

# BCSFA Zine

#388

\$3.00

September 2005



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## MASTHEAD

*BCSFazine* © September 2005, Volume 33, #9, Issue #388 is the monthly club newsletter published by the BC Science Fiction Association, a social organization. E-mail version (PDF or TXT): \$15.00; New member: \$26.00; Renewal: \$25.00; New Family (2 votes): \$32.00. These prices include subscription to *BCSFazine*. Make cheques payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association), c/o 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, BC, CANADA V3K 5L4.

For comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions, write to: *BCSFazine*, c/o Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6B 5B1, or email [garthspencer@shaw.ca](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca).

*BCSFazine* is printed most excellently by the good people at **Copies Plus, at 1950 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, tel. 604-731-7868.**

*BCSFazine* is distributed monthly at **WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email [whitedwarf@deadwrite.com](mailto:whitedwarf@deadwrite.com).** Single copies \$3.00 each.

## *BCSFA's events this month*

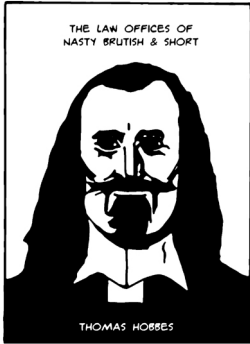
<i>BCSFazine</i> deadline:	Fri. Sept. 9—a good chance to submit paper submissions in person at FRED to the editor
Feeding Frenzy:	Sat. Sept. 10, 7 p.m., at Sammy J. Peppers, 1517 Anderson, Vancouver (Granville Island).
BCSFA meeting/party:	Sat. Sept. 16, 7:09 p.m., at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions. (Show up to find out why the time is so precise.)
Book discussion:	Thu. Sept. 22 at Our Town Café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver; book for discussion is <i>Cryptonomicon</i> , by Neil Stephenson.
<i>BCSFazine</i> production:	Fri. Sept. 23—early distribution at FRED
Kaffeeklatsch:	Sat. Sept. 24, 7 p.m., at Garth Spencer's, 82 East 40 <sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver; phone 604-325-7314 for directions.

## SOLITARY POOR MEAN NASTY BRUTISH & SHORT

I'm getting tired of life. Or my life, anyway. Or the unrewarding life I live in Vancouver. Maybe I'm just getting tired of BCSFA?

Other people have gotten tired of BCSFA and just left; we've seen a lot of people get fed up with being overworked and taken for granted at VCons, which is why we seem to go through whole new convention committees in as little as two years; I've hung in with BCSFA, not only while I've been editor but ever since I moved to Vancouver in '87,

because I frankly didn't know where else to go.



The obvious answer is to make my life more interesting and rewarding, for myself and for others. Again, other people have responded this way, and nobody has recognized Doug Finnerty's efforts – and expenses – in this regard; he has been advertising the book discussion gatherings in local neighbourhood weeklies, he has been carrying much of the cost of producing *BCSFazine* – while I indulged in excessive page counts – and the former club executives struggled to meet at the

same time, and pass on signing authority for the club bank account. If we didn't have our heads up our asses, we would have all nominated Doug for an Aurora Award last year.

Rationally, I know that our members have just been preoccupied with simply surviving, the way I have been. Rationally, I know that most of our membership has gotten older (and busier and more tired), or we have diverged in our interests from SF and fandom so much, we simply bore each other to tears. At least, media fans and gaming fans bore fannish fans and wannabe writers to death.

The Portland SF Society met in August to decide whether to dissolve itself. Presumably they ran into the same reality as we have, that there are several different interest groups pretending to be the same one, and like us, they can't keep up the pretence anymore. Alternatively, the committees of Orycon and Gamestorm realized they really don't need the club, *per se*, and will carry on quite well without it. Are we facing the same decision soon?

Maybe you feel differently. Maybe I'm just being ill and depressed again. It would be good to receive some verbalized, written response *from the majority of you*, for a change, and not just from five or six people who actually care to write. It would be good to see a definite decision made, anyway, what the club is to do and to be.

## LOCS

Greg Slade, [grga@lynx.net](mailto:grga@lynx.net), July 29, 2005

Dear Garth (if that is your real name):

I see you gave my little fic pride of place in this issue. I wasn't sure you'd have the nerve to blow your cover like that.

*((Hey, you outdid yourself. I have to respect that in anyone else, as I do in myself.))*

I have to take issue with Randy Barnhart, who wrote, in part:

*There are silent SF fans everywhere. There was this fellow at my workplace (Fisheries & Oceans Canada) whom I always see reading Bujold, Weber or Ringo. When I asked him about getting involved in fandom, though, he flatly refused. Turns out he was a victim of the old "I just read the stuff" syndrome, which he developed as a result of the media depiction of fandom (he actually used the phrase "Trekkie"!).*

*Too bad.*

As somebody who has been a fan for decades[1], but who has only recently gotten connected with other fans in terms of taking part in organized[2] activities, I find this somewhat offensive. It seems to me far more likely that fan activities will be likely to draw a wider base of participants if those who are already involved seek to understand the needs of those who aren't yet connected, rather than insulting them.



One charge to which many fans seem hypersensitive is that fans are geeks, nerds, or weirdos. Now, having come to terms with the fact of my

own geekhood, nerditude, and weirdosity, I have no trepidation in being called names like that, nor in associating with others who might attract such labels, and thus render me guilty by association. No doubt there are those who fear such a contagion, and for them there is currently little hope.

*((If you will reread what Randy wrote, you will observe that the issue is actually the reader's refusal to find out anything about fans and fandom. This is an issue when fans are trying to do outreach, and their promotions are ignored and refused. But if fans and their sensitivities were actually the issue ...))*

As it happens, I have for some time considered the possibility of creating a charitable foundation, tentatively named the National Endowment for the Remediation of Dysfunctional Socialisation, which would help those suffering from sub-par social skills by giving them experience in social gatherings. The money raised, in short, would go to paying the expenses involved in putting the subjects into situations where they can gain experience in, for example, interacting with attractive members of the opposite sex. Of course, it wouldn't be fair to expect the subjects to undergo treatment which hasn't been proven effective, so I suppose I should undergo the treatment first myself, in order to ensure its effectiveness. I am willing to make this sacrifice in the name of scientific advancement and the betterment of mankind.

*((A shorter term would be Remedial Life Training. I've been thinking a lot about this for fifteen or twenty-five years, and recently decided that there's a limit to the benefits of adapting to Mundania and its social norms. There's also a limit to how much explicit description of Standard Received Anglo™ Culture you can get out of people. I resented this for decades, but as I have finally realized, it's a lot like asking a fish to describe the ocean.))*

However, it does the cause little good when fans are hypersensitive to labels such as this. If I had a dollar for every time I've heard some fan bridle at the mere suggestion that fans might be nerds, when the fan taking offence is so astoundingly geeky that they make *\*me\** appear almost normal by comparison, I might be able to pay my rent. In fact, I'm afraid that this desperate denial of any faint whiff of weirdness marks us fans as undeniably weird. What we need is more of an attitude of "Yeah, so I'm nerdy. What's it to you?" Until we are willing to march in the streets chanting, "We're here, we're weird, so you're just going to have to

adjust to the situation as best you can under the circumstances", fans are going to suffer under the stigma of nerdophobia.

