

Colophon

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BCSFA's e-mail discussion list may be joined by emailing BCSFA-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

To post a message, email BCSFA@yahoogroups.com

The shortcut URL to this list is

<http://www.yahoogroups.com/community/BCSFA>

F.R.E.D., the weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in coming, *usually* happens every Friday at 8:00 p.m. at the Jolly Alderman Pub, 500 West 12th Avenue (entrance on Cambie Street, just south of 12th Avenue, diagonally across from Vancouver City Hall) – **BUT** on hockey nights we have been meeting at the Denny's on Davie at Thurlow, and we're thinking of a permanent move there.

BCSFA's Web page may be viewed at <http://www3.telus.net/dh2/bcsfa/>

The V-Con Society Web page may be viewed at

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

Vcon 29's Web page may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca>

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Keeper of FRED Book & VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty

BCSFA membership rates:

email version: \$15.00

New member: \$26.00

Renewal: \$25.00

New Family (2 votes): \$32.00

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BCSFazine is also available by e-mail; please email the editor at hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca if you wish to receive our newsletter this way.

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CANVENTION 2004 UPDATE!

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MARCH EVENTS

Date	Event	Location
March 5	FRED at Denny's	Davie at Thurlow, starting 7 p.m.
March 6	First Saturday Feeding Frenzy	7pm at "Brooklyn Tap and Grill", 200 Columbia Street, New Westminster. Excellent pub-style food served here. Live entertainment also a possibility.
March 12	BCSFazine deadline; FRED at Denny's	Davie at Thurlow, starting 7 p.m.
March 13	<i>Movie night</i>	6 pm at The Graeme's, 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam Coquitlam, BC. Phone 604-526-7522 for directions.
March 19	FRED at Denny's	Davie at Thurlow, starting 7 p.m.
March 20	BCSFA meeting/party	7pm at Garth Spencer's, 82 East 40th Ave. , Vancouver, BC. Phone 604-325-7314 for directions.
March 25	Book discussion	7 pm at The Brickhouse, 730 Main Street, Vancouver. The Book: <i>Midnight Robber</i> by Nalo Hopkinson
March 26	BCSFazine production	See Garth and Doug at FRED.
March 27	Kaffeeklatsch	7-8 pm onwards at Garth Spencer's, 82 East 40 th Ave., Vancouver. Bring a Neat Idea and start a weird conversation. Phone 604-325-7314.

Very Plain Speaking

Sometimes people ask me why I keep nattering on about a different kind of fandom than the kind we've got, here and now. Well, it's kind of a dumb story ...

I was looking for community, at the time I entered fandom. "Community" can mean a lot of different things, but to me it means being part of something, and it means something made of people.

There was an idea still going around - which I bought into - that fandom was a community. That might even have been true, when fans were far fewer, but fandom changed in this respect *at least a decade before* I came along.

Contemporary fandom is several hobby groups, receding from contact with each other as their market share expands. There's no reason for anime or gaming fans to invest as much emotional stake in "community" as I do. So of course my search didn't work, I was looking in the wrong places; but I took a while to get the point.

And all this is bullshit; I just brood too much, and don't know when I *am* in a community.

So, that is how I ended up daydreaming about a fannish fandom I never really entered, and remembering wistfully a few hot -tub parties, and brooding on some disastrous relationships. None of which matters much now.

**

Wrangos: Last issue I forgot to indicate that Lloyd Penney's "Gathering of the Fellowship" conreport was also submitted to the *OttawaSF Statement*.



Locs

Morbius' BCSFAzine, February 14, 2004

Locs - Michael Morse: "Eh?" Winifred Bambera was a character in a late-eighties episode of *Doctor Who* (the actress also played female Lister from the parallel universe on *Red Dwarf*).

Advertisements: "I have to apologize ... for the lack of illos ... I have real trouble fitting the illos I have into the copy I get. Any suggestions?" I can draw smaller illos, or you can try turning the zine sideways (like *Opuntia*, or the zine you're reading right now) and making it two columns, so that one entire column could be an illo. Or we could always bite the bullet and go back to the old format.

Convention Reports - *The Gathering of the Fellowship*: "... few people in attendance had ever gone to the kind of SF conventions we're familiar with. This was a new experience for them, and they really enjoyed getting away from the computer, and meeting friends for the first time." One's first real con, if one's formative cons were things like Creation cons, is a very pleasant surprise.

Murray Moore, February 15, 2004

In *BCSFAzine* 369 Ray Seredin reports the alarming possibility that *Doctor Who* might be shown on the CBC.

Outside of Toronto, okay. But in Toronto, if *Doctor Who* is to be broadcast, *Doctor Who* must be broadcast by Toronto's newest television station, Toronto 1.

Toronto 1 must be the *Doctor Who* broadcaster so that the answer to the most common Dr. Who question will be "Who's on First."

I enjoyed the Ralph Alfonso sighting in Michael Morse's Comicon report. Ralph, a former Montrealer, in the early 1970s was a prominent and prolific producer of fanzines, and a member of the first Canadian apa, (the defunct) CANADAPA.

