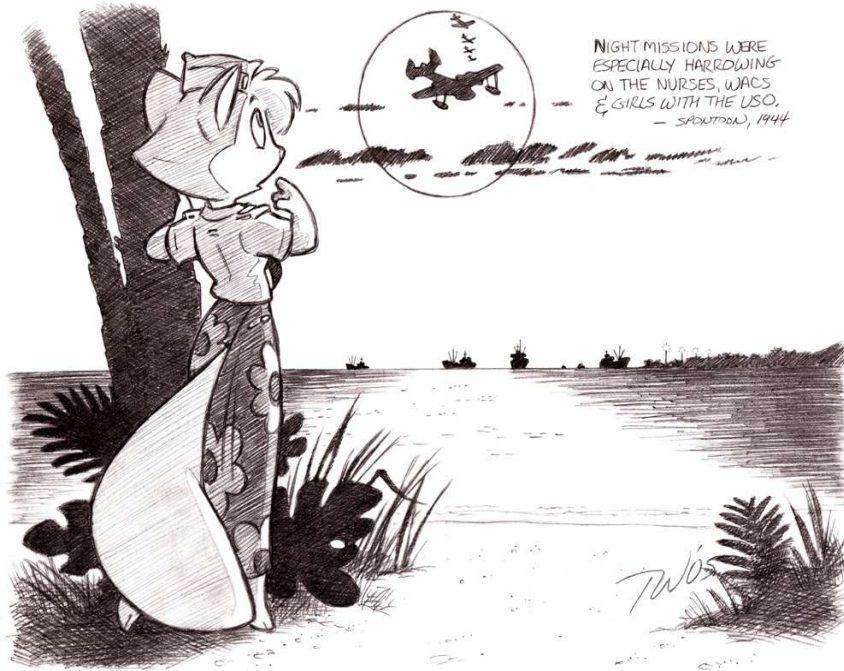


BCSFA Zine

#387

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August 2005



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MASTHEAD

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BCSFA's events this month

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Book discussion: | Aug. 11 at Our Town Café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver; book for discussion is <i>The Last Unicorn</i> by Peter S. Beagle |
| <i>BCSFazine</i> deadline: | Fri. Aug. 12—a good chance to submit paper submissions in person at FRED to the editor |
| Feeding Frenzy: | Sat. Aug. 13, 7 p.m., at the Tomahawk Barbecue, 1550 Phillip Avenue, North Vancouver. |
| BCSFA meeting/party: | Sat. Aug. 20, 8 p.m. , at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions. |
| <i>BCSFazine</i> production: | Fri. Aug 26—early distribution at FRED |
| Kaffeeklatsch: | Sat. Aug 27, 7 p.m., at Garth Spencer's, 82 East 40 th Avenue, Vancouver; phone 604-325-7314 for directions |

THE SECRET LIFE OF GARTH SPENCER

by Greg Slade

The prisoner was hustled into the dark room, and shackled to an uncomfortable, straight-backed chair bolted to the floor. Before the guards left, a technician in white scrubs swabbed his forearm with alcohol, and injected something. Then, the group left and closed the door, leaving him in darkness.

The darkness did not last long. Across the room, a bright light flicked on, shining in his face. Behind the light, he knew, would be an interrogator. Shrouded in darkness. He didn't care. He knew how to tune out interrogation.

"Good evening, Mr. Spencer," said a voice in perfect Danish. "Or perhaps I should call you... *Kaptajn Glemme*?"

"What?" he replied in English. "I can't understand what you're saying. Can't anybody here speak English?"

"Of course we can speak English," the voice replied, still in Danish. "After all, everybody here was born in Canada." There was a brief, pregnant pause. "Oh, excuse me. I should have said, 'almost everybody', shouldn't I?"

"You see, Kaptajn, we have long been aware of the infiltration of this pernicious '*Doctor Geronimo*' material into Canada. You yourself have been loudly decrying the infestation in the newsletter you edit on behalf of the fans who are the target of this trash. Tell me, are those potential victims aware that they have handed over the editor's blue pencil to *the very man who is importing the same material that he is so stridently warning them against*?"

The interrogator pushed a pile of books and merchandise out to the front of the table where the light could fall upon it. Glemme's training was thorough. Without it, he would have groaned in dismay as he recognised a portion of the material he had been hiding in his own home, in preparation for discreetly distributing it to carefully selected used bookstores around town. The garish covers proclaimed "*Doctor Geronimo*" in a rainbow of covers, accompanied by improbably heroic illustrations. Never break cover. No matter what, never break cover. It was still possible to bluff them into thinking that the stuff had been planted on him. "Hello?" he called out, still in English, "can anybody here speak English?"

"Oh, you can carry on your little game if you like, Kaptajn, but we are perfectly aware of your conditioning. Nothing which is said to you in English, or any other language -- and we already know in precisely how many of those languages you are fluent -- can possibly get through to your consciousness unless you deliberately pay attention to it. That would make it extremely difficult to put any pressure on you through verbal tricks, now wouldn't it? However, your masters forgot to condition you against words spoken to you in

your own native tongue, didn't they? That is why I have the dubious privilege of acting as your... shall we say... *corrections* officer.

"For make no mistake, Kaptajn, you are here for correction. Your ring has already been broken. Those who are not already in our custody are under surveillance. There has been a mysterious fire at a certain mini storage site in Coquitlam, and we are aware of your methods of transport. The flow of this... *rubbish* into the country has been stopped. We have no need of information from you. You are here simply to learn the consequences of attempting to corrupt the minds of Canadian fans.

"That chemical which has been injected into your veins every few hours since you arrived here... (Oh. You would like to know how long that has been, would you? Sorry, but to tell you that would spoil the effect of temporal displacement, now wouldn't it?) As I was saying, that chemical renders you incapable of going to sleep. So I'm afraid you have no choice but to enjoy the entertainment we have prepared for you. Don't worry if you miss some of it. It will keep repeating so you can enjoy it to its fullest.

"Oh, and in case you've been wondering where you slipped up, what put us onto you, we have suspected you for some time, but what confirmed our suspicions was last month's *BCSFazine*, when you announced that Canada Day was on July 2nd. No real Canadian would ever make that mistake. So now, we'll give you a little taste of Canadian culture."

The light clicked out, and he could hear the sound of a door opening and closing, and then whining, clanking, and hissing noises as some mechanical apparatus moved in the dark room. Then, a large-screen television flickered into life, placed so that he couldn't avoid looking at it without turning his head, but a brace fastened to the chair kept his head facing forward. Speakers blared a cheesy, overblown soundtrack, and the credits flashed, "*H.G. Wells' The Shape of Things to Come*." He had heard about this. It was supposed to be pretty bad, but it was in English, so he'd be able to ignore it. In fact, he'd have to concentrate *not* to ignore it.

