



BCSFazine.pdf (#11)

Here is the “new look” magazine which is a result of my having to rebuild the template due to it breaking down last time. All links have been re-established so hopefully, this is another fully functional full colour electronic publication. There is a new Acrobat reader available now with a few new features. There is no need to upgrade to it just yet.

To subscribe to the BCSFazine electronically, download the Adobe Acrobat Reader at www.adobestudios.com and install it onto your computer. There are over twenty five different readers available, one for almost every operating system and computer on the market. Make sure you get the correct one for your system.

Once you have finished installing the reader, e-mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca and let me know that you wish to change your subscription to the Acrobat version. You will be taken off the snail mail list and switched to my e-mail list. (*Subscription information is on page 2*).



JCHW

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Upcoming WCSFA Events

WCSFA Memberships

New	\$26.00
New Family	\$32.00
Renewal	\$25.00
Family (2 Votes)	\$31.00

(Above prices includes subscription to BCSFAzine. Please e-mail woolf@vcn.bc.ca if you wish to receive the magazine electronically.)

Make checks payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association)

Send cheques to: **WCSFA**
#110-1855 West 2nd Ave.
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April 1999 Volume 27, #4

BCSFAzine is the club newsletter published by the West Coast Science Fiction Association (A Registered Society) *W.C.S.F.A. is also known as B.C.S.F.A. which is the social branch of the organization.*

For comments, subscriptions suggestions, and/or submissions, write to:
WCSFA
#110-1855 West 2nd Ave.
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1J1

F.R.E.D. - Every Friday

The weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in joining us for an evening of conversation and relaxation, with pool table option. At the Burrard Motor Inn opposite St. Paul's Hospital (Downtown Vancouver) 6 blocks south of Burrard Skytrain Station. 3 blocks west of Granville (where many buses run). #22 Knight/McDonald bus along Burrard. Begins 8:00pm. On the Friday before long weekends, FRED will be at the lounge of Bosman's Hotel. This is two blocks east and a part of a block north of the Burrard Motor Inn (actual address is 1060 Howe St.).

Contributor's Deadline - March 19, April 16, May 7, (Special Edition) May 14, June 18, July 16, August 20. Send your submissions/loc to John Wong at 2041 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5N 1X9 or E-Mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca.

BCSFAzine Collation - April 4th, May 2nd, June 6th, July 4th, August 1st, September 5th, October 3rd, November 7th, December 5th. First Sunday of the month 4:30PM. Call Steve Forty (S.40) to confirm at 936-4754.

BCSFAzine Pickup at FRED - April 30, During May 21, June 7th, July 30th, September 3rd, October 1st. Last Friday of every month Pick up your issue of BCSFAzine at FRED! Pristine, mint condition copies are available at FRED. Call Steve to let him know you wish to pick up your copy. (These dates are approximate only. Due to production scheduling changes, the issues may be available one week early.)

April 10th (Saturday) - **WCSFA General Meeting** at 1 pm. Firehall Branch Library. 1455 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver. (Tenth and Granville). On the agenda, VCON 25, WCSFA Open House, Playdium event and other club business.

April 13 (Tuesday) - **Discount Movie Nights!** \$2.00 Tuesdays are back! The second Tuesday of the month at 6:30. The New West Cinema at #299 - 555 Sixth Street, New West Minster. Meet in front of the Box Office to decide which movie to see and where to do coffee afterwards. April

17th (Saturday) - Pacific Space Center (The H.R. MacMillan Planetarium) An official WCSFA Sponsored Event! All members of WCSFA will have \$2 off the regular

\$12 price of admission to the Planetarium. Meet in front of the big steel crab at 2pm. Explore the Cosmic Courtyard where you can visit the International Space Station, dock a Space Shuttle, Morph into an alien, touch a real moon rock launch a rocket, and much more.

This is the first official WCSFA sponsored, non-VCON event in a long time. Your membership money is paying for this so take advantage of it!

April 17th (Saturday) - **Another Movie Night!** See "Robot Monster", Phil Tucker's epic about the terminator android in a monkey suit is back for a limited time at The Blinding Light! 36 Powel Street, Vancouver at 8:30pm. It's worth checking out after the planetarium

April 26th (Monday) - **FREFF** at 7pm, Misty's 341A North Road, Coquitlam. Owned by the same fellow who ran RAXX.

May 8th - (Saturday) **WCSFA General Meeting** at 1 pm. Firehall Branch Library. 1455 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver. (Tenth and Granville). VCON 25 Bid selections.

May 18th (Tuesday) - **Night of the Writer Roasties** at 7pm. Tops Restaurant 2790 Kingsway, Vancouver. The book being "Dark Universe" by Daniel F Falouye. July's book will be "Bloodsport" by Lisa Smedman. Secure your copy now!

May 31st (Monday) - **FREFF** at 7pm, Stepho's 1124 Davie St., Vancouver. An inexpensively perfect place for a VCON postmortem.

June - The next WCSFA sponsored event will be at the **WCSFA Metropolis Playdium Arcade Challenge** in June. We are negotiating a power play (unlimited games over a limited time) and a dinner in the restaurant or lounge. Keep an eye out here for further details.

July - **WCSFA Open House**. No firm plans on what we will do yet, but perhaps a minicon style event where there can be an art show, dealers, and panels. Perhaps we can even get a few local authors down to do readings and sign books.

August - **WCSFA Annual BBQ/Picnic/Beach Party**. Do you have a suggestion on where we can get together on the third Saturday of August? Let us know!

Keep an eye out here for future official WCSFA sponsored events.



Letters Of Comment

Dear John:

Many thanks for issue 310 of BCSFAzine...time for loccing has been at a premium. I now have more responsibilities with the Worldcon bid. Could you put in some mention of the bid? I think this zine is the only Canadian publication I've seen that hasn't mentioned it. Anyway, on to the issue.

More deaths mentioned in the local, and unfortunately, this one isn't any different. Buck Coulson has passed away at the age of 71, I believe. It came at the end of a sudden hospitalization, and I know only that. Buck was a huckster, a long-time fan, a published author and veteran fanzine letter-writer.

A good letter from Palle Hoffstein in responding to Ray Seredin. No matter where the SFnal interest lies, literature represents the roots of the genre, and as happens so often these days, we tend to forget our roots. And, as I'm sure others feel this way, I hear too many demands from mediafans to turn literary cons into mediacons.

