

Colophon

BCSFazine © July 2004, Volume 32, #7, Issue #374 is the club newsletter published by the B.C. Science Fiction Association, a social organization. For comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions, write to: *BCSFazine*, c/o Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1, or email hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca.

BCSFazine is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies \$3.00 each.

BCSFA's e-mail discussion list may be joined by emailing BCSFA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. To post a message, email BCSFA@yahoogroups.com. The shortcut URL to this list is <http://www.yahoogroups.com/community/BCSFA> (or <http://www.yahoogroups.com/group/BCSFA> - I have to check on this)

F.R.E.D., the weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in coming, has been meeting at the Denny's on Davie at Thurlow, and we're thinking of a permanent move there.

BCSFA's Web page may now be viewed at <http://bcsfa.bcgreen.com>

The V-Con Society Web page may be viewed at <http://www3.telus.net/dh2/vconsociety/>

Vcon 29's Web page may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca>

BCSFA Executive

President: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-526-7522
Vice President: Doug Finnerty, 604-526-5621
Treasurer: Kathleen Moore-Freeman, 604-277-0845
Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-263-0472
Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-526-7522
Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314
Keeper of FRED Book & VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty 604-936-4754

BCSFA membership rates:

email version: \$15.00
New member: \$26.00
Renewal: \$25.00
New Family (2 votes): \$32.00

Above prices include subscription to *BCSFazine*. Make cheques payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association), c/o 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C. CANADA V3K 5L4.

BCSFazine is also available by e-mail; please email the editor at hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca if you wish to receive our newsletter this way.

Why You Got This:

<input type="checkbox"/> You Contributed	<input type="checkbox"/> Some News Here Concerns You
<input type="checkbox"/> You Are Mentioned	<input type="checkbox"/> You Know.
<input type="checkbox"/> You Really Deserve This	<input type="checkbox"/> Well, you <i>oughta</i> know.
<input type="checkbox"/> We Want You to Resubscribe	<input type="checkbox"/> Whaddayamean, you <i>don't know</i> ?!

BCSFazine 374

Vol. 32, No. 7

\$3.00

July, 2004



Contents:

Garth Klaatu Borada Nikto	1
LoCs.....	5
Birthdays in July.....	8
Snup	9
Who Will Buy My Wares?.....	10
Surely Some Great Event Is at Hand.....	11
Time After Time You Refuse to Even Listen	13
Camps of Proved Desire and Known Delight.....	27
Another Evening at Garth's....	28

Art Credits:

Cover, p. 9..... Taral Wayne

July events

Date	Event	Location
First Sat	First Saturday Feeding Frenzy	7 p.m. at x
2 nd Fri	BCSFazine deadline	At FRED
2 nd Sat	Movie night	6 pm at The Graeme's, 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam Coquitlam, BC. Movie: Phone 604-526-7522 for directions.
3 rd Sat	BCSFA meeting/party	7pm at the Moore-Freemans', 7064 #1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6; phone 604-277-0845 for directions.
Thu. July 15	Book discussion	7 pm at The Brickhouse, 730 Main Street, Vancouver. The Book: "Darwin's Radio" by Greg Bear.
4 th Fri	BCSFazine production	See Garth and Doug at FRED.
4 th Sat	Kaffeeklatsch	7-8 pm onwards at Garth Spencer's, 82 East 40 th Ave., Vancouver. Bring a Neat Idea and start a weird conversation. Phone 604-325-7314 for directions.

Jesus saves and Frodo lives but Garth Klaatu Borada Nikto!

* or *

The Mind of a Contemporary Fan

From time to time it may have seemed that I wasn't on the same wavelength as other people – either I don't get your terms of reference, or you don't get mine. Just to show you some of the ideas that have been on my mind, while I pretend to be a Renaissance Fan ...

Address Lists: I have put a fair amount of labour into completing and updating my total list of addresses. At least I *hope* I have completed and updated all of them. Some of the addresses go back as much as ten years, though.

While I was secretary of the local convention association, I put a lot of effort into recovering and collating publicity addresses for VCon. Later, I put similar effort into the BCSFA address and membership database. Maybe it counted.

Art: I kept telling myself I was going to work up an original art style, based partly on Celtic designs and partly on Northwest Indian motifs. Past time I started getting into it.

For one thing, I need to vary my routine activities beyond incessant word-processing. For another thing, it is increasingly hard to find topical illustrations to go with the text in this here rag.

BCSFA Handbook: If anyone were interested I would do a new edition of the BCSFA *Members' Handbook*. I'm not sure that anyone *is* interested in a guide to regional fan groups and activities. Care to comment?

BCSFazine Inventory: I have accumulated a number of *BCSFazines* on disk, which will come in handy whenever I decide to do an index of articles and/or news items in back issues. Already it has come in handy – I received another request from the National Library for back issues, and have pulled the disks for those numbers, preparatory to printing off some copies again.

Can Fan History: I have in the past supplied chapters of collected fanhistory to FANAC.ORG, but I've been stalling on the next chapter, covering the 1980s. Know why? Because the 1980s were when I got involved in fandom, same as the 1970s was when Taral Wayne got involved, and I may or may not have the perspective to write about it concisely. There were several events back then that, well, I was "emotionally invested" in. You can sort of tell, when a guy goes on and on about some things too long.

Can Fan Institutions: I've covered this lightly in *BCSFazines* 371 and 373, at least as far as the Aurora Awards, Conventions and the Canadian

Unity Fan Fund are concerned. But I have perhaps failed to find a reason why anyone else should be emotionally invested in them.

Can Fandom: Like the *BCSFA Handbook*, a profile of current Canadian fandom will require checking a lot of addresses, often from fan groups who won't respond. This may be a non-starter, except for people like Dennis Mullin who already has his list of places to advertise the Aurora Awards, or CUFF administrators like Lyndie Bright.

Can SF Markets: When John Wong was editor I serialized my list of Canadian SF and fantasy markets in *BCSFazine*, partly in a spirit of experiment. I was interested to see what updates people might offer. I actually got a few. In recent years I have received more market updates, and may put together another market digest.

Conspiracy Theories: Just one of the several articles I have published here, and should archive online. I may not have successfully conveyed that conspiracy theories are *funny*, and may be the only form of comedy uniquely developed in the twentieth century.

Continuing Education: What skills should I add to my skill set, and to my resume? What kind of employability will I need in future? Come to that, what do any of us need?

Conventions: Just to get it out of my system I want to wrap up an extended opinion piece on SF conventions. Granted that I have enough documentary materials for a pretty thick book, in the end I can only express my own opinion ... and I can't pretend that anyone is going to pay attention; I am only writing for my own satisfaction.

Crank Theories, Creative Linguistics, Creative Nationalism, Creative Planetology, & Creative Sociology: even more articles I have published in *BCSFazine*, and should archive online. Did I mention they were funny?

Discordianism: something else to write about here; one of the several rationales for not taking reality too seriously. Relate to: Neo-American Church, etc.

Employment: like Continuing Education, one of the parts of a future I have to plan. Some people have ambitions and goals in life, and some people have careers; then there are unfocused drifters like me. I sort of drifted into secretarial work and now I realize I can't just carry on this way until I retire. I have to plan a future. I need to get a clue.

Family: I don't know how to *do* family very well. My relatives and I are working on it.

Fandom: If we had to explain fandom to people who had no clue, like Christian fundamentalists or post-modern deconstructionists or most

members of the Cannes Film Festival, what could we say? Why do we keep on speaking of fandom as one entity? Why did fans as late as the 1970s refer to fandom as a community? If you're looking for a community, where do you go?

Fanpubbing: Contemporary zines have a family relationship to fannish fanzines ... but they're not identical. If in fact I am scheduled to do some panels about this at VCon (Fran? Please confirm, Fran) I want to thrash out in a small digest what sort of publications fans produce, and how we produce them, and why ...

Fantasy: A majority of published fantasies seem to be reruns of medieval, feudal Europe, at least since the 1960s, and despite the many conscious attempts to explore alternatives, that image sticks. I have to wonder whether something within many of us still has to sort out and digest that medieval experience. The fact that not only stereotyped fantasies keep being published, but retellings of the myth of King Arthur as well, persuades me that in every generation there are new ~~consumers~~ people who need to go through that phase.

Future(s): After digging up my old copy of the Wallaces' *The Book of Predictions*, and obtaining both Bruce Sterling's take on the next 50 years of social trends, and John Brockman's projection of the next 50 years in science ... I have to decide whether to believe the future is more threatening, or more promising. Whether it means more opportunity, or more insecurity. And I really can't decide.

Hoaxes, Practical Jokes, Pranks, Satire: I really thought all I had to do was throw out a gag like the Royal Swiss Navy, and the hint of political action by subversive applied humour, and real fans would come flocking to the RSN banner. I guess the proposition still needs ... a little something.

Humour: Do most of you conceive of humour as something you *do*, or as something *performed* for you? Have you ever suspected that your definition of humour was a bit ... limited?

Interesting Times: More and more I see news and public issues as material for comedy routines, not as reality to take seriously. Material for my own newsmagazine, if I could purvey something in digest format. But there are lots of conservative papers, and left-leaning weeklies. The thing I don't know is, can I find any audience, any market, for a Discordian periodical that claims life is silly, people are nuts, and the reality we are supposed to take seriously is an enormous, complicated put-on?

