

# BCSFazine #351

*Price: \$3.00*

The monthly newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

*Something to interest everyone!*

Vol. 30, No. 7, July 2002



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**13-5-7-9 19 LITTLE SF  
AWARDS  
AND HOW THEY GREW**

\*

**THE ROYAL SWISS NAVY  
WANTS  
YOU!**

\*

**THE NEED TO DEFINE  
AND TO TEACH  
A CODE OF CIVILIZATION**

\*

**WHY ARE THERE  
TRUFFLES?**

## BCSFazine

*Something to ~~offend~~ interest everyone!*

**BCSFazine** © July 2002, Volume 30, #7, Issue #350 is the club newsletter published by the B.C. Science Fiction Association, a social organization. Single copies \$3.00 each. For comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions, write to: *BCSFazine*, c/o Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1, or email [hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca).

**BCSFazine** is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 4368 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2H7, tel. 604-228-8223; email [whitedwarf@deadwrite.com](mailto:whitedwarf@deadwrite.com)

**BCSFA's Web page** may be viewed at <http://www3.telus.net/dh2/bcsfa/>

BCSFA's e-mail discussion list may be joined by emailing [BCSFA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BCSFA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

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The shortcut URL to this list is <http://www.yahoo.com/community/BCSFA>

**F.R.E.D.**, the weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in coming, happens every Friday at 8:00 p.m. at the Burrard Motor Inn, opposite St. Paul's Hospital (in downtown Vancouver), 6 blocks south of the Burrard Skytrain Station, 3 blocks west of Granville (where many buses run). NOTE: on the Friday before long weekends, FRED will be at the lounge of Bosman's Hotel. This is two blocks east and part of a block north of the Burrard Motor Inn (actual address is 1060 Howe St.).

**The V-Con Society Web page** may be viewed at <http://www3.telus.net/dh2/vconsociety/>

**Vcon 27's Web page** may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca> (Webmistress: Lorna Appleby, [lorna@shadowydreamer.com](mailto:lorna@shadowydreamer.com))

Graeme's **Canfancylopedia** page can be viewed at <http://members.shaw.ca/rgrame/home.html>.

Andrew Murdoch's **Canfandom** page can be viewed at [www.fandom.ca](http://www.fandom.ca).

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*BCSFazine* is also available by e-mail; please email the editor at [hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca) if you wish to receive our newsletter this way.

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## Art Credits

Taral Wayne .....	cover
Michael Morse .....	everywhere else

# PLAIN SPEAKING

By now everyone has spotted a whole whack of mistakes in the last issue, not just the inept way I ended the article about constructed languages. I can only plead lack of time to finish that edition properly. Also, I have to admit, I wanted to end with a reasoned case that language doesn't really communicate, so it doesn't really work; only I realized that amounted to an idiosyncratic rant, which I should maybe keep to my personalzine.

\*

Also last issue, I must have puzzled a lot of you with sudden news about the Aurora Awards, and with the sudden appearance of the Aurora ballot. I hope a few of you, at least, saw the material I published previously, to give you some background on Auroras, Conventions and CUFF.

In the last twenty years I've had an on-again-off-again involvement with these Canadian fan enterprises. I emphasize "Canadian" because the Aurora awards, the Conventions that host them, and the Canadian Unity Fan Fund are some of the few national institutions among Canadian fans. I used to struggle sporadically to get people to notice, let alone participate in these things.

Question: why is it that I don't turn up a lot of interest, among Canadian fans? Is it something I said?

\*

The whole Auroras-Convention-CUFF story is just one thread of a larger history I have pieced together, and continue to work on: an incomplete history of Canadian science fiction fandom. (Stop laughing, back there. And you, stop yawning.)

Honestly, gang, I never intended

things to go this far; but I do seem to be one of the few Canadian fans doing ... well, it's called fanhistory. Like conserving fanzines, or costuming in Portland, or noodling about Northwest conventions, fanhistory has its own listserv (Timebinders).

And you know something? *Nobody* but me seems to have the obvious, pragmatic reason for collecting fanhistory: the fact that the same damn things happen over and over again in fan groups ... many of them costly, disastrous, even dangerous ... they just happen to entirely different people, at entirely different times and places, with no connection between them except that they're fans, doing fan-type things.

\*

Some of you must have wondered why I was doing these strange rants about the uselessness of democracy, or free speech, or globalization, or why I omitted one editorial entirely in favour of a satirical poem. The fact is, I'm hard pressed to find something constructive to say, about Vancouver fan events at this time. Maybe I have damn-all in the way of local news; has that occurred to you? Please change that.

\*

BCSFA could offer people generally some definite idea of what our trip is and why it can entertain them. I have asked members before to profile their interests, or characterize BCSFA's focus, and basically didn't get any response.

Would you like to change that? Hadn't we better start telling people what interesting things BCSFA offers them? Because I'm starting to wonder what BCSFA or other clubs offer, myself.

# LETTERS OF COMMENT

Lloyd Penney, <penneys@netcom.ca>, July 4, 2002

There's a bit of time to write a loc about issue 350 of *BCSFAzine*. Coming up, starting tonight, really, is the biggest fannish circus in town, Toronto Trek 16. I'll whip this up and send it out before heading for the con.

I would hope that Randy Barnhart and Barb Corbett would have sent out their new mailing address by now, but in case they haven't, they're at 1-1565 Heron Rd., Ottawa, ON K1V 9V1. Their e-mail stays the same.

Are you insane? No more than anyone else, I'd say. You're merely attempting to understand the insane world around you by putting it in your own terms. Are there activities inherent in being a part of the Royal Swiss Navy? If not, getting people involved might be difficult. The RSN might be the setting for a comic, with our heroes against the Circle Jerks. I remember seeing a series of illos about Tara's house gamins in a fanzine, and years ago, Torus published a portfolio of his Metal Mam'zelle, but often, these great illustrations aren't available outside of zines. I miss the Rhinos...I still have my campaign button.

In my own experience, people agree to work on a convention, and then do the half-assed job as described in my last loc. Then, they shrug...why do they do this? Maybe other interests present themselves, and they fail to resign, or at least inform you they're no longer interested. Maybe they tell you what they think you want to hear, and laugh at you behind your back. Maybe they don't really know how to do the job, and are afraid to ask for help. There's probably other reasons I can't think of. All I know is that if I agree to do a job on a con committee, I will do it as best as I can. Everyone's efforts are vital to the overall success of the project at hand. If I'm having some problems, I will talk to the committee to see if they have any ideas as to how to solve those problems. This makes sense to me, but I might as well be speaking Gujarati to a lot of people.

