

Colophon

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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.

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>

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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.

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BCSFazine 375

Vol. 32, No. 8

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August, 2004



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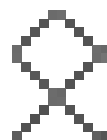
Art Credits:

Cover, pp. 11, 18, 36
..... Taral Wayne
Birthdays in August
..... Clip art
All other fillos
.. Online runes and petroglyphs

August Events

Date	Event & Location	
Aug. 07	BCSFA Goes Bowling! Instead of the movie night or Feeding Frenzy, this month we will meet up on Saturday, August 7 th in Commodore Lanes & Billiards (838 Granville) at 2 p.m.; at a rate of \$30/lane/hour, and a maximum 6 people/lane, we can play for two hours there at just \$10 a head. (Billiard tables are \$12/hour.) Then, about five-ish, the plan is to truck over to Taco del Mar, three blocks north at 545 Granville. Later, we can head out to a movie theatre, preferably a second-run theatre like Hollywood or the Ridge if something Sfnal is running. Alternatively, we can go to Ben Thiedecke's place (near Arbutus and 7 th Avenue - #302 - 2033 West 7 th , tel 604-731-5196, only after noon). Barb Dryer (604-267-7973) seems to be organizing all this.	
Aug. 13/ 2 nd Fri	BCSFazine deadline	At FRED (the Denny's on Davie at Thurlow)
Aug. 14	Fan's Tour of New West	1pm: Meet at Chaos Books and Games, 24 Eighth Street, New Westminster. Your friendly tour guide, Doug Finnerty takes you on a tour of the "Royal City" concentrating on all things fannish.
Aug. 19	Book discussion	7 pm at The Brickhouse, 730 Main Street, Vancouver. The Book: <i>Calculating God</i> by Robert J. Sawyer
?	BCSFA meeting/party	Where and when should we meet? (To discuss on the BCSFA listserv ...)
Aug. 27/ 4 th Friday	BCSFazine production	See Garth and Doug at FRED.
Aug. 28/ 4 th Saturday	Kaffeeklatsch - a Brainstorming Party -	7 pm on at Garth Spencer's, 82 East 40 th Ave., Vancouver. Phone 604-325-7314 for directions.

Whanne That Aprille with his Shoures Soote ...



I keep running out of time and space for a good, thorough, in-depth article on the Society for Creative Anachronism. I'm just going to sacrifice the editorial space this issue and give you a quick-and-dirty overview; then I want you to tell me what I overlooked or got wrong. (Please note, I have asked for advice from a number of contacts in the SCA, including Kathleen Moore-Freeman, Ann Alexander, and Brenna Sharp in Portland.)

Sometimes I characterize the SCA as a costume party that never ended. A more sober description is that some history students, science fiction fans and emerging writers held a medieval-costume party at Diana Paxson's place, in 1966, and liked it so much they evolved a society to keep holding such events. Like any activity that catches on, the SCA grew and proliferated and now has member groups around much of the world.

As you are probably aware, Society members assume medieval personas, attend events in period costume, pursue activities ranging from medieval tournaments and court ceremonies, through period dances, singing and crafts. In fact there are three different hierarchies in the Society in which you can advance: Combat & Chivalry, Arts and Science, and Heraldry.

The official object of the Society is education in the manners, dress, cuisine and arts of the medieval (European) world. In practice, the Society redraws the borders much of the known world into about seventeen "kingdoms", within which local groups style themselves as baronies, duchies, shires, etc. (Just a few examples: The Pacific Northwest is known as the "Kingdom of An Tir"; most of Vancouver is the "Barony of Lionsgate" within it; Victoria is the "Barony of Seagirt".) As I have tried to show in BCSFA's regular calendar of events, there is a variety of SCA tournaments, educational events and dance practices every month, at different places in the Pacific Northwest. All this and more is covered on the SCA website, www.sca.org, and in more local detail on www.antir.sca.org, which is where I lifted the list of upcoming Northwest events.

In one way the SCA is an outgrowth of fandom, as fans and writers were part of its beginning; in another way the Society is a sort of parallel fandom. One of the important contrasts, in my view, is the standard of organization. My understanding is that the Society is rather more unified, and hierarchically organized, than science fiction fandom is. (For comprehensive details on the peerage structure, see <http://www.antirheralds.org/awards/OP/orders.html>.) From its outset, science fiction fandom has tended to independent, local clubs. By contrast, the Society not only tends to re-create the medieval aristocratic hierarchy, it looks like one worldwide organization, headquartered in Milpitas, California (<http://sca.org>). (In fact, though, the SCA in Canada

is registered separately, as the Northern Society for Creative Anachronism: <http://www.nasca.bc.ca> .)

Furthermore, Society events – at least, as conducted in the Northwest – offer some useful contrasts to SF events, notably conventions. May Crown and September Crown, the Clinton War and the various tourneys, are often held as camping events, to which people bring their own shelter and provisions. This may represent significant cost savings compared to events held in convention hotels. Then again, this may simply be the An Tir way of holding events.

I was told that on the East Coast, most Society activity gets concentrated into *one* annual event, called Pennsic. Anna Alexander tells me that Pennsic charges US\$175 admission for single, non-SCA members, and therefore the eastern SCA groups can't afford to schedule other events. (See <http://www.pennsicwar.org/penn33/index.html>)

SCA events are organized by “autocrats”, rather than committees. This may or may not be an advantage; while I have heard committees described as the only form of life with many legs and no brain, I generally hear the convention chair's job described as “assuming all responsibility and then delegating all the duties as fast as possible”, and perhaps an autocrat's job amounts to the same thing.

I urge you to check out the above-mentioned sites, whether or not you get involved – Kathleen Moore-Freeman advised me that I had entirely the wrong dates for Clinton War, and I haven't gotten the right ones yet ...

Doubleplusgood Duckspeak



Taral Wayne <taralwayne@3web.net>, 28 Jun 2004

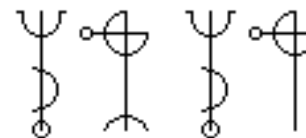
A short note, a semi-hemi-demiquaver at best...

I'm grateful to Felicity Walker who brings up a few points I don't mind remarking on. First is that almost all the art Garth has run in *BCSFazine* was culled from my monthly "mailings". To keep in touch with a number of friends and a handful of fans, once a month I scanned recent drawings and sent the typically 50 to 150k files to the list. Most of these were just pencil drawings -- not inked. I never had advance warning what Garth would pick to run, or any clue to his criteria in picking them. There have been one or two I might perhaps have preferred he didn't. Be that as it may, most of the drawings were either

for my own amusement, or were quick commissions, and not meant for publication. When I ink a drawing the sketchiness of the lines disappears, as you might expect, and the solids are solid black as they should be. The art I do for money leaves me little time to meet that standard for everything. Of late, even art I've drawn specifically for the fan press has been penciled and not inked. It's not necessarily a bad thing. Some people like the more spontaneous look and textured quality of pencil. It does have a charm of its own. Inked work often looks lifeless by comparison. But it's not aesthetics that dictate the appearance of my drawings in *BCSFazine*, but practicality. As well, Garth's unpredictable eye for art.

(I thought I was forgetting something important. I apologize, Taral; I kept misunderstanding what was offered for publication and what wasn't. -GS)

But we should appreciate Garth more. It takes an unusual sort of person to do the dirty work of a science fiction club, year after year. An obsessive one, with no attractive alternative to fandom in his private life, it's true ... But think of what would happen if he took up stamp collecting, or breeding chinchillas in his spare time instead of publishing *BCSFazine*? We should pray he remains unhappy and frustrated -- is it not said, it is a Proud and Lonely thing to be a fan?



Randy Barnhart, randy_barnhart@hotmail.com, July 8, 2004

Really snazzy effort as always, Garth, and I particularly enjoy Taral Wayne's efforts every issue. Well, let's see: Barb and I will be attending Noreascon Four (Lloyd & Yvonne: gonna be there?) in Boston, and then VCon 29 (my first con as a Pro); which, even the most ardent traveller will agree, is somewhat akin to the Odyssey for time spent on the road. Still, it'll be great seeing everyone in BC again as well as a chance to spend Thanksgiving with our daughter Val, who is studying at the Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design (and yes, I am proud as well as broke).

Ottawa is currently going through a year without summer: Ottawa summers are usually marked by 30 degree heat combined with 99% humidity (last summer, the humidex actually hit 40 degrees one very memorable day), which is only right, given Ottawa was built on a malarial swamp. Anyway, we seem to have exchanged weather with the U.K.: rainy and cool almost all of the time. Those with pollen allergies continue to suffer though.

