

BCSFAZINE

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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST COAST SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

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Dr. Media



Letter From Helsinki



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BCSFAzine is the club newsletter published by the West Coast Science Fiction Association (A Registered Society) *W.C.S.F.A. is also known as B.C.S.F.A. which is the social branch of the organization.*

For comments, subscriptions suggestions, and/or submissions, write to:

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Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1J1

 **BCSFAzine is also available as a full colour Adobe Acrobat file.**

WCSFACTIVITIES

F.R.E.D. - Every Friday

The weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in joining us for an evening of conversation and relaxation, with pool table option. At the Burrard Motor Inn opposite St. Paul's Hospital (Downtown Vancouver) 6 blocks south of Burrard Skytrain Station. 3 blocks west of Granville (where many buses run). #22 Knight/McDonald bus along Burrard. Begins 8:00pm. On the Friday before long weekends, FRED will be at the lounge of Bosman's Hotel. This is two blocks east and a part of a block north of the Burrard Motor Inn (actual address is 1060 Howe St.).

Contributor's Deadline - October 15th, November 19th, December 17th. Send your submissions/loc to John Wong at 2041 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5N 1X9 or E-Mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca.

BCSFAzine Pickup/Collation at FRED - October 1st.

November 5th, December 3rd. Friday before the first Sunday of the month. Pick up your issue of BCSFAzine at FRED! Pristine, mint condition copies are available at FRED. Call Steve to let him know you wish to pick up your copy.

Discount Movie Nights.

\$2.00 Tuesdays are back! When? The second Tuesday of the month (Sep. 14th) at 6:30 pm. The place being New West Cinema at #229 - 555 Sixth Street, New Westminster. Meet in front of the Box Office at the above time and we'll decide on which movie, where to do coffee and in which order.

Tuesday November 16 at 7 pm. **Night of the Writers**

Roasties. Tops Restaurant, 2790 Kingsway Vancouver. Book being *The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells.

Monday November 29 at 7pm. **FREFF.** The Bulldog Cafe. 510 Nelson, Vancouver.

Keep an eye out here for future official WCSFA sponsored events.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

DestinyCon'99 November 6th and 7th

Guests: Kenny Baker, Jeremy Bulloch, Richard Hatch, Jack Stauffer, Paul LeMat, Phil Brown
Sheraton Tacoma and Convention Center and the Rialto Theatre Tacoma, Washington Saturday, November 6th - Rialto Theatre; Tacoma Wa, Charity Auction and Celebrity Reception*, Cabaret Act with Battlestar Galactica's Jack Stauffer, and a special showing of Time Bandits!
- GOLD \$50.00 *Catered Celebrity reception, along with special seating for the above events.

- SILVER \$14.00 No Celebrity reception, general seating.

- BRONZE \$7.00: Showing of Time Bandits only - balcony seating
Sunday, November 7th - Sheraton Tacoma; Tacoma Wa

All-day Access Pass - Only \$20.00
Saturday, November 6th, Rialto Theatre; Tacoma, Wa, 310 South 9th Street
Sunday, November 7th Sheraton Tacoma and Convention Center ; Tacoma, Wa
1320 Broadway Plaza

Email: thoseguysent@hotmail.com
Hotline: 253-396-2045

Fax: (253) 566-9096

OryCon 21 November 12-14, 1999

Columbia River DoubleTree Inn, Portland, Oregon. OryCon 21 will be a weaponless convention. Smoking allowed

in designated areas only.

Artist Guest of Honor: Nene Thomas

Writer Guest of Honor: Nicola Griffith

Editor Guests of Honor: Warren Lapine

Science Guest of Honor: Angela Kessler Charles

It's time to start preparing once again for Oregon's premiere Science Fiction and Fantasy event, OryCon! Now in its twenty-first year, OryCon will feature programming, workshops, an art show, a dealer's room, filking, dances, gaming, the Susan Petrey Scholarship auction, and more!

For more information: OryCon 21
PO Box 5703 Portland, OR 97228-5703

E-mail: saxon@agora.rdrop.com

Telephone: (503) 232-6506

Rustycon 2000 JANUARY 7-9, 2000 At the Everett Holiday Inn

Writer Guest of Honor: Michael Stackpole

Artist Guest of Honor: Bear Brown

Fan Guest of Honor: Jon Gustafson

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Room RATES \$89 + Tax per traditional room

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Pre-registration: \$40.00 through 12/1/99

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\$25.00 Saturday night (8:00pm) & Sunday

Address: Rustycon P.O. Box 84291 Seattle, WA.

98124-5591

Radcon February 18-20th, 2000! Will Be In The Pasco
Doubletree Inn 2525 N. 20th Ave.,
Pasco, WA 99301
Local Call: (509)-547-0701 or 1-800-222-TREE
Writer Guests of Honor
Steve Perry & Steve Barnes.
Artist GOH Elissa Mitchell,
Gaming GOH James Ernest,
Rising Star Don DeBrandt,
Fan Guest Cthulhu Bob,
RadCon PMB# 162
2527 West Kennewick Ave
Kennewick, WA 99336-3126
\$15 Single Membership through InCon
(October 15-17th, 1999.)
\$20 Single Membership until February
1st, 2000. \$25 At the door.

Potlatch 9 February 25-27, 2000, University Plaza Hotel, Seattle, Washington
New Rates: The membership rate for Potlatch 9 is still \$30, but the rate for the combined Potlatch 9/Corflu 2000 (Corflatch) has been increased. Also, supporting memberships are available. These rates are subject to change:

Potlatch 9 Only: \$30 (£18.75)

Corflatch: \$70 (£45.00)

Supporting Membership: \$10 (£6.50)

Clarion West/Potlatch 9: Send to: P. O. Box 31848 Seattle, WA 98103-1848.

