

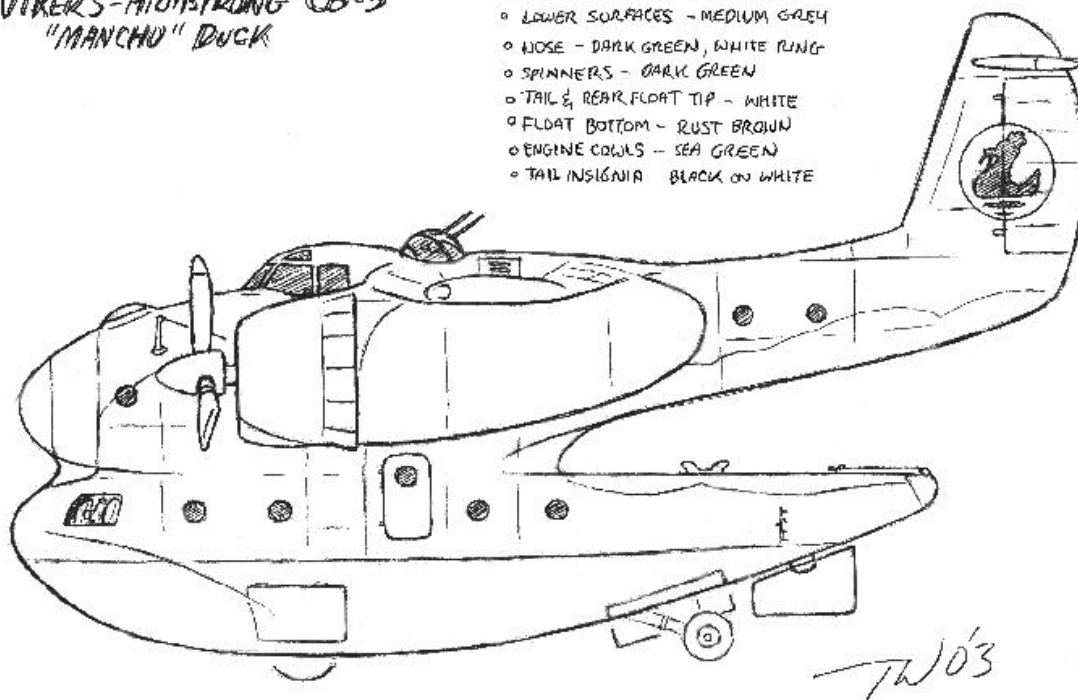
# BCSFazine #359

Vol. 31 No. 4

April 2003

VIKER'S-ARMSTRONG CB-3  
"MANCHU" DUCK

- UPPER SURFACES - SEA GREEN
- LOWER SURFACES - MEDIUM GREY
- NOSE - DARK GREEN, WHITE RING
- SPINNERS - DARK GREEN
- TAIL & REAR FLOAT TIP - WHITE
- FLOAT BOTTOM - RUST BROWN
- ENGINE COWLS - SEA GREEN
- TAIL INSIGNIA - BLACK OR WHITE



## ***In this issue:***

\* A SHORT SURVEY OF THE FANZINES WE TRADE BCSFAZINE FOR \*  
\*HARRY WARNER, R.I.P. \* MONICA HUGHES, R.I.P. \* SAWYER ON T.V. \*  
MORE NEWS ABOUT CONVENTIONS AND CLUBS

*\*AND FOR OUR ONLINE SUBSCRIBERS\**

R. GRAEME CAMERON ON 1950'S U.F.O. SPOTTERS  
*RIGHT HERE IN RIVER CITY!*

(No April Fool's Day jokes in this issue)

## Colophon

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

**BCSFAzine** © April 2003, Volume 31, #4, Issue #359 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)

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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 Jolly Alderman Pub, 500 West 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue (entrance on Cambie Street, just south of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue), in the ground floor of the Plaza 500 Hotel (diagonally across from Vancouver City Hall).

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

**Vcon 28's Web page** may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca>

Graeme's **Canfancylopedia** page can be viewed at <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/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

Cover: Taral Wayne

p. 3: Karl Johanson

other interior illos: Michael Morse

## Plain Speaking

### About the Fanzine Trades We Receive

If I weren't so chronically half-prepared, I would list in each issue the fanzine trades we receive. Instead I'm surveying this issue the fanzines we have received in the last quarter-year or more.

*Ansible* 186 (January 2003), and 187 (February); Dave Langford ed., 94 London Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 5AU, United Kingdom; [Ansible@cix.co.uk](mailto:Ansible@cix.co.uk)

The great thing about *Ansible* is the wide range of news it features: I mean news that should interest writers, publishers, and fans, across several continents. Also Dave Langford writes hysterically funny news. This is why he kept getting nominated for Hugos.

*Arcadian Guild Quarterly*, Spring 2003, c/o David Malinski, No. 3426 - 333 Hunt Place, Courtenay, BC V9N 9B8. Lots of news about RPG campaigns that I ... don't quite follow. David tells me there's a club gaming website at <http://members.axion.net/~murdock/index.html>

*Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter*, Jan/Feb and March/April 2003 editions; 6584 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7.

The BWS newsletter keeps coming to me because, once upon a time, I kept turning up Canadian SF market news. In fact the newsletter is occasionally a source of market news for its readers. In fact I'm turning up market news again ...

*Challenger* 17, Winter 2003, Guy Lillian III ed., P.O. Box 53092, New Orleans, LA 70153-3092, U.S.A.

Guy Lillian has become a well-known faneditor, and you can see why from his fanwriting, and from the care and quality given to *Challenger*. This issue includes not only Guy's affecting and varied experiences of American police, not only a wide assortment of fine fanart, but guest articles from James Hogan, Greg Benford, Mike Resnick, and the late R.A. Lafferty. Guy and his wife have recently won the Down Under fan fund.

*Dark Echo* 18 (January 2003), c/o Paula Guran, [darkecho@darkecho.com](mailto:darkecho@darkecho.com).

This also is a legacy of my market-research phase, and worth getting for its occasional comparative reports on the same markets as the BWS newsletter, or the *Gila Queen's Guide to Markets*.

DASFAX 3225 West 29<sup>th</sup> Ave., Denver, CO 80211-3705, U.S.A.

The Denver Area SF Association newsletter does something I see a lot of newsletters doing: there's a moderate amount of very local club news, maybe a book/movie review or a letter or two ... and not much else. This is a format useful for letting people know about your next meeting or movie outing, but

... isn't there Denver news of interest to out-of-towners? To trades?

*De Profundis*, March 2003, c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601

Editor Marty Cantor features a whole lot of material in *De Prof*, not just the copious and sometimes hilarious LASFS club minutes; he also runs illustrations, as well as tightly-packed text, and features Ted White's fanzine reviews; but ...

Where's the news in this newsletter?

*File 770*, c/o Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, U.S.A.

