



July Events

- July 1 **"Fan Activity on the North Shore"** - first alternative FRED at the Eighties Restaurant (www.eightiesrestaurant.com/) at 110 East 14th Street, just off of Lonsdale [North Vancouver]
- July 9 **Feeding Frenzy** 7 p.m. at **Anton's Pasta Bar**, 4260 East Hastings, Burnaby. When it hasta be pasta, this is the place! For the convenience of newcomers, organizer Doug Finnerty should be easy to spot as he will be wearing clothing that is mostly blue while carrying something that is red.
- July 15 **BCSFAzine deadline** Send me stuff by this deadline, and it goes in the next issue.
- July 16 **BCSFA meeting/party** 7 p.m. at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's place, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; telephone 604-277-0845 for directions.
- July 21 **Book discussion** 7 p.m. at Our Town Café at 245 East Broadway, Vancouver; book to discuss is *War of the Worlds*, by H.G. Wells
- July 29 **BCSFAzine production** Doug should present *BCSFAzines* at FRED (7-11 p.m., Denny's on Davie at Thurlow).
- July 30 **Kaffeeklatsch** 7-11 p.m. at Garth's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver; phone 604-325-7314 for directions).

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HALF IN LOVE WITH EASEFUL DEATH

... no wife, no horse, and no goddam moustache. If I can't keep a decent job in this town, find a quiet pub or the right wo-
Oh. Gotta go.

Greetings, and welcome to another edition of *BCSFazine!* In this edition we feature more smartass members' birthday bios, more letters and smartass comments in italics, and more news that's hard to believe. Also we have a modest proposal or two in this editorial, and brand-new offers in our unclassifieds.

MY ERRORS AND OMISSIONS: For all the volunteer effort I put into *BCSFazine* and other fan enterprises, there are things I have failed to do, like distributing CUFF ballots very widely before the deadline.

If I learned anything in this life, I learned that people get themselves into situations, and only *then* realize what consequences they have to deal with: and not even then, if their lack of perception or strong beliefs blind them to reality. Rather a lot of fans take on too much, and don't accomplish what they set out to do. I had hoped I was above that.

What different kinds of clubs are there in the Lower Mainland, and what do they offer? What does BCSFA offer to fans, compared to other clubs? Could BCSFA stand some innovations? These and other questions still go begging for answers.

In this connection I have acquired some news. **VanCityComics** is an online community for comic book, manga, anime, and collectibles fans, at www.vancitycomics.com. This, like other news, is brought to you by Julian Castle.

I would like to invite all artist types to contribute their favourite images of fannish behaviours, fannish types, even stereotypes, to a set of standard images: for convention signage, for fannish Tarot games, and for the columns in *BCSFazine*. What do you say?

We might also do well to survey the people who come to VCon, and see how many of them attend from which interest groups. And another question occurs to me, in connection with conventions ...

If you're like me, you look at the Guests of Honour listed for conventions, and sometimes you ask "Who *are* these people?" – especially in the case of FanGoHs, or the guests at comics and anime and gaming conventions. Maybe a little biographical information has to be presented right away, on websites and flyers, not just in progress reports and program books.

If you're like me, you also look at entertainment news – especially the kind of "news" that profiles the private lives of

entertainers – and you start to wonder if they're *making all of this up*.

I have this theory now that in fact, some TV and film actors actually sign contracts *requiring* them to have a seamy private life made public, *for publicity purposes*. I wonder, is the famous philandering of film stars just a gigantic put-on, instituted since the 1920s? Have American politicians and British royalty been trying to get in on this act ... at the same time as it's wearing thin? (Don't know about you, but the pretense that this is *real* news is wearing thin with me.)



But then I'm the kind of guy who thinks the Hollywood studios found the Fountain of Youth in southern California, instead of Florida, and dole out limited access to selected actors and actresses, as long as they're bankable. You can't trust anything I say, anyway, I was feeling unusually bilious and misanthropic this June.

I am the reason your kids are so ugly

Letters of Comment

Lloyd&Yvonne Penney
penneys@allstream.net, 1706-24 Eva
 Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, June 5,
 2005

Many thanks for issue 385 of BCSFAzine. It's been a busy series of days ... birthday and pub night, followed by surprise party (for someone else), followed by day-long concom party. Today is a slower day. Tough life, hm? I can get down to writing some letters.

((Dirty Little Secret of modern life: It is a conspiracy to overload and overwhelm absolutely everybody. We first notice this with public and private services, which get steadily slower, more overloaded and less reliable.))

We've found out lately that there's not only people with overlapping interests in science fiction and space, but also there's lots of silent SF readers in the space and science industries. With luck, we will be able to combine fans and space advocates over time, and perhaps explore the science of SF as much as we explore the fiction.

((Dirty Little Secret of Science: Four-eyed high-school geeks go into science and industry to work subtle revenge on the mouth-breathing jocks and rednecks who end up working - or getting laid off - at the whim of corporations like Microsoft.))

Congrats to Al Betz on beating his health problems. I'm trying something new myself...I built my own fabulous fannish physique, and I have to take steps in order to reduce my weight. Yvonne and I are on a Weight Watchers' variation of the Atkins diet, and so far, I've lost 7 pounds, and, I hope, more to come.

While on the topic of food...I agree with Randy B. on Cora's. There are a number of Cora's restaurants in the Toronto area, and the food is excellent. A conrunners' con was held in Trenton, Ontario in 2003, and



held in a hotel with a Cora's on the main floor. We didn't eat anywhere else. Sometimes, after I say we had lunch at the SciFi Café, some will say, "Oh...I'm sorry." SciFi Café is a greasy spoon, and when that is what you want and expect, it's a good place.

((Dirty Little Secret of the English language: Everybody thinks "words mean what I mean them to mean. That's the meaning of power." Words like good, bad, success, freedom, loser, geek, democracy, etc. no longer have any denotative meaning in contemporary broadcast English.))

Actually, I send hypnotic messages to George Bush through special fortune cookies the FBI leaves for him at the White House dinner table. Too stupid to read and understand them, though, so I have to think up another way to get him out of the dumbass Republican mindset, unless someone in the Star Chamber can arrange for a total mindwipe, and start him fresh. Can we get an intelligent person in the White House again?

((I thought that was against U.S. Federal law or something. Sometimes I wish Canada could afford to embargo the U.S. and just trade with the civilized world. But that would cut me off from the majority of available Northwest conventions.))



Hope you got my latest convention list. I can add some information to that list ... Ad Astra 2006 will be our 25th convention, and to add to our initially announced guests, Terry Brooks, Peter David and Betsy Mitchell, I can now announce that we will

also host Ray Harryhausen, and will meet Ray Bradbury via satellite. We are also looking at even more great guests that will blow your socks off. More information will come as these guests are booked.

((I got your list of eastern North American conventions; I kind of hoped you would also list western conventions, that most BCSFAzine readers can get to.



((Has Terry Brooks ever written anything original, or has he only done third-rate LOTR imitations?))

Dr. Know is right when he says that the chasm between differing fannish interests is greater than the gap between fans and mundanes. I will happily lump the press into the mundanes, for they are largely responsible for the view mundanes have of us, the weirdos who must live in our parents' basements. Randy B. said something about a near-enforced standard of normality in today's society, so true; we are seen as strange at best, and stupid or mentally deficient at worst. (Maybe we need a PR company to improve our image with the public.) The gap between fan groups is simply the Balkanization of fandom I've been harping on for years, taken to its ultimate conclusion. As a result, other groups will not know or care about the passing of Bill Bowers, or the foreign illnesses of Robert Sheckley, just to use current examples. (Sheckley's been able to come home, thanks to the generosity of others.)

((YOU'VE been harping on it!? I thought that was MY patented hobbyhorse.))

Good to see that some Dr. Who episodes may be shot here, but then, some of the local DW fans told me that the CBC is actually kicking in some of the funding for the production making the new DW a joint Wales-Canada, or BBC/CBC production. Given the ratings, a good investment, I would say.

Have a great time at V-Con this year, folks; we are already starting our Ad Astra preps, and we are going to try to stage the best show ever. I will keep you up to date. I think I'm done, so here it goes into the e-mail stream. Looking forward to the next issue.

G.W. Thomas <egenreweekly@yahoo.com>, 08 May 2005

G.W. Thomas here. I live up in Williams Lake. ... I write SF/F/H and I am also an artist. The last time I was in Vancouver in an artist/writer capacity was VCon 22 (1998?) I got to sit on a panel with David Gerrold and discuss the true nature of evil. Anyway, I'm still kicking around. My new kiln isn't set up so no sculptures lately but I have been busy writing. I have a running series of articles in *Black October Magazine* called "The Ghostbreakers". The website with the occult detective database is pretty popular too. (<http://occultdetective.tripod.com>) I keep meaning to write an article on my 7 favourite *Buff*y episodes...

On a reading front, I am about half way through *The Citadel of Fear* by Francis Stevens. Any Fran-fans out there? She was pretty good. That's 1919, perhaps a bit old for some...?

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(BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road,
Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com)*

On cover: Imaginary book cover by Ryan Hawe (text) and Felicity Walker (graphics). Just for fun, I drew Gene Hackman as the lumpy, toupéed Luthor of the 1980s *Superman* films, instead of the leaner, hairless Luthor who actually ran for president and won, in DC's *Superman* comics.

Hey, Kids, Let's Put Up an All-Clubs Message Board!

An "all-fandom online personals board, so fans can find other fans in Vancouver with similar interests" sounds like a good idea.

I guess I don't follow science news as much as I should.

At the last Kaffeeklatsch, we tried to hew closer to your ideal of "starting with a novel proposition, reasoning out its consequences (not free-associating), and coming to unexpected, amazing conclusions. Ironically, the topics we drew from the hat were all so sercon that there were no *Pythonesque* conclusions, but there were some good ideas. I hope someone wrote them down. I don't remember what they were.

((Oh, I think we did pretty well, Felicity. Check out my record of the conversation, at the end of this zine.))

I still haven't had a chance to read Orson Scott Card's editorial [on Star Trek].

I don't think I could bring myself to nominate a friend for an Elron, but if you win one, I think you'll be the first person in the history of the Elrons to be there to make an acceptance speech. It could be like a subject's rebuttal at a comedy roast.

