



Be True to Your School!

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SEPTEMBER EVENTS

Sept. 7:	Vancouver Comicon	at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC.
Sept. 8:	Ben Bova book signing	4-6 p.m., at Save On Foods (?), 6100 McKay Ave., Burnaby
Sept. 8:	Charles de Lint book signing	7:00 p.m. at White Dwarf Books. 3715 West Tenth Avenue. Vancouver, B. C. V6R 2G5; See www.deadwrite.com/wdaut.html
Sept. 11:	Book discussion - Dune by Frank Herbert	7:00 pm at "The Brickhouse" 730 Main Street, Vancouver Please note that concerns have been raised regarding the safety of this venue ... The establishment itself seems safe enough. However, I would suggest that the discussion group does leave as a group. The neighbourhood does look like it could get pretty nasty at night.
Sept. 11-14:	Gatecon 2003	Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. Convention for Stargate SG-1. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, www.gatecon.com .
Sept. 13:	Spider Robinson Reading and Signing	3 pm at White Dwarf Books Ltd., 3715 West Tenth Ave., Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2G5 Canada, Phone: 604-228-8223
Sept 13:	Feeding Frenzy	7 pm at Hon's Wun Tun House, 4600 Number Three Road, Richmond This well-known Chinese restaurant franchise was voted "Best Noodle House" in 2001 by the <i>Georgia Straight's</i> Readers' Poll.
Sept. 14:	VCon 28 meeting	probably 2-4?? pm at Marilyn Blew's house
Sept. 19-21:	Foolscap V	Bellevue, Washington (General SF with an emphasis on written SF - more information and link coming soon)
Sept 20	BCSFA meeting	7:00 p.m. at the family residence of Kathleen Moore-Freeman, 7064 #1 Road in Richmond

September in Vancouver is known for the Fringe Festival, an efflorescence of independent theatre productions. I was told about two more-or-less Sfnal productions appearing this fall, besides "Lord of the Things" on Granville Island ... and of course I misplaced the email. Keep searching those publicity flyers!!

PLAIN SPEAKING

Okay, all right, I've been a bad boy. I've been rude to everybody and wrong about some of the VCon history I referred to, and I've generally been insufferable. Happy now?

What I'm talking about, if you tuned in late, is that in person I've been hard to take recently. When I tell you the reasons why, you will find them hard to take, as well.

If I'm left alone too long, as I usually am; if work has been hard to stomach, as sometimes it is; if nobody seems to respond to the material or the work I put into *BCSFAzine*, or progress reports, or other documentation for VCon ... I begin to wonder if I'm just spinning my wheels in local fandom, wasting my time and energy.

There are several varieties of fandom currently operating in Vancouver. *None* of them is the type I came here for, which is fannish fandom. I was led to believe I could find a community of friends here with active, intelligent, and imaginative minds.

That isn't exactly what I found in Vancouver. Except for some of our newest members, the fannish fans seem to have moved on, maybe to pro writing careers, or something.

To add insult to injury, when I try to work this out in conversation with BCSFA members, I get blank stares or misconceptions. I didn't join fandom to get incomprehension, or embarrassment, or to just feel bored and uncomfortable and out of place; I got enough of that in my home town.

I was just naïve and expected rather a lot from – let's face it – a leisure interest group.

I have also been naïve enough to expect to find almost professional records for VCons past. Instead, while I have acted as secretary of the overseeing society and tried to organize records, what I found was ... well ... what you should expect when there are different people forming the committee every year, everyone is an unpaid amateur, and not everybody realizes the work *isn't* all done when the convention is over.

I didn't realize I was not at liberty to express my blunt opinions about the fandom I found here.

LETTERS

Barb Dryer, Aug. 2003 (this should have been in last issue)
[The Return of BCSFA Meetings: Shaking Up the Club and Revitalizing Things](#)

Some of us in BCSFA and related groups have been discussing the state of the club for some time. The last few parties at the Moore-Freeman home generated some lively discussion on this subject. Some of us finally surfaced and looked around and realized that the club was becoming moribund. The decision to start holding monthly BCSFA meetings again was made at the July 5th Aphelion party at Kathleen and Philip Moore-Freeman's place.

Traditionally, BCSFA meetings are held the third Sat. of every month. The Aug. meeting, however, is on the fourth Sat. due to Con-Version 20 being held the previous weekend in Calgary. If you want to help inject some new life into this club, you might want to consider becoming part of a new Executive (in the future). Or, you could volunteer your enthusiasm and skills in some way. Or, maybe you just want to find out what this club has been doing lately and what it plans to do next. If you want to be part of the "new wave" (we're staging a minor coup here), come to this meeting and the one in Sept. We also need someone new to be in charge of the BCSFA website as David Hale has resigned. Send e-mail re. this to Duncan MacGregor at dmacgr99@yahoo.ca and he will forward messages to the right people.

At the party on July 5th we discussed what activities we have happening now in the club and what we want to see the club become. Kathleen also said, more or less, that one ulterior motive for the Aug. 23rd BCSFA meeting is to put people in a party mood and to encourage them to actively contribute to the overall party atmosphere. Someone else mentioned that Don deBrandt's approach at cons is that he wants other people around him to be having as much fun as he is.

Programming at the Aug. meeting is brought to you by Party Atmosphere Productions. Some of the programming will involve "beta testing" for the VCON 28 Play Room, as follows:

- 1) Is it possible to suppress filkers? Are any of these suppression methods legal?
- 2) Why is there always a dentist on the scavenger hunt list?
- 3) What is Vogon haiku and can you stop it? And how do you judge it? (The last fan standing? With a towel?)
- 4) Who is the Iron Costumer?

Roger Wells, rwells@lycos.com, July 6, 2003

... No doubt you've heard by now that Calgary got the Westercon for 2005. The following Westercon patterns seem to be evolving: every

14 years, the Westercon is in Canada; whenever the 4th of July is Wednesday, Portland hosts the Westercon.

Michael Morse, 7 August 2003

Thanks for *BCSFAzine* #363. I like the new mini-zine (5½ × 8½) format.

Cover: Goth furies: cute.

Plain Speaking: The film viewing and discussion and zine gatherings sound good. I can't think of any specific format right now, but something involving 1980s animation and early 1960s-early 1990s comics would also be nice.

LOCs: **Michael Morse** - As I predicted I would, I went to see *Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines* when it got cheaper. However, the Tuesday price is now \$9, which reinforces my earlier resolution to never go to Famous Players/Silver City (or at least not without one of the \$5-off coupons I sometimes get when I buy a roll of film).

The movie was no better or worse than I expected. The female Terminator (Kristanna Loken) was exactly as bad as I expected, and the sky-ships were indeed redesigned. There was too much comedy. However, the young John Connor (Nick Stahl) turned out to be tolerable, and at times he even reminded me of his late father, Kyle Reese (Michael Biehn). The Judgment Day mushroom cloud wasn't as much of a "ring explosion" as it looked in the commercials. Dr. Silberman (Earl Boen) made a too-brief cameo, finally forking over a too-brief pay-off I've been waiting for since *Terminator 2: Judgment Day* twelve years ago, namely: shouldn't the battle of the two Terminators in the hospital corridor have left *some* sort of impression on him?

The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen was indeed not as runchable as it should have been, but it was still a surprisingly satisfactory movie. I believe I saw this one at Tinseltown for \$5.

"...a VTM LARP. ((Say what?))" "VTM" stands for "Vampire: The Masquerade," a role-playing game originally published in 1991 or 1992, with a refreshing emphasis on storytelling rather than paperwork and number-crunching. "LARP" stands for "live-action role-playing," a step even further away from table-top gaming, in which the players actually act out their characters' dialogue and actions (within reason, obviously). At V-Con 22 in 1997, there was a Changeling: The Dreaming LARP (same publisher, same universe, different game) which I tried, but didn't do very well at. Since my last LOC, I attended the Anime Evolution convention, where I happened to observe and later join a VTM LARP. This time I did pretty well and I enjoyed it. I'll go into more detail in my con report.

"It's always sad when the English and French names for something are combined into one name with the French half first. ((Why?))" Bitterness over Quebec's language laws. If people there can be arrested for putting the English half first on things, we should do no less here for putting French before English.