Mad Science (e.g. Tesla machines): If we didn't tend so much to be passive consumer units, maybe we would do some active things, like experimenting with mad-science projects; investigating antigravity units and Hieronymus machines and Tesla coils. At least we could *design* a

dirigible-suspended hot tub for the Nanaimo Bathtub Race, or something. Just a thought.

Magic: Has anyone worked out a unified theory of magic? Anyone but Isaac Bonewits, that is? If there are so many people in Vancouver into alternative therapies, and psychic guidance, and Wicca, and so on, that we have *two* New Age periodicals in town ... doesn't that begin to sound like a *constituency*? And where there's a constituency, isn't there scope for a *bureaucracy*? When are we going to see the B.C. government establish a self-policing licensing association for paranormal practitioners, with like professional standards of conduct and accredited colleges, even? (It isn't like you could make a career producing anything **real** these days ...)

Politics: By the time you read this, Canada will ostensibly have a new national government. Honestly now, is there anyone in the reading audience who takes seriously whatever an elected representative says? Doesn't everybody else out there feel the discourse and even the language of contemporary politics evades and obscures the real issues in our lives? Or am I the only one who thinks political candidates are Disney Animatronic™ robots?

Religion: I'm getting more serious about starting a Liberal Secular Humanist Cult, if I can find out what it takes to register a cult these days. Or is this a non-starter, like the underground humorist network?

Royal Swiss Navy: I already wrote about this in *BCSFAzine*, if you recall. Nobody responded. * Sniffle * Well, at least I got a new issues of *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette* out last month.

RSN Handbook: Maybe I should rewrite this with, like, a whole lot of links and addresses and contacts for fellow travelers, like the Discordians and the Universal Life Church.

Runes: The idea of runes and runic magic works a little better for me than other routines. Just as I have for SF conventions, I have enough documentary material on which to base a pretty solid expository essay. But I haven't figured out which Younger Futhark runes correspond to which Myers-Briggs personality types.

Society for Creative Anachronism: I really must write an expository article about them for *BCSFAzine* soon.

Science Fiction: Once, writers actually explored new speculations and fans were wide open to paradigm shifts and sense of wonder; now, we have formulaic Fox TV series and movies, and Paramount franchises, and people are actually walking around with Dick Tracy radio watches, or the nearest thing, and come home to watch Doc Savage monitors for entertainment. Got any suggestions?

Talossa, Kingdom of: I have revived my application for citizenship in the Kingdom of Talossa and sporadically continue to translate texts into Talossan.

Web pages: I have shamefully neglected the updating of my websites – the “Hrothgar” site, the “Royal Swiss Navy” site, and the “Western Fandom Illuminati” site, which I haven't really developed. (Do I have unused web hosting space at shaw.ca? Do I have a personalized domain name secured yet? We shall see ...)

Writing: I have several story ideas I keep chewing over, but they're a secret.

Don't you wish you had a wide variety of fascinating projects like this? (Or do you maybe want I should get a life?)

LoCs

BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 22.373, Wednesday 9 June 2004
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

Cover: Taral Wayne's drawing impresses me. Excellent perspective, composition, anatomy, realistic background. Areas of blackness (shadows, the black parts of the fur) should have been filled in solid; the vertical pen strokes looked messy and were inconsistent with the clarity of the character's face. Well-shaped speech balloon, but messy lettering - Taral should use a hand-lettering guide or a font. There aren't many decent free comic-lettering fonts out there, which is why I've made several for my own use, but Blambot Custom (available from several free font web-sites) is liveable. If you're willing to spend money, Whizbang is very nice and inexpensive.

Plain Speaking: Well, you see, there are the real threats, and there are the threats that are a lot of fun to think about.

In the nineties, all science fiction movies became action movies. My theory is that in the seventies and eighties, we were spoiled by good stories with beautiful production values, and the film industry, looking at the numbers, concluded that what we wanted was action and effects. I hope that eventually the pendulum will swing the other way, but it could be that high-budget action SF has created its own following.

Birthdays in June: Happy birthday to Lloyd, Karl, Kathleen, Ray, Michael, Ed, Art, Rose, Randy, Gavriilo, Vera, and Brenda. Those Witherspoon-Lis have quite the dynasty going on!

((Unlike almost every other family in Vancouver, the Witherspoon-Li's have actively sought out mates from other ethnic groups, for the last three or four generations. The result is a clan with more fertility than any group besides some inbred groups in Alberta, and possibly more hybrid vigour. Their intelligence scores are pretty high, too.))

Calendar of Upcoming Events: VCon 29 - So, I have four months to lose 135 pounds.

((I never associated conventions with weight loss before.))

Minutes of the April 2004 BCSFA Meeting & Proceedings of April Kaffeeklatsch - Julian's prosaic, concise writing style gives his reports a very dry, witty tone.

News-Like Matter: Goth House Newsletter: I love the sentence "So I'll probably go back to complacently assuming all my machines will just work whenever I turn them on." What if Bill Gates had consulted Tom Peters?

((Who's Tom Peters?))

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, June 12, 2004

I'm doing it again...responding to two piled-up issues. Nasty habit, but once again, it's caused by job hunting. Don't you hate it when you get a good job, and you do your best at it, and you still get let go? That's what's happened this time. Only seven weeks. They let me go after an expensive change of location...gotta keep looking, and working on zines helps me get my mind off it. Here's some comments on *BCSFAzines* 372 and 373.

372...June 2 came and went, and it was my 45th birthday.

Oldpharthood is my present shortly. Like most clubs, it's difficult to keep members interested and attracted. The club has this zine, of course; what else does a member get for their bucks, and is there anything else that can be added to the mix? The social aspect can be had outside of a club, and that's what most people really want. Is there a club pin? A membership card? An exclusive website that only members can access?

((We're working on it. For my money we also ought to offer exclusive hot tub parties, maybe a sex club, certainly a secret society of Elder Fhans dedicated to nefarious and sinister purposes; cloaked and hooded gatherings at one grey temple of an awful rite, ring within ring of wizard stones circled about some central place, every circle an initiation, every initiation eternal loss ... oops. Did I actually type that?))

A quick look at the Aurora Awards website sees little new, but Dennis will be back from a vacation on June 15. I should download a couple of ballots...must think of the Hugo final ballots, too. Earlier, I found a great link, and I will happily share...

www.theendoftheuniverse.ca/top100 . This is the Top 100 Science Fiction websites. Perhaps the reviews of the 100 sites can provide some valuable filler for future issues. Also, an update on the Tolkien convention I mentioned...they now plan to hold a sequel convention in 2006, not 2005 as first reported.

((If I get the hell on with updating my websites, writing and uploading a long list of useful and entertaining weblinks will be on my to-do list.))

PowderedToastMan! There's a *Ren & Stimpy* character I miss. John Kricfalusi was the master of the surreal in animated cartoons. And, Stuart Cooper, or Cluarter Stupor as Edmonton fandom used to refer to him. Not sure why...don't know enough about Edmonton fandom's past to know. I miss fanzines like *The Monthly Monthly*.

((How can you, when you write locs to every fanzine in the English language? ☺))

I did attend the launch of Marcus Donnelly's first novel on the Robert J. Sawyer Books imprint at Ad Astra...a nice little get-together, and sales were a little slow. Some dealers tell me that they sell more books at Toronto Trek than they do at Ad Astra; why this is, remains unknown.

Films and videos at conventions...many conventions feel that if they allow anyone into the film/video rooms, they are covered when it comes to studios thinking they are charging to see the films/videos. I don't think this is sufficient, but I am not aware of all the legalities.

((This is the point at which no-one googles for intellectual-property information on the Web, let alone reaches for the reference material they ought to have around, just as a matter of self-protection. Have you noticed that?))

Ah, the good old *Maple Leaf Rag*...it was a valuable fanzine for Canadian fandom, and I have to wonder if we need something like this today. I had considered it, but it will wind up being an e-mail newsletter, I suspect. Than again, I may be making the fatal assumption that people might actually care, and that I might actually care about doing it.

CUFF...I haven't heard anything from Lyndie Bright about this year's competition. She may communicate in different circles than I do. I still have issues of our trip report ready to sell, about 25 copies or so. \$5 will do it, and CUFF would be happy for the support.

((Fans who have some interest in fandom as a community are still around, and their circles are still acquiring new members, but yes, it is a minority interest. And yes, different people do communicate in different circles. I think this is simply due to the sheer size of contemporary fandom, if you include all flavours.

((This forms an argument in favour of a cross-Canada fan newszine, in webzine and e-zine and hardcopy editions at once. At least, it's a supporting argument to my mind: the fact that there is a real need to defeat the sheer communication distance between fans who have national institutions to support.))

373...Greg Slade should know that Robert J. Sawyer did not start up Red Deer Press. The press approached him to use his name as a marketing tool. If Rob were ever to start up a press or magazine or whatever, he'd do it in Mississauga, where he currently resides.

Ah, the USS Resolution caught you into Victoria fandom, hm? For me, in December of 1977, it was the United Federation of Canadian Star Trekkers, or UFCST. One of the former members of UVicSFA is my oldest

friend, Prof. Paul Delaney, head of the astronomy department at York University in Toronto.

