

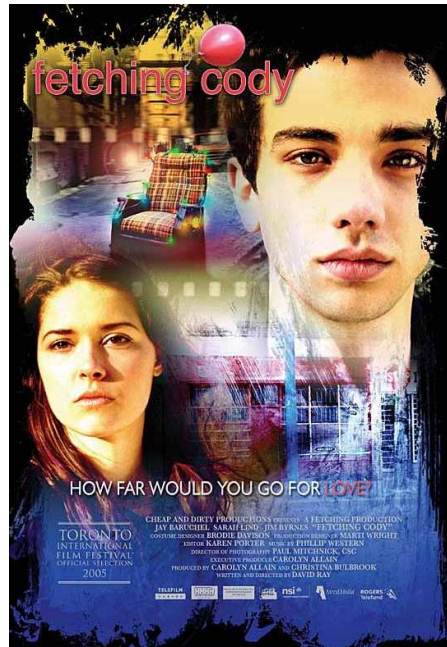
# BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#396

\$3.00

May 2006



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## Masthead / Colophon / Wobbly Bits

BCSFAzine © May 2006, Volume 34, #5, Issue #396 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. Please send membership renewals to the Treasurer at 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6. 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](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca).

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Our email list: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_scifi\\_assoc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assoc/)

### BCSFA's events this month

**Book discussion:** sometime in May at Our Town Café on Broadway near Main St.; check with Doug Finnerty, 604-526-5621 or e-mail [Darthbuddy2000@yahoo.ca](mailto:Darthbuddy2000@yahoo.ca) for date and book.

**Dundee House Filk, Take Two** Sat. May 6, 4 pm til whenever: Cindy Turner's place, near Kingsway @ Rupert in Vancouver. Contact Cindy at [shaddy\(at\)yahoo\(dot\)ca](mailto:shaddy(at)yahoo(dot)ca). NOTE: A pet-friendly home.

**BCSFAzine deadline:** Fri. May 12 at FRED

**Feeding Frenzy:** May 13 @ 7pm at Balkan House Restaurant, 7530 Edmonds Street, Burnaby

**BCSFA meeting/party:** Sat. May 20, 7 p.m., at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions.

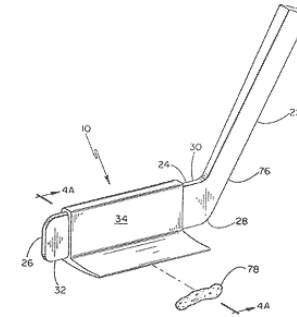
**BCSFAzine production:** Fri. May 26, early distribution at FRED

**Kaffeeklatsch:** Sat. May 27, 7 p.m. at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. BRING IDEAS. Be original.

## ALL INDUSTRIAL DOWN BOTH SIDES

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## LOCS

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BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 44.395, **Friday 14 April 2006**  
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond,  
BC, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

*Fish and Bicycles - Lloyd & Yvonne Penney:* FRED at Johnny Fox's Irish Snug did not go well. Despite promises of improvement from our friend the chef, the music was just as loud, the menu was just as limited, the bathroom was out of order, the diet cola tasted funny, and our friend the chef was not on duty that night. Barb Dryer showed up to try the new location, but then depressingly used the conversation to complain about Denny's.

*((Well, let's be fair. Barb's contract says she has to remain in character. -Oh, shit, I wasn't supposed to say that, was I ...))*

Ashton Green would still like to try having FRED at the Gecko Club downtown, maybe next month. Ryan Hawe was also reported to be scouting new possible FRED locations last night.

*Media File -* I miss coming home from high school to watch *Doctor Who* on YTV. And I miss PJ Janis Mackey.

*((And here I thought nobody in North America ever broadcast Doctor Who. Finally I begin to understand why Ray is a Doctor Who fan.))*

---

Lloyd&Yvonne Penney [penneys@allstream.net](mailto:penneys@allstream.net), 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, April 15, 2006

Thank you for your work on the Aurora eligibility lists. I think perhaps this is a job bigger than one person, and I think it's great that fans across Canada are willing to help Dennis Mullin get the job done. We have

to get the word out much better than we do, and we need to inform more of Canadian fandom sooner. Ottawa fandom wanted me to start a website with this information on it, but perhaps this is a project better suited to SF Canada and those people with which it is connected. The Sunburst is a juried award with no input from outside, so I think the Auroras are necessary for us to have a franchise in a vote. If we choose to give up that franchise, our say into who gets those pointy trophies, and let the Auroras rot, then a select few will hand out other trophies, and we will be forced to merely report on the result.

*((To explain the foregoing: I did a token amount of work for the Auroras at the last minute, and only distributed the nomination ballots online, not at local bookstores. What I did was list some writers' works, and all the fan activities eligible for Aurora Award categories this year – at least, all that I knew about. If I had better people skills or salesmanship presence, I could do promote the awards, but I'm tired of struggling with things I can't do.*

*((Neither SF Canada nor Made in Canada are in the business of covering fan activities. So who is? Anybody??))*

I would love to see another radio show like the Ether Patrol, in Toronto. [But] First of all, in Canada's largest broadcasting market, time is money, so there is no community radio station such a show could be broadcast upon. And no one else seems to be interested.

*((NO community radio in Toronto?? What the hell??))*

I am glad to see there is some club activity...we've moaned on about the various SF clubs dying. This discussion has now made it onto [the newsgroup] rasff, and people are wondering if clubs are necessary any more. [My emphasis –GS] I say they are, because while the net can get you all the SF you can eat, it cannot give you one thing...a social life of community, and I don't care what Livejournal might say about it. You know people in a club, and you know them by their real names. Just ask Hrothgar Weems.

*((Part of the point of the Hrothgar Weems stories is that you can get into a position where you can't get what you want from mundane life and fandom turns out to offer no community. It is like waiting for a BC ferry, forever.))*

Dave Vereschagin, to the best of my knowledge, lives in the east end of Toronto, totally separated from fandom ... Ah, yes, there he is in the new phone book. Yes, Middle-Earth is thrown into periodic crises, but the heroes seem to arise as foretold, the villains are vanquished, and we get to go home to our comfortable little hobbit holes. We do prefer illusions to reality, and in some ways, post-9/11, who could blame us? I hope the Bush nightmare will be over soon.

Ad Astra was a great time. We had higher attendance, only one or two constructive criticisms, rave reviews and happy, smiling people in pictures

taken, new parts of the convention (like my info desk), happy guests, at least some press coverage, and a happy committee, which is always a good thing. Yvonne and I made the decision a couple of months ago that the time was right, and we announced to the Ad Astra committee that after 25 years of being on the committee, and other committees in Toronto, Ottawa, Montreal, Buffalo and Rochester, plus a number of Worldcon World Mystery and World Fantasy committees, we had decided to retire from SF convention running. We don't have a steady income, in spite the impression you may take from my words, and one reason we're retreating from conrunning is that we need more time to make more income.

Sheryl: when you say a history of fandom, do you mean like those Harry Warner wrote when fandom was small enough to encapsulate within a hardcover book, or the kind of book Richard Lynch is working on right now? I don't think there will be anything to do with Toronto Trek's history at the convention, and I think that if they approach Yvonne to be a guest, it will be at the last minute, and I also think she'll turn them down.

*((There are a number of fanhistories online, mostly defined on a national basis – e.g. Rob Hansen's Then is a series of British fanhistories, originally published in fanzine format – and my own contributions on fanac.org are an attempt to chronicle Canadian fandom, stalled out after the 1970s chapter. Not that history matters to contemporary fans, the prevailing belief seems to be that the past is entirely in the past, over and done with, utterly divorced from the present.*

*((I would be mildly surprised if the TT20 committee is really aware of you or Yvonne, or aware of your fan activities. I wouldn't be really surprised, if the Toronto Trek committee is completely clued out about fandom outside of media.))*

I assume from the calendar that Norwescon 29 is taking place in Seattle. How many BCSFans are there, and who will write up a report? Not surprised about the fall of Rimcon, based on what you've told me. The only other near-convention activity I've been able to find in Victoria is a regular filking get-together sponsored by a music store.

*((Received one Norwescon report already. Ray said he will write a conreport, which I am prepared to run in the next issue.))*

And in other news, three feet of snow blanketed Victoria, which promptly went into stasis because it had sold its snow-clearing equipment decades earlier. The City of Toronto promptly called out the army...to clear off the quarter-inch of snow it had received the same night. Good try on the hoax issue...you'll probably need to start planning the 2007 edition next week or so.

*((Figures. Victoria historically goes through this comedy routine every seven to eight years – a snowfall brings the city to a halt, they get snow-clearing it just collects rust for several years, City Hall eventually sells the equipment, and*

equipment, then – sure enough – in less than a decade there's another snowfall. Vancouver is not so different.))

---

Julian Castle, [earthfurst@yahoo.ca](mailto:earthfurst@yahoo.ca), April 21, 2006

Is there a Canadian SF wiki? I ask because all the Canadian SF websites I've looked at today are incomplete. (Some examples of good wiki at [http://wikia.com/wiki/Wikia#Active\\_Wikia](http://wikia.com/wiki/Wikia#Active_Wikia) )

((You know, I don't think there is, and that may be the simplest, most constructive suggestion I've heard in a long time.))

I've been wanting to suggest the possibility of CUFF having an Airmiles account, but the closest thing to a CUFF Web page I can find is Garth's main CUFF page.

((That's strange, Brian Davis was going to set up a new one.))

Various stores offer me Airmiles, but I don't have an Airmiles account and so I've been imagining fans giving their Airmiles to a CUFF Airmiles account. Today I phoned Airmiles and asked about possibility of an organization having an Airmiles account and am now waiting for Airmiles to email me more info.

re "There Is No Spoon" -

#1 : I don't vote in the Auroras mainly because: A) I'm used to voting in Awards where there's no charge for voting (examples: Squiddy awards and Shuster awards) B) I rarely snail-mail anything. (Votes can apparently only be sent via snail-mail, which I assume is because of the pay-to-vote thing.)

((There's a thought. Maybe you should copy your email to Dennis Mullin, who is the volunteer who keeps up the Auroras website. Maybe this year's Convention Business Meeting should also consider publishing why they charge for voting. It might have to do with the cost of producing the awards.

((What are the Squiddies and the Shusters about, by the way?))

By the way: (a) Despite my interest in the Squiddies, I think I've only voted in them twice (in 2004 and 1992). (b) I've never voted in the Shusters nor in the Ursa Major Awards, despite my interest in both. (c) while I have a small interest in awards, it is mainly because I'm interested in specialization and variation. (example: apparently there are LGBT choir awards.)

