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COLOPHON

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CALENDAR

Contributor's Deadlines - Dec. 15, 2000, Jan. 19, 2001, Feb. 16, Mar. 16, Apr. 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, Sept. 21, Oct. 19. Send, your submissions, comments, locs to **Garth Spencer at P.O. Box 15335, V.M.P.O., Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1, or e-mail me at hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca.**

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.).

Saturday, December 16th, BCSFA Pot Luck Christmas party, beginning at 6:00 PM, at Alyx & R. Graeme's house, directions as above. Hopefully Santa will appear. All are requested to bring a wrapped anonymous Xmas gift (max value \$10) to be handed out by Santa. Pot luck, but basic food stuff will be on hand, so OK to come without food contribution, but would be nice if you can. Phone 526-7522 to co-ordinate what food to bring. BYOB.

CONVENTIONS TO KNOW ABOUT

DECEMBER 2000

SMOFCon is the only North American convention in December 2000 of which I'm aware; it is being held this year in Cocoa Beach, Florida. Somehow I don't think any of us is travelling that far.

JANUARY 2001

January 12 - 14: Rustycon 18 at the Everett Holiday Inn in Everett, Washington. GoHs: Bob Mayer, Joe Dolson, Robert Doherty, Bob McGuire, Greg Donegan; AGoH Real Musgrave. Memberships \$40 to Dec. 1/00, \$50 at the door. Write Rustycon 2001, Box 84291, Seattle, WA 98124-5591. Email bobbied@microsoft.com, URL www.rustycon.com



FEBRUARY 2001

Feb 16 - 18: RadCon 3A at the Doubletree Inn in Pasco, Washington. GoHs: (Scientist) Dr. Steven D. Howe; other GoHs TBA. Featuring Critter Crunch! Artshow, Dealer and Masquerade information online; see URL <http://Radcon.yi.org>. Rooms: Contact Doubletree Inn, 2525 N. 20th, Pasco, WA; telephone reservations at (509) 547-0701. Registration form also online. Write to Radcon, PMB#162, 2527 West Kennewick Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336-3126, U.S.A.

Feb. 25 (Sunday), 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.: Portland Comic Book Show at the Memorial Coliseum at Rose Quarter in Exhibit Hall, in Portland, OR. The largest dealer room in the Northwest, with 165 tables. Present: Armin Shimerman; Andy Mangels; Steven Grant; Anne Timmons. Tables available beginning Jan. 1, 2001; call Second Genesis at (503) 788-1031 for table packet and reservation form. Admission (8 and older): \$6.00 at the door.

Feb. 23-25: Potlatch 10, at the Ramada Plaza Hotel International in San Francisco, CA. An all volunteer, non-profit, literary convention; proceeds to Clarion West. Supporting memberships \$10. Memberships \$35 to February 1, 2001; \$40 at the door. Write c/o Mary Kay Kare, P.O. Box 3042, San Ramon, CA 94583; email info@potlatch-sf.org; more information at <http://www.potlatch-sf.org>.

MARCH 2001

March 9 - 11: Gamestorm 2001, Portland's Gaming Convention in the Red Lion Coliseum Hotel, Portland, Oregon. Convention room rates as low as \$64 per night. Memberships \$25 to February 15, 2001, \$30 at the door. Web page <http://www.pdxgames.com/>. Mail to GameStorm P.O. Box 764, Portland, OR 97207, or email David Lohkamp (chair) at lohkamp@hotmail.com.

March 16-18: Lepracon 2001 at Mickey O'Reilly's Inn in

Wenatchee, Washington. Guest Author: Elizabeth Anne Scarborough. Guest Artist TBA. Guest Fan: David Bigelow, with Betty Bigelow. Dead Guest of Honor: Ernest Hemingway. For masquerade info. Go to www.geocities.com/tiger_meep/GrandMasque.html or email tiger_meep@yahoo.com. Rooms \$62 for a single bed, \$72 for double beds; call (509) 884-1474 for reservations. Preregistration fee, \$15. See <http://iguana.penguinpowered.com/lepracon2001/> for more information, or email LittlePeople2001@juno.com, or write Lepracon 2001, PMB 352, 2527 W. Kennewick Ave., Kennewick, WA 99336.

