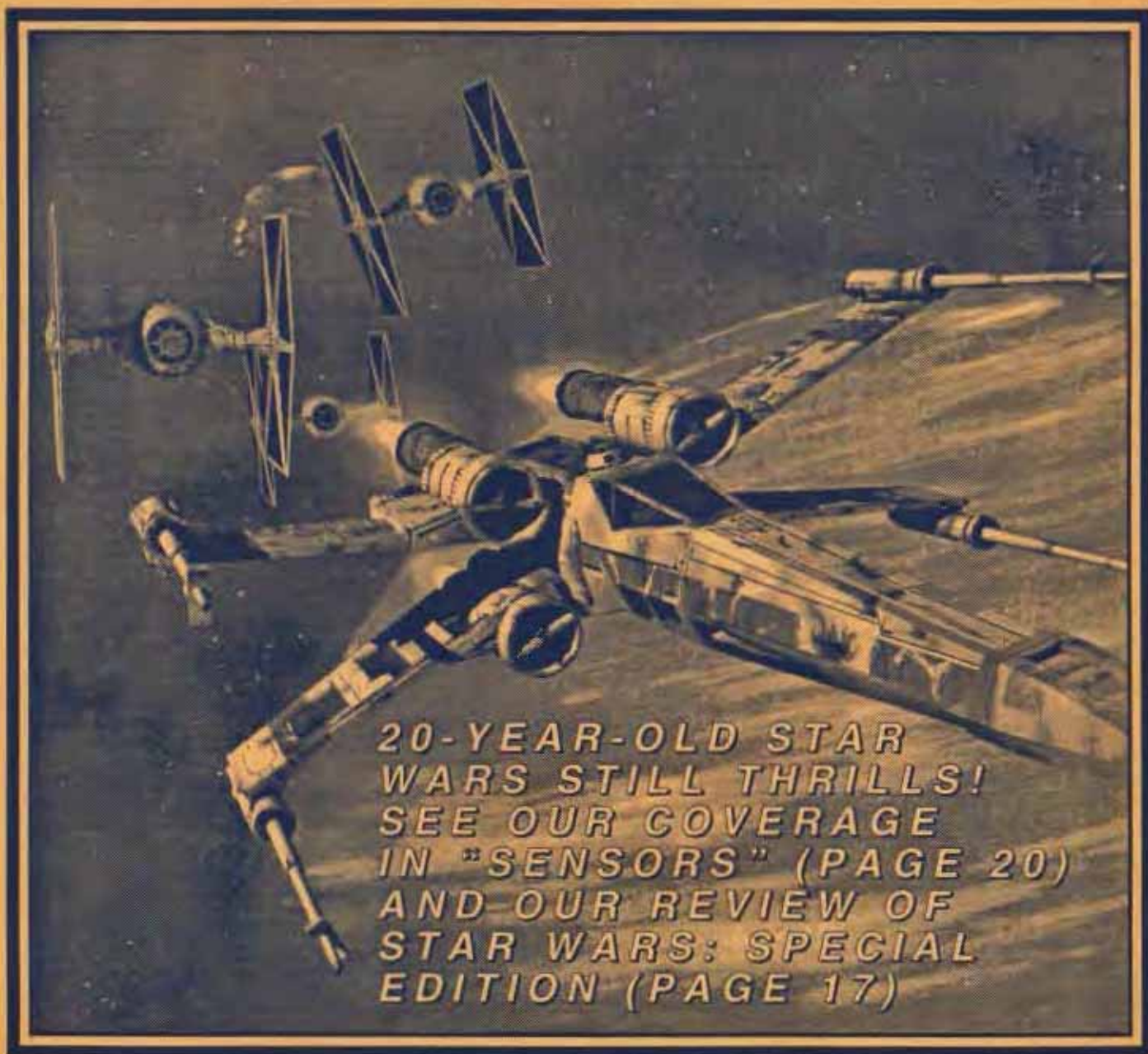


MARCH 1997 (VOLUME 11, NUMBER 1)

PRICE: 

WARF 41

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



20-YEAR-OLD STAR
WARS STILL THRILLS!
SEE OUR COVERAGE
IN "SENSORS" (PAGE 20)
AND OUR REVIEW OF
STAR WARS: SPECIAL
EDITION (PAGE 17)

**MONSFFA'S
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:**

Cathy Palmer-Lister
President

Dave Legault
Vice-President

Sylvain St-Pierre
Treasurer

**MONSFFA'S
APPOINTED OFFICERS
AND ADVISORS:**

Keith Braithwaite (PR, Membership), Sylvain St-Pierre (Membership), Colleen Magnussen (Mailings), Bryan Ekers (Post Office Box), Dominique Durocher (Web Site), Bill Stropole (Snack Table), Michael Masella and Andrew Weitzman (Advisors Without Portfolio)

NEWSLETTER STAFF:

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Processing
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Michael Masella
Printing Masters, Technical
Support

Murphy
Typos, Misspellings and Other
Errors

COVER UP: T.I.E. fighters chase a rebel X-wing in this computer-generated image which pays tribute to *Star Wars* on the occasion of the film's 20th anniversary. CG was employed extensively in the pumped up, special edition of *Star Wars* now in theaters. Magazines, fanzines and the Web are replete with *Star Wars* pix, these days, as the *Star Wars* generation revisits George Lucas' classic and a new generation learns the ways of the Force.

MonSFFA HAS MOVED!...ACROSS THE STREET!

MonSFFA Members Please Take Note: We are *no longer* holding our monthly meetings at the Maritime Hotel. We are now convening at the Days Inn (1005 Guy Street, just across René-Lévesque Blvd. from the Maritime) and meeting in the St-Francois room on the Mezzanine level (exit elevators, turn left, end of corridor).

ALL MonSFFA MEETINGS HELD SUNDAY AFTERNOONS, 1:00PM TO 4:00PM (SOME MEETINGS INCLUDE MORNING ACTIVITIES, WHICH BEGIN AT 10:00 AM), IN THE ST-FRANCOIS ROOM OF THE DAYS INN, 1005 GUY STREET (CORNER RENÉ LÉVESQUE), DOWNTOWN MONTREAL

1997 MonSFFA EVENTS SCHEDULE

**EVENT PROGRAMMING
(APRIL-JUNE)**

Programming subject to change or rescheduling

APRIL 20 MonSFFA MEETING

(Programming to be announced)

MAY 11 MonSFFA MEETING

(Programming to be announced)

10th Anniversary Project: MonSFFA is putting together a display in celebration of our 10th anniversary. All club members are invited to help realize this project by contributing:

- 1) Photos of MonSFFA members and club activities over the years
- 2) Old club promotional posters, flyers or membership cards and such
- 3) Back issues of *Warp*, old issues of the club's pre-*Warp* newsletters, and issues of the news bulletin, *Impulse* (which was published, for a time, in parallel with *Warp*)

Collection of said items began at the March 9 MonSFFA meeting and will continue through the April and May meetings. Your MonSFFA memorabilia will be returned to you once the project has been completed. We hope to have our 10th Anniversary Project ready for the summer convention season.

JUNE 15 MonSFFA MEETING

1:00PM—SF/F Book and Collectibles Auction (tentative scheduling)

JANUARY

19

FEBRUARY

16

MARCH

9

APRIL

20

MAY

11

JUNE

15

AUGUST

17

SEPTEMBER

21

OCTOBER

19

NOVEMBER

16

**X-MAS
PARTY:**

DECEMBER

13

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 upon any of the rights of the copyright holders. Come on, people...lighten up! This is an amateur publication intended for enjoyment only. "The Force will be with you, always."—Obi-Wan Kenobi to Luke Skywalker, *Star Wars*

**MonSFFA's Address: P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H2W 2P4
MonSFFA's Web Site is at: <http://www.odyssee.net/~draken/monsffa/monsffa.html>**

FROM THE CENTER SEAT

As I write this, we find ourselves between presidents. Exiting MonSFFA president Lynda Pelley wrote her final "Center Seat" last issue and our new president, Cathy Palmer-Lister, has only just received the mantle of leadership. As she settles in to the job, meeting with her Executive and the club's Board of Advisors to begin mapping out plans for the coming year, she has asked me to say a few words in her stead.

This is MonSFFA's 10th anniversary year. The club was founded in 1987 as the Montreal Star Trek Association, or MonSTA, and held an introductory meeting in, if memory serves, September of that year. I was among the 50 or 60 Trekkers in attendance and I recall that organizers were surprised at our number and very much pleased with the healthy turn-out (they'd expected half as many). Before to long, MonSTA would become MonSFFA, our sphere of interest expanding to encompass not only *Trek* but all of SF/F. And the rest, as they say, is history.

In honour of MonSFFA's 10th birthday, we are putting together a special display which we'll feature at

our club table when attending conventions and other events this year. All MonSFFA members are invited to help out with this project by contributing:

- 1) Old issues of the club's newsletters (we published a few one- or two-pagers pre-*Warp*, as well as the quickie news bulletin, *Impulse*)
- 2) Old promo flyers, membership cards, etc.
- 3) Photos of MonSFFen/club activities over the years

We'll be collecting your MonSFFA memorabilia at the club meetings over the course of the next two or three months. We hope to be able to gather enough material to assemble a year-by-year chronology of the club's first decade. Our plan is to have the display ready in time for the summer convention season. All materials will, of course, be returned to you after the project is completed.

Other activities in celebration of MonSFFA's 10th have been discussed (a party, certainly, and perhaps a day-long mega-meeting or a relaxicon); your suggestions and organizational assistance are welcome.

While we look back fondly, we also continue to look forward. MonSFFA has developed into one of Canada's best SF/F fan clubs, in my humble opinion, and together we can move into the next century enjoying our hobby in engaging new ways and having even more fun than ever!

Keith Braithwaite
Co-Editor, *Warp*

**THIS ISSUE OF WARP
INCLUDES THE
FOLLOWING INSERTS:**

**ARROWDREAMS "CALL FOR
SUBMISSIONS"/FREE-
LANCE FREEDOM FLYER**
(see item "Attention Writers!",
"MonSFFAndom," page 7)

**"PROMETHEUS GROUP"
FORM** (see item "Science
Fiction Exhibit," "MonSFFAn-
dom," page 8)

**1997 AURORA AWARDS
NOMINATIONS BALLOT**
(see item "Aurora Nomina-
tions," "CanFandom," page 23)



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.)

COMICS CARDS

EMPIRE

Ace Lopes

1233 Crescent Empire Hotline:
Tel.: (514) 871-1402 345-5544

Nick Krimp Entreprises Inc.
Les Entreprises Nick Krimp Inc.

Sports, non-Sports Cards
Comics, Role Playing Games
Star Trek

Buy Sell Trade • Achat Vente Échange

187 T Hymus Boul. 426-2192
Pointe-Claire, QC Fax: 426-2702
H9R 1E9 nke@cam.org

TEL.: 514-481-5434

Hobby Worlds

- HO & N MODEL TRAINS
- DOLL HOUSE MINIATURES
- RADIO CONTROL MODELS
- WOODEN PERIOD SHIPS
- ARCHITECTURAL SUPPLIES

5450 SHERBROOKE ST. WEST
MONTREAL, QC
CANADA H4A 1V9 FAX: 514-481-5468

15% off on SF/F merchandise and on back issues of comics; U.S. cover price on new comic books.

10% off on most purchases; additional savings if donating non-perishable food item for charity.

10% off (5% if paying by credit card) on models and role-playing games, \$10.00 minimum purchase.

MonSFFA Discount Program

1,000,000
COMIX

- NEW AND OLD COMICS
- OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

3846 Jean Talon E.
Montreal, Qc., H2A 1Y4
(514) 725-1355

20% off on most merchandise.