For the last few decades, *File 770* has been a journal-of-record for fandom, with a growing emphasis on American or convention fandom. Since Mike Glycer and his wife became parents, however, his fanzine has been more and more sporadic. Who else is going to tell us about fan funds and Hugo voting and convention bun fights and fanzines coming out Real Soon Now?

*Gila Queen* 114 (February 2003), 115 (March), Editor/Publisher: Kathryn Ptacek, PO Box 97 \* Newton NJ 07860 \* (973)579-1537, [GilaQueen@att.net](mailto:GilaQueen@att.net) \* [www.gilaqueen.com](http://www.gilaqueen.com)

GQ (I mean, *this* GQ) has been a major writers' market newsletter for years, long predating the Internet.

*Made in Canada Newsletter*, Jan-Feb. 2003, [http://www.geocities.com/canadian\\_sf/](http://www.geocities.com/canadian_sf/)

From Don Bassie, the man who made the "Made in Canada" website an Aurora-Award winner. Also one of my major sources, if you recall.

*Monster Attack Team Newsletter* #22, c/o Stan Hyde, Vancouver, BC, [stanhyde@shaw.ca](mailto:stanhyde@shaw.ca)

More modelling and Godzilla and media and Japanimation news than I can fit in *BCSFazine*.

*Ottawa SF Statement* #303, March 2003, c/o Ottawa SF Society, 456 Gladstone Ave., Ottawa, ON K1R 5N8. An enlimmed issue with more letters and reviews than usual. Light on news.

*Pulsar* #293, March 2003, c/o PorSFis, P.O. Box 4602, Portland, OR 97208, U.S.A. Club news, local events, con news, book reviews, and an interim report on the *Columbia* affair.

*Voyageur* and *Imagine*, Jan-Feb. & Mar-Apr. 2003, from the U.S.S. Hudson Bay, c/o Lynda Ciaschini, 7050 Weston Rd., Ste. 301, Woodbridge, ON L4L 8G7, [www.idic.ca](http://www.idic.ca); the genzine and newsletter respectively of a Toronto Star Trek club, oddly split between in-depth media news and coverage of local writers.

*Westwind*, c/o NWSFS, P.O. Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124. Why haven't I seen this since spring 2002? (And where's the news??)

## Locs

Michael Morse, BCSFAzine, March 2003-03-01

Cover: Yes! Exactly the sort of fatigue pants I was hoping you meant. The "pizza" camouflage pattern!

Plain Speaking: "Who's going to dominate the 21<sup>st</sup> century in space? The Japanese? The Chinese? Maybe the Russians, or maybe even the Saudis? Or a private company of no fixed nationality.

Joe (Devoy) and Ryan (Hawe) answered a question I had about the future in the *Alien* movies: I'd gotten the impression that corporations had replaced governments and started their own space programs and armies. I thought that the Marines from *Aliens* worked for the company. Ryan says that the Marines were soldiers the *government* sent in to save the company's colonies.

*(Editor responds: As I remember the movie, those were U.S. Marines, so presumably you mean the U.S. federal government. Although I daresay French, British, German Israeli, and other forces could also be called upon.)*

This struck me as corporate welfare – the company takes bad risks with scary aliens, then expects the taxpayers to solve their problems – which is when Joe pointed out that the names of the ships, *Nostramo* and *Sulaco*, were taken from a Joseph Conrad novel in which a fictional country's military is expected to defend the property of the foreign mining corporation harvesting there. (In the words of Johnny Carson, I did not know that.)

*(So what's new? This could equally describe the sort of government-business partnership that characterized the British colonial era, or the Mussolini administration in 1940s Italy, or for that matter historically standard Canadian economic policy, as I understand it.)*

"I noticed something ... the kind of thing I call 'news' – meaning, information about events of interest and importance to fans, more fans than those in one club or one city, that is; and not all of it about regional conventions, either, or TV and film series, or SF writers – is left out, even left out of the newsletters, and it's left to Internet listservs. Why is that?" Let's see; to be "news", it has to be not regional conventions, or about media or writers – what does that leave? Whatever it is, it evidently exists on listservs; try taking it from there and transferring it into a zine.

*(Try re-reading what I wrote. Sure, fan news includes conventions, and TV or film releases, and writers' award or market news. But where is the news about fan groups, about well-known fans, about fanzines and fan publishers, about apas and faanfic and I don't know what-all?*

*(Is there any such thing as a Well-Known or Big Name Fan, outside of a local group? Anyone, or any*

activity, that engrosses fans across a region, or across the bounds of continents?))

Letters: "... We get letters. We get sacks and sacks of letters." Well, no.

"We do not take weapons for granted – not, at least, in the part of Western Canada where I live." Nor should we – nor should any other region. The point of carrying a weapon is to ensure that other people who want to impose their will upon me feel threatened enough not to try. A weapon that I can only carry when nobody feels threatened by it is therefore meaningless.

*(("Weapon [n]: a device for changing someone's mind." One of Pournelle's or Stirling's aphorisms.))*

That isn't to say that I want everyone to be nervous around me; far from it. A good weapon is one that has that effect only on people considering imposing their will upon me. Naturally, those who are considering imposing their will upon me will not want me to be allowed to carry my weapon. It's human nature to want freedom from the other guy, but not for him to have freedom from you. It takes a sense of fairness to see the flaw in that, which not enough people possess today.

*(Or maybe the rest of us think anyone interested in guns is another developing violent case. We tend to view all Americans in that light, from up here.))*

However, your point that "As far as convention costumes are concerned, weapons seem to encourage irresponsible behaviour among congers – hall demonstrations of weapon-slinging, whether or not there's enough room to avoid damaging people or property, whether or not there's enough indication for mundanes that this is not real assault going on" is well-taken.

"If groups like the NRA actually promoted responsibility in the bearing of weapons, that would be another matter. But we live in reality, not make-believe-land." As far as I know, they do. They evidently didn't try very hard, though, or you'd have heard of it.

*(Do they have a website?)*

Media File: If I remember correctly, a lot of the early First Doctor episodes were set in Earth's past. Furthermore, my favourite episodes of the Third through Seventh Doctors were set in Earth's past; the use of the BBC's period costumes, props, and sets gave the show high-quality production values that would have been expensive to match in a more futuristic or alien setting. A standard Victorian man on the street tends to look more convincing than a big plastic silver robot with dryer hose arms. An old medieval throne room is less likely to be unintentionally hilarious than a trapezoidal corridor with disco lighting.

Of course, the problem is the suits are against *Doctor Who* in any form, so even if someone suggested the Doctor be confined to time travel in Earth's past, they'd still find a way to get out of doing it.

*(("Against" something. Odd sentiment, that. Very anthropoid.))*

*"It would be real nice if a police-box-shaped pencil box were sitting on a desk, or if one of the actors who played 'the Doctor' showed up in the new series' first episode, for a stoic handing-over of the reins to the space-time continuum." Nah, that would be an insult.*

What is the Royal Swiss Navy?: "Brian Salmi": If we have to have the Olympics here, I think Brian Salmi should be allowed to carry the torch. "Maxwell Smart": I miss *Get Smart*.