*((No, actually it was the SF Association of Victoria **I** was involved with. Bernie Klassen once commented that it was months, or maybe years, before **he** learned there were other SF clubs besides the Resolution in little ol' Victoria. At the same time, I had the impression we were all attending each other's events.))*

I'm "the love child of Harry Warner and Georgina Ellis?"?! My, my, news to both of them I would imagine. I toil away at letters of comment in a pathetic attempt to participate in fanzine fandom, knowing now that what I do is pishtoshed away as frivolous fanac, not nearly as important as many faned would profess. Yet, I carry on with my letters, and at least I have something to do writing-wise. I am not on fmzfen any more, but I see Bruce Gillespie's plea for people to loc the zines found on eFanzines.com. I believe I may be the only one to loc these fanzines, and I do them directly, and not through the auspices of Trufen.net.

((Remember that I took Laid's motto as my own, for the birthday column: "All lies as long as it's close to the truth.")

((Are you sure you're getting that reaction from fanzine fandom? Are you sure you're getting any reaction?))

It is nearly midnight Eastern time, so it time for me to stagger off to bed. Five resumes went out today, and other six or more can go out tomorrow. Wish me good luck; all the job-hunting luck I've had has been all bad. Take care, and if I can I'll start loccing *BCSFAzines* one at a time again.

*((Remember, networking does 90% of jobfinding. Garth not spell *netwok*. Him not understand job market.))*

BIRTHDAYS in July



9: **Donna Markbride** is not appearing in this birthday list; her suit against God is still *sub judice*.

8: **Tom Balabanov**, **Kelly Whitehouse**, and **Don famous the writer DeBrandt** may never have met, but they are oddly alike, according to the fans who have met them: similar body type, similar feats of wordplay, and a similar unhealthy interest in nitrous oxide. Come to think of it, have we ever seen these guys at the same time or the same place ... ?

10: **Mark Wells** of Portland fandom is known primarily for Patty Wells, unless I'm thinking of the wrong person.



25: **R. Graeme Cameron** and **Nico Iormetti** once offered to swap birthdays, which they did without noticeable effect. I have not been able to substantiate any rumours of Nico's activities in the SCA, so I don't have a profile for him. Graeme, also known as Ghod-Editor or Fearless Leader, is our Archivist and can tell you more than you want to know about former members and their fanzines, or indeed about our famous and forgotten fanzine trades. He is also a connoisseur of more bad B-movies than a battalion of Ed Woods could make.

15: **Janet Dawson's** name is not to be spoken by males without fear and trembling; indeed she is usually referred to as She Who Must Be Obeyed, or Chairman of the Global Society of Secretaries.



26: **Lela Cairns** is a figure so wreathed in mystery and obscurity that we can say practically nothing about her.

Snup

By Felicity Walker

Chapter 1

The first thing Jack Zaelplot always noticed about home when he came back from a trip was its intoxicating scent – like his favourite fabric softener and his favourite foods combined. You never noticed it until you'd been away for a while and come back, and then it hit you as soon as you walked through the front door. It comforted him and calmed him down, and he needed that right now. He was about to decide what to do with his life.

Jack placed his suitcase and carry-on bag on the floor and laid down on his bed, closing his eyes and allowing himself a moment of peace. His was a quiet neighbourhood – so quiet a friend had once remarked "I can hear my brain." Jack listened to the quiet hum of his brain and breathed deeply.

After fifteen minutes or so, he sensed an emotional alignment with his home. The thrusting, adventurous energy of travelling had dissipated and there was now the soothing, blue harmony that came with the knowledge that there was nowhere he had to be and nothing he had to do.

Now he could think clearly about what lay ahead.

To be continued (I expect -GS)

Who Will Buy My Wares?

<p>DRAGONFLY MUSIC 106 Harrison Village Mall 196 Esplanade (Box 118) Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. V0M 1K0 Tel. 604-796-9289 <i>10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members</i></p>	<p>BCSFAzine is on sale at WHITE DWARF BOOKS 3715 W. 10th Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2G5 tel. 604-228-8223 email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com</p>
<p>MICHAEL'S BOOKS Michael Elmer, Owner 109 Grand Bellingham, WA 98225 U.S.A. Tel. (206) 733-6272 <i>books in all fields</i> <i>"We pay cash for hardback & paperback."</i> <i>10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members</i></p>	<p>WRIGLEY CROSS BOOKS 1809 N.E. 39th Avenue Portland, OR 97212 U.S.A. Tel. (503) 281-9449 wrigcros@teleport.com www.wrigleycrossbooks.com <i>Science fiction, fantasy, horror, mystery, general stock, new, used, collectable books!</i> <i>10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members</i></p>
<p>METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP is open to new members. IF YOU ARE: Serious about your prose, short stories, novels, etc., and want constructive advice ... Then this is the supportive peer group you've been looking for. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For information call Ken, 604-876-5751, email ktran@vcn.bc.ca</p>	<p>IMPERIAL HOBBIES 5451 No. 3 Road Richmond, B.C. V6X 2C7 (across from Lansdowne Mall) tel. 604-273-4427, fax 273-2916 <i>role-playing games, tabletop games, models, comics, supplies, and much more!</i> <i>10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members (on selected items)</i></p>

HI SCI FI
CJSF 90.1 FM * Fridays at 5:00
Contact Irma Arkus AT 604-540-2763

EDITING, PROOFREADING AND WORDPROCESSING SERVICES
Contact Garth Spencer at 604-325-7314 or garthspencer@shaw.ca

Surely Some Great Event Is At Hand

July 2004

July 2: *The Amazing Spider-Man* and *Fahrenheit 9/11* (action-adventure comics with live actors)

July 7: *King Arthur* (yet again)

July 14-19 - **Gatecon 2004**, Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. SF media convention for fans of *Stargate SG-1*. Guests TBA. Memberships: US\$210, US\$75 per day. For more information, see www.gatecon.com.

July 16: *I, Robot* (with *Will Smith*?)

July 23: *Catwoman*

July 30- August 1 - **AI-Kon 2004**, Sheraton Winnipeg Hotel, Winnipeg, MB. Anime convention. Guests and membership: TBA. For more information, see www.ai-kon.org.

July 30: *The Village: Thunderbirds*

August 2004

Expected in August: *The Punisher* (remake of the Marvel comic previously translated to film); also *Blade: Trinity*; and *The Woods*

August 6: *Thunderbirds* (with live actors; directed by Jonathan Frakes)

August 02 – 04: **An Tir/West War** in the Kingdom of the West – limited attendance

August 6-8 - **Con-Version 21**, Westin Hotel, Calgary, AB. SF convention. Guests: George R.R. Martin, Spider & Jeanne Robinson, James Beveridge, and **THE ARROGANT WORMS!**. Memberships: \$40 until August 1, \$50 at the door. For more information, see www.con-version.org.

August 11: *The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement* (spare me)

August 13: *Alien vs. Predator*

August 13-15: **Dragonflight 25**, Seattle, WA (Gaming oriented)

August 20: *Exorcist: The Beginning*

August 20 – 22: **Sergeants Yoemans and Gallants** (tourney?) in the Barony of Lions Gate (Vancouver, BC) – open attendance

August 22 – 29: **Clinton War Work Week** in the Barony of Lions Gate (Vancouver, BC) – open attendance

August 28: *Crier* Deadline in the Kingdom of An Tir

August 28-29 - **H.P. Lovecraft's Birthday Party**, Cambrian Hall, Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Tickets: \$10. For more information, www.vancouvergamersguild.com.

Sunday, August 29, 11-5 - **Comix & Stories**, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Guests to include: Jim Mahfood (*Grrl Scouts*, *Stupid Comics*); Ralph Alfonso (*Ralph*); David Lasky (*Boom Boom*); James Lloyd; Verne Andru; Robin Bougie (*Cinema Sewer*); Robin Thompson and Ira Hunter (*Champions of Hell*); Kelly Everaert (*Trilogy of Terror*); Andy Mori (*Flopnik*); Ken Boesem (*Barking Raven Press*); Pregnant Embryo Productions; Owen Plummer (*Marching Chicken Press*); Craig McKenney (*Headless Shakespeare*); Ed Brisson (*Sob Story*); Brian Fukushima (*Salt For Sore Eyes*, *Comics For Your Church*). Artist/Publisher Tables: \$30/\$60; Dealer's Tables: \$60; Admission: \$3 per person. For information about either show, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail ls Wong@uniserve.com. For more information, see users.uniserve.com/~lswong/comicon.html.

August 30 – 02: **Clinton War** in the Barony of Lions Gate (Vancouver, BC) – open attendance

September 2004

Expected this fall: *The Brothers Grimm*, à la Terry Gilliam

Sept. 3–5: **September Crown Tournament** – limited attendance

Sept. 4-6: **Kumoricon**, Oregon Anime Convention, Marriott Hotel, Portland, OR; see <http://www.kumoricon.org>

Sept. 12 - **Vancouver Comicon**, Heritage Hall, Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Guests: TBA. Admission: \$3. For more information, users.uniserve.com/~lswong/comicon.html.

