



STATEMENT

The Monthly Newsletter of the Ottawa Science Fiction Society. Established 1977.

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Ottawa Science Fiction Society

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OSFS Logo..... Bruce Wright
Cover Artist ..Janet Hetherington

Web Site

<http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/osfs/>

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**BEST
DESTINY**

**ETERNAL
Romance**



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FEBRUARY 1999

#259

WHAT'S ON IN OTTAWA FANDOM

- Feb 6 Who Cares (open)
Feb 14 Lyngarde Writers' Group, 1:30 p.m., Hildegarde Henderson, 481 Besserer St., 241-0089
Feb 20 Who Cares (open)
Feb 27 APAplexy Collation, Richard Smith, 237-9766
Feb 28 **OSFS General Meeting** – 2:00 p.m., Dalhousie Community Ctr., 755 Somerset St. West, ground floor. "MOXIE", the FedEx Files II, written and filmed by MonSFFA.
Mar 2 **OSFS Executive meeting**, 7:30 p.m., 1785 Riverside Dr.
Mar 6 Who Cares: Joel Polowin, 18 Norice St., 727-6379
Mar 14 Lyngarde Writers' Group, 1:30 p.m., Hildegarde Henderson, 481 Besserer St., 241-0089
Mar 20 Who Cares (open)
Mar 28 **OSFS General Meeting** – 2:00 p.m., Dalhousie Community Ctr., 755 Somerset St. West, ground floor. Magic with Chris Pilsworth, a magician of note will educate and entertain us on the subject of Magic.
Apr 3 APAplexy collation, 7:30 p.m.

EDITORIAL YAWL

With the winter blahs settling in, everyone's creativity is down a bit. Or a lot. But more contributions to this newsletter would be a Good Thing — reviews, news items, letters, whatever... Thanks very much to those who've sent in material.

Joel Polowin, Interim Editor

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

APAplexy	Richard Smith	237-9766
APArition	Chris Roberts	521-7536
CONCINNITY	Marjorie McKenna	749-3436
Friends of Lulu (Comics)	Janet Hetherington	733-0585
Klingon Assault Group	Art McKenzie (Ottawa)	747-7919
Lyngarde Writers Group	Hildegarde Henderson	241-0089
Mensa	Kerry Surman	723-0795
Ottawa Fandom Inc	Joseph Casey	749-4755
Star Wars & S.F. Collectors	Tom Wright	225-0120
Who Cares (Location Info.)	Grant Duff	232-5523
SFBB (SYSOP)	David Friend	829-1209

CORRECTIONS TO OSFS DIRECTORY 1999

Under Members:

Lenahan, Wayne 2066 Blackfriars Rd.
Stevens, boB & Wendy

<robwendy@nbnet.nb.ca>

A Worm's Eye View of Recent Meetings

A panel about "Women in SF" at the meeting was attended by a dozen or so people, with about twice as many men as women.

OSFS was well represented at the National Capital Freenet birthday party. Some members were there on our behalf; others attended in support of the NCF itself, others for other interests.

Sandi Marie's art presentation for the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada included several nifty new paintings.

— Ann Elid

CONVENTIONS

Compiled by Beulah Wadsworth and Joel Polowin

Submissions by:

Janet Hetherington – Comic Cons & Shows
Charles Mohapel – Locus & SF Chronicle
Duncan MacGregor – Rutgers U. con list
John Mansfield – ConTRACT, (Can. Cons)
516 Portage Av. Winnipeg MB, R3C 0G2

Prices are in local currency.

* = New or changes since last list.

1999

GALLIFREY:1999. Van Nuys, CA, Feb. 12-15; Membs: \$40 to 1/31/99; \$45 at door. GoH's: Nicholas Courtney, Joe Straczynski, Stephen Cole, Gary Russell, Paul Cornell, Maggie Egan, Casey Biggs, Bill Baggs, Philip Segal; Venue: Airtel Plaza Hotel, Valjean Ave. & Sherman Way, Van Nuys, CA; 818-997-7676; rms: \$95 sngl-quad. Theme: Dr. Who. Info: Gallifrey Conventions, PO Box 3021, N. Hollywood, CA 91609; 818-752-3756; info@gallifreyone.com.

BOSKONE 36 – Framingham, MA; Feb 12-14, Membs: \$35 to 15/1/99; GoH: Connie Willis, AgoH: Stephen Youll; Venue:

Sheraton Tara Hotel, Framingham, MA; Info: Boskone 36, PO Box 809, Framingham, MA 01701-0809; 617-625-2311;

boskone@nesfa.org.

COSTUMECON XVII. Cherry Hill, NJ, Feb 12-15; Membs: \$65 until 1/15/99, more later; Venue: Cherry Hill Hilton, 2349 West Marlton Pike, Cherry Hill, NJ 08002; 609-665-6666; rms: \$79 sngl/dbl, \$89 trpl, \$99 quad. Theme: costuming; \$25 supporting; Info: CostumeCon XVII, PO Box 34739, Philadelphia, PA 19101; email: cccxvii@aol.com; URL: <http://www.libertynet.org/~dvcg/ccinfo.html>.

WORLD HORROR CONVENTION

1999 - Atlanta, GA; Mar 4-7; Memb: \$75 until 2/15/99; \$100 at the door; GoHs: Michael Bishop, John Shirley, Neil Gaiman, Lisa Snellings; Venue: Atlanta Marriott N. Central, Atlanta, GA; rms: \$95

sngl/dbl; \$115 trpl/quad. Info: PO Box 148, Clarkston, GA 30021-0148; horrorcon@aol.com.

***CONJURATION 4** – Montréal, PQ, Mar 5-6, memberships TBA; presented by the McGill Gamers' Guild, at the William Shatner Building, 3480 McTavish St., Montréal. For more info, e-mail to mcgillgamers@hotmail.com, or website <http://www.vub.mcgill.ca/clubs/gamers/guild.htm>.

