

WCSFAzine

The Fannish E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association
Dedicated to Promoting VCON, Canada's Oldest Continuing SF Convention.

#20

Mar 2010



The Last Time the SCA Hosted a Hot Tub Party at VCON

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Note: All uncredited articles are by the Editor.

ART CREDITS:

Clip Art: Cover, 6 , 21

William Rotsler: 16

EDITORIAL

To my astonishment I made the short list for the 2010 Aurora Awards, in that WCSFAzine is among the competitors for Fan Accomplishment (Fanzine). I feel slightly guilty as I published but three issues in 2009, namely #17 (January), #18 (February) & #19 (April). Then I gave up, burned out by the effort. However, the possibility of winning an Aurora has motivated me to begin publishing WCSFAzine again. This time though, in order to avoid burning out, I will publish on an irregular schedule and focus on promoting VCON rather than try to function as a West Coast SF newszine.

Oddly enough, I am rushing out this thin issue precisely because of time sensitive material, namely the award voting listed herein. But that's okay. I'll take my time with the next issue, which will be much bigger.

Remember! Cast your vote for WCSFAzine! Cheers! The Graeme.

WCSFAzine #21 should be ready circa May 1st. Many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanzines.com> > for hosting. Please send me feedback! < rgraeme@shaw.ca >

VCON 35 NEWS

UPCOMING VCON 35 GEARING UP!

DATES: Oct 1st, 2nd & 3rd 2010

These are confirmed dates. They will not be moved.

VENUE: to be announced.

Negotiations are currently underway with several hotels. Things had stalled for a while prior to and during the Olympics as booking solid for the event was the primary focus of the hotels. Now that the Olympics are over Hotels are once again interested in the rest of their future. We are looking at several downtown locations close to the Skytrain.

AUTHOR GoH: To be announced.

Invites have been sent out. Concom is awaiting the response.

ARTIST GoH: JAMES BEVERIDGE < www.jamesbeveridge.com >

James is confirmed as Artist GoH. Quite an exciting catch. He has way cool realistic interpretations of Fantasy and Science Fiction subjects I am quite taken with.

James was born in Windsor, Ontario, and became noted for his fantasy art while still in elementary school, selling drawings and sketches to his buddies. During his High School summer holidays he earned money freelancing portraits, caricatures and all sorts of air brush/illustrative pieces.

In fall of 1977 he moved to Edmonton Alberta where he currently resides “*freelancing in a variety of media and genres for various businesses and promotional enterprises,*” a career he really enjoys.

As for the origin of his interest in SF&F art, he has this to say on his web site:

“As a youngster, about 8 years of age or so, my father introduced me to this genre with the works of Lewis Carrol. His modus operandii was to bring me insight into the world of logic, specifically the works of Sir Bertrand Russell and Ludwig Wittgenstein. What he actually did with this was to incite me to enter the Gestalt that is Macrocosmic/Microcosmic/Intracosmic Fiction.”*

“From his suggestion that if I wanted to read "REAL" Science Fiction that I had to read 'Flatland:A Romance of Many Dimensions' ...I was hooked. I devoured all the local library's copies of C.S. Lewis' stories as well as Fred Hoyle's The Black Cloud, among many others, in very short order. I've been a huge fan now for the almost 30 years since.”

James is a member of ASFA, the Association of SF&F Artists. He did a cover for their ASFA Bulletin, for numerous issues of On Spec (as well as interior artwork for stories by Tanya Huff and others), for the Novel ‘The Apparition Trail’ by local author Lisa Smedman, and for various other

publications. He also designed the Griffin logo for the Andre Norton Award for Excellence for Best Young Adult Science Fiction or Fantasy, as well as a logo for the Nebula Awards. In 2002 he won the Artistic Achievement Aurora Award, and is currently nominated for same for his "Xenobiology 101: Field Trip" piece in Neo-opsis #16.

The back cover of the VCON 34 program book featured a full page reproduction of his 'Chance Meeting' artwork depicting a dusty, desolate cityscape with a robot holding a tattered sunshade to shield the one living thing growing in the ruins, a Dandelion. The landscape is brown, the robot grey, and the only real colour is the green and yellow of the Dandelion and the liquid blue of the robot's eyes. A very striking piece.

I hope to gain his permission to print some of his work in WCSFAzine as VCON 35 approaches. Check out his website listed above for a great selection of his really nifty artwork. Great stuff!

MUSIC GoH: HEATHER DALE < www.heatherdale.com >

Heather is confirmed as Music GoH. Here is some material on her from her website:

Heather Dale offers a new type of Celtic music for the 21st century: a playful, passionate blend of tradition and innovation. Her rich voice and evocative recordings have earned her fans around the world.

As a modern woman with Celtic roots, Heather cheerfully disregards the stereotypical limits for both Celtic balladeers and folk singer-songwriters. She excels at finding contemporary themes within old material, and fuses the Celtic folk tradition with a healthy mix of modern blues, jazz and world music influences. Heather credits her cosmopolitan outlook to her upbringing in multi-cultural Canada: "I grew up in an environment that not only had British, French and Native history," Heather says, "but it could also give me a first-hand appreciation of Asian, African, European, and South American cultures." This musical blending of her own Celtic background with other traditional influences is readily apparent in her original music, which "is powerful stuff, reminiscent of Loreena McKennitt and Sarah McLachlan but with a depth and resonance rooted in its mythic sources." (Vancouver Sun)

Born and raised in Toronto, Heather's childhood was underscored by an experimental-folk soundtrack of Steeleye Span, Sandy Denny and Joni Mitchell records. She plays a wide variety of folk instruments, including piano, bodhran drum, mountain & hammered dulcimers, bowed psaltery, and recorders & tin whistles. She discovered an early passion for Celtic mythology, European folktales and Native American legends... which led her first to fairy tales and fantasy books, and later into medieval literature. But rather than following an academic path in either music or history, Heather chose to indulge her third love: environmental education.

