

# BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#394

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The Basic English issue

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Our email list: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_scifi\\_assc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/)

## **BCSFA's events this month**

- Feeding Frenzy:** Sat. Mar. 11, 7 p.m. at the Red Onion, at 2028 W. 41st Avenue, in Vancouver.
- BCSFAzine deadline:** Fri. Mar. 17 at FRED
- BCSFA meeting/party:** Sat. Mar. 18, 7 p.m., at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions.
- Kaffeeklatsch:** Sat. Mar. 25, 7 p.m. at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. BRING IDEAS. Be original.
- BCSFAzine production:** Fri. Mar. 31, early distribution at FRED

## Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....masthead  
 Joe Devoy.....cover  
 Felicity Walker.....pp. 11, 13, 14, 25, 32, 34, 35

## Errata

Last issue was #393, not #390 as numbered on the front cover.

The reference in the news section was to VCon 31, not VCon 30 as titled.

The text within the speech balloon, in Felicity Walker's illustration on page 27 of last issue, was written by Joe Devoy.

I was wrong about the BCSFA members' directory: I did not have space to run lists of advertisers, clubs, conventions and fanzines.

## Thinking as a Hobby

Just to play a game with you, the titles in this issue are random phrases taken from poetry. Can you name the poems?

\*

Maybe you would like to do something different for fun. I call it "thinking as a hobby." Try asking yourself an original question. For example, why are there no anarchist countries? Or what would happen if someone actually captured a sasquatch one day; would it be granted Canadian citizenship? Can you generate your own energy? If you build your own car, is it legal to drive it?

There are two challenges about thinking as a hobby. One is just thinking straight. Most of us really don't learn how one thing actually follows from another, and what does not. The most unbelievable things in science fiction shows have to do with energy limitations, or the strength of materials, or what kinds of impacts and performance people can take. The most unbelievable things in fantasy seem to involve what limiting factors seem to be necessary for "supernatural" phenomena. You can see how cartoons and movies could mislead children about these limits. But even grown adults don't seem to realize these things.

Another challenge is to do research. I lent my brother a copy of *Foucault's Pendulum*. He doesn't enjoy it as much as *The Da Vinci Code*; he says

2

reading *Foucault's Pendulum* is like work, it's even like homework. Personally I like learning something, and looking up facts, but that's just me.

Is clear thinking and research a bit too much to expect?

\*

BCSFA members were going to try out a new pub on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. I didn't see anyone there, so I checked out the old meeting place as well. Other members and I kept missing each other by a few minutes. I carried BCSFA mail, and the new BCSFA members' directory to hand out to members. My back was killing me.

After I started editing *BCSFazine*, I asked members what they were interested in. Most people did not answer. I started running feature articles on different fannish and science fiction topics. Most of you did not respond.

Failures to communicate are normal, but annoying.

Maybe I should just do the club newsletter I want to do, about the fandom I am interested in. Fannish fandom. Fanzine fandom. Or ask you again what the range of BCSFA's interests are.

## Ignorant Armies Clash

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*Randy Barnhart, 1 - 1565 Heron Road, Ottawa, ON, K1V 9V1,  
[randy\\_barnhart@hotmail.com](mailto:randy_barnhart@hotmail.com), 06 February 2006*

Re: *BCSFazine* 391

Hey der Garth. I could make a lot of excuses about missing the last couple of issues, but it would be wrong. Besides, I'll wager you've heard them all by this point. All I ask is forgiveness. By the way, very snazzy font! I do not share the love of fonts that many people have, but I like this: clean, cool and slick.

*((The font is called Garamond. I like it too.))*

So anyway, winter here in Ottawa is turning into something of a joke. At this time of year, the city is usually full of tourists indulging in Winterlude, the usual Canadian-type ski-skate-snow fest local shopkeepers depend on to get them through the fallow time between Christmas and Spring. Instead, rather than regular -30° temp. and five feet of snow, the snow and ice is melting at an alarming rate and the Rideau Canal is now closed to ice skaters. The weirdly warm weather, combined with the recent Federal election results, has many here convinced the Rapture is looming. That's OK by me, though; just means smaller movie line-ups.

*((Out here, a windstorm flooded Delta, a couple of days before your email arrived. I expected this to happen, but not before a great big earthquake.))*

“Star Trek discontinuities”? Well, sure and [that's] a key reason why *Enterprise* just didn't pull in the fans the way other ST did. Still, I have to say that if the writing, characterizations and acting were even marginally better, many fans (including me) might have simply accepted the huge, bloody, gaping holes in continuity as some sort of “alternate universe” thingy. I mean, I've done the same for worse...

Fandom on the Left Coast sounds depressing these days and getting worse by the minute.

*((Do not take everything I write as plain fact. I try to make my opinions obvious, but sometimes they aren't obvious. They really are just my opinions.))*

I'm not there, so I won't pontificate, but I will say there seems to be two threads in human organizations: first, the organization won't work unless everyone gets together no matter what; and two, people won't join (or stay) with in an organization unless it meets every one of their needs. Please understand: this is not an attempt to convince folks one way or another about setting up news orgs, freshening up old orgs or whatever; just a request that people be clear on the possible outcomes. After all, there is the Law of Unintended Results.

Garth, you might want to consider looking into Seasonally Affected Depression (or is it Disorder?). No joke. After six years in Prince Rupert,

I can't stand long stretches of dark winters anymore and I start to feel depressed if I don't see the sun at least once a week. Is this something you've already looked into, Garth?

*((I am taking antidepressants again, and just terminated a job that I couldn't really do. I feel better now.))*

Your point about “*media SF series show no imagination*” is of course bang on, whether others agree or not. No one – NO ONE – is using media SF to challenge the central assumptions of our society. Really: Ask the naysayers to point to one media SF series that does more than make us feel nice and comfortable with living in this best of all possible worlds. We're just riding along, smiling and happy and contented while the networks and the filmmakers grind out ever more soporific rubbish. Orwell's body must be picking up RPMs even as you read this. Oh well.

*((Has anyone identified our basic assumptions? Does anyone do research on what makes up a culture? Right now we tend to assume things like People Should Have Equal Rights, People Should Have Homes and Jobs, Public Servants and Corporate Executives Have To Be Disciplined, Intelligence Agencies Are Sinister, Every Community Needs A Government, Governments Offer Public Utility Services, and so on. All of these beliefs developed pretty recently, and not everyone believes these things today. Not everyone knows the history, or the outside world, or even local fringe politics.))*

*((I haven't even asked what assumptions work, in practice. In the last thirty-odd years, the assumption that working people have rights from corporations has taken a beating, worldwide. There is evidence that the U.S. democratic election process has been compromised. The evidence has been published online. We could ask “what if” and “if this goes on” questions, and generate some science fiction about this.))*

Your comment to Ray Seredin regarding “taking turns” is well said, but unfortunately the use of demonstrations to point out bad behaviour often do not work. As some may know, it drives me crazy when other fans, who just happen to be standing around, feel free to leap into private

conversations. This happened to me once too often at an Eeriecon, so the next time I saw the offender head to head with someone, I just slid over and joined in. Did the offender learn his lesson? No, but he did let it be known he considered me the rudest person on the face of the earth! Offensive people often do not see their behaviour as offensive, but they're always ready to point out the problems other exhibit.

Well, I again broke my own rules and bought the novelization of *V for Vendetta*. I consider the original Alan Moore-David Lloyd graphic novel to be the nadir of the art form, not because it had any unique or new artistic approaches, but because it was the first mainstream comic that broke through the "no politics" rule common in those days. So anyway, I've been waiting with keen interest for the V4V film and was prepared to camp out in front of the local theatre as many did with *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*.

That is, until I read this novelization.

First, let's be frank (don't call me Frank): the novelization is a huge, steaming pile of dung. Reading this poorly written, poorly plotted and just plain poor novel, I grew concerned for the film. Then I read the cover, which informs the reader the film version of V4V is "An Uncompromising Vision of the Future From the Creators of the Matrix Trilogy." The Wachowski Brothers? OMG, those two guys converted an exciting, interesting concept to rubbish in three easy steps (remember, Neo is Aslan)? Did Moore-Lloyd have anything to do with this film, or is it just another case of DC selling the rights without clearing it with the creative talent? Oh my.

