

# BCSFAzine #340

Vol. 29 No. 9

September 2001



THE LAST DAY OF SUMMER



Price: \$3.00

# BCSFAzine

## The monthly newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

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Family (2 Votes) .....	\$31.00

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BCSFA's Web page may be viewed at <http://www3.telus.net/dh2/bcsfa/>.

**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.).

### BCSFA Executive

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Charles Dana Gibson .....	cover
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Ye Ed again .....	1
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More anonymous clipart .....	6, 13

I request more artwork from our many talented members and readers!

### Upcoming Dates to Watch for:

*BCSFAzine* Deadline: September 21  
V-CON SOCIETY MEETING: September 23  
*BCSFAzine* Mailout: October 5  
Deadline: October 19  
V-Con Society General Meeting:  
last weekend of October 2001  
Mailout: November 2  
Deadline: November 16  
Mailout: November 30  
Deadline: December 21  
Mailout: January 4, 2002

# PLAIN SPEAKING

On Tuesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, Warren Oddson died of a heart attack. He was 43.

This news came first from Steve Forty the following evening, and again from several BCSFA members, past and present. I was surprised to realize how many different people knew this tall, blonde, rather diffident fanartist. For that matter I'm still surprised that he passed on at his age.

Yolanda Goodwin put it succinctly:

"A friend of mine died earlier this week. He used to be an artist for the *Vancouver Sun*. He did wonderfully detailed pointillisms and art for many of the local sci-fiction/fact/fantasy conventions and could lampoon almost anyone with taste and finesse in his art."

Lois Holmlund writes:

"Many fans have t-shirts of *Sentinel*, *Highlander*, *Trek*, *Starsky and Hutch* [drawn by Warren], and the other myriad of fandoms he was in. ... Warren was especially known in Classic Trek, *Sentinel*, *Dr Who*, and *Man from UNCLE*, but he also did art for *Starsky & Hutch* (3 fanzines covers), *Professionals* (several covers), *Highlander* (many covers), also covers for fanzines for *Red Dwarf*, *James Bond*, *I Spy*, *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea*, *Kung Fu:TLC*, *Robin of Sherwood*, *Blake's 7*, *Babylon Five*, *Forever Knight*, *Xena*, *Hercules*, *Star Trek Voyager*, *Prisoner*, *Star Wars*, *Wild Wild West*. ...

"Besides doing fan art, [he] also designed the logo for a Canadian astronaut on a NASA space flight, and was flown to Florida for the liftoff, and then Houston Control for the event."

A memorial service was held on the evening of August 25<sup>th</sup>, after FRED. No less than 35 people showed up at FRED that evening, to talk about Warren and see some of his work. Lois Holmlund, who has agented Warren's work for some years, told how some of his work would sell at Northeastern conventions' artshows for three-figure sums, and people attending such cons talked about Warren as a celebrity. I learned, only that evening, that Warren had gained two degrees and read widely on many subjects.

Later I wondered if we never fully realized how much Warren did, and meant, because he was too modest – or shy – to promote himself. I did ask him for more background, or context on his recurring cartoon characters, Chuckie the beaver and Marcel the frog; now I wish I had had more background on Warren himself.



My own Warren stories are few; apart from his sporadic appearances in *BCSFAzine* and in VCon publications, mainly I remember his appearance in VCon 18's Barbarian Beauty Contest, as a sort of Conan in a 3-piece suit. "Hear the words of Onrak the Barbarian", he declaimed, "It is better to conduct a leveraged buyout than to sack a city!"

For my money *he* should have gotten the contest prize, rather than the Leather Goddesses.

Alan Ferguson had made a model Viking ship, and after FRED, Warren's family and friends held a candlelight vigil, set fire to the ship, and launched it from a Vancouver beach, in regulation Viking manner. A showing of some of Warren's work was held the following Sunday at Iceland House in New Westminster.

Lois Holmlund has put up a memorial Web page with examples of Warren's art, his brother's eulogy, and a page of comments that will be forwarded to his family, at <http://home.istar.ca/~swpc/warren/index.htm>.

An artist's scholarship has been set up by Warren's family; cheques may be made to "The Oddsson Family" or "June Oddsson".

Condolences may be sent to:

The Oddsson Family  
PO Box 61007  
571 W 57th Ave  
Vancouver BC  
CANADA V6P 6S5

*(I thank Steve Forty, Yolanda Goodwin, Lois Holmlund, Jackie Barclay, Gladys We and Doe Poirier for much of the information above. -Ed.)*

I'll go on kvetching about how we do stuff in some other issue. In the meantime we can consider how *many* different things we do, while we're being fans ... some of them not as well as we might, perhaps ... and some of them at a professional level, as Warren did.

# LETTERS OF COMMENT

Frances Skene <fskene@axionet.com>, 3 Aug 2001

Hi Garth, re your editorial in the August *BCSFAzine*:

The problem with thanking people (for V-Con 26) (the Sturges, Lorna, Chilam, Clint, Graeme, Rick, Barbara, Tammy, Nico, Jeff) off the top of your head is that you miss some. Me, for example. I put in so many hours working on V-Con that I ran seriously short of sleep for the last several months and acquired 1500 emails in my V-Con folder. What did I do? Easier to say what I didn't do, which was the activities on the lower floor where you were stuck with the fanzine room. That's probably why you forgot about me. But there are others who deserve a lot of thanks (the word "volunteers" just doesn't cover their contributions):

Sylvia Skene and Donna McMahon, who attended one or more programming meetings and gave valuable suggestions in email to Barbara, Tammy, and me.

Sylvia, as well, was at-con pro liaison AND worked on the registration desk with Alan Ferguson (who also put in a lot of hours).

Tammy and Barbara, with Tammy's husband Norm, who in addition to programming were in charge of hospitality and tag-teamed supervising their daughter.

Lorna did more than the website; she was also in charge of the video room, which kept her busy all weekend. All this while coping with a bad back.

(Are you beginning to see a pattern here? People taking on more than one job?)

Greg Cairns, who organized the dinner theatre, bacchanal, and dance, and prior to the con helped a lot with publicity.

Don DeBrandt, who wrote original material for the dinner theatre.

Andrew Brechin, for Kidcon, Evil Dead Pancake Breakfast, and miscellaneous artistic endeavours.

Lisa McGovern, who did the program book and assorted other publications.

Chilam was in charge of the art show.

I'm hoping that others reading this can name people not mentioned above who deserve to be on this list, or additional tasks that the above people took on.

*((I stand corrected. There's a problem with doing this fanzine and working on VCon -- I never know, or I forget, half of what's going on.*

*((I take your point about people having more than one job, and it's why I editorialized last issue that we really need a lot more people to carry on VCon.*

*((Fran, guys -- have things changed somewhat over the years, or has VCon always struggled with rather fewer people than the enterprise really demands?))*

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, August 2, 2001

I've got a hardcopy of *BCSFAzine* 339, and I've got a keyboard ... I'll see if the two will mesh to form a loc.

Ten-digit dialing is a fact of life here, and it hasn't been much of a change ... I live in area code 416, but live right by the border of area code 905, where I work. I've been dialing ten digits for a long time. Now comes the area code overlays of 647 over 416, and 289 over 905, and ten digits will become the norm.

