

BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#402

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November 2006



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Masterhead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

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Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer (the Editor), at garthspencer@shaw.ca or Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6B 5B1. BCSFAzine solicits electronic submissions, and black and white line illustrations in JPG or GIF format, and offers contributor's copies.

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This Month in BCSFA

Friday, Nov. 10: **BCSFAzine deadline** – see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #402

Saturday, Nov. 11 @ 7 pm: **BCSFA meeting/party** at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's place, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions.

Thursday, Nov. 16: **November book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *The Time Traveler's Wife* by Audrey Niffenegger

Saturday, Nov. 18: **November Feeding Frenzy** at 7 pm at Memphis Blues Barbeque House 1465 West Broadway, Vancouver. Hearty southern-fried comfort food featuring melt-in-your-mouth ribs and the best house-brand BBQ sauce in the city. We'll also be deciding on the Feeding Frenzy for January, since December will feature the annual BCSFA Christmas Dinner (to be decided at a future BCSFA meeting, naturally).

Friday, Nov. 24: **BCSFAzine production** – distribution starts at FRED

Saturday, Nov. 25 @ 7pm: **Kaffeeklatsch**, our group 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

Can You Read This Editorial?

Maybe I should write in short words and sentences.

There were some mistakes in *BCSFazine* #401. The cover said September, not October. Also, a paragraph in Taral Wayne's letter should have been two paragraphs. The first line was his question. The rest was my answer. Also, I listed some dead clubs, like VSWAT. Also, I left out the local writers' workshops. I think I left out some monthly events.

I also failed to scan Alyx Shaw's book cover. That would have been a good illo to go with her book release announcement.

I also failed to recover the review copy of *Neo-Opsis* that Stephanie Ann Johanson gave me. Stephanie, I apologize. I am savagely reducing the piles of paper and books and magazines and files in my lair. The review copy will show up.

There were also mistakes in *BCSFazine* #400. There were mistakes in previous *BCSFazines*.

Obviously I need help, to correct mistakes like this. How can I share the editing work? Can we make *BCSFazine* a team effort?

Letters of Comment

Julian Castle, Sept. 17/2006

Latest *BCSFazine* Conventions calendar lists Con-Fusion, but (A) has date as "Oct. 26 - 28" (B) does not list a website. <http://www.con-fusion.ca/> says Con-Fusion is "October 20-22, 2006".

& *Oct. 13, 2006*

Garth: since *Fido* (a zombie comedy) was made in British Columbia .. how about a short piece in *BCSFazine*? <http://www.viff.org/tixSYS/2006/filmguide/eventnote.php?EventNumber=1992>

((If you're going to write it, sure.))

Taral Wayne, Oct 8/2006

Sorry to deliver bad news, however minor. But the photo of RCW at the Hugo ceremony was just one he sent me by e-mail. I didn't

take it, and Bob's mail didn't say who did. I asked him, and he doesn't know — he thinks he got it off a web site. Dozens of shots just like this one were taken all in the same moment.

Is this the new size for *BCSFazine*?

((No, I just did 8.5x11" format for #400 and #401. They're sort of companion issues about Vancouver fandom: past, then present.))

Felicity Walker, Oct. 13, 2006

Read and enjoyed; no comments on this issue.

((You sound like an APA mailing comment.))

Ted Powell, ted@psg.com, Oct. 16, 2006

As you know, White Dwarf Books had to move a few years ago (25 November 2002), from 4368 W. 10th Avenue to 3715 W. 10th Avenue.

Some time between issues 374 and 383, their entry under Advertisers in *BCSFazine* switched from the new 3715 address back to the old 4368 address. The error persists in #401, the VCon issue.

((All right, so I copied and pasted from the wrong source. Mea fucking culpa.))

In other news, in the Directory, a runaway search-and-replace (or whatever) has changed instances of "Marilyn" into "Birthday: Marilyn", notably in the entries for Marilyn Blew and William Blew.

((Yes, it was a search-and-replace error.

((Look, can I get some help here, with like proofreading the materials for the next club directory? Also, my attempts to determine who is and is not a current member have not been very successful.))

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, October 22, 2006

I am probably very late with this, but that's okay...I would imagine most people are winding down from another V-Con, and I will be looking for reviews of the convention in future issues. In the meantime, it's issue 401 of *BCSFazine*, and with it being laid out for ledger paper rather than legal or letter, it's going to be tough to read, but not impossible.

Hey, issue 400 served its purpose, and presented a regular issue to V-Con members. That may be all that was needed. If a jazzed-up issue of *BCSFazine* had been given out to new people, they may have

assumed that's the way it was going to be each issue.

((It would have worked even better if I had arranged with the Vcon committee to print extra copies and include them with member packages. Somehow I forgot to do that.))

The reason why clubzines have been eliminated from eligibility to win a Best Fanzine Aurora was that the local Trek club here had been accused of stuffing the ballot in order to get the clubzine editor a nice present. With this story, this kind of abuse was stopped in a succession of Aurora business meetings, but this also penalized other clubzine editors unnecessarily. I'd happily vote the clubzines as eligible again, but that would take another series of meetings that I'd just as soon not attend.

((Ah. Well, clubzines should still be eligible for Fan Activity (Other nominations.))

I was at Con*cept last weekend, and the photo of Robert Charles Wilson, Tom Doherty and Teresa Nielsen Hayden was used to create part of the Con*cept programme book. Con*cept was a good time, but I am not sure they got the attendance they wanted. Chairman Cathy Palmer-Lister was a little pessimistic about the future of the convention, but it's always possible that someone else may want to step forward and say they can run the next one. I think Cathy's had enough of chairing, and I full understand. I hope a competent replacement can be found. Flyers for Rob Sawyer's appearance at the Surrey International Writers Conference could be found on the freebie table at Con*cept.

Cheryl Morgan, IMHO, has been disillusioned with fanzine fandom for some time now. After various feelings of being excluded, and being told all about her zine's deficiencies, the largest of which seemed to be the lack of letter column, she declared *Emerald City* to be a semi-prozine, and was nominated as such for a Hugo. The disappointments of fanzine fandom, combined with the pressures to make a living, have driven her to shut *Emerald City* down. The latest issue is no. 133, and should no. 134 appear, it will be the last issue.

((I sort of understand her feelings. Or I just imagine that she, too, proposed one sort of fan activity and kept running up against people's preconceptions, that her thing had to be something different than it was. I admit, it took me a long time to understand she intended to do an online fiction review, from the outset.))

The obituary list is long and honoured. Unfortunately, the newest addition is Bob Tucker, long considered the father of fannishness and one of the nicest souls you'd ever want to meet. I

am certain you've found out much more about this gentleman, and many more zines will have reminiscences soon.

I have read mixed reviews of the newly enhanced ST-TOS episodes...some think the basis of their childhood has been tinkered with, and they feel lost. Others say the enhanced effects add to the series, and correct mistakes and create SFX impossible to produce in the late 60s. Has anyone seen these new episodes, and what do they think?

Because of the upcoming World Horror Convention being in Toronto in March, Ad Astra 26 has had to move its date just a little bit, to March 2-4, 2007. The convention will return to regular late-March date in coming years.

Not much new here, the conventions continue, the pubnights carry on, and all is well with what little activities we have. And with that, I'll end this, and fire it off to you and my LJ. Take care, and see you next issue.

Current Memberships

These members were to expire in October 2006: Kathleen & Philip Freeman, Andrew Kacerik, Dale McGladdery, Virginia O'Dine, Lynda Williams, Ken Wong

One member has to renew soon: Murray Moore, Dec. 2006



Members' Birthdays in November

- Nov. 2: **Rachel-Ann Witherspoon-Li** (soon to star in her own comic book)
- Nov. 4: **Tom Barr** left BCSFA due to Frank Skinner's incessant punning. Then Frank Skinner left for California. It is rumoured that Frank inadvertently moved to the same place Tom Barr went to escape him. (This reminds me of VCon moving to October because of the competing conventions in May, only to find Anglicon also moved to October, for the same reason. Do enough accidents like this make a trend?)
- Nov. 7: **Brooke Sackett** had a courtesy membership as part of the Mueller/Sackett family, but left fandom and childhood behind when she emigrated to join the Indonesian space program.
- Nov. 11: **Stephen Kawamoto** is still working on his masked crime-fighter superhero identity.
- Nov. 12: **Wendy Harris** is in training to become a crazy cat lady.
- Nov. 13: **Shelley Mullock** has no need for excuses.
- Nov. 15.5: Sophronia Witherspoon-Li is a researcher in chronic miscommunications. Her current project involves controlled misspelling of government postal codes.
- Nov. 18: **Steve Barclay** is my arch-nemesis.
- Nov. 23: **Allan Ferguson** is the reason why Delta got that way.
- Nov. 24: **Spider Robinson** needs no introduction.
- Nov. 26: **Amy Morgan/Hearn** is a sometime fanartist who is currently struggling against a worldwide conspiracy to misplace her address.

Advertisements

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

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Kate Smith's catalogue

of books for sale
is now available at
Kate.smith@shaw.ca

Garth Spencer's catalogue

of his books for sale
will soon be available at
garthspencer@shaw.ca

Regular Monthly Events

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.

8:00 p.m.: **OR COME TO FRED!** every Friday til whenever, usually at Boston Pizza on Broadway near Granville, Vancouver, BC – a casual drop-in gathering of fans for conversation. (Still looking at new venues for the long term)

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.

