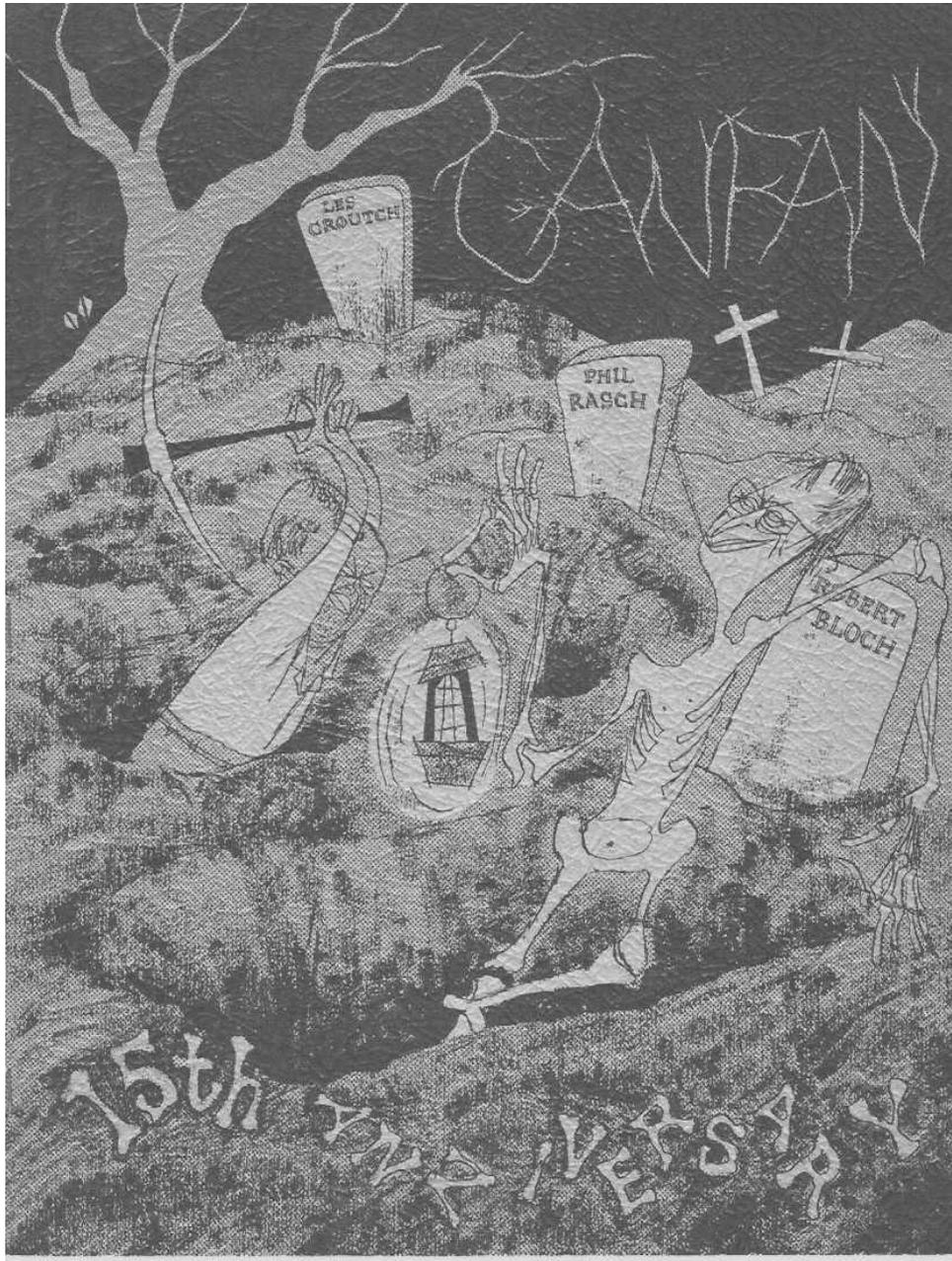


WCSFAzine

The Fannish E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association
Dedicated to Promoting the West Coast Science Fiction Community

#10

June 2008



CANADIAN FANDOM ISSUE #33a, FEBRUARY 1957, FANED: WILLIAM D. GRANT

15TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL – COVER ART BY PAT PATTERSON (LYONS)

IMPORTANT STUFF YOU CAN SAFELY IGNORE

WCSFAzine Issue # 10, June 2008, Volume 2, Number 6, Whole number 10, is the monthly E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association (founded 1993), a registered society with the general mandate of promoting Science Fiction and the specific focus of sponsoring the annual VCON Science Fiction Convention (founded 1971).

Anyone who attends VCON is automatically a member of WCSFA, as is anyone who belongs to the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization (founded 1970) which is the proud owner of the VCON trademark. Said memberships involve voting privileges at WCSFA meetings.

Current Executive of WCSFA:

President: Palle Hoffstein.
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Member-At-Large: Deej Barends.
Member-At-Large: Christina Carr.

Since WCSFAzine is *NOT* the official organ of WCSFA, the act of reading WCSFAzine does not constitute membership in WCSFA or grant voting privileges in WCSFA. Therefore you don't have to worry about WCSFA policies, debates, finances, decisions, etc. Unless you want to. Active volunteers always welcome. WCSFA Website:

< <http://www.user.dcnnet.com/clintbudd/WCSFA/> >

IMPORTANT STUFF THAT IS VERY COOL

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WCSFAzine *IS* a fannish E-zine publication sponsored by WCSFA to promote and celebrate every and all aspects of the Science Fiction Community on the West Coast of Canada.

You can download the latest issue (and past issues) from < <http://efanzines.com> > or contact the Editor at: < rgraeme@shaw.ca > and ask me to email you a PDF version of each issue as soon as it is ready.

WCSFAzine is not intended to be an information newswire service, or an industry promotional outlet, but rather an eclectic ongoing anthology of bits and pieces of nifty rumours and misinformation as viewed through a fannish lens. You can expect the focus to be on the West Coast, but with a peripheral vision including the entire world of fandom. Anticipate info on upcoming books, fannish events, local clubs and conventions, film reviews, short essays, weird cover art, spin doctor publicity announcements, peculiar speculations and astounding bits of trivia to put you in touch with your fannish heritage.

WCSFAzine is not intended to be the perzine of the editor, though I will filter everything through my alleged wry sense of ~~imbecility~~ humour.

You, and I mean YOU (!) are invited to submit short (VERY short – say 2 to 3 paragraph) articles, mini-essays, letters of comment, art fillers (small pieces of art) and/or cover art to the Editor at:

R.G. Cameron, Apt 72G – 13315 104th Ave, Surrey, B.C., V3T 1V5.

Or submissions in both electronic text and B & W line drawing in jpg form to: < rgraeme@shaw.ca >

Particularly interested in personal experience/view/opinion/review articles, preferably light in tone. Also any interesting news. No pay, but plenty of egoboo. Cheers all! The Graeme

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Note: All unaccredited articles are by the Ghod-Editor.

ART CREDITS:

Cover: Pat Patterson (Lyons)

Clip Art: 3.

Nasa Photo of Cthulhu: 42

EDITORIAL



Great Ghu! Once again I'm a little bit late with an issue, and once again I haven't found the time to include everything I wanted to. But 42 pages is a good size for a month's work, and I'm probably the first Faned, or at least the only currently living Faned, to publish an actual photograph of Cthulhu in his natural environment – hopefully none of his minions will tell him about it. That could be nasty.

I had intended to write some sort of article re the pathetic “Fan Achievement (Fanzine)” Aurora Awards result, but I still need time to digest the implications. Perhaps it really is the final nail in the coffin for Canadian fanzines... hmm.. will think on this.

Another consequence of running out of time is the lack of illustrations this issue. Hope to rectify that next issue.

And speaking of which, the next issue will carry on with the retro look at Canfandom #33a, only this time concentrating on the articles describing the 1948 Worldcon in Toronto, especially Les Crutch's ‘Torcon Memories’ which I plan to reproduce in it's entirety if I have room. Plus excerpts from Robert Bloch's speech at the Torcon, and a few facts and figures. Les took several minutes of film footage at the 1948 Torcon, which ultimately wound up with the Merrill Library in Toronto. I hope they still have it. Would love to see it some day. The kind of thing that should be put on DVD & then posted online methinks.

Also next issue I hope to have Lloyd Penney's Corflu Silver Con report, and who knows what other goodies? I reviewed the 1916 silent movie version of ‘Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea’ some years back and may possibly reprint that as a change of pace from my 50s retro film articles. Hmm, what else?...

I should have the next issue finished by July 1st. Many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanzines.com> > for hosting. Please send me feedback! < rgraeme@shaw.ca >

Cheers! Ghod-Editor The Graeme

CONVENTION STUFF

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF VCON 3: Part ONE

THE 3rd VANCOUVER SF CONVENTION - FEBRUARY 22nd - 24th, 1974:

by The Graeme

1973 - THE REAL BIRTH OF BCSFA:

This year witnessed a kind of fannish miracle, the rebirth of BCSFA, not as a front for a university club, but as a true, independent, wholly self-sufficient SF fan club.

During the first six months of 1973 ex-members of UBC SFFEN/BCSFA occasionally phoned each other to talk about reviving the club, but nothing came of these tentative contacts. Then in June the University of Western Washington Continuing Studies hosted the FIRST FANTASY AND FACT FAIR with Guests of Honour Ursula K. Le Guin -- who participated in two panels and impressed everyone with her usual gentle good nature -- and Harlan Ellison, who attended the first evening only. Vonda McIntyre was also present. Canadian speakers included Province movie critic Michal Walsh and SFU Professor Dr. Kris Paulsen. A small, intimate convention, its success was to be instrumental in inspiring the rebirth of BCSFA.

Of the 90 people registered, at least a third were Canadians from the Lower Mainland! People like Ex-BCSFAns Mike Bailey, Pat Burrows, David George, Chuck Davis, John Thomson and Daniel Say, plus SF fans like Fran Skene and CHQM radio reporter (and later CBC National News reporter) Eve Savory. To quote Mike Bailey, *"32 Vancouverites joined the Bellingham convention and we had only heard of 7 of them. This situation implied that 25 people who had never been members of SFFEN had enough interest in SF to travel to Bellingham from Vancouver. Consequently, we (Mike, David & Pat) decided that the basis existed to form a successful off-campus organization."* Mike obtained a copy of the Con's mailing list from Pauline Palmer, the chair, with an eye to contacting these people and arranging meetings to discuss resurrecting BCSFA as a permanent off-campus club.

JULY 1973:

The first meeting of the reborn BCSFA was held July 27th at Pat Burrows' house. Old-timers like Rob Leung, Rob Scott, Claire Toynbee Hogg, David George, Chuck Davis and Mike Bailey were present, plus a few new recruits. About 10 to 15 people in all. Apart from talking about the club and SF in general, the upcoming World Convention in Toronto was the major topic of discussion.

TORCON 2: THE 31st WORLDCON: AUGUST 31 - SEPTEMBER 3, 1973:

A horde of BCSFAns attended this Toronto World Convention. Mike Bailey, Brent Maclean, Pat Burrows, David George, Daniel Say, Michael G. Coney and Chuck and Edna Davis were present, along with Victoria fans like Stan G. Hyde. Torcon II was the largest SF convention ever held up to that time, with more than 2,700 attending. Robert Bloch was the GoH, William Rotsler -- fan cartoonist and porno film-maker -- was Fan GoH, and other pros present included Isaac Asimov, Frederik Pohl, John Brunner, Harry Harrison, Robert Silverberg, Poul Anderson, Larry Niven, Clifford Simak and Jerry Pournelle. The BCSFAns had a wonderful time at this massive convention and came out of the experience determined not only to launch a third convention on Vancouver, but to make a bid for Westercon 30 as well!

BCSFA MEETING - FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21ST, 1973:

This was held at Pat Burrows house. Attendance again hovered around 10-15 people. Programming consisted of a slide show of photos taken at the recent Torcon, followed by discussion of the proposed third Vancouver convention, focusing on ideas for panels and events. Since 'The Third Vancouver Science Fiction Convention' was not considered very catchy, preliminary efforts to come up with something better produced suggestions like 'Vancon III', 'Van3Con', and 'Vanclave'.

BCSFA NEWSLETTER #3 - OCTOBER 4TH, 1973

Mike Bailey announced that the next convention would take place February 22-23, 1974 (the date was selected by Pat Burrows to coincide with the UBC midterm break), and that a huge turnout of the membership was desired in order to get planning underway. Among problems to be resolved soonest were a decent name for the con and a suitable publicity poster.

More astounding, the news that -- as of September 29th, 73 -- BCSFA was bidding for Westercon 30 in 1977, and that the Hyatt Regency, a 700 room hotel, had already been booked. Considering that BCSFA at this time was a very informal organization, lacking both an executive and a constitution, this was a display of raw courage on the part of BCSFAns!

SF3 NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 1973, BY DANIEL SAY:

This issue of SFU's SF clubzine is of interest because it mentions BCSFA: *"The next meeting of the so-called B.C. SF Assoc. will take place October 20....The main item on the agenda will be the forthcoming convention. There is even talk of hosting the Westercon to Vancouver, though why we want that kind of trouble I don't know.... The B.C. SF Association is a loose grouping of former U.B.C. people who have irregular meetings in an effort to form an off-campus group and has grandiose plans. We shall see...."*

BCSFA MEETING - SATURDAY OCTOBER 20TH 1973:

The discussion over the naming of the convention continued. Among the suggestions considered were 'Vicon', 'Con-fu', 'Kingcon', WesCanclave, Canclave and V-con, the latter (suggested by Chuck Davis) being termed the tentative winner, though no one was really certain what the final decision would be. However, on the following Monday, October 22nd, Michael Walsh (a long-time BCSFAn present at the meeting) announced in his column in the Province newspaper that V-con 3, the 3rd annual Vancouver SF convention, would be held in February. As David George later said, *"(It was) Michael Walsh who first said it in print, and stuck us with it irrevocably."*

[Note: though 'V-con', 'V-Con', V-CON' & 'VCON' have been used interchangeably over the years, the convention is legally registered under the name 'VCON', and I will use that form in these articles.]

VCON 3 MEETING - NOVEMBER 11TH, 1973:

Volunteers for the convention executive met at Pat Burrows house. They included Mike Bailey, David George, Pat Burrows, Rob Leung, Ed Hutchings, Diane Keswick, and Ron Norton. Michael and Susan Walsh showed up with Bill and 'Bubbles' Broxon from Seattle. Bubbles contributed a great deal, suggesting a panel based on the famous Clarion SF workshops that would consist of workshop veterans who'd dissect submitted stories before an audience. She also promised to arm-twist some SCAN people from Seattle to come up and organize an event. (SCAN is now known as the SCA, the Society for Creative Anachronism.)

BCSFA NEWSLETTER #5 - NOVEMBER 1973:

Editor Mike Bailey officially announced the birth of VCON 3, and that Frank Herbert (Author of DUNE, WHIPPING STAR, THE GODMAKERS, etc.) would be the Guest of Honour. It would be at the Georgia Hotel February 22-24, 1974. The cost was \$3.50 advance, or \$10.00 with a banquet ticket. After Feb. 1st the membership fee went up to \$5.00. It's interesting to note that money orders were payable to BCSFA, rather than to the VCON committee as a separate financial entity -- a concept which did not seem to have evolved as yet.

BCSFA NEWSLETTER #8 - FEBRUARY 1974:

Mike Bailey starts off by devoting a page to the coming wonders of VCON 3. He comments *"So that working people (those involved in setup) won't miss any scheduled events (on Friday) we won't program anything till after supper. However, Frank Herbert will make his presence known by circulating and meeting people in the hospitality suite....Our main programming concept for Friday is that people should get to know one another."* He also describes the Clarion style Writer's workshop in which stories submitted by anonymous volunteers will be dissected: *"If someone runs screaming and sobbing from the room, he/she is one of the secret volunteer authors."*

TO SUM UP: Like reptiles and other 'primitive' lifeforms, the newly hatched (or 'reborn') BCSFA was able to fend for itself immediately, not only in terms of feeding itself (attracting new members), but by indulging in truly adult displays of territorial aggression (taking on both V-Con and Westercon). A formidable animal indeed!

TO BE CONTINUED:

A TYPICAL C.U.F.F (Canadian Unity Fan Fund) TRIP REPORT – PART THREE

By The Graeme

**Being selected excerpts from my account, as 1997 CUFF Winner,
(originally published in issue #10 of my Perzine SPACE CADET)
of my C.U.F.F. trip to Primedia/Convention in Toronto.**

(Last issue covered early portion of Saturday, November 1st)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1ST, 1997

At long last, it's time for the Aurora Awards Banquet and Presentation. As I get off the elevator Henry the 8th and one of his wives step on (costumers I assume). The door keeps closing on Henry (a very large man) as he appears to be hanging on to his 'wife's' back attempting to adjust her bodice, or possibly trying to rip it off. If the latter, that would be roleplaying old Henry to perfection.

A crowd mills about in the hall outside while last minute work is completed in setting up the banquet. I chat with Brian Davis for awhile, and then Lloyd & Yvonne Penney show up and graciously invite the both of us to share their table. Then the doors are flung open and there stands Cindy Huckle, wearing an elegant white dress and blouse, greeting each participant as they enter.

"Ah Cindy, " I blurt out going in, "about my Space Babes lecture..."

"Not now, not now! Now is not the time!"

Suitably chastened, I hasten to join the others at our table. It features a very stfnal centrepiece consisting of a Styrofoam FORBIDDEN PLANET-style flying saucer wrapped in videotape and accompanied by a plastic Superman and a #3 Thunderbirds spacecraft. Cool!

Going around the table from my left, "our table" consists of myself, Brian Davis, Lloyd Penney, Yvonne Penney, actor Bruce Gray (the ruthless investment banker from TRADERS TV show), Jodi Hancock, her husband Larry Hancock (representing the Friends of the Merrill Collection & co-chair of the Toronto in 2003 bid), Mrs. van Belkom, her husband -- a prolific writer -- Edo van Belkom (his most recent book NORTHERN DREAMERS, a series of interviews with Canadian SF&F writers), and David Stockman, whose name is familiar yet I can't seem to place him. I never do find out if he's a Fan or a Pro, or both.

Both Larry Hancock and Bruce Gray are very funny and entertaining. They put the entire table in a merry mood very quickly.

At one point Hancock becomes serious for a moment and wonders aloud, "How does one go about ordering wine?" The very second he finishes his question a waiter reaches over his shoulder and plonks down a bottle of white wine in front of him. Hancock stares down at the bottle, his eyes widening, and gasps, "Wow! That's fast service.... I wanted red though..."

During the course of making polite conversation van Belkom asks me if I'm up for an award. "No, not this year, but I've been nominated six times in the past."

"Six times? SIX TIMES?" van Belkom strikes the table with his fist. "I've published over a hundred short stories and several novels. What the hell do you have to do to get nominated SIX times?"

The others stare at me in awe. I shrink into my chair. "Well, it was just for putting out a clubzine..." I explain in a mumble. "BCSFazine. Print run of a hundred. Nominated six years in a row while I was editor...." My voice trails off.

"Six times..." mutters van Belkom.

I could have added that I'd never won, but thought better of it.

When the buffet is wheeled in it is set up next to our table. Cries of protest resound throughout the hall as we are first to get up and load up our plates. The food is nothing great, but perfectly adequate. One of the dishes contains shrimp. Someone mentions they are allergic to shrimp, and nobody can figure out by appearance alone which dish to avoid. "That one!" I declare loudly, laughing inwardly that everyone has missed the obvious. Turns out I am pointing at the chicken dish. Oh well.

Our meal finishes and the horde of fans waiting outside is allowed to enter and fill the rows of seats for the awards ceremony. We of the banquet tables are seated between the stage and the row seating so we have the best seating of all. Even better, my table is on the left-hand side of the hall, so it is easy for me to leap up and scuttle close to the podium to snap pictures without blocking anyone's view. (Though I suppose the cameraman for the SPACE channel didn't appreciate my flash going off periodically. I like to think it added a journalistic touch to their coverage...)

The principal presenters are Marcel Gagne and Robert Sawyer. As best as I can recollect the sequence of presentation is as follows:

Cindy Huckle (Primedia Chair) and, I think, Ruth Stuart (of the awards subcommittee) unveil the awards, which consist of a black-painted wood base supporting stylized plastic waves representing the ever-shifting shimmering veil of the Aurora Borealis often seen in our Northern skies. When seen from above these 'waves' form the outline of a Maple Leaf (the award I'm talking about, not the actual Aurora Borealis...though it would be truly nifty if it did, come to think of it...). Normally

the awards are crafted by Franklin Johnson of Edmonton, who has been doing them since 1982, but sufficient advance notice did not reach him in time this year, so the awards were fashioned at the last minute by Ed Charpentier, Primedia's AV chief. Also, the awards usually have colour embedded in the plastic to more accurately resemble the true Aurora, but due to the lack of preparation time this year's awards are made of clear plastic. They glisten nicely all the same though.

1) Jean-Pierre Normand wins for ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT for assorted book and magazine covers. He won in the same category last year as well. With a beard as black and curly as his hair he rather resembles Zeus.

2) Jean-Louis Trudel wins for BEST SHORT-FORM WORK IN FRENCH for his short story "Lamente-toi, Sagesse!" which appeared in "Geneses." This is his third Aurora award. He previously won FAN ACHIEVEMENT (OTHER) for promoting SF, in 1994, and FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL) in 1996 for SFSF Boreal.