I think my convention running days are rapidly coming to a close, so I can look back at what I've done and consider the question you pose: what does it take to stage a science fiction convention? The first thing I can think of is a business-like attitude. Too many times I have seen someone take on a minor position on a concom, do a half-assed job, and then shrug his/her shoulders. There are also people who hold down well-paid jobs. If they could care enough to take the professional attention they pay to their jobs and apply it to the committee jobs they take on, conventions would run much smoother, and all would have a more enjoyable time running and attending the con. I think we all realize this; why doesn't it happen?

*((The foregoing is a COMMENT HOOK, people. Send in your comments in time for next issue. I was going to make a sardonic reply to Lloyd but that might not be productive. Just think; why DO some people volunteer for convention jobs, and then not follow through?))*

I figured that BCSFA is a central club, central to the body of fandom in Vancouver. There are other clubs, I'm sure.

*((Nope. I can't say we're central anymore. So many local fans operate in their own circles and communicate to other fans we don't know, there was a rumour going around that VCon died in 1986. Just no contact!))*

There is a small literary discussion group called the Space-Time Continuum which has gone silent for some time, and there are a handful of Star Trek clubs who make themselves known only around the time of the big Trek con in town, which was two weekends ago. I would like to see a source of fan news in Canada, but a fanzine may be too expensive. Maybe someone like Don Bassie could provide some Web space, and a fan news page could be created. Who's got the time for this? That's the big question.

*((What, you don't think Don Bassie is already providing this service? ☺))*

I hate cubbyholing fans into titles, like litfan and mediafan, but there it is. I'm not sure if the word "litfan" is

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in the *Neofan's Guide* lexicon; maybe I invented it, I don't know. All I know is that litfan specifies a fan's main interests in literary SF, as opposed to mediafan, which specifies a fan's main interests in media SF. And, we are all both, to one degree or another.

*((My point was, really, that I heard fans tossing this term "litfan" around and it didn't seem to mean anything. Especially since the fans in question are saying "literary" when they just mean "writing". I think we're using different releases of the English language.))*

It's almost here, so I wonder who's going to the big Victoria Comic Convention this weekend? Looks like a gigantic circus, and it's been so long since I lived in Victoria, I had to wonder where it would be held. The Victoria Conference Centre must be less than 20 years old.

Crank theories can be fun, especially if they show up on television as so-called documentaries. I'm especially thinking of The Learning Channel in the US, which broadcasts a lot of these shows. Atlantis, ghosts, hauntings, UFOs, ancient and modern, psychic phenomena, the hollow earth theory and more ... all grist for the documentary mill.

Marvellous news about an Outer Limits movie ... I will be there. I have some hopes that episodes might show up in

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a nearby video store so I can see the many episodes I missed. Or maybe Space could start showing them? At a regular day and time every week?

*((“Marvellous”? I'm getting pretty jaundiced about anything on TV or film these days. I find myself channel-surfing whenever I watch TV, and saying “Yeah, whatever, chewing gum for the eyes” no matter what TV show or special effects I see. Maybe I should give up my cable connection and get a VCR.))*

Now that it's August, I can now say that Yvonne and I will be going to the Worldcon in Philadelphia in just less than four weeks. We'll be there only four days instead of our usual six, so we will have to take in everything quickly. We'll have a report for everyone when we get back. Take care all, and see you in September.

*Chad Ma, 7 Aug 2001*

*(Jr. Vice President, Vancouver Japanese Animation Society)*

I recently got a hold of your article thru a friend of mine in regards to the new conventions in the Vancouver Area (Aka-Kon and Gate-con).

While I enjoyed the article, I noticed that there is one statement that did not seem entirely right: the statement

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO**  
**THE NEXT V-CON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE MEETING**  
*which will be held Sunday, Sept 23, 2001 from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.*  
*in the Peter Kaye meeting room on the lower level of the Main Library*

*The Agenda shall be:*

1. MOTION: to move the date of VCON to the October Thanksgiving/Columbus Day weekend - (since Thanksgiving is the 2nd Monday of the month VCON 27 will be October Friday 11th, Saturday 12th & Sunday 13th, 2002).
2. MOTION: to accept the Vice-President's report on the Vancouver Metro Hotel situation and recommendation for a VCON hotel.
3. MOTION: to receive the VCON 27 bid committee's presentation and to make a recommendation to the next General Meeting (which will be the Annual General Meeting - to be held at the last weekend in October - so let's have a party!)

*Clint Budd adds:*

"The primary purpose of the meeting is to receive the bid for VCON 27 so I expect to see all the bid's ConCon (which I understand is 20+ people). I want to have a complete turn-out of the Executive/Board - which is another 10 people (although I recognize there may be some overlap with the ConCon).

"This meeting will be open to the general membership and I'd like them to come. They're free to attend any executive meeting but the rule simply is that they can't vote and they can't speak unless invited to. Obviously we can be pretty flexible about that. We have room for 60 people max. in that room and I'd like to see as good a turnout as we can possibly muster (since I'm going to eat the cost)."

*Clint Budd <clintbudd@home.com> to Garth Spencer <hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca>*

**GRAEME'S GENERAL STORE & MAGAZINE EMPORIUM**

My fellow BCSFAns,

Due to circumstances utterly beyond my control I've been forced to file for bankruptcy. My book and magazine collection has been assessed at \$2,700.00 and I am obligated to provide this sum to my trustee. The only way to do it is to sell most of my collection.

My 500 plus hard cover books have found a buyer but I still offer the following:

For sale: the first 100 issues of *After The Battle* magazine, about 800 *National Geographics* going back to the 1920s, 100 or more issues of *Astronomy* magazine, numerous *Cinefantastiques*, *Cult Movies*, *Famous Monsters of Filmland* & other SF film mags, plus assorted comics.

For the time being however, I've decided to hang on to my SF pocket books.

Prices will be reasonable, depending on rarity and condition.

I will probably have an open house for sales circa Labour Day weekend, and a garage sale the weekend after. But interested individuals can contact me to arrange for private viewing earlier than this.

I can be reached at < rgraeme@home.com > or (604) 526-7522

Cheers! *R. Graeme Cameron*

that AKA is in debt, [allegedly] stated by me and my fellow club officer Rob Sawtell.

As much as we would like to take credit for stating such a thing, this is a rumour that has been spread around LONG before we have said anything about it. Also, the fact that you did not try to contact either of us, to confirm this, has Rob feeling uneasy.

Could you please post a retraction of that statement, since the origin of that rumor did not start with either

persons. And if you received this source from a third person, please inform that person that his/HER sources should be double checked.

*((Thank you for at last contacting me! I tried to find addresses for everybody in the article, but failed. I think it was your club's website did not have email links (nor snailmail nor phone numbers, for that matter); perhaps that's changed and I have to check the site again.))*

# MINUTES OF THE V-CON SOCIETY GENERAL MEETING OF AUGUST 11TH, 2001

at the Renfrew Public Library

Present: Clint Budd (V-Con Society President), Nico Iormetti, Palle Hoffstein (a former VCon chair, contemplating a bid for VCon 27), Garth Spencer (Secretary), Paul Carpentier, Lorna Appleby, R. Graeme Cameron and Andrew Brechin.