Before I went to the Auroras website, I assumed Aurora winner were presented with a nicely printed certificate, like most of the awards I've received in the past. What does the current Aurora trophy or certificate look like? (Frank Johnson's design for 1991-95/1998-2000 ?)

((After several years the Aurora Award design was standardized to a curious thing that looks like an alien vegetable slicer; it shows different logos from different angles, like the Maple Leaf when viewed from above. I don't remember who designed it, I just think it's an accident waiting to happen.))

#2: "and the Sunburst Awards". I looked at the Sunburst website and thought the Sunburst medallion looks nifty.

#3: Garth wrote: "John Mansfield still has an inarticulate resentment he can't quite spit out." [http://fanac.org/fan\\_funds/cuff.html](http://fanac.org/fan_funds/cuff.html) , seems to indicate that John helped admin CUFF. Perhaps he got frustrated with the fan apathy that Garth complains about.

((Or perhaps he got frustrated that he wasn't even nominated for an award, the year that he chaired the Winnipeg Worldcon. – Oh, what a giveaway.

((John has tried to contribute to fandom for forty years in a number of ways; but he comes across as snide and condescending and never quite states plainly what his problem is, when he's talking about conrunning or putting down t the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. This is not only my opinion, quite a lot of Canadian fans across the country talk like this.

((Thinking about John, and my grandfather, and some of the people Heinlein wrote about, I started to think: "Does military service cause brain damage?" It was with this speculation in mind that I started the Royal Swiss Navy gag. Yes, you heard it here first: My satire on fan organizations and the military was originally inspired by John Mansfield, and the Canadian Armed Forces.

((Maybe I could have made my joke plainer.))

Another award, by the way: <http://auroraawards.com/> is for The Aurora Awards, an "Independent Film and Video Competition".

A quick rant about awards. Garth's April editorial reminded me of the latest Oscars. Apparently various Oscars voters refused to watch *Brokeback Mountain* and then proceeded to vote against that movie. I believe the Oscars (and perhaps other awards) should consider alternative voting methods. One example would be voters give a rating (0 to 100%) only to things they've read/watched/etc and then an average rating is calculated. So if only two people saw a specific movie, and one person gave it a 50% and the second person gave it a 90%, then its average rating would be 70%.

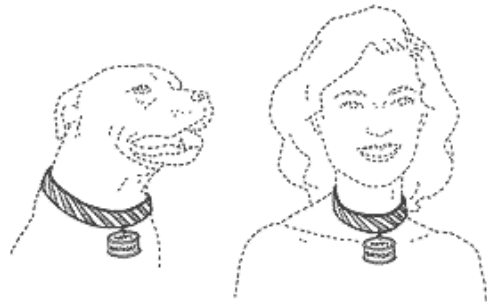
Award websites (A to Z):

<http://ursamajorawards.org/> (The Anthropomorphic Literature And Arts Awards, aka Ursa Major Awards)

<http://shusterawards.com/> (The Joe Shuster Awards)

<http://squiddies.org/> (The Squiddies)

<http://www.sunburstaward.org/> The Sunburst Award ["www" has to be in the Sunburst URL]



## NUTS IN MAY: BIRTHDAYS

**1: Ken Wong** got to be that way after a failed assault on Dr. Geronimo's Bastion of Doom, not far from the CN Tower. I do not care to reveal the embarrassing medical details.

**4: Frances Higginson** defected to the Royal Swiss Navy after downsizing in Dr. Geronimo's organization eliminated her stock options. However, her medical experience led her to her current career with the B.C. Cancer Society in the Interior.

**9: Sam Witherspoon-Li** has been monitoring various Dr. Geronimo black-market dealings since the Iran-Contra affair. However, his analyses have to be interpreted in the light of his obsession with the endangerment of Canadian bears and caribou by the Asian market for certain dried glands.

**13: Dave Wilson** retired from the Canadian Justice League after CSIS was formed; a little-known measure of the enabling legislation required all superheroes to conform to strategic arms limitation treaties, which his superpowers exceeded.

**13: Diana Balabanov**, in her secret super-hero identity as Sedna the Supererogatory, used to lobby for a high-Arctic submarine shipping route through our Northwest Passage ... before she realized the threat represented by Greenland to our marine sovereignty. And the fact that Canadian suits don't want to do that venture-capital thing.

**16: Clint Budd** has no connection with the covert Tesla-coil projects now being pursued at the industrial park near UBC, nor has he any knowledge of the money-laundering scheme involving civil servants high in the BC Liberal administration.

**18: Doug Girling** is compiling dossiers on Tesla-coil research projects at Western Washington University; no firm connection to Dr. Geronimo has been established. Yet.

**18: Sidney Trim** has been monitoring black-budget Tesla-coil experiments folded into the space program for twenty or thirty years now, at least when his computer hasn't packed up. I think he radiates an electromagnetic field with extremely unfortunate effects on unhardened civilian-grade microcircuits.

**18: Bandit** has vanished into the mists of the western United States, if not entirely from SF fandom and its conventions. I have no reason to suspect foul play. Of course, there are rumours, but ...

**19: Michael J. "Fruvous" Bertrand** is a local fan, effusive raconteur, and freelance weirdo. Despite what you may have heard, the allegations are entirely fictitious, and any further claims that he is obscure galactic royalty should be referred to his lawyer, who is also entirely fictitious.

**20: Julian Castle (aka EarthFurst)** is VERY interested in zines and comix. He volunteers for <http://www.comics.org> (a volunteer-edited database of comix info), and other organizations. He has various interests such as *Babylon 5*, seeing David Emerson resign (<http://www.emersoncampaign.ca/>), anthropomorphics and names. He is happy that Spartacus Books has returned. (<http://www.spartacusbooks.org/> and 319 West Hastings, Vancouver) He is sad the latest *Zine Yearbook* was published in 2004. (<http://www.clamormagazine.org/yearbook/>) He hopes a co-operative will publish zine guide magazines.

**21: Stuart Cooper** and his wife live somewhere in Alberta, or somewhere in BC, depending. I don't know why he wears that hat, either.

**22: Steve Ens** vanished into the misty mystic lands surrounding Victoria after he got married. Lorna Peltarri, wasn't it? What are you guys doing now?

**27: James Duff** is ... well, I don't really know what he is. Or what his superpowers are. Or what connection he has to the secret war with Dr. Geronimo. If any.

**28: Ian McIntyre** is another character whose episode on these adventures I must have missed. Is he on our side, their side, or did he just wander randomly into the crossfire while looking for a cappuccino?

**31: Joanne McBride Wilson** has been a peripatetic fixture of Toronto, Vancouver, Nanaimo, and Vancouver fandom again, and has in her time edited CANADAPA and *Jam Today*, or chaired cons in Toronto and Vancouver. As far as I know there is no truth to the mounting rumours about her intentions in chairing VCon 12, nor have we any reason to disrespect her grasp of arithmetic.

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## WEEKLY EVENTS

### Monday

Astronomy Café is an informal weekly gathering of people interested in Astronomy. Every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Bruno Quenneville, the Vice President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Victoria Centre. (<http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/AstroCafe/Default.htm>) (Greg Slade)

### Tuesday

Kamloops Anime Club (<http://www.geocities.com/kamloopsanimeclub/>) holds casual meetings on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Boston Pizza in downtown

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Street, North Vancouver. See  
<http://www.eightiesrestaurant.com>  
for more details.

Kamloops. (Note that the meeting times and locations are occasionally different, so check the schedule on the Kamloops Anime Club web site if you are planning to attend.) (Greg Slade)

### Thursdays

Ink Studs (comix radio show) from 2 pm to 3 pm on CITR (101.9 FM or <http://citr.ca/live.rm>); <http://inkstuds.livejournal.com/> (Julian Castle)

### Fridays

5pm to 6pm: Hi-Sci-Fi (science-fiction radio show) on 90.1 FM and <http://www.cjsf.ca/listen/listen.m3u> Info and archived shows at <http://www.hiscifi.com/index.php?cat=Show> (Julian Castle)

### Saturday

Kamloops Anime Club (<http://www.geocities.com/kamloopsanimeclub/>) holds its main meetings on Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. downstairs at High Octane Comics & Collectibles, 250 3rd Avenue, Kamloops. (Greg Slade)

## MONTHLY EVENTS

### Second Tuesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Okanagan Centre (<http://www.ocrasc.ca/>) meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Science Building at Okanagan College on KLO Road, Kelowna. (Note that the Vernon and Kelowna meetings are occasionally combined, so check the schedule on the RASC: Okanagan Centre web site if you are planning to attend.) (Greg Slade)

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Vancouver Centre (<http://www.pcis.com/rascvan/>) meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., downstairs in the auditorium of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver. Each meeting usually has a program which is a blend of current astronomical research and local amateur activities. The meeting is followed by an informal gathering at the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory for coffee, cookies and conversation. Visitors are welcome to attend most meetings, which are free. (Greg Slade)

### Second Wednesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Victoria Centre (<http://victoria.rasc.ca/>) meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the Elliott Lecture Theatre, Room 060, University of Victoria. (Note that the meeting times and locations are occasionally different, so check the schedule on the RASC: Victoria Centre web site if you are planning to attend.) (Greg Slade)

Last Wednesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Okanagan Centre (<http://www.ocrasc.ca/>) meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:15 p.m. at the Okanagan Science Centre, 2704 Highway 6, Vernon. (Note that the Vernon and Kelowna meetings are occasionally combined, so check the schedule on the RASC: Okanagan Centre web site if you are planning to attend.) (Greg Slade)

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Prince George Centre (<http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgasc/>) meets on the last Wednesday of the month from August to November and January to May from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Prince George Astronomical Observatory (20 km South West of Prince George near West Lake on Tedford Road.) Topics of discussion include astronomy viewing tips, constellations, star charts, photography and much more. The meetings are informal and visitors are welcome. (Greg Slade)

**REGIONAL EVENTS****May 2006**

May 5-7: **Corflu 23** at the Comfort Hotel Downtown in Toronto, ON. The original fanzine fans' convention. Memberships C\$60, US\$50, UK25. Cheques to Colin Hinz at 148 Howland Avenue, Toronto, ON CANADA M5R 3B5. Contacts: Colin Hinz, [asfi@eol.ca](mailto:asfi@eol.ca), (416) 516-8686; Catherine Crockett, [crockett@eol.ca](mailto:crockett@eol.ca), (416) 516-3571.

May 7: **Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo**, Calgary Stampede Grounds, Calgary, AB. Guests & memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.calgaryexpo.com](http://www.calgaryexpo.com).

