

The Andromedan Log #52

March 1996

This Month

Reviewed in this issue:
Sliders
Gulliver's Travels
Muppets Tonight!
and
Rumble in the Bronx

Vol. 5 #3

The official monthly newsletter of Star Base Andromeda

Lincoln, NE

Schwarzenegger as Mr. Freeze — Clooney as Batman

Batman & Robin is shaping up as one of the summer of 1997's most likely mega-hits with the news that Arnold Schwarzenegger has agreed to portray lead villain Mister Freeze in the film. The deal turned on whether or not Schwarzenegger could find a hole in his own busy filming schedule at the same time as *B&R* planned to film...he did. The producers were said to be looking at Bruce Willis if Arnold had fallen through, and the rumor that

Patrick Stewart was up for the role was strictly that — a rumor. There was talk that Patrick Stewart's agent and the Batman producers had briefly discussed the possibility but it apparently never went beyond that stage. Sharing the scenery-chewing screen time on this fourth Batman film will be Uma Thurman as the other main villain, Poison Ivy, who kills with her kiss.

The other big casting news on this

film, however, is the confirmed departure of the George Lazenby of the Caped Crusader scene...Val Kilmer. After only one outing as Batman, Kilmer has dropped out of *Batman & Robin* to take on the role of Simon Templar in a new feature film version of *The Saint*, co-starring current Oscar nominee Elizabeth Shue (*Leaving Las Vegas*) and directed by

Batman Casting
continued on page 3...

SBA Meeting Location Changes

Just a reminder to all SBA members, associates and/or interested parties: Due to the downtown public library's annual April booksale, our normal meeting space at Bennett Martin Public Library (14th & "N" Sts.) is not available to us starting March 17th through the end of May. All Sunday meetings will be held from 2:00 to 5:15 at the **Gere Branch Public Library (56th & Normal)**, with the exception of Easter Sunday (April 7th), on which there will be no meeting. Tuesday night meetings will be held at the **UNL Student Union** on the downtown campus at 14th & "R" Sts. We will meet on the main floor of the Union in the open seating area just north of the *Amigos* and *Imperial Palace* take-out food court area. Look for a table sign with the club logo on it starting around 6:30 on each Tuesday night beginning March 26th. Any interested parties are invited to attend any of these meetings, which are completely open to the public — you need not be a member of SBA to attend.

Gemini Awards Head Due South

Popular action-drama *Due South* brought home six Gemini Awards in early March as the Canadian television industry rewarded its insiders with the Canuck version of the Emmys. Currently in its second season on CBS (it won eight Geminis last year), the series was brought back from cancellation by an internet-fandom-led crusade (and by CBS's poorly-performing fall line-up). An additional genre Gemini winner was Nigel Bennett, who took home the award for *Supporting Actor in a Dramatic Series* for his role as Lacroix on the recently cancelled *Forever Knight*. *Reboot*, currently on the ABC Saturday morning schedule, took the Gemini for *Animated Series*. *Reboot*'s producers are currently shopping for a new network for the series' third season, following ABC's cancellation of the popular computer-generated adventure show.

Due South's six Geminis (out of 15 nominations) fell in the following categories: *Best Dramatic Series*, Paul Gross for *Actor in a Continuing Lead Dramatic Role* in the episode "Gift of the Wheelman", Jerry Ciccoritti for *Direction in a Dramatic or Comedy Series* for "Gift of the Wheelman", Gordon Pinsent for *Guest Performance by an Actor in a Drama Series*, also for "Gift of the Wheelman", and writers David Shore and Paul Haggis for *Writing for a Dramatic Series* for "Hawk and a Handsaw". *Due South* also won the *Chrysler Canada's Choice Award*, voted on by the readers of the Canadian edition of TV Guide for favorite series of the year.

Notable nominees who didn't take home awards included Geraint Wyn Davies, Catherine Disher and Deborah Duchene of *Forever Knight*, David Marciano of *Due South*, and Leslie Nielsen (guest star on *Due South*), as well as nominees from *The Outer Limits* and *TekWar*.

Congratulations to all the winners...

See the 1995 Andromeda Movie Award Results — Page 4

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Membership dues in Star Base Andromeda are as follows: **\$6.00/Supporting** — Receives all club publications, however is ineligible to hold office or vote; **\$10.00/Full member** — Receives all club publications, is eligible for office, and is able to vote in all elections or on issues associated with the club. Only members able to attend at least 20% of club meetings are eligible to hold office. All publications mailed first class. For postage outside the U.S. add an additional \$5.00.

The expiration month of your membership is listed on your mailing label.

Letters to the Editor:

The Andromedan Log encourages Letters of Comment and/or questions from fandom at large, and will attempt to make room for pertinent letters as often as possible. Please indicate if your letter is to be considered for publication. All letters submitted must include name and full address (and e-mail address, if you have one). Only name and city will be printed if your letter is actually used. E-mail to: 71242.1306@compuserve.com

Correction

Club member and your editor's wife, Becky Wurm Clark wished to correct an inaccurate description of the 1988 film *Wings of Desire* in an article in last month's *Mediawatch* column. The film was described by a columnist for one of the entertainment journals as "a thoughtful and atmospheric romance about a guardian angel who falls in love with the woman whom he is assigned to protect."

Becky says a more accurate description would be that *Wings of Desire* is an evocative exploration of the human experience vs. the divine experience. Told from the perspective of an angel who watches over humans and wishes to become one, the film touches on issues of love, humor, war, relationships and friendships, the meaning of life and the television series *Columbo*. It and its 1993 sequel, *Faraway, So Close* are both recommended viewing, although the second film, despite more humor, ends up being more somber in the end. Both films, directed by Wim Wenders, are in German, with English subtitles.

ConCussion Report — March '96

ConCussion 1996 is a definite go for July! With the final signing of the writer guests, the ConCussion staff is pushing forward at top speed to ensure the success of this first joint convention by the organizers of the former Andromeda, ConTreTemps and Maelstrom conventions. *The Andromedan Log* will include a monthly update on the progress of the convention between now and July, as well as a post-convention wrap up this fall.

To start with, here's the guest list and registration information. Please feel free to photocopy the registration form at the bottom if you don't wish to cut up your issue of *The Log*. A ConCussion web page should be up and running soon...we'll have the URL in next month's report!

The Guests of Honor:

- **Lawrence Watt-Evans** (Fantasy / Horror GoH)
- **David Weber** (Science Fiction GoH)
- **Larry Elmore** (Artist GoH)
- **David Means** (Fan GoH)

Other guests include:

- **Bob & Mary Ann Cornett**, • **Richard Knaak**, • **Mickey Zucker Reichert**

Expected to attend:

- **Robin Bailey**, • **Myrna Logan**, • **Roger Tener**

The Place:

Holiday Inn, Council Bluffs, IA

25th & I-29 N; 712-328-3881 (call for reservations at special con rate)

The Cost:

Full 3-day memberships available for \$24 from now until the convention.

How to get in touch with ConCussion staff:

ConCussion, PO Box 85762, Lincoln, NE 68501-5762 or

e-mail at: conclusion@penguin.inetnebr.com

Name: _____
Badge Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
e-mail: _____
Will you be 21 by 7-26-96? _____
Make check for \$24 payable to: ConCussion, PO Box 85762, Lincoln, NE 68501-5762

Doctor Who news

Primary filming on the new Fox *Doctor Who* movie was completed as of mid-February, after 29 days of shooting in Vancouver, British Columbia (with second-unit photography in San Francisco — the actual setting of the film). Post-production work, including special effects, will continue through March and the beginning of April. Although an air date has not specifically been announced, the *Doctor Who* movie will most likely be shown as a Tuesday Night Movie on either May 14th or May 21st, with up to five weeks of advance publicity and commercials designed to make it one of Fox's biggest performers.