Convention listings...Ad Astra is still alive, and shortly, I can give you all the details. The most important information is when... Ad Astra 19 has been postponed until February 18-20, 2000. The trade-off is that the con's hotel is downtown, which makes it the first Toronto con in a couple of decades to be downtown. Also, the con should help break the cabin fever we're all suffering from at that time.

I think Ray Seredin is burying the Doctor too soon. First of all, the Rowan Atkinson/Dr. Who spoof has been very popular. It may have been a test balloon floated by the BBC to see what's really happening with their viewers. Just yesterday, one of the local Whofen told me that plans are afoot for another Whocon in Toronto. We thought that Star Trek was dead for many years, and fan appeal brought it back. The dedicated Whofans may yet do the same. Any commentary from the local Time Meddlers?

Time to fold, lots of other projects to tackle. Take care, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney.



Now that I'm getting and enjoying my BCSFAzine electronically, I ought not to be getting it my snail mail as well. I got a copy today, so maybe your stop-mailing process needs a nudge.

A couple of little things: I think that it would be nice if the file had a number identifier—something like BCSFA309.pdf would identify the issue and allow us to archive copies without having to rename them.

I love the way the 'zine looks, especially the colour, but a page with a black background is murder on my printer's ink cartridge, and causes the paper to get all soggy and curly.

Many thanks. Love the mag.

Cheers,

Howard Cherniack

<cherns@compuserve.com>



Thanks for the letter Howard.

To answer some of your concerns, when I send out the .pdf files, the file name always has a number in it. It is e-mailed as an attachment and the only way I know which file to send is to look at the file name's number. For example,

the latest issue #309, should be named BCSFAzine309.pdf. However, something I did not consider was the problems that some computers may have with file names over 8 letters long. When saving to diskette, Windows 95 will abbreviate the file name to 8 characters. Windows 3.11 can only read and save the first eight characters of a file name. In order to correct for this problem, I will now be naming the .pdf files as BCSFA### where the ### refers to the current issue number.

As for your second concern, pages 11 and 12 are not intended for hardcopy. They are specifically intended for use when you have time to surf the web. Page 11, when printed out on most level one postscript or postscript emulated laser printers will come out entirely black. Level two postscript printers can distinguish between the shades of the text. The page looks great on screen, but that is all it is supposed to do.

If you must have that text printed out, then use the text tool in Adobe Acrobat and highlight the text. Next, copy the text by using the -control C - (PC) or the apple command C (mac) option. Go to your favorite word processing program and paste the text in. [-control V (PC) -apple command V (mac)]. Now just change the text to black using the word processor's colour palette and you can easily print out the text without the black background.

I hope this helps out all the readers who are using Acrobat to subscribe to this zine. If you have a question, please do not hesitate to send me a note. I will try to answer any questions that I can.

JCHW

Dear John and WCSFA members,

This is to let you know that Neville Books will be closing its storefront in South Burnaby as of March 31st. Neville Books will continue to exist, but mainly as a presence on the internet.

Thank you so much for faithfully running our ad in BCSFAZINE - and thank you, also to the WCSFA membership who have supported us over the last twelve years. We'll be at VCon again this year, with a table in the dealer's room. We look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

Pat and Eileen Kernaghan

Dear John:

Another Sunday evening, another headache, another loc on the latest issue of BCSFAzine. None of these elements is related to any of the others.

I was sorry to hear about the death of another fan. Steve's obituary doesn't include his age, but from the contest I suspect that he was another fan who didn't live to the age when death can be reasonably expected to occur.

I can't remember having had any contact with Richard Wright, but he obviously will be missed by a very large number of fans because of his varied services to clubs and conventions.

There's a good bit of material in this issue about con planning and con running, areas that are obviously outside my personal experiences in recent decades. However, I think I'm entitled to think about how things are changing. It wasn't too long ago that various fans were speculating on how to keep down the number of people attending cons and causing overcrowding problems and making it hard for fan A to find fan B in such a large mob.

With deep regret, I must announce failure to add up my points on my SMOFhood or lack thereof. I could do it but there is an inhibiting

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spellbinder.bc.ca/bcsfa](http://spellbinder.bc.ca/bcsfa)

Check out our web site for all the information you need to be a local fan.

- Convention Listings • Ask Mr. Science
- SF TV Listings • VCON Web Pages
- Internet Links • Store Listings

Special Thanks to Alan Barclay for the Web Space



factor. It is time to start filling out my federal and state income tax returns. So I considered it important to refrain from anything involving math, lest I paralyze the small amount of ciphering ability I possess before I can complete those myriad of calculations. Last year, I broke down before I had filled in about a hundred blanks involving the way to calculate tax on capital gains and just lumped that money in with other taxable income. The Internal Revenue Service hasn't complained yet but I understand that it sometimes waits three years before pouncing on anyone who tries to evade madness in this manner.

Donna's book reviews are excellent. They tell me enough about these books to make me unlikely to read two of them. But I might enjoy the Peter Beagle collection, on the basis of her description.

The Graeme is wise to restrict lending of most items from the archives. I stopped lending records from my collection after one of the finest men I've ever known failed to return an lp and I hunted nine years before finding another second hand copy. The late Vin Clarke did a lot of copying of fanzines from his collection, I understand, on a non-profit basis. But even that service would create wear and tear on fragile old fanzines and would be a time-consuming nuisance if too many fans took advantage of such a service.

I used to feel like Lisa Gemino about the harmlessness of cartoon violence on the tube. But that was before so many broadcast and cable channels began running three or four hours of cartoons daily and an entire cartoon channel was established to pour them out morning, noon and night. So much exposure to cartoons might be causing kids to accept them as more real than the television offerings that use real people as actors. Now that I'm old, I can no longer watch anything, drawn or photographed, on the tube that has much violence. I used to watch westerns when I was a kid but now I don't even feel comfortable with John Wayne features, much less the cheap movies that are non-stop violence in the west or anywhere else. Parents are naming their babies in increasing numbers for television characters, I suspect that about 75% of all toys on sale at Christmas time are spinoffs from violent television fare, commercial breaks for the most non-violent offerings are studded with movie advertisements that barrage the viewer with a dozen extreme violence clips in a minute, and crime in the real world remains extremely serious. I think the television industry should experiment, declare a moratorium on violence in their programming for a year, and see if this creates a lowering of the crime rate. If it doesn't, the television will be vindicated in its claim of not being responsible for disorder; if it does, it will be time for government authorities to set up restrictions on violence on the screen and tube.

