

## Colophon

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

To post a message, email [BCSFA@yahogroups.com](mailto:BCSFA@yahogroups.com)

The shortcut URL to this list is <http://www.yahogroups.com/community/BCSFA> (or <http://www.yahogroups.com/group/BCSFA> - I have to check on this)

**F.R.E.D.**, the weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in coming, has been meeting at the Denny's on Davie at Thurlow.

**BCSFA's Web page** may now be viewed at <http://bcsfa.bcgreen.com>

**The V-Con Society Web page** may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca/society/>  
**VCon's Web page** may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca>

### BCSFA Executive

President: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-526-7522

Vice President: Doug Finnerty, 604-526-5621

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore-Freeman, 604-277-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-263-0472

Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-526-7522

Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314

Keeper of FRED Book & VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty 604-936-4754

### BCSFA membership rates:

email version: \$15.00

New member: \$26.00

Renewal: \$25.00

New Family (2 votes): \$32.00

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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.

### Why You Got This:

You Contributed

You Are Mentioned

You Really Deserve This

We Want You to Resubscribe

Some News Here Concerns You

You Know.

Well, you *oughta* know.

Whaddayamean, you *don't know*?!



#378

\$3.00

November 2004



**IN THIS ISSUE:**  
**\* VCON 29 REPORT \***  
**\* VCON 30 BID SELECTION \***

## November Events

Nov. 12	<b>BCSFAzine</b> deadline	At FRED (the Denny's on Davie at Thurlow)
Nov. 13	Feeding Frenzy	@ 7pm at Samba Brazilian Steakhouse, 1122 Alberni Street, Vancouver. "All you can eat for carnivores, although they also have a nice little salad bar. Rumour has it that Saturday nights here are party central. Sort of the Brazilian beer commercial you'll never see, yes?" -D.F.
Nov. 18	Book discussion	7pm at Our Town Coffee Shop, #1 - 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. Book to be discussed: <i>Perdido Street Station</i> by China Mieville. contact Doug Finnerty at (604) 526-5621 or <a href="mailto:Darthbuddy2000@yahoo.ca">Darthbuddy2000@yahoo.ca</a> .
Nov. 20	BCSFA meeting/party	7:00 p.m. at the home of Philip and Kathleen Moore-Freeman, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC. Phone 604-277-0845 for directions.
Nov. 26	<b>BCSFAzine</b> production	See Garth and Doug at FRED.
Nov. 27	Kaffeeklatsch	8 pm at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC; phone 604-325-7314 for directions.
Nov. 28	2nd Feeding Frenzy	7pm at Nyala Ethiopian Restaurant, 2930 West 4th Ave, Vancouver.

NOTE: There will be no BCSFA meeting/party in December 2004.

### Contents:

Semi-Editorial .....	1
Epistolarian Art.....	2
Art Credits .....	9
New Members .....	9
Good Little Boys and Girls (birthdays) .....	9
Words from Our Advertisers .....	10
Calendar (Cons etc.) .....	11
Like a Tin of Sardines (art & stories) .....	16
VCon 29 report .....	17
News-like Matter .....	29
including WCSFA minutes.....	30
Media File .....	41
Book Reviews .....	43
Canadian SF & Fantasy Markets .....	47

### Semi-Editorial Bumf

**Corrections:** I have until now listed an incorrect URL for the V-Con Society, and an incorrect email address for the HiSciFi radio show; this issue lists the correct addresses that Greg Slade and Irma Arkus have given me.

### Planning annual BCSFA Christmas dinner party (December 11)

You are invited to call Barb Dryer at 604-267-7973, at your earliest convenience, and let her know where you would prefer to eat – at Urban Buffet, 996 Homer St., Vancouver (tel. 604-630-1188) or at the Spaghetti Factory, 50 8<sup>th</sup> St., New Westminster (tel. 604-524-9788), or elsewhere – and what you would like to eat.

Barb suggests we have our traditional gift exchange at the restaurant. This means, bring wrapped gifts costing less than \$5 each – which may be used books, or novelties from low-price/discount stores – which we will put into one container, where everyone can choose what they please.

(More information on the Christmas dinner will appear in this month's news section.)

### In the Future

In the future, we can have all sorts of neat gee-whiz gadgets. In the future, we will have all sorts of terrible epidemic diseases. In the future, we will be able to phone around the world on a local call. In the future, half of us will be forced out of work into homelessness and addiction, and West Van and Kitsilano will be gated communities surrounded by fortress walls. In the future, we can have orbital factories producing unbelievable alloys and pharmaceuticals. In the future, we can have a worldwide depression dragging on until 2020. In the future, global warming will open up higher latitudes to agriculture and colonization, which may be a good thing if the western US and Alberta and Saskatchewan turn into a vast desert, or may be a useless thing if our general level of fertility continues to decline. In the future, global warming will cause a major shift in spawning latitudes, or major disease and die-off, among staple fish species such as salmon and cod. In the future, central Africa will be so depopulated by AIDS, it will become a major emigration goal for southeast Asians. In the future, South America will be openly seized by the fourth Reich. In the future, Antarctica will be opened to colonization, and mining, and tree planting. In the future, rising sea levels will turn much of southeast Asia, Florida, northern Siberia, Holland and Venezuela into shallow, polluted seas. In the future, depleted oil reserves spell a shift to more diverse, less energetic fuel sources ... or our gradual, more or less disorderly withdrawal from civilization's higher functions. In the future, maintaining our ecosystems will be so obviously necessary, "ecology" will come to mean a form of practical engineering, *and* we can expect a rise in nature-based spirituality. In the future, wars over resources as basic as fresh water

can lead to the breakup of nations, even the United States, or at least Canada. And so on.

Some recent book releases – by Jane Jacobs, by Bruce Sterling, and by John Brockman - suggest the probable outline of the next fifty years in our life experiences, and in scientific research, respectively. But they do not seem to cover our most imperative concerns: whether we can even make a living, let alone what kind of future we can promise to our children.

Less recent observations – by a local businessman, by contrarian investors, even by science fiction writers – suggest that the future will be no better and in some respects darker than the past.

Of course we've seen all this before.

From my perspective, both mass media and popular publishers bring out an increased share of future predictions, both well- and ill-founded, approximately every twenty to thirty years. If you rule out astrological forecasts and psychic predictions, e.g. Atlantis rising or large parts of North America sinking into the sea, there are still projections based on technological and economic changes, both optimistic and pessimistic.

In this connection it is interesting to look at past predictions, such as the Wallaces' *The Book of Predictions*, or articles by John Barnes and Michael Flynn on projecting the future, for science fiction purposes. And again, they predict prosperity and poverty, achievement and calamity, the rise and fall of civilization, all at once.

In other words, anything could happen. We knew that already.

Brockman, John, ed. *The Next Fifty Years*.

Flynn, Michael. *In the Country of the Blind*.

Jacobs, Jane. *Dark Age Ahead*.

Sterling, Bruce. *Tomorrow Now*.

Wallechinsky, et al. *The Book of Predictions*.

## ***Epistolarian Art***

Greg Slade, [grga@lynx.net](mailto:grga@lynx.net), October 1, 2004

[www.associate.com/camsoc/greg/](http://www.associate.com/camsoc/greg/) [www.associate.com/camsoc/ots/](http://www.associate.com/camsoc/ots/)

"Crossbows don't kill people; quarrels kill people!"

Randy Barnhart said:

"I was all for checking out *Thunderbirds* when it was released, but Barb, who was brought up on the Supermarionation version, absolutely refused to soil beloved childhood memories with Bill Paxton playing Jeff Tracy. She argued the marionette is a much better actor than Paxton, and those who have seen *Twister* and *Aliens* will probably agree."

I was all excited when I heard there was going to be a *Thunderbirds* movie, because I loved that show when it first came out in my childhood. How little did I realise...

I have to say that the critics who panned it had good reason. In fact, I nominate Jonathan Frakes as the Ed Wood of the 21st century. Obviously, he loves science fiction, but he just doesn't have the talent to live up to his ambitions.

It started out with an incredibly corny animated opening sequence, perhaps giving fair warning that these guys realized that they weren't exactly living up to Gerry Anderson's original vision. (Which is sad, because Anderson's vision was squeezed through a tiny kid's show budget, while Frakes, apparently, had gobs of dough to play with.)

There has been criticism aimed at the *Spy Kids* style plot: the little brother too young to be allowed to play hero like his father and older brothers, who finally ends up having to save all their butts. Also, like *Spy Kids*, this story got pretty heavy-handed with the "message." In *Spy Kids*, it was all about family values. The family that spies together stays together. In *Thunderbirds*, it's about teamwork, appreciating the strengths of others, and doing your homework. *Thunderbirds* wasn't **\*quite\*** so blatant about pounding the message in as *Spy Kids* was, but it came pretty close.

Those who know that Gerry Anderson was chafing at the restrictions of doing "kid's shows" (although he finally got to do shows for grownups later on) will appreciate the irony of taking a show which he worked so hard to make as an action adventure appealing to adults, and turning it into a movie based around kids. All of the adults in the film are made to look bad at one point or another, and it's the kids who save the day in the end. What's even more ironic is that, having betrayed Anderson's vision, the makers then turned around and threw in multiple sexual references which make the show unsuitable for kids. (Or, for that matter, for adults. The alleged humour in these scenes would probably work best on sniggering 14 year old boys, so uncomfortable about their sexuality that they find anything even remotely sexual cause for hysterical laughter.)

Lady Penelope and her chauffeur come in for cruel and unusual treatment. Americans don't seem to understand or appreciate British reserve, so the makers force both characters into more and more absurd situations (and force them to utter equally absurd lines). It made me cringe to watch. (It bewilders me how Hollywood continues to hold up any character who is identifiably British as a caricature. Those Brits who are not downright evil are held up as figures of fun. For all the American fury against the French for refusing to support the war in Iraq, it is still the British who are the most common targets of Hollywood's tender mercies.)

Just about the only thing to survive the transition intact was the ships themselves. They were remarkably faithful to Anderson's original creations. (In fact, in one brief shot, as a character's hand rests upon a ship's controls, it is shown having strings, thus providing a brief visual homage to the original series and its "Super Marionation" techniques.)

CGI was used to make the ships more realistic, but their basic structure, dozens of engines and all, remained the same.

And, finally, we come to one last niggle. I'm not usually the kind of guy who notices technical flubs, and am shocked to have them pointed out to me, even in films I have seen multiple times. However, this production seems to have suffered from an unusually inept microphone boom operator. I lost count of the number of times that I saw the microphone in the shot, sometimes the whole thing was visible, and part of the boom as well. Apparently, Frakes failed to notice the flubs, because that microphone ended up having more screen time than some of the actors. What makes that all the more odd is that, in this age of CGI, masking out that microphone would practically be child's play.

*"4: Darryl Huber is, or was, a member of the VCon 29 committee and a renewed BCSFA member. Also he moved recently."*

That would be "was." Apparently, not long after he moved, he was kidnapped by aliens or something, because repeated attempts to get hold of him have failed. Personally, I'm betting that he's hanging out on Mars with Elvis' brain. (It's no wonder Mars needs women. Maybe they can't tell the difference, and that's why they kidnapped Darryl instead of, say, Britney Spears.) Anyway, I inherited one of his jobs, and Marie inherited the other. The first person to complain about the way either job is handled this year gets to do that job next year. (No, that's not a promise, it's a threat.)

*"25: Jim Miyashita is known mainly as the consort of Debbie Miyashita. Practically nothing is known for certain about this shadowy, enigmatic figure, but of course there are rumours ... You can believe pretty much what you want to."*

Now, see, here's the difference between your editorial style and mine. I have threatened the con members that I will **\*make up\*** stuff about them on the website if they don't provide me with "bizarre but true" facts about themselves, to go along with my general theme of semi-subtle silliness. (Take the comment about how Dave Duncan has a pet haggis named Eric, for example. I just made that up. Actually, he calls it "Wee Geordie", but I thought "Eric" would be funnier because of the Monty Python allusion.) Now, see, in Jim's case, you could have said that he sleeps in Luke Skywalker pyjamas (complete with the feet), and is the proud owner of Western Canada's largest collection of Luke Skywalker memorabilia, and his only defence against you publishing similarly slanderous comments next year (since suing you would be patently futile) would be to fess up some real actual facts. Unless, of course, he doesn't actually find accusations of a secret obsession with Luke Skywalker upsetting, in which case, you could haul out the big guns and tell people that he's a huge fan of *Battle Beyond the Stars* or *H.G. Wells' The Shape of Things to Come* (the 1979 Canadian-made version where the evil robot was so incredibly lame that the audience laughed every time it came on screen, and in which only the title was retained to fool the innocent) or *Plan Nine From Outer Space* or *The Angry Red Planet* (featuring Gorba the

Giant Zit), or some other suitably Elron-worthy flick. If that doesn't motivate him, the man has no shame.

*(I have to confess, I know next to nothing about most BCSFA members, either the set for which I have birthdays or the set who are current members. After more than fifteen years' experience, I have no idea what motivates BCSFA members. I am trying to provoke BCSFA members to respond, to react, to participate, to give a damn. After fifteen years of trying, I have yet to find something that works. Visibly, anyway.)*

*(Oct.) "26: Bruce Hawick used to show up and volunteer at Vcons, until he somehow browned off both Jackie Barclay and Vicki Oates. For some reason he used to greet me with 'Honey!' and grab me in a bear hug. I never did figure out how that joke originated, or what was the point to it."*

Well, you know what they say: if you have to explain a joke, it's not funny anymore...

Alan R. Betz <[arbetz@telus.net](mailto:arbetz@telus.net)>, 11 Oct 2004

My last remaining good quality microphone was stolen at VCON 29. This ends my ability to lend equipment for use at conventions. In addition to this item, a Realistic brand Cardioid Electret Microphone in a black plastic case, model unknown, I have over the years lost the following items, which were either stolen or simply not returned to me: six Radio Shack dynamic microphones, four Sony ECM-170 electret microphones, four mic floor stands, ten mic table stands, a Radio Shack six mic mixer, a Jana four mic mixer, a Sony MX-12 six mic mixer, two six channel 100 ft. long mic snakes, many regular mic cables in lengths from 25 to 100 feet, power extension cords, quartz halogen video lighting heads and stands, and a preamp assembly made of two Dyna PAM-1 preamps and attached power supply.

PLEASE look in closets and storage areas accessible to you to see if any of this equipment can be found. My phone number is 604-591-3061, and my email address is [arbetz@telus.net](mailto:arbetz@telus.net).

Lloyd&Yvonne Penney [penneys@allstream.net](mailto:penneys@allstream.net), 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9C 2B2, October 15, 2004

The submission deadline is here, and I'm still on the job hunt, and we are having some fine Vancouver weather here (it's pouring outside), so I might as well get a loc done on *BCSFazine* 377, hm? At least it's a Friday, and man, do I need a weekend...

