

# BCSFA Zine

#384

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May 2005



*cover boy Ryan Howe unconsciously reveals his secret origins as MEGAFROG, of the planet Ribbiton*

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Art Credits:

Sheryl Birkhead .....	cover, p. 3
Felicity Walker .....	cover, pp. 1
Joe Devoy .....	pp. 7, 8, 13

## May Events

May 12	Book discussion	7 p.m. at Our Town Café at 245 East Broadway, Vancouver; book to discuss is <i>The Speed of Dark</i> , by Elizabeth Moon.
May 14	Feeding Frenzy	7 p.m. at Kishu Restaurant, 2509 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. (Sushi Central!)
May 15	BCSFAzine deadline	Because I said so, that's why.
May 16	BCSFA meeting/party	7 p.m. at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's place, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; telephone 604-277-0845 for directions.
May 27	BCSFAzine production	see Garth and Doug at FRED (7-11 p.m., Denny's on Davie at Thurlow).
May 28	Kaffeeklatsch	7-11 p.m. at Garth's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver; phone 604-325-7314 for directions).

The Richmond Writers Group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., at the Richmond Arts Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate (in the Richmond Public Library, Brighthouse Branch, Minoru Boulevard & Granville Avenue, in the cafe on the Granville Avenue side of the building). Interested people should e-mail or phone Bill (info below) to double-check about what is happening: [bmaries53@yahoo.com](mailto:bmaries53@yahoo.com) or (604) 277-6775, or go to MSN group web address: <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>. (FW)

BCSFZINE  
OF BLOOD



## Nor Dashed a Thousand Kim

Members and trades must have been scratching their heads over the last two *BCSFzine* editorials, if in fact they noticed their enhanced strangeness. I wasn't insulting the good people of the Ottawa SF Society, when I suggested reprinting some news from *BCSFzine* – at a time when in fact they offer *more* science and author news than we do, and earlier; and I'm not dissing everybody else, when I ran the barest excuse for news in the last issue, or write satires implying that fannish fandom has almost died out, except in enclaves like the Seattle Vanguard circle.

What's really going on is that I've spread myself too thin, over too many projects, to pay enough attention to any of them. I barely pay enough attention to paid work, household chores, social obligations, or fanzine editing; I have entirely neglected my websites, and failed in my obligation to the CUFF administrator.

And then I have also been fighting a secret war with DR. GERONIMO® fandom, a threat to all North American fans everywhere.

Under previous authorship in the 1940s, the title character, then named "Tym Fasst", was a favourite ongoing character in Danish science fiction; but in translation the series failed to capture market share from the Tom Swift franchise. Then came the reinvention from world-travelling boy genius and scientist/entrepreneur into DR. GERONIMO®, "The Brazen Man", conflicted anti-hero and man of action, whose every adventure mirrored the major issues and moral conflicts of the year – so much so that ten novels were banned from publication in English, and two of them brought down as many governments in the Benelux. While Dr. Who inspired "Dalek Fever" in the United Kingdom, DR. GERONIMO® inspired several of the James Bond movies (and the copyright litigation continues to this day).

Until the 1970s, DR. GERONIMO® was a foreign craze that Anglophone fans rarely heard about, like Perry Rhodan, or that French thing about Jerry Lewis. But it is useless to deny now, because it is impossible to conceal the steady growth of DR. GERONIMO® merchandise, clubs, "fanzines" and conventions across North America, outnumbering and outmarketing classic, traditional fandoms such as Star Trek, Star Wars, anime and LARP gaming. Suddenly every old-fashioned mediafan and gaming fan is surrounded by nine DR. GERONIMO® fans! Traditional Creation Cons belatedly find themselves scheduled directly against nakedly Philistine DR. GERONIMO® conventions! It's appalling!!

My first clue to this insidious encroachment came in 1989, at the first Banffcon. I knew that DR. GERONIMO® fandom had advanced from its bases in Greenland outposts, and had established small colonies in Labrador City, Truro and Métis-sur-Mer (in Walloon translation); I even heard rumours about affiliated clubs in Hamilton and Scarborough. But I had no idea that DR. GERONIMO® fan-club comics had penetrated the Canadian heartland as

far as *Regina*, forbye; but there it was in the Banffcon fan lounge, a fan-drawn DR. GERONIMO® comic from Saskatchewan, inexpert Danish and all.

I now believe that what I thought was a sophomoric gag at the University of Victoria – the war with Greenland, sponsored by "Generals" Bentley and Armour – was a *serious* campaign against cultural imperialism. I now believe that *Buckaroo Banzai* was a gallant, but unsuccessful attempt to combat the DR. GERONIMO® franchise directly. I have to wonder whether the spate of US-Canadian "co-productions" in the last decade, especially in science fiction, were another attempt to stem the Danish tide.

There are horrifying rumours of a DR. GERONIMO®-inspired movement, mimicking the "SCIENTISM®" brainwashing cult from the early-1970s story arc, not only "programming" followers in Danish but preparing them to campaign for a "National Socialist" party; and there is a long record of litigation against misuse of their trade marks, which is why I have been scrupulous about the use of their marks. But of course these are just rumours - or else, they are *entirely legal* proceedings.

The problem with such a franchise, as I perceive it, is that it destroys actual imagination and creativity; it attempts to force a monopoly on the sense of wonder at what might be possible, which was the heart of science fiction.

I have done my part to promote an older, purer form of fandom, to remind fans there was science fiction before DR. GERONIMO®, by printing nothing about DR. GERONIMO® clubs and zines and cons; and now I am all but spent.

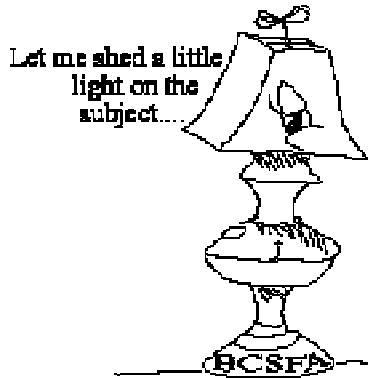
So now it is time to share the burden, expose this secret war, and beseech fans everywhere not to dissolve our fannish cultural identity in the tsunami of DR. GERONIMO®. Practice your English! Be masters in your own homes!! REMEMBER WHO YOU REALLY ARE!!!

\* \* \*

And another thing: does anyone have a current address, online or snailmail, for Linda Earl or Tim Smick? They seem to have vanished, or at least I don't have current contact info.

\* \* \*

How many of us participated in No TV Week? Or read the science news last month? Did anybody notice the Aurora nominations deadline whizzing by? Why don't we do regular outreach programs, like to the students at SFU and UBC clubs? And why is BCSFA dominated by greying pudgy white guys, anyway? Inquiring minds want to know ...



*We Await Silent Tristero's Empire*  
(Letters)

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Randy Barnhart, 1-1565 Heron Road,  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 9V1,  
[randy\\_barnhart@hotmail.com](mailto:randy_barnhart@hotmail.com), 12 April 2005

Wow, editorial pix on the cover of #383!  
Nice shot, Felicity. Very chic! Hey, wait a  
minute: am I wrong or was FRED actually

held at a...\*gasp\* Denny's? Barb is absolutely convinced that if you eat too much of that stuff, you'll experience the joys of a spastic colon. And, while you might have been channelling the spirit of H.L. Mencken, I really don't think he ever sat bolt upright in quite that manner. However, he is said to have drank the first legal beer after the U.S.' Noble Experiment (AKA Prohibition), pronouncing it "Good." Did you feel any sort of overwhelming thirst during this channelling exercise?

((No. And I thought Denny's was a surpassingly fannish restaurant franchise? I mean, better food than McDonald's, for sure, and way cheaper than some places I won't mention.))

It's almost as if SF publishers have taken a holiday. Try as I might, I have not been able to locate a single thing worth reading! Gods, is it ever thin! Amazon.com's Top Ten SF Sellers breaks down to 90% *Star Wars* novelizations, 5% reprints of *Hitchhiker's Guide* (good news, but I've already read it a "few" times before) and 5% SF war porn. *Battlestar Galactica* is on hiatus and everything else on television is garbage. Gosh, I even tried the latest Action/Adventure/Christian thriller *Revelations* and found it to be nothing more than an undercooked mix of *X-Files*, *Exorcist* and more than a dash of *The Da Vinci Code*. Ah well: same as it ever was.

((I've got to try writing stuff like that, I'm sure I could do at least as well.))

Movies, on the other hand, are pumping out some interesting stuff: *Sin City* was truly a wondrous experience. To my mind, it was the first movie using a graphic novel as source material that did not stink like road kill. Even the first several Batman films, as good as they were, were stilted and uneven, but *Sin City* was flat out "Yeah, we're from a comic book - make something out of it!" Brilliant, just brilliant. Smooth like a whipped milk shake and so very cool.

*Sin City* was also the first decent acting job I've seen from Bruce Willis in some little time, and as for Mickey Rourke, he must be seen to be believed! Rourke has been slipping and sliding through some real crap for the last so

many years, but he's finally found a vehicle that allows him to act the over-the-top super-thug he's always wanted to play. Also, Jessica Alba appears in the movie, and I will leave it at that.

The joke about XXX: *State of the Union* ("...does Vin Diesel run for President?") has, sadly, been overtaken by events. Rather unsurprisingly, it turns out XXX can be played by anyone, and since Vin is much taken with his thespian abilities after his star turn in *The Pacifier*, he refused to do the second instalment of XXX and has been replace by someone called Ice Cube (some sort of musician, I believe) in this oven-ready turkey. No more will we be subjected to the hairless one's version of a secret agent.

Yes, you are so right: I worshipped Poul Anderson and even suffered through his later stuff, as awesomely bad as it was (his *Harvest of Stars* almost ties Heinlein's *To Sail Beyond the Sunset* for embarrassing wretchedness) Still, when Anderson was rolling, it was something grand to read. I particularly enjoyed his *Flandry* series, especially *A Knight of Ghosts and Shadows*. It was indeed a sad day when he made the Big Trip.

Bad Movie Festivals are always a rare treat. Nowhere else is a viewer permitted to boo, make retching noises, laugh hysterically and generally make an ass of oneself in quite the same way. I remember one H.P. Lovecraft Film Festival in Vancouver that showed mainly no-budget student films. Now, we are talking some awesomely bad movies here, ghastly to the point where even the actors could barely keep from laughing during the filming. Anyway, so many of the auteurs were present, there was some concern they might be offended if some of the more raucous types present (i.e., me) let their true feelings out. There was no need to worry, however, as almost all of the directors had real senses of humour and were on the floor laughing along with ninety percent of the audience. That was cool.

I don't think it would be necessary to get a local theatre on board for the First Vancouver Bad SF&F Film Festival. Your best and cheapest move would be to set aside an evening at the upcoming VCon (say, opening night when out-of-towners are desperate for something to do) and do an all-nighter. Now, you can't charge to view rented videos, but you could get back some of the movie rental money by selling popcorn, Jolt Cola or whatnot (and, closer to morning, breakfast cereal and/or coffee). Make sure everyone attending knows there will be hooting and carrying on so there won't be any complaints about not being able to hear the haunting Love Theme from *The Incredibly Strange Creatures Who Stopped Living and Became Mixed-up Zombies*. Trust me, you'll pack the place.

((Marie-Louise, Lorna, Greg - did you read that?))

Speaking of snappy dressing put me in mind of when I attended Trent University, which liked to style itself as the "Oxford on the Otonabee." Yes. So several of held an Annual Lawn Tennis Party. All attendees were to wear the appropriate Edwardian garb and sip tea. Dancing could be an option. May I suggest a room party at the next

VCon styled something along those lines? You could wear your frayed tux as Jeeves and I could dress as Allan Quatermain.

*((Puts me in mind of Regency dancing at Westercon, or some Southwestern cons.))*

Aluminium=Aluminum in Commonwealth English.

*((Yes.))*

Felicity: Good luck on the Auroras! I was nominated a few years back for some pro work I had done, but got clipped on the second go-round. Lloyd showed me his Aurora, and it is a lovely do-dad, a real addition to any home or apartment.

You are, of course, quite correct about Higgins from *Magnum PI*: he was a property manager and security guy for Robin Master's estate. As for his war service, that might be a little more problematic. Over the course of the show, Higgins volunteered that he had been a secret agent, a POW, an RAF pilot and the model for Colonel Nicholson (Alec Guinness) of "The Bridge over the River Kwai" fame. Take from that what you will.

I was displeased to hear about your run-in with the lout and his girlfriend. Years ago, a friend of mine who was a soldier with the Governor-General's Foot Guard and was also gay ran into several drunken idiots while escorting his latest love home late one Saturday. The idiots, who for some reason thought it necessary to comment on two young men walking arm in arm, asked my friend, "Are you a faggot?", to which he replied, "Why? Looking for a date?" This apparently stunned them for a record thirty seconds until it could penetrate their drunken brains and permitted my friend and his date to get moving. I wouldn't recommend the approach to anyone, but you have to admire him for his *sang-froid*.

