

The Andromedan Log #53/54

April/May 1996

NOTE: Several graphics in the PDF version of this document are missing. If you find a page with a gap, please bear this in mind. We hope to replace these graphics in a future update on the sba website.

Vol. 5 #4/5

The official monthly (we try!) newsletter of Star Base Andromeda

Lincoln, NE

Babylon 5 renewed for full 4th season Mystery Science Theater 3000 moves to Sci-Fi Channel

Babylon 5 fans rejoiced on June 7th, when it was officially announced in an AOL discussion area that the series had been picked up for a full 22-episode fourth season by Warner Bros. At the Wolf 359 convention in the UK, **B5** producer J. Michael Straczynski made the official live announcement about the renewal, to thunderous applause. The fate of the final, 5th season won't be determined, most likely, until May or June of 1997.

Hollywood (Variety) June 24th – Cable's Sci-Fi Channel has rescued Comedy Central's long-running cult favorite **Mystery Science Theater 3000** from the brink of extinction, ordering 13 new episodes of the offbeat B-movie spoof for broadcast beginning in February.

The guarantee includes options over the ensuing few years for as many as 60 additional episodes at Sci-Fi Channel's discretion, Barry Schulman, the channel's VP of programming, said

in making the announcement.

Once on the air, each of the original film satires will show three times each week. The new deal also calls for the show to be broadcast internationally for the first time, via Sci-Fi Europe and USA Network Latin America.

"It's a great day for lovers of bad movies everywhere," declared Jim Mallon, producer of **MST3K**. **MST3K** has been a franchise series for Comedy

MST3K continued page 27...

Computer Problems and Convention Delay Log

For those readers of the Log who aren't electronically connected, and therefore haven't been following the saga of your editor and his computer problems via the **Electronic Updates** posted to the club mailing list, here's the skinny:

- During much of February and March, Becky and I were battling a hard drive that kept crashing, a situation which eventually led to a large-scale overhaul of our entire computer system.
- While in the process of printing out some early page proofs of the not-yet-finished issue #53 of *The Log* in mid-April, the Mac crashed again, this time refusing to acknowledge the existence of its own hard drive, necessitating a trip to the local "authorized Apple repair center". There, we were told the service tech couldn't find anything wrong with it. Shortly after returning home with the computer this time, it started having problems again...which have continued in April and May and remain constant to this day. Following on the heels of all the computer problems came **MediaWest*Con 16** (which took place over the Memorial Day weekend in Michigan — full convention review in issue #55). Now that all the time-consuming interruptions have passed (we won't even start to talk about all the work that remains on **ConCussion!**), I'm diving back into production on the club newsletter with a vengeance.
- As so much has happened since issue #52 saw print, this special double-issue (#53/54) of *The Log* is being released to make up for all the lost time. Presuming that no additional software or hardware calamities occur, this issue should see print in mid-to-late June. I'll try to get back on schedule in the next two months, with #55 out in early July and #56 out in late July.
- Because of the delays, this issue is jam-packed with information. The Mediawatch column includes news from as far back as late March, and as recently as the first week of June. I've made an effort to edit the news so that really out-dated bits don't have much emphasis (with the exception of an article on the Smithsonian exhibit), and I've saved the last lot of general mid-June news for the next issue — which should be out soon after this one — the only exceptions being the TV series renewal news. May having been the official "make or break" point for most television series, we've got a special section covering the news about who got cancelled and who got a reprieve.

Thanks for everyone's patience...I look forward to your comments!

— Scott Clark
SBA Editor

Genre TV Shows — Renewals or Pink Slips — Starting on Page 24

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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 full 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. Please send Letters to the address above right.

Corrections

As was noted in an Electronic Update to those SBA members who are electronically connected, there were a couple of spelling errors in last month's issue (#52) which need to be addressed: Your friendly, neighborhood editor seems to have an unusual fascination for the letter "Q" on the computer keyboard. Several times in **AL#52**, the letter "q" was substituted for the letter "g" in articles and announcements. Normally, we could just let these slide with a shrug and a "better luck next time" but this time, they appeared in the addresses for the club's own electronic mailing list, and the info has to be correct in order to make proper use of those lists. The correct electronic address to reach all on-line members of sba is: sbalist@penguin.inetnebr.com. I apologize for this error, and will try to make sure each issue gets a more detailed proofreading in the future.

— *Scott C.*

Editorial Comments So...how do we define "genre" for The Log?

Considering the eclectic mix of tv shows, movies, books, etc. covered in the pages of *The Andromedan Log* and during club meetings, it shouldn't come as much of a surprise that I'm occasionally asked "What, exactly, is the definition of 'genre' as it applies to *Star Base Andromeda* events and publications?" It's a fair question, but one to which there is no clear-cut answer.

Starting out as a *Star Trek* fan club back in 1974, *SBA* has grown to embrace a veritable smörgåsbord of different fandoms and sub-genres. From past and present mainstream-media SF/F (*Doctor Who*, *B5*, *X-Files*, etc.) to fringe fandoms that have burned brightly for less than a year, we've covered the spectrum. Among our interests are television, movies, fiction and non-fiction books, comic-books, fanzines, fantasy gaming, conventions, collectibles and much more. We enjoy pure science fiction and fantasy, light mysteries, action/adventure, cop shows, period pieces and sometimes even foreign works. In 22 years as a club, there's been very little that we haven't touched on in some fashion.

As we look to the future of *SBA*, this "multiple-interests" philosophy will only continue. Within *The Log*, an emphasis will always be put on science-fiction and fantasy foremost, but all other "genres" will be covered as space permits. Our sections of TV and movie news will tend to include action/adventure shows and the occasional mystery — depending on club member's interests. We probably won't delve into pure dramas or comedies, unless there's a heavy dose of SF/F involved. Reviews featured in *The Log* are encouraged to fall within any of the above-discussed categories, or a category not-yet-listed...introduce us to a new fandom, if you can!

Which conveniently segues us straight into...

Seeking Submissions

The Andromedan Log is constantly in search of contributions to fill upcoming issues. Contributions can come in many forms: News about upcoming SF/F or related genre productions; website URLs to share in the *WWWwebwatch* column; Letters to the Editor, in response to previous articles/reviews; artwork; regular or semi-regular columns; reviews (tv, movie, book, comic-book, CD-Rom, fanzine, websites...whatever your heart desires); or taking part in regularly-appearing polls. Of these, reviews are probably the easiest way to be a part of this publication. On a regular basis within this pages, you can see the kinds of reviews we're looking for: relatively short (2,000 to 5,000 words), but with enough substance not to be puff pieces. The only requirements about reviewing for *The Log* are: (1) make

Submissions cont. from pg. 2

sure you are descriptive enough of your subject that those unfamiliar with it can still understand (and hopefully appreciate) what you're reviewing; and (2) give a ★ to ★★★★★ rating to conclude your review, so that we have a similar standard of reviewing for all contributors. You can use whatever criteria you wish to assign your ratings.

Two new ways in which you can contribute to *The Log*, and possibly reward yourself with membership bonuses, are being introduced in this and the next issue of the newsletter.

The Andromedan Challenge, appearing this month on page 22, is intended to be a forum for humorous interaction in print. Each issue, a new Challenge will prompt club members and outside readers of *The Log* to submit brief silly (or serious) entries on a specific theme or subject. Every month that at least three entries are received, a winner will be selected (by club officers) from those entries submitted, to receive a free extra month of club membership added to their current standings (or a free copy of the next *Log* mailed to a non-member). Our second new feature will premiere in issue #55 of *The Log*.

Personal Logs (harkening back to our ST roots), won't be seen in every issue of *The Andromedan Log*, however it will be used at least quarterly, if not more frequently, to inspire brief commentary by more club members on issues/topics of current interest. No membership bonuses will be involved in Personal Logs...it's merely a printed "conversation starter". In the case of both of these new features, club members will usually be given either 1 or 2 months to respond, and e-mailing will be an accepted/encouraged method of response.

With our electronic mailing list keeping us up-to-date on constantly-changing club events, and most of us browsing the Internet for genre news on a daily basis, *The Log* has to keep up with the times, and serve as a monthly wrap-up of club and genre happenings. I hope all of you will be willing to help contribute to upcoming issues, to provide a greater sense of diversity and an example of the broader tastes within the club's membership...I know I enjoy doing reviews, and will continue to do

them in an effort to share my own personal interests and opinions, but I don't want to see this newsletter turn into just one person's opinions. Please consider submitting news and reviews which you think may be of interest to

your fellow club members. I'm especially looking for book, comic-book and gaming reviews, as these are areas not frequently covered within these pages.

— **Scott Clark**
SBA Editor

DOCTOR WHO UPDATE LATE-JUNE 1996

The recent airing on FOX of the new *Doctor Who* tv-movie/pilot met with limited success in the national Nielsen ratings. The May 14th movie came in 75th out of 98 network programs listed that week. The official stats were as follows:

Rating: 5.5 Share: 9 Ranking: 75/98

One ratings point represents 959,000 television homes tuned to the broadcast. The share is the percentage of sets which were tuned to *Doctor Who* of those that were actually turned on at that time. FOX was looking for at least a 15 share in order to pick *Doctor Who* up as a fall series, and despite a heavy promotional campaign on both FOX and the Sci-Fi Channel, the results were very disappointing. Falling as it did in the middle of the May sweeps period, the movie aired against new episodes of popular sitcoms on both NBC and ABC, and a popular TV-movie on CBS. However, *DW* was also below the season-to-date average for the FOX Tuesday Movie, which averages an 11 share. The FOX network has not picked up *Doctor Who* as a fall series, although they are reportedly mulling the possibility of a mid-season pick-up order, or more likely a second TV-movie. But no final decision had been reached by the time this issue of *The Log* went to press. Overseas, the ratings in the UK were much stronger than in the U.S., though less than expected. For the week ending June 2nd, *Doctor Who* placed 15th overall in the British equivalent to the Niensens, and was the second highest-rated drama for the week.

Doctor Who will not continue without FOX's participation, and they have until December to make any absolute final decisions regarding the Doctor's fate. The BBC is still interested in a five-year production deal as co-producer, so it all rests in FOX's hands at the moment. An on-line "Save Who" campaign encourages interested fans to write to the FOX executives in charge of making this decision at the snail-mail address at the end of this article. When writing, please be polite and positive. Mention how much you enjoyed the recent movie and would like to see additional *Doctor Who* produced for U.S. airing. Tell them a little something about yourself for their demographic purposes. Don't be harsh or confrontational or accusatory regarding FOX's stand thus far on *Doctor Who*. The organizers of the Letter Writing Campaign are encouraging U.S. fans to write to FOX during the week of July 3-8, to coincide with the airing of the movie on Australian TV.

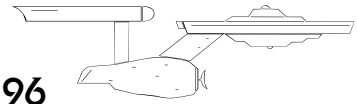
The address at FOX to write to is:

Fox Broadcasting Co.
P.O. Box 900
Beverly Hills, CA 90213-0900

If you write, please forward a copy of your letter to the club editor at an upcoming meeting or via the mail. We'd like to keep a record of club members' assistance on letter-writing campaigns, just for curiosity. Thanks.

Star Base Andromeda

Official Club News & Announcements for April-June 96

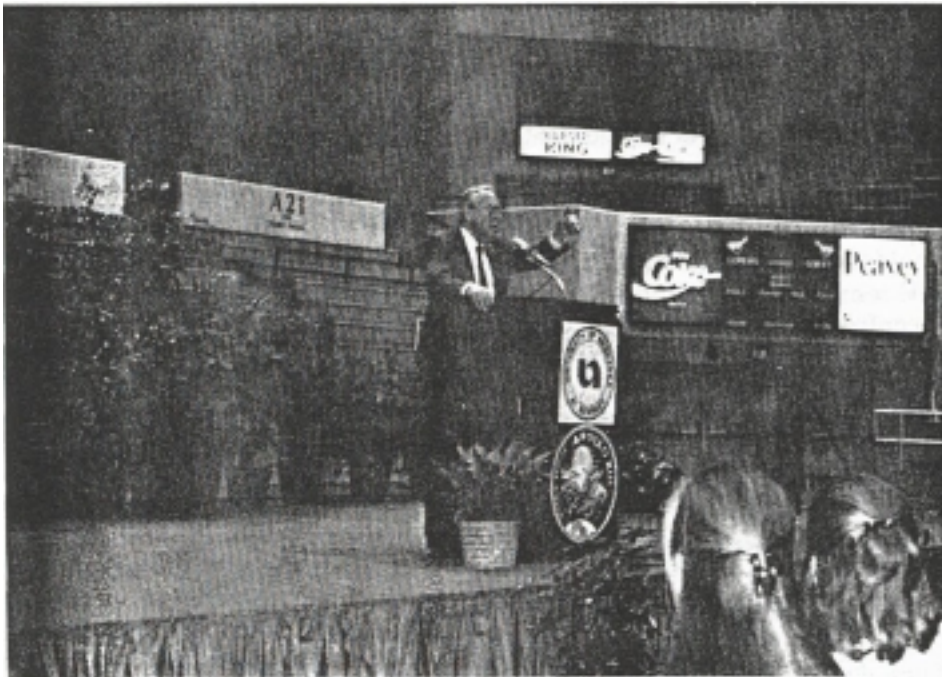


Astronaut James Lovell appears at UNK

On March 7th, Frank Dreier and I travelled to the University of Nebraska-Kearney to attend a talk by former astronaut James Lovell, held in the Health and Sports Center. We arrived about an hour before it was scheduled to start, and were able to find seating near the front. The talk started a bit late, but once he began speaking it was riveting. Most of the talk was about the Apollo 13 mission, although he also spoke in depth about the Apollo 8 flight, and only briefly mentioned his two Gemini flights. During the course of the talk, two short films were shown; an early trailer for the film *Apollo 13*, and a film put together for a congressional investigating committee, highlighting the events of the flight. Following his talk, he answered questions posed by the audience. After he was finished answering questions he quickly left the stage, and it appeared he would not be signing autographs. Frank and I stayed in the building for awhile afterwards, and as we were preparing to leave, I spotted a small group of people congregated at the end of a hallway. Mr. Lovell did sign autographs for those who had books, including myself.

The ticket stubs were quite attractive, showing a space-suited astronaut holding a flag, and printed in purple ink with a sparkling effect added. For those who came early, free, high-quality posters which advertised the event were available. It was well worth the trip, and the only complaint I have is the poor advertising in the Lincoln area. A short paragraph appeared in the *Journal Star*, but there was no mention of the event in the *Daily Nebraskan*. It would be nice if there were greater communication between the University of Nebraska campuses; I thought they were all one big, happy family.

— Mike Ponte



We apologize for the poor reproduction of this photo in this pdf file

Science Fiction Roundtable Set

SBA member Rod Vasek has proposed a roundtable discussion on the theme of "*What is Science Fiction?*" for an upcoming SBA activity. Initially suggested as an in-house activity at a regular club meeting, the concept has been broadened into an outreach program. At present, we plan to contact *Barnes & Noble* to see about holding a one-time-only meeting of SBA at the store sometime in the fall (probably on a Tuesday night to coincide with our regular meeting time), where the members of SBA would serve as moderators in an open discussion of the concept and history of science fiction. At this time, we're still laying the groundwork for this event, and discussion of same during regular SBA meetings is encouraged.

SBAList Now Active

Yes, that's right...as most of you already know, the official *Star Base Andromeda* electronic mailing list is fully active, and has been keeping SBA members informed of up-to-the-minute SBA activities and developments in the absence of new issues of *The Log*. If you and your computer are connected to the 'Net by e-mail, and are a member of SBA (or a close associate of the club), you can join the sbalist by contacting our list maintainer, Agris, at [<taurins@penguin.inetnebr.com>](mailto:taurins@penguin.inetnebr.com) with your own e-mail address and a request to be placed on the list. Please allow a few days for response.

If you need to post information of interest to SBAers and associates, the address of the list is: [<sbalist@penguin.inetnebr.com>](mailto:sbalist@penguin.inetnebr.com)

SBA Meeting Location Changes

Since the last issue of *The Andromedan Log* saw print, the location of club meetings has changed. Sunday afternoon and Tuesday evening meetings have left the Gere Branch Library and have returned to the downtown Bennett Martin Public Library (14th & "N" Sts.). Sunday afternoon meetings are 2:00-5:15, with

the final Sunday meeting of each month being our "Video Week" — which, of course, doesn't stop us from watching videos on other weeks also! Tuesday night meetings are scheduled from 6:30 to 8:45. Both meetings are held in the 4th floor auditorium. [See also "Migratory Meeting Mandate" below]

Babylon 5 Trilogy

Our "Video Week" selection for June 30th is the trilogy of *Babylon 5* episodes comprised of "Babylon Squared" and "War Without End, Parts 1 and 2". The Sunday, June 30th meeting will begin at 2:00 with an official business meeting and announcements, and will be followed by the video showing, beginning at approximately 2:15. Be there!