Regarding fascist, racist movement conditions: "*((Does any of this sound familiar?))*" We have some of those conditions, but the big one - that an identifiable minority is profiting from the majority's impoverishment - is missing. We're still as much of a meritocracy as we would be if the country were ethnically homogenous. (I'm not going to get into an argument over how much of a meritocracy we are or aren't currently.) Class lines are not congruent with race lines.

Calendar of Events: Freaky Friday - I have pleasant memories of the original version. The music was funky and the car chase through the LA canals was surprisingly exciting for a comedy! This was back when Disney made live-action movies that had a good vibe, but weren't kiddified.

Freddy vs. Jason - I saw a trailer for this before *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*. I can't speak for long-time fans of the title characters, but the movie looks like a lot of fun.

News: **Lovecraft's Weird Mysteries** - Hopefully better than *Archie's Weird Mysteries*.

Film Review: **The Matrix: Reloaded** = I can't deny that *The Matrix* had an impact on popular culture. However, I do disagree with the assumption that because of that impact, the movie was intrinsically special (note the word "intrinsically" before you point out that a movie with that much impact must be special). The premise was relatively new (note the word "relatively" before you name earlier movies that covered the same subject; it was newish-seeming enough in 1999 that the public bought it) but not necessarily all that interesting. The stylized look of the movie (cyber-fetish fashions and a black, grey, silver, and blue world) made it eye-catching but also monotonous and obnoxious. Bullet time, floating crane-kicking, and the "Gap commercial" "stop time, rotate the world, start again" effects were just live-action anime - a technical accomplishment, certainly, but not necessarily original or imaginative. As for comic books, this new technology allowed the physics of non-animated hand-drawn superhero fights to be filmed, but also led to yet more focus on style over substance in comic-book movies.

"A must-see"? I feel a sense of curiosity about *Reloaded*, and will probably see it when it becomes cheap enough, but I'm in no hurry. This is like my reaction to *Terminator 3*, only less so, since the *Matrix* movies aren't rooted in the runchable, aesthetically-pleasing 1980s, and so have even less appeal to me.

Media News: Dr. Who - Richard E. Grant would make a good live-action Doctor.

Stan Lee's POW! Signs Deal with DIC - Stan Lee is a whore. He's lost it. As brilliant as he used to be, as soon as he was put out to pasture in Hollywood, he became a walking rubber stamp, approving one horrible adaptation after another while heartily hyping each and every one of them as the greatest thing ever.

Of course, now that I've said this, he'll probably die, and the sheer mass of tributes and dedications that will follow in the comics industry as current creators try to out-eulogize each other will dwarf the obsequious 9/11 tributes.

Like a lot of people who were good, then later bad, at what they do, Stan Lee has the potential to live up to his hype. Based on past accomplishments and contributions to the world, he deserves all the respect that he gets – but then, here, in the present, he blows it all as fast as he gets it. “Global icon”? Yes, but earning that description means deploying that icon only in quality ways – something he can't guarantee anymore. Maybe *nobody* can – so maybe they should stop promising it, if they can't deliver.

“In the Works” - Since I know many fanboys will be screaming in agony at the premise, I should add my counter-viewpoint by stating publicly that I like the *Wonder Twins*. Of course, that doesn't mean the *execution* of the premise will be any good. They'll probably redesign the costumes, make the Wonder Twins boppy teenagers, and make Jayna a bitch.

“Drink Up! The World's About to End” - The 1980s *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* TV series did a pretty good job of casting the characters and giving us the feel of the universe we saw in the book. Any new team trying to do the same thing is going to have some very big shoes to fill, and the fact that the writer's biggest past credit is *Chicken Run* does not bode well.

(I still think the radio series was better. –GS)

I think Adams “died whilst in California” having the gold taken out of his body. ☺

Fanzines: *Zoo Nation* sounds good! Now I've got U-2's song “Zooropa” in my head.

Books: See last month's LOC.

Creative Sociology: “The ends justify the memes”?

I disagree with L. Neil Smith, or the character speaking (they may not be the same, though I'm prepared to guess by default that they are), that concern with social welfare and the survival of the unfit is “an essentially ‘infantile’ adjustment to cultural and economic reality preventing further development.” It is an adjustment to reality, but that's what we humans do; that's why we live safely in cities instead of being eaten by tigers in the jungle. I would say that “majoritarianism” is the belief system which is “adult in character, representing self-imposed responsibility,” while “individualism” is “infantile.”

Real life is hard. That can be scary. The power of humans lies in our ability to not accept the world as it is, to use our *will* to conquer our fear, and *force* the world to be fair. All living things have this drive, but humans particularly have the perspective to see the struggle and take control of it. The alternative is to let fear dictate our attitudes, and take our fears out on each other.

Sadly, the latter is the default for our culture.

((I thought culture ceased to exist when real life was replaced by a Dupont® synthetic product?))

David Hale, now at 21173 44th Avenue Langley, BC V3A 5B4 (604) 530-6929, July 12, 2003:

As probably suspected by everyone (except for myself until recently, ain't self-delusion wonderful?) I'm withdrawing from the V-Con Society, and from the Webmaster position for BCSFA and the V-Con Society. My reasons are personal, though probably having too many commitments and not enough desire to juggle priorities constantly is probably at the top of the list. The events of the last year, the loss of my father, as well as moving and renovating hasn't helped either. And just to be clear, this is not about any "issue" with anyone at all, no-one has upset me in the least, and I have no axes to grind. ...

What I will commit to do is: to archive all the V-Con Society website, BCSFA website and *BCSFazine* material that I have onto CD-ROM's (Paul's suggestion) and get them to whomever wants them; as well I will compress and email/ftp all the files to anyone else you may designate.

Also I will leave the current websites up, until you find someone who can take it over and store the files on their own webspace. I will then commit to provide forwarding to the new website for as long as I have the current address in my control.

BCSFA members

Birthdays in September:

Sept. 4: Dixie Mueller, who should have joined Leather Goddesses
 9: Rick Smith (where is he now?)
 13: Sam Dulmage
 15: Mike Jackson, Famous Comic Artist!
 17: Sylvia Skene, who knows what rhymes with orange!
 19: Lisa Smedman, Famous Writer!
 24: Geoff Barton
 29: Rastus Witherspoon-Li
 30: Mike Lesiak

Address changes for BCSFA members

Collected over the last year or so:

R. Barnhart, 1-1565 Heron Road, Ottawa, ON K1V 9V1
 J. Bartley & L. Rush, 15227 SE La Crescenta Way, Oak Grove, OR
 97267-3070, 503-BAR-TLEY (503.227.8539)

D. Bassie (Made in Canada website & newsletter) new email
 J. Castle, 1941 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5N 1W4, (604) 876-0426
 D.H. DeBrandt, 2738 East 27th Ave., Vancouver BC V5R 1N5
 L. Earl, 2687 Grant St., Vancouver, BC V5K 3G8 (Jan. 16/03)
 J. Foster (Disappeared, no forwarding address)
 S. George (Winnipeg, MB), steve@glort.com
 David & Dianne Hale (Langley – see letter above)
 C. Hamacher (Current whereabouts unknown; New Westminster?)
 S. Hyde, stanhyde@shaw.ca
 N. Iormetti (moved somewhere, new email)
 V. Johnson (now Macintyre), 304 – 487 Jubilee St., Duncan, BC V9L 1X1
 Brad & Sue Luoma (Nanaimo, BC), orion-consulate@shaw.ca
 J. McBride, 518 Agnes Street, New Westminster, V3L 1G1, 604-525-8633, jomcbride@shaw.ca
 D. MacGregor, 114 – 8031 Colonial Dr., Richmond, BC V7C 5B7, Tel 604-241-9059
 S. Samuel, 1941 East Broadway, Vancouver, BC V5N 1W4, (604) 876-0426 (unchanged)

Feedback On Membership Checkup

Renewals:

Vera McIntyre (was Johnson)
 Kathleen Moore

New subscriptions: Tila Pelletier

Lifetime members:

Clint Budd and Donna McMahon, the Penneys, and Taral Wayne were surprised to find they were BCSFA “lifetime members”. Murray Moore wondered how people got onto this category.

