

ORIAN BOURNE - ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

## BCSFAzine.pdf (#3)

This is the first issue produced on a Power Mac G3 and using the newest versions of Pagemaker and Photoshop.

Anyone wishing to subscribe to the electronic version of the BCSFAzine can do so by e-mailing me at [woolf@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:woolf@vcn.bc.ca)

There were concerns over the fact that this version will be accessible to non-members through the web. You must be a full member of WCSFA in order to receive this magazine in any of its forms.

When you subscribe electronically, your name will be transferred from the snail mail list to the e-mail list. This version is not available on-line. You cannot visit any web site to download it, it is only through direct e-mail from me that you can receive the e-zine.

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<http://www.adobestudios.com>

The Acrobat version is in full colour and is cross PC and MAC compatible. You can print out a copy on your home computer. If you have a colour printer, the printout will also be in colour.

See page 5 (Johnny Says...) for more reasons why BCSFAcrobatzine is the choice of the future.



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**August 1998** Volume 26, #8  
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 (The B.C.S.F. Association is a social club sub-committee of W.C.S.F.A.)

For comments, suggestions, and/or submissions, write to:

WCSFA  
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10% WCSFA member's discount does not apply on sale items.

#### Dear Editor:

BCSFAzine #300 arrived, and once again I made to feel inferior since I don't have several thousands of dollars to buy all the expensive stuff needed to get on-line and receive your zine by e-mail, thus saving you 52 cents postage.

And just what the heck IS an Adobe Acrobat Reader???

Your zine has been the latest in a conspiracy to force me on-line. I have started playing a game of Modern Diplomacy in the zine THT ABYSSINIAN PRINCE. Of the ten players, seven have e-mail. And although I get the zine every three weeks thanks to the United States Postal Service, those reading this LOC who want to see my game in action can send the magic words <subscribe tap> to <majordomo@igo.org> and get the exact same zine every three weeks by e-mail.

And in the newspapers I read that Apple will soon be marketing something called iMAC, designed to make internet connections easy for the Electronically Challenged like myself. Have you heard anything about the iMAC, pro or con, that I should know about?

In the meantime, I have had a break from work as I do ten days of jury duty. I am not sure what the situation is in Canada, but here in the USA the lawyers have something called "pre-emptory challenges" that they use to remove potential juror with an IQ above 80. The ideal jury seems to be 12 gullible sheep. At least I do know that I have never been allowed to be an actual juror. I still get called every 1-4 years for jury duty despite all my efforts to be removed from the mailing list.

yours Aye...

*Harry Cameron Andruschak*

#### Dear John:

In the May issue, I could feel sympathy with your despair over gimmicks to make more cash out of old movies by the slightest of changes. But isn't it possible movie moguls got the idea originally from the book industry? Just think about all the times a paperback book has been reissued years later with a new cover illustration, sometimes even with a new title, to try to make potential purchasers believe it's a novel they haven't read previously. Then there has been the "limited edition" gimmick, which never includes a statement about how many hundreds of thousands of copies have been produced for the purpose, or how it would be possible to produce an unlimited edition.

I'm not an X-Files enthusiast, so I can't get too agitated about the change in shooting sites from Vancouver to Los Angeles, but I keep thinking about what happened when Laverne and Shirley moved from Milwaukee to LA. First, they experienced an earthquake and then their own adventures became inferior, and finally the series was shut down. Vancouver seems to be lucky because I have the impression that it hasn't needed to do anything financially to get that series and other productions to shoot there. There is currently a lot of controversy in Hagerstown about the demands of a producer for local money to help finance a Civil War movie he wants to shoot around here.

CUFF has finally made it as a major fan organization. A big fuss always puts a fan group into the big time, and nobody could dispute the claim for CUFF after the present controversy. I hope nobody gets hurt or quits fandom as a result of the hostilities.

I was very pleased to learn that your club has a good-sized hoard of Kteic in the hands of a first-rate custodian. Reprinting some of Bill's writing from that publication would

seem to be a good idea, if common sense is used so no living person's feelings would be too badly hurt. Bill was quite frank in much of the fanzine's material he turned out for a large audience, and I believe Kteic had such a limited circulation because he didn't want the expense and labor involved in sending it out to almost everyone.

In the June issue, I finally found a mental image for Lloyd Penney: the youthful James Garner. That's because Lloyd describes himself as a dogsbody in his new job, and Garner portrayed the ultimate dogsbody in The Americanization of Emily, a wonderful and much underappreciated movie.

One very early example of inanimate objects coming to life is in Ravel's little fantasy opera, L'Enfant et les Sortilèges. Its first scene has such ambulating and singing items as an armchair, a teapot, china, fireplace ashes, and a clock, plus wallpaper whose shepherdesses sing in a chorus.

Hollywood producers of science fiction movies are getting themselves into the same impossible situation as producers of Broadway musicals. They have been trying to outdo one another in expensive ingredients and now the public seems unwilling to accept the productions which are modest in size and intentions. I suppose there is no chance that we'll ever get again science fiction on the screen in the effective and inexpensive forms that it enjoyed in such early television series as The Outer Limits and The Twilight Zone. For instance, one memorable episode had only one major character, virtually no dialogue, and only one special effect, which I imagine was achieved by a travelling matte: an old woman alone in her big house suddenly finds a tiny spaceship breaking into it and indulges in a desperate battle with the invader, ending in a big surprise. There was the man with terrible eyesight who is the only survivor of a catastrophe that kills everyone else and he never is able to indulge in his dream of uninterrupted reading because he breaks his glasses. I doubt if the average episode of those series cost any more to create than the average half-hour sitcom of the era, but some were genuine and effective science fiction and they hold up well today.