LUNACON '99 – Rye Brook, NY, Mar. 5-7; Memb: \$36 until 2/5/99; GoH: Vernor Vinge; AGoH: Bob Eggleton FGoH: Anthony R. Lewis; Venue: Rye Town Hilton, Rye Brook, NY; 914-939-6300; Info: Lunacon '99, PO Box 3566, New York, NY 10008-3566; email: lunacon@lunacon.org; URL: <http://www.lunacon.org/>.

(Conventions cont'd on page 7)

Due to space limitations, letters may be edited for length and content. All opinions expressed are of the authors and not necessarily those of the editor or publisher. All material is copyright © 1999 by the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, unless otherwise indicated. Permission is hereby granted to other SF Clubs to reproduce material provided credit is given to author and source. Submissions may be dropped off at 251 Nepean St. or sent to 18 Norice St., Nepean, ON K2G 2X5 or e-mail: Joel Polowin <jpolowin@cyberus.ca>.



SCALES & SCRATCHES

Ah, ha. We are still here in spite of what the vagaries of nature or man can throw at us. Hmph. So much for the doom-sayers. At least some of them stated that the world should have ended before now.

Our guest speaker this month is one of our Montreal members, Sylvain St.-Pierre. He and a friend of his will be driving up Sunday, February 28th to regale us with the antics of *Moxie!*, the successor to *Plan 9 From Outer Space*. Please come and find out what our Montreal fen are capable of creating. Dalhousie Community Centre at 2 p.m. until 5 p.m.

I now have a Macintosh computer that various people are trying to teach me how to use. Some things are pretty simple, e.g. e-mail. But Beulah and Lionel showed me how to 'go sci-fi' so I can find out what some of you technophiles are doing.

I hope one or another of you is thinking of taking on the presidency at the end of this year. This is the fourth time I have done it and I would like some other person to take the reins, helm, steering wheel, director's chair.... and guide us into the year 2000. I suppose it could be a social feather in someone's cap, but I decided that it wouldn't be mine. Tempting as it may be.

Hope to see you at the usual place at the usual time.

P.S. I got a list and a picture from A.C. Clarke. He is 81 years old but is not slowing down much at all! Hope I can manipulate the cranial passages as well when and if I make it that far into the future!

Lyn Saunders <ef803@freenet.carleton.ca>

TEN YEARS AGO IN THE STATEMENT

— Statement 140, 1989-2

In the February 1989 issue of the OSFS STATEMENT Sandi McLaughlin devotes a page to explaining why there was a clash between the Who Cares at Lionel's place and an Apoplexy collation.

It was announced that Richard Smith was the winner of the Gecko naming contest for his Dr. Gecko (male) and Lizard Hide (female).

It was reported that Ian Dewar and Dave O'Heare performed at Rasputin's on February 9th. Also, Marissa "Saavik" Golini had a birthday brunch last month at Rasputin's.

Madona Skaff was elected Captain of the USS Excalibur.

Grant Duff provided "His rather unique dessert, Vulcan Blood Pudding" to a Pinekone party held on February 11th.

There is a page of photos of Pinekone.

There is a half page illo of a somewhat unconventional cookie making session at Dave O'Heare's and Heidi's place. This is drawn by Larry "The Doctor" Stewart.

Sansoucy Walker reviews DRAGONBANE by Barbara Hambly, a story of ordinary people being caught up in extraordinary events. The extra-ordinary event is confronting a dragon. Sahn warmly recommends this one.

Michael Doran reviews THE CELESTIAL TOY by Gerry Davis and Alison Bingeman. "The flashy cover proves the expression 'You can't judge a book by its cover'.... It feels like one of the longest 127 page books that I have ever read.... I won't recommend this book to anyone."

Hildegard Henderson has a letter in the issue praising the easy to read size of type in of Graham Darling's article in the previous issue. She adds of the much smaller type of the piece that follows this, "If I had to read eight pages of it, my own orbs would need the services of Public Optical."

Graham Darling's report of the New Orleans Worldcon continues, but not in the large print size preferred by Hildegard.

— Michael McKenny <bn872@freenet.carleton.ca>

Comics & Animations

Elvira Triple Treat

A recent issue of "Elvira" pencilled by Ottawa's own Ronn Sutton, features the Mistress of the Dark joining the cast of "Star Trek" as a Borg-like alien temptress. An upcoming three-parter slated for 1999, also pencilled by Ronn, has Elvira partaking in a bizarre jungle adventure decked out in Sheena-esque attire; becoming involved with a sexy secret agent in "The Guy Who Loved Me"; and fighting zombies in the Old West ("spaghetti" western Italy, that is!)

Look and ask for issues of "Elvira, Mistress of the Dark"—published by Claypool Comics—at discriminating comic shops near you.

Animated Adventures

Janet Hetherington is writing an article for "Animation" magazine on the new animated "Batman Beyond" TV show making its debut on in the Kids WB. She will also be attending a one-day animation event in New York on January 25 which will spotlight Canadian animation, called "Sheraton Takes Manhattan". Sheraton College is one of Canada's premier animation schools.

PI=Love In Tights

Issue #4 of Slave Labor Graphics' superhero romance comic book anthology, "Love In Tights", will feature a six-page story written and illustrated by Janet Hetherington. The tale will introduce a trio of super-smart teens called PI FORCE, created by Hetherington, and rendered in a fun "animation" style.

The PI FORCE heroes are named Number Cruncher, Equation Girl and Query (colleagues of the mighty Captain Steroid) and these teens fight crime in their souped-up Beetle nicknamed Y2K-BUG.