"Sign of Recognition": Aha, so that's what you were doing all the times you did that [gesture].

"Does this suggest any ideas to you?" A room literally full of balloons.

"The Home for Indignant Cats": Aw! ☺

*Richard Graeme Cameron, March 2, 2003*

You wanted to know if I was dead. Well, no, but I wasn't exactly living, fanac wise. Couldn't access my web site for months. Computer was down frequently. Money problems prohibit going anywhere or doing anything. Long work days - I leave home at noon and get home at one in the morning, all because the only ride I can get to work is from a guy whose shift starts three hours before mine does!!! - leaves me chronically fatigued and unmotivated.

*(Maybe you need a different job. Maybe I do, too.)*

Somebody else should be Pres... if I arrange an event that costs money, I can't go, and would probably be too tired to go even if I could afford to...

But Clint contacted me and asked for a complete set of VCon financial results, and then a complete list of concons, and doing the research sort of got the old archivist juices flowing...

So I decided to answer your call for articles.

Attached is a brief history of the 1950s Vancouver Area Flying Saucer Club for inclusion in *BCSFAzine* #359, to be followed by a report on its brother organization, the Vancouver Council Of Social Engineering General Welfare Movement, for #360, to be concluded with a bit of info about the Vancouver SF Society, for #361.

*(I really ought to show you the next chapter in my online Canadian fanhistory.)*

*Karl Johanson, March 8, 2003*



*(Now there are.)*

*Lloyd Penney, March 9, 2003*

Thank you for issue 358 of *BCSFAzine*. I am most impressed by the photograph on the cover page. I didn't think there'd be anything like Hawaiian camo, but Garth, you have proved there is. My compliments to you and your fashion sense. I hope that both Axes, Evil and Weasel, and shaking in their boots.

I read the articles, Garth. I just don't let the typos get in the way of reading them. That's what I do for a living, edit documents and make sure they are fixed and correct. I guess I don't especially want to do it at home, so I switch out of editor mode, and read it, typos and all, and it doesn't bother me. Sometimes, I may not comment on an article or comment hook onto which I could attach a comment, but I do read the whole contents.

I subscribe to several listservs, so bits of news trickle out of them, too often obscured by the usual fannish argumentative viciousness. There are some websites out there that offer limited fannish news, but they are tough to find, and some need updates. We used to rely on *File 770* as a fannish news digest, but we certainly understand that Mike Glycer is a very happy adoptive father right now, and fannish interests must take a back seat. I'll ask a question that I'd like as many people as possible to answer...do we need something like *New Canadian Fandom* or *Maple Leaf Rag* again, a zine of Canadian and international fannish news? I'd been thinking about it, and I wonder if it's time. Feedback, please. I may have a cunning plan...

*(I think you're reaching for the phrase "journal of record". Yeah, we could do with a fannish journal of record again, at least in Canada.)*

I hope that Marie-Louise Beesley might be prevailed upon to explain in detail her plans for a Vancouver in 2011 Worldcon bid. I am honestly interested in what she has to say... some thought that we were out of our minds in 1996 when the first organizational meeting for Toronto in 2003 took place...let's flesh the idea out, and discuss it.

*(Not all Vancouverites were particularly enthusiastic about bidding for the Olympics in 2010, either. I have reservations about Big Things, myself, but you know that whole story.)*

Go for it, Chris...I see that Christina Carr is starting to make her mark on the BC fannish landscape with the idea of a British Columbia Renaissance Fair. The one in Ontario, just west of Mississauga is a great village of fun, food, drink and mediaeval fun. The local members of the SCA must be buzzing about this. It's a lot of fun...please do support the idea of the BC RenFair, and go to Chris' website.

This year's CUFF race will be a good one because for the first time, we'll have a balloted race. This should revive the fund, both popularly and financially. With Colin Hinz's experience with fan

funds (he ran for TAFF this year), this year's CUFF should be quite interesting.

It's tired, and I'm late, so I'm going to say that I did read the rest of the issue, and I enjoyed it, but I have no specific comments to make on it. (That's a lot better than simply typing RAE,BNC.) Rest assured, Garth, you do have at least one reader out here. I hope BCSFA members can be prevailed upon to make some comments of their own. See you next issue.

*(We also heard from Frances Higginson)*

#### BIRTHDAY MEMBER PROFILE



OUR HERO PALLE HOFFSTEIN had his birthday last February 9<sup>th</sup>. His kind of SF and fan activities include "Reading fantasy, horror and SF fiction; collecting books; attending fantasy and SF cons, and working on them; author readings and reading parties; playing and running role-playing games." The biggest thing he has done in fandom, he says, is Vcon 27 (modestly overlooking his continuing efforts for VCon and BCSFA over a decade). If there is a BCSFA activity or *BCSFazine* column he would like to see revived, it would be "Movie Mania ... but that would involve me writing it!" If someone made up stories featuring him as a starring character, he would prefer "A romantic musical space opera film noir mystery parody."

Palle says he hasn't had his fifteen minutes of fame yet; "I can't wait to find out [what it is] when I get there." His secret crime-fighter identity is "The Martini Avenger!"

Palle's explanation for the international privatization/globalization/cutback movement is simple: "Demons." Invited to assess our provincial premier, Palle remarks, "I've never had a drink with the man. You don't really know someone until you've had a civilized drink together. He does seem like a turd though." Invited to assess Iraq's head of state, Palle replies, "Same answer."

Palle sums up are the four major food groups (besides coffee) as: "Alcohol. Beasts. Plants. Fungi."

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#### **METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP**

is open to new members.  
Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library,  
on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m.  
For information call  
Ken, 604-876-5751  
email ktran@vcn.bc.ca

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## Upcoming Events

### April 2003

April 4 - 6: **Sakura-Con 2003** - SeaTac (The Pre-eminent anime convention in the Puget Sound area) at the Seattle Airport Hilton and Conference Center. Memberships: \$50 at the door. Write: Sakura-Con, 800 5th Ave, Box 142, Seattle, WA 98104, U.S.A. See [www.sakuracon.org](http://www.sakuracon.org).

Space will be showing the hour-long documentary "In the Mind of Robert J. Sawyer" again on Saturday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m. See <http://www.spacecast.com/>

*Robert J. Sawyer, February 23, 2003*

April 10 @ 7pm: **Book Discussion Group** at BLENZ Coffee, 2506 Granville, Vancouver. Book to be discussed: "Beauty" by Sheri S. Tepper.

April 11: *BCSFAzine* deadline.

April 12 @ 7pm: **Second Saturday Feeding Frenzy** at Jun Sushi, #115 - 4940 No. 3 Road, Richmond. Cuisine seems self-explanatory, but here's the twist. There is an All-U-Can-Eat deal for \$10.99. There is also an 18 pieces of sushi special of \$5.95 for those with more sensible appetites. **Please also note that the posted address is misleading** as it is located in a complex (called "Alderbridge Place") that for the most part faces the cross-street with No. 3 Road (ie: "Alderbridge Road"). This is very important to remember, because there are two or three other restaurants in the complex that specialize in Sushi and/or could be mistaken for a Sushi-serving establishment.