*Harry Warner, Jr.*

Dear John:

### Greetings and Happy Canada Day!

I'm always catching up...the hurrieder I go, the behinder I get. So, I have here issues 300 and 301 of the BCSFAzine, and some comments are due.

First of all, news and various tidbits...Yvonne, with the help of the tech folks at work, has found and downloaded a copy of Adobe Acrobat, so you can now send .pdf files to her e-mail address.

I would remind people about the Aurora Awards...the final ballot is now out, and Aurora administrator Dennis Mullin should be mailing and e-mailing ballots soon. However, if you are interested in obtaining it yourself, you can find it at: <http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/vot98bal.html>.

Vote early and vote often. I won the Aurora in the Fan Achievement (Other) category for fan writing, and I have been nominated for it again. \*grin\*ahem\*

300...The re-release of the Star Wars trilogy not only brought the crowds back again, but gave us all a chance to re-live the excitement of the movies coming out. The first time around gave us a jolt of sensawunda; the second time around is quite nostalgic. The original release of Star Wars saw me as a new resident of Victoria, just having moved out from Ontario, and just a couple of months after that, my discovery of the United Federation of Canadian Star Trekkers and fandom in general.

R. Graeme Cameron has put out the word that Yvonne and I have won CUFF by acclamation, with nine nominations from across the country. (There they are on page 6.) So, there won't be a vote, but as soon as information comes in from Graeme, we plan to be at Con\*cept in Montreal in October, and do some fund-raising there. We also plan a trip report that we will sell, with the proceeds going to CUFF. As my comment to what's happening with the CUFF discussions...screw the politics, folks, and you will NOT drag us into the slime. We ran for CUFF to keep it going and try to make it vital again. We believe that CUFF is for all fans, but that fanzine fans have a better information network through their own fanzines, so we expect that these fans will continue to dominate the fund. We will carry out our duties as CUFF delegates in Montreal (we've already been in touch with Ann Methe, the chair of Con\*cept this year, and we are listed on the latest flyer), and write a trip report, with the proceeds to go to CUFF.

301...More on CUFF...interesting proposal, but fans being fans, they'd want their money back if they didn't win the opportunity to travel on the CUFF account. The idea, though of about a thousand fans contributing is right out of the ballpark...I'd say less than 50 fans across the country care about this fund, or even know about it. Low? Only about 200 fans take part in the major funds like TAFF or DUFF, so we're actually doing quite well.

Graeme Cameron told me that V-Con went very well this year, and that the profits have given local fandom a financial boost. Ad Astra 18 also did quite well this year, with higher attendance and a good time had by most, and to confirm, Yvonne and I will be the FanGoHs at Ad Astra 19 next year. Joining us as guests will be Fred Saberhagen, Charles Sheffield, Nancy Kress (the new Mrs. Sheffield), Scott Edelman and Bob Eggleton. I'll send more as the word gets out, but try the Ad Astra website for more information.

Anthropomorphic appliances? I had to wonder what Thomas Disch thought when Disney came out with The Brave Little Toaster, but now I have to wonder again with The Brave Little Toaster Goes to Mars.

All right, I'll be a long-distance shit disturber...I will ask Lisa Gemino why she won't run for a BCSFA position ever again. I've worked on club executives too, and I know the pain and heartbreak that can come with that kind of work, but is there some dissection in the ranks?

We've made a final decision...we are going to Baltimore in August, and will be driving down in our new Suzuki Esteem station wagon with Don and Lisa Shears from Trenton, ON. Who from BCSFA will be there? Be sure to visit the Toronto in 2003 table; I'll probably see you there.

That's all for now...I'll e-mail this as soon as Yvonne brings the laptop home from work. Take care, and see you next issue, or even in Baltimore.

*Yours, Lloyd Penney.*

Dear Editor and Graeme:

I meant to write in time for the last issue, in response to your story about John Mansfield, and his ... screed, I guess you'd call it, about your fanhistory of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund.

I want to say that you needn't take his remarks too much to heart. John gave me the same sort of business about daring to write a draft fanhistory of Winnipeg. He seems to have this idea that once anyone writes anything, it's the Last Word, and nobody gets a chance to correct any errors or omissions. How he manages to hold this opinion, after some thirty years in fandom, I don't know. Fans are, if anything, only too ready to express their opinions about anything, and nothing is ever settled or undisputed in fan publishing. Nothing has ever stopped him from writing a Winnipeg fanhistory; nothing stops

him now from writing a totally separate, new history of CUFF.

I don't see, either, \*why\* John seems to think he's slighted in some way. I am forced to speculate that maybe he's been desperate for recognition, all these years, and never quite achieved it, and doesn't realize when and how he alienates and exasperates people.

I wouldn't have asked for so many column inches on the subject, except that you and our editor seem to have been affected by this screed far more than it deserves. Also, I have wanted to tell John for a long time to lose this chip on his shoulder, to say straight out whatever he's suggesting, and quit the cryptic, suggestive sarcasms he's so fond of. But I've tried and failed before.