Fortnightly Events

Every Second Monday

Perpetual-Motion Inventors & Gadgeteers Meet: 7 to 9 pm at Ariel Café, 73 Kingsway x Broadway, Vancouver, BC.

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/pggrasc/>) 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.



Convention News

CORFLU NEWS

"I've added a page for Pat Virzi's Corflu Quire, the convention for fanzine fans to be held in Austin, Texas, 9-11 February 2007."

See <http://efanzines.com>

Bill Burns, Sept. 15, 2006

ORYCON IS FUR FRIENDLY TOO

"For those of you who aren't going to MFF there is something to do the same weekend. Orycon has been around for 28 years and would love to have you come. Yes it 's a sci-fi/fantasy con but it is fur friendly (it better be the Vice Chair is a fur and the Chairman of the new fur-con Rainfurrest in Washington). Please check out the Orycon web page and hope to see you there (www.orycon.org) .

"The Portland Marriott Waterfront is the official hotel and conference site of OryCon28. The nightly rate for the hotel is \$99, single thru quad (when you register through our options below). The address is: 1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR 97201. Guest Artist is Vincent DiFate; Guest Editor is Ellen Datlow; Guest Writer is Cory Doctorow; GoH: Media is Michael DeMerritt; and Special guests announced are Tania Opland and Mike Freeman.

"*Heather Alexander in concert.* Heather Alexander will perform in a special, once-in-a-lifetime concert at 9pm on Saturday evening, November 18th at OryCon. For those who have never seen her perform, and for those who think they've seen every kind of concert she can do - this is one you will not want to miss!"

Gene Armstrong, October 19, 2006



Convention Calendar

November 2006

Nov. 4 – 6: **AmberConNW** - Troutdale, Oregon (Amber related role playing convention); see www.amberconnw.org

Nov. 5 (11-5): **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Michel Gagné, creator of *Insanely Twisted Rabbits*, *Odd Numbers*, *Zed* contributor to *Flight*; Steve Rolston, artist of *The Escapists*, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *Queen and Country*, *Pounded*; creator of *One Bad Day*; Kelly Everaert, creator of *Jungle Tales*, *Trilogy of Terror*; Robin Thompson, creator of *Champions of Hell*, *Li'l Natas*; Fred Grisplm, creator of *Hate Song*; Jason Pultz, creator of *scarybear & Friends*; Verne Andru, creator of *420*; artist on *Rock and Rule*; Mike Myhre, creator of *Space Jet Comics*; Camilla d'Errico, creator of *Burn*, *Zevon-7*; Sarah Haxby, creator of *Pearl girl*, *Mary Kim*; Critical Hit Comics; *The Radar Friends*; *The Sonar Gang*, Skeleton Key Press. Admission: \$3.00 (kids under 14 get in free) Dealer Tables: \$50/wall; \$40/centre. For more information about either show, please call 604-322-6412 or email lswong@uniserve.com. URL <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 \$55 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 1-3: **SMOFCon 24** at the Hotel Phillips, Kansas City MO. The convention-runner's con. Info: www.smofcon.org

January 2007

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

February 2007

Feb. 24: Noon to 9:00 p.m. ?? UAA Student Union, Anchorage, Alaska (Anime - please note that their web site is under construction, but there is a link to a forum where you can find out more: www.rei-chan.net/senshicon)

March 2007

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

Mar. 16 – 18: **Anime Oasis V** - Boise, Idaho (anime); see www.animeoasis.org

Mar. 24: **Nishikaze III** - Lethbridge, Alberta (anime); see www.nishikaze.org

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.

Mar. 30 - April 1: **Gamestorm** - Portland, Oregon (gaming); see www.gamestorm.org

Mar. 31 - April 1: **Fifth Annual Emerald City ComicCon** - Seattle, Washington (Comics); see www.emeraldcitycomiccon.com and look at the samurai rabbit!

April 2007

Apr. 5 - 8: **Norwescon 30** - SeaTac, Washington (The premiere northwest regional general science fiction convention) At least that's what the Northwest SF Resources site says. I'm not impressed by great big conventions, but that's just me. Check out www.norwescon.org

Apr. 6 - 8: **SakuraCon 2007** - Seattle, Washington (Sakura-Con is the premier Pacific Northwest Anime Convention devoted to East Asian Culture, with a particular focus on Japanese animation (anime), Japanese Comics (manga), and video gaming). See www.sakuracon.org

May 2007

May 19 - 20: **OtaFest** - Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Anime)

May 20: **Eugene Comic Book and Collectible Show** - Eugene, Oregon (Comics) see www.eugenecomiccon.com

May 25 - 28: **Miscon 21** - Missoula, Montana (Miscon comes of age :-). Full spectrum science fiction/fantasy/horror convention) see www.miscon.org

June 2007

June 22 - 29: **SeaTrek 2007** - Starts and ends in Seattle with the middle in the Pacific Ocean (Cruise based science fiction media convention - check their web site for details on this cruise based con and others) see www.scifi-cruises.com

August 2007

30 Aug - 3 Sep 07 **NIPPON 2007** (65th Worldcon), Yokohama, Japan. Sterling rates: £115 reg/£27 supp, £87/£20 age 13-19; £42 7-12. Contact (UK) 68 Crichton Avenue, York, YO30 6EE; 07815 767273.

September 2007

Sept. 27 - 30: **Bouchercon 2007** - Anchorage, Alaska (Mystery-related, but also with some SF influence on occasion)

Book and Author News



WILL YOU SUPPORT THIS CAUSE?

“ROBERT ANTON WILSON, co-author of the *Illuminatus!* trilogy and guru of offbeat thinking, has only months to live and is broke. He faced eviction from his apartment until a fund-raising call brought help with the rent. Donations to the cause of allowing RAW to die peacefully at home can be sent c/o Futique Trust, PO Box 3561, Santa Cruz, CA 95063, USA (dollar checks payable to him), or Paypal to olgaceline@gmail.com. He writes: 'I am dumbfounded, flabbergasted, and

totally stunned by the charity and compassion that has poured in

here the last three days. To steal from Jack Benny, "I do not deserve this, but I also have severe leg problems and I don't deserve them either." [BB] "

Ansible 231, October 2006

BOOK RELEASES

Edge Publishing 2006 Releases (Canada):

Forbidden Cargo by Rebecca K. Rowe (APRIL 2006)

The Alphanauts by J. Brian Clarke (MAY 2006)

Hydrogen Steel by K. A. Bedford (AUGUST 2006)

i-Robot Poetry by Jason Christie (SEPTEMBER 2006)

Tesseract 10 edited by Robert Charles Wilson & Edo van Belkom (OCTOBER 2006)

Righteous Anger by Lynda Williams (NOVEMBER 2006)

January 2007

Asher, Neal, *Brass Man* (Tor, tpb)

Baker, Kage, *Gods and Pawns* (Tor, cln, hc)

Ballantyne, Tony, *Divergence* (Macmillan/Tor UK, tpb)

Baxter, Stephen, *Emperor* (Ace, hc)

Chabon, Michael, *The Yiddish Policemen's Union* (HarperCollins, hc)

Dick, Philip K., *Voices from the Street* (Tor, hc)

Fowler, Karen Joy, & Pat Murphy, Debbie Notkin, & Jeffrey D. Smith, eds., *The James Tiptree Award Anthology 3* (Tachyon Publications, anth, tpb)

Haydon, Elizabeth, *The Assassin King* (Tor, hc)

Holdstock, Robert, *The Broken Kings* (Orion/Gollancz, hc)

Kiernan, Caitlin R., *Daughter of Hounds* (Penguin/Roc, tpb)

Lynch, Scott, *Red Seas Under Red Skies* (Orion/Gollancz, hc/tpb)

McCaffrey, Anne, & Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, *Maelstrom* (Ballantine Del Rey, hc)

Park, Paul, *The White Tyger* (Tor, hc)

Pratt, Tim, *Hart & Boot & Other Stories* (Night Shade Books, cln, tpb)

Simmons, Dan, *The Terror* (Little Brown, hc)

Sullivan, Tricia, *Of Sound Mind* (Little Brown UK/Orbit)

Williams, Tad, *Shadowplay* (DAW, hc)

Williams, Tad, *Shadowplay* (Little Brown UK/Orbit, hc)

BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS

NOVEL (August Derleth Award): Neil Gaiman, *Anansi Boys*

NOVELLA Stuart Young, 'The Mask Behind the Face' (*The Mask Behind the Face & Other Stories*)

ANTHOLOGY Allen Ashley, *The Elastic Book of Numbers*

COLLECTION Joe Hill, *20th Century Ghosts*

SHORT Joe Hill, 'Best New Horror' (*Postscripts* #3)

ARTIST Les Edwards

SMALL PRESS Peter Crowther, PS Publishing

SPECIAL (Karl Edward Wagner Award): Stephen Jones

BFS COMMITTEE FOUNDERS AWARD Keith Walker, Rosemary Pardoe, Phil Spencer, David Sutton

Ansible 231, October 2006

"*THE SINGULARITY IS NIGH!*

AQUEDUCT PRESS ADDS LANGE NOVELLA TO CONVERSATION PIECES SERIES"

"Independent publisher Aqueduct Press has purchased Sue Lange's recent novella, 'We Robots,' for publication in early 2007. The novella, which addresses the theory of the Singularity, popular in science fiction, will be published as part of Aqueduct's ongoing Conversations Pieces Series.