As I said to Murray Moore, “I don't know how people get elected, or selected, for lifetime membership. People who were perceived as contributing something to fandom for a long time, like Al Betz, or fans who graduated to being Famous Writers, like Don DeBrandt, tended to end up in that category.”

On the one hand, if we make lifetime members of professional writers who were long-time BCSFA members, we really should include Lisa Smedman, *inter alia*.

On the other hand, since we're sending copies to the UBCSFS and a few other places without getting *any* reply, maybe we should think about our policies. Hard.

Roger Wells (rwells@lycos.com) wrote on July 6, 2003:

I'm expired, former BCSFAzine (subscriber). Too many clubs, too little time.

My current mailing address is PO Box 92, Yakima WA 98907-0092. (If you have anything to send that can't go to a PO Box, email me and let me know.)

Frances Higginson (fhiggins@bccancer.bc.ca) wrote from the Interior on July 28, 2003:

I will not be renewing my membership with BCSFA as I'm out of the loop not living in the Lower Mainland. I never did receive a membership card for my last payment so cannot confirm the date of lapse. However, it was quite a while ago so I'm certain it has expired. Thanks for everything.

Bob Vaughn wrote on July 29, 2003:

I am BOB Vaughn (never use my legal name Robert) at #3 - 1387 W. 70th Ave Vancouver, 263-6527, logicalone@smartt.com. I WAS a BCSFA member for several years, but I let my membership expire. At first I rec'd the BCSFAzine in the mail, but then switched to the PDF version. I've never met the "other" Robert Vaughn.

David Hale wrote on August 3:

I paid my dues last year at VCON, so I expect we are current to October and will renew again at VCON.

Palle Hoffstein wrote:

Hi Garth. I'm not currently a paid member of BCSFA so I really shouldn't be receiving *BCSFAzine*.

Stephen Kawamoto wrote:

In appreciation [of] the patient courtesy of sending the *BCSFAzine* e-mail edition, via snail mail I'm sending payment for the e-mail edition of *BCSFAzine* out of respect for the reminder both in e-mail and in the 'zine.

As well, my directory listing update form has been filled out.

CON REPORT: Westercon 56

By Duncan MacGregor

This SF convention could be described as “the con that was not all there.” Certainly the turnout was much less than expected, as fewer than 1,500 people showed up (though almost 2,000 were registered). Since this was the first time I had crossed the US-Canada border since the 9/11 scare, I thought I would face “third-degree” grilling, but the US customs officer only asked me a few questions, and the Canadian one likewise spent little time on me.

The con started slowly on Thursday evening. For a number of reasons, I did not arrive until the evening was well advanced; it was just as well that the registration booth did not close until very late. Then I went in search of the friend with whom I was sharing a room. Fortunately, she had checked in earlier, and I was able to locate her with little difficulty via the hotel operator. To mark her birthday, she decided to throw a “45s” party that evening with singles music from the 50s, 60s, and 70s played as MP3 files from her laptop. (As she added, it also “becomes real obvious if someone tries to swipe the computer.”) Alas for her hopes, most fans were not in the mood for a party so soon; only a handful of people showed up to enjoy a number of tunes that most people had not heard in years.

I spent subsequent days enjoying the features of this wandering convention. The lack of many fans was not that surprising considering that most of those missing were reportedly from California, where the unemployment rate in some areas was reported to have officially reached 20%. Several bid tables for subsequent Westercons (the site for 2005 was selected at this time) were present, as well as representatives from Worldcon 2003 (in Toronto this time) and a number of local SF cons. Vancouver’s local con, V-Con, also showed up; unable to get a table of its own, it shared a table with a couple of other conventions more local to Seattle. The Dealers’ Room and Art Show seemed rather quiet, and many paintings in the latter room never attracted any bids despite some relatively low prices (*e.g.* US \$25.00). However, most dealers seemed happy with the sales they obtained. To the lone button maker there, I suggested the following message and later bought a button with it: “Somewhere in Texas a village is missing its Idiot” (sorry, but no apologies given to the current federal government south of the 49th parallel). The Planetary Society and a group proposing manned missions to Mars also had tables and other signs of their presence. The feature I appreciated the most was an Internet room, where I was able to check and reply to a few e-mails, though the connection was slow and crashed on occasion.

Some of the panels had promise. Discussions occurred about future epidemics (with reference to SARS, etc.), life that didn’t require oxygen, how best to keep track of congoers (*i.e.* the design of a database and access programs for that task), fantasy costuming, expeditions to Mars, the fate of the Galileo probe (it is scheduled to be sent diving into Jupiter’s atmosphere), and so on. The Masquerade was very quiet, with only twenty entries appearing overall. The most spectacular masquerade entry was not in the competition, but the costumes based on Julian May’s books (the “Galactic Milieu” series?) appeared to be the best in the show.

Room parties were quite good, though one party restricted to the “over-21” crowd seemed to have far too many people approaching the “seriously soused” stage. Another party had the entrance to its dance room closed off with sliding doors reminiscent of the Original Trek

episode “Mirror, Mirror”, complete with a dagger stuck through the planet Earth. [Oddly, there seemed to be many more Klingons here than there were back then. ☺] A third party used green and silver streamers at the entrance and gave out “happy-face” stickers for visitors’ badges.

The vote for the Westercon in 2005 was decisive; the bid from Calgary won by 80 votes. I heard rumours that a rival bid from “Silicon Valley” had organizational problems, but suspect that most voters simply did not want to stay where there were economic difficulties. I spent a lot of time chatting with people I had either not met before or with friends I seldom see, and I definitely appreciated the time away from life as it is.

CALENDAR

(Note: titles in **bold** are conventions; titles in *italics* are movie premieres.)

September 2003

TBA Fall 2003 - *Ella Enchanted* (YA fantasy?)

September 5 - *The Order* (horror/fantasy)

September 7 – **Vancouver Comicon** at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Francis Manapul, penciller of *Witchblade*; Ken Boesem, creator of Barking Raven Press. Free comics and hourly door prizes, including *X-Men 2* movie magazines signed by Kea Wong (*Jubilee*) and Daniel Cudmore (*Colossus*)!! Dealer’s Tables :\$45/\$50. Admission: \$3 (kids under 14 free) For more information about this show, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail Leonard S Wong at lswong@uniserve.com. See also <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>.

Sept. 11-14: **Gatecon 2003**, Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. Convention for *Stargate SG-1*. Featuring Corin Nemec, Teryl Rothery, Don S Davis, JR Bourne, Jay Acovone, Colin Cunningham, Peter Williams, Douglas Arthurs, Frida Betrani, Alex Zahara, Bruce Woloshyn, Trevor Strand, David Palffy. We are pleased to announce that Jacqueline Samuda, aka “Nurti”, will be appearing. We are arranging a City Bus Tour on both Wednesday 10th and Monday 15th September (same route on both days) to many filming locations used in the show. For more information, www.gatecon.com. (*N.B. NOTE that the website advertises “Tickets”, rather than memberships –G.S.*) Gatecon Productions, P.O. Box 76108 Colorado Springs, CO 80970-6108 USA.