Re Conspiracy Theories: The only genuine political discourse of our times. All one needs do is attend a showing of *Fahrenheit 9/11* to realize

the Two Bobs (Shea and Wilson) didn't take The Illuminati Papers far enough. The only real problem I have with conspiracy theories is they often serve as a pretext for sloth ("Why bother? They control everything") or crippling paranoia ("They're going to kill me because I know the truth about Britney Spears!"), all while ignoring Hanlon's Razor. Here's a conspiracy theory for you: are conspiracy theories promoted in order to scare people away from really examining how society is managed? The math is left as an exercise for the student ...

((Conspiracy theories are often examples of poor reasoning. Conspiracy theories are like crank theories are like superstitions are like cynicism – they're all ways to tell yourself at least, you know the score, if not that you have any control over your life. I think conspiracy theories are intrinsically funny, like Pythonesque surrealism, but maybe I'm as out of touch with the normal definition of humour as, say, Andy Kaufman was.))

Re Fantasy: China Miéville, my favourite fantasy writer these days, argues fantasy has become locked in an endless recursive revision of Tolkien: resolute elves, beautiful fairies, gruff but stalwart dwarves, laughably wicked orcs, courtliness, true love lost and found, kindly but disguised kings, boringly evil villains easily defeated and so tediously on. Even urban fantasy, which was supposed to save the genre by dealing with substantive issues, has become mostly languid and, to use your term, stereotyped. Ah well, as in everything else, Sturgeon's Law applies.

((You would have appreciated Dave Langford's joke about that. But that was several years back ...

((How many people here recognize what Sturgeon's Law is? How many people care?))

Still, a *Lord of the Rings* haiku:

Silver ring
A long walk to Mount Doom
Sam did it all.

Re Politics: And yes, it all ended not with a bang, but a whimper. You are quite right about politicians appearing to be Animatronic™, but do we really want anything more? Just how electable would any politician be after saying something like "I entertain carnal feelings for my goldfish Flashy and I want to be your Member of Parliament!" It seems politicians who *genuinely* challenge the *status quo* are regarded (either by us or the media, which amounts to basically the same thing) as unelectable mavericks, crazies or feeble-minded. I think the vast majority of humans want politicians who ask nothing more of us than our votes and our money (and, given a war, our bodies).

*((I really must put that to the test sometime. How many of you would vote for **me**, if I revived the Rhinoceros Party and started running on a surprisingly silly platform? Or would something like the Anarcho-Surrealist Party or Liberal Secular Humanist Cult be more popular?))*

Re Magic: Interesting idea, a self-regulating society for paranormal practitioners, but I don't think it would have much swing in law. I do believe there is a legal principle that the law should not take notice of those things it cannot control. This supposedly comes from a case way back in Ye Olden Days when a man tried to sue the Devil for killing his pigs (swine flu is so tricky, sometimes). The court decided that, while they would not wish to definitely say there was no Devil (to do so would have been to suggest there was no God, and no one did stuff like that back then), it was apparent the pig farmer would never have been able to collect damages from a supernatural entity, so: case closed. Still, I would dearly love to sit in on any of those hearings.

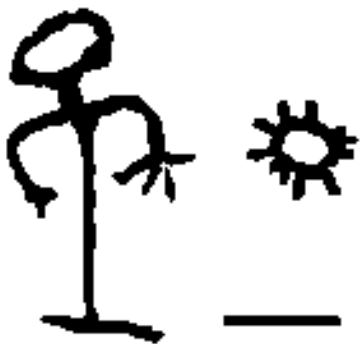
((All that is required is a number of scrupulous magicians, dedicated to enforcing standards of good practice, like scrupulous doctors or locksmiths. The joke I was trying to make is that sometimes the suits are more interested in legislating, and in creating a bureaucracy, than in the efficacy or even the existence of what is legislated and licensed. You may have thought I was referring to acupuncture and chiropractic and homeopathy; actually I was thinking of the rumour that the B.C. Legislature declared sasquatches a protected species, without establishing first that they even exist.))



Lloyd! How you doing? Your comment about dealers selling more books at Toronto Trek than Ad Astra is interesting. I'd wager it has something to do with the fact that ninety percent of the current SF&F market consists mainly of novelizations and tie-ins. My local Chapters has enough Star Trek novelizations to qualify for its own section, and the tie-ins for RPGs, movies, comics and non-Trek TV appear endless. Why do people buy these things? Do they actually read any of it? It must be for the truly obsessed collector, because most of it is sh... ah, execrable. Or are my prejudices showing?

There is one suggestion I make to fans: give *The Chronicles of Riddick* a try, even as a rental. Like *Equilibrium*, it is a tiny gem, even though every movie reviewer drawing breath hates it. In *Riddick's* case, the main reason appears to be than its star, Vin Diesel, has garnered a fortune through his ability to stand around looking brooding and loutish. Still, this little beauty is almost Shakespearian in its depth (indeed, fans have noted the movie shares more than a few plot points with the Bard's *Scottish Play*). Besides, it is reported Diesel refused to sign on until Dame Judy Dench, who also appears in the film, was paid the same as he because "she's a real good Shakespeare-type actor" or words to that effect. You gotta love that.

Hey, is it just me or is Porthos the most interesting character on *Star Trek: Enterprise*?



BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 23.374, from Felicity Walker, felicity4711@hotmail.com, Monday 28 June 2004

Cover - Good Taral Wayne cover.

July Events - I prefer to have the actual date ("Saturday 18 July 2004" as opposed to "Third Saturday").

Garth Klaatu Borada Nikto - on Art: "It is increasingly hard to find topical illustrations to go with the text in this here rag." We need to co-ordinate.

Can Fan History: Let me know when you want to record the history I experienced.

Discordianism: I'm still working on understanding this. It's tricky, plus it reminds me of a discordant woman I knew three years ago who did something to two of my friends that wasn't very nice.

Fandom: "If you're looking for a community, where do you go?" Wherever there's a desperate demand for members, so that you can manipulate those people into giving you a community in exchange for your presence.

Fanpubbing: "I want to thrash out in a small digest what sort of publications fans produce, and how we produce them, and why..." You may interview me for this.

Fantasy: From when I was about 12 to 19 I liked the quasi-medieval fantasy style as much as the next person, but then I went back to my pre-adolescent view of that genre as depressing. I don't know what's wrong with me; I really miss liking 1970s/1980s-style fantasy.

Hoaxes, Practical Jokes, Pranks, Satire: Life is a lot more complicated and there is more choice-overload paralysis, than when I was in university. Finding the energy to do stuff like this gets harder every year.

Science Fiction: I'm sure SF is still exploring new paradigms, though not so much in media SF, which definitely ossified into a sad formula during the 1990s. However, it's entirely up to chance whether I find new SF or not. Lately it's been by going through the used books being sold at Safeway to raise money for charity, as well as things people lend me.

"Don't you wish you had a wide variety of fascinating projects like this?" I have a variety of projects to which I should be attending. Making the time to stop procrastinating and write this LOC was one of them.

LoCs - Felicity Walker: "(I never associated cons with weight loss before.)" Then you haven't heard Ray talk about the conventions for his weight-loss group, TOPS.

"(Who's Tom Peters?)" A corporate motivational speaker—he gives seminars that inspire business managers to strive for excellence. I remember my father having to read the book and watch the video of "In Search of Excellence" in the mid-1980s. Peters screamed at auditoria full of middle-management types, nearly giving himself a heart attack trying to articulate his rage at corporate America's inability to see the obvious: that consumers like products that work, and like to be listened to when they have a problem. You wouldn't know it from looking at his photo on his web-site (tompeters.com) today, but back then he launched around the stage like a cocaine-fuelled Chris Farley with a PhD in biz admin. I would love to see the Tom Peters of that era explain to the Microsoft of today the concept of making software that works and having easily-accessible tech-support...but then I guess Microsoft is too successful to want to be told how to do business, and Peters' main fan-base is corporations that are scared they're doing something wrong.

Lloyd Penney: A BCSFA secret society with cloaks and hoods and temples and concentric circles of secrecy would be cool! Let's do it!

Re-reading the old *Maple Leaf Rags* and MLRs a few weeks ago, I saw that debates over the legality of video rooms at cons extend back as far as VCRs. There was no answer then and there's none now. Anime is still a grey area—if you can't buy it here, is it OK to pirate it? Would that wonderful panel at V-Con 24 where that hilariously witty fan showed old Godzilla movies and made fun of them be considered "fair use"? I hope so. I've been waiting for the return of that panel ever since.

I can't remember now if this was a real conversation I had, or something I said in my sleep in response to a dream, but I vaguely remember telling someone "Lloyd Penney, for example, will definitely be receiving a complete set of my zines if I ever see him at a con." I wish I could remember the context; it had something to do with giving zines away and wanting to make sure that they went to people who would LOC them.