"Aqueduct Press is a feminist science fiction press run by SF scholar, L. Timmel Duchamp. The press is known for its publication of literary science fiction such as the 2004 Philip K. Dick award-winner, *Life*, by Gwyneth Jones. Other notable authors Aqueduct Press has published include Eleanor Arnason and Nicola Griffith. The mission of Aqueduct Press is to bring to readers "work that will stretch the imagination and stimulate thought."

"We, Robots' is Lange's second book. Her first novel, *Tritcheon Hash*, was published in 2003 by Metropolis Ink. That book questions culture's assumptions about gender. 'We, Robots' questions technology's assumptions about humanity.

"Publication date is set for March, 2007."

Aqueduct Press, PO Box 95787, Seattle, WA 98145, USA

For information contact: info@aqueductpress.com

Publisher's website: <http://www.aqueductpress.com>

Author's contact: suelange@tritcheonhash.com

Author's website: <http://www.tritcheonhash.com>

Sue Lange, Digital Production Manager, October 19, 2006

IEEE Communications Society, 3 Park Ave., New York, NY 10016
s.lange@comsoc.org

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: 2007 ENDEAVOUR AWARD

"Folks, we need your help in finding out about books by NW writers that are eligible for the Endeavour Award:

"As we finish the preliminary judging for the this year's Award, it's time to ask folks to send us entries for the 2007 Endeavour Award, which will be announced during November of next year. The Award comes with a grant of \$1,000.

"The 2007 Endeavour Award will be given to a science fiction or fantasy book — either a novel or single-author collection of stories —

published during 2006. The majority of the book must have been written — and the book accepted for publication — while the author was living in the Pacific Northwest (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, British Columbia, or the Yukon.) (The full eligibility rules are at the end of this message.)

“While the deadline for books published during 2006 is February 15, 2007 we need the books as soon as possible. We expect over 30 entries this year. Each book is read seven times by our preliminary judges and we need to keep them busy throughout the year.

“IF YOU HAD AN ELIGIBLE SCIENCE FICTION OR FANTASY BOOK OUT IN 2005 THAT HAS NOT BEEN ENTERED YET, PLEASE HAVE YOUR EDITOR SUBMIT THE BOOK OR DO SO YOURSELF.

“IF YOU WILL HAVE ONE OUT LATER THIS YEAR, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN BE SURE AND GET IT FROM YOUR EDITOR.

“To enter, the publisher or author needs to send us five (5) copies of the book for our judges and the entry form, which can be printed from our Web page: <http://www.osfci.org/endeavour>

“MAILING ADDRESS:

“You may send books directly to the chairman of the Award at:

“Endeavour Award c/o James Fiscus 1915 SE Taylor Portland, OR 97214 (USA)

“ You may mail books to our post office box:

“Endeavour Award c/o OSFCI P.O. Box 5703 Portland, Oregon 97228 (USA)

“NOTE: UPS, FED EX, AND OTHER DELIVER SERVICES WILL NOT DELIVER TO A POST OFFICE BOX.

“If you have any questions, please contact me at:

“fiscus@sff.net

“ELIGIBILITY RULES: To be eligible for the award, a work must be an original science fiction or fantasy novel or single-author collection of stories published — either as a hardcover or paperback — for the first time in the English language during the calendar year preceding the giving of the award. The publication date shall be the official date of publication, and not the date the book first appears on the stands.

“Eligible books must be at least 40,000 words long, and must be generally available to the public in print. Comic books and graphic novels are not eligible. Works by Award winners published in the year immediately following their win shall not be eligible for the Award.

“The author(s) must have been living [maintaining legal or physical residence] in the Pacific Northwest [Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, The Yukon, and British Columbia] when the publisher accepted the book, and must affirm that they wrote the majority of the book while living in the Pacific Northwest.

“Authors may withdraw from consideration, without prejudice, any work published in a regional or otherwise limited edition. Any work so withdrawn shall be eligible for the award when first published in a mass market, trade, or hardcover edition. Works first published outside of the United States or Canada do not have to be formally withdrawn if not entered for the award, and if not entered shall be eligible in the year in which they are first published in the United States or Canada.”

Bobbie Dufault, to NWConLeague, SFNorthwest, C3, Oct. 11, 2006

SUNBURST AWARD ANNOUNCES 2006 WINNER OF ITS \$1,000 LITERARY PRIZE

Toronto (September 25th, 2006): The Sunburst Award Committee is pleased to announce that the winner of its 2006 award is *In the Palace of Repose* (Prime Books, ISBN 1894815580) by Holly Phillips.

The Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic is a prized and juried award presented annually. It is based on excellence of writing and awarded to a Canadian writer who has published a speculative fiction novel or book-length collection any time during the previous calendar year. Named after the 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 a "Sunburst" logo, designed by Marcel Gagné.

The Sunburst jury said, "The stories of *In the Palace of Repose* spring to life from the page. As the characters uncover artefacts of an unimagined past, relive a long-forgotten murder, cope with a memory that suddenly wipes itself clean or struggle to adapt to startling new worlds, Holly Phillips's masterful writing, depth of characterization and complete control of her craft make this book a joy to read."

Publishers Weekly says, "This collection of nine fantasy and slipstream short stories ... offers a neat package of quietly thoughtful, composed writing ... readers will find themselves drawn in by elegant imagery and evocative settings, making this one stand out from the pack."

Holly Phillips lives near Trail, BC. Her other works include the novel *The Burning Girl* as well as numerous short stories.

The other shortlisted works for the 2006 award were: * *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* by Cory Doctorow (Tor Books, ISBN 0765312786); * *Gravity Wells: Speculative Fiction Stories* by James Alan Gardner (HarperCollins Canada, ISBN 0060087706); * *The Wave Theory of Angels* by Alison MacLeod (Penguin Canada, ISBN 0143051334); and * *Spin* by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor Books, ISBN 07653093866).

Jurors for the 2006 Sunburst Award were Larissa Lai, Janet McNaughton, Uppinder Mehan, Derryl Murphy and Elisabeth Vonarburg. They selected five shortlisted works as representing the finest of Canadian fantastic literature published during the 2005 calendar year.

The 2007 Award jurors will be Steven Erikson, James Alan Gardner, Tom Henighan, Emily Pohl-Weary and Caitlin Sweet.

For additional information about the Sunburst Award, the nominees and jurors, as well as previous awards, eligibility and the selection process, please visit the website at www.sunburstaward.org.

The Sunburst Award, 2 Farm Greenway, Toronto, ON Canada M3A 3M, www.sunburstaward.org

Rebecca Simkin at rebecca@sunburstaward.org, Sept. 27, 2006

MARKET NEWS

"_Emil Fortune_ writes: 'I'm looking for short SF stories of around 5K-7K words, to appear in an anthology for young adults. The book is to be published by Walker Books around the end of 2007. The only real restrictions on content are that the main character should be a teenager (or similar; if we're doing talking squid in outer space, they should be callow calamari) and that the story should be reasonably age appropriate (not too much in the way of sex and violence).' Email for more details: emil.fortune@walker.co.uk. Deadline: end February."

Ansible 231, October 2006

EDGE PUBLISHING

"I just want to give you a "heads up" on the BookShorts MOVING STORIES premiere.

"It [included] a short animated film based on our latest book, *i-ROBOT Poetry* by Jason Christie. The show [was broadcasted] on BookTelevision tomorrow, Thursday, September 28 at 8pm EST and on The Canadian Learning Channel, Sunday, October 8th at 8:30am EST.....

"In Jason Christie's collection of ROBOT poems, robots and other "sentient" animated appliances and are openly lamenting their positions as slaves to human desires — and dreaming of finding their own identities and destinies!

"The BookShort animation is based on Christie's "i-ROBOT Poetry by Jason Christie" - a collection of highly intelligent "ROBOTICA" poems - and is a stunning analysis of the world of robots, their inner emotions and what they perceive of the men and machines around them.

"Some of the robotic devices featured in the poems are garburetors, refrigerators, and washing machines. They even get the blues:

"Why do I have to be one of millions? Why can't I just be a lonely little one in search of a zero to call my own?..."

"Tune in to the BookShorts MOVING STORIES premiere tomorrow night at 8pm EST or catch the Canadian Learning Channel premiere on Sunday, October 8th at 8:30am EST.

"For more information about the broadcasts please visit: <http://www.bookshorts.com>

For more information about the book please visit: <http://www.edgewebsite.com/books/irobotpoetry/ir-catalog.html>

EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing now includes Tesseract Books and can be reached at: Box 1714, Calgary, AB, T2P 2L7, Canada 403-254-0160 (voice) / 403-254-0456 (fax)

<http://www.edgewebsite.com/>

i-ROBOT Poetry by Jason Christie ISBN: 1-894063-24-4 5.25" X 8.0" Paperback \$19.95 Canadian Available at better bookstores and amazon.ca

<http://www.amazon.ca/exec/obidos/ASIN/1894063244/edgescienc eficti>

Brian Hades, Sept. 27, 2006

PRO FOLLIES



"HARLAN ELLISON has launched further exciting litigation. One suit is against Gary Groth and Kim Thompson of Fantagraphics for (a) using his trademarked name with the unwise subtitle 'Famous comics dilettante' on the cover of *Comics Journal Library 8: The Writers*, reprinting an old HE interview; and (b) alleged defamation in their book *Comics as Art (We Told You So)*. The hand of the master can be detected in the statement of complaint, which describes Fantagraphics as 'a tiny but hostile publishing outfit', Groth as 'a scheming pathological liar ... an obsessively vindictive and petty man', and Ellison as famous, fearless, magnanimous, scrupulous, etc. Lawsuit number two is against Pocket Books, for allowing the use of Ellison's 'City on the Edge of Forever' character Edith Keeler in *Star Trek* novelizations by other hands.