Migratory Meeting Mandate

It has been decided by group discussion that our Tuesday night meetings will become migratory, effective immediately. Tuesday meetings will continue to start in the 4th floor auditorium of the Bennett Martin Public Library downtown at approximately 6:30, however, depending on the group consensus of attendees, the

meeting will routinely migrate from the library to a downtown eatery, possibly *The Coffee House* (1324 "P" St.) or *Amigos* (14th & "Q") or even *Ted & Wally's* (701 "P" St.). This will allow attendees to continue to meet as long as they wish, in a comfortable environment, instead of being forced to vacate the library premises at 8:45 as we are currently scheduled to do. The Tuesday meetings will continue to begin at the library so that there is always a centralized, predictable starting point...and so that we may show brief videos if someone has something they'd like to share. The future of Tuesday meetings in the fall when the UNL Student Union once again becomes available is yet to be determined. Migratory meetings are something of a new idea for us, so discussion on the subject is welcomed at upcoming meetings.

Frisbees-a-Go-Go

Sunday, August 25th has been selected as the date for the *Annual SBA Club Picnic*. This year's picnic will be held at *Roper Park* (a.k.a. *Interstate Park*), which is visible off of Interstate 180, between Cornhusker Highway and Superior street (map to appear in next

month's *Log*). In addition to the annual picnic, the other main activity for this outing is to play frisbee golf on the frisbee-golf course which has been constructed in the park. The course, a popular 18-hole layout which is used in regional tournaments, is divided into two 9-hole sections, with a picnic shelter, tables and playground in the middle. The gathering will begin at 1:00 p.m. (see next month's issue of *The Log* for additional final details). *Star Base Andromeda* will provide the flammables (i.e. charcoal & lighter fluid), ice, bags 'o' munchies (chips, cheetos, etc.) and paper plates, cups, plastic table service and napkins; you'll need to bring your own drinks, main dish to grill (hot dogs, hamburgers, whatever), and a frisbee if you wish to take part in the competition [extra frisbees that anyone can bring would be appreciated]. This event is open to all area science fiction fans, and we will be extending a special invitation to both the *Lincoln Fantasy and Science Fiction* club, and the *Lincoln Northeast Science Fiction* club. We will also be publicizing this event as open to all local fans at ConCussion. We want

SBA NEWS continued on page 17

Officer Reports — March/April 1996

Presidio: Mike Ponte

Star Base Andromeda Sunday meetings, from 2:00 to 5:15 pm, are back at Bennett Martin Public Library beginning with the June 2nd meeting; locations for the Tuesday night meetings, from 6:30-9:00 pm are also at the library.

General Manager: [vacant]

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 records and moderating official club functions in the Presidio's absence, please contact the Presidio at the phone # or e-mail address on page 2.

Treasurer: Dave Teche

In the last month, we have added two supporting members to our rolls. As a result, I received deposits of \$12.00 on Stardate 9603.28. In this same month, I have not been requested to make any disbursements, thus the club treasury stands at \$56.70.



Editor: Scott Clark

The index to issues #1-50 of *The Andromedan Log* is still being revised, but the 2nd edition will be printed soon. Contributions to *Andromedan Log* #54 are currently being sought — Deadline for such contributions, in order to print and distribute at the Friday meeting in May, is the club meeting on Tuesday, April 30th.

Correspondence Committee Chairperson: Scott Clark

Mail in since last report: One supporting membership payment received. Mail out since last report: Six issues of *Andromedan Log* #52 to various club members. Two *Andromeda Convention* t-shirts were also hand-delivered to the individual who had ordered them.

Librarian: Frank Dreier

No report this month.

Registrar: Mike Ponte

As of May, Star Base Andromeda currently has eleven full members and five supporting members, with the additions of Linda Bonyhady and Terri Muggy of Lincoln and Jeremy Rohn of Fremont. Current membership lists are available from me to all paid members of the club.

Publicity Committee Chairperson: Scott Clark

After last month's temporary advertising flyer, work continues on a tri-fold flyer for easier distribution. We also continue (sporadically) to work on the *SBA Infopak*; Rod Vasek and Dave and Bev Teche contributed re-edits on a cover letter for the *Infopak* which can serve as a Purpose and Goals Statement, and a third draft was approved at a recent meeting. Plans to contact the sf clubs at the local high schools to facilitate interaction with them still have had no action taken on them...a situation which needs to be rectified before the end of the school year.

Historian: Mike Ponte

No change.

Rigel Committee Chairperson: [vacant]

Currently vacant. If you are interested in applying for this position, which coordinates any public events the club sponsors, please contact the Presidio at the phone # or e-mail address on page 2.

Mediawatch

Genre News and Observations for April-May 96

Six figures for Five Star

Independent production company Trident Entertainment has given actor-turned-writer Christopher Daniel Barnes a six-figure deal for his original screenplay "*Five Star Clearance*," a futuristic espionage thriller. Barnes played Scott Hayden in the *Starman* tv series and Greg Brady in the *Brady Bunch* movie (and its upcoming sequel). Trident says the picture, described as *The Fugitive* meets *1984*, will be budgeted in the \$50-70 million range.

Video Release

Jumanji, one of 1995's top-grossing genre productions, which recently topped the \$100,000,000 figure in domestic grosses, will be released on video by ColumbiaTriStar Home Video in May 1996. The video is expected to be priced at the sell-through rate of approximately \$22-23.

More Dalmatian News

The Walt Disney Company (in association with the Kellogg Co.) has ordered 52 half-hour episodes of a new *101 Dalmatians* animated series, to debut in national syndication in the fall of 1997 as part of a 90-minute block being called the Disney/Kellogg Alliance (successor to the popular Disney Afternoon). The block, which local stations can break apart if necessary, has already cleared 80% of the country. The Disney deal calls for the creation of two new original series (*Dalmatians* in 1997 and an as-yet-undeveloped show for 1998) to be teamed with existing Disney series from the past several years.

Each of the *Dalmatians* episodes is set to include two cartoon shorts — one featuring the 101 dalmatian pups adopted by the end of the movie, the second featuring the adult dalmatians, Pongo and Perdita, and the rescue network formed by their friends to save the pups in the film.

Mr. Hunter, You Are Cleared For Landing

Prolific movie producer Ross Hunter, who brought us more than 60 feature films during his long career, died March 10th at the age of 79. After a brief stint acting in forgettable "B" films, Hunter produced a string of successful light romantic comedies and musicals, like *Pillow Talk*, *Flower Drum Song* and *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, starring such familiar faces as Doris Day, Debbie Reynolds and Julie Andrews. Hunter's 1970 production of the disaster saga *Airport* brought him his one and only Oscar nomination, and his career bottomed out after his final feature film, the critically drubbed 1973 remake of *Lost Horizon*.

Submitted For Your Approval

The UPN network premiered its new 1/2 hour *Paranormal Borderline* magazine show, hosted by Jonathan Frakes, on March 12th to generally negative reviews. In its first several airings, the series has performed poorly, but UPN is expected to keep it on the schedule throughout the summer.

Joining the Quest

Warner Brothers' first fully-animated feature film, *The Quest for Camelot*, continues to build momentum for a late 1997 release to compete with The Disney Company's animation juggernaut. Joining the production team to create the music for the film are David Foster and Carole Bayer Sager, whose recent work has included *Beethoven 2* and *Forget Paris*. Sager is an Academy Award, Grammy and Golden Globe winner whose work includes Arthur's Theme and Don't Cry Out Loud, while Foster is a 12-time Grammy winner. Also joining the behind-the-scenes crew: Christopher (*Superman*) Reeve, as the voice of King Arthur.

Still Tweeking

Paramount Pictures filed suit in February against Salt Lake City theater owner Bob Bedore for refusing to cease production on his series of successful "*Star Trek*" plays, which Bedore considers to be legitimate parodies. Bedore plays Mr. Schlock in these productions.

They're Here...

The Sci-Fi Channel has acquired exclusive rights to *Sightings*, a television magazine show which explores the paranormal, and which has aired both on the Fox network and in general syndication for the last two years. SFC will produce 22 new hour-long episodes of the series, which will premiere on the network in January 1997. *Sightings* was produced by Paramount Domestic Television, and the Sci-Fi Channel is part of USA Networks, 50% of which is owned by Paramount.

To Be Continued

ABC has already placed an order for a complete fourth season of its successful *Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman* series. The show, which is the #1 prime time show among kids on any of the major networks, has held its own and one several times in a highly contest timeslot this season. The entire production staff responsible for the 95-96 season will return for the new year.

Two Thumbs Down

Prior to the Academy Awards ceremonies in late March, the 16th annual Razzie Awards were presented to the worst films of 1995. Although the degrading fleshfest *Showgirls* won a record-setting 7 Razzies in most of the major categories, one genre film popped up elsewhere in the ceremony. Dennis Hopper was present the Razzie for worst supporting actor for his role in *Waterworld*.

Oscars, Get Yer Oscars!

Genre and semi-genre fare took a decent share of the big honors at this year's Academy Awards presentation on March 25th. Historical action/drama **Braveheart** was the biggest winner, taking home trophies for *Best Picture*, *Director* (Mel Gibson), *Cinematography*, *Makeup*, and *Sound Effects Editing*. **Apollo 13**, considered by many to be a front-runner in the several of the major categories, came away with only two technical awards: *Film Editing* and *Sound*. Disney's animated **Pocahontas** took the awards for *Best Original Song* ("Colors of the Wind") and *Original Score*. **The Usual Suspects** captured *Best Supporting Actor* (Kevin Spacey) and

Original Screenplay. And **Babe** corralled the *Visual Effects* statue. Genre vets Kirk Douglas (*Saturn 3*, among many others) and animator Chuck Jones received Honorary Lifetime Achievement Oscars. Actor Christopher (Superman) Reeve, paralyzed from the neck down from a horse-riding accident early last year, provided one of the night's more emotional moments, receiving a standing ovation when he appeared in his wheelchair alone on stage to introduce a series of clips and urge filmmakers to take more risks and produce more films about social issues.

Genre Honors

Nominations for the 22nd Annual

Saturn Awards were announced in late March, to be presented in June by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films. **From Dusk Till Dawn** received the most nominations, at eight, while **Jumanji**, **Seven** and **12 Monkeys** each received seven nominations. **Strange Days** was nominated five times, while both **Batman Forever** and **Judge Dredd** received four nominations each.

Best Science Fiction Film nominees were **Congo**, **Judge Dredd**, **Outbreak**, **Species**, **Strange Days**, **12 Monkeys** and **Waterworld**. Best Fantasy Film nominees were **Babe**, **Batman Forever**, **Casper**, **Fluke**, **The Indian in the Cupboard**, **Jumanji** and **Toy Story**. Best

American History on display in K.C. in April-May

The Kansas City Convention Center is playing host this month and next to a traveling collection of more than 300 objects from the Smithsonian Institution. The Institution is celebrating its 150th anniversary in 1996 with this traveling exhibit, which began its national tour in Los Angeles in February and will eventually visit twelve U.S. cities. The collection arrived in Kansas City, its second stop, on April 10th, and will be on display through May 19th.

The 300+ piece exhibit (selected from over 140 million objects in the Smithsonian's permanent collection), includes such items as: Edison's earliest functional light bulb, Samuel Morse's original telegraph key; the original Singer sewing machine and much more, assembled from the Smithsonian's 16 national museums, galleries and the National Zoological Park. In the initial presentation in Los Angeles, this 50,000 square foot exhibit (equivalent to a football field) was divided into three galleries — Discovering, Imagining and Remembering. The Discovering gallery includes: dinosaur fossils; meteorites and minerals, including moon rocks; artifacts from the 1804 Lewis and Clark expedition; the Wright EX Vin Fiz, a biplane that made the first U.S. transcontinental crossing; the Apollo 14 command module, and spacesuits and equipment from the Apollo 15 mission. The Imagining display includes: furniture



designed by Frank Lloyd Wright, the Star of Bombay, a 182-carat blue star sapphire, and one of only fifty-one 1948 Tucker Sedans ever made...one of the most popular items in the National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. The car and its creator featured prominently in the award-winning feature film **Tucker's Dream**. The Remembering gallery includes: Kermit the Frog; a Richard Petty stock car; and Chris Evert's tennis racket.

George Washington's personal sword, Abe Lincoln's top hat (believed to have been worn to Ford's Theater the night of his assassination), a series of First Ladies' gowns and many more items await visitors. The collection will be on display at the H. Roe Bartle Hall, in the convention center in downtown Kansas City through May 19th. Although admission to the exhibit is free, passes will be required. For groups up to ten, free same-day passes will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the Convention Center. Same-day tickets allow for entry only on that day and only at the time specified on the ticket. Same-day tickets will be distributed three times a day at 9:30 am, 12:30 pm and 3:30 pm. Advance passes will be available for a \$3.50 per ticket handling fee starting six weeks in advance of the opening by calling 1-800-913-TOUR. Passes ordered at least two weeks in advance will be mailed; tickets ordered less than two weeks in advance will be held at the door. Advance tickets must be used on the designated date/time requested by the visitor. The convention center, located on 13th street between Baltimore and Broadway in downtown K.C., includes the Municipal Auditorium, the new Convention Center and the newly-expanded Bartle Hall. Bartle Hall offers the largest, column-free, continuous exhibit space in the nation.

Horror Film nominees included *The City of Lost Children*, *Mute Witness*, *Tales From the Crypt: Demon Knight*, *From Dusk Till Dawn*, *The Prophecy*, *In the Mouth of Madness* and *Lord of Illusions*. In the final category of Best Action-Adventure/Thriller, the nominees were *Apollo 13*, *Braveheart*, *Die Hard With a Vengeance*, *Goldeneye*, *Heat*, *Seven* and *The Usual Suspects*.

Watch Out For That Tree!

Brendan Fraser (*School Ties*, *Encino Man*, *Airheads*) will portray the title character in a live-action adaptation of the cartoon favorite *George of the Jungle*. The production, for Walt Disney Pictures and Mandeville Films, will begin filming in August.

Reel Detective Stories

Following the domestic and international success of his most recent film, *12 Monkeys*, director Terry Gilliam is said to be in talks with Paramount Pictures to direct *The Defective Detective*, a dark fairy tale he helped develop before filming *Monkeys*. The project would reteam Gilliam with his *Fisher King* screenwriter, Richard LaGravenese and the production company who helped Gilliam bring *12 Monkeys* to box office fruition.

USA In Production

The USA cable network, in an effort to build up its original programming, has negotiated to bring Stephen J. Cannell Productions' *Renegade* to the cable network exclusively for that show's fifth season next fall. The series has been in general first-run syndication since 1992. Also in production at USA, with 13 episode orders each, are two series based on popular films from recent years. Tony Crane, Susan Walters and Barry Corbin will star in *The Big Easy*, a one-hour series adaptation of the film starring Dennis Quaid, Ellen Barkin and Ned Beatty. The New Orleans-filmed series is budgeted at approximately \$1 million per episode and is expected to premiere in August. The other show is *La Femme Nikita*, based on the popular 1991 French film, which has already been remade as the American film *Point of No Return* in

1993, which starred Bridget Fonda. The USA series will star Peta Wilson, a former Australian model, in the role played by Fonda and by Anne Parillaud in the original 1991 film. The films dealt with the experiences of a young criminal who is trained to become an assassin. Production on a 13-episode order of *Nikita* should begin in Toronto soon for a fall premiere. *Weird Science* and *Duckman* will continue with production of new episodes for USA. *Silk Stalkings* has been picked up for only a 13-episode order for the fall, with a revamping of the main cast expected following the poor reception for Chris and Rita's replacements halfway through the current season.

Thrills-a-Minute

Universal Studios Hollywood introduced its new water-based *Jurassic Park – The Ride* to positive reviews at a June fundraiser. The ride, in which participants sit in 25-seat free-floating rafts, takes the riders on a 5-1/2 minute excursion through a 13-story building filled with animatronic dinosaurs, down an 84-foot water descent, then through an outdoor section with more dinosaurs, including one which stands 5 stories tall and measures 40 feet in length. *Jurassic Park – The Ride* opened to the public on June 21st. *Terminator 2:3D* has been unofficially open at the Universal Studios Florida tour since May. This extravaganza, which melds 12 minutes of newly filmed footage with Arnold Schwarzenegger with live work from stunt actors, will have a grand opening in mid-July. The film sequences, shot in 3D, are shown on Iwerks projectors which project the image onto 3 massive 23'x50' screens. And finally, Time Warner's Six Flags Magic Mountain was expected to unveil its new *Superman: The Escape* ride in June, following some technical difficulties in April. This ride features a 900 foot, 45-second climb, at speeds reaching 100 mph and including a 6.5 second period of weightlessness, followed by a drop of 41 stories. Happy summer vacations!

Batmobile Brouhaha

After bidding \$189,500 for a special promotional batmobile (movie-era) at a memorabilia auction in February, popular magician David Copperfield has failed to pay up. Now, the seller, Michael Eisenberg, is suing Copperfield for fraud and breach of contract. The point of contention: Copperfield claims he was unaware that the conditions of sale of the car forbid the new owner from driving the car publicly or using it for publicity purposes.