*((Speak for yourself. It just seems to be a fact of life that a group like fandom – well, the several fandoms – attracts people looking for a refuge; anyway, it used to be the case that fandom was known for nerds, but not for the last twenty years, really. It seems to be more of an issue that mouth-breathing redneck jock types [see illustration] simply will light upon any unrepresentative but easily recognizable type – the nerd, the sleazy grifter, the pompous ass – to stereotype any ethnic group, and avoid dealing with people as individuals. I think that's why I don't watch Trailer Park Boys; it's beneath my standards of humour.))*



Maybe we should make a practice of having a march from Commercial Drive (the current epicentre of cool in town, according to *Vancouver Magazine*) to the site of each year's VCon. Yes, we will face opposition at first, but it's high time for us to stand up for our right to live an alternative lifestyle, and besides which, most of us could use the exercise.

*((Yes! Nerd Pride Parades! Geek rights NOW!))*

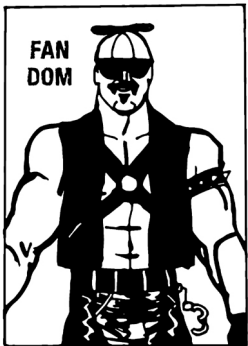


One of the things which frightened me away from going to VCon for some years was Niven, Pournelle, and Flynn's book *Fallen Angels*. You can hardly dismiss that as a media depiction of fandom, in the sense of being written by outsiders. What worried me was not the depiction of fans as being weird (that was downright attractive to somebody like me), nor even of fans as being chronically disorganised (although I have to admit that I was living under the delusion that Niven, Pournelle, and Flynn were exaggerating that aspect of fandom), but rather that those who are involved in fandom have their own in jokes, jargon, and traditions which they *will not explain* to outsiders. In the story, if you don't catch certain allusions, you're marked as an outsider. People might be nice to you, but they'll know, and they'll

let you know, that you don't really belong. Now, since I have gotten involved, I have met any number of fans who have been very helpful in explaining different aspects of fandom to me, but there have also been those who seem to want to turn fandom into a sort of secret society, where only the initiates can reach the inner circle. I suppose any voluntary association is going to have some kind of temptation to exclusivity, but common sense dictates that we cannot simultaneously look down on outsiders for not being part of the group and motivate those outsiders to join the group. You catch more flies with honey than with vinegar, and all that...

*((I don't quite see why Fallen Angels would deter you from VCon; if anything, it paints too rosy a picture of fandom. A very organized, effective, solidary fandom, actually. [Oh, dear; I've used a word nobody knows, again. Oh weep, Oh wail.]*

*((What we actually need is contemporary guides, rather than guides to fannish fandom as of thirty-odd years ago. In fact, there are more fandom guides and glossaries and backgrounders available than we really need, both in hardcopy and online.*



*((The kind of people who form cliques, even within fandom, are not the people worth associating with. Try to distinguish the fakefans from the trufans, please.*

*((Why are greying oldpharts like you and me even talking about adolescent cliquish behaviour? Let's blow this popsicle stand and just do our own fannish stuff and thus resurrect trufannish fandom.))*

In other news, I don't quite groove with Ray Seredin's obsession with seeing *Dr. Who* picked up by an American outlet. We can see it on the CBC, so who cares if our American cousins are missing out? They can't get Red Rose tea, Resdan, or Smarties, either. There have to be **some** reasons for living North of the border.

Nor do I quite get Ray's obsession with the possibility that Space might pick up *Touched by an Angel*. Space's schedule is so full of dreck that it doesn't seem to me that the addition of one more second-rate show is likely to drag the network down significantly lower. As it is, the suggestion that a video room at VCon might consist of a TV tuned to

Space is met with hoots of derision. It seems to me that the only way to get a better grade of fannish programming in this country is to start a *competing* cable network. As it is, Space is currently in a situation like the Maple Leafs under Harold Ballard. Sure it's bad, but where else are fans going to turn? (I keep fantasizing about getting the rights, from the makers of the old *Max Headroom* series, to use the name "Network XXIII", and hiring Matt Frewer to be an announcer, both as Edison Carter and as Max Headroom.)

*((Sure thing; right after we win the lottery, buy a clubhouse, and equip Translink with new brake systems while we're at it.*

*((You have to remember, Ray Seredin is a character actor who brilliantly sends up obsessive mediafan behaviour.))*

[1] Long enough that the word "Trekkie" does apply to me, since I was a fan of TOS long before TNG came out, and, in fact, watched the original broadcasts before the series was cancelled.

[2] I am using the word "organized" ironically, of course.

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Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, August 12, 2005

Greetings to all from the north coast...of Lake Ontario, that is. *BCSFazine* 387 is downloaded, and has been prepared for the loc treatment. But then, is anything ready for MY loc treatment? I think not...

Oooh, those evil Danes! *That's* why they cling desperately to that little Hans Island between Greenland and Baffin Island, for no doubt that's where Mr. Spencer was taken for his indoctrination. Perhaps the head of this Danish service is a big fan of Doctor Geronimo, who knows... (Better stop before anyone Danish or humour-impaired decides to indulge in upscaled rage.)

Been pretty hot in T.O., too. Humidity in the high-30s to low-40s, and I have worn shorts to work for a couple of months now. In a couple of days, I will have been working evenings at the *Globe and Mail* for six months. I am underemployed, but at least that's not being unemployed. Orson Scott Card has been a guest here with *Ad Astra* a couple of times, and I know Mormons who I think would be embarrassed by his intolerance. But then, I have it on good authority that this is his Mormon

upbringing talking. Gaylaxicon will be in Toronto next year...guess Card's not coming.

It's good to see Ray Seredin taking some interest in the hospitality areas of a convention. My experience with the local media convention, especially this past convention, is they see that any kind of hospitality is a drain on resources, and could be better spent on more actor guests. The people who work in the con suite seem to be irritable, as if they'd rather be downstairs, watching the actors cavort on stage.

I'll make a wild and probably incorrect guess...is Felicity Walker being groomed to be the next editor of *BCSFAzine*? Garth can't do it forever, and it probably feels that way, too.

*((Ideally I would be grooming several possible replacements, but yes, I'm setting up Felicity for the position.. What I feel I cannot do forever is preparing a zine for 100-odd people and getting less than a dozen contributors responding. Maybe my sights are set a bit high.))*

Sent Christina Carr my belated birthday greetings. I try not to think of how old I am, and I'm sure she's the same way, but I am reminded when I rise from the couch and hear my joints cracking and popping in protest. We have our fingers crossed for Fran Skene. I hear many stories of treatment and recovery, so we're hopeful and confident. And for JoAnne McBride, congratulations!

I have much confidence in Brian Davis to handle CUFF well. Brian has been seen at many eastern cons, but seeing many of them have gone away, we now see Brian once a year, now at Toronto Trek. I have great hopes for Toronto Trek to stage a good CanVention; they've staged it before, but may need more guidance in that it should be much more than just awarding the Auroras at the last possible moment on the Sunday of the con. I would urge people who want to see a vibrant CanVention to get in touch with the co-chairmen of Toronto Trek 20, Sharon Vernon, Andrew Gurudata and Lance Sibley, and tell them what you wish to see. Toronto Trek's website address has changed to [www.tcon.ca](http://www.tcon.ca).