May 10: 7:00 p.m. **the Canadian Authors Association's monthly meeting** will be held at the Alliance for the Arts Building, 938 Howe Street. James Hawkins, author of seven Inspector Bliss of Scotland Yard books, set in Europe and Canada, will read and discuss the mystery genre. Several other authors published by the Dundurn Group: Beverley Boissery, Norma Charles, kc dyer, Julie Ferguson, Gavin & Katherine Hainsworth, Margaret Hume, Theresa Kishkan and Eric Nicol, will also have books available for sale at the meeting through Blackberry Books. Information: 604-948-2654. Admission is free for members, \$5 for non-members. (Forwarded by Felicity Walker)

May 19-21: **Keycon 23**, Radisson Winnipeg Downtown, Winnipeg, MB. SF convention. Guests: Jaqueline Carey, Ruth Thompson, Barron Vangor Toth. Memberships: \$35. For more information, [www.keycon.org](http://www.keycon.org).

May 20: **Olympia Comics Festival in Olympia, WA**. Guests: Jessica Abel, Matt Madden, more TBA. See <http://www.olympiacomicsfestival.org>

May 19-21: **Flatland Fantasy Games Convention**, Hotel TBA, Regina, SK. Memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.reginagamers.com](http://www.reginagamers.com).

May 19-22: **Cangames 2006**, Rideau Curling Club, Ottawa, ON. Gaming convention. Guests: TBA. Memberships: \$30 at the door. For more information, [www.cangames.ca](http://www.cangames.ca).

May 20 & 21: **Otafest 06**, Hotel TBA, Calgary, AB. Anime convention. Guests & memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.otafest.com](http://www.otafest.com).

May 26: **Calgary Comic & Toy Expo**, McMahon Stadium, Calgary, AB. Guests: Pop Mhan, Norm Breyfogle, Ken Steacy, Cary Nord. Admission: \$5. For more information, [www.comicandtoy.com](http://www.comicandtoy.com).

May 26-29: **Miscon 20** at Ruby's Inn & Convention Center in Missoula, MT. Writer GoH: Jerry Oltion, Artist GoH: Frank Wu, Special GoH: Dragon Dronet. Reservations: 4825 N. Reserve St., Missoula, MT 59808, (406) 541-7829. Rooms \$79 single, \$89 double, with complimentary breakfast buffet. Miscon, POBox 7721, Missoula, MT 59807, (406) 251-9463, email [chair@miscon.org](mailto:chair@miscon.org), or see [www.miscon.org](http://www.miscon.org).

**June 2006**

June 2-4: **ConComCon 13** at the Cascade Mountain Inn in Cle Elum, WA. 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 stuff. A CD and handouts will be provided. For rooms, write the Cascade Mountain Inn, 906 E. 1st St., Cle Elum, WA 98922, phone (509) 674-2380, or fax (509) 674-7099. C-cubed room rate is \$55 - \$75 depending on the room - it would be good to have more room reservations made so that the hotel feels more secure since they are small and not used to professional conferences in this little town. The toll-free number for reservations is 1-888-674-3975. Preregistration: \$25 to May 31, 2006, then \$35 at the door, to ConComCon 13, c/o SWOC, POBox 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. Contact the Ccubed 13 chairman Bobbie DuFault at [Chairman@cascadiacon.org](mailto:Chairman@cascadiacon.org) or visit the Ccubed Website at [www.swoc.org/ccubed/](http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/).

June 4: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

**July 2006**

July 1-4: **Westercon 59/Conzilla** at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley in San Diego, CA. GoH: Walter Jon Williams, Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton, FanGoH: Bobbi Armbruster, TM: Kevin J Anderson. Reservations: 8757 Rio San Diego Dr., San Diego, CA 92108, (619) 692-3800, rooms \$139 quad occupancy. Memberships: \$70 to June 15, \$80 at the door. Conzilla, POBox 845, Ramona, CA 92065, email [info@conzilla.info](mailto:info@conzilla.info), or see [www.conzilla.info](http://www.conzilla.info).

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](mailto:tt-info@tcon.ca); WEB: <http://www.tcon.ca>.

July 8 & 9: **Animethon 13**, Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, AB. Anime convention. Memberships: Various levels, see website. For more information, [www.animethon.org](http://www.animethon.org).

July 31 – August 6: **Timeless Destinations** at Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. Guests include a honkin' long list of *Battlestar Galactica*, *Earth Final Conflict*, *Stargate SG-1*, *The Collector*, *Smallville*, *Poltergeist*, *Farscape*, *Lexx*, *Xena*, *Andromeda* actors. This grew out of the Gatecon that used to be held in Vancouver. The website ([www.timelessdestinations.com](http://www.timelessdestinations.com)) bears links for dealers' registration, and for hotel reservations, but I found no registration page, and no postal address anywhere; I note that the dates span a *week*, and the registration fee is quoted as \$250 "for a full convention *ticket*" (*sic*), including a T-shirt.

#### August 2006

Aug. 4-6: **Fandemonium 2006** – Idaho's Media Culture Entertainment Expo! at Nampa Civic Center, 311 E 3rd St. S, Nampa, ID 83651; tel (208) 468-5500. An annual celebration of Sci-Fi, Fantasy, Gaming, Anime, Horror & Comics Fandom. Range of memberships, from 3-Day Adult (Age 13-54): \$30.00, down to free for children 5 and under. Website: <http://www.fandemonium.org/>; Message Board: <http://www.fandemonium.org/fanforum/>. Contact Daniel (Borneo) Armstrong, Fandemonium Chairman, [borneo@fandemonium.org](mailto:borneo@fandemonium.org).

Aug. 11-13: **Con-Version 22** in Calgary, AB (Hotel & rates TBA). GoHs: David Weber, Larry Niven. Canadian GoH: R. Scott Bakker. FanGoH: John Hertz. Memberships TBA. Write to Calgary SF & Fantasy Society, P.O. Box 20098, Calgary Place RPO, Calgary, AB T2P 4J2; more information at [www.con-version.org](http://www.con-version.org).

Aug. 18-20: **Anime Evolution**, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. Anime convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see [www.animeevolution.com](http://www.animeevolution.com).

Aug 23-27: **Worldcon 64/LACon IV** at the Hilton Anaheim, Anaheim Marriott and Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. Writer GoH: Connie Willis, Artist GoH:

James Gurney, FanGoH: Howard Devore, Special Guest: Frankie Thomas. Reservations: (Hilton) 714-750-4321, (Marriott) 714-750-8000, rooms \$99 single/double. Memberships \$175 to July 1. LACon IV, c/o S.C.I.F.I. Inc., POBox 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409; email [info@laconiv.org](mailto:info@laconiv.org), or see [www.laconiv.com](http://www.laconiv.com).

August 25-27: **Penny Arcade Expo (PAX)** at Meydenbauer Convention Center, Bellevue, Washington. See: <http://www.pennyarcadeexpo.com>

August 27: **Comix & Stories** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

#### September 2006

Sept. 2-4: **Kumoricon 2006** at the Red Lion on the River, Portland, OR. Anime convention. Hotel rooms: write Red Lion on the River, 909 N. Hayden Island Dr., Portland, OR 97218, tel (503) 283-4466. Memberships \$35 to August 10. Information: Kumoricon, 960 Anderson Ln #1, Springfield, OR 97477; email [chair@kumoricon.org](mailto:chair@kumoricon.org); see [www.kumoricon.org](http://www.kumoricon.org).

Sept. 10: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

Sept. 22-24: **Foolsap VIII** at the Sheraton Bellevue Hotel in Bellevue, WA. GoH: C.J. Cherryh. A flat-paper-stuff convention, featuring artshow, dealers' room, programming, a banquet at \$26 a head. Room rates TBA, about \$85/nite; contact Bellevue Sheraton, 100 112th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004-5817; tel (425) 455-3330; fax (425) 451-2473. Memberships: \$50 to September 21, \$60 at the door to Foolsap, c/o Little Cat Z, POBox 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461, or via PayPal to [treasurer@foolscapcon.org](mailto:treasurer@foolscapcon.org); URL [www.foolscapcon.org](http://www.foolscapcon.org).

#### October 2006

Oct. 6-8: **VCon 31** at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel, Richmond, B.C. GoHs: Writer GoH Barbara Hambly; ArtGoH, Lynne Taylor Fahnestalk; FanGoH: Randy McCharles. Chair: Clint Budd. Dealers' Liaison: Greg Slade. Adult memberships: until Sept. 15, \$50; at the door, \$60. Child in Tow rates TBA; Tot in Tow, free. Daily Memberships: Friday only, \$30; Saturday, \$35; Sunday, \$25. Registrar: Howard Cherniack, #302 – 1330 Graveley Street, Vancouver, BC V5L 3A2, tel. (604) 255-0796, email [cherns@compuserve.com](mailto:cherns@compuserve.com). See also [www.v-con.ca](http://www.v-con.ca).

Oct 7: **24 Hour Comics Day**. More info at <http://www.24hourcomics.com/>

Oct. 13-15: **Anglicon 18** at the Holiday Inn Seattle Airport, Seattle, WA. GoHs: TBA. Rooms: Write Holiday Inn Seattle Airport, 17338 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188, tel (206) 248-1000. Memberships \$25 prereg, \$50 at the door. Write Anglicon 18, PO Box 75536, Seattle, WA 98175-0536; tel (206) 759-2748; email [angliconinfo@yahoo.com](mailto:angliconinfo@yahoo.com), or see [www.anglicon.com](http://www.anglicon.com).



Oct. 22: **Model, Toy and Collectables Show** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

#### November 2006

Nov. 2-5: **World Fantasy Con 2006** at the Renaissance Hotel at the Arboretum, Austin, TX. GoHs: Glen Cook and Dave Duncan, TM: Bradley Denton, Editor GoH: Glenn Lord, Artist GoHs: John Jude Palencar, Gary Gianni. Reservations: 9721 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759, (512) 343-2626. Memberships TBA??. World Fantasy, c/o FACT Inc., POBox 27277, Austin, TX 78755, email [wfcinfo@fact.org](mailto:wfcinfo@fact.org), or see [www.fact.org/wfc2006/](http://www.fact.org/wfc2006/)

Nov. 5: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

Nov. 17-19: **Orycon 28** at the Portland Marriott Waterfront, Portland, Oregon. Guests of Honor: Editor: [Ellen Datlow](#) ; Writer: [Cory Doctorow](#) Registration rates are: \$35 to July 15; \$45 to Oct. 31; \$55 thereafter and at the door. Children age 6-12 are half price. Children 5 and under are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult with a membership. To transfer a membership, send a signed letter to the convention PO box (below) with the new member's name and address. [Registration Form](#) (for download in MS Word format). Mail registration to: Orycon 28 PO Box 5464 Portland, OR 97228-5464, USA. URL: [www.orycon.org](http://www.orycon.org)

## RAY HARRYHAUSEN GO BELLINGHAM

By Blair Yochim

On Thursday, April 6/2006, I went to Bellingham to see Ray Harryhausen at Bellingham's Mount Baker Theater. Apparently Bellingham was Mr. Harryhausen's first stop of a new U.S. tour.

