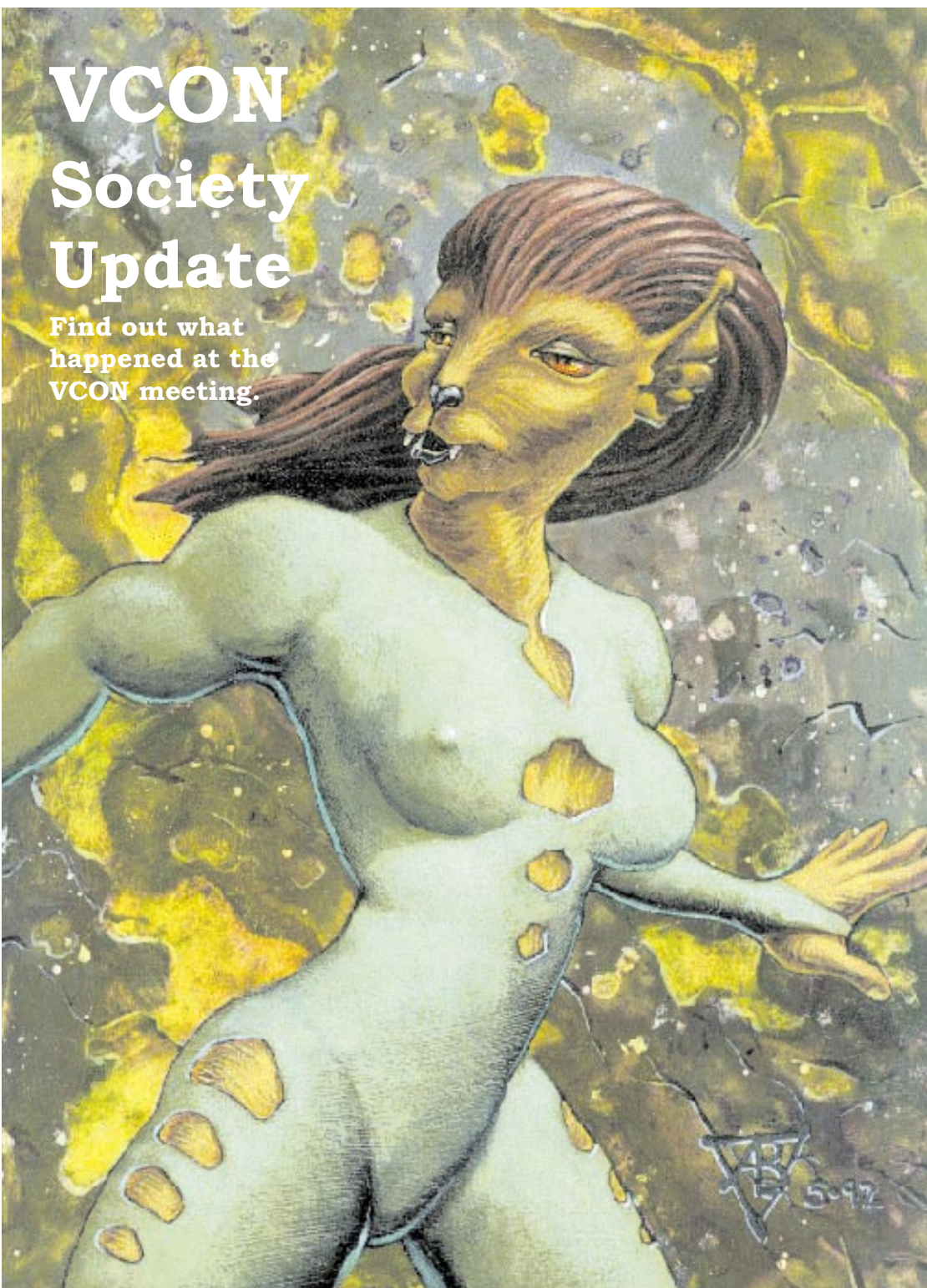




# BOSSFA *zine*

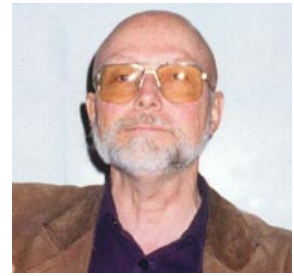


## VCON Society Update

Find out what  
happened at the  
VCON meeting.



**SF Book Review**  
Page 8



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Page 6



**Dr. Who Brief**  
Page 10

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE WEST COAST SCIENCE  
FICTION ASSOCIATION

Vol. 28 Issue 10  
Number 329  
October 2000 • \$3.00



WCSFA

## MEMBERSHIPS

New .....	\$26.00
New Family .....	\$32.00
Renewal .....	\$25.00
Family (2 Votes) .....	\$31.00

(Above prices includes subscription to BCSFAzine. *Please e-mail woolf@vcn.bc.ca if you wish to receive the magazine by e-mail.*)  
Make checks payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association)  
86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 5L4.

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For comments, subscriptions suggestions, and/or submissions, write to:  
**WCSFA**  
86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C. V3K 5L4

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

# WCSFAACTIVITIES

**Contributor's Deadline** - June 16th, July 14th, August 18th, Sept. 15th, Oct. 20th, Dec. 15th. Send, your submissions, comments, loc's to John Wong at 2041 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5N 1X9 or E-Mail me at woolf@mac.com

### 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.).

**BCSFAzine Pickup/Collation at FRED** - The 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.

**FREFF** Saturday October 14 at 7pm Woon Lee Inn. 3751 Delbrook Avenue, North Vancouver. Family-run Chinese restaurant in the foothills of North Vancouver.

**WCSFA Annual General Meeting.** Saturday, October 21st beginning at 6:00 pm at the home of R. Graeme Cameron and Alyx

J. Shaw at 86 Warrick Street in Coquitlam. Purposes: elections & V-Con Society ratification. By bus take the #154 from the 22nd Skytrain Stn and get off at Mundy & Cape Horn, walk downhill (East) along Cape Horn past Denman, then turn left on Warrick. #86 is the third house on the left. (Note: incredibly steep driveway to climb up.) By car, get on to Brunette Avenue and follow it till it turns into Cape Horn, go past Mundy, Denman, & turn left on Warrick as above. (Note: do not park on the driveway or block it. Park along the street below.) Warning! Multi-pet abode! (Cats, dog, ferret, hamster, fish, crow.) People with pet allergies beware!

### FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**OF THE V-CON SOCIETY**, at the New Westminster Public Library from 2:00 - 5:00. Purpose: election of Executive .

**FREFF** Saturday November 4 at 7pm. WaaZuBee Cafe 1622 Commercial Drive

Local SF Author Lisa Smedman has used this fine establishment as a backdrop to one of her upcoming novels. Come and see why.

November's FREFF has been moved to the first Saturday because the second Saturday falls on Remembrance day. For Remembrance Day, FREFF organizer Doug Finnerty is organizing a special pub night in honor of those who fought and died for our country in previous wars, armed conflicts and peacekeeping operations. Anyone who can think of an appropriate pub for this endeavor is welcome to contact Doug at 526-5621.

# UPCOMING CONVENTIONS



**Terracon III** October 20-22, 2000

**Hotel:** Sea Tac Radisson 17001

Pacific Hwy South, Sea Tac, WA

**e-mail:** terracon@iname.com

**snail mail:** Terracon, PO Box 11816, Olympia, WA 98508-1816

**Writer Guest of Honor:** Bill Ransom

**Artist Guest of Honor:** Drew Hilstad

**Fan Guest of Honor:** Dick O'Shea

**Toastmaster 2000:** Dave Tackett

**Memberships:** \$35.00 at door

**Incon 2000,** October 27 - 29, 2000

**Guest of Honor:** John Dalmas

**Artist Guest:** Nene' Thomas

**Attending Pros:** C.J. Cherryh and Jane Fancher!



**Fan Guest** - John Hertz

**Toastmaster** - Dragon Dronet (not confirmed)

**Hotel** Spokane Shilo Hotel E 923 Third Avenue, Spokane, Washington, 99202-2215

Reservations: (800) 222-2244

**Memberships** \$25 at the door Children 11 and under FREE if accompanied by an adult

**Snail Mail:** Incon 2000, PO Box 9112, Spokane, WA 99209-9112

### AKA Con 2000

**Mail:** 7680 Barrymore Drive, Delta BC V4C 4C7

**Hotel:** Sheraton Wall Centre Hotel, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6Z 2R9

Telephone: 1-800-663-9255

Memberships: Tickets will also be sold at the door for \$20 for a one day pass! Pre reg your 2 day pass (\$35.00) and save \$5! Pre regs will only be accepted up until November 11th! **Guests:**

**Studio Ironcat:** Stephen R. Bennett IV, Stephanie Brown, Doug Smith

**Bandai Entertainment:** Jerry Chu,

**Saccubus Studios:** Samantha Evangeline

**Aka Anime Productions:** Aka-chan

**A.D. Vision Films:** Jessica Calvello, David Williams, Pam Lauer, Amanda Winn Lee, Jason Christopher Lee, Tiffany Grant

**Industry Guests:** Scott Frazier

We Are Currently Located At The Current E-mails

Amanda L. Tomasch,



Convention Chair/Coordinator,  
Guest Relations Mandy@Gospeedgo.com  
Eluke Luoh, Convention Coordinator, Tech.

Head, Treasurer, Online Director lukeluoh@Axionet.com

Tiffany Nours Convention Coordinator Event, Advertisement Director, Volunteer Director, linverse@direct.ca

To subscribe to our mailing list for regular updates use the following url <http://www.backtalk.org/mailman/listinfo/aka-con>

**VCON 26 / CONVENTION 21** May 4, 5, and 6th, 2001 at the Radisson Hotel in Burnaby, which offers two hundred and seventy five rooms and sixteen thousand square feet of convention space over two floors

theme—2001: A Space Oddity—Humour in Science Fiction

Guest of honour Lynne Abbey, author of over 20 books, not including her work as author and editor of the popular Thieves' World Series. Lynne is happy to announce the re-release of the Thieves' World game and the release of additional Thieves' World novels, due out in 2001.

Gaming Guest of Honour James Earnest, President of Cheapass games, the most popular small print games publisher on the West Coast!

Artist Guest Pat Turner Besides creating last year's Web site, and the gorgeous art for the web page, Pat is a cover artist for Baen books!

VCon 26 is very happy to host Convention 21, and the 21st Prix Aurora awards, for the best Science fiction published in Canada over the previous year. To celebrate the Convention, and to present the awards, VCon 26 will be hosting a dinner theatre, Bacchanal, and awards ceremony on Saturday night. In order to keep convention costs down, the dinner is not included in the convention membership. The dinner tickets will be sold only in advance, and should be around \$30 Canadian per person. The Bacchanal and awards ceremony will be open to everyone.

Some of the other special events planned for VCon 26 include an out of print auction, featuring such gems as Heavy Metal #1 and the original Chainmail rules that became Dungeons and Dragons.

We are also planning a Friday Night concert, followed by a midnight showing of "The Rocky Horror Picture Show". With the awards on the Saturday, followed by the Dance and Kissing Auction, it should be a very busy convention!

These special events are in addition to our regular events, such as the Writer's Workshops, Kidcon, Art auction, gaming tournaments, Tour Otaku, and a very diverse selection of paneling.

We are also pleased to announce that The S'harien has agreed to host the Hospitality suite once more this year! This convention is shaping up to be one of the best yet, so don't miss out!

Pre register and reserve your hotel room today! Room rates: \$89/night for one to four occupants. Membership rates: \$25 per person now; rate hikes TBA.

Contact information: Chair: Chris Sturges chair@v-con.org phone (604) 294-9851 Co-Chair: Lisa McGovern co-chair@v-con.org phone (604) 931-1241 Website: [www.v-con.org](http://www.v-con.org)

Or Vcon 26 1410 Regan Ave., Coquitlam, BC V3J 3B5

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## WebCSFA SITE

Check out our web site at WCSFA-On Line:

<http://www3.telus.net/dh2/bcsfa>

Check out our web site for all the information  
you need to be a local fan.