Ansible 231, October 2006

“URSULA LE GUIN was dismayed by her listing in the ‘Highbrow/Despicable’ quadrant of a silly graphic feature in *New York* magazine. Being short of shelf space, she donates surplus books to the library, which in turn holds sales of stock ... and in due course the author John McNally, who’d sent her an inscribed novel, grumbled in his weblog that this ‘pristine copy’ had shockingly been offered on eBay. Moral: if you are a famous writer deluged with books, the only safe course is to burn them. (Which reminds me that a US small-town twit called Alton Verm is striking a blow for decency by demanding that his local school reading list be purged of licentious ‘filth’: that is, of *Fahrenheit 451*.)”



Ansible 231, October 2006

“CHRIS PRIEST found that the studio which filmed *The Prestige* has become infected by the novel's theme of obsessive, demented secrecy. His cautious commendation of the film (which they hadn't trusted him to see — he might give away the plot!) appeared in *Empire* [magazine] alongside an interview with director Christopher Nolan, who endeared himself by urging fans *not* to read the book: ‘It spoils everything.’ Even the usual author perk of a film tie-in edition was vetoed in the USA. Though the movie has a different ending, the studio folk don't want anyone reading that 1995 novel for fear of ruining ‘their’ surprise. (Gollancz, however, acquired film artwork for a UK tie-in by dint of savage persistence.) *Ansible* dares not reveal that the character ‘Rosebud’ is actually ...”

Ansible 231, October 2006

OBITS

Charles L. Grant (1942-2006), prolific US author and anthologist who was best known for horror and dark fantasy but also wrote sf, died on 15 September. He was 62. His many awards included the Nebula (twice) and World Fantasy Award, plus Stoker, World Horror and International Horror Guild life achievement honours. [SFWA]

Ansible 231 and Kathy Ptacek email, October 2006

RIP BOB TUCKER 06 OCTOBER 2006

“Wilson Tucker passed away today: Friday, October 6, 2006. He had been in a hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida since Tuesday. He would have turned 92 in a few weeks. Tucker contributed to many

aspects of genre Science Fiction. As ‘Bob’ Tucker, he was well loved as a convention guest and fanzine writer. He served on the committee of the 2nd World Science Fiction Convention, Chicon, in 1940. He was the author of 60 short stories and novels, including the Campbell Award winning *The Year of the Quiet Sun*. His many other honors included three Hugo Awards (two retro), the First Fandom Hall of Fame Award, E.E. Smith Memorial Award, Archon Hall of Fame Award – Grand Master, Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America Author Emeritus, and he was a 2003 inductee in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Hall of Fame. Bob was preceded in death by his wife of 52 years, Fern Delores Tucker, on June 7th. He will be cremated and his ashes will be interred next to hers in Bloomington, Illinois. No details are available at this time, but a memorial will probably be conducted in Bloomington in a few weeks. The 2007 North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) in Collinsville, Illinois will be dedicated to Bob.”

SFWA Obituary from *Vegas Fandom Weekly*, Oct 21, 2006

Parallax Views of VCon



ONE FAN'S VCON
Greg Slade writes:

“As far as BIFF is concerned, VCON 31 was a roaring success. FAIR: Fannish Activity in Richmond (the joint FRED and BIFF get together in the Foggy Dew pub) drew at least 27 people by my count. (That's only including those who sat down in our imperialistic space

and ordered something. A number of other fans who were heading into the pub also stopped to chat for a while, so FAIR's impact was even wider than these numbers indicate.

"Two significant events happened during FAIR: First, Steve Forty, the keeper of "The Book of FRED" since FRED began, officially handed over the Book of FRED to Ryan Hawe, who has been spearheading the drive to revitalize FRED, and moved it to its current location at Boston Pizza, 1333 West Broadway (two blocks East of Granville), Vancouver. I took this as a sign that Steve is putting his stamp of approval on Ryan's efforts. Second, as the event was just starting, we discovered that the first three people to show up were all fans of *Commander's Log*, so we decided to start a *Commander's Log* fan club. (As it happens, Craig Bowsby, the writer/producer/star of *Commander's Log* was at VCON to give a sneak preview of Episode 4, which will be formally unveiled in public at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre (where some scenes were shot) in December. Craig tells me that there isn't any existing fan club, and has given his blessing to our efforts, so we will be the "Official" *Commander's Log* fan club. More details once we get our act together and launch the web site.

"The BIFF room party drew huge crowds, including most of the movers and shakers involved with VCON. I started making the "U.S.S. Enterpr-ice" desserts, and a couple of minutes after dishing out the first one, I heard a squeal of "That is so *cute*!" I take that as a stamp of approval. Thanks go to Deej, for making her room available, Marina for coordinating the food, all those who provided food, Val for designing the posters, and Michael for a very creative campaign of postering, which definitely helped to draw the crowds.

"The BIFF table in the Dealers' Room was also a smashing success, and apparently had higher sales than any other dealer in the room. Val, the Minister of Bling, reports that the total of sales and donations came to \$557.55. (You might think that we made \$2 too much, but actually, we made \$220.22 too little. :-) Thanks to Val for organising the table, to Colleen1, Paxwolf, and Michael for helping out, and to all those who provided stuff to sell.

"All told, BIFF has definitely made a splash in local fandom, and now people know who we are. In fact, the whole con is looking up: registrations were up significantly (I don't know the final numbers yet, but Howard told me that the pre-registration numbers exceeded last year's total, and that's before counting any of the memberships sold at the door.) Also, there were a number of fan tables which added some flash to the con, most notably the Outer Rim Squad, who not only had a funky table, but strolled around the con in costume, but the Anime Evolution and Farscape Canada tables were very cool, too. Unfortunately, all was not fun and games: a couple of

fan tables ended up having some items stolen during the con. But still, on the whole, a good time was had by all. ..."

Greg Slade, Oct. 13, 2006



NYLONS, CYLONS AND PYLONS

A Review of VCon 31

By Cosmic Ray Seredin

A huge assembly of fans hit the Greater Vancouver Area in full force on the October long weekend as 490 science fantasy fans gathered at the Executive Airport Plaza in Richmond for VCon 31, the best VCon since 1992. For me the fun started at eight Friday morning as I talked to a number of future writers heading into the Writing Master Class. After that the truck with all the stuff we need to run a great con arrived and for the next two hours I (was) helped unloading it. About 10:30 my two roommates got in from Powell River and so all three of us were recruited by Christina to look after the doors of the dealers' room for the next three hours while they were setting it up. I got the best part of this deal, since my two roommates were on the outside guarding the main door, while I was guarding the side door from the inside and got to see all the cool stuff they have in the dealers' room before anyone else. Our room became available at two. It was once again on the third floor of the far side of the west wing of the hotel (it was number was 316 if anyone wants to know). After I put my chip dip into the fridge and freshened up a bit, I returned to the con. I met with a good number of old friends before heading off to the first ever BIFF/FRED joint gathering. It was great fun as most of us guys were also watching the ball game playing on the Foggy Dew's TVs (yes, under a good number of male science

fantasy fans' skin is a crazed sports fan) but as it turns out we only had very limited table space and when I paid a quick call to the privy, I found my chair taken, so I paid my bill and headed to Hospitality. I must say that Chang went above and beyond with VCon 31's Hospitality, because he had a head injury this past summer and he hasn't worked since. The bad news: even three months after the event he still is constantly dizzy. The good news: he's still getting the same amount of money from WCB that he would have made at work and besides he was able get the liquor flowing in hospitality right on time for a change. The BIFF party started at 10 p.m. and after a call to my room for my chip dip I was there. It was a fun place to hang out for a while. However it was alcohol free (Note: I don't drink like I used to. Still, I'm OK with having a few). So I went looking for more parties, to find none, so I drifted between hospitality, BIFF and the after-hours hospitality, before calling it a night. After a somewhat good night's sleep, I quickly took a shower before putting on my noteworthy hall costume with its trademark flowing trench coat. It's how I would dress every day if I were battling evil throughout time and space in my Type 40 TARDIS (or a 1930s London police call box if you like). I went down to the restaurant where I met up with Steve 40 and two of the con's guests, James and Gail Glass. We ended up having breakfast together. That was quite enjoyable, though the food was not as good as it was the year before. Right after breakfast there was a very interesting panel on coming genre films due out in the next three to four years. The panel chair was Gareth von Kallenbach who knows the ins and outs of the media business quite well. He told me that the locally produced remake of the 1970s classic sci-fi film *Logan's Run* has been cancelled. However all the sets and set plans are going into storage, meaning that the project may get off the ground at a later date. He also said that the 11th *Star Trek* movie may not take place in Kirk/Spock's Academy days. Still, there a 66% chance that it will, and that the next *Indiana Jones* film may not come for the next few years since both George Lucas and Steven Spielberg are quite busy with their other projects. It was now noon and since I want to break the habit of watching television, I went to VCon 31 GoH Barbara Hambly's reading. It was from her latest novel *Renfield: Slave of Dracula*, and from what I heard it would be a very good read. However for a media junkie like me, I ended up in the dealers' room after it concluded and ended up buying a year's subscription to *Whoitopia*, a locally produced fanzine on you know what. (If you don't know what, it's on *Doctor Who*.) After a rather long talk to the fanzine's editor and the BIFF crew, I was heading over to hospitality when Kathleen Moore-Freeman stopped me dead in my tracks to give me a "Hall Costume" Award. (Thanks Kathleen.) As it turns out I never made it to hospitality, because I saw Billie McLeod,



