

# BCSFAzine #338

Vol. 29 No. 7

July 2001



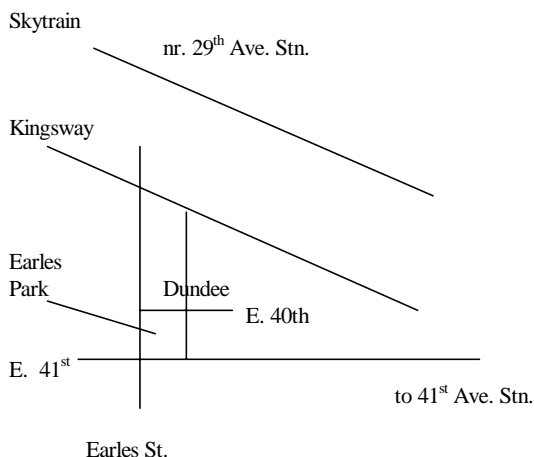
**BCSFazine**  
**the monthly newsletter of the**  
**British Columbia Science Fiction Association**

**Contributor's Deadlines** - July 20, August 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19.  
 Send, your submissions, comments, locs to **Garth Spencer at P.O. Box 15335, V.M.P.O., Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1, or e-mail me at hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca.**

**Next Feeding Frenzy:** Saturday July 14 at 7 p.m. at the Banana Leaf Restaurant, 820 West Broadway, Vancouver. Malaysian cuisine, from the exotic and spicy to something a little more "normal". Any questions, please call Doug Finnerty - 526-5621.

**BCSFA House Party and Barbecue:** Saturday July 21 starting around 4 p.m. and ending whenever, at the residence of Cindy Turner, #4 - 5430 Dundee St., Vancouver. If enough people R.S.V.P., Cindy will be able to book the much larger Common Room in her complex. Contact info as follows: (604) 454-0804 or shaddy@telus.net. You may bring something to barbecue. You may also bring food and drinks for yourself or to share. You may even bring your own programming items to discuss. The Graeme might be persuaded to do one of his presentations. Doug Finnerty might arrange a public showing of all that artwork Jim Johnson donated to the club.

**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. Usually). #22 Knight/ McDonald bus runs (normally) along Burrard. Begins 8:00pm. **On the Friday before long weekends (like the Canada Day weekend), 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.).**



**BCSFA Membership Rates:**

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

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*BCSFazine* is also available by e-mail as an Adobe Acrobat .PDF file.(Please e-mail hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca if you wish to receive the magazine by e-mail.)

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# PLAIN SPEAKING

## *Stuff I Forgot to Remember to Remind You About:*

Some of you are probably wondering where your membership stands, right now. As you can maybe tell, I keep running behind when it comes to updating my membership status information, or posting notices of upcoming expiries. So this issue, I'll list people whose memberships expired last month, and are getting a courtesy copy of *BCSFAzine* to advise them; *plus* people whose memberships expire this month; *plus* people whose memberships expire next month, so they get some advance warning. Probably I should keep doing this, every issue.

You may be able to update or correct some of the following information; if so, please let Doug Finnerty know.

**Expired:** Yolanda Goodwin, James Kling, Don & Lisa McGovern, Peter Tupper, Robert Vaughn

**May 2001 expiries:** Ken Ames, Steve & Jackie Barclay, Jacqueline Passey Bartels, Devon Boorman, Christie Bowler, Gregg Chamberlain, Kathy & Shane Conley, Rob Deary, Michael & Dani Dezotell, Don Johnson, Ted & Diana Powell, Tom Terashima, Roger Wells

**June 2001 expiries:** Doug Finnerty, Stephen Samuel, Dawn Stewart

**July 2001 expiries:** Frances Higginson, Sue Luoma, David Manning

Now, nobody said anything about advertising changes of address, such as Ken Wong's. Shall I resume advertising them?

For that matter, nobody said anything about advertising birthdays or bar mitzvahs or anything. What is the sense of the gathering?

Don't all speak up at once now, y'hear?

\*

The last of R. Graeme Cameron's vidlectures occurred at the H.R. Macmillan Planetarium on June 16th, as scheduled. Unfortunately there was a problem preparing video clips to go with the lecture. Graeme announced that this was the last of the vidlectures until fall, and distributed a questionnaire to get feedback from the audience.

Have you any suggestions for fall vidlectures? I had.

\*

You're aware that by now, the deadline has closed for submissions to *Fictions 8*.

You may have forgotten that I also published a call for submissions to *Confabulations*, closing May 1st. This is being edited even as you read, I'm just having a slow time locating the best fillos for the purpose.

It has taken me so long to get the BCSFA Member's Handbook out to members, I might as well put the remaining members on the list for the second edition, in September. Will that be OK?

\*

Questions are being asked now about the next VCon. If you want to participate on the convention committee, now is a good time to put your name forward. Ultimately decisions about VCon are made by the V-Con Society, so you may want to go right to the top, president Clint Budd, or contact me, secretary Garth Spencer.

\*

Have we made plans for a summer beach party yet? Have we any preferred dates, or alternative sites to Kits Beach?

BCSFA presidents have been disappointed by the turnout at beach parties in past years; maybe the barbeque at Cindy Turner's will suffice, or maybe we need some special activities, like the sandcastle competitions at *Wreck Beach* (clothes optional, of course).

For the conrunning buffs, Clint Budd has suggested another event: that a bunch of us invent a summer relaxicon called Shine (a play on our past February relaxicon, Rain) and gather at Chaster House on Beach Esplanade at Gibsons, B.C. It remains only to find a time when we can all go there; all of us who are interested and able to arrange a ride, that is.

Don't all speak up at once now, y'hear?



## LETTERS OF COMMENT

Harry Warner Jr., 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, U.S.A. (May 14, 2001)

I don't know where [fanartist] Steve Fox may be, but I might offer one tentative suggestion. Is that Fan Directory, or whatever they called the big volume listing thousands of fans and their addresses, still being published? If it isn't, does someone have the last edition or two? ...

*((Harry Hopkins' Fandom Directory is still being published, and in fact is accessible via the Internet.))*

Elsewhere in this March issue of *BCSFAzine*, I found the Stargate convention report interesting enough to read all the way through, even though I've never watched an episode of the series, and all the names of the cast members are strangers to me.

*((Half the interest of Stargate for me is spotting familiar places in Vancouver, or spotting Canadian actors I've seen in other series and in movies. After a while I began to perceive Canadian actors as almost a small and highly mobile clan, shuttling between Stargate and Highlander and The Crow and Due South and Total Recall 2070 and Matrix and Traders and The Outer Limits, with occasional appearances in American movies and series. Oh, yeah, and did I mention Forever Knight and Lexx?))*

*((On good days I think, hey, we've finally got a domestic Canadian TV industry standing on its own legs. On bad days I think we've just created a TV ghetto, and some damned souls will never escape.))*

BBC America now comes through my cable box. I haven't watched it much because I have great difficulty understanding those British accents in the sitcoms and soaps that make up most of its schedule. But I notice that Doctor Who is back again (and it's still running early

Saturday mornings in the wee small hours on Maryland public television).

*Foggy Windows* had escaped my attention until I read Donna McMahon's book reviews. I imagine this business of having lovers married men-and-women couples is a revolutionary one that hardly anyone under the age of 50 today ever heard of before. Everything else on television depicts married couples as forgetting they can join in sexac, and dealing instead solely in promiscuity and adultery.

*((It's all marketing. If Regency-to-Victorian England is any model to go by, however, we can expect a cultural reaction against hypersexed entertainment in the next generation or two ...))*

You are kind to remember me with a copy of the 2001 *BCSFA Directory* with me among its large cast of characters. It would be so nice if a lot of the individuals listed here would start writing for Canadian fanzines, and for that matter, for United States fanzines, too.