In the meantime, get that bear spray I recommended a few issues ago. Or better (and cheaper): formaldehyde. A lab partner once accidentally got it in her eyes and spent the better part of an hour screaming in agony, even after it had been rinsed out. She recovered, with no ill effects, but she now carries a squeeze bottle full of it whenever she goes out real late at night.

The issue of the woman with the lout is difficult. I can certainly understand how her apparent complicity might undermine your respect for women, but I would ask you to consider this: any moron who feels he can get away with physically harassing people on the street about matters that are none of his business might also have physical issues with his girlfriend/spouse. Not to put too fine a point on it, he may be physically or mentally abusive to her. If that is the situation, she would not be eager to challenge him, especially in front of someone else.

On the other hand, I could be wrong and she might just be as much of an asshat as he is.

Obesity: Is it just me, or has the media suddenly discovered obesity is a new national health threat akin to smoking? Almost every newscast I've seen of late features some new discovery about how obesity (which was once defined as "unhealthily overweight" but now appears to mean "weighs more than three grams over some arbitrary height-weight ratio") causes everything from diaper rash to Break-Bone Fever to the aforementioned spastic colon.

And of course there is a medical justification for this sudden smear job on the overweight. See, folks who are somehow outside the perfect height-weight norm tend to be sicker than those folks who are "perfect" physical specimen. This is of course nonsense as any one who has ever spent a few hours in the Grouse Grind's parking light. (Sic) All those perfect physical specimens being ambulated away, all because they believed the doctors and physiotherapists that a flat tummy equals invincibility and a loose gut equals immanent death.

Anyway, that's it for now. Take care, but take it.

*((Ye Ed sez: So the latest non-issue is obesity, or any degree of excess weight? Not surprising, I remember when the campaign against smoking started up, back when there was little apparent public support.*

*((Obviously – to me, anyway - everyone has a different ideal weight, and obviously different people have different factors pushing them over it. Evidently, though, any given culture offers only one, or very few Good Forms.*

*((Maybe we should start a new culture? ...Oh, yeah, some of us tried that in the 1960s and 70s, with lamentable results.*

*((Newspapers and broadcast media are dedicated not to news, but to finding or creating sensations to draw attention to, and to fill space between the ads that just incidentally they also draw attention to.*

*Any sensation will serve, except real issues.*

*((Just my opinion, of course.))*

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BCSFazinezine – Volume 1, Number 32.383, Friday 8 April 2005  
BCSFazinezine is from Felicity Walker (felicity4711@hotmail.com)

Cover - Art/Photo Credits - Correction: The images on pages 27 to 34 are from the Animation Show web site.

But the Wheels Fell Off - Randy Barnhart: I found Spider Jerusalem surprisingly unlikable.

It took me a moment to realise "Barb Dwyer" was a homonym for "barbed wire" and not a reference to Barb Dryer. Hmm...if it didn't remind me of the misandrist Pamela Anderson movie *Barb Wire*, "Barb Dwyer" would make a good drag queen name.

I don't think the TV industry will ever get the message that fans won't watch just anything...look at what the new Doctor Who series crew had to say in *TV Guide*.

Russell T. Davies, producer: "This is a chance for a brand-new start.... Doctor Who has a remarkable fandom, which has kept the show alive while it's been off-air. I'm sure they'll have the time of their lives-but it's the new audience I care about."

Neil Gorton, special makeup and prosthetic effects: "We're not making the new show for the fans-we're making it for everybody."

Edward Thomas, production designer: "I made a conscious effort not to look at the old series that much. You'll always have the

diehard fans. They'll love the show just for being Doctor Who. My priority is the new audience."

"F.M. Busby" sounds like a female name, somehow. (My grade two art teacher was Mrs. Busby, but it's not just that.)

Coincidentally, *Slipstream* was among the stack of the DVDs I bought at a dollar store a few months ago. My roommates and I decided to watch it because of your LOC, Randy. We found it to be surprisingly adequate. Bill Paxton looks cute with long hair! The worst thing I can say about it is that it's padded-a lot of the majestic aerial scenery and suspenseful chases should have been edited down for pacing. However, that's also true of most big-budget movies.

There are lots of physically attractive fans. As Garth mentioned in his reply, Ryan Hawe is a good example.

Thanks for the encouragement ("Me, I always have time for fen like Garth and you because you knock yourselves out supporting fandom. That impresses the heck out of me").

I've been desensitized to Jann Arden's "Will You Remember Me?" by countless TV commercials. I couldn't find Robert Wyatt's "At Last I Am Free" on WinMX (belying the song title, I would say).

Felicity Walker - More *Magnum, PI* pedantry from me: Higgins didn't quite have a full head of hair - he had a very accentuated widow's peak, and covered his recession by growing his hair long in the front and parting it one side (a more tasteful form of comb-over). He may have been vain enough to dye it black, although that doesn't seem like something he would do...unless he really was Robin Masters and Jonathan Quayle Higgins III was just a role he played to deal with Thomas Magnum. Anyway, I see your point.

Wrestling is *supposed* to be contrived. Mainstream wrestling broke kayfabe (?? - GS) and made that clear a long time ago. When wrestling fans talk about wrestling as if were real, it's only in the same spirit of suspension of disbelief as SF fans. Lately, wrestling is missing the weird and fantastic and sometimes downright silly angles that it had when its bookers took more risks.

I still agree with Noam Chomsky's opinion that people invest the amount of effort in understanding sports that they should invest in politics...but then I'm biased against sports; maybe Chomsky would say the same thing about fandom if he ever attended a con.

Purple is a real name. It's arguably realer than "Garth Spencer" or "Michael Morse" in that it was chosen deliberately for its personal significance, rather than accepted by default as a result of government and parental traditions.

Barb Dryer: I wish I could help, but I don't know of anywhere she could stay. One thing I probably could do is hold onto some of her belongings in my parents' attic and/or the storage closet (on which I pay rent) in my friends' apartment, so that if she needs to check into a shelter, she has somewhere safe to store her things. I hope things are better by the time this letter sees print.

Words from Our Advertisers - Western Fandom Illuminati: Where's the logo Joe Devoy designed?  
(In this issue.)



Calendar of Northwest Events - Yuri's Night: I usually go to the Richmond Goth gathering, Elysium (every Tuesday, 7:00 p.m.-11:00 p.m., the Foggy Dew, 5991 Alderbridge Way, intersection with Westminster Highway), but I'd like to get the Richmond Goths to try Yuri's Night after the Elysium.

24 Hour Comics Day 2005: I'd like to try this. The web-site says that the 24-hour comic can be done before 24 Hour Comics Day, it can take more than 24 hours to draw, it can be less than the set goal of 24 pages, and it can be about anything (although the site will provide random topics on 24 Hour Comics Day if the artist prefers that challenge). In other words, it's impossible to cheat!



For artists wanting to participate publicly with other artists, there are official locations around the world that will provide space. Vancouver's is:

ELFSAR COLLECTION LTD.,  
1007 Hamilton St.,  
Vancouver, BC  
V6B 5T4  
(604) 688-5922

[http://www.happyharborcomics.com/locations/page\\_locations\\_vancouver.html](http://www.happyharborcomics.com/locations/page_locations_vancouver.html)

Free Comic Book Day: While I appreciate comic companies' and retailers' generosity, I sometimes find the comics provided to be of low quality. Also, I vaguely remember Julian Castle saying something about comic companies forcing retailers to pay for their "free" comics, so that retailers actually lose money on the project.

Anime Evolution: I'd like to get my membership in advance, but as always, with SFU being so far away, I can't commit until I know I have a ride there and back.

Comix [Sorry, Ryan] & Stories: I'll know I've arrived if I see one of my zines for sale in someone's used zine box.

Another Kaffeeklatsch (By James Baldwin!): (#0) "Felicity Walker suggested going back in time with a winning lottery ticket." It sounds so obvious and predictable when I read it like that. Besides, I suggested going back in time with the winning lottery numbers. A winning lottery ticket would be harder to get.

Now, it occurs to me that even that wouldn't be necessary if I could use time travel more than once. I'd send cash back in time to my past self over and over. I could start with any small amount and increase it exponentially as it doubles. I'd simply send all the money I have on me now back in time one minute, causing it to be added to the money I had one minute ago. That doubled amount then becomes the new total I have in the present. Repeat until rich. Have the proverbial cake and eat it too.

Granted, all the doubles of the bills would have the same serial number, but it's not counterfeit-they're all real! Besides, since I'd



keep them at home in cash instead of depositing them in the bank, nobody would ever notice the matching serial numbers while I was around to have them connected to me. The bills would look real enough that it wouldn't even occur to recipients to check; if they did check, the bills would pass all conventional counterfeiting tests; and I'd spend the money in multiple places, getting genuine non-time-travel-created change back from it (apart from my duplicates in circulation), and be long gone before anything would be noticed.

I guess the only catch is that I'd have to be the only person to be able to do this, or money would simply become worthless as everyone could replicate as much as they want. Talk about creating wealth. It would be like Weimar Germany's depression, with people needing wheelbarrows full of cash to buy a loaf of bread.

On the other hand, said bread could also become infinite by the same method, so perhaps money would no longer be needed to allot scarce resources among us. We'd have an infinite supply of fossil fuels, endangered species, fresh water, groceries, medicine (and recreational drugs), useful minerals/metals, paper, even the rarest of antiques—all the wine you can drink, so many copies of *Action Comics* #1 or medieval illuminated manuscripts you could use them as kindling, games with Fabergé eggs as pieces or chips, and everyone's favourite cliché, your very own Ming vase – which you can smash! (Go ahead! We've got millions of the things!) The only thing that couldn't be created this way would be the living space to keep all this stuff, but with infinite building supplies, we could build higher and deeper (adding to the Earth's size and mass, I suppose), and also begin to really throw money at our space program (or rather, the resources that money would have bought, before money became obsolete).

The other catch is that we'd have to clear a different space each time for the things to materialise, so they didn't try to occupy the same space as their past duplicates, thus ... depriving us of the abundance we want.

(#5) Soylent rednecks!  
(*I wish.*)

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Barb Dryer, April 15, 2005

Fruvous' birthday is May 19<sup>th</sup>. The new Star Wars movie also opens the same day. If you want to help Fruvous celebrate his birthday and see the Star Wars movie, see Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand or Barb Dryer at FRED before the movie; Fruvous is interested in going to dinner at a restaurant at the SilverCity Riverport theatre complex in Richmond.

It so happens that Barb Dryer has Famous Players movie coupons (gift certificates), which she is willing to contribute to this event. People who are too broke to pay regular movie prices, see Barb about a possible "subsidized" movie ticket. You can also contact Barb at 604-267-7973 or email Fruvous at [fruvous@reddra.com](mailto:fruvous@reddra.com).

The Star Wars movie release will probably kick off at midnight (12:01 a.m.) May 19<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in going to the premiere, contact Barb. Barb plans to attend the movie showing in costume, and invites others to do the same (Jedi! Start your light-sabres!)

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Sheryl Birkhead, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, USA,  
April 8, 2005

Fannish is ... well ... it just is. (One of those things you do/are/feel, more than define.) You might be surprised at how many *accepted* fans are, indeed, dyslexic – and it is not an issue.

I presume you know of our losses? Freas, Busby, Chalker, Norton ... It will be interesting if the U.S. Postal Commission approves an Asimov commemorative stamp – oh, the image *could* boggle the mind.

*Star Trek: Enterprise* should be drawing to a close fairly soon, I think.

The Hugo nomination list is out!

WAHF: Teemu Leisti (still working in Finland), Doug Finnerty, Clint Budd

## Ask Dr. Know

*How do we care for and feed Guests of Honour? What do authors, editors, et al. find obnoxious, and how should we best relate to them?*

John Bartley, Feb. 13, 2004

A: What follows is not an expert opinion, but one fan's condensation of several opinions. *Hey, experts*: have I gotten anything seriously wrong, here?

The conventional way (no pun intended) to treat each Guest of Honour is to pay for their transportation to and from the airport or station, in fact meet them there and ferry them to the hotel; provide their accommodations, their meals, their membership; and provide at their request a free membership to one (1) wife/partner/travelling companion apiece. WCSFA/VCon procedures go so far as to assure a Guest of Honour a child membership apiece at 50% advertised price, upon their request.

A professional way to treat Guests of Honour is not to take them for granted, but to *pay attention* to them: find out what they're about, and reflect that in the program. Some committees do this. But panelists, even Guests of Honour, have frequently been placed on panels they know *nothing* about. Alternatively, the concom may have little clue about their Guest of Honour's specialty. I seem to recall Fran Skene commenting that John Berry was none too happy as FanGoH, at a VCon in the early 1980s; he might have been a world-famous faneditor, but to most of the congoers – and the concom – he was an unknown quantity, and found himself pretty much at loose ends. By the same token, it pays to find out what GoHs are *not* up for, e.g., allergens or carpal tunnel syndrome or mobility issues, which might preclude them from enjoying autograph sessions or

Regency dancing. Or seafood or Thai chicken, for that matter. At the 1986 "Star Trek Anniversary Celebration" in Spokane, DeForest Kelley was abruptly announced as the star of an autograph session ... although his arthritis made him incapable of writing.