APRIL 2001

April 12 - 15: Norwescon 24 at the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport at SeaTac, Washington. Guest of Honor: Connie Willis. ArtGoH: Bob Eggleton. FanGoH: Charles N. Brown. Rooms: \$96 flat frate for up to four people (family suites and presidential suite available by contacting Norwescon); phone (800) 222-TREE for reservation or write Doubletree at 18740 Pacific Highway South, SeaTac, WA. Memberships \$45 to December 31, 2000, \$55 at the door; memberships limited. (No mailed registrations accepted after Feb. 28.) See <http://www.norwescon.org>, call (206) 270-7850 (hotline), email info@norwescon.org, or write Norwescon 24, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547, U.S.A.

April 27-29: SakuraCon 2001 at the Holiday Inn in Everett, Washington. (An anime con.) Memberships U.S. \$30 to December 31, 2000, \$40 to March 31, 2001. (Children 6-12 half-price.) Mail to Sakura Con Registration, 900 Meridian East #19-407, Milton, WA 98354; URL www.sakuracon.org.

MAY 2001

May 4 - 6: VCon 26 at the Radisson in Burnaby, British Columbia, theme - 2001: A Space Oddity - Humour in Science Fiction. Guest of Honour Lynne Abbey. Gaming Guest of Honour James Earnest, President of Cheapass Games. 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 more information on the Auroras, see Dennis Mullin's Aurora Web page at <http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/>.

The Radisson Hotel in Burnaby (4331 Dominion Street, Burnaby, B.C. CANADA V5G 1C7 off Canada Way, just west of Willingdon) offers two



PLAIN SPEAKING

by Garth Spencer

Allow me to introduce myself. Some of you in BCSFA, and in fandom abroad, know me from as long ago as fifteen and twenty years back; many of you, I'm sure, haven't seen my name before. Basically I'm an old-fashioned fanzine fan, a congoer who still thinks cons are glorified parties under another name, a fannish fan who wonders where all the great pranks and hoaxes went.

Some of you may recall fanzines I produced in the past, such as *The World According to Garth*, *Sercon Popcult Litcrit Fanmag*, and *The Maple Leaf Rag*. I'd like to provide here some fan news from outside the club, and inject some of the humour that made fandom appealing to me.

At the moment I have several other things on my plate besides *BCSFazine*: secretarial duties for the V-Con Society, and balloting duties for the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. I think it will be relevant and material to cover those topics in these pages - for one thing, they touch upon your interests.

It occurs to me that *BCSFazine* could do with special feature articles each issue, from the particular interests and backgrounds of our members and correspondents. **To most of you, this is an invitation - let me know about subfandoms not covered here**, like game design, the Cacophony Society, the SCA, or the Kingdom of Talossa. To the rest of you, keep watching these pages. You'll get a surprise.

Some regular features I would like to introduce here include profiles of well-known members (or fans who ought to be well-known). I would also like to raise our awareness of, and contact with other fan groups, not limited to the Lower Mainland. Let me just ask you: what are the current Star Trek groups in the Lower Mainland? What happened to local comics fandom? Who started

(cont'd)

hundred and seventy five rooms and sixteen thousand square feet of convention space over two floors. Room rates: \$89/night for one to four occupants. Phone 800-333-3333 for reservations, or email reservations@villa.bc.ca - don't forget to tell them you're with VCon! (For more information see www.radisson.com/burnabyca/) Membership rates: \$ from Nov. 1, 2000 to Jan. 31, 2001: Can. \$30, U.S. \$25 from Feb. 1 to April 30: Can. \$35, U.S. \$30 at the door: Can. \$45, U.S. \$40. Contact information: Chair, Chris Sturges at chair@v-con.org, phone (604) 294-9851. See website: www.v-con.org or write Vcon 26, c/o 235 Liberty Place Burnaby, BC CANADA V5C 1X5.

AKA-Con and Gatecon? What's happening with the UBC SF club, or the fans at SFU? For that matter, aren't there SF clubs of some description on the Island, or in the Interior? What news from the SCA? And what about the rest of the country?

But this is *BCSFA's* newsletter; I am aware this is by and for and about BCSFA, rather than my own trip. So I want to ask each and every one of you what you're into. If space permits, a voluntary questionnaire may be included this issue, to give me some idea how to orient this newsletter in future. Are we a general-interest SF club, or are most of us interested in TV and film SF? How many of us are aspiring writers, artists, or digital-media wannabes? Do you collect books about Tesla coils and free energy, or how to build your psychic muscles, or all the words to Monty Python episodes? (Do you have any books?) How many cons do you go to? And that sort of thing.

Also I want to encourage those of you receiving this on paper to get an e-mail account, which could eventually mean reducing BCSFA membership rates. (I can personally recommend the utility and savings represented by joining the Vancouver CommunityNet, the Freenet in the Greater Vancouver area, but I guess that would be a conflict of interest, so I shouldn't do that.)