Elizabeth Holden, azurite@rogers.com, February 19, 2004

I was looking at your (BCSFA Handbook) website at <http://www.bcgreen.com/tmp/bcsfahb2.html> and was delighted to see that you have a listing for the apazine APAPLEXY. This is to announce a change of address ...

((That's actually Steve Samuel's mirror site for the Handbook, but good enough. I'm glad of the update - the handbook is dated 2002, and I need to double-check a lot of addresses.))

Richard Smith has resigned as Central Mailer and I have taken over. The address for APAPLEXY is now: APAPlexy, c/o Elizabeth Holden, 350 Queen Elizabeth Dr., Apt. 104, Ottawa ON K1S 3N1.

Advertisements

<p>DRAGONFLY MUSIC 106 Harrison Village Mall 196 Esplanade (Box 118) Harrison Hot Springs, B.C. V0M 1K0 Tel. 604-796-9289 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members</p>	<p>BCSFAzine is on sale at WHITE DWARF BOOKS 3715 W. 10th Avenue Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2G5 tel. 604-228-8223 email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com</p>
<p>MICHAEL'S BOOKS Michael Elmer, Owner 109 Grand Bellingham, WA 98225 U.S.A. Tel. (206) 733-6272 books in all fields "We pay cash for hardback & paperback." 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members</p>	<p>WRIGLEY CROSS BOOKS 1809 N.E. 39th Avenue Portland, OR 97212 U.S.A. Tel. (503) 281-9449, fax 281-9706 science fiction, fantasy, horror, mystery, general stock, new, used, collectable books! 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members</p>
<p>METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP is open to new members. IF YOU ARE: Serious about your prose, short stories, novels, etc., and want constructive advice ... Then this is the supportive peer group you've been looking for. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For information call Ken, 604-876- 5751, email ktran@vcn.bc.ca</p>	<p>IMPERIAL HOBBIES 5451 No. 3 Road Richmond, B.C. V6X 2C7 (across from Lansdowne Mall) tel. 604-273-4427, fax 273-2916 role-playing games, tabletop games, models, comics, supplies, and much more! 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members (on selected items)</p>

THIS SPACE FOR RENT
PHONE 604-325-7314

Birthdays in March



1: **Indira Witherspoon-Li** is one of our less-known members, but is not without curious and profound accomplishments: on three occasions she has saved the Western world from outbreaks of terminal psoriasis, and she has independently discovered an English word that rhymes with orange.

12: **Karen Kelly**, one of Allen Kelly's daughters, is a sometime costumer and jewellery designer. Her secret superpowers are CLASSIFIED UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT. So are her favourite number, ice cream flavour, and measurements.

18: **David George and Leah Burhoe-George** have a story or two about the misty beginnings of BCSFA, but you should ask if they are legally enjoined from disclosing it.



26: **Norma Beauregard**, one of the founding members of BCSFA, several times helped pull a financial statement for VCon out of a shoebox full of unvouchered receipts. Her secret superpowers are CLASSIFIED UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.

27: **Dan Dubrick** has a history with the dissolved Starwolves division of the Knighthawks (some people who are only too eager to volunteer at Northwest conventions). Ask him sometime about KnightCon. I am unaware of any reason why he can't discuss it.

30: **Jeanne Robinson** is half of the SpiderandJeanneRobinson dynamic duo, who perform as co-writers, ProGoHs, and Canada's secret weapon against Greenland.



Calendar

March

Mar. 5: *Starsky & Hutch* (remake with Ben Stiller and Owen Wilson)

Mar. 6: **The Dead Sea Scrolls**, a presentation by Prof. Jodi Magness, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. A free public lecture sponsored by The Vancouver Institute, 8:15 p.m. at Lecture Hall No. 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Mar. 12-14 - **Trumpeter Salute 2004**, Bonsor Recreational Complex, Burnaby, BC. Gaming convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see www.trumpeterclub.com.

Mar. 13: **Dealing with SARS**, a presentation by Profs. Brett Finlay and David Patrick of UBC. A free public lecture sponsored by The Vancouver Institute, 8:15 p.m. at Lecture Hall No. 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Mar. 20: **Medical Hypnosis in the 21st Century: What Can It Do for You?**, a presentation by Dr. Ralph Yorsh. A free public lecture sponsored by The Vancouver Institute, 8:15 p.m. at Lecture Hall No. 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Mar. 28 - **Vancouver Comicon**, Heritage Hall, Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Guests: TBA. Admission: \$3. For more information, see users.uniserve.com/~lswong/comicon.html.

Mar. 5-7: **Gamestorm** (a gaming con) at the Doubletree Hotel Columbia River, Portland, OR. Memberships \$30 at the door. Mail to Game Storm, POBox 764, Portland, OR 97207, tel (503) 426-3786, email chair@pdxgames.com, www.pdxgames.com

Mar. 20: Tempus Fugit plays live at the Victoria Drive Community Hall for the Vancouver Irish Ceili Society.

Mar. 26: *Scooby-Doo 2*

April

April 2 - FRED at Denny's on Davie at Thurlow, starting 7 p.m.

