

BCSF zine



Editor's
Exodus

BCSFazine

The monthly newsletter of the Seattle Catholic Science Fiction Association (founded 1978) \$2.50 per copy

#270



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER
OF THE WEST COAST SCIENCE
FICTION ASSOCIATION

Vol. 28 Issue 11
Number 329
November 2000 • \$2.50



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Make checks payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association)	
86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C.	
V3K 5L4.	

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

WCSFA
86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C.
V3K 5L4

 **BCSFAzine** is also available as a full colour Adobe Acrobat file.

WCSFACTIVITIES

CONTRIBUTOR'S DEADLINE - Dec. 15th.

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.).

BCSFAzine PICKUP/COLLATION AT FRED

The Friday before the first Sunday of the month. 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.

BCSFA GENERAL MEETING Saturday, November 25th, , beginning 6:00 PM, at R. Graeme & Alyx's house, 86 Warrick Street in Coquitlam. Theme: Showing of Walt Disney space program proposals from the 1950s. By #154 bus from 22nd Skytrain or Lougheed mall, get off at Mundy & Cape Horn, walk downhill (East) along Cape Horn to Warrick, turn left, #86 is third house on the left. By car, follow Brunette Ave. till it turns into Cape Horn, past Mundy as above. (Do not park in driveway.) Note: multiple pets, so allergy alert! BYOB & BYOF.

BCSFA POT LUCK CHRISTMAS PARTY, beginning at 6:00 PM, Saturday, December 16th, at Alyx & R. Graeme's house, directions as above. Hopefully Santa will appear. All are requested to bring a wrapped anonymous Xmas gift (max value \$10) to be handed out by Santa. Pot luck, but basic food stuff will be on hand, so OK to come without food contribution, but would be nice if you can. Phone 526-7522 to co-ordinate what food to bring. BYOB.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

VCON 26 / CANVENTION 21

May 4, 5, and 6th, 2001 at the Radisson Hotel in Burnaby

Theme—2001: A Space Oddity—Humour in Science Fiction

Guest of honour Lynne Abbey, author of over 20 books, not including her work as author and editor of the popular Thieves' World Series. Lynne is happy to announce the re-release of the Thieves' World game and the release of additional Thieves' World novels, due out in 2001.

Gaming Guest of Honour James Ernest, President of Cheapass games, the most popular small print games publisher on the West Coast!

Artist Guest Pat Turner Besides creating last year,s Web site, and the gorgeous art for the web page, Pat is a cover artist for Baen books!

VCon 26 is very happy to host Canvention 21, and the 21st Prix Aurora awards, for the best Science fiction published in Canada over the previous year. To celebrate the Canvention, and to present the awards, VCon 26 will be hosting a dinner theatre, Bacchanal, and awards ceremony on Saturday night. In order to keep convention costs down, the dinner is not included in the convention membership. The dinner tickets will be sold only in advance, and should be around \$30

Canadian per person. The Bacchanal and awards ceremony will be open to everyone.

Some of the other special events planned for VCon 26 include an out of print auction, featuring such gems as Heavy Metal #1 and the original Chainmail rules that became Dungeons and Dragons.

We are also planning a Friday Night concert, followed by a midnight showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". With the awards on the Saturday, followed by the Dance and Kissing Auction, it should be a very busy convention!

These special events are in addition to our regular events, such as the Writer's Workshops, Kidcon, Art auction, gaming tournaments, Tour Otaku, and a very diverse selection of paneling.

We are also pleased to announce that The S'harien has agreed to host the Hospitality suite once more this year! This convention is shaping up to be one of the best yet, so don't miss out!

Pre register and reserve your hotel room today! Room rates: \$89/night for one to four occupants. Membership rates: \$25 per person now; rate hikes TBA.

Contact information: Chair: Chris Sturges chair@v-con.org phone (604) 294-9851 Co-Chair: Lisa McGovern co-chair@v-con.org phone (604) 931-1241 Website: www.v-con.org Or Vcon 26 1410 Regan Ave., Coquitlam, BC V3J 3B5



Dear John/Ken:

Issue 329 of BCSFAzine had been received, printed out and read at my leisure. It's just past Thanksgiving (we hope everyone had a good one), so as I continue to pry out bits of turkey from between my teeth, and consider getting back into the diet, here are some comments on another fine issue.

Based on my own adventures as a guest at VCon 25 last year, I'd like nothing better than to join you all for VCon 26, and I can safely speak for Yvonne here...she had a great time, too. I would guess that the Aurora nomination forms will be out soon into the New Year, so I hope that these forms will be distributed to a greater extent than previous Conventions have done.

My thanks to Harry Warner...indeed, as said before, and as hinted above, we really did enjoy our trip to Vancouver. Lots of good memories from the few years I lived in BC (Victoria and Qualicum Beach in the late 70s, to be precise), and a very good time with our hosts. I hope Harry's health improves soon, and stays that way.

Ray Seredin's letter...I would have to look it up, but Canvention had certainly been in western Canada before 1987. It's been in Vancouver, Edmonton and Winnipeg before...I'll need to confirm the dates. We were willing to help VCon get the Canvention at the business meeting at TT2000 in Toronto because we wanted to get the east-west rotation going again. With luck, we've done that.

There may yet be another Doctor Who convention in Toronto. Who Party 12 is scheduled for November 12 of this year, but they do not yet have a guest or hotel. October 14 will be the date of a meeting at which the committee will decide if 28 days is sufficient time to announce a guest and hotel and attract enough people to buy memberships and pay the bills. I have my doubts, and wouldn't be surprised if the con is postponed until the spring.

Here's the newest project Yvonne and I are working on...the 2001 World Fantasy Convention will be taking place the beginning of November 2001, and we'll be in charge of the green room. Right now, we're working on finding out if the WFC green room is any different than other green rooms we've run in the past. WFC2001 will take place at the Delta Centre-Ville Montreal, and main GoH will be Fred Saberhagen.