What's my favourite programme on Space: The Imagination Station? "Space News", "Shelf Space", anything they do in-house. Continuous reruns have little appeal for me, although if they ever got *Babylon 5* back... Kim Poirier is the new host of "Space News". I decided to go for that job, but I guess Kim is much cuter than I'll ever be. Much younger, too.

*((I might as well confess here and now that I am a Dirty Old Man. I lust after prettyfaces like Kim Poirier. I say this merely to defuse*

*potential future charges that I harbour ulterior hidden motives; I will hide nothing. Maybe this will help build up my legal defences in the future ... ))*

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*BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 36.387, Thursday 11 August 2005 (BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, [felicity4711@hotmail.com](mailto:felicity4711@hotmail.com))*

**The Secret Life of Garth Spencer:** Read and enjoyed.

**Letters of Comment - Randy Barnhart:** "Nice cover, Felicity, and a lovely shout out to Molly Ivins!" Thank you! Half the credit for the cover goes to Ryan Hawe, but I'm glad someone caught my reference to Ivins.

Re.: Orson Scott Card: Elf Sternberg should write a gay slash-fic based on Card's characters.

**Lloyd & Yvonne Penney:** "*Friend of mine knew he was working on computers too long when he spotted a can of root beer and thought the name meant High Resolution.*" I have the obverse story. In the 1980s, when I had a Commodore 64, a friend brought over a disk with a graphics program called *Hires View*, and from the way he pronounced "Hires" I felt sure there had to be some connection to root beer. There wasn't; there was just surprisingly high-resolution graphics.

This type of thing could be avoided if people would *just hyphenate*.

*"Sounds like Ray is a determined media fan. He knows what he wants, he knows who to talk to, and he knows that if he pesters people long enough for what he wants, he's got a good chance of getting it. Ray, perhaps you should set up the convention you want, with what you want in it. Otherwise, you're just irritating the people you're pestering."* For what it's worth, Ray has volunteered his labour for the things he wants done, like a video room and hospitality with late hours.

**Ray Seredin:** "*((When you say "should," what exactly does that mean to you: better service for the congoers, less work or more revenue for the committee, or less hassle with the hotel?))*" From his LOC, it sounds like Ray meant better service for congoers and more revenue for the committee.

*"((Try to remember that the concom's volunteer manpower is always limited.))"* For what it's worth, Ray has volunteered his labour for the things he wants done, like a video room and hospitality with late hours.

((Good for him, sez I.))

**Felicity Walker:** *“Unclassified Ads: Imperial Hobbies—I either didn’t receive, or had lost my current membership card. I still don’t know which it is. Help!”* I was at Imperial Hobbies again this morning and I realised I *still* don’t have my membership card. Help!

((What say, Doug?))

**News-Like Substances - Fran Skene:** I wanted to say something supportive on the BCSFA YAHOO! Group in response to Fran’s news, but I couldn’t think of anything that didn’t sound superfluous. I hope she knows that I wish her well.

**Movie Review:** I enjoyed Greg’s review of *The Island*. I disagree that *“logical and continuity flaws pale into insignificance beside bad science.”* The person who wrote *The Island* (someone named Caspian Tredwell-Owen, of all things) may not understand cloning, but internal consistency is even more fundamental.

“Inevitably, people will tend to describe it in terms of other films.” The best comparison I’ve yet seen is to *Parts: The Clonus Horror*: <http://www.agonybooth.com/parts/island.asp>

**Media File:** *“Although I haven’t seen the film yet, the locally-produced Fantastic Four sucks.”* I haven’t seen it either, but I have seen trailers and commercials, and I get the impression that I’d probably prefer the bad 1994 version that was only made to hold onto the film rights. I’m sure the 2005 version has a bigger budget and better production values, but still.

**Why You Got This:** I *didn’t* get this! I’m still waiting for my hard copy!

☺

“You misplaced Felicity’s ‘why you got this’ list.” OK. Here it is, taken from my proofreading copy of last month’s *BCSFAzine*:

- You are a member.
- You are a non-member.
- You are a liberal secular rational humanist.
- You demanded it.
- You are Team BCSFA! *Go Team BCSFA!*
- You are this corporation’s flagship brand.
- You handled infectious material containing *bcsfazinococcus*.

That last one is the best, and was written by Joe Devoy. May the next print run yield enough *bcsfazinococci* for everyone!

---

Tara Wayne, August 19, 2005

Got the latest issue. Naturally I have to think of some way you could improve the effort -- can't have you getting complacent. So for the record, it could have been blue paper instead of yellow.

### MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS IN SEPTEMBER

(I can only identify half of these people! -GS)

Sept. 04: **Dixie Mueller**  
 Sept. 09: **Rick Smith**  
 Sept. 13: **Sam Dulmage**  
 Sept. 15: **Mike Jackson**  
 Sept. 17: **Sylvia Skene**  
 Sept. 19: **Lisa Smedman**  
 Sept. 24: **Geoff Barton**  
 Sept. 29: **Rastus Witherspoon-Li**  
 Sept. 30: **Mike Lesiak**

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## CONVENTION CALENDAR

### September 2005

Sept. 1-5: **NASFiC/CascadiaCon 2005**, the 2005 NASFiC, at the SeaTac Hilton & Conference Center in SeaTac, Washington. (The 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, or see [www.cascadiacon.org](http://www.cascadiacon.org).

Sept. 3-5: **HP Lovecraft's Birthday Party** in Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Registration: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. See <http://www.vancouvergamingguild.com/>.

Sept. 3-5: **Kumoricon 2005** (anime convention) with GoH Toshifumi Yoshida, at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center Portland-Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97237, tel (503) 281-6111. Room rate \$99/nite. Group reservation code: JAA. Preregistration: \$35 until August 12. Registration/Operations head is Lyle Clingsan, [registration@kumoricon.org](mailto:registration@kumoricon.org).

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

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

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

### October 2005

Oct. 7-9: **VCon 30** at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, BC. Writer GoH Robert Silverberg, Special GoH Todd Lockwood. A local general-interest convention, with full range of convention features and activities, writers' workshop, and the Elron Awards. Dealers' tables: \$60 for first table, with 1 included membership; \$50 for additional table, with 1 included membership; \$30 for each additional membership. (Writers' workshop info) Preregistration until September 15, 2005, adults \$50, children \$25; at the door, adults \$60, children \$30 each. Payment accepted by cheque, money order or Visa. Day memberships are available. See [www.v-con.ca](http://www.v-con.ca) for updates. Write to VCon 30, c/o #209 - 2166 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 2A4.

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

Oct. 21-23: **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>

Oct. 21-23: **Conifur Northwest**, SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, Seattle, WA. Furry/Anthropomorphic convention. Guest: David Hopkins. Hotel #: 800-333-3333. Rooms \$89/nite. Memberships \$45 at the door. For more information, see [www.conifur.org](http://www.conifur.org) or write ConiFur Northwest,

13619 Mukilteo Speedway, Suite D5, PMB 172, Lynnwood, WA 98037-1606; email [director@conifur.org](mailto:director@conifur.org).