*((Remember, the directories are actually Steve Forty's initiative. I hope the handbook will raise awareness among BCSFAns of the interesting clubs and fanzines out there.))*

In case Ray Seredin doesn't answer Lloyd Penney's query in your April issue, PAX started out as a new network intended to appeal to people who are tired of the emphasis on violence, gutter language, sex obsession, and anti-religion on the other six established networks. However, one of the big networks – NBC, I believe – bought into it a year or two ago. It runs mostly reruns of mild series like *Touched by an Angel*, *Diagnosis Murder*, and *Encounters with the Unexplained*, although it has produced one or two movies of its own. The last I heard, its average audience had grown to about half the size of the ratings for UPN and WB. (It is a network in the original sense of that word, lots of broadcast-over-the-air television stations in various parts of the nation. Unfortunately, some cable channels have been referring to themselves as networks, causing much misunderstanding.

*((Have you noticed how people take the normal English practice of extending a word's meaning, and apply it so indiscriminately that any word might mean almost anything else? Mass confusion.))*

The cover illustration for this issue is splendid. I can't find the identity of the artist inside. It looks as if it were originally a pencil sketch and this causes it to be welcomingly different from the usual jetblack lines in fanzine illustrations.

*((Well, gosh! \*blush\* That was one of my old pencil sketch studies. From back when I did pencil portraits, that*

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is. I'm going to have to get cracking and scan a \*lot\* of fanart for BCSFAzine – I still think in terms of physical layout and pasteup, and glue-sticking fillos in around text in fanzines.))

---

Lloyd&Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2 <penneys@attcanada.ca>, June 4, 2001

I've printed out issue 337 of BCSFAzine, and I'm trying to make some comments about the front cover, except for the realization that beer isn't covered by WHMIS regulations. Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System, or something like that. If beer is covered by WHMIS where you work, I wanna work there, too! Anyway, on with the loc...

I hope there's a VCon report coming shortly...I'd like to see what I missed this year. I gather it was a blast this year, muted only slightly by the transit strike.

((My report will be a little more critical than that ...))

Pub nights seem to be working out here. Besides the two regular pub nights and the Doctor Who pub night, there is now a fannish pub night staged by the Toronto Trek committee. I think we're all finding that seeing we don't have a central club here any more, the pub nights are the next best thing to it. We've been invited to the next TT pub night, and I think we'll go.

((“The next best thing”. Hm. Do Toronto fans want, or feel a need, for anything central? Please elucidate some of your assumptions. Based on remarks you and Taral both have made, I bet your assumptions would surprise some of the other fans in Toronto!))

Cons are for networking, renewing old and new acquaintances, picking up a few souvenirs, relaxing and generally having fun, AS LONG AS it doesn't interfere with the all-of-the-above of others in attendance. As with most other things, you've got to play nice so that everyone has a good time. I've heard of thefts, vandalism and other similar crimes at conventions, but assaults are relatively new to me. I hope that Treebyleaf has been able to put at least some of this behind her, and gather with friends who can tell her that she is loved as a part of a close-knit community. That's what cons are for, too.

((Hell, Lloyd, I heard rumours of an actual rape at Norwescon. Assisted by rohypnol. Is it just my impression, or are small cons actually more manageable?))

My letter...I always get the online version of BCSFAzine. The cover this time around with the WHMIS rating of beer is

not complete, but is cut off as that same picture area is set.

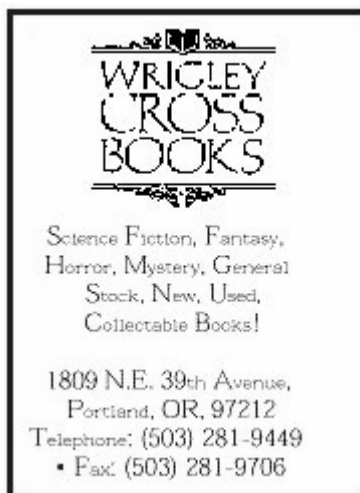
((Figures. I may have a workaround soon for that graphic problem, there.))

The school reunion has come and gone, and what a memory trip. I saw my old high school in Orillia, the house where I grew up looking much different than it did when we moved away to Victoria, and I did see a few people I shared classes with. Many of my teachers were there, looking very different...few of us still look like out yearbook photos. The weekend included a pancake breakfast, a lake cruise, a dance and a great electronic slideshow. An awful lot of fun. It wasn't until the Sunday of the event that I found some of the young women I had been looking for. It was an emotional reunion, at least for me. They were just a pretty as I imagined they'd be, and an old dream came true... I got a hug and a kiss from them all. I found out through them that out of the entire graduation class, just less than half of them still live in Orillia (and many chose not to come to the reunion), just less than half moved down the highway to Barrie (and most of them didn't come to the reunion either), and that I was one of a handful that scattered themselves to the rest of the world.

((High school reunions can be fun?? The people you meet can actually be fully qualified people?? Have I been collecting all that black-market military explosive for nothing?? Wonder if I can unload the bad acid and the puffer-fish toxin somewhere ... ☺ ))

I look forward to the new Babylon 5 movie...the succeeding movies post-series added more to the B5 universe, and the events that came about after the station was destroyed went further. The episode of the far future viewed from 5,000 years ahead showed that the Anla'Shok helped to rebuild human civilization in the stars after humanity fell, and such a movie might flesh that idea out some more. Could another B5 be produced, though? Trying to reproduce such successes is usually fruitless.

((Um. How do we define “success”? I'm fuzzy about “success.”))



This weekend is the mediaeval feast for 80 we're holding as part of the renewals of marriage vows. So I'll report in to see how that happened. It's the beginning of summer, so take care and have fun, and see you next issue.

We also heard from Andrew Porter and Frank Skinner in respect of their experience receiving BCSFAzine.



## THE THEORY OF WAP

by Willy Devine & Meaty Fontana

“Wap” is dependent upon the number and consistency of neuro-sensory connections. Neuro-sensory connections consist of the generalizing effect of receptors, being attached to neurons. These neurons cascade down to every cell in every tissue of the body, in the order of brain and body complexity, and form a communications web called consciousness. Each pigeon-hole is a finite combination of site-specific data, interpreted using an ancient conscious communications network (brain and body), and shaped by the effect of previous experience (time). Previous experiences are site-specific, and their resolution is dependent upon the speed of communication amongst the tissues of the body. This speed of communication is a readily measurable variable, and seems to be highly correlated with the many physical and physiological variables present at the site of experience. There is a period of time between when something happens and when the brain and body interprets it – we call this time variable *Wap*.

$$\text{Wap} = \text{time}_{(\text{of realization})} - \text{time}_{(\text{of the event})}$$

$$\text{Wap} = t_r - t_e$$

$$z = t_r - t_e$$

### **Examples of WAP:**

**Fast Wap:** Punch to the head (you know pretty darn fast after it happens, unless it knocked you out, then it could be a while before you know)

**Average Wap:** The time it takes the average person to get a joke.

**Slow Wap:** The time it takes the average person to understand quantum theory.

**Infinitely Slow Wap:** The time it takes the average person to understand the universe.

**Negative Wap:** Knowing what is going to happen before it happens (theoretically possible)

*(conveyed to us by Greg Cairns)*

*(NOTE: Next issue I want to start serializing a survey of crank theories, including but by no means limited to the Atlantis myth. -GS)*

# NORTHWEST CONVENTIONS

## JULY 2001

Sunday, July 8 (11am to 4pm): Toy, Model, and Collectables Show at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Admission: \$2.00 per person (Free for kids under 14). Dealers Tables: \$35. Buy, sell, and trade character toys, action figures, Beanie Babies, toy cars, Star Wars, model kits, trading cards, comic books, Barbies, games, and more! call 604-322-6412 or email lswong@uniserve.com <http://users.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

Saturday, July 15, 9:00 AM - 9:00 PM and Sunday, July 16, 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM at Grant MacEwan Community College, 10700 - 104 Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

ANIMETHON is an annual festival of Japanese Animation, or anime. There are ten viewing rooms showing the best of the newest Japanese movies and television series as well as some of the classics that made anime so popular to begin with. As well, we have a dealers room where anime-related goods are sold by vendors from across Canada! We also have contests, events such as cosplay or costume play, game shows, improvisational games, lessons on drawing and the Japanese language, and the ever-popular anime rant! On top of this, Animethon is completely free with a donation to the Food Bank! So come on down and join us at Animethon 7 this July! Don't miss it!