Today is the 50th anniversary of Hurricane Hazel tearing up the west end of Toronto.

First of all, to all who were involved with VCon 29...many thanks for making Yvonne feel welcome and busy at the con. She had a good time, as she did at the two space conferences the week before. She said her panels were well-received, and some people were truly surprised to see her; not often that Torontonians make it out for the con. I hope some day to come out and see you all again; gotta save my transporter credits.

Yes, we discussed the Balkanization of fandom 20 years ago, and sure enough, it is still going on today. Now, some of the sub-fandoms are suffering their own balkanization, with specialty media cons fissioning off from the parent media con, etc. There are so many other things in life today to grab the interest of the average fan, there is less time for making those cross-country connections, and rediscovering that fandom can be nationwide, if only you look for it.

Any luck in your own job hunt? I hope those websites I told you about helped. I have a ton of resumes out right now, and I do have some good leads. Yvonne is trying her best to get me into the company she works for, but I may have to grab some nighttime work to get through. Help me, 6/49, you're my only hope!

*((I've been kind of, um, slack about it ... have to lean into it again ...))*

Skunks are getting around, I guess, especially in the city. I was walking just north of our place around the landscaped grounds of the Etobicoke Civic Centre, and I ran into a small skunk sniffing around one of the flowerbeds. It didn't see me as a threat, and I tried my best to fade into the background. There's more wildlife in Toronto than most people think, and I am not referring to the club district downtown.

Randy's letter...Yvonne told me what you said about the picture of us at N4. A huge photo of us? Astonishing. I haven't been feeling loved by fandom these days, so this whole thing is a pleasant, and slightly embarrassing, surprise. We do have photos in the Fan Gallery, but an extra large one is a surprise.

I'm glad the convention list I sent to you has been of assistance...I hadn't done one in months, and it had been something I'd wanted to get done as soon as I could. Perpetual putting-it-off and other forms of procrastination made sure that I was about four months late in actually getting to it.

Worldcons...I don't go to them any more, but I will certainly see where they go. Scotland in 2005, Los Angeles in 2006, Japan in 2007, and it looks like it might be Chicago in 2008. 2009 will be interesting...a fledgling Montreal bid, tentatively named Anticipation, will be going up against a relatively experienced bunch from Kansas City. 2010 has a bid from Australia, and 2011 may see a bid from Washington, DC. I have been asked if I would support a Montreal Worldcon bid. Emotionally, yes. Financially, probably not.

*((Is Montreal fandom ready to mount a Worldcon bid? Let alone a Worldcon? That's the question in my mind.))*

The Hugo winners...yes, there is a foofaraw going on about Cheryl Morgan winning the Best Fanzine Hugo for *Emerald City*, which is available mostly through her website, although she will often print out a few issues to go on the freebie table at whatever convention she may be going to. rich brown definitely does not like Cheryl, and has spouted off on the subject here and there. Cheryl is looking at all of this with amusement; she's not quite sure what she's done to earn rich's wrath, but she's not losing sleep over it.

Time to go, and get this ready for the e-mail. I will be meeting Yvonne in north Toronto this evening, so I will get ready to go soon. I hope there will be a VCon post-con report soon; I'd like to see how you did. Did anyone spot the multi-coloured Ad Astra flyers on the freebie table? Take care all, and see you next issue. Happy Hallowe'en, y'all!

**BCSFAZINEzine Vol. 1, No. 26.377**, 17 October 2004

BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, [felicity4711@hotmail.com](mailto:felicity4711@hotmail.com).

Some of the artwork in this issue was in the "do not re-use" category on my art checklist—did I remember to send that to you?

Cover - I miss the eighties.

*((My God, why??))*

*Send Me a Postcard, Drop Me a Line – to Lloyd & Yvonne Penney: “((The only answer I perceive is to harness the same force that expands the fannish universe: **MARKETING!**))”*

OK. How do we do that? Do you have any books on that?

*To Randy Barnhart: “((If we were all wrestling fans as well as SF fans, we would joke about Expository Lump, the nearly-undefeated champion who vanquishes almost all writers.))”*

Speaking as a former wrestling fan, I wish wrestling were that creative. Unfortunately, the weird angles and supernatural gimmicks have been out of style in pro-wrestling for the last eight years.

*All the Good Little Boys and Girls – re Alan R. Betz: A happy birthday \*(buzz)\* to Mr. Science!*

*Words from Our Advertisers: Hey! Close off the bottom of that table, Garth!*

Thanks once again to Imperial Hobbies for the trivia prizes.

Note to self: try to listen to *Hi Sci Fi* before leaving for FRED on Friday evenings.

*Clubs We Know Of – re The UBC Science Fiction Society: I belonged to this when I was a student at UBC, and had always meant to re-join someday. Chances are that those people that thought I was a stalker ten years ago are gone now. However, I hear that there are people on the executive there *now* who are calling one of my closest *friends* a stalker, so I will not be supporting this club.*

*Re VJAS, The Vancouver Japanese Anime Society: I belonged to this for one year after I bought a membership from the VJAS table in the dealers' room at Non-Con 15. William Chow had a table in the dealers' room at the last few V-Cons and this year I brought money to buy a membership, but VJAS wasn't there! Neither was TASC, for whom I had also budgeted a membership.*



*Re VSWAT, The Vancouver Sleep Is for Wimps Anime Team:* This club seems to be inactive. Their website has been saying for over a year that both it and the club are under construction.

*Conventions and Other Events - Howloween 2004 (Oct. 29-30):* I've never been to a furry con, but from con reports I've read they sound like a lot of fun. I think I'll go to this if I can work out transportation and if it doesn't mean I have to stop saving up for Norwescon.

*Re Vancouver Comicon (Nov. 14):* I haven't been able to go to one of these in months, and I need my cheap good comics fix.

*Re A V-Con 29 Post-Mortem Party:* This sounds interesting—is it for all V-Con members?

*((I had intended to host a post-mortem party for the committee, if no-one else were to hold one. Now, I gather, the plan is to hold something at a more spacious setting, on a different date when most of the concom can get there.))*

*Re Norwescon 28 (Mar. 24-27):* Ray and I have calculated that I can afford to go to this and have a good time, if I set aside \$5 every day from now until the con.

*Re Anime Evolution (Aug. 19-21):* I hope I get to go this year. I had a lot of fun at the 2003 Anime Evolution and, from what I hear from people who did go, I missed a good time at the 2004 Anime Evolution. By the way, I think this next one would be Anime Evolution 4, if they were using the numbering system used by cons like V-Con.

*Creative Typing – “Transaction Declined”:* Good story, Garth! Moody, readable, and efficient.

*((Think yew. I'm planning a series of minifictions about encounters between fannish mortals, sort of two steps past the sense of wonder, and various monsters, alternately science-fictional and fantastical. I'm open to suggestions.))*

*Fan News, or Something Sort of Like It – re Outer Fandom Trekkies 2:* As mediocre and tacky as *Trekkies* was, it was still an enjoyable look into *Star Trek* fandom. I'd like to see the sequel. I know what happened to Gabriel Köerner—he became the *Star Trek* Geek on *Beat the Geeks* and is currently a digital modeller on the new *Battlestar Galactica* among other shows. I would like to know what happened to Douglas Marcks, the transgendered filker. I wrote to him, but there was no answer.

*Media File - Postscript:* I wasn't sure if *Lost* would really connect with media SF fans, but at the Calgary Westercon/*Farscape* room party a lot of conversation was generated by *Lost*.

*Thunderbirds Are...No Go!* I found this article a little difficult to follow, but enjoyed it.

*We Also Heard From: Irma Arkus, Yuki Witherspoon-Li, Hrothgar Weems, and the Office of the President of the United States.*

## Art Credits:

Cover Title ..... Sheryl Birkhead  
Cover ..... Jose Sanchez  
p. 16 ..... Taral Wayne  
p. 19 ..... Felicity Walker  
Photos ..... Felicity Walker

## BCSFA New Members & Renewals at VCon 29

Gerald Boyko

Now at #1 Townhouse / 13755 – 102 Ave. / Surrey, BC V3T 1N9

Tel: 604-582-0961

b: Jan. 25, 1942

Howard Cherniack

Linda Earl

Email: [valleycirclenewsle@telus.net](mailto:valleycirclenewsle@telus.net)

Allan Kelly

Tim Smick

Sidney Trim

Ken Wong

### Welcome our New Members:

Virginia O'Dine

4378 1st Ave. / Prince George, BC V2M 1C9

tel. (250) 563-3222

email: [Virginia@thedesignuniverse.com](mailto:Virginia@thedesignuniverse.com)

Richard J. Sutcliffe

28964 Starr Rd. / Abbotsford, BC V4X 2C5

email: [rsuto@arjay.ca](mailto:rsuto@arjay.ca)

## Good Little Boys and Girls

(BCSFA members' birthdays this month)

**2: Rachel-Ann Witherspoon-Li** helped invent either Goth or punk in the late 1970s in England. She is now in her mid-50s.

**4: Tom Barr** is almost a founding member of BCSFA, and we know next to nothing about him. Nothing publishable, anyway.

**7: Brooke Sackett** is a charming young lady who takes after her mother Dixie.

**11: Stephen Kawamoto** is rumoured to be an agent of the Buddhist Cultural Imperialist Front. He keeps saying “in Gassho.”

**12: Wendy Harris** is another BCSFA member about whom we know practically nothing.

**13: Shelley Mullock** is John Mullock’s registered partner in crime. She is sometimes credited with the founding of the Rhinoceros Party in BC, and the first feud to split up Greenpeace, and is now rumoured to be in the Yukon fighting BC Cultural Imperialism.

**18: Steve Barclay** is Jackie’s partner in crime and has no warrants out in his name. They have reproduced.

**23: Allan Ferguson** disappeared into Delta, presumably with Pam Henschell, after heavy involvement with VCon. I think, but am not certain, that he is concocting a hidden race of Superfen. I think I can say that in public. Nobody told me about any restraining orders ...

**24: Spider Robinson** is a world-famous award-winning SF author who seems to have disappeared somewhere in the fastnesses of the Gulf Islands. It is rumoured that he has given up smoking.

**26: Amy Morgan / Hearn** still lives in Vancouver, still draws stuff, and is pursuing a line of work and education dedicated to FRP game illustration.

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**Calendar of Upcoming Events**

**November 2004**

Nov. 5: Release of *Birth*, in which a widow (Nicole Kidman) is faced by a little boy claiming to be her husband’s reincarnation; and *The Incredibles*, in which a family of superheroes tries and fails to retire to the suburbs.

Nov. 5-7: **Orycon 26** at the DoubleTree Hotel in Portland, Oregon. Writer Guest Jerry Olton; Artist Mark Roland; Editor Jennifer Heddle. General SF, and the largest SF convention in Oregon. Rooms \$95/night (plus tax) for 1-4 people, \$15/extra occupants. Phone (503) 283-2111. NOTE: the Interstate Wing is the "party wing". Memberships: US\$55 at the door; Children (6 to 12), half-price; 5’s and under, free. **Children must be accompanied by adults.** “To get into any panels, lectures, workshops, the Art Show, the Masked Ball, the dances, etc., you need a membership! (If you just want to hang out in the halls and go to room parties like the guild’s Friday Midnight Party, you

don't ..... ) To register, you can: Use the online membership form and pay using PayPal. <http://www.orycon.org/orycon26/mailform.html> Or go to <http://www.orycon.org/orycon26/membership.html> and print out the paper membership form, fill it out, and mail it in with a check. Make checks payable to 'OryCon 26'. (B. Sharp) Write Orycon 26, P.O. Box 5464, Portland, OR 97228-5464; email [mel-content@comcast.net](mailto:mel-content@comcast.net); URL [www.orycon.org/orycon26](http://www.orycon.org/orycon26).

Nov. 10: Release of *Seed of Chucky* (no comment -GS)

Nov. 14, 11 am to 5 pm: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15<sup>th</sup> Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Special Guests: Greg Rucka, author of *A Gentleman's Game*, *A Fistful of Rain*, *Critical Space*, *Shooting at Midnight*; writer of *Queen and Country*, *Gotham Central*, *Wolverine*, *Wonder Woman*, *Adventures of Superman*, *Detective Comics*, *Ultimate Daredevil & Elektra*, *Whiteout*. Jeff Parker, creator of *Interman*, artist on *Vampirella*, *Batgirl*, *Robin*, *Wonder Woman*. Michel Gagné, creator of *Insanely Twisted Rabbits*, *Freaky Fauna: From A - Z*, *Zed*. Steve Rolston, creator of *One Bad Day*; penciller of *Queen and Country*, *Mek*, *Pounded*. James Lloyd, artist of *Futurama Comics*, *Simpsons Comics*. Ken Boesem, creator of Barking Raven Press. Kelly Everaert, creator of *Trilogy of Terror*. Robin Thompson, creator of *Champions of Hell*. Andy Mori, creator of *Flopnik*. Darren Davis, creator of *10th Muse*. Verne Andru, creator of *Captain Canuck*, *Phantacea*. Trevor Frick Rusty Beach, creator of *Ghettotoons*. Free Comics! Hourly door prizes! Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: Free. Dealers' Tables: \$50/centre; \$55/wall. For information, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail Leonard S Wong [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com), or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>.

Nov. 14: **Category 6: Day of Destruction**, a TV movie that looks uncommonly like *The Day After Tomorrow*, will air on CBS network channels.

Nov. 20 (11 am – 4 pm): **Comic Book & Toy Show** at the Capitol Hill Community Centre, 361 South Howard, North Burnaby (off 5500 East Hastings). Dealer Info: 6-foot tables, \$35, tel. 604-521-6304. Free parking, snack bar, free admission. URL: [www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99](http://www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99); email [funpromo@shaw.ca](mailto:funpromo@shaw.ca).

## December 2004

Dec. 3-5: **SMOFCon 22**, the original conrunners' convention, at the Wyndham Washington in Washington D.C. Rooms US \$119 for single or double, \$139 for triple or quad occupancy, plus tax; mention SMOFCon and the group code, 1202648SM. Phone 1-877-999-3223. Memberships \$70 at the door, \$25 supporting; checks to WSFA, Inc. Write WSFA/SMOFCon 22, 7113 Wayne Drive, Annandale, VA 22003-1734, [www.smofcon22.org](http://www.smofcon22.org).

Dec. 31, 2004 to Jan. 1, 2005; **Fest of Rohan**, a costume event for over-21's. "Advance tickets" (!?) available at Sonic Boom Records outlets in Seattle (206-568-BOOM, 206-547-BOOM, or 206-297-BOOM), and through TicketWeb (1-866-468-7623). See also [www.middleearth.com](http://www.middleearth.com).

