

BCSFA Zine

#380

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January 2005



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Art Credits:

Felicity's clip art	cover, 23, 45
Joe Devoy	44, 47
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January Events

- Jan. 8 **Feeding Frenzy** 7 p.m. at The Reef, 4172 Main Street, Vancouver; "a very good choice when looking for Caribbean cuisine." (DF)
- Jan. 8-9: **VFur furry meet** location to be announced. More info at <http://www.livejournal.com/community/vanfurs/>
- Jan. 14 **BCSFAzine deadline** see Garth at FRED (7-11 p.m., Denny's on Davie at Thurlow).
- Jan. 27: **VFur Dinnermeet** location to be announced. More info at <http://www.livejournal.com/community/vanfurs/>
- Jan. 28 **BCSFAzine production** see Garth and Doug at FRED (7-11 p.m., Denny's on Davie at Thurlow).
- Jan. 29 **Kaffeeklatsch** 7-11 p.m. at Garth's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver; phone 604-325-7314 for directions).

No dates for the January BCSFA meeting/party or book discussion were received by deadline.

The Richmond Writers Group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., at the Richmond Arts Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate (in the Richmond Public Library, Brighthouse Branch, Minoru Boulevard & Granville Avenue, in the cafe on the Granville Avenue side of the building). Interested people should e-mail or phone Bill (info below) to double-check about what is happening: bmarles53@yahoo.com or (604) 277-6775, or go to MSN group web address: <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>. (FW)

Listen to THE ONOMATOPOEIA SHOW, CITR 101.9 FM (or <http://www.citr.ca/live.rm>) * Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.; Contact Robin at betafishblue@hotmail.com

Listen to HI SCI FI, CJSF 90.1 FM * Fridays at 5:00 p.m. You can also contact Irma Arkus at 604-291-5797 or hiscifi_cjsf@yahoo.ca

Vast, Cool and Unsympathetic

((Note: Your current Ghod-Editor is a former Aurora Award winner and former Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate.))

Hey, Kids, Let's Nominate Some Aurora Winners!

You may be aware that the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards ("Auroras") are fan-voted awards, and that the 2005 Auroras will be presented at the 2005 Westercon, to be held in Calgary in early July. You may *not* be aware of the novels, stories, other works, and active fans eligible for nomination this year. (In fact, I've been kvetching about the lack of awareness and publicity in this area for some years.)

In an attempt to start publicizing the eligible works, I have done a bit of Web-surfing and turned up the following titles, drawn from the SF Canada (www.sfcanada.ca) and Made in Canada (a.k.a. MiC: http://www.geocities.com/canadian_sf/) websites. (The Aurora Awards website, www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/, does not yet list 2005 information.)

You will notice that this incomplete list consists almost exclusively of English-language fiction, and as yet I have few nonfiction or French-language titles, and no eligible fans at all. Apart from those I know personally, that is. You will also notice that I don't have complete publication information on all the titles, so I may include some 2003 (ineligible) works.

I trust that the Canadian fan groups with whom we trade BCSFAzine will respond by turning up more titles, or at least inform us about fans and their activities in their areas.

After presenting this bald and superficially meaningless list in this issue, I propose to run some short profiles next issue on the authors, and (with luck) eventually capsule descriptions of the eligible fans and the eligible works published in 2004.

English-language Science Fiction & Fantasy

The Stone of the Stars, Alison Baird
Blue Girl, Charles de Lint, Viking, September 2004
I'll Be Watching You, Charles de Lint
Medicine Road, Charles de Lint, Subterranean Press, April 2004
Quicksilver & Shadow, Charles de Lint, Subterranean Press, August 2004
The Wild Wood, Charles de Lint, Tor Books, May 2004
A Place So Foreign and Eight More, Cory Doctorow, Four Walls Eight Windows, ?
Eastern Standard Tribe, Cory Doctorow, Tor Books, February 2004
Letters from the Flesh, Marcos Donnelly, Red Deer Press/Robert J. Sawyer Books: Calgary, 2004
Impossible Odds, Dave Duncan

Jaguar Knights: A Chronicle of the King's Blades, Dave Duncan, Eos, September 2004
Ice Tomb, Deborah Jackson, Invisible College Press, September 2004
Wasps at the Speed of Sound and Other Shattered Futures, Derryl Murphy, Wildside Press, December 2004
The Yellow Silk, Don Bassingthwaite
Island Dreams, ed. Claude Lalumiere
Open Space: New Canadian Fantastic Fiction, ed. Claude Lalumiere, Red Deer Press: Calgary, 2004
Revisions, ed. Isaac Szpindel and Julie E. Czerneda
Summoned to Destiny, ed. Julie E. Czerneda
J.R.R. Tolkien: Master of Imaginary Worlds, Edward Willett, Enslow Publishers, June 2004
The Alchemist's Daughter, Eileen Kernaghan, Thistle-down Press, August 2004
Winter on the Plain of Ghosts: a novel of Mohenjo-daro, Eileen Kernaghan, Flying Monkey Press, 2004
Dreams of the Sea, Élisabeth Vonarburg
The Worm in Every Heart, Gemma Files
The Last Light of the Sun, Guy Gavriel Kay
Radiant, James Alan Gardner
Shadow Album, James Alan Gardner
The Night Orchid: Conan Doyle in Toulouse, Jean-Claude Dunyach, Hollywood Comics, March 2004
Survival, Julie E. Czerneda
Burndive, Karin Lowachee
Extinction: War of the Spider Queen, Book 4, Lisa Smedman
The Apparition Trail, Lisa Smedman, Tesseract Books: Edmonton, 2004
Throne Price, Lynda Williams & Alison Sinclair, Edge SF and Fantasy Publishing, May 2004
The Princess Pawn, Maggie L. Wood
Even the Stones, Marie Jakober, Edge SF & Fantasy Publishing, May 2004
Black Brillion, Matthew Hughes, Tor Books, November 2004
Girls Who Bite Back, ed. Emily Pohl-Weary
<http://www.girlswhobiteback.com/index.html>
The Salt Roads, Nalo Hopkinson
So Long Been Dreaming: Postcolonial SF & Fantasy, Nalo Hopkinson & Uppinder Mehan, Arsenal Pulp Press: Vancouver, 2004
Child of the Night, Nancy Kilpatrick, Mosaic Press, May 2004
The Darker Passions: Carmilla, Nancy Kilpatrick (writing as Amarantha Knight), Circlet Press, October 2004
Behemoth Book 1: ß-Max, Peter Watts, Tor Books, June 2004
The Exile, Rick Sutcliffe, Writers Exchange E-Publishing, March 2004
The Friends, Rick Sutcliffe, Writers Exchange E-Publishing, January 2004
The City and the Ship, S. M. Stirling & Anne McCaffrey
Omnifix, Scott Mackay
The Shadow Roads, Sean Russell

Perfect Circle, Sean Stewart
Borrowed Flesh, Sèphera Girón
The Sorcerer's Letterbox, Simon Rose, Tradewind Books, April 2004
Very Bad Deaths, Spider Robinson
Fallen Angel, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime
Guardian Angel, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime, Telos, May 2004
Midnight Tides, Steven Erikson
The Devil Delivered, Steven Erikson
The Healthy Dead, Steven Erikson
Long Horn, Big Shaggy, Steve Vernon, Black Death Books/KPH Industries, 2004
Smoke and Shadows, Tanya Huff
Neurotica Erotica, Timothy J. Anderson, Slipstream Books, May 2004

English-language short fiction

"Origin of the Species", by A.M. Dellamonica, *The Many Faces of Van Helsing*, Jeanne Cavelos ed., Berkley Books: New York, 2004
 "Faces of Gemini", A.M. Dellamonica, *Girls Who Bite Back*, Emily Pohl-Weary ed., Sumach Press, 2004-12-15
 "The Dream Eaters", A.M. Dellamonica, *The Faery Reel*, Ellen Datlow & Terri Windling eds.
 "The Illuminated Heretic", A.M. Dellamonica, *Alternate Generals III*

English-language nonfiction

The Crazy Years, Spider Robinson
The Goth Bible: A Compendium For The Darkly Inclined, by Nancy Kilpatrick, St. Martin's Griffin, October 2004

French-language novels

Piège pour le Jules-Verne, by Michèle Laframboise, Médiaspaul, 2004
Les Jours de l'ombre, by Francine Pelletier, Alire, March 2004

Meditations on Science Fiction – a Dying Genre? (Sez Who?)

When a lady named Kirsten emailed our listserv, I found myself writing a short essay back, which requires a little expansion. This all started with her impression that science fiction is a dying genre.

I wrote:

First I heard of it. The major change I've noticed in the past 20 to 30 years, or more, is that science fiction, and fantasy of various kinds, have become *popular* genres rather than minority interests; they have shown up in a lot of movies and television series.

Do you mean that visual SF and fantasy is often rather derivative and unoriginal, compared to *written* SF and fantasy? (By that, I mean

that since at least the debut of *Star Trek*, visual SF and fantasy usually works on themes and story ideas that were invented – and mined out – in print *at least thirty years earlier*. *Star Wars* and Indiana Jones began a revival of the kind of adventure serials first seen on 1930s film matinees.) And, as long as the Canadian dollar was weak there were a lot of "Canadian" "co-productions", meaning American firms and actors producing work up here.

The end result, I should have added, was some pretty muddled television and film writing rather than reasoned speculation, and exploration of the implications of scientific facts. Also, the shift in media came to the point that contemporary SF fans have taken to referring to "literary" SF, meaning *anything written* rather than on a screen.

The question you address might best be answered by numbers about market share (for films and TV productions), or by numbers about publishing sales (in the U.S. and in Canada). Since SF and fantasy and adventure movies have been among the high-budget, top-grossing features since the 1970s, I'm not sure where the "dying genre" notion comes from. I'm not sure where to get the numbers, but *Locus* magazine might be a good start, and they're online. I'm not sure about Canadian numbers, though; you might ask both SF Canada, the writers' organization, and Made in Canada, both of which are websites.

Again, you have to apply some sense of proportion - I gather that publishing *generally* has taken a beating over the past few decades, as if the total number of readers is shrinking, or as if people are reading less and watching screens more.

Based on the partial list above, representing only English-language Canadian SF and fantasy published in 2004, I am hardly persuaded that SF is a dying genre.

Fannish Letters, Glyphs and Runes

Al Betz, Nov. 27, 2004

((Note: Al Betz is a Lifetime Member of BCSFA and secretary to Dr. Science, who I believe has won several Elron Awards.))

I wanted to comment on the suggestion that my missing stuff be replaced by BCSFA, or whomever. ((Garth's suggestion, specifically – GS))

My purpose in writing my letter was only to ask people to look in basements or closets to see if they might have some of it. All of this equipment was obtained by me specifically for use at VCons because I basically have the soul of an archivist. I figured that if VCons were worth having, they were worth preserving. My hope was that if people saw us

believing in the value of our conventions, they would keep coming back year after year.

The current groups of people working hard to put on VCons have their own way of doing things, and I am too old and feeble to do what I used to do. Consequently, I do not want and will not accept replacement of this equipment at the expense of the club, WCSFA, or those associated with them.

By the way – the report that the trivia quiz equipment, which I built so many years ago, still worked at this recent convention made me feel great. Take care of it and keep using it!

Yours for truth in all things, Al Betz.

Greg Slade, grga@bluebottle.com, 29 Nov 2004

The *This Is True* story quoted in *BCSFazine* 378 which starts out, "*The string of hurricanes to hit Florida have spawned a storm of weather modification suggestions from amateurs looking for ways to stop storms from ever reaching shore*", reminded me of a notion I came up with in college. I noticed that tall towers always seem to have an inbound draft at the front doors, as cool air is heated by the building, then rushes up the elevator shafts. (This effect is, of course, more noticeable in places with colder winters than Vancouver.)

The thought struck me that it would be possible to use wind turbines, strategically placed, to take advantage of this effect to generate electricity. Then, I thought that buildings might even be designed specifically to increase the effect, by dumping heat into the shaft. (For instance, refrigerators could be set into holes backing onto the shaft, so that their heat exchanger coils "dumped" heat into the shaft, adding more energy to the uplift effect.)

Then, I got more and more ambitious about the size of the tower, to maximize the energy produced, and the residential aspects kind of faded away. I imagined great tall towers, higher than the chimneys used at thermal power plants, with turbines spinning near the top of the shaft, and digressed from there into assorted story elements involving thrill seekers climbing up the inside of the towers to the point of maximum airflow, and "skydiving" into equilibrium, with the assorted possibilities of getting sliced and diced by the turbines, or getting below the point at which the airflow would be sufficient to overcome gravity, and falling to a grisly death in the crucible of a foundry or smelter below, which would be kind of dross. (The reason for placing great vats of molten metal at the bottom of such a structure, which I dubbed a "heat mine", should be obvious.)

I also toyed with notions such as using a technique developed by the Germans in World War II, where they would paint their submarines using a paint which was black in both infrared and visible light, and cover it with a coating which was grey in visible light, but transparent in infrared, to get an effect which would be hard to detect both visually and using infrared sensors, to allow the towers to absorb infrared light, but

reflect visible frequencies, to increase the heat in the tower, while still allowing some semblance of air traffic safety.

Also, having spent some time in Eritrea, on the Red Sea coast, where the temperatures can reach 50 degrees, and the humidity hovers around 86%, the thought had crossed my tiny little mind that a heat mine might well have a beneficial effect on the local microclimate, as well as generating power. In fact, since Florida had had hurricanes that year, too (and what year has *not* had at least one hurricane hit Florida?) the thought also occurred to me that a string of heat mines scattered offshore would remove a good deal of heat and humidity from near sea level, possibly at the cost of a fair build-up of condensation clouds at the top of the tower (at this point, I was thinking of towers on the order of a kilometre high), thus robbing hurricanes of their "fuel" before they reached shore.

This would not, of course, stop hurricanes, but it might conceivably reduce their intensity by a significant amount. At the very least, video of a tower which got hit head-on falling down and going boom would be a big seller on the "bloopers" market, right up there with the Tacoma Narrows bridge.

In short, I had great fun noodling around with my idea, but I assumed that, since I wasn't an engineer, that there must be some fundamental flaw which I wasn't aware of, or somebody else would have thought of it. What I didn't know at the time, but have since learned, was that some German engineer came up with a very similar idea about two years before I did, and it *does* work.

(cf. <http://www.enviromission.com.au/>)

"Americans are benevolently ignorant about Canada, while Canadians are malevolently well informed about the United States." --J. Bartlett Brebner

((For the foregoing letter, Greg, you win a commission in the Royal Swiss Navy, a subscription to the RSN Gazette, and the right to help edit the next draft of the RSN Handbook.))

