

# SOL RISING

May 2004

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The Newsletter of The Friends of the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy

## The Many Faces of the Merrill in 2003



*In 2003 the Merrill becomes one of the few collections in the world chosen to receive a set of the Vance Integral Editions, one of the many highlights the collection would see this year.  
Photo by Andrew Specht*

## Special Thanks

The Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy would like to thank Quill Consulting for their generous donation. For more information on how to make donations to the Merrill, please see page 3.

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SPECULATION AND FANTASY

**SOL RISING**  
**Friends of the Merrill Collection**  
Number 30, May 2004

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## **Reach Us**

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**[www.friendsofmerril.org/](http://www.friendsofmerril.org/)**

**Call for Submissions!**  
Contact Sabrina ([sabrinafried@rogers.com](mailto:sabrinafried@rogers.com))  
if you wish to submit articles, essays or art  
pieces. Please put the term 'Sol Rising' in your  
subject field to bypass the Spam filters. Be a part  
of SOL Rising, speak out!

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[www.friendsofmerril.org](http://www.friendsofmerril.org)

*SOL Rising*, the newsletter of the Friends of the Merril Collection of Science Fiction and Fantasy, is published by the Friends of the Merril Collection, c/o Lillian H. Smith Branch, TPL, 239 College St. 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario, M5T 1R5. This is issue number 30, May 2004. This newspaper is provided free of charge to members of The Friends; see back page for membership application form or write to the above address. All material contained herein that is credited is Copyright 2004 by the author of the piece; all other material is Copyright 2003 by The Friends of the Merril Collection. "MC=(sf)2" is copyright 1994 by The Friends of the Merril Collection. All Rights Reserved. Printed in Canada.

ISSN: 1199-2123

# View From the Chair

## It's Been Fun

By Jamie Fraser

As this is the last of my "View From the Chair" columns, I must start off by thanking those Friends whose expertise, hard work, and enthusiasm helped make my job so much easier. It's not in any particular order and don't worry, I won't be mentioning anyone in New Zealand.

Lucy White, my predecessor, whose positive advice & support gave me the confidence to fill her seat to our satisfaction. Don Hutchison and Larry Hancock, who were always available to answer questions or help solve a problem. Liam Hustins, former *SOL Rising* editor/designer for all his hard work, creative efforts & enthusiasm for Friends projects. Jim Pattison, who helped create the Friends web site, ably served as Vice Chair, and still updates our Web site as needs be. Lorna Toolis for her fortitude and assistance in dealing with a Chair who had no previous experience with such groups.



*Events at the Merril are always exciting and often so well attended that they become standing-room only. Here spectators sit enthralled during a reading from *Odyssey*, the new *sf* anthology edited by Julie Czerneda. Photo by Andrew Specht.*

I would also like to thank my good friend Ted Brown. When I first brought him on board, Ted said, "This isn't going to require much time or work, is it?" Soon after, Ted was made Treasurer and has since become one of the most valued members of the Executive Committee. His exploits as proof-reader for *SOL Rising* are legendary and he's now considering a paid career in this profession. There are several others whose names should be listed here but space and Sabrina don't allow, so thanks again to all of you.

Whenever someone takes a new position there is an immediate tendency to make changes and/or put their own stamp on things. Such was the case when I first became Chair. I had many ideas, most of which came from my experience as a bookseller and retailer. But after careful consideration I decided to take it very slowly and concentrate on the area in which my knowledge & experience could be most useful.

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# From the Collection Head

**SOL RISING**  
**Friends of the Merrill Collection**  
Number 30, May 2004  
**Special Thanks**

## The Year That Was

By Lorna Toolis

The Merrill Collection had a very good year in 2003. In January, John Rose (former owner of Bakka Books) and I presented a panel at the Ontario Library Association entitled *Enduring Dreams: Heroism, Escapism and Affection for Fantastic Literature*. The Friends of the Merrill Collection launched the 2nd Fantastic Art Show, beginning with a launch party on January 9. The event was supported by a display of science fiction and fantasy art books held in the Merrill Collection. It was curated by Annette Mocek and Kim Hull.

