

29 CONTE



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Nov. 15-17, 2002

EUSCON 29

Guest of Honor

Timothy Zhan

Artist GoH

Vicki Visconti Tilly

ToastMaster

Edward Bryant

Featured Guests

Barry Bard, Deborah Baudoin, Earl Billick, R. Merrill Bollerud, Patrick Conners, Deb Dedon, Paul Edwards, Wolf Forrest, Dave (Gann) Foster, Larry Hammer, Kathryn Lance, Katherine Lawrence, Marty and Alice Massoglia, Dennis McKiernan, Gloria McMillan, James Mead, Adam Niswander, Janeen O'Kerry, Earl W. Parrish, Janni Lee Simner, Ken St. Andre, Michael Stackpole, David Lee Summers, and musical guest Tri-Destiny

Dealer's Room (Silver Room)

Dealer's Room is open for your perusal during the following hours:

Friday: 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Saturday: 10:00 AM to 9:00 PM

Sunday: 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

ConSuite (Room 126)

Munchies, Beverages and Good Company abound!

ConSuite is open Friday late, Saturday late, and Sunday until the staff falls over.

ConSuite will be closed for Meet the Authors and the Masquerades.

No young children will be allowed in ConSuite without an adult escort. (We may incorporate unattended children into Sunday night's chili). As always, ConSuite is dry (no alcohol).

There is also the traditional, make your eyes water, clean out your sinuses Cast Iron Chef Chili on Sunday afternoon.

Masquerade

There will be prizes for children participating in the masquerade as well as trophies for the adults. Hall costumes will be acknowledged as well, however, you have to be visible to be noticed. Make sure to visit the main function space (Dealer's room, Art show, etc) with your hall costume on to get in on this.

Adult Masquerade

The adult masquerade winner will take away \$100. As always, No costume is still no costume. Be creative!

Children's Room

There will be no Children's Room this year. Parents are reminded to be aware of their little ones at all times.

Art Show and Auction

The TusCon 29 Art Show will be open Friday mid-afternoon and close later that evening. It will re-open at approximately 10 AM Saturday and remain open into the evening hours. Sunday hours will be 9:00 to 10 AM only. The Art Auction will begin around 1:30 on Sunday.

There are two ways to buy art through the TusCon Art Show: by bid (auction), or flat sale. Pieces with a FLAT SALE price only (no minimum bid indicated) may be purchased for that FLAT SALE price only. Such pieces do not go to auction. Pieces with BOTH flat sale and minimum bid prices indicated may be purchased for the flat sale price only if there are no marked bids. Similarly, a bid may be made on a piece with both options if no flat sale has been marked on a bid sheet. Think before you bid. You will be held responsible for any marked bids or flat sales. Purchased artwork may not be removed from the show prior to closing on Sunday. If you must leave prior to closing, please make arrangements with the Art Show Director. Should your courage or cash flow fail, and you wish to withdraw a bid or sale, you MUST first clear it with the Art Show Director.

Live Action Role Play (LARP)

TusCon will feature a Vampire, The Masquerade LARP this year. Kane Wortman will be your Game Master.

Memberships

Please have your badge at all times to gain access to convention activities and ConSuite. If you lend it or lose it you can replace it for the current membership rate. This policy may be negotiated at the whim of the head of registration and can greatly depend on the bribe or favor offered.

Security

Our weapons policy is very simple: If you pull it, our lovely, charming, and debonair security personnel will put it back for you.

Please, no real or realistic firearms, no projectile or projectile-throwing weapons of any sort. All edge or spiked weapons must be in a sturdy sheath or have all edges and points covered with a material hard enough to prevent accidental injury, and all weapons must be peace-bonded securely to the body. Tucson city ordinance also prohibits the carrying of any and all martial arts weapons such as nunchuk or shuriken. We like to think we have a fairly liberal weapons policy. Please help us keep it that way. We reserve the right to check all weapons, and violations of the rules can result in confiscation of the weapon, revocation of Con membership and benefits (like hotel room rates...), and/or notification of the militia.

Gaming

Join the gaming fun with your host and mad DM, Henry Tyler. Gaming will be available as long as Henry can stay awake, or until your brains explode. Check with Henry in the gaming room for featured games.

LAN Party (Computer Gaming)

The Computer Gaming Room will feature LAN multiplayer games such as Quake III, Half-Life, Unreal Tournament, and more. Requests for specific games will be considered.