((You raise by implication one of the important points that no-one seems to explain about fandom ... it appeared that, at least in some circles, fans were expected to give and take some pretty rough verbal abuse, just as a form of teasing, or sublimated rowdyism. That's my understanding of British fanwriting and Ted White's zine reviews, anyway, and I thought Elrons were given and taken in the same lighthearted vein of low humour.))

Interlinos - Cool!

((Think yew.))

We Threatened Its Life with a Railway Share - Greg Slade:

I like the idea of a Turkey Viewing/"hosted video night."

I overheard someone sternly telling Ray Seredin at FRED that there would be no video room at VCON 30. From the person's tone

it sounded more like a policy than an omission. Someone else, possibly me, suggested a room party with videos, and that was allowed.

((I think I lost patience and told Ray that he had been told, like four or five times already, that this VCon wasn't holding a video room.))

I would love to see *Dawn of the Living Socks* and *Beavra!*

I like it when people care about fonts. I'll send Garth Prototype just in case he hasn't had a chance to visit mickeyavenue.com yet.

((Got the Prototype font already. Have you been able to work up a font mimicking my handwriting yet?))

Streetlights go out when I walk past them, but that happens to everybody.

((Oh, you think so?))

Al Betz - Hurrah!

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney - "The chemistry of characters reacting to one another was missing." That explains something Ryan Hawe pointed out to me, that of the *ensemble*; the characters who ended up with the most development were Cmdr. Charles "Trip" Tucker III and Subcommander T'Pol – the opposites who were doomed to fall in love from the moment they first hated each other.

"((I got the impression, a good twenty years ago, that there were a whole lot of contradictory Trek stories showing up, between the series, and the movies, and the novelizations, and the wealth of Trekkers' fanfiction stories. [...] This vaguely resembled my impression of very early, apocryphal Christian gospels.))"

The comparison to apocrypha is apt, since you've touched on what fans call "canon." "Canonicity" is a sensitive subject in fandom; though it would be easy to say that only the filmed material is *Star Trek* canon (excluding out-takes, licensed parodies, and the animated series), every fan has apocrypha that they would like to see canonized. I happen to like the animated series. Ryan Hawe likes the books, and uses the formula that anything that does not explicitly contradict filmed material is canon by default.

The simplest thing to do is to have separate canons. What fans tend to do instead is to try to come up with a grand unified theory that explains away the discontinuities the professionals couldn't be bothered to worry about.

((That resolves to several separate Federation timelines. Which, to my mind, removes the apparent necessity for time police; your own timeline will still exist if someone goes back in time, and changes the events that produced your timeline – it just ensures that they will be stuck in the timeline

that they produced, by their own actions. And you, too, of course, if you were on the scene at the time of the intervention.))

I should try making a list of all my activities.

((Beware. I've done this several times over the years, before realizing a) I was partly trying to compare the amount of time I spend on different things, to the amount of time I really have available, and b) I was mainly trying to work out my priorities, and spot the essential life tasks I was omitting. Gradually I determined that my priorities were things like appeasing the chronic sense of unmet obligations, building up my self-esteem, having a community of active-minded friends, gaining financial security, finding someone ... most of which I do not satisfy. You will work out your own priorities.

*((Since I was not thinking in explicit terms, just feeling my way forward as much as thinking, and I certainly didn't have a very specific list of obligatory life tasks, I spent **up to fifteen years**, no fooling, repeating this exercise. **Know what your goals are.**))*

Felicity Walker/BCSFAZINEzine - The Denny's music volume situation has improved. Last week, when someone put money in the jukebox and it started to get loud, the manager immediately turned it down. Sadly, the manager of the night shift – Darryl, on good terms with whom I used to think I was – insists that the music be very loud on his shift.

"((I believe somebody once suggested we meet at a café, instead of a bar.))" I don't think it would be any quieter, and the food selection, space, and comfort would be worse.

((Oh. Pity. Originally I conceived the Kaffeeklatsches as café meetings, but that didn't appear to be much of a draw.))

Randy Barnhart - I remember the Natural Law Party, and Yogic Flying!

Ironically, I find IHOP depressing and bland.

You perfectly articulated the problems with Lisa Schwarzbaum's review of *Sin City*, and likening her to Wertham encapsulates the problem brilliantly.

I have to disagree about heroes. It's a false dilemma to say that heroes who aren't anti-social assholes *must* be clean-cut and flawless. If a character is too evil, they're not a hero or even an anti-hero; they're a villain with heroic attributes. I would never consider House to be a hero.

I didn't mean to put down Chomsky. I like his work, too.

I heard Joe Jackson's "Stepping Out" a lot when I was growing up. I love its sound – very early 1980s – half electric jazz and half incoming news bulletin.

I can't drink. I don't like the taste of alcohol, and I'm on anti-depressant medication.

((So am I; my medication doesn't preclude my drinking, but I am advised against driving or operating heavy machinery the same day. This could not be less of a problem.))

The Heathen Tumultuously Assemble - *Vancouver Comicon*: I made it to this one and it was a very successful expedition. I added 130 new comics to my collection and spent less than \$50. A few of the comics I already had, but I bought them anyway because they're so good they deserve to be trivia prizes.

Report from Probability Eh? - *The Gamers: Dorkness Rising* sounds potentially good.

Media File Supplemental - "Not entirely paraphrased by Felicity Walker." Not entirely proofread by Felicity Walker either! It looks like I forgot to collate some items with multiple sources, such as the new DC logo. Or I may have done so, but forgotten to send you the revised copy.

I prefer the old DC logo.

Hrothgar Weems, (address withheld by request), June 10, 2005

After ruminating on your editorial about Danish cultural imperialism, and doing some research on the last twenty years of Canadian domestic policy, I have gradually come around to your point of view. At the risk of creating a schism in the Western Fandom Illuminati, I must confess that I was wrong; you are not, in fact, the sinister reptoid Antichrist I thought you were. The evil and weirdness that infects western Canadian fandom must emanate from somewhere else ...

((Thank you. I well understand what saying this has cost you.

((If I understood anything from reading Robert Anton Wilson, and then reading more widely on conspiracies and theories about them, then I understood that there are several conspiracies going on at once, usually at cross-purposes, in any social context you care to name; and there is a limit to how long one can run, or how many people and how much territory and resources one can command, before it schisms or dissolves. WFI may already have taken this into account, but it may still be worthwhile to assume there are several, limited, contending conspiracies at large.

((My operating assumption about western Canadian fandom is simpler, and rather sadder. People generally just aren't aware of other fan groups, or other flavours of fan activity. In particular, a few people every decade jump

into conrunning without preparation – people who are far more motivated to do their own thing, their own way, than to find out what works.))

Julian "EarthFurst" Castle, <earthfurst@yahoo.ca>, 11 Jun 2005

In reply to bits from a) *BCSFazine* #383 (2005 April), page 2: "Julian Castle .. is getting interested in zines, or zines according to Garth" and b) *BCSFazine* #385 (2005 June), page 9: "Nobody wants to be fixed or firm or definite about anything." I'll be definite about how & where I got interested in zines. I discovered zines when I found a *Factsheet Five* (aka F5) at a Halifax magazine store.

Unfortunately I'm not sure about the exact date I discovered F5. Since "issue 46 hit the streets in early 1993" { quote from a F5 FAQ at archive.org} I must have found my first F5 between early 1993 and 1994 April (when I left Halifax).

War on Terror: Science Fiction or Fantasy?

Members' Birthdays in July

July 8: Tom Balabanov is *not* a sleeper agent emplaced in Vancouver during the Soviet regime, and since forgotten by Russian intelligence. Lots of western Canadians have Slavic surnames. Just look at the Edmonton phone book.

July 8: Kelly Whitehouse is *not* related to the founders of Whitehorse in the Yukon.

July 8: Don DeBrandt is *not* going to run for public office. Ever. There are too many pictures. He is way too cool to show up at FRED or at BCSFA meeting/parties these days. (When is your next novel coming out, Don?)

July 9: Donna Markbride may or may not be related to Joanne McBride.

July 10: Mark Wells is the lovely and talented spouse of Patty Wells, who is chairing both Orycon and SMOFCon this year.

July 15: Janet Dawson is *not* related to the founders of Dawson City.

July 25: R. Graeme Cameron is the lovely and talented spouse of Alyx Shaw, an aficionado of really bad films, the alter ego of Moog the Magnificent, scanlet, Archivist of the B.C. Science Fiction Association, professionally qualified to be an historian, grey, a former *BCSFazine* editor, a previous Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate, spanner, known for his seductive tuba playing, a former fanzine publisher, zarf, and over 40.

July 25: Nico Iormetti used to play the Lost Treasurer in our live-action "Find the VCon Budget!" games.

July 26: Lela Cairns probably has something to do with Greg Cairns.

July 31: Felicity Walker is the alter ego of more individuals than I can mention in this fanzine.

Flow my tears, the policeman said

UNCLASSIFIED ADS

The following advertisers offer a 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members:

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<p>BCSFazine is on sale at WHITE DWARF BOOKS 4368 W. 10th Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2H7 tel. 604-228-8223 email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com</p>	<p>METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP is open to new members. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For information call Ken, 604-876-5751 email ktran@vcn.bc.ca</p>

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Vancouver fans meet every Friday at 7 p.m.
at Denny's Restaurant on Davie Street at Thurlow
* Meet readers, writers, artists, gamers, furrries,
and just plain BCSFA members *

OR

From July 1st, check out
"Fannish Activity on the North Shore"
at the Eighties Restaurant
at 110 East 14th Street,
just off of Lonsdale [North Vancouver]

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PERSONALS

SWM, 48, looking for people playing mix-n-match with ideas; like, why not give political parties or religions the kind of uniforms, or funding, that goes into competitive professional sports? I also like reading, writing, reciting poetry, long walks in stationery stores, and talking about performing practical jokes at political conventions. If you have a club for this stufh, or want to help form one, call Garth at 604-325-7314 or email garthspencer@shaw.ca. No minors need apply.