At the moment I have rather minor items of news for and about our members. For instance, R. Graeme Cameron reports:

"Sad to report that Rosen Kavalier (a.k.a. 'Beaky Bird'), our newly appointed club mascot, passed away at the age of 8 months. Rescued as a fledgling kicked out out of the nest, suffering from a degenerative heart & lung disease, this crow raptor beastie grew into a strong-willed steel-beaked

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fierce little guy whose motto was 'I want it NOW!' who proved most worthy of his dinosaur ancestors."

I also discovered that several memberships are expiring, or coming up for renewal, including my own:

Expiring in December -
 Sylvia Skene & Nico Iormetti, expiring Dec. 01/00
 Mike Koombes, expiring Dec. 01/00
 Don & Lisa McGovern, expiring Dec. 01/00
 Wilko Mueller, expiring Dec. 01/00
 Garth Spencer, expiring Dec. 01/00
 Peter Tupper, expiring Dec. 01/00
 Bob Vaughn, expiring Dec. 01/00
 Yolanda Goodwin, expiring Dec. 31/00

Expiring in January 2001 -
 Lea Rush & John Bartley, expiring Jan 01/01
 Jill L. Pruett, expiring Jan. 01/01
 Les Shewchuk, expiring Jan. 01/01
 Richard Scheib, expiring Jan. 8/01
 Barb Dryer, expiring Jan. 14/01
 Jon Foster, expiring Jan. 28/01

In closing, let me remind you what you get for BCSFA membership: not only *BCSFazine*, with advance notice of conventions in Canada and the Northwest, but a membership directory, issues of *Fictons* when these fiction anthologies come out, and discounts at bookstores in Greater Vancouver, Bellingham and Portland.

LOCS

M. Beulah Wadsworth, 1356 Meadowlands Dr. E., Apt. #206, Nepean, ON K2E 6K6 (Sept. 14, 2000)

Interesting concept, the V-Con Society. Other clubs have tried this and the con has eventually folded: Maplecon (Ottawa), and Con*Cept (Montreal - cancelled this year). Toronto's Ad Astra con survived, but the club went under.

I shall watch with interest from Ontario.

((Good to hear from you again, Beulah! Could you tell us something about the situation in Toronto, and Montreal, and in Ottawa these days?)

((I thought the club that went under in Toronto was the Ontario SF Club, not the convention coordination committee? ... Come to think of it, I didn't know what were the committees, in either Toronto or Montreal. I also thought the Ottawa convention coordination committee, as opposed to the various clubs in Ottawa, continued for several years?)

((You've given me a notion, for which I thank you. I

suppose I could run an article here about the various convention coordination committees I know about [as distinct from concoms]. It might be enlightening for everyone. I hope other readers could complete and correct the rather dated information I have available - notably Dan Dubrick, who has investigated how to register a non-profit society on the Federal level, in Canada.))

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, November 7, 2000

I hope that VCon 26 has arranged an Aurora Awards liaison with award administrator Dennis Mullin. (I see later on in the zine that Graeme Cameron will be the liaison ... excellent!) Toronto Trek's liaison, Aaron Yorgason, did not keep in touch with Dennis until nearly the time of the convention, but did a good job of hosting the ceremonies.

My letter...the Doctor Who con I mentioned, Who Party 12, has been rescheduled to November 18, with Terence Dicks as the GoH. The 2001 World Fantasy Convention will take place November 1-4, 2001 at the Delta

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CHANGES OF ADDRESS:

MacGregor, Duncan (a while ago): #204 - 6616 Nelson Ave., Burnaby, BC V5H 3J8, P# 453-1832, email dmacgr@usa.net

Skinner, Frank P (Jan./00): 937 S. Coast Hwy. 101, Suite 203, Encinitas, CA 92024; P# (760) 634-4601, F# (760) 634-3757; email frankpskinnercpa@netscape.net

Wong, Ken (sometime soon ...)

Centre-Ville in Montreal. Guests of Honour include Fred Saberhagen and Joel Champetier, with Charles deLint as the toastmaster.

John...I can understand giving up the editorship of *BCSFAzine* after 61 issues, for it is a lot of volunteer work and effort... but why are you leaving the club? That's the only part you don't explain. If I should mind my business here, let me know, but I am curious.