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

Oct. 28-30: **Dreamcon 20** in Everett, WA. Author & Artist GoHs: Phil & Kaja Foglio. Venue: The Quality Inn Hotel & Conference Center, and Comfort Inn and Suites; both hotels are at 101 – 128<sup>th</sup> Street, Everett, WA 98208. (off I-5 exit #186). Reservations for standard sleeping rooms can be made by phoning... \*425-337-2900 or 1-800-256-8137 Be sure to mention "Dreamcon" when you make your reservation. Convention Rates: \$79.00 per night for single rooms \$89.00 per night for double rooms \$99.00 per night for suites (see sidebar) (All rates are plus applicable tax) Memberships: \$35.00 US until September 30, 2005; \$40.00 US at the door; \$15.00 US Friday Only; \$25.00 US Saturday or Sunday Only. See <http://dreamconwa.org> or write Dreamcon 20, 20126 Ballinger Way NE #247, Shoreline, WA 98155, U.S.A.

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

## November 2005

Nov. 4-6: **Orycon 27** at the **Portland Marriott Waterfront Downtown** 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](mailto:orycon27@hotmail.com), see [www.orycon.org](http://www.orycon.org) or write Orycon 27, P.O. Box 5464, Portland, OR 97228-5464, U.S.A.

Nov. 20: **Vancouver Comicon** in Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Admission: \$3. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto: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](http://www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99), or email [funpromo@shaw.ca](mailto:funpromo@shaw.ca).

## Dec. 2005

Dec. 2-4: **SMOFCon 23** (Theme: "Expecting the Unexpected") at the Red Lion Convention Center Hotel in Portland, OR. Tel. 1-800-343-1822. Rooms \$69/nite; hotel # is 800-343-1822. CORRECTION: David Schaber is Chair, Patty Wells is Programming. Memberships \$65 to November 15. Write P.O. Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703; tel. (503) 283-0802. URL: [www.osfci.org/smofcon/](http://www.osfci.org/smofcon/)

## 2006

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

Feb. 24-26: **Potlatch 15** at the Best Western Executive Inn, Seattle, WA <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/>. Membership \$45/more at the door. SEE NEWS SECTION

June 2-4: **ConComCon**, the Northwest's premier conference for convention planners by convention planners. Focus for 2006: sharing of information. The organizers from the North American SF Convention aka Cascadia Con will share s. A CD and handouts will be provided. Contact the Ccubed 13 chairman Bobbie DuFault at [Chairman@cascadiacon.org](mailto:Chairman@cascadiacon.org) or visit the Ccubed Website at [www.swoc.org/ccubed/](http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/)



## NEWS YOU MAY OR MAY NOT GIVE A DAMN ABOUT

### *WE GOT ELECTIONS COMING UP*

The Annual General Meeting of BCSFA is coming up this October. The existing executive, as listed in *BCSFAzine's* masthead ~~until recent months~~, is up for re-election – or replacement. (This includes the editor).

### *SON OF FRED, etc.*

FANS - “some of us have wanted (rather desperately) to find a different venue for quite some time – somewhere with lower music volume levels and less background noise, better food, and a more ideal seating area.” (*B. Dryer*) What Greg Slade dubbed “Fannish Activity on the North Shore” is held simultaneously with FRED at Denny’s in Yaletown, but FANS is held at the Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14<sup>th</sup> St (at Lonsdale), North Vancouver.

Steve Samuel suggested something like why not hold it on *Thursday*, like some events he remembers in Edmonton, but I forgot to write down just what he said.

### *LAST GASP CON*

The SeaTac Radisson (formerly Hyatt), site of many SF conventions, will be torn down as part of the SeaTac airport expansion. Michael and Becky Citrak of Norwescon propose to hold a party to celebrate good memories created there. Some of the conventions were Seacon (the 1961 Worldcon), Norwescons 2 through 7, Rustycon 1, 2, 5, 6, and some recent ones, Anglicons, Tolcons, “Courageous Necrocon”, Conifur Northwest 2005, some ConComCons, and the Radisson is the secondary hotel occupied by CascadiaCon, this year’s NASFiC.

The date for Last Gasp Con was unfixed, as of July 2005, but discussion continues on the sfnorthwest email list. As well as soliciting memberships, the Citraks solicit remembrances from people who attended the foregoing events – was this the site of your first con, what were your favourite panels there, who were your favourite guests, did you volunteer, do you regret anything you did or saw there, did you meet your spouse or a lifelong friend there. Last Gasp Con will be a SWOC sponsored event. For more information, contact the Citraks at P.O. Box 5181, Lacey, WA 98509, or email [mcitrak@comcast.net](mailto:mcitrak@comcast.net).

*Westwind 272, July & August 2005*

## *FROM THE UNIVERSE NEXT DOOR: CASCADIA IN BRIEF*

(If you’re going to Cascadiacon, the NASFiC being held in the Seattle-Tacoma area this year, here’s some of the “independent West Coast culture” mythos, as created by Dara Korra’ti in Seattle ...)

### *Introduction to Cascadia*

Cascadia, a parliamentary republic located on the central and north-western coast of North America, gained its independence in 1973, following the temporary collapse of Federal authority in the United States of America. This chaotic period following the end of the Vietnamese-American War spawned revivals of regionalism across the North American continent, leading to the temporary or long-term independence of several states and provinces. At the 30-year point, several have emerged as viable economic and political entities looking in very different directions.

### *An Overview of the Historical Origins of Cascadia*

The North American map has changed significantly since the end of World War II. At the time the Axis powers were defeated by a series of nuclear strikes starting with Dresden, Germany and ending with the Japanese colonial puppet government in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, there were six nations in North America: the United States, Canada, the Republic of Texas, the Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) state of Deseret, Mexico, and the California Republic. All six were active in the war on the Allied side, with Canada entering as part of the greater British Commonwealth in 1939, the Republic of Texas entering in 1940 following Nazi attacks on its shipping, and the rest of the involved countries entering between 1940 and early 1942. ...

### *The early 20th Century*

The first half of the 20th century saw tremendous improvements in relationships between the various large-bordered and thinly-populated countries. A continental railroad network provided strong trade links between the newly-prosperous Republic of Texas and California Republic, with the industrial and agricultural powerhouse of the United States becoming deeply involved with both. Canada, too, shared in the growing North American prosperity, despite its closer ties with the British Empire. Canadian fears of American adventurism headed northwards never materialised, and through the booming 1920s, North America began to hold itself up as a model for peaceful inter-country cooperation on a continental level - a new chapter in the growing novel, "How not to act like those jerks in Europe."

The Great Depression of 1929 did little to change the spirit between the nations. With the North American countries having been largely exempted from the Smoot-Hartley tariff walls thanks to early efforts towards what would later become the North American Open Trade Area (NAOTA), Europe, again, set the

bad example by spiraling downward towards war. With the advent of open hostilities, the stage was set for seven long years of brutal war.