*(Editor responds: what people are willing to do, or will normally think through, is at issue here. I've struggled with it myself and have had to waste twenty years of my life to perceive it as something separate from the way people use words, or understand them.*

*(If it helps I may be able to dig up some edition or other of previous Ad Astra conrunning notes. Maybe not Chris Meredith's, or Howard Scrimgeour's, but certainly the notes Mike Wallis adapted for the Baycon Bible.*

*(From my viewpoint, the preference of certain conrunners to underestimate, or misidentify the work they have to do, is little different from the preference of some Moslem or Cambodian rednecks to idealize a kind of thirteenth-century lifestyle, which in fact they're never going to establish, nor successfully maintain. But*

*we have to admit, North American and European rednecks are no different in that respect. Again and again people prefer that life would conform to some comfortable illusions they cherish.)*

I hope everyone is participating and voting in the Auroras. It's tough to get enough people to care and spend a fiver, but this is something I feel is worth supporting, and shall have more prestige if more people take part in it. However, people will take part only if it has more prestige...

*(Editor responds: Or visibility? Profile?)*

I'm glad Dennis Mullin is running the awards, and not me. I had some hopes to have a series arise from the *B5: Legend of the Rangers* movie. I never did see that...I gather it was a little light-weight, which probably caused the SciFi Channel to make the decision they did. Did Space: The Imagination Station broadcast it? Some Buffy fans have mad other non-fans smile when they say they'd like to see a Buffy movie, for they forget that the series was based on the movie *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, in the theatres before some of them were out of diapers. However, the series has been played mostly for serious story development, while the movie was a definite comedy.

If there is a language that incorporates creative linguistics, has been constructed from bits and pieces of other languages, or has been made up almost on the spot, it's English. Because of its enormous bastardized vocabulary, English is able to express just about any idea we can come up with, and then some. The constructed languages like Lojban and Esperanto just don't measure up with the breadth of ideas available for expression.

*(Editor responds: Do you know whereof you speak?)*

I have tried for the longest time to learn enough French to get myself out of trouble, and I did at one time try to learn some Dutch for travel. For practical sakes, I think the artificial languages are not as useful as they could be. For romantic reasons, such languages as referred to in our favorite novels add an alien flavour we like, without getting in the way of understanding the plot. Perhaps that's where they should stay. I work in publishing and editorial work; English is quite enough, thank you, without having to worry about another language.

*(Editor responds: I see you missed my point. Fair enough, I felt I should withhold my grinding my personal axe for my personalzine. The point, if it were obscure in my final article instalment, is that the way we use a language is far more important than the resources it actually offers. English is not, in fact, as all-embracing and as comprehensive of all expressions*

## SOME WORDS FROM OUR ADVERTISERS

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*as you seem to think. Just consider the words and expressions which are in the English language, but only appear in specialized dictionaries, not in normal discourse. And consider how people react if you use "long words" or unfamiliar phrases in speech. Just think it through.)*

Frank Skinner, <frankpskinnercpa@netscape.net>, July 1, 2002

Re: Stephen Samuel's comments about *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. Buffy is actually my favourite currently-running show. Yes, I even like it better than *Enterprise*. *TV Guide* actually considers it to be the #41 best television show ever, so there must be something to it. I'm eagerly buying each season as it is released on DVD. By the way, does anyone know if and when the following shows are going to be released on DVD: *Outer Limits* (Classic series and new); *Stargate SG-1* (Seasons 2 through 5); *Friday the 13th: The Series* (NOT the movies!); *Sliders*; and *Quantum Leap*? There-oughta-be-a-law against: Releasing movies on DVD and then later coming out with "new-and-improved" versions (after one has spent good money for the original releases)!

Take care, all, and send some of that famous Vancouver rain down here to San Diego - we need it! This has literally been the driest year on record.

*(Editor responds: both your question and your comment about DVD's are answered by Dennis Kristos*

*in the recent Monster Attack Team newsletter (#17, for July 2002).) Write to Stan Hyde (shyde@shaw.ca) or Dennis Kristos (speek1@vcr.bc.ca).*

Doug Finnerty, DarthBuddy2000@yahoo.ca, July 5, 2002

In answer to your frustrations at not getting any response to what is printed in *BCSFazine* (aside from the usual loc'ers) I'm sending one in response to your article on imaginary nations. In it you mentioned the possibility of British Columbia and/or most of the Pacific Northwest splitting away and forming its own country.

Not only did you imply that a successful breakaway was possible, but that such a move would be a VERY GOOD THING.

I believe that this would be a VERY BAD THING.

As idiotic and out of touch that those who rule from Ottawa are, they seem to be one of the few forces able to check the powers of whatever group of idiots are running the legislature in Victoria. I will give you one example. During the 1980's when Bill Vander Zalm was premier, the possibility of controlling the AIDS epidemic by locking up all those afflicted (as well as those deemed "potential carriers" whatever the hell they meant by that) in some kind of internment camp, was seriously considered by his cabinet. The only thing stopping the Socreds from carrying out this drastic little

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**Duncan MacGregor's**

**Worldcon (2002) Membership  
is  
For Sale**

For a number of reasons, I will not be able to go to Worldcon this year. I am holding an \*attending\* membership to the 2002 [San Jose] Worldcon. I would like to sell same to anyone who will be going there. Going rate is \$110.00 Canadian, or \$75.00 US. Please contact Duncan MacGregor at 'aa735@freenet.carleton.ca' or 'dmacgr@vcn.bc.ca' for more information.

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---

scheme was the Canadian government of the day. But then again, B.C. doesn't really need to be its own country for idiots like Gordon Campbell or Joy MacPhail to carry out their twisted little schemes. It is just the magnitude of the effect that would be the difference.

*(Editor responds: for some reason this reminds me of the province of Quebec and a certain premier named Duplessis. Quick pop quiz: how many of you out there know what I'm talking about?)*

You do seem to like the idea of an independent Pacific Northwest, even though that concept is probably dead south of the border for now. I suspect, however, that your motives are in league with those who would like to turn this province into the world's largest gated community. To actually cut ourselves off from the rest of the world, under the delusion that this will actually cut us off from the rest of the world's problems. Unfortunately, locking the door and hiding under the bed will not save us from the "monsters" out there in the world. Such a measure will more likely cause us to suffocate under the covers. And should any monster be out there, it will find us by our stench. Putting up a moat, gate and a "Get Lost" sign will not win us any friends, and we will need friends to help make those monsters go away. This "utopia" of an independant B.C. makes me think of a bad Miami Vice episode set in the middle of the Bosnian and Kosovo conflicts. Should this dream become a reality, I hope to be as far from here as possible. A certain Canadian musician (I think it might be Burton Cummings) said a few words along the lines of "If you don't like Canada, then get the hell out of my country." Me? I don't care if those of you who reside here would rather that Canada did not exist. But to willingly swear allegiance to whatever country you'd make in its place? Don't expect me to do that either.