Sept. 17-19: **Foolsap VI** at the Bellevue Hilton, Bellevue, Wash. Guest of Honor: George R.R. Martin. A SF/F con for flat things and funny hats. Rooms: (ca. \$81/night?) write Bellevue Hilton, 100 112th Avenue NE, Bellevue, WA 98004, or telephone (425) 455-3330, 8 am to 5 pm. Memberships \$45 to Sept. 15, 2004; \$50 at the door. Banquet tickets \$26 while available. Make checks payable to Little Cat Z. Mail to Foolsap VI, c/o Little Cat Z, P.O. Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461. see www.foolscapcon.org. (Note URL change!!)

Sept. 24-26: **Conifur Northwest 2004** – see <http://www.conifur.org>

Sept. 24 – 26: **Holmgang IX** in the Shire of Krakafjord (Vernon, BC) – limited attendance

Sept. 28: *Crier* Deadline in the Kingdom of An Tir

October 2004

Oct. 8 – 10 - **VCon 29** at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby, BC. GoH: writer David Duncan. Science Guest: Dr. Jaymie Matthews. Special guest: local writer Lisa Smedman. Artist and other guests TBA. The Vancouver annual general-interest convention. Hilton room rates: \$105/night for BR with 1 king-size or 2 queen-size beds; extra cots \$15; maximum 4 per room. Phone (604) 438-1200, fax (60) 431-7782, convention code VCO. Memberships C\$30/US\$25 to July 15, C\$40/US\$30 to September 15. Send cheque or money order to Vcon 29, 4044 Parker Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 3B9; a PDF registration form can be downloaded from the Vcon website. (No credit cards accepted.) For more information see www.v-con.ca.

Oct. 29-30 - **Howloween 2004**, Best Western Convention Centre, Coquitlam, BC. Furry convention. Guests: TBA. Memberships: \$35 pre-registration, \$40 at the door. For more information, www.howloween.org.

Time After Time You Refuse to Even Listen

Subterranean Magazine Limited Hardcover

“We’ve finalized the contents of the first issue of our new magazine, *Subterranean*. We’re not ready to begin accepting orders for the magazine proper, but have decided to produce a limited hardcover run of each issue.

“In addition to being signed by the contributors, each and every hardcover issue -- limited to only 150 numbered copies -- will come with an exclusive item. Sometimes this will be an art print, or a broadside. Most frequently it will be a chapbook of extra material.

"In the case of issue #1, this not-for-sale softcover chapbook will be a mini-collection of previously uncollected short stories by Thomas Ligotti. (We will be producing a 52 copy hardcover version of the Ligotti chapbook for sale. Please email us if you're interested.)

In *Subterranean Magazine* Issue #1:

"The Toys of Caliban" -- by George R.R. Martin (teleplay)

"The Toys of Caliban" -- by Terry Metz (story)

"The Drive-In: the Bus Tour (excerpt)" by Joe R. Lansdale

"Second Chance" by Norman Partridge

"Thoughtful Breaths" by Peter Crowther

"Stronger Than Death" by Mark Morris

"The Grief Frequency" by Kealan Patrick Burke

Issue #1 hardcover: \$80 (only available to online subscribers)

Subterranean Press, June 6, 2004

Fanfundery

DUFF: `By a final vote of 53 to 46, Norman Cates has been elected the 2004 DUFF delegate from Australia/New Zealand to Noreascon 4, the World Science Fiction Convention.' [GHL]

GUFF: Pat McMurray's triumphal progression through Australia continues. Yvonne Rousseau sighted him in Adelaide: `Pat reports that the Continuum-convention organisation in Melbourne couldn't think what his name was, so it refers to him in the program as "GUFF-Guy" – splendid title for a trip report, Pat thinks.'

Ansible 203, June 2004

Neo-Opsis Magazine News

"The third issue of *Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine* is 8" by 5 ½", 80 pages.

"Adrian Kleinbergen is the creator of the cover art for issue three. Adrian is a wonderfully diverse Canadian artist, born in Edmonton, Alberta in 1961. Along with drawing and paint-ing, he does jewellery design and manufacture, sculpture, caricature, writing, costuming, and even magic. Adrian considers himself a single-combat warrior in the muddy trenches of comicdom. He started in comics in 1987, penciling, inking and colouring *Starstone* and *Darkewood* for Aircel Publishing in Canada. He ran his own comic publishing company, Ground Zero Graphics, which published *The Shadowwalker Chronicles* in 1991. Adrian has been the primary artist and a columnist for the national magic magazine, *The Servante*. He was one of the original artists for *On Spec* magazine, doing both covers and interior art. Adrian's latest project is a graphic novel, *Frontiers*, written and drawn by Adrian and published by MU Press, in Seattle, WA.

"The editorial "Movie Verbosity", by Karl Johanson, gives us all a little insight on how we can deal with those people who want to tell us everything about a movie before we get a chance to see it.

"This issue's 'Letters to the Magazine' includes: more senses to add to the five, a science question about whether a mug of water can explode after it is removed from the microwave, compliments to the art, request for another copy, and more.

"A Walk Through The Periodic Chart: Erbium, Terbium, Yttrium & Ytterbium' by Karl Johanson, even includes a limerick.

"Karen Kazanowski's cartoon characters "Buzz 'n' Toffee" take an interest in the Periodic Chart, and two more of Karen's cartoons give us a pictorial understanding of conductors.

"The first story in issue 3 of *Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine* is "The Luck of Willie Lumen" by Hayden Trenholm, with an illustration by Stephanie Ann Johanson. Hayden is both a playwright and a prose writer. In the past ten years, he has written over 15 plays with productions across Alberta and on CBC radio. His short fiction has appeared in *On Spec*, *TransVersions*, *Tesseract 6* and on CBC radio. In 1992, Anvil Press published his novel, *A Circle of Birds*. He lives in Ottawa where he does research for the Senator for the Northwest Territories.

"The second story is "Dreamcatcher Bisque" by Greg Beatty. Greg is a freelance writer, writing fiction, non-fiction, and occasionally poetry. His fiction tends to be genre fiction: science fiction, fantasy, horror, or some variation thereof. Here is a link to a list of his fiction publications. Much of Greg's non-fiction writing deals with genre fiction, but he also writes on American literature and culture, spirituality, rhetoric, pedagogy, and science, and has published a number of personal essays.

"The third story is "A Time for Everything" by Peter Andrew Smith, with an illustration by Benjamin Parker. Peter enjoys reading and writing speculative fiction stories. He and his wife Meredith currently live in Quispamsis in New Brunswick. They share the house with their two dogs, Willie and Barkley. The dogs enjoy providing both critique and inspiration for some of Peter's work. His wife does as well and is generally more helpful since she can speak. Peter's fiction has appeared in various magazines and anthologies including *What If?*, *Beyond Centauri* and *New Brunswick Short Stories*.

"The fourth story is "An Attack of Conscience" by Marissa K. Lingen, with an illustration by Benjamin Parker. Marissa is a freelance writer living in Minnesota after four years of exile in California. In '99 she won the Asimov Award and has since been publishing short stories, essays, articles, textbooks, and just about anything else she can convince editors to print. She is currently at work on a fantasy trilogy about vacuum-tube computing, Cold War spies, and Finnish mythology.

"The fifth story is "Virtually Yours" by Nina Munteanu, with an illustration by Stephanie Ann Johanson. Nina is an internationally published author, whose fiction and non-fiction has appeared in publications throughout United States, Canada, the UK, and Romania since the 1980s. Publications include, among others, the Bram Stoker award-winning *Chiaroscuro*, *GateWay SF*, *Hadrosaur Tales*, and *Dreams & Visions*. Her short story, "Angel's Promises", was nominated for the Speculative Literature Foundation (SLF) Fountain Award in 2004. She is

a member of SF Canada and also serves as assistant chief editor of *Imagikon*, Romania's only totally English webzine. Nina is a scientist with an environmental consulting firm in Vancouver, B.C., and regularly speaks at conferences and publishes papers on the environment. She lives in rural Ladner, British Columbia, with her husband and son.

"The sixth story is "The Power of Love" by Janine Cross, with an illustration by Stephanie Ann Johanson. Janine set out to bicycle around the world and 2 years and 22,000 kilometres later, she returned to her hometown of North Vancouver, BC. Since then she has sold short stories to various Canadian magazines, was a quarter-finalist in Ron L. Hubbard's 1997 spring session of the Writers' of the Future contest, and was nominated for an Aurora Award in 2002. She's sold non-speculative fiction to the *National Post* and the anthology *Shorelines*, and Beach Holme Press will be publishing her latest novel, a literary comedy, in Fall 2004. She has just signed a very exciting contract with New York agent, Caitlin Blasdel, concerning a fantasy trilogy.

"The seventh story is "Legacy Troll" by Ray Walshe, with illustration by Karl Johanson. Ray is a Southern California native whose prior publishing credits include five published short stories in the Orange County *Register* Dreamscapes series story contest, and a children's horror story published in the San Gabriel Valley *Tribune* Halloween short story contest (all in the mid-to late 1990's). Ray lives in Chino Hills with his wife and two children and recently resumed writing short stories while taking a break from his work on a dystopian novel about political correctness and our disconnected modern world taken to extremes.

Issue three has a new section, "Artist Spotlight", which this issue includes three works by artist Maerianne Morrison, "Frog Prince", "Captured", and "Battle Damage". Maerianne lives in Montreal with her boyfriend and miniature schnauzer; she works as a freelance illustrator specializing in science fiction and fantasy art. Maerianne works mostly in graphite and watercolours. She uses her art to express her sense of aesthetics, morality, or occasionally her morbid sense of humour.