GALAXY ENTERPRISES Paul Bennett

BoX 340
Grimsby, Ont.
L3M 4H8, Canada
Tel: 905-309-0644

Importers of Fine
Sci-fi Model Kits,
Toys and Collectibles
Fax: 905-309-0640

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

OAS

Fred Albert

OAS Rocketery Division.
Suite 606, 116 Albert Street.
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).

COMPUTCENTRE

10% off on computer game and video game software not otherwise on special. Place Vertu store only, see Mike Masella.

EL PASO KOMIX

L'ENDROIT OÙ L'HOMME-ARAIGNÉE
LIT LES HISTOIRES DE SES
SUPER-HÉROS FAVORIS

WHERE SPIDEY READS THE
STORIES OF HIS FAVORITE
SUPER-HEROES

Ouvvert 7 jours/semaine
Open 7 days a week

2432 Sauvé E., Montreal (514) 385-6714

15% off on most merchandise; does not apply to "series discounts" already offered to customers of this establishment.

Hobby Mania

HOBBIES & COLLECTIBLES

- VINYL MODELS
- D&D GAMES
- COMICS
- MAGIC CARDS
- PLASTIC MODELS
- CARDS
- SCI-FI NOVELTIES
- PAINT & ACCESSORIES
- FIGURES AND MORE

11475 LACORDAIRE, MONTREAL-NORTH
(514) 955-4940

10% off on most merchandise. Does not apply to merchandise already discounted.

The New Frontier

Science Fiction & Space Model Kits

Send \$1.00 for our latest catalogue

P.O. Box 26076, 62-64 Robertson Rd.,
Nepean, Ontario, K2H 9R0

10% off on most items, 15% at cons and shows (include your name, MonSFFA membership number and expiration date when ordering).

JOUETS

Kangourou
HOBBIES

10% off (5% if paying by credit card) on models and role playing games, \$10.00 minimum purchase. Applies to all locations.

Role Playing Games
New & Old Comics
Bags & Supplies
Retail & Wholesale

4210 Decarie
Montreal Que. H4A 3K3
489-4009

KOMICO
One Block South of Villa Marie Metro

10% off on new issues, 15% off on back orders.

cosmic

931, Décarie
St-Laurent (Québec)
H4L 3M3
(514) 744-9494

Comics, Magazines, D & D
Science-Fiction, "Posters", Etc.

10% off on most merchandise, 20% off on back issues of comic books.

MARS

COMICS
RECORDS (IMPORTS)
COLLECTOR'S ITEMS
CARD'S

BANDES DESSINÉES
SCIENCE FICTION
CASSETTES VIDEOS
POSTERS

537 A St-Catherine W
metro McGill 844-4329

Between 10% and 15% off on most merchandise.

BULA NEBULA NBI

More than a SCIENCE-FICTION
bookshop...

7 days/week

1832 St. Catherine W (514) 932-3930

10% off on SF, video culture, adventure and comics.

1,000,000
COMIX

1418 Pierce Street
Montreal, Quebec, 989-9587

20% off on most merchandise.

FANTASIE

OUT OF BUSINESS

The place to find it
all comes buy-sell
E B
Jeu
rom
m
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L'endroit o
Enqu
E B
Jeu
rom
m
s

7190, St-Hubert, Montréal Québec H2R 2N1 ☎ (514) 273-0081
METRO JEAN TALON

10% off on most merchandise. Does not apply to discounts already offered by this establishment.

1,000,000
COMIX

5164 Queen Mary Road
Montreal, Quebec

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. *Warp* reserves the right to edit letters where deemed necessary.

Dear MonSFFen:

Many thanks for *Warp* 40; as always, the *Warps* you send me are appreciated. For me, the back issues—with a couple of gaps—go right back to *Warp* 10 (Volume 1, Number 2) from mid-1988, and they are all time capsules to treasure. (There's a picture of me in that issue, and it's really scary!)

In my letter in number 40, I detailed how *Odyssey Trek* of Niagara Falls had become *Odyssey of Hamilton*. Well, *Odyssey of Hamilton* has now become defunct. We found a message on our answering machine a few evenings ago from a concomm member named Frances letting us know that the convention had been cancelled because of lack of pre-registrations. *Odyssey* becomes another casualty, joining a long line of media cons planned and cancelled in Toronto and area. It also leaves Toronto *Trek* as the only big *Trek* con here, and *Primedia* as the only con that services other media interests.

Yvonne and I got to see the *Trek* exhibit at the McLaughlin Planetarium after all, just a few weeks before it closed, and it was a great show. Lots to see and plenty of photo ops for those who brought their cameras. In speaking to the show manager, I found out that the exhibit will reopen in Niagara Falls around Easter.

In November, Paramount itself staged the Toronto *Star Trek* Festival at Ontario Place and other locales, with actors, discussion groups, special events and such. Yes (as editor commented), Toronto *has* had a lot of *Trek* events, but I wish they'd been as well organized as the two shows at the Ontario Science Center and McLaughlin Planetarium. The Festival attracted a lot of local fans to work for them at no cost and they say it was badly organized, with few of the scheduled guests actually showing up, few events happening on time, and few tables sold in the dealers' room "pod" at Ontario Place. However, Paramount has said that it intends to stage another Festival next year.

Congratulations to Lynda Pelley on four years in the Center Seat. I've been in her position before (VP of *Star Trek* Toronto many moons ago) and I know the time that club management takes. Who's up for the position? Any takers?

I agree with John Dupuis ("Confessions of a Literary Snob") to a degree when it comes to literary SF. It is the form of SF I prefer, but it doesn't stop me from enjoying the newest episode of *Trek* or *Babylon 5*. My tastes have changed over the years, and while I started with *Trek*, I'd rather read McHugh or Tepper or Steele, or better, Asimov, Heinlein and Clarke, or a good anthology of short stories. The appeal of media SF stems from the demand for a good story, delivered faster and faster. Television and movies deliver that story faster than a book can, but at the sacrifice of depth of plot, idea and character. For many, there's just not enough time (or for a few, attention span) to read, and others just don't like to read. Years ago, Joe Haldeman (*The Forever War*) wrote a couple of *Trek* novels (*Planet of Judgment*, *World Without End*) and said that they were useful to keep him writing through times of writers' block. There're been plenty of SF writers who have tried their hand at *Trek*, with the sole intent of making a few bucks to keep going. One sad thing that arises from all this lit

versus media discussion is that media SF is attracting new people to fandom, while literary SF is not. I am now 37 and I am still one of the youngest litfans in Toronto.

In November, we launched the Toronto in 2003 WorldCon bid, with the help of John Mansfield, Robbie Cantor and Bruce Farr. There has also been the idea of launching two other Canadian WorldCon bids, namely Montreal for 2004 and Winnipeg for 2006, but these plans are *speculation* only at this time. You never know, though... The Toronto in 2003 bid Yvonne and I are connected with should not be confused with the similar bid launched by Martin Miller near the end of 1994.

Con•Cept '97 sounds great and if money allows, we'd like to go. Take care and see you sometime this summer.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney
Etobicoke, Ontario

We've heard about the Toronto in '03 WorldCon bid, Lloyd, and we've covered the news in this issue's "Canfandom." We heartily support the bid and wish you and the other committee members success with it. Keep us up to date and send us lots of publicity material; we'll publicize the bejeezus out of it in these parts! Montreal in 2004, eh? As you say, "you never know..."

You'll read in "MonSFFAandom" this issue that Cathy Palmer-Lister (VP under Lynda Pelley) has taken MonSFFA's reins in the wake of Lynda's stepping down.

*Thanks for the updates on fannish goings-on in the Toronto area. By the way, that *Warp* 10 you've got was our very first issue, despite the misleading "10" (it refers to October, the month of release) and "Number 2" (the club had published a small, untitled newsletter a few months earlier and so *Warp* 10 was our second publication that year.)—Ed*

MonSFFAAndom

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

1997 MonSFFA EXECUTIVE TAKES OFFICE

The January 19 MonSFFA meeting saw the club's 1997 Executive Committee take office by acclamation. With the retirement of four-term president Lynda Pelley last year, Cathy Palmer-Lister stepped in to head the club (Cathy had served as Lynda's vice-president). David Legault will back Cathy up as our VP and long-time club treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre returned once again to count MonSFFA's beans. The Executive are currently firming up a list of club officers and advisors.

We applaud our new Executive as they embark upon their duties.

NEW MEETING ROOM FOR CLUB IN '97

Just a reminder: as reported in this column last issue, MonSFFA is *no longer* holding its monthly meetings at the Maritime Hotel. Our *new* meeting locale is the Days Inn, 1005 Guy Street (just across René-Lévesque Blvd. from the Maritime). We gather in the St-Francois room on the Mezzanine level (exit elevators, turn left, end of corridor).

MonSFFA's 1997 meeting dates are listed on page 2.

DID YOU RECEIVE WARP40?

Some club members *may not have* received the last issue of *Warp*, number 40, which sported a cartoon cow from Venus on the cover. It seems that a set of mailing labels were misplaced, resulting in an

incomplete mailing.

A few MonSFFen brought the situation to the attention of the club's Executive at the January meeting and copies of *Warp 40* were handed out at this meeting to those in attendance who had not received their issue in the mail. Any member who has not received *Warp 40*, please call newsletter co-editor Keith Braithwaite, evenings at (514) 692-8831, and let him know so that he can forward you your missing issue.

We apologize for the mailing mishap.

ATTENTION WRITERS!

MonSFFAns interested in writing SF/F are presented with a couple of shots at having their work published. Club members Mark Shainblum and John Dupuis are editing *Arrowdreams*, "An Anthology of Alternate Canadas," coming in the fall from Nuage Editions. And MonSFFA shutterbug Daniel P. Kenney brings to our attention a publication of interest to "novice writers," geared to freelancers and offering, among other things, "an opportunity to be published."

Included with this issue of *Warp* is a "Call for Submissions" for *Arrowdreams*, detailing what it is that editors Mark and John are looking for, and on the flip side of the sheet, a flyer for the quarterly newsletter, *Freelance Freedom*. (Note: *Arrowdreams* and *Freelance Freedom* are in no way connected; we simply ran their respective flyers back to back on a single sheet to cut down on printing costs.)

VIDEO PROJECT II

Dave Legault and Cindy Hodge

are spearheading another MonSFFA video project. In preliminary meetings, they've outlined their plan to produce a sequel to last year's successful *Plant 9 From Outer Space*. The story will focus on two of *Plant 9*'s characters, Federal Express investigators Meddler and Scurry, who continue to investigate the FedEx files!

Hoping to enlist both *Plant 9* alumni and newcomers as cast and crew, Dave and Cindy propose to shoot the bulk of the video-film over the Victoria Day weekend at Cindy's summer cottage, which will serve as the story's principle setting. Post-production would follow, over the summer, and a premiere would take place at Con•Cept '97 in September.

Among those signed on, to date, are JJ "Agent Scurry" Reischl, *Plant 9* writer/director Keith Braithwaite, who'll script the new tale, and *Plant 9* editor/CG FX wizard Sylvain St-Pierre. Persons interested in taking part should talk to Dave or Cindy at the next club meeting.

WANTED: OLD PHOTOS, MonSFFA MEMORABILIA

1997 is MonSFFA's 10th anniversary year and the club is putting together a special display to celebrate the occasion. We plan to showcase this display during the '97 summer convention season.

