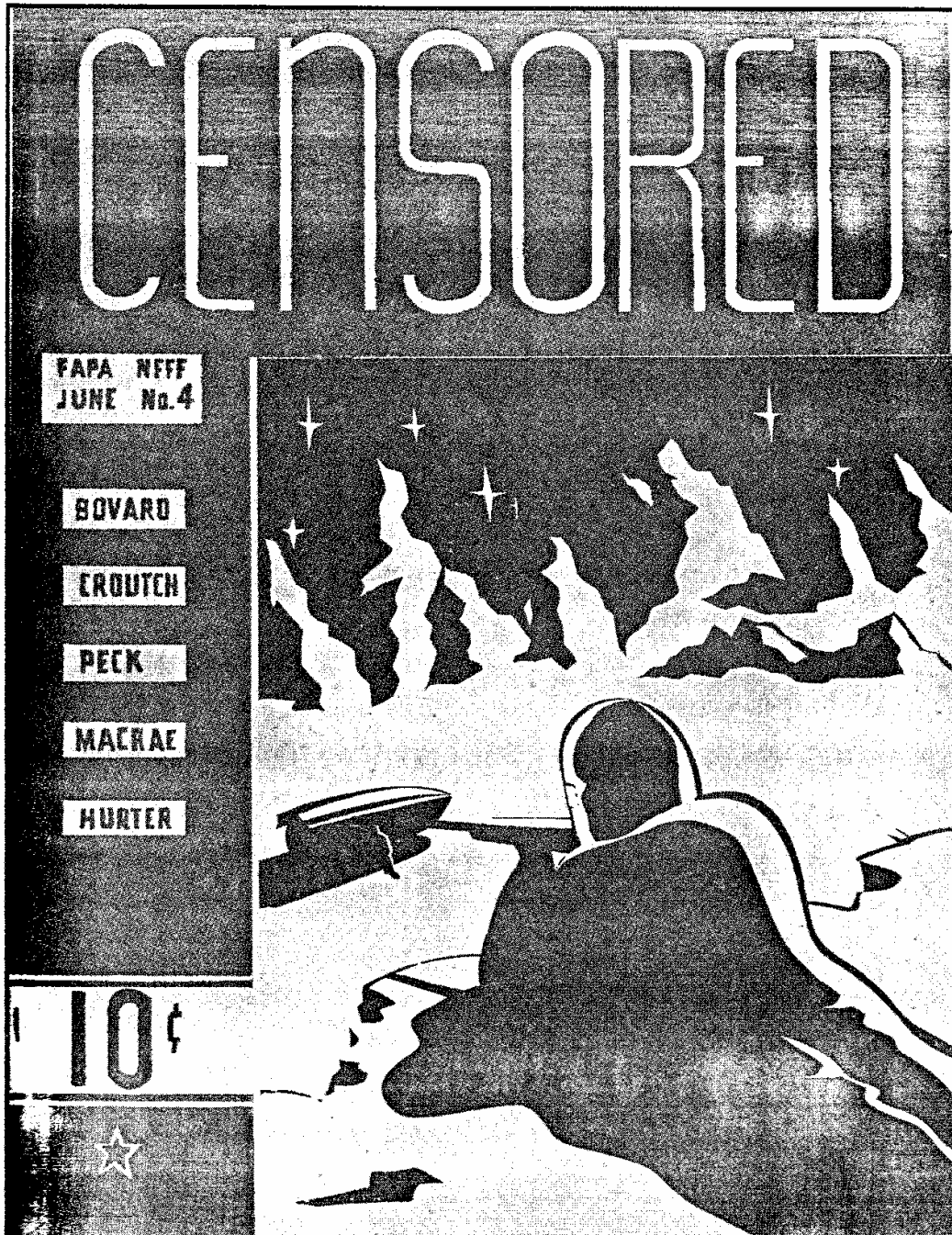


# WCSFAzine

The Fannish E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association  
Dedicated to Promoting the West Coast Science Fiction Community

#8

Apr 2008



LEGENDARY CANADIAN SCI-FI FANZINE OF THE 1940S

CENSORED # 4, JUNE 1942. FAN-EDITOR: FRED HURTER JR.

## **IMPORTANT STUFF YOU CAN SAFELY IGNORE**

WCSFAzine Issue # 8, Apr 2008, Volume 2, Number 4, Whole number 8, is the monthly 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 attends VCON is automatically a member of WCSFA, as is anyone who belongs to the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization ( founded 1970 ) which is the proud owner of the VCON trademark. Said memberships involve voting privileges at WCSFA meetings.

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< <http://www.user.dcnnet.com/clintbudd/WCSFA/> >

## **IMPORTANT STUFF THAT IS VERY COOL**

Your membership fee: Nothing!  
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Got something better to do: No problem!

WCSFAzine *IS* a fannish E-zine publication sponsored by WCSFA to promote and celebrate every and all aspects of the Science Fiction Community on the West Coast of Canada.

You can download the latest issue ( and past issues ) from < <http://efanzines.com> > or contact the Editor at: < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) > and ask me to email you a PDF version of each issue as soon as it is ready.

WCSFAzine is not intended to be an information newswire service, or an industry promotional outlet, but rather an eclectic ongoing anthology of bits and pieces of nifty rumours and misinformation as viewed through a fannish lens. You can expect the focus to be on the West Coast, but with a peripheral vision including the entire world of fandom. Anticipate info on upcoming books, fannish events, local clubs and conventions, film reviews, short essays, weird cover art, spin doctor publicity announcements, peculiar speculations and astounding bits of trivia to put you in touch with your fannish heritage.

WCSFAzine is not intended to be the perzine of the editor, though I will filter everything through my alleged wry sense of ~~imbecility~~ humour.

You, and I mean YOU (!) are invited to submit short ( VERY short – say 2 to 3 paragraph ) articles, mini-essays, letters of comment, art fillers ( small pieces of art ) and/or cover art to the Editor at:

R.G. Cameron, Apt 72G – 13315 104<sup>th</sup> Ave, Surrey, B.C., V3T 1V5.

Or submissions in both electronic text and B & W line drawing in jpg form to: < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) >

Particularly interested in personal experience/view/opinion/review articles, preferably light in tone. Also any interesting news.

No pay, but plenty of egoboo. Cheers all! The Graeme

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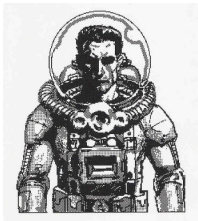
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Note: All unaccredited articles are by the Ghod-Editor.

## ART & PHOTO CREDITS:

Cover: Fred Hurter Jr. & Ron Smith.  
Clip Art: 3  
Mike Bailey: 6  
Fred Hurter Jr. & Ron Smith: 12, 13  
Bob Gibson: 17  
Pluto: 24  
Barry Kent Mackay: 31  
Florence Thomas: 38

## EDITORIAL



This is the biggest issue yet, and *still* I didn't fit everything in! So far shortage of material doesn't appear to be a problem. Next issue I'll try to scale back a bit, which will give myself more time. I hate rushing to a Deadline...

Am very pleased my wife Alyx's novel is finally available online at Torquere Books. Several items on her and her novel A STRANGE PLACE IN TIME: THE RECALLING OF JOHN ARROWSMITH are printed within for utterly unbiased and unprejudiced reasons of course. Check it out!

Good to see Taral Wayne – 2009 Worldcon Artist Guest of Honour – is up for a Hugo for Best Fan Artist this year. If you're attending Devention/Worldcon 66 be sure to vote for him. He has been our premiere Canadian Fan Artist for a couple of decades now, and contributed frequently to myriad US zines for as many years. His time has come. Award him a HUGO!

I should have the next issue finished by May 1st. Many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanzines.com> > for hosting. Please send me feedback! < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) >

Cheers! Ghod-Editor The Graeme



## CONVENTION STUFF

### THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF VCON 2: Part Three

THE 2<sup>ND</sup> VANCOUVER SF CONVENTION - FEBRUARY 18<sup>TH</sup> – 19<sup>TH</sup>, 1972:

by *The Graeme*

( Last issue described Friday's events. )

#### SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 1972.

The day began at 9:45 AM in the Ballroom ( apparently the *only* function space ) with a talk by Simon Fraser University Professor Mason Harris on the subject: "H.G. WELLS' 'TIME MACHINE': THE FOURTH DIMENSION AS PROPHECY". I have no information on this, but given Harris's famous talk on Lovecraft at VCON 1 & 3, I would assume he explored the political aspects of this particular work and the author in general ( Wells *was* a Fabian Socialist after all ) and 'spiced' it up with details on Well's life style, habits, and relations with those who knew him. I suspect comments on the book's literary style would have sounded a minor note in the lecture. All would have been delivered in Harris's droll style, at times approaching a rant if he attempted to get into character. In a word, entertaining. ( At a later VCON, possibly two, Mason Harris actually *was* H.P. Lovecraft as part of his participation on a 'Dead Authors Panel', and if memory serves, he may have played Wells also, to much applause.) At times Harris's lectures approach 'street theatre' performance levels. Great lecturer.

This was followed at 10:45 by a panel on the movie THINGS TO COME ( shown the previous evening ) moderated by John Wilson with panelists Professor Mason Harris, John Park, Susan Walsh and Ed Hutchings. This would have been a heck of a panel, considering the panelists, who collectively possessed more knowledge on the subject than the hour could embrace: Harris, of course, with his scholarly ( but lively ) approach to literature & film; Park, a local fan with a keen interest in writing and literature, he eventually published a number of short stories I believe; Susan, a life-long movie buff married to Michael Walsh who was a professional movie critic for most of his journalist career ( together they know virtually anything there is to know about film ); and Ed Hutchings, who belonged to a local film society back then ( indeed he probably provided the film and ran the projector ), who could be relied upon to reveal the most obscure specialist knowledge imaginable.

I'm guess this made for two stimulating, if not exhilarating lectures in a row, followed by a lunch break ( Not hotel catered ). 'Films' were shown in the ballroom at this time – I assume somewhat better ones than the 8mm 12 minute long soundless versions of Universal horror films I showed at VCON 1 -- which lasted from noon to 1:45 PM.

Then came a talk on "BELYAEV, THE RUSSIAN JULES VERNE" by Murray Shoolbraid. Even today, over 36 years later, this is *still* a very obscure topic for West Coast fans. I'm guessing it came as quite a revelation, Soviet Science Fiction being about as accessible as Martian cook books in those days. Here follows Susan Walsh's notes on the lecture as scribbled on the back pages of the only known surviving copy of the program book:

BELYAEV, THE RUSSIAN JULES VERNE by Murray Shoolbraid

- Born 30 years before the revolution. Died in 1945.

- 1925: PROFESSOR DEVIL 'S HEAD his first short story.

- 15-16 year career. TB of the spine. Long paralysis periods. Imagination soared, scientific basis always as impeccable as he could make it.

- Verne more prosaic than Wells were it not for romantic energy – possible, probable assumptions he asks readers to make...

- Belyaev like Verne in story telling, but has Wells social consciousness – socialist milieu of 1920s very visible in his stories.

- 1922 Alexis Tolstoy publishes AELITA about rebels on Mars ( made into film AELITA QUEEN OF MARS ) 1924.

-- 1926 HYPER – gibes at Lenin.

- Belyaev more optimistic. Best novel 1933 'THE LEAP INTO NOTHINGNESS' ( 1938 – change in Soviet literature with Stalin's rise... ) capitalists of west afraid of a communist coup, use spaceship to flee to safety – stuck with German bolsheviks – Venus ( prehistoric monsters ) – capitalists stranded, Bolsheviks return to Earth. Belyaev spends time on basis of spaceflight.

UTILITARIAN VIEW OF SF

- 1) *Scientific Fiction – no plot – Gernsback – just sugared, popularized science.*
- 2) *Entertainment.*
- 3) *Belyaev's style – more paper available..*

*100 YEAR HISTORY:*

- 1) *Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, Chekov: all had done fantasy.*
- 2) *Utopian stream from 1700s to 1830.*
- 3) *Space opera – Belyaev – true SF – introduced many of SF's major themes.*

*DR DEVIL'S HEAD' – 1928 experiments on reviving organs at Russian Academy of Science ( theme not original with Belyaev ).*

*Bydanov – 'RED STAR' 1908 – Socialist utopia – in 1915 sequel.*

*'PROFESSOR WAGNER'S INVENTIONS' – set of stories, separates halves of brain, body penetratable, doesn't sleep.*

*'HOITY TOITY' – set in Berlin 1920s – circus, trick elephant, 'genius' with human intelligence – breaks away – is invention of Professor Wagner – brain of German scientist named Ram – view of world through senses of elephant with human brain.*

*1936 'LAST MAN ON ATLANTIS' –novel – owes much to Tolstoy's AELITA ( inspiration ) – not fantastic once basic premise is accepted – spaceship science, archaeology background cunningly worked in. "Sel" daughter of ruler of 'Atlantis' – name for Moon among Amerinds – Prometheus an Atlantean...*

*1928 'THE AMPHIBIOUS MAN ' – based on French story – gills thru surgery accepts re-evolution – influenced Capek's WAR WITH THE NEWTS – man will lose his place.*

*Belyaev single-handedly created SF novel in Soviet Union – lay foundation. Others have come along since Stalin – eg: Stalin period hiatus in Soviet literature per se, not just SF. Social realism must describe reality in optimistic terms...*

*Calls for a return to the fantastic.*

This captures the flavour of the lecture I believe. The notes are a wee bit inaccurate, so I submit the following:

Alexander Romanovich Belyaev was born 1884 and died circa 1941/1942 in the German occupied city of Pushkin. His first story was PROFESSOR DOUELLIA'S HEAD ( *Golova Professora Douellia* ) in 1925, his novel THE LAST MAN FROM ATLANTIS ( *Poslednii Tchelovek Iz Atlantidy* ) was published in 1927, and THE AMPHIBIAN ( *Tchelovek-Amfibia* ), about a boy with transplanted shark's gills, in 1929. Some of the confusion re dates may have to do with the dates English translations first appeared.

According to Clute & Nicholl's THE ENCYCLOPEDIA OF SCIENCE FICTION entry on Belyaev, "*As one of the originators of the sf genre in Soviet literature, Belyaev's Wells- and Verne-influenced writings dominated the field between the wars, providing models for most other Soviet practitioners of the time...Despite the manifest ideological content and frequent clichés in Belyaev's work, his books remain permanently in print, maintaining his status as the first Soviet sf 'classic'.*"

American fan Mike Horvat then introduced Philip K. Dick for his keynote speech ( not delivered at a banquet as originally planned, as it had been cancelled due to lack of interest ). The basic idea in Dick's talk was, instead of studying machines to gain insight into human behaviour as scientists currently do, why not study humans to gain insight into machine behaviour? ( This in order to understand the difference between human and non-human in human behaviour. ) He argued this would be easy to do since much human behaviour was *already* truly non-human, that government was developing the science of "*inauthentic human activity*", and that if totalitarianism is to be avoided:

*"the ethics most important for the survival of the true, human individual would be: cheat, lie, evade, fake it, be elsewhere, forge documents, build improved electronic gadgets in your garage that'll outwit the gadgets used by the authorities."*

In other words, typical Dickian thinking. One gathers that, were he alive (he died March 2, 1982), he would be entranced by today's computer hackers.... And depressed that his vision had come true....

Here follows Susan Walsh's notes on P.K. Dick's lecture:

*Power, motive, electronic hardware for 1984 is HERE, but no-one is listening – out of carelessness, boredom, indifference, delinquency.*

*Phone freaks... Difference. Kids.*

*Anarchist totalitarian state seen ahead. ESB perfected. Snooper scopes, etc. From Vietnam. Electronic equipment – country library. Narcotics search even without cause.*

*Optimistic point: kids take electronic scanners for granted... notice, allow for it.*

*Street drugs unreliable. Free labs – quality control stations, allow for it. Other, legal drugs – established drugs more frightening – pacifocal – human android brain damage, soul damage. Schizoid personality, think, not feel troubled pacifocal drugs – static, predictable, no menace ( lithium carbon ) person restrains self.*

*Non-authentic human activity made into mere use – restrict on free love, on laughter, foolishness, play. Dying breed of authentic humanness ...*

*New kids – impervious to false idols, hates previous generation – authentic, serving human desire VS unreasonable drives. To discover / world fiction / in all its authentic form – observe a 16 year old kid in his normal peregrinations. Our future literature must not only focus on stars but onto ourselves.*

*Robot-police are untenanted, vacuum even base scheme. Human beings are preferable to tropism clones. Only a human is never replaceable. Sailing ships, old cars, antiques? Android = obedience, predictable. Youth = unreliable ( perverse, amoral, etc. ).*

*Too much persuasion. Mass media overdone – too great eagerness to make them learn. Grind everyone down into mediocrity. Promote mind – suppress animistic. Mature = sane = scientific people = things = make friends into stares...*

*Study machines to learn about humans ( conflicting tropisms = neurotic behaviour ). So: learn about environment by analyzing what we know about ourselves.*

*Man may have to be restrained from having fantasy to rape sewing machines.*

*Robot – constructs masquerade as human.*

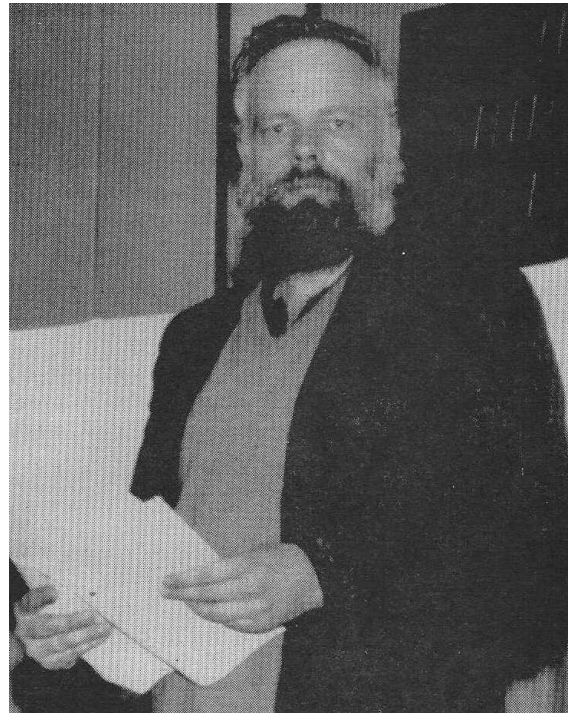
*NOW: Constructs are human, follow correct lives, we follow trying to avoid short circuits in power supply, avoid breakdown, blend human and construct. Intent: tropisms. Purpose: design, not desire. [ Formal cause.] ... Free will may be a delusion for us. Drives = fall, stones for all practical purposes. Identical crystals to God.*

*External world = animate, humans = non-animate, led by drives.*

*What is it in us specifically human VS machine insect behaviour?*

*Android? A pigeon is better at quality control, will reject faulty parts just for corn...*

Wow! From today's perspective thirty-six years later Dick's insight is eerily prescient. The deliberate dumbing down of the masses, the drive to conformity, the suppression of free thought and individual behaviour, the worship of machine life-style, the state-sponsored regulation of independent thought and action, and the Big Brother demand that we *love* what they



**P. K. DICK AT VCON 2**

are doing to us, that we be *grateful* for what they are doing to us... Dick may have been crazy, but he knew what was going to happen, what was already happening, and he tried to warn us... he really did...

*Note: The complete text of THE ANDROID AND THE HUMAN is published in SF COMMENTARY #31, Dec 1972, Fanned Bruce R. Gillespie. The photo of Dick at VCON 2 reproduced here first appeared on the cover of SFC #31 and was originally taken by Mike Bailey, Co-Chair of VCON 2. ( Somewhere in the WCSFA/BCSFA Archive I have a photo of Mike Horvat stepping down from the podium as P.K. Dick steps up, but can I find it? Noooo.... )*

TO BE CONTINUED

## **A TYPICAL C.U.F.F ( Canadian Unity Fan Fund ) TRIP REPORT – PART ONE**

*By The Graeme*

**Being selected excerpts from my account, as 1997 CUFF Winner,  
( originally published in issue #10 of my Perzine SPACE CADET )  
of my C.U.F.F. trip to Primedia/Convention in Toronto.**

Nobody else is nominated, so I win the C.U.F.F. 'election' by default. My first task is to arrange transportation. During a phone conversation with my brother Stewart, who is stationed at an Air base in Ottawa, he suggests I fly the airline the Canadian military uses to transfer personal back & forth across the country ( now that the air force no longer maintains any aircraft for this purpose), namely GREYHOUND AIR. Lo and behold, I acquire return tickets on the appropriate dates for only \$325.85. Cool! Mind you, I have to switch aircraft in Winnipeg ( Greyhound not having any aircraft of sufficient range to fly all the way to Toronto ) and brown bag it if I want anything to eat, but hey, cheap is cheap. I feel pretty smug about it.

As we all know, feeling smug over careful preparation for a Fannish event is a harbinger of impending disaster. I walk into work a few days later and someone comments "So I guess you're not going to Toronto after all."

"What?"

"GREYHOUND AIR is going out of business before November."

"You're kidding?"

"Nope!"

I take this very personally. Why me? Several frantic phone calls later I learn that CANADIAN AIR will honour my ticket at no extra charge. Even better, I'll be flying nonstop to Toronto and will be served a meal. Excellent! My smugness returns.

In September 1997 I put out the first of my 'FistiCUFF' bulletins offering items for sale. Might as well start raising money before my trip, every penny earned soonest is one less penny to worry about. This gives me the jump on most of my predecessors. Hah! Feeling even more smug.

Cleverly, I arrange to take the day I leave off work. But since I work evenings, I'll be working till midnight the day before, not arriving home till 1:30 a.m. Friday October 31st. My flight leaves only 7.5 hours later, but I figure I can get a few hours sleep and still arrive at the airport in plenty of time to catch it.

Okay, very simple, very mundane planning. Absolutely the sort of thing to be smug about, and equally absolutely the sort of thing not worth mentioning in trip reports because such info is routine, dull, and boring.

Except when things go wrong.

As I head off to work circa 2:00 p.m. on the Thursday before my flight, I finally notice the light blinking on my answering machine in reference to a call that had come in the night previously while I'd been at work. It is a message from Cindy Huckle, the Chair of Primedia, informing me they're reserving a slot in the programming schedule to allow me to present my "Space Babes Feminism in '50s B Movies" video lecture which I had previously delivered at VCON 22 April of 1997.

*"See clips from the films that inspired the modern feminist movement! Gasp as women scientists assert themselves aboard doomed spaceships! Shudder in awe as heroines panic (but no more or less than the frightened heroes) in the face of unspeakable rubber monsters! Stare slack jawed with apprehension at futuristic 'liberating' costumes! See men turned into drooling idiots! Find out why the 1950s are 'The Golden Age of Female Role Models!' (With carefully neutral commentary by R. Graeme Cameron.)"*

Great Galloping Ghu! This means that I can't go to sleep until after I've cued 15 different videos to the beginning of the relevant film clips. Gack! This will take hours! How much sleep am I going to get?

