A Mailing List for the New Millennium
by Kevin Hay

At the last Darkstar Business Meeting, there was a discussion as to whether Darkstar should reorganize its mailing lists. The group decided to seek input and form a virtual committee to resolve the following situations:

- The mailing list must be moved off mib.org in the near future.
- The current mailing list organization may not be meeting its users needs properly. (There’s confusion about the purposes of the various lists, extensive cross-posting, a profusion of off-topic messages, etc.)

Members at the meeting agreed that implementing both solutions at the same time would be less disruptive than making a series of changes.

Anyone with an opinion about the mailing list structure should e-mail me at khay@ghoti.net. Taking into account the feedback I get, I will come up with some choices of formats for the mailing list, which I will send to y’all.

By early October, I will form a committee to look at the feedback and come up with the final lists. I will set up a dedicated mailing list for discussion. Anyone interested in participating is welcome.

Thank You, Volunteers!

The Library Committee is very proud of the dozen Darkstar members (‘Lissa Ackerman, Marjolijn Bekken, John Davis, Ryan Flarity, Kat Hedges, Jason Jaggi, Robert Leone, Andrew Millard, Cassandra Pierce, Mike Powell, Elisa Sheets, and Wayne Sherman) who bravely volunteered to move 125 boxes of books from Aardvark Books to our storage facility on short notice in hot weather. The bookstore owners only gave us 2 days warning, and we had to take all the books or none of them.

Many of these books are SF and non-fiction suitable for the Darkstar library. We’ll be selling the rest to club members at low, low prices. As an incentive, volunteers for the sorting project get first pick. Contact: Elisa Sheets, 858 586 9452.

Library Features UCSD Authors
by Adam Tilghman

Each month, our Library Committee fills the office display shelf with books fitting a particular theme. This month, we turn our attention to science fiction and fantasy authors who’ve attended UCSD over the years.

Kim Stanley Robinson

We begin with Kim Stanley Robinson, who attended UCSD as an undergraduate and graduate student; in 1982 he received a Ph.D. in Literature for his study of surrealist SF author Philip K. Dick.

Since turning to fiction, Robinson has collected nearly every honor in the SF/F field; his writing has merited the Hugo, Nebula, Asimov, John W. Campbell, Locus and World Fantasy awards.

We’ve selected his first novel, The Wild Shore (1984), which chronicles a young man’s coming-of-age in post-nuclear-holocaust Orange County.

Continued on page 8.
# September Calendar

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<td>Dinner at Souplantation (Kearny Mesa), 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Evening Gaming at International Center, 7:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Dinner at Thaigo (Carmel Mtn. Ranch) 7:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Irregular Movies at place TBA, 7 p.m.</td>
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<td>Dinner at Callahan’s (Mira Mesa), 7:30 p.m. October Dark Matters deadline</td>
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<td>Open Gaming at Old Student Center Classrooms #1 &amp; #2, 1:00 p.m.</td>
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<td>Library Work Party at Leucadia Pizzeria, 6:30 p.m. Library Advertising Meeting, 8:30 p.m.</td>
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<td>Library Work Party at Darkstar Office, 1:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Library Open House, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Evening Gaming at Old Student Center Classrooms #1 &amp; #2, 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Library Open House &amp; Training, 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Evening Gaming at Old Student Center Classrooms #1 &amp; #2, 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner at Leucadia Pizzeria (La Jolla Colony), 7:30 p.m. First day of classes</td>
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<td>Sunday Films at International Center, Noon</td>
<td>Yoga at International Center, 5:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Evening Gaming at Old Student Center Classroom #2, 7:00 p.m.</td>
<td>Dinner at Chevy’s (Mission Valley), 7:30 p.m.</td>
<td>Darkstar Business Meeting at Old Student Center Classroom #2, 7:00 p.m.</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.

**Key:** To save space, the following icons are used to represent events run by other organizations we feel Darkstar members might enjoy. Consult the calendar listing for a full description.  = convention;  = bookstore event;  = performance;  = Rocky Horror
Darkstar 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 ~ 8/31/2000 ~** Souplantation (Kearny Mesa), 7095 Clairemont Mesa Dr. (same strip mall as Mysterious Galaxy), San Diego, 858 576 0622.
- **Thu ~ 9/7/2000 ~** Thaiigo, 11720 Carmel Mountain Rd., San Diego, 858 675 8188.
- **Thu ~ 9/14/2000 ~** Callahan’s, 8280 Mira Mesa Blvd. (Mira Mesa Mall), San Diego, 858 578 7892.
- **Thu ~ 9/21/2000 ~** Leucadia Pizzeria, 7748 Regents Rd. (by Vons), San Diego, 858 597 2222.
- **Thu ~ 9/28/2000 ~** Chevy’s, 1202 Camino del Rio North (Mission Valley), San Diego, 619 297 5667.