Taral Wayne <taralwayne@3web.net> 08 Dec 2004

((Note: Taral Wayne is a former faneditor, fanwriter, fanhistorian, and former Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate.))

(About my question last issue, regarding his reference to fanzines)

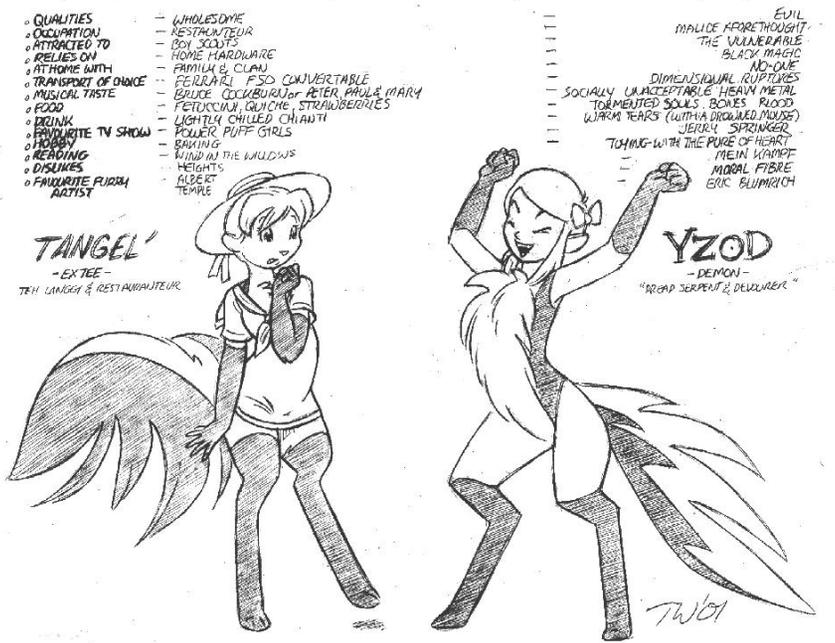
Furry zines, of course. I thought it obvious in context, but maybe not... There are still furry folios, lots of those, but you have to publish them yourself and they almost always feature only the publisher's own art. They are exclusively for sale, as well – not "the usual". So if you don't want to publish your own art (or possibly your own prose fiction), you really don't have anywhere to show it but on-line.

Incidentally, while there are still a lot of SF zines around, I don't think there's anywhere as many as there used to be. And hardly any of them make it a red-letter day when it arrives in the mailbox. I'd put

Challenger, and Plokta in that category. Without looking through the pile of things I've seen over the last six months, nothing else comes to mind.

The only on-line zine I know about is *Emerald City*. It's all reviews and people nattering on about science fiction books, so there isn't anything there of interest to me at least. The graphics are pretty, but never change and are no substitute for fan art. And there are on-line SF newszines, but I care less than nothing about those. What I've never seen is a web site that captures any of the sense of a *Mimosa*, a *Banana Wings*, or a *Twink*. Maybe I just don't know the URLs...

((Many, but not all of the fanzines I listed in a previous BCSFAzine are available through eFanzines.com. Others are listed on their own websites, if they're online at all.))



There's a story behind "Build Your Own Robot" that needs to be told. First of all, the artist is Joshua Kennedy --

<http://docphlogiston.tripod.com/> (I urge you to give his site a look-see.)

He's furry in spite of himself, you might say, because he's not in the least comfortable with the fans but feels an inner compulsion to draw furry characters anyway. (His other interests are folk guitar and photography.) Joshua also has a peculiar sense of humour. It led him to drawing a blank cartoon story with his signature character Jillian, Xeroxing a bunch of copies, and giving them out to other people to fill in their own dialog, and create their own story. It would seem that I was practically the only one who did... I got a couple of other artists to give it

a try, and I think Josh got one or two direct responses. The version printed in the last *BCSFAzine* was only my take on it.

Yet it's not so simple as "words by Taral, pictures by Joshua Kennedy". Josh and I have been friends for a few years, and he flatters me by adapting some of my character designs to his own use. Thus he took a character of mine and created Yzod the Terrawain. Seen in the final two panels, Yzod is an unbearably cute looking but utterly cruel demon from another dimension who eats the souls of victims. Although technically having no gender, "she" is a goddess and therefore has every right to rant about wanna-be's such as Jillian.

((Taral, everyone else - let me know if the panel illo isn't quite readable))

LOC from Ray Seredin via: Felicity Walker <morbius@vcn.bc.ca>
 08 Dec 2004

You may have heard, from me or from other people, who were at the West Coast Science Fiction Association meeting that V-Con is once again on the move. VCon 30 will be held at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel on Westminster Highway in Richmond.

((Actually, yours was the only report I received on the November WCSFA meeting, right up until the deadline. But I did receive the minutes in time.))

Many people feel that VCon should have stayed put at its last location, in spite of the cost increase, because it was on a SkyTrain route. However, conventions have been very successful even without being on a major public transportation route. Norwescon draws about 2500 people each year and it's a 45-minute-to-one-hour bus ride from Seattle city centre. The fact is that most people who come to conventions own cars or know somebody with whom they can carpool, and the people who don't can always log onto the TransLink website. I'd also like to point out the fact that several VCons that *were* held on SkyTrain routes didn't draw in record numbers of members, while VCon 27 did draw a good number of people - about 500, I heard - and it was nowhere near a SkyTrain route.

((That was a typical attendance for VCon in the mid-80s, I gathered, which is just about the time I started attending. It was also, I thought, an attendance level typical for many local annual conventions at the time, in the Northwest or across Canada. Other fans may correct me.))

((What you're saying makes me think that the level of advance promotion, or the state of the economy and of fans' disposable income, had more bearing on attendance level than the convention venue.))

The key to making a VCon successful is promotion - so let's get out the word that we're going to be holding a convention this October in Richmond at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel!

((I'm doing my part, as witness the con calendar this issue.))

BCSFAZINEzine, Volume 1, Number 28.379, Thursday 9 December 2004
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

Thanks for BCSFAzine #379. Remind me at FRED tomorrow night to re-subscribe while I still have the money.

((Unfortunately I became too broke to attend FRED on Dec. 10th. Anyway, the person you should give money to is Doug Finnerty, until Kathleen Moore-Freeman obtains signing authority for the club account.))

The photographs in this issue seem grainier than usual.

Cover - Correction to art credits: the art on page 16 (the cover to "Who Copies the Watchmen" #3) was by Joe Devoy.

December Events - Richmond Writers Group: "Every second and fourth Tuesday" is correct, but December 6 is the first Monday of this month.

BCSFA Xmas Dinner Party: I apologize to the organizers of this event. I probably won't be able to go. I didn't like the food or the price at Urban Buffet last time, and I have to save money for gift shopping. On the other hand, I'll probably decide at the last minute based on hunger and whether or not I have a ride there and back.

Spider Robinson at VPL: *The Crazy Years*, the collection of his *Globe and Mail* columns, sounds interesting. While Googling *Globe and Mail* to check whether I should use the word "and" or an ampersand, I discovered that the *Globe and Mail* website charges money to read Spider's column. Although I personally have a rule against paying for Web content, I can't say that I'm surprised that most newspapers charge for theirs. Indeed, I was surprised that they weren't charging ten years ago – after all, if people could view the same newspaper for free at home, why would they haul their carcass to the newsstand to pay for a hard copy? I guess in those carefree, idealistic days it was more important to establish a Web presence and count hits than to make your site turn a profit. Spider is generously posting some of the columns, viewable for free on his own website at

<http://www.spiderrobinson.com/crazyyears.htm>. He writes: "This content will be changing weekly over the next year, so check back often and you can steal over half the book!" It's nice of him to give us some exposure to the columns via the one on the site and his VPL reading. Here's to you, Mr. Robinson!

Rantings & Ravings - I like both editorials equally. Besides, why vote on "which is more worth publishing here"? By the time we read them, they've both been published. ☺

Fellow Travelers: I don't think "fannish" means "an unsupported elitism, cliquishness, and arrogance," but I can understand how other fans got that impression – from snobs in fandom. The important thing is that there is less snobbishness in fandom than anywhere else (well, except maybe for cults). There are some of the same elitist distinctions in fandom as in mundane society – fans vs. pros, or poor vs. wealthy fans,

or stereotypically obese, plain, and socially-awkward fans vs. fit, handsome, and socially suave fans (Marlon Richmond and I talked about how, when it comes to party time in the consuite, it's the "jocks and cheerleaders" of fandom who get to connect) – but unlike other subcultures, everyone is still welcomed and appreciated. And fandom accepts you *immediately*; you're not told to "wait until you've been in the scene for two years and people recognize you." Many subcultures claim to embrace the weird and the outcast, but in my experience so far, only fandom walks the walk.

((Your mileage may vary. BCSFA has, I gather, always started to form subgroups, some of them a little cliquish and elitist, but either the documentation and my perceptions were always incomplete, or BCSFA was always just a little too small for subgroups to be quite distinct, and to induce mitosis; this, in contrast to fan groups in Toronto and Calgary, which formed very distinct subgroups, and underwent violent mitoses.

((Personally I can handle being a geek, or a clown, in a few people's eyes; I'd just rather hear their attitudes directly, rather than infer it from faint and uncertain clues.))

...Your Feast Days: I think I have Asperger's too. I've thought so for five or six years. I haven't been tested (it costs \$1000 for a psychological profile), but the pieces fit. On the one hand, I'm high-functioning (or neurotypical) enough that I've been able to recognize and correct some of my behaviour, and my simulation of normality has improved massively in the last fifteen years. On the other hand, there must be other behaviour I can't recognize, because sometimes people still react as badly as they did before. Then there are the things I don't think I should have to change – sensitivity to being interrupted or not acknowledged, for example.

Locs & Quays - Lloyd & Yvonne Penney: *"(I do not look forward to living in an overheated, polluted world, where most currently arable land is undersea or turned to desert.)"* Nor I. And, being a very non-competitive person, I don't think I would last long in a world with such scarce resources.

I hope I didn't make VCon sound more trans-phobic than it was. I really did have a good time, thanks to the concom, volunteers, guests, and the hundreds of friendly (or at least neutral) fans who outnumbered the few that had a problem with me. Anyway, thanks, Lloyd. ☺

I look so mean in that photo. ☺

"((Toronto fandom sounds rather like the largely furry and gay/transvestite group now appearing at FRED. I wonder where everybody else went?))" OK, let's demograph. We lost a few fans with the move from the Jolly Alderman to Denny's (most noticeably Steve Forty, though he still comes in once every couple of months). The arrival in the last three years of the furry, gay, and transgendered crowd has doubled FRED attendance. The furry group waxes and wanes; sometimes it's just the regular FREDgoing furies who are also fans of SF, like Michael Bertrand and Julian Castle, and other times it's a large group of fans whose main interest is furry. The ratio of gay to transgendered FREDgoers is about five to one; much narrower than the thousand to one

ratio of the world, but then FRED is a small sample and the presence of one or two transgendered fans has more effect.

Julian “Earthfurst” Castle: Yes, Jack will be home if Foof does show up on time. ☺

Felicity Walker: Imperial Hobbies: I checked my box recently. Surprisingly few things had accumulated in the several months since I’d checked it.

ASK: “(*This is, I take it, your contribution to zine history?*)” If that’s OK with you, yeah.

She Says She’s Innocent: Princess Leia and Lieutenant Saavik mud-wrestling would indeed be worth watching. ☺

Randy Barnhart: Again it sounds like my con report gave an inaccurate impression of the proportions of my experiences. Anyway, thanks, Randy. ☺

I agree completely about current pro-wrestling. At least in the late 1990s there was a difference between WWF and WCW; two years ago Vince McMahon bought WCW and incorporated it into the boring corporate soap-opera storyline of the WWF. I wish I’d watched more wrestling in the 1980s.

“(*Maybe we should do like the Mexicans and elect our TV wrestlers?*)” It worked for Minnesota Governor James Janos, better known as Jesse “The Body” Ventura.

“(*...Hawaiian pizza camouflage...*)” I like that term! I’m looking forward to creating my own Hawaiian pizza camouflage.

Members’ Birthdays in December - Your bios are great.

“(*I still haven’t gotten a flood of outraged objections from BCSFA members, meaning either people are amused or most of the subjects are not current subscribers. In any case I haven’t gotten the real bios of current BCSFA members.*)”

Words from Our Advertisers - I like the complementary ads for the Western Fandom Illuminati and the Royal Swiss Navy. I wonder if I have an opposite number like your Hrothgar Weems, and if so, who is this Illuminata and what evil is she planning as we speak?

“(*Aren’t you assuming that your WFI doppelgänger is the evil twin? I’m trying to throw the role of the RSN into confusion; that’s the way to create a sense of mystery.*)”

Calendar of Upcoming Events - The Onomatopoeia Show: You can hear it on the Web? Excellent! I can’t get CiTR in Richmond.

Richmond Writers’ Group Xmas Party: In spite of a flurry of last-minute revisions by me, that item was perfect! Well done, Garth.

Why the Great Wars of Europe Had to Be – “Rajiv’s Fire Drill”: Once again, great writing. With cats. ☺ I’m glad Rajiv was really infiltrating a petnapping ring and not abducting pets for medical experiments. At first I didn’t understand the sentence “My cognates don’t do that.” What are cognates? Merriam-Webster says that “cognate” means “one that is cognate with another.” Um, yeah. Wikipedia says “Cognates are words that have a common origin.” Combining the two

definitions, I guess “cognates” could mean *any* things that have a common origin; looking at the sentences before and after, if I had to guess I would say that “cognates” in this context means other parallel-universe Rajivs that don’t work for the police. Is that it?

“(*Yes.*)”

Build Your Own Robot!: I love the words in panel three.

Crazy Mixed-Up News - Hasbro Sues 3H Productions: I’m glad Ryan wrote that Botcon history. I read it while making notes on the rough draft of *BCSFAzine* #380 at FRED, but I look forward to really savouring it when the issue is produced.

The Howling: Dogs are called “lurchers”? Hmm. A gudge in the goth scene once called me and my friends “sex-starved lurchers.” I thought he meant we walked like zombies. Maybe he meant dogs.