While pursuing her university degree, Heather began singing at the local student centre and for history clubs in the area. Her first solo concert came in 1997; she now tours full-time (100+ concerts per year across North America and Europe) with fellow multi-instrumentalist Ben Deschamps.

*When not on the road, Heather and Ben undertake the behind-the-scenes work of running their fully independent record label Amphis Music, and occasionally they find a blissful moment to write and record new material. Heather Dale recently released her eleventh CD "**The Green Knight**" (2009, Amphis) during one of these rare breaks from touring. Exploring to Heather's passion for history and legend, "The Green Knight" features 14 new songs inspired by the Middle Ages and Renaissance.*

Heather's CDs include 'The Green Knight,' 'The Gabriel Hounds,' 'The Road to Santiago,' 'This Endris Night,' 'May Queen,' 'The Trial of Lancelot,' and 'Call the Names.' There are also two books:

The Legends of Arthur:

*The culmination of ten years of creative work with the King Arthur legends, **The Legends of Arthur** book offers 120 pages of Heather's Arthurian stories and songs. It contains sheet music (basic and advanced arrangements) for twenty original songs from Heather's **May Queen** and **The Trial of Lancelot** CDs, along with twenty-eight engaging short stories, written in the style of a traditional storyteller. Celtic designs and original cover art by Canadian illustrator Martin Springett.*

& Call the Names:

*In response to continued enthusiasm for her first cassette-only albums, Heather revisited those early recordings and created her **Call the Names** CD in 2001. It contains new and re-mastered versions of 20 original songs, inspired by life in the Middle Ages and Renaissance. Heather performs most instruments (including Irish bodhran drum, harp and wooden recorder flutes). The songs range from wistful laments to humourous tales of adventure. A 40+ page songbook is also available, with lyrics, sheet music and chord notations for all the songs on this recording.*

VCON THEME: STEAMPUNK.

This is an excellent choice which offers all kinds of exciting possibilities. Possibly a few questions arise in your mind. I will attempt to answer them here.

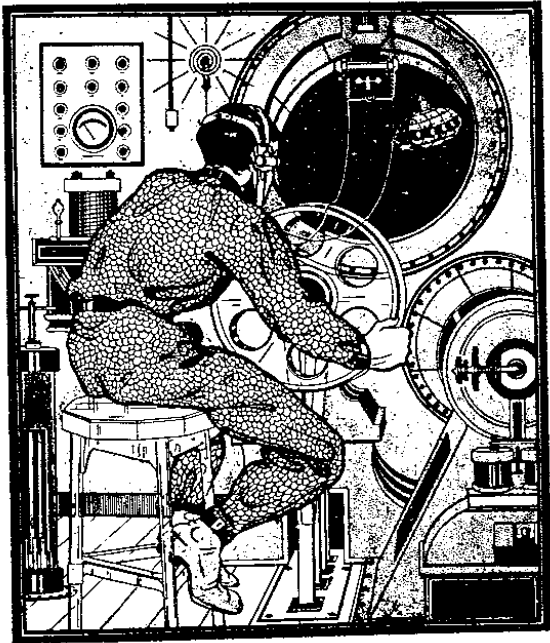
WHAT IS STEAMPUNK?

A literary/media/gaming/role-playing genre that's a heck of a lot of fun and perhaps more accessible to people than most science fiction or fantasy. Imagine the world of Dickens and Sherlock Holmes. Right away you know we're talking about wonderfully vivid and eccentric characters. Now imagine this Victorian/Edwardian era never developed into the modern petrol engine/silicon chip electronic age but instead evolved toward an era of more powerful and increasingly efficient steam-powered mechanical devices up to and including spaceships and computers!

And if you think that's unlikely, consider that Charles Babbage invented a mechanical computer (not a calculator, rather an actual computer which could be programmed) circa 1855, but alas, never had the money to construct it. Recently, however, British engineers built the thing, or a significant portion of it, and proved the concept actually works! For a study of the implications for history if the British Government had made use of the thing back in the day, read **THE DIFFERENCE ENGINE** by William Gibson and Bruce Sterling, which many consider the definitive Steampunk novel.

Steampunk fans love costuming, and the hands-on feel of Steampunk technology (basic tools are a hammer and a monkey wrench) lends itself to gritty, easily understandable role-playing at conventions. It's a throwback (albeit treated futuristically) to a simpler age where the human character is more easily inserted into (and remains master of) the technology in question. Sort of the difference between fixing a model T automobile yourself contrasted with being forced to drag your modern mobile box to a repair shop for computers to interpret your car's programming. The latter distances you as a helpless,

nearly irrelevant human, whereas the former places the fate of your steel beast in your hands, literally. Far more satisfying.



In a sense Steampunk is a form of alternate history, be it how the 19th century would have been had certain advances been made, or what the 20th century would have been like, or any time in the future for that matter, depending on what all the consequences and ramifications of highly advanced steam-powered mechanical technology turned out to be.

Steampunk doesn't necessarily have to do with Victorian England. One author (whose name escapes me as I write but I hope to discuss his works in a future article) wrote a series of alternate history novels about the Roman Empire successfully mastering steam-power and going on to conquer the world. Cool concept.

Steampunk can be almost anything as long as the underlying core concept is the possibilities inherent in highly advanced steam-mechanical technology, and there be the source of the fun.

WHO INVENTED THE TERM 'STEAMPUNK'?

According to the Wikipedia, writer K.W. Jeter, author of *Morlock Night* (1979) and *Infernal Devices* (1987), came up with the term in a letter published in the April 1987 issue of *Locus* magazine:

"...Personally, I think Victorian fantasies are going to be the next big thing, as long as we can come up with a fitting collective term for Powers, Blaylock and myself. Something based on the appropriate technology of the era; like "steampunks", perhaps..."

