

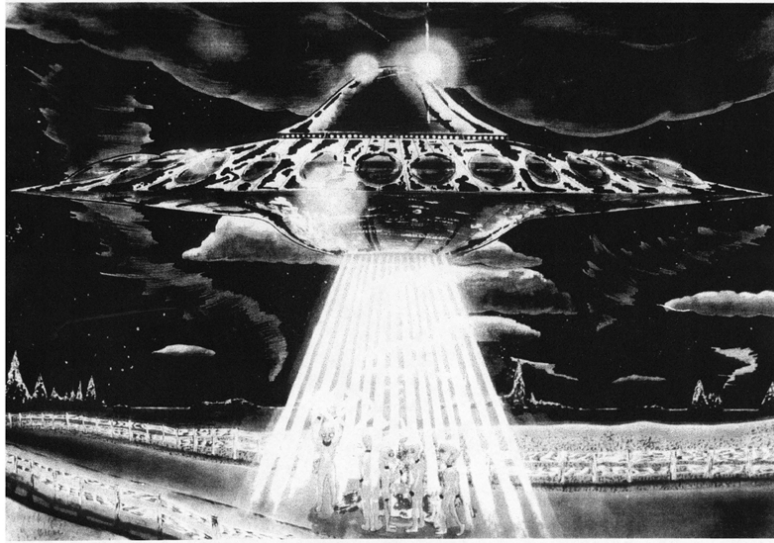
BCSFA Zine

B.C. Science Fiction Association's Monthly Newsletter

#390

\$3.00

November 2005



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MASTHEAD

BCSFAzine © November 2005, Volume 33, #11, Issue #390 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a *social* organization. An e-mail membership (including email delivery of the newsletter in PDF or TXT format) is \$15.00 per year; new memberships are \$26.00 per year; membership renewals are \$25.00 per year; a New Family membership (including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings) is \$32.00. These prices include subscription to *BCSFAzine*. Make cheques payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association). (NOTE: The *West Coast* Science Fiction Association is a separate, officially registered society.) For comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions, write to: *BCSFAzine*, c/o Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6B 5B1, or email garthspencer@shaw.ca.

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Our new URL: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/

BCSFA's events this month

- FRED tries out The Grind:** Fri. Nov. 4 at The Grind Gallery & Coffee Bar, on Main Street near King Edward Avenue
- BCSFAzine* deadline:** Fri. Nov. 11 at FRED
- Feeding Frenzy:** Sat. Nov. 12, 7 p.m. at Sammy J. Pepper's, 1517 Anderson Street, Vancouver. One of the first places you encounter in Granville Island (from the traffic-clogged Anderson St. entrance). Food is basic pub grub. Condiments shipped in from around the planet. Ambience like sports bar. Enjoy!
- Book discussion:** Thu. Nov. 17, 7 p.m., at Our Town Café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver; book for discussion will be *The Man in the High Castle*, by Philip K. Dick.
- VCon 30 post-mortem/concom party:** Nov. 19 (tentatively) at Chris Sturges' place, 4761 Southlawn, Burnaby; telephone 604-294-9851 for directions.
- BCSFAzine* production:** Fri. Nov. 25 - early distribution at FRED
- BCSFA meeting/party:** Sat. Nov. 26, 7 p.m., at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions. **The Kaffeeklatsch pull-a-topic-out-of-a-hat conversation group will be held at the same time and place as this meeting/party.**

JANE BOND AND CONAN THE BOUNTY HUNTER VERSUS THE TERRORIST WERE-VOLES



Great minds think alike. I once suggested we should have an all-clubs, all-fans meeting board for any and all fans in Vancouver. At VCon 30 I found out there is one: Fancouver is at <http://scifi.meetup.com/278/>.

A list of other local fannish resources online is now a part of the advertising flyers for FANS, the other Friday-night gathering.

Fools seldom differ. At a recent FRED, Ray Seredin wrote a suggestion, not for my Kaffeeklatsch group but for BCSFA: "What about E-membership for BCSFA. We can then have a *BCSFAzine* on the Net. for 1/3 the yearly membership cost." This sounds like something I would have said, if I didn't realize BCSFA *already* offers *BCSFAzine* in email format, and archives copies online. Maybe Ray was thinking of something different, but if so, it wasn't clear.

Some of my friends and acquaintances are starting new enterprises, even becoming entrepreneurs. Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand has started Moxy-T's, an online service imprinting your logo on T-shirts, coffee mugs, other tchotchkes. You can check out his site at www.cafepress.com/moxyts. (A line of Royal Swiss Navy memorabilia is included, at www.cafepress.com/royalswissnavy.)

Christina Carr and Martin Hunger are serious about starting up a BC Renaissance Faire, despite getting weird bullshit from local fans, SCA, even other RenFaire types. I am more than half inclined to see RenFaires as businesses, partly because Christina and Martin advertised their proposition at VCon in terms of setting up a permanent site, a RenFaire theme park, and emphasized the work opportunities a RenFaire would provide. You might call Christina at 604-319-0849, or email info@bcrenfest.com with "BCRen" in the title.

Maybe I've been insufficiently imaginative, and have to start running some kind of business myself. However, I have a history of offering what nobody

2

wants. The meagre business that the BCSFA table did at VCon 30 is just one more example.

At a suggestion of the BCSFA meeting on October 22nd, we are going to try out other venues for FRED once a month. The first tryout will be at The Grind Gallery and Coffee Bar, on Main Street near King Edward Avenue, on Friday Nov. 4th, the first Friday in November.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

BCSFAZINE # 390, 14 October 2005 (*BCSFAZINE* is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com)

Letters of Comment - Lloyd Penney: [Re.: GLBT fandom] For what it's worth, no one at the convention criticized me this year. A few people assumed I was in costume and were mildly surprised that I always dress that way, and some hoser (straight from Central Casting) coming out of the bar asked me what I was supposed to be, laughed at me, and told me to have a nice life with myself, but he wasn't part of the convention.

Randy Barnhart: I started reading Bruce Sterling's *Islands in the Net*, which is set in a post-hurricane coastal community.

For the record, Sterling does not have a mean-looking gap in his teeth, as appears to be the case in my drawing. That was an artefact of the Photoshop filter I used to smooth out my inking.