Birthdays in July - I see that I'm not listed, although my birthday is on record as 31 July. That's OK—there's a good chance that if the August issue of BCSFAzine comes out the fourth Friday as it says on the inside front cover, it can be listed and there will still be eight days before the information is out of date. If it comes out the last (fifth) Friday then I'll still have twenty-four hours to receive birthday thoughts from those readers who receive their copy at FRED.

Snup - I forgot I'd submitted this! I wish I'd found a phrase less clichéd than "intoxicating scent." Yes, the story certainly is to be continued!

Another Evening at Garth's - Ashton was very keen to read the part about the Red Army of Canada, and after I relayed it to him, he was surprised at some of the errors of miscommunication that had occurred. He said that he wished he'd had a chance to correct the article before it was published. (He's probably told you all this himself by now.)

Idea #10: "(Why would I go to meet a pro at a con, let alone mention his work if I'm not into it?)" I didn't say I went to meet them. I was, rather, thinking that I've been to cons and accidentally found myself face-to-face with pros whose work I either didn't know or didn't like. They introduce themselves (or don't, if they know that I know who they are) and ask me what I think...what's the polite thing to do? It might not matter to them if I don't know or like their work, or then again I might catch them at a vulnerable time and hurt their feelings or make them dislike me. I don't want that.

"Postscript from Garth: I was a little disappointed with this weekend's discussion." Tough. The alternative is to hold a one-man tea party with all your stuffed animals.

"This issue should feature two whole blank pages you can decorate any way you want." It didn't.



Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, July 15, 2004

I'm glad Garth sent out a reminder on the BCSFA list...I might have forgotten again, and with the job hunt still on the go, I might have missed the deadline altogether. So, here's some comments on *BCSFazine* 374.

Being a Renaissance fan...I also try to keep an up-to-date address book. And yes, some addresses are probably out of date. I have such a large address book, I keep it on a 3.5-inch disk, and printed out onto paper that nearly fills a 1.5-inch binder. I try my best to keep up with local fan organizations, but when I come across OBAVA, the Ontario Buffy and Angel Viewers' Association, I come close to throwing up my hands in frustration.

((What constitutes "fakefandom" these days? At some point we really have to draw the line and exclude some of these ephemeral groups from Fandom As We Know It.))

My loc...I write locs to every fanzine I get, but I have noticed over the last few months there aren't many fanzines arriving. I hope we're just catching our breath to start anew. I also suspect that I have fallen off some mailing lists because my letters are considered low-quality contribs, and some faneds are saying that letters like mine just aren't good enough any more to stay on the mailing list. I am getting that reaction...I know I've been dropped from some zines, and a couple of faneds have told me so in e-mail conversation. I guess locs aren't enough...I have to come up with an article or two or a cartoon to stay in the loop, and I am too busy job hunting to research anything like that. You are right, though; from many sources where my locs go, I get no reaction at all.

((What constitutes "good enough" for fanzines? Which ones, by the way? In twenty years I have not discovered a concrete verbal statement anywhere defining whatever fannish criteria we have to measure up to.

((On the one hand I find myself trying to give BCSFAns an idea of what I discovered in the best examples of fanzine fandom ... on the other hand, like you, I have found myself passed over by fanpubbers. In person, sometimes.))

Networking...tough to do, but I do some. Rob Sawyer got me the news that CBC Radio Drama at the HQ building here is looking for new scripts, and I sent an e-mail to Linda Grierson in the Radio Drama department. She invited to come and do a read, and she has encouraged me to get an agent so I can participate. So, I may be a newly-minted CBC voice actor soon. Anything is possible. So, what brought this around? You might remember a couple of years ago, I told everyone about a horror CD I performed on called Fears For Ears...now, I have gotten myself onto the cast of a 12-part space opera CD called Sectarian Wave, produced by VirtuallyAmerican.com. The rehearsals start soon, and I will have two small roles on the CD. It is hoped that the CDs will be available for sale in October of this year.

I go onto Trufen.net every so often...I'm finding that while there's lots of fannish news, I don't get the urge to respond to it. It's really not affecting my own fannish life...more and more, I am retreating from the international fandom I used to be quite interested in, and moving more towards just being a local fan with local friends. Torcon really hit us hard, and Yvonne is heavily involved with space advocacy. There is a space conference in Vancouver shortly; she might catch the redeye to get there on the cheap.

(("Hit you hard"? Does that mean, financially, or somehow otherwise?))

Word to all...get an Aurora ballot and nominate! No nominating means no right to complain if your candidate doesn't get on the ballot. Please participate. It makes the awards mean more if you do.

((It would also mean more if fans like our readers actually recognized nominatable works. Most of us are fakefans, if media fans are fakefans; most of the nominees for awards are printed works, or artists; I daresay most of the Canadian writers and artists are unknown to most contemporary fans.

((When I can distribute a list of nominatable works along with the Aurora ballots, one or two BCSFAns may participate. It would make more of a difference if club newsletters across Canada ran reviews of the recently-published, nominatable stories, novels and art; only one fanzine editor ever did that. Just once.))

Time to finish up and get this off to you. I will report back if I find a job, or win 6/49, or get on the CBC. I wonder which is more likely... Take care, all, and see you next issue.

Doug Finnerty, July 15, 2004

I cannot think of any good places for the August or September Feeding Frenzies. Please help!

Some of the best places in the past we have tried are listed below. Perhaps we want to try them again?

Fett's (on Commercial Drive)
 Banana Leaf (Malaysian cuisine – Cambie St.)
 The Reef (Caribbean – Main St.)
 Jun Sushi (all u can eat in Richmond)
 Old Spaghetti Factory (in New West. Where the first Feeding Frenzy was held)
 Cockney Kings (fish and chips)

Lari Davidson, July 14, 2004

I wanted to publicly thank everyone through BCSFazine who wrote when I needed help with *ULTRA!* the magazine I'm working on. ...

Although I wasn't swamped with replies and submissions it was a goodly turnout. Now my hope is that the kids being helped by the cystic fibrosis foundation will receive a slew of money from our combined efforts.

Thanks one and all for your assistance.

We also heard from: Greg Slade, Lloyd Penney, Peter Halasz, David Manning, Bruce Gillespie, Toronto Trek 18, Steve Forty, Howard Cherniack, Stan Hyde, Fran Skene, Murray Moore, Doe Poirier, Subterranean Press, Powells Books

Birthdays in August

31 July: Michael Morse, or Felicity Walker, or Dr. Morbius (who are different people but the same individual), is *not* the one who told me that science fiction was invented by extraterrestrials to prepare humans for alien contact, alternate universes, ATMs and Velcro. But I can't remember who did.



3: Frank Skinner was our first member to suspect that the modern state of SF has less to do with “enhancing shareholder value” in Paramount and Alliance Atlantis, and more to do with a covert and subversive campaign. He now prepares tax returns in Encinitas, California, but when darkness falls and the moon rises, he dons his masked crime-fighter outfit and documents branches of the Illuminati ...



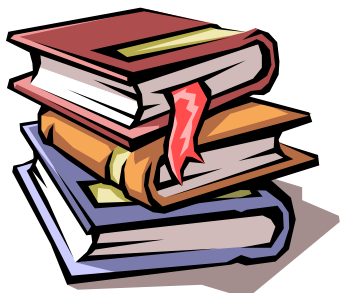
4: Katie Kelly, one of Allan Kelly's daughters, is not only a costumer and jewelry designer. (Or is that her sister?) She is responsible for discovering the infiltration of the Illuminati into contemporary fandom. She was on the point of mounting a Justice-League-style campaign to eradicate their influence, but then she discovered boys, and started dating, and sort of lost interest ...



9: Carol Polok, one of the recent refugees from Utah, tried to convince me that the United States is currently controlled by a small coterie of Mormon elders. I countered with the theory that the United States is currently a battleground, fought over by the covert forces of Starbucks and Wal-Mart.



12: Shelly Gordy, famous consort of folksinger Tam Gordy and, like him, a former member of BCAPA, was a witness to the misuse of funds at several Pacific Northwest conventions over the past thirty years. We were going to see a documented case about the mulcting of convention funds by one non-fannish interest group, but then BCAPA mysteriously suspended publication ...



17: Vaughn Fraser, who co-chaired the only Vcon to give significant profile to comics, left BCSFA for reasons I have been unable to determine. The fact that almost the very next Vcon took a serious bath may be totally unconnected.

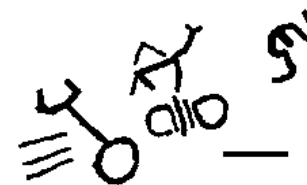


16: Bernie Klassen fled the confines of an increasingly puritan University of Alberta for the freedom and liberality of Victoria, where he met Paula Johanson, who is now his wife of nearly twenty years. It is only recently that he unburdened himself of the painful story of ESFCAS, the famous Edmonton club of the 1970s, and its bankrupting and final dissolution by a non-fannish group that is still unidentified ...



