

Tarriell Cell

The Newsletter of the Organized Rebel Adventurers' Club

Volume 14 Number 1 ♦ October 2000 ♦ \$2

Yelling "Lassie" In A Crowded Theater Remembering Dear Friend and ORAC Member Tim Bartz

By Roxanne Longstreet Conrad

Every once in a great while in your life, you will meet a person who changes your life for the better. It's almost always the moment when you aren't looking for it - it's the universe's thump on the

next. There was never any sense of urgency in being around Tim. He loved the moments in life more than the hours, and he made you realize that those moments were precious.

I do not believe in an afterlife, although I am bringing a change of underwear. —Woody Allen

back of your head to remind you to pay attention, that life's full of surprises and some of them are actually wonderful.

Tim Bartz was my wonderful surprise. Cat and I met him in 1993 at - surprise - the movies. Tim, it turned out, was a just as much of a movie addict as we were, and when the movie we were waiting for - Speed - turned out to be a showing of Lassie, we all ran for the exits and ended up laughing together in the lobby.

From which came the classic saying: Never yell "Lassie" in a crowded theater.

Cat and I slid easily into a warm, fulfilling friendship with Tim that lasted from one week to the next, one movie to the next, one cup of coffee at the Coffee Haus to the

Tim was a sly, deadly accurate mimic. He would surprise and startle us by suddenly becoming Sean Connery or Methos from Highland-



The real test of friendship is: Can you literally do nothing with the other person? Can you enjoy together those moments of life that are utterly simple? They are the moments people look back on at the end of life and number as their most sacred experiences. —Eugene Kennedy

er or Darth Vader (he felt his oxygen mask was a great assist in that one). There were times when I literally fell out of my chair laughing once Tim got rolling with his routine - which he did

on an almost weekly basis. He was like Seinfeld ... he could make humor out of every single thing

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Joe Isham Steps Down As Editor of Tarriel Cell

After 12 years as editor of Tarriel Cell, Joe Isham has decided to pass the job on to club secretary Joanne Madge. We all want to take this opportunity to thank Joe for his tireless efforts over the years and for the exemplary job he has done. Joe will continue to serve as vice president for the club.

Joe graduated with honors from Angelo State University in 1986. He majored in journalism, edited the student newspaper, *The Ram Page*, and minored in government and French. He is currently employed by Metro Traffic and can be heard every morning on the News 8 Day-break traffic report in Dallas. In his spare time (what little he has these days) Joe likes to work with his computer, surfing the net or creating web pages of his own. His many and varied interests include British comedy, comedy improvisation (he's on the committee for WhoserCon 4, for fans of 'Whose Line is it Anyway?'), updating his video and DVD collection, reading (mainly

science fiction), desktop publishing, auto travel, and more.

Joanne Madge studied graphic arts, production and design at the University of Texas at Arlington - one of the only five out of twenty students to pass the course. She currently works as 'personal assistant' to ORAC member Sue Aycock (a fancy job description that basically means keeping house, doing various computer jobs, and herding cats). Her interests include computers, burning CDs and video discs (for evaluation purposes only, honest!), creating and occasionally updating web pages, reading, writing (fanfic and non-fic, mostly), and sometimes drawing when time permits. ♦

What do YOU Want From Your Newsletter?

ORAC has changed focus a lot over the years and its members are constantly developing new and varied interests in science fiction, fantasy, and other areas. As your new editor, I'd like to take a moment and ask what all of you would like to see in upcoming issues of Tarriel Cell.

- ♦ What fandoms are you most interested in at this time?
- ♦ Are there particular authors you'd like to hear more about?
- ♦ Are there TV shows you'd like us to publish the upcoming schedules for?
- ♦ Are there subjects you'd like to see covered in a future article?

Please drop us a line and let us know!



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eBook Conference 2000

Authors, Sellers Discuss the Future of Electronic Publishing

"You – yes you – can write a profitable e-book!" The Internet is rife with web pages making such get-rich promises to the unpublished authors among us. But where does the published author fit into this still fairly new medium; especially the "mid-list" author, who has a hard enough time getting books on the shelves of traditional bookstores, let alone keeping them there for any length of time? Does online publishing offer them anything they can really benefit from, or is it just another way for dishonest end users to copy and distribute their work without paying for it?

Such questions were the hot topics at the third annual National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) eBook 2000 Conference, held September 25-27 at the Department of Commerce's flashy new Ronald Reagan Building in Washington. The conference welcomed more than 1000 attendees, including authors, publishers, and librarians. The crowded program covered devices, file formats, rights management, experimental programs in U.S. schools and libraries, and international developments.