Other film releases in Dec. 2004: *Man-Thing*, a 7-foot-tall green ooze pile crawls from a Louisiana swamp. (*Presumably looking for love, understanding and civil rights.*)

## January 2005

Jan. 14 - 16: **Rustycon 22** at SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel in SeaTac, Washington. A General SF convention. Writer Guest: To Be Determined. Artist: R. Stephen Adams. FanGoH: IKV T'Mar (a Klingon costuming group). Room rates To Be Determined (last year's was \$94/night); Phone SeaTac Radisson at (206) 244-6000 (800-333-3333). Group rate expires by December 21, 2004. Memberships \$40 to December 1, 2004; \$49.50 at the door. Write Rustycon 22, P.O. Box 27075, Seattle, WA 98165-1475. URL: [www.rustycon.com](http://www.rustycon.com).

## February 2005

Feb. 18-20: **RadCon 4A** at the Red Lion Hotel, Pasco, WA. GoHs TBA. Room rate \$74/night for 1 to 4 (mention Radcon to get con rate); phone (509) 547-0701, or write Red Lion Hotel, 2525 North 20th, Pasco, WA 99301. Memberships \$30 for a full weekend, \$15 for Friday only, \$20 for Saturday only, \$5 for Sunday only; Children ten and under free with adult member. See [www.radcon.org](http://www.radcon.org). Write RadCon, PMB #162, 2527 West Kennewick Ave, Kennewick, WA 99336-3126, U.S.A.

## March 2005

Mar. 24-27: **Norwescon 28** at the Doubletree SeaTac Hotel in SeaTac, WA. (Do I see a trend here?) GoHs: Writer Guest of Honor: Michael Bishop; Artist Guest of Honor: John Howe; Science Guest of Honor: Suzette Haden Elgin; Spotlitged Publisher: TOR Books featuring Tom Doherty; Special Guest of Honor: Alan Dean Foster. Norwescon is the host of the Philip K. Dick Award. I think it is still the single largest annual convention in the Pacific Northwest, but anime conventions have been reaching or exceeding their attendance level.) Rooms: \$99/night for 1-5; phone (206) 246-8600, or fax (206) 431-8687; the DoubleTree SeaTac Hotel is at 18740 International Boulevard, SeaTac, WA. Memberships TBA. Phone (206) 270-7850 or write Norwescon 28 Pre-Registration, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547.

Mar 25-27: **GameStorm** at the Doubletree Columbia River in Portland, Oregon. See <http://www.gamestorm.org>. (Only online registration appears to be possible.)



## April 2005

Apr. 8-10: **SakuraCon 8** at the Seattle Airport Hilton and Conference Center AND Marriott Hotel, SeaTac, WA. An anime and gaming convention hosted by ANCEA. Guests TBA. Memberships: \$40 to

January 1, 2005. phone 1-877-873-3317 or write Sakura-Con, 3702 South Fife St., Suite k02, PB 78, Tacoma, WA 98409. (NOTE: Anime fans do things differently; the SakuraCon website lists "staff positions" and even has a page for "Job Openings". [!?] )

April 8-10: **Ad Astra XXIV** at the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Toronto, ON. Billed as "Toronto's Annual Literary Science Fiction Convention". Hotel: Ramada Plaza Hotel Toronto Airport East, 1677 Wilson Ave. Wheelchair friendly. Everything else TBA. For more information email [info@ad-astra.org](mailto:info@ad-astra.org) or see [www.ad-astra.org](http://www.ad-astra.org).

## May 2005

May 19: release of *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith*

May 20-23: **Keycon 22**, Radisson Hotel Downtown, Winnipeg, MB. SF convention. Guests: TBA. Memberships: \$35 until January 1, 2005. For more information, see [www.keycon.org](http://www.keycon.org).

## June 2005

June 2005 - **C-Cubed**: "Michael and Becky Citrak will be running the 2005 C<sup>3</sup>. They plan on having a Tech theme." Contact Michael Citrak @ [mcitrak@comcast.net](mailto:mcitrak@comcast.net); Becky Citrak @ 360-456-7441 or [adonno@aol.com](mailto:adonno@aol.com).

## July 2005

July 1-4: **Westercon 58** at the Westin Calgary Hotel in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A traveling general SF and major regional SF Convention. Author GoH: S.M. Stirling. Canadian Author Guest: David Duncan. Publisher guest: Tom Doherty (TOR). Editor guest: David Hartwell (TOR). Science Guest: Dr. Phil Currie (archaeologist). Artist guest: Mark Ferrari. Fan Guests: Cliff Samuels & Eileen Capes. Rooms C\$120 + tax per night; contact 1-800-937-8461. Memberships range up to C\$80 (adult). Write Calgary in 2005, P.O. Box 43078, DVPO, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7, or email [info@calgaryin2005.org](mailto:info@calgaryin2005.org).

## August 2005

Aug. 19-21: **Anime Evolution**, Hotel TBA, Vancouver, BC. Anime convention. Guests & memberships: TBA. For more information, see [www.animeevolution.com](http://www.animeevolution.com).

## September 2005

Sept. 1-5: **CascadiaCon 2005**, the 2005 NasFic, at the SeaTac Hilton & Conference Center in Seatac, Washington. (The General SF convention North Americans hold when Worldcon goes overseas.) Writer GoH: Fred Saberhagen. Artist GoH: Liz Danforth. Editor GoH: Toni Weisskopf (Baen). Fan GoH: Kevin Standlee (chair of Con Jose). Scientist GoH: Marc Abrahams (founder of the *Journal of Improbable Research* and the Ig Nobel Awards). Rooms \$109/night for 1-4 people; phone (206) 244-4800. Memberships: \$85 (full adult). Write Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A.

Sept. 23-25: **Foolsap VII** at the Bellevue Sheraton, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Harlan Ellison. "Foolsap VII will continue the tradition of featuring original artwork from professionals and newcomers on an invitational basis. To be considered for invitation, prospective artists may submit samples of artwork to our jury." Memberships now \$40. Mail deadline: Sept. 10, 2005. Mail to Foolsap VII c/o Little Cat Z P. O. Box 2461 Seattle, WA 98111-2461. Email [www.foolscapcon.org](http://www.foolscapcon.org).

## October 2005

Oct. 7-9, 2005 (tentative); **VCon 30** in Burnaby, BC. Venue and GoHs tentative as yet. Dealers tables: \$60 for first table, with 1 included membership; \$50 for additional table, with 1 included membership; \$30 for each additional membership. (Dealers' Liaison: Greg Slade.) Registration: until December 31, 2004, adults \$35, children under 13 (with accompanying adult), \$17.50; until June 30, 2005, adults \$45, children \$22.50; until September 15, 2005, adults \$50, children \$25; at the door, adults \$60, children \$30 each. Payment accepted by cheque, money order or Visa. Write to VCon 30, c/o #209 – 2166 West 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 2A4. Day memberships are available. See [www.v-con.ca](http://www.v-con.ca) for updates.



R. Graeme Cameron and Garth Spencer yak about fanzines at VCon 29

## ***Life is Like a Tin of Sardines***

More Things on Top of Other Things

### *On the Run (conclusion)*

by Taral Wayne



## *Snup* Chapter 4 by Felicity Walker

Now in harmony with his house, Jack meditated. He felt that his friends could help him decide who he wanted to be. For best effect, he needed them all together so that he could synthesize their reflections of his personality.

In other words, he needed to throw a party.

He started making phone calls. "Foof, I'm having a party Friday night and I'd like to invite you," he said to his old high-school friend Foof Guthrark, "and Puppil-Renee." A few years ago Foof had married Puppil-Renee Snussunfunp, who had been a teen fashion model when she, Foof, and Jack were in high school.

"Uh...possibly not..." Foof hedged. "I don't really associate with the old high-school crowd these days." In high school Foof had openly declared his ambition to grow up to be a yuppie, and it was common knowledge among those still aware of him that he regularly severed all contact with friends who did not maintain at minimum a middle-class lifestyle.

Jack waited and said nothing. It almost wasn't worth inviting Foof, but he could use Foof's perspective in his survey of his friends. However, it certainly wasn't worth trying to persuade Foof.

"Jack's a slacker, but he *is* rich," thought Foof. "I may not respect him, but some of his friends are well-educated professionals and I may want to meet them." Foof consulted with Puppil-Renee.

"I'd like to go," said Puppil-Renee. "I was barely acquainted with Jack in high school, but I heard good things about his parties."

"OK, Jack," said Foof, "we'll come."

The party was at 7:00 p.m., so Jack told Foof to arrive at 6:00 p.m., knowing that Foof would arrive an hour late as a power trip.

The invitations had begun. Jack made some more calls.

*"There Was Supposed to Be an Earth-Shattering Kaboom!"*

(Marvin the Martian, on Mt. St. Helens' recent semi-eruption)

### ***VCon 29 Report***

October 8-10, 2004 at the Hilton Metrotown. GoHs: Dave Duncan, Todd Lockwood, Dr. Jaymie Matthews, Lisa Smedman.

by **Felicity Walker** (viz.)

### **Friday 8 October 2004 ("Evil Clown")**

I car-pooled to the convention with my roommates, **Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand**, **Joe Devoy**, and **Ryan Hawe**. I'd been up until 7:00 a.m.



preparing, so I was somewhat tired and slept through more of the convention than I would have liked.

This was the first V-Con I've attended as Felicity.

This was the second V-Con where I was free to attend all three days and could afford to share a hotel room at the con. **Ray "Dr. Media" Seredin** once again booked the room, and this year he split it with me, Fruvous, **Marlon Richmond**, and **Jon Cunningham**.

This was the first V-Con where I could afford to buy my membership in advance instead of at the door, and I was looking forward to seeing my name neatly typed on my badge. Unfortunately, the treasurer was thrown by the name "Michael Morse" on the check versus the name "Felicity Walker" for badge name, so no badge name had been typed on my badge. "Felicity Walker" was therefore handwritten on a sticker which was placed onto my badge.

I received a member survey to fill out. I didn't read the instructions closely enough and on the "interests" question checked *all* my interests instead of my top three. I had to ask for another survey form, which ended up putting **Clint Budd** to a little more trouble than I'd expected, as a new form was not easy to find.

The first panel I attended was hosted by Fruvous: "**Furry Fandom: What Is It?**" There weren't many non-furries there to learn the answer to that question—only Joe, Ray, Ryan, **Chris "Rain Rat" Stubbs**, and I attended. However, Fruvous gave an articulate and well-prepared explanation of furry fandom, and I recorded it with Ray's video camera (although upon reviewing the tape while writing this report, I see that I fell asleep at some point and Ray filmed the rest of it, including some shots of me sleeping). I enjoyed the layout of the room, with Fruvous at the head of a rectangular table and the rest of us around him, rather than a panel lined up on a stage staring down at an audience opposite them.

What is a furry? Most furries are anthropomorphic animals. Fruvous used Disney's *Robin Hood* as an example. All of its characters are anthropomorphic animals. Then there are non-anthro talking animals, which have full animal looks but human intelligence and emotions. "It's as if a person was in the body of an animal," Joe said. Very rare are the furries who role-play as true animals, without speech or rational thought. Joe mentioned the category of living plushies (toy stuffed animals). Fursuits (costumes) were discussed. On the subject of Disney, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* was given as an exception to the rule that most Disney features have furry characters. Ryan wanted to add, as a fan (introduced to it by his girlfriend at the time) of the animated series *Gargoyles* (also from Disney) that the gargoyles in *Hunchback* were a travesty. Fruvous explained the role of the comedy relief/Greek chorus characters in Disney movies—that the hero is not permitted to actually be alone. Humans assign personality attributes to certain species, even though we have no proof that those animals have those personalities. Some furry stories have humans existing alongside humanoid animals (rather than either/or), such as *Spellsinger* by Alan Dean Foster, which

Fruvous liked. In *Sonic the Hedgehog* (various media) humans existed alongside anthropomorphic animals, and it seemed to Fruvous that this had never been adequately explained; Ryan put in that in one version of the story, the planet of the anthropomorphic animals had been settled by human colonists. (My favourite description of the *Sonic* cartoons is what Paul said to me in the mid-1990s after seeing the first episode: "Badly drawn chicken robots.") Furries are misrepresented in mundane popular culture, such as in episodes of *CSI* and *ER* that had episodes involving furry fans. Is furry fandom a sub-fandom of SF fandom? Some say yes, some no; for Fruvous it's more of a sub-culture of the world in general than a sub-fandom within fandom. Demographically, furries seem to be more technical—most of the original furries and a sizeable percentage today have careers involving computers. This is because furry fandom could not have existed without the Internet; as more and more people have access to the Internet and are comfortable with computers, this is changing. Furry fandom seems at times to be more accepting of shy outcasts, more queer-friendly, and more sex-positive than other subcultures, but Fruvous finds that this is a regional matter and it varies from city to city. Interestingly, because furries are visually-oriented, furry fandom is blessed with an abundance of fanartists.



After a meal and a nap, we set up **That Trivia Thing**. Fruvous and I decided that this year we would have a three-round elimination format, going from eight to four to two players. This solved the problem of what almost happened with last year's two-teams-of-four format, where it looked for a while like the two teams were unevenly matched and one team was so far ahead that I was afraid the other team would get discouraged. (As it turned out, we were lucky—the trailing team caught up and it was a very close competition.) Unfortunately, I forgot to change the text on the poster, which was pointed out to me when one player showed up saying that he would only play if he got to be on the same team as his friend! The other snag was that the table wasn't quite long enough for eight players—it was long enough for six players and the host, if they squished together. The table was also on a dais, which meant that it couldn't be extended by adding more tables and chairs. To adjust, we used only six of the eight buzzers from **Al "Mr. Science" Betz's** buzzer system, and had six players in the first round.

There was, at first, a smaller audience than last year, but it eventually picked up, and there was a good atmosphere. Fruvous dazzled as well as last year, plus seemed more relaxed and familiar with hosting trivia at V-Con. Our contestants this year were **Derek Floyd**, Rain Rat,

Jon Cunningham, **Andrew Murdoch**, **Rick Marino**, and **Barbara Scutt**. Andrew Murdoch won.

**Imperial Hobbies** (a Richmond comics/gaming/hobby shop and regular advertiser in *BCSFAzine*) donated prizes, as they did last year, and I think V-Con 29 co-chair/operations person **Marie-Louise Beesley** also contributed some of the prizes. Last year, I deeply regretted not having parting gifts for the second-place team, as thanks for their efforts. This year I may have gone a little overboard, spending around \$40 cleaning the nearest dollar store out of all their *Captain Scarlet and the Mysterons* 1/64<sup>th</sup>-scale Spectrum Cars and *Transformers: Robots in Disguise* Military Teams, but there were definitely enough prizes for all the players this time, and the audience members who got questions right. I wasn't able to get prizes to last year's runners-up (Marius, Duncan, Tom, and Cindy), though I did see two of them (Tom and Cindy) at the convention.

