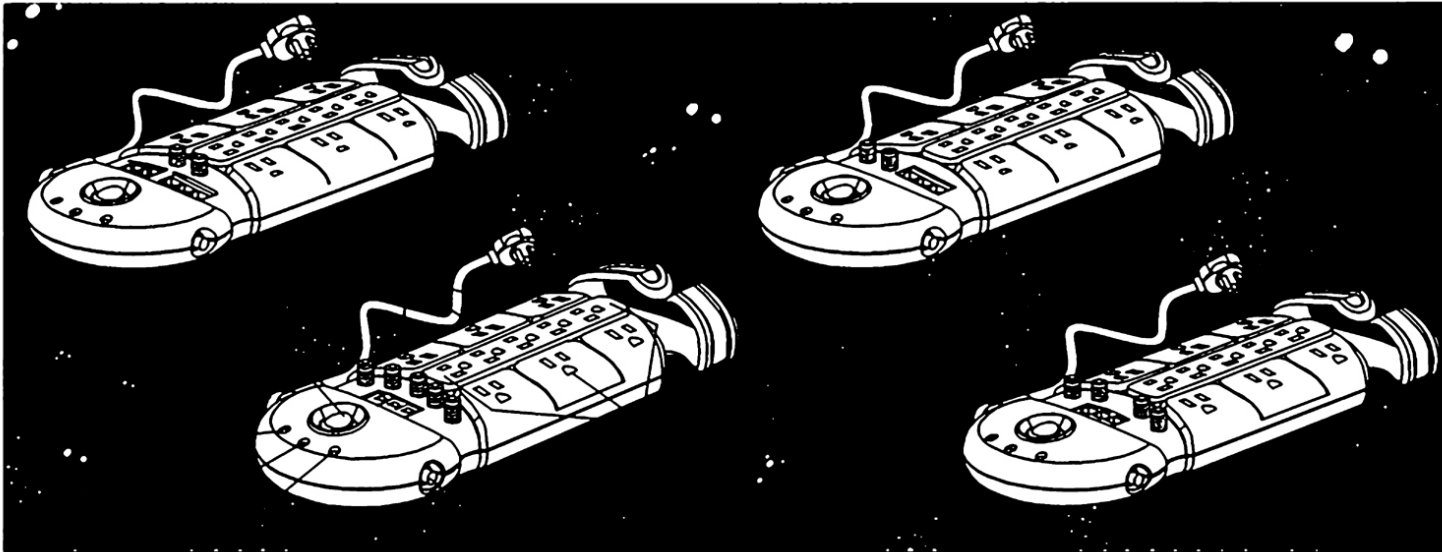


# BCSFZine

#419

\$3.00

April 2008



## *Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper*

BCSFazine #419 © April 2008, Volume 36, #4, is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN: 1490-6406. Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer at P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main St., Vancouver, BC CANADA V5V 3P0 (new address since 01 Jan. 2008) or submissions in both electronic text and B & W line drawing in JPG form to: < garthspencer @ shaw.ca > and, if a non-member, receive a complimentary copy in return. BCSFazine is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each. (Subscription/membership rates are given towards the end of this zine.)

### *This Month's Events (Inshallah)*

- Sat. April 5      ca. 8 pm: The next Royal Swiss Navy Disorganizational Meeting, at Garth Spencer's place unless we move it, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC. Phone him at (778) 865-2372 for directions. (NOTE: the RSN website has been taken down; a new one is under construction.)
- Fri. April 11:    BCSFazine deadline. See Garth at FRED.
- Sat. April 19      ca. 7 pm: BCSFA meeting/party at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's home, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC. Phone (604) 277-0845 for directions.
- Thu. April 24     at 7 pm: Book Discussion at Our Town café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. Book to discuss will be *The Golden Age*, by John C. Wright.
- Fri. April 25      BCSFazine production. See Garth at FRED.

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## *Art Credits*

S. Birkhead .....	masthead
F. Walker .....	cover

*Guest Editorial*

Hi Garth!

You wrote:

*Don't know whether you got my previous email of today's date, admitting that I had mislaid the printed BCSFAzines and forgot to email the PDF, for about a week. I'm remedying that tonight.*

Yep! Glad to see it!

Seems to me we are in a perpetual catch 22 situation. We need to expand *BCSFAzine* to make it more appealing and entertaining. We can't afford to do that on paper, so we need to do an online version that takes full advantage of the size potential. I mean, I'm averaging 40 pages for *WCSFAzine*, and it costs nothing. Why not do the same for *BCSFAzine*?

But one or two members don't have computers. So this forces us to produce the smallest, skimpiest zine possible *forever and ever and ever*? And to ignore all possibilities of expansion because we can't afford anything other than a tiny zine? Which results in potential readers not being at all interested in joining, especially because it costs a 'fortune' to join and not get much in return, double-especially because the zine is now online anyway?

And even the 'small' version of *BCSFAzine* is more than we can afford as a club? We only have enough money for 3 more issues. Then we'll have to cash in our term deposit, which will allow us to publish *BCSFAzine* for about another year. And then we'll have to *stop publishing* the paper zine because there will be NO money to publish? And probably even fewer members by then anyway?

As long as we insist on making *BCSFAzine* conform to the requirements of the one or two members without computer access it will remain the same and produce the same lack of results in terms of stirring interest in the club and attracting new members. It's good as far as it goes, but it isn't worth the membership fee, hell, the *club* isn't worth the membership fee (I'm not talking about *our* perspective, I'm talking about anyone unfamiliar with the club wondering if and why they should fork over the cash to join)...

We need to produce TWO versions of *BCSFAzine*:

One is a one-sheeter or two-sheeter with basic info that can be mailed for basic letter-rate to the few people who don't have online access (can't they check *BCSFAzine* online at a library?).

Two is whatever you want *BCSFAzine* to be (go wild! Do what you want! YOU are the editor!), it is the online version, as big as you can handle. This is the

*BCSFAzine* that will reflect the club, represent the club, BE the club.

A few points:

if anyone wants the 'large' version on paper, have them pay you the cost up front before you hand it over, in other words they have to 'pay' for it, have to cover the cost, so that it costs the club nothing.

As for trades, scrap all trades except online for online. After all, who reads the tradezines other than yourself? And when was the last time you reviewed them in depth in *BCSFAzine*? What's the point if no one knows about them other than yourself? And at the other end, who reads *BCSFAzine* other than the editor who receives them in trade? How often does *BCSFAzine* get reviewed in these paper trades? And *how many new members* does mention of *BCSFAzine* in other zines get us? We both know the answer to that one. Paper trades are a luxury we can no longer afford. I don't care if it's a long-term fannish tradition. We can't afford it. Period.

as for the club itself, reducing the printing/ mailing costs to virtually nothing will enable us to lower the membership fee, down to \$10, maybe just \$5, maybe even make membership FREE! Like BIFF! Like FRED! Any club event costing money to be paid for by participants up front.

but as long as we're locked in to producing a tiny zine that costs more than we can afford, the days of *BCSFAzine* are numbered, maybe even the club itself.

as long as we go on doing what we are currently doing, it's only a matter of time before we won't be able to do it anymore. So why drift until we hit the reef? Why not make changes NOW?

and as long as we're stuck with our current policies, YOU are stuck with all the frustration of not having the freedom to make *BCSFAzine* what you would like *BCSFAzine* to be. How much longer are you willing to live with this kind of frustration? Do you really WANT to stick to the same path till *BCSFAzine* is dead?

I repeat, why not make changes NOW?  
((Okay, it's done. -GS))



## Letters

---

Warren M. Buff, 2825 Conifer Dr. Apt B, Raleigh, NC  
27606, USA, warrenmbuff @ gmail.com, 11 March 2008

Hey, folks, I've been skimming *BCSFazine* on efanzines.com for a few months, so I figured I'd sound off on issue 418."