her long-time boyfriend (it's been 22 years and still I don't know his name) and old friend from Norwescon who now lives in Nanaimo, in the gaming room. Soon we were talking our heads off about my second love, transportation (BC Ferries, the E&N Railway and the super high speed train that could travel from Eugene, Oregon to here in one hour twenty minutes if Vancouver, Seattle and Portland get the 2020 World Fair) and before I knew it was ten to four, so I popped in to the Foggy Dew to have something to eat before the place filled up with hockey fans and went to the panel called "How Possible Is Time Travel?" After that I return to my room

for a catnap and to get my camcorder. At 7:00 p.m. in the Video Room was the 29th Elrons hosted by BCSFA's very own R. Graeme Cameron. As of right now, there are people out there who need have the bronzed lemon to remind of that piece work they did, and I feel it should come with a little decalomania that reads "*What were you thinking when came up with that piece of sh*t*". Yet, I found it hard to believe that he gave one to Kathleen Moore-Freeman for running the BCSFA meeting out of her and Phil's place for the last few years.

Note to R. Graeme: Please try to get to the next BCSFA meeting on November 11. Note to Kathleen: Take a week away from your Friday night gaming group in New Westminster and come to a BIFF, so we can start rebuilding BCSFA.

"By the time the Elrons ended it was 8:00 and we all made a quick scurry to the Masquerade. This was the event that VCons were missing for the last few years and many of us in the Northwest Fandom community are overjoyed in seeing it back. For the whole day the hallways of the Executive Airport Plaza were over flowing with great hall costumes. My favourite was a goth girl with very pleasing black and red high nylon stockings. So the masquerade was the icing on many of the members' cakes. Michael Walsh did the best that he could hosting the event and since the masquerade ran on con-time he ended up telling some of the worst jokes in recorded history (where was R. Graeme's bad joke-telling alien or Garth running in and yelling "Wenn ist das Nunstuck git und Slotermeyer? Ja! Beiherhund das Oder die Flipperwaldt gersput!") with some of us with hall costumes (including myself) coming up on stage to save humanity.

(Editor's note: I object. I do not go around saying that all the time. Only some of the time. -GS)

At last the show got going with great brush of members of area fandom whose costumes could give the fans at Norwescon a run for

their money. Its half-time show was the up-coming stage production of *Rocky Horror*, that still needed a little work, but they still had three weeks to get it right. After few more of Michael Walsh's very bad jokes and some others (I came this close to telling one about a Dalek crossing a road) the panel of acclaimed judges came in and the grand prize winner was: my roommate Brandon Lee as *Darth Vader*. However, the *Vader* costume is literally quite hot, so he returned to our room. So the streak I passed in the hallway while I was returning to our room was him rushing to get his award. I retired my costume for the remainder of the con. Then it was time to hit some room parties. Anticipation is the Montréal Bid for WorldCon in 2009 and I feel that I tasted the greatest food on Earth, a Montréal smoked meat sandwich. Then I paid a call on the new convention that could likely take over from VikingCon in Bellingham. Then I ended up in a party ran by local *Battlestar Galactica* fans and after passing through their Cylon detector, I stayed there to watch the season three opener, that ran to about in the morning. Only thing I can say about it: it's fantastic!

At two I went to see if anyone was in the hot tub, but there were none there. I went down to the after-hours hospitality once again before calling it a night. Sunday morning, I had breakfast alone. Still, I was close to Billie and her gang who were quite entertaining. The first panel that I went to was the last bit of "Adapting Science-Fiction Literature for Film or TV" and from what I heard it was quite interesting and I wish I had come sooner. The next was "Sci-Fi TV Fall 2006," that talked about this fall's line-up of new and returning genre programming, and once again Vancouver is the sci-fi series production capital of the world. (The only series that are NOT made here are *Doctor Who*, *Heroes*, *Jericho*, *Lost* and *Torchwood*. Look for the little tour of our area's production sites I'm planning for VCon 32.) After that they I stayed for the "Wonder Women: The World of Joss Whedon" panel. After an hour walking the halls and meeting some more friends while trying to find Brandon to ask him to tape the Turkey Readings for me, I went to the R. Graeme panel on Canada's very real flying saucers that Avro built for the Americans in the 1950s. After handing my camcorder over to Brandon, I headed to the panel on the local group making the fan-series titled Into the Black, based on Joss Whedon's *Serenity*-verse. It sounds like it was great fun to make (however they did go through three directors) and I look forward to seeing it.

I returned for the last half of the Turkey Readings and as always it was very, very comical. Since I went to return my camcorder to the room I missed the best part of the Closing Ceremonies, Mr. Science's Liquid Nitrogen Ice Cream show. Still I must say that all who took

part in guesting and running of VCon 31 really got a huge pat on the back from all us members.

I'm still writing because it was not the end of VCon 31. After meeting the team that will run VCon 32, I went to two panels on the *Burning Man* and the *Galactica* "Webisodes" that got me up to speed on series three. After that I spent most of the evening at the Dead Dog, where I talked to great number of people ranging from an old friend from Powell River I haven't seen in years to VCon 31's Toastmaster, Michael Walsh.

After Hospitality closed at 1:00 a.m., I headed for a room party run by the *Star Wars* Storm Troopers group out of Victoria (yes, it was a picture of them dressed in full gear standing on the steps of the BC Legislature's library) and this is where the pylons come in. There was a construction site across Alderbridge Way from the hotel, with a good number of traffic control pylons sitting out side of it and sweeping view of Alderbridge and the much busier Westminster Highway from their room. They placed these pylons in strategic locations along Westminster and for the next half hour or so we watched the fun as car after car just missed the pylons. Finally one of the group's befuddled members got into his pick-up truck and knock down the pylon in the centre right-hand lane. It would have gotten better if we got to see the 1:22 a.m. 401 #1 Road bus hit the remaining pylon, but the with the room tenant wanting to hit the hay and the RCMP showing up to remove the pylons, we never got the chance. From there it was the late night Hospitality where I had two beers (after the pylons I needed a drink) before heading to my room.

My roommates left early to catch the ferry back to Powell River, so I slept in 'till 10 a.m. After meeting with both the VCon 31 and VCon 32 ConCom, I took the noon bus back to mundaneness.

VCon 31 was great fun for all who took part. However, because of the layout of the hotel, I missed meeting a few of the members that I was looking forward to seeing. Also, being on the Thanksgiving long weekend, a number of fans that I know had family commitments to attend to the on same weekend. There is word that VCon 32 maybe moving to the weekend before Halloween. However, like the rest of you I have mixed feeling on this idea. Many members may find it to hard to attend if they have to work on Monday, just for the few would-be members who have family commitments on the long weekend to attend.

I hope that VCon 32 will be even better than VCon 31, so SF Fandom in Vancouver can once again have a great convention to boast about. (Note: To VCon 32's ConCom, my e-mail address is lungbarrow@shaw.ca).

VCon31 rating on Cosmic Ray's Con Scale: 9 Out Of 10



AND ANOTHER VCON REPORT:

"I have written a VCON 31 report and posted it on my blog at <http://ahmedakhan.journalspace.com>. Please check it out. Also, if you know of any other reports, please provide me links. I would love to read them."

Ahmed A. Khan, Oct. 12, 2006

<http://www.angelfire.com/zine2/fictiononline/myworks.html>
Buy my book, *Ghelenden*, at: <http://whortleberrypress.com>

"Live life such that people desire to meet you when you are alive and mourn you when you are dead". Ali ibn Abi Talib

FRED MARCHES ON

"Well, a good time was had at FRED, though attendance hasn't spiked terribly post-convention. The word is definitely being put out, though, and attendance is at least steady – which makes me confident that things are proceeding, at least.

"One point of notice is that this is the first time we faced the predicted onslaught of televised hockey. While it did cause some problems of conversation, it wasn't anywhere near as bad as similar conflicts at the Jolly Alderman, or the one reported to me at the Jester's Grill and Taproom. While sports are a draw, it's just not as prevalent or loud as some first feared. A mark in the location's favour.

"Indeed, we had a fair number of topics marked down, and possibly some preparation for Garth's next Kaffeeklatsch, I dare say.

"Well, there are some plans being made for future events, but for now, we'll be sticking close to the pattern that works. Boston Pizza, Broadway and Hemlock, after 8 PM.

"(It occurs to me, as we have been throwing out the flyers where we hope new folks will read them and drop in, that we should have

some signage to mark where FRED is. I'll have to work on that. If any artists want to have a go at making a "Sign of FRED", do let me know.)"