All club members are invited to help realize this project by contributing photos of MonSFFA members and club activities over the years, old promotional posters, flyers or membership cards and such, and old issues of the club's newsletters (we published a few before *Warp*

came along; we also, for a couple of years in parallel with *Warp*, put out *Impulse*, a news bulletin). So raid your dusty old photo albums and the backs of your closets, people!

Your MonSFFA memorabilia will be collected at the club meetings during the next two or three months. We hope to be able to assemble enough material to chronicle, year by year, the club's first decade. All materials contributed will, of course, be returned to the owners after the project is completed.

SCIENCE FICTION EXHIBIT

Bernard Reischl and Alain Essiembre are involved in the organization of a science fiction exhibit (From Yesterday to Tomorrow—Science Fiction Through the Years) scheduled to take place downtown at Complexe Desjardins, September 8-20. They have invited their fellow MonSFFA members to participate. Members who have SF books, magazines, posters, artwork, toys, memorabilia, etc. that they can make available to this exhibit are asked to list these items on the "Prometheus Group" form provided (included with this issue of *Warp*) and return it to club VP Dave Legault no later than the April 20 MonSFFA meeting. (Note: while the deadline for submitting a list is marked as April 15 on the form, we have arranged for an extension until our meeting of the 20th.) Dave will pass all forms on to the exhibit organizers, who will select a cross-section of items for display and get back to us with what they'll need.

Under our club banner, MonSFFA will proffer a number of back issues of *Warp*, amongst other items, and hand out promotional flyers.

CHRISTMAS PARTY '96

MonSFFA's annual Christmas party has become a Montreal-fannish tradition and the '96 installment took

place the evening of Saturday, December 14, at the traditional Park Place Bar locale, downtown. Between 40 and 50 club members and friends partied well into the night, sampling a spread of seasonal snack foods, dancing under the glow of sci-fi images projected on a giant-screen TV, shooting pool in the back room and enjoying conversation while toasting the season. A whack of non-perishable food items and some children's toys were collected for donation to local charity, and the club reported record sales of raffle tickets—*little wonder*, what with some dozen prizes up for grabs, including an *ID4* video; a *Mars Attacks* T-shirt; an advance, pre-publication copy of Levar Burton's new SF novel; a giant Superman-Lois Lane wedding poster; a rare, British *Babylon-5* calendar and; an autographed music CD by *B-5* actress Claudia Christian (featuring some *pretty saucy* lyrics, we're told!).

MonSFFA thanks Park Place owner/manager Debbie Gordon and her staff for welcoming us again this year. We also thank Keith Braithwaite for setting up the party and providing the evening's music; Cathy Palmer-Lister and David James for seeing to the collection-for-charity; John Dupuis for running the raffle; Nebula Books, Empire Comics, Capitaine Quebec and club members Lynda Pelley, Dominique Durocher, Kevin Holden, Bernard Reischl, Mark Burakoff and Josée Bellemare,

who all donated prizes to our raffle; Stephane Marcotte, who took care of things video; the numerous MonSFFen who stocked our buffet table with holiday goodies; and finally, all who came and celebrated with us the festive season.

We hope everyone had a merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

CHRISTMAS BLOOD DRIVE

MonSFFA's newly formed special interest group for costumers, dubbed the Nexus Group, helped the Red Cross and radio station CJAD organize and run a successful blood drive over the Christmas holidays. MonSFFen, along with friends from our fellow genre clubs *Warp 9* and *KAG/Kanada*—about 20 of us in all—welcomed, over several days, 345 donors.

MonSFFA thanks Cathy Palmer-Lister, our chief of operations on this one, and her platoon of MonSFFA volunteers, as well as those *Warp 9*-ers and *KAGsters*, who gave of their time for a worthy cause.

RECENT MonSFFA MEETINGS

January

MonSFFen became acquainted with their new Days Inn meeting locale as the first club event of 1997



Pool Party: Focused on game at club's Christmas Party '96 (Photo by Daniel P. Kenney)

got underway. The January 19 meeting drew about 40 folk and opened with the installment of the club's 1997 Executive (see above item "1997 MonSFFA Executive Takes Office").

Keith Braithwaite, Mark Burakoff and Dave Legault then led the group in a round of "Casting Couch," in which alternate casts are suggested for some of our favourite sci-fi TV shows and movies. Among the suggestions made, both in fairness and in jest: Sean Connery as Captain Picard, William Shatner as Commander Riker, Sandra Bullock or discredited TV psychic JoJo Savard as Deanna Troi, Rowan Atkinson (in his Mr. Bean persona) as Data; Michael Ironside or Bruce Willis as B-5's Garibalcli, Linda Hamilton as Ivanova, John Cleese as Kosh, Bela Lugosi as Londo opposite Boris Karloff as G'Kar, Jeremy Irons as Morden; Arnold Schwarzenegger as a live-action Tick with Jason Alexander (*Seinfeld*) as Arthur and Sigourney Weaver as American Maid; Mel Gibson as Han Solo, Denzel Washington as Lando Calrissian, *The Simpsons'* Mr. Burns as Darth Vader, Danny DeVito or Pat Morita (the Karate Kid's mentor) as Yoda, Marlon Brando as Jabba the Hutt and just-retired MonSFFA president Lynda Pelley as Princess Leia.

The latter half of the meeting was given over to the club's new president and her Executive, who

outlined some of the MonSFFA activities now in the pipeline while soliciting ideas from the membership for future meeting programming.

A *Star Wars: Special Edition* movie poster was one of the top prizes raffled off during the mid-meeting break.

February

The February meeting was held on the 16th and drew about the same number of MonSFFen as the January meeting.

Star Wars: Special Edition provided fodder for the lead-off topic, "directors' cuts." Keith Braithwaite moderated a pro/con panel on the merits of directors' cuts, with Lynda Pelley and Andrew Weitzman pro, John Dupuis *decidedly* con, and Cathy Palmer-Lister and Joe Aspler arguing both sides. The discussion was quite spirited, as audience members tossed their arguments into the fray and sparred with panelists. Most expressed disdain for the kind of tinkering with a film that panders to political correctness (altering or removing a line of dialogue in an old film, for example, because the language might be considered inappropriate by today's standards). Also panned was the rejigging of a film without the consent of its director. It was allowed that a director may wish to make changes to his work because he's got the budget today to do what he would

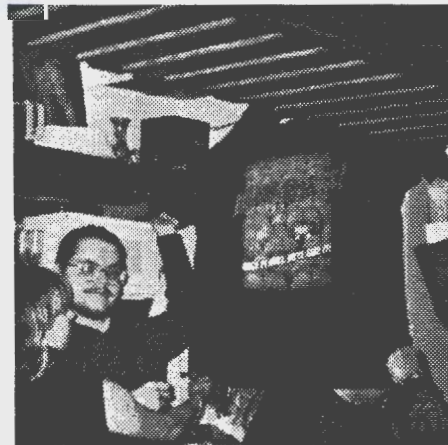
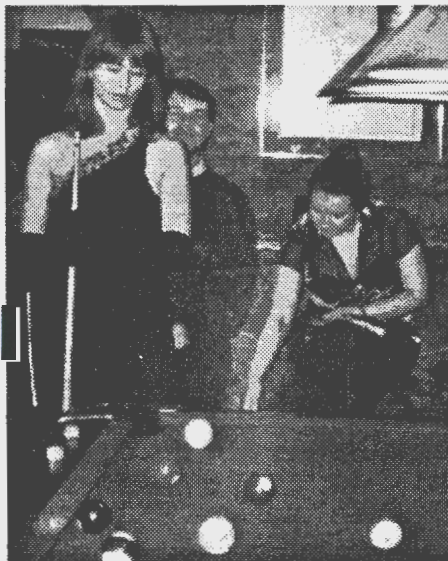
have liked to have done, but couldn't afford, back when he made the film. He might also wish to employ movie-making technology that didn't exist when the film was made to make improvements. Or perhaps he's now got the clout to restore footage that the studio insisted he pull the first time around. Remakes, while often paling in comparison to the originals, also sometimes have value in that they may take a different approach to the material, working it from a new angle. Consensus, in the end, was that sometimes a film is improved, made clearer by a director's cut, while at other times there is no good reason to rework the film, other than as a ploy to fish a few more dollars out of the wallets of the movie-going public.

The second half of the afternoon engaged artists and writers in an interesting game prepared for us by members Krikor Ajemian and Andrew Weitzman. Their variation on that old, children's game, telegraph, saw an artist draw something then hand the drawing to a writer. The writer penned a quick description, then handed *that* to the next artist, who produced a sketch based upon the written description, and so on down the line, ending with a final artist's rendering. After two teams had a go at it—one doing a spaceship, the other an alien creature—the series of drawings and descriptions were spread out and everyone got a chuckle at the way in which things gradually diverged, leaving the end products looking only vaguely like the drawings that began the game.

An *Empire Strikes Back: Special Edition* movie poster topped this meeting's raffle prizes, which also included a copy of *The Ultimate Encyclopedia of Science Fiction* and a video of *The X-Files* blooper reel.

Thanks

MonSFFA thanks the members who provided programming for these two meetings, as well as those who ran our customary raffle and



Left: Pondering next shot
Above: Mars Attacks! T-shirt, one of many of party's raffle prizes
(Photos by Josée Bellemare)

snack table. And a special thank-you to 20th Century Fox, who donated the *Star Wars* posters to our cause.

DISCOUNT PROGRAM UPDATE

We are pleased to welcome *two* new participants to the MonSFFA Discount Program!

Beginning this month, Hobby Mania offers our members 10 percent off on most purchases. Hobby Mania's inventory includes a wide variety of SF/F merchandise, featuring many hard-to-find figure kits of interest, we're sure, to the avid modellers in the club.

Also aboard effective immediately is Nick Krimp Enterprises, specializing in comics, non-sports collectible cards, role-playing games and *Star Trek* items. MonSFFA members can save 10 percent on their purchases at Nick's; shave a little more off if you donate an item of non-perishable food for charity!

The business cards of our two newest Discount Program participants have been added to the listing on pages 4 and 5; refer to these for complete details.

HAVE YOU MOVED?

Have you recently moved? If so, be sure to advise MonSFFA of your new address (don't forget to *include* the postal code) and, if applicable, your new phone number.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The cost of running MonSFFA rises from year to year and your membership renewals are *vitaly important* in ensuring 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 the *best bargains* in town for the discriminating SF/F fan.

MonSFFA's Josée Bellemare has some off-the-wall fun mimicking a certain sci-fi series in penning the following take on the club's recent move to a *new* meeting hall, and the advent of MonSFFA's *new* president and '97 Executive.

BOLDLY GOING...

ACROSS THE STREET!

The starship *Maritime*: it's four-year mission, to explore strange, new worlds, to reach out to new members and new ideas, to *boldly go* where no *sane mind* has gone before...

After four years, the U.S.S. *Maritime* is being decommissioned. Her captain is stepping down and her officers and crew are being reassigned to another ship.

But take heart, star travellers; all is not lost. The same driving spirit that has kept our rag-tag group of oddballs, misfits and various other nut cases (fandom'll do that to ya!) together will keep us going when we board our *new* ship, the U.S.S. *Days Inn*. Located in the same sector of space (across the street) as our previous ship, we are told that the *Days Inn* is better suited to our needs. Our new, recently promoted captain, Cathy Palmer-Lister, was the Number One on our old ship. Our new Number One is Dave Legault and our chief engineer (treasurer) is the same man who has served so well in that function for many years, Sylvain St-Pierre.