*((Glad to hear from you! We need more feedback.))*

We don't get the current zine scene – What's to get? I'm not sure there's anything to be gained by conforming to a "scene." I worked in a rock bar for a while, and I saw all kinds of absurdity from the local "scene," none of which I'd consider good trends for a zine to emulate."

*((Well, I have to admit that \*I\* don't quite get contemporary zines, as opposed to fanzines.))*

Jennifer imagined anything fans are doing – anime, gaming, filking, costuming, etc. – was fannish. – I may be misunderstanding the term myself, but I'd taken to using "fannish" to refer to the parts of fandom that aren't sercon."

*((At last! Another person who knows the terms! Graeme will be so pleased.))*

... I can certainly see how any of the activities you've listed could be either, though I think they tend to fall on the side of fannish outside of their most dedicated devotees. Maybe it's the peculiarity of coming to fandom in North Carolina, where all the major cons are run by gamers and welcome them as a major portion of membership, but I don't see why there ought to be a divide between such activities and the old school zines/clubs/cons stuff. After all, Forry Ackerman wore a costume at the first Worldcon, I've heard reports that filking goes back about that far, though not by name, and that there was gaming at cons in the 40's, long before D&D and the like came to be. While anime may be a newcomer, I think we'd do well to embrace it. And aside from the roots, the tradition seems to be strong and continuous (the only anecdotal evidence I can offer outside NC is from Tom Feller's stint as president of the Southern Fandom Confederation, when he mentioned his weekly role-playing games in the O.O. and several of the conreports he ran included descriptions of the filk circles). I don't think it's wise or necessary to categorize fans into groups of interests. I harp on this a lot, but go check out Robert Madle's TAFF Report, Fakefan in London. The threat of division based on interest has hung over fandom since the 50's – it hasn't broken us yet, and I see no reason to let it now.

We can remain united without becoming uniform, and I think it best to try."

*((Got news for you: fandom hasn't been united for about forty years, and probably wasn't even then.*

*((The whole fannish/nonfannish outlook dates back to a point when everyone who had been a fan up to 1970 suddenly found him- or herself surrounded by nine Star Trek fans, usually entirely out of touch with the previous flavours of fandom, and redefining SF and fanzines and conventions in their own terms. I've taken to calling the flavours "Fandom Classic" and "Fandom Lite". They grated on each other. One reason is that Fandom Classic was much more about written than visual/media SF. Another is that media fans, and other post-70 fandoms, seemed to be uninterested in anything \*but\* their own trip; certainly unaware of, and uninterested in fanzines, or fannish fandom.*

*((Whatever. We've had a lot of failures to connect, in this hobby group. For my part I came looking for the celebrated fannish community, but found there were several communities, none of them permanent or long-lasting. Communities sort of happen here sometimes, but I'm blessed if I know how.*

*((Anybody have any ideas?))*

---

*John Purcell, j\_purcell54 @ yahoo.com, 15 March 2008*

Long time no see. Or read, as the case may be. Since the latest ish of *BCSFAzine* was posted to efanzines.com, I figured I should give it a look and a loc, albeit briefly.

Good to see that you are keeping yourself busy. It has been many a moon since you pubbed an ish of *Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*, so your efforts here at the head of the clubzine are keeping you in the fannish eye of the storm. I am glad, since I think of you as one of Canadian Fandom's more active fanzine fans.

Anyway, on to a couple things of note in this zine.

I like the way Lloyd Penney details how he used his time on jury duty to loc zines on his PDA. If I had one, I would do the same thing. Whenever I know that I will be in a situation where I could be waiting for many a moon, I will usually bring a book or a fanzine to read. It helps to pass the time, for sure, and this also explains how Lloyd locs so many zines. He is the Chris Garcia of loc-writers.

Steve and Sue Francis won this year's DUFF race, and they are very nice folks. Of course, I like Murray Moore too, but no complaints about this outcome. If Murray runs against me in the 2010 DUFF campaign, things could get ugly. Forewarned is forearmed, says I.

That is about all I can say right now. This is a nice little zine, full of info for the folks in the Vancouver, BC area, with spill-over into the Northwestern USofA. Maybe shipping off this loc will

make me worthy to wield the Hammer of Thor. Or, at the very least, some old Hammer skiffy movies. One can only hope.

---

*Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, March 26, 2008*

Thanks for the newest *BCSFazine*, issue 418. This might be a little rushed...Ad Astra is this weekend, and we have a few little things to take care of before we head over to the convention hotel Friday afternoon. So, here's a quick loc, probably for inclusion in 419.

I am not surprised by *Broken Pencil's* negative review of *BCSFazine*. There has to be some knowledge of why a publication is the way it is to service its readers. Nothing for an outsider? Seeing that it is a club publication, it is for insiders, the members of the club. Some time ago, the folks at *Broken Pencil* told me that they didn't want zines from sci-fi nerds, so I wouldn't bother with them. There are better zinezines that do not pass such judgment.

My loc...I have found out that the Denver fanzine lounge is being run by Chris Garcia, so we plan to share some ideas about what we'd like to do, reined in, of course, by the realities of what Worldcon (be it Denvention or Anticipation) would like to do. I left Panasonic on February 22, and I have been working

evenings at the *Globe and Mail*. Still looking for day time work, and the resumes flow out. Same as always.

*((Brag, brag, brag. I've just been venting my spleen, more or less, on the CanadianConrunners' list, basically at their blithe assumption that of course, fans are going jet-setting to cons all over the hills and dales.))*

Not having a membership to Denvention, I won't be able to vote for the Hugos this year. There is fannish duty, and there is financial restrictions. We do what we can with what we can spare money-wise. One list I'm on has a couple of rich fans berating us for not going to all the conventions they do...the more they look down at the rest of us, the more foolish they look. I am like that fan I described, there is so much I'd like to do. However, you can do only so much with so much time and money. We all know that reality.

Aurora Awards...the website says the voting period started on March 21, but I have yet to see a ballot. Any word yet, or is the ballot counting and nominee-notifying taking a little longer than planned?

At Ad Astra this year, Yvonne is running the space, science and technology track at the con, and I am offering what assistance I can give. We're running a party at the con, and otherwise, my responsibilities are minimal. We have thought to get further back into conrunning by offering further services to Ad Astra

and Anime North, but we're either too late, or they're trying to find nice ways of telling us to buzz off. We'll probably get clarified messages this weekend, so I look forward to enjoying ourselves, throwing a party, and seeing what we can do for these cons.

I will try to have details of what happened at the convention for a future letter. See you then.



## *Conventions*

May 2008

May 23-25: Crypticon Horror Convention at the Doubletree Inn & Conference Center, 18740 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188. Randon Acts

Seattle is pleased to announce Crypticon Seattle 2008. **THREE DAYS OF MUSIC, MONSTERS AND MAYHEM!** The Doubletree Ballroom will be packed with plenty of opportunities to sell and buy horror toys, t-shirts, books, movies, masks, art, autographs and much, much more. Come check out the exhibits, meet your favourite horror personalities, get their autographs. Friday night features our Independent Film Festival and on Saturday night we are having a major concert featuring some amazing National talent. There will be movies running all weekend featuring some new and some classic horror films and in some cases hosted by a member or members of the cast. With our major line-up of great guests, this show is shaping up to be a 'Don't Miss event'! See <http://www.crypticonseattle.com/>

June 2008

June 13-15: ConComCon at Summit Inn At Snoqualmie Pass, (425) 434-0095, 12 Guy Peak Ln, Snoqualmie, WA 98065, USA. "C-Cubed" is the long-established nickname for ConComCon. See the URL <http://swoc.org/ccubed>. C-Cubed even has a mascot, "Cubey, the Sea Cucumber of C-Cubed" (<http://swoc.org/ccubed/cubey.gif>), drawn by the talented Julie McGalliard. C-Cubed is also commonly



abbreviated as "C^3". C-Cubed 16 will (very likely) be held in Vancouver in 2009. (Alex von Thorn)

June 27-29: Writers Weekend in Seattle, WA. (Writers' workshop.)