SciFi Aboard

An article in the April 9th *Hollywood Reporter* indicates that science fiction series from the U.S. are receiving extremely high television ratings in Germany. *The X-Files*, *Earth 2*, *Space: Above and Beyond*, and all of the *Star Treks* are currently the "in" thing over there.

Adventure is Their Name

Keller Entertainment announced at the annual MIP-TV in Cannes in late April that it is producing a new straight-to-syndication action series titled *Conan the Adventurer*. The series of 22 episodes, budgeted in excess of \$1 million each is expected to be available for airing by early 1997. No casting news was announced. Keller Entertainment is also half of the syndication team responsible for the production of the upcoming *Tarzen: The Epic Adventures*, which will enter the syndicated fray this coming fall. Officials at Keller admit that the timing of the *Conan* announcement makes it seem as if they're trying to cash in on the current wave of adventure show popularity headed by *Hercules* and *Xena*, however they also point out that they've been trying to purchase the rights to do a *Conan* series for the last five years, and those rights only now became available to them.

Trek Ruling Reversed

A California Court of Appeal reversed a ruling from three years ago that ordered the estate of Gene Roddenberry to pay more than \$4 million in damages to Roddenberry's first wife Eileen. Eileen Roddenberry retains \$900,000 in fraud charges which was due her from only having received 1/3 (instead of 1/2) of Roddenberry's

profit participation payments from the original **Star Trek**. However the Court of Appeal ruled that Eileen Roddenberry had no claim to any of the profits from the multiple **Star Trek** projects that Gene Roddenberry worked on following their 1969 divorce.

Emmerich takes on Godzilla

The dynamic film duo of Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin had signed aboard to write, direct and produce the latest **Godzilla** saga for TriStar pictures. The duo, who have successfully brought us **Universal Soldier**, **Stargate** and the upcoming **Independence Day** are the latest in a series of high-profile Hollywood types who've come and gone from this on-again/off-again project. A working schedule for this latest **Godzilla** project has not been announced.

One For the Record Books

Babylon 5 creator/executive producer J. Michael Straczynski may have set a new record, by writing all 22 of this part season's episodes himself. Straczynski said he needed to take the reins this year because it was such a pivotal period in the series development, and it was simply easier to write all the episodes himself then to assign the stories to other writers and then rewrite them to meet his vision.

Twister Destroys B.O Record

Twister ripped through its Mother's Day (May 10-12) opening weekend to set a new all-time record May opening take of \$41.06 million.

More Classic Adaptations

Following the success of such longform dramas as this past season's **Gulliver's Travels**, the rush is on for the networks and cable outlets to produce more adaptations of classic fiction. USA networks has signed a development deal with Robert Halmi Jr.'s Hallmark Entertainment (no relation to **The Hallmark Hall of Fame**) to produce a 4-hour adaptation of **Moby Dick** for airing in 1997. Halmi, his father and Francis Ford Coppola will co-executive produce the project.

Meanwhile...Over at SciFi

As part of the USA **Moby Dick** deal, Hallmark Entertainment will also produce two new movies for the Sci-Fi Channel for airing in 1997. A new adaptation of **Brave New World**, written by Robert Avrech, and a new adaptation of **Journey to the Center of the Earth**, written by John Ireland, are both in pre-production. The Sci-Fi Channel has also picked up the rights to 22 hours of **Earth 2**, 59 hours of **seaQuest** and 24 hours of **M.A.N.T.I.S.**, all of which will be worked into the 1996-97 season schedule.

Hulk Smash (Hit)!

In an ironic bit of voice castings, Lou Ferrigno, who starred as emerald-

skinned titan in CBS's 1970's live-action adaptation of **The Incredible Hulk**, will add his voice to those of Luke Perry, Mark Hamill, Genie Francis, Shadoe Stevens, Neal McDonough and Matt Frewer when an animated version of the same comic joins the UPN Kids lineup in the fall. **The Incredible Hulk**, with guest voice-overs from Peter Strauss, Robert Hays, Dorian Harewood, Richard Grieco and John Rhys-Davies, will be executive-produced by Stan Lee, Avi Arid and Rick Ungar. The series will air at 9:00 a.m. Central on Sundays, and join three other new animated shows: **The Mouse and the Monster**, **Jumanji**, and **B.A.D. (Bureau of Alien Defenders)**.

Regional Event Report

Holy Broomfest, Batman!

On April 27th, Scott Clark, Frank Dreier, Rod Vasek and myself drove to Deshler, Nebraska to attend their annual **Broomfest** celebration, at which Yvonne Craig (TV's Batgirl, Marta from the **Star Trek** episode "Whom Gods Destroy") was their guest of honor. I had learned of the event through a flyer posted at the Trade-a-Tape comic-book store, and learned more in a short article in the Lincoln paper; the event was free, and featured the Batmobile from the '60's TV show. There was also a display of Batman memorabilia, including the TV series and the movies.

I'm quite glad I was able to attend the event. The drive was a bit long, but the price was right. Yvonne Craig was willing and quite happy to sign three photos for me, and to have my picture taken with her. The price of the photos was a bit more than I expect at conventions, but the photos were quite nice, and better than what I had brought for her to sign. It was nice to see the Batmobile and take pictures of it; if you wanted your picture taken with a fake Batman and Robin (in costumes from the movies) it cost money, but I wasn't interested. After Yvonne Craig finished signing autographs for the long line of autograph seekers, she had a question and answer session. Not all that many people were there to ask her questions, and she seemed to be somewhat out of place compared to the other activities going on at the event; but enough people asked questions to keep it flowing. I wish more small towns would consider bringing in television and movie celebrities such as this, so I wouldn't have to wait for the occasional local convention.

— Mike Ponte

I just wanted to put my 2¢ in as well. I found Ms. Craig to be a charming personality, especially with the many children who were brought before her for autographed postcards and "pictures with a star". Her presence at such a rural event surprised me...at first, I thought perhaps Deshler was where she was from, and this was partly a celebration of a "home town girl" done good. But during her presentation, she indicated she'd never been to Nebraska before. Oh, well, I guess she's just touring the country doing personal appearances. It was fun hearing her relate stories from the filming of **Batman**, **Star Trek** and Elvis Presley movies...I'd enjoy seeing her again in a more fannish venue.

— Scott Clark

Channel Surfing

Genre TV news From April-June 96 (All times listed are Central Time Zone)

Aliens in the Family

Upcoming Air Schedule:

- Mar 29 You Don't Have a Pet to Be Popular
Apr 5 Cookie Makes Some Dough
Apr 12 [series placed on hiatus]

Rapidly removed from the Friday schedule by ABC, which was disappointed by the show's incredibly poor ratings after only two episodes. ABC's early official party line was that the show was not cancelled but is instead placed on hiatus, to return later in the spring. However *Aliens in the Family* is not on the network's fall line-up or development slate.

American Gothic

Still has 9 unaired episode in the can, which CBS had originally claimed they were going to air during the summer. Although *AG* is definitely *not* on CBS's announced fall schedule, it also hasn't shown up listed on any of their summer programming plans either.

Babylon 5

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

- 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]
May 27 Severed Dreams (re)
Jun 3 Ceremonies of Light and Dark (re)
Jun 10 Sic Transit Vir (re)
Jun 17 A Late Delivery From Avalon (re)
Jun 24 Ship of Tears (re)
Jul 1 Interludes and Examinations (re)
Jul 8 War Without End [1] (re)
Jul 15 War Without End [2] (re)
Jul 22 Matters of Honor (re)
Jul 29 Convictions (re)
Aug 5 A Day in the Strife (re)
Aug 12 Passing Through Gethsemane (re)
Aug 19 Voices of Authority (re)
Aug 26 Dust to Dust (re)
[unk] Walkabout
[unk] Gray 17 is Missing
[unk] And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place
[unk] Shadow Dancing
[unk] [Season Finale — Title Classified]
[unk] Hour of the Wolf [4th season premiere]

All 22 episodes of this PTEN/syndicated series are written by J. Michael Straczynski this season, which is apparently a record for dramatic television! *"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"* — Nightwatch members remaining on the station take Delenn hostage to force Sheridan to turn over command. 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"* — As Sheridan and Ivanova try to gain recognition of the station's new status among the alien governments, a traveler arrives with an unbelievable story out of distant legend. Guest starring Michael York, and involving the King Arthur legend in some way. *"Sic Transit Vir"* — Londo introduces Vir to a surprising new acquaintance. A heavy influx of Narns to the station raises suspicions. *"Ship of Tears"* — Bester finds himself at odds with others within the PsiCorps and seeks Sheridan's help. G'Kar presses for admission to the conspiracy of light. 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 PsiCorps' stand regarding the Shadows. *"Interludes and Examinations"* — The War officially begins, and Morden reappears. Kosh meets an unexpected fate. *"War Without End [1 & 2]"* — This two-partner features the return of Michael O'Hare as Ambassador Sinclair and the flip side to the first-season episode *"Babylon Squared"*. The Shadow War heats up, and we also see Minbar for the first time. Straczynski has said this will be the only set of episode of *Babylon 5* to feature time travel. *"Walkabout"* — Focuses on Lyta and the Vorlons. Dr. Franklin is on a personal quest. *"Gray 17 is Missing"* —

Garibaldi investigates the disappearance of part of the station. *"And the Rock Cried Out, No Hiding Place"* — No plot details available. *"Shadow Dancing"* — Features a major storyline involving Dr. Franklin. *"Season Finale"* — Major episode, set to shake things up. Straczynski is trying to keep a lid on the plot for the moment. Known to guest star Ed Wasser as Morden, and Bruce Boxleitner's wife, Melissa Gilbert. After a lengthy and frustrating delay, it was finally announced that *Babylon 5* has been renewed for a full 22-episode 4th season! The last five episodes of 3rd season are being held back until September or October, and will air just before the beginning of the 4th season. These 5 episodes most likely will air overseas before they air in the U.S.

Doctor Who

Upcoming Air Schedule:

- May 14 Doctor Who movie
See feature article in this issue.

Due South

Upcoming Air Schedule:

- Mar 1 We Are the Eggman
Mar 8 They Eat Horses, Don't They (re)
Mar 15 [pre-empted for basketball]
Mar 22 [pre-empted for basketball]
Mar 29 Some Like It Red
Apr 5 White Men Can't Jump to Conclusions
Apr 12 All the Queen's Horses
Apr 19 Manhunt (re)
Apr 26 Body Language
May 3 The Duel
May 10 [pre-empted for Wizoard of Oz]
May 17 [pre-empted for Nash Bridges]
May 24 Red, White or Blue [finale]
May 31 Vault (re)
Jun 7 [pre-empted for skating special]
Jun 14 North (re)
Jun 21 Witness (re)
Jun 28 Bird in the Hand (re)
"Some Like It Red" — Fraser takes on the role of Ms. Fraser when he plays a female instructor at an all-girls school. *"White Men Can't Jump to Conclusions"* — Fraser insists that the evidence in a gang-related shooting proves the accused youth couldn't have committed the crime — despite the youth's claims that he did. *"All the Queen's Horses"* — Leslie Nielsen

returns as RCMP Buck Frobisher, in an episode written by series star Paul Gross. When terrorists hijack a train filled with singing mounties, Fraser, Buck and Meg Thatcher are all that stand between Chicago and a nuclear meltdown. **"Body Language"** — Fraser's latest damsel in distress: a stripper, involved with a mob thug. Cameo appearance by Milton Berle. **"The Duel"** — A criminal mastermind who Ray put away on a technicality has been released on parole and has vowed to get back at the cop. **"Red, White or Blue"** — Ray's envious of the publicity surrounding Fraser as the trial of the terrorists from *"All the Queen's Horses"* draws near. But when the terrorist leader's brother straps Ray and Fraser together with a bomb, they come to terms with each other. Also written by Paul (Fraser) Gross.

Forever Knight [syndi]

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------|
| Apr 1 | Strings (re) |
| Apr 8 | Fever (re) |
| Apr 15 | Dead of Night (re) |
| Apr 22 | Jane Doe |
| Apr 29 | Ashes to Ashes |
| May 6 | Francesca |
| May 13 | Last Knight [series finale] |
| May 20 | The Black Buddha [1] (re) |
| May 27 | The Black Buddha [2] (re) |
| Jun 3 | Outside the Lines (re) |
| Jun 10 | Blackwing (re) |
| Jun 17 | Blind Faith (re) |
| Jun 24 | My Boyfriend is a Vampire (re) |

Forever Knight (SFC)

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Apr 22 | Dead of Night (re) |
| Apr 29 | Jane Doe |
| May 6 | Francesca |
| May 13 | Ashes to Ashes |
| May 20 | Last Knight |
| May 27 | The Black Buddha [1] (re) |
| Jun 3 | The Black Buddha [2] (re) |
| Jun 10 | Outside the Lines (re) |
| Jun 17 | Blackwing (re) |
| Jun 24 | Blind Faith (re) |
| Jul 1 | My Bofriend is a Vampire (re) |

The final four new episodes were held back in syndication until May, to air during sweeps. "Jane Doe" — Plot info unavailable. **"Francesca"** — Plot unavailable, directed by Nigel (Lacroix) Bennett. **"Ashes to Ashes"** — This episode features the contemporary reappearance of Divia, Lacroix's physical daughter, but his vampiric mother. Angered at having been left in a coffin for centuries by Lacroix, Divia is out to make him pay by destroying those closest to him. One major charac-

ter is killed in this episode. The final episode, directed by Geraint Wyn Davies and titled **"Last Knight"**, features the on-screen death of one major character, and the apparent deaths of two others — a major plot shake-up in the least. However, the deal that the Sci Fi Channel made to pick up FK reruns may include the option to produce new TV-movies, so the ultimate and final fate of everyone on the show is left not completely certain. Whether or not we've seen the end of *Forever Knight* is yet to be seen...

Hercules: The Legendary Journeys

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

| | |
|--------|---------------------------------|
| 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) |
| Apr 1 | The Other Side (re) |
| Apr 8 | Outcast (re) |
| Apr 15 | The March to Freedom (re) |
| Apr 22 | Protean Challenge |
| Apr 29 | The Wedding of Alchemie |
| May 6 | The Power |
| May 13 | Centaur Mentor Journey |
| May 20 | The Fire Down Below (re) |
| May 27 | Highway to Hades (re) |
| Jun 3 | The Sword of Veracity (re) |
| Jun 10 | Heedless Hearts (re) |
| Jun 17 | Promises (re) |
| Jun 24 | Cave of Echoes |

Renewed for two more years already, although with *Xena*. *Hercules* will face challenges from several similar shows come the fall of '96...we'll see who wins the ratings battle.

Highlander

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Apr 1 | The Innocent (re) |
| Apr 8 | Leader of the Pack (re) |
| Apr 15 | Double Eagle (re) |
| Apr 22 | Methuselah's Gift |
| Apr 29 | The Immortal Cimoli |
| May 6 | Through a Glass Darkly |
| May 13 | Till Death |
| May 20 | Judgement Day [finale] |
| May 27 | Reunion (re) |
| June 3 | The Colonel (re) |
| June 10 | Reluctant Heroes (re) |
| June 17 | The Wrath of Kali (re) |
| June 24 | Chivalry (re) |
| July 1 | Timeless (re) |
| July 8 | The Blitz (re) |
| July 15 | Something Wicked (re) |
| July 22 | Deliverance (re) |
| July 29 | Promises (re) |
| Aug 5 | Methuselah's Gift (re) |
| Aug 12 | The Immortal Cimoli (re) |
| Aug 19 | Through a Glass Darkly (re) |
| Aug 26 | The Wrath of Kali (re) |
| Sept 2 | Chivalry (re) |

Sept 9 Till Death (re)

Sept 16 Judgement Day (re)

Sept 23 One Minute to Midnight

Renewed for a full fifth season.

"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. **"The Immortal Cimoli"** — When a second-rate escape artist becomes an immortal, he's less interested in learning to protect himself from other immortals than he is in trying to perfect the trick that killed Houdini. **"Through a Glass Darkly"** — An immortal friend of Duncan's has lost his memory, and Duncan tries to help him regain it. **"Till Death"** — Lighthearted episode focusing on an immortal married couple about to celebrate their 300th anniversary by getting divorced. **"Judgement Day"** — The season finale is the first part of a two-parter, dealing with a major conflict between the Immortals and the Watchers, with Joe and Duncan caught in the middle. Joe is placed on trial by the Watchers for bending their rules to help Duncan, and Duncan ties his fate to that of his mortal friend. **"Double Jeopardy"** — Rumored to feature the return of Roland Gift as Xavier St. Cloud (even though Xavier died last season!). Although produced for airing during the '95-96 season, this episode has been held back for early in the '96-97 season, as has the concluding half of the two-parter, **"One Minute to Midnight"**, which will air as the 5th season premiere in September.

Hypernauts

Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|------------------------|
| Apr 6 | Into the Dark So Deep |
| Apr 13 | Gone To Meet The Maker |
| [unk] | Reunion |
| [unk] | Hole in the Sky |
| [unk] | New Alliances |
| [unk] | The Challenge [1] |
| [unk] | The Challenge [2] |

After airing through mid-April, ABC pulled Hypernauts with five filmed episode yet unshown. The show's future has not officially been announced, although the producers have an internet campaign going to have viewers write to ABC to ask for renewal. The remaining filmed but unaired episodes are: **"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].