#### *Post-war North America*

The North American countries, having been almost entirely spared the devastation visited upon Europe, quickly entered into a period of economic prosperity. The North American Open Trade Area (NAOTA) was quickly formalised, and free-flowing Texas and American crude spawned a rush to newly-built tract housing. Californian troops returning from the Southern Occupied Zone in Japan seemed particularly enthusiastic about the prospect, as their nation fell particularly in love with the automobile and all the promises it brought of semi-rural life. Only Deseret and the Cascadian and New England areas of the United States seemed relatively uninterested; Deseret because of its religious aesthetic movement, New England because of its pre-existing population density, and Cascadia for reasons significantly related to geographic constraint. This was, perhaps, an early notice of that last region's divergence from the United States, culturally; indeed, its left-leaning politics earned then-Washington State the nickname of "America's Soviet Republic," and its largest city, Seattle, the appellation, "America's Canadian City." Clearly, the region was searching for its own identity, working to combine a large Asian population with its Scandinavian-American backbone, even before the crisis years of the Great Oil Bust.

The years of the Cold War, of course, require much greater discussion than can be afforded at this time. American and Texan forces more and more often found themselves fighting side by side in anti-Communist "police actions" and wars, starting with Korea in 1948. Deseret quickly became a country known for its anti-war stances, adopting a pacifist amendment to its constitution in 1953. California Republic military focus shifted primarily towards protecting shipping as diplomatic friction arose over the end of the occupation of Japan, particularly regarding certain elements of the new Japanese constitution; to this day, the areas of Japan formerly occupied by Californian troops are known for their relative nonconformity and economic diversity (see the article, "Japan's 'New Idea' Zone," previously published).

Meanwhile, in the United States and Canada, the continent's two largest countries, regionalisms again began making themselves known. British Columbians began to resent Ottawa's attempts to build a stronger central government to control the province's exploitation of its natural resources. French-speaking Quebec, with support from the post-war French government of Charles DeGaulle, began to assert itself over language and cultural issues. In the United States, both the Cascadian and New England regions spawned social movements against both segregation in the American south, and the fundamentalist movement in the American Midwest. Economic strength and rising standards of living helped keep discussions civil - for a while.

#### *The American-Vietnamese War*

The fiasco of the American-Vietnamese War, however, began to break down the already-weak social bonds holding the American nation together. The Americans of the South and Midwest continued to be strong, even overwhelming supporters, while the New England and Cascadian regions were at least as stridently opposed. This, combined with a national civil rights struggle which would end segregation in the United States, further exacerbated regional tensions, with President Goldwater winning re-election in 1964 with the most geographically-divided electorate since the election of President Lincoln - and things did not get better. President Goldwater's desire to extend the war to China could not gain Congressional support, and attempts to negotiate a settlement between North and South Vietnam were simply unacceptable to their Texan allies, who demanded a march to Hanoi - something the American Congress was convinced would prompt a massive Chinese intervention.

Canadian-American, Deseret-American, and Californian-American relationships sank to new lows as all three countries accepted both American and Texan "draft dodgers" as political refugees. By 1967, inductee rates from the Pacific Northwest and New England regions had dropped nearly to zero, as state officials refused to apprehend or prosecute those young men unwilling to report when drafted.

#### *The American Election of 1968.*

In 1968, backlash against the civil rights movement in the south reached its zenith with the re-creation of the States Rights Party and its nominee, segregationist George C. Wallace. While Wallace had no chance of winning - support for segregation had already dropped precipitously, even in its strongholds - it, combined with the nomination of Cascadian National Party firebrand Dixy Lee Ray for president in three states, siphoned away enough votes from Democratic nominee Hubert Humphrey and the sardonic Republican Robert Dole to throw the race into the House of Representatives.

#### *Stalemate in the House*

As negotiations over a Presidential selection raged on in Washington, with anti-war Democrats refusing to accept the pro-war Hubert Humphrey or the conservative Robert Dole, Washington State and Oregon port officials began to refuse co-operation with Federal military officials over the war. With no clear successor to Barry Goldwater ready, Washington, DC did little to address the problem, forcing the American Army and Navy to rely on ships being sent through the Panama Canal from military bases along the Gulf Coast.

By the time Nelson Rockefeller emerged as a compromise President, the American government had been officially without a head of state for a month and a half, and Washington State and Oregon had been in non-compliance with Federal mandates for almost four months. American forces in Vietnam had continued to operate under the joint American-Texan Military Command,

claiming significant success against Viet Cong forces in the aftermath of the Tet offensive. Upon taking office, Rockefeller immediately reiterated the necessity of a negotiated end to the war, and began a national tour to attempt to reunite the country, as well as extending several new diplomatic initiatives in an attempt to legitimize the Paris peace talks. Whether this effort would have been successful will be debated by historians for decades to come - early indications were promising - but his assassination in May of 1969 by a crazed gunman ended the effort.

In the Senate, the nomination and approval of Vice-President Edmund Muskie had proceeded apace, producing the first multiparty administration since the adoption of the 12th Amendment to the American Constitution in 1804, and he took the oath of office aboard Air Force Two within an hour of the death of President Rockefeller. His relative inexperience began to show immediately; his attempt to use troops to enforce Federal military mandates in Washington State and Oregon led directly to the beginnings of open rebellion in those states, and, on a barely more peaceful note, mass protests against the Federal government.

Cascadian National Party candidates swept both states' off-year elections in 1970, and CNP candidates, as promised, refused to recognise the authority of the Federal government, costing both states their representation in the Federal capital. The CNP, which by this time had spread to British Columbia, set up a government-in-exile in Victoria, as the provincial capital became the provisional capital. US-Canadian relations took an immediate nosedive, with President Muskie accusing the Canadian government - quite rightly - of allowing British Columbia to harbour anti-American revolutionaries.

#### *The Election of 1972 and the Crash of 1973*

President Muskie's attempts to continue President Rockefeller's policies led to a collapse of the American war effort in Vietnam by 1971; with American forces operating only by force on the then-American West Coast, and non-cooperation from California, frustration and exhaustion on the part of the Americans resulted in a near-complete withdrawal of forces by December. At that point, only Texan forces remained in Vietnam to continue the war effort.

The Texas military machine, meanwhile, drew massive amounts of the primary Texan natural resource - oil - and it was forced to divert more of these resources to the war effort it now undertook alone. When output began to drop in 1972 - due in part to overpumping, but mostly simply due to passing the point of peak production - the already-shaky American economy was forced to adjust to the prospect of massive oil imports at higher and higher prices.

As the American economy was already in recession, as is typical after armed conflicts, when the OPEC oil embargo hit, the United States was unable to continue enforcing its will upon regions that were not interested in going along. The states of Washington and Oregon declared formal independence on May 12th, 1973.

Transcontinental transportation largely collapsed. While the United States worked to keep its sole ally in the Middle East - democratic Israel - afloat, and keep the USSR at bay with its massive nuclear ICBM arsenal, it was in no position to take military action in its own back yard - and there was zero support for the nuclear option on the continent. Alaska, seeing that it could get away with it, quickly followed - while simultaneously declaring that United States military installations in the country could stay, free of charge. This strange arrangement, somewhere between devolution and full independence, became a model for the Third New England Confederation shortly thereafter. Nevada, always highly dependent upon cheap oil to keep its heavily-tourism-dominated economy running, saw a complete collapse of both Federal and State authority for a period of several years.