The pre-meeting conversation among those present, or preamble to the meeting if you prefer, established some points of interest. We're better off financially than expected, partly due to VCon 27 proceeds going to service the VCon 26 debt, and partly due to half-a-dozen committee members writing off monies owed to them personally. Nico talked with Palle and handed over blank cheques and information to him, and some more information to Clint. Clint pointed out that if we do a grant application, it would look better to designate such bad debts as donations. Nico pointed out that at VCon 26, \*no-one\* was doing onsite registration, though Nico asked everyone, until Al Ferguson sat down and effectively worked on it full-time, with part-time help from Nico and Sylvia. (Note the ill-defined "we" above.)

Meeting called to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Minutes of the Last Meeting** were read in synopsis by Garth Spencer. The minutes were accepted as read.

## Old Business

### *VCon 26 report*

Nico has obtained financial information from Nikki Sturges, and has prepared a financial statement for VCon 26, as verified as he can make it. As he summarized it, VCon 26's outstanding debts amount to \$327.92, not \$3,000 as previously suggested.

Discussion following this report wandered somewhat over tangential issues. Lorna asked whether the VCon name is trademarked (it is), and gave us information about the previous and current domain name (Chris Sturges set up a VCon 26 page, with the URL [www.v-con.org](http://www.v-con.org), but on a U.S. server; Lorna now has an independent page set up with the URL [www.v-con.ca](http://www.v-con.ca)). Not everyone, however, has been apprised of this update. Garth made a note to spread the word, and offered to talk with someone he knows at Coastal Trademark Services (Kirsten Severson) if we have to clear up anything about domain name issues.

Lorna, Clint and Palle discussed holding a fundraising raffle. Lorna can supply some volunteers and a stack of raffle items for a raffle; Nico has a Torcon 3 membership, which was contributed to us for just such a purpose.

Palle moved to accept the VCon 26 financial report, Garth seconded, and the report was accepted unanimously.

### *Potential bid for VCon 27*

Palle is awaiting response from some potential GoHs he has contacted, and a chance to settle on a hotel, before formally and officially submitting a VCon 27 bid, preferably to hold the convention in October 2002. Tim Powers, for example, turns out

to be very busy in August 2001 and will not be able to respond to Palle until mid-September. Palle has also contacted Gary Gygax; Steve Jackson was also mentioned. Palle has a number of able people ready to serve on a committee, including a treasurer who actually lives near him (and who therefore should actually be easy to contact).

Clint moved, and Lorna seconded, that the general meeting authorize the V-Con Society executive to accept Palle's formal VCon 27 bid when it is made, subject to a vote of approval at the Annual General Meeting (which will be held in October).

The subsequent discussion concerned the potential loss of momentum and motivation, versus the extra time such a bid affords for preparation of the convention, and the benefits of holding VCon on Columbus Day weekend. Palle pointed out that this is a long weekend in both countries. Lorna pointed out that the U.S. Thanksgiving can reduce, rather than gain us members; it was also made clear that Columbus Day in 2002 is on a Monday. Clint mentioned that he has talked to various people about the shift of date, and all approved the move to October.

Palle is open to more suggestions for GoHs. His proposed date is tentative, and can be moved. He has a number of capable people to form a core committee, including a treasurer who lives close to him and thus is easily accessible. As for the venue, Palle wants it to be a different hotel – the Burnaby Radisson was rather expensive for what it offered, and as Paul Carpentier found out the hard way, the limited parking in the area is rather distant. Lorna mentioned that *again* the hotel screwed up the room bookings. It is a matter of interest that Lorna has comprehensive and recent information on area hotels (accrued for her Babylon-5 group, who want to hold a Lower Mainland convention). In addition, Palle has found a government website where you can input the expected attendance and fees for an event, and receive a list of area venues which may host it.

Clint brought up the possibility of making an application for a non-profit grant. Such applications require a financial statement, which we have, a mission statement, which we don't have, and "scholarships" (to assist people in attending). Clint and Palle are both in favour of pursuing this option. Ed Hutchings was mentioned as a veteran of grant applications, but he was considered hard to get ahold of.

The motion that the general meeting authorize the V-Con Society executive to accept Palle's formal VCon 27 bid when it is made, subject to a vote of approval at the Annual General Meeting (to be held in October) was put. The motion was carried by 5 voting aye, Paul voting nay, and Clint and Palle abstaining.

## New Business

### *Event proposal and request for V-Con Society sponsorship*

Clint proposed, on behalf of Donna McMahon and Sylvia Skene, that WCSFA (The V-Con Society) sponsor a half-day science fiction event to be held in and with the Vancouver Public

*continued on page 12*

# NORTHWEST CONVENTIONS



## SEPTEMBER 2001

Sunday, September 9, 11am to 5pm: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Russ Heath, artist of *Enemy Ace: War in Heaven*, *Tom Strong #13*, *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight*, *Rocketeer*, *The Punisher*, *The Shadow*, *Sgt. Rock*, *G. I. Combat*, *Mad*, *Little Annie Fanny*, *Sea Devils*, *Tor*, and many other titles. For a complete list of Russ' credits, check the Grand Comics Database at <http://www.comics.org/>. Troy Nixey, artist of *Batman: The Doom that Came to Gotham*, *Jenny Finn*, *Only The End of the World Again*, *Trout*. James Lloyd, artist of *Futura Comics*, *Simpsons Comics*. Admission: \$3.00 per person; free for kids under 14 Dealers Tables: \$50 per centre table/\$55 per wall table Free autographs, giveaways, and hourly door prizes. Buy, sell, and trade comic books, action figures, sport, non-sport, and gaming cards, and other collectables. For more information about this show, please call 604-322-6412 or email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com); see also <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

September 15-16: **ConSpec 2001** at the Best Western Cedar Park Inn in Edmonton, AB. GoHs: Allen Steele and Michael Bishop. NOTE: Allen Steele and Michael Bishop will lead a writing workshop on September 13 and 14; seats are limited to 16 people. The \$90 fee will cover both the course and attendance at ConSpec 2001. Rooms: write Best Western Cedar Park Inn, 5116 Calgary Trail North, Edmonton, AB T6H 2H4, or phone (780) 434-7411, and quote #103-176 when booking a room. Memberships: \$45 plus GST until September, \$55 plus GST to the door. Write ConSpec, Box 4727, Edmonton, AB T6E 5G6; email [conspec@canada.com](mailto:conspec@canada.com); or see <http://www.compumart.ab.ca/clear/conspec.htm>.

September 20 - 23: **GateCon 2001**, "A Gatecon Odyssey"; at the Best Western Richmond. A benefit convention for Make a Wish Foundation. NOTE: The international group holding Gatecon talks about "tickets" rather than memberships. Addresses in Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States, e.g. POBox 76108, Colorado Springs, CO 80970-6108. See <http://www.gatecon.com>

September 28 - 30: **Foolscap III** (a Flat Stuff con) at the Southcenter Best Western in Tukwila, WA. ArtGoHs: Phil and Kaja Foglio. Author GoHs TBA. Banquet \$20 now, \$23 at the door. Memberships \$41 to Sept. 21, 2001; \$45 at the door. Cheques to Little Cat Z in U.S. funds only. Write foolscap III, c/o Little Cat Z, P.O. Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461. URL <http://www.alexicom.net/foolscap/index.htm>

## OCTOBER 2001

NONCON?: (Until some point in the late 1980s or early 1990s, NonCon was a central meeting point for Northwest fans, even though it was a medium-small convention; apparently NonCons are now small enough to be planned only some months, rather than a whole year in advance.)