British actor Paul McGann will portray the eighth Doctor, taking over the role approximately eight minutes into the movie when circumstances will force the 7th Doctor, Sylvester McCoy, to regenerate in a San Francisco hospital. Assisting the new Doctor as a temporary companion will

be heart surgeon Doctor Grace Holloway (Daphne Ashbrook — an American actress). The central menace of this story, set at the 1999 turn of the millennium, will be the master, who takes the form of American actor Eric Roberts for this one-time appearance. The hope is that high ratings will encourage the Fox network to order *Doctor Who* as a fall series, or at least a series of 2-hour movies (ala *Columbo* or *Perry Mason*), and in fact the network does have *Doctor Who* as a "1-hour series in development for the fall of '96" according to their own in-house material. However, "in development" is a status that could change dramatically if the tv-movie's ratings don't get the 15-18 share that Fox is hoping for.

Director for the telefilm was British director Geoffrey Sax (*Lovejoy*). Screenplay was by British screenwriter Matthew Jacobs. The film was given a \$6 million budget,

with primary filming done in Canada to control costs. Some location work was done in the Chinatown section of Vancouver, and the Vancouver hospital sets used in the film were also recently used by *The X-Files* — in fact, they were repainted by the *X-Files* staffers for use in that series, so close examination of the *DW* movie may reveal definite similarities. The interior Tardis sets are said to be much larger than any previously seen on Doctor Who, while still maintaining the "feel" of previous sets. Producer Philip Segal has made sure that many historical *Doctor Who* touches will be felt throughout the film, while still making the project appealing to first-time viewers of *Doctor Who*. Pass the word to all your fannish friends...we're at approximately seven weeks and counting!

Last Minute News: *Forever Knight* may have received a partial reprieve from the Sci Fi Channel. SFC will pick up where USA left off starting April 22, airing the remainder of the current season. More info next issue

Batman Casting continued from page 1

Phillip Noyce. Donning the batcape this time around will be George Clooney, the currently hot star of television's #1 show — *E.R.* — and the recent flick *From Dusk Til Dawn* (see review last issue). In February, Clooney signed a three-picture deal with *E.R.*'s production company, Warner Brothers. However, Clooney is first committed to working on *The Peacemaker* for the DreamWorks production company co-founded by Steven Spielberg — a project which required him to drop out of playing yet another costumed hero in the currently-in-limbo film *The Green Hornet* opposite Jason Lee Scott as Kato. Chris O'Donnell will return as Robin in the fourth Batman film, and will be joined on-screen by Alicia Silverstone (*Clueless*) in her first appearance as Batgirl.

Batman & Robin will be directed by Joel Schumacher, who helmed *Batman Forever*, from a script by Akiva Goldsman, who also co-scripted that third Batman film.

WWWWebWatch

The proliferation of Internet and World Wide Web sites dedicated to the interests of science fiction and fantasy fans is monumental — those of us with enough time on our hands and the technology to explore with could spend entire days surfing or treasuring hunting on the net and still just scratch the surface. This feature in *The Log* will be used to showcase sites either run by club members or recommended by club members during their own searching. To start with, here's a listed of some of the Web Pages created and maintained by SBA members and associates. If you have a page not included here, or would like to recommend a web page or internet site to readers of the Log, please send the URL to your editor at the e-mail address on page 2 so the staff of *The Log* can take a look.

<http://www.unl.edu/uevents/mine/diane.html/>

This is club member Diane Taurins' homepage, with family photos, examples of her marvelous pencil art, hotlinks to cool sites (especially associated with *Highlander: The Series*), and much more.

<http://penguin.inetnebr.com/>

This is club member Agris Taurins' homepage...less elaborate, but a nice place to visit.

<http://www.infoanalytic.com/personal/romulan/>

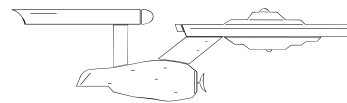
This is club associate Michael Cornelius' Romulan page, allied with the Romulan Star Empire fan club. Lots of cool graphics and links to other Romulan and Star Trek resources.

<http://www.pupzine.com/>

This is the Lincoln Fantasy & Science Fiction club's web page, with archived html versions of most of the issues of their current newsletter, *Parallel Universe Parking*. They're also working at archiving html versions of their previous newsletter, *The LFSF Newsletter*.

Star Base Andromeda

Official Club News & Announcements for March 96



1995 Andromeda Award Winners Selected

The winners of the 1995 *Andromeda Awards for Motion Picture Excellence* are hereby announced. Fourteen films had a total of 42 nominations in 12 different categories, ranging from two nominees in the Animation category to five nominees in both the Visual Effects and Outstanding Film categories. In the end, only five out of fourteen films walked away with *Andy Awards*: **Apollo 13** (8), **Batman Forever** (2), **First Knight** (1), **Strange Days** (1) and **Toy Story** (1). There was a tie in only one category — Outstanding Costumes, although two other categories came down to the final couple of votes: **Congo** narrowly losing to **Batman Forever** in the Makeup category, and Ralph Fiennes (**Strange Days**) barely losing to Tom Hanks in the Lead Actor category. **Apollo 13** won in every category in which it or one of its actors was nominated. And **Toy Story** was only one vote shy of a unanimous selection the Animation category.

This is the first year we've done the *Andromeda Awards* since 1983. Here's a few nuggets of trivia comparing this year's results with those from previous years: Kathleen Quinlan is our first repeater — In addition to her Supporting Actress win this year, she also won as Supporting Actress in 1983 for **Twilight Zone: the Movie**. **Apollo 13** ties **Return of the Jedi** for the largest number of wins, with eight each. Once again, I thank all the members and friends of SBA who took part in this year's *Andromeda Award* nominating and final voting: we had more people involved in the final voting than in years past, and I look forward to even heavier levels of participation next year!

Outstanding Art/Set Design

Batman Forever

Outstanding Makeup Design

Batman Forever

Outstanding Costume Design (tie)

Apollo 13

First Knight

Outstanding Animation

Toy Story

Outstanding Original Soundtrack

Apollo 13

Outstanding Visual Effects

Apollo 13

Outstanding Supporting Actress

Kathleen Quinlan (Apollo 13)

Outstanding Supporting Actor

Gary Sinise (Apollo 13)

Outstanding Director

Ron Howard (Apollo 13)

Outstanding Actor

Tom Hanks (Apollo 13)

Outstanding Actress

Angela Bassett (Strange Days)

Outstanding Film

Apollo 13

First Friday Meeting a Success!

SBA's revived tradition of having a casual gathering the first Friday of each month started off successfully on March 1st, with a spaghetti feast at Agris and Diane's and a group watching of both the **Sliders** season premiere and the **Hypernauts** series premiere. Attendees, in addition to joining in spirited discussions of recent genre television offerings also engaged in several rounds of the game **Channel Surfing**. All SBA members and associates are urged to mark April 12th on their calendar for the next Friday gathering (April 5th is Good

Friday). Agris and Diane have once again volunteered to host the shindig and suggestions are currently being fielded for what kind of edibles should be brought to be shared. Hope to see you all there!

SBAList Now Active

SBA member Agris Taurins has created an electronic mailing list for SBA members and associates who are not "electronically challenged" in his words. The address is: [<SBAList@penquin.inetnebr.com>](mailto:SBAList@penquin.inetnebr.com). All those who had previously been receiving the SBA Electronic Updates

(both members and associates of the club) were added to this mailing list. If you would like to be added to or removed from this list, please contact our list maintainer Agris at [<taurins@penquin.inetnebr.com>](mailto:taurins@penquin.inetnebr.com) or your publicity officer, Scott, at [<71242.1306@compuserve.com>](mailto:71242.1306@compuserve.com) with full information about what you are requesting. Please feel free to make use of this mail forwarding system to alert fellow SBAers to events or announcements of an urgent nature that may appeal to them. However, we request that for general club announcements, you still submit less-

pressing notices to *The Log* for publication. The SBAList will be used for the continuing Electronic Updates as need be, however *The Andromedan Log* will remain the official voice of the club. On a related note, we hope to have an SBA Web Page up and running within the next 3 to 6 months also...more on this as it develops.

Frisbees-a-Go-Go

The suggestion to have a joint casual event of some sort during this coming summer between all of the local SF clubs, specifically a Frisbee golf tournament and picnic afterward, has received positive feedback from those who have heard about it thus far. So...we're considering it a firm "go." Although the location would be at Interstate Park along I-180 north of Cornhusker Highway (that's where the frisbee golf course is!), the date is yet to be established. Watch for a final

announcement in these pages in the next couple of months.