Having people fall over themselves with obsequiousness and paint me as a degenerate would be *more* reasons I would go into acting. ☺

[Re.: *Fallen Angels*] One wouldn't think Niven would parody fandom for being *right-wing*...

Lloyd&Yvonne Penney 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, <penneys@allstream.net> October 24, 2005

I'm long past the deadline, but my time has not been my own. I've been working a trade show all last week, in addition to my evening job, so locs have been out of the question. Time to catch up with a loc on *BCSFAzine* 389.

I've been on the BC RenFest website lately...I hope Christina makes her dream come true. She enjoyed the Ontario RenFaire when she was here, and Yvonne and I were among the kitcheners for Chris and Martin's 10th anniversary outdoors feast.

Randy's loc...when Space first launched, they found some fans to give them their first direction. Mark Askwith, one of the senior producers, was at one time the manager of Silver Snail Comics' flagship store in Toronto. Space does not like fans, and sees them, IMHO, as a distraction, and definitely not the audience they are looking for. Yvonne has found that space advocacy groups are seen in a similar light by aerospace companies, and space agencies such as CSA and NASA. Same fanboys, different interest.

Garth, my ISP recently picked up thousands of new Usenet areas for its subscribers to enjoy, and two of the ones I subscribed to are alt.zines and alt.ezines. I had thought that there might be some overlap there between the zines

they produce, and the zines we produce. I found out there's no overlap that I can see. There are the people *Broken Pencil* caters to, and from the back issues of *Broken Pencil* that I've read, these zine people consider us the geeks and social rejects already discussed. If a science-fiction-based zine crosses their desk, it is automatically dismissed. They even had harsh words for Dale Speirs when some of that disgusting sci-fi happened to stain the pages of his otherwise-fine *Opuntia*.

((Makes you wonder what image they're trying to live up to, or who they're trying to impress.))

Much of the feedback that I received when I floated the test balloon on a national newszine was neutral to negative. There was the feeling that I was treading on the toes of other faneds, and what would I provide that they couldn't? Made me wonder if I should drop the national newsletter idea, and go with a local newsletter that would complement *BCSFAzine*, *OSFS Statement*, MonSFFA's *Warp* and other clubzines. Still thinking about it, and should I decide to do anything, I might just wait until the New Year to launch it. Am I doing the right thing or wasting my time? The jury is still out on that one.

((No matter whether you do a local fan newsletter or a national one, the question remains who you're trying to contact, or what kinds of fandom there are in your area – which may be very different things. You and I tend to relate to fandom as fanzine fandom, through paper or online publications. That right there means that we're on a different wavelength than a whole lot of people.

((I wrote about this recently to Cathy Palmer-Lister and I'll reproduce my letter to her later in this issue.))

I would like to see more about the Montreal Worldcon bid and Anticipation, but the website has been down for some time now. I hate to think that worst, but that's what happens when the website goes away, and doesn't return. I've sent an e-mail asking for clarification.

And just for the record, Charles Rocket shot himself.

That's all for now...the list if a long one, and there's lots more zines to tackle. Take care, folks, and see you in a future issue.

BIRTHDAYS

Nov. 2: Rachel-Ann Witherspoon-Li (soon to star in her own comic book)

Nov. 4: Tom Barr

Nov. 7: Brooke Sackett

Nov. 11: Stephen Kawamoto

Nov. 12: Wendy Harris

Nov. 13: Shelley Mullock

Nov. 18: Steve Barclay

Nov. 23: Allan Ferguson

Nov. 24: Spider Robinson

Nov. 26: Amy Morgan/Hearn (sometime fanartist)

UPCOMING EVENTS

November 2005

Nov. 4–6: **St Giles November Grand Ithra** at the "College of Saint Giles" (University of Victoria, BC), an open event; autocrat, Brenethwyn O'Connell.

Nov. 4-6: **Orycon 27** at the Portland Marriott Waterfront Downtown in Portland, Oregon. GoHs: Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson; ArtGoH Paul Guinan; Special GoHs Rebecca Moesta and Anina Bennett; Editor GoH TBA. Room rates at the Marriott (1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR 97201, tel. [503] 226-7600) Fax: 1-503-221-1789; email <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage.mi?marshaCode=PDXOR>) will be US\$99/nite. Remember, this 1300+member convention is a weaponless con. Memberships \$55 at the door. Children 6-12 half-price, 5's and under free; Children must be accompanied by adults. Email orycon27@hotmail.com, see www.orycon.org or write Orycon 27, P.O. Box 5464, Portland, OR 97228-5464, U.S.A.

Nov. 24: last of eight lectures titled **Entities**, by Leonard George, offered 7 to 9 p.m. at the UBC Robson Square Campus (800 Robson), dealing with out-of-context experiences ranging from angels and demons to aliens and sasquatches. Cost \$175-\$230; information at 604-822-1462.3

Nov. 17-20: **Ambercon Northwest 2005** in Troutdale, Oregon (Roger Zelazny's worlds of Amber based Role playing convention)

Nov. 20 (11 am – 5 pm): **Vancouver Comicon** in Vancouver, BC. A comics convention at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Admission: \$3. Special Guests: Al Feldstein, editor of *Mad Magazine*; artist/writer of *Tales From the Crypt*, *Weird Science*, *Weird Fantasy*, *Vault of Fear*, *Shock Suspenstories*; Michel Gagné, creator of *Insanely Twisted Rabbits*, *Freaky Fauna: From A – Z*, *A Search For Meaning*, *Zed*; James Lloyd, penciller of Futurama Comics, *Bart Simpson's Treehouse of Horror*; Steve Rolston, creator of *One Bad Day*; artist of *Queen and Country*, *Pounded, Mek*; Kelly Everaert, creator of *Trilogy of Terror*; Robin Thompson, creator of *Champions of Hell*, *Lil' Natas*, *Zombie Jesus*; Ken Boesem, creator of *1918*, *War Story: An American Parable*; Verne Andru, creator of *Captain Canuck*, *Phantacea*, *Rock and Rule*; Robin Bougie, creator of *Cinema Sewer*; Ed Brisson, creator of *Sob Story*; editor of *You Ain't No Dancer*; Owen Plummer, creator of *Rubber Popsicle Factory*; Sarah Haxby, creator of *Pearl Girl*; *The Radar Friends*. Win *Aeon Flux* movie passes and prizes at the show, courtesy of Paramount Pictures! Dealer Tables: \$55/wall; \$50/centre. Admission: \$3.00; Kids under 14: free. For more information about this show, please call 604-322-6412 or email ls Wong@uniserve.com, or go to <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

Nov. 26: (Sat. 11-4) **Comic Book & Toy Show** at the Capitol Hill Community Centre, 361 South Howard, North Burnaby (off 5500 East Hastings); featuring

new & vintage comics, toys & collectives, manga & related items, special guests, anime & related items, action figures, gaming cards. Dealers: 6-foot tables are available for \$35.00; call 604-521-6304. Attendees: there is free parking, and a snack bar. For more information, see www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99, or email funpromo@shaw.ca.