3) Robert J. Sawyer (beating out poor Edo van Belkom among others) wins BEST SHORT-FORM IN ENGLISH for his short story "Peking Man" which appeared in "Dark Destiny III: Children Of Dracula." This is his third Aurora award. He previously won one for his novel "The Golden Fleece" in 1992, and another for his short story "Just Like Old Times" in 1994.

4) "On Spec" magazine (first issue was in Spring of 1989) wins for BEST OTHER WORK IN ENGLISH. Robert Sawyer accepts on their behalf. This is their fourth Aurora award. Their first three victories came in 1990, 1991, and 1995.

5) "Solaris" (a venerable Quebec SF magazine, its first issue -- under the title "Requiem" -- came out in 1974) wins BEST OTHER WORK IN FRENCH. They also won, under various editors, in 1990, 1991, 1992, (possibly in 1993 -- I don't know who won in this category that year), 1995, and 1996. Jean-Louis Trudel accepts for them.

6) And now Larry Hancock takes the stage to present the FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL) Aurora. The contestants are: Warren Huska (Toronto Trek 10), Lynda Pelly (MonSFFA), Capucine Plourde (Klingon Imperial Diplomatic Corp), Rebecca Senese (Space-Time Continuum), and Yvonne Penney (SF Saturday).

As Larry Hancock tears open the envelope Yvonne bows her head, clenching both fists tightly beneath her throat, her eyes shut, eyelids quivering. Larry calls out her name. Yvonne's eyes fly open in shock. "Oh shit!" she gasps. Lloyd hugs her delightedly as the room bursts into applause. She gets up and goes to the podium, or rather, stands beside it holding the microphone, since the podium is so tall it would hide her from view if she stood behind it. She looks very happy indeed as she makes a brief but gracious speech of acceptance. But alas, as she returns to the table her expression of happiness fades to worry and tension. After all, her husband is also up for an award, and what if he doesn't win? Mind you, Lloyd previously won in 1994 for FAN ACHIEVEMENT (ORGANIZATIONAL) re Ad Astra, so at least they are now even. Still, it would be nice to go home with his and hers awards...

To make matters worse, as far as prolonging the suspense goes, there is a break in the proceedings to allow Allan Weiss of the Friends of the Merrill Collection to give a fine, heart-felt tribute in memory of Judith Merrill who had passed away a month earlier (Sept 12, 1997). Weiss finishes by throwing out a sort of clenched-fist salute and pleading with everyone to commemorate Judith by pledging themselves to a lifetime of radical political reform and struggle. What? This said to a bunch of SF Fans? The most conservative, backward-looking, escapist-minded, to-hell-with-reality, we-just-want-to-have-fun group of social misfits on the face of the planet? Fat chance. Nice try though.

7) Finally, time for the rest of the awards, starting with FAN ACHIEVEMENT (OTHER). The nominees are: Judith Hayman (filksinging), Lloyd Penny (fan-writing), MonSFFA ("Plant Nine From Outer Space" video), Capucine Plourde (KIDC website design), Norbert Spohner ("Dracula Opus 300", Ashem Fictions, Bibliography), and Larry Stewart (entertainer).

Lloyd and Yvonne hold hands as the envelope is opened. Lloyd wins his second Aurora! Lloyd and Yvonne hug excitedly and he bounds up to the podium (though Yvonne had let go by this point, I should add). He seems in a bit of a daze. Pausing for a moment, he stares down at the award in his hand, then thanks everyone for giving him "the stealth Aurora" (a reference to its clear plastic), which gets a laugh. In the course of further comments he puzzles a few people by stating that he receives about 150 Fanzines a year, as if to imply that's why he is getting the award. In fact, he is being rewarded for his fan-writing TO those zines, more specifically for his letterhacking, he being the Canadian equivalent of Harry Warner Jr. So what's the big deal? Well, Lloyd's entertaining blend of Fannish news and commentary helps bind the Canadian Fannish community together, and helps remind fans elsewhere there IS a Canadian Fannish community. He is a large part of the pulsing lifeblood of Cdn. Fandom, and without such as he, this precarious phenomena would weaken and wither into isolated, random spurts of activity (rather like my bouts of Atrial Fib -- which you must admit is stretching the pulse analogy to an absurd degree. Rather proud of this, actually). Anyway, as the 1997 winner of the Canadian UNITY Fan Fund, I heartily applaud Lloyd's victory.

8) Next comes the FAN ACHIEVEMENT (FANZINE) award. The nominees are: "The Diplomatic Pouch" (Capucine Plourde for KIDC), "From Beyond The Oort Cloud" (Aaron Yorgason), "NorthWords" (James M. Botte, Bertrand Desbiens & Mark Lefebvre -- Society For Canadian Content), "OSFS Statement" (Lionel Wagner of the Ottawa SF Society), "Sol Rising" (Theresa Wojtasiewicz -- Friends of the Merril Collection), "Warp" (Keith Braithwaite - Montreal SF&F Association), and "Under The Ozone Hole" (Karl Johanson & John Herbert).

UTOH won four times previously. The fact this means I lost four times to them has nothing to do with my keen interest in the award this time, of course. I am merely curious in a dispassionate and entirely objective manner as to whether they will finally be crushed like a... er, I mean, whether their winning streak is about to be broken by a worthy competitor. And in fact, tis so, Editor Theresa Wojtasiewicz wins on behalf of "Sol Rising", the newsletter of the Friends of the Merril Collection. The newsletter won once before, in 1992, when Larry Hancock was editor.

9) Yves Mynard wins BEST LONG-FORM WORK IN FRENCH for his novel "La Rose du Desert". This is his fifth Aurora, having previously won in 1992, 1994, 1995 and 1996, all in the BEST SHORT-FORM WORK IN FRENCH category. Jean-Louis Trudel accepts on his behalf.

At this point I'll mention that various teams of presenters work different awards, but that each and every award is presented in both French and English. Bruce Gray, who grew up in Canada, is very much moved to see this, and says as much while helping Marcel Gagne and Richard Biggs present the last award.

As Biggs starts to tear open the envelope, the "Space The Imagination Channel" camera man creeps in very close, the end of his lens moving to within inches of Bigg's groin. With a nervous smile Biggs asks, "What are you doing?" The audience laughs. From my perspective I can see the camera guy is just trying to shoot a closeup of Bigg's hands opening the envelope, but it does rather look as if he is zooming in on Bigg's assets.

10) The envelope is opened, the name read out, and Robert J. Sawyer wins BEST LONG-FORM WORK IN ENGLISH for his novel "Starplex" published by Ace. This is his fourth Aurora, and his second this evening. He's a very happy man.

Primedia Chair says a few words of thanks, then the winners pose with their awards for photo-taking. I get assorted shots, such as Bruce Gray hovering between Lloyd and Yvonne flashing victory signs with both his hands, Sawyer alone proudly holding both awards, and a picture of Dennis Mullin of the Aurora Awards subcommittee looking very relieved things have gone so well. (Some or all of these pictures will be printed next ish, depending on whether I can locate them in the archives. I know they're sitting around somewhere...)

I then go up to Jean-Pierre Normand to congratulate him on his victory. As we shake hands I ask him how I can get a hold of that beautiful Titanic/Godzilla print of his. He tells me to come on up to the Boreal Con*cept party he and Anne Methe will be throwing in their room once they get up there. Great!

TO BE CONTINUED

A WORLDCON IN RENO? YOU BET!

By Geri Sullivan

The intergalactic travel agents of Reno Convention Fandom, Inc. are delighted to announce a bid to host the 69th World Science Fiction Convention in 2011 (August 17-21) in the "Biggest Little City in theWorld," Reno, Nevada.

A 2011 Worldcon in Reno would use a combination of the Reno Convention Center, the Atlantis Resort, and the Peppermill Hotel -- one convention center, one directly connected hotel, and a second hotel a short walk (or even shorter shuttle ride) away.

Reno is situated just east of the Sierra Nevada mountains, on the edge of the Great Basin at an elevation of about 1300 meters above sea level. Its temperate climate and low humidity make Reno a delightful location for a summer Worldcon, with average high temperatures in the 80s Fahrenheit and lows in the 50s.

Just who is Reno Convention Fandom, Inc., you ask? We are a group of fans with a desire to host fandom's annual family reunion: a desire that requires just the right facilities. RCFI, an Oregon-based non-profit corporation, considered several cities before hitting the jackpot with Reno. Our group includes experienced convention runners from nine states and two countries.

Our goal is to work with our fannish friends and colleagues around the U.S. and the world to build a 2011 Worldcon that would be inclusive, exciting, fun, and with a healthy dose of "gosh!wow!"

The Reno in 2011 bid opens this weekend from Atlantic to Pacific: at Balticon in Maryland, at Marcon in Ohio, at Wiscon in Wisconsin, at ConQuesT in Missouri, and at Baycon in California. Come chat with us -- see what we and Reno have to offer.

You will find us online at <http://www.rcfi.org>, or you can write us at info@rcfi.org. We'd be pleased to add you to our

list of pre-supporters and friends. Online options are available to join our happy band.

Oh, and don't worry about getting to Reno. Come by planes, trains, and automobiles -- the Donner Pass is safe, now.

ARTIST GoH FOR 2009 WORLDCON ANNOUNCED!

By Rene Walling

Anticipation, The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, is pleased to announce that Ralph Bakshi has accepted an invitation to be our Artist Guest of Honour.

Mr. Bakshi's career spans five decades, during which he has created memorable and groundbreaking films including Wizards, Fire and Ice and the first film adaptation of The Lord of the Rings. In addition, he has worked on and directed a variety of television shows including Rocket Robin Hood, Spiderman, The Mighty Heroes and The New Adventures of Mighty Mouse.

Our newest Guest of Honor joins those we announced in September 2007: Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Tom Doherty, David Hartwell and Taral Wayne. Author Julie Czerneda will be Master of Ceremonies.

The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, known as Anticipation, will take place in Montréal, Québec, Canada from Thursday, August 6th through Monday, August 10th, 2009. More information about Anticipation, including current membership rates, is available on our web site (<http://www.anticipationsf.ca>); you can also write to us for more information at:

Anticipation The 67th World Science Fiction Convention P.O. Box 105, Station NDG Montréal, QC H4A 3P4
<http://www.anticipationsf.ca> or email: media@anticipationsf.ca

"WSFS", "Worldcon", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Hugo Award" and "NASFiC" are registered service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society.

PREREG NOW FOR VCON 33 in 2008!

VCON 33 -- (Oct 3-5, 2008) Vancouver, BC. Canada's oldest ongoing Sci-Fi convention (VCON 1 was held in 1971). Author GoH: Patrick Rothfuss (author of 'Name of the Wind'), Artist GoH: Lisa Snellings-Clark. There will be a breakfast in Jake's on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and a bartender and cash bar at the dance.

RATES: Current pre-registration membership: \$50 until Sept 15, \$60 at the door (Oct 3 - 5 are the dates)
Day rates: Friday: \$30, Saturday: \$35, Sunday: \$25

Student rates are discounted by 25% (the at the door rate for students is \$45)
Children 7 - 12 are half the adult rate (at the door rate is \$30)
Children 6 and under get in free.

Students and 7 - 12s who look older must present ID to get their memberships. Everyone must present photo ID when signing in to registration on the weekend.

The member registration form is downloadable from VCON's website at < <http://www.vcon.ca/registration.htm> >
Make out cheques to 'VCON' and mail to VCON, c/o Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V5N 5W1.

HOTEL: The VCON 33 hotel is the Compass Point Inn, *but* it is currently still called the Days Inn Surrey (this the same hotel where several VCONs have been held, namely: VCON 22 – 1997, VCON 23 – 1998, VCON 24 – 1999, VCON 25 – 2000, & VCON 28 – 2003. Always a cozy, intimate hotel, very popular with fans). The name change is happening in June. The same staff are staying on through the name change (other than normal turnover). Our contract will remain in place through the name change.

When the convention comes around, it will indeed be "formerly the Days Inn Surrey", but not just yet.

Address: 9850 King George Highway, Surrey, BC, Canada V3T 4Y3

Location description: Intersection of King George Highway (99A) and Fraser Highway (1A). Next to King George Skytrain Station (Expo Line eastmost terminal station).

Website: < <http://www.compasspointinn.com/> >

This website still says "Days Inn Surrey" (and will until the name change in June).

GUEST ROOM RATES:

\$99/night, single room (1-2 people)

\$109/night, double room (3-4 people)

(Unfortunately, no suites or kitchenettes are available.)

Phone or fax the hotel to get the VCON rate ("VCON, October 2-5, 2008"). A credit card or deposit is needed for a reservation. Floors 3, 4, and 5 are "quiet floors", and floors 2 and 6 are "party floors", to the best of the hotel's ability and availability. There are 81 rooms total (note that VCON's already taken some for GoHs and Operations).

Telephone: 604-588-9511

Toll Free: 1-800-663-0660

Fax: 604-588-7949

GETTING THERE:

Public transit: From any Skytrain station, board or make connection to Expo Line to King George station (eastbound). Exit at King George station (eastmost terminal station), walk through a parking lot or 1 block along sidewalk of King George Highway.

Northbound (coming from south; US): From Peace Arch Border, take Exit 10, turn right on King George Highway (99A).

Eastbound (coming from west; Vancouver and nearby cities): From Highway 1, take Exit 48, turn right at 104 Avenue, turn left at King George Highway (99A).

Westbound (coming from east; Fraser Valley and eastwards): From Highway 1, take Exit 50, follow 104 Avenue west, turn left at King George Highway (99A).

From Airport: From Highway 99 South, take Highway 91 East, exit on Nordel Way, turn left at King George Highway (99A)

PARKING: (At current time) Parking at the hotel is free of charge. Next-door pay parking (Impark) is \$4 all day.

If you'd like to help write: < vconchair@gmail.com > For updated info: < www.vcon.ca >

FANATICAL FANAC FABLES

RETRO CANADIAN FANZINES: CANADIAN FANDOM #33a, FEBRUARY 1957

Faned: William D. Grant

(#33 - Feb) - "15th Anniversary" issue. The cover, black on dark blue, depicts a skeletal Robert Bloch standing in his own open grave at night, leaning against his tombstone and happily swinging a lantern back & forth, while watching CANFAN faned William D. Grant digging apart Phil Rasch's grave with a pickaxe, another tombstone in the background reading: 'Les Crutch'. The artwork is by Pat (Patterson) Lyons and is spooky and grotesque indeed. Grant wrote in reference to his 'portrait' "The picture is a very true likeness, in fact is a masterpiece of understatement." It was inspired by US fan Redd Boggs, who had written that Grant "was a pretty poor editor, the scavenger type that digs up old material and squeezes out a few more drops of blood." And that was certainly, and wonderfully, the case in this issue, which came in two versions:

Version 1 was CANFAN #33, distributed to the membership and trades as usual. It contained none of the usual columns or locs, but just the following:

- An article '**On The Edge of Unknown Power**' by Bill Conner detailing theories about atomic power, anti-gravity force fields & matter transmission:

By way of intro, W.D. Grant writes: "Bill Conner, presently situated in the armed forces, has been a regular correspondent-contributor to Canadian Fandom. The following article is the product of many hours of thought-provoking conversation with many of his close friends."

Sample excerpts:

I doubt if very many science fiction fans can really appreciate just how close to the frontier of Super Science we are today... Energy, as visualized by mathematical abstraction, is an entity that does "not" exist in a material sense of the word. Light is radiant energy that can travel through the medium of space, according to this concept. And, as a contradiction, space is said to be almost entirely sheer, empty, nothing/vacuum! How can nothing travel through nothing? It can't!... The first hypothesis I will offer and try to explain is this: that energy is but a characteristic of mass. Energy is not a separate entity.... A wave of radiant energy is an infinitely small bit of particle, gas or basic substance that is shot from an atomic particle after the right atomic stimulation...

.... In conclusion, I believe there are TWO prime factors in the cosmos – existence and non-existence, or Matter and Vacuum. That there is only one actual dimension – existence/being. Vacuum is the opposite of Matter, and "occupies" all area that is unoccupied by matter. A true primal vacuum is an area of Non-existence! And it would now seem that there is a comparative little bit of non-existence in the Universe when one considers that all starlight is actually infinitesimal bits of matter at almost infinite expansion from the state of static matter. Maybe empty space only seems empty to us – if we could shrink to the sub-atomic level it might seem otherwise!

- '**That Old Movie Bug**' part 3 by William D. Grant, this time about Charlie Chaplin films:

I do think that Chaplin's recent leanings towards the Russian ways and his pride are partially responsible for his decline in popularity...For example, Eastman-Kodak had a gala celebration for the greats of the motion picture pioneers about a year ago. All the great names, still living, received awards, but during the evening the name "Chaplin" was not once referred to. A Toronto newspaper man attended this affair and particularly noticed this omission and you can bet quite a goodly portion of the crowd also noticed. Frankly I've always looked at the artist, what he does in his spare time is none of my business, but thanks to sensation hunters, sob-sisters and others we are informed of every little indiscretion that some of the greats of the movie industry pull off. Notwithstanding that your next door neighbour might be able to put them all to shame.

- And four short stories reprinted from early issues of 'CANADIAN FANDOM':

- '**Voyage of the Astrals**' by Francis T. Laney, originally published in CANFAN #4, Sept 1943. A spoof of sorts, originally intended to be printed in Les Croutch's LIGHT "in answer to a certain columnist who stated that physical interplanetary travel is an impossibility". Here the main character Plunko meets Les Grouch, "the obese doorman":

"Where to, me little brown-skin?"

"Mars", the little critter [Plunko] wept unrestrainedly. "And by ROCKET SHIP!"

"Why don't you go talk to Pluto? He claims that rocket travel is impossible, even though there are six ships a week taking off for Alpha Centauri alone."

"I don't think it's possible either, but what am I to do?"

"Didn't you read Pluto's article in LIGHT?" demanded the former terror of Parry Sound, flexing his sphincter muscle angrily. "What the hell good does it do me to compete with ACOLYTE if you won't even read the sheet?"

"I keep the sheets of it in the sheet-house," murmured Plunko, cringing before the bellowing giant.

"Well, anyway, Pluto says you can do your interplanetary travel in the astral body – you'd better go see him, and next time, READ LIGHT!"

..... Fluttering merrily through the atmosphere of Edgar Rice Burrough's contribution to astronomy, the two astral bodies lit by a smooth-flowing canal.

"Say, I bet we're pretty hot-looking astrals," said Plunko, "Let's look at our reflection in the canal."

They looked into the placid waters and screamed and screamed and screamed.

The reflections were those of a couple of horses astrals!

- **'Correspondence Piece'** by Bob Tucker, originally published in CANFAN #6, February 1944. Another spoof, involving a series of letters written by H. P. Ponghoff to Mr. Henry Pinham, editor of THRILLING TALES, concerning his submission of an 8,000 word thriller entitled 'Footprints Across The Sun':

It pleases me to report to you that the scientific facts as stated in the story check to the nth degree with the best of authorities, among them Mr. Joseph Gulbort our local garbageman who, you may be interested to know, is a person of no small importance in the field of amateur astronomy. Mr. Gulbort has read the story and pronounces it OK.

The gist of the increasingly shrill and threatening letters as the months go by is why hasn't Pinham responded and what do they mean they can't find the manuscript? The last letter reads in part:

May I offer my apologies for my hasty words...Allow me to inform you that the manuscript in question... is herewith enclosed...Because of carelessness on my part, the story became lost on my premises when it dropped between my desk and the wall... my housekeeper found it this morning...I expect a quick response...

- **'The After-Life'** by Oliver E. Saari, originally published in CANFAN #6, February 1944. Something of a horror story, about a highly intelligent man musing before a fire on the logical deductions necessary to prove life after death:

"So close", he said absently, thinking, "that I think I shall know tonight. It is not a problem of physical quantities, but a problem of the mind alone... It is a problem in pure logic, and like any other problem the solution is to be reached step by step. But the solution is inevitable..."

I knew Denton Morrall well enough to be thrilled at that. He never failed. His was the keenest, most clear-thinking brain I knew – a brain supplemented by the sheer physical health of a body that was yet young. A brain that stopped at nothing.

And if he said he was about to unveil the age old mystery of what comes after death –

..... I got up and fetched myself a drink of water.

When I came back, the fire was out. Only the glow remained, and a faint trickle of smoke going up the chimney. Denton was still sitting in front of the fireplace.

"Well -- ?" I began.

He didn't answer me. Then I saw the outstretched hand. The cigarette had fallen to the floor, the ash broken.

I picked it up, my throat dry. Carefully I put it in the tray.

Then I took Denton's hand and moved it aside, and peered at his silent, thoughtful face.

He had succeeded. He was dead.

- And **'The Mirror'** by Nils Helmer Frome (Canada's first known Fanzine Editor), originally published in CANFAN #10, May 1946:

As the car gasped its last and finally expired John Sloan cursed the fate which had stranded him there on that lonely road, with night coming on, and an uncertain storm muttering to itself in the distance.

... He had gone only a few yards when he noticed the house... Brushing aside the megrim, and conscious of the passage of time, he tried the gates and found them unlocked...