“(*This is an example of how vague or surreal the English language can be. If one person identifies ‘lurchers’ as a canine breed, another, like the goth, probably made up the word as an epithet.*)”

“(*What is a “gudge”?*)”

Book Reviews (D. McMahon) - I wouldn’t say that “*all of us have trouble thinking outside of [our] own cultural boxes.*” There are plenty of white, male writers and white, male fans who are fascinated by cultures other than their own. White male writers write about these cultures, and white male fans read about those cultures. Often this respect and enthusiasm is misinterpreted as just the opposite; white, male writers who write about the experiences of non-whites or females are seen as presuming to co-opt and own those experiences, and white, male fans who express a love of another culture are assumed to have an ulterior motive. Perceptive cultural gatekeepers might sense in the white, male fan a feeling of inferiority at having no ethnicity (which is to say, an identity distinct from the white, male, heterosexual, middle-class majority, one that can be said to have been oppressed at some point), while less imaginative “reverse” racists will follow the same deep, territorial instincts as whites who oppose miscegenation and assume that the white fan has a fetish for “exotic” women. In such an atmosphere, what white, male writer would be so insensitive as to “take the meme of” the person from another culture’s experience “and, from the experience, critique it, pervert it, f with it, with irony, with anger, with humour, and also with love and respect for the genre of science fiction that makes it possible to think about new ways of doing things”? Way too dangerous – better stay inside your cultural box.

“(*Now perhaps you understand my complicated joke represented by the Frong, the ethnic group anyone can choose to join, or by the Witherspoon-Lis, the only family whose members deliberately marry into any ethnic group whose language they don’t already speak.*)”

Dreams of the Sea sounds depressing, but then I have a problem reading about disasters that separate the characters from their technology, particularly in SF.

I remember Elizabeth Vonarburg from the debates in *Maple Leaf Rag* about French-Canadians reading English SF vs. English-Canadians reading French SF. I assume you read *Dreams of the Sea* in French?

((No. I'm Canadian, I studied French dozens of times and never became bilingual.))

Kaffeeklatsch of October 30, 2004 - I remember; this was the time I was able to stop by and submit some ideas, but then had to leave.

Holograms: "Doug asked practically, how would you avoid a lawsuit?" I figured that William Shatner would authorize the hologram, since he would be glad to be free of the task of going to conventions, and if he were feeling vain he could adjust the hologram's age and physique. Shatner would still get paid for the hologram's appearances, but he would be the only one using his likeness, so unless someone copied his hologram and used the pirated likeness in unauthorized ways (late-night law-office and furniture commercials; *Star Trek* parody porn; *Saturday Night Live* sketches where he admits he has no life and grovels before fandom), the only person he could sue would be himself.

Fanzine Nights: I see what you mean, about two or more people trying to share work that would be done by one person on one computer. Maybe each person could bring a single page, in a set format such as 5½×8½ inches, with text and illustrations, and the zine could be collated at the fanzine night and distributed the next month. The variety of subjects, typefaces, layouts, and illustrations would give the zine a nice runchable look. After collation, brainstorming would begin for the next issue.

((Whoa. Radical. BCSFAzine had that look when Steve Forty, and later Graeme Cameron edited it; which is how I learned not to give Graeme too long a letter, or he would photoreduce it beyond legibility. © Sounds like a great participatory convention-fanzine project. Or a way to revive BCAPA. What do you think, guys and guyettes?))

Space: "Do you feel that Space: The Imagination Station is now catering to mainstream viewers, and less to...viewers who like science fiction...?" Yes.

Vampires, Werewolves, and Supervillains: If the real world gets scarier, there will be an even better market for escapist horror. If you think about it, there is in many horror movies a sort of comfort – the world of the horror movie is in a way a simpler, more innocent place, where your normal problems become the *least* of your worries and your new problems are larger than life; where everyone, regardless of wealth or power, is equally accountable for underestimating the danger and tampering with forces they don't understand; where fantastic, paranormal things can happen that don't fit into the slow death sentence of real-world capitalism; and where good defeats evil – at least until the sequel.



Lloyd&Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2
<penneys@allstream.net> 10 Dec 2004

((Note: Lloyd and Yvonne are Aurora Award winners and Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegates.))

Issue 379 of *BCSFAzine* is here, and because there's going to be a lot celebration near the end of the month (Hanukkah has made it here a little early this year), I'd better take the time to get on with some more locwriting. (Besides, today's the deadline.) As an example...

I wish I could get to Spider Robinson's reading on December 13. I must pick up a copy of *The Crazy Years*. Those essays were a popular column in the *Globe*, at least with the people I talked to. We were looking forward to Spider and Jeanne at Ad Astra in 2005, but they've had to cancel their appearance...maybe in 2006, when Ad Astra will celebrate its 25th convention.

The word "fannish" has so many definitions, probably as many as there are fans. Much like recipes for Nanaimo bars... And, all or none of them are right, according to everyone else. My definition would be close to Karl Johanson's; fannishness is fun in doing imaginative things, possibly with a mind to tradition, and that's something not everyone is aware of, or necessarily mindful of. That means some may care, and some may not, and that's all fine. There are far too many fannish groups who are arrogant and exclusive, and the niche they carve for themselves in fandom is indeed small. Being inclusive, and sampling a little of everything, in the smorgasbord model of fandom I've been talking about for years, is the best, IMHO. Myles' House in '89 was truly fannish...it was a transparent hoax, it was silly and fun, and everyone had fun with it, including Boston fandom, who were really bidding for the 1989 Worldcon, and saw all the fun the Myles bid had. I'm sure we'd all be much more fannish in this vein if Real Life wouldn't intrude so much. If we all had fun, meaningful and lucrative jobs, and our personal problems were somewhat smaller and less important, we'd be involved with fannish events and projects. Let's all win 6/49 and be done with it. (Me first!)

I don't know who that fan was who wrote to you 20 years ago and said that something you do for fun shouldn't involve work, but s/he should be right. I suspect that person also never ran a club or convention. The management of such a project has laws to follow, money to manage, contracts to sign...a lot of work goes into making things fun for others to enjoy. I think that's another part of fannishness...putting effort into making good things happen. Yvonne and I are on the Ad Astra committee once again, and that makes 22 out of 24 Ad Astras being on the committee. Masochism? Well, some might say... We say we do it to make the good times roll, and to prove that we have some level of competence. Too many people rest on their laurels...like many plants, laurels get sharp and uncomfortable when they dry out.

Gwynne Dyer sometimes comes across as an old warhorse, but other times, he does exude a level of sanity we could all use. He spoke at a

community college north of Toronto about how the United States government is using the threat of terrorism as a launch pad of world domination, a Pax Americana. If this was ten years ago, I might have laughed. Given Dubya's record, I do not laugh now.

(I've been trying to convince the fans on the Timebinders listserv that Bush II, and his closest advisers, are in fact impostors, Canadian performance artists successfully satirizing extreme positions that American politics can go to: either as a sketch directed at long-distance by Rick Mercer, or as part of a vast insidious Canadian subversive plot. For some reason nobody quite believes me.)

Is anyone doing a newsletter for Toronto fandom? Not as such...Yvonne puts out a regular e-mailing called *Pubnites and Other Events*, which goes out to over 100 fans in the Toronto area. It details the fannish pubnights in town...the First Thursday and Third Monday, plus the Doctor Who pubnight and the pagan pubnight, which happen to be on First Thursday and Third Monday respectively...sigh. If there is any news to spread out, I usually use that e-mailing. At the First Thursday pubnight, I usually do the regular newsletter which also disseminates local news. I have asked about a local newsletter...some are interested, others are concerned that news from their particular group might get to another group, etc. The idea of local fannish journalism is appealing; I had thought of doing it nationally, but contacts have gone away over the years, and I'm not as connected as once I was. One newsletter I've been getting lately is called *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, edited by long-time fan Arnie Katz. It's light and informative, and could serve as something I could emulate for fandom here. Maybe if a thin network of correspondents could be built up in cities where there is no regular zine-issuing club, like Winnipeg, Calgary, Edmonton, Victoria, Halifax, etc., a national newszine could be at least sourced.

No, Toronto fandom is much more than the furies and GLBTers. It's just that they're a little more organized, and therefore a little more visible. Still, they are perhaps a little introverted, with some justification. There's also the Space-Time Continuum, the bood discussion group, and the USS Hudson's Bay, very large and organized.

((What did you mean by "bood"?))

Randy Barnhart's letter...well, we are surprised by the big blow-up of our picture. I haven't spotted a photo of that scene, but other photos of the Fan Gallery show blow-ups of other people to fill space. Comments on wrestling, television, novels, or just about any feature of popular culture in our society shows that the lowest common denominator is getting lower and lower all the time.

I have been asked if Yvonne and I will be going to Westercon in Calgary or the NASFiC in Seattle...no and no. We've given up on Worldcons, and any other convention we have to travel great distances to get to. As far as cons go, we are local fans now.

I believe the above-mentioned *Vegas Fandom Weekly* zines are available on Bill Burns' eFanzines.com, as is Arnie's *Flicker*, and *Chunga*.

I received a paper copy of Chaz Boston-Baden's new zine, and I hope this will prove to be popular.

Ray Seredin would be happy to see a full summary of the new *Doctor Who* series in the latest issue of *Ethel the Aardvark*, the clubzine of the Melbourne SF Society. It details that after each episode, and there will be 13 of them, there will be a smaller show called *Doctor Who Confidential*, which details how the episode just shown is made. The episodes will be shown on BBC1 and the how-it-was-made shows will be on BBC3. The CBC has picked up the show; not sure when it will arrive and get nationwide airplay here.

I have just crossed over to a third page here, so I think I've done a good job. We wish the BCSFA membership the happiest of holiday, whatever you're celebrating, and may 2005 be a better year for us all, jobs, lottery wins, the lot, whatever you want. Feeling generous today...see you next issue.

WE ALSO HEARD FROM: R. Graeme Cameron, our Fearless Leader, Aurora Award Winner, CUFF delegate, Fannish Archivist, President of BCSFA and webmaster of [Canfancyclopedia](#) ("I remain impressed by how much hard work & content you pour into BCSFAzine. I know from experience how 'isolated' being faned of BCSFAzine can feel, but I think the amount of loc response you get is a clear indication people are enjoying the zine a great deal." RGC Dec. 4/04); Steve Samuel; and Tammy Hamacher

Members' Birthdays in January

1: Bill Salmon has no relationship to the national bird of the Pacific Northwest, except a culinary one.

3: John Coffey has no relation to the national drink of the United States, except a gustatory one.

4: Mike Wolf grew up being chained in the backyard every full moon, until he ~~escaped~~ moved from the Interior; he is now on a prescription medication known only to UBC specialists.

5: Garth Spencer is not wanted by the police in connection with any missing persons from his previous schools, nor any suspicious fires at high school reunions. He does not possess any firearms, explosive ingredients, or toxic substances. There are no threatening letters on record signed with his name. Honest.

5: June Osborne is not known for any gold or platinum records or hit singles. In fact she is not on record as a musical artist at all. She would like to know who starts these rumours?

6: Eileen Kernaghan is a semi-famous Canadian fantasy novelist and (apparently) editor of the Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter.

10: Anne Kelly has something to do with Allan Kelly and his daughter Katie Kelly.

15: Ed Hutchings, a film society veteran, longstanding BCSFAn and part-time grandfather, has an e-mail address at the Vancouver CommunityNet that works sometimes.

19: J. Stewart Smyth is a frustrated voice actor and part-time Scotsman; he is one of the handful of BCSFAn with a functional clothes sense. In 2005 he will earn his Black Belt in sartorial expertise, and the right to be addressed as "sensei". This man deserves your respect.

19: Gary Owens is one of the most longstanding and secretive members of the mysterious, widely-feared Eisenmarche branch of the SCA. While no charges against him can be proven, it is wise to fear him and bring him gifts, bow and address him as "Don."

25: Pat Burrows is no longer appearing in our club. We don't know why. She originated the idea of a central Pacific Northwest convention calendar, where potential date conflicts could be detected and avoided. (This function was independently invented by the SF Northwest Resources page.)

25: Gerald Boyko, former BCSFA archivist and source of the "Basic Truths of Fandom" list, emerged from the fastnesses of Surrey to resubscribe at VCon. He it was who identified the dichotomy between concom *dreamers*, and actual con *builders*.

31: Brandon Sackett is Dixie Sackett's son, as I recall; what is he doing now?

?: Mimette Witherspoon-Li is what happened when an English-Chinese-Canadian meets a French-Canadian. She is rumoured to speak Romansch, Ladino and Provençal. She keeps her birthday a Deep Dark Secret. No-one knows why.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

January 2005

Jan. 13-17: **Further Confusion** in San Jose, California. A furry convention. GoHs Alan Dean Foster, Walter Crane and special musical guests Uffington Horse, with Heather Alexander. This year's charities are Friends of Lulu (<http://www.friends-lulu.org/>) and Therapy Pets (<http://www.therapypets.org/>). More info at <http://www.furtherconfusion.org/>

Jan. 14-16: **Rustycon 22** at SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel in SeaTac, Washington. A General SF convention. Special GoH: C.J. Cherryh. Writer Guest: Jane Fancher. Artist: R. Stephen Adams. FanGoH: IKV T'Mar (a Klingon costuming group). Room rates \$94/night; phone SeaTac Radisson at (206) 244-6000 (800-333-3333). Group rate expired December 21, 2004. Memberships \$49.50 at the door. Write Rustycon 22, P.O. Box 27075, Seattle, WA 98165-1475. URL: www.rustycon.com.

Jan. 29 (11 am – 4 pm): **Comic Book and Toy Show** at the Capitol Hill Community Centre, 361 South Howard, North Burnaby (off 5500 East Hastings); free parking, free admission, and snack bar; dealers' info – 6-foot tables for \$35, telephone 604-521-6304; see www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99, or email funpromo@shaw.ca.

February 2005

Feb 5-6: **Weathertop 2005** will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Cambrian Hall 215 E 17th Ave. (Main & 17th). Registration and tickets will be made available shortly. Stay tuned to <http://www.vancouvergamingguild.com/forums/index.php?board=4;action=display;thre\adid=1208> for daily updates!

For those new to the Vancouver Gaming Guild, the theme (and this is only meant to suggest, never to restrict) for this convention is 'fantasy'. ...

We will have the registration system up by the beginning of December, and tickets should beginning to appear in our favourite local gaming stores around that time. Tickets will be \$10 in advance, and \$15 at the door.

We will also be continuing with the collection of all of your old VHS format movies for donation to the BC Children's Hospital. ...

Vancouver Gaming Guild monthly update for December 2004

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Reproduced by Isaac Alexander
in NWConLeague listserv on Dec. 8, 2004

Feb. 18-20: **RadCon 4A** at the Red Lion Hotel, Pasco, WA. GoHs Patricia Briggs, Toni Weisskopf. Room rate \$74/night for 1 to 4 (mention Radcon to get con rate); phone (509) 547-0701, or write Red Lion Hotel, 2525 North 20th, Pasco, WA 99301. Memberships \$30 for a full weekend, \$15 for Friday only, \$20 for Saturday only, \$5 for Sunday only; Children ten and under free with adult member. See www.radcon.org. Write RadCon, PMB #162, 2527 West Kennewick Ave, Kennewick, WA 99336-3126, U.S.A.