July 2008

July 3-6: Westercon 61: Burning Fan in Las Vegas, NV.

July 6 - Vancouver Comicon. For more info about show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call 604-322-6412

August 2008

Aug. 1-3: Fandemonium in Nampa, ID. (General, but with gaming, anime and comics emphases.)

Aug. 1-3: SpoCon 2008 on the Gonzaga University campus. GoH: Tim Zahn. See <http://www.spocon.us/>

Aug 3: Zuiichi in Vancouver, Washington. "Dreamland Japan announces Zuiichi one-day event Dreamland Japan is pleased to announce Zuiichi- the ultimate treat in random fandom, a new experience in fan run events. Zuiichi provides four star food, modern

theater-style viewing rooms with leather seating, sake and wine tasting, and a staff trained to personally cater to the attendees' needs, all included in the ticket price. The programming is fans for fans, though special consideration is taken on adult-age fans, giving a balanced approach to fandom activities. Fans will be able to take pleasure in a mixed palate of viewings and events. Those attending may sip tea at the Ouran Host Club tea party, view the latest Lolita fashion, and see *Serenity* on the big screen at this unique celebration of high-end fandom. Furthermore, Zuiichi offers a new twist on food: all meals are included. Rather than depending on a diet of ramen and pocky, fans will be able to feast on roast beef, salads, pastries, and pastas from a custom gourmet catered four-star menu. These dining experience will also include local wines and a specialized selection of sake. The food, viewing, tasting, guests, and world-class service are all part of the experience. Dreamland Japan events emphasize indulging in the very best. [www.zuiichi-event.com](http://www.zuiichi-event.com)

Aug. 6-10: Worldcon 66/Denvention 33 in Denver, CO. \$175 reg, \$45 child, \$40 supporting; site selection voters \$135 (child/supp free). \_New rates from 1 Jan to 10 Jul:\_ \$200 reg, \$50 child or supp. Contact Denvention, PO Box 1349, Denver, CO 80201, USA.

Aug. 24: Comix & Stories. For more info about show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call 604-322-6412

Aug. 29-31 (tentative): ValhallaCon 2008 in Bellingham, Washington. ValhallaCon is the successor to VikingCon, Bellingham's premier SF/F convention. Our website is at <http://valhallacon.com/>.

September 2008

September 7 - Vancouver Comicon. For more info about show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call 604-322-6412

Sept. 26-28: Foolscap X in Bellevue, WA. (General.)

October 2008

Oct. 3-5: Vcon 33 in or around Vancouver, BC. "We are in final negotiations with our hotel. That's all I'll say until we're actually signed. the confirmed Guests of Honour are Author Patrick Rothfuss, Artist Lisa Snellings-Clark, and Gamer James Ernest." (Danielle Stephens, chair)

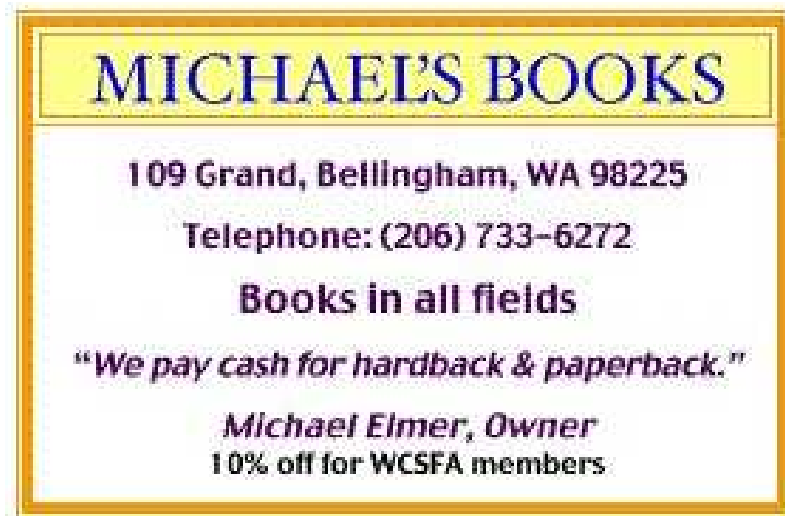
Oct. 30 - Nov. 2: World Fantasy Convention 2008 in Calgary, Alberta. Theme: "Mystery in Fantasy and

Horror." GoHs: David Morrell, Barbara Hambly, Tom Doherty; ArtGoH: Todd Lockwood; TM: Tad Williams. World Fantasy is a literary focused convention that is in a different city every year. This is only the third time it has been in Canada and the first time it has been west of Ottawa. The convention is aimed at authors, developing writers, readers and artists. Attendance is limited to 850 attendees. The convention theme in 2008 is "Mystery in Fantasy and Horror". During the day there will be two streams of discussion panels and two streams of author readings. Major events are the Friday night autograph session and the Sunday afternoon World Fantasy Awards banquet. More details coming on [www.worldfantasy2008.org](http://www.worldfantasy2008.org)

November 2008

Nov ? (ca. Remembrance Day weekend): Orycon # in Portland, OR.

November 16 - Vancouver Comicon. For more info about show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call 604-322-6412



### News

J.R.R. TOLKIEN's estate is suing New Line Cinema over the *Lord of the Rings* films. Supposedly the estate should receive 7.5% of the estimated \$6 billion gross receipts but, beyond a modest upfront payment of \$62,500, it has had nothing. [JS] Many authors who've dealt with film companies remember similar feats of accounting magic.

From *Ansible* 248, March 2008

*A STRANGE PLACE IN TIME - BOOK I*  
*'THE RECALLING OF JOHN ARROWSMITH'*  
Written by Alyx J. Shaw  
149 pages / 67000 words  
ISBN: 978-1-60370-302-4, 1-60370-302-0  
Available file types - html, lit, pdf, prc

[http://www.torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=product\\_info&products\\_id=847](http://www.torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=product_info&products_id=847)

Mychael Black, popular Torquere Press author, writes:

"What's a biker, who-along with his monstrosity of a motorcycle-gets thrown into another world, do?" [sic]  
"He rolls with it.

... This is one of the most awesome fantasy stories I have ever read.

I stayed up `til odd hours of the morning, then jumped back on again to finish. The predicaments John finds himself in are funny, but also intriguing. I was drawn wholeheartedly into his tale and when it was done, well, I admit: I emailed Alyx and begged for book 2!

If you like fantasies, then you will absolutely LOVE this one! It has that light-hearted but serious, sweet and comic fairy tale feel to it, while still managing a romance and a plot that leave you clamouring for

more. I've been a fan of Alyx's for a while, and this is, by far, her best work yet."

Well if ya can't trust Mycheal then who can ya trust? It's \$5.95, and has a real pretty cover by in-house artist Pluto, and best of all if ya print it out and mail it to me, I'll sign it for you!

...please buy this, I'm putting my duck through medical school. He wants to be a quack.

Alyx J. Shaw, 12 March 2008

NEBULA SHORTLISTS for 2007 work (which sometimes means 2006) include: NOVEL Jack McDevitt, *Odyssey*; Joe Haldeman, *The Accidental Time Machine*; Michael Chabon, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union*; Nalo Hopkinson, *The New Moon's Arms*; Tobias Buckell, *Ragamuffin*. SCRIPT *Children of Men*; *The Prestige*; *Pan's Labyrinth*; *V for Vendetta*; *Star Trek: New Voyages*, 'World Enough and Time'; *Doctor Who*\_, 'Blink'.

From *Ansible* 248, March 2008

R.I.P.