Ryan Hawe, October 18, 2006

UPCOMING AT BIFF:

"On Friday, November 3rd, we'll be cheering on those galaxy defenders, the *Men In Black*, as they defend us all from the scum of the universe. Just make sure to keep your sunglasses on, or you won't be able to remember a thing afterwards.

"On Friday, November 10th, we'll be welcoming yet another guest, as Stan Hyde will come out and give a talk on "The Secret Life of Godzilla and Other Japanese Monsters", suitably accompanied by examples from his collection. Be sure to come out, or else Tokyo gets it. (Again.)

"On Friday, November 17th, we'll have Gaming Night once again. Hopefully, by that time, the card games I ordered will have come into stock.

"On Friday, November 24th, Ray will be bringing out the *Doctor Who* story "The City of Death", which was co-written by the late Douglas Adams. It will be 100 minutes of Whovian bliss, celebrating the day after the 37th anniversary of the first broadcast of *Dr. Who.*

"On Friday, December 1st, "Post-Paying-the-Rent Laughs" continues with *Hoodwinked*, which reveals the real story behind the classic fairy tale. You may never look at a squirrel the same way again.

"On Friday, December 8th, Gayle will bring a video which proves once and for all that *Sally Marshall is Not an Alien*. At least, we're pretty sure she's not.

"On Friday, January 5th, we will experience the power of the Schwartz as "Post-Paying-The-Rent Laughs" continues with *Spaceballs*, Mel Brooks' spoof of space opera movies and TV shows.

"On Friday, January 19th, Paxwolf will introduce us to the wonders of Anime with *Gatcheman*, a pioneering science fiction Anime series which has been reworked for the North American market a couple of times under different names.

"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/>

AlternaBIFF Fannish Events

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

"November 5th: Vancouver Comicon, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver.

"November 9th: The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Vancouver Centre celebrates its 75th anniversary in the auditorium of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver. 7:00 pm.

"November 19th: There will be a Warhammer 40,000 tournament at Checkpoint Charlie's, 143 East 2nd Street, North Vancouver. Registration: 9:30 am. Tournament start: 10:00 am."

Greg Slade, Oct. 13, 2006

RENFEST ABIDES

"VCON is over. Talk Like A Pirate Day has sailed. Kensington, Aldergrove and other festivals have packed up. The first meet and greet has passed. BUT! BCRF isn't going anywhere. We are progressing and moving forward. With the help of new Command Team members and a future Meet and Greet (keep sending the interested in emails to: meet@bcrenfest.com) in order to gain us more, we see a supportive, active and continuous attraction in the near future. Huzzah! For anyone who came to the events or would love to know what they missed please visit: <http://www.bcrenfest.com/events/Events.html> and check out our reports.

"Once you have done that we would like to ask for your help.

"Did we miss an event that you know of that would love to have us in the future? Let us know. Do you have a report or blog that talks about our presence at any of these events or functions? Let us know so that we can trade links. Do you have photos and/or video and/or news reports of any of our attendance at any of these events? We'd love to acquire copies.

"Help us make next year bigger and better!!

"We now have two stores on Caf  press. For those of you who are thrilled by the pirate theme check out: <http://www.cafepress.com/bctlap>

"And for those of you who have sent compliments on the BCRF crest check out: <http://www.cafepress.com/bcrf>"

Christina Carr & Martin Hunger, October 13, 2006

"It's just a dream, but it feels like reality." CC

newsletter@bcrenfest.com

info@bcrenfest.com

<http://www.bcrenfest.com>

FANFUNDERY

TAFF: the latest ballot has at last been finalized with just two candidates for the 2007 eastbound trip, Chris Garcia and Mary Kay Kare.

JETS, the one-off fund to take a European fan to Nippon 2007, has aroused 'expressions of interest' but no formal nominations as yet. Deadline is 13 November 2006 (www.astralpole.org).

Ansible 231, October 2006

"As you know, Rose-Marie and I were honoured to represent the Down Under Fan Fund in 2003. My trip report, *The Antipodal Route*, made its debut at L.A.Con, and is available for sale.

"The zine is 56 pages, color cover by Alan White, lots of interior illos by various fan artists. I'm asking ten bucks a copy, every cent of which shall go to DUFF.

"Those interested can send checks or money orders to me, but please make them out to JOE SICLARI, the current DUFF delegate. I'll forward the money to Joe and send you the zine. LOCs thereupon will be published in my next *Challenger*, due out by year's end."

GUY www.challzine.net FanFundAdmin, Oct 6, 2006

"Into a Red Hole"

(part 2)

By Taral Wayne

(reprinted from *Banana Wings 27*, ed. Mark Plummer & Claire Brialey, August 06)

I discovered *Red Dwarf* about ten years ago, doing the Drunkard's Walk around the channels for something that looked interesting. The first time I came across the program, I likely paid no attention. The third or fourth time I flicked onto *Red Dwarf*, though, I was hooked. I didn't quite know what was going on, given that I saw a number of episodes out of order, and then before I could sort it out the show disappeared. Britcoms come and go on cable channels, and leave little trace as a rule. Sometimes they pop up again, as did *Red Dwarf* from time to time, but the turning point was my discovery of a used video in Blockbuster, at a price even I could afford. From then, on I relentlessly hunted down the other volumes and put together the complete *Red Dwarf* saga.

What about this show then, with its drab sets and futile outlook, appealed to me? The drab sets and futile outlook, I think. I'm one of those people that, despite a basic belief in a benevolent universe, has

nevertheless found it hasn't lived up to my expectations. The aimless, isolated and enervated condition of David Lister, whose only human contact might as well be figments of his own imagination, none too subtly mirrors my own sense of alienation from the universe. I know what it's like to walk alone down the empty corridors of a self-contained and oft-times aimless life. One imagines all the things one might be doing – in Lister's case, fooling around in the mess with Peterson and his other buddies, dating Christine Kochanski, or retiring with his cat to Fiji – and then wakes up to the same four grey walls and exposed plumbing, with the all too familiar immediate tasks at hand. In real life, this is merely tedium and frustration. Projected into the vastness of space and the deserted hulk of *Red Dwarf*, ennui becomes an adventure. The hum-drum of life is transformed, taking on the quality of half remembered dreams and old memories that you are so distant from that they may as well be stories. In my imagination, it doesn't take much to pull on some soiled overalls, spill a little curry on my shirtfront, and walk into the bunkroom Dave Lister shares with Arnold Rimmer, and begin bantering with Holly.

Season three begins with a *Star Wars* style, scrolling preamble. It explains how half a dozen loose ends of the first two seasons wrap up, neatly discarding the nuisance of taking them into future account. More important, it re-introduces us to Kryten.

Kryten had been introduced before, in the episode named for him in series two. When first seen he was a fussy, effeminate android butler, dressed in glossy black plastic, formal attire. Treated by Rimmer as his personal lackey, the android finally rebelled and took up where Brando left off in *The Wild One*. He leaves the ship to realize his secret ambition, to raise a little garden (and a little hell) all by himself on his own planetoid. Kryten, however, never made landfall. His bike crashed. Lister reassembled the demolished android's parts between seasons. Nevertheless Kryten (played the one time by David Ross) was never again quite the same series-4000 service mechanoid with the geeky middle name 2X4B-523P.

The actor replacing the rebuilt Mechanoid (Robert Llewellyn) couldn't have been a better choice. He was so rubber-faced as to hardly need make-up, and hit exactly the right note of the neurotic compulsive, scientific know-it-all, and totally clueless geek.

Our introduction to the new Kryten is in the painfully funny and original episode, "Backwards", where (you guessed it) everything but the crew of *Red Dwarf* runs backwards. Things only get stranger, episode by episode. A fluke spatial effect turns photographs into doorways through space-time, giving the crew a chance to change their own fate. A short-circuit turns a request for a chocolate bar into an order for the ship to self-destruct. Lister and Rimmer are

marooned on an arctic planetoid with only a tin of dog food and their treasured keepsakes to burn for warmth. A chameleon-like mutant steals personality traits and changes Rimmer into an intellectual poseur, Lister into an aggressive thug, Cat into a style-dead slob, and Kryten into a selfish git. Rimmer takes over Lister's body, and Kryten finally learns how to value his life when his expiry date arrives!

Unfortunately, not all changes in the show were for the best. The highly evocative opening of the first two seasons was abandoned along with its chilling trumpet fanfare, replaced by a cheaply produced montage of scenes from that season's shows, like any inexpensive afternoon cartoon. Gone too were the bleak grey, industrial-look sets, in favour of spotless white *à la* 2001. Rimmer's work-a-day khakis were hung up for the last time. Henceforth, he appeared tricked out in spick-and-span uniforms of iridescent chartreuse or crimson. The Star Bug was another casualty of renewal. *Red Dwarf's* original small space utility vehicle closely resembled a beat up old camper. The new version was larger and clearly intended to look more the way a spaceship is supposed to look. Undoubtedly, though, the greatest loss was that of Norman Lovett as Holly.

The new Holly is still the old one, but with a glitch that has led to his switching heads and genders. In a series two episode we see Holly's opposite (Hillie) in a parallel dimension. Played ably by Hattie Hayridge, the actor returns as the new-look Holly for seasons three through five. It isn't only the ship computer's face and sex that have changed though. We learn that her I.Q. has suffered as well, and though Holly seems still able to run the ship automatically, her persona is more than slightly batty. This Holly is not the scientific authority the crew turns to for explanation to the latest inexplicable space phenomenon. In the new format, it's Kryten they turn to when know-how is needed. This Holly can't tell the difference from a black hole and a speck of dust on a telescope lens.