Corflu 2000 March 3-5, 2000, University Plaza Hotel, Seattle, WA
Corflu Only: \$45 (£28.50)
"Carol Root/Corflu 2000" (if buying Corflu membership alone), or Potlatch 9/Clarion West (if buying both memberships); mail checks to P.O. Box 31848 Seattle, WA 98103-1848.

LepraCon will be held March 17-19, 2000 at the Wenatchee Doubletree Hotel. Guests of Honor include: Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, Betty Bigelow, Norma (W/Edgar) Barrett-Lincoln H.G. Wells (Dead Guest)
Prices: Pre-Registration is \$10.00 until the end of Norwescon (April 4th)

\$15.00 until end of Incon (Mid-October)
\$20.00 until end of RadCon (Feb 20th)
\$25.00 at the door
More information is available from:
LepraCon 2000, PMB #353, 2527 W. Kennewick Ave., Kennewick Wa 99336 (509) 943-6873

Sakura Con 2000 Mar. 31 - April 2, 2000
Guests: Doug Smith, Guest of Honor
Tristan MacAvery, Returning Guest
Tiffany Grant, Returning Guest
Doubletree Inn at Southcenter Mall, 205 Strander Boulevard Seattle, WA 98188
800.222.TREE [Toll Free]
206.246.8220 [Telephone]
206.575.4749 [Facsimile]
Memberships
\$25.00 until July 31, 1999
\$30.00 until December 31, 1999
\$35.00 until March 1, 2000
\$40.00 at the door
If you register as a guest at the Doubletree Inn at Southcenter for Sakura-Con, your memberships to Sakura-Con paid with Canadian dollars are the same price as US dollars. This

rate is only effective if you book your hotel accommodations with the Doubletree inn at Southcenter. You must show proof of Canadian citizenship and hotel registration when you go to register at the convention or to pickup your convention badge and booklet.
Note: Hotel or other fees will not have this exchange rate.

Sakura Con, PO Box 44976, Tacoma, WA 98444

Viking Con 17 August 18-20, 2000

Western Washington University,
Bellingham, Washington.
Viking Union 202 Box V-1
Bellingham, WA 98225
Science GoH Freeman Dyson
Author GoH Larry Niven
Art GoH Julia Lacquement
Special GoH George Dyson
Fan GoH Paul Carpentier & Julie McGalliard
Memberships \$15 US
(Special rate for our Canadian friends.
\$20 CAN) until 12/31/1999

Upcoming (2000) Conventions (Quick Reference)

November 4 - 7, 1999 - AmberCon Northwest 99 - Troutdale, Oregon (east of Portland)

November 6-7, 1999 - DestinyCon 99 - Tacoma, Washington

November 12 - 14, 1999 - Orycon 21 - Portland, Oregon

January 7 - 9, 2000 - Rustycon 2000 - Everett, Washington

February 18 - 20, 2000 - Radcon 3 - Tri Cities, Washington

February 25 - 27, 2000 - Potlatch 9 - Seattle, Washington

March 3 - 5, 2000 - Corflu 2000 - Seattle, Washington

March 17 - 19, 2000 - LepraCon 2000 - Wenatchee, Washington

March 31 - April 2, 2000 - Sakura Con 2000 - Tukwila, Washington

April 20 - 23, 2000 - Norwescon 23 - SeaTac, Washington

May 11 - 14, 2000 - WORLD HORROR CONVENTION 2000 Denver, Colorado

May 19 - 21, 2000 - Conduit - Salt Lake City, Utah

May 26 - 28, 2000 - Miscon 2000 - Missoula, Montana

June 2-4, 2000 - ConComCon 7, Snoqualmie Falls, Washington

June 16 - 18, 2000 - Tricon 2000 - Tri - Cities, WA

July 1 - 4, 2000 - Conolulu - Westercon 53 - Honolulu, Hawaii

August 18 - 20, 2000 - VikingCon 17 - Bellingham, Washington

May 25 - 28, 2001 - Costumecon 19 - Calgary, Alberta, Canada

July 5 - 8, 2001 - A Portland Westercon - Portland, Washington



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BCSFAZINE

is available to subscribers in Adobe Acrobat format. Check out the zine in it's full colour glory with all the bells and whistles of instant web links and e-mail.

It is easy to change your subscription to this format. Go to the Adobe web site and download the free Acrobat Reader for you computer's operating system. (Make sure you get version 3 or higher).

Then e-mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca and let me know that you want to switch your subscription over. You will then receive the next zine in your e-mail.

A sample copy of the Acrobat BCSFAzine is available on our website.

<http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/dh2/bcsfa>

LoC (LETTERS OF COMMENTS)

Still Lisa after all these months

Dear Friends:

And now for a fine old fannish tradition: LoCing on the LoCs!

After reading Lisa's comments and the various responses, I have only two things to say. The first is to remind folks that Sturgeon's Law also refers to people (which includes fans in most cases.) Or, as my dear departed father so frequently said, "Most people is a**holes." Of course, he was a career soldier who hated people as a general thing, but his point is well taken.

Recently I had the opportunity to visit a number of Melbourne hotspots in the company of some fans as part of an after-Worldcon tour. Of those 55 people, there were perhaps two who I would classify as real fugheads (monopolising every conversation, yelling their opinion at the top of their lungs, treating others with total disrespect, etc.) and ten as folks I wouldn't mind getting to know better. The rest were Nice People. From this experience, I take away the impression that most SF&F fans are just like hockey fans, ballet aficionados or what have you: some are very good people, some are absolute idiots and most are Nice People.