No children under 10 years old will be allowed to play and children 10 to 13 years old will need a parent or guardian to fill out and sign a consent form.

TusCon 29 Writing Contest

Congratulations to Mikki Ross who took first place in our Short Story Contest with "Goldilocks and the Dragon." "Revelation," written by Eric Penner Haury, is the second place winner.

Thanks to everyone who entered.

TusCon 30

It's official! TusCon 30 will be November 14, 15 & 16 of 2003 at the same lovely hotel! Mark your calendars now!

Programming Schedule

Friday

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Buckley: Can the good guys lose? Is it possible to write a compelling story where the good guys lose without alienating your audience? (Michael C. Beard, Mike Stackpole, Anne L. Lambert, DL Mullan)

Gold: Character Development: How much work is done on character s that doesn't wind up in the story? (Yvonne Navaro, John Vornholt)

Heidel: Reading by Annis Shepard. Panelist Choice

6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

Buckley: Stereotypes, the line between quick characterization and bigotry. Ethnicity, gender, religion, weight, hair color and many other traits have personality characteristics associated with them. How can a writer use these traits without becoming cliché? (Weston Ochse, Les Reese, Rich Buchko)

Gold: How to Jam by Patrick Connors! Basics of a good jam session. It may sound as if no one knows what is going on, but for it to sound great everyone playing needs to know what is happening. Learn the fundamentals from an experienced jammer.

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Gold: Meet the Guests. Come for the munchies, stay for the conversation. Here is your chance to see the participants and Guests of Honor all in one location. Hosted by our own Toastmaster Ed Bryant.

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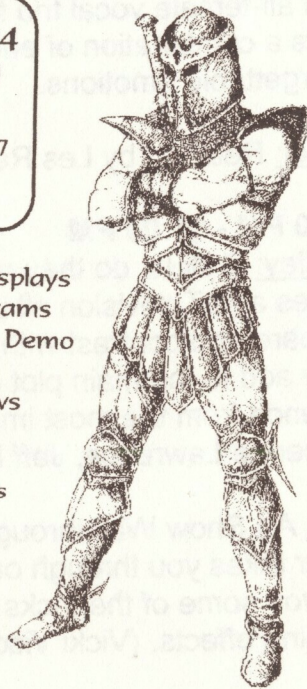
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Friday Cont.

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Buckley: What is the best way to use Telepathy in a story or movie? All types of tricks have been tried to convey the experience of knowing what another person is thinking. Unfortunately, verbal communication will have to be the main source of communicating (Deb Dedon, Kit Townsend, Anne L. Lambert, Timothy Zahn, Jeff Lambert)

Gold: Tri-Destiny Concert: Our music Guest of Honor is an all-female vocal trio from Salt Lake City that offers a combination of enchanting music and unforgettable emotions.

Heidel: Reading by Les Reese. Panelist Choice

10:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Buckley: B plots, do they add or detract? Novels, Movies and Television all use secondary stories to compare and contrast with the primary story. Does it really add to the main plot or does it just distract the audience from the most important feature of the tale? (Katherine Lawrence, Jeff Lambert, Jennifer Ashley)

Gold: Art Show Walkthrough. Our Artist Guest of Honor takes you through our extensive art show and tells you some of the tricks and tips used to create the stunning effects. (Vicki Visconti-Tilley)

Heidel: Reading by Earl Billick. Adventures in the Society for Creative Anachronism

Saturday

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Buckley: Can every animal be scary? It is possible to create terrifying scenarios with any animal no matter how small, cuddly, or innocuous? (Dr. Annita Harlan, Janni Lee Simner)

Gold: Lightwave 3D Demonstration by Pat Conners. You no longer need a multi-million dollar budget to do special effects. This computer program can really put BANG! In your work.

Heidel: Reading by Dennis L. Mckieman. Panelist Choice

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Buckley: Which is more fun to write? Novels or short stories? Eavesdrop into the private thoughts of our authors as they describe the efforts required to write stories of different lengths and which format they enjoy the most. (Jeff Lambert, Jennifer Ashley, Ed Bryant, Mike Stackpole, Yvonne Navarro)

Gold: Pictionary!! Watch our artists play the picture drawing game where it is better to be fast than good. (Liz Danforth, Earl Billick, Larry Vela, Paula Schricker)

Heidel: Reading by Catherine Wells. Panelist Choice

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Buckley: Resources for writers. Everyone has a dictionary & thesaurus, what else should be on the shelf? (Michael C. Beard, Paul Edwards, Gloria McMillan, David Lee Summers)

Saturday Cont.