*(Editor responds: Um, Doug ... you didn't read the article I actually wrote, did you? It was pretty obvious, there, I was making an extended joke. Or if it wasn't obvious to you, I should hold up a large flourescent flashing sign saying "JOKE" when I'm making a joke.*

*(Where did you read anything about a "utopia", and where did you read anything about cutting ourselves off from the rest of the world?? Why do you keep changing your reference from a seceded B.C. alone, to a seceded Northwest as a whole?)*

*(Maybe you and other members aren't getting the BCSFAzines I actually produce; maybe you're getting BCSFAzines from that brain-dead anti-me, in an alternative universe, who keeps bugging up my jobs and relationships. That would explain a lot.*

*(Just to explain the reference to Bill VanderZalm's administration, for non-BC'ers ... they were sort of like the Reagan cabinet, if it were made up entirely of used-car salesmen, none of whom had any post-secondary education.)*

# OUR CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## August 2002

Aug. 2: *Signs* premieres in movie theatres.

Aug. 7: *Spy Kids II* premieres in movie theatres.

Aug. 9: **deadline for BCSFAzine 352**. NOTE: Editor will be away this weekend at Con-Version 19 / CanVention 22 at the Calgary Metropolitan Centre and Westin Hotel, Calgary, Alberta. This year's Con-Version hosts the Canadian National SF Convention, i.e. the presentation of the 22nd annual Aurora Awards for Canadian SF, Fantasy, and fan activity. Con-Version normally features SF, Fantasy, Anime, Gaming and Costume programming, and this year will feature the Prix Aurora Awards and Banquet. GoHs: George R.R. Martin, James Alan Gardner, Geoffrey A Landis, Lar deSouza, and Robert J. Sawyer as Toastmaster. I should be writing about this next issue.

August 10 at 7pm: **FREFF (Feeding Frenzy)** at The Great Hun Mongolian BBQ, 3043 Main Street, Vancouver. Doug Finnerty writes: "Mongolian cuisine seems to involve stir-flying meats, veggies, noodles and marinade, and then rolling it up in a floppy bread thingy called a "wrap". What sets this place apart is that while other places may charge by the weight, this place is all you can eat for \$9.95. So don't even bother contacting the organizer. Just show up really really hungry."

Aug. 16: *Simone and The Adventures of Pluto Nash* premiere in movie theatres.

Aug: 16-18: **C-Ace, The First Canadian Anthropomorphic & Cartooning Expo**. Courtyard Marriott Hotel, Ottawa, ON. Guests: Shawntae Howard, Scott Ruggels, Amy Pronovost, Anya Schwartz. Memberships: Can\$40 at the door, other rates available. For more information, [www.c-ace.org](http://www.c-ace.org) .

August 17 at 2 pm: **BCSFA meeting** at the residence of Graeme Cameron and Alyx Shaw (86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam). Doug says "It is going to be a Barbecue, social, meeting and sleepover."

Aug. 23: production of *BCSFAzine* 352.

Aug. 25: **Comix & Stories**. For information, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com); also see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

Aug. 21-25: **Feral! 2002 - Get Wild!**, Kinark Outdoor Centre, outside Minden, ON. Anthropomorphic fan summer camp. Costs: Can\$295/ US\$195. For more information, [www.campferal.org](http://www.campferal.org) .

Aug. 23-25: **Dragonflight** at Seattle University in Seattle, Washington; a gaming convention sponsored by Metro Seattle Gamers (Ballard). Special

guest: Steve Jackson. Write to us at: Dragonflight, PO Box 776, Seattle, WA 98111-0776. Email [webmaster@dragonflight.org](mailto:webmaster@dragonflight.org) or see [www.dragonflight.org](http://www.dragonflight.org).

## September 2002

Aug. 29 - Sept. 2: **ConJose**, the 60th Worldcon, at the McEnery Convention Center in San Jose, California. Writer GoH: Vernor Vinge, Artist GoH: David Cherry, Fan GoHs: Bjo and John Trimble, Imaginary GoH: Ferdinand Feghoot, TM: Tad Williams. Memberships \$180 USD (EUR 200, CAD 285, AUD 350, GBP 125), where USD=US Dollars - EUR=Euros - CAD=Canadian Dollars - AUD=Australian Dollars - GBP=British Pounds. Discounts apply if you pre-supported the Bay Area in 2002 bid and/or voted in the 2002 Worldcon Site Selection Election held at Aussiecon Three. Write to ConJose, the 60th World Science Fiction Convention, P.O. Box 61363, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-1363, see <http://www.conjose.org>, or email [press@conjose.org](mailto:press@conjose.org).

Sept. 6: **Below** premieres in movie theatres.

Sept. 8: **Vancouver Comicon**. For information, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com); also see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

Sept. 12-15: **GateCon** - Vancouver, BC, Canada (The largest gathering of Stargate SG-1 cast and crew in the known universe).

Sept. 13: deadline for *BCSFAzine* 353.

Sept. 20-22: **NW SciFi Convention and Toy Show** - Portland, Oregon (Media oriented with Star Trek and other actor guests - please note that site has a lot of popups)

Sept. 27: production for *BCSFAzine* 353.

Sept. 27-29: **Foolscap IV** at the Bellevue Hilton, Bellevue, WA. GoHs: Barbara Hambly (the Darwath Trilogy) and artist Rick Berry. Featuring programming (email [twilight2000@foxinternet.net](mailto:twilight2000@foxinternet.net)), Hospitality, "Magic Book Box", a juried/invitational artshow (contact Marjorie Rosen at [Marjorie11@earthlink.net](mailto:Marjorie11@earthlink.net)), a buffet-style Sunday lunch (tickets \$26 now, \$30 at the door), dealers' room (\$65 for one 10' x 10' space plus card-ad in program book - email [dealers@foolscap.org](mailto:dealers@foolscap.org)), and building a silly hat to wear. Program book ads due by August 15th, 2002. Room reservations: \$79/night for up to four people. The Bellevue Hilton is at 100 112th Ave. NE (just off of 405, near Bellevue Square), Bellevue, WA 98004, U.S.A. Telephone for reservations, mentioning Foolscap IV, at (425) 455-3330 (NOT the Hilton Central Reservation number)

by September 13th to contribute to Foolscap's room block. Memberships: US\$41 to September 20th, US\$45 at the door. Write Foolscap IV, c/o Little Cat Z, P.O. Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461, U.S.A., email foolscap@yahoo.com, or see [www.foolscap.org](http://www.foolscap.org).