Time is short, and so is this letter, I'm afraid. Save to disk, get ready to e-mail and off it goes. I promise to do better next time, and I look forward to it. ☺

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

WebCSFA SITE

Check out our web site at WCSFA-On Line:

<http://www3.telus.net/dh2/bcsfa>

Check out our web site for all the information you need to be a local fan.

- Convention Listings • Ask Mr. Science • SF TV Listings • VCON Web Pages • • Secured Members only area • Internet Links • Local Store Listings •



BCSF AZINE

is available to subscribers in Adobe Acrobat format. Check out the zine in its full colour glory with all the bells and whistles of instant web links and e-mail.

It is easy to change your subscription to this format. Go to the Adobe web site and download the free Acrobat Reader for your computer's operating system. (Make sure you get version 3 or higher). www.adobe.com

Then e-mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca and let me know that you want to switch your subscription over. You will then receive the next zine in your e-mail.

NEW You can also download it from our web site. Register with me at woolf@mac.com and I will e-mail you the monthly password. Go to www3.telus.net/dh2/bcsfa/zine.htm and click on the members button.

New Shows

I tuned, I saw, I rated.

With the start of a new TV viewing season, I took a look at what is available on the dial. Here is what I thought of some of the new shows.



Andromeda

Filmed in Vancouver.

A well written story with easy to follow action. Scenes are well shot. Check out the great looking space ships.

Worth watching.



Dark Angel

A dark brooding genetically engineered girl searches for links from her past.

OK.



Sheena, Queen of the Jungle

Intelligent "I read a lot" Shape shifting (*She's a bird, she's a cat*) Jungle Girl insults my intelligence. Not even the special effects could save this show.

Yuck!

Editor Says Goodbye

John/Ken



Issue 270 • My first issue.



Issue 272 • BCSFAzine

takes a new shape.



Issue 279 • This issue of the zine takes on a more financially viable form.



Issue 288 • Andrew Brechin's Cover art parodies Janet Jackson's recent album cover.

I t is with this issue that I resign as the editor of the BCSFAzine and leaving the club. It is hard to believe that I started five years ago with issue 270, a twenty four page folded legal sheet booklet, and ended up with a ten page letter sized corner stapled magazine. (This may seem to be a huge reduction in the magazine, but in truth, the zine has only lost between three or four pages worth of real estate.) I wanted to take this opportunity to look back at the changes that have taken place during my term as editor.

After only two issues (272), I made a change in the format, going to a letter sized fourteen page format. Actually, it was three ledger sheets folded in half and one letter sized sheet inserted in the middle. Already, the influence of the internet shows itself here as I started to include web addresses to fan related web pages.

The next innovation I introduced to the zine came in the next issue (273) with the card insert promoting VCON 21. There were many different cards in the set with several different levels including some rare gold or silver foiled cards. If you are looking for a set, you better start asking around the club now because complete sets are near impossible to put together!

There is a gold foiled variant of the BCSFAzine (277, the VCON issue) in the archives. It was one of the more difficult covers to do, but I though the gold foil lettering on a black background looked fabulous.

Issue 279. This is the start of the ten page format that you now see. Up to this point, every issue took up almost all of the revenue generated by the subscriptions. There was some resistance to this new format as it could not be stapled through the spine and have all pages attached. Some people were worried that the middle sheet would fall out of the zine while people were reading it. In fact, I had campaigned to have the zine without the staple at all because I knew that there really was no need of them. The format was modelled after the newspapers which use this style of binding all the time.

papers which use this style of printing all the time. The protest was resolved when everyone was assured that their personal copies can be stapled if they so chose. With this change, we were able to divide our mailing costs in half and thus contributing to the club's treasury, ensuring the continuation of the zine and VCON. I took a personal interest in the club finances because I wanted the extra funds to be used to help pay for group events for the club. I had come across some internet only publications at about this time. They were text only publications that were distributed exclusively through e-mail. I brought up the possibility of the BCSFAzine going the same way as another money saving venture. Any-one with e-mail would get the internet version of the zine and everyone else would continue to get the printed issue. There was not much support for this idea as the technology at that time did not allow for the electronic file to look exactly like the printed pages..

The first cover art I had commissioned was by Andrew Brechin and was used in issue 288. This is the famous cover which featured the lizard in the Janet Jackson, hands over the naughty topless bits pose. This issue was reproduced on an offset press specifically for distribution at VCON22. The reaction to the cover was highly favourable.

Issue 290 and censorship. When it comes to letters of comment, I try to be as fair and open about what is printed. For the most part, I have printed every letter in its entirety. There were

times when I had to make changes to the letters for grammar, spelling or for space considerations. I believe that every letter or article submitted by a member of the club should be printed in the zine. That being said, there are times when I do make a decision to cut out certain parts of a letter for specific reasons. In this issue, I needed to change a letter in such a way as to keep the gist of the letter intact, but to eliminate any possible unnecessary embarrassment of the parties named within. The letter still evoked strong emotions, but at least it stayed within the circle involved and not the entire club.

Issue 295-6. Due to the postal strike, issue 295 was combined with issue 296. There is an issue 295 in existence, but I believe that I am the only one that has a copy. This was also the start of a four issue run where I attempt to describe what I look like to everyone through the words of my friends. Little did I realize that by the end of the run, I turned out to be some mathematician killing secret agent monster fish editor..if you go by their descriptions. Maybe I need to get have a bit of a chat with my friends.

Issue 300se. The beginning of a new e-zine. Starting with this issue I generated an Acrobat version of the magazine. In fact, I went back and generated new Acrobat files for issues 294 on up. My dream of producing an electronic magazine has come to fruition. (See issue 279) After only two years, the software was made available to the BCSFAzine to produce an electronically delivered magazine that would look the same as the printed version. In fact, the electronic version would surpass the paper zine with the very next issue.

