**Beach Party (Fannish Style)**

What better way to spend a summer evening than down at the beach roasting marshmallows and hotdogs over a roaring bonfire? On Thursday, July 20, 2000, Darkstar will meet at La Jolla Shores Beach for a potluck picnic. We’ll stake our claim early in the day and convene at our usual time for rides and dining.

Please let us know in advance what sort of food you want to bring. We really don’t need 25 potato salads (but extra chocolate for s’mores would be nice). Wood for the bonfire is also appreciated. However, bottles and alcohol are prohibited.

La Jolla Shores Beach is located at 8200 Camino del Oro, off South Torrey Pines Rd. near Avenida de la Playa. The parking lot is fairly small. For complete directions and more information about the park, see the official Parks & Recreation website at http://www.sannet.gov/life-guards/beaches/shores.shtml.

**Library News**

by 'Lissa Ackerman, Librarian

We’re pleased to announce that Darkstar’s Anne Proud Memorial Library collection has amassed a total of 3488 books. These books are available for check-out to any Darkstar member, UCSD affiliate, or adult with a picture ID. Hours of operation correspond to office hours and can be found on our website. Check-out length is 4 weeks with the ability to renew anytime.

Due to a lack of shelf space, and nowhere else to put new shelves, we will soon be putting some books into temporary storage. The good news is that these books will still be available for check-out, we’ll just need a bit of lead time to retrieve them for you. If you wish to checkout a book that is in storage, please contact the librarian at librarian@darkstar.ucsd.edu. For now, books will be pulled by the librarian on the next Thursday morning and will be available in the office for the next week.

Members of our Library Committee are beginning to inventory series and award-winning books. This data will be added to the catalog, and the series data will be added to the book spine. If you’re interested in helping, please contact the librarian.

Important upcoming dates:

- **Sun ~ 7/2/2000 ~ Library Work Party**, 1:00–7:00 p.m. at the Darkstar Office, UCSD. Everyone is welcome to attend!

- **Sun ~ 7/30/2000 ~ Library Work Party**, 1:00–7:00 p.m. at the Darkstar Office, UCSD. Everyone is welcome to attend!

**Road Closure Alert**

by Adam Tilghman

The segment of Scholars Drive between Gilman Drive and the Ché Café will be closed from June 26th through July 21st to facilitate upgrades to the UCSD campus power station. Darkstar’s office, and the adjoining parking lot, will be accessible from the southwest side of campus: from La Jolla Village Dr./Torrey Pines Rd., take the Revelle Dr. exit, turn right on Scholars Dr., and continue downhill to the Ché Café.

Parking at UCSD is free on weekends. On weekdays, purchase a $3 parking permit at the UCSD Information Booth located on Gilman Drive just north of La Jolla Village Drive. See http://www.ucsd.edu/visit/directions.html for maps and directions to campus. The Information Booth can give you directions to specific buildings on campus.

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**July Calendar**

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<td><strong>25</strong>June</td>
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<td><strong>29</strong>June</td>
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<td>Sunday Films at International Center, 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Yoga at International Center, 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Evening Gaming at International Center, 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Dinner at Eva’s Cocina &amp; Cantina, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Darkstar Business Meeting at International Center, 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Library Work Party at Darkstar Office, 1:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Open Gaming at International Center, 1 p.m.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Library Work Party at Darkstar Office, 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Yoga at International Center, 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Evening Gaming at International Center, 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Dinner at Souplantation, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Regency Dancing 1 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Irregular Movies at Hayloft, 7 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Darkstar Business Meeting at International Center, 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td>Yoga at International Center, 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Library Meeting at Leucadia Pizzeria, 6:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>BORDERS</strong></td>
<td>Dinner at Café Athena, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Dark Matters deadline for July issue</strong></td>
<td>Open Gaming at International Center, 1 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Dark Matters</strong></td>
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<td>Yoga at International Center, 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Sunday Films at International Center, 1:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Evening Gaming at International Center, 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Potluck at La Jolla Shores, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Dinner at DiMille’s Italian Restaurant, 7:30 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Long Gaming at International Center, Noon</td>
<td><strong>Open Gaming at International Center, 1 p.m.</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Sunday Films at International Center, 1:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Yoga at International Center, 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Darkstar Business Meeting at International Center, 7:00 p.m.</strong></td>
<td>Dinner at Renaissance Food Court, 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td><strong>Library Work Party at Darkstar Office, 1:00 p.m.</strong></td>
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**Note:** This schedule is prepared in advance, so it’s always a good idea to check our web site for updates at http://darkstar.ucsd.edu. You can also subscribe to our mailing list from the web site to receive reminders and notices of last-minute changes, as well as discussion of various topics.

