



The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

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June 2006



In This Issue: More Regular Events; More Upcoming Events; Royal Swiss Navy Events; Market News; the 3-Day Novel Contest

Contents

My Contempt for Popular Culture (editoria).....	1
He Said She Said (letter).....	2
B'nai B'rithdays.....	4
Nuvo Rishi & Swami G. (ads).....	6
My Date Book (Recurring and Upcoming Events).....	7
Owl Stretching Time (news).....	15
Some SF/F/H Markets (from Gila Queen's Guide).....	18
Too Weird to Make Up (alleged news).....	25
Norwescon 29 Report (R. Seredin).....	27
Might as Well Be Brightly Coloured Flashing Lights (media)...	29

Stuff You Won't Read

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Our email list: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/

BCSFA's events

At a reader's request, I am folding BCSFA's monthly events into the calendar of upcoming events.

Art Credits

Cover masthead..... Sheryl Birkhead

All other illustrations this issue by Felicity Walker because I ran out of time

My Contempt for Popular Culture

First off, errata. One of my mistakes last issue was to go off on a tangent, when a letter mentioned John Mansfield, and not to get back to the subject, which was the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. What I meant to come back to was that once upon a time, it was Linda Ross-Mansfield who was a CUFF delegate and fund administrator; not John. Also, the fact that CUFF (like the Aurora Awards) tends to be persistently *under-promoted*, basically unknown to fandom at large – a point which I still think John never quite grasped, though he griped about the apathy and non-involvement of fans for years.

I've been reading a few science magazines recently, and came across something in *New Scientist* about a whole South American tribe who, apparently, neither understand nor verbalize anything mythical, anything distant, or indeed anything in past or future. Interestingly, no mention appeared in the article about psychology, or genetics, or linguistics.

However, I was put in mind of Jay Ingram's book *Talk, Talk, Talk*, which not only covers linguistics but intriguing connections to psychology and even genetics; at one point Ingram describes how children have been documented in various parts of the world, and even three generations of one family in England, who cannot express the plurals of nouns, or the past tense of verbs. They can *understand* the concepts, they just can't get the word endings right. This and other evidence tends to support the idea that the capacity for language is part of the human genetic inheritance (but it depends on multiple factors).

I had a temp. assignment at the Métis Council of B.C. recently – what you might call B'nai B'rith, for the descendants of *voyageurs* – and came across mention of Michif, a creole or new language that developed in the last century, combining Cree and French words. Similarly, Chinook Jargon on the West Coast combined words from various nations in the Northwest, and from the French and English traders.

Nowadays in Vancouver, we might all benefit by creating a *lingua franca*, combining words from English and Cantonese and Panjabi and French and Japanese and Italian and Arabic. I think about this every time I hear a bus driver pleading with people to move to the back of the bus, and nobody moves, or when I meet a counter service clerk or barista who turns out to be an ESL student.

I also think about this every time I write or talk with fans who seem to speak English, but who misuse or misunderstand every other word. I'm sure it isn't my age showing. I have relatives who did the same thing, all my life.

Is anybody else into do-it-yourself science? How about crank inventions? Anyone remember the Dean Drive, or pyramid power, or cold fusion?



A BEAUTIFUL
MAN IN HIS
YOUTH, ACTOR
KYLE MACLACHLAN
HAS IN RECENT
YEARS AGED
NOTICEABLY, AND
NOW RESEMBLES
A HAGGARD,
ALBEIT WELL-
PROPORTIONED,
CRO-MAGNON

He Said She Said

BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 45.396, Wednesday 7 February 2006
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851
Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6,
felicity4711@hotmail.com.

All Industrial Down Both Sides

block pattern seam blasting gray-haired cloth
cutter pig-eyed hour bell four-decked quasi
innocence purity rubric ring-formed coal tipple
ground state brine pit bezoar antelope canicola
fever emission theory quasi wisdom fine-tapering
wagon top bud gum frostweed aster gluten bread
sea oxeye strap oil.

((Almost sort of slightly presumably perhaps, under certain circumstances, but not otherwise.

((But if you tilt the newspaper towards the bishop, the moon lander looks just like two men washing a cow.))

defecate orgy tirade accentuate husbandry
cinnamon fairport vigil accipiter trough trailblaze
algal decryption antipodes cape author newell
irreparable din hostile theme south domesticate vida
maternity michelson truce hotrod retentive curbside

bootlegged drawn gilbert aback stimuli qatar kelley
 pickering canteen baxter brandenburg grievance
 we're hysterectomy meridian dandy baggage
 groupoid thruway craze cynic academe choral theses.

((I am so glad you continue to wear socks.

((How many Vulcans are standup comics? How many human jokes do Klingons tell each other?))

incur declivity coo terrible absorbent your
 thirtieth dine conjugate checkbook leslie hereunder
 comeback tass affricate megawatt falmouth
 maladaptive discipline bluestocking rejecter faith
 auntie bizarre circle wells disquisition soma coachmen
 pregnant demon swelter bobby convolute stretch
 fermi inaccuracy inanimate collier hades aviate
 yeager although medicinal rubicund bring lockian
 auckland hyman baxter nubia umpire churchman dress.

((The real problem with The Da Vinci Code is that it's the superficial, dumbed-down, Reader's Digest version of some high weirdness I was reading ten and twenty years ago. Anyway, I have to laugh at the quaint medieval European issue, or non-issue, that Dan Brown has hauled out of storage and that the media have over-promoted as much as the Lord of the Rings movies. Who cares about ostensible descendants of a displaced Middle Eastern monarchy? Just as much beside the point as much of Catholic theology, in my opinion.))

rat-ridden vaporizer moth quill pig main road zebu
 cattle Oedipus complex rib cut reindeer flower
 stiff-ironed shell-shaped velocity ratio scarlet-
 blossomed two-seated spear-famed ladder jack self-
 approval Monterey cypress allyl thiocarbamide stag-
 eyed flat tire vortex atom quasi cheer chestnut bud
 Bologna stone.

((Again, who cares whether a given fragile species survives or not? The question is the biodiversity of the whole ecosystem, and above all, whether we manifest survival-prone behaviour as a species, or do not. Has anybody here read Jared Diamond's Collapse, or Suzuki's Good News?))

News, Olds, and In-Betweens

Two clarifications:

(1) This isn't so much "As Others See Us" as it is "As Stephen Colbert Sees Himself." I don't think it was intended to make fun of science fiction novels as much as it was to allow Stephen Colbert to indulge in a deliberately bad novel.

(2) The final paragraph, which begins, "The preceding paragraph may feel as unreadable as it is nonsensically confusing..." is part of the main body of Colbert's novel, and not my comment on it.