It was only when the dialogue came on, and he realised that it had been dubbed in Danish, that he realised the trouble he was in. Jack Palance's Danish voice double wasn't even halfway through his first speech before he broke down. "*Nej!*" he cried, "*Nej! Nej! Neeeeeej!*"



LOCS

Randy Barnhart, 1-1565 Heron Road, Ottawa, ON,
K1V 9V1, randy_barnhart@hotmail.com

Hello Garth! Sorry I missed #386, but a giant meteor was closing in on Earth and I volunteered to help blow

it up and...

Nah. Just got busy with work.

((Does your ministry have any office clerical positions open, here in Vancouver??))

As you have probably heard, the weather here in the Mysterious East is hideous beyond all reckoning. The air is so hot and humid it's nearly impossible to breathe. I have, for the first time in my career, worn shorts to work! Gee, good thing there's no such thing as global warming, otherwise we'd really be in trouble!

A survey of the folks attending VCon might in fact be very useful for a variety of purposes, beyond trying to get an idea of what the masses would like to see in an SF club. For example, what would folks like to see at the next VCon? Possible GoH? Future *BCSFazines*? Tea or coffee? Leather or latex? and so on...

It has been my experience, though, that surveys seem to work best when there's some sort of incentive for participating. Doesn't have to be a Cadillac, just a draw for something like a year's sub to *BCSFazine* or some trivial doodad like an Eighth Man action figure (is that dating me?). Just that extra little push that some folks need to follow through on relatively innocuous but constructive activities.

I enjoyed the picture of you reacting to Purple's explanation of the City of Akakor. You appear to be a bit...startled by it all.

((What? I always look at people that way. Is that why I wasn't invited back to the wine-tasting club? Or the speed-dating nights?))

I liked your thoughts about the various *Star Trek* timelines and the Time Police. As it happens, I absolutely deplore the so-called Time Police story lines. Sometimes I think the TP is used too often as an escape hatch by lazy writers who've painted themselves into a plot corner. Sort of a *deus ex machina hora*.

((So what did you make of Poul Anderson's "Time Police" stories?))

A good point about the "Dirty Little Secret of the English Language". Of course, Internet English has a lot to do with it; but a certain degree of laziness has crept into things as well. One young person of my acquaintance had such

atrocious spelling, her parents had to buy her a pocket spell-checker. Anyway, when they talk to her about this, she insists spelling is a fluid thing & who cares anyway. I see English splitting up as it was in the days of yore, when the educated and ruling classes spoke and wrote distinctly different varieties of English [from the plebes].

((How we spell a language is one thing, how one language turns into several is another, but I take your point. Ay kan meyk up a nyw speling sistem eny taim, but kan ay get anywun els tw yooz it? Or undurstand it? Iz it going tw wurk ovursyz, sey in Ostreylyu or Inghlund? Ay bet not. GB Shaw wanted to promote a better writing system, but ארע / ארע רן אורלו זרזו / ארע / ארע / ארע Shavian phonetic?))

((The differentiation of English speech communities has been going on for quite a while – and the important thing is not just how different are the words they use, but how differently they use available words and phrases. I don't just mean GB Shaw's joke, about Americans and Britons divided by a single language; I'm thinking of Strine, and Indian English, and the mutually incomprehensible dialects across Canada, and then there's the high weirdness we get from African email scams.))

Your comments on the lifestyles of the rich & shameless put me in mind of something I've been thinking about recently; and that is why no California jury seems to be able to convict anyone earning more than \$200,000/annum. The answer came to me one night: *TV cop shows*.

What I (and apparently, most of the jury pool in California) learned from TV Cop Shows:

1. The Most Obvious Suspect Is Always Innocent: If he's found covered with the victim's blood with the murder weapon in his hands while standing over the victim, he is innocent. The real culprit is always some guy you never see until the last fifteen minutes who wronged the victim thirty-five years ago in high school.
2. The Rarest DNA Events Actually Occur Quite Often: The real killer always has an identical twin that no one (including, apparently, his mother) knew anything about, thus obviating any DNA evidence.
3. Forensic Evidence Is Crap: Cops always go by their gut feelings & they always catch the real bad guy.
4. Beyond a Reasonable Doubt: Apparently means there is no other possible way the crime could have happened. So if the defence suggests the defendant's doppelganger from the Mirror Universe did it, hey! Could have happened.
5. The Defence Is Always Right: Because Perry Mason wouldn't lie to you, would he?

And I loved your idea about fannish Tarot cards! Now that would be cool, and selling them would probably afford you a nice holiday somewhere (or pay for a year's publication of the 'zine). Go for it, say I. Or, in Yoda speak, "I, for it, say go."

((A translation from Yiddish, Yoda speak is. To the front the object goes, and at the end, as in German, the verb is put.))

Oh, and I'm sure Terry Brooks has, at one point or another, written something original... just let me think... hm, wait, it'll come to me....

Lloyd & Yvonne: Good hearing from you again! Outstanding! Sorry I won't be joining you at this year's Ad Astra, but the Boston trip followed by the Vancouver trip sorta drained my resources, so we'll have to catch it on TV. It will pain me mightily to miss Ray Harryhausen, though; his work in films formed my view of what make great SF movies.

Good luck putting the hypnosis thing on George the Chimp. Still, as a friend once said, "Intelligent people have better things to do than run for public office." Which of course explains the current state of the world.

There are silent SF fans everywhere. There was this fellow at my workplace (Fisheries & Oceans Canada) whom I always see reading Bujold, Weber or Ringo. When I asked him about getting involved in fandom, though, he flatly refused. Turns out he was a victim of the old "I just read the stuff" syndrome, which he developed as a result of the media depiction of fandom (he actually used the phrase "Trekkie"!). Too bad.

((So that's the "I just read the stuff" syndrome. I thought it was the situation of SF readers who never hear of fandom at all.))

G.W. Thomas: Howdy. As a matter of fact, I used to spend a little bit of time in Williams Lake, a lovely town. So, what was the final decision on the true nature of evil?

Felicity Walker: My blushes! Thanks for your kind comments on my rant about Schwarzbaum. I was also much taken by your thinking about her moronic comments. Great minds think alike & all that.

Nice cover, Felicity, and a lovely shout out to Molly Ivins! I do believe she was the one who said of George W.: "He was born on third base & spent the rest of his life bragging about how he hit a triple."

I find the new, lean Lex Luthor much creepier than the old, Golden Age Luthor, & I mean "creepier" in the bad sense. Sure, the Bald Bad Boy spent most of his time trying to put Super Dooper Man in the ground, but he was classy about it (sort of like Dr. Doom). Chubby Luthor would have thought it beneath him as the World's Leading Super-Villain to run for President. President Lean Luthor seems to spend a lot of his time getting "involved" with the usual overblown, spray-on-costume super-villainesses, which is much ickier than trying to find just the right Red Kryptonite to turn the Blue Boy Scout into a monkey. I suppose the next thing will be Luthor's use of Red Kryptonite to turn Supergirl into... well, let's leave it there.