Next Club Event

The next officially planned club event is a group outing to the premiere of *Mystery Science Theater 3000* — *The Movie* for its Friday, April 19th premiere. The theater it will shown at is currently unknown, as is the showing time, or any other pertinent details. All we do know for sure is that we're going to be making this a standard "pizza and a movie" gathering. More details next month, but make sure you mark your calendars now! If you have a preference re: pizza before a 9ish showing, or pizza after a 7ish showing, please make your feelings known by posting to the electronic mailing list or talking to individual club members. We want to make this one our biggest recent club outing...

It's Payback Time

At a recent meeting, the members of SBA decided to follow in the footsteps of another popular club, *The Prydonians of Prynceton*, and try a new promotional tactic to encourage new members to join and current members to seek out potential new victims, er, membership candidates. *The Membership Payback Program* encourages current members to bring in new members to the club by rewarding the current member for every successful new member they assist to join the club. If you are responsible for bringing in a new *Supporting Member* to SBA, you get one extra month added to your current membership. If you are responsible for bringing in a new *Full Member* to SBA, you get an extra two months added to your current membership. To make this fair to

Club News

continued on page 13

★ Officer Reports — February 1996

Presidio: Mike Ponte

Star Base Andromeda meetings will move from Bennett Martin Library to the Gere Branch beginning with the March 17th meeting, through May; we will continue to meet on Sunday afternoons from 2:00 p.m. to 5:15 p.m., and on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. [See update on page one.]

General Manager:

Currently vacant. If you are interested in applying for this position, which is responsible for arranging for meeting locations, maintaining copies of current club documents and moderating official club functions in the Presidio's absence, please contact the Presidio.

Treasurer: Dave Teche

Figures given in last month's report were in error. We have a current balance of \$44.70. Monies in since last report: \$10.00 in membership fees. Monies out since last report: \$9.70 for postage costs on *Andromedan Log* #51 and printing costs for advertising flyers distributed at the Omaha Star Trek convention on March 10th. [Report by Scott Clark — all Treasurer information and books now turned over to current Treasurer Dave Teche, whose first report follows.] I officially assumed the duties of the Star Base Andromeda Club Treasurer on Stardate 9603.12. At that time, all club funds were transferred, totalling \$44.70. Since assuming my duties, I have neither received deposits, nor have I been requested to make disbursements. Thus the club treasury stands at \$44.70.

Editor: Scott Clark

A preliminary index to issues #1-50 of *The Andromedan Log* was produced and passed around to long-time SBA members. An updated and corrected edition, based on comments from those members, will be produced and distributed shortly. Publication schedule on future *Andromedan Logs* has been altered slightly so that completed issues can be distributed at the once-a-month meetings the first Friday of each month. As always, I am currently seeking reviews, news and reports from anyone interested in contributing to *The Log*. Please contact me if you have anything to include in the next issue.

Correspondence Committee Chairperson: Scott Clark

Mail in since last report: One inquiry about *Andromeda* convention t-shirts. Mail out since last report: Miscellaneous issues of *Andromedan Log* #51 to various club members and other sources.

Librarian: Frank Dreier

No report this month.

Registrar: Mike Ponte

Star Base Andromeda currently has ten full members and two supporting members; Bryce Pfeiffer is our newest member, joining on February 27th. Current membership lists are available from me for all paid members of the club.

Publicity Committee Chairperson: Scott Clark

Two hundred copies of a new SBA flyer were distributed at an Omaha Star Trek convention on March 10th. Additional copies of this flyer will be inserted in all copies of *The Log* to be placed at area stores in the next few months. Work continues (sporadically) on the *SBA Infopak*; Rod Vasek is assisting by composing a cover letter for the *Infopak* which can serve as a Purpose and Goals Statement. We are still making plans to contact the sf clubs at the local high schools to facilitate interaction with them, although no action has currently been taken on this.

Historian: Mike Ponte

No change since last report

Rigel Committee Chairperson:

Currently vacant. If you are interested in applying for this position, which coordinates any public events the club sponsors, please contact the Presidio.



Mediawatch

Genre News and Observations

That Rumor Mill's Goin' Crazy

Variety reports that the word from the set of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* is that Nana Visitor's pregnant, and the father is her co-star Alexander Siddig. Although the show's producers refused to comment, sources indicated that Siddig and Visitor have been dating for quite some time, and those sources also indicated that the pregnancy will be worked into the DS9 storyline.

It Ain't Over Till the Fat Cats Sing

The four major broadcast television networks (ABC, CBS, Fox and NBC) have agreed to extend the traditional 30-week television season, with the ending of the "season" now coming at the end of the May "sweeps" period. Previously, the official end of the television season fell during the middle of April, not bringing the major May sweeps period into the picture at all. This, despite the fact that the May sweeps are one of the periods during which advertising rates are set based on show performances. On the other hand, a study of the past several television seasons indicates there would only have been minor changes in the season-ending statistics of most series if the figures from April/May viewing periods were factored in.

F/X — the Series, not the Network

Rysher Entertainment's upcoming *F/X — The Series* has been given a firm go-ahead for production. The syndicated action hour has cleared 117 stations, covering 82% of the country. *F/X — The Series* will star Kevin Dobson and Cameron Daddo in the roles played by Brian Dennehy and Bryan Brown in the two feature films. The series has been picked up by WWOR-TV in New York, KCOP-TV in L.A. and many of the other major players in the top U.S. markets.

Spies Are Us

Following the exceptionally positive showing of a reel from the new spy

parody film *Spy Hard* at the NATO/ShoWest convention in March, producers are pumping another \$2 million into the movie's \$20 million budget to film action-packed new opening and closing sequences. The lampoon stars Leslie Nielsen (*doesn't he do anything except parodies anymore?*) and is expected to be released this summer.

The Award is Powell, Charles Powell

Members of the Film Information Council voted the latest James Bond film, *Goldeneye* to receive the Charles M. Powell Award as the best marketed film of 1995, capping two years of a publicity campaign that rejuvenated the film series which had lain fallow for the past six years.

Speaking of 007

Pierce Brosnan is contracted for a total of three Bond films, the second of which is already in pre-production under the working title of *Dreamweaver*. Brosnan has been quoted as saying that he will not do any more than three films in the series, no matter what the producers try to do to change his mind. The video of *Goldeneye* is scheduled for a late May 1996 release, in conjunction with the release of a second boxed set of earlier Bond films. The Connery films have already been released in a boxed set (either Letterboxed or Pan-and-Scan), complete with a "making of" video covering *Goldfinger* and *Thunderball*.

Just Another Day in Oparadise

Walt Disney studio officials announced recently that they've signed multi-Grammy winning singer/songwriter Phil Collins to create the music for their 1998 animated film *Tarzan*, currently in production. The 1997 animated release for the Disney folks will be the upcoming *Hunchback of Notre Dame*.

The Absent Minded Orkan

Robin Williams, fresh off the success

of *The Birdcage*, is in discussions with producer/director John Hughes to star in Hughes' remake of *The Absent Minded Professor* for Walt Disney Productions. The original 1961 version starred Fred MacMurray as the mild-mannered scientist who discovered flying rubber — flubber — but who then got mixed-up with lighthearted industrial espionage.

Werewolf in Paris

Filming is expected to begin in June in Paris and Luxembourg on *An American Werewolf in Paris*, the on-again, off-again sequel to John Landis' original *An American Werewolf in London*. Starring Tobey Maquire and Julie Delpy, the film is written and directed by Anthony Waller (*Mute Witness*) and will be produced by Richard Clause and Cometstone Prods for Charles Hirschorn at Disney's Hollywood Pictures imprint. The plot this time is that Maguire will play an American who gets attacked and bitten by Delpy's feral character and himself becomes a werewolf.