"Issue three includes a greyscale version of the painting "Pacific Morning" by Stephanie Ann Johanson.

"In news, issue three includes a list of the 2003 Nebula Awards Winners, and a list of the 2004 Hugo Award Nominations.

"The reviews in this issue are for: the novel *Throne Price*, the novel *Burndive*, and the movie *Comic Book: The Movie*.

"Maynard and the Cheese" a cartoon by Karl Johanson, shows a different angle on talk radio.

"The Last Three Pages, Embrace the Trivial", Karl Johanson tries to put a new slant on SPAM, including a new game that may replace BINGO. :)

Neo-Opis SF Magazine, www.neo-opsis.ca, 4129 Carey Rd. Victoria BC V8Z 4G5, 250 881-8893

Karl Johanson, June 3, 2004

Memphis to Tackle ... Hugos? (and possibly Worldcon?)

The last time before the June deadline that I picked up BCSFA mail from my P.O. Box, I found three (3) editions of *Memphen*, an irregular clubzine we hadn't seen before. Apparently the Memphis SF Association is tummelling for voter support for Tom Foster, their cover artist, for a Fanartist Hugo. Actually, his fanart is pretty good. Write with a SASE to the Memphis SF Association, P.O. Box 820534, Memphis, TN 38182-0534, U.S.A. and ask for a sample.

I was interested by the news in *Memphen* 281 (March 2004): partly by the sobering news that two local fans had passed on, Dalvan Coger (whom I didn't have the pleasure to know), and P.L. Carruthers (whom I knew of vaguely as a fanzine fan, or fanartist); and partly by the very reasoned assessment of Memphis' chances if it placed a bid for Worldcon, or NASFiC.

Ottawa means Variety

The May issue of the *Ottawa SF Statement* not only carries updates about Toronto Trek (July 2004), but an announcement of Seattle's World's First Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame, which opened June 18, 2004. (Have I omitted to report this in BCSFAzine?) For more information, see www.sfhomeworld.org.

On top of comics and movies and Hugo nominee news, *Ottawa SF Statement* features Windows updates and warnings from Sheila Alder, and some space science news. Just a sample:

- o As reported on the CBC in February, some astrophysicists at Los Alamos are seriously considering the "beanstalk" concept of a fixed-link elevator to outer space. The key element, a material light enough and strong enough to constitute a ribbon from a ground station to an anchor in geosynchronous orbit, may be provided by carbon nanotubes. More information may still be online at www.cbc.ca/news/background/space/spaceelevator.html (contributed by StarWolf)
- o *Another* major meteor impact crater has been discovered off the coast of Australia, apparently associated with an extinction event vastly predating the Jurassic extinction. 250 million years ago, 90 percent of marine life and 80 percent of land life perished, but a team headed by Luann Becker, from the University of California, found traces of a 125-mile-wide crater off the northwest coast of Australia.
- o Someone named Farrell (presumably working with NASA) reported clues that dust devils on Mars could generate high-voltage static electric fields, based on observations of Southwestern dust devils on Earth. (No word on whether this had anything to do with the persistent failure of robot probes sent to Mars.)
- o The X-43A, a hypersonic research aircraft, has demonstrated for NASA that "scramjet" propulsion technology works. More information at www.nasa.gov.

SF Market News, National and Abroad

As well as which members sold what, the *Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter* tells me every other month some news about markets, including Canadian, and science fiction, and Canadian specific markets.

The May-June 2004 issue tells us that *Tesseract* 10 is to be published in 2005, and the deadline is December 31, 2004; more details will be announced as they become available. (Continuing readers of this column will remember that *Tesseract* is an annual anthology of Canadian science fiction; you may also recall that the publisher, The Books Collective of Edmonton, has recently been acquired by Edge Publishing, of Calgary.)

Perhaps of more general impact, we learn that *Amazing Stories* is being relaunched by Paizo Publishing in July 2004. Contact editor Dave Gross at Dave.Gross@paizo.com. (No postal address is given.)

Among other resources, BWS lists an online market newsletter for SF, fantasy and horror writers: *SpecFicMe*, in table format. See www.specficworld.com/markets.html (where a sample issue is available in PDF format).

Fanzines Received:

Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter, March-April & May-June 2004, 6584 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7
DASFAX #36:3 and 36:5 (March and May 2004), 741 King Street, Denver, CO 80204, U.S.A. (and see www.dasfa.org)
De Profundis #374 & 375, March & April 2004, LASFS, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601
Memphen 279 (May 2002), 280 (Sept. 2002), 281 (March 2004), Memphis SF Association, P.O. Box 820534, Memphis, TN 38182-0534, U.S.A.
Opuntia #53.1B (April 2004), Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, AB T2P 2E7
Ottawa SF Statement 315 - 318 (March - June 2004), Ottawa SF Society, 18 Norice St., Ottawa, ON K2G 2X5

Goth House Newsletter, Vol. 3 Issue 11

This fortnight: Fire Part 2: <http://www.gothhouse.org/>

"1. We have decided to go to San Diego for the Comic Convention. So we're doing that.

"2. The Clumsy Lovers, while not really at all gothic, are one of my favorite bands to go see live, and they tour a lot, so you might get to see them too. Has anyone else noticed that suitably raucous Celtic-inspired music requires pogoing like it's 1984? ...

"4. I can now attest that I have seen puppet opera. It was *The Dragon of Wantley*, by Carter Family Marionettes. Puppets are either neat in a creepy way, or creepy in a neat way, I haven't decided which. It was like 18th-century animation."

Julie McGalliard, May 29, 2004

Goth House Newsletter, Vol. 3 Issue 15, 11 June 2004

<http://www.gothhouse.org/>

"This fortnight: "Empty Rooms," a new series.

"And now, thanks to insane airline ticket prices and Paul not being able to get more than one day off work, I might not be going to Comic-Con after all. Anybody driving down whom I could maybe carpool with? I hate driving, but I curl up pretty small in a car and sleep most of the way. Plus, if I take the right drugs, I can read to you charming selections from *The Hobbit* or *Good Omens*.

Welcome to the fortnightly issue of the *Goth house newsletter*. To subscribe, send e-mail to info@gothhouse.org. To unsubscribe, send e-mail to info@gothhouse.org. We'll see if anything gets where it's supposed to be going.

Julie McGalliard, June 11, 2004

ARTHUR C. CLARKE AWARD

"The new-style Clarke Award presentation took place in London on 12 May, in the relatively cosy English Heritage Lecture Theatre (off Regent Street) rather than the echoing vastness of the Science Museum. After all the talk of ACCA budget problems, Britain's thirsty sf glitterati were greatly cheered to find that administrator Paul Kincaid's team had contrived to lay on free wine before the ceremony, though reverting to a cash bar afterwards.... As usual, Paul summarized the virtues of the nominated novels. Without agonizing delay, 2003 winner Chris Priest wrenched open the envelope and announced the judges' choice: *Quicksilver* by Neal Stephenson, who hadn't been able to make it. Shortlisted authors in attendance (Stephen Baxter, Gwyneth Jones) smiled bravely, and yet another "But is it really *science fiction*?" debate began."

Ansible 203, June 2004

The Robert J. Sawyer Report

"I hope you won't mind receiving this message with a few updates: another Hugo nomination, new editions of *Far-Seer*, *Factoring Humanity*, and *Iterations*; word about my next novel, *Mindscan*; and more ...

"Earlier this month, I turned in the manuscript for my sixteenth novel to Tor. Although some of you knew it had the working title of *Action Potential*, the marketing department didn't like that, so it'll be published as *Mindscan*. Look for it in hardcover in January 2005.

"Last year, as you know, my novel *Hominids* won the Hugo Award -- the world's top prize in science fiction -- for Best Novel of the Year. Well, to my surprise and delight, the sequel, *Humans*, is one of finalists for this year's Hugo Award.

"All attending or supporting members of this year's World Science Fiction Convention in Boston get to vote for the Hugos. For more information, see: <http://www.noreascon.org/>

"(And speaking of my Neanderthal novels, the final volume, *Hybrids*, is currently in hardcover; the paperback will be released in November 2004.)

"A press release about the Hugo nomination:

<http://www.sfwriter.com/prhuno04.htm>

"Order autographed copies of any of the Neanderthal books directly from me: <http://www.sfwriter.com/autograp.htm>

"Just out this month from Tor is a handsome new trade-paperback edition of my long out-of-print novel **Far-Seer**, first volume in the "Quintaglio Ascension" trilogy. This series is about a race of intelligent saurians, evolved from dinosaurs transplanted by benevolent aliens from Earth to another world, going through the equivalent of our Age of Enlightenment.

"Tor will be releasing the other two volumes of the trilogy, *Fossil Hunter* and *Foreigner*, later. If these reissues are a success, I'll be writing more Quintaglio books ...

"More about *Far-Seer*: <http://www.sfwriter.com/exq1.htm>

"Order an autographed copy directly from me:

<http://www.sfwriter.com/autograp.htm>

"Also just out from Tor is a new trade-paperback of my all-time favourite of my novels, *Factoring Humanity*, which tells the story of an alien technology that allows us to surf the human collective unconscious.

