

B C S F A Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#409

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June 2007



“Anaxes” by Richard Bartrop

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Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

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Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer (the Editor), at garthspencer@shaw.ca or Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6B 5B1. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions, and black and white line illustrations in JPG or GIF format, and offers contributor's copies.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Friday, June 15: ***BCSFAzine deadline*** - see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #410
- Thursday, June 21: **June** book discussion at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Two books will be discussed: *The Snow Queen* by Joan D. Vinge, and *A Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula LeGuin.
- Saturday, June 23: **BCSFA party/meeting** at 7 pm at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6. See Mapquest or call Kathleen at 604-277-0845 for directions.
- Friday, June 29: ***BCSFAzine production*** - distribution starts at FRED
- Saturday, June 30: **Second Royal Swiss Navy Disorganization Meeting**, at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, @ 7 p.m. See Mapquest, Call 604-325-7314 or email garthspencer@shaw.ca for directions

Art Credits

- Sheryl Birkhead Masthead
Richard Bartrop cover
Taral Wayne p. 7

Editorial

In early May I tried to clean up my computer. For one thing I had added some programs, and since then it started running more and more slowly, and with odd breakdowns. For another thing I wanted to clear off a bunch of old files. Since I was learning at work how to back up files to compact discs, I thought I could be efficient by backing things up to CD's, taking out unnecessary programs and files, and just generally cleaning the drive.

Well, it didn't work. And now I'm missing a lot of old *BCSFAzines*, and do not have CD backups.

Sorry, Greg, I know you wanted to archive *BCSFAzines* on the website. I will work around this some other way.

Apparently Julian Castle and Ryan Hawe perceived me to be hard to reach, and Julian was offered a Fido cellphone in addition to the one he had, so generously he offered it to me. It's taking a while, but I'm getting the hang of this cell phone thing.

You see what this means. I have yet to really enter the 21st century, or even adapt to contemporary reality. From other evidence I already knew I was old-fashioned, even Victorian in some ways. (Well, I come from Victoria, it sort of follows naturally.)

How well adapted are *you*?

How urgent is it to adapt to the future?

Impending Membership Expiries

In June: Randy & Tanya Ko

In July: Robert Bosshardt; Julian Castle; Lynda Ciaschini; Penelope Harris

Locs

Greg Slade, grga@bluebottle.com, May 1, 2007

I understand your decision to eliminate the monthly calendar from *BCSFAzine* as part of the general cost-reduction program. To those who howl in protest at its absence, you might point out that the next three month's worth of calendars are always available on the BCSFA web site through the "Monthly Planner" page. (I might also suggest that people planning fannish events might want to look the calendar over first, because I've noticed a tendency for one weekend to have little or nothing going on, and the next to have half a dozen competing events.)

The list of members was of great help, as I've long wanted to have a "Members" page on the BCSFA site, linking to the web sites, blogs, or whatever of BCSFA members, partly to give those people a motivation to return the favour, and partly to give visitors to the BCSFA site some idea of the breadth of interests and abilities which BCSFA members have. So far, I haven't had a lot of success tracking down sites for members other than the writing pros, but at least the members page is much more complete than it was, and I also have a list to refer to when people ask why their sites aren't listed. To quote Bobo the security bear, "If you're not on the list, you don't get in."

I should probably admit that I have long had grandiose dreams for BCSFA, up to and including raising enough money to be able to buy a BCSFA "clubhouse", with space for various fan groups to hold meetings, a permanent office for VCON, and display space for my dream of a "Museum of the Imagination." Given the distressingly short membership list you have been able to identify, such ambitions would have to be scaled back somewhat. Perhaps there's a park bench available somewhere... Hopefully, a number of people who've been taking part in the discussions on the mailing list and/or reading *BCSFAzine* will be prompted to sending in their membership fees, and thus put the club on a more stable financial footing. (It also seems to me that the circulation of *BCSFAzine* is going to have to be considerably larger if we are to entice anybody into taking out paid ads.)

I also wonder about the page of ads offering discounts to "card-carrying BCSFA members." The last time I asked about membership cards, I was told that they haven't been issued for years, which makes me wonder if perhaps there might be some value in either reviving the practice, or else dispensing with that page of ads to make room for other, more current, material.