Evening Gaming Meetings are held various Wednesdays from 7:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. at UCSD. Evening parking is $3 at the Information Booth. Special requests are welcome. Contacts: Holly Ourso, hollyourso@myself.com; and John Davis, jdavis@envy.com.

- **Wed ~ 9/6/2000 ~** Evening Gaming Meeting, 7:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD.
- **Wed ~ 9/20/2000 ~** Evening Gaming Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Old Student Center Classroom #2, UCSD.

Monthly Business Meeting
- **Fri ~ 9/29/2000 ~** Darkstar Business Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Old Student Center Classroom #2, UCSD. Open to all members. Meet at 6:45 p.m. at the Darkstar Office, Ché Café Building, before walking over.

Gaming Meetings
Open Gaming Meetings are held on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 1:00 p.m. at UCSD in the Old Student Center. 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 ~ 9/2/2000 ~** Open Gaming Meeting, 1:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD.
- **Sat ~ 9/9/2000 ~** Open Gaming Meeting, 1:00 p.m., Old Student Center Classrooms #1 & #2, UCSD.

Movies
- **Sat ~ 9/23/2000 ~** Sunday Film Series, 1:00 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD. First a serial (TBA), followed by that classic sequel, Return of the Killer Tomatoes. Contact: Adam Tilghman, 858 586 9452.
- **Sat ~ 9/9/2000 ~** Irregular Movie Series, 7:00 p.m. Social hour, 8:00 p.m. movie; location TBD. Join us for movies & talk. September’s theme is “Bazaar of the Bizarre” with Brazil and Being John Malkovich.

Dancing & Yoga
- **Regency Dancing is cancelled for September.** Contact: Kevin Hay, khay@ghoti.net.
- **Mon ~ 9/25/2000 ~** Yoga, 5:00 to 6:15 p.m., International Center Conference Room, UCSD. Come, and you shall Om and Namaste. Contact: Holly Ourso, hollyourso@myself.com.

Library Meetings
- **Mon ~ 9/11/2000 ~** Library Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Leucadia Pizzeria, 7748 Regents Rd. (by Vons), San Diego, 858 597 2222. Monthly planning meeting for Darkstar’s library project; all are welcome. For rides from campus, meet at 6:15 p.m. at the Darkstar Office, Ché Café Building, UCSD. Contact: Elisa Sheets, 858 586 9452.
- **Mon ~ 9/11/2000 ~** Library Advertising Meeting, 8:30 p.m. (immediately following Library Committee Meeting, see above.) Contact: Elisa Sheets, 858 586 9452.

Contact: Elisa Sheets, 858 586 9452.
• Sun ~ 9/17/2000 ~ Library Work Party, & Training Session
1:00–7:00 p.m. at the Darkstar Office, Ché Café Building, UCSD. Our goal is to process all the recently donated books and train volunteers how to do library circulation tasks.

• Tue & Wed ~ 9/19 & 9/20/2000 ~ Library Open House, Darkstar Office, Ché Café Building, UCSD. Tour the Anne Proud Memorial Library and enjoy light refreshments with Darkstar members.

Community Events

Performances

Dark Matters lists these events because Darkstar members and/or friends thereof are in them, and/or we think Darkstar members would enjoy the show. These are not official Darkstar-sponsored events.

• Every Fri ~ Rocky Horror & Crazed Imaginations, midnight, La Paloma Theater, 471 First St., Encinitas. See Darkstar’s Kevin “TK” Lindgren in the RHPS cast for San Diego County. (See http://www.crazedimaginations.org/ for more information.)

• Mon ~ 8/28/2000 ~ Allison Lonsdale in Lestat’s Showcase, 8:00 p.m., Lestat’s Coffeehouse, 3343 Adams Ave., San Diego, 619 282 0437.

• Fri ~ 9/1/2000 ~ Allison Lonsdale, 8:00 p.m., Lestat’s Coffeehouse, 3343 Adams Ave., San Diego, 619 282 0437. Original songs about sex, science, God, SF and RPG.

Bookstore Events

• Mon ~ 9/18/2000 ~ Book Signing, 7:00 to 8:00 p.m., Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, 7051 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., San Diego, 858 268 4747. Terry Brooks will be signing Ilse Witch, first of a new five-book cycle in the Shannara universe.

