

B C S F A Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#401

\$3.00

September 2006



No. 7: Anime Voyagers Meet the Enormous Space Cat

In this Special VCon Issue:

A Panorama of Local Fandom * A Miscellany of Pro and Fan News

* A Really Creative Layout, Looking Suspiciously Like a Fandom Guide *

Secret Superhero Identities of Birthday Members

* The Problem with *Red Dwarf* *

Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

BCSFAzine © October 2006, Volume 34, #10, Issue #401 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization.

Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer (the Editor), at garthspencer@shaw.ca or Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6B 5B1. BCSFAzine solicits electronic submissions, and black and white line illustrations in JPG or GIF format, and offers contributor's copies.

Please send membership money to the Treasurer at 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6. These prices include subscription to BCSFAzine. Make cheques and money orders payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association). (NOTE: The West Coast Science Fiction Association is a separate, officially registered society. In effect, BCSFA is a committee of WCSFA.)

Memberships/Subscriptions

e-mail (PDF or TXT format)	C\$15.00/US\$13.65 per year
new members	C\$26.00/US\$23.50 per year
renewals	C\$25.00/US\$22.50 per year
New Family members*	C\$32.00/US\$29.00 per year

*(including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings)

BCSFAzine is printed most excellently by the good people at Copies Plus, at 1950 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, tel. 604-731-7868.

BCSFAzine is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each.

Table of Contents

EDITORIAL.....	1
LETTERS OF COMMENT	1
SCIENCE and Its Counterfeits	3
WRITERS' NEWS.....	5
Awards.....	5
Meanwhile, Back in This City	7
Short Story Contests.....	8
New Market.....	8
New Releases	9
FANDOM: News and Background.....	10
Anime	10
BCSFA	10
Birthdays	11
Calendar.....	11
Clubs.....	13
Comics.....	13
Conventions.....	14
Fan Funds	17
Fanhistory.....	18
Fanwriting	21
Fanzines.....	23
Film Releases	24
History	25
OUR ADVERTISERS	27
Media.....	27
RenFaire	28
Even Yet More Websites	29
MEDIA FILE	30

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead	Masthead
David "Murdock" Malinski, à la Eldred	Cover
Richard Bartrop	p. 5
Tara Wayne.....	p. 6 (photo), p. 21 (original art)
Clip art	pp. 23, 26, 28

WHY YOU GOT THIS

- You are a member. — You are a non-member.
- You registered for Vcon. This is what you need to know.
- You are an advertiser. — You trade with us.
- In Surrealist Russia, you would be sent to *BCSFazine!*
- You are a contributor. — I want you to contribute.
- Mars sent you this *BCSFazine* so you would stop looking at Mars with your naked eye.
- A secret society of mullets wanted to pepper you with surrealism.

EDITORIAL

Some of you are new to Vcon; some of you are new to science fiction fan activities entirely; and when it recently came time to produce the 400th issue of *BCSFazine* – which had to be a special commemorative issue – I ran out of time to prepare some special features (like the BCSFA fanhistory). For all these reasons, this is a somewhat jazzed-up issue of *BCSFazine*, offering our visitors a guide to our fandom.

This isn't quite a guidebook to local fandom, and the short article on our fanhistory doesn't go into a lot of detail. It will be embarrassingly obvious that I have pretty uneven information on the different fandoms in the Lower Mainland. I know far more about fanzine fandom than more contemporary, popular activities, filk or costuming or comics in particular.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

Tara Wayne, Sept. 7, 2006

I've a suggestion for the next issue that may not make sense to most people, but what the hey...

Call it the *Special My Way or the Highway* Issue. The 401, of course, is **the** major highway back east, and is said to be the busiest in the world, stretching from Montreal to Niagara Falls and passing through Toronto.

Banana Wings has just mailed out the issue with my *Red Dwarf* article, and cover. That makes it fair game for you. Due to the length you might want to break it up into four, five, or even more parts. It fills 7 A4 pages, double columned and small type. The illo is up for grabs too, to kick the series off. Of course, it'll have to be mentioned that the piece was published first in *Banana Wings* 27, ed. Mark Plummer & Claire Brialey, August 06. ...

Issue 500 will be along any day now, right? A mere eight years. Better start planning now. And might I suggest an *editorial board*, to make sure issue 500 is a special issue among special issues?

((From this response, I take it that issue 400 wasn't all that special. I agree. It makes a reasonable sort of genzine, though, which is about as much as you can expect, given the time constraints.