We have accomplished a great deal over the years:

We've gone on away missions to other worlds (cons in Ottawa, Toronto, Boston, etc.) and have welcomed delegations from these strange places to our little corner of the universe. We have time-travelled to the past (visits by SCA members). We have studied many strange animal species (panels on dinosaurs, dragons and other mythical creatures). We have admired the talent and skill of many artists and craftspeople, and learned of some of their techniques (workshops and demonstrations on writing, art, model-building, costuming, etc.). We have explored a great many ideas and welcomed opinions on a variety of subjects. We have also undertaken missions of mercy (blood drives, food drives and other events for charity).

Yes, we *have* accomplished a great deal.

Our frame of mind is ageless but our crew members span in age from 18 to 80, not to mention the *next generation* of recruits (members' kids) who occasionally visit.

So while our surroundings may be new, our mission remains the same. Are you ready for more fun years? Then...*engage!*

—Josée Bellemare

Bulletin Board

FOR EXCHANGE OR SALE AT LOW PRICE:

STAR TREK

TNG UNIFORMS

Men's, medium size, gold (never worn)
Men's, small size, gold (with 2 rank pins)
Men's uniform patterns for all sizes

POSTERS

Next Generation crew, space background; 24 x 36 inches
Generations, Shreddies promotional with Kirk, Scotty and Chekov
Enterprise-D; 10 x 14 inches framed, special protective coating

CARDS

TNG 5th anniversary hologram cards: Vor'cha Attack Cruiser (02H),
Romulan Warbird (03H), Ferengi Marauder (04H)
DS9 series premiere: complete set of 48, with 2 spectra cards plus 2
promotional cards
Generations: set of 72 wide-angle cards

PINS

Enterprise-D, artist's miniature painting
Next Generation logo with inscription
Large pin: "Caution Force Field"

BLUEPRINTS

Enterprise D: 11 sheets, interiors and exteriors

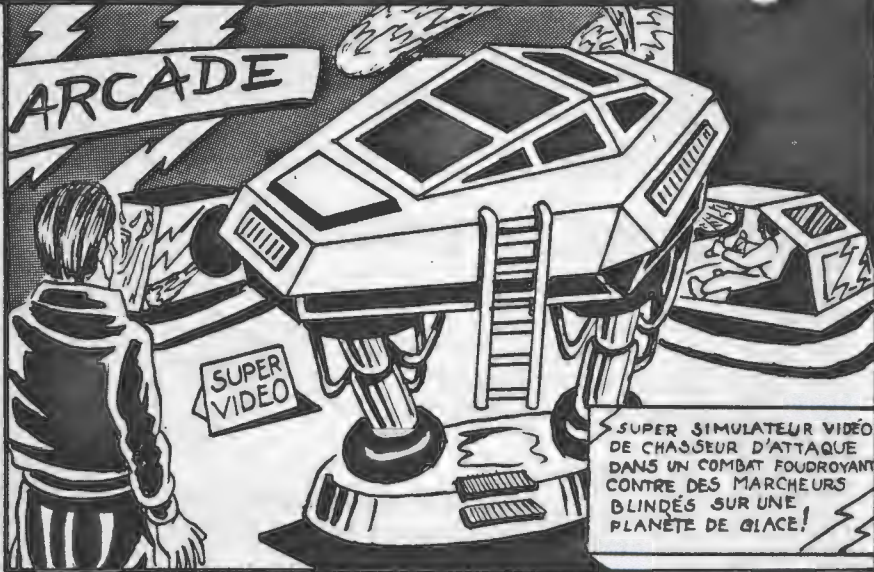
OTHER

Judge Dredd poster: 23 x 29 inches, framed, autographed by Sylvester
Stallone and other of the film's cast
Fantasy poster: "The Unicorn Princess," 24 x 36 inches
Science poster: "The Solar System," 27 x 39 inches, beautiful images and
detailed information on each planet

For more information, call Stéphane at (514) 768-9747 between
3:00PM and 11:00PM

ÉVASION!

SI JE VEUX M'ÉVADER UN PEU DE LA RÉALITÉ, IL Y A RIEN DE MIEUX QUE CES JEUX VIDÉO.



SUPER SIMULATEUR VIDÉO DE CHASSEUR D'ATTAQUE DANS UN COMBAT FOUROYANT CONTRE DES MARCHEURS BLINDÉS SUR UNE PLANÈTE DE GLACE!



ÇA SEMBLE INTERESSANT...

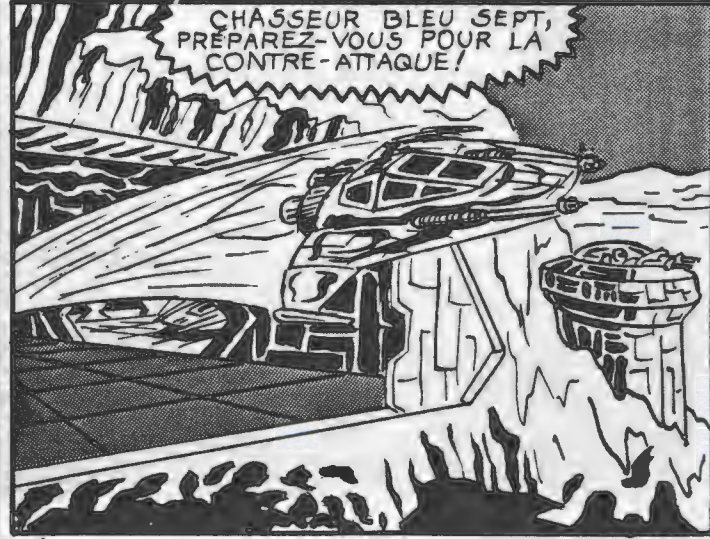


HÉ BEN! COMME SIMULATEUR C'EST RÉUSSI.

IL Y A MÊME DES ÉCRANS LATÉRAUX POUR NOUS DONNER UNE VUE GLOBALE!

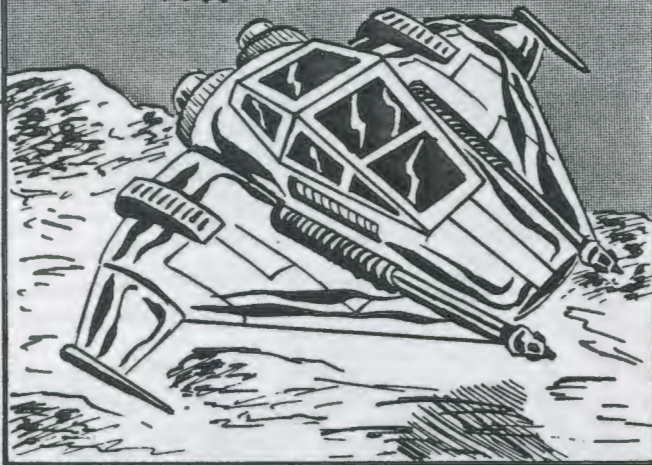


ON SE CROIRAIT À BORD D'UN VÉRITABLE APPAREIL...

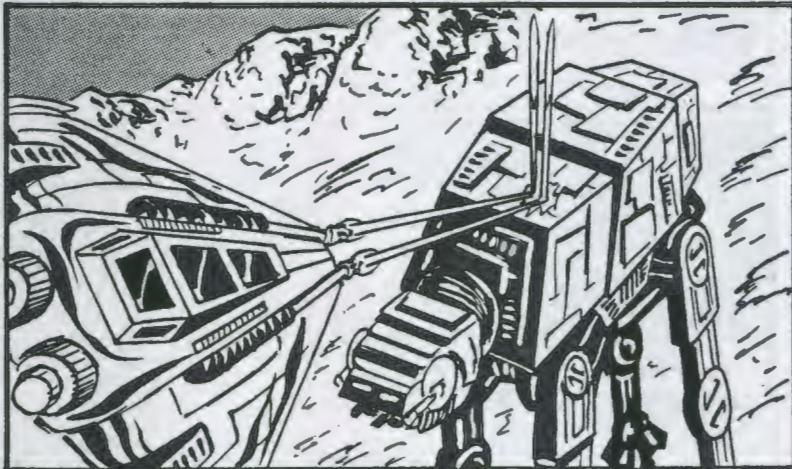
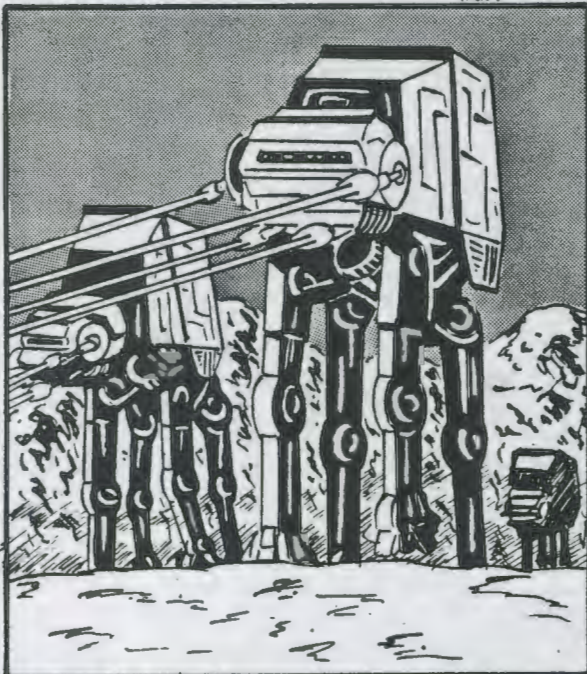
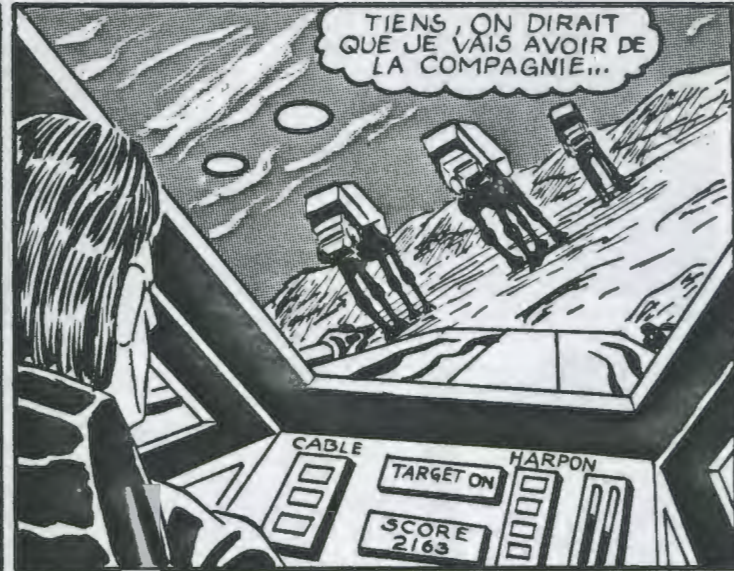


CHASSEUR BLEU SEPT, PRÉPAREZ-VOUS POUR LA CONTRE-ATTAQUE!

VOUS DEVEZ EMPÊCHER
LES MARCHEURS D'ATTEINDRE
LE GÉNÉRATEUR DE LA BASE.



