

WCSFAzine

The Fannish E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association
Dedicated to Promoting VCON, Canada's Oldest Continuing SF Convention.

#22

April 2011



Trying to come up with something original to write in the book of VCON

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Clip Art: Cover, 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 17, 18. Alexis Gilliland: 8. William Gibson: 9. Unknown Book of Vcon: 11, 12.
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EDITORIAL

Blatant Blurb about the Editor:

R. Graeme Cameron attended his first SF convention in 1968 (Toronto Triple Fan Fair), joined the British Columbia Science Fiction Association in 1970, provided the 8mm film program at VCON 1 in 1971, has been on numerous panels and given numerous lectures at VCONs (including co-authoring and co-performing the infamous 'Godzilla Sex Life' skit with Stan G. Hyde – nine times no less), shares his personality with 'Mr. Guess-It-All' and 'Moog the Magnificent' (worst standup comic in the Solar System), was Canadian Unity Fan Fund winner in 1997, won the 2001 Aurora for Fan Achievement (Organizational) for Chairing VCON 25, won the 2010 Aurora for Fan Achievement (Fanzine) for WCSFAzine, and is currently President and Archivist of the 'B.C. SF Association', Archivist for the 'West Coast SF Association', Archivist for the 'Canadian SF&F Association', and Editor of the following zines: the 'Space Cadet Gazette' (perzine), 'Coruscating Conundrums' (humour zine), 'WCSFAzine' (WCSFA), 'Auroran Lights' (CSFFA), and the online 'Canadian Fancyclopedia.' The Graeme loves SF in all its forms, fandom in all its incarnations, and above all, loves writing about SF & SF fandom. What an idiot.

Many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanzines.com> > for hosting.
Please send me feedback! You can reach me at: < [rgraeme\[at\]shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme[at]shaw.ca) >

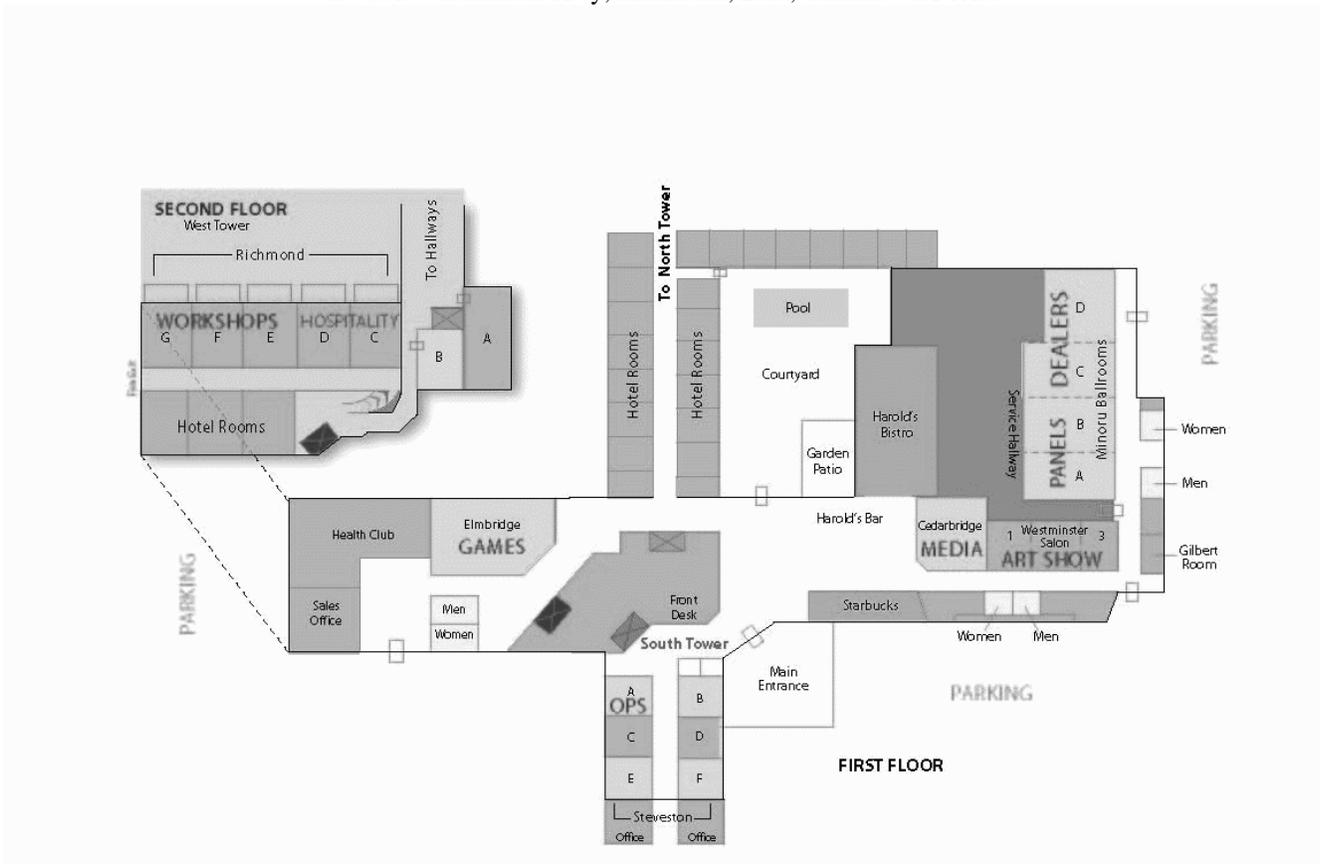
VCON 36 NEWS

(Convention Dates: Friday Sept 30th, Saturday Oct 1st, & Sunday Oct 2nd, 2011)

LATEST VCON 36 ANNOUNCEMENTS!

VENUE MAP: [THE SHERATON VANCOUVER AIRPORT HOTEL](#)

at 7551 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, B.C., Canada V6X 1A3.



Please note: This map is not the final layout depicting exactly which facility rooms will host which convention functions as these will be determined later. The choices above are tentative and subject to change. However, the map gives you a good idea of the layout of the hotel.

When you enter the main entrance and **face the front desk**:

To your left is the South Tower where most of the VCON hotel rooms are located & some function space.

To your right is the courtyard with pool, & slightly further right Harold's bar & restaurant.

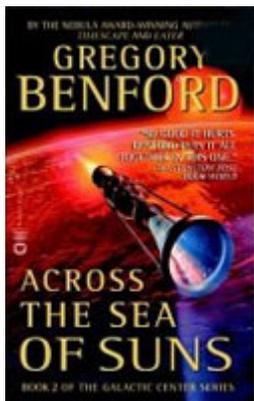
Behind you is a long corridor with a Starbucks & washrooms on the right of it and two large function rooms to the left.

At the end of that corridor you turn left and are faced with more function space on the left and washrooms to the right.

Beyond the front desk turn left and you will enter the West Tower containing medium sized function rooms and more hotel rooms assigned to VCON

AUTHOR GoH ANNOUNCED: GREGORY BENFORD

Gregory Benford is the kind of hard SF writer I really like. Consequently I am delighted he has accepted our invite to be VCON 36 Author Guest of Honour. A professional physicist renowned for his good humour and evocative ‘outside-the-box’ writing, he is both intellectually stimulating and amusing. We’re in for a treat.



Two of his novels I particularly like are ARTIFACT (1985) and AGAINST INFINITY (1983). In the first archaeologists discover evidence of an alien presence in the past, and the second features a search for an alien on Ganymede. TIMESCAPE (1980) is perhaps his signature work and was applauded for its accurate portrayal of how scientists actually tackle a problem, in this case a message sent from the future.

IN THE OCEAN OF NIGHT (1977), ACROSS THE SEA OF SUNS (1984), GREAT SKY RIVER (1987), TIDES OF LIGHT (1989), FURIOUS GULF (1994) and SAILING BRIGHT ETERNITY (1995) are the six novels of his ‘Galactic Center’ series which gleefully explores the concept of a struggle between organic life forms and non-organic self-replicating machines. In addition to at least a dozen other novels he has written numerous short stories, articles and reviews, as well as 150 + scientific papers!

His latest venture fits right in with our theme (see below). With the aid of the editors of POPULAR MECHANICS MAGAZINE he has put together THE WONDERFUL FUTURE THAT NEVER WAS, a compilation of art and articles depicting the gadgets and technology of a future that never came to be. I hope to get a copy and review it in a future WCSFAzine before VCON 36 takes place.

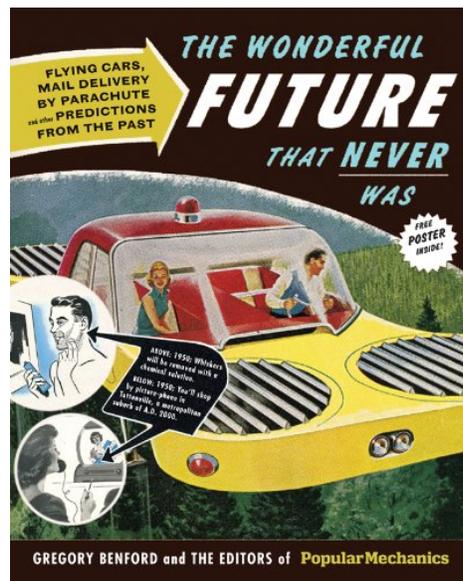
What is particularly wonderful about Gregory Benford is that he first became famous among fans AS a fan! Herein lies the tale of a most unusual fanac (fan speak for ‘fan activity’) redolent of its era, the 1950s.

Born January 30th, 1941, Greg and his twin brother James (Jim) first became active in fandom in 1954 when, living in Atlanta, Georgia, they produced a carbonzine called VACUUM. In other words they typed a manuscript with as many carbon copies they could squeeze into the typewriter and still be legible, then retyped the whole thing again, and again, till they wound up with as many copies as they required. Their father being a Colonel in the US Army, in 1955 the entire family went with him when he was posted to Germany. That same year (at the age of fourteen) Greg and his brother co-founded the (now legendary) fanzine VOID.

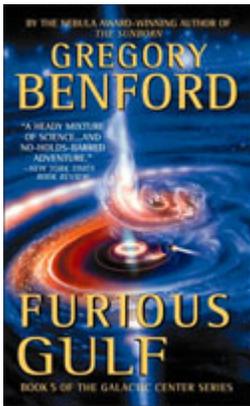
Bear in mind Greg and Jim had fully absorbed the mood of stateside fandom, which was iconoclastic in the extreme. It was fun to be in fandom! Contemporary Gerfandom, on the other hand, was completely sercon (fan speak for ‘serious constructive’, i.e. SF was so important that only a serious, academic approach to the subject was suitable). That one of the leading German fans – and editor of the first German SF prozine – was a veteran of Stalingrad might have had something to do with it. In any event, Greg and Jim determined from the get go they would be ‘subversive’ and convert Gerfandom to the true path of fun and sensawonda.

To start with the Benford brothers were the only contributors to their English language zine, which consisted mostly of reviews, presumably of books, films, and other zines. (On a technical note: the brothers had graduated to Hectography – jelly printing – then a locally-purchased flat-bed mimeo, and finally to a rotary printer they’d bought mail order from the States.) Because they traded their zine with prominent zines in the U.K. and the States (and at least one in Canada, Boyd Raeburn’s ‘A BAS’), they soon acquired a powerful list of contributors. Their names will probably mean little to modern fans, but to fan historians like myself the quality of their talent pool is staggering. To quote Jim Benford:

“We began Void and quickly obtained lots of articles from British fans like Ron Bennett, Archie Mercer, Walt Willis, Eric Bentcliffe and John Berry. We quickly got responses from American fans Terry Carr, Dick Ellington, Dick Geis, Joe Gibson. And then there were the continentals Julian Parr, Lars Helander, Jan Jansen. The British artists helped -- Arthur Thomson, Eddie Jones, Terry Jeeves. Julian Parr, who was with the British Foreign Service, was a steady contributor of reviews of European prozines.”