... At last he came to a room that pleased him more than any of the others he had seen... his eyes fell upon the mirror over the fireplace... A strangely familiar old man was reflected, of rather harsh, predatory features, sitting there before the fire, oblivious to him... his attention was attracted to a point behind the old man in the mirror. From where he stood, the door to the room was visible....Inch by inch the gap widened, until there appeared in the space a leveled revolver and behind it a face, whose burning, maniacal eyes were fixed upon the old man...

... It was over in an instant, while he stood, frozen. One moment the figure was there, and in the next, it was gone, and the old man was dead.

But in that last moment, the old one's eyes chanced to focus on the mirror, and there met his own... but as their eyes met, and he became conscious of Sloan's presence for the first time, an expression of ultimate horror and hideous enlightenment seemed to cross his face...

... All this time Sloan's eyes had never left the mirror, but now, his paralysis broken, he turned from it – and stiffened in incredulous surprise. Not only had the murderer disappeared, but the corpse had likewise vanished into thin air.

For an age he stood there, transfixed, nameless things leering and gibbering at him from the shadows of his mind....

... Years passed... Sitting before the fire in the fireplace of the house he had stolen... he was not aware of the door behind him stealthily being opened, of demonical eyes staring at him, until he felt himself jolt in the chair as a bullet plowed threw it into his back.

As his glazing eyes, drawn by some strange impulse, flew to the curious mirror over the mantelpiece, he saw for the first time the figure that stood there – the figure that was himself.

For an instant swift, horrible realization dawned and he knew the dread secret of the mirror that had haunted him all these years.

The curious mirror cast back the reflection of the figure of an old man, his ruthless countenance painted by the fire, now slack in death. He was sitting crumpled there in the midst of the house he had stolen.....Alone.

Version 2 was CANFAN #33a, available by request, containing all of the material from V#1, plus much more, including:

- '**A Short History of Fanzine Publishing In Canada**' by Editor William Grant, which reads as follows:

Early fanzine publishing in Canada is an awfully obscure subject, but via Sam Moskowitz's 'IMMORTAL STORM' (1) we find that a Vancouver fan published the first fanzine in Canada, THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN. (2) Then early in 1938 Nils H. Frome produced SUPRAMUNDANE (3), this also came from the same area. Nils carried on quite a correspondence with American fans. Sam rated it as a pretty fair job for its day and you can bet that this is a very rare item in fanzine files.

Next on the scene was Les Croutch of Parry Sound and from this point on we get a clearer picture of early publishing. Not so long ago Les wrote a four-part article (reprinted in CANFAN # 31) covering the early days. The title was a good one, "MIMEO INK IN MY VEINS".

From this article we received a picture of the pre-LIGHT days and we have established that the CROUTCH MAGAZINE MART NEWS (4) started sometime in 1938.

On September 1941 the name of LIGHT replaced CMMN, but the issue number continued, this one being #108. Such names as Ackerman, Mason, Fearn, Peck, Douherty, Rosenblum, Godfrey and Croutch graced this first issue of light.

By this time another group got the bug at St. Andrew's College, in Aurora, Ontario, CENSORED (5) was edited by Fred Hurter Jr., and Les Croutch, Damon Knight and Barbara Bovard held down the contents pages. It was in 1941 that Beak Taylor had his initial contact with fandom. Yours truly sent in reams of material to Hurter via an old school chum who was going to St. Andrews at the time. When these gentlemen graduated they all migrated to Montreal, except for Beak. Another issue of CENSORED appeared in 1948 and we know that this group still existed up until late 1954, holding their meetings at the McGill stamping grounds.

While Beak was still at St. Andrews EIGHT-BALL (6) was born and not long after the name was changed to CANADIAN FANDOM.

In 1948 two new fans (7) emerged on the scene and produced MACABRE (8) which went for two issues. The Derelicts actually printed it along with many other items which pertained to the Torcon, which was held in 1948.

Ned McKeown took over the editorship of CANFAN and Beak went into slow retirement. A Hamilton group also plugged an idea for a Canadian Fantasy Fan Federation (9), which fell through. Then I seem to remember some activity in Winnipeg (10) in 1949, as far as I know a regular fanzine never came out of that area in this period.

Another Fanzine appeared from the West called VANATIONS (11) in 1952, showing remarkable promise, but after a few issues it vanished.

By 1954 fan publishing was on the march again, the same group that was behind CANFAN, all decided to do separate jobs. Thus the split started. A BAS (12) by Boyd Raeburn has in a very short time become better known than the fifteen year old CANFAN. Gerry Steward after dumping CANFAN has gone on to produce an excellent item called GASP (13). Howard and Pat Lyons have combined their talents and an unusual item called IBIDM (14) has been going out through the mail. In addition this group has been behind various one-shot jobs, their high quality has been pronounced by: INSIDE, OOPSLA, GRUE, OBLIQUE (15) to name only a few in the amateur publication class.

While this upsurge was taking place in the Toronto area Harry Calneck produced FIE (16) and an item called CANADIAN CAPERS (17), for the first time representation from the East Coast. While in Alberta our first female editor (18) produced the now defunct MIMI (19), but continued on with WENDIGO (20), plus some one-shot items like GRUNT (21).

The saddest thing that has happened to fandom was the almost completely printed ESCAPE (22), professionally printed by Fred Woroch, four and five colours on individual pages. Fred disappeared and ESCAPE went with him. The only thing left is the letterhead I use for all my letters to friends in fandom. A grim reminder.

So there it is, a very incomplete history of Canadian Fen publishing as I have seen it. In time we'll probably hear of other efforts, but the above mentioned actually got into the mails and around the country.

- William D. Grant, February 1957.

Notes by The Graeme:

01) – IMMORTAL STORM by Sam Moskowitz, a detailed history of sf&f fandom in the 1930s, first serialized in The Fantasy Commentator 1945 to 1952, first printed complete in 1954.

02) – THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN, editor unknown. Only one issue published out of Vancouver B.C. sometime in early 1936. In June of 1936 American fan Donald Wollheim reviewed it: "...produced by a chap in Vancouver B.C., where we least expected a fan to live! A fair little magazine..." Moskowitz added: "This constitutes the first and last mention of what appears to have been the first Canadian fan magazine..."

03) – SUPRAMUNDANE, actually SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES, published out of Fraser Mills B.C. by Nils Helmer Frome. Two issues Oct 1936 & Feb 1938. Mostly fiction, including 'Nyarlahotep' by H.P. Lovecraft!

04) – CROUTCH MAGAZINE MART NEWS began circa 1937/1938 as a list of items Les Crutch was willing to trade. Gradually added filler articles and stories until it turned into a full blown fanzine. Changed title to CROUTCH NEWS with #93 Jan 1941, to ELECTRON from #100 to #103, then back to CROUTCH NEWS #104 to #107, then permanently switched to LIGHT #108 September 1941 (except for 4 issues in 1945/46 titled THE VOICE). Last issue of LIGHT circa 1963.

05) – CENSORED by editor Fred Hurter Jr. Six issues published from 1941 to 1951. First 4 issues out of St. Andrews College for Boys, last 2 out of Montreal sponsored by the Montreal SF Society.

06) – EIGHT-BALL/CANADIAN FANDOM. Started out as a student production at St. Andrews, Aurora, Ontario, became a CAFP (Canadian Amateur Fan Publishers) publication, and later functioned as the clubzine for the Toronto Science Fiction Society, otherwise known as The Derelicts. 37 issues in all from 1943 to 1958. (Note: only the first three issues were titled "EIGHT-BALL".) Very well mimeographed and illustrated, with a maximum print run of 200. Affectionately known by its readers by the shortened name CAN FAN.

07) – Jack Doherty & Don Hutchison.

08) – MACABRE, 2 issues March 1948 & Jun 1948. Noted for its dark sense of humour.

09) – Canadian Fantasy Fan Federation out of Hamilton? The Lakehead SF Society of Hamilton was one of the three founding groups of the Canadian Science Fiction Association in 1948, and also helped establish the National Fantasy Fan Federation (a correspondence outfit) at Torcon that same year. Could Grant have conflated the two organizations in his memory? Or perhaps he was thinking of the Canadian Science Fiction/Fantasy Fan Association Harry Calneck of Nova Scotia tried to start up in 1953?

10) – Winnipeg in 1949? Well, the Winnipeg SF Society was founded in 1950 and promptly affiliated with the Canadian SF association. By 1951 it fielded the CSFA executive with Chester Cuthbert as President, and over the next couple of years published a newsletter, a Canadian Fandom Directory, and Alastair Cameron's 52 page Fantasy Classification System, before fading away circa 1954. This may be what Grant was trying to remember.

11) – VANATIONS was edited by Norman G. Browne, who founded the Vancouver SF Society in 1951. Its clubzine was titled THE 'HIBITED MEN, whereas VANATIONS was Browne's perzine. The Vancouver club helped put the first issue together, but he moved to Edmonton and all 6 issues were mailed from there between June 1952 & July 1953. The BCSFA/WCSFA archive has a complete set donated by Chester Cuthbert, perhaps the only complete set in existence.

12) – A BAS by Boyd Raeburn was renowned for its satirical wit and humour, with contributors like Robert Bloch, Robert Shaw and Harry Warner Jr. Also noted for its wonderful covers by Pat Patterson (Lyons). 11 issues published out of Toronto from January 1954 to February 1959.

13) – GASP by Gerald 'Gerry' A. Steward, one of the editors of CANADIAN FANDOM, was actually an Apazine out of Toronto for SAPS. Frequent covers by Pat Patterson (Lyons). A member of the CAFP. At least 16 issues from August 1954 till some time in the late 1950s.

14) – IBIDM by Howard and Pat (Patterson) Lyons. An Apazine for Bi-Apa and also a CAFP publication. At least five issues from November 1954 to August 1957. No doubt profusely illustrated by Pat.

15) – INSIDE by Ron Smith, OOPSLA by Gregg Calkins, & GRUE by Dean Grennell were well known American fanzines of the 1950s. OBLIQUE on the other hand I can find no reference for, but Grant may have been thinking of Irish Fan Walt Willis' SLANT which was published out of Walt's fan-renowned 'Oblique House' in Belfast. Anyway, the odd point is that Grant seems to have thought it more important to name the prestigious foreign zines which gave good reviews of the various Canadian one-shots in question rather than name the one-shots themselves! Very odd.

16) – FIE by Harry Calneck out of Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia. At least 5 issues from December 1954 to March 1955. A genzine with much art contributed by Georgina Ellis of Calgary. A CAFP publication.

17) – CANADIAN CAPERS by Harry Calneck out of Granville Ferry, Nova Scotia. Two issues Dec 1953 & March 1954. A clubzine for anyone joining the CSF/FFA.

18) – Georgina Ellis of Calgary.

19) – MIMI was a personal/general zine by Georgina “Dutch” Ellis (Clarke) out of Calgary. At least 3 issues published in 1953. Did her own stencil artwork. Harry Calneck of Nova Scotia contributed articles. Georgina was described by Harry Warner Jr. as “the most notable fan” in Calgary in the 1950s, “famous far and wide for her fanzines”.

20) – WENDIGO by Georgina “Dutch” Ellis (Clarke) of Calgary, also known as the “Dutchess of Canadian Fandom”, was a perzine with 11 issues from January 1955 to September 1956, plus a 12th ‘special revival issue’ in January of 1965 for an Apazine. Harry Calneck of Nova Scotia contributed some art & articles.

21) – GRUNT by Georgina Ellis (Clarke) was an 8 page item printed in 1956. Know nothing else about it.

22) – ESCAPE by Fred Woroch: #22 of CANADIAN FANDOM (Sept 1954) contained the following item: "... a new fan has appeared on the scene, complete with a modern printing & litho plant under his direction. So keep an eye out for ESCAPE... the magazine will be monthly and well worth supporting."

The same issue of CANFAN described ESCAPE as "general" in nature and a member of CAFP, the "Canadian Amateur Fan Publishers." Excitement grew. Woroch must have been very good at soliciting material. He acquired an original article from Harlan Ellison entitled "Is Science Fiction Literature?" and an article "Fandom's Enchanted Circle" by legendary Irish Fan Walt Willis."

William D. Grant, writing in CANFAN #25 (Jun 1955): "Walt sent scads of material for use in ESCAPE and quite a bit of it disappeared as did Fred Woroch a few short months ago.... Just for the Hell-of-it I would like to know what happened to Fred Woroch? Something tells me he is going to be a very talked-about person for a long time to come..."

But all was fortunately not quite lost. The above mentioned articles by Harlan Ellison & Walt Willis, dummies of which had remained in Grant's possession, saw print in CANADIAN FANDOM #25. A glimpse of what might have been.

TO BE CONTINUED

ARTHUR C. CLARKE: FAN (1917 – 2008)

By The Graeme

Didn't have time to get around to writing part two. Next issue!

LATEST CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA UPDATES

The Canadian Fancyclopedia is the Graeme's ongoing attempt to put together a 'Fancyclopedia III' but one with an emphasis on the history of 20th century Canadian Sci-Fi Fandom. See < <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

NONE: thanks to the mugging. No... wait, I've used that excuse... how about because I find it so exciting working on WCSFAzine I can't bring myself to... or is it my short naps tend to last for hours?... OK, sheer laziness... Next issue?

LATEST ZINES ADDED TO EFANZINES.COM ARCHIVE

The Graeme's **WCSFAzine #9**, Jean Martin & Chris Garcia's **Science Fiction/San Francisco #65**, Bob Sabella's **Visions of Paradise #128**, Peter Sullivan's **Virtual Tucker Hotel #2**, Tim Marion's **So It Goes #17**, Steve Sneyd's **Flights From the Iron Moon; Genre Poetry in UK Fanzines, Corflu Zed Flyer**, Chris Garcia's **The Drink Tank #169**, Peter Sullivan's **Virtual Tucker Hotel #3**, John Neilsen Hall's **Motorway Dreamer #5**, Jack Speer's **Up To Now, A History of Fandom**, Dave Locke's **Time and Again**, Peter Sullivan's **Virtual Tucker Hotel #4**, Dick Geis's **Taboo Opinions #107**, Mike McInerney's **Number One #13**, Jean Martin & Chris Garcia's **Science Fiction/San Francisco #66**, Chris Garcia's **The Drink Tank #170**, Peter Sullivan's **Virtual Tucker Hotel #5**, Lenny Baile's **Whistlestar #7**, Janine Stinson & Bruce Gillespie's **Steam Engine Time #8**, Bob Sabella's **Visions of Paradise #129**, John Purcell's **Askance #8**, Arnie Katz's **Vegas Fandom Weekly #106- Corflu Silver Special**

ZINEPHOBIA

BCSFAZINE #418/419/420/421 - Garth Spencer (Editor) at P.O.Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main St., Vancouver, BCCANADA V5V 3P0 or < garthspencer@shaw.ca > Clubzine of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association.

BCSFAzine #418 – March 2008 – This is the way BCSFAzine was trending. Only 10 pages long and large print, very short of material, and still too expensive for the club to afford! Very nice ‘Furry’ cover by Taral Wayne (winged cat playing a flute).

Garth reports the mainstream-fanzine review-zine *Broken Pencil* has stopped trading with BCSFAzine because, says Garth: “J. Blackmore’s review in *BrokenPencil* #38 finds this just an average, kind of high-schoolish newsletter, with mostly internal references and little to interest an outsider, particularly someone deeply into the independent publishing scene. He is saying that he doesn’t get why we are asking money for this, and implying that we don’t get the current zine scene. Both claims are right.”

Garth goes on to question the very purpose of BCSFA, never mind BCSFAzine: “One of my dirty little secrets is that I really didn’t get classic fanzine fandom, after all; I only realized how out of step I was when I actually attended a Potlatch in Seattle. In all honesty I will admit that I don’t get current indie zinedom, either. And now I confess, **I don’t get what BCSFA is for.**”

Apart from the editorial cry for help, the rest of the issue consists entirely of locs from such as Lloyd Penney, Felicity Walker & well-known fan artist Sheryl Birkhead.

BCSFAzine #419 – April 2008 – Contains a guest editorial (not credited, though the phrase “I’m averaging 40 pages for WCSFAzine” should provide a bit of a clue) which I wrote in response to Garth’s plea for input from the club last issue. I argue that the clubzine should go online, thus freeing up Garth to greatly expand it, with perhaps a separate short version for them as demands a paper version (for a fee covering costs), and that membership should be free! Only then can we ‘compete’ with the other local ‘free’ groups (like B.I.F.F., F.R.E.D. etc.) “OK, it’s done” replies Garth.

So suddenly BCSFAzine is posted online at Bill Burn’s wonderful < <http://efanzines.com> > website (recent winner of 2008 ‘Best Website’ FAAn Award!) and has burgeoned to 30 pages!

Cover by Felicity Walker depicts a formation of spacecraft that on closer examination appear to be TV remotes or some such. Very cool.

One result of BCSFAzine being posted online, including this and several back issues, is a loc from John Purcell, who writes to Garth: “Good to see that you are keeping yourself busy. It has been many a moon since you pubbed an ish of *Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*, so your efforts here at the head of the clubzine are keeping you in the fannish eye of the storm. I am glad, since I think of you as one of Canadian Fandom’s more active fanzine fans.” Egoboo is always nice, Garth can certainly use some. (And keep in mind Garth has been in fanzine fandom for about 30 years now, and was the first fan to receive a fan achievement Aurora (Casper) award in 1986 “for editing THE MAPLE LEAF RAG and dedication to Canadian Fandom”.)

So now Garth has room to fill the zine with news and info lifted from the net, including a William Shatner contest to find the next Sci-Fi “star” (hmmm, bizarre... American Idol influence?), fan fund news, local club news, odd science bits & such, plus one essay, sort of, consisting of excerpts from Hal Duncan’s taxonomy of Strange Fiction as forwarded by Taras Wolansky. More to read. It’s a start.

BCSFAzine #420 – May 2008 – Contains a loc from Taral Wayne (and a slightly erotic, let’s say ‘perky’, furry cover by Taral) in which he writes: “I’m not sure how a 32-page fanzine can seem to have so little substance... Sorry about the bruised feelings, there, Garth. I’ll give you an A for effort, anyway. And the cover was nifty.” Replies Garth: ((It’s fair comment. Now, what would lend more substance to this here club newsletter?))

Taral also talks about his reluctance to contribute to online zines unless he gets a paper copy in return. I can barely afford to print out a copy for myself. Guess I can’t expect a contribution from Taral for WCSFAzine any time soon. Sigh.

More club/convention/book news, only this time with info re authors as well. Only 26 pages, but room to run a lengthy article by Cosmic Ray Seredin about his experiences at Norwescon 31. Good to see a con report back in BCSFAzine! It’s a fun read: “A few seconds later I thought I’d run into a dragon, but it turned out to be a seven-tailed fox that was quite pissed off at me for mistaking her for a dragon.” And, upon meeting artist Phil Foglio: “I quickly ran upstairs to my room and grabbed my friend’s copy of *Girl Genius Vol. 1* for Phil and Kaja to sign. Because I am going to use this copy to get back my copies of *Vol. 5* and *6*, the Foglios wrote this nice little reminder to my friend: “To _____, Enjoy—Phil + Kaja. Please return Ray’s copies!” Now is that great service or what?”

BCSFAzine needs MORE personal articles like Ray’s!

BCSFazine #421 – June 2008 – Cover is a spunky colour photo of a leather-clad Ryan Hawe (keeper of the FRED) and ‘Admiral’ Garth Spencer of the Swiss Royal Navy (dressed in orange camouflage pants, a loud patterned blue shirt, and a black beret). Quite a splendid pic actually.

Also splendid a BCSFA member card in Garth’s name with a photo of Star Trek puppets as background. Is this a spoof, something he’s done up himself, or has someone in the club issued new cards to members? (We used to have some done up with the magnificent Griffin over Lions Gate Bridge drawn by Tim Hammell, might be a few left in the archive.)

Sadly, under the heading “Is It Time To Replace The Editor?” there’s a back & forth written feuding between Garth & Steve Forty, both longtime local fans. Steve is a legend in his own right, what with being BCSFAzine editor for many years, Keep of The Fred till Hawe took over, and well known in the Northwest convention fandom for over two decades. I wanted more club action in the zine, but this is not quite what I had in mind.

Garth writes: “I am looking for a different fandom than this, and I should form my own kind of fan group. The Royal Swiss Navy will reveal its true colours: the SELF APPOINTED FANNISH ELITE.”

“On the one hand, I would like to talk with people who *actually* communicate. S.A.F.E. is for people who have some post-secondary education, sense of history, and actually understand Latin and foreign phrases when they show up. S.A.F.E. is for the kind of people who play with original ideas, and deprecate media franchises that trade in the same tropes over and over, recycling 1930s Golden Age SF in the 2000s. S.A.F.E. is for the kind of people who use words like “deprecate”, and even get picky about when to say its and it’s, or they’re, there and their.”

“On the other hand, I have been cold-shouldered in the past by the cliques that have occasionally formed in BCSFA; so I might as well form my own, and stop bothering you.”

This doesn’t sound so much like a cry for help as a tentative declaration of independence. I think Garth needs to decide what he actually WANTS to do, what will make him HAPPY and give him something to GET EXCITED ABOUT. He should either stop being editor of BCSFAzine, or renew his relationship with the zine with a fresh approach.