Yrs., &c.,
Harry Warner, Jr.

Greetings: John called Ken.

I would like to thank all those gave me input to my "V-Con Wish List".are a few answers to some of the questions asked.

1) I know all about Big-Con Syndrome and there is NO WAY I will let it happen to VCON until the majority of the Vancouver area fan groups feels the time is right to hold a "Big Con".

I still remember "Constellation Con '83" in Victoria. I was just getting back into science-fantasy and that convention almost made me back into a "Little House on the Prairie" fan. I lost over \$250 traveling down to that con and on top of it all, I accidently put a one hundred dollar bill into the donation jar thinking it was a two. "Constellation" gave Victoria and Vancouver Island fandom a bad name which they are still trying to live down. **I WILL NEVER LET THAT HAPPEN TO VCON!!!!!!**

I know it would be nice to have a 1,200+ member VCON. However I'm not saying that it will happen at VCON 25 or any time soon after that. It may take ten or fifteen years before we can even start talking about holding a big VCON. Until then it's all just a dream.

2) The "New" sites that I would like to see VCON eventually moved to are at major transportation sites and shopping centers. One's at Metrotown, two minutes from the SkyTrain and is right in the mall. The the other site is right in downtown New Westminster, also two minutes from a SkyTrain station with lots of shopping available on Columbia St. I'm quite sure our out of town membership can find these places very easily, since they are at well known locations. However, it would also be nice to hold a VCON right in the heart of downtown Vancouver again.

3) Although I would like to see more "Media" and gaming at future VCONs, it will still be a literary convention at it's heart as it has always been. H.G. Wells, Jules Verne and Mary Shelley never wrote for the "X-Files" or "Star Trek" after all. What I would like to see more of is hard to find shows shown at the con to show fans that there is more to science-fantasy media than just "Star Trek-whatever" and "Xena". Hey maybe we can turn a few fans onto SF literature while we're at it!

4) Thanks for telling me about "Media Guest of Honor". There was one such person who recently turned up here in Powell River recently. I asked if they were willing to take part in an SF convention. They told me that although they were a science fantasy fan, they were first and foremost an actor and work comes first.

This person is also a volunteer with Mothers Against Drunk Driving of Canada. The actor expressed the opinion that they would rather work on a film for MADD for nothing than be paid to go to a convention. A semi-well known Media "GOH" may not be such a good idea.

5) I like to use the term "Science Fantasy" because a lot of today's "Science Fiction" is "Fantasy". We all know that a ship that can travel faster than light or a time traveling police box that's bigger on the inside than the outside will probably never really happen in our universe. Like Scotty of the original "Star Trek" series said, "We canna' change the laws of physics, captain." So we dream that we can change them, and these dreams are the fantasies in "Science Fantasy".

I hope I answered some of your questions. Thanks for all the input, it was very useful.

Be seeing You.

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Peter Pan's

Mortal Kombat: Conquest

Set in some multi-ethnic parallel world in which apparently nobody has invented guns, *Mortal Kombat: Conquest* promises martial arts action at 150 beats per minute, (according to the Space channel's promo). Actually, the pace is more like middle of the road rock than techno. Unsurprisingly, the show revolves around set piece martial arts battles, and that's the primary criteria of the show's worthiness.

Since the introduction of Hong Kong action movie talent into the US mainstream, the standard of stunt fighting has risen considerably. If you've ever seen Jackie Chan or Michelle Yeoh in action, the fighting in *Mortal Kombat* looks fake and boring. *Buffy, The Vampire Slayer* has better fighting than this show. *MK:C* also doesn't have the over-the-top, flying-around-on-wires kung fu style of the wuxia (Hong Kong sword-and-sorcery) movies. This is about the state of the art for

American martial arts movies in the late 80s.

The space in between fights is filled with cardboard heroes and villains snarling at each other, standard TV script developments, unimpressive special effects and a dash of gratuitous T&A. It's based on a video game, after all.

The paper-thin premise is presented in deadly earnest, the show's greatest flaw. Shows like *Buffy* know when to play things for laughs or wink at the camera. Only when the god Rayden appears to do his low-rent Obi Wan Kenobi schtick does anyone seem to realize how silly this all is. An absurd premise taken dead seriously can produce camp, but *Mortal Kombat* doesn't have the energy or visual flair for camp. Watching it, your pulse is unlikely to get anywhere near 150 beats per minute.

Peter Tupper



VCON 25 Bids Now Being Accepted

Call for VCON 25 Bids. Bids for the upcoming VCON 25 are to be presented at the May 8th General meeting at the Firehall Branch of the Vancouver Public Library. (1455 Wet 10th Avenue Near Granville). To present a bid, the committee must meet the following conditions:

1) A convention committee composed of a Chair, A Treasurer, A Hotel Liason, and two of any of the following positions filled. Operations, Hospitality, Registration, Programming, Dealer's Liason, and Art Show Liason.

2) A realistic budget written for submission to the WCSFA executive showing expected expenses and income.

3) A prospective guest of honour who has indicated the ability to attend and a detailed report of the expenses of bringing this guest to the convention. (Transportation, food, accommodations and any other expenses as requested by the guest.)

4) Letter of Intent for the hosting site. This should include intended programming space requirements for the convention, equipment that may be needed, room rates for convention members, and any other information required by the hotel.

5) \$500 start up funds. This money should be raised by the bidding con-com. This stipulation is intended to demonstrate to the WCSFA executive the ability of the con-com to organize and promote an event and raise money through memberships and other fund raising events.

A vote will be made by the general membership of WCSFA on which bid will be accepted. Memberships to VCON 25 will be sold at VCON 24.



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Upcoming Conventions

Toy, Model & Collectables Show, Sunday, April 11th, 1999, 11 AM to 4 PM. Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC.

Buy, sell, and trade character toys, action figures, Beanie Babies, toy cars, Star Wars, model kits, trading cards, comic books, Barbies, games, and more!

Admission: \$2.00 (\$1.00 for kids under 14)
Dealers' tables: \$30.

For information about either show, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail lswong@uniserve.com

Norwestcon 22 April 1 - 4 Sea tac Washington.

Writer: Harry Turtledove (Nebula Award winner and Hugo Nominee).

Artist: Richard Hescoc.

