

Earthlings honor mythical universe of past, future

By SHARON SHERIDAN
Features Editor

*Those days are gone, my friend,
The need is at an end
For all those strange and mystic beasts
Of yore;
The dragon's gone tonight,
He went without a fight
And left us here with science
evermore.*

Thus sang Chimera member Carolyn Waterson during the Outer Limits Cantina in Great Hall of the Student Union Saturday night. And, though no real unicorns and wizards watched, their memories were honored by the mortals in the audience. For this was Chimera Con II, UNC's second fantasy and science fiction convention, and earthlings from throughout North Carolina had gathered for a weekend of imaginative activities.

About 180 people attended the convention sponsored by the UNC Fantasy and Science Fiction Club, or Chimera. Some came dressed as warriors, space travelers or inhabitants of an earlier century. They were ready to battle in an Advanced Dungeons and Dragons tournament, bid on paintings in the convention's art exhibit, attend talks and panel discussions, and watch videos such as "The War of the Worlds," "Dr. Who," "Jabberwocky" and "I Married a Monster from Outer Space."

Entertainment Saturday night included a speech by guest of honor Karl Edward Wagner, a costume contest and the cantina.

A unicorn pranced across the stage during the costume contest and was given the "cutest tail" award. The award for the most original costume went to "Simply Someone Out for a Scoot," a guy in a spacesuit who propelled himself back and forth in a plastic foam space vehicle.

After the contestants' presentations, a gypsy served soda to the audience. She wore chains of coins around her neck and waist, a rose in her hair, a tambourine at her side and — was that a space weapon? Yes, she admitted. "We have to adapt to modern times."

Next came the cantina, a variety of science fiction and fantasy songs (called filksongs, according to Chimera President Karen Fisher, a junior from Nashville, Tenn.) and skits performed by Chimera members. Performers sang "Sounds of Science," "Farewell to Mars" and "The Expansion Song" (*It's a small world, after all, We're not satisfied at all, We'll go build one not so small, It's a small, small world*).

During "Star Wars, The Musical," Princess Leia watched Darth Vader destroy her planet, then lamented: *I'm looking over a small gray boulder that was Alderon before.* "Star Trek — Before the Motion Picture" featured Uhura wearing a Walkman, Chekov playing with Rubik's Cube and Captain Kirk commanding from an easy chair.

Chimera members wrote as well as performed the skits, Fisher said.

Many club members are writers, said Michael McVaugh, Chimera adviser and professor of history at UNC. Because of this, he said, several convention talks dealt with the "creative process."

Wagner, for example, advised beginning writers to "capture everything that is real to you."

"If it is a nightmare, if it's a dream, remember that. If it's a work experience, remember that," he said. "Even your worst nightmares are eventually useful if you're a writer."

Writers must learn to write sensibly, convincingly and realistically, Wagner said. "After that, the billion dollar contracts come

easy." Wagner, who lives in Chapel Hill, has received three British Fantasy Awards and the World Fantasy Award. He attended UNC's School of Medicine and served a year's residency as a psychiatrist, then quit to become a full-time writer and editor.

Other convention guests included artist Joe Bergeron and writers Allen L. Wold, Orson Scott Card, David Drake, M.A. Foster, Frances Garfield, C. Bruce Hunter, Gregg Keizer, John J. Kessel, Walter E. Meyers, Mark L. Van Name and Manly Wade Wellman.

Chimera began planning the convention last summer, Fisher said. She estimated the club had about 20 active members.

What attracts people to science fiction and fantasy?

"I don't know, to tell the truth, why I enjoy it," said Chimera member Toni Carter. "I hate it when people say it's just escapism. That's trash. People here, they read non-fiction, they read horror, they read fantasy, they read science fiction."

Carlton J. Cook, a retired Army colonel and retired teacher, came to the convention from High Point. He said he had been reading science fiction since he was 12 years old, about 60 years.

"What's science fiction in one period of history is fact in another period of history," he said, "and I've lived to see (that happen)."

Still, not everyone approves of science fiction.

"I think science fiction has a bad name because they do have a lot of bad science fiction," Fisher said. "But they also have excellent science fiction and fantasy books, things that probably can be ranked among the literary greats."

Some may disagree. And some folks will tell you wizards disappeared with the onset



Master of ceremonies Johnny Gray leads Chimera Con II during the Outer Limits Cantina.

of science, unicorns are mythical creatures and the last dragon they heard about was Puff. Chimera members aren't so sure. As Waterson's song concluded:
*Those days aren't gone, my friend,
This need not be the end*

*Of all those strange and mystic beasts
Of yore;
Who knows the dragon's way?
He may return someday,
And all his friends may drink with us
once more.*

WEEK'S FARE

TODAY

31 *Sullivan's Travels* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.
Peppermint Soda will be shown at 7 and 9 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 942-2041 for ticket information.
A Bear Called State o' Maine will be performed at 8 p.m. in 203 Bingham.
The White Animals will perform at 9:30 p.m. in Great Hall in the Student Union. Call 962-2285 for ticket information.
Eros, an exhibit of works by 25 N.C. artists, will be displayed in the main gallery, and *Constant Gardens: An Orchid Series*, by sculptor Peter Berry, will be displayed in the members' gallery at Center Gallery through Feb. 24. A reception will be held Friday at 8 p.m.
Rolly Gray and Sunfire will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

FRIDAY

1 *The World According to Garp* will be shown at 1 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium. Call 962-2285 for ticket information.
Cloud 9 will be performed by the PlayMakers Repertory Company at 8 p.m., and at 8 p.m. Wednesday, in Paul Green Theatre. Call 962-1121 for ticket information.
Pinchas Zukerman and The St. Paul Chamber Orchestra will perform at 8 p.m. in Memorial Hall.

