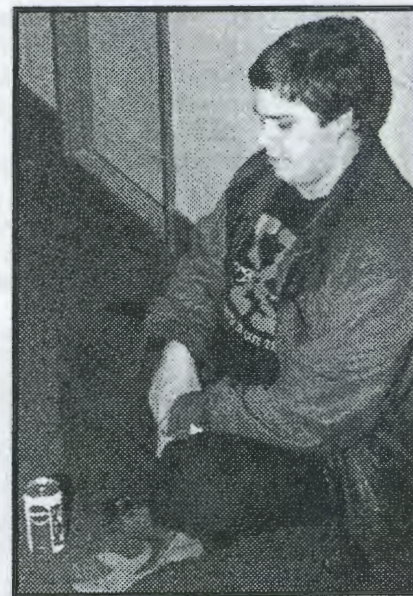


Berny Reischl (left) enforces no-more-than-a-few-takes rule *Plant 9*'s crew imposed upon themselves (CP)

PLANT 9 FROM OUTER SPACE: ON LOCATION

*More Photos From the
Plant 9 Shoot*

See part one of "Plant 9
Memories," (*Warp 38*,
March '96) for other
Plant-9-shoot photos.



Early AM; Stephane Marcotte catches quick snooze in hall (CP)

producer Dave Legault seemed more confident, but tongue in cheek, he was hedging his bets. "If you like *Plant 9*," he was saying to people, "remember that I co-produced it. If you don't like it," he'd continue, pointing at me, "he wrote and directed it."

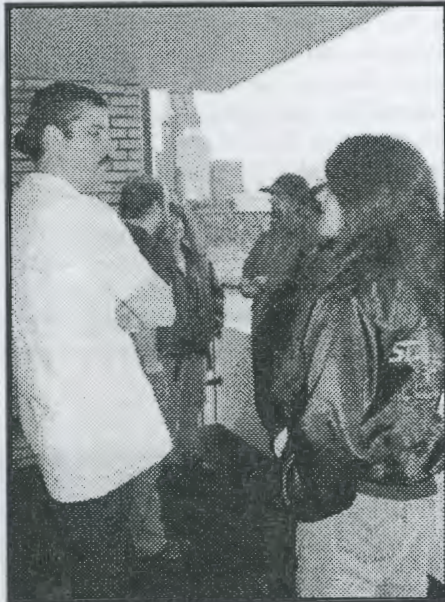
Finally, it was time. I made my way to the screening room. Sylvain

and I would introduce the video; we moved to the front of the room as a trickle of people entered and took their seats. For a few minutes, it looked like attendance was going to be pretty poor, but soon the trickle became a steady stream and we ended up with a standing-room-only crowd. It took Con•Cept's tech crew a bit longer than expected to set up

the projection TV and screen, so Sylvain and I padded our introduction. We whet the audience's appetite for what they were about to see, outlining just what the Ed Wood Video Project was, detailing aspects of *Plant 9*'s production and fielding a few questions. Then, the lights were dimmed; the moment of truth had arrived.



Klingon-kostumed David James with fuzzy friend (CP)



Cast/crew relaxes on hotel balcony (DPK)



Krikor the Klingon ready to fly! (CP)



JJ Reichl, in character as Agent Scurry, skeptical of on-location lunch offered by husband Berny (CP)



Studying script during break (DPK)

Just minutes into the video, I knew we had a hit. I glanced at Sylvain and he nodded his agreement. The audience reaction was *tremendously* positive, better than I could have hoped. Everyone was laughing at the right spots and people were soon into the spirit of the whole thing, applauding favourite characters and delighting

in the no-budget special effects and our continuity errors, both intended and not.

