

# BUSBY MAGAZINE

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST COAST SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

LEXX  
LINKS!

FREE  
STAR TREK  
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LOC FALLOUT  
CONTINUES!

A portrait of Marion Zimmer Bradley, a woman with short brown hair and glasses, wearing a light-colored jacket. She is sitting at a desk with her hands clasped in front of her. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

**Marion Zimmer Bradley**  
June 3, 1930 - Sept 25 1999

Marion Zimmer Bradley suffered a major heart attack on Tuesday, September 21 and died Saturday, September 25. Her novels have been groundbreaking in that they centered around strong female characters. She will be missed by all fans of fantasy.

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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:

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 **BCSFAzine is also available as a full colour Adobe Acrobat file.**

## WCSFACTIVITIES

**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** - October 15th, November 19th, December 17th. 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](mailto:woolf@vcn.bc.ca).

**BCSFAzine Pickup/Collation at FRED** - October 1st, November 5th, December 3rd. Friday before the first Sunday of the 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.

**Discount Movie Nights.**

\$2.00 Tuesdays are back! When? The second Tuesday of the month (Sep. 14th) at 6:30 pm. The place being New West Cinema at #229 - 555 Sixth Street, New Westminster. Meet in front of the Box Office at the above

time and we'll decide on which movie, where to do coffee and in which order.

Monday Oct. th, 7pm. **FREFF**. Hon's Wonton House, 408 Sixth Street, New Westminster.

Tuesday October 19 at 7pm **Night of the Writers Roasties**. Tops Restaurant, 2790 Kingsway Vancouver. Book being Reaper Man, by Terry Pratchett.

Monday October 25 at 7pm **FREFF**. Hon's Wonton House. 408 sixth Street, New Westminster.  
October 31st - UBC Science Fiction Society Annual Food Bank Trick or Treat. **WCSFA** is proud to join the UBCSFS for this charity event. For details send a letter to: UBC SFS Halloween Food Drive, Box 75, Student Union Building, 6138 SUB Boulevard, UBC, Vancouver, B.C., V6T 1Z1

Tuesday November 16 at 7 pm. **Night of the Writers Roasties**. Tops Restaurant, 2790 Kingsway Vancouver. Book being The Time Machine by H.G. Wells.

Monday November 29 at 7pm. **FREFF**. The Bulldog Cafe. 510 Nelson, Vancouver.

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

**October Events of Note:****Capilano College**

**Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy** with Crawford Kilian (CAWL31011) Saturday October 9: 9am to 4pm. \$145

**Fiction Writer' Workshop** with Crawford Kilian (CAWL30411) Saturday October 23, 9am - 4pm \$145 ([email ckilian@thehub.capcollege.bc.ca](mailto:ckilian@thehub.capcollege.bc.ca) for details) Space is limited so book early.

## UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

**Conifur** October 1-3, 1999

<http://www.conifur.org/>  
**HOTEL:** Best Western Executive Inn  
**GUEST OF HONOR:** Jimmy Chin  
Be sure to register early for the low \$20 price before July 1st, 1999 when the price will go up to \$25, or \$30 for those that register at the door. Only memberships postmarked before the dates will be accepted for those dates. ALL mail in memberships must be received by September 18th, 1999. Any memberships received after that date will be refunded after the event. If you don't get a confirmation card in the mail, then check with us at the door of the event itself. We keep full records on site. Payments for any of the above memberships should be sent payable to: Conifur NorthWest, 2406 SW 308TH PL, Federal Way, WA 98023

If you wish to pay by credit card, please contact us directly at: [jwbirdsa@picarefy.com](mailto:jwbirdsa@picarefy.com).

**Incon** October 16-17-18, 1999

Spokane Valley Red Lion, I-90 and Sullivan Road  
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skinnerman@home.com  
Vice Chair: Craig Maclachan, (604)  
531-4384 (11am to 11pm only) or  
cme4aweb@email.com

**Terracon II**, October 29-31 1999  
Best Western Executive Inn, Fife, WA  
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Media Guest of Honor: TBA

Special Media Guest:  
Chris McDonell  
Toastmaster: David Tackett  
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Telephone: (503) 232-6506

**Viking Con 17** August 18-20, 2000  
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## LOC (STILL MORE TALK ABOUT LISA)

First, I quietly request PDF to belatedly support the "save trees" principle that BCSFAzine has embraced under John Ken Wong's tenure as editor. Well, since he bought the Adobe Acrobat publishing suite.

I should point out that I gave up FRED and V-CON due to the poverty of being a student. Having gotten that out of the way, I'm going to explain why so first I will give a haphazard chronology and running commentary of fuggheads, asshole, alcohol, and cons. Hopefully the more prescient of you will learn something from it. If not, just go to FRED and forget what I wrote.