This was a play, of course, on the term 'Cyberpunk' coined by Bruce Bethke in his story of the same name published in 1983. A Cyber punk is a self-reliant hero/thug/criminal living in a world dictated by the science of Cybernetics wherein man/machine cyborgs are controlled by information networks, where humans, corporate entities and technology intermesh in a very literal manner.

Whereas Steampunks exist in a world dominated by steam-powered mechanical technology and National Empires rather than Corporations. The Steampunk Genre tends to be less dystopian, in that it appears to offer individuals greater hope as the master of technology rather than its slave.

WHO WERE THE FIRST STEAMPUNK WRITERS?

Oddly enough, the first Steampunk writers weren't Steampunk at all! Rather, they were 19th century authors writing 'Ripping Good Yarns' taking contemporary trends in science and society and examining the implications for the future depending on how said trends developed. In effect, they wrote Science Fiction, but because they predicted further development of contemporary steam-mechanical technology, their works strike a decidedly 'steampunk' note to modern readers.

This lot includes H.G. Wells and Jules Verne to be sure, and even Rudyard Kipling, but also more obscure authors like the cadre of Science Fiction writers in 19th century San Francisco editor Sam Moskowitz collected for an anthology, and the American author Luis Phillip Senarens who wrote 1,500 stories for ‘dime novel’ publications detailing the adventures of Frank Reade Jr. (a proto-Tom Swift sort of character) filled with tales with steam-powered armoured vehicles, aircraft, submersibles and even robots. In fact, Moskowitz credited him with creating “the single greatest mass of robot literature ever written by one man.” Senarens wrote forty million words between 1879 and 1897. ‘Prolific’ hardly describes his output. ‘Explosive’ would be more like it.

I intend to explore the ‘Steampunk’ aspects of some of these 19th century authors in future issues of WCSFAzine.

WHO WERE THE FIRST STEAMPUNK AUTHORS, REALLY?

Writers like Keith Laumer (*Worlds of Imperium* 1962), Ronald W. Clarke (*Queen Victoria’s Bomb* 1967), Michael Moorcock (*Warlord of the Air* 1971) and Harry Harrison (*A Transatlantic Tunnel, Hurrah!* 1973) are considered among the very first. Then, as Wikipedia states “Because he coined the term, K.W. Jeter’s 1979 novel *Morlock Night* is typically considered to have established the genre.” Jeter was followed by such as Tim Powers (*The Anubis Gates* 1983), James Blaylock (*Homunculus* 1986), Bruce Sterling & William Gibson (*The Difference Engine* 1990) and Paul D. Filippo (*The Steam Punk Trilogy* 1995) in which a human/newt clone replaces Queen Victoria, a nifty concept indeed. I have no doubt many other Steampunk novels were written, most of them probably still in print as the genre is very popular. I hope to write some essays on the ‘modern’ Steampunk novels as well as the 19th century ones in upcoming issues.

And of course there is Steampunk TV, films, and graphic novels, not to mention the Steampunk fan movement, all of which I hope to describe and discuss in the near future. Stay tuned!

VCON PROGRESS REPORT #1: should be published online within days of your reading this. Editor (and Aurora Winner) Garth Spencer is hard at work on said report even as I type. It will contain all the latest and most up-to-date info, including VCON rates and, with any luck, news of both the venue chosen and the Author Guest of Honour.

It is my sincerest hope that WCSFAzine and the projected series of Progress Reports will mutually reinforce each other in beating the drum for VCON 35!

FANDOM NEWS & NOTES

AURORA AWARDS NOMINEES!

The 2010 Auroras shortlist has been announced! To vote, go to < www.prixaurorawards.ca > and click on nominate/vote, then choose either ‘vote on-line’ or ‘vote by mail’ (to download a pdf voting form to mail). Note that a voting fee is required.

Especially humble note: I am listed under Fan Accomplishment (Fanzine)... hint, hint...

The winners will be announced at Convention 30/Keycon 27 in May.

BEST NOVEL IN ENGLISH :

- THE AMULET OF AMON-RA, by Leslie Carmichael, [CBAY Books](#)
- DRUIDS, by Barbara Galler-Smith and Josh Langston, [Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy](#)
- WAKE, Robert J. Sawyer, [Penguin Canada](#)
- STEEL WHISPERS, Hayden Trenholm, [Bundoran Press](#)
- TERRA INSEGURA, Edward Willett, [DAW Books](#)

MEILLEUR ROMAN EN FRANÇAIS (Best Novel In French)

- LE PROTOCOLE RESTON, by Mathieu Fortin, ([Coups de tête](#))
- L'AXE DE KOUDRISS, by Michèle Laframboise, [Médiaspaul](#)
- SUPREMATIE, by Laurent McAllister, ([Bragelonne](#))
- UN TOUR EN ARKADIE, by Francine Pelletier, Alire
- FILLES DE LUNE 3, LE TALISMAN DE MAXANDRE, by Élisabeth Tremblay, (De Mortagne)

BEST SHORT-FORM WORK IN ENGLISH:

- "PAWNS DREAMING OF ROSES", Eileen Bell, Women of the Apocalypse. Absolute Xpress
- "HERE THERE BE MONSTERS" Brad Carson, Ages of Wonder, (DAW)
- "LITTLE DEATHS" Ivan Dorin, Tesseract Thirteen
- "RADIO NOWHERE" Douglas Smith, Campus Chills
- "THE WORLD MORE FULL OF WEEPING" Robert J. Wiersema, ChiZine Publications

MEILLEURE NOUVELLE EN FRANÇAIS (Best Short-Form In French)