Issue 301, Colour! Also, this is the issue I started to use images from a clipart collection for the cover. These innovations were made possible due to the universal nature of the electronic (Adobe Acrobat) version of the zine. Along with a proper working postscript printer which finally allowed me to produce true halftone proofs, the zine started to step away from the black and white of the previous issues and move into greyscale on the printed version which was necessary to handle the colour in the Acrobat version.

Issue 305, Page 11. This is when I started to list the web sites on a page only the Acrobat version had. Any pages from 11 on forward contained only materials which were of interest to people who had internet access. It was my hope that the electronic version would free me from the ten page limit that was imposed upon me. Any extra articles that were sent in from authors who do not regularly contribute to the magazine could be included in these extra electronic pages. There was no

PoCo Place

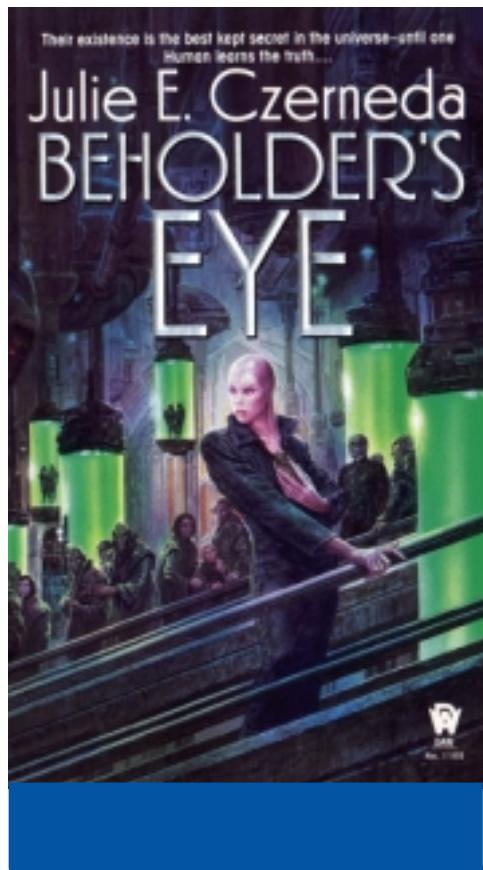
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All right, folks, here are the last three of the six novels that made the final ballot for this year's Aurora Awards, and then my conclusions.



BEHOLDER'S EYE, Julie E. Czerneda (Daw, Oct/98)

Esen-alit-Quar is a shapeshifter—the youngest of six, who are the only shapeshifters in the galaxy. These virtual immortals live camouflaged among the sentient races, always guarding the secret of their existence.

Until Esen slips up. On assignment to study the planet Kraos, Esen makes the unexpected discovery that the xenophobic Kraosians are plotting to slaughter members of a galactic first contact expedition. When she is imprisoned with a human male named Ragem, Esen reveals herself in order to save his life—an action which puts all the members of her web at risk, and may even trigger intergalactic war.

This novel by Julie Czerneda is what I mentally dub a “Star Wars bar scene” style of space opera, with dozens of alien races trading and fighting across interstellar space. Czerneda handles it well, in a style reminiscent of C.J. Cherryh. Her alien races have peculiar physical and social traits that distinguish them, and the twist of using a

non-human protagonist who must convincingly pass as a member of each race adds extra interest to events.

Of course shapeshifters must have limitations in order to keep the story interesting, and Czerneda sets up a clear framework of rules for Esen. Most of her constraints are logical, and while a few struck me as being conspicuously contrived, Czerneda at least sticks to her rules and keeps them consistent. Her characters are nicely portrayed—not very deep, but heck they’re mostly aliens and this is a space opera.

If I had been writing **BEHOLDER'S EYE**, I might have re-ordered the first few chapters so that background was filled in via flashback after the primary action of the novel got rolling, but this is a niggle. Once this story starts moving, it maintains a swift pace, with Czerneda piling on plot twist after plot twist, while the stakes constantly rise. This very competently written action-adventure novel kept my attention right to the end.

BIOS, Robert Charles Wilson (Tor, 1999)

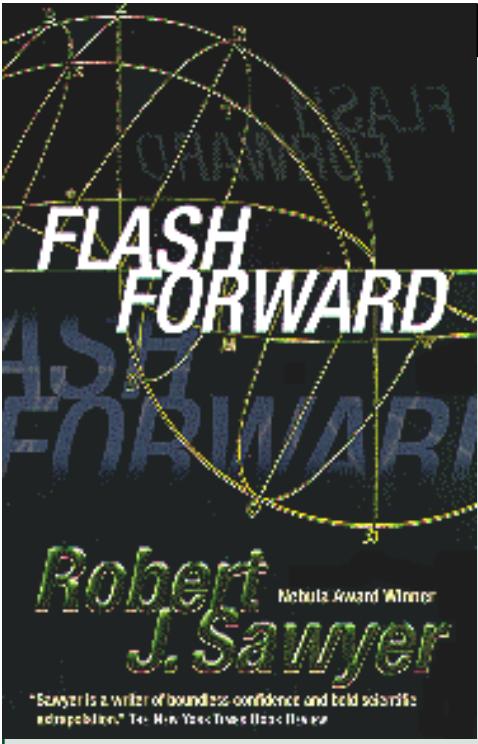
Another hard SF contender for the Auroras was **BIOS**, by Robert Charles Wilson, a novel set in the 22nd century when mankind has discovered a method of interstellar transit that is allowing us—albeit slowly and expensively—to explore the galaxy.

The planet Isis is lush and beautiful, with a rich, complex ecosystem that looks deceptively similar to ours, but it is utterly deadly to Earth-evolved DNA. So far humans have only been able to explore this world via sterile bunkers, remotes, and armoured excursion suits, but young Zoe Fisher is part of a new initiative. She has been genetically engineered to explore Isis, and equipped with an advanced biotech membrane suit that will allow her to walk outside almost naked. What Zoe doesn't know is that the local bacteria have been mutating until they are ready to destroy the Earth substances invading their world.