(Web page URL: <http://www.anime-alberta.org/animethon/>)

July 20-22: Toronto Trek 2001 at the Regal Constellation Hotel, 900 Dixon Road (at Carlingview). Guests so far: Andreas Katsulas ( 'G'Kar' - Babylon 5, 'Tomalak' - Star Trek: TNG); more guests to come. Note: All guest appearances subject to professional commitments. Toronto Trek, Suite 0116, Box 187, 65 Front Street West, Toronto, ON, Canada, M5J 1E6.

July 5 - 8: Westercon 54 in Portland, Oregon. A Portland Westercon. Theme - It's in the other Hotel. Author GoH: Tim Powers. Fan GoH: Mike Glycer. Artist GoH: Frank Lurz. Editor GoH: Terri Windling. At the Doubletree Hotels Jantzen Beach and Columbia River. Write to: Westercon 54, P.O. Box 5901, Portland, OR 97228-5901. URL: <http://www.osfci.org/w2001/>. Phone: (360) 993-2001 email deaner@pacifier.com

## AUGUST 2001

AUG 4-6: COMIC BOOK, SCI-FI AND FANTASY CONVENTION in VICTORIA, BC at the Victoria Conference Centre, Science Fiction, TV/Media Convention, \$35 till 4 July, \$40 at door. Anime \$2.00 show, Movies \$5.00/

show. Actors pass \$30.00 Full Pass \$150.00 till 4 July. Media Guests: Pat Tallman (B5) and Marc Alaimo (DS9). Info: [www.victoriacomicon.com](http://www.victoriacomicon.com)

August 10-12: Con-Version 18 at the Metropolitan Centre and International Hotel in Calgary, AB. GoH: David Drake; ArtGoH: Jean Pierre Normand; Scientist GoH: Dr. Bill Brooks. Membership rates (for those 17 and up) are now \$55 from May 1 - July 31, and \$60 at the door. All pre-reg memberships prior to July 31, will receive a free t-shirt at the con! Family memberships: \$130 (inc. 2 adults and up to 3 children) (available at con, shirts not included) The website address is <http://www.con-version.org>. The new mail address for Con-Version is P.O. Box 20098, Calgary Place RPO, Calgary, AB T2P 4J2. Fax (403) 277-4251.

August 17-19: VikingCon 18 at the Western Washington University in Bellingham, Washington. Guests of Honor: Writer GoH: James P. Hogan (<http://www.jamesphogan.com>); Special GoH: JD Frazer aka 'Illiad' (<http://www.userfriendly.org>); Fan GoH: Jon Singer (<http://www.bazilians.org>); Science GoH: To Be Announced; Art GoH: To Be Announced. Memberships (150 to date): \$32 through July 8, 2001; \$36 at the door. Mailing Address: VikingCon, Viking union box V1, Bellingham, WA 98225-9106. For more information: <http://www.vikingcon.org>. To post a message: [VikingCon@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VikingCon@yahoogroups.com); to subscribe: [VikingCon-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VikingCon-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com); to unsubscribe: [VikingCon-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:VikingCon-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com).

August 24-26: MosCon XXIII at the University Inn Best Western in Moscow, ID. Author GoH: Jack Chalker. ArtGoH: TBA. Fan Guests of Honour: Tam & Shelly Gordy. Scientist GoH: TBA. Memberships: \$25 to Aug. 21, 2001; \$30 up to the door. See [www.geocities.com/moscow\\_scifi\\_con](http://www.geocities.com/moscow_scifi_con), phone Jon Gustafson at (208) 882-3672 (9 a.m. to 9 p.m.), or write Miscon XXIII, Box 9622, Moscow, ID 83843, U.S.A.

*continued on p. 8*

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# CONREPORTS

## SO HOW WAS YOUR VCON?

*Remembrances of VCon 26/Convention 21, held May 4-6 at the Burnaby Radisson. Writer GoH: Lynne Abbey; Gaming GoH: James Ernest; Costume GoHs: Betty & David Bigelow; Science GoH: George Dyson; Convention GoH: Candis Jane Dorsey; FanGoH: Al Betz. Chair: Chris Sturges.*

*Written for the Northwest Anime Mailing List by Lorna Appleby:*

Another year gone by and VCon 26 was a success!

Being scheduled for the weekend after Sakura Con I didn't expect to see too many anime fans in the video room, but, I ran into about 10 people who'd been at Sakura Con the weekend before. (And they all seemed to recognize me.) While ten doesn't sound like an impressive number, VCon had about 250 people at the convention.

Pretty low membership this year, even for VCon. Unfortunately, the transit strike didn't end before our convention and we were hooped. To make it \*worse\* the picketing union closed down Skytrain on Friday!! So everyone who had planned to meet at Metrotown station and cab it to the hotel couldn't!! It hurt, a lot. People trickled in though, most having cabbied in from their houses. having spent an arm and a leg.

It's about now I'm going to mention I've never gone to a convention I haven't been staff at.

Set-up started on Thursday, and VCon had the opposite problem to Sakura Con. Lots and Lots and Lots of Operations staff running around, not a lot of non-Ops staff. ^\_^; Our Chief of Operations, Jeff [Hart], hauled his fellow Vampires (okay, Vampire LARPer) out of bed at 9am and put them to work. ...

Friday morning, bright and early all the staff arrive at the hotel. Once our brain cells started working, we went about setting up our various events. I was roped into the gaming room helping Rick set that up. (Okay, I unpacked a few boxes and then wandered off to see if the video room TV had shown up yet) I was opening the video room at noon, even though registration didn't open till 2pm on the basis of people would be showing up whenever they could get a ride in. and we might as well give them something to do. (Those that didn't get kidnapped by the Camarilla to do work.) So, starting off with Slayers, the video room opened one minute early.

A great suggestion came through from Eric [Barney], the RustyCon guy. He mentioned that it's wonderful that both Sakura Con and VCon use these really large TVs and that so many can see so much of the picture from even the back of the room. \*BUT\* ... Subtitles are on the \*bottom\* of the screen! At VCon, you had to have an aisle seat or a front seat to read the subtitles. Oops. He mentioned there were similar problems for Sakura Con. So all us Con Staff should keep this in mind for next year.

VCon's registration opened about twenty minutes late. Not bad considering Uncle Al (as far as I know) has never done registration before. Of course, Nico [Iormetti] was helping him. (We had a small betting pool on when Nico's head would explode. He was running around helping with all the various things in the upper section of the con)

The art show went up and opened on time, the gaming room

as far as I know opened on time and was promptly flooded with RPG'ers and Lego addicts. And the dealer's room.

Ah, the dealer's room. We combined the art show and the dealer's room this year. A most successful venture. People wandered in to look at Ross' amazing collection of swords ... and wandered through the art. There was a great collection of book sellers, a lady selling gorgeous beaded jewellery and hand made cards, and of course, William had an Anime Jynai table. Auto-graph sessions were also done in the dealer's room and it was a very friendly and happy atmosphere.

The art show did well, Andrew Brechin's Baby Cthulhu clocks all sold on Sunday and were definitely the hit of the show. Even I sold a few pieces. There were some gorgeous works on the panels and many people enjoyed the art.