We Also Heard From: Greg Slade (who didn't read past the satirical editorial last issue, and who objects to editorial comments in the middle of letters, which is standard fanzine practice and lends loccols the give-and-take of conversation); Doug Finnerty (who is no longer Vice-President); Barb Dryer (who was confused by articles split between moderately-separated pages, with "continued on" and "continued from" lines, which is standard magazine practice); Blair Yochim, Ryan Hawe, Cameron, Ashton, The King in Yellow, the Man Who Was Thursday, a depressingly stupid machine, Rick Sutcliffe, Mike Glycer, Ed Hutchings, Dale McGladdery, and a cast of thousands



B'nai B'rithdays

2: **Lloyd Penney** has participated in Victoria fandom, Toronto fandom, several Ad Astras and other conventions; he is a well-known letterhack, and winner of several Aurora Awards; and Lloyd and his wife Yvonne were the delegates for the 2000 Canadian Unity Fan Fund. Today, he collects convention listings for the "Made in Canada" website, and still writes letters to fanzines.

3: **Karl Johanson** has been a fixture of Victoria fandom for quite a few years, and now edits *Neo-Opis*, a Canadian SF periodical. There is no truth to the

rumour that he set up the Canadian federal Liberal party for embarrassing revelations before the last election; but he does make fun of anything and anyone.

11: **Kathleen Moore-Freeman** still hosts BCSFA monthly meeting/parties and produces occasional issues of *Why You Got This Zine*.

11: **Ray Seredin** is not the Stuart pretender to the British throne, and has no claim to inherit the Holy Roman Empire, but he continues to write for *BCSFAzine*.

19: **Michael Martin** is still, as far as I know, licensed to preach and baptize and conduct marriages and funerals, and is still, as far as I know, somewhere in the Lower Mainland. And that's all I know.

25: **Ed Beauregard**, at last report, was doing some kind of work for the Telus corporation in Korea, and learning interesting things about Korean management philosophy.

26: **Art Mueller** was still, at last report, living on Barnston Island with Dixie Mueller.

27: **Rose Martell** is another member or former member of BCSFA about whom I know practically nothing.

28: **Randy Reichardt** is or was an out-of-town BCSFA member living in Alberta and doing librarian stuff, if in fact there is any demand for libraries in Alberta.

28: **Gavril Witherspoon-Li** is still studying English.

29: **Brenda Thompson** is another former member of BCSFA about whom I know practically nothing.

ACTOR-COMEDIAN HOWIE MANDEL IS
SLOWLY TURNING INTO A FERengi, AS
CAN BE SEEN ON HIS NEW GAME SHOW,
"DEAL OR NO DEAL"



Nuvo Rishi and Swami G.

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My Date Book

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 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)

6:30 p.m.: **BIFF** (formerly F.A.N.S.) - Watch videos, and generally hang out every Friday night until closing at: Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th Street, North Vancouver. See biff.digitaldoodles.com for more details.

7:00 p.m.: **COME TO FRED!** every Friday at Denny's Restaurant til whenever on Davie Street at Thurlow, Vancouver, BC.

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

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

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)

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

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)

Second Thursday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Vancouver Centre (<http://www.pcis.com/rascvan/>) meets on the second Thursday 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)

Third Wednesday

The Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (<http://www.veva.bc.ca/>) meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the cafeteria of the Electrical SE1 Building at BCIT.

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/pgrasc/>) 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)

23 MAGNUM P.I. (1 hr.) **NEW!** Magnum wants to borrow the Ferrari, but Higgins won't let him near the thing.



Regional Events

June 2006

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

June 2: Jewel Staite (Kaylee) was born in White Rock, BC, Canada, on this date in 1982.

June 2: premiere of *District 13* (in which a Paris gang gets a weapon of mass destruction)

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. Registration: \$35 at the door, to ConComCon 13, c/o SWOC, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. Contact the Ccubed 13 chairman Bobbie DuFault at Chairman@cascadiacon.org or visit the Ccubed Website at www.swoc.org/ccubed/.

Sunday, June 4, 2006 (11 AM to 5 PM): **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Cameron Stewart, artist of *The Manhattan Guardian*, *Seaguy*, *Catwoman*; Takeshi Miyazawa, artist of *Spider-Man Loves Mary Jane*, *Runaways*; Dave McCaig, cover artist of *The Batman Strikes!*, colourist of *Nextwave*, *Ultimate Wolverine vs Hulk*, *Mister Miracle*; Kelly Everaert, creator of *Trilogy of Terror*; Fred Grisold, creator of *Hate Song*; Robin Thompson, creator of *Champions of Hell*, *Lil Natas*; Camilla d'Errico, artist of *Burn*, *Zevon-7*; Owen Plummer, creator of *Rubber Popsicle Factory*; Jason Pultz, creator of *Comic Strip (scarybear & Friends)*; Jordan Neufeld, creator of *Sticks and Stones*; Lydia Fu; Justin Pasioka, creator of *1989: The Radar Friends*; Critical Hit Comics. Win *Nacho Libre* tickets and prizes, courtesy of Paramount Pictures! Dealer Tables: \$55/wall; \$45/centre. Admission: \$3.00; Kids under 14: free. For more information about this show, please call 604-322-6412 or email ls Wong@uniserve.com -- Leonard S Wong, ls Wong@uniserve.com, <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

June 6: premiere of *The Omen* with Julia Stiles (yes, a remake of *that* "Omen")

June 9: premiere of *An Inconvenient Truth* with Al Gore (a documentary about his campaign on the issue of global warming)

June 9: *Jurassic Park* premiered in the United States on this date in 1993.

June 9: 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?"

June 10: **Feeding Frenzy** at 7pm at Senhor Rooster, 3885 Rupert Street, Vancouver. "A different kind of Portuguese restaurant in which to unleash your inner carnivore." (DF)

June 10: **Ride-Electric-Vehicles! (REV!)**, a free showcase of electric vehicles held by The Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (<http://www.veva.bc.ca/>), in the far west parking area at Spanish Banks, just before the road heads up toward UBC. The public is encouraged to come and learn how to be part of a green revolution!

June 11: *ET: The Extraterrestrial* premiered in the United States on this date in 1982.

June 16: **BCSFAzine deadline** at FRED

June 17: **BCSFA meeting/party**, 7 p.m., at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions.

June 21: Mike Melvill pilots *SpaceShip One* to 100 miles in altitude, making it the first private spaceship.

June 23: Joss Whedon was born on this date in 1964.