I had a difficult time tearing myself away from the disassembling and putting away of the trivia panel, so I wasn't in time for **the Camarilla's White Wolf LARP** (live action role playing) game, or **Stan Hyde's "Singin' and Dancin' SF and Monster Celebration"** panel. I arrived late for **"Science Fictionary Pictionary"** with artist GOH **Todd Lockwood**, **Susan Walsh**, **Chilam**, and **Lynden Beesley**, but was allowed to play, and I think I did pretty well. Lynden thanked me. My wig seemed to do even better than I did—I was asked for the first of what would be several times that weekend about hair dye, rather than wigs.

In hospitality, the food I liked best was **Kathleen Moore-Freeman's** brownies (she has a different name for them, but I've forgotten it). **Billie McLeod** asked if I was a "transvestite, transsexual, or just fooling around." **Alyx "Magic Rat" Shaw** asked me how I got my hair that colour. Todd Lockwood joined us and complimented me on my Pictionary drawings! I complimented him on his, which were infuriatingly perfect and polished for hasty, panicked sketches. I pointed out to Fruvous a guy that I thought looked like a young John Byrne (red beard, square horn-rimmed glasses, chequered shirt) and Fruvous said that he'd heard the guy say something and that he sounded like Ned Flanders. Todd, Marlon, Fruvous, and others talked politics—George W. Bush and the US election. Fruvous told Todd about Brian Mulroney and the Kim Campbell election, drawing a parallel between fed-up conservative Canadians fleeing the Progressive Conservative party in droves at that time and conservative Americans today. From there the topic moved to *Fahrenheit 911* and then space exploration: is it worth it, and will we ever get there? Todd was sorry to say that we would probably be like the Moties from *The Mote in God's Eye*, with civilizations rising and falling, in cycles, never lasting long enough for us to explore space.

Eventually I got hungry enough to go out and look for a restaurant. I chose Red Robin because it was the first real restaurant I came across and it seemed to be open. In a surprisingly good mood and feeling flushed with cash for a change, I ordered a larger-than-usual amount of food: Chinese dry ribs in coarse salt and pepper on a bed of crispy fried noodles for the appetizer, a banzai burger (beef patty, cheddar cheese,

roast pineapple rings, and teriyaki sauce) for the main course, a brownie sundae for dessert, and bottomless Pepsi. This satisfied my hunger and I still had half the burger in a doggie bag (or "people bag," as Ryan calls them). I raved about the dry ribs and crispy noodles to Fruvous, who said they sounded like something he'd enjoy.

I got back to the hotel after 1:00 a.m., and I still couldn't bring myself to go to bed, so I wandered around the con space hoping someone would talk to me. Hospitality had closed. At one point a group of costumed people walked past and as they turned the corner one of them said I looked like an evil clown and the rest laughed. This started an on-again-off-again depression that plagued me throughout the rest of the con. After more wandering I met **Cindy Turner** outside the front door to the hotel and we talked for a while about costumes and computers. She explained that hospitality had closed at 1:00 a.m. because it was in a *public* room and was therefore legally considered a bar. This meant that a lot of people had not had enough drinks and, finding the con "dry," had to go out in search of more. As we were talking about this, **Paul Carpentier**, **Julie McGalliard**, and **Palle Hoffstein** walked through. I greeted them but they didn't reciprocate. They said they were going home, and I said, "To Bellingham?" and Paul sarcastically replied "Yes, there's no beer in Canada. Canada has run out of beer." I took a photo of them, then had them take a photo of Cindy and me. Paul, Julie, and Palle left, Cindy and I chatted for a little longer, and then Cindy had to go home too.

Still feeling somewhat depressed, I decided to walk around outside in a random direction. I found a Shoppers Drug Mart that was open 24 hours. I went in intending to buy pantyhose, but they were out of my preferred brand, size, and colour (and just when they were two-for-one, too—but a clerk there gave me a rain check). However, I *did* find three nice Halloween items: black lipstick, a black feather boa, and elbow-length black gloves. I was pleasantly surprised and went back to the hotel feeling satisfied enough to go to bed.

### **Saturday 9 October 2004** ("Undead Drag Queen")

I overslept and missed the first half of the first panel on my must-see list, **"Fanzines 101: History of Fanzines,"** with **Garth Spencer**, **Graeme Cameron**, and **Steve Forty**. Even so, I felt very welcome at that panel and enjoyed it.

Next was **"Costumes 101: The Basics of Putting a Costume Together"** with Kim Bothen and Kathleen Moore-Freeman, who was dressed as an alien with eyes in her hands. **Jean Smith** was there in silver *outerwear* and invited me to sit with her. Though the panel wasn't bad, I found that I wasn't as interested in the subject as I thought I would be, since I needed something *much* more remedial to begin to understand how to put a costume together. I left the panel and went back to my room to sleep.

I slept through several panels to which I'd meant to go. When I woke up, I went to the Crystal Mall connected to the hotel and looked at the Japanese toy store, Evertoys. It had a small but impressive assortment of

Transformers. My favourite Transformer, Soundwave, was there in re-release form, but was over \$100 after tax. Evertoys also sold some small non-moving PVC figures of sexy female anime characters, about \$25 each. I then browsed through Sakura Media.

Over the weekend, Ray spent a couple of hours per day guarding the art show. Today the next volunteer was late relieving him and he wanted to attend a panel, so I agreed to stand in for fifteen minutes or so. While I sat at the desk, someone complimented me on my more goth look for that day (long black wig, black lipstick, black blouse, black skirt, and the new black gloves and feather boa, as compared to Friday's short blonde wig, red lipstick, and blue dress).

I went back to hospitality, where Billie had some fashion advice, couched in a very tactful disclaimer that it would sound harsh, though she didn't mean it that way: "You shouldn't wear dresses or skirts with those legs; you should wear pants." She talked about how some transvestites and drag queens don't realize that women frequently wear very boring, practical clothes, like jeans and sweatshirts. I countered that that was fine for genetic women but that trans-women can't afford to be too androgynous, since it sends mixed signals about what gender we want to present.

I got to the **Bacchanal: Costume Contest** good and early so I could get a good seat and videotape and photograph the event. Jean was there in her Sailor Moon costume and was once again very friendly, helping me find a good vantage point for shooting costumes. Cindy complimented me on my goth look. My long-time friend **Paul Patton** joined me at the table and showed me the *Commander's Log* DVD he'd bought. He'd seen the show when it was presented at its panel earlier and said that he liked it a lot. A really funky song was playing on the sound system, and when I told DJ **Greg "Meaty Fontana" Cairns** that I liked it and wondered what it was, it turned out that he was very flattered to report that it was *his* song that he composed and performed, "Sexual Radiation."

It seemed like a short costume contest this year: the Snow Queen, Surtur the Giant, the Master Thief, the Fat Lady Who Guards the Entrance to Gryffindor, Sailor Moon, and a Genie.

The **Bacchanal: Talent Show** was aptly named for it was filled with talent, and it began when **Moog** the alien comic arrived "here by special request—of people elsewhere." Moog interspersed jokes throughout the rest of the talent show. Moog faced a tougher crowd this year than last, although in fairness to Moog, his material usually gets a better response elsewhere in the solar system. At least that's what he tells us. **Blake Hodgett** played keyboards and sang the amazingly great filk "*Star Trek: The Next Generation* Episode Guide," which received thunderous applause. Meaty, Blake, Cindy, **Callie Hills**, and one other person jammed in various combinations on other pieces, including "Sexual Radiation" and a beautiful acoustic guitar-flute duet called "Butterfield." Meaty then said he'd like to disrupt the mellow mood created by "Butterfield" and launched into the delightfully dissonant "Information Highway". Finally, Blake and treasurer **Paul "Robson" Whitmore** and others covered Monty Python's "Lumberjack Song." I thought Robson did

a great facial impression of Michael Palin.

The **Bacchanal: Dance** opened with some music that I didn't like, so I took some free early-1990s zines from the free table (e.g. *Probe*, a genzine from South Africa – which had LoCs from Lloyd Penney!) on my way to check out some room parties. The **Farscape/Westercon 58** party (which was next door to my hotel room) was full of good vibes, and sparkling conversations with **Dennis "NWB5" Kristos**, **Randy Barnhart**, and Garth Spencer. I felt very welcome there, and enjoyed the free cans of Sprite from the bathtub full of ice. There was another room party, a floor below. I can't remember what it was about.

Depression deepened a little when I passed **Marcus**, the guy with the blue hair and grey ponytail, asked if I could film him, and he made an inordinately unpleasant face.

I returned to Red Robin and had the same thing as last night, this time saving some dry ribs and crispy noodles for Fruvous. On the way back I met Dennis outside the front doors of the hotel. He talked to me enthusiastically about *Stargate: Atlantis* and called its producer a genius and a saviour of current Canadian media SF. I said that when it came to Canadian media SF I longed for the 1980s and things like *War of the Worlds*—although I had to admit that 1980s Canadian SF TV did seem to be filmed in an odd blurry pink way that I came to call "Toronto vision," which is why I appreciated the sharp, high-monochromatic second season. "Cold colours," Dennis agreed. Dennis and I bonded, I felt, over our shared dislike of the ending of that series. I returned to the first season and said I liked the variety of people the aliens took over and made behave unlike their stereotypes—terrorists, bikers, marketing consultants, hairdressers, rock stars—"Billy Thorpe," Dennis said, concurring with my mention of rock stars. I said I was sad to hear about the new *V* series not going ahead, and Dennis said, "At least not without major changes," causing me to hope that it might still happen after all.

I decided to hang out in the lounge on the third floor and read four more *Probes*, but when I got there, Steve Forty told me about a party in room 630, the consuite. I went up there and found it to be loud and crowded, in a good, party-atmosphere way. Meaty asked if I was an undead drag queen, presumably because of my goth look that day, and the new accessories (gloves and boa). A very friendly Nexus-6 Replicant in a red wig and black track suit befriended me and we talked for a while. She gave her name as **Laura, Laurel**, and **Lauren**. She plays in **the Carnival Band** the first Monday of every month at the El Cocal, in the Commercial Drive/Britannia area, and every month they (I'm not sure if she meant her band or the entire club) have a policy of dressing up in a theme. She said she knew **Kalen**, who just then joined us with her long-lost friend **Steve Samuel**, followed by Fruvous. We all shared cat stories. Cats are cute.

Cindy asked me if I'd videotaped the "Lumberjack Song," and when I said I had, she brought over Robson. It turned out that he was the treasurer; this was how I found out what had happened with my badge





(La belle Danielle)

name. **Clayten Hamacher** took lots of photos of **Danielle (viz.)** semi-topless but promised not to put them on the web-site; I asked about the web-site so I could see the regular “non-breast photos” (this made him laugh) and he and his girlfriend told me:

<http://www.kelora.com/vcon>.

Laura/el/en won a hall costume award from Kathleen. Kathleen also noticed my gloves and told me that they were a velour/lycra mix which could stretch. I said they were still a little too small and she quipped “One size fails to fit any...or one size fits all, for certain values of *fits*.”

Paul Carpentier called me aside and said that he had used a drawing I'd done of him as his picture on a web site, and he'd credited that drawing to Michael Morse, and he wanted to check if that was OK. Then he said “Felicity, I have to tell you something—you are the ugliest woman I have ever seen.” Then he laughed at me for thirty seconds. I stared at the floor, shocked and dismayed. Paul said that when he first saw me this year he thought I was a circus performer—but not in a freak show sense, he hastened to add. I explained my situation and it turned out that the misunderstanding was that he thought that I was in costume; had he realized he was talking about the real me, he wouldn't have said what he did. He asked if he'd hurt my feelings, and I said he had. He seemed sorry—“I have no recovery now,” he lamented. Then he said that he'd thought I was a very handsome man the previous year; that when he'd known me before, I'd seemed talented and confident, and so he'd naturally assumed that was who I wanted to be. It also turned out that the reason he'd been so cold up to this point was that he didn't recognize me, even when I spoke to him and asked him to take my photo.

A very good vibe occurred when I spotted Meaty and asked him if I could buy a CD with “Sexual Radiation” on it, and he said he would go get me a free copy of his demo CD a little later. When he came back with the CD, he signed it and addressed it to me “To: Felicity, Thanks for all your hard work.” I did do several things for the convention, but nothing hard, so I hope he wasn't thinking of someone else. Either way it's nice to be appreciated.

**Chang** eventually had to herd us out of the room so he could close it and go to sleep. Still not ready to go to bed, I returned to the third-floor lounge where Marlon and I got into an all-night conversation about Asperger Syndrome, the apparent lack of fannishness of con members at room parties, and how to talk to women. At dawn I went back to my room, showered, deodorized, dressed, and packed my bags *before*

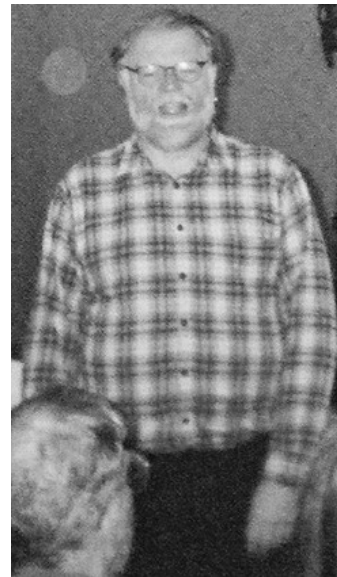
tucking myself into bed so that I'd be able to roll out of bed and walk out the door if I suddenly had to wake up and check out, and slept very well.

### **Sunday 10 October 2004** (“You Never Shut Up”)

When I woke up, Fruvous had returned from the “**Geek Culture**” panel, and he was depressed. At the panel, Fru said that in the mundane world, he was shy, but in the geek world...at which point Julie McGalliard (one of the panellists), said “...you never shut up!” This had hurt Fruvous and him feel unwelcome at the convention. I consoled him, but this was not a good start to the day. In the hallway shortly thereafter a woman stared at me and started snickering. I stared back at her until she unexpectedly became friendly and explained that she wasn't laughing at me but rather trying to figure out why I looked familiar. Apparently I looked like someone she knew.

Fruvous, Ray, and the others and I checked out of our room, and I went to the dealers' room, where Garth allowed me to stash my suitcase behind the BCSFA table and I agreed to watch the table while he went to the washroom. I would have continued watching it while he went to be on the “**Fanzines 202: Modern Print and Electronic Fanzines**” panel, but I wanted to see that panel, too. Fortunately, Joe and Ryan were back and took over for Garth.