Nov. 28: Deadline for *The Crier* (newsletter of the Kingdom of An Tir)

Dec. 2005

Dec. 2-4: **SMOFCon 23** (the original conrunner's con. This year's theme: "Expecting the Unexpected") at the Red Lion Convention Center Hotel in Portland, OR. Tel. 1-800-343-1822. Rooms \$69/night; hotel # is 800-343-1822. Memberships \$65 to November 15. Write P.O. Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703; tel. (503) 283-0802. URL: www.osfci.org/smofcon/

Dec. 3: **Baroness' Tourney** in the Barony of Lions Gate, Vancouver, BC.

January 2006

Jan. 13-15: **Rustycon 23**, Radisson Hotel Seattle Airport, Seattle, WA. SF convention. Guests: Mike Moscoe, Ruth Thompson, Clan Burnout/Carbon Based Rentals. Memberships: TBA. For more information, see www.rustycon.com

February 2006

Feb. 3-5: **WicCon** in Portland, Oregon. While this is not strictly fandom, its pagan focus is relevant to certain elements of fandom and it is also a northwest convention. See www.wiccon.org Feb. 24-26: **Potlatch 15**, the perambulating West Coast fanzine fans' convention, to be held this year at the Best Western Executive Inn, Seattle, WA.

PROGRAMMING (Blunt Jackson): "If you want to participate in the discussion end of programming, please sign up for our discussion email list: P15disc at <http://groups.yahoo.com>. Potlatch encourages program participants to talk before the convention, so that when the time comes, the topic can be explored in some depth. This year, we'd like EVERYONE to participate in brainstorming and sharing ideas, for panels, roundtables, books to talk about, and more. Write to info@potlatch-sf.org"

The Best Western Executive Inn is "located near Seattle Center, the Space Needle, and the Experience Music Project (think SF Museum!), just north of downtown on Lower Queen Anne Hill. (Best Western Executive Inn, 200 Taylor Avenue North, Seattle, Washington 98109, Phone: 206-448-9444, Fax: 206-441-7929, Toll Free Reservations: 800-351-9444, <http://www.bwexec-inn.com/>, info@bwexec-inn.com. All rooms are now non-smoking. Potlatch rates are: \$79.00/single or double occupancy; \$99.00/triple or quad plus tax. Please do not use Best Western's on-line reservation service or national "800 #" to make your hotel reservations. ... If you have questions about the hotels or need help with a travel-related problem, please email Suzanne Tompkins at hotel@potlatch-sf.org"

Membership \$45/more at the door. Our correct address is Potlatch 15, c/o S. Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165; or see <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/>.

June 2-4: **ConComCon** (the Northwest's conrunner's con; Focus for 2006: "sharing of information") The organizers from the North American SF Convention aka Cascadia Con will share s. A CD and handouts will be provided. Contact the Ccubed 13 chairman Bobbie DuFault at Chairman@cascadiacon.org or visit the Ccubed Website at www.swoc.org/ccubed/ After Sept. 25, Concomcon page should list more 2006 details

July 7-9: **TT20/Convention 26** at the DoubleTree International Plaza Hotel, Toronto, Ont. Guests include: Amber Benson, played Tara on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; Michael Shanks, plays Dr. Daniel Jackson on *Stargate SG-1* (Sunday Only). MC Larry Stewart. New additions: LEXA DOIG (*Andromeda*, *Stargate SG1* and *The 4400*) and RICHARD HATCH (*Battlestar Galactica*, both versions). TT20 once again hosts the Prix Aurora Awards for contributions to Canadian SF and fandom. Rooms are at the DoubleTree International Plaza Hotel: 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ont. You can now call the DoubleTree International Plaza to book your hotel room at: 416-244-1711 or 800-222-8733. Don't forget to mention you are booking for Toronto Trek to get the convention rate of \$129. OR you can book online and use the conference code of TNO. Visit our web page at <http://www.tcon.ca> for links and information. Rates are only guaranteed until June 5, 2006 and while rooms are still available in our room block. Pre-Registration Fee: Adult full weekend, \$60; deadline is May 26, 2006. Notes: All prices are subject to change. Enclose a Cheque or Money Order payable to: Toronto Trek OR if you wish to pay by Credit Card: (You will be billed in CDN Dollars) and Send to: TT20 P.O. Box 7097, Station A Toronto, ON M5W 1X7 Contact: Information Line: (416) 410-TCON (8266) E-MAIL: tt-info@tcon.ca WEB: <http://www.tcon.ca>

Sept. 22-24: **Rimcon Victoria**, "First Annual Science Fiction Convention". Guests: To be announced [Should be confirmed by Nov. 15/05]. To be held at the Holiday Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC, tel. (250) 382-4400. Discussion panels, Guest autographing sessions, Dealers Hall and Art Show and much more. MEMBERSHIP RATES: Adult Child* (Must be accompanied by an adult); Sep 05 to Dec 05 \$20.00 \$12.00; Jan 06 to May 06 \$25.00 \$15.00; Jun 06 to Sep 06 \$30.00 \$18.00; At Door – three days \$35.00 \$20.00; At Door – Day Passes \$20.00 \$12.00; *Children 5 years and under are free when accompanied by an Adult. "Supporting Membership" (?) \$ 9.00 (upgradeable to Attending at the rate at the time of upgrade); "Friend of RimCon" \$50.00. (Payment by Money Order payable to RimCon Victoria. All funds listed in Canadian dollars). For more information: go on-line at: www.rimconvictoria.org, or inquire by mail to: Registration, RimCon Victoria, PO Box 32108, Victoria, BC V8P 4H0.

