



Lisa Smedman's Journalism Award * Brian Davis delayed in administering CUFF * Writers' News * Who's in BCSFA? (and who's out)

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Stuff You Won't Read

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For more information about BCSFA, associated events, and some back issues, see our website at <http://bcsfa.bcgreen.com>.

For comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions, write to: *BCSFAzine*, c/o Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6B 5B1, or email garthspencer@shaw.ca.

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

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....masthead

Felicity Walker.....cover

Questions for You All

The President and Treasurer have been helping me reconstruct the snail mail list for *BCSFAzine* distribution, but I still need some help. Would you look over the list of names later in this issue, and let me know if you're not a current member, or when you last renewed your membership?

Do you have suggestions for reorganizing *BCSFAzine*, or creating more interesting content?

For a change I decided to organize stuff this issue *way* differently. (Like last issue, *all* the chronological stuff is in or near the con calendar. This will change if enough people object.)

The first two sections are about science news and writers' news, since we're supposed to be into science fiction. (I realize that most of us are into anime, comics, films and gaming, but those are covered later.)

The next two sections are about fandom, what I persist in calling "Fandom Classic" (things like clubs, conventions, fan funds, fanzines, and LoCs) and "Fandom Lite" (everything else).

Very likely this grants too much attention to some things, and not enough to some of your interests; so I want to hear your feedback. I don't get enough feedback.

The 400th commemorative issue is coming up in September. Are you ready to contribute something? Or what would you like to see in this issue?

Somehow I ended up nearly without illustrations this issue. Can we change this?

Writers' World

Some Recent Publications by Canadian Writers

The Healthy Dead, by Steven Erikson
The Thousandfold Thought, by R. Scott Bakker
Tesseract 9, ed. Nalo Hopkinson and Geoff Ryman
Fantastic Companions, ed. Julie E. Czerneda
The Silver Lake, by Fiona Patton
Tides, by Scott Mackay
The Penelopiad, by Margaret Atwood
The Gist Hunter and Other Stories, by Matt Hughes
Widdershins, by Charles de Lint
Species Imperative: Regeneration, by Julie E. Czerneda
Children of Chaos, by Dave Duncan
Smoke and Ashes, by Tanya Huff

Made in Canada website ca. June 9, 2006

Upcoming Publications by Canadian Writers

A Meeting at Corvallis, by S.M. Stirling (Sept. 2006)
Blindsight, by Peter Watts (Oct. 2006)
Sun of Suns, by Karl Schroeder (Oct. 2006)
The Sky People, by S.M. Stirling (Nov. 2006)

Made in Canada website ca. June 9, 2006

Beware, Beware Dept.

ABSOLUTEWRITE.COM, a popular forum for swapping information on writing, publishing and associated scams, was taken down by its ISP (JC-Hosting) at one hour's notice on the night of 23 May. The alleged cause was a complaint from Barbara Bauer, who features in the SFWA/Writer Beware list of the 20 worst agents, and has a habit of threatening to sue those who mention this undeniable fact. (She has even tried to get Teresa Nielsen Hayden fired from Tor Books on this account.) It was an unfortunate coincidence that JC-Hosting's owner, Stephanie Cordray, very soon launched her own web forum for information on writing, etc, etc. Why AbsoluteWrite wasn't allowed time to retrieve its message database, and why JC-Hosting kept issuing contradictory stories and bizarre excuses for not handing over gigabytes of intellectual property belonging to others (released at last in June), is still unclear. Reconstruction continues at the newly hosted AbsoluteWrite.com site.

Ansible 227, June 2006

Workshops

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

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/>

Contests

Announcing the R. L. Fanthorpe Write-Alike Contest

"The Susan C. Petrey Scholarship Fund announces the first, hopefully annual, R. L. Fanthorpe Write-Alike Contest. In the tradition of the Bulwer-Lytton Contest and It Was a Dark and Stormy Night, contestants will be asked to submit original writing that emulates the style of R. L. Fanthorpe in his early work for Badger Books. A portion of the \$10 entry fee will go to the prizes and the balance will benefit the Susan Petrey Scholarship Fund. The deadline for submissions is October 10, 2006. Winning entries will be read at Petrey auction at OryCon 28.

"Fanthorpe, as a teenager, began writing science fiction and supernatural stories for the British Badger Books series in the late 1950s. He often wrote a book a weekend for only a few pounds each. Under pressure to meet deadlines and page counts the books are full of padding and abrupt endings which often were unintentionally humorous and sometimes intentionally so. More about Fanthorpe and samples of this writing may found at www.peltorro.com.

"The Susan C. Petrey Clarion Scholarship Fund provides scholarships and other assistance to the Clarion Writers Workshops in Lansing, Michigan and Seattle, Washington. It operates under OSFCI, a non-profit and tax exempt organization. For more about the Petrey Fund or for contest details visit www.osfci.org/petrey/index.html, email susanpetrey@comcast.net, or phone 503-667-0807."

Debbie Cross, May 22, 2006

Surrey International Writers Conference

October 20, 21 and 22nd, 2006 in Surrey, BC
(Pre-conference Master Classes start on Thursday, October 19, 2006)

"We're pleased to announce the 2006 presenter line-up for our 14th Annual conference. Please visit our 2006 presenter page here: <http://siwc.ca/2006/speakers.php>

Presenters include:

- Bernard Cornwell, author of bestselling historical fiction, including the Sharpe series;
 - Thomas Perry, author of fourteen critically-acclaimed mysteries and thrillers;
 - Mary Balogh, award-winning author of dozens of bestselling historical romances;
 - Robert Sawyer, Nebula- and Hugo-award-winning science fiction novelist;
 - Susan Wiggs, author of RITA-award-winning romances;
 - Carol Berg, award-winning fantasy novelist;
- and many more authors, agents, and editors.

"Our 2006 program will be available on-line in mid-June. Look for an e-mail announcement soon!

"Hard copy 2006 program brochures will be available in the Summer. To request a hard copy, please visit our main page (<http://www.siwc.ca>).

NEW Category announced

"This year, the SiWC Writing contest features four categories. New this year is the SIWC Writing For Young People Award (short stories, maximum length 1,500 words)

Open for submissions now!

The contest offers awards for the following categories:

- SiWC Storytellers Award
 - Fiction: 3500 to 5000 words
 - First Prize \$1000; Honourable Mention(s) \$150
- SiWC Non-Fiction Award
 - 1500 word maximum
 - First Prize \$1000; Honourable Mention(s) \$150
- SiWC Poetry Award
 - One poem per submission; 36 line maximum
 - First Prize \$1000; Honourable Mention(s) \$150
- Writing for Young People Award
 - Short stories: 1,500 word maximum
 - First Prize \$1000; Honourable Mention(s) \$150

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: All entries must be received by 4 p.m. Fri. Sept. 8, 2006. No late entries will be considered.

You do not have to attend the conference to enter the contest.

For complete rules and entry information, visit the website at <http://siwc.ca/contest/index.php>, or contact the contest coordinator at contest@siwc.ca.