A *really* professional way to treat Guests of Honour would be to invite their input and involvement from the beginning in forming the program, *advising* them in advance of their program commitments, and *clearing* any time conflicts that come up. Not all committees do this. At least one Convention scheduled Guests of Honour for two items at once, the Aurora Awards presentation against a costume-judging contest, so they ended up traipsing back and forth.

After reading various conrunning materials, articles by Guest Liaisons and articles by Guests, it began to look as if some committees have their attention pulled in a lot of different directions - too many, sometimes, to honour their star attractions properly. But that's just my opinion.  
(Garth Spencer, April 12, 2005)

## Gathering Nuts in May

1: Ken Wong got to be that way after a failed assault on Dr. Geronimo's Bastion of Doom, not far from the CN Tower. I do not care to reveal the embarrassing medical details.

4: Frances Higginson defected to the Royal Swiss Navy after downsizing in Dr. Geronimo's organization eliminated her stock options. However, her medical experience led her to her current career with the B.C. Cancer Society in the Interior.

9: Sam Witherspoon-Li has been monitoring various Dr. Geronimo black-market dealings since the Iran-Contra affair. However, his analyses have to be interpreted in the light of his obsession with the endangerment of Canadian bears and caribou by the Asian market for certain dried glands.

13: Dave Wilson retired from the Canadian Justice League after CSIS was formed; a little-known measure of the enabling legislation required all superheroes to conform to strategic arms limitation treaties, which his superpowers exceeded.

13: Diana Balabanov, in her secret super-hero identity as Sedna the Supererogatory, used to lobby for a high-Arctic submarine shipping route through our Northwest Passage ... before she realized the threat represented by Greenland to our marine sovereignty. And the fact that Canadian suits don't want to do that venture-capital thing.

16: Clint Budd has no connection with the covert Tesla-coil projects now being pursued at the industrial park near UBC, nor has he any knowledge of the money-laundering scheme involving civil servants high in the BC Liberal administration.

18: Doug Girling is compiling dossiers on Tesla-coil research projects at Western Washington University; no firm connection to Dr. Geronimo has been established. Yet.

18: Sidney Trim has been monitoring black-budget Tesla-coil experiments folded into the space program for twenty or thirty years now, at least when his computer hasn't packed up. I think he radiates an electromagnetic field with extremely unfortunate effects on unhardened civilian-grade microcircuits.

18: Bandit may or may not be still alive, but he did show up at the VCon party at Rustycon, and collected his green happy face ...

19: Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand's birthday coincides with the opening of the new Star Wars movie. See Fruvous or Barb Dryer at FRED about arranging a dinner and movie outing in Richmond!

21: Stuart Cooper and his wife live somewhere in Alberta, or somewhere in BC, depending. I don't know why he wears that hat, either.

22: Steve Ens vanished into the misty mystic lands surrounding Victoria after he got married. Lorna Peltarri, wasn't it? What are you guys doing now?

27: James Duff is ... well, I don't really know what he is. Or what his superpowers are. Or what connection he has to the secret war with Dr. Geronimo. If any.

28: Ian McIntyre is another character whose episode on these adventures I must have missed. Is he on our side, their side, or did he just wander randomly into the crossfire while looking for a cappuccino?

31: Joanne McBride has been a peripatetic fixture of Toronto, Vancouver, Nanaimo, and Vancouver fandom again, and has in her time edited CANADAPA and *Jam Today*, or chaired cons in Toronto and Vancouver. As far as I know there is no truth to the mounting rumours about her intentions in chairing VCon 12, nor have we any reason to disrespect her grasp of arithmetic. There is absolutely no connection to Dr. Geronimo's gang; this has been established decisively. Believe me.

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## Calendar of Northwest Events

May 2005

May 6: No Pants Day; release of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

May 7: Free Comic Book Day 2005. <http://www.freecomicbookday.com/>

May 13-15 – Tolcon 2005, SeaTac Radisson Hotel, Seattle, WA. Tolkien convention. Guests: Ted Nasmith, Kiran Shah, more. Membership: \$35 until May 1, \$45 at the door, \$25 one-day. For more information, see [www.tolcon.org](http://www.tolcon.org).

May 14: Discovery Channel airs *Alien Planet*

May 19: release of *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith*. (Shall we have a combined Fruvovus' birthday and Star Wars movie outing in Richmond?)

May 20-23: Keycon 22, Radisson Hotel Downtown, Winnipeg, MB. SF convention. Guests: Steve Erikson (author of *Guardians of the Moon*); Lars de Souza (artist); Chris Barsanti & Nancy Fetterman (previous Keycon co-chairs). Memberships: \$40, more at the door? For more information, see [www.keycon.org](http://www.keycon.org).

May 21-22: Otafest (anime convention) at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta; see <http://www.otafest.com>.

May 28&29 – Cloud City 2005, Marpole Curling Club, Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Registration: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. For more information, [www.vancouvergamersguild.com](http://www.vancouvergamersguild.com).

May 27-29: Enfilade in Olympia, Washington. See <http://www.nhmgs.org/#enfilade>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

May 28: Olympia Comics Festival in Olympia, WA. More details TBA.

June 2005

June 3-5: ConComCon 12 at the Seattle Radisson, 17001 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA 98188, U.S.A.

ConComCon, or C-Cubed, is the Pacific Northwest's annual convention-runners convention. ConComCon is the best place in the Pacific Northwest to network with other local convention runners, exchange ideas on how to make conventions run more effectively, and talk about fandom in general. Whether you have been running conventions for years, or you are completely new to convention running and you want to get your foot in the door, come on down and join us!

Topics include: The Technical Side of Conventions, Sound, Lights, Power Cords, Duct Tape, Horror Stories, Discussion Groups and Hands-on Classes ending in a mini-dance, Meetings and a totally indulgent hospitality suite.

Hotel Room Rate is \$79 per night; room reservations number is 1-800-333-3333 or (206) 244-6000, fax (206) 246-6835.

Memberships are: \$25 prereg to May 10, \$35 at the door. Mail your memberships with name, address, city, state, zip, email to: ConComCon 12, c/o SWOC, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A. See <http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/>, or contact the ConComCon Chairs: Michael and Becky Citrak, tel (360) 456-7441, email [mcitrak@Comcast.net](mailto:mcitrak@Comcast.net) or [adonno@aol.com](mailto:adonno@aol.com) for more information

C-Cubed is sponsored by Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC), the parent organization of the Seattle in 2005 North American Science Fiction Convention now officially known as Cascadia Con.

Michael Citrak <[mcitrak@comcast.net](mailto:mcitrak@comcast.net)>, 11 Feb 2005

June 5: Vancouver Comicon. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com).

June 17: release of *Batman Begins*



June 25 & 26: Astronomi-Con Winnipeg 2005, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB. Gaming convention. Registration: \$75. For more information, [www.astronomi-con.com](http://www.astronomi-con.com).

July 2005

July 1: release of *Undead*, *StarCraft: Ghost*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Treasure of the Seven Mummies*

July 1-4: Westercon 58 and Canvention 2005 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).

July 15-18: Fragapalooza in Edmonton, Alberta. See <http://www.fragapalooza.com>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

July 16: release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

July 25-August 1: Gatecon 2005, Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. Media SF convention. Guests: Dirk Benedict, Richard Hatch, Kevin Sorbo, Robert Picardo, Alonso Oyarzun. Registration: US\$225. for more information, see [www.gatecon.com](http://www.gatecon.com).

July 29 - 31: MerpCon 2005 in Spokane, Washington. LOTR-themed role-playing convention. Registration: Free. See <http://merpcon.merp.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005; Lloyd's list, Mar. 2005)

August 2005

Aug. 4-8: Interaction (63rd Worldcon), SECC, Glasgow. Now £110/\$195/Euro165 reg. £30/\$45/Euro45 supp. Contact 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. In North America: PO Box 58009, Louisville, Kentucky, KY 40268-0009, USA. (*Ansible* 209)

Aug. 5-7: Animethon 12 at Grant MacEwan Community College / Holiday Inn Express in Edmonton, Alberta; Anime convention. Registration: TBA. See <http://www.animethon.org>

Aug. 11-14: PDX LAN in Portland, Oregon. See <http://www.pdxlan.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

Aug 19-21: Anime Evolution at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby (*not* the Vancouver campus), BC. Anime convention. Guests: Broken Saints, Rob Bakewell, Johnny Yong Bosch, Michael Dobson, David Kaye, and Kirby Morrow. Memberships: \$25 until March 31, \$30 until May 31, \$35 afterwards and at the door. See <http://www.animeevolution.com>

Aug 26-28: Dragonflight 2005 at the Bellevue Sheraton in Bellevue, WA. Gaming convention. Memberships: US\$30 until April 30, US\$35 until July 31, US\$40 thereafter and at the door. (<http://www.dragonflight.org/>)

Aug. 26-28: PAX (Penny Arcade Expo) at Maydenbabauher Center in Bellevue, Washington. See <http://www.penny-arcade.com/pax>.

Aug 28: Comix & Stories in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.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.

Sept. 3-5: H.P. Lovecraft's Birthday Party in Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Registration: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. See <http://www.vancouvergamingguild.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

Sept. 3-5: Kumoricon in Portland, OR; more details TBA

Sept. 18: Vancouver Comicon in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com).

Sept. 23-25: Foolscap VII at the Bellevue Sheraton, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Harlan Ellison. "Foolscap 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 \$40 now. Mail deadline: Sept. 10, 2005. Mail to Foolscap VII c/o Little Cat Z, P.O. Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461, U.S.A. Email [www.foolscapcon.org](http://www.foolscapcon.org).

Sept. 23-25 - Fallcon 18, Calgary Marlborough Community Association Centre, Calgary, AB. Gaming convention. Memberships: \$25 until August 29, \$30 afterwards and at the door. For more information, [www.fallcon.com](http://www.fallcon.com).

October 2005

Oct. 7-9: VCon 30 at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, BC. GoHs Todd Lockwood, TBA. 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 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. Day memberships are available. See [www.v-con.ca](http://www.v-con.ca) for updates. Write to VCon 30, c/o #209 - 2166 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 2A4.

Oct. 14-16 - Hero's Gambit, St. Joseph's Hall, Saskatoon, SK. Gaming convention. Registration: \$18. For more information, [www.herosgambit.com](http://www.herosgambit.com).

Oct. 21-23 – Conifur Northwest, SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, Seattle, WA. Furry/Anthropomorphic convention. Guest: David Hopkins. Memberships: US\$40. For more information, [www.conifur.org](http://www.conifur.org) .

Oct. 23 – Toy, Model And Collectibles Show, Heritage Hall, Vancouver, BC. Memberships: \$2, kids \$1. For more information, see [www.mypage.uniserve.ca/~lswong/Comicon.html](http://www.mypage.uniserve.ca/~lswong/Comicon.html).

Oct. 28-30: Dreamcon 20 in Everett, WA (more details TBA)

Oct. 29&30 – Howloween 2005, Best Western Convention Centre, Coquitlam, BC. Anthropomorphic convention. Registration: C\$35/US\$26 until October 10, C\$40 at the door. For more information, [www.howloween.org](http://www.howloween.org).

November 2005

Nov. 4-6: Orycon 27 at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront in Portland, Oregon. GoHs: Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson; ArtGoH Paul Guinan; Special GoHs Rebecca Moesta and Anina Bennett; Editor GoH TBA. Room rates at the Marriott (1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR 97201, tel. [503] 226-7600) Fax: 1-503-221-1789 email [http://marriott.com/property/page.mi?marshaCode=PDXOR](mailto:mailto:property/page.mi?marshaCode=PDXOR) ) will be US\$99/nite. Remember, this 1300+member convention is a weaponless con. Memberships US\$30 to April 15, \$40 to July 15, \$45 to October 15, \$55 at the door. Children 6-12 half-price, 5's and under free; Children must be accompanied by adults. Email [orycon27@hotmail.com](mailto:orycon27@hotmail.com), see [www.orycon.org](http://www.orycon.org) or write Orycon 27, P.O. Box 5464, Portland, OR 97228-5464, U.S.A.

Nov. 20: Vancouver Comicon in Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Memberships: TBA. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) .

2006

Jan. 13-15: Rustycon 23, SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, Seattle, WA. SF convention. Guests: Mike Moscoe, Ruth Thompson, Clan Burnout/Carbon Based Rentals. Memberships: TBA. For more information, see [www.rustycon.com](http://www.rustycon.com).

Feb 2006

- we can expect (next year) a gaming event held in early February in Vancouver, WicCon for neopagans in early February in Portland, and Radcon on the third weekend in the TriCities area.

## Norwescon 28 Report

By Cosmic Ray

Thursday 24 March 2005

I rode the 6:40 a.m. Greyhound to Seattle (delayed at the border this year by Australians), had an enjoyable ride on Seattle's Metro with at least three other congoers, and arrived at Norwescon.

I checked into the hotel, put up a few posters for this year's VCON, registered, and went to Jack-in-the-Box for lunch.

Lady K showed up about 2:30 p.m. and I quickly found out she was pregnant again.