- ORS BLANCS, by Alain Bergeron, (Solaris 171)
- DE L'AMOUR DANS L'AIR, by Claude Bolduc, (Solaris 172)
- LA VIE DES DOUZE JESUS, by Luc Dagenais, (Solaris 172)
- BILLET DE FAVEUR, by Michèle Laframboise, (Galaxies 41)
- GRAINS DE SILICE, by Mario Tessier, (Solaris 170)
- LA MORT AUX DES, by Élisabeth Vonarburg, (Solaris 171)

BEST WORK IN ENGLISH (OTHER) :

- WOMEN OF THE APOCALYPSE, (the Apocalyptic Four) Editor, Absolute Xpress
- AGES OF WONDER, Julie E. Czerneda, & Robert St. Martin, Editors, DAW Books
- NEO-OPSIS MAGAZINE, Karl Johanson, Editor
- ON SPEC MAGAZINE, Diane Walton, Managing Editor, The Copper Pig Writers' Society
- DISTANT EARLY WARNINGS: CANADA'S BEST SCIENCE FICTION, Robert J. Sawyer, Editor, Robert J. Sawyer books

MEILLEUR OUVRAGE EN FRANÇAIS (AUTRE) (Best Work In French (Other))

- CRITIQUES, Jérôme-Olivier Allard, (Solaris 169-172)
- REVUE, Joel Champetier, éditeur, Solaris
- LE JARDIN DU GENERAL, Manga, Michele Laframboise, ,Fichtre, Montréal
- RIEN A VOIR AVEC LA FANTASY, Thibaud Sallé, (Solaris 169)
- CHRONIQUE, LES CARNETS DU FTURIBLE, Mario Tessier, (Solaris 169-171)

ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENT :

- Kari-Ann Anderson, for cover of "Nina Kimberly the Merciless",Dragon Moon Press
- Jim Beveridge, "Xenobiology 101: Field Trip" Neo-opsis #16
- Lar de Souza, "Looking for Group" online Comic
- Tarol Hunt, "Goblins". Webcomic
- Dan O'Driscoll, Cover of Steel Whispers , Bundoran Press

FAN ACCOMPLISHMENT (Fanzine):

- Jeff Boman, The Original Universe
- Richard Graeme Cameron,WCFSAzine
- Dale Speirs, Opuntia
- Guillaume Voisine, éd. Brins d'Éternité
- Felicity Walker, BCSFAzine

FAN ACCOMPLISHMENT (Organization) :

- Renée Benett, for “In Spaces Between” at Con-Version 25
- Robbie Bourget, and René Walling, Chairs of “Anticipation”, the 67 th WorldCon
- David Hayman, organization Filk Hall of Fame
- Roy Miles, work on USS Hudson Bay Executive
- Kirstin Morrell, Programming for Con-Version 25

FAN ACCOMPLISHMENT (Other) :

- Roy Badgerow, Astronomy Lecture at USS Hudson Bay
- Ivan Dorin, “Gods Anonymous” (Con-Version 25 radio play)
- Judith Hayman and Peggi Warner-Lalonde organization, Filk track @Anticipation
- Tom Jeffers and Sue Posteraro, Filk Concert, Anticipation
- Lloyd Penney, Fanwriting

Another subtle prodding: Help save the universe! Vote for Graeme! Vote for WCSFAzine!

C.U.F.F. FAN FUND NOMINEES!

Canadian Unity Fan Fund 2010 Ballot Now available!

The winner will attend Convention 30/Keycon 27

What is C.U.F.F.? The Canadian Unity Fan Fund was conceived in 1981 as a means to better acquaint Eastern and Western Canadian fans with each other. Or alternately, it's an outgrowth of a one-shot effort devised to send Edmonton fan Mike Hall to Torque 2 in Toronto in 1981. Both of these statements are true, actually.

C.U.F.F. exists solely through the support of fandom. The candidates are voted on by interested fans across Canada, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than CDN\$5.00.

Who may vote? Voting is open to any Canadian (resident or citizen) fan who was active in fandom prior to April 2008, and who contributes at least CDN\$5 to the Fund. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote any time prior to the deadline. Votes submitted electronically as part of a PayPal payment of the voting fee are also acceptable.

Deadline: Votes must reach the administrator by midnight, 13 March 2010.

Voting details: As with other fan funds, C.U.F.F. uses a preferential ballot system which guarantees automatic runoffs until a majority is obtained. You rank the candidates in the exact order of your preference for them. If the leading first-place candidate does not get a majority, the first-place votes for the lowest-ranking candidate are dropped, and the second-place votes on those ballots are counted as first-place votes. This process repeats itself until one candidate has a majority. Your votes for second and third place are important, but you may give your candidate only one ranking on your ballot.

Hold Over Funds: This choice, like "No Award" in Hugo balloting, gives you the chance to vote for no C.U.F.F. trip this year, if none of the candidates appeal to you. Hold Over Funds may be voted for in any position, and if it receives a majority of the votes on the final ballot, no C.U.F.F. trip will be held this year regardless of how many votes Hold Over Funds received on the first ballot.

No Preference: For voters who prefer not to choose between candidates, but don't want the trip held over.

Donations: C.U.F.F. gratefully accepts your freely given money and material for auction -- give early and often! Please contact the administrator for details.

Candidates: Each candidate has promised - barring events clearly outside their control - to travel to CanVention 30 (also known as KeyCon 27), in Winnipeg, MB over the Victoria Day weekend, if elected; and has provided signed nominations and a platform statement (as follows).

Diane Lacey

I'm doing this largely because it occurs to me that while I've attended conventions all over the US, I've never attended any in Western Canada, and this seems wrong. I'd like to meet all those fans from

Western Canada that I've been missing. I'm also eager to attend the one day conrunner's convention that's planned for the day following Keycon. I'd like to find out what they're doing over there and to let them know what we've got going on over here. (Also, any opportunity to hear Dave Clement is a very good thing indeed.)