Fan Guests of Honor: Jack L. Chalker and Eva Whitley

Science: Jack Horner (Celebrated Paleontologist)

Spotlighted Publisher: The Ministry of Whimsy Press (publisher of 1997 Philip K. Dick Winner "The Troika")

Memberships:

\$45.00 from 07-01, 1998 through 10-31, 1998,
\$50.00 from 11-01, 1998 through 02-01, 1999,
\$55.00 at the door, \$5 off for members of the Northwest Science Fiction Society

HOTEL: DoubleTree Hotel Seattle Airport,
Rooms \$92 flat rate for up to 4 people, \$175 Family Suite, \$280 Presidential Suite, \$10 for 1 additional person, LIMIT OF 5 PEOPLE PER ROOM (800) 222-TREE.

Information: Norwescon 22, PO Box 68547,
Seattle WA 98168-0547 Hotline:
(206) 270-7850

email: nwc@eskimo.com

BAKA!-Con 1999 23-25 April 1999, Double Tree

Inn, Tukwilla, Washington, USA ONLY Anime Convention for 800 Miles Guests: We are please to announce that we have two guests signed on for BAKA!-Con. They are Tristan McAvery and Stan Sakai. Mr McAvery is a voice actor with ADV Films; he has played such parts as Gendo Ikari from Neon Genesis Evangelion and Grandpa Danpei from New Cutey Honey. Mr Sakai is the creator of the American manga Usagi Yojimbo. Registration: Current members registration price for the convention is \$30. For more Information on

Continued Page 7...



WHAT GARTH GETS IN HIS MAILBOX

I thought it might be amusing to share with you some observations on the kind of fanzines I get. Note: "apa" means an amateur publication association, a limited group of fans who write a minimum number of pages, send them to a central person, and get back collated collections of all the contributions; an "loc" is a letter of comment, as you see in BCSFAzine. I also make brief reference to William Rotsler (originator of the classic costume show rules), Ian Gunn, and Vincent Clarke, all of whom died in the past year. They contributed a lot to the fun and wit of fanzine fandom, in writing and illustration and fanzine publishing. They are missed.

Bento IX (Orycon 1998), David Levine and Kate Yule (1905 SE 43rd Ave., Portland, OR 97215; davidl@co.intel.com, kyule@agora.rdrop.com). A neat little pocket-sized zine from a fun couple in *fabulous* Portland fandom. I particularly enjoyed articles like "Just Another Day on the Microsoft Barney Helpline" and Kate Yule's "Better Living through Brain Chemistry". As David Levine writes, I feel like I fall between the Baby Boomers and Gen-Xers (and I'm four years older). Bob #14 and #15 (also titled "The Bob without the Jim Barker cover" and "The Full Bobby"), from Ian Sorensen (7 Woodside Walk, Hamilton ML3 7HY, U.K.) Ian discourses about trends in TV as evidenced in advertising, in the one issue; a Corflu UK report, in the other, with the continuing misadventures of Ian's brother, the minister.

I'm STILL waiting to see the best bits of Ian's zine *Conventioneer* posted on the Web!

CANFAPA #2 and #3, dated May and July 1998, from R. Graeme Cameron (#110 - 1855 West 2nd Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1J1; rgraeme@home.com). Followed by *Canfandom* (January 1999).

This former apa, now fanzine, is dedicated to the proposition that Canadian fanzine fandom is worthy and should be promoted. (John Wong's cunning plan was reproduced here.)

Since this winter it has been retitled *Canfandom*, and #4 came out in January 1999. This issue is distinguished by reprints of the late Vincent Clarke's articles on indexing fanzines, and the cover of Taral Wayne's early-1980s attempt to provide an index of Canadian fanzines.

Conferring with Earthquakes spring, winter and summer 1998 issues, from Brin-Marie McLaughlin (247 19th Avenue, Apt. #6, San Francisco, CA 94121-2353, U.S.A.). The discovery that fanzines can contain utterly non-fannish personal writing. Sports news for SF fans, and other impending signs of the apocalypse. Fabulous Rotsler illustrations: they keep going, and going, and ... Emerald City 33-42, an e-zine from Cheryl Morgan (in transit; e-mailed from cmorgan@ceres.wallis.com). Fan news, book reviews, and personal views on various conventions.

Ethel the Aardvark #83, from the Melbourne SF Club, Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vic. 3005, Australia. Now edited by Karen Pender-Gunn, since well-known fanartist Ian Gunn passed away. (Not to be confused with Thyme, the fan newszine published by Alan Stewart from Box *222*.) Club news, book and series reviews, some articles, and a letter column. This issue: the members discover Leo Frankowski's Conrad Stargard novels.

File 770:126 from Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, U.S.A. Formerly a general fan newszine, but more and more it now tends to be about American conventions, especially Worldcons and Westercons.

I had a copy of FOSFAX around here - a thick, small-print, contentious clubzine with a *huge* lettercolumn, full of political arguments that seem vaguely right-wing - but since I just moved I have trouble finding anything now.

The Knarley Knews #74, Feb. 1999, from

Henry Welch (1525 16th Ave., Grafton, WI 53024-2017, U.S.A.; welch@msoe.edu), a personal zine from Wisconsin. This issue: Alexander Bouchard writes a parable about a fan discovering fanzines; Don Pattenden continues the chronicle of his Australia bicycle tour; Charlotte Proctor, one time editor of the famous

fanzine /Anvil/, reviews /Mathemagics/ (a "Chicks in Chainmail" light fantasy novel, and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"); E.R. Gene Stewart ponders whether fandom can survive; and lots and lots of locs.

Reality Break 5.1 from Dave Slusher (dave_slusher@sff.net), a very brief e-zine from a man who produces an SF-theme radio talk show. (Hey, we BCSFAns did something like that once, now didn't we?) Reality Break has its own Web page and is soon coming to RealAudio. This edition: an upcoming live interview with George R.R. Martin.

TommyWorld 29-42, an e-zine from Tommy Ferguson (previously of Belfast, now relocated in Nottingham, England; emailed from tferg@net.ntl.com); news and views from a scion of *fabulous* Irish fandom, plus locs from around the globe.

Vanamonde nos. 297 - 302, apazines from John Hertz (236 S. Coronado St., No. 409, Los Angeles, CA 90057, U.S.A.). Witty and informed comments on a wide variety of subjects. I keep reminding myself I ought to reply and keep forgetting. Maybe I'll just send him a /Royal Swiss Navy Gazette/ and see how he responds.