Your Soundtrack...Should You Choose to Accept It

Composer Alan (*Forrest Gump*) Silvestri's soundtrack for the upcoming *Mission Impossible* feature was dumped in the post-production stages after producer/star Tom Cruise's CW Productions staff indicated displeasure at what had been delivered. Danny Elfman (*Batman, Nightmare Before Christmas*, etc.) was brought in late in the game to pen a new score, which sources say has met with the producers' approval. Silvestri's departure was termed amicable. *Mission Impossible* is scheduled to be released May 22nd, and the trailer for it has already hit movie screens.

Beastmaster News

Following the phenomenal success of its syndicated hits *Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* and *Xena: Warrior Princess*, MCA TV is seriously considering the possibilities of spinning its Beastmaster property into a syndicated series of its own. A third Beastmaster film starring Marc Singer, *Beastmaster III: The Eye of Braxus*, this time made directly for television,

is scheduled to debut in syndication in May, and studio execs are said to be waiting for that tv movie's ratings before making a final decision on producing a new series. Universal television representatives have discussed the concept with Singer to ascertain his availability, but in addition to the ratings of the upcoming movie, another factor influencing *Beastmaster's* future as a series is the ability of the producers to provide story lines for at least five years of a series.

Tearing Down the Fences

CBS has cancelled its long-running and award-winning *Picket Fences* due to slipping ratings. The last airing for the Emmy-winning show was February 16th, but three remaining unaired hours will be shown as a one-hour special and a two-hour finale on Monday, April 22nd and Wednesday, April 24th. Taking over *Fences'* 9:00 p.m. timeslot on Fridays beginning March 29th will be the new Don Johnson action drama *Nash Bridges*. Johnson stars as the head of a Special Investigations bureau of the San Francisco Police Department who has two ex-wives and a 16-year-old daughter. His main co-stars will be Cary Hiroyuki Tagawa (*Space Rangers*), Annette O'Toole (*Superman III*) and Cheech Marin (recently in *From Dusk Til Dawn*).

Another Big Mini

Following his recent success with *Gulliver's Travels* (see review in this issue) for NBC, producer Robert Halmi is joining forces with Francis Ford Coppola to bring Homer's *Odyssey* to television as a multi-part mini-series. The mini, intended to be an unabridged version of Homer's epic poem, will feature star quality casting for the main roles of Odysseus, his wife Penelope and son Telemachus, with major celebrity cameos throughout the production, much like *Gulliver*. Filming will be done in the Mediterranean, with a budget higher than *Gulliver's* \$25 million. Production dates, network (probably NBC) or likely air schedule have not been confirmed yet.

Hollywood Invades Mars

The cast for filming of Tim Burton's upcoming *Mars Attacks* continues to grow with each passing week. The science fiction comedy fantasy, scheduled to go before the cameras this spring and summer, for a summer 1997 release, will film in various sites across the U.S. for location footage, with studio filming in L.A. The cast thus far includes: Pierce Brosnan, Jim Brown, Glenn Close, Michael J. Fox, Pam Grier, Lukas Haas, Tom Jones, Jack Nicholson, Sarah Jessica Parker, Natalie Portman, Barbet Schroeder, Martin Short, Rod Steiger, Sylvia Sydney, and Paul Winfield. The film is based on a controversial series of Topps trading cards in which citizens take on Martian hordes that have invaded Earth. Nicholson will play at least two roles, as both the President of the U.S. and a real estate hustler, and Close will appear as the First Lady.

Tidbits of Trek

News from the Feb/Mar issue of *Star Trek Communicator*, via Rick Berman: Paramount is going over a short list of composers for *Star Trek VIII*, but no selection has yet been made; Director of Photography hasn't been signed yet; although the Enterprise-E will appear in the film, its design has not been finalized (rumors state that it will have a third nacelle); all the cast are enthusiastic about the script and the only "enemy" the cast and crew have is an extremely tight shooting schedule; location shooting will mostly likely include sites in Oregon and Arizona; H.R. Giger (*Alien, Species*) has been brought in as a consultant to redesign the Borg for the feature!; and the film is still targeted for a Thanksgiving release date.

Upcoming Star Trek Books

Beam Me Up Scotty is the autobiography of James Doohan, co-written with Trek novelist Peter David. Expect it in June for \$12.00. A new hardback version of *Inside Star Trek*, written by Bob Justman with Herb Solow and recollecting the original genesis and production history of classic Star Trek is aimed for a June release with a cover price of \$30.00.

Lazarus Rises

TNT's western/suspense/thriller series *The Lazarus Man*, starring Robert Urich, has posted very strong numbers during its first few weeks on the air. The series airs in general syndication first, then the same episode airs two weeks later at 8 p.m. Saturdays on the TNT network. *It's a well-done series, worth a look* — editor.

Oh, Boy!

Former *Quantum Leaper* Scott Bakula, fresh from his stints on *Murphy Brown* and the *Invaders* update (see review last issue) is set to star in a new CBS series, *Mr. and Mrs. Smith*. The show, about two spies, male and female, is being likened to *Moonlighting* for its humor and sexual tension, and *Remington Steele* for its romance and mystery.

I am Tarzan, You Are Jane...

Filming was completed in early March on the 2-hour pilot to *Tarzan: The Epic Adventures*, a new made-for-syndication series to premiere in the fall of '96. The series, produced by SeaGull Entertainment and shot at the Disney/MGM Studios in Orlando, Florida, will star Joe Lara as Tarzan/Lord Greystoke. The series has been cleared on 86 stations, representing 72% of the U.S. market. In addition to its U.S. coverage, the series has been sold in over 40 countries world-wide, and the pilot episode will be released on video. Producers commented that their Tarzan has been made more caring and articulate than many of his previous celluloid incarnations.

All Work and No Play...

Stephen Weber (*Wings*) and Rebecca DeMornay (*The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*) are taking over the Jack Nicholson and Shelly Duvall roles in a new television mini-series version of *The Shining*, with a screenplay by Stephen King. Produced by the same folks who brought us *The Stand*, this version is said to be closer to what King's initial vision of the story was, in comparison to the Stanley Kubrick film which King didn't particularly care for.

Mediawatch
continued on page 11

Channel Surfing #4

Channel Surfing is a monthly report of developments in genre television, including science fiction, fantasy and action/adventure. If you have news about a genre tv show that you think might not be commonly known, please feel free to pass it on to the editor at the address or e-mail address on page 2.

Aliens in the Family

New sitcom from the producers of *Muppets Tonight*, telling the story of a family composed of a human male, an alien female, their respective teenage offspring and their mutually created infant child, who is the Emperor of the Universe. This series has met with near-universal disdain from the critics...don't expect it to last long.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 15 Meet the Brodys
Mar 22 Bobut Conquers All

American Gothic

Though not officially cancelled, this series was pulled off the air by CBS as of February 14th, with no scheduled return date announced. Nearly half the filmed episodes remain unaired at this time.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

[unk] Learning to Crawl
[unk] Echo of Your Last Goodbye
[unk] Triangle
[unk] The Buck Stops Here
[unk] Requiem
[unk] Potato Boy
[unk] To Hell and Back
[unk] The Beast Within
[unk] Ring of Fire

Babylon 5

All episodes of this PTEN/syndicated series are written by J. Michael Straczynski. "*Severed Dreams*" — When President Clark tries to seize control of Babylon 5 by force, Sheridan is faced with the prospect of severing the station's ties with Earth. Effects heavy episode. "*Ceremonies of Light and Dark*" — This episode marks the exact midpoint of the five-year story arc, and touches on the relationship between Lennier and Delenn. "*A Late Delivery From Avalon*" — Guest starring Michael York, and involving the King Arthur legend in some way. "*Ship of Tears*" — Guest starring Walter Koenig, and featuring major revelations about Bester's background

and future. This episode is also supposed to deal with Bester's and the Psi-Corps' stand regarding the Shadows. "*Interludes and Examinations*" — The War begins, finally, and Morden reappears. "*War Without End [1 & 2]*" — This two-parter features the return of Ambassador Sinclair and the flip side to the first-season episode "Babylon Squared". We also see Minbar for the first time. "*Walkabout*" — Focuses on Lyta and the Vorlons.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 4 The Fall of Night (re)
Mar 11 There All the Honor Lies (re)
Mar 18 And Now For a Word (re)
Mar 25 Shadow of Z'Ha Dum (re)
Apr 1 Severed Dreams
Apr 8 Ceremonies of Light and Dark
Apr 15 A Late Delivery From Avalon
Apr 22 Sic Transit Vir
Apr 29 Ship of Tears
May 6 Interludes and Examinations
May 13 War Without End [1]
May 20 War Without End [2]
[unk] Walkabout
[unk] Gray 17 is Missing
[unk] And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place
[unk] [Season Finale — Title Classified]

Due South

An additional 5 episodes of this Gemini-award winning series were ordered by CBS, bringing the total number for this season up to 18. Ratings, though not spectacular, have been stable on Fridays, and have definitely improved on what CBS previously had on in the timeslot. There's no word on *Due South's* chances for a third season at this point.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 1 We Are the Eggman
Mar 8 They Eat Horses, Don't They
Mar 15 [pre-empted for Basketball]
Mar 22 [pre-empted for Basketball]
[unk] [The Train episode]

Forever Knight

Still cancelled, no word of any official reprieve. The remaining four new episodes are rumored to be held back until May, to air during sweeps.