JAG

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|------------------|
| Mar 13 | Defensive Action |
| Mar 20 | Smoked |
| Mar 27 | Hemlock |
| Apr 3 | High Ground |
| Apr 10 | Black Ops |
| Apr 17 | Survivors |
| Apr 24 | [pre-empted] |
| May 1 | Recovery |
| May 8 | The Prisoner |
| May 15 | [pre-empted] |
| May 22 | (Season Finale) |
| May 29 | Desert Son (re) |
| Jun 5 | [pre-empted] |
| Jun 12 | [pre-empted] |
| Jun 19 | Black Ops (re) |
| Jun 26 | High Ground (re) |

Lt. Harman Rabb was promoted to Lt. Commander in an episode in March. He and Meg also were assigned to a new JAG superior, Adm. Chegwiddden, now a semi-regular on the series. Also assigned to Adm. Chedwigg’s office: Cmdr. Krennick, portrayed by former **Babylon 5** regular Andrea Thompson. **“Recovery”** — Rabb and Austin investigate an accident that may have been murder among the pilots of the space shuttle program. **“The Prisoner”** — Rabb is captured by the Chinese military and subjected to psychological torture that has him believing his long missing father may be in the cell next door. **Season finale** — A cliffhanger in which Lt. Commander Rabb is accused of murder. Although cancelled by NBC, **JAG** has been picked up as a mid-season replacement series by CBS for a 13-episode order. **JAG** will continue to air as repeats throughout the summer on NBC.

Kindred: The Embraced

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|--------------------------------------|
| Apr 2 | Kindred: The Embraced (90 min pilot) |
| Apr 3 | Prince of the City |
| Apr 10 | Romeo & Juliet |
| Apr 17 | Live Hard, Die Young and Leave a |

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| Apr 24 | Good Looking Corpse |
| May 1 | The Rise and Fall of Eddie Fiori |
| May 1 | Bad Moon Rising |
| May 8 | Cabin in the Woods [finale] |

Aaron Spelling’s vampire series, based in part on the *Vampire: The Masquerade* role-playing game, joined the Fox schedule the first week of April, with a 90-minute pilot on Tuesday April 2nd, then settled into its regular timeslot at 8:00 p.m. on Wednesday April 3rd. After airing 7 of its 8 filmed episodes (different episodes aired during week 3 in both the U.S. and Canada), the series disappeared and is not listed as returning on FOX’s fall schedule. The producers, following a rush of internet-based fan support, are trying to get another network or cable outfit to pick up **Kindred** as a regular series or a series of TV movies.

Kung Fu: The Legend Continues

Upcoming Air Schedule (Week of)

| | |
|--------|---|
| Apr 1 | Flying Fists of Fury II: Masters of Illusion (re) |
| Apr 8 | Banker’s Hours (re) |
| Apr 15 | Kung Fu Blues (re) |
| Apr 22 | Shaolin SHot |
| Apr 29 | The Phoenix |
| May 6 | Special Forces |
| May 13 | Dragon’s Lair |
| May 20 | Veil of Tears |
| May 27 | Brotherhood of the Bell (re) |
| Jun 3 | Destiny (re) |
| Jun 10 | Target (re) |
| [unk] | May I Talk With You? |

The fate of this veteran PTEN/syndicated series, currently in its fourth year, is uncertain. Ratings have decreased this season, amid a slew of reruns. Although no official cancellation notice has come down for the series, there have been no indications that it might be renewed. Like the other surviving PTEN series, **Babylon 5**, **KF:TLC**’s season starts and ends later in the year than most network and syndicated shows, thus thought it looks grim, its final fate may not be known until summertime or even the fall.

Lazarus Man

Original episodes of this western/suspense/thriller series air first on syndication stations around the country, then the same episode airs two weeks later at 8:00 pm Saturdays on TNT. TNT recently announced its renewal of the series for a full 22-episode season for ‘96-97.

Lois & Clark: The New Adventures of Superman

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|--|
| Apr 14 | When Irish Eyes Are Killing (re) |
| Apr 21 | Just Say Noah (re) |
| Apr 28 | It’s a Small World After All |
| May 5 | Through a Glass Darkly |
| May 12 | Big Girls Don’t Fly [Finale] |
| May 19 | [pre-empted] |
| May 26 | Chip Off the Old Clark (re) |
| Jun 2 | Super Mann (re) |
| Jun 9 | Virtually Destroyed (re) |
| Jun 16 | Home is Where the Hurt Is (re) |
| Jun 23 | Never on Sunday (re) |
| Jun 30 | The Dad Who Came in From the Cold (re) |

“It’s a Small World After All” was written by Teri “Lois” Hatcher, and features Lois & Clark shrunk to the size of Barbie dolls. **“Through a Glass Darkly”** — A pair of mysterious aliens run Superman through a series of deadly tests, endangering the welfare of innocents in the process [1 of 2]. **“Big Girls Don’t Fly”** — In this season finale, Superman/Clark is approached by the mysterious aliens, who inform him that they are from a colony of surviving Kryptonians. He is of a ruling house among their people and he is needed on New Krypton to bring order to a chaotic government. Oh, and he’s already married to Kara, one of the visiting aliens. After serious soul-searching, Kal-El decides to return with the Kryptonians to their planet, leaving Lois behind...possibly forever. During the final week of filming for the current season, Dean Cain denied rumors he was holding out for more money for next year, saying all the cast regulars would be back...but he wouldn’t say whether Lois and Clark tie the knot in the season finale or not. Inside word from the **L&C** producers, however, indicates that a wedding of Lois & Clark will take place during the November sweeps, if not earlier! And that the producers are fully aware that the “amnesia arc” from near the end of the current season was a network-mandated experiment...not to be repeated, lest the fans abandon the show! **Note:** Teri “Lois” Hatcher hosted **Saturday Night Live** on April 20th.

Muppets Tonight!

Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|-------------------------------|
| Apr 5 | Guest: Cindy Crawford |
| Apr 12 | Guest: Tony Bennett |
| Apr 19 | this series went on hiatus] |
| Jun 23 | Guest: Sandra Bullock [now on |

Sundays]

13 episodes were ordered for the first season of this mid-season replacement series, however, ABC pulled it from the schedule after only 6 surprisingly low-rated episodes to bring back **Boy Meets World** for the duration of the May sweeps. Actually, the episode planned for April 19th was to feature Sandra Bullock, in a parody of her movie *Speed*, in which a mad bomber threatens the KMUP studios. The network thought it would in bad taste to air this episode on the first anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, and therefore pulled **MT!** a week earlier than anticipated. ABC executives have commented that they are pleased with the creative output of **Muppets Tonight!** and definitely plan to bring it back to the schedule after May, which they did on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. beginning June 23rd (for an expected 4 or 5 weeks). In addition to the remaining 7 episodes from this season, ABC renewed **Muppets Tonight!** for 13 additional episodes as a mid-season replacement for next season.

Mystery Science Theater 3000

An accurate air schedule for the syndicated **Mystery Science Theater Hour** remains difficult to come by, especially considering that some stations air it as a one-hour block and others air it as a two-hour block. In addition, Comedy Central ceased its daily 1:00 a.m. airings of **MST3K** as of June 1st, and currently only airs the show on Saturday afternoons (at 4:00). Episodes to be aired are picked by an on-line and phone-in poll, from among the approximately 40 episodes that CC still has to rights to air.

Nash Bridges

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Mar 29 Genesis
 Mar 30 Home Invasion (Special Sat airing)
 Apr 5 Skirt Chasers
 Apr 12 High Impact
 Apr 19 Javelin Catcher
 Apr 26 Vanishing Act
 May 3 Aloha, Nash
 May 10 [pre-empted by Wizard of Oz]
 May 17 Key Witness (special 7:00 airing)
 May 24 Home Invasion (re)
 May 31 [narcotics trafficker] (re)
 [Series on temporary hiatus for CPW]

This light-hearted action series features the return of Don Johnson to prime-time TV (also featuring Cheech Marin). Set in San Francisco, this non-traditional cop show has received respectable ratings opposite NBC's powerhouse **Homicide: Life on the Street**, and has been renewed for the fall of '96. In the meantime, producers still have a few new episodes in the can, and they intend to spread them out over the course of the summer, following a temporary hiatus forced on **Nash** by the return of CBS's prime-time soap **CPW**.

Nowhere Man

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Apr 1 The Alpha Spike (re)
 Apr 8 Through a Lens Darkly [Shutterbug]
 Apr 15 Dark Side of the Moon [The Mugging]
 Apr 22 Father (re)
 Apr 29 Calaway
 May 6 Zero Minus Ten
 May 13 Marathon
 May 20 Gemini [Season Finale]
 May 27 An Enemy Within (re)
 Jun 3 It's Not Such a Wonderful Life (re)
 Jun 10 Contact (re)
 Jun 17 Heart of Darkness (re)
 Jun 24 Forever Jung (re)
 Jul 1 Shine A Light on You (re)
 Jul 8 Stay Tuned (re)
 Jul 15 Hidden Agenda (re)
 Jul 22 Doppelganger (re)
 Jul 29 Through a Lens Darkly (re)

The future of this low-rated but critically-acclaimed action/suspense series is uncertain beyond this summer. UPN has cancelled the series, however the Disney producers are shopping the show around for other networks, or as a straight-to-syndication deal. Another option is a final 2-hour TV-movie on UPN that wraps the whole storyline up. The series producer had promised that if the series was cancelled he would get on-line during the summer and explain "everything" the show was about. Whether he'll still do this in light of the resuscitation efforts is unknown. **"Through a Lens Darkly"** — Representatives of The Organization capture Veil, and force him to relive a mixture of real and manufactured memories...memories of a troubled time in his past when he and his first love, Laura, covered a story in Northern Ireland. **"The Dark Side of the Moon"** — When Tom is mugged by a street gang, all of his possessions are stolen, including the Hidden Agenda negatives. As both Tom and The

Organization attempt to track down the gang member who stole the film, the thief turns up dead, and Tom is wanted for the murder. **"Calaway"** — Veil returns to the Calaway psychiatric hospital in Illinois, where his entire ordeal began. Amid new revelations of what occurred to him while previously there, Tom discovers that a former patient has now joined The Organization, and a new victim is undergoing the same type of conditioning Tom previously underwent. **"Zero Minus Ten"** — Veil awakens from an apparent three-month coma, to find Alyson back at his side. **"Marathon"** — Veil makes contact with potential allies (or are they?) on an FBI taskforce seeking information about The Organization. **"Gemini"** — Veil learns the truth about his Hidden Agenda photo...but may not be able to pass the information on to the authorities.

The Odyssey

This award-winning Australian science fiction series premiered for the first time in the U.S. on the SciFi Channel in April. The series focuses on an 11-year-old boy who, after lapsing into a coma, inhabits and explores a fantastic alternate world. First airings are at 7:30 pm and 11:30 pm on Sundays, with repeat airings on the following Mondays, Fridays and Saturdays — check local listings for times.

The Outer Limits [Showtime]

Upcoming Air Schedule:

Apr 5 The Refuge
 Apr 7 Mind Over Matter (re)
 Apr 12 Inconstant Moon
 Apr 14 Refuge (re)
 Apr 19 Beyond the Veil (re)
 Apr 21 Inconstant Moon (re)
 Apr 26 [pre-empted by Poltergeist: The Legacy]
 Apr 28 From Within
 Apr 30 From Within (re) (Special night/time)
 May 5 The Heist
 May 7 The Heist (re)
 May 12 First Anniversary (re) (Special time)
 May 14 Straight & Narrow (re)
 May 19 Afterlife
 May 21 Afterlife (re)
 May 26 The Deprogrammers
 May 28 The Deprogrammers (re)
 Jun 2 Trial By Fire (re)

| | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| Jun 4 | Worlds Apart (re) |
| Jun 7 | A Stitch in Time (Special night) |
| Jun 11 | Inconstant Moon (re) |
| Jun 16 | Paradise |
| Jun 18 | Paradise (re) |
| Jun 23 | The Light Brigade |
| Jun 25 | The Light Brigade (re) |
| Jun 30 | Falling Star |

The newest episodes air on Friday nights. Repeats of the previous week's Friday episode air on Sundays. Sporadic additional airings are possible.

The Outer Limits [syndi]

Upcoming Air Schedule (Week of)

| | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Mar 25 | Caught in the Act |
| Apr 1 | The Conversion (re) |
| Apr 8 | White Lite Fever (re) |
| Apr 15 | The Choice (re) |
| Apr 22 | I, Robot (re) |
| Apr 29 | Voice of Reason (re) |
| May 6 | Virtual Future (re) |
| May 13 | Blood Brothers (re) |
| May 20 | Birthright (re) |
| May 27 | Living Hell (re) |
| Jun 3 | The Message (re) |
| Jun 10 | Dark Matters (re) |

Syndicated airings of the first season of Showtimes' *Outer Limits* continue, the '95-96 Showtime season will begin airing in syndication this coming fall.

Poltergeist: The Legacy

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|--|
| Apr 7 | Into the Unknown (making of Poltergeist) [8:45 p.m.] |
| Apr 19 | Into the Unknown (re) [8:50 pm] |
| Apr 21 | Pilot Episode [7:00 pm] |
| | Into the Unknown (re) [8:35 pm] |
| Apr 23 | Pilot Episode (re) [8:00 pm] |
| | Into the Unknown [9:35 pm] (re) |
| Apr 26 | Sins of the Father [900 pm] |
| Apr 30 | Sins of the Father (re) [9:15 pm] |
| May 3 | Town Without Pity [9:10 pm] |
| May 7 | Town Without Pity (re) |
| May 10 | The Tenement |
| May 14 | The Tenement (re) |
| May 17 | Twelfth Cave |
| May 21 | Twelfth Cave (re) |
| May 24 | Man in the Mist |
| May 28 | Man in the Mist (re) |
| May 31 | Ghost in the Road |
| Jun 4 | Ghost in the Road (re) |
| Jun 7 | Doppelganger |
| Jun 11 | Doppelganger (re) |
| Jun 14 | The Substitute |
| Jun 18 | The Substitute (re) |
| Jun 21 | Do Not Go Gently... |
| Jun 25 | Do Not Go Gently... (re) |
| Jun 28 | Crystal Scarab |
| Jul 2 | Crystal Scarab (re) |

This new series premiered on Showtime on April 21st, with a "making of" preview airing two weeks earlier. Initial showings of new episodes are on Thursday nights — repeats will be shown at other times on other days of the week. Syndicated

airings of this first season are already scheduled to begin airing nationally in September '96!

Red Dwarf

Production is currently going on for the 7th season of 8 episodes of *Red Dwarf*. Rimmer will appear in as few as 4 or as many as 6 of these episodes before leaving the series. Following production of these 8 episodes, production will almost immediately proceed on season 8, which will be comprised of only 6 episodes. The rumors of a Christmas episode to be filmed and shown between these seasons is just that...a rumor at the moment. Co-creator Rob Grant is no longer associated with the series in a production capacity, although he did author the recently published (in England) *Backwards*, the 4th *RD* novel.

The Rockford Files

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|-----------------------|
| Apr 25 | Friends and Foul Play |
| [unk] | Night Fishing |

"*Friends and Foul Play*" — the 5th movie aired in April. The title of the final remaining film may be "Night Fishing", and is expected to feature the return of Kathryn Harrold as blind psychologist Megan Dougherty, an old friend of Jim's. Stuart "Angel". The late rumor as we go to press is that Garner and associates have signed to film two more Rockford Files TV-movies over the summer, for airing during the '96-97 season. Though unconfirmed, this is likely.

The Sentinel

Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|---------------------------|
| Mar 20 | Pilot |
| Mar 27 | Siege |
| Apr 3 | The Killers |
| Apr 10 | The Debt |
| Apr 17 | [pre-empted by Gun Crazy] |
| Apr 24 | Cypher |
| May 1 | Night Train |
| May 8 | Rogue |
| May 15 | Love and Guns |
| May 22 | Attraction |
| May 29 | Pilot episode (re) |
| Jun 5 | Siege (re) |
| Jun 12 | Killers (re) |
| Jun 19 | The Debt (re) |
| Jun 26 | Cypher (re) |
| Jul 3 | [pre-empted] |
| Jul 10 | Night Train (re) |
| Jul 17 | Vow of Silence |
| Jul 24 | Rogue (re) |
| Jul 31 | Love and Guns (re) |

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 viewing market don't get. Information is provided here for our non-local club members, and in the hopes that we will eventually be able to pick up the show, possibly in *Nowhere Man's* slot starting in the fall.