IMPERSONALS

The Richmond Writers Group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:00 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: bmarles53@yahoo.com or (604) 277-6775, or go to MSN group web address: <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>. (FW)

Listen to THE ONOMATOPOEIA SHOW, CITR 101.9 FM (or <http://www.citr.ca/live.rm>) * Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.; Contact Robin at betafishblue@hotmail.com

Listen to HI SCI FI, CJSF 90.1 FM cable * Fridays at 5:00 p.m. You can also contact Irma Arkus at 604-291-5797

Read the G33K column by Chris Eng, in *Terminal City* (weekly newspaper): see also <http://www.theg33k.com/>

RSN COMMISSIONS FOR SALE!

Garth Spencer, Founder of the Royal Swiss Navy, is selling commissions in the RSN at \$50 a head. You can choose your own rank, pseudonym, and scurrilous/entertaining activities!

Some suggested titles are:

Cerebus the Kitchen Staff Supervisor

Chief Cook and Bottle-Washer, Dept. of Redundancy Dept.

Minister of Housing

Jude the Obscure

Lord High Sweeper after the Imperial Polo Ponies

Giant Rat of Sumatra

The Pobble Who Has No Toes

Commodore 64 (*Oops, sorry, that one's reserved*)

Asshole from Outer Space

If *YOU* want to receive and contribute to irregular mailings of *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*, and join the RSN Yahoo! Group, just submit your proposed RSN identity with your name, mailing address or email address, plus a **\$50.00** cheque or money order made out to Garth Spencer, to: P.O. Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC CANADA V6B 5B1. * OR * you can submit this stuff directly to Garth at a BCSFA gathering like FRED, the BCSFA meeting/parties, Kaffeeklatsch, or something else you're both going to attend.

The art of keeping slaves is being progressively refined.

Chekhov

CONSUMMATION DEVOUTLY TO BE WISHED

Note: Film release schedules are updated this issue from the columns in *The WestEnder* of May 26 – June 1, 2005 and in the *Georgia Straight* of June 2-9, 2005.

July 2005

July 1: movie releases of *Undead* (Aussie zombie film), *StarCraft: Ghost*, and *Treasure of the Seven Mummies*

July 2: Canada Day; first meeting of FANS (Fannish Activity on the North Shore), 7:30 p.m. at the Eighties Restaurant (www.eightiesrestaurant.com/) at 110 East 14th Street, just off of Lonsdale [North Vancouver]

July 1-4: **Westercon 58 and Convention 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.

July 4: American national day

July 5 (7:30 p.m.): **International Astronaut Panel** at UBC - room TBA. Human vs. robotic exploration: the astronaut's point of view. Invited panelists:

- Astronaut Reinhold Ewald, European Space Agency
- Astronaut Jeffrey Hoffman, NASA
- Cosmonaut Valery Korzun, ZPK Russia

- Astronaut Chiaki Mukai, ISU / JAXA

- Astronaut Robert Thirsk, Canadian Space Agency
- Taikonaut Liwei Yang, China

Panel moderated by Prof. Walter Peeters, ISU Dean

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

July 8 (7:30 p.m.) **Student demonstrations of Physics** on stage at UBC - room TBA. ISU's graduate-level students will demonstrate basic principles of physics through simple devices, and offer to a public of all ages the opportunity to test, experience, learn and enjoy the fun. Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to:

<http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

July 8: film release of *Dark Water* (a haunted-house horror film with Jennifer Connelly), and *Fantastic Four* (starring Jessica Alba in a spray-on costume)

July 11 (7:30 p.m.): **Student demonstrations - Robot competition**: simulation of a planetary mission, at UBC - location TBA. Several teams will participate in a competition to perform a simulated mission of planetary exploration using robots built and programmed by the ISU students. The robots will have to perform the required tasks in an autonomous way. Their performance will be evaluated by a group of international experts. Visitors of all ages are welcome to share an educational and fun experience. Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

July 12 (7:30 p.m.): **Discussion Panel: What does the future hold for small satellites?** At UBC - room TBA. Invited panellists:

- Dr. Bill Cowley, University of South Australia
- Prof. Sir Martin Sweeting, Surrey Satellite, UK
- George Tyc, MacDonald Dettwiler & Associates, Canada
- Gen. Pete Worden, University of Arizona
- Dengyun Yu, China Aerospace Technology Corporation
- Indian Space Research Organization Representative

Panel moderated by Todd Mosher, ISU faculty / Utah State

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

July 13 (7:30 p.m.): **Public lecture: India in space** at UBC - room TBA. Invited speaker: Indian Space Research Organization Representative. Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

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

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

July 17: filk party at Cindy Turner's - email shaddy@telus.net

July 22: film release of *The Island* (See Ewan MacGregor and Scarlett Johansson say "I think I'm a clone now")

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.

July 26 (8:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.): **Theme Day - Space and national security** at UBC - room TBA. Invited speakers:

- Brett Biddington, Cisco Systems
- Simon Collard-Wexler, Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Wade Huntley, University of British Columbia
- Joan Johnson Freese, ISU faculty / US Naval War College
- Xavier Pasco, Foundation for Strategic Research, France
- Roald Sagdeev, University of Maryland
- Tetsuo Tamama, Japan Defense Research Center
- Pete Worden, University of Arizona
- Olga Zhdanovich, ISU lecturer, Russia

Also: 8:45 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., **Small bodies in the Solar System** at UBC - room TBA;

Invited speakers:

- Brett Biddington, Cisco Systems
- Mikhail Marov, ISU Faculty / Russian Academy of Sciences
- Peter Brown, University of W. Ontario
- Alan Hildebrand, University of Calgary
- Robert Hawkes, Mount Allison University
- Ray Williamson, ISU Faculty / George Washington University
- Patrick Chatard-Moulin, French air Force
- Jim Dator, ISU Faculty / University of Hawaii
- David Kendall, ISU Faculty / Canadian Space Agency
- Hajime Yano, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Also on 26 July (7:30 p.m.): **Discussion Panel - Space industry, where do we stand?** At UBC - room TBA. Invited panellists:

- Ulrich Beck, EADS Space Transportation
 - Mag Iskander, MD Robotics
 - Mike Mott, The Boeing Company
 - Zhang Qingwei, China Aerospace Science & Technology Corporation
 - Rick Sanford, Cisco Systems
- Panel moderated by John Egan, ISU Vice-President, Development

July 27 (7:30 p.m.): **Discussion Panel - China and Russia in space** at UBC - room TBA. Invited panellists:

- Joan Johnson Freese, ISU faculty / US Naval War College
- Mikhail Marov, ISU Faculty / Russian Academy of Sciences

- Zhang Qingwei, China Aerospace Science & Technology Corporation
- Olga Zhdanovich, ISU lecturer, Russia

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

July 29: film release of *The Brothers Grimm* (Matt Damon and Heath Ledger as con men who encounter a real curse) and *Sky High* (more superheroes handle conflicts between their work lives and regular lives)

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/€165 reg. £30/\$45/€45 supp. Contact 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. In North America: PO Box 58009, Louisville, Kentucky, KY 40268-0009, USA. (*Ansible* 209)

Aug. 4 (12:00 to 5:00 p.m.): **Space Day Exhibits** at H.R. MacMillan Pacific Space Centre. Canadian space companies and Government agencies will be present to promote their space experience and expertise.

Aug. 5 (5:15 to 6:15 p.m.): **Rocket launch demonstrations** at UBC - location TBA. ISU's graduate-level students will launch model rockets carrying educational experiments. Both the rockets and the experiments are designed and built by the students in multidisciplinary teams. Visitors of all ages are welcome to share an educational and fun experience.

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

Aug. 5: film release of *Doom*, game-inspired sci-fi action/adventure starring that guy called The Rock; also, the release of something called *2046*

Aug. 5 or 12: film release of *The Skeleton Key* (Kate Hudson learns black magic in New Orleans)

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 (7:30 p.m.): **Gerald Soffen memorial panel on new space exploration** initiatives, at UBC - room TBA. Invited panellists:

- Alain Berinstain, Canadian Space Agency
- John Mankins, NASA
- Daniel Sacotte, European Space Agency
- Mikhail Marov, ISU Faculty / Russian Academy of Sciences
- Ichiro Nakatani, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Panel moderated by Gary Martin, ISU Deputy SSP Director.

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

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

Aug. 16 (7:30 p.m.): **Discussion Panel on Personal spaceflight - Opening the frontier for everyone**, at UBC - room TBA. Invited panellists:

- James Benson, SpaceDev
- Peter Diamandis, ISU founder, Zero-Gravity Corporation
- Burt Rutan, Scaled Composites
- Alex Tai, Virgin Galactic

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 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: \$35 at the door. See <http://www.animeevolution.com>

Aug. 22: **Final Presentation of Student Team Research Projects** - Room TBA. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Threats from Near Earth Objects (NEOs) 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Wildfire Mitigation Strategies using Space Technologies, & 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Robotic Exploration of the Inner Solar System. Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

(Aristotle Jones, June 2005)

Aug 26-28: **Dragonflight 2005** at the Bellevue Sheraton in Bellevue, WA. Gaming convention. Memberships: 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. 27: (Sat. 11-4) **Comic Book & Toy Show** at the Capitol Hill Community Centre, 361 South Howard, North Burnaby (off 5500 East Hastings); featuring New & Vintage Comics, Toys & Collectives, Manga & Related Items, Special Guests, Anime & Related Items, Action Figures, Gaming Cards. Dealers: 6-foot tables are available for \$35.00; call 604-521-6304. Attendees: there is free parking, and a snack bar. For more information, see www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99, or email funpromo@shaw.ca.

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

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.

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.

October 2005

Oct. 7-9: **VCon 30** at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, BC. Writer GoH Robert Silverberg, Special GoH Todd Lockwood. Dealers' tables: \$60 for first table, with 1 included membership; \$50 for additional table, with 1 included membership; \$30 for each additional membership. Registration 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 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.

Oct. 21-23: **NerdCon 2005**, Noon Friday to 7 PM Sunday at the Clackamas Banquet Facility (Denny's), Clackamas, Oregon. See <http://www.kermanenterprises.com/cavenerds/nerdcon.html>
Isaac Alexander, April 22, 2005

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.

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.

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.