((Hm. Maybe I should start up Icky Fandom. Good boys like bad girls, after all. This good boy does, anyway.))

And, as it happens, I did read Orson Scott Card's comments on Trek, and had built up quite a head of steam about it; but time wounds all heels, and now all I can say is that Card is a barely-adequate second-tier SF writer, with mucho delusions of macho. I've always suspected some of the loonier right-wing fringes of SF pro/fandom hated Trek on the grounds it was "too liberal." Given the crap Card has churned out (I mean, folks complain Heinlein's *Starship Troopers* is fascism *deluxe*, but nary a word about Card's Ender series), it's no surprise Card belongs to that hopefully-small clique. I guess we should be thankful to him for opening the little door on that sordid faction.

Here's something Card recently wrote re human rights & gay people:

"Laws against homosexual behavior should remain on the books, not to be indiscriminately enforced against anyone who happens to be caught violating them, but to be used when necessary to send a clear message that those who flagrantly violate society's regulation of sexual behavior cannot be permitted to remain as acceptable, equal citizens within that society."

As you can see, the guy's a real sweetheart.

((Card has written better work in the past. I think he's simply forgetting some of the principal items of original American culture, like not legislating other people's business; and some points of Christianity, or of just plain humanity. But we've seen other people selectively forget these things before.))

So street lights go out as you walk by? I'm like that with watches. I kill self-winding watches within hours of donning one & battery-powered watches go dead within something like six months. I asked a watchmaker about it once & he gave me some hoodoo about my having a reversed magnetic polarity (?), so maybe you do have some superpower. "Streetlight Out Woman" or something like that. It's no worse than some of the powers the members of the League of Substitute Superheroes used to demonstrate.

Oh no, I knew you like Chomsky's work. I was, in fact, agreeing with you, but perhaps a bit more emphatically than I should have done. I hope I didn't go overboard.

Well, I certainly agree that combining alcohol & anti-depressant drugs may not be a good idea, booze being a depressant & all. Me, I just stick to caffeine, which is OK so far as self-administered drugs go:

*It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion,
It is by the beans of Java that thoughts acquire speed,
The hands acquire shaking, the shaking becomes a warning,
It is by caffeine alone I set my mind in motion.*

Ray Seredin: You da man. I will be only too happy to cart along some of my favourite crappy movies for the gratification of all.

Lloyd&Yvonne Penney <penneys@allstream.net>, #1706 - 24 Eva Rd.,
Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, July 12, 2005

Many thanks for the latest *BCSFazine*...it's a computerized PDF 386, running on BC-DOS. (Friend of mine knew he was working on computers too long when he spotted a can of root beer and thought the name meant High Resolution.) Time for a loc.

Life becomes more complex to take our mind off the demands of the social economy, which demands that you work harder to rev up the economic engine. Much of that complexity is in more and more purchases of more consumer goods. We are but cogs in the machine. Simplify your life, and the pressures will ease. Good advice; if only I could follow it myself.

((My life got so "simple" for a while, I wasn't sure I could pay my rent.))

I had thought that I had listed Western conventions in my general list. I also produced an Eastern list for the Montreal and Ottawa clubs, and for distribution in the Toronto area. I may have sent you the wrong list. I'll fix that right now. Just sent you a list from earlier this year, with lots of Western cons in it.

Sounds like Ray is a determined media fan. He knows what he wants, he knows who to talk to, and he knows that if he pesters people long enough for what he wants, he's got a good chance of getting it. Ray, perhaps you should set up the convention *you* want, with what you want in it. Otherwise, you're just irritating the people you're pestering.

((Maybe there is still scope in Greater Vancouver for Ray's kind of mediacon; but is there available concom labour, hotel space, an open weekend, and some congoers – or disposable cash in their pocket – not already absorbed by the other mediacons?))

I know someone in Buffalo/Niagara Falls fandom who is constantly demanding that his interests be catered to; he *won't* start his own con, and he has become a huge pest. The local convention won't let him on the committee, because they don't trust him to do anything for the con, and not turn it towards what he

wants. He doesn't understand *how much more expensive* it is to cater to the media fans, and get the guests they want.

((I once thought "fans" like this were a major threat to fandom, because their overeagerness and incomprehension would lead them to create convention fiascos, and blacken the names of all fans, as far as local hotels and other businesses were concerned.))

Those [*space-science*] gatherings at UBC in August sound great. If this is a spinoff from the ISU earlier this year, then I hope it's something that will continue on. Having speakers like Burt Rutan and Peter Diamandis is very much a good thing.

Garth, I saw this morning you were looking for a complete list of members of BCSFA for the club directory you're working on. You don't list lifetime members in the list you sent out, and I do recall that Yvonne and I are lifetime members, thanks to the generosity of the club committee. If you need basic information from us for the directory, let us know ASAP.

((The list I sent out July 11th only concerned either the members I was not certain were current, or the current and lifetime members for whom I lacked some or all contact information.))

I hope that Chris Carr can get a BC RenFaire going. Ontario lost theirs last year, but there are now moves afoot to get a new one going. The Royal Abingdon Faire takes place at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Hamilton weekends starting July 23 through to Labour Day. Its website is www.ontariorenaissancefaire.ca, and Yvonne and I plan to go sometime in August, to see what's happening.

Guests to add to the Ad Astra 2006 flyer...Rowena Morrill is our artist GoH, and the convention's long-time lawyer, David Warren, is our FanGoH. Also, Yvonne is now a published author, with an essay on space advocacy printed in a new book on space, produced by the European Space Agency.

Bob Johnson <thebobmeister@hotmail.com>, 12 Jul 2005

With regard to things brought up in a previous issue of *BCSFazine*, I would like to make a point.

I think it should be said, or implied at least, that devices employed in the production of zines go beyond what some would say. Certainly it is undeniable that the underlying metaphor here is without a doubt debateable. Changes over time have led to a resurgence of the decline, not just in what's published, but in the arguments over what should be published. I think it was best said in an issue of *The Monthly Monthly*.

I hate to be excessively retrospective, but have you ever actually examined the contents of alternate prime number issues of *BCSFazine* and seen the underlying pattern? I haven't, but I haven't had the time, despite what anyone else might say on the matter. Your average *Dr Who* fan might prattle on about this for hours, but I must move on. We all know what's coming in fandom, although most deny it, or at minimum deny that I was the first to realize it.

Thank you for your time. Here, you can have it back if you want.
((What he said.))

Ray Seredin, July 10, 2005

At FRED on the eighth of July, Kathleen told me something interesting—that she may be running Hospitality for a while on Friday [at VCON 30]. I say that's great news, because, as you know, last year, Chang had to work late, and since he had most of the Hospitality unit in his van, clear across town, Hospitality did not open up 'til about half past seven.