June 23: premiere of *Click* with Adam Sandler (man's new remote control stops, rewinds and fast-forwards *life itself*)

June 23-26: **Gathering of the Gargoyles 10** in Los Angeles, CA. *Gargoyles* (animated TV show) convention. See: <http://www.gatheringofthegargoyles.com/g2006/>

June 24: **Kaffeeklatsch**, 7 p.m. at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. BRING IDEAS. Be original.

June 28: **Blade The Series** premieres at 10 p.m. on Spike TV. (Revelation: John Ralston Saul was right!)

June 29: Georgi Dobrovolsky, Viktor Patsayev, and Vladislav Volkov were killed when a valve in their Soyuz 11 capsule malfunctioned while they were re-entering after a trip to the *Salyut* space station on this date in 1971.

June 30: **BCSFAzine production** and early distribution at FRED

June 30: premiere of *Superman Returns*

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, or see www.conzilla.info.

July 7: premiere of *Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Man's Chest* and *A Scanner Darkly*, animation with Keanu Reeves

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. Notes: All prices are subject to change. Enclose a cheque or money order payable to: Toronto Trek OR if you wish to pay by credit card: (You will be billed in CDN dollars) and send to: TT20 P.O. Box 7097, Station A Toronto, ON M5W 1X7 Contact: Information Line: (416) 410-TCON (8266) E -MAIL: tt-info@tcon.ca; WEB: <http://www.tcon.ca>.

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

July 14: premiere of *Pulse* (supernatural website)

July 21: premiere of *Lady in the Water* (an M. Night Shyamalan film – a bedtime story character tries to get back to her world), *Monster House* (the house next door is a monster), *Who Killed the Electric Car?* (documentary about the birth and demise of the electric car, and the role of renewable energy), and *My Super Ex-Girlfriend* (a really hard breakup)

July 28: premiere of *Mistress of Spices* (would you buy your spices from a clairvoyant immigrant?)

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) 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.

Aug. 11: premiere of *The Visiting* with Nicole Kidman (behaviour-altering epidemic), *The Reaping* (former missionary debunks religious myths), *Zoom* (Tim Allen plays an out-of-shape superhero who loses his powers), and *Tideland* (Terry Gilliam directs a movie set in Canada, Saskatchewan yet)

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; for more information see www.csffs.org (NOTE new website!).

Aug. 18-20: **Anime Evolution**, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. Anime convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see 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, or see www.laconiv.com.

Aug. 25: premiere of *DOA: Dead or Alive* (from a game of the same title)

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

Aug. 26: **all-day vehicle show** by The Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (<http://www.veva.bc.ca/>) at the Pacific National Exhibition, Vancouver, BC.

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, call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

September 2006

Sept. 2-4: **29th Annual International 3-Day Novel Contest** in Vancouver, BC, the contest that challenges you to write a whole, original, unpublished novel in *just three days*. In practice, entries average 100 typewritten double-spaced pages. See www.3daynovel.com for background information, rules, and registration form; submit with \$50 non-refundable entry fee, postmarked before Friday, September 1, 2006 to 3-Day Novel Contest, 341 Water Street, Suite 20, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8; outlines before the weekend are permitted, but the actual writing must begin no earlier than 12:01 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 2 and stop by midnight on Monday, Sept. 4—any location, anywhere in the world. Collaborations are permitted (no more than two authors per novel). Copy must be typed, double-spaced, on 8.5 x 11" or A4 white paper, numbered pages, no folders, clips or staples; manuscripts must be postmarked no later than Sept. 8, 2006; include a 9.5 x 4" SASE plus Canadian postage or IRC, and a statement signed by a witness, confirming the novel's completion over the 2006 Labour Day weekend. Manuscripts will not be returned, but entrants will retain all copyrights; the winning author will be offered a publishing contract, and other entrants may develop or publish their novels as they wish. The winner will be announced in January 2007.

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 see 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, 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; URL 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. Toastmaster: Michael Walsh. Chair: Clint Budd. The Gaming Room will be run by the Vancouver Gaming Guild. (In fact, they are running their Cloud City Gaming Extravaganza at the con.) three daily themes: Master Classes in Genre Fiction Writing on Friday, Green Science on Saturday, and Media on Sunday. BIFF will not be held at its usual location; there are plans to have a BIFF table in the Dealers' Room, and member Val is looking for stock and volunteers to make the table a success. The question of the week is: "Where's the Commander's Log panel?" Adult memberships: until Sept. 15, \$50; at the door, \$60. Child in Tow rate: half adult; Tot in Tow, free. (A child in tow is 7-12, and a tot in tow is 6 and under.) 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. See also 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) 789-2748; email angliconinfo@yahoo.com, or see 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, 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, or see 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, 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. Mail registration to: Orycon 28 PO Box 5464 Portland, OR 97228-5464, USA. URL: www.orycon.org

Owl Stretching Time

Just to be like John Mansfield, in some of these stories I'm going to give you Web links without explanation, and only cryptic and intriguing titles to give you a clue.

ACADEMIE DUELLO IS READY TO PREPARE THE WORLD:

["http://www.academieduello.com/zombies/zombies.html"](http://www.academieduello.com/zombies/zombies.html)

"Spread the word."

Devon Boorman, April 18, 2006

PRODUCT PLACEMENT IN COMICS

"Thought this might be BCSFA-worthy:

["http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB114532350031828284-2nRn41Kln8fZjCEf0UgX0UIPqy4_20060425.html?mod=blogs"](http://online.wsj.com/public/article/SB114532350031828284-2nRn41Kln8fZjCEf0UgX0UIPqy4_20060425.html?mod=blogs)

Michael Bertrand, April 18, 2006

REPORT FROM PLANET BIFF:

"Well, we knew that gaming night was popular the last time we tried it, but we weren't quite prepared for the new record attendance which turned

up for BIFF last week for our second gaming night. Thirty-one people came out, including seven first-timers. (Of those, one came because of the flyers, three found us through the BCSFA list, and three more were invited by friends who already come to BIFF.)

*((Note from Garth: I **really, really** should have checked out what event was happening, the night I went to BIFF in May; there was simply no seating room to join anyone else's table. -Well, I joined a table where some people were getting ready to leave, but in any case I hardly know how to play any games ... GS))*

"Since there are only 42 seats in the room where we meet, we are now getting pretty close to bumping into the limits of the available space, raising the possibility of setting up another 'Son of FRED' group in another part of town. Or, so as not to be sexist, maybe it should be a 'Daughter of FRED' this time. If I were organized, I'd set up a contest to pick a new four-letter name with geographic and fannish connotations for a new group meeting in Burnaby or Richmond or wherever, but the general feeling in the BIFF Cabinet seems to be that we can't start a new group by 'remote control', but rather have to wait until somebody catches the vision and decides to run with it, and then give the new group all the support we can.