Richard Winder sidewinder@spamcop.net, October 14, 2005
Reported by Fran Skene and by Isaac Alexander

ADVERTISEMENTS

The following advertisers offer a 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members:

MICHAEL'S BOOKS

Michael Elmer, Owner
109 Grand
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more! (Discount applies to selected
items)

BCSFazine is on sale at
WHITE DWARF BOOKS
4368 W. 10th Avenue
tel. 604-228-8223 for hours

DRAGONFLY MUSIC
106 Harrison Village Mall
196 Esplanade (Box 118)
Harrison Hot Springs, BC, V0M 1K0
Tel. 604-796-9289

WRIGLEY-CROSS BOOKS NEWS

"We have a new mailing address – listed below: Wrigley-Cross Books PMB
455 2870 NE Hogan Road, Suite E Gresham OR 97030 Phone (503) 667-0807
Toll Free (877) 694-1467 <http://www.wrigleycrossbooks.com>

"Browse our on-line inventory at
<http://dogbert.abebooks.com/servlet/BooksBrowsePL?vendorclientid=1195>"

"As of November 30, 2005 wrigcros@teleport.com will no longer exist.
Please update your address books to reflect our on-going email address of:
books@wrigleycrossbooks.com"

Debbie Cross & Paul Wrigley, Oct. 9 & 13, 2005

*Are you an anime, comic, fantasy, gaming, horror, or science fiction fan?
If so, you are invited to:*

F.A.N.S.

(Fannish Activity on the North Shore)

Get together with other fans for dinner and discussion of anime, comics,
fantasy, gaming, horror, and science fiction books, television, and movies. Play
trivia, watch videos, and generally hang out every Friday night from 7:00 p.m.
until closing at: Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th Street (facing the Civic Plaza
West of Lonsdale), North Vancouver. See <http://www.eightiesrestaurant.com> for
more details.

NEWS

MORE FAN DOINGS

A convention in Victoria has been announced, **Rimcon Victoria**, to be held
Sept. 22-24, 2006. For whatever reason, this is advertised as "First Annual
Science Fiction Convention", and has some odd complications to membership
rates.

Calling Rimcon a first annual SF con is not even accurate within the context
of Victoria; some readers will remember the abortive I-Con series held by Terry
Wyatt, or even earlier, the one-day minicons held by student fans in 1981 and
1982.

Membership rates are advertised as: "Adult Child* (Must be accompanied by
an adult); Sep 05 to Dec 05 \$20.00 \$12.00; Jan 06 to May 06 \$25.00 \$15.00; Jun
06 to Sep 06 \$30.00 \$18.00; At Door – three days \$35.00 \$20.00; At Door – Day
Passes \$20.00 \$12.00; *Children 5 years and under are free when accompanied by
an Adult." (All funds listed in Canadian dollars.) The information reported by
Fran Skene and Isaac Alexander then offers "Supporting Memberships" at \$ 9.00
and "Friend of RimCon" at \$50.00. This sort of practice is usual to large
perambulating conventions, such as Worldcons and Westercons, or special-
purpose conventions, such as Corflu, Ditto, Foolscap and Potlatch. The features of
the convention don't seem so distinctive, being advertised as "Discussion panels,
Guest autographing sessions, Dealers Hall and Art Show and much more." Well,
it's a first-time convention. Maybe the concon are still learning the norms of the
subculture.

Guests have still to be announced, but should be confirmed by Nov. 15/05.
Rimcon is to be held at the Holiday Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC, tel.
(250) 382-4400. Payment can be made by Money Order payable to RimCon
Victoria. For more information: go on-line at: www.rimconvictoria.org, or inquire
by mail to: Registration, RimCon Victoria, PO Box 32108, Victoria, BC V8P
4H0. Original post by Richard Winder sidewinder@spamcop.net, October 14,
2005

Relayed by Fran Skene and by Isaac Alexander
Editorial asides by Garth Spencer

WHO WROTE WHAT

Weird Tales buys short story series from Holly Phillips

Weird Tales is buying a short story series from Holly Phillips. The series will
begin with reprints of two "Emily Lake" stories that first appeared in *On Spec*,
but, says Holly, "there's a third one already written and a bunch more to come."

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 28, 2005

Matt Hughes makes three-book deal for Henghis Hapthorn novels

Night Shade Books has offered Matt Hughes a three-book deal for a series of
novels based on his character Henghis Hapthorn, "the Archonate's foremost
freelance discriminator."

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Nina Munteanu story now online at Another Realm

Nina Munteanu's short story "Neither Here Nor There" is currently online at *Another Realm*.

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Sandra Kasturi wins Arc poetry prize

Sandra Kasturi has won the \$1,000 top prize in the 10th annual Poem of the Year Contest, sponsored by *Arc Poetry Magazine*, with her poem "Old Men, Smoking."

Judge Mildred Tremblay said the piece "powerfully invokes strangeness," adding, "I could not resist this poem."

Sandra's entry was chosen from among more than 1,100 poems submitted by 413 entrants. The second prize of \$750 went to Irene Livingston of Vancouver, B.C., and the third prize of \$500 to [someone] in Kamloops, B.C. Honourable mentions went to Rosemary Clewes, Pamela Porter and Diane Reid.

The winning poems, as well as the honourable mentions and six poems chosen from the 50 shortlisted poems by *Arc's* editors, will be published in the Winter 2005 issue of the magazine.

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Interview with Cory Doctorow online

There's an interview with Cory Doctorow up at *DoubleFiltered*.

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Matt Hughes sells (again) to F&SF

Matt Hughes reports he has sold another Guth Bandar novelette to Gordon Van Gelder at *The Magazine of Fantasy and Science Fiction*.

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Ahmed A. Khan sells story to Dawn Sky

Ahmed A. Khan has sold his story "Synchronicity" to *Dawn Sky* for publication in January, 2006.

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

New Cory Doctorow novella being serialized on Salon

Cory Doctorow's novella *Themepunks* will be serialized on *Salon* over the next 10 weeks, with one segment running every Monday – starting today. Cory's first story published in *Salon*, "0wnz0red," received a Nebula Award nomination. "Anda's Game," his most recent, was chosen for inclusion in *Best American Short Stories 2005*.