Feb. 28: VCon trade mark due for renewal

March 2005

March 11-13: **Kei-kon** at the University of Victoria in Victoria, British Columbia. See <http://keikon.cjb.net/>

Mar. 24-27: **Norwescon 28** at the Doubletree SeaTac Hotel in SeaTac, WA. GoHs: Writer Guest of Honor: Michael Bishop; Artist Guest of Honor: John Howe; Science Guest of Honor: Suzette Haden Elgin; Spotlighted Publisher: TOR Books featuring Tom Doherty; Special Guest of Honor: Alan Dean Foster. Norwescon is the host of the Philip K. Dick Award. Rooms: \$99/night for 1-5; phone (206) 246-8600, or fax (206) 431-8687; the DoubleTree SeaTac Hotel is at 18740 International Boulevard, SeaTac, WA. Memberships TO BE ANNOUNCED. Phone (206) 270-7850 or write Norwescon 28 Pre-Registration, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547.

March 25-27: **Anime Oasis** at the Boise Airport Holiday Inn in Boise, Idaho. See <http://www.animeoasis.org>

Mar 25-27 (Easter weekend): **Game Storm 7** at the Doubletree Columbia River hotel in Portland, Oregon. Memberships \$25. Write Game Storm 7, P.O. Box 764, Portland, OR 97207, U.S.A., or see <http://www.gamestorm.org>.

April 2005

Apr. 8-10: **SakuraCon 8** at the Seattle Airport Hilton and Conference Center AND Marriott Hotel, SeaTac, WA. An anime and gaming convention hosted by ANCEA. Guests TO BE ANNOUNCED. Memberships: \$45 to March 1, 2005. phone 1-877-873-3317 or write Sakura-Con, 3702 South Fife St., Suite K-2, PMB 78, Tacoma, WA 98409 or see www.sakuracon.org. (NOTE: Anime fans do things differently; the SakuraCon website lists "staff positions" and even has a page for "Job Openings". [!?!])

Apr. 23-24: **24 Hour Comics Day 2005**.
<http://www.24hourcomics.com/>

May 2005

May 7: **Free Comic Book Day 2005**.
<http://www.freecomicbookday.com/>

May 19: release of *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith*

May 20-23: **Keycon 22**, Radisson Hotel Downtown, Winnipeg, MB. SF convention. Guests: Steve Erikson (author of *Guardians of the Moon*); Lars de Souza (artist); Chris Barsanti & Nancy Fetterman (previous Keycon co-chairs). Memberships: TO BE ANNOUNCED. For more information, see www.keycon.org.

May 21-22: **Otafest** at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta; see <http://www.otafest.com>.

June 2005

June 3-5: **ConComCon 12** at the Seattle Radisson, 17001 Pacific Highway, Seattle, WA 98186. Memberships \$25 to May 10, \$35 at the door. Room reservations 1-800-333-3333 or (206) 244-6000, fax (206) 246-6835. c/o SWOC, P.O. Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A.

Japanese space probe to make history

July 2005

July 1-4: **Westercon 58 and Convention 2005** at the Westin Calgary Hotel in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A traveling general SF and major regional SF Convention. Author GoH: S.M. Stirling. Canadian Author Guest: David Duncan. Publisher guest: Tom Doherty (TOR). Editor guest: David Hartwell (TOR). Science Guest: Dr. Phil Currie (archaeologist). Artist guest: Mark Ferrari. Fan Guests: Cliff Samuels & Eileen Capes. Rooms C\$120 + tax per night; contact 1-800-937-8461. Memberships range up to C\$80 (adult). Write Calgary in 2005, P.O. Box 43078, DVPO, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7, or email info@calgaryin2005.org.

August 2005

Aug. 4-8: **Interaction** (63rd Worldcon), SECC, Glasgow. _Now Pounds110/\$195/Euro165 reg_. Pounds30/\$45/Euro45 supp. Contact 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. In North America: PO Box 58009, Louisville, Kentucky, KY 40268-0009, USA. (*Ansible* 209)

Aug. 5-7: **Animethon** at Grant MacEwan Community College / Holiday Inn Express in Edmonton, Alberta; See <http://www.animethon.org>

Aug 19-21: **Anime Evolution** at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby (not Vancouver), BC. See <http://www.animeevolution.com> (whenever it gets updated ...)

Aug. 28: Deadline for VCon trade mark renewal

September 2005

Sept. 1-5: **CascadiaCon 2005**, the 2005 NasFic, at the SeaTac Hilton & Conference Center in Seatac, Washington. (The General SF convention North Americans hold when Worldcon goes overseas.) Writer GoH: Fred Saberhagen. Artist GoH: Liz Danforth. Editor GoH: Toni Weisskopf (Baen). Fan GoH: Kevin Standlee (chair of Con Jose). Scientist GoH: Marc Abrahams (founder of the *Journal of Improbable Research* and the Ig Nobel Awards). Rooms \$109/night for 1-4 people; phone (206) 244-4800. Memberships: \$85 (full adult). Write Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A.

Sept. 3-5: **Kumoricon** at the Doubletree Lloyd Center in Portland, OR. See <http://www.kumoricon.org>

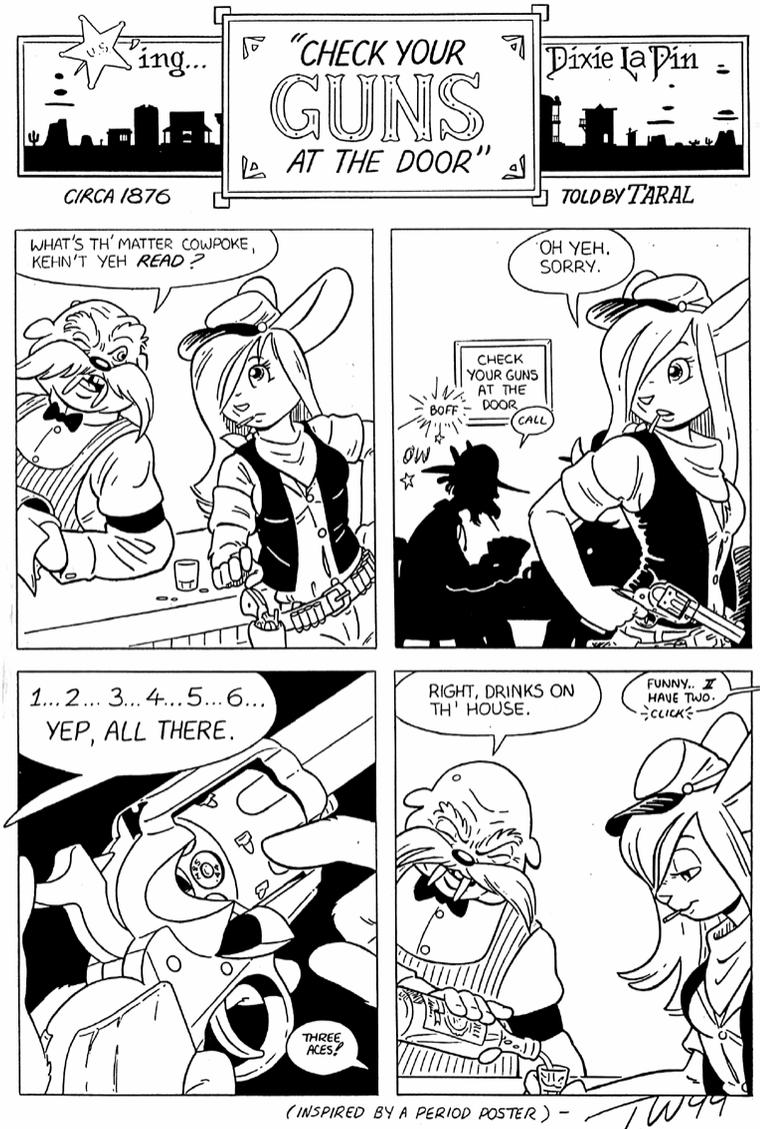
Sept. 23-25: **Foolscap VII** at the Bellevue Sheraton, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Harlan Ellison. "Foolscap VII will continue the tradition of featuring original artwork from professionals and newcomers on an invitational basis. To be considered for invitation, prospective artists may submit samples of artwork to our jury." Memberships now \$40. Mail deadline: Sept. 10, 2005. Mail to Foolscap VII c/o Little Cat Z P. O. Box 2461 Seattle, WA 98111-2461. Email www.foolscapcon.org.

October 2005

Oct. 7-9: **VCon 30** at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, BC. GoHs TO BE ANNOUNCED. Dealers tables: \$60 for first table, with 1 included membership; \$50 for additional table, with 1 included membership; \$30 for each additional membership. (Dealers' Liaison: Greg Slade.) Registration: until June 30, 2005, adults \$45, children \$22.50; until September 15, 2005, adults \$50, children \$25; at the door, adults \$60, children \$30 each. Payment accepted by cheque, money order or Visa. Write to VCon 30, c/o #209 - 2166 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 2A4. Day memberships are available. See www.v-con.ca for updates.

Check Your Guns at the Door

(fanart)





Rumour Control

We at Canadian Thought Control Centre believe the best way to control rumours is to *create* them. Therefore, the following:

- William Shatner wants to play the next James Bond!
- Garth Spencer is constructing the vocabulary and grammar for 22nd-century "Vanspeak" – a creole of English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Punjabi, and lawyer's Latin.
- The veiled references to BCSFAns' Secret Superpowers, in the BCSFA birthday column, actually conceal "cheat" codes for finding the *full* details among the hidden pages of the BCSFA website.
- *UNREQUITED LUST* for the famed jazz singer Holly Cole still grips certain BCSFA executive(s)!! - but not necessarily the same one(s) as last month.
- Steven Seagal does *not* want to play the next James Bond – unless he gets to carve up William Shatner in each movie.
- The lyrics to "Macarthur Park" were actually written by a U.S. Senate Sub-Committee!
- Hansard (Canada's Parliamentary record) is *not* now, and never will be owned by Time-Warner. (Time-Warner said "NO!!") Negotiations with KPMG, however, are looking promising.

The Only Thing We Learn

(news as I define it – GS)

The following is SF Canada members' news as at Dec. 2004:

Michael Libling's short story "Christmas in the Catskills" appeared in the December issue of *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*.

Cory Doctorow (<http://www.craphound.com>) is now writing a monthly column for *Popular Science*; his first column appears in the January 2005 issue.

Joe Mahoney (<http://www3.sympatico.ca/ilanderz>) reports that he and **Robert J. Sawyer** (<http://www.sfwriter.com>) have been given

resources to revamp the third pilot for their science fiction radio show *Faster Than Light* ("We're calling this version FTL 3.1," Joe says), assisted by producer Alison Moss, with whom Joe worked on Nora Young's show *NEXT* last summer. "The CBC brass definitely believe in *Faster Than Light*," Joe says. "They've sunk quite a bit of money into developing it. They've told us to take our time and get it absolutely right before handing it in, and we're definitely taking them up on that. Rob was in last week and we were trying to hammer out a number of issues such as tone and overall approach. We're going to finish it after Christmas sometime."

Joe is also producing another project that Sawyer is writing with **Michael Lennick**, a pilot for a potential series of original SF dramas called *Emanations*. "The pilot episode is called 'Birth'...we've just approved the outline and they are currently writing the first draft," Joe says.

He also reports that he recently recorded an SF pilot directed by **Tom Anniko**, a comedy called *Steve the First* which has been picked up for several episodes. They'll be recorded and aired shortly. Joe says there are several other SF dramas in development, although not all of them will make it to production.

Check Joe's Web site (<http://www3.sympatico.ca/ilanderz>) for updates.

Rights to the film version of **Joël Champetier's** novel *La Peau Blanche* (White Skin), which was directed by **Daniel Roby** and won Best First Canadian Feature Film Festival at the Toronto Film Festival, have now been sold to Tiberius Film in Germany, Selectavision in Spain, Terra Entertainment for Ex-Yugoslavia and Eureka Entertainment for Thailand. The film has also been sold to Starz Encore in the U.S.

"We are very pleased with the market reception for *White Skin*, following its successful premiere at the Toronto Film Festival," says Executive Producer John Hamilton, co-president of Seville Entertainment, which produced and distributed the film and is now selling it abroad. "The film continues to gather strong critical praise around the world, which is driving sales internationally."

"We are particularly excited about the re-make potential of the film," adds Seville Co-President David Reckziegel. "There is a huge demand for films in the Horror and paranormal genre. All the major U.S. studios and several independents are considering the film for an English re-make."

Matt Hughes (<http://www.archonate.com>) has sold a short novella, "The Gist Hunter," to *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. Editor Gordon Van Gelder says it will be Matt's first cover story.

Ahmed A. Khan (<http://www.angelfire.com/zine2/fictiononline/myworks.html>)'s story "The Presonic Man" is being translated into Croatian and will appear in *Futura*, A Croatian SF magazine, sometime early next year. The English version of the story is online here (<http://www.geocities.com/scifieditor/the-presonic-man.html>).

Night Shade Books of San Francisco will be bringing out a collection of **Matt Hughes'** (<http://www.archonate.com/>) short stories in 2005, perhaps as early as July. The title will be *The Gist Collector and Other Stories*.

Cory Doctorow (<http://craphound.com>)'s story "Anda's Game" (http://www.salon.com/tech/feature/2004/11/15/andas_game/index_np.html) is currently online at *Salon* (<http://www.salon.com>).

Nalo Hopkinson (<http://www.sff.net/people/nalo/>)'s book *The Salt Roads* (<http://www.impactdublinaward.ie/2005/Titles/Hopkins.htm>) (Warner) has been nominated for the €100,000 International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award (<http://www.impactdublinaward.ie/>).

The International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award is the largest and most international prize of its kind. It involves libraries from all corners of the globe, and is open to books written in any language. An initiative of Dublin City Council, the award is a partnership between Dublin City Council, the Municipal Government of Dublin City, and IMPAC, a productivity improvement company which operates in more than 50 countries. The award is administered by Dublin City Public Libraries.

The Longlist for the 2005 Award was announced in Dublin's City Hall on Monday by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Michael Conaghan. In all, 147 titles have been nominated by 185 library systems from 129 cities in 51 countries.

Nalo is one of nine Canadians on the Longlist. *The Salt Roads* was nominated by the National Library and Information System Authority (NALIS), Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, and by Hartford Public Library in the U.S.

The shortlist will be announced March 8 and the winner will be announce June 15.