Speaking of ads, are *any* of those ads paid for? It seems to me that unpaid ads could easily overwhelm the space available. For instance, I could ask you to put in an ad for the "Reality Free" shop on CafePress (www.cafepress.com/realityfree), where my "Reaver" bumper stickers are selling nicely.

I also agree with your choice to remove the material on meetings which happen on a regular basis (weekly or monthly), since there's not a lot of point in taking up paper to reprint information which rarely changes, and which is already available on the web site. I'm thinking that you might save a little more space by shortening the "window" for the convention calendar to 3 or 4 months, possibly making exceptions for major events like Worldcon.

((I don't know if we have ever had paid ads. I know I never succeeded in working up an ad rate sheet. Maybe I should thrash this point out with Kathleen and Graeme.

*((Actually my purpose in giving people convention information **WAY** in advance of the cons is to give them some time to plan, and budget, and*

take advantage of the preregistration rates. Some years ago Dan Dubrick did the convention calendar, and I objected to the lack of sufficient lead time to hear about conventions and make plans in advance.))

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9C 2B2, May 3, 2007

I see I missed a deadline...for almost four weeks, I was the assistant to the show manager for the Ontario Transportation Expo in Mississauga. This was the third straight year I've done this, but it was a very busy time, and I am so far behind. So here's come vague mumblings on paper about BCSFAzines 407 and 408.

407...You found your purpose in life? Or at least in fandom? If you can so good and interesting things, good for you! But if not, go have fun! That's what this here fandom thing is all about. Of course, there's always a group who wants to make things happen, and we're better off for them. Meds always good, Garth...

Hope some of you got to go and harass our good friend Rob Sawyer at his book launch. I think Rob is roaming the continent, in search of people to please with his signature, and to please him with a book sale or two here and there. Please support your local SF writer. (Or, in Rob's case, my local SF writer. He lives not far from me.)

World Fantasy in Calgary in 2008? First I've heard of it. Calgary is becoming a hotbed for big SF&F cons. When's the Worldcon bid coming? Good luck to Seattle in 2011.

((I think they'll need it. Then again, they may be better prepared for such a large con – far better prepared – than any fans in my experience.

((I really must give my prejudices about con size a rest. Cathy Palmer-Lister recently invited me onto the new Canadian Conrunners email group.))

My loc...I think Bill Burns is recommending PrimoPDF to people who place zines on eFanzines.com. Less work for him, more good zines online for everyone to look at.

Yesterday, I got to go someplace interesting...the main offices and studios of The Weather Network. Yvonne is a member of the local chapter of Canadian Women in Aviation, so I was the only male tagging along to see what happens there. We got to see one of their two greenscreen studios, their control rooms, and their luxurious offices, and we met on-screen presenter Suzanne Leonard Feliz. Short tour, but as you can imagine, they are heavy on computers, not to be seen by the likes of us. Still, a good time.

A remake of *Star Wars*...George, don't you have anything better to do? Later this month, on May 24, I believe, it's the 30th anniversary of the release of *Star Wars*. I saw it in August 1977 for the first time at the Totem Theatre on Douglas St., just around the corner from the BC Parliament Buildings in Victoria.

((“Just around the corner”? You really have been away from Victoria for decades, haven’t you?))

Neo-Opsis has been nominated for an Aurora already? Not possible. Nominations are still coming in, and with luck, the magazine will appear on a ballot yet to come.

I'm very pleased to see that Christina Carr has gotten so involved with BCSFA and VCon...good for you, Chris. Just as you're getting started with this, that's when Yvonne and I retire from conrunning. We'd love nothing better than to come out again and see you. Good luck with the Renfaire, not far away now. I don't think we'll have a Renfaire this year, but Toronto will once again have a similar two-day event at Casa Loma.

I did like the original *Battlestar Galactica*, probably because it was as cheesy as could be, and I tried watching the new *Battlestar*...sorry, didn't catch my interest at all. So many programmes can go on that list of SF shows that just didn't attract me. (Confession time... Yvonne made herself one of the Colonial Warrior costumes, and we still own (somewhere) a stuffed Daggit with a pullstring to make it bark.) But then, will I be interested in a remake of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*?