April 3: **April Feeding Frenzy**, 7pm at Aldo's Pasta Bar, 441 Columbia Street, New Westminster. Pasta, pasta and more pasta.

April 3: **Why So Many People Feel Unloved and Unlovable** a presentation by Prof. Kelly Oliver of the State University of New York at Stony Brook. A Cecil and Ida Green Lecture sponsored by The Vancouver Institute, 8:15 p.m. at Lecture Hall No. 2, Woodward Instructional Resources Centre, University of British Columbia.

Apr. 3: **EisenMarche Champions Tourney and Banquet** in the Shire of EisenMarche (Coquitlam & Pitt Meadows, BC) - open attendance

Apr 3-4 - **Con Fu**, Marpole Curling Club, Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Tickets: \$10. For more information, see www.vancouvergamersguild.com.

Apr 7: *Danny the Dog* (action film)

Apr 8 - 11: **Norwescon 27** - SeaTac, Washington (General SF). Theme - Putting the Science in Science Fiction. WriterGoH - Mike Resnick. Science GoH - Ben Bova. Special GoH - Joe Haldeman. Spotlighted Publisher - Baen Books represented by Jim Baen. Artist GoH - Don Dixon. Rooms: Memberships: \$55 to Mar. 15, 2004, \$60 at the door. Write Norwescon 27, POBox 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547; telephone (206) 270-7850, email info@norwescon.org, or see <http://www.norwescon.org>.

Apr. 09 - 11: **Grand Ithra** in the Shire of Loch Dorr (E Kootenays, BC) - Limited attendance

Apr 17: Erratica plays live at the Victoria Drive Community Hall for the Vancouver Irish Ceili Society.

Apr 23 - 25: **Sakura-Con 7** at the Seattle Airport Hilton and Convention Center, SeaTac, Washington (Anime con hosted by ANCEA). (NOTE: Rooms appear to be booked through SakuraCon registration.) Memberships: \$45 to Mar. 31, 2004; \$50 at the door. Write Sakura-Con Registration, 3702 S. Fife Street, Suite K-2, PMB 78, Tacoma, WA 98409; see <http://www.sakuracon.org>.

Apr. 28: *Crier* Deadline - Kingdom of An Tir

May

May 1: **May Bardic** in the Barony of Lions Gate (Vancouver, BC) - open attendance. (A "bardic" is a song-and-dance fest in the Society. Sort of like an *eisteddfod*, in Welsh. -GS)

May 7: *Van Helsing* (alleged horror)

May 08: **Heavy and Archery Defenders Tourney** in the Barony of Lions Gate (Vancouver, BC)

May 14: *The World of Tomorrow* (Saturday-matinee 30's action-adventure, à la Indiana Jones); *Troy* (star-studded Bronze age fantasy)

May 14 - 16: **TolCon**, a members-only event by and for The Northwest Tolkien Society, featuring David Salo, Jasmine Watson, and other special guests, at the Seattle Marriott Hotel, Seattle, Washington. Rooms \$84 per night; mention TolCon when calling hotel at 1-800-643-5479; alternatively visit <http://www.marriott.com/SEAWA>. Featuring many exhibits, workshops, entertainment items, a banquet and a costume ball, etc. To join the Society go to www.tolcon.org or www.nwtolkiensociety.org. TolCon prices are \$35 from January 1 to April 1, 2004, \$45 at the door; Group discounts available. Checks and money orders payable to "Northwest Tolkien Society"; mail to TolCon Registration, NW Tolkien Society, 13522 39th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98125.

May 15-16 - **Otafest 2004**, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB. Anime convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see www.otafest.com.

(US Memorial Day weekend?): "**Egil Skallagrimmson Memorial Tourney** is Memorial Day weekend every year. This is a Norse-themed event circa 800 C.E. - 1200 C.E. but other cultures/time periods are welcome as long as they are within the SCA period - pre-1600 C.E. European and cultures it was in contact with. (Okay, there's a "grey area" of 1600-1650....) <http://egils.org/>" (Brenna Sharp to the GPACG listserv, Jan. 6, 2004)

May 21-23 - **Keycon 21**, Radisson Hotel, Winnipeg, MB. SF convention. Guests: Dave Duncan, James Ernest. Memberships: \$40 until April 30, \$50 thereafter and at the door. For more information, see www.keycon.org.

May 21: *Mission Impossible 3*

May 21 - 23: **May Crown Tournament** in the Shire of Lionsdale (Abbotsford & Chilliwack, BC) - contact Johanna Katerina Morgenstochter - limited attendance

May 28: *Crier* Deadline in the Kingdom of An Tir

May 28 - 30- **Miscon 18** at Ruby's Inn and Convention Center in Missoula, Montana (General SF). Theme: "Where the Weird Things Are". Artist Guest: Ellisa Mitchell. Ruby's Inn and Convention Center is at 4825 North Reserve in Missoula, Montana 59808. Their number for reservations is 1-800-221-2057. Information c/o Bob Lovely, 6980

Deadman Gulch Road, Missoula, Montana 59804, 406.251.9463; cell# 406.544.7083; email enigma@bigsky.net.