In February, I went with Sabrina Fried of the Friends of Merrill Executive to Pandemonium, the local gaming convention, where the sale of items donated to the Friends of Merrill raised over \$500.00.



*Volumes from the Vance Integral Edition on display at the Merrill. Display by Kim Hull and Annette Mocek. Photo by Andrew Specht.*

In March, the Friends of the Merrill Collection sponsored a reading by Steve Brust, whose 'Vlad Taltos' books are extremely popular with collection readers.

In April, the Friends of the Merrill Collection sponsored the 7th Annual Fantastic Pulp Show. It was supported by the extremely popular exhibit "Pulp Grrls!" curated by Annette Mocek and Kim Hull. Robert J. Sawyer also began his three-month term as writer in residence at the Merrill Collection, advising members of the public trying to write science fiction on both content and marketing. Both the Toronto Public Library and The Friends of the South (TFL) generously sponsored the Writer in Residence program.

In June, the American Library Association Conference was held in Toronto and staff gave tours for the attendees interested in the Toronto Public Library's special collections.

The Collection was extremely busy during August and September. In August, the Academic Conference on Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy was held at

The Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy wishes to thank Quill Consulting for its generous gift.

Money donated in this manner will be used to purchase materials that the Collection would otherwise be unable to afford. These additional funds increase the Collection's ability to obtain desirable materials. As the cost of books continues to rise, all assistance is gratefully received.

Donations to the Merrill Collection of twenty-five dollars or more over the basic membership fee are eligible for income tax deductions. The Toronto Public Library Foundation receives the money, places it in a special account for the Merrill Collection, and upon request, issues a tax deductible certificate at year's end. Donations may be made by cheque or charge card. Anyone interested in doing this should talk to the Collection Head.

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## Upcoming Events

May 1 1:30 pm

The Friends of the Merrill  
Collection Annual General  
Meeting  
Location: The Merrill Collection

This meeting is open to members and non-members of the Friends. Members are reminded that their 2004-2005 membership must be paid in full in order to make motions or vote at the meeting.

May 20  
Ed Greenwood Reading  
Location: The Merrill Collection

Ed Greenwood will be appearing at the Merrill for a reading from his new book *Elminster's Daughter*. Please visit the Collection's website for details as they become available

May 21-23  
Anime North 2004  
Location: Congress Centre

For fans of Anime and Manga, the eighth annual Anime North features panels, signings and, of course, lots and lots of screening sessions

[www.animenorth.org](http://www.animenorth.org)

July 2-4  
Toronto Trek 18  
Location: DoubleTree  
International Plaza Hotel

The 18th annual Toronto Trek media con returns with a new location this year. The con features panels on everything from Star Trek to the business of sf publishing.

<http://tcon.ca>

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My choice was to broaden overall public awareness of the Merrill Collection, both locally and internationally. Now that we had a striking and highly visual brochure, it had to be made available to the public. We immediately sent copies to our members and to most Canadian universities. It took a while, but we eventually had them at all TPL branches, and at the other special collections.

They were made available at various shows, events and conventions, and after a few failed attempts we finally put them out at the Word on the Street. Aside from my store, they're also available at other bookshops and businesses in the GTA, and I have suggested that copies be sent to various specialty shops in Canada and the USA. I've also asked that they be included with other TPL material at Toronto and Ontario tourism offices, especially the larger ones.

The greatest boon in terms of promoting the Merrill Collection locally came on June 15th of last year when the two story high banner was installed on the front of the building. We'd been waiting since 1995 for exterior signage, and now we have this spectacular banner which will attract people to the Collection for years to come.