Canada found itself in a similar, though lesser, situation - there was never any threat of military action - with the secession of British Columbia and Quebec from Canada in August of 1973. Ironically, Quebec rejoined Canada as soon as they realised they did not have the money to complete their massive hydroelectric projects on their own - but did so in a much stronger political position, following the theme of Sovereignty-Associationism\*, about which much has been written elsewhere. This strange parallel government system has survived until today.

\* C.f. "A View of the Parallel Ways: Sovereignty-Associationist Girl Nanami," HARNUM, Alan, and CORRIGAN, Paul., pub. 1 July 2002 issue of *FFML Revolution*, nr. 204.

#### *1974: An Overview*

The realignment of powers in North America was not yet over, however. Seeing the success of Quebec and Alaska, the Third New England Confederation negotiated a partial separation of powers from the Federal government, with unexpected support from conservatives in the southern states who saw the new policy as an opportunity to reassert the States Rights doctrine. Black separatists fought and won the establishment of a semi-autonomous region in South Carolina.

The California Republic - which, like the United States and Texas, had supported Israel as the only democratic state in the Middle East - had also come under boycott by the OPEC nations, and had faced an economic crisis similar to that of the Americans. With even less natural oil resource than the USA, it found itself forced to negotiate a settlement when Sierra revolutionaries, sponsored in large part by expatriates to the north, declared the independence of several northern California counties in the brief but effective Second War of the Redwoods. Sierra negotiated first an alliance with Cascadia in 1975 when faced with a renewed threat from California armed forces, then full membership in the Republic of Cascadia almost immediately thereafter.

### *The Resource Wars of 1975*

With the American government still in disarray and the California Republic legitimately facing armed banditry from Americans in Nevada, California seized several key water and resource sources along its eastern border, extending its boundaries further east by dozens of miles. Newly-independent Cascadia watched as unexpected support for the Cascadian cause erupted in northern Idaho, immediately accepting the northern counties of Idaho under Cascadian protection, and eventually, full integration into Washington (no longer "Washington State").

All this makes it sound much more aboveboard than it was, and far more organized. In reality, the fog of war was never thicker in the modern era than in this period in the North American West. Paramilitaries operating with government license - modern-day privateers operating on land - often seized targets of use to one government or another. There are persistent theories that Nevada was allowed to lose territory to the Republic of California solely for the purpose of driving it, and other Mountain states, back to Washington, DC for protection - it is worthwhile to note the failure of Californian forces to take any of the most important uranium resources in that state. The full extent of Idaho cooperation with the northern county secession has never been understood, and probably never will be. This was truly a reappearance of the North American frontier, albeit a brief one, and the exact history will likely never be known.

### *The Calming of 1980*

Having missed one election, the American people were not ready to miss a second, and in 1980, elected Democrat Jimmy Carter to the White House. While President Carter's term was neither easy nor completely successful, his alternative-energy programme combined with as much support as the American government could muster for oil exploration in non-OPEC countries and the appointment of persons with aggressive approaches to inflation control eventually broke the back of the Arab oil cartel, and his calm approach to international affairs - and his extremely unpopular recognition of Cascadia, the adjusted California Republic borders, and the de facto sovereignty-association relationship with the New England Confederation - helped, along with a good personal relationship with Cascadian president Dixy Lee Ray - to bring about a rapprochement between Americans and Cascadians. However, his failure to retake the Cascadian states prompted bitter retaliation from Southern voters, who rejected their native son, electing Republican George H. W. Bush, who moved from Connecticut to Oklahoma after the formation of the Third New England Confederation, to the presidency in 1984. President Bush's New England roots served him well, enabling him to lure the NEC further back into the general American governmental system, resulting in a general devolution of Federal power back to the states - a condition that left the NEC virtually identical to the rest of the country in fact, if not in name. His appointment of Alan Greenspan to succeed Paul Volkovich helped continue the recovery of the

dollar and combat inflation, producing a sustained economic recovery throughout the 1980s and 1990s.

Cascadia, given the opportunity for formal recognition, took it, and the government immediately began its famous "Starting our Own Family" campaign. "Think of us as having grown up," said President Dixy Lee Ray on her first trip to Ottawa as a foreign leader, "Think of us as having married, and moved out. With love and good will for sure - we'll write! We'll call! We promise! But we've gone to start our own family, and to live our own lives." Cloying but effective, this slogan was supplemented in the United States by Cascadian agreement to agreeing to accept a percentage of the United States debt burden, albeit in kronars, not dollars.

At home, President Ray spearheaded a campaign to build domestic energy supplies. New dams, wind farms (in the west, or "wet" side) and nuclear power plants (in the east) immediately dotted the landscape and, combined with a crash conservation/home insulation/transit infrastructure programme, created an export market in electricity. Reciprocal recognition with California - slow, given the recent history of Sierra - occurred in 1983, the promise of cheap Cascadian electricity too much to pass up. By 1988, electric lines connecting Sierra and California were repaired and transmitting power south.

With its strong, export-dominated economy, Cascadia quickly paid off its inherited debt, heading into the 1990s with a stable kronar and rapidly-strengthening trade relationships with countries both on-continent and across the Pacific. By 1989, Cascadia was one of the few countries in the world on trade parity with Japan.

R. Korra'ti, 2005-08-15  
(for Cascadiacon/NASFiC 2005)

*FRED SABERHAGEN* is being treated for prostate cancer. [Trufen.net]  
*Ansible* 217, August 2005

*FANFUNDERY*. Welcome to Glasgow: TAFF winner Suzanne `Suzle' Tompkins, and GUFF winners Damien Warner and Juliette Woods.  
*Ansible* 217, August 2005

### *FROM THE POTLATCH 15 PROGRESS REPORT*

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR (Ulrika O'Brien): They tell me that a word from the chair is traditional at moments like this. How about "polydactyl"? Or possibly "aspergill"? Yes, I know this is where I'm 'sposed to tell you what a fabulous team we've laid on for Potlatch 15 (Pssst! We've laid on a fab team! Some old favorites, some new blood, and just a whiff of dry vermouth!), and what keen things we're planning on doing (Hey, keen things afoot! A cabaret evening of earthly delights on Saturday! A brand new play by Andy Hooper on Sunday! Anita Rowland's ever fabulous hospitality all weekend long!), and how very excited I am to be part of it all (woo!). But truth? I don't think anyone reads

this part. So why don't you pretend that I wrote a prosy and platitudinous paragraph with the usual chestnuts, and I will pretend that you read it? Great! See you at Potlatch 15.

**VERY IMPORTANT ADDRESS CHANGE:** Due to circumstances entirely within our control, the original batch of Potlatch 15 flyers had the wrong address on them for the convention. Our correct address is Potlatch 15, C/O S. Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165; <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/>.