408...As the person in charge of the zine, you have to do what you have to do. Every club has to be doing the same thing. I get a few paper clubzines in the mail, but I imagine that those clubs are considering going all-electronic.

Just noticed...my loc to issue 406 appears in both 407 and 408. Didn't seem any smarter the second time...

((My memory seems to have developed a stutter.))

One thing I'm looking for...free SF books available in eREader format, something I can put on my Palm Tungsten E3.

That was it? Hmm...I must have missed something there. However, I am caught up, and when I see how many zines I have yet to respond to, I must say many thanks, and I look forward to issue 409.

*BCSFAZINEzine, Volume 1, Number 57.408, Wednesday 10 May 2007
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road,
Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.*

Re "The Current Members" - I'm not a current member. Do I send the money to your address (as given in "Masthead/Colophon/And Other Wallpaper") or to the treasurer (as given in "Memberships/Subscriptions"), and where do I get an updated membership card?

((I thought I was clearer. You send money to the Treasurer. We're still sorting out how to produce membership cards again ... Could Tim Hammell or Doug Finnerty get back to me about that? I don't have the classic BCSFA logo, but otherwise I could produce BCSFA membership cards myself quite easily.))

Joyce Katz joyworley1 @ cox.net , May 15, 2007

I just wanted to take a minute to thank you, on behalf of the local club SNAFFU, for sending us the *BCSFAzine*. I always take it to the club meeting, pass it around, and explain that it's from the Vancouver club. The attendees invariably look at it with great interest, seemingly impressed by it, but never comment. My hope is that someday one of them will be inspired to try to do the same. Thus far, we've had no takers. But maybe eventually.

At any rate, I send greetings to the BCSFA from the members of the Southern Nevada Area Fantasy Fiction Union. I think clubs should know about each other, and even visit each others' meetings when they are in the area. In that spirit, I invite your guys to visit our guys whenever they are in Vegas on the 4th Sunday of the month.

Meanwhile, I hope you are enjoying a fine Spring, and that you are well and happy.

Robert Bosshardt, r_bosshardt@yahoo.com, May 16, 2007

Hello Garth:

Alas, Ken Strang has moved on to bigger and (hopefully) better things, so could you change the listing of the Metrotown Writers Group in future *BCSFAzines* as follows?

**...For information call Robert Bosshardt, 604-980-7543, email
r_bosshardt@yahoo.com**

and add:

... Membership is free (after ...' is open to new members' in the first sentence)

Thanks a guzillion & cheers!

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Our Calendar of Events

June 2007

June 1: release of **Rise: Blood Hunter** (starring Lucy Liu) Another vampire/action-adventure flick.

June 2: The Return of **the Buffy Musical** ("Once More with Feeling") at Pacific Cinematheque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC; doors 1:00 p.m., show 1:30 p.m.; Tickets and info at Happy Bats Cinema, 198 East 15th Avenue at Main St., Vancouver, BC (www.happybatscinema.com)

June 3 (11am to 5pm): **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Cary Nord (*Conan*); Camilla D'Errico (*Avril Lavigne's Make 5 Wishes, Nightmares & Fairytales*); Dave McCaig (*The Batman Strikes!, Nextwave, Avengers, Superman/Batman*); Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell, Captain Spaceman, Lil' Natas*); Kelly Everaert (*Jungle Tales, Eyes of the Zombie*); Ken Boesem (*1918, The Village, Raven Steals the Light*); Verne Andru (*Captain Canuck, Rock and Rule, 420*); Mike Myhre (*Space Jet*); Laura Eveleigh (*Little Illustrated Books*); Sarah Haxby (*Pearlgirl*); Critical Hit Comics; Donald King; Carrie McKay; Trevor Metz. Dealer Tables: \$45/centre; \$55/wall. General Admission: \$3.00. Kids under 14: Free. For more information about this show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412.
<http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

June 8 - 10: **ConComCon 14** at the Holiday Inn Seattle, Seatac, Washington (a conrunners convention with emphasis on the northwest, sponsored by the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee). Topic: "So you want to run a convention." Rooms: Holiday Inn Seattle, 17338 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington 98188; P (206) 248-1000 or 1-800-465-4329; rates 94/note, single to quad. Preregistration: \$25 to May 31, \$35 at the door. Concomcon 14 c/o SWOC, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111.