My second point is a bit more sombre. Let me begin by saying I have always admired Graeme Cameron for his writing and his fannish dedication. Therefore, it came as a shock when I was reading through his list of a**holes in his LoC to come across the phrase "two merrily drunk native Indian lads." Nowhere else in his list of "rude, ignorant people" does he mention ethnicity or race. Odd, isn't it?

Was the "mean looking drunk" black? Or "the machine operator" Jewish? Perhaps the "animal rights activist" had ancestors that came from Spain? Doesn't matter, you say? Exactly. So identifying two violent drunks as "native Indians" is totally unnecessary, unless one is attempting to say something about Indians as a group, and I can't believe that Graeme meant to do that.

And before anyone asks: yes, I am a Native Canadian (from the Tyendinaga Indian Reserve in Ontario), so I come by my unease honestly.

Thanks for the space
Sincerely,

Randy Barnhart

Lisa's "a bit too young!"

Dear John

Despite the implied bombardment embodied in the cover for the September BCSFAzine, I think the responses to Lisa's article inside are quite moderate in tone and well reasoned.

I think the Graeme's reference to the Speer poll of fannish intellect shouldn't be taken to mean that this is how it was only in the old days. My experience with fandom, mostly at long distance range of course, is that fanzine fans remain somewhat more potent in their thinking ability than the average person in the mundane population. But I doubt that such superiority for fans is present to an appreciable extent in some of the subfandoms that have sprung up around science fiction fandom, or among the many fans whose activity consists solely of attending conventions, not running conventions or participating in the programming. Obviously, there are exceptions to the general rule that fanzine fans are a bit brighter than most other groups but I'm not going to be thrown out of fandom at my advanced age as a result of naming names in this respect.

And there is also the consideration that I've met only a minority of the people in today's fanzine fandom. Maybe some

of those I admire for their writing or thinking abilities would disappoint me with their behaviour if I spent a few days with them.

In the article in this issue, Lisa impresses me as being a bit too young to take refuge in fiction written long ago when she feels in the mood to read fantasy or science fiction. I'm 76 and might be excused if I get excited over acquiring almost 30 SFBC volumes in perfect condition for a pittance at Goodwill Industries recently because they are all from the 1970's when some golden age authors were still turning out new books. But even in my condition of resistance to what's new, I can appreciate the merits of some active writers of science fiction: Bujold, Niven, Card, and tentatively Robinson because all the good things I've read about the Mars books make me certain I'll enjoy them as soon as I can find copies that are compatible with a retirement budget.

Maybe the most horrifying thing that the Blair Witch Project has produced is what it has done to the good people of Burkittsville. This is the very small town about 20 miles from Hagerstown where the creators of the Blair Witch pretend there was everything that they made up for their cheapskate movie. All the people of Burkittsville want to do is continue to live the placid lives they enjoy in this town far from the interstates and shopping centres and giant subdivision developments. Instead they've been pestered for months by people who come from far and near to see for themselves the area where the movie producers situated their fictitious witch and vanished journalists and supernatural manifestations and all the rest. Some of these visitors apparently still don't believe that TV Guide was misled into thinking the film was based on real events when it published its first items about the telecast of the movie.

I hope the Toronto Star article cited by Lloyd Penney was correct in its intimation that science fiction on inferior television airings might be headed for a black hole. It happens to westerns on television and it could eventually happen to space operas, perhaps opening up time slots for an occasional first-rate movie or series with science fiction themes.

Yrs., &c.,

Harry Warner, JR.

Murder, he said...

Hi: John called Ken.

Stephen H. Kawamoto letter in BCSFAzine #317, asked if a murder took place at a local science fantasy con.

The answer is yes, however it was not at a VCon.

It was "WhoParty West" in May 1987 at the Georgia Sandman Inn. My then girlfriend Kathy's former teacher was returning home from Reno and missed the evening bus to Powell River. About 21:00

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on Saturday night, she was just falling asleep when someone pried open her hotel room door and hit her repeatedly over the head with a baggage holder. She managed to call the main desk before she died and before we knew what had happened, there were dozens of Vancouver Police officers searching the hotel.

Thankfully, the drug crazed 18-year-old man who did it got on a city bus with her purse, with her blood still on it, and soon passed out. The driver got to the end of his route and, hearing of the murder, phoned 911. The police got the killer and now he's spending the rest of his life or 25 years (whichever comes first) in jail.

He Was NOT A Member Of The Convention.

However, since the woman lived only two blocks from Kathy, she was questioned by the police. They found out, via their then new RCMP computer in Ottawa, that she egged the woman's house on Halloween night five years before, but I think they knew she didn't have the heart to do that sinister act. Soon after the real murderer was arrested, the police drove Kathy and me back to my friend's place in Burnaby and said they were sorry.

But after this Kathy became very panicky and wanted no part of the world of science fantasy conventions. We broke up three months later and were friends for a while, but these days we no longer even say 'Hi' to one another.

As for me, going to a poorly run con as my first convention and what happened with the police, I don't know why I stayed on in the world science fantasy cons myself. Yet, I did, and enjoyed every minute of it.

Sometimes real life can throw you a curve ball and you just give up, while I just bat them out of the park.

Be seeing you.

Ray "Dr. Media" Seredin
lungbarrow@aisl.bc.ca

New E-mail Address Announced

To: woolf@vcn.bc.ca

Subject: Frances Higginson, new email

Could you take note and also add somewhere in the next BCSFAzine my new home email address:

fhiggins@silk.net

rather than the BCSFA/WCSFA directory address:

Frances_Higginson@bc.sympatico.ca

Thanks.