Anyway, here goes:

A lot has happened since 8-bit computers, like Apple being partly owned by Microsoft. In local fan circles, we migrated from calling bbses to gravitating around ISPs fronted by the telecommunications infrastructure. Ok, a few of us still insist on the manual and electric typewriters and their descendents that look like computers but aren't. But we have a long way to before we can dictate our letters by voice. Microsoft and IBM are trying to perfect this technology, but even getting it to accurately run the calculator is a pain in the ass.

Moving right along, I will have to out myself as 'fugghead' and asshole as far as cons go. I believe the very first year I joined BCSFA


was when a fan (possibly from the US) tried a two-hand Vulcan nerve pinch on me in response to my unruliness towards her. She relented when it looked like I was enjoying being tortured at her hands (though probably the embarrassment of manhandling a small Asian guy probably cooled her anger).

I will go on record that were I more courteous and polite, I might have never joined BCSFA or attended cons at all. But I blame it on having an obsession with badly written science fiction series in my early teens that prevented me from maturing at an advance rate.

I forget the series but it was bad fiction all around. I dimly recall the series name, mainly because over 20 years separates me from my teens.

However, I do recall enjoying connecting my left fist with the jaw of a bully in my Guidance 11 class more satisfyingly than whatever science fiction I read at that time. I also recall shredding my Star Trek parody when an older classmate commented on how humorous it was.

My only excuse here, which is lame, is that I was a mixed up kid, selfish, vain, arrogance, and probably smarter than he looked. I was also lazy, and a touchie-feelie person in a world where "Don't



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<http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/dh2/bcsfa>



touch me!” is a teenaged refrain. We’ll skip the childhood stories of tarpaper shacks and a wooden tub in an outbuilding from the main house in the days of my early years. Suffice it to say my roots were never well moneyed, and I remain proud of that fact.

Having given you a brief glimpse into my background and roots, I now take you to the years following becoming a BCSFA member. I remember attending a meeting at one of the survivalists of fandom in those days. There I believe I insulted a woman by asking to sleep with her, much to her offense and her partner. I apologize to them belatedly. Later on, I remember freaking out at Ken Wong, the other Ken. Two years ago, *deja vu* happened again. I freaked out at Ken, and probably made me unwanted, especially in the eyes of Lisa. Belated apologies to everyone I offended. For those people who don’t know my personality, I apologize a lot when I should be making friends. Yet the recluse in me is not normally a social animal.

This is why I admit to being both fugghead and asshole.

I refuse to refute any of Lisa’s allegations in her article two issues ago. Alcohol abuse is my own defense, and it’s a poor one at that. Maybe I could say it was formaldehyde poisoning and the psychotropic effects of DKP, the breakdown product of phenylalanine — ingredients in aspartame. However, I will resist the itch to launch into a monologue on the poisoning of our food supply conducted by transnational corporation in both the food industry and the pharmaceutical industry. I will suggest that we should research the correlation of high consumption of Nutrasweet and behavioral problems at cons.

Yet I do not believe moderate consumption of alcohol contributes to the delinquency rate of con-goers. I do recommend that people who admit to having personal issues due to their unhappy childhoods try to not self-medicate at our expense. Presently I cannot remember when I last deliberately consumed alcohol to get drunk. (I don’t think fermented fruit juices count since it’s not a product regulated by our Tourism industry. Besides, u-brews not made under supervision tend to give you headaches not hangovers, at least in my experience.)

Experiences as liquor distribution observer at one con leads me to conclude that fine consumers think it is their right to move glasses of liquor from the serving area to their rooms. This was during the year that we had our first video tape of the event, as evidence in case of liability and insurance claims. Strangely enough, nothing happened except the guests were offended that I was discouraging them from wandering around the dorms with open glasses of liquor in direct contravention of the liquor act in BC.

A note to Americans and their fellow Canadian imbibers not from our fair province: where you buy the booze, you consume it. The liquor license restricts movement of such beverages outside a certain defined area. If you cannot abide by such rules, then the or-

ganizers can get the convention shut down by police for liquor infractions.

Being some 20 months sober, I would rather we not mix booze with fun, but the imbibers who leave us will take their fun elsewhere, and their money too.

I cannot see the sense in depriving social drinkers of their fun, but I strongly object to fuggheads and fakers pretending to be trufans when all they are are zombies whose main form of exercise consists of knocking back 2 liters of some concoction made of vodka, the juice of a citrus fruit, and frozen molecules of a chemical compound consisting of hydrogen and oxygen.

Ok, I admit I may be hypocritical since I never handled my alcohol consumption twice during my involvement with BCSFA; ok, maybe three times - I lost count.

After all this research, the myth that imbibing socially is fun does not include cons where whole floors are one big party from Friday evening until 3 AM, and consistently repeats the same noise at precisely the same times for the three-day event. I’ve observed people who I first respected immensely revert to childish behavior especially on Saturday evenings - perhaps in rebellion to their Maker. I will submit that fuggheadedness and behaviors of asshole proportion is probably anal-retentive during the acute stages of imbibing.