Ahmed A. Khan's

(<http://www.angelfire.com/zine2/fictiononline/myworks.html>) story "The Book of Pain"

(<http://www.angelfire.com/zine2/fictiononline/myworks.html>) has been published by the *Online Journal of Dana Literary Society* (<http://www.danaliterary.org>). Another story, "The Best of Everything" (<http://www.geocities.com/ghostposts2003/story7.html>) is in the November issue of *Crossroads Magic*.

VPL WRITER IN RESIDENCE

A call for expression of interest will be sent out this year in preparation for an early launch of this initiative. Applicants must have one published work and have a new work in progress. While at VPL they will spend 75% of their time writing and 25% working with other writers and making appearances at library-sponsored events."

Relayed from Vancouver Public Library
by Fran Skene, Dec. 10, 2004



VCON 29 FINAL REPORT / VCON 30 SITE SELECTION

2004 Quarterly General Meeting Minutes

November 28th, 2004 at the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby

Present: **Ray Seredin**, **Paul Carpentier** (WCSFA Vice-President), **Palle Hoffstein** (WCSFA President), **Clint Budd** (VCon 29 Co-Registrar), **Chris Sturges** (VCon 30 Operation Co-Chair), **Greg Cairns** (WCSFA Member-At-Large, VCon 29 Co-Chair/Hotel Liaison/Bacchanal, VCon 30 Chair), **Marie-Louise Beesley** (WCSFA Member-At-Large, VCon 29 Co-Chair, VCon 30 Treasurer), **Bill Foster** (VCon 29/30 Hospitality), **Greg Slade** (VCon 29 Webmaster, Dealer/Sponsor Liaison, VCon 30 Webmaster, acting Dealer/Sponsor Liaison), **Chilam** (WCSFA Member-At-Large, VCon 29/30 Art Show), **Cindy Turner** (WCSFA Member-At-Large, VCon 29/30 Filking), **Kathleen Moore-Freeman** (VCon 29/30 Costuming), and **Keith Lim** arrived later.

Palle called the meeting to order at 2:20 pm.

Palle said that, given the location and numbers, this would be a casual meeting.

VCon 29 Report: Marie reported that, with the exception of \$35 still owed to Lorna Appleby, all the accounts have been settled from VCon 29. Total income was \$12,578.83, and total expenses were \$11,510.56. Half of the surplus has been paid to Paul Carpentier, in accordance with the resolution passed at the meeting on June 6th, 2004. In addition, VCon 29 provided complimentary display space and memberships to those artists who had not been paid for sales at VCon 28. The remaining balance in the VCon account is currently \$539.56. (Note: This does not include any pre-registration receipts for VCon 30. Marie is keeping those under lock and key, pending setting up a separate account for VCon 30, in order to keep WCSFA funds and the funds of the current con separate.) There is no final attendance tally from VCon 29 yet, because Allan Kelly, the co-registrar with all the facts, has been quite sick. Marie's guesstimate is that the final number was roughly 312.

VCon 30 Bid: Greg Cairns reported that Todd Lockwood will be returning as a Special Guest. Negotiations are still continuing about other guests to fill out the slate. Two hotels have submitted proposals to host VCon 30: one is the Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, which is offering essentially the same space as for VCon 29 (less the Tiffany Ballroom) and the same rate for the guest rooms (\$105/night), for a low of \$6,600 and a high of over \$13,000 (depending on whether we make our room block) for the use of the event space, and a contractual obligation to order at least \$5,600 in food and beverage service.

This led to an extended digression over hotels' obsessions about food and beverage service, which in turn reminded Marie to point out that the income and expenses related to the Writers' Workshop are not included in the VCon 29 books, other than that VCon 29 paid for the coffee service. The WCSFA Treasurer will need to talk to Fran to get the numbers with the respect to the Writers' Workshop. Marie suggested that in future, the Writers' Workshop funds should be run through the VCon budget in order to give a clearer picture of the situation. Palle opined that it is permissible for the Writers' Workshop to run at a deficit, since it benefits the con as a whole, but believes that it is wrong for one person to have to carry the deficit.

The other hotel to submit a proposal to host VCon 30 was the Executive Airport Plaza, at Alderbridge Way and Westminster Highway in Richmond. They are offering 14,182 square feet of meeting space for a low of \$1,400 and a high of \$9,750 (again, depending on whether we meet our room block) for the use of the event space, with no requirement for food and beverage service.

At this point, Clint had to run to catch his ferry, but offered three items to take to heart if the current conconcom wants to secure Allan as registrar for next year:

1. The membership rates need to be fixed and adhered to, and not changed at the last minute on the web site.
2. Getting the necessary membership information from guests of the convention should be automatic, and no apologies for asking for the information should be necessary.
3. There should be one person responsible for inviting guests of the convention, and that information should be passed on to the registrar rather than people coming up to the registration desk and saying that "so-and-so promised me a free membership."

Motion: that the VCon 30 bid be accepted as presented, bearing in mind that the requirement of Guest of Honour is not fulfilled as at November 28th, 2004. Should the WCSFA Board of Directors find a Guest of Honour requirement lacking in six months from this date, the board will be authorised to remedy the situation by being called on to arrange for guests. Moved by Paul Carpentier; seconded by Marie-Louise Beesley. Motion passed with none opposed and one abstention.

New Business:

Marie moved that the WCSFA constitution be amended to state that guests of the con would only be given memberships for the days on which they actually perform some service for the con, such as sitting on a panel. There was no seconder. Paul moved that the motion be tabled until the next meeting. Marie seconded the motion to table.

Marie asked for a resolution that conconcom members cannot make a profit from the con. Paul offered to review the Societies Act and the WCSFA constitution. Cindy asked if there was, or could be developed, some kind of one-page guideline of "dos and don'ts" for newbie conconcom members. Palle said that several attempts have been made to develop a conconcom handbook, all of which got too detailed to be completed, but that a position-neutral guideline such as she asked for might be possible.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

VCON WEBSITE UPDATES

Greg Slade, Vcon 30 webmaster, reports:

"I have been going hog-wild in the links section of the VCON site (www.v-con.ca) this week. For those of you who haven't checked out the site since the con, I have moved the genre-specific links pages up from the WCSFA site to the VCON site. (The WCSFA site can be found under "About Us", or you can hit it directly at www.v-con.ca/society/. The WCSFA links page now points to resource sites, other club sites, and forum sites, and I have dropped all the graphics, in line with what seems to be a general trend to make the WCSFA site more serious and text-intensive.)

"The VCON links page (www.v-con.ca/links.html) now has sub-pages for events (www.v-con.ca/link-e.html), anime (www.v-con.ca/link-a.html), fantasy (www.v-con.ca/link-f.html), gaming (www.v-con.ca/link-g.html), historical re-creation/re-enactment (www.v-con.ca/link-h.html), space exploration (www.v-con.ca/link-se.html), science fiction (www.v-con.ca/link-sf.html), and writers (www.v-con.ca/link-w.html). In particular, I have added links to the anime, gaming, and space exploration pages, but most of the pages have at least some new material.

(Note: I have plans for more pages, but I will need some more links before I take them live. Specifically, I'm looking for costuming, filking, and modeling links, so if you know of some good sites in those areas (or any which already have pages), please let me know."

Greg Slade, Nov. 26, 2004

VCON TRADE MARK ISSUES

Our Fearless Leader R. Graeme Cameron writes:

"I understand Greg was inquiring about this. Sent a reply to Clint who'll forward it to the conconcom list.

"Anyway, our VCON trade mark expires Feb 28th, 2005, though not actually expunged from the records till 6 months later, depending on whether or not we renew. Apparently the renewal 'window' is Jan/Feb/March.

"Renewal costs \$350 by email (requires credit card, which I don't have), or \$400 by mail. Catch is, the CIPO website (Canadian Intellectual Properties Office -- apparently the Federal entity which handles trade marks) does not make renewal forms available by download, and it's not clear where to write to get the form and where to send the filled form & cheque. ...

"Anyway, sent off an email of inquiry to CIPO and hope to hear from them this week.

"A lot of money, but [it] must be done. Perhaps get WCSFA to contribute. We might even consider selling the trade mark to WCSFA, or at least transferring it (there's a legal difference) since we don't seem to be in the habit anymore of being paid an annual fee by WCSFA for use of the trade mark as was the case back in the days of WCSFCCA.

"A brief history of the trade mark:

- Registered by & in the name of Mike Bailey March 4th, 1975.
- Transferred to BCSFA from Mike Bailey for sum of \$100 Sept 11th, 1977.
- Sold to BCSFA by Mike Bailey for sum of \$100 Feb 2nd, 1990.
- Renewed on Behalf of BCSFA July 13th, 1990.
- Expires Feb 28th, 2005."

R. Graeme Cameron <canfancylopedia@shaw.ca> 29 Nov 2004

PRESIDENTIAL DISTINCTIONS

"RAY BRADBURY received the 2004 US National Medal of Arts, and Madeleine L'Engle the corresponding National Humanities Medal, in a White House Oval Office ceremony on 17 November. Eight people were honoured in each category. Bradbury accepted in person; L'Engle was represented by her granddaughter."

Ansible 209

PUBLISHED PROS ON TV

Edge Publishing proclaims:

"If your cable provider carries SPACE: the Imagination Station, you can catch K. A. Bedford's (*Orbital Burn*) interview - done with Mark Askwith during the author's Cross Canada Tour.

"The interview itself went on for quite a bit, which surprised me very much ... It was one of the most satisfying interviews I did during the whole trip,' said Adrian.

"The interview was cut into segments and appears between various shows ... note the following comment posted by Charlie:

"It was indeed one of the little 2 minute snippets wedged in after *The Dead Zone* on a fine Sunday morning. I'm glad to know there'll be more. I'll have to fire up the old VCR and collect them all!

"I hope you enjoyed the thought of someone halfway around the world jumping up and down and yelling to his wife:

"It's him! C'mere, quick! Holy sh*t, Adrian's on TV!"

About *Orbital Burn*: In *Orbital Burn*, a seriously down on her luck unlicensed Stalktown PI named Louise "Lou" Meagher ekes out a sparse living solving petty crimes. She is chronically broke, clinically dead, and nervous about being evacuated from her home planet, Kestrel, which in nine days time will be hit by an unstoppable doomsday rock, known as the Bloody Bastard. But Lou takes on one last case: helping a cybernetically enhanced canine named Dog, locate his former master, a defective biological android boy known only as Kid....

About K. A. Bedford: K. A. Bedford was born in Fremantle Australia in 1963. He attended Murdoch University, in Perth and studied Writing, Theatre, and Philosophy, before becoming actively involved in the Australian SF community. *Orbital Burn* is his first novel (soon to be followed by *Eclipse* and *Hydrogen Steel*) and marks the debut of a promising new voice in Science Fiction. He lives with his wife, Michelle, near Perth, Australia."

Orbital Burn // Trade Paperback // Only \$19.95 CN / \$14.95 US // Available everywhere.

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

Brian Hades, Nov. 12 & 13, 2004

GOTH HOUSE NEWSLETTER: 12 NOV 04

"Wow! The fifth collection, No Shoes for the Wicked, is finally out!

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

"If you pre-ordered, you should be getting the deluxe edition in the mail shortly. The feature this time talks about the process of creating the cover and has some process drawings that weren't used in the final art.

"The order page has a brand spanking new orders calculator that I wrote, so you don't have to try to add everything up yourself. It's still being refined, so if you try it and get weird results, let me know.

"Also, between the previous update and this one, there is much cranky political commentary."

Julie McGalliard, Nov. 12, 2004

CREATOR OF SUPERHERO 'THE FLASH' DIES

"BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) - Harry Lampert, the illustrator who created the DC Comics superhero 'The Flash' and later became known for his instructional books on bridge, died Saturday. He was 88.

"Lampert, who had been suffering from cancer, died at Boca Raton Community Hospital, according to his family.

"Besides his daughter, Lampert is survived by his wife, Adele Lampert; and two grandsons."

Forwarded by Stan G. Hyde <stanhyde@shaw.ca> Nov 14, 2004

STORY SLAM

"If you've ever been to a poetry slam, then the title should say it all. Same format. Seven-minute stories instead of three-minute poems. We pass the hat beforehand (audience by donation, but minimum \$5 from each bard) and then five delegated audience judges hold up scorecards after each story. Top three winners take home the hat.

"Story Slam will be an ONGOING MONTHLY EVENT (9 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month) at Our Town Cafe, 245 E. Broadway at Kingsway. The average story will be 1200-1400 words. ...

"... I've been publicizing this vigorously with the creative writing departments of all the local colleges and universities and have already made my pitch to classes at Langara, Capilano, Emily Carr and SFU ... I have been drumming up interest with all the major slam poets (stipulating that this is for stories, not rants, love poems or essays) in the slam crowd at Café Deux Soleils, story-tellers in the Vancouver Society of Storytelling and local actors in Meisener Technique Workshops.

"I've also contacted my friends in some writing groups around the Lower Mainland – West End Writers, Scribblers, House of Fiction, SpIN, Spiral-Bound, Dream Kitchen, Metrotown, Burnaby Writers, ShoreLine. Next, I pitch it to high school students via an ad in *YouthInk*. And as well, I have my own lists of fiction-writers gathered from hosting bolts for five years.

"All that, to say this: the stories are bound to rock, and what will really make this event rock even more is if the writers/story-tellers/actors understand that they'll get published if they win. I've managed to publicize this with all the local print media – The Sun Books Pages, *The Georgia Straight*, *Terminal City*, *Xtra West*, *The Courier*, *Vancouver Magazine*, *The West-Ender* and *Only Magazine*. ...

"There is also the possibility that something specific may arise due to the fact that there's no rule stating that the story has to be written down and, no doubt, those people proficient in the art of story-telling will score high simply because of their abilities to captivate an audience – no props allowed (costumes are fine). I'm curious, too, to see what comes from the acting crowd's interest. Meisener Technique actors have an uncanny ability to connect with audience response and feed on it. The stories do have to be original. They do have to keep under the seven-minute time constraint. And they do have to be a story – that is: events that take place over a passage of time. For further info I can be contacted here: boltoffiction@hotmail.com or by telephone 604-254-0355.

"P.S. An emerging publisher of audiobooks will also be present in search of talented readers and stories.

"Contact WORD WHIPS: Pandora's Collective, 321-4039; Contact STORY SLAM: Johnny Frem, 254-0355."

Bill Marles <bmarles53@yahoo.com>
to Writers <richmondwriters@groups.msn.com> 9 November 2004
FORWARDED by Felicity Walker, Nov. 15, 2004

EVENT PLANNING TEMPLATE

"Microsoft has a very nice Event Planning template on their website for Excel. It's actually very useful (with a few customized modifications) for budgeting: <http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/templates/TC060784121033.aspx>

"Thanks goes to Elana from Anime Boston for this news.