Rob Sawyer's *Flashforward* ... I've been Tuckerized in a past Sawyer book, but when I saw another Lloyd in this newest book, I had to wonder if I was Tuckerized again. I asked, and Rob said no, but I do wonder...Simcoe is the name of a large lake north of Toronto, and is named after John Graves Simcoe, first Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario.

David Bowie wants to do a *Doctor Who* radio drama? I wonder how many famous Brits grew up wanting to travel through time with Doctor Who? I remember viewing one of the *Star Trek* movies, and seeing Christian Slater play Sulu's yeoman in one scene of the movie. His mother is Mary Jo Slater, the movie's casting director, and Christian has always been a *Star Trek* fan. My niece Nicole was a big Christian Slater fan at the time, and her jaw almost fell off her face when we proved that her heartthrob was in a *Trek* movie.

We knew that Randy Barnhart and Barb Corbett would be moving to Vancouver from Prince Rupert, but they told us they'd be in touch when they moved with new address, telephone number and e-mail address, and they haven't. Could someone pass a note to them, and ask them to get in touch with us?

((This has been done.))

Garth, if the two reported CUFF candidates are still interested, I may have found a third candidate. Murray Moore of Mississauga has expressed interest in running for CUFF, and may be into the race before the other candidates are. Have they expressed interest too, or have they been a little bullied into running? I did receive the second sending of the file you sent, and I will be working to update that address list you sent along.

((Got it, thanks. You know, as I write this, Murray is the one CUFF candidate who has written to me with his nominations to date.))

File 770 certainly does focus on American fannish news, but I have tried to act as a stringer for Mike so that there have been some issues with a good percentage of Canadian content. In the last issue, I had an obituary of Toronto filker Lloyd Landa, who died this past summer.

Time to wind up...to John, thank you very much for all your hard work in creating a very handsome fanzine, and Garth, thank you for picking up the reins and taking over. See you next issue.

((I'm aware that Graeme is titular head of the Convention side of VCon 26. His degree of liaison with Dennis Mullin is another thing, and up to him.

((“Tuckerized”, for those who don't know the term, means having your name and person appear in a story. So far I've seen Canadian writers Tuckerize Hania Wojtowicz, Ev Beheshti, and streets like Gramsci and Dundas.))

Harry Warner Jr., 423 Summit Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21740, U.S.A.

(Nov. 15, 2000)

Dear John or Garth or whoever:

There was no return address on the envelope in which the [latest] *BCSFAzine* arrived, and the familiar paragraph with John's address was missing from its pages. So I'm not sure who should receive a loc on it until the transfer of editorship is complete. After all, there may be a legal challenge to the election of the new editor, and a wait to see if the courts will demand a vote-by-vote recount, and then a plea for a temporary injunction against the action, until a thorough search can be made of the records, to determine whatever happened to the WCSFA's electoral college. I trust the proper person will eventually receive this letter whether he wants it or not.

((I got it OK. Our electoral travesties are a little simpler north of the border.))

I'm sure you've already received a number of letters and spoken messages that will make my sentiments on John's accomplishments repetitive. He did a faithful and excellent job over these past few years, and it will be very difficult for the new editor to surpass his regularity of publication, literacy, and general skill at his difficult job. I hope he starts to publish a fanzine of his own after resting up a while from those labours.

It's a bit discouraging that novels which Donna was only lukewarm about were among the finalists for Aurora awards. But her reviews don't seem to make them any worse than the average science fiction and fantasy fiction being published today, and I haven't felt enthusiastic about a few Hugo nominee novels I've read in the past few years, so I don't mean to insinuate that the quality of Canadian novelists is low. The market seems to demand the sort of fiction that is being written nowadays.

I confess to having skipped over most of “Fanzine E-Publication” because it's not relevant to me or my life. In a few more days, I'll celebrate the 16th anniversary of the wonderful day when I last touched a computer keyboard, upon my retirement from the newspaper job. Unfortunately I can't hope to live another 16 years, at the end of which my memories of unhappy computer experiences might become a bit less unsettling.

(continued on page 8)

BOOK REVIEWS

by Donna McMahon

TROPIC OF CREATION, Kay Kenyon (Bantam, Nov/00)
 RULES OF CONFLICT, Kristine Smith (Eos, Sept/00)
 THE STARS COMPEL, Michaela Roessner (Tor, Oct/99)

Note: Once again, all these books are available from the Vancouver Public Library, or White Dwarf Books.

TROPIC OF CREATION is the second novel I've read by Seattle writer Kay Kenyon (the other was RIFT) and both left me with that frustrating feeling that they should have been better books.