24: Jackie Barclay, née Wilson, was one of the heartthrobs of late-1980s BCSFA who formed the "Leather Goddesses of Phobos". Some conspiracy theorists suggest that she witnessed the Paramount-Fox Alliance openly embezzling funds from Westercon 44, in 1991, and was forced to gafiate. Since she married Steve Barclay and the other Leather Goddesses have gafiated, the rumours of their Illuminati involvement are almost certainly untrue.

30: Howard Cherniack reads machine code. I have pictures. He won't reveal the meaning of life, as it might cause a public panic. There are persistent rumours that he monkey-wrenches Illuminati databases in his spare time, but there is no evidence.



31: August Witherspoon-Li has been called a hoax, a leading member of the Illuminati, a fake fan, a foe of the Illuminati, an unwitting dupe of the insidious Starbucks conspiracy, or a limp-wristed pinko half-breed poetaster like Garth. He refuses to be seen with Garth.

Delighted with Things that Cannot Help, Haunted with Terror of Things that Cannot Hurt

<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>
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<p>METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP is open to new members. 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>

<p>HI SCI FI CJSF 90.1 FM * Fridays at 5:00 Contact Irma Arkus AT 604-540-2763</p>	<p>EDITING, PROOFREADING AND WORDPROCESSING SERVICES Contact Garth Spencer at 604-325-7314 or garthspencer@shaw.ca</p>
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Nobody Told Me There'd Be Days Like These



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: **Anime Evolution** at the SFU main campus on Burnaby Mountain, Burnaby, BC. First Dreamwave appearance in BC; meet Pat Lee & Joe Ng, and their Tasmanian Comics signing. Featuring industry guests, cultural demonstrations, video rooms, AMV room, dealers' room, dance, art gallery, charity auction, card game tournament, and more. Registration prices and contact information: \$35 for a full three days,

\$30 for a one-day pass; make cheques and money orders to AE Convention Corp.; mail to Anime Evolution 2004 Registration, POBox 53600, 984 Broadway W., Vancouver, BC V5Z 1K0; also see www.animeevolution.com.

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.

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 the correct URL!!)

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

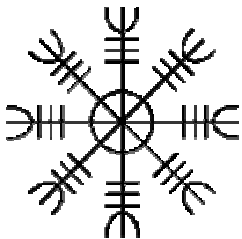
Sept. 28: *Crier* Deadline in the Kingdom of An Tir

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 \$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.

Ancient Myths and Lore of Our Tribe



Close Encounters Of The Fast-Talking Kind

by Garth Spencer

Hrothgar Weems' world started coming unglued about the time he lost a steady job, and had to work as an office temp. He was coming home from a very late, *very* stressful assignment, and was tired and

sweaty and his cheap suit was rumpled, when he boarded his bus; he didn't notice a brilliant white-and-pink light source speeding through the clouded sky above him.

By the time he got off the bus, Hrothgar's mood was grey, rather than black. He had finished re-reading the last pages of the *Illuminatus!* Trilogy the day before, and reading Philip K. Dick was turning out to be a downer. While he crossed an ill-lit, soggy track field, he still didn't pay attention to the aurora-like lights playing on the cloud cover.

The vast metallic bulk that swiftly blocked Hrothgar's path was rather hard to miss, though. Especially eye-catching was the shifting colour of the engines, going from white-and-pink through burnt umber to gunmetal grey. Hrothgar had a brief, startled impression of a bran muffin the size of an apartment complex, before the lights went out. His usually petulant baby-face was slack with astonishment.

A dimly-lit port opened before Hrothgar; a bulky robed figure trod out, and Hrothgar heard noises he couldn't identify. After a few heartbeats he realized the deep, hoarse sounds were something like English:

"... our conquest, you will obey us without question or complaint. We are the Dominies, and destined to rule ..."

The alien voice went on in this vein for several minutes, detailing the Dominies' military strength, and their policy toward resistance, and their general ideological attitude. –*This is a prepared speech*, Hrothgar realized. *They must make this announcement as a * legal * requirement, every place they show up.* Almost immediately, he also realized: -- *They're enough like us to have a drive to dominance. Are they like us in other ways as well ...?*

Hrothgar waited politely, as he had been raised to do, then raised a hand when the Dominie stopped speaking. "Do you have some promotional literature?" he inquired.

The Dominie shifted a little. Presently it said, "What do you mean?"

"I mean, any government pretty much depends on the support of its population, not just their compliance. Also, we've never had a society that was completely united; a proposition like foreigners governing us is bound to polarize us, into your supporters and your opponents." Hrothgar was improvising rapidly as he spoke. "But you might simply your work by setting up a political party, /advocating/ for you, playing up the reasons to vote for Dominie administration."

The hard-to-grasp bulk of the Dominie shifted again. Hrothgar thought it might be puzzled. "Party? Support?"

"Yes. Most of our nations are representative republics," Hrothgar went on. "But most of them have problems right now with employment, or economic failure, or ecological trouble ... even mass hunger, and tribal wars. So you could advertise the benefits of administration by experts, demonstrate your experience at allocating resources; maybe you could start by setting up organizations that mediate disputes on contract, or employ your technologies on a commercial basis." He paused. "We used to have some colonial and mercantile empires on this planet. Maybe that

could work for you?" He bit his tongue before saying it would work against the aliens.

A querulous-sounding alien said something from within the flying muffin. The robed Dominie turned slightly and barked something very brief. Then it turned its attention back to Hrothgar.

"I do not quite understand why we should take this trouble," the alien said.

"How often have you lost lives and property to resistance groups?" Hrothgar asked. "And how often have they claimed that you had no *right* to their worlds, that no-one *asked* for your government? It might be a different matter on a world where a constituency supported the Dominie, and some people actually voted for joining your empire."

"AW, COME ON BOSS," a roar came from inside, "LET ME KILL SOMETHING!"

- To be continued -

On the Run

And now, a serialized comic submitted by Taral Wayne ...



In my continuing effort to establish what interests, or offends you all, I now present *A Blast from the Past: the Fannish Purity Test*, a standard amusement for 1980s fans ...

The 100 Point Purity Test For Non-Virgins

version 1.2 by omni@circus.com -
copy and distribute freely

This test rates your "sexual purity". The majority of these 100 questions assume that you have had sex at some point in your life, so you won't have to wade through lots of questions asking if you've ever been on a date, stroked someone's thigh, etc. For the purposes of this test, "sex" is defined as one or more of the following: intercourse, oral sex, or anal sex. Digital sex doesn't count - you have to draw the line somewhere.

Check all boxes for which your answer is "yes"
Have you ever...

- had sex in three or more positions in one session?
- had sex continuously for 1 hour or more?
- devoted an entire day to sex and sexual activity (with breaks for eating, etc)?
- been so loud having sex that housemates/neighbours commented or complained?
- had your sexual technique/style/skill openly praised by someone?
- written an explicitly erotic story?
- brought your partner to orgasm using only your hands?
- had sex while both fully dressed (unzip fly, hike up skirt...)?
- had sex while both standing up?
- licked or sucked on someone else's feet and/or toes?
- performed oral sex on a man (fellatio)?
- performed oral sex on a woman (cunnilingus)?
- received oral sex from a man?
- received oral sex from a woman?
- used position number 69?
- intentionally swallowed semen (your own counts)?
- woken someone up by performing oral sex on them?
- had heterosexual intercourse using no birth control?
- had sex during menstruation?
- used whipped cream, chocolate syrup, etc... for sexual purposes?
- used ice for sexual purposes?
- used hot/melted wax for sexual purposes?
- completely shaved off your pubic hair?
- purchased a sex toy?
- inserted your finger into someone's anus, or had this done to you?
- licked someone's anus?
- performed anal intercourse on someone (on the giving end, toys count)?
- received anal intercourse (receiving end, toys still count)?
- used a vibrator or dildo on your partner, or had your partner use one on you?
- used another kind of inanimate object for penetration (cucumber, beer bottle, anything)?
- been involved in use of a cock-ring?
- been involved in use of a strap-on?
- participated in fist-fucking?