**FRIDAY OCTOBER 31ST, 1997**

I arrive home from work circa 1:30 am. I pull out the appropriate videos and start using my VCR to cue them. I finish by 4:00 a.m., at which point I've been awake for 19 hours. I feel like a zombie. I know that if I succeed in falling asleep I'll probably sleep past my alarm clock and miss my flight, so I elect to stay awake and hope to sleep on the plane.

By the time I call a cab to the airport I've been awake for 21.5 hours. By the time my flight takes off, awake for 24 hours. And naturally I am unable to fall asleep on the airplane. Arrgh! The only situation of note during the flight is that there is *no* situation of note. So I get off the plane feeling tired *and* bored. Great start to my first day at Primedia.

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney had told me they would pick me up at the airport and drive me to the hotel as their contribution to CUFF. I am to expect Yvonne to make the contact. So I stand in the hall outside the baggage check asking every woman I see if they are Yvonne. No luck. I begin to worry. Then I notice a short, stocky, rather dapper chap with glasses. He sees me and asks if I am "The Graeme". Yes! It is Lloyd. Excellent!

We step outside. Yvonne is at the wheel of their car parked outside another door about a hundred feet away. She is watching the door intently. Lloyd starts waving like mad. No reaction. Yvonne is watching that door like a hawk. We run halfway down the sidewalk, the both of us waving our arms and shouting. Yvonne has her eyes fixed on that door. No way were we going to come through that door without her seeing us. Finally, when Lloyd pounds on the hood of the car, Yvonne gives a start and swivels around to look at us. I agree, it is rather unfair of us to come out the wrong door. Nevertheless I feel pleased, as there is something vaguely Fannish about the scene.

We then spend the next 75 minutes driving through Friday rush hour traffic. I feel disoriented. There are no Vancouver-style mountains to show me where North is... just an endless flat plain of myriad buildings. Even Lloyd and Yvonne are amazed at how much the area has built up since they last drove by. Lloyd points at a Royal Bank. "That was a field only a month ago." ( Extrapolating backwards at the same rate, Toronto was but a Spuzzum-like village ten years ago....)

At least it is raining heavily. "Nice of you to welcome me with Vancouver weather," I say. This is to become my refrain throughout the weekend.

Lloyd and Yvonne fill me in on the local Fannish politics of the moment. Their tales strike me as typical, what with assorted unforgiving Fans mad at each other, etc., the usual.

The Penneys offer to take me out to dinner after I register. Cool! I check into the hotel, get a comfortable room on the 6th floor, drop off my stuff, then rush downstairs to register for the convention. Christine Sherman is manning the table. I overwhelm her with a flood of questions, mostly to do with the timing of my video lecture. Christine reprimands me sharply, telling me to slow down and shut up, one question at a time. I guess she is feeling pressured. Cindy Huckle, the Chair, standing nearby, is a witness to my gushing enthusiasm. She tells me my time slot is not fixed as yet, but that someone will inform me well in advance.

Then Lloyd and Yvonne point me in the direction of the 'Toronto Worldcon in 2003' table, manned by none other than the fabled degafiated Mike Glicksohn, he of the black beret and enormous salt & pepper beard. Mike and his former wife Susan Wood won a Hugo for their Fanzine Enurgumen back in 1973, the only Canadians ever to win a Hugo in that category. I am delighted, absolutely delighted to meet him. This alone makes the trip worthwhile.

I drop off my registration package in my room, make a quick phone call to let my Dad know I am in town and to set up a time to meet him on Sunday ( I haven't seen him in several years ), then head to the main floor looking for Lloyd & Yvonne. I spot Brian Davis coming up the hall, recognizing him from his photo in his FIXED LINK zine, i.e.: tall, slim and black, with moustache and glasses. I introduce myself. It turns out he had just driven in from Fredericton, New Brunswick, nonstop and was feeling rather tired himself.

It is particularly pleasant to meet Brian, as it is the Canadian UNITY Fan Fund after all, and here we are, a West Coast Fan and an East Coast Fan getting to know each other. The very purpose of CUFF!

As we stand talking, two Furrries (or costumers?) walk by, one dressed as a Wookiee, the other in a bear outfit. Subtle signs I am indeed at a convention. I begin to feel quite at home.

Lloyd & Yvonne show up and we head out for supper. Just as we leave, Lloyd says, "Look. There's Rob." I turn and see Robert Sawyer leaping into an elevator so jam-packed with fans he can't get all the way in. The elevator doors repeatedly open and close against his backpack. A victim of machine mastication ( shades of **DAS LIFT**, the Dutch film about a killer elevator )! Leaving him to his fate, we go off to dinner.

We choose to eat at a nearby Swiss Chalet restaurant. Arrgh! Their "chicken in a bun" is better described as "a bit of chicken in a bunlet", but never mind the food, the conversation is the thing. We exchange assorted gossip and rumours, finally settling on the topic of the aging of Fandom and where will the new Fans come from? Ghu only knows.

Lloyd & Yvonne drop me back at the hotel at 7:30 p.m. I have now been awake for 34.5 hours. My head hurts. I find it hard to focus. I decide to rest a bit on my bed sipping cold tea and peruse the program book before running out to attend the Friday night festivities, i.e. the parties, orgies, and what-have-you.

The digest-sized program features a cover ( uncredited ) depicting an assortment of TV and film spacecraft hurtling toward Earth to attend Primedia. Very nice. The booklet includes profiles of the media GoHs, which is good, since I never find the time to watch the current shows and have no idea who these people are.

Turning to the program sheet, I see that it's time for the opening ceremonies. I should bestir myself and run down now! Afterwards at 9:00 p.m. begins "Roswell: 50th Anniversary Party", an opportunity to mix and mingle till two in the morning. At 10:00 p.m. is a panel on "Favourite Monsters." At Midnight various "Northern Frights" authors reading scary stories. There's lots to do! The fun is just beginning. Party on dude!



I look at the clock. 8:00 p.m. I've been awake for 35 hours. My head REALLY hurts. I remember that my migraines are triggered by stress and fatigue. I remember that my bouts of atrial fibrillation are triggered by stress and fatigue.

I ask myself, am I stressed and fatigued?

YES!

And so to bed, hoping to have recovered by the morning.

It occurs to me as I fall asleep that since I have so far attended no programming but instead spent all my time talking to people I must now be considered a pro in the art of con-going.

### **PREREG NOW FOR VCON 33 in 2008!**

**VCON 33 -- ( Oct 3-5, 2008 )** Vancouver, BC. Canada's oldest ongoing Sci-Fi convention ( VCON 1 was held in 1971 ). Author GoH: Patrick Rothfuss ( author of 'Name of the Wind' ), Artist GoH: Lisa Snellings-Clark. Current pre-registration membership price: \$45 Cdn. Make out cheques to 'VCON' and mail to VCON, c/o Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V5N 5W1. 85 members pre-registered so far. Details re hotel, rates, dates, more GoHs, etc to be announced. If you'd like to help write: < [vconchair@gmail.com](mailto:vconchair@gmail.com) > For updated info: < [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca) >

## **FANATICAL FANAC FABLES**

### **RETRO FANZINES: CENSORED #1 ( 1941 ) to #6 ( 1951 )**

**Faned: Fred Hurter Jr.**

#### **FANED BIO:**

I have very little information about Fred Hurter Jr., but here goes...

As a teenager he attended the St. Andrews College for boys in Aurora, Ontario in the early 1940s. He was probably introduced to fandom via contact with Toronto fen, or through zine reviews in prozines, and may well have been familiar with Les Crutch's LIGHT and assorted American fanzines by the time he chose to pub his ish, CENSORED, in June of 1941, with the help of fellow St. Andrews students Joseph 'Beak' Taylor ( profiled in WCSFAzine #7 ) and Edward 'Ned' McKeown, both of whom went on to glory as faneds for CANADIAN FANDOM – indeed, 'Beak' founded same, putting out the first issue of 'CANFAN' ( albeit titled 'Eight-Ball', name changed by issue 4 ) in February of 1943, with help from Fred & Ned, natch!

CENSORED seems to have been an immediate hit with fandom at large, especially with American fans, to judge by a comment by Hurter printed in Crutch's LIGHT in 1942: “: "Personally, I'm getting a bit worried about so-called Canadian fandom! There doesn't seem to be any, if my circulation figures are correct. 30 copies at most go to Canadian subscribers, about 10 to England, and over 100 to the USA. Seems sort of funny for a Canadian fanzine to sell almost completely in the United States!"

Crutch himself certainly thought highly of it, writing in 1942: “Canadian Fandom has two accepted fanzines... my LIGHT is one, Fred Hurter's CENSORED is the other. The latter is a full fledged subscription affair that ranks easily among the better rank and file of foreign fanzines.”

One reason for CENSORED's reputation for quality was commented on by John Robert Columbo: “a stylish and substantial publication. Particularly appealing were the silk-screened covers (by Ron Smith). ... The most arresting and attractive covers of any fanzine in the country.... These were art-decoish in design and set such impossibly high standards that no other Canadian fanzine attempted to match them.” Taral Wayne wrote: “note must be made of the effective if primitive silkscreen covers produced by Hurter and Ron Smith in collaboration. The solid blocks of black and colour were powerful images at least.”

Another reason for the zine's renown was the roster of Canadian contributors including Leslie A. Crutch ( faned of LIGHT, out of Parry Sound, Ontario ), Gordon L. Peck & sister Shirley K. Peck ( of Vancouver ), Al Macrae ( Toronto ), John Hollis Mason ( Toronto ), Moe Diner ( Montreal ), Bert Joss ( Montreal ), Thomas 'Tim' Buck ( Montreal ), Allan Bernfeld ( Montreal ), Samuel Trenchard ( Montreal ), Leonard Ashley ( Montreal ), Ken Richardson ( Verdun, Quebec ), Gerry Williams ( Verdun, Quebec ), and Hurter himself, who in addition to editorials, wrote articles and contributed cartoons. There were American contributors as well, including Robert Bloch ( well-known fan and later famous as the author of 'PSYCHO' ).

In addition to the two issues of CENSORED published in 1942, Harry Warner Jr. wrote that Hurter contributed to THE 1941 SCIENCE, WEIRD AND FANTASY FICTION YEARBOOK ( an index, published in 1942, of prozine stories published in 1941 ) “produced by Julius Unger, under the editorship of Larry Shaw, Bill Evans and Fred Hurter.” Now these yearbooks were a very big deal at the time; first because they were begun by the instant-legend big name fan Wilson 'Bob' Tucker, and second because every fan was still in the habit of reading every prozine story ( or darn near ) and ~~arguing~~

~~about~~ discussing them endlessly. If true, Hurter was included in the fannish big leagues very quickly after starting up CENSORED. Alas, the 1952 Evans/Pavlat Fanzine Index lists Unger, Shaw and Evans, but makes no mention of Fred Hurter Jr. The 1952 Fanzine Index must be taken as the definitive statement on the matter, since its editor Bill Evans is the *same* Bill Evans who contributed to the 1941 Yearbook, and he should know if anyone. I'm afraid this may be one of those rare instances where Harry Warner Jr. got his facts wrong.

By 1947 Hurter had moved to Montreal to attend McGill University, and promptly joined its Sci-Fi club The Montreal Science Fiction Society ( founded November 15<sup>th</sup>, 1946 ). By February 1948 Hurter was both Honourary President and Fanzine editor for the club. Jack Bowie-Reed, the Recording Secretary of the club, later wrote:that the MSFS "adopted CENSORED as its club organ, Fred Hurter Jr. having happily moved to the 'City of Sin', 'Le Petit Paris'".

Hurter's first publication as fanned for the club was not CENSORED, but **MOHDZEE**, a small 8-page digest-sized adzine distributed free ( in February 1948 ) in an effort to convince people to subscribe to a reborn CENSORED. The cover is a solid block of nonsense random typing in which can be discerned several sentences such as: "Ghod what a lot of stuff to write just to get this damn cover filled", "If that cheapskate Moe Diner had gone to the trouble of buying me a proper stencil cutter I wouldn't have to sit here pounding the keys like mad" and "Nuts to Les Crouch the libertine and the same goes for Basil Rattray who doesn't think that rockets will work."

Fred Hurter contributed the following editorial:

"I don't know why fanzines must have an editorial, but since such is the case, MOHDZEE shall have one."

"You are probably wondering for what purpose this insignificant little fanzine was ever published, and what useful purpose it will serve. ( no snaid remarks pliz )"

"Let me enlighten you. The purpose is purely commercial, and it will serve we hope to cause the more gullible fans to part with some of their filthy lucre for a subscription to CENSORED which is resuming publication shortly. CENSORED will feature 2 and 3 colour silk screen covers as in the past; articles and stories by Canadian fen. Price will be 15 cents per copy or 3 for 40 cents payable now at the abode of ye editor Fred Hurter, 79 Hudson Ave., Town of Mount Royal, P.Q."

"CENSORED will be backed by the MSFS to the greater glory of which the rest of this issue is wasted."

There followed an account, written by Moe Diner, of the origin of the MSFS:

#### **"THE MONTREAL SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY"**

"The MSFS was organized in November 1946 as the 'McGill ( University ) Science Fiction Society', with a grand total of three charter members. Organized initially as a university campus club, it was able to use the facilities of the university as regards clubroom and notices in the student's daily newspaper. But from that start it was hoped that it might serve as a nucleus for the various fans presumably residing in the Montreal area. For this purpose it adopted the name of "Montreal Science Fiction Society". The two names were reconciled with great originality by means of the initials MSFS."

"At first the limited membership and the lack of financial resources ( money that is ) and experienced members made any thought of putting out a fanzine truly FANTASTIC! ( Have you read the latest issue? ) But as information regarding the requirements ( chiefly cash ) and production of a fanzine was obtained, the idea took root ( lots of dirt in our members made this very simple ). And when on the first anniversary of the club, the roster of members had reached the FANTASTIC ( have you ... oops said that already ) the number of ten ( to the vast astonishment of the founders ) .... Including the publisher, editor, co-editor and staff of the defunct CENSORED, the dynamic ( burp ) Fred Hurter... the idea burst into full flower. ( thanks to the same fertile minds already referred to ). It was decided that the MSFS would sponsor the noteworthy ( or infamous ) publication which had been started in the childhood of Montreal's premier ( burp ) fan."

With fan activity mushrooming, what with the revival of the Toronto group, the establishment of the ambitious... Hamilton group, the organization of the CSFA [ Canadian Science Fiction Association ] and the revival of the CAFP [ Canadian Amateur Fantasy Press ] as an affiliate of it...to say nothing of the Torcon. ( Beak [ Taylor ] won't like that. He wants us to say something of the Torcon ) it is only fitting that Montreal should take its place in Canadian Fandom ( plug for Beak ) with its own fanzine or zines."

Moe then lists the current MSFS executive:

Hon. President – Fred Hurter.  
President – Moe Diner.  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Cecil de Bretigny.  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Bert Joss  
3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Thomas Buck.  
Treasurer – Basil Rattray.  
Secretary – Jack Bowie-Reid.  
Recording Secretary – George Ljelios.  
Fanzine Editor – Fred Hurter.

And speaking of Torcon (the 1948 World Convention in Toronto), Fred Hurter contributed a poem titled "TOPCON":

In Montreal lives

Camillien Houde  
 A firm enemy of  
 Toronto the Good.  
 Since this is so  
 We can't understand  
 How our Mayor Houde  
 Actually could  
 Let Toronto the Good  
 Gain the upperhand."  
 For what else is it  
 But that;  
 When the Stf Convention  
 Is held at  
 Toronto the Good  
 And not in the town  
 Of Camillien Houde.  
 But let us be cheerful  
 And hide our dismay  
 And send in our dollars  
 Without delay"  
 To Ned McKeown  
 At his abode  
 at 1398  
 Mount Pleasant Road.

Can't say that Hurter was a 'good' poet, but he was certainly an amusing one. I take it Camillien Houde was the Mayor of Montreal at that time, an era when Montreal enjoyed the reputation of being both gloriously wide-open and magnificently corrupt, as compared to the dour and straitlaced Toronto administration of the same period.

On the last page there is a comment ( by Hurter? ): "So YOU haven't joined the Torcon society yet AND you DARE to read this. Tsk, tsk, for shame. Join now and be a real fan. Stop hoarding your pennies. Be without cents like the rest of us...Dopes. ONTO TOR ONTO.... 1948 World Science Fiction Convention..."

There's also an ad for MACABRE, "A new Canadian Fanzine. Price 10¢ per copy. Obtainable from Jack Doherty, 68 Latimer Ave, Toronto 12, Ontario, Canada." ( Only two issues were published: #1 in March 1948, & #2 in June 1948. At least one issue, probably the second, was available at Torcon. )

And one more ditty; to wit:

TRANSCRIBED ANNOUNCEMENT  
 ( to the tune of "My Body Lies Over The Ocean" )

Clap hands for CENSORED  
 Clap hands on CENSORED  
 It keeps your ( CENSORED ) white  
 So don't delay  
 It doesn't pay  
 Send 15 cents to us

Oh, and for those who think it should be "My Bonnie Lies Over The Ocean", take note that is a different song. Hurter is referring to a popular song sung by allied troops during WWII, which goes in part:

My body lies over the ocean  
 My body lies over the sea  
 My father lies over my mother  
 And that is how I came to be.

The joke being, of course, that the CENSORED lyrics don't fit the tune.

I doubt there were subsequent issues of MOHDZEE ( Its only purpose being to 'push' the upcoming CENSORED #5 ), and I have no idea what MOHDZEE means, if anything.

Hurter, under the auspices of the MSFS produced two more CENSORED's out of Mt. Royal, Montreal, with the help of Bert Joss and Tim Buck; one in Sept, 1948, and the last in 1951! After that, nothing.

I do know that Hurter was still involved with the club as late as 1954 because in June of that year a letter from Club Treasurer Allan Bernfeld was published in CANADIAN FANDOM #21 which read: "Just a short note to acknowledge receipt of the recent issues of CANFAN. I've passed them around at the meetings of the Montreal SF Society and they have been received with interest. CANFAN may have the good effect of sparking Fred Hurter into limbering the old multilith so we can whack out another CENSORED. Our normal two year publishing hiatus is now stretching itself out into darn near four years. However, don't hold your breath until you see the issue."

Alas, no further issue of CENSORED was ever published, so the above threat never panned out. When Hurter actually gafiated from fandom, I do not know. Some time in the mid-fifties I guess. Harry Warner, Jr., in his A WEALTH OF FABLE, 'an informal history of science fiction fandom in the fifties' makes no mention of him.

### THE SIX ISSUES OF CENSORED:

**1941 - (#1 – Jun, Vol 1 – No 1)** - The cover was printed with the title ROCKET, but then, according to Hurter (as quoted in the Swisher SF CHECKLIST #8), "I found out, after I had run off the cover, that...[ Walter J. ] Daugherty already was publishing a mag by the name of ROCKET...Wishing to avoid confusion... We have that beautiful surcharge [ CENSORED ] smeared across the cover which I think will remain as its permanent title..."

Actually, US fan Daugherty published but a single issue of ROCKET in March 1940. And, even earlier, the American Dan McPhail started up a mag of the same title in December 1938, changing it to PHANTASY PRESS with #4, so Daugherty himself hadn't been all that original. All things considered, it was an inspired move on Hurter's part to angle CENSORED across the first issue of his 'ROCKET'. Made for a far catchier title, and probably a bit of a stir among faneds and zine readers of the day.

Well, I've padded this single fact re the first issue as far as I can. On with the next lack of information!

**1941 - (#2 – Oct, Vol 1 – No 2)** – Alas, I have no info whatsoever.

**1942 - (#3 – Mar, Vol 1 – No 3)** – Equally ignorant on this one.

#### **1942 - (#4 – Jun, Vol 1 – No 4)**

**COVER:** multi-coloured silk-screen, with yellow bars (giving names of contributors Bovard, Croutch, Peck, Macrae & Hurter) and a scene of a lunar landscape, a space suited figure with a tubular glass helmet prone upon a ledge, about to fire a rifle at a dimly seen astronaut standing in the shadow of a bullet -shaped spaceship, done in light blue with black for shadow and vacuum sky above. ( By Hurter & Ron Smith )

Cover shows the price as 10 cents, and indicates FAPA & NFFF, meaning that CENSORED was also a Fantasy Amateur Press Association and a National Fantasy Fan Federation publication.

**TITLE PAGE:** includes the comment: "Will trade with any fanmag....favourable comments welcome."

### **CONTENTS: ( partial list )**

#### **STORIES**

THE WATCHER by John Hollis Mason.

\_\_AND ONE WAS DEAD by Leslie A. Croutch.

NOTHING by 'Nobody'.

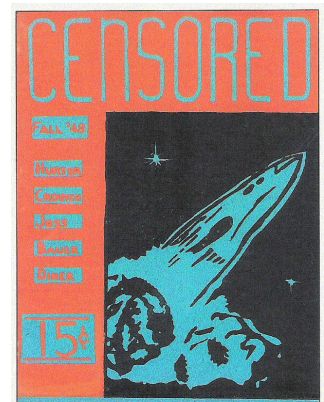
#### **1948 - (#5 – Sep, Vol 2 – No 1)**

**COVER:** 3 colour silkscreen with orange top and left-hand side bars, 'CENSORED' in blue lettering, names of contributors Hurter, Croutch, Joss, Bauer & Diner in orange lettering on blue squares within the side bar, cover picture a 40's style blast-spewing space ship outlined in black on blue against a black sky.( By Hurter & Ron Smith )

Cover lists price as 15 cents.

**INSIDE COVER:** "CENSORED: Canada's Foremost Fanzine. This is a special limited edition of 1,237,158,812 copies, of which the first 105,000 are numbered and autographed. This copy is no. 127,384. With worst wishes, Fred Hurter Jr., Bert Joss, and Tim Buck."

**INSIDE BACK COVER?:** "Reproduction by Multilith by the R.A. Joss Superiore Printing Enterprises. Typography set in "Elite" type face by the Agnes Cadieux Type-setting Co. Cover printed by the silk screen process by the Buck Brothers Fine Art Binders."



"CENSORED is published approximately quarterly, barring 6 year lapses, by the MSFS-Hurter Publishing Cartel. Subscriptions should be sent to the Hurter beer fund at 79 Hudson Ave., Town of Mt. Royal, Montreal 16, P.Q., Canada. The copies are 15 cents per copy, and if you want to wait to get future issues, 4 for 50 cents. We solicit unsolicited material and pay nothing. Favourable comments welcome."

### **CONTENTS:**

#### **FULL LENGTH NOVEL**

PEERLESS POGO ( a thrilling story etc. etc. ) ..... by Thomas A. Bauer.  
ASSIGNMENT NANA ( a thrilling story etc. etc. ) ..... by Gerry Williams.

#### **ONE PART SERIAL**

IGNORANCE AND INTELLECT ( a thrilling story etc. etc. ) ..... by Bert Joss.

#### **FEATURES AND ARTICLES**

SCIENCE FOR THE MILLIONS ( a thrilling story etc. etc. ) ..... by Leonard Ashley.  
THOUGHTS WHILE SHAVING ( drivel ) ..... by Les Croutch.  
THE GREAT CHEMICAL MYSTERY ( moe educated drivel ) ..... by Samuel Trenchard.  
SCRIPTURE STUDY ( still moe educated? Drivel ) by the "Padre".  
TORCON TORTURES ( you will throw up your diner after reading this. )

#### **OUR READER'S DEPARTMENTS**

CONTENTS PAGE ..... right in front of your nose.  
EDITORIAL ..... by guess who.  
BOOK REVIEW ..... by Bert Joss.  
CARTOONS ..... by Fred Hurter Jr.  
HALL OF SHAME CLASSIC ( by Editor's friend ) ..... Dref Retruh.  
COMMENTS FAVOURABLE OR OTHERWISE ( reader blatherings ).