I believe I have the organizational skills to be a good administrator. I have some ideas for fund-raising but plan to pick the brains of those who are much more experienced with that than I am for more and better ideas. I absolutely intend to publish a trip report as soon as possible upon my return. I'd also very much like to see the fund promoted more. Right now it is difficult to find very much information online. Other than the Facebook page, a Google search brings up little information on the application procedure, membership, qualifications, expectations, etc., and many of those hits are several years old. I'd like to address this, perhaps with its own webpage

Nominators: Fran Skene (BC), Dave Clement (MB), Tim Hogue (MB), Colin Hinz (ON), Murray Moore (ON), Lance Sibley (ON), Rene Walling (QC).

Note: I, R. Graeme Cameron, also nominated Diane, but my name was inadvertently left off the actual application. I state this for the record, to show that Diane received a total of 8 nominators.

Rob Uhrig

I was asked "How did a retired Gulf War Veteran with 13 years Reg. Force military service; a retired martial arts Master Instructor; a Freemason, and Knight of St. George become a lifelong Sci-Fi Fan?" The short answer - by watching early re-runs of Star Trek!

Since attending my first Sci-Fi convention in 1993 (T-Trek 7), I have been actively involved in fandom. I have attended cons from one coast to the other and points in between; I have been chief of security for one con, on CON-COM for two others, and worked at the dealer table for a Creation con. Above all else I am a member of the Klingon Assault Group (KAG) Kanada. Through my participation in fandom, especially KAG Kanada, I have actively participated in countless charity events and have helped to raise several thousand dollars for the Children's Wish Foundation of Canada, and several other worthy charities. Full details of my involvement can be found on www.kagkanada.com

In short, I have used my costume and love of sci-fi to help promote fandom at every turn and would love to do so again by being the CUFF representative. I would use this opportunity to promote KAG Kanada in Manitoba, and in turn use Klingon fandom to help promote CUFF. Let's face it a Klingon draws a certain amount of attention, a Klingon in a kilt is a beacon for media types, now that's an opportunity that could be put to good use for CUFF and fandom.

Nominators:

From the West:

The Chevalier Paul Carreau, KSTG, CD, former Senior Command Officer, KAG Kanada
Mrs. Dayna Dickens, Tourism Coordinator, Vulcan AB
The Chevalier, Reverend Dana Dean, KSTG, former Admiral, Starfleet

And from the East:

Mrs. Margie Welsh, Thought Admiral Klingon Strike Force (KSF)
Mr. David James, Fleet Commander, KAG Kanada
Ms. Lori Lightfoot, Fleet Commander, KAG Kanada

TO VOTE:

Go to the KeyCon website at <http://keycon.org> and click on the 'C.U.F.F.' tab. For **electronic voting**, follow the instructions provided. You will be paying the voting fee by PayPal.

You can also download the voting form pdf file from the same site to vote **by mail**. Please read and fill out both sides of the sheet. Send in entire sheet as your vote.

Send ballot & donation to:

LeAmber Raven Kensley, 341 Anderson Ave., Winnipeg, MB, R2W 1E5.

Reproduction of the form is encouraged. It is the official voting vehicle and must be reproduced verbatim.

Please make cheques etc. payable in Canadian currency to "LeAmber Kensley", not to "C.U.F.F." If you think your name may not be known to the administrators, then in order to qualify your vote, please give the name and address of an active fan (not a fan group, a candidate or their nominator) who is known to them and to whom you are known:

2010 FAAN AWARDS BALLOT

The winners of the 2010 Fan Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards will be announced on Sunday March 21st 2010, in Winchester, UK, during Corflu Cobalt (www.corflu.org).

Deadline for voting is 24:00 GMT on Saturday March 13th 2010 – no voting during Corflu this year.

Submitting your ballot - you may submit your vote in either of two ways:

by email (cobaltfaan@corflu.org) – you are not required to submit this ballot, only your choices;

by real mail: Mike Meara, 61 Stoney Lane, Spondon, Derby DE21 7QH, United Kingdom.

Voting – with the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award, you are voting on work made public in 2009. You may make between zero and five choices in each category. Votes for yourself will not be counted.

In the case of Best New Fanzine Fan, you are voting for someone who has been active for no more than three years; in the case of the Lifetime Achievement Award, you are voting for someone who has been active in fanzine fandom for at least the last thirty years, the odd period of gafia being allowable; use your judgement here.

Each first-place vote scores five points, each second-place vote four points, and so on. In addition to the categories listed below, an award for Number One Fan Face will be made, by calculating the total votes cast in all categories.

Eligibility – you do not have to be a member of Corflu in order to vote. Anyone with the necessary knowledge of the people and their work is eligible. If you think you may be unknown to the Administrator, please cite a fan (including contact details, e.g. email address) who can confirm your credentials:

Fan contact _____

Best Fan Writer

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Best Fan Artist

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Best Letterhack Also known as the Harry Warner Jr Memorial Award for Best Fan Correspondent.

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Best Fanzine (state fanzine name and editor(s))

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Best New Fanzine Fan

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Best Fan Website (state URL and author(s))

- 1 _____
- 2 _____
- 3 _____
- 4 _____
- 5 _____

Lifetime Achievement Award

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____
4 _____
5 _____

Your name and contact details: _____

I suggest you copy the above and paste it to a separate file, adjusting size to fit a two-sided sheet, fill it out as you like, and print it out in order to mail it. Easiest to send an email version of course.