Aside from the brochures, I thought we might experiment with a few more unusual events and readings at the Merrill Collection. Ones that might bring in new faces and appeal to different groups or readers. Many of the suggestions I made were deemed unsuitable for one reason or another, but some of the ones that may still occur include more events done in conjunction with the other special collections. Dark Fantasy and Horror themed events. And I'd love to see Jane Jacobs give a lecture and slide show on modern life as it was imagined in the Pulp magazine covers and stories of the 1930's, 40's and 50's. That would make for a very exciting evening.

Finally, it took two years but we now have TPL business cards for the Friends Executive and they should be quite useful in networking at larger or busier cons and events. I'll continue working on promoting the Merrill Collection as best I can. I have the utmost confidence in the selection process for the new Chair and will assist that person any way I can. I look forward to my reduced duties, as it will allow me to spend more time with my wife, Cathy, and daughter Alexandra.

It's Been Fun

# So Bad They're Good

An occasional look at sf movies that bombed at the box office despite big budgets and pretensions to grandeur - but took on new lives as "cult" films

## **Barb Wire - Do android breasts dream of electric black leather?**

By Ted Brown



Pamela Anderson Lee shared poster space for Barb Wire with the movie's biggest stars. Her gun and, uh, that really nice bracelet!

Pamela Anderson Lee's best asset is her chest, which is reminiscent of those figureheads on old wooden sailing ships - jutting defiantly forward and breaking through the waves with proud aplomb. How appropriate, then, that her "breakthrough" movie, the one that was to pull her up from the depths of TV jiggle-edom on *Baywatch*, opens with a full four minutes of Pamela's naked breasts being "artistically" hosed down with water while she writhes and stretches sensuously. Very clever on the part of the filmmakers - the breasts are the big draw, let's get 'em out there right off the top.

And, truth be told, Pamela's chest is also the best sci-fi credential this movie has. Sure it's set in a lawless future, and the plot centers around high tech contact lenses that can fool the iris scanners that the evil bosses use to control the populace, but those artificial constructs on Pam's chest are non-sentient androids, plain and simple, and, attached to the life-form Pamela like limpets to a shark, they are the true stars of the film. (Watching this movie is reminiscent of the *Simpsons* scene in which Homer addresses himself to a Hollywood starlet's large chest. She says, "Homer, my face is up here." He responds, "I've made my choice.") Pamela can't act, of course, but it doesn't matter; she admirably fills her role as support system and transportation for the breasts.

And the movie itself is fun to watch. The scene is the year 2017, in the midst of the Second American Civil War. All of America has been taken over by the evil "Congressional"; only one free city remains. And in that freewheeling and relatively lawless city lives Barb Wire - the former Barbara Kopetski - a rough, tough babe with big hair who runs a bar, dresses in skin tight black leather (which barely manages to cover the stars of the show) and freelances as a ruthless hired killer and bounty hunter. We find out that horrible things happened to innocent Barbara Kopetski during the war, and turned her into the emotionless, anything-for-a-buck mercenary Barb Wire, who doesn't commit, doesn't lose - and always gets even. But Barb does have a button that can be pushed. "Don't call me babe" becomes her catch phrase, and various men die in various gruesome ways for calling Barb Wire "babe" (the first with a stiletto heel planted right between the eyes from about 10 yards away).

Barb is reluctantly drawn into assisting a rebel scientist on the lam from the evil Congressionals. In the course of doing so, she does a gig as a stripper (during which she plants the stiletto heel in the "babe" fellow's forehead), poses as a prostitute (to blow open the wall of the adjoining apartment), takes her clothes off a lot, fires huge guns, and rides around on a rocket-equipped motorbike. How cool is that? However, about 40 minutes into the action, a couple of back stories start intruding and the momentum falls like a barometer in January. The actors are forced to actually act for long periods, and the result is duller than dishwater and more confusing than Chinese algebra. The only redeeming factor in the middle part of the movie is Barb's constant insistence on being paid in Canadian

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# The Year in Pictures



*Left: In April, Robert J. Sawyer began a three month tenure as Writer in Residence at the Merril*