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Leslie Brown sells to two anthologies

Leslie Brown has sold a 10,000-word story, "The Transmigration Spell," to the anthology *Beyond the Blackened Mirror: Tales of Dark Romance* (Coyote Moon Publications) and a 1,000-word story to the anthology *Thou Shalt Not* (Dark Cloud Press), called "Mr. Rutherford's Journal."

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

Richard Bartrop art on cover of Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine

Richard Bartrop is the cover artist for Issue 21 of *Andromeda Spaceways Inflight Magazine*. It should be coming out sometime in November.

SF Canada Members' News, Wednesday, September 07, 2005

FROM WHITE DWARF BOOKS' OCTOBER – DECEMBER 2005 CATALOG

(I have excluded game and media tie-ins; for this information, view www.deadwrite.com and *White Dwarf's* recent book release postings. -GS)

October 2005 New Fantasy and Science Fiction Releases

Hughes, Matthew. *Black Brillion: A Novel Of The Archonate*. Tor, 9.99 pb. [BC author]. Baro Harkless has devoted his life to the service of the Archonite Bureau of Security, a force given the task of keeping the peace among the city states of Old Earth. Baro forms an uneasy truce with Luff Imbry, a criminal of Sherit, in order to capture the greatest con-man of them all, Horselan Gebbling. Recommended.

Vonarburg, Elisabeth. *A Game of Perfection*. [Tyraael #2]. Edge, 20.95 tp [CDN ed]. In *Dreams of the Sea* we met Eilai, an ancient dreamer, and the Earth colonists who establish a new settlement on the planet Tyraael. Now we meet, through the telepathic eyes of Simon, the next generation of those who live on the planet.

MEDIA NEWS

The CBC plans to broadcast the *Doctor Who* episode "The Christmas Invasion" on Boxing Day (December 26) the day after it airs on the BBC. This will be the first episode with "The10th Doctor", David Tennant.

As I said before the CBC would be unlikely to air "The Christmas Invasion" on Christmas Day, because of Canada's large Roman Catholic community. So instead [of] seeing the Universe's favorite Time Lord, we'll be seeing *The Wizard of Oz* on the CBC for the one billionth time or the *Stelco Choir's Christmas at Joe's Place*. However, we just have to wait one day.

Also, BBC Video has set February 14th, 2006 as the release for the new *Doctor Who* series Season One box set DVD in Canada. It's unclear what stores will be selling this box set (hopefully all).

Cosmic Ray Seredin, Oct. 14, 2005

CAGE NAMES SON AFTER SUPERMAN

LOS ANGELES (Zap2it.com) – Nicolas Cage, who was once set to star in Tim Burton's doomed Superman project, hasn't let go of the Man of Steel.

The Oscar winner and his wife Alice Kim Cage became the proud new parents of Kal-el Coppola Cage on Monday morning (Oct. 3). For those scratching their heads about the latest weird celebrity baby name, Kal-el is Superman's original Kryptonian name before he was adopted by lowly Earthlings and renamed Clark Kent.

Publicist Annett Wolf says in a statement, "They are healthy and happy and it's quite lovely." ...

Forwarded by Felicity Walker <morbis@vcn.bc.ca>, 04 Oct 2005

ON CANADIAN FANDOM

The following is an off-the-top-of-my-head article, following up some topics raised by Lloyd Penney, Cathy Palmer-Lister, myself, and perhaps some other correspondents. The online conversation started because Lloyd advanced the proposition of starting a new Canadian SF fan newszine; it has been quite a few years since Canadian fans had one. Maybe this piece could stand reprinting in *Impulse*, or *Warp*, and in the *Ottawa SF Statement*, and in *Voyageur*, and in any newsletter the Fredericton club may be producing; I plan to print this article in *BCSFAzine*.

A few problems for Lloyd's initiative arose right away, one being that some fans - myself and Lloyd included - think of fan activity in terms of things to *participate* in, such as producing and trading fan publications, but the vast majority of fans mainly know of fan activity in any other terms *except* something to take an active part in. Lloyd and Cathy and I are among the several fans across Canada who try to support the Aurora Awards, which are hosted by a different Canadian convention each year (hence titled "Canvention"). Since the Auroras, other awards have been established, notably the Sunburst Awards. Many of us have also supported the Canadian Unity Fan Fund by raising funds and standing for the fan travel fund.

A lot of contemporary fans don't have a connection to that kind of fandom, or any stake in Canadian SF publishing - *and there's no compelling reason why they should*. Anime and comics and costuming and gaming are the most prominent fandoms now, followed by fan groups for specific SF and fantasy media series.

Cathy Palmer-Lister wrote most recently:

What is the right message and who is the right audience? that's a good question. MonSFFA is multi-interest, but in fact tends to be more media than anything else these days. Since Con*Cept was founded by MonSFFA, it reflects the philosophy that there is only one fandom for SF&F. In theory, people are enjoying the THEMES of SF, regardless of medium used to convey the ideas, but in practice people show up for meetings that say "*Star Wars*", or "*Stargate*", or "LOTR".

We have had an interesting panel on why people no longer read books, and the debate was so vigorous we are going to have a sequel to it in the coming year. I was talking with a friend who is president of an astronomy group I belong to, and he is worried about falling attendance even though the club has made very interesting investments in equipment and has moved to a campus in a part of Montreal that is heavily Anglophone. We know interest in astronomy is very high, so where is everyone? Long-time members are saying they don't have time anymore, they work so much overtime, they're too tired...Have we become an antisocial society? What is eating the heart out of our clubs, conventions, and other social events?

Fans have been philosophizing about this at least since Star Trek fans started outnumbering fanzine fans, usually resorting to arguments about demographics and television. It isn't a waning of interest in reading, not really. I recently

obtained a catalog of fall book releases to appear at a local specialty bookstore - a good half of them media and game tie-ins. I think a friend of mine came close to the point, observing that the generation before mine relied on a lot of participatory entertainment, parlour games and amateur musical performance and so on, while Baby Boomers and succeeding cohorts mostly experience *passive*, broadcast entertainment.

... for anyone who has been around a few years, the questions we have been grappling with in our correspondence are very interesting. What is fandom, who is a fan? Does watching *Stargate* religiously make one a fan of SF, or a fan of *Stargate*? To me the answer is obvious, but others have different perspectives.