See the Bookstore Events for details about events marked with a bookstore logo.
July Events

Social Dinner Meetings
Come join us for dinner & general fannish discussion! Dinner meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday except holidays. For rides from campus, meet at 6:45 p.m. at the Darkstar Office at UCSD in the Ché Café Building. Contact: Marjolijn Bekken, 619 232 7819.

- Thu ~ 7/6/2000 ~ Souplantation (Kearny Mesa), 7095 Clairemont Mesa Blvd. (near Mysterious Galaxy), San Diego, 858 576 0622.
- Thu ~ 7/13/2000 ~ Café Athena, 1876 Garnet Ave., San Diego, 858 274 1140.
- Thu ~ 7/20/2000 ~ Potluck at La Jolla Shores. Bring a dish to share as we gather at the fire rings.

Gaming Meetings
This is the first year we’re continuing to game through the summer on our regular schedule.

Open Gaming Meetings are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 1:00 p.m. at UCSD in the International Center Conference Room. We bring a number of our favorite board / strategy games, but you’re encouraged to bring your own. Contact: Mike Powell, 619 593 8035, mikey_powell@hotmail.com.

- Sat ~ 7/1/2000 ~ Open Gaming Meeting, 1:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD.
- Sat ~ 7/15/2000 ~ Open Gaming Meeting, 1:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD.

Long Gaming Meetings are held the fourth Saturday of the month at noon, at UCSD in the International Center Conference Room. Here’s the chance to play those long-haul games like Civilization and Titan; we feature different games every month. Contact: Wombat, 858 453 1763, steve@lemniscate.net.

- Sat ~ 7/22/2000 ~ Long Gaming Meeting, Noon, International Center Conference Room, UCSD.

Evening Gaming Meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of the month at 7:00 p.m., at UCSD in the International Center Conference Room. Contact: Holly Ourso, hollyo@pacbell.net.

- Wed ~ 7/5/2000 ~ Evening Gaming Meeting, 7:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD.
- Wed ~ 7/19/2000 ~ Evening Gaming Meeting, 7:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD.

Movies

- Sat ~ 7/8/2000 ~ Irregular Movie Series, 7:00 p.m. social hour, 8:00 p.m. movie; The Hayloft, 11146 Caminito Inocenta, San Diego. Showing Dogma and Michael. Join us at Kevin Hay’s home for movies & talk (directions at http://www.ghoti.net/~khay/wai/). Contact: Kevin Hay, khay@ghoti.net.
- Sun ~ 7/23/2000 ~ Sunday Film Series, 1:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD. Flash Gordon (1936), episodes 10–13; and a new film, Proboscis. Please note we will repeat Flash Gordon episodes 7–9 at Noon for those who missed them in June. Contact: Adam Tilghman, 858 586 9452.

Dancing & Yoga

- Sat ~ 7/8/2000 ~ Regency Dancing, 1:00 p.m., place TBA. Contact: Kevin Hay, khay@ghoti.net.
- Every Mon ~ Yoga, 5:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD. Contact: Holly Ourso, hollyo@pacbell.net.

Monthly Business Meeting
- Mon ~ 7/31/2000 ~ Darkstar Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., International Center, UCSD. Open to all members. Meet at 6:45 p.m. at the Darkstar Office, Ché Café Building, before walking over. Contact: Elisa Sheets, 858 586 9452.

Bookstore Events

- Sat ~ 7/8/00 ~ Harry Potter Party, 8:00–10:00 a.m., Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, 858 268 4747. Free Harry Potter stuff for kids, coffee & donuts for adults.
- Wed ~ 7/12/00 ~ SF/Fantasy Book Discussion Group, 7:00 p.m., Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore. An ironic twist concludes the group’s food theme, as In the Mood by Charles Grant concerns the famine of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse. Contact the store for more information.
- Wed ~ 7/19/00 ~ SF/Fantasy Book Discussion Group, 7:00 p.m., Borders Bookstore, 1072 Camino del Rio North, San Diego, 858 295 2201. Contact the store for more info.
- Sat ~ 7/29/00 ~ Fantasy Book Signing, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore. Dennis McKiernan’s latest book, Silver Wolf, Black Falcon, is perhaps the final installment of his Mithgarian saga.

About Dark Matters...

Dark Matters is the monthly newsletter of Darkstar, the Science Fiction and Gaming club at UCSD. It is distributed at the club’s monthly business meetings, at other club events, and by mail if requested.

Publisher: Adam Tilghman
Editor: Kathryn Hedges
Contributors:
- Lissa Ackerman, Robert Leone

Submissions should be sent to newsletter@darkstar.ucsd.edu. Direct any postal mail to Dark Matters c/o Darkstar, Box 0077 C-46 / La Jolla, CA 92039-0077.