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## LETTERS OF COMMENT



### Dear John:

Ah, Worldcon in Chicago is done...and a Worldcon in Toronto is ours! I hope you got the message I sent out to let people know about our victory. In spite of what Space:TIS reported, we won with 81% of the total vote cast. Now comes the real work. Everyone should check out [www.torcon3.on.ca](http://www.torcon3.on.ca) to see what's happening with...Torcon 3! In the meantime, Worldcon got me a little behind, so I have here the August and September issues of BCSFAzine, issues 327 and 328, according to them, and I should get back to my usual zine-loccking ways.

327...For Catherine Girczyk's informa-

tion, I did go to publicdebate.ca, and take part in the discussion. Didn't get any feedback on the topic, but those who were there had some distinct opinions on where SF should be in the public eye.

My letter...just before the Worldcon, we were all saddened to hear about the death of Robert Sacks in early August. Robert was a fixture at Worldcons, especially at the business meetings in the mornings. Both his absence and Joe Mayhew's were keenly felt, and there was a wake for Joe...his ashes in a funeral urn were present, and I hope he enjoyed his party.

The Globe and Mail recently featured George Lucas doing some shooting in Italy for Episode II: JarJar Becomes Sushi. Some of Epi-

sode I was filmed there, and sometimes, you have to go back and do it again, or work towards the sequel or next in the series. I hope the next one is a blockbuster...we needed such a blockbuster with Episode 1, and we didn't get it.

I need to find a primer on the works of Greg Bear...he's one author I'd like to catch up with, but there seems to be neither the money nor the time. Isn't that always the case? We'd need to be full-time readers and consumers of other kinds of SF just to catch up. Is it any wonder fandom and SF&F is so fractionated?

**September 11, 2000**

328...the big SFX/Anime and Comics

Expo in Toronto was surprisingly successful for us, as we sold our last 10 pre-supports before heading off to Chicago. This show is very much a trade show, with lots of actors and additional guests...never saw any of them. Running these bid tables virtually ensures that you won't see much of the show you're at. And, the same goes for Worldcon. There was so much to see at Chicon, and we saw nearly none of it. Most of our time was spent at the bid tables and vote/conversion tables, and at the three massive parties we staged in the Toronto party suite. Thanks to corporate and fannish generosity, we gathered together approximately 60 cases of beer to serve to the thirsty masses. We served it up as fast as we could, we brought beer to various parties also in our tower (we made LOTS of friends), and we still had 10 cases left over to trundle down to the con suite's dead dog. At the end of the convention, the vote was thus...

Toronto	1,375
Cancun	247
No Preference	56
None of the Above	8
Write-in Votes	12

1,698 votes were cast, and

Toronto received 81% of the vote. You may also find out that the John W. Campbell Award, given to the best new writer of the year, and given out with the Hugos, was given to Cory Doctorow. That makes two Toronto writers winning this award two years in a row. First, Nalo Hopkinson, and now, Cory.

I think I've done what I can for right now. With the next issue, I hope to do better. In the meantime, many thanks, and I'll wait patiently for the next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

### Dear John:

Many apologies for my ling silence. This has been another bad summer for me with new health problems, mundane troubles, and the increasing awareness that I'm growing too old to continue writing loc's. I'm not even sure if I've assembled all the issues of BCSFAzine on which I've failed to comment along with the copy of Fictions which you so kindly sent. If it's any consolation to you, the loc I wrote just before this one contained comments on the last six issues of a rather plump fanzine, so you aren't the only neglected individual.

So to work, starting with the June issue, and I'll save space by converging all remarks on each issue into one long paragraph: All the information in this and succeeding issues about Dr. Who was interesting although a bit confusing. I might have known it would be that way since Fox is involved in negations and planning and that firm always manages to create some degree of chaos

in anything it touches. Maryland continues to run an hour or more of Dr. Who during the earliest hours of Sundays. As for the ratings worries for Dr. Who in England, I'm sure it would share low ratings with almost everything else on the tube because even over there, too many channels are now available for the populace to permit continuing success for anything in a given time period. I read Milton Berle's autobiography recently and I must have jumped a foot when I came to his casual mention of the fact that his variety show in the early years of United States television achieved ratings as high as 80. The continuation of the material about typesetting and format was interesting but I still question the effect it might have on fans who are wondering if they should start a fanzine. It makes it all see so complicated and time consuming. And after all, Ansible won the fanzine Hugo year after year with an unvarying and very simple arrangement of type. And people continue to read books even though novels and anthologies almost never provide the read-

### Dear John:

Thank you for the new issue. As it came in I remembered I had forgotten to thank you (?) for sending me an issue of the story-zine "Fictions". Nice surprise!

Those are some very interesting and good stories. My own club here in Germany is preparing just now a similar project. Besides our monthly fanzine where we have mostly book reviews and some stories we want to make a special issue with second line of our fanzine. I need to change tracks a bit; after 11 years of fanzine publishing it gets boring sometimes.

Greetings from Germany  
 Home: <http://www.wilkomueller.de>  
 Ersatzmail: [dircaea@netscape.net](mailto:dircaea@netscape.net)  
 Netmail: [wilkomueller@web.de](mailto:wilkomueller@web.de)

ans who do the work on location in Canada for United States firms also seem to receive lower pay than Americans who hold similar jobs, since we're frequently told that lower costs is the reason so much United States television fare is created up there. Something should be done to smooth out such inequalities. I'm also wondering if it's safe for quality movies to be photographed with digital Sony cameras instead of with film, even if the product is virtually identical in quality. Even if these movies are transferred to non-magnetic substances like overgrown CD's, their longevity seems to be dubious. I'm glad Donna found better quality books to review in this issue. I hope I've attributed these reviews properly. When the writer's name in the form which he or she usually utilizes as a signature on paper.