**HOTEL INFORMATION** (Suzanne Tompkins):

For Potlatch 15, we are back at the Best Western Executive Inn, located near Seattle Center, the Space Needle, and the Experience Music Project (think SF Museum!), just north of downtown on Lower Queen Anne Hill. (BEST WESTERN EXECUTIVE INN, 200 Taylor Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109, Phone: 206-448-9444, Fax: 206-441-7929, Toll Free Reservations: 800-351-9444, <http://www.bwexec-inn.com/>, [info@bwexec-inn.com](mailto:info@bwexec-inn.com) ...) New at the hotel: The hotel now has free Wi-Fi, with adapters available. The Executive Inn is now the downtown Seattle stop for the Quick Shuttle, which runs from downtown Vancouver, BC to SeaTac Airport. (<http://www.quickcoach.com/>) ...

One other change at the Executive Inn: all rooms are now non-smoking. However, the hotel is also now the owner of the nearby Best Western Loyal Inn, whose rates are the same ... We will have a small block of rooms at the Loyal Inn as well, to accommodate the smokers.

**How to Reserve Rooms:** We again have some really great room rates for downtown Seattle, where most rack rates are above \$100 even for fairly low-end accommodations. Potlatch rates are: \$79.00/single or double occupancy; \$99.00/triple or quad plus tax.

There is one caveat to having these convention rates: PLEASE DO NOT USE BEST WESTERN'S ON-LINE RESERVATION SERVICE OR NATIONAL "800 #" TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATIONS. ... If you have questions about the hotels or need help with a travel-related problem, please email Suzanne Tompkins at [hotel@potlatch-sf.org](mailto:hotel@potlatch-sf.org)

**BOOK OF HONOR:** Potlatch 15 will have a BoH but the selection process is not yet complete. We have several worthy nominees and expect to choose one soon. That information will be disseminated in flyers and subsequent PRs. It will also be posted on our spiffy website: <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/>, always a source for the most up to the minute news.

**PROGRAMMING** (Blunt Jackson): If you want to participate in the discussion end of programming, please sign up for our discussion email list: P15disc at <http://groups.yahoo.com>. Potlatch encourages program participants to talk before the convention, so that when the time comes, the topic can be explored in some depth. This year, we'd like EVERYONE to participate in brainstorming and sharing ideas, for panels, roundtables, books to talk about, and more.

Write to [info@potlatch-sf.org](mailto:info@potlatch-sf.org)

"Jane E. Hawkins" <[jhawk@oz.net](mailto:jhawk@oz.net)>, 16 Jul 2005

### *125 THINGS WE DON'T KNOW WEB ARTICLE*

<http://www.sciencemag.org/sciext/125th/>

A really fascinating piece detailing 125 as-yet-unanswered scientific questions, with detailed essays on the top 25.

Definitely a whole smorgasbord of food for thought!

Michael Bertrand, July 5, 2005

*SHAMELESS.* "The SF world was thrilled by the discovery of a new body orbiting nine billion miles beyond respectable space. Officially known only as ISBN-1930997787, it has been informally named after the TV series *Remainda, Warrior Princess...*"

*Ansible* 217, August 2005

*((If you're clued out, the joke here is that someone wanted to name the 10<sup>th</sup> planet Xena. -GS))*

### *SPOT THE NON-ISSUE*

Human-brained monkeys: "In cutting-edge experiments, scientists have injected human brain cells into monkey fetuses to study the effects.

"Critics argue that if these fetuses are allowed to develop into self-aware subjects, science will be thrown into an ethical nightmare.

<http://www.news.com.au/story/0,10117,15891104-13762,00.html>

"Gee, then we'd have to give sentient monkeys the same rights as humans... As if the majority of humans actually have any... We should be more concerned with the latter challenge than the former, especially since humans are the only species ever to invent ethics...or science, or Dachau..."

"...if the monkeys developed 'self awareness', [ ] could be measured - and dealt with."

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, July 19, 2005

From: "Aristotle Jones" <[aristotlejones@dccnet.com](mailto:aristotlejones@dccnet.com)>

"This quote from the article becomes even more chilling if you replace "monkeys" with "children", or "jihadist", then you would get the common thread of most child rearing manuals from 19th Century Europe. The terrorism of children based on these doctrines can be directly correlated with the "ethics" required to produce the first two world wars.



“First we eradicate 'self-awareness' in monkeys, then the electorate, then the world...”

Aristotle Jones, July 19, 2005

((*I thought TV had already done the job? –Ye Ed.*))

*MICHAEL MOORCOCK* “had further health alarms owing to the circulatory trouble that led to two of his toes being amputated in 2002. He's in Paris, with infected sores on that unlucky leg, and it seemed that he'd lose everything below the knee. But he made a surprise recovery: `Astonished surgeon looks at foot and discovers only one infected spot of bone as opposed to three last week. So no immediate amputation and I don't have to leave Paris.' More in e-mail: `I've had some seriously silly "treatment" between Texas and Spain but thank God for the French. And it was very satisfying to have the doctor remove my dressings yesterday and exclaim "*Incroyable!*" Somehow a visceral desire felt deeply satisfied. I'm still hoping to take the cats for a stroll in the Palais Royal ... la Colette, though I'll have to do it in a wheelchair. Meanwhile yes, it will be me in the wheelchair terrorizing old ladies in the Luxembourg Gardens. After forty years of being terrorised, now it's my turn! They don't call me the Grand Guignol for nothing.' [14 July]

*Ansible* 217, August 2005

## OUR MOST RECENTLY RECEIVED TRADES

*Ansible* 217, August 2005, monthly email SF newszine from Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU.  
<http://ansible.co.uk>.

*Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter*, July/August 2005, bimonthly writers' group newsletter, 6584 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7.

*DASFAX* August 2005, Denver monthly newsletter, c/o The Editors, 741 King St., Denver, CO 80204, [editor1@dasfa.org](mailto:editor1@dasfa.org).

*De Profundis* #391, August 2005, The Los Angeles SF Society monthly newsletter, 11513 Burbank Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601, U.S.A.

*Ethel the Aardvark* #118, Winter 2005, Melbourne SF Club newsletter, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, VIC 3005, Australia.

*File 770* #144, Feb. 2005 (now an annual fan news digest, rather than a more regular newszine), Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, [Mikeglyer@cs.com](mailto:Mikeglyer@cs.com).

*FOSFAX* #211, April 2005, infrequent newsletter of the Falls of the Ohio SF Assoc., PO Box 37281, Louisville, KY 40233-7281, U.S.A.

*Impulse* August 2005, one-sheet news bulletin of the Montreal SF and Fantasy Assoc., PO Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, QC H2X 4A7.

*Ottawa SF Statement* May 2005, newsletter of the Ottawa SF Society, apparently c/o 18 Norice St., Ottawa, ON K2G 2X5, website at <http://osfs.ncf.ca/>.

*WARP* Spring 2005, c/o MonSFFA. A digest of the previous year's local fan news.

*The Weekly TAFF News*, #3, July 2005, Randy Byers, 1013 N. 36<sup>th</sup> St., Seattle, WA 98103, U.S.A, [fringefaan@yahoo.com](mailto:fringefaan@yahoo.com). A semi-annual publication by the outgoing TAFF administrator.

*Westwind* 272, July & August 2005, recently-revived newsletter of the Northwest SF Society, PO Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124, U.S.A.