*Right: Just as Worldcon was getting under way, the Merril Collection was host to the fifth Academic Conference on Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy. Author Margaret Atwood gave the keynote address and later participated in a panel discussion with Dominick M. Grace, Jean-Louis Trudel and Allan Weiss, chaired by Veronica Hollinger*



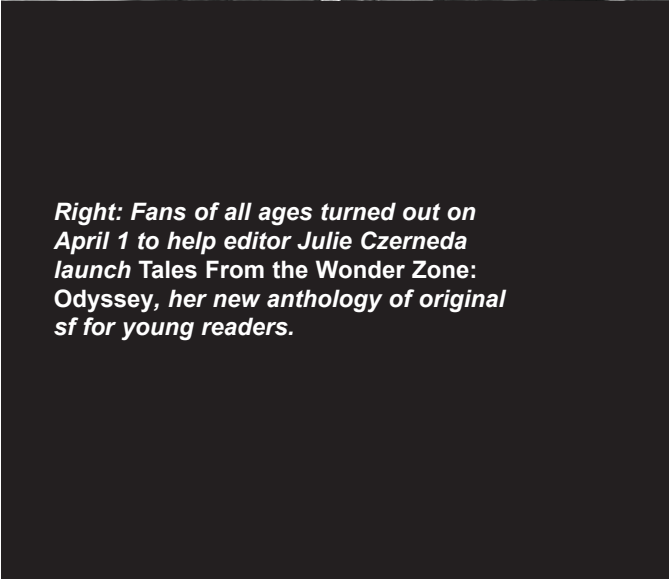
*Left: Peter Jarvis, Chair of Torcon 3 presents Annete Mocek of the Merril with the 2003 Hugo Award for Better To Have Loved: The Life of Judith Merril. The book was co-authored by Emily Pohl-Weary, granddaughter of Judith Merril.*



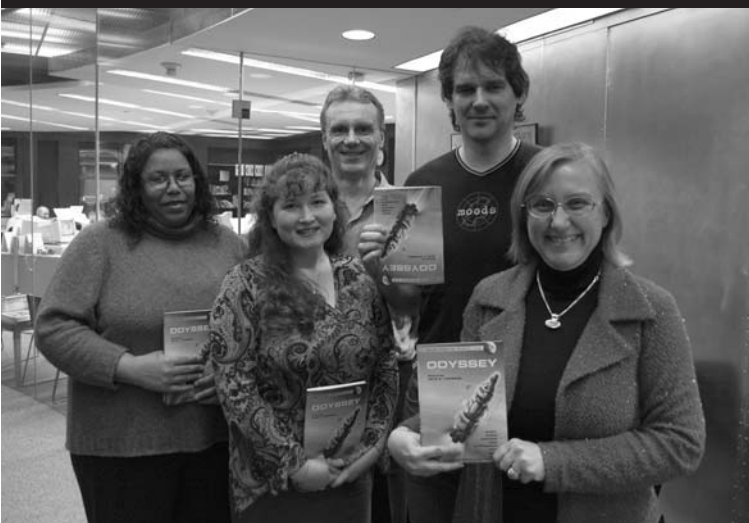
# A Photo Scrapbook By Andrew Specht



*Left: On March 18, The Merrill was host to a reading and signing by Cory Doctorow in support of his newest book Eastern Standard Tribe. The event was standing room only*



*Right: Fans of all ages turned out on April 1 to help editor Julie Czerneda launch Tales From the Wonder Zone: Odyssey, her new anthology of original sf for young readers.*



*Left: Fresh from their signing session, some of the contributors to Odyssey pose for the camera. Present are Douglas Smith, Peter Watts, Francine Lewis, Sarah Jane Elliott and Julie Czerneda (far right)*

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the Merrill Collection, with Margaret Atwood as guest speaker. The Conference was supported by a display of Canadian science fiction and fantasy, assembled by Annette Mocek and Kim Hull of the Merrill Collection staff. Annette and Kim also staged an exhibit of the Merrill Collection holdings at the Toronto Reference Library's gallery. The exhibit ran between August 21 and the beginning of October, co-ordinated with TorCon 3, meant for the out-of-town visitors to the WorldCon. I spoke on six panels and attended a good many more, as did all of the staff. The Merrill Collection offered stack tours for the duration of the WorldCon and two weeks afterwards. At Worldcon itself, the Friends of the Merrill Collection had a table in the fandom section and sold over \$1000 of merchandise during the course of the Labour Day Weekend.