Half an hour after the premiere, our stock of *Plant 9* videos was sold out! I'm told that copies have made their way to Toronto, Ottawa, Quebec City and Halifax, as well as to several U.S. destinations. Graham Darling entered the Masquerade that

evening as his *Plant 9* character, walking out onto stage to instant recognition, laughter and applause. Later, over a few beers at the Dance, Mark Burakoff told me that the comment he was hearing most about *Plant 9* was that it was *too good* to be classed with Ed Wood's movies! Mark and Berny Reischl, by the way, surprised us all with a special, *Plant-*

9-cast-and-crew souvenir lapel pin, which they'd produced for each person who'd worked on the project. John Dupuis would have liked to have been able to claim one of those pins. He had been offered the lead role in *Plant 9*, but had declined because he couldn't commit to an entire day of shooting. Graham took the part and now John jokes about being the Pete Best of *Plant 9*. He was certain that we'd be able to sell 50 copies of the video. I thought that wishful thinking, but John's sales projection may yet prove attainable—over 30 copies have been sold

to date, with demand still healthy. (Those copies sold in the weeks following Con•Cept include a 20-minute "Making of..." / Bloopers reel, Sylvain having put this together using outtakes and the footage Cindy Hodge had shot of cast and crew at work.) MonSFFA had ponied up the money to produce *Plant 9* and I was quite pleased to be able to report to the club's executive that sales of *Plant 9* videos alone had covered the cost of production, and then some. *Plant 9* was comfortably in the black!

Plant 9 From Outer Space was the end result of an idea I'd had to have

MonSFFA make a sci-fi video-film. In closing, I wish to thank *again* the cast and crew of *Plant 9*, who all came through with flying colours, and who made this project a *mountain* of fun to work on. Perhaps, in that great Hollywood tradition, we'll get together again for a *sequel*!

Error Correction: Photos credits which included Bill Strople's name ("Plant 9 Memories"—*Warp* 38, March '96) were in error and should have listed Constantine Papacosmas. We apologize for the error.

Bulletin Board

WANT TO BUY:

The Year's Best Science Fiction: First Annual Collection

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(all edited by Gardner Dozois)

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694-6199 (Home; not after 9:00PM please—young children, tired parents) or 398-5023 (Work)

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Bulletin Board

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Enterprise-D, artist's miniature painting
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Enterprise D: 11 sheets, interiors and exteriors

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For more information, call Stéphane at (514) 768-19747 between 3:00PM and 11:00PM



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

Information for this column was smuggled in across the Neutral Zone.

CANADIAN WRITER SAWYER WINS NEBULA

Toronto-based writer Robert J. Sawyer has copped the prestigious Nebula Award for his 1995 novel, *The Terminal Experiment*. In addition, a film company recently optioned movie rights to the book.

Author of eight novels to date (two of them as yet unreleased), and a fast-rising SF star, Sawyer is Canada's *only* native-born, full-time science fiction writer.

CANCELLED!

Space: Above and Beyond and the quasi-genre series *Nowhere Man* will not return to the small screen this fall.

NEW SHOWS

Among the new SF TV offerings coming this fall: *Dark Skies*, an *X-Files* clone from NBC, *Early Edition* (CBS), in which a man is able to see tomorrow's newspaper headlines today, *Homeboys in Outer Space*, a UPN comedy, and *Millennium* (Fox), a new series from *X-Files* creator Chris Carter (see item below).

TREK VIII

Producers have decided on *Star Trek: First Contact* as the title of the next *Trek* film, eighth in the series, second featuring the *Next Generation* cast. Jonathan Frakes is directing and his Riker character, according to some insiders, is to be given a meatier role in the film, in preparation of having him fill Picard's shoes should Patrick Stewart decide against doing any further *Trek* movies (as rumours suggest he may).

The story begins with Worf bidding adieu to the *DS9* crew, taking command of the *Defiant* and flying into battle with the Borg. The *Defiant* is destroyed but Worf somehow survives and is rescued by his old *TNG* crewmates aboard the *Enterprise-E*. Picard then leads a fleet of starships in an all-out assault on the Borg. The battle ends with the seeming destruction of the machine-beings, but in fact, the Borg have entered some kind of time vortex and travelled to a past reality in which they rule the Earth, and have for hundreds of years! Picard takes the *Enterprise-E* in after them and the crew meet up with Zefram Cochrane (discoverer of the warp drive), enlisting his aid in defeating the Borg of this past to insure a future for the Federation.