“Fanzines 101” had been about the history of fanzines. “Fanzines 202” was about current and recent history: e-fanzines, the punk/photocopier era. Garth said that some consider 1971 to be the last Worldcon before Trekkies overwhelmed fandom. Graeme says that he no longer receives new fanzines. Thinking of my own zines, I asked him if he'd like to be receiving new fanzines and he said “Sure! They go straight into the archives.”



“**Backstage with Godzilla**” was a panel I'd been craving since V-Con 24. **Stan Hyde (viz.)** had put on a hilarious and fascinating panel back then and it either took five years to bring him back or I just missed him each year. This year he had advance footage of new Japanese *Godzilla* movies. He and the *Godzilla* fans in the audience were very pleased that the people at Toho were as unimpressed with the 1997 American *Godzilla* as fans were here in North America. However, rather than declare the American *Godzilla* non-canonical, they've come up with an even better punishment: in an upcoming movie, Japanese *Godzilla* will kill American *Godzilla*! American *Godzilla* will be called simply “Zilla,” partly because they can't both be called “*Godzilla*,”

and partly because Toho wants to copyright the suffix “-zilla” so that people can’t come up with character names and brand names ending in those five letters. Somebody warn Mozilla!

Stan also showed some classic and recent Godzilla and other *kaiju* movies (such as *Gamera*) and explained some of the cultural differences that could lead to different feelings about the movies. In one example, Godzilla is rampaging down the street towards a hospital, where a young woman in traction is unable to flee. We think that Godzilla will crush her, but instead he walks past the building. She breathes a sigh of relief, then is killed after all when Godzilla’s tail wags into the building and destroys it. This seems cruel to us, but what we *don’t* know, explained Stan, is that the woman is from a commercial that Japanese people hate—she’s someone they would *want* to see get crushed by Godzilla. At first they would feel disappointed when she lived, and then they would cheer when the tail got her after all. Some movies were actually re-edited for an American audience, either for what was thought to be American tastes, or to remove anti-American subtext. An example of the latter was the behaviour of King Kong in *King Kong vs. Godzilla* (he gets drunk, takes a Japanese girl off the subway, and sits on City Hall).

A thought occurred to me: with the extreme popularity of Godzilla in Japan over the last fifty years, why hadn’t there been any Godzilla anime? I asked Stan this, citing the 1970s Hanna-Barbera cartoon as the only Godzilla animation that came to mind. Stan responded first by reminding me of the 1998 cartoon based on the 1997 American movie, then explained that communications have always been poor between the lawyers in America and Japan, making it difficult to work out rights for that sort of thing.

Speaking of lawyers, Stan said that he writes for two magazines. One is a zine which does not have explicit permission from Toho and takes a “hope they don’t notice” approach; the other is practically an official Toho publication—the people behind it have always been very polite and gotten Toho’s permission for everything, and in fact when the lawyers on the American end tried to shut it down, Toho told them not to.

Godzilla represents different Japanese fears in different movies: earthquakes, nuclear bombs, the war dead back for revenge. Some Godzilla movies have a blend of humour and horror that is not for everyone. 1950s and ’60s director Ishiro Honda was an influence on modern Godzilla directors to do this humour/horror style. Stan showed some clips of characters observing that some monsters (such as Barugon) are cute, and wanting their photos taken with the monster rampaging in the background. I have in my notes “When Godzilla and Ghidorah destroyed City Hall, the real monster was destroyed,” but I don’t know what that means. I would guess that at some point the Japanese were disenchanted with their government and that a movie critic said this. Finally, Stan and friends will be having a midnight show at Tinseltown, Friday 5 November 2004. I wouldn’t mind going to this after FRED.

I promised **Stanley Foo** over a year ago that when I wrote a FRED report, I’d mention that he was handsome and that all the women loved

him. Then I stopped writing FRED reports before I could do that. So when I saw Stanley in the lounge after the Godzilla panel, he said I should put four things into my con report:

- (1) Stanley Foo is handsome.
- (2) He has a big ugly sister.
- (3) People should buy him ginger ale.
- (4) He doesn’t think he’s assertive enough.

I arrived early for “**Playing in Someone Else’s Sandbox: Why Fan Fiction Is Still Readable,**” then realized I had to go the bathroom. “We’ll let you, just this once,” the panel said. Panellist Magic Rat said that looking for good fan fiction was like digging through kitty litter, and that there were three kinds of fan fiction: awful, bloody awful, and brilliant. Asked to name fan fiction they liked, the panel (**Jo McBride Wilson, Lynda Williams, Virginia O’Dine**, Magic Rat) mentioned the author Jungle Kitty, who wrote “Invisible Planet,” a Kirk/Spock slash fiction that was so repugnant that it caused William Shatner to write back and won praise from James Doohan; “Elf on a Shelf” by Master Erector; any *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* fanfic that is both entertaining *and* lives up to a minimum standard of competence in spelling and grammar; the Mad Poetess; and James Walkwithwind. An audience member asked if fanfic authors use colourful pen names because there’s a feeling that fanfic authors are not allowed to turn pro. The panel confirmed this and added that some pro writers secretly write fanfic. The rest of the panel was less interesting as the panellists succumbed to the temptation to talk about their own fanfics and shared universes without making any points (that I could see) about fanfic in general and why it’s worth reading.

I tried to attend “**Right vs. Left: Politics in SF**” but found that I



wasn’t in the mood for it, so I returned to the BCSFA table in the dealers’ room. Garth said that Bruce Sterling could be a post-socialist. It took me a long time to figure out what that meant. Garth thought of starting the Sensible Party. Joe bought a Bird of Prey model. I had the idea of doing this con report as a comic, but decided not to. I pondered why some B-movies were inherently entertaining while others could only be watched via *Mystery Science Theater 3000* and decided that maybe I could do reviews of B-movies in comic form.

I came out of the women’s washroom just as **Tom Siple** and Meaty were coming out of the men’s washroom, and Tom asked me if I was sure I was in the right washroom. I explained about the note

from my doctor, and saw that it was only then that they realized I was not in costume; Meaty said “Now I’m sorry I called you ‘he.’” I said it was OK; it happens.

An amazing thing happened at the **Turkey Readings. Andrew “Breklor” Brechin** had to leave unexpectedly and **Fran Skene** asked for an artist. I volunteered and got to draw the Turkeys! Then-chair Paul Carpentier had suggested I team up with Breklor on this at last year’s VCon but Breklor had preferred to work alone; this brought closure on that. Although I was far from happy with about a third of the drawings, I also pleasantly surprised myself with how I rose to the occasion. And afterwards when my drawings were auctioned off to add to the CUFF fund, *people paid money for my art!* Some drawings even caused people to have to outbid each other—ironically, not the drawings I liked, but that seems to happen with art. Fru’s theory is that some people go by the content of the drawings more than the quality of that content, and Joe’s theory was that people wanted to buy the drawings from stories for which they had done the acting out. In any event, getting to draw the Turkeys felt great.

**Michael Walsh** introduced the **Elrons**. This year’s Elrons were the *Retro Elrons!* Michael Moore and *Fahrenheit 911* received the Two-Tone Ambivalent Elron: Graeme didn’t like Moore’s co-option of Bradbury’s title, but liked that Moore assumed his audience was fannish enough to get the reference. Roger Ebert received the Newborn Fresh Elron for mentioning Tom Corbett in his review of *Sky Captain*. A Traditional Elron went to the NHL and the Raelians because Graeme believed that the Raelians had not only cloned and accelerated the growth to adulthood of human beings, but were using the hockey strike to replace the players with stronger, faster, genetically-modified clones...all as part of Canada’s plot to take over the world. NASA got a Genesis Elron for remaking *Space Master X-7*, a movie about a space probe returning to Earth covered with a big scary blob of living rust. Graeme had seen it as a youth but had never been able to find out its name until now. The X-Prize won an Elron for reviving fannish wonder by bringing back the dream of building a rocket ship in the backyard. Finally, John Norman won the Retro Retro Elron for being like Robert A. Heinlein in having expressed politics in his later writings that showed a marked change from the politics of his youth. Graeme said that all 101 Elrons would be bound tightly together (in acknowledgement of Norman’s love of bondage) to make one giant Elron.

Not all of these struck me as being a celebration of the worst in SF, but then again Moog had been placed in charge of filing Graeme’s notes.

During the **Closing Ceremonies**, hospitality was moved to the consuite because the original room had been taken over by a mundane wedding. Paul Carpentier said some nice things to me after the closing ceremonies—he congratulated me on illustrating the Turkeys and added that last year my drawings in the hospitality suite had sold well. He, Meaty and I had some good-natured banter about what gender pronoun to use when complimenting me on art I’d drawn last year as a male.

When it was time to go I was moved by a friendly goodbye hug from Cindy. Mundanes leaving the wedding were nice to Joe, Ryan, Fruvous and me in the elevator down to the parking lot.

I’ve had an excellent time at every V-Con I’ve been to. The convention committee, panellists, and volunteers once again have my gratitude.

## **Newslike Matters**

*Jonathan Paul Simms (Sept. 24, 1979 – Sept. 24, 2004)*

Friends of Paul and Debra Simms may be shocked, but nevertheless wish to know this sad news: their son Jonathan Simms died in late September, about two weeks before VCon 29 ... on his 25<sup>th</sup> birthday.

(J.S. Smyth)

*Christopher Reeve, R.I.P.*

“The world has lost one of its bravest souls. Christopher Reeve is dead. See

[http://www.usatoday.com/life/people/2004-10-11-reeve-obit\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/life/people/2004-10-11-reeve-obit_x.htm)

“Everyone remembers him as the ultimate film Superman, but he will be best remembered for the courage he displayed in the face of sudden paralysis and the noble spirit he showed in nine years of tireless advocacy for the disabled.

“Ironically, the last acting job of his that I know about was in the WB’s Superman prequel *Smallville* as a paralysed scientist who knew something about Clark’s past that Clark didn’t.”

Michael Hopcroft, to PorSFis and Orycon listservs, Oct. 10, 2004

*More on BCSFA Christmas Dinner*

“The annual BCSFA Christmas dinner will be held on Saturday, December 11 at 7 p.m. at a local restaurant. We need to decide whether we want to return to the Urban Buffet, 996 Homer St., Vancouver (tel. 604-630-1188), or try a different restaurant. One person has suggested the Spaghetti Factory at 50 8<sup>th</sup> St., New Westminster (tel. 604-524-9788) (because their location in downtown Vancouver is too busy). Another suggestion has been made for the Wayfarer Restaurant at the Richmond Inn. If you have any suggestions for a different restaurant, you are invited to call Barb Dryer at 604-267-7973, or leave your suggestion on the BCSFA Yahoo group.

“Our annual Christmas gift exchange will also occur at the restaurant; please bring a wrapped Christmas gift costing no more than \$5.00 to contribute to the gift bag, and everyone gets to choose their own gift. Gift ideas could include books (used ones are fine), or items from loonie/discount stores. They can be SF or fantasy-related items, or some novelty item, or something you think someone else would enjoy.

“Barb Dryer and Kathleen Moore-Freeman are organizing all this.”

Barb Dryer

*The Fall 2004 (July to September) new release catalogues for*

White Dwarf Books, Science Fiction and Fantasy

<http://www.deadwrite.com/sfk04.html>

and

Dead Write Books, Crime and Mystery

<http://www.deadwrite.com/myk04.html>

are now available online. These are also linked from our main web page:

<http://www.deadwrite.com/>

Walter Bruce Sinclair (Oct. 14, 2004)

White Dwarf Books Ltd., 3715 West Tenth Ave.,

Vancouver, BC V6R 2G5

## ***Minutes of the West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA) Annual General Meeting***

On Sunday, October 10, 2004 at 20:15 hours

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Barbara Dryer, Barbara Scutt, Chilam, Chris Sturges, Cindy Turner, Clayton Hamacher, Clint Budd, Dan Coburn, Fran Skene, Garth Spencer, Greg Cairns, Greg Slade, Jason Harris, Jean Smith, Jeff Hartt, Jeremy Holman, Kathleen Moore-Freeman, Ken Wong, Marie-Louise Beesley, Michael G. Nelson, Palle Hoffstein, Paul Carpentier, Paul Whitmore, Randy McCharles, Ray Seredin, Rowan Sawyer, Stewart Smyth, Tammie Hamacher, and Teunis Peters

### **MINUTES**

President Paul Carpentier chairing.

MOTION to waive the reading the minutes of the previous AGM:

Moved by Palle Hoffstein; Seconded by Jeff Hartt; Passed unanimously.

MOTION to waive the reading the minutes of 2004-08-10:

Moved by Palle Hoffstein; Seconded by Jeff Hartt; Passed unanimously.

### REQUEST FOR A BID for VCON30

PRESENTER: Greg Cairns

VENUE: Metrotown Hilton

PROPOSED GUESTS: R. A. Salvatore; Robin Hobb

PROJECTED ConCom:

CHAIR - Greg Cairns

TREASURER - Marie-Louise Beesley

ART SHOW CHAIR - Chilam

OPERATIONS Co-Chairs - Chris Sturges; Jeff Hartt

PROGRAMMING - Fran Skene; Barbara Scutt; Jo McBride; Nina

Munteanu

BACCHANAL - Greg Cairns

DEALER LIAISON - Greg Slade

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR / WEBMASTER - Greg Slade; Sally Dagna;

Susan Walsh; John Bartley

GAMING - Rick Arino

MOTION that the bid as presented be accepted:

Moved by Kathleen Moore-Freeman; Seconded by Clayton Hamacher.

Discussion...

MOTION to amend the motion: that the bid be accepted subject to the presentation of a satisfactory budget and hotel contract by the next quarterly meeting.

Moved by Palle Hoffstein; Seconded by Chris Sturges;

Passed: none opposed; three abstentions.

### WCSFA ELECTIONS

Nominated for President:

Palle Hoffstein was elected by acclamation.

Nominated for Vice-President:

Marie-Louise Beesley, Paul Carpentier

Paul Carpentier was elected Vice-President by a vote of 11-10.

Nominated for Secretary-Treasurer:

Tammie Hamacher was elected by acclamation

Nominated and elected Members-at-Large:

Clayton Hamacher, Marie-Louise Beesley, Cindy Turner, Chilam, Jeff Hartt, Fran Skene, and Greg Cairns (who already automatically holds a seat on the WCSFA Board of Directors as the Chair of this year's VCON)

MOTION to adjourn at 21:15

Moved by Marie-Louise Beesley; Passed unanimously.

C.O.A.s

After November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2004, Chris Sturges and his family will be at 4761 Southlawn Drive, Burnaby, BC V5C 3S7. Phone numbers will remain the same.