Robert Charles Wilson has done a very solid job of world-building with Isis, and his teams of scientific explorers are credible. He also has a potentially strong protagonist in Zoe. But unfortunately this book never comes together. What starts out as an apparent exploration/adventure story with a political twist, mutates into an **ANDROMEDA STRAIN** style bio-disaster, and ultimately succeeds neither as an adventure nor as a disaster novel.

From a structural viewpoint, the big problem with **BIOS** is that it is overwhelmingly plot-driven, and Zoe is simply carried along by events, rather than making decisions or taking actions which shape those events. Worse, Wilson develops Zoe's background, her bioalterations, and her relationship with the ruthless, powerful “Families” who control Earth, but then he abandons all of these plot threads as the disaster picks up momentum. Finally, the disaster itself lacks impact because the characters aren't deeply developed, so the reader is apt to simply shrug as the death toll mounts.

Wilson may be making some sort of existential statement by having an entire cast of characters whose actions have no effect on anything at all, but it certainly doesn't make for a satisfying read.



FLASHFORWARD, Robert J. Sawyer (Tor, July/99)

As the carnage is cleaned up, the inevitable hunt for scapegoats occurs, but a larger question looms: has mankind glimpsed the true, immutable future, or only one possible future?

This is the dramatic opening of an ambitious novel by Robert J. Sawyer, which spans twenty-one years and explores the theoretical fringes of physics. Most readers will undoubtedly finish the book, drawn on by an intriguing problem, good pacing, and adequate, if uninspired, characterization. However, many readers will find this a hard book to like.

Sawyer clearly did his research for *FLASHFORWARD*—lots and lots and lots of it. Tellingly, the novel opens with four long paragraphs describing the Large Hadron Collider, before we meet any of the characters. And the rest of the novel is littered with similar bursts of data. In the middle of a terrifying dash through the body-strewn, burning streets of Geneva, Sawyer regales us with all the street names and major landmarks, such as “the seven-hundred-year-old Maison Tavel, Geneva’s oldest private home.” Well, yes, I’m sure that’s what I’d be concentrating on as I rushed through a disaster scene to find my fiance’s 8-year-old daughter.

Which brings me to another weakness in this book—a cast of characters who are plausible, but impossible to warm to. Lloyd Simcoe, a pompous, emotionally constipated middle-aged physicist, negotiates two decades of personal and professional crises without any hint of passion, while his colleague Theo Procopides, an

arrogant whiz-kid physicist, amply demonstrates why someone will murder him.

At first I found myself wondering whether the emotional anesthesia of everyone in this book was deliberate, but I eventually decided that it was just poor writing. For example, Theo’s quest to prevent his future murder is a plot element which Sawyer relies on to pull readers through the second half of the novel, but it fails to generate much tension since Theo is such an unsympathetic git. And although Sawyer comes up with some very interesting flashforwards which would certainly create personal dilemmas for his characters, he fails to successfully exploit most of those dilemmas.

My biggest problem with this novel was its jarring juxtaposition of clever, plausible ideas with the lame or utterly ridiculous (we’re supposed to believe that an international research facility with 3000 employees has no emergency evacuation procedures and no fire wardens?!). One moment Sawyer is successfully setting the scene with telling details; the next minute he’s demolishing our suspension of disbelief with some ghastly bit, like Lloyd’s stupid speech to the UN.

Sawyer set himself a very tough challenge by opening his book with a planetary disaster, and he is unable to maintain that dramatic momentum. The conclusion of *FLASHFORWARD*—which comes out of left field and has nothing to do with the main plot—is both anticlimactic and silly.

It is April 21, 2009. Physicists at the CERN particle collider facility in Geneva throw the switch on an experiment which they hope will detect the elusive Higgs boson particle. Instead, the scientists “flash forward”—experiencing visions of their lives twenty years in the future—then return to discover that they’ve been unconscious for two minutes.

What they don’t immediately realize is that the effect was planet-wide, creating an unprecedented disaster when everyone passed out. Car wrecks strew the highways, planes have crashed, patients bled to death on operating tables, and factory workers suffered horrific accidents.

OK, so here it is, folks—my choice for the Aurora Award would have been *BROWN GIRL IN THE RING*, an original, entertaining, and very strongly written first novel by Nalo Hopkinson. In the real vote, held in Toronto in July, Robert Sawyer won for *FLASHFORWARD*.

Perhaps some of you Western Canadians have noticed that five of the six novels on this final ballot are by Ontario writers. Well, you are encouraged to geographically diversify this situation by submitting nominations for next year’s award, and then voting. For details about the Auroras visit <http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/>. The next Auroras will be awarded in Vancouver at Vcon in May, 2001 and all Vcon members will be eligible to vote.

Comments? Questions? Rebuttals?
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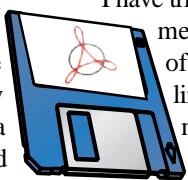
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FANZINE E-PUBLICATION

Over the course of this series of articles, I have tried to provide you with some of the more basic and important concepts of publishing a fanzine. I have looked at every building block that comprises a page, from font structure, to picture composition and text blocks. The most important thing of is the interaction of every element on the page. The reader over the layout. Every and white space are all pieces of a beautiful results when assembled



I have tried to make you aware of the page to guide a line, graphic, text block mosaic which can yield correctly.

Once you have your pages computer, it is time to get it ready for distribution. You print out the pages and take it down to be Stamps and envelopes are licked and the zine and dropped off at the nearest postal box. But in today's world, you are not done yet. There is still the electronic circulation to take care of. There is a huge potential market online and every electronic subscription you get saves you printing and mailing costs. How do you go about getting it ready for the internet?

Getting it from your computer to theirs.