June 15: release of **Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer** (starring Jessica Alba) Another comic-book movie with live actors.

June 22: release of **Evan Almighty** (this time God messes with a congressman's head) and **1408** (John Cusack and Morgan Freeman in a killer hotel).

June 22 - 29: **SeaTrek 2007**, a Northwest Coast cruise leaving from and returning to Seattle, WA on *The Vision of the Seas*, featuring numerous media SF guests. Suites \$1,899 per person for an outside cabin, \$2,399 per person for a balcony suite, \$2,499 for assorted suites. www.scifi-cruises.com

June 23 (1 to 4 pm): **The 2nd Annual Serenity Now/Equality Now** global charity screening of the movie *Serenity* to benefit Equality Now will be held in Vancouver, BC, at Pacific Cinematheque, 1131 Howe Street. Doors open at 1:45. Tickets are \$13 until May 31st and \$15 after and can be purchased from members of the Organising Team or through PayPal on our blog at <http://serenityscreeningvan.blogspot.com>. (Please note the PayPal price includes \$1 service charge.) We have some great door prizes again this year.)

June 28 - 30: **Writers Weekend** 2007 in Seattle, Washington (Writer intensive gathering) see www.writersweekend.com

July 2007

July 4: release of ***Transformers*** (the movie).

July 6 - 9: **Westercon 60** at the San Mateo Marriott in San Mateo, California (A general regional SF convention that rotates between cities in the western North America). This year's theme: "Gnomeward Bound." Writer GoH: Tad Williams; ArtGoH: Theresa Mather; FanGoH: Christian McGuire; TM: Jay Lake. The San Mateo Marriott offers free parking, hi-speed Internet access, \$99/nite single to quad occupancy, \$119/nite for king suites with a parlour; phone (650) 653-6000. Memberships range from \$30 supporting to \$70 attending until March 31. Westercon 60/Gnomeward Bound, PO Box 60817, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0817, U.S.A.

July 13: release of ***Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix***. (Bet you can't spell that.)

July 14 (10 a.m. on): **The Cybertronian Conference of 2007**, the Pacific Northwest's own Unofficial Transformers Collectors Convention. You can call it CYBCON 2007 for short. CYBCON 2007 will take place at the King Oscar Motel and Convention Center Tacoma at 8820 and 8726 South Hosmer, Tacoma, Washington 98444. CybCon 2007 will cover a 75'x39' room, pushing 3000 square feet of Transformer collecting fun! As always, there will be dealers, contests, games, videos, and fun for all ages. We're continuing the Kid categories for the contests and will offer a place to showcase Transformers art. Everything you need to know to register for CYBCON 2007 can be found here:
<http://www.ggaub.com/tf/cybcon2k7.html>

July 21: book release: ***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows***. Last in the series.

July 27 - 29: 9:00 AM to 8PM each day - **BC Renaissance Festival** at 26770 29 Avenue, Aldergrove B.C. BC V4W 3B8. See
<http://www.bcrenfest.com>

July 27 - 29: **MerpCon III** in Spokane, Washington (role playing gaming convention dedicated to J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth); tel (509) 481-5437; email webmaster@merpcon.org; URL <http://merpcon.merp.com>.

July 30 - August 5: **Timeless Destinations** in the Best Western Richmond Convention Centre, Richmond, BC (a multi media convention, with an emphasis on Stargate SG-1, formerly known as Gatecon; details for dates will be updated as soon as their new web site goes into effect). A long list of media guests; "tickets" offered at US\$250 - that is not a typo - but apparently only online, as there is no discoverable address at www.timelessdestinations.com

August 2007

August 3: release of **Underdog** (dog gains superpowers).