"Anyone find this useful?"

Isaac Alexander <isaacada1@yahoo.com>, on
SFNorthwest listserv, Nov. 15, 2004

NOVA AWARDS for British fan publication:

"ARTIST Sue Mason. WRITER Claire Brialley. FANZINE *Zoo Nation*, ed. Pete Young. BEST FAN (life achievement) Ray Bradbury -- not the US one, but the legendary Birmingham fan who constructs the Nova Award trophies."

R.I.P.

"Pierre Berton (1920-2004), Canadian journalist, broadcaster and prolific novelist who wrote the children's fantasy *The Secret World of Og* (1961), died on 30 November aged 84. [SFWA]

"Irwin Donenfeld, editorial director and publisher of DC comics following the death of his father Harry (DC's founder) in 1965, died on 29 November; he was 78. [PDF]

"Edward ('Ted') Hughes, old-time UK fan whose letters once appeared regularly in Terry Jeeves' *Erg*, died in October following a heart attack on the 8th. Terry writes: 'He will be missed. One by one the old fans drop off the tree.'

"Bob Haney, US comics writer who wrote very many DC titles from the mid-1950s and was described as one of the Silver Age comics greats, died on 27 November. He was 78. [BB]

"Trina Schart Hyman, US artist and writer who illustrated over 150 books including many fantasies for children, died on 19 November aged 65. She was a winner of the Caldecott Medal for children's authors and artists. [JS]

"Howard Keel (1919-2004), US actor whose best-known genre appearance was in the film *The Day of the Triffids* (1963), died on 7 November. He was 85. Steve Green adds: 'His scenes were judged so boring by the producers that additional scenes were inserted (directed by Freddie Francis), using a separate cast and set in a deserted lighthouse.'

"Ed Kemmer (1921-2004), star of the 1950-55 TV and radio series *Space Patrol*, died on 5 November aged 83. His genre films included *Giant from the Unknown* and *Earth vs. the Spider*, both 1958.

"Stieg Larsson (1954-2004), important fanzine publisher and former chairman of SFSF, the largest Swedish fan organization, and a friend for 30 years, died suddenly Tuesday, November 9, from a heart attack,' writes John-Henri Holmberg, adding that Larsson had recently sold a series of crime novels: 'Stieg actually died on the threshold of international literary success.'" (Ansible 209)

RANDOM FANDOM

"Harry Bell is the seventh winner of the Rotsler Award for life achievement in fanzine art – bringing him \$300, a tasteful plaque/certificate, and eternal glory." [RL]

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VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPICS PLAYS GAMES WITH LOCAL BUSINESS

(From "City Briefs" column by Dee Hon, in Terminal City for 4 November 2004: "2010 Olympics: It's Our Time to Sue")

"The Vancouver Indy might not be the only organization the 2010 Olympics sends to an early grave. Games organizers started legal proceedings last week against businesses deemed to be in violation of the Olympic trade mark. Among those recently ordered to change their signage are a Vancouver pizza parlour, a Squamish construction company and the Squamish Chamber of Commerce.

"The Greater Vancouver White Pages alone lists more than 30 businesses with the name Olympic or Olympia. Use of other terms such as '2010' is also restricted by the Canadian Olympic Association. No word yet as to whether Arthur C. Clarke's sci-fi novel of the same name will be removed from Vancouver bookshelves."

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 20, 2004

NEXT YEAR'S SPACE EXPLOITS

"I don't know if you cover space exploration stuff in the calendar, but if you do, the Japanese near Earth Asteroid probe *Hayabusa* is scheduled to arrive at asteroid Itokawa (1998SF36) in June, 2005."

Greg Slade, Nov. 20, 2004

ROBERT J. SAWYER REPORT

"You're most likely getting this note because you've written to me in the past about my science-fiction novels. I hope you don't mind this update – I only send such things out a couple of times a year. If you'd prefer not to receive future updates, just email me at sawyer@sfwriter.com, and I'll drop you from the mailing list.

"In this mailing:

- "*Hybrids*, the concluding volume of my 'Neanderthal Parallax' trilogy, is now out in mass-market paperback from Tor. It's a November 2004 title, and you should be able to find it in bookstores everywhere, and through online retailers.

"Of course, if you'd like an autographed copy, you can get that directly through my website: <http://www.sfwriter.com/autograp.htm>

"*Hybrids* by Robert J. Sawyer. Tor Books, New York. Mass-market paperback, November 2004. ISBN 0-765-34906-X.

- "THE QUINTAGLIOS ARE BACK!

"Also in bookstores: a handsome new trade-paperback edition of *Far-Seer*, the first volume of my "Quintaglio Ascension" trilogy. The second volume, *Fossil Hunter*, will be reissued in March 2005, and the third, *Foreigner*, will be out in August 2005.

"*Far-Seer* by Robert J. Sawyer. Tor Books, New York. Trade paperback. May 2004. ISBN 0-765-30974-2.

"*Fossil Hunter* by Robert J. Sawyer. Tor Books, New York. Trade paperback. March 2005. ISBN 0-765-30973-4.

"*Foreigner* by Robert J. Sawyer. Tor Books, New York. Trade paperback. August 2005. ISBN 0-765-30972-6.

- "COLLECTIONS!

"My first short-story collection, *Iterations*, previously only available in Canada, is now out in a handsome trade-paperback edition across the United States. It's in many bookstores, and also available through Amazon.com and BN.com.

"*Iterations* by Robert J. Sawyer. Red Deer Press, Calgary. ISBN 0-889-95303-1.

"I still have copies of the Quarry Press hardcover first edition of *Iterations*; if you'd like an autographed one, see:

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

"Also just out in hardcover is *Relativity*, a collection of my essays and speeches about science fiction, rounded out with eight short stories, and all 12 of my 'On Writing' how-to columns. It won't be widely available in stores, but you can order it directly from the publisher:

<http://www.isficpress.com/relativity.html>

"*Relativity* by Robert J. Sawyer. ISFiC Press, Chicago. ISBN 0-9759156-0-6.

- "AUDIOBOOKS and EBOOKS

"Fictionwise.com has a terrific MP3 audio-book production of my short story 'Shed Skin.' See:

<<http://www.fictionwise.com/servlet/mw?t=book&bi=26892&id=27978>>

"Fictionwise also has a bunch of my short stories, in all standard ebook formats (with more to come through the first half of 2005). See:

<<http://www.fictionwise.com/servlet/mw?t=author&ai=435&id=27978>>

"There's also an unabridged reading of *The Terminal Experiment* available on audio cassette from Recorded Books:

"<http://www.recordedbooks.com/index.cfm?fuseaction=rb.show_prod&book_id=64810>

- "MY NEXT NOVEL

"My next novel, *Mindscan*, is finished. It will be published in April 2005 in hardcover by Tor. Information, including the opening chapters, is now on my website: <http://www.sfwriter.com/exmi.htm>

- "OCEAN CRUISE WITH ROB!

"Join me for the DELL MAGAZINES SCIENCE FICTION CRUISE – with the editors of *Analog* and *Asimov's Science Fiction* magazines, plus Carolyn and me, Kevin J. Anderson, Rebecca Moesta, Connie Willis, and James Patrick Kelly. The dates are May 21-28, 2005, and you can learn all about it at: <http://www.sciencefictioncruise.com/>

- "BOOK TOUR: THE ROB 'N' BOB SHOW!

"Robert Charles Wilson and I are touring together in support of the release of our next novels – my *Mindscan* and Bob's *Spin*, both from Tor – next April. TENTATIVE tour dates and cities are: * Monday, April 18: Winnipeg, Manitoba. * Tuesday, April 19: Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. * Wednesday, April 20, and Thursday, April 21: Calgary. * Friday, April 22: Vancouver, British Columbia. * Saturday, April 23: Victoria, British Columbia. * Sunday, April 24: Portland, Oregon. * Monday, April 25, and Tuesday, April 26: San Francisco. * Thursday, April 28: Ann Arbor, Michigan. * Friday, April 29: Detroit, Michigan. * Saturday, April 30: London, Ontario. * Sunday, May 1: Kitchener, Ontario.

"The full tour schedule will eventually be on my website at:

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

- "THE WORLD'S TOP CASH PRIZE FOR SCIENCE FICTION

"I just won it! You can read all the details here:

<http://www.sfwriter.com/prupwi04.htm>

- "WRITING WORKSHOPS

"I have two writing workshops coming up in 2005: one in Toronto, and the other in Banff, Alberta: I'll be leading a five-day science-fiction and fantasy writing workshop at the University of Toronto July 18-22, 2005; and I'll be leading a week-long science-fiction and fantasy writing workshop at the Banff Centre for the Arts in the ski-resort town of Banff, Alberta, September 18-24, 2005. If you'd like to be sent more information about these workshops when it becomes available, just drop me an email at: sawyer@sfwriter.com

- "DISCUSSION GROUP AND WEB SITE

"There's a lively RJS online discussion group. Please feel free to join us at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/robertjsawyer/>

"And, of course, don't forget to visit my web site, which now has over one million words of material: <http://www.sfwriter.com/>

- "PUBLIC SPEAKING

"If your company or organization needs a keynote speaker who can talk about the future, science in society, and so on, I've been doing a lot of such things lately (including, in the last couple of months, the Ontario Professional Engineers Awards Banquet, the Canadian Association of Science Centres Annual Meeting, the Second International Symposium on Physical Sciences in Space, and BioMedex 2004). Find out more about booking me for your event through my speakers' bureau, Speakers' Spotlight: <http://www.speakers.ca/speaker.asp?speakerid=229>"

Robert J. Sawyer, Nov. 26, 2004

COMPETITIONS

"Robert Sawyer's 'Identity Theft' won the Euro6,000 prize in the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya's annual contest for best unpublished sf novella in Catalan, Spanish, English, or French. [SFWA] *Ansible* guesses he didn't write it in Catalan."

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THIS MUST BE AN AD

"Dear Mr. Spencer

"Movies.News-Cast.Com is proud to present Don Johnson in Harlan Ellison's *A Boy And His Dog* online in its entirety at:

"<http://www.news-cast.com/movies/index.html>

"*A Boy And His Dog* - the cult classic adapted from the novella by Harlan Ellison, starring a pre-*Miami Vice* Don Johnson. A young man and his dog in a post-apocalyptic quest for food and sex.

"We're making a very modest start here - if you or your membership have any suggestions for science fiction titles we could add in the near future we'd like to hear them."

(News-Cast.Com Inc 131 Clark Street, Fredericton, New Brunswick, Canada E3A 2W8, doug@news-cast.com)

Doug Sutherland, President, Nov. 24, 2004

FANFUNDERY

"TAFF. The 2005 TransAtlantic Fan Fund race is on, with Chaz Boston Baden, Curt Phillips and Suzanne Tompkins (Suzle) contending to travel to the Glasgow Worldcon. Voting deadline: 3 April. Ballots from the usual suspects and Ansible.

"Euro administrator James Bacon is seeking donations for the TAFF auction at Eastercon 2005 – by arrangement via piglet[at]indigo.ie, or at the con in Hinckley.

"The Bring Bruce Bayside Fund has succeeded, raising more than enough to waft the great Bruce Gillespie from Melbourne to San Francisco in early 2005, to bring him home again, and to publish his trip report.

"DUFF: nominations are open for the 2005 Down Under Fan Fund race – North America to the Aussie Natcon (Hobart, Tasmania, 10-13 Jun). Usual 100-word platforms, 5 nominations (3 NA, 2 Oz) and \$25 bond to Guy & Rosy Lillian, PO Box 53092, New Orleans, LA 70153-3092, USA."

Ansible 209

DEEPAK CHOPRA STARTS COMIC BOOK COMPANY (I couldn't make this up!)

"World-renowned author and spiritualist Deepak Chopra and director Shekhar Kapur have joined with Gotham Ent. Group, the leading publisher of comic magazines in South Asia, to announce the launch of Gotham Studios Asia, a new company focused on creating original comic books and character properties for a global audience.

"Over the next year, the studio intends to attract more than 150 of India's most talented artists and writers to create a portfolio of original character properties for comicbook publishing and licensing into movies, animation, toys, videogames and consumer products. The firm intends to produce original content, infused with Indian and Asian mythology, to

meet the growing demand of the industry for properties and stories that cater to this emerging global audience. ...”

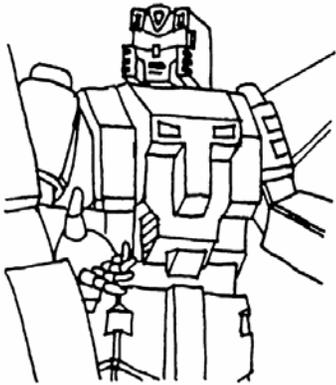
Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

PUSS IN BOOTS GETS OWN FEATURE

“DreamWorks is making an animated feature spin-off for the Puss in Boots character from *Shrek 2*, reports *Variety*. Voiced by Antonio Banderas, the character stole most of its scenes in the uber-hit sequel. DreamWorks has not made a decision whether the film will be a theatrical or direct-to-video release.”

[Aw. :-) – Felicity]

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004



THOG'S MASTERCLASS

Dept of Slannish Tendrils. ‘He turned to the strikingly beautiful girl sitting beside him. A girl whose long almost blue-black hair seemed so vibrantly alive that it pulsed with a sentience of its own.’ (Bron Fane, ‘Jungle of Death’, *Supernatural Stories* #27, 1959) [G]

Rocketry and Relativity Dept. ‘We’re only going to go at a thousand miles an hour [...] We’re in no hurry and a great increase in speed brings a large number of problems. [...] our bodies are being penetrated by cosmic radiation and probably cosmic particles as well all the time, but because they travel relatively slowly we suffer no ill effects. Speed them up and they would be fatal.’ (Leonard Wibberley, *The Mouse on the Moon*, 1962) [BA]

Dept of Stupefying Similes. ‘The boiling upsurge of questions and ideas whirled around in Harding’s head like particles being accelerated in a cyclotron, until he felt like a man both blind and deaf searching for a needle in a lightless, soundless chamber, and forced to wear feather pillows for gloves.’ (Steve Hall, ‘Out of Character’, *Science Fantasy* 57, Feb 1963) [JB]

Ansible 209

JAMES CAMERON'S NEXT FILM IS LIVE-ACTION ANIME REMAKE

“Director James Cameron confirmed on NPR (National Public Radio) that his next directing gig will be on the live-action adaptation of Yukito Kishiro’s *Battle Angel Alita*. [sic].”