### October 2002

Oct. 4-6: **Anglicon XIV** at the Holiday Inn in South Everett, Washington; a British-media convention; proceeds to benefit public television. LOOK FOR THE NEW HOME PAGE!

Oct. 4-6: **Conifur Northwest 2002** in Fife, Washington; a furry-fandom convention. This year's theme: "Furries in Seattle!" GoH: Marci McAdam (a professional illustrator and furry artist). Registrations range from US\$30 (before Sept. 20) to \$35 at the door, or \$100 "sponsor". If you preregister but don't get a confirmation card in the mail within a couple of weeks, then check with us at [cfnw-info@conifur.org](mailto:cfnw-info@conifur.org). The charity for 2002 is the Washington State Ferret Rescue & Shelter. Write to 1911 SW Campus Drive, PMB 380, Federal Way, WA 98023, U.S.A.

Oct. 4-6: **Sterlingcon 2002** in Spokane, Washington; a gaming convention. This year's theme: "Fellowship of the Gamers". The annual gaming extravaganza hosted by Spokane's Premier Gaming Club. Three day Individual admissions: Oct 5 \$18; Oct 6 (at door) \$20; 18 and under with student ID, 1/2 price. All prepaid admissions must be sent to: Mike Gibbons, 2022 W Fourth #33, Spokane WA 99204. Please include contact information, and note which GM any pre-paid admissions should be associated with.

Oct. 11: deadline for *BCSFazine* 354.

Oct. 11-13: **VCon 27** at the Plaza 500 Hotel, 500 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. GoHs: Tim Powers, James Blaylock, Gary Gygax, Alan Lee. Other guests include Ryan Nicholson, John Gajdecki, Don DeBrandt, Matt Hughes, Spider and Jeanne Robinson, and Jonathan Tweet. Vcon features a wide range of gaming, artshow, dealers' room, anime, video room, writers' workshop programming. For Room reservations call Plaza 500 Hotel: (604) 873-1811 or toll free: (1-800) 473-1811; See URL [www.plaza500.com](http://www.plaza500.com). Memberships are US\$30, C\$45 at the door, and children under 12 are half-price. Write: VCon 27, c/o Main Floor, 2116 Macdonald, Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6K 3Y4, email [vcon@shaw.ca](mailto:vcon@shaw.ca), or see

<http://www.v-con.ca/index.html>.

Oct. 18-20: **Con-Fusion** at the University of Victoria, Victoria, B.C.; a gaming convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see [www.spikyfishthing.com/con-fusion](http://www.spikyfishthing.com/con-fusion).

Oct. 18-20: **Hero's Gambit 2002** in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan; a gaming convention. Write Hero's Gambit 2002, c/o William Hughes, 2509 Albert Avenue, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7J 1K7.

Oct. 18-20: **Ditto 15**, Days Inn Toronto Downtown, Toronto, ON. Fanzine fans convention. Memberships: Can\$45/US\$30, supporting memberships available. For more information, [www.ditto15.efanzines.com](http://www.ditto15.efanzines.com).

Oct. 18-20: **Grimmcon 2002**, The Parkway Centre, Peterborough, ON. Gaming convention. Guests: TBA. Memberships: Can\$35 weekend pass, other rates available. For more information, [www.grimmcon.com](http://www.grimmcon.com).

Oct. 25-27: **Conthulhu**, Mississauga, ON. SF/horror convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.primedia.ca](http://www.primedia.ca).

Oct. 27: **Toy, Model & Collectables Show**. For information, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com); also see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

### November 2002

Nov. 2: **Con\*Cept 2002**, Days Inn Hotel, Montréal, PQ. SF convention. Guests: Larry Stewart, Paul Bennett. Memberships: \$10, other rates available. For more information, [www.monsffa.com/concept2002.html](http://www.monsffa.com/concept2002.html).

Nov. 7 - 10: **AmberCon Northwest** - Troutdale, Oregon (Roger Zelazney related role playing gaming event)

Nov. 17: **Vancouver Comicon**. For information, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com); also see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

Nov. 22-24: **(NOT the usual date): Orycon 24** at the Doubletree Hotel Columbia River in Portland, Oregon; a large regional general SF convention. Writer GoH: Susan R. Matthews; ArtGoH: Lee Seed; Editor GoH: Martin H. Greenberg. Things to Know About Orycon: Orycon, advertised as Portland's premiere SF convention, has to limit its membership to 1600; by policy it is a weaponless convention, and smoking is limited to designated areas only. There is a membership form online at the website. Memberships are available at Wrigley Cross or Future Dreams bookstores; US\$40 to October 31, \$50 up to the door, half-price for children 6 to 12, free to children 5 and under, as long as the children are accompanied at all times by adults. Write Orycon 24, P.O. Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703, tel. (360) 696-3821 (James).

### December 2002

Dec. 6-8: **SMOF Diego** in San Diego, California. SMOFCon is the original conrunners' convention, at least in North America. They have a website and annual published proceedings, even. (Hint, hint.)

### January 2003

Jan. 10-12: **Rustycon 20** in Bellevue, Washington at the DoubleTree Hotel, Bellevue, WA; a large general SF convention. Writer GoH: Dave Duncan, Artist GoH: Gail Butler, Fan GoH: Not Yet Determined, Special Media Guest: Larry Bagby, Fan Group GoH: KnightHawks. Membership Rates: Pre-registration US\$40 to November 30, 2002; at the door rates \$55 full weekend, \$25 Friday only, \$35 Saturday only, \$20 Sunday; Children under 6 Free; Children 6 to 12 are 1/2 the current rate. Rustycon 20, P.O. Box 84291, Seattle, WA 98124-5591, USA. See [www.rustycon.com](http://www.rustycon.com)

Jan. 17-19: **Pandemonium 20**, Inn on the Park, Toronto, ON. Gaming convention. Memberships: Can\$30 pre-registration, Can\$40 at the door. For more information, [www.realmsquest.org](http://www.realmsquest.org) .

### February 2003

Feb. 14-16: **Radcon 3C** in Pasco, Washington; a general SF convention, with a gaming emphasis. GoH: tentatively R.A. Salvatore; guest, NeNe Thomas. Radcon 3C is sponsoring a Westercon 52 bailout fund. See [www.radcon.org](http://www.radcon.org).