Gold: How to Draw a Dragon by Vicki Visconti-Tilley. Our artist is well known for her ability to make these legendary beasts powerful, realistic and individual. Find out her techniques.

Heidel: Reading by Larry Hammer. Panelist Choice

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Buckley: Story arcs and their construction. Creating a story arch is one of the fundamentals of writing a novel. Pick these authors brains as they describe their methods of building a story arc. (Timothy Zahn, John Vornholt, Katherine Lawrence, Dennis L. McKiernan)

Gold: Adult Masquerade Do's, Don'ts and D'ohs from Gannd. Everyone knows that no costume is still no costume. Come get more hints on what makes a good Adult Masquerade presentation from the organizer.

Heidel: Reading by Adam Niswander. Panelist Choice

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Buckley: Icelandic Sagas: Iceland is a mythical place. Our panelist will discuss the sagas, the landscape and its fantastical and science fictional elements. (Dr. Annita Harlan, Janni Lee Simner, Larry Hammer)

Gold: Why are most alien gender roles like Ozzie & Harriet? When aliens in a story have gender, they are usually straight from the 1950's. Find out why and what these authors views are on the subject. (Janeen O'Kerry, Chris Niswander, Annis Shepherd)

Heidel: Reading by Mark Siegal. Panelist Choice

Saturday Cont.

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Buckley: *Hour with our Toast Master, Ed Bryant.* To know him is to enjoy listening to him. To not know our Toastmaster is a sadness that can be remedied by coming to this panel.

Gold: *What's in a name, the art of titling your work.* Pictures, stories, books are known by their titles. Improve how your work is thought of by learning how to improve its' title. (Vicki Visconti-Tilley, Adam Niswander, Weston Ochse, Larry Vela)

Heidel: *Reading by John Vornholt.* Panelist Choice

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Buckley: *Heroes with walkers, geriatrics in genre.* As we are living longer better lives, older characters are appearing more frequently and as more varied characters than just the dottering scientists. (Joanna Russ, Kit Townsend, Deb Dedon, DL Mullan)

Gold: *Art Demo, Inspirations and Methods by Earl Billick.* An artist with talent and training in a multitude of materials and techniques. Find out how he comes up with his ideas and how he turns them into reality.

Heidel: *Reading by David Lee Summers.* Vampires and Astronomers - Is There a Difference

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Buckley: *Brainwashing and mind control, facts and fantasies.* Look deep into my eyes - you will come to this panel! (Seth Morris, Gannd, John Brownlee)

Saturday Cont.

Gold: **Mass Autographing:** Gathered together in one big room. All your favorite TusCon authors held hostage! (Timothy Zahn, Katherine Lawrence, Dennis L. McKiernan, Janeen O'Kerry, John Vornholt, Yvonne Navarro, and more)

5:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Buckley: **Will Prozac change art?** Many artists have been crazy. Will psychotropics eliminate Great Art? (Vicki Visconti-Tilley, Chris Niswander, Deb Dedon, Liz Danforth, Annis Shepherd)

Gold: **Tri-Destiny Concert:** Our music Guests of Honor are an all-female vocal trio from Salt Lake City that offers a combination of enchanting music and unforgettable emotions.

Heidel: **Reading by Weston Ochse.** Panelist Choice

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Gold: **Masquerade:** A SF/Fantasy costume contest with short presentations. Additional entertainment provided by Dance of Arabia.

9:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Buckley: **Interview with Tim Zahn by Scott Glener.** Get to know our Author Guest of Honor and Hugo award winner.

9:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Gold: **Renaissance Dancing with Alice and Marty Massogila.** Dance...Dance...Dance.. Don't worry if you do not know the steps, you can learn them here.

Saturday Cont.

10:00 PM - 11:00 PM

Buckley: *Breaking into the old boys club.* Do female writers have to write about unicorns and cats? If you're not cute and cuddly, does it lose sales? (Janeen O'Kerry, Anne L. Lambert, Kit Townsend)

Heidel: *Reading by Yvonne Navarro.* Panelist Choice

11:00 PM - 12:00 AM

Buckley: *How do you deal with writer's block?* I could not come up with a description for this panel. Join me here. (Kate Daniel, Paul Edwards, Seth Morris, Jennifer Ashley)

Heidel: *Reading by Janni Lee Simner.* Panelist Choice

12:00 AM - ?