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Swashbuckling Captain Van Toch discovers 120 pound language-using newts with hands, a liking for oysters and a really bad shark problem. Van Toch goes to his boyhood chum Mr. Bondy, now an artistic industrialist, with a scheme for using newts to harvest pearls. Then the directors metamorphose the Pacific Export Association into the Salamander Syndicate and shift to Newt labor as its main product. This is carried off with all the alacrity and far more success than Microsoft’s shift from software provider to internet company.

Gaze aghast as Newts are shipped like slaves, then armed for self (and national) defense.

Grimace when you read the preferred method for lynching Newts in the South is burning. Groan when Germany claims the Newts of the Baltic are more noble and erect. The Newts finally decide to enlarge the world’s coastlines to support their burgeoning population. Without telling anybody first.

Who is it who takes responsibility for the worsening state of affairs? Mr. Povondra, the porter who let Captain Van Toch in to see Mr. Bondy. But, as Povondra’s son points out, we’re all responsible.

References to Japanese occupation of Tinian (from whence the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs were flown to their targets) reinforce this feeling of reading an alternate history book, instead of the near-term future story it was.

I would consider Capek a precursor to Ursula K. LeGuin or Nevil Shute. He uses a science fiction setting to present a highly political novel. His perspective is global. Unlike LeGuin, Capek makes us laugh at ourselves. This is a feat when he makes us anxious at the same time.

**On the Convention Circuit...**

**July 20-23: 31st Annual San Diego Comic-Con.** Join hordes of media fans (over 45,000 last year) for their largest gathering this side of Gotham City. With a convention this size, you’ll find a little bit of everything: panels, autographs, gaming, sneak film previews, a masquerade... and, of course, a dealers hall beyond anything you could possibly imagine.

The event spreads throughout the San Diego Convention Center and nearby hotels. For more information, see their web site at http://www.comic-con.org/.

**Aug 31st-Sept. 4th: Chicon 2000, the 58th World Science Fiction Convention.** This year, Worldcon will hit the Windy City! A number of Darkstar members are heading to Chicago for SF fandom’s annual conclave. The Hugo voting deadline is rapidly approaching, so be sure send in those ballots before it’s too late!

Adam Tilghman is offering Chicon crash space to any interested club members; contact him at agt@mib.org if you’re interested.

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**About Darkstar...**

Darkstar is a regional science fiction and gaming club based at UC San Diego. Since our founding in 1978 we’ve become one of the area’s largest organized fan societies. Membership in Darkstar is open to everyone; you don’t have to be affiliated with the University to join!

Our Thursday social meetings convene at a different restaurant each week, and discussion typically covers science fiction, technology, religion, politics, and everything in-between.

Other meetings and events include near-weekly Saturday board & strategy gaming: bad (good!) 1950s B-movies; trips to conventions, Renaissance faires, observatories, museums, speakers, etc.; library work parties; and a monthly formal business meeting. Most of our gatherings take place in UCSD’s abundant meeting facilities, but don’t despair—on weekends, campus parking is free.

Our library currently houses over 4500 genre books and magazines, and circulation is open to all club members. Stop by our office on the UCSD campus and check it out!

So, how do you join? Simply show up at a meeting or event and notify an officer of your desire to become a member. We charge no dues!

For more information, see our web site at http://darkstar.ucsd.edu/; drop by our office and library in the Ché Café building, UCSD campus (check hours on web site); call us at 858 534 7491; send us e-mail at darkstar@ucsd.edu; or direct your postal mail to “Darkstar / Box 0077 C-46 / La Jolla, CA / 92039-0077.” Telepathic requests for information will be silently ignored.

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**Blast from the Past**  
*Classic book review by Robert Leone*

*War With the Newts* by Karel Capek, originally published as *Valka s Mloky*, Prague 1936; English translation by M. and R. Weatherall published 1937. (Also known as *Battle with the Salamanders.*) Printed in various editions since initial publication.

I forget how long ago I first read this book.

What I do remember are the special effects. Capek edited the newspaper where War with the Newts appeared as a serial. He raided the typecases while composing the newspaper articles “reproduced” in the chapters “Mr. Povondra Reads the Papers” and “Mr. Povondra Reads Newspapers Again.” It’s a little annoying now, but back then it must have been an amazing touch of verisimilitude.

This well-realized novel asks and answers a momentous question: What if the evolutionary track that led to man wasn’t the only one that led to sentient tool users on Earth?

References to Japanese occupation of Tinian (from whence the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs were flown to their targets) reinforce this feeling of reading an alternate history book, instead of the near-term future story it was.

I would consider Capek a precursor to Ursula K. LeGuin or Nevil Shute. He uses a science fiction setting to present a highly political novel. His perspective is global. Unlike LeGuin, Capek makes us laugh at ourselves. This is a feat when he makes us anxious at the same time.