Fictions gave me some pleasure, despite the irritation I mentioned before as my normal reaction to current and recent science fiction. I don't consider myself a qualified judge of the equality of science fiction and fantasy fiction any more, partly because I read such a minute percentage of the total output, partly because I'm too old to accept certain elements found in almost all of it like strong language over production of sex scenes where they have no relevance to the course of events. If I hadn't recently read a novelette by Olivia Butler, I might also have been repulsed by one of these stories, but her narrative hardened my stomach and it didn't churn or turn over at the events in it. I felt a bit guilty over how much I liked The Serpent of Eden because it is theoretically hampered by the fact that there is no serious conflict in it, no tumultuous climax in which good faces

evil, no villain other than the concept that in the past humans have been careless about how much they colonized previously unexplored parts of their own world. I hope very much that Vera Johnson had an inspired glimpse of how things really will be when humans start to land on other planets where there are well-developed forms of life. I also found a great deal of entertainment in Sylvia Skene's Revelations. Don DeBrandt wrote the story I mentioned above as saved for me by Olivia's even more queasy-making yarn, and I approve of his way of telling a story, all the same. I'm not sure it's a good idea to run extracts from projected novels in a periodical because of the danger that person who reads an extract may never find the remainder of the story when it finally sees print because of forgetfulness or a change in title or some other consideration.

I can't guarantee that I'll be able to respond promptly to BCSFAzine from now on but I certainly hope I do, because that will occur because things go better for me in times to come.

Yrs., &c.,

Harry Warner, Jr.

## Hi: John called Ken.

I feel that the VCON society is a great idea, since it basically places all the major players in the BC convention scene into one basket. I would like to see the Orions get back in, but they are now in family mode. Still it would be nice to see them return to the fold for VCon26.

I'm happy to see VCon26 get the nod to host Convention 21. It's about time that Convention came out here to the West Coast (unless it did before 1987.) Vancouver has been Canada's third largest city for almost a century and is tapping on Montreal's door for the second spot, so it about time we had a Convention out here (or it to return out here). I hope the people running Convention would take a look at adopting the "Grey Cup" method for choosing a host convention, one from the East one year, one from the West the next. (*They do. Ed.*)

For the members who are not members of BCSFA@egroups.com or have no e-mail, here's a little letter I posted there on September 1st.

### The ideal hotel for an ideal Con.

So let say I'm as rich as Bill Gates. I want to build a gigantic hotel and host a Norwescon sized VCon in it.

This would be my criteria.

- 1) The hotel will be within easy access to both major north-south and east-west freeway systems. Within a block or two from a SkyTrain station, major transit exchange or major city bus route. The hotel will provide a low cost shuttle bus to the airport, the Amtrak/VIA/inter-city bus station and maybe with a trip or two the ferry terminals.
- 2) The hotel will have an enclosed parking garage with parking for over 1,000 vehicles. Parking there will be free to all members, guests and the con-com.
- 3) The hotel will have easy access to a major shopping area or a major mall to provide access to fast food outlets for members who can't afford the hotel's food.
- 4) The hotel will be two 38 story, 350 room towers, atop a four story low-rise (Add these together you get 42.) build between the them containing, reception, a gift shop, three snack booths, two major restaurants, a large bar, the enclosed courtyard and 3,000 m (or 32,2932 ft.) of convention floor space.
- 5) The small town super market sized dealers room will be opened to both con members and guests as well as the general public who could by drawn into joining the convention via this room.
- 6) The hotel will have a enclosed courtyard with a large swimming pool and hot tub. In the daytime the SCA'ers can stage their battles here, while in the evening, members and guests can relax in the pool or hot tub. After eleven till six the next morning the area will be clothing you know what for even more fun. Just to be on safe side no one under age of 19 will allow in the courtyard during those hours.
- 7) There be three hospitality suites, smoking, non smoking and family. The family suite will be open from 3 pm till 11 pm Friday, 10 am till 11 pm Saturday and 10 am till 6 pm Sunday and will be right next to the KidCon room. The smoking and non smoking suites will be in two "Deluxe Penthouse Suites" in one of the towers. It will be open non-stop from 3 pm Friday till Noon Monday for members and guests over 19 only. All three hospitality suites will have hot and cold sandwiches, and junk food by donation for member who can't afford the hotel's food, yet don't want to leave to convention. Oh, there be tons of those "Insta-Lite Astor Shape" lamps in a three suites.

- 8) One of the hotel's towers will be the party wing while the other will be the quiet wing. All single and double rooms will go for \$85.00 (Canadian) plus 17% tax, total \$99.45 per night or \$298.35 Friday through Monday, (with the Orions running hospitality, you'll want to stick around for the "Dead Whatever Party".) If two are sharing a room the total will be \$149.18 per-person. If three sharing a room the total will be \$99.45 per-person. If four are sharing a room the total will be \$74.59 per-person. And if five are sharing a room the total will be \$59.67 per-person and the Murphy bed is free.

For members and groups who wants a "Deluxe Penthouse Suite", the cost will be \$190.00 plus 17% tax, total \$222.30 per-night or \$666.90 Friday through Monday. If two are sharing a suite the total will be \$333.45 per-person. If three sharing a suite the total will be \$222.30 per-person. If four are sharing a suite the total will be \$166.73 per-person. If five are sharing a suite the total will be \$133.38 per-person and the Murphy bed is free. If six are sharing a suite the total will be \$111.15 per-person. If seven are sharing a suite the total will be \$95.28 per-person. If eight are sharing a suite the total will be \$83.37 pre-person. If nine are sharing a suite the total will be \$74.10 per-person. And if ten are sharing a suite the total will be \$66.69 per-person and another free Murphy bed.

- 9) Five of the TV channels of the hotel's entertainment system will be dedicated to the con related programming. Two will air Science Fantasy films, another will air Sci-Fi animation, while another will air "Hard to Find or Lost Sci-Fi Television Gems". One channel will air the con programming schedule with updates, as well as special programming like "Good Morning V-Con", the Masquerade and up coming Sci-Fi movie and series clips.

And for even more fun there will be:

- A person will go around gathering bottles the mornings after the parties, while ringing a bell and yelling "Bring out your dead!" as he/she travels down the hallways.
- "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" will be played midnight Friday in the "Grand Ballroom" with a dance before and after it.
- There be dances on Saturday after the Masquerade and on Sunday night after the closing ceremony.
- Members and guests in costumes will travel to a large shopping mall to "Freak Out the Mundane" and help get more people interested in next year's con.
- A Orion Slave Auction will be held in the non-smoking hospitality suites 2 AM Saturday morning.
- A midnight game of "What's My Perversion" will be held in the non-smoking hospitality suites Mid-night Saturday night.
- With four outdoor elevators on each tower, people who don't have a life can watch the all night "Turbo Lift Races."