May 30 - **Vancouver Comicon**, Heritage Hall, Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Guests: TBA. Admission: \$3. For more information, see users.uniserve.com/~lswong/comicon.html.

June

Expected in June 2004: *Tomorrow* (previously *The Day After Tomorrow*); *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

June 4 - 6: **ConComCon 11** at the Columbia River Doubletree Hotel in Portland, Oregon, a.k.a. C-Cubed, "The Northwest's premier conference for convention planners by convention planners", is being organized under the aegis of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC), the parent organization of the 2003 Westercon and of the Seattle in 2005 North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC) bid. A number of hotels in the Vancouver, Washington and Portland, Oregon area are under consideration. The site selection is held by popular vote of the membership at each year's convention for the following year. Pre-Register Now - it will never be less!! \$25.00 now! Send your payment to: ConComCon 11, SWOC, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A.

June 11 - 13: **Tir Righ Summer Investiture & Heavy Championship** in the Shire of Ravensweir (Quesnel and Williams Lake, BC); contact Cerridwen Maelwedd - limited attendance

June 18: *Shrek 2*

June 18 - 20: **Lionsdale Champions** in the Shire of Lionsdale (Abbotsford & Chilliwack, BC) - limited attendance

June 19-20 - **Cloud City**, Marpole Curling Club, Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Tickets: \$10. For more information, see www.vancouvergamersguild.com.

June 22: **The First Annual UBC Multi-Culturalism Lecture**, speaker TBA. A free public lecture sponsored by The Vancouver Institute in collaboration with Heritage Canada and the CBC, 8:00 p.m. at The Chan Centre for the Performing Arts, University of British Columbia.

June 26-27 - **Astronomi-Con Winnipeg 2004**, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB. Gaming convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see www.astronomi-con.com.

June 25: *The Chronicles of Riddick: Pitch Black 2*; and *Forgotten*

June 28: *Crier* Deadline in the Kingdom of An Tir

October 2004

Oct. 8 - 10 - **VCon 29** at the Metrotown Hilton hotel, in Burnaby, BC. See www.v-con.ca.

Oct 15 -17 - **Anglicon 17** at the SeaTac Radisson Hotel, SeaTac, WA.

News

CANVENTION 2004 UPDATE!

Dennis Mullin, the keeper of the Aurora Awards website, reports, "I'm still in the process of looking [for a venue for *Canvention 2004*]. It almost was Ad Astra, but since Ad Astra is an early convention, we ran out of time before getting details/concerns finalized."

Most of you are aware that Canada has its own national science fiction and fantasy award, the Aurora Awards. You may also be aware that Canadian conventions which host the award are called "Canvention" for short, and Canventions are supposed to alternate between eastern and western Canadian conventions. A few of you may know that Ad Astra, once Toronto's major SF convention, is now held early in the year, as the February *BCSFazine's* calendar attests. Dennis Mullin, formerly a contact person for Kitchener/Waterloo university fandom, maintains the Aurora Awards website at <http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/>.

Dennis goes on to say, "At this point (February 14), I have a short list of two cons under immediate consideration, with perhaps a third con (which expressed a possible interest this week). I won't name names at this point, but all of them are fall conventions.

"At the pace I'm moving it will probably be early March [2004] before a host is announced.

"If all else fails, there are some people willing to put on a non-con Canvention-only event (Ontario-based).

"Since I am backstopped by last resort alternatives, I've posted nomination forms on the website and set the process in motion for 2004, with the assumption that Canvention will be held sometime in the last half of the year.

"Looking forward to the future, tentative interest in hosting has been expressed for 2005 (Calgary Westercon) and for 2006 (TTrek 20)."

Dennis Mullin Prix Aurora Awards, Feb. 14, 2004

IT'S THE LONE GUNMEN (AGAIN)!

"The *Lone Gunmen* fan convention is happening in its Third Annual incarnation.

"This year, we're at the Old Same Place, the West Seattle Travelodge, just off 35th Ave SW on SW Alaska, near the West Seattle Bridge. We have con rates for the rooms, and it'll be three days of fun and frolic with the GunFen. This Con draws a small but loyal and exciting cadre of fans from all over the US!

"The Con runs from Friday, March 5th to Sunday, March 7th. This year, our Guests will be Lance Peverly, writer, producer and director of the short film '*Tilt*,' starring Tom Braidwood (Frohike), and Toni Levi, the pop culture prof from Portland State University who joined us last year as she was doing a study of fanfic writers and fandoms whose characters were killed in canon, or whose shows were cancelled early on in their run. She'll be giving us a rundown on the progress of her book -- and the GunCon is featured in one of her chapters!

"There will be a showing of '*Tilt*,' and the Con members premium this year is a signed (by Tom!), limited edition DVD of '*Tilt*! Con membership is \$30, which includes the cost of the DVD.