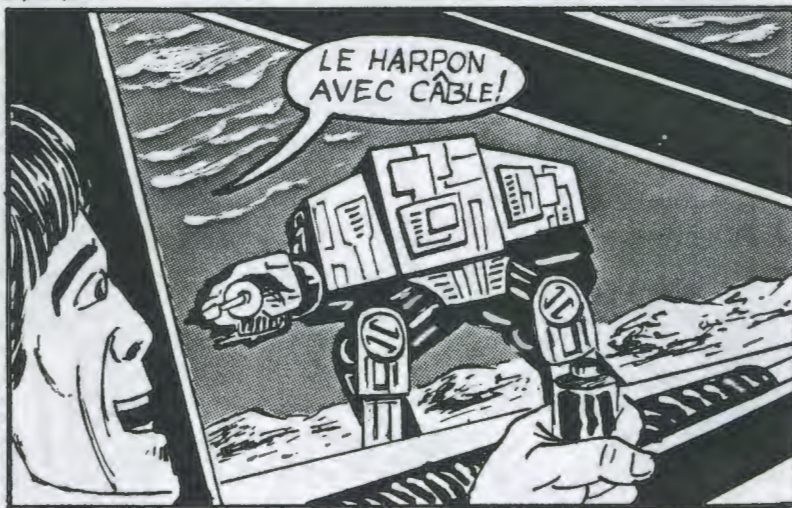
TIENS, ON DIRAIT
QUE JE VAIS AVOIR DE
LA COMPAGNIE...



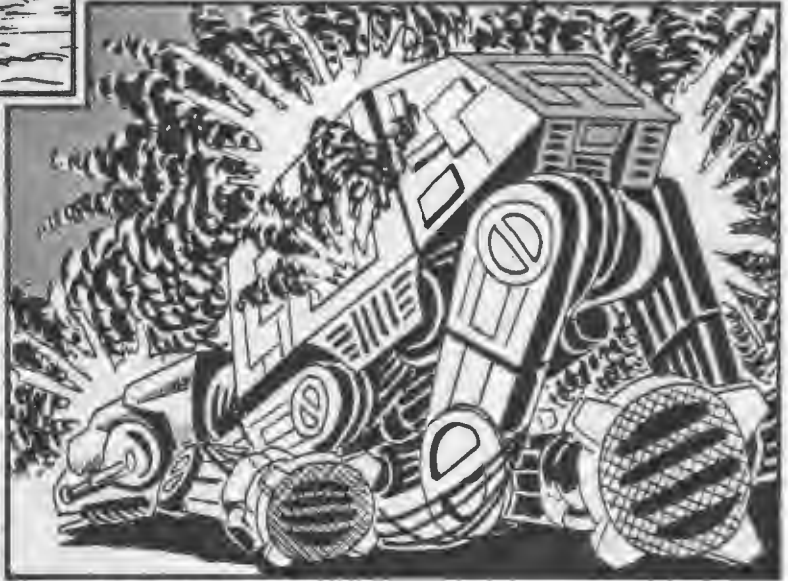
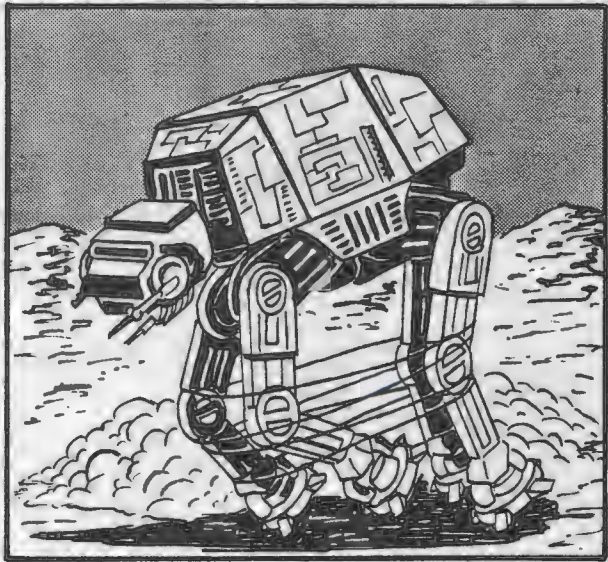
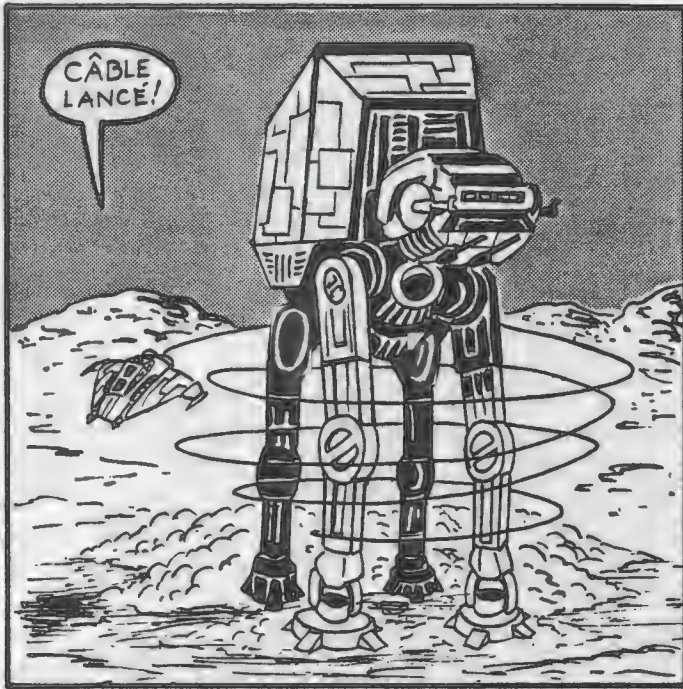
PAS MOYEN
DE PERCER LE
BLINDAGE!

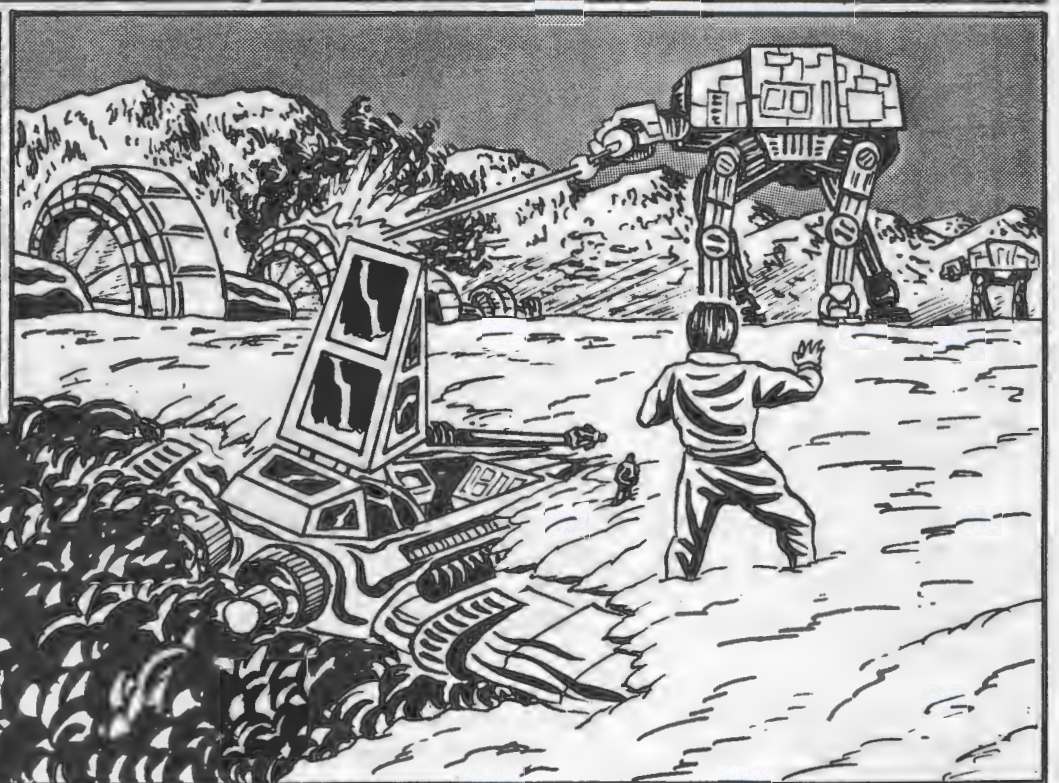
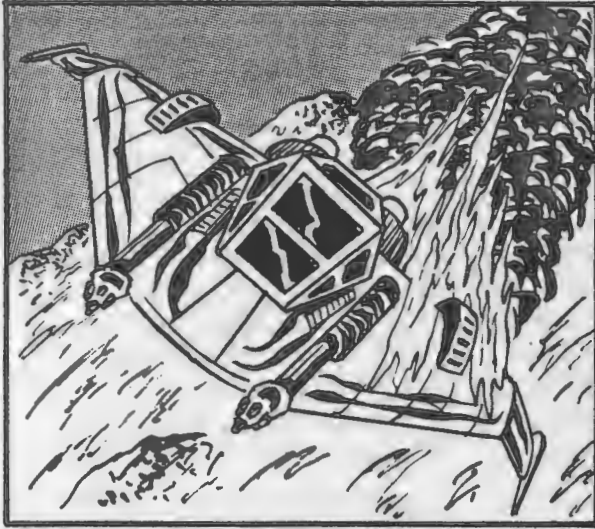


UNE MINUTE
COMMENT S'Y
PRENAIENT-ILS
DANS LE FILM?



LE HARPON
AVEC CÂBLE!





REVIEWS:

Most *Trek* fans had nothing but praise for *Star Trek: First Contact*, including our reviewer last issue, who suggested that it might very well be the best *Trek* movie yet. Bryan Ekers begs to differ.

TIMIDLY
GOING

Star Trek: First Contact

Review by Bryan Ekers

The punchline of *Star Trek: First Contact* is a number and two words: "0.68 seconds, sir."

This brief period represents the amount of time Data actually considered joining the Borg, despite their queen's seductive prowess. It received a fond chuckle from the audience. They knew Data would never betray his *Enterprise* shipmates.

And that is the single biggest problem with *First Contact*. Though certainly the most violent *Trek* movie (though not the bloodiest; *Wrath of Khan* has that distinction), it fails to set any new trends or inject fresh ideas into the *Trek* universe. The fans received exactly what they were expecting: a *Star Trek* adventure. They got an admittedly slick one. But little else.

Paramount is more reluctant to take chances, now that a *Trek* film may cost \$40 million or more and will be fresh on the minds of the fans until the next installment comes out two or three years later.

The rules for *Next Generation* films are apparent:

- All of the main characters must appear. The fans demand nothing

less. Gates McFadden was wasted in this movie, spending most of her few scenes crawling through air ducts. Micheal Dorn's presence was a weak contrivance, managing to get him into the movie without involving any of the *Deep Space Nine* cast. But *First Contact* would have been viewed as incomplete without him.

- Characters must not radically change in any way. A major subplot in the previous movie was Data's malfunctioning emotion chip, promising to give that character a new dimension. The problems it created seem to have been completely solved, however. All Data has to do is turn the chip off. Another element in *Generations* was the regret Picard felt about not starting a family. Once again, the problem seems to have been completely solved.

- No outsiders may enter the circle. Presumably this new *Enterprise* is bigger than the old one (and the old one was pretty darn big). Nevertheless, the whole operation is apparently run by a handful of people. The extras in this movie exist simply to be killed. It's a pity, since having a few hundred people get into a huge, James Bond-style gun battle would have been amusing, and a nice departure for *Trek*.

- The endings must be happy. There hasn't been an unhappy ending for a *Trek* movie since the second, Paramount presumably having learned its lesson from the negative fan reaction to the death of Spock. At the end of *First Contact*, Zephrem Cochrane's mission is complete, interplanetary diplomacy is well under way, and the *Enterprise* is preparing to blithely return to the presumably unchanged 24th century. This process is oddly clean and easy,

considering the loss of the ship's deflector dish and one of the coolant tanks, as well as half the crew. No doubt the ship will be fully repaired by the next movie and the crew roster of expendable extras completely refilled. Nothing has been broken that can't be fixed.