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So in a few word "Lets you know what's reality and have some fun."

I also have another letter of my ideas on VCon that was printed in BCAFAzine some time ago. I will E-mail a copy to Steve 40 so it can be critique at the AGM. Please feel free to E-mail me if you want a copy too.

So once again, I'm all for this proposed VCON society and if you believe in it, please came to the AGM on October 14 to let your feelings be known. Sorry, I'll unable to attend because of work.

Wishing you the best and I'll be seeing you.

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

## Hey John!

First of all, I want to thank you for what you have done with the BCSFAzine. Not only does it look great, but over the years, you have managed to bring together a monthly collection of articles of which I find at least one I am very interested in. The variety of topics covered and the presentation of the material has been stellar.

I understand from your article on Fanzine E-Publishing that the club has been somewhat technophobic, resisting change and fighting for the old ways of doing things. For a club so devoted to the future and how thing will be, I find it ironic is should cling so hard to the past. Of course, judging by the success of your changes, I think there is hope for the club yet.

You have single-handedly brought this club out of the pulp fiction Sci-Fi era into the modern glossy Science Fiction age. The innovations you have brought to the fanzine world leaves all the other zines in the dust. Acrobat distribution was a stroke of genius! It saved the club money and gave everyone the option of a FULL COLOUR fanzine. A luxury that many of us would not have even dreamed of when you first began editing the zine.

As if that wasn't enough, you loaded the e-zine with other features. Given time, I am sure you will even manage to make the zine a truly multimedia experience. I bet none of the other clubs have a colour fanzine like ours!

So what is with the VCON Society? And why is the executive even considering it? Clint comes along with the WCSFA constitution, changes "WCSFA" into "VCON Society", and bam! New club to run VCON!

Not only that, but he gives some control of the convention to another club and promises other clubs that they may join too! Our club has been pouring our support behind VCON for more than 25 years and this other club with a mere two years involvement expects to own a piece of the action? Tell them to take a hike!

WCSFA has always backed the convention financially. If VCON lost money, then our club will take on the responsibility of paying off all the bills. This other club not only expects to come in and reap the profits that may be generated at VCON, but they accept no financial liability if the convention ran a deficit! What a bunch of freeloaders! And with the invitation to other clubs to become involved, VCON is like live bait in a shark tank.

As far as I am concerned, WCSFA has been doing everything that the VCON Society was proposed to do. It has looked after the best interest of

the convention while protecting the organization that runs it. If people are so concerned with VCON, why can't they join WCSFA? It only costs five dollars to be an associate member! You may not have a vote at this level, but you have a voice! And if that isn't enough, you can become a full voting member for \$25! For an additional \$6 you can have two votes!

Without VCON, what is WCSFA? There is all this talk about a social branch of the club, BCSFA. Get real folks. When was the last time a majority of us attended a WCSFA event that was not VCON? There is no social club. The only thing that everyone gets with their memberships is the BCSFAzine.

WCSFA depends upon VCON for its revenue through the sale of memberships. This money not only goes back into the next VCON, thus ensuring the continuation of the convention, but to funding this newsletter, which I believe is the best one around. If the Auroras were based upon merit alone, then I think this zine would have won long ago. Instead, it is a popularity contest based upon who can get the most people to vote. I hope that with the Auroras being here at VCON 26 you will finally get the recognition you deserve.

C. H. W.

## WE WON!!!

Torcon 3 will take place August 28 to September 1, 2003 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre, Royal York Hotel, Crowne Plaza Hotel, Holiday Inn on King and Renaissance Hotel at Skydome.

Our Guests of Honour are George R.R. Martin (Pro), Mike Glycer (Fan), Frank Kelly Freas (Artist) and Spider Robinson (Toastmaster). Our GoHst of Honour is Robert Bloch, who was the main guests at both previous Torcons.

Progress Report Zero will be coming to your addresses soon with details on how to convert your pre-supports to supporting or full attending memberships.

Once again, WE WON!

Lloyd

## A New VCON Society

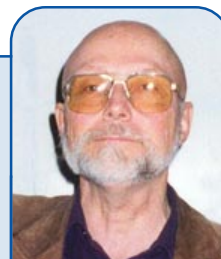
### PROCEDURES

#### 1. VCON CONVENTION COMMITTEE

Convention committees sponsored by VCON Society are standing committees of The VCON Society. All convention committee books, meetings and minutes are open to the VCON Society Directors. VCON Society Directors are entitled to attend convention committee meetings and to offer advice and assistance, and are encouraged to do so.

All members of a VCON Convention Committee will be members of the VCON Society

Except for the reporting requirements (see Section 8 below), the VCON Convention Committee will operate independently and the VCON Society is not normally involved in their day-to-day operations.



Clint Budd

*WCSFA is no more! Or is it? Come to the AGM and cast your vote on this proposal.*

**PART 3**

# MINUTES WCSFA GENERAL MEETING

## Executive Present:

President R. Graeme Cameron,  
Vice-President Palle Hoffstein,  
Secretary Alyx J. Shaw,  
Treasurer Doug Finnerty,  
Member At Large Garth Spencer.

7 other Members Present (2 arriving late), plus 1 non-member. 12 voting members in all present.

## Meeting began 1:00 pm at the New Westminster Public Library, September 10th, 2000.

Minor club business attended to, mail passed to Treasurer, etc. R. Graeme pointed out there is a registered society called BCSFA, the B.C. Salmon Farmers Association, registered since 1984. Hence impossible to register our BCSFA as such.

Clint Budd asked to present a motion re the restructuring of WCSFA. Reference made to small turnout. Clint stated every effort made to inform membership via phone and email. Turnout actually the largest in quite some time. Clint wished to know if this was a legitimate monthly general meeting. R. Graeme stated it was. Clint stated that being the case he therefore had the right to make a motion. If not acceptable to those not present, could be ratified or rejected at the next meeting, the annual general. Agreed.