I then got some bad news: long-time con participant Prince Ka passed away recently. That put me in a bit of a tailspin as he was well known to everybody who attended northwest conventions.

At about 5:00 p.m. I got some good news: another roommate named Jack had signed on for three nights. The room had been paid for, so I could relax and begin to enjoy the convention.

I went back downstairs wearing a very colourful vest, my new shirt, and a royal blue tie and got stopped by Seattle-area *Farscape* fans who were participating in a Q&A with local UPN station KSTW, which had picked up the local broadcast rights to the series. They taped me saying a few things about what I like about the series.

I then popped into the dealer's room, which was already sold out of *Girl Genius* trade paperbacks. (Note to dealers: Please bring more than seven copies each next year.) However, I *was* able to buy the *Doctor Who* lapel pin (with the Tom Baker diamond logo) for which I've been looking for years.

I tried to live off Hospitality that night and gave two bucks to the kitty.

About 8:00 p.m. there was a two-hour spectacular involving Phil Foglio and the wacky crew at Studio Foglio that started as a presentation about the company and rapidly turned into a zany radio production of their trademark *Girl Genius* comics. (FYI: *Girl Genius* comics will no longer be coming out on its tri-monthly schedule; it's moving over to the internet with new panels coming out Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays, starting 18 April. Go to Studio Foglio's web-site (<http://www.studiofoglio.com/>) to get more information.

When the event let out about 10:00 p.m., the halls were starting to fill up with interesting hall costumes.

I did make it down to a few parties in the party wing but party animal Scott Jensen did not show up this year. He's holding out for Cascadia Con. The parties were nice, and – since this was Thursday night – quiet.

However, tiredness began to take over so I made it an early night and went back to the room.

Friday 25 March 2005

6:30 a.m. *I should have eaten more last night. Boy, am I hungry.* I crossed the street to Denny's to find the place already filled with screaming kids. I sat in the lounge. I had a very nice breakfast and about five cups of coffee, and an interesting argument with some 70-something-year-old American conservatives who must have wondered why I wasn't fighting back. Hey, I'm Canadian; I'm complacent.

Afterwards I returned to the convention and talked to a number of people at tables about the death of *Star Trek: Enterprise*. There I learned there might be a mystery showing at the con of the first new *Doctor Who* episode, "Rose," and that I should spread the word discreetly.

With my video camera in hand I went to the first panel of the day, which was called "Let's Make a Movie". Each year, Ryan K. Johnson and crew get a bunch of fans together and make a movie set at the convention. After much debate it was settled that this year's movie would be *CSI: Norwescon*.

This panel wrapped up about twelve and I went up to the Hospitality, which had tons and tons of hot dogs.

While I was talking to some long-time con friends up there, a member of the concom came running in saying that they needed people badly down at Registration. In hindsight, I don't know why I volunteered for this. Of course, the next two hours were hell and one of the best times I ever had as I tried to process at least three dozen fans with only a handful of them using cash. At least I was luckier than the person sitting next to me. She was asked to do it for two hours and ended up doing it for six and a half.

I still had my camcorder, so when my volunteer shift was over, I went around recording some more interesting hall costumes.

I met my other roommate, who had been looking for me for hours and hadn't seen me behind the crowd at Registration. We went across the street to a place called Dave's Diner and had a nice dinner.

Friday nights at Norwescons are a big party night and they don't begin to rock and roll until about 7:00 p.m. Unlike last year I decided not to be a teetotaler and had a few beers.

The consuite had a very good supply of Guinness as well as some nice free gourmet food, so I had a great time up there, listening into the minds that make the science fiction universe so great.

I went over to the Biohazard party way over in the 5000 wing and had a few more beers there.

I ended up in the hallway at 11:55 I said to myself, "What the heck – let me go and see *Rocky Horror Picture Show* while I have a good buzz." And man, was it fun. The Seattle group really knows how to throw a good *Rocky Horror* party and hopefully we can get them up to Vancouver once the Ridge begins to show *Rocky Horror* on a regular basis. FYI: the Seattle group helps out at the Ridge during their annual Halloween showing of *Rocky Horror Picture Show*.

Afterwards I headed over to the British media room. Turns out they did not want to take the bragging rights away from the CBC and did not show "Rose" after all. However, the show they did have on at the time was very interesting.

Then Lady K suggested that we head down to the hot tub. At that moment I noticed it was raining quite badly, but we went anyway. Turns out there were a good number of people in the hot tub, and none of us had umbrellas. Interesting side note: on the bus heading back to Vancouver, some con members asked if this was a Northwest tradition or not, sitting in a hot tub in the rain – this being the worst rainstorm to hit Seattle in the last thirty years. I said "Why not? Let's make it one."

Saturday 26 March 2005

Once again Saturday started off with "Let's Make a Movie". This time we went into a person's hotel room, to shoot the scene where they find the body in the bathtub full of ice and beer. I was handling the lights, which was a big responsibility as it turns out. I got lots of praise from the crew for helping out with this project, which took on a very interesting subtitle – "Bath Time for Cuddles". They also made light of a recent Seattle *Post-Intelligencer* report, that 30% of the houses in the Seattle area that have recently been renovated have high-suction Canadian-built toilets – which they can no longer get, in the States. Watch the film. You'll get the joke.

I went to Taco Bell for lunch, then up to the roof level of the hotel to participate in my first ever game of "If I Ran the Con". My team was rather interesting. We had one member from the Chicago 2008 Worldcon bid, and another local fan interested in participating in future Norwescon concoms. As fate would have it we got all the bad cards, and our dice rolls weren't much better. However, we were only four points behind the other team, that had all the good cards. Too bad there are time limits on this game. It could have gone on a lot longer and we could have learnt a lot more about things that could wrong at a sci-fi convention.

After shooting a few more spools of tape of hall costumes from the stairwells, including very interesting shots taken in strobe mode, I went over to a place called Roasters for dinner. It was rather expensive but it was very, very good and filling. There were quite a few fellow congoers in the restaurant and the waiter asked what was going on. I told him that we're having a science fiction convention across the street and to be prepared to see even stranger things as the evening goes on. He grinned and gave me his tip back, saying that he was here for last year's convention and he knows that most congoers run on a very tight budget. That was nice of him.

I returned to the convention and attended a panel on editing movies. That's how come I don't have any footage of the masquerade. Don't worry; I ordered a tape of it and it's on its way.

I spent about half that evening in the consuite and the 5000 wing. This year, some of the parties were actually quiet, which I applaud because we could actually talk.

One of the parties turned out to be the convention's unofficial slave auction, the money for which went to the local charity. I had

beautiful large women giving me chocolate-covered strawberries for about an hour.

However, I made a mistake, one that took me about fourteen hours to realise: I forgot to take my anti-depressant medicine in the morning. Having drunk at least three beers and something called “virgin rocket fuel” that K’s friend Lee Roy gave me, I came very much down with the blues. However, after seeing an anime take on the Holy Hand Grenade bit from *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, I laughed myself out of it, enough to take my camcorder back up to my room.

Big mistake – just as I came back downstairs, out came the belly dancers. Reminder to VCON concom: If we ever get a big dance going again, and the time comes to 1:00 a.m., break out the belly dancers for the next two hours or so – because nobody gets the attention of congoers more than belly dancers, wearing interesting face makeup.

K and crew once again went to the hot tub, but I thought one night in the rain was enough; so I went back upstairs and called it a night.

#### *Sunday 27 March 2005*

Sunday is always a down day for me at a convention. However, the first panel was a nice memorial to all the fans and professionals who had passed away in the last year. It was interesting to hear all the stories about all these great members of fandom in the Pacific Northwest, and having a few convention legends confirmed that I’d heard of.

The biggest disappointment this year was that the Hollywood previews ended up in the wrong city so we didn’t get to see them. However right afterwards there was an interesting panel called Norwescon 28 Fandance Film Festival, that featured the world premiere of *CSI Norwescon*. Although incomplete, it was very amusing, as most of the films we make at Norwescon are.

After lunch I managed to talk to a number of people just hanging around the tables. One of them had a very interesting device that enables people in wheelchairs to walk once again. With my mom being in a wheelchair I thought this would be a great idea for her as long as the device can keep its balance. Turns out that the company will be testing an artificial sense of balance later this year, and I suggested that a good place to make them would be Canada, since the government is always looking for some kind of new technology to build in formerly resource-dependent communities.

Then I met a person I knew from last year’s Norwescon, who had very interesting anime-based art of larger women in fantasy costumes. He had an axe to grind with Norwescon: Turns out the artist was given a little corner to the far end of the 8000 wing, that wasn’t advertised properly. This is *my* gripe of the year. Please, *please* make the Artists’ Corner more accessible to members!

The other thing that happened that day was that the desk clerk gave me just five dollars’ change from twenty dollars, for a five-dollar room charge. When I realized the mistake I went back, and they said “we’d have to [wait] until he logs off for the day”. An hour later I got a call on my phone saying he

realized his mistake. He said he’d just returned from his homeland, which has multi-coloured money much like Canada’s. I returned to the front desk, where I received my missing money.

I then went to the Onions and Roses panel. That was quite interesting. I pointed out the problem with the Artists’ Corner and with the desk clerk, suggesting that next year the hotel lay on more staff, on Sunday afternoon, and that the concom increase the advertising for next year’s Artists’ Corner.

I also ran into Butch Day in the parking lot. He was looking for one of the guests, with whom he happened to be long-time friends. We went looking around for him for half an hour but we couldn’t find him. So Butch left rather sad.

Due to events beyond the concom’s control – a teachers’ convention coming in the next day – everything had to be taken down before noon Monday. So instead of hosting the traditional dead dog party, the concom and many volunteers wound up stripping down every room, and loading U-Haul trucks.

Lady K and I ended the day in the hot tub. Afterwards I ran into Paul Carpentier. Paul pointed out that some people still call me Crazy Ray, from my escapade at Westercon 56. It was then I realised I’d also buttoned my shirt up wrong and turned red in embarrassment.

#### *Monday 28 March 2005*

If you’re not travelling with an organized group and hate riding the bus, staying an extra night does make sense. I checked out about 11:00 a.m. and headed downtown. Because there was an accident on the freeway, the bus was delayed. However, I got downtown with about five minutes to spare before my Greyhound left. Turned out the Greyhound I was trying to take was oversold.

So after locking my stuff up in the locker, I headed into the heart of Seattle to find something to do for two hours. After riding the monorail I ended up at Dick’s Drive-In, which was used in the *Almost Live!* classic sketch “Billy Quan in Mind Your Manners: Rings of Fury.” Then (probably setting a land speed record) I went back to the Greyhound depot, with another five minutes to spare. This time there was room on the Greyhound. The bus was quite packed, and about five people had to stand.

After crossing the US-Canadian border I sat next to two people from New York who also attended Norwescon, proving that Norwescon has a well-known reputation across North America for being one great convention.

I missed two buses heading down the Lougheed Highway but I got home, with my great convention weekend behind me until next year.

## Dear Fan Slanders

Dear Fan Slanders:

I am a clone who was activated upon the unfortunate demise of my original, a thirty-year-old male who was self-employed in the black market. Unfortunately my memories are ten years out of date. It appears that I have two angry ex-wives, one son with expensive special needs, and a boss I want to kill. What do I do? – *First Copy Second Time Around*

Dear First Copy:

First of all, you are not a clone. You just have incomplete Korsakov's. But keep that quiet for now, while you

- 1) Sell your sob story to the *National Enquirer*;
- 2) Set up a trust fund for your son;
- 3) Introduce your boss to your ex-wives;
- 4) Go finish drinking your temporal lobes into oblivion.

– F.S.

Dear Fan Slanders:

I'm trying to set up a "Justice League of Vancouver", with a secret headquarters and an Interpol link and FBI/CSIS security clearance, and even Canada Council funding; but I don't seem to get a lot of applicants. What kind of approach will post-modern deconstructionist Gen-X'ers take seriously? – *Kal-El*

Dear Kal-El:

The only way to get pomo decons of *any* generation to take you seriously is to sue them for spousal support. (Either that, or invite them to an Ionesco play.)

Start the lawsuit, and then pitch your recruitment spiel to the responding lawyer's articling students. – *F.S.*

## Girls Just Wanna Have Lunch

A Feeding Frenzy Restaurant Review

By Jo Burrows

The April feeding Frenzy was at Nando's on 13th and Lonsdale in North Vancouver. We had a small but friendly turnout, and Garth won the trivia contest.

Getting there: If you drive parking was a bit tight, but the parking lot right across the street in the Safeway was only \$2 for the evening rate. Public transit on the North Shore is 'interesting' as I understand it (not having used it in about 10 years) but one bus up from the Seabus, or a hefty walk up Lonsdale from the Quay.

The service: Fast food style self-service for ordering, but they bring it to your table when its ready, and we all got our food in short time, and the staff

are pleasant and accommodating to alterations to the menu.

The Food: Excellent. Chicken roasted, grilled, in a burger or as strips on a salad. If you like hot you can get medium (which was plenty hot enough for me!) or Flame On Hot. I like spicy, but I'm glad I only got the medium. They also have a mild herb and lemon (herb and garlic?) that smells divine, and is reported to also be tasty.