Gold: *Adult Masquerade:* TusCon presents an adults-only (18+ and, yes, you WILL be carded!) contest for the sexiest and/or funniest costumes -- both male and female! No costume is no costume! Properly done, the right clothes and attitude are MUCH sexier/funnier than no clothes.

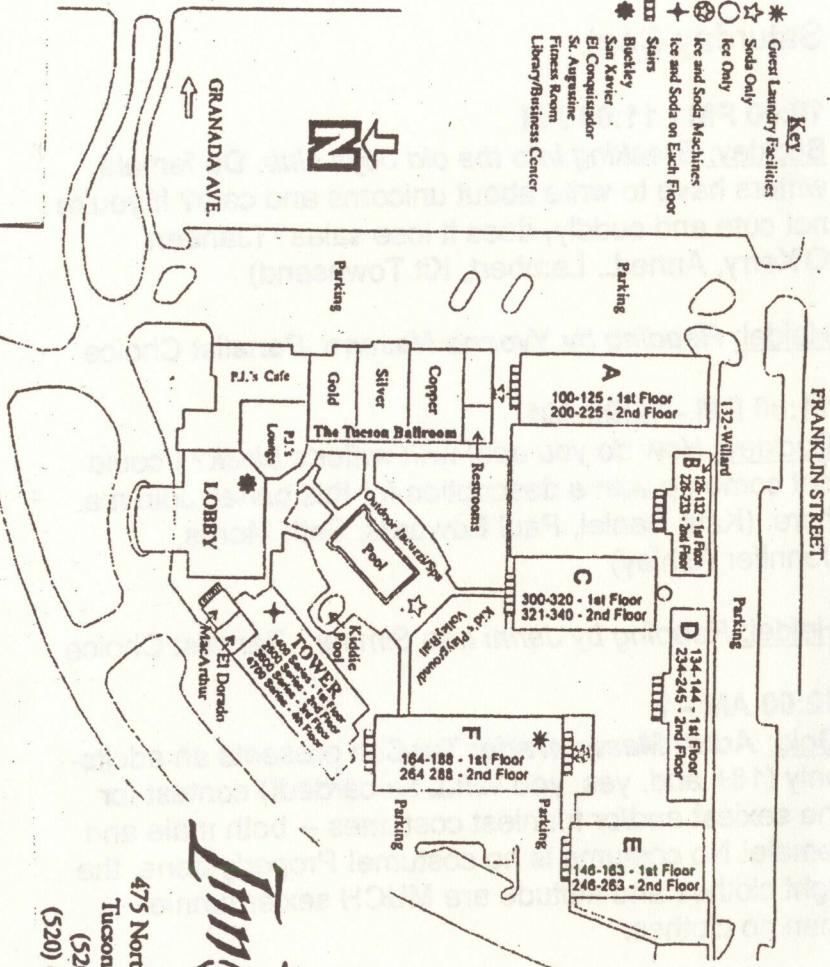
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- * Guest Laundry Facilities
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TUS-CON 29 VIDEO ROOM

The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai (Across the Eighth Dimension)

USA 1984 102 minutes PG Friday 5pm

The evil Dr. Lizardo (John Lithgow) tries to steal Banzai's (Peter Weller) Oscillation Overthruster to penetrate the Eighth Dimension and bring back an army of aliens to destroy the Earth. A cult favorite.

Barefoot Gen (Hadashi no Gen)

Japan 1983 83minutes NR (violence, nudity) Sunday 8:30am

This animated polemic on the horrors of the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima follows a young boy and his family before and after the horrible event, and the desperate attempts by the people in his village to survive.

Black Sunday (The Mask of Satan)

Italy 1960 87 minutes NR Saturday 10pm (plus Bonus Feature for "Black Sunday" fans following at 11:35 pm)

Mario Bava's first independent feature based on Gogol's story "The Viy" features lush, gothic cinematography and the incomparable Barbara Steele as Asa, the reincarnated witch burned at the stake, and her double, Katya. The resurrection scene is magnificent, and stay put because we have a special surprise following the film.