August 3 - 6: **Fandemonium** at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa, Idaho (General SF and fantasy with strengths in gaming, anime, comics and much more). The hotel is the Days Inn Nampa, near the Center (130 Shannon Dr., Nampa, ID 83687, tel 1-877-442-0217). Memberships range from \$15 for one day (for youth or seniors) up to \$30 for three days (adult); mail to Fandemonium, attn: Registration, PO Box 701, Middleton, ID 83644. See www.Fandemonium.org

August 10: release of **Stardust** (starring Michelle Pfeifer and Robert DeNiro); a fantasy based on Neil Gaiman's novel.

August 10 - 12 : **Animethon 14** in either Edmonton or Calgary, Alberta (Anime). I'm trying to correct and complete this information.

August 17: release of **Fanboys**, a road trip with Star Wars fans, and **The Invasion** (starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig), revolving around an epidemic the heroine discovers to be extraterrestrial.

August 17-19: **Con-Version 23** at the Radisson Hotel Calgary Airport in Calgary, AB. GoH: Jack McDevitt. Science GoH TBA. Room rates: about \$129 per night; write to hotel at 2120 16th Ave. NE, Calgary, AB T2E 1L4. Con-Version features the Robyn Herrington memorial short story contest. ARTSHOW AND MASQUERADE REQUIRE SOME PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER TO RUN THEM by the end of July 2007. Dealers' room rates will be determined and a membership form will be posted shortly. Memberships will be \$35 to non-CSFFS members. For registration, email [registration @ con-version.org](mailto:registration@con-version.org). For more information, email the chair at [kirstin.morrell @ csffs.org](mailto:kirstin.morrell@csffs.org), or see www.csffs.org.

August 24-26: **RainFurrest** at the Holiday Inn SeaTac, a new anthropomorphic con in the Pacific Northwest. RainFurrest hopes to be

the most fun and exciting furry convention in the region. The hotel is located at 17338 International Blvd, SeaTac, WA 98188. Rooms are \$99 per night plus taxes; call 1-800-860-7715 and book your room under the RainFurrest room block. This should get you the \$99 a night rate. Pre-registration prices are \$30 for attending until March 31st at which time the price will increase to \$35. Pre-registration will close July 31st. Children 10 and under are free when accompanied by an attendee. You may register online by going to <http://www.rainfurrest.org/reg.php> and following the instructions. Payment can be made online with credit card or Paypal, as well as mailing in a check or money order made out to RainFurrest. Sorry, Paypal and credit card payment will not be available at the convention. What do YOU want to see at a furry convention? For these ideas, please contact us through the website using this link: <http://rainfurrest.com/contact.php?contact=Events>

August 26 - **Comix & Stories:** For more information about this show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call Leonard S Wong at 604-322-6412

August 30 - September 3: **Nippon7/Worldcon 65** at the Pacifico Yokohama Convention Center in Yokohama, Japan. GoHs: Sakyo Komatsu, David Brin, Takumi Shibano, Yoshitaka Amano, Michael Whelan. Membership rates range from US\$35 (supporting) up to \$220 (attending) until June 30, 2007. North American agent: Peggy Rae Sapienza, Nippon2007, PO Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0314, www.nippon2007.us

September 2007

September 9: **Vancouver Comicon:** For more information about this show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call Leonard S Wong at 604-322-6412

September 22: **Aurora-Con** at the William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska (anime). Membership rates: \$10 for 7 to 21s, \$20 for older children, up to September 1, 2007; \$25 at the door. Write Aurora-Con Registration, PO Box 210050, Anchorage, AK 99521-0050

September 27 - 30: **Bouchercon 2007** at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska (Mystery related but also with some SF influence on occasion). This year's theme: "Bearly Alive." GoH: Thomas Perry (The Butcher's Boy); Special GoH: Diana Gabaldon (Outlander novels); FanGoH: Barbara Peters (Poison Pen bookstore, Arizona). A lifetime achievement award will be presented to James Sallis (Drive). Write Bouchercon 2007, PO Box 241083, Anchorage, AK 99524, or see www.bouchercon.com

October 2007

Oct. 19-21: **VCon 32/Canvention 27** at the Radisson President Hotel, 8181 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC. Writer GoH: TBA. Artist GoH: Martin Springett. Gaming GoH: Lisa Smedman. Canvention GoH: TBA. TM: Michael Walsh (also Canvention liaison). Memberships: free to children 6 and under, \$20 for children 7-12, \$30 for students, \$40 for adults until May 15; \$25 for children 7-12, \$37.50 for students, \$50 for adults to October 1; \$30 for children 7-12, \$45 for students, \$60 for adults after October 1. 1-day memberships are also available. All can be paid by PayPal. Write VCon 32, Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1, or see www.vcon.ca