Greg and Jim didn't work in complete isolation from the locals either; they corresponded with and sometimes actually met members of Gerfandom. In fact they instigated the first science fiction convention ever held in Germany. It was called 'WetzCon' and was held in January 1956 at Wetzlar, Hesse (now known as 'Giessen-Wetzlar') which is about 31 miles due north of Frankfurt. I'm guessing that it was a relatively small affair, maybe around twenty fans or thereabouts. Can't wait to ask him in person at VCON!



At a subsequent German convention (WetzCon Two?) in late 1956 or 1957 Greg was elected President of The International Science Fiction Correspondence Club (founded 1949). Then, in late 1957, his dad was assigned the position of Commander of the National Guard unit based in Dallas, Texas, and the family was on the move back Stateside. As Greg describes the trip:

"We returned to the U.S. in October 1957. On board the America, a classy ship, I was enjoying morning soup served on deck when the morning's ship newspaper came by. Big headlines about Sputnik's launch. I recall gasping and running down the deck to find Jim. That marked the end of an era. For us, the electrifying news brought the dawning knowledge that we could have careers in science, that the future was opening in a way SF had foreseen."

The Benford Brothers quickly plunged into Texas fandom full bore. They created the first SF convention ever held in Texas, namely 'Southwestern Con,' held in July 1958. I believe, though I do not know for certain, that they continued publication of VOID for at least a few more issues, and that it was in this period when Ted White (who later edited HEAVY METAL Magazine) and Terry Carr (who was introduced to Bill Gibson by Susan Wood and subsequently published Bill's first novel NEUROMANCER as a 'New Ace Science Fiction Special' in 1984) first became co-editors of the zine. Soon, however, both Greg and Jim were pursuing higher education in science. Greg, for instance, did his undergraduate degree in physics at the University of Oklahoma, graduating in 1963. But he didn't abandon science fiction. His first short story, 'Stand-In', was published in THE MAGAZINE OF FANTASY AND SCIENCE FICTION in June of 1965. Both careers, professional SF writer and professional physicist, have skyrocketed since.

What a coup to gain so fantastic an Author GoH! I'm excited! You should be too!

Note: Primary Source – The article 'Gerfandom Days' by Jim & Greg Benford appearing in MIMOSA 18.

THEME DECLARED:

VISIONS OF THE FUTURE: IMAGINING TOMORROW FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT

This theme covers all manner of wishful thinking. I choose an example of Military fantasizing dating from the very early 1960s. In retrospect it is breathtakingly bizarre and dangerous, but a good example of the paranoia of the day. So please enjoy:

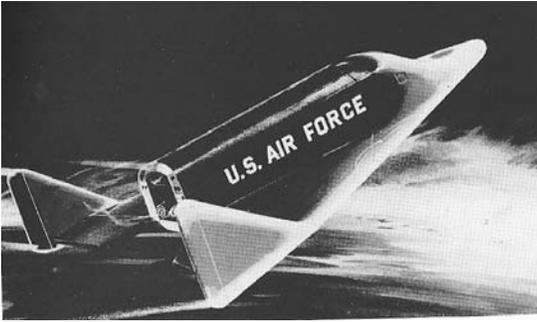
THE DYNA-SOAR DINOSAUR

A Review of VICTORY IN SPACE by Otto O. Binder

By R. Graeme Cameron

Otto Oscar Binder normally published under the pen name Eando Binder for science fiction works written jointly with his brother Earl Andrew Binder. They are most famous for the 'Adam Link' stories of the 1930s and 1940s, Adam being a sentient robot narrating his frustrating experiences with humans in a very emotional manner. More human than humans, as it were. The Binder brothers were quite popular SF writers in their day.

However the book jacket emphasises Otto's scientific credentials: "*Otto O. Binder has grown up with rocketry and interplanetary travel: his prescient short story, THE ATOM SMASHER, was chosen to be buried in the Time Capsule at the New York World's Fair in 1939. He has written a half-dozen books, hundreds of articles and short stories on science and science-fiction, been represented in nearly a dozen anthologies and is today syndicated widely for his column OUR SPACE AGE. He is now Editor-in-Chief of SPACE WORLD Magazine, the popular journal of space and astronautics. He appears regularly on the John Wingate, Barry Grey and Betty Furness radio and TV shows.*"



The Proposed 'Dyna-Soar' Space Bomber.

Willy's last paragraph strongly indicates he doesn't share Otto's concern, at least not to the same extent, but is a bit afraid there is some merit to it: "...because of his answer it would not surprise me too much if a book reviewer, after finishing this book, should refer to him as "one of America's angry young men." I leave the evaluation of whether he is angry to others. But if this is anger, many more of us should be angry because they were, and still are, so many self-satisfied old men who could not see the future even when it was pointed out to them."

So, what the heck is going on? VICTORY IN SPACE was published in 1962. Yes, the Russians were first into space – Sputnik in 1957, Yuri Gagarin in April 1961 – but by 1962 The American Mercury program was in full swing; the blurb on the book's cover reads "*Beyond Colonel Glenn's triumphant flight – the bold new plans that can make America first to the stars.*"

Yet Otto's main point is that America is far behind in Space, at least in the military sense. No one knows what the Soviet spacecraft look like (I remember when Gagarin flew and newspapers printed diagrams of the Mercury space capsule to depict his spacecraft. It was years before people found it was in the shape of a sphere and that Gagarin ejected and parachuted to Earth just before his capsule impacted.) and Otto is quick to point out that Russian postage stamps show every space craft and even satellites equipped with wings. This can only mean one thing. Since orbital space bombers require wings (when they skip in and out of the atmosphere to drop atomic bombs) and Soviet spacecraft have wings (according to Soviet stamps), the Russians must already possess orbital space bombers! America is in deep trouble!



Proposed Nuclear-Pulse Powered Space Battleship

You see, claims Otto, the Norad Air Defence Radar network (the DEW line & such) has been rendered obsolete since it's only designed to detect missiles coming over the North Pole and now that the Soviets have orbital space bombers "*city-killing missiles could come from anywhere BUT the North pole...*"

It never seems to have occurred to Otto that the 'winged' stamps could be artistic license, or perhaps deliberate misinformation. He's not prepared to admit any explanation other than the worst: "*The author believes he is in no way a "space war monger" or "alarmist" but a realist who realizes the danger of wishing the space situation could be otherwise. The "might-have-been" world where autos never became army trucks, where aircraft never became bombers...*"

"In the real world, for our own national defense, we must accept the hard facts of space and prepare for the worst."

"Our "soft underbelly" now paradoxically lies above us, with nothing more than a layer of thin air between enemy space-gun-sights and American targets..."

Beginning to get the impression science fiction writers do not make the best military planners? No wonder Willy Ley – a genuine rocket scientist – held the author at arms length in his introduction!

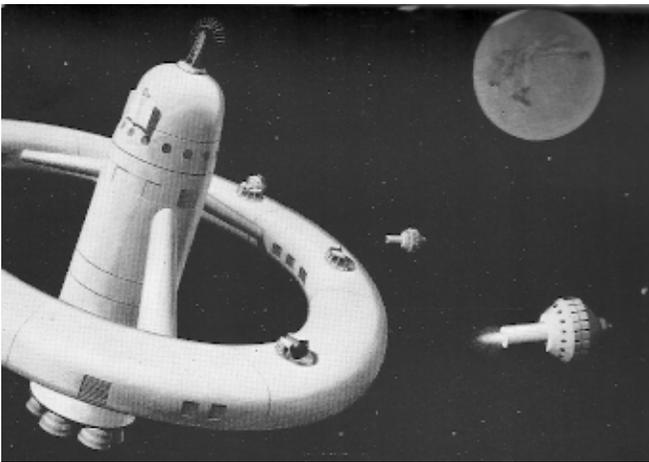
But Otto isn't a voice crying alone in the wilderness. He's joining the howls coming from the space industry and the US Airforce itself. Hence America's salvation, a project the USAF had been working on since 1958, the (now legendary and quite extinct) DYNA-SOAR! The American version of an orbital space bomber!

What idiot named it Dyna-Soar? A literal-minded idiot. It's short for "Dynamic Soaring." He must have been unaware people would automatically think of "dinosaur," generally considered one of nature's all-time losers.

As you can see from the illustration, the Dyna-soar resembles the later space shuttle. However, instead of relying on heat-resistant ceramic tiles, it's outer skin was to be constructed of "*almost pure molybdenum, whose melting point is near 4500 degrees F.*" Hmm, is that good enough? I don't know. At any rate, by the time this book came out the USAF was already training their own group of astronauts (50 of them!) to fly the thing and awaiting delivery of the first test prototype.

The wacky purpose of the Dyna-Soar? "*...to swoop down to about 50 miles altitude over various portions of earth as a military bomber.*"

"General Thomas S. Powers, Chief of Strategic Air Command: "*Dyna-Soar, the first weapon system designed to put a man in space... will have tremendous strategic importance.*" He went on to explain the awesome "deterrent" power against an aggressor that would be presented by a fleet of Dyna-Soar bombers hovering in orbit... *Once boosted into orbit the Dyna-Soar craft would need no power to keep circling the earth and could remain on duty for as long as the pilot had oxygen, food, and stamina.*"



Proposed Orbital Bombing Base Firing Rocket Bombs.

compact cryogenic unit converting it into liquid air. The next cycle removes the useless nitrogen out of the mixture by the centrifuge technique." The LOX is then combined with liquid hydrogen already stored on board to ignite rocket engines boosting the craft into orbit. Does this sound a tad too complex? I nominate the madly spinning centrifuge as the gizmo most likely to fling itself to pieces...

A fleet of these atmosphere-sucking babies were intended to be deployed by 1968. The ramjet alone was expected to accelerate the craft to mach 18, or about 12,000 mph. THEN they'd open the scoop to get that additional 6,000 mph to achieve orbit.

You guessed it. NASA recently tested a multi-mach ramjet vehicle very successfully. Hmm. Was Otto right about everything?

Step three, by 1970, "*the atomic engine may be small and reliable enough to replace chemical engines in a rocket plane.*" Otto was thinking small. Look at illustration no. 2 to see what the Martin Company of Denver was proposing as something they were willing to build if funded. The original caption reads: "*Larger than a battleship, future "space dreadnought" with nuclear-pulse propulsion takes off for orbital patrol in America's space defense system.*"

Nuclear pulse, by the way, means a continuous series of atomic explosions at the rear of the spacecraft to "kick" it forward. How'd you like to be a passenger on the ocean liner in the illustration as the space battleship putt-putts overhead?

As far as I know, nothing like this is currently on the drawing boards. Experiments were done with atomic engines for regular aircraft (!) – non-nuclear pulse I hasten to add – but they spewed so much radiation they were more like a 'Doomsday Weapon' than a useful deterrent, so the project was cancelled.

And when was this fleet of city destroyers due to be stationed in orbit? Sometime in late 1964. Fortunately the Kennedy administration cancelled the whole program. But... bear in mind the USAF recently tested a mini-space-shuttle designed to do exactly the same thing, though without pilots. Being automated, it's capable of staying in orbit for many weeks, how many they're not saying. Otto would be pleased.