General discussion ensued on various points of proposed motion. Here are some of the points of discussion paraphrased and condensed:

1) - That WCSFA be renamed the VCon Society and exist solely for the purpose "to promote, recruit and oversee the V-Con Science Fiction Convention."

2) - That the club aspect of WCSFA be separated to begin life anew as BCSFA (The B.C. Science Fiction Association), a social club devoted to promoting and celebrating SF&F. In other words, all current members of WCSFA now become current members of the newly reborn BCSFA.

- 3) - That the starting membership of the VCon Society consist of all current members of BCSFA and all current members of the S'Harrien Club.
- 4) That any profit from a VCON goes to the VCon Society, partly to cover expenses of the Society (expected to be minimal) but mainly to provide set-up funds for the next VCON, with the exception of:
- 5) That BCSFA, the legal owner of the "VCON" trademark, lease the trademark to the VCon Society on an annual basis for a percentage of the VCON profits (if any), a percentage yet to be negotiated.
- 6) That the current executive of WCSFA becomes the temporary executive of BCSFA till BCSFA elections are held at the next club annual general meeting in October.
- 7) That a list of agreed volunteers become the temporary executive of the VCon Society till the first annual general meeting and elections of the VCon Society are held in October on a date subsequent to the BCSFA meeting (if this motion has been ratified at the latter meeting).
- 8) That BCSFA retain the current WCSFA bank account and The VCon Society obtain the VCON account and the WCSFA VISA account (after financial records and matters have been resolved to mutual satisfaction).

At the end of the discussion Clint moved "that we adopt the policies and procedures re the creation of the VCon Society and BCSFA as presented." Seconded by Garth Spencer. Vote taken: 9 yes, 1 abstention. Passed. (2 members not yet present)

It being noted that the actual trademark being "VCON", David Hale moved that for purposes of keeping the society clearly a separate entity from VCON itself, the previous motion be amended to read "V-Con Society". Seconded by Andrew Brechin. Vote taken. Passed unanimously.

Date then set for the upcoming meeting: October 21st, Saturday, BCSFA Annual General Meeting at home of R. Graeme Cameron & Alyx J. Shaw, 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam beginning at 6:00 pm. Purpose: To discuss, reject or ratify Clint's motion. Then to hold elections for BCSFA (or WCSFA, depending on outcome of ratification vote).

Meeting closed: 3:00 pm.

## Addenda:

Minutes of first meeting of the V-Con Society Sept 10/00 at New Westminster public library. 13 members present, including temporary President Clint Budd.  
**Meeting began: 3:01 pm.**

David Hale moved that we accept the Executive as volunteered. Alyx J. Shaw seconded. Vote taken. 12 yes, 1 abstention.  
Palle Hoffstein moved that we add the membership of VCON 25 and the current prepaid membership of VCON 26 to the starting membership of the V-Con Society. Doug Finnerty seconded. Passed unanimously.  
Andrew Brechin moved that the V-Con Society name the BCSFA gavel. Jeff Hartt seconded. Vote taken. 9 yes. 2 opposed. 2 abstentions. Passed.  
Jacqueline Passey moved that we vote on a series of proposed names for the BCSFA gavel. Jeff Hartt seconded. Vote taken.

## Results:

"Thumper" = 0, "Meat Tenderizer" = 1, "Bam Bam" = 0,  
"Stormbringer" = 2, "Reaper of Souls" = 8, plus 2 abstentions.  
"Reaper of Souls" passed.  
(Note: BCSFA does not possess a name for its gavel.)

Doug Finnerty moved that the V-Con Society create its own gavel, to feature double-headed Elrons and be known as "The Hammer of Elron." Seconded by Alyx J. Shaw. Vote taken. Passed Unanimously.

Date then set for next meeting: October 29th, Sunday, V-Con Society Annual General Meeting. Location & time TBA. Purpose: election of Executive (depending on outcome of ratification vote at BCSFA meeting).  
**Meeting ended 3:50 pm.**

STARFISH, Peter Watts (Tor, July/99)  
 DEATH DRIVES A SEMI, Edo van Belkom (Quarry Press, Nov/98)  
 HUNTED, James Alan Gardner (Eos, July/00)  
 GRAVITY DREAMS, L.E. Modesitt Jr. (Tor, July/99)

As you may remember from last week's column, I'm working on reviewing all of this year's Aurora nominees for best Canadian novel. The nominees were:

Beholder's Eye, Julie E. Czerneda Bios, Robert Charles Wilson Brown Girl in the Ring, Nalo Hopkinson (reviewed last month) Death Drives A Semi, Edo van Belkom Flashforward, Robert J. Sawyer Starfish, Peter Watts

I'm having trouble getting all the books, but I'll try to finish off the last three in next month's column, then I'll give you my top pick.



Nobody in their right mind would want to spend a year working in a geothermal power station three THOUSAND feet under the surface of the Pacific, surrounded by pitch black,

icy, crushing water, and perched on the edge of the unstable volcanic Juan de Fuca rift. And nobody in their right mind would want to have their lung cut out and replaced with a machine, or have their human genes rewritten as part fish to accommodate this job.

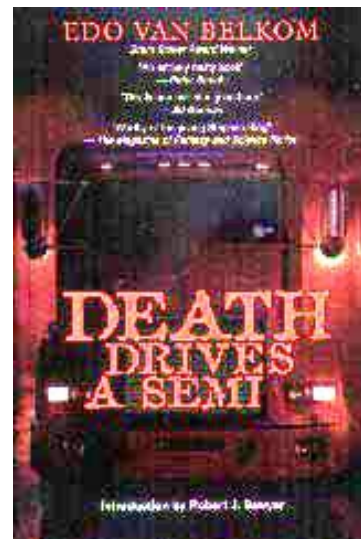
So the Grid Authority staffed Beebe Station with crazies—people so abused since childhood and so socially misfitted for normal living that swimming through black ooze at the bottom of the ocean is a lifestyle improvement. Pre-adapted, is the psychologist's term. And the tactic seems successful at first, but Lenie Clarke, the first 'rifter' in the abyss, wonders whether the GA intends to ever let them return to the surface—or whether any of them will want to return.