Lisa Mason, Coordinator, Surrey International Writers' Conference, l.mason@siwc.ca

Dale McGladdery writes:

The Surrey Writers Conference is the best writing craft learning conference I've found locally. Many of the presenters and participants travelling in from out-of-town consider it the best in the Pacific Northwest. It has a wonderful energy, great presenters and business networking opportunities. They've just announced their 2006 line-up, which includes people versed in Science Fiction/Fantasy living in Canada.

relayed by Dale McGladdery, May 30, 2006

Fandom Classic

FINALISTS FOR SIXTH ANNUAL SUNBURST AWARD ANNOUNCED

TORONTO (June 12, 2006) The short-listed works for the 2006 Sunburst Award are:

Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town, by Cory Doctorow (Tor Books)

Gravity Wells: Speculative Fiction Stories, by James Alan Gardner (HarperCollins Canada)

The Wave Theory of Angels, by Alison MacLeod (Penguin Canada)

In the Palace of Repose, by Holly Phillips (Prime Books)

Spin, by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor Books)

"The winner will be announced in the fall of 2006.

"The Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic is a prized and juried award that is presented annually. Named after the debut novel by Phyllis Gotlieb, one of the first published authors of contemporary Canadian speculative fiction, the award consists of a cash prize of \$1,000 and a hand-crafted medallion, which incorporates the "Sunburst" logo, designed by Marcel Gagne. It is based on excellence of writing; the jury selects five short-listed works and one winner, representing the finest of Canadian fantastic literature published during the 2005 calendar year.

"The jurors for the 2006 award are: Larissa Lai, Janet McNaughton, Uppinder Mehan, Derryl Murphy and Elisabeth Vonarburg.

Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town:

"With *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom* and *Eastern Standard Tribe*, Cory Doctorow established himself as one of the leading voices of next-generation SF: inventive, optimistic, and comfortable with the sheer strangeness of tomorrow. Now Doctorow returns with a novel of wrenching oddity, heartfelt technological vision, and human pity set on the streets of Toronto today....'

Gravity Wells: Speculative Fiction Stories:

"Award-winning author James Alan Gardner evokes a sense of wonder that is synonymous with great speculative fiction. Now, in his first short-story collection, he brings together the numerous tales that have made his reputation, ranging from the everyday experience to the cosmic, from peanut butter sandwiches to space drives. There are stories of wonder, imagination, humanity, and the unknown and tales that remind us of the importance of possibility.'

The Wave Theory of Angels:

"Every story is the story of a secret." "This is a story that unfolds across two far-flung centuries, across two worlds. In each, the lives of a father and his two daughters are about to be catapulted into crisis....'

"*The Wave Theory of Angels* is a story of attractions, both cosmic and earthly. The riddles of magic, metaphysics and modern-day science transport the reader from the enchantment of the thirteenth century to the disenchantment of the twenty-first and back again. Through it all, one question persists: What is the real force of the imagination?"

In the Palace of Repose:

"The essential Holly Phillips story begins like this: 'In a world that felt too little, there lived a girl who saw too much.' *In the Palace of Repose* is a collection of nine such stories, ranging from the delightfully fantastic *In the Palace of Repose* to the delicately horrific 'One of the Hungry Ones to the hauntingly literary 'The Other Grace.' Here indeed are young women, and young men, who have seen too much, and who have been abandoned to wrestle alone with the strange, the wonderful, the terrifying. Some triumph & some tragically fail. Most struggle on beyond the boundaries of their stories, carrying their wonders and horrors into their lives, into their worlds-worlds, and lives, startlingly like our own."

Spin:

"One night in October when he was ten years old, Tyler Dupree stood in his back yard and watched the stars go out. They all flared into brilliance at once, then disappeared, replaced by a flat, empty black barrier. He and his best friends, Jason and Diane Lawton, had seen what became known as the Big Blackout. It would shape their lives."

"For further information about the Sunburst Award, including information about past nominees, winners, and jurors, please visit: www.sunburstaward.org "

BCSFA News

Saturday, July 1, 10am – 5pm: **Yard Sale** at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver

Saturday July 8 @ 7pm: **July's Feeding Frenzy** at ABC Country Restaurant, 2350 Boundary Road, Burnaby. Home cooking corporate-style at a commercial venue that is on par with the "Pantry" and far better than "Dennys".

Friday, July 14: **BCSFAzine deadline** – see Garth at FRED if you want to submit to issue #399

Saturday, July 22: **BCSFA meeting/party** at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's place, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone * for directions

Thursday July 20 @ 7pm: **July's book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be (wait for it) ... *Speaker for the Dead* by Orson Scott Card.

Friday, July 28: **BCSFAzine production** – distribution starts at FRED

Saturday, July 29 @ 7pm: **Kaffeeklatsch** exercise in hard-headed imagination at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver; call 604-325-7314 or email garthspencer@shaw.ca for directions

Lisa Smedman Honoured at 2006 Better Newspapers Competition

Lisa Smedman and Cheryl Rossi, writers for the Vancouver *Courier*, took top honours at the 2006 Better Newspapers Competition. Lisa Smedman won

gold in the best historical story category for "All the old boys are going", a narrative of the 29th Vancouver Battalion in the First World War. Cheryl Rossi is a reporter for the *Courier*, who won best feature story for her piece "All cracked up", on the Stand Up for Mental Health program.

Lisa is the "History's Lens" columnist for the *Courier*, as well as one of BCSFA's longstanding members, a former Vcon chair (and a published SF author).

The 2006 awards were presented May 27, 2006 in Quebec City at this year's national convention of the Canadian Community Newspapers Association.

Lisa has been writing a series of cover stories for the *Courier* on the history of Vancouver neighbourhoods and streets. The June 2nd issue featured an instalment on the Marpole district and settlements on the north arm of the Fraser River.

Vancouver *Courier*, May 31 & June 2, 2006

Who's In BCSFAzine?

By stages, the *BCSFAzine* mailing list is getting updated. With the help of the President and Treasurer I have whittled down a long list of possible current members, and even confirmed some lifetime members and currently paid-up members. But I still have over 100 names, which is more than our current membership. (About 30 people are on our e-mail distribution list.)

Could you please read the following list, and tell me if you should not be included, or if you are, whether I am sending *BCSFAzine* to your current address, and when you last renewed your membership? (My email is garthspencer@shaw.ca.)