Oct. 26-28: **Conifur Northwest 2001**, at the Fife Best Western Executive Inn. Guest of Honor: Malcolm Earle (Max the Black Rabbit). Rates: \$25 until July 1, 2001, \$30 until October 12, 2001, \$35 at the door. Contact: Conifur Northwest, 2406 SW 308th Place, Federal Way, WA 98023, (253) 815-0962 voice, (253) 838-1453 fax, [cfnw-info@conifur.org](mailto:cfnw-info@conifur.org). Also see URL: <http://www.conifur.org/>

October 26-29: **InCon 2001** at the Spokane Shilo Hotel., Guest of Honor: Jane Fancher, Artist Guest: Mark Ferrari, Attending Pros: C.J. Cherryh and John Dalmas. Rates: \$20 until October 1, 2001, \$25 at the door, Children 11 and under FREE if accompanied by an adult. Contact: Incon 2001, PO Box 9112, Spokane, WA 99209-9112. Also see URL: <http://incon.skywalk.com/>.

Sunday, October 28, 11am to 4pm: **Toy, Models & Collectables Show** at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Featuring: Model building demos, a history of SF/Fantasy models, model contest, presented by Monster Attack Team Canada. Admission: \$2.00 per person (Free for kids under 14). Dealers Tables: \$35. Buy, sell, and trade character toys, action figures, Beanie Babies, toy cars, Star Wars, model kits, trading cards, comic books, Barbies, games, and more! For information, please call 604-322-6412 or email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com). See also <http://users.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>.

## NOVEMBER 2001

Nov. 1-4: **World Fantasy Convention 27** at the Hotel Delta Centre-Ville in Montreal, Quebec. GoHs: Fred Saberhagen, Joel Champetier, Charles de Lint. Rooms: \$98/C\$148; tel 1-800-268-1133/514-879-1370, fax 514-879-1761. Dealers' table deposit \$50/table, limit 2. Memberships: \$125/C\$175 to June 30, 2001. Write 2001 WFC c/o Bruce Farr, P.O. Box 7191, Chandler, AZ 85246-7191; tel (602) 395-1945; email [bruce.farr@intel.com](mailto:bruce.farr@intel.com); [www.wordfantasy.org/wfc01.html](http://www.wordfantasy.org/wfc01.html).

Nov. 9-11: **Orycon 23** at the Doubletree Columbia River, Portland, OR. GoHs: Melanie Rawn; Laura Anne Gilman; Real Musgrave. Rooms: call (503) 283-2111. Memberships: \$35 to July 15, \$40 to Oct. 31, \$50 thereafter. For more information see [www.orycon.org/orycon23](http://www.orycon.org/orycon23), email [david\\_schaber@hotmail.com](mailto:david_schaber@hotmail.com), or write to P.O. Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703, U.S.A.

November 16-18: **AKA KON 2001** in Vancouver, B.C., billed as "Western Canada's Largest Anime Convention". (URL: <http://www.akaanime.com>)



# AND NOW THE NEWS

## LET US NOW PRAISE FAMOUS MEN:

Poul Anderson, one of the major writers of science fiction and fantasy since the 1950s, passed on this summer, surrounded by his family. He is missed by many people in fandom, in the writers' community, and abroad.

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## Proposal: Auroras at Torcon 3

Marcel Gagné, Robert J. Sawyer and Don Bassie broadcast a proposal this summer that Torcon 3 host the Aurora Awards in 2003, reporting widespread support for the proposal:

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"Hello everyone:

"I realize that 2003 seems very far away right now; nearly as far away as 1994. That's when I attended my first SF convention, Conadian. Before then, I had been a fan of science fiction and fantasy as far back as I can remember, but this was my first experience with the community. I knew about the Hugos and the Nebulas and I remember thinking (as I attended the Aurora Award ceremony) how wonderful it was that Canada also had its equivalent to the Hugos, a fan award. It all seemed very natural and right that the Hugos and the Auroras should take place at the same time.

"So now 2003 looms in the distance and Canada is hosting another Worldcon. As in 1994, I feel that the presence of the Auroras could only benefit and help to showcase Canadian science fiction and fantasy. It is that belief that has led me to do what I have done. On my website is a form, a petition really, that asks other Canadian fans, readers, writers, and enthusiast to express their desire for an Aurora ceremony at the 2003 Worldcon.

"Should you feel, as I do, that an Aurora Awards presentation would be an important addition to the Toronto 2003 Worldcon, consider filling out my 'Auroras in Toronto in 2003' support petition. Here is an excerpt from the Wb page:

We the undersigned feel that Torcon3 should bid for the 2003 Aurora Awards to be held in conjunction with the 61st World Science Fiction Convention to be held in 2003 in Toronto. We believe that the Aurora awards represent a longstanding tradition of rewarding the best in Canadian science fiction, fantasy, horror, and all other forms that represent Canada's literature of the fantastic. We believe that the presence of the Aurora awards at the 2003 Worldcon can only help to promote, highlight, and celebrate Canada's richness of speculative fiction.

"To get to the page, click the following link:

<http://www.transversions.com/aurora2003/>

"That's all. I hope you'll take the time to visit the page. Thanks and take care."

*Marcel (Writer and Free Thinker at Large) Gagné*

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## 2001 Surrey Writers' Conference

Not that this is in the least science-fictional, but it is local: the 2001 Surrey Writers' Conference will be held October 19-21 at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel, 15269 - 104<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey, B.C. This event is geared to benefit beginning as well as advanced writers, featuring a "blue pencil café" and opportunities to contact editors. Registration fees range from \$30 to \$379, depending on the length of attendance you choose and whether you opt for meals with the guest speaker/writers. For more information see [www.surreywritersconference.bc.ca](http://www.surreywritersconference.bc.ca).

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## Remember the Sunburst Award?

The following short list of books will be considered for the first annual Sunburst Award:

*BEFORE WINGS* by Beth Goobie, Orca Book Publishers, ISBN: 1-55143-163-7

*MIDNIGHT ROBBER* by Nalo Hopkinson, Warner Books, ISBN: 0-446-67560-1

*THE BLACK CHALICE* by Marie Jakober, Edge Publishing, ISBN: 1-894063-00-7

*LORD OF EMPERORS* by Guy Gavriel Kay, Penguin Books, ISBN: 0-670-88092-2

*MONKEY BEACH* by Eden Robinson, Alfred A. Knopf Canada, ISBN: 0-676-97075-3

*GALVESTON* by Sean Stewart, Ace Books, ISBN: 0-441-00800-3

The Sunburst Award will consist of a cash prize of \$1000 and a bronze medallion of the 'Sunburst', crafted by Linda Carson (from a design by Marcel Gagné), to be presented on September 28, 2001 at the Winnipeg International Writers Festival. The jurors for the 2001 Sunburst Award are John Clute, Candace Jane Dorsey, Phyllis Gotlieb, Monica Hughes and Leon Rooke. For more information about eligibility and the selection process, we invite you to visit the Sunburst Award web site,

[www.sunburstaward.org](http://www.sunburstaward.org), or write The Sunburst Award, Attn: Mici Gold, Award Secretary, 106 Cocksfield Avenue, North York, Ontario, CANADA M3H 3T2; email [mici@sunburstaward.org](mailto:mici@sunburstaward.org).