For one thing, Garth seems stuck on the idea that BCSFAzine has to be a contemporary MAPLE LEAF RAG (his zine of old), which is to say, a newszine promoting Canada-wide fandom, world-wide fandom for that matter, almost to the exclusion of anything else. I mean, apart from the feud mentioned above, excerpts from my article about being mugged, and a healthy loc column (Garth gets more locs than I do!), the bulk of the issue is yet more news items lifted from the net.

I cull the net too, but I try to put more stuff in WCSFAzine than just that.

Granted, I contribute the bulk of the articles myself, which is exactly what I did when I was editor of BCSFAzine, and readers appreciated the eclectic variety of subject matter if nothing else.

Granted, Garth has frequently contributed lengthy articles in the past, but they tended to be complaining rants about this and that rather than entertaining celebrations of the subject matter. Garth MUST still enjoy SOMETHING about science fiction? Why not write about that, whatever ‘that’ is? He needs to be more positive.

One way or another, Garth is the solution to his current state of ennui and frustration, methinks.

That Garth is fully capable of having fun and enjoying himself in the role of editor is proven by another current publication of his, THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE #15. If only he could inject some of that enthusiasm (and subject matter) into BCSFAzine!

THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE #15 – April 2008 -- Garth Spencer, P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main St., Vancouver, BC, Canada V5V 3P0 or < garthspencer@shaw.ca >

Cover by R. J. Bartrop shows a threatening helmeted figure wielding a nasty club asking: “Anyone else want to negotiate?”

Garth reflects he is still amazed he won the ‘Best Fanzine’ Aurora in 2006 for previous issues of this zine.

There’s a quite good loc column, particularly to do with reflections on Taral Wayne’s ‘The Fanzine Tool Kit’ in the previous issue, for instance R’ykandar Korra’ti stating that fanzine fans tend to be very suspicious of state-of-the-art graphic complexity and layout – on the grounds it is “too slick” to contain any decent writing, whereas young neo sci-fi fans tend to embrace visual sophistication. In my case, I’d have to say I prefer a plain approach simply because it’s easier on my eyes.

Lee Lavell comes out of thirty years of Gafiation (!) to talk about little remembered equipment and techniques like ‘Lightscoptes’ and ‘reverse stencilling’. Quite fascinating to anyone interested in the practical aspects of fanzine publication in the days of yore before photocopiers and computer printers.

And John Purcell offers more egoboo: “How the heck are you? It is really good to see you're still pubbing... I have always enjoyed your writing and look forward to more....Reading your musings Canadian fanhistory reminds me that I have an old article of yours in an issue of *This House* from the late 80s. If it's all right with you, would you mind if I scanned that article, "On Writing Fanhistory," and run it again in a future issue of *In A Prior Lifetime*? It would fit right in with the fanhistorical bent of my zine.”

And Eric Mayer writes, perhaps reflecting Taral’s bias against webzines: “...one of the main features of a fanzine as opposed to a website, for instance, is that a fanzine is a finished entity. In my opinion, that characteristic is so important that an entity which is not a completed object cannot be a fanzine. An ever-changing website may be a better way, or at least a new way, to conduct fanac, and it may succeed the fanzine as the preferred means of fanac, but it can never be a fanzine. It is too significantly different.” I do hope that Eric and Taral understand that ezines like WCSFAzine are in fact ordinary

fanzines, complete unto themselves, which just happen to be posted online rather than printed on paper, and not to be confused with ever-changing websites, blogs, & such.

Garth did not have a good time at VCON 32 but prints the Aurora Awards And Elron Awards lists, followed by an essay on how to write a Garth Spencer-style editorial, for example rule #4: "If someone does actually refute you, concede the point and then carry on as if you hadn't. POINTS ARE WON if you convince any readers that you just taught them something about reason and discourse and logic." This is a lot of fun.

Controversial, perhaps, is Garth's 'Royal Swiss Navy theory' re the role of religion in American politics, combined with an article by Taral Wayne titled: 'Not The American Century?' which spoofs the American economic policies arguably self-destructing America. No doubt like many readers of these items, it immediately inspired a certified political diatribe out of me – about two page's worth – until I remembered the purpose of *this* zine is to celebrate the West Coast Sci-Fi Community, so I cut out my ignorant opinions moments ago. THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE, on the other hand, is meant to be a wide-ranging perzine with an emphasis on the perils and madness of mundania, so political debate is entirely appropriate. I will inject my personal Sci-Fi bias into WCSFAzine (no surprise there), but I promise you I will leave out dreary contemporary political matters.

Well, back to the fun stuff. 'Caring For Your Introvert: The Habits and Needs of a Little Understood Group' by Jonathan Rauch is a wonderful little piece which emphasizes the superiority of introverts over extroverts, per example: "Are introverts arrogant? Hardly. I suppose this common misconception has to do with our being more intelligent, more reflective, more independent, more levelheaded, more refined, and more sensitive than extroverts."

Also a great deal of fun, Garth writes: "I was sitting on the bus the other day, thinking about nothing in particular, when it occurred to me that I might set down some of my smartass opinions in the form of a dictionary." Here is a sample:

"*Athletics*: an Evil Sinister Mind Control Plot which turns otherwise healthy young people into brainless mouth-breathing illiterate brutes ("jocks"). We all know this in high school, so how come we still support organized team sports? Why aren't there charitable organizations or rehab centres to help people recover from this debilitating social institution?"

Put simply, THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY GAZETTE is a lot more fun to read than BCSFAzine, the latter having tons of stuff which one tends to skip past, being mere news, but if – to repeat myself -- Garth could insert just a touch more of his personal enthusiasms into BCSFAzine it would become more readable and enjoyable. My theory, which is mine, and so it is... Meanwhile, let me say TRSWNG is well worth perusing by all as loves zines. Always something interesting.



ASK MR. SCIENCE!

(As submitted by Al Betz, Corresponding Secretary for Mr. Science.)

Mr. GB, of Vancouver, B.C., asks: Was the 1939 Worldcon the first SF convention?

Answer: According to the final con report prepared by Aristophanes and published in ALPHAPA, the first science fiction convention was held in Socrates' garden early in 399 B.C. The Pro Guest of Honour was Plato, Fan Guest of Honour was Thucydides, and Praxiteles was Artist Guest of Honour. The Bacchanal featured imported Persian Belly Dancers. First prize in the costume judging was won by Dionysius the Elder, who, dressed as Icarus, suffered minor burns when he accidentally backed into an illuminating torch. The banquet caterers unfortunately served hemlock blintzes, with tragic results as we all know.

Mr. Ch, of North Vancouver, B.C., asks: Why do Alka-Seltzer bubbles sound so loud on the Saturday morning following F.R.E.D.?

Answer: In order to prevent the bubbles formed by dissolving Alka-Seltzer in water from accumulating at the bottom of the glass, each tablet is coated with thousands of extremely tiny stainless steel springs, which serve to launch each newly formed bubble towards the surface with high velocity. These fast rising bubbles are shot into the air above the vector's surface where they explode with a cannon-like sound. This, combined with the heightened awareness of one who has experienced the intellectual stimulation and camaraderie of a F.R.E.D. (Forget Reality, Enjoy Drinking) gathering, results in the fact behind your question.

PRO/FAN AWARDS

2008 CONVENTION 28 / PRIX AURORA WINNERS

Winners highlighted in dark blue

Best Long-Form Work in English / Meilleur livre en anglais

Best work of SF or Fantasy in a novel or fiction collection by a Canadian writer, published in 2007.

- _ As Fate Decreases, Denysé Bridger (Edge)
- _ **The New Moon's Arms, Nalo Hopkinson (Warner)**
- _ The Moon Under Her Feet, Derwin Mak (Windstorm Creative)
- _ Rollback, Robert J. Sawyer (Tor/Analog)
- _ Cry Wolf, Edo van Belkom (McClelland & Stewart/Tundra)
- _ No Award / Pas de prix

Meilleur livre en français / Best Long-Form Work in French

Dans la catégorie du meilleur roman ou recueil de fiction publié, écrit par un(e) écrivain(e) canadien(ne) et sorti au Canada en 2007, qui relève de la science-fiction ou du fantastique.

- _ Alegracia et les Xayiris, Dominic Bellavance (Les Six Brumes)
- _ La-haut sur la Colline, Claude Bolduc (*Solaris* 161 et 164)
- _ **Cimetière du musée, Diane Boudreau (du Phoenix)**
- _ Le Parasite, Georges LaFontaine (Guy Saint-Jean)
- _ Arielle Queen, Michel J. Lévesque (Les Intouchables)
- _ Pas de prix / No Award

Best Short-Form Work in English / Meilleure nouvelle en anglais

For a published SF or Fantasy novella, novelette, short story or poem by a Canadian writer, released in Canada in 2007.

- _ "Falling," David Clink (*On Spec* Fall 2007) (poem)
- _ "Saturn in G Minor," Stephen Kotowych (*Writers of the Future XXIII*, Galaxy Press) (short story)
- _ "Metamorphoses in Amber," Tony Pi (*Abyss & Apex* #24, Q4/2007) (novelette)
- _ "The Dancer at the Red Door," Douglas Smith (*Under Cover of Darkness*, Julie E. Czerneda and Jana Paniccia, eds., DAW) (short story)
- _ **"Like Water in the Desert," Hayden Trenholm (*Challenging Destiny* #24) (novelette)**
- _ No Award / Pas de prix

Meilleure nouvelle en français / Best Short-Form Work in French

Dans la catégorie de la meilleure nouvelle ou du meilleur poème écrit et publié par un(e) écrivain(e) canadien(ne) et sorti au Canada en 2007, qui relève de la science-fiction ou du fantastique.

- _ "Le Luthier," Mathieu Fortin (*Solaris* 162)
- _ "Les Lucioles d'Alliance," Michèle Laframboise, (*QUAD9* magazine 5B, CFORP)
- _ "L'Ancienne famille," Michel J. Lévesque, (Les Six Brumes)
- _ "Le sang noir," Michel J. Lévesque (*Solaris* 161)
- _ **"Sur la plage des épaves," Laurent MacAllister (*Solaris* 164)**
- _ Pas de prix / No Award

Best Work in English (Other) / Meilleur ouvrage en anglais (Autre)

For SF or Fantasy activity, in English, by a Canadian, in 2007 not encompassed by the previous categories.

- _ *Polaris: A Celebration of Polar Science*, Julie E. Czerneda, ed., Star Ink Books
- _ ***Under Cover of Darkness*, Julie E. Czerneda & Jana Paniccia, eds., DAW**
- _ *Tesseract Eleven*, Cory Doctorow and Holly Phillips, eds., Edge
- _ *Neo-opsis* magazine, Karl Johanson, ed., Issues 11, 12, & 13
- _ *On Spec* magazine, Diane Walton, managing ed.
- _ No Award / Pas de prix

Meilleur ouvrage en français (Autre) / Best Work in French (Other)

Dans la catégorie du meilleur travail relevant de la science-fiction ou du fantastique canadiens en 2007, qui n'est pas compris dans les catégories précédentes.

- _ No Nominations

Artistic Achievement / Accomplissement artistique

For a work or body of work produced by a Canadian artist during 2007. / *Pour une oeuvre ou pour la production artistique d'un(e) Canadien(ne) en 2007.*

– **Lar deSouza (On Spec Winter 2007, Parsec Spring/Summer 2007)**

- Stephanie Ann Johanson *Neo-opsis* Issue 11, March 2007, interior illustrations
- Jean-Pierre Normand
- Martin Springett
- Ronn Sutton (*Elvira, Mistress of the Dark* 165 and 166 [Jan-Feb 2007], Claypool Comics)
- No Award / Pas de prix

Fan Achievement (Fanzine) / Accomplissement fanique (Fanzine)

For a Canadian fanzine or newsletter relating to SF or Fantasy published in 2007. / *Pour un fanzine ou bulletin fanique canadien, qui traite du milieu de la science-fiction ou du fantastique, publié au moins une fois en 2007.*

- *Opuntia*, Dale Spiers
- **No Award / Pas de prix**

Fan Achievement (Organizational) / Accomplissement fanique (Organisation)

For individual contributions to Canadian SF convention or club activities during 2007. / *Pour des contributions à des congrès ou des activités de clubs canadiens en 2007.*

- Debbie Hodgins, KAG
- **Penny Lipman, masquerades**
- Roy Miles, IDIC
- Joan Sherman, IDIC
- Geoffrey Toop, DWIN
- No Award / Pas de prix

Fan Achievement (Other) / Accomplissement fanique (autre)

For Canadian fan activity in 2007 not encompassed by the previous two categories. / *Pour des activités faniques canadiennes en 2007 qui ne sont pas comprises dans les deux catégories précédentes.*

- **Paul Bobbitt, editor, *The Voyageur***
- Judith Hayman, filk performances
- Peggy Warner LaLonde, filk performances
- Martin Springett, filk performances
- Larry Stewart, master of ceremonies
- No Award / Pas de prix

FILTHY PRO NEWS

THE ONGOING SAGA OF PROMOTING

ALYXANDRA J. SHAW'S FANTASY NOVEL

'A STRANGE PLACE IN TIME'

By The Graeme -- her husband



Well, things are rather quiet given it will be some time before Alyx gets her next quarterly report (& cheque!) reflecting how well sales are faring. But it is not as if nothing is happening. For one thing, her book is now available for \$5.95 US at the 'All Romance eBooks' online bookstore at < <http://allromanceebooks.com/> > website. This represents increased exposure and the potential for increased sales. (At site use search function for 'A Strange Place In Time' to find.)

And Doppelganger Press < <http://doppelgangerpress.com/> > is scheduled to publish the second volume in the trilogy '*The White Palace Awakens*' sometime this month, probably for around \$150 US, it being a handcrafted, special binding, special cover material, special end paper, linoleum block illustration publication for discerning book collectors just like the first volume, though probably with a different choice of select materials. Should know soon.

And finally the online publisher Torquere Press:

< http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index >

will be making 'The White Palace Awakens' available, probably for \$5.95 US, this coming August. (On their home page, go to the green Author button upper left to select her publications.) Needless to say Alyx is promoting this at her fiction site < <http://alyx.wozupdoc.net/> > and her live journal site < <http://alyx-j-shaw.livejournal.com/> >.

AUTHOR HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

(New information highlighted in violet.)

DON DEBRANDT < <http://www.sfga.org/members/DeBrandt/index.html> >

Don has his 'Cyberjunk' website, which has not been updated in several years. See his website under the name 'Donn Cortez' < <http://www.donnortez.com> > for a complete listing of books, stories, articles & comics under both names.

Don lives in the Lower Mainland area. His latest books include the mystery '*The Man Burns Tonight*' and the thriller '*The Closer*'.

Don has also written the four volumes of the CSI MIAMI series titled '*Cult Following*', '*Riptide*', '*Harm For The Holidays: Misgivings*' & '*Harm For The Holidays: Heart Attack*'. He is currently under contract to write three more volumes. **Here is the opening of '*Riptide*':**

"Biscayne Bay gleamed aquamarine in the late afternoon light, the sky above as clear and blue as a musical note. From his seat in the stern of the police boat, Horatio Caine could look one way and see the shining, skyscraping outline of downtown Miami; if he turned his head a few degrees, he was treated to an ocean view dotted with the low, dark-green bulk of mangrove islands, occasionally crested by a barrel-sized seabird nest. It struck him just how often he was treated to gorgeous vistas like this one on his way to viewing something unspeakably ugly."

"Payment, of sorts, he thought, then corrected himself. Not payment -- compensation. A consolation prize, at best."

Currently he is returning to his roots by working on a Sci-Fi trilogy, starting with his upcoming hardcover mystery/sci-fi novel '*Lucidity*', which is about two 'Ectives' (emotive detectives) in the near future where emotions can be read, implanted, bought, sold, and stolen. As Don put it, "I am always searching for a new pantheon" and for the purposes of this trilogy "took a hard Sci-Fi approach to New Age Mythology". As a result certain 'soft' sciences like sociology and sexology are now shifted into the realm of 'hard' science, and certain 'fringe' sciences like Telepathy and UFOlogy become 'soft' sciences. The first volume '*Lucidity*' will be published in 2009.

About '*The Closer*':

METHOD

He is the Closer - a remorseless executioner whose modus operandi is terrifying in its brutal simplicity. He captures his prey, tortures them until they confess their sins, and disposes of them as they deserve. His victims have only one thing in common: they are all serial killers.

MOTIVE

Accompanied by a hardened ex-prostitute who lost her closest friends to a twisted murderer, the Closer is closing in on his ultimate quarry: an ingenious psychopath known as the Patron who must be stopped. For behind the façade of the Closer is a tortured man whose family the Patron slaughtered.

MADNESS

But even as the time for his revenge approaches, the Closer may be turning into what he despises most. Because with every violent act of retribution, he fears that he's no longer killing in the name of justice ...

HE'S KILLING BECAUSE HE LIKES IT.

DAVE DUNCAN < <http://www.daveduncan.com> >

Dave lives in Victoria, B.C. His latest books: '*The Alchemist's Apprentice*', & '*Children of Chaos*' (the latter winning the 'Best Long-Form Work in English' Aurora Award at Convention 27/VCON 32 which he was happy to accept in person from presenter Peter S. Beagle). "I'm told I got a standing ovation as well, but I was too astonished to notice. My thanks to all those who voted (and possibly stood)."

'Alchemist's Apprentice' is available in trade paperback, & mass market paperback from ACE..

'The Alchemist's Code' has been released by Ace in trade paperback & **the third book in the series, '*The Alchemist's Pursuit*', will be published in 2009.**

'Mother of Lies' (presently available in hardcover) is now released by Tor in mass market paperback.

In August 2008 '*Ill Met in the Arena*' will be released by Tor in hardcover. "Why 'a series of one'? Because at the moment this is a standalone novel...I like this world a lot, so I may revisit it if enough readers agree... The story is told in an odd fashion, which I hope will not put you off. When you get to the end you will see why it had to be structured this way."

Dave has just sold *'Speak to the Devil'*, the first book in his new swordsmen & sorcerers series *'The Brothers Magnus'*, to Liz Gorinsky at Tor Books. It will be published in 2009.

WILLIAM GIBSON < <http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com> >

Bill lives in Vancouver. Check out his web site for his Q&A interview 'Across the Border to Spook Country'. His latest book: *'Spook Country'*.

Excerpt from Wired Interview:

Wired: One of the details that leaped out at me was the Adidas GSG9, named for the German counterterrorism squad. I felt certain you'd invented the shoe, but then I Googled it.

Gibson: The Adidas GSG9s were the obvious choice for the thinking man's ninja. Nothing I could make up could resonate in the same way. There's *code* in name-checking the GSG9 history — esoteric meaning. Something that started with *Pattern Recognition* was that I discovered I could Google the world of the novel. I began to regard it as a sort of extended text — hypertext pages hovering just outside the printed page. There have been threads on my Web site — readers Googling and finding my footprints. I still get people asking me about "the possibilities of interactive fiction," and they seem to have no clue how we're already so there.

MATT HUGHES < <http://www.archonate.com/> >

Matt lives on Vancouver Island. His first Henghis Hapthorn novel 'Majestrum' is now out in trade paperback from Nightshade Books. The second novel in the series, *'The Spiral Labyrinth'* is available from Nightshade Books in hardcover.

The complete Guth Bandar saga is now published as a novel titled *'The Commons'* from Robert J. Sawyer Books.

My short story collection, *The Gist Hunter & Other Stories*, from [Night Shade Books](#) is still in stores. It contains all six Henghis Hapthorn stories that have run in *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* plus three Guth Bandar novelettes.

The Novel 'Template' will be published mid-2008.

"Matthew Hughes's *Template* is many things - including a template others should follow to produce outstanding writing. Hughes has been the best-kept secret in SF for far too long: he's a towering talent, and *Template* is his best work to date. Bravo!"

- Robert J. Sawyer, Hugo Award-winning author of *Hominids*.

On his Website Matthew writes:

"Here's a special free-read offer for reviewers, bloggers, newsgroup posters and people who just like to talk about books in public: PS Publishing will release *Template*, a stand-alone Archonate novel that I consider to be my best work yet (even though it was written in 2003). I will send an rtf file of the book to anyone who commits to review, blog, post or otherwise harass the world about it. Just send me an e-mail at "himself(you know what symbol goes in here)archonate.com" and I'll shoot you a copy."

"...looking at responses to [Template](#) after James Nicoll and John Joseph Adams kindly promoted my free-read offer for bloggers (which is still open, btw). I've seen about a dozen now and -- no surprise -- some have loved the worldbuilding, while others thought it far too sketchy; some have loved the old-fashioned prose, while at least one reviewer found it "clunky."

"The thing is, writers have to make choices. I've chosen not to write travelogues of the future; I write stories from the viewpoints of characters who happen to live there, and for whom aircars and integrators are a part of everyday life, as are the strange (to us) ways their minds and societies are organized. But the story is what counts for me. So I give the reader a passing visit to that "other country" that is the future, and a sketchy sense of what things are like there. But the characters are too busy with their own problems to stop and explain any more than the most basic realities. They've got problems to solve."

"Some people just love that kind of writing. I always have when I've encountered it in the works of Jack Vance and Gene Wolfe. Some people just hate it. That's life. The only conclusion to be drawn is, as the old song says: "you can't please everybody, so you just got to please yourself." Here endeth the lesson."