Oct. 30 - Nov. 2: **World Fantasy Convention 2008** in Calgary, Alberta. Theme: "Mystery in Fantasy and Horror." GoHs: David Morrell, Barbara Hambly, Tom Doherty; ArtGoH: Todd Lockwood; TM: Tad Williams. More details coming on www.worldfantasy2008.org.

News

THEY SHALL HAVE STARS AT ELBOW AND FOOT AND DEATH SHALL HAVE NO DOMINION

Astronaut WALLY SCHIRRA died on Thursday, May 3, 2007. He was 84 years old.

(CNN)

"KURT VONNEGUT (1922-2007), who should need no introduction, died on 11 April at age 84. Though often deceptively lightweight and laconic, his best SF was hard to forget: *Player Piano* (1951), *The Sirens of Titan* (1959), *Cat's Cradle* (1963), *Slaughterhouse-Five* (1969) ... Somehow, despite verbally distancing himself from 'the file drawer' labelled "Science Fiction" [...] since so many serious critics regularly mistake the drawer for a urinal', Vonnegut kept returning to the genre and his invented SF author Kilgore Trout, right up to his final satirical novel *Timequake* (1997). Media obituary coverage has been extensive."

Ansible 238

"CHRISTOPHER 'JAMIE' BISHOP (1971-2007), US academic who created digital cover art for two books by his father Michael Bishop, was killed in the 16 April shootings at Virginia Tech (where he taught German classes). He was 35. All sympathy to Mike & Jeri Bishop."

Ansible 238

HATS OFF DAY

"Do you have a costume or just want to help promote V-Con? June 2nd is Hats Off Day in Burnaby and we are in the parade once more this year. We need costumed and non-costumed volunteer to walk the parade and hand out flyers. If you are such a person, please contact volunteers@v-con.ca."

Deej Barends to BCSFA list, May 1, 2007

CON-VERSION 23

"We have finally got the online registration set-up, if you haven't already got your admission to Con-Version 23, and you would like to purchase yours online. head on over to:
<http://www.csffs.org/shop/catalog/index.php>

"If you haven't already created a user account, it only takes a few moments to set up and you will be able to use it from year to year. Right now, we only have the Weekend Attendance, the Sunday Buffet, and Society Memberships set up for purchase.

"Once you've selected your items, proceed to the Check Out, and confirm your contents. Don't forget to include any extra information we may need in the Comments section. Your payment will be processed through Paypal and you do not need a Paypal account to use it, you can use Paypal as an interface for your credit card.

"If you have a Society Membership for 2006-2007, you will be receiving an email with the Discount Code to receive your membership Discount!

"If you have any questions, please email: registrations@con-version.org"

The Calgary Science Fiction & Fantasy Society Team, May 1, 2007

NEWS FROM AWAY

"MITT ROMNEY, currently seeking the US Republican presidential nomination, caused much amusement in and out of SF circles by announcing that his favourite novel is L. Ron Hubbard's *Battlefield Earth*. (on Fox News, 29 April) Some deft spin-doctoring followed: 'Romney spokesman Eric Fehrnstrom said: "Battlefield Earth is pretty good science fiction. It's about Earth being ruled by an alien race, sort of the way the Democrats are running Congress.'" (Boston *Herald*, 2 May) *Slate* coverage included a subtly apposite quote from BE itself: 'What in the name of diseased crap are you reading?' (John Dickerson, 2 May). [CH] Meanwhile, Mr Romney decided he'd meant that BE was his favourite SF novel, and that his real favourite fiction was *Huckleberry Finn*.'

Ansible 238

LEGEND IN HIS OWN MIND DEP'T.

Meanwhile, back at the Branch, your Humble Editor received and accepted an invitation to join CanadianConrunners, a new Yahoo! group mainly for Canadian fans concerned with the Art of the Con.