The May-or-May-Not-Be-Current List:

Ken Ames
 Steve & Jackie Barclay
 Tom Barr
 Chris Bell
 Hilton Berger & Wendy Harris
 Marilyn Blew
 William Blew
 Devon Boorman
 Robert Bosshardt
 Gerald Boyko
 Andrew Brechin
 Brenda Carr
 Christina Carr & Martin Hunger

Gregg Chamberlain
 Kathy & Shane Conley
 Joe Devoy
 Michael & Dani Dezotell
 Robyn Doig
 Bobbie Dufault
 Dan Dyda
 Steve & Lynn Taylor Fahnestalk
 Alan Ferguson
 Stanley Foo
 Lisa Gemino
 Lynn Giraud
 Todd Gniissios
 Barbara Gordon
 TAM & Shelly Gordy
 Peter Halasz
 E. Richard Hanson
 Jason Harris
 Penelope Harris
 Jeff Hartt
 Frances Higginson
 Palle Hoffstein & Dawna Read
 Deb Holberton
 Dianna Hull
 Robert Jared
 Karl & Stephanie Johanson
 Paula Johanson & E.B. ("Bernie") Klassen
 Andrew Kacerik
 Allan Kelly
 Bill & Delphine Kelly
 Randy & Tanya Ko
 Gail & Michael Koombes
 Gayle J. Koyanagi
 Terrie Mailhiot
 David & Mary Malinski
 Bill Marles
 Michael Martin
 Dale McGladdery
 Billie McLeod
 Darrell Mercier
 Tammy Midttun
 Michael Morse

Art & Dixie Mueller
 Dennis Mullin
 John & Shelley Mullock
 Lance Munro
 Debbie Neher
 Cecilia M. Parrott
 Richard Pitt
 Ted & Diana Powell
 Grant Prittie
 Jill L. Pruett
 Cameron Russell
 Bill Salmon
 Patrick Sauriol
 Robert Sawyer
 T.G. Shephard
 Les Shewchuk
 Frank Skinner
 Gordon Smith
 Marius Soska
 Dale Speirs
 Dawn Stewart
 Chris & Nikki Sturges
 G.W. Thomas
 Lorna Toolis
 Sidney Trim
 Peter Tupper
 Cindy Turner
 Roger Wells
 Judy Williams
 Dave Wilson & Rose Martell
 John Wong
 Ken Wong

Who's Out: Lexi Expelled from Meeting Site House

To: All BSCFA/WCSFA Members, Adherents & Correspondents
 From: Kathleen Moore-Freeman, Treasurer & current Monthly Meeting Site Host

Please be advised that, at about 1:30 am on Sunday, May 21/2006, I ordered Lexi (aka Vanessa) to get out of my house and not ever come back.

This means that she is not permitted to attend future BCSFA meetings or other events at my place. She does not have a current paid BCSFA membership, nor is she one of the few Life Members (who have a permanent entitlement to meeting attendance).

If other members wish to host one or more BCSFA meetings, please advise Garth Spencer in time for him to publish the notice of change of meeting venue in *BCSFazine*.

As to *why* I expelled Lexi, I believe that is a matter better left to slander than libel.

BCSFA member birthdays (July)

July 8: Tom Balabanov is *not* a sleeper agent emplaced in Vancouver during the Soviet regime, and since forgotten by Russian intelligence. Lots of western Canadians have Slavic surnames. Just look at the Edmonton phone book.

July 8: Kelly Whitehouse is *not* related to the founder of Whitehorse in the Yukon.

July 8: Don DeBrandt is *not* going to run for public office. Ever. There are too many pictures. He is way too cool to show up at FRED or at BCSFA meeting/parties these days. (When is your next novel coming out, Don?)

July 9: Donna Markbride may or may not be related to Joanne McBride Wilson.

July 10: Mark Wells is the lovely and talented spouse of Patty Wells, who is chairing both Orycon and SMOFCon this year.

July 15: Janet Dawson is *not* related to the founder of Dawson City.

July 5: R. Graeme Cameron is the lovely and talented spouse of Alyx Shaw, an aficionado of really bad films, the alter ego of Moog the Magnificent, scanlet, Archivist of the B.C. Science Fiction Association, professionally qualified to be an historian, grey, a former *BCSFazine* editor, a previous Canadian Unity Fan Fund delegate, spanner, known for his seductive tuba playing, a former fanzine publisher, zarf, and over 40.

July 5: Nico Iormetti used to play the Lost Treasurer in our live-action "Find the VCon Budget!" games.

July 6: Lela Cairns has something to do with television.

July 31: Felicity Walker is the alter ego of more individual than I can mention in this fanzine.

Calendar of Events

July dates in fannish history:

July 1: Westercon 30 opened at Totem Park Residence, UBC, on this date in 1977.

July 2: Nycon I, the first World Science Fiction Convention, opened on this date in 1939.

July 3: Torcon I, the 6th World Science Fiction Convention, and the first to be held in Canada, opened on this date in 1948.

July 4: Westercon 44/VCON 19 opened at Gage Residence, UBC, on this date in 1991.

July 7: Robert Heinlein was born in Butler, Missouri, USA on this date in 1907.

July 8: BIFF (originally FANS) first met on this date in 2005.

July 10: Ron Glass (*Firefly*: Book) was born in Evansville, IN, USA, on this date in 1945.

July 11: Skylab, the first American space station, deorbited and burned up in the atmosphere on this date in 1979.

July 12: Georgie Henley, who played Lucy Pevensie in *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, was born on this date in 1995.

July 13: Patrick Stewart was born in Mirfield, Yorkshire, England, on this date in 1940.

July 15: Mariner 4 returned the first close-up pictures of another planet (Mars) on this date in 1965.

July 16: "Rising", the first episode of *Stargate: Atlantis*, first aired on this date in 2004.

July 17: An American Apollo and a Soviet Soyuz spacecraft docked with each other in orbit for the first time on this date in 1975.

July 18: The first *Rohini* satellite was launched by India atop an SLV-3 rocket on this date in 1980.

July 20: Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin became the first humans to land on the Moon on this date in 1969.

July 23: Telstar transmitted the first "live via satellite" transatlantic television pictures on this date in 1962.

July 24: Summer Glau (*Firefly*: River) was born in San Antonio, TX, USA, on this date in 198.

July 27: "Children of the Gods", the first episode of *Stargate SG-1*, first aired on this date in 1997.

July 29: *The Fellowship of the Ring*, the first volume of J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, was first published on this date in 1954.

(an initiative of Greg Slade)

Clubzines Received

DASFAX 38:6, June 2006, Newsletter of the Denver Area SF Association, c/o Annette Stroud, 2580 S. York Street #201, Denver, CO 80210, USA
De Profundis 402, July 2006, Newsletter of the Los Angeles SF Society, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA
Ethel the Aardvark 123, June 2006, Newsletter of the Melbourne SF Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vict. 3005, Australia
The Glitter City Gigolos 2, March 2006, Arnie Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145
Impulse 10:6, June 2006 (monthly newsletter) and *Warp* (less frequent clubzine), From MonSFFA, the Montreal Area SF and Fantasy Assoc., PO Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, QC H2X 4A7, Canada
Opuntia 61.1, June 2006, this issue a reviewzine, from Dale Speirs, POBox 6830, Calgary, AB T2P 2E7
Ottawa SF Statement 340, June 2006, Newsletter of the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 456 Gladstone Ave., Ottawa, ON K1R 5N8, Canada
Vegas Fandom Weekly 72, April 2006, Arnie Katz (address above)
Voyageur 172, Apr/May 2006, Newsletter of the USS Hudson Bay (aka IDIC), c/o Lynda Ciaschini, 7050 Weston Rd., Ste. 301, Woodbridge, ON L4L 8G7, Canada
Westwind, Irregular newsletter of the Northwest SF Society, PO Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124, USA