It was my first visit to the Theater, which is an old-style heritage theatre with balcony, with about 1500 seats. I got there early to ensure a \$10US ticket, although there were many seats available – turns out I was first in line! (Previously, unbeknownst to me, there was a special \$50US event with a small group of people, to meet Mr. Harryhausen. Also, the Theater is working towards perhaps getting Roger Corman in the future.)

Once the doors open, I immediately went directly to him with my newly acquired book "Ray Harryhausen – An Animated Life" for his signature. (I highly recommend this book for insights into his work! Mr. Harryhausen has worked on SO MANY wonderful movies, worked with

other movie making greats, and has received recognition of his mentorship!) It was a true thrill to actually meet him, a person whose work had kept me enthralled and sparked my imagination from childhood to adulthood. All I could say were words to the effect on how I was honoured to meet him. He was also signing posters and his new book *The Art of Harryhausen*, which could be purchased there. (By the way, "Village Books" of Bellingham MIGHT still have signed copies available for you collectors out there!)

He then stood in front of the thrilled audience for a few minutes with a few brief words. Unfortunately his age is showing with his slow movements and usage of a cane. But his enthusiasm was still apparent. He commented in a proud and funny way on how he had in his lifetime destroyed Washington D.C., the Golden Gate bridge, Greek architecture, and other landmarks. It would have been even better to hear him speak more and with a Q&A period, but I guess time did not permit this. (In retrospect, perhaps this time with him speaking more and interacting would be more valuable as long-term memories, than the time giving signatures!?)

Then there was a screening of his movie *Earth vs. The Flying Saucers*. The audience's reaction during the movie was almost as interesting as the movie. Due to the age of the movie (1956), the audience laughed at what are now to us corny spoken lines and funny visuals. Remember when the lead actor wore the alien's black plain helmet? (Mr. Harryhausen stated in his book he wasn't happy in retrospect with the look of the aliens.) Particularly interesting was when the National Monument and Capitol Building in Washington D.C. were destroyed by saucers in the movie. You would think such buildings were totally sacred to those U.S. citizens, but half of the audience (maybe the Democrats? :) cheered and clapped loudly!

My visit to see Ray Harryhausen was a real treat for me and I will always treasure my memento of my meeting him!

## NORWESCON 29 REPORT

By Greg Slade

I had multiple motives for going down to Norwescon. One was curiosity: VCon was the only con I'd ever been to, and I wondered how other cons did things. One was wanting to help promote VCon. Apparently, there have been years in the past when VCon wasn't represented at Norwescon, and somehow rumours got started among Washington fans that VCon had folded, with predictably negative impact on VCon's attendance from south of the border. But the clincher was the

news that Lois McMaster Bujold, my favourite living author, was to be GoH. I simply couldn't let her get this close and not make at least some effort to meet her.

Clint, the chair for VCon 31, was also planning to hit Norwescon, so we agreed to drive down together. Since the con hotel was already booked solid, and there didn't seem to be much point in hosting a VCon room party in the overflow hotel, we booked a room in a much cheaper place a block away. (SeaTac Crest Inn and Suites. Kind of grotty compared to the Doubletree, but roughly half the price, at least when booked through Hotels.ca.) Since we arrived before check-in time at the hotel, we went to the DoubleTree first to register for the con.

As we walked through the hotel to the registration area, I noticed the "Voodoo Message Board": a large bulletin board was set up with a list of all the pre-registered members, each with a tick-box by their name. The idea is that, when you arrive, you tick the box beside your name to let your friends know you've arrived, and if they want to reach you, they write a note and stick it into a box with alphabetised dividers, and stick a pin into the checkbox by your name. All in all, a user-friendly way to communicate without a mass of notes to sort through.

My name was in the list, even though my attempt to register online got stalled between the information gathering and payment steps due to some kind of Java-related incompatibility between the web site and my browser. Sure enough, when I got to registration, my info was already in the system, which no doubt saved some time in data entry. I did have time to drool over the setup, though: registration consisted of at least eight networked PCs, half of which were set up to accept credit cards, and the remainder cash-only. Once the data entry and payment were taken care of, the badges were printed up on plastic cards -- not easy to counterfeit, very professional-looking, and probably way expensive. Still, I could wish...

My one gripe is that, for some reason, whoever programmed the system chose to render the badge names in tiny little print, even smaller than the badge number, which made for a weekend of peering at other people's chests, with predictably embarrassing results in certain cases. Some people had a second line of print, in a still smaller script font, listing their status as "Pro Guest" or "Dealer" or whatever. Apparently, this problem was easier to spot than to fix, as people also had ribbon strips hanging from their badges, giving the same information. The thought occurred to me that, if the font size issue could have been fixed, the badges could have been somewhat more informative. Instead of simply "Pro Guest", the badges could have read something like "Author Guest", "Actor Guest", "Science Guest", and so on, and dealers could have had the names of their businesses on the badge. For that matter, given the number of fan tables at Norwescon, a "Fan Table: VCon" entry on my badge should have been possible.

The program book was another cause of envy. There were 18 tracks of programming, which might seem like an impossibly large workload for the programming team, until you consult the concom list, and learn that the programming team is larger than VCon's entire concom. Also in the registration packet were both a pocket program and another booklet of the same size entitled "A Guide to Norwescon", which contains general information about the con, it's history, the hotel, various policies, rules for the costume contest, and so on, which presumably changes little from year to year. I'm not entirely sure that it's a good idea to have this as a separate booklet (waiting to be lost), rather than included in the program book, but the content is great stuff, and were I running publications, I'd pretty much steal it wholesale, with the exception of converting the spelling to Canadian. :-) The registration packet also included a spiffy VCon flyer, thanks to the efforts of Michael and Susan Walsh, who went down the previous weekend to take part in the stuffing party.

While Clint and I were wondering how to find VCon's table, Jerry, the guy in charge of scheduling fan tables, came by, recognised Clint, thought "VCon", and remembered that he had offered VCon a table just before a system crash destroyed his database. He offered to squeeze us between the Northwest Tolkien Society and Foolsap in absolutely prime space right in the busiest hallway right near the registration area. Fortunately, neither of the other groups got upset about having to give up part of their assigned space, so we had the opportunity to display posters based on a spiffy graphic which Lynne Taylor Fahnestalk worked up specifically for VCon within sight of virtually everybody at the con. (I suppose it's possible that somebody could have avoided walking past the table if they were absolutely determined to do so, but it would have taken planning.) The number of people who made comments like "What? VCon's still around?" proved that it was worth going to the effort, even though we didn't sign up as many people to attend the con as I had hoped.

I hadn't realised until we arrived that the guest list also included C.J. Cherryh, another long-time rave of mine. Cherryh has also been a GoH at VCon, but that was before I started attending VCon, and I've been kicking myself for waiting so long ever since I learned that she'd been here. I've heard horror stories of popular authors being trailed around cons by hordes of adoring fans, so I wondered whether I would ever get the chance to speak to either author in person. As it happens, both Bujold and Cherryh were able to wander the halls of the hotel relatively unmolested, which makes me think that I'm not the only fan in the Northwest whose default behaviour in the presence of the people we admire is to think "Don't **\*pester\*** them!" In any case, Bujold held several impromptu book signings after her various scheduled appearances, so I managed to introduce myself and get her to sign my 18-year-old copy of *\*Falling Free\**, which I picked up for the wrong reason (the cover), but which introduced

me to her work. I also stopped Cherryh in the hall and had the chance to tell her how much I admire her work, and to praise her for being the first author I'd ever read to take realistic account of the effect of light speed on battles conducted on an interplanetary scale. Other guests, whom I recognised from VCon, and had a chance to greet, were Todd Lockwood, Robert Sawyer, and Callie Hills.

I had been told that Norwescon had much more costuming than VCon, and it's true. I saw my first Klingons, Stormtroopers, and Dendarii mercenaries at Norwescon. The stormtroopers were definitely the most popular with other fans, although the most common single costume element I saw was horns (sometimes in the absence of any other costume element.) For some reason, there were a whole bunch of pirates, and a number wearing what I can only describe as fetishwear. I'm not aware of any tie-in between those outfits and SF, fantasy, or horror, so presumably it was just a matter of people taking advantage of the opportunity to dress up in ways that they otherwise wouldn't have the opportunity to do. There were also a number of costuming-related panels. I wanted to hit one called "Can't Sew? No problem!", but since I spent most of the weekend wandering around panels and stuff, it only seemed fair to cover the table that hour so Clint could get to the one Harry Potter panel listed in the pocket program. Certainly, Saturday seemed to be the peak of costuming activity, as that was the night of the Masquerade, and the halls were filled with costumed fans. I can't help but think that it would be fun to have that kind of costumed turnout at VCon. (Now, if I could only figure out a way to get a costume together without bankrupting myself. It sure would help if I could sew...)

There were a number of panels listed in the pocket program with subject lines which made me think, at first, that they were related to writing, but when I consulted the longer descriptions in the program book, I learned that they were, in fact, aimed at Game Masters. (One example: "Building a Better Villain: So you want to make a nemesis for your players -- what works better? Do you want a Darth Vader, Professor Moriarity or Freddy Kruger? What makes a good villain? Get answers to your questions and share your favorite villains as well.") Apparently, a significant portion of the programming time at Norwescon is devoted to helping local Game Master do a better job, which seems like a pretty cool idea to me.

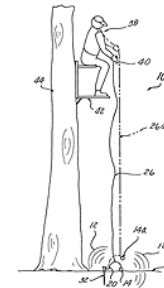
There were also a number of filking events, including panels, concerts, "bardic circles", and so on. Norwescon seems to invite a large number of filk guests (which is probably why so many filk CDs were available in the dealers' room.) One nice touch was a filk concert of songs inspired by the works of Lois McMaster Bujold, which makes me wonder how many songs have been inspired by the works of Barbara Hambly. (And, if the answer to that question is, "not enough", how many local filkers could

work up in time for the con.) I was particularly touched by a series of verses which have been written to go with the closing theme song from Firefly by a Seattle filker named Michelle Dockrey. I figured that the Vancouver Browncoats should have the opportunity to hear the resulting song, and asked her if she was planning to come to VCon. She told me that she had received her invitation (which shows that our programming people are way ahead of me), but was still thinking about it, since there's a major filk con in Ohio in October (although not the same weekend), and she wasn't sure if she could manage two cons in one month.

The art show was, predictably, huge. I noticed that Norwescon do their panels differently. Instead of mounting the pegboard horizontally on an A-frame like we do, they mount it vertically on a frame made of black PVC piping, and cut it down to about six feet high. The result is that the vertical panels can have art mounted on both sides (as long as you use different holes in the pegboard), and they have panels jutting out every four feet, making a series of little alcoves to show the art. The advantage is that a lot of art can be shown in a given space, although I suppose this system limits the maximum size of the pieces to no more than four feet wide.