Once the body realizes alcohol is not a good source of calories, it will treat its by-products as toxins. I’m sure everyone has been familiar with the porcelain altar at one point in their social drinking pastime.

My point here is fuggheadness and assholes are made known by their drinking prowess and general inability to resolve personal issues before imbibing at great lengths. Indeed, alcohol causes most of the violence in real-world situations, including the ones Graeme mentioned in his letter in the most recent ‘zine (#315).

I will also suggest the one death in our V-CON history may have been alcohol-fueled — however it is still undetermined if the perpetrator was a guest or some mundane who sneaks into hotel rooms during conventions to murder helpless women.

There are issues here that alcohol never solves. My experience with the survivalists indicates that it’s best to avoid them since each of us has our own issues to resolve, outside of fandom with the TV shut off, running through the 12 Steps or worshipping. Or, one could just throw oneself into concom activity like a trufan should.

During my self-imposed exile from FRED and V-CON, I had envisioned writing a letter about how cons are not conducive to reaching an egalitarian agreement with the opposite sex. There’s too much jealousy sometimes. I recall letting my glances on some member’s wife linger too long, and having the guy do some macho behavior ritual. I also recall fooling myself into thinking maybe this one time at least one woman would think I was more special than that guy who can swallow five cherries that were soaked in 190 proof alcohol overnight. I feel that’s what probably kept me coming back.

So, I’m going to say that I won’t be back for some time now. I learned a lot from the past 20 months, retreating deeply into my faith as a Buddhist as was evidenced during my exile in Victoria with the “In Gassho” closing. Getting the ‘zine keeps me in touch with the goings-on. So I don’t need to go to FRED or enjoy myself at the cons. Besides, I’m enjoying my self-imposed poverty as a student at one of our private institutions of learning to become just another computer support technician, one of several thousand in the local area. I am thankful for being so poor that meat of any type is a luxury. Maybe I might learn some humility this way and make amends for being a fugghead and asshole.

At this point, I feel I have rambled on too much. My heart goes out to the local contingent of Starfleet, as well as the few

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members of Dr. Who.

Also, would the person who I explained "bodhisattva as enlightened being" please recall that gods and goddesses are reflections of our own personality in a fuller dimension than is tolerable in a LOC in a SF-related 'zine? If so, hopefully John left my email address intact.

So, in a repeat of my Victoria exile, I will close like I did before I humbled myself in recent years...

In Gassho,

<skawamoto@alternatives.com>

**"Stephen H. Kawamoto"**

Dear John

At least two issues of BCSFAzine have arrived since I last wrote. I got sick for a second time and extreme heat made me feel almost as bad as the sickness, so I still haven't begun to catch up on loc duties.

In your July issue, I failed to think Lisa Gemino's article was so terrible in its accusations. Courtesy and contempt for the rights of others have grown so monstrously in recent decade that we would need to seek a supernatural explanation if fandom failed to share this problem. One reason I stopped going to convention was my impatience with the behaviour of some of their attendees. One of the worst afternoons of my life occurred quite a few years ago when a carload of five fans descended upon my home without invitation or previous warning. After the introductions and preliminary platitudes, these five fans ignored me for the next three or four hours while they conversed with one another with gossip of the most vicious and stupid type about fans who weren't in my living room at the time. But I find mundanes behaving just as bad as fans in most places I frequent. At Goodwill Industries' local store, for instance, the used books were contained on two large sets of shelves. Twice in the past ten days, while I've been alone at these shelves looking over the offerings, women have come up, stopped within inches of my side, and almost struck me in the face reaching for a book directly in front of it. They didn't even look at any of the books more distant from the spot I was standing, just used me as an excuse for demonstrating their rudeness. It is now illegal to smoke in local stores, public buildings, and restaurants, but loafers station themselves at the very edge of the doors to such establishments, turn sideways, and blow cigarette smoke into the face of everyone who enters or leaves the building. Even small children are into the act: they see you coming down the sidewalk or down the aisle of a store and they move directly into your path, out of sheer malice.

I'm not optimistic about standardizations of supplies and equipment for the next generation of mobile phones. The computer industry is making trillions by carefully designing equipment so that only certain things will fit into certain other things, necessitating the customer's purchase of a different model of one or the other things. Automobile manufacturers change their vehicles' internals almost annually so a battery or a muffler from a 1997 model won't fit in the 1998 model. Even if many manufacturers agree on the WAP standards for mobile phones, there will be a maverick who will produce something incompatible but containing some new gimmick or other that will upset the applecart.

Since I've had no interest in seeing *The Phantom Menace*, I can't comment on all the comments about it in this issue. But I still haven't read an explanation of why the movie was given such an unimaginative, dumb title.