E. Gary Gygax (1938-2008), US game designer and fantasy novelist best known for his creation (with Dave Arneson) of the original, enormously influential *Dungeons & Dragons* role-playing game, died on 4 March aged 69. [LP] I liked the on-line suggestion that

fans should club together to build him a vast tomb full of the deadliest imaginable traps.

Barry Morse (1918-2008), London-born actor - in Canada from 1951 - whose many genre roles included Professor Victor Bergman in *Space: 1999*, died on 2 February aged 89. [MMW]

Roy Scheider (1932-2008), US actor best known for *Jaws* and also seen in *SeaQuest DSV* (Captain Nathan Bridger), 2010, two *Dracula* films, etc, died on 10 February aged 75. His debut film was *The Curse of the Living Corpse* (1964). [GW]

Ken Slater (1917-2008), old-time UK fan and book/magazine dealer who introduced so many of us to the joys of sf and fandom, died on 16 February. He was 90 in December 2007 and celebrated with a January party. Ken, a much-loved figure at conventions for many decades, is generally credited with restarting British fandom after World War II, setting an example to fanzine publishers with his *Operation Fantast* in 1947; he was a founding member (#6) of the BSFA in 1958. Ken and his late wife Joyce were fan guests of honour at the 1987 Brighton Worldcon. With help from his daughter Susie he remained an active book dealer into 2008.

From *Ansible* 248, March 2008

#### MORE AWARDS.

Bram Stoker (horror) shortlists include: NOVEL Bruce Boston, *The Gardener's Tale*; Joe Hill, *Heart-Shaped Box*; Sarah Langan, *The Missing*; Dan Simmons, *The Terror*. FIRST NOVEL Joe Hill, *Heart-Shaped Box*; Michael Calvillo, *I Will Rise*; John R. Little, *The Memory Tree*; Erika Mailman, *The Witch's Trinity*; Mary SanGiovanni, *The Hollower*.

Gaylactic Spectrum (gay/lesbian): 2007 awards continued (see A244 for novels). SHORT David Gerrold, *'In The Quake Zone' (Down These Dark Spaceways)*; Joy Parks, *'Instinct' (The Future Is Queer)*; Christopher Barzak, *'The Language of Moths' (Realms of Fantasy)*. OTHER Richard Labonte and Lawrence Schimel, ed., *The Future Is Queer* (anthology); *Torchwood Season 1* (tv); *V for Vendetta* (film).

SF Hall of Fame: Ian & Betty Ballantine, William Gibson, Richard Powers, Rod Serling.

SFWA Author Emeritus: Ardath Mayhar.

Skylark (NESFA, for general contributions to sf): Charles Stross.

From *Ansible* 248, March 2008

SF/SF (Science Fiction San Francisco)

29 pages of LoCs, news, con reports, and reviews of the Bay Area SF scene in the latest issue of SF/SF, now available at <http://efanzines.com>

In this issue:

News and Notes: Chris Garcia, Ed Martinez

Letters of Comment: Chris Garcia

Editorial: Jean Martin

This Old Fanzine: THE ACOLYTE No. 11: Chris Garcia

WonderCon Rolls into Town: España Sheriff

Weekend at WonderCon (Not): Chris Garcia

Elegant Edwardian Tea at the Palace: Jean Martin

My Idol, Carrie Fisher: Cordelia Willis

BASFA Minutes

Bay Area Fannish Calendar: España Sheriff

#### WHAT IS FILK?

Someone named Jim Granger appears to be running a Webzine, titled Pacific Fen Spotlight. Recently he wrote to the NWConLeague list:

I have posted another episode of Pacific Fen Spotlight. This time, I ask "What is Filk?" I also review the movies "The Spiderwick Chronicles" and "Jumper". I invite everyone to watch the show and let me know what you think. Also keep an eye out for upcoming shows covering Norwescon, SakuraCon and the Seattle in 2011 WorldCon bid. <a href="http://www.jimgranger.com/pac\_fen/E103-What\_Is\_Filk/">What is Filk? - [http://www.jimgranger.com/pac\\_fen/E103-What\\_Is\\_Filk/](http://www.jimgranger.com/pac_fen/E103-What_Is_Filk/)</a> <a

href="http://www.jimgranger.com/pac\_fen/">Home  
page - [http://www.jimgranger.com/pac\\_fen/](http://www.jimgranger.com/pac_fen/)

Jim Granger  
Pacific Fen Spotlight [tenor@jimgranger.com](mailto:tenor@jimgranger.com)  
[http://www.jimgranger.com/pac\\_fen/](http://www.jimgranger.com/pac_fen/)  
To [NWConLeague@yahoo.com](mailto:NWConLeague@yahoo.com), 04 March 2008

*WILLIAM SHATNER ANNOUNCES CONTEST TO FIND  
THE NEXT SCI-FI STAR*

Winner to be named Official Spokesperson  
NEW YORK - William Shatner knows how hard it is to become a bona-fide science fiction star. That's why he's making it a little bit easier for the next generation of would-be Captain Kirks. William Shatner announced this week that he is holding an online contest to find the most talented sci-fi personality in the United States. To enter, contestants just have to create a short video clip that shows why they are the heir apparent to William Shatner, and upload it at <http://shatner.blip.tv/> by September 30th. Like many reality TV shows, this contest will rely on the voting public to help choose the winner. Anyone who wants to can view the contestants' video clips and vote for their favorites online at <http://shatner.blip.tv/>. The top ten highest ranked entrants will be named finalists, and given a chance to win William Shatner's Sci-Fi Challenge. Unlike hit TV shows American Idol and So You Think You Can Dance, which focus on

contestants that have one particular kind of talent, William Shatner encourages a much broader range of applicants. Aspiring actors can submit a tape of themselves re-enacting a memorable sci-fi role or performing something new. Young directors and film makers can create a sci-fi short or a brief homage to Bill's career that demonstrates why they should win. Budding film critics can showcase their insight in a taped movie review. This diverse group of contestants makes for a richer talent pool, and a more interesting competition. Some early submissions show the range of entries that contestants can make. A brief scan of the site revealed a sci-fi short featuring a light-saber battle between Darth Vader and William Shatner ([mrpink468.shatner.blip.tv](http://mrpink468.shatner.blip.tv)), a handsome but somewhat deranged fan who runs the Bill Shatner TV Station ([BillTv.shatner.blip.tv](http://BillTv.shatner.blip.tv)), and an intergalactic celebrity roast ([BjornBorg.shatner.blip.tv](http://BjornBorg.shatner.blip.tv)). While these videos may not all become finalists, each of them is certainly fun and sure to entertain. In addition to those finalists voted in by the audience, Shatner has selected seven celebrity judges who will each be allowed to select an additional finalist (for 17 finalists in total). The celebrity judges are a diverse group of science fiction luminaries, and include representatives from StarTrek.com, the Sci-Fi Channel, and Chase Masterson from the cast of Star Trek: Deep Space 9. Also represented on the celebrity judge panel are Ain't

It Cool News, Planet Magazine, the Slice of Sci-Fi Podcast, and VideoDetective.com. William Shatner will select the winner from the 17 finalists. The grand prize winner will receive a large cash award and will be named the Official Spokesperson for the William Shatner Science Fiction DVD Club.

Posted by Chris Nilsson to  
SFNorthwest@yahoogroups.com, 03 March 2008

#### *FAN FUNDS*

##### TAFF:

Chris Garcia promises that this is the last issue before he leaves on his TAFF trip, but threatens another one while he's traveling. Now available at <http://efanzines.com>

*Drink Tank #163*

##### CUFF:

Lance Sibley has been chosen at the 2008 Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) delegate. Lance is very active in Fandom in the Toronto area and beyond. He has been involved with Polaris (previously named Toronto Trek), the 2003 Toronto Worldcon, the 2006 Toronto Gaylaxicon, and the 2009 Montreal Worldcon in various senior roles.

The Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) is a Canadian national fund, which provides for an Eastern

Canadian or a Western Canadian science fiction enthusiast to attend Convention. Convention is the annual convention of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association. Traditionally, the location of Convention alternates between Eastern and Western Canada. The CUFF delegate is chosen from individuals residing in the opposite region of Canada. For 2008, the Convention is being held in Western Canada (Winnipeg) so this year's CUFF delegate is from Eastern Canada. Further information about this year's Convention held at Keycon (May 16th-19th) may be found at [www.keycon.org](http://www.keycon.org).

Information about Convention in general may be found at: [www.prixaurorawards.ca](http://www.prixaurorawards.ca). CUFF was established in 1981 to help bridge the distance between science fiction enthusiasts from Eastern and Western Canada. Due to organizational and geographical barriers, the eastern and western regions of the country operated in relative isolation from each other. By bringing science fiction fans from opposite sides of Canada together, an opportunity is provided to learn from the experiences of different fan bases and regions. Finances are raised through a series of fund raising efforts, as well as donations from prominent science fiction individuals and organizations.

Peter Jarvis 2007 CUFF Delegate & Administrator

### *BIFFness*

Eight opinionated BIFFionados turned out for People's Choice Night. We had a bunch of promising videos on offer, but instead, we decided to try Mystery Science Theater 3000, which I had heard about, but never seen. Unfortunately, nobody warned me that MST3K itself isn't much better than the bad movies it spoofs. So, after about half an hour, we turned to Teletoon to watch Robot Chicken Star Wars. To tell you the truth, I'm not quite sure which I found more disturbing... This week, we resume BIFF's Fannish World Tour with a trip to China, to see the Stephen Chow Kung Fu fantasy comedy: Shaolin Soccer. I've heard that the North American release gutted all the fun out of the story, so we're going to watch the original version with English subtitles, which means we won't need to worry if the muzak drowns out the dialogue. (But you might want to take a bit more care than usual in choosing your seat, so you can have a good view of the screen.) And, to celebrate the occasion, I'm going to splurge and order the green pepper steak with rice. Looking ahead to next week, since we've been having such fun with our Video Crossing nights, we've decided to pay homage to Book Crossing, which is what gave us the idea in the first place, and have a Book Swap. To take part, bring in any fannish books (SF, fantasy, anime, graphic novels, whatever...) that you don't need any more, and pile

them up on the swag table. Then, take your pick from what other BIFFites bring in. Marina tells me that there will be real actual Book Crossers in attendance to celebrate the occasion, so this event will also serve as another "Introduction to Local Fandom" night.

### *CONGOING*

As the business war on the air is hotting up with so many low-budget airlines dominating the sky, the passengers can now enjoy the best deals. The webguide - <http://air.myguideforlife.com> - helps you find the cheapest and even free air tickets to make your journey ore happier and very less expensive. Visit the website now to find out how to get the cheap and free air tickets: <http://air.myguideforlife.com>

Adelle Adrianna to [BC\\_Scifi\\_Assc@yahoo.com](mailto:BC_Scifi_Assc@yahoo.com),  
03 March 2008

### *CONRUNNING*

Canadian Conrunners wants to hold a conrunners' convention, the second in a series out East. After CCC2 seemed to go on hiatus, and Lloyd Penney suggested Kingston, Ontario as a venue, Linda Ross-Mansfield wrote to Canadian Conrunners: Perhaps the most simple [*sic*] thing to do is to create a list of basics that would be needed to see the next Canadian Conrunners conference actually take place. Off the top of my head:



On the physical side, obviously there needs to be:

- 1- A facility with hotel rooms and function spaces to hold seminar discussions for up to say 30-40 people.
- 2- A set of dates that are amenable to the majority of potential attendees and when said facility is available.
- 3- Money for deposits and supplies.
- 4- Ease of access ~ via public, private, vehicles air/train/bus/driving.

On the personnel side of things there needs to be:

- A- A coordinator/planner to be front person - negotiate the facility costs and make arrangements
- B- A communications person to coordinate and disseminate information to supporting and attending members.
- C- A programs coordinator who arranges the panel discussions and if needed gets speakers.
- D- A Finance coordinator, preferable one who has a not-for-profit organization behind them that is willing to act as the money repository and dispenser. ( There are a few possibilities that are easily available, Conadian A being one.)

I like the idea of everybody chunking in a small amount now, to get things started. We can call it a supporting membership, or a sponsorship. There is the question of how much. Too small an amount really doesn't provide sufficient money to get the idea off the ground

though. Someone, I think it may have been Cathy, said there were about 30 people attending the last one? How much was the attending membership fee?

If everyone on this list provided \$20 or \$25, and we could get some of the conventions to provide a small grant of \$100 to \$150 in exchange for a free membership they could send a member of their concom with, that could be a decent amount of seed money.

So I say let's get this thing started...

- Do we still have a Chair/ Coordinator/ planner, or do we need to look for a new one?
- Who is willing to be the communications coordinator for the event?
- Do we have someone with enough time to arrange a basic set of panels?
- Who should we select as Finance coordinator/Treasurer? I can volunteer, if no one else is able to do it. It should be fairly easy, compared to what I am already doing for our local convention and for World Horror in 2009.
- What dates are good for folks? (Mention has been made of June so how is the 13th-15th for people?)

Lloyd has information on Kingston that he is willing to send and I really think that it is time for us to step

up if we want to see this thing happen in 2008, or even in 2009.

~Linda Ross-Mansfield  
Chair - World Horror Convention 2009 Winnipeg  
mrm2@mts.net, March 2, 2008

#### THOG'S MASTERCLASS.

Eyeballs in the Sky. 'Matilda was lovely, but she had bright burning eyes that you could feel creep down your face and into your belly.' (Arthur N. Scarm, *The Werewolf vs Vampire Woman*, 1972) [BA]

Life Expectancy Dept. "'Please don't hurt me Mister Werewolf," she begged. "I'm only 21 and I have at least 10 good years ahead of me yet.'" (Ibid)

Dept of Colourful Idiom. 'Considering this horrid fact, he drained his vodka and soda and motioned to Mullarney [the barman] to shove up another sheep.' (Sam Merwin, Jr, *The Time Shifters*, 1971). [AR]

Time Travel Dept. "'Finding that my new love is my great- grandfather, however happenstantially, requires a certain amount of getting used to.'" (Ibid)

Dept of Relativity. 'It's the long accepted theory that a man who could travel faster than light could spin off this planet for a light year or two and return that much younger.' (Ibid)

True Romance Dept. 'Sex, like a thousand-headed snake, wound its dark coils and convulsed in agony, tightening upon the conflagration [in the hero's soul]

and concentrating its malevolence and potency, pulsing the hellish plasma to new levels of atrocious ferocity.' (Colin Kapp, *Transfinite Man aka The Dark Mind*, 1964) [AR]

From *Ansible* 248, March 2008

Marc Nadeau observed the next day:

My first impression was/is: Where did she get the idea that conventions have money to spend in the name of their runners? :-)

Frankly, I don't see why you need this much money. There is only a big meeting room to rent (150\$ x 2 days = 300\$), split by 30 people that's 10\$ each. But maybe you are calculating the equipment needed for an electronic conference with the West part of Kanada...

All the other expenses will be paid by ourselves (room and food).

#### CONCOMCON:

Many conrunners from British Columbia and Alberta will be at ConComCon 15 the weekend of June 6-8.