(As Garth pointed out himself immediately, he has never run a con, not even a major department of a con, and in fact thinks all he can do is prepare documents.)

The membership of CanadianConrunners appears to include John Mansfield (known for Keycon and the Winnipeg Worldcon), Cathy Palmer-Lister, Lloyd and Yvonne Penney (known for Ad Astra participation), Rene Walling (known for the current Montreal Worldcon bid), and most recently Isaac Alexander from Washington state, and the leader of some comics fans who want to hold a con of their own.

BIFFNESS

[April 20] Fifteen people came out as Colleen Prime introduced us to *Phil the Alien*, the Canadian entry in our "Fannish World Tour" series. Then followed a scholarly discussion on whether "seriously bent" is a fair and accurate characterization of the film, as has been alleged by party or parties unknown. There was also some debate on the veracity of the saying, "Moving things with your mind is the coolest thing in the whole ****ing world." Susan Walsh also came out and gave us the lowdown on plans for VCON 32, which will also be hosting Canvention (Canada's national SF convention) this year.

In other news, the Eighties Restaurant's web site is now live again, and has been revamped to match the new menus.

[April 27] There were about 15 eager gamers out for BIFF's latest Gaming Night. The game of the night turned out to be mind games. (Because, hey, we have minds, and we know how to use them...)

[May 4] Fifteen film fans flocked Friday for fannish film frivolity. Yes, it was BIFF's second "video crossing" night, and the films offered up were a varied lot, from the *Aliens* trilogy (the second of which made it onto *Entertainment Weekly*'s list of the top 25 science fiction films of the last 25 years) to *XTRO*, which would probably make it onto an entirely different kind of list. In addition, Yves brought out three short films made by first year films students at Capilano College. They ranged from comic (as in "A is for Murder") to spooky (as in "Photogenic.")

BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens every Friday from 6:30 p.m. until closing at the Eighties Restaurant (www.80srestaurant.com), 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver. To keep in touch with any changes, please check the BIFF web site at: <http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/>

You can also subscribe to BIFFnews on the web site. Or, if you prefer to read the news through your RSS aggregator, point it to:

<http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/taxonomy/term/13/0/feed>

BC REN FEST NEWSLETTER #6

"As of April 27 ... we have exactly THREE MONTHS before we see each others bright faces in person.

"Reminder: add bcrenfest.com as an acceptable domain in your spam blockers. The Web page is always being updated!! Vendors are added, performers listed, changes in information.. etc. are constantly going on. Please check back often. One of the most notable changes I the change in admission for seniors. A senior rate has been added as \$7 (the same as children). A pet policy has also been added and new vendors, sponsors and entertainers are showing up one by one. If the Web page needs any corrections or a link is dead please let us know by sending an email to: ccmh@bcrenfest.com

"If you are an entertainer, demonstrator or vendor we encourage you to complete your confirmation ASAP in order to guarantee your spots. Remember. For entertainers you send an email to: entertainment@bcrenfest.com. For vendors you send an email to: vendors@bcrenfest.com. For food vendors you send an email to: food@bcrenfest.com.

"Is there a free listing on the net or in a publication that we haven't found yet and had ourselves listed? Does a listing on a page look like it wasn't posted by us and the info is questionable or different from our Web page? Please feel free to let us know so that we can post or correct the posting. For the most direct and effective response please send an email to: ccmh@bcrenfest.com and we'll post and/or correct the listing.

... "Reminder for out of town guests... Come on by and stay for a while. With the Zoo near by, our neighbouring festival right next door (Aldergrove Fair Days) and The Best Western offering us a great room rate (if you mention the BC Renaissance Festival) how can you not come out and enjoy Aldergrove and all it has to offer. The hotel link is on the BCRF storyline and info page so drop on by and stay for the whole weekend.

"The MySpace community is growing and so is our friends list. For those of you who have become our friends, congratulations. We do hope to meet you all in person. If you have a MySpace then by all means send us a friends request. You can find us at:
<http://www.myspace.com/bcrenfest>

"Do you have spare fabric, paint, wood and various items we could use to help create the site and costumes? You want to find a home for that extra yardage of fabric that you don't know why someone gave it to

you, that sheet that doesn't match the décor, the left over half gallon of paint you used for the bedroom. Donate it to us and we'll add you to our donations page as a thank you. An email to: ccmh@bcrenfest.com may just remedy some of your clutter."