*Peter Halasz <peterhal@pathcom.com>, 24 Jul 2001*

# FANZINES

By Ted White

Fanzines are a basic part of science fiction fandom, having been in existence as long as fandom itself – the past 70 years. Fanzines are a reflection of many fans' interest in the printed word and amateur publishing. The publication you are reading this in is a fanzine, but a specialized one. A variety of other fanzines are also available – many of them by request – and this column will cover some of them each issue.

All fanzines are published as a hobby and lose money. Their editors appreciate money to defray their expenses and sometimes list single-copy or subscription prices, but they appreciate even more your written response – a Letter of Comment, or LoC. Feedback – better known in fandom as “egoboo” – is what fanzine publishing is all about.

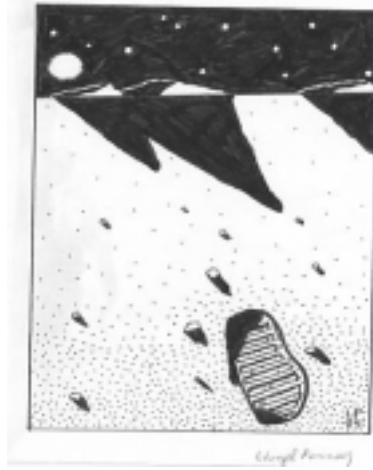
Check out the fanzine below and broaden your participation in fandom.

::

*NOVA EXPRESS* (Lawrence Person, P.O. Box 27231, Austin, TX 78755-2231, e-mail to lawrenceperson@jump.net; available for \$5 a copy or \$12 for four issues – \$15 after September 15, 2001)

*Nova Express* is yet another type of fanzine: what is now called the “sercon fanzine.” “Sercon” stands for “serious and constructive,” and the term was originally coined (in the early '50s) as a sarcastic put-down of overly earnest and humorless efforts, but by the late '80s the term had been co-opted by the publishers of serious, science-fiction-oriented fanzines. This kind of fanzine owes its existence to the Richard Geis fanzines of the '70s, variously titled but best known as *The Alien Critic*. The typical sercon fanzine runs an article or two on science fiction topics, at least one interview with an author, and many book reviews. Unfortunately, none of the editors of these fanzines has the deft touch of Geis, and consequently none of their fanzines are as lively.

Nonetheless, the 21st issue of *Nova Express* does have a lively feature interview with Tim Powers which takes up over a third of the (44 page) issue, followed by three reviews of two of Powers' books. Powers talks about his friendship with Phil Dick (“Among other things, he was probably the best-read person I've ever met. And probably the only actual genius I'll ever know well. And also the funniest guy I ever met.”), about selling his first two books to the absurd Roger Elwood's Laser Books, and about his dealings with Lester del Rey as an editor (“When he would reject a book, he would send you a four-page, single-spaced rejection letter, and many of the points would be totally correct, so you'd think, ‘All right, thanks!’”) as well as discussing his own work at length.



There is one article in this issue, “The Falling Rate of Profit, Red Hordes and Green Slime: What the Fall Revolution Books are About” by Ken MacLeod. In it MacLeod responds to an editorial query to write about his four books, “why you wrote these four books, what you meant to say, and how they fit together.”

The rest of the issue is largely taken up with two “Featured Reviews” and twenty-five more book reviews – plus less than a page of letters (one of which is mine). The book reviews are generally intelligent and literate and written to what I consider a professional level. Indeed, the entire production is “professional” in appearance, with clean graphic design, boxed “pull quotes” in the interview and article, and a small cover banner that announces “One-Time Hugo Nominee!”

Small touches, however, deliberately belie the professional appearance: A larger cover headline proclaims “Winner of the Invisible City Good Citizenship Award! Really!;” a cover motto, “We go to Eleven;” calling the letters “Viewer Mail;” and crediting right-hand editorial staffer, book reviewer and interviewer Fiona Kelleghan in the extensive masthead as “Sound Engineer.” In the letter column editor Person argues with me, as he did an issue earlier with E. B. Frohvet, that *Nova Express* is a fanzine and not a semi-prozine. And I guess these little touches are part of why he regards it as a fanzine. But he wants to sell it, and makes no mention of giving away issues for trades or letters of comment – two practices typical of most fanzines, so *Nova Express* lies in a gray area between the two types of publications. For what it is, it is very well-done and I recommend it to those of you looking for literate, intelligent commentary on current science fiction.

*BCSFA has received since last issue* The Australian SF Bullsheet #174, DASFAX #33:8 (Aug. 2001), FOSFAX #203 (June 2001), The Made in Canada Newsflash, Pulsar 273 (July 2001), Westwind #257 (April-May) #258 (May-June) and #259 (July 2001), and several issues of a fictionzine, Solar-X (July 1999 - January 2001) from our German correspondent; anybody out there read German?

# CRANK THEORIES

by Garth Spencer

(Part II in a serial)

Logically I have to include, among crank theories, designed societies – in which I include political ideologies, and intentional communities – and eugenics, and proposals for constructed languages.

All these theories seem to be based on the idea that we can improve how people live, or even improve *people*, by a design. In a way this idea is not hard to understand: it seems obvious that our languages, and our societies, and the human genome itself were all knocked together by random circumstance; and a very little thought can reveal some very irrational, even harmful things about our languages, our societies, and the human genome.

## *Constructed Languages*

Robert Heinlein, among others, saw the natural English language as an irrational construction, hard to think in logically and even conducive to unreason. He once wrote that there were really multiple meanings for the verb “to be”, all of which were false to fact. If I were to pick on just one feature of English, I would point out the saying that “Beauty is in the eye of the beholder”. That is to say, when you think about it, “beauty” is less a feature of what is beheld – as English, or French or other languages construct it – than it is a response of the beholder. Another language might construct a sentence “I [beauty] your cousin”, where [beauty] is a verb for my reaction to the young lady. You may think of other examples.

I have an ongoing interest in constructed languages. There have been many such languages proposed, Esperanto and Interlingua and Lojban among them. For a time I pursued a university linguistics program, and I can point out technical problems with several constructed languages in science fiction. Jack Vance’s *Languages of Pao* is based on a misunderstanding of the Sapir-Whorf hypothesis, that the ways a language may shape thought can begin with the kind of *sounds* it uses. Heinlein’s novelette “Gulf” described something called Speedtalk, in which a wide range of single phonemes and syllables stood for concepts. (This, despite the fact that proposed basic ranges of language concepts number to at least a few hundred, and usually a few thousand, which is two orders of magnitude greater than the range of sounds in any language.)

A more important feature that constructed languages have in common is that *either they died out, or they have only a few enthusiasts*. (“A few”, relatively speaking; there may be over eight million Esperantists worldwide, and over six billion people in the whole world.) I have my own theory that Esperanto’s and Lojban’s inventors missed the real point, but I have to refine my theory.