In the August issue, which has just received twice the legal indentation, the semi-encouraging news about Dr. Who's future pleased me in one respect. The Tom Baker era was the one I enjoyed most when Maryland Public Television was airing the series at a sane time (now it's started at 12:30 a.m. or later) and I think a new series of

episodes would benefit from adhering to some of the scripting and producing practices of that time. I don't recall that many of those episodes required expensive sets to be constructed. A lot of the action took place outdoors on locations that suggested alien worlds and some of the interiors appear to have been filmed in power plants or certain types of factories where little or nothing needed to be done to suggest the interior of a spaceship.

I admire Palle Hoffstein's diligence in compiling all this information about movies in production or in preparation. It must take untold hours to seek out and copy off so much news and so many rumours. Just think, when I became a fan an eternity ago, the fanzines of that time were often publishing just this sort of material, except that it was devoted to what was coming up in prozines and what famous authors were thinking of writing or the rare rumour that a certain famous story might be released in book form.

Where is the Tucker Hotel when we need it? All these proposed conventions that must cancel or move their venues because of hotel problems seem to emphasize ever more strongly that plans for that edifice must be dusted off, given any revisions that might be necessary because of changes in building codes, and arrange for an immediate start on construction.

I hope I'll get back to at least a semi-reliable loccer eventually but I can't promise anything at my age and state of bewilderment.

Yrs., &c.,

Harry Warner, Jr.

## LOC (Not about Lisa!)

Hello! Lloyd here...just thought I'd drop you a note to you to let you know that I've been nominated for an Aurora Award! It's in the category of Fan Achievement (Other), for fanwriting. I need your vote!

The Aurora Home Site is at...

<http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora>

A generally Microsoft-accessible ballot is available at...

<http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/vot99ba1.html>

A zipped Word 97 ballot is at the first address above, as well as a zipped WordPerfect version.

Please do participate in this year's vote. Your ballot must be mailed out by October 4. Many thanks!

**Lloyd Penney**

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# LISA REPLIES

I have before me the letters that came in response to my article in BCSFAzine #314. They weren't from the people I was expecting to hear from. I actually find it amusing that the two responses I get to an article about how rude and impossible fans are both from men that I consider to be my friends, whose intelligence I respect and opinions I value.

Both made good points, but I feel the need to clear up a few specific things. Then I will make a brief general comment with illustration.

1. Both Garth and Graeme use words like 'community,' and 'family' to describe fandom. In regards to my personal feelings, these words are the rankest of fallacies. Fandom is not now and never, ever has been my "family". I actually consider this concept to be the most irritating of all "myths of fandom". How can strangers who have never met me be my family? As for community - well, I have always felt that the Nazis were really big on "community. Read into that what you will.

2. Graeme uses The fascinating, heavily loaded word "betrayal". For the record: I HAVE NEVER, EVER FELT BETRAYED BY ANY ASPECT OF FANDOM. "Betrayal" assumes and implies a deep-level emotional commitment to something, I have no such commitment to Fandom, BCSFA, WCSFA, BCSFAzine or any other fan-related activity. Only people can betray me; in this, I recognize my attitude Is not generally shared.

3. Looking over Graeme's bulleted points, I do have a few comments. He relates several acts of personal violence against his person (I have been physically attacked on a few occasions); a few examples of rude and childish behavior (which I acknowledge both in my original article and again here happen all the time in every walk of life); and (the majority) tidbits of opinion from what sounds like foolish and misguided people. For the record, I may feel disgusted and contemptuous of people's opinions, especially if they're as ridiculous and uninformed as the ones related, but I am not offended by the more fact that such opinions are held. People are stupid, some to a greater degree than others and such a fact can neither be changed nor legislated away. People are entitled to have

an opinion but no one can force them to have intelligent and well-thought-out opinions based on research and personal experience.

4. The physical violence issue deserves Its own point. I think that it may be in this very arena that the most muzzy-headed and rose-colored-glasses thinking about fandom comes out. I would like to direct Graeme and the rest of BCSFAzine's readership to the Firebird Arts and Music web page, which contains a link

to two articles written by Mercedes Lackey and Larry Dixon. In this article, Mercedes and Larry relate the saga of Mercedes' "Diane Tregarde" dark fantasy novels: which included accusations of witchcraft, accusations of participation In vast worldwide conspiracies and eventually threats of physical violence against the authors. It ended in an actual assault at a convention they were attending, which, might I add, was laughed at and dismissed by the concom of said convention since 'that kind of thing doesn't happen in fandom". This drove these two popular and prolific genre writers to formally refuse to ever attend another convention. ALSO IN THE ARTICLE: Mercedes did some research about the topic of violence and fans and come up with a whole swack of incidents that she says she verified. These include: a well-known fan who murdered his estranged wife and then their three-year old daughter before killing himself; a high ranking member of the SCA who accepted and is serving time for a contract hit; several child molesters; and assorted other losers, killers, and perverts. Fans are exactly as violent and despicable as the general population.