In part, one suspects the writers (and creators, Rob Grant and Doug Naylor) were relieved to have a more dynamic character to write for as the "brains" of the outfit. But behind the scenes the reason might have been more pragmatic – because he recorded his part separately and never performed with the others, Norman Lovett was paid at a lower scale than Charles Craig, Chris Barrie, and Johnny John-Jules. For the third season he held out for higher pay, and was replaced. I had heard also that Lovett suffered health problems at about this time. Whatever the full story, even though Hayridge had her fans as well, Lovett as Holly was sorely missed.

Following seasons III, IV and V continued in much the same vein. Lister, Rimmer, and Cat encountered more remnants of the

extinct human race, research stations, a waxwork world inhabited by replicas of history's great men at perpetual war with each other, a penal colony, abandoned space vessels, space junk, more alternate dimensions, a completely holographic ship with holographic crew... in fact, the universe was far from the empty space it had been at The End. It was getting to be a downright crowded place. Rimmer's uniforms grew less and less utilitarian, more and more like a toy soldier in parade dress. The sets and special effects were showing the transforming power of larger budgets. Otherwise, *Red Dwarf* changed little in those three years, and many classic episodes aired.

In "Meltdown", Hitler and Caligula were defeated by Stan Laurel, Gandhi, and Jean Paul Sartre. Kryten meets his dream mechanoid match in "Camille", and learns the human ability he admires most, to be able to lie. Rimmer meets and learns to despise his opposite, an Arnold J. Rimmer from a parallel existence who is as heroic as the familiar one is craven. Cat becomes the supremely un-hip Dwayne Dibley in "Back to Reality". In the episode "Justice", Kryten defends Rimmer against the charge of murdering the crew of *Red Dwarf*, proving him incapable, as "An overzealous, trumped-up little squirt, an incompetent vending machine repairman with a Napoleon complex, who commanded as much respect and affection from his fellow crew members a Long John Silver's Parrot." Who would put such a man in a position to endanger the lives of the crew? "Only a yoghurt!" In "DNA" Kryten briefly becomes human, only to wonder why he can't get Jazz FM by twisting his left nipple, and if someone had actually chosen "the last chicken in the shop" look for his penis.

There is a foretaste of things to come though, when in one thrown away line the crew of *Red Dwarf* is given as 1167, a thousand more than every true Dwarf knows is fact. Kryten in another line implies 30,000,000 years have passed since the disaster aboard *Red Dwarf*. Worse was to come.

With "Psirens", at the beginning of the sixth season, there is a rather abrupt change in the format. Although there are still gems among the episodes, the writers have decided to abandon the mile long factory ship that gave the show its name. Gone with the ship is Holly, written out of the series once and for all.

Red Dwarf VI begins with Lister being woken from suspended animation, his beard and nails grown to grotesque lengths while in deep sleep. (Evidently an option not considered when he was punished with 18 months in the stasis locker at the beginning of the series, another in an accumulating list of inconsistencies.) While Kryten fusses and nurses Lister back to a more or less consciously functioning state, wakes the Cat, and defrosts Rimmer's "light bead", he finds a moment to explain to the groggy anti-hero that during an away-mission in one of *Red Dwarf's* "starbugs", the giant red factory

ship had been stolen! All that remained was a trail that the starbug had been following for two hundred years. (After three million years, what's a couple of centuries one way or the other?) Barely awake, the crew of Starbug encounter brain-sucking monsters that telepathically create illusions. Battling advanced computer viruses in cyber-space, collective super-minds, identical clones of Rimmer (in both genders), and even their own selves from fifteen years in the future, Starbug chases *Red Dwarf* from episode to episode without gaining a light-second. We learn that Cat can navigate the ship with his sense of smell. Rimmer and Kryten begin a priceless running gag involving space corps directives. (Such as number 34124, "No officer with false teeth should attempt oral sex in zero gravity.") Rimmer gains an upgrade, becoming a "hard light" hologram that can finally touch and feel material objects. (A plot convenience for the writers, for sure.) We are also introduced to nonsensical techno-babble, such as "Range fifteen thousand geegooks and closing..." "One-liners come as fast as Rimmer on his first heavy petting session.

As season seven opens, Starbug is still trailing *Red Dwarf* by twenty-four hours. Although on the threshold of fatal changes for the show, the eight episodes are some of the most impressive in the series. In a time-travel experiment (to replenish the ship's curry supplies), the crew accidentally prevents Lee Harvey Oswald from assassinating the president, "Jeff Kay", in 1963. One attempt after another to repair the time-line fails, so that the only remedy is to abduct Kennedy out of the time stream and convince him to assassinate himself. ("It'll drive the conspiracy nuts crazy, but they'll never figure it out.")

In "Stoke Me a Clipper" we're re-introduced to a character we've seen before. Rimmer. That is, the Rimmer that could have been, had he had an unlucky break in his childhood and become a better person for it. "Ace" Rimmer is an interdimensional hero. To his remorse, he discovered he cannot stand the sight of his *Red Dwarf* self, who is literally his opposite – cowardly, selfish, petty, and incompetent in every effort. The feeling was totally mutual. Arnold Rimmer was driven by jealousy to despise the very person he most wishes he could be.

But "Ace" has been mortally wounded in his last adventure, his light-bead fatally damaged and leaking radiation. Explaining in private to the "original" Arnold Rimmer that there has actually been an infinity of Rimmers from different dimensions, each rising to his destiny to become "Ace" and carry on as the galaxy's greatest hero. At last it's down to *Red Dwarf's* Rimmer, even though of the thousands of Rimmers "Ace" had met he had never yet encountered one as "deeply sad and worthless as the one he'd met aboard *Red Dwarf*". Naturally, *Red Dwarf's* version of the interdimensional hero

would rather date a Gelf than step into Ace's boots. As "Ace" fades away, though, he has little choice.

As the new "Ace", Rimmer leaves Starbug in his dimension-jumping scouter, and steps out of the series as a regular. We see him only intermittently until the final season.

In the subsequent episode, Lister is re-united with the girl of his dreams, who'd been left as dust on the deck of *Red Dwarf* three million years ago. This Kristine Kochanski (Chloe Annett) is from a parallel dimension, where she co-habits with another Dave Lister. Now marooned in "our" dimension, she discovers that the names may be the same, but this Dave is not the same as her Dave. This one is, in his own words, a "boom". Bum or not, the Lister we know turns out to be someone special. He discovers that he is part of a ceaseless cycle of Lister being abandoned in an orphanage, growing up, joining the Jupiter Mining Corporation, and going into stasis, only to abandon himself three million years in the future, over and over without end! He is the Ouroboros of the episode title – the serpent that eats its own tail. As long as the holding pattern continues, mankind will never be extinct.

Not long after Kochanski joined the crew of the Starbug, Lister catches himself feeling an impossible emotion. He misses Rimmer! Following a homoerotic dream he opts for drastic measures, but nothing seems to work. Kristine nearly convinces him his feelings are normal. Fortunately for his sanity, Kryten supplies shock treatment. The mechanoid has prepared a theme park ride, "The Rimmer Experience", complete with blackout scenes depicting a Rimmer's-eye view of his mates. Reminded just how much of a total smeghead the missing hologram is, Lister is infuriated and never wants to see or hear from that "scoom-sucking lyin' weasel-minded smegger in my entire life!" While the crew gets to see itself through Rimmer's eyes, the audience is treated to the delightfully goofy "Munchkin" song, performed by miniature dolls with Chris Barrie's head.

*"If you're in trouble he will save the day,
He's brave and he's fearless come what may,
Without him the mission would go astray,
He's Arnold, Arnold, Arnold Rimmer,
Without him, life would be much grimmer,
He's handsome, trim, and no-one's slimmer
He will never need a Zimmer.
"He's Arnold, Arnold, Arnold Rimmer,
More reliable than a garden strimmer,
He's never been mistaken for Yul Brynner,
He's not bald and his head doesn't glimmer.*

*"Master of the wit and the repartee,
His command of space directives is un-can-ny,
How come he's such a gen-i-us? Don't ask me!"*

Of course, the entire series is studded with strange little musical numbers, such as "Tongue Tied", and of course the ending theme.

*"It's cold outside, there's no kind of atmosphere,
I'm all alone, more or less.
Let me fly, far away from here,
Fun fun fun, in the sun sun sun."*

(What has that to do with anything? Absolutely nothing. Apparently it's a pop-forty number from the late 22nd Century performed by Perry K'Kwomo.)

And of course, there's the show-stopping number performed by Cat, in "Parallel Universe". Backed by the crew in matching tights and high heels, Danny John-Jules struts his stuff in a highly professional dance routine called "Tongue Tied". The song was so popular it was subsequently released in full length as a separate video!

With "Epitome" we begin a two-part episode. Lister has contracted an "intelligent" virus (developed three million years ago as a nicotine cure). He argues with it, to convince the virus that it shouldn't kill the very last living man, but the virus replies it "has gotta do what a virus gotta do." All efforts to cure Lister fail, and only one way remains to save his life. The virus is driven by drugs into Lister's arm, and once isolated his arm is amputated! In "Nanarchy" we pick up the story with a one-armed Lister, who is failing badly to cope with depression and a Cat who thinks diplomacy is a board game. As if it weren't surprising enough that he grows a new arm by the end of the episode, we finally discover where the *Red Dwarf* has been all this time. In Lister's dirty laundry!