Visions of Paradise #78, Robert Sabella (24 Cedar Manor Court, Budd Lake, NJ 07828-1023, U.S.A.; bobsabella@nac.net). Notes on "The Passing Scene" from July through September 1998; an article on "Defining Science Fiction"; book reviews under "Wondtrous Stories"; fanzine reviews, and locs.

Westwind #234, Nov. 1998, NWSFS (P.O. Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124, U.S.A. Newsletter of the Northwest SF Society.)

I picked this up at Orycon in Nov. 1998. News about movie outings and socials, discounts for members, future club activities, a con calendar, and reviews. This issue is distinguished by an interview with Neil Gaiman (author of /Neverwhere/, which is worth getting!).

THE ROUND TUIT:

belated reviews from Garth Spencer

DEATH DRIVES A SEMI, short stories by Edo van Belkom. Quarry Press (Kingston, Ont.), =A9 1998. (No price listed; trade paperback)

A good many months ago this complimentary review collection appeared in the BCSFA mail (and I have finally gotten around to reviewing it.) It is interesting to see van Belkom's fiction in collected form, partly because I recognize his name from an SF markets column he wrote for the SF Canada writers' organization, and partly because it gives a sense of the various magazines in which his work has appeared. None



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of these are hard-SF stories. In fact they all fall into horror and fantasy genres.

But Somebody's Got to Do It, relates the experience of a crematorium assistant in an age when a mutant virus is turning more and more people into Evil Dead.

The Rug relates a shut-in, elderly woman's experience as her moth eaten rug starts devouring dirt, then more and more refuse, then gets more and more feisty.

Death Drives a Semi is almost a Stephen King fantasy, of racing a semi driven by the Grim Reaper.

No Kids Allowed reveals the Horrible Secret behind those rental ads that seem to discriminate against families.

The Basement, for a change of pace, is actually rather a sweet fantasy about the demise of an isolated Italian-Canadian lady. (As Robert Sawyer notes in his introduction, van Belkom shows a great ear for accents, in this story as in others.)

All in all, I recommend Death Drives a Semi as well worth getting.

(Other works by van Belkom include Wyrms Wolf, from HarperPrism; Lord Soth, from TSR; Army of the Dead and Mister Magick, from White Wolf; and Northern Dreamers, his collected interviews with Canadian SF, fantasy and horror authors, also from Quarry Press.)

...continued from page 5.

registration, check the registration page. If you wish to register, send the registration form and your check or money order (made out to Bakacon) to: BAKA!-Con, PO Box 44976, Tacoma WA 98444

Hotel Information: Double Tree Inn
Room Costs: 205 Strander Blvd. \$89 for Single/Double per night Seattle, WA 98188. \$99 for Triple/Quad per night 1-800-222-TREE (please make reservations before 3rd April 1999)

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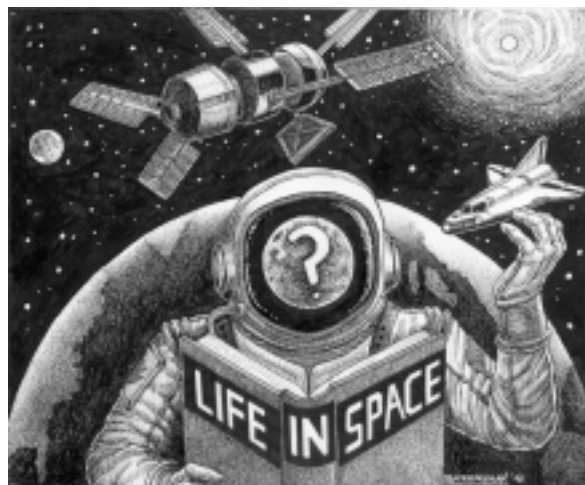
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SF BOOK REVIEWS #9

Carlucci's Heart, Richard Paul Russo (Ace 1997) # The Shapes of Their Hearts, Melissa Scott (Tor 1998) ## Aftermath, Charles Sheffield (Bantam 1998) (# = paperback available at Vancouver Public Library. ## = VPL hardcover.)

Inspired by bio-disasters such as AIDS, Ebola and American medical insurance, SF writers in the '90's have written a record number of plague novels. Carlucci's Heart by Richard Paul Russo is one of the better ones I've read so far.

Frank Carlucci, a veteran cop in mid-21st century San Francisco, investigates the death of a man named Tito only because Tito was a friend of Carlucci's daughter. Nobody else is interested in the peculiar death of a poor Mexican AIDS patient until Carlucci mentions "Cancer Cell", a mysterious renegade medical group which allegedly abducted Tito. Suddenly everyone is interested, but nobody will utter anything except dark hints. Then the daughter of one of the most powerful men in the city is murdered, and Carlucci begins to suspect that he's on the track of a medical crime which could kill millions of innocent people.

Russo's San Francisco is very Bladerunner, though clearly written by somebody who knows that city well. The "core" slums have been walled off like East Berlin and left to fester, while the business district hides behind imposing walls of private security and privilege. Carlucci himself is a member of the shrinking suburban middle class, thanks to a salaried job with benefits. But he knows all too well that everything he can do is not enough to keep his wife and daughters safe.

The characters in this book are strong, the writing is solid, and only a picky reader will probably notice that when the plot threads finally come together at the end of the book

they don't make all that much sense. I won't spoil the plot by citing details, but I will say that Russo's story loses some of its impact when he moves away from his characters' immediate problems and focuses on global sociopolitical scenarios.

Easily the best SF novel I read this month was The Shapes of Their Hearts. Aside from the solid plot and characters, I haven't seen any writer handle technology better than Melissa Scott. There is lots of gee-whiz high tech in her future galactic society, but characters don't stop to discuss it—they USE it while they're getting on with their lives. The applications are very convincing, too. More than once I found myself thinking "Gee, I could really use one of those."

Anton Tso, businessman and medical designer, is reluctantly pressed into a mission to "Eden," a backward world settled by a religious cult. Eden is under galactic data embargo for releasing a sophisticated rogue AI ("memoriant") on galactic computer systems. The memoriant, created from the memories of the cult's founder, is believed by Edenites to speak God's words, and it is on a mission to convert the rest of humanity, or destroy them.

Tso has a buyer who wants a copy of the memoriant for his own uses and is powerful enough to blackmail Tso's family. Tso must cooperate, but as a clone and an FTL traveler—twice damned in the eyes of the cultists—and he's scared. Rightly so. Things go wrong almost immediately.