The selections of sides were nice, and varied enough that you could make a meal of just sides with no problem. Al though the veggies in the peri peri side dish I ordered were excellent, they were a bit soft for my liking.

The dent in the pocket: Average to high for self-serve, but worth it for the quality of the food and the generous portion sizes.

Would I go again? Definitely.

## Zine-Like Things Garth Has Received

*Alexiad* (US e-zine)

*Ansible* 213 (Dave Langford's famous UK e-zine)

*Arcadian Guild Quarterly*, spring 2005 (gaming in Courtenay, BC)

*Banana Wings* (UK genzine)

*Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter*, Jan/Feb & Mar/Apr 205

*Challenger* (US online genzine)

*Chunga* (US genzine)

*DASFAX*, Feb & March 2005 (Denver newsletter)

*De Profundis* 385 & 386, Feb. & Mar. 2005 (LA newsletter)

*Drawings of the Vancouver Goth Scene* (Felicity Walker)

e-APA #9, #10, #11 (monthly online apa)

*Emerald City* 115, March 04 (Cheryl Morgan's online reviewzine) –

NOTE the Edmonton-set novel by Minister Faust!

*Ethel the Aardvark* 116, Jan-Feb 2005 (Australian clubzine)

*Impulse*, Feb & March 2005 (MonSFFA newsletter)

*Opuntia* 56.1, Feb. 2005 (Dale Speirs' zine – this issue: zine reviews)

*Ottawa SF Statement* #326 & #27, Feb & Mar 205 (Ottawa clubzine)

*Steam Engine Time* (UK-Australian genzine)

*This Is True* (Randy Cassingham's e-zine)

*This Is What Happens When You Don't Eat Your Vegetables* (Felicity's comic zine)

*Vanamonde* (John Hertz' apazine)

*The Zine Dump* #8 (Guy Lillian III) (online zine reviews)

## The Comedy of Fandom Does Not Ever Change

FLYER BEWARE/SAILOR TAKE WARNING

Some tighter security measures will appear at Canada-U.S. border crossings, at least from January 1, 2007. The bottom line is that Canadians travelling to the States – and Americans returning home – by sea or by air will have to carry passports.



There are reports by fans, on some listservs, that border guards and Customs officials have *already* required passport identification from southbound congoers. There are conflicting reports in the broadcast media that Canadians will still only be required to present picture ID and proof of citizenship.

Until now, Canadians and Americans have been free to cross the border with only basic picture ID, such as driver's licenses, and birth certificates.

(Garth Spencer, April 15, 2005)

#### *CUFF PROCEEDINGS (late-breaking news)*

The administrator of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, Lyndie Bright, wrote to the FanFundAdmin group: "I am once more opening the CUFF nominations for 2005, from April 26 to May 31 for all of Canada. I hope to receive some entries for Calgary and Canvention from July 1 to 4 this year. Please forward to any interested group or party to my address: PO Box 7, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, R3C 2G1. I can be e-mailed at [spookiestarbright@yahoo.ca](mailto:spookiestarbright@yahoo.ca) weekdays for further information." (Lyndie Bright, April 25, 2005)

Garth adds: "I'm still just before overcoming a slight hitch to uploading files to my websites. So I haven't updated my CUFF website with Lyndie's information." (in FanFundAdmin, Apr. 5, 2005) An updated CUFF flyer should be attached to this zine.

#### *FRUVOUS GOES ENTREPRENEURIAL*

*Subject: a group just for Moxy T's*

"Hi there folks. This is just to announce that I've made a Yahoo group for my web store, Moxy T's ([www.cafepress.com/moxyts](http://www.cafepress.com/moxyts)).

"Mainly, it's to announce new products, talk about the product lines, discuss matters relating to the store, and generally just hang out and chat about things.

"It's also the place to suggest products, though I have to warn you, anything you post there becomes free to use by yours truly.

"I've opened it up to anyone who wishes to join. It's located at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/moxyts>"

Michael John Bertrand, April 1, 2005, [fruvous@reddra.com](mailto:fruvous@reddra.com)

#### *VCON HOTEL, GOHS CONFIRMED*

VCon 30 is not only confirmed at the Executive Inn Airport in Richmond; Guests of Honour include ROBERT SILVERBERG and TODD LOCKWOOD.

#### *SUZLE WINS TAFF*

North American TAFF administrator Randy Byers has announced that Suzanne Tompkins (Suzle), the better half of the fanediting team that produced the famous *Mainstream* and *Spanish Inquisition*, "is victorious in the North America-to-Europe Trans Atlantic Fan Fund race. She will travel to Interaction, the 2005 Glasgow worldcon. For more details, including Randy's complete announcement:

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=05/04/05/0558220>"

From FanFundAdmin, Apr. 5, 2005

#### *ANDRE NORTON R.I.P.*

"Andre Norton (1912-2005), US author who needs no introduction, died on 17 March at age 93, following long illness and weeks of hospice care at home. She published over 130 books, from a 1934 historical debut to a final solo sf novel awaiting publication this month (Tor rushed her an early copy), and in 1984 became the first woman to be honoured as SFWA Grand Master. Her many sf series, most famously 'Witch World', were formative influences on countless younger readers."

*Ansible 213*

#### *GOTH HOUSE NEWSLETTER, 11 March 2005*

Part 1 of High School of the Damned: Percival changes his shirt

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

This e-mail message is still being sent the old-fashioned way, to allow me to test some stuff. To that end - please, try out the first Goth House Webtoy, HP Lovecraft "mad-libb."

[http://www.gothhouse.org/gh\\_toys/madlibs01.php](http://www.gothhouse.org/gh_toys/madlibs01.php)

Julie McGalliard, March 12, 2005

#### *CHEEP*

"Farmers in England may shoot at crows and other birds eating their crops, and sportsmen can still hunt birds for food, but only if they give the birds a chance by shouting or employing other "frightening techniques" first, the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has ruled. Only if the bird ignores it can they blast away. Failure to try to scare the bird before firing is punishable by a 5,000 pound (US\$9,350) fine or six months in prison. Meanwhile, Glen Steinhardt, a farmer in Murgon, Qld., Australia, applied for a "damage mitigation permit" from Queensland's Environmental Protection Agency to shoot swarms of birds eating his crops. An estimated 5,000 birds per day are feasting on his sorghum and wheat. The EPA gave him the permit: Steinhardt may shoot a total of 87 birds, but only if he spreads the kills over an 85-day period. Steinhardt says when trucks drive through the swarms of birds when they pass his farm, it's common for them to hit and kill "30 to 60 in one strike," but that sort of killing is considered accidental and not illegal. (London Times, Brisbane Courier Mail) ...So Steinhardt simply needs to soup up his tractor so it will go 80 mph."

*This Is True*, March 27, 2005

#### *AWARDS*

"BSFA AWARDS.

NOVEL Ian McDonald, *River of Gods*.

SHORT Stephen Baxter, 'Mayflower 2'.

ARTWORK Stephan Martiniere, Tor US cover of *Newton's Wake* by GoH Ken MacLeod.

"Most terrifying con newsletter quote, ascribed to the bar staff: 'You don't drink as much as the Discworld folk.' *O tempora, O mores*.

"MORE AWARDS. *Phlosque*, for cute but significant artwork: Bridget Bradshaw. *Doc Weir*, for unsung good folk: Dave Lally, plus a special for Faldo the retiring guide dog (see *Ansible* 210). *Hall Costume*: Ian Watson(!).

"EVEN STILL YET MORE AWARDS. *Dick Award*: Gwyneth Jones, *Life*; also special citation to Lyda Morehouse for *Apocalypse Array*.

*Tiptree*: Honours for best 'gender-bending' sf of 2004 went to two novels, Joe Haldeman's *Camouflage* and Johanna Sinisalo's *Troll: A Love Story*, the US translation of her Finlandia Prize-winner *Ennen paiavanlaskua ei voi* (2000; UK *Not Before Sundown*, 2003).

*ICFA Awards*. At this year's International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts, the William L. Crawford Award for best new fantasy writer went to Steph Swainston for *The Year of Our War*, while Damien Broderick received the Distinguished Scholarship Award.

*SF Hall of Fame*: latest additions are Philip K. Dick (token print-media person), Steven Spielberg, Ray Harryhausen, and Chesley Bonestell.

*The Sir Arthur C. Clarke Awards* or 'Arthurs', first presented on 2 April 2005 for British contributions to rocketry and space, should not be confused with the established 'Clarkes' for sf novels published in Britain. But they will be. [PT]"

*Ansible* 213

#### LLOYD WINS FAAN AWARD

The 2005 FAAn Awards, given at Corflu Titanium in San Francisco on February 27, 2005, included:

Best Fanzine: *Chunga*, edited by Andy Hooper, Randy Byers & Carl Juarez

Best Fanzine Design: *Chunga*

Best Fanwriter: Claire Brialey

Best Fan Artist: Steve Stiles

Best Letterhack: Lloyd Penney (the Harry Warner Jr. Memorial Award for

Best Fannish Correspondent)

Lloyd Penney in *Ottawa SF Statement*, April 2005

"MARMITE ADS homaging *The Blob* have terrified young children and earned the disapproval of the Advertising Standards Authority. (BBC News) I too was terrorized by Marmite when little, but the callous media ignored my sufferings. Today's brats have it too easy. Harrumph!"

*Ansible* 213

"THIS WEEK'S HONORARY UNSUBSCRIBE goes to Wilfred G. Bigelow. A Canadian surgeon, Bigelow, was stationed in England during World War II. He dealt with many soldiers who suffered frostbite and hypothermia, and observed that their lower body temperatures resulted in a decreased metabolism – and a resulting decrease in the need for oxygen. He not only devised effective treatments for frostbite, he also applied his observations to his chosen post-war specialty: heart surgery. He realized that induced hypothermia would help patients survive open heart surgery – and it did, despite predictions from other doctors that it would backfire. His interest in heart problems then led him to invent another device in 1950: the cardiac

pacemaker. But it took nearly a decade – and the invention of the transistor – to make the device practical. The first pacemaker was implanted in a human in 1959. He died in Toronto on March 27 – from heart failure. He was 91."

*This Is True*, March 27, 2005

#### BELATED PRO/WRITING NEWS

My brain cell just kicked into gear, and I realized I could – and should – have been covering some writers' news here, from like the Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter.

For one thing, I might have omitted to run Robert Sawyer's news that he is joining the Writing with Style Program, a week-long workshop for writers at The Banff Centre (Banff, Alberta). The fall session of this program takes place Sept. 19-24, while the application deadline is May 13; faculty for the session include Mark Abley (Magazine/Feature Article), Anne Simpson (Poetry), Robert Sawyer (Science Fiction/Fantasy), Catherine Gildiner (Memoir). For more information, see [www.banffcentre.ca/programs/](http://www.banffcentre.ca/programs/).

For another thing, the aforementioned bimonthly newsletter lists members' publishing sales, which will have a bearing on the following year's award nominations.

Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter, March-April 2005-04-28

Another thing: Charles F. Angwin sent us news of his self-published deep-space Princess Ann Voyages Trilogy,

Titles in his trilogy are *Captain Junk and the Princess Ann*, *The Ist Pirates and the Princess Ann*, and *The Garsh Assault and the Princess Ann*.

The trilogy can be ordered from his websites

[www.captainjunk.com](http://www.captainjunk.com), [www.istpirates.com](http://www.istpirates.com), [www.garshassault.com](http://www.garshassault.com), from the POD publisher Authorhouse.com, from Amazon.com, or from Barnes and Noble.

### *Changing the Rules for WCSFA and VCON - a discussion*

Clint Budd writes:

"While I was WCSFA President I often thought about getting the by-laws (the rules by which we run WCSFA and VCON) up to date (they're terribly out of date). But I never seemed to find the time.

"So now I've finally got around to it . . . However - it's not up to ME! WCSFA belongs to everyone that loves VCON and is interested in seeing things done right.

"I sent a copy of the By-laws (Policies & Procedures) to Greg Slade, Webmaster of the VCON/WCSFA site and he's very kindly posted it at :

[<http://www.v-con.ca/society/index.html>](http://www.v-con.ca/society/index.html)

"For the time being I'm hoping that the BCSFA list serve will host a discussion of this. (If you're not logged onto the BCSFA site it's at [<BCSFA@yahoogroups.com>](mailto:BCSFA@yahoogroups.com).)

"If you think something should be put in, taken out, reworded, added to or anything else \*please\* put in your two bits; at the moment there's no right or wrong - we're just discussing it; throwing ideas around.

"I'll keep a record of suggestions - point out if and when they're in conflict; add background material and so on. Perhaps, when everyone has had their say we'll hold a face meeting somewhere and see if we can come up with a final, agreed-on version - and then take it to a formal WCSFA meeting and get it passed - have it replace what we've got now and keep it posted on the web site so that I'm not the only one who knows."