*Garth Spencer*

[hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca) / [golem@direct.ca](mailto:golem@direct.ca)

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Dear Mr. Wong:

Hello, and thank you for taking the time to read this letter! First, I'd like to mention how much I enjoyed your web site. It was a lot of fun to read and contained many terrific links!

Secondly, I'm contacting you in the hope that you find this interesting enough to participate in: I am working on a writing project that compiles the votes of people in various fields regarding subject matter pertaining to their areas of experience. For this particular category, "The Best Horror Films" of all time, I am contacting **writers and publishers of comic books, short stories, novels, and magazines**, who have a little more familiarity with the horror genre than most other writers do.

I would consider myself most fortunate if you would help me in this endeavor by casting your vote for the three best horror films of all time, whereupon I will then add them to the pool of submissions and continue the tallying process. Your comments are also welcome and encouraged.

I thank you very much for reading this letter and hope that you will take part in the voting. Best of luck to you with all your own projects!

Best Wishes,

*William Kozy c/o*

billkozy@juno.com or billkozy@aol.com

*Being somewhat unfamiliar with the genre of Horror, I was only able to cast a single vote for Alien as the best Horror movie I have ever seen. Not much else really applies with the possible exceptions of Naked Lunch and Videodrome.*

*William wishes to ask **writers of horror** to cast their vote on the top three horror movies of all time. He can be reached at the address above. Please, **only professional writers and publishers are asked to vote.***

*As for the rest of us, you can still cast your vote by sending it here at the BCSFAzine, at [woolf@vtcinet.com](mailto:woolf@vtcinet.com) and I will publish the WCSFA favorites. It would be interesting to see what movies will appear in this survey.*

*If you do not have E-Mail, you can send your letters to the WCSFA address at: **WCSFA Horror Survey: #110-1855 West 2nd Ave. Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1J1.** I will compile the results in October so you have well over a month to make your choices.*

*Editor.*

Dear John:

Not sure if the current term of WCSFA Executive ends in September or October, so I've decided to put my name down for President. Perhaps you should consider putting out a call for nominees (and incumbents) to put their bids in. It's been a long time since we had a contested election in this club and perhaps it's time we did.

Sincerely

*Doug Finnerty.*

I, Doug Finnerty, do hereby announce my intention to assume the position of president of WCSFA, upon the end of the current term (or to contest any other candidate for this position in the event of an election).

Secunder - Steve Forty Nominators - Teemu Lesti, Frank P. Skinner.

## Forget Reality Enjoy Feeding Frenzies. (or tell me why I don't like Mondays again.)

I've been a silly boy. While checking my calendar a few months back. I assumed August 31 (i.e.: that month's last Monday) fell on a long weekend. Little did I realize that Labour Day was actually September 7, until July's BCSFAzine was already out. This means that August's "Balkan Grill" would make a perfect place for the August FREFF, since it's right across the street from the PNE (Renfrew side). To date, I've been unable to determine whether or not this place opens on a Monday night. On one occasion, I actually walked through the front door to find nobody home. However, the menu items were very expensive (something that's been brought to my attention on previous FREFF adventures in Vancouver), so maybe it's just as well. Perhaps next year we'll do this place.

August's FREFF will be at Fatoz's Barbecue Smokehouse (2884 West Broadway). A fine establishment with an apparent mandate to prove that the cuisine of the American ought is very strange. If you remember what I said last issue about the house barbecue sauce, you should be aware that the vegetarian items on the menu include fried pickles, stuffed jalapenos and sweet potato pie. In other words, I think I'll like this place.

So remember: Monday August 24 at 7pm. Fatoz's Barbecue Smokehouse. 2884 West Broadway, Vancouver.

September's FREFF will be at New Westminster's "Burger Heaven" (77 10th. ST.), where you can either contest or applaud my decision that there shall be no FREFF in December.

So remember: Monday September 28 at 7pm. Burger Heaven. 77 10th St., New Westminster.

Just one day after writing the above, my current employer advised me that my status had been upgraded from on-call to full time for an indefinite period. The bad news being that I am now on the afternoon shift, and can no longer guarantee my presence at FREFF.

Obviously, cancelling FREFF is not an option, since we have been getting a substantial number of people in attendance. And there is the potential that even more will join us in the coming months. So either I can continue setting the date and places for FREFF in the hope that I'm able to show up for at least one of them, or I can delegate that task to whoever wants to volunteer. Please note that unless you've been to a FREFF, you don't get a say.

So, if I did not make it to the July FREFF, that was the reason why. Please accept my apology. And please let me know how it went.

*Doug Finnerty*

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In the letters column, H. Andruschak said “... *once again I am made to feel inferior since I don't have several thousands of dollars to buy all the expensive stuff needed to get on-line and receive your zine by e-mail, thus saving you 52 cents postage.*

*“And just what the heck IS an Adobe Acrobat Reader???”*

Let us start with Adobe Acrobat Reader. It is the computer program that allows you to display the Acrobat file on your computer screen or to print it out on the printer. The Acrobat file is the file format which I generate on the computer.

In order for you to receive the Acrobat file, you must first have a computer with a modem. A simple and cheap computer is all you need. The only restriction you need to worry about that the computer must be able to run Windows 3.11 or better, Windows NT, or MAC OS 7.1 or better. This means that if you have an Atari or an Amiga with PC or Mac emulation, you too can participate.

Finally, you need an E-Mail account. I personally have an E-Mail account that costs me \$25 per year. I donate that amount to the local freenet. It is a bit difficult to use at times but it is cheap. There are other commercial e-mail only accounts which are around \$5.00 per month. (Time online is extra).