The out of print auction didn't do that greatly, but I think it was because the poor thing was postponed a few times. Unfortunately, with everything else going on, Chilam and myself didn't get at a chance to inventory the stock until noon on the Saturday. So, by the time we held the auction on Sunday, most people had no clue it was going on.

Hospitality was in a huge room this year and almost always had fifteen people in it. by the early evening that number rose to twenty-five. Tammy, Barbara, Norm and Sylvia did a wonderful job of hosting the room, being eternally cheerful and friendly. It was like walking into a home away from home. They had a wonderful stock of snacks, sandwiches, beverages, beer and cider. (Mm. Cider.)

Opening ceremonies were at 8pm, and were a very fun affair with the guests giving short speeches, almost all starting with "I was told to be funny." While still a small crowd, everyone (including the guests) was obviously happy to be there.

Once *again*, my panel was put up against the Buffy and Angel panel. Too bad I could barely talk and cancelled the panel. A bunch of people still showed up and they had the panel without me. (I was informed on Saturday it went really well and people had a lot of fun! I'm glad.) In the true face of irony, I didn't go to the Buffy panel either, I was keeping Jen company in the Concert/Dance set-up.

The concert was a very popular affair, everyone enjoying the sounds of Landscape Body Machine and that led into a very popular showing of Rocky Horror picture show. (I stopped in, but after two ciders mixing in my already half-brain dead mind, I found myself about five seconds behind everyone else.)

I closed up the video room at 2:30am Saturday morning and people were still having a good time when I retreated to bed around 4am. Only one room party Friday night, but that didn't seem to bother anyone. ^\_^

Up at 8am the next morning to open the video room for the morning cartoons, I retreated \*back\* to bed for another couple of hours of sleep. (Yeah, I'm a wuss.)

People seemed happy and enjoying the con. I had a writer's workshop at 1pm with Garry Owens and Elaine Brown and the professionals were Lisa Smedman, Donna Farley, Gillian Savage,

*continued on page 10*



# BOOK REVIEWS

by Donna McMahon

*SOLDIERS*, John Dalmas (Baen, May/01)  
*TINKERING WITH EDEN*, Kim Todd (WW Norton, 2001)

One of the joys I fondly remember from long-ago forays into musty, used bookstores was the battered, lurid-looking paperback that turned out to be ever so much better than its cover. I'd start reading dubiously, then encounter some interesting detail, then another, then I'd think: gee, this author knows an enormous amount about the damndest assortment of things.

I had much the same reaction part-way through *Soldiers*, as John Dalmas enthusiastically peppered me with details about Sikh religion, wasp venom, basic training, and how many trees it takes to build a mile of fence. He even goes so far as to include footnotes — something I haven't seen in years.

But first, the plot. Far in the future humans have spread across the galaxy, creating an empire which has been at peace for many centuries. But this quiet existence ends abruptly when 14,000 alien warships appear on the fringes of the empire and begin swiftly, systematically and mercilessly exterminating humans wherever they encounter them.

Humanity, which hasn't fought a war in centuries, suddenly faces annihilation if they can't gear up for a fight which must be won at any cost.

OK. Now I'm going to stop right here and publicly admit that I can't STAND military fiction. I do not get into uniformed guys shooting off their big hard guns, and I also don't understand the vocabulary, so my reading is constantly impeded by questions like: Is a lieutenant higher than a colonel? Why are spaceships called Corvettes? (Do they race?) Isn't Howitzer a brand name like Nike and if so, why do they have them in the 33rd century? And what in blazes is a "troop" anyhow?

Consequently, I expected to find *Soldiers* heavy slogging, and I did. But the main reason for my difficulty wasn't so much the book's military trappings, as its scope. In attempting to tell a complex, galaxy-spanning, cast-of-trillions military/political tale, Dalmas introduces scores of characters. He then kills off several of the most appealing ones early on, leaving the reader with no central protagonist to get attached to.

The closest thing to protagonists in this novel are a young married couple, Esau and Jael Wesley — infantry recruits from a high gravity Mennonite-colonized world, who go through basic training (where Jael is the only woman) and are then dispatched to fight the first planet-side action in the war. Dalmas depicts them credibly, and

the story is interesting, but it is only one of many threads in the book, which also follows the military's struggles to gear up, politics back on Earth, and the war in space.

Other memorable characters include Charley Gordon, a savant who lives in a bottle (life support system), and is an expert in space warfare. (Psychic savants are a nice plot device to get around the problem of interstellar communication.) And one thing I liked very much: Dalmas includes an epilogue, which tells what happened to all the surviving characters after the war. As well as being interesting, it added a feeling of verisimilitude to the story.

This is definitely World War II, by the way, not Vietnam. The canvas is big, the bad guys are bad, and the situation is clearly defined. Plus an added bonus: since this is space opera and the enemy are alien invaders, we don't have to care much about who gets slaughtered.

I consulted a couple of military buffs for this review (rashly letting myself in for a half hour lecture on naval warships) and they unanimously said that Dalmas gets his military details right. Certainly that was my untutored impression.

*Soldiers* is an old-fashioned Ripping Yarn which overflows with action and ideas, often at the expense of structure and focus. Fans of military fiction are likely to enjoy this book a great deal; however, this is definitely a Guy Book, and I wouldn't recommend it to anyone whose reading taste leans more to Hambly than Haldeman.

\* \* \* \* \*

And now for something completely different — non-fiction!

Most people have heard about the European starling — a bird released in New York by an enthusiast who wanted to introduce all the birds in Shakespeare's plays to North America (and people think that science fiction fans are crazy...!). From 120 birds in New York in 1891 the starling has exploded into a population of 200 million — a great winged plague that crossed the continent, driving out indigenous species, ravaging farmer's crops, and excreting copiously on parked cars in upscale Vancouver neighbourhoods.

But that is only one of the immense changes human beings have wrought on this continent in the last two centuries. Tens of thousands of exotic species have been introduced — so many that we no longer realize how much of our local environment is imported. (A few B.C. examples: dandelions, broom, foxglove, Himalayan blackberries, Japanese oysters, European honey bees and house sparrows.)

*continued on page 10*

*Northwest Conventions*  
continued from p. 5

Sunday, August 26 (11am to 5pm): Comix & Stories at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. A day of alternative and small-press comics, publishing, artwork & culture. Special Guests (as of 5/5/01): Ralph Alfonso (Ralph), Jason Lutes (Berlin, Jar of Fools), Ariel Bordeaux (Deep Girl), Rick Altergott (Doofus), Smell of Steve, Inc (Smell of Steve), David Lasky (Boom Boom, Urban Hipster), Greg Stump (Urban Hipster, Dwarf Attack), Brad Yung (Stay as you are), Jeanette Ordas (Queen of the Universe), Owen and Terry Plummer (Rubber Popsicle Factory), Randy Wood (Kitties in the Engine), Craig McKenney Admission: \$3.00 per person (Free for kids under 14). Dealers Tables: \$40. Creator/Publisher Tables: \$15/\$30 For information about any of these shows, please call 604-322-6412 or email lswong@uniserve.com. <http://users.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

### SEPTEMBER 2001

September 15-16: ConSpec 2001 at the Best Western Cedar Park Inn in Edmonton, AB. GoHs: Allen Steele and Michael Bishop. NOTE: Allen Steele and Michael Bishop will lead a writing workshop on September 13 and 14; sewats are limited to 16 people. The \$90 fee will cover both the course and attendance at ConSpec 2001. Rooms: write Best Western Cedar Park Inn, 5116 Calgary Trail North, Edmonton, AB T6H 2H4, or phone (780) 434-7411, and quote #103-176 when booking a room. Memberships: \$45 plus GST until September, \$55 plus GST to the door. Write ConSpec, Box 4727, Edmonton, AB T6E 5G6; email conspec@canada.com; or see <http://www.compumart.ab.ca/clear/conspec.htm>.