So now I'm thinking, if the Dyna-Soar does in fact now sorta exist (Its modern equivalent at least), what did Otto predict would eventually replace the Dyna-Soar, and are we in danger of seeing it finally come to pass?

An Aerospace Plane! It takes off with regular turbojet engines, then switches to a ramjet that will boost it to about 50 miles above the earth's surface. Next it opens a giant scoop "*to draw in the thin air and cycle it through a*

And illustration No. 3, an “Orbital bombing base, in defense of America, releases rocket bombs toward enemy vehicles and ICBMs coming through space” has yet to be designed, let alone constructed in orbit.

Overall, I’m hoping Otto was a Casandra insanely ahead of his time, and that recent coincidentally similar developments are nothing to worry about. This is one ‘future history’ I hope to avoid.

That “Space Dreadnought” looks really cool though. Hmmm....

**IMPORTANT NOTE:
FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION ON VCON 36
HOTEL RATES, CONVENTION RATES, PROGRAMMING, ETC.
GO TO PAGE 24**

CONVENTION HISTORY ARTICLES

THE BOOK OF VCON

By R. Graeme Cameron

The book of VCON was originally a scrapbook. At some point Clint Budd had the 284 pages properly bound in textured black hardcover complete with a red ribbon to mark pages and the words ‘The Book of VCON’ embossed in gold (not real gold) on the cover. Measuring 11 by 14 inches and weighing about 4 lbs, it is a very impressive looking book!



It’s purpose? To record comments by congoers about the VCON they were attending. I’m not sure who may have been ‘responsible’ for it in the beginning, but if memory serves (and my memory is increasingly sieve-like as I get older) I inherited it from Steve Forty (who was also keeper of the Book of F.R.E.D. for many years.) Generally the Keeper is supposed to carry it with him at all times during a VCON, though it is rather heavy and I tend to bring it out only when I’m relaxing in hospitality. Nevertheless I do try to make it a tad more available if I can, despite conflicts of program participation, going home to feed the pets, and so on. Hospitality is a good venue however, as people can relax, take the time to browse through previous comments, then select from a variety of coloured pens and markers to add their own impressions. (I dislike markers, as they tend to ‘bleed’ the page and obscure what’s on the other side of the sheet, but people, especially artists, much prefer to use them.)

<< Sudden brainstorm!!! I don’t think the Book of VCON has ever been written up in any of the program books! I’m doing the program book for VCON 36. If I write up a brief article on the ‘Book’ people will know to look out for me and become immortalized. Why didn’t I ever think of this before? So obvious! >>

Anyway, one of the first things I did when I was given charge of ‘The Book of VCON’ was number the pages. Then I listed (on the inside cover) the VCONS in sequence and which pages they covered, as well as where to find comments from assorted Guests of Honour. This makes it easier for people to browse. What do they see? Comments ranging from a single sentence to multiple paragraphs, assorted doodles, and some really cool illustrations. For example, David Gerrold (Author GoH at VCON 23 in 1998) drew a Chtooran eating a Tribble (both beasties invented by him). And for VCON 21 in 1996 Artist Mike Jackson drew a hovering Flying Saucer and a tentacled Martian swallowing a human arm, with the Martian’s thought balloon reading “Hmm... needs butter,” while the heading read: “Let’s have a better tasting concom for VCON 22!” Great and cool stuff. Unfortunately the awkward size of the book and projections along the side of my scanner make it impossible to copy much of the art, but I did manage to scan a few things I will use to illustrate this article.

The Book of Vcon was first unveiled at Vcon 6 in 1978. Then it seems to have disappeared in someone's closet for a while, only to be hauled out for VCON 12 in 1984. Next 13, 14, and 15, and then another disappearance. Popped up for VCON 21, missed 22, and appeared for VCON 23 through 26. Missed 27, but ran from 28 to 31. Missed VCON 32 (my fault... I forgot about it, left it sitting in the archive), only to reappear for 33 and ever since. A spotty career but a continuity of sorts.

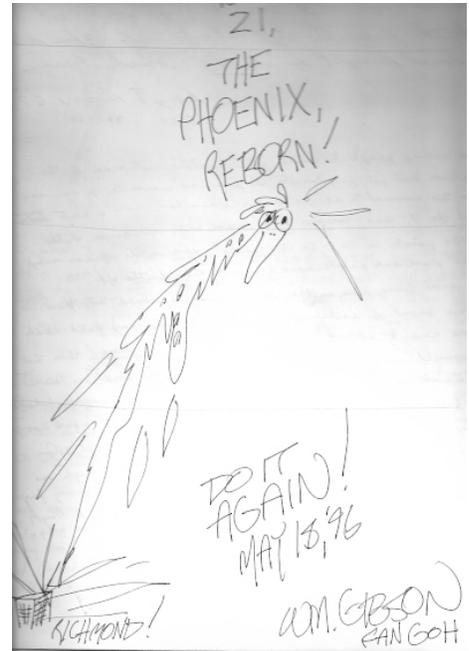
The first inscription (VCON 6 – 1978) was by Barbara L. Dryer: *“People will look back on VCON VI and remember this year as the one with the best VCON ever!”*

‘Anonymous’ then wrote: *“Square rooms are not conducive to good participation, views, or appreciation of talks.”*

Followed by another's anonymous comment: *“They're not square – they're trapezoid!”*

A.E. van Vogt was Guest of Honour for VCON 6. Quite a coup to get him, as he had been the first prominent Canadian SF author (publishing more than 600,000 words before moving to the States in 1944) noted for such works as ‘BLACK DESTROYER’ (1939), ‘SLAN’ (1940), & ‘THE WEAPON SHOPS OF ISHER’ (1941). He was also the first recipient of an Aurora award, for lifetime achievement, at Halcon 3 in March of 1980. The award was then called ‘The Coeurl’ after the nasty beast in his story ‘THE BLACK DESTROYER’. A.E. van Vogt filled an entire page (pg 27) in the Book of VCON and I think it will be of interest to transcribe it here:

“Dear VCON people: My overall impression is of a special brightness of intelligence, an unexpected high level of sophistication, & the feeling that Canada has grown into a nation of exceptionally mature people. When I left this country in '44 Canadians were a good people, but even the liberals were narrow in many ways. All this has changed – for the better. The tendency to equality that has been observed in many parts of the world is stronger here than in the USA. No sexism, no racism – that is the impression I have; this is spite of the French Canadian rebellion. Here in the West people are visibly willing to let everything sensible & generous happen, and I believe that that will win a favorable response. The role of science fiction in all this, if the BC SF group, & the other persons from other parts of Canada that I met at VCON 6, has the appearance of an expanding phenomenon. I mean that what is happening is consciousness expansion and the end of that will be Canadian support of the space program in a significant way. It's a much greater century with a much greater future than I would have believed when I first arrived at VCON 6. Sincerely, A. E. van Vogt.”



I have the vague feeling this was written in hospitality after van Vogt had downed a few beers. Then again, from all accounts, he talked like this all the time. But it's nice to see that he was pleased with the ‘quality’ of the fans attending the con.

Paul Angel of Denver wrote at VCON 6: *“VCON VI was one of the three best cons I've ever been, and I've been to about 30 cons since 1970. Vancouver fans are very warm & friendly, & Edmonton fans are just plain crazy (that's where we're going next). A fantastic con!”*

Moving on to VCON 12, then BCSFA Archivist Gerold Boyko wrote: *“It is hard to believe, 6 years have passed since VCON 6. In case you are wondering, after that con this book was buried somewhere & forgotten. Then it wandered into the archives of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association where it was again put to sleep.”*

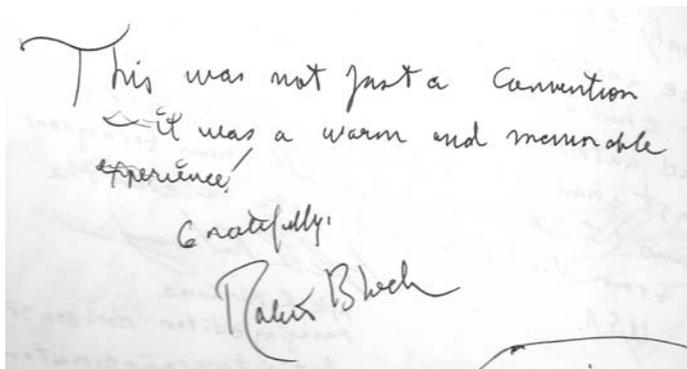
“Today (Friday March 25, 1984), while picking through all the stuff to gather together a half decent display of items from the BCSFA archives for the fan room at VCON 12 I came across this book again & figured, what the hell, it is a shame not to fill the rest of these pages. So here it is again, all dusted off & ready to have the contents of your mind transferred onto paper in the form of words, pictures or what have you.”

Someone whose name I can't make out (honest!) had a very negative view of the con, writing: *“Maybe if you devoted a little more space to the con, it might not be so incredibly boring next time. More: Movies – bad selection, Star Trek episodes, Gaming rooms, more thin people(!), Star Wars stuff, etc. You get the idea.”*

Sure. He wanted more media stuff, a lot more media stuff. Evidently he found the astonishing lineup of literary GoH's boring in the extreme; people like Judith Merril, Theodore Sturgeon, & Samuel R. Delany! But then, not every SF fan is into SF literature. VCON has always been a general interest SF&F con trying to cover as many aspects of SF as possible, and as a general interest SF fan myself I heartily approve.

Anyway, Sam Delany, renowned for his literary style & mastery of the written language, offers visible proof he had had a few beers before sitting down to write: *"I like this con a whole lot. Gee, I really like this con. Not only that, I'm having a good time. In fact, I'm having such a good time it's kind of fun to say how much fun I'm having. How much fun am I having? A whole lot of fun. (of course with the time change and parties and staying up very late I'm a little punchy by now. And I'm not on top of what I'm saying [a whole lot]. But, well...) What was I saying there? I was saying how much I liked this con. And, there, I've more less said it! Samuel R. Delany... called "Chip" by his friends. Many thanks...!"*

A vast divide between this and the literary style he is noted for. Then again, maybe all his first drafts are like this, he just happens to polish a bit more than most in subsequent drafts mayhaps. Certainly when Ted Sturgeon mentioned he wrote at the kitchen table, rock music blaring out of the radio atop the fridge, and that he wrote in the nude, Delany didn't bat an eye. But when Sturgeon's wife added that Ted never wrote a second draft Delany was so discombobulated he almost fell off his chair. (I was present, I witnessed this.) Truth is there are many paths to good writing.



And many and varied views of VCON. Mike Johnson wrote: *"This was my first VCON. I'm disappointed and won't come back. Badly organized. Nothing to do. Mediocre films."* I'm guessing Mike knew nothing about fandom, didn't understand or know anything about the social aspects (long time con goers attend to mingle with other fans and seldom attend the programming!) and basically felt left out whenever there wasn't anything of interest to him in the programming. This is why it is so important for seasoned con veterans to reach out to newbies and explain what's really going on. Hospitality probably the best venue for educational purposes.

On the other hand, 'Cook' wrote: *"We drove half way across the continent for this? Yes we did and it was worth every inch of it. Good to be back."* And Eric Tilbrook wrote: *"Now my body and mind want a divorce. Had a good time though."*

Flipping pages at random, one comes across further sample comments as:

VCON 14: *"Once again, as my faith in Fandom begins to wane, VCON shows me that some people still know how to keep fannish activity alive!"* – Greg Hoder.