Watts does an excellent job of describing the eerie setting of the deepwater rift and the strange sea creatures who live there. (Indeed, you can view this book as primarily setting, with a few characters and some plot tacked on for the ride.) He also handles technology exceptionally well, blending science naturally into the story without (for the most part) dropping into lectures.

However, this is one of those modern novels where everyone wanders about dysfunctionally until they meet some grim fate, so by genre readings standards it has many problems. First, Watts uses too many points of view—I was almost halfway through the STARFISH before I could decide who was supposed to be the protagonist. Watts also fails to identify a central story problem, leaving his characters to move aimlessly through the gloom, with insufficient structure or direction. And very little action takes place until the end of the book, so the setting and a series of minor incidents have to carry the reader. Many readers will stall.

Finally, a number of the ideas in this book (such as a team of pathological loners successfully working together) do not stand up to much examination, and unfortunately the slow pace gives the reader plenty of time to

pick holes in the plot and characters. STARFISH is an original novel, very well researched and containing interesting ideas, and Watts is a good writer; but I cannot describe this book as an enjoyable read. Still, I'll be watching for Watts' next novel with interest.



DEATH DRIVES A SEMI certainly provided a complete change of pace from STARFISH. Not being fond either of anthologies, or of horror fiction, I did not tackle this collection of stories with much optimism, and indeed they didn't impress me (especially after Peter Watt's murky, gothic ocean floor).

Ghosts and gore are common elements of horror stories, but those alone do not make a story successful. The key to making readers cringe is creating characters we can empathize with, then using their weaknesses and flaws to drive them to a horrific end.

By this criteria, most of van Belkom's stories fail. The stories are predictable and the plot devices (a vengeful ghost or a monster in the basement) are unoriginal, but the primary problem is that he doesn't get inside his characters' emotions.

For instance, one story is told from the point of view of a very obese man, but van Belkom's observations are those of an outsider. He explains that the man has difficulty walking and is always hot, but he doesn't successfully convey how it feels to be trapped inside a sweaty, lumbering body, and consequently the reader never gets involved in the story.

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An exception in this book is “Ice Road”, a well-written story about a trucker who tries a late season shortcut across a frozen lake, driving an overloaded logging rig. Van Belkom’s trucker is very well portrayed, the setting is great, and the tension builds up until the elegant final plot twist.

job with the Mandasar, an intelligent ant-like race whose planet is being torn apart by a war between their queens, and the Balrog, a compulsive sentient parasite.

Many elements of this story are way over the top, but Gardner’s strong, capable writing and compelling characters keep the reader glued to the pages.

ing long, repetitive, solemn conversations about the nature of individual responsibility to society, and then going through what felt like hundreds of pages of pilot training. Silly me, I kept reading, hoping that there would be a point to all this. But apart from some philosophical conversations with an interstellar being that might or might not be God, not much occurs in this novel past page 80.

And gosh, this Rykasha is some vibrant high tech society. Nobody cracks jokes, complains about their boss, or goes out for drinks on Friday night. Everybody travels on clean, efficient public transit and eats in cafeterias where replicators provide a wide, consistent menu of wholesome and nutritious food. Some mysterious high council (never explained) keeps an eye on every citizen at all times, and if you are deemed behave in an antisocial manner, you are sentenced to “readjustment.” All this is possible because the miracles of modern nanotechnology can reprogram your behaviour, give you a university education via nasal spray, make you virtually immortal, and do absolutely anything else, save that which is inconvenient to Modesitt’s plot.

Or maybe it’s only the passive, existentially-obsessed Tyndal and his staggeringly dull (but “honest”) relationship with his “guide,” Cerelle that makes this society SEEM boring. But who cares?

Severely cut (by at least half) and given a much stronger plot, this might have been a very interesting novel, but as it stands I don’t recommend it.

I am trying to locate a copy of Beholder’s Eye by Julie E. Czerneda. The VPL has it on order but their supplier, White Dwarf, can’t get it.

If anybody has a copy and is willing to lend it to me, I’d appreciate it very much.

Comments? Questions? Rebuttals? donna\_mcmahon@sunshine.net

Donna McMahon

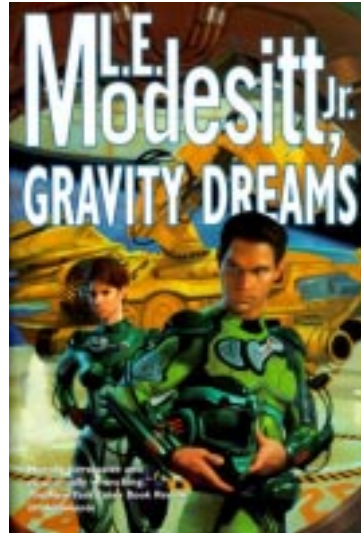


Last year I gave an enthusiastic review to James Alan Gardner’s novel COMMITMENT HOUR, so when I saw his name again, I picked up HUNTED. This splashy space opera is a very different book than the thoughtful social SF novel I previously read, but it is nonetheless an equally entertaining read.

Edward York is tall, strong, handsome and the son of an admiral, but he’s got a big problem. Unlike his perfect, brilliant twin sister, Edward is stupid. Only his father’s influence gets him past the minimum IQ requirements to join the Explorer Corps, then after his sister dies on their terribly bungled first mission, he is exiled to a remote moon post.

Twenty years later Edward is unexpectedly evacuated by a navy ship, and then the unimaginable happens—everyone else dies when the ship crosses into interstellar space, the jurisdiction of the super-advanced League of Peoples. These navy officers must have committed some heinous crime. And Edward, arriving alone at Celestia aboard this death ship, is catapulted into a vicious political cover-up whose seeds are in Edward’s deeply buried past.

This is a fast-paced space opera, pulled tightly together by Gardner’s terrific depiction of Edward as a frightened, reluctant hero who has suppressed all memories of his family’s terrible secrets. Gardner also does a great



In contrast, GRAVITY DREAMS is a novel that doesn’t seem to know what it is. The two muscle-stuffed uniforms on the cover suggest a military space opera aimed at teenage boys. Cover blurbs, including one from the “Romantic Times,” mention adventure, socioeconomic musings on high tech society, and God.