- contracted a venereal disease?
- received money or some favour in exchange for sexual activities?
- given a sympathy fuck?
- forced or coerced someone having sex with you?
- had sex with a virgin?
- paid for sex with a prostitute?
- been involved in adultery?
- committed statutory rape?
- fondled a pre-pubescent when you were post-pubescent?
- had sex with someone 10 years older or younger than yourself?
- had sex with a roommate/housemate/landlord (not a pre-existing relationship)?
- had sex with your boss or teacher?
- willingly committed incest (sex with family member, including 1st cousins)?
- ever had sex with two people from the same family (i.e., siblings, etc - not related through marriage)?
- had sex with someone the same day you met them?
- had sex with someone whose name you did not know (at least until afterwards)?
- had sex with someone who you never spoke with, or who did not know any of the same languages as you?
- been openly homosexual or bisexual (out of the closet for all to see)?
- had more than 10 sex partners?
- ...more than 100?
- had sex with two partners within 24 hours (but separately)?
- been in a *ménage à trois*?
- engaged in group sex (more than three people)?
- visited an orgy parlour or swap club?
- had two or more regular sex partners at the same time, while all involved were aware of your actions?
- had two or more regular sex partners at the same time, without telling all of them about the others?
- had sex in a public place?
- had sex outdoors at night?
- had sex outdoors in direct, unshadowed sunlight?
- had sex in a stationary car?
- had sex while you or your partner were driving?
- become a member of the Mile High Club?
- had sex in your or your partner's parents' bedroom?
- had sex in a classroom, office, or other place of work (not a private residence)?
- had sex in a restroom of a building that was open to the public?
- had sex in the water (bathtub, hot tub, ocean...)?
- had sex in a stairwell or elevator?
- had sex in a place of the dead (cemetery, mortuary, coffin, etc)?
- used alcohol to lower someone's resistance?
- had sex while under the influence of illegal drugs?

- ever taken a drug for the express purposes of enhancing the sexual experience?
- seen a live professional stripper?
- committed an act of voyeurism (watched someone who did not know you were there)?
- committed an act of public exhibitionism (stripping, streaking...)?
- masturbated in someone else's presence?
- had sex while you knew someone else was watching?
- been walked in on while having sex?
- watched pornographic movie with your sex partner?
- been the photographer or subject of a nude photo/video shoot?
- had pictures/video taken of you having sex?
- watched your usual sex partner have sex with someone else while you were not involved?
- had a genital or nipple pierce?
- practiced sexual role-playing (doctor/nurse, student/teacher, etc)?
- engaged in transvestism for sexual enjoyment?
- engaged in bondage as a "top" (tied someone up)?
- engaged in bondage as a "bottom" (been tied up)?
- been blindfolded during sex?
- intentionally inflicted pain while performing sexual activities (sadism)?
- willingly had pain inflicted on you during sexual activities (masochism)?
- had a "safe word" arranged with your partner for use in S&M/B&D activities?
- used nipple clips (clothespins count)?
- used a whip, cat-o-nine-tails, or something similar for pain?
- inflicted or received an electric shock during sexual activities?
- drawn blood by biting or scratching while performing sexual activities?
- engaged in "golden showers"?
- committed bestiality?
- practiced necrophilia?

That's it. You can use your score to compare relative experience with friends and partners, but you might not want to tell your mother. To calculate your purity score, count up your NO answers (unchecked boxes).



(Next month I plan to serialize the next instalment of the 500-question expansion of the Purity Test. Unless, that is, I'm hunted down by an angry mob waving torches and rope neckties. -GS)



LIFE AMONG THE IF-ICS

AUTHOR READINGS

Lisa Smedman and K.A. Bedford will be reading from their recent works on Tuesday, Aug. 17 at 7:30 p.m. at The Grind coffee house at 4124 Main Street (the cross street is King Edward Avenue).

Lisa Smedman will be reading from her recent release, *The Apparition Trail*, and copies will be available at White Dwarf Books. "For a sneak peek at *The Apparition Trail*", Lisa writes, "visit the Edge Science Fiction website at <http://www.edgewebsite.com/books/apparitiontrail/at-catalog.html>."

Mr. Bedford will be reading from his recent releases, *Orbital Burn* (his hardboiled cyberpunk science fiction novel) and *Eclipse* (his forthcoming dark science fiction novel - available in 2005), also both published by Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy.

Lisa Smedman will do another reading at the Vancouver Public Library this fall. Edge Science Fiction has emailed Mr. Bedford's North American reading itinerary for the course of this year; more details to come next issue ...

BCSFA Goes Bowling!

Instead of the movie night or Feeding Frenzy, this month we will meet up on Saturday, August 7th in **Commodore Lanes & Billiards** (838 Granville) at 2 p.m.; at a rate of \$30/lane/hour, and a maximum 6 people/lane, we can play for two hours there at just \$10 a head. (Billiard tables are \$12/hour.) Then, about five-ish, the plan is to truck over to Taco del Mar, three blocks north at 545 Granville. Later, we can head out to a movie theatre, preferably a second-run theatre like Hollywood or the Ridge if something Sfnal is running. Alternatively, we can go to Ben Thiedecke's place (near Arbutus and 7th Avenue - #302 - 2033 West 7th, tel 604-731-5196, only after noon).

Planning an alternative to the previous movie and dinner nights formed the major topic of the BCSFA meeting in July. Graeme points out that due to his working hours, the low attendance at his recent movie nights, and the continuing conflict with the Furries' regular gatherings,

continuing the movie nights is hard to justify. You may remember Doug Finnerty also voicing dismay at low attendance at the Feeding Frenzies, and a lack of remaining ideas of where to eat.

Barb Dryer (604-267-7973 anytime) seems to be organizing all this.
Barb Dryer and Garth Spencer, July 2004

Last-Minute Meeting Change

Just before going to press, Philip Freeman e-mailed that Kathleen will not be able to host the BCSFA meeting on August 21st; more news to come ...

Doug Finnerty wrote on our BCSFA listserv:

Some of the best [eating] places in the past we have tried are listed below. Perhaps we want to try them again?

- Fett's (on Commercial Drive)
- Banana Leaf (Malaysian cuisine)
- The Reef (Caribbean)
- Jun Sushi (all you can eat in Richmond)
- Old Spaghetti Factory (in New West, where the first Feeding Frenzy was held)
- Cockney Kings (fish and chips)

Doug Finnerty, July 15, 2004

Look Ma, I Are a Domain Name!

Garth Spencer was recently persuaded to sign up with Islandhosting.com and simultaneously to acquire his own domain. He is now www.garthspencer.com online. More content will be forthcoming, but what is there (selected from the Hrothgar and Royal Swiss Navy websites) is rather amusing.

Colin Newell and Garth Spencer, July 2004

Memberships in OryCon 26

The following rates now apply: Until 20 October 04: \$50.00; at the door: \$55.00; Children age 6-12 are half price; Children 5 and under are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult who has a membership. To register, you can: Go to <http://www.orycon.org/orycon26/mailform.html> and pay using PayPal; or print out <http://www.orycon.org/orycon26/membership.html>, fill it out, and mail it in with a check; or purchase a membership at Wrigley-Cross Books (1809 NE 39th Ave, Portland OR 97212, tel. 503-281-9449) or Future Dreams Bookstore (2205 E Burnside, Portland OR 97214, tel. 503-231-8311).

To transfer a membership, the current member must send a signed letter to the convention at OryCon 26 PO Box 5464, Portland, Oregon 97228-5464, with the new member's name and address. A \$5 handling fee will be charged for membership *refunds* (\$10 after 31 July 04). There is no charge to transfer a membership to someone else.

(from Brenna Sharp on GPACG listserv, June 9, 2004)

New Fanzine Titles at eFanzines.com:

1. Latest *Bring Bruce Bayside Bulletins* now on line
 2. *Chunga 7* now on line
 3. *Nice Distinctions 6* for June 2004 now on line
 1. David Burton's *Catchpenny Gazette* for June 2004 now on line
 2. *Taboo Opinions 10* now on line
 3. Ed Meskys's *The View From Entropy Hall #34* now on line
- Timebinders June 9-11, 2004

Terry Jeeves writes in *Erg* 166 (July 2004): 'This will almost certainly be the last issue of *ERG*. I shall be 82 on October 1st and have several medical problems getting in the way of publishing.' Terry's quarterly fanzine first appeared in April 1959.'

Ansible 204, July 2004

Goth House Newsletter 25 June 2004, Vol. 3 Issue 16

This fortnight "Empty Rooms" continues:

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

"(Going to) San Diego is still up in the air. I realized that, in my last message, the phrase "if I take the right drugs, I can read to you charming selections from *The Hobbit* or *Good Omens*" could be easily misunderstood. I, uh, meant ANTI-CARSICKNESS drugs. Of course.

Next week, postcards are going out to everyone with a *Goth House* 5 pre-order indicating how many you've paid for (and yes...I'm still taking pre-orders, right up until it comes out, at which time they will be actual orders). If you pre-ordered and don't get one within the next couple of weeks, give me a call at 360-734-0919 or send e-mail to julie@gothhouse.org.