September 19 - *The Cooler (Limited)* - *Lost In Translation (Limited)* - *The Perfect Score* - *Under The Tuscan Sun* - *Underworld*

Sept. 19-21: **Foolscap V** – Flat Stuff convention at Bellevue Hilton, Bellevue, Washington (General SF with an emphasis on written SF) Guests of Honor: Greg Bear and Sergio Aragonés. Phil Foglio, Foolscap III's Guest of Honor, will be interviewing Foolscap V's Guest of Honor, Sergio Aragonés at Foolscap V. The Foolscap site (<http://www.foolscap.org>) can now accept membership purchases online using Paypal. Foolscap P.O. Box 2461 Seattle, WA 98111-2461

September 26 - *The Big Bounce* - *The Human Stain* - *Secondhand Lions (Limited)* - *Welcome To The Jungle*

September 26-28: **Conifur 2003** at the Sheraton Tacoma Convention Center. Guests: Grrrwoolf, Artist; Chuck Melville, Author and Artist. The Sheraton Tacoma Telephone: (800) 325-3535 Room Rate: \$99 per night The Sheraton Tacoma is in easy reach of the Seattle / Tacoma International Airport. Memberships: Pre-Registered \$40.00 At The Door 3-Day \$45.00 Friday Only \$25.00 Saturday Only \$25.00 Sunday Only \$20.00 Non Attending \$15.00 Sponsors \$100+ to: Conifur Northwest Attn: Registration Dept 12819 SE 38th St, PMB 489 Bellevue, WA 98006-1395 The last day for pre-reg is September 12, 2003. Registrations received after that date may or may not be available at the registration desk during check-in, and may have to be purchased at at-the-door prices. registration@conifur.org

October 2003

October 3 - *Bad Santa* - *Dickie Roberts: Former Child Star* - *Hidalgo* - *Mystic River* - *Out Of Time* - *Scary Movie 3* (comedy/satire?)

Oct. 3 – 5: **Anglicon XVI** - at the SeaTac Radisson, SeaTac, Washington (Annual British Media Convention). Media GOH: Bill Blair. Writer GOH: Donna McMahon. Please check out the website www.anglicon.com for more details. Memberships: (Adult) \$40 until Sept. 18th, 2003; \$50 at the door. Day rates available at the door: \$20 Friday, \$25 Saturday, \$15 Sunday. Child (3-15) rates: \$25. Day rate available at the door: \$10. Child under 3: Free. Send the fliers to Anglicon, P.O. Box 75536, Seattle, WA 98175-0536.

October 10 - *Intolerable Cruelty* - *Kill Bill*

Oct. 10-12: **VCon 28** at the Days Hotel Surrey-Vancouver, Surrey, BC. Guests of Honour: Nalo Hopkinson (*Brown Girl In The Ring* and *Skin Folk*), and Esther Friesner (*Chicks In Chainmail*), Science GoH: Dr. Jordin Kare, and Artist GoH Adrian Kleinbergen (URL:

<http://smallmountain.homestead.com/kleinbergenexhibit.html>.

VCon is a general-interest SF convention. Rooms: Contact The Days Hotel - Vancouver Surrey at 9850 King George Highway Surrey, British Columbia, Canada, V3T 4Y3, by telephone: Reservations: 604.588.9511 or 1.800.663.0660, Fax: 604.588.7949) or email: info@dayshotel.ca. (<http://www.dayshotel.ca/>) Memberships: US\$40/C\$50. For more information, write to VCon 28, c/o 2116 Macdonald, Main floor, Vancouver, BC V6K 3Y5, Telephone (604) 737-2665 or email vcon@shaw.ca .

Oct. 10-12: **Ditto 16** at the Valley River Inn in Eugene, OR. GoH: Stu Shiffman, famous fanartist, prominent steampunk, Wodehouse, Holmes fan and Hugo winner. A make-your-own-program fanzine fans' convention. Room rates: \$95/night single or double, extra persons \$20/night, plus 9.5% sales tax; suites available for \$175/night. Membership rates: US\$45 / C\$70 including Sunday banquet. Make checks to Janice Murray, P.O. Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98125, U.S.A. See also the Ditto 16 website, <http://home.att.net/~ditto16/>

October 17 - *Eulogy (Limited)* - *The Runaway Jury* - *Veronica Guerin* - *The Whole Ten Yards*

Oct. 17 – 19: **Incon 2003** - at the DoubleTree Hotel, Spokane, Washington (General SF) Featuring: Elizabeth Moon, Leslie D'Allessandro Hawes, Seattle Knights, and much more! Contact the DoubleTree Hotel at 1100 N. Sullivan Rd, Spokane or phone Reservations, 509-924-9000. Pre-registration rates will be \$20 per person for the weekend; Following October 1, rates will be \$25 per person for the weekend. Daily rates will be offered, but have not yet been determined. Personal checks will be gladly accepted. Make them out to InCon and mail them to InCon Convention, PO Box 9112, Spokane, WA 99209-9112, U.S.A.

October 24 - *Beyond Borders* - *Gothika* - *In The Cut* - *My Baby's Mama* - *The Singing Detective (Limited)* - *Ted And Sylvia (Limited)* - *Who's Your Daddy?*

October 24-26: **RingCon** – “A Gathering of the Clans of Middle Earth”, at the Sheraton Tacoma Hotel. Special Guest Star

Appearance By "Rumil" (brother of "Haldir") Jørn Benzon. For room reservations contact the Sheraton Tacoma at 1320 Broadway Plaza, Tacoma, Washington, or telephone 888-627-7044. RingCon is now seeking actors, performers, artists, artisans, storytellers, Tolkien experts, merchants and others interested in participating. Write to 12016 134th. Ave. KPN Gig Harbor, WA. 98329, telephone 1-800-359-5948 or E-mail: info@ringcon.com

October 26 – **Toy and Collectables Show** at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. For more information about this show, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail Leonard S Wong at lswong@uniserve.com. See also <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>.

November 2003

November 5 - *The Matrix Revolutions* (science fiction?)

FANZINES

(Garth Spencer subbing this issue for Ted White)

Let's see: what fanzines have we received in the past six months or so, since I last listed our trades?

Ansible, David Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 5AU, U.K., Ansible@cix.co.uk, www.ansible.co.uk. For the past several years I have only seen *Ansible* online, except when I go to fanzine rooms as at Orycon. David Langford presents the most fan news in the least space, physically, and gets away with the most impudent humour about fan and writer friends alike, of any faneditor on the planet. I think. It must be a Welsh thing, I don't understand it ...

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter, 6584 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7, tel. 604-421-4931, lonewolf@portal.ca, www.bws.bc.ca. This legal-length bimonthly newsletter lists a great deal of interest and importance to its members, writers in British Columbia and abroad; sometimes it lists market news we might benefit by noticing.

DASFAX, from the Denver Area SF Association, c/o TayVon Hageman, 4080 S. Grant St., Englewood, CA 80110, U.S.A. Your basic Denver SF newsletter.

De Profundis, Marty Cantor ed., c/o LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601, hoohah-pubs@earthlink.net. Your basic Los Angeles SF newsletter, distinguished by satirical meeting minutes and Ted White's fanzine reviews.

File 770, from Mike Glycer (705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016) has been a major fan newszine since at least the late 1970s or early 1980s. In recent years *F770* has appeared less regularly, and I think its news has focused increasingly on the world of American conrunners and fan fund people. (mglycer@compuserve.com)

FOSFAX, from the Falls of the Ohio SF association (P.O. Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281) was a big, thick, densely printed, highly political clubzine from rather a small group of people. Now suspended, or at least greatly reduced in frequency.

Impulse, monthly one-sheet newsletter of MonSFFA, P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, QC H2X 4A7. Latest received issue was dated August 2003, and apart from club meetings and film reviews, talked about the reception at Toronto Trek of MonSFFA's mock B-movie *Beavra*. (*Warp* is a less-frequently-produced fanzine with more content.)

Made in Canada newsletter, c/o Don Bassie, 25/12 Lankin Blvd., Orillia, ON L3V 6T2; current email canadian-sf@rogers.com. Don seems to have his attention fixed primarily on southern Ontario SF writers.

Metaphysical Review/SF Commentary, Bruce Gillespie, 59 Keele Street, Collingwood, Vic 3066, Australia. There's more book reviews and critical, intellectual analysis in Bruce Gillespie's thick, infrequent sercon fanzines than I see anywhere else in the course of a year.

So of course I misplace these prime fanzines somewhere where I can't find them later.

Opuntia c/o Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, AB T2P 2E7, a personalzine and fanhistoryzine. Dale's interests range from native cacti, stamp collecting, cychlid fanciers, and alternative history, through fanhistory and the parallels between technologies introduced in the 19th century and the reception given the Internet. Keep reading this and you, too, will be convinced that All Knowledge is Contained in Fanzines.

Pulsar, the monthly newsletter of the Portland SF Society (P.O. Box 4602, Portland, OR 97208). Now edited by Kris Picio (editor@PorSFis.org).