- Status quo must be maintained. Any shock that may have been caused by a new ship is completely lost if the crew is perfectly comfortable. There were no scenes of the crew struggling to iron out the bugs in their new computers, or talking about how much they missed the old ship. Beyond one reference to "shakedown time," this *Enterprise-E* may as well be the old ship with some new interior decorating. The destruction of the *Enterprise-D* was

WHAT
KIND OF
NERD
DOESN'T
KNOW
WHAT
"TAKE A
LEAK"
MEANS?

more of an excuse to trash TNG's old sets, which worked fine on TV but looked shoddy on the big screen.

It's that last part I object to most, keeping the status quo. It is only at a *Trek* film that the audience applauds the *opening* credits. It becomes clear what they want: to see "their" characters save the day as nobly as possibly. Anything that risks shattering that expectation will not be appreciated. This is not a place to try new ideas like, for example, delving into Borg history and perhaps finding a few positive elements. Maybe one of the 21st century characters could look at his or her descendants and criticize them for being emotionally repressed or just plain dull (what kind of nerd doesn't know what "take a leak" means?). Maybe two of the characters argue over some disagreement they had earlier and still hold grudges over. Maybe they could do something *other* than time travel, already the subject of numerous episodes and an earlier film.

The lack of new elements make Paramount's attempts at pre-release secrecy (regarding the screenplay) odd. There are no huge twists in *First Contact*, no unexpected surprises. The Borg have not all been destroyed, just another one of their large ships. Even the Borg queen character could return, since ruling that out would be an example of thinking "three-dimensionally." Nothing lasting has really occurred here, just a less-than-two-hour romp with a few good moments here and there. Little more, in fact, than an episode with a larger-than-average special effects budget. The only difference is now we'll have to wait two years for another episode instead of one week.

First Contact will make money for Paramount and that's fine, but it would have been nice to see something radical and unexpected happen in the film. Preferably something lasting longer than 0.68 seconds.

STAR WARS: SPECIAL EDITION

Reviewed by Lynda Pelley

After 20 years, *Star Wars* is back on the big screen as a special edition. This new and improved *Star Wars* is part film restoration, part director's cut and part remake. Fans, of course, would have been happy to see *Star Wars* back in theaters for its 20th anniversary even without a special edition. However, since the original negative was in such poor condition and extensive restoration was necessary anyway, an opportunity was provided to do all sorts of other tinkering with this classic SF film. So now we have *Star Wars: Special Edition*. Is it any better than the original version? Well, yes and no.

The special effects are much improved. All of the old optical printer work has been redone using modern digital compositors. There are no more square matte lines surrounding the spaceships, and there are no longer any of the obvious density differences between foreground and background elements in the live action composite shots. All of the laser beams were redone to be sharper and most of the explosions were enhanced with digital overlays. If this special effects clean-up was not enough to thrill you, then consider the dogfight over the Death Star. It was *completely reshot* with digital technology! The choreography is still the same, but the ships maneuver much better. This Death Star battle remake is the most impressive change made to the film and well worth the full ticket price.

Four new "director's cut" scenes were added to *Star Wars*, but they don't really add much to the story. They serve mostly to reinforce that *Star Wars* is "Episode IV: A New Hope" rather than a stand-alone film. The much hyped Jabba the Hutt footage is actually redundant after hearing the dialogue between Han Solo and Greedo, the bounty hunter, in the Cantina. And changing the film to have Greedo shoot at Solo and miss, at point blank range, before Solo blows him away from under the table (in a ludicrous attempt to make Solo more politically correct for today's audience) is a disaster, though fortunately brief. As for the rest of the new Tatooine footage, the stormtroopers riding dewbacks are visually impressive, but add nothing to the "Look sir, droids!" scene, other than to make it a bit longer. On a positive note, the new approach to Mos Eisley is well done, and appropriate, making the supposedly large spaceport look more like a "wretched hive of scum and villainy" instead of the sleepy little town it appeared to be in the original version. The dinosaur-like "rontos," created with *Jurassic Park* technology, are a nice addition to these scenes, too. The *best* new footage comes near the end of the film, where Luke Skywalker is reunited with his friend Biggs. This small character scene adds to Luke's credibility as a pilot, and makes Biggs' death in the trench more meaningful. There were a few other short additions and replacements throughout the film. Those that were the most seamless and subtle worked the best.

I thoroughly enjoyed watching *Star Wars: Special Edition*. Just to see *Star Wars* again on the big screen was a treat. I prefer the cleaned-up special effects in the new version; they bring back some of the magic of the film that struck me as a child, long before I knew anything about motion-control cameras and optical printers. As for the new scenes, they were interesting and disturbing at the same time. I know the original material far too well to be objective. I have to get used to the new scenes before I can decide if I really like them or not. Only time will tell whether *Star Wars: Special Edition* inherits the legacy of the original.

Addendum: I can't wait to get all three *Star Wars* special editions on DVD (or *whatever* format) so that I can get a *really* good look at them with a digital pause and a jog-shuttle dial. A more detailed technical analysis and comparison of the originals versus the special editions will follow in a later issue of *Warp*.

MOVIE AUDIENCES WILL LIKELY RETREAT FROM MARS ATTACKS!

by Carl Phillips

The cattle in the opening minutes of the film may be aflame but *Mars Attacks!* hasn't exactly set the box office on fire. Director Tim Burton's big-budget, star-laden celebration of 1950s sci-fi B-movies was released just before Christmas but few theaters are still running it. And little wonder. *Mars Attacks!* has zero appeal to all but sick and twisted science fiction fans!

We love it (particularly those of us who are fans of cheesy old alien-invasion flicks like *Earth vs. the Flying Saucers*). We don't really care that it has no story to speak of. We don't care that what little story it does have meanders all over the place. We don't care that the characters are dimensionless caricatures. And we don't care that the violence is gratuitous. The average mundane, however, will care. Most of the movie-going public are not SF fans and just won't "get" *Mars Attacks!* We, on the other hand, know going in that this is a movie inspired by nothing more than a schlocky bubblegum card series. And so, we can enjoy it for what it is: style over substance, a colourful pastiche of groovy visuals, scene after scene of bratty, cackling Martians, "tacky" special effects (exactly executed by ILM), black humour and silliness that sends up our favourite genre (not to mention modern American society). Cool soundtrack too (a CD of which has, *frustratingly*, not been released).

Bulletin Board

WANTED:

Key chain with push-button sound effects

If you have one to sell or know where such an item can be found, please contact me at MonSFFA meetings or call me.

Josée Bellemare
(514) 622-6508

NOW IN RELEASE!

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.

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.

On May 10, 1997, you are invited to attend:

WhoParty Eleven!

WITH INVITED GUESTS:

ANNEKE WILLS (Polly)



JOHN LEVENE (Sgt. Benton)



Place and prices to be determined
Contact DWIN for more information

The Doctor Who Information Network
P.O.Box 912, Station F,
Toronto, Ontario,
CANADA M4Y 2N9
<http://www.io.org/~schrist/dwin>

Guest appearances are unconfirmed at this time. Keep in touch for updates!

SENSORS

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

Information for this column came to us from a remote island way west of Sumatra.

20-YEAR-OLD STAR WARS BESTS BOX OFFICE RIVALS

20 years after it first wowed audiences, *Star Wars* is back on the big screen and is wowing them all over again, if the past few weeks' box office receipts are any measure. The special edition of George Lucas' classic space opera is easily besting its box office rivals and *Star Wars* will soon—if it hasn't already—regain from the likes of *E.T.* and *Jurassic Park* the title of All Time Box Office Champion.

The revamped film features digital enhancements to its visual effects, the addition of some four minutes of new footage and a souped up soundtrack.

Also selling a lot of tickets is a special edition of *Star Wars'* sequel, *The Empire Strikes Back* (1980), which was in theaters hot on the heels of its parent. The third SW movie, *Return of the Jedi* (1983), is expected to do equally well when it is re-released this month, all of this being testament to the timeless quality and popularity of Lucas' sprawling sci-fi epic, not to mention a terrific appetite whether for the coming (1999) new *Star Wars* trilogy (prequels).

CARTER LEAVING, OTHER X-FILES NEWS

X-Files creator/executive producer Chris Carter wants to turn his attention to movies and has announced that he'll be leaving the top TV drama at the end of next season, the show's fifth. Apparently, the cliff-hanger finale of season five

will be resolved in the much-anticipated *X-Files* feature film, which is supposed to lense this summer. Carter is currently scripting the film and David "Mulder" Duchovny is reportedly signed, but there's no word on whether co-star Gillian "Scully" Anderson is aboard (can't imagine that they could do it without her, though).

The *X-film's* plot details have been kept under wraps but rumour has it that Mulder will, at long last, find out what happened to his sister! And, Mulder and Scully may—and we stress *may*—become *romantically* involved! Carter has always resisted going in that direction on the series, insisting that his leads' relationship remain a strictly professional one. But in a recent interview, Carter opined on the subject of a Mulder/Scully romance: "That's what *The X-Files* movies are going to be for."

The series won't necessarily end with the departure of its creator; stars Duchovny and Anderson are both contracted beyond the fifth season and Carter expects the show will continue without him.

In the wake of this news, *The X-Files* recently copped this year's Golden Globe Award for Best Drama Series, along with Best Actor and Best Actress trophies for Duchovny and Anderson. Shortly thereafter, Anderson was honoured with another Best Actress nod, this time at the Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Meanwhile, a London tabloid reported that Anderson had separated from her husband of three years, Clyde Klotz, saying that she'd outgrown him and that "he bores me." She's taken up with some younger, bit-part actor, so the gossip goes. At the above-mentioned Golden Globe Awards, sitcom actress

Téa Leoni (*The Naked Truth*) threw herself at Duchovny, going on about how she just loves his show and how he's incredibly sexy. They are now reported to be an item.

And finally, Fox's decision to move *The X-Files* from Friday nights to Sunday nights at the beginning of this season appears to have paid off; ratings for the show have improved markedly.

OBITUARIES

The past few months have seen the passing of two personages of note to SF fandom: *Star Trek* actor Mark Lenard and popular astronomer and author Carl Sagan.

Lenard is distinguished in *Trek* circles not only for having played Spock's father, Sarek, but also for his appearances as both a Romulan and a Klingon. Lenard was popular with *Trek* conventioners, who described him variously as quiet, warm and friendly with fans. His family reported the cause of death as multiple myeloma. Lenard was 68.



Above: Mark Lenard as Sarek
Opposite Page: Astronomer and author Carl Sagan

Sagan was beloved as a popularizer of science, most notably through his award-winning PBS television series, *Cosmos*, which brought the wonders of the universe into millions of living rooms in 1980. He succumbed to pneumonia after a two-year battle with a rare blood disorder that led to cancer. He was 62.

RED DWARF RETURNS

Fans of the hilarious British sci-fi/comedy *Red Dwarf* are clearing their schedules on March 22, the day that Plattsburgh-based PBS station WCFE will run all eight episodes of the show's new, seventh season!

This marathon evening with the boys from the *Dwarf* is part of a WCFE fund-raiser and marks the return of the series to local airwaves

after a few years absence. Production of the show had been suspended for a time following the completion of the sixth season, which closed with a cliffhanger that will now, *finally*, be resolved.

Chloe Annett joins the cast as Kochanski, filling in for Chris Barrie's Rimmer, who will appear only in half of the episodes. Rimmer will return full-time for season *eight*, however, which the BBC confirms is a go.

WCFE plans to repeat the broadcasts of *Red Dwarf 7* weekly through April and May.