Conventions, Films and More Writers' Contests

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: \$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) 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* (featuring a 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 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** at the Best Western Hospitality Inn in Calgary, AB. GoHs: David Weber, Larry Niven, Adrian Kleinbergen, Jeremy Bulloch. Canadian GoH: R. Scott Bakker. FanGoH: John Hertz. Dealers room now sold out. Rooms \$129/night at the Best Western Hospitality Inn, 135 Southland Drive SE, Calgary, AB T2J 5X5, fax (403) 225-5834, toll-free 877-278-5050. Memberships \$35 now, \$40 at the door. Write to Calgary SF & Fantasy Society, P.O. Box 20098, Calgary Place RPO, Calgary, AB T2P 4J2; for more information see www.csffs.org

Aug. 19-21 (note change of dates): **Anime Evolution**, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. Anime convention. Guests Rob Bakewell (voice director), Harmony Gold (Robotech), Kumiko Kato (singer), ZZ (Japanese band), Keith & Kosine (local band), and more. Accommodations through SFU Guest Accommodations or Executive Plaza Coquitlam. Passes (3-day or one day): see table at 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 were \$175/C\$210/150 Euros/£100/A\$225 to July 1, 2006; more now. 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.pennyarcadeexpo.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. Kage Baker regrets she cannot attend. A flat-paper-stuff convention, featuring artshow, dealers' room, programming, a banquet at \$26 a head. Room rates 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 clintbudd@dcenet.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: Virginia Hey (*Farscape*); Heather Alexander; Phil & Kaja Foglio (Studio Foglio). 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>

October 31st-November 12th: Wicked Awesome is putting on a *live* theatre production of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" at the WISE Hall in Vancouver.

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

Nov. 17-19: **Orycon 28** at the Portland Marriott Waterfront, Portland, Oregon. Guests of Honor; Editor: [Ellen Datlow](#); Writer: [Cory Doctorow](#) Membership 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

December 2006

Dec. 31: deadline for The National Fantasy Fan Federation 2006 amateur short story contest. Stories must be original SF, fantasy, paranormal, and related genres. Submit in standard competition format plus \$4 fee, cash or cheque payable to Jeff Redmond (contest manager), 1335 Beechwood NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3830 or email to redmondjeff@hotmail.com for more information. Prizes are \$50 (first place), \$30 (second place), \$20 (third place), etc. All rights remain with author. For more information about the N3F, see www.nff.org and www.scififan.org.

January 2007

Jan. 12-14: **Rustycon 24** in Seattle, WA. Memberships \$25. See www.rustycon.com

March 2007

Mar. 9-11: **Potlatch 16** at the Red Lion Hotel Portland – Convention Center, Portland, OR. Memberships ? Information: Potlatch 16, c/o OSFCI, Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703; tel. (503) 283-0802; email potlatch16@gmail.com; URL www.spiritone.com/~jllorenz/potlatch

Mar. 29 – Apr. 1: **World Horror Convention 2007** at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, ON. GoHs: Michael Marshall Smith, Nancy Kilpatrick. ArtGoH: John Picacio. MC: Sephera Giron. Publisher GoH: Peter Crowther. Editor GoH: Don Hutchison. Email Amanda@whc2007.org; URL www.whc2007.org.

Films by Fans and Pros*The Stardance Project*

Jeanne Robinson has begun a project to produce a short film featuring zero-gravity dance, as featured in Spider and Jeanne's Stardance trilogy. For more information, see www.spiderrobinson.com/stardance.htm. Jeanne is seeking donations to complete the project for presentation at a Heinlein-themed convention in mid-2007. Donations may be made online, by credit card, through PayPal, or mailed to The Stardance Project, R.R. #1, Site I-42, Bowen Island, BC V0N 1G0.

SF Canada website and *Ottawa SF Statement* #340, June 2006

Lloyd Penney, Triple Threat

Out-of-town member Lloyd Penney is lending his voice to a fan-made film, *Bastards of Kirk*, "looking into how a certain starship captain might have left offspring throughout the galaxy." Maninder Chana at Red Fort Films, who worked previously with Lloyd on the *Sectarian Wave* SF-radio-drama CD, invited him to lend a Scottish accent to a 23rd-century "60 Minutes" documentary in search of Kirk's whereabouts.

Lloyd Penney has already been a repeat contender for the Best Letterhack FAAn Award. Being an amateur writer, a voice actor and a video actor makes him a sort of "triple threat", as in dancer/singer/actors. What comes next?

File 770:147, May 2006

Kayless Wants YOU!

"My puny website can't survive many downloads, so I've uploaded the [IKV] T'Mar's "Klinton Academy Recruiting" video to YouTube.com: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dkb23R2OA2g>"

Cdr ChonBey to the SFNorthwest list
<http://www.ikvtmar.com>

Darkon Doc:

"There is a documentary named Darkon, about a LARP game named Darkon: <http://www.darkonthemovie.com/>

"It is being shown at the Hot Docs film festival
http://www.hotdocs.ca/schedule_window.cfm?ProgramCode=DARK1

forwarded by Julian Castle

Fan Funds*Brian Davis' Canadian Unity Fan Fund Adventures*

Brian Davis, the 2005-2006 CUFF administrator, fell ill while on a business trip abroad and took months to recover; then when he was finally allowed back into Canada, he relapsed and took more weeks to regain his health. Consequently it was late May before he could send out a communiqué about the Canadian Unity Fan Fund and the website he has set up (<http://cuff.cometdust.ca>). "This site is a very basic

framework that needs to be fleshed out”, Brian writes. “The History and Delegates sections need contributions. I am asking for all past delegates to please submit your CUFF biography and digital photo for the Web site.” Brian’s email address is badavis@rogers.com.

The time left before the Convention (TT20, in July) seemed rather short to hold a proper CUFF race, but someone in Vancouver named Mike Omelusik expressed interest.

(Note: To win the CUFF travel fund to Convention requires three nominators in the East and three in the West. – GS)

Brian reported in early June a CUFF balance of \$1,262.64, with \$65 outstanding from Toronto Trek 19 and \$100 outstanding from Torcon III. Murray Moore later reported:

“Earlier this year the members of the Torcon 3 corporation approved grants from the surplus funds bank account, including \$1,000 to the Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF).

“The money will be delivered in \$100 amounts annually to the CUFF administrator by a Torcon 3 member (me).

“I mailed the 2006 donation of \$100 to CUFF Administrator Brian Davis last month (May).”

Brian Davis, Murray Moore and Garth Spencer

Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund:

“Bridget ‘Bug’ Bradshaw won the westbound race `by a clear majority of the 292 votes cast’, as announced on 27 May. Rival candidates were 1/2r Cruttenden and Mike ‘Sparks’ Rennie. Bridget will travel to the USA in July for L.A.con IV in August.”

Ansible 227, June 2006

“FANDOM: THE GATHERINGS”

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>)

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.)

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/>

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>

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.

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.)

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.)

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.

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.)

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.

The BIFF Report

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.)

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 realize 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...