Getting a hold of the Acrobat Reader is simple. You must have full web access, but judging by the number of AOL disks that they give out to attract customers with ten free hours, I can't see it being all that hard to get free on-line time for this one purpose. The Adobe web site address is on the cover.

I am not saying that everyone must switch to the Acrobat E-Mail system of receiving the BCSFAzine. I am just saying that people who can will be able to help out the club by choosing this option. The benefits of this method include getting the magazine the day it goes to the photocopier, full colour images and whenever possible, extra articles.

The cost of the zine is not just in the postage. There is the photocopier to pay for as well. Over the past six months, this magazine has been printed at a commercial location while the club photocopier undergoes repairs. The cost has been staggering to the club as the treasury became dangerously low at one point.

The club photocopier is unable to handle the volume that we currently put it through. It takes over a week to print out the magazine. Each time we try to rush it, the thing breaks down and we have to pay the repairman again. Each Acrobat subscription means one less copy we have to make. If everyone with E-Mail decided to subscribe electronically, we would be printing almost half as many copies as we do now.

The savings to the club will allow us to rectify the number one complaint of the membership, which is the lack of club events. Money saved through the electronic subscriptions may be spent on renting space for dances or book discussions.

Special outings to Science World or The Pacific Space Centre can be organized. How about a mini-con at one of these places one or two months before VCON to sell memberships? The usual convention events like a masquerade, discussion panels, art shows, readings, and club tables can be presented by WCSFA and any other club which wishes to participate. It gives the public an idea of what the local clubs are all about and promotes the upcoming VCON.

The E-Mail zine is not there to make anyone feel inferior. It is an alternative that has benefits which are good for the club and the subscriber. You can still get the regular edition in the mail. It's just better all round electronically. 📧

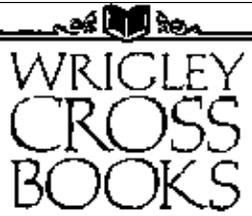


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## Night of the Writer Roasties

On Tuesday September 15 at 7pm, we will be discussing "Steeldriver" by Don DeBrandt. The selected venue: "Tops Restaurant" at 2790 Kingsway, Vancouver. Should Don show up as a willing participant, we will pick up his tab. If my unpredictable work schedule prevents me from attending, don't let that stop you from being there. In fact, you might want to nominate someone else in attendance (or even me) to organize the next Writers Roastie.

Many copies of "Steeldriver" are still out there in bookstore land. Consult last issue for a list of the most likely sources. Or, if all else fails, resort to amazon.com, while it's still around.

Doug Finerty

## F.R.E.D. - Every Friday

The weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in joining us for an evening of conversation and relaxation, with pool table option.

At the Burrard Motor Inn opposite St. Paul's Hospital (Downtown Vancouver) 6 blocks south of Burrard Skytrain Station. 3 blocks west of Granville (where many buses run).

#22 Knight/McDonald bus along Burrard. Begins 8:00pm.

On the Friday before long weekends, FRED will be at the lounge of Bosman's Hotel. This is two blocks east and a part of a block north of the Burrard Motor Inn (actual address is 1060 Howe St.).

## Ether Patrol Radio Show - Every Wednesday

Listen to the only SF talk show on Vancouver Co-Op Radio, hosted by Simba. Wednesday nights at 9:30 PM on CFRO 102.7FM.

**Contributor's Deadline** -, July 17th, Aug. 14th, Sept 18th, Oct. 16th, Nov. 13th, Dec. 18th Send your submissions/loc to John Wong at 2041 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5N 1X9 or E-Mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca.

**BCSFaine Collation** - Aug. 10th, Sept. 6th, Oct. 4th, Nov. 8th, Dec. 6th. First Sunday of the month. 4:30PM. Call Steve Forty (S.40) to confirm at 936-4754.

**BCSFazine Pickup at FRED** - August 7th, Sept 11th, Oct. 9th, Nov. 6th, Dec. 11th Pick up your issue of BCSFazine at FRED! Pristine, mint condition copies are available at FRED. Call Steve to let him know you wish to pick up your copy.

WCSFA Bar-Be-Que July 18th, at 2234 8th Avenue in New Westminster (at Merina Mathews') Call Lisa at 985-1567 with any questions. Bring Your Own Everything! (If it is raining that day, the BBQ is cancelled.)

## Con 8, July 24-27, 1998 (Cancelled)

**Hey everyone! Forget Reality Enjoy Swimming in a Hot tub** Returns to 8261 Victoria Drive this August 1st! Starting at or about 7 pm If you enjoyed swimming last year or wanted to but just didn't make it out here's your chance to resume or join in the fun!

The rules are simple:

- 1 - Bring something to cook (if you want to use the BBQ it will be lit by 7:30)
- 2 - Bring something to drink (your favorite beverage)
- 3 - Bring something to share (an appetizer, snack, or dessert)
- 4 - Bring your own suit and towel (for enjoying the tub before 12 am - suit optional after then) Mary & David also are asking a paltry toonie (\$2.00 or more if you feel so inclined) to help cover the chemical costs of operating the hot tub over the year!

Call 667-9751 to info callback &/or e-mail murdock@axionet.com Bring a friend, share the fun!

Other dates are: Sept 5, Oct 3, Nov 7, & Dec 5!