"That support might includes tips on where *not* to host the new group's web site. When I started the first version of the web site, I didn't realise that the server was infested with pop-up ads, because my primary browser blocks pop-ups by default. If you haven't checked out the new and improved web site (biff.digitaldoodles.com), I highly recommend that you do so. Dale hasn't just given BIFF a new, pop-up free, electronic home, he has been working tirelessly behind the scenes to add spiffy new features to the site. Want a sidebar counting down the days to fannish events around town? No problem! Want a bigger, spiffier, links page? *Fait accompli*. Want a box which randomly displays assorted fannish quotes every time you hit the site? That is so done. [1] There is even more digital wizardry to come, so keep on checking back to see what new features have gone live. It's amazing that Dale ever finds the time to sleep. It's almost like he's up all night, working on the computer. Oh, wait... he *is* up all night...

"Friday, June 2nd, Cindy Turner and her incredibly talented filking friends will be coming out to BIFF to serenade us with some songs selected for their relevance to past BIFF activities, so look forward to songs about *Serenifly*, *Galaxy Quest*, *Buffy*, Tolkien, Computers, *Harry Potter*, the Dendarii Free Mercenaries, fandom, and cons. If you're very good, we might just get to sing GrGa's greatest hit.

"On Friday, June 9th, we will continue our historical research with *Quantum Leap*, because I love that show, and plan to keep showing it until the group mutinies.

"On Friday, June 16th, 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.

"On Friday, June 23rd Serena will bring her shiny new (and hopefully Kentucky Fried Fingerprint-free) copy of *The Fifth Element*.

"On Friday, June 30th, we go agenda-free once more. No movie, no guest, no games, just us. (But that's okay. As Hogarth Hughes observed, 'Welcome to downtown Coolville. Population: Us!')

"On Friday, Friday, July 7th, 'Post-Paying the Rent Laughs' continues with *The Incredibles*, the superhero spoof which won the Hugo Award for 'Best Dramatic Presentation' for 2004. (I'm thinking that Mr. Incredible might be a good costume for me to wear to VCon. 'Just a small salad... and some rice cakes!')

"On Friday, July 14th, we will celebrate BIFF's first anniversary. BIFF (actually FANS) started meeting on the second Friday of July, 2005. Come out in costume, enjoy some BIFFday cake, and generally be prepared to have a good time. The question of the week is: 'What brought you to BIFF the first time?'

"On Friday, July 28th, DeeJ will introduce us to the joy that is *Phantom of the Paradise* to prove that *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* isn't the only gothic, rocky musical! Where else can you get *Phantom of the Opera*, *Faust* and a smidgen of *The Picture of Dorian Gray* tossed in?

"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), 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/>

THAT IS NOT DEAD WHICH CAN ETERNAL LIE

The local Royal Swiss Navy held its first formal organizational gathering at Garth's "Kaffeeklatsch" monthly brainstorming party on May 27, 2006. "Fort Dead Parrot Sketch", consisting mainly of a half-dozen people who keep showing up at FRED and Kaffeeklatsch, will continue to talk about organizing group Silly Walks and mock intelligence-operation exercises and a Nerd Pride Parade, maybe on Commercial Drive next April Fool's Day. We await actual developments.

LOOK, MA, I ARE A NOMINEE

Outside of the editor's fevered imagination, Dennis Mullin emailed Garth Spencer to say that his personalzine, *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*, is one of the fanzines nominated for the 2006 Aurora Awards. The voting ballot will be posted May 27, 2006 at www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/. Back issues of RSNG may be viewed at www.vcn.bc.ca/sig/rsn/ or at www.efanzines.com.

(Critical note: there was just one edition of RSNG in early 2005. But Garth did consent to have a few back issues of RSNG included on a CD-ROM Peter Sullivan distributed to promote e-APA, an electronic apa, so maybe the Gazette has some profile. -HW)

NEW WEBSITE AND ESTORE FOR CON-VERSION

"This note is to inform you that the website has undergone some changes (if you hadn't noticed already) and to announce that we have an Online Store now.

"the New Website is: www.csffs.org the Forum is located at: www.csffs.org/forum

"And the new eStore is located at: <http://www.csffs.org/shop/catalog/> which will soon be linked directly from the csffs site. You can pre-order T-shirts, reserve previous Souvenirs still available, etc.. those extra items will be added as inventory is taken stock of.

"We are still updating, upgrading and tweaking the website, so be sure to check back frequently as these changes are implemented. If you notice any broken links or such, please do not hesitate to contact us via: webmaster@csffs.org with details of the correction."

The Calgary Science-Fiction & Fantasy Society Team, May 25, 2006

GOTH HOUSE UPDATE: 19 MAY 2006

"Join us at *Goth House* for the action-packed conclusion of Percival and the Brain! <http://www.gothhouse.org/index.php>

"It is, as I said, action-packed. But when I said that I was lying."

Julie McGalliard <julie@gothhouse.org>, 19 May 2006

Some SF/F/H Markets

(shamelessly copied verbatim from *Gila Queen's Guide*)

ChimeraWorld #4—Chimericana Books; See Web site. Editor: Mike Philbin. Theme: "Things to do in a bizarro car."

"Here's a nice Christmas present for you and yours. A book about carnage. We all need a car nowadays, right? We've all read (Stephen King's)

Christine? Have any of us read (JG Ballard's) Crash? We've all been taken on long car journeys into unknown territory."

"So, what is this year's *ChimeraWorld* about? It's about the theme BIZARRO and the theme CAR, hence the subtitle 'things to do in a bizarre car.' It's about car-lust, it's about car-warfare, it's about car murder, car revenge, car conscience ... But we don't understand your guidelines, Mr. Philbin, can you make them any clearer? Well, I can try."

"The thing I hate about life in the twenty-first century is that we're driving around in gas-guzzling cars that are eating up the world's resources and are, technically, the same as the Model T Ford from the start of the twentieth century. Four wheels. Chassis. A noisy, polluting engine. Traffic jams. Cars are the true horror of modern living (there is no alternative). People are born in cars, grow old and fat in them: People die in their cars. The world passes them by; unknown, unnoticed."

"I wrote a story (back in the Hertzian Chimera days) called 'Getaway Girl' where people literally grow up to be cars. This has many of the apocalyptic elements and general bizarro-ness I'd like to see in *ChimeraWorld* #4 submissions. Make me travel sick with your twisted submissions—drive me to distraction."

"*ChimeraWorld* #4 will contain twenty-three stories and be published in trade paperback through Chimericana Books."