USENET PERSONALITY

"Farewell to Usenet" by Tom Holt (To the Tune of "A Model Major-General")

I am the very model of a Newsgroup personality.
I intersperse obscenity with tedious banality.
Addresses I have plenty of, both genuine and ghosted too,
On all the countless newsgroups that my drivel is cross-posted to.
Your bandwidth I will fritter with my whining and my snivelling,
And you're the one who pays the bill, downloading all my drivelling.
My enemies are numerous, and no-one would be blaming you
For cracking my head open after I've been rudely flaming you.

I hate to lose an argument (by now I should be used to it).
I wouldn't know a valid point if I was introduced to it.
My learning is extensive but consists of mindless trivia,
Designed to fan my ego, which is larger than Bolivia.
The comments that I vomit forth, disguised as jest and drollery,
Are really just an exercise in unremitting trolleury.
I say I'm frank and forthright, but that's merely lies and vanity,
The gibberings of one who's at the limits of his sanity.

If only I could get a life, as many people tell me to;
If only Mom could find a circus freak-show she could sell me to;
If I go off to Zanzibar to paint the local scenery;
If I lose all my fingers in a mishap with machinery;
If I survive to twenty, which is somewhat problematical;
If what I post was more mature, or slightly more grammatical;
If I could learn to spell a bit, and maybe even punctuate;
Would I still be the loathsome and objectionable punk you hate?

But while I have this tiresome urge to prance around and show my face,
It simply isn't safe for normal people here in cyberspace.
To stick me in Old Sparky and turn on the electricity
Would be a fitting punishment for my egocentricity.
I always have the last word; so, with uttermost finality,
That's all from me, the model of a Newsgroup personality.

—Tom Holt <lemming.co@zetnet.co.uk>, Jul 2, 1998 in
rec.music.filk . Reprinted by permission of the author.

(Yes, that Tom Holt, the author of *Who's Afraid of Beowulf?* and
other fine light fantasy. He does filk, too. —JP)

NEWS TIDBITS

R.I.P. **Jean-Claude Forest** (1930-1998), the French artist who created the original *Barbarella* comic strip, died on 30 Dec. **Joe Orlando** (1927-1998), long-time comics artist and editor, died on 23 Dec aged 71. Titles he was involved with include EC's *Tales from the Crypt*, *Little Orphan Annie*, *House of Mystery*, *Swamp Thing*, and — right up to his death — *Mad* magazine. **Don Taylor** (1920-1998), who directed *Escape from the Planet of the Apes*, *The Island of Dr Moreau* (1977) and *Damien: Omen 2*, died 28 Dec aged 78. **George Wilson** (1921-1998), artist and cartoonist, died on 7 Dec. He drew comic strips for Fiction House, Centaur, and Ace in the early 1940s; in the 50s and 60s he was a prolific cover artist, especially for Western Publishing: *Turok Son Of Stone*, *Space Family Robinson*, *The Phantom*, and others.

(Source: David Langford's Ansible: <http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/SF-Archive/Ansible/>)

INVENT AN ALIEN CONTEST

The Twelfth Invent an Alien Contest was held in Calgary sponsored by the Canadian Society of Petroleum Geologists and focused on Life on Uranus. Students from schools across the city were asked to conjecture forms of life able to live on Uranus and present a 3-D model and explain their reasoning to a panel of volunteer judges. The Junior group, a record 63 entries from grades 4-6 from Elementary Schools, showed on Jan 30. The High Schools will be showing on Feb 6.

(Contributed by Grant Duff)

SCIENCE FICTION FILM FESTIVAL

Hi folks!

I just wanted to drop off a quick note to let all of you know about DIMENSION SF, Montreal's first ever Science Fiction Film Festival.

It will be showcasing a century of science fiction films, from spectacular classics to new releases.

DIMENSION SF will be taking place from June 4 - 20, 1999 at the Cinema Imperial, in the heart of downtown Montreal.

For more information, you can check out our regularly updated website at:

<http://WWW.CAM.ORG/~reischl/FilmFest.html>

All of us at Prometheus Communications and the Cinema Imperial hope that all of you fellow lovers of science fiction films will come on down to Montreal to enjoy this amazing event.

Please pass on this message on to any of your friends who may be interested in seeing the festival.

Thanks for your time!

Berny Reischl
DIMENSION SF

Bernard K. Reischl

Owner/Senior Designer - Prometheus Graphics

Co-Owner/Senior Designer - Two Wacky Pin Guys

DIMENSION SF/Prometheus Communications:

<http://WWW.CAM.ORG/~reischl/index.html>

(Contributed by Elizabeth Holden <domino@cyberus.ca>)

Tom Holt <lemming.co@zetnet.co.uk> offered the following as a warning:

Stop press;

Dateline Toronto, 18/12/98

"A Canadian firm is trying to make 'a super realistic animated feature film, *Princess Diana Saves The World*'. This has her coming back as "The world's most loved adorable angel." The ad for this film has an 'original oil masterpiece' showing her with wings, a halo and the union flag turning into a cross above her head".

(Source; BFS newsletter Nov/Dec '98, film review section)

Two news items come from announcements at the National Capital Freenet birthday party. First: E-mail addresses on Freenet will change from the form <xy123@freenet.carleton.ca> to <xy123@ncf.ca>. Second, NCF will be setting up a new search engine, CAPITAL.FIND.

Star Wars —**The Not-So-Phantom Menace**

While some fans of the Star Wars universe made all sorts of asinine remarks about what "they" perceived as a particularly wimpy title, rival studios are giving "The Phantom Menace" a universally WIDE berth. The general consensus is that The Phantom Menace will blow away all records set by James Cameron's "Titanic", an idea that George Lucas politely disagrees with. Industry analysts say that even if it is an artistic disappointment it should gross \$500 million US worldwide but if it is as up to normal Lucas standards, it should surpass the record \$1.8 billion US grossed by "Titanic" worldwide.