September 20 - 23: GateCon 2001, "A Gatecon Odyssey"; venue TBA. A benefit convention for Make a Wish Foundation. NOTE: The international group holding Gatecon talks about "tickets" rather than memberships. See <http://www.gatecon.com/home.asp>

September 28 - 30: Foolscap III (a Flat Stuff con) at the Southcenter Best Western in Tukwila, WA. ArtGoHs: Phil and Kaja Foglio. Author GoHs TBA. Banquet \$20 now, \$23 at the door. Memberships \$41 to Sept. 21, 2001; \$45 at the door. Cheques to Little Cat Z in U.S. funds only. Write foolscap III, c/o Little Cat Z, P.O. Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461. URL <http://www.alexicom.net/foolscap/index.htm>



## MEDIA FILES

by Ray Seredin

### *Hollywood v. Hollywood North:*

Not much to report this month, because the actors and the producers are still talking at this time. It can go either of two ways:

1) If there is no actors' strike: We'll get the new Star Trek series, a new series on Superman's teen years and new series that sound very much like *Twin Peaks (II)*. Also a replacement sister on *Charmed*, new episodes of *Andromeda*, *Angel*, *Buffy: The You Know What*, *Dark Angel*, *Earth Final Conflict*, *Farspace*, *First Wave*, *Lost World*, *Outer Limits*, *Special Unit 2*, *Stargate*, *The X-Files*, and maybe at midseason *The Lone Gunmen* and new *Babylon 5* series.

2) If there is an actors' strike: News magazines, reality shows, old movies, sports, hour-long paid advertising and reruns, reruns, reruns up the old yardarm. There are a member of series (both old and new) and TV movies that plan ahead, which may air during the strike; however, only one is "science fantasy".

So, I don't want to get your hopes up until we know.

Not returning, whatever happens, are *All Souls* and *Seven Days*.

### *Doctor Who:*

There is something happening over in Britain. The BBC is doing another poll on the series and is in talks with the American Sci-fi Channel. They're not saying too much just yet, but to many WhoFans it looks like that a new series will be premiering November 23, 2003.

Yes, I'm keeping my fingers crossed.

That's all for now, folks. So I wish you the best and I'll be seeing you.

# FANZINES

By Ted White

Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself – the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans' interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one. A variety of other fanzines are also available – many of them by request – and this column will cover some of them each issue.

All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your written response – a Letter of Comment, or LoC. Feedback – better known in fandom as “egoboo” – is what fanzine publishing is all about.

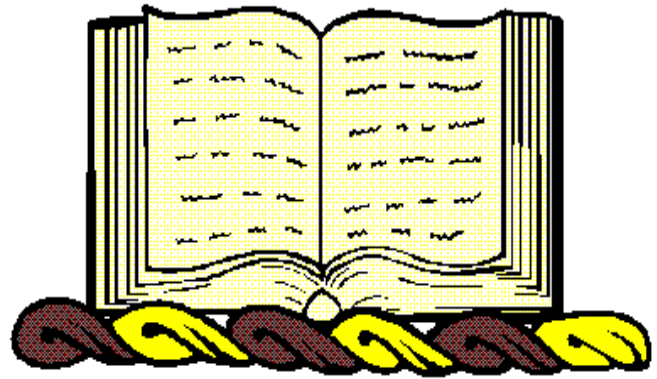
Check out the fanzines below and broaden your participation in fandom.

*THE RELUCTANT FAMULUS* (Tom Sadler, 422 W. Maple Ave., Adrian, MI 49221-1627; e-mail to tomfamulus@dmci.net; available for trades, contributions, letters of comment or \$3.00 a copy)

This is a fanzine which takes unique advantage of modern technology: it is not only put together with a computer, it's printed out in color. I would have guessed from appearances that each page came slowly out of a color inkjet printer, but editor Sadler mentions in passing that he now has “a brand new and, I hope, reliable copier.” This issue – #56 – enjoys another unique quality: it's dated “Winter, 1999/2000/2001,” reflecting the gap between beginning and finishing this issue. This allows Sadler to write a closing editorial which brackets the whole “Y2K” hoopla, starting with his engagement in the process of Y2K compliance for the City of Adrian, his employer.

Sadler is editorially more concerned with his family genealogy, and describes his journey of discovery of his family's past history in TRF's opening pages. Robert Sabella devotes his column, “The Caustic Eye,” to Greg Benford's non-fiction book, *Deep Time*. Gene Stewart (who seems to turn up in half the fanzines I review) writes a fairly serious installment of his column, “Brother Butch's Rat Stew,” mostly concerning nationalism and its consequences. (We science fiction fans have Broad Mental Horizons, of course, and transcend petty nationalism – don't we?) The late Ken Cheslin contributes “Part One” of his “Memoirs of a BOF,” which ends abruptly (mid-sentence), and is followed by four pages of his cartoons, of which it can be charitably stated that Ken was not much of an artist.

Someone who was an artist, and who has also died while this issue was in preparation, is the late Joe Mayhew,



whose “My First Nomination (No Previous Confictions)” is a report of his trip to the 1990 Worldcon in Holland. The title refers to the fact that he received his first Fan Artist Hugo nomination at that convention (and eventually won his first Hugo a few years later). Editor Sadler contributes “A Fannish Adventure: The Bookstore,” a work of fiction. Sheryl Birkhead is another artist, but her “No Hot or Cold Anything” reads like a letter to her family and friends, detailing problems with her house. Mark Bovard's “A Year Out Here” is subtitled “Life in the Rural Midwest,” which sums it up well. The last contribution is Mark Fulmer's review of *One For Sorrow*, a historical mystery written by the fannish husband and wife team of Mary Reed & Eric Mayer – one of the most appropriate book reviews I've seen in a fanzine in a long time.

Sadler packs a lot into TRF's 40 pages, although this issue lacks a letter column, and he makes the fanzine very much a personal artifact of his own. We can only hope he's back on schedule and #57 won't require as long a wait.

*DEROGATORY REFERENCE* (Arthur D. Hlavaty, 206 Valentine St., Yonkers, NY 10704-1814; e-mail to hlvaty@panix.com; available for arranged trade, letter of comment or \$1.00)

DR (which sometimes stands for different words, at editor Hlavaty's whim) has reached 97 issues in the course of the last couple of decades, and usually consists of editor-written material plus the occasional letter of comment (there are two – from John Fast and Jo Walton – in #97) in a half dozen or so double-columned pages. Hlavaty is a literate fan of both *The Illuminatus* and football and his commentary is always readable and sometimes provocative. He advertises no schedule, but DR arrives frequently, a kind of Hlavaty Letter for fankind.

—Ted White

*BCSFA* has received in the last month *Opuntia*, *The Ottawa SF Statement*, *Pulsar*, and *Warp*.

**Book Reviews***continued from page 7*

In *Tinkering with Eden*, Kim Todd recounts some fascinating stories of the unpredictable and sometimes devastating results of species introductions, ranging from the disaster wrought by mosquitoes in Hawaii (disease spread by them killed off most Hawaiian bird species), to rampaging rhesus monkeys in Florida, to the smothering spread of knapweed through Montana.

This book provides a fascinating look at what happens when humans accidentally alter their environment, or decide to tinker with an ecosystem they don't understand. And expect to hear more about this issue in future. Increased air and ground travel is transporting ever more species, such as plant seeds that hitch a ride on car tires and insects that stow away in freighter cargo.

My only quibble about this book is that I wanted more — both about the new scary introductions (such as marine organisms brought to our coast in freighter ballast water) and the spread of American species into new areas (coyotes in Vancouver, for example, or malaria mosquitoes in Ontario).

I highly recommend this book as an entertaining and sobering read for the science fiction enthusiast who wants a glimpse of our future through the lens of the past.

Comments? Questions? Rebuttals?