EILEEN KERNAGHAN < <http://www.lonelycry.ca/ek/> >

Eileen lives in the Lower Mainland area and attended VCON 32. Check out her latest books: *'Winter on the Plain of Ghosts: a Novel of Mohenjo-daro'*, *'The Alchemist's Daughter'*, & *'The Sarsen Witch'*.

[The Alchemist's Daughter](#) "This brief and witty historical novel, with overtones of fantasy, is both intellectual and entertaining. Kernaghan takes us back into the Early Modern period to treat with Queen Elizabeth and William Shakespeare through the adventures of Sidonie Quince, an alchemist's daughter. The text is filled with curious details of alchemy, with

its rich allusions and metaphysical maunderings, demonstrating the interplay between magic and science admirably, both in the alchemist father's teachings and in the doings of the daughter, who is a seer.” (Helen Pilinovsky)

Her latest Young Adult Novel *Wild Talent, A Novel of the Supernatural* is scheduled for September 2008 publishing by ThistleDown Press.

“I’m pleased to announce that my fourth young adult historical fantasy, *Wild Talent: a novel of the supernatural*, will be published this September by ThistleDown Press. It’s now available for pre-order at Amazon.com and other online bookstore sites.”

“The year is 1888. Jeannie Guthrie, a sixteen year old Scottish farmworker, is possessed of a mysterious “wild talent”. Convinced that she has unintentionally killed her ne’er-do-well cousin George, Jeannie flees in panic to the anonymity of London. There she is befriended by the free-spirited Alexandra David, and introduced to Madame Helena Blavatsky’s famous salon. Drawn reluctantly into the world of the occult, and seemingly haunted by her cousin’s vengeful ghost, Jeannie must learn to control her dangerous power in order to survive.”

“The story follows Jeannie and Alexandra from the late Victorian world of spiritualists and theosophists; to the *fin de siècle* Paris of decadent artists, anarchists and esoteric cults; and finally to the perilous country of the Beyond.”

CRAWFORD KILIAN < <http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/> >

Continues to teach at Capilano College in North Vancouver. His latest books: *Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy* (1998), & *Writing for the Web* (1999). See E-address above for his blog. He is currently working on another novel, plus “a couple of nonfiction books and articles for online journals.” Both of the books mentioned above are available from Self Counsel Press; < <http://www.self-counsel.com/ca/> >

“The Tyeec has published my article [Winning Cyberspace in '08](#). Excerpt:”

“... the sudden advent of interactive media has changed propaganda into a two-way street, a conversation, a screaming match -- and a rock concert. One-way media and interactive media are themselves interacting, creating a political environment unlike any before it.”

“The campaign of Barack Obama is not just thriving in this environment -- it's defining 21st-century campaign politics.”

DONNA MCMAHON < <http://www.donna-mcmahon.com/> >

Lives in Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast. She won a 2001 Aurora Award for her book reviews published in Tomorrow SF, BCSFAzine & other publications. Check out her novel *Dance of Knives* which is set in Vancouver in the year 2108. The sequel *Second Childhood* is pending publication.

A quote from the prologue for *Dance of Knives*:

“Blade zoomed in on Chan's gloved hands and saw her remove a sealed plastic pouch from her coat pocket. A length of fishing line trailed from it. Chan dropped the pouch into the water, then looped the end of the fish line around a steel cleat and stood up.”

“Blade ducked down again and counted off a minute. When he looked up, the float and the wharf lay deserted. He scanned the area with his goggles, then tagged the sequence he'd recorded to Chan's dossier and began his wait for the pick-up....”

“The little boy rushed back out to his glorious dance floor, flipping onto his hands and wagging his feet in the air, his palms walking the mirror-sheened water. He loved this wonderful night stillness, the seductive promise that he could flee along the moon's path and leave the ugly, twisted ghoul behind him. A chill of fear clutched at his limbs and he looked unwillingly back at the float, searching the shadowed water taxi for a glimpse of that stone-frozen skull.”

“Instead he saw a fish boat....”

“Blade began recording again and focused on the craft. It was a standard Fisher vessel, about ten meters long, with modern trolling gear retrofitted on an antique aluminum hull. It chugged towards the Patrol float, slowing and swinging broadside. Navigation lights shone from the mast, but the captain wasn't using wheelhouse spotlight for this landing. Glowing yellow bioluminescent letters on the bow spelled "Urchin.”

“I’m Canadian. I write a kinder, gentler future urban hell.” – Donna.

NINA MUNTEANU < <http://sfgirl-thealiennextdoor.blogspot.com> >

Lives and teaches in Victoria, B.C. You can order her Sci-Fi novel *Darwin's Paradox* by Dragon Moon Press from Amazon.ca (release date was November 15, 2007), and her short story *Virtually Yours* is to be found in *The Best of Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine* anthology published by Bundoran Press and unveiled at VCON 32.

Nina contributes frequently to the blog site. Recent articles include: "The Novelist: Common Pitfalls of the Beginning Writer – Part One", and "Aeon Flux: Motion Picture & Animation."

A Modern Matriarch review states:

"In *Darwin's Paradox*, Julie Crane is civilization's darkest pariah and only hope. The alpha patient who carries a highly evolved virus, she is blamed with the death of thousands and the murder of law enforcement officials who tried to detain her."

"...Returning to a populous devastated by the virus that still resides deep within her, Crane finds a civilization struggling in the grip of a new uprising. Proteus is not a passive virus but an intelligent one, and it has joined forces with the 'artificial' intelligence that keeps the city running. In order to save her family, Crane must join forces with the manipulative individuals who ruined her life."

"Like any ambitious eco-thriller, there is a lot of science underscoring the plot, but Munteanu does a great job of breaking it down into bite size portions that even the uninitiated can swallow."

"The page turning pace subtly weaves expositional elements through a storyline propelled by action and mystery. Blurring the line between good and evil, Munteanu creates characters as paradoxical as the storyline itself."

"...To give it depth, Munteanu has built her eco-thriller on a solid foundation of natural philosophy and symbolic allusions that meld pulp fiction with literary sensibilities. In doing so, *Darwin's Paradox* delivers a story that is both entertaining and metaphoric, creating a layered effect that will engage even finicky readers."

SPIDER ROBINSON < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/index2.html> >

Spider lives in the Lower Mainland area. His latest book: '*Variable Star*', (Tor). "The hardcover is in its third printing, the reviews have been most gratifying, and an avalanche of reader mail has warmed Spider's heart." The first 8 chapters are posted on the site <http://www.variablestarbook.com/>, and the paperback hit the stands November 27th.

Around the same time, Baen Books published the hardcover, '*The Lifehouse Trilogy*', a reissue of '*Mindkiller*', '*Time Pressure*' and '*Lifehouse*': < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/books.html> >

The first two books of THE STARDANCE TRILOGY, the omnibus of his collaborations with Jeanne, based on their Hugo- and Nebula-winning novella (STARDANCE, STARSEED and STARMIND), have just been released as Blackstone Audiobooks.

And then there's the exciting Stardance movie project slated to be produced in Imax format by James Sposto. For more information go to: < <http://www.stardancemovie.com> > which includes clips of Jeanne Robinson & Dancer Kathleen McDonagh experimenting in Zero G dancing aboard a 'vomit comet' last December 30th. Also go to Jeanne's blog at < <http://stardancemovie.blogspot.com/> > for the latest info. Jeanne writes: **"Jim and I will be attending the Space Frontier Foundation's next annual conference in Washington, D.C. -- "NewSpace 2008: Creating the Future or Living in the Past" from July 17 to 19. We plan to be exhibitors at the conference. Our intention is to dazzle the attendees -- a mix of revolutionary space entrepreneurs, investors, scientists, engineers and space policy leaders -- important contacts for us, as well as potential sponsors for the film."**

Also check out Spider's latest podcasts at: < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/podcast.html> > Recent topics include readings from his novel '*Very Hard Deaths*' and its sequel '*Very Hard Choices*'.

"In June Baen Books will release < VERY HARD CHOICES, > the sequel to VERY BAD DEATHS, in hardcover, with another striking cover painting by Stephen Hickman, and another great cover quote by David Crosby."

"Smelly is a hermit by necessity. He's the world's most receptive telepath--and it hurts. His old college roommate Russell, a Sixties survivor entering his sixties, is one of the few people Smelly can stand to be near. But now sinister government forces are after them both for unknown dark purposes, and Smelly and Russell must depend on Nika, one of the straightest cops in the world, to help them and Russell's visiting son Jesse dodge deadly peril in the dark. Before long Russell finds himself literally up Howe Sound without a paddle--and with a collapsed lung..."

"Available at better bookstores....in fact, it's the definition.....or at < www.baen.com. >"

Take note that on "July 4 - 6, 2008 at the Vancouver Island Music Festival in Courtney, BC (for more info see: < <http://www.islandmusicfest.com/> >) Spider will be sharing the stage with musician Todd Butler, and comedian/actor Harry Shearer, one of the voice actors on the Simpson's."

"As a special, once-in-a-lifetime offer, we are proud to present sample columns collected in *The Crazy Years: Reflections of a Science Fiction Original* (Benbella Paperback, November 2004). This special posting is the only chance readers will ever get to see exactly what Spider wrote, with no intervening vision and no changes or cuts at all—a rare intimacy between reader and writer."

See < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/crazyyears.html> > **Current column is #43, THE ONES WITH A ZERO ON THE END, in which Spider muses on turning fifty ("If it is true that life begins at forty, I should be entering puberty soon.") and also on significant inventors who never got credit or major cash for their inventions, like the guy who invented the computer mouse (Doug Englebart) or the chap who wrote the original computer-operating system for Microsoft (Tim Patterson). Fascinating stuff.**

ROBERT J. SAWYER < <http://www.sfwriter.com/> >

Robert lives in Mississauga, Ontario (but who is out here on the West Coast so often we view him as one of our own).

“Rob recently signed a six-figure deal jointly with Ace Science Fiction (a division of Penguin USA) and Penguin Canada for a new trilogy about the World Wide Web gaining consciousness.... The three volumes have the working titles of ‘*Wake*’, ‘*Watch*’, and ‘*Wonder*’, and collectively will be known as the ‘*WWW*’ trilogy. Read all about the deal in this entry in Rob's [blog](#).”

“In April 2008, Rob delivered the final version of *Wake* to his publishers; it'll be published in the spring of 2009, following [serialization](#) in *Analog* magazine. Here's the current draft of the dustjacket text:”

“Caitlin Decter is young, pretty, feisty, a genius at math — and blind. Still, she can surf the net with the best of them, following its complex paths clearly in her mind.”

“When a Japanese researcher develops a new signal-processing implant that might give her sight, she jumps at the chance, flying to Tokyo for the operation.”

“But Caitlin's brain long ago co-opted her primary visual cortex to help her navigate online. Once the implant is activated, instead of seeing reality, the landscape of the World Wide Web explodes into her consciousness, spreading out all around her in a riot of colors and shapes. While exploring this amazing realm, she discovers something — some *other* — lurking in the background. And it's getting smarter ...”

Rob will be a Special Guest at Comic-Con International in San Diego, CA, July 24--27, 2008, a panelist at Denvention 3 Worldcon, Denver, Colorado, Aug 6-10, 2008, **the Author Guest of Honour at Pure Speculation 2008 in Edmonton Oct 19—20, 2008, a program participant at the Surrey International Writers Conference, Surrey, B.C October 23-26, 2008** < <http://www.siwc.ca> > & a panelist at the World Fantasy Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Oct 30 – Nov 3, 2008.

ROBERT J. SAWYER — who won the [best novel Hugo Award in 2003](#) — is nominated again this year for his novel [Rollback](#).

[Reviews](#) for *Rollback* have been glowing... *Quill & Quire*, the Canadian publishing trade journal, which earlier this year named Sawyer **"one of the 30 most influential, innovative, and just plain powerful people in Canadian publishing."** had this to say: "*Rollback* is a reminder of why Sawyer is one of our most highly regarded writers of speculative fiction, able to handle the demands of the heart and the cosmos with equal skill."

“*Rollback* is Sawyer's seventeenth novel. It tells the story of Don and Sarah Halifax, an elderly couple in Toronto who are offered a chance to be rejuvenated, restoring their youth. But although the process succeeds for Don, it fails for Sarah; the novel deals with the impact this has on their marriage.”

Note: ROLLBACK is now available in Paperback.

IDENTITY THEFT AND OTHER STORIES now published!

"A collection of great stories; highly entertaining and thought-provoking. This book has something for almost any science-fiction fan." —*Quill & Quire*

Now out from Red Deer Press! Robert J. Sawyer's *second* collection of short fiction, with an overall introduction by Robert Charles Wilson and RJS's own notes on each story.

Includes the Hugo finalist "Shed Skin," the Nebula finalist "Identity Theft," the Aurora winners "Biding Time and "Ineluctable," and 13 others. < [More about Identity Theft and Other Stories](#) >

Unabridged audiobooks of Robert J. Sawyer's science fiction novels *The Terminal Experiment*, *Calculating God*, *Hominids*, *Humans*, and *Hybrids*, plus the Hugo Award-nominated short story "Shed Skin," are all available through < [Audible.com](#) >

ALYX J. SHAW < <http://alyx.wozupdoc.net/> >

(See also her live journal at < <http://alyx-j-shaw.livejournal.com/> >)

Lives in Surrey. Her novel ***The Recalling of John Arrowsmith*** (Book One of her trilogy ‘*A Strange Place in Time*’), is available from the online publisher Torquere Press:

< http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index >

in electronic download PDF format for **only \$5.95 US, and book two, ‘*The White Palace Awakens*’ will be available in electronic download PDF format from Torquere Press this coming August.**

‘The Recalling of John Arrowsmith’ is also available at the online publisher ‘All Romance eBooks’ for only \$5.95 US at < <http://allromanceebooks.com/> > for only \$5.95 US (search title ‘A Strange Place In Time’ to find).

‘*The Recalling of John Arrowsmith*’ (Book One of her trilogy is also available in hard cover for \$150 US (red Japanese book silk cover, French-style sewn on cord binding) by mail order from Doppelganger Press:

< <http://doppelgangerpress.com/> > **and book two, ‘*The White Palace Awakens*’ will be available in hard cover by mail order from Doppelganger Press this coming month of June.**

Note: ‘*A Strange Place in Time*’ is a completed trilogy. Both publishers have contracted to publish all three novels ‘*The Recalling of John Arrowsmith*’, ‘*The White Palace Awakens*’ and ‘*The Merry Executioner Returns*’ in due course.

Also available at Torquere by Alyx is *Taste Test: Love Saves The Day*, a 3 story sampler of her fiction ready for download for only \$2.49. Under 'authors' in the green section upper left hand corner of the website, select 'Alyx Shaw', click, and both works will come up.

"Love really does save the day in this Taste Test from Alyx Shaw. Old lovers reunite, lives change, and romance flourishes in all three stories.... From broke Brian who gets an unexpected call from old lover Roger, changing his circumstances completely, to the hilarious Sebastian, a space explorer who meets his match in the alien Tiff, to the melancholy tale of Vyllis, who lost his one love long ago and has tried to make a new life, these stories will make you laugh, cry, and fall in love.... Let this collection save your day! Get a copy now!"

Note: Alyx J. Shaw is also a regular contributor to '*Forbidden Fruit*' online magazine which is updated quarterly.

LISA SMEDMAN < <http://www.lisamedman.topcities.com/> >

Lives in the Vancouver area and attended VCON 32 as the Gaming GoH. Her latest novels (on the 'Lady Penitent Trilogy': Book 1 '*Sacrifice of the Widow*', and Book 2 '*Storm of the Dead*', plus upcoming later this fall, Book 3 '*Ascendancy of the Last*').

Lisa has also had a number of short science fiction and fantasy stories published in various magazines and anthologies, and has had three of her one-plays produced by a Vancouver theatre group.

Lisa was one of the founders of *Adventures Unlimited* magazine, which provides scenarios and tips for roleplaying games. She has designed a number of adventures and written short fiction for the Advanced Dungeons & Dragon roleplaying game's Ravenloft and Dark Sun lines, and has designed gaming products for Star Wars, Indiana Jones, Cyberpunk, Immortal, Shatterzone, Millennium's End, and Deadlands.

Her original games include *Valhalla's Gate*, a tabletop skirmish miniatures game drawn from Norse mythology and runic lore and *Scrapyard 500*, a tabletop road racing game.

After working for more than 20 years as a journalist, Lisa now splits her week between her job as an editor at the *Vancouver Courier*, a weekly newspaper (for which she writes the column *History's Lens*) and writing fiction. She lives in Richmond, B.C. with her wife, their son, four cats, and two pugs.

In addition to her journalism diploma, Lisa has an anthropology degree. She is fascinated by history and archaeology, particularly the Bronze Age.

An avid gamer, Lisa belongs to the [Trumpeter Wargaming Club](#).

NOTE: Most of these novels are available at **White Dwarf Books**, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2G5. Phone (604) 228 – 8223. E-address: < whitedwarf@deadwrite.com > Web site < <http://www.deadwrite.com/wd.html> >

MEDIA MADNESS

RETRO FILM REVIEW: FIRE MAIDENS OF OUTER SPACE (1956)

By The Graeme

This is a controversial film.

Is it inept, unwatchable -- and most unforgivable of all -- DULL? Or a sensitive reworking of the Theseus myth?

More importantly, is it "Fire Maidens of Outer Space" or "Fire Maidens from Outer Space"? The reference books say "from". The opening credits in the screening I witnessed said "of", so let that be an end to this vicious controversy.

The credits also stated, "All characters in space are fictitious." Since the film was made in 1956, I should bloody well hope so.

We begin with stock footage of a Trans World Airlines Constellation apparently flying nonstop from Los Alamos, New Mexico to London, England. A bit beyond the capacity of that airplane's fuel tanks methinks, but an encouraging sign. Any movie which opens with stock footage has got to be good!

The 'Connie' is carrying Luther Blair, "America's top nuclear scientist", to England to take charge of Plan 13 (as opposed to 'Plan 9', but that's another movie...). He's picked up at the airport by a Professor Higgins and driven to an observatory. There we find Blair standing awkwardly beneath a giant telescope, one leg crooked to one side like a broken doll, peering into the heavens in broad daylight. (Can't expect to see much!)

"We've known all along the planet Jupiter has 12 moons," comments Higgins, "but evidently terrestrial fog surrounds the 13th moon." (Meaning what, exactly? That the 13th moon has an atmosphere? Or that London fog is worse than I thought, reaching out to the outer planets?)

Blair is also confused, and seeks clarification. Higgins responds that the 13th moon looks like the Earth. Blair wants to know how long it will take to get there. Higgins turns to a huge mechanical calculator, punches a couple of keys, and states, "Three weeks." (Hmm, math was a lot simpler in the '50s.)

Oddly, Higgins adds, "There could be humans on that planet." ('Moon!' Not 'planet!' 'Moon!')

Sheepishly, Blair grins. "Stop kidding now. You're a scientist. It's probable but highly doubtful." He means 'possible', not 'probable'. Seems like we got a pair of real intellectuals here.

We pause for a couple of minutes while a pointy-breasted secretary walks down from the dome (what was she doing up there?), opens and closes two little gates, sits down to take a brief message, 'Ship must be ready in one week' (addressed to 'Launching Platform, First Interplanetary Unit, Houndspoint, Surrey'. No postal code?), gets up, goes back through the pair of gates, and up the stairs (to send the message by courier pigeon from the top of the dome?).

"I'm never too old," sings Higgins waggishly. Evidently he's a dirty old man. "I wonder if the beings on Jupiter's satellite will look anything like her?" This is called 'subtle foreshadowing'.

Cut to a captured V-2 rocket about to take off from White Sands, New Mexico. But you're not to know that! It's supposed to be the Expedition 13 spaceship at Houndspoint! We find the intrepid crew inside: Mission Commander Blair, Professor Higgins, Ship Commander Larsen (wearing a navy officer's hat), Biologist Stanhope, and Technician Anderson, all men, and all wearing white jump suits, or possibly auto-mechanic coveralls.

"All of you have your Longines Space watches?" inquires Blair cheerfully. Aha! We've learned the identity of one of the film's corporate backers!

During the final countdown the camera zeros in on the Longines wall clock inside the spaceship, then pans to an identical Longines wall clock inside the command bunker. The Longines people are getting their money's worth! The sign 'Have a Coke' is also prominently displayed in the bunker. Clever people, the film's producers. This advertising ploy probably covered most of the cost of the film, to judge from the Spartan richness of the visual design.

Once above the atmosphere the ship is immediately attacked by the traditional popcorn-like meteors that roar like express trains through the vacuum of space. The situation is tense.

"Turn on the ice machine!" shouts Blair. This averts disaster, somehow.

"Man, that ice machine really cools you off," declares a grateful Higgins.

Mutters Larsen, "reminds me of my wife." All this proves one thing, that the crew has picked up the American habit of plopping ice cubes into their drinks. After their encounter with the meteor swarm, they undoubtedly want stiff ones.

After three weeks of travel in which they spend the time shaving, smoking, and wondering why there is no bedding on the bunks, they approach the 13th moon of Jupiter. A voice comes over the radio. "Calling spaceship. Report name and destination immediately. You are under space control!" We hear the engines die down.

"Hey, we've stopped moving!" declares Higgins. (If that were true they'd be splattered all over the forward bulkhead.)

Blair talks space control into giving permission to land. "Proceed on course. Bearing on your compass will be 18017."