#### **POETRY**

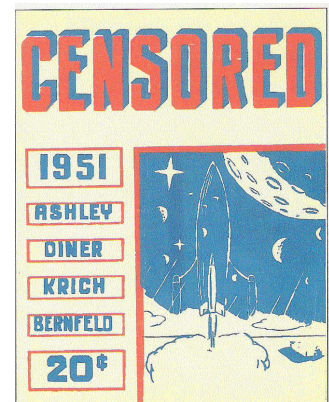
All sorts of filler ..... you find it yourself.

Les Croutch's "Thoughts While Shaving" begins: " Singing in the shower - singin' for joy - singing the Lifebuoy way - "

### **1951 - (#6 - ?, Vol 2 – No 2 )**

**COVER:** 3 colour silkscreen cover, "CENSORED" in red with blue shadow on a yellow background, contributors Ashley, Diner, Krich & Bernfeld listed, picture a V2-like rocket blasting off an earth spaceport presumably heading for the moon looming in the upper right, blue outline on yellow background with blue space/sky, the latter mostly filled with the ghostly outline of a 1950's style finned spaceship. Quite evocative. ( By Hurter & Ron Smith )

**INSIDE FRONT COVER:** CENSORED is published irregularly by Fred Hurter Jr. in collaboration with the Montreal Science Fiction Society. The price is 20 cents per copy, subscription rates 3 for 50 cents, subject to change without notice. Subscriptions should be sent to Moe Diner, 4814 Wilson Ave., N.D.G. Montreal, P.Q., Canada. We solicit unsolicited material and pay nothing. Editorial material should be sent to Fred Hurter Jr., 5770 Cote St. Luc, N.D.G., Montreal, P.Q. Favourable comments welcome."



### **CONTENTS:**

#### **FULL LENGTH NOVEL**

FWROTSICT ,,,,, Allan Bernfeld.

#### **ONE PART SERIAL**

THE GREAT MARINE DISASTER ..... Ken Richardson.

#### **FEATURES & ARTICLES**

CONFINED TO deCAMP ..... Moe Diner.



PARAPSYCHOLOGY ..... dink English.  
MAKING ETHYL PALPITATE ..... Leonard Ashley.  
STUFF and SUCH ..... Fred Hurter Jr.  
ON DIANETICS ..... John W. Campbell Jr.

### **SPECIAL FEATURE THIS ISSUE!!!**

FOUR (4) THRILLING PAGES OF COLOURED COMICS FOR SCIENCE FICTION FANS

### **POETRY**

BUSHED, BOOGERED, AND BEWILDERED ..... Sandy Worthen.  
NOSTALGIA ..... Robert Bloch.

### **OUR READER'S DEPARTMENTS**

CONTENTS ..... Fred Hurter Jr.  
EDITORIAL ..... Fred Hurter Jr.  
FILM REVIEWS ..... Almo Berndiner.  
NEW YORK NEUROSES ..... Mollan Dinfeld.  
COMMENTS FAVOURABLE or otherwise ..... our reader.

The first film review, by Almo Berndiner, covers the George Pal film DESTINATION MOON, saying it "will be remembered as a fine semi-technical film, as an honest attempt to forecast the future of science, and perhaps as the first of a long line of films designed to take science out of the laboratory and put it into the public consciousness".

This is followed by a review of ROCKETSHIP X-M, signed 'MD', which might be Mollan Dinfeld, or perhaps Moe Diner, which says the film "will be remembered as a crud inaccurate pseudo-technical film, a cheap attempt to cash in on the recent popularity of science fiction, and a 'beat-'em-to-the-grab' quickie rushed out to milk in advance the careful promotion publicity of the fine and sincere DESTINATION MOON."

( True enough, but it should be noted that ROCKETSHIP X-M is arguably the more fun and entertaining of the two films - R. Graeme. )

And here is the poem NOSTALGIA by Robert Bloch ( reprinted in CENSORED from the Nov 1945 issue of Crouch's LIGHT ) which goes:

A vagrant breeze...  
A single sigh...  
A melody of days gone by  
The past recaptured  
Limns for me  
The magic of your memory

Elusive ghost  
Of vanished Bliss  
The distilled fragrance of your kiss  
But all I've left....  
A single scar...  
Your torso, floating in a jar.

### **SOURCES:**

- **ALL OUR YESTERDAYS**, Harry Warner Jr., 1969. Fandom in the 1940s.
- **MOHDZEE**, Fred Hurter Jr., February 1948. Donated to the WCSFA/BCSFA archive by Murray Moore ( I think. If not, then possibly Taral Wayne, or Chester Cuthbert, or? Have notes somewhere in the archive...Much appreciated. )
- **SAME AS IT EVER WAS**, Taral Wayne, article on early Canadian zines, originally printed in NEW CANADIAN FANDOM #5 August 1982, reprinted in CANFANDOM #5 May 1999.
- **TRIAL & AIR**, Michael W. Waite, unknown date, his FAPazine, sent to me in 2001, this particular issue devoted to CENSORED #5 & 6 recently acquired for his collection. ( TRIAL & AIR still going strong, recently described by US fan Bob Sabella ( of VISIONS OF PARADISE ) as a "gorgeous genzine". I agree.
- **YEARS OF LIGHT**, John Robert Columbo, 1982, for info on CENSORED #4.

### **2008 C.U.F.F. DELEGATE SELECTED!**

**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

### **FANNISH MYSTERY SOLVED!**

It was a mystery to me, anyway. You may recall I wrote last issue in my VCON 32 report:

*"At one point I tell the anecdote about the Calgary (?) Edmonton (?) hotel hosting both a Sci-Fi Convention and the Young Tories League, the punch line being that at the end of the weekend the hotel apologized to the Sci-Fi 'geeks' for the irresponsible behaviour of the 'politicos'. Billie Mcleod interjects "It wasn't 'The Young Tories', it was 'The Young Liberals'. Kathleen Moore-Freeman wrote a comic Filk song about the experience. You should ask her about the experience." I mean to, but forget. I am drinking rather a lot of Raven Dark Ale alternating with Sun God Cream Ale, so perhaps I can be forgiven. At any rate, so much for relying on oral history. Seems I had been passing on misinformation all these years. Oh well."*

Now I have the full story straight from Kathleen courtesy of our conversation during the March 15<sup>th</sup> BCSFA club meeting. Turns out the convention in question was NONCON 11 held the long weekend of October 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 1988 in the Palliser hotel in Calgary. NonCon shared the hotel with the 1988 Alberta Liberal Party Leadership Convention. So not a bunch of young politicians, but all the veteran Liberal Members of Provincial Parliament competing for the prize of running their party come the next provincial election, attended by all the party hacks wheeling and dealing on their behalf. A very big deal indeed, provincially speaking.

Turns out the Liberals threw one hell of an undisciplined, boisterous room party which resulted in A) all open door room parties in the hotel being told to close their doors and be quiet, or risk being shut down, and B) significant numbers of drunken Liberal politicians and supporters being hauled off to the drunk tank in multiple paddy wagons. This major police operation was kept out of the local press and media. Must have been some very powerful people issuing gag orders.

In any event, the hotel *did* apologize to the NonCon 11 convention committee for the rowdy behaviour of the politicians which had a negative impact on the running of the Sci-Fi convention. And they call *us* geeks!

And true enough, a bunch of filkers got together before the convention was over and wrote up a song to the tune:  
WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE DRUNKEN SAILOR?

#### WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE DRUNKEN LIBERALS?

What shall we do with the Drunken Liberals?  
What shall we do with the Drunken Liberals?  
What shall we do with the Drunken Liberals?  
Ear-ly in the morning.

Throw them out the consuite window...

Call the cops and call the papers....

Wake them up by singing this song....

Ban them from the el-e-vators....

Bulldoze out their 7<sup>th</sup> floor party....

Switch their badges with the Rhinos.....

Lyrics were composed by Shane Conley, Blaine Blinston, Sandra Huibers, Joyce Berkov, Gerry Straathof IV, and Kathleen Moore-Freeman.

Interestingly, another group of filkers also worked up verses on the topic using the same tune, but the lyrics were “more vicious” and Kathleen didn’t write them down.

Note: the reference to “the Rhinos” refers to a political party which competed in Western Canada in various elections for a number of years on a campaign platform of whimsical nonsense, rather Monty Pythonesque in nature, intended to lighten things up but also bring attention to the utter insanity of politics in general. I’ve often wondered what a Rhino convention was like, assuming they ever bothered to hold any.

At any rate, I am very pleased to finally nail down the facts re this Western Canadian fannish legend. Thank you, Kathleen!

### **SECOND FANNISH MYSTERY SOLVED!**

In WCSFAzine #6 I profiled Canadian Fan Artist Bob Gibson and offered highly plausible ‘proof’ that the Bob Gibson who contributed art to Canadian fanzines LIGHT and CANADIAN FANDOM during WW II was ‘probably’ the same Bob Gibson who attended Alberta Conventions in the 1980s and produced fan art signed in a distinctive manner: “*an ornate ‘B’ & ‘G’ combined into a sort of backwards ‘E’, sometimes with the ‘ob’ & the ‘ibson’ of his name in smaller letters trailing off the backwards ‘E’ one above the other.*”

Well, I’m happy to report I now have definitive proof that Bob Gibson *is* Bob Gibson! Having learned the ‘truth’ about NonCon 11 from Kathleen at the March 15<sup>th</sup> BCSFA meeting, as soon as I arrived home I went into the filing cabinets of the BCSFA/WCSFA archive to see if the collection of program books included the one printed for NonCon 11 in 1988. Yeesss! And Bob Gibson was ‘Special Guest’! But was this *the* Bob Gibson? Absolutely! The program book includes his autobiography, which dovetails neatly and compliments the article I wrote about him in issue #6. Fantastic!

Even better, the program book includes four examples of his fan art, each signed with his distinctive mark. Two other pieces are unsigned, but may possibly be his as well. I intend to go through every Alberta convention program book in the archive looking for other examples of his work, my intention being to reprint them in WCSFAzine over the next several issues, beginning with this one.

I consider it really nifty that a prominent Canadian fan artist of the 1940s carried on as a fan and fan artist well into the 1980s. Glorious continuity!

Here follows Bob Gibson’s autobiography as printed in the NonCon 11 program book:

#### **BOB GIBSON – AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY**

Born in 1908. I haven’t heard of science fiction or fantasy in connection with the event – and am afraid that I don’t remember anything about it.

The next few years probably had the usual fairy tales... and my father read aloud at times. Mostly Cooper’s Leatherstocking tales, but one story – in a magazine – dealt with a prehistoric character who climbed a tree to to escape a carnivore of some sort. The tree had been prepared for such emergencies – a large stone had been hauled up into it. The hero heaved it off the branch and crushed the beast.

“Little Nemo” appeared on Saturdays. I can remember some of the scenes, and would like to learn what they were about. Beautifully drawn, but with a static quality to even the most vigorous action – rather like Janet Aulisio’s work in that way.

Started school in 1914. There wasn’t much fantasy in the Alexandra Readers. There were a couple of parable-visions. In one, everybody threw something that bothered them onto a heap – and chose a different one. The narrator exchanged a short face for a long one, and hit projecting parts or missed the ones he aimed at. In the end, everyone returned to familiar problems. The other portrayed life as a bridge paved in a random pattern with trapdoors, so that everyone sooner or later dropped through one.

Next year some neighbour lent me a copy of Verne’s **Trip to the Moon and Around it**. That seems to have been what hooked me.

We moved to Calgary, and the grade 3 teacher marched the whole class down to the library and got us signed on. One book I found was **A Columbus of Space** by Serviss, with the earliest mention I’ve met of uranium as a power source – and lots of Verne, Wells, Kipling, London and what not.

We moved to a farm east of Carstairs – and an almost fantasy-free time. My then-youngest sister was given **The Wizard of Oz** for Christmas, and a paper – **Free Press Prairie Farmer**, I think – had a couple of short stories lost in its back pages. One was “The Third Eye” and the other “The House of the Lizard.” And I’ve never seen them since.

Back to Calgary – for good, this time – and the library. Also, eventually, Jaffe’s bookstore. 1927 or so, and a back number of **Amazing Stories**. I bore down on getting back numbers, caught up and stayed current – **Wonder Stories**, **Astounding Stories**, the Depression – and the government saluted that by excluding imported fiction.

Jaffe's sold bundles of six Argosy for a quarter. I got one that showed a science-fiction cover on the exposed surface. Ralph Milne Farley's "The Radio Pirates," and the sixth one had Ray Cummings "Bandits of the Cylinder."

For some years I mined the back numbers for science fiction. And, in time, for fantasy. At first I'd avoided fantasy – for now unknown reasons, but as the search for back numbers spread out from **Argosy** until I was hunting items from **Ace Detective** to **Zoologist** I began to get **Weird Tales**.. and to regret the blind spot. I was never able to catch up with the lost opportunities I must have had.

World War II tempted the Powers-that-be to again shut off the importing of fiction magazines, among other things; but by then I was in England and trying to catch up with the British back numbers when leave allowed.

That was when I first made actual contact with fandom, and began to send sketches to far fanzines. **Futurian War Digest** mostly. Learned to make mimeograph stencils that would work, and – through mention in fanzines – got in touch with Leslie Crouch of Parry Sound, Ontario. Sent a lot of miscellaneous stuff to him, for **Light**. One page of it was reproduced in his biography – **20 Years of Light** – of which the library has a copy.

During the time in England I met several fans and attended what may be the world's smallest international convention. People who were able to get leave, or who could get to travel to London at the same time, authors and editors outnumbered fans of lower degree, and there could have been more than a dozen, all told, in attendance.

The currents that move armies shifted my unit to Sicily, so my collecting instinct was badly hampered. I found used book stores here and there, when time allowed, but had to go by cover illustrations and an absolute minimum of vocabulary.

One author, who illustrated his own work, had many titles. Used the pen name "Jambo". When I asked booksellers about him an older man would say "... the great novelist". If he was middle-aged he was apt to say "... the satirist," and if young, "... the children's writer." Judging by the illustrations a great of it was science fiction at some level. Tantalizing. ( The changes may have been enforced by Mussolini and co. )

Meanwhile I developed hepatitis and spent a while in a Canadian hospital over-looking Catania. Then we moved to Italy; mainland – where I saw bananas growing in the snow, and water buffalos in roadside ditches. Both acclimatization experiments. The bananas had black seeds like small beans scattered through them.

The science fiction dearth was alleviated by an associate of Forrest J. Ackerman – "Tigrina", I think, who sent magazines that were passed from one man to another along a chain of addresses.

Another chain involved the **P.R.S. Bulletin**, an all-fiction fanzine with the world's smallest circulation. One copy. P.R.S. was "Paint Research Station" in or near London, and all the members of the group contributed stories and/or illustrations to it. But they sent it around a Services circuit, and the next one had a services edition of, I think, six copies, with contributions from all over.

I'd had a relapse of the hepatitis, was sent to a British hospital in a former Italian army barracks, and I had lots of leisure time. Sent them a couple of stories – very amateur.

The man in charge of the hospital was trying to find a serendipitous cure for jaundice, so everyone so afflicted got a different treatment. One man's prescription called for four bottles of Bass a day. Mine was a shot of insulin and a cupful of sugar every day. No effect on the virus.

Then spent some weeks in a recuperation camp near Eboli. When I got back to the unit it was in the Liri Valley, helping with the bombardment of the Monastery.

Thereafter we dashed across France to Holland and the war in Europe ended... and I made the only four-dimensional motion – very small – that I know of. No witnesses.

Was with the advance party on a transport headed for the Pacific when I heard Churchill on someone's radio. The bomb had been dropped on Japan – and that did send a chill up my spine. The transport took us home.

Post-war I went to the Tech ( now S.A.I.T. ) and, as one of a small science fiction fan group, helped build a space-ship model out of chicken wire, old newspapers, aluminum paint and a bit of wood. It was taken along with the Stampede parade on a truck.

Since then I've been with more local SF groups as they appeared, and enjoyed myself thoroughly, thank you....

Bob Gibson, 1988.



[ Note: **Futurian War Digest** was published in Britain by J. Michael Rosenblum. It ran for 39 issues from October 1940 to March 1945, and functioned as the primary glue holding British fandom together for the duration of the war. ]

[ Note: “ 20 Years of Light” refers to ‘YEARS OF LIGHT: A CELEBRATION OF LESLIE A. CROUCH. A COMPILATION & A COMMENTARY BY JOHN ROBERT COLUMBO’ Toronto, Hounslow Press, 1982. Now out of print ( I got one of their last copies ) but well worth having as absolutely essentially for understanding fanzine fandom in Canada in the 1940s. ]

[ Note: The “world’s smallest international convention” attended by Bob Gibson in London is described by Rob Hansen in THEN, his history of British Fandom, thusly:

“On Saturday 21st September 1941 an informal meeting was held in London of all those fans who could make it. At noon Maurice Hanson showed up, the first time he had been seen since being home on leave from France shortly before Dunkirk, as did Frank Arnold, **Canadian fan Bob Gibson**, Arthur Williams, Ted Carnell, and others. After raiding the bookshops of Charing Cross Road the group went to see Walt Disney's FANTASIA. The following day this same group plus Hal and Lilly Chibbett, John Craig, John Wyndham, and Ken Bulmer (who had got into fandom after being sent a sample copy of FWD), met at Liverpool Street station and went on to a restaurant. Later they stumbled across an unoccupied bandstand, with seats, in a quiet backwater off Holborn and held Britain's first ever open-air SF meeting. The discussion centred around the BIS ( British Interplanetary Society ) and its technical programmes, the revival of the SFA ( Science Fiction Association – first national level SF fan organization in the UK ) -- they were a yet unaware of Rosenblum's plans for a new national organization -- and what they all intended to do after the war. For a few hours at least it was as if they were back in the old days, the gathering being as substantial as most early conventions.” ]

{ Note: **Jambo** might have been Massimo Bontempelli who started off his career writing ‘metaphysical’ fiction such as his 1923 novel *Eva Ultima* ( The Ultimate Eve ) – which would explain ‘Jambo’s’ early reputation as a great novelist. Or perhaps ‘Jambo’ was Dino Buzzati who wrote many ‘hallucinatory’ short stories and at least one novel ( in 1940 ) *Il deserto dei Tartari* ( The Tartar Steppe ). Probably ‘Jambo’ was somebody else entirely. Presumably the published works in question currently reside in Gibson’s collection he donated to the University of Calgary. Anybody know who Jambo was? ]

[ Note: “**four bottles of Bass**” refers, as you might suspect, to a popular British Ale. Lucky sod! ]

### **THE TRUTH ABOUT ROSCOE!**

Roscoe is the third major Ghod in Fannish religion, first revealed by American fans Art Rapp, Rick Sneary & Ed Cox in 1949. He takes the form of an invisible beaver ( obviously a Canadian deity! ) wearing a propeller beanie, who looks after fen everywhere.

THE BOOKS OF ROSCOE -- Faned: Scott Patri, pubbed out of Cumberland, B.C. in July of 1994 -- is the shacred bhible of a varient sect, in which Roscoe is believed to be squirrelish in nature. THE BOOKS OF ROSCOE include: Ghod Rescue - The Creation Of Fandom, The Acts Of The Fen, The Release Of The Fen From Hell, and The Creation Of Fen Heaven. Belongs in the same league as the 'Gholy Ghible' of Ghu worship. ( Ghu being the greatest of fannish ghods, and Foo Foo the second. )

However, the ‘pure’ Roscoe is beaverish in nature and I thought you might like to read one of the original ‘revelations’ as it lays out precisely what Roscoe *is* and what he *does*:

### **THE SACRED WRITINGS OF ROSCOE: BOOK ONE**

*By Arthur Rapp*

From Spacewarp No. 27, June 1949 ( As reprinted in Hyphen 15, December 1956 )

As posted in the Fanac Fan History Project at < <http://fanac.org/fanzines/Miscellaneous/Roscoe.html> >

There exists a gay young beaver; Roscoe is this beaver's name,  
and he seems like most young beavers, but he isn't quite the same,  
for although the rest are brownish, or a muddy greyish-blue,  
when you take a look at Roscoe, why the look goes right on thru!

He cannot be seen in water, he cannot be seen in air,  
and if he didn't bite you, you would vow he wasn't there.  
But his teeth are keen as chisels and if you commit a sin,  
Roscoe will find out about it, and he'll bite you on the shin.



Roscoe watches out for stfen wheresoever they may be,  
from the canyons to the desert, from the mountains to the sea.  
He's a kind and helpful beaver, aiding fen in many ways,  
and he merits fannish worship on the Sacred Beaver Days.

These days are two in number: one's the fourth day of July —  
it's the day when Roscoe flies a fiery spaceship in the sky.  
In his honor, on that date, a truce should fall on fan dissension,  
and every true disciple should assemble in convention.

The second day is Labor Day, the date of Roscoe's birth,  
when tribute should be paid him over all the fannish Earth,  
when all fen shall meet their fellows to look back upon the year  
and shall drink a toast to Roscoe in that other great ghod: Bheer.

Now, Roscoe helps his followers in many, many ways;  
just to list them would consume about a hundred billion days:  
he reduces typing errors; he makes fanclub laws more stable;  
he keeps laid-down pens and styli from a-rolling off the table.

He makes mimeos print legibly, makes typer ribbons last;  
he keeps hacks from pulling boners when they're writing of the past;  
he climbs into crowded newsstands, ferrets out the stfsh zines,  
and attracts the fan's attention via telepathic beams.

Roscoe crawls in cluttered corners where the bookstores' treasures stand  
and despite the dust and darkness guides the groping fannish hand  
that it misses the obscuring mass of mundane, worthless books  
and brings up the rare edition for which every stfan looks.

And it's Roscoe who puts blinkers on the greedy dealers' eyes  
so they sell their stf like other pulps, at half the cover price,  
and it's Roscoe who takes cognizance of what you're always wishin'  
and arranges that you and the mag in perfect mint condition.

And many other boons befall those true and faithful fen  
who agree that Roscoe merits being honoured among men,  
and to prove that they are striving to full the Roscoe Goal,  
submit their names for listing on the Roscoe Honor Roll.

### **B.C.S.F.A. CHARTS NEW COURSE!**

At the same March 15<sup>th</sup> meeting of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association where I learned the story behind the NonCon 11 legend, five BCSFAns plus four members of the executive – myself as President, Kathleen Moore-Freeman Treasurer, Barb Dryer Secretary and Garth Spencer Newsletter Editor – discussed the fact that our bank account was down to just enough money to pay Garth's expenses for the latest BCSFAzine, number 418 ( March 2008 ). Is there enough money to print #419? In a word....NO.