The dealers' room was similarly huge, and seemed to consist largely of costumers and jewellers, although there were two T-shirt dealers, two dealers selling filk CDs, and a few booksellers squeezed in there. I didn't see anybody selling things like trading cards, NASA mission patches, or spaceship model kits, which makes me wonder if it's worth it trying to line up dealers like that for VCon. (The question is, were those dealers not at Norwescon because there was no room left after all the costumers signed up, or is the market for that kind of stuff so small that it's not worth it for dealers who sell it to come out to any con?) I talked to a couple of dealers about the difficulties of clearing stuff through Customs, and those conversations left me thinking that I need to talk to the Canadian Border Services Agency directly and get the real story on the required procedure, because the Web pages are kind of confusing.

*((Garth Spencer has more opinions about some of the conrunning issues Greg mentions than you really want to hear. -GS))*



## NEWS, OLDS, AND IN-BETWEENS

AS OTHERS SEE US

Felicity Walker forwarded the following at April 19, 2006:

"At <http://www.tekjansen.com/> Stephen Colbert (of *The Daily Show*, *The Colbert Report*, and *Harvey Birdman: Attorney at Law*) has sample chapters of his techno-thriller, *Alpha Squad 7: Lady Nocturne: A Tek Jansen Adventure*. Here's the first page:

*"It was a dark and stormy galaxy. Some called it the Milky Way but for others the way was as clear as sterling crystal-crystals. Prophets called these with truest vision "heroes," and that they most certainly were, but not heroes in the traditional sense, that of being a normal, healthy, God-fearing and authority-respecting galactic American; but in the real sense, that of being an actual hero, one that does heroic things, even with reckless disregard for his own safety, if not especially so.*

*"The world welcomed me as it always had, this world I call my own, this earthy New Terra. Not quite like it had ever done before or as was soonly about to, but the sun glinting off the atmosphere's ionized cesium at high noon made for a glorious sight and one I'd never hesitate to fully embrace with every last interquark of my personabeing.*

*"I deactivated my solivisor as I stepped through the autoslide doors of the Planetary Government and Social Protection Programs cumulonimboscrafer's majestic lobby. It was a humble, modestly spectacular place, with the newly installed transparent fluxiglass lenses giving me a clear view of the foyer's central feature--a hologram of the New Geneva cityscape that couldn't help but call attention. It was the sort of sight that could bring tears to your eyes, and even more now that the municipal cookie-scent program was replaced with the rich stench of eye-watering onion.*

*"I wryly thought to myself, to the fact that the PGSP building was by far the tallest in the city, it could only be the result of the demolition order that was the first law passed when the new New Terran government, the Planetary Parliament, was formed. The merger of the European Regency Council and the East-West Oversight Alliance had made it more real than gravity, even though on its highest floors that very force was notably diminished. The merger was a mess but much of their work spoke otherwise.*

*"I didn't understand the point of it, this confusing New Terran government, though I never hesitated to support it.*

*"New Terra was working fine when it was run by the three separate governments: The European Regency Council (which*

*controlled all of New Europe, which consisted of 22nd Century Europe plus the former New Democratic Soviet Union), the Mediterranean countries, and India; the East-West Oversight Alliance, created when the governments of Americana (which in the 23rd century was known as North America, Central America, and South America) and the Asian Protectorate (the 20th century Asia and the good parts of Africa) were united by the charismatic Vizier Thurmond Chang; and the Southern Colony, which ruled Australia, Southern Africa, and Antarctica until they were destroyed by the Planetary Parliament shortly after their merger in 2412."*

"The preceding paragraph may feel as unreadable as it is nonsensically confusing, and indeed that's a common perception held by worm-hole time readers from centuries bygone, but in modern New Terran English, it makes nothing but absolutely perfect sense."

### BIFF: IN SEARCH OF CHADS

"Apparently, the "Ed Wood Memorial Film Festival" has scared off all but the hardiest souls ... Therefore, even though I've been itching for a chance to show *The Angry Red Planet*, or *It Came From Outer Space*, or *Starship Invasions* (which Michael Walsh assures me is even worse than H.G. Wells' *The Shape of Things to Come*), it looks like the "Ed Wood" thing scares people away, so we'll just have to park that programming track. ... In fact, I'd like to move the programming away from videos and more to conversation, so please think about whom you might invite as a guest at BIFF, or what you might bring along for "show and tell."

"Also, a while ago, I attended a meeting of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre. It was very interesting, as the speaker was Dr. Paul Hickson, from UBC, who discussed an idea for a variation on his leading-edge work building large spinning liquid mirror telescopes: building a 20-metre liquid mirror telescope on the Moon. I highly recommend it to space buffs like me. However, I found myself in the unusual position of being on the outside of an obviously close-knit group, and afraid to make the first step in establishing contact, much as people have talked about coming to the 80s on BIFF nights, and being afraid to approach the group. I can't help but wonder if there are ways to make BIFF more obviously welcoming to newcomers.

"Fortunately, you guys are way ahead of me: Dale [McGladdery] has suggested an "introduction game." Each person says their name and some point that's thematic for the night. Therefore, starting this week, I'd like to institute "the question of the week": we'll do a quick round of the group, asking each person to say their name, and answer one question related to

that night's theme, and hopefully, this will help to serve as an icebreaker, and encourage newcomers to join in.

"Also, Serena has suggested that we make a practice of leaving one seat open at each table until 8:00, so newcomers don't have to set at tables by themselves. I think that's a good idea, and I'd also like to suggest that people consider sitting at a different table (or at least a different chair) each week, because it's very easy to get into a habit of sitting in the same place and talking to the same people, which makes it that much harder for newcomers to feel welcome.

"I was distributing BIFF flyers this week, and have thus added a couple of new fan-friendly merchants to the merchants page on the web site, which, in case you missed the news last week, has moved to:

<http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/>

"EB Games, in the Park & Tilford Shopping Centre, and Mr. Hobby, at 820 Marine Drive (across the street and down the block from Capilano Mall) are both now making BIFF flyers available. (Mr. Hobby also has some cool solar powered models of the racers in the Solar Challenge race: very on-topic for this year's "Green Science" track at VCon.)

"And finally, a reminder that Val is in charge of the BIFF table in the Dealers' Room at VCon. Those of you who have used books, videos, or pretty much anything fannish to sell, talk to Val about it. Also, we will need volunteers to staff the table, so everybody gets a chance to enjoy the con, and no one person is stuck at the table all weekend. ...

"On Friday, May 5th, "Post-Paying the Rent Laughs" continues with *Red Dwarf* "Balance of Power" and *Back to the Future*, the time-travel comedy which won the 1985 Hugo Award for "Best Dramatic Presentation." The question of the week is: "If you could travel back in time and change one thing, what would it be?"

"On Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, BIFF's first gaming night was such a success that we just can't resist the temptation to try it again. This time, due to time constraints, we'll focus on card and board games, rather than role-playing games, so bring out your copies of the Lord of the Rings edition of Trivial Pursuit, Risk: 2210 A.D., or whatever other fannish pastimes are hiding in your closet. The question of the week is: "Whose turn is it?"

"On Friday, June 9th, in order to help you prepare for the costume contest at VCon, BIFF inaugurates a series of seminars on costuming. This week, I have asked Laurie Sluchinski of Carol's Costume Corner to come out and give a talk on remedial costuming for people like me, who can't sew a stitch. Those of you who can sew, and have already created your own costumes, are encouraged to come out in costume, in order to give Carol lots of examples to refer to for her talk. The question of the week is: "What's your dream costume?"

"On Friday, October 6th, BIFF will not be meeting at the usual location, but instead, we'll be heading to the wilds of Richmond for VCon

31, Vancouver's annual science fiction, fantasy, and gaming convention, at the Executive Airport Plaza, 7311 Westminster Highway. Depending on how the schedule for VCon shapes up, we may want to have dinner together in the hotel restaurant on the Friday night, but in any case, Val is heading up plans to have a BIFF table in the Dealers' Room, and is looking for both stock and volunteers to make the table a success. The question of the week is: "Where's the Commander's Log panel?"

"BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens every Friday from 6:30 p.m. until closing at the Eighties Restaurant ([www.eightiesrestaurant.com](http://www.eightiesrestaurant.com)), 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver. To keep in touch with any changes, please check the BIFF web site at: <http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/>"

Greg Slade, 29 Mar 2006

#### THE FRANCHISE THAT WOULD NOT DIE

LOS ANGELES, California (Reuters) – "More than three years after the last *Star Trek* movie crashed at the box office, the venerable sci-fi franchise is being revived by the director of the upcoming *Mission: Impossible* sequel, *Daily Variety* reported in its Friday edition.

"The as-yet-untitled *Star Trek* feature, the 11th since 1979, is aiming for a fall 2008 release through Paramount Pictures, the Viacom Inc. unit looking to restore its box-office luster under new management, the trade paper said.

"The project will be directed by J.J. Abrams, whose Tom Cruise vehicle *Mission: Impossible III* will be released by Paramount on May 5. Abrams, famed for producing the TV shows *Alias* and *Lost*, will also help write and produce.

"*Daily Variety* said the action would center on the early days of *Star Trek* characters James T. Kirk and Mr. Spock, including their first meeting at Starfleet Academy and first outer-space mission.

..."

Source:

<http://www.cnn.com/2006/SHOWBIZ/Movies/04/21/leisure.startrek.reut/index.html>

Forwarded by "Seska Lien" to SFNorthwest email group, April 21, 2006

#### BUT

*Mission: Impossible III* director J.J. Abrams is hitting back at unauthorized reports he is directing the next *Star Trek* movie. The *Alias* creator is furious the news was released prematurely and is also upset that key details regarding the storyline were incorrectly reported. He explains to *Empire* online, "The whole thing was reported entirely without our

cooperation. People learned that I was producing a *Star Trek* film, that I had an option to direct it, they hear rumors of what the thing was going to be and ran with a story that is not entirely accurate." Last week, [the] Hollywood trade paper *Variety* reported Abrams was on board and that the film would center on the early days of Captain James T. Kirk and Spock and that Philip Seymour Hoffman was in talks to play the ship's doctor. Abrams won't reveal the true storyline, but hints that it won't feature characters Captain James T. Kirk or Mr. Spock at all, but doesn't rule out bringing some of the original characters back for the new film, adding, "Those characters are so spectacular. I just think that...you know, they could live again."