You would be surprised at the different options that programs offer for electronic distribution. Many word processors today not only create magazine quality pages, but even export your publication as html web pages. There are even built in features that you allow you to generate links inside your document and to other sites on the web.

All you have to do afterwards is to upload your new publication to your internet service provider and people can visit your site and see your fanzine.

If this is the method you want to go with, then you may eventually want to get a program that is specifically designed for making web pages. Many of these programs come with additional support programs that help you manage your site. (They don't call it a web for nothing.)

MICHAEL'S BOOKS

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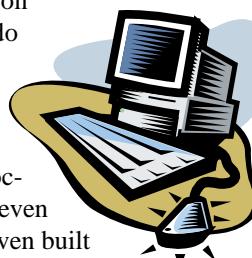
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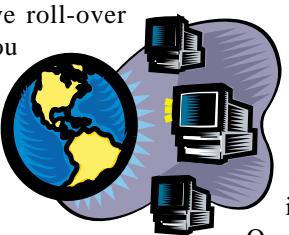
pending on the speed of the modem used. (Usually the benchmark is set at 28K.) Many of these added features require additional coding for the browser which the software manufacturers will provide as a free download at their own web sites.

But how do you maintain the look of your publication when web pages looks different on every computer? You put all this time into making it look good, don't you want to keep it that way? Time for Acrobat.

Making it Acrobatic

Depending on the type of computer you use making an acrobat file is as easy or as complicated as you want to make it.

It has the ability to have roll-over (images that change when you your pointer over it), generate forms, (allowing your answer your questions and their answers at a button)



images, move erate reader to e-mail you click of a include Quicktime movies, and even require a password before the file can be opened.

BCSFazine generally uses some of the more basic aspects of the program including internal/external links and thumbnail paging.

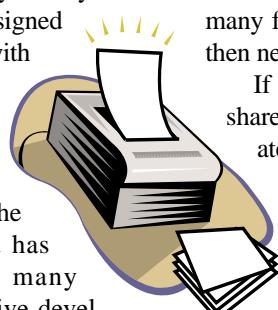
Adding links to a document is very easy as it involves creating a box to define the area you want as the active area and assigning the web pages's URL to it.

If you want to have the active spot to go to another part of the document, you would define the anchor (the spot you want to go to when another area is clicked) and a source (the spot where you would click to go to the anchor point).

There are some programs which will export to Acrobat (.pdf) with many features already set up, but if your program does not, you will then need to purchase the full program. Maybe.

If you are using a Macintosh, I suggest you take a look for a shareware program called PDFWriter. This little program can generate a basic Acrobat file of your document. If you want to get fancy, then you need to get the full Acrobat program.

On a Windows based PC, Adobe Acrobat acts as a printer driver. This means that once you have installed the full Acrobat program into your computer, you can generate pdf files from almost any program you are printing from.



The explosion of the internet has lead to many impressive developments. There are a large number of programs that will allow you to animate your images, minimize the size of your pictures to allow for faster download times, and even segment your large pictures to give the appearance of a faster loading page. Many of these programs even let you know how long an image will take to fully download de-

For the Macintosh, the process requires one additional step. You need to print to file using a postscript printer driver. (I also use this process on the PC. I then take the postscript file over the Macintosh and continue this process.) Using the Acrobat Distiller I convert the postscript file into an Acrobat file. This is a very easy process. When you open the file with the distiller, the program immediately asks you where you want to save the Acrobat file. That is all there is to generating a PDF file.

I hope you enjoyed my series on electronic publication. Fanzines need to grow out of the pulp age and move into the modern era. All it requires is that we take full advantage of the features that come with your computer programs. You need to commit a little time to learn a few extra features of the software you are using. This simple step will enhance your product and your productivity. Just look at some of the great fan based web sites out there. Fanzines can be that good too. ☺

JCHW

Dr. WHO

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1,117 days until November 23, 2003*.

The "Dr. Who Project".

A&E is pleased with the response from American fans encouraging them to pick up the new "Dr. Who" series for their new A&E1 digital cable service. They did reiterate that they would not commit to anything until the new service is approved and in operation.

Harry Warner Jr. is mistaken. FOX is NOT the "Partnership" working on the "Dr. Who Project".

The "Partnership" are the BBC, Hollywood Mutual Films and Buena Vistas Films (A.K.A. Disney). Warner Home Video, though not part of the "Partnership", markets the "Classic Dr. Who" videos in North America. Under my scheme to revive the series, Warner Home Video comes into play only if Buena Vistas can't find an American media outlet to pick it up. The sale and rental of the videos would reimburse the BBC and Hollywood Mutual for the production costs of pilot.

Maybe, Harry heard that FOX Family cable station was interested in the new series but that's news to me.

Yes Harry, it can be confusing at times, for me too. As "The Doctor" once said "Only time will tell."

"Classic Dr. Who"

As many of you know the "Classic" videos are not in stores or on major WEB retailers sites. The BBC and Warner Home Video are "...going through transitional pains." All the parties are aware of the anger of "Who Fans" and hope to have them in stores by the end of October. You can also find them on BBC America's own WEB site at bbcproducts.com. On tap for February 6, 2001 release is the Colin Baker story "Revelation of the Daleks". While The Peter Davison story "Time-Flight" (Note: that's a real Concorde in it.) should be out on March 6.

"Who Fans" with BBC America better get use to reruns. The station will not be ordering any more new "Classic" episodes and will

stick to the sixteen Tom Baker stories they presently have for the foreseeable future.

BBC America presently reaches 15,000,000 homes in the US. Still, its popularity is growing and is expected to reach 50,000,000 homes by the end of 2001.

Two PBS stations recently hosted a "Doctor Who Night". They were KTEH San Jose on October 18th and WQED/WQEWS Pittsburgh on the 21st. The guest were not Peter Davidson and Louise Jameson as mentioned in October's BCSFAzine, but Sylvester McCoy (The seventh Doctor.) with Carole Ann Ford (Susan) joining him in San Jose.