(Clint Budd, April 2, 2005)

## Media File

By "Cosmic" Ray Seredin

From what I'm hearing, with the exception of *Lost*, there will be almost no SF series on American network television in fall 2005. (Good thing I have cable.)

On to movies...They are doing a major re-shoot of the battle between the Fantastic Four and Doctor Doom, here in downtown Vancouver. They want to get more street scenes and more crowds. The next *X-Men* film will start production in Vancouver in the second week of June. This is the last *X-Men* film with Patrick Stewart as Professor X.

A regeneration surprise was spoiled when a London tabloid blurted out the news that Christopher Eccleston was leaving *Doctor Who* after just one season. They also said that Eccleston was leaving because he was worried about being typecast. As it turns out, Eccleston had only signed on for one season, and the end-of-season episode, called "Parting of the Ways," was to have a cliffhanging regeneration into a new Doctor.

Before you begin to shout "Oh my god, they're going to run out of lives!", Eccleston and the show's producers do have plans to chronicle the Ninth Doctor's adventures in books and audio plays to come out over the next five to ten years. Rose is staying on as his companion for season two, which has been picked up by the BBC with 34-year-old character actor David Tennant becoming the Tenth Doctor. I hope that Tennant's Doctor is more eccentric than Eccleston's was.

A whole lorry-load of onions to the staff at that London tabloid for wrecking a perfectly good surprise from the producers of *Doctor Who* and some nice roses to the BBC's *Doctor Who* web-site for letting us down gently from the spoiled surprise.

Best wishes to all the people waiting in the line-up to see *Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith*.

## Media File: Supplemental

By Felicity Walker & Ray Seredin

[Slashdot; TrekToday] William Shatner pitched a Starfleet Academy show directly to Paramount, going over Rick Berman's head. The series would feature teen versions of Kirk, Spock and McCoy at Starfleet Academy. The studio turned Shatner down, but Pocket Books has asked him to write two Starfleet Academy novels.

[The Great Link; TrekToday; Zap2It] UPN has released official plot synopses for "Terra Prime" and "These Are the Voyages...", the *Enterprise* series finale, both airing Friday 13 May 2005.

In "Terra Prime," the *Enterprise* tries to stop a human isolationist leader, played by Peter Weller, who's threatening to destroy Starfleet Command.

"These Are the Voyages..." will be set six years after the other fourth-season episodes, and will see Archer and the rest of the crew return home for the decommissioning of the *Enterprise*, as well as the signing of the Federation charter. UPN has officially confirmed that Jonathan Frakes (William T. Riker) and Marina Sirtis (Deanna Troi) will appear on the *Enterprise* finale, in a sequence set on the holodeck.

[SciFiWire] Bad news: Michael Bay is confirmed as director of *The Transformers* for DreamWorks SKG. More bad news: After reading the original script by John Rogers, executive producer Steven Spielberg came up with "a new take" on it, to which Bay "sparked."

[SciFiWire] There will be a big-screen version of Will Eisner's *Spirit*. Jeph Loeb (comics writer and supervising producer of the *Smallville* TV series) will write it.

[SciFiWire] Dean Haglund ("Langley" in *The X-Files* and *The Lone Gunmen*) has written a comic about his experiences making *The Lone Gunmen* called *Why My Series Was Cancelled*, which will be available this fall.

[SciFiWire; Zap2It] William Shatner chose the town of Riverside, Iowa when he made a reality show for Spike TV called *Invasion Iowa* because the townspeople had declared Riverside the future birthplace of Captain Kirk based on a line in *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home*. Shatner convinced the locals that he was filming an independent SF film there. When the time came for Shatner to tell the truth about the gag, the town was not amused. A 30 September 2004 editorial in the *Iowa City Press-Citizen* was titled "Riverside, IA: Birthplace of Captain Jerk." *Invasion Iowa* atoned by donating about \$100,000 to Riverside and also helped out individual residents financially.

[The Hollywood Reporter; SciFiWire; Variety] Frank Langella will play newspaper editor Perry White in *Superman Returns*, replacing British actor Hugh Laurie. Laurie bowed out because of a scheduling

conflict with his Fox medical series, *House*, which *Superman Returns* director Singer also executive produces.

[SciFiWire] Fantasy author Neil Gaiman auctioned the chance to name a cruise ship in his upcoming novel *Anansi Boys* to benefit the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, a not-for-profit organization that specializes in the defense of First-Amendment-related cases on behalf of comics authors and retailers. The eBay auction ended March 18.

"I've got to name a currently unnamed cruise ship in *Anansi Boys*," Gaiman said. "I have no idea what to call it, and [...] realized that my utter lack of inspiration could do good things for the CBLDF. If you wish, you can bid to have the ship named after you, your loved one, your dog or even your favorite word."

[SciFiWire] Nominees have been announced for the Horror Writers Association's annual Bram Stoker Awards for Superior Achievement in the field of horror writing. The awards, named in honor of the author of *Dracula*, will be presented at the HWA annual conference and awards banquet in Los Angeles on June 25.

Organizers announced that Michael Moorcock will receive the Life Achievement Award. The full list of nominees follows:

Novel: *The Wind Caller* by P.D. Cacek, *The Dark Tower VII: The Dark Tower* by Stephen King, *Deep in the Darkness* by Michael Laimo, *In the Night Room* by Peter Straub

First Novel: *Covenant* by John Everson, *Black Fire* by James Kidman, *Move Under Ground* by Nick Mamatas, *Stained* by Lee Thomas

Long Fiction: "The Turtle Boy" by Kealan-Patrick Burke, "Zora and the Zombie" by Andy Duncan, "Lisey and the Madman" by Stephen King, "Dead Man's Hand" by Tim Lebbon, "Northwest Passage" by Barbara Roden

Short Fiction: "Just Out of Reach" by Gary Braunbeck, "A Madness of Starlings" by Douglas Clegg, "Nimitseahpah" by Nancy Etchemendy, "Hunting Meth Zombies in the Great Nebraskan Wasteland" by John Farris, "Singing My Sister Down" by Margo Lanagan, "Guts" by Chuck Palahniuk

Fiction Collection: *100 Jolts: Shockingly Short Stories* by Michael Arnzen, *The Machinery of Night* by Douglas Clegg, *Demonized* by Christopher Fowler, *Fears Unnamed* by Tim Lebbon, *Fearful Symmetries* by Thomas F. Monteleone

Anthology: *Quietly Now*, Kealan-Patrick Burke, ed.; *The Many Faces of Van Helsing*, Jeanne Cavelos, ed.; *Shivers III*, Richard Chizmar, ed.; *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror, 17th Annual*, Ellen Datlow, Kelly Link and Gavin Grant, eds.; *Acquainted With the Night*, Barbara and Christopher Roden, eds.

Nonfiction: *The Road to the Dark Tower* by Bev Vincent; *Ralan.com*, Ralan Conley, ed.; *Hanging Out With the Dream King* by Joseph McCabe; *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Writing a Novel* by Thomas F. Monteleone; *Hellnotes*, Judi Rohrig, ed.

Work for Young Readers: *Abarat: Days of Magic, Nights of War* by Clive Barker, *Oddest Yet* by Steve Burt, *Robot Santa: The Further Adventures of Santa's Twin* by Dean Koontz, *Fall* (Witch Season series) by Jeff Mariotte

Illustrated Narrative: *Lost Loves* by James Lowder, *Aleister Arcane* by Steve Niles, *Heaven's Devils* by Jai Nitz, *Graphic Classics: Robert Louis*

*Stevenson* by Tom Pomplun

Screenplay: *Hellboy*, *Dawn of the Dead*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Shaun of the Dead*

Poetry Collection: *The Women at the Funeral* by Corinne De Winter, *The Desert* by Charlee Jacob, *Men Are From Hell, Women Are From the Galaxy of Death* by Mark McLaughlin, *Waiting My Turn to Go Under the Knife* by Tom Piccirilli

Alternative Forms: *The Goreletter* by Michael Arnzen; *Flesh & Blood* magazine, Jack Fisher, ed.; *The Devil's Wine*, Tom Piccirilli, ed.; *ChiZine*, Brett Savory, ed.

[SciFiWire] Orson Scott Card is the latest writer to think he's the first to come up with the idea of doing a superhero story where the main character is the person underneath the costume, and not the costume. Card has written *Ultimate Iron Man*, a pair of five-issue mini-series for Marvel Comics, starting with a re-telling of the origin story (standard for the "Ultimate" line).

"I respond only to the *Smallville* angle, where the real person is Clark Kent, and it is the Superman role that fits him uncomfortably," Card said. "There is no doubt that Tony Stark is the real guy, and Iron Man only a role he puts on and takes off. I think what I'm fascinated with is the development of a person into a superhero, which is why I love the *Spider-Man* movies but am left cold by other superhero films that jump too quickly to a full-blown, guy-wearing-a-suit adventure story."

## Reviews

by Donna McMahon

*THE SILENCES OF HOME*, Caitlin Sweet (Penguin, 2005) Trade 482p  
*SOME WELCOME HOME*, Sharon Wildwind (Five Star, Feb/05)

Penguin Books clearly has high hopes for new Toronto fantasy writer Caitlin Sweet, whom they recently toured through Vancouver and Victoria. Whether her novels will be bestsellers remains to be seen, but there's no question that they have a lyrical stylist on their hands.

Sweet's first book, *A Telling of Stars* (2003) was a most unusual debut novel for a young author. In a single narrative thread it recounted a young woman's journey through grief and vengeance after the murder of her family by Sea Raiders. In that book Jaele crossed the Queen's realm, following the path of legendary Queen Galha who was said to have vanquished an army of invaders from the sea.

Sweet, who is no fan of the plethora of series that pervade the Fantasy market, never intended to write another book in the same world, but after she finished the first novel she became fascinated by

her own backstory – the legend of Queen Galha. Who was this queen, anyway? Did her legend bear any resemblance to true historical events? And does it really matter whether legends are true?

In *The Silences of Home* we meet the real Queen Galha. Far from ruling "with wisdom and kindness" as billed in her legend, Galha is a ruthless power broker who rigidly controls her people and everything they write about her. The setting of the book is the same medieval landscape as in *A Telling of Stars* (though many centuries earlier) but the narrative structure of this novel is far more complex, involving a large cast of viewpoint characters.

The people drawn into this unfolding tragedy include Aldron, a "teller" so frighteningly powerful that he is banished from his nomadic tribe; Leish of the sea people, whose visions inspire his brother to lead a fleet across the sea to fight a disastrous war; and naive young Lanara, best friend of the queen's daughter. Lanara is the key viewpoint character, as she is both closest to the throne and most bedazzled by Galha's publicity.

Sweet's writing is literary in style and strongly influenced by Spanish fantasy/magical realism. Fans of Guy Gavriel Kay's books, and readers who enjoy intelligent novels with strong characterization, polished imagery and thematic depth, will certainly find her writing a treat.

This book is also accessible to the average genre fan (that is to say, it has a coherent plot, characters you can empathize with, and plenty of action); however, some readers will find it very dark. Although Galha "wins" this war, it exacts a dreadful toll on everyone who comes near it. And no one has a corner on the "truth." Even the idealistic Lanara becomes entangled in webs of deceit and silence, and the machinations of the realm's politics.

Still, this is a literary novel. Readers oriented to detailed worldbuilding are liable to get irritated with the rather perfunctory 'historical' setting, as Sweet is not interested in surface authenticity. Her characters do not get lice, dysentery, or diseases of malnutrition and nobody seems to have to earn a living. The landscape, while vivid, is far more symbolic than realistic, and the characters' decisions do not always reflect real world logic.

*A Telling of Stars* was considered "too literary" for American fantasy publishers, but *The Silences of Home* is more likely to find a market there, as well as widespread readership in Canada.

\* \* \*

*SOME WELCOME HOME*, Sharon Wildwind (Five Star, Feb/05)

Like many SF readers, I am also a mystery fan, so it was a real delight to receive a mystery novel from Calgary writer (and SF fan), Sharon Wildwind Grant.

It is 1971 and Captain Elizabeth Pepperhawk has just returned from a year's duty in Viet Nam to take up a posting as head nurse in an orthopedics ward at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. Fort Bragg should be a cakewalk after Viet Nam – and yet nothing goes right for Pepperhawk, starting the very first minute when she finds a dead body in her room at the Transient Officer's Quarters.

Luckily, the investigating officer who arrives on the scene is a smart, efficient military police captain, Avivah Rosen. A sophisticated, urban Jew, Rosen couldn't be more different than awkward southerner Pepperhawk; yet the two women become friends when Pepperhawk moves into the apartment next door. And they are both drawn into a mystery that only becomes murkier when the body is identified as that of a military officer who died in Viet Nam in 1969.

*SOME WELCOME HOME* is clearly a first novel. It has some bumpy patches and a few problems with plotting, but overall I found it an excellent read, primarily for the setting and the characters. Wildwind was a US Army nurse in Viet Nam (she previously published her memoirs: "Dreams that Blister Sleep" in 1999) and her descriptions of being in the army at that time are both fascinating and authentic.