"That's the wrong bearing," shouts Anderson, "that'll take us nowhere!"

"Their gravitational law and magnetic pull are contrary to ours," suggests Higgins. Reassured, they land. As soon as they touch down, the entire crew grin, stretch, and begin languidly puffing on cigarettes, for all the world as if they'd just experienced simultaneous orgasm. Hmmm, maybe they had. You know those method actors!

Once they descend a garden ladder to the surface, Stanhope pulls a Polaroid camera out of a carry-all bag the size of a Volkswagen and snaps a picture of the weird alien landscape which, rather oddly, looks a lot like a tree-lined meadow in England. They spot a blinking light.

"Can anyone read the message?" asks Blair.

"It says", explains Anderson, "'head for tree at signal.' Hey! That's Morse code!"

Maybe it's just me, but I have the impression the scriptwriters are chimpanzees. Anyway, the crew hotfoot it to the tree and discover a small bronze statue. All this effort tires them out, and they decide to call it a day and head back to the ship.

Suddenly they hear a woman screaming. The crew crashes through the bushes and discovers A) a young woman in a skimpy, Grecian-style tunic, and B) a skinny guy in black leotards with a pock-marked visage for all the world like Rondo Hatton in blackface (Rondo was the famous horror movie star who needed no makeup as his features were naturally distorted by the disease acromegalia. This isn't him, but the makeup is possibly inspired by him).

"A woman!" shouts Stanhope gleefully, pulling out his Polaroid. Larsen pulls out his gun.

Blair protests, "We're here to explore, not get involved in something we know nothing about!" An early example of the Prime Directive? Or is it simple cowardice? Larsen fires a shot anyway.

"Ook, ook," says the monster. Blair pumps a bullet into him. "RAUGH! EEERAUGH!" says the monster, and walks off. Not too scared I guess, or hurt, for that matter.

Grinning from ear to ear, our randy crew follows the girl through the bushes to a plain rock wall. She slips through a narrow gate. To their disappointment, Blair orders them to stand watch, allowing only Larsen to accompany him through the wall. They find themselves inside a castle-like maze of corridors (Aha! Like the labyrinth in the Theseus myth!) stocked with vaguely Greek furniture.

"This architecture is late Minoan", declares Blair. (Aha! Minoan! Knossos! The labyrinth! Theseus!)

"Late Atlantean", explains an old man in a plain grey robe. His name is Praxis, and he rules the pitiful remnants of Atlantean culture who'd fled here after their home continent sank. Why not simply move to another continent, instead of all the way to one of Jupiter's moons? A travel agent screw-up would be my guess.

Praxis welcomes Blair and Larsen, then begins frothing at the mouth. "The creature, the man with the head of a beast! (Aha! The Minotaur! Theseus! The Labyrinth! Minoans! See? It all fits in! The scriptwriters are chimpanzees with

classical training!) It must be destroyed!" He pauses...."It is indestructible...here you must remain until you have solved the problem."

By way of compensation he offers his daughter Hestia to Blair. "Belongs to you from now on, Mr. Blair. It is the law of Atlantis."

Hmm, this is one local custom that could cause quite a tourist boom once word gets around.

But Larsen is suspicious. "This guy's batty. I've seen guys like him in the last war." (Probably fellow officers.) "What's he trying to suggest?" He stares at the Grecian decor, drawings of Hoplites, etc. "If that old goat starts anything..." It would appear that Captain Larsen is afraid Praxis practices a well-known ancient Greek custom and has designs on him. Hmm, what is it about sailors that makes them so sensitive about such things?

Oh well, not to worry. Praxis plies them with wine while they watch the 'Daughters of Atlantis' perform the traditional B-movie tippy-toe dance with much arm waving, butt wriggling and knocking of knees. The lazier (or less talented) girls sit cross-legged on the floor making languid gestures. Bored out of their skulls (like the audience), Blair and Larsen soon fall asleep (like the audience), or maybe it was the Mickey Finns Praxis slipped them?

Meanwhile the rest of the crew is even more bored and decides to go back to the ship. There they do exciting things like smoke cigarettes and look worried.

In the morning Blair awakes and has a long conversation with Hestia, during which they fall in love and decide to elope. Larsen, a happily married man, is perturbed to find four women around him when he wakes up. He tells them to "Beat it! Vamoose! Skedaddle! Hit the Road! Get lost!" and other such futuristic slang, but they persist.

Meanwhile Hestia and Blair slip Praxis a Mickey Finn! The plot is booming right along!

The crew return to the wall, but find the entrance sealed. As they search along the wall they are attacked by the Minotaur, or Monster, or 'spotty-faced git'. Bullets have no effect, so they scare it off with a gas grenade. The crew have their own explanation for the beast.

"A definite throwback to the caveman," Stanhope suggests. "Neanderthal, I believe."

Higgins agrees, "it has all the characteristics of the caveman". (Turtleneck tunic, leotards, etc.)

It finally dawns on them to climb a tree and look over the wall. Stanhope volunteers, and sees a dozen 'Fire Maidens' wandering in a garden. The eager crew promptly chops down a tree with their bare hands (one assumes, as they're not carrying any tools) and leans it against the wall. The tree bursts into flames.

Second plan. We actually see them digging under the wall with their bare hands. Been in space a long time, these lads. Woman-starved, I'd say.

While all this is going on Blair is releasing Larsen from the room where he'd been held, but Hestia is captured by the 'Fire Maidens' because she has broken the unwritten law, angered the Gods, but mainly, because being blonde, she'd been having more fun. They tie her up and place her on a sacrificial altar. The crew are dragged in, also tied up. Not quite the garden of delights they'd expected. The Fire Maidens rush off giggling to invite Blair and Larsen to enjoy the fun. In one incredible shot we see the barefoot, barelegged maidens swishing toward the camera which is set at knee-height. If you're a connoisseur of knobby knees, this innovative scene is for you!

Well, the girls can't find Blair or Larsen, so they return to the altar and start dancing, in bare feet no less. I mean, was appearing in this picture worth the risk of a stubbed toe? Brave, brave girls. In the mean time the spotty-faced git has crawled under the wall, pulled the newly-awakened and very surprised Praxis behind a hedge to suffer...death? Or a fate worse than death such as Larsen worried about? Whatever, it only takes a few seconds and then he's off in search of fresh prey.

Blair and Larsen, having heard distant strains of music (Borodin's Poletsin Dances to be precise) are attempting to wend their way through the labyrinth, but being unfamiliar with it's layout, don't progress very far. The spotty-faced git (or minotaur) is naturally more knowledgeable about the labyrinth (at least in the allegorical sense) and finds the Fire Maidens very quickly (or perhaps he just has better hearing). They scream frantically as he walks slowly toward the altar, arms held stiffly at his side, uttering comments like "URRAAH!" and "RAUUGH!"

Bizarrely, though we've seen the monster's face many times, in this final sequence his features are hidden in shadow. Maybe Cy Roth, the Director (and Producer and Screenwriter), thought this would be more menacing. Or maybe the spot lamp had burned out. In any case, he leaps atop the altar just as Blair and Larsen burst in. They hurl a gas grenade which knocks him into the fire behind the altar. One would also think the gas would have some effect on Hestia who's tied to the altar, but apparently not.

Happiness reigns. Expedition 13 will return to Earth, taking Hestia along, and leaving behind promises of future expeditions to bring husbands for the love-starved Fire Maidens.

I tell you, this low-budget attempt to rework the Theseus myth takes my breath away. The subtle dignity of this production is worthy of the likes of Ed Wood Jr. (the film-God who created "Plan Nine From Outer Space" and other wonderful classics). You owe it to yourself to see this film sometime. Trust me.

UPCOMING NIFTY FILM PROJECTS:

PONYO ON A CLIFF BY THE SEA by Hayao Miyazaki is about a 5 year old boy and a Goldfish Princess, visual style said to resemble animated watercolour paintings. Possible Disney release?

BIOSHOCK, the acclaimed video game about an underwater utopia turned violent dystopia, is to be a Universal film by Gore Verbinski, script by John Logan. "We're prepared to make it an R-rated movie."

ZERO TROOPER F is a gloriously energetic short film by Eric Lim & fellow Wisconsin students spoofing Japanese giant monster movies. Surprisingly good effects combined with wonderfully cheesy sets.

BLACK WATER is an Australian film about three people trapped (in a swamp?) by a giant, prehistoric (?) crocodile, described by one critic as "a simple, brilliant monster movie". Sounds good to me!

REVELATION directed by James McTeigue involves a woman journalist researching bizarre murders somehow related to an organization tracking alien abductions. Script by John Salvati.

IRON SKY reveals how the Nazi's who fled to the Moon in 1945 return in 2018 to conquer the Earth. From the same group of Finnish amateur filmmakers who created STARWRECKED. A dark comedy. Sample clips look great!

MOON is an independent flick about a man marooned on the Moon with only his clone to keep him company. Not sure if this is 'serious' or some kind of comedy, but the sets are said to be quite good.

AT THE MOUNTAINS OF MADNESS by H.P. Lovecraft has been scripted by Del Toro as a future project after he directs **THE HOBBIT**. Quote: "we need to re-create the tentpole studio horror film". This is VERY exciting!

THE LENSMEN series of novels by E.E. 'Doc' Smith was the first galaxy-wide sci-fi epic (published beginning 1924) and is being adapted for Ron Howard by J. Michael Straczynski. Let's hope they don't 'update' these classics.

BABYLON A.D. is a French film starring Vin Diesel and appears to be some sort of apocalyptic end of civilization epic featuring arctic wastes, modern neon urban landscapes and sparkly weapons.

QUICK GUN MURIGAN is a Bollywood comedy about a 'Karmic Cowboy' sworn to defend 'sacred' cattle everywhere from the evil head of an international restaurant chain that wants to serve beef 'dosas'. Apparently a lot of fun.

KILLDROID is about a schoolgirl who revives a killer android, has sex with him, then has trouble covering up his killing spree. A Sci-Fi sexploitation film from the Philippines company Mondo Macabre.

THE INHABITED ISLAND is a two film production with the largest budget in Russian movie history, based on a story by the Strugatsky brothers, directed by Fyodor Bondarchuk (**9TH COMPANY**), takes place in the year 2157.

SPEED RACER – A Brief Review

By Stan G. Hyde

Okay . . . everybody isn't going to like this movie . . . but I had a grin on for most of it and laughed out loud more than once. It's the first time since MOULIN ROUGE that I felt someone made a really ballsy attempt to put me in another world . . . and at the end, when the movie tips it's hand toward the idea that driving a race car might be ART, and race images are sharing the screen with kaleidoscopic moving images inspired by old anime and pop art . . .

Well, I WAS MOVED.

Your reaction might be different.

Personally, I thought the acting was excellent - most people don't know how hard it is to pull off this kind of dialogue so it works - and hey, Pete Fernandez as a race announcer at the beginning just made me feel great.

We saw the film in IMAX . . . and if you get the chance to see it that way, I recommend. It just makes the sensory overload all the better (you know, it almost makes me regret that I don't use chemical stimulants . . . if there ever was a movie since 2001 that was a better excuse . . .)

We saw the film out at the Riverport Imax in Richmond B. C., and one of the neat additions was that Nicholas Elia - who plays the young version of Speed Racer - was in the house with a lot of his (I guess around 12 year old) friends . . . and they were not just digging the movie, but applauding and cheering every time he was on the screen.

The obligatory - let's all take cell phone photos of the kid from Speed Racer thing happened during the credits . . . sorry, no pictures from me - the paparazzi thing feels too weird. But it was kinda neat to see him there in his SPEED RACER shirt, looking more or less EXACTLY the way he does in the film.

Of course, I grew up with the cartoon and own all the DVDs of it, so in a weird way I might be the ideal audience for this film. Katie - who isn't a fan - was really worried because of all the bad reviews - but she enjoyed the film too.

We both flagged a little bit about 2/3rds through, but it picked up again at the end. Honestly, if it's really made for kids, then 2 hours plus is a bit long. Still, we were right there again at the end.

The other thing that would usually bug me is that all the laws of physics are suspended during the races in such a way that you can't really anticipate what is going to happen (or even understand it due to the fast paced editing). That kills suspense for me, and in a lot of action movies I resent it . . . but since this was a lot more like ROGER RABBIT in terms of the world we were in, and since the races were primarily used to develop the narrative, I found it didn't really bug me.

Anyway, I probably won't convince everyone . . . but I think this is as much, or maybe more, of a statement about what is possible with film than SIN CITY (or less impressively - SKY CAPTAIN AND THE WORLD OF TOMORROW).

The stuff about family is very nice, and the film's world is breath-taking. If you're curious and really need an excuse to get you into the theater or past the many bad reviews . . . well, this really deserves to be seen on a big screen.

Make it my fault, say STan sent you, and give it a try . . . most of the mainstream reviewers have no idea what this film is.

INDY 4 – A Quick Impression

By Stan G. Hyde

I really enjoyed this film.

Like SPEED RACER, I think some of the things I liked best about the movie (particularly the situation and how it all played into the era of the 1950s) might bug some people but was great as far as I was concerned.

I was also really impressed that Harrison Ford and Karen Allen played parts that actually approximated their real ages.

This might bug some, but I thought the film was really good.

I remember (a million years ago) Pauline Kael - who really dug Spielberg - being down on RAIDERS OF THE LOST ARK because - besides being our generation's HOWARD HAWKS - he also really emphasized the family.

Weirdly, with this film and LAST CRUSADE . . . after all these years . . . he's brought the series around to something she probably would have liked.

Yup - I fully realize that just like SPEED RACER there are reasons why some won't like this film - but two thumbs way up from me. Lucas - you have slightly redeemed yourself . . .

Maybe this summer's CLONE WARS cartoon will restore my faith.

THE ELECTRONIC TONALITIES OF FORBIDDEN PLANET

Here are excerpts from a New York Times article published last April. I am grateful to Monster Attack Team Canada for bringing it to my attention. 'Forbidden Planet' remains my favourite Sci-Fi film of all time. Apart from the intelligent plot (based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest') and spectacular sets and visual effects (never mind the wooden direction), the utterly alien and off-worldly music/sound effects by the Barrons evokes an audio sense of wonder like no other film before or since. The film has flaws, but the sound track is not one of them. It is breath-takingly awe-inspiring.

Bebe Barron, who with her husband Louis composed the first electronic score for a feature film -- the eerie gulps and burbles, echoes and weeeooooos that accentuated invisible monsters and robotic creatures in the 1956 science-fiction classic "Forbidden Planet" -- died this April. She was 82.

Her son, Adam, said she died of natural causes. Louis Barron died in 1989.

The score for "Forbidden Planet" -- the tale of a starship crew that travels 17 light years from Earth to investigate why settlers on the planet Altair-4 have gone silent -- "is truly a landmark in electro-acoustic music," said Barry Schrader, a professor of electro-acoustic music at the California Institute of the Arts.

While the Barrons created electronically produced themes for the film's characters and events, Professor Schrader said, their score crossed the traditional line between music and sound effects.

"At some points it's actually impossible to say whether or not what you're hearing is music, sound effect or both," he said. "In doing this, they foreshadowed by decades the now-common role of the sound designer in modern film and video."

While later electro-acoustic scoring became more melodic, the Barrons' breakthrough fixed the technique's otherworldly identity in public consciousness. Perhaps the most memorable character in "Forbidden Planet" is Robby the Robot, who brews bourbon and performs Herculean feats; for him, the Barrons composed a mechanically bubbly theme. For the invisible monster Id, a percussive sinking sound with a descending pitch punctuates every hole his footsteps leave on the planet's rugged terrain.

Contemporary electro-acoustic effects are digitally synthesized. The Barrons used vacuum tubes and tape recorders. When it came to amplifying vibrations from a stylus on a record, vacuum tubes were a major advance from the days of the phonograph horn. Mr. Barron designed vacuum tube circuits, organizing them in patterns that controlled the flow of electricity to produce combinations of pitch, timbre, volume and other variables. The sounds were recorded on tape.

Mrs. Barron would sort through hours and hours of tape. Together the Barrons would cut and splice; play segments at varying speeds to change the pitch; run segments in reverse to create new sounds; or induce delays to produce echoing feedback.

The score drew critical praise, but a dispute with the American Federation of Musicians prevented the Barrons from receiving credit for it; their work was referred to as "electronic tonalities." That slight was soothed in 1997, when Mrs. Barron was given the Seamus Award of the Society for Electro-Acoustic Music in the United States.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

Sources < <http://www.locusmag.com/Conventions.html> > & < <http://www.sfnorthwest.org/northwestcons.html#cons> >

CONCOMCON or C-CUBED 15 – (June 13 – 15, 2008) at the Summit Lodge, Snoqualmie Pass, Washington State, USA.

- **Room rates:** are \$89 for a deluxe double room with microwave and a small refrigerator. You can make reservations by going to the web site: < <http://www.snoqualmiesummitlodge.com/groups/> > and using the group code ConComCon.
- **Membership Rate:** is \$30 through June 6 and \$40 at the door.
- **Nature of Con:** ConComCon or C-Cubed is the annual Convention Committee Convention held every year in the Pacific Northwest. C-Cubed's mission is to bring convention and event planners together to share ideas and to learn from each other in order to improve their own events. C-Cubed's major sponsor is SWOC (Seattle Westercon Organization Committee). This year's theme is "Learning from Each Other or How Not to Reinvent the Wheel". This will be the fifteenth year of C-Cubed ! Whether you're part of the staff of a anime, comic, fantasy, furry, gaming, media, toy, sci-fi, or some other genre, C-Cubed will hopefully provide you with answers to your convention needs. For those of you that would be coming in from out of the Pacific Northwest. We'd recommend flying into Sea-Tac Airport. Snoqualmie Pass is about an hour drive east from thereon I-90. This is a regional convention with most of the Northwest cons being represented, but people from out of the area also attend. Check the website: < <http://swoc.org/ccubed/> > for any new information.

8TH ANNUAL FAIRY & HUMAN RELATIONS CONGRESS – (June 27 – 29, 2008) at the Skalitude Retreat Centre, Twisp, Methow Valley, North Cascades, WA.

- **Nature of Con:** "Our goal is not to escape the outer world but to positively affect it... The humans are vastly outnumbered at the congress by the fairies, devas and other light beings who are in attendance. How many? We are assured it is in the thousands... the fairies and devas have a concurrent congress as well as interacting with the human participants during circles and joint meditations..." Held on 160 acre Skalitude retreat centre with skylodge holding fairie art gallery and workshops. Large outdoor kitchen. Camping facilities. Nearest motel 7 miles away.
- **Features:** Workshops, circles, fairy parade and dancing, costuming, singing, music, communing with nature, human & fairy meditations. [Comment: Judging from website photos, nothing less than an old-fashioned hippie be-in with a fairy theme. Everyone seems to be having a lot of fun. Giant flower standards.] Note: No drugs, alcohol permitted. Dogs only on approval.
- **Three Day Fees:** Adults \$270, 18-25 \$150, 13-17 \$50, under 12 \$25, seniors (over 60) \$150. Day rates: Fri \$85, Sat \$95, Sun \$65. Registration fee includes all workshops, camping & meals.
- For more info see < <http://www.fairycongress.com/> >

WESTERCON 61: BURNING FAN – LAS VEGAS – (July 3 – 6, 2008) at the JW Marriott Resort, 221 N rampart Blvd, Las Vegas, NV, USA 89145.

- **Guests of Honour:** Writer GoH: Kage Baker, Artist GoH: Lubov, Fan GoH: Milt Stevens.
- **Pre-con Registration:** \$65 till June 20th.
- **Room rate:** \$159 per night.
- See < <http://www.westercon61.org/> > for further info. Website includes progress report 1 with nifty tribute to Walter J. Daugherty, founder of Westercon.

SPOCON – (Aug 1 – 3, 2008) at the Gonzaga University Campus, Spokane WA, USA.

- **Nature of Con:** Spokane's local SF&F con.
- **Guests of Honour:** Author GoH: Timothy Zahn, Artist GoH: Mark Ferrari, Filk GoHs: Vixy & Tony.
- **Membership Rate:** \$30 till July 18th, then \$35.
- **Hotel Rates:** Campus housing: 1 Bedroom suite with shared bathroom \$40 per night, 2 bedroom with bathroom, \$70 per night, 3 bedroom \$100 per night, Apt with kitchen & bathroom \$140 per night.
- **Features:** Writers workshops, costuming, PC/Console tournaments, CCG tournaments, art show & auction, 24 hour LARP, masquerade, various panels, anime, gaming, & hospitality.
- See < <http://spocon.us/> > for more info.

FANDEMONIUM '08 – (Aug 1 – 3, 2008) at the Nampa Civic Centre, 311 3rd St. S, Nampa, Idaho, USA 83651. 30,000 sq ft convention space with 640 seat auditorium. Hotel is separate – Days Inn Nampa, 130 Shannon Drive, Nampa, Idaho, USA, 83687.