Yes, you read it right. A miles long, grubby, red painted space ship resembling an asteroid sized tobacco mosaic virus was hiding in a basket of filthy socks and jockey shorts. This is more important than it seems... The capture of *Red Dwarf* is the starting point for the total, smeggin' about face.

The eighth and last season. The ship, it seems, had been hijacked by nanobots that normally performed routine maintenance for Kryten. While The Boys From the Dwarf were on an away-mission the nanobots took over the ship, but found most of it completely useless. Being microscopic themselves, they re-built *Red Dwarf* to suit, and stashed the other 99.999999% of the superfluous mass on a convenient nearby planetoid. Then, they set out to boldly go where no nanotech had gone before, an eons-long exploration of Lister's

kecks. Left behind on the junk pile of unwanted parts is also a wristwatch-sized hard drive containing the original Holly.

Once trapped, the nanos are forced not only to restore Lister's missing right arm, but also to reconstruct *Red Dwarf* the way it was before. That was the intention, but the nano-sized repair mechanisms seem to have carried out their instructions just a bit too literally. They recreated *Red Dwarf*, and also the entire crew that had been dead for three million years, down to a duplicate (normal) Holly, and even a new flesh and blood Rimmer! No one, least of all Captain Hollister, believes they have been dead for three million years. The officers are uncomfortably aware they are somehow three million light years from where they're supposed to be, but prefer not to discuss it in front of the rest of the crew. Nor can they explain the existence of Cat and a mechanoid that hadn't been invented yet. Instead they prosecute Lister, Cat, Rimmer, and Kochanski for stealing a company transport, Starbug, and attempt to reprogram Kryten.

Up to now *Red Dwarf* had been the story about the last man in the universe, alone in infinity, without purpose or hope. At times being alone in the universe wasn't everything it was cracked up to be – there were brain-sucking monsters and demented Simulants at every quarter. Unwanted and often counterproductive though it was, Lister also had the companionship of an artificial intelligence, a mechanical man, and what amounted to little more than an ambulating television picture of another. But in essence David Lister was still a man condemned forever to the ultimate alienation.

No longer. In season eight, *Red Dwarf* transformed from one program into another, one about a company of sad sacks in an army comedy. The final episodes of *Red Dwarf* are far from being without original and often terrifically funny bits. All the same, I no longer felt any personal rapport with the show it had become. Perhaps the writers were simply unable to come up with fresh ideas for the old lost in space premise. Personally, I think the changes were simply a mistake.

(to be continued)

Media File

CBS GIVES JERICHO A FULL-SEASON ORDER

Freshman Drama Has Boosted the Wednesday 8-9 PM Time Period in Viewers and Key Demographics and Helped Kickoff CBS's Biggest

Night of Ratings Growth

"CBS has given *Jericho*, its freshman hit drama about the aftermath of a nuclear explosion on a small, peaceful Kansas town, a full season order.

"*Jericho*, averaging 11.3 million viewers, 3.4/10 in adults 18-49 and 4.6/12 in adults 25-54, has boosted CBS's performance in the Wednesday, 8:00-9:00 PM time period by +48% in viewers, +36% in adults 18-49 and +48% in adults 25-54 compared to last year.

"As part of a three-hour drama block that includes *Criminal Minds* and *CSI: NY*, CBS has seen its Wednesday ratings increase year-to-year by +34% in viewers, +22% in adults 18-49 and +30% in adults 25-54, the Network's biggest night of ratings growth. CBS is first on Wednesday in viewers and adults 25-54 and a close second in adults 18-49.

"*Jericho* stars Skeet Ulrich, Gerald McRaney, Ashley Scott, Pamela Reed, Kenneth Mitchell, Lennie James, Sprague Graddon, Michael Gaston, Erik Knudsen, Brad Beyer and Shoshannah Stern.

"Jon Turteltaub, Stephen Chbosky and Carol Barbee are executive producers for CBS Paramount Network Television."

Copied to us From Ain't It Cool News
on behalf of Ray Seredin, Oct. 12/06

DIRECTOR WHOOPS HIS CRITICS IN BOXING RING

By JEREMY HAINSWORTH, AP

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (Sept. 25) — Tired of the criticism of his films, controversial German film director Uwe Boll took on four of his critics in a Vancouver boxing ring, and ended each bout with a knockout.

"The director of the vampire flick *BloodRayne*, based on a video game and starring Kristanna Loken and Ben Kingsley, issued a fight challenge to his critics several months ago. Fifteen responded.

"I like now the critics,' Boll told a news conference after the fights on Saturday. 'Everybody who was in the ring showed (guts). Nobody dived.

"If they write about my movies without even seeing the movies then it's really annoying. If you make a movie like *House of the Dead*, a zombie movie, what are they expecting? *Schindler's List*?"

"First in the ring with the director — now dubbed 'Raging' Boll — was Richard Kyanka of Lee's Summit, Missouri, webmaster of www.somethingawful.com. He entered the ring clad in Stars and Stripes shorts.

"You are harboring a terrorist,' he said of Boll to the Canadian crowd of about 600. 'You are all guilty.' Boll, grim-faced, KO'd him in the first round.

“Jeff Sneider of Los Angeles, a journalist with *Ain't It Cool News*, went down in a technical knockout in the first round after his trainer threw in the towel.

“He said Boll, 41, had told him it was just a joke, a public relations stunt.

“Then he started beating the crap out of my head,’ he said. ‘I think he's a jerk. This might be PR but I don't want to keep getting punched in the head.’

“Chris Alexander of Toronto, Ontario, a horror-move journalist with *Rue Morgue* radio and magazine, also went down in a knockout, but not before making an artistic statement.

“While on the receiving end of a series of blows to the head, Alexander took Boll aback when a stream of blood spewed from his mouth. It turned out Alexander had taken a page from Boll's filmmaking book; the blood was fake.

“I had the fake blood in reserve,’ he explained.

“I spat it out. I freaked him out exactly like I wanted to do, it was poetry. It was my Jedi mind trick to try and disorient him.’

“He said he got in a punch for each of Boll's bad films. ‘I think I got him once in the face for *Alone in the Dark* and I got maybe one or two for *BloodRayne*,’ he said. ‘I have absolutely no...regrets...This is the weirdest pop culture bizarre journalism stunt I've ever been involved in.’

“Nelson Chance Mintner, a web site critic from Fredrick, Maryland, was the youngest fighter at 17. He also lost by technical knockout.

“Actress Loken was in the audience for the bouts. ‘It's absolutely ridiculous. That's why I love him,’ she said.

“Boll's next picture is *In the Name of the King: A Dungeon Siege Tale*.

“Like *BloodRayne*, it's also based on a video game. It features Loken again as well as Jason Statham, John Rhys-Davies, Ray Liotta, Matthew Lillard, Leelee Sobieski, Claire Forlani and Burt Reynolds.”

http://news.aol.com/entertainment/movies/articles/_a/director-whoops-his-critics-in-boxing/20060925154109990001?cid=918

forwarded by Felicity Walker, Sept. 29, 2006

MEL BROOKS TO TURN 1987 SCI-FI SPOOF SPACEBALLS INTO AN ANIMATED TV SERIES

“LOS ANGELES (AP) — Mel Brooks, whose comedy hits include *The Producers* and *Blazing Saddles*, is bringing his sci-fi spoof *Spaceballs* to television in cartoon form.

“*Spaceballs: The Animated Series* will air on the G4 television network beginning next fall.



“The 1987 film, which starred Brooks, Rick Moranis and John Candy, parodied *Star Wars* and other sci-fi movies. The new animated version will poke fun at blockbuster movies, reality TV, politics and pop culture.

“Brooks, 80, will write the pilot episode and voice two of the show's characters.

“*Spaceballs: The Animated Series* is the result of a partnership among the G4 network, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer Studios, Brooksfilm Ltd. and Berliner Film Companie GmbH.”

Forwarded by Cameron Russell and Felicity Walker, Sept. 24, 2006

TWO-MODE CD'S

URL: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/14908291/>

“LONDON - A patent application has been filed for a disc that would play two competing high-definition DVD formats which, if successful, could help resolve a battle that has divided Hollywood and confounded consumers. ...

“The "multilayer dual optical disk" would have one layer of data in the standard CD or DVD format, a second layer able to play one high-capacity format and a third layer for the competing high-capacity format. ...

“Movies on a DVD are stored at different depths depending on the technology. Blu-ray discs store information only 0.1 millimetre from the surface while HD-DVD discs store it at 0.6 millimetres.

“By using reflective films, the inventors say their disc would enable the lasers to read the top layer and "see through" to the lower one if necessary. Additional information also could be stored on the other side of the disc. ...”

Forwarded by Taras Wolansky, Sept. 20, 2006

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....Masthead
David Malinski à la Eldred.....pp. 9, 10
Felicity Walker.....pp. 12, 18, 19, 24, 40 (fillos),
.....pp. 20, 22, 27 (photos)
Tara Wayne.....cover, p. 4

About BCSFA

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BCSFA's new website is at www.bcsfa.net.

The current BCSFA email list is Bc_scifi_assc@yahoo.com, archived at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifiassc/>

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*(including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings)

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- You are obsessively vindictive and petty.