The Brain From Planet Arous (John Agar tribute)

USA 1958 80 minutes NR Friday 9:10 pm

Agar, who died on April 7, starred in many genre films like THE MOLE PEOPLE, TARANTULA, and REVENGE OF THE CREATURE, but he really shines as the scientist possessed by the evil brain Gor as benevolent brain Vol arrives to take the criminal back to their home planet.

Dark Star

USA 1974 83 minutes G Saturday 2 pm

John Carpenter's student film was expanded by producer Jack Harris by having Carpenter shoot an extra 15 minutes for theatrical release. Thus, the "director's cut" is actually a shorter film. The premise involves a motley crew of unstable personalities whose mission is to destroy unstable planets with smart bombs. But what happens when one of them teaches the talking bomb existential phenomenology?

The Double-D Avenger

USA 2001 77 minutes NR Sunday 12:15 pm

This Russ Meyer inspired yarn about a woman seeking a cure for her fatal illness results in her becoming a comic book superheroine. Starring many of Meyer's buxom ladies.

8 Man

Japan 1992 83 minutes NR Saturday 12:15 pm

Before Robocop and Terminator, there was 8 Man. Actually more reminiscent of Ultra-Man, this stylish noir thriller has some beautiful compositions and fight choreography ahead of its time.

The Fall of the House of Usher

France 1928 66 minutes NR Friday 3:40 pm

This silent adaptation of Poe's classic tale was a collaboration between Jean Epstein and the surrealist Luis Bunuel.

Frankenweenie

USA 1984 27 minutes PG Sunday 11:30 am

Tim Burton's loving homage to FRANKENSTEIN shows the trademark idiosyncrasies that later surface in BEETLEJUICE, BATMAN, and THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

The Hidden Fortress

Japan 1958 139 minutes NR Friday 10:40 pm

We know this isn't science fiction--but it IS the acknowledged inspiration for STAR WARS, which may interest fans of the series. A fierce princess in disguise flees an evil empire. Her assistants are a stoic loner and two bickering drones (one tall, one short). Sound familiar? Although the setting is feudal Japan, this swashbuckling classic may be even more fun than its imitator.

I Bury the Living

USA 1957 70 minutes NR Sunday 3:15 pm

Richard Boone (HAVE GUN, WILL TRAVEL) is the caretaker of a cemetery who inadvertently has the power of life and death, depending on what color pin he sticks in the wall map of cemetery plots.

Men in Black

USA 1997 98 minutes PG-13 Saturday 3:30 pm

The MIB team of Tommy Lee Jones and Will Smith must cope with an infiltration of aliens in New York City while trying to learn the secret of the hidden galaxy in Orion's

belt. Far better than the sequel.

The Mummy's Ghost

USA 1944 60 minutes NR Saturday 11:05am

The best of the three sequels to THE MUMMY'S HAND, Kharis is at his murderous best seeking his lost love Ananka. Watch for a real blood stain on Lon Chaney's chin in the museum confrontation sequence, as technicians forgot to put in sugar glass in the museum's doors.

Naked Lunch

USA/Canada 1991 116 minutes R (nudity) Saturday 1:05 am

David Cronenberg's ambitious attempt to translate Burrough's novel results in a darkly humorous, hallucinatory trip to Interzone where bug exterminator-turned-writer Bill Lee (Peter Weller) must document his experiences, after killing his wife, on, of all things, insect typewriters that talk.

Pink Floyd: The Wall

USA/Great Britain 1982 103 minutes R (nudity) Sunday 6:30 pm

Alan Parker took the fabulously successful album and road show and made an introspective film documenting Pink's (Bob Geldof) descent into madness, and his withdrawal and ultimate revenge on those who have scarred him. With some terrific animation by Gerald Scarfe.

The Rocketeer

USA 1991 109 minutes PG Sunday 4:30 pm

Joe Johnston's adaptation of Dave Stephen's comic book (which itself pays tribute to Commando Cody, King of the Rocket Men) is a lavish period piece set in the barnstorming 1930's. Ten years before Jennifer Connelly's appearance in A BEAUTIFUL MIND, she acts as Bill Campbell's love interest, with Timothy Dalton as the Errol Flynn-type villain, and a Rondo Hatton lookalike skulking around for the rocket backpack.

Silent Running

USA 1971 89 minutes G Friday 2pm

Capturing the spirit of Earth Day instituted a year before, this sensitive and charming eco-adventure stars Bruce Dern as the caretaker of a spacetraveling BioSphere, complete with robot helpers Huey, Dewey, and Louie. Music by Peter Schickele (PDQ Bach) and Joan Baez.