"Amazon.com has the book on sale for a whopping 60% off cover price right now: just \$5.98, instead of \$14.95:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0765309033/>

"More about *Factoring Humanity*: <http://www.sfwriter.com/exfh.htm>

"Meanwhile, a trade-paperback edition of my short story collection *Iterations* has just been published by Red Deer Press. The book is widely available in Canada -- Chapters/Indigo placed a very large order -- but won't be in U.S. bookstores until this fall.

"I still have stock of the original hardcover edition from Quarry Press, and that's available worldwide through my web site:

<http://www.sfwriter.com/autograp.htm>

"Finally, I'm now actually editing science-fiction books for Red Deer Press, under a new imprint called -- *cough, cough* -- "Robert J. Sawyer Books."

"Our first title, *Letters from the Flesh*, by Marcos Donnelly (with an introduction by me) is now out. This book juxtaposes the insights of an alien on-hand in first-century Judea with the plight of a modern high-school teacher being vilified for teaching evolution.

"It's widely available in Canada, and in the States, you can get it from Amazon.com: <http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0889953023/>

"I'm actively looking to acquire new books for this line. If you're a writer, you might want to check out our submission guidelines:

<http://www.sfwriter.com/rjsbooks.htm>

"Finally, please don't forget about my web site at <http://www.sfwriter.com> and the Yahoo! Groups discussion group devoted to my work at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/robertjsawyer/>."

Robert J. Sawyer, May 31, 2004

TRUFEN.NET UPDATE

"The current poll shows *Plokta* leading *Challenger* in the quest for "Which zine should get the Hugo?", with *File 770* and eFanzines.com tied for third place. Vote now; a new poll is coming soon!

"Some recent stories:

Review -- Earth Logic by Laurie J. Marks:

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/05/12/0824252>

The Grand List of Overused Science Fiction Clichés:

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/05/11/2017228>

Corflu Titanium goes online; Corflatch 2 possible:

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/05/10/1043212>

New software used for Wiscon programming:

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/05/10/0245259>

TAFF race ends June 5; Vote Now!:

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/05/13/2257250>

Plokta.com, *Anonymous Claire*, & *TommyWorld*:

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/05/14/015245>

Currently, "gafiate" leads by a pregnant chad in the "Favorite fannish neologism" poll: <http://trufen.net/pollBooth.pl> (Since May):

James Bacon wins TAFF from the but-are-we-ready? dept.

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/06/06/2129202>

Methane Ice Worms from the not-in-your-computer dept.

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/06/05/0455223>

Ray Bradbury steamed by 'Fahrenheit 9/11' from the but-it's-not-political dept. <http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/06/05/0716234>

TAFF candidates at ConVivial from the Swede-v.-Irishman dept.

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/06/03/2239204>

Corflu videos now available on DVD from the documentary-proof dept. <http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/06/02/0020231>

Da Vinci notebooks now an RSS daily meditation from the Leonardo's-LiveJournal dept.

<http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/06/02/1548244>

Wiscon 28 mixes feminism, politics, SF... and fun from the Madison-in-Spring dept. <http://trufen.net/article.pl?sid=04/06/02/2031254>

Victor Gonzalez, June 6, 2004

You Call This Reality?

"YOU DON'T SAY? In development: a new credit card that only works when the owner says a password to it, out loud. And it won't do to have just anyone whisper the sweet nothing to the card: the voiceprint has to match too. The 'Beepcard' is about three times as thick as a normal credit card, but the developers hope to have it slimmed down before it's widely released. (*Calgary Herald*) ...How about teaching it to say 'You don't need any more junk' before it's widely released?"

THIS is TRUE for 9 May 2004

2004 MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS finalists:

ADULT LITERATURE Lois McMaster Bujold, *Paladin of Souls*; Kij Johnson, *Fudoki*; Ursula K. Le Guin, *Changing Planes*; Patricia A. McKillip, *In the Forests of Serre*; Robin McKinley, *Sunshine*.

CHILDREN'S Kate DiCamillo, *The Tale of Despereaux*; Clare Dunkle, *The Hollow Kingdom*; Cornelia Funke, *Inkheart* (trans from German by Anthea Bell); Shannon Hale, *The Goose Girl*; Terry Pratchett, *The Wee Free Men*.

SCHOLARSHIP: INKLINGS Jane Chance, ed., *Tolkien the Medievalist*; Matthew Dickerson, *Following Gandalf*; John Garth, *Tolkien and the Great War*; Don W. King, *C.S. Lewis, Poet*.

SCHOLARSHIP: OTHER Mike Ashley, *Algernon Blackwood*; Francis Bridger, *A Charmed Life: The Spirituality of Potterworld*; William Patrick Day, *Vampire Legends in Contemporary American Culture*; John Lawrence & Robert Jewett, *The Myth of the American Superhero*; Margaret Mackey, ed., *Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit*; Jennifer Schacker, *National Dreams: The Remaking of Fairy Tales in Nineteenth-Century England*.

Ansible 203, June 2004

2004 PROMETHEUS AWARD shortlist:

Terry Goodkind, *Naked Empire*; Paul Levinson, *The Pixel Eye*; Chris Moriarty, *Spin State*; J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*; F. Paul Wilson, *Sims*.

Ansible 203, June 2004

And Canadians Think America is Incredible ...

"THIS WEEK'S HONORARY UNSUBSCRIBE goes to David Reimer. When Reimer was a baby, a doctor botched his circumcision, and sex researcher Dr. John Money convinced Reimer's parents of his theory that "gender identity" (a term Money coined) was not assigned by nature, but by nurture. He thus got them to castrate the child and raise him as a girl. Money said the "success" of the reassignment "proved" his theory, in part because Reimer was a perfect test subject: he had an identical twin brother. It was literally a textbook case, written up in medical, psychiatric and other texts as proof that gender was malleable -- and widely promoted by Dr. Money. But Money apparently never let on that over time, the experiment actually proved to be a disaster: Reimer, who was renamed "Brenda", preferred toy guns to dolls, and never adapted to his female personality. At 14, "Brenda" refused to continue taking artificial hormones, and when he learned the truth about his childhood he reclaimed his male identity, and the name David. But the psychological scars of his childhood, coupled with the death of his twin two years ago, overcame him. He committed suicide on May 4 in his hometown of Winnipeg, Man., Canada. He was 38."

THIS IS TRUE for 9 May 2004

SUBSCRIPTIONS to "This is True" are FREE. Just send a blank message to join-this-is-true@lyris.net or see our web site. Published weekly by

ThisIsTrue.Inc, PO Box 666, Ridgway CO 81432 USA since 1994 (ISSN 1521-1932). TRUE is available to newspapers as a regular feature column. "This is True" is a registered trademark.

THE SUNBURST AWARD FOR CANADIAN LITERATURE OF THE FANTASTIC

"The Sunburst Award committee is pleased to announce the following short list of books for 2004, its fourth annual presentation:

The Bone House, Luanne Armstrong (New Star Books, 2002) ISBN 1895636531 *Oryx And Crake*, Margaret Atwood (McClelland & Stewart, 2003) ISBN 0771008686 *A Place So Foreign And 8 More*, Cory Doctorow (Four Walls Eight Windows, 2003) ISBN 1568582862 *Initiation*, Virginia Frances Schwartz (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2003) ISBN 1550050532 *Blind Lake*, Robert Charles Wilson (Tor, 2003) ISBN 0765302624

"The Sunburst Award is Canada's only juried and prized award for Canadian literature of the fantastic. The award itself consists of a cash prize of \$1000 and a hand-crafted stainless-steel medallion of the Sunburst, from a design by Marcel Gagné, and will be presented to the winner in September 2004.

"These short-listed works represent the best in Canadian literature of the fantastic. The authors are either Canadian citizens or landed immigrants. For information about eligibility and the selection process, please visit the Sunburst Award web site or write the committee.

"The jurors for the 2004 award were Caterina Edwards, Claude Lalumière, Yves Meynard, Michelle Sagara West and Lyle Weis.

"FOR MORE INFORMATION please contact John Rose at:

john@sunburstaward.org or the award secretary at: mici@sunburstaward.org. The Sunburst Award address is 2 Farm Greenway Toronto, Ontario, Canada M3A 3M2 Phone: 647-282-8379."

John Rose, May 31, 2004

"AS OTHERS SEE US. Alfonso Cuarón, director of *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, may next write and direct an sf film, *Children of Men* -- presumably based on the not very good P.D. James novel. With the usual disclaimer: 'It's not really science-fiction. It's the world 30 years from now, in which for 18 years no human child has been born, for unknown reasons. Civilizations are falling apart. England is the last remaining civilization as we know it, because it's an island that's insulated itself from Europe, which is in civil wars and complete pandemonium. So the story takes place in that context.' (SCI FI Wire) [CV] All very different from those sci-fi shockers like, well, *Greybeard*."

Ansible 203, June 2004

Seattle Science Fiction Museum (reprise)

"The world's first museum devoted to the genre of science fiction is ... the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame [which opened] June 18th, 2004 ... co-located with Experience Music Project in the landmark Frank Gehry building at the Base of the Space Needle at 325 5th Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98109

"The Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame combines artifacts and information in evocative environments that immerse visitors in science fiction's "alternative worlds." Witness how this dynamic and diverse genre touches all forms of artistic expression and reframes the complexities of science, art, culture and the humanities, giving us new insights into ourselves and the world around us.