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/propertypage.mi?marshaCode=PDXOR>) will be US\$99/nite. Remember, this 1300+member convention is a weaponless con. Memberships \$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, see 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. Admission: \$3. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact lswong@uniserve.com.

Nov. 26: (Sat. 11-4) **Comic Book & Toy Show** at the Capitol Hill Community Centre, 361 South Howard, North Burnaby (off 5500 East Hastings); featuring New & Vintage Comics, Toys & Collectives, Manga & Related Items, Special Guests, Anime & Related Items, Action Figures, Gaming Cards. Dealers: 6-foot tables are available for \$35.00; call 604-521-6304. Attendees: there is free parking, and a snack bar. For more information, see www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99, or email funpromo@shaw.ca.

This little donkey looks rather lost

ASK DR. KNOW

(A communal identity composed of any participating BCSFA members and BCSFAzine readers)

Q: Financial controls: How can we avoid being taken for a ride? Ensure accountability, auditing, oversight?

John Bartley, Feb. 13, 2004

A: (from someone who really does know, this time)

Strong suggestions, in no particular order:

All chequing accounts *must* be "any two people to sign", out of a pool of three or four people (five, only if two are on *really* incompatible schedules). The less these people actually like each other, the better.

Each signing authority should have a set of the forms needed for changing signatures on the bank account(s) handy. Blank, but handy.

Do the necessary paperwork to get *and stay* registered with the Societies Branch (or the local provincial, state or university equivalent).

Go through the silly hoops once to change the standard-issue constitution and by-laws to something that actually suits your endeavour. (Discordians! This is the point where you get to have *fun* – ditto, you Starfleet Battles enthusiasts.)

It takes three (3) to audit: two to poke their noses in and complain, and one to try to explain why there's nothing wrong. *At least* one of these three people must understand *at least* basic bookkeeping. Learn this subject!

Become competently obnoxious!

If your chosen money-manager is a member (even a student member) of a professional accounting-related organization, you have extra leverage. If they muck up the job, you can lodge a complaint with the professional organization ... whose investigation and censure can *ruin* their mundane career ambitions.

Dubious financial claims, like dubious scientific claims (and unlike dubious astrological ones), require extra-good evidence. Ask not only for the bill, but also the bank machine printout slip for the payment, before reimbursing.

If Hospitality is doing well, it *will* be hard to keep track of receipts, and hard to sort out the paid from the unpaid resupply runs. I dealt with the problem by taping unpaid items to the front of the fridge, and moving paid ones to the side until I could collect them.

Unfortunately, accountability takes three unpopular things: hard work, skill, and government oversight.

Kathleen Moore-Freeman, B.Comm.

Double-specialized in accounting

Student member of the Certified General Accountants' Association

Past treasurer of various SF clubs & conventions

Bookkeeper and accountant for most of the past 20 years

FEEDING FRENZY REPORT: Son of FRED

Greg Slade <grga@lynx.net>, 12 Jun 2005

Tonight's Feeding Frenzy was at Samba's, the Brazilian all-you-can-eat barbecue place on Alberni Street, in downtown Vancouver. Attending were Ray Seredin, Greg Slade, Doug Finnerty, Joe Devoy, and Barb Dryer. The options tend to favour the carnivorous (as all of those attending turned out to be), as even the "salad bar" includes items like roast beef and prawns. If you choose the "all you can eat" option, then servers come around with skewers of barbecued steak (of several different cuts), sausage, ostrich, chicken legs, game hen, chicken hearts, or prawns, and will keep delivering servings until you indicate that you are finished by turning your little sign over to the "I give up" side. Barb was the last one to arrive, and therefore missed a few rounds of meat, and the servers seemed to stay out of the side room we were in for some time. When she complained to the waiter, he had every server in the joint lined up to offer her tidbits.

We played two rounds of "Raid Grga's Library" (trivia based on the VCON web site), and Joe won the first round and Ray won the second. (Actually, we should have called it "Raid Grga and Doug's Libraries", because Doug provided both the questions and the prizes for the second round. Joe chose *Ringworld*, by Larry Niven. I didn't see what Ray chose.

Part of the discussion involved FRED, and the consensus at the table seemed to be that the food at the Denny's on Davie is basically unfit for human consumption. The discussion then revolved around alternative venues, and the various criteria which led to the selection of Denny's in the first place (reasonable pricing, the availability of alcohol without pressure on those who choose not to drink, quiet enough to hear one another talk, etc.) I suggested the Eighties Restaurant (www.eightiesrestaurant.com/) at 110 East 14th Street, just off of Lonsdale [North Vancouver], and a block away from Nando's, which was the site of a previous Feeding Frenzy. The group seemed to approve of this choice, but then the issue was raised that there is some resistance to moving FRED. Therefore we agreed that, at least as an experiment, we would try a "Son of FRED" sort of event, provisionally entitled FANS (for "Fannish Activity on the North Shore.") Like FRED, this would be held on Friday nights beginning at 7:30, and running until the restaurant closes. That way, people can have a choice

between the ambience (and food quality) of Denny's downtown, or out in the suburbs. The first FANS will be held on July 2nd, the first Friday in July, to give the word a chance to spread before the event. At the end of the summer, we can evaluate the attendance and see whether the experiment is worth continuing. We will continue to play "Raid Grga's Library" until Doug and I run out of prizes.

"We have to take you everywhere twice; the second time to apologise."

- Joan Harvey

DEAR FAN SLANDERS

(questions and answers by a random collection of BCSFAns)

Dear Fan Slanders:

Whatever happened to the alt.barney.die.die.die group? – *Not Exactly Mourning*

Dear Not Exactly:

That group followed the trail of metamorphosis of its subject and is now known as alt.jarjar.die.die.die. – *F.S.*

Life is like a tin of sardines; we're all of us looking for the key.

TALE TOLD BY AN IDIOT

MICHAEL CONEY REPORT

"Friends of Mike Coney, and all of you who know his work, will be saddened to hear that he was recently diagnosed with lung cancer. He's not doing too badly at the moment, but the prognosis is not good.

"Mike is posting three recent, unpublished novels, one of them a sequel to *Pallahaxi Tide*, at his website <http://www.members.shaw.ca/mconey/> and he's asked me to spread the word in the SF community that they're available for free download. *Pallahaxi Remembered* is there now, and the other two should be up in a day or two. I know Mike would be very pleased to have you visit the site, and enjoy the books."

Eileen Kernaghan, June 10, 2005

JOHN THOMSON OBITUARY

"My husband of 25 years, John Thomson, died suddenly at our Sumner home on May 31, 2005. Memorial services will be held Saturday,

“John was very active in the British Columbia Science Fiction Association in the 1970's. If anyone knows how to notify any of the older members of that organization ... I'd appreciate it if you would do so.”

Becky Thomson, June 10, 2005

Clint Budd adds, “John Thomson was a BCSFA member in the 70s and 80s.”

BCSFANS CAN PUB THEIR OWN ZINE, THEIR OWN WAY

How about BCSFAns doing a different fanzine from *BCSFAzine*, where they have more control over typeface and layout and graphics than I tend to give?

One of the several ideas my friends and I came up with, at the last Kaffeeklatsch, was that of splitting *BCSFAzine* into a monthly newsletter and a less frequent club general-interest zine. This would mean the genzine could showcase the contributing members' talents – hey, that means YOU! – and the newsletter could stay under the minimum-postage weight limit.

Arguably this means actually going *back* to the way BCSFA used to publish, once upon a time; or reviving *Fictons*, the fiction digest Doug Finnerty has been about to produce Real Soon Now for a few years; or producing an annual “best of” collection of the previous year's features.

Being faced with a wealth of choices, what choices will you take? What changes do you think *BCSFAzine* could stand?

I propose to set aside some features for *ISH*, a club fanzine where we clear out our heads and showcase our Best Stuph. Theme: “Adventures in Fandom”. Send me your stories, articles, art, crank theories, crosswords, popcult columns, designated for this publication.

Take part now and we can Pub Our *Ish!*

BCSFA/WCSFA DIRECTORY

Another publication, and one much nearer completion, is an updated and extended BCSFA members' directory. The physical format I am using is the same layout I use for *BCSFAzine*; the member entries should include name, address and phone number (except in the case of writers), email address, birth date, website if any, position in the case of club executives, until when their membership is paid up, and a short fannish bio if one is available. Naturally, I am liable to have only *one* of these data for many members.

After repeated efforts to include all and only current BCSFA members, I decided to give up and err on the side of including all the fans I could think of, even if they aren't registered members, just to get a rough draft out for Vice-President Doug Finnerty to look at. This means that YOU have to answer the individual emails I'm going to send out, and tell me if you don't want to be included, or if you've moved (either postal address, or ISP, or both).

Compounding my probable error, I am inclined to include *all* the regional clubs, conventions, fanzines and websites of probable interest to members, in separate sections from the members' list.

Comments or questions? Reach me at garthspencer@shaw.ca.

WARREN NORWOOD, US author who published more than a dozen SF novels in the 1980s, has entered hospital with liver and kidney failure; terminal hospice care is expected to follow, alas. [SFS]

Ansible 215, June 2005

THE RIDDLER PASSES ON

Frank Gorshin, the impressionist with 100 faces best known for his Emmy-nominated role as the Riddler on the *Batman* TV series, died Tuesday at Providence Saint Joseph Medical Center in Burbank." He put up a valiant fight with lung cancer, emphysema and pneumonia," Mrs. Christina Gorshin said in a statement. Frank Gorshin was 72.

(forwarded from Associated Press by Stan Hyde, May 18, 2005)

SHECKLEY CONTINUED

"ROBERT SHECKLEY was under intensive care in a Kiev clinic for several weeks from 27 April, after catching a cold that led to respiratory failure and required artificial respiration. He had travelled to Odessa as a guest of Portal-2005, the SF stream of April's Ukrainian computer/SF expo, and fell ill while touring the country afterwards. Since he'd lost his medical insurance card, the mounting bills (\$1,000 daily) caused great alarm to the local con committee which guaranteed the cost of treatment. Boris Sidyuk reported regularly on progress and fundraising activities, and Sheckley at last returned to the USA *via* chartered plane (with medics in attendance) on 27 May, for further treatment in New York. His overseas costs – including that \$22,000 flight – were indeed covered thanks to heroic fan efforts and a huge donation from Viktor Pynchuk, wealthy son-in-law of the former Ukrainian president. Several thousand dollars were also raised in the USA, once it was made clear that the 'company' which had guaranteed those medical costs wasn't something like IBM but merely a group of concerned local fans. Help is still needed: see www.sheckley.com for PayPal donation options. Let's hope that Bob Sheckley will make a full recovery for Interaction."