In September, staff began the training and work required in order to convert the Merrill Collection's paper card catalogue into electronic data available through Dynix, the Toronto Public Library's database. Meanwhile, the Friends sponsored book launches for Emily Pohl-Weary's biography of her grandmother Judith Merrill, *Better To Have Loved*, and for Robert Charles Wilson's new book, *Blind Lake*. The Friends of the Merrill Collection shared a table at Word on the Street, with the Friends of the Osborne Collection and the Friends of the Arthur Conan Doyle Collection. The table was generously provided by the Toronto Public Library Foundation.

In October, Professor Elizabeth Miller, herself a member of the Friends of the Merrill Collection, presented new findings on Bram Stoker's *Dracula*, illustrated with slides of Bram Stoker's newfound working notes.

The final event of the calendar year, the annual Christmas Cream Tea, was highlighted by the display "The Many Faces of Jack Vance." The display was organized to recognize and thank Mr. Paul Allen, whose Foundation donated a copy of the Vance Integral Edition to the Merrill Collection.

2003 was a bobsled ride of a year. Now 2004 is off to a promising start, with the 3rd Fantastic Art Show and book launches for Cory Doctorow's *Eastern Standard Tribe* and Julie Czerneda's *Tales from the Wonder Zone: Odyssey*. I hope to see you all at the 8th Fantastic Pulp Show, the Annual General Meeting on May 1, and the book launch for Ed Greenwood's forthcoming novel on May 20.

### Volunteers Needed!

If you would like to help with the following event, contact Lorna Toolis at [ltoolis@tpl.toronto.on.ca](mailto:ltoolis@tpl.toronto.on.ca)

\*Staffing the TPL Special Collections booth at The Word on the Street (September 2004)

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# The Wonderful World of Blogs

By Sabrina Fried

It used to be that the only time you got to hear your favourite author talk was either when they published something or attended a convention. In recent years however, some authors have enhanced their web presence to include online blogs - frequently updated pages where just about anything goes. The term itself is short for weblog, an abbreviation of website log. In non-technical English: An online diary.

Blogs include an entire genre of web pages that cover a wide spectrum. Recent Merril guest Cory Doctorow, author of *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* and *Eastern Standard Tribe*, for instance, runs his Boing Boing blog ([www.boingboing.net](http://www.boingboing.net)). Boing Boing is a collection of anecdotes, links and other cool stuff that Doctorow and others happen across. The articles tend to focus mainly on interesting advances in technology, new gadgets, and of course Cory's writing, but you never know from day to day what will appear.

Peter David, author of countless novels, but most recently his trilogy of *Sir Apropos of Nothing* books, decided on a slightly different approach when he created his blog ([www.peterdavid.net](http://www.peterdavid.net)). David posts mini-essays on current events, interesting bits of information, pictures of his kids, back issues of his *But I Digress* column, and whatever else strikes his fancy. He also provides visitors with the means to respond to his comments. Message threads have been known to run on so long that new posts are still being added weeks after the blog entry was posted. A word of warning, however, many of the political debates get quite animated, so be prepared to see numerous very different points of view duke it out before your very eyes.

Peter David's blog is quite open and receives hundreds of responses every single day. Other authors have tried to incorporate more controlled response mechanisms into their blog, to stem the flow of bandwidth. Greg Bear's blog ([www.gregbear.com](http://www.gregbear.com)) allows readers to submit questions and comments to Greg. Those selected are then responded to and posted. According to the page's header, Mr. Bear does try to respond to all of the questions, but only those he deems suitable for posting will actually go live.