Five "Classic" 25 minute episodes aired as part of the special made at KTEH, they were "An Unearthly Child: episode 1", "Remembrance Of The Daleks: episode 2", "The Dalek Invasion Of Earth: episode 6", "Survival: episode 3" and "Battlefield: episode 3", (the last "Classic" episode made), which was picked by those who pledged. The special faced two major obstacles. The station was off the air for most of the day because of transmitter problems, and the local edition of the TV Guide mistakenly listed cooking and home renovations shows in its time-slot. The special still brought in a lot of money for the station. Five other PBS stations also aired this special sometime between now and new year.

"Dr. Who" Books.

"Regeneration" the story on the making of the 1996 FOX/BBC "Dr. Who" TV movie should have reached store shelves by October 16th. The book, written by Philip Segal and Gary Russell, should reveal what went wrong

with the project filmed here in Vancouver. The book had been in limbo since November 1998 as it went from publisher to publisher. In the end Harper Collins, a large publishing company owned by FOX's network's parent company NewsCorp, finally printed it.

Sounds like interesting reading.

The BBC Radio 4's

"Dr. Who: Death Comes to Time".

Super Star David Bowie has expressed interest in playing the character "Duke of White" if this series is picked up. The original "Doctor" the late William Hartnell will be in the pilot. (Note: Does the BBC actually own working "TARDIS"?). We should know if this series will go ahead by next month's BCSFAzine.

Other "Dr. Who" News.

Daphne Dare, one of Britain's most prolific costume designer, died in London on September 27. She worked as "Dr. Who's" chief costume designer throughout the William Hartnell era (1963-1966) before moving on to feature films. Her best work was seen in "The Celestial Toymaker", which is still thought by many "Who Fans" for having the best costumes in the history of the series (So far.). Our thoughts go out to her family and friends.

Congratulations. Colin Baker and Sylvester McCoy era companion, Bonnie Langford (Mel) has given birth to a daughter on October 19 in London. (Sorry, no name for the child yet.) The father, Paul Grunert, also has a nine-year-old daughter from his first marriage. As for the mother, she plans to take a short rest before taking on the role of Jack in "Jack and the Beanstalk" opening in Nottingham on December 7. Our best wishes to the happy couple.

(Note: Since leaving "The TARDIS" in 1987 Bonnie Langford has become one of Britain's hardness working stage actresses.)

That's all for now, so I wish you the best and I'll be seeing you.

Ray "Dr. Media" Seredin

lungbarrow@aisl.bc.ca

* Based on the first month of this issue.

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MINUTES

BCSFA/WCSFA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Oct 21st, Home of R. Graeme Cameron & Alyx J. Shaw.

BCSFA EXECUTIVE ELECTIONS:



Executives present:

President: R. Graeme Cameron
Vice-President: Palle Hoffstein
Treasurer: Doug Finnerty
Secretary: Alyx J. Shaw
Member at Large: Garth Spencer

7 general members present. 12 voting members present in all.

Meeting began 7:43 PM.

Clint Budd motioned that the club ratify the motion made at the September 10th WCSFA meeting in which it was proposed WCSFA be converted into the V-Con Society and BCSFA be reconstituted, as laid out in the policies and procedures presented at that meeting and reported in BCSFAzine #329. Seconded by Palle Hoffstein.

Discussion:

It being pointed out that all BCSFAns, S'hariens, VCON 25 members & pre-registered VCON 26 members are automatically members of the V-Con Society, it should be added that by no means do all these people have to participate as such. Any members of the above mentioned organizations can be deleted from the V-Con Society membership list at their request. The V-Con Society is a strictly volunteer convention committee association. No one is forced to participate if they don't want to, but all members of the above mentioned organizations possess the option of participation at no charge.

On the other hand, though membership in the V-Con Society is free via the above named organizations, this does not mean a free VCON membership is included. All who wish to be VCON members, including Concom, must purchase membership (except invited Guests of Honour).

Palle pointed out that the V-Con Society would function as a management team devoted to VCON subject to lease arrangements from BCSFA, the legal owner of the VCON trademark, and that if at any time the V-Con Society is judged by BCSFA to be a failure the lease can always be withdrawn.

Clint pointed out that the name change of WCSFA to the V-Con Society, and the determination of how the bank accounts would be re-adjusted to incorporate the change will take some time, at a pace set by the members as judged suitable.

Vote was then taken. Unanimous approval, 12 yea votes. In addition, 2 yea proxy votes and 1 negative proxy vote was reported. The status of proxy voting was discussed. The result is either a **unanimous 12 vote approval, or 14 yea and one against**. In either case the **motion was passed**.

Sidney Trim motioned that the newly reinstated BCSFA adopt as its constitution the last version of the constitution utilized by BCSFA prior to its amalgamation with WCSFA. Randy Barnhart seconded.

Vote was then taken. Unanimous 12 votes yea.

It being pointed out that amendments to the constitution can only be made at the annual general meeting, it was proposed that a constitution committee be formed to report at the next annual general meeting as to what changes to the constitution would be to the advantage of the club. Pending sounding of members as to who would like to be on the committee. **Agreed.**

In Club business Treasurer Doug Finnerty reported the club bank account contained approximately \$1,000. President R. Graeme Cameron passed on the information that BCSFAzine Editor John C.H. Wong was not seeking re-election and that BCSFAzine #330 would be the last club newsletter to be edited by John.

Randy Barnhart nominated R. Graeme Cameron for **PRESIDENT**. Seconded by Barbara Corbett. **11 yea** votes (Graeme not voting), passed unanimous.

No one nominated for position of **VICE-PRESIDENT**. Position open.

R. Graeme Cameron Nominated Alyx J. Shaw for **SECRETARY**. Barbara Corbett seconded. **11 yea votes** (Alyx not voting), passed unanimous.