Spider Baby

USA 1964 81 minutes NR Saturday 5:15 pm

Lon Chaney Jr's last great role, this odd film from Jack Hill has been compared to

an episode of THE ADDAMS FAMILY directed by Luis Bunuel. Chaney is the caretaker of a family affected with Merrye's Syndrome, where the victim regresses mentally as they age. With Carol Ohmart (HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL) and Sid Haig as the incomparable Ralph.

The Stendhal Syndrome

Italy 1996 113 minutes NR (extremely graphic violence) Saturday 8 pm

Dario Argento directs his daughter Asia as a detective hunting for a serial killer. Her job is hampered by her affliction with the titular malady, which causes the sufferer to have an extreme emotional reaction to the viewing of art.

Supersonic Saucer

Great Britain 1955 50 minutes NR Saturday 8:30 am

This is the film that Spielberg ripped off to make E.T. This rarely-seen British film is a slight, light-hearted effort that deals with the befriending of an alien from Venus (who looks like an owl in a nun's habit) by two children trying to thwart a robbery.

Targets

USA 1968 90 minutes PG(violence) Sunday 1:40 pm

Given the recent events in the D.C. area, this film again becomes timely, as two sub-plots--the appearance of horror film great Byron Orlock (Boris Karloff) to promote his latest film, and the rampagings of an ex-Marine turned sniper, clash in this early film by Peter Bogdanovich.

The Twilight Zone: "Jess-Belle"

USA 1964 50 minutes NR Saturday 6:45 pm

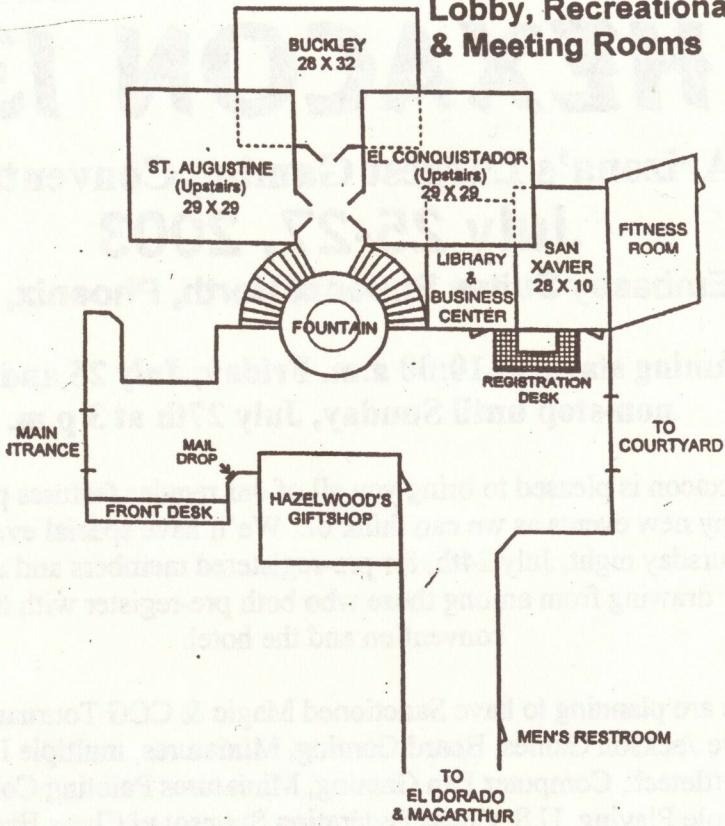
Earl Hamner (THE WALTONS) wrote this witch's tale of spurned love over a long weekend for TZ's fourth season. He spins a yarn about Appalachian folklore that is brought to life by cast members Laura Devon, James Best, and Anne Francis as the doomed title character.

Westworld

USA 1973 88 minutes PG Saturday 9:30 am

Theme parks that go horribly wrong was the idea behind Jurassic Park. This is the origin of that concept as Richard Benjamin faces a murderous robot (Yul Brynner) bent on his destruction in this Wild West pay-as-you-go playland.