Steam Engine Time, Bruce Gillespie (as above) and Maureen Kincaid Speller and Paul Kincaid (60 Bournemouth Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5AZ, U.K.) I would like to see us produce something like *Steam Engine Time*, I really would: a fascinating, time-consuming genzine that goes into in-depth SF criticism, but also features entertaining fannish writing. Appears only too infrequently.

Thyme, Alan Stewart ed., POBox 222, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vict. /ACT 3005, Australia. I keep being confused: is this, or is *Ethel the Aardvark* the newsletter of the Melbourne SF Club? They look nearly the same, have nearly the same address, and I'd swear Alan is editing both of them. *Thyme* always seems to be dated a year behind its actual date of production, or the dates of the letters in the loccol. Go figure.

Westwind, the monthly newsletter of the Northwest SF Society (P.O. Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124), regularly features reviews, topical articles and Northwest SF news. Not so long ago we received a catch-up package of three *Westwinds*, whose dates showed that the newsletter had been coming out irregularly.

NEWS

Nalo Hopkinson will be among the guests of honour at VCon 28, to be held 10-12 October, 2003 in Surrey, British Columbia. She joins previously announced guests physicist Jordin Kare, PhD, and Calgary artist Adrian Kleinbergen.

Hopkinson is the author of two novels, *Midnight Robber* and *Brown Girl In The Ring*, and a collection of short stories, *Skin Folk*. Her third novel, *The Salt Roads*, will be available later this year.

In addition to writing, Hopkinson has worked as editor (*Mojo: Conjure Stories* and *Whispers From The Cotton Tree Root*), and was writer-in-residence for Clarion West.

Among her many distinctions, Hopkinson has received the World Fantasy Award and the John W Campbell Award, and her first novel won the Warner Aspect first novel contest. (See:

<http://www.sff.net/people/nalo/>)

Paul Carpentier, VCon 28 chair, Aug. 20, 2003

Nalo Hopkinson will be a Writer in Residence at the University of British Columbia, and has a novel coming out in September.

White Dwarf Books, Aug. 2003

Esther Friesner will be among the guests of honour at VCon 28. She joins the growing list of announced guests that includes award-winning author Nalo Hopkinson, physicist Jordin Kare PhD, and Calgary artist Adrian Kleinbergen.

Friesner, a two-time Nebula Award winner, has written novels, short stories and poetry, and is known for editing the humour anthologies about women warriors, *Chicks In Chainmail*, the fifth of which is in progress. Among her dozens of novels is the bestselling Star Trek: Deep Space Nine novel, *Warchild*.

Other awards Friesner has received include the Romantic Times award for Best New Fantasy Writer (1986) and the Skylark Award (1994).

Paul Carpentier, VCon 28 chair, Aug. 20, 2003

VIKINGCON PARTY?

Judging from some email exchanges on the VikingConChat listserv in late July, there is likely to be a VikingCon party at VCon 28. This will probably be a promotional party for a revived VikingCon in 2004.

VikingCon, hosted almost always in mid-August at Western Washington University in Bellingham, is one of the several conventions which sprang up in the Pacific Northwest in 1978 and '79, after Westercon 30 was held in Vancouver. Although it was generally a small convention, it drew a disproportionate number of writers and editors, at least when Paul Carpentier chaired it, and like the VCons held at UBC, had the advantage of offering low-cost student residence rooms to attendees.

(Garth Spencer, July 2003)

LOCAL PROS TO KNOW:

Sean Russell (On Vancouver Island) + a *Big* Seller! -

Books by Sean Russell:

The Moontide and Magic Rise Duology: *World Without End Sea Without a Shore*

The River into Darkness Duology [a prequel to the series above]:
Beneath the Vaulted Hills The Compass of the Soul The Swans' War: The One Kingdom The Isle of Battle

<<http://www.sfsite.com/seanrussell/>>

<<http://greatsfandf.com/AUTHORS/SeanRussell.shtml>>

<http://www.ozcraft.com/scifidu/s_russell.html>

GETTING INTO THE NEWS:

BCSFA member Mimick and her family were quietly having dinner at the Metrotown Mall when they were caught up in the July 18th police action, involving tear gas. "I am glad that our local law enforcement is on the ball using the most trauma causing items to subdue as many innocent bystanders as possible", she wrote online. Happily, nobody in the family suffered attacks of asthma or anaphylactic shock, or had to go to hospital.

(Mimick, July 19, 2003)

News media reported the next day: "Gang fight in Burnaby (CKNW/AM980) – At least three teenagers received minor injuries after a fight involving baseball bats broke out at the Metropolis at Burnaby's Metrotown Friday night.

"Burnaby RCMP say no arrests were made because the fight had broken up by the time police arrived. ..."

(CKNW)

It is of interest to know that the Metrotown Mall is connected to the Hilton at Metrotown, one of the venues considered for future VCons. (GS)

*"CANADIAN CHAMBER PIECE PREMIERING IN LONDON
IS PART B-MOVIE, PART SCI-FI"*

"A new Canadian chamber opera featuring squeegee punks, pie-throwing activists and sadomasochism is debuting tonight in London.

"'Sirius on Earth', by Montrealers Paul Frehner and Angela Murphy, is one of three new works competing for a \$44,000 prize in the inaugural Genesis Prizes for Opera, given out by the U.K.-based Genesis Foundation. ..."

J. Kelly Nestruck *National Post* Thursday, July 17, 2003

CLINT'S ASSORTED NEWSBITES:

"Calgary won the Westercon in 2005 bid. They will be sending a promotional contingent to VCon. * Donna is now officially GOH for the Anglicon to be held at the beginning of October this year.

<http://www.anglicon.com/> * Eileen [Kernaghan]'s Aurora-winning *Snow Queen* is selling steadily on Amazon and has gone into a 2nd printing with Thistle-down Press! There is now a demand for signed first editions! She's very pleased. * Sean Russell has moved to BC. (Maybe everyone else knows that, but I didn't.) * Spider's latest Callahan's is out this month from Tor: *Callahan's Con.*"

(Clint Budd, July 12, 2003)

SEATTLE NASFiC 2005 BID:

In August there was some discussion on the SFNorthwest/Northwest Con League listserv(s) about a name for the Seattle NASFiC, should it win the site selection at Torcon 3. After I tossed in some demented ideas involving flying salmon and sasquatches in Mountie uniforms, I put Bobbie Dufault, the leader apparent of the bid, in touch with Jerry Kaufman (remember Spawncon?) and Marie-Louise Beesley, of Seattle and Vancouver respectively.

(Garth Spencer, Aug. 2003)

Goth House Newsletter 11 July 2003 Vol. 2 Issue 13

This fortnight's feature: Terra goes for a walk in the cemetery

<http://www.gothhouse.org/>

Goth House had an afternoon party at Westercon. At the last moment, while revising the text of the flyer we used for the Norwescon party, and possibly responding to mystical forces of fate which I did not understand, I made it a tea party. This lack of advance preparation meant that, while I had tea and a pot, I had no crumpets. No toaster. And no butter. And only one pot. So I felt that, while a tea party was clearly the right thing to do, we were not going to be able to do it right.

But then! Lo and behold! Windy Lewis turned out to be (in addition to a talented artist and noted fashion plate) a tea party aficionado eager to be co-hostess. It was fabulous. She provided silver pots, sugar tongs, serving trays, her scintillating presence, and toasted buttered crumpets. Now we want to do it again. Stay tuned for the next tea party.

Also, many thanks to Ulysses and Carol who provided the party with all OTHER supplies (wine, cheese, delicious marinated mushrooms, etc.) and much assistance. They also bought Windy's spiky leather horse head, which was enormous fun to carry to the car, since people kept stopping us to wish him farewell.