When interviewed at the Golden Globe Awards on Sunday January 24, 1999, Lucas dropped a little bombshell that the 2nd theatrical trailer will be coming out sometime in March. His good friend Steven Spielberg is one of the few outside of the people who worked on it to have seen it and he repeated his response while onstage at the Golden Globes: "Oh my God!!!"

While it was always circulated that the original Star Wars (later re-released as Star Wars IV: A New Hope), The Empire Strikes Back (Star Wars V) and Return of the Jedi (Star Wars VI) comprised the middle trilogy of a 9-part epic, Lucas said he had only written the first three prequels and that the three sequels were only ideas running around his mind. Having recently turned 55 years old, Lucas says that he is not willing to devote a further 10 years or so of his life but he still plans to release Parts II and III in 2002 and 2005 respectively.

There are a number of reasons as to why Lucas took a 10 year hiatus from 1983 to 1993 from his Star Wars universe. First, he says he was exhausted from working straight through Parts IV, V and VI and he wanted to spend some time with his family. Second, he was less than completely satisfied with the relatively unsophisticated computer imaging technology available in the early 1980s and was determined to wait until the technology was better able to express his grand vision. Third, he was determined to make it his own way which meant that he wanted to finance it entirely by himself from money earned by the various companies that together comprise his magnificent entertainment technology empire based in Marin County, located north of San Francisco across the Golden Gate Bridge. These gems in the Lucas empire include such famous companies as Industrial Light & Magic, the THX Group, Skywalker Sound, LucasArts Entertainment and Lucas Learning.

This way, all the risk is his but then the consensus is that it is very low risk with a potentially high payoff. A perfect example of this is the news that 20th Century Fox will be paying for the entire \$70 million US worldwide TV and print campaign in exchange for 10% of the profits. Under the terms of a very unusual contract negotiated by Lucas before the release of Star Wars in 1977, Fox only owns the theatrical rights to each movie while Wily George kept other rights such as video, etc. To give this piece of

foresight a sense of scale, consider this: the video of James Cameron's "Titanic" was sold and rented to the tune of \$500 million US (with a record 58 million copies sold worldwide) and industry analysts are expecting "The Phantom Menace" to break the \$1 billion US barrier. This is not an unreasonable estimate given that it cost only \$15 million US to produce the digitally enhanced version of the Special 20th Anniversary release of Star Wars IV, V and VI, complete with new special effects, sound effects and scenes that Lucas had wanted included in the original theatrical releases in 1977, 1980 and 1983. Fox was only too eager to pay for this, a wise decision since the 20th Anniversary re-releases grossed \$475 million US worldwide.

The February 1999 issue of Vanity Fair has the only full interview given by George Lucas and features the work of famed photographer Annie Leibovitz who was the only authorized photographer permitted on the Tunisian set that doubles as the planet Tatooine back in the summer of 1997.

"The Phantom Menace" will star Liam Neeson as Qui-Gon Jinn, described as a maverick Jedi Knight and the mentor of Obi-Wan Kenobi; Ewan McGregor as the young Obi-Wan Kenobi; 9 year old Jake Lloyd as the young Anakin Skywalker; 17 year old Natalie Portman as Queen Amidala, the teen ruler of the Outer Rim planet Naboo and future mother of the twins who will grow up to be known as Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker; and Samuel L. Jackson as Jedi Master Mace Windu, who like Yoda, is a member of the Jedi Council. The main villain is the "phantom menace" of the title, a character named Darth Sidious, who is described as being the last of the Sith, an ancient race seduced and conquered by the powerful magic of the Dark Side of the Force. Unseen by the protagonists, we in the audience will get to see the real menace who threatens the status quo. One of the memorable fight scenes involves single combat between Obi-Wan Kenobi and Darth Maul, the apprentice of Darth Sidious. Darth Maul is a dark, mysterious and very menacing figure with a heavily tattooed face and wielding the double-sided light saber seen in the first theatrical trailer. Ray Park, a Martial Arts expert plays Darth Maul and he also helped coach Neeson and McGregor with their swordsmanship. Frank Oz returns as the voice of Yoda and we meet a computer-generated lizard-like sidekick to Qui-Gon Jinn, a Gungan named Jar Jar Binks, voiced by Ahmed Best. We also see Ian McDiarmid in much less makeup reprising his role as Palpatine, who at this time is not the evil Emperor who seduces Anakin Skywalker to the Dark Side of the Force where Anakin becomes Darth Vader. The Palpatine we see in The Phantom Menace is a politician representing Naboo in the Galactic Senate and has not yet become the ultimate evil we know he will become 35 years later.

The scope of the merchandising tie-ins that came from a corporate memo and other inside sources is absolutely breathtaking as companies like Pepsi, Nintendo, Hasbro, Galoob, etc. jump on the gravy train. If these sources can be believed, then the fol-

lowing is part of this promotional campaign:

Pepsi -will produce a staggering 8 billion cans of Pepsi featuring 12 characters from the Star Wars universe, to be distributed across North America. There will be limited edition Yoda figures randomly distributed in cases for instant prizes.

Kentucky Fried Chicken, Pizza Hut and Taco Bell (all spun off from Pepsi to form Tricon) -their outlets will be decorated to resemble the planets of Coruscant, Naboo and Tatooine where customers can order from an array of what they refer to as theme foods and collectible toys.

Frito-Lay Snacks (another Pepsi subsidiary) -will produce 100 million cards for a Star Wars game with a top prize of \$1 million US.

Hasbro and Galoob -these two toy companies will produce a staggering 250 Star Wars toys that industry analysts expect to sell to the tune of over \$1 billion US. The two companies plan to spend \$40 million US for the largest ever televised ad campaign.

Nintendo -they plan a \$10 million US ad campaign to promote their new video games including one for play with the N-64 system. They expect to sell more than 5 million units retailing for about \$80 US each.