<http://news.google.ca/news?hl=en&ned=ca&q=abrams+star+trek&btnG=Search+News>

forwarded by Felicity Walker to BCSFA, April, 27, 2006



#### FRED SEARCH CONTINUES

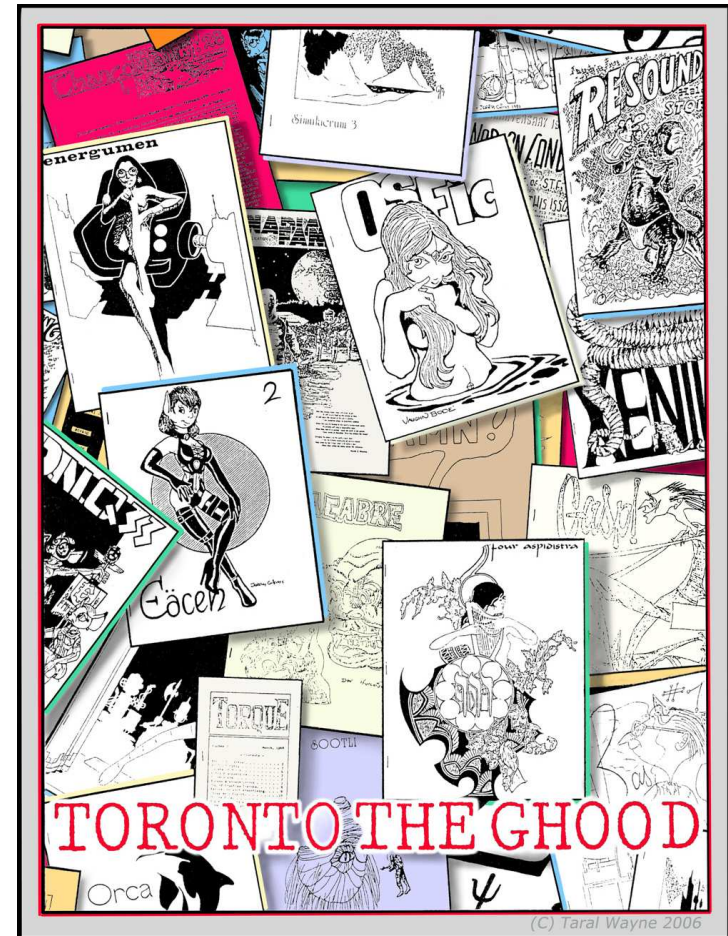
Ryan Hawe has been continuing his search for a new venue for BCSFA's long-running Friday pub gathering. Discussion has continued about the schizoid nature of Vancouver pubs and bars, i.e., what looks like a good place for nerds and freaks to gather and talk – on any other night of the week – turns into a noisy sports bar on Friday night.

#### GETTING REAL

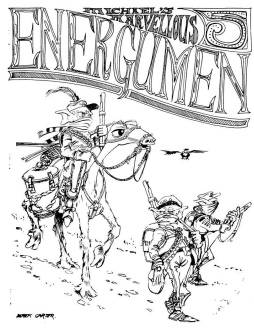
Michael J. Bertrand wrote to [BCSFA@yahoogroups.com](mailto:BCSFA@yahoogroups.com):

"I've started a political column on a great site called Newsvine. <http://thehardmiddle.newsvine.com/>. Give my first column a look. if it makes you happy, or makes you think, or makes you mad, please click the little "thumbs up" icon to bump it up the list, and/or leave a comment."

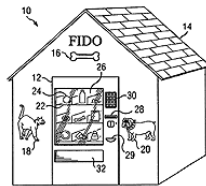
NOW AVAILABLE AT EFANZINES.COM:



Taral Wayne of Toronto has recently produced *Toronto the Ghod*, an anthology of Toronto fanwriting spanning several decades, in CD-ROM format, for the upcoming Corflu in Toronto. One of my favourite pieces is a fannish exchange, constructed of quotations from several leading lights of Toronto fandom past – from widely- varying eras – which amounts to a witty, surreal conversation at a fannish gathering.



Taral has also posted to efanazines.com more back issues of *Energumen*, the Hugo-award-winning Toronto genzine (most recently the pictured issues #5 and #6). This is the fanzine that made Mike Glicksohn and Susan Wood famous. This is one of the exemplars of fanwriting and fanzine production. This is what I'm talking about. Download and read, download and read.



## WRITER/BOOK NEWS

### AMAZING GOES AWAY

*Amazing Stories* magazine, launched in 1926 by Hugo Gernsback, has at last been officially cancelled by its current owner Paizo Publishing after 14 months of 'hiatus'.

*Ansible* 225, April 2005

### SOME OF THIS YEAR'S CAN SF

How many of the following writers and SF/F/H markets have you not heard of before? (I have deliberately collected and pasted in the following information from the Lonely Cry and SF Canada websites.)

### Several SF Canada members on the Locus 2005 Recommended Reading list

Works by several SF Canada members are included in *Locus* Magazine's Recommended Reading list for 2005, including *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* by Cory Doctorow (Tor), under fantasy

novels; *The Gist Hunter and Other Stories* by Matthew Hughes (*Night Shade*) and *In the Palace of Repose* by Holly Phillips (*Prime*) under collections; "Human Readable" by Cory Doctorow (*Future Washington*) under novellas; "The Spear Carrier" by A.M. Dellamonica (*Sci Fiction* 3/09/05) and "The Gist Hunter" (*F&SF* 6/05), "Help Wanted" (*F&SF* 10-11/05) and "Inner Huff" (*F&SF* 2/05), all by Matthew Hughes, under novelettes, and "By the Light of Tomorrow's Sun" by Holly Phillips (*In the Palace of Repose*) and "Mayfly" by Peter Watts and Derryl Murphy (*Tesseract* 9) under short stories. In addition, *Tesseract* 9: *New Canadian Speculative Fiction*, edited by Nalo Hopkinson and Geoff Ryman (Edge), which contains a number of stories by SF Canada members, made the list under anthologies.

### 2006 HUGO NOMINATIONS (bold = Canadian alert)

NOVEL (430 ballots cast) Ken MacLeod, *Learning the World*; George R.R. Martin, *A Feast for Crows*; John Scalzi, *Old Man's War*; Charles Stross, *Accelerando*; **Robert Charles Wilson**, *Spin*.

NOVELLA (243) James Patrick Kelly, *Burn*; Kelly Link, 'Magic for Beginners', (*F&SF* 9/05); Ian McDonald, 'The Little Goddess', (*Asimov's* 6/05); **Robert J. Sawyer**, 'Identity Theft' (*Down These Dark Spaceways*); Connie Willis, 'Inside Job' (*Asimov's* 1/05).

NOVELETTE (207) Paolo Bacigalupi, 'The Calorie Man', (*F&SF* 10/05); Peter S. Beagle, 'Two Hearts' (*F&SF* 10/05); Michael A. Burstein, 'TelePresence', (*Analog* 7/05); **Cory Doctorow**, 'I, Robot' (*The Infinite Matrix* 2/05) Howard Waldrop, 'The King of Where-I-Go' (*SCI FICTION* 12/05).

SHORT (278) Michael A. Burstein, 'Seventy-Five Years', (*Analog* 1/05); Dominic Green, 'The Clockwork Atom Bomb' (*Interzone* 5/05); Margo Lanagan, 'Singing My Sister Down' (*Black Juice*); David D. Levine, 'Tk'tk'tk', (*Asimov's* 3/05); Mike Resnick, 'Down Memory Lane' (*Asimov's* 4/05).

RELATED BOOK (197) Mike Ashley, *Transformations: The Story of the Science Fiction Magazines from 1950 to 1970*; David Langford, *The SEX Column and Other Misprints*; Gary Westfahl, ed, *Science Fiction Quotations*; Kate Wilhelm, *Storyteller: Writing Lessons and More from 27 Years of the Clarion Writers' Workshop*; Gary K. Wolfe, *Soundings: Reviews 1992-1996*.

DRAMATIC, LONG (364) *Batman Begins*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*; *Serenity*; *The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*.

DRAMATIC, SHORT (261) *Battlestar Galactica* 'Pegasus'; *Doctor Who* 'Dalek'; *Doctor Who* 'The Empty Child' & 'The Doctor Dances'; *Doctor Who* 'Father's Day'; *Jack-Jack Attack*; *Lucas Back in Anger*; *Prix Victor Hugo Awards Ceremony* opening speech and framing sequences. (7 nominees owing to a tie for fifth place. The last two were live performances at Interaction.)

PRO EDITOR (293) Ellen Datlow; David G. Hartwell; Stanley Schmidt; Gordon Van Gelder; Sheila Williams.

PRO ARTIST (230) Jim Burns, Bob Eggleton, Donato Giancola, Stephan Martiniere, John Picacio, Michael Whelan. (6 nominees owing to a tie for fifth place.)

SEMI-PROZINE (219) *Ansible*, *Emerald City*, *Interzone*, *Locus*, *The New York Review of SF*.

FANZINE (176) *Banana Wings*, *Challenger*, *Chunga*, *File 770*, *Plokta*.

FAN WRITER (202) Claire Brialey, John Hertz, Dave Langford, Cheryl Morgan, Steven H Silver.

FAN ARTIST (154) Brad Foster, Teddy Harvia, Sue Mason, Steve Stiles, Frank Wu.

CAMPBELL AWARD (not a Hugo) (186) K.J. Bishop, Sarah Monette, Chris Roberson, Brandon Sanderson, John Scalzi, Steph Swainston. (6 nominees owing to a tie for fifth place.)

533 valid nomination ballots were cast, 434 online, 99 by post or fax.

This year's special innovation, the Hugo for Best Interactive Video Game, innovatively attracted too little interest and was thus innovatively dropped.

The traditional magazine/anthology slant in Pro Editor continues: Patrick Nielsen Hayden acquired three of the five novel finalists for Tor and edited two, but still didn't make this shortlist.

*Ansible* 225, April 2006

MARGARET ATWOOD admitted her guilty pleasures in an *Independent* interview: 'Q: Do you have any secret cultural passion? A: I have no secrets. I freely confess to all of my bad habits. (Country & Western of older days; noir crime novels; Sci fi; knitting stuffed rabbits.)' [KM]

*Ansible* 225, April 2006

#### ***New M. D. Benoit novel out***

The second novel in M. D. Benoit's Jack Meter Case Files, *Meter Made*, is now out from Zumaya Publications.

from SF Canada at Friday, January 13, 2006

#### ***Mary Choo poem nominated for Rhysling Award***

Mary Choo's poem "Keepers (from Grannie's Garden)," that came out in *ChiZine* #24 (April-June 2005), has been nominated for the Science Fiction Poetry Association's Rhysling Award.

from SF Canada at Friday, February 24, 2006

*Dream Tribes*, a speculative poetry chapbook by Mary Choo, was on the preliminary ballot (poetry) of the Bram Stoker Awards. It has had

excellent reviews by David Kopaska-Merkel in *Star\*Line*, and by C.J.L. Comeau in the Internet publication *Creature Feature Tomb of Horror*. Mary's horror short story "The Ragged Man" appeared in the January 2005 issue of the online magazine SDO Fantasy and she has sold a poem, also called "The Ragged Man," to the twenty-year anniversary issue of *Dreams and Nightmares*. Her poem "Christina" (*ChiZine* Oct. – Dec. 2004) received an honourable mention in *The Year's Best Fantasy and Horror for 2004*. Another poem, "Keepers," (*ChiZine* April-June 2005) garnered two excellent reviews in the online publication *Multiverse Speculative Poetry Reviews*.