[donna\\_mcmahon@sunshine.net](mailto:donna_mcmahon@sunshine.net)

**VCon 26***continued from page 7*

and Colleen Anderson. A very happy bunch. Even though my story was shredded (which I knew it would be. I chose the story because I felt it lacked "something". Turned out it lacked \*a lot\* of something's! ^\_^) it was a very friendly and knowledgeable bunch. (Elaine almost could have been on the professional side. She has an amazing ability to communicate the lacking in a piece.) I had a lot of fun in the writer's workshop even though my ability to give useful feedback has never been very good. A moment of impressiveness was when one of our professionals (Colleen or Donna. I'm afraid I'm lousy with names) pointed out I write in the British manner. (Commas all over the place instead of full stops and almost never a semi-colon in sight.) Very true, I do. I learnt to read and write in Scotland. (Moved to Canada at eight.)

[Oh, and when I say shredded, I don't mean they ripped apart my story and said bad things and were really negative, I mean they took an inferior piece of fiction and showed \*why\* it was inferior. They were all very positive and very nice in the process. ^\_^ I wanted to bring in something I knew would never sell to find out why it wouldn't sell other than "not good enough."]

I dashed out of my writer's workshop at 3 to do a tape change and came back for another hour for the wrap-up and friendly chat with the guests. (I should probably mention that while VCon 26 had seven Guests of Honour, we had almost 30

**BABYLON 5***continued from last issue*

Veteran B5 and Star Trek director Michael Vejar will helm "To Live and Die in Starlight" from the script by Straczynski. Further details (excepting the fact JMS and Doug Netter are co-exec producers and the design for a new Ranger ship has been commissioned) are being kept under tight wraps as the company ramps up for production in mid-May. ...The Babylon Project ...the Babylon 5 universe lives again!! And for a while, maybe a long while, Vancouver will be at the centre of that dream given form.

*"B5: LR" Casting/FX House News*

Forget the rumours that you've heard about Bruce Boxleitner, Bill Mumy, Mira Furlan or even Michael O'Hare coming back. The "... fan favourite..." JMS hinted at in his cryptic post of last month is Andreas Katsulas. He will return to the Babylon 5 universe to reprise 'Citizen G-Kar' in the "Babylon 5: Legend of the Rangers" telefilm "To Live and Die in Starlight".

**B5LR.com**, a fan operated website dedicated to what will progress to a "Legend of the Rangers" series broke the story early last week and a recent press release at Sci-Fi Wire confirms the news. Through an unnamed source, the site's owner/webmaster managed to acquire portions of the broken down script, revealing some bare bones information on the plot.

professionals in the writing industry at the con. All very wonderful. Don Debrandt being the most recognizable at the worst of times. ^\_^; )

5pm brought about the dinner. We'd sold 96 tickets to the dinner, but the room was suspiciously empty when it started up. I was at a table with three other people (one of them an Aurora Awards nominee!) and we had fun chatting and playing with the crayons on the table. A congratulations to one of the Klingons who let loose a balloon to land squarely in Dave #2's desert. (I'm not quite sure if it was Betty or David who blew it up and let it go. I just saw it come in from their direction.)

Greg Cairns and company put on an amusing dinner theatre and by the bestest of luck, no one snarfed their complimentary wine. (I'm told the wine was good, but only Dave #2 at our table could drink it. Two bottles, one drinker. Not a good ratio. But, the one and a half bottles left were donated to Hospitality where they were given a good home) All in all, dinner was most enjoyable.

Then came the Aurora awards. Now, I'll confess, I was expecting a very boring awards ceremony and a bunch of names I didn't know, but I stuck around to give moral support to those I

*continued on page 13*

# NEWS

## 2001 Aurora Awards for Canadian SF

The winners for the 2001 Aurora Awards are as follows:

- Best Long-Form Work in English: *The Snow Queen*, Eileen Kernaghan (Thistledown Press)  
 Meilleur livre en français: *Demain, les étoiles*, Jean-Louis Trudel (Pierre Tisseyre)  
 Best Short-Form Work in English: "Surrendering the Blade", Marcie Tentchoff (*The Doom of Camelot*, Green Knight Publishing) [poem]  
 Meilleure nouvelle en français: «La Danse des esprits», Douglas Smith (*Solaris* 134) [traducteur: Benoît Domis]  
 Best Work in English (Other): *Science Fiction: The Play*, David Widdicombe [play]  
 Meilleur ouvrage en français (Autre): *Solaris*, Joël Champetier, réd. (Les Compagnons à temps perdu)  
 Artistic Achievement / Accomplissement artistique: Jean-Pierre Normand  
 Fan Achievement / Accomplissement fanique (Fanzine): *Voyageur*, Karen Bennett, ed. (USS Hudson Bay / IDIC) ([www.idic.ca](http://www.idic.ca)) [clubzine]  
 Fan Achievement / Accomplissement fanique (Organizational/Organisation): R. Graeme Cameron (BCSFA president & V-Con 25 chair)  
 Fan Achievement / Accomplissement fanique (Other/ autre): Donna McMahon, book reviews/ critiques de livres

Don Bassie <[canadian\\_sf@hotmail.com](mailto:canadian_sf@hotmail.com)>, 6 May 2001

## The Black Chalice - Awards and Promotions

*The Black Chalice* by Marie Jakober (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, ISBN: 1-894063-00-7 / September 1, 2000, 460 pages / Hard Cover / 23.95 USD) was selected by *Locus* magazine for its annual Recommended Reading List. *Locus* is the "newspaper of the science fiction field" and reports on current trends within the science fiction, fantasy and horror writing and publishing scene.

*Winner - Book of the Year Award: The Black Chalice* has been awarded second place in *ForeWord* Magazine's Book of the Year Award (Science Fiction and Fantasy category). The award will be presented Saturday June 2, on BookExpo America's Independence Day, at a press conference where winning publishers and authors will be recognized.

*Web Review - Midwest Reviews: The Black Chalice* has been reviewed in print, within electronic forums and on radio. This month *RAMBLES*, a cultural arts magazine,

posts their review at [http://www.rambles.net/jakober\\_bchalice.html](http://www.rambles.net/jakober_bchalice.html). Also, Midwest Book Review posts their review at <http://www.execpc.com/~mbr/bookwatch/ibw/>

*Alberta 2001 Book Awards:* The finalists for the 2001 Alberta Book Awards were announced on May 5, 2001 at the Alberta Book Awards Gala (a celebration of Alberta Authors and Publishers). EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing was recognized as The Emerging Publisher of the Year! The award is presented to the Alberta publisher which, through the overall editorial, design and production quality of books produced, innovation in promotion, marketing and sales, excellence of service to clients and activity in the community, shows the most promise as an emerging publisher. We couldn't be more proud.

*Prediction: The Black Chalice* received an excellent review in the strangely named *Dead Trees Review* journal. Paul Lappen did an excellent review and we predict that it (the review) will lead to better and bigger things. Thanks Paul.<g>

*New Blood:* EDGE is pleased to announce that Jackie Arnold will be overseeing editorial management duties here. Jackie comes to us from Carswell Publishing. More in next month's update.

*In the Pipeline: Lyskarion: The song of the Wind* by Janice A. Cullum is scheduled for released in the USA on September 15, 2001. Cover art for *Throne Price* by Lynda Williams and Alison Sinclair has been commissioned. And LASTLY, we've signed a new book contract for an exciting new fantasy novel by a marvellous new author. But, as we're out of space, you'll have to wait for a future UPDATE to find out all about it. Cheers.