But what carries the story is the characters. Pepperhawk is a sympathetic and very believable protagonist – a formidably capable nurse who has handled bloody crises in war, yet is still very young and uncertain of herself. She is also having a rough time handling the intense transition to a war zone and then back to peace time, and coming to terms with the human tragedy she's seen.

The supporting characters are strong, too. Avivah Rosen is an ambitious officer, constantly frustrated by the barriers the army throws up to advancement for women. And Benny Kirkpatrick, their neighbour, is a green beret caught between the addictive intensity of his job and his love for a woman who wants to get her family away from the army.

Even the bit parts are good, including the staff and patients in Pepperhawk's ward and the people she meets when Rosen convinces her to attend the victim's funeral in the small town of Marshall. As Rosen says to Pepperhawk:

"You could bring them a casserole, you speak their language. I sound like I belong in a New York Hadassah more than in a Southern Baptist Church."

"I wouldn't bring a casserole. That would be presuming too close a connection to the family. If I were family or a member of the church congregation, I could bring food. Even if I were a member of the community, but didn't know the family, I could bring brownies or peanut butter cookies. But as a stranger... What are you staring at?"

"My sister pays good money to take cultural anthropology and learn what you know as a matter of course."

This reader also had a blast with the anthropology, since the rural American south and the US army are both more alien to me than most space opera settings.



Only the villain in this book lacks dimension, in part because he doesn't get enough foreshadowing early on. And the ultimate resolution of the novel isn't nearly as interesting as the backstory of how a man reported killed in 1969 ended up as a corpse in 1971.

Still, I liked this book and I'll be waiting for the next instalment in the adventures of Captain Pepperhawk.

## *The West Coast Science Fiction Association Bylaws*

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Introduction

i) What it's all about:

All of this is what we call "The Bylaws." It's not our "Constitution." The "Constitution" is a very simple statement which is filed with the Societies (Companies) Branch of the Provincial Government in Victoria. We operate by the Bylaws because it's simpler, easier to change and less expensive (we don't want to pay to register every change we make with Victoria and we can use looser rules than are usual.)

ii) How it works:

Under the Bylaws, decisions can be made at Meetings by a simple majority (51%) of the Members attending that Meeting. There is no quorum (minimum number of people attending.) Many members who like to come to conventions don't like to come to meetings, but WCSFA's business needs to be done anyway with those who are willing to attend. Any decision made at a meeting can change the Bylaws; if it's unpopular, it can be changed back at another meeting (except for the three rules: that we operate by the bylaws, that there is no quorum, and that motions require only a simple majority.)

1. WCSFA Statement of Purpose

The purposes of the Association are:

a) To foster and encourage interest, involvement and participation in Science Fiction and Fantasy in British Columbia,

b) To sponsor conventions to further purpose a),

c) To enable persons and groups to share information about Science Fiction and Fantasy in British Columbia and about the running of conventions,

d) To educate the general public as to the significance of Science Fiction and Fantasy.

2. WCSFA Functions

WCSFA Is the legal entity under which conventions that it sponsors operate. WCSFA has one permanent standing committee: the VCON Convention Committee (ConCom), which puts on the organisation's yearly convention, VCON. WCSFA also may have temporary standing committees that exist for the purpose of running other conventions (see [Section 6.](#)) WCSFA's functions are as follows:

a) To provide legal protection for standing committees (WCSFA-sponsored conventions) in case of financial or legal calamity,

b) To monitor WCSFA-sponsored conventions to ensure they follow financially sound practices,

c) To set policies and procedures which will help conventions run smoothly and successfully,

d) To act in an advisory capacity to conventions and as a repository of information and expertise on convention-running,

e) To liaise with other convention coordinating committees in the region to gain their assistance and expertise,

f) To reserve facilities several years in advance (as necessary) so that VCON is assured of an available venue on its usual weekend,

g) To keep track of WCSFA and convention inventory such as art show panels and computers,

h) To ensure maintenance of a membership database,

i) To have fun.

3. WCSFA Memberships

a.) WCSFA members are people who have been members of the most recent WCSFA-sponsored convention (usually VCON) or have bought (or are given) a membership in the next upcoming convention. (This includes all Guests and Dealers.)

b) There is no charge for a WCSFA membership.

c) A WCSFA member is entitled to run for WCSFA executive positions, vote at WCSFA general meetings and be a member of a WCSFA-sponsored convention committee.

4. WCSFA Board of Directors

a) Positions

a.) WCSFA has ten positions on its Board of Directors: (President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, VCON Representative (the Chair of the current ConCom), the WCSFA Archivist and five Members at Large.

b.) The President, Vice President, Secretary-Treasurer, and the five Members at Large are elected positions; the VCON

Representative is the Chair of the current ConCom, chosen by the Committee and the WCSFA Archivist is an appointed position.

c.) The Vice-President shall act as the Hotel Liaison on the ConCom and shall sign the Hotel contract on behalf of WCSFA.

b.) Conflict of Interest for Board Members

a.) It is a conflict of interest for the WCSFA President to be the Chair of the current ConCom or to be in charge of a department of the current ConCom.

b.) No person may hold more than one Director's position on the WCSFA Board of Directors.

b) Meetings and Election of Officers

Elections take place at the Annual General Meeting normally held at the VCON convention.

Voting will be by secret ballot. Members of the Board of Directors shall be elected by a simple majority of the WCSFA Members present.

The Chair of a WCSFA-sponsored convention committee is chosen by the members of the convention committee.

c) Replacement of Board Members

If one of the Board Directors resigns during his or her term of office, the President, with the approval of the other WCSFA Directors, shall appoint a temporary replacement subject to the approval of the next general meeting.

d) Qualifications

It is recommended that candidates for the WCSFA Board of Directors have some or all of the following experience:

- Have previously held a responsible position on a VCON committee or the BCSFA (or other fan club) executive.
- Have worked on a science fiction convention committee within the previous five years.

5. WCSFA Performance

Any ten members of WCSFA plus any two WCSFA Directors may call a Special General Meeting for the purpose of reviewing the performance of the WCSFA Board of Directors. This meeting may be empowered to require the resignation of the Directors and to call a new election within six weeks. The meeting shall also be empowered to appoint an interim Board of Directors to manage WCSFA until the election is held.

6. Standing Committee(s)

Anyone who is responsible for making decisions about spending WCSFA funds or using WCSFA property, or who is publicly published as being a member of a WCSFA-sponsored convention committee must be a WCSFA member. Hence, all convention committee members holding major or responsible positions must be members of WCSFA. Major positions include all those outlined in Section 7 a) and everyone listed as a member of the convention committee in the convention's published literature, i.e. program book and progress reports.

Except for the reporting requirements (see Section 8 below), convention committees operate independently and WCSFA is not normally involved in

their day-to-day operations.

7. VCON Bid Requirements and Procedures

In order for a committee bidding to hold VCON to be seriously considered, the committee must present:

a) Committee Requirements

A committee list with the names of at least five competent and experienced people who will assume responsibility for the convention. These five people must include the Chair, Treasurer, and Hotel Liaison, plus any of the following department heads:

- Operations
- Programming
- Hospitality
- Dealers Room
- Registration
- Art Show
- Publications

b) Budget Requirements

A realistic, written, preliminary budget for the convention (samples from previous years and assistance will be provided by WCSFA in advance if requested.)

c) Programming Requirements

One or both of the following:

- i. Name(s) of prospective Guest(s) of Honour who have indicated they can attend, and estimated expenses of bringing them,
- ii. A theme for the convention, and suggested programming to go with that theme.

d) Venue Requirement

A letter of intent from a facility prepared to host an appropriate-sized convention on the indicated weekend.

e) Funding Requirement

A start-up fund of \$500 (which may include a deposit already made on a convention facility) to be used for initial costs if the bid is accepted. Note: It is recommended that this fund be acquired by fund-raising and contributions by supporters (i.e. pre-supporting memberships.) As well as providing seed money, this will give the bid committee an opportunity to work together and demonstrate their organisational skills, and will gauge the support within the local fan community for the bid.

f) Bidding Procedures

WCSFA should call for bids at least four months in advance of the previous VCON by placing an announcement in *BCSFazine* which includes the dates of relevant upcoming meetings. WCSFA shall provide copies of the Bylaws and any other relevant documents to announced bid committees. Prior to the general membership meeting, the bid committee(s) shall meet with the WCSFA Directors, and the Directors shall formulate a recommendation to take to the general membership meeting.

The vote will be taken at a general membership meeting to be held at least three weeks before the current year's VCON (so that flyers can be distributed and memberships sold at the current convention.) The WCSFA executive shall make a recommendation to the general membership, and then all members of WCSFA in good standing who are in attendance at the meeting shall be eligible to vote.

If the WCSFA executive feels that no acceptable VCON bid is forthcoming, they may recommend that no convention be held the next year unless an acceptable bid is presented within four months of the current year's VCON. In the event of a late bid, another general membership meeting and vote shall be called.

The motion to accept a VCON bid shall read: "WCSFA hereby agrees to sponsor the (name) convention, to be held (date) at (site) and run by (names of five bid committee members)."

#### 8. Convention Reporting Requirements to WCSFA

Within three months after the acceptance of the bid, the convention committee shall give to WCSFA a copy of a signed contract or letter of intent between VCON and the facility at which the convention is to be held. The contract must include: function space rates; guest room rates; amounts to be charged for taxes, additional fees and any other services the convention might require (i.e. set-up or rooms, food service); other items as requested by WCSFA.

Note: It is recommended that the committee consult with WCSFA on the contents of the contract before signing it.

Written progress reports must be delivered to WCSFA at the following times: nine months before the convention, six months before, three months before, and one month before. On the case of a May convention that would be August, November, February, and April). They must include:

- a) A complete financial statement including the projected number of attendees required to break-even,
- b) Current number of registered members,
- c) Status of Guests of Honour (i.e. who are they and have they confirmed that they will be in attendance?),
- d) Status of hotel contract,
- e) Current committee membership list.

The convention must present WCSFA with a final financial statement within four months of the convention (so that WCSFA can meet its own reporting requirements to the Provincial government.)

#### 9. Financial Procedures

##### Preamble: Statement of Philosophy on Spending

WCSFA was not created to protect club or committee members from responsibility for their actions or the debts they incur to people or businesses that have dealt with them in good faith. WCSFA exists to protect individuals from liability for catastrophic debts or events which they could not have foreseen and therefore cannot reasonably be assumed to be responsible for.

VCON is a non-profit event run on a very limited budget by volunteers who are working for the fun of it, and who do not expect to be reimbursed for

every single expense they incur. People who hold major positions on convention committees must be aware that doing so will cost them a certain amount of money as well as time.

VCON's policy is to try and minimise the cost of the convention for attendees (i.e. membership rates and room rates) so that we do not make the convention prohibitively expensive to people with limited incomes. While it is reasonable for members to subsidise the costs of bringing Guests of Honour to Vancouver, it is not the intention of VCON to have a large category of members who are "more equal" than everybody else – whose memberships and other expenses are paid for out of other people's pockets.

##### a) Fiscal Year

WCSFA's fiscal year is November 30 to November 29. Because of Provincial reporting requirements, BCSFA must either keep the same fiscal year, or provide a financial report each September 30 that includes information for all of WCSFA's fiscal year.

##### b) Signing Authorities

There shall be at least three signing officers for all bank accounts, and two signatures shall be required on all cheques.

i. WCSFA: The signing officers shall be the Treasurer and any two other Executive Directors.

ii. Conventions: The signing officers shall be the WCSFA Treasurer, the convention Chair, and the convention Treasurer.

##### c) Bank Accounts

WCSFA and convention accounts may be located at different branches, but shall all be kept with the same bank or financial institution to facilitate funds transfer and record keeping.

##### d) Standard accounting practices

A standardised chart of accounts (see Appendix A) shall be maintained by WCSFA and used by all conventions in order to allow comparison and analysis of convention expenses and income from year to year. Convention accounting and membership records shall be kept in Microsoft Works (any version) for ease of transferring records from one convention to the next.

##### e) Acceptable and Unacceptable Convention Expenditures

Most details of accounting policies and acceptable expenditures are contained in the appendices of this document and are mainly of interest only to the WCSFA and VCON treasurers. However, due to repeated misunderstandings and instances of disastrous over-spending, we are including the guidelines for unacceptable expenses here. If a convention committee wishes to spend funds on an item that is considered unacceptable under these WCSFA guidelines, they have two options:

- Request that WCSFA allow the expense,
- Pay for it personally, with no expectation of reimbursement.

Please note that these guidelines are not intended to be carved in stone and WCSFA will consider any reasonable requests for exceptions.