*((A nadir is a lowest point, as an acme is a highest point, in a classical system of reference. I see that you knew that.*

*((I find that nothing you describe is a surprise to me. I didn't even expect anything different.))*

Not to beat a dead horse, but the book has key scenes missing (too talky, perhaps; Hollywood is convinced folks can't put up with too much chat between explosions), important motivation is gone and the whole thing feels flat. My only hope is that the novelization has nothing to do with the movie. Otherwise...AVENGE ME! (*Red Dawn* quote)

So, moving on to other issues. Your comments regarding LOTR and Narnia being part of an EIBP (Evil Insidious Brainwashing Plot) to restore absolute monarchy are, unfortunately, not new. China Miéville (he

whom I shall read even if it's a revision of the London Telephone Directory) has long been putting the boots to Tolkien and Lewis for saddling modern fantasy with the notion that the best and only really human and humane type of government is the absolute monarchy. Thus, most modern fantasy is chock full of fake evil kings and queens soon to be replaced by the real, and therefore nice kings and queens, and there are some fairies along the way. Apparently the Dark Ages were really cool and fun and stuff. Gah!

*((Barbara Hambly and Tanya Huff have done some interesting, even "scientific" fantasy. Randall Garrett wrote some interesting forensic fantasy. Women writing fantasy, including Joy Chant, seem to have some awareness of tribal and industrial social structures and worldviews, not just feudal ones. Men have written fantasy in non-European worlds. Men like Charles Saunders. We don't hear about Charles Saunders. I wonder why?))*

*Felicity*: Quite right. The "V" miniseries was not foolish; rather, it was brilliant. Just from an aesthetic point of view, it was great: who knew aliens would be into disco? And the props and stage dressing were worse than Original Trek.

BUT! The central theme of the miniseries was exciting. Resistance against tyranny was an issue television rigidly stayed away from in those days, and "V" put it right out front. Some Trotskyist friends of mine even read deep meaning into the fact the miniseries premiered on May 1<sup>st</sup>, or Mayday. I watched every episode with a fierce passion.

Perhaps *Media File* confused the "V" miniseries with the "V" series. The first season of the series was excellent and carried on a lot of the themes developed in the miniseries; but unfortunately the second season quickly devolved into a shoot-'em-up and lost a lot of the original fans. Still, it was great while it lasted.

*((Great what, is what I want to know?))*

My apologies to everyone I missed, but I want to get this into the e-mail soonest. Take care all.

*((Thank you for thinking.))*

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney [penneys@allstream.net](mailto:penneys@allstream.net), 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, February 7, 2006

We all get out of fandom what we want; perhaps you want to see special projects going on while others simply want a social network. Like me, I think, you'd like activities in the more traditional fannish sense. But, we can't make others do what we want to do; we just have to continue to try to find like minds. People need to come up with ideas of what to do, especially if they are tired of the current ideas. Too many people don't know what they want, but they do know they don't want what's provided.

((Long ago I gave up trying to influence people. Now I just try to point out options they may not see. Sometimes people respond.))

Good list of zines. I think Chaz Boston-Baden was working on the third issue of his fanzine when he had that catastrophic computer failure that caused him to lose so much of his own photo archive. That issue was on the same hard drive, and \*poof\*, gone. There is technology to restore the drive, but it is expensive, and Chaz is taking donations to get his photo vault and the on-line Fan Gallery up and running again.

If you are in charge of the FRED, and you want to see a venue change, then make it. Yvonne had problems with the Duke of York pub, and the next month, we were back at the Foxes' Den, and we are very comfortable back there. What a change to have a venue that actually wants us there. I think we'll be at the Den for some time to come.

((Nobody is in charge of FRED. Nobody wants anything to be that definite. That is the problem in local fandom.))

Our convention dance card is a little full this year. After Ad Astra, we will be at Eeriecon, Corflu and Gaylaxicon, but we are not going to Toronto Trek this year. There's just nothing there to interest us any more, especially after a very poor time there. I did have hopes that they might invite Yvonne to come to the convention... after all, she is the founder, and they did have plans to honour their past. Just words, as I suspected.

((Are current Toronto Trek concon members even aware of Yvonne, or of you? This year's Toronto Trek is supposed to be this year's Convention, but how many of the concon know what that means?))

In August comes the Los Angeles Worldcon. How many Vancouver fans are planning to come south for the event?

((Well, guys? Is anybody going? Were you even aware ... well, maybe Fran is.))

Taral is now up to the third issue of *Energumen* on line, and my thanks to him for making this fine fanzine available to all. Mike Glicksohn plans to return to fanzine writing in the summer, when he official retires from teaching. Mike doesn't seem to have much use for on-line zines, so I have to wonder what he thinks of *Energumen* on-line.

((Thank you for responding.))

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*BCSFAZINEzine* Volume 1, Number 42.393, Tuesday 7 February 2006  
*BCSFAZINEzine* is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, [felicity4711@hotmail.com](mailto:felicity4711@hotmail.com).

### **New Fonts**

I like the recycled look of the cover paper, and the new fonts! (One problem, though—Windows' Garamond family doesn't have bold italics, so the bold italics come out ***like this***—unattractively obliques via algorithmic shifting, rather than ***like this***—italics. I recommend using another version of Garamond (such as Apple Garamond or Garamond Classic). Garamond has beautiful italics, so I was surprised you used *BCSFAzine's* previous font, Bookman, for editorial replies in "Epistolarian Art."

### **And Now, As I Sink Slowly into the West**

"Have I said anything to interest you yet?" Yes—"editorial teams." Maybe this is the way to learn how to edit *BCSFAzine*.

### **Epistolarian Art: Greg Slade** – FRED is "those few who still attend."

That includes people who don't like Denny's, but are willing to try other venues. Case in point: last Friday we tried Jesters Tap and Grill, but it was as bad as the Jolly Alderman, so we came back to Denny's. We're going to keep looking. This Thursday, Ryan Hawe is leading a group of us on a reconnaissance mission to another possible venue.

I know what I want from FRED, and I've found it at Denny's. (I wouldn't find it at FANS, or for that matter, BCSFA meetings.) Others have found what they want at FANS. Both events have their advantages, and if people are happy at FANS, it's better that they go there than that they stay at and complain about FRED.

"((*It isn't like anyone else is sticking his neck out.*))" These days, just preferring a quiet venue like Denny's with no distractions from conversation *is* sticking one's neck out.

On Ray: I've come to realise recently that Ray is compelled to watch whatever is on, no matter how boring it is or how much it upsets him, and that this is why he "expects that everything shown on TV must meet with his personal approval." It's not "breathtakingly arrogant"; it's just an addiction.

### **Vanity Fair**

A thank you to Imperial Hobbies for ordering in my copy of *Reinventing Comics* by Scott McCloud – I've wanted to read it for six years, and have only recently had the money and the time. I'm glad I could still get it. McCloud is almost finished work on *Making Comics*, the third book in the series that began with 1993's *Understanding Comics* (thirteen years ago! I feel old). McCloud says, "This time, the subject is comics storytelling." It's expected to come out this year, and I can't wait.

### **The Peaches of Immortality: Energumen Going Online**

I wonder if *efanzines.com* would want scans of my mini-comics. I've been meaning to Photoshop out a few of the flaws in them anyway. (Don't worry – unlike George Lucas, I'll still let you see the original versions.)

### **VCON 31 Update**

The Executive Plaza in Richmond is fine by me, and I'm glad to hear "there will be less running around and...no more need for elevator keys!"

### **Bywords and Hissings**

A new *X-Files* movie sounds fun. It's been a long time since *X-Files* went off the air, and I think it's lain fallow long enough to be good again.