Ansible 215, June 2005

NEO-OPSIS SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINE "has been nominated for an Aurora Award for the category Best Work in English: Other. We would like to express our gratitude to the contributors in the 2004 issues (#2, 3 and 4), and to the magazine's other supporters, who made the nomination possible. The high quality fiction, art, articles, and reviews struck a cord with readers and Aurora nominators.

"*Neo-opsis* is up against some respectable competition in its category:

- Julie E. Czerneda and Isaac Szpindel for editing *ReVisions* (DAW Books) [editing]
- Nalo Hopkinson and Uppinder Mehan for editing *So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial Science Fiction & Fantasy* (Arsenal Pulp Press) [editing]
- *Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine*, Karl Johanson, ed. (www.neo-opsis.ca) [magazine]
- *Odyssey: Tales From the Wonder Zone*, edited by Julie E. Czerneda (Trifolium Books) [anthology]
- *Relativity: Essays and Stories*, Robert J. Sawyer (ISFiC Press, Nov/2004) [book]

"*Neo-opsis* Art Director Stephanie Ann Johanson has been nominated in the category Artistic Achievement.

"Writer Hayden Trenholm has been nominated in the Category Best Short-Form Work in English, for his story 'The Luck of Willie Lumen' (Published in issue 3 of *Neo-opsis*).

"Canadians, and permanent residents in Canada, are eligible vote on the awards. Voting is \$6.00, or free with a Westercon 2005 membership. All ballots must be mailed by June 22, 2005, so there isn't much time for voting. Information on the Auroras and voting forms are available at

<http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/> . Information on Westercon (where the awards will be presented this year) is at <http://www.calgaryin2005.org/>

"Karl Johanson, Editor, *Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine*; Art Director, Stephanie Ann Johanson; www.neo-opsis.ca

"*Neo-opsis* Issue 2 Contributors:

- Cover artist Greg Hughes
- Letters to the Magazine this issue includes letters from: Spider Robinson, Robert Aitken, Virginia O'Dine, Debora Jewitt, Paul Stockton, Bill Dean, and Adam Charlesworth.
- Articles, art and editorial commentary by Karl Johanson.
- Interior art by Karen Kazanowski, Benjamin Parker, and Stephanie Ann Johanson.
- Fiction by Karen Sandler, Linda DeMeulemeester, Terry Bramlett, Jonathan Laden, Jerry L. Robinette

- Poetry by Nick Aires.

- Reviews by C. J. Barna, John W. Herbert, and Paula Johanson.
- Toastmaster Speech for the 2003 Hugo Awards" by Spider Robinson.

"*Neo-opsis* issue 3 Contributors:

- Cover artist Adrian Kleinbergen.
- Letters to the Magazine this issue includes letters from Angie Miller, Grant Westby, Bill, Dean, Robert Runté, Leslie Peterson, Daniel Saunders, Sherry Ramsey and Darryl Vermier.
- Articles, art and editorial commentary by Karl Johanson.
- Interior art by Karen Kazanowski, Stephanie Ann Johanson and Maerianne Morrison.
- Fiction by Hayden Trenholm, Greg Beatty, Peter Andrew Smith, Marissa K. Lingen, Nina Munteanu, Janine Cross, Ray Walshe,
- Reviews by Stephanie Ann Johanson and Karl Johanson.

"*Neo-opsis* Issue 4 Contributors:

- Cover artist Murray Vincent.
- Letters to the magazine this issue includes letters from Ray Walshe, Grant Westby, Nina Munteanu, Stephen Roe, Bev Parker and Angela Peterson.
- Articles, art and editorial commentary by Karl Johanson.
- Interior art Karen Kazanowski, Rob Barrett and Stephanie Ann Johanson.
- Fiction by David Soyka, S. A. Parham, Arnaldo Lopez Jr., Sara Joan Berniker, Terry Bramlett, Andy Oldfield, Susie Hawes.
- Review by John Herbert."

Karl Johanson, June 3, 2005

CUFF NEWS

Lyndie Bright writes:

"Greetings Garth, I am declaring Brian Davis the delegate for CUFF in 2005 with seven votes cast for him. I made the deadline June 15 as time was short. I hope you can get the problems with adding to your web page settled, as Brian may have funds toward the next year's event, and he can then use your services. It is difficult to collect votes without PayPal and e-mail voting; perhaps in later years this will be corrected. If more votes come in I will add them to the account for CUFF. I look forward to completing my term and having a last chapter to put into my CUFF chronicles."

(June 16, 2005)

WHAT CUFF IS

In answer to a question from a person donating to the auction in Calgary, Lyndie Bright wrote:

"John Mansfield sent me a note with your question about CUFF. This is the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, a non-profit way to raise funds for science fiction fans across Canada which will enable them to go from East to West or West to East - the trip is to the convention which will host Convention that year. This is to encourage fans to travel to an area they may not otherwise get to, meet other fans and groups, and in their turn help another fan to travel and learn about Canadian conventions. Many of us stay in our local province, others have more access to other areas. This year Brian Davis of Fredericton will travel to Calgary as the CUFF delegate and I am sure he will make an enthusiastic administrator. Your message said that you are able to donate to the CUFF auction and I thank you very much for that! Each item goes to the CUFF fund which pays for air travel, hotel room, and some miscellaneous items for the winner so that their trip is memorable. Over time the cost of travel has risen and a winner may not be selected yearly to allow the fund to grow. A fee of \$5.00 from each voter adds to the total but the auction is also very important to CUFF. Once more thank you for your interest in CUFF and your donation to the auction."

Lyndie Bright, June 7, 2005

Lyndie Bright also writes:

"I am also happy to note more funds are coming into CUFF from Winnipeg this month. I will let you know more when they are deposited after Key con this long weekend and after the CUFF auction on Sunday. It has been a long term and I hope the next term goes better from West to East. (May 16)

"...My suggestion is to open CUFF in Calgary as soon as Convention picks the next location for 2006. Calgary will have a big crowd and more contacts as well. ... With Keycon's auction for CUFF ... I am out to get items. There is an auction also in Calgary at Westercon if you know of things to use for that. (May 17)

“By May 26, the following CUFF donations were received:

From Fran Skene - turkey readings	\$165.00
From Brian Davis, the candidate	5.00
From Keycon auction	318.00

Lyndie Bright, May 16, 2005

Postscript:

I finally buckled down to preparing Lyndie’s material for the amateurish CUFF website I have neglected at www.vcn.bc.ca/~hrothgar/cuff.htm, only to discover the CUFF voting deadline (June 15) had passed. Also, I **still** have not learned how to upload web pages again. (I last did so in Lynx, a DOS-based program, over a telephone modem.)

For future reference purposes I apologized to Lyndie, and I copied the email to previous CUFF delegates for whom I have email addresses.

Garth Spencer, June 16, 2005

OTHER FANFUNDERY

GUFF 2005: “Winners are Damien Warman & Juliette Woods, who will travel from Australia to Interaction. Voting: Sue Ann Barber 8, Alison Barton 7, David Cake 8, DW&JW 37, No Preference etc 7. Total ballots 67: 36 European, 22 Australasian, 9 other.”

Ansible 215, June 2005

CONCOMCON 13 (for June 2006)

Bobbie DuFault writes:

“Con Com Con (aka Ccubed) June 2-4, 2006

“Ccubed is the Northwest’s premier conference for convention planners by convention planners. The focus for the 2006 convention is the sharing of information. The organizers from the North American SF Convention aka Cascadia Con will share what worked and what didn’t as well as information on how to implement some of the more successful endeavors for your own local conventions. A CD and handouts will be provided. We hope to also have information available from Sakuracon on how their move to the Downtown Convention Center went and from SMOFcon on what information what shared at that level.

“For more information, please contact the Ccubed 13 chairman Bobbie DuFault at Chairman@cascadiacon.org or visit the Ccubed Website at www.swoc.org/ccubed/”

Bobbie DuFault, June 13, 2005

CLARKE AWARD

“Once again the presentation (London, 11 May) was surrounded with controversy, since money was desperately tight this year and SF notables

who’d been expecting free drinks were confronted with the stark horror of a cash bar. Otherwise the mood was sunny as China Mieville accepted his second Clarke award, and Sir Arthur’s £2005 cheque, for *Iron Council*. This at last equals the achievement of Pat ‘Two-Clarkes’ Cadigan and entitles Mr Mieville to exclaim ‘Langford, you dog!’ Even the delighted author was surprised by this result, the general sense having been that if one of the ‘mainstream’ contenders (*Cloud Atlas* and *The Time Traveller’s Wife*) didn’t win, the award must surely go to Ian McDonald – also present – for *River of Gods*. But those Clarke judging panels are famously unpredictable. Administrator Paul Kincaid closed the ceremony by saying: ‘Let the arguments begin.’

“... FREDERIK POHL made a surprise appearance at the Clarke event.

“... Simon Bradshaw on Clarke Award funding: ‘the Science Fiction Foundation and Serendip came to an agreement by which SFF will fund up to £1000 of the cost of the Award Ceremony for each of the next five years. SFF Chair Simon Bradshaw commented “the SFF is pleased to continue to support the Clarke Award and we look forward to continuing to work alongside Serendip and the BSFA to raise sponsorship for it.” Simon added that he would be resigning from Serendip’s committee to avoid any perceived conflict of interest, but would continue to support fund-raising activities on behalf of the Award.’”

Ansible 215, June 2005

EVEN MORE AWARDS

The Fountain Award, presented by the Speculative Literature Foundation for short fiction ‘of exceptional literary quality’, went to Jeffrey Ford for ‘The Annals of Eelin-Ok’ (*The Faery Reel*, 2004).

The Hal Clement Award for best YA novel of 2004 went to *Balance of Trade* by Sharon Lee & Steve Miller.