Legos International -this spring will see the opening of their first American theme park and has a Star Wars theme.

Del Rey Publishing -the novelization of the screenplay is being written by award winning fantasy author Terry Brooks and Del Rey will also release a series of spinoff books.

Dark Horse Comics -will be printing a new series based on "The Phantom Menace".

Trivial Pursuit -possibly the thing needed to rejuvenate this game, there will be a Star Wars Special Edition expected to retail for \$30 US.

The Official Star Wars website can be found at www.starwars.com

Babylon 5/Crusade

According to show creator J. Michael Straczynski, at this time there are no further Babylon 5 movies commissioned by TNT.

Also, the latest word on Babylon 5: Crusade is that it will begin airing on TNT after the end of the abbreviated NBA regular season and TNT's coverage of the early rounds of the NBA Playoffs, probably beginning on June 2.

JMS at Aussiecon 3

It has just been announced that J. Michael Straczynski has been named as a Special Guest for Aussiecon 3, an honour he received from Bucconeer last year. Unfortunately for everyone involved, just before Bucconeer, he came down with pneumonia and had to cancel rather than risk death if he travelled to Baltimore.

Star Trek: Insurrection

Despite being better than many of its predecessors, it only lasted 4 weeks in the Top 10 North American Box Office Receipts (millions US)

Dates	Weekend	Total	Rank
Dec.11-13	\$22.1	\$22.1	1
Dec.18-20	\$8.3	\$35.6	4
Dec.25-27	\$7.3	\$47.7	8
Jan.1-3	\$4.7	\$58.6	9

The X-Files

According to series creator Chris Carter, the show's fans should be getting many of their questions finally answered in the February episodes (just in time for the February Sweeps period) but he also promises us more new questions will be raised this season. A two parter airing on February 7 and 14 will see Mulder finally learning the truth about his sister Samantha's abduction as a child. Carter adds that he sees next season (Season 7) as the final one but he hopes to continue to make X-Files movies even though David Duchovny and Gillian Anderson have not yet agreed to return for a second theatrical release.

I guess Carter is trying to make sure he has work in the near future since Millennium is almost certain to be flushed by the Suits at Fox TV. Carter is currently developing "Harsh Realm", very loosely based on a comic book dealing with virtual reality.

Air Date	Rating	
Nov.8	12	Season 6 Premiere
Nov.15	14(Tic)	
Nov.22	18	Bermuda Triangle Episode
Nov.29	16(Tic)	
Dec.6	16(Tic)	
Dec.13	14(Tic)	
Dec.20	52(Tic)	Rerun
Dec.27	48(Tic)	Rerun
Jan.3	9	
Jan.10	14(Tic)	
Jan.17	36	Skinner nearly dies
Jan.24	25	

The 1999 Golden Globes

There were two winners in the Sci-Fi, Fantasy & Horror genre at this year's Golden Globe Awards given out by the Hollywood Foreign Press on Sunday January 24:

Movies:

Original Song: "The Prayer," from "Quest For Camelot: The Magic Sword" with music and lyrics by David Foster and Carole Bayer Sager (Italian translation by Alberto Testa and Tony Renis)

Television:

Miniseries or movie made for television: "From the Earth to the Moon"

Patrick Stewart was one of the finalists for his work in "Moby Dick" but did not get a nice trophy to keep polished on his mantle.

The Return of E.T.

The most popular alien visitor to Earth in 1982 is making his return to television as the star of the new Buckle Up America safety campaign which has already begun airing teaser clips in selected markets. He goes nationwide in the US as the full length PSA (Public Service Announcement) airs before halftime at the Super Bowl on Jan.31. The campaign is sponsored by Universal Studios, Amblin Entertainment and Progressive Insurance and will also attack drinking & driving and the newest problem of Road Rage. E.T. can speak from his experience of bicycling dangerously and getting drunk on American beer and they should bring the Men in Black who chased him for the Road Rage part. In addition, E.T. will be re-released in 2002 in time for its 20th anniversary.

Taco Bell Chihuahua vs. Furby

In an overwhelming example of talent triumphing over hype, the 4 different talking plush Taco

Bell Chihuahuas (including the one used in the Godzilla promotions who says "Here Lizard, Lizard.") have sold a total of 13 million toys and caused Taco Bell to order a further 10 million toys for sale in the US. By comparison, the overhyped Furbies who look a lot like Gizmo, the cute Gremlin from the movie of the same name, have sold only 2 million toys. My response to this is to say "Here Furby, Furby."

The Wild, Wild West

While not nearly as popular as in its heyday in the 1950s and 1960s, the Western genre is making a cautious comeback on a limited basis. The highest profile newcomer for 1999 is Director Barry Sonnenfeld's silver screen version of the classic 1960s TV series of the same name which starred Robert Conrad as James West and the late Ross Martin as Artemus Gordon. The movie reunites Sonnenfeld with his star from "Men in Black", Will Smith who plays West and partners him with Kevin Kline as Gordon. Kenneth Branagh stars as an evil genius out to assassinate President Grant and take over the world.

Sonnenfeld describes the movie as being "more Sci-Fi than Western, a retro Jules Verne, a James Bond of the 1860s." Fans of the show can expect the usual humour, lovely ladies and fantastic gadgets such as the tarantula which is described as a lethal weapon transport that moves spiderlike across the plains (shades of Dr. Miguelito Loveless). Agent West's special train is no less astounding than the original and has features reminiscent of James Bond's Aston Martin of the 1960s.

Capitalizing on the huge success of Will Smith over the Independence Day Weekend (Independence Day (1996) and Men in Black (1997)), the studio is releasing it on July 2, which is 6 weeks after the release of The Phantom Menace and far enough away from its shadow to do very well at the Box Office.

Terminator 3 ???