Rumors on the net indicated that the final episode, titled "Last Knight" would feature the true death of Nick's character, insisted upon by the production company to prevent anyone else from picking up the show and proving how big a mistake Tristar/Sony had made. We won't know for sure until May. USA is airing repeats of the first 13 episodes of the current season at midnight on Thursday nights.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 4 My Trophy Girl (re)
Mar 11 Let No Man Tear Asunder (re)
[unk] Jane Doe
[unk] Ashes to Ashes
[unk] Francesca
[unk] Last Knight [series finale]

Hercules: The Legendary Journeys

Already renewed for two more seasons by MCA TV.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 4 Promises
Mar 11 What's in a Name? (re)
Mar 18 King For a Day
Mar 25 The Mother of All Monsters (re)

Highlander

Already renewed for a full fifth season. The remaining new episodes for the current season will continue to be staggered over the next few months, with the final two new episodes airing the first two weeks of July. "*Methuselah's Gift*" — Someone's after the shard of the Methuselah Stone which Amanda was given by her mentor, and they're willing to kill to get it.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 4 The Wrath of Kali (re)
Mar 11 Chivalry (re)
Mar 18 Homeland (re)
Mar 25 Brothers in Arms (re)
Apr 1 The Innocent (re)
Apr 8 Leader of the Pack (re)
Apr 15 Double Eagle (re)
Apr 22 Methuselah's Gift
Apr 29 Through a Glass Darkly
May 6 Double Jeopardy
May 13 Till Death
The final two new episodes will air in July

Hypernauts

New ABC Saturday morning live-action adventure series aimed at a juvenile audience. The special effects and behind-the-scenes production are by former *Babylon 5* staffers. Premiered in primetime on a Friday to

extremely low ratings. *"First Contact"* — written by Christy Marx, directed by Leslie Hill; *"The Star Ranger"* — written by Christy Marx, directed by Jim Johnston; *"Icebound"* — written by Katherine Lawrence, directed by Janet Greek; *"Battle at Vekara"* — written by Larry DiTillio, directed by Jon Kroll; *"A Walk in the Garden"* — written by Len Wein, directed by Leslie Hill; *"Cloudholm"* — written by Richard Mueller, directed by Jon Kroll; *"Into the Dark So Deep"* — written by Larry Carroll and David Carren, directed by Ron Thornton; *"Gone To Meet The Maker"* — written by David Carren and Larry Carroll, directed by Adam Weissman; *"Reunion"* — written by D.C. Fontana, directed by Christin Harty; *"Hole in the Sky"* — written by Larry DiTillio, directed by Jon Kroll; *"New Alliances"* — written by Katherine Lawrence, directed by Jon Kroll; *"The Challenge"* — written by Christy Marx, directed by Adam Weissman [1] and John Vulich [2].

Air Schedule:

Mar 1	First Contact (Special Primetime Premiere)
Mar 2	The Star Ranger
Mar 9	Icebound
Mar 16	Battle at Vekara
Mar 23	A Walk in the Garden
Mar 30	Cloudholm
[unk]	Into the Dark So Deep
[unk]	Gone To Meet The Maker
[unk]	Reunion
[unk]	Hole in the Sky
[unk]	New Alliances
[unk]	The Challenge [1]
[unk]	The Challenge [2]

JAG

JAG has moved to 7:00 on Wednesdays, beginning with the episode of March 13th. The series is rumored to have been picked up for a full 22-hour season, though this has not been confirmed

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 13	Defensive Action
Mar 20	Smoked

Kindred: The Embraced

Aaron Spelling's new vampire series, based in part on the *Vampire: The Masquerade* role-playing game, is scheduled to join the Fox schedule the first week of April, with a 90-minute pilot on Tuesday April 2nd, and a second episode in its regular timeslot at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 3rd.

Kung Fu: The Legend Continues

Upcoming Air Schedule (Week of)

Mar 4	Demons (re)
Mar 11	Deadly Fashion (re)
[unk]	May I Talk With You?
[unk]	Veil of Tears

Lazarus Man

Original episodes of this western/suspense/thriller series began airing in 100 markets in open syndication in February. Episodes air first on syndicated stations around the country, then the same episode airs two weeks later at 8:00 Saturdays on TNT.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (TNT air dates)

Feb 17	Palace of Dreams
Feb 24	Purgatory
Mar 2	[unknown]
Mar 9	[unknown]
Mar 16	[unknown]
Mar 23	[unknown]

Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

"Forget Me Not" — Supposed to tie up the amnesia storyline. *"Oedipus Wrecks"* — Features a villain who's the brother of Bad Brain from *"Don't Tug on Superman's Cape"*. *"It's a Small World After All"*, was written by Teri "Lois" Hatcher, and features Lois & Clark shrunk to the size of Barbie dolls.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 3	We Have a Lot to Talk About (re)
Mar 10	Forget Me Not
Mar 17	Ordinary People (re)
Mar 24	Oedipus Wrecks
Mar 31	[New episode]
Apr 7	[unknown]
Apr 14	It's a Small World After All
Apr 21	When Irish Eyes Are Killing (re)
Apr 28	[pre-empted]
May 5	[New episode]
May 12	[Season Finale]

Muppets Tonight!

Upcoming guest stars include: Martin Short, Paula Abdul, Tony Bennett, Whoopi Goldberg and Sandra Bullock. Repeating sketches are scheduled to include: *"Pigs in Space: Deep Dish Nine!"* (a new generation of Pigs in Space featuring Miss Piggy and the crew of the Swinetrek II); *"E-I-E-I-O"* a fast-paced medical drama starring Mister Poodlepants; *"Bay of Pigswatch"* starring Spamela Anderson; and *"Tails From the Vet"* a spooky thriller featur-

ing a lactose intolerant cow. 13 episodes were ordered for the first season of this mid-season replacment series.

Air Schedule:

Mar 8	Host: Michelle Pfeiffer
Mar 15	Host: Garth Brooks
Mar 22	Host: Billy Crystal
Mar 29	Host: John Goodman

Mystery Science Theater 3000

An accurate air schedule for the syndicated *Mystery Science Theater Hour* remains difficult to come by, however the following schedule of Comedy Central airings of the current season is included here. Comedy Central continues to air repeats from previous seasons on a daily basis. Unless listed differently, all airings below are at 1:00 a.m. All new episodes air first on Saturday afternoon at 4:00, with repeats of that episode on Sunday mornings at 6:00 and Mondays at 1:00 a.m.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 1	The Creeping Terror [606]
Mar 2	Bloodlust [607]
	Escape 2000 [NEW-705] 4 pm
Mar 3	repeated 6 am
Mar 4	repeated 1 am
Mar 5	Code Name: Diamond Head [608]
Mar 6	The Skydivers [609]
Mar 7	The Violent Years [610]
Mar 8	Last of the Wild Horses [611]
Mar 9	The Starfighters [612]
	Night of the Blood Beast [701]
Mar 10	repeated 6 am
Mar 11	repeated 1 am
Mar 12	The Sinister Urge [613]
Mar 13	San Francisco International [614]
Mar 14	Kitten With a Whip [615]
Mar 15	Racket Girls [616]
Mar 16	Sword and the Dragon [617]
	The Brute Man [702]
Mar 17	repeated 6 am
Mar 18	repeated 1 am
Mar 19	High School Bigshot [618]
Mar 20	Red Zone Cuba [619]
Mar 21	Danger!! Death Ray [620]
Mar 22	The Beast of Yucca Flats [621]
Mar 23	Angels Revenge [622]
	Deathstalker & The Warriors From Hell [703]
Mar 24	repeated 6 am
Mar 25	repeated 6 am
Mar 26	The Amazing Transparent Man [623]
Mar 27	Samson vs. The Vampire Women [624]
Mar 28	Rocketship X-M [201]
Mar 29	Jungle Goddess [203]
Mar 30	The Lost Continent [206]
	The Incredible Melting Man [704]
Mar 31	repeated 6 am
Apr 1	repeated 1 am

Channel Surfing

continued on next page...

