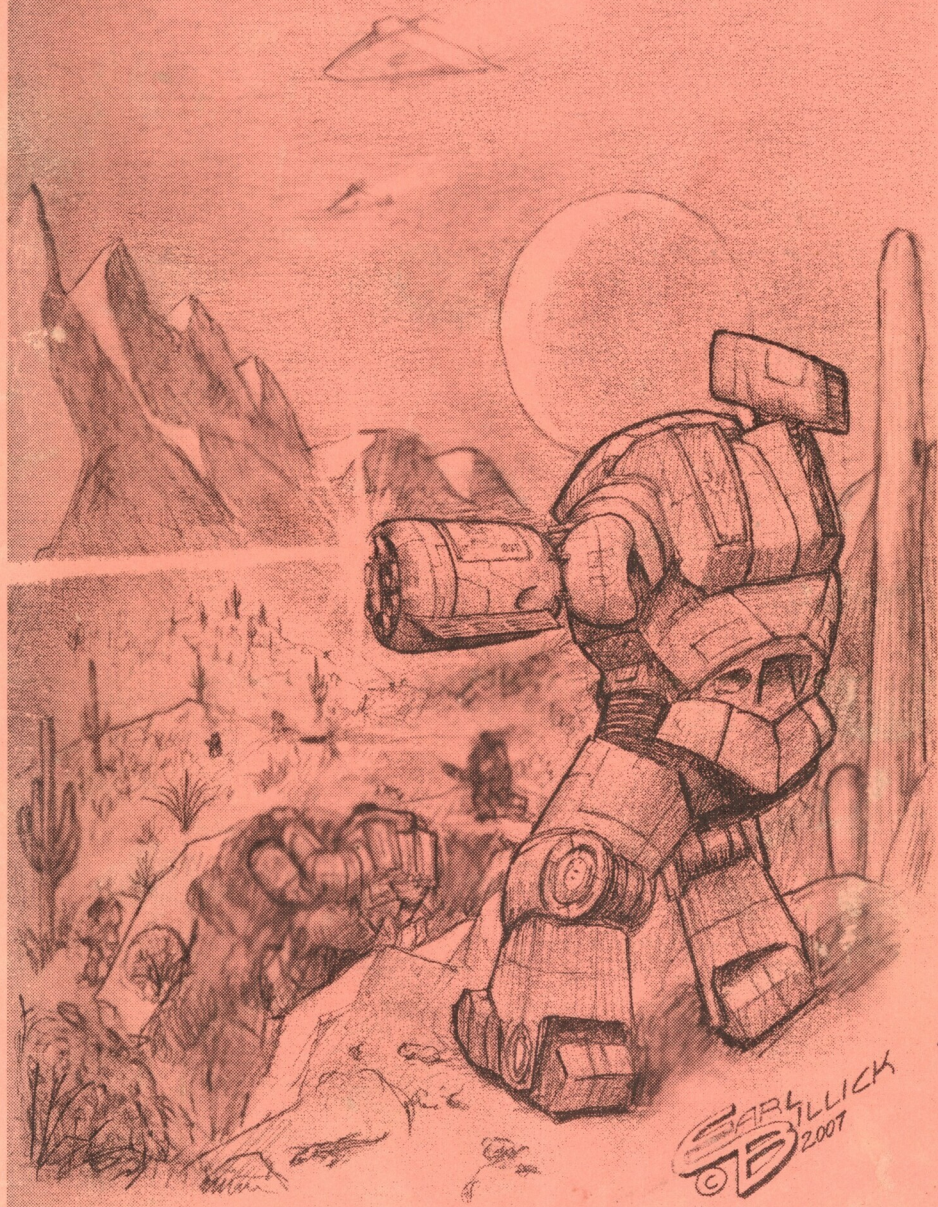


TUSCON 34



The Settlement of the Moon in Science Fiction and Facts

Saturday, November 10, 2007: 10 AM–12 PM

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Alan Binder

**Director of the Lunar Research Institute
& Author of “Moon Quake”**

Chuck Leshner

**Aerospace Engineer, Materials Scientist
& Author of “Evolution’s Child”**

MODERATED BY

Ben Nault,

Tucson L5 Space Society, Moon Society

The Brain Eaters

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Saturday, November 10, 2007: 8 PM

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Tucson 34

November 9–11, 2007

Guest of Honor

John Ringo

Toastmaster

Edward Bryant

Featured Guests & Panelists

Adam Niswander

Alan Binder

Annita Harlan

Ben Nault

Bruce Wiley

Carol De Priest

Catherine Wells

Chuck Leshner

Cynthia Ward

Dave Qualls

David Lee Summers

Dawn Mullan

Dennis L. McKiernan

Emma Bull

Frances Robertson

Gloria McMillan

Ingrid Saber

Janni Lee Simner

Jeff Schenk

Jill Knowles

Joe Gold

Joe Palmer

John Maddox Roberts

John Ringo

John Vornholt

Juno Blair B.

Ken Morse

Larry Hammer

Larry Vela

Liz Danforth

Mark R. Phelps

Matthew Peterson

Mike Cassidy

Mike Contos

Pamela Lloyd

Scott Glener

Suzanna Bradley

Weston Ochse

Will Shetterly

Yvonne Navarro

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Frances Gross
Frances Gross
Sue Thing
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Cristi Simila

Cover Earl Billick

Inside Art Liz Danforth, Wolf Forrest, Gary Hayes, Debbie Arthur

Special thanks to Hardcastle Cards & Games for their sponsorship of computer gaming, and to Liz Danforth for assistance with the short story contest. Special thanks to the Arizona Browncoats for their sponsorship of the ConSuite.

The TusCon 34 Program Book is published by BASFA (Baja Arizona Science Fiction Association), a non-profit, 501(c)4 organization. Donations are not tax-deductible. Please send all inquiries to TusCon, PO Box 2528, Tucson, AZ 85702-2528. View our web site at: <http://home.earthlink.net/~basfa/>

AniZona

Arizona's Own

Amanda T - is the publishing editor for the Manga Division of Demented Dragon. She has a new manga series of three graphic novels titled "Midnight Blue".

Ellyn Stern - has voiced characters in "Digimon" and "Haraway" in "Ghost in the Shell 2 - Innocence".

Chris Hazelton - Manga Artist in 2006 he signed on to write and illustrate the comic series "A Steel Wing Shattered"

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Our Events:

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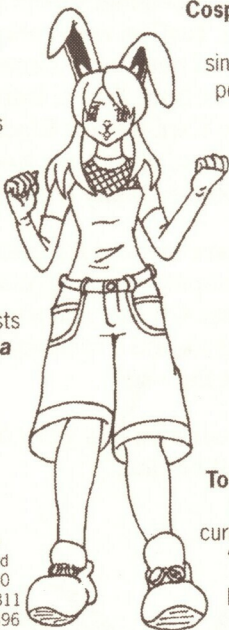
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Richard Epcar - "Batou" from the "Ghost in the Shell" movies.

Trish Ledoux - is credited as "Wendy Ryder" on "Macross II".

David Vincent - is from the hit series "GUN X SWORD" as the voice "Van".

Sam Reigel - voices "Kudamon" on "Digimon: Data Squad", "Rex Raptor" on "Yu-Gi-Oh!" and "Shino Aburame" on "Naruto".

Toshifumi Yoshida - is a VIZ producer that is working on "Inuyasha". He is currently working as a translator on the "Negima!" manga series for Del Rey.

Katie Bair - Award winning costume designer, best known for her wigs.

Anime convention

Thru November 30, 2007

Full Attending - \$35 (9 years of age or older) Hotel Membership - half current price (up to four [4] memberships at \$17.50) or free (up to two [2] memberships) - VALID Hotel Confirmation number required.

Group Membership - \$20 per person for group of ten (10) or more. All group members must register at the same time.



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By signing this you agree to all terms and rules posted on the AniZona 4 website.

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If above-listed person is under 18 years of age, the person signing the form must be a parent or guardian. If the above listed person is 12 or younger, a parent or guardian must be on site at all time

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TusCon 34

This year we welcome John Ringo, as TusCon slowly draws its head, tentacles and assorted writhing appendages from the Tucson desert. Thirty-four. Egads! Thirty-four TusCon conventions. My first was TusCon VII or VIII, and I've only missed one since. Time has slipped by, but we're still hobbling out to the con somehow. We've lost some dear folks along the way: Theodore Sturgeon, Terry Carr, Robert Bloch, Karl Edward Wagner, G. Harry Stine, Evangeline Walton. Also Amy Andrews, Barry Bard, and now, on September 28th, Les Reese. Many friends, many memories.

I think you'll enjoy what we have in store for you. A wondrous video room, panel discussions, art show, computer gaming, consuite, and this year, introducing anime programming. Oh yes, and also a dealer's room where you can stock-up on those hard-to-find Christmas, Solstice and Hanukkah presents. Heck, why spend it at the mall?