There was allegedly a time - up to the mid-1960s, perhaps as late as the mid-1970s - when fandom appeared to be a geographically-dispersed subculture, fairly unified in its focus of interest (written SF) and points of reference (fanzines and conventions). The high motivation of fannish fans to publish their own fanzines, to read them or contribute to them, is pretty remarkable compared to the much-reduced motivation among contemporary fans. (It's also remarkable that current zine publishers repudiate any relationship to SF fanzines, but that seems to be another story.)

If fandom used to be unified, that ceased to be the case after *Star Trek* and other media series immensely expanded the fan population. The end result was a wide range of fandoms, each with their own terms of reference, in imperfect contact with each other even in the same city. They're all fans, just in different fandoms. We lump together SF, and fanzine, and comics, and media fans mostly for historical reasons. Some days I think we might just as well lump in salsa, roller-skating and hockey fans.

All the foregoing is pretty much common knowledge. To go a step further, I have heard a suggestion that people only relate to a limited number of direct acquaintances, no more than 30 or even 100; conceivably, contemporary fans satisfy their need for other fans more easily, in their own area and in a local club, than fans did twenty or thirty years ago. So it would actually make sense for them to show less motivation to participate in anything outside.

So where does that leave me and Lloyd? I think we have to accept a reality that I was slow to accept, in the mid-1980s when I edited *The Maple Leaf Rag*. There are only a few fans in any given area who relate to the more general, less local issues in fandom; who have a stake in Canadian SF, its writers and publishers, the awards and the Canvention and the Canadian Unity Fan Fund.

Everybody's in a minority here. Even within fandom.

CONCONCOM 12 FINAL REPORT

By Michael Citrak (from c-cubed & sfnorthwest listservs)

ConComCon 12 was held on June 3-5, 2005 at the Radisson Hotel in SeaTac. There were 41 paid attendees. There was much schmoozing, eating and drinking, and we even learned a thing or two.

Michael and Becky Citrak were the co-chairs, Dick O'Shea was treasurer, Bobbie DuFault was hotel liaison, Carla Moore helped with hospitality and program book, and William Sadorus was mail services. Michael arranged the program, and has developed a new appreciation for it. ("I'll NEVER do programming for any event larger than a C Cubed!" were his exact words.)

The theme of this C-Cubed was "The Technical Side of Conventions" with a second track of CascadiaCon meetings. Michael Saladi ran a game on Friday night, Jack Beslanwitch and Joel Getchman talked about VHS to DVD. James Ball and Ray Johnson from AV Pro presented classes on Lighting and Sound. Brad Nelson talked about radios and radio communication protocol. Jordan Orr demonstrated Video Projectors, Shawn Marier demonstrated his computerized DJ set-up. Don Glover co-led a panel called High Tech/Low Tech/Right Tech with Michael Citrak, who also did the fire safety chat and made the displays on a variety of subjects (including stupid tech tricks) that were up all weekend.

CascadiaCon was not the only group to have meetings at this C Cubed, although it certainly made good use of the program space. SWOC had their open meeting, and Karen Thompson discussed Dreamcon with interested attendees.

We had displays of tech stuff. Including with the displays were some pictures and documents from web sites:

How Stuff Works - <http://science.howstuffworks.com/>

Extension Cords - <http://www.ul.com/consumers/cords.html>

Extension Cord Safety -

http://www.ul.com/media/newsrel/nr_spr05_cords.html

Safer Use Of Extension Cords -

http://www.ul.com/regulators/educational/SafeUse_ExtensionCords.pdf

In Electrical Cords, Size Matters -

http://www.copper.org/copperhome/HomePlan/Szmttrs_lctrcl_crds.html

And, of course, Stupid Tech Tricks -

http://unix.rulez.org/~calver/pictures/stupid_users/

ConComCon 13 (May/June 2006) was awarded to Bobbie DuFault. It will be held east of the mountains, and will cover what was learned at CascadiaCon. Watch: <http://www.swoc.org/ccubed> for more information as it becomes available.

VCON 30 IN REVIEW

By Kalelin Kirk (kalelin@hotmail.com)

I had the splendid opportunity to attend VCon this year, thanks in great part to the generosity and kindness of one of our very own members. (My thanks, Shiny One!) And as promised, I am here to submit a brief review of the fun that was had. If you have never attended a SF Con before, I humbly suggest that you begin to plan to take a weekend off next October and join in the fun for VCon 31! What a blast!

Right from the get go it was an awesome experience. I got pulled into volunteering – quite happily, I must add – and what a great way to begin, as I was

able to meet all the major guests before anyone else, and able to assist a lot of really cool folks. I met authors Robert Sawyer (what a funny, down-to-earth guy!) and Robert Silverberg. (what an amazing intellect and courtesy this guy has!) and artist Todd Lockwood, (what sheer talent!) and comics creator Roberta Gregory (so funny!), and all sorts of other interesting guests, including some of the cast from the new BSG. Terrific stuff.

Later that evening I was plunged into a most hilarious game of science fiction Pictionary with some of the celebrities and regular fans, (one of the teams was called the Browncoats! But I was on the side of the Spanish Inquisition, which, as you doubtless are aware, nobody expects. The Browncoats, however, you'll be happy to know, won the game) and though I can't draw even stick figures well, I guess pretty great, and what a hoot it was.

Over the course of the weekend, in between volunteering, trips to the Dealer's room and Art Show, and visits to the well-supplied and ultra friendly hospitality suite, I attended panels on writing, *Harry Potter*, *Farscape*, *Battlestar Galactica*, swordfighting, comic books, SF movies, costuming, filk, the history of SF television, and of course, the terrific 'Worlds of Joss Whedon' panel, which really could have been extended by an extra hour or so! (We discussed *Firefly* and *Serenity*, of course, and *Buffy*, *Angel*, and the possibilities in Joss' new *Wonder Woman* feature coming up. BTW, I happen to know that Vancouver is one of the locations in consideration for this production!) Several of our fellow Browncoats were in attendance, and boy, was it thrilling stuff! (Serena, you did an incredible job promoting our Group! Yay!)