A Greater Audience

Warren Adler, author of 23 novels, including *War of the Roses* and *Random Hearts*, which have been made into movies, spoke at the conference on behalf of many when he issued an author's manifesto on the need for authors becoming their own publishers and marketers. "I will create a virtual bookstore Web site with links to individual and partnerships with booksellers worldwide," he declared, "offering all my novels, plays, and short story collections on all major platforms and in all lan-

guages, in text, audio, or print, including print on demand where my print rights have reverted back to me, and promoting those books that are still in print where the rights are owned by other publishers. First chapters will be provided without cost, and a chat room will be created. Pricing has yet to be decided."

Adler is not abandoning publishers, but expanding his own possibilities,

amusing, though technically illegal, talk on copy protection myths. Eberhard's talk was illegal because he demonstrated how to break into and copy an intellectual property (music, in this case) using Microsoft Windows Media Player software tools, and with a special encryption-cracking file added. His point was not to embarrass Microsoft but to point out that dedicated reading devices

Security is impossible. Not because Joe Average will break in, but because Jane Hacker will find it a challenge to create the cracking software, and will give it for free to millions of Joe Averages.

he said. "I have begun the task of digitizing my books for all platforms through OverDrive, a company with much experience in e-books, and I am in negotiation with people who can create the Web site, the transactional and linking mechanisms and the promotional program to bring traffic to the site."

Adler added: "It is a big, risky bet and I am making it on the premise that my work, exposed on a vastly larger scale than it had been originally, has the ability to attract a greater audience. I am convinced that my plan, or some vision of it, refined as we go along, tweaked and nurtured, will be the wave of the future for all authors. All that is needed is the courage to try."

Sealed Solution?

On the other side of the spectrum at the conference, is Martin Eberhard, founder and until recently CEO of NuvoMedia. He gave an

have an important place in the e-book world. "Any time you have the full text, even encrypted, in the same place you have the key to the encryption, on a system that can run executable files," he warned, "security is impossible. Not because Joe Average will break in, but because Jane Hacker will find it a challenge to create the cracking software, and will give it for free to millions of Joe Averages."

The peer-to-peer nature of the Internet, where each user's computer can run any software it wants, effectively abolishes security, according to Eberhard. The only way to protect copy is to run it on secure (sealed) devices, that will not run executable files and will recognize

 eBook, page 6

"Booked Up" In the Heart of Texas

ORAC Visits Larry McMurry's Book Lover's Paradise

In September, members of ORAC gathered in Plano and Arlington before making their way to Archer City - or, more accurately, to Booked Up Inc, the enormous book store located in Archer City.

Booked Up opened a decade ago and has expanded to four buildings in this little town of fewer than 2,000. Author Larry McMurry started his first Booked Up 30 years ago in Washington, D.C. The book-town concept is patterned after the one in Hay-On-Wye, Wales.

Mr. McMurry made his hometown part of the literary landscape when he used it as the backdrop for *The Last Picture Show*. Residents may



Club President Russ Miller hunts for treasure in Booked Up Inc. Store Number 4

"To house a million books, you have to have some cheap real estate."

have considered the bleak portrayal of life in fictional Thalia in the mid-1950s an unflattering portrait of their community. but it put the small town 22 miles south of Wichita Falls on the map. Besides *The Last Picture Show*, McMurry is widely known among readers for *Terms Of Endearment* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lonesome Dove*.

Today, the mark of Archer City's most famous son is still evident. Around the corner from the recently refurbished (with McMurry's help) little movie theater, made famous in the movie version of *The Last Picture Show*, are the four Booked Up buildings. The city's public library stands nearby, barely noticeable, dwarfed by any one of the much larger Booked Up buildings along Archer City's main street.

In an interview with the Dallas

Morning News, the author offers a pragmatic explanation for putting his bookstore in Archer City: "To house a million books, you have to have some cheap real estate."

McMurry, 59, said he grew up "in a bookless region" of Texas, so part of his motivation in amassing this great collection of books is ensuring that future generations have something he missed as a youth. Born in Wichita Falls, McMurry graduated with honors from Archer City High School in 1954, before going on to college and graduate school.

To buy new books while he was in college, he sometimes had to sell old books from his collection and thus began to gain experience as a dealer. While he was a graduate student at Stanford University, he worked as a book scout for several San Francisco stores. On his return to Texas in

1965, he became a scout and dealer with a Houston firm.

In 1969, he moved to the Washington, D.C., area, to concentrate on his writing. He opened the first Booked Up in Georgetown 25 years ago with two partners when they found a place that rented for \$100 a month. He opened the Archer City store in 1988 and closed two other Texas locations soon after. Today, another store exists in Tucson, Ariz., and the Washington location is still in operation.