Steve40 already knows.

CANADIAN SF, FANTASY, COMICS & JUVENILE MARKETS

compiled by Garth Spencer (for his June 1999 Web page update)

Continued from last issue...

WRITER'S BLOCK MAGAZINE

Box 32, 9944-33 Ave
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SF, Fantasy, Horror, Mystery
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Pub/Mg. Ed. Shaun Donnelly

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Pays 5 1/2 cents/word (\$Cdn) on publication. Poetry pays no less than \$25. RT: 4-6 weeks.

XX Magazine,

c/o Marcie Tentchoff
R.R. #2, Site 47, Compartment 56

Gibsons, BC V0N 1V0
marcie_tentchoff@sunshine.net
(ISSUE 2 A Bitter Brew of Magic

The second issue of XX magazine will focus on the darkly fantastic and will feature both fiction and poetry. The reading period ran ONLY UNTIL MAY 15, 1999.)

Fiction: Traditional, modern, and even mildly futuristic fantasies are acceptable in stories and poems, as long as the subject matter or treatment is dark, and there is some integral supernatural element. Bitterness, chilling suspense, and unhappy endings are all welcome. Traditional night creatures and themes [okay] if you have something new to say about them...Go lightly on the gore ... adult situations fine [if integral to story.]

Poetry: Modern and traditional poetry both acceptable, but rhyming poetry should have a consistent meter, and rhymes should not be strained or forced...maximum of five poems per submission.

No reprints or sim subs.

Length: fiction 600-7000 wds in length; poems to 60 lines.

Payment: 1/4 cent per word (min \$5) and 3 copies for fiction, \$2 and 1 copy for poetry.

E-mail submissions preferred; send in the body of the e-mail with "XX Submission" as subject.

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MEDIA FILES

Doctor Who: More Good News, Bad News.

Bad News "WhoFans".

HBO has passed on the new **Dr. Who** series for next fall. It was close though. *The Doctor* was tied for the last of six one hour time slots in **HBO's Family Time** with the reality series **Families** and had the support three of the six supporting corporations. However the corporations went with the cheaper reality series. (Note: The other eight hours are to be filled with three **Classic Family Movies** and the two hour long weekly crime prevention series *America's Teens Fighting Back*.) Basically **Family Time** is, for now, only a concept. If the viewers do not tune in to these programs and subscriptions to **HBO** drop, they will bring back the blood and gore. So, it makes sense to go for productions budgeted between \$167,000 and \$334,000(US) until the concept takes flight. (Note: "**Family Time's**" three dramatic series are co-funded by a three way partnership deal, putting them into the \$1,000,000 (US) per-episode range.) The **Dr. Who** budget was set at \$500,000 (US) per-episode, (Note: The other \$500,000 (US) would have come from the BBC and other partners in a five way deal, which would have put **Dr. Who** into the \$1,000,000 (US) per-episode range.) but



it was just too much too soon.

The Good News

The Doctor will return in one form or another.

Form 1: If **HBO's Family Time** takes off, the pay channel could consider picking up **Dr. Who** for a January 2002 debut, with 19 or 20, 50 minute episodes per-season for three years with options for two more. Actor (and Novelist) **Stephen Fry (Backer III and Wilde)** is rumoured to be playing *The Doctor* with three companions, one a freshly re-generated *Romana* while the others are a man and woman whose backgrounds are unknown at this time.

Another well know ally to return is *U.N.I.T.* (Now standing for United Nations International Task-force) that the **TARDIS'** crew helps out when they are on near-future Earth. The **TARDIS** itself will have a very Victorian interior while still having the very familiar 1939 London Police Call Box exterior.

However there could be a few strings attached with this plan. One of the "supporting" corporations (Hilton Hotels) said it wants to have some kind of content control over all series with the **HBO's Family Time** label. Rumours say that both the BBC and the series producers are displeased with this idea.

Form 2: A \$50,000,000 (US) **Dr. Who** feature film for summer 2002 release. On October 4th, a production and casting report from the **BBC** listed that the film's development is in the early script stages with the earliest possible production starting date at the end of 2000, in the UK, with **Impact Films'** producer **Jeremy Bolt** and **BBC Films'** executive producer **David Thompson** at the controls. Rumours say *The Doctor* could be played by actor **Patrick Stewart (Star Trek: the Next Generation.)** (Word is that Stewart is delighted at the chance of playing a role that he tried out for back in 1974 that in the end went to **Tom Baker**). Sorry no word on who the companion(s) will be or anything else on the movie concept at this time. So, to use a pun, "Who Knows?"



One thing that is known is that the BBC will be making some sort of announcement on **Dr. Who's** future on November 13th. Many BBC insiders are saying they are going with the feature film version, knowing that it could lead to a new TV series without any strings.

As for the series filmed in part in Vancouver (or Toronto), that is still a rumour, but while on this topic, I think it would be great. As **Harry Warner, JR.** pointed out in **BCSFAZine 317**, the magic of the Tom Baker era was the story telling and not the sets. Myself can't recall seeing any sets that can't be the Burrard generating plant, Triumph, a BC Ferry's engine room, Pacific Spirit Park, UBC, SFU, the Petro Canada refinery or any gravel pit in the Lower Mainland or the Fraser Valley (or southern Ontario.). It would even be nice if the episodes were set in North America and have Vancouver as its backdrop. Just imagine, *The Doctor* or the companions driving across the Alex Fraser Bridge, walking in Stanley Park or travelling back in time to the 19th century having Border Town, or Gastown, or parts of downtown New Westminster or Victoria as a set. The inactive C.F.B. in Chilliwack could even be used as U.N.I.T.'s North American headquarters. The good news here, with a series like Mysterious Island on some of the proposed producers' resumes, chances are we'll be seeing a lots of location shooting mixed with great storytelling wherever **Dr. Who** is filmed. Still, in my heart of hearts it would be nice to see the **TARDIS** back in its native Great Britain.