On a routine galactic mission, Captain Eli Dammond stumbles across the crew of a human warship that has been marooned on an uncharted planet for three years. Although the war is over (humans sued for peace with the ahtra a year ago, and an uneasy armistice is holding) it is Dammond's duty to search for evidence of mutiny or desertion. His investigation, however, turns up something far more interesting. This desert planet is riddled with underground tunnels—excavated by their enigmatic enemy, the ahtra.

Dammond decides to explore by himself, breaks into a subterranean ahtra city and is captured. Intent on trying to escape, he is unaware that his presence has triggered a political crisis between a pro-war elite and the underclasses, who are more amenable to peaceful coexistence.

Meanwhile, waiting on the surface for Dammond's return, human crew members celebrate the first rains to fall in the desert in three years, but the monsoon triggers a massive ecological transformation from desert to jungle, and they soon discover that they are easy targets for an emerging horde of ravenous predators. Among the crew is 14-year-old passenger, Sascha, whose elite status as granddaughter of a general is suddenly worthless amid a desperate battle for survival.

It is difficult in a short summary to do justice to the plot of TROPIC OF CREATION. Two sets of characters and plot threads (humans and ahtra) run through this novel, making for a complex story which is nonetheless coherent and straightforward to follow.

The greatest strengths of this book lie in Kenyon's depiction of the planet's cyclical drought/jungle ecosystem, and her ahtra society, with its divisions between the static (stoic), fluxor (emotional), and gomin (outcasts). (Kenyon's original and well thought out aliens were also the best part of her other novel, RIFT.) This depth, plus competently drawn characters and solid pacing, kept me reading, despite the lack of any one protagonist I could get attached to.

The weakest major character is Sascha, an improbably stable and mature young teen, whose actions and reactions become less and less credible as the book progresses. And the least interesting sequences are those where soldiers fight off predators on the surface—we've seen those tough, terse, battle-scarred veterans many times before, not to mention the Jurassic Park style massacres.

Although Kenyon ties up all the plot threads in TROPIC OF CREATION, I felt unsatisfied when I finished the book. The uneasy mix of thoughtful, original material with cliched plot elements and characters robs Kenyon's novel of much of its potential. Still, I'll be watching for future titles. Kenyon clearly has the talent to write a real blockbuster, and I've got my fingers crossed.

* * * *

Another above average depiction of aliens is found in RULES OF CONFLICT, a complex military/political thriller by Kristine Smith.

18 years before the novel opens, Captain Jani Kilian was caught up in a bloody uprising on the planet SHERA, and in the chaos she was forced to kill her corrupt commanding officer. Lacking witnesses and evidence, she deserted the military and went underground to avoid court martial. But now her failing health has forced her to seek medical treatment, and the clinic immediately identifies Jani because she is unique. Two decades ago a surgeon added alien genetic material to her body and she is hybridizing—a process that is also killing her.

Hauled back to Earth again, Jani is immediately caught up in the same evolving political mess she fled almost two decades before. To complicate matters, Jani's former alien mentor, Nema, is on Earth negotiating a treaty, and he wants Jani added to the negotiation team. She trained on SHERA in idomeni language and customs and is one of the most qualified experts available—except for the small matter that the military believes her a traitor.

This is a very brief sampling of an enormously complex, intense plot, populated by many characters (too many of them viewpoint characters), and further complicated by Kristine Smith's ambitious attempt to tell two stories simultaneously—the current tale, and the background story from 18 years previous.

Personally I found the convolutions of this plot were far more detailed than I cared to follow and I started skimming in places, but readers who like a challenging political thriller are likely to enjoy this book very much. Smith

successfully conveys the immense complexity of a situation involving many political and military players—all with their own agendas and goals—and she is especially acute in her understanding of office politics.

Another strength of this book is the alien race, the idomeni. Like Kay Kenyon, Smith creates aliens who are similar to humans, yet have an odd, complex and very distinct culture. Finally, Jani is a strong, credible protagonist, with a solid cast of well drawn characters behind her.

This was an easier book to admire than to like; still I recommend it.

* * * *

As *THE STARS COMPEL* opens, the Duchessina Catherine de Medici, age 11, has just moved to Rome from Florence and is scheming to foil Pope Clement's plans to marry her off to the King of France. Despite political pressures, she is hoping to wed to her handsome cousin, Ippolito. Inevitably, her personal chef, Tommaso Arista, is pulled into her intrigues as he cooks and spies for the Medici family, and studies with famous artists Cellini and Michelangelo so he can learn to create masterpieces of culinary presentation.