Julie McGalliard, June 25, 2004

To subscribe to The Goth House Newsletter, 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.

FANFUNDERY.

TAFF: James Bacon won the 2004 race to represent European fandom at this year's Worldcon, Noreascon 4 in Boston, with 112 first place votes to Anders Holmstrom's 82. (19 votes went to No Preference and just one to Hold Over Funds.) James assures the world: 'I hope to do my best and intend to be dignified and respectable, even when I drop my trousers.'

Bring Bruce Bayside: this fund is on course to waft that fine Australian Bruce Gillespie to Corflu 2005 in San Francisco; a brief London visit is also hoped. Supporters can now donate via PayPal: send to JoyceWorley1[you know what goes here]cox.net. *The Incomplete Bruce Gillespie* (ed. Irwin Hirsh) is a BBB fundraiser that collects his best fanwriting -- available in the UK for £5 post free, from Mark Plummer/Claire Brialey, 14 Northway Rd, Croydon, CR0 6JE, U.K."

Ansible 204, July 2004

"*DUFF* delegate NORMAN CATES' summer itinerary can be found at www.DUFF2004.com/bazaar/consched.shtml. I urge everyone to spread the word of Norman's attendance at these events and get out there and say hello to the fella!

"Felicitations to PATRICE GREEN for the superb work on the *DUFF* website as well as my *Challenger* site; the photos in the printed copies of my latest zine looked awful, but on line, thanks to her, they're extraordinary."

Guy H. Lillian III, FanFundAdmin, June 30, 2004

Online Photos – Fan Gallery Update:

Chaz Baden wrote to the Timebinders list on or about June 26th:

"Hello, TIMEBINDERS gang. I'm trying to get the Fan Gallery exhibit ready for the Worldcon, and in particular I'm trying to catch up on some of the half-finished aspects of it. I have thirteen people here:

- * Bowen, Velma "Vijay" - TAFF 1999 eb
- * Fisher, Naomi - DUFF Winner 2001
- * Gonzalez, Victor - TAFF 2001 eb
- * Harvey, Eve - GUFF 1985 Winner
- * Lillian, Rosy - DUFF 2003.
- * McConchie, Lyn - FFANZ 1987 Winner
- * Lounsbury, Linda - DUFF 1979
- * Pickersgill, Greg - TAFF 1986 wb
- * Ross-Mansfield, Linda - CUFF Winner 1991.
- * Runte, Robert - CUFF 1989
- * Tudor, Martin - TAFF 1996 wb
- * Valois, Tobes - TAFF 2002 wb
- * Warner, Julian - DUFF Winner 2002.

and for most of them, all I know about them is that they were the respective fan fund delegates. I have their photo, ready to go, I just want to print a little more on their caption than just the one fan fund race.

"If you remember the races in question - why did they win? Why were they nominated? What made them worthy of being sent halfway around the world? Are there any memorable anecdotes you can relate about these people, whether it has anything to do with the fan funds or not?"

Chaz Boston Baden can be contacted at gallery@scifiinc.org .

Chaz Boston Baden, June 2004

(subsequently I wrote to Chaz about the CUFF winners, Linda Ross-Mansfield and Robert Runte, and wrote to Lyn McConchie in New Zealand on Chaz' behalf.)



Recently Received:

Emerald City arrived again (the email fiction review zine from the peripatetic Cheryl Morgan). Issue #106, dated June 2004, focuses on:

“Train of Thought - China Mieville explores the wild west of Bas Lag

“Logic Gates - Charlie Stross discovers whole new worlds through programming

“Perfectly Horrifying - Sean Stewart gives Cheryl a taste for horror

“The End is Nigh - Lyda Morehouse finally finishes her apocalyptic cyberpunk tetralogy

“Twilight of the Gods - Leslie What finds Hera and Zeus slumming it in present-day New York

“Springing the Trap - Chaz Brenchley's Outremer series races towards its conclusion

“The Land of Story - John Myers Myers' legendary Silverlock is back in print

“Interview - Kelly Link & Gavin Grant of Small Beer Press

“SF for Kids - An academic study of science fiction for the younger reader

“Short Stuff - Short fiction from Small Beer Press, Lucius Shepard and Jeff Vandermeer, plus Hugo nominees

“Men Who Love Trees - Cheryl and Kevin visit Bonfante Gardens

“Miscellany - Awards news and more

“And a short report on the latest Wiscon.”

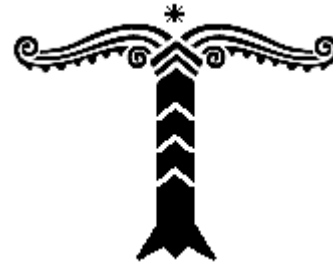
Cheryl Morgan can be contacted at Cheryl@emcit.com.

New Arrivals at Powells

“Trolls, drug runners, and dog fights, oh my! Our staff had so many great picks that we had to squeeze four extra titles into our 14 Favorites. Explore a WWII German submarine wreck, witness the naked Olympics, learn why many are smarter than a few, swim in the sea with Eric Carle, find out how to get strangers to stare at you, and more.

“Why were the other sunbathers staring? she wondered. Was it her bathing suit? Then she noticed the pink covers of their books and the big, bubbly champagne fonts of the titles. She considered her Tolstoy and thought perhaps, yes, it might spruce up nicely with a shiny martini glass, or sexy knee-high boots.”

PowellsBooksnews.com, June 30, 2004



MORE ANIME FANDOM STORIES

(Perhaps because of some details I omitted to check and correct in Ashton Green's origins-of-the-Red-Army story, which appeared in the “Kaffeeklatsch” minutes in a previous BCSFAzine, Chad Ma offers the following response:)

... as much as I got a good laugh at this, the person whom you interviewed in question is only telling you half the truth.

He did not stage ANY riot at Sakura Con 2001; he did help for Security on the first day, but bugged off for the rest of the convention (I know this because I was on staff at SC2k1). The story behind that was that the Knighthawks were not up in the morning and Operations needed some people to fill in for Security, to which Ashton overheard and volunteered to help out. They were still part of AKA-Kon at the time, and they were a party to a lot of messed-up parties ... From what I heard, they only got free t-shirts.

On the subject of AKA-Kon: Ashton did not declare war on AKA just because they stole his couch, but rather they ditched him right after SakuraCon, when AKA-Kon thought this would be a peace offering to the other Vancouver Anime Clubs that Ashton was bad mouthing, and threatening with his "terrorist ways". It seems that Ashton was being a bit of a jackass at Sakura, and Amanda Tomasch didn't want any more bad publicity about AKA-Kon (which was already too late by that point); and after having a nice sit-down chat with some of the people from Canada who were close to Altered Realities Club (SFU's Sci-Fi and Anime Club) and Vancouver Japanese Animation Society, she thought to dump him for his "lack of contribution", and she also pretty much had it up to here with Ashton's "I took over AKA" banter. Everything about AKA's financial woes are true ...

I would like to invite you to Anime Evolution, which is an Anime Convention up at SFU Burnaby Campus, in August 20-22nd. I would definitely like to invite your friends at VCon also to this, since this Anime convention is not just about anime, but other genres as well.

From Chad Ma, June 30, 2004

Sturm und Drang

RAY BRADBURY seems incandescent with wrath at Michael Moore for daring to call a film *Fahrenheit 9/11*. The juicy bits of his 2 June interview in the Swedish newspaper *Dagens Nyheter* were translated by

Ahrvid Engholm for www.trufen.net: 'Michael Moore is a stupid asshole, that's what I think about it. [...] He stole my title and changed the numbers without ever asking me for permission. [...] He's a terrible person. Terrible person....' Could this anger be fuelled by political disapproval? Bradbury: 'That has nothing to do with it. He copied my title, that's what happened. It has nothing to do with my political views. [...] I could, tomorrow, write a novel and call it *Gone with the Wind*, right? But I won't, because it would be dishonest.... Just write that Michael Moore is dishonest and that I don't want to be associated with him in any way.' Oh dearie me. Would it be dishonest to publish a book called *Gone with the 9/11*? Answers on a postcard, please, but not to me."

Ansible 204, July 2004

ARTHUR C. CLARKE is to receive the 2004 Robert A. Heinlein award, given for hard sf and/or nonfiction which inspires space exploration.

Ansible 204, July 2004

THE WOODIES!

"Stephen [Hunt] here with a quick bit of news for you.

"Mark's just sent word that he's finished chunking the numbers a few days early for the 2004 Wooden Rocket Awards - given annually for the best web sites in the science fiction and fantasy genre.

"Are you feeling curious about which genre authors, magazines, book publishers, artists, galleries, online stores, TV series, films, conventions and other assorted SFF types have been voted the best of the best for this year?