## MEDIA FILE

by “Cosmic” Ray Seredin

Unfortunately, being just a humble would-be warehouse worker, I'm unable to take those fantastic media tours that all the big TV networks offer down in Hollywood. This means the only thing I can say is that maybe one series in the whole lot of new series will make it through the first season. The others will be replaced by more reality series and newsmagazine shows. “An NBC/CourtTV Exclusive: Judges' Legal Briefs! Recorded in the Supreme Court's Men's Room.”



(From Ain't It Cool News)

ABC \* *Invasion*. Sci-fi hour-long, from writer Shaun Cassidy (*American Gothic, The Agency, Cold Case, The Mountain*),

about a small town secretly plagued by extraterrestrial body snatchers. It stars Eddie Cibrian (*Third Watch*), Kari Matchett (*Five Days to Midnight*), Ariel Gade (*Envy*), Evan Peters (*Sleepover*), Tyler Labine (*My Boss's Daughter*), William Fichtner (*Crash*), Liz Sheridan (*Seinfeld*), and Aisha Hinds (*The Shield*).

ABC \* *The Night Stalker*. Supernatural thriller, from writer-director Frank Spotnitz (*The X-Files*), about a journalist named Carl Kolchak who believes his wife's murder is tied to forces of the uncanny. It stars Stuart Townsend (*League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*), Gabrielle Union (*Bring It On*), Cotter Smith (*X2*) and Eric Jungman (*Not Another Teen Movie*).

NBC \* *Fathom*. Sci-fi hour-long, from Josh and Jonas Pate (*G vs. E, Dragnet*), about a race of creatures who emerge from below the ocean's surface near Antarctica, California and the Gulf States. It stars Lake Bell (*Boston Legal*) and Rade Serbedzija (*Eyes Wide Shut*).

WBN \* *Supernatural*. Supernatural thriller, from writer Eric Kripke (The WB's *Tarzan*), about two brothers who take a cross-country road trip to solve their mother's 20-year-old murder. It stars Jensen Ackles (*Dark Angel, Smallville*) and Jared Padalecki (*Gilmore Girls, House of Wax*).

CBS \* *The Ghost Whisperer*. Hour-long, from TV-movie writer John Gray (the remakes of *Brian's Song* and *Helter Skelter*), about a newlywed who sees dead people. It stars Jennifer Love Hewitt (*Garfield*), Aisha Tyler (*CSI*) and David Conrad (*Relativity, Miss Match*).

CBS \* *Threshold*. Sci-fi hour-long, from writers David Goyer (*Blade: Trinity*) and Brannon Braga (*Star Trek: Enterprise*), about a government analyst leading scientists and military in response to the arrival of an extraterrestrial lifeform. It stars Carla Gugino (*Karen Sisco*), Charles S. Dutton (*Roc*), Brent Spiner (*Star Trek: Nemesis*), William Mapother (*Lost*) and Robert Benedict (*Felicity*).

To me this is not the best lot of new science fiction programs in recent years, but there sure are quite a field of them, so I won't be surprised if one actually does make it. In other network news parents' groups have forced *Lost* to move from its 8:00 p.m. time slot to the later 9:00 p.m. Wednesday time slot. This was caused by the 10% of viewers

in America who still think that the 8:00-9:00 p.m. time slot is a family hour and the only thing we can show in that time slot is mindless comedies and cute fluffy bunnies. Hey, keep this up and very soon network TV will be nothing but infomercials and everybody will be watching cable.

Speaking of family shows, Americans are getting something special on September 11th (note: thank you, *Daily Show*)—season 17 of *The Simpsons*. One of this year's stories has the working title "Under the Tuscan Bob," where Bart's arch-enemy Sideshow Bob lures the Simpsons to Tuscany, Italy where he became a mob boss and town's mayor in order to once again kill BART (note: that's Bart Simpson and not the Bay Area Rapid Transit system). (Another note: I guess the series will end when Sideshow Bob moves to Canada and gets a hit CBC series based on the *Running Man* film [with Vancouver replacing LA], starring Bart, Milhouse, Nelson, Lisa and guest voices Don Cherry, Ron MacLean and Paul Martin as themselves.)

With the return of NHL Hockey this winter it's unclear when the CBC will be airing season two for the new *Doctor Who* series (though I do feel that the network will air the Christmas special in the holiday season, but on Boxing Day, not Christmas Day, because of this county's large Roman Catholic community). For me, I'm putting my money on CBC's Summer Festival starting in July 2006. I know it will be a long time for the series' fans without a computer with an Internet viewing device, but it's better than seeing *Doctor Who* as the late-night film that's in English, so the three people watching it in Alberta are happy and give their 0.0051% of their tax dollars to the network. (Note: Just one more thing, GO CANUCKS GO!!!).

On the other side of the coin, the CBC is breaking away from the world track & field championships in Helsinki, Finland, for one hour at 7:00 p.m. on Sundays for *Doctor Who*. So for once, science fiction triumphs over sports. (And there was much rejoicing.)

Over in the UK, production on the second season of *Doctor Who* is just getting underway. David Tennant's costume is interesting, but it doesn't have a kilt. Looks like at least one or possibly two of the old companions will be showing up on the new series: Zoe Heriot (Wendy Padbury) will be returning in the Christmas special while later in the season Sarah Jane Smith (Elisabeth Sladen) will also be paying a visit to the TARDIS's console room. Also making an appearance this season will be Anthony Stewart Head. (Be the Master! Be the Master! Be the Master!) The Daleks will not return this season but the Cybermen are.

BBC's hoping that the new series will hit the air sometime in April of 2006.

I happen to be privy to some interesting information about a possible Canadian shoot for season three of *Doctor Who*. The only thing I can tell you is it will be likely filmed in both British Columbia and Alberta and will star a certain 358,000-pound Squamish resident with a 220,000-pound tender behind. So next summer we may be seeing Billie Piper and David Tennant and John Barrowman walking around the streets of Vancouver.

For all you Trekkies out there, I must say once again: Paramount will not be making any official announcements until at least mid-January of next year. So please wait for the March edition of Media File to see what happens.

### Breaking Doctor Who News

One of my predictions may be coming true. Three British newspapers are reporting that Anthony Stewart Head will be playing the Master in the season two episode "Class Reunion." (Please take this rumour with a grain of salt the size of Alberta.)

There's also a rumour that the decision not to film a season two episode in Canada was because the BBC didn't want to be possibly shut down in mid-production by the lockout now taking place at the CBC. (I'll tell you why production on CBC's *Da Vinci's City Hall* is still taking place in next month's Media File.)

And finally in the States, with a \$200,000,000 increase in funding to PBS from Washington, there is a chance that the network could pick up both the classic and new *Doctor Who* series for the fall of 2006. But before you rush out to buy party hats, the chances of this happening are about 1 in 10, because most of the stations get matching funding from state and local school boards. So if one of western Washington's larger school boards says they don't like *Doctor Who* because it has little family value, but they do like *Saving Up to Fulfill Your Dreams in Your Golden Years* because they cut teachers' pensions a little, we'll be seeing an older man talking to a room full of people about personal capital planning and not the Fourth Doctor giving Daleks Jelly-Babies.

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