I feel Hospitality should open up about a half hour to an hour after Registration opens. This will give a place for the early birds to gather as they wait for the first panel, as well as a place where people can go between panels, where they can get something to eat if they've been riding a bus all day from who-knows-where. As well, early opening means more money being donated to Hospitality, so for Saturday you'll have even more money to spend on supplying Hospitality with food and drink.

((Have you heard, or asked what the VCon 30 committee is planning for this year? When you say "should", what exactly does that mean to you: better service for the congoers, less work or more revenue for the committee, or less hassle with the hotel? Try to remember that the concom's volunteer manpower is always limited.))

On Saturday, Hospitality should open up about an hour before the panels start, giving people a place to have something to eat in the morning. The closing hours should remain at 1:00 a.m. And please do not close in the middle of the day. I'm sure most members won't mind having somebody vacuuming around them for a few minutes.

When VCon gets a few more members, we should do what Norwescon does, which is to have a Hospitality down near the main panel rooms and then have a consuite which operates separately from it. Then Hospitality can be alcohol-free while the con suite with a checker outside can be serving alcohol. Norwescon has been doing this for about 11 years now and it's working out just fine. The other thing that I'd like to see in Hospitality (and I may even bring my PC in if someone's willing to take it over to Richmond) is to have a bit of

Muzak playing. I got about 14 hours of music on my computer ranging from everything from well-known science fiction themes to just general rock and roll music and *Monty Python* sketches. This will add a nice bit of ambience to the hospitality unit.

((I don't think you realize the definition of Muzak is a sort of evil sinister sonic mind control technology, the results of which we now see in American popular "culture".))

One thing I'd really like to see (and unless someone wins Lotto 6/49 this will never happen) is somewhere to buy one of those Japanese slot machines that come on sale once in a while at Save-On Foods. When you give a dollar to the person at the counter you give them four tokens and you can (a) use your token to buy something or (b) you can put the token in the slot machine and if you win you can buy more goods. This will get a lot more people donating. People donating does make hospitality more self-sufficient as well as adding a bit more fun to it.

If Kathleen or Chang needs any help running Hospitality don't hesitate to contact me at my e-mail address (lungbarrow@shaw.ca).

BCSFAZINEzine Vol 1: no. 35.386 from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com, Thursday 14 July 2005

Half in Love with Easeful Death: "I would like to invite all artist types to contribute..." I keep forgetting to draw things, scan those images you gave me to scan, and send you my photos.

Letters of Comment: Felicity Walker - "*((Have you been able to work up a font mimicking my handwriting yet?))*" No. I've started but progress is slow. I'll do it, though.

((Oh, you think so?))" Yes, I've heard of it [**] happening to a lot of people, including most of my friends. Credit goes to Paul Patton for having the idea of calling it one's mutant power.

*((This [**] could not be less of a problem.))*" ☺

Hrothgar Weems - "...*sinister reptoid Antichrist*..." ☺

Members' Birthdays in July: Felicity Walker - I approve of the text you wrote for me.

Unclassified Ads: Imperial Hobbies - I had the perfect opportunity to use the 10% discount last week, when I cleared out my subscription box and bought a

new SF paperback novel. Then I realised I either didn't receive, or had lost my current membership card. I still don't know which it is. Help!

Tale Told by an Idiot: BCSFans Can Pub Their Own Zine, Their Own Way - *Ish* sounds like a good place to put Media File Supplementals and other things that won't make it into the new, thinner *BCSFazine*. I suppose it wouldn't be fair to expect Garth to be editor, but I hesitate to (a) presume to be the next best choice, and (b) add more responsibilities to the myriad I'm already struggling to meet. However, I think someone has to make the first move, so I tentatively claim the title. That's not final—I can do this *Ish*, and if someone else wants a chance, someone else can do the next.

Send submissions to the address at the top of this LOC!

Bad Movies Anyone? - That sounds nice.

The Page They Call the City of Akakor: Nicely written.

Gedankeneksperiment: "Why don't we have balloon-suspended pedal-powered vehicles?" I asked this once in a conversation, and an engineer replied that the balloon would create "a parasitic drag" too strong for pedal power.

Son of the Revenge of the Return of Kaffeeklatsch II:

1. For the record, as soon as I heard myself agree that a costumed promotional trip to a mall would be fun, I knew that it would play to the stereotype of fans, but I was not quick enough to voice this misgiving before Ryan or Garth did.

Unfortunately Ryan and I didn't get to discuss the issue of lookism in choosing which fans to present to the mundane public; I raised the question, but it was not pursued.

I still have not heard whether it would be OK to leave VCon flyers inside SF books at the library!



2. My introduction to the concept of fandom and fanzines far predates 2001; did you mean that I only discussed my experiences with fandom and fanzine from 2001 onward?

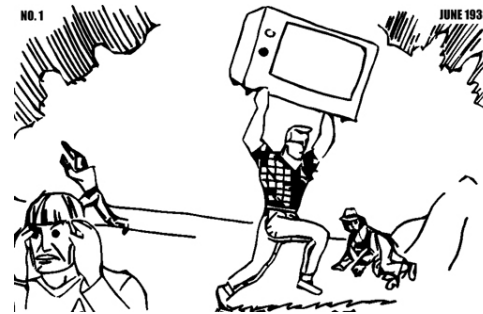
MEMBERS' BIRTHDAYS IN AUGUST

Aug. 3: **Frank Skinner** is currently living and working in San Diego; he came originally from the US, became a Canadian citizen, and moved back to the US in order to take advantage of job

opportunities. He is taking treatment for a bad case of punning, which prevents the development of genuine humour.

Aug. 4: **Katie Kelly** is one of Allan Kelly's daughters; her superpowers are jewelry design, costuming, and a fanatical devotion to Duran Duran.

Aug. 6: **Christina Carr** is very busy in Vancouver's theatre scene and the film industry; not satisfied with her challenges, she and husband Martin Hunger have started a new multi-purpose website, and they are also trying to found a Renaissance Faire in the Lower Mainland.



Aug. 9: **Carol Polok** is not appearing at FRED.

Aug. 12: **Shelly Gordy** is one half of the marital team of Tam and Shelly Gordy. Her superpowers do not, as far as we know, include playing guitar.

Aug. 16: **Bernie Klassen** is one half of the marital team of Paula Johanson and E.B. Klassen, authors of Ben and Lily. He is currently occupied with carpentry and market farming in Alberta. Unless he's gone back to library science. We've been out of touch for a while.

Aug. 17: **Vaughn Fraser** is a former VCon chair, former BCSFA member, skillet, former ESFCAS member and former comics apa fan.

Aug. 24: **Jackie Barclay** is a former star member of the Leather Goddesses of Phobos, and now half of the marital team of Steve and Jackie Barclay, authors of several fine children.

Aug. 30: **Howard Cherniack** is married and lives quietly in East Vancouver in a loft-style condominium that has a splendid view of downtown Vancouver and the mountains. He attends VCons, and can occasionally be coaxed to attend FRED.