### March 2003

March 21 - 23: Anime Oasis 2003 - Boise, Idaho (Anime)

March 21-24: **Ad Astra XXII**, Toronto Colony Hotel, Toronto, ON. SF convention. Guests: Michael Moorcock, Robert Gould, Alan Lee. Memberships: Can\$35 to September 2, 2002, Can\$40 to December 31, Can\$45 to March 7, 2003, Can\$50 at the door. For more information, see [www.ad-astra.org](http://www.ad-astra.org) .

March 28-30: **FilKONtario 13**, Four Points Sheraton Toronto Airport Hotel, Mississauga, ON. Filking convention. Guests: Cynthia McQuillan, Dr. Jane Robinson, Mark Bernstein, Robert Cooke. Memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.bserv.com/community/fkoa.htm](http://www.bserv.com/community/fkoa.htm) .

### April 2003

April 4 - 6: **Sakura Con** - SeaTac (The Pre-eminent anime convention in the Puget Sound area)

April 17-20: **Norwescon 23** in SeaTac, Washington; a VERY large general SF convention. Location TBA. This year's theme: "Dragons, Drakes and Wyrms". Writer GoH: Jane Yolen. Artist GoH: Jim Burns. Science GoH: Geoffrey Landis. Spotlighted publisher: Del Rey. There is a \$5 (US) discount for NWSFS members. A preregistration form is available online. Write Norwescon 25, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547, U.S.A., or email

[info@norwescon.org](mailto:info@norwescon.org).

### July 2003

July 3-6: **Westercon 56** the SeaTac Double Tree, otherwise known as the Seattle Airport Double Tree Hotel. in SeaTac, Washington. Writer Guest of Honor: Bruce Sterling; Fan Guest of Honor: Saul Jaffe. Attending Membership: If you pre-supported and voted, you have a full attending membership already. If you voted and did not pre-support - \$30. If you pre-supported and did not vote - \$40. If you did not pre-support or vote - \$50. Attending Child (6-12 years old at the time of the con in 2003) - \$25. Attending Child 5 years and under at the time of the con in 2003 - free. Supporting Memberships: If you voted you have a supporting membership. If you pre-supported - \$10. If you did not vote or pre-support - \$20. Write Westercon 56, P.O.Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A. Phone: (206) 723-9906, FAX: (206) 374-2188, Email: [info@wester56.org](mailto:info@wester56.org). Also see [www.wester56.org](http://www.wester56.org)

### September 2003

Aug. 28 - Sept. 1: **Torcon III**, the 61st Worldcon, in Toronto, Ontario this year. Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Royal York Hotel, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Renaissance Toronto Hotel at Skydome, Toronto, ON. World SF convention. Guests: George R.R. Martin, Frank Kelly Freas, Mike Glycer, Spider Robinson, Robert Bloch as GoHst of Honour. Memberships: see website for breakdown. For more information, [www.torcon3.on.ca](http://www.torcon3.on.ca) .

### November 2003

Oct. 30 - Nov. 2: **World Fantasy Convention 2003** in Washington, D.C.

Autumn, 2004 **BOUCHERCON 35**, Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Toronto, ON. World mystery convention. More details to come later.

# NEWS

## WHAT VCON 27 WRITERS ARE PUBLISHING

Subterranean Press wrote to me:

"We've just finished shipping all copies of the six limited editions we just released, and a ton of lettered editions from already released titles.

"This week we're shipping the limited edition of *WORLDS ENOUGH & TIME* by Dan Simmons, and the deluxe limited edition (with extra chapbook) of *THE WILLIAM ASHBLESS MEMORIAL COOKBOOK* by James P. Blaylock and Tim Powers.

"Check them out at [www.subterraneanpress.com](http://www.subterraneanpress.com).

"And don't forget to check back often. In the next week we'll be posting a 'retro' update, with some long out-of-print limited editions back in stock, and a drawing for advance copies of our upcoming books!"

*subpress@earthlink.net, July 15, 2002*

*About people we know ...*

"**Harry Andruschak**, through no fault of his own, is filing for US Chapter 13 bankruptcy and expects to move house shortly.

*(Ansible 180, July 2002)*

*(You may remember Harry as a former BCSFA member. Harry is still on the Royal Swiss Navy Gazette mailing list. -GS)*

"**Sheila Lightsey** announced at the 6 June London pub meeting that she and Victor Gonzalez are now engaged. 'Showed us the ring and everything.' [Rob Hansen]

*(Ansible 180, July 2002)*

*(Victor Gonzalez is a fanzine editor in Seattle, well-known for his e-fanzine Squib. -GS)*

*\_Gary Farber\_, 2278 Nicholl St East, Boulder, CO 80304, USA.*

*\_Ulrika & Hal O'Brien\_, PO Box 1646, Bellevue, WA 98009-1646, USA.*

*(Ansible 180, July 2002)*

*(More people on the RSNG list; Ulrika O'Brien has appeared at recent Orycons. -GS)*

*Presented without comment:  
convention news in the Northwest*

**The Northwest Sci-Fi Convention & Toy Show** is advertised for September 20-22nd 2002 at the Holiday Inn-Airport Portland, Oregon, featuring WIL WHEATON ("Wesley Crusher" from Star Trek: The Next Generation-appearing for the FIRST time in the Northwest!), RUSSELL JOHNSON ("The Professor" from Gilligan's Island and original Twilight Zone cast member), ARLENE MARTEL("T'Pring" from the classic Star Trek episode "Amok Time" and original Twilight Zone cast member), MICHAEL FOREST ("Apollo" from the classic Star Trek episode "Who Mourns For Adonais?" and

original Twilight Zone cast member), LOU FERRIGNO("The Incredible Hulk" and former Mr. Universe), and PHILLIP PALEY ("Cha-Ka" from Land of The Lost). If this is what you're into, visit [www.drawingboardproductions.50megs.com](http://www.drawingboardproductions.50megs.com) or call (503) 449-7220 for more information.

**Gatecon 2002**, "The largest gathering of Stargate SG-1 cast and crew in the known universe", is scheduled for September 12th to 15th, 2002 at the Best Western Richmond Inn; see <http://www.gatecon.com>

John Williamson writes: "Game Storm 2002 was our best con to date. We had a great location with lots of fun events. For the second year in a row, our membership grew almost 50%. If the trend continues, we expect to have over 400 members next year. To do it right, we need people willing to get involved. We need you! ...

"Now is the perfect time for new people to learn how a convention is run, and how we have fun along the way. We have several open positions to fill... If you are interested ... please send an email to [chair@pdxgames.com](mailto:chair@pdxgames.com) describing your areas of interest."