Alex van Thorn to  
CanadianConrunners@yahoo.com,  
03 March 2008

## AURORAS

<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/AwardProcesses/nominationForm.php>

## BC RENFEST NEWSLETTER 13

We have our property!!! The 2008 BC Renfest will be held at Aldor Acres Farm, Fort Langley. Instructions and more details can be found at: <http://www.bcrenfest.com/storyetc.html#place> And our dates will be.... August 29, 30 and 31, 2008. For those of you who drive, there will be parking right on the property. For those of you who transit we are looking into buses that would run from the closest transit location to the site. We'll keep you all up to date via the newsletter on that. There is no camping on site BUT there are near by campsites and motels/hotels. That information can be found at: <http://www.bcrenfest.com/storyetc.html#stay> The new storyline is up. You can read it at: <http://www.bcrenfest.com/storyetc.html#story> For all the wonderful information do visit the webpage at: <http://www.bcrenfest.com> BC Renfest actors will also be doing the opening weekend of Spring Break at Science World. Dates: March 15th and 16 Where: Science World Vancouver. The Science Theatre. For directions and rates you can visit The Science World's webpage at: <http://www.scienceworld.bc.ca/> Their Spring Break calendar is not up yet but we will be

doing two shows a day. Descriptions and times for our shows are: Pirates - each day at 11:45am The BC Renaissance Festival presents: Life at Sea with the Crew Of The Jade Dragon Description: Join Captain Charity Rackham and members of her pirate crew as they react to being torn out of 1508 and dropped into 2008. Witness their wonder and listen to their comparisons. Nobles - each day at 2:45pm. The BC Renaissance Festival presents: What it is to be Noble with The King and Queen of England Description: Help King Henry VII and his Queen, Elizabeth of York, come to terms with being removed from 1508 and brought forward to 2008. Experience their wonder and delight with this new place. We are always looking for parade opportunities. If there are any you know of give us a shout at: [ccmh@bcrenfest.com](mailto:ccmh@bcrenfest.com) Make sure you title your email: BCRF Parade Ops. At this time we do not have an entertainment coordinator but if you have a stage show and wish to share it with us during our 2008 festival please send an email to: [entertainment@bcrenfest.com](mailto:entertainment@bcrenfest.com) Make sure BCRF is in the title and the moment we have an entertainment coordinator they will connect with you. We are also constantly looking for interested vendors. If you are one of those please send an email (with BCRF in the title) to: [vendors@bcrenfest.com](mailto:vendors@bcrenfest.com) Interested in General Volunteering, Command Team or any other positions feel free to contact: [staff@bcrenfest.com](mailto:staff@bcrenfest.com) And we'll see if

we can get you connected with just the right thing for your interests. Feel free, as well, to contact individual department heads. Their info can be found at: 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 webpage? Please feel free to let us know so that we can post or correct the posting. Please send an email to: [ccmh@bcrenfest.com](mailto:ccmh@bcrenfest.com) and we'll post and/or correct the listing. Once more please include BCRF in the title. 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> There is also my YouTube account. <http://www.youtube.com/carrhunger> If you do searches for BC Renfest on Flickr, YouTube and MySpace you will find us. Even though we don't have a Facebook account many of our members do. Go ahead. Do that search. Do you have spare fabric, paint, wood and various items we could use to help create the site, banners and costumes? Do 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. An email to: [ccmh@bcrenfest.com](mailto:ccmh@bcrenfest.com) may just remedy some of your clutter. Remember.. Add BCRF to your title and it won't get tossed in the spam trash.

Posted by: "Christina and Martin"  
[Ygroups@carrhunger.com](mailto:Ygroups@carrhunger.com) carrhunger  
Sat Mar 1, 2008 4:55 pm (PST)  
[info@bcrenfest.com](mailto:info@bcrenfest.com)  
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<http://www.cafepress.com/bcrf>

#### *BIFF AT LATE FEB 08*

Eleven BIFFatics turned out for our latest Gaming Night. Out of the games on offer, the two which were chosen were Buffy: Top Trumps, which led to much hilarity and insulting various characters, and Sets, which led to much frowning in concentration, trying to shuffle four sets of parameters in players' heads at once. The Buffy players insisted that they were having more fun, because we weren't making any noise. All of this, of course, was in addition to the usual conversation. (And food. Don't forget food. I definitely didn't forget food, because I was starving when I got to the the restaurant.)

BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens Fridays (except long weekends and VCON weekend)

from 6:30 p.m. until closing time (officially 9:00) at the Eighties Restaurant ([www.80srestaurant.com](http://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.realityfree.ca/> 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.realityfree.ca/taxonomy/term/13/0/feed>

#### *ON VCON SCHEDULING AND ADVERTISEMENT*

... October 3-5, that's the weekend before Thanksgiving. We are in final negotiations with our hotel. That's all I'll say until we're actually signed. the confirmed Guests of Honour are Author Patrick Rothfuss, Artist Lisa Snellings-Clark, and Gamer James Ernest.

The VCON Facebook page is not the main source for info, so it generally just sits there saying "visit the website!" I admit that right now, this is not a particularly useful redirection since the website still has the VCON 32 info up. We're building a new website and it's just taking us a bit longer than we had planned. It will be better soon, I promise. The web address will stay the same ([www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca)) and we'll announce it on this list when the new site is up.

We'd like to throw a 6-Months-to-VCON Party, but we haven't got a location. Saturday, April 5th, is the date. If you have suggestions for where we could hold it (we'd like to spend as little cash as possible on the location), please let me know. We'll bring the beer, and talk shop to your hearts' content.

(DS)

Why *don't* we schedule on Thanksgiving?

Danielle explains:

Because a lot of people have family commitments on Thanksgiving.

We're scheduling it off that weekend because we think it's a better idea. VCON 32 was off that weekend and it went really well. We're likely to plan for the first weekend in October for the next few years, based on the number of weeks in the month and where in the week Hallowe'en falls. We're not interested in trying a holiday weekend again. I realise that VCON has often been on holiday weekends, and it has sometimes been successful, but we're moving in a new direction. People shouldn't have to choose between family and fandom.

Why aren't we advertising a good year in advance? VCon - and Spokon and Moscon and NonCon and, I think, every other con - used to advertise up to a year in advance, twenty-five years ago. (Maybe not Boreal, but they did everything differently in Quebec.)

Rustycon and Norwescon and Orycon may still advertise a firm date, hotel, GoHs and rates a full year in advance, but they range from 1,000+ to 3,000+ members; they're the Big Alpha Gorillas of Pacific Northwest conventions, and rather a different group to deal with than conventions drawing less than 600 members.

I have no idea what the specialty/ subfandom/ anime-comics-costuming-filk-gaming-horror conventions draw.

Danielle explains:

In recent years it has been impossible, as the bidding happened *\*at\** a VCON for the next one. Now that we've changed those rules, we are working on cleaning up procedures so that we will be able, in the future, to advertise the next VCON in each year's program book. Hopefully, we'll have everything smoothed out enough in time to advertise 34 at 33.

I was going on:

There was a time when hearing a VCon bid was conducted before the preceding VCon. I'm glad people are thinking of doing something like that again.

For a long, bad time I was inclined to believe VCon organizers, and BCSFAns generally, couldn't stick to their written procedures, or even get organized and keep active, if their lives depended on it.

The majority of online activity and communication has shifted several times, over the last ten or twenty years. What serves best, to raise a profile like VCon's?

Between 1988 and 1989, as I recall, Lisa Smedman detected a sharp drop in the returns on our traditional advertising - flyers and posters in bookstores and comic stores, ads in pro magazines like Analog, that sort of thing. I was barely hip enough to realize that increasing numbers of people *\*only\** related to visual, even broadcast media, and were mostly online. Very belatedly I heard that people had gone off message boards and migrated to Web spaces, and things like MySpace, or Friendster, or Facebook.

For someone like me, learning that a convention is even *happening* can be an uphill climb, because an increasing number of

conventions don't even think outside the online box. They *\*only\** have email addresses and Web pages; they offer no postal addresses, no phone numbers, no way even to join outside of PayPal. Maybe I'm unusual but I prefer not to use my credit card, and especially I prefer *\*not\** to conduct transactions online, if I can help it.