The blog of Neil Gaiman ([www.neilgaiman.com](http://www.neilgaiman.com)), who wrote among other things *Sandman* and *American Gods*, was set up mainly to answer questions his website and publisher would receive from his legion of fans and uses a format very similar to that of Greg Bear's. In addition to answering fan questions, he also provides coverage of the stops he makes on his tours and convention appearances and post items of interest to his readers. The posts can become downright strange at times; the current hot topic is a discussion on the use of the term 'billion' in British English. Really, I kid you not.

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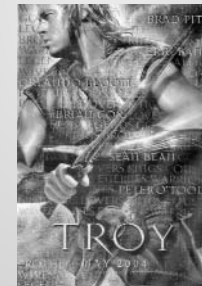
**SOL RISING**  
**Friends of the Merril Collection**  
Number 30, May 2004  
**Upcoming**  
**Movies**

May 7  
*Van Helsing*



Hugh Jackman, sans claws, takes on the Universal monsters in a new summer special effects movie. No word yet on whether he calls them 'bub' before skewering them with the big crossbow.

May 14  
*Troy*



Based in the hollywood style - loosely - on Homer's timeless epic, *Troy* features really hot actors running around in really tight metal and leather armour. Oh, and it's somewhat educational too.

# New At the Merril



## Images Magazine

By Lorna Toolis

*Images* is a magazine published by Jim Vadeboncoeur, who is a dealer in high-end fantasy art. *Images* has been a labour of love, an attempt to familiarize a new generation of readers with beautiful illustrations by artists now largely forgotten. Issue number 7, just out, reproduces art and articles from *The Studio*, an art magazine that flourished during the heyday of the Arts and Crafts movement. Colour illustrations by famous artists such as Arthur Rackham and Edmund Dulac are reproduced, as well as those of comparatively unknown artists, among them Arthur Melville, Robert Gibbings, George H. Day and George Sheringham. The reader can browse, moving from a flawless dormouse by Edward Detmold to the breath-taking richness of the painted silk fans illustrated by George Sheringham.

All of the issues of *Images* have been beautiful. Mr. Vadeboncoeur has announced that this will be the last issue unless he gets more subscriptions. Ask to

see *Images* at the Merril Information Desk. Subscriptions are no longer available, but he is taking mail orders for issues 1-7, which are available for \$18 US each, and they are lovely. If he sells enough back issues, he may publish issue 8. This would be good.

# Hidden Treasures

By Lorna Toolis

There are over 60,000 items in the Merril Collection stacks, almost all of which are of absorbing interest to some of our patrons. But some of our oddest or most noteworthy pieces rarely see the light of day. In this column, I will tell you about some of the beautiful things we have unearthed lately as the Dynix conversion of the Merril's catalogue continues. The quarterly displays which Kim Hull and Annette Mocek put together are meant to show these beautiful things, but, inevitably, there are more beautiful items than there are display cases.

I usually write about the fiction holdings, but some of the most interesting material in the Collection is non-fiction. Walking into the stacks and selecting at random, I notice the old *Magill Survey of Science Fiction Literature* (5 volumes), which many of you may have used to help you write long-ago term papers. It was followed by the *Survey of Modern Fantasy Literature* (5 volumes), both too expensive for anyone but institutions and fanatical collectors. Then, in 1996 Salem Press released another set, *Magill's Guide to Science Fiction and Fantasy Literature* (4 volumes). When I lived outside Toronto, access to this kind of resource wasn't even a dream. As the Merril Collection holdings are entered into Dynix, I expect the demand for this kind of material will increase, simply because, for the first time, the public will realize that it is available.

The Collection buys heavily from the publishers who specialize in non-fiction, critical analysis about science fiction and fantasy in both North America and the United Kingdom. As trends in popular research emerge, we try to support the researchers with non-fiction as well as fiction holdings.