Nowhere Man

UPN remains high on this suspense/thriller, although an official renewal notice has not come down for 96-97 yet.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 4	You Really Got a Hold on Me (re)
Mar 11	[pre-empted by Star Command]
Mar 18	Doppelganger
Mar 25	The Spider Webb (re)
Apr 1	The Alpha Spike (re)
Apr 8	Through a Lens Darkly [Shutterbug]
Apr 15	Dark Side of the Moon [The Mugging]
Apr 22	[repeat] (re)
Apr 29	Zero Minus Ten
May 6	Marathon
May 13	Callaway
May 20	Finale

The Outer Limits [Showtime]

New episodes air on Friday nights. Repeats of the previous week's Friday episode air on Sundays (not listed).

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

Mar 1	Trial By Fire
Mar 8	Resurrection (re)
Mar 15	A Stitch in Time (re)
Mar 22	Remittance Man
Mar 29	I Hear You Calling (re)

The Outer Limits [syndi]

Upcoming Air Schedule (Week of)

Mar 4	The New Breed (re)
Mar 11	The Quality of Mercy (re)
Mar 18	Under the Bed (re)
[unk]	Voice of Reason

The Rockford Files

The title of one of the two remaining films is known to be "Night Fishing", and features the return of Kathryn Harrold as blind psychologist Megan Dougherty, an old friend of Rockford's. Stuart "Angel" Margolin is known to have directed one of the remaining two films as well.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

[unk]	Night Fishing
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Sentinel

This new show by the team who brought us *The Flash*, *M.A.N.T.I.S.*, *The Human Target* and the feature film *The Rocketeer* focuses on a special forces cop whose plane crashes in South America, and who gains special sensory abilities as a result of the experience. Starring Richard Burgi (*One West Waikiki*). Part of UPN's

new third night on Wednesdays, which we here in the Lincoln/Omaha market won't apparently be receiving.

Air Schedule:

Mar 20	Pilot
Mar 27	Siege
Apr 3	The Killers
Apr 10	The Debt
Apr 17	[pre-empted by Gun Crazy]

Sliders

Sliders took over the slot vacated by *Strange Luck* on Fridays beginning on March 1st. Actor Nicolas Lea, seen sliding with the regulars in the first season finale, appeared only briefly in the season premiere and does not join the cast as a regular.

Upcoming Air Schedule

Mar 1	Into the Mystic
Mar 8	Love Gods
Mar 15	Gillian of the Spirits
Mar 22	Time Again and World
Mar 29	El Sid
Apr 5	The Good, the Bad and the Wealthy [A Fist Full of Stock Options]

Apr 12 As Times Go By

Apr 19 Obsession

Apr 26 Invasion

May 3 Post Traumatic Slide Syndrome

May 10 Ranger, Poacher

May 17 Great Fellows

May 24 [Season Finale]

[The following were previously announced titles which may have turned into some of the titles listed above or may have been incorrect to start with]

[unk] Beauty World

[unk] A World Beyond

[unk] Gangster World [Gangland]

Space: Above and Beyond

After a up-and-down ratings season, *SAAB*'s ratings slipped during the February sweeps, which has resulted in a bit of a cold shoulder from Fox towards the show. Multiple pre-emptions in March and April are scheduled.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 3	[pre-empted by Fox movie]
Mar 10	Dear Earth
Mar 17	[pre-empted by The Simpsons]
Mar 24	[new episode]
Mar 31	[pre-empted or a repeat]

Space Cases

This new half-hour series from Bill Mumy (*Babylon 5*, *Lost in Space*) and author Peter David is oriented more towards kids than adults. It airs on the Nickelodeon cable network on Saturdays at 8:00 p.m. The series is about

five mismatched kids and adults (and a goofy robot), thrown to the far end of the universe and on their own.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 2	We Gotta Get Out of This Place
Mar 9	Who Goes There
Mar 16	A Day in the Life
Mar 23	Spung at Heart

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

Plots of upcoming episodes are unknown, although one episode will deal with Worf being put on trial.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

Mar 4	Way of the Warrior, Pt. 1 (re)
Mar 11	Way of the Warrior, Pt. 2 (re)
Mar 18	Indiscretion (re)
Mar 25	Rejoined (re)
Apr 1	Starship Down (re)
[unk]	Rules of Engagement
[unk]	Hard Times
[unk]	Shattered Mirror
[unk]	Muse
[unk]	For the Cause

Star Trek: Voyager

"Investigations" — Amateur journalist Neelix investigates rumors of a dissatisfied crew member, which leads to Tom Paris' leaving the ship. While Paris is captured by the Kazon-Nistim and Seska and tortured for classified information, Neelix's ongoing investigation seems to reveal him as the mole who's been feeding Seska information from aboard Voyager. Story by Jeff Schnaufer and Ed Bond; teleplay by Jeri Taylor; directed by Les Landau. "Deadlock" — While attempting to elude pursuing Viidian ships, Voyager is in a freak accident which results in two identical ships and crews. But Kim and Kes have disappeared, and there's only enough antimatter to keep one ship running long enough to escape the phage-ridden Viidians. Janeway meets her duplicate self and they realize that only one ship can survive. Written by Brannon Braga; directed by David Livingston.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (UPN air dates)

Mar 4	Persistence of Vision (re)
Mar 11	[pre-empted by Star Command]
Mar 13	Investigations
Mar 18	Deadlock
Mar 25	Tattoo (re)
Apr 1	Cold Fire (re)
Apr 8	Innocence
Apr 15	Maneuvers (re)
Apr 22?	Thawed
Apr 29?	Symbiogenesis

Third Rock From the Sun

Production continues on episodes of NBC's hit new situation comedy, and the publicity machine just keeps cranking out more news. An *Entertainment Weekly* article listed one upcoming plot: Dick in drag to infiltrate a women-only staff meeting.

Upcoming Air Schedule

Mar 4 Ab-Dick-Ted (Monday Airing)
Mar 6 [pilot] (re)
Mar 12 Truth or Dick
Mar 19 The Art of Dick

The X-Files

"Hell Money" — Chinese mysticism involved in a case involving three murders by cremation. Season ender rumored to be another cliffhanger, despite the series' early fourth season renewal.

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 1 Clyde Bruckman's Finale Repose (re)
Mar 8 Teso dos Bichos
Mar 15 Irresistible (re)
Mar 22 Firewalker (re)
Mar 29 Hell Money
Apr 5 Born Again (re)
Apr 12 Jose Chung's 'From Outer Space'
Apr 19 Oubliette (re)
Apr 26 Avatar

Xena: Warrior Princess

Already renewed for two more seasons.

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

Mar 4 The Prodigal
Mar 11 Prometheus (re)
Mar 18 Death in Chains (re)
Mar 25 Hooves and Harlots (re)

Mediawatch continued from page 7

See if You Can Spot 'Em!