PARAMOUNT JUST KEEPS ON TREKKIN'

Preparing for the day when *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* wraps, Paramount have announced that they're

developing yet *another Trek* series. Among the scenarios under consideration: further *TNG* adventures, with all but Picard and Data returning for another hitch; a Klingon-based series and; the voyages of the starship *Excelsior*, Captain Sulu commanding.

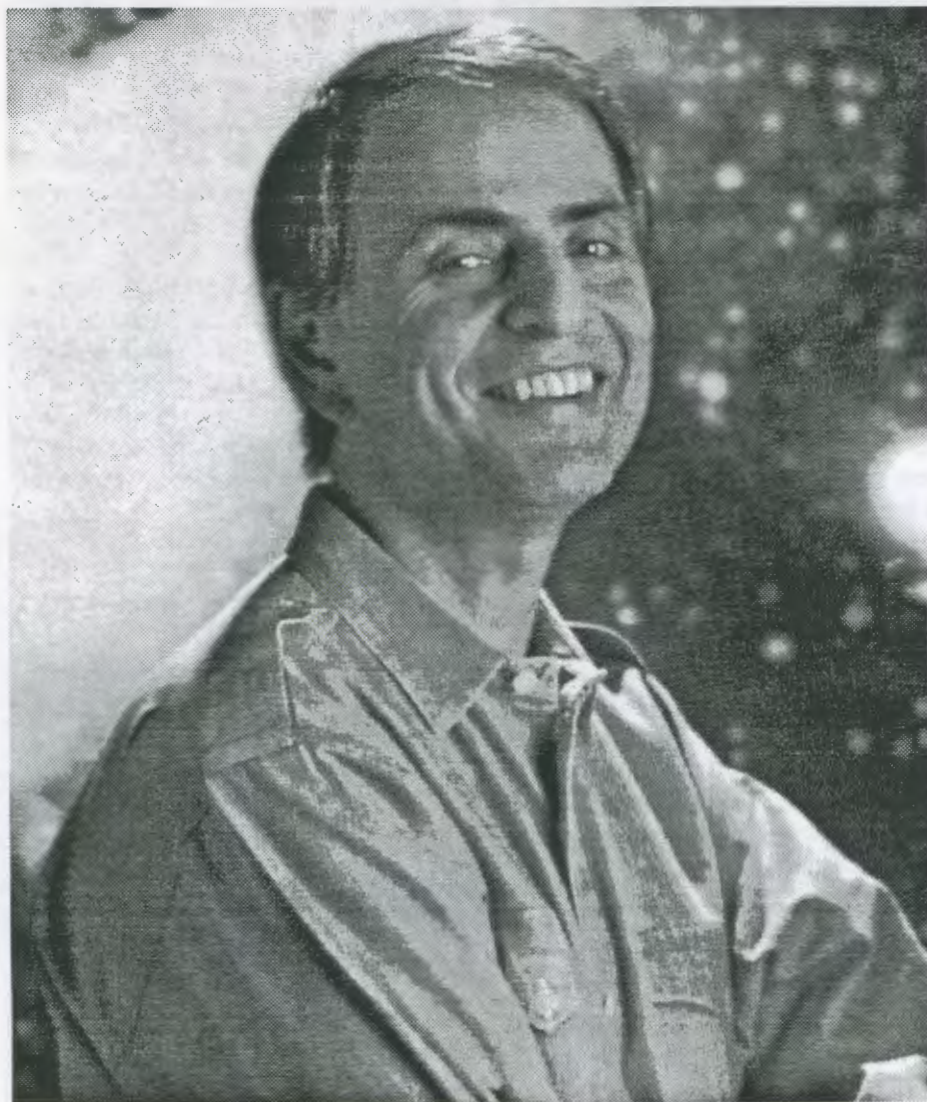
Don't hold your breath, though—the opinion that *Trek* has run its course seems to be gaining ground day by day amongst both fans and TV industry types. But then again, *Trek* has proven remarkably resilient over the years, so...

Whether or not a fifth prime-time *Trek* show makes it to air, Fall 1998 will see a new, half-hour, animated *Trek* series premiere on UPN. Described as a semi-educational series (stories will feature real science and history), *Star Trek: StarFleet Academy* is based upon the current pre-teen book series of the same name and will follow the adventures of StarFleet Academy cadets as they learn all about life, the universe and everything.

Trek film fans are excited by a rumour that has Paramount considering the production of an IMAX *Star Trek* movie! The flick would run about 40 minutes and most likely feature the popular *TNG* characters, although casting *could* include some of the *DS9* or *Voyager* crews. Not that it matters who'll star in the thing! Let's be honest, here: fans won't be going to see Picard or Sisko or Janeway, they'll be going to see sleek starships whizzing through dramatic spacescapes and blasting away at each other in explosive battles, which is the kind of scene to which the giant-screen IMAX format best lends itself.

BABYLON 5 SPIN-OFFS

Last issue we reported that a couple of TV movies might be produced following the finale of the series. Now comes word that one of these will serve as the pilot for a new *B-5* TV series! *The Babylon Project: Crusade* will follow the exploits of the Rangers and feature Garibaldi and Marcus Cole. The other movie is to





be produced for the TNT cable network (TNT, by the way, will begin rerunning *Babylon 5*, from start to finish, in 1998). Dubbed *The Gathering*, it is set nine years prior to *B-5's* pilot—before the Earth-Minbari war—and covers the histories of Sheridan, Ivanova and Garibaldi.

MARVEL FILES FOR BANKRUPTCY

The financially troubled Marvel Entertainment Group Inc., owner of Marvel Comics, has filed for bankruptcy protection in the U.S. Declining interest in comics is cited by some industry analysts as the

reason for a three-year slide in comics sales, which has severely impacted upon Marvel's bottom line. Marvel's stable of comic book superheroes includes the Incredible Hulk, the Fantastic Four, the X-Men and Spider-Man.

Spider-Man is considered the company's crown jewel and falling Spidey sales have prompted attempts to pump new life into the web-slinging superhero. Part of the plan involves hiring a new artist, who happens to be Canadian Steve Skroce. The Vancouver-based 23-year-old was recently handed the coveted job of drawing *Amazing Spider-Man*.

Skroce follows in the footsteps of another celebrated Canadian Spider-Man artist, Calgary's Todd McFarlane, who drew Spidey in the late '80s before leaving Marvel to found his own comic book publishing company.

SUPERMAN MAKEOVER

This month will see *dramatic* changes made to the venerable Man of Steel. *Great Caesar's ghost (!)*, DC has tinkered with Superman's super powers, but most striking (*sacriligious* to many!) is his new look. That classic costume has been *completely reworked*; gone are the familiar red, blue and yellow colours, gone is Supe's cape! His new costume—blue and white—features a body-length, stylized lighting bolt, a mask and a jagged-looking "S" logo. Frankly, at best these new longjohns could be described as something more suited to the Flash, at worst, to the Ice Capades.

Meanwhile, in Hollywood, there's talk of a new Superman movie. *Superman Reborn* would star Nicolas Cage as Superman (*unusual* bit of casting, that!) and Sandra Bullock as Lois Lane.

HELLO, DOLLY: SCIENTISTS CLONE SHEEP

Scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh, Scotland, have successfully *cloned* a sheep, much to the

amazement of a scientific community that believed it couldn't be done, or at least that it wouldn't be possible for some time yet. The sheep, named Dolly, is now seven months old and is an exact genetic duplicate of the adult animal which supplied her DNA. "It means all of science fiction is true," says Princeton University biology professor Lee Silver, who will now have to revise a chapter in his forthcoming book that states such cloning is impossible. "They said it could never be done and now here it is, done before the year 2000."

This feat of genetic engineering could lead to a cure for cancer, says medical ethicist Margaret Somerville, who cautions, however, that the cloning of *human beings* is now possible ("If you can do it with a sheep, then you can do it with us.") and worries about the disturbing ethical questions that raises. Somerville is not alone in thinking about the potential abuses that the cloning of humans might unleash. The spectre of a master race arises. Children might one day be no more than the custom ordered clones of great thinkers or artists. People might be cloned without their knowledge or consent. Black market trade in the genetic material of star athletes or beautiful fashion models could easily develop. "The genie is out of the bottle," says Somerville's fellow medical ethicist, Dr. Ronald Munson. "This technology is not, in principle, policeable."

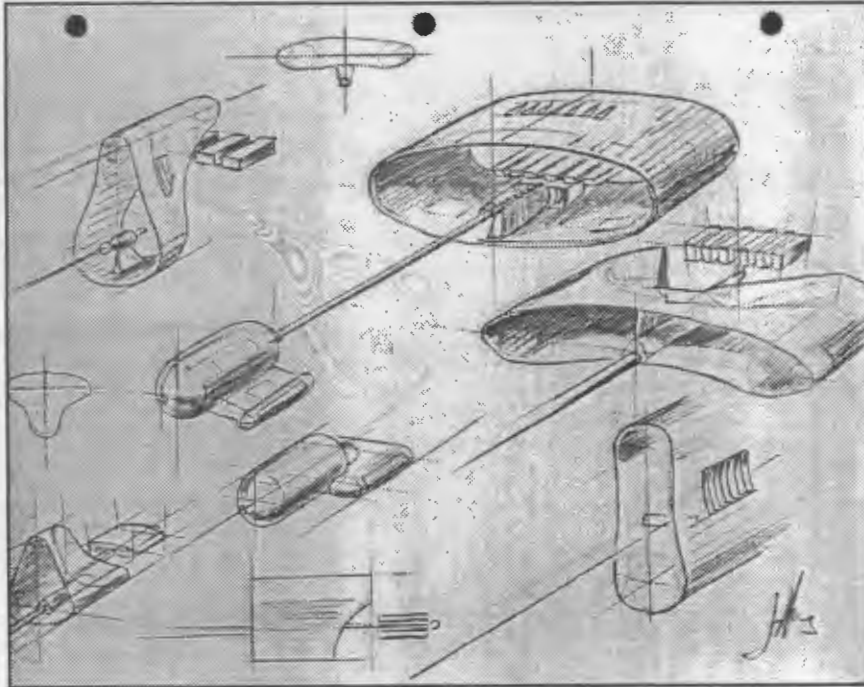
20TH CENTURY'S GREATEST BOOK

A British survey of more than 25,000 readers has pegged J.R.R. Tolkien's *Lord of the Rings* as the 20th century's greatest book.

—"Sensors" was put together by Keith Braithwaite



TREK SKETCHBOOK HIGHLIGHTS WORK OF ORIGINAL SERIES DESIGNERS



Trek fans can look forward to a coming offering from Pocket Books, *Star Trek Sketchbook: The Original Series*, which includes many of the design sketches and pre-production renderings that shaped the look of the show. Featured is the work of *Enterprise* designer Matt Jefferies (shown here, his embryonic design of the starship), hardware conceptualist Wah Chang, costumer William Theiss and make-up artist Fred Phillips.

CanFandom

A Quick Look at Goings-On in Canadian Fandom

WorldCon 2003: Toronto Going For Hat Trick

Toronto is bidding for the 2003 WorldCon! A committee has formed around the Torcon name and flyers are in circulation announcing the bid. Torcons I and II were, respectively, the 1948 and 1973 WorldCons and a successful Torcon III bid would give Toronto a WorldCon hat trick.

This bid came about as the result of a campaign by

Winnipeg WorldCon chair John Mansfield, among others, to launch another Canadian WorldCon bid. As reported in this column last issue, meetings were held a few months ago with fandoms in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver, the aim being to determine if any of these cities was up for a stab at the WorldCon. Montreal and Vancouver, while enthusiastic, both felt that their local fandoms were, at this time, unprepared to commit to

such an undertaking. Toronto, however, decided to give it a try.