*John Williamson, Chair, Game Storm 2003 (May 2002)*

*Isaac Alexander isaacada1@yahoo.com, 14 Jun 2002*

## **The Seattle NASFiC in 2005 Bid announces:**

"The Race is ON!! Come join the race to the Pacific Northwest as we bring the North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) to the SeaTac Hilton Convention Center over Labor Day weekend 2005 (Home to Sakuracon).

"There is only one serious bid for Worldcon in 2005 - Glasgow, Scotland. When there is a Worldcon outside of North America we usually hold a North American Science Fiction Interim Convention, or NASFiC as it is known.

"There is one other team in the NASFiC race, Charlotte, North Carolina.

"Vote is to be held at TorCon (Toronto in 2003).

"What does it take to be a member of the Pit Crew? All bid committee members are asked to pay dues to participate in the bid. This is nothing new, some Worldcon's have charged as much as 300.00 per person (ConJose) plus a 30.00 voting fee to enable them to vote for their convention. We are asking less than that but we also expect you to help out with donations that are tax deductible, table sitting, your party hosting abilities and of course your voice to spread the word that we are the best place to have a NASFiC in 2005. Our dues will be 200.00. It will cost 30.00 to vote but that gets committee members a full attending membership. Friend of the bid will be \$70.00 US; Pre-supporting Membership \$15.00 US; Pre-opposing \$30.00 US Everyone is welcome to become a mem-

ber of the Pit Crew we need help throwing parties and spreading the word. Please join list at Seattle\_in\_05-subscribe@yahoogroups.com For More information Nasfic@cs.com or Northwest NASFiC PO Box 1066 Seattle WA 98111 Or if you just have a quick question bobbieg@nwlinc.com  
 From: "Bobbie DuFault" <bobbiedu@hotmail.com>,  
 June 20, 2002, to C-Cubed listserv

#### RISE AGAIN, RISE AGAIN:

"What kind of SF and or Fannish things do you like?"

"I am a long time Fan who you probably don't know. I would like to write to you about The N3F and my involvement in SF and Fandom.

"If you have never heard of The N3F it stands for The National Fantasy Fan Federation, if you are interested in information about The N3F or N3F activities including the N3F Short Story Contest or to request a free sample issue of our Club zine please write me."

Denny Davis n3f\_info@yahoo.com  
 our web page: <http://simegen.com/fandom/n3f/>

#### IT'S OUT THERE

"Wendy Chateau asked me to post this to a couple of lists.

"On Thursday June 27th, Wendy's art work was stolen from her agents car. This is thousands of dollars worth of items. She lost ALL her horns that she had in stock, and since she is preparing for "Best of the Northwest" show in November she needs to totally restock (and find a way to recover for shows now lost). She has taken a look at some of the swap meets and has put up flyers, but we believe that you all ought to know about this. Here is a web site of the stolen merchandise:

[http://www.badgersden.com/Stolen\\_Page.htm](http://www.badgersden.com/Stolen_Page.htm)  
 Mike Citrak on C-Cubed listserv:  
[citrak@aol.com](mailto:citrak@aol.com), 9 Jul 2002

#### International

##### THE LEAGUE OF FAN FUNDS

##### Brisk Fan Fund Action at Damn Fine Con

"You'll have to wait for plokta.con for my DFC conreport. But meanwhile, here's what passes for accountability from DFC's representative of the League of Fan Funds. The League of Fan Funds is the new name for what we used to know as the United Fan Funds — *ie*, it's a collecting front end for the various fan funds and fannish charities. We are administered by the unholy triumvirate of Bridget Bradshaw, Maureen Kincaid Speller and Alison Scott. A full press release will follow shortly, once Alison is slightly less busy. We do, after some months of effort, have a UK bank account, so if you want to donate to fan funds generally, rather than a specific fan fund, and rely on our understanding of what needs the cash at the moment, you can make cheques payable to "League of Fan Funds". Most fanfundery at Damn Fine Convention was of course

TAFF-related, with the 2002 TAFF race in full swing and both candidates present, if not always correct. I took a great pile of votes off people, and will be passing them over to Sue next weekend. ũ23 was also raised for TAFF in the collection plate at the Cult of LiveJournal service. You probably had to be there. We also had a LFF event, although no auction — we'll be auctioning at plokta.con and urge you all to bring suitable material. Instead, we spoke about the LFF and what it was trying to do, and wrapped the TAFF candidates in plastic. This was nominally a Twin Peaks convention, after all. Except that Tobes had had a hard night and was sleeping it off, so couldn't make it. Luckily Max stood in as a stunt Tobes. And we all reckoned that it would be much more fun to wrap up Ang than Chris O'Shea, so we did that. And then we had some more duck tape and a third plastic sheet, so we finished up with Miss Twin Peaks herself, Julie Rigby. After we'd got them all wrapped up, we went slug racing. Betting was brisk, but the winner was unclear due to the tendency for the plastic to unravel. At any rate, all of this raised L40 for the LFF. I'm not sure how."

Alison Scott <[alison@kittywompus.com](mailto:alison@kittywompus.com)>,  
 May 6, 2002

#### FANFUNDERY

\_TAFF.\_ Tobes 'Drunken Fuckwit' Valois won the vote on both sides of the Atlantic, and will travel to ConJose as European TAFF delegate. Commiserations to rival candidate Chris O'Shea. Voting: Chris, 17 N.American votes + 37 European = 54; Tobes, 21+70=91; Hold Over Funds, 3+2=5; No Pref, 9+14=23. Totals 50+123=173 ballots.

\_DUFF.\_ Julian Warner won and will represent Australasian fandom at ConJose. Voting: Julian 117, David Cake & Sarah Xu 34, write-in 2, HoF 4, No Pref 18. Total 175: 80 Aus, 95 N.Am. [NF]  
 (Ansible 180, July 2002)

#### FORGOTTEN FUTURES.

"Marcus Rowland releases the further expanded version 4.0 of this CD-ROM at the end of July: not just a role-playing game but a vast resource of scanned Victorian/Edwardian sf, fantasy, scientific romance, illustrations and retro weirdness. Profits to Cancer Research UK. Read all about it at: <http://www.ffutures.demon.co.uk/>"  
 (Ansible 180, July 2002)