April 13, 11 am to 4 pm: **Toy and Collectables Show** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Buy, sell, and trade character toys, action figures, toy cars, Star Wars, model kits, comic books, trading cards, Disney, games, and more! Admission: \$2.00 per person, Kids under 14: \$1.00, Dealer tables: \$35/40. Free comics for all the kids! call 604-322-6412 or e-mail [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>.

April 17-20: **Norwescon 23** at the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport in SeaTac, Washington; a VERY large general SF convention. This year's theme: "Dragons, Drakes and Wyrms". Writer GoH: Jane Yolen. Artist GoH: Jim Burns. Science GoH: Geoffrey Landis. Spotlighted publisher: Del Rey. Rooms \$96/night for up to 4 people (\$10 for 1 additional person, rollaway beds avail. for additional charge); write 18740 Pacific Highway South, SeaTac, WA, or phone (800) 222-TREE. Memberships: a preregistration form is available online. Write Norwescon 25, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547, U.S.A., phone

hotline (206) 270-7850, or email [info@norwescon.org](mailto:info@norwescon.org).

April 26: **Mystery surprise party** at the home of Philip Freeman and Kathleen Moore -Freeman, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; tel. 604-277-0854 or email [pfreeman@direct.ca](mailto:pfreeman@direct.ca). **RSVP**. More details TBA.

April 26-27: **Dak-Kon VIII**, a gaming event at the Lower Native Sons Hall in Courtenay, BC, on Vancouver Island. Memberships: one-day = \$10, both days = \$15, c/o Peter Dryden, #112 - 680 Murrelet Drive, Comox, BC V9M 3P2.

### May 2003

May 16: *BCSFAzine* deadline.

May 16-18: **Keycon 20**, Radisson Winnipeg Downtown, Winnipeg, MB. SF literary theme. Guests: Robert J. Sawyer (writer), Carolyn Clink (poet), Jolly Blackburn (artist). Memberships: Can\$40 until April 30, Can\$50 thereafter and at the door. Children 6-12: \$25. For more information, write Keycon 20, P.O. Box 3178, Winnipeg, MB R3C 4E6, call 1-204-669-6053, email [loyalminion@hotmail.com](mailto:loyalminion@hotmail.com) or see [keycon2003.tripod.com](http://keycon2003.tripod.com).

May 23-25: **MisCon 17**, "MisCon-spiracy" at Ruby's Inn and Convention Center in Missoula, Montana. Guests of Honor so far are: Authors) David Gerrold, Samuel R. Delany; (Media) Jennifer Blanc; (Artist) Chuck Bordell. Room reservations: write Ruby's Inn and Convention Center, 4825 North Reserve, Missoula, Montana 59808, tel. (800) 221-2057. Memberships: Before May 1: \$20; At the door: \$25; Family Rate: \$50. Write: MisCon, P.O. Box 7721, Missoula, MT 59807, U.S.A.

May 25: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

May 30 - June 1: **ConComCon 10** at the Cottontree Inn, Mount Vernon, WA. Convention topics will include: HOTEL NEGOTIATION (Contracts, ADA issues, Room Blocks, Alcohol, Room Parties and more); PUBLICITY (Advertising, Building a Good Flyer, Room Parties and others). Hotel Rate: \$72/night, single/double/triple/quad (Includes breakfast buffet!) Call 360-428-5678 or 1-800-662-6886 to make reservations. Convention Membership Rate: \$30 until May 10; \$35 at the door. For more information contact: Becky Citrak @ 360-456-7441 or [adonno@aol.com](mailto:adonno@aol.com); Shawn Marier @ 425-957-7565 or [smarier@oz.net](mailto:smarier@oz.net).

## News

**HARRY B. WARNER JR.**, 80, of 423 Summit Ave., Hagerstown, died Monday, Feb. 17, 2003, at his home.

Graveside services were scheduled for March 21<sup>st</sup> at Rose Hill Cemetery, Hagerstown, Maryland. Arrangements were by Andrew K. Coffman Funeral Home, Hagerstown.

*Via Nigel Rowe, on Timebinders, March 17, 2003*

### CAN FAN LIT CON WEB SITE STUPH

The 2003 Prix Aurora Award nomination form, is now available at the Prix Aurora web site [www.sentex.net/dmullin/~aurora](http://www.sentex.net/dmullin/~aurora) in both html and .pdf format. If you don't yet know who you want to nominate, check out the 2003 Eligibility lists also at the Prix Aurora web site. The deadline for mailing in nominations is April 30, 2003.

*Made in Canada newsletter, Feb. 2003*

### WRITER IN RESIDENCE: Robert J. Sawyer

"I've been named Writer in Residence at the Toronto Public Library's Merril Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy, the first writer to hold this position since famed SF editor Judith Merril herself in 1987.

"During the months of April, May, and June, I will be offering free manuscript critiques during one-on-one hour-long consultations with members of the public at the Merril Collection. Many thanks to the Toronto Public Library and the Friends of TPL's South Region for sponsoring my residency. Full details are at:

<http://www.sfwriter.com/prmerril.htm>."

*Robert J. Sawyer, February 23, 2003  
and Space: The Imagination Station*

### SAWYER GOES MEDIA

Space, the Canadian science-fiction channel, showed an hour-long documentary "In the Mind of Robert J. Sawyer" on Sunday afternoon, March 24, starting at 3:45 p.m. Space will be showing it again on Saturday, April 5, at 7:00 p.m.

*Robert J. Sawyer, February 23, 2003*

### ONLINE PUBLISHING

**Challenging Destiny** magazine's website has been redesigned and slightly reorganized. The main *Challenging Destiny* page is now at [home.golden.net/~csp/cd/](http://home.golden.net/~csp/cd/) and can also be accessed at [challengingdestiny.com](http://challengingdestiny.com).

*Made in Canada newsletter, March 8, 2003*

### Goth House Supervillains Return

Julie McGalliard writes, "At last! The long-threatened return of the supervillains! Their first appearance was in the second collection and I have been threatening to do another one ever since.

"(The first supervillains story, interestingly, is ultimately responsible for *Goth House* incorporating some of the more traditional comic-y things like word balloons and panel borders, and the smoother lines created by doing most of the inking with a brush instead of a pen. ...)"

View *Goth House* at <http://www.gothhouse.org>.

*Goth House Newsletter, 07 February 2003*

### TO MARKET, TO MARKET

**Urban Graffiti X: Urban Noir** - Greensleeve Editions, PO Box 41164, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6J 6M7.

Editor: Mark McCawley. "Ever wonder what happens after the 9 to 5ers go home, and the preinvented workaday world turns in for the night? *Urban Graffiti X: Urban Noir* wants to find out. We welcome work which delves into the so-called dark side of city life in all of its myriad manifestations-violence, sexuality, addiction, criminality, music-work which dares to peel back the scab where the urban fabric isn't just fraying, but splitting wide apart-work which transgresses the boundaries and limits of what it is civilized, then giving voice to what's there.