This historical fantasy novel set in Renaissance Italy is so long on history and so short on fantasy that I found myself wondering why Michaela Roessner bothered with magic at all, since the fantasy sequences have no bearing on the plot, and precious little influence on the characters. The story stretches over three years (1530-1533), starting with Catherine de Medici's betrothal to the French King and ending with her marriage, and it is largely told from the viewpoint of the fictional chef Tommaso.

Roessner's attention to historical detail (and the fact that this is very clearly a middle book in a series) means

that the novel does not have a focussed plot—it is instead a fairly slow-paced series of events involving many plot threads which are never resolved. So it is a tribute to Roessner's writing that she kept me reading.

What drew me on through the pages was Roessner's terrific depiction of Renaissance life, especially her descriptions of food and cooking. Roessner writes about her chef and the meals he prepares for the Medicis with such loving, authentic detail (even including recipes at the end of the book) that I was swept up by her enthusiasm.

(The menu for a small dinner party, for example, includes: "pork tongues cooked in wine sliced and served cold, a seafood salad, a truffle salad, roast crane and turnips napped with a dulceforte sauce, and fava beans de' Vitellius, the last from a recipe Messer Spada swore came from the ancient gourmet Marcus Gavius Apicius.")

Despite a plot which revolves around political and religious intrigue, this novel has a curiously rose-tinted view of history. As one example, 17-year-old Tommaso has no qualms about his homosexual relationship with Michelangelo, and no fears about burning in hell or being reported to the all-powerful, virulently homophobic church. Also very weak is the characterization of Catherine. Even assuming a maturity beyond her years, she is a singularly unconvincing 11-year-old.

Readers who like a fast-paced book may bog down in this novel which is not especially eventful. But for those who'd like a leisurely tour of Renaissance kitchens, it's a pleasant read, best accompanied by a good glass of chianti, a wedge of asiago, some slices of sweet melon, and a little fresh panini.

Comments? Questions? Rebuttals?
donna_mcmahon@sunshine.net

LOCS

(cont'd from p. 6)

((Harry, you seem to have parted company with computers just before they were really becoming usable. I seem to have lived to see twentieth-century urbanites behaving like steam-age Victorians: at first, all agog with a new technology, then slowly and painfully absorbing some basic technical know-how into the general culture, eventually taking for granted a box that really represents a lot of sophisticated engineering.))

BBC America's concentration on the Tom Baker years of *Dr. Who* wouldn't bother me because he was my favourite Doctor. The channel is now available in Hagerstown but I haven't inquired of my cable company about prices. The only other newly-available channel that I would like to have is Ovation. From the advertising, I suspect that it's impossible to subscribe just to two new channels, but you must rather accept entire groups of new channels. I might be better off switching to a satellite disc.

We also heard from: Peter Halasz

THE NOVEMBER 2000 V-CON SOCIETY MEETING

November 6th, 2000 at the New Westminster Public Library.

In attendance: Clint Budd, President; Garth Spencer, Secretary; R. Graeme Cameron; Sean Szwaba, Member at Large; Scott Parker (visiting briefly); Doug Finnerty; Chris Sturges, chair of VCon 26; David Hale. (Treasurer Jeff Hartt, VP Palle Hoffstein and Andrew Brechin unfortunately absent.)

Discussion before the meeting included CSFFA/Aurora matters, VCon finances, and proxy voting. Clint, Graeme and Chris discussed banquets, at the Science of Murder minicon and at Conventions in 2000 and 2001. Garth suggested structuring the meetings as LARP games and messages to the membership as animated GIFs. Garth gave Chris Sturges his printouts of two V-Con Society documents, "Policies and Procedures" and the "VCon ConRunning Manual" prepared by Donna McMahon, last revised in 1996.

The V-Con Society contact address was mooted (probably R. Graeme Cameron's address). Graeme's change of address would have to be registered with the Registrar of Societies, incurring a government fee.

It was made clear that anything impacting V-Con policies and procedures - in fact, almost anything on the day's agenda - should go to a vote of the general membership.

Meeting began at 3:00 p.m.

The minutes of the previous meeting (September 10th) at the New Westminster library were read. A motion to accept the minutes as read was passed, with two abstentions.