This sketchy intro does not begin to do justice to a complex plot which also follows a group of apostate Edenites in Freeport, a seaport/spaceport city built on an ocean platform (like a giant oilrig). It took me a while to get into this book because none of Scott's characters are immediately endearing, but the

novel grew on me until I was quite enthralled. I particularly enjoyed the vivid coastal setting and was not surprised too see from the book jacket that Scott lives in a seaport town.

Quibbles? Well, Scott could have done more wrap-up. The book ends abruptly and we don't get much emotional resolution about characters we've come to care for. But over-

all, this is a sophisticated, adult book, well worth reading.

In contrast, Charles Sheffield's slick disaster novel, Aftermath, details global mayhem with all the lip-smacking relish of a TV movie of the week. It's 2026. Alpha Centauri goes supernova and Earth is hit by an immense electromagnetic pulse which burns out every microchip, instantly destroying transportation, communications, power, and almost everything else. In addition, heat from the supernova is destroying the southern hemisphere and playing havoc with global weather. Billions die. But not the ones who really count, of course. Brave Americans struggle on.

Near the centre of the universe (Washington DC), three cancer study patients try to find a surviving expert who can continue their experimental cancer treatments, and decide that their only choice is the brilliant researcher and psychotic mass murderer Dr. Oliver Guest (think Hannibal Lecter), currently serving a 600 year sentence. In orbit above them, the first manned Mars expedition has returned to Earth but has no way down. And in the White House, American President Saul Steinmetz struggles with the crucial crisis of whether he can get it up to boink his pretty aide.

Sheffield's Americans are every bit as bipolar as a TV newcast. When disaster strikes and millions are without power, water or food, they rush into the streets and murder each other in large numbers. But once the initial carnage is over, they transform into patriotic citizens eager to save the world. (Incidentally, Canada's total coverage is four pages about an arctic oil rig manned by guys so stupid that they go hiking without a rifle and get eaten by polar bears.)

Despite my gripes, I did finish this book. Except for two blatant "As you already know, Bob" conversations, it's competently written and fast paced, with a nice sprinkling of funny lines. The science is solid and characters are well portrayed.

But it's SO silly! I mean, our cancer patients are taking an experimental treatment so new and high tech that only a few experts in the world understand it. But once they locate an expert, he assembles a self treatment kit in his basement in three days.

Arrgghh! Comments? Rebuttals? Suggestions?

Donna McMahon



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...continued from last issue.

BORIS AND NATASHA (Ukraine)

In the post-Chernobyl industrial wasteland that is 21st century Ukraine, a husband and wife team of high-tech/low morals entrepreneurs set out to strike it rich. The only thing standing in their way are a pair of animatronic terrorist androids codenamed "Moose" and "Squirrel".

THE CABINET OF DOCTOR CALIGARI (Italy)

With the unstable nature of Italian politics being what they are, it was only a matter of time before a mad scientist took over the government. His fellow politicians had assumed he was only a political scientist. But Doctor Caligari decides to reform Italian society by subverting every scientific law in existence. While the good doctor spends his time doing this, his colleagues are forced to deal with the consequences from hostile governments and regional separatists to science gone wild. Hailed as a cross between "Yes Prime Minister" and "Akira", this film is also noted for casting Christopher Walken, who reprises his Max Shreck role in "Batman Returns" to give a haunting, yet sinister, performance as president for life of the Independent State of Croatia.

THE DIFFERENCE ENGINE (UK)

This sequel to previous documentaries concerning efforts to reconstruct Charles Babbage's Difference Engine opens by dropping a bombshell. It appears that a small group of undergraduate students have hijacked the project and are now working to construct an AI variant. Their self-appointed leader states that, the Difference AI's first test of intelligence will be to analyze itself. However, if things start getting out of hand, then its second test will be to analyze a certain 1991 novel by William Gibson and Bruce Sterling. While the second test is sure to keep the Difference AI tied up for years, no one has pointed out that this valuable learning experience might give it a few ideas.

THE DIFFERENCE ENGINE (Poland)

Since the book came out in 1991, there has been much speculation as to how the inevitable movie adaptation would appear. Would it be an epic Hollywood production in which the salary demands of the big name actor playing Laurence Oliphant accounts for half the budget? A BBC mini series in which the old cast of Monty Python are reunited to assume the principal roles? A Japanese animated film whose producers are looking for an excuse to demolish a major city (besides

The 1999 CANNES FESTIVAL

Of European Speculative Film

By Doug Finnerty

Tokyo)? Wrong on all counts. A previously unknown Polish film production company has come through with the finished product. Produced on a budget so low that the single most expensive item was the film stock itself, this movie will most likely be the only commercially produced black and white silent to be made this decade. Although using the Polish industrial heartland to portray London will seem like a dirty trick to those western film directors, who would rather spend their budget on sets, it works. What also works is the soundtrack, which is a compilation of various Polish industrial bands. During the film's initial release, it was reported that Interpol was assembling a crack team of investigators. Their stated objective is to track down the(. Master r forger who had superimposed d Natassia Kinsfci's name onto the credit" as the person playing Lady Ada Byron.

Alexandro Jodorowski's DUNE (France/Mexico)

Animated. Thanks to the magic of computer animation, and the miraculous cooperation from the previous owners of the novel's film rights, Alexandro Jodorowski's vision can finally be brought to the big screen. Every artist who contributed to the original ill-fated project, from Chris Foss to Moebius, is represented here. And where Mr. Jodorowski's original script leaves off, the text from the original Frank Herbert novel can be used to fill in the details. The computer program that allows this is also the same one that will be used to write most Hollywood movie scripts for much of the next decade. In this way, it can be guaranteed that, nothing has been left out, of the movie. Even the appendices and glossary is included (at the film's end) so that those who became lost during the first film

will have no such excuse this time. Running time: 535 min.

THE GRATEFUL DEAD

(Hungary) All is not well in the state of Transylvania as its ethnic Hungarian and Gypsy minorities come under persecution from supernatural forces. The Hungarian/NATO paranormal research team that is eventually sent in can't even locate the source let alone stop it. Although the suspects range from Vlad Dracul to Nicolai Ceausescu, no one on hand seems willing to start busting ghosts. The surviving team members decide that since the situation is hopeless, they must get as many people out of Transylvania as possible. Assuming of course that they can get out. Banned in Romania.

KIWILAND OR ELSE!