((It would be great if BCSFA members could get organized enough and motivated enough to follow your suggestion, and make a more substantial, better-planned and better-composed 500th issue. Maybe they can become such a group, in the next eight years; but in some ways we're still rebuilding. And in any case, fanzine fandom is not the foremost fandom around.))

Tara Wayne, Sept. 9, 2006

Well... I'm glad you said it rather than me. But the issue did surprise me for being more or less like a regular issue, only large.

Perhaps one approach that would work is pick stuff of lasting merit from old issue? That's what I *did*, with #400, if you notice. I could have spent more time picking best-of contributions from the last eight years, I admit ... like about two or three more months. I was not going to delay the issue, like the infamous #200.

Another possibility is [to] canvass material from non-members (people who contribute to other zines would be a good place to start). But this all supposes Garth Spencer is still around and his tenure as Longest-Lasting-Editor-of-*BCSFazine* in history hasn't been forgotten in eight years. And again, supposing you can motivate yourself even if you are still at the helm.

((Actually I think Steve Forty or Graeme Cameron or John Wong were around quite as long.

((I'll have to pass on your suggestions to other BCSFAns. Maybe in the letter column? Hey, great idea!))

Sheryl Birkhead, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, USA, Sept. 7, 2006

Another Worldcon has moved into the record books. I don't know what went on there yet – spent one short time at the LACon site looking for a link to current information, as the convention unfolded – but never found it. Either it was not there, or I just did not know how to look in the right places. I keep hoping that one year there will be an online viewing of the masquerade and the Hugo ceremonies. The last few years' sites that had daily updates and photos from the con were relatively easy to locate – but not so

this year ... at least not for me. I have absolutely no idea if anything of interest/import (other than the usual suspects) happened in LA, and it is always fun to see what the conglom sends out to those of us who had a supporting membership. Unfortunately, it can take quite a few months for the membership packet to arrive ... we shall see.

I think Denver won the site selection, but I'm not certain.

((BCSFA Treasurer and BCSFAzine correspondent Kathleen Moore-Freeman attended, and brought back several kinds of paper stufh. Hugo results, some photos of the award winners, and the Worldcon listings for upcoming years appear in various parts of this issue.

((I'm surprised that you couldn't find current information on the website, seeing that so many people organize so many enterprises for a Worldcon.))

Last night's TV show *20/20* was about the top threats to the world – or something along that line since I only surfed through. I noted that one of the fears was robot (or AI) takeover. Sounded like a panel topic at a con.

((I notice that people prefer to contemplate the spectacular and dramatic, rather than the realistic threats, like our electing cryptofascist regimes in Canada or in the States.))

Congrats on the Aurora award – I have never asked before, but are they handled in a fashion similar to the Hugos? Meaning, do members fill out a list of nominations to create a shortlist for each category, and then vote on the final selection? If that is the case, did you mean that clubzines do not appear as a distinct category, or that they just don't appear? (If that's the case, then do the nominators need to be filling in their titles to get to the shortlist?) It seems that there is a nomination listing, and the winners are gleaned directly from that, rather than a shortlist ever being generated, yes?

((Yes, there's a nomination phase and then a voting phase for the Auroras. There is a Fanzine Aurora category, but newsletters and clubzines, for some reason, have been excluded from nomination for it. This would mean a lot more if the awards, or fanzines themselves, had a higher profile.))

(Re Pluto:) With the re-evaluation of the solar system, I wonder how long it is going to take for the changes to trickle down to textbooks? Sigh – I'll hang onto the nine-planet set-up for at least a bit longer.

(Re SMOFCon:) Wow, how fandom has become formalized – scholarship to attend a SMOFCon!!

((The deadline for scholarship applications was extended to September 30th. I guess that SMOFCon and the scholarship offer also need higher profiles within fandom. Or the several fandoms, if we acknowledge reality.))

(Re fan funds:) Ah, I need to put a little aside to pay for the Langford TAFF report. I am willing to bet that I will manage to forget where to send the money. Man, am I ever unobservant – took me months to realize *Ansible* was no longer showing up in the mailbox. I think (ha!) I have now signed up for the electronic version, but I did so too recently even to have an issue show up yet. I can hope (that if I do manage to forget) that Dave [Langford] will put in blurbs advertising the report. If so, all I have to do is stuff the money in an envelope and ship it off!

((You should find both TAFF information and the Ansible contact information listed in this issue.))