Old Business - Reports

A VCon 26 report was presented by Chris Sturges, the chair. A contract has been finalized with the Burnaby Radisson. The Web page for VCon 26 was posted some weeks ago, and a first progress report will be published in November 2000. Some Convention 21 matters are to be settled by the V-Con Society meeting; Convention events are already planned. Lisa McGovern has stepped down as Co-Chair (but is continuing in charge of Publications). In summary, VCon 26 is well organized. At present they are lacking only three core concom members, to head Registration, Publicity and the Artshow. As Doug Finnerty noted, Nico Iormetti has not yet been able to reconcile VCon 25's finances, so a final financial statement may not be included with the first progress report. A detailed summary of figures was presented. The current balance is approximately Cdn. \$4,076.00.

It was moved and seconded to accept the VCon 26 report as read. The report was accepted (with two abstentions.)

A Membership Coordinator's report was presented by Garth Spencer on paper, and summarized as follows:

Total V-Con Society members accounted so far:	399
How many U.S. members to contact by mail:	56
How many Cdn. members to contact by mail:	102

So with our current address database, I estimated at first a minimum postage outlay of \$77.72 every time we want to do a mailout. (Then I

realized these members would be contacted by the VCon 26 mailing of Progress Report #1.)

A motion to accept the membership report was accepted unanimously.

An Outreach Committee report was to be presented by Andrew Brechin. As he was unfortunately absent, Clint Budd gave a summary. Andrew has approached UBSCFFen and the university pagan society; they have shown expressions of interest in the V-Con Society, but no official answer, and Andrew feels they should not be pressured. Clint also suggests approaching the gamers at SFU; Sean and Chris have more recent information about other clubs besides the Gamesters of Triskelion. Sean also pointed out "the anime people" are already flogging VCon. Clint mentioned the involvement of the Monster Attack Team Canada in VCon is a given. Chris mentioned a "Trumpeter" tabletop wargaming group. Clint added that Jeff Hartt is already approaching the Camarilla. The final question is, whom else do we want to invite to be involved?

A President's report was provided by Clint Budd. It appears that he can file the obligatory papers - the outstanding 1998-99 and current, 1999-2000 V-Con Society reports - this week, with the Registrar of Societies in Victoria. (Material to come from Graeme, Chris, Doug and Nico.)

New Business: Elections

For the election of V-Con Society executive officers, Clint passed the gavel to Graeme.

Graeme moved, and Chris seconded, that Clint Budd be accepted as V-Con Society President. Passed unanimously (Clint abstaining).

Graeme moved, and Garth seconded, that Palle Hoffstein be accepted as V-Con Society Vice-President. Passed unanimously.

Graeme moved, and Clint seconded, that Garth Spencer be accepted as V-Con Society Secretary. Passed unanimously (Garth abstaining).

Graeme moved, and Sean seconded, that Jeff Hartt be accepted as V-Con Society Treasurer. Passed unanimously.

Graeme moved, and Dave seconded, that Andrew Brechin and Sean Szwaba be accepted as Members at Large. Passed unanimously (Sean abstaining).

Graeme moved, and Chris seconded, that Alyx Shaw be accepted as a Member at Large. Passed unanimously.

Chris Sturges already serves as VCon Representative, as he is the VCon 26 chair.

Clint moved, and Graeme seconded, that David Hale be accepted as Member at Large. All aye but one abstention.

Further Motions

"MOVED that the V-Con Society confirm Graeme Cameron in his position of Archivist for the V-Con Society and for the VCon Convention, and furthermore that all members and officers of the V-Con Society and its Committees be directed to give him every assistance in his task." Moved by Clint, seconded by Chris. All aye (but Graeme abstaining). No discussion. Passed.

"MOVED that the V-Con Society confirm Steve Forty in his position as Ambassador for VCon and that he be authorized to promote

the VCon Convention and sell its memberships at all and any parties and Conventions he wishes to attend." Moved by Clint, seconded by Graeme. Passed unanimously.

"MOVED that the POLICIES of the V-Con Society be amended to include the statement, 'It is a conflict of interest for the President of the V-Con Society to also hold a position on the VCon ConCom; notwithstanding the above the President shall be considered to be a *de facto* member of the VCon ConCom and all its committees, subject to permission being granted.'" Moved by Clint. Seconded by Graeme.

Discussion ensued about how much participation in a con should any V-Con Society executives undertake? There are arguments for (as witness the Orycon society's arrangement of hotel bookings YEARS in advance) and against (as witness failures on the part of WCSFCCA with respect to the last Vancouver Westercon). The sense of the meeting was that the V-Con Society Treasurer, as well as the V-Con Society President, should be independent of the concom, and in fact there should be a specific financial oversight/watchdog committee struck, including these officers. Clint decided to withdraw and rewrite this motion, in terms of the function of such an oversight committee.