2000–4000 words; pays 50% equal profit share. E-mail submissions only. "Format: Microsoft Word .DOC or .RTF. Font: Times Roman, 12 point, single space. Add postal address, E-mail and word count to first page. Add 50-100 word bio after THE END." No reprints. [E-mail: submissions: mike@hertzianchimera.com (remove the spaces);

<http://www.horrorquarterly.com/mikephilbin/cw4guidelines.html>].

Deadline: September 30, 2006.

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

DAW Books, Inc.—Penguin Putnam, Inc., 375 Hudson St., 3rd Floor, NY NY 10014-3658. Submissions Editor: Peter Stampfel. Publishes hardcover and paperback originals and reprints. "We publish science fiction and fantasy novels. We do not want short stories, short story collections, novellas, or poetry. The average length of the novels we publish varies but is almost never less than 80,000 words." Pays negotiated advance.

"Please do not submit handwritten material. Manuscripts must be typewritten or letter-quality computer generated. Use a dark ribbon. Clear photocopies are acceptable. The manuscript should be on 8x11 good white paper, double-spaced, with at least 1" wide margins all around. Please use only one side of the page, number your pages consecutively, and put the title of your novel at the top of each page."

"Very important Please type your name, address and phone number in the upper right-hand corner of the first page of your manuscript. Right under this, please put the length of your manuscript in number of words."

"We publish first novels if they are of professional quality. A literary agent is not required for submission. We will not consider manuscripts that are currently on submission to another publisher." [E-mail: daw@penguingroup.com; <http://www.dawbooks.com>]. RT—"It may require up to three months or more for our editors to review a submission and come to a decision. If you want to be sure we have received your manuscript, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed postcard which we will return when your manuscript is logged-in."

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

Futurismic—See Web site. Editor: Christopher East. "*Futurismic* now seeks contemporary science fiction for publication at the Web site. We're looking for innovative, exciting stories that use the tools of speculative fiction to examine contemporary issues and take a look at what's just around the corner. Whether by established professionals or promising newcomers, we would like to see the very best in today's SF/F, with an emphasis on work that truly connects with and illuminates the fast-paced, fascinating times we live in."

"Stories should be compelling and well written, with a strong emphasis on characters confronting or embracing imminent cultural, social, technological, and scientific changes. Post-cyberpunk, Information Age, and near-future extrapolations will be welcomed—serious or satirical, straightforward or gonzo, optimistic or cautionary. Indeed, near future, Earth-based science fiction stories are our main focus."

"We are not interested in:"

* "Fantasy"

* "Horror"

* "Space Opera"

* "Time Travel"

* "Alternate History"

"Stories set on distant worlds (i.e., beyond our solar system) or involving aliens will be a very tough sell to us, but we will consider them if we feel they're consistent with our vision for the site. For a more detailed description of what we're looking for, read Christopher East's inaugural essay on the subject [on the Web site]."

To 15,000 words; pays \$200, on acceptance, "for first electronic rights (for publication on the World Wide Web) and nonexclusive audio performance rights (for podcasting)."

"Stories must be submitted via our Web form (though the Web site). Note that stories submitted any other way will not be considered; attachments will be deleted unread."

"We are not interested in reprints at this time. No simultaneous submissions, please. Please submit only one story at a time."

Reading Period: "Our fourth reading period is now open and will remain open indefinitely until we have selected our twelve stories for the year. We

plan to respond to each story within three months of its receipt; in many if not most cases the response time will be shorter than that. We're publishing one story per month, so only twelve stories will be accepted during the reading period. We will post a notice to the blog when we have finished reading for the year, and the Web form will be deactivated."

"Questions about these guidelines or queries about submitted manuscripts are welcome; please send us an E-mail. Make sure to begin your subject line with the word 'Query.' If you don't, it may take us a while to get back to you. We will respond to queries as promptly as possible." [http://www.futurismic.com/].

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

Gothic Press—1701 Lobdell Ave., No. 32, Baton Rouge LA 70806-8242. Editor: Gary William Crawford. "Gothic Press seeks fiction, poetry, and scholarship and criticism manuscripts. Fiction and poetry may be in any style or approach, as long as horror, Gothic, or dark fantasy elements are present. What I most seek is originality—avoid plots that are derivative. A fresh or original idea has its place in the Gothic chapbook series. Proposals for scholarly and critical manuscripts may be on any horror/Gothic author or authors. Proposals for scholarship may be submitted, and these will be reviewed by established authors on the topic." To 20,000 words; pay \$50 advance against 10% royalty. "Please note, however, that Gothic Press is not always an open market; query first before submitting."

"Internet submissions of poetry and short stories are welcome, but they must be pasted in the body of an E-mail. Attachments of E-mails are not accepted. For longer works such as novellas, send a disposable hard copy via postal mail with a SASE for reply." [E-mail: gothicpt12@aol.com; http://www.gothicpress.com].

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

Juno Books—See Web site. Editor: Paula Guran. "Juno is currently looking for novels from 45,000 to 85,000 words in length. Although our books might be called 'paranormal romance,' don't let either word frighten you off. 'Paranormal' means 'beyond the ordinary' and 'romance' means 'an exciting and/or mysterious quality as of a heroic time or adventure' as well as 'a story dealing with love.'"

"We are looking for adventures for women (and don't mind if they appeal to men, too). Books that are exciting, romantic, fulfilling, and fun ... suspenseful, stimulating, sensual, and dark ... fantastic, astonishing, wondrous, and wild ... mythic, magical, meaningful, and passionate ... imaginative, speculative, erotic and extraordinary...any mixture of elements you may imagine. We want stories with strong female characters or women who grow and become empowered—women discovering themselves and discovering new worlds. Fascinating characters interacting in plausible well-built worlds. Romance, eroticism, and sex must be inherent to the story."

"We are open to fantasy, science/futuristic/speculative fiction, otherworldly or supernatural beings, modern characters in the past, alternate history, love that lasts across time, magical or psychic abilities, occult detectives, historical supernatural horror, and cross mixes; traditional or non-traditional ethnicity or sexual orientation, as well as the more traditional."

"We don't want pornography, category romance, or Christian romance. Humour is great, but not slapstick comedy or airhead antics."

"Original novels preferred but previously published, and out-of-print work will be considered. Please note the length we are looking for; this might be a good opportunity to develop a novella into a novel or reshape a concept into a series."

Submission Guidelines: "We prefer E-mailed submissions attached in .DOC or .RTF. Please submit three chapters and a synopsis. It is best, however, to have a finished manuscript before submitting. If we like it, we will want to see the entire manuscript right away before deciding whether to purchase."

"For established fiction authors, we may buy based on three chapters and a synopsis."