(C. Sturges)

"Elaine Cochrane and Bruce Gillespie of Gillespie & Cochrane Pty Ltd, *SF Commentary*, *The Metaphysical Review* and *Steam Engine Time*, will be moving house as from Wednesday, 20 October 2004.

"Please enter these details in your diary:

5 Howard Street, Greensborough VIC 3088, Australia

Phone (within Australia): (03) 9435 7786, (overseas) 61-3-9435 7786

B. Gillespie to Timebinders, Oct. 12, 2004



Claire Brialey & Mark Plummer, 59 Shirley Rd, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7ES [UK].

Andy Hooper & Carrie Root, 11032 30th Ave NE, Seattle, WA 98125, USA.

Ian McDonald, 16 Abbot's Wood, Holywood, Co. Down, Northern Ireland, BT18 9PL [UK].

*Ansible* 207, October 2004

#### *Christina Carr's Online Shop*

"Well. I went and did it. I started a series of on-line shops with some of the excess photos hanging around this house. Please come on by and visit and/or pass on this information to anyone who may be interested. I went with the free shops option for now (If this works out I'll pay for the advanced) so the choices are a little limited BUT if there is a photo/image you know I have/took and you'd like to see it on something let me know. Those of you who take pictures and/or are artists I encourage you to try this. They even have a printing department for books. Clever. I like the thought of no up front costs. If you decide to open a store please refer to CMCworld as your reference. They do have a referral program.

"Click on: <http://www.cafepress.com/cmeworld> for my first shop, [http://www.cafepress.com/cp/about\\_me.aspx?s=cmeworld](http://www.cafepress.com/cp/about_me.aspx?s=cmeworld) to find my list of shops.

"You may want to try seasonal at: <http://www.cafepress.com/cmseasons> First for Hallowe'en and Christmas stuff. Note: More Pumpkin stuff in my fantasy shop.

"While you are there go ahead and sign up for the newsletter!!"

Christina Carr, Sept. 28, 2004

#### *One Man Star Wars Trilogy (in Vancouver)*

"Charles Ross will be doing his classic 'One Man Star Wars Trilogy' at the Shadbolt Centre in November.

"The One Man Star Wars Trilogy' is a one-hour, high-energy, non-stop blast through the three films: *A New Hope*, *The Empire Strikes Back* and *The Return of the Jedi*. The catch is, there's only one cast member!

"Single Price Tickets, \$25.00 adult; \$22.00 student/senior; \$11.00 youth 15 & under."

The Shadbolt Centre for the Arts: 6450 Deer Lake Avenue, Deer Lake Park, Burnaby, BC V5G 2J3. General Inquiries: 604.291.6864. Box Office: 604.205.3000. Rental Inquiries: 604.205.3020.

Doug Finnerty, Sept. 2004

#### *Tesseract10 - CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS*

"Tesseract Books announces that *Tesseract10*, the 2005 volume in the award-winning anthology of Canadian Speculative Fiction, is now open for submissions. Editors for *Tesseract10* will be announced mid-2004, and the anthology is receiving submissions in either English or French from Canadians, landed immigrants, long time residents, and expatriates. French stories will be translated into English for publication

if accepted. *Tesseract10* is open to both short fiction and poetry. The series has included stories as long as 10,000 words, but preferred length is 7,500 words or less. Speculative fiction includes the genres of magic realism, science -fiction, fantasy (this term incorporates dark fantasy and supernatural fiction), horror, and *la fantastique*. In all these areas, the editors prefer not to be -presented with genre clichés, but with original, well-written, well-crafted works of art. The deadline for submissions is **December 31, 2004**. Reporting time is about 15-20 weeks. Payment is \$20 for poetry, \$50 for stories under 1,500 words, rising to a maximum of \$100 for stories of over 5,000 words (longer stories are paid a slightly higher fee, but in order to exceed the word length limit of 7,500 words, the editors must judge a story to be of surpassing excellence.) Tesseract Books buys non-exclusive world rights; that is, Tesseract Books is free to market the *Tesseract10* anthology as a whole anywhere in any language, but contributors retain the right to market their individual entries outside the anthology.

*Format:* "... Please include your name, address, telephone number and, where applicable, your fax number and e-mail address on the first page of the manuscript; with a brief identifier as a header or footer on each page as well. Electronic submissions will be accepted, but must be followed by a hard copy and SASE for editors' replies. No faxes! All manuscripts must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope for a response. If you wish your manuscript to be returned, the return envelope and postage must be sufficient for this purpose, or the manuscript will be considered disposable, and destroyed. To be returned, manuscripts from outside Canada must be provided with sufficient Canadian stamps or International Reply Coupons. Do NOT send originals. Tesseract Books cannot be responsible for submissions lost in transit. If you require acknowledgment of receipt of your manuscript, include a self-addressed stamped postcard. Mailing address for anthology submissions only:

*Tesseract10* 2005, Attention: Series Editors, c/o Tesseract10 Submissions, P.O. Box 1714, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L7.

(from edgewebsite.com, Oct. 12, 2004)

#### *Black Brillion launch at White Dwarf*

Matt Hughes' next "Archonate" novel, *Black Brillion*, will have its official launch at White Dwarf Books in Vancouver on November 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Signed copies of *Black Brillion* will be available at 10% off list price with one of the coupons distributed at VCon 29.

#### *Short Editorial Piece about Aurora Ballots & Issues*

Some of you are aware that Canada's national SF and fantasy awards are the Aurora Awards, and that this year's Auroras ceremony ("Convention") was hosted at Boreal in Montreal, on the Hallowe'en weekend. Some of us even saw voting ballots circulated at VCon 29.



The two key issues with these awards are *obscurity* and *short notice*. As usual, many nominated works and candidates are unfamiliar to most Canadian fans, either because not all of us are readers, or we only heard occasionally about local fans, or some writers' works appear in small press publications or in the other official language; and as sometimes happens, we had only a week's notice before the voting deadline (October 16). At least that's my opinion, as someone who has watched these awards since 1983; I have also been involved with their promotion and execution, off and on.

The question, then, is whether we're *ever* going to get smart about informing and motivating Canadian fans, the potential nominators and voters? (Just my opinion –G.S.)

Of course the sensible thing to do is to publish reviews of the nominated works and candidates, far and wide. One faneditor did this, once: Michael Skeet, then editing *MLR*, in 1988 or 1989.

For more information about the Aurora Awards, see Dennis Mullin's website on the institution, [www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/](http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/).

#### *About CUFF and related stuff*

You're probably aware that the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, instituted to help local fans meet distant Canadian actifans they hear about, and vice versa, rotates through Eastern vs. Western Canada, in tandem with the Convention. Linda Ross-Mansfield confirmed at VCon 29 that Westercon 58, in Calgary in 2005, will bid to host the 2005 Convention, and that Lyndie Bright (the current CUFF administrator, in Winnipeg) held over CUFF fundraising and nominations to 2005. Presumably Lyndie Bright will solicit nominations of active Eastern Canadian fans. (In previous years, if few or no nominations came from one half of the country, nominations were made open to all parts of the country.)

For more information on CUFF, talk to previous CUFF winners such as R. Graeme Cameron, Garth Spencer, Murray Moore or Lyndie Bright. Lyndie may be contacted at P.O. Box 7, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2G1 or by email at [spookiestarbright@yahoo.ca](mailto:spookiestarbright@yahoo.ca). Garth has put up a CUFF website at [www.vcn.bc.ca/~hrothgar/cuff.htm](http://www.vcn.bc.ca/~hrothgar/cuff.htm). (Suggestions for updating and revising the site will be accepted.)

#### *Westercon 58 updates*

Since their first progress report, "Due North", the Calgary Westercon (July 1-4, 2005) added as science guest Dr. Philip Currie, Curator of Dinosaurs for the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Paleontology and Adjunct Professor at the University of Calgary. Dr. Currie is a well-know dinosaur paleontologist with a long publishing record, who has given lectures around the world and who has appeared in hundreds of TV, film, and radio programs, newspaper and magazine articles.

Chair Randy McCharles has announced an "SF in Education" track of panels, and a series of panels featuring publishers, editors, and authors on the means of getting published. A Fan Film Festival will offer

aspiring filmmakers to enter independent films, which will be judged in several categories by the viewing audience.

Westercon 58 held a promotional party and took a dealer's table at VCon 29. The promotional effort presented not only trifold flyers, but copies of Progress Report 2 (July 2004). Randy McCharles and Linda Ross-Mansfield (Hotel Liaison) were both part of the Westercon 58 delegation.

Westercon was instituted as a rotating Western convention in the southwestern United States after the second World War, when SF conventions were far rarer, to provide a gathering for western North American fans. Westercon is a registered service mark of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society.

For more information, see [www.calgary2005.org](http://www.calgary2005.org).

#### *Cascadia Con (NASFiC) update*

Cascadia Con, the 2005 North American Science Fiction Convention (held when the Worldcon travels outside North America), will feature an actual film show, in addition to video programming and the Science Fiction and Fantasy Film Festival. Cascadia Con is looking for rare and special 35mm films.

A teachers' and librarians' intensive one-day professional development mini conference is running concurrently with the five-day NASFiC. The conference is specifically designed to provide teachers with tools and concepts to successfully integrate SF with their districts' instructional media and requirements.

Cascadia Con also held a promotional party at VCon 29, and was represented by Bobbie DuFault.

SWOC, the sponsoring organization for Cascadia Con, is a non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation, under the code established by the U.S. Internal Revenue Service.

"NASFiC", like "Worldcon", "WSFS" and "Hugo Award", is a service mark of the World Science Fiction Society.

For more information on the 2005 NASFiC, see <http://www.cascadiacon.org>.

#### *Sunburst Award Ceremony*

A Sunburst Award ceremony was held Thursday, September 23, 2004, 7 – 9 pm at the Merrill Collection of Science Fiction, Speculation and Fantasy, Lilian H. Smith Branch of Toronto Public Library (239 College Street, 3rd Floor, Toronto. For more info: (416) 393-7748.)

In addition to the presentation of the award, there were readings of the shortlisted works by Nalo Hopkinson, Sandra Kasturi, Robert Charles Wilson, and David Nickle. Karl Schroeder will read a short acceptance speech for the winner, Cory Doctorow.

The winner of this year's award was Cory Doctorow, for his short story collection *A Place So Foreign and 8 More* (Four Walls Eight Windows). Copies of this title were made available for sale at the event through Bakka-Phoenix Books.

"The other nominated works for 2004 were: *The Bone House* by Luanne Armstrong (New Star Books), *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood (McClelland & Stewart), *Initiation* by Virginia Frances Schwartz (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), and *Blind Lake* by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor Books).

"The Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic is a prized and juried award. It is based on excellence of writing and presented annually to a Canadian writer who has published a speculative fiction novel or book-length collection any time during the previous calendar year. The award is named after the novel by Phyllis Gotlieb, one of the first published authors of contemporary Canadian speculative fiction. The Sunburst Award website is <http://www.sunburstaward.org>.

"For further information, please contact John Rose at [jrose@sunburstaward.org](mailto:jrose@sunburstaward.org)."

(J. Rose, Sept. 16, 2004)

*Goth House Newsletter, 24 September 2004, Vol. 3 Issue 22*

This fortnight: "Mary & George: A Romance" (Part 1), at <http://www.gothhouse.org/>

"And now gather 'round, kids, for the Goth House Technology Corner.

"My primary graphics computer died a couple of weeks ago.

"My house is full of computer equipment – it's like the twenty-first century version of those houses out in the county with all those cars rusting in the grass. My house is full of computer equipment because none of the computer equipment does quite what I need it to.

"I was ready to take it as a sign from the universe that I should chuck the whole modern world and live in a mountain cabin. I can write novels in long hand, with a dip pen. Heck, some of the world's greatest works of fiction were written that way!

"But then I hooked up with a guy who wanted me to do some work for him, and he had a spare EMac lying around. An EMac, in case you don't know, is one of those all-in-one boxes where the monitor and the computer are the same box. I had gotten the impression that these beasts were being sold as wimpy computers for the clueless – imagine my surprise when it came with a Gigabyte of RAM! Wow! It runs Photoshop 7, InDesign 2, Illustrator 10, and Dreamweaver all at the same time without choking! Except Dreamweaver crashed once. (Am I the only person who can't use Dreamweaver without getting that 70s song going through my head? It's kind of a problem. People really shouldn't name computer programs after songs.)

"Anyway, its only drawback so far is a lack of a floppy drive, which isn't as big a problem as you might suppose, since it has a zippy enough modem that even dial-up file transfers aren't too outrageously pokey. It has a couple of firewire slots for external hard drives or zip drives if I really needed it. I think Zip might make USB drives too, come to think of it. (Note: Firewire slots are NOT USB ports, no matter how closely they

resemble each other, and you really can't plug a firewire into the USB port on the front of your Windows 98 machine. You really can't. Sigh.)

"Anyway, these machines only cost \$800 if you buy them new, which is more than I have right now, but not more than I can imagine having someday. So I am giving the EMac a big thumbs up, except that I would recommend replacing the mouse with something more ergonomic. And the e-mail program that comes with it is kind of horrid.

"I'm hoping that by the time I have to give this one back, 1. I will have \$800, and 2. They will come in black. Or at least dark gray.

"Thus endeth Goth House Technology Corner."

Julie McGalliard, Sept. 29, 2004

*Goth House Newsletter, Vol. 3 Issue 23, 08 October 2004*

"This fortnight: Mary & George: A Romance (Part 2)

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

"Some of you, noticing the nominal date on this newsletter is a week in the past, will wonder if I am confused and don't know what day it is. That is incorrect. I know exactly what day it is.

"It is Friday. Talk to you again October 22. More or less."

Julie M <[info@gothouse.org](mailto:info@gothouse.org)>, 15 Oct 2004

*SF AWARDS YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF BEFORE:*

- *RETRO-HUGOS*

Best Novel: *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury;

Best Novella: "A Case of Conscience" by James Blish;

Best Novelette: "Earthman, Come Home" by James Blish;

Best Short Story: "The Nine Billion Names of God" by Arthur C. Clarke;

Best Related Book: *Conquest of the Moon* by Wernher von Braun, Fred L.

Whipple & Willy Ley;

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form: *The War of the Worlds*;

Best Professional Editor: John W. Campbell, Jr.;

Best Professional Artist: Chesley Bonestell;

Best Fanzine: *Slant*, Walter Willis, editor; James White, art editor;

Best Fan Writer: Bob Tucker.