I hope the Tenth Doctor is a nice guy so I can start watching *Doctor Who* again. The Ninth Doctor was such an asshole that I had to stop watching the show to avoid scaring my roommates with my reactions.

I also might like *Torchwood*.

### **Vanitas Vanitatem**

The *Æon Flux* movie's difference in visual style from the animated series is, indeed, unforgivable. I don't even like the series, and have no desire to see the movie, and therefore shouldn't even care, and yet even *I* think it's a travesty – that's got to be "getting it wrong" in *some* kind of way.

### **Art Credits**

The text within the speech balloon in my illustration on page 27 was written by Joe Devoy.

((Thank you for reading.))

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"Michael J. Bertrand" <fruvous@reddra.com>, 10 Feb 2006

Re: "being fundamentally fed up with where you were" – I'm sure I'm not the only fan who recognized this as being from the Douglas Adams novel *Long Dark Teatime of the Soul*. It was how the scientists eventually described the airline ticket counter which went up in a big fireball. They tried various high-falutin' ways to describe the phenomenon, but eventually were forced to say that it appeared that said ticket desk just got fundamentally fed up with being where it was. :)

Re: "bait and switch" – With all due respect, Garth, I can't recall promising you anything. I don't think you really grasp how hurtful it is to others when you complain about the low intellectual level of the local group. I can't help but take that somewhat personally, being one of the latest batch of people to join in. I often feel like you're always looking for something I'd very much like to be able to give you, but that you can't communicate to us clearly. It hurts and saddens me.

((*It is bad form on my part, I know. At least I know it when I'm on antidepressants. If I had to say it I could have said it better: I was presented an image of fandom, nearly thirty years ago, which didn't match reality; and the majority of BCSFans haven't provided the community I was looking for. You personally have more of an active mind that I can communicate with than almost anyone else. I wasn't saying that right.*))

Re: those Cosmic Rays – First, I don't think it's particularly nice of you to denigrate poor Ray in the pages of *BCSFAzine*. He has enough problems.

I think to judge fandom by Ray is hardly fair. Ray does not represent 'the average fan'. He has many burdens which make life difficult for him, and to hold him to the standards of average, everyday people is grossly unfair. But then to judge all of fandom by your misjudgment of him is madness.

*((There I go again. I thought I was being fair and even kind. I have no instinct for gauging people's reactions.*

*((I don't judge fandom by a few members. I judge local fandom by the fact that so very few are fannish, like you. Maybe I have to write an article on "fannish".*

*((Maybe I'm an alien?))*

*We Also Heard From: Greg Slade, Taral Wayne*



## Foamless, Enormous and Growing

*(recycled birthday notes from last year)*

1: **Indira Witherspoon-Li** is what happened when an English-Chinese-Canadian eloped with a nice North Indian lady. She is reported to be working in the print news industry.

12: **Karen Kelly** has some unclear connection with Allan and Katie Kelly. Her secret superpowers are CLASSIFIED UNDER THE OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT.

18: **David George & Leah Burhoe-George**: There is no truth to the rumour I am being paid to deny.

26: **Norma Beauregard's** last whereabouts appear to be a nonexistent address; her phone number and email have been discontinued. Attempts to find her new address through fans, friends and members of public interest research groups have been met with very suggestive discouragements by the Ministry of Attorney-General.

27: **Dan Dubrick** is not known to have any connection to public interest research groups, journalism classes, or computer clubs. There is no evidence that he is under investigation by the Ministry of Attorney-General, much less any other Star Trek fans. Should you or any member of the RSN Home Guard be caught or killed, the D.D. will of course disavow any knowledge of your actions.

30: **Jeanne Robinson** is not actually physically cemented to Spider Robinson, their names just appear together all the time in convention flyers. There is no traceable connection between Mrs. Robinson and public interest research groups.





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Play trivia, watch videos, and generally hang  
out every Friday night from 7:00 p.m. until  
closing at: Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th  
Street, North Vancouver. See

<http://www.eightiesrestaurant.com> for more  
details.



## And Do I Dare

### **March 2006**

March 2: Philosopher's Café at Kwantlen TALK Café, Richmond: "Have we, the voters, the right to expect integrity from our politicians?"

March 3: premiere of *Ultraviolet* in a theatre near you (I nearly spelled that Ultraviolet)

March 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup>: the Vancouver Gaming Guild presents Weathertop 2006 meeting at the Days Inn Surrey, 9850 King George Highway, Surrey. (Right next to the King George SkyTrain station.)

March 3<sup>rd</sup> at "BIFF": "Post-Paying the Rent Laughs" continues with *Short Circuit*, in which Ally Sheedy's character utters the immortal line, "Are all geniuses as stupid as you?" We'll try again to squeeze in the first *Red Dwarf* episode, "The End", to start the night. BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens every Friday from 6:30 p.m. until closing at the Eighties Restaurant ([www.eightiesrestaurant.com](http://www.eightiesrestaurant.com)), 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver. please check the BIFF web site at: <http://www.angelfire.com/scifi2/fans/>

March 6: Philosopher's Café at Vancouver Art Gallery, Downtown Vancouver: "Public Space/Private Lives"



March 6: **Portland Comic Book Show** in Portland, Oregon (reportedly Oregon's largest Comic Book Convention. Held twice a year in Portland, Oregon)

March 8: Philosopher's Café at White Rock Central Library, White Rock: "Is fiction worth reading?"

Friday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at BIFF: we'll take a break from videos for a week (except for a couple of shorts to set the mood) as BIFF celebrates its first-ever gaming night. Several people will be bringing out assorted games with some kind of SF or fantasy connection from their personal collections, and each table will choose a different game to play.

March 10-12: **Trumpeter Salute**, Bonsor Community Complex, Burnaby, BC. Gaming convention. Memberships: \$15, one-day memberships available. For more information, [www.trumpeterclub.com](http://www.trumpeterclub.com).

March 12: Philosopher's Café at Wolf and Hound, Kitsilano: "What creative role does our intention play and how can it work?"

March 13: Philosopher's Café at Spill the Beans Coffee Shoppe, Fort Langley: "What is the right balance between commitment and objectivity?"

March 14: Philosopher's Café at Dogwood Pavilion, Coquitlam: "Does money serve us well?"

March 14<sup>th</sup>: the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Vancouver Centre is holding its monthly meeting at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chesnut Street, Vancouver, 7:30 pm.

March 14: Philosopher's Café at ABC Country Restaurant, Surrey-Newton: "Do computers build community relations and services or detract from them?"

March 15: Philosopher's Café at La Zuppa, North Vancouver: "Economic circles: is economic thinking circular?"

March 15: Philosopher's Café at West Point Grey Community Centre, West Point Grey: "Modernism or postmodernism? (focus on 20<sup>th</sup> century art history)"

March 16: Philosopher's Café at Kwantlen TALK Café, Surrey: "How can drug dealers and pushers be effectively controlled and punished?"

March 17: Philosopher's Café at Unitarian Centre, Oakridge: "Blink or sink: how fast do you think?"

March 17-19: **Anime Oasis V** at the Boise Airport Holiday Inn in Boise, ID. Room reservations \$69/nite via (208) 343-4900; mention Anime Oasis. Memberships: Adult 3-day, \$25 payable to Jeremy Lopett via PayPal.

Friday, March 17<sup>th</sup>: BIFF at The Eighties Restaurant, North Vancouver – "our break from videos continues as we welcome a real, live author guest. Donna McMahon is the author of *Dance of Knives*, which is set in a future where rising sea levels have left "Downtown" an island cut off from the rest of Vancouver, run by criminal gangs, and partly peopled by refugees from the United States. Look forward to a short reading, and conversation with the author."

March 19: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

March 22: Philosopher's Café at West Point Grey Community Centre, West Point Grey: "Beauty or ugliness? (focus on the 'aesthetic')"

March 24-26: **Official Stargate SG-1 & Stargate Atlantis Convention**, Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby, BC. Media SF convention. Guests: Michael Shanks, Joe Flanigan, Cliff Simon, Martin Gero, Gary Jones, James Bamford. Memberships: US funds, see website. For more information, [www.creationent.com](http://www.creationent.com).