"For previously published work available only in printed form, please E-mail us first with a description and information about your work as an author. If we are interested, we will respond with a mailing address. We prefer agent inquiries by E-mail, too."

[E-mail: editor@juno-books.com; http://www.juno-books.com].

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

Leisure Books—Dorchester Publishing Co., Inc., 200 Madison Ave., Suite 2000, NY NY 10016. Attn: Don D'Auria, Executive Editor. Looking for "suspenseful, terrifying novels with dark atmosphere and chilling plots. Contemporary settings are preferred but historical settings are possible if very well done. Supernatural horrors (ghosts, vampires, demons, monsters, etc.) are strongly favoured. Please avoid science fiction, fantasy and detective novels."

80,000–110,000 words. "Please note that we will not respond to E-mailed proposals or queries regarding the status of work already submitted. Please query or submit synopsis and first three chapters only—no complete manuscripts unless specifically requested. We strongly prefer manuscripts to be written from the third-person point-of-view. Include a stamped, self-addressed envelope (of sufficient size) for possible return of proposal or manuscript. No material will be returned without SASE. Name, address, phone number, and E-mail of the author should be on the first page of the manuscript, and a header for subsequent pages should contain the author's name and title." [http://www.dorchesterpub.com]. RT—6–8 months.

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

SpecFicWorld.com Featured Fiction—SpecFicWorld.com; See Web site. Editor/Publisher: Doyle Eldon Wilmoth, Jr. "SpecFicWorld.com Featured Fiction section will open its doors around May or June 2006, but will officially open once we have at least forty stories in our inventory."

Needs: "Looking for science fiction, fantasy, and horror in all styles, sub-genres, and viewpoints. We are currently only looking for reprints from established writers. Basically, we prefer that writers have at least four or five stories published from paying venues or one published novel before submitting." 1500–12,000 words.

"Note: Please include the last place your story was published, the month, year, and issue, and please let us know if your story is currently available in any other online venues or publications."

Payment: "All writers that submit to us must have a PayPal account for payment. We DO NOT pay for fiction, but a best of the year poll will be taken and the writer with the most votes will receive \$50 in cash (paid through PayPal). We will also include a PayPal donation button with your story where fans can donate funds for your work. Donations received in this way will be split 90/10 between the author and SpecFicWorld.com, 90% of the donation going to the author and 10% to SpecFicWorld.com. Authors will be paid on the 5th day of every month unless donations do not reach our \$10 threshold (any amount owed will automatically be rolled over until the next payment period)."

"Note: Authors that have at least one published novel will receive free advertising in the PDF file their story appears and a free one-year listing in our Book Directory."

Rights: "We purchase electronic rights only. All rights return back to the author after publication but we retain the right to archive your story up to two years (read note below) and reprint your story for a possible 'Best of the Year Anthology.' Payment to be negotiated at a later date."

"Note: If no donations occur within the first 45 days or you decide you no longer want to have your story archived you can request to have your story removed from our featured fiction section and we will happily oblige. We believe that writers should have the right to make as much money as possible from their work. Hence, that's why we are only focusing on reprints at the moment."

How to submit: "We accept electronic submissions only. E-sub and queries should be sent to [appropriate E-mail address below]. No need for a cover letter; but make sure to include a short bio (written in third-person) embedded in the body of the E-mail. Please include previous publishing credits. Submission Format: RTF or MS WORD (.DOC) file sent as an attachment. Underline all italicized text. Please include all contact information with your manuscript. Use Times New Roman 12pt font and single space all paragraphs."

"Note: You can submit up to four stories at a time. If you use this method please attach all stories in one zip file." [E-mail: info@specficworld.com; E-

subs and queries: featured_fiction@specficworld.com; <http://www.specficworld.com>]. RT—2 weeks maximum. "If you haven't heard back from us within that time, feel free to query with the date of your submission."

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

Silhouette Nocturne—233 Broadway, Suite 1001, NY NY 10279. Editorial Director: Tara Gavin; Associate Senior Editor: Ann Leslie Tuttle; Editorial Assistant: Sean Mackiewicz. New line launches in October 2006 with 2 books/month.

See full guidelines in Section 4 of Part I. 70,000–75,000 words. [<http://www.eharlequin.com>].

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

ANTHOLOGIES

Horrors Beyond II Anthology—Elder Signs Press, PO Box 389, Lake Orion, MI 48361-0389. Editor: William Jones.

General information: "This is a themed anthology with stories about STRANGE DEVICES. The tales can be about technology, biology, psychology—an animal or a 'thought' can be a strange device in this anthology. However, the focus of any story submitted should be upon the characters. Humans, aliens, monsters are likely protagonists or antagonists. Even the strange device itself might be a character. In all cases, the interest should be centred around the people in the story and not entirely on a new piece of hardware (device). This is an anthology of works about the human condition or in-human condition; keep an eye on how the strange device affects the beings around, creating, constructing, or using it."

"Horror, Dark SF, Dark Fantasy stories are welcome. Lovecraftian tales will be considered, but they must be original. As with *Horrors Beyond*, the stories in this anthology will be themed and placed to form an arc. This means the best chance of being accepted depends on writing quality and originality."

Tips: "Futuristic Dark SF is rarely submitted, but welcome. The same is true for dark historical tales."

4000–10,000 words; pays 5¢/word, on acceptance. "All replies will be received by July 31 (or maybe sooner)." No simultaneous submissions, multiple submissions, or reprints.

Queries/Questions: For E-mail queries/questions, include "Horror Beyond" in the subject line.

Electronic Submissions: "Submit cover letter in E-mail body; submit file in RTF or WORD format to [appropriate E-mail address]. Make sure to include 'Horrors Beyond' in the subject."

Mail Submissions: "All mail submissions should include instructions for dealing with manuscripts and artwork if not accepted. If you wish it

returned, include an SASE (with proper postage). If you wish it destroyed, clearly state such in a cover letter."

[E-mail: questions/queries: editor@eldersignspress.com; Submissions: beyond@eldersignspress.com; http://www.eldersignspress.com]. Deadline: June 30, 2006 (or until full).

Gila Queen's Guide to Markets #138, May 15, 2006

TOO WEIRD TO MAKE UP

Madrid--Spain's governing Socialist Party is promoting a controversial parliamentary initiative to grant rights to great apes on the basis of their resemblance to humans, news reports said Wednesday.

If the initiative is approved, it would make Spain one of the first countries to officially protect the rights of apes, said a spokeswoman for the animal rights association ADDA.

The socialists want to prohibit the "enslaving" of gorillas, chimpanzees, orangutans and bonobos.

Spain would thus adhere to the international Great Ape Project, granting the animals the rights to life, freedom and to not being tortured.