• Wed ~ 9/20/2000 ~ Book Discussion, 7:00 p.m., Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, see above. Call the store for details; September’s book selection not posted by press time.

• Sat ~ 9/23/2000 ~ Book Signing, Mysterious Galaxy Bookstore, see above. Janine Ellen Turner presents The Bridge, a first contact story featuring communication via genetic material.

Blast from the Past: Classic Book Reviews

By Christine Needham

The Hobbit, by J.R.R. Tolkien, was initially published in 1937. If you haven’t read it yet, you really need to get with the program! It is one of the definitive fantasy works. There are elves (both High and Wood varieties), dwarves, wizards, goblins, and a cunning evil dragon. What more could you want?

If you’ve already read it, it’s high time for a second reading. I’m currently re-reading the Lord of the Rings trilogy in preparation for the release of the live-action Fellowship of the Ring in theaters December 2001.

For the uninitiated, The Fellowship of the Ring is the first book in the Lord of the Rings trilogy. It is followed by The Two Towers and The Return of the King. The Hobbit is the prequel to the trilogy. It explains a Hobbit’s nature as well as describing the adventures of Bilbo Baggins, hobbit of note and reluctant hero.

The Hobbit is fast-paced, easy reading; you could finish it in an afternoon. Perfect anti-stress, non-textbook type stuff. Imagine perching on a park bench for an afternoon, reading about High Elves creating magical maps, which reveal secret messages during different moon phases!

Then, there’s Chapter 8, entitled “Flies and Spiders.” Please note if you are even slightly arachnophobic, this will give you nightmares.

All in all, it’s a great book. The writing is well crafted, there’s plenty of action, and... there’s a map of Middle Earth in the front! (This lets us know it’s a real fantasy book.)

The Hobbit is available from your local independent book-seller, most public libraries, and the Darkstar library.

Movie Reviews: Boomers Rule!

By Sally Spero

It’s great being a Boomer. Oh sure, we are the dope-smoking, draft-dodging, Social-Security-wrecking, yupified crowd who never want to admit we’re getting older but, hey, in popular culture you can be sure that whatever is
going on is always going to be about YOU. And this was reflected in two recent otherworldly movies, *What Lies Beneath* and *Space Cowboys*.

**Beneath Contempt**

Michelle Pfeiffer and Harrison Ford (two Boomers, but of course) star in Bob Zemeckis’s latest release *What Lies Beneath*. In case you missed the famously bad trailer in which the plot twist is revealed, our girl Michele is going mano a mano with the ghost of hubby Harrison Ford’s old girlfriend.

Trailer notwithstanding, the main premise of the movie seems that to be truly scary, your typical visitor from the beyond the grave should appear in the Boomer version of *House Beautiful*. More than half of the movie seems devoted to showing us just how upscale Michelle is. Not only does she have the perfect husband, the perfect body and the perfect house, she has the perfect napkin rings, the perfect mailbox, and the perfect bowl by the door for her car keys.

But all is ruined when the pesky old flame shows up, smearing fingerprints on the bathroom mirror, breaking picture frames, turning the stereo up WAY too loud and just ruining Michelle’s very elegant (yet understated!) stroll through middle age. I don’t usually do this in theatres, but I was so tired of all her stuff that in one scene, where Michelle leans over a mysteriously filled bathtub (all white bathroom, two little white rugs lined up on the floor, a bazillion fancy bottles of stuff on the shelf) and sees another reflection on the water next to her that I screamed out “It’s Martha Stewart!”

The last half-hour of the movie is just standard mad-killer stuff. You think he’s dead; he’s not dead. You get in the car; he’s in the back. You pick up the phone; the line’s been cut. If I’d been beaten and stabbed as much as Harrison was in the show, I’d be begging Michele for two Percodans and shot of tequila instead of chasing her down the road hungry for blood.

The only really excellent moment of the movie comes when the dead, gray, nasty rotting old girlfriend comes to drag Harrison away to his death. I hope he left LOTS of insurance ‘cause it’s gonna take her forever to clean the grout in that bathroom. Give this one a miss.

**Space Cowboys Riding High**

Boomers show up again in *Space Cowboys*, a new movie starring and directed by Clint Eastwood. This is different from movies of our youth where the people our age now were fat and stupid and not with it and conservative and dorky and young people knew it all. Now the tables are turned and those people who went naked at the Love-In are showing up at reunions mysteriously wrinkled and gray. Hey, I hope I don’t look old like them!