That is all for this time, so be seeing you.

Ray "Dr. Media" Seredin
lungbarrow@aisl.bc.ca



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LETTER FROM HELSINKI

In my previous two columns, I've been discussing the near-term future of mobile communications, and focusing a bit on the integration of mobile phones with the Internet.

At the moment, work is also being done on many other aspects of mobile and wireless communications. As a matter of fact, it's fairly hard to keep up with all the developments and do one's own work also.

One development is the so-called wireless LANs (local area networks), which allow one to use one's laptop computer anywhere in a building, such as an office or an airport, that's been wired with such a LAN. The data traffic runs over infrared or radio. Apple (www.apple.com) now has a product called the AirPort, which is a wireless LAN for the home.

Mobile telephony and associated services (such as WAP, which I talked about in the previous column) is the layer of mobility with the widest footprint. Next in line are going to be wireless LANs. A new technology called Bluetooth provides the smallest mobile footprint: mobility in a small, personal space. Bluetooth-enabled devices in close proximity to one another will be able to transfer data among themselves using weak radio signals. This will make it possible, for instance, to synchronise the data between your mobile phone, or personal digital assistant (PDA), and your PC; or to transfer pictures from a digital camera onto a TV screen — all without wires. Or, when you come home, your mobile phone might automatically notice that it's within communication range of the fixed-line phone, and then convert itself to a handset slaved to the fixed phone, so the calls you make on the mobile will now be cheaper. HomeRF is another technology with a similar idea.

Third-generation mobile phones will be able to provide location-based services: if you have your mobile on, you'll be able to know exactly where you are. Combined with WAP and/or other technologies, you could be able to find out quickly, for instance, where the nearest petrol station is, or the closest Thai restaurants, and then make a call to reserve a table.

Of course, all this development is driven by hope of profits in a marketplace to be worth billions of smackeroos, and the competition is tough. No one company can hope to do everything themselves, and the very nature of the business — communications — forces them to cooperate to an extent, in drafting standards, testing for interoperability, etc. Thus, we have industry consortiums such as Bluetooth (www.bluetooth.com), WAP (www.wapforum.org), OSGI (www.osgi.org), HomeRF (www.homerf.org), etc.

All these different standards will no doubt cause confusion: how will they work together? Are some of them going to disappear from the marketplace, making devices incorporating them worthless? Perhaps in ten years or so it'll be clearer who the winners and losers are going to be.

In these days, of course, there is one huge gorilla of a company trying to dominate in anything to do with bits: Microsoft. Its traditional area of dominance has been the PC, but it's trying to get into mobile computing as well. Here its going has been tougher, because it faces companies that have a lot more experience than it does in telecommunications, and alliances such as the WAP Forum which do not intend to let Microsoft (www.spawn-of-hell.com) dominate other markets in the way it dominates the PC operating system market. Microsoft has been trying to push its Windows operating system into small devices such as mobiles and PDAs, but the poor quality of the

so-called WindowsCE OS has meant that it hasn't had too much success. Let us hope than consumers will not be hoodwinked a second time into getting locked into an inferior, closed standard.

Another industry grouping called Symbian (www.symbian.com) has been formed to promote an operating system called EPOC, developed by a British company called Psion, for PDAs. As Symbian's shareholders include, in addition to Psion, the four largest mobile phone manufacturers — Nokia, Motorola, Ericsson and Matsushita — EPOC's future seems fairly assured.

Another technology that could prove to be important in and around wireless communications is Jini. It's supposed to become a sort of a universal secret handshake among electronic devices. It enables devices that come to contact with one another (perhaps by being plugged in, or perhaps just by being in proximity of one another, for instance through Bluetooth radio technology) to exchange information, offer their services to one another (you can print my files, and I can connect to the Internet for you), and do their thing — all without

any configuration needed from the user. Jini one of the neatest technological ideas I've heard about in a while. It's yet another brainchild of Bill Joy, the technological genius of Sun Microsystems (www.sun.com). More on Jini: www.sun.com/jini. An interview with Bill Joy about Jini and other stuff: www.wired.com/news/news/technology/story/13744.html.

There's something called the Oxygen system, a research project at MIT's Media Lab, which is aimed at making connected, wireless technology easier to use. I haven't had time to look into it more closely, but there's a series of articles on it in Scientific American, at www.sciam.com/1999/0899issue/0899dertousos.html.

Twenty or thirty years ago, satellite technology seemed like the big thing in wireless communications. Certainly it's important, and we now have phone conversations and TV programs across continents partly thanks to satellite technology, but in recent times, sats have not been at the forefront of wireless and mobile developments. Witness the fortunes of Iridium (www.iridium.com), a globe-spanning satellite phone system, which could not get nearly enough customers to pay its steep debts, run up by putting dozens of satellites in orbit. In the ten years that Iridium has been in development, ground-based mobile communications technology has driven past it. Nowadays, few people want to pay exorbitant amounts to talk to a brick which can't even operate indoors. Besides, Inmarsat already has a similar service, using a much smaller number of geosynchronous satellites.

There are two other similar ventures, ICO (www.ico.com) and Constellation (www.ccglobal.com). ICO isn't doing too great either. Constellation hasn't launched its services yet, but it's slated to offer data communications in addition to telephone traffic.

There's an almost embarrassingly positive article about Nokia, Finland, and our technological achievements in the September 1999 issue of Wired, at www.wired.com/wired/archive/7.09/nokia.html.