Our moderator (and MC at the awards show) was a brilliantly well-spoken gentleman who formerly wrote movie reviews for the *Province*, Michael Walsh. (It's a shame he doesn't still do so; he could have really written a glowing report of *Serenity*, which by all accounts he adored, and thereby offset Katherine Monk's pitiful critique. Ah well.)

By turns the panels were funny, thought-provoking, entertaining, riveting, and overall very enjoyable.

At a couple of them, I felt I was attending a really top end university seminar, as the topic was really probed and dissected and discussed, and it was utterly fascinating. And still others denigrated into some quite bawdy humour and anecdotes and jokes. I hurt myself laughing too hard.

There was something for everyone.

Best of all, however, were the people there. SF and Fantasy fans tend to come from all colours of the spectrum, and truly illustrate the concept, if I may borrow from a differing fandom, of infinite diversity in infinite combinations. I personally believe it a very good thing to have the chance to rub elbows with such a variety of really very neat people, from industry professionals (and professors) right up to the fans and folks that make it all possible to begin with.

I left the convention very tired, but feeling that not only had I been royally entertained and amused, but also educated, and on more than one level. And best of all, I left feeling inspired. I have every intention of diving back into my own creative endeavours once more (I am an amateur writer and filmmaker) as well as revisit some favourite authors and fandoms of yesteryear. Maybe even checking out some new ones!

I had run into several old friends and acquaintances, (several who were panelists, to my surprise) and made some excellent new ones on the way too. That

alone made it a very worthwhile weekend, but it was icing on the cake to the meat of the event. I definitely received my fill of SF protein and iron for the year!

So, I heartily recommend a planned excursion to you all for next year's VCon. I doubt very much you would regret the experience, and expanding one's interests, horizons, and acquaintanceship is always a worthwhile endeavour! As A&E famously states, it is time well spent. (or if you're after mere fun, as Comedy Network states, it's time well wasted! LOL!)

If I have one complaint, it was my lack of ability at splitting myself into at least 3 multiple bodies so that I could attend different panels that were scheduled at the exact same time. It was sometimes a bit tough to decide which event to go to!

VCon is a splendid way to engage in one's science fiction, fantasy, horror, comic book, anime, and everything in between passions or obsessions. And a good way to meet many of Vancouver's (and beyond) eclectic community of SF fans. And most of all, it is a tremendous way to keep our own signal flying!

I have to add here, as is only just, that *Firefly* was THE darling series of the event, and amidst much excellent competition, seemed to be regarded as the top-quality choice for good SF viewing. Now, ain't that just grand?

RAY'S VCON 30 REPORT

Friday 7 October 2005: How to Put Your Foot Down

I left home at 9:30 a.m. and arrived at the convention at 11:00 a.m. The set-up of the convention was well underway and I assisted for a little while, bringing in stuff for the Dealers' Room, Registration, and the Art Show. One of my adventures was when we ran out of bags to transport things. Clint Budd and I came up with an ingenious solution: we wrapped up a tarp, put it in a baggage cart, and hauled it to Registration.

I knew my new costume was great when Kathleen Moore-Freeman gave me an English penny for best hall costume so far at the convention.



(not Ray Seredin)



(Kathleen Moore-Freeman)

After lunch at the Foggy Dew, I went to Hospitality to see what was going on. Once again, just like last year, there was nothing. Kathleen was running between her room and the con setup room trying to make sense of what was happening. Obviously, Chang, the guy who runs Hospitality, got hit by the curse of good weather, because he works in the construction industry pouring concrete. So at 1:30 p.m. I decided to put my foot down, and I phoned the hotel and asked them to please open the Hospitality suite. Fifteen minutes later, I did it again, and within five minutes, somebody opened the room for us. A few minutes after that, Kathleen got in touch with a few other members of the concom and they began to assemble the stuff. Did I mention we had a fridge with no cord?



We scrambled between the setup room and Hospitality trying to get things done. Chris Sturges brought the coffee machine from the Dealers' Room, but we didn't have coffee or filters to put in it. At 3:00 p.m., somebody on the concomm made a run to Save-On Foods, and at ten to four, the munchies finally arrived. By 4:00 p.m., Hospitality was somewhat functional.

OK, I'm not too sure about the exact time Kathleen-Moore Freeman and I decided to do something silly, but it did happen: we decided to put a silly poster on the phone booth in the hotel's main lobby. It read: "Reserved for Clark Kent 24 Hours." At 9:00 p.m. I was surprised to hear after a lot of other convention signs were being ripped down—that another hotel guest who obviously didn't understand the joke had ripped the hide of the concierge, so the hotel staff had to rip down any unprofessionally-produced signs. However, by the end of the weekend the hotel staff had a change of heart and most of the signs stayed up.

We finished setting up Hospitality. Chang arrived by 8:00 p.m., so I made it to the panel on *Babylon 5* with Marjean Holden from *Crusade* as a very special guest. The panel told us the inside story of why *Crusade* failed.

After that panel I hung around in the dealers' room for about an hour and a half. Then I caught the end of another panel on magical cats, which actually had pictures of ordinary cats whose caregivers happened to be members of fandom.

After that I headed up to the Northwest *Babylon 5* suite on the 12th storey of the Executive Tower. We watched a pilot for a series that J. Michael Straczynski was going to executive-produce here in Vancouver. The WB passed it up, being more interested in big-breasted women. It was then that the news broke on the Clark Kent sign and I was suddenly made a legend of Northwest fandom. We watched a pilot from a few years ago for a new *Time Tunnel* series. In a strange twist, the pilot is going to be remade again.

For the rest of the evening I wandered the halls between my room, Hospitality, and the NW-B5 suite. I also then realised I forgot to pack a damn T-shirt so I walked around most of the evening wearing shorts and one of my business shirts that I picked up as part of my costume. (Hey! Mistakes happen!)

I guess I was feeling quite tired by 2:00 a.m. and went back to my room. I was lucky that I had a bed to myself that night and I got six hours' sleep. Since I didn't take my sleeping pills 'til I got back to the room, I spent a half hour watching a documentary on PBS about a Japanese battleship in World War II, before finally conking out.

Saturday 8 October 2005: So Many Things Happened on Saturday

At 8:00 a.m. I got up, showered and got dressed, and headed off to McDonald's. Afterwards I ran into Billie MacLeod in the lobby and she told me we could get a nice breakfast at the restaurant, all you can eat, for about \$10.51. I made a note to myself to do that on Sunday morning.