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LepreCon 29

May 16-18, 2003

Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ
Annual Art Oriented Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention

Artist Guest of Honor: **Larry Elmore**

Local Artist/Author Guest: **Madame M**

Media Technical Guest: **Richard Coyle**

Music Guest: **Karen Willson**

(sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle)

Author Guest of Honor: **TBA**

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Room Rates:
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Contact LepreCon 29 at:

Write: LepreCon 29,
PO Box 26665
Tempe, AZ 85285

Phone: (480) 945-6890

Email: lep29@leprecon.org

Sunday

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Buckley: Modern heroes. What are the characteristics of the modern hero and how have they changed? Chivalry is dead and machismo is outdated, a modern hero needs modern sensibilities. What virtues are important for modern role models? (Dr. Annita Harlan, Bennie Grezlik, Mark Siegel)

Gold: It's good for the soul. Character exposition without confession. Creating an internal dialog that doesn't bog down is a vital technique every writer should have. (Patrick Connors, Deborah Baudoin, Michael C. Beard)

Heidel: Meditation 101 by Liz Danforth. It's a pleasant Sunday morning, the birds are chirping and the trees are gently blowing in the breeze. Regain your center with these basic meditation techniques.

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Buckley: What does a writer do besides come up with ideas? The creating the initial concept is the easiest part of a writer's job. These successful writers will give you some insight on how to take care of the business side of the desk. (Timothy Zahn, Paul Edwards, Dennis L. McKiernan, David Lee Summers)

Gold: Future wars: will there ever be another standup fight? Mass war fare has become ever more distant from it's targets. Will technology ever return to individual combat? (Gannd, Larry Vela, DL Mullan)

Heidel: Reading by Mike Stackpole. Panelist Choice

COPPERCON 23

Sept 5-7, 2003

Embassy Suites Phoenix North, Phoenix, AZ
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Author Guest of Honor: **Connie Willis**

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Music Guest: **Larry Warner**

(sponsored by the Phoenix Filk Circle)

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\$30 thru 4/30/03

\$35 thru 8/25/03

\$40 at the door

Kids 7-12 half price*

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Write: CopperCon 23,

PO Box 62613

Phoenix, AZ 85082

Phone: (480) 423-0649

Email: cucon@casfs.org

www.coppercon.org

Sunday Cont.

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Buckley: What does an agent do besides make phone calls? Do lunch of course! Seriously, what do they do to earn their commission? (Janni Lee Simner, Janeen O'Kerry, John Vornholt)

Heidel: Reading by Kate Daniels. Panelist Choice

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Buckley: What does an editor do besides break author's souls? Professional editors are a rare breed indeed. Learn what makes an editor good. (David Lee Summers, Ed Bryant)

1:30 PM - ?

Gold: Art Auction: Place your bids through out the convention and come here to ensure you have the highest bid on that piece of art you cannot live without. Going once...Going Twice... Sold to the Storm trooper on the right!

2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Buckley: What does a reviewer do besides rip author's hearts out? It has been said that those who do - do, and those who can't become reviewers. But it isn't true is it? (Mike Stackpole, Catherine Wells, Janeen O'Kerry)

3:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Buckley: What does the reader do besides turn pages? Join our panelist and fellow readers to find out more on this interesting topic. (Gloria McMillan, Anne L. Lambert, Deborah Baudoin)

Heidel: Reading by Brian Gross. Panelist Choice

Sunday Cont.

4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Buckley: How to build authentic alien societies World Building for Dummies! Where do you start? How many similarities and differences are required? How can you create something authentic when nobody knows anything about it? (Kate Daniel, Rich Buchko, Paula Schricker)

Gold: Reading by Tim Zahn. Panelist Choice

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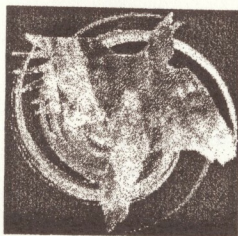
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The Fantasy Art of Vicky Visconti-Tilley

Since early childhood, Vicki knew her destiny was to be an artist. Being influenced by her Italian and Scottish ancestry, she has always felt a connection to Old World images of chivalry and ancient civilizations. With an endless imagination, she even knew what she was compelled to paint; dragons, legends, and mythical scenes. Pursuing this was another thing. Vicki started out oil painting and then quit.

No easy route was to be taken. Born and raised in New Mexico, she took on payroll and office manager jobs for financial reasons. Never forgetting her dreams, she attended art classes, workshops, college and universities, and graphic art and design school in Phoenix, AZ. Also during this time, she married and had a daughter, Shannon, now twenty.