Friday, March 24<sup>th</sup>: BIFF at The Eighties Restaurant – "the "Ed Wood Memorial B-Movie Film Festival" continues with *The Ice Pirates*."

March 24-26: **Gamestorm 8** at the Red Lion at the Quay, Vancouver, WA. GoHs: TBA. Reservations: Red Lion at the Quay, 100 Columbia St., Vancouver, WA 98660; tel (360) 694-8341, rooms \$74 single/double. Memberships \$30 at the door. GameStorm, POBox 764, Portland, OR 97207, email [chair@gamestorm.org](mailto:chair@gamestorm.org), or see [www.gamestorm.org](http://www.gamestorm.org).

March 24-26: **Sakura-Con 9** at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, WA. Sakura-Con is the premier Pacific Northwest Anime Convention devoted to East Asian Culture, with a particular focus on Japanese animation (anime), Japanese Comics (manga), and video gaming. Guests TBA. Memberships \$60 at the door. Sakura-Con, 3702 South Fife St., Suite K-2,

PMB 78, Tacoma, WA 98409, tel 877-873-3317, email chair@sakuracon.org, or see [www.sakuracon.org](http://www.sakuracon.org).

March 25: Philosopher's Café at Dunbar Community Centre, Dunbar: "What would the 'end of the automobile' mean for our civilization?"

March 26: Philosopher's Café at La Fontana Café, Burnaby: "Parents, children and sports. What is it all about?"

March 31 – Apr. 2: **Ad Astra 2006** in Toronto, ON. Hotel TBA. Author GoH: Terry Brooks and Peter David. Editor GoH: Del Rey Books with Betsy Mitchell. Memberships \$60 at the door. Ad Astra 2006, POBox 7276, Stn. A, Toronto, ON M5W 1X9, email info@ad-astra.org, or see [www.ad-astra.org](http://www.ad-astra.org).

Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: BIFF at The Eighties Restaurant, North Vancouver – "we inaugurate our "Unfairly Maligned Movies" series with *Judge Dredd* which, like far too many Hollywood projects based on cult properties, strayed so far from the original that it alienated its natural fan base, but was just too far out to catch on with the mundanes. Personally, I've never actually read the comic, and thus wasn't offended by its revisionism, so I thought it was great fun."

March 31: deadline for **Canadian Unity Fan Fund 2006** delegate nominations from Western Canada. Prospective nominees must be Canadian citizens, or permanent residents of Canada; submit a written document outlining their fannish history, and their reason(s) for wishing to be the CUFF delegate. The submission must be dated and contain full contact information; Provide signed nomination letters from six Canadian fans; three fans from Eastern Canada and three from Western Canada; Agree to assume the duties and responsibilities of the position of CUFF Administrator – attend the next CanVention (Toronto Trek 20, in summer 2006), financial administration, fund raising, and CUFF race and election running. Please direct any questions to Brian A. Davis, 45 Charm Court, Fredericton, NB E3B 7J6, Email: [badavis@rogers.com](mailto:badavis@rogers.com). A new official CUFF website is online, and each previous delegate/ administrator will have their own Web page there.

#### April 2006

April 1-2: **4th Annual Emerald City ComicCon** at the Qwest Field Exhibition Center in Seattle, WA. A comics -related convention which drew 6000 in April 2005. Multiple comic artist guests. Hotel is Springhill Suites Seattle by Marriott. Tickets through Ticketmaster, available in 2006. See [www.emeraldcitycomiccon.com](http://www.emeraldcitycomiccon.com).

April 1: **Nishikaze II** (a spring anime festival) at the University of Lethbridge (Anderson Hall), Lethbridge, AB. Guests: TBA. Memberships: \$2 or non-perishable food donation. See <http://www.nishikaze.org/> for more information.

April 9: **Seattle Game Con v2.1**, Seattle Centre, Seattle, WA. Gaming convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see [www.seattlegamecon.com](http://www.seattlegamecon.com).

April 13-16: **Norwescon 29** at the Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel. Writer GoH: Lois McMaster Bujold, Artist GoH: Donato Giancola, TM: Robert J. Sawyer, Featured Publisher: DAW Books with Betsy Wollheim & Sheila Gilbert. Theme: "Journeys, Adventures and Quests of Fantastic Fiction." Rooms: 18740 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188, (206) 246-8600, rooms \$102 quad occupancy. Memberships TBA. Norwescon 29, POBox 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547, (206) 270-7850, email info@norwescon.org, or see [www.norwescon.org](http://www.norwescon.org).

April 14 and 15: **Gamefest Spokane** in Spokane, Washington. See <http://www.gamefestspokane.net/> for more information.

April 30: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

#### May 2006

May 5-7: **Corflu 23** in Toronto, ON. The original fannish fans' convention. Memberships C\$60, US\$50, UK25. Cheques to Colin Hinz at 148 Howland Avenue, Toronto, ON CANADA M5R 3B5. Contacts: Colin Hinz, [asfi@eol.ca](mailto:asfi@eol.ca), (416) 516-8686; Catherine Crockett, [crockett@eol.ca](mailto:crockett@eol.ca), (416) 516-3571.

May 7: **Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo**, Calgary Stampede Grounds, Calgary, AB. Guests & memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.calgaryexpo.com](http://www.calgaryexpo.com).

May 19-21: **Keycon 23**, Radisson Winnipeg Downtown, Winnipeg, MB. SF convention. Guests: Jaqueline Carey, Ruth Thompson, Barron Vangor Toth. Memberships: \$35. For more information, [www.keycon.org](http://www.keycon.org).

May 20: **Olympia Comics Festival in Olympia, WA**. Guests: Jessica Abel, Matt Madden, more TBA. See <http://www.olympiacomicsfestival.org>

May 19-21: **Flatland Fantasy Games Convention**, Hotel TBA, Regina, SK. Memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.reginagamers.com](http://www.reginagamers.com).

May 19-22: **Cangames 2006**, Rideau Curling Club, Ottawa, ON. Gaming convention. Guests: TBA. Memberships: \$25 until April 30, \$30 at the door. For more information, [www.cangames.ca](http://www.cangames.ca).

May 20 & 21: **Otafest 06**, Hotel TBA, Calgary, AB. Anime convention. Guests & memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.otafest.com](http://www.otafest.com).

May 26: **Calgary Comic & Toy Expo**, McMahon Stadium, Calgary, AB. Guests: Pop Mhan, Norm Breyfogle, Ken Steacy, Cary Nord. Admission: \$5. For more information, [www.comicandtoy.com](http://www.comicandtoy.com).

May 26-29: **Miscon 20** at Ruby's Inn & Convention Center in Missoula, MT. Writer GoH: Jerry Oltion, Artist GoH: Frank Wu, Special GoH: Dragon Dronet. Reservations: 4825 N. Reserve St., Missoula, MT 59808, (406) 541-7829. Rooms \$79 single, \$89 double, with complimentary breakfast buffet. For more hotel information see <http://www.miscon.org/Hotel/hotel.html>. Memberships: \$25 to April 31. Miscon, POBox 7721, Missoula, MT 59807, (406) 251-9463, email [chair@miscon.org](mailto:chair@miscon.org), or see [www.miscon.org](http://www.miscon.org).

## June 2006

June 2-4: **ConComCon 13** at the Cascade Mountain Inn in Cle Elum, WA. The Northwest's conrunner's con. Focus for 2006: "sharing of information". The organizers from the North American SF Convention aka Cascadia Con will share stuff. A CD and handouts will be provided. For rooms, write the Cascade Mountain Inn, 906 E. 1st St., Cle Elum, WA 98922, phone (509) 674-2380, or fax (509) 674-7099. C-cubed room rate is \$55-\$75 depending on the room—it would be good to have more room reservations made so that the hotel feels more secure since they are small and not use to professional conferences in this little town. The toll-free number for reservations is 1-888-674-3975. Preregistration: \$25 to May 31, 2006, then \$35, to ConComCon [12?], POBox 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. Contact the Ccubed 13 chairman Bobbie DuFault at [Chairman@cascadiacon.org](mailto:Chairman@cascadiacon.org) or visit the Ccubed Website at [www.swoc.org/ccubed/](http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/).