So, make some memories of your own this year. And take a moment to remember the friends we've left behind.

Daniel Arthur
Editor



WRITER'S ENDORSEMENTS THAT MIGHT'VE BEEN....



John Ringo

John Ringo had visited 23 countries and attended 14 schools by the time he graduated high school. This left him with a wonderful appreciation of the oneness of humanity and a permanent aversion to foreign food.

The author chose to study marine biology and really liked it. Unfortunately the pay is for beans. So he turned to database management where the pay was much better. His highest hopes were to someday upgrade to SQL Server at which point, he thought, his life would be complete. But then Fate took a hand: John became a professional science fiction writer and since his publisher assured him that all science fiction authors became immensely successful, he was given the standard "rich and famous" contract. Somewhat confused by the fine print, he nonetheless signed in blood.

Since that fateful day, he has published numerous science fiction novels at a rate that amazed and offended his publisher, who hadn't intended him to get that rich and famous. With over a million copies in print, he also has done stints as an op-ed writer for the New York Post and a guest commentator for Fox News, thus ensuring the loss of what little soul was left.

With his younger years spent in the Airborne, cave diving, rock-climbing, rappelling, hunting, spear-fishing and sailing, the author is now happy to let other people risk their necks. He prefers to read, and of course write, science fiction, hang out in cigar bars and look for new ways to pledge his remaining bits of soul. He's thinking...Hollywood... They won't care if it's tarnished.

John has published many novels, including the New York Times best-selling Posleen War series *A Hymn Before Battle*, *Gust Front*, *When the Devil Dances*, and *Hell's Faire*, the Council War series – *There Will be Dragons*, *Emerald Sea*, *Against the Tide*, and *East of the Sun*, *West of the Moon*, the novel *Into the Looking Glass*, the Empire of Man series with David Weber – *March Upcountry*, *March to the Sea*, *March to the Stars* and *We Few* and three collaborative spin-offs from the Posleen series – *Hero* (with Michael Z. Williamson), *Watch on the Rhine* (with Tom Kratman) and the New York Times best seller *Cally's War* (with Julie Cochrane). Recently out is *Vorpall Blade* (with Travis Taylor). Upcoming works include *Sister Time* (with Julie Cochrane) due in December, 2007 and *Manxome Foe* (with Travis Taylor) due in February, 2008.

Editor's note: I was listening to Emma Bull's reading at CopperCon, and was surprised to hear that this year's Guest of Honor is a character in her latest novel. Hmmm....some kind of strange tie-in? Maybe we'll learn more at the con....



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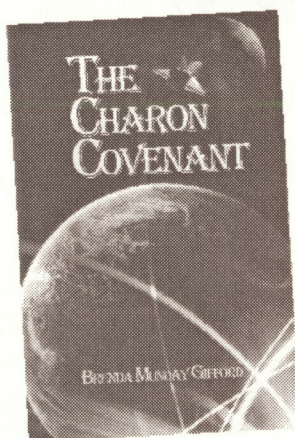
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It Came from Ed-er Space

(or, the Ed-ification of TusCon)

— Daniel Arthur

I'm sitting outside on our dilapidated, red concrete porch one monsoon Sunday morning, just after a light drizzle, and my wife Debbie pops up with:

"So have you done anything yet with that idea "It Came from Ed-er Space"?"

I smiled, and groaned, thinking, oh, that's right – that's hysterical.

"You know, you can always call up Wolf and borrow the film for research" she piped with a glint in her eye.

I smiled again. Any excuse to go visit Wolf was a good one. And what better?

Several weeks of procrastination later, I was eating some of Wolf's home-made spanikopita at Tish Haymer's annual Halloween party. The spanikopita was still warm, and mighty tasty. I asked Wolf, "you've got "It Came from Outer Space" right?" I mean, how could he not. Have you ever seen Wolf's film collection? Wall-to-wall videotapes crammed row-after-row in strangely-organized bookshelves, all lettered in microscopic print. However, there is some peripheral encroachment from his slowly-evolving DVD collection. (Yes, even Wolf has a DVD player now).

"Sure, I've got that, but it's on-loan" remarked Wolf. He was dressed as some kind of fiendish, scary monster in a red cape (I'm sure if you ask at the con, he'll tell you which monster).

"OK – I may need to make a run to Casa Video, then."

Well, if you haven't seen the film, it's based on a Ray Bradbury treatment about aliens who crash-land near the small Arizona town of Sand Rock. Unlike many sci-fi films of the fifties, the aliens were not hell-bent on subjugating Earth. They do control a few humans, but just long enough to fix their craft and get the hell out of Dodge, leaving the citizens no worse for the wear.

Enter Ed Bryant. Writer, editor, reviewer, movie star, teacher, preacher, lover, alpha male villain werewolf and who knows how many other incarnations reside in our annual TusCon Toastmaster. Once each year we get pretty darn lucky in Tucson, and after much cajoling in the form of e-mail and phone reminders from Sue Thing, he books air traffic to our dusty desert abode. For a few short days, we get mesmerized, too. We listen to Ed expound on subjects from all walks of life. His wit ever sharp, ever visceral. Meet the Authors Friday night at the con is one of my favorite times. Ed jaunts slowly to the center of the stage, wispy-haired, grabs the mike, smiles, and lets us have it. What newspaper clippings will he clutch with his notes? What tales? What measured barrage will he launch after the latest crazy piece of human

silliness or stupidity? (Heck, will he be wearing a tie? If he does, it's always a hoot. I like the shark tie, myself). About forty-five minutes to an hour of howling and chuckling from the crowd, Ed's always done too soon.

Then comes the rest of the con:

Midnight horror readings with such gems as "A Sad, Last Love at the Diner of the Damned" (still available as a chapbook, with an introduction by S.P. Somtow).

Panels, with Ed quietly expounding on a range of topics only dwarfed by the universe itself.

Sitting with Ed on the east steps of the old Executive Inn, slurping down Bruce Wiley's chili, wondering what the heck was in the bite you just ate.

Wondrous, casual, warm conversations, sometimes just listening, sometimes joining in.

The camaraderie. The laughter. The fun.

So whether or not you've met Ed before, stroll up and enjoy a mesmeric moment. He won't be around long. Before you know it his spacecraft will be ready to fly, and he'll leave us, peacefully safe, until the next year.



*Nine stories of love outside
the box, ranging from sweet to
sensual, spanning science fiction,
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"5 Stars"
*"... a fine addition to
any reader's keeper shelf"*

Sum3:
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Somewhen!**

*Featuring stories by
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*Copies of the book will be available from Frances
during the book signing session.*



BRING THE BROWNCOAT BALL TO ARIZONA IN 2009!!!!

Help us win the bid to put on the **BIGGEST CORRAM
SHINDIG** right here in the heart of the Old West.

What do we need?

We need donations and volunteers to help us coordinate convention parties, get the word out, and put together an awesome proposal.

Wanna help?

Contact Wendy Trakes
wtrakes@yahoo.com

Art Show

Calling all art lovers! Come see the fabulous artwork in this year's art show. Put a bid on a piece that you would like to own and then attend the art auction on Sunday. The art show will be open:

Friday 3:00 PM to 10:00 PM (closing 6:00–8:00 for meet the authors)
Saturday 10:00 AM to 10:00 PM
Sunday 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon

Any time changes will be posted at the art show. The auction will be Sunday at 1:00 PM, and you can pay for and pick up your artwork after the auction is over. We will be accepting cash, checks, and credit cards this year. If you are buying a piece for the direct sale price and need to leave early, arrangements can be made with the art show director for early payment and pickup. The art show director is known to have a fondness for dark chocolate and good coffee (this is a hint).

There will also be a print shop for those of us on a limited budget. Print shop purchases can be paid for at the time of purchase.

As always, there will be no food or drink, no photography (this includes those little camera-cell phones), no large bags, and no nether-realm demons allowed in the Art Show. Young children must be accompanied by an adult. Unaccompanied children will be turned over to the ConSuite for Sunday's chili.

If you have any questions about the show or would like to volunteer to help (please, please, please help), you can find me in the Art Show.

– Julie Hamann
Art Show Director

(Yes, I know, I was only going to do this for one year).



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Anime Room

Konichiwa!

As anime fans, we look at anime as a subculture, something far more than just a collection of videos. Our goal is to have a selection that offers something for everyone, with recent and classic favorites, plus those that appeal to a younger audience, as well as those that appeal to a mature audience. We will have a schedule posted on the door, but if the majority of our viewing audience wants to see something else, we will



be happy to accommodate. We will also be offering some Japanese live action fare, just to mix things up a bit. Plus, we will have drawing paper and supplies available for those who wish to sketch their favorite anime character or want to make origami. There may be other surprises in store, too... You'll just have to visit us and see for yourself. Dewa mata suguni ne! (See you soon!)