Saturn Awards for genre film/TV have all too many categories. Winning films: SF *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*; FANTASY *Spider-Man 2*; HORROR *Shaun of the Dead*; ACTION/THRILLER: *Kill Bill 2*; ANIMATED *The Incredibles*.

Ansible 215, June 2005

FINALISTS FOR FIFTH ANNUAL SUNBURST AWARD ANNOUNCED

TORONTO (June 13, 2005) – “The short-listed works for the 2005 Sunburst Award are:

THE LAST LIGHT OF THE SUN by Guy Gavriel Kay (Viking)
ISBN 0-670-04319-2

THE MEMORY ARTISTS by Jeffrey Moore (Viking) ISBN 0-670-04520-9

AIRBORN by Kenneth Opper (HarperCollins) ISBN 0-00-200537-9

AIR by Geoff Ryman (St. Martin's) ISBN 0-312-26121-7

THE LOGOGRYPH by Thomas Wharton (Gasperau Press) ISBN 1-894031-91-1

"The award will be presented to the winner on Wednesday, October 5, 2005 as part of the prestigious Harbourfront Reading Series in Toronto. The evening will honour all five authors and feature readings from the short-listed works by each of them.

"The Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic is a prized and juried award that is presented annually. Named after the debut novel by Phyllis Gotlieb, one of the first published authors of contemporary Canadian speculative fiction, the award consists of a cash prize of \$1,000 and a hand-crafted medallion, which incorporates the 'Sunburst' logo, designed by Marcel Gagné. It is based on excellence of writing; the jury selects five short-listed works and one winner, representing the finest of Canadian fantastic literature published during the 2004 calendar year. The jurors for the 2005 award were [Toronto Star columnist] Deirdre Baker, [dark fantasy author] Nancy Baker, [University of Regina professor] Nicholas Ruddick, [former Ottawa bookstore owner and SFSite founder] Rodger Turner, and [acclaimed Albertan novelist] Aritha van Herk. They had the following to say about the short-listed works:

"*THE LAST LIGHT OF THE SUN* by Guy Gavriel Kay - A powerful homage to northern themes, *THE LAST LIGHT OF THE SUN* is an epic saga set in an alternate Britain in which the Fairies preside over the weaving of a magnificent but bloodstained tapestry by Vikings, Celts and Anglo-Saxons. Perhaps only a master fantasist such as Kay could have captured so forcefully the vitality and brutality of life in the Dark Ages.

"*THE MEMORY ARTISTS* by Jeffrey Moore - In this surprising and intriguing novel, a group of characters on a quest for a memory pill excavate their own pacts with the past. Presided over by a ghost-writer who combines diary entries, lab notes, and interviews with 'dramatic reconstructions,' *THE MEMORY ARTISTS* is a brilliant collation of the multiple faces of loss and retention in the aesthetic kingdom of memory. Author Jeffrey Moore explores memory as fabulous torture, blessing and curse, muse and mirage, logos and discovery.

"*AIRBORN* by Kenneth Opper - In an alternate Victorian world, Matt Cruse serves as a cabin boy on the luxury airship *Aurora*. He is on watch when a tattered hot-air balloon crosses the ship's path. Matt rescues its dying passenger through nimble acrobatics. In the adventurer's notebook are drawings of half-bat, half-panther creatures. Do they exist or are they the fevered imaginings of a dying scientist? In *AIRBORN*, Kenneth Opper brings together all of the pieces for an astonishing adventure including: dirigibles, desert islands, pirates, and odd fauna. Readers will find themselves blasting through the pages wanting to know what happens next but dreading the likelihood of disaster.

"*AIR* by Geoff Ryman - 'Mae lived in the last village in the world to go online. After that, everyone else went on Air.' So begins Geoff Ryman's *AIR*, a moving novel about change, tradition, information, power and transformation. Ryman brings us to a remote Asian village one heartbeat in the future, introduces characters who live on the page and linger in the mind, and, in graceful, powerful prose, explores the challenges of negotiating both technological change and everyday life in the human community.

"*THE LOGOGRYPH* by Thomas Wharton - Framed by a boy's interrupted reading, Wharton's book is a playful, amusing series of character studies in which the characters are various kinds of novels and reading experiences. 'You felt sorry for this novel,' one entry begins, and then describes a familiar phenomenon -- the novel that takes over your house, 'hangs its wet socks and underwear across your tidy plans and dreams,' and can't be persuaded to surrender the remote. 'A Bibliography of Imaginary Books,' *THE LOGOGRYPH* is both otherworldly and absolutely down to earth.

"For further information about the Sunburst Award, including information about past nominees, winners, and jurors, please visit: www.sunburstaward.org."

Mici Gold <micigold@sympatico.ca>, 13 Jun 2005

Contact: Felicia Sinusas: pr@sunburstaward.org

BAD MOVIES ANYONE?

"Myself and two friends are planning on holding a 'Mystery Science Theater 3000 Do It Yourself' party on Friday at VCon 30. ... (with a "suggested" donation of \$1 pre-person to cover costs.)

"Also, if you to have a bad movie or movies, please E-mail me at: lungbarrow@shaw.ca."

Ray Seredin to Vconmembers list, June 12, 2005

THOG'S MASTERCLASS

Revisionist Paleontology Dept. 'The megatherium, the ichthyosaurus have paced the earth with seven-league steps and hidden the day with cloud fast wings.' (George Bernard Shaw, *Man and Superman*, 1903) [ECL]

Genealogy Dept Revisited: 'I died to keep you alive, and one day you will die to feed my ancestors.' (Larry Niven and Steve Barnes, *The Barsoom Project*, 1989) [PM]

Strangulation Dept. 'Shock throttled a sob half spent in her throat.' (Jacqueline Lichtenberg, *Farfetch*, 1985)

Dept of Heavy Lifting. 'He swung his white smile around the room like a lighthouse.' (Susan Cooper, *Over Sea, Under Stone*, 1965) [MMW]

Astronomy/Cosmology Dept. 'If his calculations and instruments were correct, he was now outside the home galaxy of the Milky Way and in an entirely new universe, the universe known to him as the Crab Nebula.'

Dept of Preternatural Rigidity. 'He raged and shouted at them from behind the bars which, as she shook them, held as firm as though a fly's feet were touching them.' (both from David Whitaker, *The Dr Who Annual*, 1965) [LC]

Ansible 215, June 2005

BETTER SECURITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

(1) The U.S. Transportation Security Administration has not upgraded equipment at many airports because it can't afford it all. The TSA says that's why its screeners sometimes miss guns, knives and other items passengers carry through security checkpoints. Yet TSA employees at a new operations center in Herndon, Va., spent \$500,000 on artwork and silk plants for their offices, a government auditor says. The building and its furnishings, which houses just 79 employees, cost \$19 million, including a \$350,000 gym, seven kitchens with restaurant-grade appliances, and \$63,099 worth of cable-fed TVs. Even "low level" employees have large private offices. David Stone, the center's manager, says the new building and its decorations are "worth every dollar spent." (*Washington Post*) ...To whom?

(2) A resident in Inverness, Fla., confronted a burglar who was wearing only a sheet. The victim shot the man with a Taser, but the burglar seemed to like it: he asked to be shocked some more. When that wasn't forthcoming, witnesses say, the man grabbed a lamp off a table, unscrewed the bulb and jammed his fingers in the socket. Sheriff's deputies arrived as the man ran out of the house. Shyne Harris Phelps, 39, was booked on charges of kidnapping, burglary, aggravated assault on a law enforcement officer with intent to commit a felony, resisting arrest, battery and criminal mischief. (*St. Petersburg Times*) ...Well sure he had to be charged with battery.

In addition to the stories above, Premium subscribers also read about: Most of the \$4.5 billion of screening devices to secure the nation's transportation facilities after 9/11 already needs to be replaced at an estimated cost of \$7 billion. Man brags in public about his upcoming wedding, which naturally gets back to his wife of 22 years. When robber is recognized by his victim, he says it was just a joke; the cops don't laugh. Florida officials say the best way to warn people of hurricanes and tornados is sending e-mail, but AOL dumps the warnings, calling it spam. A full year of expanded issues is just \$24.

<http://thisistrue.com/upgrade.html>

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AS WE SEE OTHERS

"Terry Pratchett muses in *The Times*: 'I think about the literary world like I think about Tibet. It's quite interesting, it's a long way away from me and it's sure as hell they're never going to make me Dalai Lama'." (4 May)

((*Maybe the Dealy Lama? -FW*))

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS

"Here are the latest fiction shortlists: ADULT Kage Baker, *The Anvil of the World*; Susanna Clarke, *Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell*; Elizabeth Hand, *Mortal Love*; Patricia A. McKillip, *Alphabet of Thorn*; Gene Wolfe, *The Wizard Knight (The Knight and The Wizard)*.

CHILDREN'S Kevin Crossley-Holland, Arthur Trilogy: *The Seeing Stone*, *At the Crossing Places*, and *King of the Middle March*; Nancy Farmer, *Sea of Trolls*; Monica Furlong, trilogy comprising *Wise Child*, *Juniper*, and *Colman*; Garth Nix, The Abhorsen Trilogy: *Sabriel*, *Lirael: Daughter of the Clayr*, and *Abhorsen*; Terry Pratchett, *A Hat Full of Sky*.

Ansible 215, June 2005

RENFEST IN GESTATION

Christina Carr writes:

"I need to build a demographic in order to acquire a producer for our Permanent Site Renfest. I will also be using this as a way to find folks to fill in some of the positions in running and setting it all up. If you have a spare moment could you please go to: <http://www.bcrenfest.com> and fill out the survey. While you are there feel free to read the other pages and look around. There is still more work to do on the page ... but it is mostly complete and should be worth a good look around."

Christina Carr, May 22, 2005

((Re Renfest, KMF scribbled on my draft notes: "The niche is full ... thanks to Eisenmarche [a local SCA branch] doing the fancy play, while Lionsgate [another one] makes war on everyone! And the University of Ithra organizes the studies ... However, if you can get Baroness Amanda's support, you will have EVERYONE in The Known World helping out ..."))