## *Intentional Communities*

When a large population of grown and presumably sensible adults persist in doing things we find irrational, or abominable – mutilating young women, for example; denying equal pay, education or career opportunities to a large segment of the population; or jailing people without just cause and due process – we have to look to their culture to find what compels them. Our industrial societies have regularly generated criticisms of inequality and injustice, with varying effect. If I were to question any features of our culture, I would ask what key concepts like “perfect”, “success” or “normal” actually *mean*, if anything; or why half our efforts are devoted to fixing blame on others, rather than fixing problems ... or avoiding blame, rather than taking responsibility.

There have been a lot of ideologies for, basically, constructed societies, from Christian sects to fascism to various kinds of socialism (even for outright anarchism). One feature they have in common is that the administrations allegedly practicing these ideologies *all seemed to fail*, in competition with the industrial nations dominated by large corporations. (The story is actually more involved, but few people care to know any more.)

I was interested in constructed societies such as communes, and intentional communities, in the late 1970s. But the common feature of such communities, at least in North America – from the Oneida and Amana communities in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, through the Bruderhofen of the 1930s, to the varied communes of the 1960s – is that *they failed to catch on*. Communes which have survived – like the Bruderhofen and like Walden Two, a Skinnerian commune – appear to be those which had an economic base, and marketed something to the larger economy ... not unlike any other municipality. You might think that the whole subject lacked some criteria for social program design. Is there a system analyst in the house?

## *New and Improved People*

A novelist, Katherine Neville, once remarked that a movement which begins by trying to create a perfect society often ends by trying to create a more perfect human. That calls to mind the various eugenics movements, and their somewhat fuzzy ideas of perfecting humanity. I call eugenics a crank theory because it seems to have started from racist fallacies, and aimed at “perfecting” humanity long before a definition of “perfect” was established, let alone before the basis of genetics was understood. This subject again calls for a whole separate article.

*(to be continued)*

## MEDIA FILE

Raymond Seredin

This edition of "Media Files" is dedicated to our friend Warren Oddsson. We miss him already, because he touched all of us with his magic. Still he now has a perpetual membership to EternalCon.

'Bye my old friend. Say hi to Richard Wright, who is likely the con-chair, and Peregrin, whom you will likely find in the art room, for all of us, please.

\*

*A New Doctor Who Series Likely:*

Yes, The Doctor could be coming back!!!!

The BBC said that the recent renewed interest in both Britain and the US is making the premier of a new Doctor Who series or TV movie the likely event for November 23, 2003, the original series' 40th anniversary.

They are many rumours out there on the project. Here are few that I can say that are true:

Disney will not co-produce the project. The likely partner is Studio USA which owns the American Sci-Fi Channel, which aired the 1996 TV movie on July 15 to 2.9 million viewers. They plan to re-transmit it in November and March, to see how it holds up against the networks' Hollywood blockbusters and March Madness. If the ratings hold above 2 million viewers for the re-broadcasts, there will be a new series of twelve fifty-minute episodes a year; if not, there is a very good chance for new TV movie as part of the 40th anniversary.

Although Studio USA will be providing most of the cash, it looks like the BBC will be in the driver's seat, as they already invited Dan Freedman, producer of the *Death Comes to Time* radio drama, to head or work with the producers on the project. Also two co-creators of the British version of *Queer As Folk* have been asked to pitch story outlines for it.

The BBC said that "...the project (what ever it is) will blend live action and CGI."

Paul McGann has said that he is very interested to returning to role of The Eighth Doctor. However, if McGann does lose interest between now and then, Stephen Fry could take over as the Ninth.

If all goes to plan, the BBC and Studio USA should made an announcement on the project sometime in late April or early May 2002.

Now here are a few rumours that could be true:

Rumour One: European and American game show producer Endimol, is interested in becoming a partner on the new Dr. Who project, and is even rumoured in helping to build a state-of-the-art CGI sound stage in a disused shipyard in the north of England.

This would make sense, since Endimol is the largest TV producer in continental Europe and has been interest in going a dramatic series with a international partner since the mid-1990s. Further for the BBC and Studio USA, this third "Partner" would split the cost three ways, giving the project a better chance for being picked up.

Rumour Two: Because the BBC has only one CGI sound stage, both partners are looking into making about half the series in a studio outside the UK, one of them being Studio USA's proposed new production centre on Annacis Island.

Now one side of me is saying, "Yahoo, the TARDIS is in Vancouver!" However, knowing the BBC, they will very likely shoot the "Space Set" episodes here and do the "Earth Set" ones in Britain. So, there's very little chance of seeing our hometown as backdrop on the new series even if it's partly done here. Then another side of me is saying "Why fool with The Doctor?" I'm sure the new series producers can always make the first new season "Earth Set" or make a limited number of "Space Set" stories. By the start of season two, the BBC should have a second CGI sound stage up and running in Britain.

As I said before, "The Doctor has always been British and we should not fool around with that."

Rumour Three: Jonathan Rhys Meyers as the new Master.

This young actor would make a excellent choose as The Doctor's greatest Time-Lord adversary. I'm not sure what the producers have planned, nevertheless, this is what I like would to see.

The Master snatches a body of a young Time-Lord, giving him thirteen new lives. Now The Doctor's one-thousand-something knowledge and intelligence, housed in a equally old body with only four or five regenerations left, must battle an equally old knowledge and intelligence housed in a new body. That would make for a very good story each time they meet, However, I would limit their meetings to just once a season.

As for the rest, they are just rumours for now. We just have to wait and see.

If anyone here want a good Dr. Who fix, just log on to *Death Comes to Time* at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/cult/doctorwho/death/enhanced/index.shtml>.

It's very well done and should rekindle the WhoFan in any die-hard Trekkie.

By the way, more episodes of *Death Comes to Time* are being made and should fill the gap between now and the start of the new series or TV movie.

So stay tuned WhoFans, both old and new.

Sorry about only talking about Doctor Who this time, but I'm sure Warren would wanted it this way.

I wish you the best and I'll be seeing you.

# BOOK REVIEWS

by Donna McMahon

*VENUS*, Ben Bova (Tor, Apr/00)

*THUNDER RIFT*, Matthew Farrell (Eos, May/01)

When billionaire Martin Humphries offers a prize of ten billion dollars to the first person to reach the surface of Venus and retrieve the body of his son Alex, he gets an unexpected taker. Alex's younger brother, Van, always worshipped his heroic big brother – and anyway he needs the money. Dad just cut off his allowance.

Letting nothing stand in his way – not his timidity, his inept social skills, his bad health, or his total lack of knowledge about anything scientific – Van puts together an expedition which he hopes will be the first to successfully land on Venus and get back again.

Ben Bova has been writing science fiction since the 1940's, and he certainly hasn't lost his ability to tell a story. The plot of *Venus* is far-fetched and melodramatic, and a few sprinkles of contemporary references simply don't bring it into the 21st century, but what the heck. Bova's pacing is good, there's lots of action, and a great deal of technical data about Venus is delivered without impeding the flow of the story.

As with most old-style space operas, the weakest part of this book is the characters. Bova makes a game attempt at characterization with his protagonist, Van, without quite succeeding. And the other characters fall far short, especially the eccentric Lars Fuchs, (think Captain Ahab of the asteroid miners). Bova also strikes a very flat note in his depiction of Fuchs' crew, describing them in loaded terms as "dour" "blank-faced Asians" who "jabber" in their own tongue – a racist tone that reminded me of Charlie Chan movies.