"Con rates for the rooms this year is \$50.03 for a single, and \$73.29 for a double per night, including tax. Please contact the West Seattle Travelodge directly at (206) 937-9920 for reservations, as the national 800 reservation line won't know about this deal. Ask to reserve a room for the Lone Gunmen Convention.

"Activities at this year's relaxicon include more Weird Fan Contests, Bad Videos, the *Lone Gunmen* episode marathon, fanfic talk, schmoozing with fellow fen, and our famous Saturday Italian Dinner at Abondanza, a local eatery with really good, reasonably priced food. With 20-ish people in the place, it's all fans, all the time! Lunch catering Saturday will likely be from Maharaja, a great Indian place a few blocks from the motel, but there are many good eateries within walking distance of the Travelodge - and many of them deliver!

"Don't miss your chance to schmooze with GunFandom's Finest! Come one, come all, to the 2004 GunCon!

"Email Erynn at inisglas@seanet.com for where to send your registration information. There's no con webpage this year-- life has sort of intervened with the ConCom."

Erynn, inisglas@seanet.com, Feb. 14, 2004
To SF Northwest and BCSFA listservs

OPEN AUDITIONS FOR THE NEW MONTY PYTHON MOVIE

("Below is the official press release, which will explain what we're looking for. If you know someone whom you think looks like a Python, would you kindly forward our website link on to them? Thanks! -- Contact: Tex Wall, Director of Creative Affairs, Hippofilms, (310) 445-9157, pubdept@ginandtonicmovie.com)

Worldwide Open Auditions For Young Monty Pythons

"Los Angeles, CA (February 2, 2004) Hippofilms, a Los Angeles-based film production company, has announced a worldwide casting call for the roles of the young members of Monty Python, the famed British comedy troupe.

"The first open audition is scheduled in Hollywood, California, on March 20th, 2004. It will be supervised by Hippofilms' president, David Eric Brenner. Subsequent auditions, in New York, London and Tokyo will be announced in the near future.

"Hippofilms will work closely with The Graham Chapman Archives to select six young actors to portray the world-famous comedians (Graham Chapman, John Cleese, Terry Gilliam, Eric Idle, Terry Jones and Michael Palin) in the upcoming theatrical film, *Gin and Tonic*, a comic-drama based on the life and memoirs of late Python Graham Chapman. ..."

Forwarded by Michael Morse, February 2004

Original story: <http://vancouver.craigslist.org/eve/23712894.html>
(www.ginandtonicmovie.com)

FLASH GORDON, R.I.P.

"It seems ironic that, just as the U.S. contemplates a manned mission to Mars, I received word that King Features Syndicate has pulled the plug on the *Flash Gordon* comic strip, after a run of nearly 70 years.

"Although the science fiction strip had appeared in only a handful of newspapers (mostly foreign) for the past several years, it's still sad to hear of its demise. No more will Flash, the beautiful Dale Arden, and Prof. Zarkov travel to the planet Mongo to hobnob with the tree-dwellers of Arboria, shiver in icy Frigia, or battle the tyrannical Ming The Merciless. ..."

By DAN TYREE February 07, 2004

Forwarded by Matthew G. Saroff to Timebinders, February 10, 2004

STARSHIP ONE/PRISON BARGE ON THE MOVE

"The retired BC Ferry *Queen of Sidney* [replaced on Feb. 19] slightly younger sister ship *Queen of Burnaby* (which still in service on the Comox-Powell River route) in the dual role of *Starship One* and the Prison Barge on the new *Battlestar Galactica* series.

"Work on removing her 'tween deck (ramp decks), blocking out her porthole and repainting her car deck, is being done in Mission. Divers have looked [at] her hull, and since she will not be re-entering saltwater or moving under her own power again, it [should] be good for another five years before dry-docking.

"On the morning of February 19 she [was] towed by tug down the Fraser River to a site on Twigg Island in Vancouver. (Some rumours say that [the tug] could be the *Seaspan Warrior*, the tug launched by Lucy Lawless in August of 1998; however it unlikely since she is quite busy towing limestone barges from Texada Island to Seattle.) The site is close to the studio on South-East Marine Drive (it's kitty-corner to Wendy's) where the new series is being made.

"So, do we still want to stand on the Pattullo Bridge and bomb it with barf bags filled with water and unused 2003 City of Vancouver parking tickets ...?"

Ray Seredin, February 10, 2004

(Editor comments: since when did Lucy Lawless get into towing limestone? And since when do we risk arrest by playing pranks we outgrew in grade school? [At the very least we could play sophomore or graduate-level pranks, I mean, geez ...] -GS)

STAY BETWEEN THE LINES:

A Good Samaritan in Regina, Sask. stopped to help a man who had slid his car off the road into a ditch. The driver asked to be pulled out, so the Samaritan said he'd return with a rope. When he got back minutes later, the car was gone—but he found the driver sitting in a pickup truck on the other side of the road, where he had again slid into the ditch. Suspicious, the unnamed Samaritan called the police, who determined that both vehicles had been stolen. Keri Diamonde Poorman was sentenced to four months in jail for vehicle theft and driving under the influence. (*Regina Leader-Post*)

This Is True, January 11, 2003

GPACG WEBSITE UP

The new Greater Portland Area Costumer's Guild website is now open at www.robewarriors.com!