[Hopefully not as misandrist as Cameron’s Dark Angel. – Felicity]

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

BOURNE SUPREMACY DIRECTOR TAKES ON WATCHMEN

“Revolution Studios has hired *The Bourne Supremacy* director Paul Greengrass to helm the adaptation of the classic graphic novel, *The Watchmen*, reports *Ain’t It Cool News*. The film is scheduled to hit theaters summer 2006.

“Based on the acclaimed 1986 12-issue comic book miniseries written by Alan Moore with art by Dave Gibbons, the story is set in a world where superheroes have become government-backed. The murder of a federally-backed mercenary named The Comedian spurs insane vigilante Rorschach, the last solo superhero, to investigate who has begun killing the ‘masks.’”

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

RAIMI TO REMAKE EVIL DEAD

“Director Sam Raimi and original producing partners Rob Tapert and Bruce Campbell have announced that they will produce a remake of the cult hit *The Evil Dead*, reports *Variety*. Raimi’s Ghost House Pictures is looking for a director to reinvent the series before a new screenplay is written.

“The original film, which spawned two sequels, follows five friends deserted in a remote cabin who unleash demons after finding taped translations of the *Book of the Dead*.”

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

“[There’s that red-flag word, “reinvent.” (I guess a completely separate remake is better than Raimi going all George Lucas on us and revising the original in special editions – as long as we can still see the original if we prefer it.) Will Bruce Campbell still be Ash? – Felicity]

WACHOWSKIS DEVELOP V FOR VENDETTA

“*Matrix* creators Andy and Larry Wachowski and Joel Silver will produce a film adaptation of Alan Moore’s futuristic graphic novel *V For Vendetta*, reports *Variety*.

“Taking place in an alternate future, in which Germany wins World War II and Great Britain becomes a fascist state, a terrorist freedom fighter named V begins a violent guerrilla war to destroy totalitarianism. A young woman he rescues from the secret police joins his cause.”

[It’s *Linda* Wachowski, not Larry! – Felicity]

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

THE SMURFS RETURN TO U.S. TV ON DIC KIDS

“Things will be looking Smurfy (which is a good thing) on the DIC Kids’ Network when it starts airing one of the world’s most popular and successful animated series in television history, *The Smurfs*. DIC Entertainment (DIC) acquired the broadcast rights to 26 half-hour episodes of the hit series produced by Hanna-Barbera in the ‘80s from Warner Bros. Domestic Cable Distribution.

“*The Smurfs* will begin airing in January 2005 on DIC Kid’s Network, a unique three-hour programming block designed to provide stations with children’s programming that meets “core” FCC requirements. DIC selected certain episodes of *The Smurfs* that were produced with an educational basis to meet the standards of the programming block. ...”

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

GURU TAKES TELETOON ON A PROMO DETOUR

“guru animation studio just completed a six-spot broadcast promo campaign for Canada’s TELETOON network. Produced in collaboration with branding outfit Fishdog, Toronto, with DJ/turntablist Kid Koala providing sound design and music, guru handled the spots from concept through animation, to promote the network’s primetime young adult-oriented programming block, ‘The Detour.’

“Fishdog and TELETOON Canada provided guru with an established color palette of warm reds and yellows and a clear mandate to create a fantasy urban psychospace. guru decided to play on the ‘The Detour’s’ transportation-themed name, and built a story around the campaign’s toon mascot, the geek-chic scooter-bound ‘D,’ who, with his robotic pooch sidekick ‘B’ (a pet that does triple duty as an all-in-one companion/GPS/PDA), inhabit a hectic city environment plagued by traffic and overly aggressive commuters.

“The animation, inspired by the frenetic energy of cartoons and cartoon culture, is modern yet 1960s mod at the same time, with kitschy typefaces and pop-art influenced characters. In each spot, ‘D’ is always getting into a tight jam. Whether weaving his Lambretta precariously in and out of traffic and causing fender benders in his wake, chasing after a cutie zipping by on a pistachio-hued Vespa or running into his own doppelganger, ‘D’ does it with panache and style, his loyal companion ‘B’ perpetually in tow.”

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

“*I’ve seen these spots and have mixed feelings about them. I love the warm colour palette and the audio, but the art style is too flat and cartoony, too sloppy and Flash-animation-like, except for the 3-D backgrounds. – Felicity*”

NEW JAMES BOND GAME PUTS PLAYERS IN VILLAIN’S HANDS

“Electronic Arts announced the release of the latest videogame in the James Bond series, *Goldeneye: Rogue Agent*. This first-person shooter gives players the chance to explore the dark side of the Bond universe and experience life as a ruthless, unpredictable villain. The game is available for PlayStation 2, Xbox and the Nintendo GameCube.

“In the game, players make their rise through the ranks of villainy on globe-spanning missions of vengeance and demolition. Players encounter such legendary villains and Bond girls as Xenia Onatopp, Dr. No, Goldfinger, Oddjob, Scaramanga and Pussy Galore.

“Featured game modes include story-based campaign missions spanning 20 single-player levels and more than 20 multiplayer arenas where players can engage in deathmatch-style showdowns and objective-based team vs. team scenarios.

“Players can also travel to famous film locations such as the top of the Golden Gate Bridge from *A View To A Kill*, the Pyramids from *The Spy Who Loved Me* and the Volcano Lair from *You Only Live Twice*. The game’s star-studded lineup includes Christopher Lee, who is reprising his role as the villainous Francisco Scaramanga from *The Man With The Golden Gun* and Judi Dench, who returns as M and has appeared in four Bond films to date. World-renowned DJ and artist Paul Oakenfold composed an original score and created the game’s overarching musical personality with hard-driving, rhythmic beats hand-crafted for every mission. Rounding out the talent behind the game is Academy Award-winning production designer Sir Ken Adam (James Bond series), costume designer Kym Barrett (*The Matrix* trilogy) and character designer Rene Morel (*Final Fantasy: The Spirits Within*).

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Nov. 24, 2004

“*[I would have preferred classic John Barry-style music to "hard-driving, rhythmic" DJ music. I wonder if you can play Bond villainesses like Mayday? You could in the first Goldeneye game. – Felicity]*

((Missing scenes: James Bond bequeaths his name, code number and superpowers to a sort of MI5 franchise; James Bond cracks up and goes to a loony bin; James Bond is indicted for disseminating the AIDS virus; and so on. –GS))

NCL LISTSERV MODERATOR CHANGEOVER

The new moderator of the Northwest Convention League email list is someone named Mali, at maialaia@yahoo.com. The former administrator, Larry Baker, announced in November that he was no longer able to serve as moderator, and handed off his duties.

Garth Spencer, from NCL listserv, Nov. 25, 2004

The Comic Book Digest (TCBDigest)

A Review by Julian Castle

A new magazine was started recently. The *Comic Book Digest* is a 132-page comix preview magazine for \$1.95 (USA) which I consider to be a great price. *TCBDigest* consists of 8-page previews of 10 different comix plus articles about the comix industry. Each issue also has an instalment of a mystery/drama series written by Mike S. Miller which started in *TCBDigest* #1. Miller is also the editor of *TCBDigest*. I am very happy with *TCBDigest* mainly because of the low price and the articles.

The 'focus' of *TCBDigest* #3 is all-ages comix, although I think that focus is undermined by 3 gory and/or violent previews inside and half the front-covers being of *Hunter Killer* (see footnote 1). #3 features: 1) A 4-page article by Ben Avery who writes about his experience on what the boys at a residential treatment center thought about various comix Ben gave them to read. 2) Previews of *Lions, Tigers and Bears* #1, *Bombaby* TPB, *Oddly Normal* and 2 *Transformers* comix. There is also a preview of *Pigtale* #1 which looks like it is all-ages. 3) A 'Retailers voice' column about the need for more quality all-ages comics. 4) An interview with Scott Christian Sava who is part of Astonish Factory who specialize in child-friendly comix.

The comix previewed: * *Lions, Tigers & Bears* : the most promising preview of #3. A grandmother gives her young grandson a set of plushies to protect him during the night. * *Oddly Normal* : another promising preview. Potentially pleasant tales of a teen half-witch. * *Pigtale* : preview introduces us to Boston Booth, amateur private eye and the recent tech advancement that of "chip-sets that allow animals to speak" and "the emotion chip". Previews catalog says "[Boston Booth] runs into Clyde, an intelligent talking pig desperate to get away from violent wolf stepbrother, Taxx. Together, Boston & Clyde venture off into the wild to help one another overcome their fears, rescue love ones and save the city [...]". * *Nothingface* : first 4 pages of story preview seem generically violent. Pages 5 and 6 seem to have a possible fantasy element of 'templating'. "She was still alive when I came in contact with her blood. Just

barely, but alive. I can still template her." The main character apparently reads mind via touch. * *Bombaby* : not enough story for me to form an opinion. The 7th page of *Bombaby* preview is missing (*TCBDigest*



accidentally repeated a page from *Hunter Killer* preview). * *Transformers* : too much back-story for me to read. Second *Transformers* preview is only 6-pages (including cover) due to 2 pages of ads for other Dreamwave comix. * *Hunter Killer* #0, *Starkweather* #3, *Darkness* #17 : generically violent comix.

My main complaint about *TCBDigest* is the previews are usually not in stores in time for a reader to order a previewed comic before the distributor's order deadline. *TCBDigest* #3 was in stores 2004 December 8. *TCBDigest* #3 previewed: * *Oddly Normal* #1. Preview says "spring 2005" and I didn't find in catalogs 2004Aug to 2004Dec. * 2 previews were for comix with order deadlines of 2004 Nov 13 (*Pigtale* #1 and *Lions, Tigers & Bears* #1) * 2 previews were for comix with order deadlines of 2004 Oct 16 (*Starkweather* #3 and *Transformers Energon* #30) * 3 previews were for comix with order deadlines of 2004 Sep 11. (*Darkness* #17, *Nothingface* GN (graphic novel) and *Bombaby* TPB. * Orders for *Transformers Generation One* #10 were due 2004 Aug 14. * *Hunter-Killer*. (*Hunter Killer* #0 in stores 2004 Dec 1 for only 25 cents)

Comic Book Digest #1 was in stores 2004 October 20, *Comic Book Digest* #2 was in stores 2004 November 10.

For more information go to <http://www.thecomixbookdigest.com/>

footnote 1: The editor of *TCBDigest* was so excited about including the all 12 story-pages from *Hunter Killer* #0 that half of *TCBDigest* had front covers of *Hunter Killer*. I was only interested in having the *TCBDigest* #3 with cover of *Lions, Tigers & Bears* but the 3 stores I visited only had *Hunter Killer* covers left.



The Botcon Saga

By Ryan Hawe

In the dark backward and abysm of time, when the ground was soft and the air flowed like water – in 1984, that is – there was a toy company called Hasbro, which took two toylines from Japan (Diaclone and Microchange) in an agreement with Takara Co.; and crafting a story around them with the help of writers from the Marvel Comics Group, released them as the Transformers.

And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And it came to pass, in the year 1994, that there were two brothers, Jon and Karl Hartman, who founded the first convention devoted to the Transformers – the toys and the media (televsual and comics). They were later joined by Glen Hallit, which led to the formation of 3H Enterprises of Kendallville, Indiana.

And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And there were many conventions, and the fame of Botcon spread far and wide, with the help of that new medium of exchange, the Internet. Transfans, often a contentious bunch, would stop hurling insults at each other to attend this convention, together, as one. The preregistration and attendance numbers swelled, and Hasbro and Takara were soon persuaded to grant recolors of recent toys into new, exclusive characters that were available only at the conventions.

And Primus saw that it was good.

But such peace was not to remain. Botcon 2002 marked a turning point, in which it was announced that Glen Hallit had signed a license agreement with Hasbro. Among other things, he (and the newly named 3H Production Studios, Inc.) were given the license for an official Transformers fan club.

In the autumn of 2002, a meeting was held between the members of 3H. As near as can be determined, Glen Hallit gave the Hartman brothers a one-time only deal, pushing them out of any controlling interest in the new, official enterprise that running Botcon had now become. (While Karl Hartman later revealed that he had been seriously considering withdrawing from conrunning anyway; he was not happy with how it ended up going down.)

The Hartman brothers, however, retained control over the “Botcon” trade mark, so Glen ended up (although the Hartmans will still willing to allow 3H to lease the name on a yearly basis) renaming the 2003 convention the “The Official Transformers Brand Collector’s Convention.”

And many fans were not pleased, for the name was unwieldy, overly corporate, and had no easy acronym. (Eventually, people settled on “OTFCC”, pronounced “Oat” followed by an expletive.)

That being said, the two conventions under that name (2003 and 2004) were plagued with problems, many of which would sound familiar to anyone who has run a con, or read Garth Spencer’s accounts of particularly disastrous ones. Primarily, Glen’s reach often exceeded his grasp – and in other cases, even being an “official” convention runner didn’t mean that he wasn’t small potatoes when it came to production runs for exclusive toys. (The most telling example: A “Skywarp” convention exclusive had to be withdrawn because Takara Co., which physically makes the Transformers toy products, upped the production order to 6,000 units – or about 4,000 more than could reasonably be expected to sell.)

For the fans, he *cranked up* the hype, even after being shown he would do better to dial it down... and as more delays came for exclusives, the more many fans felt that he wasn’t learning from his mistakes.

Eventually, Hasbro came to agree. They have withdrawn the license for the convention as of late 2004, and even (as related in a news article republished in the previous issue of BCSFazine) launched court proceedings to ensure that the OTFCC 2004 exclusive “Sentinel Maximus” figure will be distributed to those who preordered it.

The future of Transformers conventions is currently unclear. The Hartman brothers did one last (unofficial) Botcon in the Summer of 2004

in Pasadena, but they are on the record as saying that that is the last convention they intend to run. Will anyone else step forward to sign 45 pages of licensing arrangements, and run a 2000+ attendance convention under the watchful eye of a major toy company?

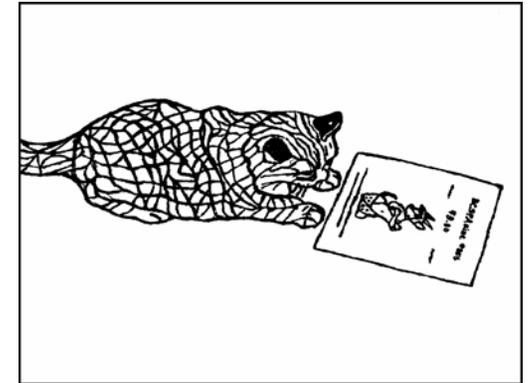
To quote noted comics author Simon Furman, “The story of the Transformers is far from fully told!”

((Editor asks simple questions: what is a convention – to the chair and to the committee? What does it take to hold one, that way? Do the committee, and the hotel venue, and the potential attendees supply what it takes?))