(Lonely Cry news)

#### ***Janine Cross novel makes Library Journal list of best 2005 genre fiction***

Janine Cross's novel *Touched by Venom* (Roc), the first book (of three) in the Dragon Temple Saga, has been named to Library Journal's list of the best genre fiction of 2005. Says LJ:

An independent-minded young woman in a male-dominated society angers the Dragon Temple's dragonmasters, bringing disaster on her family and clan and setting the girl on an odyssey that will change her world. The jungle setting and tribal civilizations of this exciting debut novel vividly evoke the rain forests of Africa and South America.

Others on the list are Terry Bisson's *Numbers Don't Lie* (Tachyon), *Sunstorm* (Del Rey) by Arthur C. Clarke and Stephen Baxter, Andrew Eschbach's *The Carpet Makers* (Tor), and *The Necessary Beggar* (Tor) by Susan Palwick.

from SF Canada at Tuesday, January 24, 2006

#### ***Cory Doctorow story makes BSFA Awards short list***

Cory Doctorow's short story "I, Robot," published in *Infinite Matrix*, has made the short list for this year's British Science Fiction Association (BSFA) awards for short fiction, presented annually by the BSFA based on a vote of its members and members of the British national science fiction convention, Eastercon. The awards will be presented on April 15 at the 2006 Eastercon, Concussion, in Glasgow.

Other short-listed stories in the short fiction category are "Bears Discover Smut" by Michael Bishop (*SciFiction*), "Bird Songs at Eventide" by Nina Allan (*Interzone*), "Guadalupe and Hieronymus Bosch" by Rudy Rucker (*Interzone*), "Imagine" by Edward Morries (*Interzone*), "Magic for Beginners" by Kelly Link (*Magic For Beginners* and *F&SF*), "Soft Apocalypse" by Will McIntosh (*Interzone*) and "Two Dreams on Trains" by Elizabeth Bear (*Strange Horizons*).

There's a full article on the BSFA awards shortlists on the SFWA site.

from SF Canada at Monday, January 23, 2006



**Cory Doctorow novelette nominated for Hugo Award**

Cory Doctorow's novelette "I, Robot" (*The Infinite Matrix*, February 15, 2005) has also been nominated for the Best Novelette Hugo Award. Other nominees are "The Calorie Man" by Paolo Bacigalupi (*F&SF*, October/November 2005), "Two Hearts" by Peter S. Beagle (*F&SF*, October/November 2005), "TelePresence" by Michael A. Burstein (*Analog*, July/August 2005), and "The King of Where-I-Go" by Howard Waldrop (*SCI FICTION*, December 7, 2005).

The Hugo Awards, the premiere award in the science fiction field, are nominated for and voted on by members of the World Science Fiction Convention (WorldCon). This year's Hugo Awards will be presented at L.A.con IV, the 64th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held August 23 to 27 in Anaheim, California.

from SF Canada at March 22, 2006

**Stories by Candis Jane Dorsey and Timothy J. Anderson chosen for Year's Best Fantasy**

Candis Jane Dorsey's story "Mom and Mother Theresa" and Timothy J. Anderson's "Newbie Wrangler" from *Tesseracts 9* have been selected for *Year's Best Fantasy 6*, edited by David G. Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer.

from SF Canada at Wednesday, February 01, 2006

**Dave Duncan sells new trilogy to Berkley**

Dave Duncan has sold a historical-fantasy-mystery, *The Alchemist's Apprentice*, plus two sequels, to Berkley, via agent Richard Curtis. The trilogy is set in Renaissance Venice and stars the clairvoyant Felipe Nostradamus and his pupil, bodyguard, and legman, Alfeo Zeno. An extract is available from Amazon.com for \$0.49.

from SF Canada at Tuesday, February 28, 2006

With *Children of Chaos* (Tor Books, June 2006) Dave Duncan will begin a two part fantasy series set in a new world, Dodec. A new fantasy tentatively entitled *The Starfolk* has sold to Patrick Nielsen Hayden at Tor, with the possibility of a series to follow.

(From Lonely Cry website)

The paperback edition of *The Jaguar Knights*, the final volume in the King's Blades series, was released in September 2005. It's also available as hardcover and e-book. Dave says of the Blades, "I have followed them through six adult novels and three YA novellas ... Their adventures have already encircled the globe, published in every continent, but now we have reached the end of the saga. It is time to move on." This summer HarperCollins released electronic versions of the Blades books that precede *The Jaguar Knights*, with more to follow in the near future. All of

them will soon appear in Amazon.com's catalog of print-on-demand books. For a list of Dave's earlier titles now available as E-books and POD, visit his website, [www.daveduncan.com](http://www.daveduncan.com).

(From Lonely Cry website)

**Donna Farley story in March-April Cicada**

Donna Farley's story "Jettator" appears in the March-April issue of *Cicada*, the teen magazine put out by the Cricket Group. This is the second story she's sold to *Cicada*; "Egg" appeared two years ago.

Donna writes, "What is a jettator, you wonder? A person with the power of the evil eye, the eye of envy....in this quasi-Mediterranean fantasy tale (I call it my big fat Greek fantasy story), a young woman longs to offer the flowers from her garden to the temple of the Good One, to obtain a place among the maidens there; when a jettator destroys her flowers, she must consider the possibility of a wedding match instead...."

from SF Canada at Friday, March 10, 2006

**Matt Hughes story bought for Best Short Novels of 2005**

Matt Hughes reports that editor Jonathan Strahan has asked for his story "The Gist Hunter" (which originally appeared in *Fantasy and Science Fiction*) for a Science Fiction Book Club anthology, Best Short Novels of 2005.

from SF Canada at Saturday, January 21, 2006

"The Gist Hunter" is also to appear in Rich Horton's Year's Best Fantasy (Prime/Wildside).

from SF Canada at Monday, March 06, 2006

Matt Hughes has sold a new stand-alone Archonate novel, *Template*, to Nick Gevers at PS Publishing, to be published in fall 2007.

Coincidentally, Matt's novelette "The Farouche Assemblage," featuring master criminal Luff Imbry in his salad days, should be out in the new edition of *Postscripts* by the end of this month.

from SF Canada at Wednesday, February 15, 2006

*The Gist Hunter & Other Stories*, Matthew Hughes' first short fiction collection (from Nightshade Books), has made the *Locus* recommended reading list, along with three of Matt's novelettes. The collection contains all six Henghis Hapthorn stories from *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, plus three Guth Bandar novelettes. ... Meanwhile Matt has sold another story to *The Magazine of Fantasy & Science Fiction*, the fifth episode of the continuing adventures of Guth Bandar. The fourth episode will run in the May 2006 issue.

(From Lonely Cry website)

Matt has also sold a story to a DAW anthology, *Forbidden Planets*, to be published next year to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the classic movie's release. An interview with Matt is up at Fantasybookspot.  
(From Lonely Cry website)

**Sandra Kasturi nominated for Rhysling Award**

Sandra Kasturi has been nominated for a Rhysling Award in the short poem category, for her poem "Frankenstein's Monster's Wife's Therapist."  
from SF Canada at Thursday, February 16, 2006

**Eileen Kernaghan**

*The Alchemist's Daughter*, Eileen Kernaghan's latest YA historical fantasy, now in its fourth printing, was shortlisted for the B.C. Book Prizes (Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize) and for a 2005 Aurora Award. As well, it's a nominee for the 2006 Manitoba Young Readers' Choice Award. You can find an interview with Eileen by Casey June Wolf in the March 28 /05 issue of *Strange Horizons*. In a January 2006 issue of the online magazine *The Cultural Gutter*, James Schellenberg discusses Eileen's young adult version of *The Snow Queen*, along with the science fiction novel of the same name by Joan Vinge. The article, on the retelling of fairy tales, can be found here.

(From Lonely Cry website)

**Ahmed A. Khan story up at Anotherealm**

Ahmed A. Khan's story "Seventh Sense" has been published by *Anotherealm*.  
from SF Canada at Tuesday, February 07, 2006

Ahmed A. Khan's story "Thus Spake Bleerbo" has been published in issue #291 of the Greek magazine 9.  
from SF Canada at Monday, March 13, 2006

**Claude Lalumière story selected for Year's Best Fantasy**

Claude Lalumière reports that his *Tesseracts 9* story, "Being Here," has been picked up by David Hartwell and Kathryn Cramer for *Year's Best Fantasy 6*, due out in September from Tachyon.  
from SF Canada at Wednesday, February 01, 2006

*The Mammoth Book of Best New Erotica 5*, edited by Maxim Jakubowski, reprints Claude's story "Secretly Wishing for Rain" (from *Fishnet*).  
from SF Canada at Wednesday, February 01, 2006

**Nina Munteanu story featured in Polish SF mag**

Nina Munteanu's short story, "Virtually Yours", originally published in *Hadrosaur Tales*, reprinted in *Neo-Opis Science Fiction Magazine*, then

translated into Hebrew in *Bli Panika*, has been translated into Polish and featured in the SF magazine, *Nowa Fantastyka* (January, 2006 issue).  
from SF Canada at Sunday, January 22, 2006

**Derryl Murphy/Peter Watts story chosen for Year's Best SF**

"Mayfly," written by Derryl Murphy and Peter Watts for the anthology *Tesseracts 9*, has been chosen for the *Year's Best Science Fiction* anthology edited by Gardner Dozois.  
from SF Canada at Sunday, January 08, 2006

**Holly Phillips stories in several "year's best" anthologies**

Stories from Holly Phillips's collection *In the Palace of Repose* (just re-released in a new edition) have been chosen for several year's best anthologies. "The Other Grace" appears in *Horror: The Best of 2005*, edited by Sean Wallace; "By the Light of Tomorrow's Sun" is in *Fantasy: The Best of the Year*, edited by Rich Horton, and "One of the Hungry Ones" is in *The Mammoth Book of Best New Horror #17*, edited by Stephen Jones.  
from SF Canada at Monday, March 06, 2006

**Holly Phillips shortlisted for Crawford Award**

Holly Phillips is among the finalists for this year's Crawford Award, for best fantasy writer whose first book has appeared in the last 18 months. Holly is nominated for her collection *In the Palace of Repose*. The other finalists are Judith Berman for *Bear Daughter*, Hal Duncan for *Vellum*, Francis Hardinge for *Fly by Night*, Joe Hill for *Twentieth Century Ghosts*, Sarah Monette for *Melusine*, and Anna Tambour for *Spotted Lily*. The winner will be announced at the International Conference on the Fantastic in the Arts in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, in March (if not before).  
from SF Canada at Wednesday, February 01, 2006

**Rhea Rose**

Stories by Rhea Rose ("Summer Silk") and Matthew Hughes ("Go Tell the Phoenicians") have been accepted for *Tesseracts 10*, the latest in the long-running Canadian SF and Fantasy anthology series.  
(From Lonely Cry website)

*Northwest Passages*, the CascadiaCon anthology launched at the convention in September 2005, includes Rhea Rose's short story "Squatch" and her poem "Whistling Women".