Hours:

Friday	2:00 pm – 12:00 midnight
Saturday	10:00 am – 12:00 midnight
Sunday	10:00 am – 3:00 pm

(Hours may change depending on staff/volunteer availability)

TusCon 34 ConSuite

The Consuite will be open:

Friday: 3:00 PM to late (closed for Meet the Authors 6:00–8:00 PM)
Saturday: 10:00 AM until I throw everyone out (closed 6:00–7:00 PM
for restocking)
Sunday: 10:00 AM to 7:00 PM

I would like to thank our sponsors this year: The Arizona Browncoats and Liz Danforth for their monetary contributions; and everyone who donated baked goods and other food. Your contributions helped make this year's ConSuite happen.

As always, ConSuite is dry (no alcohol).

The traditional make-your-eyes-water, clean-out-your-sinuses, makes-straight-wasabi-seem-mild chili will be served Sunday afternoon.



Pima County Public Library

I want to express my profound appreciation to the many people who helped make the "Sci Fi Pros on Sci Fi Prose" writing workshops a blazing success. These workshop-seminars took place at four Pima County Public Library branches during September and October, and drew about 180 Tucsonans and a half-dozen Phoenixians to hear professional SF/F and Horror writers share their knowledge and experience about the nuts and bolts of plying their craft.

In addition, many of the same people worked hard to make the TusCon 34 writing contest possible and successful. None of this would have happened but for the considerable efforts on the part of so many.

The Nerds and Geeks Interest Group

(NGIG Team at PCPL): Karen Barber, Maya Castillo, Leila Duncan, Shawn Flecken, Matt Landon, Mary Margaret Mercado, Rodney Moorhead, John Muñoz, Erica Nealon, Gabe Partlow, Michelle Richie, Dale Savage, Yvette Tang. Theresa Stanley left PCPL to pursue her PhD but her contributions were significant.

Other PCPL Staff: Anita Barrios, Jen Barry, Lynne Collins, Kathleen Dannreuther, Tom Farmer, Tanya Fernandes, Natalie Fruciano, Steffannie Koeneman, Harold Helies, Nancy Ledeboer, Brenda Limón, Gina Macaluso, Jen Maney, Beth Matthias-Loghry, Jere Voigt, Coni Weatherford, and all the staff who mentioned, posted, promoted, and helped attract the customers' attention to the library's events.

TusCon Committee: Daniel Arthur, Debbie Arthur, Avery Davis, Scott Glener, Brian Gross, Frances Gross, Julie Hamann, Nora Rankin, Christi Simila, Yvette Tang, Sue Thing, Bruce Wiley.

Authors: Emma Bull, Dennis L. McKiernan, Yvonne Navarro, Weston Ochse, Jennifer Roberson, Lorelei Shannon, John Vornholt, Timothy Zahn.

And finally, thanks to everyone who submitted stories to the contests!

I hope I have not missed anyone (and please forgive me if I have done so). Please know that you contributed to an important series of programs, and thank you again. Here's hoping we can do it again next year! – Liz Danforth



Illustration by Liz Danforth
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(ALURA/STSC/NASA)

What is a Browncoat?

Simply put, a Browncoat is a reference from director Joss Whedon's TV series *Firefly*. It refers to the simple brown coats that the rebels wore as uniforms while fighting a war that makes up much of the show's back story. They fought the attempts of the Alliance to unify the solar system under one rule and one way of thinking. We have adopted the term to represent ourselves as the fans of the mishandled *Firefly*, and its underappreciated movie counterpart *Serenity*, who continue to fight a modern media that tells us what to think and how to feel, preventing true storytelling from being embraced. Browncoats are more than a fandom. It is a community, a lifestyle, and most of all a close family of folks with one thing in common.

Where Are We Located?

Although we are based in Arizona, our group has spread across the country in part due to our lively online community. While most active members are in the greater Phoenix area, Tucson is home to a growing number of participants and Arizona Browncoats can be found in all parts of the state.

What's In The Future?

We have many events in the works currently, most of which are too early in planning to promote on a flyer (like bringing the Buffy Singalong to Phoenix and a science fiction event for children). Rest assured that the Browncoat movement is only just beginning and the best is yet to come despite our roots in cancelled television.

What Do We Do?

In 2006, the Arizona Browncoats held two charity screenings, one in Tucson and one in Tempe, of Joss Whedon's *Serenity* as part of the global *Can't Stop the Serenity* campaign, which included similar events held by Browncoat groups in 47 cities worldwide. Combined, the two Arizona screenings raised over \$9,000 for the charity Equality Now while the entire campaign brought in more than \$65,000. We are participating in the campaign this year again, sponsoring one screening in Tucson and one screening in the Phoenix area. Both screenings will also be donating twenty percent of their intake to local women's charities. The Tucson event will contribute to the Women's Foundation of Southern Arizona while the Tempe event will contribute to Growth Improvement for Female Teens (GIFT).

The screenings aren't all we do however. We are teamed up with The Loft Cinema in Tucson to host a Buffy The Vampire Slayer Musical Singalong which occurs every few months. We also hold regular social shindigs every month. Details on upcoming events can be found on our website.

Official Arizona Browncoats Website:

<http://www.arizonabrowncoats.com>

Community Email Group:

http://tv.groups.yahoo.com/group/AZ_Browncoats/

Joss Whedon News Blog:

<http://www.whedonesque.com>

Big Damn Board:

<http://www.bigdamnboard.com>



TusCon 34 Programming

30 years of Summer Blockbusters, how Star Wars rewrote cinema.

Chicks and Money and Power and Chicks: what drives you to write?

Cyborgs and the beehive mind, is this our future?

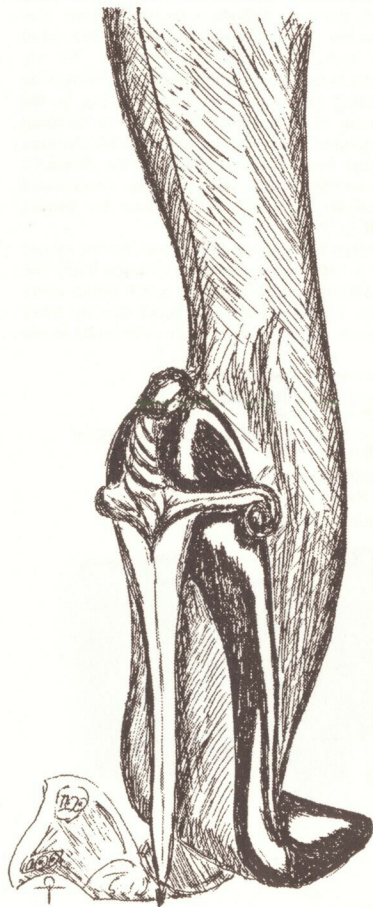
Do we really want to go there? Sex and violence in writing.

Does Caliber Really Matter? How much detail is too much?

Freezing or uploading? Which road to immortality would you choose?

Has the time come for human beings to practice Intelligent Design: better minds, better bodies and better lives through technology?

How will TV networks survive in a TiVo and YouTube world.



Killing Me Softly: Murdering your favorite characters for money and fame.

Men Are from Warcraft, Women are from The Sims: Sexual stereotypes in gaming.

Now that The Force is over 30 can we still trust it?

Once upon a million pages, the rise of the mega-story in genre.

Online Gaming: threat or menace?

Politics and your story, how to let your audience know what you think without alienating half of them.

Putting the 21st century on the map, what's happening in genre today that will be remembered in 25 years.

Reading During War, does the conflict you're reading actually relate to the conflict you're living?

Selling Technology to Technophobes, why is that even still a market?

Should genetic engineering be pursued to produce a service race? Planet of the Apes anyone?

Socially, will space colonies be like hippy communes or more like buttoned-down military bases?

Space Opera vs Military Fiction: is there a difference?

Staying alive after death, how to keep getting published after you're gone

The Borderlands of Science: Nanotech causing gray goo? Electricity causing monsters? Faster than Light travel? Where does the science leave off and the fantasy begin?

The Golden Age of Film: styles and context of the 30's and 40's.

The secret code of fandom, what do we say that gives us away?

The year in anniversaries, Heinlein is 100, Star Wars is 30, Blade Runner is 25, are these numbers cool or scary?

Will robots do almost all the work in the future? Can they? Will we let them?

Where's my fricken' Flying Car? What the prognosticators *didn't* get right.

Who remembers LPs? 25 years ago the first CD was sold, did anybody think it would change the world, has it actually changed the world?

Where's the Science?: What happened to the science in science fiction?

While the Nerds Partied, how much has Tucson changed during TusCon?

Writers Workshops: boon or bane?

You made the world, now you've got to write in it: important considerations when making a fictional world

You don't have to be an expert/rocket scientist/pilot/dominatrix to write about it, just a good researcher.

Please see the pocket program for additions, deletions and times.

Grad students from the future research sexual anthropology at a tawdry Tucson motel.