Dear Fan Slanders

(questions and answers by a random collection of BCSFAns)

With this issue, *BCSFazine* revives a former fannish institution, the advice column first perpetrated, I mean published in *Neology*, the 1980s clubzine from Edmonton. Read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest!



Dear Fan Slanders:

Who was that fabulous lady with Don DeBrandt at VCon, and can we get her as a Fan Guest next year??? – *Smitten*

Dear Smitten:

The fabulous lady was definitely one of the Witherspoon-Li clan, but I (sad to admit) am not sure which one. They’re not telling, except to say “which weekend was that, again? We’ll have to consult our Don-trading schedule.”

Why not throw caution and fiscal responsibility to the winds, and invite the entire family? You won’t regret it (for long)! – *F.S.*

Dear Fan Slanders:

Garth keeps saying “been there, done that, had the therapy, got the T-shirt, built the website, the server crashed.” Is this TRUE?? – *Horrified Gasper*

Dear Gasper:

No, it is *not*. He never did get the T-shirt. – *F.S.*

Dear Fan Slanders:

Why wouldn't the Leather Goddesses ever let me sleep in their bathtub? I don't snore (much), and I *always* clean the tub after myself! – *Bewildered and Woebegone*

Dear Woebegone:

Believe it or not, it was out of tender concern for your health. Ice water and chilled cider bottles usually induce hypothermia, and what ooblek does to your skin is only good for ichthyosaurs. Next time, ask to sleep on the foot of their beds. They have *always* appreciated good footwarmers. – *F.S.*

Dear Fan Slanders:

Why did Fruvous have such trouble speaking during a Trivia Contest at FRED? – *Ned Nimble*

Dear Ned:

He had just washed his tongue, and couldn't do a thing with it. We suggest that he change to a different brand of soap. – *F.S.*

Dear Fan Slanders:

I recently fell in love with my own grandmother, via time travel. We want to settle down and raise kids, but we are worried about cross-time generational mutation.

What are the potential problems? Please advise ASAP, she's looking really hot right now ... *Professor Bernie Domino, Esq.*

Dear Professor:

Problems? What problems? Any serious breeder of fine livestock would *jump* at the chance to back-cross lines and weed out undesirable traits (like developing time travel) over a longer range than the usual breeding term of the females! – *F.S.*



Media File

By "Cosmic" Ray Seredin

The latest on *Babylon 5*: It looks like the *Babylon 5* movie is going ahead. A production office has been set up in London, England. The movie also has a name: *Babylon 5: The Memory of*

Shadows. Production should get underway in late January/early February with almost all of the original cast and a few from the two spin-off series being part of the new tale.

JMS is also working on a new series for HBO, tentatively titled *Dreamscape*. The series will take place in the not-too-distant future (maybe ten to twenty years from now) and has been described as a cross

between *The Prisoner*, *The Fugitive*, and *The Twilight Zone*. To make this news even better for us locals, there is a 70% chance the series will be filmed in Vancouver. Because of the filming of the *B5* feature film, production may not get underway 'til either July or August.

Looks like *V* is going ahead. The show's original producer, Kenneth Johnson, has agreed to do a retelling of the story, with two-to-three two-hour episodes in the 2005 season taking place in the present day and two-to-three more in the 2006 season taking place 20 years in the future. Filming on the first part of the series will start in February in Los Angeles. Sorry, no word if anybody from the original series will take part.

In local news, production wrapped on season five of *Andromeda* on Sunday 5 December 2004. Before that, Laura Bertram was nice enough to drop \$20 into the kettle that I was managing for the Salvation Army in Burnaby. Thank you, Laura. As I said last month, still no word if there's going to be a season six, but the other locally-produced series, *The 4400*, has been renewed for another thirteen episodes, with production starting in early January.

Also wrapping production in December is the *Fantastic Four* movie. Most of the filming took place in the famous Fast Cat ferry building in North Vancouver, so there was not too much for the general public to see. So far no word yet on what other SF movies will be shot here in 2005.

I have some bad news and good news for fans of *Star Trek: Enterprise*. The bad news is that the ratings are down a bit from last season. The good news is that ratings with the core audience, the 25-to-48-year-old males, are up, so it looks like we may have a full season of the series. However, UPN is going to see how the show performs in reruns before making a final decision on picking up an additional nine episodes. This decision should be made just after Christmas.

Over in the UK, the BBC finally set a date for the premiere of the new *Doctor Who* series. It will air on the third Saturday in March (Saturday 19 March 2005). The BBC states the delay was caused by the company's policy of having a half-series completed before airing, mostly for quality control. Disney's airing of the new *Little House on the Prairie* series pilot had very little to do with this (in fact, the BBC would have aired that series a week earlier to accommodate an earlier broadcast of *Doctor Who*), so sorry about my rantings for the last few weeks. As for Canada, it still depends on whether we get NHL hockey back or not. However, if *Doctor Who* does air as part of CBC's *Summer Festival*, please, *please* change the *Summer Festival* opening title animation. This stuff is very poor quality National Film Board stuff that makes *The Owl Who Married the Goose* look like *The Polar Express*. Also, it has so many white people in there it looks like the KKK's Annual Off-with-the-Hoods Picnic. Come on, you made that thing back in 1968. It's 2005 now. Please update it to show the multicultural society Canada has become – and put some decent animation in there too.

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



Even Yet More Media News

(forwarded by Felicity Walker)

NINTENDO STARTING IN-HOUSE ANIMATION STUDIO FOR FEATURES

Japanese console giant Nintendo plans to create an internal animation studio focused on animated feature production, according to a report in Japanese business publication *Nikkei Journal*.

This follows on the heels of a proposal by former company president Hiroshi Yamauchi, who suggested that the firm should create an animated film based on works from the famous Ogura Hyakunin Isshu collection of classic Japanese poetry. [...]

It was unclear whether he was proposing a traditionally animated or CGI film.

The report suggests that the firm will create a title based on one of its own game franchises for theatrical release in 2006. [...]

MISSING SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS INFLATABLES NET BURGER KING REWARD

McDonald's has its Hamburglar character. Burger King seems to think it has a rash of its own thieves or "spongenappers" and is offering a reward of Burger Bucks good for a one-year's supply of original Whopper sandwiches for information leading to the safe return of missing SpongeBob SquarePants inflatables. The gigantic blow-up figures began popping up on tops of Burger King restaurants on [November] 11, 2004, and have been recently disappearing from their lofty perches. [...]

"As to the motives behind these apparent 'spongenappings,' we can only speculate. We did receive one ransom note related to an inflatable SpongeBob disappearance in Minnesota," said Russ Klein, [CMO], Burger King. [...]

"We are concerned about our missing, massive sponges and the effect their absence is having on SpongeBob fans, employees, children and parents everywhere. We hope the reward will help these AWOL SpongeBob's find their way home," Klein said.

Anyone with information leading to the safe return of a missing SpongeBob SquarePants inflatable should call (305) 378-3998 to qualify for the reward. [...]

THRU THE MOEBIUS STRIP

Thru The Moebius Strip is an intergalactic story by French comics artist Jean "Moebius" Giraud, about physicist Simon Weir, who becomes lost and trapped in a space-time portal he created. Eight years later, his son, Jac Weir, must search for him through a myriad number of planets, filled with wondrous sights and often gigantic beings. Once finding his father, Jac discovers that part of the rescue process is going to involve helping his father's giant alien friend regain his throne.

The animation is based upon more than 400 sketches by Giraud, who personally supervised the entire production from Paris. The animation budget was \$20 million. *Ferngully* scribe James Cox wrote the script directed by Glenn Chaika, who was an effects animator on *The Little Mermaid* and directed *Tom Thumb* and *Thumbelina*. [...]

Moebius was an innovator in comic art in the '70s with his magazine, *Métal Hurlant*, the precursor to the American publication, *Heavy Metal*. He has contributed designs on effects-heavy films such as *Alien*, *Tron*, *Masters Of The Universe*, *Willow*, *The Abyss* and *The Fifth Element*. [...]

COLUMBUS DIVES INTO SUB-MARINER

Universal Pictures has hired Chris Columbus to direct and produce the feature adaptation of Marvel Comics' *Sub-Mariner*. [...] The film will be based on Marvel's first superhero, Prince Namor, a rebellious half-amphibian/half-man from Atlantis, who both helps and fights humankind, especially when they pollute the ocean.

DARK HORSE ANNOUNCES NEXT STAR WARS COMIC WAVE

Dark Horse has announced its comic and graphic novel releases for March, leading into the release of the *Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge Of The Sith* on May 19, 2005. The trade paperback adaptation [...] of *Episode III* will hit stores April 2, with art by Doug Wheatley.

Also on April 2, Dark Horse will release *Star Wars: Visionaries* [...], a collection of short comic stories by the *Episode III* concept artists and designers, including Iain McCaig, Warren Fu, Derek Thompson and more. These creators have been given free rein to explore the furthest reaches of the *Star Wars* universe. This is the first time that comic stories have been written and drawn by the *Star Wars* concept artists. The 7x10 trade paperback is 136 pages.

Additionally, Dark Horse will release a four-comic miniseries featuring *Episode III*'s villain, General Grievous. The titles will be a [...] 32-page series by Chuck Dixon, Rick Leonardi, and Mark Pennington. As well, the final issue of *Star Wars: Obsession* – which will set the stage for *Episode III* – and the latest issues of *Star Wars Empire*, *Star Wars Republic* and *Star Wars Tales*, will be on sale.

NOMINATE YOUR FAV FLASH FILMS FOR THE FLASH FILM FEST

13th Flashforward and the Flash Film Festival, San Francisco, California, USA, April 6-8, 2005: Deadline: January 10, 2005

Flashforward and the Flash Film Festival are the world's first and largest gathering of Flash users. The event has more than 70 confirmed speakers, which include digital and design visionaries Matthew Carter, legendary type designer; Stefan Sagmeister, renown graphic designer; Laurence Lessig, digital rights attorney; and Ze Frank, Website humorist and developer.

Flashforward, created by lynda.com and United Digital Artists, and sponsored by Macromedia, the creator of the Flash application, is the world's premier Flash event, and has been attended by more than 20,000 Flash developers and designers. The San Francisco conference, the 13th Flash event in five years, features three jam-packed days of workshops, seminars, technology showcases, exhibitions, networking receptions and the Flash Film Festival, honoring the best Flash creations in 15 categories including animation, video, 3D, original sound and art. For more information, visit <http://www.flashforwardconference.com>.

GO WILD WITH DIGIFEST 2005

digifest 2005: digifest goes wild!

February 28, 2005

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Deadline: January 31, 2005

digifest is Canada's largest annual festival of digital art and design. In 2005, digifest goes wild! in exploring the increasingly potent intersections of digital technologies with wild (i.e. irrational or uncontrolled) forces, from the biological to the psychological to the socio-political and beyond. Key issues that may be addressed by artists and designers include organic interfaces, animals and computers, digital mysticism, disruptive technologies, digital terrorism, wild games, digital sexuality, cybernetics, worms, parasites and viruses, and chaotic information systems, products or environments with "wild" styles or aesthetics, to name but a few possibilities.

Each year 8-12 winners of the juried digifest New Voices Competition are invited to Toronto, Canada to showcase their work at one of digifest's high-profile venues. This year we will showcase the wildest new media art, design and science we can find. Work by selected presenters will also be installed or displayed.

digifest aims to encourage excellence in interactive digital media design and technology and supports the creators of new applications and content that will provide lasting economic, cultural and social benefits to Canadians. The New Voices Competition is an opportunity for emerging and mid-career designers, artists and technologists to showcase their latest innovations in digital media technologies. For additional information, visit <http://www.dx.org/digifest>.

Garth's Reviews

Okal Rel stories by Lynda Williams:

Mekan'stan, a novella of the Okal Rel universe. Fandom Press: Port Orchard, Washington, 2004.

Kath, a novella of the Okal Rel universe. Fandom Press: Port Orchard, Washington, 2004.

The Okal Rel Universe Sampler (VCon 29 edition). Edge SF & Fantasy Publishing: Calgary, 2004.



I am probably the wrong person to review Lynda Williams' work. I wanted to like these books, but their style is not quite what I can access.

Each of these chapbook/pamphlets begins with a short outline of the Okal Rel universe, a future history in which genetically-enhanced humans ("Sevolites") have been produced to serve as faster-than-light spaceship pilots; after contact with Earth is lost, the enhanced humans become a dominant social class, divided into a few very different clans, with their own languages and cultures. The result is a stratified caste society in a multiplanetary civilization

Mekan'stan begins with a rather soap-opera-style conversation between girlfriends about a two-timing boyfriend. Almost simultaneously, the boyfriend (Amel, a sort of "lost prince") falls among thieves, and his girlfriends have to join forces to rescue him. (Did I mention that the women are the stronger and more aggressive enhanced humans?)

Kath is some of the previous history of Amel, who somehow grew up in a bordello rather than a palace. The title character, another bordello staffer, accidentally becomes pregnant; the adventures of Kath and her child ensue, concluding with Amel's discovery of where his past love and their child have survived.

The sampler is just that, a series of sample passages from several Okal Rel stories, illustrating some features of characters, cultures and language.

The problems I perceive with Lynda Williams' stories range from the story background, through characterization, to the language. As to the language, I found it rather stilted, as if the writer hadn't heard many people in actual conversation. In the middle of the opening conversation

in *Mekan'stan* was an awkward digression about the "Social Transparency Index", or the degree of privacy assigned by computer surveillance to spaces and to personnel.

As to characterization, ascribing the boyfriend's degree of social activity to his "Gelack" background seemed like another redundant bit of business.

As to the background, very little about the stories requires a science-fiction background, or indeed a 20th/21st-century background. The bits of futuristic technology that did appear seemed like intrusions, unnecessary to the story. The conflict with the polyamorous boyfriend in *Mekan'stan* could as easily have been set in contemporary Vancouver. The occasional references to "Sword Law" seem like a complete anomaly, even with the explanation that projectile weapons are verboten in an artificially pressurized environment, or that Sevolithes display a lot of aggression and emotion to work off, especially after piloting an interstellar flight.

For myself, I found the anime-style cover illustrations and the occasional lapses of proofreading to be jarring. In *Mekan'stan* alone I found "palette" used both for *palate* and *pallet*, "exalted" in the place of *exulted*, "grasp" for *gasp* and "hoard" for *horde*. But these lapses appear in the Fandom Press editions of Okal Rel novellas, and are no worse than the lapses of the Vancouver *Sun* or *Province*.

I understand that *Throne Price*, co-authored by Lynda Williams and Alison Sinclair, was published by Edge Publishing in 2004, and could be nominated for the next Aurora Awards. I trust that Alison Sinclair has lent her superior writing skills to enhance a promising writer's work.

Colophon

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