VCON 15: *"I found this convention VCON #15 the most continually absorbing of any I have attended in recent years. Partially, of course because of my interest in the history of the field, but most because the program really adhered to its theme throughout and displayed remarkable enterprise in locating and presenting information and media uncommonly seen and thereby avoiding the repetitive nature all too common with the majority of regional conventions. With a high rating of 10, I would rate (VCON 15) convention a #9. Nothing went wrong that you could have avoided. With thanks for the honor..."* – Sam Moskowitz (Fan GoH)

VCON 21: *"The world can only use more weird people. It's great to see so many of them gathered in one place. The dream is still alive."* – Devin Ens.

VCON 23: *"Once again a warm feeling to be among fen & lecture them for the 9th time (along with Stan G. Hyde, co-author of the lecture) on THE SEX LIFE OF GODZILLA! Sooner or later all will learn! Be warned! Gronk!"* – The Graeme.

VCON 24: *"Hugs galore & glitter all over me. Either Club 54's been resurrected or I'm at VCON. (And I'm not even wearing a costume?! Shocking!)"* – Craig M'cLachlan.

VCON 25: *"This is a great convention, and Vancouver fen are the best – congenial, warm, friendly, and very intelligent. It's been an absolute delight to be here. Thank you!"* – Robert J. Sawyer (Author GoH).

VCON 26: “Good lord, I was on panels this year. The more VCONS that pass, the more involved I become. But despite S40’s constant hopes, I still have no interest in running cons. I would just miss too much cool stuff. One small suggestion: Don’t schedule the kissing auction and the dance opposite one another. One is sure to tank!” – Pauline Walsh, spawn of VCONS past.

VCON 28: “My first con & when I got my confirmation in the mail I could not help but feel a little offended! The driving directions were perfect, BUT the line regarding Mounties not having a sense of humour actually hit me personally, for I AM A MOUNTIE, & have been for quite some time! AND, as some can verify, I’m a pretty open & funny guy. Thanks, cu next year. Consider this a free ticket.” – R (illegible).

VCON 29: “After 20+ years I finally get to write in THE BOOK. I helped Rain get started, I was one of the 5 originators of F.R.E.D. (Nunc Est Bibendum), and am proud that our SF tradition has continued.” – Tom Waddell.

VCON 30: “Best dead Dog, Wine & Candlelight. Classy! Thanx...” – Kathleen.

VCON 31: “I was in the elevator today and someone said this to me... ‘So what’s the deal? What’s going on in this hotel? Some kind of “convention” or something?’ ... I told him... All the people that you used to beat up in high school are here and they’re armed with swords and stormtrooper armour.” – Tarol Hunt.

VCON 33: “OMG physicists are hot! Like a hot hot thing covered in hot chili sauce!” – Shaddy, scientist groupie.

VCON 34: “After all these years Dr. Jaymie Matthews confirmed my childhood suspicion about the invalidity of the science in the 1964 flick ‘Wizards of Mars.’ Wowzers! P.S. All shame to Forrest J Ackerman who served as the film’s ‘scientific advisor’. (Though total praise for everything else he did.)” – R. Graeme Cameron.

VCON 35: “Seven years of VCON and I finally see there is a book? An amazing treasure to remind us of friends from far and wide.” – Virginia O’Dine.

There are literally hundreds more comments to peruse in the Book of VCON. I’ll be carrying it around with me at VCON 36, especially when I visit hospitality. Feel free to browse, and above all, feel free to add your immortal impressions of your VCON experience to The Book of VCON!



VCON 26: 2001 A SPACE ODDITY

By Penelope Harris

[Editor’s Note: This is a reprint of an article in the June 2001 issue (#72) of Penelope’s THE PENNY GAZETTE, one of the 5,000+ zines in the WCSFA/BCSFA archive. It lists what she felt were the highlights of VCON 26.]

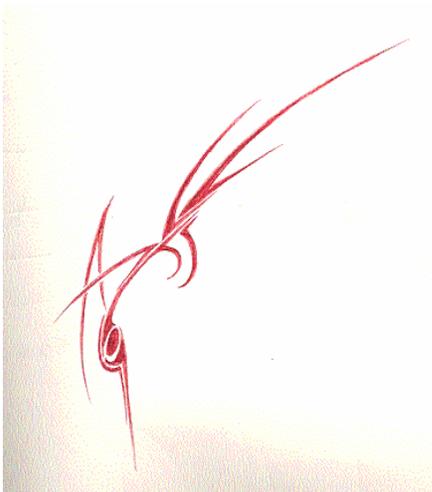
VCON stands for Vancouver Convention (as in Science Fiction). There is a long tradition of naming Science Fiction conventions using Con in the title and there are subtle (and humorous) variations in the names. For example, consider the followings Cons:

- The Millennium Philcon (which takes place in Philadelphia, PA)
- Rustycon (about robots, I presume?)
- Astronomicon (about... stars?)
- Genericon (about... everything?)
- Anglicon (in praise of English SF)
- Lepracon (held in March, of course)
- Well, you get the idea, right?

This year was my third VCON, and it's a strange event to be sure. I am not sure I really fit in, but the fringe of the fringe can be an interesting place. In between the few folks in costume (Star Trek, etc.) and the serious writers, there are a lot of people just generally having fun with science fiction, which is appropriate, given the title of this year's Con.

Highlights included:

- Mr. Science (in white lab coat, with bald head and Santa's beard) showing us how to make liquid nitrogen ice cream (recipe available on request).
- Author Don DeBrandt doing a wonderful send up of those Aussie daredevil nature shows (using an extra large butterfly net to capture a Klingon, and then poking it with a stick, saying "Now kiddies, don't be trying this at home").
- Very funny skit combining the Monty Python parrot sketch and Star Trek's penchant for bumping off ensigns, as in: "He's dead, Jim." "No, Bones... he's just... pining for the... fjords."
- Stan Hyde, in his usual gleeful frenzy about Godzilla movies (the REAL old ones, with men in rubber suits), giving us a guide to 'The Best of the Worst B Movies'.
- Graeme Cameron, with his usual intelligent video lectures – my favourite: 'The Roots of Modern Feminism in 50's B Movies'.



- Lego Junkyard Wars Competition, complete with a table for spectators who were encouraged to build a Lego city while they watched.
- The Aurora Awards Banquet for the best in Canadian SF. In particular, the first Aurora awarded for poetry to Marcie Lynn Tentchoff (amazingly young person) for a stunning epic poem on an Authorian theme. Sadly, my choice for best author, Robert J. Sawyer was unrewarded, but he's up for a Hugo for the same book, so I have my fingers crossed.
- The Aurora Award Banquet table decorations for diners to play with: wax crayons (on paper-covered tables), balloons, pipe cleaners and foam animals. The organizer confessed to parenting several small children.
- Room Service Breakfast (sorry, but it's true!)

And let's not forget the writers forums (the reason for the con!) Here's a few I attended:

- Social Satire in SF.
- Wish I'd Written That (where I heard about Lord Dunsany, but more on his turn-of-the-last-century-writing next month).
- Time Travel that Alters History (a favourite theme of mine).
- Future of publishing (E-books, etc.)

So, despite the occasional sense of being on the fringe – it really was fun!

SUPER SCIENCE STUFF



ASK MR. SCIENCE!

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

Mr. KJ, and Mr. JH, both of Victoria, B.C., ask:

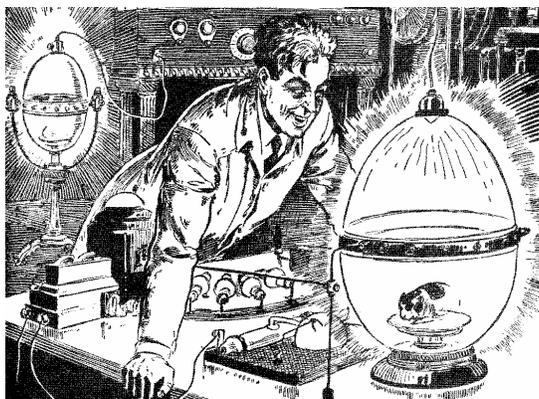
WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF A VOLCANO ACCIDENTALLY GOT TURNED UPSIDE DOWN?

MR. SCIENCE: Since volcanoes typically have connections with hollow areas far below the Earth's crust, it is clear that this eventuality would engender the most serious consequences. During an eruption the volcano would pump a significant fraction of our atmosphere into the core of the planet, causing it to inflate like a balloon. If the volcanization lasted more than 3.1 days the Earth would burst, also like a balloon. Calculations show that 74% of the objects on the surface would be ejected at greater than escape velocity. Since this is a less than desirable method of traveling in space, Mr. Science recommends the mounting of a massive 'volcano watch' program, to provide a warning should this event come to pass.

Ms. FS, of Burnaby, B.C., asks:

WHY DON'T PENS WRITE UPSIDE DOWN?

MR. SCIENCE: Ink molecules are extremely unsymmetrical, with one end very much heavier than the other. When one writes with a pen in the normal position the heavy end of the ink molecule, which is light in colour, is held against the paper by gravity, leaving the light end, which is dark in colour, exposed to our view. When writing upside down, the light (dark) end of the molecule is attached to the paper, so that we see only the heavy (light) end. The solution to this problem, if you must write upside down, is to use black paper. Or a pencil.



ASK MR. GUESS-IT-ALL!

(As submitted by R. Graeme Cameron, official spin-doctor for Mr. Guess-It-All)

Mr. KB, of Llimiana, Spain, asks:

WHY DOES MY CAT JUMP IN MY LAP WHEN I'M WORKING AT MY COMPUTER?

Mr. GUESS-IT-ALL: Cats are extremely intelligent creatures, being in fact the first animal to fully domesticate human beings. However, as a species cats fear that humans, known for a certain level of intelligence more than cats wish to credit, may someday stumble upon the notable fact that cats are not, strictly speaking, absolutely necessary to the wellbeing of humans and that said humans might well be better off without them. Consequently, whenever your cat senses your growing excitement during a writing session when a story/novel/thesis/crank letter is going particularly well, on the off chance that the topic you are working on is the dreaded revelation of the unnecessary of the cat/human symbiotic relationship, it will leap on to your lap and distract you with such tried and true methods as placing one or more paws firmly on the keyboard, staring fixedly at invisible Martians looking over your shoulder, purring loudly while biting your arm, and other such diverting frivolities. You must pretend to enjoy this and cease writing lest the cat resort to more extreme measures.

[**Editor's note:** Mr. Guess-It-All was only able to complete the above paragraph by feigning complete indifference regarding what he was typing. Otherwise he most likely would have been clawed to death. One must exercise extreme caution in the presence of such extraordinarily intelligent and selfish beings as the household pussycat.]

Ms. SM, exiled to Dead Horse Point, Utah, asks:

WHY DO I GET WRITER'S BLOCK?

MR. GUESS-IT-ALL: You probably own a cat. It is simply a case of your subconscious self-preservation instincts kicking in to ensure your cat does not suspect you are capable of intelligent introspection on the true nature of your relationship with what you ludicrously imagine is merely your pet. As an aside, it may interest you to learn that the sole, albeit subconscious, motivation for 'owning' a dog is to prevent oneself from 'owning' a cat. The same self-preservation instincts at work, so to speak. Alas, dogs are equally unnecessary and equally worried; which is why dogs will demand you take them 'walkies' when they sense you getting enthusiastic at your computer. Anyone who willingly owns both a cat AND a dog is an embarrassment and disgrace to the human race and nothing less than a traitor, or at the very least, an avowed masochist.