Sliders

Upcoming Air Schedule

| | |
|--------|---|
| Apr 5 | Time Again and World |
| Apr 12 | [pre-empted by Space: A&B] |
| Apr 19 | [pre-empted by Space: A&B] |
| Apr 26 | In Dino Veritas |
| May 3 | Post Traumatic Slide Syndrome |
| May 10 | [pre-empted by More Secrets of the X-Files] |
| May 17 | [pre-empted by Goosebumps] |
| May 24 | Obsession |
| May 31 | Greatfellas |
| Jun 7 | The Young and the Relentless |
| Jun 14 | Love Gods (re) |
| Jun 21 | El Sid (re) |
| Jun 28 | Invasion |
| [unk] | As Times Go By |
| [unk] | Ranger, Poacher |
| [unk] | [Season Finale] |

Sliders took over the slot vacated by *Strange Luck* on Fridays beginning on March 1st. Thus far, it has achieved only marginal ratings, but was still renewed for the for a full 22-episode season in the fall of '96. "*In Dino Veritas*" — The sliders land in the middle of a San Francisco which serves as a dinosaur wildlife preserve.. "*Post Traumatic Slide Syndrome*" — The sliders appear to have arrived back at their origin point...or have they? "*Obsession*" — Wade meets the man of her dreams on a world ruled by psychics. "*Greatfellas*" — Mel Torme guest stars as an alternate universe version on himself on an Earth run by warring mobster families. "*The Young and the Relentless*" — A yuppie-world, where Quinn must solve the murder of his own double. "*Invasion*" — The sliders run afoul of technologically advanced aliens, who have the ability to slide between realities at will...and the desire to conquer every Earth they can find.

Space: Above and Beyond

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|--------|---|
| Apr 12 | R&R (special Friday airing) |
| Apr 14 | [pre-empted] |
| Apr 19 | Stardust (special Friday airing) |
| Apr 20 | Sugar Dirt (special Saturday airing) |
| Apr 21 | [series placed on temporary hiatus] |
| May 26 | And If They Lay Us to Rest |
| Jun 2 | Tell Our Moms We Done Our Best |
| Jun 9 | Ray Butts (re) |
| Jun 16 | [pre-empted] |
| Jun 23 | Pilot [1] (re) |
| Jun 30 | Pilot [2] (re) [final airing of series] |

After an up-and-down ratings season, **SAAB** was given a series of tryouts on different days in April. On two consecutive Fridays, new episodes of the series aired, as well as on Saturday, April 20th. SAAB then went on hiatus, until returning the last weekend of May with a two-parter, which serves as the season finale. Unfortunately, the tryouts in the different time periods didn't catch fire with viewers, and **SAAB** has been cancelled by FOX. Reruns will continue to air throughout the summer. The April 12th episode, **"R&R"**, featured an uncredited guest appearance by David Duchovny, as the unit takes some needed time off at a pleasure ship. **"Stardust"** — Major counteroffensive begins against the Chigs. **"Sugar Dirt"** — The 58th is abandoned on a desolate planet with little ammo, no food, and no hope of rescue. **"And If They Lay Us to Rest"** — The 58th is assigned to prep a small planet for the beginning of the next offensive against the enemy...only to find the supposedly empty planet inhabited. The Chigs sue for peace talks. [1 of 2] **"Tell Our Moms We Done Our Best"** — Peace talks are disrupted and war breaks out again, as it's revealed that the Chigs know about Operation: Roundhammer. The fates of several major characters are revealed, or left hanging in this somber cliffhanger.

Space Cases

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|---------|------------------------------------|
| Apr 6 | Nowhere Man |
| Apr 13 | Desperately Seeking Suzee |
| Apr 20 | It's My Birthday, Too (Yeah) |
| Apr 27 | Tie Me Kangaroo Down, Court |
| May 4 | Prisoner of Luff (special time) |
| May 11 | [pre-empted] |
| May 18 | The Impossible Dram |
| May 25 | Break on Through to the Other Side |
| June 1 | On the Road to Find Out |
| June 8 | [pre-empted] |
| June 15 | A Day in the Life (re) |
| June 22 | Who Goes Where (re) |

Original youth-oriented SF series (with heavy doses of humor), by Bill Mumy and Peter David, currently airing Saturday nights on the Nickelodeon cable network.

Star Trek: Deep Space Nine

Upcoming Air Schedule: (week of)

| | |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| Apr 1 | Starship Down (re) |
| Apr 8 | Rules of Engagement |
| Apr 15 | Hard Times |
| Apr 22 | Shattered Mirror |
| Apr 29 | Muse |
| May 6 | For the Cause |
| May 13 | To the Death |
| May 20 | The Quickening |
| May 27 | Little Green Men (re) |
| June 3 | The Sword of Kahless (re) |
| June 10 | Body Parts |
| June 17 | Broken Link [Season Finale] |
| June 24 | Our Man Bashir (re) |
| July 1 | Homefront (re) |
| July 8 | Paradise Lost (re) |
| July 15 | Crossfire (re) |
| July 22 | Return to Grace (re) |
| July 29 | The Sons of Mogh (re) |
| Aug 5 | The Bar Association (re) |
| Aug 12 | Hard Time (re) |
| Aug 19 | Shattered Mirror (re) |
| Aug 26 | For the Cause (re) |
| Sept 2 | The Quickening (re) |
| Sept 9 | To the Death (re) |
| Sept 16 | Body Parts (re) |
| Sept 23 | Broken Link (re) |
| Sept 30 | [Fifth Season Premiere] |

"Rules of Engagement" — Worf is put on trial after the Defiant destroys a Klingon civilian ship while under his command. **"Hard Times"** — When O'Brien is convicted of espionage by an alien race, they put two decades of false memories of a prison term into his mind, shattering his reality. **"Shattered Mirror"** — When the Mirror universe Jennifer Sisko lures Jake to cross over, Benjamin must follow him and help the rebels (who've taken over Terak Nor) repel an attack by the Mirror Worf, who's charged with putting down the rebellion. **"The Muse"** — May or may not guest star Lwaxana Troi, depending on how the Nana Visitor pregnancy is handled. **"For the Cause"** — Garak meets Dukat's daughter, Ziyal, for the first time. May also involve the Maquis. **"To the Death"** — Involves the Jem'Hadar. No informatino available on remaining episodes, except that the season finale will once again be a minor cliffhanger. **"The Quickening"** — Bashir battles a biological weapon used by the Jem'Hadar. **"Body Parts"** — Quark believes he's dying, and pre-sells his dessicated remains on the Ferengi stock exchange, where they're bought by his

enemy Brack, who wants the remains delivered even when Quark finds out he's not really dying. Meanwhile, an accident in space forces Dr. Bashir to transfer Keiko's unborn child into Major Kira, who must then carry the baby to term. **"Broken Link"** — Odo is suffering from a degenerative condition that's causing him to lose cohesion...and request to be taken to The Founders. There, he is forced to stand trial by the members of The Great Link and accept judgement for his killing of another changeling in last season's final episode. Meanwhile, the Klingons are agitating for war with the Federation.

Star Trek: Voyager

Upcoming Air Schedule: (Dates are UPN)

| | |
|---------|--------------------------------|
| 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 | Resistance |
| Apr 29 | The Thaw |
| May 6 | Tuvix |
| May 13 | Resolution |
| May 20 | Basics, Part I [Season Finale] |
| May 27 | Prototype (re) |
| June 3 | Alliances (re) |
| June 10 | Threshold (re) |
| June 17 | Meld (re) |
| June 24 | Dreadnought (re) |
| July 1 | Death Wish (re) |
| July 8 | Lifesigns (re) |
| July 15 | Investigations (re) |
| July 22 | Deadlock (re) |
| July 29 | Innocence (re) |

The following episodes have already been produced for airing next fall

| | |
|-------|---|
| [unk] | Basics, Part II |
| [unk] | Sacred Ground |
| [unk] | False Profits |
| [unk] | Flashback [30th Anniversary of Star Trek episode] |

"Innocence" — After crashing his shuttle, Tuvok becomes protector to three small Drayan children who have apparently been left to die on a small planet. **"The Thaw"** — The discovery of a Kohl settlement in a computer-controlled artificial hibernation leads Torres and Kim to project themselves into the computer system. Once inside, they encounter and are bedeviled by the embodiment of the settler's fears, in the form of a devious, omnipotent clown (portrayed by guest star Michael McKean). **"Tuvix"** — Two crew mem-

bers are fused into one during a transporter accident. **"Resolution"** — The relationship between Janeway and Chakotay is explored, when they are quarantined to a planet to save their lives, and the ship must leave them behind. **"Basics, Part I"** — A Kazon attack results in the crew to abandoning Voyager and becoming stranded on a hostile planet, as the Kazon take over the ship, leaving only the Doctor and a psychotic prisoner aboard. And planned for next season's 30th Anniversary of Star Trek — **"Flashback"** — Tuvok recalls his service as an ensign aboard the U.S.S. Excelsior, commanded by Captain Hikaru Sulu (guest starring George Takei, and Grace Lee Whitney!).

Third Rock From the Sun

Upcoming Air Schedule

| | |
|---------|--|
| Apr 2 | Angry Dick |
| Apr 9 | The Dicks They Are A-Changin' |
| Apr 16 | Post Nasal Dick (re) |
| Apr 21 | I Enjoy Being a Dick (special Sunday airing) |
| Apr 23 | Dick Like Me (now at 7:00 pm) |
| Apr 30 | Assault With a Deadly Dick |
| May 7 | Father Knows Dick |
| May 14 | Selfish Dick |
| May 21 | See Dick Run [Season Finale] |
| May 28 | Dick is From Mars, Sally is From Venus (re) |
| June 2 | Dick, Smoker (re) (Sunday airing) |
| June 4 | Dick Like Me (re) |
| June 9 | Ab-Dick-Ted (re) (Sunday airing) |
| June 11 | Body & Soul & Dick (re) |
| June 16 | Frozen Dick (re) |
| June 18 | Green-Eyed Dick (re) |
| June 25 | Truth or Dick (re) |

One of this season's few bonafide hits, and definitely renewed for next season, **3R** will be moving to a new timeslot on Sundays opposite **Lois & Clark**.

The X-Files

Upcoming Air Schedule:

| | |
|---------|---|
| Apr 5 | Born Again (re) |
| Apr 12 | Jose Chung's 'From Outer Space' |
| Apr 19 | Oubliette (re) |
| Apr 24 | 3 (special Wednesday airing) |
| Apr 26 | Avatar |
| May 3 | Quagmire |
| May 10 | More Secrets of the X-Files [7:00] Wet Wired [8:00] |
| May 17 | Talitha Cumi [Season Finale] |
| May 24 | D.P.O. (re) |
| May 31 | Our Town (re) |
| June 7 | 2shy (re) |
| June 14 | The Walk (re) |
| June 21 | Grotesque (re) |

"Jose Chung's 'From Outer Space'" — By Darin Morgan, the writer of last season's Circus Freaks episode, "Clyde

Bruckman's Final Repose" and "War of the Coprophages". Told from multiple points-of-view, as a writer (Charles Nelson Reilly) researches a novel on alien abductions by looking into one of Mulder and Scully's cases. Considered one of this season's best! **"Avatar"** — Skinner is the victim of a succubus, who sets him up for an apparent murder rap. We meet Skinner's wife for the first time. **"Quagmire"** — Mulder drags Scully (and her ill-fated dog) down south to investigate killings attributed to a legendary lake monster. A **"More Secrets of the X-Files"** special aired on May 10th, pre-empting **Sliders**. However, unlike last season, this special was *not* attached to the season finale, which aired the following week. **"Talitha Cumi"** — In this season finale, Mulder and Scully are pursuing the mysterious man who apparently healed the victims of a gunman's rampage with his mere touch. Unfortunately, someone else is also after the same man...to kill him. [Part 1 of at least 2].

Xena: Warrior Princess

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) |
| Apr 1 | The Black Wolf (re) |
| Apr 8 | Beware of Greeks Bearing Gifts (re) |
| Apr 15 | Athens City Academy of the Performing Bards (re) |
| Apr 22 | Altared States |
| Apr 29 | Ties That Bind |
| May 6 | Greater Good |
| May 13 | Callisto |
| May 20 | A Fistful of Dinars (re) |
| May 27 | Warrior...Princess (re) |
| June 3 | Death Mask |
| June 10 | The Prodigal (re) |
| June 17 | The Royal Couple of Thieves (re) |
| June 24 | The Path Not Taken (re) |
| [unk] | Is There a Doctor in the House? |

Xena has been renewed for two new seasons in advance. In the last several months, **Xena's** syndicated Nielsen ratings have been stronger than even **Hercules**, falling short only of **DS9** among syndicated genre shows.

WWWebWatch

This month's selection of cyber-browsing sites comes from your editor's list of regularly-visited sites. Visit...and enjoy! And send your editor the URLs for your favorite sites for inclusion in future editions of the WWWebWatch...

<http://www.hyperion.com/lurk/lurker.html>
Probably the primo B5 website, with detailed series info

<http://www.usask.ca/~turner/duesouth.html>
One of the best "fan" sites for Due South, with numerous links to others

<http://www.duesouth.com>
The "official" DS site, maintained by the producers

<http://members.aol.com/CuznJamiMR> (case sensitive)
The main "Save Forever Knight" site

<http://www.cris.com/~Perval/who.htm>
The Doctor Who Fan Network Site, coordinating on-life efforts to save DW

<http://www.test-medhat.com/~windsong/krypton/krypton.html>
Krypton Club Homepage, for fans of Lois & Clark

<http://www.physics.mun.ca/~sps/whonews.html>
Excellent site for up-to-the minute Doctor Who news

<http://www.cdsnet.net/vidiot>
The "Vidiot's" Homepage — covering the current Star Treks and UPN shows

<http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/as271/sail/sba.htm>

SBA News continued from page 5

this to be an enjoyable mini-scifi-summit for area enthusiasts, and would like to see as many SBAers and associates present as possible — If for nothing else, than because we'd like to take a new informal club photo for club records and for the upcoming official web site! To encourage participation in the "frisbee" part of the afternoon, small prizes will be awarded in several categories of frisbee performance in both Adult and Child categories. Mark your calendars now...

Independence Day Premiere

The next club outing will be to the local "official" premiere of the new summer blockbuster **Independence Day**. The film is scheduled to open on Wednesday, July 3rd, although reports indicate that there may be "sneak previews" on the night of Tuesday, July 2nd. Our plan as a club is to attend the 7:00-ish showing on Wednesday the 3rd, at whichever downtown theater has the film (posters have already gone up at the Stuart Theater, and it's fairly certain that that's where it will play), to be followed immediately after by a group pizza fest at the Pizza Hut restaurant downtown (or another restaurant as determined by group consensus after the movie). All SBAers, friends and associates are encouraged to make this a group effort. Although there are numerous other genre films opening throughout the summer (*see schedule elsewhere this issue*), the only other film mentioned as a possible group viewing so far has been **Escape From L.A.**, which opens in August. Other suggestions are welcome...

On the Web

Although the "official" **SBA World Wide Web Site** won't be up until the fall, club member Melissa Sailors has a site up with extensive photos from past SBA activities, including *Andromeda Two*. Though not much to look at with a text-only browser, if you've got a graphical browser you might want to point it at: <http://ianrwww.unl.edu/ianr/as271/sail/sba.htm>, and don't forget to thank Melissa for putting this up in the first place!

Conventional Appearances

Star Base Andromeda will be making an appearance at the upcoming *ConCussion* convention, July 26-28, in Council Bluffs, IA. Although too many SBA members are helping to run the convention to be able to have an SBA-specific table in the dealers room, flyers will be available on the flyer table and an SBA room party will be held on Saturday night, the 27th, starting immediately after the main evening programming event (app. 8 or 9 p.m.). All SBAers are encouraged to attend [*both the convention :-)* and the room party], and discussions will be held at upcoming meetings of what exact theme to have at the party (video equipment will be available if needed). Club memberships (and renewals) will probably be sold at a discounted rate at the room party, for anyone wishing to take advantage of the situation!

"First Friday" Success Continues

The success of our "First Friday of the Month" meetings at club members Agris & Diane Taurins' home has continued in recent months, with March, April and May meetings proving to be quite popular. The "First Friday" in June (the 7th) was our joint gathering with the *Lincoln Northeast High School* science fiction club at the original Valentino's restaurant. Some SBAers also attended the LNE group's squirt-gun fight at Holmes Lake to celebrate the end of the school year, and had a great time. This joint meeting was a rousing success, with 60% of SBA's local members showing up, and a large contingent of LNE club members present as well. We were able to introduce the two clubs to each other in a casual environment, and we spent several hours noshing on pizza and sharing genre interests. Several LNEers have since begun attending SBA meetings, and SBA members are planning to attend the first meeting of the LNE club (and other Lincoln HS clubs) when the fall semester begins. SBA's "First Friday" meeting for July will be on July 5th, when we return to the Taurins home. The theme for this month's meeting is "cookout" — bring a slab of something to slap on their new grill, as well as a side dish (veggie, salad, dessert, chips, drink, etc.) to share with everyone else. The gathering will begin at approximately 7:00,

and the members of the LNE club have all been invited.