R. Graeme Cameron nominated Doug Finnerty for **TREASURER**. Alan Ferguson seconded. **11 yea votes** (Doug not voting), passed unanimous.

Clint Budd nominated Garth Spencer for **EDITOR**. Alyx J. Shaw Seconded. **11 yea votes** (Garth not voting), passed unanimous.

It was pointed out that Steve Forty remains perpetual Keeper of the FRED and VCON Ambassador for Life.

Randy Barnhart and Alan Ferguson volunteered to be **BCSFA Members At Large**.

Barbara Dryer suggested that Rosen Cavalier (Semi-domesticated Crow Raptor Beastie living with Alyx & Graeme) be appointed **Official BCSFA Mascot**. Agreed.

Meeting concluded 9:05 PM. ☺



JIM JOHNSON ARCHIVES UPDATE

Many apologies for not getting this to you last issue, but as always real life has a tendency to get in the way. What follows is the contents of the big container full of original fannish artwork as donated to the club by Jim Johnson. It is possible that some of this may be displayed at VCON 26's Artshow (as was planned for VCON 25). However, many of the pieces need to be somewhat refurbished before the entire collection can be displayed. It is hoped that a public viewing for the club of this collection can be arranged in the near future. And so, here is the list of artwork.

01. An untitled piece by Tim Hammel
02. Another untitled piece by Tim Hammel
03. "Transpa-leaf" by Martha E. Olson
04. "Sim-birds" by Martha E. Olson
05. "Forest of Energy" by Michael R. Lane
06. "Butterfly Doorway" by Michael R. Lane
07. "Alien Aphrodite" by Victoria Poyer
08. "Circe II" by Victoria Poyer
09. "By The Shells" by Vandy Vandervert
10. "Confused" by David M. Vereschagin
11. "Elemental Victory" by Virginia Aalko
12. "The Eternal Champion" by Joe Pearson
13. "The Crimson Dynamo" by Michael Kipling Csontos
14. "Dragon And Unicorn" by Sandy Khan
15. Cartoon subtitled "Why do I always have to put out the dog?" by Kym Williams
16. "Pym" by Darrel Anderson
17. "Striped Horned Beast" by Donald Simpson and Bonnie Dalzell
18. "Two friends meet in the Forrest Callan" by Phill Yeh
19. "The Silken Swift" by Bonnie Dalzell
20. "Captain Nimrod" by Darrel Anderson and Artie Romero
21. "Frog" by Gevasio Gallardo
22. "The Dream City" by Gary Green
23. "The Arrival" by Ole Kvern
24. "The Silver Unicorn" by Daryl Murdock
25. "The Birthgrave" by an unknown artist
26. Ten "Dipstick and Friends" comic strip panels by Ray Collin
27. A portfolio of three inspirational sayings by John Muir, Bjo Trimble and The Velvet Monkeywrench.

Recognize any of these artists? Any of the pieces sound familiar? Perhaps a club viewing prior to an eventual showing at VCON 26 is in order.

Next issue (real life notwithstanding): The Contents of Box #1

by Doug Finnerty

A New VCON Society

PROCEDURES

2. VCON BID REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES

In order for a committee bidding to hold VCON to be seriously considered, the committee must present:

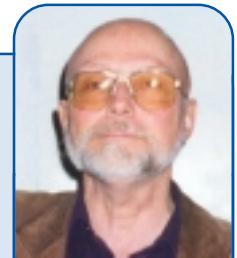
- a) A committee list with the names of at least five competent and experienced people who will assume responsibility for the convention. These five people must include the Chair, Treasurer and Hotel Liaison, plus any of the following department heads:
**Operations Programming Hospitality Art Show
Registration Dealers Room Publications**
- b) A REALISTIC written preliminary budget for the convention (samples from previous years and assistance will be provided by the VCON Society in advance if requested).
- c) One or both of the following:
 - i. Name(s) of prospective Guest(s) of Honour who have indicated they can attend and estimated expenses of bringing them
 - ii. A theme for the convention, and suggested programming to go with that theme.
- d) A letter of intent from a facility prepared to host an appropriate-sized convention on the indicated weekend.
- e) A start-up fund of \$500 (which may include a deposit already made on a convention facility) to be used for initial costs if the bid is accepted. Note: It is recommended that this fund be acquired by fund-raising and contributions by supporters (i.e. pre-supporting memberships). As well as providing seed money, this will give the bid committee an opportunity to work together and demonstrate their organizational skills, and will gauge the support within the local fan community for the bid.

The VCON Society should call for bids at least four months in advance of the previous VCON by placing an announcement in BCSFAzine which includes the dates of relevant upcoming meetings. The VCON Society shall provide copies of Policies and Procedures and any other relevant documents to announced bid committees. Prior to the general membership meeting, the bid committee(s) shall meet with the VCON Society Directors, and the Directors shall formulate a recommendation to take to the general membership meeting.

The vote will be taken at a general membership meeting to be held at least three weeks before the current year's VCON (so that flyers can be distributed and memberships sold at the current convention.) The VCON Society executive shall make a recommendation to the general membership, and then all members of The VCON Society in good standing who are in attendance at the meeting shall be eligible to vote.

If the VCON Society executive feels that no acceptable VCON bid is forthcoming, they may recommend that no convention be held the next year unless an acceptable bid is presented within four months of the current year's VCON. In the event of a late bid, another general membership meeting and vote shall be called.

The motion to accept a VCON bid shall read: "The VCON Society hereby agrees to sponsor the _____ convention, to be held _____(date)____ at _____(site)____ and run by _____(names of five bid committee members)_____."