FANDOM NEWS & NOTES

THE GENTLEMAN WHO GAVE US VCON

By Ed Beauregard

Noted Vancouver historian Chuck Davis passed away November 20th, 2010 at the age of 75. Many of the tributes covered his work in recording the history, trivia and anecdotes of Vancouver, and more recently, Greater Vancouver. However, for BCSFAns, we have some very special reasons to remember him.

Chuck was one of the people who played a key role in turning the BC Science Fiction Society (as it was then) from the dummy front organization for money laundering which I had helped create in 1970 into the active SF club which we still have today. Chuck was the mature, sensible and very humorous guiding light who helped get the club going and many times provided not only a welcome meeting place but outstanding hospitality. His enjoyment of life was infectious, and he led many a discussion or group story writing effort, throwing in outrageous puns left and right.

Chuck Davis first got involved with local SF fandom in 1971, when he attended the first off-campus meeting to attract non-UBC people to the fledgling BC Science Fiction Society. He was already a well-known personality, as the UBC club newsletter of the time made specific mention of him attending that 1971 meeting. He was involved in the first two science fiction conventions in 1971 and 1972, which were not yet called VCON. In 1973, following a successful SF convention in Bellingham which attracted over 30 people from Vancouver, a number of local fans decided to start regular monthly meetings and build up BCSFA into an active fan organization. Following a number of meetings at Pat Burrows' during the summer of 1973, and with the assistance of a newsletter sent out by Mike Bailey, the October 1973 meeting at Chuck and Edna Davis' drew a record 35 people and was the first really successful meeting of BCSFA.

The planning for another SF convention in Vancouver was getting underway at this time. The conventions in 1971 and 1972 (there was none in 1973) were small affairs of around 100 people. For 1974, a much larger convention was planned. In the fall of 1973, at one of the first meeting to organize this convention, suggestions for a name were considered. Chuck came up with the name VCON, which we have used ever since.

Although Chuck's other activities took precedence and he was less and less involved in SF fandom and conventions through the mid-to-late-'80s, I still remember with admiration and fondness his kindness and patience with a lot of unruly and argumentative fans in their early-to-mid-20s, and his willingness to help create an organization that we can look back on with much pride.

THE GENTLEMAN WHO GAVE US DR LO FOG

By Debbie Miyashita

Some of you may remember with fondness Ed Hutchings' character at V-Cons in the past, Dr. Lo Fog. He also featured on many panels over the years, including Dead Authors panels, was published numerous times in the BCSFAzine and other fanzines, and was a fixture at FREDs for many, many years. Ed lost his battle with leukemia on Tuesday evening, February 22nd. He had been losing ground slowly since last October but ended up in VGH around Christmas time and didn't come back out. He had several BCSFA visitors during his stay in hospital and that cheered him up greatly! His Hutchings sense of humour and brilliant mind stayed intact right to the end. He was my friend for over 30 years and I thank BCSFA for being the venue where we met and became long time friends.

Ed had a very interesting life. He started his working life as an electrical engineer, moving on to become an oboist with the Toronto Symphony. Later he moved to Vancouver and attended UBC where he got his PhD in Mathematics and taught for a spell at VCC, UNBC and various other educational institutions. He did computer programming code as well and he was also a glass blower for a short time! :-)

In addition to his connections with BCSFA, Ed was involved with the UBC Film Society and a poster he designed for an SF film festival will be hung in their gallery in a place of honour. He was involved in the SCA for a while with the Walshes too! Among his many interests, Ed had a passion for pipe organs, obscure science fiction and French comic books as well as a knowledge of and a love for gourmet sushi and Japanese dishes! He kept in touch with a few of his BCSFA friends, even after his mobility and his budget didn't allow regular attendance at FREDs.

There will be a memorial/celebration of life for Ed in late June or July – I will post on here when it's decided where and when. I would propose a moment of silence in his memory at the next V-Con too.

So hats off to Doctor Lo Fog - he fought the brave fight. He is missed and will be remembered! deb :-)



Addenda:

Ed's ashes left Amherst Cremation Care Services to wing their way home to his nephew Dave's in Pentanguishine, Ontario. Ed will be buried in the Hutchings family plot in Barrie, Ontario (after spring thaw).

Deb (that would be me) is still asking all his friends to look through their photo albums, video libraries, and publications for Ed things to share at a Celebration of Life, to be held sometime in June or July of this year in Vancouver - likely UBC.

It was Ed's wishes that we all get together, reconnect with old friends, make some new ones, and celebrate Dr. Lo Fog and various other incarnations of Ed in BCSFA and Film Soc. as well as his other many and varied interests - Mathematics, Linux computers, Volunteer Grandparents, pipe organs, French comic books, obscure and bad Science Fiction books, and oboes. :-)

I have been contacted these last few weeks by many of Ed's friends who were shocked and dismayed at his death. As his executrix (hastily arranged a few days before his passing), it falls to me to clear up his earthly business - file his final taxes, pay his final bills, take care of his final remains - but so much of Ed still lives on!

If you have pictures, video, audio recordings, or print material that Ed produced, we are trying to collect them to produce a slide show to share at the memorial. Please let either myself or Susan Walsh know at:

Debbie Miyashita – debbiem@sunwave.net

Susan Walsh – mswalsh@shaw.ca

And please pass the word to others who knew Ed and would want to know of his passing.

Hope to see you all at his send-off! Deb

[EDITORS NOTE: HERE FOLLOW TWO ARTICLES TYPICAL OF THE COLUMNS CONTRIBUTED BY ED HUTCHINGS TO THE PAGES OF BCSFAZINE, REPRINTED IN HIS HONOUR.]

YOUR QUESTIONS ON MYSTICISM ANSWERED

By Ed Hutchings

[Editor's Note: I regret I cannot find the issue of BCSFAzine this article first appeared in. I believe sometime in the late 1980s when Steve Forty was editor. Am unable to provide a copy of the illo of the Sacred Locomotive mentioned, though I can picture it quite clearly. (This is your opportunity to read my mind.) But at least I had a copy of the article's text in a file as part of a proposed project to print all of Ed's articles together in a proposed BCSFA/WCSFA Press Publication I never completed. A possible project for the future. (Note to self. I did complete BCSFA/WCSFA Press Publication #3 which was an index of all BCSFAzines published from 1990 to 1997 – copies still available – I really should get around to indexing the other 356 issues someday... when I have a spare moment...) but at least Ed's vast and erudite knowledge combined with his sense of humour comes through quite well.]

Sometimes I suspect Mr. Science of a certain subtle, barely detectable level of invention in some of the answers in his column.

Actually, strictly correct answers can still be surprising. For example:

Interlocutor asks:

MR. BONES, WHY IS THAT BIG CABIN ON TOP OF A RIVER STEAMBOAT CALLED THE TEXAS?

MR. BONES: Why Mr. Interlocutor, because it's a STATEroom hyuk yuk!... (general hilarity, with trombones).

Mr. Bones is entirely correct. American technology dominated steamboat design in the 19th century, and the Americans named passenger cabins after states of the union – hence stateroom. The Texas is, reasonably, the largest room.

While I don't intend this as a continuing feature, I think it would be interesting to look, in the style of Mr. Science, at some questions on mysticism... but questions with true but unexpected answers (although I couldn't resist #3, which is true but contains an invented word).

Dean H. Liddell of Oxford, UK asks:

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF THE NUMBER 42 IN "HITCHHIKERS' GUIDE TO THE GALAXY"?

ED HUTCHINGS: It does not seem generally known that 42 was a favourite nonsense number of Lewis Carroll/Charles Dodgson. The reader has probably heard the quote “Rule 42: All persons more than a mile high to leave the courtroom!” (King of Hearts to Alice in the trial scene). Carroll was apparently obsessed with 42 when he published *The Hunting of the Snark*; not only does the number occur several times, but Carroll had his famous inspiration for the poem (“The Snark was a Boojum, you see”) at age 42.

Mme H. Blavatsky of London, UK asks:

WHAT ARE THE SACRED LOCOMOTIVE FLIES?

ED HUTCHINGS: Sacred Locomotive Flies is the title of a collection by Richard Lupoff, and refers not to insects but to a sacred locomotive which flies – or almost. In the 19th century novel *The Goddess of Atvatabur* by William Bradshaw, the top of the Sacred Mountain is reached by the Sacred Locomotive... depicted in the illo in a smart Hari Krishna/Canadian Pacific style. The Locomotive rides on the (presumably Sacred) Monorail, stability issues being handled by a strong-arm crew of angels, also shown above. This press gang view of angels, no complement to God, is common in theosophical novels and also used to occur frequently in Ray Palmer’s 1940’s *Fantastic*.

The Rev. C. Mather of Salem, Mass. USA asks:

WHAT EXACTLY IS AN ELDRITCH CRY?

ED HUTCHINGS: To understand this concept, you should carefully imagine a youngrich cry. You will now find it easy to transform the concept of that to an eldritch cry.

WHAT TO READ FROM THE GOLDEN AGE

By Ed Hutchings

[Editor’s Note: Originally published in BCSFAzine #193 – June 1989]

This idea is villainously stolen (the idea and title, not the material) from an article of the same name in *NOVA ODYSSEUS*. I’m ashamed to say that when I looked in our trade zine file I couldn’t find it again, so I can’t give the author’s name. I’d certainly recommend the original in *NOV O*. Apart from the fact that *NOV O* had the idea first, their author’s reading in older sf has been different from mine, so there is almost no overlap of the two articles. This list is based on my own reading in sf and some ‘Munsey style’ adventure from the period before 1938 (avoiding most fantasy). I definitely don’t claim a comprehensive knowledge of the field. No apologies here for including some famous names. Lots of well-known authors go virtually unread.

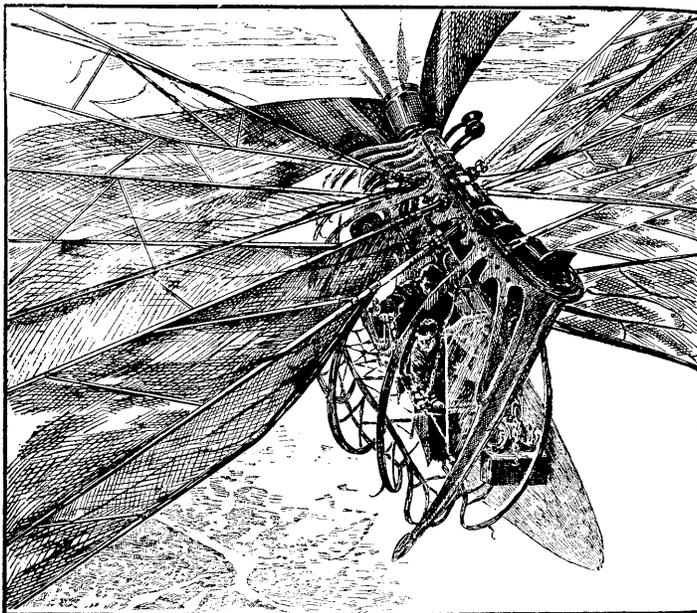
-- **Jules Verne:** well known but not much read and somewhat misunderstood. Verne is not a crude writer and he’s not a children’s writer. At the risk of displeasing the maud. Ang., if you can possibly read Verne in French, do so. Verne in French is funny. His light style and optimistic mood make him a great stylist and he is read with pleasure by European adults today, but his translators plus the influence of “supporters” like Gernsback have ruined him for English speaking audiences (in fact I often think that translated Verne sounds as if it were written by Gernsback). See a book called *The Annotated FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON* for a discussion (with awful examples) of Verne’s problems with translators. Verne is a *voyagiste*, that is a writer about travel in the very old tradition in which places were marvelous and the means amazing. Verne brought the tradition up to (19 C) date by emphasizing popular science, but the important element through most of his career is the voyage. Thus *AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS* and *20,000 LEAGUES UNDER THE SEA* belong to the same genre.