5. On the issue of tolerance, mentioned by both Garth and Graeme: I do believe that at one point, Science Fiction fandom may actually have rightly been able to claim a higher degree of tolerance than society in general. Of course, what is thought of as fandom originated in the '40 and '50; in those eras, being more tolerant than "normal" was not very difficult. My concern was that this historical air of tolerance has lead people to believe that rudeness and ignorance are not only acceptable but should not be objected to. This to certainly the trend I see.

Both Garth and Graeme put words in my mouth on several occasions; on the principle that I can get myself into quite enough trouble on my own I must retract the following statements:

**Garth:** "Lisa is within her rights to say that she's fed up with fandom."

I never said this. I am not "fed up" with fandom. I am annoyed with certain behavior traits that I find common among most fans.

**Graeme:** "I'm a little upset with her sub-heading,- "Fans disgust me,"

This was not my sub-heading, It was the first sentence of a paragraph. It was an editorial decision to set this sentence apart in larger type; I was NOT consulted and more than a little angered. The layout placed far too much emphasis on the statement. Yes, it is a blunt and uncompromising opinion. In its original layout it had a more specific point immediately following that took off some of the edge. As it now stands, however, it was actively offensive. Had I actually intended the sentence to have such a layout, I would hope that people would be upset. \*

**Graeme:** "The most important point of disagreement between Lisa and I is the extent to which fandom is chock full of unspeakable fuggheads." For the record, I've never used the term "Fuggheads" in my life.

**Graeme.** "After all, the 'purpose' of ANY group of people (not just fans) is not to measure up to your standards (which is impossible), but to offer the possibility of meeting at least some like-minded people. To insist that EVERYONE must fit into that category strikes me as a tad elitist, unrealistic and self-defeating...lighten up already!" This is the only paragraph written by Graeme that makes neither sense (in context with my original article) nor a point. In fact I am actively angered by it. (This is no big deal,\*\* Graeme is my friend, I've wanted to kill most of my friends at some point.) FOR THE RECORD; I ask NO ONE to measure up to (my) standards. I can't measure up to my standards. However, I do think that I have a



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right to ask to be treated with some courtesy in any human endeavor and I don't think I should have to tolerate people who are actively rude and offensive.

*(Author's note: I had a couple of paragraphs right here about Graeme's accusation of trying to categorize people. They were angry and full of phrases like: "the very idea is abhorrent to me" and "this statement is actually hurtful. " I cut them. They served no useful purpose. I have distilled the basic points down to the following.)*

My article did not call for anyone to fit into a category of any kind, whether imposed by me or my other individual entity or group. That Graeme states this as a fact makes me wonder if he read what I wrote or what he thinks I wrote,

As to the rest ... well, I certainly (barring the above) did not feel personally attacked by either Garth or Graeme. I welcome and value differences of opinion. To quote Sports Night: "There's one thing I've learned in life: if you're dumb, surround yourself with smart people; if you're smart surround yourself with smart people who disagree with you."

Perhaps as Graeme suggests, I should 'lighten up'. Maybe. My experience in the past is that when I've treated rudeness and ignorance with dismissal it seemed to get worse. After watching my family "laugh off" the appalling boorishness and petty vindictiveness of my late, personally unlamented father for over twenty years I expect that my tolerance for such a thing is worn away.

Let me end with an example of what I meant by "the gloves are off."

At this past Westercon, I had to go to bed early on Sunday night as we were making the eight-hour drive back to Vancouver from Spokane in the morning. I spent most of the night at the vikingcon party, talking with my Team Maroon and Vikingcon friends.

At one point myself, Palle, Dan DeBrandt and his lady, Andrea, Paul Carpentier, Julie McGalliard and Dr. Dave of Team Maroon were having an animated and happy conversation, jumping from topic to topic, laughing and joking. It had been a bad day for me; I was

tired and not looking forward to the drive. This moment of pleasures exchanging ideas with some of my most cherished friends was going a long way towards reviving my flagging spirits.

A Vancouver fan with whom I had recently exchanged..uh...words at FRED wandered up and stared at us for a while. Then, apropos of nothing, he launched into a long, almost incoherent outburst about virtual sex over the Internet. Even if we had been talking about the subject (we were not), his interruption would have been rude.

I looked around at my friends and felt anger starting to build up in me. What had been a few moments ago a group of happy, exuberant people was turned into a collection of zombies. Everyone went dead silent, faces still, staring straight ahead. A couple looked like they were about to get up and leave. I might have done that too, but I just didn't feel up to protecting the feelings of this piggish asshole any further.

I held up my hands directly in front of this still raving individual and openly counted down from ten to zero. Then I smiled and said in a loud jovial tone: "Hey, we were having a conversation until you started to talk. Maybe you should stop it,"

Everyone else laughed. The interloper shutup and went away. I got to spend a few more happy hours with my friends. (I'm told that after I left, he come back and got even more annoying.)

Was my behavior rude? I could see someone describing it that way, Personally, I felt like I was launching a retaliatory strike against someone who was trying to suck some joy out of my life.