Look for our New Years' announcement in Oct or Nov! Yours David Malinski a.k.a. MURDOCK the Orion Consul General "Party, Party, Partay!" - Motto of THE ORION CONSULATE Murdock

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## The U.S.S. S'harien's 7th annual "Battle of the Starships"

Will take place on **Sunday, August 23rd**, 1998, at the north east corner of Central Park, Burnaby. Cost is \$7 per person (pre-regeger) \$10 on site. Start time is 11 am. Registration starts at 10:00 am. (Children are welcome, but only adults participating please.) Get a team together now all you Vancouver and Lower Mainland clubs. The S'harien is going to take the trophy back! Registration and information 931-1241

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**WESTERCON 52/Empire Con** Spokane, WA Jul 2-5 1999

Author Guests: C.J. Cherryh, Barbara Hambly, Kristine Kathryn Rusch

Art Guests: Alicia Austin, Wendy Pini

Editor Guest: Ellen Datlow

Fan Goh: Larry Baker

Toastmaster: Betty Bigelow

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For more info: 509-891-5762

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or write:

Empire Con P.O. Box 7477 Spokane WA 99207



*Metropolitan*, Walter Jon Williams (Harper 1995)

*Writ in Blood*, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro (Tor 1997)

(NOTE: Most books reviewed in this column are available through the Vancouver Public Library, although paperbacks are not catalogued. Yarbro's book is hardcover.)

This month's reading left your reviewer in the awkward position of trying to explain why I DIDN'T like one book, although I judge it to be good, and why I DID like another, even though it has certain faults of which I am often unforgiving of. Oh well....

In *Metropolitan*, Walter Jon Williams creates a bizarre techno-fantasy world—a sort of a Gotham City planet encrusted in urban sprawl. Magic fuels this world, but the magic (called “plasm”) is channeled through wires and conduits, like electricity, and controlled by a giant utility company. Only rich people can afford plasm. Poor people can only dream... or get fantastically lucky, like the heroine, and discover an untapped plasm source that the Authority doesn't know about.

Aiah works in the bowels of the Authority's bureaucracy, in a pointless “Brazil” sort of job which she feels nonetheless lucky to have since she's a “Barkazil”—an ethnic minority in the Jaspeeri city state. Though she's clever enough to keep her mouth shut when she stumbles on the glory hole, she isn't sure how to sell the plasm she's found without getting caught. Then she hits on the idea of selling it to Constantin, a famous ruling-class exile from Cheloki. Constantin tried to overthrow the corrupt Cheloki government and the Operation (organized crime), provoking a civil war which he lost.

Williams has created a complex world and plot and he successfully weaves the details into his narrative without resorting to those awkward “As you already know, Fred” conversations which are all too common in SF. His descriptions are excellent, and his characters are strong, especially some of the minor ones such as Aiah's stupid prating mother, and her tough survivor grandmother. The pacing is also very tight, with no slow spots, except perhaps for a couple of long self-justifying speeches by Constantin about the nature of power and necessity of bloodshed.

Why then, did I ultimately find this book unsatisfying?

After two readings and a lot of thought I reached the following conclusions. First, I couldn't get emotionally attached to any of

the people in this book. Aiah is credibly drawn, but seems just a little flat, and she's not a sympathetic character. For instance, it's hard to believe that she really cares about the deaths that she eventually causes. Her internal dialogues about responsibility come across as shallow excuses. Similarly, Constantin is conceited, arrogant and self-righteous. Aiah, as a young and naive woman, might credibly be taken in by him, but the reader will probably have a hard time caring whether they win his war or not.

The second frustrating aspect to the novel is the many plot twists and characters which go nowhere. Aiah makes a series of increasingly significant mistakes which the reader might reasonably assume to have plot consequences, but which never show any result. Important characters are introduced, expanded on, and then disappear. I was left with the disconcerting impression that the end of the novel had been changed or significantly cut, leaving all sorts of loose ends dangling in a book which otherwise seems well crafted.

Nonetheless, this novel is worth reading. Williams uses a modernistic style (including narrative in the present tense) but he's skilled enough to pull it off without intrusiveness or awkwardness.

In contrast, Chelsea Quinn Yarbro writes traditional style historical romances. *Writ in Blood* is the latest lengthy chronicle of her hero Count Saint-Germain, a four-thousand year old vampire.

Now, before you non-vampire fans say “yech!” and turn the page, I point out that her vampire protagonists are in many ways just a convenient excuse for writing complex and very well researched historical novels. In particular, *Blood Games*, set in Nero's Rome, and *A Flame in Byzantium*, set in 6th century Constantinople, were fascinating portraits of life in a particular time and place.

The setting of *Writ in Blood* is equally well researched, if less exotic—Europe in 1910, on the brink of the Great War. Saint-Germain, who has taken up residence in St. Petersburg, is asked by Czar Nicholas to undertake a top secret mission to try and persuade his royal cousins (King Edward VII of England and Kaiser Wilhelm of Germany) to sign a pact limiting armament escalation. Saint-Germain takes on the assignment, even though he is doubtful about its success. Ambitious arms merchants and mercenaries conspire to stop him, by intrigue or by force.

So where's the bite? Well, of course there's a beautiful young woman—in this

case Rowena Saxon, a feisty heiress determined to be a painter rather than a leisured wife and mother, as her conventional family would insist. It's hardly surprising that Rowena would prefer an urbane and emancipated vampire to the stupid, patronizing young man who has decided that since Rowena's father will accept his proposal, Rowena's own refusal is irrelevant. And it is inevitable that she is drawn into events, with Saint-Germain coming to her rescue.