Goth House Newsletter, 08 August 2003, Vol. 2 Issue 15

This fortnight's feature: Goth House Orientation

<http://www.gothhouse.org/>

This fortnight, two things. The first is my brand new goth Woolite for Dark Laundry:

<http://www.fabriclink.com/Woolite/DarkLaundry.html>

The bottle promises it "helps keep dark & black clothes looking their darkest." I am way, way too excited about this laundry product. I first read about it several months ago. At the time I think it was only available in France, which caused me to joke that it must be catering to the "Eurotrash" market. In case you've never read *The New Yorker*, or watched *Sex and the City*, "Eurotrash" is a possibly disparaging nickname for Europeans of a certain – um – type. In the following article they are described as "hard-partying jet-setters" "sporting black mock turtlenecks, leather pants and sometimes dubious aristocratic titles":

<http://www.hangoverguide.com/out/us/ny/>

The October 14 & 21, 2002 issue of *The New Yorker* cover depicts the customs and immigration area of an airport. One section, "U.S. Citizens," features an orderly line of people wearing bright and pastel colours. A second section, "Non-Citizens," looks pretty much the same. The third section, "Eurotrash," shows people who are all wearing black and drinking cocktails. This made me realize that I might actually *be* Eurotrash, cosmically displaced somehow. It would make sense. After all, when travelling through Europe in 1990, people tended to assume I was German until I opened my mouth and English came out. And even then, (assuming they spoke English of course) their first thought tended to be "from

England" rather than "from North America, or possibly Australia or New Zealand."

The second is the latest chapter in the continuing saga we'll title Julie's Job. Last fortnight, loyal viewers will recall that Julie had quit T-Mobile and was planning to devote herself to figuring out how to make a real career out of art/writing/graphic design. Toward that end, and also hoping to keep little things like rent money coming in, she applied at Manpower temporary services first thing in the morning on the first Monday after her last day at T-Mobile.

By the next morning, she was going to work for a long-term (3 months) assignment, with possible extension, at what just might be her Perfect Job (graphics, writing, data analysis and so on at a marketing and research firm specializing in the new age/holistic/alternative industry. Web site here:

<http://www.hereshowmarketing.com/>)

Stay tuned for the next exciting instalment!

(Julie McGalliard)

FANTASY NOMINEES NAMED

Nominations have been announced for this year's World Fantasy Awards, for works published in 2002, *Locus Online* reported.

The winners will be named on Nov. 2 at the World Fantasy Convention 2003 in Washington. A life achievement award, whose nominees are not released in advance, will also be announced at the convention. A full list of nominees follows.

Novel

The Facts of Life by Graham Joyce

Fitcher's Brides by Gregory Frost

Ombria in Shadow by Patricia A. McKillip

The Portrait of Mrs. Charbuque by Jeffrey Ford

The Scar by China Miéville

Novella

"Coraline" by Neil Gaiman

"The Least Trumps" by Elizabeth Hand

"The Library" by Zoran Zivkovic

"Seven Wild Sisters" by Charles de Lint

"A Year in the Linear City" by Paul Di Filippo

Short Story

"Creation" by Jeffrey Ford

"The Essayist in the Wilderness" by William Browning Spencer

"Little Dead Girl Singing" by Stephen Gallagher

"October in the Chair" by Neil Gaiman

"The Weight of Words" by Jeffrey Ford

Anthology

The American Fantasy Tradition, Brian M. Thomsen, ed.

Conjunctions 39: The New Wave Fabulists, Peter Straub, ed.

The Green Man: Tales from the Mythic Forest, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds.

Leviathan 3, Jeff VanderMeer and Forrest Aguirre, eds.

The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror: Fifteenth Annual Collection, Ellen Datlow and Terri Windling, eds.

Collection

City of Saints and Madmen by Jeff VanderMeer

The Fantasy Writer's Assistant and Other Stories by Jeffrey Ford

Figures in Rain by Chet Williamson

The Ogre's Wife by Richard Parks

Waifs and Strays by Charles de Lint

Water: Tales of Elemental Spirits by Robin McKinley and Peter Dickinson.

Artist

Kinuko Y. Craft, Tom Kidd, Gary Lippincott, Dave McKean, John Jude, Palencar Charles Vess.

Special Award, Professional

Paul Barnett (for Paper Tiger art books), Ellen Datlow (for editing), William K. Schafer (for Subterranean Press), Gary Turner & Marty Halpern (for Golden Gryphon Press), Gordon Van Gelder (for *F&SF*), Terri Windling (for editing).

Special Award, Non-Professional

Peter Crowther (for PS Publishing), Gavin Grant & Kelly Link (for Small Beer Press), Sean Wallace (for Prime Books), Michael Walsh (for Old Earth Books), Jason Williams, Jeremy Lassen and Benjamin Cossel (for Night Shade Books).

(from SCIFIWIRE, August 7, 2003 via Michael Morse)

SCI FICTION WINS STURGEON

The Theodore Sturgeon Award for best SF short story went for the first time to a story published on the Internet: Lucius Shepard's "Over Yonder," which first appeared on SCIFI.COM's Sci Fiction site, organizers said.

Second place was awarded to "Bronte's Egg" by Richard Chwedyk, published in *Fantasy and Science Fiction*; third place went to "Singleton" by Australian Greg Egan, published in the British *Interzone*.

The John W. Campbell Award for best SF novel of the year, meanwhile, went for the first time to a previous Sturgeon Award winner: Nancy Kress, for her novel *Probability Space*. Kress' husband, the late Charles Sheffield, had won the Campbell Award a decade earlier, the first husband and wife to be so honoured. Second place in the Campbell Awards went to David Brin's *Kiln People*; third place went to Robert J. Sawyer's *Hominids*.

The Campbell and Sturgeon Awards were presented July 11 at the University of Kansas.

(SCIFIWIRE, July 14, 2003, via Michael Morse)

THOG'S MASTERCLASS. Relativity Dept. 'London was a city of ghosts, some deader than others.' (Mark Billingham, *Scaredy Cat*,

2002) [PB] [] Dept of Sexy Cars for Sexy People. 'He appreciated the fact that the woman who walked beside him was young and virile by her carriage.' (Russell Thorndike, *Dr.Syn Returns*, 1935) [DeL] [] Dept of Unfortunate Juxtaposition. 'And they had a wonderful sail on the dancing trimaran all the way around Acadia Park Island and back to a great clam dinner. That night in bed afterwards Loolie brought it up again.' (James Tiptree Jr, 'Forever to a Hudson Bay Blanket', 1972) [BJ]

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SUBTERRANEAN PRESS

www.subterraneanpress.com

Click on over to Subterranean Press to check out the stunning wraparound dust jacket for George R.R. Martin's *GRRM*, a 1288 page collection. That's right, over 1200 pages. In fact, it's so large that at first our printer said it couldn't be produced as a single volume! We navigated that particular strait, and have posted not only the dust jacket but six of the more than thirty full-page B&W interior illustrations.

In addition, though it hasn't been announced on the site yet, the limited and lettered editions will include a chapbook of additional material: science fiction and fantasy legend Roger Zelazny's story, "The Last Defender of Camelot," along with GRRM's *Twilight Zone* script for the story.

Thanks to everyone who participated in our Charles de Lint/Charles Vess giveaway of *A Circle Of Cats*. Copies are now en route to the winners.

Shipping of Dan Simmons' new sf epic, *Ilium*, is imminent, beginning late this week or next. Keep an eye on the top of our news page for further details.

Advance Reading Copies are softcover versions of books that we produce before publication, to send out for review. We've been doing some housecleaning, and found a good number of extras, which brings about our next special, good for the first 25 orders placed today only:

Order at least \$40 worth of books (in-print or forthcoming), and receive your choice of one of the following free Advance Reading Copies: *First Meetings* by Orson Scott Card, *A Handful of Coppers* by Charles de Lint, *Wolf Moon* by Charles de Lint, *The Five of Cups* by Caitlin R. Kiernan, *Off-Beat* by Richard Matheson, *Dating Secrets of the Dead* by David Prill, *The Book of Days* by Steve Rasnic Tem

Quantities are limited, so please mention your top two choices in the 'additional comments' section of the order form. If you order only forthcoming titles to qualify for this special, you'll be charged shipping for the ARC.