(Garth Spencer)

*WCSFAzine #7 & #8*

Graeme Cameron has released the latest issues of *WCSFAzine*, the monthly E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association. Now available at <http://efanzines.com>

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*Hobbits May Be Human After All*

Forwarded by Taras Wolansky

ScienceDaily (Mar. 6, 2008) — RMIT University researchers have joined the worldwide debate over the hobbit-like fossils found on the Indonesian island of Flores, with a controversial new theory suggesting their primitive features are the result of a medical condition.

Dr Peter Obendorf and Dr Ben Kefford, from the School of Applied Sciences, worked with the University of Western Australia's Emeritus Professor Charles Oxnard on a paper just published in the British journal, *Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences*.

The small human-like fossils were said to represent a primitive species completely new to science when they were discovered in 2004.

But Dr Obendorf said comparisons of the fossils with modern bones suggested that they were actually human, with their small stature and distinctive features the result of a condition related to severe iodine deficiency.

"Dwarf cretinism can cause features very similar to those of the Flores hobbits," the Senior Lecturer said.

...

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2008/03/080305193157.htm>

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*Hal Duncan's taxonomy of "Strange Fiction"*

Forwarded by Taras Wolansky  
(Taras wrote to Garth – "*my contribution to this is merely to select what part of Hal Duncan's essay on SFCrownsnest.com to excerpt!*")

Proto-Modern Romance

Gothic - Frankenstein, Dracula, Melmoth  
Victorian Adventure - She, King Solomon's Mines, The  
Lost World

Scientific Adventure - From the Earth to the Moon,  
The Time Machine  
Juvenile - Wizard of Oz, Peter Pan, Wind in the Willows  
Fable - The Gods of Pegana

Here we've got the various developments of and from popular pre-Victorian, Victorian and post-Victorian fiction. We could include Stevenson, Buchan, Conan Doyle, Haggard and a whole lot more here, but that would take up too much room and too much time. So let's just say that what we've got here is narratives largely structured as Romantic Adventures, with the gradual emergence of the Secondary World from the influence of fabulation - Oz, Neverland, Pegana. It's where these two features come together that the next group emerges...

Fictions of the Pre-Industrial Idyll (to be Saved)

Secondary World Epic - Worm Ouroboros, Well at the  
World's End, LotR  
Juvenile - The Chronicles of Narnia  
Heroic Quest - Dragonbone Chair, Sword of Shannara,  
The Last Unicorn  
Anthropomorphic - Watership Down  
Deconstruction - Princess Bride, Discworld, The Iron  
Dragon's Daughter



Here your backdrop is an ultimately idyllic secondary world reconstructed from our myth, folklore and fable (childhood and the past idealised). And the narrative is Romantic Adventure restructured as such. The result is the Epic / Heroic monomyth focused on a single innocent hero / heroine, sometimes expanded to the noble band, the fellowship on their Quest to save the kingdom. We see this all over the genre, formulated by homage & copying, or deconstructed by parody or critique. When it's reconstructed by historification we get the next group...

Pre-Industrial Baroque World (to be Won)

Pseudo-Mediaeval Epic- Tigana, A Game of Thrones,  
Prince of Nothing  
Arthurian - The Once and Future King  
Greek - Clash of the Titans, Jason and the Argonauts  
Sumerian - Gilgamesh  
Celtic - Tam Lin

Backdrop here is still a secondary world but this is reconstructed from history and legend - or myth, folklore and fable remade as legend. It takes place in more of a post-mythic "Age of Men" world, one that manifests our desires and dreams and so is imbued with wonder but one where the resultant vibe is more baroque, more complex and morally ambiguous,

because Fate is suspect, the divine is fickle, multiplicitous, and the process of historification forces a recognition of the reality of imperfect rulers. The narrative is still structured as Epic / Heroic, but we may see it in saga form rather than monomyth, focused on multiple flawed heroes / heroines. Less of a Quest here, more of a Struggle for the Kingdom, more war and rebellion, intrigue and subterfuge. There is no clear line between this and the previous group though. To what extent is the world of Tigana idyllic rather than baroque? To what extent is the world of The Lord of the Rings baroque rather than idyllic? To what extent do secondary world fantasies present a struggle between these two aesthetics?

Wherever we draw the line, if we view this type as a reconstruction of the previous, it too can be reconstructed, in turn, by downscaling from Epic to Heroic...

Neo-Primitive World (to be Conquered)

Planetary Romance - A Princess of Mars, Slave Girl of Gor  
Swords & Sorcery - Conan, Jirel of Joiry, Fahfrd and the Gray Mouser  
Post-apocalyptic - Hiero's Journey  
Deconstruction - Elric of Melnibone, Shadow of the Torturer, Viriconium

It's interesting that here the secondary world may well be rationalised as another planet, a prehistoric past or a post-apocalypse future. And there's a corresponding slide from the wonders of the idyllic and the baroque here, to a sense of the world as existential wilderness, the moral vacuum of a wild world, all too human kingdoms ruled by all too human powers. The Epic quest is replaced by Heroic mission(s), the narrative structured as episodic adventure, focused on the Romantic hero as noble savage or honest rogue. Ultimately this is deconstructed in the New Wave by the full-on anti-heroism of Decadent protagonists, writers seeking to directly critique the reactionary politics of the genre, the fascism of power-fantasy, or even, in Harrison's case, the whole aesthetic foundation of secondary world fantasy.

So what next?

Modern Archaic World (to be Rediscovered)

American Gothic - Something Wicked This Way Comes

Contemporary Fantasy - Mythago Wood, American Gods

Urban Fantasy - War for the Oaks, Moonheart, Bones of the Moon

Dark Fantasy - Pillars of the World, Interview With a Vampire

Occult Adventure - Declare, Last Call, The Club  
Dumas

Supernatural Romance - Anita Blake

Pastiche / Parody - Fool on the Hill

This group takes a different tack. Here myth, folklore and fable are used to construct a secondary level to reality, a realm hidden beyond or within the contemporary world. Legend is remade as secret history. Our backdrop, then is the "post-magic" world of modernity. It seems only natural that the resultant theme here is the resurgence of the repressed, the uncovering of the cryptic (the message being that our world is itself, secretly, a locus of wonder). We see the return of the Gothic here via that occultism, but we also see it merging with more contemporary modes of Romance - adventure, thriller, romance in the Harlequin sense. The narrative is generally structured as an Adventure / Mystery of some sort, though. As such it inherits those heroes, the innocent cynics, the mundanes who are not born to Epic / Heroic destinies, modern everymen who think they understand the world until they are suddenly faced with the return of the archaic.

And what about SF?

Colonialist Frontier World (to be Saved / Won / Conquered)

Prototypes - The Skylark of Space, The Lensman series

Juvenile - Tom Swift, Podkayne of Mars

Space Opera - The Mote in God's Eye

Epic SF - The Stars My Destination, Dune, Nova, Fire Upon the Deep

Future-Historical SF - Foundation

Alien Invasion - War of the Worlds, Footfall

Politico-Economic - The Moon is a Harsh Mistress

Crypto-political Thriller - Consider Phlebas

Military SF - Starship Troopers, A Hymn Before Battle, Honor Harrington

Alternate History - The Guns of the South

Here we see space as the secondary world scaled up, the future as idyllic / baroque / neo-primitive backdrop for all sorts of Epic / Heroic / Adventure / Mystery narrative. Super-advanced technological artefacts, as Objects of Power, imbue this new frontier with wonder, but that frontier is also a place of threat. An innocent Earth may become the victim of colonialist aliens, an idyll to be saved. Peaceful Earth colonies may be the targets of imperialist Terrans or the local savages, a kingdom to be won or a territory to be conquered (though the politics of this may be

glossed over). So we get narratives structured as monomythic quest, power-struggle saga, episodic mission or cryptic thriller. Given the colonialist frontier thematics at play here it's no surprise that the field of SF incorporates a return to the romantic roots of all this - the War of Independence, the Civil War, the Wild West, the Indian Wars - in Alternate History so often focused on the (re)construction of America.