Well, it won't win any literary awards, but I find Yarbro's books entertaining. Her characters talk at enormous length, but I simply skipped political detail when I found it tedious. And if I got tired of Saint-Germain's impeccable wardrobe, or wondered why Roger would hang around being his servant for 2,000 years, I just sighed and kept reading.

Having read most of Yarbro's vampire books, I won't say this is her best. I find her female protagonists far more complex and compelling than Saint-Germain who is just TOO much of a gentlemanly tragic hero. Still, I enjoyed it. If you liked her other novels, you'll like this one too.



by Donna McMahon

(donna\_mcmahon@sunshine.net)

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I was in the school yard. I guess was about eleven, I heard a friend, Eric I think it was, talking about, well you know... IT. He told me that he could beat even Mr. Spock in keeping cool the most dangerous situations. At that time I lived in an area without cable and didn't get to see... IT... Until I was fourteen. But when I did... well couldn't help it... I was hooked.

### Confessions of a Dr. Who addict. Dr. Media's Media Files Extra.

THE TARDIS

IN TIME-SPACE DOCK, AGAIN.

DR. WHO: RUMORS & FACTS.

RUMOR: The BBC has no plans to bring back Dr. Who in the near future.

FACT: That's correct.

RUMOR: The 14,000,000 pound Daltenreys/Lumiere Pictures law suit is the real reason behind this decision.

FACT: The Daltenreys/Lumiere Pictures suit is just one of the reasons not to go ahead. Both the BBC and the people of Britain want a new series. Just NO American TV network want a series like Dr. Who at this time. Look at this from the US network stand-point. If you had a choice between a TV movie based on some well known real-life court-room battle starting Melissa Gilbert, that cost \$2,800,000 or an extraordinary, but unknown sci-fi TV movie, starting God known's who, that cost \$7,000,000 a shot with six installments a TV season, over five TV seasons, for a grand total of \$210,000,000. What would your choose if you want to keep you job by making the network tons of money? Don't forget that now 61.4% of networks audience (Which is now 27% of total American viewers.) are women, which 92.5% don't care to see some guy in a flying "Police Box" and his drop dead beautiful "companions", save the Universe.

The US networks are in business to make money and I'm afraid at this point Dr. Who doesn't fit in. Yet, in the future, like the

Doctor said "Who Knows."

RUMOR: Most Dr. Who fans dislike the 1996 FOX/BBC TV movie.

FACT: This is very, very true, even now I dislike it. Its producer is bringing out a book on the making of the film, that should be here in early 1999. It should be interesting reading and if I find anything interesting in it I'll report it in future BCSFAZines.

RUMOR: The BBC said it could bring the show back on its own.

FACT: The BBC did look into this scheme. However it would have been done on a low budget. That would be fine with people in the UK, just in America, the new series would look like a Power Rangers rip-off.

Now you saying "That for 26 years the old series was made on a low budget and it was still good." Still that was before all the new Star Trek series, Babylon5 and the X-Files. New series would still need serious FX as well as great stories lines, to compete with those series Worldwide. If not, even with marvelous story lines, the new Dr. Who would air at 3:30am Mondays here in North America.

RUMOR: The "Hard Core" series fans want any new series to be more like Virgin/BBC line of Dr. Who novels.

FACT: Most fan have said they would want the new series to be like more the novels. They would like to see companions have their own adventures and even have "relationships" while on the Doctor's TARDIS. Though stilling keeping its hearts with the original series.

Now, most of you recall that Dr. Who was children's show back in 1963. As the song said "That was then-this is now." Most series fans are now in their early 30's to mid 40's. We can watch two people kiss and head to a bedroom (Come on people, we're almost at the next Millennia. If two human-beings of any sex travels together for a long time, they just may fall in love with each other.), as long as the action stops out side the bedroom door. Hey we

got a next generation of fans to think about, too.

RUMOR: A few "Hard Core" fans want the Doctor to stay half human.

FACT: I know I'll get tons of E-mail for this. I do support the ideal that Doctor's half-human. First it would sure explain why the Doctor acts so different from other Time Lords and we may find out (Not to soon I hope) why he stole the TARDIS in the first place. Second, in the novel Human Nature, the Time Lord side of him is removed and the Doctor is 100% human (Don't asked what happen, read the book.). So he is half-human.