#### Awards

The Golden Duck Awards for Excellence in Science Fiction written for children <http://www.goldenduck.org/> consist of three cash awards given annually in the categories of Picture Book, Eleanor Cameron Award for Middle Grades, and Hal Clement Award for Young Adults. Picture books nominees: *Boloney* by Jon Scieszka, Lane Smith (Illustrator), Viking Childrens Books ISBN: 0670892483; *First Graders from Mars* by Shana Corey, Scholastic Trade ISBN: 0439319552; *Space Dog Jack* by Susan Shade and Jon Butler, Cart-

wheel Books ISBN: 0439205417; *Astronaut Piggy Wiggy* by Christyan and Diane Fox, Handprint Books ISBN: 1929766416; *Thomas the Tank Engine on the Moon*, Jellybean Books Random House ISBN: 0375811478; and *Tin Forest* by Helen Wood, Dutton Books ISBN: 0525467874 Eleanor Cameron Award for Middle Grades nominees: *Danger Boy: Ancient fire* by Mark London Williams, Tricycle Press ISBN: 1582460329; *Memory Boy* by Will Weaver Harpercollins Juvenile Books ISBN: 0060288116; *Website of the Warped Wizard* by Erik Kimmel, Dutton Books ISBN: 0525466568; *Floodland* by Marcus Sedgewic, Delacorte Press ISBN: 038532801X; *Marco's Millions* by William Sleator, Dutton Books ISBN: 0525464417; and *Beatnik Rutabagas From Beyond the Stars* by Quenin Dodd, Farrar Straus & Giroux ISBN: 0374305153 Hal Clement Award for Young Adults: *Artemeus Fowl* by Eoin Colfer, Talk Miramax Books ISBN: 0786808012; *Among the Imposters* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, Simon & Schuster ISBN: 0689839049; *Bouncing Off the Moon* by David Gerrold, Tor Books ISBN: 0312878419; *Future Eden* by Colin Thompson, Simon & Schuster ISBN: 0689839790; *This Side of Paradise* by Steven Layne, North Star Books ISBN: 0971233691; and *Hope's End* by Stephen Chambers, Tor Books ISBN: 0312873492

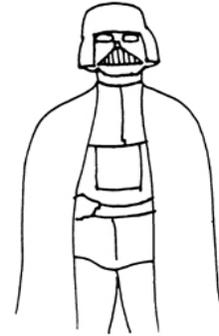
"The award winners are announced at DUCKON 11 (VERSION 2.002) - SOME ASSEMBLY REQUIRED June 7-9, 2002 with presentation at ConJose, the 60th World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) Labor Day weekend. Lindalee Stuckey, Golden Duck member, stated that a committee including teachers, librarians, and fannish parents selects a finalist list of 5-6 titles in each category. Members of a larger jury read the finalist titles in a category and using Australian ballots decide on the winning title for the year. Procedures are similar to the Hugos, with considerations for differences such as the small number of voters, and availability of titles copyright 2001 David-Glenn Anderson, Reading for the Future , <http://home.jps.net/~helgem/rffutah/>

THE JAMES WHITE AWARD for short stories (2-4000 words) by new writers is in its third year, with deadline 20 August 2002. Submissions and info requests: 211 Blackhorse Ave, Dublin 7, Ireland. Winner to be announced at Novacon 32 (Quality Hotel, Walsall) on 3 November. [DS]

(Ansible 180, July 2002)

#### MORE AWARDS.

*Bram Stoker* (horror): NOVEL *American Gods*, Neil Gaiman; FIRST NOVEL *Deadliest of the Species*, Michael Oliveri; LONG FICTION *In These Final Days of Sales*, Steve Rasnic Tem; SHORT 'Reconstructing Amy', Tim Lebbon; COLLECTION *The Man with the Barbed-Wire Fists*, Norman Partridge; ANTHOLOGY *Extremes 2* ed. Brian A.Hopkins; NONFICTION *Jobs in Hell* ed. Brian Keene; ILLUSTRATED No Award; SCREENPLAY *Memento*, Christopher & Jonathan



Nolan; FOR YOUNG READERS *The Willow Files 2*, Yvonne Navarro; POETRY COLLECTION *Consumed, Reduced to Beautiful Grey Ashes*, Linda Addison; ALTERNATIVE FORMS *Dark Dreamers*, Beth Gwinn & Stanley Wiater; LIFE ACHIEVEMENT John Farris. (Ansible 180, July 2002)

#### SHOULD BE THOG'S MASTERCLASS

ARE THEY SURE? From a *Guardian* tourism supplement: 'Many of New Zealand's species of wildlife are unique to this planet.' [NS] (Ansible 180, July 2002)

\_Greg Egan\_ has a vital correction to his novel *Diaspora*, whose 17th chapter laughably refers to 'Poincare's rotational "pole" — the two-dimensional sphere on the hypersurface that stayed fixed in space as the star rotated.' The author's website warns that this is in fact an unlikely situation in 5-dimensional space, and that it's more probable that there would be 'two single-point rotational poles, as in 3 dimensions.' [DR]

(Ansible 180, July 2002)

#### THOG'S MASTERCLASS.

\_Dept of Microbiology.\_ "... Did men have goals in common, in your day, save to keep on breathing, eating and reproducing?" / I grunted. "Goals shared with the lowest bacillus." (Stephen Baxter, *The Time Ships*, 1995) [BR] []

'Her brother's twitching eyes and bared buck teeth gave him the look of a gopher on pure crystal meth, capable of anything, one way or the other.' (S.M.Stirling, *Island in the Sea of Time*, 1998) [O] []

'When he spoke again he could barely suppress a yodel of irritation.' (Ian McEwan, *The Innocent*, 1990) [PB] []

\_Dept of Logic, Pure:\_ 'After all, Roamers had disproved the impossible time and again.' \_Applied:\_ 'In the vacuum of space no one could see beautiful lines or shiny hulls anyway.' (both Kevin J.Anderson, *Hidden Empire*, 2002)

(Ansible 180, July 2002)

# MEDIA FILE

*Ray on Dr. Who (again)*

How many lives does this Time Lord have? Because just as you think the TARDIS is being retired for good, another American cable super-station said it's looking into picking it up.

This time the "Sci-Fi Channel" has said "maybe" to a 40th anniversary "Dr. Who" TV movie, that it will be co-produced with the BBC and likely starring Anthony Stewart Head as "The 9th. Doctor". The only other cast member being rumoured is American Lisa Bonet as the new (Type 79) TARDIS's interface/back-up exterior shell. (Note: What I heard that it's still a 1930's London Police Call Box when she not needed and it's stuck present forms because [like with the old type40.] "The Doctor" damaged her "Chameleon" circuit.).

They also hinted that if the movie does well, they would commit to 22, 50 minutes episodes for fall 2004 and that if it gets good ratings in it first two months, they will commit to another seasons or more.