Clint Budd

*WCSFA is no more! Or is it?
Come to the AGM and cast your vote on this proposal.*

What are some current Canadian fan news stories? From fanzines I received personally, I have the following:

Torcon III

A Toronto bid committee won the right last Labour Day weekend to hold the Worldcon in 2003. Torcon 3 will be held August 28 to September 1, 2003; more information can be had at www.torcon3.on.ca. This has been reported in *File 770*, from the U.S., and in *Opuntia*, from Calgary.)

Auroras/Convention 2001

Also in *File 770*, SF awards including the "Prix Aurora Awards" were announced at the last Convention, TT2000, in Toronto, last July. The Aurora Awards are the national Canadian awards for SF, and fantasy, and fanactivity. Dennis Mullin maintains a Web page listing past and future Conventions, past Aurora Award winners. ("Convention" is, basically, a title that travels from one Canadian con to another, as they host the Aurora Awards.) Just go to www.sentex.net/~dmullin/.

You already know that VCon 26, in May 2001, will be hosting the Aurora Awards. You may have learned that former Ghod-Editor R. Graeme Cameron will head up Aurora/Convention matters at VCon. Someone like Graeme, who has been an Aurora winner and has some years of awareness of their history, should see that the awards and Canadian writer guests are not neglected.

VCon 26 address & info: www.v-con.org

R. Graeme Cameron contact info:

86 Warrick St., Coquitlam, BC V3K 5L4, rgraeme@home.com

Canadian Unity Fan Fund 2001

Sherry Neufeld of Saskatoon went to TT2000 as the CUFF delegate year 2000, and is now administering the fund. You may recall that the Canadian Unity Fan Fund was instituted so that Canadian fans from various communities could see each other. (Coast-to-coast contact is somewhat harder for Canadian fans than American fans.)

As Lloyd reported in *File 770*, Sherry represented Western fandom well, and we may have two candidates for the 2001 race. We should expect nominating and voting ballots fairly soon. (I took the liberty to introduce Graeme, the VCon 26 chair, and Sherry Neufeld to each other by email, in the hopes they might co-ordinate their publicity and promotion.)

Ostensibly this year's CUFF nominations are open to fans from Eastern Canada, but after a certain point nominations will be open to any Canadian fan wanting funds to appear at Convention and represent their part of Canadian fandom.

I still have material posted on a rudimentary CUFF Web page, including an outdated list of items for sale to raise CUFF funds, which I have to update. Some of my recent e-mail has been an attempt to pin down for CUFF purposes how a mail auction works.

Sherry Neufeld's contact information:

814 Wollaston Crescent, Saskatoon, SK S7J 4H1

sherryneufeld@hotmail.com

An incomplete Canadian Unity Fan Fund page:

www.vcn.bc.ca/~hrothgar/cuff.htm

The V-Con Society

Most interest groups eventually have to form a permanent oversight committee, with respect to annual conventions. You probably already know that the Western Canada SF Association – the permanent organization overseeing VCons, as opposed to the different concoms each year – has been reorganized as the V-Con Society. Our society has gone through several changes over the years, of name and on-paper organization, but like any convention coordination commit-

tee, it has had the same general purposes as the similar organizations in Portland, Seattle, Edmonton, Los Angeles, Massachusetts, Ottawa or Moscow, Idaho.

The effect of each of these organizations is to protect the individual fans in a city from being billed, if a convention takes a loss rather than a profit; and to protect the individual fans, again, if someone's person or property takes damage at a convention, and the convention is liable for their insurable losses; and, finally, to pass something forward from one convention to another - typically seed money, address lists, and some procedures necessary for the success of the convention. The specific convention committees, which only stay together for a year, focus on actually getting the convention done.

I have been asked to act as Secretary for the Society, so I've been collating and updating fan address lists. I have also been recovering some other relevant documents, which are pretty interesting if you have a stake in this stuff: Donna McMahon's 1996 notes and tips on running VCons; some policies and procedures we've accumulated, from sometimes bitter experience; an old survey of hotel prices and spaces; and fragmentary notes on past VCon budgets.

Perhaps some of you have something to contribute, to Donna's VCon notes or to the budget history?

Where to Find Out More

It occurred to me recently that there are just three sources from which I can get news about Canadian fandom these days ... *Con-TRACT*, John Mansfield's listing of upcoming Canadian conventions, with some convention reports, convention news and editorial opinions; *File 770*, Mike Glyer's newszine from California; and *Covert Communications from Zeta Corvi*, an occasional personalzine from Andrew Murdoch, now residing in Richmond. Mike makes gestures at surveying world fandom but in my opinion, F770 is focused on American fandom, and specifically Worldcons and Westercons. Andrew isn't even trying to do a newszine, he just featured a column of news shorts in his last issue.

I could almost complete the news roundup from *SF Chronicle*'s occasional fan news column, or from *Ansible*'s occasional references to North American publishing matters, but you get the picture. Nobody is putting out a Canadian national fan newszine; in fact no-one has done for some time. I heard rumours that John Herbert and Karl Johanson in Victoria might publish another issue of *Under the Ozone Hole*, but that was last fall ... a year ago, actually. I heard rumours that Brian Davis in Fredericton was going to revive *Fixed Link* and cover fan news in the Maritime provinces, but again, that was a year ago.

Ansible, Dave Langford, 94 London Road, Reading, Berks. RG1 5AU, U.K. ansible@compulink.co.uk

Con-TRACT, John Mansfield, 516 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, MB R3C 0G2

File 770, Mike Glyer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, California 91016, U.S.A. Email mglyer@compuserve.com.

Covert Communications from Zeta Corvi, Andrew Murdoch, #508 - 5600 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC V7C 1C5; new email, toreador@vcn.bc.ca

Fixed Link, Brian Davis, 45 Charm Court, Fredericton, NB E3B 7J6 email badavis@nbnet.nb.ca

Under the Ozone Hole - ask John Herbert and Karl Johanson (write to Karl at 4129 Carey Rd., Victoria, BC V8Z 4G5), email ug837@freenet.victoria.bc.ca