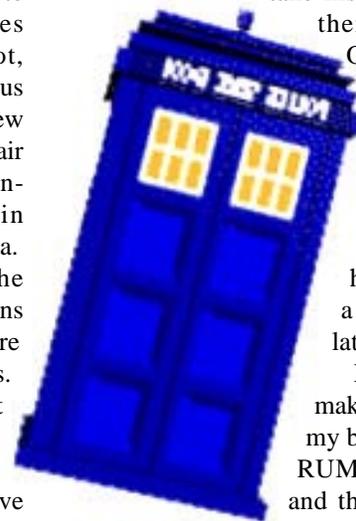
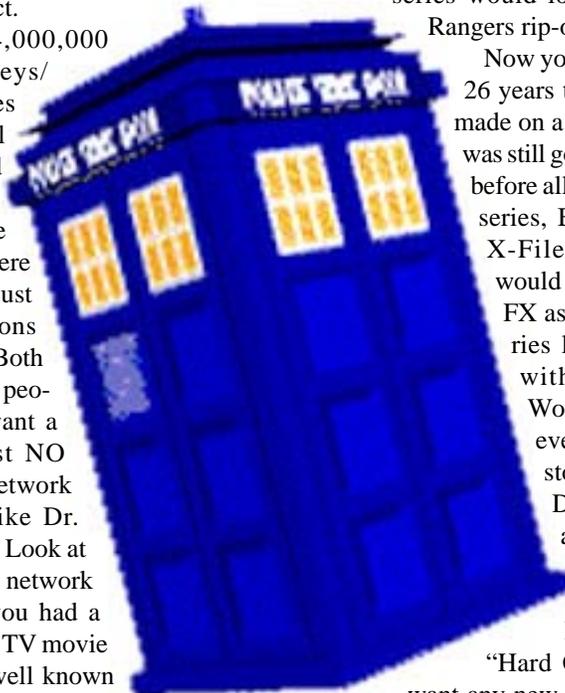
So lets say that in one of the new movies. The opening shot is of the Doctor and a female companion laying "nude" next to a lake on 19th century Earth. We find out that some one have taken his Time-Lord side and his human side has fallen madly in love and married his companion. Yet with his Time-Lord side gone, Gallifrey is under an "Evil One" domination, with Earth next on its list. Soon a bunch of revel Time Lords come to Earth and take the Doctor and the companion "home" to re-take his other half and then their world.

Only parts of him doesn't want to be a Time Lord-Human h y b r i d anymore because he loves his companion in a male-female relationship.

Now that would make a great story in my book.

RUMOR: The BBC and the leaked information from a Dr. Who fan on the Disney/ABC series Aunt Lue lead to that series not being picked up.

FACT: Aunt Lue was already shot down when the information on it leaked in late March 1998. The BBC and Dr. Who had nothing to do with the decision. Oprah Winfrey had no interest in the project and moved on to something else. Still, thanks to many Dr. Who fans, including myself. This rumor became a suit-a-fact. And because of it, I feel Disney and quite a bit of Hollywood may turn their backs on any future series.



**RUMOR:** Many fans are as mad as heck at the BBC for spending \$40,000,000 (US) on a co-production of the mini-series Bible with American network NBC, instead of a new Dr. Who series.

**FACT:** Look, the BBC is \$5,270,000,000 (Can) in the hole. BBC's chair-person Sir David Putnam made a deal with NBC and the mini-series producer that goes like this. The Beeb gives \$40,000,000 (US) toward the 140,000,000 (US) cost of Bible and it gets back 50% of the profits it makes internationally. (ie. Outside the US and UK.) So lets say that this deal gets the BBC \$740,000,000 (Can) over the next ten years. Hay maybe they could use that money on a new Dr. Who series.

Beside the in studio work for this mini-series is being done in Britain and will help the distressed film industry over there get back on its feet.

**RUMOR:** Many "True" fans think that BBC should have pulled the original after Tom Baker left.

**FACT:** I'll get lots of E-mail for this too. Yet I must agree with them. The series with a few exceptions was just awful when John Nathan-Turner took over as producer. IT was getting wicked by ITV's (BBC's main comparison.) Circus, Little House on the Prairie and even the Uncle Bobby Show in the ratings by the end of his first season, because the story lines sucked. The only reason they keep the series going was it was selling well in America. By 1984 the network could see that there was no interest in Dr. Who in the UK and cancelled it. Still there was a outcry in America for more, so it when back into production a year later still under JNT. It wasn't til' early 1989 when the American lost interest and lead the Beeb to cancel it.

Here what I feel should have happen. Instead of selling the series in America during the post Star Wars Sci-Fi boom, they could have waited a few years. By then JNT would wrack the original series so bad the Beeb would have canceled it with Tom Baker's departure. A year later they could sell the series to PBS (Or the upstart A&E.) starting with the Tom Baker episodes. It would be an instance hit over here, just like what happen in real life, but few years later. Within a few years some big American network and some big



American studio would have picked up the right to co-produce with the BBC a new Dr. Who series, that could be still airing today.

**RUMOR:** Certain fans are very angry at Little House on the Prairie, for what it did to their series in Britain and now on most PBS stations that once aired it.

**FACT:** GET A LIFE, WOULD YOU PLAESE!!!

OK any one who knew me from my Victoria days knew I once felt the same about Little House and I'm not about to fill ten volumes of BCSFAZines with the stories around it (But if you ask me at con, I'll tell some.). I have grown up since and now realizes most people around me like Little House and never even heard of Dr. Who. Almost all of them where very kind to me after my accident and we should be all kind to them. Not wishing for there favorite cast to be wiped out be a squad of Dakels. Beside many former cast member and series supporters are part of NorWes fandome. Oh, don't forget who B5's captain President John Sheridan is married to in real life.

The real reason that Little House beat Dr. Who in the UK back in 1977 was that it was a better family show then our's and even my own mother would rather watch Mike Landon then Tom Baker any day. 1980 did made things a little worst, as the BBC was essentially shut down be a six month long labor strike and then JNT took over and wrecked it. No wonder that 47.6% of Dr. Who viewers went over to Circus and Little House on ITV. Being the person that I'm now I would had done the same. PBS is a different story. Once the network got huge amounts of cash from the US government and could use the local pubic donations to pay for cult series like Space 1999, The Prisoner and Dr. Who. Now the government funding is cut to the bare bones and now these stations depend on those local public and corporate donations to survive. If shows like Little House will bring the station lots of donations, with little cost and save programs like Wild America and Scientific American This Week, it will get my support.