Uncompromising. Explicit. Authentic. Unsentimental. Gritty. Gutsy. Erotic. Sarcastic. Hardboiled. Nihilistic. We welcome work Canada customs agents would turn back at the border.

"... Submissions of fiction (to a maximum of 5000 words), poetry and prose poetry, comics, b&w artwork, photography, collage, etc. are invited and must be accompanied by a brief writer's bio, and SASE with sufficient Canadian postage for a reply or valid E-mail address for a reply." Pays copies, and "retains the right to reprint accepted submissions in anthology form." E-mail queries ok. [E-mail: [cogwheels@worldgate.com](mailto:cogwheels@worldgate.com)]. Deadline: June 2003.

*Gila Queen 115, Feb. 2003*

**Open Space: New Canadian Fantastic Fiction**, a new publication from Bakka Books and Red Deer Press, will be launched at the Toronto Worldcon. Guidelines: New fiction only; deadline April 30, 2003; Pays \$100 to \$300 on acceptance; email [openspace@lostpages.net](mailto:openspace@lostpages.net) or send regular mail to Claude Lalumière, OPEN SPACE, 4135 Coloniale, Montreal, PQ, H2W 2C2. There are more guidelines at <http://lostpages.net/openspace.html>.

*Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter,  
January/February 2003*

**Two new "Bakka Collection" titles will soon be available:** "The Bakka Anthology" includes short fiction from the now successful authors who used to (or still do) work at Bakka Books in Toronto. Contributors include Robert J. Sawyer, Tanya Huff, Fiona Patton, Michelle Sagara West, Tara Tallan, Cory Doctorow, Nalo Hopkinson, Chris Szego and Ed Greenwood with a forward by Spider Robinson. Also released recently in the "Bakka Collection" is Dave Duncan's 1990 Aurora Award winning SF novel, *West of January*."

*Made in Canada newsletter, Feb. 2003*

### GOOD IDEAS FOR MR. BUSH:

Stan Hyde says,

"CHECK OUT EARTH DEFENSE FORCE SUPERWEAPONS AT UNITED NATIONS SCIENCE COMMITTEE MAIN SITE:

[www.eclipse.net/~walshi0/index.htm](http://www.eclipse.net/~walshi0/index.htm). Anyone who is a Toho fan (like me) will be pleased and amused by Jim Walsh's great site that details the history of TOHO's superscience machines . . . as well as Jim's own attempts to recreate them (and a lot of the Toho kaiju) as scale model kits.

"The site is simply divided into three main sections.

"The first section - BLACK BOOK is the United Nations Science Committee's Technical Manual of Mecha, Weaponry, and Advanced Technology of Terrestrial Origin. If you want to know about Markalites, Maser cannon, or those incredible Alpha Ariel Battleships . . . this is the place to go.

"The second section - RED BOOK is the United Nations Science Committee's Technical Manual of Mecha, Weaponry, and Advanced Technology of Extra-Terrestrial



and Sub-Terrestrial origin. If you want to know about the Black Hole Alien Seijin Triple-Beam lasers or Kilaak saucers . . . this is the place to go.

"Finally, the third section - UNSC SHIPWORKS represents Jim's adventures with scale and non-scale models - 'For the Dream of Flight and the Memory of Ocean'."

Stan Hyde says, "Too cool! Check it out!"  
*Monster Attack Team Newsletter #22*

#### FANFUNDERY

**TAFF:** Randy Byers won the eastbound TransAtlantic Fan Fund race and will attend Seacon '03 at Easter as part of a UK TAFF visit running from 6-24 April. Valid ballots that expressed a preference: NA 110 + Euro 50 = 160 total. Breakdown of first place votes: Byers 45+28=73, Colin Hinz 10+5=15, Mike Lowrey 22+8=30, Curt Phillips 32+9=41, Hold Over Funds 1 (NA). [VG] Trailing candidates were eliminated in the first round by the 20% rule. []

**DUFF:** Guy & Rosy Lillian won the US Australia Down Under Fan Fund race with 101 first place votes, a simple majority. Trailing: Mike & Linda McInerney (58), No Pref (12), Hold Over Funds (1), and a solitary write-in for Harry Warner Jr. 170 valid ballots were cast. [NF/PM]  
*Ansible 188, March 2003*

#### GLITTERING PRIZES

**Arthur C. Clarke Award shortlist for 2003:** David Brin, *Kil'n People* (US *Kiln People*); M. John Harrison, *Light*; China Miéville, *The Scar*; Christopher Priest, *The Separation*; Elizabeth Moon, *Speed of Dark*; Kim Stanley Robinson, *The Years of Rice and Salt*. Winner to be announced at the usual Science Museum ceremony on 17 May. []

*Ansible 188, March 2003*

#### LUCAS SAYS HE WILL BECOME A "COMPLETE FAILURE"

According to IMDb, George Lucas has said that once he winds up the *Star Wars* movies next year, he intends to make "more personal" films that he doubts will be box-office successes. "I'm going to go from complete success to complete failure," he told Fox.com's Roger Friedman. "I'm going to make a bunch of movies like THX," he said, referring to the 15-minute sci-fi film that he made while a student at the University of Southern California that brought him to the attention of Hollywood. "If people don't like it, too bad," he said, predicting, "There won't be any big dramas or Oscars." He did not specify what sort of film he has in mind.

SOURCE: <http://www.imdb.com/>  
*Monster Attack Team Newsletter #22*

#### RE-SHOOTS FOR 'RETURN OF THE KING'

According to *Dark Horizons*, 'Starjay' has an update on the third Lord of the Rings film, its reshoots and some FX difficulties: "Return of the King is suppose to run in the 3.5-4 hour range, P.J. can use as much time as he needs to finish the story. Most of the actors will be returning to New Zealand for reshoots before the ROTK release. There were two other film crews that were filming other than P.J. and Barry Osbourne/Fran Walsh and P.J. was allegedly very disappointed with the direction and the acting. All of these scenes will be reshot, and the director has a lot of work to do before the release. I was told that the battle scenes for ROTK would be much more difficult this time, as opposed to Helm's Deep. HD was easy due to the darkness and the rain, it hides a lot of sins. The Battle of Pelannor" [sic] "Fields and the stand at the Black Gate won't be in the dark although it's not completely daylight either".

SOURCE: <http://www.darkhorizons.com/news.htm>  
*Monster Attack Team Newsletter #22*

MONICA HUGHES, the well-known Canadian children's SF novelist, passed away in March of 2003.

Monica Hughes was born in Liverpool in 1925 and came to Canada in 1952. She won numerous literary awards including the Canada Council Children's Literature Award for *Guardian of Isis* in 1982 and *Hunter in the Dark* in 1983. Most of Monica's novels are for children and young adults. Monica was one of the Jurors for the first Sunburst Award, which is presented annually for published works of Fantastic Literature.