Granted the club has a term deposit, but it was originally set up as an emergency fee to bail out VCON in case it ever runs into significant financial difficulty such as to threaten the very existence of the convention. All present agreed we don't want to touch that money. Besides, it would only buy time for a year or so. Then we'd be stuck with the same problem – insufficient income to cover costs. Membership is already \$25 a year, and we have so few members that even *doubling* the membership fee still wouldn't cover the cost of producing BCSFAzine. What to do?

Well, time to join the modern era. Paper zines are obsolete. Not because they're a bad idea, but because they cost too much. Too much to print. Too much to mail. Sad, but there it is.

The following decisions have been made:

**BCSFAZINE WILL BE ON-LINE ONLY:** It will be hosted by Bill Burns on his wonderful < [www.efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com) > website, or sent to members directly by email. On the plus side, Garth is now free to expand BCSFAzine to a 'proper' size

with plenty of room for member contributions. He's already hard at work on #419 and so far it's reached 35 pages and growing.

**BCSFA MEMBERSHIP WILL BE FREE:** Since the zine is now available to anyone with computer access, it makes no sense to charge a fee for what non-members can get for free. Plus, this brings us into line with the local BIFF and FRED groups that charge nothing for membership.

**A PAPER DIGEST VERSION WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR A SUBSCRIPTION FEE:** Those few members who have no computer access can get a digest version – many articles of the on-line version *not* included -- suitable for mailing at letter rate, but only if they pay up front so that any money expended by Garth is covered, in effect costing the club nothing. So they don't get the 'full' BCSFAzine, but they get a basic newsletter version with upcoming events, club news, and selected articles. We're talking five or six people at most. Actual size of fee yet to be determined.

**NO MORE PAPER TRADES:** 'Trades' will only be on-line. We will not be sending a paper version, full or digest, in exchange for any zine. Can't afford it. This is a problem of sorts, in that the Ottawa Science Fiction Statement, for instance, is *only* available in paper form. If they're willing to mail it to us in exchange for seeing an on-line BCSFAzine – that way both clubs know what each other is doing – that would be great. If not, then our two clubs will be out of touch, or at least, we won't know what they're up to, but they can still check us out via the on-line BCSFAzine. So our newsletter will continue to promote the club, possibly to a much wider audience of fen than before, but the Ottawa club will have less opportunity to promote their club, unless they continue to mail us the paper version of the O.S.F.Statement. I would encourage them to go on-line.

Of course this tramples on all sorts of local fannish traditions, and all I can say is: TOO BAD. GET OVER IT. Tradition doesn't cut it when there's no money. The new rules free Garth to greatly expand BCSFAzine, to make it more than a 'mere' newsletter, in effect to expand readership and promote the club far better than before. The new rules also make the club more attractive to potential new members. Membership will no longer be defined by who has paid up and who hasn't, but rather by active and willing participation. Drop in. Drop out. Do what you like. Just like WCSFAzine and WCSFA. This is very liberating. People don't have to join. All they need do is participate. Money is no longer the coin of the realm, it has been replaced by personal enthusiasm. I have been advocating these changes for a long time, and it is with a great sense of relief I welcome them being put into place. This could very well be the long term salvation of the club. Time will tell. Here's hoping for good results...

### **LATEST CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA UPDATES**

The Canadian Fancyclopedia is the Graeme's ongoing attempt to put together a 'Fancyclopedia III' but one with an emphasis on the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Canadian Sci-Fi Fandom. See < <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

**UNDER S:** SCIENCE-FANTASY, SCIENCE FICTION, SCIENTIFIC FICTION, SCIENTIFCTION, SCI-FI, SCIFFY, STF.

### **LATEST ZINES ADDED TO EFANZINES.COM ARCHIVE**

The Graeme's *WCSFAzine* #7, Jan Stinson's *Peregrine Nations 7.3 & 7.4*, Bill Wright's *Meteor, Inc* promo sheet & his *Interstellar Ramjet Scoop (IRS)*, C.J. Garcia's *The Drink Tank* #163, Jean Martin & C. Garcia's *Science Fiction/San Francisco* #61, Bob Sabella's *Visions of Paradise* #126, Garth Spencer's *BCSFAzine* #218, C.J. Garcia's *The Drink Tank* #264, Bill Mill's *The Voices of Fandom Podcast* #14, Peter Weston's *Prolapse* #10, Jean Martin & Chris Garcia's *Science Fiction/San Francisco* #62, John Coxon's *Procastination* #5, the Orbital Eastercon Fanzine-in-an-hour *Journey Planet*, John Purcell's *Askance* #7,

### **ZINEPHOBIA**

Ghu throttle it! Ran out of time again! I keep meaning to assign a higher priority to this. Try again for May Issue...



## ASK MR. SCIENCE!

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

Mr. MC, of Sydney, B.C., asks: What are the Nobel Prizes?

The Nobel Prizes are to science what the Academy Awards are to the movies. They are awarded in various categories, such as “Best Male Scientist”, “Best Female Scientist”, “Best Scientist in a Supporting Role”, “Maddest Scientist”, “Best Foreign Scientist”, “Most Expensive Government Project”, “Most Destructive Military Scientific Development”, etc. The 1983 Nobel Peace and Quiet Award was awarded to the Sony Corporation of Japan for the invention of the Walkman.

Ms. OM, of Coquitlam, B.C., asks: Why do cats have extra toes?

Cats have four toes and a dew-claw on each foot. The creature you describe is, in actuality, the larval form of the Sasquatch, or Bigfoot. In the spring of its fourteenth year your “pet” will seek out a very secure hiding place, where it will spin a dense cocoon around itself. It will emerge six weeks later, a fully formed Yehti, only 40 cm. tall.

## FAN AWARDS

### RETRO 1979 ELRON AWARDS

Presented at VCON 7 by Ed Beauregard.

1. Best “Sci-Fi” Novel: **Deathbeast**, by David Gerrold.
2. Least Promising New Author: **Glen Larsen**.
3. Special Dahlgren Award for Unflushable Turgidity: **Charles Fort**, whose four books comprise the world’s longest run-on sentence.
4. Rip-Off Of The Year Award: **Galaxy Magazine’s Payroll Department**.
5. The Ponderosa In Space Award: **Battlestar Galactica**.
6. The Roger Elwood Inspiration Award For Promoting, Editing, Promoting, Publishing, Promoting and Censoring: The **ABC Program Division**, for making Battlestar Galactica a war show without any killing.
- 7.a Straw Rats Award For Mindlessly Derivative Inanity, Combined With Purple Prose By Someone Who Ought to Know Better, and Second Rate Illustrations by Someone Who Plainly Doesn’t: **Empire**, by Samuel R. Delany.
- 7.b One Hundred Monkeys In A Roomful Of Typewriters Award: **Battlestar Galactica**.
- 7.c Most Original Plot Of An SF TV Episode: **“The Lost Warrior” episode** of Battlestar Galactica.
- 7.d Go Away Little Sheba Award For Most Alarming Threat To The Future Bliss And Prosperity Of The SF Medium: **Roger Elwood** for threatening to make a comeback as an SF editor.
- 7.e Judge Roy Bean Award For Pettiest Threat Of Resort To Legal Action When No Such Thing Was Called For: **Nova, the PBS series**, for forcing the projected magazine of that name to change to ‘Omni’.

**Notes on #1:** That **DEATHBEAST** is termed “Sci-Fi” is meant as an insult, because ‘real’ fen ( plural for fan ) say ‘SF’ ( or if traditionalist, ‘stf’, but that’s another article ). Personally, I’ve always been fond of “Sci-Fi”, a term invented by Forrest J. Ackerman in 1955 while driving a California freeway and listening to his car radio. Get the thought logic? Radio = music = Hi Fidelity music = Hi-Fi = Sci-Fi!

In the Fancyclopedia 2, published in 1959, Dick Eney writes: “*Sci-Fi: (Ackerman) 4E is trying to popularize this expression as an equivalent for stf, ie a contraction for science fiction. So far it has attached chiefly to several professional movie-fan magazines and other Hollywood level stuff.*” Note that the contraction stf, once common among fen, is now obsolete. Note also that among the ‘movie-fan’ magazines Ackerman’s **FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND** was the primary publication proselytizing on behalf of Sci-Fi ( first issue Feb 1958 ), and later on, beginning in 1961, his short-lived **SPACEMAN**. And finally, note Eney’s condescending tone in referring to the use of Sci-Fi in “Hollywood level stuff.”

In truth, 'real' fans consider Sci-Fi to be so low brow a term that they pronounce it "skiffy" just to illustrate how dumb they think it is. Frankly, to me this smacks of elitism. Say 'SF' to your average non-fan and they may not know what you're talking about, whereas 'Sci-Fi', being much more obvious, has wide-spread recognition far beyond fandom. Furthermore, to a generation which associates 'Hi-Fi' with 'quality' listening to records, 'Sci-Fi' implies 'quality' SF, which is probably explains why Ackerman was so keen to convince fans to adopt his newly-coined term, at least initially. But many fans never 'forgave' 4E for popularizing 'juvenile' SF films in his FM mag, which was targeted at 14 year olds, on boys "too old to play cowboys & Indians, and too young to be interested in girls" as his publisher, James Warren, once explained, and eventually 4E tired of the effort.

I advocated giving him an Elron for inventing Sci-Fi when he was Guest of Honour at VCON 15 in 1987, but illness prevented him from attending. He could have awarded in his absence, but I was afraid he would interpret it as yet more carping criticism rather than the affectionate tribute that particular Elron was meant to be.

But enough digression on the origin of 'Sci-Fi'. Deathbeast was written by David Gerrold, best known for his TROUBLE WITH TRIBBLES Star Trek Episode ( 1967 ), and his artificial intelligence novel WHEN H.A.R.L.I.E. WAS ONE ( 1988 ), so you know, at the very least, that DEATHBEAST must be competently written. That it was considered 'skiffy' by the Smotes ( secret masters of the Elrons ) suggests it has precisely the kind of retro Sci-Fi elements I like. Certainly his WAR AGAINST THE CHTORR series was great fun. I'm assuming DEATHBEAST ( which I've never read ) was probably great fun as well.

**Notes on #2:** Glen Larsen is the 'infamous' producer of BATTLESTAR GALACTICA which began running on ABC in 1978. He received a "created by" credit for this, and a "co-writer" credit for no less than 14 BATTLESTAR GALACTICA novels written 'with' such as Robert Thurston and Ron Goulart. This award was probably presented for the TV show concept and the first novel, which came out the same year, 1978.

Larsen also created other Sci-Fi TV shows like BUCK ROGERS IN THE 20<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY, KNIGHT RIDER, MANIMAL, AUTOMAN, & THE HIGHWAYMAN, but it is BATTLESTAR GALACTICA which is his most notorious famous creation. To kids like myself who had been weaned on THE TWILIGHT ZONE, the original OUTER LIMITS, and the original STAR TREK, BATTLESTAR GALACTICA was a major disappointment, a huge step backwards, on a par with LOST IN SPACE at best. Still, to younger kids new to the genre, BG was a seminal experience, one fondly remembered as their 'Star Trek' formative influence. I still think of it as pure schlock, myself. *Fun* schlock though...

Of interest to note, 1978 was a signal year for Larsen, and not just because of the BATTLESTAR GALACTICA show and the launch of its novel series; it is also the year of the publication of his novel ( co-written with Michael Sloan ) THE HARDY BOYS AND NANCY DREW MEET DRACULA. ( Arrghh!!! )

**Notes on #3:** Charles Fort had been around quite a while before he received this Elron. For one thing, he died in 1932. I'm guessing his books had recently been reissued, probably in paperback form, to trigger this award. Never read them, but I gather he collected 'original' reports of inexplicable events from as many newspapers and obscure journals as he could find, and crammed them into his books without any attempt to critique them, apart from silly theories of his own providing a framework of sorts. Apparently, he himself did not believe any of it, but wondered if some of it *might* be true.

His style has been described as "eccentric", so perhaps the reasons given for awarding this Elron are correct.

For the record, his four published works are: THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED ( 1919 ), NEW LANDS ( 1923 ), LO! ( 1931 ) and WILD TALENTS ( 1932 ). Two earlier books remain unpublished: "<<X>>" 'proved' Earth was controlled from Mars, & "<<Y>>" 'proved' the hollow Earth theory.

All I can say is, any research project which depends on newspapers for 'the truth' is suspect in my eyes.

**Notes on #4:** I vaguely recall some scandal involving GALAXY magazine and its unwillingness to pay its writers. The problem was that GALAXY, which started up in 1950 and initially featured such talented editors as H.L. Gold and Frederik Pohl, was in its final decline in the late 1970s. The monthly publication schedule was seldom followed, distribution was patchy, subscriptions down, less income meant less pay for authors who fled to better-paying markets, few first class authors meant declining sales... a vicious downward spiral was taking place. It's not that Galaxy was trying to cheat its authors, but rather that often there was *no money* to pay the authors... This ELRON isn't really fair. Market forces were at work. Perhaps determined by poor editorial choices, but inevitable nevertheless. GALAXY collapsed in 1980. Not that that had anything to do with receiving this ELRON mind you... I think...

**Notes on #5:** Battlestar Galactica = Ponderosa in Space? Well, BONANZA, taking place mostly on the Ponderosa ranch, was a popular, formulaic TV western stressing family values with ongoing characters adolescent viewers could either identify with or at least respect. Adults approved of magisterial father figure Ben Cartwright, and many a put-upon kid identified with 'the big dumb guy'.

However, I consider Bonanza a superior show: there was more 'character' in the characters, the writing often showed flashes of eccentric originality, and the show was genuinely aimed at both kids *and* adults, whereas Battlestar Galactica, though appealing to kids of all ages, was targeted at roughly the same audience as the readership of Famous Monsters of Filmland, ie: 14 year olds.

So BG is rather less than Bonanza, which makes the comparison odd, until you realize that the Smotes were merely making the point that BG was a poorly done ‘Space Opera’ -- a term invented by U.S. fan Phil Tucker – which is to say, a hackneyed work of science fiction imitating westerns, substituting ray guns for six-shooters, etc. ( Later on, ‘Space Opera’ came to be applied to large scale Sci-Fi, like ‘Star Wars’ for instance, without any comparison to western fiction implied. )

Come to think of it, a comparison to WAGON TRAIN would have been more apt, but I suspect that particular TV western was off the air by the time Battlestar Galactica premiered.

**Notes on #6: ABC Program Division** gets a Roger Elwood Elron for making a war show without killing? Roger Elwood being an editor notorious for insisting on limited violence and no sex, it follows that a similar policy would automatically apply to any show aimed at 14 year olds. To be fair, there are lots of sparkly explosions, and the Cylons fall down a lot, but they’re only robots – or something – so they don’t count. Still, the Smotes have a point.

And speaking of violence VS ‘family viewing’, I recall that the Cartwrights frequently got away with ~~executing~~ killing in a fair fight numerous bad guys passing through their ranch. Has anyone ever counted up how many guys they shot? BONANZA was far more violent, in terms of death, than BG ever was, at least as far as my memory serves.

**Notes on #7.a: Empire** by Samuel R. Delany? This would be EMPIRE: A VISUAL NOVEL, which is to say ‘Graphic Novel’, which is to say ‘Comic Book’ written by Delany and drawn by Howard V. Chaykin. Never seen it, don’t know if it is any good, but evidently the Smotes didn’t think so.

Actually, when researching this I was very keen since I thought it referred to the one Delany book I do have, EMPIRE STAR, which shares an Ace Double with Tom Purdom’s THE TREE LORD OF IMETEN, both dated 1966. Talk about Space opera! *“Comet Jo... had a propensity for wandering... Along the way he would meet: the strange multiplex consciousness called Jewel; the beautiful, soul-burdened space traveler Sans Severina; a creature known as the Lump, who was half-alien, half-machine; Ni Ty Lee, the suicidal poet of the stars, who lived everyone’s life but his own, a young princess of the Galactic Empire, fresh from Miss Perrypicker’s Finishing Academy For Young Ladies...And finally he would meet – himself. A thousand times, or perhaps more.”* And also travel through time, through space, and save an alien race on which all of human civilization depends. Yep, a space opera.

Delany made a great guest at VCON 12 in 1984 by the way. A jovial, highly intelligent presence, to put it mildly.

**Notes on #7.b: Battlestar Galactica** gets the room full of monkeys award? I believe this should be an ‘Apes’ award, since the original concept involved a room full of Chimpanzees typing out Shakespeare ( if given enough time, random typing would produce this or anything else for that matter – in theory ). I very much doubt much time was involved here. The writers for the series probably worked off the usual formulaic ‘script bible’ outlining the basic concept of the series, its characters, major events, dos and don’ts, tone, etc. Still, I don’t remember the writing as being especially noteworthy, and given the number of science howlers ( Larsen was rather cavalier with genuine knowledge in *all* his series ), I strongly suspect BG merits this award. But then, it’s only space opera for kids after all. It did entertain, and that was its only purpose ( apart from making money hand over fist ).

**Notes on #7.c:** That **The Lost Warrior Episode** of BG gets a ‘most original plot’ Elron I assume is meant to be strongly ironic. I probably saw it, but I can’t remember anything about it. Presumably the plot was rather obviously derived from something or another, an earlier TV show perhaps? Ellison’s THE SOLDIER episode on the original OUTER LIMITS TV series mayhaps? ( It was about a far-future warrior transported back in time to the 1960s. Darn good too. ) Or ~~stolen~~ in homage re a famous short story or novel? Not that it matters. *Everything* about Battlestar Galactica was original as far as the younger kids watching it were concerned. It was *the* seminal Sci-Fi experience for them. I personally know an otherwise sane adult who remembers BG as the “greatest Sci-Fi show of all time”, because that was its impact on him when he was an impressionable youngster. Yes, he recognizes the good points of other Sci-Fi shows before and after, but for him nothing compares to the “perfect balance” of Battlestar Galactica as Sci-Fi entertainment. Glen Larsen would be pleased.

**Notes on #7.d:** Poor old **Roger Elwood** gets another Elron, this time for threatening to function once again as the most Pollyanna of Sci-Fi editors? Well, he always delivered “a good, clean product” which probably appealed to certain lobbying groups, but left most Sci-Fi readers feeling cheated or insulted, and certainly infuriated all the new wave authors seeking an expanding market for their progressive, ‘mature’ works of fiction. At a time when Sci-Fi writers were trying to break out of the ‘Sci-Fi Ghetto’ and prove that speculative fiction could be every bit as good literature as any main stream novel or story, here was an editor ‘dumbing down’ Sci-Fi back to a pulp level. But like any niche market there’s good and there’s bad, and I seem to recall enjoying some of the pocketbook anthologies he edited when I was young, but then I was terrified by SANTA CLAUS CONQUERS THE MARTIANS when I first saw it, so what do I know?

**Notes on #7.e: NOVA**, the PBS science documentary series is still going strong, and an excellent show it is too. It was rather churlish of PBS to threaten to sue Penthouse Magazine publisher Bob Guccione for daring to start up a popular science zine of the same name, but he simply changed the name to OMNI and that was that. I don’t know how long OMNI lasted, from Oct 1978 thru to 1992 at least, but it was a very slick and glossy over-priced ‘yuppie’ sort of zine ( before the



term ‘yuppie’ was invented ) tending to short, gushing articles about all manner of pseudo-science and trendy tech, but often featuring in-depth, thoughtful articles on real and potential science. At least one or two stories of fantasy or Sci-Fi were included every month, chosen by high-powered editors like Ben Bova, Robert Shekley and Ellen Datlow. Paid real good too. A sale to OMNI was a prestige sale for an author. With a circulation of over a million, more than all the other SF prozines combined methinks, OMNI went a long way toward encouraging mundanes to take up reading Sci-Fi. But eventually the ever increasing high prices and annoying level of catering to the credulous turned me and a significant number of other people ‘off’ the zine. Overall, it was too much paper and too much cost for too little worthy content, but what was good about OMNI was *really* good. An interesting experiment in pushing at least *some* quality fiction and non-fiction while pandering to lesser tastes.

## **FILTHY PRO NEWS**

### **MORE UNABASHED, SLANTED, BIAISED PRAISE OF**

#### **ALYXANDRA J. SHAW’S FANTASY NOVEL**

##### **‘A STRANGE PLACE IN TIME’**

*By The Graeme -- her husband*

Well, I *am* the ghod-editor ( so I can do what I want till lynched by fellow WCSFAns ), and this *is* in aid of promoting a local author, and *although* Alyx has self-published her fan fiction on-line for years, and this novel *was* previously published in hardcover by Doppelganger Press ( a limited edition specialty house specializing in fine-bound high-quality printings for discerning book collectors ), this on-line publication *is* her first mass-market publication, and – speaking as a never-got-off-the-ground fiction writer – I remain continually fascinated by the phenomena of how professional writing careers get started, so I figure it *will* interest readers to witness the whole process step by step as experienced by Alyx, in the hope this will inspire other beginning writers to further effort. That’s my excuse and I’m sticking to it.

You can download the book from here < [http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=index](http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index) > for \$5.95 U.S. Click on the Category “Sci-Fi / Fantasy” on the left to find it.

### ***FIRST OFF, FOR ONE WEEK THE HOME PAGE OF TORQUERE PRESS OFFERED THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW:***

#### **THIS WEEK WE’RE FEATURING ALYX SHAW AUTHOR OF THE RECENTLY RELEASED ‘A STRANGE PLACE IN TIME’**



**Tell us about your novel A Strange Place in Time. What inspired you to write it? How long did it take you to write it?**

It was a combination of things. I was twelve and I had just read ‘The Lord of the Rings’ for the first time, and I knew I was in love. That was the moment I said “I wanna be a writer.” So fine, but what to write? Then my best friend Shane showed up at my door and said “I just had a dream about this mage called Hercandoloff.” Well actually it was a fairly spectacular nightmare, but we started talking. We didn’t really do much with it then, and after a while Shane lost interest and went on to pursue art and photography, and it ended up being my project alone. I kept coming back to it over the years. I’d work on it for a while, then real life would get in the way and it would be set aside again, and then in ’97 Shane committed suicide and I thought I would never look at it again. It was about five years before I could look at it. I blew the dust off it and began rewriting and ended up with something that I think really captures the spirit of what was originally envisioned.

My biggest complaint with Lord of the Rings, and believe me I stand in awe of that book, it is a true masterwork, but... everybody was so damned serious and noble. I wanted heroes who were brave and handsome too, but heroes that got up in the morning and needed two cups of coffee and a shower before going out to face the forces of evil. Heroes that whined and bitched on their way to the battlefield. Heroes that got up some mornings and looked in the mirror and said; “I’m not getting paid enough for this.” I wanted to make fantasy for people who have to get up in the

morning and go to a job they don't really like as opposed to fantasy for the literary crowd. Soooo... basically I was inspired by Tolkien's work, my friend's dream, my own sick demented sense of humour, and it took about thirty years to write.

**Tell us one thing about yourself that your readers would be surprised to know.**

I'm ambidextrous and colour-blind. I also like to eat raw steak. Wait, that's three. Um... I can't count? Four. I'll shut up now.