"We are not talking about granting human rights to great apes," but about "protecting (their) habitat, avoiding their ill-treatment and their use in various circus activities," Environment Minister Cristina Narbona explained.

Great apes are kept in small cages in Spanish zoos and circuses, reports said. They may be castrated, and their vocal cords are sometimes cut to make them keep quiet.

The socialists' initiative has received backing from 70 universities worldwide, according to the daily *El Mundo*.

Great apes share 99 per cent of their genetic material with humans. Champions of their rights say they have an emotional and cultural life, intelligence and moral qualities reminiscent of those of humans.

Not everyone, however, backed the socialist initiative.

Pamplona archbishop Fernando Sebastian called it "ridiculous," while Amnesty International representative Delia Padron said she was "surprised" by moves to recognize the "human rights" of apes when many humans still lacked for those rights.

http://science.monstersandcritics.com/news/article_1158607.php/Spain_may_grant_rights_to_great_apes

<http://i17.photobucket.com/albums/b96/felicity4711/d3cd9475.jpg>

AND NOW, THE NEWS ABOUT HUMANS

A babysitter who stabbed a six-year-old boy to death claimed that he had received instructions to kill while watching the science fiction drama *Stargate SG-1* on television.

Anthony Barnwell, 25, a paranoid schizophrenic with a history of drug misuse, was looking after James Brennan at the boy's home in Chorlton-cum-

Hardy, near Manchester, while his father went to work on the nightshift, Manchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

The babysitter said that he heard telepathic messages emanating from the television suggesting that James was Judas Iscariot. He said he prayed for several hours before grabbing a bread knife and stabbing the boy as he lay asleep in bed.

David Broomhead, 28, the boy's father, returned to the house soon after the frenzied assault in August last year to find Barnwell, looking "wired" and standing in the hallway. The babysitter told him that his son, James, had been "fine" and added: "I am just getting off."

Mr. Broomhead found his son lying dead on the floor in the blood-spattered bedroom and later discovered the pet dog stabbed to death in the bath.

Police found Barnwell looking "spaced out" in a café. In the police station he claimed to be Jesus Christ and that Barnwell was merely his "Earth name." A post-mortem examination showed that James had sustained 73 separate injuries.

Barnwell admitted manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility after his plea of not guilty to murder was accepted. He was ordered to be detained indefinitely at a mental hospital.

Judge Anthony Gee, QC, told him: "James's father...had no way of knowing you were as dangerous as later events so tragically proved. No one hearing this case can feel anything but great sympathy to those near and dear to James."

Philip Curran, for the prosecution, said that Barnwell had been a problem child who began taking drugs in his late teens. He befriended Mr. Broomhead, who had been given custody of his son while his mother was in Ireland. But in 2003 Barnwell began behaving strangely, carrying a knife and saying that he was protecting himself from people who wanted to harm him. Mr. Broomhead, however, never thought him dangerous, the court was told.

"Indeed, the defendant had been minding James for as long as he lived there," Mr Curran said. "He would take James to school and collect him."

However, Barnwell's mental health was deteriorating. He told mental health officials that a "thought system had been implanted in his brain."

On the day of the stabbing Mr. Broomhead tried but failed to find an alternative babysitter. That night Barnwell watched *Stargate SG-1* on television. "He thought the TV was communicating with him using telepathy telling him James was a bad seed, a Judas and to take him out," Mr. Curran said.

"He said he stayed up all night praying to God for guidance and at 8:00 a.m. got up...took a large bread knife and went to James's room, where he was sleeping. He stabbed James in the chest several times."

Barnwell claimed he saw the spirit of Judas leaving James's body and into the family dog, so he killed that as well. Tests showed that he had taken cocaine, Ecstasy, cannabis and antidepressant drugs.

After the hearing Mr. Broomhead said in a statement: "The loss of James has been like losing my own life. When that man killed my boy he killed me too."

Nicola Brennan, 28, the boy's mother, said: "James was the most loving and gentle little boy. He may have lived with his daddy but I loved him so very much and I would give anything just to tell him so."

<http://www.timesonline.co.uk/article/0,,200-2153090,00.html>

Relayed by Felicity Walker, April 27, 2006

Norwescon 29 Report

by Cosmic Ray Seredin

Norwescon is as close as I get to an actual vacation. (Note: VCon isto me like camping trip in Stanley Park; fun, but I'm still only a bus/Skytrain ride from my place.) I get to go to a foreign country, see other fans who (because of scheduling difficulties, or not having passports) can't attend VCons, and party with them to all hours of the night.

This year I did something a slightly different, I went to a panel where Lois McMaster Bujold read from her upcoming novel *The Sharing Knife*. It was excellent and I wanted to go home and never watch TV again (I may need help kicking that habit). Bujold is a very down-to-earth person; I later saw her in the hallway outside the con-suite watching a small dog do tricks, much to her delight. Now, this is one thing I like about cons.

Before I leave the worlds of Lois McMaster Bujold, I must tell you that due to lack of sleep the night before (my roommate snored like a chain-saw) I started to doze off during her reading and had a dream that her characters wanted to rent a car from the National Rent-a-Car dealership near the Space Needle and found its lot full of yellow late-model VW Beetles with sunroofs.

I also took part in the panel "Let's Make a Movie." They quickly rejected my idea for the project; however, the one we did do was great fun to make and to watch. It's called *The March of the Fenguins* and can be found at http://www.guerrilla-productions.org/Movie_MarchOfTheFenguins.html.

The same people that helped make *March of the Fenguins* also ran the media track of programming with panels on the new *Doctor Who* series and new *Battlestar Galactica*. I told them that while my bus was leaving Vancouver on Thursday morning we passed a BSG sign on Granville, meaning that they were filming someplace in Shaughnessy, and that, once in a while, Vipers, Blackbirds and Raptors sun themselves outside the Vancouver Film Studio, and can be seen from the Millennium Skytrain line.

One panel that I wanted to see was cancelled. It was on something called The LifePort (don't ask me what it was; I don't know), but one of the

presenters just had open heart surgery a week before Norwescon 29, so it's not hard to understand why it was cancelled.

As with every Norwescon I have been to, there were tons of people in hall costumes. They had every thing from *Star Wars* Storm Troopers to 1980's *GI Joe* Cobra members, and of course so many Klingons I lost count. Being Seattle, the Emerald City, we had the Wicked Witch of the West hunting for Dorothy and the gang all around the con hotel.

I also got on tape the 2006 Evil One of the Year Award. This is a new event to the Norwescon family and was great fun. It was a mini-masquerade that takes place on Friday night. All participants (as the name suggests) dress as their favourite evildoer from the world's science fiction, fantasy and horror. The winner -- who else? -- Satan. (Sorry, no Master.)