"The museum will be the home of the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, honoring the legends and luminaries that have shaped our visions of the future.

"... The Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame will be co-located with Experience Music Project in the landmark Frank Gehry building at the Base of the Space Needle, Seattle, Washington.

"See <http://www.sfhomeworld.org/default.asp> for more information about the museum."

forwarded by Katherine Daida to GPACG, May 31, 2004

Obits

"**Richard Biggs** (1961-2004), US actor who played Dr Stephen Franklin in *Babylon 5*, died unexpectedly on 22 May, perhaps from a stroke; he was only 43. A memorial service was held in North Hollywood on 26 May. ...

"**Robyn Meta Herrington** (1961-2004), Australian-born author and editor resident in Canada for the last 25 years, died on 3 May after a lengthy struggle against cancer. She was an acquisitions editor for Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy and also published genre poetry."

Ansible 203, June 2004

New Fanzines Posted

- "Issues 1 to 3 of *Steam Engine Time* and issues 1 through 54 of *Scratch Pad* are now available on Bruce Gillespie's page at eFanzines.com.

- "The April 2004 issue of Warren Harris's *Back Numbers* is now on line at eFanzines.com. See: <http://efanzines.com>

Bill Burns, Timebinders listserv, May 14, 2004

"*eI14* is a tribute to 1950s pulp magazines and in honor of Grand Masters Lawrence Block and Robert Silverberg and venerable BBB Bruce R. Gillespie. You can preview it at <http://eFanzines.com/EK/eI14/index.htm>."

Earl Kemp to FMZFeN, May 29, 2004

The Incomplete Bruce Gillespie: a selection of Bruce Gillespie's fanzine writings, is edited by fellow Australian fan Irwin Hirsh and published by the Bring Bruce Bayside (BBB) Fund, with the aid of a generous grant from the Victorian Science Fiction Conventions organisation. "Find out why Bruce Gillespie has won sixteen Ditmar Awards, three William Atheling Awards and the World SF Award, and has been nominated three times for the Hugo Award. Since 1968, Bruce Gillespie has been writing some of the science fiction world's finest personal articles, reviews and critical articles. This is the first collection

of the best of them. Irwin Hirsh, himself one of the best fan writers and publishers in Australia, has gathered his favourite Gillespie articles into one 40-page volume. They include the Atheling [Award]-winning article 'The Non-SF Novels of Philip K Dick', the Fanthology-selected article 'Trains in the Distance', and two selections from the long-running 'I Must Be Talking to My Friends' column, and other articles long out of print. ...

"Proceeds from the sales help to fund an air fare so that Bruce can attend Corflu (the fanzine fans' convention) in San Francisco, February 2005. This is the BBB (Bring Bruce Bayside) Fund.

"How to order from the Fund administrators: Australia: \$10 (incl. postage) to Bill Wright, Unit 4, 1 Park Street, St Kilda West VIC 3182. USA: \$10 (incl. airmail postage) to Arnie and Joyce Katz, PMB 152, 330 S Decatur Blvd, Las Vegas NV 89107. UK: 5 pounds (incl. airmail postage) to Mark Plummer and Claire Brialey, 14 Northway Road, Croydon, Surrey CRO 6JE."

(Also: Garth Spencer's *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette* #12 has been posted at eFanzines.com.)

From FMZFeN, June 22 & 23, 2004

Good News for Edge Publishing

"*Throne Price* by Lynda Williams and Alison Sinclair has been selected as one of three finalists for the 2004 Benjamin Franklin Awards competition, for best book of the year in the popular fiction category.

"The 2004 Benjamin Franklin Award winner will be chosen from one of the three finalists and will receive the Benjamin Franklin Award during a ceremony on Wednesday evening, June 2, 2004 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown, located at 540 N. Michigan Avenue in downtown Chicago, IL. The awards party will begin at 6:00 p.m. with a cocktail reception. The actual awards will be presented at 7:15 p.m."

EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing and Tesseract Books are imprints of Hades Publications, Inc. PO Box 1714, Calgary, Alberta, Canada T2P 2L7 Ph: (403) 254-0160 Fax: (403) 254-0456 www.edgewebsite.com

LOCAL FANTASY AND SF AUTHORS:

I probably haven't given enough profile to *The Lonely Cry*, a self-promotion group formed by local SF and fantasy writers. In *The Lonely Cry* #18, we learn that **Eileen Kernaghan's** new adult fantasy, *Winter on the Plain of Ghosts* – set in the era of the lost Mohenjo-Daro culture – was released in June 2004 in trade paperback format, by Flying Monkey Press. Eileen's third young-adult fantasy, *The Alchemist's Daughter*, is set in Elizabethan England the year before the Armada; the author will be signing at White Dwarf Books on October 2nd, at 3 p.m.

Mary Choo's article "On Magic Realism" now appears on the Magic Realist Writers International Network, at www.pantarbe.com/mrmagicrealism/mrwin02.htm.

David Duncan's "Chronicles of the King's Blades" series continues with two more titles in October 2004: *Impossible Odds* (Book Two, in mass market paperback) and *The Jaguar Knights* (Book Three, in

hardcover original). A sample chapter is featured at www.daveduncan.com. Dave Duncan is attending Con-Version XXI in Calgary, August 7-9, Coppercon in Phoenix, September 10-12, and VCon 29 in Burnaby, October 8-10.

Matthew Hughes sold five stories to *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction* in recent months, and two to *Isaac Asimov's SF Magazine*. He also has a fantasy novel, *Black Brillion*, to be published by Tor in November 2004, and will be launching the novel at VCon 29. (Matt Hughes also writes crime fiction, appearing in the *Winter Storyteller* and an upcoming *Alfred Hitchcock's Magazine*. In addition, he taught at the Shuswap Lake International Writers Festival, and read at a Canadian Library Association conference in Victoria.)

Rhea Rose will also attend VCon 29 as a writers' workshop pro. *The Lonely Cry* is irregularly published by Eileen Kernaghan, 225 Townsend Place, New Westminster, BC V3L 1L4; email lonewolf@portal.ca.

AS OTHERS REPOSITION US. "According to *Publishers Lunch*, a US deal is being lined up for bestselling French author Jean-Christophe Rufin's *Globalia*, reported as a speculative novel which `steps into the future, not exactly as science fiction but as a projection of today's American-dominated world toward what he calls "totalitarian democracy".' No talking squids in outer space there."

Ansible 203, June 2004

The Camps of Proved Desire and Known Delight (Media)

Ray Seredin (edited by Felicity Walker)

A Bit of Doctor Who News

There is a new Doctor (Christopher Eccleston), there is a new companion (Billie Piper), and the Daleks, the Cybermen and the Autons are lining up to fight the forces of good, in the new series hitting the air on BBC1 January 8th, 2005. As of now (June 11th, 2004, my 38th birthday) there's no North American distributor for the new series. A&E has the right to first refusal that runs out at the close of business July 2nd. After that, any American (or Canadian) cable or broadcast outlet can make a bid on it. Rumors say that American Sci-Fi Channel is interested and so is the PBS super-station out of Detroit. As for Canada, it's likely that Space could pick it up if Sci-Fi does. If not, there's always the chance that the CBC or BC's Knowledge Network could pick it up.

I will have more new Dr. Who series news when I find out where and when it will be seen over here.

Look like there's a good chance that some PBS stations may be picking up the new series of Doctor Who if A&E does not. The six stations still airing the old series staged a Who marathon on the weekend of June 12 to gauge viewer support and it increased by 2/3 when they said they will look into getting the new series.

Bad News: It's very unlikely that Seattle's KCTS9 will pick up the new series, since they focus on an older audience.

Good News: The PBS super-station out of Detroit will likely say yes to the new series, since they aired the old series from 1988 through 1993, and cater to a broader audience.

More Good News: With the success of the Who marathon in the States, Canada's TV-Ontario, Access Alberta and the Knowledge Network are getting more interested in the new series.

Another Evening At Garth's

- yet another attempt to raise the level of fannish discourse -

Chronicled by Joe Devoy and Garth Spencer

Present: Garth Spencer (host), Joe Devoy, Julian Castle, Doug Finnerty, Ray (Dr. Media) Seredin, Ashton Green, Sharon ?, HRH The Duke of Honeywell, Tila Pelletier, Felicity Walker, Lexie Phaithe, Ryan Hawe, Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, and Barb Dryer.

Opening remarks mentioned the Church of Stuff, the Church of the SubGenius, Garth's proposed Cult of Secular Humanism, and the "Davy & Goliath" cartoons; a recent news story about a person charged with "attempted murder of self by proxy" (a terminally-ill Londoner, who arranged his own hit over the Internet); a suggestion that somebody nuke Jerusalem, to stop everybody fighting over it; have the Turks & Caicos Islands been ratified as the fourth territory of Canada?; maybe Turkey should be renamed "Chicken", or "Dinner"; a proposal to engineer hibernating snow troopers, and cryogenically freeze them in undisclosed locations, to guard Arctic Canada from encroachment by Danish forces; maybe Greenland and Iceland should swap names!; the "Hutt River Principality" in Central Australia; the Big Metal Triangle of Bermuda (three battleships welded together); and the game of blindfolded Scrabble.