On an illegal jaunt 2,000 years into their past, they find motel owner Elmo Skinner, who watches his customers perform on hidden cameras. The experiment: drop Elmo's mind into the bodies of the people he's watching.



"The scorching heat of a Tucson summer keeps this story hurtling along... Well written, with believable characters and credible aliens/ alien technology, this book is science fiction for those who dislike endless space battles and prefer a deftly written novel about internal human conflicts and their resolutions."

—Carolyn Frank, SFRevu.com

"Reminiscent of Charles G. Finney's famous urban fantasy, *The Circus of Dr. Lao*, also set in Tucson almost 75 years ago...Gold has a nice ear for dialogue and clearly wants to say a lot."

—J.C. Martin, *Arizona Daily Star*

The Lamp Post Motel

slightly irregular science fiction by

Joe Gold

Check in at thelamppostmotel.com. Free podcast at Podiobooks.com.



May 9-11, 2008

Francisco Grande Hotel, Casa Grande, AZ
www.leprecon.org/lep34

Guests of Honor

Artist Howard Tayler

Authors Emily & Ernest Hogan

Local Artist Liz Danforth

FX/Makeup Artist David Ayres

LepreCon 34 will have many local and nationally known artists on hand for demos, workshops and panels. We'll also have many authors, scientists and other experts participating. We'll have Programming featuring panel discussions & presentations, Art Show & Auction, Dealer's Room, Gaming, Hospitality Suite, Charity Auction, & more.

**Memberships : \$35 thru 1/31/08,
\$40 thru 4/15/08, \$45 at the door
Kids 7-12 half price, Kids 6 & Under free**

**Francisco Grande Hotel & Golf Resort,
26000 W. Gila Bend Highway, Casa Grande, AZ
Room Rates: \$79 - \$129 +tax**

**LepreCon 34, PO Box 26665 Tempe, AZ 85285
(480) 945-6890 lep34@leprecon.org**

FiestaCon

July 2-5, 2009

Tempe Mission Palms, Tempe, AZ

www.fiestacon.org

FiestaCon Guests of Honor

Artist Todd Lockwood

Author Alan Dean Foster

Editor Stanley Schmidt

Fans Jim & Doreen Webbert

Toastmasters Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden

FiestaCon is the 62nd annual Westercon being held at the Tempe Mission Palms in downtown Tempe, Arizona, with a variety of nearby restaurants, nightlife, and shopping with easy access to the Phoenix Light Rail and a great view of the Tempe July 4th Fireworks!

**Membership Rates: \$50 attending thru 12/31/07,
\$55 thru 3/31/07, more later**

**Tempe Mission Palms, 60 E. Fifth St.,
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**Room Rates: \$119.00 per night S/D/T/Q plus tax
www.missionpalms.com**

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PO Box 26665, Tempe AZ 85285**

Phone: 480-945-6890

Email: fiestacon@leprecon.org

**Westercon is a registered service mark of the Los
Angeles Science Fantasy Society, Inc.**

TusCon 34 Video Room

The Grim Reaper wielded an efficient scythe this past year, laying waste to the carefully crafted plans of the film gorgons who look for cinematic excesses with which to fill your cranial coffers (and, speaking of the Grim Reaper, check out Sunday morning's offering of that name—perhaps the strangest film we've ever exhibited). A surfeit of tributes abounds this time around, and apologies to those we lost who, because of time constraints, lack of awareness, inability to find a film they were in that fits the parameters of this convention, or some

other inexcusable reason didn't make the cut this time around—those names include Phyllis "House of Wax" Kirk, Luciano "The Witches of Eastwick" Pavarotti, Don "Mr. Wizard" Herbert, Merv "Phantom of the Rue Morgue" Griffin, Richard "20,000

Leagues Under the Sea" Fleischer, Wally Schirra, Iwao "Scooby Doo" Takamoto, Roscoe Lee "Logan's Run" Browne, Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Yvonne De Carlo, Carlo Ponti, Robert Anton Wilson, Frankie Laine, Johnny "B.C." Hart,

Myoshi Umeki, Jane "Star Trek IV" Wyatt,

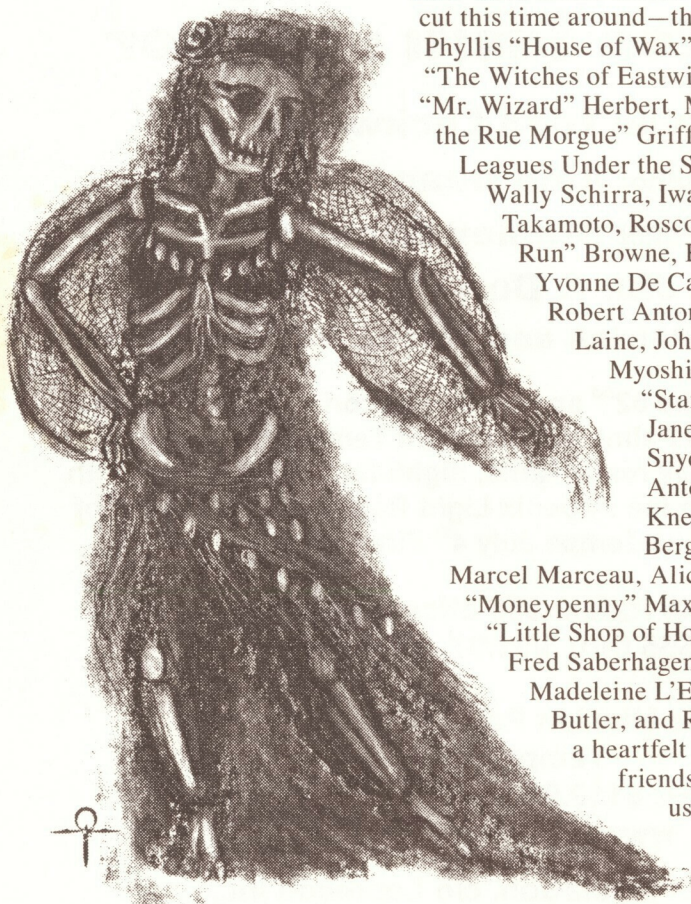
Jane Wyman, Tom Snyder, Michaelangelo Antonioni, Nigel Kneale, Ingmar Bergman, Bob Tucker,

Marcel Marceau, Alice Ghostley, Lois "Money Penny" Maxwell, Charles B.

"Little Shop of Horrors" Griffith, Fred Saberhagen, Jack Williamson, Madeleine L'Engle, Octavia

Butler, and Robert Jordan. And a heartfelt farewell to our dear friends Les Reese—lost to

us on September 29, and Jack Kirwan, vanquished on October 10.



AELITA, QUEEN OF MARS

USSR 1924 111 minutes NR Friday, 4 pm

An interesting bit of Soviet propaganda disguised as science fiction, and with some delightfully ornate Martian sets. A mysterious radio message is beamed to Earth and intercepted by Los, a Russian engineer who falls in love with Aelita, the aforementioned queen. The Martian regime is a totalitarian one, putting its workers

in cold storage when not needed. Los builds a spaceship to travel to the Red Planet, hopefully to put an end to the oppression, then learns the truth about his beloved and her way of life. This movie was so popular in post-Lenin Russia, that, for several years afterwards, Aelita was the number one name for newborn girls.

THE AMITYVILLE HORROR (*Stuart Rosenberg tribute*)

USA 1979 119 minutes R Saturday, 9:10 pm

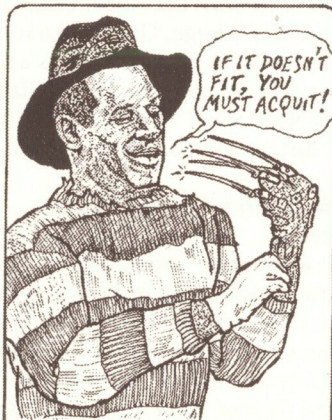
Rosenberg, who wrapped for eternity August 11, will probably best be remembered as the director of COOL HAND LUKE and THE POPE OF GREENWICH VILLAGE, but he shines admirably as well in this adaptation. James Brolin, Margot Kidder, and Rod Steiger star in Jay Anson's best-selling novel about a couple who find their dream house by a river's edge. But what kind of dreams are they? Never mind the six brutal murders that occurred there just a year before. A litany of possessed houses have graced the silver screen for years, in movies like THE HAUNTING, THE UNINVITED, HOUSE ON HAUNTED HILL, and last year's animated hit. Look at the movie MONSTER HOUSE again. Do you see a similarity?

THE BORROWERS

USA 1997 87 minutes PG Sunday, 8:30 am

John Goodman has been playing a lot of evil and repugnant characters lately—like Jabba the Hutt come to life. From his "Cyclops" in O BROTHER WHERE ART THOU, to his traveling salesman in BARTON FINK, he's no longer the affable showman of MATINEE. Here he's the foul Ocious P. Potter, a scheming lawyer determined to evict the Lender family from their home. What he doesn't realize is that the house is also inhabited by "the borrowers"—the tiny Clock family who have been using the Lenders' household items temporarily for years. They are just as determined to stop Potter using everyday gadgets in Rube Goldberg fashion—a toaster becomes a catapult, a dental floss container a backpack, and a tape measure an elevator. Charming fun from the series of books by Mary Norton.