*Brian Hades, Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, Box 1714, Calgary, AB, T2P 2L7, Canada; tel. (403) 254-0160; email [manager@edgewebsite.com](mailto:manager@edgewebsite.com); URL <http://www.edgewebsite.com>, 27 May 2001*

## Bradbury named 2001 Grand Master of Horror

SEATTLE - Ray Bradbury has been named Grand Master of Horror for the year 2001, World Horror Convention chair Paul Carpentier announced Friday, May 25. The distinction is announced each year at the World Horror Convention, and an award was presented at a ceremony on Monday, May 28.

The Grand Master award is administered by the World Horror Society, an unincorporated literary society. Tom Piccirilli received the award, presented by local writer and publisher John Pelan. Bradbury was not in attendance.

*continued on page 13*

# “YOU SEEK MEANING”

J. Michael Straczynski at Simon Fraser University,  
May 27, 2001

by Dennis N. Kristos

The 13th Northwest Babylon 5 Gathering – our tenth held at Simon Fraser University – was a memorable, surprise-filled evening for the 218 (give or take) attendees.

We kicked it off at approximately 5:30 pm with the introductory episode to “Crusade”, ‘Racing the Night’. It was nice to appreciate the scope of JMS’ series opener on a large screen like the B5 episodes we’ve shown at past Gatherings. The Great Maker began his presentation with a dazzling 5 year re-cap music video (created by John Hudgens who, over the years has engineered several B5 music vids for JMS). The montage opened to the strains of Christopher Franke’s 5th Season title theme, segueing for the remaining footage to Queen’s anthemic, “Keep Yourself Alive”. Very appropriate, very classy. As the video concluded, JMS entered to a thunderous, standing ovation. JMS then proceeded to relate a series of B5 life-imitates-art anecdotes about how real life events had synchronized with some events he’d written for B5 characters. For instance, Mira Furlan, who had been trying to conceive for the longest time, became pregnant just around the time in season 5 when Delenn was written to be with child. From the sublime to the hilarious, Joe quickly segued to the legendary Blooper reel -- another compilation covering B5 in its entirety. (The only problem I had watching it was breathlessly straining to hear the next flubbed line, running gag or ad-lib because the laughter, including my own, was so loud.) A brief Q & A session with the audience about B5, Crusade and his apparent stealth project -- That Which Cannot Be Named because still no press releases exist -- followed.

JMS having covered previous ground, moved on to his new “B5: Legend of the Rangers” telemovie, ‘To Live and Die in Starlight’. He talked briefly about the how the deal with Sci-Fi Channel was done and without missing a beat, transitioned us into footage (unseen by anybody except for the editor, the producers and perhaps the SFC powers in ‘dailies’). A 2 1/2 minute unfinished (no graphics or promo voice-over) trailer set to the haunting “Requiem for the Line”, led off the proceedings. Next on the agenda, Joe introduced not one, but three individual scenes. First and longest running of the scenes revolved around an Anla’ shok ritual called ‘The Naming of Names’ aboard David Martell’s (Dylan Neal) new command, the ‘Liandra’. In context of the scene, we were introduced to the new ensemble of characters -- Dulann (Alex Zahara), Sarah (Myriam Sirois), Malcolm Bridges (Dean Marshall), Kitaro Sasaki (Warren Takeuchi), Firell (Enid-Raye Adams), Na’ Feel (Jennie-Rebecca Hogan) and Tirk (Gus

Lynch) -- their rank, function and something extra about each of them. The middle scene, (a two-hander complete with “Insert VFX” caption) centred on Citizen G’Kar and Martell with G’Kar revealing news of a distant archeological dig and speculating upon its implications. The final clip entailed the Liandra’s crew realizing they are seriously outclassed when they discover a powerful new enemy is on the prowl. First impressions? There is much to admire and anticipate here. Joe’s delivering on the promises he made before a single frame was shot. Director Mike Vejar’s visual mastery of shadow and light is very evident while production designer Steve Geaghan’s beautifully detailed sets delight the eye. Credit also goes to DOP Henry Chan for his atmospheric cinematography. The Ranger uniforms have undergone slight cosmetic changes and Optic Nerve’s makeup designs appear to have been taken a step further by the present crew. Sitting there, I could only imagine what the Gadgecki Visual Effects people will come up with, but I’m confident it’ll be right. As for acting, well, the core twenty-something cast is young by B5 standards, but they’re individually and collectively hitting the mark. Also, that elusive quality -- chemistry -- is quite apparent in this appealing company of heroes. If audience reaction was any indicator, it appears ‘Tirk’ will be B5LR’s breakout character (much like ‘Zathras’ was in “Babylon 5”) should Sci-Fi greenlight a full series. It’s hard not to imagine that eventuality since the potential is definitely there.

After the viewings, JMS delivered the finishing touch, introducing the cast (save for Neal), who had secretly joined another special guest, ‘Zocalo Today’ publisher-editor, Sandy Bruckner and the audience earlier. (Late Friday, the 25th, B5LR production manager Ron Mcleod contacted John Francis about logistics for Joe’s arrival as John was making final preparations for the event. During their conversation, Ron incidentally informed John an undisclosed number of cast and crew would be present on the day and so they were.) They entered in that great theatrical tradition, from the rear of the hall down to the ‘stage’ for the final and longest Q & A round. Their energy, enthusiasm and candid responses were appreciated by us as they revealed seven of eight cast members are local actors, some are science-fiction fans and a couple of them have dreamt about being in a sci-fi series. Travers Naran (nw-b5’s JMS liaison, the Gathering’s logistics master and talent wrangler) asked JMS if he’d be willing to come speak to us again in the future. Joe responded that he’d “. . . be delighted. . .”. Someone else dropped the “big one” asking Joe if B5LR goes beyond this telemovie, would he keep it here. His response -- a simple “Yes”.

Before concluding the evening’s activities and adjourning to the foyer for the autograph/meet’n’ greet/photos session, John Francis presented his Makerness with a framed nw-b5 Certificate of Appreciation signed by the members of the Gathering Committee -Travers, Johnny

*NEWS - continued from page 11*

Ten Grand Masters have been named since 1991, including Clive Barker, Robert Bloch, Ramsey Campbell, Harlan Ellison, Steven King, Dean Koontz, Brian Lumley, Richard Matheson, Anne Rice and Peter Straub.

To be eligible for the Grand Master award, the recipient must have contributed significantly to the field of horror, must be alive at the time of voting, and can not have already received the award. The Grand Master award was the only award presented by the World Horror Convention.

*Paul M Carpentier <whc2001@uswest.net>, 31 May 2001*

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### ***L. Ron Hubbard Presents the Best of Writers of the Future***

*L. Ron Hubbard Presents the Best of Writers of the Future*, a new anthology of stories from the first eight volumes of Writers of the Future Contest published stories, has been released by Bridge Publications. Mary Tinat, Director of Public Relations, writes: "I have enclosed an ad for this book and if you send a copy of your fanzine showing the ad printed in it, I will send you a copy of the book in return".

*Mary Tinat, Director of Public Relations, Bridge Publications Inc., May 31, 2001*

*Your editor has decided to overlook this threat and to honour the terms of the 1987 cease-fire agreement made between Bridge Publications and Maple Leaf Rag. (That is, if they leave us alone, we'll leave them alone.)*

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### ***JMS at SFU***

*continued from previous page*

Gee, John Francis, A J and yours truly. In addition, I presented Joe with a bound copy of our 'Support Babylon 5 on KVOS TV-12' petition of 1997/98. Door prizes (10 copies of the 'Babylon 5' double issue) kindly donated by 'Cinefantastique' and Frank Garcia and (5 B5 items, ranging from t-shirts to a 12" G'Kar action figure) from Johnny's Wax Pax Collectibles were given out just in time for autographs.

Faith manages, Art lasts.