At Garth's invitation, Ashton discoursed on the history of the "Red Army" volunteer club of Canada. Ultimately this derived from the first AKA-Kon in Vancouver (profiled in one of the first *BCSFazines* edited by Garth), which lost about \$20,000. A friend of Ashton's, Nick Peterson, eventually shouldered these costs. Ashton and about 50 henchmen, including Nick, Luke Lowe, and Will * - the "Godfather of Vancouver Animé" - staged a coup when AKA-Kon's chair and vice-chair passed out, and took responsibility for running AKA-Kon.

The "Red Army" of AKA-Kon evolved into the "Red Army of Canada". They attended Sakuracon in Everett in 2001, without pre-purchasing tickets, and staged a minor riot, in order to be drafted as Security to quell the riot. Thus they got tickets at the prices offered to Staff. The Red Army - that is, Ashton, Nick, Tal Panzer ("the Asian James Bond"), and a DC anime fan, "Ogre" - thus attained honorary "Knighthawk" status. (Note: the Knighthawks were a fan group offering to serve as security at various Pacific Northwest cons, styling themselves as mercenaries in FRP gaming universes; apparently they were banned from anime cons in 2002, yet they were present at the 2004 Norwescon.)

Ashton described how the Red Army "declared war" on Nick and the 2002 AKA-Kon, because Nick's people stole Ashton's couch, after their return from Sakuracon. The Red Army got ahold of AKA-Kon's volunteer list and informed the volunteers of AKA-Kon's past financial difficulties, thus dissuading many volunteers, and causing a staff shortage for AKA-Kon. (Other "terrorist" acts supposedly committed by the Red Army at

AKA-Kon have been denied - at the time the Red Army were celebrating Ashton's birthday, and watching the Leonid meteor shower.)

(*Note: Garth took leave to point out the background to the Knighthawks, as he knew it, and the fact that fans who offer to volunteer for Security as a group tend to gain unfortunate reputations.*)

Idea #1: Should we install CANDU reactors to power water desalinators on the west coast of Australia, and irrigate the desert?

CANDU reactors have a 150-year working life, and long-term climate change (if it brought rain to Central Australia) would help solve the water shortage now developing, due to increasing population growth.

Idea #2: What if one day the rest of the world decides to feel good about themselves, so they invade Canada, and then hand the country over to the various Canadian aboriginal communities? Would you stay, or would you move someplace else?

The problem with the question as posed is that it assumes gun-toting rednecks in Canada couldn't defend themselves, and that "the world" wouldn't get its butt kicked, à la the War of 1812. [Note: *Canadians tend to take pride in the War of 1812 with the States, as the British not only retained control of their remaining colonies, but actually marched south to Washington and burned the White House.* -Ed.] However, many of us thought it would depend on how good or bad a job the new "Council of Elders" did, running our country. Also, it would depend on whether immigrants, and first- and second-generation Canadians, were "repatriated" to their homelands, or sent to reserves on the Prairies, or joined an underground paramilitary resistance group.

(*Garth takes leave to point out that these observations themselves rested on large and questionable assumptions, notably about the infrastructure, manpower and ammunition available to our stalwart rednecks. Also I think Canadian water supplies are doped with Prozac, so we rarely do the armed-resistance thing.*)

Idea #3: Is there any point in opening a video store? Or will people get video through large chains, buying on-line or from mail-order companies, or downloading free files?

The only point in opening a video store, today, would be if you could provide a service or product *unavailable* elsewhere (*e.g.*, arcane knowledge of cinema, and hard-to-find titles). [*Oddity Cinema off Main Street comes to mind* - GS]

Idea #4: Would the gun-katta (of the film Equilibrium) work?

This reference had to be explained to those of us unfamiliar with the film. Given a gun capable of *infinite* shots per second, it is theoretically possible to "be where the bullets aren't", through the study of gunshot trajectories. However, it helps if you have the element of surprise.

Idea #5: Proposition: Humans, like all child-rearing mammals, have a built-in instinct to drive out their young when they reach a certain level of maturity.

Inasmuch as humans can be said to *have* instincts (as opposed to culturally-based behaviours), we agreed that most human parents attempt to drive out their young when they reach a certain level of maturity (as yet, an undetermined level). Garth (unsurprisingly) had a different opinion. Most of us thought this behaviour was expressed usually on a passive-aggressive level -- especially in 20th-century North American society, which promotes independence but offers rather less affordable accommodation than young singles require, and which is not historically founded on extended families, which *don't* drive out their young.

Idea #6: Fzzmchugadz omnak zif?

Flurkagonzzz! [*That's Ghod-Editor Flurkagonzzz to you – GS*]

Idea #7: Is movie-directing, or running a military campaign, comparable in complexity to conrunning? (This question was included by mistake – we ran the question before.)

Francis Ford Coppola directed *Apocalypse Now* like a military campaign. *City of Angels* was a tragedy, because Nicolas Cage's character dies in the movie. Tragedy as a genre depends on the evil getting their just desserts (??), which depends on a definition of evil, which (sez Ashton) is based on organized religion's need for good vs. evil. (*What was the question? Was that an answer?? -GS*)

Idea #8: Proposition: In the not-too-distant future, the rest of the world decides to end the Great Canadian Experiment once and for all, and launches a successful military takeover of our country; under whose zone of occupation would you hope Vancouver ends up?

Candidates were: "Switzerland; U.K., Sweden; Communist Cuba; Hutt River Principality; Rand McNally; Archer Daniels Midland; U.N. Transitional Authority; Japan; Australia; Ireland".

Idea #9: What do you say when someone asks which [name sport] team you support?

"None, I'm not religious at all."

"That local sports team. Wasn't that a great game?"

We could treat sports like religions, or cover religious altercations – or wars – like sporting events! And if science fiction fans acted like sports fans ... they would be *put away*.

Idea #10: What is the proper Fannish Etiquette for meeting a pro whose work you haven't read, or have read but disliked?

- Avoid them; just walk away; excuse yourself; talk about something else. If they ask what you think of their work, ask if they are *really* sure

they want to hear it. If they press you, try to be as diplomatic and constructive as possible.

A system of fannish etiquette might prove useful for many people!
 ((*Nobody, I noticed, asked "what fannish etiquette?" or "why would I go to meet a pro at a con, let alone mention his work if I'm not into it?" – GS*))

Idea #11: What do we mean by "human nature"?

The usual blog ensued. Are there as *many* human natures as there are humans? Are all systems of personality-attribute combinations equally random and arbitrary? (E.g. Chinese astrology, Western astrology, the Myers-Briggs temperament types.) Or are they inadequate, due to our limited understanding of neurobiology and neuropsychology? Is inadequate vocabulary all we have in common?

Idea #12: If you woke up tomorrow in your perfect world, what would it look like?

After fussing about what "perfect" is supposed to mean, we established that Garth's ideal world would be one in which everyone said what they meant in as straightforward a manner as possible, and you could ask people to explain what you didn't understand, without them getting upset at you.

(Notes ran out at this point.)

Postscript from Garth:

I was a little disappointed with this weekend's discussion, but I guess I haven't quite conveyed the idea: question conventional concepts; perform some reasoned speculation, as long as it's imaginative; support any bizarre proposition, as long as you do it logically ...

There is some evidence that this is how ideologies and religious scriptures are generated.

This issue should feature two whole blank pages you can decorate any way you want.

Next issue, do you want to share some contributions with the rest of us?



VCON 29

Vancouver's Science Fiction, Fantasy & Gaming Convention

www.v-con.ca

October 8-10, 2004

Hilton Vancouver Metrotown

6083 McKay Avenue, Burnaby, BC V5H 2W7 Canada. (Telephone: 1-604-438-1200, Fax: 1-604-431-7782.) Rooms: \$105.00CDN for King or two Queens. Cots: \$15.00. (Maximum occupancy 4 people.) Please quote convention code VCO when you book your room to get the convention rate (and to ensure that VCON gets credit for your room booking.) Or, you can book your room online through the VCON web site: www.v-con.ca

Guest of Honour: Dave Duncan

Author of 35 books, including *The Seventh Sword*, *A Man of His Word*, *The King's Blades*, and *West of January*.

Science Guest: Dr. Jaymie Matthews

Head of science team for Microvariability & Oscillations of STars (MOST), Canada's first space telescope.

Special Guest: Lisa Smedman

Game designer and author of eight novels, including *New York Times* bestseller *Extinction*.

Memberships: Until April 30: \$25CDN/\$20US. May 1-July 15: \$30CDN/\$25US. July 16-September 15: \$40CDN/\$30US. At the door: \$50 CDN. If you are interested in signing up for the writers' workshop, booking space in the art show or the dealers room, or advertising in the program book, or if you want to volunteer, please contact the appropriate concom member as listed on the VCON web site: www.v-con.ca

VCON Membership Form

Real Name: _____ Badge Name*: _____

Mailing Address (on Earth): _____

City: _____ Province/State: _____ Country: _____ Age*: _____

Postal/Zip Code: _____ Telephone*: _____ Gender*: _____

E-mail Address*: _____ Species*: _____ Planet of Origin*: _____

Visa Cardholder Name : _____ Signature : _____

Card Number : _____ Expiry Date : _____

Mail completed form, together with cheque, money order, or completed Visa information, to: **VCON 29, 4044 Parker Street, Burnaby, BC V5C 3B9, Canada**