A series of articles on coming high-speed Internet access to the home can be found at www.sciam.com/1999/1099issue/1099clark.html.

In summary, it's an interesting field to be in. This concludes my series of articles for BCSFAzine. Happy new millennium to everyone, but especially to you, dear reader!



Apple's AirPort for wireless LAN.

Financial Statement

JUNE 23, 1999

REVENUES:

Memberships	\$10,208.50
Dealer Tables	767.92
Art Show (Net of payments to Artists)	342.03
Advertising	701.00
Sales - T-Shirts	880.73
Hospitality	979.88
Kid Con Fees	147.50
Star Wars Tickets	565.75
Total Income	\$ 14,593.31

EXPENDITURES:

Hotel - Function Space and Guest Rooms	\$ 4,411.11
Registration	3,025.84
T-Shirts	1,142.86
Bacchanal and Dance Expenses	325.00
Advertising and Promotion	670.44
Programming	50.61
Hospitality	818.67
Guest Expenses	1,359.64
Office Supplies and Expense	777.10
Bank Charges	150.25
Star Wars Tickets and Bus	940.50
Total Expenditures	\$ 13,672.02

NET INCOME \$ 921.29

Wrap-Up Report

I regret that I have been unable to contact VCON 24 Treasurer, Frank Skinner, at this time. However, I am aware that he had relinquished all financial information to VCON Con Chair, Lisa McGovern. It

should be noted that Frank is a tax accountant by profession and therefore is no doubt aware of what he was doing by this.

Lisa regrets she is unable to do a complete report owing to child care responsibilities taking up most of here time, and has therefore requested that I as the sole surviving VCON ConCom rep willing to do this do so in her place.

In addition to three receipt books, a large wad of blank checks and a bag full of receipts, I was given \$105 Canadian in cash. Out of that, I appropriated \$53 in order to return Robert Kalthoff's artwork via Federal Express. There were also two deposit-only bank cards inside the bag. These, I turned in to the Canada Trust Branch on W10th and ordered the remaining one I was unable to locate to be cancelled.

Robert Kalthoff is a fantasy artist who resides in Kansas City, Missouri. Although he was unable to attend VCON personally, he was convinced to send some of his artwork up here to sell. He sold very well at the con, achieving total sales of \$229 CDN. Although Mr. Kalthoff had apparently sent return postage,

said postage was apparently lost in the paper shuf fle. By the time it was brought to my attention that his artwork and payment had yet to be returned to Robert Kalthoff, it was the middle of August. This is why T decided to use Fed-Ex instead of Canada Post. Needless to say, Mr. Kalthoff has received his artwork and his checks have been cashed.

The remaining \$52 was deposited Friday August into the VCON account, bringing the balance to 733.99

- However, that balance was before Robert Kalthoff's checks, totaling \$229 were cashed. I was unable to get a balance since then, but by my reckoning, it should be \$504.99
- As far as I am aware, there are no further outstanding claims against VCON 24 and we can declare the final phase of this convention over at last.

September 18, 1999

by VCON 24 Artshow Person Doug Finnerty

TTT WINKS

I hope I didn't miss you when I tried to either phone you or get you on one of the phone trees - if your number was wrong in the directory or didn't work I didn't have time to trace you down, also I didn't phone those at the previous FRED. I appologize if I missed phoning you as it was a long night to get through to most of you. We had a large birthday FRED for Mr Science (Al Betz) and for Eugene James. Thirty Seven people showed up some-time over the night including a number of people who hadn't been to FRED for a long time. Al turned 60 and Eugene turned 70. There was a cake for Al decorated like a radiation warning sign and a cake that looked like a book for Eugene. Al's cake was brought in a sealed container with radiation warning signs all over the container, by two experts dressed in de-contamination suits complete with a geiger counter merrily

clicking away (Al must have been radioactive, as he glowed bright red when it was brought in). The Burrard Motor Inn lounge stayed open later for us to enjoy the party. Some of the people who made a rare appearance were- Dave and Rose Wilson, Art and Dixie Mueller, Donna and Clint, Alan Kelly, Howard Chemiak, Barb Dryer, Yolanda, Steve Barclay, and a few others that my mind has blanked out on. We had several newcomers and of course most of the regulars. It was a good party and everyone had a good time-Mr. Science stayed much later than normal so it must have been good. I really enjoyed talking to eveyone there.

Pencil in Friday January 14 FRED for the next birthday bash as long time BCSFAN Ed Hutchings turns 70 on the following day, January 15 (I will have to clear it with him of course to make sure he is there).

I will try to get the directory form out with your next BCSFAzine and beg you to please return it so I can get an accurate directory. If you know you are going to be moving in a month or

two, send me your new address and e-mail etc..

I don't usually change something in the listings unless I get a new form with new information (I still have my Wimsey e-mail address for instance, which is why I didn't change others with that address until they told me it didn't work). I would prefer to get the forms back because I can arrange them alphabetically and then check the names as they come up on the screen (I still use my Atari St computer for the directory), when they come as e-mail they have to be printed and then I have a mess of paper all different sizes to sort through. If it has to be e-mailed to me(or you just want confirm no change in your directory info) my e-mail is steve40@wimsey.comor if that misfires, steve40@bc.sympatico.ca

You can drop off the forms at to me at FRED (or pick it up and and fill it out there).

I won't be at the FRED of November 12 as I will be in Portland at Orycon.