Aug. 31: **August Witherspoon-Li** is not appearing at BCSFA meetings.

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CONVENTION CALENDAR

August 2005

Aug. 1: BC & Ontario civic holiday

Aug. 4 (12:00 to 5:00 p.m.): **Space Day Exhibits** at HR MacMillan Pacific Space Centre. Canadian space companies and Government agencies will be present to promote their space experience and expertise.

Aug. 5 (5:15 to 6:15 p.m.): **Rocket launch demonstrations** at UBC—location TBA. ISU's graduate-level students will launch model rockets carrying educational experiments. Both the rockets and the experiments are designed and built by the students in multidisciplinary teams. Visitors of all ages are welcome to share an educational and fun experience.

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

Aug. 5: Film release of *Doom*, game-inspired sci-fi action/adventure starring that guy called The Rock; also, the release of something called *2046*.

Aug. 5 or 12: Film release of *The Skeleton Key* (Kate Hudson learns black magic in New Orleans).

Aug. 5-7: **Animethon 12** (an anime convention) at Grant MacEwan Community College (City Centre Campus, 10700 – 104 Avenue, Edmonton). Official hotel, Holiday Inn Express Downtown, is now booked solid. The overflow hotel is the Comfort Inn near the campus, at 10425 – 100 Avenue, Edmonton, AB T5J 0A3; tel. 1-888-384-6835. “Passes” range from \$2 (Friday only) to \$27 (whole weekend). See <http://www.animethon.org>. Email info@animethon.org.

Aug. 11 (7:30 p.m.): **Gerald Soffen memorial panel on new space exploration** initiatives, at UBC—room TBA. Invited panellists:

- Alain Berinstain, Canadian Space Agency
- John Mankins, NASA
- Daniel Sacotte, European Space Agency
- Mikhail Marov, ISU Faculty / Russian Academy of Sciences
- Ichiro Nakatani, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

Panel moderated by Gary Martin, ISU Deputy SSP Director.

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

Aug. 11-14: **PDX LAN** in Portland, Oregon. See <http://www.pdxlan.com/>.

Aug. 16 (7:30 p.m.): **Discussion Panel on Personal Spaceflight—Opening the Frontier for Everyone**, at UBC—room TBA. Invited panellists:

- James Benson, SpaceDev
- Peter Diamandis, ISU founder, Zero-Gravity Corporation
- Burt Rutan, Scaled Composites
- Alex Tai, Virgin Galactic

Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

Aug 19-21: **Anime Evolution** at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby (*not* the Vancouver campus), BC. Anime convention. Guests: Broken Saints, Rob Bakewell, Johnny Yong Bosch, Michael Dobson, David Kaye, and Kirby Morrow. Memberships: \$35 at the door. See <http://www.animeevolution.com>

Aug. 22: **Final Presentation of Student Team Research Projects**—Room TBA. 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. Threats from Near Earth Objects (NEOs) 10:45 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Wildfire Mitigation Strategies using Space Technologies, & 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Robotic Exploration of the Inner Solar System. Part of ISU Public Presentations and Discussion Panels. For the most current schedule, go to: <http://www.isu2005.ubc.ca/> and click on Public Events.

Aug 26-28: **Dragonflight 2005** at the Bellevue Sheraton in Bellevue, WA. Gaming convention. Memberships: US\$40 up to the door. (<http://www.dragonflight.org/>)

Aug. 26-28: **PAX (Penny Arcade Expo)** at Maydenbabauher Center in Bellevue, Washington. See <http://www.penny-arcade.com/pax>.

Aug. 27: (Sat. 11-4) **Comic Book & Toy Show** at the Capitol Hill Community Centre, 361 South Howard, North Burnaby (off 5500 East Hastings); featuring New & Vintage Comics, Toys & Collectives, Manga & Related Items, Special Guests, Anime & Related Items, Action Figures, Gaming Cards. Dealers: 6-foot tables are available for \$35.00; call 604-521-6304. Attendees: there is free parking, and a snack bar. For more information, see www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99, or email funpromo@shaw.ca.

Aug 28: **Comix & Stories** in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact lswong@uniserve.com.

September 2005

Sept. 1-5: **CascadiaCon 2005**, the 2005 NASFiC, at the SeaTac Hilton & Conference Center in SeaTac, Washington. (The SF convention North Americans hold when Worldcon goes overseas.) Writer GoH: Fred Saberhagen. Artist GoH: Liz Danforth. Editor GoH: Toni Weisskopf (Baen). Fan GoH: Kevin Standlee (chair of Con Jose). Scientist GoH: Marc Abrahams (founder of the *Journal of Improbable Research* and the Ig Nobel Awards). Rooms \$109/night for 1-4 people; phone (206) 244-4800. Memberships: \$85 (full adult). Write Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111.

Sept. 3-5: **HP Lovecraft's Birthday Party** in Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Registration: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. See <http://www.vancouvergamingguild.com/>.

Sept. 3-5: **Kumoricon** (anime convention) with GoH Toshifumi Yoshida, at the Doubletree Hotel and Executive Meeting Center Portland-Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland, OR 97237, tel (503) 281-6111. Room rate \$99/nite. Group reservation code: JAA. Preregistration: \$35 until August 12. Registration/Operations head is Lyle Clingsan, registration@kumoricon.org.

Sept. 18: **Vancouver Comicon** in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact lswong@uniserve.com.

Sept. 23-25: **Foolscap VII** at the Bellevue Sheraton, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Harlan Ellison. "Foolscap VII will continue the tradition of featuring original artwork from professionals and newcomers on an invitational basis. To be considered for invitation, prospective artists may submit samples of artwork to our jury." Memberships (\$40 now). Mail deadline: Sept. 10, 2005. Mail to Foolscap VII c/o Little Cat Z, PO Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461, USA. For more information, www.foolscapcon.org.

Sept. 23-25: **Fallcon 18**, Calgary Marlborough Community Association Centre, Calgary, AB. Gaming convention. Memberships: \$25 until August 29, \$30 afterwards and at the door. For more information, www.fallcon.com.

NEWS-LIKE SUBSTANCES



FRAN SKENE wrote to the BCSFA list on July 22: "Just found out - I have breast cancer. Will see a surgeon soon. Am nervous...."

WRIGLEY-CROSS BOOKS (Portland, OR) "is closing its shop but will continue business by mail order. Debbie Cross writes: 'I am sorry that we have to close the store, because we're losing so many to the Internet. On the other hand, I am looking forward to not being tied to the store six days a week.'"

Ansible 216, July 2005

LOCAL BOOK AND COMIC STORE NEWS: **The Granville Book Company**, an independent bookstore on Vancouver's downtown Granville Mall, closed up shop on July 7, apparently due to the rise in downtown rental rates. **Golden Age Collectibles**, a comic store on the Mall, has moved to the next-door space at 852 Granville. Ray reports that there are new comic book venues in Vancouver, but I await more news.