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 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/>

from Greg Slade

Fanzines

More zines received by BCSFA (or by your editor, anyway):

Ansible 227, June 2006, award-collecting pro & fan newszine from DAVE LANGFORD, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU. Web ansible.co.uk. Fax 0705 080 1534. ISSN 0265-9816 (print) 1740-942X (online). Available for SAE or blue balticons from Mars. See <http://news.ansible.co.uk/a227.html> for the nice HTML version.

Emerald City 129, May 2006, from Cheryl Morgan, at cheryl@emcit.com or online at <http://www.emcit.com> (email book review zine)

File 770:147, May 2006, Mike Glycer ed., 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, USA

FAANS AWARDS

Fanzine Activity Achievement awards presented at Corflu 2006: WRITER Claire Brialey. FANZINE *Chunga*. LETTERHACK Robert Lichtman. ARTIST Steve Stiles. NEW FAN Christopher Garcia. (*Banana Wings* was initially announced as the winning fanzine. FAAn administrator Murray Moore subsequently confessed: 'I can't add numbers.')

Ansible 227, June 2006

THE HONOURED DEAD

TIM HILDEBRANDT died June 11, 2006 from complications due to diabetes. He and his twin brother Greg were well-known SF and fantasy artists. Among other credits, they worked on the original *Star Wars* poster and on 1970s Tolkien calendars.

DASFAX 38:6, June 2006

BRIAN BURLEY, US fan who co-founded the Beaker People Libation Front ('eliminating beer surpluses wherever found'), died on the night of 25 April 2006.

Ansible 227, June 2006

LoCs

(Because of the sheer size of the highly-illustrated May *BCSFazine*, I queried everyone whether they received the issue. Some people didn't get the joke represented by the editorial, which was basically word salad, and thought the whole issue was garbled.)

Steve Forty, steve40@telus.net, May 15, 2005

Yes I received the May *BCSFazine*. I thought it was a very good issue with a lot of information in it. I did want to point out that I think Frank Johnson of Edmonton

designed the Aurora, it looks like the Aurora Borealis (the curtain effect), it is designed to be taken apart for transit home, then re-assembled and possibly glued to hold it together.

BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 46.397, Wednesday 21 June 2006
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

BCSFA's Events: Damn. I was just getting used to being able to look at the inside front cover to find out when, for example, the *Kaffeeklatsch* was.

My Contempt for Popular Culture: "Is anybody else into do-it-yourself science?" No. "How about crackpot inventions?" No. "Anyone remember the Dean Drive, or pyramid power, or cold fusion?" I had to look up the Dean Drive. I don't remember pyramid power first-hand; I first encountered it when it was the subject of an episode of the 1988 TV series *Secrets and Mysteries* starring Edward Mulhare (*Knight Rider*). I remember cold fusion.

He Said She Said: "((But if you tilt the newspaper towards the bishop, the moon lander looks just like two men washing a cow.))" Have I shown you the drawing of two men watching a cow, pencilled by me and inked by Garrett Eng?

((Yes.))

"((How many human jokes do Klingons tell each other?))"

tlhIngan vengHomDaq ghIQ wa' tera'ngan.
HurDaq yIttaHvIS ghaH, chol wa' tlhIngan.
nISwl'beH, HIq bal je qengtaH tlhIngan.
<toH, tera'ngan, yItlhuth!> *jatlh. jang tera'ngan*
<vItlhulh vIneHbe'.> *Human chorDaq nISwl' Qeq tlhIngan.*
jach <yItlhuth jay'!>
vaj HIq bal tlhap tera'ngan 'ej tlhuth.
DIngchoH nachDaj 'ej Qom porghDaj.
HIq bal nobHa'.
jatlh tlhIngan <ngIm HIq, qar'a'>
HumanvaD nISwl'beHDaj nob.
<DaH, vItlhuthmeH, jIHdaQ yIQeq.>
(From <http://teresha.donnely.org/klinjoke.html>)

((Christ, can't I think of anything original??))

"((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.))" I take it you mean *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, by Michael Baigent, Richard Leigh, and Henry Lincoln, 1982. I don't think *The Da Vinci Code* was meant as anything more than entertainment, so it's not a fair comparison.

((That's just one of many works that should go in the High Weirdness stacks. There are a whole lot of theses that say that the Gospels, or your civics classes, or standard received science is just wrong, in some critical respects. Baigent and Leigh's works aren't the only ones to propose the idea that the Davidic bloodline survives. In fact there are recurring arguments that there was no Jesus Christ, the whole religion was a deliberate fabrication. My favourite alternate realities are John Allegro's claim that the Dead Sea Scrolls revealed evidence that Christianity, in fact much of Judaism, originated with a mushroom cult; or that Atlantis was a city in Antarctica before the continent got yanked into the Antarctic Circle. Pick your own reality, it's a free market. Mostly.))

“(Has anybody here read Jared Diamond's Collapse, or Suzuki's Good News?)” No.

B'nai B'rithdays: I like this phrase.

Nuvo Rishi and Swami G.: I know what *nuvo rishi* means, but who or what is Swami G.? I've only ever heard the name in the song “The Homies” by Tone Lōc before. Presumably that Swami G. named himself after the Swami G. to whom you refer.

((“Nuvo rishi” was my play on words, combining “nouveau riche” (as in “just-got-rich types”) with “rishi” (an Asian word like “swami” or “guru”). I had never heard of the Russian tweak on this phrase until you explained it. “Swami G” is another play on words, but almost nobody else now remembers the Widget movement of the mid-70s, or the message of Guru Swami Widget Ji.))

Too Weird to Make Up: Credit goes to “Smart Ape,” a professional-wrestling fan and regular poster to rec.sport.pro-wrestling on Usenet, for finding that article about granting human rights to apes.

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The More Things Change...

(A Prequel)

by Taral Wayne

Some time in the middle of the next century, two book collectors meet. They were born well after the baby boom, and have no old fashioned notions about their hobby. Most likely they wouldn't recognize collecting as we know it. For the sake of argument their names are Sidney and Floyd, and they're in their middle fifties.

“Siiiiid! Hi!”

“Floyd.”

“Great to see you. So this is the apt. Too good of you to let me invite myself over.”

“Well, you'd dropped enough hints that you wanted to see my collection. Could I refuse you?”

Sid ushered the other into a modern state-of-the-art, urban multi-occupant standard three room res. (UMOS/3) Although a

confirmed bachelor, he had all three hundred and seventy-five square feet of it to himself.

“How could I not drop hints? You only have the best collection of fantasy literature and kiddy porn on the East Coast.”

“You flatter me Floyd. There are at least three larger collections in institutions. Two of them better than mine in their own way. Can I offer coffee? Soft drinks? Drugs?”

“Hell no, dude. We can observe the amenities later. There’s WWF Championship Mud Wrestling on the wall screen at seven, too. Now I want to see... *The Collection!*”

“I’d be disappointed in you otherwise Floyd. C’mon.”