Well, they’re all partly correct, because this ponderous, talky novel by L.E. Modesitt combines a lot of diverse elements. Unfortunately they never come together into a successful story.

Tyndal trained as a traditional “Dzin” (Zen) master in the conservative, low-tech land of Dorcha. But when an infection by ancient nanites transformed him into a “demon”, his former neighbours killed his wife and drove him out to the forbidden high-tech land, Rykasha.

In Rykasha, suffering from grief and severe culture shock, Tyndal is told that he has the rare, valuable talent to become a needle pilot, guiding spaceships past the singularities in “overspace.” But Tyndal isn’t sure that’s what he wants.

And he spends the REST OF THE BOOK not quite making up his mind, hav-

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# DR. WHO BRIEF.

1,143 days until November 23, 2003\*.

## The "Dr. Who Project".

At last "WhoFans" can mark a date on their calendars for the possible return of the "TARDIS".

On August 25 at the Edinburgh Television Festival, the BBC announced that the proposed "Dr. Who Project" could premier on November 23, 2003, the date of the original series' 40th anniversary. A BBC spokesperson said that this was always the plan of the "Partnership". The media frenzy created by the June 5 announcement and the news that "Dr. Who" had been recently voted the third best British television program of all times by the British Film Institute (Note: Only "Fawlty Towers" and the 1993 "BBC Wednesday Play: Cathy Come Home" got more votes.) did little to change this date.

"WhoFans" BBC insiders say "Though A&E1 cable super station has expressed interest in the series, they will wait till the fall of 2002 before committing, as they don't know now the series will fit in to its format until the service is up and running. (Note: This new digital service is yet to be approved by the FCC.). "Licensing the series to Disney owned ABC or any other American network has been ruled out, on account of they are generally not interested and will not commit to a full thirteen episodes initial series if they were."

They said the plans being whisper around halls at the BBC are.

"If" the "Project" a feature film, an official announcement will be made in the early spring of 2002 and it will have a November 23, 2003 release date.

"If" the "Project" is a new TV series, an official announcement will be made in the early fall of 2002 and it will premier on November 23, 2003.

"If" worst comes to worst they could produce the "Project" as an "one off" TV movie (Which still could lead to a new series.) that will air on November 23, 2003.

How that we have a date, the only things to do is wait and hope.

## "Classic Dr. Who".

A deal with Canadian book and video retailer Chapters has brought the new line of Warner Home Video/BBC "Classic Dr. Who" to the Great White North (eh). The Doctor Who News Page Reports that the first release was it first the story, Tom Baker's "The Invasion of Time" on August 25. The very funny "The Curse of Fatal Death" the "Dr. Who" comedy sketch starting Rowan Atkinson and Julia Sawalha (Note: I say rent or buy it even if you are not a "WhoFan".) will be hitting the shelves on October 10. The same day

as the boxed set "The Edge of Destruction, The Original Pilot and The Missing Years" containing the very rarely seen "Original Pilot", never before seen in North America "Missing Years" documentary and the Heartnell era story "The Edge of Destruction". Finally the Jon Pertwee era story "Planet of the Daleks" is coming out November 7.

You can also order them over the WEB.

The fourteen PBS stations still transmitting "Classic Dr. Who", are considering joining forces for "Who Across America 2000". Scheduled of sometime in late October, this pledge drive will transmit live from WQED in Pittsburgh and have two special guests, (Rumored to be Peter Davidson [The 5th Doctor] and Louise Jameson [Leela].) who will pick their own favorite story from their eras. "WhoFans" will be able to pick their favorite story of all times via the WEB. The BBC hopes to get the 58 network stations who turned down the series in June to once again become interested if the drive is successful. If not, this could be "The Doctor's" "Swan Song" on PBS, as the fourteen remaining stations licensing agreements expire in September 2001.

August was a good month for PBS. Their new president announced that all 348 transmitters will remain operating after the end of Government funding in 2004, though many smaller market stations will be stunt down and transmitters turned over to 140 regional "Super Stations". The network also plans a nightly national prime time schedule from seven to eleven starting in September 2001. Sadly, "Classic Dr. Who" will not likely be in the line up, meaning that the regional "Super Stations" who do obtain or renew a licensing agreement will have air it after eleven either on Saturday or Sunday night.

Good news from BBC America. As for September 5th the cable super station airs two back-to-back "Classic" episodes Tuesday-Fridays at 5:00 AM EST (Or two stories a week.). A "WhoFan" said that the station calved into fan presser after going over to the 25 minute episode in mid June. The station estimates that about 90,000 homes watch or record the show each morning, about 10% less then watched it in the old Saturday 11:30 PM EST time slot.

So it's not a bad time to discover the good "Doctor".

The BBC Radio 4's "Dr. Who: Death Comes to Time".

Latest word is that if this new series is picked up, it will be getting its soundtrack from one classy source. The internationally acclaimed BBC Symphony Orchestra.

The pilot for this series should be in production be the time you read this.

## Other "Dr. Who" News.

Comic actor Gary Olsen died of cancer in Australia on September 12th. Olsen was consider one of the top names to play "The Doctor" in 1998, when a poll established that 22.9% of British viewers wanted a new "Dr. Who" series. He also played "Eddy" in the early 1990's London production of "Rocky Horror Show". Our feelings go out to his family and friends.

British comedian and "WhoFan" Alexei Sayle, (Best known to series fans as the "DJ" in the "Star Trek" in-joke loaded Colin Baker story "Revelation of the Daleks".) said his planning on lampooning "Dr. Who" in his proposed new BBC1 series. The pilot is now being filmed and the series could picked of the 2001-2002 season. Although most of the episodes will be based on his short stories book "Barcelona Plates". He plan to submit this parody scrip with himself as "The Doctor". With a number "well known" British performers/WhoFans as companions and villains. We wish Alexei the best of luck with his new endeavor. It would great to see another comic take on our favorite 1630 something year old "Time Lord".

That's all for now, so I wish you the best and I'll be seeing you.

Ray "Dr. Media" Seredin

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\* Based on this issue's Pickup/Collation  
FRED (October 6).



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