NOW THAT O.J. SIMPSON IS BACK IN THE NEWS, WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF HE COULD RESURRECT HIS FILM CAREER, MARKED BY SUCH TREASURES AS CAPRICORN ONE AND NAKED GUN 2½?



IMAGINE—O.J. AS FREDDY KRUEGER IN A REMAKE TITLED "NIGHTMARE IN BRENTWOOD"



OR, O.J. AND BILL O'REILLY INSTEAD OF ROSEY GRIER AND RAY MILLAND IN A REMAKE OF "THE THING WITH TWO HEADS"!

THE BRAIN EATERS (Robert A. Heinlein 100th birthday tribute)

USA 1958 60 minutes NR Saturday, 8 pm

(sponsored by the Tucson Space Society)

Heinlein's lawsuit over this unauthorized version of his novel "The Puppet Masters" is well-documented. But instead of world governments in the 21st century battling aliens who want to control our identities, it's a small town whose way of life is threatened. Starring a pre-Star Trek Leonard Nimoy (spelled Nemoy in the credits), a pre-Peyton Place Ed Nelson, SPIDER BABY director Jack Hill, and writer Joanna Lee (who was Tanna in PLAN 9 FROM OUTER SPACE). Ed Nelson actually created the little fur-covered "space parasites" and applied pipe cleaner antennae. Now how threatening is that?

CEMETERY MAN aka DELLAMORTE DELLAMORTE

Italy/France 1994 99 minutes NR Saturday, 11:15 pm

What could make the job of a night watchman in a graveyard more interesting? What if he had to slaughter the dead as they rise hungrily from their graves? Rupert Everett is Francesco Dellamorte, whose life is also complicated by a tryst with a lusty young widow and an imbecile assistant who hankers for a partially devoured corpse. Directed by Michael Soavi (STAGE FRIGHT) with tongue firmly planted in cheek, and playing off the double meaning of the title ("dellamore" means 'of love', "dellamorte", 'of death'), the book "Gore Score" called it "a deliciously demented, delightfully surreal stew of sex, death, splatter, male-bonding, barfing, zombies, and nothing less than the Ultimate Meaning of Life."

THE COLOSSUS OF NEW YORK (Mala Powers tribute)

USA 1958 70 minutes NR Sunday, 12:30 pm

Mala Powers, who died June 11, was classy and elegant—she graced film and television for over sixty years, playing everything from Daniel Boone's wife to Roxanne in CYRANO DE BERGERAC (1950). As Anne Spensser, wife of scientist and humanitarian Jeremy (TV's Artemus Gordon—Ross Martin), she suffers the accidental death of her husband after he wins the Nobel Prize. Jeremy's father, a brilliant surgeon, put's his son's brain in a huge, Golem-like robot. The robot acquires Jeremy's gentle personality—initially. (This film also boasts a minimalist piano score by TWILIGHT ZONE contributor Van Cleave—the Philip Glass of his day) Powers' other genre credits include THE UNKNOWN TERROR (1957), which is infamous for its monster—-an Indian guide lurking in a cave covered with soapsuds!!!!

THE CONQUEROR (John Wayne 100th birthday tribute)

USA 1956 111 minutes NR Sunday, 6:45 pm

This film has probably appeared on as many "worst film of all time" lists as PLAN NINE FROM OUTER SPACE. However, both are enjoyably entertaining for similar reasons. The difference is budget. Produced by Howard Hughes and directed by Dick Powell, its notoriety comes on several fronts. First, Hughes shelved the picture after its initial release, and never sold the rights to television in his lifetime. Second, many of the cast and crew died of various forms of cancer, a likely result of shooting on location in Utah and Nevada near atomic testing sites. And thirdly, it is an unintentionally comic send-up of revisionist history. Wayne is Genghis Khan, spouting lines like, "I feel this Tartar woman is for me, and my blood says, take her!" ?????? An hysterical waste of a great cast, including Susan Hayward, Agnes Moorehead, and Lee van Cleef.

DRACULA (Jack Palance tribute)

USA 1973 100 minutes NR Friday, 10:40 pm

What director Dan (DARK SHADOWS) Curtis did is give Stoker's novel some teeth. And Palance (who "died" the first time on the day of TusCon 33's opening last year, November 10) with his Slavic cheekbones and imposing presence, puts his interpretation of the bloody Count up there with Lugosi and Lee. Curtis was riding a personal wave of successful horror-for-television exercises, including *THE NIGHT STRANGER*, *TRILOGY OF TERROR*, and *THE NORLISS TAPES* during the 70's, and his signature flourishes are evident here. A fine supporting cast of Simon Ward, Nigel Davenport, and Fiona Lewis, exquisite interiors and a Gothic landscape, and a script by Richard Matheson make this film a pleasure to watch. There is a fun continuity error involved when Dracula overturns Lucy's coffin. See if your bloodshot eyes can spot it.

EQUINOX

USA 1970 82 minutes NR Saturday, 10 am

Before Dennis Muren became involved with George Lucas on *STAR WARS*, he and a group of other filmmakers, including stop-motion animators Jim Danforth and David Allen, produced a monster picture for \$6,500 in 1967. It was called *THE EQUINOX: A JOURNEY INTO THE SUPERNATURAL*, and told the story of four teenagers who venture into the California woods. They find an ancient book that contains secrets of a strange and malevolent world that coexists with our own. Similarities to the Cthulhu Mythos are readily apparent, but the filmmakers claimed it was based on *CURSE OF THE DEMON*. The giant Taurus resembles Harryhausen's Ymir in so many ways, and there are homages to his *JASON AND THE ARGONAUTS*, as well as *INVASION OF THE BODY SNATCHERS*. The film was picked up for distribution by producer Jack Harris (*THE BLOB*), and extra footage was shot for theatrical release in 1970. Fantasy writer Fritz Leiber has a small part as the mysterious Dr. Watermann, who holds the key to that hideous tome.

FOUR FLEISCHER SUPERMAN CARTOONS

USA 1941-43 36 minutes NR Sunday, 1:45 pm

A stunning quartet from the Golden Age of Animation – *THE MECHANICAL MONSTERS*, *JAPOTEURS*, *THE MUMMY STRIKES*, and *JUNGLE DRUMS* capture the deft character shading and Deco backgrounds different from competing studios, with future game show host Bud Collyer supplying the voice of the Man of Steel, as he did on radio. The flying robot jewel thieves in *THE MECHANICAL MONSTERS* inspired the ones in *SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW*. *THE MUMMY STRIKES* is reworking of the Tutankhamen curse. *JAPOTEURS* and *JUNGLE DRUMS* are typical of the wartime mood, illustrating America's attitude towards its enemies by embracing ethnic and cultural stereotypes—particularly the Peter Lorre-inspired "Mr. Moto" clone in *JAPOTEURS*. The Nazis in *JUNGLE DRUMS*—well, they're just Nazis!!!!!!

THE GHOUL

Great Britain 1933 80 minutes NR Sunday, 2:25 pm

Boris Karloff went back to his native England briefly, before returning to make *THE BLACK CAT*, for this Gaumont-British Pictures production, a curious amalgamation of *THE MUMMY* and *THE OLD DARK HOUSE* (and he even re-teams with *HOUSE* star Ernest Theisiger). It was the first horror film of the sound era for Britain. Karloff is an Egyptologist with a house this author would kill for—

check out his study and other accoutrements! His acquisition of a stolen jewel brings out the curse-mongers, and as he lay dying he receives a promise from his manservant to bury the jewel with him in his special tomb, believing it will grant him eternal life. Chaos ensues when the revived, zombie-like Karloff stalks his house to punish those who would retrieve the artifact. Very moody and atmospheric. If you like the old Universal, you'll probably like this one.

THE GRIM REAPER (*Jerry Falwell tribute*)

USA 1976 60 minutes NR Sunday, 10:00 am

Jerry Falwell, who died May 15 (and who will never besmirk the name of Tinky Winky again) appears as guest sermoner, as well as Jack van Impe (who seems to be channeling the hysterical propheteer Criswell) and Drew Carey clone Bob Cray. Mere words fail to adequately describe this film, which falls into the sub-genre category of "Christploitation flicks" (yeah, there ARE others). Christian scare films are not new — they resemble those driver's ed crash movies you had to watch after your first accident as a teenager. But the depiction of Hell is worth the price of admission. The plot? Oh, there's a funeral for Frankie, a young man who died during a stock-car racing accident. He never accepted Jesus as his personal savior, so, guess what? Now his Dad will try anything to redeem Frankie's soul, from contacting a spiritualist (with hilarious results), to visiting Frankie's own Personal Hell, with Satan and the Witch of Endor doing shtick. Produced and directed by Ron Ormond.