Steve 40



By Palle Hoffstein

I'm sure you've been asking yourself, "what's **Terry Gilliam** doing these days?" I've sure been asking it anyway. The ex-python who gave us such brilliant films as *Brazil*, *The Adventures Of Baron Munchhausen* and *Time Bandits* has for the last few years been working as a director-for-hire for studio projects (such as *The Fisher King*, *12 Monkeys* and *Fear And Loathing In Las Vegas*). Now, Gilliam is finally putting a new independent productions together. **The Man Who Killed Don Quixote** will be a time travel story starring **Johnny Depp** as the time-traveller and French actor **Jean Rochefort** is the main candidate for the role of the famous windmill-charging madman. Apparently Quixote recruits Depp's character to be Sancho Panza! Cool. This production is ready to go, once Gilliam raises all the necessary cash. Some investors recently pulled out of this production; so the set release date of Autumn 2000 may have to be re-worked. Depp has certainly become a popular actor among directors of fantasy/SF films.

Not much new to report with the **Battlestar Galactica** film projects. However there is some new stuff on the net. One of the special effects artists from Richard Hatch's BG Promo Trailer has put some images of his work there on his personal web page. Check out the URL www.members.aol.com/raymar3d/page/index.htm for those pics and some other info relating to Rayar3d's involvement on the project. Meanwhile Hatch's own web page www.battlestargalactica.com now has some stills from the trailer and some behind-the-scene shots as well.

It seems that The Buffy Man **Josh Whedon**'s work on the **X-Men** film is not being used, except for a couple of minor contributions. This comes as bad news to me; Whedon seemed to be the only person brought onto the production with an honest interest in comic books. You can read Whedon sounding off at www.buffy.com.

Highlander: World Without End is in

Development from Dimension Films. Should we care? Probably not considering that **Highlander II** was one of the worst movies ever made and **Highlander III** was even worse. Still, the first movie was good, as was the TV series for a while. *Highlander: World Without End* stars both **Adrian Paul** (from the series) as Duncan MacLeod and **Christopher Lambert** (from the movies) as Connor MacLeod. **Gregory Widen** who brought us the first three movies and the series has written the screenplay but has handed the directing chores over to **Doug Arnokowski**. The crew are shooting in Romania and then will move on to Paris, Scotland and New York to finish off. The actors are said to be in intense training for the most dramatic sword-fighting scenes of any Highlander production. Note: the name of this production is expected to change along the way. There may be no plans for a North American theatrical release but this series is huge in Europe. All the immortal poop you need can be found at www.highlander-official.com.

In a previous movie-mania I reported that **Darren Aronofsky**, the man behind the bizarre and acclaimed fantasy **PI** was to direct **Proteus**, the SF-action story about a U.S. submarine that battles the Germans as well as a mysterious sea monster, during WWII. The Proteus project is now in limbo and Aronofsky has been considering doing a live-action version of **Aeon Flux**, MTV's late-night SF animation series. Certainly not a done-deal yet but looking promising; I'd love to see this project fly. Aronofsky's next film, **Requiem for a Dream**, is not an SF or fantasy film, but rather concerns New York heroin addicts.

More **Lord of The Rings** movie casting news. **Cate Blanchett** as **Galadriel**, **Kevin Conway** (voice of Batman on the Batman Animated Series) as **Theoden** and **Brad Dourif** as

Wormtongue. Also, an unknown actor named **Andy Serkis** as the voice of **Gollum**. Filming began October 11.

October 29 brings the North American release of **Hayao Miyazaki's Princess Mononoke**, the most expensive animated feature of all time. Originally released in Japan in 1997 (as Mononoke Hime) by **Studio Ghibli** this film has become the second highest grossing film in Japanese history (behind Titanic). The popular and critical acclaim that has surrounded this picture has lead **Dimension/Miramax** (who are part of the Disney empire) to arrange for an English language edition with dialogue written by **Neil Gaiman**. The English edition will feature voices performed by **Billy Crudup, Claire Danes, Minnie Driver, Billy Bob Thornton, Gillian Anderson, Jada Pinkett-Smith, John DiMaggio, John DeMita and Keith David**. Anderson (who voices the Wold God) and Crudup (the Prince) have been getting big-time rave reviews for their work on this picture.

Interest in this film should be much broader than with most Anime. **Princess Mononoke** uses full animation, not the hack-and-slash animation used by the vast majority of Japanese animated films. The level of detail has been compared to the best work of Disney, the art direction and shot composition is said to be no less than stunning. **Hayao Miyazaki** is generally considered to be more than just an animator, but one of Japan's finest film-makers. **Princess Mononoke** offers us eye-candy that meets or surpasses anything

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Disney has given us in recent years, with an adult storyline and no bad songs!

The story is a fantasy, set in the Muromachi Era of Medieval Japan. Prince Ashitaka, the hero is infested by demons, passed on to him from the Boar God who has also been afflicted. Fated to die, the Prince sets out on a journey through Japan, seeking the source of what afflicted him, and and to find a cure. Along his journey he meets an evil monk, an ambitious noblewoman, the spirits of the forest, and a beautiful girl raised by wolves. Around him the tensions between nature and the growing cities and farms of civilization cause an imbalance and a restlessness among the animal gods of nature. Ashitaka finds himself amidst a fierce battle where he struggles to find a path of coexistence between the animal inhabitants of the forest and an iron mining town that is exploiting and killing the forest.

Princess Mononoke is intended for mature audiences and has scenes of violence.

Also due out very shortly is **Dogma**, a religious fantasy from **Kevin Smith**, the maker of **Clerks** and **Chasing Amy**. The current release date is November 12. The plot? Two renegade angels (**Matt Damon** and **Ben Affleck**) who have been barred from heaven (and sent to live in Wisconsin instead) find a way to get back in without God's permission. However, by doing so they

will cause the end of the world. **Linda Fiorentino** plays the woman who's out to stop them, with the help of two holy men (**Jason Mewes** and Kevin Smith). Also starring **Chris Rock**, **Alan Rickman**, **Selma Hayek** (playing a dancing girl, again), **Jason Lee**, **Janeane Garafalo**, **George Carlin** and many others in cameo roles.