If all the details can be worked out, there will be a "Terminator 3" and it will be written and produced by James Cameron, who unlike with the first two movies, will not direct the third. Arnold Schwarzenegger says he will return only if Cameron returns and Cameron says he will only make '13 at 20th Century Fox whom he made Titanic for.

Even if deals can be reached with all the parties involved, it still remains up in the air as to when Terminator 3 might be made. Schwarzenegger is busy filming "End of Days" and the costs of producing another Terminator film might make Fox think twice, though why Fox would hesitate after all the money that poured into the studio after Titanic is beyond me. They should stand up and say "Yes sir, yes sir!!!" to Cameron after he saved their jobs. In any case, Cameron's schedule has opened up now that he is no longer involved in a new version of "Planet of the Apes" (Did Chuckles Heston want too many guns and bananas to come back and play a Gorilla?)

Buffy the Vampire Slayer

The tentacles of the media giants are getting so tangled, you need a program to tell the players apart. A perfect example: "Buffy the Vampire Slayer", the first jewel in WB's crown is now ranked around #2 or #3 among their shows. Produced at 20th Century Fox, the contract with Warner Bros expires in 2 years and Buffy could end up on Fox TV in the Fall of 2001 - a distinct possibility if Fox tries to coerce WB to pay much more than the \$1 million US called for under the current contract.

Norman Jewison to Receive Thalberg Award

Canadian Norman Jewison, producer/director/writer extraordinaire, will receive the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award at this year's Oscar ceremony on March 21. The Thalberg Award is a special award given to producers whose work "reflects a consistently high quality of motion picture production". Jewison was producer/director for "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Moonstruck" as well as producing "The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!" and "A Soldier's Story". Jewison's short story "Rollerball" was made into a movie starring James Caan and was a social commentary on how multinational corporations ran the world and countries no longer mattered in the grand scheme of things. All I want to know is "How many companies are using this as a blueprint for their business plans?"

The Return of David Lynch

The fertile mind of "Twin Peaks" creator David Lynch has come up with another new idea for a TV show. ABC has ordered a pilot for "Mulholland Drive" which they call a Twin Peaks-style drama set in L.A. Instead of pie and coffee, what's the official meal of the show going to be: tofu and latte?

Dilbert

The premiere episode of Dilbert aired on UPN on Monday January 25 and preliminary estimates indicate that the show averaged 6.8 million viewers, the highest number of viewers for any UPN show this season.

The voices of the characters come from the following actors: Dilbert (Daniel Stern), Wally (veteran sitcom director Gordon Hunt (actress Helen Hunt's dad)), Dogbert (Chris Elliott), Alice (Kathy Griffin), Boss (Larry Miller) and Dilmom (Jackie Hoffman).

Whispers From Elsewhere

Who Killed the Arrow?

For years it was thought that Prime Minister Diefenbaker was the one responsible for the cancellation of the CF-105 Avro Arrow on Feb.20,1959 but newly available documents indicate that he was misled and bullied by General Charles Foulkes, the chairman of the chiefs of staff for the Department of Defence and the other chiefs. They even zealously hid the real reasons they pushed for the Arrow's cancellation and told the Prime Minister that the costs were too high, the plane was already obsolete and neither the Americans nor the British wanted to buy any from us. The truth they concealed was that they were upset that they didn't have Avro Aircraft under their control and this bothered them greatly. In addition, as far back as Jan.30,1958, James Douglas, the American Secretary of the Air Force expressed an interest in buying the CF-105 in squadron strength, integrating it into NORAD, and operating it from Canadian bases with Canadian pilots and maintaining it with Canadian ground personnel. Therefore, it is the Canadian Chiefs of Staff who are primarily responsible for having misled Prime Minister Diefenbaker who already had the Western Canadian distrust of rich Ontario industrialists like Avro owner A.V. Roe and thereby killing the program. The end result of their pigheadedness was to put 15,000 people out of work at Avro in Toronto and a further 10,000 at Avro subcontractors, in addition to giving the U.S. aerospace industry a huge boost. Why else would the American aerospace companies have set trailers directly outside the gates of Avro to recruit the newly unemployed????!! This whole mess is the culmination of too many Chiefs acting like bloody idiots!!!

Smart Luggage

In an attempt to make luggage transfers even faster and more reliable, British Airways is testing a new system using disposable paper luggage tags equipped with silicon chips which they expect to be even more efficient than the laser scanner/bar code system in use now. The tests will be conducted on flights to London's Heathrow Airport from Manchester, England and Munich, Germany.

Letters of Comment

From: Lloyd Penney, Etobicoke, ON
<Yvonne_Penney@email.whirlpool.com>

January 15, 1999

Many thanks for issue 258 of the Statement. Here's a question... has anyone complained yet that you didn't use goldenrod paper for the cover? I remember when Joe Casey did one issue, in a half-sized booklet-style zine with a blue cover... In spite of the gorgeous young woman Janet Hetherington draws so adroitly, I will head straight for the contents to comment on what's there. Again, congrats on the editorship, however temporary it may be.

It was a surprise to read that barely six months after Robert Sawyer was elected to the presidency of SFWA, he's resigned after what I gather was a popular campaign against his leadership, and against various changes he tried to make in various SFWA procedures, most notable of all being the way the Grandmaster Nebula Award is handed out. I know little more than that.

I'd thought that Trek as a whole had run its course a while ago. I did enjoy *ST:Insurrection*, and I felt that while it was a fun adventure and a good laugh, it suffered from the Curse of The Odd Number. As I watch Trek fandom disintegrate as a whole, I think it might be a good time to let the movies end, and let the story lines of DS9 and Voyager wind up, and let Trek on TV end... for a few years. The drought of Trek allowed us to enjoy and eventually embrace *ST:TNG*, and I think a similar drought to about 2005 or later would allow us to enjoy a return of Trek then.