February 11, 2004

SOCIETY SHOULDERS THE BURDEN:

Dr. George Chryssides, a lecturer at England's Wolverhampton University, dropped 270 magazines for members of British Society for the Study of Religions into a campus mailbox. Postman Alan Pugh, who later emptied the box, says the weight of all that mail caused him to pull a muscle in his shoulder. He is therefore suing Chryssides, claiming the postal patron was "negligent in failing to appreciate the risk" to him by posting 50 lbs of mail in one box. Chryssides says he will fight the suit. (*London Telegraph*)

This Is True, January 11, 2003

UNDER STRICT LABORATORY CONDITIONS:

"Researcher Links Obesity, Food Portions" -- AP headline

This Is True, January 11, 2003

ANIME EXHIBIT COMING TO SEATTLE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

"Apologies to folks who aren't Anime fans, but I thought there likely to be enough overlap on this list to be worth posting here. <http://www.animenetwork.com/article.php?id=4530> from <http://www.thechildrensmuseum.org/>".

NEW EXHIBIT! JUMP TO JAPAN - Discovering Culture through Popular Art

"Using the film *My Neighbor Totoro*, directed by Academy Award-winning director Hayao Miyazaki as a starting point, this exhibit will immerse children and adults in popular Japanese art through time: Animation and Film Making, Manga (comics with a strong visual narrative) and Woodblock Prints and Scroll Painting. These art forms will serve as Jump To Japan's principal tools through which children and adults will make connections to Japanese culture. ..."

Forwarded to SF Northwest listserv, Jan. 18, 2003

PUDDLY AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

"Thousands and thousands of your votes have been counted, and the results are finally in: this year's Golden Galoshes belong to Dan Brown for *The Da Vinci Code* and Laura Hillenbrand, in nonfiction, for *Seabiscuit*. Powell's staff members, meanwhile, cited Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and Jon Krakauer's *Under the Banner of Heaven* as their favorite reads of 2003. Find the top fifty on each list here.

<http://www.powells.com/news/prizes/puddly2004.html>

THIS WEEK'S BESTSELLERS

1. *Angels and Demons* by Dan Brown (Popular Fiction)
2. *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown (Popular Fiction)
3. *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury (Science Fiction and Fantasy)
4. *The Secret Life of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd (Literature)
5. *Digital Fortress* by Dan Brown (Popular Fiction)
6. *Middlesex* by Jeffrey Eugenides (Literature)
7. *Reading Lolita in Tehran* by Azar Nafisi (Biography)
8. *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel (Literature)
9. *Fugitives and Refugees: A Walk in Portland, Oregon* by Chuck Palahniuk (Travel Writing)
10. *The King of Torts* by John Grisham (Popular Fiction)

<http://www.powells.com/news/bestsellers.html>

Powell's Books newsletter, February 10, 2004

THIS WEEK'S HONORARY UNSUBSCRIBE to *This is True*

"goes to Julius Schwartz. An editor and literary agent, Schwartz's main love was science fiction. In the early 1930s, he and thousands of others eagerly awaited issues of *Amazing Stories*, an early sci-fi magazine. But it wasn't enough: in 1932, he and two friends created *The Time Traveller*, the very first sci-fi fan magazine. [Really? -GS] In 1934, he and a friend formed the first literary agency to specialize in science

fiction. In 1939, at the first World Science Fiction Convention, which Schwartz helped organize, he met the then-unknown Ray Bradbury. 'He sold the first 70 short stories that I wrote from 1941 up until 1947 to the pulp magazines', Bradbury said. 'He was responsible for my early career and the discovery by various critics'. Other clients included H.P. Lovecraft and Robert Bloch. Later, as an editor for DC Comics in the 1950s, Schwartz resurrected many early comic superheroes, brightening the illustrated book stars who faded after World War II, including the *Flash* and *Green Lantern*. Due to his success with those, in 1964 he was asked to usher another declining hero: *Batman*. Schwartz is a major figure in the development of the modern-day superheroes, says Jon B. Cooke, editor of *Comic Book Artists* magazine. He died February 8 from pneumonia in New York at age 88; he wrote his own epitaph in his autobiography: 'Here Lies Julius Schwartz. He met his last deadline.'" (RB)

This Is True, February 8, 2003

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Media File

by Ray Seredin

Doctor Who: Not Much Happening

Not much going on with the new *Doctor Who* series over in the UK, just the continuing rumour that Rachel Stirling could be the Doctor's companion or a member of UNIT-EDC.

Also, that actor/producer Phil Colinsen could be paying the role of the Doctor. However, this is yet to be confirmed by the new series producer or the BBC.

I do like the idea an unknown actor playing the Doctor. Don't forget that the best Doctor, Tom Baker, was cleaning 75-year-old-loos (toilets) in a London house being renovated, when he got the phone call from the BBC.