Click on over to Subterranean Press where we've announced six brand-new limited editions: *Skeleton in the Closet* by Robert Bloch,

Triads by Poppy Z. Brite and Christa Faust, *Hitler's Tea Room* by Neal Barrett, Jr., *Untitled Collection* by T.E.D. Klein, *The King and other stories* by Joe R. Lansdale, *Retro Pulp Tales* edited by Joe R. Lansdale

We're also publishing three not-for-sale promotional chapbooks by Poppy Z. Brite, Joe R. Lansdale, and James P. Blaylock. We'll be using these in special offers from time to time. This time you can snag copies by ordering the new titles. See our NEWS page for details.

Oh, if that's not enough, we're also shipping the numbered editions of *Ilium* by Dan Simmons and *Waycross* by Caitlin R. Kiernan this week.

(July 20, 2003)

LISA GOLDSTEIN had an 'As Others See Us' moment at a class on copyediting fiction: 'The instructor handed out a leaflet, and the first thing on it was a list of the different types of fiction we will have to copyedit. First there was "Art", then "Entertainment", then "Dreck". And "Dreck" consisted of – you guessed it – "fantasy, sci-fi, mystery, suspense ... "After the class I went up to her and told her I was a writer. "And I guess I write" – big show of looking at leaflet – "here it is, dreck." She did apologize, which I suppose is progress. Later, though, studying the leaflet, I realized that "Entertainment" is dreck that she likes to read.'

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OUTRAGED LETTERS. Stephen Baxter on Margaret Atwood's latest dismissive definition of sf, 'talking squids in outer space': 'Yikes, it's all my fault then; I did have talking squids in outer space, in my novel *Time*. Get a life, woman!' Jeff VanderMeer adds: 'I do agree that the disreputable "talking squid in outer space" subgenre is giving sf a bad name. On the other hand, talking squid in a fantasy or postmodern fantasy story are not only acceptable – they're expected! At least, by me.'

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AS OTHERS SEE US. Max (Jennifer Government) Barry is yet another author who defines sf by futuristic gadgetry and regards this with Atwood-like alarm: 'I had the idea for a story set in an ultra-capitalist world for a long time. But I didn't want to write a science-fiction book with laser guns and flying cars. I was more interested in writing a social fiction: taking the world we live in now and tweaking it a bit.' (*Orbit Ezine* 60) [DH] Of course no sf author could create that kind of thing. The Observer's reviewer agreed: 'The point of the dystopian satire, of course – as opposed to pure science-fiction – is that its imagined world is both recognisable and chillingly possible ...' (27 July) [MM]

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SMALL PRESS.

Warren Lapine & John Betancourt, supremos of DNA Publications and Wildside Press, are launching the 'Fantastic Book Club' in September; the first title assembles uncollected shorts by Roger Zelazny. More information from Fantastic Book Club, PO Box 2988, Radford, VA 24141, USA, or on line at www.fantasticbookclub.com.

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SF MAGS GO DECIMAL.

"The Dell-owned sf magazines *Analog* and *Asimov's* are changing schedule to 10 rather than 11 issues a year, including two double issues apiece. *Interzone's* regular boast of being the only printed fiction magazine to appear 12 times yearly couldn't be made in 2002, with 10 issues (two double). There's been one double IZ this year, May/June: can Mr Pringle avoid a second and stay ahead of his Dell rivals? If not, *F&SF* surges into the lead, as I pointed out to Gordon Van Gelder – who said, 'Good lord, you're right! If we continue to publish 11 issues a year and *Analog* publishes 10 per year, we'll overtake them for the #1 spot of most issues in ... what, 300 years?'"

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MEDIA NEWS

(Presented almost entirely unedited from the hand of Ray Seredin:)

Doctor Who: 2B or not 2B.

As many of us may have heard, the BBC has reached an agreement with the parent company of the American "Sci-Fi Channel", for a possible new "Dr. Who" series for a fall 2006 debut. Now before we print a *BCSFAzine* with an anime squirrel like "Richard E. Grant" wearing an extra long "Tom Baker" scarf on the cover. I must state that this is just a "Gentleman Agreement".

The "Agreement" allows the BBC to seek producers for the new series and a feasible study on it competing in both the British and international marketplace.

So far the BBC has five producers interested in doing a "Dr. Who" series with Grant as "The 9th Doctor". Two are Canadians, *(With both saying that they are looking at doing some production work in Vancouver.)* with the others, being two Brits and a New Zealander. All *(and the BBC itself.)* are keeping a tight lid on new companions or what evildoers that will be seen in the new series.

On the feasible end, the BBC has already ran into a large roadblock in the UK. The group "Action for Visible Minorities" said that the network is taking a huge leap backwards by bringing back "Dr. Who". Stating that "The Doctor" never had a visible minorities

companion and few minorities who where on the old series where mostly on the side of the villains, (**Note:** *What about Chang Lee, played be local actor Yee Jee Tso in the 1996 TV-Movie. Who was controlled by the evil Master, however still saved the day*). Since 21.7% of Britain are visible minorities and the BBC going "Commercial" 1/1/2004, this criticism can't be ignored.

So a new "Dr. Who" series, with Richard E. Grant as "The Doctor", with a "visible minority" as one of the companions and a Canadian producer. Us Who-Fans can all live with that. However, the question remain "Will the American studio live with that"? Since the studio is providing half the production funding on the project. At this time the studio and the "Sci-Fi Channel" are for sale. Hopefully by the time the decision to go ahead is made they will have new an owner *(or owners)*, who will like it and pick it up. Sill they could have the same owner who are trying to cut cost or just doesn't like what the BBC has to offer and not pick it up.

As for a Canadian media outlet picking it up, Space, Family and the CBC are interested.

"The Decision" will happen sometime in mid or late December 2003, until then the TARDIS will remain in space-dock.

That's all for now, so till next time I wish you the very, very best and I'll be seeing you.

Ray Seredin lungbarrow@shaw.ca

New Doctor Is In

Richard E. Grant (*Gosford Park*) will lend his voice to a new animated adventure based on the popular *Doctor Who* franchise, which is set to air on British network BBCi in the fall, the BBC news service reported.

Grant will become the ninth actor to take on the role of the Doctor, who travels through space and time in a ship disguised as an old-fashioned police box. The British actor told the news service that his interpretation is something of a "Sherlock Holmes in space," and said he immensely enjoyed recording the story.

The script was written by Paul Cornell, who has some experience with the franchise, having authored several well-received *Doctor Who* novels. "Just wait until you hear Richard," Cornell told the BBC. "He is the Doctor." The timing of the project is set to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the original *Doctor Who* series, the news service said.

(from SCIFIWIRE, July 10/14, 2003, via Michael Morse)

COMICS**MARVEL REMOVES PRINCESS DIANA FROM X-STATIX**

Marvel Comics on Thursday issued a brief statement indicated it was pulling the use of Princess Diana from an upcoming arc of *X-Statix*.

Here's what the release said:

"Marvel Comics had planned to release a book using the spirit of Princess Diana as one of its heroines. While Lady Diana was portrayed in a positive light in the comic book, upon reflection, the company has decided to remove Princess Diana and all references to the Royal Family from the five-part *X-Static* series."

The storyline, "Di Another Day," was slated to begin in *X-Static* #13 in September. Marvel had released images from the story in its solicitations.

(from Comics Continuum, July 13, 2003 via Michael Morse)

FILM:

RED DWARF GOES UNDER

The big-screen adaptation of UK sf-comedy *Red Dwarf* will lens in Australia. Co-creator Doug Naylor is currently in Queensland scouting for locations.

Shock! Horror! A couple of weeks ago we reported on Victorian filmmaker Andrew Merkelbach and his determination to make a *Doctor Who* feature film. Well, those pesky rights-holders (the BBC) have put a halt to these plans, so we may never get to see *Dramas Of The Alternate* on the screen, big or otherwise. Instead, Merkelbach will concentrate on an original film, *Curse Of The Demented*, a much-anticipated sequel to his 2002 feature *Vortech: The Traveller*.

(from Ain't It Cool News, July 13, 2003, via Michael Morse)

* Christian Slater will star as supernatural detective Edward Carnby in Artisan's *Alone In The Dark*, a movie based on the video game franchise. Shooting begins July 14 in Vancouver. Uwe Boll (*House Of The Dead*) will direct.