June 4: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

## July 2006

July 1-4: **Westercon 59/Conzilla** at the San Diego Marriott Mission Valley in San Diego, CA. GoH: Walter Jon Williams, Artist GoH: Bob Eggleton, FanGoH: Bobbi Armbruster, TM: Kevin J Anderson. Reservations: 8757 Rio San Diego Dr., San Diego, CA 92108, (619) 692-3800, rooms \$139 quad occupancy. Memberships: \$70 to June 15, \$80 at the door. Conzilla, POBox 845, Ramona, CA 92065, email [info@conzilla.info](mailto:info@conzilla.info), or see [www.conzilla.info](http://www.conzilla.info).

July 7-9: **TT20/Convention 26** at the DoubleTree International Plaza Hotel, Toronto, Ont. Guests include: Amber Benson, played Tara on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*; Michael Shanks, plays Dr. Daniel Jackson on *Stargate SG-1* (Sunday Only). MC Larry Stewart. New additions: LEXA DOIG (*Andromeda*, *Stargate SG1* and *The 4400*) and RICHARD HATCH (*Battlestar Galactica* both versions). TT20 once again hosts the Prix Aurora Awards for contributions to Canadian SF and fandom. Rooms are at the DoubleTree International Plaza Hotel: 655 Dixon Road, Toronto, Ont. You can now call the DoubleTree International Plaza to book your hotel room at: (416) 244-1711 or 800-222-8733. Don't forget to mention you are booking for Toronto Trek to get the convention rate of \$129. OR you can book online and use the conference code of TNO. Visit our web page at <http://www.tcon.ca> for links and information. Rates are only guaranteed until June 5, 2006 and while rooms are still available in our room block. Pre-Registration Fee: Adult full weekend, \$60; deadline is May 26, 2006. Notes: All prices are subject to change. Enclose a cheque or money order payable to: Toronto Trek OR if you wish to pay by credit card: (You will be billed in CDN dollars) and send to: TT20 P.O. Box 7097, Station A Toronto, ON M5W 1X7 Contact: Information Line: (416) 410-TCON (8266) E-MAIL: [tt-info@tcon.ca](mailto:tt-info@tcon.ca); WEB: <http://www.tcon.ca>.

July 8 & 9: **Animethon 13**, Grant MacEwan College, Edmonton, AB. Anime convention. Memberships: Various levels, see website. For more information, [www.animethon.org](http://www.animethon.org).

July 31 – August 6: **Timeless Destinations** at Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. Guests include a honkin' long list of *Battlestar Galactica*, *Earth Final Conflict*, *Stargate SG-1*, *The Collector*, *Smallville*, *Poltergeist*, *Farscape*, *Lexx*, *Xena*, *Andromeda* actors. This grew out of the Gatecon that used to be held in Vancouver. The website ([www.timelessdestinations.com](http://www.timelessdestinations.com)) bears links for dealers' registration, and for hotel reservations, but I found no registration page, and no postal address anywhere; I note that the dates span a week, and the registration fee is quoted as \$250 "for a full convention ticket" (*sid*), including a T-shirt. (This con was pointed out to me by Felicity Walker on Jan. 17, 2006.)

## August 2006

Aug. 11-13: **Con-Version 22** in Calgary, AB (Hotel & rates TBA). GoHs: David Weber, Larry Niven. Canadian GoH: R. Scott Bakker. FanGoH: John Hertz. Memberships C\$40 to April 1. Write to Calgary SF & Fantasy Society, P.O. Box 20098, Calgary Place RPO, Calgary, AB T2P 4J2; more information at [www.con-version.org](http://www.con-version.org).

Aug. 18-20: **Anime Evolution**, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. Anime convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, see [www.animeevolution.com](http://www.animeevolution.com).

Aug 23-27: **Worldcon 64/LACon IV** at the Hilton Anaheim, Anaheim Marriott and Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. Writer GoH: Connie Willis, Artist GoH: James Gurney, FanGoH: Howard Devore, Special Guest: Frankie Thomas. Reservations: (Hilton) 714-750-4321, (Marriott) 714-750-8000, rooms \$99 single/double. Memberships \$175 to July 1. LACon IV, c/o S.C.I.F.I. Inc., POBox 8442, Van Nuys, CA 91409; email [info@laconiv.org](mailto:info@laconiv.org), or see [www.laconiv.com](http://www.laconiv.com).

August 25-27: **Penny Arcade Expo (PAX)** at Meydenbauer Convention Center, Bellevue, Washington. See: <http://www.pennyarcadeexpo.com>

August 27: **Comix & Stories** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

## September 2006

Sept. 10: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

Sept. 22-24: **Foolscap VIII** at the Bellevue Sheraton in Bellevue, WA. GoH: C.J. Cherryh. A flat-paper-stuff convention, featuring artshow, dealers' room, programming, a banquet at \$26 a head. Room rates TBA, about \$85/nite; contact Bellevue Sheraton, 100 112th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004-5817; tel (425) 455-3330; fax (425) 451-2473. Memberships: \$45 to April 1st, \$50 to September 21, \$60 at the door to Foolscap, c/o Little Cat Z, POBox 2461,

Seattle, WA 98111-2461, or via PayPal to [treasurer@foolscapcon.org](mailto:treasurer@foolscapcon.org); URL [www.foolscapcon.org](http://www.foolscapcon.org).

Sept. 22-24: **Rimcon Victoria**, "First Annual Science Fiction Convention". Guests: TBA. To be held at the Holiday Inn, 3020 Blanshard Street, Victoria, BC, tel. (250) 382-4400. Discussion panels, Guest autographing sessions, Dealers Hall and Art Show and much more. MEMBERSHIP RATES: Adult Child (Must be accompanied by an adult); until Dec. 31/05, \$20.00 \$12.00; Jan 06 to May 06 \$25.00 \$15.00; Jun 06 to Sep 06 \$30.00 \$18.00; At Door – three days \$35.00 \$20.00; At Door – Day Passes \$20.00 \$12.00; Children 5 years and under are free when accompanied by an Adult. "Supporting Membership" (?) \$ 9.00 (upgradeable to Attending at the rate at the time of upgrade); "Friend of RimCon" \$50.00. (Payment by Money Order payable to RimCon Victoria. All funds listed in Canadian dollars). For more information: go on-line at: [www.rimconvictoria.org](http://www.rimconvictoria.org), or inquire by mail to: Registration, RimCon Victoria, PO Box 32108, Victoria, BC V8P 4H0.

## October 2006

Oct. 6-8: **VCon 31** at the Executive Airport Plaza Hotel, Richmond, B.C. GoHs: Writer GoH Barbara Hambly; ArtGoH, Lynne Taylor Fahnestalk; FanGoH: Randy McCharles. Chair: Clint Budd. Dealers' Liaison: Greg Slade. Adult memberships: until April 15, \$40; until Sept. 15, \$50; at the door, \$60. Child in Tow rates TBA; Tot in Tow, free. Daily Memberships: Friday only, \$30; Saturday, \$35; Sunday, \$25. Registrar: Howard Cherniack, #302- 1330 Graveley Street, Vancouver, BC V5L 3A2, tel. (604) 255-0796, email [cherns@compuserve.com](mailto:cherns@compuserve.com).