Now if you happen to live in an area that has lost Dr. Who to Little House on the local PBS station. Don't rent a Ryder truck and blow the station off the face of the planet. Just turn the smegging channel to either Space in here

Canada or the BBC-American down south, who both air Dr. Who weekdays starting in the fall, around the same time it used to air on PBS in most markets.

**HECK!!! IT'S ONLY A TV SHOW FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!!!**

**FYI:** Seattle's KCTS, who never aired Dr. Who in the first place, has no plans to air Little House at this time. Nevertheless it still could happen some time in the future.

**ROMOR:** There are plans for a Dr. Who feature film.

**FACT:** If I had a buck for each time I've heard that rumor, I make Bill Gates look like a homeless street person in Mexico. If there's any real plans to put the Doctor's adventures on the big screen, no announcement would be made til' the Dalteneys/Lumiere Pictures law suit is settled. (Which most likely be around this time next year.)

**MY DREAM:** Here what I would like to see happen to Dr. Who in the future. In the summer of 1999 the suit is settled and soon Spielberg's DreamWorks:SKG buys the co-production rights to both a Dr. Who feature film and possible new series of TV movies. With James Cameron in the director's chair \$130,000,000(US) DOCTOR WHO: THE MOVIE hit the screens in 2003 and soon becomes the number one sci-fi and number one movie of all times. Soon all TV networks Worldwide want the new series of TV movies and they soon become the most watched TV movies on the planet.

Heck I'll Really like to dream, don't I.

One thing I'll can tell you which is true, is that some day Americans will grow nauseous of all these reality shows and want something "different".

Then The Doctor will be in.

Sorry fellow Dr. Who fans, I'm afraid this is the last bit of news of a while. But if anything happen I'll keep your posted

Be seeing you

*Doctor Media*

drmedia@thecentre.com

(Note: Since this wa written, Sir David Putnam stepped down as BBC chair to head the Princess Diana Memorial Fund with Sir Christopher Bland taking over instead. Unlike Putnam who was a Dr. Who fan a a teen, Bland is less enthusiastic about the series' return. He would rather air the American tyle tabloid news and reality shows which are quickly becoming hits on Britianb's three commercial networks.

Many "Whovians" feel that this is the end of any new Doctor Who on television. Dr. M.)

# VCON 23 Income Statement

## Expenses

Hotel		Costs
Total		
Includes:	4588.31	
Programming Space		
Hospitality Suite		
Video Room		
ConCom Suites		
Guest Rooms		
Less occupancy discount	290.00	
		4298.31
Registration		
Badges	153.00	
Program Books	550.00	
Pocket Program	25.00	
T-Shirts	486.78	
		1214.78
Programming		
Materials	80.00	80.00
Hospitality		
Initial food	140.00	
Initial Alcohol	260.00	
Food & Alcohol Donations	1200.00	
		1600.00
Advertising		
Guest Invites	75.00	
PR#1 Postage	150.00	
PR#2 Postage	150.00	
Misc Postage	61.80	
Flyers & Posters	73.45	
		510.25
Art Show & Dealer's Room		
Costs other than room	0.00	0.00
Misc		
Guest Travel Expenses	609.00	
Guest/ConCom Banquet	140.00	
Truck Rental	100.00	
		849.00
<b>Total Costs</b>		<b>8552.34</b>

## Thank You Everyone!

We would like to thank everyone for their participation in making this the best VCON to date. Much of the success can be attributed to the many volunteers who spent many hours helping us out with various tasks making it one of the smoothest running conventions in the area.

We would like also to thank all the groups who contributed to the various charities with their fund raising efforts. The Positive Women's Network, and AIDS LA both benefitted from their generosity.

## Revenues

Registration		Total
Memberships	6955.00	
T-Shirt Sales	300.00	
		7255.00
Hospitality		
Donations	1200.00	
		1200.00
Art Show		
Show Board and Print Tables	170.00	
Sales Commission (10%)	120.00	
		290.00
Dealer's Room		
12 Tables @ \$50 each	600.00	
		600.00
Program Book Advertising		
Empire Con (Full page insert)	100.00	
Imperial Hobbies (Full page)	75.00	
C.U.F.F. (Half Page)	60.00	
		235.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>9580.00</b>

**VCon Income 1029.00**

\* Note: Figures do not take into account all hospitality donations and spending. Also, not included are bank services charges as costs.

* Closing Bank Status as follows:	
Balance as of July 4th	1988.80
Memberships collected for VCON 24	-750.00
Cheque #35	-107.00
Cheque #39	-60.00
Cheque #36 program book.	-175.00
Cheque #40 to P.W.N. donation	-240.00
Canada Trust account Balance for VCON 23	656.80
CIBC Visa Account Balance for VCON 23	373.00
<b>Balance to repay loan from WCSFA</b>	<b>1029.80</b>

Finally, we would like to once again thank all the clubs who participated in the programming of VCON 23. Their interest entertained over 400 members over the weekend. The Writer Guest of Honour David Gerrold had a great time telling us that this was one of the best small conventions he had ever attended.

With the finalization of this statement, we are happy to report the full repayment of last year's WCSFA loan to VCON 22.