Kevin Smith wrote this script before he made his first film (*Clerks*) and I'm not surprised that he had trouble selling it; Hollywood isn't usually big on 'religious comedy'. Word from people who've seen the final cut is that this film is sure to offend. *Dogma* features a black thirteenth apostle, rocker **Alanis Morissette** as God, the missing chapters from the Bible chronicling Jesus' adolescence and his problems at home, a monster made of shit and Angels on a killing spree! Miramax Pictures was originally going to distribute this film but was forced by Disney, who own Miramax, to drop it. The film has apparently added a thinly-disguised "attack" on Disney within the story. As an aside, much of the film takes place in Sherman, Illinois, the town where director **John Hughes** set his 80's teen comedies like **Sixteen Candles** and the **Breakfast Club**. Apparently Hughes was a big influence on Smith.

I wasn't going to cover this film originally, but it is a fantasy and there is quite a buzz around it. Beyond Garafalo and Rickman there aren't many people that I like associated with this picture, but I'm curious. Preview audiences have had mixed

responses, mostly calling the movie uneven, sloppy and naming some actors for bad performances; but very few complained about the religious content. At the Cannes Film Festival however, the film was handed very harsh criticism from almost everyone. Many Catholic and Baptist groups are planning on protesting the film. Original screenings of this film were close to three hours, but it's slated to clock at two hours and ten minutes. Smith has been editing and re-editing this film since January.

I confess that I have a weakness for any movie that involves animals killing and eating people. It doesn't matter how bad the movie is; I'll find it watchable. I missed the theatrical run of **Lake Placid**, this past summer but managed to catch **Deep Blue Sea**. Next up is **Bats** from **Dimension Films** due out December 22, maybe sooner. **Bats** stars **Lou Diamond Phillips** (wow, has his stock ever fallen), **Dana Meyer** (the other chick in **Starship Troopers**) and an actor named **Leon** whose only screen credit I can locate is the TV prison series **Oz**. The director is **Louis Morneau** and the screenplay is by **John Logan**. The story is bats killing people. Lots of bats. Check out **Bat's** very cool web page at www.batsthemovie.com. What I want to know is when are they going to release **Komodo**? I want my giant man-eating lizards!



A BRIEF MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

Your new President. So where have I been? What have I been doing for you? Well, I don't know about you, but I know what I've been doing for ME. Been running the club expense account into the ground in a month long binge with imported hookers from Glasgow and imported beer from Ulan Bator. Now that I've driven the club into near bankruptcy, I'll be sleeping it off for a bit, then wake up refreshed, renewed, and eager to get on with the job.

Here's the way I see it. You've elected me and my fellow executive to run the club. That's what we're going to do. We're going to set up our own star chamber and make decisions. Business meetings will be held separately from club meetings. No business of any kind will be conducted at club events. If you don't like what we do, vote us out next year.

Not that we refuse input. If you're really in the mood to argue and debate, then by all means show up for the executive meetings. (Separate executive meetings are a club tradition by the way, we used to do that for years and years, back when the club was VERY active.) Minutes of such business conducted will be available at club events, and if you are really motivated by anything you read, button hole an exec and give your input — but quietly, in a corner where you don't distract from the proceedings.

Club general meetings and special events will be 100% devoid of angry debate, constitutional wrangling and Robert's Rules of Order. I'm not joking. I'm quite serious about this. We've got to put the fun and 'sensa wonda' purpose back into the club, and that's what I aim to do. Boring business routine will be confined to where it belongs, in a radioactive propellor beanie hidden in a dark closet.

What I urgently require is sufficient volunteers offering their pads as party sites to guarantee at least one fun party with theme or event each month. So far we are considering the following:

Garth has tentatively offered his home for a potluck Christmas party in December. (I think showing 'Santa Claus Conquers The Martians' would be appropriate.)

In January I'd like us to have a 'Begin The Countdown To The New Century' party (The 21st Century doesn't begin till January 2001 as I'm sure we all know). I thought I'd reprise my humorous video lecture (for those of you who missed it) demonstrating how female scientist role models in 1950's B movies inspired modern feminism. As one ardent feminist put it to me when I gave the lecture in Toronto two years ago, "You know, it almost makes sense!"

For future meetings I'm exploring ideas like a panel on the local film and TV industry, a joint event with 'Monster Attack Team Canada', a

panel/video lecture on the "Ten Worst SF Movies", and ANY OTHER FUN STUFF you guys would like to see!

So, if you have a good idea for a theme or event, and above all, are willing to provide party space, leave a message on my answering machine at 731-7553, or E-mail me at rgraeme@home.com. I know I'm a hard guy to get ahold of (I spend my weekends with the Club Secretary) but I'll get back to you somehow. And you can always get me at FRED. I intend to show up directly from work circa 9:30 PM at each and every FRED.

It's not enough just to hold a party so we can get together and socialize. You don't need a club to do that. No. Club meetings must be club EVENTS! We must offer our membership the chance to get together for a unique experience not available anywhere else, something fun and interesting and quite out of the ordinary, something which justifies the membership fee we require, heck, which renders the membership fee a bargain! Sound good to you?

Such are my goals. If I fail, it won't be for lack of trying, I assure you. I hope to have a full slate of events and fun activities planned by the next issue of BCSEazine. Stay tuned. Cheers all!

The Graeme