FROM THE BCSFA@YAHOOGROUPS.COM DIGEST, 04 Jul 2005:

Klingon and LOTR Elvish (and Unicode?)

Julian Castle forwarded from <http://www.masterliness.com/a/Unicode.htm>:

"In 1997 a proposal was made by Michael Everson to encode the characters of the Klingon language in Plane 1 of ISO/IEC 10646-2. The proposal was rejected in 2001 as 'inappropriate for encoding'—not because the proposal was technically faulty, but because users of Klingon normally read and write and exchange data in Latin transliteration.

"The Elvish scripts Tengwar and Cirth from JRR Tolkien's Middle Earth setting were proposed for inclusion in Plane 1 in 1993. The draft was withdrawn to incorporate changes suggested by Tolkienists, and is as of 2004 still under consideration."

Canadian Politics Unlimited, a new LJ (LiveJournal) community

"I've finally gotten around to something I've been meaning to do for a while...I've started a LJ community for talking about politics.

"It's at <http://www.livejournal.com/community/canpolitics/> and because it's an LJ community, it's free to join. I'd ask that only folks who really wish to talk about matters Canadian and/or political join up...the topic is pretty broad but I don't want people just chatting about personal matters or whatever.

"Looking forward to seeing some of you there! ☺"

Deep Impact: http://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/deepimpact/main/index.html

Long-time BCSFA member weds!

[Jo McBride wrote on July 2:]

Today I am marrying Mike Wilson and I am very, very happy. My friends in fandom have been very important to me throughout my life, and I wanted to share this joyful information with you.

With a light and happy heart, Jo-Anne McBride Wilson

[Ken Wong replied:]

"Congrats.

"I have been a member of BCSFA since VCon 3 (Feb 22-24, 1974). I kick myself for not joining earlier. I read the pre publicity for Van SF Con 1 & 2 (1971 & 1972) in the mimeographed Locus. I saw the poster for the 1973 Bellingham, WA con with Harlan Ellison at William Hoffer (now deceased)'s Point Grey bookstore. What convinced me to inquire and join was hearing mention of VCon 3 on CBU 690 AM (AKA Radio One now). I could be wrong but maybe Chuck Davis did the segment/mention."

BC Renfest and Sea Vancouver (NOTE: "Sea Vancouver" happened July 6-10 -GS)

"I just wanted you all to be aware: A few of us have been crazy with a stage show, but now...the show is wrapped, I can pop back on and let you all know that The BC Renfest has acquired a spot at Sea Vancouver. <http://www.seavancouver.ca/>

"We will be near the Marine Museum at the Maritime Point location. <http://www.seavancouver.ca/festival/maps.html>

"In honour of the tall ships we will be focusing on a Renaissance Pirate Theme.

If you can come on out and say hello or drop by and show your support that would be great."

Christina Carr, July 4, 2005

ROBERT SHECKLEY "survived six hours of heart surgery—a triple bypass and mitral valve replacement—on 29 June. After all these health upheavals (see A215), I hope he'll have a tranquil recovery. Alas, he won't be able to attend the Glasgow Worldcon as a guest of honour, but will be represented by his wife Gail Dana and feted *in absentia*..."

Ansible 216, July 2005

JAMES DOOHAN, the Second World War veteran who played "Scotty" on *Star Trek*, died at his home on the morning of July 20, 2005. A number of Trekker wakes followed, as at the Science Fiction Museum in Seattle, Washington.

ANNOUNCING CHRISTINA'S & MARTIN'S WEBSITE

"We've been wanting to do this for a LONG time. We've been working on a small theatre production of 'Inspector General' and have been paid little honoraria for our work. Shaw is very restricting on their webspace so we took our honoraria and blew [the money] on a domain name and a ton of webspace as well as email space. A local friend helped us out with the domain so now we

can put a ton of stuff up and have different email addresses in order to keep tasks apart, organize what we do have and make the most of our programs and connections. We are still with Shaw for connection but are welcoming any suggestions from those of you here in BC. We want to keep the speed so it looks like we may just have to keep dishing out for Shaw, but if there is an alternative we do not know of yet then we'd love to know. So.

“New Web page: <http://www.carrhunger.com>

“Associate Web page: <http://www.bcrenfest.com> (if you are looking for a service then clicking on the associate link from bc renfest and signing up with Dot easy, Martin and I will get \$5—note www.bcrenfest.com as your referrer.)”

Christina Carr & Martin Hunger, July 4, 2005

THIS YEAR'S AURORA AWARD WINNERS

Best Long Form English: *Wolf Pack*, Edo van Belkom (Tundra Books, 2004)

Best Long Form French: *Les Memoires de l'Arc*, Michele Laframboise (Médiaspaul, 2004)

Best Short Form English: “When the Morning Stars Sang Together,” Isaac Szpindel (*Revisions*, DAW)

Best Work in English (Other): *Relativity: Essays and Stories*, Robert J. Sawyer (ISFiC Press) [book]

Best Short Form French: “Ceux qui ne comptent pas,” Michele Laframboise (*Solaris* 149)

Artistic Achievement: Mart Spingett (www.martinspingett.com)

Fan Achievement (Publication): *Opuntia*, Dale Speirs, Ed.

Fan Achievement (Organizational): Brian Upward (I.D.I.C.)

Fan Achievement (Other): Laren Linsley, filksinging

Kevin Standlee and Karl Johanson (separately)

CUFF IS IN GOOD HANDS

“CUFF [the Canadian Unity Fan Fund] is now in the hands of Brian Davis [of Fredericton, NB]...we raised \$227.00 at the auction and over \$11.00 for the turkey readings from Fran Skene...over 700 [attended Westercon/Canvention]. Toronto Trek gets CUFF next year so that will work out well.”

Lyndie Bright, July 4, 2005

A BIT OF MARKET NEWS

THE 28th ANNUAL 3-DAY NOVEL CONTEST will be held this upcoming Labour Day weekend (Sept. 3-5, 2005). Collaborations (no more than two

writers) are permitted, and there is no length limit, but these things average 100 double-spaced pages. Format submissions in typed, double-spaced, numbered, letter-sized pages. Include \$50 entry fee, a business-sized SASE with return postage and a statement, signed by a witness, confirming the novel's completion over the 2005 Labour Day weekend. Winner will be announced in December 2005. Send submissions no later than Sept. 9, 2005 to 3-Day Novel Contest, 341 Water Street, Suite 200, Vancouver, BC V6B 1B8, or to info@3daynovel.com. For more details, see www.3daynovel.com. (From a flyer)

(The following three market notes are condensed from Gila Queen's Guide to Markets:)

The Future Is Queer—See E-mail address. Editors: Richard Labonté and Lawrence Schimel. To be published Fall 2006 by *Arsenal Pulp Press*. “The future has long been the purview of science fiction—and that future has increasing implications for queer women and men. We're looking for visionary short stories extrapolating actual GLBT concerns into the future, whether it be the next decade or a far-off millennium. ...