Membership News

Star Base Andromeda has received two new members during the March, April and May period since the last issue of *The Andromedan Log*. *Jeremy Rohn* of Fremont, NE joined as a Supporting Member on 3/22 as a result of publicity at James Doohan's Trekday event in Omaha in February. Terri Muggy of Lincoln joined in March, also as a Supporting member. A big SBA welcome to our newest members. *Melissa Sailors* renewed her expired membership in March also...welcome back to the fold. We hope you'll all enjoy your stays! And we thank you for your patience since your member status hit us during our recent *Log* hiatus.

It's Payback Time

No Paybacks were awarded in the *SBA Membership Payback Program* this time 'round, as no new members joined as a result of a current member's direct assistance. Don't forget: *The Membership Payback Program* encourages all current members to bring in new members to the club by rewarding the current member for every successful new member they assist in joining. 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. Once again, to make this fair to everyone in the club, each club member is limited to a total of *nine (9)* free additional months (*modified up from 6 previously*) for every year of their own paid membership. This relatively new program has been in effect since March 1996, and we encourage all club members to take part! Just remember: When encouraging a friend to join, make sure they mention your name as the club member who brought them in — if they don't tell us, we won't know! Paybacks are not eligible for reenlisting former members whose memberships expired less than a year ago; Paybacks are also not eligible for gift memberships that you yourself paid for. Otherwise, the sky's the limit...

Reviews

★★★★★ — Excellent

★ — Poor

Executive Decision

This latest Kurt Russell film came as something of a surprise...literally. Although on the surface, *Executive Decision* seems to be another typical action film, replete with a cast of competent, capable stars like Russell, Steven Seagal, John Leguizamo, Oliver Platt and David Suchet, the film manages to deliver on more than just simply a visceral action level. Russell stars as David Grant, a State Department advisor on terrorists. When a jetliner flying to the U.S. from Greece is hijacked by terrorists demanding the release of their captured leader, Grant is called in, tuxedoed from a party, to consult on how to handle the situation. The result is that he accompanies a commando team led by Col. Austin Travis (Seagal), whose mission is to approach the jetliner from beneath in a modified stealth plane and board her via an experimental docking tube designed by Platt's character (Cahill). The daring attempt goes awry, killing Travis and stranding civilians Grant and Cahill, an inventive engineer, with the rest of the military team aboard the jetliner. What follows is a nerve-wracking, nail-biting suspense, as the mismatched group attempts to locate and defuse a sophisticated bomb attached to enough nerve toxin to wipe out the East Coast of the U.S., and all before the President must decide that the plane be shot down. Suchet (TV's *Hercule Poirot*), is excellent as the terrorist leader, Nagi Hassan, as is Leguizamo as the highest ranking surviving commando, Rat, and B.D. Wong as a fellow commando. However, Russell, playing against type as a normal guy thrown into extraordinary circumstances, steals the film. Halle Berry has a lesser but key part as a stewardess who becomes aware of what's going on and aids the commandos. The film strikes a fine balance between traditional action elements, cerebral moments, and technical wizardry worthy of the old *Mission*

Impossible TV series. The most striking feature of *Executive Decision*, however, is its unpredictability. Every chance it gets to surprise you and turn cliches on their ears, it takes...as evidenced by Seagal's early demise. Since the film is still on local screens, and I don't want to spoil any more of the plot surprises, I'll just call this a definite must-see for thinking action fans. ★★★★★

— Scott Clark

THE GREEN MILE

PT. 1: THE TWO DEAD GIRLS

The Green Mile is the latest literary experiment from horror schlockmeister Stephen King. Conceived of as a return to the days of serialized long-form fiction in the style of Charles Dickens, where authors kept their readers hanging on by their fingertips each month for the latest installment in a long-running storyline, *The Green Mile* will be six segments long, spread evenly over six months. The first installment arrived during the last week of March, and the series will end with part six in late August. King, himself, in his initial author's introduction admits that the storyline was unfinished and he was not entirely certain how it would end as he turned the completed first segment over to his publisher. In the back of each installment, a reader essay contest is being run, with six winners chosen each month to receive autographed *Green Mile* manuscripts, and an ultimate grand prize winner to receive a complete autographed Stephen King library.

I have to admit, I've not been an avid reader of Stephen King material for several years now, ever since being disappointed by *The Tommyknockers*. King's material had reached a point, around 1989 or 90, at which it all had a certain sameness or predictability. His earliest material, such as *Salem's Lot*, *The Shining*, *The Stand*, *The Dead Zone*, *It* and the short stories of his *Night Shift* and *Skeleton Crew* collections scared the crap out of me, and still

remain solid, well-written pieces to this day. But by the time of *The Tommyknockers*, *Misery*, *The Dark Half* and his more recent material, he was already on a downhill slide. It was therefore with a certain amount of trepidation that I plunked down by \$2.99 for "The Two Dead Girls" to start off this experiment. And it was with a certain amount of surprise that I found myself at the end of 92 pages of material (75 if you don't count the lengthy author's intro and blank filler pages), eager to read the next installment. I don't know if it was the tight deadline he forced himself to meet, or the challenge of such an unusual project in today's day-and-age, but King has managed to create a gripping, tightly-written introductory sequence, with well-drawn characters and a sense of forboding for what is to come.

The main setting for *The Green Mile* is the death row block of an unnamed southern state's penitentiary during the 1930's, and the narrator is Paul Edgecombe, the supervisor of the death row inmates. The "green mile" refers to the row itself, tiled with lime-green linoleum. In "The Two Dead Girls", we're introduced to Edgecombe's co-workers, superiors and wife, as well as the the residents of his domain. Inmate Eduard Delacroix is a meek Cajun man who's adopted a suspiciously intelligent mouse called Mr. Jingles. The newest prisoner is John Coffey, a large black man convicted of the rape and vicious murder of two young white girls, but who seems oddly unaware of and unconcerned with his current fate. As the narrator introduces us to this cast of colorful characters, he also lets on that he's telling this story years later, and that there's a lot more to what's going on than is obvious on the surface. I realize it's hard to judge what will eventually (hopefully) be a 350-400 page novel on just the first few chapters, but those chapters have done their job by grabbing and holding my interest. King's tendency toward rambling narratives and confusing, sometimes incoherent internal dialogue are nicely muted, and his descriptions of the crimes, while graphic, are still more restrained than I expected. I look forward to the next chapter in *The Green Mile*, and the only complaint I'll offer on part one, is that

\$2.99, though much cheaper than standard paperback novels nowadays (which usually run in the \$5.99–\$7.99 range), still seemed a bit steep for only 75 actual pages of text. ★★★

— *Scott Clark*

Babe

Although Becky and I didn't take the time to see this charming, general-audience film when it was actually in the theaters, we decided we had to see what all the "award-winning" fuss was about when it finally arrived on video a few weeks ago, and I'll have to admit...I liked it! Based on a short children's novel by Dick King-Smith, *Babe* is the story of a runtish little piglet who is adopted by a farm dog and learns to become a sheep "dog" like his adoptive mother. This simplistic story, combined with some remarkably subtle but effective (Oscar-winning) special effects that allow a farmful of animals to talk, opens the film up to become a marvelous character study. We're introduced to Babe, the pig, in the foreboding environment of high-tech pig farm, where the animals' fates are obviously meat counters in regional grocery stores. Babe, unwittingly, is the fortunate one, set aside as the prize in a "guess my weight" game at a county fair. James Cromwell stars in the main human role as Farmer Hoggett, the sheep farmer whose fate is intertwined with Babe's once he wins the pig at the fair. After having been brought home to Hoggett's farm, Babe is lost and alone, and soon comes under the protective care of Fly, a border collie looking after her own recent litter of pups. Babe soon makes friends with the rest of the farmyard menagerie, including: Ferdinand, the duck who's trying to save his own goose by pretending to be a rooster; a trio of singing mice (who serve as *Babe's* version of a Greek chorus), Mrs. Hoggett's prissy cat; the horse; the cow; Hoggett's flock of sheep, led by the irascible Maa; and Rex, Fly's mate and lord of the farmyard realm. Following a comic misadventures with Ferdinand, and the selling of Fly's litter, Babe joins Fly and Rex when they go to the sheep fields to tend the flock with the Farmer. When

Babe shows a remarkable skill for sheep-herding — by being friendly and polite with the sheep instead of aggressive and commanding like Rex — the Farmer sees a little something more than a Christmas meal in his prize pig. When Rex and Fly argue violently over a pig doing a dog's work, the Farmer has Rex drugged and tied down, and Babe takes center stage in Farmer Hoggett's plans to win the annual sheep-herding contest.

The film is a gentle, humor-filled piece, with touches of honesty and warmth scattered liberally throughout the mix. The special effects, including camera tricks, animatronics and affecting animal acting, are convincing enough after the first few minutes so as not to be a distraction to the story. The only frightening moments in the film are Ferdinand's fate being in question early on, the dog fight between Rex and Fly, the attack on the flock by wild dogs, and Hoggett's resulting presumption of Babe's guilt in the latter. Cromwell's portrayal of Farmer Hoggett ('the Boss'), while understated, is still affecting, and his dance for the ill Babe near the end of the film is both goofy and touching. Christine Cavanaugh as the voice of Babe brings both a sense of innocence and a thirst

for friendship and adventure to the character, while Miriam Margolyes imbues Fly with a mixture of love, sorrow, and a strong will. Other than some occasionally choppy animatronic effects, my only complaint about the film (and by extension the book) is that *Babe* ends somewhat abruptly and without a true feeling of closure. I would've liked to have had a few

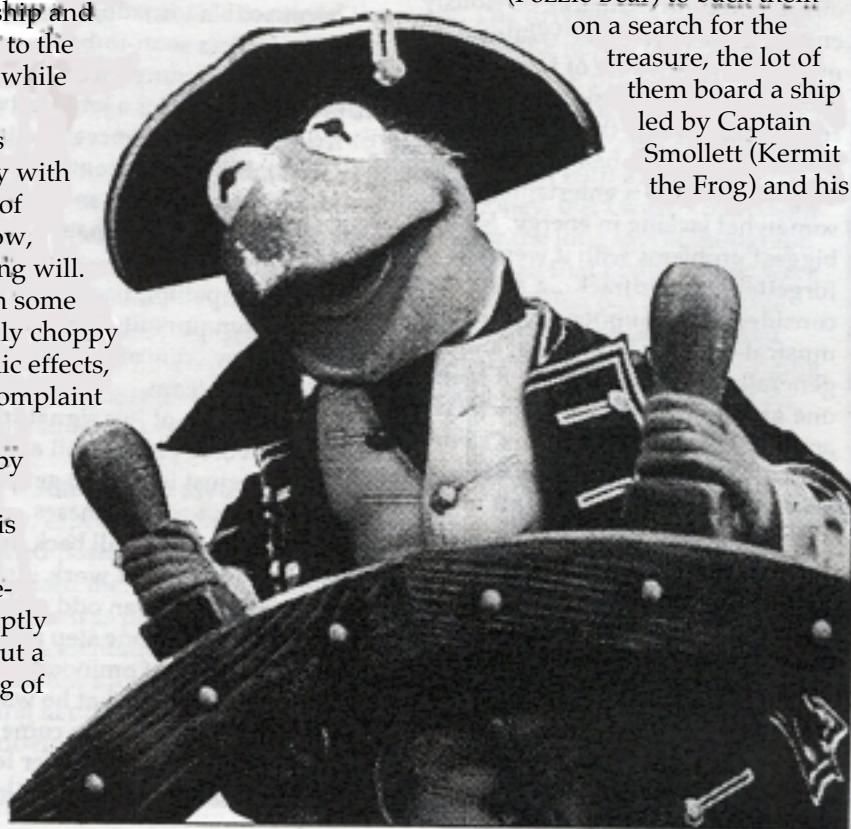
more scenes back at the farm, but the film suddenly ends at the sheep-herding contest. While not an Academy Award-caliber of film in my opinion, this is still definitely an enjoyable movie, and one suitable for the entire family. I think the only ones who won't enjoy *Babe* are those without a sentimental bone in their body. ★★★

— *Scott Clark*



In this, the second feature film (after *A Muppet Christmas Carol*) in which the Muppets have tried their hands at classic literature, the fuzzy and furry ones take on Robert Louis Stevenson's *Treasure Island*, with mixed results. Kevin Bishop plays young Jim Hawkins, protagonist of the tale, who (with his friends Gonzo and Rizzo) acquires a legendary treasure map from ill-fated Billy Bones (played to great comic effect by Billy Connolly). Convincing the addled Squire Trelawney (Fozzie Bear) to back them

on a search for the treasure, the lot of them board a ship led by Captain Smollett (Kermit the Frog) and his



faithful right-hand man Mr. Arrow (Sam the Eagle). Unfortunately, the dastardly pirate Long John Silver (Tim Curry) has stacked the crew with his band of cut-throats, and it's not long before Smollett, Hawkins and all the other "good guys" find themselves shipless and stranded on Treasure Island. But while Silver and his men search for the buried treasure, Smollett encounters his former girlfriend, Benjamina Gunn (Miss Piggy), reigning over the island natives and rescues Jim and friends in a valiant sword battle with Silver and his cronies.

The classic elements of the Treasure Island storyline hold this movie loosely together, despite a disappointing selection of musical numbers and uneven plotting. On the plus side, the Muppet work is excellent, with everyone from the classics like Gonzo, Rizzo, the Swedish Chef, Beaker and Dr. Bunsen Honeydew to new creations like Spa'am, Polly lobster and the trio of Old Tom, Real Old Tom and Dead Tom holding their own with the human characters. Tim Curry produces a performance as Long John Silver which verges from crafty and thoughtful to outrageous and maniacal, obviously enjoying the part. Steve Whitmire has matured into the role of Kermit the Frog, with only occasional glitches to remind the viewer that Jim Henson is no longer the man behind the felt. Overall, the film is entertaining but somewhat lacking in energy. My biggest problems with it were the forgettable soundtrack...a major flaw considering it's supposed to be a musical-comedy-adventure, and the generally awkward feeling of seeing one group of "characters" portraying another group of "characters". For me, the movies where the Muppets simply played themselves work a lot more effectively than when they try to become something else (while still maintaining their Muppetness). Perhaps not a well-explained flaw, but for me it was still a flaw, which is why I can only give *Muppet Treasure Island* ★★.

— Scott Clark

In general, I concur with Scott's re-
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marks. I thought Kevin Bishop was very good in his part. Tim Curry definitely stole the show. It is not a deep nor "top-ten" film but I enjoyed it quite a bit, especially when the humor was aimed at the adults in the audience. ★★★

— Becky W. Clark

Twister

Twister is one of the most thrill-packed, grab-you-by-your-throat action adventure films I've seen in years, with a level of technical proficiency in its special effects that is previously unmatched. The plot follows the death-defying adventures of a team of underfunded meteorologists who are chasing tornadoes across the Oklahoma countryside...not just to study them, but to get close enough to a big one to

have the monster suck up a crate full of miniature sensors, whose actions inside the tornado will help the scientists predict the patterns of future twisters. The main characters of the film are: Jo Harding (Helen Hunt), the group's gung-ho, take-charge leader, who's haunted by her own childhood experiences with a tornado; Bill Harding (Bill Paxton), Jo's soon-to-be ex-husband, who's left the unpredictable life of storm-chasing for a job as a tv weatherman and a new fiancée; Melissa (Jami Gertz), Bill's aforementioned new psychiatrist fiancée, and a much more "civilized" woman than Jo; Dr. Jonas Miller (Cary Elwes) — the Hardings' main competitor, backed by big money in his own pursuit of the funnels; and the motley crew of misfits that form Jo's ragtag team.

In search of Jo's signature on the final divorce papers, Bill and Melissa show up just in time to get pulled into one of Jo's tornado chases...which eventually drags Bill back into the excitement of field work. As Jo and her crew struggle in an odd collection of vehicles to stay one step ahead of Jonas' men in a fleet of ominous black vans, Bill must decide what he wants from life, and Jo must try to come to terms with her own past and her feelings about losing Bill. Meanwhile, the

assortment of supporting characters performs as quirky window dressing throughout, with only Lois Smith standing out from the crowd as Jo's Aunt Meg. All the actors pull off their roles with vigor, especially Hunt, who's the true lead in this film.

But the human beings pale before the actual "stars" of the movie...the twisters. As the film progresses, the encounters with the forces of nature become increasingly more violent and unpredictable. The first tornado attack (as Les Nesman would refer to it) finds Jo and Bill huddled under a flimsy wooden bridge as her nearby pickup truck is picked up and taken away. The second encounter involves a trio of water-born twisters, and includes fly-bys of airborne cows, a touch I found

just a bit too much for my taste. Later encounters involved the near destruction of a small town as the chasers attempt to

hide in a vehicle repair bay of a garage, and later Jo and Bill drive a gauntlet of falling debris (including farm vehicles, small buildings and a full oil-tanker) in pursuit of an illusive class F5 "Finger of God" monster. In the end, as can only be expected, the scientists are successful in their quest, nearly losing their lives in the balance, and Bill realizes his heart never left Jo and their work together. I was stunned by the special effects work in this film, much more so than in any other "natural disaster" type of film in the past. While the story wasn't particularly critical, and did hold together well-enough to justify the sfx work, it tended to lag between tornado appearances. Nothing stood out as a major-enough glitch to bother me...save for the frequency of such high-powered twisters in such a small amount of space. This film definitely deserves to be seen on the big screen, and will lose a lot of its impact when it makes it to video. All in all, I'll give *Twister* a total of ★★★. The tornadoes and Helen Hunt alone would've made it four, but the sections between the actual twisters seemed a little slow, much of the supporting cast was indistinguishable, and the soundtrack by Mark Mancina was pretty unmemorable.