At 10:00 a.m. was a really interest panel on the symbolism found in *Farscape*. Having seen the series, I now attended the panel upset that Space ("The Imagination Station") is no longer showing the series. However, with me now working, I may be able to afford the DVD.

Then we had film spoilers for the next few years. There's a number of science fiction and horror films in the pipe in Hollywood. In a strange twist, most of them are no longer being filmed in California, filming instead in places like New Zealand, Eastern Europe, and here in B.C.

There was a surprise media panel at noon that had to do with a locally-produced horror film. That didn't whet my fancy so I went up to Hospitality and waited for lunch. However Chang said Hospitality was not a provider of food, so my lunch was comprised mostly of munchies.

(Editor's note: a convention hospitality suite is a provider of refreshments. Some congoers over the decades have mistaken this for a free lunch. -GS)

At 1:00 p.m. came film previews of all the new sci-fi films coming up as well as a documentary on the making of *Stargate: SG1*, *Stargate: Atlantis* and *Battlestar Galactica*.

Afterwards I made my unsuccessful attempt to sell package memberships to Norwescon. It didn't go well. I don't know why I did it, but who knows, maybe in a few months it will pay off. Note to self: most people do not plan to go to a convention 'til about two months before it happens.

At 4:00 p.m. I went to another panel with Marjean Holden. She showed many clips of her acting on both *Beastmaster* and *Crusade*; however, now that she's getting older, she's going into series producing and is planning to produce a time-travel series in New Zealand for an as-yet-unknown cable broadcast company within the next few years.

After supper at the Foggy Dew at 7:00 p.m. I found a good perch at the Bacchanal presentation and awards. Most of it was ad-libbed when somebody forgot to give the Master of Ceremonies a script or program. Then the legendary Meaty Fontana had to deal with about a gazillion technical problems in the music presentation. Hey, we are a convention; not everything runs that well.

I went back to the B5 suite where I saw a number of other B5 and *Battlestar Galactica* season two episodes, which I'm not going to tell anybody about.

At midnight I went to see *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. A few of us left after "Hot Patootie—Bless My Soul," finding the rest of the film—I hate to say this—boring.

By that time Hospitality was closing down, so after a short call into the B5 suite for a few more minutes of *Battlestar Galactica* season two, I went up to room 1807 of the Executive Tower. It was there that I found a delicious beer called Pacific Pilsner and got into conversations with local fans about everything from whether we'd have more street racing if they never tore down Langley Speedway, to ideal companions for the future adventures of Doctor Who.

I guess it was ten after five I finally staggered back to my room with two of my five roommates. After getting my hand caught temporarily in the folding couch, I crawled into my bed and tried to sleep, only to be rudely awakened a half-hour later when my two other roommates got back and wound up into my bed. (Believe me, nothing happened.)

Sunday 10 October 2005: Sleepy-Head

9:00 a.m.: I got up, showered, dressed, and went to Tivoli's (the restaurant) for breakfast. I got a meal for \$10.55 and by the time I finished it was time for the first panel.

I went to one on alternative history time travel, but about halfway through it I realised that I couldn't survive on only four hours' sleep, and slowly made it back to my room, where I fell down onto the unoccupied couch bed and slept for an undetermined period.

At about half past eleven I got up, looked at my watch, and said "Oh my god I'm missing That Trivia Thing!", quickly grabbed my camcorder, and ran downstairs. I was fortunate to still get 90 minutes of it. Really fun and as usual we had some really good panelists (most of whom do not go to FRED, because they're from out of town).

Right after that came the very funny Turkey Readings. This year Felicity Walker was joined by Amy Hearn to do the art, and the room was filled with very sensational ham actors. The highlight was a scene that involved a seagull, which got a very funny scene when Brian Dubberly went after it with a pool cue, pretending it was a 44 rifle. Yes, they have surpassed the exploding moose of 2001. (I have a sense of humour about this.)

After the Turkey Readings, the convention didn't seem to wind down as usual. There was a panel on *Battlestar Galactica*, though I missed the first half hour while I tried to find Billie MacLeod a ride out to the Tsawwassen ferry dock. The panel had quite a few of the actors on the series, as well as production people, doing Q&A. One of the highlights was going to be the blooper reel. Unfortunately, it's still the product of Universal Television and hence couldn't be shown at a convention.

After that I attended the Elron awards. Then we had the closing ceremonies, which for some strange unexplained reason had Robert J. Sawyer as the only guest to stay the length of the convention. We ad-libbed the other guests by getting members of the audience to fill in.

After that was done with, I stayed for the business meeting to find out what Clint Budd had up his sleeves for next year. Turns out he wants to bring an important member of the fantasy writing community, who shall remain nameless for now, to next year's VCON. The name is so well-known...well, let's say the days of 368-member VCONs may soon be behind us.

After getting a take-out meal at the Foggy Dew, I spent most of Sunday evening gabbing with my fellow fans in Hospitality before heading to the hot tub where I joined Brian Dubberly and a number of others.

Afterwards, I proceeded to the alternative hospitality where I had a few drinks and chatted until 3:00 a.m. That's what I like about conventions—having a place where you and your fellow fans can get together and just talk about everything that's going on in the world of fandom, the world of science fiction, and generally the world around us.

Chris Sturges gave me a big thanks for helping to bring in all the programming books, as well as the art boards, and for putting my foot down to get Hospitality open. I'm already on the list for VCON 31's concom. So as they say on TV, stay tuned. Monday 11 October 2005: Epilogue

10:00 a.m.: I was going to set the alarm for 11:00 a.m. However, for some reason, I set it for 10:00 a.m., which was a good thing. It took me a good forty-five minutes to get dressed, shower, and pack. I was able to catch the shuttle to the airport and, after waiting about ten minutes in the rain, made a bus directly back to New Westminster. And I walked back into my apartment and tried to look as mundane as possible as once again I go back to real life.

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is open to new members. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For information call Ken, 604-876-5751 email ktran@vcn.bc.ca

THE RICHMOND WRITERS GROUP

meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., at the Richmond Arts Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate. E-mail or phone Bill Marles at bmarles53@yahoo.com or (604) 277-6775, or go to <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>

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