CONVENTION HISTORY

FIRST SF CONVENTIONS BY PROVINCE

British Columbia – **VCON 1: 1971.**

Alberta – **ALBERTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE 1: 1971**

Saskatchewan – **CONBINE 0: 1990**

Manitoba – **UNCON: 1978**

Ontario – **WORLDCON 6/TORCON 1: 1948**

Quebec – **BOREAL 1: 1979**

New Brunswick – **OROMOCTOCON: 1970**

Nova Scotia – **HALCON 1: 1978**

VCON 1:

- Held in Vancouver, British Columbia on April , 1971. Sponsored jointly by the B.C. Science Fiction Association, the Simon Fraser University Science Fiction Society (SF3), & the University of B.C. Science Fiction Society (UBC SFFEN). Co-Chairs: Mike Bailey & Daniel Say. Guest of Honour: Ursula K. LeGuin. 75 attendees. Two days of single track programming in a ballroom, plus displays, including some sort of computer gizmo in a small room, a hospitality con-suite and the first Elron Awards. (I was there!)

ALBERTA SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY OPEN HOUSE 1:

- Held in Calgary, Alberta on July 1st, 1971. Sponsored by the Alberta SF Society based in the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology. Chair: John Mansfield. Guest of Honour: A. E. van Vogt. Fan Guest of Honour: Forrest J Ackerman. 33 advance memberships, total attendance not known. One day event included an art auction & showing of Star Trek Blooper film.

CONBINE 0:

- Held in Regina in 1990 as an add-on to the Saskatchewan Writers Guild Spring Conference. Guests of Honour: Elisabeth Vonarburg, Candace Jane Dorsey, & Robert Runte. A one day minicon in a single room with a keg of beer as a centerpiece. No programming other than a reading by Cliff Burns. People drifted in and out, joining the ongoing discussion, up to a maximum of 20 people in the room at one time. Total 'attendance' unknown.

UNCON:

- Held in Winnipeg on Sept 9, 1978. Sponsored by the Winnipeg SF Society and supported by the five members of 'Decadent Winnipeg Fandom.' A one day event with 550 attendees. Featured a hucksters room, several films, a refreshment table, and a stuffed bison! (Referred to as 'the Venusian Dog' – I do not know if this was an actual stuffed Bison or merely a plush toy. If genuine full-sized critter, a heck of a conversation piece!)

WORLDCON 6/TORCON 1:

- Held in Toronto, Ontario, on July 1-3, 1948. Sponsored by the Toronto SF Society. Chair: Edward 'Ned' McKeown. Guests of Honour included Dr. David H. Keller, George O. Smith and Robert Bloch. Fan Guest of Honour: Arthur Wilson 'Bob' Tucker. 137 attendees. This was the first Canadian SF convention, the first Worldcon held outside the U.S.A., and the first SF convention to feature a propeller beanie (worn by Michigan fan George Young).

BOREAL 1:

- Held in Chicoutimi, Quebec, on July 13-15, 1979. Presumably sponsored by the University of Quebec as were several later Boreals held in various cities. Note that the actual 'Societe de Fantastique et de Science-Fiction Boreal Inc.' was not formed till 1981 for Boreal 3. Unknown who organized or how many attended Boreal 1. The poster for the convention reads "Le premier congres quebecois de la science-fiction et du fantastique" (so the organizers were aware that it was the *first* SF convention in Quebec) and depicts a nude male cyborg (adapted for living in vacuum) standing on an equipment platform jutting into the black void of outer space with clusters of stars and a gas-giant planet in the background.

OROMOCTOCON:

- Held in Oromocto, New Brunswick on June 13/14, 1970. Sponsored by the Atlantic SF Society. Chair: John Mansfield. Guest of Honour: Hal Clement. A two day relaxacon with 30 attendees.

HALCON 1:

- Held in Greenwood, Nova Scotia in October of 1978. Possibly sponsored by the Halcon SF&F Society (don't know which came first). Chair possibly Bob Atkinson. Guests of Honour: Spider & Jeanne Robinson. Attendance unknown to me. Said (by Spider) to have had a delicious convention Banquet.

VCON 34, OCTOBER 2-4, 2009, PART ONE

By R. Graeme Cameron

This was an unusual VCON for me. Though I booked a room for my wife and myself, only Alyx actually stayed at the convention. I spent most of my time at home in Surrey working up my notes for my two lectures, one panel and – of course – the infamous Elron Awards. I should have prepared everything beforehand, and had done so, at least in rough form, but everything still needed hours of work and the only time I could find to do this was during the convention itself. So as con reports go this one is barely that of an eyewitness, but I shall attempt nevertheless to convey to those of you who did not attend what it was all about.

THE HOTEL:

For some time a number of local fen had advocated we choose an upscale hotel on the theory more baby-boomer type of fans would attend if a high degree of comfort could be guaranteed. The Marriott Vancouver Pinnacle Downtown Hotel certainly fit the bill. It was clean, the staff quite friendly, the hotel restaurant fare very, very good, the facilities more than adequate, and the location ideal, being only a couple of blocks from the Burrard Skytrain. (By coincidence, I live only a couple of blocks from the Surrey Central Skytrain Station. Getting back & forth involved but two short walks book-ending a 40 minute train ride.) The price to pay was the price to be paid. \$129 a night wasn't bad, but if, like us, you relied heavily on room service for meals, the hotel bill was a bit of a shock.

Actually, the most disturbing thing concerning the hotel was the view. I had asked for a room high up in order to enjoy whatever cityscape would be revealed. Instead I was repelled and appalled. That area of downtown Vancouver close to the harbour is particularly dense with skyscrapers devoid of decorative detail. My overall impression was that I had been teleported to an alien city built by and for robots. It was like the aftermath of an explosive frenzy of giant crystal formation, a totally alien, dehumanizing cityscape. Uncanny how powerful this impression was.