- **Hotel Rates:** \$75.99 per night single/double, \$107.99 per night suite. These are special rates. Call hotel at 1-877-442-0217 and tell them you are "with the Fandemonium Group" AND "that you wish to rent a room from the Fandemonium blocked rooms". Discount rate cuts off July 20, full price after that.
- **Guests of Honour:** Anime GoH: Jan Scott-Frasier, Comics GoH: Steve Willhite, Animator GoH: Reed Hawker.
- **Nature of Con:** A Gaming/ Costuming/SF/Anime/Comics convention.
- **Features:** art gallery, independent & fan films, costuming and Cosplay, panels & workshops, tabletop & video gaming, & events such as Anime Dating Game, Ani-Music Concert, Battle Karoke, Boffer Sword Grand Melee, Maniac Masquerade Dance, Etc.

- **Membership Rates:** Pre-Reg Adult (13-54): \$30.00, Youth/senior (6-12/55&up) \$25.00 good till July 20. Canadians in US funds by International Money Order or Paypal. At the door prices Adult: \$35.00 & Child/Senior \$30.00. No credit cards accepted at the door.

- See < <http://www.fandemonium.org/> > for detailed information.

DENVENTION / WORLDCON 66 -- (Aug 6 – 10, 2008) at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. (It's gigantic! 6 exhibit halls total 584,000 sq ft, 62 meeting rooms total 100,00 sq ft, 2 ballrooms total 85,000 sq ft, one 5,000 seat theatre! You'll need a GPS thingie to find your way around!) Entire Mark Adam's Hotel designated for party suites. 250 room block contracted for the Hyatt Hotel which adjoins the Convention Centre.

- **Nature of Con:** Annual Worldcon, SF&F's largest convention absolutely crawling with writers, publishers, artists and editors. The one con ALL Pros attend. Plus huge number of Smofs & legendary fans.

- **Guests of Honour:** Author GoH: Lois McMaster Bujold, Artist GoH: Rick Sternbach, Fan GoH: Tom Whitmore; Ghost of Honour: Robert Heinlein; Toast Master Will McCarthy.

- **Current Membership Rates:** Adult \$200, Child under 12: \$50, with several variations depending on presupport status. Multiple hotels, most within 4 blocks walk of the convention centre.

- For accurate info on complex options you need to check out website: < <http://www.denvention3.org/> >.

- Note: Daytime programming in the Convention Centre, late afternoon & evening programming in the Sheraton Hotel 4 blocks away.

CON-VERSION 24 -- (Aug 15 – 1, 2008) at the Radisson Hotel, 2120 – 16th Avenue NE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2E 1L4.

- **Nature of Con:** Annual SF&F con sponsored by the Calgary SF&F Society.

- Really weird **Hotel Rates:** Room package for 1 person, \$520 for Fri/Sat/Sun, payable in full at time of booking (!) plus \$150 damage deposit payable upon arrival. If ordinary room booking (not package), damage deposit is \$250 (!) I assume you get deposit back?

- **Pass Price:** Pre-reg 'weekend pass' till July 31 is \$40, or \$70 for family (2 adults + up to 3 youths), \$30 for Youth 9-18, under 9 free.

- **Guests of Honour:** Author GoH: Timothy Zahn, Artist GoH: Jennie Breeden, Other GoH: K.A. Bedford. - **Features:** Panels, Masquerade, Dance, Slave Auction, Armageddon Idol show, costume contest, banquet, etc. All room parties must be registered with Con-Version in advance and adhere strictly to hotel rules.

- To carefully examine complex options see website: < <http://www.con-version.org/> >

GATECON 08 -- (Aug 21-24, 2008) at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada, V6Z 2R9.

- **Nature of Con:** Strictly a commercial for profit TVmedia convention with emphasis on Stargate.

- **Hotel Room Rates:** Special single/double room rates vary from \$209 to \$509 a night, plus 16% assorted taxes, cut off date for bookings July 22. Reservations hotel 800-663-9255.).

- [*Note: like all other hotels in B.C., NO SMOKING allowed in building, not even in your hotel room. There are no smoking rooms. Smoking allowed outside building only, and you must be at least 5 metres (approx 15 feet) away from nearest door, vent or open window. It's the law!]*

- **Ticket Price:** Online ticket price is 135 British Pound Sterling (Gatecon a UK Company). Must purchase VIP pass for 185 British Pound Sterling to take part in photo signings & welcome party, but VIP passes sold out. No at the door price listed. (Gatecon notorious for discouraging local attendees. They prefer international out of town attendees.)

- **Guests of Honour:** Richard Dean Anderson, Andee Frizell, Cliff Simon, Corin Nemec, Alex Zahara, Dan Payne & others, including Paul Watson of the Sea Shepard Conservation Society, of which charity fundraising for same, as per example signed RDA photos which cost \$40 each.

- **Features:** consist mostly of stage talks with Q&A sessions, seating strictly by ticket number only. Plus banquet (cost extra?), dealers room, & autograph sessions. Says it is fan-run for fans but not at all like a typical fan SF convention, more like those notorious 'professional' Commercial Star Trek cons of old. If following same pattern as previous Gatecons, no programming after 8:00 PM, no hospitality suite, and no room parties allowed. Comment from my wife Alyx who attended a previous Gatecon: "It was so commercial I was embarrassed to be there."

- If you absolutely insist on spending your money, see < <http://gatecon.com/> >

ANIME EVOLUTION -- (Aug 22-24, 2008) at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby Mountain Campus, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, B.C. mostly in the Academic Quadrangle & the Maggie Benston Centre.

- **Nature of Con:** "Vancouver's Japanese Animation Convention And Asian Cultural festival"

- **Features:** 24 hour video rooms, Anime Music video room, improve comedy group, Anime Idol contest, Anime male model walkoff, 'name that clip' game, cosplay & cosplay contest, industry guests, industry panels, live concerts, art gallery, karaoke, video games, dealers room, charity auction, game tournaments, and more!).

- [*NOTE: like all other public buildings in B.C., NO SMOKING allowed, not even in your hotel room. There are no smoking rooms. Smoking allowed outside building only, and you must be at least 5 metres (approx 15 feet) away from nearest door, vent or open window. It's the law!]*

- **Hotel Rates:** No accommodation on site available. Special deals made with Executive Hotel (\$129 a night if booked before July 21st) and Ramada Inn (\$109.95 single/ \$119.95 double if booked before July 25th), both hotels in Coquitlam near Lougheed Skytrain Station.

- **Pass Price:** Three day pass \$40 till June 30th, then \$45. Valid ID required to pick up pass at registration (driver's license, passport, photo ID, etc.) 5,000 attendees expected.

- For detailed info: < www.animeevolution.com >

VCON 33 -- (Oct 3-5, 2008) at the Days Inn Surrey/Compass Point Inn, 9850 King George Highway, Surrey, BC, Canada V3T 4Y3.

- **Nature of Con:** Canada's oldest ongoing Sci-Fi & Fantasy convention (VCON 1 was held in 1971). Sponsored by the West Coast Science Fiction Association (a Registered Society).

- **Guests of Honour:** Author GoH: Patrick Rothfuss (author of 'Name of the Wind'), Artist GoH: Lisa Snellings-Clark. Gaming GoH: James Ernest (of Cheapass Games), Science GoH: Dr. Jaymie Matthews.

- **Attending Authors:** Mary Choo, Eric Choi, Don DeBrandt, Linda DeMeulemeester, Eileen Kernaghan, Donna McMahon, Rhea Rose, Tamara Sheehan, Lisa Smedman, Marcie Lynn Tentchoff, Gareth Von Kallenbach, Linda Williams & Casey June Wolf.

- Others Attending: Devon Boorman (Historical Swordplay)

- **Hotel** is the Compass Point Inn, *but* it is currently still called the Days Inn Surrey (name changes in June). Location description: Intersection of King George Highway (99A) and Fraser Highway (1A). Next to King George Skytrain Station (Expo Line eastmost terminal station).

Hotel Website: < <http://www.compasspointinn.com/> >

- **Current pre-registration membership rate:** \$50 till Sept 15th, \$60 at the door. Day rates: Friday: \$30, Saturday: \$35, Sunday: \$25. Student rates are discounted by 25% (the at the door rate for students is \$45) Children 7 - 12 are half the adult rate (at the door rate is \$30) Children 6 and under get in free. The member registration form is downloadable from VCON's website at < <http://www.vcon.ca/registration.htm> > Make out cheques to 'VCON' and mail to VCON, c/o Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V5N 5W1.

- **Hotel Room Rates:** \$99/night, single room (1-2 people), \$109/night, double room (3-4 people). Unfortunately, no suites or kitchenettes are available. Phone or fax the hotel to get the VCON rate ("VCON, October 2-5, 2008"). A credit card or deposit is needed for a reservation. Floors 3, 4, and 5 are "quiet floors", and floors 2 and 6 are "party floors", to the best of the hotel's ability and availability. There are 81 rooms total (note that VCON's already taken some for GoHs and Operations).

- [*Note: like all other hotels in B.C., NO SMOKING allowed in building, not even in your hotel room. There are no smoking rooms. Smoking allowed outside building only, and you must be at least 5 metres (approx 15 feet) away from nearest door, vent or open window. It's the law!]*

Telephone: 604-588-9511

Toll Free: 1-800-663-0660

Fax: 604-588-7949

- **Features:** Art show, dealer's room, gaming room, masquerade, hospitality suite, fan club tables, turkey readings,

- If you'd like to help VCON 33 write: < vconchair@gmail.com >

- For updated info: < www.vcon.ca >

PURE SPECULATION 2008 "Attack of the 50-Ft Spec!" -- (Oct 19-20, 2008) at the Hazedon Community Hall, 9630 66 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

- **Nature of Con:** "Edmonton's one and only sci-fi and fantasy festival!" Sponsored by ON SPEC Magazine, Bioware Corp & Inkworks.

- **Guests of Honour:** Author GoH: Robert J. Sawyer, Game Designer/Writer GoH: Monte Cook, Artist GoH: Herman Lau.

- **Other Attending Special Guests:** Author Thomas Wharton, On Spec Magazine Editor Diane Walton, The Edmonton Gamer's Association.

- **Hotel:** None, You're on your own.

- **Events:** "Each year we bring Edmonton's geeks the very best of what they love the most. Panels, demonstrations, readings, games: We have it all!"

- **Registration:** Weekend pass \$20 to July 31st, available through PayPal. Aug 1st to Oct 12th, weekend pass is \$25, available through PayPal or in person at all Happy Harbour Locations. At the Door: weekend pass \$30, Sat \$20, Sun \$15, Costume Shindig only: \$10.00.

- **Contact Pure Speculation:** Email < purespeculation@gmail.com > or write to Pure Speculation, c/o 8410 104 Street, Edmonton, AB T6E 4G2.

For latest updated info, see < <http://www.purespec.org/> >

SURREY INTERNATIONAL WRITERS CONFERENCE 2008 -- (Oct 24 - 26, 2008) at the Sheraton Vancouver Guilford Hotel, 15269 104 Ave, Surrey, B.C. V3R 1N5 (across the street from Guilford Mall).

- **Nature of Con:** Professional all-genre writers conference/trade show/book fair.
- **Guests of Honour:** Includes **Robert J. Sawyer:**

“Rob will be offering this three-hour master class on Thursday, October 23: *“The Intimately Human and the Grandly Cosmic”* -- making your science fiction appeal not just to the mind but to the heart as well. The number-one reason mainstream readers don't even try science fiction is they think it has nothing to offer them emotionally: they wrongly believe that it's either too dry and intellectual, or that any character development is sketchy and any character drama is simplistic and juvenile. But the best science fiction is as emotionally complex, as heart-wrenching, as moving, and as uplifting as the best mainstream fiction. Learn how to balance both halves of the term "science fiction" without giving short-shrift to either.”

“In addition, he will be doing this 75-minute workshop on Sunday, October 25: *“Showing, Not Telling.”* Everyone knows you're supposed to show, not tell -- but what does that mean exactly? How do you convey information without coming out and saying it? How can you show emotion without naming it? And when should you tell instead of show?”

“And he'll be appearing on panels on *“Speculative Fiction”* and *“Writing Best Sellers,”* plus giving a keynote address.”

- **Events:** Numerous panels, Master Class workshops and a banquet for conference registrants, Writing Contest (deadline for submissions is 4 pm Friday, Sept 5th -- Four categories, each with \$1,000 prize), plus a FREE open-to-the-public Book Fair & Author Signing on Sat Oct 25th from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm.

- **Registration:** This is very peculiar, but the SIWC website contains no information whatsoever about the registration fees or process (that I am able to find) other than the fact the registration fee does not include hotel room. There is no toll free number to call. The site does say that if you have any questions about the Registration process you should phone their Registration Office at 604-587-2302 Mon-Fri during regular working hours. Number to change come summer.

I contacted them by email and they replied: “Registration will open on-line, over the phone and in person in July. We are currently switching gateway providers, so the information will not go up on the site until that is in place. My suggestion is that you just refer people to the site at < www.siwc.ca > or the most current information. We will update as soon as we know. The cost should be in line with last year, which ranged from \$109 for one day to \$479 for a full conference package (excluding accommodation).”

- **Hotel:** See < [The Sheraton Guildford Hotel website](http://www.sheraton.com) > for info and making online reservations. Be sure to mention you are part of SIWC when booking room to take advantage of any special rate offered. Group rates available till Sept 17th. Phone 1-800-661-2818 for toll free reservations. Local Hotel no is 604-582-9712.

- [*Note: like all other hotels in B.C., NO SMOKING allowed in building, not even in your hotel room. There are no smoking rooms. Smoking allowed outside building only, and you must be at least 5 metres (approx 15 feet) away from nearest door, vent or open window. It's the law!]*

For latest details and info see < <http://www.siwc.ca/> >

WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2008 -- (Oct 30 - Nov 2 , 2008) at the Hyatt Regency Calgary Hotel, 700 Centre Street SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 5P6. Tel: (403) 717-1234. Fax: (403) 537-4444. Web site: < <http://www.calgary.hyatt.com> >

- **Nature of Con:** Largest annual convention devoted to Fantasy genre.

- **Room Rate:** CDN \$165 Single/Double Please mention “World Fantasy Convention” to receive the convention group rate and to properly credit our event. The group code that you want to use is WFCC or G-WFCC. This will give you the preferred rate of \$165.00/night. This rate expires October 1, 2008.

- **Guests of Honour:** Author GoH's David Morell & Barbara Hambly. Publisher GoH: Tom Doherty. Artist GoH: Todd Lockwood. Toastmaster: Tad Williams.

- Current **Membership Rate:** \$125 US or CDN. Supporting: \$35 US or Cdn. Register on-line (via Pay Pal) at <

<http://www.worldfantasy2008.org/ro.html> >, or to register by mail, go to

< <http://www.worldfantasy2008.org/reg.html> > & choose appropriate form. For more Info check the convention website: < www.worldfantasy2008.org/ >.

ANTICIPATION / WORLDCON 67 -- (Aug 6-10, 2009) Hotel: Palais des congrès de Montreal.

- **Guests of Honour:** GoH: Neil Gaiman. Invitee d'honneur: Elisabeth Vonarburg. Fan GoH: Taral Wayne. Editor GoH: David Hartwell. Artist GoH: Ralph Bakshi, Publisher GoH: Tom Doherty. MC: Julie Czerneda.

- Contact address: Anticipation, C.P. 105, Succursale NDG, Montreal, QC, Canada H4A 3P4. For info:

< info@anticipationsf.ca > or < www.anticipationsf.ca >

LOCAL EVENTS:

POP CULTURE COLLECTIBLES FAIR

June 7 at the Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, B.C. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Free admission! Free parking! Includes new & vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVD's, Manga, Anime, books, magazines, video games, Star Wars, Hot Heels, wrestling, Canucks, & more! Dealer info: 8 foot tables \$40, phone: 604-521-6304. Also **COMPUTER SWAP MEET** same date & location, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

FRAKKIN' CLIFFHANGER! SEASON ENDER PARTY!

Friday 13 June, 5:30 pm - 10:00 pm

The 13th Colony (Battlestar Galactica Fan Club)

Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th Street, North Vancouver.

<http://battlestargalactica.meetup.com/16/calendar/7892630/>

CHARITY SCREENING SERENITY (with Jewel Staite -- "Kaylee")

Sunday 22 June, 11:00 am - 6:00 pm

Vancouver Browncoats (Firefly/Serenity fan club)

Norm Theatre, Student Union Building, 6138 Student Union Boulevard, UBC

<http://firefly.meetup.com/12/calendar/7832729/>

KRAZY! THE DELIRIOUS WORLD OF:

May 17-Sept. 7: KRAZY! The Delirious World of Anime + Comics + Video Games + Art, at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC.

Admission (plus tax): Members Free.

Tuesday Evenings (5pm-9pm) by donation.

Adult \$15. Senior (65+) \$11. Student (with valid ID) \$10.

Children (5-12) \$6. Children (4 and under) free.

Family (max 2 adults + 2 children) \$40.

More info at < http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/the_exhibitions/exhibit_krazy.html >

LYNNE FAHNESTALK ART SHOW:

May – July: Art by Lynne Fahnestalk (well known Canadian Fan Artist) is on display (and for sale) at DRAGONSPACE located on Granville Island on a three month trial basis. She does neat & nifty stuff (including – in the past – covers for BCSFAzine, Space Cadet, and ON SPEC magazine), so drop by and take a look.

LOCAL CLUBS:

B.C. BROWNCOATS:

The B.C. Browncoats, founded April 2004, are fans of Firefly and Serenity, created by Joss Whedon. 300 members.

“Every Thursday from 8-10 PM we meet in the Canadian Browncoat’s Chat Room. New members are always welcome, so please come and join us for a chat!” Simply register at < <http://p201.ezboard.com/bccanadianbrowncoats2932> >

See < <http://www.browncoats.ca/> > website for details & info, or The Vancouver Firefly/Serenity Meetup Group (Vancouver) at < <http://firefly.meetup.com/12/> > “Grab a drink, pull up a chair and join us online! It’s free...and it’s FUN!”

B.C.S.F.A. – THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION:

Founded 29th January, 1970. **Membership is now free!** BCSFA holds a monthly social gathering at the home of the Treasurer, a ‘Feeding Frenzy’ get together at a different restaurant every month (currently on hold), a book discussion on a monthly basis at the ‘Our Town Café’, a monthly ‘Royal Swiss Navy Disorganization meeting’ at the home of BCFAzine editor Garth Spencer where random topics are picked out of a hat and hotly debated, and offers free monthly on-line issues of BCSFAzine (or, if you have no computer access, a paper version at cost, availability severely limited).

Note: no point in checking out the BCSFA Club website listed below as it is currently frozen, not being updated, until a new website manager is chosen/volunteered/drafted.

BCSFAZINE ADDRESSES:

BCSFAZINE EDITOR (submissions, letters of comment, trades) – BCSFAzine, c/o Garth Spencer, P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5V 3P0.

OR: email < garthspencer@shaw.ca >

ROYAL SWISS NAVY DISORGANIZATIONAL MEETING (DISCUSSION GROUP): **Saturday June (?) @ 8 pm** at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Phone him at (778) 865-2372 for directions & correct date, (if indeed it is even being held this month. No info listed in the current BCSFAzine). An evening of conversation and debate on selected subjects. (NOTE: the RSN website has been taken down; a new one is under construction.)

BCSFAzine SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday June 13 – See Garth at Fred or send to Editor Addresses above.

BCSFA MEETING & PARTY: Saturday June 21 @ 7pm at the Moore-Freeman home, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, B.C. Phone (604) 277-0845 for directions.

BCSFA BOOK DISCUSSION IN VANCOUVER: Thursday June 19 @ 7pm at the "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. The topic book will be *'Revelation Space'* by Alastair Reynolds.

BCSFAzine PRODUCTION: Friday June 27 - See Garth at FRED for your paper copy. Trying to reduce the number of paper copies as much as possible.

BCSFA SPONSORED WEB SITES:

BCSFA CLUB WEB SITE: < <http://www.bcsfa.net> > (Currently 'frozen' pending new site manager)

BCSFA YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP: < http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/ >

CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA: < <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

B.I.F.F. MEETINGS (Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship) – Every Friday (except long weekends & VCON weekend) @ 6:30 PM till closing time (officially 9:00 pm). A weekly social meeting for SF fans, founded June 11th, 2005. Held at The Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver.

“There are no rules (beyond the fact that the restaurant asks that anybody who comes orders some food, but as you can get something reasonable to eat for very little if funds are tight), and there are no membership fees or dues (although sometimes we ask for donations to cover some expenses), and nobody is in charge (things just sort of happen.)”

Every BIFF event typically has a theme, be it a particular film, panel discussion, guest speaker, etc. For Example:

“We've been having so much fun swapping videos around that we're going to do it again. Yes, BIFF will be holding yet another Video Crossing Night. Just bring any science fiction, fantasy, anime, comic, or gaming related videos (on DVD, VCD, VHS, Blue-Ray, HD DVD, Beta, Laser Disc, or whatever) that you don't want to keep any more, and give them away. Then, take your pick from the selection that other BIFFites bring in, and we can all go home happy.”

To find out what is currently planned for the near future (usually on relatively short notice), please check the BIFF web site at: < <http://biff.realityfree.ca/> >

FANCOUVER: VANCOUVER SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY MEETUP – Vancouver, B.C. Founded Sept 21, 2005. 118 Members. “Meet fellow Sci-fi/Fantasy Fans near you! Come to a local Sci-fi/Fantasy Meetup to have fun talking science fiction and fantasy in literature, media, gaming and art. Who knows, maybe we'll hit a convention too!”