*Made in Canada newsletter, spring 2003*

#### CHOCOLATE COVERED MANHOLE COVERS

*Will Self* pondered Ben Okri's suggestion that living British authors should be honoured by having streets etc. named after them, and felt that 'none of the British writers I know and admire would dream of accepting such a tin-pot accolade.' With one possible exception. 'I dare say J.G. Ballard would be tickled by the thought of announcements on incoming London flights of the form: "Would you please fasten your seatbelts, as we will soon be landing at Ballard Airport, newly named after the author of *Crash*..."

*(Evening Standard, 31 Jan) [JB]*  
*Ansible 188, March 2003*

#### MEMBER PROFILE



MICHAEL MORSE, who contributes far more illustration to *BCSFazine* than appears in these pages, gives 31 July as his birthday. The SF and fan activities he enjoys are "cons; zines; books; TV; movies; parties; drawing." The biggest thing he has done in fandom was "being on the con-com-art show -for NonCon 15." If someone made up stories featuring him, he would rather feature in: a film-noir. His secret crime-fighter identity is "Nachtschlag: ("Afterstroke"); the music-theory vigilante, with his trademark takedown moves: the Appoggiatura, the Anticipation, and the Suspension!" His explanation of the international privatization/ globalization/ cutback movement is "I'm against it."

Asked to characterize our provincial premier, Michael wrote, "Until Hawaii, I would have said evil mastermind, but now, ivory-castle idiot." Asked to characterize Iraq's head of state, Michael wrote, "Evil mastermind." Asked to characterize the four major food groups, Michael wrote: "1. The Teriyaki Group. 2. The Pork Group. 3. The Icing Group. 4. The Crust Group."

## 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.

::

*UNCLE SMILEY'S BOOKCASE* v.2 n.1, 01/20/2003 (Ray Nelson, 333 Ramona Avenue, El Cerrito, CA 94530; e-mail to [RayFaradayNelson@AOL.com](mailto:RayFaradayNelson@AOL.com); available “in exchange for ‘the usual,’ in other words for letters of comment, articles, poems or artwork, or in exchange for other fanzines.” No money will be accepted.)

Ray Nelson has become a legend in fandom. He has been a fan for more than half a century, and, as a cartoonist, it was he (circa 1949) who created the self-mocking image of fans wearing propeller beanies. A dedicated bohemian for most of his life, Ray moved to Paris in the '50s, where he met his wife, Kirsten and their son Walter was born. At the end of that decade Ray (and family) returned to the United States and he's been at the same address in El Cerrito ever since.

In the 1960s Ray began writing and selling science fiction professionally (his “Turn Off The Sky” in *F&SF* was bumped from the 1964 Hugo ballot by unfortunate politics) and in the '70s he was publishing SF novels. Over the years Ray has pursued many interests – and in the new millennium he has returned to doing fanzines.

*Uncle Smiley's Bookcase* is an 8-page fanzine which is mailed out in a letter-sized envelope for one-ounce first-class postage. It's moderately frequent and basically unpretentious, informal and newsletter-like – but that doesn't mean Ray doesn't use it as a vehicle for some serious thinking.

Six pages of the current issue (all but the front and back covers) are devoted to Ray's “Being God in Your Own Little Universe,” in which he takes us through a relatively brief sketch of his evolving life as an existentialist. This “sketch” is “illustrated” with a series of poems, many of them quite short, which were written in the course of his philosophical

travels. They tend to be paradoxically simple, but usually express complex emotions and insights.

The rest of the issue? In an opening-page “Editorial,” Ray tells us that “the beanie has ventured forth into new realms, most notably the ‘geek culture.’ I have totally lost control of it & can no longer use it as a signature. With a sigh I release it to the universe.” His replacement is the beret.

As usual, the issue closes with a brief, one-page letter column. The contributors to this one are Robert Lichtman (editor/publisher of *Trap Door*), Trina Robbins (long-time fan, well-known feminist and underground/overground cartoonist and artist) and Harry Warner, Jr. (fan historian and author of *All Our Yesterdays* and *A Wealth of Fable*) – which tells you something about Ray's current mailing list.

Write Ray and ask for a copy. This kind of personalized communication is what fanzines are all about.

## Media

*Dr. Who: Answers To Questions and A Feature Film Rumour*

*Ray Seregin verbatim:*

Some of you may be asking, “Beside Kate Spooner's call for massive boycott of stations carrying 'Dr. Who', what were the other motives for it being dropped by PBS?”

Here they are in a nutshell.

1) The BBC increased the price to \$500 (US) per-25 minute episode in July 1990. 2) The loss of 50% of its core audience between 1986 and 1990. 3) Well below average financial support from its viewers. 4) Declining government funding.

There is some good news out there too. Six PBS stations are still airing “Dr. Who” in 2003. They're in Tacoma, San Jose, Dallas, Chicago, Maryland and Miami. The station in Los Angeles pulled the series in mid-1999. At present there still is a very active “Who” fan community in that area, hosting weekly gatherings at member's homes to watch episodes on tape.

Yet, the good news is about to end, as even more government cuts are coming to PBS this year. The stations currently airing the series will very likely pull it by this time next year. (In fact the future of the whole network is very much in doubt.) Hopefully what happened with the series fans in Los Angeles will spread to those other cities and keep the series alive in America.

Meanwhile, back in Britain, there are rumours of a possible “Dr. Who” feature film. BBC Films, Vancouver's own Lions Gate Films and Viviendi-Universal (which will act only as the North American distributor) is the most likely candidate to make it to the silver screen, with a good chance of veteran British actor Rhea Fiennes as either “The Doctor” or “The Master”.

## Book Reviews

by Donna McMahon

*THE MOUNT*, Carol Emshwiller (Small Beer Press 2002, trade 232p)

*THE SCAR*, China Miéville (Del Ray, July/02, trade 638p)

*OTHERWHENS, OTHERWHERE'S: Favorite Tales* by John Dalmás (Silver Dragon Books, Feb/03, trade 171 p)

# # # #

*THE MOUNT*, Carol Emshwiller (Small Beer Press 2002, trade 232p)

*THE MOUNT* by Michigan writer, Carol Emshwiller, has been getting a lot of attention lately. This polished, perceptive novel will be labelled by some as "science fiction," but few SF readers are likely to take it that way.

Charley is a "mount" – a teenaged human bred and trained to carry an alien rider on his back. There is nothing that Charley wants more than to win glory for his stable by becoming the fastest runner in the world, and the best mount for his master, a young "Hoot" who is destined to be The Ruler Of Us All.

These cherished dreams are crushed when a raid by wild humans forces Charley and his master to flee into the mountains – where Charley discovers that the crazed leader of the Wild humans is his father. Charley's father wants him to join the freedom fighters, and Charley only wants to go back to his safe, comfortable old life.