Oct. 22: **Model, Toy and Collectables Show** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

## November 2006

Nov. 2-5: **World Fantasy Con 2006** at the Renaissance Hotel at the Arboretum, Austin, TX. GoHs: Glen Cook and Dave Duncan, TM: Bradley Denton, Editor GoH: Glenn Lord, Artist GoHs: John Jude Palencar, Gary Gianni. Reservations: 9721 Arboretum Blvd., Austin, TX 78759, (512) 343-2626. Memberships TBA?? World Fantasy, c/o FACT Inc., POBox 27277, Austin, TX 78755, email [wfcinfo@fact.org](mailto:wfcinfo@fact.org), or see [www.fact.org/wfc2006/](http://www.fact.org/wfc2006/)



Nov. 5: **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Dealer Tables: \$45/wall; \$35/centre. Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: free. For more information, email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com), call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

Nov. 17-19: **Orycon 28** at the Portland Marriott Waterfront, Portland, Oregon. Guests of Honor: Editor: [Ellen Datlow](#) ; Writer: [Cory Doctorow](#) Registration rates are: \$35 July 15; \$45 to Oct. 31; \$55 thereafter and at the door. Children age 6-12 are half price. Children 5 and under are free. Children must be accompanied by an adult with a membership. To transfer a membership, send a signed letter to the convention PO box (below) with the new member's name and address. [Registration Form](#) (for download in MS Word format). Mail registration to: Orycon 28 PO Box 5464 Portland, OR 97228-5464, USA. URL: [www.orycon.org](http://www.orycon.org)

## To Be a Fan

Garth Spencer

What does "fannish" mean? Or what do you want to see in these pages?

Fans of every sport and entertainment use the word to describe things connected to their own fandom. Science fiction fans used it about science fiction fandom. But science fiction fans also used "fannish" to mean a kind of fandom, a kind of attitude, or a period fandom went through.

Fannish fandom followed a "sercon" period. There was a time when most fans got all serious and constructive about science fiction, and wrote literary studies, and wore ties to conventions.

Then, there was a reaction. There was a time when many fans took very little seriously. Their fanzines and conventions and costumes and filksongs all showed it. They invented fannish games like "ghoodminton". They conducted hoaxes, like the famous hoax of the nonexistent fan, Carl Brandon. Walt Willis wrote *The Enchanted Duplicator*, which is like "Pilgrim's Progress," except that it follows "Jophan's" progress through fanzine fandom. Another

fan wrote *Cacher in the Rye*, a fannish parody of *Catcher in the Rye*. Some fans made so many filk parodies of Broadway songs, they made a whole musical, "The Mimeo Man".

Fannish fans were a lot like the other students I met at university. They were smart, they learned things, they made jokes with them, and they could make art with words and images. I saw some of this attitude at a student newspaper. I saw more of it when I discovered fanzines. I liked it a lot. It was like Monty Python, or like Michael Bertrand's radio skits.

Fannish fandom was also a period in fandom, and it was followed by media fandom. Soon there were a lot more media fans than fannish fans. When new fans in the 1970s heard "fannish," or "fanzine," or "convention," they redefined it. When I discovered fanzines, in 1980, they were fannish fanzines. They were hobby publications, produced by amateurs, without advertising or (usually) any fiction. It took me a while to find out that fannish fanzines were outnumbered by other fanzines. Star Trek fanzines were produced by amateurs, but their idea was to collect their fanfiction, and offer it for sale. When I heard of Star Trek conventions, they seemed to be shows that Trekkers paid for and watched, not gatherings where they made their own fun together. Other media conventions, and comics conventions, seem much the same.

Maybe I was being pretentious. The best fanzine editors aspired to the condition of art. Even when they were limited to mimeographs and spirit duplicators, some faneditors combined art and text and typography and layout at a level I can't equal. The few times I could get to a fanzine fans' convention, I was not on the same wavelength. I didn't have quite the education, or the background.

And maybe I was expecting a lot. I got the idea that reading science fiction (there I go, "reading", what a giveaway) and writing about it was like taking reality apart and putting it back together again, creatively. Television and film SF didn't

seem all that creative. I got the idea that fans were educated, imaginative, creative with words, pushed their limits, learned new things ... they were *active*. More and more as I got involved with BCSFA, the less and less ... *fannish* it was, except for Michael Bertrand and Ryan Hawe and their friends. Maybe it was because I got my first impressions from a collection of fanzines. That was a concentration of fannishness.

Now, Trekkers are outnumbered by Buffy and Firefly and anime and gaming fans. Things keep changing. There is no "mainstream" fandom. Perhaps there is no "mainstream" mundane culture, either. Every time I start a *BCSFazine* ... hell; every day ... I start out thinking of "fandom" as "fannish fandom," and have to correct it, and keep making the same mistake over again.

So I'm out of step with BCSFA. I have asked members what they are mainly interested in. I didn't get much response.

What do you want to see in these pages?



## Did Those Feet In Ancient Time

### FRED POLL

Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand conducted an online poll in February to canvass people's opinions of FRED today, and of FRED being held at its current venue (the Denny's restaurant on Davie Street at Thurlow). We present his results:

POLL QUESTION: What stopped you from going to FRED?

### CHOICES AND RESULTS

- I don't like the food at that Denny's, 1 votes, 4.35%
- I don't like Denny's at all, period, 3 votes, 13.04%
- I didn't like person(s) attending, 2 votes, 8.70%
- I just don't have the time/scheduling conflict, 4 votes, 17.39%
- I don't have the energy to go any more, 2 votes, 8.70%
- I just wasn't having fun any more, 5 votes, 21.74%
- A reason not listed here, 2 votes, 8.70%
- There's nothing wrong with FRED, 4 votes, 17.39%

M. Bertrand, Feb. 18, 2006

### AUTRES TEMPS, AUTRES NOMS

FANS, the North Vancouver fan gathering, has been renamed BIFF, the "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship." This gathering happens every Friday from 6:30 p.m. until closing at the Eighties Restaurant ([www.eightiesrestaurant.com](http://www.eightiesrestaurant.com)), 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver. As Greg Slade invites us, "To keep in touch with any changes, please check the BIFF web site at:

<http://www.angelfire.com/scifi2/fans/>

"On Friday, 17 noble souls were stirred, yea moved, inspired, even, by the rousing adventures of a mediaeval English village (apparently having roughly the same population as BIFF) which inadvertently conquers a planet in *The High Crusade*, which is based on Poul Anderson's 1960 novel, freely adapted to suit the available budget for special effects, which was apparently about \$49.95. (In defence of the original flick, the frequently vulgar and occasionally nonsensical dialogue spoken by the aliens seems

to have been added during the process of transferring the film to DVD, in a somewhat lame attempt to crank up the laughs. In the version I saw, the alien language was incomprehensible, and it was funnier, in my opinion, because the humour of the alien characters depended on visual gags, like the repeated application of booster cables to the alien leader.)”

Upcoming BIFF events are listed in our calendar section.

Greg Slade, Feb. 5, 2006

### *MUSEUM OF THE IMAGINATION*

#### \* Call for Exhibits \*

This year, VCON would like to host the beginnings of the "BC Museum of the Imagination", showing exhibits related to science fiction, fantasy, gaming, space exploration, etc. in British Columbia. Exhibits might include items like props or costumes from shows filmed in BC, memorabilia from past fannish events, model spaceships, meteorites, telescopes, or just about anything. (The only limit is our imagination, which, well, has no limit...)

The theory is that fans in this province have probably got all kinds of really cool stuff stashed away, but little or no chance to show it off. Maybe you've worked on a production shot in BC, and you have a prop or costume. Maybe you have something which has been in space. Maybe you have an autographed photo of a Grand Master. Maybe you have an Apple I sitting in your attic. Maybe you have the original typescript for the screenplay of \*H.G. Wells' the Shape of Things to Come\* in a lead-lined box. Maybe you have a working "Pong" console from those prehistoric days of the very first video games. Whatever it is, if it's fannish, and it's interesting, we'd like to give you a chance to show it off.

#### Notes:

1. The display will be hosted in the Dealers' Room, and while there will be "Do Not Touch" signs and a volunteer by the display while the Dealers' Room is open, we cannot, at this point, offer the security of a locked display case, so you probably do not want to loan us items which are particularly fragile or have high intrinsic value. (Unless you have a lockable display case which you can also loan us, in which case, great! In fact, if you have a lockable display case which you can loan to the cause,

we'd like to talk to you, even if you don't have a suitable exhibit to go into it.)