Conventions...let me see if I can add to this list somewhat. [*Lloyd gives information about CONJURATION 4 and the 3RD ANNUAL FANTASTIC PULPS SHOW AND SALE; see convention listings.*]

My letter of comment... well, it HAD been a mild winter, up to about two weeks ago. Toronto now has more than a metre of snow on the ground, and this is more snow on the ground than we've had in a century. We still intend to go to ConFusion, but whether this weather continues will determine if we actually go.

Time to finish up. Many thanks for a good initial issue, and I hope there'll be plenty of good issues before you give it up to another.

[I'm told that we have plenty of the blue paper left for covers, and we'd run out of the goldenrod, but I didn't want to start my term as editor with a big change in the appearance of the Statement. Unfortunately, we ran into trouble finding more good goldenrod paper when printing time came, so ended up using the cream paper. — JP]

From: Thomas Wray

1999-02-02

Dear Editor Joel,

First let me congratulate you on your appointment as editor (no matter how interim) and also let me thank you for allowing your name to stand.

But the bulk of this letter is in reply to the "manuscript found in a box" written by the StarWolf. I thank the Wolf from the Stars for its generosity in giving me the sum of \$20 to buy myself dinner with. It was appreciated. However, I am only human and am unacquainted with the finer points of astrolupine etiquette as practised on the StarWolf's home world. Among us humans it might have been considered more appropriate to telephone and actually arrange a meeting in a mutually convenient restaurant, thus obviating the need for money to change hands. But, as I notice, the astrolupines evidently do it differently.

On the subject of using "primitive chemical boosters to get into orbit", all I can say is that "sci-fi" (Hollywood's delusions as to what constitutes SF) is a lot closer to Science Fantasy than it is to Science Fiction, and, of course, in fantasy anything goes. In hard SF terms, however, chemical boosters (especially those using a hydrogen-oxygen flame) are, and will be for millennia hence, both the cheapest way to get off an Earth-like planet and the least polluting. Although a drive may very well be shielded from the crew and the payload, it *cannot* be shielded from the world at large — if it is, it won't work! Antigravity devices will not lift a ship off a planet without causing intense atmospheric disturbances of at least hurricane strength in the air column directly above the ship, and you tell me the spaceport is in the middle of a city! If the StarWolf wishes, I can teach it the relevant physics, chemistry, and economics. I am only a phonecall away.

I note that the Wolf from the Stars claims to "really understand Japan". Is it familiar with the short stories of Lafcadio

Hearn, the Anglo-Irish-Maltese writer of a century ago who was born in Greece, emigrated to Usa, and who eventually settled in Japan? (Although he considered himself a Usan writer, he kept his British citizenship until he traded it in for Japanese in 1896.) Hearn's speciality was the Japanese ghost story.

Yours sycophantically,
Thomas Wray

Conventions

(Continued from page 2)

INTERCON XIV. – Natick, MA; Mar 12-14; Memb: \$20 until 9/7/98; \$25 until 11/6/98; \$30 until 1/9/99; \$35 until 3/11/99; \$40 at the door; Venue: Hampton Inn, Natick, MA; 800-HAMPTON. Theme: Interactive literature (LARP).; \$5 ILF discount. Info: Intercon XIV, c/o Mark Waks, 82 Montclair Ave., Waltham, MA 02451-3067; 508-869-0425; email: i14@rpg.net; URL: <http://www.ilfinfo.org/intercon/intxiv.html>.

FILKONTARIO 9 – Toronto, ON, Mar 26-28; Memb: \$45 to 3/1/99; GoH: Urban Tapestry; Official Filk Waif: Don Neill. Interfilk: Harold Groot; Theme: Filk; Venue: Quality Hotel, 6090 Dixon Rd., Mississauga, ON, Canada; 905-670-0050; rms: C\$65; Info: FilkOntario 9, 145 Rice Ave., Unit 98, Hamilton, ON L9C 6R3; email: hayman@bserv.com; URL: <http://www.bserv.com/community/fkoa.htm>.

BALTICON 33 – Baltimore, MD; Apr 2-4; Memb: \$35 until 12/31/98; \$40 until 3/15/98; \$45 at the door; GoH: David Weber; AGoH: Jennifer E. Weyland; Venue: Baltimore Omni Inner Harbor Hotel, Baltimore, MD, 410-752-1100; rms: \$104. Info: Balticon 33, PO Box 686, Baltimore, MD 21203-0686; 410-563-2737; email: bsfs@balticon.org; URL: <http://www.balticon.org/>.

EERIECON I – Niagara Falls, NY; Apr 16-18; Memb: \$30 until 1/31/99; \$35 at the door; GoHs: Brian Lumley, Josepha Sherman; Venue: Fallsview Resort, Niagara Falls, NY; 716-285-2541; rms: \$59 sngl/dbl, \$64 trpl, \$69 quad.; Info: EerieCon I, PO Box 412, Buffalo, NY 14226.

***3RD ANNUAL FANTASTIC PULPS SHOW AND SALE** – Toronto, ON, April 24, 10am to 5pm. Admittance probably around \$2, at the Lillian H. Smith Branch of the Toronto Public Library, home of the Merrill Collection. For more info, call Jamie Fraser at (416)598-7718.

KEYCON 16 – Winnipeg, MB; May 21-23; Memb: C\$30 until 12/31/98, C\$40 until 4/30/99, C\$50 at door; GoH: David Drake; AGoH: Denis Beauvais; Venue: Ramada MarlboroughHotel, 331 Smith St., Winnipeg, MB; 800-667-7666; Info: Keycon 16, PO Box 3178, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E6; email: stornel@icenter.net; URL: <http://www.icenter.net/~stornel/keycon/Keycon.htm>.

