

WATCH THE SKIES



v9.1

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WELCOME TO SEASON 9, CELEBRATING 9 YEARS OF SF & F *INFOQUAKE*

By David Louis Edelman

Infoquake follows the rise of bio/logic programmer Natch who lets nothing stand in the way of his ambition. This natural programmer and status climber will do anything to claw his way to the top. But there are others who are watching Natch and will use him as a tool to advance their agendas which could alter the very nature of humanity's future. Margaret Surina has developed a software that could alter the fabric of ordinary life, but she cannot bring Multireal to the masses. She finds an apt tool in Natch. But who is using who? For there are plenty of other alternative forces at work who want to control Multireal. But Natch for there is only one choice - forward and anyone in his way had better move or be run down. True SF techno-thriller or melodrama? Let us know...

-February's Book is *Left Hand of Darkness* by Ursula K. Leguin

New Releases

February 2009

- Anderson, Poul **Call Me Joe: Selected Stories of Poul Anderson, Volume One**
- Armstrong, Kelley **Men of the Otherworld**
- Ash, Sarah **Flight into Darkness**
- Barnes, Jonathan **The Domino Men**
- Bishop, Michael, ed. **Passing for Human**
- Conlon, Christopher, ed. **He Is Legend: Celebrating Richard Matheson**
- del Rey, Lester **War and Space**
- Friedman, C. S. **Wings of Wrath**
- Kenyon, Kay **City Without End**
- Kress, Nancy **Steal Across the Sky**
- Lukyanenko, Sergei **Last Watch** (*yeah!!!!*)
- Martin, George R. R., & Gardner Dozois, eds. **Songs of the Dying Earth**
- McDevitt, Jack **Cryptic: The Best Short Fiction of Jack McDevitt**
- McDonald, Ian **Cyberabad Days**
- Niven, Larry, & Jerry Pournelle **Escape from Hell**
- Nylund, Eric **Mortal Coils**
- Powers, Tim **A Time to Cast Away Stones**
- Simmons, Dan **Drood**
- Tan, Shaun **Tales from Outer Suburbia**
- Zelazny, Roger **The Dead Man's Brother**
- Zelazny, Roger **Threshold: Volume 1 of the Collected Stories of Roger Zelazny**

THE PRINTED WORLD

-Soon you'll be able to call him Sir Terrance. Terry Pratchett is to be knighted by the Queen as a Knight Bachelor. Pratchett was already appointed Officer of the Order of the British Empire for his contributions to literature. -As the publishing industry responds to various economic downturns Random House announced that Scott Shannon has been promoted to Vice President in charge of Del Rey, Spectra and will also handle the manga program.

-SFWA has passed changes that they say will update the the Nebula Awards. Several changes effect the recommendation time, limiting it to a three month period; changing the eligibility to calendar year of publication; removing the preliminary ballot process and limiting members to only five nominations in a category. Also the Ray Bradbury Award for Best Dramatic Presentation will replace the Script Award. In a related story SFWA will honor writer Victoria Strauss for her ten year commitment to *Writer Beware* with a Service Award.

-Nominees for this year's Philip K. Dick Awards are:

Fast Forward 2—edited by Lou Anders

Time Machines Repaired While-U-Wait—K.A. Bedford

Plague War—Jeff Carlson

Emissaries from the Dead—Adam-Troy Castro

Judge—Karen Traviss

Terminal Mind—David Walton

Well known author and friend Walter Hunt seems pleased with his title as a "Dick Judge" and will help determine the winner.

-*The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* is undergoing a change in response to difficult economic times by going to a bimonthly publication schedule. This means that the issues will now be about 256 pages and that the whole year will lose about 10% of the planned content.

-Daryl Gregory's - *Pandemonium* has been awarded this year's William L. Crawford Award for best new book-length fantasy. The award is presented by the International Association for the Fantastic in the Arts.



-NBC puts it hopes on the return of Bryan Fuller to bring *Heroes* back to a more heroic status. Bryan wrote for the first season of *Heroes* and is know to have a good creative synergy with series creator Tim Kring. With the cancellation of ABC's *Pushing Daisies*, Fuller is now free to return to the fold in a move that will hopefully allow the once popular series to once again put butts in seats.

-At the same time NBC has set a March 15th date for the 2 hours premiere of *Kings*, a drama that has its origins in the story of King David from the Bible and is labeled as "magic realism". The series centers around the rise to power of a young hero and is the brainchild of executive producer Michael Green, yet another *Heroes* wunderkind.

-Not everyone is taking the swords and horses comeback of a show like *Legend of the Seeker* seriously. In fact Comedy Central sees this as an opportunity by launching its spoof series *Krod Mandoon and the Flaming Sword of Fire*. You may recognize its front man, Sean Maguire from *Meet the Spartans*. Just to give you a hint Krod is the son of a blacksmith and a stay at home mom and destined for greatness in his position as the chief freedom fighter for the resistance. The series debuts on April 9th, watch it soon before it gets cancelled...

-Where are the girls? Casting has been announced for the next Stargate Franchise, *Stargate Universe*– and so far its all guys... Robert Carlyle will play Dr. Nicholas Rush; Justin Louis, Colonel Everett Young; David Blue, Eli Wallace the brainy slacker; Brian J. Smith, Lieutenant Matthew Scott; and Jamil Walker Smith as Senior Sergeant Ronald Greer. Brad Wright and Robert Cooper, who've made their mark on the Stargate Franchise will serve as executive producers and writers.