Sidney closed the door behind Floyd, reset the alert-sensors and armed the doorway mine again. Ten steps took them through the UMOS to the spare room entry. (Eighty-one square feet, no window, \$900 a month extra.) Against the far wall was a plasticip-board cabinet, waist high. A smart new computer library array with quad-drive and chargers held up to six handheld readers. There was a four by three wall display as well, across from a comfortable looking chair.

Sid opened the cabinet. Floyd squeezed into the room and watched respectively as Sid removed a soberly hued plastic snap-lid box about eight by eight by two. (Inches. First quarter of the 21st. century or not, this was still America after all.)

“Here it is.” Sid flipped the top, exposing a two and a half inch square blue wafer with some minute black arabesques in one corner: the contact head. “I’ve spent half my life compiling this. Isn’t it a beauty?” He fingered the aluminized read/write slide like a metal panty covering great treasure inside.

“Awesome Sid, totally awesome. Looks like the original peel-off 3M-brand label too. Not a scratch on the case. First scannings and virgin downloads? All?”

“Everyone of them, f’sure. No later posts or pirates, no reverse translations, nothing but the original legit sites.”

“You know, I hear some people say there were hard copies of some quite famous books *before* the text tiles. How do you like that for a chicken or the egg puzzle. Ever thought of that?”

“Sure. I suppose there has to be some sort of raw input before you save a text file, sort of like a rough draft except on paper rather than a note-pad, y’know? Doesn’t matter to anyone but academics or museum curators, who seem to have a hard-on for paper copy, just as an object. Couldn’t care less about using text like it’s meant. Instead of the plasticity of the data, they only seem to care about the stone or parchment or whatever it’s put on, y’know?”

“The scholarly mind, I suppose. To be fair, it isn’t just the medium, they’re hung up on one supposedly more authoritative version, as though no one should change a text to suit themselves!

I’m satisfied to leave obscure questions of derivation to semanticists or whoever. I’m satisfied to be a simple bibliophile.”

“Just takes the touch of smooth plastic and that vague staticky feel to take me back to twelve, Floyd, when I read *Harry Potter And the Satanic Rapture* for the first time. Everyone’s Golden Age is twelve.”

“True, too true.” Floyd handed back *The Collection*. “It brings back memories every time I hear the *snick* of the disc when it goes in the drive.” They sighed together.

Sid woke from the reverie first. “Here, let me call up *Neuromancer* and show you how I’ve reformatted it. You’ll like my choice of font and chapter breaks. I mapped in illos from a Japanese edition as well.”

The disk slid with smooth precision into the drive slit. An LED flashed as it read. Then Sid took a reader from its plug and called up a display for his friend.

“Hey, love that light Neo-Uncial. Minimally traditional, but modern. Is it an import or a default – “

Abruptly the lights dimmed. Then flared as an upstate nuclear plant went on line to take up the slack.

“Fucking hell!” screamed Sid. “The filter’ll be saturated! Get the disk!”

It was too late. The drive whined like a drunken banshee and the reader blanked. In the time it took to blink an eye, 30,000 volumes of hard to find fiction vanished.

“Oh well,” said Floyd after a moment of stunned silence. “You can always upload most of it again from the public library net. I’ll copy for you what I got, and maybe you can get the rest from those institutional collections. Or a payload from a dealer-site. You’ll be up again by the end of the week, right? You can reformat and accessorize in your spare time later.”

“No,” he sighed, “won’t need to. Only a momentary scare. I have all my first editions and custom add-ons backed up. It’s not as though I lost anything with value, like property or something... “

Don’t you love a happy ending, dear reader?

Fandom Lite

Media fandom

COMIC BOOK COVERS COPYRIGHT

“Actually it’s a comic book written by 3 college professors. I know the subject of copyright and filming and fair use has been on the NWconleague list from time to time and other folks in fandom have talked about the issue and some are veery

interested in it, and a few even have monetary reasons to be interested.
<http://www.law.duke.edu/cspd/comics/>"

Mark Adams to SFNorthwest

CHRISTIE'S AUCTION STAR TREK MEMORABILIA

May 19, 10:29 AM (ET) NEW YORK (Reuters) - Trekkies will be setting their phasers to "bid" this fall when Christie's holds the first official studio auction of memorabilia from all five *Star Trek* television series and 10 movie spinoffs.

CBS Paramount Television Studios is cleaning out its vaults for the sale, comprising more than 1,000 lots totalling some 4,000 items, to be held from October 5 to 7 in conjunction with the 40th anniversary of the original "Star Trek" series, Christie's announced on Thursday.

Fans and collectors will have a chance to acquire *Star Trek* artifacts ranging from models of the Starship USS *Enterprise* to Capt. James Kirk's uniform or Capt. Jean-Luc Picard's jumpsuit in an auction where Christie's expects to raise more than \$3 million.

Other items to hit the block include props, weapons, prosthetics and set dressings unearthed from five Paramount warehouses.

Among the highlights are a miniature of the Starship *Enterprise* used in visual effects for the film *Star Trek: The Undiscovered Country*, expected to sell for \$15,000 to \$25,000, and a replica of Kirk's chair from the original TV series that was recreated for the 1996 *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* episode "Trials and Tribble-ations," which is estimated at \$10,000 to \$15,000. ...

forwarded by Carmiel Montaigne to SFNorthwest

REMAKE FOR CULT SHOW THE PRISONER

Cult TV series *The Prisoner* is to be remade into a six-part series for Sky One, the broadcaster has confirmed.

Director of programmes Richard Woolfe promised a "thrilling reinvention" of the drama about an ex-secret agent trapped in an isolated village.

"If *Doctor Who* set the standard, *The Prisoner* raises the bar," he said.

The original series ran for 17 episodes on ITV in 1967, and starred Patrick McGoohan. Christopher Eccleston has been linked with the new show's lead role.

(remainder of the story at

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/entertainment/4972194.stm>)

forwarded by Howard Cherniack

ALIEN NATION DVD

Howard Cherniack writes:

I have long thought that the TV series *Alien Nation* was not only one of the best shows of the genre, but really one of the best shows ever. The writing was superb; its creators claimed that it was "about" tolerance, but I also found a lot there about the

immigrant experience, identity, and assimilation. As with many of the TV shows I liked a lot, it was short-lived. (In one of the TV-movies that followed, some Newcomers are enjoying a new TV program, only to hear that it's been cancelled after the first commercial. One of them shrugs, "Well, that Fox for you...")

The series (but not yet the movies-movies that followed) is now on DVD, and I happily grabbed it. This obsoletes the two (different) sets of VCDs that I bought on eBay earlier. They're off the air, a bit murky and distorted, and each has an episode or two missing (and others duplicated). I recommend buying or renting the DVD, but these VCDs (which play on most DVD players), less the TV-movies, are available to the first couple of people who ask me for them.

SAM HUNTINGTON TALKS ABOUT HIS UPCOMING 'STAR WARS'-BASED COMEDY

By Daniel Fienberg (10 June 2006)

Jar Jar Binks, cinema's most maligned Gungan, makes a triumphant return in *Fanboys*, warns Sam Huntington, who stars in the upcoming Weinstein Co. comedy.