Trying to follow the convoluted ramblings in the LoC are ... in trying to ascribe sex, perhaps the easiest and most specific (well, in theory, if not technology) would be to do a chromosome check. Just a thought.

((Like the reference to Auroras, the reference to gender issues is something I might have made clearer. A few local fans, including Felicity, are looking to change their gender affiliation.))

Lloyd Penney [penneys@allstream.net] 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, September 21, 2006

First of all, congratulations to all on 400 issues of *BCSFAzine*. It's a testimony to the longevity of the club, the support of its members, and the stamina of its editors. Let's see if I can have something in the 401st issue...

The *Atlantis* is back on the ground, and the current visit to the ISS is a total success, even with a glitch here and there, and some unidentified flying specks around the ship. The Great Canadian Handshake took place, with Steve MacLean handing cargo from the shuttle with a Canadarm 2 to the ISS with its Canadarm. Yvonne and I will be attending the 2006 Canadian Space Summit at Carleton University in Ottawa November 17 to 19.

David Tennant is quickly passing both Jon Pertwee and Tom Baker as my favourite Doctor. Billie Piper is still at his side as his companion Rose and to use an old car company slogan "She's not your father's companion," with her boyfriend Mickey joining her in the TARDIS for a few adventures.

The evildoers they run into this season run from the old (the Cybermen, Lady Cassandra, and you just have to wait and see who the other classic monster(s) will be), to the new (the Beast, Krillitanes, Oods and even a werewolf). Two episodes, "The Girl in the Fireplace" and "Doomsday," even made this crusty old green-blooded Earth-bound Vulcan cry. That's a lot to say for the new series' writers.

To add fuel to the fact that *Doctor Who* is the best science-fantasy television series ever, two episodes from season one have won the Hugo for in the category of Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form (Note: Best Dramatic Presentation Long Form went to *Serenity*, so the noise you hear in the background is a huge party being held by every browncoat in Greater Vancouver) at this year's WorldCon in Anaheim. The two episodes that won were "The Faceless Child" and "The Doctor Dances," which I felt set a new standard for the series' storytelling, and since Norwescon29, I couldn't stop gloating that it was going to win in its category.

Mark my word here fellow science-fantasy fans, I now feel that one (or once again two) episode(s) of season two may walk away with next year's (which is really this year's) Hugo in the same category. (Note: If anyone reading this article works on the set of either *Battlestar Galactica* or *StarGate Atlantis*, don't worry, I'm rooting for you too.)

OK, as you already know, Billie Piper is leaving *Doctor Who* at the end of season two. I'm not telling you how she leaves the Doctor, only that it is in one of the episodes that made me cry. (Note: Anyone who wants to get the information out of me at VCON 31, by getting me really, really drunk, runs the risk of being in a real life *Roadrunner* cartoon starring you and me, and I don't want to do that again.) However, I can tell you about her replacement. Her name is Martha Jones, played by 27-year-old actor Freema Agyeman. Martha is a medical student from present-day Earth and as with Rose comes with a family, a mother (Francine), a father (Clive), a brother (Leo) and a sister (Tish). (Note: Freema Agyeman will play the first full-time black companion of the Doctor. Though this is not news, it would have been if it happened 30 years ago.) Martha will not be in the Christmas episode, so unless you are on-line and know where to find the season three episodes as they come out late next spring, you'll be likely seeing her first adventure in the TARDIS about this time in 2007.

Before I hand things over to Felicity for the rest of this month's Media File, I must mention that I was likely the first Whovian in North America to see the DVD of the 1970 classic *Doctor Who* story "Inferno." If you are a fan of the Jon Pertwee Doctor, UNIT or just of the classic series in general, this DVD is a must have. This is the only story where the good Doctor can't save the Earth. However, it's not his Earth, but an Earth in a parallel universe, where (just like in the classic *Trek* episode "Mirror, Mirror") everyone he knows is a completely different person. The audio commentary, the two documentaries and option of the information script that pops up while you watch the DVD, add a whole new dimension to the story that many fans think is one of best of the whole series. This story made me into a Whovian, and if you like the new series and have never seen a classic *Doctor Who* story, this is the one you should get (Note: If you can't find it, get any Tom Baker story), because it will get you hooked.

'Til next time, be seeing you around.

> <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8uwuLxrv8jY>

>

(forwarded to bc_scifi_assoc@yahoo.com, September 2, 2006)

Keith Lim responded:

The fake movie trailer transforming a movie into a different genre via selective editing is a favourite of mine. If you like the above one, here are some more on YouTube that I have found:

Ennis Del Mar didn't have faith in anything. Until he lost everything. Then a good shepherd took him into his flock.