Which leads us to another group of types of SF, one overlapping with the field of Fantasy...

Industrial Baroque/Grotesque World (to be Understood)

Future Fantasy - The Martian Chronicles

Social satire - The Space Merchants, The Reproductive System

Drug culture - The Three Stigmata of Palmer Eldritch

Metaphysical - Lord of Light, Ubik, Valis

New Wave - Cornelius Quartet, Dangerous Visions

Cyberpunk - Neuromancer

Steampunk - The Anubis Gates

New Weird - Perdido Street Station, The Etched City, The Physiognomy

Clockpunk - Mainspring

Transhumanist - Accelerando

Here space, the future or an alternate history represents the modern world made strange, a baroque / grotesque backdrop for the sort of Epic / Heroic / Adventure / Mystery narratives discussed above. The use of technology here may also be as an Object of Power or a MacGuffin. But this is a post-Promethean world, an industrial, capitalist, consumerist, information age world where the everyman is hero.

Because the real frontier is closed, Bradbury's fiction becomes an elegy for it. And because we are now in the Age of America's Empire we see the introduction of satiric and Noir narratives as critique of its culture, from Sladek through to Gibson. We see the counter-culture manifest in everything PKD ever wrote. We see postmodernity in the New Wave & slipstream disruptions of linear narrative. As we enter the post-industrial era we see the use of Gothic and Victorian Adventure to (re)construct a lost industrial idyll. The Information Age wonders of Singularity fiction, it should be noted, could be considered a sort of idyllic / baroque / grotesque depending on one's level of investment in the dream of transcendence; you could see the futureshock of modernity in there or a new frontier myth.

Ultimately this group too can be reconstructed by removing Romantic narrative structures, adopting a social naturalist dynamics:

Conceptual World (to be Survived)

Prototype - The Machine Stops

Technological - Rogue Moon, Rendezvous With Rama

Socio-political - The Left Hand of Darkness, Double Star, The Female Man

Utopian - Lost Horizon, The Dispossessed, Shikasta

Heterotopian - Trouble on Triton

Dystopian - 1984, Native Tongue, The Handmaid's Tale

Apocalyptic - Dalgren

Post-apocalyptic - A Canticle for Leibowitz, The Drowned World

Psycho-social- The Time Traveler's Wife, Flowers for Algernon

Metaphoric - Gormenghast

Metaphysical - The Lovely Bones

Reality, here, is reconfigured by a conceit. The world is a modern or postmodern "strange land" to be... lived in. Romantic narrative structures are therefore rationalised or reconstructed entirely to social naturalist narratives of a protagonist confronted with that reconfiguration, struggling to survive. Conceits of technological innovation, socio-political development, environmental catastrophe and personal transformation can be made concrete in SF. Metaphoric and metaphysical conceits can be made

concrete in Fantasy. Any sort of story, ultimately, can be told using the technique of the hypothetical, counterfactual or metaphysical conceit extended throughout the narrative.

(Full article at:  
<http://www.sfcrownsnest.com/features/arc/2008/nz12293.php> CAUTION: Obscenity-laced.-TW)

*I BELIEVE IN HARVEY DENT*



“As part of a viral marketing campaign for the next Batman movie, *The Dark Knight*, a political website has been created for fictional character Harvey Dent, [ibelieveinharveydent.com](http://ibelieveinharveydent.com). Visitors are encouraged to register as supporters for Dent's run for district attorney by providing their e-mail addresses and phone numbers; in return they receive a form letter via e-mail and a recorded phone call from Dent. Special campaign vans, called Dentmobiles, have also been driving around in the real world to raise awareness of the character.

Harvey Dent previously appeared in two Batman movies: *Batman* (1989), played by Billy Dee Williams, and before the accident that turned him into the villain Two-Face, and *Batman Forever* (1995), played by Tommy Lee Jones, as Two-Face. In *The Dark Knight*, yet a third actor, Aaron Eckhart, takes on the role.

“Speculation has it that the marketing has centred around Harvey Dent because it would be considered inappropriate to emphasise the Joker's role in the movie after the recent death of actor Heath Ledger.”

(Harvey Dent previously appeared in two Batman movies: *Batman* (1989), played by Billy Dee Williams, before the accident that turned him into the villain Two-Face, and *Batman Forever* (1995), played by Tommy Lee Jones, as Two-Face.)

Felicity Walker, 13 March 2008

### *Not Necessarily the Media File*

with Cosmic Ray Seredin and his dragon Spot

Hello *BCSFazine* readers, I am in a clearing outside Cape Town, some when (As the good Doctor would put it.) in the times of the Napoleonic war and standing beside my new friend Temeraire, the Celestial dragon. He's sleeping off a cold so we better keep quite.

See thanks to the Hollywood writers' strike I once again found reading. I'm telling you now that "Temeraire" is going to be the next big thing in media, because it looks like Peter Jackson (Lord of the Rings) is going to make the first book of this series into a movie. Hopefully as with LotR Jackson can turn this great little piece of story telling into a great film. As you know I'm heading down to NorWesCon31 on March 18th and I'll be meeting Naomi Novik the author of the four (so far) "Temeraire" novels and likely be hearing a bit of the fifth novel at her reading on Saturday.

OK, I want to return to this adventure so lets make this short. The writers strike is over, however, since science fantasy series take far longer to produce then the usual crime or legal drama or comedy series, we won't be seeing new *Heroes*, *Chuck* and *Pushing Daisies* episodes until the fall. Still we will get to see four new episodes of *Lost* before the summer, a whole

new series of *Battlestar Galactica* starting April 4th running till November. As for the rest, the only other one I know that survived the writers strike is *Stargate Atlantis*, with the rest of the 2007-2008 science fantasy line-up heading to a bargain DVD bin near you.

As for *Doctor Who*, as I said in February's *BCSFazine* that the Americans will get to see series four before we do in Canada. Though, it will not air on NBC (Note: They would aired Reality series and with some "Looking back specials" if the strike had continued), still their sister cable super-station the Sci-Fi Channel is planning to air it six days after it airs on the BBC in the UK. The CBC still plans to air series four of Doctor Who before the end of the year, however, due to Toronto Blue Jays baseball and the 2008 Summer Olympics Games coverage, it's unlikely to air up here until either September or October.

OK, back to my adventures with Temeraire: be seeing you in the May *BCFazine* with a report from Norwescon31 (with pictures).

## *Reference Information*

Aurora website: <[www.prixaurorawards.ca](http://www.prixaurorawards.ca)> OR

<[www.prix-aurora-awards.ca](http://www.prix-aurora-awards.ca)>

BC Renfest website: [www.bcrenfest.com](http://www.bcrenfest.com)

Canvention / Keycon 25: [www.keycon.org](http://www.keycon.org)

CUFF – c/o Aurora Website

Vcon 33: [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca)

### *FANZINES*

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*The Arcadian Guild Quarterly*, Winter 2007-08; David Malinski, c/o 3426 – 333 Hunt, Courtenay, BC V9N 9B8

*Burnaby Writers' Society*, May/June 2007; \*[www.bwsbc.ca](http://www.bwsbc.ca); Memberships \$30 (\$20 to seniors, students, and the unwaged).

*Chunga* #13, September 2007, edited by Andy Hooper ([fanmailaph@aol.com](mailto:fanmailaph@aol.com)), Randy Byers ([fringefaan@yahoo.com](mailto:fringefaan@yahoo.com)), and Carl Juarez ([heurihermilab@](mailto:heurihermilab@)

[gmail.com](mailto:)), c/o 1013 North 36<sup>th</sup> Street, Seattle, WA 98103 (send three copies in trade)

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*File 770*:150, June 2007, Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016; trade, contribution or \$8 for 5 issues, \$15 for 10; [mikeglyer@cs.com](mailto:mikeglyer@cs.com)  
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