**Do you have a favourite genre to read? To write? Is there any one genre you find it easier to write in than the others?**

I usually have more of a favourite author than genre that I read, but I am definitely a horror addict, especially if it is good horror. It's not easy to find good horror; most of it is really linear and predictable. Especially if there is a vampire involved, you pretty much already know the plot – ultra evil baddie, probably named after and/or connected to Dracula, hot babe with gigantic boobs who needs to be saved, noisy club full of vampires... yeah. Fine. But I can't really talk because every time I try to write horror I end up with garbage. To write - I call myself a fantasy/sci-fi writer, and that is definitely where I am happy and where I do my best work. If I ever had to write romance I would probably go impale myself on my duck. Yes I said duck not...

**What's the best thing about writing? How about the worst thing?**

Best thing? Creating, definitely. Coming up with concepts and finding ways to make them work, shaping and polishing characters, creating backgrounds and landscapes and details about the character's lives. Worst part? Editing. Definitely editing.

**Character or plot, which comes first?**

Alcohol. Then character... who usually shows up dragging a plot behind him. Actually usually when I see the character I know who and where s/he is almost at the same time. I get flashes of a situation and think; "Oh I gotta do something with that..."

**What is your favourite way to spend a rainy day?**

If it's a summer rain then I open the windows and turn on some New Age music, make a cup of tea and just... marvel at it. There is a shade of green and grey that you never see unless it's raining, and a scent that is so... ancient somehow. I go out in the yard with the duck and stand in the grass in my bare feet and just try to be part of it. Then I go write, with my duck under my desk. I love that duck. I think the world would be a better place if more people made friends with a duck.

**What are you working on now?**

Couple things, a fantasy called Even Fall, about a realm where the baddies have already won and the heroes are trying to overthrow them. There is also a sci-fi rock'n'roll fable called Gryphons about a rock group on another planet. I'm reasonably sure I will submit Even Fall for publication in the future. Gryphons will be uncovered after I am dead and published against my will and used as an example of disturbed thinking in university classes.

***THEN TORQUERE PRESENTS THIS BRIEF BIOGRAPHY:***

**AUTHOR BIO: ALYX SHAW**

Alyx J Shaw lives in Vancouver in beautiful British Columbia, Canada, with a cat, three guinea pigs, two tarantulas and a loyal house-duck. There is also a husband in there somewhere, last seen in the vicinity of his b-grade sci-fi movies.

Alyx has had a varied career as a roofer, tree feller, radio station technician, book reviewer and editorial writer for Angles newspaper, TV and movie extra, and single parent of a boy who has since grown up to be a man with a wife and a son, a house, two cars, speaks two languages, and can't possibly be the same kid who used to wear ice skates to chop wood on the rug.

Despite having an obsession with cigars, making medieval honey wine and watching cartoons and home fix-it shows, Alyx manages to still find roughly eleven hours a day in which to write fantasy and force it on helpless publishers.

Check out [Alyx's webpage](#), [Alyx's livejournal](#) or [email Alyx](#).

***AND NEXT, A REVIEW VOLUNTEERED BY ONE OF THEIR WRITERS:***

**REVIEW: A STRANGE PLACE IN TIME**

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?

He rolls with it.

John Arrowsmith leaves his adopted home, mind and heart set on an unknown quest. He has no idea where he's going or why he has to go there--he just knows he has to go. Atop his lovingly built Harley, he takes off into the mountains. After staying the night in a travel trailer with a kind couple, he starts off again, only to end up careening down the mountainside, victim of a hit-and-run. When he wakes, he swears he's either dead or has a serious head injury. How else can he explain the elves, half-elves, and other bizarre beings that suddenly intrude on his happy-but-weird existence?

It's not until he meets a band of unlikely friends living in a mountain cabin, that John starts to feel something akin to familiarity. To make matters stranger, he begins to find himself oddly attracted to one of them, a Master Thief by the dubious nickname of "Infamous". When the itch to move on starts up again, however, John knows he can't stay. With the promise that he'll return, especially to his new lover, he heads off into the sunset. During his travels, he meets a drunken but proud dwarf--Hemas--and together they continue on toward White Palace, the city John feels himself drawn to. What he finds there, however, is only the beginning.

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 lighthearted but serious, sweet and comic fairy tale feel to it, while still managing a romance and a plot that leave you clamoring for more. I've been a fan of Alyx's for a while, and this is, by far, her best work yet.

***AND FINALLY, AN EXAMPLE OF AN AUTHOR'S SELF-PROMOTION TECHNIQUE***

*Alyx J. Shaw writes in her live Journal:*

**LIVE READING OF 'A STRANGE PLACE IN TIME' APRIL 4TH.**

Ahem! Now, in my very best Monty Python Pompous British Twit voice, allow me to present to you.... MY READING.

Yes, you heard quite right, on April 4th (*that's a Friday*) I will be doing a reading of my recently published novel 'A Strange Place in Time'. Actually I will be doing *two* readings to take into consideration a little thing we all like to refer to as time zones.

READING ONE - will take place at noon, Vancouver, British Columbia time. That will be 2 pm Calgary, 3 pm New York, 5 pm Argentina, 8 pm London, 9 pm Germany, Switzerland and Croatia, and bloody late in New Zealand. This will be a two hour reading, with one hour of me smoking and droning on and on about some biker yadda yadda, and an hour after that so you can demand to know who the hell gave me a publishing contract anyway, and what organizations you can contact to prevent such occurrences in the future.

READING TWO - will take place at 8 pm Vancouver, British Columbia time. That will be 10 pm Calgary, 11 pm New York, 1 am Argentina, 4 am London, 5 am Germany, Switzerland and Croatia, and who the bloody hell *knows* when in New Zealand. In all likelihood I will be reading to two bored cats and a duck, but that's what I do on a Friday night anyway. This will also be a two hour reading; one of me droning on, and the second of you asking me who the bloody hell gave me the right to use up your Friday night this way.

Now! Assuming you wish to hear this rubbish and drivel, here is what you do. Look up my Yahoo Instant Message ID alyx\_shaw and friend me. I shall friend you back. Then when the time comes we shall all meet in a big yahoo chat room, (*or in a chatroom full of yahoos, whichever you prefer*) and I shall commence the reading. Feel free to attend both or neither, if you are too shy to chat during the Q & A after the reading that's fine also. All I ask is that you enjoy yourself.

Now let's all pray the microphone will work. (*Does the Silly Walk off stage*)

### AUTHOR HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

( New information highlighted in violet. )

**DON DEBRANDT** < <http://www.sfga.org/members/DeBrandt/index.html> >

Don has his 'Cyberjunk' website, which has not been updated in several years. He promised me at VCON 32 he will update soon. But see his website under the name 'Donn Cortez' < <http://www.donncortez.com> > for a complete listing of books, stories, articles & comics under both names.

Don lives in the Lower Mainland area and was ( as always ) in enthusiastic attendance at VCON 32. His latest books include the mystery 'The Man Burns Tonight' and the CSI MIAMI series volume titled 'Harm For The Holidays: Heart Attack'. Currently he is returning to his roots by working on a Sci-Fi trilogy, starting with his upcoming hardcover mystery/sci-fi novel 'Lucidity', which is about two 'Ectectives' ( emotive detectives ) in the near future where emotions can be read, implanted, bought, sold, and stolen. As Don put it, "I am always searching for a new pantheon" and for the purposes of this trilogy "took a hard Sci-Fi approach to New Age Mythology". As a result certain 'soft' sciences like sociology and sexology are now shifted into the realm of 'hard' science, and certain 'fringe' sciences like Telepathy and UFOlogy become 'soft' sciences. The first volume 'Lucidity' will be published in 2009.

**DAVE DUNCAN** < <http://www.daveduncan.com> >

Dave lives in Victoria, B.C. His latest books: '*The Alchemist's Apprentice*', & '*Children of Chaos*' ( the latter winning the 'Best Long-Form Work in English' Aurora Award at Convention 27/VCON 32 which he was happy to accept in person from presenter Peter S. Beagle). "I'm told I got a standing ovation as well, but I was too astonished to notice. My thanks to all those who voted (and possibly stood)."

'*Alchemist's Apprentice*' is available in trade paperback & will be released by Ace in mass market paperback February 2008.

Coming in March 2008, '*The Alchemist's Code*' will be released by Ace in trade paperback & '*Mother of Lies*' ( presently available in hardcover ) will be released by Tor in mass market paperback.

In August 2008 '*Ill Met in the Arena*' will be released by Tor in hardcover. "Why 'a series of one'? Because at the moment this is a standalone novel...I like this world a lot, so I may revisit it if enough readers agree... The story is told in an odd fashion, which I hope will not put you off. When you get to the end you will see why it had to be structured this way."

**WILLIAM GIBSON** < <http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com> >

Bill lives in Vancouver. Check out his web site for his Q&A interview 'Across the Border to Spook Country'. His latest book: '*Spook Country*'. Characters include: **Bobby Chombo is a "producer," and an enigma. In his day job, Bobby is a troubleshooter for manufacturers of military navigation equipment. He refuses to sleep in the same place twice. He meets no one. Hollis Henry has been told to find him.**

**MATT HUGHES** < <http://www.archonate.com/> >

Matt lives on Vancouver Island. He was one of the presenters at the VCON 32 Aurora Awards ceremony. His first Henghis Hapthorn novel 'Majestrum' is now out in trade paperback from Nightshade Books. The second novel in the series, '*The Spiral Labyrinth*' is available from Nightshade Books in hardcover.

The complete Guth Bandar saga is now published as a novel titled '*The Commons*' from Robert J. Sawyer Books.

On his website Matt writes: **"The first draft of Hespira, the third Hapthorn novel, has topped out at better than 93,500 words. But people are always saying my books are too short. Now to polish it up and send it in to Night Shade... Gordon Van Gelder, editor of The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction, tells me that my Henghis Hapthorn story, "Fullbrim's Finding," will run in the July edition of the magazine. It has previously appeared as the "extra" in the limited edition of The Spiral Labyrinth.... After that, I'm going to write a 10,000-word story for Songs of the Dying Earth, the Jack Vance tribute anthology being put together by Gardner Dozois and George R.R. Martin."**

**EILEEN KERNAGHAN** < <http://www.lonelycry.ca/ek/> >

Eileen lives in the Lower Mainland area and attended VCON 32. Check out her latest books: *‘Winter on the Plain of Ghosts: a Novel of Mohenjo-daro’*, *‘The Alchemist’s Daughter’*, & *‘The Sarsen Witch’* ( reissue in August ).

“My historical fantasy novel *‘The Sarsen Witch’*, the third book in the Grey Isles series, will be back in print this summer. Shortlisted for an Aurora award in 1990, it’s a tale of earth-magic, megaliths and high adventure in the bronze-age world of the Wessec warrior-chieftains. This new edition of *‘The Sarsen Witch’* will be released by the Juno Books imprint of Wildside Press in August 2007.”

Her latest Young Adult Novel *‘Wild Talent, A Novel of the Supernatural’* is scheduled for 2008 publishing by ThistleDown Press.

On her website Eileen writes: **“The small Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan isn’t often in the North American news, but recently it captured worldwide attention when it held its first election – at the direction of king. Reluctant to make any changes in a country ruled by a philosophy of “gross national happiness”, the Bhutanese turned out enthusiastically to the polls, and voted to keep things pretty much the way they were.**

**Some years ago I decided to write a fantasy novel set in one of Himalayan kingdoms , and I looked for a country in which northern Buddhist culture has been preserved to the present day. Nepal has been overrun by tourists; Tibet has had its culture systematically destroyed. Sikkim? Ladakh? Then a friend who had just been to a performance of the touring Royal Bhutanese Dance Troupe said “Write about Bhutan.”**

**By restricting tourism, the kingdom of Bhutan has preserved its ancient culture in an almost pure form. Though inevitably western civilization is encroaching, the magic and mystery of this little-explored kingdom has endured. I found a number of fascinating books by the independent travellers who have been allowed into the country. In those accounts, in Buddhist texts, and in descriptions of life in the monasteries of an earlier Bhutan, I found my story.**

***Dance of the Snow Dragon*, set in 18<sup>th</sup> century Bhutan, tells of the young monk Sangay, who sets out on a perilous journey to the mystical kingdom of Shambhala, beyond the farthest snow peaks. It was first published by ThistleDown Press in 1995, and happily is still in print. It is still, as far as I know, the only fantasy novel set in Bhutan. You can read an excerpt, and some reviews on my [website](#)”**

**CRAWFORD KILIAN** < <http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/> >

Continues to teach at Capilano College in North Vancouver. His latest books: *‘Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy’* ( 1998 ), & *‘Writing for the Web’* ( 1999 ). See E-address above for his blog. He is currently working on another novel, plus “a couple of nonfiction books and articles for online journals.” Both of the books mentioned above are available from Self Counsel Press; < <http://www.self-counsel.com/ca/> >

**On his Blog site Kilian quotes Reporters Without Borders: “More and more governments have realised that the Internet can play a key role in the fight for democracy and they are establishing new methods of censoring it. The governments of repressive countries are now targeting bloggers and online journalists as forcefully as journalists in the traditional media.”**

**At least 64 persons are currently imprisoned worldwide because of what they posted on the Internet. China maintains its leadership in this form of repression, with a total of 50 cyber-dissidents in prison.**

**Eight are being held in Vietnam. A young man known as Kareem Amer was sentenced to four years in prison in Egypt for blog posts criticising the president and Islamist control of the country’s universities.”**

**And then adds his own comment: “We in the West can’t congratulate ourselves. Canada ranks only 18th in press freedom, and the US comes in at a forlorn 48th.”**

**DONNA MCMAHON** < <http://www.donna-mcmahon.com/> >

Lives in Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast and attended VCON 32. She won a 2001 Aurora Award for her book reviews published in Tomorrow SF, BCSFAzine & other publications. Check out her novel *‘Dance of Knives’* which is set in Vancouver in the year 2108. The sequel *‘Second Childhood’* is pending publication.

**“The backdrop of this drama is the troubled relationship between the citizens of Vancouver and the destitute, exploited flots and squats who the Guilds have ignored for decades. Will Vancouverites turn a blind eye while Maglev railway promoters incite a tong war as an excuse to send in troops and slaughter refugees? Or will they face the ugly truth that the Guilds are strongly entwined with both refugees and tongs, and nobody’s hands are clean?”**

“I’m Canadian. I write a kinder, gentler future urban hell.” – Donna.

**NINA MUNTEANU** < <http://mypage.uniserve.ca/~munteanu/home.html> >

( Note: < <http://www.ninamunteanu.com> > no longer takes you to Nina’s website. It is instead some sort of Women’s clothing site. Go to the site listed above beside her name to access her home site SF GIRL. )



Nina lives and teaches in Victoria, B.C. You can order her Sci-Fi novel *'Darwin's Paradox'* by Dragon Moon Press from Amazon.ca ( release date was November 15, 2007 ), and her short story *'Virtually Yours'* is to be found in *'The Best of Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine'* anthology published by Bundoran Press and unveiled at VCON 32. Check out her website for her other publications, including her blogs.

Nina contributes frequently to the blog page on her web site. Recent articles include: 'Power to the Tiny: Nanogenerators Scavenge Energy', 'The Physics, Biology and Chemistry of Angels', & 'Designer Organisms Promise New Life...At What Cost?'

On her site Nina writes: **"From as early as I can remember I've been reading Science Fiction . . . the classics of Asimov, Bradbury, Silverberg, Wyndham and Heinlein.... So, when my big brother told me that my parents found me in the local zoo (my dad brought home strays all the time to my mother's chagrin), I was ready with a reply: No, I announced in the biggest voice I could muster, I came in a rocket ship from Mars to study silly humans like him! My brother laughed, but we'll see who gets the last laugh . . ."**

**SPIDER ROBINSON** < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/index2.html> >

Spider lives in the Lower Mainland area. His latest book: *'Variable Star'*, (Tor). "The hardcover is in its third printing, the reviews have been most gratifying, and an avalanche of reader mail has warmed Spider's heart." The first 8 chapters are posted on the site <http://www.variablestarbook.com/>, and the paperback hit the stands November 27th.

Around the same time, Baen Books published the hardcover, *'The Lifehouse Trilogy'*, a reissue of *'Mindkiller'*, *'Time Pressure'* and *'Lifehouse'*: < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/books.html> >

"And *'The Stardance Trilogy'*, the omnibus of his collaborations with Jeanne, based on their Hugo- and Nebula-winning novellas ( *'Stardance'*, *'Starseed'*, and *'Starmind'* will soon be released as a Blackstone Audiobook."

And then there's the exciting Stardance movie project slated to be produced in Imax format by James Sposto. For more information go to: < <http://www.stardancemovie.com> >

Most amazing of all, on December 30<sup>th</sup> Jeanne Robinson & Dancer Kathleen McDonagh experimented in Zero G dancing aboard a 'vomit comet'. See the above article 'Stardance Happened Now!', and go to Jeanne's blog at < <http://stardancemovie.blogspot.com/> > for the latest info and film clips of this historical first!

Also check out Spider's latest podcasts at: < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/podcast.html> >

Take note that on "July 4 - 6, 2008 at the Vancouver Island Music Festival in Courtney, BC ( for more info see: < <http://www.islandmusicfest.com/> > ) Spider will be sharing the stage with musician Todd Butler, and comedian/actor Harry Shearer, one of the voice actors on the Simpsons's."

**"As a special, once-in-a-lifetime offer, we are proud to present sample columns collected in *The Crazy Years: Reflections of a Science Fiction Original* (Benbella Paperback, November 2004). Readers should note that they are getting a unique treasure, here. All of these columns were rewritten at least slightly by editors before appearing in the Globe and Mail; the versions that will appear in the book have also all been edited thoroughly by the BenBella Books staff for continuity and avoidance of repetition, etc. This special posting is the only chance readers will ever get to see exactly what Spider wrote, with no intervening vision and no changes or cuts at all—a rare intimacy between reader and writer."** See < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/crazyyears.html> > Current column (#35) is THEY DON'T MAKE REALITY LIKE THEY USED TO & traces THE TRUMAN SHOW movie back to the writings of Heinlein & Sturgeon.

**ROBERT J. SAWYER** < <http://www.sfwriter.com/> >

Robert lives in Mississauga, was a program participant at VCON 32, as well as MC for the Aurora Awards.

"Rob recently signed a six-figure deal jointly with Ace Science Fiction (a division of Penguin USA) and Penguin Canada for a new trilogy about the World Wide Web gaining consciousness... The three volumes have the working titles of *'Wake'*, *'Watch'*, and *'Wonder'*, and collectively will be known as the *'WWW'* trilogy. Read all about the deal in this entry in Rob's [blog](#)."

Rob will be a panelist at Ad Astra in Toronto, March 28-30, 2008, at Eeriecon in Niagara Falls, NY, April 18-20, 2008, at Keycon 25 in Winnipeg, May 16-19, 2008, Special Guest at Comic-Con International in San Diego, CA, July 24-27, 2008, and a panelist at Denvention 3 Worldcon, Denver, Colorado, Aug 6-10, 2008, & at World Fantasy Convention in Calgary, Alberta, Oct 30 – Nov 3, 2008.

**MARCH 21<sup>st</sup> PRESS RELEASE:**

**[ROBERT J. SAWYER](#), 47, of Mississauga, Ontario — who won the [best novel Hugo Award in 2003](#) — is nominated again this year for his novel [Rollback](#).**

**The winners will be announced Saturday, August 9, 2008, in Denver at a gala awards ceremony concluding the 66th Annual World Science Fiction Convention. The 6,000 members worldwide of that convention will cast ballots to determine the winner. The Hugo Award is named after Hugo Gernsback (1884-1967), editor of the first science-fiction magazine, *Amazing Stories*, which was founded in 1926.**

Sawyer's *Rollback* was previously named one of the ten best SF novels of the year by the [American Library Association](#). The book was a main selection of Doubleday's Science Fiction Book Club. It had a full-text serialization in *Analog Science Fiction and Fact*, the world's highest-circulation English-language SF magazine, and will be serialized in audio form by CBC Radio One's *Between the Covers* later this year.

The book has appeared on numerous bestsellers lists in Canada, and was the number-one bestselling book for the entire year at Toronto's Bakka-Phoenix Books, the world's oldest SF specialty bookstore. The paperback came out in February 2008.

[Reviews](#) for *Rollback* have been glowing... *Quill & Quire*, the Canadian publishing trade journal, which earlier this year named Sawyer "one of the 30 most influential, innovative, and just plain powerful people in Canadian publishing." had this to say: "*Rollback* is a reminder of why Sawyer is one of our most highly regarded writers of speculative fiction, able to handle the demands of the heart and the cosmos with equal skill."

This is Sawyer's eleventh Hugo nomination. His other award wins include a [Nebula Award](#) for Best Novel of the Year from the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (for *The Terminal Experiment*), an Arthur Ellis Award from the Crime Writers of Canada, and the top science fiction awards in [China](#) (which named him "most popular foreign SF author" last year), Japan, France, and Spain.

*Rollback* is Sawyer's seventeenth novel. It tells the story of Don and Sarah Halifax, an elderly couple in Toronto who are offered a chance to be rejuvenated, restoring their youth. But although the process succeeds for Don, it fails for Sarah; the novel deals with the impact this has on their marriage."

Note: ROLLBACK is now available in Paperback.

ALYX J. SHAW < <http://alyx.wozupdoc.net/> >

( See also her live journal at < <http://alyx-j-shaw.livejournal.com/> > )

Lives in Surrey. Her novel 'The Recalling of John Arrowsmith' ( Book One of her trilogy 'A Strange Place in Time' ), is available in hard cover by mail order from Doppelganger Press: < <http://doppelgangerpress.com/> >

*The Recalling of John Arrowsmith* is also now available from Torquere Press:

< [http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=index](http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index) >

in electronic download PDF format for only \$5.95 US.

Note: 'A Strange Place in Time' is a completed trilogy. Both publishers have contracted to publish the remaining two novels 'The White Palace Awakens' and 'The Merry Executioner Returns' in due course.

Also available at Torquere by Alyx is *Taste Test: Love Saves The Day*, a 3 story sampler of her fiction ready for download for only \$2.49. Under 'authors' in upper left hand corner of the website, select her name, click, and both works will come up.

"Love really does save the day in this Taste Test from Alyx Shaw. Old lovers reunite, lives change, and romance flourishes in all three stories.... From broke Brian who gets an unexpected call from old lover Roger, changing his circumstances completely, to the hilarious Sebastian, a space explorer who meets his match in the alien Tiff, to the melancholy tale of Vyllis, who lost his one love long ago and has tried to make a new life, these stories will make you laugh, cry, and fall in love.... Let this collection save your day! Get a copy now!"

Note: Alyx J. Shaw is also a regular contributor to 'Forbidden Fruit' online magazine which is updated quarterly.

LISA SMEDMAN < <http://www.lisamedman.topcities.com/> >

Lives in the Vancouver area and attended VCON 32 as the Gaming GoH. Her latest novels (on the 'Lady Penitent Trilogy': Book 1 'Sacrifice of the Widow', and Book 2 'Storm of the Dead'.

Available June 2008 -- Book 3 of the 'Lady Penitent Trilogy': 'Ascendancy of the Last'. "Is it the end for the Lady Penitent? Is it the end for Lolth?"

"Lolth has come out of hibernation with a plan that may seem too ambitious even for her, and to pull it off she'll need the help of a drow who's betrayed her at least once already – a drow she's transformed into the the demonic Lady Penitent. The shocking conclusion to a trilogy that will change the Forgotten Realms forever."