HERCULES AND THE PRINCESS OF TROY (*Gordon Scott tribute*)

USA 1965 48 minutes NR Saturday, 5:40 pm

Gordon Scott, cinema's Tarzan for much of the 1950s, swung from his last vine April 30. In the 60s, he moved to the realm of sword and sandal pics, and was tabbed by Joseph E. Levine, producing a series for TV, to star as the legendary strongman, with direction from Albert (I BURY THE LIVING) Band. It didn't fly, but the pilot contains a terrific sea monster built by Carlo (E.T., ALIEN) Rambaldi. The monster is menacing the virgins of Troy — and Hercules, aided by Ulysses and Diogenes, seek to tame the beast and free Princess Diana (Diana Hyland), the monster's next victim. You see, her uncle Petra is keeping her from her rightful place on the throne — not a nice man.

IT! THE TERROR FROM BEYOND SPACE (*Dabbs Greer tribute*)

USA 1958 70 minutes NR Saturday, 6:35 pm

Cited by many critics as the inspiration for Ridley Scott's ALIEN, IT!'s premise is deceptively simple — a rescue ship sent to Mars in that far-off time of 1973 to recover the crew of a previous expedition, finds only Colonel Edward Carruthers recounting his story of how his crew was slaughtered by a blood-drinking, indigenous vampire — which then proceeds to stow away aboard the earthbound rescue ship. The alien, whose facial features actually resemble a vampire bat, was created by monster maker extraordinaire Paul Blaisdell, and played by cowboy star Ray "Crash" Corrigan (whose protruding jaw can be seen in the monster's mouth!). Greer, who died April 28, and whose 260 film and television credits from 1949-2003 make him instantly recognizable, plays crew member Eric Royce.

JOE'S APARTMENT (*Don Ho tribute*)

USA 1996 80 minutes PG-13 Friday, 9:10 pm

Don Ho, who was taken away in a sea of tiny bubbles April 14, plays against his gentle humor in this film by portraying New York slumlord Albert Bianco, using

his ebony and ivory sons Jesus and Vlad as tools of eviction. He's in cahoots with Senator Dougherty (Robert Vaughn), who wants some property for the world's largest prison. Trouble is, Joe (Jerry O'Connell) has just moved from the midwest into a filthy dive that's located on the very property the Senator wants. Joe's roommates are about 40,000 singing and dancing cockroaches. Joe is also in love with the Senator's daughter, who wants the property for her organic garden. The roaches love Joe. They want to help Joe. This was the first movie produced by MTV, expanded from director John Payson's acclaimed featurette which appeared on that channel.

THE MONOLITH MONSTERS

USA 1957 78 minutes NR Saturday, 1:15 pm

A truly unique entry into the logbook of SF films of the 50s, often overcrowded with giant bugs, unsympathetic aliens, and nuclear paranoia. From a story by Jack Arnold, and using footage from his *IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE*, TMM opens with a meteor that crashes into the desert, scattering its shards across the landscape—which then grow into towering crystals after coming in contact with water. Grant Williams (*THE INCREDIBLE shrinking MAN*) is the intrepid geologist/hero who must also deal with teacher/love interest Lola Albright as he figures out a way to stop the marauding space needles that kill every living thing they touch. Patty Duke's TV Dad William Schallert has a bit comic role.

NIGHT TIDE (*Curtis Harrington tribute*)

USA 1961 84 minutes NR Saturday, 4:10 pm

Died on May 6 (the 70th anniversary of the Hindenburg disaster). Harrington, remembered for *GAMES* and *QUEEN OF BLOOD*, provided a sensitivity to his material somewhat lacking in his contemporaries. Dennis Hopper is a sailor who falls in love with a mermaid, falling neatly into a box framed by films like *MR. PEABODY AND THE MERMAID* (1948) and *SPLASH* (1984). But it isn't a comedy. It's a moody and atmospheric grimoire of lost love and romantic fatalism, particularly because the mermaid also has transmutative powers. The film is capped by the appearance of Marjorie Cameron as the Water Witch—who, in real life, was an acolyte of occult practitioner Aleister Crowley. The Santa Monica pier which appears in this movie was also used as a backdrop for *THE LOST BOYS* (1987).

QUINTET (*Robert Altman tribute*)

USA 1979 118 minutes R Friday, 2:00 pm

Altman, who lensed his last on November 20, 2006, was a true American director, in the mold of John Ford, Frank Capra, Howard Hawks, and John Frankenheimer. His fluidity with different genres is demonstrated by this offering. *QUINTET* is often criticized as weak and slow-moving, but the cinematography by Jean Boffety and the sets are first-rate. Starring Paul Newman and Bibi Andersson (a fixture in Ingmar Bergman films—now there's a tribute to him by one degree of separation) and filmed at the site of Expo '67 in Montreal, it ponders the plight of the world during an apocalyptic ice age, and as microcosm focuses on a group of individuals holed up in a building playing a game of Quintet to the death, while outside feral dogs feast on the frozen corpses of those who have already succumbed to the elements, and to the game...



THE SEVENTH VOYAGE OF SINBAD (Kerwin Mathews tribute)

USA 1958 88 minutes G Sunday, 3:50 pm

Mathews fought his last fantasy battle on July 5, succumbing to a heart attack. In this film, as in *JACK THE GIANT KILLER* and the *THREE WORLDS OF GILLIVER*, he is the boyish spawn of Errol Flynn – conquering worlds and defeating outrageous creatures. The deft hand of Ray Harryhausen as stop-motion animator gives credibility to this marvelous Arabian Nights offering. Sinbad encounters a two-headed roc, a cyclops, a dragon, and a sword-wielding skeleton in his quest to save the princess Parisa from the evil magician Sokurah. Richard Eyer is the boy-genie who inhabits the lamp that Sokurah is trying to recover – as clean-cut and helpful a Djinn as one could hope to find in this troubled world.

STRANGE INVADERS (Charles Lane and Bobby “Boris” Pickett tribute)

USA 1983 93 minutes PG Saturday, 2:35 pm

Charles Lane died July 9 at 102 – the oldest living character actor. Bobby “Boris” Pickett, best remembered as the creator of the hit song “Monster Mash”, did the *Graveyard Stomp* April 25. Lane is the crusty Professor Hollister, who teaches astronomy at the same university with entomologist Professor Bigelow (Paul Le Mat). Bigelow has discovered a sinister alien plot that occurred in 1958, taking him to his wife’s hometown in Illinois, and then to the offices of a sleazy tabloid in New York, where he and a ditz reporter (Nancy Allen) discover a conspiracy rife with mind-bending implications. Pickett plays Allen’s editor at the newspaper office—a brief scene with no dialogue is all we get!!! This film is an entertaining tribute to invasion films of the 1950s, complete with in-jokes and appearances by genre stars Kenneth Tobey (*THE THING*, *THE BEAST FROM 20,000 FATHOMS*) and June (LOST IN SPACE) Lockhart. Great effects and makeup make this a fun romp.

THE X-FILES: “Jose Chung’s From Outer Space” (Charles Nelson Reilly tribute)

USA 1996 45 minutes NR Friday, 6:10 pm

Most remember Reilly as a perennial game-show fixture. True, he met his “match” on May 25, but also did tons of light comedy and theatre also. He takes a dark and serious turn here as well-known novelist Jose Chung, trying to document an incident of abduction on a lonely country road in Klass County after Mulder and Scully hit a wall. Is it an abduction, a government conspiracy, or an alien abduction of government conspiracists? There are cameos by wrestler/governor Jesse Ventura and *JEOPARDY!* host Alex Trebek as “Men in Black”.

YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (Peter Boyle and William Tuttle tribute)

USA 1974 106 minutes PG Saturday, 11:25 am

Mel Brooks has ruined *BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN* (but, in a good way) for legions of film buffs who can’t watch James Whale’s classic, especially the scene with the blind hermit, and not think of Gene Hackman in Brooks’ loving send-up of Universal’s horror series. And to get Kenneth Strickfaden’s original laboratory equipment, constructed in the 1930s, for YF was a major coup in lending authenticity to the film. We lost Peter Boyle on December 12, 2006 and makeup artist William Tuttle (*THE TIME MACHINE*, *THE SEVEN FACES OF DR. LAO*) on July 27 this year. Both talents, as well as the terrific ensemble cast of Gene Wilder, Teri Garr, Madeline Kahn, Marty Feldman, and Kenneth Mars make this film one of the best-loved comedies of the past thirty-three years. Seda-give????