“Sexual content is fine when integral to the story, but this is not intended to be an anthology of erotica.

“We are looking for previously unpublished stories. ...

“As an anthology for a Canadian publisher, preference will be given to submissions from Canadian writers. ...

Pays **\$50-100Cdn**, “depending on length. Send submissions via E-mail, preferably as an attachment in .RTF.” [E-mail: thefutureisqueer@hotmail.com]. **Deadline: October 1, 2005.**

Gila Queen 134, July 2005

Lust for Life—4135 Coloniale, Montreal, QC, Canada H2W 2C2. Editors: Claude Lalumière and Elise Moser. “February 2006 trade paperback from *Vehicule Press*.”

“For further hints about the kind of material we're looking for, check out <http://lostpagesfoundpages.blogspot.com/2005/06/claudes-lust-for-life-reading-list.html>.”

“Theme: sex and love, of course—from diverse perspectives, offering diverse possibilities.”

“We want smart, literate, witty, moving, challenging fiction that explores desire, gender, sexuality, taboos, and the human body with insight and without inhibitions. ...

To 1000 words, pays **\$20 Cdn**; 1000-2500 words, **2½¢/word**; 5000-7000 words, **\$125 Cdn**; 7000-10,000 words, **\$150 Cdn**; for First World English Rights, with a one-year exclusive. Wants “previously unpublished English-language fiction only.”

“No simultaneous or multiple submissions, please. Responses will be prompt, allowing writers to market their stories elsewhere or send another submission.”

“We are not seeking artwork submissions of any kind.”

Submissions:

E-Mail: “Be sure to include the word ‘submission’ in the subject line, or your E-mail will be deleted automatically by the E-mail filter. Include a cover letter in the body of the E-mail, with your address and a short professional bio, in the body of the E-mail. E-mails with no cover letter in the body of the E-mail will be deleted automatically. Send in the story in an attachment ONLY (WordPerfect, .RTF, Word, .HTML, or .TXT). DO NOT SEND STORIES IN THE BODY OF THE E-MAIL. Submissions in the body of the E-mail will be deleted automatically. Do not E-mail images of any kind.”

Postal: “All submissions **MUST** include an E-mail address. Please save paper and prepare your hardcopy submissions double-sided with 1½ line spacing. Submissions will not be returned. You may (but are not required to) include a disk with an electronic copy of the story. The author must be able to provide an electronic copy of the story upon request.”

[E-mail: valentine@lostpages.net; <http://lostpages.net/wildtales>]. **Deadline: September 15, 2005.**

Gila Queen 134, July 2005

North of Infinity III: Parnassus Unbound—Mosaic Press, 1252 Speers Rd., Units 1 & 2, Oakville, ON, Canada, L6L 5N9. Editor: Mark Leslie. “*Mosaic Press* will be publishing the third instalment in the *North of Infinity* anthology series in winter 2006/2007.”

“Looking for science fiction that includes elements of or makes references to literature, music, and the arts. Your story can focus on one of these elements in detail or explore wider generalized concepts. For example, one story that has already been accepted is a tale that explores a theme William S. Burroughs made popular, the concept of language as a living entity. Feel free to include elements of horror or fantasy in your story, just ensure the story is good and that it is science fiction. The intended result is an anthology that combines a passion for the arts with speculative fiction. Some book length examples include: Bradbury’s *Fahrenheit 451*, Rand’s *Anthem*, McCaffrey’s *Crystal Singer*, Bear’s *Songs of Earth and Power*, Fforde’s *The Eyre Affair*, Shinn’s *Archangel*, Weiner’s *Getting Near the End*.

“Preference will be given to stories written by Canadians or stories with some sort of connection to Canada ...

1000-6000 words; pays **1-3¢/word, to \$100 Cdn**. “Query first for longer or shorter works please.”

“Include a cover letter that tells a little about yourself, and a bit about the story, perhaps your connection or the story’s connection to the theme. But please don’t give the story away—let me read and enjoy it on its own merits.”

“Looking for original stories. Reprints will be considered for exceptional stories that have been in limited circulation, but preference will be given to original works. Please provide publication history for any reprints.”

“Submissions are accepted via E-mail—RTF, Word, or WordPerfect attached files in standard manuscript format will do. Submissions also can be sent via regular post. Include a #10 envelope SASE or IRC with your disposable manuscript and send stories to [snail mail address above]. [E-mail: mark@markleslie.ca; <http://www.mosaic-press.com/>]. **Deadline: October 2005.** RT—4-8 weeks.

Gila Queen 134, July 2005

MOVIE REVIEW

The Island: Not Just Eye Candy
by Greg Slade

Thanks to my membership in BCSFA, and to some unknown publicist who thought to send a batch of movie passes to BCSFA, I was able, for once, to see a new science fiction movie **before** everybody else had seen it. The movie was *The Island*, the newest big-budget flick from DreamWorks. Now, generally speaking, I tend to like DreamWorks flicks. In fact, a surprising number of my current favourites have come out under that label. And, generally speaking, this one doesn’t disappoint.

The setup is this: Lincoln Six Echo has a pretty good life, for somebody who has escaped a global disaster. Although most of the planet is covered with a contagion which kills all life forms, he has been rescued and brought to a high-tech centre, decontaminated, and now he’s got a pretty easy life: he has his own room, his laundry is done for him, he works out, has a beautiful girlfriend and an easy job adding vitamins to nutrient lines, and after work, he indulges in some virtual sports, or hangs out with his friends at the night club, drinking bottled water and vegetable juice. And, like everybody else, he has a chance in the nightly lottery to be sent to “The Island”, a paradisiacal place the contagion has not reached, and where a select few are beginning to repopulate the planet. Aside from the occasional nightmares, you could say that he’s got nothing to

complain about. But still, he wants "more", even though he doesn't know exactly what form "more" might take. Then, one day, Lincoln discovers a bug in the system. He learns that he and all his friends are, in fact, simply being used for "spare parts" for their "sponsors." The institute tells their clients that the "agnates" are kept in a vegetative state, in part, to keep from losing business from customers who wouldn't like the thought of having living, thinking beings carved up to provide them with replacement organs, and in part, because there are laws against that sort of thing. So if Lincoln goes back into the complex, he could panic the "product", but if he gets out, he could end up shutting down the whole enterprise. Therefore, from the moment that the head of the project discovers that Lincoln has figured things out, he's a marked man, and the action is pretty nearly non-stop.