Call 962-1449 for ticket information.
Works by Frances Keppner will be displayed in the gallery of the Morehead Building throughout February.
FunAddix will perform at 9:30 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 929-2896 for ticket information.
The Replacements will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.
Export A will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.
The Apple Chilli Cloggers and the UNC Clogging Club will sponsor a square dance, with music by the Red Rose Flyers, at 8 p.m. at the Presbyterian Student Center. Call 929-6210 for ticket information.

SATURDAY

2 *Entre Nous* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.
The Rescuers will be shown at 1 and 3 p.m. through Sunday at the ArtSchool. Call 942-2041 for ticket information.
Measure for Measure will be performed by the PlayMakers Repertory Company at 8 p.m., at 7 p.m. Sunday and at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Paul Green Theatre. Call 962-1121 for ticket information.
Joshua Rifkin, the Bach Ensemble, and the Society for Performance on Original Instruments will perform Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* at 7:30 p.m. in Hill Hall Auditorium. Call 962-1032 or 962-1039 for ticket information.
Tony Trischka and Skyline will perform at 9 p.m. at the ArtSchool. Call 929-2896 for ticket

information.
S.C.O.T.S. will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for ticket information.
Blast Crisis will perform at Rhythm Alley. Call 929-8172 for more information.

SUNDAY

3 *The Tenant* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.
The North Carolina Symphony will perform at 3 p.m. in Memorial Hall. Call 962-1449 for student ticket information.
Vernon Pratt will give a gallery talk at 3 p.m. at the Ackland Art Museum.
The ArtSchool Jazz Ensemble will perform as part of the Sunday Jazz Series at the ArtSchool at 7 p.m.

MONDAY

4 Florence Peacock, soprano, and Dana Burnett, piano, will give a recital at 8 p.m. in Browne-McPherson Music Recital Hall at Peace College in Raleigh.
Rank and File will perform at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

TUESDAY

5 *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* will be shown at 5 p.m. at the N.C. Museum of Art in Raleigh. Call 833-1935 for ticket information.
Billy Price and the Keystone Rhythm Band will

perform through Wednesday at Cat's Cradle. Call 967-9053 for more information.

WEDNESDAY

6 *Summer Stock* will be shown at 7 and 9:30 p.m. in the Union auditorium.

MOVIES

Plaza I—*Micki & Maude* at 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15 moves to Plaza II at same times Friday. *Another Country* starts Friday at 3:10, 5:10, 7:10 and 9:10.
Plaza II—*That's Dancing!* at 3:10, 5:10, 7:10 and 9:10 ends today. *Micki & Maude* starts Friday at 2:30, 4:45, 7 and 9:15.
Plaza III—*The Cotton Club* at 2:10, 4:40, 7:05 and 9:35 ends today. *A Passage to India* starts Friday at 2:15, 5:25 and 8:35.
Varsity I—*Amadeus* at 2 and 7. *The 4th Man* at 4:50 and 9:50.
Varsity II—*Stranger Than Paradise* at 3, 5, 7:30 and 9:30.
Varsity Lateshows—*Stranger Than Paradise* and *The 4th Man* at 11:45 Friday and Saturday.
Carolina Blue—*Beverly Hills Cop* at 3, 5, 7:15 and 9:30.
Carolina White—*The Terminator* at 3:15, 5:15, 7 and 9.
Carolina Lateshows—*Magical Mystery Tour* and *Jimi Plays Berkeley* at 11:45 and *The Big Chill* at midnight Friday and Saturday.
Ram I—*The Flamingo Kid* at 7:05 and 9:15 moves

to Ram II Friday at same times. *Heavenly Bodies* starts Friday at 7 and 9:10; weekend matinees at 2 and 4:10.

Ram II—*The River* at 7 and 9:15 ends today. *The Flamingo Kid* starts Friday at 7:05 and 9:15; weekend matinees at 2:05 and 4:15.

Ram III—*Torchlight* at 7 and 9 ends today.

Pinochio starts Friday at 7 and 9; weekend matinees at 2 and 4.

The Ram Triple Theaters will give a free sneak preview screening of *Fast Forward* at 12:30 p.m. Saturday only.

Ram/WCHL Lateshows—*Harold and Maude* and *Pink Floyd — The Wall* at 11:45 Friday and Saturday.

Carolina (Durham)—*Stranger Than Paradise* at 3:30, 5:15, 7 and 9.

Carolina (Durham) Lateshow—*Stranger Than Paradise* at 11 Friday and Saturday.

Carolina (Durham) Saturday Matinee—*My Friend Flicka* at 1 Saturday only.

Compiled by Jeff Grove, arts editor.

The North Carolina Symphony

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Music Direction by:
Gerhardt Zimmerman**

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