"Jar Jar appears in the movie in a very very funny way that I can't reveal to you, because it's absolutely hysterical," Huntington warns. "It's one of my favorite moments in the whole movie."

Huntington, talking to reporters about his role as eager-beaver photographer Jimmy Olsen in the upcoming *Superman Returns*, is part of a *Fanboys* ensemble that includes Dan Fogler, Kristen Bell, Jay Baruchel and Chris Marquette. Directed by Kyle Newman, *Fanboys* focuses on a group of lifelong friends who embark on a roadtrip from Ohio to the Skywalker Ranch in Northern California. Their goal in the not-so-distant period piece? To steal a copy of *Star Wars: Episode I – The Phantom Menace* so that a dying friend can see it before its worldwide release. ...

http://www.zap2it.com/movies/news/zap-huntingtonfanboysstory_0.7609691_story?coll=zap-news-headlines

forwarded by Felicity Walker

Low Weirdness

I'VE HEARD THIS STORY BEFORE SOMEWHERE

JOHN NORMAN had lots of UK news coverage in May, as police investigated a "cult" acting out Gor-based fantasies of sexual submission in Darlington. Although the real story seemed to be that baffled police gnashed their teeth on finding that no actual crime was involved, the drooling headlines were fun: 'Gor blimey! Subservient cult is unleashed on Darlington' (*Guardian*); 'Officers discover sex-slave cult' (BBC); 'Sex slavery sect operating in suburbia' and 'Teen on a tight leash runs away to live with sadomasochistic cult' (*Times*); 'Sex slave cult uncovered in Darlington' (*Telegraph*), etc, etc. Darlingtonians of Gor!

Ansible 227, June 2006

SCIENTOLOGY BACKS DRIVER AT IRWINDALE, JOINING RETAILERS AND OTHERS SEEKING AN AUDIENCE.

By Jim Peltz, [LA] *Times* Staff Writer, 9 June 2006

The Church of Scientology is spreading its gospel to NASCAR, starting in Irwindale.

The religion that counts actor Tom Cruise and other Hollywood luminaries among its followers now backs a La Verne stock car driver, Kenton Gray, who competes in one of NASCAR's developmental series at the Irwindale Speedway.

Gray, 35, hopes to qualify for his next race 24 June in the super-late-model class in a car sponsored by Bridge Publications, which publishes the best-selling book, *Dianetics*, by Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard.

The hood of Gray's No. 27 Ford Taurus is similar to the book's cover, with *Dianetics* emblazoned across an erupting volcano, and his new team is called the "Ignite Your Potential" Dianetics Racing Team.

Scientology is following the lead of retailers, brewers, delivery firms and other Fortune 500 companies that have flocked to NASCAR events to gain the attention of its huge, national following.

"NASCAR racing has captured the attention of sports fans around the world, and we are proud to sponsor a driver who has the potential to be a champion," said Bridge spokeswoman Danielle Methvin. ...

http://www.latimes.com/sports/motorracing/la-sp-nascar9jun09_0_1477748.story?coll=la-home-headlines

forwarded by Felicity Walker

THOG'S SCIENCE MASTERCLASS

Fahrenheit 2800 Dept. '... November arrived, cold as frozen iron, ...' (J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, 2003) [GS]

Low Profile Dept. 'It is doubtful if we could live on that small asteroid. The air blanket would extend, perhaps, no higher than our heads.' (Donald Wandrei, 'Colossus', 1934) [TMcD]

Dept of Absorption versus Reflection. "'The intensity will peak in the visible spectrum.' / 'As the spectrum of sunlight does normally,' Mikhail said. 'In green light, as it happens. Which is where our eyes are most sensitive, and where chlorophyll works best -- which is why, no doubt, chlorophyll was selected by evolution to serve as the photosynthetic chemical that fuels all aerobic plant life.'" (Arthur C. Clarke & Stephen Baxter, *Sunstorm -- A Time Odyssey: Book Two*, 2005)
Ansible 227, June 2006

Media File

By "Cosmic" Ray Seredin

Not much to add this month, since Felicity and I have been keeping you all updated on the latest media happenings on the BCSFA board. But here I go.

None of the American broadcast network Sci-Fi series from last fall made this springs cut. (So keep an eye out for them on DVD.) and the only new science fiction series for fall 2006 is CBS's *Defiance*, a story of the people of a small Kansas town after World War III. I'm not into a story like this (Don't ask me about a certain Air Canada Tristar flight in December 1983 please.), however I didn't like *Lost* at first, now it's must watch TV for me, so who knows.

Once again I must say that American broadcast network TV has been taken over by the bean counters, because for fall 2006, we got so many reality series that if they made any more

they have to ad another day to the week. Now anyone who's over 30 can recall the days when TV networks would make a 13 episodes series (many of them *Sic-If*.) ran it for 13 weeks then either picked up another 13 episodes or cancelled it. With that old way of network thinking we still got 13 episodes to watch. These days we're lucky if they make only six episodes and that we see a total of two or three of them before it's cancelled to make way for another reality series.

That's all for now; be seeing you in September.

Book Reviews

by Donna McMahon

BROKEN, Kelley Armstrong (Bantam, May/06, mm)

THE TRAVELER, John Twelve Hawks (Seal, June/06, mm)

THE MEADOWLARK SINGS, Helen Ruth Schwartz (Haworth Press, 2006, trade)

* * * *

Elena Michaels used to think she had problems when a wolf bit her and she started turning into a werewolf. But that was nothing. Now she's a pregnant werewolf – something even other werewolves have never heard of before. And the simple job her pack has agreed to – stealing a letter from a sorcerer – has backfired badly. It's hard to plan a nursery when you're being chased by unkillable zombies and investigating whether Jack the Ripper is roaming the streets of Toronto.

BROKEN gets off to a strong start as Armstrong introduces her protagonist, Elena, who is experiencing all the normal anxieties of any pregnant woman, ratcheted up several notches because she has no idea what to expect from a supernatural

pregnancy. Can a werewolf carry a child to term? Will changing into her wolf shape trigger a miscarriage?

This is a very strong theme, but unfortunately Armstrong fails to exploit it. Elena accidentally opens a dimensional portal from Jack the Ripper's Victorian England, but there's nothing about this problem that's especially relevant to either werewolves or pregnant women. Any heroine could be chased by zombies, and the pregnancy only makes for a handicap in a fight and a lot of arguments with her snarly, overprotective mate.

So I found the story growing tedious as it devolved into a cycle: the heroes discuss their options, attempt a strategy, discover something that makes the problem more complicated, fight for their lives, eat, have sex, sleep, then discuss their options again, and so forth. It soon seemed inevitable that our protagonist would end up alone and in peril, and sure enough, Armstrong eventually contrives to extricate Elena from her pack of werewolf bodyguards so she can fight alone.

The biggest strength of *BROKEN* lies in the secondary characters who populate Armstrong's underground of demons, sorcerers and other supernatural creatures. Standouts include Zoë (who really puts the "vamp" in vampire), Anita, a grandmotherly witch, and the crazed necromancer, Tee. Armstrong also has some fun introducing cholera to a city that has just lived through SARS, and it's likely that Torontonians will enjoy the local scenery.