2. The items in the museum exhibit will not be offered for sale. If you have some art which you want to sell, you might consider putting it into the Art Show.

3. Please let me know in advance of the con if you are planning to loan us an exhibit. Also, please give me the details to go onto a display card to go with your exhibit to explain it. I need a name for the exhibit, its source, a date related to its acquisition, your name, and a brief note explaining its significance. For example:

Exhibit: IBM Selectric Typewriter Source: Benndorf-Verster, Vancouver Date of Acquisition: 1983 On Loan From: Robert C. Asilein Note: This is the typewriter on which I wrote my Aurora, Hugo, Nebula, and Nobel Prize-winning book, "Gee! Isn't Space Really Cool?"

or:

On Loan From: Dudley Do-Right Note: This is a piece of Kosmos 954 which fell on my RCMP post in Sasquatch Pass. Notice that it still glows in the dark.

4. Exhibits should be brought to the Dealers' Room between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm on Friday, October 6th (before the Dealers' Room opens), and picked up between 4:00 and 7:00 o'clock on Sunday, October 8th (after the Dealers' Room closes, and before the Closing Ceremonies.)

5. At this point, WCSFA is not in a position to accept permanent donations, because we do not have proper storage facilities. All we are looking for is a three day loan. However, if this "Museum of the Imagination" idea takes off, we may some day be able to arrange for proper storage and display of appropriate items.

Greg "Grga" Slade VCON 31 Dealer Liaison, Feb. 11, 2006

### *AURORA AWARDS 2006*

From Dennis Mullin's Aurora Awards Web site:

“When the Canadian SF and Fantasy Association was started up in 1980 there was only one award given out. Since 1991 awards have been presented in 10 categories. There are 6 professional awards (3 English



and 3 French), 3 fan awards, and the artistic achievement award (open to both pros & fans).

“The Aurora awards are closest to the style of the Hugo awards (which are presented by the SF Worldcon) in the method by which they are selected. First there is a nomination phase to select a short list. Then a voting phase to pick the winner from the short list using the Australian voting method (this method has the voter rank their choices in each category).

“Each year a different convention or group has hosted the awards. The awards are financed by voting fees, by donations and by the host convention. There is no permanent funding.

“The host convention for 2006 is **Toronto Trek 20** (<http://tt20.tcon.ca>) to be held July 7 to July 9, in Toronto, Ontario at the Doubletree International Plaza Hotel (655 Dixon Road, Toronto, ON). More information to come. Susan Lehman will be coordinating Aurora activities on Toronto Trek's behalf.”

Dennis Mullin, ca. Feb. 2006

#### *SOME 2005 AURORA AWARDS ELIGIBLE WORKS*

Some potential Aurora nominees appearing in *Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine*:

##### Best Short-Form Work in English

*Neo-opsis* Issue 5

- "INSER" David M. Kelly
- "A Travelling Companion" Linda DeMeulemeester
- "The Wind and the Sky" Suzanne Church
- "A Song for Morning" Hayden Trenholm

*Neo-opsis* Issue 6

- "The World of One-Ways" Scott Mackay
- "All the Tea in China" Yvonne Pronovost

*Neo-opsis* Issue 7

- "The Mask and the Maze" K. Bannerman

##### Best Work in SF Other

- *Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine* (Editor Karl Johanson issues 5, 6 & 7.)

##### Artistic Achievement

- Stephanie Ann Johanson (Art Editor *Neo-opsis*. Cover *Neo-opsis* # 6, Illustrations *Neo-opsis* # 5, 6 & 7. Art displays at Westercon & VCON.)
- Karl Johanson (Cover *Neo-opsis* Issue 7. Illustrations *Neo-opsis* issue 5, 6 & 7)
- Karen Lightbody (Illustrations and cartoons, *Neo-opsis* Issues 5, 6 & 7.)
- Dan O'Driscoll (Cover *Neo-opsis* issue 6)

##### Fan Achievement (Other)

- John W. Herbert (Reviews *Neo-opsis* issues 5, 6 & 7)
- Robert Runté (Reviews *Neo-opsis* issues 5, 6 & 7)
- Paula Johanson (Review *Neo-opsis* Issue 7)

Karl Johanson, Feb. 5, 2006

((Karl also tells me he nominated BCSFAzine for the Aurora Award. –GS))

#### *BCSFA EXECUTIVE CHANGES*

Doug Finnerty will be resigning as BCSFA Vice President by the end of April 2006. He writes:

“Well, I have put this off long enough. Please be advised that I will be resigning my position of BCSFA Vice President as of the April 2006 BCSFA meeting. In the unlikely event that that there is no April BCSFA meeting, my resignation will take effect as of 23:59 HRS Sunday April 30 2006.

“While the club itself is doing well, my efforts at attaining my life's goals could be doing much better. And unfortunately, something has to give. Fortunately, I am leaving the BCSFA executive on a high note not a low one. Having given enough notice of my departure, I am quite sure that finding a suitable replacement should be no problem.

“At the moment, there are two items that have taken first priority.

- 1) Finishing *Fictons* 8 once and for all

2) Updating and finishing my records on the three boxes and one garbage bag full of stuph that Jim Johnson donated to BCSFA back in 1999. Since then, what I'm calling the "Jim Johnson Archives" have acquired a "Garth Spencer Annex" and a "Dave Hale Redoubt". One reason why Vancouver could use some kind of fannish museum of its own.

"I liked Greg Slade's suggestion of some kind of fannish gallery at VCon. But since much of the stuph in my custody [is] zines, perhaps one way of displaying them would be to photograph them onto slides, and run them through a slide projector set on automatic."

Doug Finnerty, Feb. 5, 2005

## Speaking of Michelangelo

This month in fannish history:

April 2 – 2001: *A Space Odyssey* premiered in the United States on this date in 1968.

April 6 – Isaac Asimov died on this date in 1992.

April 12 – Yuri Gagarin became the first man in space on this date in 1961; and the space shuttle *Columbia*, with Jon Young and Robert Crippen on board, flew into space for the first time on this date in 1981.

April 13 – *Apollo 13*, with crew members James Lovell, Fred Haise, John Schweigert, suffered an accident in space which blew up the oxygen tank on this date in 1970.

April 24 – Vladimir Komarov was killed when the parachute lines of the *Soyuz 1* in which he was riding got fouled during landing on this date in 1967; and *Dong Fang Hong 1*, the first Chinese satellite, was launched on this date in 1970.

Greg Slade, Feb. 11, 2006



Where the Ice Worms Poke Their Purple Heads through the Frozen Crust of the Snow

*Media File*  
March 2006

By Ray Seredin

First, I would like to apologize for what I said in January 2006's "Media File". I'm not against World Vision. In fact, I'll likely be partying with some of their personnel from their world headquarters outside Seattle while I'm at Norwescon 29 this coming April. Greg Slade is right: there is no "tax write-off." A broadcast of a World Vision special is just like another infomercial (but, from what I hear, World Vision gets a lower rate for the air-time they use). I should be placing the blame on Space: The Imagination Station for always pre-empting series (from the 1970s, the pre-*Next Gen* 1980s or the pre-*SG-1/X-Files* 1990s) that I happen to like with the specials. However, it's just me and not the rest of the world. (Thank the Omnipotent Being that I'm now working and can afford DVDs.)

As for the Killer B Movie Festival that Space: TIS broadcast on both Christmas and Boxing Day in the late 1990s: this event was under-written by the now-defunct Canadian Airlines in 1997 and 1998, but after the company got purchased by Air Canada just five weeks before the 1999 Festival, it withdrew its funding. The station came very close to cancelling it. However, it pulled together enough advertisers to keep it going. The only thing was that when Canadian Airlines was underwriting it the (often

very funny) commercials to promote the event hit the air a month before Christmas. As I recall, I didn't see an ad 'til about a week before the event, and it was quite lame. The ratings of the 1999 Festival were only about 2/5 of the one they had in 1998, so the station pulled the plug on it.