Walt Disney's 1961 animated film *101 Dalmatians*, in addition to undergoing a live-action remake which is currently filming with Glenn Close as Cruella DeVille, will also be hitting the small screens as a new syndicated series in the fall of 1997. 52 animated half-hour episodes have been ordered, to air as part of a daily 90-minute block of Disney shows, which has already been cleared in 80% of the country. The other two segments of this "block" have not yet been announced.

Respected Actor Dies

Oscar and Tony Award-winning actor Martin Balsam was found dead in his Rome hotel room Tuesday, February 13th. He apparently died of natural causes. Balsam was perhaps most well-known for playing the "everyman" type of characters in many films of the 60's, 70's and 80's. His film and tv credits included: *A Thousand Clowns* (for which he won his 1964 best supporting actor Oscar), genre favorite *Psycho*, *Breakfast at Tiffany's*, *The Carpetbaggers*, *All the President's Men*, *Little Big Man*, *On the Waterfront*, *Twelve Angry Men*, *Seven Days in May*, *The Bedford Incident*, *Hombre*, *Catch-22*, *Tora! Tora! Tora!*, *The Taking of Pelham One Two Three*, *Murder on the Orient Express*, *The Anderson Tapes*, *Summer Wishes*, *Winter Dreams* and both the 1962 and 1991 versions of *Cape Fear*. Genre fans will remember him for appearances on both generations of *The Twilight Zone*.

This Column Will Self Destruct in Three Articles

As mentioned last month, Marvel Comics and Paramount Pictures have struck up a partnership in which a new line of comics under the Marvel Presents Paramount Comics banner will be released adapting Paramount properties into comic-book format. The first of these will be the *Mission Impossible* comic-book (actually a prequel to the film!), which will hit stands in May to coincide with the feature film's release. Four or more *Star Trek* titles will then be released over the course of the summer. Included: *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, *Star Trek: Voyager*, and a title which will alternate stories of Classic/Movie era Trek and STNG. Also on the drawing board: stories set prior to Kirk & Co, and a title set at Star Fleet Academy. Expect a major push to coincide with the 30th Anniversary of Trek in the fall.

God is Dead

Beloved comedian George Burns passed away on the morning of Saturday, March 9th in his sleep, two months after his 100th birthday. The actor and stand-up comedian who'd

spent 93 of his 100 years in show business, had suffered from various conditions resulting from a fall in his shower two years ago, but prior to that had remained active with live and filmed performances until he was 98. Known to genre fans for his performances as God in four *Oh God!* films during the late 1970's and 80's, Burns is perhaps best remembered for the many years in which he and his wife, Gracie Allen performed on radio and television as Burns & Allen. Always the straight man to his wife's ditzzy airhead, Burns slipped out of the mainstream of comedy after Gracie's death in 1964, not reappearing until his Best Supporting Actor-award winning performance in Neil Simon's 1975 *The Sunshine Boys* opposite Walter Matthau — the role was originally supposed to go to Burns' friend Jack Benny, who died before filming could begin. At eighty years old, Burns began a second career, which looked like it would never end. Seemingly always surrounded by beautiful girls, martinis and a huge stogie in recent years, George Burns was interred in the same crypt as his beloved Gracie where, per his wishes, she'll once again have top billing. We'll miss your wicked smile, George...

And finally...

You May Have Gone Too Far When...

Little Rock, Ark (AP)

An alternate juror who wore a *Star Trek: The Next Generation* uniform to the Whitewater trial every day was beamed from the case for violating the judge's prime directive: No talking to the media. U.S. District Judge George Howard Jr. removed Barbara Adams for giving a TV interview about the maroon-and-black costume and the sci-fi gadgets on her belt. In the March 13th interview with *American Journal*, Miss Adams, a 31-year-old print-shop supervisor, said she is a devotee of the 1960's series because it is an alternative to "mindless television" and promotes inclusion, tolerance, peace and faith in humanity. "If it helps to make people think a little bit more what those ideals are, then I'll keep wearing this uniform," she said.

Reviews

★★★★★ — Excellent

★ — Poor

Rumble in the Bronx

This was my first exposure to the phenomenon known as Jackie Chan, and it was most definitely a positive experience. This Asian actor, billed as the #1 movie star in the world, based on the success of his string of hit Chinese movies, is finally breaking into the U.S. action arena with this glossy, tongue-in-cheek "chop-socky" flick. **Rumble in the Bronx** features Chan as Keong, who has come from the homeland to New York for the wedding and retirement of his Uncle Bill (Bill Tung). On his arrival, Keong must defend the small neighborhood store his uncle has recently sold from the attacks of a gang of motley street punks, and from the machinations of a diamond-smuggling mobster. In addition to his chivalrous duties, Keong also becomes involved in the life of a young wheelchair-bound boy who looks up to him as a role model. Suffice it to say, the plot isn't much, and merely serves as a device to link numerous spectacular action and fight sequences together.

And what fight and action sequences those are! Chan is a remarkable choreographer of rapid martial arts moves and makes the best of unusual settings to enhance the look of the action. A fight in which Keong confronts the street gang in their warehouse headquarters and must fight over twenty individuals at once using refrigerators, pool cues and shopping carts is unbelievably spectacular, as is a lengthy sequence in a parking garage as Keong attempts to elude the pursuing street gang. Chan's reputation for doing all of his own stunts led him to break his own foot during the filming, but he merely wore a special protective shoe and went on with the movie...even filming a sequence where he waterskies without skis with the damaged foot. Watch the end credits for a behind-the-scenes look at how he broke the foot.

There's a lot to make fun of in this

film: the acting by most of the toughs is ludicrous, the comic-relief (including Anita Mui as an uptight store owner) seems to come from a three stooges film, the mountains of Vancouver stand in for the borough of the Bronx, a hovercraft which has no business being in the Bronx figures prominently in the last 20 minutes and the English over Chinese dubbing is atrocious. However, Chan's self-effacing charm, the incredible action and fights, and a general sense of "lets just have some fun" make this a can't-miss film. The success of **Rumble in the Bronx** so far has led to a major American distributor picking up Chan's next five films for wide release, so we can look forward to a lot more of his brand of action. ★★★★★

— Scott Clark

Gulliver's Travels

NBC aired this 4-hour adaptation of Jonathan Swift's classic biting satire in two parts on February 4th and 5th. Ted Danson stars as Lemuel Gulliver, a British doctor who has been missing at sea for eight years and has mysteriously returned with fantastic tales to tell. Swift's novel is translated to the screen by Simon Moore, who introduces an elaborate framing sequence to hold the story together. In the story's present, Gulliver has returned to find his wife Mary (Mary Steenburgen) and 8-year-old son Tom working for Dr. Bates (James Fox), who would have preferred that Gulliver never return...so he could marry Mary. As Gulliver, seemingly sick in the mind, relates his adventures of the past eight years to Tom, Bates has him interred at a mental hospital. But what adventures he had! First, he washes ashore on the isle of Lilliput, where, despite his monstrous size in comparison to the natives, he is captured by its militaristic people and used as a tool of war. Eventually, after witnessing the corruption and senselessness of the Lilliputian society, Gulliver leaves...soon to arrive in Brobdingnag, the land of the giants.

Here, he is the miniature one, and is eventually presented to the society's leaders as a court curiosity. While attempting to defend his homeland's political and social system in debates with the socialist Brobdingnagian Queen (Alfre Woodard), Gulliver is set up for a fall by the court jester he supplanted.

Next, Gulliver is rescued at sea by the inept intellectuals of the floating island of Laputa, and eventually, after several more brief adventures, arrives in the care of a deceitful sorcerer (Omar Sharif), who promises to return him to his true home. In the mental institution, Gulliver's rantings have forced Dr. Bates to administer laudanum, worsening Gulliver's apparent mental state. When Mary discovers Bates' actions, she insists that Gulliver be turned over to her to nurse back to health, and Gulliver is called before a medical court to determine his soundness for living in the outside world. It is before this court that Gulliver describes his final fantastical tale, of his time spent among the peaceful Houyhnhnms and the savage Yahoos. Unfortunately, it is in this final parable that Swift took his deepest digs at his contemporary society, and it is in this final tale that this movie version of the story falls somewhat limp. I don't blame them too harshly, though. It would have been difficult to visually present the society of intelligent horses any more successfully than was accomplished here.