Expect an appearance by Dwight Schultz as Lieutenant Barclay and watch for what is said to be an *impressive* costume/make-up job on the Borg queen. What you *won't* see: cameos by original-series stars.

Paramount is hoping to release the film in time for the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday.

PARAMOUNT PLANS "WOODSTOCK FOR TREKKIES"

Paramount is putting on a special *Trek* convention, dubbed *Star Trek 30: One Weekend on Earth*, in September to coincide with the 30th anniversary of the original series' premiere. The con will feature, among its many guests, William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy and Kate Mulgrew. The big show takes place in Huntsville, Alabama, and has been described by one company flack as a "Woodstock for Trekkies." Tickets for a single event will go for about \$30 while a full-weekend package could run as high as \$300 (this would include astronaut training sessions and visits with former Apollo astronauts!).

SULU TO CAMEO ON VOYAGER; DS9 WILL HAVE "TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES"

The coming season will find Captain Sulu visiting the *Voyager* gang!

Also, *DS9*ers will interact will original series characters from the "Trouble With Tribbles" episode, by way of the same digital tricks which allowed Forrest Gump to interact with dead American presidents.

CFCF DROPS DS9

Montreal's CFCF-12 TV station has opted to drop *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* from its schedule come fall. *Star Trek: Voyager* will continue to air. Both series have seen *substantial* declines in their ratings (continent-wide) over the past year.

NEW DOCTOR WHO MOVIE PULLS POOR RATINGS

Ratings were not encouraging for the new *Doctor Who* movie, which aired on the Fox network back in March. *Who* fans, of course, are lobbying hard for more of their hero's adventures, but given the lower-than-anticipated Nielsen numbers, it seems unlikely that Fox will green-light any further travels for the Doctor.

JON PERTWEE PASSES AWAY

Doctor Who fans noted the passing away, on May 20, of Jon Pertwee, who played the third incarnation of the Doctor for five seasons (1970-74) of the popular BBC science fiction series. Pertwee succumbed to a heart attack while on vacation in the U.S. He was 76.

ALIEN: RESURRECTION

The fourth *Alien* film will star Sigourney Weaver, as a *clone* of the

late Lieutenant Ripley, and Winona Ryder, as an android enlisted to help battle alien hordes attacking Earth. A '97 release is planned.

CHRIS CARTER PRODUCING NEW SF SERIES

X-Files creator Chris Carter introduces a scary new SF series this fall, scheduled to air on Fox. *Millennium* stars Lance Henriksen (who played Bishop in *Aliens*) as Frank Black, an ex-FBI agent who heads a mysterious group determined to counter a wave of violence sweeping the nation as the new millennium approaches. Black possesses the uncanny ability to enter a criminal's mind. The pilot

episode will feature a serial killer who recites poetry and a strip club with walls that ooze blood and spit fire. Megan Gallagher plays Black's wife.

Carter concedes that his new show will explore some of the same kinds of dark themes explored by *The X-Files*, but stresses that the differences between the two shows will be greater than their similarities.

IN FIT OF MILLENNIUM MADNESS, FOX MOVES X-FILES TO SUNDAY NIGHT

Fox has made way for Chris Carter's above-mentioned new series by scratching *The X-Files* from the

network's Friday evening sked and bumping it into *Space: Above and Beyond*'s now vacated Sunday evening slot. X-philes are *not*, generally, pleased with the shuffle.