"Then take yourself on over to <http://www.WoodenRocket.com>

"(PS - thanks to Mark and his crew for all their hard work on the administration of this year's 'Woodies'. And thanks to the 12,381 voters who took part too!)"

Stephen Hunt - sfcrowsnest@gmail.com
Part time SFF Novelist: Full time SFF Fan
SFCrowsnest, July 1, 2004

"LISANNE NORMAN won one of furry fandom's Ursa Major awards for *Between Darkness and Light* (2003), as Best Anthropomorphic Novel."

Ansible 204, July 2004

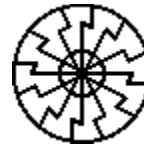
"J.K. ROWLING, very shortly after a hoax report that her sixth novel would be called *Harry Potter and the Something Implausible*, announced that it will in fact be *Harry Potter and the Something Else Implausible*. Be still, my beating heart. (Oh, all right, if you really insist on knowing: not *Pillar of Storge* but *Half Blood Prince*.)" [PL]

Ansible 204, July 2004

"COURT CIRCULAR. Another lawsuit! Ubaldo DiBenedetto, a professor at Harvard who in 1993 published the instant-Ice-Age disaster novel *Polar Day 9* (as by Kyle Donner), is suing Roland Emmerich and Twentieth

Century Fox Deutschland. His claim is that key plot elements of Emmerich's film *The Day After Tomorrow* are plagiarized from *Polar Day 9* -- a copy of which DiBenedetto says he sent to Emmerich in 1998, without any movie offer following. The report in *Der Spiegel* says this case is being brought in Germany because courts there are more sympathetic to victims of intellectual property theft. Allegedly."

Ansible 204, July 2004



WHITE DWARF AND DEAD WRITE NEW RELEASE CATALOGUES

"The Summer 2004 (July to September) new release catalogues for White Dwarf Books, Science Fiction and Fantasy (<http://www.deadwrite.com/sfg04.html>) and Dead Write Books, Crime and Mystery (<http://www.deadwrite.com/myg04.html>) are now available online. These are also linked from our main webpage: <http://www.deadwrite.com/>.

"If you wish, I can email one or both (specify) catalogues in either plain text or html format. We still produce the classic, printed version, which can be picked up at the store (until we run out of them - usually within a month or so)."

Walter Bruce Sinclair, White Dwarf Books Ltd., www.deadwrite.com
whitedwarf@deadwrite.com

Walter B. Sinclair, July 16, 2004

"THOG'S ASTROMETALLURGY CORNER. Pobjoy Mint is offering 'the world's first palladium bi-metal coin', to celebrate the bicentenary of the naming of palladium. Their ad explains that it was named in 1804 after the asteroid Pallas, which was made up of palladium...." [PM]

Ansible 204, July 2004

"SIDEWISE AWARDS for alternate history: it's shortlist time again. Except in universes where, frighteningly and paradoxically, it isn't.... LONG Murray Davies, *Collaborator*; Mitchell Freedman, *Disturbance of Fate*; Larry Kirwan, *Liverpool Fantasy*; S.M. Stirling, *Conquistador*. SHORT Ricard de la Casa & Pedro Jorge Romero, 'The Day We Went Through the Transition' (*Cosmos Latinos*); Geoffrey Landis, 'The Eyes of America' (*Sci Fiction* 5/03); Robert L. O'Connell, 'The Cuban Missile Crisis: Second Holocaust' (*What Ifs?*); Chris Roberson, 'O One' (*Live Without a Net*); Robert Silverberg, 'The Reign of Terror' (*Asimov's* 4/03)."

Ansible 204, July 2004

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<http://www.dcs.gla.ac.uk/mailman/listinfo/ansible>



The Fen of Half Creation Damning Half Creation's Eyes

Doctor Who: Terry Nation's Estate Says No To Daleks (For Now)

by Cosmic Ray Seredin

July 4, 2004: Looks like the Doctor's best-known enemies will not be part of the first season of the new *Doctor Who* series, now in pre-production in Wales. The estate of Terry Nation, the creator of the Daleks, voted 4-1 against allowing the BBC to make major changes to bring these campy-looking mid-1960s monsters into the 21st century.

New series producer Russell T. Davis said that although *Who* fans will miss the Daleks, new monsters as well as monsters from the classic series and both Virgin's and BBC's line of novels will be introduced in the first season.

However, the BBC, the Nation estate and Davis are already hinting that the Daleks could part of the new series in future seasons, and the only thing that they need is time to work out the deal.

That's great, since doing *Doctor Who* without Daleks would be like doing *Star Trek* without Klingons.

With the Daleks out for the first season, there's a rumour that the Master could return in the first story, called "Meet Rose Tyler" or "The End of the World" (Question: When did *Doctor Who* become *Rocky and Bullwinkle*?). If so, please cast Tim Curry in the role. This will make Felicity Walker, Kathleen Moore-Freeman and myself very happy.

Harry Potter's creator JK Rowling recently turned down an offer write a new series story for the BBC. Rowling admits to watching the classic series during the Jon Pertwee, Tom Baker and early Peter Davidson eras. However, she wants to finish writing *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince* before committing to other works.

Please, JK, if you do write one, don't have the Doctor or the companion sing the Sorting Hat Song (any version!) or, for that matter,

get Harry to suddenly hand out tons of Jelly Babies. (Note: OK, I admit that a *Doctor Who/Harry Potter* crossover could only work in the Land of Fiction¹.)

That all for this time, but I'll pass on any other *Doctor Who* news to the BCSFA posting board or on to Garth when I get it.

¹ As first seen in the episode "The Mind Robber" (14 September 1968), the Land of Fiction is a place where the Doctor meets fictional characters.—FW

July 11, 2004 (Update): Looks like A&E has said no [to] the new *Doctor Who* series, since July 2 came and went with no word. Series fans feel that with the station changing from a showcase for the world's best programs to just another run-of-the-mill cable outlet, the chances of them picking it up were slim at best anyway.

So far no word from the American Sci-Fi Channel either. A few postings on *Who* web-sites said that the station is still interested in the new series. However, with the recent ownership change, it's still very much up in the air. Also, since Sci-Fi Channel owner NBC/Universal is now run by some the same imbeciles that made "the US telemovie with the Pertwee logo" and some of the ex-Paramount imbeciles who tried to change the dramatic *Mysterious Island* into a comedy starting Shelly Long, it may not be a good thing.

Oh boy—watch them buy the rights to *Doctor Who* again and replace the Doctor with a hare-brained female whose breasts get bigger each season.

PBS station KBDI out of Denver dropped the classic *Doctor Who* series on July 10 even though the new series is now in the works. A series supporter in that area said that the station bought replacement programming (*American Woodshop* and *Woodwright's Shop* for anyone keeping records) last summer when the rumours of a new series were just rumours. With the classic series' 23-year track record and (until last year) great viewer support on this station, there's a chance that the new series will air there sometime in the future. Like many other PBS stations, KBDI is just waiting for the private cable services to turn it down.

Up here in BC, it still looks that same. Space: TIS will pick it up if the American Sci-Fi Channel does, either the Knowledge Network or the CBC if PBS does and even KBCB (Channel 23, FKA KVOS) out of Bellingham if no-one else does.

Add to this the BBC family of cable stations up here and in the States as the spoilers (they may reserve the right to choose where it airs in North America).



No, Pie Are Round

Notes on the June 26, 2004 Kaffeeklatsch, about 8 p.m. at Garth Spencer's place. Minutes by Joe Devoy and Garth Spencer.

Present: Garth, Ray, Doug, Barb, Joe Devoy, Michael Morse, Felicity Walker, Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, Kathleen Moore-Freeman.

Joe thought the nosh laid out for all was "a delightful spread", consisting of sushi, a cheese-and-meat tray, cookies including maple, green tea and oatmeal, potato chips, the inevitable coffee, sherry donated by Ryan Hawe, peach cranberry juice, and pop. The group achieved critical mass around 8:30 p.m., at which point we moved the couch. Then, Kathleen Moore-Freeman arrived, with last summer's blackberries (Ergon Evergreen variety). Over this repast, discussion ranged from plots to rip up centenarian heritage sidewalks in Vancouver, mysterious airplane crashes, replacing the royal family with cats, until Doug pulled out question #1 at around 9 p.m.

#1: What if you were in charge of a TV station's programming and the Earth was going to be destroyed by a meteor in 168 hours; what kind of programming will you offer your viewers?

Various voices suggested spiritual programming, to help the viewers come to terms with The End; pornography; a running countdown; the old *Outer Limits* episodes; old children's programs; favourite programming; the kind of truth-telling programming that you normally couldn't get away with (the truth about politicians and other celebrities), etc.

#2: If dinosaurs had evolved into people and drove cars, would the cars be fuelled by the compressed fossilized bodies of their ancestors?