(Macedonia/Netherlands/New Zealand) In the not too distant future, a combination of economic, social and political problems has transformed the Netherlands from a libertarian social democracy to a hotbed of xenophobic nationalism. As the new regime lacks the necessary answers to Holland's problems (and the military capability to make any historical claims on Belgium), it is decided to find a convenient scapegoat. The authorities promptly single out New Zealand as their target, claiming that the very name implies a territorial claim on the Dutch province of Zeeland. Additional acts of silliness make the situation serious as Dutch charges that Steinlager is actually rebottled Heineken brings on an economic war. Which shortly leads to a shooting war. A combination of Macedonian political allegory, Dutch dark humor and New Zealand low budget special effects makes this film a sure winner. As the film makes its debut in Cannes, the Greek Minister of Culture has fired off a note of protest. No one knows why.

OUTLAWS IN LINCOLN (vz)

"Lincoln" as in a shade of green and not a geographical location. As the title vaguely suggests, this television pilot is meant to recreate the legend of Robin Hood in deep space.

Not only does this film stoop to levels that even the 1950's Canadian animated series "Rocket Robin Hood" never reached, but it also manages to rip off every Anglo-Saxon cultural icon from King Arthur to Shakespeare. The only redeeming factor is the soundtrack, which morphs pseudo-celtic harps and hymns with spacey post-industrial synthesizers. For some reason, no one will take credit for it.



Continued next issue....



Dr. Media's Good News/Bad News.

Dedication: To the memory of Millie Brown (1923-1999) my friend and fellow Dr. Who fan. My deepest respects to her family and friends at this time of great sadness.

So long Aunt Millie, thank you for teaching me how to believe in my dreams. Enjoy the great Convention.

Hi there fellow Dr. Who fans. Afraid I have some more bad news, however I also finally found some good news.

First the bad news.

Most PBS stations across the US have said "NO" to a return of the series. The networks feel that Dr. Who plays to a very small audience, whose core is mostly in the 18-26 age group. They feel this group can only make the series break even at best in smaller markets (i.e.. Seattle). With even more government funding cuts in the works, these stations need all the help they can get.

Still, the Doctor does make money for the stations in the New York and Los Angeles mar-

kets, because of their very large populations.

Seattle KCTS had no plans to air the series in the first place. It's sister station, KBTC in Tacoma had the rights to broadcast the program and will have first crack at it "IF" it becomes purchasable again in the Seattle region. Channel 9 doesn't expect this to change in the near future.

Now the good news.

The BBC isn't out of the Dr. Who business yet. What they announced is they are not planning to pursue potential production partners. This pursuit cost the debt ridden, publicly funded network a quarter million dollars (US) last year. The BBC feels that any potential production partner should come to them first. In this way, the Beeb can be sure that the partner's interest in the series is sincere and that they are willing to sign a long term deal.

Meanwhile back around here, BBC's line of Dr. Who novels are finally available in North America and Chapters bookstore locations in Downtown Vancouver, Metrotown and Victoria

are the place to check them out. You can also order the novels via the Internet at Chapters own WEB site, (www.chaptersglobe.com.) The site is great if you live outside an area served by a store or are too busy to get to one. They do take MasterCard and Visa. Oh, they give you 20% off for using the Internet.

Although I only found a few titles while I was down in Vancouver for New Year's, it was nice to know that someone listened to us fans and brought in The Doctor's latest adventures. As for the novels, they are much like the old TV series, fast moving, exciting and great fun. (I also like Virgin Book's The New Adventures series, but that's another story.)

So before saying "I want my Dr. Who!", head on down to Chapters or log on to their WEB site. Whatever you do, you will soon find The Doctor's TARDIS.

Till next time be seeing you.

Ray Seredin drmedia@thecentre.com



40 Winks

April 17 check the upcoming calendar for time, we are going to go to the Planetarium. Please come out and have a lot of fun and support the group at the same time. Maybe after we can decide on a nearby restaurant and eat there. Hopefully the S'Harrien club will join us as well.

I read and enjoyed Palle's article on VCON's last issue. The status of this group is a registered non profit organization ie. we can't make a profit from the group. To get tax deduction status we would have to follow much more stringent rules and get a Registered Charity designation. As to the idea of VCON in August, I would hope that it can get back to it's old week-

end of Memorial day. Anglicon is supposed to be backing away from that weekend in the future. In August we will have Viking con in Bellingham, and probably a relaxacon in Portland (they used to have one then every year, but this year I think it fell through, but they were planning on resurrecting it last time I talked to them). The more VCON bounces around the harder it will be to make it grow. Years ago it used to be in February, our most successful VCON's were on Memorial Day weekend (one week after Victoria Day here), as the Canadians didn't leave town and the Americans had the Monday off and came up here.

I really enjoyed Radcon. I was very wor-

rried about the drive as the weather forecast was terrible, but I lucked out and had a very pleasant drive there. Once there (Pasco, Washington) I got out of the car and worshipped this bright orb in the sky (they told me it was called sunshine). As fan guest I was given a huge set of rooms. The first room had a Jacuzzi, the sec-

ond had a big bed, and the third room had a couch, tables and chairs. I really enjoyed the energy this group radiates, it bodes well for the future of fandom and Radcon in the Tri Cities. I threw a fan goh party on Friday that went until 5:30 am, went partying on Saturday until 5:30 am and then had the dead dog finish in my Jacuzzi at about 5-5:30 am.

The drive back was a little tough. I didn't get the chance to go to much programming as I was busy most of the time meeting people and visiting with others I had known for awhile. Gaming is big at this con and is well attended. The dealers room and the art show were pretty standard for cons of this size with lots of stuff to look at.

They hit a highlight at the end of the con when they discovered that they had broken 1000 (I think it was 1028). This was a good fun convention. A very nice boost in the middle of winter. The cost of the rooms and prices in the area were quite reasonable.

The area is desert most of the way there so there probably won't be much trouble driving once you have passed the Snoqualmie Summit (you can check this online as they have cameras mounted up there so you have an idea of what the drive will be like before you leave Vancouver). Hopefully I will make it back next year.



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Original Works by Space: 1999 Fans

🏠 <http://www.scifi.com/scifi.con96/fanbar/space1999/fans.html>

Original Works by Space: 1999 Fans One of the best things about being a Space: 1999 fan is all the other fans. They are a great group of people to talk with and exchange thoughts and ideas with.