Cheryl Morgan, *Emerald City* #109, September 2004

*Virgin Galactic Announced in September, launches on Sept. 29 and Oct. 4, 2004*

"Sir Richard Branson, a train and plane entrepreneur, announced plans to take travellers a lot higher and a great deal more quickly. In association with Burt Rutan, a leading space-flight entrepreneur, and Microsoft's Paul Allen, VIRGIN GALACTIC will offer tourists the chance to boldly go to the edge of space – some 80 miles above the earth's surface – for \$190,000 from 2007.

"See article: <http://news.economist.com/cgi-bin/1/DM/y/ecmUORA5d0MoOCQwh0Ad> "

The launch in competition for the X Prize was first made Sept. 29 2004, and again on Oct. 4, 2004. See [http://www.space.com/news/xprize\\_cup\\_040122.html](http://www.space.com/news/xprize_cup_040122.html)  
BCSFA@yahoo.com, 01 Oct 2004

#### *SpaceShipOne Rockets to Success*

“The rocket plane *SpaceShipOne* has shot to an altitude of more than 100km for the second time inside a week to claim the \$10m Ansari X-Prize.

“The stubby vehicle raced straight up into the sky over the Mojave Desert in California, US, with test pilot Brian Binnie at the controls.

“The plane experienced none of the rolling seen on previous flights and set a new mark for sub-orbital flight.

“The X-Prize was initiated to galvanise private space travel.

“It has been administered by the Missouri-based X-Prize Foundation. Its president Peter Diamandis hailed the Mojave Aerospace Ventures team behind *SpaceShipOne*.

“We are proud to announce that *SpaceShipOne* has made two flights to 100km and has won the Ansari X Prize,’ he said.

“What we finally have here, after 40 years of waiting, is the beginning of the personal space flight revolution.’

“Preliminary radar data showed *SpaceShipOne* reached a peak altitude of 114.64km (368,000ft or 70.77 miles), which is higher than that managed by the experimental X-15 aircraft more than four decades ago.

“Describing his record-breaking trip into space, Brian Binnie said: ‘It’s a fantastic view; it’s a fantastic feeling. There is a freedom there and a sense of wonder that - I tell you what - you all need to experience.’

“The development of *SpaceShipOne* was funded by Microsoft co-founder Paul Allen. He is believed to have sunk more than \$20m into the project.

“What’s going to happen a few years down the road when space tourism is available for everyone is going to be amazing,’ he said. ‘I’m looking forward to that day and hopefully we’ll all be in space before you know it.’

“The aviation pioneer, Burt Rutan, who conceived *SpaceShipOne* and whose company Scaled Composites built it, said he was ‘so proud of my team’.

“The X-Prize competition has acted as a spur for space travel in the same way air travel moved on after Charles Lindbergh made his solo trans-Atlantic flight from New York to Paris in 1927 to claim the \$25,000 Orteig Prize.

“Funding for the X-Prize has come from the Ansari family of Dallas, which made its wealth in the telecommunications industry.

“More than two dozen teams around the world are involved in the competition. Many of these teams, realising that *SpaceShipOne* would in all probability take the X-Prize on Monday, are already setting their sights on orbital flight.

“This would enable paying passengers to experience hours or even days in space rather than the minutes offered on a sub-orbital vehicle such as *SpaceShipOne*.

“The X-Prize Foundation now intends to organise a yearly multi-million-dollar X-Prize Cup which will be staged in New Mexico.”

From BBC News online report relayed by Aristotle Jones [aristotlejones@dccnet.com](mailto:aristotlejones@dccnet.com), Oct. 4, 2004

“RICHARD BRANSON charmed *Star Trek* fans by announcing that his first ‘Virgin Galactic’ suborbital spaceplane will be the VSS *Enterprise*. £110,000 for a 3-hour flight with 3 weightless minutes....”  
[DKMK]

*Ansible* 207, October 2004

#### *Worldcon 2006 – Los Angeles*

L.A.con IV, the 64<sup>th</sup> World Science Fiction Convention, will be held August 23-27, 2006 in Anaheim, California, with a “Space Cadet Academy” theme.

According to the flyer that appeared at VCon 29, “Professor of Literature” at L.A.con IV will be Connie Willis; “Professor of Fine Arts” will be James Gurney; “Professor of Fandom” will be Howard DeVore; “Commandant of the Academy” will be Frankie Thomas. “Campus Housing” will be provided by the Hilton Anaheim and the Anaheim Marriott, and “Academy Facilities” will be the Anaheim Convention Center. Room rates will be US\$99/room night at both hotels.

The Canadian agent for this Worldcon is Lloyd Penney. Registration cheques may be made payable to Lloyd Penney, and mailed to L.A.con IV, c/o Lloyd and Yvonne Penney, 1706 – 24 Eva Road, Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2.

For more information about L.A.con IV, write L.A.con IV, c/o SCIFI, P.O. Box 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409, or see [www.laconiv.org](http://www.laconiv.org).

#### *Chesley Awards*

Artistic Achievement: Todd Lockwood;

Best Cover (hardback): Donato Giancola for *City* (Clifford D. Simak, SF Book Club);

Best Cover (paperback): Todd Lockwood for *Tangled Webs* (Elaine Cunningham, Wizards of the Coast);

Best Cover (magazine): Bob Eggleton for *F&SF*, July 2003;

Best Interior Illustration: Todd Lockwood for “Crossing into Empire” (*Realms of Fantasy*, June 2003);

Best Color Work – Unpublished: Michael Whelan for *She* (acrylic);

Best Monochrome Work – Unpublished: Gary Lippincott for *Autumn Fairies* (watercolor and pencil);

Best 3D Art: Gary Lippincott for *Jack* (bronze);

Best Gaming-Related Illustration: Todd Lockwood for the cover of *Draconomicon* (D&D);

Best Product Illustration: Dean Morrissey for "Anna of the Celts" (fine art print, Greenwich Workshop);  
 Best Art Director: Irene Gallo for Tor Books;  
 Contribution to ASFA: Teresa Patterson  
 Cheryl Morgan, *Emerald City* #109, September 2004

**GAYLACTIC SPECTRUM AWARDS**  
*For positive portrayal of GLBT themes*

Best Novel: *The Salt Roads*, Nalo Hopkinson (Warner);  
 Best Short Fiction: "Lark 'Till Dawn", Barth Anderson (*Mojo: Conjure Stories*, Warner);  
 Best Other Work: (tie) *Angels in America*, Tony Kushner (HBO); *Gotham Central* #6-#10, Greg Rucka & Michael Lark (DC Comics).  
 Cheryl Morgan, *Emerald City* #109, September 2004

**Build Your Own Hallucination Machine!**

A well-known neurological effect is that a bright light, flashing at the right frequency, can induce some visual, even hallucinogenic effects. Far less well known is that the frequency is eight to fourteen flashes per second, and the effect appears to be completely safe, except to epileptics. An effective "flicker machine" can be constructed with a 78-rpm record player, a piece of poster board, and a light bulb. Cutting carefully spaced apertures in the board and wrapping it into a cylinder, sitting on the player and rotating around the light bulb, should produce the stroboscopic effect. More detailed instructions are posted at

[www.maisonneuve.org](http://www.maisonneuve.org).

(paraphrased from *Maisonneuve* #11, Oct-Nov. 2004, pp. 90-91)

**4. PROMETHEUS AWARDS**

*For promoting ideas that Libertarians like*

Best Novel: *Sims*, F. Paul Wilson.

Hall of Fame: "The Ungoverned", Vernor Vinge.

Cheryl Morgan, *Emerald City* #109, September 2004

**Blown Away:**

"The string of hurricanes to hit Florida have spawned a storm of weather modification suggestions from amateurs looking for ways to stop storms from ever reaching shore. One suggests towing an iceberg from the Arctic to "cool" storms, sapping them of strength. Another suggests building giant fans to blow the storms back out to sea. "And then there was a guy who called and said he could pray them away," says Hugh Willoughby of the International Hurricane Center in Florida. By far the most common suggestion: exploding nuclear weapons in storms. No good, Willoughby says. "Hurricanes are bad enough without being radioactive. "Put that genie back in the bottle." (AP) ...Actually, it could have benefit: glow-in-the-dark storms would be easier to deal with during nighttime power outages."

*THIS is TRUE* for 26 September 2004

**My news sources:**

Al Betz, Christina Carr, Doug Finnerty, B. Hades, Aristotle Jones, R. McCharles, Julie McGalliard, Lloyd Penney, Jon Rose, Linda Ross-Mansfield, J. Stewart Smyth, Felicity Walker, Edge Publishing, Northwest SF Resources Web page, BCSFA & SFNorthwest & Timebinder listservs, and the following publications ...

*Ansible* 207, October 2004 from DAVE LANGFORD, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks, RG1 5AU. <http://ansible.co.uk>. Fax 0705 080 1534. ISSN 0265-9816 (print) 1740-942X (online). Available for SAE, Permagatol, Silonium, or Radioperformers.

Curious Times (column), Andreas Ohrt, [www.curious-times.com](http://www.curious-times.com)  
*Emerald City* #109 September 2004, "An occasional `zine produced by Cheryl Morgan and available from her at [cheryl@emcit.com](mailto:cheryl@emcit.com) or online at <http://www.emcit.com>".

*Maisonneuve Magazine* #11, Oct/Nov. 2004, a glossy commercial magazine that popped up in Vancouver in a promotional free distribution campaign. 400 de Maisonneuve Blvd. West, Suite 655, Montreal, QC H3A 1L4; [www.maisonneuve.org](http://www.maisonneuve.org).

Ottawa SF *Statement* #319-320-321 (July to September 2004 issue), Ottawa SF Society, 18 Norice St., Ottawa, ON K2G 2X5.

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**Media File**

by Cosmic Ray Seredin  
 ([lungharrow@shaw.ca](mailto:lungharrow@shaw.ca))

J. Michael Straczynski says no to *Star Trek*: I don't know too many details, but apparently JMS has said no to taking the production reins of *Star Trek: Enterprise*. One rumour suggests that he may do the remake of the late-1960s Gerry Anderson series *UFO* instead. I won't go into the other rumour because I've promised somebody I won't until it becomes slightly more official.

*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* may once again be bound for the big screen. As many of you recall, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* was originally a movie starring Luke Perry and Kristy Swanson that came out in 1992, five years before the series. Sarah Michelle Gellar is a bit wary about doing the movie, but I think if you back up a big enough truck full of money she will say yes.



An *Alvin and the Chipmunks* movie could be hitting the screen in 2006, with Dave Seville played by a real-life actor (no word yet on who, but Felicity's first thought was David Schwimmer) and CGI chipmunks. You have been warned.

People who attended V-Con had the chance to meet Aaron Douglas, who plays Chief Petty Officer Tyrol on the new *Battlestar Galactica*. This local actor studied at the William Davis Centre for Actors' Studies here in Vancouver. He, plus Eric Chu and Raymond Lai (both illustrators for the series) filled us in on what is happening on the new series, and corrected me on where it's being made. Don't hang around the Wendy's on Marine Drive unless you really want to meet Dominic Da Vinci. Head over to the one on Granville Highway, sometime after next February when the new series' second season gets a green light. You may just be sitting next to the new Starbuck having her lunch.

Now on to the big news, at least for me: CBC has picked up *Doctor Who*, the Canadian rights (and there was much rejoicing). It's unclear when the network will show the new series here in Canada, but with the series likely starting on 12 February 2005 in the UK, it will be likely around the first Sunday in March for its Canadian premiere. Maybe it's a good thing there's a hockey lockout—we may actually get to see the whole season without being interrupted by annoying playoff games. Anybody want to go to the Jolly Alderman and watch it?

As for our American neighbours, it's still unclear who will get the series down in the States. The Sci-Fi Channel seems to be changing its mind almost every day, and with A&E out of the picture, it seems like it's either going to be Sci-Fi or Bravo! picking it up. People with bets on PBS should quickly drop them since the price of the new series is way beyond what the publicly-supported channels can afford, unless of course they're all purchased by Bill Gates.

One of the big factors in the CBC delaying the premiere of *Doctor Who* is that ABC will have the Academy Awards and Fox will have *Star Wars Episode II: Attack of the Clones* airing on Sunday 27 February 2005. The screening of *Episode II* will include a five-to-seven-minute preview of *Episode III*, due out on the Canadian May long weekend. With CTV owning the Canadian rights to the Academy Awards and Global likely picking up *Episode II*, CBC would have more viewers if they just put up a test pattern—though they do plan to air Britain's Channel Four presentation of the events of 9/11 from the hijackers' perspective. So guess which news crew is going to be kicked out of the White House if Bush is back in?

I did see one episode of *Lost*. It was fairly good. It kind of reminded me of *Mysterious Island* (coming soon to DVD in the original uncut versions shown in New Zealand, Australia, and Britain!), with a more modern setting. Still a lot of strange things happening to the people stuck on this uncharted island. Hopefully it will last at least six episodes so I get to see a bit more than usual of a series I like.

Margot Kidder, who played Lois Lane in the 1978-1987 *Superman* movies, is doing a few episodes of *Smallville* up here in Vancouver. Kidder won't be playing Lois; Erica Durance is the latest actress to step into the shoes of the legendary reporter for the Metropolis *Daily Planet*.

And for you Superman fans, I would like to dedicate this column to the memory of Christopher Reeve, who unfortunately died on the VCon weekend.

\* \* \*

OK, I don't hate the CBC (for interrupting last episode of *Torga: The Giant Man* for the 1974 Federal Budget\*, then replacing it with *From Rome With Love* the next broadcast day, and me having to wait until September 1978 to see how the series ends on KVOS out of Bellingham), and here's why.

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation is the first broadcaster from outside to UK to purchase the rights to the new *Doctor Who* series (and there was much rejoicing).

At this time it's unclear when the CBC will air the new series; best bet, since it come out in Britain a few weeks before NHL hockey playoff, it will likely be part of CBC's summer festival, starting in mid- to late June.

However, at this time there a strong chance that the NHL will lock out its players. So, no hockey. When this happened the last time, the CBC re-aired old operas and ballets in its place. This time I would like to give the CBC a suggestion: in the place of the second hockey game air classic *Doctor Who* episodes as movies, starting with the Tom Baker episodes. Sure, it's not "Can-Con," but I'm sure it will get better ratings then repeating Thursday's "Opening Night" that no one watched in the first place.

Though, if classic *Doctor Who* become a huge hit on the CBC, they won't take it too far, like "Opening Night Presents: The Shakespeare Daleks in 'The Merchant of Venice' by William Shakespeare."

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

\* One good thing I got out of it was that 1974 budget forced an election and because of it I got to meet Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau.

((And this is good, because ...? -Ye Ed.))

## Book Reviews

by Donna McMahon

*THE SECOND COMING*, John Dalmas (Baen, Apr/04)

Assigning me to review a book about the Second Coming of Christ is akin to asking the Pope to write a manual on gay parenting. The question isn't whether he would do it, but SHOULD he?