ZOMBIES OF MORA TAU (Bernard Gordon tribute)

USA 1957 70 minutes NR Sunday, 5:25 pm

Gordon, writing on this film as Raymond T. Marcus, was one of the last surviving writers of the Hollywood blacklist. His protest against Elia Kazan's Oscar made him no new friends in the Establishment, and his passing on May 11 closed a chapter in one of film history's darkest hours. His other genre credits include EARTH VS. THE FLYING SAUCERS, DAY OF THE TRIFFIDS, and the MAN WHO TURNED TO STONE. His unique slant to this script involves the undead who are somewhat amphibious – actually sailors that went down with their ship off the coast of Africa some sixty years before, guarding an underwater treasure that is sought by a quartet of unsavory characters, including the voluptuous Allison Hayes. It's "B" programmer with a cheesecloth plot, but a bigger body count than you would expect for an hour and ten minutes, and a brisk pace that makes it watchable. Trivia: Karl "Killer" Davis, the first zombie seen in the roadway, was one of the ten strongmen involved in a tug of war with Mighty Joe Young in the 1949 version.

ZOTZ! (Tom Poston tribute)

USA 1962 86 minutes NR Saturday, 8:30 am

Poston was the quintessential, lovable nebbish in tons of TV sitcoms for forty years. His death on April 30 marked the end of an era. Together with Louis Nye (who appears in this film as a nutty inventor) and Don Knotts, they were part of Steve Allen's "Man on the Street" hilarious skits in the 1950s. As Professor Jonathan Jones, etymologist at a California university, he acquires a mysterious coin that has the power to cause pain to living things when he holds it and points his finger, slow their movements when he utters "Zotz!", and if he does both – well, the results are too terrible to mention. Naturally this Cold war era comedy has its usual military brass and Russian spies who want the medallion for their own nefarious purposes. A great cast includes Jim Backus and Margaret Dumont(!). William Castle directed, a departure from his usual gimmick-laden scare fests.

"Life is an obscure hobo, bumming a ride on the omnibus of art. Burn gas buggies and whip your sour cream of circumstance."

- Julian Burton, as beatnik Maxwell H. Brock, in the Charles B. Griffith-scripted A BUCKET OF BLOOD (1959)



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Video Room - Late Night

(Friday & Saturday)

NOCHNOY DOZOR (aka NIGHT WATCH)

(2004) Rated R 114 min

Director Timur Bekmambetov's film adaptation of Sergei Lukyanenko's fantasy novel about a confrontation between two opposing supernatural groups (known as "Others"): The Night Watch, an organization that seeks to improve the world—but is not totally perfect and selfless either—and The Day Watch, which champions a Nietzschean "every man for himself" philosophy and attitude, and fights any Night Watch attempt to limit personal freedom. Stunning visuals: this film was the first big-budget Russian fantasy film and one of the first blockbusters made after the collapse of the Soviet film industry. Russian with English subtitles.

PAROXISMUS (aka VENUS IN FURS)

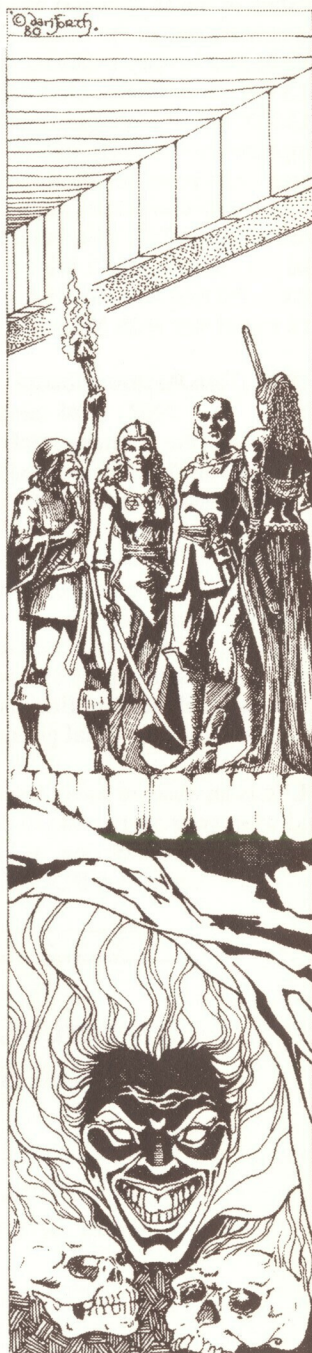
(1970) Rated R 86 min

Director Jesus Franco's erotic, mood-driven piece follows jazz trumpeter Jimmy (James Darren), who discovers the body of a mutilated woman (Maria Rohm) on the beach. The woman seems strangely familiar to him, and when he sees her again – very much alive – he becomes sexually obsessed with her. Not a good idea, as the mysterious beauty's returned from the grave on a deadly mission. Klaus Kinski, Barbara McNair and Margaret Lee costar. In memory of actress/singer Barbara McNair 03/04/34 – 02/04/07.

THE BEACH GIRLS AND THE MONSTER

(1965) Not Rated 70 min

Actor Jon Hall ("The Invisible Man's Revenge") directs himself as oceanographer Dr. Otto Lindsay, as a series of murders seems to have been committed by some sort of sea monster. Most of the interior shots were filmed at director Jon Hall's own house. Sid & Marty Krofft



regular (Enik from "Land of The Lost") Walker Edmiston stars as Mark and also made the statues and co-wrote the theme song "Monster in the Surf". In memory of Walker Edmiston 02/06/25 - 02/15/2007.

PATRICK

(1978) Rated PG 112 min

Australian shocker where a young man (Robert Thompson) lies comatose in a small, private hospital, where the only motion he can muster is involuntary spitting. When a young nurse, recently separated from her husband, begins working at the hospital, she senses that Patrick is trying to communicate with her psychically. Soon after, the men (and women) in her life mysteriously begin to die. In memory of director Richard Franklin 07/15/48 - 07/11/07.

Plus... episodes of the new Doctor Who spin-off starring Elisabeth Sladen and created by Russell T. Davies:

THE SARAH JANE ADVENTURES

01 "Invasion of the Bane" 60min

02 "Revenge of the Slitheen" 50min

03 "Eye of the Gorgon" 50min

04 "Warriors of Kudlak" 50min

05 "Whatever Happened to Sarah Jane?" 50min

Plus other assorted goodies all night Friday & Saturday!

REQUESTING ASSISTANCE

From anyone who would like to help assemble the History of TusCon. Need photos, anecdotes, and other trivia. You will be given credit for your information.

Please contact Carol De Priest at: depriest3@cox.net

Web site: <http://www.TusConFan.com/index.htm>

CONTRIBUTIONS GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED



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FAREWELL TO A DEAR FRIEND – LES REESE

Les Reese left this world on September 28, 2007 in Albuquerque's University of New Mexico Hospital after a 3 week stay in the ICU following an ATV accident. He is survived by his wife Janna Scott.



A picture of Les with Weston Ochse. I took this photo at the World Horror Convention in Seattle, Washington in May of 2001. This is how I always remember Les – smiling, happy, and someone you always looked forward to talking with and seeing.

–Yvonne Navarro

My oldest memory of Les is books and gaming. I remember a room at the top of the old Student Union, with Charlie McCampbell and Les, a pile of books – and miniatures. Les and books were always together, and his smile, his enthusiasm, his glasses and his hair are entwined in my memories.

– Cristi Simila

I first met Les at the U of A in Feb., of 1976. It was during DesertCon 4 and Les was the Chair. Because of that convention, I decided to volunteer for DesertCon 5. That Con and ConCom had several effects on my life: I've been involved with running Cons ever since, I made friendships that last to this day, and I met Frances, who later became my wife. Thank you, Les!

Later on, Les came to play D&D in a campaign I ran for a few years. His adventures as the evil but hapless Lizardman, Evirude, (with his faithful Centaur sidekick, Magnolia) often were so hilarious that everyone in the room was paralyzed with laughter. That was the effect Les had on people – a few minutes after Les arrived, he would have everyone laughing. Les and I continued to game, off and on, throughout the years that we knew each other. Thank you, Les!

Later, around 1990, Les roped me into helping start up a new historical recreation group called the Arizona Medieval Society (AMS). With Les's usual irony, our unofficial motto was "We don't have fun." The truth was just the opposite! The group decided to focus on the Conquistador period, to tie it into local history, and we had a blast participating in several local historical events. Our biggest adventure was when we naively decided to go for something spectacular and, on its 450th anniversary, recreate the Entrada of Coronado across the state of Arizona – using period clothes, equipment and food. We not only accomplished this over some very rough terrain, we actually had a great time doing it. It was physically arduous, but I wouldn't trade that experience for anything! Thank you, Les!

Most recently, Les and I both became interested in writing SF/F/H fiction and for awhile were in the same writing critique group. I had the privilege of seeing Les's work before anyone else did and cheered him on when his first stories were published, just as he did for me when my first story was accepted. For this and everything else, thank you, Les!

– Brian Gross

Jeeze, you'd think as a writer I'd be better at this. Here are the completely inadequate words I came up with to honor Les. In case you don't have this info, his full name was Leslie Stephen Reese, 2-18-1955 to 9-28-2007.