HIDDEN TRACKS ON X-FILES CD

X-philes will *love* this: Songs in the Key of X, a CD music compilation inspired by the creepy Fox series, includes two *hidden* tracks! Usually, unlisted, extra tracks are tacked on to the end of a CD, but in this case, they are positioned at the beginning. *Listeners need to know they're there in order to access them.* The liner notes offer a clue, pointing out

CanFandom

A Quick Look at Goings On in Canadian Fandom

CUFF Fading Away

Canadian fannish institutions never die, they just fade away, and it looks like the Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) may do just that. Each year, the CUFF foots the bill for an Eastern fan's trip west, or a Western fan's trip east, to attend Canada's national SF convention, Canvention. Interest in and support for the CUFF has been lukewarm, at best, in recent years. Neither of the two nominees this year received the necessary six sponsors required by CUFF's rules and the fund's current administrator, Linda Ross-Mansfield, who has doggedly stumped for the cause now appears ready to pack it in. CUFF could well be history by year's end; Linda's last-ditch proposals for the fund

include folding it and disbursing accumulated monies amongst various Canadian SF cons, with the request that the money be allocated to sponsoring Canadian fan guests. (Con•Cept con-com take note: Linda's list of cons which might be recipient of CUFF money *does not* include Con•Cept!)

Maritime Sci-Fi Festival A Huge Success

Organizers of the Maritime Science Fiction Festival (April 13-14) can take great pride in having put on a first-time convention which attracted some 1500 fans! The Festival, we understand, was the first Atlantic-Canadian con to feature actor-guests. These included *Star Trek*'s Majel Barrett

Roddenberry and Robin Curtis, and *Red Dwarf*'s Robert Llewellyn. Also guesting: Canadian writer Ngaire Genge, author of *The Unofficial X-Files Companion*. Patterned after the now defunct Montreal Science Fiction Festival, the Maritime version's staggering attendance numbers *more than doubled* the Montreal Festival's best showing.

Klingon Civil War

Montreal-based units of KAG/Kanada recently suffered an unfortunate spate of in-fighting, the petty club politics becoming just *too* much for at least one "commander," Cathy Palmer-Lister (who also happens to be MonSFFA's vice-president). Cathy resigned from KAG only a few months after launching a new "ship."

Unwarranted, below-the-belt slugging directed at her was the last straw that she says convinced her that it was time to quit, despite counsel from supporters who urged her to stay. Hobbies are supposed to be *fun* and for Cathy and others, all of this feuding and sniping has taken the fun out of KAG and sullied the club. The local KAG membership has now split into at least two ships. Of positive note, bad blood spilt over all of this seems to have been minimized and the differing factions have agreed to disagree and cordially get on with their respective activities.

100-Member French- Language SF/F Club in Montreal

Alliance Fiction Montréal, a recently formed genre club here in Montreal, claims a membership of about 100. The French-language group meets Friday evenings to go to the movies and publishes a bi-annual, semi-pro magazine.

that zero is a number, too. CD machines begin playing at track number *one*, so to hear the covert selections, you have to run the first track for a few seconds, then *rewind back past the beginning of that track* until you reach the beginning of the two hidden tracks, then allow the machine to resume normal play.

PRISONER MOVIE PLANNED

Patrick McGoohan, creator and star of the acclaimed '60s TV series *The Prisoner* is set to write and produce a big-screen version of the

cult favourite. He *may* appear in the film, but not as Number Six, the character he played in the series.

U.S. GOVERNMENT WANTED AREA 51 ANGLE OUT OF ID4

The U.S. government was ready to assist producers of this summer's sci-fi mega-hit, *Independence Day*, until they read the script. Government cooperation makes things a lot easier and less costly for any Hollywood production that includes scenes involving military hardware and locales. What the

government didn't like about *ID4*, apparently, was that part of the story which dealt with Area 51, the super-secret base UFO lore tells us has kept under wraps a crashed flying saucer recovered near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947.

UFO-cover-up conspiracy buffs are, no doubt, all worked up over this well publicized piece of marketing. We suspect a conspiracy by 20th Century Fox to drum up more buzz about their movie!

—*"Sensors" was put together by Keith Braithwaite and Kevin Holden*

Bulletin Board

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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

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Si vous voulez vous joindre au club, veuillez remplir le formulaire d'adhésion et nous le faire parvenir à l'adresse ci-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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CONCEPT '97

October 2-3-4 1997

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