Examples of other new non-fiction include *Scores: Reviews 1993-2003* by John Clute, himself a patron of the Merril Collection. Following the media curve, we have *Slayer Slang: A Buffy the Vampire Slayer Lexicon*, and *Taking the Red Pill: Science, Philosophy and Religion in The Matrix*. *Shadowmen: Heroes and Villains of French Pulp Fiction* will appeal to a completely different researcher, as will Brian Kane's wonderful book, *Hal Foster: Prince of Illustrators*. There are countless hidden gems among the stacks at the Collection, and each day another one is discovered by our hard working staff.

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dollars! Things do pick up towards the end, of course, with the requisite car chase, pitched battle, fistfight with maniacally-laughing bad guy while hanging from a crane scene. And the story itself? It is, believe it or not, based on the film *Casablanca*.

Here we have the root reason for why this movie is so bad it's good: *Casablanca* re-made as a vehicle for a futuristic cartoon super-heroine; Humphrey Bogart as a leather-clad uzi-tottin' blonde in the year 2017. As really dumb ideas on which to base an expensive mass market movie go, this one is truly brilliant. The only overt re-creation of *Casablanca* is at the very end, when Barb Wire is crossing the tarmac to the plane which will take her into self-imposed exile ("I hear Paris is nice this time of year"), and the cop who has befriended her watches her depart. The lighting and camera angles imitate *Casablanca* perfectly. However, like any good "bad" movie, the immortal line "Louis, I think this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship" has been changed to the appallingly pedestrian "I do believe I'm falling in love." Great! This is the hallmark of a truly impressive bad movie: Do not improve on the original - do a clunky imitation.

*Barb Wire* never decides whether it's a homage to *Casablanca*, or a parody. But that's what makes it great - no clear direction, lots of big explosions, a really bad script, and starring a set of huge android breasts. Here's looking at you, Pam!

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For all their potential good, however, it is important to remember that when an author is updating a blog as many as three or four times a day, they are not writing. Understandably, this has caused problems for authors and some have been forced to end their blogging careers, much to the dismay of their loyal fans. In September of 2003, William Gibson (*Neuromancer*, *Pattern Recognition*) decided to stop updating his blog because it was consuming too much of his writing time. He hasn't ruled out returning to it in the future, though, and the archives are still available at his homepage ([www.williamgibsonbooks.com](http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com)). Not long afterward, David Brin also stopped updating his blog on a regular basis, although his reasons were somewhat different. In addition to the conflict with his writing time, Mr. Brin was concerned that his blog would become, like others, a haven for gossip and innuendo passing itself off as real news. In the end, he decided to leave the archive up on his site and "jot a new note in it every now and then."

It comes as no surprise to note that most of the authors involved in blogging are those that write hard sf, or contemporary fantasy novels. This same group of authors was also among the first to embrace the Internet all those years ago. These are the authors whose works often fantasize about new technologies and how they might be used. It would seem strange if they were not in the least curious about new ways in which existing technologies could be used. Blogs are an easy and practical way for authors to keep in touch directly with their fans, but because they are so - as Gibson puts it so well - "mildly narcotic," only a select few authors have undertaken the challenge of keeping a blog and keeping up with their work schedule at the same time.

**SOL RISING**  
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Number 30, May 2004  
**Up coming**  
**Movies cont'd**

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June 30  
*Spider Man 2*



The friendly neighborhood Spider returns to the big screen, hoping to finally find true love, conquer evil and figure out exactly where to store his camera when he is in costume and swinging around the city.

July 16  
*I, Robot*



Based on Isaac Asimov's classic story, *I, Robot* will star Will Smith as detective Del Spooner, the human charged with determining whether a robot is capable of murder. If the trailers are to be believed, much explosions and special effects follow.

We invite you to become a member of  
**The Friends of the Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy**

**What is the Merril Collection?**

**The Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy** is the largest single collection of science fiction and fantasy maintained by a public library in North America.