Asked if he plans to expand, he said, "No."

Now that doesn't mean he won't ever expand. It just means he has no plans at this moment, he explained. Asked how many books the stores have to offer, he said he has no idea.

"That's very hard to judge," he said, ripping into boxes. A moment later, he added, "If I say I have 350,000

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books and someone comes here from Ireland and says I only have 150,000 books, he's going to be upset. I do

"Things are booming," Mr. McMurtry said. Visitors come from as far away as England and Australia.

know I have more than 100,000."

No matter the exact number. "Things are booming," Mr. McMurtry said. Visitors come from as far away as England and Australia.

Mr. McMurtry moved back here on a full-time basis last year, but he quickly pointed out he has never "fully not lived here. I've always been in and out of here about once a month," he said.

Mr. McMurtry pooh-poohs the "rare" book terminology. "There aren't that many rare books," he said, noting that books are printed in quantity. But the *Texas State Travel Guide* lists the bookstore as offering the largest collection of antiquarian books in the country.

"We aren't the largest of anything," he barked. "We're just a good general used bookstore. That's all." ♦

Booked Up, Inc

216 S. Center

P. O. Box 1286

Archer City, TX 76351-1286

(940) 574-2511

Open Monday thru Saturday 10am to 5pm

Books by subject and their locations at Booked Up Inc.

Building 1:

African Studies; African-American Studies
American History, Texana, and Western Americana
Genre Fiction (Mystery, Horror)
Law and True Crime
Lit Crit and Bio
Native-American Studies
Natural History, Ranching and Farming
Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology
Religion (Eastern and Western) and Occult

Building 2:

Art, and Photography
Fiction, Poetry and Galley Proofs
World History and Military History
Books about Collecting
Science Fiction and Children's

Building 3:

Books about Books
Classical Studies
18th and 19th Century Books
Fiction (before 1925)
Foreign Books and Translations

Building 4:

Pamphlets
Ancient History
Anthropology, Pre-Columbian Studies and Mythology
Linguistics and Reference
Dance, Drama, Film, Television and Music
Art Catalogs
Architecture
Economics and Finance
Journalism
Cookbooks
Medicine
Science
Travel
Sports

2000 Hugo Winners

The Hugos were given out at Chicon on Saturday, September 3, 2000.

- ♦ Novel: *A Deepness in the Sky* by Vernor Vinge (Tor) (Bloomsbury; Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic Press)
- ♦ Novella: "The Winds of Marble Arch" by Connie Willis (Asimov's 10-11/99)
- ♦ Novelette: "1016 to 1" by James Patrick Kelly (Asimov's 6/99)
- ♦ Short Story: "Scherzo with Tyrannosaur" by Michael Swanwick (Asimov's 7/99)
- ♦ Non-Fiction: *Science Fiction of the 20th Century: An Illustrated History* by Frank M. Robinson (Collectors Press)
- ♦ Professional Editor: Gardner Dozois
- ♦ Professional Artist: Michael Whelan
- ♦ Dramatic Presentation: *Galaxy Quest* (DreamWorks SKG) Directed by Dean Parisot; Story by David Howard; Screenplay by David Howard and Robert Gordon
- ♦ Semiprozine: *Locus* (Charles N. Brown, ed.)
- ♦ Fanzine: *File 770* (Mike Glyer, ed.)
- ♦ Fan Writer: Dave Langford
- ♦ Fan Artist: Joe Mayhew
- ♦ Campbell Award: Cory Doctorow

eBook... from page 3

when an e-book file comes from a trusted partner.

Setting the Standard

One organization attempting to help develop such sealed devices is the Open eBook Forum (OeBF). The Forum, with its hefty \$5000 per year membership rate, hopes to lead the way in both setting the format standards for future eBooks and the promotion of the same. According to the statement on the Forum's webpage (www.openebook.org), "The OeBF is an association of hardware and software companies, publishers, authors and users of electronic books and related organizations whose goals are to establish common specifications of electronic book systems, applications, and products that will benefit creators of content, makers of reading systems, and most

importantly, consumers, helping to catalyze the adoption of electronic books; to encourage the broad acceptance of these specifications on a worldwide basis among mem-

of authors, publishers and others vested in the e-book market."

Two e-book 'sealed' systems debuted at the conference: The goReader, a 121/2"A-91/2" color

The Open eBook Forum hopes to lead the way in setting the format standards for future eBooks .

bers of the Forum, related industries and the public; and to increase awareness and acceptance of the emerging electronic publishing industry."