(From Lonely Cry website)

**Simon Rose's novels now available in USA**

Simon Rose's first three novels, *The Alchemist's Portrait*, *The Sorcerer's Letterbox* and *The Clone Conspiracy* are now available in the USA. Simon's

fourth novel, *The Emerald Curse*, will be published in the spring. A brief plot synopsis has already been posted to the Amazon Canada and Indigo sites, where it is already available to preorder.

from SF Canada at Tuesday, January 17, 2006

#### **Mark Shainblum sells story to On Spec**

Mark Shainblum's short story "The Art of Solitude(r)" has sold to *On Spec*.

#### **Douglas Smith receives grant from SLF**

Douglas Smith has received the second annual Older Writers Grant from the Speculative Literature Foundation (SLF). Honorable Mentions included Susanna Crowley, Rob Hunter, Roger Pepper, Kate Robinson, and Pam Summa.

The \$750 award is intended for writers of fifty years or older, to assist such writers who are just starting to work at a professional level. The award was chosen by a jury consisting of M.J. Goodner, Sandra Kasturi, and Sheree Thomas of the SLF on the basis of interest and merit.

from SF Canada at Monday, March 06, 2006

#### **Several sales for Jean-Louis Trudel**

Jean-Louis Trudel's most recent sale is to *Solaris* magazine for a French version of the essay "Looking for Little Green Men," first published in the November 2005 issue of *The New York Review of Science Fiction*.

He's also sold to *Solaris* for future publication a short story called "Les noms de la proie" ("The Names of the Quarry"). His story "Filhos do Sol" ("Children of the Sun") was included in the Brazilian anthology *Histórias de Ficção Científica*, edited by Roberto de Sousa Causo and published by Ática.

Writing with Yves Meynard as Laurent McAllister, he also helped to author the YA novel *Le maître des bourrasques* (*The Master of Squalls*) from Médiaspaul in Montréal, as well as a short story, "Un homme seul, avant la Conjonction" ("A Man Alone, Before the Conjonction") in the annual science fiction compendium from Paris-based publisher Bragelonne, *Science-Fiction 2006*. On the non-commercial side, he also published a non-SF short story, "Legacies," in the anthology *Tales of the Shadowmen. Volume 2: Gentlemen of the Night* from Encino-based Black Coat Press.

from SF Canada at Saturday, March 11, 2006

#### **Elisabeth Vonarburg story in Montreal gallery catalogue**

"Villes invisibles," a short story Elisabeth Vonarburg wrote for the catalogue of an exposition in a Montreal gallery [the galerie Monopoli], has been published in said catalogue, *Archi-Fictions*, which is in fact a small

book, under the title "Morréal"; five other (non genre) Quebecois authors also have stories in that book.)

from SF Canada at Sunday, February 19, 2006

#### **Two Edward Willett titles chosen for catalogue of excellent Saskatchewan books**

Edward Willett's young adult fantasy novel *Soulworm* (Royal Fireworks Press) and his children's biography *J.R.R. Tolkien: Master of Imaginary Worlds* (Enslow) have been chosen for inclusion in *The Spirit of Saskatchewan: Celebrating Excellence in Books*, which recommends literature written in the province in recent years for students at every stage of their education. The catalogue, which will be distributed to schools and libraries around the province and will also be available online, is a collaborative venture among the Saskatchewan Writers Guild, the Saskatchewan Publishers Group, the Saskatchewan Book Awards, Saskatchewan Learning, and the Saskatchewan Library Association. All of the books included have either been nominated for or have received a Saskatchewan Book Award; many have also received award recognition outside the province.

from SF Canada at Tuesday, February 07, 2006

#### **Lynda Williams interviews Joe Mahoney for On Spec blog**

The first instalment of Lynda Williams's contribution to the *On Spec* blog is now online. Joe Mahoney is the first subject. The idea is to cameo people in the Canadian SF community who bring it to life through their contributions --whether or not that includes writing. Subjects could include writers who volunteer and organize things, supportive journalists, editors, publishers, academics, etc.

from SF Canada at Monday, December 19, 2005

## **MEDIA FILE**

By "Cosmic" Ray Seredin

Welcome to the Twilight Zone of the 2005/2006 TV season. We know a few of the science-fantasy programs will be around this coming fall. However, since most of the networks' schedules don't come out until after the deadline of the June *BCSFazine*, we got to wait for the July issue to find out who's in or out.

One story that I told you about in March's Media File is *Futurama*. The latest on this is, FOX studios and the Sinclair Broadcast Group is starting the MY Network, a new network that will fill the void caused by the creation of the CW Network. John Walsh's *American Tragedies* (a series on

drinking and driving victims) will likely find a home on the MY Network, thus paving the way for *Futurama* to return to the 7:00 p.m. Sunday nighttime slot on the FOX network. However, before you break out the bubbly, the MY Network needs 150 affiliates by May 15th (so far they have 93) to make it a go. If the MY Network's a no-go it's very likely that *American Tragedies* will air in the 7:00 p.m. Sunday night time slot on FOX (or John Walsh jumps ship to CNN) meaning that we'll have to wait 'til Christmas for the 13 new *Futurama* episodes on DVD. (Oh, the loud noise you'll be hearing on May 15th, is me screaming my head off before heading to a pub to get pissed. Luckily there is one within staggering range from my apartment.)

On the plus side Fox has signed up with Matt Groening for another two seasons of *The Simpsons*. That will make a grand total of nineteen. Fox also has the long-talked-about *Simpsons* feature film hitting the theatres in July of 2007.

Paramount is now planning a conference at the Science Fiction Museum & Hall of Fame in Seattle, to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the original *Star Trek* series. Called PlanetXpo, the event will run from September 8th (the debut of classic *Trek* was on September 8th, 1966) to 10th, 2006 and will feature the likes of: Dr. Buzz Aldrin (star of *The Buzz Aldrin Show*), classic *Enterprise* bridge officers Nichelle "Uhura" Nichols, George "Sulu" Takei, Walter "Chekov" Koenig, Grace Lee "Yeoman Rand" Whitney, plus *Next Gen's* Jonathan Frakes and Marina Sirtis. However, before you book your hotel room on what could likely be the last significant *Star Trek* anniversary celebration, there are only 400 tickets for this intimate and exclusive event.

If you haven't heard about this little cult series called *Hex*, I'm about to tell you about it. It's a British fantasy series about a shy school girl/witch named Cassie, who find she has the power to fight the powerful evil demon Azazeal. Aided by her best friend (a lesbian ghost), another spook (that her best friend can only see) and her institutionalized Mom, she tries to keep Azazeal from taking over her the World. To bad it only has 20 episodes. However, even Azazeal would say, "*Hex* didn't stand a ghost of a chance against American Action Films (ITV) and new series *Dr. Who* reruns (BBC3)."

Bad news for all us *Doctor Who* fans out there. The CBC is not planning to air season two of the new series until the second week in October (rumours say the 10th, which is a day after VCon 31). The CBC also picked up the Canadian rights to its new sister series *Torchwood*, featuring the adventures of the Doctor's former companion Captain Jack and his sidekick Eve (played by Eve Myles from the season 27 episode "The Unquiet Dead"), which should start airing around the same date as *Doctor Who* season two.

There are rumours that WTVS out of Detroit (channel 43 here in Vancouver) could be picking up the rights the classic *Doctor Who* series (episodes made between 1963-1989) within the next few months. The ratings of season one of the new series airing on the Sci-Fi Channel in the US remains strong and they should be announcing they are picking up season two and *Torchwood* by the time you read this.

Sorry. That's it for this month. Be seeing you next month with my report from NorWesCon 29.



"Why Punctuation Is Important" (Felicity Walker photo)

## MOVIES

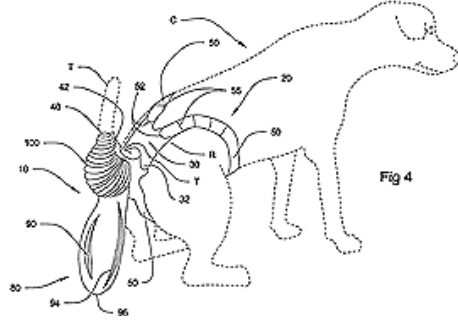
'*Fetching Cody*' is coming to Granville Cineplex Odeon Cinemas!

Directed by first time writer/director David Ray, the film's bittersweet love story mixes sci-fi fantasy, near-slapstick comedy with touches of gritty realism. According to Stuart Strutin of Panorama, "David Ray has crafted a wonderfully charming film that truly transcends genres. The film is a love story that has no bounds, including time and space, and one we believe audiences will respond to on many different levels." You won't want to miss this exceptional film!

You can check out a trailer of the film at [www.cheapanddirty.ca](http://www.cheapanddirty.ca)

WHERE: Granville Cineplex Odeon Cinema, 855 Granville St. Vancouver B.C. (Please check you local listings for show times.)

Jessica McCann <[jemccann@telus.net](mailto:jemccann@telus.net)>, 23 Feb 2006



### *Why You Got This:*

- You are a member.       You are a non-member.
- There's a lot of it about.       You are inside Man Friday.
- Your cat can tell when you're being sarcastic.
- You're holding Rip Taylor's toupee hostage.

## **LAST WORDS**

**COME TO FRED!** every Friday at 7 p.m. at Denny's Restaurant on Davie Street at Thurlow, Vancouver, BC

**METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP** is open to new members. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For information call Ken, 604-876-5751 email [ktran@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:ktran@vcn.bc.ca)

Need skills and experience your business just doesn't have? Consult **CAPRICORN MULTITECH**. Contact Chris Sturges, either by email or by phone (604) 762-0059.

**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](mailto:bmarles53@yahoo.com) or (604) 277-6775, or go to <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>

### *Art Credits*

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