The collection serves a widely varied public, maintaining a reference collection of over 50,000 volumes. Scholars have access to older and more obscure materials as well as comprehensive collections of the most recent authors. Students have access to a comprehensive collection of critical material relating to the genre. Readers have access to current and obscure materials available only through this special collection.

The Merril Collection was established in 1970 as The Spaced Out Library by the Toronto Public Library Board with a donation from sf writer Judith Merril. The collection currently holds over 50,000 works, including monographs, short story collections, periodicals, fanzines, and complete sets from such speciality publishers as Arkham House, Cheap Street and Gnome Press.

The collection was renamed The Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy on January 1, 1991.

**Who are the Friends?**

The Friends of the Merril Collection is an organization through which members of the science fiction community can support the collection.

The Friends is a citizen advisory group to the Toronto Public Library Board with its own constitution and bylaws. The stated objectives of the organization according to its constitution are:

1. To encourage interest in **The Merril Collection** and the interests of the library.

2. To increase awareness of works of the fantastic imagination and of Canadian contributions to this field.

3. To advise the Toronto Public Library Board on policy matters concerning the Collection in consultation with the library's staff.

4. To act as a resource for **The Merril Collection** and other public and private collections in Canada and elsewhere in consultation with the staff of the Toronto Public Library Board.

**What do the Friends Do?**

The Friends of the Merril Collection is not a fan organization.

It is a group of people with the common interest of promoting the Library and to make the best public collection of speculative fiction in the world. This is done by publishing the newsletter *Sol Rising*, and by sponsoring appearances at the library by prominent people in science fiction, fantasy and related fields. Three appearances or other programming are scheduled quarterly with the fourth quarter being devoted to the annual membership meeting and informal get-together. Additional events are also scheduled from time to time.

**What does your membership offer?**

1. Members are entitled to vote at all meetings of **The Friends of the Merril Collection**, including the annual general meeting in May. This ensures that the membership has a voice in the policies of the Library.

2. Members will receive all issues of *Sol Rising* which are published during their membership year.

3. Membership entitles you to free admission to all public appearances and programming sponsored by **The Friends** (our guests have included Gene Wolfe,

Lois McMaster Bujold, Tanya Huff, Robert J. Sawyer, Karen Wehrstein, Glen Cook and more). Members will receive advance notification of such events and an opportunity to attend a reception for our guest following the regular appearance.

4. Members receive a 10% discount on all purchases made at:

**Bakka-Phoenix Books (formerly Bakka, The Science Fiction Bookstore)**  
598 Yonge St, Toronto

**The Beguiling**  
601 Markham Street, Toronto

**Jamie Fraser Books**  
427a Queen St. West, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Toronto

**Sci-Fi World**  
1600 Steeles Ave. West, Concord, Ontario

A current membership card is required at time of purchase.

5. Members receive preferred pricing and opportunities to purchase selected items offered for sale by **The Friends of the Merril Collection**.

Want to be a Friend? Fill out the form below for both new memberships and renewals of existing memberships.

Visit our website...  
<http://www.friendsofmerril.org/>

**The Friends of the Merril Collection would like to thank all the generous supporters and volunteers, without whom this would not be possible.**

I wish to become a member of **The Friends of the Merril Collection**. I have enclosed a cheque or money order (payable to "The Friends of the Merril Collection") for my 2004/05 membership fee as indicated (memberships run from May 2004 to May 2005):

- Individual** \$30.<sup>00</sup> per year
- Student** (under 18) \$15.<sup>00</sup> per year
- Institution** \$37.<sup>50</sup> per year

This is a:

- Membership renewal
- New membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail to: **The Friends of the Merril Collection, c/o Lillian H. Smith Branch, Toronto Public Library, 239 College St., 3rd Floor, Toronto, Ontario M5T 1R5**

In addition to my membership fee, I would like to make a contribution to the Friends. I understand that tax receipts are unavailable at this time, and that my contribution will go towards funding the Friends' activities.  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_