Fans of action may also enjoy this book – there are lots of fights and chases. And Armstrong provides some candid pointers on how to have hot sex in the third trimester, which some readers will no doubt delight in and others are liable to find a turn-off. I found that all the action was plot-driven and none of the characters engaged me enough to keep me interested in the outcome.

I stuck out this book mainly to see if a pregnant werewolf might hatch some really offbeat surprise, but ultimately I was disappointed there, too.

* * * *

THE TRAVELER, John Twelve Hawks (Seal, June/06)

Maya is trying to escape her past. Throughout her childhood her father trained her relentlessly as a warrior, spy and assassin. At twenty-six, she has twelve passports, is an expert at disguise and can kill a man in seconds, but she wants a normal life and she's been trying to build one in London, working in an office and living like an average person.

Nonetheless, when her father is murdered, she reluctantly shoulders the responsibility he has passed to her – to travel to Los Angeles and protect two brothers who are being hunted by members of a secret organization. The odds are against her. Her enemies are entrenched in powerful positions in the US government, and they can use the full power of bureaucracies and surveillance networks against her. Worse, she doesn't believe in the cause that her father died for. She knows that the forces of oppression and control have won and a few individuals can't change that.

But she's going to fight anyway.

THE TRAVELER is obviously written to be a bestseller. It has a young, butt-kicking female protagonist and an abundance of larger than life action, placed in a very near future US setting, peppered with accurate information about the alarming potential of computerized security systems under a repressive government, and leavened with a lot of profound-sounding spiritual nonsense cherry-picked from major religions.

This is a blend of La Femme Nikita and Highlander with a dash of William Gibson and The Prisoner. Warriors called "Harlequins" have been fighting a centuries-long secret war against the "Tabula", a ruthless bunch of control freaks, in order to defend "Travelers" – mystics and prophets who have the power to influence the course of history. The Harlequins are losing this war because it's so difficult to hide in the modern world with its increasingly sophisticated surveillance systems.

Or maybe they're losing because they insist on carrying swords around. I mean, who needs high-tech face identification software when you just have to scan a crowd for people carrying sword cases? On the other hand, their sophisticated opponents don't even seem to know about orbiting satellites. I can Google my own car in my driveway and the bad guys can't track our heroes driving a van through the desert...?!

It takes a very skilled writer to overcome inherent silliness like that, but "Twelve Hawks" manages to do so. His characterization is excellent. Maya is a compelling heroine and all the other viewpoint characters are vividly drawn and strongly motivated. The bit players are good, too, and readers get a colourful tour of American subcultures, including a Los Angeles garment sweatshop full of illegal immigrants, adherents of the Divine Church of Isaac T. Jones, and refugees from middle class meaninglessness who have formed an alternative collective in the Arizona desert.

The novel also plays very successfully on ambient 21st century fears, with its convincing use of real or almost real computer technology under the control of a menacing Big Brother. If you already feel paranoid about privacy and surveillance, this book will leave you ready to unplug everything and flee. The fact that some of the technology described doesn't work as advertised YET, is scant consolation.

And all this is delivered with expert pacing. We are thrown into the middle of action on the very the first page, and the tension just keeps rising all the way to a satisfying climax, with a few deft twists thrown in.

The book jacket tells us that John Twelve Hawks lives off the grid and this is his first novel, but this most certainly isn't a first novel and Twelve Hawks smells like a pen name. (For detailed speculation, visit the Internet.) And naturally, this is a set up for a series, so expect a sequel soon.

* * * * *

THE MEADOWLARK SINGS, Helen Ruth Schwartz (Haworth Press, 2006)

In 2020 an American government dominated by the religious right bans homosexual acts. Thanks to mandatory testing for the "Scarpetti gene", the government identifies all gays and evacuates them to an island off the coast of California. For 35 years the two societies are isolated from each other. Heterosexuals

born on the island of "Cali" are sent to the US, and homosexual babies from the US are sent to the island; otherwise the two populations never meet.

In 2055 Cara Romero, a young cabinet minister in the Calian government, is picked for a mission to the U.S., a first move in re-opening diplomatic relations. It's a sensitive and risky trip, complicated by a personal mission – to find a lesbian doctor who chose to remain behind and work in the US, and who recently vanished.

Well, OK, the backstory is silly (starting with the convenient earthquake that splits a chunk of land off the California coast, 40 miles wide by 720 miles long) but I thought what the heck, let's see what the author has to say about the many interesting political and social questions surrounding sexual preference.

For instance, what would a society made up entirely of gay people be like? According to Schwartz, ideal. Hardly any crime. No more senile dementia (thanks to wonderful elder care). Full of gay men who are anxious to settle down as committed couples and raise children. Replete with good taste and wonderful designer fashions.

Simplistic is the nicest word I can come up with. The author not only has no clue about worldbuilding, economics, or science, she doesn't seem acquainted with basic human nature. In *THE MEADOWLARK SINGS* every human being is either gay or straight and there are no shades of gray. (Evidently there's no gene for bisexuality and nobody has a propensity for perversity.) People who have extremely responsible jobs at high levels of government have lots of free time to visit their friends and goof around. A delegate on a high security mission to a foreign country has so much privacy that she can carry on an illicit affair with the President's daughter without anybody noticing.

Background details are even worse. For instance, wood has become prohibitively expensive because of deforestation, but plastic made from petrochemicals is still cheap and widely available. The four million homosexuals who were moved to an entirely devastated and burned over land managed to survive without food, water or buildings (never mind an economy) and 35 years later they have built an ideal society, replete with good restaurants, fine wines, lovely buildings, and universal health care.

I wouldn't bother shooting the fish in this barrel if I weren't disappointed. The possibility of genetic testing for homosexuality is a real and alarming issue. Let's not worry about the science – the case for genetically-driven homosexuality is not strong – but if enough people are convinced that certain genetic markers are predictors of homosexuality, how will they react? We already have genetic screening technology, and in a world where female infanticide is commonplace, it's not hard to envision a misguided attempt to wipe out "perversion."

And what about sexual culture? Human beings already have radically differently male and female cultures that co-exist despite the fact that we live together in heterosexual pairs. What kind of a society might you get if males and females had no pressing motivation to interact at all?

Unfortunately, *THE MEADOWLARK SINGS* addresses none of this. It's an idealistic lesbian romance in which the SF elements are hopelessly silly and even the romance staggers because of poor plotting, purposeless dialogue and a complete lack of dramatic tension.

Why You Got This:

- You are a member. You are a non-member.
- I want your feedback. You're supposed to be into SF.
- You're not Lexi. ISPs can't delete paper.
- It's not a zine; it's just using the zine format to address its *themes*.
- This is the winning entry in a Garth Spencer write-alike contest!
- Your continued support goes toward BCSFA sponsoring a NASCAR entry.
- You have an interest in burning issues. (Please don't set this zine on fire.)
- It was a Hemingway meets Adam Sandler movie. You rescued Hemingway from Sandler. Hemingway was so grateful that he has sent this zine to you.