(Note: Over the Christmas season *Teletoon* aired the 1973 holiday special *The Christmas Angel* with Tom Baker in the title role, and I just kept asking "Where on Earth is his TARDIS?" as I watched.)

A local rumour says that KVOS-TV out of Bellingham (Channel 23 on Shaw in Vancouver; for other areas see your *TV Guide*) is considering picking up the new series if no one else in the region or on cable does.

(Note: If so, look for the series between the 'Grow Hair on Anything' infomercial, and that Sunday morning church show whose host is slightly older than Jesus.)

More Media News:

SIMPSONS MOVIE IN WORKS

Matt Groening and James L. Brooks, the honchos behind TV's *The Simpsons*, are leading a team of writers in actively developing an animated big-screen movie based on the long-running Fox hit, *Variety* reported.

Active work on a concept began a few months ago, after 20th Century Fox's film division hammered out deals with key writers, the trade paper reported.

Chris Meledandri, the studio's animation chief, told *Variety* that the studio was "very excited about the possibility of making a *Simpsons* movie. However, we are in the very early stages of developing an idea for the movie."

At least seven past and present writers of *The Simpsons* are said to be involved. Industry insiders told the trade paper that they believe Al Jean, Mike Scully, Mike Reiss, David Mirkin and George Meyer are all on board, in addition to Brooks and Groening.

Forwarded from SCIFIWIRE by Michael Morse, February 11, 2004

LINKLATER SCANS DARKLY

"Richard Linklater (*School of Rock*) is attached to direct a proposed movie based on Philip K. Dick's semi-autobiographical novel *A Scanner Darkly*, Production Weekly reported.

"The 1977 book deals with the drug crisis and the relationships between the sexes, among other things, the site reported.

"The novel centers on Bob Arctor, a dealer in the lethally addictive drug called Substance D, and Fred, a police agent assigned to arrest him, the site reported. The catch is that Substance D splits a user's brain into two distinct, adversarial personalities, and Arctor doesn't realize that he's really hunting himself. ..."

Forwarded from SCIFIWIRE by Michael Morse, February 2004

About CanFandom

by Garth Spencer (2004)

There are some things every Canadian fan should know about Canadian fandom. Some of them might even involve our very own local convention. This survey is partly geographical but also partly historical, as some upcoming events are part of a series started a few decades ago.

After generations of heroic struggle a few lone fanzine fans have documented the Ancient Lore of Our Tribe: fans like Taral Wayne and Lloyd Penney in Toronto, Robert Runté in Alberta, and Stan Hyde and Steve Forty and myself, right here in River City. Even John Robert Colombo, the Canadian encyclopedist, got in on the act.

The first thing to know is that Canadian fandom originated our own national SF awards ... well, sort of ... and western Canadian conventions are the first ones eligible to host it, this year. The next thing to know is that fan groups will appear in any population centre ... well, almost any population centre ... and no matter when or where they show up, or what they're about, fan groups tend to go through similar phases: similar successes, and similar problems.

Perhaps the most important thing to understand is that Canadian fan groups tend to be rather farther apart, and a bit more out of touch with each other, than American fan groups. Curiously, Canadian fan groups may be in *better* contact with American groups just across the border.

**

Previous periods have been documented by Taral Wayne and other fanwriters, and summaries of fanhistories are available at

www.fanac.org. The period I know most about is the 1980s, largely because that was the period when I got involved.

Canadian SF and Fantasy

Judging from some fanwriting of the time, the beginning of the 1980s coincided with another resurgence of the Canadian national identity crisis. This was also when the occasional Canadian identity crisis coincided with the SF subculture. Robert Runté in Edmonton, if no-one else, was trying to establish that yes, there *are* so too SF and fantasy writers in Canada, and yes, there *are* so too some SF publications appearing in this country. (This was an uphill struggle for Robert. From the mid-1970s onward, he encountered the attitude among publishers that some SF manuscripts were "too Canadian" for publication; he also encountered disbelief among fans that there *were* any real live Writers up here in the boonies.) At about the same time, Linda Ross-Mansfield was publishing a similar newszine from New Brunswick, and JoAnne McBride (then living in Toronto) was suggesting a Canada-wide news APA.

Bear in mind that in English Canada, until the early to mid-1980s, there were only abortive attempts at Canadian SF semipro magazines, which generally folded up after a couple of issues. To give one example, I can name *Stardust*, started in Toronto in 1976 by Forrest Fusco Jr. For another, John Bell (one of the CSFFA founders named above) started the magazine *Borealis* in the late 1970s, which lasted just two issues. *Dark Fantasy*, a well-respected small-press magazine, lasted a good deal longer but folded when comic artist Gene Day died, in 1982. (A whole separate article detailing the history of Canadian semiprozines has been published in the Calgary fanzine *Opuntia*.)

By contrast, in French Canada from the mid- to late 1970s, there were several continuing SF and fantasy magazines, and several continuing lines of SF and fantasy from small publishers.