I first met Les 32 years ago, when I joined the committee for DesertCon, a science-fiction convention sponsored by the University of Arizona. He was the chairman. I'm sorry to say I didn't get to know Les very well back then. He thought I was a silly freshman. (He was right.) I thought he was kind of scary and strange. (I was young and stupid.) But fortunately, life brought us back together again, and I found out he wasn't scary at all. Strange, yes, but in a good way.

Several years later, we were in a writing critique group together. His tales of psychological horror were creepy and moving. Les gave perceptive feedback, accepted criticism with an open mind, and always strove to improve his craft. Long after that group dissolved, he continued to encourage me. He was as happy for my successes as he was for his own, and he took my defeats harder than I did.

Words are completely inadequate to describe a friend who had such an inquiring mind, generous heart, and adventurous spirit. He was one of the good guys. I wish I had another 32 years to know him better.

— Frances Robertson Gross

Les sought me out at my first convention, a local convention called TusCon (2000). He'd read all of my early work, and frankly seemed to be the only one at this convention who had. He was endearing and positive in his description of what he liked about my characters and plot. His very presence made the convention easier for me, especially when I had to hold my own in panels where Laurell K. Hamilton was the only other member. I was a nobody and he made me feel like a somebody.

I next saw Les at World Horror Convention in Denver (2001). He'd bought a copy of *Scary Rednecks* and loved it. He told me, to my extreme surprise, that seeing me was the main reason he'd traveled to Denver. I was pretty damn humbled and our time together in Denver cemented a friendship between us that would last through four more World Horror Cons, my marriage to Yvonne, his marriage to Janna, his trip to England and his personal travails with family and work in Tucson. We'd go months without e-mailing or talking, but when we saw each other it was as if we'd only been apart a week or so.

Les was a caregiver by trade. He worked at several hospitals over the years in and around Tucson. He extended this care giving to his friends and favorite authors. I know I'm not the only author who'd experienced Les's exuberance and delight when he'd read something new of ours. And Les, in his special way, made sure we knew how happy he was that we'd written the words, as if we'd done it only for him. Thinking about that now, we might just have, for its friends and fans like Les that keep me going as an author.

Les was a bigfoot of a man: scraggly beard, bright eyes, wide smile. He cast a long shadow and had arms to embrace us all. When he passed away from complications of an ATV accident in New Mexico and I wished that my arms were long enough to embrace him one last time.

Thank you, Les, for being a friend and a fan.

The world is worse for your passing.

My words are less without you.

— Weston Ochse

That detestable pair of thieves, Time and Chance, have robbed us of a loved and valued friend. Les Reese is no longer with us.

Les was a fellow fan, gamer, history buff, and hiking buddy. It's futile to try packaging a life in a few sentences; so, we'll go with some impressions:

- Les trudging the halls of a convention, with books and manuscripts tucked under an arm, looming over people with that great height and I-know-something grin.
- His big hands painting the harness buckles on a two-inch-tall late Republican Roman legionary figure, or touching up battle-damage details on a tiny Luftwaffe bomber.
- Popping peanut-butter M&Ms with Les on the top of Mount Kimball, having just crawled up the last few meters of Finger Rock trail in the Catalinas, and having a scholarly dispute with him about which finger Finger Rock was holding up (having experienced that trail for the first time, Eric voted for the middle one).
- Les as Private Pedro, taking part in a public lecture on the Conquistadores, in ragged 16th-Century clothes and a battered helmet, leaning on a spear, and showing that grin again.
- Marching northward along an abandoned railroad along the San Pedro river, under the wildest thunderstorm we have ever experienced, puffing along after Les, as he covers the ties two at a time with his deliberate Ent- strides.

Ave, Les! You will be sorely missed. We'll close ranks as best we can, and soldier on.

— Sue and Eric Thing

Les: guileless, enthusiastic champion of people. A man who could see the human condition, deal with it and still see the goodness around him. A “romantic” in the age of cynicism.

How I enjoyed our prolonged visits in the grocery store where we would check the contents of our shopping baskets to be sure that nothing would melt or rot while we spoke of all that had happened since the last time we discovered we were shopping at the same store at the same hour.

“Life” quieted and minutes passed while we talked about health and legalities, home maintenance and family issues, and writing, and what we last read, and happy plans and past conventions . . . significant and semi-significant minutiae that we shared knowing that this time and this connection was important to both of us.

I will look for you, Les, in that grocery store, in my home, and at conventions and other places where I might expect to see you and I will feel this loss afresh. You were a gift and gone too soon.

– Martha Lee McKiernan

I first met Les at TusCon, I think. This tall, gawky gentle soul, full of laughter and smiles and abiding interests. I found that he was a reader, a gamer, a painter of miniature figurines for his games, a gun enthusiast, especially for historical weapons from the revolutionary war onward, and a writer of horror.

And speaking of his written work, I remember how almost childlike and shy he was when he told me that he had been published. A short story. For an anthology, I think.

I asked to read his tale, and he brought it to me as Martha Lee and I sat in the courtyard near the swimming pool at one of the TusCons, back at the old motel on Drachman where it was held that year.

I read it aloud to Martha Lee, noting the wonderful rhythm of the prose, while Les sat nearby in rapt attention. (Yeah, he was a writer all right, for nothing is as good as one’s own prose.)

Les and his truelove Janna came to our “orphan” meals, gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas and other events, where we invite close friends who do not have folks living nearby. These gatherings often number fifteen, sixteen people, and these are get-togethers where laughter and serious discussions exist side by side.

Les always seemed to show up with a musket or Sharpe’s rifle or pistol or some such, items that became attractions for those of us who write as well as many of us who don’t. We would handle and aim and see how to load and look at the firing mechanisms and such, Les beaming as he explained the workings.

Les also is responsible for adding several figurines and the two towers to my own miniatures for use in my group's role-playing games. You see, we had that in common.

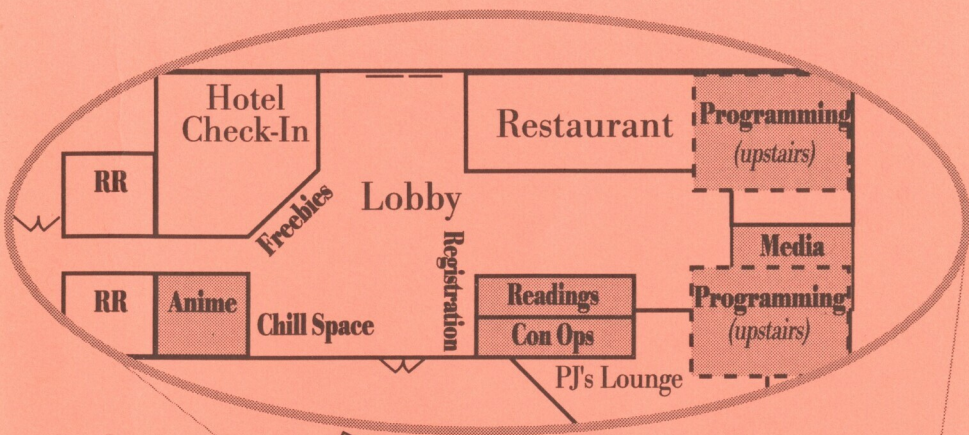
When Les and Janna were married, they managed to make me a "village elder," and they asked for my blessing to their union. I was floored by the gesture, and how could I not bless that which all could see was meant to be?

This village elder will dearly miss his beaming face and smiles and laughter and enthusiasms at our next orphan meal. His is a dreadful loss.

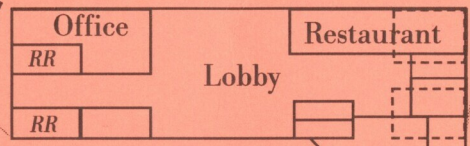
Godspeed, Les, wherever you are.

— Dennis McKiernan

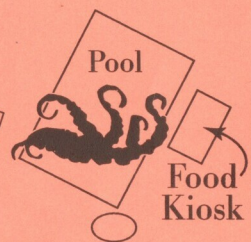




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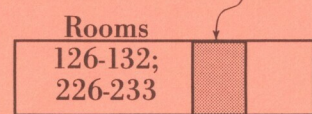
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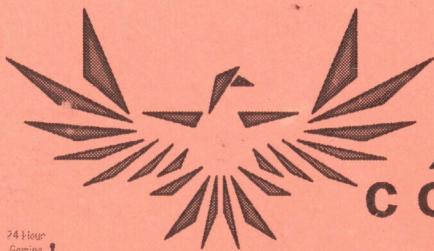


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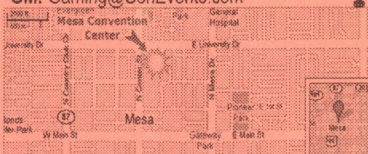
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