**NOTE:** Most of these novels are available at **White Dwarf Books**, 3715 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2G5. Phone (604) 228 – 8223. E-address: < [whitedwarf@deadwrite.com](mailto:whitedwarf@deadwrite.com) > Web site < <http://www.deadwrite.com/wd.html> >

## PRO AWARDS

### 2008 HUGO AWARDS FINALIST NOMINEES

#### **BEST NOVEL:**

- **The Yiddish Policeman's Union** by Michael Chabon (HarperCollins, Fourth Estate)

- **Brasyl** by Ian McDonald (Gollancz; Pyr)
- **Rollback** by Robert J. Sawyer (Tor; Analog Oct. 2006-Jan/Feb. 2007)
- **The Last Colony** by John Scalzi (Tor)
- **Halting State** by Charles Stross (Ace)

#### **BEST NOVELLA:**

- **The Fountain of Age** by Nancy Kress (Asimov's July 2007)
- **Recovering Apollo 8** by Kristine Kathryn Rusch (Asimov's Feb. 2007)
- **Stars Seen Through Stone** by Lucius Shepard (F&SF July 2007)
- **All Seated on the Ground** by Connie Willis (Asimov's Dec. 2007, Subterranean Press)
- **Memorare** by Gene Wolfe (F&SF April 2007)

#### **BEST NOVELLETE:**

- **The Cambist and Lord Iron: a Fairytale of Economics** by Daniel Abraham (*Logorrhea*, ed. John Klima, Bantam)
- **The Merchant and the Alchemist's Gate** by Ted Chiang (F&SF Sept. 2007)
- **Dark Integers** by Greg Egan (Asimov's Oct./Nov. 2007)
- **Glory** by Greg Egan (*The New Space Opera*, ed. Gardner Dozois and Jonathan Strahan, HarperCollins/Eos)
- **Finisterra** by David Moles (F&SF Dec. 2007)

#### **BEST SHORT STORY:**

- **Last Contact** by Stephen Baxter (*The Solaris Book of New Science Fiction*, ed. George Mann, Solaris Books)
- **Tideline** by Elizabeth Bear (Asimov's June 2007)
- **Who's Afraid of Wolf 359?** by Ken MacLeod (*The New Space Opera*, ed. by Gardner Dozois, and Jonathan Strahan, HarperCollins/Eos)
- **Distant Replay** by Mike Resnick (Asimov's April/May 2007)
- **A Small Room in Koboldtown** by Michael Swanwick (Asimov's April/May 2007, *The Dog Said Bow-Wow*, Tachyon Publications)

#### **BEST RELATED BOOK:**

- **The Company They Keep: C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien as Writers in Community** by Diana Glycer; appendix by David Bratman (Kent State University Press)
- **Breakfast in the Ruins: Science Fiction in the Last Millennium** by Barry Malzberg (Baen)
- **Emshwiller: Infinity x Two** by Luis Ortiz, intro. by Carol Emshwiller, fwd. by Alex Eisenstien (Nonstop)
- **Brave New Words: The Oxford Dictionary of Science Fiction** by Jeff Prucher (Oxford University Press)
- **The Arrival** by Shaun Tan (Arthur A. Levine/Scholastic)

#### **BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, LONG FORM:**

- **Enchanted** Written by Bill Kelly Directed by Kevin Lima (Walt Disney Pictures)
- **The Golden Compass** Written by Chris Weitz Based on the novel by Philip Pullman Directed by Chris Weitz (New Line Cinema)
- **Heroes**, Season 1 Created by Tim Kring (NBC Universal Television and Tailwind Productions) Written by Tim Kring, Jeff Loeb, Bryan Fuller, Michael Green, Natalie Chaidez, Jesse Alexander, Adam Armus, Aron Eli Coleite, Joe Pokaski, Christopher Zatta, Chuck Kim. Directed by David Semel, Allan Arkush, Greg Beeman, Ernest R. Dickerson, Paul Shapiro, Donna Deitch, Paul A. Edwards, John Badham, Terrence O'Hara, Jeannot Szwarc, Roxann Dawson, Kevin Bray, Adam Kane
- **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix** Written by Michael Goldenberg Based on the novel by J.K. Rowling Directed by David Yates (Warner Bros. Pictures)
- **Stardust** Written by Jane Goldman & Matthew Vaughn Based on the novel by Neil Gaiman Directed by Matthew Vaughn (Paramount Pictures)

#### **BEST DRAMATIC PRESENTATION, SHORT FORM:**

- **Battlestar Galactica "Razor"** Written by Michael Taylor Directed by Félix Enríquez Alcalá and Wayne Rose (Sci Fi Channel) (televised version, not DVD)
- **Doctor Who "Blink"** Written by Stephen Moffat Directed by Hettie Macdonald (BBC)
- **Doctor Who "Human Nature" / "Family of Blood"** Written by Paul Cornell Directed by Charles Palmer (BBC)
- **Star Trek New Voyages "World Enough and Time"** Written by Michael Reaves & Marc Scott Zicree Directed by Marc Scott Zicree (Cawley Entertainment Co. and The Magic Time Co.)
- **Torchwood "Captain Jack Harkness"** Written by Catherine Tregenna Directed by Ashley Way (BBC Wales)

### **BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, SHORT FORM:**

- **Ellen Datlow** (*The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror* (St. Martins), *Coyote Road* (Viking), *Inferno* (Tor))
- **Stanley Schmidt** (*Analog*)
- **Jonathan Strahan** (*The New Space Opera* (HarperCollins/Eos), *The Best Science Fiction and Fantasy of the Year: Volume 1* (Night Shade), *Eclipse One* (NightShade))
- **Gordon Van Gelder** (*The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*)
- **Sheila Williams** (*Asimov's Science Fiction*)

### **BEST PROFESSIONAL EDITOR, LONG FORM:**

- **Lou Anders** (Pyr)
- **Ginjer Buchanan** (Ace/Roc)
- **David G. Hartwell** (Tor/Forge)
- **Beth Meacham** (Tor)
- **Patrick Nielsen Hayden** (Tor)

### **BEST PROFESSIONAL ARTIST:**

- **Bob Eggleton** (Covers: *Outcast Stars and Others* (Baen), *Ivory* (Pyr), and *The Taint and Other Stories* (Subterranean))
- **Phil Foglio** (Cover: *Robert Asprin's Myth Adventures*, Vol. 2 (Meisha Merlin), *What's New* (Dragon Magazine Aug. 2007), *Girl Genius Vol. 6-Agatha Heterodyne & the Golden Trilobite* (Airship Entertainment))
- **John Harris** : *Spindrift* (Ace), *Horizons* (Tor), *The Last Colony* (Tor)
- **Stephan Martiniere** (Covers: *Brasyl* (Pyr), *Mainspring* (Tor), *The Dragons of Babel* (Tor))
- **John Picacio** (Covers: *Fast Forward 2* (Pyr), *Time's Child* (HarperCollins/Eos), *A Thousand Deaths* (Golden Gryphon))
- **Shaun Tan**

### **BEST SEMIPROZINE:**

- **Ansible** edited by David Langford
- **Helix** edited by William Sanders and Lawrence Watt-Evans
- **Interzone** edited by Andy Cox
- **Locus** edited by Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong, and Liza Groen Trombi
- **New York Review of Science Fiction** edited by Kathryn Cramer, Kristine Dikeman, David G. Hartwell, and Kevin J. Maroney

### **BEST FANZINE:**

- **Argentus** edited by Steven H Silver
- **Challenger** edited by Guy Lillian III
- **Drink Tank** edited by Chris Garcia
- **File 770** edited by Mike Glyer
- **PLOKTA** edited by Alison Scott, Steve Davies, and Mike Scott

### **BEST FAN WRITER:**

- **Chris Garcia**
- **David Langford**
- **Cheryl Morgan**
- **John Scalzi**
- **Steven H Silver**

### **BEST FAN ARTIST:**

- **Brad Foster**
- **Teddy Harvia**
- **Sue Mason**
- **Steve Stiles**
- **Taral Wayne**

### **JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD:**

( An award for the best new writer whose first work of science fiction or fantasy appeared during 2006 or 2007 in a professional publication. Sponsored by Dell Magazines. )

- **Joe Abercrombie** (2nd year of eligibility)
- **Jon Armstrong** (1st year of eligibility)
- **David Anthony Durham** (1st year of eligibility)
- **David Louis Edelman** (2nd year of eligibility)



- **Mary Robinette Kowal** (2nd year of eligibility)
- **Scott Lynch** (2nd year of eligibility)

## **MEDIA MADNESS**

### **RETRO FILM REVIEW: ANGRY RED PLANET ( 1959 )**

*By The Graeme*

Critics say this film is slow, talky, absurd and a disjointed collection of SF clichés with mismatched acting styles. True enough.

But I saw this film in the theatre as a child and loved every minute of it. As an adult, I can see how this film would be viewed as dull and ridiculous, but the child yet within me still rejoices in the magic of this film. Seen with a child's eyes, it's a wonderful film. And even for adults, there are gems of insight to be gleaned from the script, insight into the human condition, into the role of women in particular....

We see Generals gathering in a tacky boardroom in the Pentagon. Turns out the expeditionary X1 MR1 Rocketship thought to have crashed on Mars has been spotted drifting in orbit 90,000 miles above the Earth. The crew may still be alive! It's decided to bring the ship down by remote control.

Cut to a Nevada base and plenty of stock footage of control room scenes. Rescue chaps in radiation suits are standing by. "That thing up there is a flying coffin," says one hopefully. We see footage of an Atlas rocket taking off reversed to make it look like it's landing. Surprisingly effective.

"Anything on the distant radiation counter?" The answer is no, so the rescue crews move in. The door to the spacecraft opens.

Cut to the generals peering at a monitor screen.

"It's the girl!" shouts one. "The hell with the radiation, let's go!"

She clings to the door while the rescue crews stand around and stare at her. Not till the Generals arrive in a jeep do they leap into action. A stretcher-team removes a shrouded figure from the craft. A hand dangles free, covered with green goop.

"What's that, man?" asks a clever reporter.

Adds the heroine "How can anyone cope with that?" How indeed?

Back at the base hospital, we learn that the unfortunate chap with yucky stuff all over his arm is Colonel Tom O'Bannion, now unconscious and slowly being covered by the spreading goop. The girl is Dr. Iris Ryan, a woman with a curiously immobile face ( with an acting style to match ) who seems to have forgotten everything about the mission. A Professor Theodore Gettell and a Sergeant Sam Jacobs have gone missing. The Generals' curiosity is rampant, after all, they're the ones who'll have to face the Senate appropriations committee! They put pressure on Iris.

"Will you talk to us now?"

"Yes, I'll try."

"Try to remember."

"Yes, yes, I'll try." Etc.

We flash back with her to the rocket just after take off. There's much talk of how much the actual liftoff resembled the training simulations.

Ever the killjoy, Tom states "Just so you blasé space travelers don't get too bored, the radiation is jumping."

Now my first thought would be that something was wrong with their engine, but the Prof ( played by Les Tremayne in an understated fashion, he was much more fun as the 'goat-lover' in THE SLIME PEOPLE ) pipes up with "Radioactive meteor?"

"Looks like it."

"Intersecting course?" They stare out the porthole to check. A glowing basketball zips by.

"Ah," sighs the Prof, "safety margin adequate."

Iris stares at the instruments around her.

"We're thousands of miles out in space, I can hardly believe it," she mutters. All I can say is, you'd better, because you'd get quite a shock if you were to open the door to go for a walk.

Tom seeks to reassure her.

"This reminds me of when I was a kid and I got my first dog...." he says, then follows up with a long story ending with the line "soon people will be just as sure of space travel as I was of that dog...and as I wish I was of you."

Perhaps confused by the story, Iris doesn't pick up on his hint, so he crowds her close to the porthole, commenting, "Makes Broadway look like a dark alley, how about exploring that dark alley together?"

Iris backs away, perhaps convinced Tom has gone crazy and is suggesting an intimate space walk. She seems a trifle dense. But Tom won't take no for an answer.

Later, hefting a can of food, Tom says for no particular reason, "Mars, the angry red planet."

So Iris comments, "Sounds so foreboding, doesn't it?"



Then her voice drops a dozen octaves. "Mars, the ancient God of war," she intones, revealing her vast classical knowledge.

"Afraid, Iris?" asks Tom. What he really means is 'Going space crazy?' but he's too polite to say it.

"A little," she admits.

Tom adds "We all are, we wouldn't be human otherwise." but this has no effect on her.

Her voice drops again, "This may seem funny for a scientist, but I wonder if some things aren't better unknown..."

Desperate, Tom changes the subject, "You're the first scientist I've ever known with lovely red hair."

"And you're the first pilot I've ever gone to Mars with," she retorts brightly. Ah, the gay wit of this merry crew.

Cut to Sam, the only sane person onboard. He's reading a pulp mag, to wit "Super Fantastic Science Fiction Stories" with subheadings "The Monster and the Martian Maid" (catchy title that), "Weird Monsters!" and "Loathsome Beasts!" Where can I get a copy? I want one!

"Mars, Martians, monsters," he muses, then tosses the mag aside. "I wonder if I'll ever get to read the next issue?" No, of course not. We already know he will be the first to die.

Various shots of life aboard ship. In one we see Iris crouched over a table, self-consciously glancing around before applying perfume behind her ears while Tom and the Prof exchange condescending glances. Ah, the 50's were a wonderful time, weren't they?

Well, soon it's time to land on Mars. "Hold on to your hats, kids. Here we go." Which seems an oddly juvenile thing for a Spaceship pilot to say.

Once down, Sam asks "Shall we go out and claim the planet in the name of Brooklyn?" Instead they crowd around the porthole, which glows with a strange red light.

"Strange," says Iris. "Nothing moves, everything seems to be waiting."

Adds Sam, a more practical sort, "Shoot everything that moves, pick up everything that doesn't, right?"

"With all that vegetation out there," comments Tom, "there's bound to be something alive." Like, how about the vegetation for starters? Meanwhile the viewer is frustrated because we're not shown what the crew are looking at!

Cut to later, they're still staring out the porthole, though now the light is blue! It's obvious from later sequences that the light is always supposed to be red, but filmmakers slip up now and again you know. The crew is still making comments on the scenery we can't see.

"Weirdsville, as my grandmother used to say," says Sam.

They're bugged because the outside mikes aren't picking up any sound.

"I wonder, could it be intentional?" asks the Prof.

"You mean you think it's controlled?" says Tom.

"What beings could possibly exercise such fantastic control?" inquires Iris, just a little short of hysteria.

"Martians!" every kid in the audience shouts in unison. It finally dawns on the crew that maybe if they go outside they might just find out. But they're still hesitant.

"First time in my life I've ever really been scared," admits Sam, "even though there's nothing out there but a bunch of crazy plants."

Tom, of course, has an encouraging cliché handy, "It takes a brave man to admit his fears, Sam. We're all afraid of the unknown."

Iris walks by in her spacesuit, distracting Sam from his fears. "You know, I can't say I recommend space suits for all you beautiful young dolls. What happened to all your lovely curves?"

"Why Sammy, some of the fashions I've seen in New York store windows didn't look too much better."

Somewhat grumpily, perhaps jealous because Sam has better (or at least more direct) come-on lines than he does, Tom states "Well, I'm convinced that all fashion designers are women-haters." The first interesting thing he's said, but our interest is cut short by a Martian peeking through the porthole, a critter with three eyes, two mouths and two antennae. Naturally Iris is the only one to see it. Naturally she screams.

And we cut back to the hospital on Earth. And we still haven't seen the surface of Mars! We have to wait for five minutes while the doctors talk about giving Iris drugs to force her mind to remember. She volunteers to take the drug. Back we go to Mars.

Finally we see the Martian surface. It's a treat. Various sets and cartoon-like matt paintings are combined under a process called "Cinemagic" in which the darker areas of the negative were etched out with acid, then the film was printed positive with a red tint, the bright 'shadows' glowing eerily. Bill Warren in his 'KEEP WATCHING THE SKIES!' attacked the process as "*doomed from the start. After all, who wants to watch a movie in which the effects as well as the people look like cartoons, but aren't?*" Well, as a child I instantly accepted the idea that everything about another planet, including how light passed through the atmosphere, would be weirdly different. I loved it!

So anyway, our merry crew are traipsing about the weird landscape. Sam has a 'sonic' gun to 'freeze' nasties so they can be shattered if you poke them with a stick.

Nevertheless Tom warns Iris "You better stick close to me."

She laughs and replies "Oh Tom, I know I acted like an hysterical female back there in the ship, but I'm perfectly capable of taking care of myself, and I won't get out of your sight."

So naturally the first thing she does is walk out of sight straight into the clutches of a large carnivorous plant with yee old wrap-around tentacles. She screams. She screams again. Tom tears her loose. Sam freezes the plant.

"It's not a plant," declares the Prof, "It's a low form of neuro-muscular vegetal creature." Yeah, a plant.

"Well, that's enough swash buckling for one day," he adds.

Declares Sam, "I'm all for that, any swash I ever had just came unbuckled." Who wrote this stuff, Woody Allen?

Back on the ship, Tom comments, "Only a little bit of difference between sticking your chin up and your neck out."

Properly abashed, Iris says "I for one know it now, Colonel Sir."

There follows about fifteen minutes of gibberish about community minds controlling lower life forms, etc. Then it's back to staring out the porthole.

"Jumpy, Irish?" asks Tom. He always calls her Irish, explaining, 'If I ever call you by name, you'll know it.' Cryptic lad.

"Yes, afraid so, a little."

"See anything?"

"Nothing, everything seems to be dead out there, like a nightmare of unending silence." Well, at least it's a quiet nightmare.

"We all feel it," states Tom.

Iris stares lovingly into his face.

"It isn't just me because I'm a woman?" She asks, breathing heavily.

Needless to say, this film is wildly popular with the feminist movement. Talk about role models!

They go out on another walk-about. This time they penetrate beyond the jungle into a sandy region with a few bushes.

"Look," says Iris, "those trees over there, they look different, like nothing we've seen before."

I'm not surprised, since those six 'trees' are legs sprouting from a distinctly hairy monster. WE don't know this because the body of the critter is out of camera view, but THE CREW should notice this since all they have to do is look up, but it seems they're all suffering from tunnel vision. The base of the 'tree', which looks an awful lot like a giant claw, has huge spikes growing out of it. Iris hacks one off with a machete. Bad idea! The monster emits ear-splitting shrieks and begins to move.

This wonderful critter stands about 40 feet tall, has 6 crab-like legs sprouting from its oval body which is covered with fur except for its flat, striped belly, has a ratty tail, a mouse-like face with big ears, intensely staring beady eyes, two tiny little arms with clutching three-fingered hands, and it walks -- I should say skitters -- on the tips of its claws with a sound very much like the clattering of hooves. I would love a model of this. It's one of the cutest monsters in filmdom.

The prof is briefly trapped in a crevice between two rocks which the monster attempts to crush with one of its claws. But Sam shines his sonic gun into the critter's eyes, blinding it and sending it skittering across the Martian landscape. It must have hollow bones, it's weight barely keeps it attached to the surface. Why, the monster moves as if it were held up with wires! Truly alien!

Never say die, our intrepid explorers keep on till they reach the shores of a lake.

"So there it is, a Martian lake." says Tom. Very astute of him.

One thing I discovered as I watched the film again is that the lake has a concrete lip around it which hides the feet of the astronauts from our view as they approach the edge of the 'shore'. I guess they thought nobody would notice. And they were right, I didn't see it when I watched the film in the theatre nearly 50 years ago. I was enthralled with the idea of a Martian lake, I didn't want to see any evidence it was a mere swimming pool on a set! And so I didn't.

They turn back to the ship. Once inside, while cleaning his sonic gun, Sam comments, "Some baby that Rat-bat-spider eh? It walked away from Cleo ( his gun ) even after she turned on all her charms too. Someday maybe she'll meet a monster that'll ignore us, break her heart, mine too." You just know he's going to die! Well, he does.

When next they go outside their ship, they take an inflatable dingy with them. Paddling out on to the lake, they get close to a Martian city only to be chased back to shore by a ludicrous blob with rotating eyes. Sam gets eaten. Or at least absorbed and dissolved.

The Prof, on the other hand, succumbs to a heart attack during liftoff. And Tom gets touched by a piece of the blob and goes all to pieces on the trip home. Poor Iris has to take care of everything herself. No mention is ever made of how she disposes of the Prof's body. Perhaps she ran short on rations?

There's another half hour of boring suspense back at the hospital on Earth till Iris figures out how to get the blob off of Colonel Tom's arm. They live happily ever after.

The joy of this film lies not in the plot, not in the acting, not in the dialogue, but in the weird sense of other-worldliness the film managed to convey, if only by accident. It was stilted enough to seem documentary-like, and so I believed. I believed with all my heart. Oh, to be a kid again!

### UPCOMING NIFTY FILM PROJECTS:

**3 DAYS** is a Spanish film directed by Antonio Banderas about people doing what they want for 3 days till a giant meteor strikes the Earth. Combo of **ON THE BEACH** & **METEOR**? Let's hope more like the former than the latter.

**BLASSREITER** is anime to do with humans turning into demons, one of whom remains human enough to attempt to track down the idiot responsible and kill him, thus saving humanity ( again! ) from itself.

Another anime, this one titled **BLEACH THE MOVIE: MEMORIES OF NOBODY** will be in theatres this summer in limited release. The villain has long white hair ( again! ) and wields a sword ( that's new! ).

**CALLING ALL ROBOTS** will feature more performance capture antics by Robert 'BEOWULF' Zemeckis. This Disney project already being promoted as a throwback to old Godzilla movies. Is that a good thing?

Brad Pitt's production company has optioned Max Brook's **WORLD WAR Z** novel -- about the world trying to put itself together after the Zombie Wars -- and J. Michael Straczynski is adapting it.

Will Ferrell plays Park Ranger Rick Marshall in **LAND OF THE LOST**, wherein he and a couple of kids find a land of dinosaurs and other creatures like the Chakas and the Sleestacks. Broad humour I suspect.

Stephen Sommer's **G.I. JOE** is based on the cartoon stories and explains things: Why Destro has a Chromed head, why Snake-eyes never speaks, etc. I was hoping it was going to involve a robot of the action figure...

Speaking of Robots, **MEET DAVE** features a life-sized Eddie Murphy controlled by tiny little humans ( People from the future? ) including a tiny Commander Murphy, attempting to communicate with contemporary humans. Looks like fun.

**I AM A GENIUS OF UNSPEAKABLE EVIL AND I WANT TO BE YOUR CLASS PRESIDENT** is about an evil 13 year old genius too young to legally control his world-wide evil empire which he runs out of his parent's basement.

**DRUCKBOLZEN** 'Pressure Bolt' is an 8 minute, rather Kafkaesque German film shot for under \$250. A 'Metropolis'-like comment on labour, it features impressive bits like a 'faulty' fake human hiring agent and a doom-laden landscape.

**GP506** takes place in Guard Post #506 on the demilitarized zone between North & South Korea and involves an investigation into why soldiers are being decapitated en masse. Because they're turning into zombies, that's why!