Upon returning to NM, Vicki was represented in regional galleries and has twice owned her own. It was during these years that her work turned to colored pencils, pens, and ink, watercolors, and acrylics. She volunteered and served on the board of the Grant County Arts Council while teaching art classes to adults. She was later privileged to have been part of New Mexico's grassroots Art Residencies, bring art back into the schools. Vicki taught K through 5th grade from a special program funded by the NEA and NMAC, along with additional grant sources. She taught over 2,600 students from 1994-1999. Due to her husband's job, her family moved to Nevada in 2000. In 2002, Vicki was selected to perform art workshops with teachers through community partnerships.

*The Fantasy Art of Vicky Visconti-Tilley,
continued...*

Vicky has now returned to her studio to paint in oils. Her award winning fine art and illustrations appear in books, chapbooks, magnets, and CD-ROMs. She exhibits her originals and limited edition prints at Art Festivals, Science Fiction Conventions, and Renaissance Faires. She is a member of ASFA (Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists), the Nevada Watercolor Society, and the Las Vegas Art Guild. Since 1997, she has been represented by PMS Productions, Houston, TX.

Her most recent work contains Celtic and Pre-Raphaelite influences. Her "*mythical ancient realms*" convey an Old World, when Man, Beast, and Earth were more intertwined. Her latest series consists of seasonal faeries, with animal companions and dragons. Her fine art allows one to peek in, to catch a moment in time, to observe without being seen – to be childlike again. Vicki has come full circle.



TIMOTHY ZAHN: AN APPRECIATION

It is a rare and sincere privilege to have close friends, and this is made even more special when you meet and click with someone later in life--though luckily Tim and I are yet young enough that we've still got plenty more time left. Timothy Zahn, as you will see this weekend, is a rare treasure among human beings. He is smart and also sharp-witted (two qualities that do by no means meet in the vast majority of folks), sincere and thoughtful, possessed of a very dry and wry wit, and a true gentleman in every possible sense of the word.

Tim and I have done a number of conventions together, first having met in 1993 at Coastcon, but not really rising on each other's radar screens until the next year at Hurricon (at a hotel that was subsequently wiped off the map by a hurricane). Actually, Tim had long been on my radar screen, since he was very well known for his excellent military SF novels and award winning short stories. I'd known of him before the Star Wars books, and would see his books shelved next to those of Roger Zelazny--an author whose work we both enjoy.

At Hurricon, as we waited for an airport shuttle, we talked about the Star Wars books. I'd just gotten on with Bantam and mentioned that my agent was talking to them about maybe having me do a Star Wars book. Tim looked a bit askance at that suggestion, but I mentioned a vague idea I had had for a story--one obviated by another publication I'd not known about when first thinking it up. He paused for a moment and considered, then said, "You know, that's a better idea than what they did."

Appreciation Continued...

I thought Tim's proprietary interest in the universe was admirable, since so many other authors just phone things in when working in a universe they don't own. When I did get the contract for the X-wing novels, Bantam sent me all the books that were out and I tore through them. Tim's books established the high water mark for Star Wars fiction, and also made for a tough act to follow. Since I wanted to slot my books into the history before Tim's, and to do some things to set his books up, I suddenly had to deal with all the little tricks and traps he'd put into place.

Not an easy task, so I called Tim. This became the first of many phone calls down through the years, in which we'd start talking, figuring it would be five minutes to get this one call answered, and an hour later we had links worked back and forth between our various novels, or we'd co-plotted a short story or a comic series.

One of the coolest things about Tim and his work is the strength of the characters. They are clearly drawn and fully realized, and also as smart. Because of that, Tim's work challenges the readers and really forces us to think about what we're reading and the implications of it. You see that in the Star Wars novels, and his stand-alone work. **THE ICARUS HUNT** is a prime example of this in which something that starts out as a simple transportation job turns into an adventure that can radically alter the balance of power within the universe. The transformation of the story is brilliant.

Appreciation Continued...

This weekend you'll get to see a lot of Tim, perhaps hear him read (a definite MUST), and get to listen to him expound on a variety of subjects. Be warned, he has Zelaznerian powers of punning--people in Australia are still reeling from his visit in 1999. You'll also likely see Tim helping out wherever he can. (When he works a convention, he works it.)

I'm very pleased that TusCon has invited Timothy Zahn to be its Guest of Honor this year. TusCon always invites the best guests, and this year they have out done themselves. Please welcome him to Arizona and enjoy him.

--Michael A. Stackpole



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