Is being robbed of happiness as immediately harmful as a physical assault? Dear Gods, NO. Can it cause wounds of its own?

Under my watchband I have a scar that says yes.



**Lisa Gemino**

\* *Editor's note. My fault. It looked like such a natural subheading I felt compelled to make it such.*

\*\* *Editor's note. Run Graeme, while you still can!*

## FREE FANNISH E-MAIL ADDRESS!

So I was flipping through a Macintosh computer magazine last month when I came across this list of web sites where you can get a free e-mail address. Yes, yes, I know all about hotmail.com. *Remember... I said Macintosh...not Microsoft.*

I guess I should not be surprised to see that there are several options out there available to Bill Gates' Spam Master 2000. The free mail site that caught my eye was one which is geared towards fans Star Trek fans.

In the past, if you want an e-mail address, you must first subscribe to an internet provider. This subscription enables you to surf the web, read newsgroups, and of course, e-mail. The address is usually comprised of your login name followed by the provider's domain name.

The problem or course is that if you change providers, your e-mail address changes. Your login name may already be taken by someone else at the new provider, so you must choose a new one as well.

Free e-mail is a service which gives anyone who signs up a permanent e-mail

address without having to subscribe to an internet provider. (You can go to a web cafe or to a library which has an internet connection to check your mail instead.) Signing up does require that you give them some personal information. This gives them an idea of who you are and what your interests are.

The down side of this is that they can target specific advertising towards you as a result. Even with regular e-mail accounts, you will receive e-mail telling you that you can get rich at home by selling their product on the internet, or that some sexy model is eager to e-mail pictures of herself to you for a small fee. This is especially bad with free e-mail accounts. The people who give you the free e-mail address make their money by selling your address to advertisers.

I am guessing that anyone who gets an e-mail address from the Star Trek site will be on a spam trek which will build up faster than tribbles in a grain elevator.

However, as the spam would be specifically geared towards Star Trek fans, you might actually be interested in this advertis-

ing. You will get all sorts of e-mail for free merchandise, special offers, and other advertising geared to your age group and specific interests.

The way around all this spam is to use the e-mail filters that come with your e-mail program. These filters search your mail for keywords and put them into specific files which you can then delete or read at your leisure.

If you are interested in getting a free e-mail address but don't want to put any more money into Bill Gates' pockets, then check out [www.startrekmail.com](http://www.startrekmail.com) and sign up for your own address. You can choose from the following domain names:

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Then e-mail me to switch over to the Acrobat version of BCSFAzine! (*see page 2*)



**JCHW**

# CANADIAN SF, FANTASY, COMICS & JUVENILE MARKETS

compiled by Garth Spencer (for his June 1999 Web page update)

Continued from last issue...

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(According to: Ed McDermott  
<mcdermot@ica.net> 27 Apr 1999)

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[kirkwood@nucleus.com](mailto:kirkwood@nucleus.com)  
J. Kirkwood, editor  
(see Bonetree address above)

Scheduled for Web publication release  
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if the submission has been previously pub-  
lished and where.

- J. Kirkwood later wrote, "A TWIST OF  
THE KNIFE will not consist of a one-time,  
stand-alone anthology. Instead, it will serve

as the inaugural issue of our new Internet  
magazine, BONETREE." BONETREE will  
take the place of the webzine SHADOW  
FEAST. Authors' questions about publication  
of work in BONETREE, SHADOW FEAST,  
or A TWIST OF THE KNIFE will be answered  
via [kirkwood@nucleus.com](mailto:kirkwood@nucleus.com). BONETREE is  
tentatively slated for release on June 1.

DarkEcho 6:19, May 1999

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By Palle Hoffstein

It seems that **Steven Spielberg** has dropped out of the **Minority Report** project. Word is that Spielberg was not happy with the script and 20th Century Fox was balking at yet another re-write. Problems with the script were rumoured even before Spielberg became involved. What isn't known is whether the project will continue without Spielberg; the production was at the rehearsals and set-building stage. What's even more interesting is that, according to the London Times, Spielberg has jumped to Warner Bros. to piece together Stanley Kubrick's A.I. project (see an earlier Movie Mania). In the article both Warner Bros. and **Jan Harlan** (Kubrick's Executive Producer for his last three films) state their enthusiasm for Spielberg taking over A.I. Apparently Harlan has shown Kubrick's extensive storyboards and film treatment. It has been suggested that the Minority Report project may have been dead for a while, or even that Minority Report was a fabricated smokescreen while the A.I. project got underway (such dis-information is pretty common between the film studios and TV networks to throw each other off).