MEDIAWEST*CON 1999 – Lansing, MI; May 28-31; Memb: \$35 until 12/31/98; \$40 until 5/10/99 (membership limit 900); \$10 supporting (all checks to T’Kuhlian Press); Venue: Lansing Holiday Inn South Convention Center, Lansing, MI. Theme: Media fandom; Info: MediaWest*Coni 1999, 200 East Thomas St., Lansing, MI 48906-4047; email: mdiawstcon@aol.com; URL: <http://members.aol.com/MdiaWstCon/mwc.htm>.

AD ASTRA 19 – Toronto, ON, June (TBA) GoH’s: Nancy Dress, Fred Saberhagen, Charles Sheffield; AGoH: Bob Eggleton; Ed GoH Scott Edleman; FGoH’s: Lloyd & Yvonne Penney; Venue: TBA, Info: Ad Astra 19, POB 7276, Stn. A. Toronto, ON, M5W 1X9, URL: <http://terra.phys.yorku.ca/~white/adastra/>

TRANQUILITY BASE 1999 – Cincinnati, OH, June 18-20; Memb.: \$35 adults/\$25 children in advance, \$40/\$35 at

the door. GoH: Mira Furlan, Robin Atkin Downes, Robin Curtis, Apollo Smile, Gerard Christopher; Costuming GoH: Josef and Kit Matulich; Venue: Albert B. Sabin Convention Center, Cincinnati, OH; Info: SASE to Tranquillity Base 1999, 8216 Princeton-Glendale Road #303, West Chester, OH 45069-1675; E-mail: TranBaseOH@aol.com; URL: <http://www.skypacer.com/tranbase>

TORONTO TREK 13 – Toronto, ON, July 9-11; Memb. \$40 (children 1/2 price); Venue: Regal Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON, 800-268-4838 (7am-7pm ET) or 416-675-1500; GoH: TBA; Registration: Toronto Trek 13, Suite 0116, Box 187, 65 Front Street West, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5J 1E6; Info: 416-410-TCON (8266); email: tcon@icomm.ca; URL: <http://www.icomm.ca/tcon>

CONUCOPIA/NASFiC '99 – Anaheim, CA, Aug. 26-29, Membs:\$85 to 12/31/98, GoH: Jerry E. Pournelle, Fan GoH’s: Richard & Nicki Lynch (MIMOSA), Venue: Anaheim Marriott, 7000 West Convention Way, Anaheim CA 92802-3483; (714)750-8000, Rates TBA; Other Guests TBA soon. Make cheques to SCIFI and mail to: Conucopia, NASFiC '99, c/o The Southern California Institute of Fannish Interests, POB 8442 Van Nuys,

CA 91409, Info: e-mail: info@99.nasfic.org or www.99.nasfic.org
INCONSEQUENTIAL/CANVENTION 19 – Fredericton, NB, Sep. 25-27, Membs: \$35 at door; GoH: David Feintuch;Tanya Huff; Venue: Hotel Lord Beaverbrook, \$89 dbl.; Info: 403-527 Beaverbrook Ct., Fredericton, NB, E3B 1X6, (506) 452-7479; e-mail: breeze@mbnet.nb.ca; Aurora on Web: www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora
AUSSIECON THREE / 1999
WORLDCON – The 57th World SF. Con., Melbourne, Australia, Sep. 2-6 / 99, Membs: \$US35 GoHs: George Turner, Gregory Benford, Bruce Gillespie; Venue: World Congress Centre, Melbourne, Info: GPO Box 1212K, Melbourne VIC 3001, Australia, or POB 266, Prospect Heights IL 60060-0266; Web: <http://www.maths.uts.edu.au/staff/eric/ain99>

2000

CHICON 2000 – The 58th World SF Con, Chicago IL, Aug. 31- Sept. 4; Membs: \$125 to 1/3/98, GoH: Ben Bova; AGoH:Bob Eggleton; EGoH: Jim Baen; TM Harry Turtledove, Venue: Hyatt Regency Chicago, Chicago IL; Info: Box 642057, Chicago, IL 60664; e-mail: chi2000@chicon.org or Web: <http://www.chicon.org/>

Cookies

Niall McConaill of Richard Smith: What will the future hold for electric cars?

Your principles mean more to you than any money or success.

Richard Smith of Grant Duff: Will I be able to pay my part of the bill in the near future?

Your future is as boundless as the lofty sky.

Grant Duff of Duncan McGregor: How boundless are your expectations?

You will be showered with good luck.

Duncan McGregor of Sharon Fall: Is the invasion of ? worth while?

You will be fortunate in everything you put your hands to.

Sharon Fall of John Park: Why do we play this game?

1 Your success must be earned with earnest effort.

2 Time is wisest counsellor.

John Park of Niall McConaill Have we given you wise council?

You should be able to undertake and complete anything.

Niall McConaill of Table: How should R’s stint as editor finish?

1 You will inherit some money or a small piece of land.

2 Your principles mean more to you than any money or success.

Graham Darling of Grant Duff: What, or when, will be the next Ottawa Fall Con?

Pray for what you want, but work for the things you need.

Grant Duff of Lyn Saunders: What will the next real subsidy be?

1 Pray for what you want, but work for the things you need.

2 Hell is paved with good intentions.

Lyn Saunders of (new chap): Will good fortune be yours for the next two months?

Our first and last love . . . self love.

(new chap) of Sharon Fall: Is there a danger at the Halloween party?

You have an unusually magnetic personality.

Sharon Fall of Andrea Schlect What will be in the next Statement?

You have an unusually magnetic personality.

Andrea Schlect of Graham Darling: Will ? ever become a multi million doll?

You will get what you want through your charm and personality.

Graham Darling of Table: What is the point of having the last question?

1 Your mentality is alert, practical and analytical.

2 You have a reputation for being straightforward and honest.