The idea of Verne as a “predictor” is mostly from Gernsback. For example, although Verne’s Nautilus involves very fancy engineering he didn’t think he was “predicting the submarine”. We know this because he deliberately used the name of a submarine by Robert Fulton called the Nautilus which was exhibited in France in 1800, 60-odd years before the book! Verne’s novels FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON, AROUND THE MOON, JOURNEY TO THE CENTRE OF THE EARTH, FIVE WEEKS IN A BALLOON, 20,000 LEAGUES, MYSTERIOUS ISLAND, AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 DAYS, ROBUR THE CONQUEROR are just plain good books. However his optimism didn’t survive the Franco-Prussian war: later novels like MASTER OF THE WORLD, THE BEGUM’S FORTUNE, FACE THE FLAG, have a glum tone which I don’t much like (FACE THE FLAG is the original of the movie THE FABULOUS WORLD OF JULES VERNE).

-- **George Griffiths:** Often met in sf histories. His THE ANGEL OF THE REVOLUTION inaugurated the “technological Armageddon” plot line (before Wells) in sf and is a decent story. There is a passable sequel OLGA ROMANOFF (Hyperion Press has these two). Thereafter G.G. got very bad very fast. I defy anyone to read the opening few lines of his HONEYMOON IN SPACE (which one sees praised occasionally) without laughing.

-- **Major Gilbert Chesney:** Writer of one piece of fiction, the short story THE BATTLE OF DORKING. The name sounds funny to a North American but this small masterpiece was hailed in England in the 1880’s and inaugurated the “future war” story (do we have Chesney to blame for Jerry Pournelle?) It can be found in Moorcock’s anthology BEFORE ARMAGEDDON. If you’re interested in influences, get both this and ANGEL OF THE REVOLUTION to see their influence on H.G. Wells’s WAR OF THE WORLDS.



-- **H.G. Wells:** Also well-known, but some comments are in order. Everybody knows TIME MACHINE, WAR OF THE WORLDS, FIRST MEN IN THE MOON, ISLAND OF DR MOREAU, but it is easy to miss THE INVISIBLE MAN and especially THE SLEEPER WAKES, which is interesting because it seems to have been deliberately written in the style of 19C popular sf. Both WW and SW originally appeared with sets of tremendous illustrations. It’s not well known that the University of BC library has all of the Warwick Goble illos for WW (there are something like 68; if I can ever get around to it, I’ll make a set of slides of them). I think the SLEEPER illos (some have been reprinted but there are probably dozens that hardly anyone has seen) can be managed with an interlib. Loan. Wells’s later sf is mixed in with his sociological novels and hard to locate.

A special note about THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME, which is presented as future history but is really a sociological and political essay. Its reputation among sf fans is due to the fact that a small episode in SoTtC was expanded into a screenplay for the film THINGS TO COME by Wells himself, and turns up under that name (i.e. not “SHAPE OF...”) in libraries. It’s in the Edmonton library and at UBC. I think this is Wells’s only film script (I’m pretty sure he didn’t write the script for THE MAN WHO COULD WORK MIRACLES), and it’s worth looking up because the script for TTC contains long sections that never made it into the movie. If you really want to look at Wells’s later sf, DAY OF THE COMET, WAR IN THE AIR, MODERN UTOPIA, etc., a decent sized library will probably have the “Atlantic Edition” of his works (up to about 1931). This should not be ordered up frivolously. Expect a small truck.

-- **DEPARTMENT OF LOST RACES AND MUNSEYANA IN GENERAL:** You have to be prepared to like a “romantic” prose style if you read these guys – plenty of oratory and arm-waving; imperialist Englishmen like you wouldn’t believe; the Americans killing anything that moves; lots of smug racism and a tendency to include women among the lesser breeds; juicy battles with much reference to mighty muscles and straining thews (although why constipated thews should be notable quite escapes me). Perhaps out of kindness Kipling and Wells are usually omitted from this category, and if we do this than the first great exponent is **H. Rider Haggard**, whose SHE is schmaltzy but still a pretty good read (and catch the 30’s movie version if you can). I’d also recommend KING SOLOMON’S MINES and its sequel ALLAN QUARTERMAIN – don’t be put off by the fact that it notoriously contains a character called Umslopogaas who sounds like the best man at a Marrin’ Sam Two-Dollar Wedding. There are further sequels which I haven’t read including SHE AND ALLAN.

Conan Doyle weighs in next with a series of stories, THE LOST WORLD plus two more, about his famous character Professor Challenger who is a sort of berserk Indiana Jones and great fun. I'd really only recommend LOST WORLD. Watch out for Doyle: some of his later novels are propaganda for the silliest kind of spiritualism. By this time there were specialist magazines for the exotic adventure story: ARGOSY, BLUE BOOK, ADVENTURE, MUNSEY'S, TRUE STORY are the best known. We meet authors like George Allan England, M.P. Sheil, J.U. Giesy and **Talbot Mundy**. Unless you're a fan of this sort of thing, I'd recommend just Mundy, whose TROS OF SAMOTHRACE trilogy is around in paperback in dealer's rooms. His JIMGRIM is also OK. For modern tastes these authors are more readable than you would expect but tend to go on too long.

The great men of the Munsey era are Burroughs (who has his own entry here) and **A.A. Merrit**, whose novels include five, THE MOON POOL, DWELLERS IN THE MIRAGE, THE SHIP OF ISHTAR, THE FACE IN THE ABYSS, THE FOX WOMAN (finished by Hannes Bok), which are supposed to be the greatest thing in this genre. This may be true, but they are also very similar to each other, and readers of Merrit tend to begin as admirers and then after reading everything end up hating him. I'd suggest getting at most two novels – not MOON POOL which is the best known but the weakest of the five; my preference would be ISHTAR and MIRAGE.

Lost race stories often have Nordic heroes with colourful barbarian sidekicks who steal the show. This tradition was revolutionized by **Robert E. Howard**, who kicked out the white hero and brought the barbarian to front and centre. It's so easy to kid Howard that his originality goes uncredited. Eventually C.L. Moore (collection: JIREL OF JOIRY) and Fritz Leiber (a long series about Fahfrd and the Grey Mouser) brought the "sword and sorcery" story to what I think is the top of its form.

CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE

AURORA/BORÉAL NOMINATIONS STILL OPEN

Final nominations must be received

no later than

midnight PST April 30, 2011

THREE SIMPLE STEPS TO NOMINATE!

STEP ONE: ELIGIBILITY

Go to < <http://www.canadiansf.com> > or to < <http://canadiansf.com/node/123> > (en Francais) where eligibility lists are maintained. Look at the main menu on the left side of the screen and, to see who's listed already, click on either 'SF WIKI' (professional categories) or 'FAN WIKI'.

STEP TWO: NOMINATE

Once you have made up your mind whom or what you want to nominate, go to the official CSFFA site at < <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca> > or to < <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/Francais/2011/nominations.html> > and follow instructions.

STEP THREE: VOTE

Instructions will be provided at an appropriate time in the future. See < <http://www.congresboreal.ca/> > for information on the convention where the Boréal Auroras will be presented.

[**Editor's note:** Please excuse my inability to convey the above in French. I failed Latin too.]

C.U.F.F. VOTING OPEN!

By Diane Lacey

It's CUFF time again and I'm very pleased to announce that this year we have two excellent candidates in Kent Pollard and Danielle Stephens. I've reproduced their platforms below. To vote in this year's CUFF race go to:

<http://2011.sfcontario.ca/site/>.

Both the online voting ballot and the mail in ballot can be accessed under the Community drop down menu. Voting will close at midnight (EST) on May 31st. Best of luck to both candidates!

Kent Pollard

I've been an ardent fan of Genre Fiction since the mid 70s, when I discovered Isaac Asimov, and a bookseller for most of the last 25 years. Although I've attended few conventions spread across the last 30 years, I've enjoyed being an active participant in those I did. I find the convention atmosphere pleasant, and I much enjoy the general mixing of fans and professionals in a collegial environment. I'd like to be part of increasing fan activity in Saskatchewan and across the Canadian Prairies and I think an important part of that is a mingling of information and ideas. Canada is a broad and diverse country, and I feel that CUFF has a significant role in keeping Canadian fan activity vital, and can play an even greater role. I'd like the chance to be part of the CUFF history, with a chance to represent the west at SFCOntario, and an opportunity to bring the experience back to Saskatoon to go toward the genesis of new fan activity here. I have a number of ideas toward increasing the profile, viability and long-term usefulness of CUFF, and intend to play a role in it, regardless of the outcome of this year's process. I'm looking forward to being part of the recent moves to revitalize CUFF and to doing my part in injecting additional interest and energy into it.

Nominators: R. Graeme Cameron (BC), Julie Czerneda (ON), Jane Garthson (ON), LeAmber Kensley (MB), Rob Sawyer (ON), Victor Schwarzman (BC).

Danielle Stephens

I went to my first convention, V-CON 27 in 2002. I joined the concom as Masquerade Director in 2006 by walking into a coffee shop and hearing the words "Oh hey, Danielle will do it! She likes costumes." The next year I chaired and I've been heavily involved ever since. I've worked on a handful of other conventions in the Pacific Northwest as well. I'd like to get a feel for how things are run "back East" to help give our BC conrunners a wider perspective, as not a lot of us often get the chance to travel that far. I'd also like to see about bringing Convention back to Vancouver. I want to create events that offer participants as many choices and new experiences as possible, and I feel that sharing time with other eager congoers is an excellent way to expand my understanding and abilities. I'm currently co-Programming coordinator for VCON 36 and I'll be chair again for CON 37 in 2012. In my work life I'm the colourist and manager for the webcomic "Goblins".

Nominators: Carolyn Clink (ON), Tarol Hunt (BC), Randy McCharles (AB), Marah Searle-Kovacevic (ON), Alex Von Thorn (ON), Rene Walling (QC), Michael Walsh (BC), Susan Walsh (BC).

T.A.F.F. VOTING STILL OPEN!

**2011 TAFF Ballot
Europe to North America
Deadline: 26th April 2011**

You can download the Ballot/Registration form from:

[TAFF Home](#) • [Printable Word version](#) • [PDF](#) Or: < <http://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2011.html> >

LETTERS OF COMMENT

(Comments by the editor are in this colour.)

From: CATHY PALMER-LISTER, January 18th, 2011

Hi, Graeme!

Welcome to the "retired" club. However, don't think you will have lots of time on your hands. I, and everyone else I know who retired, are so busy we wonder quite seriously, how we functioned when we still had real jobs. We're always learning, always volunteering, and forever saying: Sure, I can do that! I've loads of time, I'm retired! Now when I complain that I'm tired, my husband reminds me that I'm "re-tired".

I have a ton of projects but never work on any given one more than one day at a time. That way I keep things fresh and varied. On the other hand, I guess age is catching up to me. Perhaps one day out of three is a "do nothing day" where I just relax and watch TV or read books. I find it increasingly important to avoid any sense of time pressure.