\*\*\*

Casting for Peter Jackson's Lord Of The Rings Trilogy remains a hot topic. Here is the confirmed list to date:

**Billy Boyd** as **Pippin Took**  
**Christopher Lee** as **Saruman the White**  
**Dominic Monaghan** as **Merry Brandybuck**  
**Elijah Woods** as **Frodo Baggins**  
**Ian Holm** as **Bilbo Baggins**  
**John Rhys-Davies** as **Gimli**  
**Liv Tyler** as **Arwen**  
**Orlando Bloom** as **Legolas**  
**Sean Astin** as **Samwise Gamgee**  
**Sean Bean** as **Boromir**  
**Sir Ian McKellen** as **Gandalf the Grey**  
**Stuart Townsend** as **Aragorn**

John Rhys-Davies comes as a big surprise to me. You might remember him as Indiana's Egyptian Archaeologist friend in Raiders Of The Lost Ark. Another eyebrow raiser is Liv Tyler, who's acting skills are

considered by some to be questionable. My favourite casting so far has to be the legendary Christopher Lee as Saruman! Wow! The rest of the cast looks great. Also, not 100% confirmed but considered to be very close is Ethan Hawke as Faramir, another casting choice that I like.

\*\*\*

The X-Men project sounds more "iffy" all the time. Model Halle Berry whose casting as Storm raised more than a few eyebrows, in both Hollywood and among the X-Men fan faithful, has been whining in interviews about how she has been "reduced to doing a re-make of a comic-book called the X-MEN because of a lack of work for black actresses." I'm not going to question the fact that there are very few (good) roles for black women in Hollywood, but why is she in this picture? Why is she not being fired if that's the way she feels? How can having an actor who resents the project be anything but destructive? Hell, she's a model, not even a good actress. Too many people working on this picture have any little or no interest in the source material. They're committed to complete shooting by December, so it is really too late for any revisions of cast or script at this point. The official release date is June 30, 2000 so they don't have a lot of time for post-production either. The latest cast rumour has James Marsden (Disturbing Behaviour) in the role of Cyclops.

\*\*\*

MGM/UA's Supernova is now set to be released January 11, 2000, one full year after production ceased. For those who missed the earlier MovieMania, Supernova, a story of a deep-space hospital starship is directed by Walter Hill and stars James Spader, Angela Bassett, Lou Diamond Phillips and Robin Tunney. Digital Domain, a very good FX house are providing the special effects. Hill, apparently walked off the production during editing and has asked to have his name removed from the production. The movie is still being edited! I have pretty low expectations for this one.

\*\*\*

Here's a feature that's been added to my 'my-god-i-can't-wait-to-see-it' list. Monkeybone, based on Kaja Blackley's Dark Town comic book published by Mad Monkey Press, has been greenlighted by 20th Century Fox. Get this: a comic book artist in a coma finds himself trapped in a bizarre place called the Dark Town. If he doesn't find a way to get out and wake up within twelve hours he'll be stuck there forever. Parts of the movie will be live action, parts will use classical animation and there will be some computer graphics used as well. Brendan Fraser (The Mummy) plays the Comic artist. Featuring Christopher Franciosa as The Grim Reaper, Whoopi Goldberg as Death, Chris Kattan as a possessed gymnast, Giancarlo Esposito as Hypnos, God of Nightmares, Mary Pierce as Lulu LaRue and Paul Rubens (PeeWee Herman) as Monkeybone! Also starring Dave Foley, Bridget Fonda, and Bob Odenkirk as the Organ Transplant Surgeon. Henry Selick (who worked with Tim Burton on James And The Giant Peach and The Nightmare Before Christmas) is in the Di-

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rector's seat, Sam Hamm (Batman) has written the script. Selick is an ex-Disney pro who, obviously, could not get this kind of film made there. They're promising this one to be out sometime next year.

\*\*\*

Another Joel Silver production, rumoured about for years but finally now being filmed is Dungeons & Dragons. Filming is taking place in the Czech Republic with Courtney Solomon directing. Jeremy Irons (The Mission) has been cast as the villain along with a cast of mostly little-known actors. Some names: Justin Whalin (Lois & Clark), Thora Birch (Patriot Games), Marlon Wayans (The Sixth Man), Lee Arenberg (The Apocalypse), Kristen Wilson (Doctor Doolittle), Robert Miano (Donnie Brasco) and Bruce Payne (Kounterfeit).

The budget is a fairly modest for Silver at \$35 million US. October 2000 is the estimated release date. George Gibbs (Who Framed Roger Rabbit, Raiders Of The Lost Ark) is running the special effects with Station X Studios producing the CG. Caroline Ross (True Lies, Terminator 2) is editing and Douglas Milsome (Eyes Wide Shut) has been brought on as Director Of Photography. With Milsome behind the lens, Station X Studios doing the special effects and beautiful locations in the magnificent castles around Prague this movie should look great.

Some are suggesting that this movie is about 15 years too late, however I think that it's only now that we have the technology to really pull this type of movie off. The most consistent way-cool rumour about this film is that the ending will feature a dogfight a many flying dragons! Everyone make a savings throw!