— Scott Clark

Mission: Impossible

I'm writing two separate movie reviews as I begin my comments here: One for an action film with espionage twists and a somewhat familiar background that succeeds fairly well. And one for an updating of a cultural legend on its own terms...which fails miserably. This new film, starring and produced by Tom Cruise, attempts to update the classic *Mission: Impossible* tv series from the late 60's (already updated into a second tv series in 1988) to the big screen. On its own merits, the film is well done. Cruise is Ethan Hunt, a brash, cocky field agent for the IMF, whose latest Mission goes horribly awry...apparently killing his entire team, and allowing the target to escape with a computer diskette with 1/2 of a coded list of international espionage agents. When his superiors suspect Hunt of being responsible for the death of his team, Hunt goes underground, assembling a new team from "disavowed" former agents, to attempt break into the CIA's computer core, and then discover who the guilty mole in the organization is and set them up for a fall. Though Hunt's first team is on-screen for too brief a time to establish any real personalities, the new group is a fine mix: Luthor, a tech and computer genius; Kreiger, a brutish mercenary; Claire, a winsome beauty; and Hunt, a driven and possessed man on the edge. Confrontations with Max (Vanessa Redgrave), an arms and information broker, and Kittridge (the IMF superior responsible for tracking Hunt down) are both tense and well-done, as is a final action-packed sequence in which a helicopter is forced to follow the Chunnel train into the underground tunnel between France and England. The true villain of the piece, however, is revealed to be Jim Phelps gone bad, and that's where this review changes. Taking Phelps out of the picture and looking at this film as the adventure of a different group of IMF characters would have given us a three-star film. But I'm afraid I'm a fan of the two original series, and I can't divorce my feelings and admiration for those characters from the way in which they are handled in this film. The Jim Phelps I know would not do what was done in this film. This seemed like some twisted, alternate-universe Jim Phelps. But no matter

how I try to turn it around, this very plot lynch-pin causes the movie to collapse for me. As a standard action flick, *M:I* succeeds, with average to performances, impressive action sequences, a solid plot and a superior soundtrack. But as a *Mission: Impossible* movie, this film fails miserably. Averaging the three stars I would've given it as a basic action film with the zero stars I give it as an update of a classic, I have to give the new *Mission: Impossible* film a grudging ★★ score.

Mission: Impossible Soundtracks

Despite my frustrations with the film, I did enjoy the music, and bought the first CD when it came out, not really looking closely enough at it to see it labeled as "Music From and Inspired by the Motion Picture". I've really got to warn people: Out of fifteen tracks on this lengthy CD, only six actually appear in the film — three instrumental pieces by Danny Elfman; two reworkings of Lalo Schiffrin's pulsing theme, credited to Larry Mullen and Adam Clayton, and one vocal piece by The Cranberries, titled "Dream". The remaining nine tracks had absolutely nothing to do with the film, and none of them are memorable enough to even mention by name. Suffice it to say they're penned and performed by cutting-edge techno bands and serve no useful purpose, leading to my giving this disc a mere ★. And that only for the reworked *M:I* theme and the Elfman tracks. The second soundtrack album to be released (on a limited basis) is the score album by Danny Elfman, and where the first CD crashes and burns, this one flies high. Of 18 tracks, all are entertaining, with standouts being "Sleeping Beauty", "Big Trouble", "The Disc", "Train Time", "Zoom A" and "Zoom B". The pulsing Schiffrin theme resurfaces frequently, and the entire disc has a sense of energy and jazzy excitement to it. My only complaints are that Elfman didn't make any effort to work Schiffrin's second *M:I* theme — *the MI March* — into the movie's soundtrack, and that this disc doesn't include the 3 Elfman tracks or the two theme-reworkings from the first soundtrack. The score compilation gets my first full ★★★★★ review for *The Log* since we came back

on a regular basis. I highly recommend it to all *M:I* or movie music fans.

— Scott Clark

Mystery Science Theater 3000 Movie

Our favorite movie critics — no, not Siskel & Ebert, Mike and the 'Bots — finally made their big-screen appearance this spring in the *MST3K Movie*, a skewering of 1955's *This Island Earth*. Unfortunately, *Earth* really wasn't as horrible a film as many of the television episode targets have been, so the MST movie starts off without the powerfully noxious source material it needed to be truly great. The original film, starring Jeff Morrow as Exeter, Rex Reason as the dashing Cal Meacham, Faith Domergue as Dr. Ruth Adams, and Russell "the Professor" Johnson as Steve Carlson, had a certain amiable charm to it. The sfx were low-grade cheese, and the red-skinned, peak-headed aliens were silly (with the "hideous mutant" in his comfortable slacks bordering on laughable). But for what it tried to do, the production quality was notches above the average *MST* victim. Admittedly, this *MST* film does have a pretty-much continuous string of one-liners and humorous references (about 1/3 of which struck paydirt), but the writers didn't really seem to have their hearts in it. The film seemed to be "dumbed down" a bit for a more general audience, with fewer scathing references from obscure sources, and more silent bits. The host segments aboard the Satellite of Love show off the spiffy new interior sets and new bods for the 'Bots, and the segment in Servo's quarters and with Crow trying to dig his way out of the ship were funny. In the end, while it was fun to see the kings of "low tech and high tack" finally make it to the big time, the *MST3K Movie* seemed more like a below-average episode of the tv series, and I had a better time seeing the *MST* version of *The Outlaw of Gor* when it showed at Sheldon a couple of years ago, during the *Free Cheese Tour*. I'll take the *MSTing* of *Manos, the Hands of Fate* over this any day. My score:

★★.

— Scott
Clark

Passings

Noted individuals of genre significance who we've recently lost

More Passings (Since March 96)

Novelist **RICHARD CONDON** (*The Manchurian Candidate*, *Prizzi's Honor*) died on April 9th at the age of 81. Condon, originally a studio publicist for nearly 20 years, gave up the film side of the business when he developed ulcers, and turned to writing. One of his first novels was 1959's *Manchurian Candidate*, was turned into a film starring Laurence Harvey and Angela Lansbury in 1962. It eerily paralleled the real-life events of the 1963 JFK assassination in its tale of a U.S. soldier who, after being a prisoner of war in Korea, is brainwashed into killing a powerful U.S. political figure back home. The film adaptation of *Prizzi's Honor* in 1985 (for which Condon wrote the screenplay), was a more farcical black comedy about two professional hit men, and starred Jack Nicholson and Angelica Huston (who took home a supporting Oscar for her role).

Author **CHRISTOPHER ROBIN MILNE**, son of A.A. Milne and the inspiration for the character of Christopher Robin in the elder Milne's series of popular *Winnie the Pooh* books, died on April 20th at the age of 75. C.R. Milne spent much of his life trying to live down the image of him as portrayed in his father's books, eventually writing a handful of short novels of his own, before settling down to the business of running a bookstore with his wife.

SAUL BASS, a legendary Hollywood artist credited with creating some of the most memorable movie posters and credits sequences of the 1960s, died on April 25th at age 75. Bass's designs included the fragmented arm of *The Man With the Golden Arm*, the graffiti-like credits of *West Side Story* and work on more than 40 other well-known films. Genre work he did includes such Alfred Hitchcock film classics as *Vertigo*, *North By Northwest* and *Psycho*. Bass's work in film production also led him to create the famous shower scene from *Psycho*.

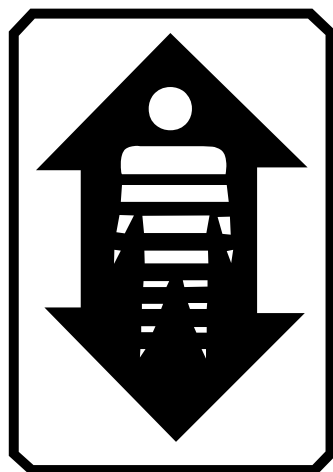
STERLING SILLIPHANT, a prolific screenwriter of the 1960s, 70s and 80s, died in Thailand on April 26th at age 78. Silliphant won the screenwriting Oscar in 1967 for *In the Heat of the Night*, and was responsible for the screenplays to *The Towering Inferno*, *The Poseidon Adventure*, *Village of the Damned*, *Swarm* and *Marlowe*. Silliphant also adapted the novel *Flowers For Algernon* into the screenplay for the 1969 film *Charly*, starring Cliff Robertson. In the 1950s and early 1960s, he was a frequent contributor to such television stalwarts as *Route 66*, *The Naked City* and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents*.

P.L. TRAVERS, author of the popular childrens book series featuring the character of *Mary Poppins*, died April 23rd in London at age 96.

Veteran British character actor **JOHN ABBOT**, perhaps best known to genre fans as Ayelborne in the classic *Star Trek* episode "Errand of Mercy", died May 24th at age 90. Abbot made his motion picture debut in 1937, and eventually performed in over 100 films. He also was a regular face in American television series of the 1960s, performing in everything from live dramas and sitcoms to westerns and science fiction.

VIRGIL ROSS, an animator at the Warner Brothers cartoon factory, and an Oscar winner for his work on such classics as "Tweety Pie", "Speedy Gonzales", "Birds Anonymous" and "Knighly Knight Bugs" has died on May 24th at age 88. Ross created or helped created more than 230 of WB's most memorable cartoons, and was well known for his ability to animate the facial expressions of his characters — a craft known in the profession as Personality Animation. Ross left WB in 1964 and at various times worked for both Filmation and Hanna-Barbera.

Finally, genre fans mourn the loss of British actor **JON PERTWEE**, whose portrayal of the third Doctor on *Doctor Who* was one of the most treasured. Pertwee died while vacationing in the states on May 20th. A more detailed tribute will appear in the next issue of *The Log*.



The Andromedan Challenge

The Andromedan Challenge for May '96 is as follows:

The recent *Doctor Who* TV movie on Fox went by the plain title *Doctor Who*, without an official subtitle on screen (although some press information identified it as *Doctor Who and the Enemy Within* (shades of *Classic Trek!*)). **Your Challenge:** Suggest a subtitle (or episode title) to identify this as different from all the other *Doctor Who* episodes. Your suggestions can be as humorous or as serious as you'd like (this is for fun, after all!) but each entrant is limited to just 3 suggestions.

Deadline for contributing to this Challenge is July 31st.

Rules for The Challenge: Entries must be typewritten or legible if handwritten. Each club member or reader of *The Log* is limited to entering the Challenge once each month, however they may submit up to 3 answer in each entry. Entries should be clearly identified as **Andromedan Challenge** submissions and mailed to the editor's surface address or e-mail address on page 2. Winning entry receives one free month on their existing membership, or one free issue of *The Log* if not currently a member.

May '96

Convention Report

Trekday with James Doohan

On March 10th, fellow SBA members Scott Clark, Becky Wurm Clark and I went to the Trekday Star Trek event in Omaha to see James Doohan once again, and to advertise Star Base Andromeda and the upcoming ConCussion convention. The entrance fee was \$14; for those on their mailing list who had been sent a post card, the price was \$10. This was a very low-frills event; there were only two dealers present, although they had a nice variety of merchandise available. As is usual at these events, it was difficult to get through the mass of humanity surrounding the tables to look at the merchandise.

A short trivia contest was held, and prizes were awarded to those picked from the audience who provided a correct answer. Surprisingly (and refreshing to me), most of the trivia questions were from the original series. This makes sense, since the guest was from classic Star Trek. Mr. Doohan was then on stage for over an hour, starting a bit before the scheduled time. First he spoke for awhile about his acting career and personal history, and then answered questions from the audience, encouraging those who were female to go up to him on stage and hug him (!?). There was some information in his talk which I hadn't heard before, such as the fact that he lost his finger as a result of machine-gun fire during World War II, and spent months in the hospital as a result. Following his time on stage, he signed autographs for the fans.

Unlike the other Creation cons and Creation clones I've been to, where some sort of video or slide programming is included, the only events here were the trivia contest, Mr. Doohan's talk, and the signing of autographs. I was rather impressed with the way they handled autographs; each person received a colored ticket, and those with one color were allowed to line up first. Once they were finished, those with the next color were allowed to line up. This made things flow more smoothly, with less snaking of the line and fighting for a good position. Some people might have been annoyed by the lack of programming at the event, but I kind of liked it; I wanted to hear Mr. Doohan's talk and get his autograph, which I was able to do, and was then able to spend the remainder of the afternoon at Westroads with Scott and Becky.

— **Mike Ponte**

ConCussion Report — May

Well...there's already one major correction to make to last month's **ConCussion Report** — We neglected to include the dates of the convention. Sheesh! ConCussion will be taking place on July 26-28, 1996 at the Ramada Hotel in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The primary guests will be **Lawrence Watt-Evans** (Fantasy / Horror GoH), **David Weber** (Science Fiction GoH), and **Larry Elmore** (Artist GoH). Detailed info on the convention is available on a separate flyer to anyone interested, or visit the ConCussion website at the following URL:

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

Name: _____
Badge Name: _____
Address: _____
City, State, Zip: _____
e-mail: _____

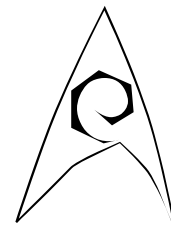
Will you be 21 by 7-26-96?

Make check for \$24 payable to:
ConCussion, PO Box 85762, Lincoln, NE 68501-5762

Deadlines for contributions to upcoming issues of The Log:

Issue #55 (June) — July 2nd

Issues #56 (July) — July 23rd



1995-96 TELEVISION SEASON ROUNDUP

YEAR-END NIELSEN RATINGS

Season-ending rankings for the 1995-96 season of network television shows were released on May 24th, for the 35-week season beginning in September 1995 and ending on May 22nd, 1996. Of 153 ranked series which aired at least two episodes, NBC's **ER** came in at #1 with an average rating of 22.0 and average share of 36. Coming in at #153 was The WB's **Simon**, with an average rating of 1.5 and an average share of 2. Genre shows and their average ratings/shares for the past year are listed below. [One ratings point represents 959,000 tv households; share is the percentage of televisions turned current turned on which are tuned to that particular show. An asterisk (*) precedes the ratings figures of those series which have been renewed.

(Codes: A — Action/Adventure; SF/F — Science Fiction/Fantasy; P — Paranormal/Psychological Suspense; H — Horror; Ani — Animated)

PRIMETIME NETWORK GENRE TELEVISION SERIES RANKINGS

| | | |
|------|------------------------------------|----------|
| 18. | Walker, Texas Ranger (A) | *12.3/22 |
| 18. | 3rd Rock From the Sun (SF/Sitcom) | *12.3/20 |
| 44. | Lois & Clark (SF/F) | *10.3/16 |
| 49. | The X-Files (SF/P) | *10.0/17 |
| 56. | Unsolved Mysteries (P) | *9.5/17 |
| 65. | Nash Bridges (A) | *8.9/16 |
| 73. | Muppets Tonight! (F/Sitcom) | *8.4/15 |
| 73. | The Simpsons (Ani/Sitcom) | *8.4/13 |
| 77. | JAG (A) | *8.1/14 |
| 78. | Aliens in the Family (SF/Sitcom) | 8.0/14 |
| 92. | Due South (A) | 7.1/13 |
| 92. | The Marshal (A) | 7.1/12 |
| 97. | Picket Fences (Drama with Fantasy) | 7.0/12 |
| 107. | American Gothic (H/P) | 6.6/12 |
| 112. | Space: Above and Beyond (SF) | 6.3/10 |
| 116. | Strange Luck (F/P) | 6.1/11 |
| 116. | seaQuest 2032 (SF) | 6.1/10 |
| 119. | Sliders (SF/F) | *5.9/11 |
| 124. | Kindred: The Embraced (H/P) | 5.6/9 |
| 130. | Star Trek: Voyager (SF) | *5.2/8 |
| 132. | Profit (Psych Suspense) | 4.9/8 |
| 138. | The Sentinel (A & SF) | *2.9/5 |
| 141. | Nowhere Man (A & Psych Susp) | 2.8/4 |
| 146. | Paranormal Borderline (P) | 2.3/4 |
| 148. | Deadly Games (SF/F) | 2.1/3 |
| 150. | Pinky & The Brain (Ani/humor) | 1.8/3 |

NETWORK TV MOVIE AND/OR MINI-SERIES RANKINGS

| | | |
|------|---------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | Gulliver's Travels, Pt. 1 | 21.2/31 |
| 2. | The Beast, Pt. 2 | 19.5/30 |
| 3. | The Beast, Pt. 1 | 18.6/30 |
| 6. | Gulliver's Travels, Pt. 2 | 17.2/26 |
| 197. | Bermuda Triangle | 8.2/13 |
| 197. | The Invaders, Pt. 1 | 8.2/12 |
| 207. | Here Come the Munsters | 8.0/13 |
| 223. | Project ALF | 7.5/13 |
| 230. | Generation X | 7.3/11 |
| 246. | The Invaders, Pt. 2 | 6.9/10 |
| 254. | The Canterville Ghost | 6.7/11 |
| 254. | Alien Nation: Body & Soul | 6.7/10 |
| 263. | Alien Nation: Millenium | 6.6/10 |
| 284. | Doctor Who | 5.5/9 |
| 285. | Encino Woman | 5.4/10 |
| 295. | W.E.I.R.D. World | 4.3/7 |
| 298. | Special Report: Journey to Mars | 3.3/5 |

Selected First-Run TV Movies and/or Mini-Series of a genre nature (of a total of 298 longform dramas that were ranked) are listed here. Some genre or borderline-genre shows may have been missed in this selection, and an emphasis has been placed on SF/Fantasy productions over Action/Adventure, of which there were quite a few TV movies, etc.. Oddly enough, both the top-rated and lowest-rated productions in this category this year were genre shows.