Both Daniel Sernine and Claire LeBrun, in the collection *Out of this World*, mention a rapid growth in French-language SF and fantasy in the 1980s, particularly in literature for young people. They base this judgement on publishing statistics in *L'Année de la SFFQ* which covers the years 1984 through 1992. (They never say young-adult fiction, only "literature for young people".) It is worthwhile to note that the figures in question indicate the number of novels for young people, out of the total of published SF and fantasy in Quebec; the adult audience was targeted with short stories in magazines, collections and anthologies.

During the 1980s one publisher, Le Préambule, established the first SF line in Quebec, "Chroniques du futur", edited by Norbert Spohner. This line unfortunately died in 1988 after 11 novels, but others succeeded it.

Things seemed to change at some point in the 1980s. This change predated the rise of the Internet; it had to do with some small independent publishers - Press Porcépic, in the case of English-

language SF, and Aardvark-Vanaheim, in the case of independent Canadian comic books.

The Canadian SF & Fantasy Awards: A Rocky Start

In late 1979, four English teachers in Halifax (John Bell, Bob Atkinson, George Allanson and Sheldon Goldman) decided to start an annual Canadian SF and Fantasy Award. As he wrote much later, Bob Atkinson had discussed such an award with John Bell "as a sort of Canadian Hugo equivalent ... John [Bell] and I have researched and/or taught the subject for many years, and felt it was time Canada got such an award. After much discussion with people in Halifax *and across the country*" (my emphasis -GS), the first CSFFA was presented at Halcon 3, in 1980, by Spider Robinson to A.E. van Vogt, for "lifetime achievements". (Mr. Robinson has won awards for novels such as *Telepath*, *Stardancer* and *Mindkiller*. A.E. van Vogt, born in Manitoba, wrote and published over 600,000 words of SF for the American market, while living in Toronto, before moving to the States in 1944. The original award was a \$500 statuette by a local sculptor, Mike Spencer.)

The intention was that the award would be given by some hosting Canadian convention, and this function would rotate among a number of Canadian conventions. About half the original plans worked out. After the summer of 1980, Mr. Bell wrote a short document, "Notes on the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Award", and sent it to "*many fan leaders across the country*" (his words, my emphasis). But these communications seemed to disappear - either the Haligonians *didn't* actually have the names of the main Canadian fans to contact, as they believed, or the fans they contacted didn't know what significance to attach to the mail. Communication breakdowns and delays beset the award through the first five years.

The thing to understand at this point, I think, is that fans in Halifax, or Ottawa, could know little or nothing about fans in Edmonton, or Vancouver, or for that matter in Quebec. In addition, the English Canadians who were interested in Canadian SF were blithely unaware of the regular French-language SF publishing, and French-language SF awards, that had *already* been established.

These faults were repaired, and by now there are multiple categories in the CSFFA Awards for English and French SF.

Auroras and Conventions Today: The Bottom Line

Today, the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy (Aurora) Awards are annual, fan-voted, bilingual awards given in recognition of science fiction and fantasy works by Canadian authors and artists, and in recognition of fan activity by Canadian fans. At Halcon 3 in 1980, the first CSFFA Award was presented by Spider Robinson to A.E. van Vogt for lifetime achievements. The award has evolved until, today, there are award categories for SF and fantasy works, in English and French, from short story to novel lengths, and also categories for fan activities such as fanpublishing and convention-running. A growing number of

writers, artists, editors, TV, film and radio professionals, and fans have been recognized with Aurora Awards (chronicled on the Aurora Awards website).

Various Canadian SF conventions from coast to coast have served as Conventions, drawing some fans from across the country, hosting the Aurora Awards ceremonies, and holding CSFFA Business Meetings. In most years Conventions alternate between eastern and western Canada. The Business Meeting at Convention selects the next year's venue, in most years, as well as discussing the administration of the award.

VCon has hosted the Canadian SF and Fantasy Awards three times, in 1981, in 1986 and in 2000. In 1981, VCon 9 gave a posthumous CSFFA for her lifetime contributions to the late Susan Wood, a well-known fan who was just entering a professional editing career at the time of her death. In 1986, VCon 14 hosted multiple and bilingual awards, and recognized a B.C. fan for producing a cross-Canada fan newszine. Since the business meeting in 1987, the Convention has alternated between eastern and western Canadian conventions, in most years.

For more information see Dennis Mullin's Aurora Awards page: <http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/>. Elsewhere in this issue, Dennis writes that he will announce the 2004 Convention in March.

The Canadian Unity Fan Fund

The Canadian Unity Fan Fund was similarly begun in 1981, to overcome the distances and travel costs that continue to separate Canadian fan groups today. In 1981 the fund was set up by the Ontario Science Fiction Club to assist fanpublisher Michael Hall, then from Edmonton, to visit Toronto fans at Torque II.

In 1987 CUFF was tied to the Convention, and in most years either an eastern fan delegate is chosen to visit a western Convention, or *vice versa*. The incumbent CUFF administrator is Lyndie Bright of Winnipeg; before issuing nomination forms she is waiting upon the announcement of a Convention for 2004.

For more information see the Canadian Unity Fan Fund page (An introduction, a chronological list, and a few trip reports): <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/~hrothgar/cuff.htm>