The following expenses are not considered acceptable and will not be paid by WCSFA or any convention operating under WCSFA's sponsorship:

i. Travel to and Membership in Other Conventions

Convention committee members who travel to other conventions for the purpose of publicizing our convention must do so at their own expense. Our convention will not pay for:

- rooms at other conventions
- memberships in other conventions
- travel to and from other conventions
- meals at other conventions
- parking at other conventions
- or any other expenses (except as in item ii.)

ii. Promotional Parties

Promotional parties at other conventions rarely bring in memberships and hence should be limited to a maximum net expenditure of \$50 per convention. Donations should be strongly encouraged from party attendees with the goal of keeping the cost down. The cost of the guest room in which the party is held is not an acceptable expense. In cases where WCSFA is sponsoring a large regional convention (i.e. Westercon) and expenses are unusually high, the convention committee shall present WCSFA with a complete promotional budget for approval.

iii. Committee meetings and other functions

Food and beverages consumed during committee meetings, work parties, etc. are not a legitimate expense, and must be paid for by the people in attendance at these functions. The exception to this rule is one post-convention committee party following a financially successful convention, at which committee members traditionally consume convention leftovers (i.e. beer) and/or spend a small sum on food and beverages.

iv. Free memberships

Convention committee members and other people who work on the convention are not eligible for free memberships. However, at the discretion of the committee, they may be offered the lowest advance membership rate for up to six months before the convention. Free memberships are only given to the categories of people listed in Appendix B.

Free memberships must be kept to a minimum. A ratio higher than 1 free membership (not including children) to 8 paid memberships is not acceptable. Too many free memberships place a strain on the convention's finances and an undue burden on the people who are paying for their memberships.

v. Free liquor for convention members

Providing free alcoholic drinks is inequitable to minors and non-drinkers and a potential source of trouble. The exceptions to this rule are the Guests of Honour, whose drinks in Hospitality are traditionally paid for by the convention.

vi. Cheque Signings

Cheques may not be written to "cash."

f) General Distribution of Funds

All WCSFA memberships shall be paid directly to WCSFA. Rates shall be

decided by vote of the general membership. WCSFA is liable, to the limit of its resources, for the debts of WCSFA-sponsored conventions. Similarly, surpluses accruing from conventions must be turned over to WCSFA to be used for funding other standing committees, maintaining an emergency reserve fund, and buying equipment required by the organisation. WCSFA capital expenditures of over \$1,000 require approval of a general membership meeting.

10. Cancelling Sponsorship of a Convention

If the WCSFA Directors are concerned about the performance of a convention committee, they shall meet with the convention committee and attempt to resolve problems. WCSFA shall only interfere directly in the operation of a convention as a last resort.

WCSFA reserves the right to replace the Chair and/or other members of the convention committee in the event that they are not able or willing to perform their duties. For WCSFA to replace a convention chair or other member(s) of a committee, a vote of a Special General Meeting is required.

The WCSFA Directors may call a Special General Meeting and introduce a motion to cancel sponsorship of any convention if they feel that the convention committee is being grossly negligent, i.e. has failed to render a hotel contract or quarterly financial statements, or has repeatedly contravened spending guidelines described herein. If WCSFA cancels sponsorship of a convention they must notify the following people in writing:

- a) The executive members of the convention committee,
- b) The facility at which the convention is to be held,
- c) Any individuals or organisations with whom the convention committee is known to be having significant financial dealings,
- d) A notice must be placed in BCSFAzine and other major clubzines/fanzines in the Pacific Northwest (i.e. Westwind, Pulsar),
- e) Place public notices as required by law.

11. Records of Past Conventions

After a convention is held, the committee shall make two copies of the following records, and give one copy to the next convention committee, and one copy to the WCSFA archives:

- a) Membership list (including addresses),
- b) List(s) of Artists, Dealers, and Guests,
- c) Financial statements, progress reports, program book, final report, and all forms (i.e. art show sheets),
- d) The contract with the facility,
- e) The final facility bill,
- f) Anything else that seems helpful or appropriate.

Appendix A: Categories for Accounting Expenses:

- Advertising/Publicity/Promotion

- Art Show
  - Bank Charges
  - Banquet
  - Facilities (all hotel except guest rooms)
  - Guest Expenses (airfare or gas, rooms, per diem, gifts)
  - Hospitality (broken into the following:)
    - Food & Non Alcoholic Beverages
    - Alcohol
    - Other (rentals, license, supplies such as plates)
  - Miscellaneous
  - Office Expenses (photocopying, receipt books, supplies)
  - Operations (includes A/V, volunteer perks, vehicle rental, radios, signage, etc.)
    - Postage
    - Programming (includes Dance, Elrons, Masquerade. etc.)
    - Publications (paste-up & printing of flyers, bookmarks, progress reports, program books, stationery)
    - Special (includes Auroras or other awards, and unusual one-time Items)
  - Telephone
  - T-shirts
  - Video Room
  - Writers' Workshop
- Income:
- Advertising
  - Art Show (broken into:)
    - Panel Fees
    - Auction & Direct Sales
  - Banquet
  - Hospitality
  - Memberships & Dealers Tables
  - Miscellaneous (includes bank interest, donations, grants)
  - T-shirts
  - Writers' Workshop fees

#### Appendix B: Free Memberships

Free memberships will only be given out to the following people:

a) Small Children

b) Guests of Honour

Normally, there should be no more than five Guests of Honour, and preferably four or fewer.)

c) Guests of Guests of Honour

GoHs receive free memberships for their children and one free membership for an 'escort', i.e. spouse or friend. Additional memberships are as for Guests of Professionals (item d).

#### d) Professional Guests

A small number of professional authors and artists may receive free memberships. Professionals are defined as:

i) Full members of SFWA

ii) Writers who have published one or more SF or Fantasy novels, or non-fiction books on an SF or Fantasy topic.

iii) Professional artists who are widely recognised and make a substantial portion of their income from SF and Fantasy related artwork.

iv) Editors and publishers of professional SF/Fantasy magazines or books.

Professionals may be offered one additional membership for an 'escort' at half the current membership rate. (For children that would be half of half price.)

e) Special Programming Participants

Lecturers or panelists who have been invited to make a special presentation at the convention and who would not otherwise be attending the convention.

f) The Press

Reporters from recognised media outlets who would not otherwise be in attendance at the convention.

g) Facility Staff

It is a traditional public relations policy for the convention to invite hotel or convention centre staff who are working during the convention to attend the convention for free. If they are not wearing a uniform or facility name tag, they may be issued a convention badge.

h) Handicapped Attendants

A necessary attendant of a disabled person, i.e. sign language interpreter or wheelchair attendant.

Committee's Choice

The committee may, by a general vote, decide to offer free memberships to up to five guests who do not fall into any of the above categories.

Note: Again, conventions should not be giving out more than one in eight free memberships (based on realistic projections of total attendance and not including small children.)

#### Appendix C: Duties of WCSFA Directors

a) President:

- Calls meetings,
- Chairs meetings,
- Prepares and distributes meeting agendas,
- Acts as official spokesperson for the organisation.

b) Vice President:

- Carries out the President's duties if the President is ill or absent,



- Is in charge of negotiating and signing the hotel contract for a WCSFA-sponsored convention (acts as the ConCom's Hotel Liaison),
  - Takes care of WCSFA archives (including final reports) and is in charge of maintaining records of Inventory.
- c) Secretary/Treasurer:
- Takes minutes of meetings. Makes sure the minutes are posted on the WCSFA web site and, if possible, arranges to have them published in *BSCFAzine*.
  - Keeps a log of all motions passed at meetings and coordinates motions with changes to the Policies and Procedures.
  - Posts updates to the Policies & Procedures on the WCSFA web site.
  - Responsible for posting notice of meetings and calls for VCON bids.
  - Keeps the financial records of the organisation and gives financial reports at each meeting.
  - Reviews convention financial reports and makes recommendations.
  - Is responsible for filing the annual report with Victoria. Presents that report to the WCSFA Directors prior to submission.
- d) Member at Large:
- Is responsible for notifying associate members of general meetings by mail or phone at least two weeks in advance.

## *Even Yet More Kaffeeklatsch*

Another evening at Garth's place, March 26, 2005 at 7:00 p.m., with Garth, Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, Joe Devoy, Julian "Earthfurst" Castle, Doug Finnerty, and Barb Dryer, featuring misunderstood questions and tangential free-association responses and incoherent transcriptions.

1. *(FW) I've avoided diet cola for the last eight years because of rumours that aspartame kills brain cells. Now my doctor says that sugar is just as bad because of the complications obesity causes.*

Joe said this wasn't proven, but the FDA rushed it (aspartame?) into the market. Fruvous said it depends on how much pop you drink. Garth said that life itself kills you eventually, and anyway, none of us exercises enough. Fruvous added that starches, not sugars, are the problem with Type II diabetes. Doug talked about a classmate who *died* by refusing his dietary needs. Fruvous pointed out that men die, more often than women, due to denial of illness. Garth asked, do men display the same denial of their *cars'* need for maintenance? Fruvous said, not as often, and talked about the Spike TV healthwatch ads on this theme. A digression followed on general non-communication of information, e.g. about auto maintenance.

2. *How many of us have power over our own lives?*

Joe thought that we are all considerably interdependent, in a modern urban society. Garth asked, what is the real cost of our diversified social service corporation, a.k.a. government? How much of the argument over its

subscription rates, a.k.a. taxes, is our willful ignorance, and how much of it is institutionalized obfuscation? Felicity recommended Garth read up on survival skills. (Surprise! Garth spent much of his high school years doing so.) Doug said, if he were in charge of the SAS, he wouldn't have published their manual. Fruvous said that, although we are freer than ever before, we are more dependent on each other than ever before. (An argument he keeps having with libertarians.) Doug added, "I suspect their agenda is to end up as feudal lords." Fruvous went on to say that the existentialists' most important contribution was to distinguish freedom of choice from freedom of power. A discussion followed ranging from Russian prisoner treatment, voluntary flogging, endorphin production, and electro-convulsive therapy to the various transcendent experiences, and Zen Buddhism, which interest Fruvous.

3. *Is anyone serious about the values or virtues they profess? Or is everyone a hypocrite out for what they can get?*

Joe launched into a discussion of the contemporary culture built up around "spin". This led to a debate on where dust comes from, and whether Pluto has fleas, whereupon I slowly realized we weren't talking about the planet. A discussion of fringe astrophysics resulted.

4. *If you were an underground revolutionary in hiding, what would be the most romantic hideout? (e.g.: abandoned warehouse, underground tunnels, upstairs at a nightclub ...)*

Barb nominated the top of Mount Seymour, at the lookout. Doug nominated the VIP suite in the best hotel, if you're a good con artist. Felicity voted for a disguised palatial complex under some rundown, apparently abandoned shithole, or an apparently normal suburban house. Joe protested "but then you get Jehovah's Witnesses!" Garth nominated a fully-furnished, three-storey treehouse. Joe nominated the bachelor pad Austin Powers had, or Goldmember. Felicity nominated a "Club 80s". Julian had no idea. Fruvous thought he would love to have a hideout in plain sight, e.g. on a bridge, with alternative access and egress ... like the hideout of the squatter who actually lived in Toys'R'Us for years. Garth suggested hiding out in the Vancouver Stock Exchange. Julian preferred being a clone army with teleportation powers.

5. *Why isn't ecological protection organized as a profitable, competitive industry?*

Fruvous answered that if an enterprise is not proven profitable, and if idealists shag it up, then it won't be an industry until someone makes it work. For example, Encorp runs return-it centers in B.C.; it is not a Crown corporation, but run for profit. A discussion followed on the loops followed by materials, versus money, in B.C. recycling. Ergo, profit is difficult, but it can be made. Doug opined that we're still in the phase of emerging markets. Somehow this segued into a

discussion of first-century “religious creativity” (as I call the period of Gnostic and apocalyptic literature, which freely recast and reinterpreted the characters and events in the Gospels, somewhat as Trek fanfiction recasts and reinterprets the characters and events in Star Trek Classic).

6. *Six criminal factions take over a small town and begin to fight it out. Each faction is led by a well-known Saturday-morning cartoon villain. Which of the following would “win” and who would achieve “first blood”?*
- 1) *Wile E. Coyote*
  - 2) *Team Rocket (Jesse, James & Meow)*
  - 3) *The Anthill Mob*
  - 4) *Snidely Whiplash*
  - 5) *Dick Dasterdly (and Muttley)*
  - 6) *Dudley Nightshade*

Garth nominated Snidely Whiplash. Felicity was not struck by any of the named villains. The whole thing disintegrated into a comparison of the relative merits of Imperial Stormtroopers and Star Trek “redshirts”. Julian said “none of the above” – his nominee is Cancer Man (from The X-Files). Felicity et al. suggested alternative favourite cartoon villains; we seem to share a general taste for sexy Bad Girls ...

7. *In the undeclared war between the Fun Police and the Partisans of Fun, who is winning?*

The first question is, who’s who? (Note to out-of-towners: there’s an ongoing struggle between people who want more clubs and later hours, versus police and city councils and neighbourhood associations who want curfews and crackdowns on drugs and violence.) The subsequent discussion aimlessly included the terms “Vansterdam”, “needle program”, “harm reduction”, segued to Garth’s Draconian ideas for coping with drug dealers and with illegal drugs generally, to invasive continental policies, Fruvovus’ ideas on combating offshore tax havens ...

I concluded that either we need a better person for taking notes, or someone has to moderate these discussions better, so they actually lead somewhere and accomplish something.

## Colophon

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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/>  
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- |  |                              |
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