David Ornstein, president of OeBF, also spoke at the eBook 2000. He explained, "We expect our framework and stakeholder requirements to provide measurable standards that can lead digital rights management strategy initiatives to meet the needs

LCD device weighing less than five pounds, which can be seen at goReader.com; and the CyBook, from the Paris-based Cytale S.A., aimed at the French-speaking market, including Canada. Both devices should be available to the public by December and are expected to retail for about \$600. ♦

Yelling... from page 1

came his way. Even the hospital. "I'm going in for my semi-annual lube & oil," he'd say, referring to the intensive IV antibiotic treatments that kept him alive the last few years before his transplant. The night

for hours on end, and within minutes of his arrival every person in the room would know him and come to say hello.

Tim was a traveling fun parade. All you had to do was fall in.

I look around my house and I can feel his presence now, in the big TV

can be truly counted in the hundreds, maybe the thousands.

Way to go, Tim.

ORAC: your assignment, in Tim's name - go out and meet a stranger. Just somebody in line at the grocery store, or in the mall, or waiting for the elevator. Because you never know ... do you? ♦

My mother used to say that there are no strangers, only friends you haven't met yet. She's now in a maximum security facility in Australia. —Dame Edna Everage

before his transplant, when we were keeping him company at the hospital, the nurses remarked on how other (normal?) people came in and cried before such a major operation; we came in and did low comedy.

Tim loved lounging around the Coffee Haus in Lincoln Square in Arlington. He could consume coffee

room where we must have watched hundreds of movies and television shows over the last seven years. I wish Tim had gotten to marvel at the new T2 DVD we just got, or the wonders of Walking With Dinosaurs.

I will live my life missing him, but if a person is judged by the friends they leave behind, Tim left a legacy that

Cystic fibrosis affects approximately 30,000 children and adults in the United States. The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation was established in 1955 to assure the development of the means to cure and control cystic fibrosis and to improve the quality of life for those with the disease. For more information, go to their website at <http://www.cff.org/facts.htm>, or write them at The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, 6931 Arlington Road, Bethesda, Maryland 20814

Event Queue

*All guest appearances are subject to professional commitments.
Don't forget to enclose a SASE when writing for information.*

November 2000

24-26 Uncommoncon

Location: Hyatt Regency, DFW Airport. **Guests:** Lou Ferringno, Ted Raimi, R Cat Conrad, Roxanne Longstreet Conrad, Jamie Murray, Paul T. Riddell, Mel White, Michael Cohen, Brad Foster, many more.

Memberships: \$35 at door.
uncommoncon@uncommoncon.com,
<http://www.uncommoncon.com/>

May 2001

25-28 World Horror Con

Location: Seattle Marriott, Sea-Tac; Seattle, Washington **Guests:** Richard Laymon, Simon Clark, Jessica Amanda Salmonson, Barbara & Christopher Roden, Charles Vess, Jack Ketchum **Memberships:** \$90 until 1/15/01. PO Box 5171, Bellingham, WA 98227, whc2001@uswest.net

December 2000

28-1/1 Armageddoncon

Location: Laromme hotel; Jerusalem and Armageddon (Har Megiddo) Israel (on Sunday) **Guests:** Larry Niven, Joan D. Vinge, Paul J. McAuley, Jack Cohen, Ian Watson **Memberships:** \$160 to 12/15/00, \$175 at door. Mishkenot Sha'ananim, Box 8215, Jerusalem 91081, Israel, con@sf-f.org.il, <http://www.armageddoncon.org>

June 2001

6/29-7/1 Consortium

Location: Radisson Hotel; Houston, Texas. **Guests:** David Weber, Margaret Fincannon, Clif Davis, Tony Elam. **Memberships:** \$25 until 5/31/01, \$30 at door. PMB 367, 3118 FM 528, Webster, TX 77598

Multipurpose Response Form

	<i>Amount</i>
Enclosed is my one-year membership at \$12 (US), \$13 (Canada), or \$18 (elsewhere). <input type="checkbox"/> Check if renewal. (Outside US, please pay by postal money order.)	\$
I want a new ORAC T-shirt in size L (\$10) XL (\$10) XXL (\$11) XXXL (\$11)	\$
I'd like to send a gift membership to a friend. Enclosed is \$12 for memberships in the US, \$13 in Canada, and \$18 elsewhere. (Please enclose the recipient's name and address with this form.)	\$
<input type="checkbox"/> I'm moving. Enclosed is my new address.	\$

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State/Prov:** _____ **Postal Code:** _____

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