*VCon 26 - continued from page 6*

did know in the crowd that were up for awards. (And Marcie [Tentchoff], my dinner companion, did win! The first poem ever to win! Yay Marcie!) The awards was actually very enjoyable as the various winners and presenters joked their way through. (Everyone but Clint seemed to have to battle the envelopes to get at the nominee's list for each particular Aurora.) Those that presented the French awards produced a fluent stream of French and then were kind enough to translate into English for those, like me, who had no idea what they had just said. (For all I know, they were really saying "That girl in the white costume. what are you? The nurse from Harry Potter?") Re-affirmed was my belief that French is a beautiful language when someone who knows what they're doing is speaking it.

After the awards ceremony came the Bacchanal, VCon's masquerade/cosplay. (Use whichever term you're more familiar with. ^\_^) Oh. my sides hurt from laughing. Many people put on wonderful skits (Including the "Klingon Hunter" between David Bigelow and Don DeBrandt) although I think the most amazing in show was the "Dragon Tamer". a lady on stilts in a beautiful costume of brilliant colours who danced to calypso music with a cloth (and amazingly done!) dragon on each arm. Fantastic job, Andrea!

From there, was the Camarilla Kissing Auction, one of the most popular events at VCon and one of the only bad things I have to say about the con. Now, don't get me wrong, I think the Kissing Auction is a very fun idea and it's all for a very good cause (They raised over \$600 for the Children's Hospital!) however ... Within the span of about half an hour I had seven different gents walk up to me and \*demand\* I be in the kissing auction. ... In future years, I would really like to see it set down that only official representatives can drum up "slaves for the block" or some sort of word passed that people should \*ask\* and then drop it if the person in question says no. ...

But, barring \*my\* negative feelings and nastiness, the kissing auction was its usual popular event and was a great success, everyone involved seem to have a very good time and enjoyed their kisses immensely! ^\_^

After the kissing auction, I retreated to a very full hospitality to drink entirely too much cider and chat with whomever wandered through. (Apologizing to Jason, the gent whose head I bit off, somewhere in the proceedings). I spent several fun hours in hospitality and then when it closed went up to the Viking Con room party.

I have to say, I'm regretting I'll be in Toronto when Viking Con goes on. Viking Con's down in Bellingham at the University campus and the people involved are some of the friendliest, happiest people I met at the con. They even sold me a Viking Con T-shirt for \$3 Canadian. (Although I think half the quarters I dumped on them were American.) The party had received complaints even though it was on the party floor. For some \*unknown\* reason, the hotel had put a non-congoer next door to the Viking people even though we'd \*all\* told the hotel to only put con-members on the 9th and 10th floors. But, keeping the door closed kept the noise down, and there were people packed in like sardines. I ended up leaving because I just felt so claustrophobic in there.

At 4:30am I shut down the video room (kicking out some sleepers) and went to bed. passing a very weary and only half-

conscious Rick in the process. A victim of his own success, Rick had barely a chance to leave the gaming room as far as I can tell. The gaming room was always \*at least\* half full whenever I went through it. He did an amazing job in there this year!

At 8am on Sunday, the video room opened up for the "Evil Dead Pancake Breakfast". I got down to the room, saw no one around and no one to unlock the door for me. The night before I'd already put the correct tape into the VCR, so I left a note for Andrew saying something to the effect of "If you get the door unlocked, just hit play". At twenty after eight (when I was once more in bed) Andrew started up the pancake breakfast and apparently sold more pancakes than either of us had ever guessed possible. When I came down at 10:30am, the room was still quite full and there were only a few pancakes left. (And the pancakes were \*excellent!\* Thank you, Andrew!)

Sunday, as always, is the lazy day at conventions, as everyone starts packing up and leaving. I helped set up for the OoP auction and packed up my room (stealing a man with a mind that's weak and a back that's strong to carry all my crap down for me). I didn't really do much else but socialize and be brain dead. ... There was a bit of minor confusion when we realized closing ceremonies was listed to be in one of the smaller rooms. We quickly made and posted a sign that it was actually in the large ballroom.

A quick and easy closing ceremonies. Only took three tries to get a winner for the video raffle. (Thank you Ogre for not making me stand up in front of people and do the drawing!) The guests were all still in happy moods and all said they'd love to come back.

I left at 7pm before the wrap up party for Staff, too tired and sore to think straight. But for all the running around in little circles the ConCom did, I think we pulled off a most enjoyable and fun convention. ...

*Garth Spencer writes:*

The fanzine lounge, artshow and dealers' room were all in a low-traffic area, the downstairs hallway ... which not all congoers even realized was there. In fact a number of congoers wandered down there, looking for Registration (upstairs). We definitely need explicit signage if we're holding a con in the Radisson again. (Not to mention making the maps a *part* of the pocket program – I remember several congoers who never saw the maps in their member bags.)

The Aurora Awards presentation, at 6:30 p.m., followed a 5:00 p.m. Awards banquet, with some amateur dinner theatre provided. This year's Aurora Awards should be listed elsewhere this issue. One of the attendees who posted a report to the VCon website, Jason Simcoe, found the awards presentation entertaining and well-done. (Any floor show that features Don DeBrandt in bush clothes and stilts, catching Klingons with a butterfly net, has to be entertaining.)

Probably I embarrassed myself and others by getting *really* drunk Saturday night, and essaying outrageous gallantries to people like Doe Poiries and Betty Bigelow. At least I *hope* they came across as gallantries; I really don't remember that well. Well, obviously I don't; Doe and Lorna Appleby tell me that I've said the same things to them several times. That's it, no more cider for me, and I need to take memory training classes. (Or were the ladies just messing with my mind? That's just *mean*.)

Sunday was more quiet time manning the fanzine lounge, until the noon Convention Business Meeting, but I did have some

good conversations. A lady from the upcoming Victoria SF and comics convention was intrigued by a design I showed her for pocket programs.

The Convention 2001 Business Meeting minutes have been posted to Dennis Mullin's Aurora website. The upshot is that there were no Eastern candidates, Calgary put in a bid for 2002, so **Con-Version 19 will host Convention 22 in 2002.**

One VCon volunteer, named Bill, deserves a big apology from me because he spelled me at the fanzine lounge ... and then I spaced out when I should have come back to relieve him. Then I said I would buy him a beer at the Dead Dog, and I forgot *that*. I'm definitely losing it!

**For future reference:** VCons *definitely* need better signage than we had, to direct people to parts of the convention. We need to dispose some events better to take advantage of high-traffic areas. (Jason Simcoe corroborates this.) Hospitality, or some other high-traffic zone such as Registration, could do with a message board for congoers. (In the event I improvised one.) A bouquets-and-brickbats panel should *not* be omitted from the program. And you probably know already what I think about the site maps.

## CONCOMCON 8

collated by Garth Spencer

This year, ConComCon 8 (June 2001 in Centralia, Washington) was hosted by Bobbie Dufault and a gang involved with the next Rustycon. 61 people attended, one from as far away as Austin, Texas. The word on next year's ConComCon is that the SakuraCon committee will play host; I await more particulars.

Marjorie Rosen, Chairman, Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee, wrote:

... two things \*did\* come out of this year's C-Cubed. First of all, with the full support of Becky [Citrak], the membership voted to put C-Cubed under the umbrella of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC). This will give C-Cubed the protection and legal coverage it needs to continue operating. Secondly, SWOC was pleased to announce the selection of William Satorus as Chairman for Westercon 56 should we win the bid election at Westercon 54. Also, for the first time in C-Cubed history, an entire Con-Com got stuck, er, won the bid for our next C-Cubed, namely, Sakuracon. ...

One of the more interesting things to come out of this con is the fact that Rustycon \*paid\* for its concom to attend. I'd like to suggest that more concoms do that as well. We all exchange ideas, create new possibilities, and explore new avenues of awareness at C-Cubes, and we all get better for the experience.

*Marjorie Rosen* <marjorie11@earthlink.net>

The website for the c-cubed listserv is <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/c-cubed>. One of the contacts for the SakuraCon committee is Isaac Alexander <isaacada1@yahoo.com>.