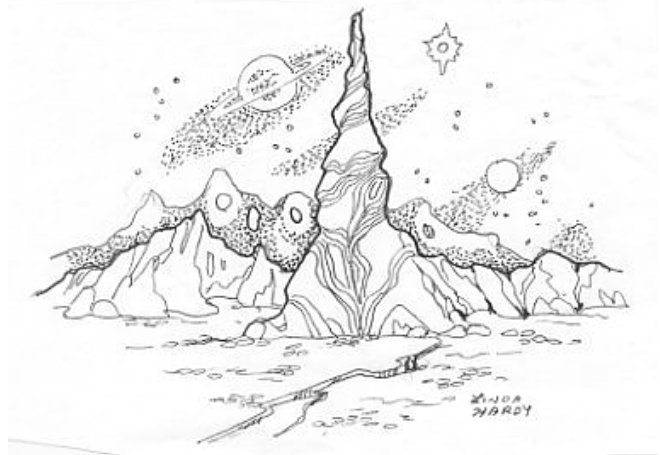
Still, this is a readable book, whether you're fascinated by Venus or not. Unlike some other famous SF writers I could mention, Ben Bova isn't just coasting on his name. *Venus* is an old-fashioned hard SF adventure story that delivers lots of action and some imaginative, informed speculation about the planet Venus.

###

When *Thunder Rift* opened up near Jupiter, it sent out an electromagnetic pulse that wrecked every electronic device on Earth, slamming the planet backwards a century in a few hours. Consequently, it took decades before Earth could launch a space mission to explore the rift and confirm suspicions that it was an interstellar gateway.

Taria Spears, an exoanthropologist on this mission, is elated when they find an inhabited planet on the other side of the gateway. But her obsessive personality and abrasiveness have made her unpopular with both her scientific colleagues and the ship's military crew. Only because the "Blues" (aliens) choose Taria as an emissary to their planet, does the captain agree to send her down alone to do research. And when things start going very wrong, all the human lives may rest in the hands of one selfish, unstable woman.

I found *Thunder Rift* interesting enough to finish, but I can't say that I enjoyed this book. I had three major problems with it –



a whining neurotic brat of a protagonist, a central "mystery" that is much too obvious, and an uneasy blend of science and mystical woo-woo.

Writing a fallible protagonist is one thing, but having a main character who is as convincingly disagreeable as Taria makes this a very difficult book for a reader to like. And if Farrell intended to make her grow or earn reader empathy as the story progressed, I certainly didn't notice any improvement. Taria is obsessed with the murder of her mother, which she witnesses at the age of five, but far from giving me any sympathy for her, I found myself wishing that the murderer had offed Taria while he was at it.

I also had problems with the flashbacks of the mother's murder, which were far too coherent and adult to be the memories of a five-year-old child. This hit a personal button with me, as I lost my own mother at an early age, and I went to the trouble of checking my reactions with two other friends who also lost their mothers when they were children. Although we were all strongly affected by our childhood traumas, we found Taria's memories and reactions implausible for reasons that far exceed the limits of a book review column, but which I would be happy to discuss over a glass of wine (offers of drinks can be sent to the email address below).

Anyway, in order to get his flaky and annoying protagonist onto a space mission, an alien planet and then into various situations, Farrell uses a lot of plot devices that stretched my credibility. But I stuck the book out because the writing is competent and there are lots of good bits. The best of these is the biology, language and culture of the Blues, which Farrell clearly put a lot of thought into.

In fact, Farrell put considerable thought and emotion into this book, and he made an ambitious attempt to weave complex themes and story elements together. Unfortunately, the novel doesn't work. Part of the problem is an accumulation of jarring details – implausible plot points, predictable minor characters (the military ones particularly), and inevitable outcomes.

A more serious flaw is a lack of strong secondary characters. Taria has to carry the book herself, and since I swiftly grew to loathe her, I didn't care whether or not she came to terms with her inner pain. Finally, I am not a big fan of gurus, Yodas or godlike mystical aliens solving our problems for us. Call me a cynic, but I'd rather hang with Captain Ahab in the boiling, corrosive clouds of Venus.

Comments? Questions? Rebuttals?  
[donna\\_mcmahon@sunshine.net](mailto:donna_mcmahon@sunshine.net)

## Reviews of Donna McMahon's *The Dance of Knives*

Gerald Jonas (*New York Times Book Reviews*, July 29, 2001):

"Klale's ignorance of city ways makes her a useful guide to post-Collapse Vancouver; we look over her shoulder as she learns how to stay alive in a society where even minor disputes swiftly escalate to deadly violence. ... She keeps forgetting the key to survival in Downtown Vancouver that even the robotlike Blade grasps: "There were no safe places." But together with Toni's more knowledgeable meddling, her attempts to get inside Blade's head trigger a redemption process that forms the most satisfying thread of this complex narrative – a technologically aware and emotionally wrenching twist on the old tale of Beauty and the Beast."

Kelly Rae Cooper (*Romantic Times*, August 2001):

For her debut novel, Donna McMahon has penned a riveting post-apocalyptic tale set in twenty-second-century Vancouver. ... *Dance of Knives* (4 stars) is a gut-wrenching look into a dismal future. Ms. McMahon delivers an edge-of-your-seat read by weaving her characters into a complex tapestry of strength, mystery and discovery.

Nalo Hopkinson (*Quill & Quire*, July 2001):

"McMahon skilfully depicts the struggles of class, race, sexuality, and culture in her future Vancouver, tensions that feel realistically extrapolated from the present day. History, social issues, and new technology are smoothly inserted into the narrative without bogging the story down. There are delightful touches, too: a cat named after Mohawk writer Pauline Johnson, and the Screaming Eagles, a militant organization reminiscent of the Black Panthers with their dedication to creating education and jobs."

Clint Budd writes: "Getting a review in any of these publications is a feat and getting into all three (for a Canadian first-time writer ~~who isn't Rob Sawyer~~) is very rare indeed."

Clint Budd <clintbudd@home.com>, 03 Aug 2001

V-CON SOCIETY EXECUTIVE MEETING  
(continued from page 5)

Library. Other sponsors will be asked to participate, primarily for publicity and donated raffle prizes.

Clint moved that we sponsor the event, and Graeme seconded. Clint distributed information about the proposed event, as follows:

### A WRITER EVENT AT VPL

Vancouver is long overdue for a public science fiction book event.

Other cities have recently held successful group signings for SF/Fantasy authors, but just signing books is DULL. We should Do Something Interesting!

Sylvia Skene and I are brainstorming ideas for a group event which we could stage at the Vancouver Public Library or some other likely venue this fall.

We are sending you this email in the hopes that you will write back and tell us what you think, what other ideas and suggestions you have, and whether you'd like to participate.

THEME: Future Vancouver (with an emphasis on the city's unique evolving culture)

FORMAT: Half day at the Vancouver Public Library (or ?)

GUESTS: Local SF/Fantasy writers AND some other well known local writers/journalists (preferably with a book out). (Maybe a limit of ten total so it doesn't get cumbersome.)

Possible names we thought of (remember, we're still just brainstorming here): Chuck Davis, David Suzuki, Bill Richardson, Bill Deverell, Betty Krawczyk (environmental activist), Cynthia Flood, Douglas Coupland, Harbinder Singh Sewak (journalist, *Asian Post*), Larry Campbell (former Vancouver Coroner & scriptwriter for *Da Vinci's Inquest*). Can you think of others?