It is Emshwiller's sharp characterization of Charley, his confused loyalties to his child owner, and his painful coming of age, that really makes this book. One moment he's endearingly naive; the next he's as ignorant and cruel as only an adolescent can be. And his relationship with the father he's never met can only be built one awkward, painful day at a time.

Of course, Emshwiller also has a tremendously powerful theme, and she knows what to do with it. She paints in all the nuances of the relationship between master and slave, and its damaging effects on both. Charley has been brought up to despise his own people and look to his Masters for approval. His Masters, by using slaves to do everything for them, have let themselves atrophy until they are utterly dependent.

Finally, this is a tightly written, well structured novel, where every sentence and scene builds steadily toward the climax .

Since SF has gained wide popularity in recent years, it's no surprise that so much mainstream fiction is drawing on its imagery, but for an allegorical novel to be successful for me, the science fictional elements must work on a surface level. Emshwiller's don't. The aliens are silly. Their history and technology make no sense. And the resolution of

the book is wildly improbable, especially after Emshwiller has done such a terrific job showing the nasty, subtle effects of slavery on individuals and society.

I didn't like this book much, although I certainly admired it. Some genre readers will find it delightful. But SF fans who expect credible science and realism had better take a miss.

# # # #

*THE SCAR*, China Miéville (Del Ray, July/02, trade 638p)

The world probably doesn't need yet another review of China Mieville's *THE SCAR*, but what the heck, I'm going to put my two cents in.

As the novel opens, Bellis Coldwine is taking passage on a ship, fleeing persecution in her home city of New Crobuzon for an uncertain future in distant Nova Esperium. An urban intellectual, Bellis loathes the prospect of years of exile in the colonies, but when her ship is captured by pirates, she realizes she may never see her home again.

The pirates live on Armada, a secret floating city haphazardly lashed together from ships and debris.

"Countless naval architectures: Stripped longships; scorpion galleys; luggers and brigantines; massive steamers of hundreds of feet long down to canoes no larger than a man. There were alien vessels: ur-ketches, a barge carved from the ossified body of a whale. Tangled in ropes and moving wooden walkways, hundreds of vessels facing all directions rode the swells.

"The city was loud. Tethered dogs, the shouts of costermongers, the drone of engines, hammers and lathes, and stones being broken. Klaxons from workshops. Laughter and shouting, all in the variant of Salt, the mongrel sailors' tongue, that was the language of Armada. And below those city sounds the throaty noise of boats. Complaining wood and the snaps of leather and rope, the percussion of ship on ship."

For Bellis, Armada is a prison. But for Tanner Sack, a Remade slave, it's a miraculous opportunity for a new life. And for Silas Fennec, New Crobuzon spy, it's a stage for ever more powerful world-spanning intrigue. "Sprawling" does not begin to describe the complexities of this wildly imaginative novel, populated by strange races and even stranger magical technologies. The word "wow" keeps coming to mind when trying to describe Mieville's sheer overwhelming flood of scenery, characters, and ideas, all propelled by gorgeous prose. It's a hell of a ride.

Still, this wealth of detail, Mieville's multitude of viewpoints, and all the action tend to disguise some very basic structural problems with *THE SCAR*. For example, Miéville opens with a prologue that introduces one plot thread. He then briefly revisits this thread every few chapters, but nothing actually

\*happens\* in it for five hundred pages! After a few episodes of this prolonged rabbit-out-of-the-hat trick, I started skimming those passages, waiting for Miéville to get to the point.

A more serious problem for me as a character-driven reader, is that the people in THE SCAR range from unsympathetic to downright nasty. Bellis is very credibly drawn as a self-involved, humorless misanthrope, so most of her interactions with others are understandably brief and unpleasant. Silas, the other most prominent point of view, is even more unpalatable. Only a few minor characters (such as prisoner Tanner Sack and his young friend, Shekel) have much in the way of redeeming qualities, and for me it wasn't enough to balance the grim situation and escalating, graphic violence.

The epic scope of this drama also obscures the fact that the protagonists are not driving the story. For much of the book Bellis is a helpless observer, and neither she nor Silas have any immediate human dilemma to engage the reader's empathy. As the piles of corpses mounted, Bellis sneered, and the subplot snoozed along, I found myself putting the book down more often.

Miéville's vivid worldbuilding and his clever, coherent use of ancient technology from medieval alchemy to the age of steam gives this novel a distinct whiff of SF. But using my infallible genre-categorizing method ("if it looks like a duck and quacks like a duck..."), I'd label it as Fantasy.

Nevertheless, I do recommend THE SCAR to both SF and Fantasy readers. Miéville's stunning vision is worth a look, even if you're not up for the entire 640 pages.

# # # # #

*OTHERWHENS, OTHERWHERE'S*: Favorite Tales by John Dalmas (Silver Dragon Books, Feb/03, trade 171 p)

John Dalmas has been reading SF much of his life and writing it since 1968, but he is not what most people think of when they picture a science fiction writer. Dalmas has packed all sorts of jobs into his 76 years, including farm worker, soldier,

merchant seaman, logger, smoke jumper, night janitor, forester, research ecologist, writer, editor, and amateur Swede.

So Dalmas had lots to draw on in writing 25 novels, most of them military space opera and old-fashioned SF adventure where men are men and pioneering on another planet means pulling stumps, plowing fields, and building a strong new community with your neighbours. In the Dalmas universe heroes are people who find the courage to do what's right, and not everything that happens can be entirely explained by science.

If you like that kind of yarn, you will settle down happily with the opening story in his new anthology *OTHERWHENS, OTHERWHERE'S*. "Gullikksen and the 500-Pound Hallucination" is a tall tale set in 1943, about a Norwegian coal stoker and the invisible alien he has befriended.

My personal favourite in the book is "Out of the North a Giant", in which settlers on a new world discover that a spaceship has crash-landed, releasing a dozen "yorash" – large, insanely aggressive, intelligent aliens that have already begun murdering humans. Big Jack leads a hunting party to track and kill every last yorash, although he cannot help but feel increasing pity for the displaced creatures.

These stories are all reprints, originally published from 1985 – 1994, and a couple that were written for theme anthologies are weak, concentrating on concept and setting rather than story. Still, there are enough strong stories here to make the collection worthwhile, and all of them benefit from the author's introductions.

Friends of John Dalmas – and they are legion – will not want to miss *OTHERWHENS, OTHERWHERE'S*, complete with John's irrepressible grin on the cover.

Comments? Questions? Rebuttals?  
[donna\\_mcmahon@sunshine.net](mailto:donna_mcmahon@sunshine.net)

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We interrupt your regularly scheduled fanzine for this special bulletin.

Next issue of *BCSFazine* should feature not only a special article by Fearless Leader Graeme Cameron, not only a vaguely apposite special article by Garthman, but quotes from the Ditto 16 progress report, *Unpublished Titles of Gor*, and the reappearance of Vincent Fan GoH. We may even have unsolicited book reviews by Garth, and a recruitment ad for the Royal Swiss Navy, if Garth doesn't forget what he's doing again.