Despite a very unSwiftian conclusion, revolving around the love of family restoring a man to sound mind and body, the tv-movie succeeds on most of the levels it attempts. The visual imagery is marvelous, with the special effects of Jim Henson Productions merging with the live-action sequences with few flaws. The scenes with a giant or miniature Gulliver interacting with the Lilliputians or Brobdingnagians are believable. The main thrust of Swift's brutally satirical take on his contemporaries is not lost...no one escapes his scathing pen: the military, intellectuals, politicians, socialists, the religious, the financial world, anarchists, royalists...all are justly impaled in the movie. This adaptation features numerous cameos

from well-known actors, including Edward Woodward, John Gielgud, Geraldine Chapman, Ned Beatty, Peter O'Toole (particularly good!) and many more. In the end, though, the whole production comes down to Danson, and he carries it very well. Though Gulliver appears somewhat oafish and uncivilized in his early adventures, Danson's portrayal of the incarcerated and possessed Gulliver back home is well done. Overall, this production is excellent, and for those who missed it, I recommend tracking it down on video. I only hope the ratings success of *Gulliver's Travels* will encourage the networks to support the adaptation of additional classics of this nature.★★★

— Scott Clark

Sliders

The return of this lightweight alternate-history/scifi series to the Fox schedule on Fridays was much-looked-forward to by its many fans, but I have to admit to a certain amount of ambivalence about it now that it's back. After a 10-episode first season, the series returned on March 1st in a dismal season premiere, in which Quinn (Jerry O'Connell), Professor Maximillian (John Rhys-Davies), Rembrandt (Cleavant Derricks) and Wade (Sabrina Lloyd) are forced to live out a *Dorothy and the Wizard of Oz*-like scenario in a world where magic really seems to work. A few of the later episodes have actually piqued my curiosity. The second episode, in which the three male sliders become sought-after Breeders on the lam on a world where viral warfare has eliminated most of the men, and the fourth episode (haven't seen the third yet) in which Quinn is forced into the mold of a modern-day gunslinger in the silk-suited corporate raider world of San Francisco, Texas were both well-done. My problem with the series is that I don't seem to be able to care for the characters...perhaps a result of the disjointed continuity built into the show's concept. It has been amusing to see the nice background "touches" that individual episodes have had — the same slavish cabbie appearing in several different realities, for instance

— but on the whole the series just seems to be missing something for me. *Sliders* is still entertaining on a fluff level, and I'll keep watching it, in the hopes that it becomes something more than just fluff. I will admit that I enjoyed the cruel irony of the ending of the first episode this season, in which they got home, only to slide out again because they didn't believe they were really there!★★

— Scott Clark

Muppets Tonight!

Also returning to television after some time off (in this case 15 years!), *Muppets Tonight!* brings back the inspired lunacy of Jim Henson's old *Muppet Show* in the post-Jim 1990's. Updated from the cluttered old theater of the original series to cluttered new television station KMUP for its new incarnation, *Muppets Tonight!* features the same blend of sketch comedy, musical numbers and sharp punnery that have been sadly missing from television for far too long. Following Henson's death in 1990, family members, including son Brian, have kept the vision Jim had alive, through films such as *A Muppet Christmas Carol* and *Muppet Treasure Island* (see review next issue), as well as providing the ongoing Muppet presence on *Sesame Street*. The 13-episode order that ABC has placed for this new series comes after several potential pilot presentations were rejected over the last several years...but the new format seems to be working. Although many of our favorite Muppet friends from days gone by appear on the new show, a new cast of regulars has also been created, headed by Clifford, the purple rastafarian host of the series. Kermit has taken a supporting role...always around but not central to the day-to-day events. *Muppets Tonight!* makes heavy use of television and movie parodies, especially in its first two episodes. *Bay of Pigswatch*, starring Miss Piggy and Spamela Anderson, and *Pigs in Space: Deep Dish Nine* both succeeded as silly take-offs (including a funny cameo by Leonard Nimoy), although *Tails From the Vet*, with its mad scientist and Igor-like monster fell a little flat. Michelle

Pfeiffer was little more than window dressing in the first episode, although Garth Brooks was very entertaining in a manic sort of way in the second outing. For the most part, the guest stars won't make-or-break individual episodes, but they can certainly add a nice touch. Overall, the feel of *Muppets Tonight!* is good, family-oriented fun. The only flaw I can see so far is that the underlying feeling of sweetness that Jim brought to *The Muppet Show* has turned into a sappy kind of silliness in *Muppets Tonight!*. Not a fatal flaw, but it does make me kinda wistful for the good ol' days. I'm sure this'll grow on me, though.★★★

— Scott Clark

Additional reviews, including *Executive Decision* and *Muppet Treasure Island* are being held back for the next issue. *The Log* is always looking for more reviews from club members of new movies, tv series, books or other items of interest to fellow fans. To submit, please contact the editor at the address/e-mail address on page 2.

Club News

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everyone, each person is limited to a total of six (6) free additional months for every year of their own paid membership. This program is effective as of the beginning of March, 1996. For more details on this program, please contact SBA's publicity officer (address on page 2). Coincidentally, this sequels straight into:

Membership News

The club is pleased to welcome two new members since the last issue of *The Andromedan Log*. Bryce Pfeiffer of Seward, NE joined as a Full Member in February and Linda Bonyhady joined as a Supporting Member in March. Linda joins as a result of Mike Ponte's publicity outreach, and he becomes the first recipient of an extra month on his current membership in our *Membership Payback Program*. Congratulations to Mike, and a big SBA welcome to our newest members. We hope you'll enjoy your stay!

Mark Your Schedules...

Upcoming events in the Lincoln/Omaha area of interest to local genre fans

March 1996

- 3 2:00-5:15 pm **Star Base Andromeda** club meeting¹
- 5 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 6 7:00-10:00 pm **Lincoln Fantasy & Science Fiction** club meeting²
- 10 2:00-5:15 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 12 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 13 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting
- 17 2:00-5:15 pm **SBA** club meeting [Video Week]
- 19 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting⁴
- 19 7:00-8:00 pm **Barnes & Noble Mystery Book Club** meeting³
- 20 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting
- 24 2:00-5:15 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 6:00-10:00 pm **ConCussion** ConComm meeting⁵
- 26 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 27 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting

April 1996

- 2 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 3 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting
- 9 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting⁵
- 10 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting
- 14 2:00-5:15 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 16 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 7:00-8:00 pm **B&N Mystery Book** club meeting
- 17 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting
- 21 2:00-5:15 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 23 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 24 7:00-10:00 pm **LFSF** club meeting
- 28 2:00-5:15 pm **SBA** club meeting
- 30 6:30-8:45 pm **SBA** club meeting

¹ — Early March **SBA** meetings on both Sundays and Tuesdays through March 17th are located at Lincoln's downtown Bennett Martin Public library at 14th & "N" Sts. in the 4th floor auditorium.

² — All **LFSF** meetings are at the UNL Student Union, specific room posted on the bulletin boards inside the building on that day.

³ — The **Barnes & Noble Mystery Book Club** meets the third Tuesday of every month at the Barnes & Noble Superstore at 52nd & "O" Sts in Lincoln. The book under discussion for the next month is decided upon at the current meeting.

⁴ — All **SBA** Sunday meetings for late March, April and May will be at Lincoln's Gere Branch Public Library, 56th & Normal Sts. due to the library booksale to be held at the downtown library in April. All Tuesday night meetings during this period will be in the NE foodcourt area (NE of Amigos and Imperial Palace take-out) on the main level of the downtown UNL student Union at 14th & "R" Sts.

⁵ — Not open to the general public. March meeting in Omaha.

STAR BASE ANDROMEDA

5100 Emerald Dr. #16
Lincoln, NE 68516

Membership Status

The expiration date of your membership follows your name on the label above.

If this issue has a YELLOW sticker on it, you have only one more month/issue on your membership.

If this issue has an ORANGE sticker on it, then this is your last issue unless you renew your membership.

POSTMASTER — DATED MATERIAL