Christina Carr, April 28, 2007

CONSTUPH

Isaac Alexander writes: "Anyone found this book helpful for their event?

"Meeting & Event Planning For Dummies
<http://www.wiley.com/WileyCDA/WileyTitle/productCd-0764538594,descCd-tableOfContents.html>"

Isaac Alexander, April 29, 2007

A War of Words

"How legalese is complicating hotel contracts – and what planners can do about it:

<http://www.meetings-conventions.com/on-the-cover.aspx>

"I enjoyed seeing that the Convention Industry Council has created a new document to help with hotel negotiating."

Isaac Alexander, April 28, 2007

"Here's a list of all the events that have the theme of 'How to Run a Convention/ Festival/ TradeShow'. If you know of others that should be added, please send them.

Fandom Based:

SMOFcon – a Rotating North America Event, usually in the USA:
<http://www.smofcon.org/>

ConComCon, in Washington State, USA
<http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/>

WesternSFA in Arizona, USA: www.westernsfa.org
 Construction in California, USA:

<http://www.sfsfc.org/construction.php>

Baltimore/Washington DC Science Fiction Convention Runners, in Maryland, USA: <http://www.bwsmof.org/>

Midfan, in Illinois, USA <http://www.midfan.org/>

ConRunner (formerly published in United Kingdom):
<http://www.conrunner.org.uk>

Professional:

Association for Convention Operations Management - a Rotating North America Event: <http://www.acomonline.org/>

Events: Solutions Magazine: Idea Factory – a Rotating North America Event: http://www.Event:-solutions.com/idea_factory

TS2 – a Rotating North America Event: <http://www.ts2show.com/>

SISO (Society of Independent Show Organizers) – a Rotating North America Event: <http://www.siso.org/>

Professional Convention Management Association – a Rotating North America Event: <http://www.pcma.org/>

Meetings Marketplace - Regional Meeting Events:

<http://www.mimegasite.com/mimegasite/Event:s/marketplace.jsp>

IFEA Convention – a Rotating North America Event:

<http://www.ifea.com/about/convention.asp>

ISES Event:world – a Rotating North America Event:

<http://www.ises.com/education/cpd/2007/>

Exhibitor Fasttrack – a Rotating North America Event:

<http://www.exhibitoronline.com/exhibitorshow/fasttrak/index.asp>

Meetings & Conventions – a Rotating North America Event:

<http://www.meetings-conventions.com/Event:s.aspx>

IEG Sponsorship Seminars – a Rotating North America Event:

http://www.sponsorship.com/products/sponsorship_seminars.asp

“There are also numerous Regional/Provincial/State annual events run by your local area. Check the above organizations website to see when an event is taking place in your area.”

Isaac Alexander to NWConLeague list, April 27, 2007

About BCSFA

The current BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBA

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

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 604-448-8714

VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's website is at www.bcsfa.net.

The current BCSFA email list is bc_scifi_assc@yahooroups.com, archived at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifiassc/>

Memberships/Subscriptions

e-mail (PDF or TXT format)	C\$15.00/US\$13.65 per year
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new members	C\$26.00/US\$23.50 per year
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renewals	C\$25.00/US\$22.50 per year
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New Family members*	C\$32.00/US\$29.00 per year
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*(including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings)

Please send membership money to the Treasurer at 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6. These prices include subscription to *BCSFazine*. Make cheques and money orders payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association). (NOTE: The West Coast Science Fiction Association is a separate, officially registered society. In effect, BCSFA is a committee of WCSFA.)

Why You Got This

- You are a member! You have to renew your membership!
- You asked about advertising! You got published!
- You've got crab's legs! Garth heard of you somehow, sometime!
- We trade! We used to trade!
- You used to be famous in local fandom for something, so you got a lifetime BCSFA membership!
- You contribute to *BCSFAzine*! You used to contribute!
- Garth is still trying to find out whether you published something in 2006, that should be up for Aurora nomination this year!
- You were a CUFF delegate once!