In *Space Cowboys*, four early astronauts bumped from the space program are called back into action to help save the planet. They are cooler than cool, holding jobs that look more like the Extreme Games on MTV than actual work, wearing outrageous sunglasses and grabbing wives in the garage without a hint of Viagra lurking the background. Now it’s the astronauts in their twenties who are the weenies, a bunch of little over-achievers who want to play it safe and pay their credit card bills in full every month.

The weightless scenes all seemed very bad but we’ve probably all been spoiled on the real thing in *Apollo 13*. It’s more than made up for by some spectacular special effects in the outer space rescue segments. Go see it, they won’t be the same on the small screen.

I hope you enjoy yourself at the movies. Me, I’ll be in the garage with Clint.

**Gencon 2000**

*by John Davis*

For 4 days, Wizards of the Coast took over downtown Milwaukee for the annual gaming event called *Gencon*. This was the 33rd Gencon, and it was bigger than ever, attracting more than 22,000 visitors and spreading across two convention centers downtown and several hotels.

Notable guests of honor included Anthony Daniels, Margaret Weis, Tracy Hickman, Donato Giancola, and Corey Solomon.

The big event at Gencon was the release of the *Dungeons & Dragons 3rd edition Players Handbook*. Anyone could participate in demo games of D&D throughout the whole weekend. Players could even ask the D&D development team how they
developed the new system. Of course they could get their new books autographed!

Most of the Gencon retailers were pushing collectible card games. Of course there were the usual Magic and Pokémon CCGs, but there were a number of newcomers as well. I found the Beer drinking CCG the most interesting. Some other original games included Monty Python and the Holy Grail, and even Scooby Doo.

Role-playing vendors were the next most populous. There were a lot of small RPG developers I’d never heard of, in addition to the big names like TSR and White-wolf. Dice vendors covered several tables with dice of all shapes, sizes and flavors. There was even a vendor who claimed his dice were more mathematically random than the other vendors.

There were some non-CCG game vendors there too, including Cheapass Games, Steve Jackson Games, and Atlas Games. (Although I think many of them were also hawking CCGs.)

I found Mayfair’s booth the most impressive. The tables were always full at their demos, including Settlers, Sternenfahrer, Tigris and Euphrates, and Elixir. They also displayed a number of rail games, among Mayfair’s other board and card games.

On the Convention Circuit...

by Adam Tilghman

- Fri 11/24/2000 to Sun 11/26/2000 ~ LosCon XXVII. Over the Thanksgiving holiday we have the 27th incarnation of LosCon, once more at the Burbank Airport Hilton. Orson Scott Card (of Ender saga fame) will attend as Guest of Honor.

Act fast to get a membership for only $35 before rates go up on 9/4/2000. See http://www.lasfs.org/loscon/27/ for more information. Darkstar plans to have a significant presence at Loscon, so watch this space and the scifi@mib.org mailing list if you need a ride or crash space.

For a comprehensive list of Southern California conventions, see Jim Hay’s website at http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Lair/7813/CONVENTN.html. Whether you’re looking for gaming, media, furries, filking, you’ll find your convention there.

Q: What is Darkstar’s Anne Proud Memorial Library?
A: We are a specialized library open to the public. Our emphasis is science fiction and fantasy.

Q: What is in the Darkstar Library?
A: We house over 3500 unique volumes of science fiction, fantasy, supernatural horror, dystopia/utopia, related non-fiction, and anthologies. We also have several game books for perusal in the office. We own a large collection of pulps, but due to their condition and space concerns we do not currently lend them out. (We’re looking for ideas, manpower, and funds to preserve the pulps.)

Q: Where is the library?
A: We’re located inside the Ché Café complex on the UCSD campus. Please see our website or a campus map for full directions.

Q: When is the Library open?
A: The Library is open during Darkstar office hours. Office hours are posted on our website and in our office.

Q: How do I get an account/check out a book?
A: Just bring a picture ID to our office (student ID, CA ID, driver’s license, etc.) during office hours. A Darkstar member will set up your account and check out your books.

Q: How do I return a book?
**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, and campus parking is free on weekends.

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 / 92093-0077.” Telepathic requests for information will be silently ignored.

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**A:** Just visit the office and put it in the book return box located by the check-out computer.

**Q:** When are books due back?

**A:** Books are due one month after check out. They can be renewed at any time by bringing the book back to the office.

**Q:** How do I know if the library has the book I want?

**A:** There are two ways to find out: go to the library and check the shelves, or check our database. The database is available from the website and in the office. Not all the books are shelved in the office, so the database is more accurate.