It took a bit of quibbling with Garth to get down to this question ("If you *buy* the premise that petroleum came from dinosaurs ...") It was suggested that dinosaur clans would raid the territory of rival clans, to use their rivals' ancestral remains. Another theory was that the petroleum of your rival's ancestors wouldn't be considered good enough; you would perhaps utter a prayer when you fill up your tank.

#3: "Conan the Vegetarian" – proving that carrot juice is murder? (From Garth's series "Alternate Conans")

Vegetarians could look quite "ripped", if they had no body fat. However, they would also be prone to illness as a result. ("Carrot Juice Is Murder" was a song by the Arrogant Worms, about radical vegetarians.)

#4 (Two-parter): Who has heard of the Rough Guides? What are they? (e.g.) Rough Guide to the Lord of the Rings? (How about) creating a travel guide to imaginary places?

There already is such a guide to Oz (where to stay, how much it costs), as well as a guide to the *Star Trek* universe.

#5: What if you were the head of a newsroom on a slow news day; which would you put on as the lead news story on your six o'clock report ... a) A beloved UBC professor forced to retire because of Alzheimer's, making a tearful goodbye to her school of 27 years, or b) a mother demanding that Translink drop the two-stroller-per-bus rule, after a bus left her and her two kids behind?

Somehow this conversation moved its way to ... sex education.

#6: If God exists, does it matter?

How could anyone tell whether God exists? Would God have to appear as a burning bush again? This segued to a discussion of miracles, or at least some environmental conditions such as the high oxygen content around the Dead Sea basin, and the incidence of "Jerusalem syndrome"; the recurring religious metaphors in, say, American discourse, such as "the city on a hill", or in the Book of Revelations, such as the seven hills and seven horns; and the possibility that Revelations was also a political tract, representing as anti-Christ the emperor Nero.

#7: (What is the) worst new trend you've seen so far?

We suggested high-heeled basketball shoes; shoes on dogs (two of us have *seen* this), with complete ensembles including overcoats or raincoats; or other bizarre sights, such as dogs in strollers, or a woman changing clothes in public (well, a police station driveway).

#8a: Conan the Contrarian – a 1990's investor?

#8b: Conan the Aquarian – an aggressive New-Age evangelist, more terrifying than Werner Erhard?

#8c: Conan the Rotarian – a pious free-enterprise 80's Socred, employed in a monopoly like BC Tel?

#8d: Conan the Agrarian – a 1960's Prairie populist?

The sense of the meeting was to lose this series of cards!

#9: *What is a society? What is a culture? What is a civilization? Do we have all of the above? ... What kind of civilization are we likely to get in the future?*

There was a lot of quibbling with Garth at this point, because everyone else felt these were vague and nebulous questions and he thought they were pretty simple and basic.

Felicity suggested that if Heinlein saw what an individualist society evolved into in America ... he would apologize. Garth remarked that Heinlein was never able to write the great American *socialist* novel. The terms of the question were deemed too vague.

#10: *Is there any musical genre that can't have a Christian sub-genre (Christian death metal, Christian gangsta rap)?*

From Christian death metal we segued to *The Passion of the Christ* refilmed as a rock opera. Black Sabbath, one of us pointed out, was in fact Christian music; Ozzy Osbourne wears a crucifix, one of us added, whereas Jimmy Swaggart does not.

The sense of the gathering was that Christian fundamentalists give Christians a bad name. If, for example, there were blue people, and one blue person kept punching you in the face, you would develop a negative opinion of blue people. We segued to other suggestions, such as Christian *bhangra*, Appalachian gangsta rap (it does exist), perhaps ... atonal Christian music? Twelve-tone music, *à la* Schoenberg? Different tonal scales sound odd, to people of different cultures (e.g. the Middle Eastern scale, which rises in thirds).

#11: *Where do politicians come from?*

You don't want to know.

Kathleen pointed out that many start out as lawyers, because law is one profession that you can leave for many years and return to without retraining. (For the same reason law is a good career for women who want to have children later in life.)

#12: *How much of the current (Canadian) election campaign is about complete non-issues and pure rhetoric?*

We joked, "What lurks in the heart of Steven Harper?" "Only the shadow cabinet knows!"

Our issues are being discussed, but only enough so the candidates can slag each other off. One of us suggested "Bring back the Rhinoceros Party!" Or the Anarcho-Surrealist Party (*à la* Garth), or the Narco-Surrealists ("Drug-induced better dreams for everyone!"), or the "None of the Above Party". (They could change their name every year, or every election.)

#13: *If the projection pans out, that global warming will cause extra run-off into the Arctic Ocean (with nasty side effects on ice cover and ocean currents), would you still insist that the Americans pay the full cost of piping water down south from the Mackenzie River system? (assuming, that is, that they won round 1 of negotiations, and the WTO said they could buy up all the Canadian water they could pay for ...)*

We agreed "Yes, the U.S. must pay (or they'd make us pay)." If the world water levels rise, could we save the municipality of Richmond? (Probably not.)

#14: *If a zine (e.g. BCSFAzine) occasionally followed the layout, or other elements of another publication ... what publications would you like to mimic?*

Garth mentioned *Chunga's* layout, with large margins and pull quotes; others mentioned *Opuntia's* unique layout (landscape on digest-sized pages); *The Onion* newspaper; *National Enquirer* covers; the MST3K style (a silhouette of e.g. Garth over BCSFAzine text or graphics, adding his parenthetical editorial comments); and the "quarto" size (11" x 17" inches).

#15: *If asked to do a situation comedy set in Vancouver, what would you focus on, and what would you exclude?*

We suggested Vancouver city council, titled "Da Vinci's Council"!; the unglamorous side of the local film industry (working in hot catering trucks, rather than meeting stars), titled "Hollywood North"; "Independent Café", perhaps a web café, where different realistic characters pop in and out; "King of Kerrisdale", or some such, where people don't understand each other, *even within* the same linguistic or ethnic/cultural group.

#16: *What words – and what capabilities – does the English language lack?*

Kathleen suggested a list of specific, rather grammatical features – English lacks a *simple* future tense, for instance, and a lot of gendered words (which may be an advantage).

The notes run out and stop at this point.

Nice Work, If You Can Get It...

Some comics background by Taral Wayne
(In response to a query about the background of some of his story universes, Taral supplied the following ...)



Title: Tales of Beatrix Farmer

Category: single issue

Created by: Taral Wayne (art) and Steve Gallacci (story)

Published by: MU Press

Rating: 3 1/2 stars

There have been many attempts to integrate the concept of superheroics and professional labour over the years, the most recent being DC Comics POWER COMPANY series. There are few however, that do it with as much fun and sense of humour as this book does.

The story revolves around Ms. Beatrix Farmer, who starts her day off bad and it only gets worse from there on in: The rent check is late, her

boyfriend has run off (again) she's coming down with a cold, and she's late for work. To make matters worse, she's the innocent victim of a drive-by shooting which leaves her quite dead. Of course, since this is a superhero comic, she won't stay dead for long as she's resurrected by a self-described 'hyper-intelligent, pan-dimensional beings' who bring her back to life on the assumption that watching her do things would be entertaining. Of course, they give her a gift which consists of a special suit (in an ugly maroon colour) that makes her completely invulnerable, doing good things for her longevity, but BAD things for her love life as she can't take it off. In addition, the suit is completely frictionless, which causes as many problems as it solves as it not only makes her invulnerable to bullets, it makes it impossible for her to do things like pick up items without a great deal of concentration. Of course, thanks to the suit, she also doesn't need to eat or sleep, which means that boredom is a VERY large problem. Eventually, out a normal job, and seeing a how most places won't hire someone encased in a maroon body-stocking, she signs up for the ONE job she is now qualified for: Part time super-hero. Y'see, in this world, superheroes can be hired for jobs through a sort of super-temp agency. And being the 'Class-A Invulnerable' that she is, our Miss Farmer gets the nastiest, messiest assignments that there are. Of course, she's totally untrained and unprepared to handle situations like this, but occasionally that's a good thing.

The story is written by Steve Gallacci, and this is a departure from a lot of his previous work, as it's surprisingly light and breezy and is a total compliment to Taral Wayne's art. Taral is up to his usual highly professional standards: Unlike a lot of his fellow artists, Wayne knows his way around a comics page, and is well aware of the composition techniques that keep the story moving and the pages turning.

In short, this is a charming, highly entertaining pastiche not only on funny animals, but the whole superhero scene. It's just a shame that it there haven't been more than two issues (at least that I know of...)



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Vancouver's Science Fiction, Fantasy & Gaming Convention

www.v-con.ca

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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: 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 concon member as listed on the VCON web site: www.v-con.ca

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