-Along with a number of shows returning after the holiday hiatus, comes *Fringe*. J.J. Abrams' creation has been given a thumbs up for a second season from the Fox President of Entertainment, Kevin Reilly who says he felt confident that the network would renew the shows contract. What's next for *Fringe*? Well Abrams says that there will be a resolution of issues between John Scott and Olivia Dunham and, wait for it folks– giant slugs. That's right you heard it, giant slugs. If I wasn't already hooked, now I am. If you are really fortunate there may still be a link to the Merry Fringemas song on the *Fringe* website, just in case you didn't experience its joy over the holidays.

-*Terminator Salvation* may include Linda Hamilton as an intro voice over.

-Two great losses to the genre occurred recently with the passing of Ricardo Montalban and Patrick McGoohan. Montalban 88, died on 1-14-09 in his home. He's best known for his roles as Mr. Roarke the owner of *Fantasy Island* and as Khan from Star Trek. In *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan* he reprised his role as the charismatic superhuman from the Original Series episode "Space Seed". Ricardo also starred in both *Escape from Planet of the Apes* and *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes*. Patrick McGoohan is best known for his role as Number 6 in *The Prisoner*. McGoohan past away on 1-13-09 at the age of 80 after a short illness. Not only did McGoohan star in *The Prisoner*, but also created the show as well as produced it.

-*Watchmen* is free for distribution. Due to a recent agreement between Warner Brother and Fox, the film will make its March 9th debut as scheduled. After a US District Judge found that Warner Brothers would be infringing on a prior agreement with Fox by releasing the film, *Watchmen* has been in an unenviable position. Warners needed to know if it could begin properly advertising the film and preparing its Release. The two entertainment giants have settled amicably as of 1-15-09 and attorneys for the studio have met on 1-16-09 to discuss the terms of the agreement.

-It may have the same title as a Diana Gabaldon book, but *Outlander* is no romance movie. Take an alien menace, a soldier sworn to hunt it from another world then—add Vikings. That's right, it's going to take the battle ready bloodthirst of the Vikings plus the brains of an offworlder to stop the menace known as the Moorwen, January 23.

-I don't know whether to be happy or cry as Fox considers making a *Cowboy BeBop* movie. The live action will likely star Keanu Reeves as Spike Spiegel. But I just have to know who they're planning on casting for Faye. As with the *Watchmen*, this one could be phenomenal or phenomenally bad, only time will tell.

-*Yesterday is a Lie* - is a film on the verge of making it. While receiving nods from both festival reviewers and SF reviewers the black and white noir film hasn't secured major distribution yet. That may stem from the plethora of ideas present in the movie and their lack of resolution. James Kerwin's creation stars Kipleigh Brown and Chase Masterton, two *Star Trek* alumni as well as Peter Mayhew— yes that is the man who followed around Harrison Ford in the *Star Wars* movies as Chewbacca. The film is described as a mystery/love story/dissertation on the nature of reality and there may be its problem. Hopefully someone will step up to the plate so that we can all enjoy the enigma of the film.

-Producer McG has stepped forward with plans to tackle a remake with *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea: Captain Nemo*. He states that while he will be influenced by prior works, that there will be updates.

Tillyer's News from the High Frontier

-Better dead than red might not be the case- Scientists have now discovered plumes of methane on Mars which is believed to be due biologic or geologic activity— either way our nearest neighbor is more active than we believed. The cold and dry Mars that we've grown accustomed to recently showed new depths by revealing large plumes of methane releases in the northern hemisphere. Now these can be explained away geologically as the oxidation of iron or subsurface water combining with carbon dioxide and subjected to heat. But methane could also be produced as it is here on earth as the byproducts of microscopic life. This life may reside deep enough under the ground where water still exists in a liquid form due to the warmth. Here on our world organisms live as deep as 2-3 kilometers below the surface dependent upon the natural radioactivity to produce hydrogen for their life cycles. Methane escaping on the surface of Mars is rapidly broken down due the lack of an atmosphere and incident radiation.

-In the old days only criminals were doing hard labor breaking rocks, now its NASA staff-Marshall's Regolith Simulant Team has been pulverizing rocks in the hopes of creating fake moon dust. Why? Because going back to the moon is going to take a little planning and this is one of the steps along the way. The Marshall team is working at the Stillwater Mine in Nye, Montana to break down rocks that will be ground down to the consistency of the lunar dust. Dust will be either a hindrance or help and NASA wants to look at both aspects. The ultra fine particles stick to everything and that can mean trouble with atmosphere scrubbers even inhalation. But the dust can also, with the proper additives, be used to create concrete. Extracting valuable minerals and even oxygen is another possible positive aspect of the dust. The unique formation of the rocks at the Stillwater Mine approximates the make up of the lunar highland crust and is over 2.7 billion years old making it ideal for testing.

-Now with room for eight school buses—the seating capacity of the Ares V-Our next rocket promises to be a real work horse and scientists are already imaging what they can send into orbit. The Ares will can handle a payload that is three times the volume and six times the mass of the space shuttle. Astronomers are considering a new telescope called the ATLAST, the Advanced Technology Large-Aperture Space Telescope that would vastly outstrip the imaging ability of the Hubble with a factor of 2000 times more sensitivity with a clarity increase seven times sharper than either Hubble or the James Webb. Hubble is 2.4 meters wide, the proposed ATLAST would be 16 meters calling for a wide load hauler like the Ares V. The telescope would vastly improve searches for new extra-solar planets.

BOOKGROUPS

1st Tuesday of the month
Wordwrights Writing group 7:00PM
1st Wednesday of the month
Kingswood Fiction Group 7:30PM
2nd Wednesday of the month
Whodunnit? Mystery Group 7:00PM
3rd Thursday of the month
Young Readers Group 7:00PM
4th Wednesday of the month
Pennwriters 6:00PM



3rd Wednesday 7:00PM

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