The public's lack of interest in B-movies is not happening in Canada alone. The American Sci-Fi Channel pulled the plug on its Christmas Day Killer B Movie Festival after 2000, due to falling ratings. Turner Classic Movies stopped showing B-movies in its regular Sunday night time-slot last June, with both Space and the Sci-Fi Channel following suit in December, all due to poor ratings.

In local media happenings:

The second *X-Files* movie's starting date has been moved back to the end of April.

Production on season 10 of *Stargate SG1* and season 3 of its sister series *Stargate: Atlantis* are under way at the Bridge Studios in Burnaby.

Xena is coming back to town as the former Warrior Princess Lucy Lawless returns to *Battlestar Galactica* as her critical reporter character D'anna Biers in a ten episode arc that will start production at the Vancouver Film Studio in April. (Sorry; since the first episode that features Lucy has not aired up here yet, I'm not willing to spoil it.)

There's also the rumour that J. Michael Straczynski is heading the production team of the *Lost* spin-off series. (Please don't ask me how they will do that, but I have some ideas.)

Down in Hollywood, there's the breaking story that Ana-Lucia Cortez is about to buy the farm on *Lost*. It didn't help that the actress Michelle Rodriguez, who plays the character, likes to drive around Hawaii doing her Gordon Campbell\* impersonation. Besides, the character is also starting to nullify the nose section's social structure. However, please have her killed off in a way that fits her character, maybe in a battle with "Them." As an ex-LA police officer, she could become a little too bold. Or she could sacrifice herself in order to save the life of Sayid (she accidentally killed his love interest Shannon, when she first arrived at that end of the Island), making her death that of a classic flawed hero. There's also the rumour that J. Michael Straczynski is heading the production team of the *Lost* spin-off series. (Please don't ask me how they will do that, but I have some ideas.)

The other Hollywood story is that Matt Groening's *Futurama* may or may not return to FOX this coming fall with 18 all-new episodes. The thing is that FOX is also trying to keep *America's Most Wanted* creator John Walsh's series on drinking and driving victims called *American Tragedies* on the air. *American Tragedies* is made by FOX studios, but airs on the WB network. However, with the WB merging with the UPN network to form the CW network this coming September, there's a good chance that the series will be replaced by WWE wrestling. So as a public service (and to keep Mister Walsh from jumping ship to CNN), the Fox network may pick-up *American Tragedies* for its 7:00 p.m. Sunday time slot. So 'til we know the fate of *American Tragedies*, we won't know the fate of the new *Futurama* series on FOX. However, both Matt Groening and David X. Cohen said that if FOX passes on the new series, the episodes will be released as four direct-to-DVD movies, with the first hitting the stores just before Christmas.

OK, there's tons of *Doctor Who* news that I will not go into 'til the second series comes to the CBC as part of its Summer Festival. The only Doctor rumour that I will just touch a little on is that there could be plans for a multiple Doctor episode or story arc in the upcoming third season, with likely the Fourth Doctor (Tom Baker) returning to the role. (If you have nothing to do for a few days, just e-mail me and I'll answer why the Fourth Doctor looks 72 years old.)

That's all for now. Be seeing you in April.

\*The Premier of BC, who was charged with driving while intoxicated in Hawaii in 2003.



## Struts and Frets His Hour upon the Stage

Movie Review: *Underworld: Evolution*

By Ryan Hawe

I sometimes joke that I'm an absurdly easy-to-please cinéaste, and certainly looked like such would be this case with this film. I greatly enjoyed the first *Underworld*, an entertaining *Matrix*-lite popcorn film about a vampire assassin named Selene (played with aloof calm by Kate Beckinsale) who gradually learns how to love as she finds herself drawn to a med student who unbeknownst to all save a few, carried the seed of the "Mother Virus" which led to the covert feud between the vampire covens and the Lycans (werewolves). When this student, Michael (Scott Speedman) is bitten by a Lycan warlord, our heroine is by the end of the first film obliged to save him by turning him – and as he was already in the midst of changing into a werewolf when she puts the bite on him, the result is a new order of being.



All rather entertaining, so the notion of a sequel that picked up the plot threads of the first, and had more medieval flashbacks (Vampire Knights!), more "What do you get if...." takes on vampire-werewolf hybridization (White Wolf Storytellers across North America get massive headaches at this point), and more of Kate Beckinsale in a battle corset (very biteable), well, what could possibly be missing?

"A point" seemed to be the answer.

Not that I noticed this while the film was running, I must admit. And there was just enough backstory brought in to make this film feel (at least in its first half) like there was indeed some connection to a larger story. It turned out that back in medieval times, there was a Hungarian warlord named Alexander Corvinus. He contracted a plague, but it didn't kill him. Rather, it mutated in him, and made him immortal. He passed the "Mother Virus" to his sons. One son, Marcus, was bitten by a bat, the other William, by a wolf. (So you could call this film *The Truth About Bats and Dogs*.) Anyway, at the end of the first film, Marcus had accidentally received an infusion of Lycan blood from a dying scientist, which turns him into this gargoylish grey-skinned bat-winged hybrid creature. He promises to make a new race of hybrids like him at some point, but first he's going to find his lost brother, whom the other vampire elders locked away for all time.

After that, well, it's pretty much a rollercoaster ride. Selene and Michael try to race the sun and get away from Marcus! Selene fights some Lycans! Michael gets shot up by some highway police! Marcus purées the new regime of his former coven! Vampire Knights fight Lycans with swords, axes and torches in the Dark Ages, while Bill Nighy overacts around a dental prosthesis! Derek Jacobi is utterly wasted in this movie! Michael takes off his shirt to wrestle the First Werewolf! Commandos get ripped to shreds! Selene gets to wade through a flooded castle while firing a shotgun at Marcus! And the Great last battle takes place on a rickety wooden walkway in front of a downed helicopter, the rotors of which are still going after its crash. So you just *know* somebody's going to get tossed into that.

That's not to say the movie was entirely action and nothing but. I do have to say (and this may speak more to my sensibilities) I was far more interested in a scene where Selene makes a wounded Michael drink from her bleeding wrist than I was in a more traditional (if more visible) sex scene that occurs some 20 minutes later. On the other hand, I found myself laughing at what was intended to be a poignant scene at the film's end. I shouldn't spoil, but as I can't recommend this film as a theatrical showing, I don't feel too bad about saying that I nearly shouted out "She gets to be a real girl!"

Overall? The film did its work, in that I was entertained while it was running (if sometimes for the wrong reasons). The signs of Sequel Degradation Syndrome are all there, however, and they did not need to

be. There are still things to be said in the storyline, and I don't agree that vampires are a tired lot. I think a great deal of the problem lies with the director of both movies, Len Wiseman. He and Kate Beckinsale fell in love during the making of the first *Underworld*, and were married between films. As touching a story as that may be, it seems that he rushed the production of the sequel in order that he might tell the world: "My wife is really hot!"

While I do agree, even a vamp-fu *Matrix*-lite actioner about femme vamps with guns needs some thicker blood in it, if one wants to stay full. This film needed some more – dare I say it? – intelligent design.

## These Chartered Streets

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**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](mailto:ktran@vcn.bc.ca)

**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](mailto:bmarles53@yahoo.com) or (604) 277-6775, or go to <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>

### **Why You Got This:**

- \_\_\_ You are a member.
- \_\_\_ You just get it.
- \_\_\_ You took a jump to the right.
- \_\_\_ You sent Garth some fonts.
- \_\_\_ You are a zine shaman.
- \_\_\_ It was a condition of the last will and testament of the great dragon Dunkelzahn.
- \_\_\_ You have a false memory of getting this, implanted by Department H.
- \_\_\_ You're a veteran of the Psychic Wars.
- \_\_\_ You are a non-member.
- \_\_\_ You took a step to the left.
- \_\_\_ You did the timewarp again.
- \_\_\_ Did I err?
- \_\_\_ Splunge.