Remember, he/she has to be comfortable with speaking in public, and be reasonably SF-friendly/speculative.

We'd also want a good MC to keep things moving, and to make sure everyone has a say (and no-one dominates).

### ACTIVITIES:

Our current thoughts are to have 3 activities, no more than an hour long, with breaks in between. Not everyone needs to do everything. Some suggestions:

1. Short (e.g. 5 minutes) readings about Future Vancouver (or Pacific NW), or trends that a writer feels are related to our changing city — e.g. "expect to see more of this."

2. Pairs of writers (one mainstream, one genre) talk about issues and trends of interest. Some possible topics that occurred to us:

- \* Will we really go Green in 50 years? Is sustainability only affordable by the middle class?
- \* Are we a mosaic or a melting pot? What will Vancouver culture be like?
- \* Will there be a gay community in future, or will gays integrate into the mainstream?
- \* Future Religion—there are hundreds of flavours in Vancouver already from Mormon to Orthodox Greek to Buddhist; what next?

3. Reach for the Future: Two teams of contestants compete to come up with good answers to questions. Of course there is no RIGHT answer to these questions. Audience applause will determine winners.

- \* In 50 years when Starbucks is dead and gone, what will be Vancouver's trendiest hot spots?
- \* Name your favourite not yet existing Vancouver landmark.
- \* What Vancouver landmarks should future generations demolish?

**RAFFLE:** We'd like to hold a raffle, with proceeds to the VPL for the purchase of SF/Fantasy books. We'd solicit prizes, such as signed books, a membership to VCon, etc.

**SPONSORS:** WCSFA. Also, should we try to get some other organizations on board? Possibilities: Vancouver Magazine, Georgia Straight, alternative music radio station, a local high tech company such as Ballard. We'd ask them to help primarily with publicity and donated prizes.

**BOOKSELLER:** We'd like to have a bookseller in attendance. The obvious first choice would be Duthie's.

Send your feedback to: [sskene@home.com](mailto:sskene@home.com), and [mcmahon-@home.com](mailto:mcmahon-@home.com) / [donna-mcmahon@sunshine.net](mailto:donna-mcmahon@sunshine.net)

\*

In discussion, Paul asked about WCSFA and VPL splitting the raffle proceeds? Is the raffle a feasible means of fundraising? Lorna mentioned that she could contribute a whole stack of items for the raffle. Paul also mentioned that he sees a lot of inexpensive ways to do publicity, e.g. on the Web. The motion that WCSFA (The V-Con Society) sponsor the event was put to a vote and the motion was carried, all voting aye except Nico, who abstained.

*A more general discussion followed:*

Nico asked, shall we keep the \* VCon \* account? There are at present multiple accounts going by different names, with different signing officers. There were varying opinions as to which account to keep and where, or for which purpose. Nico favoured the current account at the CIBC, which offers merchant



services, but the branch is not open after 5:00 p.m. Palle thinks it just as well to keep it. Clint would rather close it out, and just use the WCSFA account, because we can then maintain \*one\* account – and thereby maintain a consistent, sustained record trail, which we have not done in the past.

Palle also favoured the account at VanCity, because the branch nearest him is open until 8:00 p.m.

Lorna mentioned PayPal, which is the easiest online credit-card system for online membership registration.

This segued into discussion of Chris Sturges' apparent confusion as to where the VISA imprinter was kept. It turns out that in fact this is at Clint Budd's place.

Clint discoursed on the lack of oversight he witnessed in the performance of VCon 26, meaning that the people who should have displayed some authority, e.g. V-Con Society executives such as himself, were not separate from the VCon 26 committee.

Clint moved that Nico be formally added to the V-Con Society executive. Garth seconded. All voted aye, except for Paul and Palle abstaining.

Graeme asked, could we not undertake some paid advertising for VCon, regardless of the view that it is not fannish? Clint is in fact planning to do so.

Palle asked for a point of clarification. He is trying to work up procedural booklets for each convention department; for the department of Publicity, who is handling which parts of the job, the committee or the V-Con Society? He went down a detailed list, and Clint responded to each.

Clint moved that Lorna also be formally added to the V-Con Society executive, as VCon Webmistress. Nico seconded, and all voted aye. Lorna proposes that Garth be her apprentice. Clint talked a bit about the distinction between the V-Con Society and VCon, and between their websites.

Andrew led a discussion on matters relating to publicity and relations with the UBC clubs. It appears that they are simply not responding, due partly to conflicts relating to VCon's usual date; but the SFU clubs have been far more responsive.

The V-Con Society and VCon websites were discussed. It was decided that Lorna Appleby will be Webmistress and Garth will be her assistant.

Graeme moved we adjourn; the motion was carried by acclamation and the meeting adjourned at about 5:00 p.m.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR VCON 26

<b>Expenses</b>		<b>Income</b>	
		Initial bank balance transfer	3,267.00
Advertising, Publicity, Promotion		Advertising in pgm bk	190.00
Art Show		Art Show	388.00
Artist reimbursement	155.70	Panel Fees	
		Auction/VCon table	175.50
Bacchanal	28.50	Out-of-print Auction	155.00
		* Camarilla Kissing Auction	200.00
Bank Charges	14.50		
Bank Package Fees	35.00		
Banquet		Banquet (95 tickets @ \$30 each)	2,850.00
		Dead Dog Party	50.75
Saturday Dance	414.48	Dealers	500.00
		Member Donation	35.00
Facilities (all hotel except guest rooms)	9,330.92		
Guest Expenses (airfare or gas, rooms, per diem, gifts)			
airfares:	385.90		
hotel:	1,774.47		
Hospitality	1,344.85	Hospitality	1,605.51
Registration float and supplies	151.53	Memberships & Dealers Tables	
		VCon 26 prereg.	5,508.00
		VCon 26 Reg.	3,565.00
		* VCon 27 prereg.	1,240.00
Miscellaneous		Miscellaneous (bank interest)	32.48
- Web reg'n fees**	149.94		
- Returned cheque	5.00		
- Interest on overdue account	114.67		
Truck rental	400.00		
Gas	48.01		
Office Expenses (misc. copying, receipt books, supplies)	)391.97		
Operations (incl. A/V, volunteer perks, vehicle rental, radios, signage, etc.)			
Postage	139.08		
Programming (incl. Dance, Elrons, Masquerade, etc.)			
Publications (flyer prep. & printing, bookmarks, P.R.'s, program books, stationery)			
Program Book	1,500.95		
Flyers	450.05		
P.R.'s #1 and #2	91.20		
P.R. #3	166.24		
Auroras		Auroras voting fees	625.00
Banquet	3,091.94		
Printing	80.26		
Trophies	450.00		
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>20,715.16</b>	<b>Total Income:</b>	<b>20,387.24</b>

*NOTES: These figures from Chris and Nikki Sturges are verified to the best of Nico Iormetti's ability.*

*Since receiving his figures I have formatted the statement in accordance with recommended VCon statement format.*

*\* VCon 27 preregistration monies have gone to service VCon 26's debts.*

*\*\* How can domain name registration cost over \$150?? (GS)*