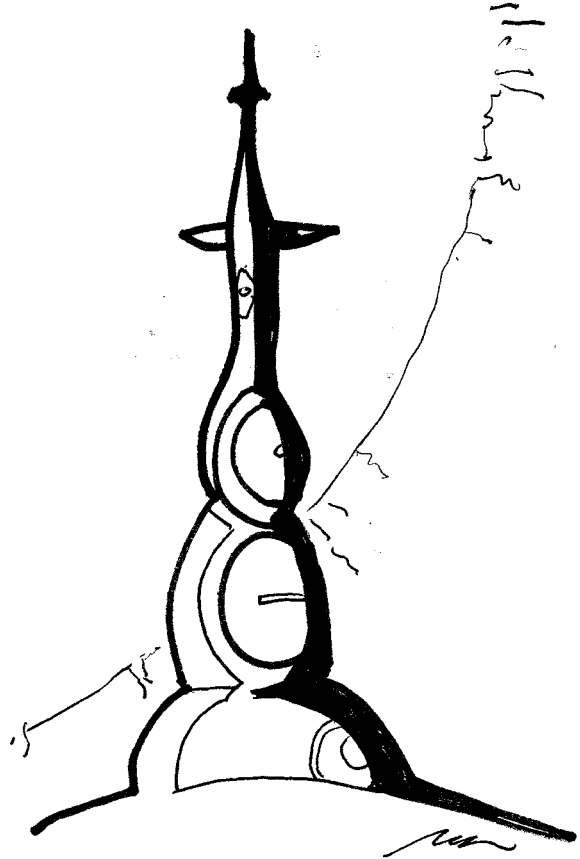
I guess I really am a 20th century kinda guy, or maybe I should say 19th century. This modern architecture scares me. Scurrying around with the other ants at street level isn't so bad, but looking down from above gets rid of the human scale entirely. I'm not talking about the height, I've looked down at Paris & Rome from hill tops and seen humanity reflected in its architecture (at least back in 1970), but finding oneself 'hovering' in the midst of a gathering of glass & metal/concrete monoliths is positively creepy. Strange reaction I admit, but...

I attended but one event this day, namely my own lecture on THE MONSTER CRAZE of the late 1950s early 1960s. I did hang around for a while meeting fen I hadn't seen in a long time, and then went for an early dinner with Alyx, but afterwards scooted home to look after our multiple pets (cat, tarantula, duck, crow, & 3 guinea pigs) and write up the next day's lecture from my notes.

Next issue I will include the MONSTER CRAZE lecture in its entirety.

GUESTS OF HONOUR:

Author Goh: TANYA HUFFE. Canadian author of 65 books and 26 short stories. In 2007 her Vicki Nelson books were made into a 22 episode TV series called BLOOD TIES.



Artist GoH: MILES TEVES. Hollywood artist and sculptor whose work has appeared in countless films such as LEGEND, ROBOCOP, IRONMAN, SPIDER-MAN, PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN, VAN HELSING and many more.

Comics Guests of Honour: RYAN SOHMER & LARS DESOUZA. The former is the Director & Co-Founder of Blind Ferret Entertainment, the latter a professional illustrator for over 20 years and twice recipient of the Artistic Achievement Aurora Award (in 2006 & 2008).

Media GoH: CHRISTINE WILLES. She has appeared in DEFYING GRAVITY, REAPER & DEAD LIKE ME, as well as other television and feature films. She also features prominently in local theatre and teaches acting at Vanarts.

Special Guests of Honour: GEEKSON, i.e. the co-hosts of GEEKSON, a weekly online show created by geeks, for geeks, covering topics that geeks like to talk about at Geekson.com. They are, Aaron Hendrick, Peter Gamble Robinson, Matthew Yank King, and Donald E. Marshall.

For this rushed and hurried issue, I will list the program for the day, contents of which will be of no interest to those who attended, but for those who didn't it will give you a good idea of the sorts of thing VCON does and does well.

FRIDAY OCTOBER 2ND/2009 VCON 34 PROGRAM:

4:00 PM:

- **Miles Teves Interview:** conducted by Michael Walsh.
- **SF and Fantasy Music:** with Greg Cairns & Brooke Lunderville.
- **The Business of Writing:** "You write because you're an artist, but to sell anything you have to become a business person. Advice, techniques, and tales from the field."

5:00 PM:

- **Screen Writing Panel:** with Christine Willes & Peter Robinson.
- **Monster Craze:** revealed by R. Graeme Cameron.

6:00 PM:

- **Video Presentation:** by Miles Teves.
- **Space Exploration: Which is better? Robots or people?** With Jim Kling. Which one should we be sending into space? What are the advantages and disadvantages of both?
- **What Makes a Game Fun?** With Donald Marshall, Greg Cairns & Palle Hoffstein. Role-playing, board, video, pinball, card, sports – no matter the type of game, it has to be fun to play. What are some of the things that make games fun? What makes the games not fun?

7:00 PM:

- **Opening Ceremonies:** with Tanya Huff, Miles Teves, Lar DeSouza, Ryan Sohmer, Christine Willes, Aaron Hendricks, Matt Yang King, Donald Marshall & Peter Robinson.
- **Trailer Park:** in all its glory explained by Frank Garcia.
- **The State of Anime Today:** with Gregory Neher & Lee Tockar. What's going on? What's good? What's bad?

8:00 PM:

- **Book Launch:** wherein various authors promote their latest novel. Two hours.

- **Con-Running: Pay No Attention to the Man Behind the Curtain!** With Clint Budd, Paul Carpentier, Palle Hoffstein, Kristin Morrell & Danielle Stephens.
- **Preparing for the Upcoming Zombie Apocalypse:** with Lar Desouza, Ryan Sohmer, Devon Boorman, Chris Sturges & Marcie Lynn Tentchoff.