Torcon III's bid committee includes a few names familiar to MonSFFen: of course, John Mansfield; frequent *Warp* loccer Lloyd Penney and; Con•Cept veteran, current CUFF administrator and MonSFFA member René Walling.

Pre-supporting memberships are now available at \$20.03 (\$15 American). Make cheques

payable to Toronto in '03. For more information, write to: Toronto in '03, P.O. Box 3, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1A2. An e-mail address will soon be operational.

Our best wishes and support to Torcon III! (Note: The Toronto in '03/Torcon III bid should not be confused with the Toronto in 2003/Eclipticon bid, the latter which circulated flyers a couple of years ago but has since done little else and is, now, likely defunct.)

Aurora Nominations

MonSFFA encourages its members to participate in the Auroras, Canada's

national SF/F awards. We've reformatted the nomination ballot we received via e-mail to create the one-page insert included with this mailing of *Warp*. Just follow the

simple directions and you can be the first person on your block to nominate someone for a 1997 Aurora Award!

We hope, of course, that you'll see fit to nominate

deserving MonSFFen! Members of the club's Executive and Board of Advisors are eligible for nomination in the Fan Achievement (Organizational) category; this

newsletter, in the Fan Achievement (Fanzine) category and; the club's video-film, *Plant 9 From Outer Space*, as well as member Mark Shainblum's *Angloman* comic books (Mark co-created these with partner Gabriel Morrissette), in the Fan Achievement (Other) category. MonSFFAn Jean-Pierre Normand won the Artistic Achievement Aurora last year; he is again eligible in this category.

Voting ballots will be distributed in a few months and after the votes have been counted, award winners will be announced at Convention (Canada's national SF/F convention), this year hosted by Primedia (Mississauga, October 31-November 2).

Montreal to Host World Fantasy Convention

Last issue, we mentioned that Montreal was in the running to host the World Fantasy Convention sometime in the coming few years. Now it's official: this city will host the WFC in 2001. Unlike the WorldCon, the World Fantasy Convention is decidedly more oriented to pros and less to fans.

OSFS Statement Changes Name

The Ottawa Science Fiction Society's clubzine, the *Statement*, published under that name for the last time with issue number 236 (February 1997). Henceforth, the 'zine will be titled *Inforunner*.

—information compiled by Keith Braithwaite

Toronto Trek XI Toronto Trek XI Toronto Trek

Toronto Trek XI

July 18, 19, 20 1997
International Plaza Hotel
(formerly the Skyline)
(416) 244-1711 1-800-668-3656

Canada's Largest FAN-RUN
Media Convention

David Rossi

Production Associate: *Star Trek TNG, Deep Space Nine, Voyager, Generations, First Contact*

Eric Stilwell

Screenwriter: *'Yesterday's Enterprise'*

Guests To Be Confirmed from:

Star Trek, Babylon 5, Star Wars (ILM)
... and others!

FULL WEEKEND!

including all-Sunday programming

(this year we featured 130 hours
of activities and programming !!);

Panels, Workshops, Displays, Gaming, Costumes,
Klingon Karaoke, Model contest, Plays, Science,
Hospitality suite, Masquerade, Dance, video, Filk
singing, writing contest/anthology, media previews ...
whew!

Keep posted!

For More Information ...

(Please send self-addressed,
Cdn. stamped envelope for reply)

Toronto Trek, Suite 0116, Box 187,
65 Front St. West, Toronto, Ontario, M5J 1E6
InfoLine: (416) 699-4666



[www.interlog.com/
-kcozens/ttrek](http://www.interlog.com/~kcozens/ttrek)

Toronto Trek XI Toronto Trek XI Toronto Trek



A FAN-RUN MEDIA CONVENTION
Oct. 31/Nov. 1, & 2, 1997
Days Inn, Toronto, Ontario, Canada



Invited Guests of Honour
(TO BE CONFIRMED)

Actor **Maurice LaMarche**
voice of "Brain", Pinky and the Brain

Authors **Gar & Judith Reeves-Stevens**
Creators of "Flash Gordon" - the animated series

Producers/Creators **Glen Morgan**
and James Wong
The X-Files and Space: Above and Beyond

International Guest of Honour - Actor **Kevin Sorbo**
"Hercules", Hercules

FEATURING: *Convention '97 - Aurora Awards*
(Canadian Awards for Science Fiction and Fantasy)

ACTORS! AUTHORS! COMICS GUESTS!

Returning Charity Auctioneer, **Robin Ward**, "Eye on Toronto"
"The Stand-Ins", Toronto's hottest IMPROV group
All Guest Appearances subject to professional commitments.

Charity Auction for GEMS, Discussion Groups (Fan and Professional),
Videos, Dance, Masquerade

WEEKEND REGISTRATIONS: **\$20**Cdn (**\$17**US) til Mar. 15/97; \$25 til Sept. 30/97;
\$35Cdn at the door (half price for children 6 to 13)

GROUP RATES/DAILY RATES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

"DEALERS' ROOM ONLY" & "GAMING ROOM ONLY" ENTRANCE RATES of **\$2 per person**
PRIMEDIA, c/o 114-22 Tindler Cres., Toronto, Ont. M4A 1L6

HOTLINE: (905) 820-3844 (local in Toronto - long distance calls returned collect)

WEBSITE: <http://www.interlog.com/~kcozens/primedia/>

HOTEL: Our convention hotel is the Days Inn, 6257 Airport Rd., Mississauga, Ontario. The hotel is easy to get to from Hwy. 401. Coming from the east, take the Dixon Road exit (#354) off Hwy. 401 westbound and follow Dixon west until it turns into Airport Rd. The hotel is on the right, past the Hwy. 409 exit and across from Terminal Three at Pearson Airport. Eastbound Hwy. 401, take Hwy. 427 North exit (#348) and get off at Dixon Rd. Turn left at the end of the ramp and continue on as above until you see the hotel. Special Room Rate: \$72.00 per night plus taxes!! (**single to quads**). Reservations: call toll free in Canada at 1-800-565-5769 or 1-905-678-1400 and say you are booking with **PRIMEDIA**. Be sure to **BOOK EARLY** to ensure that you have a room. Due to its high occupancy rate, PRIMEDIA can make no guarantees of room availability at the Days Inn, outside of the convention's room block, after September 1, 1997.

SATURDAY BANQUET: Join the 1997 Aurora Nominees at a special banquet prior to the Awards Ceremony. Tickets to the banquet qualify as reserved seating at the Awards Ceremony. Partial proceeds from the banquet go to assist The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Society - a not for profit organization. Banquet ticket prices to be announced.

AURORA AWARDS: On Saturday, November 2, PRIMEDIA is pleased to present the 1997 Aurora Awards. Beginning at 8PM, seats will be available on a first come basis. Watch this space for information regarding any reserved seating, outside of banquet seating.

MASQUERADE: Our Masquerade (Costume Competition) begins Saturday, Nov. 1 after the Aurora Awards. Open to a variety of themes (science fiction, fantasy, horror, written works, TV, film, radio, etc.), registration begins on Friday at 6PM. Get started now and have fun! Live weapons and contemporary replicas will **not** be allowed. Other weapons are cleared through PRIMEDIA's Weapons Master and the Masquerade Director.

DANCE/RECEPTION: On Friday, October 31, join our Hallowe'en Dance and Reception - 10PM to 1AM - as we throw an all out bash on All Hallows Eve. Costumes of all types are welcome but not necessary.

FUNDRAISING for GEMS of HOPE: Our annual Charity Auction for GEMS will take place at 2PM on Saturday, November 2. All items will be on display prior to the auction. A silent auction will be followed by the live auction at 2PM. Registration for the Charity Auction is \$1 per person. All registration fees go directly to GEMS. Each registered bidder will receive a bid number and registration package.

DEALERS: Tables (6' by 3') are \$50Cdn til July 15/97, \$80Cdn til Sept. 30/97 and \$100Cdn at the door, includes one membership. Contact Ernestine Kopytko, our Dealers' Manager, at the convention address.

WRITER'S WORKSHOP: Got a hot new story? Interested in having a professional critique your work? Join writer, David Shtogryn, for a closed writer's workshop/critique. Send all manuscripts to David, c/o of the PRIMEDIA address. Include \$15Cdn for each critique enclosed. For information, please call the hotline.

WEEKEND REGISTRATION: ADULT RATE: \$20Cdn (\$17US) until March 15/97; 25Cdn (\$20US) until September 30/97; \$35Cdn at the door. Children 5 and under are free. Children 6 to 13 years old half-price. All children under 14 **MUST be accompanied by an adult. GROUP RATES (min. of 10 per group): \$20Cdn per person until Sept. 30/97; \$30Cdn per person at the door. Day rates available at the door. Registration fees are non-refundable. For information regarding transfers of registrations, please call the hotline.**

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PRIMEDIA PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Please send in one form per person. Copy this form for multiple registrants.
Please print clearly and carefully.

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ PROV/STATE: _____ PC/ZIP: _____ AGE: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ Critique Fee included? Yes / No TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Like to Volunteer? Yes / No Where? Badge Check / ConSuite / Anything Gaming Space? Yes / No

Cheque/money orders payable to: **PRIMEDIA**, 114-22 Tinder Cres, Toronto, Ontario M4A 1L6.
Include self-addressed stamped envelope for reply. **HOTLINE** (905) 820-3844, leave number and message (local for Metro Toronto - long distance calls will be returned collect)
or contact us at our **website** at: <http://www.interlog.com/~kcozens/primedia/>

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

- Science Fiction _____
- 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

- Science-Fiction _____
- 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.

TORCON III

Toronto in'03

A bid to hold the 2003 World Science Fiction Convention in Toronto, Canada.

It began in 1948 with the first Torcon:
'A convention that inspired a generation.'

It then continued in 1973 with Torcon II, which received rave reviews: 'A brilliant addition to the gripping sequence of Torcons,' and, 'The stunning sequel to the much loved and oft imitated Torcon I.'

Now, the bid committee for **Toronto in'03** is proud to present, what one reviewer has noted, 'A thrilling inclusion to the wildly acclaimed Torcon trilogy.' It is time for TORCON III...

The Bid Committee currently comprises:

Mike Glicksohn (Toronto), Ken Smookler (Toronto), Rene Walling (Montreal), Peter Halasz (Mississauga, Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Foundation), Lloyd and Yvonne Penney (Toronto), Bruce Farr (Phoenix), Linda Ross-Mansfield (Winnipeg), John Mansfield (Winnipeg), Don and Lisa Shears (Trenton, ON), Randy Barnhart (Mississauga), Chris Ellis and Stephanie Bayne (Toronto), Peter and Athena Jarvis (Hamilton, ON), Darina-Anakin (Toronto), Drew Mathers (Toronto), Tommy Ferguson (Toronto), Geoff Toop (Toronto), Lisa Truant (Toronto), Irwin Tan (Toronto), Larry and Jody Hancock (Toronto).

Our supporters include:

Robert J. Sawyer (Author, Toronto), Edo van Belkom (Author, Brampton, ON), Jean-Louis Trudel (Author, Montreal), Glen Simser (Ottawa), Diane Miller (Chicago), Glen and Lisa Ford (Mississauga), Cindi Ufholz (Windsor, ON), Chris Dant (Winnipeg), Don Stern (Winnipeg).

Pre-Supporting memberships are now available at CDN\$20.03 and US\$15.00 (Checks made payable to: Toronto in'03). The committee is also eager to hear from anyone else who would care to help out. Please write to the address given below.

For more details please contact: Toronto in'03, (an email and web address will follow):

Toronto in'03, P.O. Box 3, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5W 1A2