Grant Boucher, who worked on the special effects for The Titanic is also involved now. Having Boucher involved is pretty cool; he's a gamer who's name old-time D&D players should recognise as a D&D Module designer and a designer for modules for the Star Wars role-playing games. Dave Arneson, who helped create the original Dungeons and Dragons game has been watching the production and has offered his approval.

Expect the cast of heroes to include all the basic archetypes; a dwarf, an elf ,etc., and the monsters and spells will be right from the game. Silver has been very slow in launching this production. I suspect the hype around Peter Jackson's Lord Of The Rings is what has made Silver push to get this film finally done. He'll certainly want to beat Jackson to the theatres, rather than compete with him. But most of the word on this film is quite promising.

\*\*\*

By now I'm sure you've heard that The Matrix 2 is a definite project. Larry and Andy Wachowski, the creators of The Matrix are back as writers and directors. Keanu Reeves is also back but no one else from the cast has confirmed. Eyes are on Carrie-Anne Moss as to whether or not she will return; she stated she would like to but, she has been getting film offers by the dozen.

Matrix conceptual artist Geof Darrow has been pumping out a Matrix comic book that is available on-line at [www.whatisthematrix.com](http://www.whatisthematrix.com), more stories are promised to appear and a book form compilation is planned. Harlan Ellison is apparently writing a Matrix story or two to be made available there as well. Spencer Lamm is creating a 20-page, full color, 3-D computer-rendered story with Manex Visual Effects, one of Matrix's special effects companies. Models from the film will be used, including many models that didn't make the final cut.

There will also be a book of the Matrix's screenplay and Steve Skroce's storyboards. The DVD release of the Matrix will feature an audio track from Carrie-Anne Moss and Matrix's editor, a copy of the script, storyboards, pre-production art, making of film footage and some of the web-page comics. Look for it's release September 21, 1999.

Warner Bros. have announced their plans to back Matrix 3 as well. The details of the stories haven't been worked out yet; there has been a suggestion of giving Matrix 2 a cliff-hanger ending and releasing Matrix 3 three to four months later. Currently the films are being scheduled to be shot back-to-back. The Wachowski brothers have dismissed the rumours of a possible prequel and have offered that all story rumours circulating on the Internet right now have not originated with them. We knew these sequels were coming; Joel Silver is the executive producer and he is the king of action movie sequels (the Lethal Weapon films, the Predator films, etc...)

\*\*\*

Screenwriter Charles Leavitt has adapted Gene Brewer's SF novel K-Pax for Universal Pictures. Will Smith will star in a serious roll as an alien named Prot who comes to Earth and is committed to an insane asylum. Then the obvious happens: his interactions with the other patients starts to cure them and a psychologist starts to wonder if Prot is telling the truth about himself.

This all sounds very familiar. This film is being hyped as a vehicle for Smith's "serious" side (everyone apparently forgetting Smith's role in Six Degrees Of Separation).

Currently K-Pax is set for an autumn or winter 1999 release so production must be under way. Smith will be desperate for a hit after the Wild, Wild West disaster (did you see it, didn't it stink, didn't I tell you that it would?) But the elements here sound just too familiar to get me excited.

\*\*\*

Stanley G. Weinbaum, a name from the golden age of SF fiction pulps, seems to be not totally forgotten. The Adaptive Ultimate has been given the go-ahead by 20th Century Fox. Based on Weinbaum's tale of a scientist who gives a dying homeless woman the powers of unlimited adaptability, only to fall in love with her as she grows very powerful and very dangerous. I'll post news on this feature as I get it. The only news I have so far is bad news; that Hollywood hack Jan De Bont (Speed, Twister, The Haunting) is being considered to direct. (Based on how he ruined The Haunting as an effects extravaganza, will he do the same to Weinbaum's creepy story which, Like Shirley Jackson's The Haunting Of Hill House needs so effects for it's story?)

\*\*\*

The ever inconsistent Joe Dante (Grem-lins, The Howling, Small Soldiers) has begun work on his next project for Columbia Pictures. The Sixth Day is a SF flick about a pilot who is presumed dead after a helicopter crash, then when he miraculously turns up alive he finds that he has been replaced by a perfect clone of himself. Then he finds himself being hunted down by the clone-makers! Expect a fast-paced, paranoid film with conspiracies and clones everywhere.

One rumour has Arnold Schwarzenegger in the film's lead, which would mean shooting would have to wait until he finishes with shooting End of Days (see May's Movie-Mania). With Dante and Schwarzenegger together this could be a huge budget feature. (I met Dante at L.A. Worldcon, where his old mentor, Roger Corman was Guest Of Honor. Dante is a real SF/horror fan with a love of weird books and B-Movies. He has a lot of great ideas, but unfortunately he gets most of his work as a hired director for mainstream Hollywood producers. His features, like Sonnenfeld's, tend to be great concepts ruined by mainstream producers and overly re-written scripts.)

\*\*\*

That's it for this month. As always I recommend Coming Attractions at [Corona.bc.ca](http://Corona.bc.ca) for way more movie news than you could ever assimilate.