EFANZINES.COM

Bill Burns "added a page for the *Memphen Annual* #1, featuring art by Tom Foster, Ken Fletcher, and Dan Steffan", and updated "Ron Clarke's *Mentor/Watt's Out* page with two new issues of his book review zine" in mid-May, 2005. In *The Drink Tank* #22, "the feature article is intriguingly entitled 'Screw Britannia: Modern British Short Films.'" #24: "In this issue Chris gives a preview of BayCon, at which he's Toastmaster this upcoming weekend, and shares some thoughts on *Comic Book: The Movie*." Also: more and more *Taboo Opinions*, Dick Geis' zine. (<http://efanzines.com>)

"Matthew Appleton announces that *Some Fantastic* #4 is now on line at his website:

'The Spring Supplemental, 2005 issue (Issue #4) of "Some Fantastic" is now available online. The new issue includes a feature piece on growing up with Uncle Philip Jose Farmer and reviews of the Modern Library Classics Edition of H.G. Wells' *The Island of Dr. Moreau*, Stephan Zielinski's *Bad Magic*, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, *Shaun of the Dead*, and Frank Miller's *Batman: The Dark Knight Returns*. Issue #4 also features a mini-rant about The Tiptree Committee's selection of M. John Harrison's *Light*. You can download the PDF file at <http://www.somefantastic.us/>."

Bill Burns, May 20, 2005

THE UNDISCOVERED VANCOUVER COMIC-TOY SHOW

This is a new group (at least to me) doing shows in greater Vancouver BC: <http://www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99/>

Isaac Alexander, May 14, 2005

ORYCON HAS NO MEMBERSHIP CAP THIS YEAR

Patty Wells writes,
"No membership cap. It's one of the advantages of moving to a larger hotel (and we really hadn't needed it the past couple of years for Orycon, what with the economy in the NW and all). So, spread the word that there is no limit."

Patty Wells, May 23, 2005

TOLCON MINI-REVIEW

"Can you tell me where to find the Art Show?"
"You can't miss it. Its the room with all the pictures"

"[By the way] Tolcon was a nice little boutique con. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves, guests, fans, hotel staff, merchants if their expectations were realistic (per capita sales were great, not many capitas though). The con staff was a mixture of Tolkien Society fans and smof veterans borrowed from other cons, who have experience with the venue .. If there were any major problems they were transparent to this old viking...

Conrad something, "Con380", May 16, 2005

GOTH HOUSE NEWSLETTER: 13 MAY 2005

Friday the Thirteenth special! A nightmare:

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

"Also, the conclusion of the latest High School of the Damned storyline, plus the first hour of my 24-hour comic.

"... I visited Bison Bookbinding and Letterpress, a new shop in Bellingham that does, well, real letterpress printing, hand-bound books, and now they're getting into papermaking. In other words, total book arts!

"I love book arts, and have long dreamed of a special-edition Goth House done as book art. I don't have any particular skill in that area myself – and I just assumed I could never, no way, afford to pay someone else to do it.

"But Bison is super reasonable, and very flexible, and they're nice, and they do beautiful work, and so on. So let me gauge the potential market. Let me know:

1. Does anybody but me care if there's a special edition book arts *Goth House*?
2. What is the most you would be willing to pay for one?
3. Are you more or less likely to want one if it is smaller than the usual digest-size Goth House collection?
4. Are you more likely to want one if you get to pick things like what kind of paper the cover is made out of and what color it is?
5. Would you prefer the content be developed specially to take advantage of the book arts medium, or would you prefer a best-of of existing *Goth House* artwork?"

Julie McGalliard, May 16, 2005

Goth House Newsletter: 10 June 2005

"Where's my fortnightly update, they're all saying? Oh where oh where can it be? It's here, two-fer-one:

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

"The second two hours of the 24-hour comic.

"Goth House land has been a little weird lately, because Julie is studying to be a rock star.

“Well, not quite. But you [could have heard] me play the fiddle with the Pulltab Playboys (June 10) in Twisp, Washington, at this place:

<http://www.methowbrewing.com/music.html>

“The Pulltab Playboys (for you Bellinghamsters) are Steve Murray, Jay Irwin, and Belafonte from Clambake, plus a drummer who has to drive all the way from Seattle, because it's hard to find drummers these days.

“(Did I ever mention the next door neighbor we had who, for a while, would START practicing on his drum kit at 2 am? I think his roommates kicked him out before anybody else had to say anything.)



“Anyway, they do country/bluegrass/rockabilly, about half originals and half covers (ranging from The Cramps to Conway Twitty...who has, I think, the most absurd name in all of country music history). Some of the songs are hilarious, some are merely slightly tongue in cheek, some are actually good songs, some are entertaining precisely because they are not good. It's sure to be a fun night.

“(Someday I'm going to get together with Dame Darcy and we'll form an all-cartoonist string quartet.)

“And...the CafePress store has been updated with No Shoes for the Wicked merchandise. Check it out at:

<http://www.cafepress.com/gothousestuff>

“Some things are still left at our house from Hallowe'en: A lab coat. A Loyal Minion shirt. I know who they belong to. I'm keepin' 'em if you don't claim 'em.”



Julie McGalliard, June 10,
2005

*BETTER LIVING THROUGH
TECHNOLOGY*

“READY... AIM... CLICK!
Texas has not yet been able to implement a ban on Internet-based hunting (This is True, 5 December 2004), but it's still working on it since John Lockwood of Rocksprings, Texas, is going ahead with his online hunting plan, which allows people to shoot animals on his ranch with the click

of a mouse. "It's not hunting," says executive vice president Kirby L. Brown of the Texas Wildlife Association, which represents hunters. "It falls off of the end of the ethical chart." Dale Jamieson, a philosophy professor at New York University, takes it further. "Of course the next step in this is that people start killing people over the Internet," he says. "That's the worry." (Los Angeles *Times*) ...No worries: we'll only target spammers. Really. We promise.

ROYALTIES TO BE PAID WITH INVISIBLE MONEY: "Inventor Creates Soundless Sound System" – AP headline

This Is True, May 20, 2005

MORE MEDIA NEWS

"X3 To Shoot in Vancouver From August 2 Through To December 15
http://www.monitoroduty.com/mdarchives/2005/05/x3_to_shoot_in.shtml"

Isaac Alexander, May 24, 2005

JOHN BARTLEY REPORTS

"First, the [threat to the Scots Regiments](#), (*military amalgamation -GS*), and now this:

"As per this diligent MacMillan [reporting in the Washington Post](#), Apple iPods are key elements in an insidiously clever masterplan to snuff out such Scots national culinary treasures as the [Deep Fried Mars Bar](#), [deep-fried haggis](#), and [Scots eggs](#) .

"It's obviously a plan to sap the strength of the Scots, as deep-fried food is nearly sterile, and least likely to result in poisoning by over six hundred varieties of *salmonella* as well as other key elements of biowarfare, such as was [actually used in North America](#) (with confirmation from [Canadian Intelligence](#)) by religious fanatics who opposed the manly Scots diet.

"Low cholesterol levels which might result from this unfried diet have also been linked to reduced cognitive function, as per the following study published in the [Journal of the American Psychosomatic Society](#), based on data from the famous Framingham Study.

"Oh, the humanity!"

John Bartley, May 24, 2005

FOR THE MUSICALLY INCLINED FEN AMONG US...

Cindy Turner writes:

"I am having a house Filk on July 16th. It'll be an all day affair, running approx 2PMish till late. I'm trying to get a sense of how many might be interested in attending, as if there are over 15 people, I may book the amenity hall at my co-op. So far I have 3

confirmed and 4 possibles, but the Amenity room books up early, so if you think you can make it, please let me know ASAP.

“Drop ins are welcome; you do not have to be here all day. But you might *want* to, so that you don’t miss any of the great music.

“There will be munchies and juice; you are encouraged to bring items to share for a casual, potluck dinner.

“I do have some limited crash space for people who might be interested in attending from out of town. My kids are away at camp that weekend, and so bed space and foam mattresses on the floor are up for grabs. I can accommodate 6 - 8 people, depending on how friendly they are.

“There is a gecko and a (psycho) cat in residence for those with allergies.

“Those are the basics. If you have questions or if you want to let me know to expect you, please drop me an email at [Shaddyr \(at\) yahoo.ca](mailto:Shaddyr(at)yahoo.ca) - I check it more often than the telus mail.

“I hope to see some of you folks out there!”

Cindy Turner, May 25, 2005

Chaos is King, and Magic is Loose in the World

THE PAGE THEY CALL THE CITY OF AKAKOR



Purple (at left) explains his City of Akakor website to Garth

Purple/Reptoid, the above-captioned founder of the “City of Akakor” in 2002 (see www.geocities.com/CityofAkakor), bills it as “the world’s first and only combined Pagan Master/slave (BDSM) lodge on the Canadian west coast”. It is named after an ancient city in Brazil. (Theme song is by Richard James.) This is not a role-playing game, the welcome page stresses; this is a meeting place for people who combine some of Purple’s

interests, such as paganism and consensual, ethical BDSM relationships. There are samples of Akakor protocols and relationship contracts.

There are also links to some of Purple’s other concerns, such as chaos magick, and public-interest research into the most conventional conspiracies in public institutions. Those of us who have read David Icke’s works, or Noam Chomsky, will understand the references.

Garth Spencer

Self-abused but still standing

Media File

“Cosmic” Ray Seredin

I’m taking the month off. Yes, I’ve gotten myself a girlfriend (who also happens to be into sci-fi media as well) and I’m getting quite busy helping to run the Burnaby mental health day centre.

Before I go, I would like to send a strong message to the people who run Space: The Imagination Station. Please **stop** caving in to the mundanes. I’m not out water-skiing behind the Langdale-Horseshoe Bay ferry, since ABC will not be picking up the new *Little House on the Prairie* series. However, if Space:TIS adds *Touched by an Angel* to its summer line-up, I’ll start taking lessons again.* Since the fall of 2000, the station whose purpose was to entertain the 7.5% of the Canadians (or 2,400,000) who are regular sci-fi fans has been throwing in the towel to the other 92.5% (29,600,000), Canadian mundanes – not even realizing that a good number of these so-called mundanes are also interested in sci-fi series.