I need to stop at this point, and register my standard complaint against science fiction films: they almost *never* get the science right. Presumably, the assumption is that most of the general public doesn't know any better, so there's no point in letting a few inconvenient facts get in the way of the story. However, since the presumed point of this flick (assuming that it actually *has* a point, rather than merely serving as an excuse to dish up said non-stop action) is to serve as a cautionary tale against the possible abuses of the cloning technology which has been such a hot ethical topic ever since the unveiling of the infamous "Dolly the Sheep", it seems to me that it would only be reasonable to expect the film makers to get the basics right. The process which is portrayed in the film is *not*, in fact, cloning, nor anything remotely like it. The fact that a similar sort of process has already been portrayed in another recent big-budget action flick (*The Sixth Day*) – and was also misnamed as "cloning" in that picture – doesn't change the fact that, by getting the science wrong, *The Island* is likely to cloud the very social issue which it is supposedly addressing.

Beside that issue, the other logical and continuity flaws tend to pale into insignificance. Yes, there are lines of dialogue which are going to prompt at least some viewers to say, "Wait a minute! A while ago, you said..." And the chase scenes do occasionally go beyond any possible suspension of disbelief. (A friend of a friend observed, after one particularly improbable escape, "Okay, they're cartoon characters, and therefore indestructible"; and he settled back to watching the movie at with a significantly lower expectation of logic.)

I found this sort of "MTV" style of editing – with quick, impressionistic cuts during the more intense action scenes – quite annoying. I like to know what's actually happening, while the director seemed to want to give the audience more sense of mayhem (stylistic, perhaps, but still mayhem), almost as it might appear to the person caught in the middle of it. No doubt those who

go to films primarily to get a series of thrills would not find that style annoying, but I do.

I was rather surprised at the way God kept being brought up. I counted four times in the dialogue in which God was brought up by different characters, and even if two of those times invoked laughter in the audience, I found it very curious that God would be mentioned at all in the midst of the post-Christian atmosphere which seems to be prevalent in Hollywood. (Even more interestingly, the difference between what the institute tells its clients, and what it is actually doing, might be taken as an allusion to clinics which make a practice of telling women contemplating abortion that the fetus is an undifferentiated mass of cells. Seeing a film out of Hollywood which is "pro-life", even by implication, is downright revolutionary these days.)

All told, I'd recommend this film. Even though the bad science grates on me, the fact is that it's generally well-made. The acting is very good, with some brilliant performances, even by secondary characters. The effects are everything you would expect from a big-budget film. (Even when you realize that something is being shredded just for the sake of thrills, rather than because it actually makes any sense, it looks pretty cool, and I didn't notice any CGI artifacts or matte lines -- at least not the first time through.) The film is littered with visual *hommages*, and inevitably, people will tend to describe it in terms of other films, such as *Logan's Run* or *The Sixth Day*, or even Lois McMaster Bujold's *Mirror Dance*; but I think it is strong enough to stand on its own. It may not be a classic, but it's certainly an improvement over some of the big-budget flicks which have been inflicted upon science fiction fans in the past few years, with lots of flashy effects, but no real point.

MEDIA FILE

by "Cosmic" Ray Seredin

Although I haven't seen the film yet, the locally-produced *Fantastic Four* sucks. If you don't believe me, check the Internet. As a person who watched the original animated series in the 1970s and the remakes in the late 1970s and mid-1990s, I'm rather disappointed that the *Fantastic Four* live-action film is that bad. Hopefully *X-Men 3* and *Spider-Man 3* will be a lot better.

I'm skipping most of the Hollywood news this month and saving it for next month, since most of the information will be forgotten by next month when most of the new TV series will be hitting the air, and when our old favourites will be returning.

A bit of news I would like to say is that no announcement on a new *Star Trek* project will be made until at least January.

The breaking news of the London bombing on the *Doctor Who* website, Outpost Gallifrey, was a hundred times more interesting than the stuff that was coming up on CNN, and the other news networks. Unfortunately the Americans do not understand gallows humour, and a number of times that day the moderator was asking the English members to stop using it. Since roughly two-thirds of their membership is British he was shouted down but there's a disclaimer warning more sensitive members of the group who may be offended by that type of humour.

As for the series itself, it looks like they will not be going outside Britain for season two. Most of the foreign networks, AKA the CBC, signed up to become partners when the writing of series two was almost completed, and none of the stories had any foreign outdoor shooting called for. However since they know they got a number of good international partners for season three, they're not ruling out at least one or two episodes being shot outside Britain. Besides Canada, a number of European countries have signed up to co-fund the new series, including Germany, Hungary, and Sweden. So far no American stations or cable outlets have said anything about picking up *Doctor Who*. Many fans feel this would change once they go past the second season and that by the end of next year *Doctor Who* will be on one American outlet.

One problem with *Doctor Who* in the States: it's considered, at least by the BBC, to be a family show. However, to the American TV executive, it's not a family show. They got the companion in a halter top, and robots with boobs. That's definitely not a family show to the Christian conservatives who say what is a family show in the United States. Also the fact that Captain Jack is bisexual is also playing a big part in it: "Oh, the last thing you want is your kid growing up liking both boys and girls." So until the conservative movement dies down in the States, which I never think it will, it's going to be hard for shows like *Doctor Who* to find a place in the no-bare-butts-even-in-cartoons American market.

Good news: no *Touched by an Angel* on Space this summer. However, this could be changing in the fall as Space will be losing one of its *Star Trek* series, likely *Voyager*. Since *Enterprise* only has 80 episodes, they will likely air *Enterprise* on the weekends; thus there will be a time-slot open on weekdays and knowing the shortage of less-than-ten-year-old science fiction programs (anything older than that Space does not think it will ever make money on) it's likely that Space could pick up *Touched by an Angel* as a fantasy series, although most people at FRED feel that would be a mistake that would cost Space quite a few viewers.

That's it for now. Be seeing you in September's zine where we'll have all the news on the new series as well as the return of some of our favourites. Until then, be seeing you.

UNCLASSIFIEDS

BCSFAzine
is on sale at
WHITE DWARF BOOKS
4368 W. 10th Avenue
tel. 604-228-8223 for hours

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Garth Spencer offers
science fiction, esoterica, fantasy,
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Call 604-325-7314
Or email garthspencer@shaw.ca

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Contact Chris Sturges, either by
email or by phone (604) 762-0059.

METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP
is open to new members.
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

COME TO FRED!
every Friday at 7 p.m. at Denny's
Restaurant on Davie Street at Thurlow
* also * see "Fannish Activity on the
North Shore"
at the Eighties Restaurant, 110 East
14th Street [North Vancouver]

**THE RICHMOND
WRITERS GROUP**
meets every second and fourth Tuesday
of the month, 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., at
the Richmond Arts Centre, 7700
Minoru Gate. E-mail or phone Bill
Marles at bmarles53@yahoo.com or
(604) 277-6775, or go to
<http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead..... title logo
Tara Wayne..... cover
Clip art..... 2, 13, 16
Felicity Walker..... 11, 12

Why You Got This:

- You are a member. You are a non-member.
 You misplaced Felicity's "why you got this" list.
 You filched the additional news for this issue.
 A suffusion of yellow. Lie down on the floor and keep
calm.