Love the cover--best use of a medieval print I've ever seen! Also enjoyed reading the feature articles. Lots of research, there, Graeme! The monsters were especially intriguing. I knew about Vampira, but not the history behind the character. The old movies are a hot topic for MonSFFen. Not only do we have a couple of members with a keen interest in historical SF, but we've been approached this month to assist with a group putting on a theatre production homage to the old alien invasion movies.

MonSFFA has always struck me as an incredibly active club!

Jean-Pierre Normand is a great artist, and a wonderful person. He's generous with his time, too, and loves showing fans around his workshop. I've seen his collection of toys--unbelievable! The Godzilla/Titanic print is still a favourite here at cons. Another fan favourite is the one where Thunderbird 2 is skimming over the water to the rescue of the Exxon Valdez. He has some of his work on line here:

http://www.svbell.com/jpnormand/index_jpn.htm

V-Con will enjoy having him as artist GoH.

I can hardly wait. Looking forward to meeting him again.

Cathy

From: ED BEAUREGARD, January 18th, 2011

Thanks for sending this, I glanced through the Wells article and it looked very interesting.

I suspect you will enjoy the look back at the 'Dyna-Soar' in this issue.

Congratulations on "retiring".

Ed

From: ALEX VON THORN, January 18th, 2011

Thank you! And thanks for helping raise the profile of the Aurora Awards with west coast fandom. I might be coming out to VCON this year, and I hope to see a few BCians at SFCOntario for the Auroras.

Alas, I won't be there, but I know other BCSFAns are going!

Alex von Thorn

Chair, SFContario 2, <http://sfcontario.ca>, Toronto 18-20 Nov 2011
Webmaster, Chicon 7, <http://chicon.org>, Chicago 30 Aug-3 Sep 2012
Publications, Westercon 65: ConClusion, <http://westercon65.org>

From: STEVE FORTY, January 18th, 2011

A lot of good fan information in there. If you mail it out that way normally put me on your list please, I never think to go to the site to look for it.

You're on the list!

I read recently online somewhere that information is still going around that VCON 20 lost money. It actually didn't (at least it was within twenty dollars, most of that went for things such as paint for the artshow boards - wasn't really a VCON expense but was included - which I donated as WCSFA was broke at the time). Several years after the convention it turned out that CIBC had misplaced money from the art auction in the Visa account, so the couple of hundred shortfall was paid to me from that account making VCON 20 break even.

Glad to let you set the record straight in these pages.

I am very happy to hear about your retirement. I now have been retired for over two years (I went 1 month short of my 60th birthday) and am loving it.

I left seven months short of my 60th and am loving it. Every once and a while it hits me: Hey! I don't have to go to work tomorrow!... Wonderful feeling.

Thanks again for the WCSFAzine.

Steve

From: FRAN SKENE, January 21st, 2011

Thanks Graeme, lotsa good stuff, that I've only begun to read...

I'll pass the zine on to my writing group for the info about the VCON workshops.

Thank you! Hoping for a full turnout this VCON.

Happy New Year! Fran

From: LLOYD PENNEY, February 5th, 2011.
1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON, M9C 2B2

Dear Graeme:

I am finally getting to comment on the first of three zines you've sent me recently. I saw the picture of you on the cover of Space Cadet 14...I hope your retirement has replaced that frown with a smile. In the meantime, I have some comments on WCSFAzine 21 for you.

Great cover! I seem to recall a room party, and people sitting around the outside of the bed, and someone sleeping in the middle. Some people I know can sleep through atomic bombs. Wish I was one of them. Hey, as long as you can sell the guy in the bed a pre-support...

There was an orgy at an early VCON once, about 30+ years ago. On two beds joined together. Stuart Cooper was first into the room. All he wanted to do was fall asleep. Which he did. He was oblivious to what happened when others entered the room. Somehow he slowly slipped between the beds and wound up slumbering beneath the orgy. He woke up just in time to see the last of the satiated throng finish dressing and leave the room. Orgies are a dime a dozen in myriad cultures world wide. But Stuart is unique for being the only human being known to have SLEPT through an orgy.

P.S. I got this info second hand from a participant. I wasn't there, I swear. Really. True fact. Honest.

I wish I had an inheritance coming...unfortunately, if there is anything to inherit, it will probably be a few bills to pay. If there is any money involved, I'd share it with my two brothers, but if I assume there is nothing to share, there's less likelihood of being disappointed. Freedom 55? More like Freedom 75 in my case, but I figure that as long as I'm busy, I will be alert enough to enjoy life.

That was my Dad's secret, always working on a project, always keeping interested and alert.

Good guest choices with VCon 36. Jean-Pierre Normand is probably one of the best pro artists we've ever had in Canada. He does everything, from cover oils to quick illustrations and cartoons. All those Auroras are well-deserved.

I agree.

When I was finding out what I liked in SF in my earliest days, I knew people who had most issues of Forry's Famous Monsters and other magazines, but it didn't attract me at all, and still doesn't. It's kinda strange that having such a wealth of memes in SF and fandom didn't automatically attract me. I seem to have chosen a few interests, and carried on with them, and ignored the rest. However...I loved The Twilight Zone, and have the entire run of The Twilight Zone Magazine.

For the most part the films described in FM when I first discovered it rarely showed up in third run theatres and had yet to show up on TV. The exciting photos stirred my imagination and whetted my appetite to actually see these wonders some day. I imprinted on early issues of FM. It is more than mere nostalgia. FM/FJA was a formative influence. So much so that I still keep my FM collection stacked beside my desk ready at hand whenever I feel like taking a break and rummaging through distant yet vivid childhood *sensa wonda* images. Pathetic? Nah, inspiring. I DID mention I was into my second childhood?

Verne is one of the icons of steampunk, and I think he did indeed try to extrapolate what the future would be like in many of his novels. "Paris in the Twentieth Century" was found just a few years ago, which cemented his place in speculative fiction, not to mention steampunk.

I have it. Pretty dull actually, and his publisher refused to accept it, much preferring his 'adventure' novels. He is known to have been jealous of H.G. Wells's success, thinking it ill deserved. I believe he saw the political polemic motivation in Wells' writing and regarded it as a bit of a cheat pulled on a gullible public, an underhanded con as it were compared to his own novels which were meant to entertain and did so splendidly and honestly (with an occasional dig at the British empire, which he disliked). Personally, I much prefer Wells' Sf to Verne's Adventurism. Despite the preaching. It's just so much more awe inspiring.

Awards and fan funds...we have registered to nominate for the Auroras, but have not yet nominated. It's been crazy times these days. I have offered a CUFF nomination to a potential candidate, we have voted for TAFF and the FAAns, and we are yet to nominate for the Hugos.

Just made the page, so I will give you my thanks, and I have every hope that I will be able to respond to Space Cadet 14 and Auroran Lights 1 asap. See you then, and my greetings to Alyx.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

From: DANIELLE STEPHENS, February 11th, 2011

Hi Graeme,

Good work on the latest WCSFAzine! Very interesting and, as always, well written. I always learn stuff from them.

Thank you! There was a time when I knew nothing about fandom. Ed Hutchings was the first to twig me to the existence of fannish slang, and to the rumours about there being a Vancouver SF Society in the 1950s. Garth Spencer opened my eyes to the possibilities of fannish research. They inspired me to 'inherit' the archives from Gerald Boyko and begin active research into fannish history. Now I seek to share what I've discovered. Blame Ed & Garth!

IMPORTANT STUFF!

LINKS TO THE GOOD STUFF

Simply go to the CSFFA Web Site at < <http://prixaurorawards.ca> >

Click on the 'Useful Links' '+' sign & reveal the following list of topics:

Authors / Artists / Awards / Conventions / SF Bookstores / Clubs
&
Facebook & Meetup Sites / Fanzines / Fandom History / Fan Funds

Note: Since CSFFA promotes Canadian SF&F & Canadian fandom, all of the links listed are Canadian sites (or foreign sites which include Canadian material.)

VCON 36 DETAILED INFORMATION:

For most complete and latest info go to: < <http://www.vcon.ca> >

DATES: Friday Sept 30th, Saturday Oct 1st & Sunday Oct 2nd 2011.

These are confirmed dates. They will not be moved.

VCON THEME: VISIONS OF THE FUTURE: IMAGINING TOMORROW FROM THE PAST TO THE PRESENT.

THINGS TO DO AT VCON: Attend panels, lectures, workshops & demonstrations, watch or take part in the Masquerade, go to the DJ'd dance, sing along at Filk sessions, mingle with fellow fans in hospitality, meet the guests of honour, visit room parties, go to the Book Launch, take part in the Writers Workshops (advance participant acceptance required), swim in the pool, laugh at the antics in the turkey readings, laugh & cringe at the Elron awards, shop for nifty stuff in the dealers room, peruse the art in the art exhibit & place bids on items for sale, compete at the art auction & the charity auction, try out some of the ongoing gaming, talk to artists in the artist alley, participate in assorted events hosted by various local fan groups, volunteer to help run the convention (checking badges, etc) for an hour or two, and keep an eye out for all the other things I haven't mentioned (probably because they're still in the planning stages).

Above all have a heck of a good time participating in events and meeting fellow fans.

Don't be shy. Plunge into interesting conversations. Introduce yourself to people. You have as much right to be there as any other member. You're SUPPOSED to have fun. Remember that!

GUESTS OF HONOUR:

Author GoH: **Gregory Benford.**

Artist GoH: **Jean-Pierre Normand:** (Illustrator of many book & magazine covers. Multiple Aurora Award winner.)

Media GoH: **Lisa Lassek:** (Film editor & Producer – Firefly, Serenity, Buffy The Vampire Slayer, etc.)

VENUE: The Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7551 Westminster Hwy, Richmond, B.C., Canada V6X 1A3.

HOTEL CONTACT INFO: Phone: (604) 273-7878

HOTEL RATES: \$117 nightly for a single (King size) or double (queen size) bed room. \$147 a night for a Junior Executive Suite. To get these special reduced rates you must tell them you are attending the VCON 36 Convention. Don't forget because if you don't tell them you'll be charged the full rate!

HOTEL FEATURES:

- Heated outdoor swimming pool with hot tub.
- 1st class health centre with flat screen TVs attached to every work-out station.
- Multiple alcoves and dozens of lounge chairs in every nook and cranny.
- No key card required anywhere. Easy access to all convention functions.

CONVENTION RATES ANNOUNCED:

Individual Rate:	Youth rate:	Student, Senior & 'Games & Exhibits' Rates:
\$45.00 to Jun 15	\$22.50 to Jun 15	\$33.75 to Jun 15
\$50.00 to Aug 15	\$25.00 to Aug 15	\$37.50 to Aug 15
\$55.00 to Sep 15	\$27.50 to Sep 15	\$41.25 to Sep 15
\$60.00 at Door	\$30.00 at door	\$45.00 at door

EXPLANATION OF RATE CATAGORIES:

YOUTH = 7 to 12 (a child below 7 is free). A youth ticket must be purchased in combination with at least one adult, student, senior or games & exhibits membership. The above rates are for a full weekend membership.

STUDENT = Highschool or greater (University, College, etc.). A student photo ID is required at the on-site registration desk in order to confirm you are eligible for the student rate. The above rates are for a full weekend membership.

SENIOR = 65 or older. Photo ID is required at the on-site registration desk in order to confirm you are eligible for the senior rate. The above rates are for a full weekend membership.

GAME & EXHIBITION = Gamers. This category of membership grants access only to the gaming room and the exhibit rooms (dealers room, artists alley, art gallery & fan club tables). It is designed for those who intend to spend most of their time in the gaming room but who might, for example, want to visit the dealer's room but don't have any interest in attending programming sessions or events.