For details & info: < <http://sciifi.meetup.com/278/> >

F.R.E.D. MEETINGS – **Every Friday @ 8:00 PM.** F.R.E.D. stands for “F*** Reality, Everybody Drink”, a weekly social meeting for SF fans, founded May 3rd, 1979. Currently held at Boston Pizza, 1333 West Broadway @ Hemlock (2 blocks East of Granville), Vancouver.

Note: Keeper of the FRED Ryan Hawe reports:

“The relationship between fandom at large and a certain televisual --endeavour -- that has been astride the North American imagination of the future for over 40 years, has often been a bit of a tense one.”

“It hasn't always been this way -- Isaac Asimov was an early booster, and we've all heard the tales of Bjo Trimble, then just another fan like you or I, sneaking into NBC's parkade to slap stickers on the bumpers of executive limos in support of the show. But when you're the institution on the block, it's hard not to feel competitive, whether you want to be or not.”

“And rather like some of our local institutions, there has been a perceived slump, a period of retreat and rest. Now, a return to the popular imagination – for they never left syndication, or bookseller's shelves -- is coming, with an unnumbered and un-secondarily titled feature film. What will be the result? And are there any lessons we can learn? What lessons have they learned from the period in which other names in sci-fi TV could assert themselves?”

“First go see the teaser (if you haven't already) at < www.startrekmovie.com >”

“Then, head on down to FRED, for discussion of all the above...”

“For info see < <http://www.facebook.com/group.php> > or contact Ryan Hawe, Keeper of the FRED, at < luxdoprime@yahoo.com >”

MONSTER ATTACK TEAM CANADA

“This group is mostly for members to keep up with the latest events and happening for the club. MONSTER ATTACK is situated in British Columbia's Lower Mainland, and while anyone is welcome to join to stay up with club events, the primary interest will be to members and those thinking of coming to a Monster Attack - Canada event in Vancouver B.C. or the Lower Mainland. At the same time, we want to answer as many questions as we can for people interested in SF,

FANTASY, ANIME, and MONSTER modeling - and encourage people to use the site to pose questions about kit building. Think of this as an online clubhouse as well as an info site - and PLEASE ASK AWAY!"

For details & info: < <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterAttackTeamCanada/?yguid=8788> >

MONSTER FIGHTERS ONLINE CLUB (of Monster Attack Team Canada)

"This Group is for anyone who wants to talk Science fiction and Fantasy films, Figure Garage kits, Monster toys, DVDs, up-coming films, and just plain cool stuff! PLEASE: this is a place to have FUN!!! It's about the love of the hobby, not about flaming someone who feels differently than you do. Please try to express your opinions in a way that is respectful of others' opinions. Let's talk monsters!"

Every month a MOTM (Monster of the month) topic is chosen. "Monster of the Month is designed to inspire Monster Fighters to study their enemies. Sometime during November watch the MOTM . . . then post comments, reviews, thoughts, or pictures to the clubhouse." The MOTM is announced at the beginning of each month. November's was MYSTERIOUS ISLAND (1961), Oct: IT CAME FROM BENEATH THE SEA (1956), Sept: ATRAGON (1963), etc. "We're still hungry for info on models, toys, pictures and other cool stuff devoted to those monsters. Scan the web, search the world, and deliver the results of your searches back here!"

For details & info:< <http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterFighters> >

THE 13TH COLONY – VANCOUVER'S BATTLESTAR GALACTICA FAN CLUB

"If you've ever wondered if your boss is really a Cylon, if you've dreamed of flying a Viper, or if you find yourself using the word "frak" in casual conversation, then this is the place for you!"

"Battlestar Galactica is the coolest show on TV, and it is made right here in Vancouver, so why not take advantage of that? If you would like to meet up with other BSG fans in the Lower Mainland, join us!"

"Our motto is "We found Earth, but where can we find coffee?!" Therefore, coffee meetups are pretty regular, but we also hold viewing parties and location scouting missions."

"Welcome to The 13th Colony. So say we all!"

"If you are looking for details about our Frakkin' Cliffhanger! Season Ender Party, click on the link below

<http://battlestar...> "

"To keep up with our adventures online, check out our blog: <http://13thcolony...> "

USS MAJESTIC NCC-78601 (REGION 10 STARFLEET)

This Star Trek vessel is the flagship for Region 10 Starfleet (see non-local clubs), and is based in Victoria, B.C. About 18 members listed.

"Like many ships, our crew is diverse and has a variety of interests, but for us on board USS Majestic our major activities include social events such as watching movies, hiking, games and short story writing."

Recently began publishing a monthly newsletter titled 'Majestic Mews' available online.

For details & info: < <http://www.uss-majestic.org/> >

NON-LOCAL CANADIAN CLUBS:

FREDERICTON SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY:

"Along with our official meetings, members of the group congregate on Monday Nights for a gathering at Tingley's Traditions/Quiznos on Dundonald Street, Fredericton, NB. The times vary, especially during the summer months, but generally anytime after 8:00pm until closing at 10:00pm."

"The FSFS also helps in the volunteering at [Communicon](http://www.celtic-dragon.ca/fsfswebsitemain.html), which is a local gaming convention held the last weekend in January. Though it is a separate entity from the FSFS, it is run by two of the club members and many of the club participate in one facet or another."

For details & info see < <http://www.celtic-dragon.ca/fsfswebsitemain.html> >

K.I.D.C. – KLINGON IMPERIAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS:

"World's largest & most popular Klingon cultural website... dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Klingon culture and society here on Earth. On this award-winning website, you will find over 225 pages of Klingon data; info on the KIDC, Klingon rituals, ceremonies and traditions, intergalactic cuisine, Klingon fashion and costuming, ships and weaponry; as well as popular discussion forums, numerous Klingon-related mailing lists, and more..."

"The KIDC is an independent and neutral Klingon organization that does not get involved in intra-club political disputes or disagreements. We believe that a Klingon is a Klingon, no matter what organization, club or group they belong to or are affiliated with. We hope to serve as a central resource of Klingon cultural information to all Klingons, regardless of their background."

"Our headquarters is the *Klingon Imperial Embassy*, based in the Montreal Sector of Canada... The KIDC has many different departments and sections; one of which you will be assigned based on your qualifications and your career

preference. Each of our members chooses a Klingon name and puts together a character or persona that fits plausibly within the generally accepted view of the Klingon Empire within the period of The Grand Alliance.”

“Depending on your location on the globe, there are many different ways of participating in the club. We highly encourage interaction between member’s characters both through role-playing and through real-life communications via regular snail mail, e-mail and participation in our many Klingon related mailing lists as well as our [Klingon Imperial Forums](#). Members can also become involved in Klingon cultural research, assisting with website maintenance, recruiting and promotion, organizing display tables at conventions, club fund-raising, and organizing or assisting in charitable events.”

For details & info: < <http://www.klingon.org> >

MARITIME SCIENCE FICTION MODELERS:

“The Maritime Science Fiction Modelers consists of about 20 model builders who enjoy the realm of Science Fiction model subjects. We now have members in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.”

“Formed in 1993 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the group gathers once a month to discuss the sci-fi modeling world, talk about new science fiction movies and television, and swap model building techniques. At our meetings, we are able to work on our latest model, or we can show off our most recent modeling triumph.”

“Many members of the group are involved in promoting the model building hobby, and we have had models in several model contests, museum exhibits, science fiction conventions, local television and movie theatre lobbies.”

“It wasn’t until 2002 that we finally put a website together so that more than just the Maritime provinces of eastern Canada could see what we were up to. Enjoy your visit!”

For details & info see: < <http://msfm.seryan.com/> >

MonSFFA – THE MONTREAL SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY ASSOCIATION:

“MonSFFA a club for fans of the science fiction and fantasy genres. We are your connection to the SF/F community, local, national and international. We have been active since 1987. Our areas of interest span the full spectrum of the SF/F universe: literature, movies, television, comics, gaming, art, animation, scale-model building, costuming, memorabilia collecting, film/video production and more!”

MonSFFA is probably the most active SF club in Canada, with a healthy membership base, event-packed club activity, the monthly newsletter IMPULSE (available for download) and a quarterly clubzine WARP (members only download, or discretion of editor). Their website is well worth checking out for the downloadable fan films BEAVRA, MOOSE MAN, and THE SIMPLETON’S LIFE.

For details & info: < <http://www.monsffa.com/> >

OSFA – THE OTTAWA SCIENCE SOCIETY:

“The Ottawa Science Fiction Society is an organization of fans of science fiction, fantasy and other speculative fiction in its various forms, whether in prose novels or comics, television or motion pictures, hardcopy or software. OSFS is the oldest operating science fiction club in Ottawa: Founded in 1977 and incorporated in 1979.”

“Our regular monthly meetings are usually held at the Dalhousie Community Centre at 775 Somerset St. W. at 2 PM on the last Sunday of each month, except during summer hiatus.”

“Our regular newsletter, the OSFS Statement, is published monthly. OSFS members receive hardcopies by mail.”

For details & info: < <http://osfs.ncf.ca/> >

SFL - SCIENCE FICTION LONDON:

“Science Fiction London (SFL) evolved out of an earlier club called Star Trek Ontario, founded in 1980 by a group of Star Trek fans. Science Fiction London (SFL) is a group of science fiction enthusiasts living in and around London, Ontario, Canada. We meet monthly in London to discuss science fiction. We also get together occasionally for social events like movie days and barbecues.”

“To get the most out of the meetings, you should read the book that we will be discussing prior to the meeting, assuming that the topic is a book. The schedule of upcoming meetings can be found in the [Meeting Topics](#) section of this Website. Please note that if the topic is a film, the meeting will include a showing of the film prior to the discussion so you won’t need to prepare ahead of time. If the topic is a theme, there may or may not be reading that you should do before you attend the meeting; in that case, the details will be displayed in the [Meeting Topics](#) page.”

“Our meetings take place at the Central Branch of the London Public Library at 251 Dundas Street between Wellington and Clarence Streets. Meetings about books will be held in the Tonda Room. Meetings about films will take place in the Stevenson and Hunt Room, which is beside the Tonda Room. Both rooms are on the first floor of the Central Branch.”

For details & info: < <http://sfl.london.on.ca/> >

STARFLEET REGION 10:

“Starfleet was founded by Star Trek enthusiasts in 1974 and has become an international fan organization whose members (4000 +) are united the world over in their appreciation of Star Trek. Hundreds of chapters worldwide link members into local fandom as well as the international organization.”

“Region 10 encompasses the geopolitical areas of Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon.

Includes Starships: USS Majestic (Victoria, B.C.), USS SOL (Alaska), & USS Bondar (?).

For details & info: < <http://www.10thfleet.org/> >

CANADIAN SCI-FI FACEBOOK SITES:

CANADIAN FANDOM:

You guessed it! A Canada-wide Facebook devoted to Sci-Fi fans, actors, artists, authors, concon, costumers, panelists, sfx people, fan writers, zine editors and all kinds other imaginative people. 143 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3198365242> >

CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND (CUFF):

A discussion group for fen who want to promote CUFF, the Cdn fan fund which sends an Eastern fan to a Western con/Convention (Aurora Awards) & West to East in alternating years for sake of Cdn fannish unity. 10 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6119342503> >

F.R.E.D. (FORGET REALITY ENJOY DRINKING):

This is a Facebook for a Vancouver centred social club which has been meeting weekly at local watering holes since 1979. Sci-Fi orientated. (See also F.R.E.D. under Local Clubs.) 56 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2351668529> >

MONTREAL FANDOM:

“A celebration and gathering of all past and present members of Montreal Fandom, as well as their many friends throughout the world.” 35 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3433145295> >

OTTAWA FANDOM:

A Facebook for Ottawa fans & anyone interested in keeping in touch with them. 28 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3254325206> >

SCI-FI ON THE ROCK II:

A Facebook for concon, attendees & fans of SCI-FI ON THE ROCK, Newfoundland’s annual Sci-Fi convention, founded 2007. 76 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4107298179> >

VANCOUVER FANDOM:

A Facebook for Vancouver & Lower Mainland fans & all those interested in knowing them. 33 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2399759573> >

VCON:

A Facebook for concon, attendees, & fans of VCON, Canada’s longest-running ongoing Sci-Fi Convention (founded 1971). Held annually Vancouver/Lower Mainland area. (Next VCON will be #33 in October 2008.) 96 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2315972840> >

CANADIAN SCI-FI WEBSITES OF INTEREST:

CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA:

This is a ‘work in progress’ project I’ve been working on for more than a decade. Essentially my working notes for an A to Z ‘Incomplete Guide to the History of Twentieth Century Canadian Science Fiction Fandom’. It is my intention to list and describe every Canadian Sci-Fi fanzine, club & organization since the 1930s as well as explain and detail fannish slang, custom, lore and legend. Granted, most of the traditions which form the underlying infrastructure of ‘fandom’ originated in the United States and Great Britain, but I include as much Canadian material as possible as I stumble across it in my

research. For example, only Canadian zines are described. Don't have the time or space to detail foreign zines. So yes, a world-wide Fancyclopedia, but focused on Canadian fannish history.

NOTE: Sometimes people visiting my site, instead of finding the latest A-Z version, hit upon an earlier version that is merely A-C. Don't know why. Solution is simple. Click on 'C' to get the page dealing with 'C' subjects. At the top of the page where it says "Go to [E](#) or back to [Main Page](#)", click on 'E' and it will take you to the 'E' page and also magically jump to the latest A-Z version so that you can now jump to any page. Weird. So rest assured, the Canadian Fancyclopedia is *NOT* stuck in limbo but is in fact updated on a quasi-regular basis. On the Main Page just click on 'Info on Updates' for a list of the latest addition.

< <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

CANADIAN SF -- THE CANADIAN SPECULATIVE FICTION FORUM:

"Fans, publishers, and authors of Canadian SF are welcome to join the discussion of speculative fiction. Log on and chat about science fiction, fantasy, alternate history, or any combination of the genres that make up the varied landscape of speculative fiction in Canada."

- Know of a convention, reading, or other event? [Post it on our coming events board.](#)
- Have you just published or discovered a new [science fiction](#) or [fantasy](#) story? Announce it [here!](#)
- Want to discuss Canadian [science fiction](#) or [fantasy](#)?
- Chat about [science fiction](#) and [fantasy](#) literature for children.
- Or [click here](#) for an overview of forum topics.

For details & info: < <http://www.pippin.ca/cgi-bin/YaBB/SF/> >

FANDOM.CA:

"Before Fandom.ca was a website, it was a protest. In 2000, a company calling themselves Fandom, Inc. attempted to register a trademark on the word "fandom". Their application was denied, as "fandom" was a word in common usage since its first appearance in Webster's Dictionary in 1903. Despite not actually having a trademark, Fandom, Inc. began legal proceedings against a fan who owned another website... The fraudulent legal exploits of Fandom, Inc. caused Science Fiction fans all over the world to begin registering domain names with the word "fandom" in them to keep those domain names out of unscrupulous corporate hands. Seeing such a need, I registered Fandom.ca with the [Canadian Internet Registration Authority.](#)"

"Then, in February 2002, the development started, and here is the result. Like all good websites, it's a work in continual progress. I hope to make it part information resource, and part weblog. In either of these areas, if there is some information I have missed, that should be known to all fandom, please feel free to [contact me](#) with links to information of interest. With help from fandom at large, this will hopefully become one of the better fannish resources available."

Andrew C. Murdoch < <http://www.fandom.ca/> >

OOK, OOK, SLOBBER, DROOL!

From: LLOYD PENNEY, May 21st 2008

Dear Graeme:

Many thanks for WCSFAzine 9, another historical issue, as in lots about Canadian fan history. Some pertinent comments will follow, but I should put a disclaimer in here, just in case...

Mugged...I guess we think this happens elsewhere, but not at home. I hope you're better. My area of central Etobicoke seems relatively safe, but close-by areas have assaults and murders about every month or so. Toronto will probably have close to 100 murders per year soon. Some parts of Vancouver must feel like the heart of some US city. There are times I wish I could carry some kind of defense with me. I guess the police were no help to you?

The police were sympathetic, but they doubt – given my poor description – that the guy will ever be caught.

I've never been mugged, but I carry only basic ID and some money in my wallet. I carry other ID, credit card, etc. in a separate card wallet elsewhere on me. It's not wise to carry all things important to you in one container. I don't blame you for not wanting to go out at night. I don't have any choice these days; I am still working evenings for the Globe and Mail, so I am downtown five nights a week late at night, standing at a bus or streetcar stop, and not being certain that the gang at the end of the subway car might try to kill or mug someone on the car. The crazies are everywhere, and many of them are bigger than I am. I'm still looking for daytime work.

Ah, the ideal is to work from home, part of why I dreamed of being a Sci-Fi novelist when I was young.

I believe the people who staged Primedia had no idea at all of what was going on CUFF-wise or national fandom-wise. I think they were too gaga over the guests they'd been able to secure. They knew little about CUFF, except that other people told them it was important, and they should treat the winner as a guest. I don't know how true their claim was to be the only convention devoted to Canadian SF media, but eventually, people stopped going, and they tried to change their focus by removing the SF from it, and being a convention focused on Canadian television programmes. Once attendance fell below 100, Primedia folded, and a specialty Buffy convention took its place, Sunnyvale Central. It didn't work, either.

The Primedia I attended was a lot of fun. Pity they lost their way. One of the *curse*s of VCON is that it is general interest con including Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Gaming, Media & 'Literary' themes and thus cannot attract the 'huge' fandoms narrowly devoted to specific interests. On the other hand, one of the *virtue*s of VCON is that we offer something for everybody. Must be why we still exist, going into our 33rd convention.

It's still hard to believe that Sir Arthur, or Ego, or Rockets, is gone...the book of condolences that Yvonne started at Ad Astra has been places...after Toronto, it went to Niagara Falls, New York for Eeriecon, Las Vegas for Corflu Silver, and it should be in Washington for the annual International Space Development Conference. Rob Godwin of Apogee Books will have the book in Washington.

I think the book of condolences Yvonne started is a great idea. Really cool that it is making the rounds of so many fannish venues. Eventually to wind up where? With Clarke's family in England?

I guess by now you've seen the results of this year's Aurora Awards. A question for you... is this fanzine eligible for the Fan Achievement (Fanzine) Aurora? The only nominee this year was Opuntia by Dale Speirs, and it lost to No Award. I see this as a call to Canadian faneds to Pub their Ish, but will we heed the call? (You've done your part, Graeme...)

Well, I suspect most fans would view WCSFA as a fannish organization at least, so WCSFAzine is definitely not a perzine under the rules, does not qualify for fan achievement (fanzine), but perhaps under fan achievement (other). The result this year is quite sad. Consequently there is a move afoot to recombine all zines under one award, possibly including webzines (as opposed to fanzines posted online) & blogs. We'll see where this goes.

The Fan Fairs pre-date me as far as Toronto fandom goes, and FF4 chair Mike Wallis went on to chair six or seven of the first Ad Astras. The event hosted by Don Daynard of CKFM Radio (at the time)...Don is now quite retired, but he moved on to CHFI and spent more than a decade there as the station morning man. Ken Smookler was the President of OSFiC at the time. Ken is mostly retired, and he was one of the legal counsels for Torcon 3.

You were born in Barrie? I grew up in Orillia, just up Highway 11. I lived there for 13 years before heading out west in 1977. When I was a member of the old United Federation of Canadian Star Trekkers, the club decided on a trip to Vancouver to go to VCon 6. I wanted to go, having read about conventions, but never having been to one, but I had no money, and my parents were unwilling to give or loan me any money. I had to wait until Erincon 3, Spider Robinson's Nonexistacon, before I could say I'd been to a convention.

Erincon 3? Was that in Canada? And why was it considered a Nonexistacon? Tell me more! As for Barrie, born there, but have no memory of the place since my Dad was only temporarily stationed there for some Air Force reason or another. Oddly enough, we often vacationed at an old estate in the region in the 1950s, but I don't remember anything about Barrie itself. They probably don't remember me either.

Canadians and the FAAn Awards...Tara came in 5th for Best Fan Artist, and I came in 2nd for Best Letterhack. Mike Glicksohn came in 8th in the same category. I think in Vegas Fandom Weekly, Arnie Katz will be revealing the full stats, so I can see how many votes I was behind Robert Lichtman. I still plan that trip report, and must get on it shortly. Graeme, you've got to go to Seattle for Corflu.

Looking forward to the trip report. I attended one Corflu in Seattle, would love to attend another, but lack of money and my growing dislike for travel (as I get older) will probably prevent me. Seem to be turning more and more into a Harry Warner Jr. type of recluse, active in fandom but more than content to view it as a home hobby rather than a way of life. Could just be a stage. Could turn into a traveling fiend at any moment (especially if I win the lottery).

Conventions...coming up the end of June is an annual event staged by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, called Astronomy Night in Canada. Yvonne was at an organizational meeting last night, and we will be working

registration for them, plus producing a restaurant and services guide for them, and I will be producing the badges for them. It will take place at York University.

I'm waiting for a package delivery from UPS, so I will send this out to you when it arrives, and I can get back online. Take it easy, and I will get that Corflu report to you asap.

I can hardly wait. Always enjoy a good con report, and I know it *will* be good.

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Email: < whitedwarf@deadwrite.com >

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and other paraphernalia may be viewed at:

< <http://www.cafepress.com/royalsswissnavy> > (note: no dot between royalsswiss and navy)

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