Why not pick up the classic *Doctor Who* (air them in the movie format starting with the Tom Baker episodes), or *Buck Rogers*, or *Space 1999*, or the original *Battlestar Galactica*, or *UFO*, or *Lost in Space*, or *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, or classic *Twilight Zone*, or even *Torga: The Giant Man*, or bring back the Killer B Movies Marathon (i.e. movies that are so bad they’re great!) on Christmas and Boxing Day, or the Canadian Killer B Movies Marathon, on Canada Day?

Just give lesser-known SF series a chance and who knows, there may be a lot more mundanes interested in watching a 1958-59 series about an oversized gentleman who ends up smashing to bits a very large HO scale model railway, than watching angels trying to change mid-to-late-1990s people’s lives.

That's all for this month. I hope to be back for the August edition. 'Til then, be seeing you.

(* Note: Ray is referring to his fixation on actress Melissa Gilbert. -GS)

Osiris is a *black* god

GEDANKENEKSPERIMENT

Garth Spencer

Sometimes I wonder where all the basement/garage/home experimenters went, at least the ones there must have been in early fandom. Perhaps all we need is a practical model for experiments.

If I recall correctly from high school science, you start outlining an experiment by defining a specific *question* to answer, about some definite phenomena. (Or phenomenon, if you're only dealing with one of them.) Before going ahead and designing an experiment and assembling materials, you are expected to gather all sorts of available published *references* which bear on the same question. The next section to appear in an experimental report is a list of *equipment and materials* used in the experiment, after which follows a careful description of the *procedures* followed. The results obtained – preferably from several experimental trials; after which you give a *discussion* of your reasoning, and your *conclusions*. Now you can tell me how full of it I am.

Since fans have historically been impoverished students, or at least impoverished enough to be students, some of the best experiments for us to conduct are thought experiments (*gedankenexperimenten* in German, I think), unless we happen to live next to a junkyard, or a scientific supply house. (Come to think of it, living next to a junkyard could be an excellent way to economize on housing materials. This is not as absurd a suggestion as you may think, at least in Vancouver's housing market.)

There are several thought-experiments we're already familiar with, like alternative timelines or Western separatism or the cybernet future or the Camarilla/Masquerade universe. I'd like to try out some other thought-experiments, to answer questions like "What would an anarchist country look like?" or "why don't we have balloon-suspended pedal-powered vehicles?"

You may come up with other creative ideas, too. I want to encourage creativity, here.

"Individualism leads to individuation leads to isolation"

(Fruvous, May 6, 2005)

Son of the Revenge of the Return of Kaffeeklatsch II

May 28, 2005 at Garth Spencer's place

Present: Ray Sereidin, Garth of course, Felicity Walker, Joe Devoy, Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, and Ryan Hawe.

After a wide-ranging initial conversation we got down to creative reasoning at about 8 p.m.

1. *What do you feel about taking a whole busload of costumed Sci-Fi and fantasy fans to a local mall to promote the upcoming convention? (i.e. VCon)*

Some thought this was a good promotional idea; the next question is, who coordinates VCon publicity? Ray only foresaw the problem presented by a security force's possible response to costumers. Aside from that, how would we get a bus? Charter one? Garth (of course) foresaw that appearing in costume only plays to the stereotypes of fans. Ryan agreed that this was a problem. Someone (of course) said "Rule 6: No Klingons!" Felicity counterproposed the publication of a comic, illustrating what VCon offers.

We agreed that forewarning the merchants in such a mall is mandatory. Ryan argued that we should first find out what kind of promotion already works best, in the real world. He and Felicity went on to discuss the "Look-ism" issues (e.g. who best represents VCon, or BCSFA, or fandom).

Garth (of course) remembered Richard Brandt's article on how to prepare press flacks for convention publicity. It was not clear, though, how applicable Brandt's advice – based on his experience in Texas, in the early 1980s – would be, for a Vancouver convention in 2005 or so; or what differences we have to allow for. (Nevertheless Felicity turned over some names of potential press contacts to Garth.)

Ryan added that Vancouver tends to be a bit inward-looking; it hooks people's interest to play up local connections, e.g. actors in local TV and film productions.

Naturally this led us to discuss Gatecon, the week-long summer media convention featuring actors from a variety of productions. Someone asked, can we write to them, ask whether they have a freebie table, and whether we can place some VCon flyers there? Further talk proceeded about VCon promotional

issues, from past flyer distributions to the current problem with placing flyers in libraries.

2. *Where are we even supposed to find zines?*

Garth, Ryan and Felicity suggested you can get zines at some cafés, bookstores, comic stores, and small independent stores, such as Lugz Coffee on Main Street and Magpie Commercial News, or events such as Comix & Stories.

Garth told a long story about his discovery of fanzines, and of Edmonton fandom just as it was fading, which wound up with the eventual realization that after prozines stopped reviewing fanzines, the *entry points* – to fanzines, as to conventions, or to fandom at large – were not as evident or available to potential fans, before the rise of the Internet.

Felicity discoursed on her rather different introduction to the concepts of fandom and of fanzines, starting no earlier than 2001.

(At no point, if I recall correctly, did we point out the distinction between fanzines in science fiction, and zines about anything else under the sun.)

Our discussion segued from there to the attitudes between fan groups, just within the Lower Mainland. (Seems that in the absence of communication, some members of UBCSFS occasionally imagined attitudes on the part of BCSFA, on no more basis than one or two encounters with individuals.) Garth and Felicity discussed fanzine lounges at conventions, and Garth mentioned the movement of fanzines from paper to online publication.

Ray suggested that it might be an idea for a fanzine library section to appear in Hospitality, at VCon.

Our talk continued to revolve around conventions, their attendance levels in the region, their advertising, their signage techniques (e.g. Norwescon), as well as the reputation of FRED and BCSFA, the mechanics of rumours, and Felicity's interest in "tiki culture" and the fantasies of North Americans in the 1950s.

3. *How much of contemporary culture can – or should – go on to FAQ sheets? (FAQ – Frequently Asked Questions)*

Felicity thought all sorts of documentable culture *could* go on record, but only those subcultures who feel a need to explain themselves *should* do so.

Garth (of course) went on about the frequent non-communication of culture, at least of the necessary information for urban survival. (*Explanatory note:* most of the drivers in the Lower Mainland grasp obvious cultural norms here like driving on the right side of the road, but an astonishing number seem to think the other rules of the road are merely a

matter of personal taste, or opinion. More people ride the buses than can comfortably fit in them, but not all know how to ring for a bus stop, or get the exit door to open. And so on.)

Since this can involve the tricky and arbitrary rules of in-groups and out-groups, Felicity talked about those who include and those who exclude us, and the lack of agreement on what good is obtained by designating groups. Fruvous linked this to the various, discrepant definitions of the role of government, or the highest value it provides. (*I think I read my notes correctly.*)

Felicity said it would be better than providing a FAQ, if people were simply inclined to *ask* for help, or accept a request for help as a legitimate thing to do.

Fruvous and Garth said something about the kind of people who make remarks about "common sense", e.g. in a crisis, when what they refer to is neither common nor sense.

4. *What is your favourite urban legend, or maybe a conspiracy theory you think is a fraud?*

Ray nominated the rather horrible urban legend of the mid-80s, which starts with a guy meeting a girl, and ends with his waking up to a message on the mirror, "Welcome to the wonderful world of AIDS".

Felicity said it was hard to distinguish some sober-sided conspiracy theories from some wacky ones, e.g. Noam Chomsky's from David Icke's. (In formal terms, they have a lot in common; only the content, e.g. a financial/industrial elite versus alien reptoids, distinguishes them.)

Garth said he can't decide on his favourite conspiracy theory – "All of them delight me!"

A general discussion of conspiracy theories followed. Fruvous maintains that we would all, basically, rather believe that even Satan is in charge, than no-one at all.

Ryan says he is torn between two favourite conspiracy theories. The "serious" one is the Cainite vampire mythos, in the original White Wolf version of the game. In this story universe, cabals of vampires covertly run human civilization, basically owning and raising humans while warring with each other ... and dreading the day the original vampires awake and eat everybody.

The silly one is the Great Turkey Conspiracy theory. Michael Barrick (gothic.bc.ca) took a few facts about Benjamin Franklin's preferred American national bird, the nation of Turkey, the renaming of Constantinople, and wove an absurd tissue of sinister suggestion, using the phrases and tropes of conspiracy prose.

Fruvous nominated the theory that the world is run by, and for, grass. It makes sense when you realize that humans mostly live on grains, many of us keep lawns, we cut down rain forests for wheat ... grass is at war with trees! We are but their pawns!!

5. *What kind of activities/functions would you like to see happen within the club (BCSFA)?*

Ray suggested that if Kathleen obtained a barbecue, she could hold a “reclaim the backyard” party. Garth mentioned the defunct August BCSFA barbecue, usually held at Jericho Beach. We talked a bit about current club activities versus ones that have gone dormant, such as video nights. Felicity and Julian mentioned the attempted comics.meetup.org.

By way of making things possible, Ray suggested that BCSFA might use his clubhouse – which is a facility for psychologically-challenged adults – as a meeting place.

Garth asked, is it difficult now to hold events like hot tub nights, or Hallowe'en parties?

Fruvous thinks that Internet invitations draw too many people to meet in one household.

Felicity thought, what about a participatory fanzine, something other than *BCSFazine*? Garth supports the idea. Discussion segued on to fanzine production issues.

How's our driving? Send us an e-mail at wfi@vcn.bc.ca!

(Bonnie Day)

Colophon

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BCSFA's e-mail discussion list may be joined by emailing BCSFA-subscribe@yahooogroups.com

To post a message, email BCSFA@yahooogroups.com.

The shortcut URL to this list is

<http://www.yahooogroups.com/group/BCSFA>

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

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

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

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

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- | | |
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| — You are a member. | — You are a non-member. |
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| — Fell off the back of a truck. | — You're truly, truly, truly outrageous. |
| — The TIME is NOW. We HAVE the TECHNOLOGY. CHILDREN ARE our FUTURE. | |
| — Ancient fannish tradition: when two BCSFAns no agree, we <i>fight</i> – in BCSFADOME!!! | |
| — Hey ... aren't you that guy that was in that thing that came out last year? | |

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