Pre-Registration at discounted rates ends on 15 September. After this date, there is only on-site registration. One-day rates are available only at the door.

HOW TO BUY A MEMBERSHIP:

VCON 36 will be accepting payment by cheque or by Paypal.

To pay on-line (and for further details and registration forms) go to: < vcon36.eventbrite.com >

Once you have registered, the system will email you an e-ticket which you should print out and bring with you to the convention in order to speed up the check in process, reducing line up wait times at the registration desk and letting everyone get to the programs that much faster!

To pay by cheque, go to the above site, download a registration form and follow instructions.

WRITERS WORKSHOP INFORMATION:

**VCON 36 (2011) Writers Workshop
Now Open for Submissions!**

- **WHO:** Anyone who is a paid up member of VCON.

- **WHAT:** Submit a short science fiction or fantasy story 5,000 words or less in length, or the first 5,000 words of the opening chapter of a science fiction or fantasy novel. Work must not have been professionally published. NO fan-fiction. Original fiction only.
- **WHERE:** the Richmond B Boardroom at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel.
- **WHEN:** Submit by September 1st 2011 (earlier if at all possible). Prefer ASAP.
- **HOW:** Send as a PDF file attachment AND as a Microsoft word document attachment via email to < archive@vcon.ca >
- **COST:** Nothing. Participants are expected to print out their own paper copies. (Professionals will receive paper copies from moderator if required.)

For more information, to ask questions, or to contact the moderator, visit the

[VCON Writers Workshop Forum](#) and be sure to read the [VCON 36 Writers Workshop FAQ](#) for additional details!

WCSFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FEBRUARY 27TH, 2011

Agenda

- Call to Order
- Minutes of Previous AGM
- Reports from officers
- Report from VCON 35 (2010)
- Progress Report of VCON 36 (2011)
- Presentations of candidates for VCON 37 (2012) Chair
- Election of VCON 37 Chair
- Elections of WCSFA Board of Directors
- Motion to change of bank account signing officers
- Motion authorizing WCSFA to invite Guests of Honour for VCONs
- Other business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Call to Order

Called to Order on Feb 27, 2011 at 2:30 pm.

Attending

- Keith Lim (President)
- Michael Walsh (Vice President)
- Kathleen Moore (Treasurer)
- R. Graeme Cameron (Archivist)
- Danielle Stephens (Member at Large)
- Ray Seredin
- Lynn Kruszewski
- Pauline Walsh
- Rob Beggs
- Susan Walsh
- Ron Merrifield
- Jenni Merrifield
- Kim Lues (late arrival, during WCSFA Elections)

Minutes of Previous AGM

- Minutes were passed around and read by attendees.
- Graeme asked about the issue of society standing from the minutes. Issue had been resolved.
- Jenni Merrifield handed over the official "Certificate of Good Standing" to current Archivist.

Motion to accept the previous AGM minutes: Moved by Pauline. Seconded by Graeme. **Passed.**

Reports from WCSFA Officers

President's Report (Keith)

- WCSFA put on just one event: VCON 35.
- WCSFA did no fundraising of its own.
- WCSFA is sort of being supported by VCON rather than the other way around.
- Should WCSFA try to do more to promote Sci Fi & Fantasy? General thought was that yes, it would be a good idea to do more.
- Short discussion ensued about ways that WCSFA could do more, e.g.:
- One day events. Supporting/assisting meetup groups. Events should be planned not "because its fun" but "to bring people together."

Vice-President's Report (Michael)

- Thu, Jun 10, 2010, signed contract with Vancouver Airport Marriott Hotel for VCON 35.
- Thu, Jan 6, 2011, signed contract with Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel for VCON 36.

Treasurer's Report (Kathleen)

- Storage fees are the biggest pain. \$75 of storage fees is attributed to VCON for art boards, remainder to WCSFA.

Members at Large (Danielle)

- Fixed issue of society standing. We are now in good standing.

Motion to accept officers reports: Moved by Graeme, Seconded by Ray, **Passed.**

Report from VCON 35 (Danielle)

- VCON 35 went very well. Made more money than we spent.
- Total Membership 626 total = 444 full weekend, 39 Sunday only, 119 Saturday only & 24 Friday only.
- 83 Comps total, including "trades."
- Only about 40-50 were actually free memberships (inc. ConCom).
- VCON 35 Financials not quite complete.
- Hotel about 10% under mostly because of no 15% tip gratuity on things that were originally expected to have one.
- Art Show: Hanging Fees: \$1065, Art Sales: \$6197 (mostly through direct sales).
- Hospitality, brought about \$1500 in donations.
- Still trying to track down details of Advertising fees paid.
- Paid back this year's portion of outstanding debt, plus a bit more = \$3500, in two cheques.
- Balance due -\$6843.08 + interest. Still can't close financials from VCON 34 until debt is fully paid back.

Motion to accept VCON 35 reports: Moved by Graeme, Seconded by Ray, **Passed.**

Progress Report for VCON 36 (Keith)

- VCON 36 is in very good shape.
- Theme: "Visions of the Future: Imagining Tomorrow in Science Fiction from the Past to the Present."
- Much debate arose over the fact that "Visions of the Future" wasn't definitive enough on its own and the full name is too long and hard to explain.
- Some alternatives were suggested:
 - "Retro-Futurism" -common term used to represent explorations into how the future was viewed in the past.
 - "Future's Past"
 - "Dubious Futures" (since most visions of the future were wrong).
- Keith & Jenni (VCON 36 Second Vice Chair) noted that similar arguments had arisen among the ConCom.
- Ergo, theme may need to be tweaked for marketing purposes.

Hotel

- Already have a hotel confirmed due to John Cunningham's excellent work.
- Largest Function Space "ever" (or at least since #19).
- Last year was around 8800 sq ft. This year we have 18000 sq ft.
- Hotel space cost depends on the number of "room nights" booked. So book rooms now!

Guests of Honour

- Gregory Benford -Author/Scientist GoH
- Jean-Pierre Normand -Artist GoH
- Lisa Lassek -Media GoH

Publicity & Marketing

- Has been weak over the past few years.
- Paper promotions have been restricted to black & white flyers and posters.
- Internet promotions are limited to our web site and some Facebook.
- Signage has been a problem at the con.
- Trying to improve (have found a good coordinator)

Currently open positions

- Several, most important ones are Dealers Liaison and Hospitality

Motion to accept VCON 36 reports: Moved by Jenni, Seconded by Pauline, **Passed**

Presentations of candidates for VCON 37 (2012) Chair

Two Candidates: Danielle Stephens, Keith Lim

Election of Chair for VCON 37 (2012)

- *Question was raised:* Will we accept an email message as valid for a vote proxy since they technically don't have a signature?

Motion to accept the two proxies for the VCON 37 Chair election that were submitted by email.

Moved by Graeme, Seconded by Rob;

Results:

7 in favour

3 opposed

2 abstained

Passed

Five proxies were submitted, 3 by paper, 2 by email

- Brianna Thomas
- Tarol Hunt
- John Cunningham
- Rick Arino
- Naomi Ben Yehuda

Results of election of Chair for VCON 37:

- **Danielle Stephens (13 votes)**

- Keith Lim (4 votes)

Elections of WCSFA Board of Directors.

Nominations:

President:

- Jenni Merrifield; **Self Nominated**, Seconded by Danielle.
- Keith Lim; Nominated by Ray, Seconded by Jenni; **Nomination was Declined.**

Vice President:

- Michael Walsh: Nominated by Kathleen, Seconded by Ray ; **Nomination was Accepted.**

Treasurer:

- Kathleen Moore: **Self Nominated**, Seconded by Pauline.

Secretary:

- Pauline Walsh: Nominated by Jenni , Seconded by Keith ; **Nomination was Accepted.**

Archivist:

- R. Graeme Cameron: Nominated by Danielle , Seconded by Kathleen ; **Nomination was Accepted.**

Members at Large:

- Rob Beggs; Nominated by Danielle , Seconded by Graeme ; **Nomination was Accepted.**
- Lynn Kruszewski; Nominated by Jenni , Seconded by Keith ; **Nomination was Declined.**
- Ray Seredin; **Self Nominated**, Seconded by Kathleen.
- Ron Merrifield; Nominated by Pauline, Seconded by Graeme; **Nomination was Accepted.**

Elections

Open vote for President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Archivist.

President: Jenni Merrifield - **Passed.**

Vice President: Michael Walsh - **Passed.**

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore - **Passed.**

Secretary: Pauline - **Passed.**

Archivist: Graeme - **Passed.**

Closed vote for Members at Large

- **Rob Beggs (12 votes)**
- **Ron Merrifield (9 votes)**
- Ray Seredin (4 votes)

Motion to change of bank account signing officers

Motion to replace the WCSFA bank account signing offers to Jenni Merrifield (WCSFA President), Kathleen Moore (WCSFA Treasurer), Keith Lim (VCON 36 chair) and Danielle Stephens (VCON 37 chair).

- Moved Keith, Seconded Ron; **Passed.**

Motion authorizing WCSFA to invite Guests of Honour for VCONs.

- Motion was Stricken -WCSFA already has the ability to do this by a special vote of the board.

Other Business

Discussion of WCSFA membership fees

- Theoretically, a portion of every VCON membership should be explicitly assigned to WCSFA and it should be possible for someone to become a member of WCSFA without going to VCON.
- Currently we don't have a set amount and nothing is being transferred into WCSFA funds.

Motion to make the membership fee for WCSFA \$5, retroactive to the beginning of registration for VCON 36.

Moved Danielle, Seconded Pauline; **Passed.**

Announcement

- Pauline is currently looking into other WCSFA storage opportunities. It would be helpful to know how much square footage the art boards actually take up.
- Graeme will be turning his attention to the next WCSFAzine. Submissions are accepted; send to [rgraeme\[at\]shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme[at]shaw.ca)

Adjournment

- Adjourned at 5:20pm.

COLOPHON

WCSFAzine Issue # 22, Apr 2011, Volume 5, Number 2, Whole number 22, is the 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 is a paid member of VCON 34 or who has paid a membership fee of \$5.00 to WCSFA is a member of WCSFA till noon, Friday, October 1st 2011 (when VCON 35 registration opens). No other criteria applies. Said membership involves voting privileges at WCSFA meetings.

Current Executive of WCSFA (effective 2011 Annual General Meeting):

PRESIDENT: *Jenni Merrifield.*
VICE PRESIDENT: *Michael Walsh.*
TREASURER: *Kathleen Moore-Freeman*
SECRETARY: *Pauline Walsh.*
VCON 36 CHAIR: *Keith Lim.*
VCON 37 CHAIR: *Danielle Stephens.*
ARCHIVIST: *R. Graeme Cameron.*
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: *Rob Beggs.*
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: *Ron Merrifield.*

Since anyone can download WCSFAzine, 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 members always welcome. Currently, easiest way to join WCSFA is to attend VCON 35. See info page

WCSFA Website: < <http://www.user.dccnet.com/clintbudd/WCSFA/> >

You can download past issues (and future issues when they're posted) of WCSFAzine from:

< <http://efanzines.com/Wcsfazine/index.htm> >

or contact the Editor at: < rgraeme@shaw.ca > and ask me to email you a PDF version.

Anyone (even non-members) may submit short 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: < rgraeme@shaw.ca >

Below: Shocking photo of fans attending VCON 1 in 1971. Can anybody identify them?