9:00 PM:

- **Book Launch Continues.**
- **Fan Films:** with Michael Bertrand. Fan Films include: O.D.I.N. Recruitment video.
- **Vampires We Have Known and Loved:** with Tanya Huff, Miles Teves, Mary Choo, Barbara Gordon, Rhea Rose & Lee Tockar.

10:00 PM:

- **Creatures of the Night: Nocturnal Animals:** with Karl Johanson, Julie McGalliard & Nathalie Mallet. Aardvarks, tarantulas, and everybody's favourite, bats!

SUPER SCIENCE STUFF



ASK MR. SCIENCE!

(As submitted by Al Betz, Corresponding Secretary for Mr. Science.)

Ms. RR, of Coquitlam, B.C., asks:

WHY IS IT NECESSARY TO MEASURE THE SPEED OF LIGHT SO ACCURATELY?

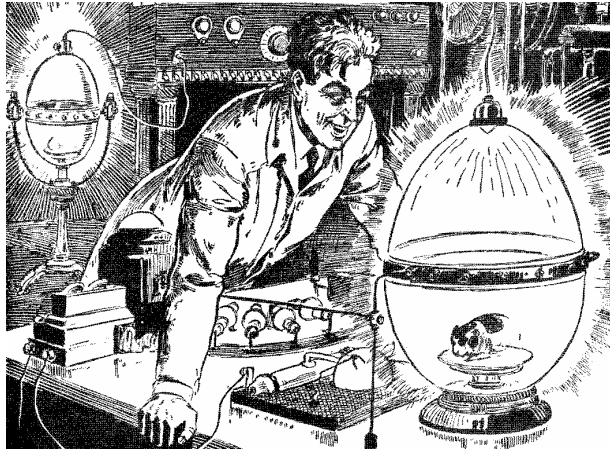
MR. SCIENCE: In this world of perpetually changing ideas, concepts and values it is very comforting to scientists to be able to measure something which never varies. The best current measurement, incidentally, is as follows:

$$C = 1.80261775 \times 10^6 \text{ furlongs per microfortnight.}$$

Mr. CB, of New Vancouver, B.C., asks:

SHOULD I AVOID COOKING WITH ALUMINUM POTS?

MR. SCIENCE – Mr. Science assumes that you are referring to the purported connection between aluminum and Alzheimer's disease. Since aluminum occurs with greater abundance in the Earth's crust than any other metal it is difficult to.... What was the question again?



ASK MR. GUESS-IT-ALL!

(As submitted by R. Graeme Cameron, official spin-doctor for Mr. Guess-It-All)

Mr. NHF of Fraser Mills, B.C., asks:

SCIENTISTS SAY THE RED GIANT BETELGEUSE HAS SHRUNK 15% THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. IS THIS A PROBLEM?

Mr. GUESS-IT-ALL: No. Scientists forgot to mention it is merely a symptom of Newton's 13th law of the conservation of matter: "As the universe expands, everything within it shrinks." Nothing to worry about.

As a point of interest, it's only about 40 years ago the Earth had shrunk enough to make Globalization economically feasible, with all the resultant collapse of cultural identity and economic chaos we have come to expect as a matter of course.

Consequently the Obama administration is funding NASA to develop the technology to mine the atmospheres of Jupiter and Saturn of 17 trillion tonnes of Nitrogen to be injected into the centre of the Earth to swell it back to a pre-globalization diameter and render routine contact between nations impossible, thus allowing every country to become self-sufficient and culturally unique once again.

It should be noted that the proposal by the previous Bush Administration to save the taxpayer some money by utilizing the cheaper alternative of mining Hydrogen from the atmospheres of the gas giants and injecting THAT into the molten core of the Earth was rejected by NASA on the grounds it was not necessary to swell the Earth THAT fast since the resultant expanding-debris field would probably destroy the Moon as well. The Republicans are still chuffed about this.

Ms. KN, formally of Ulan Bator, Mongolia, asks:

DO CAMEL SPIDERS EAT CAMELS?

MR. GUESS-IT-ALL: Absolutely not! Camel Spiders ARE camels! Or rather, the larval form of same which herd owners tattoo with their mark before releasing into the wild to free-range and bulk up to a size adequate to transform the creatures into the ungainly but useful beast we all know and prefer not to meet.

Hence the famous Bedouin saying: “Do NOT step on a Camel Spider lest you bring blood feud down upon your family for generation unto generation.”

COLOPHON

WCSFAzine Issue # 20, March 2010, Volume 4, Number 1, Whole number 20, is the E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association (founded 1993), a registered society with the general mandate of promoting Science Fiction and the specific focus of sponsoring the annual VCON Science Fiction Convention (founded 1971).

Anyone who is a paid member of VCON 34 or who has paid a membership fee of \$5.00 to WCSFA is a member of WCSFA till noon, Friday, October 1st 2010 (when VCON 35 registration opens). No other criteria applies. Said membership involves voting privileges at WCSFA meetings.

Current Executive of WCSFA (effective 2009 Annual General Meeting):

PRESIDENT: *Danielle Stephens.*
VICE PRESIDENT: *Palle Hoffstein.*
TREASURER: *Katheleen Moore-Freeman*
SECRETARY: *Keith Lim*
VCON 35 CHAIR: *Danielle Stephens.*
ARCHIVIST: *R. Graeme Cameron.*
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: *Deej Barens?*
MEMBER-AT-LARGE: *Garth Spencer.*

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WCSFA Website: < <http://www.user.dccnet.com/clintbudd/WCSFA/> >

You can download the latest issue (and past issues) from < <http://efanzines.com> > or contact the Editor at: < rgraeme@shaw.ca > and ask me to email you a PDF version.

Anyone (even non-members) may submit short articles, mini-essays, letters of comment, art fillers (small pieces of art) and/or cover art to the Editor at:

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