Space: 1999 Encyclopedia | What's New

🏠 http://www.concentric.net/~Barnella/1999/whats_new.html

Following item to News page: Following item to News page: URL for Maurizio Majelli's Human Decision Required on Links page Following item to News page:

View the Lost in Space Ads

🏠 <http://www.bigredtoybox.com/ads/adlispac.htm>

Free Toy, Antique and Collectible Classifieds. Over 500 Categories of Dolls, Action Figures, Space Toys, Cars, Models, Trading Cards, and more!

SPACE 1999 LINKS PAGE

🏠 <http://www.prostar.com/web/starska/1999.htm>

You are officer # to report to this sight. since stardate 9609.17. The Space:1999 Archive Pictures Space 1999 WWW Page Space 1999 : Cyber Museum

Nick Sayer

🏠 <http://www.kfu.com/~nsayer/>

Trapped in a frame? Break free now! This page is not now, nor will it ever be Netscape or Internet Explorer Enhanced . Who am I? Well, it's hard for me to say.

Space: 1999 @ pHinnWeb

🏠 <http://www.sci.fi/~phinnweb/space1999/>

Designed with a little aid from iZmedia Human Decision Required An article on the origins of the series Space: 1999 Episode Guide Space: 1999 Trading Cards Space: 1999 Links

What's New at Novagraphics

🏠 <http://www.novaspace.com/Newstuff.html>

What's New updated November, 1998 please wait for thumbnails to load... Pleiades Ice Cave David Egge Alan O' Saurus Chris Butler Dear Children of the Earth book by Schimmel

K10 Cosmic Princess [two Space: 1999 episodes in movie form] - Revenge...

🏠 <http://tilt.largo.fl.us/critic/mst3k/sskk1013.html>

Revenge of John Stanley's Creature Feature guide 3rd edition. (13) COSMIC PRINCESS (1976) Two episodes of the British science-fiction series SPACE 1999, in which part of the moon has shot into space with Moonbase Alpha still intact, commanded by Martin Landau and Barbara Bain.

Jim's ST:CCG Site - Lists

🏠 http://www.vradio.com/lackey/stccg/lists/Lists_ns.html

Comprehensive info on Star Trek(R): Customizable Card Game(TM) by Decipher, Inc. Jim's ST:CCG Web Site has lists, news, FAQs, links, and a database.

The 48 episodes of Space: 1999

🏠 <http://www.mediom.qc.ca/~dvezina/aepi.htm>
None Available

Space: 1999 Encyclopedia | Index

🏠 <http://www.concentric.net/~Barnella/1999/index.html>

Austin, Ray - Director Bain, Barbara - Actress Blessed, Brian - Actor Byrne, Johnny - Writer Canal DCanadian cable station currently showing Space: 1999 Collecting Toys Magazine Eagle to be featured in December 1997 issue Columbia House/RE-TV (US)

A Space: 1999 Chronology (Responses)

🏠 <http://www.dct.com/~dwelle/s19cronr.html>

ALPHAN ACCOLADES: REACTION TO THE CHRONOLOGY I read with great interest your Space: 1999 Chronology. By far, it is the most comprehensive I have ever seen attempted, and you did it very well.

Argus IG | TOTAL LUNA SEE

🏠 <http://www.argusig.com/archive/19990101.html>

Argus IG TOTAL LUNA SEE Remember the premise behind the old science fiction TV show Space 1999? The earth's moon (and THAT moonbase we built) is blown out of its orbit and hurtles across space on a voyage of weekly adventures.

Space: 1999 on video by Columbia House

🏠 <http://www.worldmarketonline.com/~bernard/video.html>

Space: 1999 Released on Video by Columbia House The first release is tentatively scheduled for September 29th. The only planned release volumes so far are: 1.

Linda Tresham's House of Magazine Back Issues - Space 1999

🏠 <http://www.ncf.carleton.ca/~ck651/space.html>

The following magazines and books pertain the scifi show Space: 1999 which starred Martin Landau and Barbara Bain. The prices below are quoted in US funds and shipping is calculated at time of order.

E! Online - Fact Sheet - Martin Landau

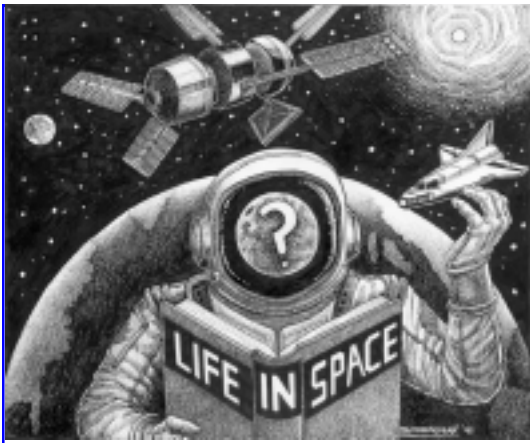
🏠 <http://www.eonline.net/Facts/People/0,12,8881,00.html>

• Advertising • Masthead • Contact Us Martin Landau Filmography: The X-Files (1998) B.A.P.S. (1997) The Long Way Home (1997) Pinocchio (1996) City Hall (1996) The Adventures of Pinocchio (1996) Joseph (1995) Intersection (1994) Ed Wood (1994) Time Is Money (1994) Legend of the Spirit Dog (1994) Color of Evening (1994) No Place to Hide (1993) Sliver (1993) 12:01 (1993) Eye...

"Space 1999" - The Official Calendar

🏠 <http://www.slowdazzle.com/space1999/home.htm>

The Official 1999 "Space 1999" Calendar

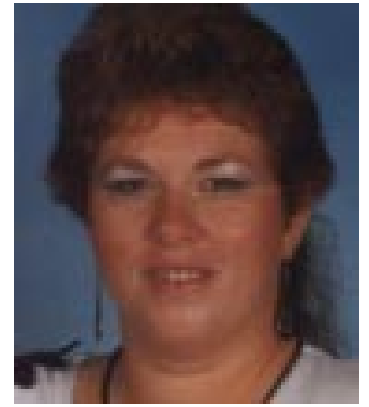


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VCON 24 "LIFE IN SPACE?"

May 21-23, 1999

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A.C. Crispin

Artist Guest of Honour Betty Bigelow **Toastmaster** David Bigelow

Other Guests include:

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GUEST



Michael Capobianco

GUEST

Rhea Rose

GUEST

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Imperial Hobbies

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(formerly the Surrey Inn)

9850 King George Hwy., Surrey, BC Room Rates: \$75/night

For reservations call: **1-800-663-0660**



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