### **WHY I NAMED MY ( NOW DEFUNCT ) PERZINE 'SPACE CADET'**

*By The Graeme*

Hah! Isn't it obvious? I must have named it after Robert Heinlein's juvenile **SPACE CADET** first published in 1948? Well, no. Though I read another of his juveniles in Grade school, **RED PLANET MARS**, and loved every page, along with Lester Del Rey's **MAROONED ON MARS**, and Arthur C. Clarke's **SANDS OF MARS**, I didn't get around to reading **SPACE CADET** till my late teenage years. So my obsession with **TOM CORBETT**, **SPACE CADET** which originated in my childhood in the 1950s was not brought about by Heinlein's book.

Must be the TV show then? It tumbled from network to network (CBS, ABC, Dumont, NBC) from October 1950 through to 1956, always broadcast live, sometimes 4 times a week, usually only 15 minutes long but with Saturday broadcasts often 30 minutes long. However, we didn't get our huge B&W TV till 1955 or thereabouts, and I don't recall CBC (the only channel) carrying the show. Indeed, highly unlikely, since the CBC had its own space adventure show **SPACE COMMAND** whose miniscule cast included James Doohan as a crusty, overworked space engineer. Alas, I believe that show was off the air by the time we got our TV. To sum up, I was not inspired by the TV version of **SPACE CADET**, because I never saw it. In fact, to this day I've not seen but one episode on a poor quality tape. Sigh.

Interesting aside, I had always assumed the TV show was based on Heinlein's book. Oddly enough, it wasn't. Rockhill studios originally put it together with the aid of Joseph Greene, who prior to Heinlein's book had written a number of radio scripts with titles like **SPACE CADETS**, **SPACE ACADEMY** and **TOM RANGER OF THE SPACE CADETS**. Then, just prior to the series going on air, Rockhill purchased the rights to Heinlein's book and all their publicity concentrated on promoting that angle since Heinlein was far better known than Greene. Heinlein apparently had no direct input into the show, whereas Greene continued to shape its direction, develop its characters, etc, though I'm not sure if this was by virtue of writing scripts or by acting as a story consultant. At any rate, the **SOLAR GUARD** website has a lot more information on Greene and **SPACE CADET**. Its URL is: < <http://www.solarguard.com/sghome.htm> >

So, could it be the **SPACE CADET** comic books? There were 14 in all, published from 1952 through to 1955. I own a couple now, but I never saw them when I was a kid, for I didn't start collecting comic books till I was eight or nine, beginning in 1959. If any older kid in the neighbourhood had any **SPACE CADET** comics they certainly didn't let me get my grubby little greedy hands on them.

Likewise I doubt I ever saw the daily and Sunday newspaper strip written by Paul S. Newman and illustrated by Ray Bailey. It only ran from September 1950 to September 1953, and considering I was born in 1951 I was a tad too young to be reading the funnies in the newspaper. Besides, I would be greatly surprised if it was ever syndicated in Canada.

How about the eight hardcover books written by Cary Rockwell which were published by Grosset & Dunlop from 1952 to 1956? As a matter of fact, I own 6 of the 8, and they were given to me when I was quite young. I was reading them when I was reading the **SEE SPOT JUMP JANE** books in grade school and I must say I consider the latter a tad lacking in action and suspense. Indeed, considering what I was reading at home, I rather resented the level I was expected to read in school. If I was precocious in anything, it was in the ability to read.

There's no doubt the SPACE CADET books were a huge hit with me. The adventures of Tom Corbett (Earthman), Roger Manning ( Human colonist from Mars ) and Astro ( Human colonist from Venus ) as they fought both Space Pirates and Cadet rivals in their bid to graduate with high marks from the Space Academy ( a worthy goal, though it didn't inspire me to make any effort at school, perhaps because Vincent Massey Grade School was decidedly lacking in spaceships and field trips to other planets ), made a huge impact on my imagination. I identified with those guys. My only criticism, which I felt even when I was reading them for the first time, was that there were no aliens, unless you included the dinosaurs living in the swamps on Venus. Still, dinosaurs were cool, and if Astro wanted to wrestle a T Rex, that was okay by me. I exaggerate. Actually the incident with the Tyrannosaurus involved Tom and Roger, and all they did was empty their space rifles into it until it went away. Quite logical really, even from the T Rex's point of view.

Another interesting aside, Cary Rockwell, author of the SPACE CADET novels, was actually the same Joseph Greene who created the TV series. The question of whether the book series influenced the TV series or vice versa thus becomes completely irrelevant. In any case, though I loved the books, and am still very fond of them, they are not the origin of my fixation on SPACE CADET.

What then? Could it have been the TOM CORBETT SPACE ACADEMY PLAYSET released by Marx in 1953? It featured lithoed metal walls surrounding the academy tower, over 30 plastic figures of Space Cadets and aliens (!), possibly including robots, plus a rocket car, rocket ships, observatory, futuristic storage tanks and equipment, even furniture for the classroom.

I actually saw this thing, or rather, used to play with the sad remnants of one owned by a friend of mine ( probably 'inherited' from an older brother ). Only a few figures remained, but I remember the fun of popping their plastic bubble space helmets off and on as I pretended they were floating in the vacuum of space ( seems they had a bit of a pressure problem ). The Academy Fortress was usually implanted firmly in the sands of Mars ( my sandbox ) and frequently under assault by both plastic dinosaurs and metal Dinky Toys. ( Odd that the Martians had got a hold of Centurion tanks, Saracen armoured cars and other surplus British war material . Evidently the British Empire in its waning days had concluded some dastardly deal with the Martians! ) Be that as it may, this playset experience merely added to my obsession with SPACE CADET.

Another aside, I would love to own a perfectly preserved Academy Playset but one approaching that condition goes for hundreds of dollars on Ebay. Even individual figures can go for as much as \$20. To make matters worse, clever sellers tend to break the set into lots, which must be very frustrating for bidders. You might outbid everyone else to win the plastic furniture, but lose out to a higher bidder on the aliens. In short, if you're life's dream is to own a perfect Space Cadet Academy Playset, be prepared to spend a heck of a lot of money.

So, what DID trigger my life long love affair with Space Cadet? The 3d View Master set simply titled TOM CORBETT SPACE CADET with 3 reels of vivid, wonderfully evocative colour stereoscopic pictures of three dimensional dioramas created by one Florence Thomas circa 1952. They belonged to my brother, and I used to spend hours looking at them even before I entered kindergarten. Don't think I was able to read yet, but I was certainly entranced by the glowing colours and exciting scenes. Fell in love with Mars. Fell in love with fifties style rocket ships. Fell in love with ruins. Fell in love with archaeology. Fell in love with museums. Fell in love with meteorites. All this from one View Master set!

In the first reel, titled THE MOON PYRAMID, the discovery of a tiny anti-gravity pyramid tip ( or Ben Ben as the ancient Egyptians used to call it, not that that has anything to do with this story ) in the asteroid belt results in an expedition to the moon by our intrepid Space Cadets in their good ship Polaris. There they place the tip atop a truncated ( rather small ) pyramid, which promptly becomes transparent and reveals a globe of the planet Mars.

The second reel is appropriately titled THE RED PLANET. On Mars Tom Corbett teams up with Joan Dale, chief scientist of the Solar guard. They meet in "*the native room of the Mars Institute Museum*" which is devoted to artifacts of the long extinct Martian civilization. Their conversation – once I was able to read the booklet accompanying the reels – had the power to send shivers up and down my spine.

Tom Corbett: "*We want to search the junction area of canals 7 and 19. We're looking for clues to an ancient race who may have had the secret of anti-gravity. Perhaps they are the same race who built the great canals to lead the waters from Mars melting icecaps to the farm regions.*"

Dr. Joan Dale, gesturing at an ancient model landscape: "*This map fragment may narrow the search for us. Notice the pyramid. Once over 1000 feet high, it no longer exists. We know its former site quite accurately. We will hunt there first.*"

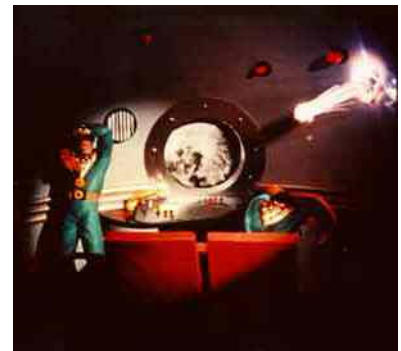
They take a nifty flying scooter into the desert and eventually dig up a six-legged monolith with a depiction of the asteroid belt. A 100,000 vacuum tube computer named Mastermind figures out the exact asteroid to search for. At this point criminal masterminds (with fewer vacuum tubes no doubt) kidnap Dr. Joan and zip off to the Asteroid belt. The race is on!

In the final reel, titled MYSTERY OF THE ASTEROIDS, the Polaris chases the 'pirate' ship through the asteroid belt till both land on the asteroid they are seeking. The 'pirates' drag Joan into the first Alien 'Time Tomb' they find, only to get the crap beaten out of them by Tom, Roger and Astro. The Space Cadets are then thrilled to discover a cache of magnetic tape recordings preserving the history of the planet Varth, out of which the asteroid belt formed when the planet broke up. They trigger a 'movie' and watch pretty six-legged cat-like aliens floating about on anti-gravity gizmos. All the loot gets hauled back to Earth, and the secret of anti-gravity AND faster than light travel is revealed, along with the fact the Varthians (Varthites?) fled to the stars and might still exist.

Dr. Joan has the last word: *"I hope that someday, some distant tomorrow, we'll meet them there out among the stars. Then we can say, 'Thank you'!"*

Recently I was able to purchase the Space Cadet View Master set via E Bay for a wonderfully low price. For the first time in more than 45years I am able to gaze on the scenes which have haunted my memory for decades. Here is one of my favourites.

The brighter the light source you point the stereoscopic viewer at, the more brilliant the meteor! For some reason, maybe because my first word was "Yites" (for 'light'), and Christmas tree lights gave and still give me endless pleasure, I was absolutely hypnotized by this scene. For me, this is THE scene which most evokes the sense of wonder.



Florence Thomas did an incredible job, wouldn't you agree? The quality of modeling, the artful composition, the set design, the brilliant colours, all evocative of the bright, exciting future the fifties promised for the near future. So vividly did these scenes imprint themselves on my impressionable pre-school child's mind's eye that I remember some of them as if they were scenes from movies, complete with motion and sound effects. My habit of watching movies as if I were actually present in the events taking place derives from the hours I spent devouring these View Master reels with all my heart and soul.

Surely modern CGI could bring these scenes to life in an animated short? In fact, I'd love to see a modern retro-style Tom Corbett Space Cadet TV series! And while I'm at it, I'd be quite keen to see some billionaire pay to have a replica pyramid placed on the moon, and a duplicate of the Martian sculpture implanted in the sands of Mars, both for far-future generations to puzzle over.

But climbing down the ladder of imagination to reality, at the very least I can credit this wonderful View Master set for kick starting my second childhood before my first childhood was fairly underway. Working on my third childhood now. Hope to reach my fourth eventually. How to stay young (and immature) your whole life long.

## UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

Sources < <http://www.locusmag.com/Conventions.html> > & < <http://www.sfnorthwest.org/northwestcons.html#cons> >

**SCI-FI ON THE ROCK – ( April 19-20, 2008 )** 9AM to 6PM each day, at the Holiday Inn, 180 Portugal Cove Road, St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada, A1B 2N2, Hotel Reservations 1-888-465-4329, Hotel Front Desk 1-709-722-0506, Reservations Manager Patricia Martin 709-722-0934-ext 6. Fax 709-722-9756. Email: < [pmartin@fortisproperties.com](mailto:pmartin@fortisproperties.com) > web site: < <http://www.holidayinn.com> >. Admission \$10 per day, or \$18 for a weekend pass. Guests include Jeremy Bulloch ( Bobba Fett ), Kenneth Tam ( The Rogue Commodore ), The Vader Party Star wars Group, Paul Tucker (The Underworld Railroad ), Shannon Sullivan ( The Dying Days ), & Matthew LeDrew ( Black Womb ). Events include Robotics demo, Masquerade, Model Building Contest, Charity Auction, Dinner with Jeremy Bulloch, Geek Survivor Contest, & Quidditch Match, plus panels & workshops on Fanfilm Making, Dr. Who, Movie Makeup, Remote Control Toy Basics, Stage Combat, Miniature Figure Painting, Video Gaming Strategy, Lightsaber Techniques, Comic Drawing, etc. Email con at < [contact@scifiontherock.com](mailto:contact@scifiontherock.com) > or check website at < <http://www.scifiontherock.com/> > or their facebook site at < <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4107298179> >



**CORFLU SILVER / CORFLU 25** – ( **April 25-28, 2008** ) Plaza Hotel, One Main Street, Las Vegas NV 89101. Membership Rates: \$60 US / £35 UK attending. Hotel info: < <http://plazahotelcasino.com> > Make checks payable to Joyce Katz and mail them to Joyce Katz 909 Eugene Cernan St. Las Vegas, NV, 89145, USA You can also register through [PayPal](#) by sending the appropriate amount to < [JoyceWorley1@cox.net](mailto:JoyceWorley1@cox.net) > please follow up with an email to confirm. More info at < <http://www.corflu.org> >

**KEYCON 25** – ( **May 16 – 19, 2008** ) at Radisson Skyview, 288 Portage Ave, Winnipeg MB. All rooms are \$86.00 per night, plus applicable taxes, and are available at that rate from May 14 to May 21, 2008 Call the hotel at (204)-956-0410. Mention Keycon to get the special rate!! Registration: Before Dec31st 2007 = \$45 Cdn. Then \$55 Cdn till April 30<sup>th</sup>. At the door TBA. Child 5 to 12 years \$35 Cdn. Mail in < [Registration Form](#) > and mail to: Keycon, PO Box 3178, Winnipeg MB R3C 4E6. Money orders and cheques accepted. Please make payable to: Keycon Mail in registrations accepted until April 30/2008 (by post-mark). Author GoH's Eric Flint & Jane Yolen, Artist GoH: David Mattingly, Gaming GoH: Jamie Chambers & parody/filking GoH: Luke Ski. For more info see: < <http://www.keycon.org/> >

**DENVENTION / WORLDCON 66** -- ( **Aug 6 – 10, 2008** ) at the Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. ( It's gigantic! 6 exhibit halls total 584,000 sq ft, 62 meeting rooms total 100,00 sq ft, 2 ballrooms total 85,000 sq ft, one 5,000 seat theatre! You'll need a GPS thingie to find your way around! ) Entire Mark Adam's Hotel designated for party suites. 250 room block contracted for the Hyatt Hotel which adjoins the Convention Centre. PR2, hotel information and Hugo nomination ballots will be available no later than January 2008. Author GoH: Lois McMaster Bujold, Artist GoH: Rick Sternbach, Fan GoH: Tom Whitmore; Ghost of Honour: Robert Heinlein; Toast Master Will McCarthy. Current membership rates ( good till Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007 ) are Attending: \$175 US, Supporting: \$40 US, Child: \$45 US. For online membership: < [http://www.denvention3.org/wcdb/member\\_main.php](http://www.denvention3.org/wcdb/member_main.php) > or for mail in form go to < [membership form](#) > For more info see website < <http://www.denvention3.org/> >.

**ANIME EVOLUTION** -- ( **Aug 22-24, 2008** ) at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby B.C. "Vancouver's Japanese Animation Convention And Asian Cultural festival" with amv room & contest, cosplay & cosplay contest, industry guests, industry panels, live concerts, video rooms, art gallery, karaoke, video games, dealers room, charity auction, game tournaments, and more! For info: < [www.animeevolution.com](http://www.animeevolution.com) >

**VCON 33** -- ( **Oct 3-5, 2008** ) Vancouver, BC. Canada's oldest ongoing Sci-Fi convention ( VCON 1 was held in 1971 ). Author GoH: Patrick Rothfuss ( author of 'Name of the Wind' ), Artist GoH: Lisa Snellings-Clark. Gaming GoH: James Ernest ( of Cheapass Games ). Current pre-registration membership price: \$45 Cdn. Make out cheques to 'VCON' and mail to VCON, c/o Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, B.C., Canada, V5N 5W1. 85 members pre-registered so far. Details re hotel, rates, dates, more GoHs, etc to be announced. If you'd like to help VCON 33 write: < [vconchair@gmail.com](mailto:vconchair@gmail.com) > For updated info: < [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca) >

**WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2008** -- ( **Oct 30 - Nov 2, 2008** ) at the Hyatt Regency Calgary Hotel, 700 Centre Street SE, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2G 5P6. Tel: (403) 717-1234. Fax: (403) 537-4444. Web site: < <http://www.calgary.hyatt.com> > Room Rate: CDN \$165 Single/Double Please mention "World Fantasy Convention" to receive the convention group rate and to properly credit our event. The group code that you want to use is WFCC or G-WFCC. This will give you the preferred rate of \$165.00/night. This rate expires October 1, 2008. Author GoH's David Morell & Barbara Hambly. Publisher GoH: Tom Doherty. Artist GoH: Todd Lockwood. Toastmaster: Tad Williams. Current Membership rate: \$125 US or CDN. Supporting: \$35 US or Cdn. Register on-line (via Pay Pal) at < <http://www.worldfantasy2008.org/ro.html> >, or to register by mail, go to < <http://www.worldfantasy2008.org/reg.html> > & choose appropriate form. For more Info check the convention website: < [www.worldfantasy2008.org/](http://www.worldfantasy2008.org/) >.

**ANTICIPATION / WORLDCON 67** -- ( **Aug 6-10, 2009** ) Hotel: Palais des congres de Montreal. GoH: Neil Gaiman. Invitee d'honneur: Elisabeth Vonarburg. Fan GoH: Taral Wayne. Editor GoH: David Hartwell. Publisher GoH: Tom Doherty. MC: Julie Czerneda. Contact address: Anticipation, C.P. 105, Succursale NDG, Montreal, QC, Canada H4A 3P4. For info: < [info@anticipationsf.ca](mailto:info@anticipationsf.ca) > or < [www.anticipationsf.ca](http://www.anticipationsf.ca) >

## **LOCAL CLUBS:**

### **B.C. BROWNCOATS:**

The B.C. Browncoats, founded April 2004, are fans of Firefly and Serenity, created by Joss Whedon. 300 members. "Every Thursday from 8-10 PM we meet in the Canadian Browncoat's Chat Room. New members are always welcome, so please come and join us for a chat!" Simply register at < <http://p201.ezboard.com/bccanadianbrowncoats2932> >

See < <http://www.browncoats.ca/> > website for details & info, or The Vancouver Firefly/Serenity Meetup Group ( Vancouver ) at < <http://firefly.meetup.com/12/> > “Grab a drink, pull up a chair and join us online! It’s free...and it’s FUN!”

### **B.C.S.F.A. – THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION:**

Founded 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1970. **Membership is now free!** BCSFA holds a monthly social gathering at the home of the Treasurer, a ‘Feeding Frenzy’ get together at a different restaurant every month ( currently on hold ), a book discussion on a monthly basis at the ‘Our Town Café’, a monthly ‘Royal Swiss Navy Disorganization meeting’ at the home of BCFAzine editor Garth Spencer where random topics are picked out of a hat and hotly debated, and offers free monthly on-line issues of BCSFAzine ( or, if you have no computer access, a paper version at cost, availability severely limited ).

Note: no point in checking out the BCSFA Club website listed below as it is currently frozen, not being updated, until a new website manager is chosen/volunteered/drafted.

#### **BCSFAZINE ADDRESSES:**

BCSFAZINE EDITOR ( submissions, letters of comment, trades ) – BCSFAzine, c/o Garth Spencer, P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5V 3P0.

OR: email < [garthspencer@shaw.ca](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca) >

**NOTE: ROYAL SWISS NAVY DISORGANIZATIONAL MEETING ( DISCUSSION GROUP ): Saturday April 12 @ 8 pm ( ? )** at Garth Spencer’s place, 82 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. Phone him at (778) 865-2372 for directions. An evening of conversation and debate on selected subjects.

**NOTE: BCSFA MEETING & PARTY: Saturday April 19 ( ? ) @ 7pm** at the Moore-Freeman home, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, B.C. Phone (604) 277-0845 for directions.

**NOTE: BCSFA BOOK DISCUSSION IN VANCOUVER: Thursday April 24 @ 7pm** at the "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. The topic book will be ‘THE GOLDEN AGE ’ by John C. Wright.

#### **BCSFA SPONSORED WEB SITES:**

BCSFA CLUB WEB SITE: < <http://www.bcsfa.net> > ( Currently ‘frozen’ pending new site manager )

BCSFA YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP: < [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_scifi\\_assc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/) >

CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA: < <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

**B.I.F.F. MEETINGS ( Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship ) – Every Friday ( except long weekends & VCON weekend ) @ 6:30 PM till closing time (officially 9:00 pm).** A weekly social meeting for SF fans, founded June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Held at The Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street ( at Lonsdale ) in North Vancouver.

“There are no rules ( beyond the fact that the restaurant asks that anybody who comes orders some food, but as you can get something reasonable to eat for very little if funds are tight ), and there are no membership fees or dues ( although sometimes we ask for donations to cover some expenses ), and nobody is in charge ( things just sort of happen. )”

Every BIFF event typically has a theme, be it a particular film, panel discussion, guest speaker, etc. For Example:

“You may have read reviews of a great documentary on video games called The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters, but not been able to find it. Fear not. BIFF is on the case, and Marina, our Announcement Lady, has tracked down a copy, and will be bringing it out to BIFF for your dining and dancing pleasure.”

To find out what is currently planned for the near future ( usually on relatively short notice ), please check the BIFF web site at: < <http://biff.realityfree.ca/> >

**FANCOUVER: VANCOUVER SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY MEETUP** – Vancouver, B.C. Founded Sept 21, 2005. 118 Members. “Meet fellow Sci-fi/Fantasy Fans near you! Come to a local Sci-fi/Fantasy Meetup to have fun talking science fiction and fantasy in literature, media, gaming and art. Who knows, maybe we’ll hit a convention too!”

For details & info: < <http://scifi.meetup.com/278/> >

**F.R.E.D. MEETINGS – Every Friday @ 8:00 PM.** F.R.E.D. stands for “F\*\*\* Reality, Everybody Drink”, a weekly social meeting for SF fans, founded May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1979. Currently held at Boston Pizza, 1333 West Broadway @ Hemlock ( 2 blocks East of Granville ), Vancouver. Note: Ryan Hawe reports: “I am pleased to report that thanks to Jen, we now have guaranteed seating for FRED at Boston Pizza Broadway every Friday. A gift for local fandom, one might say.”

For info see < <http://www.facebook.com/group.php> > or contact Ryan Hawe, Keeper of the FRED, at < [luxdoprime@yahoo.com](mailto:luxdoprime@yahoo.com) >

### **MONSTER ATTACK TEAM CANADA**

“This group is mostly for members to keep up with the latest events and happening for the club. MONSTER ATTACK is situated in British Columbia’s Lower Mainland, and while anyone is welcome to join to stay up with club events, the primary interest will be to members and those thinking of coming to a Monster Attack - Canada event in Vancouver B.C. or the Lower Mainland. At the same time, we want to answer as many questions as we can for people interested in SF, FANTASY, ANIME, and MONSTER modeling - and encourage people to use the site to pose questions about kit building. Think of this as an online clubhouse as well as an info site - and PLEASE ASK AWAY!”