Nonetheless, here I go wading into treacherous seas with *The Second Coming*, a new novel by John Dalmas. And let me start out by tackling this one simply on its merits as an entertaining yarn.

Dalmas' near future United States features more of everything we fear – more violence, poverty, hatred, pollution, apathy, corruption, economic depression and so forth. With millions out of work, Lee and Ben Shoreff are just another middle class couple facing foreclosure of their mortgage. When they are both offered good paying jobs and free education for their daughters in Colorado, Lee stifles her misgivings about their new employer, Millennium, a cult founded by New Age guru Ngunda Aran.

The people living in the Millennium compound seem a pleasant, ordinary bunch rather than fanatical or deranged, but they nonetheless believe that Earth is ready for a new Messiah and Aran is the One. If Lee Shoreff is sceptical about that idea, fundamentalists of all religious stripes are infuriated. Soon it appears that the Shoreffs may have fled their decaying suburb only to be endangered by violent zealots who will stop at nothing to destroy Millennium.

Although Ngunda Aran is the pivotal character in *The Second Coming*, John Dalmas sensibly stays away from trying to portray a divinely inspired prophet, and instead uses over a dozen other viewpoints, spending the most time with Lee Shoreff and her family. Shoreff is very credible as a conventional woman afraid that her children will be inculcated into a cult, but she does not move the action in this story. In fact, none of the characters do. They are all swept along by events. The Second Coming is... well, coming, and people merely need to decide what they're going to do about it.

To keep the story moving (and to flesh out what is actually a pretty slight plot) Dalmas follows the machinations of various aspiring assassins – Jewish zealots, Irish Catholic terrorists, and home-grown Aryan Nations wing nuts. It soon becomes clear that it isn't so much a question of whether Aran will be killed but who will get there first. The only real suspense for the reader is deciding whether Dalmas' messiah is for real, and if so, what sort of religious upheaval the world is in for when he's resurrected.

Despite the many characters, settings, and minor plot threads, this is one of Dalmas' most focused books. He uses short scenes to keep the pace moving briskly (almost cinematically) yet still manages to scatter little gems of characterization and background throughout the narrative. For instance, I particularly enjoyed his description of a sour bachelor grudgingly serving coffee to a guest, and his depiction of Jenny Buckels' Baptist family, with the bitter, fanatical mother and gentle, forgiving brother depicting the dark and light sides of institutionalized Christianity.

However, Dalmas' passion for detail sometimes gets out of hand. Characters recite data such as their telephone numbers or hotel room numbers, and we read much too much about what the Shoreffs eat each day (which doesn't further the plot, provide insight into the characters,

demonstrate the future of food science, or even sound especially appetizing).

Still, Dalmas' narrative flows smoothly, there are a number of strong secondary characters, and the story kept me engaged from start to finish. Now (deep breath) to the theme.

I have no idea how a religious reader might react to *The Second Coming*. Without question Dalmas has an eclectic spiritual viewpoint and borrows from wide-ranging sources, including Christianity, Buddhism and psychotherapy. I suspect that some adherents of traditional religions will take exception to some of his borrowings, but as far as I'm concerned, the credibility of any religious creed is based mostly on brand recognition and popularity, so I'm more inclined to admire Dalmas' willingness to explore diverse viewpoints and adopt interesting ideas wherever he finds them.

However, as an atheist I didn't find a lot to interest me in this book. First, the religious lectures are boring. If you're not interested in the product, it is tedious to have to sit through the sales pitch, especially since there's nothing to be gained by picking rational holes in irrational beliefs (like why does everybody seem to be on their tenth or fiftieth reincarnation when there are more people living on Earth right now than have existed in the entirety of human history?)

More serious is the lack of any strong skeptical viewpoint in this book. Although Dalmas focuses on Lee Shoreff's doubts about the cult she works for, Shoreff is merely a conservative woman who fears that this particular religion and its adherents are too flaky, rather than someone who entertains any genuine doubts about religion itself, or even about the second coming of Jesus Christ. The journalist, Duke Cochran, is supposed to be an objective sceptic, but he leaps abruptly from a position of examining evidence about Aran (a rational assessment of facts) to believing Aran is divine – a position based on faith, not fact. As any SF reader should know, just because we don't understand a phenomenon doesn't make it "magic", but everyone in this novel seems to operate on the formula: Man + Apparent Miracles = God.

He's not a god I'd care for either, since he promises to kill millions of people and devastate large swaths of the planet with an asteroid impact, but there I go nitpicking again. The Christian god has a long track record of killing human beings horribly and he still gets billed as Pure Love, so go figure.

It's my guess that readers who have enjoyed novels like Robert Sawyer's *Calculating God* will find Dalmas' book both interesting and entertaining. And those, like me, who don't understand why anybody bothers with religion, will sensibly (unlike me) avoid a book entitled *The Second Coming*.

*BLACK BRILLION*, Matthew Hughes (Tor, Nov/04)

Discerning readers, desirous of a literary indulgence suitable for savouring in an armchair over a steaming postprandial cup of punge, will welcome a new instalment in the annals of far future Earth, as recounted by Vancouver Island author Matthew Hughes.

"I am often struck by how widely a day can escape from one's expectations," says Luff Imbry, and thus begin the escapades of an ill-matched pair, juxtaposed by fate in the form of the Archonate's Bureau of Scrutiny. Baro Harkless, newly-minted Agent of the Bureau is partnered with Luff Imbry, the very same portly confidence trickster he apprehended in commission of an extortion mere hours earlier, and whom he reasonably expects to be in transit to the nearest contemplarium.

Young Harkless is appalled to discover that Imbry has been made an Agent, equal in rank to himself. Imbry, on the other hand, is philosophical.

"I take it that you have long desired to be an agent of the Bureau of Scrutiny."

"It is all I ever wanted to be. It is a calling."

"Some are called, some are driven," the fat man said. "I have never accepted either a whip across the buttocks or a ring through the nose. I prefer to amble through the days, adapting my goals to circumstances as they present themselves, or preferably, adapting circumstances to my comfort."

"Your philosophy is vapid," Baro said.

"Perhaps," said Imbry. "But see how your grim zeal and my carefree insouciance have brought us to the identical point. We are both scroots. It is a distinction I admit I never sought, yet when the question was put the alternatives were even less appealing."

"It is all some sort of horrible mistake."

"Now there is a truly vapid philosophy," said the fat man, "lacking even that leavening of optimism that urges one to rise in the morning and go forth to accomplish. This cup of punge, on the other hand, is not affected by speculation. It is here and now, and very good."

Imbry and Harkless are assigned to pose as passengers on a private landship cruise across the vast Swept, organized by one Father Olwyn, Sacerdotal Eminence of the Society of Tangible Unity (better known to the Bureau as Horslan Gebbling, fraud artist). Although they concur on little, the reluctantly partnered scroots do agree that Gebbling is despicable to prey on victims of the Lassitude by claiming that he has a cure for this mysterious and invariably fatal ailment.

Yet much about this mission is inexplicable. Given their orders in secrecy, and allowed no Bureau support or back-up, it looks, even to the naive Harkless, as if they are intended to fail.

*Black Brillion* is a novel which is very much a matter of taste. Bibliophiles, eccentrics, Scrabble players, and readers such as myself who were warped in childhood by over-exposure to Dickens, Dumas, and Gilbert & Sullivan seem most likely relish Hughes' whimsically embellished scenery and sardonic persiflage.

My only caveat in an overall accolade is a sense of disappointment that a story which begins as a light comedy turns so much darker in tone, evolving into an eldritch alien monster invasion yarn.

Still, that again is a matter of taste, and Jungians will especially enjoy Baro Harkless' pursuit of alien villains through the landscape of the human Collective Unconscious.

## **Canadian SF Markets**

at November 2004

by Garth Spencer

The following are, to the best of my knowledge, the current markets in Canada for science fiction, or fantasy, or horror.

NOTE that by press time I had still omitted *a few critical details* about many of these markets, in order to *play a game with you!* Try and spot the missing market details!! Rights, and rates, and response times, even?

### **Amazing Heroes III** (E-book anthology)

Email: [cpulpsubs@hotmail.com](mailto:cpulpsubs@hotmail.com)

Editor: G.W. Thomas

At 24 Oct 2004, G.W. Thomas wrote me: "I have many books underway. The only open anthology right now is *AMAZING HEROES III*, a Weird Tales-style ebook from Cyber-Pulp.

"New genre (SF/Fantasy and Horror) stories with an emphasize on action and adventure. 2000-5000 words. (Will look at longer) No reprints. (Advice: Read AH I and II. I want tales that could have come from that old magazine of yore, *Weird Tales*. Think Robert E. Howard, Clark Ashton Smith, Lovecraft, Kuttner, Edmond Hamilton.) DEADLINE: January 31, 2005 or when filled.

"Join the Cyber-Pulp Readers group and get great extras and win prizes! <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/cyberpulpreaders>"

### **Challenging Destiny** (electronic magazine)

47 Bridgeport Road East

Waterloo, ON N2J 2J4

URL: [www.challengingdestiny.com](http://www.challengingdestiny.com)

Email: [csp@golden.net](mailto:csp@golden.net)

Editor: Dave Switzer

A quarterly science fiction and fantasy magazine. **Get and read a copy of the magazine first.**

*Challenging Destiny* accepts work from authors all over the world, and encourages first-time authors. The magazine prefers stories that reject violent solutions to problems, without explicit sex, and with philosophical, political, and religious themes. Do not submit serializations, or novel excerpts; submit NO horror, and NO poetry. Simultaneous submissions are OK, but not (usually) reprints.

Submit stories by mail, between 2,000 and 10,000 words, with a normal business-size SASE for reply. *Challenging Destiny* buys electronic rights for six months, and pays writers 1 cent/word (Canadian) plus a copy of the magazine. Their response time is usually one to four weeks.

**Edge Science Fiction & Fantasy Publishing, Inc.  
(and Tesseract Books)**

P.O. Box 1714, Calgary, AB T2P 2L7

Tel: (403) 254-0160 Fax: (403) 254-0456

URL: [www.edgewebsite.com](http://www.edgewebsite.com) ; Email: [publisher@edgewebsite.com](mailto:publisher@edgewebsite.com)

Publisher: Brian Hades

A book publisher, and current owner of the Tesseract Books (Canadian SF) imprint.

Current needs: science fiction and fantasy for adult readers (20 years old and up); NO young-adult, horror, erotica, religious short stories, dark/gruesome fantasy, or poetry. If in doubt, send a query with a SASE.

Submission requirements: once you have completed a novel manuscript (normally 75,000 to 100,000 words), send submissions by mail to the attention of the Editorial Manager; include one to three chapters with a synopsis and a cover letter; also include either your email address for correspondence, or a #10 self-addressed envelope with return postage, or if you wish the return of the sample chapters, a suitable self-addressed envelope with sufficient return postage. DO NOT send submissions by e-mail, or on disk; DO NOT send simultaneous submissions; DO NOT send complete manuscripts until requested.

**Neo-Opis Science Fiction Magazine**

4129 Carey Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 3G5

URL: [www.neo-opis.ca](http://www.neo-opis.ca) (see website guidelines for more details!)

Editor: Karl Johanson, [neoopsis@shaw.ca](mailto:neoopsis@shaw.ca)

Art Director: Stephanie Johanson, [Stephanie@neo-opis.ca](mailto:Stephanie@neo-opis.ca)

Current needs: science fiction, fantasy, fact articles, poems, opinion articles about science, science fiction, fantasy, movies and books.

Submission requirements: Submit texts up to 6,000 words by mail, or by e-mail, one (1) submission per correspondence; by email, preferably as an MSWord or RTF attachment, in standard format (note: one [1] space after periods), and include in the Subject line the word "Submission", the title, and if possible the word count. NO simultaneous submissions accepted. When a submission is accepted a contract will be sent by return mail.

Rights: *Neo-Opis* buys first North American serial rights.

Rate: *Neo-Opis* pays 2.5 cents/word (Canadian).

Response time: within a week for e-mails.

**NFG Magazine** (3 issues per year)

Sheppard Centre, P.O. Box 43112, 4841 Yonge St.,

North York, ON M2N 6N1

URL: [www.nfg.ca](http://www.nfg.ca) ; Email: [mrspeabody@nfg.ca](mailto:mrspeabody@nfg.ca)

NOTE: Submissions are only accepted through the website, after correspondents have registered there.

Current needs: looking for original, unpublished character-driven stories from 1,001 to 7,500 words: science fiction, fantasy, horror, slipstream, historical fiction; also poetry, articles, interviews, art and comics.

Submission requirements: plain-text format; NO multiple or simultaneous submissions.

Rights: buys exclusive first world rights for two (2) years, also

republication (book or compilation) rights at 50% of the original fee.

Rate: pays 1.5 to 2 cents/word, on acceptance.

Response time: in a few weeks, by e-mail.

**On Spec** (4 issues per year)

P.O. Box 4727, Edmonton, AB T6E 5G6

URL: [www.onspec.ca](http://www.onspec.ca) ; Email: [onspec@onspec.ca](mailto:onspec@onspec.ca)

Editorial staff: Diane Walton, Holly Philips,

Susan MacGregor, Peter Watts

Art Director: Derryl Murphy

E-MAIL for order requests, subscriptions, changes of address, advertising, general inquiries

Deadlines: February 28, May 31, August 31, November 30

Current needs: original unpublished speculative fiction and poetry; fantasy, horror, ghost stories, fairy stories, magic realism, etc. 80% of *On Spec's* content must be Canadian.

Submission requirements: *On Spec* prefers to receive disposable manuscripts by mail in standard format up to 6000 words, with a cover letter (no synopsis), with a SASE for reply (at least a #10 business envelope). DO NOT send submissions by e-mail or by fax.

Rights: *On Spec* buys first North American serial rights.

Rate: *On Spec* pays between \$50 and \$200 on acceptance.

Response time: usually 12 weeks after deadlines.

**Robert J. Sawyer Books** (3 books per year)

*An imprint of Red Deer Press*

Write to:

Robert J. Sawyer, Editor, Red Deer Press, Trailer C, 2500 University Drive NW, Calgary, AB T2N 1N4

URL: [www.reddeerpress.com](http://www.reddeerpress.com)

Current needs: only science fiction, for an adult audience. This editor solicits commercially viable novels which are *about* something, with accurate, cleverly extrapolated science backgrounds, and with believable, subtle, sophisticated characterization.

Submission requirements: once you have completed a novel manuscript, send a query by regular mail with a brief synopsis and a SASE. NO unsolicited manuscripts or e-mail submissions.

Rate: This imprint offers "decent" advances on publication.

Response time: under a month.