**Q:** The book I want isn’t on the shelf, but it’s in the database. Now what?

**A:** Check the shelf code in the database.

- If it says repair, the book is currently seriously damaged and out of circulation.
- If it says anything else, the book is probably checked out (ask the Library volunteer on duty to confirm).

**Q:** The book I want is in storage, when can I get it?

**A:** Let the Library volunteer on duty know which book you want and that it’s in storage or e-mail the book info to librarian@darkstar.ucsd.edu. The book will be pulled on the following Thursday morning by 11:30 and will be available for checkout the next week.

**Q:** What are those funky cloth things beside the computer?

**A:** We’re glad you asked! Those are paperback book protectors. You can check one out with your books to help protect them. A Library volunteer will be glad to demonstrate their use. They’re especially useful if you’re going to carry the book in your backpack.

**Q:** I want to donate books to Darkstar. How do I do that?

**A:** Darkstar will take any genre donations. If you don’t need a receipt for tax purposes, just place them in the library donations drawer. If you need a receipt, please write the treasurer for more information.

**Q:** I want to get involved. How?

**A:** There are lots of ways!

- Come to a committee meeting, they’re held the second Monday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. (Check the calendar for locations.)
- Come to a work party (they’re held sporadically, see calendar) and help us catalog, sort, and shelve new books.
- Contact Darkstar’s Library Committee at dslib@darkstar.ucsd.edu for more suggestions.
Also on this month’s shelf is Robinson’s *Red Mars* (1993), which draws heavily from the real-world “Case For Mars” colonization conferences.

Robinson is a self-acknowledged non-scientist, but nevertheless *Red Mars* represents a stunningly detailed depiction of the first settlements on the fourth planet.

**David Brin**

Next, we turn to David Brin, who earned a Ph.D. (Space Physics) from UCSD in 1981 and continued with postgraduate work at UCSD’s Cal-Space Institute.

But it’s writing, not rocket science, that has earned Brin most of his fame: among others, he’s captured the Hugo, Nebula, John W. Campbell, and Locus awards, and several of his books have made the New York Times Bestseller list.

He’s perhaps best known for his six-novel “Uplift” saga, in which Earth’s intelligent beings stray into a competitive patriarchy of races and worlds, and then find that many senior races wish to claim Earth as their own.

We’ve selected that series’ second book, *Startide Rising* (1983), for this month’s shelf. It tells the story of a mixed human/dolphin starship crew and its attempt to escape from an interstellar battleground.

We also feature Brin’s 1998 nonfiction work *The Transparent Society*, a book which argues that our concerns over loss of privacy might be remedied by actually eliminating most remaining forms of privacy! Whether or not you agree with his conclusion, Brin delivers a fascinating discourse on the role of privacy within our society.

**Gregory Benford**

Gregory Benford was one of the first students to attend UCSD, back when it was a few research buildings overlooking Scripps Institute of Oceanography.

He graduated in 1967 with a Ph. D. in Astrophysics, and has continued research in plasma astrophysics up at UC Irvine.

One of his better-known books, and one which we’ve selected for this month’s display, is 1980’s *Timescape*. It’s not only a great “will the Earth be destroyed?” science fiction story, it’s also a window onto our campus’ past: most of the book takes place in and around UCLJ (UC La Jolla, soon to be renamed UCSD) in the mid 1960’s! See if you can deduce Benford’s opinion of Revelle College architecture.

We next highlight Benford’s recent nonfiction book *Deep Time* (1999), which looks at the ways we communicate with our descendants across centuries and millennia. The book is based on Benford’s work designing warning signs for our nuclear waste dumps (he was hired because of his scientific and science-fiction background) and is fascinating stuff indeed!

**Next Month: Vernor Vinge & Raymond Feist**

After Worldcon, we’ll know whether or not Vernor Vinge won another Hugo. So, tune in next month for articles about more UCSD authors.

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*Four Rules for “Blast from the Past”*

by Robert Leone

All of you are welcome to submit your own classic book reviews, as long as you follow these guidelines:

1. The book you review must have been initially published, or at least written, before you were published (born).
2. You must have read or reread the book you review within a week of starting your “Blast from the Past Review.”
3. The book in question must consist of science fiction, fantasy or horror. (Plausible exceptions may be allowed; ask first.)
4. Try to keep your review under 400 words.
5. Send it to newsletter@darkstar.ucsd.edu by the Dark Matters deadline.