If any issues of the last *BCSFazine* were not received by our American correspondents, held up by American Customs, or cut up and censored in transit, please let us know.

We now return control of your fanzine to you.

## Archivist's Report



### *On Vancouver Clubs In The 1950s*

by R. Graeme Cameron

#### Part 1: The Vancouver Area Flying Saucer Club

Recently, eight newsletters of the VAFSC were donated to the archives by a former member of the VAFSC. These make it possible to construct an account of one year's activity by this club.

The Vancouver area Flying Saucer Club was founded in July of 1956 by Mr. Herbert Clark and by Miss L. Margaret Fewster. By March of 1958 the club had grown to 180 members and was actively considering incorporating as a society. How long it survived after that I do not know.

Given that some members had previously opposed any attempt to organize, write a constitution or hold elections, President Margaret Fewster was moved to write:

"At the last meeting certain members objected that no 'democratic' action had been taken to elect officers, and that the whole procedure had been high-handed. This, of course, is complete nonsense, in view of the fact that you cannot discuss elections where no machinery exists for them ..." and "Members are reminded that in pursuance to the new constitution your Executive have full power to expel any undesirable member, and this power they will not hesitate to exercise should the need arise."

So it appears likely the club may have collapsed due to infighting and acrimony. Which is a pity, since the newsletter of March 1958 promised "The Club is going to conduct research on a very scientific basis ... it will be an active and very interesting club to belong to ... the day has long past when intelligent and well educated people can remain interested in U.F.O.s when the inquiry remains at the stage of being surprised at seeing bright lights flying around in the sky ..."

While it existed, VAFSC cost \$2.00 to join, for which members were given a club card and a subscription to the single-sheet monthly newsletter. Any non-member was welcome to attend monthly meetings, in the fervent hope they would be moved

to join, or at least toss some coins into the collection plate. Given the size of the club, meetings were probably held in rented halls, on at least one occasion at the Hermes Lodge of the Theosophical Society at 5th Avenue & Cypress.

Members were encouraged to write up their 'sightings', and to actively 'spot' UFOs. Wrote Miss Fewster: "The junior branch are organizing themselves as U.F.O. 'spotters' and have taken a business-like inventory of their equipment ... Any senior members of V.A.S.F.C. who are equally keen, possess a car, camera and binoculars, and enough gas to drive said car, is welcome to arrange field trips for (juniors & other) members of the club ... discourage yourself from going alone. You will need reliable witnesses ... and don't forget your sandwiches; I am told extensive 'spotting' is a hungry business!"

'Spotting' evidently came easy for some:

"The Secretary has been lucky enough to make five sightings this month, over Kerrisdale, at night, after 10 o'clock, in each case the object was a glowing orange colour, which manoeuvred in various directions, at incredible speed ... sizes varying from that of an orange to half the size of the moon!"

"Mr. & Mrs. J. Rea, club members, made a wonderful sighting ... at their home ... (in) North Burnaby. Mrs. Rea, while gazing north over Mount Seymour, spotted a cigar-shaped U.F.O ... She called her husband, who also saw object, both with naked eye and binoculars ... and while watching object for three quarters of an hour, saw it change shape from cigar to star shape, and also saw lights in the middle and end of object ... and at the same time red lights or discs seem to emerge from the object. Size of object 8 to 10 inches, height at top of mountain about 3,500 feet."

"Mr. & Mrs. W. Carlson, club members, returning from the monthly meeting late at night, sighted a U.F.O. from their home near 41st Avenue in Vancouver ... Mrs. Carlson



had just alighted from her car ... when she received an urge to look up at the sky, and there ... was a bright blue glowing object, larger than a ten cent piece, held at arm's length. She called her husband, who also saw the object move slowly off towards English Bay, northwest towards the ocean. She held the thought and wished that it would come back for them to get a better view, and strangely it turned and came back a little way!"

The latter description contains a bit of a clue regarding the club's general view of the UFO phenomenon. The club bulletin contains numerous quotes from other sources, most trending towards the idea that an advanced civilization of aliens is urging humanity to cast off its primitive limitations and become one with the aliens through a meeting of the minds.

In fact, one of the aliens, Ashtar by name, is quoted from *The White Star Illuminator* of Joshua Tree, California. : "All hail -- Greetings in Light to ALL gathered there from ALL gathered here ... Continue to stand in the light, for there is much that now can and will be given ... Do not allow influences of a mundane nature to sway you from your dedication. We stand ever ready to assist you in whatever way possible ... " This courtesy of the Space Communications Centre in Joshua Tree. So you see, the Raelian movement is nothing new.

( By the way, the founder of the Raelian movement once lived in Vancouver. I used to see him driving around on a motorcycle emblazoned with a logo that looked like a Star of David combined with a Swastika. Odd, to say the least. Saw him interviewed on Jack Webster. "Why don't you believe me? My mother was with me when I met the aliens. Don't you believe my mother?" Webster called him "the slickest, most charming conman I've ever interviewed apart from the Chicago-based Grand Moog of Mars." But I digress. )

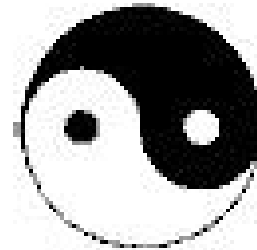
Several essays along the line of scientific spiritual awakening are quoted. One (from California again, what a surprise! ) reads in part: "... a hundred and fifty years ago this planet began coming into a belt of force ... the mind of man began to react to this force ... We call it Cosmic Rays ... Freed from the blindness of creed and dogma the mind of man will find itself grasping truths as never before ... Now we advance to the spiritual-mental plane ... "

Another: "Man will realise his birthright when he stops using brute force in all of his activities, whether they are international, national, family or business in nature. He even uses brute force in his methods of propulsion. The motor car, the aeroplane and the rocket all use the pressure energy principle. Space will never be conquered by pressure forces. Man will rise to his rightful place among the stars when he learns ... . to use the effortless natural forces of the universe, which are entirely at his disposal."

One quote, from London, England, is almost cheerfully reassuring: "A friend of mine, whom I respect and revere, informs me that he travelled beyond the stratosphere in one of those vehicles (flying saucers) many years ago, that he knows how space ships work, why they can turn so quickly, and why those within them are not affected by centrifugal force. Those who man them, some of them from other planets, are concerned with safe-guarding life -- and not merely human life, which is not at the top of the evolutionary tree ... "

Given the nature of these quotes, and the reviews of books offering similar views, I am inclined to think they were selected because they probably corresponded to the philosophy of the majority of VAFSC members; which I suspect to be nothing less than a spiritualist movement of utopianists waiting for aliens to guide mankind to the next stage of evolution.

That this may be the case is suggested by an additional set of newsletters donated by the same source, also from the year 1957, utilizing the same paper and editorial style, presumably also published by the VASFC bulletin editor and possibly available to members of the VASFC, but referring to the *Vancouver Council of Social Engineering General Welfare Movement*, of which more in part two of this report next issue.



(This is also the Technocracy symbol)