* William Hurt joins Joaquin Phoenix and Bryce Dallas Howard in M. Night Shyamalan's *The Woods* for Disney. Set in 1897, the story revolves around a close-knit community that lives with the frightening knowledge that a mythical race of creatures resides in the woods around them.

* Debra Messing will voice the role of Arlene opposite Bill Murray in *Garfield* for 20th Century Fox and director Peter Hewitt. Messing will play Garfield's pink, sarcastic girlfriend, who has a gap in her teeth, opposite Murray's overweight Garfield. Alec Sokolow and Joel Cohen (*Toy Story*) wrote the script.

* Joel Zwick is in talks to direct *Fat Albert*, a live-action feature based on the '70s cartoon for 20th Century Fox. Bill Cosby and John Davis are producing the project, which follows Fat Albert and his posse of friends, who come to life when they walk out of the cartoon and into the real world.

* Werner Herzog will direct and produce *The Enigma Of Loch Ness*, a documentary that will explore the myth of the Loch Ness

monster. Principal photography is set to begin in the Loch Ness area of Scotland in late July for about two months. Screenwriter Zak Penn (*X2*) is also producing. The film is part education/part expedition with the expedition team led by Herzog, who will set out to discover the real story behind the monster who is said to lurk in one of the world's deepest lakes.

* Mike Werb and Michael Colleary (*Face/Off*) will write the sci-fi drama *Alien Prison* for Columbia Pictures and Red Wagon. It will be a big-budget film about a gang that plots an escape from their alien captors. The prisoners then hope to prevent a full-scale invasion of Earth.

* Kevin Lima (Disney's *Tarzan*) will direct *Cat And Mouse* at 20th Century Fox about a cartoon mouse zapped into the human world to become a flesh-and-blood man. Things go awry when his nemesis, a cat from the cartoon world, appears and threatens to disrupt his new life. Karey Kirkpatrick (*Chicken Run*) is rewriting a script by Neil Tolkin (*The Emperor's Club*).

* Mike Samonek will rewrite *Smart And Smarter* (aka *Think Tank*) for New Line about a pair of socially backward geniuses who venture out of the splendid isolation of the think tank in which they've spent most of their adult lives to attempt to derail the wedding of a childhood girlfriend one of them still loves.

* Ed Neumeier will script the feature adaptation of author Lois Lowry's science fiction novel *The Giver* for Walden Media, AsIs Prods. and RCN Entertainment. It's about a 12-year-old boy living in an idyllic future where all memory of human history has been erased and there is no crime, poverty or sickness – only joy. However, Jonas' life is thrown into turmoil when he learns some chilling truths about the world in which he lives, and his knowledge sparks rebellion.

* David Richard Ellis (*Final Destination 2*) will direct the sci-fi action project *Confrontation* for Paramount, Mace Neufeld Prods. and Mutual Film Co. It revolves around a hostile alien spacecraft shot down and captured by the U.S. military, setting off a rescue attempt by alien forces and a violent confrontation.

* Richard Belzer will spearhead two comic features for National Lampoon to help restore their edgy comic image. The two pics are: *This Is America*, a sketch comedy movie, and the Jim Valalee-penned *The Lightning Club*, about a group of inhabitants in heaven who automatically got there by being struck by lightning. Once there, they are sequestered into one place not unlike a frat house.

(Ain't It Cool News, July 14, 2003, via Michael Morse)

QUENTIN TARANTINO pays homage to sf in his upcoming film *Kill Bill*, according to a fragment of opening screenplay published in a UK newspaper. BLACK FRAME / QUOTE APPEARS: / 'Revenge is a dish best served cold' – credited not to the usual sources like *Les Liaisons Dangereuses* (1782) or any number of 19th-century proverb

collections, but as 'Old Klingon Proverb'. (*Independent Review*, 22 July)

Ansible 193

New Battlestar Galactica?

"I actually had a look at the posting that Mike (Morse)'s posting was linked to. If you didn't look it up already, it shows one of the series' main stars, Edward James Olmos (who's playing Commander Adama) giving a bad news/good news briefing on what to expect in the "new" version of *Battlestar Galactica*. Call me shallow, but I'm guessing that Adama's makeup is gonna be one part Lt. Castillo and one part Latino Americano badass school teacher, as in "*Stand And Deliver*". Although it sounds like the money people could have just as easily passed this off as a remake of "*The Starlost*" or a live-action "*Starblazers*" (okay okay okay, "*Space Cruiser Yamato*" yeesh), I think that this "new" *Battlestar Galactica* will be a vast improvement over Glen Larson's "original" epic. Or in other words, one part *Star Wars* clone and one part *Mormons In Space*.

(Doug Finnerty, July 11, 2003)

According to Ain't It Cool News, Matt Damon is rumoured to star in the *Namor the Sub-Mariner* movie.

<http://www.aintitcoolnews.com/display.cgi?id=15818>

I disagree with that casting. Back in the late eighties John Byrne said that Lance Henriksen would make a good Namor, and the next time I saw *Aliens* on TV, I agreed. I guess Henriksen would be too old now. Another alternative name (-or!) floated in the talkback section of AICN was Keanu Reeves. He certainly looks the part; I just have my doubts about how he would play it, and what the audience's expectations would be ("Come on, say 'Whoa!' already!").

(Michael Morse, Aug. 11, 2003)

Books in Review

(Garth Spencer subbing this issue for Donna McMahon)

The Action Hero's Handbook, by David Borgenicht and Joe Borgenicht. Philadelphia, PA: Quirk Productions, Inc., 2002.

I've always wondered how James Bond and Lara Croft keep bouncing out of one desperate situation after another. Evidently they read this book, ate their broccoli, and kept up their exercises. From this little book you can (a) learn the Vulcan Nerve Pinch, (b) gain the power to cloud men's minds, (c) survive a climb on the faces of

Mount Rushmore, and (d) generally survive impossible situations, just like in the movies.

If you believe the advertising,

Subsequent release: *The Action Heroine's Handbook*, now at a bookstore near you.

The Art of Shen Ku, by Zeek. New York: Berkley/Penguin, 1999. coffee-table paperback.

I picked this up while searching for the Life Instructions Textbook that everyone was issued in high school (except me); I found this tome in a local Books Warehouse, beside a translation of the Chinese classic *The Know Everything Book*.

Shen Ku presents itself as a getting-along-on-Earth handbook for aliens, casting life mostly in terms of How to Travel. I can't tell if the tips on health, sex, food, exercise, etc. are meant seriously, or meant as a takeoff on Chinese traditional medicine, T'ai Chi, and oriental cosmology. Maybe it works either way!

How to be a Villain, by neil zawacki. San Francisco: Chronicle Books LLC, 2003. (Paperback-sized but hardbound, like *Action Hero*)

Like the supervillain instructional essays linked to TheToque.com online, *How to Be a Villain* offers a breezy, informal, easy-to-digest survey of Evil as a career path (for those of us who can't qualify for Superhero). Refreshingly, this manual doesn't stick to vague generalities, like "The Concept of Evil" and other starting points, but offers sidebars on practical material points ("Getting Started" lists "Realign the moon's orbit ... Turn a popular landmark into a gelatinous ooze ... Release a demonic hoard (sic) on a peaceful township ... Learn to play the pipe organ and volunteer at church functions ... Broadcast your evil plans on public access television"). As well as listing the Benefits of Being Evil, offering helpful hints on Choosing an Evil Name (and the trademark implications thereof), and how to expand your apparent resources, i.e., fleshing out your limited band of mindless zombies with cardboard cutouts, the author lists various careers in evil, ranging from "night manager" and "mad scientist" to "telemarketer".

Unlike the more dated guides to evil, which concentrated on black-knight careers and ended with the outdated mad-scientist option, this author explores the corporate-bastard and marketing-executive paths now available, and does not fail to mention the avenues of shadow governments and secret societies to obtain world domination.

Above all, this guide is distinguished by its analysis of heroic nemeses and how to thwart them. This was a serious omission of previous works in the field, such as *The Necronomicon* (tr. 1532, Olaus Wormius, ab *Al-Azif*, ca. 891 A.D.?), and even the classic *Clavicula Salomonis* (ca. 1300 – 1450 A.D.?).

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