As for the Masquerade itself, it was once again fantastic. The Pacific Northwest has some of the best costumers in the world. Even if only one tenth of the ones who took part in Norwescon 29's Masquerade turn up in October for VCon 31's (reinstated) Masquerade, it will be quite mind-blowing.

As for the party at Norwescon 29, Thursday night was my night to howl. There was a good party going that night and it got quite good buzz. On Friday I spent most of the time in the con-suite listening, eating the great free food and enjoying a few beers. Then someone said the Biohazard had started up. I grabbed my camcorder and went there for a good while and drank some Rocket Fuel. However this time I drank just three so it didn't turn into a Seattle Trolleybus or the Roadrunner. I just had a great time.

After attending the *Rocky Horror Picture Show* where for the first time ever I took part in its showing, I was off to the hot tub with Khaos and Mandy for a late night dip. Once again it was raining, but we took it in stride since we are Northwesterners.

Saturday night was kind of a downer when I misplaced my medication and had to look for it, and then got kicked out of some Microsoft guy's party that I crashed by accident. (It was not Bill Gates.) I had my first Chicago hot dog. (Note: Montreal hot dogs still rock.) Still unable to find my medication, I spent most of the rest of the night with Khaos and Mandy in their room and the hot tub. I also phoned both the hotel's and con security to look for my medication. (For some unknown reason I also told Robert J. Sawyer when I made a short stop at the consuite.)

The hot tub was also a downer that Saturday night since both Khaos and I recall that the tub and pool were full at about two in the morning, but this year it was empty. I guess they had a few great parties going in the party wing, because Lady K said that about a half hour after I returned to my room both the tub and pool were full.

Sunday morning, good news: I found my medication in the pants I had on on Friday (Note: next year I'll keep it on my person). As with all Sundays at conventions it was a bit of a let down, however after seeing a few fan made movies at a panel, it was easier to say goodbye. The later part of the afternoon I spent with Khaos, but her two dogs (Tyson and Ginger) that were

sharing the room with her and Mandy, suddenly had tummy trouble and we then were either cleaning up after them or trying to find hotel staff for new bedding (next year I'm bring my cat, if I get one). By the time she got them under control it was time for my bus, so after a great big hug I was off home.

This years Norwescon wasn't the best: my misplacing my medication; me having to stay at another hotel across the street (that on the bright side had a free all you can eat breakfast) because one and half of the Doubletree's room wings were under renovation; the same renovations having moved the familiar location of the volunteer lounge, gaming room, hospitality and the fanzine lounge to another location; having no kid con; having trailers for both *United 93* and *World Trade Center* at the Norwescon 29 movie previews (why can't this years tape turn up in St. Paul instead?). All these were major letdowns to me.

Still, there was an unfinished wall that was filled with hundreds of messages and artwork from hundreds of fans who enjoyed Norwescon 29. So did I; that's why I already have my membership to Norwescon 30 and have my room booked at the Doubletree.

Cosmic Ray's Con Scale for Norwescon 29: 7 out of 10.

Might as Well Be Brightly Coloured Flashing Lights on a Screen

CAPRICA

From executive producers Ronald D. Moore and David Eick (*Battlestar Galactica*), writer Remi Aubuchon (24) and NBC Universal Television Studio, this new series is set over a half a century before the events that play out in *Battlestar Galactica*. The people of the Twelve Colonies are at peace and living in a society not unlike our own, but where high technology has changed the lives of virtually everyone for the better. But a startling breakthrough in robotics is about to occur, one that will bring to life the age-old dream of marrying artificial intelligence with a mechanical body to create the first living robot -- a Cylon. Following the lives of two families, the Graystones and the Adamas (the family of William Adama, who will one day become the commander of the *Battlestar Galactica*), *Caprica* weaves corporate intrigue, techno-action and sexual politics into television's first science fiction family saga.

<http://www.thefutoncritic.com/cgi?id=20060426scifi02>

WE SHALL MAKE WALK PREPOSTEROUS GHOSTS

Chariots of the Gods, a six-hour miniseries based on the best-selling book by Erich von Daniken, will be executive-produced by Oscar winner Irwin Winkler and written by John Whelpley. The book introduced the theory that Earth was visited by extraterrestrials in ancient times. The miniseries centres

on a soldier returning from his tour of duty, who brings with him an artifact that holds the key to uncovering the secret that aliens have been interfering with human genetics. Rob Cowan and David Winkler also will executive produce.

<http://www.scifi.com/scifiwire/index.php?category=0&id=35778>

SIDEKICK ALSO TO REAPPEAR IN SPECIAL EPISODE

(25 April 2006) --K9 is taking centre stage with his own animated series and "a range of high-tech toys," according to the Outpost Gallifrey website.

K9 will star in a new spin-off series developed by one of his creators, Bob Baker, and produced by Jetix Europe.

"Doctor Who's faithful robotic assistant, who will be reunited with his master on Saturday in a special guest appearance on the revived BBC show, will become a star in his own right -- equipped with a lethal blaster -- in a computer generated series made in partnership with the Walt Disney Corporation," the website reported.

K9 Adventures is to be a 26-episode comedy-fantasy series set in outer space.

Jetix Europe is owner of 14 children's television channels, which are broadcast to 43 million households across Europe and the Middle East. Disney is the majority shareholder in Jetix.

The new K9 is a galactic crime-fighter, and Bob Baker promises to give his pet "a sleek new look using state of the art CGI animation mixed with live action."

"It's thrilling to be able to offer younger *Doctor Who* fans the chance to get to know K9. I believe they will love the 21st century K9 as much as past generations did when he appeared in *Doctor Who*," said Baker, whose writing credits include the Oscar-winning *Wallace and Gromit: The Curse of the Were-Rabbit*.

K9 partnered with the Doctor from 1977 until 1981, and Saturday's special episode features a reunion between dog, master and Sarah Jane Smith, Tom Baker's companion, again played by Elisabeth Sladen.

In the episode, they investigate sinister events at a modern day school run by Anthony Head, who played Giles on the American series, *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*.

--Article by Scott Nance

relayed by Felicity Walker, April 27, 2006

Why You Got This:

-- You are a member. -- You are a non-member.
 -- You are about to join. -- Yes, you are.
 -- Look deep into my eyes. You are going to join BCSFA. You are going to join BCSFA. Submit to me. Submit to me ...

-- let's start a BCSFA dance group! Come to think of it, why isn't there a subfandom for fannish dancing? How about a polka night, with music by Weird Al Yankovic ...