For details & info: < <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterAttackTeamCanada/?yguid=8788> >

### **MONSTER FIGHTERS ONLINE CLUB ( of Monster Attack Team Canada )**

“This Group is for anyone who wants to talk Science fiction and Fantasy films, Figure Garage kits, Monster toys, DVDs, up-coming films, and just plain cool stuff! PLEASE: this is a place to have FUN!!! It's about the love of the hobby, not about flaming someone who feels differently than you do. Please try to express your opinions in a way that is respectful of others' opinions. Let's talk monsters!”

Every month a MOTM ( Monster of the month ) topic is chosen. “Monster of the Month is designed to inspire Monster Fighters to study their enemies. Sometime during November watch the MOTM . . . then post comments, reviews, thoughts, or pictures to the clubhouse.” The MOTM is announced at the beginning of each month. November's was MYSTERIOUS ISLAND ( 1961 ), Oct: IT CAME FROM BENEATH THE SEA ( 1956 ), Sept: ATRAGON ( 1963 ), etc. “We're still hungry for info on models, toys, pictures and other cool stuff devoted to those monsters. Scan the web, search the world, and deliver the results of your searches back here!”

For details & info:< <http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterFighters> >

### **USS MAJESTIC NCC-78601 ( REGION 10 STARFLEET )**

This Star Trek vessel is the flagship for Region 10 Starfleet ( see non-local clubs ), and is based in Victoria, B.C. About 18 members listed.

“Like many ships, our crew is diverse and has a variety of interests, but for us on board USS Majestic our major activities include social events such as watching movies, hiking, games and short story writing.”

Recently began publishing a monthly newsletter titled ‘Majestic Mews’ available online.

For details & info: < <http://www.uss-majestic.org/> >

## **NON-LOCAL CANADIAN CLUBS:**

### **FREDERICTON SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY:**

“Along with our official meetings, members of the group congregate on Monday Nights for a gathering at Tingley's Traditions/Quiznos on Dundonald Street, Fredericton, NB. The times vary, especially during the summer months, but generally anytime after 8:00pm until closing at 10:00pm.”

“The FSFS also helps in the volunteering at [Communicon](#), which is a local gaming convention held the last weekend in January. Though it is a separate entity from the FSFS, it is run by two of the club members and many of the club participate in one facet or another.”

For details & info see < <http://www.celtic-dragon.ca/fsfswebsitemain.html> >

### **K.I.D.C. – KLINGON IMPERIAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS:**

“World's largest & most popular Klingon cultural website... dedicated to the promotion and preservation of Klingon culture and society here on Earth. On this award-winning website, you will find over 225 pages of Klingon data; info on the KIDC, Klingon rituals, ceremonies and traditions, intergalactic cuisine, Klingon fashion and costuming, ships and weaponry; as well as popular discussion forums, numerous Klingon-related mailing lists, and more...”

“The KIDC is an independent and neutral Klingon organization that does not get involved in intra-club political disputes or disagreements. We believe that a Klingon is a Klingon, no matter what organization, club or group they belong to or are affiliated with. We hope to serve as a central resource of Klingon cultural information to all Klingons, regardless of their background.”

“Our headquarters is the *Klingon Imperial Embassy*, based in the Montreal Sector of Canada... The KIDC has many different departments and sections; one of which you will be assigned based on your qualifications and your career preference. Each of our members chooses a Klingon name and puts together a character or persona that fits plausibly within the generally accepted view of the Klingon Empire within the period of The Grand Alliance.”

“Depending on your location on the globe, there are many different ways of participating in the club. We highly encourage interaction between member's characters both through role-playing and through real-life communications via regular snail mail, e-mail and participation in our many Klingon related mailing lists as well as our [Klingon Imperial Forums](#). Members can also become involved in Klingon cultural research, assisting with website maintenance, recruiting and promotion, organizing display tables at conventions, club fund-raising, and organizing or assisting in charitable events.”

For details & info: < <http://www.klingon.org> >

### **MARITIME SCIENCE FICTION MODELERS:**

“The Maritime Science Fiction Modelers consists of about 20 model builders who enjoy the realm of Science Fiction model subjects. We now have members in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario.”

“Formed in 1993 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, the group gathers once a month to discuss the sci-fi modeling world, talk about new science fiction movies and television, and swap model building techniques. At our meetings, we are able to work on our latest model, or we can show off our most recent modeling triumph.”

“Many members of the group are involved in promoting the model building hobby, and we have had models in several model contests, museum exhibits, science fiction conventions, local television and movie theatre lobbies.”

“It wasn't until 2002 that we finally put a website together so that more than just the Maritime provinces of eastern Canada could see what we were up to. Enjoy your visit!”

For details & info see: < <http://msfm.seryan.com/> >

### **MonSFFA – THE MONTREAL SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY ASSOCIATION:**

“MonSFFA a club for fans of the science fiction and fantasy genres. We are your connection to the SF/F community, local, national and international. We have been active since 1987. Our areas of interest span the full spectrum of the SF/F universe: literature, movies, television, comics, gaming, art, animation, scale-model building, costuming, memorabilia collecting, film/video production and more!”

MonSFFA is probably the most active SF club in Canada, with a healthy membership base, event-packed club activity, the monthly newsletter IMPULSE ( available for download ) and a quarterly clubzine WARP ( members only download, or discretion of editor ). Their website is well worth checking out for the downloadable fan films BEAVRA, MOOSE MAN, and THE SIMPLETON'S LIFE.

For details & info: < <http://www.monsffa.com/> >

### **OSFA – THE OTTAWA SCIENCE SOCIETY:**

“The Ottawa Science Fiction Society is an organization of fans of science fiction, fantasy and other speculative fiction in its various forms, whether in prose novels or comics, television or motion pictures, hardcopy or software. OSFS is the oldest operating science fiction club in Ottawa: Founded in 1977 and incorporated in 1979.”

“Our regular monthly meetings are usually held at the Dalhousie Community Centre at 775 Somerset St. W. at 2 PM on the last Sunday of each month, except during summer hiatus.”

“Our regular newsletter, the OSFS Statement, is published monthly. OSFS members receive hardcopies by mail.”

For details & info: < <http://osfs.ncf.ca/> >

### **SFL - SCIENCE FICTION LONDON:**

“Science Fiction London (SFL) evolved out of an earlier club called Star Trek Ontario, founded in 1980 by a group of Star Trek fans. Science Fiction London (SFL) is a group of science fiction enthusiasts living in and around London, Ontario, Canada. We meet monthly in London to discuss science fiction. We also get together occasionally for social events like movie days and barbecues.”

“To get the most out of the meetings, you should read the book that we will be discussing prior to the meeting, assuming that the topic is a book. The schedule of upcoming meetings can be found in the [Meeting Topics](#) section of this Website. Please note that if the topic is a film, the meeting will include a showing of the film prior to the discussion so you won't need to prepare ahead of time. If the topic is a theme, there may or may not be reading that you should do before you attend the meeting; in that case, the details will be displayed in the [Meeting Topics](#) page.”

“Our meetings take place at the Central Branch of the London Public Library at 251 Dundas Street between Wellington and Clarence Streets. Meetings about books will be held in the Tonda Room. Meetings about films will take place in the Stevenson and Hunt Room, which is beside the Tonda Room. Both rooms are on the first floor of the Central Branch.”

For details & info: < <http://sfl.london.on.ca/> >

### **STARFLEET REGION 10:**

“Starfleet was founded by Star Trek enthusiasts in 1974 and has become an international fan organization whose members ( 4000 + ) are united the world over in their appreciation of Star Trek. Hundreds of chapters worldwide link members into local fandom as well as the international organization.”

“Region 10 encompasses the geopolitical areas of Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon.

Includes Starships: USS Majestic ( Victoria, B.C. ), USS SOL ( Alaska ), & USS Bondar ( ? ).

For details & info: < <http://www.10thfleet.org/> >

## **CANADIAN SCI-FI FACEBOOK SITES:**

### **CANADIAN FANDOM:**

You guessed it! A Canada-wide Facebook devoted to Sci-Fi fans, actors, artists, authors, concon, costumers, panelists, sfx people, fan writers, zine editors and all kinds other imaginative people. 143 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3198365242> >

### **CANADIAN UNITY FAN FUND (CUFF):**

A discussion group for fen who want to promote CUFF, the Cdn fan fund which sends an Eastern fan to a Western con/Convention ( Aurora Awards ) & West to East in alternating years for sake of Cdn fannish unity. 10 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=6119342503> >

### **F.R.E.D. ( FORGET REALITY ENJOY DRINKING ):**

This is a Facebook for a Vancouver centred social club which has been meeting weekly at local watering holes since 1979. Sci-Fi orientated. ( See also F.R.E.D. under Local Clubs. ) 56 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2351668529> >

### **MONTREAL FANDOM:**

“A celebration and gathering of all past and present members of Montreal Fandom, as well as their many friends throughout the world.” 35 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3433145295> >

### **OTTAWA FANDOM:**

A Facebook for Ottawa fans & anyone interested in keeping in touch with them. 28 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=3254325206> >

### **SCI-FI ON THE ROCK II:**

A Facebook for concom, attendees & fans of SCI-FI ON THE ROCK, Newfoundland’s annual Sci-Fi convention, founded 2007. 76 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=4107298179> >

### **VANCOUVER FANDOM:**

A Facebook for Vancouver & Lower Mainland fans & all those interested in knowing them. 33 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2399759573> >

### **VCON:**

A Facebook for concom, attendees, & fans of VCON, Canada’s longest-running ongoing Sci-Fi Convention ( founded 1971 ). Held annually Vancouver/Lower Mainland area. ( Next VCON will be #33 in October 2008. ) 96 members.

< <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=2315972840> >

## **CANADIAN SCI-FI WEBSITES OF INTEREST:**

### **CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA:**

This is a ‘work in progress’ project I’ve been working on for more than a decade. Essentially my working notes for an A to Z ‘Incomplete Guide to the History of Twentieth Century Canadian Science Fiction Fandom’. It is my intention to list and describe every Canadian Sci-Fi fanzine, club & organization since the 1930s as well as explain and detail fannish slang, custom, lore and legend. Granted, most of the traditions which form the underlying infrastructure of ‘fandom’ originated in the United States and Great Britain, but I include as much Canadian material as possible as I stumble across it in my research. For example, only Canadian zines are described. Don’t have the time or space to detail foreign zines. So yes, a world-wide Fancyclopedia, but focused on Canadian fannish history.

NOTE: Sometimes people visiting my site, instead of finding the latest A-Z version, hit upon an earlier version that is merely A-C. Don’t know why. Solution is simple. Click on ‘C’ to get the page dealing with ‘C’ subjects. At the top of the page where it says “Go to [E](#) or back to [Main Page](#)”, click on ‘E’ and it will take you to the ‘E’ page and also magically jump to the latest A-Z version so that you can now jump to any page. Weird. So rest assured, the Canadian Fancyclopedia is *NOT* stuck in limbo but is in fact updated on a quasi-regular basis. On the Main Page just click on ‘Info on Updates’ for a list of the latest addition.

< <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

### **CANADIAN SF -- THE CANADIAN SPECULATIVE FICTION FORUM:**

“Fans, publishers, and authors of Canadian SF are welcome to join the discussion of speculative fiction. Log on and chat about science fiction, fantasy, alternate history, or any combination of the genres that make up the varied landscape of speculative fiction in Canada.”

- Know of a convention, reading, or other event? [Post it on our coming events board.](#)
- Have you just published or discovered a new [science fiction](#) or [fantasy](#) story? Announce it [here!](#)
- Want to discuss Canadian [science fiction](#) or [fantasy](#)?



- Chat about [science fiction](#) and [fantasy](#) literature for children.
- Or [click here](#) for an overview of forum topics.

For details & info: < <http://www.pippin.ca/cgi-bin/YaBB/SF/> >

### **FANDOM.CA:**

“Before Fandom.ca was a website, it was a protest. In 2000, a company calling themselves Fandom, Inc. attempted to register a trademark on the word "fandom". Their application was denied, as "fandom" was a word in common usage since its first appearance in Webster's Dictionary in 1903. Despite not actually having a trademark, Fandom, Inc. began legal proceedings against a fan who owned another website... The fraudulent legal exploits of Fandom, Inc. caused Science Fiction fans all over the world to begin registering domain names with the word "fandom" in them to keep those domain names out of unscrupulous corporate hands. Seeing such a need, I registered Fandom.ca with the [Canadian Internet Registration Authority](#).”

“Then, in February 2002, the development started, and here is the result. Like all good websites, it's a work in continual progress. I hope to make it part information resource, and part weblog. In either of these areas, if there is some information I have missed, that should be known to all fandom, please feel free to [contact me](#) with links to information of interest. With help from fandom at large, this will hopefully become one of the better fannish resources available.”

**Andrew C. Murdoch** < <http://www.fandom.ca/> >

## **OOK, OOK, SLOBBER, DROOL!**

**From: LLOYD PENNEY, March 8<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Dear Graeme:

The snow is blowing, it's almost the snowiest winter in Toronto history, and it's coming down so hard, I can barely see across the highway. What better day than to stay in a get some writing done? Following are comments on WCSFAzine 7. These zines are getting bigger with each issue...

Great cover. We do everything so electronically now, perhaps it's time for a retro time where everything is done by hand. It's getting impossible to create a crudzine...good in some ways, yet bad in others.

When Phil Dick was a manic guest at VCon, was it the fact he was so happy to be there, or was this a byproduct of the various drugs he was taking? I've read a few accounts of this early convention, and Dick's activities there, and one I read said that Dick had considered not only living in Vancouver, but also taking out Canadian citizenship.

Well, according to people attending, Dick was on a 'high' at the convention; drug induced possibly, but also the product of his desperate belief he would soon die. As will be revealed in next issue, he *did* stay in Vancouver, dreaming of living here permanently ( changed his mind about dying I guess ), and taking out citizenship might have been part of his plan. But he'd have to give up US citizenship first, and dealing with US authorities is the *last* thing he wanted to do.

Alas, our country is quite large, and traveling from one side of it to the other is not always affordable. Yvonne and I had a fine time at VCon 25, and Yvonne again a few years later as the instant science GoH. We'd like to come back and share a weekend with you, but aviation fuel is not getting any cheaper. I'd like to participate more in the CUFF debate, but I wonder if the idea of such a fund is dying, mostly because people more and more are coming to conventions, not to foster a community, but to have an individual good time, if they are coming to conventions at all. I hope that Lance Sibley might take the bait and take on CUFF, but he is busy with Polaris most years.

...Fortunately Lance Sibley *did* take the bait. I confess my principle reason for supporting CUFF ( apart from being a former winner ) is not to unite Canfandom, but because I enjoy reading the trip reports -- yours for instance -- so much. Which reminds me -- still waiting for Peter Jarvis's report

I think Ad Astra is only a couple of years younger than VCon. I have been told that conventions don't number themselves any more, old fuddy-duddy that I am...this year, it's Ad Astra 2008, and it's the end of this month, if the snow will go away. And, every year, it's Anime North. No number, no year. What do I know any more?

VCON began in 1971, and AD ASTRA started ten years later in 1981, or at least the first Toronto convention to be named AD ASTRA ( I think 1981, I know for sure Ad ASTRA 2 was in 1982 ). But the first Canadian Star Trek convention, TORONTO STAR TREK CON 1976, may be the ancestor of AD ASTRA, so only 5 years difference. I hate the lack of numbering too. For a fan historian it's almost as bad as those rare faneds who refuse to number or date their zines!

You'll notice that one of the quotes from Canadian Fansom #10 (May 1946) mentions Art Widner. Art is still around, travels at will around the continent, was at the Toronto Corflu a few years ago, and I expect to see him at the Corflu in Las Vegas. Art is now 90 years of age, and nothing is slowing him down. I also see mention of Don Hutchison, and Don still lives in Toronto, too.

I met Widner at a Ditto in Seattle about 10-15 years ago. Loved his vest! Multiple large pockets fore and aft. I offered him a copy of my ENTROPY BLUES one-shot as he stood there with drink in one hand and cigarette in the other, and he

cheerfully instructed me to stick it in a pocket, any free pocket, the majority being crammed with zines already offered to him by newbies such as myself. Don't know if he needs the vest nowadays. So few faneds with paper zines...

Yes, Murray Moore is in charge of fan programming at Anticipation, and I am looking after the fanzine lounge there. (I looked at the index...I'm on the rampage? What am I supposed to have done now?) We will definitely have our Cancon allotment. Now to see what we are allowed to do, and how much budget we have to do it with. By the way, I don't have a copy of Murray Moore's tribute zine to Harry Warner, Jr. How much for a copy? (As I read on...Murray's all over this zine! A personal fanac revival. He'll be in Vegas for Corflu as well. I am beginning to wonder if I'm a DUFF jinx. Murray is the second DUFF candidate I've nominated, and both have lost.)

Are you on a rampage? Well...no, but I was hoping... I like tabloid-style headlines to keep things lively...

Prunecon? In Toronto in 1978? It might have been a private party, or a nickname for one of the earlier conventions, like FanFaire. I have never heard of it, and I got to know about earlier conventions in Toronto like FanFaire and Yvonne's first convention, GVSTAcon.

I know the archive has a flyer on PRUNECON. I've seen it! I just can't find it. The fact that it was found worthy of an Elron here in far off B.C. strongly suggests that it actually took place, or that at the very least it was some sort of successful hoax. Time may bring the answer.... I attended the first Toronto Triple Fan Fair in 1968 and I plan to write about it next issue... What was GVSTAcon?

I see you've got more writing from James Bacon. I have never really been a comics reader, but it's good to see he is profiling Canadian comic artists. Ad Astra is trying its best to become a venue to meet comics artists and writers, and Darwyn Cook and many others have been in attendance the last few years. James has certainly done his research.

I hope he does more and offers it to me!... The cry of the voracious FanEd!

The Facebook list is a valuable one. I have a Facebook page (trying to streamline it, and possibly shut it down some time in the future), and in today's paper, there is a story about Facebook fatigue, about how much time a Facebook page burns, and how many people are walking away from it, needing to devote time to other things. I know how they feel. The Canadian SF Forums...I go there from time to time, but it hasn't really gotten off the ground. I've placed some of my past convention lists on it, but that didn't get any discussion going. I think people may have to make a date to chat there, or simply use the forums to chat away for their own purposes. Yvonne and I will be running a room party there, on of the Aparticon series we've been running at home since 1981.

I've found Facebook pretty useless so far. Nothing ever seems to get posted.

My loc...I certainly did not intend to suggest that you profile American zinesters in this fine zine. I only meant that profiles of Canadian pros and fans could be done in a Lan's Lantern style of special issue. I will attempt to do a con report on Ad Astra...I have been away from the committee long enough to look at the con with an objective (and partially jaundiced) eye. I think I can also write up a Corflu con report. The Editors' Association of Canada has branches across the country, including one in Vancouver. Go to [www.editors.ca](http://www.editors.ca) for all the information you might need. It is a professional organization, and I am hoping that it might help me find some more work.

I eagerly await your CORFLU CON REPORT....not that I'm pressuring you to write it...much...

All done for the moment, and almost hit two pages; not bad at all. I hope this e-mail makes it through all this snow. The 427 is crawling along, and we are snug inside. Take care, and see you next issue. With some luck, there'll be some egoboo waiting for us on the Aurora ballot.

As I go to press, I thought to check the < [www.prix-aurora-awards.ca](http://www.prix-aurora-awards.ca) > site and I'm sorry to say you are not on the 2008 ballot. Damn! You certainly deserve to be. And Dale Spiers' OPUNTIA is the only fanzine listed. That's an indication right there how low on the horizon the profile of zinedom is in Canada. Sigh. This is partly my fault. I know I voted for you in the upcoming Faan awards, but I let the Aurora nomination deadline slip right past me. I think. I thought I voted, I certainly intended to, but I guess I didn't. Ghu blast me! You deserve a HUGO, not just an AURORA. I swear I'll nominate you next year. At my age I don't mind forgetting to do things once and a while, but when it effects other people... apologies. I'll get you in next year...Just goes to show: one vote may not count, but the lack of a vote certainly does...

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

**From: JOHN PURCELL, March 15<sup>th</sup> 2008**

Hey there, Graeme -

It is good to see your fine zine plopping its electrons onto my computer screen this morning. I definitely agree with you that this is a "good, meaty issue" with loads of good information.

The upcoming publication of your wife's fantasy novel is good news, indeed. I hope all goes well with that endeavour.

She has been working at it for so many years it is a real joy to witness positive results of her effort.

I never had the pleasure of meeting Philip K. Dick at any con in the past, so for you folks to have him as the GoH at V-Con 2 was a coup. Sounds like he was a fine guest, and the con was a success.

Considering he was on the verge of a nervous breakdown and believed he was close to death, he performed exceptionally well and *seemed* to enjoy himself. His life in Vancouver was ultimately a cathartic experience that put him back on track as a writer and a person, but it was quite an ordeal, as will be revealed next issue.

I have to admit, the retro-con report coupled with the current con report - or relatively recent V-Con - makes for an interesting comparison. The Elron Awards are always interesting reading. For some reason I always think that the Elrons are not meant to be taken seriously. That must be because I could never take L. Ron Hubbard's work seriously. Oh, well.

Different Smotes ( Secret Masters of the Elrons ) have had different approaches, though in general humour is the primary goal. I've been the current Smote since 1990 and certainly getting laughs ( cheap or otherwise ) has always been my intention. On occasion the satirical nature of the Elrons has been somewhat sharp, but that's not a bad thing necessarily; often the recipients deserve it. Sometimes not – in my opinion – as I point out in my notes, but that's only my opinion.

You are likewise providing a wonderful service in the articles about Beak Taylor and Albert Betts. We American fans should be a lot more knowledgeable about our Canadian fannish brethren, so these brief biographies are valuable in the information they give. There really isn't that much published about Canadian fans and fandom, so what you are doing is wonderful. Kudos to you for getting this material into print.

I'm only as good as my source material, but thankfully long-time Canadian fans like Taral Wayne and Garth Spencer have produced much good work, and I'm able to sorta collate stuff together. I will take credit for some original research, making inquiries, etc, but in general I owe everything to the contents of the BCSFA/WCSFA archive and the good will of fans across Canada ( and some in the States ) who have been willing to share their knowledge of Canadian zinedom with me. I'm just trying to get it on easily accessible record before the information disappears all together.

With that, I am going to have to cut this short. I have to get some grading done, but I wanted you to know that I appreciate your efforts, and look forward to your next issue. Take care, and keep those fannish fires burning.

I'm still enjoying myself immensely, and as long as I continue to derive segoboo ( self-created egoboo, satisfaction with one's own efforts ) I will continue producing WCSFAzine. Mind you, it's very pleasant to receive locs like yours. I just wish more people would take the trouble to write. Unnerving for a faned to fire off his work into a vacuum so to speak. But I like to assume for every loc I don't get there's a thousand people who worship the ground I tread on... or something like that. The usual faned-ish humility, etc.

All the best, John Purcell

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