YEAR-END RATINGS/SHARES OF THE SIX NETWORKS

| | | | | | |
|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|
| 11.7/19 | 10.6/18 | 9.6/16 | 7.3/12 | 3.1/5 | 2.4/14 |
| NBC | ABC | CBS | FOX | UPN | WB |

1995-96 Television Season Roundup

SURVIVORS

Acapulco Heat
Babylon 5
Diagnosis Murder
Gargoyles
Hercules: The Legendary Journeys
High Tide
Highlander
JAG (network switch)
The Lazarus Man
Lois & Clark: New Adv. of Superman
Muppets Tonight!
Mystery Science Theater 3000
The Mystery Science Theater Hour
Nash Bridges
The Outer Limits
Pinky and the Brain
Poltergeist: The Legacy
Renegade
The Sentinel
Silk Stalkings
The Simpsons
Sliders
Space Cases
Star Trek: Deep Space Nine
Star Trek: Voyager
3rd Rock From the Sun
Walker, Texas Ranger
The X-Files
Xena: Warrior Princess

ABC

Lois & Clark was renewed for a full 22-episode fourth season in February, and executives of the show plan to have the relationship between Lois and Clark resume and culminate in matrimony early in the season. The series returns in its Sunday at 7:00 slot. **Muppets Tonight!**, after a shaky start of slowing declining ratings, was pulled by the network after six airings so a more appropriate timeslot could be found. In addition to a brief 4-week summer run, 13 episodes have been commissioned for next season as a mid-season replacement. **Sabrina the Teen Witch**, starring Melissa Joan Hart, will be a sitcom based on the Archie Comics series — it originally appeared as a made-for-cable movie. It will appear as part of the network's TGIF lineup on Fridays at

CASUALTIES

Aliens in the Family
American Gothic
Charlie Grace
Deadly Games
Due South
Forever Knight
Hypernavts
Kindred: the Embraced
Kung Fu: The Legend Continues
Land's End
Lonesome Dove: The Outlaw Years
The Marshal
Nowhere Man
One West Waikiki
The Paranormal Borderline
Picket Fences
Profit
seaQuest 2032
Space: Above and Beyond
Strange Luck

7:30.

Additionally, ABC has several longform genre productions in the wings, including a new adaptation of Stephen King's **The Shining**, with a screenplay by King himself, and a new Disney-produced version of **20,000 Leagues Under the Sea**, starring Richard Crenna, to air at some time in 1997.

Axed by ABC this season: **Aliens in the Family**, despite a Muppets effects team, lasted only two episodes. **Hypernavts** languished with poor ratings on Saturday mornings, and the fate of 5 unaired episodes is still up-in-the-air. Light-hearted action series **Charlie Grace**, starring Mark Harmon, disappeared after 6 episodes. And quirky actioner **The Marshal** lasted for 13 episodes before cancellation...it's back in reruns for the summer, though!

CBS

Of the genre and borderline genre fare on CBS this past season, only the borderline shows survived. Action/mystery **Diagnosis Murder** and action/drama **Walker, Texas Ranger** return, with **DM** moving to the killer 'Thurs-

NEW FOR '96

The Burning Zone
The Cape
Conan the Adventurer
Dark Skies
Early Edition
F/X: The Series
Homeboys in Outer Space
Millennium
Mr. & Mrs. Smith
The Pretender
Profiler
Sabrina the Teen Witch
Sinbad
Spellbound
Strange Universe
Tarzan: The Epic Adventures
Two
Viper

day at 7:00' timeslot. Humorous cop series **Nash Bridges** returns from a surprisingly successful and short first season to its traditional Friday night slot in the fall. And CBS picked **JAG** up for a 13-episode mid-season order following NBC's cancellation of that Donald P. Bellisario action/drama. New genre series include **Early Edition**, a family drama tinged with fantasy, about a man who receives tomorrows paper today, and strives to stop the bad news from happening. It joins the Saturday schedule at 8:00. **Mr. & Mrs. Smith** marks Scott Bakula's return to series TV as he stars in this 'Nick & Nora'-style spy series. It will air on Fridays at 8:00. CBS has not announced any genre-oriented TV-movies or mini-series in production.

Gone from the schedule is **American Gothic**, after a marathon showing of the final episodes starting July 3rd...it never found much of an audience, despite initial critical acclaim. Fan favorite **Due South** has been cancelled for a second time by CBS, though a fan effort is underway to get the network to pick it up as a mid-season replacement series — as they did this past year. **Picket Fences** ended a moderately lengthy run with a finale in April, then returned with four held-over episodes in June before disappearing for good.

1995-96 TELEVISION SEASON ROUNDUP

FOX

Returning to FOX in the fall are three fan favorites: **Sliders** will be back in its familiar Friday at 7:00 slot, for a full season; but **The X-Files** is moving to Sundays at 8:00. **Sliders** will feature an ongoing subplot, involving an alien race introduced at the end of this season, which is able to slide at will, and wishes to conquer all the Earths. John Rhys-Davies is uncertain whether he will return in the fall or not. **The Simpsons** will return for another season at 7:00 on Sundays. **The X-Files**' move is a calculated gamble on the networks part, that the core of **X-Files** fans will follow the series no matter where it moves — and FOX plans a promotional blitz this summer and during the first three episodes in the fall (which will still air in the traditional Friday at 8:00 slot) to inform fans about the timeslot change. The reason for the move is that FOX wants to slide **Millennium**, the new series from **X-Files** creator Chris Carter, into **The X-Files**' cushy slot. **Millennium** appears to be the only new genre series on tap for FOX, and deals with a retired FBI investigator's (Lance Henriksen) exploration of serial killings at the turn of the century. Also starring Meghan Gallagher, most recently a frequent guest on **Nowhere Man**. No word on any additional **Alien Nation** tv-movies at this time, though the below-average Nielsen performance of the two which aired this past season is a strike against any more being filmed.

FOX killed a lot of good genre series this season. **Space: Above and Beyond** enjoyed some brief glory days in the fall, but following the end of the football season and the built-in male audience on Sundays, **SAAB**'s ratings dropped steadily. Plans to air the series throughout the summer have been scrapped following poor rerun performance. **Strange Luck**, a drama with a fantasy edge, performed adequately but never spectacularly, and the

network chose to take a pass on additional episodes. **Kindred: the Embraced** never found an audience in seven airings, and won't appear again on FOX, although the producers are shopping the series around for a new home for episodic or tv-movie airings. **Profit**, a stylish but very dark drama with horrific overtones, disappeared after only five airings, despite great critical acclaim. FOX has no plans to burn off the remain four hours. And FOX also passed on **Doctor Who** as a fall series. See the **Doctor Who** article elsewhere in this issue for further details on that show's fate.

NBC

The only returning genre series on NBC is their surprise hit, **3rd Rock From the Sun**. After trying the series out in a variety of timeslots, the network has decided to use **3rd Rock** to anchor its Sunday night line-up, where the series will begin airing at 7:00 in the fall. NBC on Saturdays will be the home for a 3-hour block of series which could reasonably be considered **X-Files** progeny. At 7:00, **Dark Skies** is a series starring Megan Ward and Eric Close as a couple who must go underground to track and fight a hidden alien invasion that's been taking place since the 1960's...series will also involve a government conspiracy angle. **The Pretender**, at 8:00, is described as **Quantum Leap** meets **The Equalizer**. It tells the story of a man who's able to change his appearance as the result of a top-secret genetics experiment, and who escapes from the experiment to attempt to use his ability to help others in need. Pursuing him while he does good will be a representative from the experiment lab. Finishing off the evening, **Profiler** will star Ally Walker and Robert Davi, and deals with a former FBI forensic psychologist called back from from a self-imposed isolation to help track a serial-killer mastermind. Think of **Silence of the Lambs** as a series.

NBC's only cancelled genre series were **seaQuest 2032** which, despite a major plot overhaul and cast realignment, sagged badly in the ratings this season and disappeared before airing all of its 13 episodes (thank goodness for the Sci-Fi Channel!) and **JAG**, which will air on CBS next season.

UPN

Star Trek: Voyager remains UPN's flagship, despite general fannish disapproval of the series, and struggling ratings. **Voyager** is changing timeslots, being paired up with UPN's only other returning drama, **The Sentinel**, in a two-hour block on Wednesdays on primary UPN affiliates. Since our local UPN coverage is on a secondary affiliate, there's no telling where we'll find **Voyager** (or even if we'll find **The Sentinel**) on our schedule. New for '96 will be **Homeboys in Outer Space** a sci-fi sitcom about hustlers operating a bar on a far-flung planet in the 23rd century, airing Tuesday at 8:30. And **The Burning Zone**, a drama focusing on an elite group of scientists who try to contain virulent diseases (both natural and man-made) from becoming deadly plagues. It is scheduled on Tuesdays at 9:00.

Cancelled by UPN this season were the low-rated **Deadly Games** (after only half a season), the magazine series **Paranormal Borderline**, hosted by Jonathan Frakes, and fan-favorite **Nowhere Man**. The Disney Co., **Nowhere Man**'s production company, is currently seeking another outlet for this series, so it may live again.

1995-96 Television Season Roundup

WB

The WB network had only one genre series in its stable this season, the *Animaniacs* spinoff *Pinky and the Brain*, which has been put on the back burner for '96, although it has been given a 13-episode mid-season replacement order. Also ordered as a mid-season replacement series is *Spellbound*, a sitcom about a 13-year-old who discovers she's developing magical powers.

With the addition of new shows in the fall, The WB is spreading its series out over three nights, meaning all six major prime-time networks will be in competition on both Mondays and Wednesdays from 7:00 to 9:00 for the first time.

Syndicated & Cable

Most syndicated genre series survived for another year, despite an overall decline in the ratings for the genre as a whole. *DS9*, *Hercules* and *Xena* led the pack, ratings-wise, but other syndicated action hours rarely cracked the top 15 syndicated ratings for the week. Some surprises: *Acapulco Heat*, known more for its T&A and Fabio's hair than for action sequences or involving plots is apparently back in production on a second season...cast unknown. *Gargoyles* now has a 13-episode commitment to air on Saturday mornings on ABC in the fall. Following the recent pick-up of new episodes of *MST3K* by the Sci-Fi Channel [see feature story], reruns of older episodes of the series will enter general syndication...whether as *The MST Hour* or in some other format is yet unknown. *The Outer Limits* enters its third season, and *Poltergeist: The Legacy* its second season of original production for the Showtime cable network this fall. Second season *OL* and first season *P:TL* episodes will air

in general syndication starting in September. *Renegade*, enters its fifth season moving from syndication to USA for new episodes, while *Silk Stalkings*, also on USA has been given only a 13-episode pick-up order and producers are planning to recast the leads. New to syndication next season: *The Cape*, 22 episodes of the contemporary adventures of astronauts, starring Corbin Bernsen. *Conan the Adventurer*, more action in the vein of *Hercules*, starting in the fall of '97. Cameron Daddo and Kevin Dobson headline a series version of the two popular *F/X* movies. *Sinbad* will be a swashbuckling adventure show also in the *Hercules* style and dealing with piratical characters. *Strange Universe* will be a Mon-Fri stripped magazine series focusing on the bizarre and unexplained. Joe Lara stars as a more sophisticated Apeman in *Tarzan: The Epic Adventures*. *Two* is an updated Fugitive for the 1990s, with a murder suspect on the run, and seeking his twin brother — From Stephen J. Cannell Productions. And *Viper* brings back the short-lived NBC series from two year ago, about a Lone Ranger-type in a high-tech car meting out justice in a lawless future. Jeff Kaake (*Space Rangers*) takes over the main role in the syndicated version. We'll have an updated table of local air dates and times when we learn the official stats in the fall.

Forever Knight and *Kung Fu: The Legend Continues* were the only syndicated series with any strong fan following which ended up cancelled this year. *Forever Knight* has since moved on to the Sci-Fi Channel, which expressed an interest in financing some new TV movies based on the series. Whether this will come to pass or not is unknown. *KF:TLC* ends four years in syndication this season. Its season starts and ends in January, so we may have new episodes spaced out between now and the beginning of 1997.

MST3K continued from page 1

Central for seven seasons and 135 episodes, having predated the network

itself (it started on the later-merged Comedy Channel in 1990). It has spawned a feature film, homevideo titles, a book, CD-Rom, numerous Internet sites, fan clubs and a national convention — the second of which is being held this coming Labor Day weekend in Minneapolis.

While *MST3K* enjoyed huge success in the early days of Comedy Central, its ratings have steadily declined over the past few years, slipping to one of the network's lowest-rated programs, with audience measures of 0.1 and 0.2. Its broadcast is now restricted to latenight weekends. In April — unable to come to an agreement with *MST3K* producer Best Brains Inc., of Minneapolis, on a scaled-down deal for specials — Comedy Central announced it was dropping the show at year's end despite the imminent release of the *MST3K* movie and three-title video series from Rhino.

Mystery Science Theater 3000: The Movie (spoofing the 1954 sci-fi flick "This Island Earth") has grossed less than \$1 million theatrically in limited release so far. But the movie figures were of only passing interest to the Sci-Fi Channel's Schulman. He had long coveted the Peabody Award-winning, Emmy-nominated *MST3K*, and was permitted to work out an agreement for it after Comedy Central waived a provision prohibiting Best Brains from negotiating a deal with a new network before 1997. "This show is a natural fit for us and allows us to keep alive a show with an enormous fan and industry following," Schulman said.

While *MST3K* has satirized a variety of genres including Westerns, spy flicks and T&A exploitation, it will exclusively feature full-length science-fiction films for its poison-tipped parody on Sci-Fi. Sci-Fi Channel may dip into its already vast inventory of genre products to further defray costs. Sci-Fi Channel also plans to give the show a glossier look, forcing a slight increase from the typical production budget of \$80,000-\$85,000 into the \$100,000 range.

Mark Your Schedules...

Upcoming events in the Lincoln/Omaha area of interest to SBA members and other local genre fans

June 1996

| | | |
|----|---------------|--|
| 2 | 2:00-5:15 pm | Star Base Andromeda club meeting ¹ |
| 4 | 6:30-8:45 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 5 | 7:00-10:00 pm | Lincoln Fantasy & Science Fiction club meeting ² |
| 7 | 7:00 pm | SBA/LNE SciFi Club Pizzafest ³ |
| 9 | 2:00-5:15 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 11 | 6:30-8:45 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 12 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting |
| 16 | 2:00-5:15 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 18 | 6:30-9:00 pm | SBA club meeting |
| | 7:00-8:00 pm | Barnes & Noble Mystery Book Club meeting ⁴ |
| 19 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting |
| 23 | 2:00-5:15 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 25 | 6:30-9:00 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 26 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting |

July 1996

| | | |
|-------|---------------|--|
| 30 | 2:00-5:15 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 2 | 6:30-8:45 | SBA club meeting |
| 3 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting |
| 5 | 7:00 pm | SBA Friday Night Meeting |
| 7 | 2:00-5:15 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 9 | 6:30-9:00 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 10 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting |
| 14 | 2:00-5:15 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 16 | 6:30-9:00 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 17 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting |
| 21 | 2:00-5:15 pm | SBA club meeting |
| 23 | 6:30-9:00 pm | SBA club meeting |
| | 7:00-8:00 pm | B&N Mystery Book club meeting |
| 24 | 7:00-10:00 pm | LFSF club meeting |
| 26-28 | | ConCussion One |

¹ — All Tuesday night and Sunday afternoon meetings of **Star Base Andromeda** during June and July will be held in the fourth floor auditorium or conference room at Bennett Martin Public Library in downtown Lincoln at 14th & "N" Sts.

² — **LFSF** meetings during the summer are held at the DaVinci's restaurant on N. 66th St. near East Park Plaza in Lincoln.

³ — The dual-group Pizzafest for members of SBA and the LNE High School science fiction club will be at the original Valentino's on Holdrege St. Members of the LNE club will be gathering earlier in the day at Holmes Lake for a squirt-gun soaker to celebrate the end of the school year first.

⁴ — 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, and is posted in the store near the mystery section.

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