"MOVED that the POLICIES of the V-Con Society be amended to include the statement, 'Members of the V-Con Society are guaranteed that their membership information (name; address; phone #; email address) shall be held in confidence by the V-Con Society and its officers'." Moved by Clint. Seconded by Graeme.

In discussion of this motion, Garth mentioned that he was making concurrent address updates to BCSFA, to V-Con Society (and to Canadian Unity Fan Fund) address databases. Clint made it clear, just do not give out people's contact information elsewhere, identifying them as V-Con Society members. The rule will be, simply, we don't give out your mailing addresses.

This confidentiality motion was passed unanimously.

"MOVED to amend PROCEDURES of the V-Con Society be amended to include the statement, 'The VCon ConRunning Manual shall be used as a continuously-revised resource by the VCon ConCom'." Moved by Clint, seconded by Graeme. (Donna McMahon asked specifically not to be included in the group making revisions.) After discussion, emphasizing that the actual VCon committee members will extend and modify the Manual, this motion was passed unanimously.

"MOVED to set up signing authorities for accounts (Treasurer), tentative budget and fundraising sources." This motion was held over and will be replaced by a new motion at a new meeting. Chris Sturges is to give Garth a notice to publish in BCSFAzine.

A new motion was added to the agenda:

"MOVED that the President be authorized to spend money to bring the WCSFA/V-Con Society's registration up to date with the Registrar of Societies in Victoria." Moved by Clint, seconded by Garth. This motion passed unanimously.

"MOVED that the V-Con Society create a standing Outreach Committee to recruit members from other related fan organizations through approaches to those organizations." (Such a standing committee to include Clint and Andrew.) Moved by Clint, seconded by Chris. Passed unanimously.

"MOVED that the V-Con Society create a temporary committee to make recommendations for changes on the PROCEDURES (inherited from the WCSFA) to the Board of Directors and the Membership." (Such a temporary committee to include Clint, Garth and Chris.) Moved by Clint, seconded by Graeme. Passed unanimously.

"MOVED that the V-Con Society create a standing committee to provide on-going publicity for the VCon Convention." (Such a standing committee to include Clint & members appointed from time-to-time.) Moved by Clint, seconded by Dave. Passed unanimously.

"MOVED that the V-Con Society adopt as the symbol/logo of the Society William Gibson's 'Phoenix' (from the Book of VCon) as modified to include the name of the Society, subject to permission being granted by William Gibson." Moved by Clint, seconded by Graeme. Aye: 5, Nay: 1. Passed.

"MOVED that the POLICIES of the V-Con Society be amended to include the statement, 'Members may vote on elections and on motions made in general meetings through proxy votes'." Moved by Clint, seconded by Chris.

Discussion followed on the wording and meaning of this motion. Chris questioned, "By what mechanism? The Internet? With what advance time?" Dave questioned, "Is an absentee voter's intent represented? They had better know what they're voting on." Clint suggested he publish a maximum number of agenda items for the annual general meeting, before the annual general meeting, to notify V-Con Society members and to distribute proxy votes. (Chris added, "or to allow telephone proxy votes?")

This motion, in principle, was passed unanimously.

Chris mooted the suggestion of setting up a V-Con Society Web page (distinct from the VCon 26 Web page). Clint moved, and Graeme seconded, that a publicity subcommittee be set up for a V-Con Society Web page, such committee to include Clint and David. Aye: 4, Abstained: 2. Passed.

"MOVED that the V-Con Society create a temporary committee to carry out the Aurora Awards functions as outlined in the bylaws of the Canadian Science Fiction Association and that the Society appoint Donna McMahon to head this committee, and to recruit members to carry out its functions." (Such committee to include Clint, Chris, and Donna McMahon.) Moved by * Seconded by * Aye * Nay * (Withdrawn?)

Meeting ended at 5:00 p.m.

POSTSCRIPT:

The reason this issue is so jam-packed with text is that I am still mastering the use of graphics in PageMaker, and I wanted to make this newsletter more readable - by upping the font size, for one thing. Maybe this page shows you how well *that* decision worked out.

The reason the foregoing article has several lacunae - that means, places where names and numbers and other information got left out - is that the details missing from the draft minutes were not sent me by the deadline. I will be starting a Corrections column.

Deadline for next issue is December 15th, which is very short notice, but I already have material lined up for next issue. And now I know how *fast* BCSFAzine fills up!