A number of big-name Hollywood "Sci-Fi" producers like Joss Whedon, Sam Raimi and J. Michael Straczynski are traveling to London on Monday to advise it would be producers and the BBC in general on now how the new project should be produced. It really boils down to three things.

- 1) Having Enterprise-like FX on a series with Law and Order budget.
- 2) Having the kind of story-line that will introduce new viewers to the series
- 3) Having just right enough of the original series elements that the true series fans don't get pissed off at it.

Element one brings up a good question. Even with the would producers saying new Dr. Who will remain "story driven", the cost of doing a FX-laden project in Britain is quite high. This is compounded by the fact the country only has three sound stages that can FX handle and they booked up way beyond the likely release date of November 23, 2003. So, what to do? To me, it's looked likely that project could have some or all of it location done in the UK, while the in studio will be done elsewhere. So look out, Vancouver.

As for the BBC itself, it's keeping rather tight-lipped about the project, stating the rumours that fill the Internet and British tabloids every other day are just that. Yet, BBC insiders are saying that the network is very interested in a new series, but is keeping under wraps whether a deal is reached, so that series fans are not distressed if the deal falls through.

The BBC has two very good reasons for wanting to see "The Doctor's" return. The first is that the BBC will lose most of its government funding, and become a commercial-funded Crown corporation on Jan 1, 2004. With 22% of the British

people wanting a new series, it's a good bet that will come back a commercial BBC (*sic*).

The second is that the BBC is starting a new digital service the same day and there are tons of rumours that saying that Dr. Who could be its "flagship" series.

You are likely asking, "How long before a deal is reached, Ray?" Well, it could happen as quickly as the end of July, meaning that if you are reading in August's BCSFAzine it's already happened. However, one BBC insider is saying that the network has set a date as last as September 20th for the deal to be signed. So, for now the good old TARDIS remains on the shelf; still, with this news it remains to be seen for how long.

***Monster Attack Team's news about the Media World (reprinted from Monster Attack Team newsletter #17, July 2002)***

*JACKSON to helm new KING KONG?:*

Universal Pictures is rumored to be eager to develop Peter Jackson's update of the classic SF movie *King Kong*, according to reports on the Filmjerk and Coming Attractions Web sites. The studio's supposed plan is to get persuade Jackson to start working on the film directly after he's done with *Return of the King*, the third of his three *Lord of the Rings* films.

Source *SCI-FI COM*: <http://www.scifi.com/sfw/current/news.html>

*(Stan here - Jackson was developing a script for Kong before he began work on Lord of the Rings (in fact a script is on view at A Boyd's great KING KONG web site. The site is <http://www.aboyd.com/kong/index2> and information on the Jackson Kong is at <http://www.aboyd.com/kong/jacksonkong.html> You can find a copy of the Jackson script at <http://geocities.com/scifiscripts3/scripts/kingkong.txt>)*

*Return of the King* is slated for a Christmas 2003 release. The second *Rings* film, *The Two Towers*, opens Dec. 18, 2002. There's been no official word on the rumor. Universal is owned by Vivendi Universal, which also owns SCIFI.COM.

*Sommers Prepping 'Van Helsing' Series*

According to Cinescape, Mummy writer/director Stephen Sommers is looking for an actor to star in his new series of movies based on classic Universal horror film monsters. His new series of movies will actually chart the missions of late 19th century monster hunter VAN HELSING, created by Bram Stoker in *Dracula*, as he ventures around the world hunting monsters, including Universal's *Frankenstein*, *Wolf Man* and *Dracula*. The actor he's looking towards now is X-man Hugh Jackman.

# 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 fanzine below and broaden your participation in fandom.

::

*SLEIGHT OF HAND* #1, Spring/Summer 2002 (John Teehan, 499 Douglas Ave., Providence, RI 02908; "Copies available for \$2 (\$3 outside the US) or The Usual;" e-mail to [tumble@ids.net](mailto:tumble@ids.net))

John Teehan read SF most of his life, but only recently discovered fandom and fanzines. Last year's Worldcon in Philadelphia was his first convention, which he attended with some hesitation, and "In the weeks that followed MilPhil, I discovered Bill Burns' wonderful [efanzines.com](http://efanzines.com) website and the Memoryhole, Timebinders and Trufen e-lists." With his discovery of fanzines came his discovery of fandom's history: "I'm mostly just sitting and soaking in the stories. Fandom has such a rich history that's very hard to describe."

And, inevitably, John wanted to do a fanzine of his own. *Sleight of Hand* #1 is the result. Frankly, I wish my first fanzine had been half as good. The fanzine runs 28 letter-sized pages, but is printed on sheets twice as large, folded and saddle-stapled. Like virtually all modern fanzines (except *Twink*) it's produced on a computer. Large, readable Adobe Garamond type is set in a double-columned format. Art is sprinkled nicely through the text.

But the key to any fanzine is its written contents, and here once again *Sleight of Hand* triumphs. John has gotten his main article from Dave Langford, whose groaning bookshelf full of Fan Writer Hugos was well and honestly won. Langford's "Microcon Metamorphoses" is the speech he gave at Microcon in March, 1999. It hasn't dated at all and is a delight to read.



cool seventies  
sci-fi fan

Rich brown's "Why I Only 'Used To' Know That Diana Rigg Was A Natural Red-Head" is a rewrite of an e-list post of rich's in which he explains how he came to see Diana Rigg nude, from a distance of perhaps 20 feet - with several digressions thrown in for good measure.

Mike Resnick's "Tales of the Prozines" is a good demonstration of Resnick's ability as a storyteller, and his willingness to hold actual facts at bay when they get in the way of his stories. Since these purport to be true stories, let the reader beware - several are embroidered into fantasy and many incidental facts and details are wrong. But they make an enjoyable read.

The last Big Name in the issue is Janis Ian - the creator, more than 40 years ago, of "Society's Child," an improbable pop hit a year after its release. She too read SF for many years, but only just discovered fandom. Her "Worldcon Diary: How I Spent My Summer Vacation," which first appeared on her website, describes the buildup to and her attendance at the same Philadelphia Worldcon at which John got his toes wet. It's a bit of a gosh-wow piece, but that's not bad, considering its source.

In addition to a couple of minor items, and a page of "Ten-Second Reviews" by the editor, there's a letter column - in *Sleight of Hand's* first issue. It's made up of a running conversation which first occurred on one of the fannish e-lists after John announced his intention to do a fanzine and asked for advice. Next issue will have actual letters of comment.

All in all, this fanzine is superior to most first issues, especially by those with no prior experience. I feel no hesitation in recommending it, and I'm looking forward to #2.

-Ted White