Mount Brokeback

http://youtube.com/watch?v=Hw_2jsE-ywA

An unbridled passion, an innocence lost. An independent film "coming out" soon.

the fast and the curious

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=KSVniGAD9cY>

A writer looking for inspiration. A kid looking for a dad. Sometimes, what we need the most is just around the corner. A heartwarming family film.

Shining

http://youtube.com/watch?v=sfout_rgPSA

Jeffrey Beaumont had the perfect life, the perfect car, the perfect girl. Jeff was ready to pop the big question. What he didn't count on was her dad. A madcap screwball comedy.

Something Blue

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=Qf-Gn0bXPCc>

In the resort community of Amity Island, Chief Brody and Matt Hooper didn't always fit in...until the day they took a fateful trip and met a special friend. This summer, prepare for the family adventure of a lifetime.

Must Love Jaws

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=coAoZqQNhmE>

At Pharaoh High, Ramses was the biggest playa around. But when the new kid in school realized hanging with the in crowd wasn't so easy, he took a stand. A comedy 3000 years in the making.

10 Things I Hate About Commandments

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=qPOD6FMXvLg>

(Keith Lim, September 4, 2006)

MEDIA FILE

The 10th Doctor Is In

If you are reading this on *BCSFAzine* distribution day, you have ten days before you get to see the new season of *Doctor Who* on CBC television, and if you are reading this at VCON 31 you have between one and three days. (Note: Please do the math yourself if you get this in the mail.) It's on Mondays at 8:00 p.m. (though it's unlikely that any episodes will air either on Christmas or on New Year's, which both fall on Mondays).

Being a true die-hard Whovian, I've already seen all the season two episodes via the Internet. I can only say one thing about them: Wow. If you thought that season one left the old series in the dust, season two passes it like a jet fighter passing a covered wagon.

When VCon serves as Convention again in 2007, I hope you will have a Convention programming track. I think too many Canadian cons simply think that the Convention is just the Auroras and the business meeting. There has to be programming that reflect Canadian SF in all its facets.

(If I can get the attention of anyone on the VCon 32 committee, I would like to point out that some past Conventions treated the Auroras and CSFFA business meeting as an afterthought, and that doesn't work. One Convention even double-booked their Canadian pro panellists for the award ceremony and the costume judging, so they ended up shuttling back and forth ... Sort of reminds you of how costume bacchanals got tacked onto conventions as an afterthought, if you recall.)

Ah, mention of *The Princess Bride*. I found out at the Worldcon that there is still an active *Princess Bride* fan base, and someone has written a book about the movie, the making of it, and all newsbits of interest connected to it. And the group INSITE, for fans of the movie *Somewhere in Time* (a group Yvonne belonged to more than 10 years ago), is still active. We found them at the Worldcon, too.

Good to see there's so many chapters of the Royal Astronomical Society in the Vancouver area. We belong to the Toronto chapter, and meetings should be starting up soon at Convocation Hall at the University of Toronto.

My greetings go out to a name from my past, anyway...WCSAAL, William Christopher Seth Affleck-Asch-Lowe, the original Big Name Fan. It's been a very long time, and it's times like this that I realize my time in fandom is coming up on 30 years.

(He's one of the several score former members whose whereabouts are currently unknown.)

I have never liked beer. Didn't like the taste of it, never got into it. But, when I moved to British Columbia from Ontario in 1977, I discovered what I did like, and that was cider. BC Cider, in 6s, 12s and 24s in stubbies, sold just like beer, and your choice of medium or dry. I preferred the medium, myself. I have never been much of a drinker, so a six would do me an entire summer, especially on a hot day, of which Victoria had few. It also had a percentage more alcohol than most beers did then, so I was careful with it, and it was an occasional weekend treat. I've read that cider now has flavourings from other fruits...I could object that that much the same way some coffee drinkers object to flavourings in the coffee. They want just plain coffee, and I would want just plain cider.

In the fan fund department...the JETS fund is now one of three special funds on the go. Another fund will, with luck take LA fan and Nipponophile John Hertz to the Japanese Worldcon, and another will bring well-known British fanzine fan Harry Bell to the Corflu in Texas next year.

In Andrew Murdoch's article on the fight against Fandom, Inc., he mentions Mike Lowrey on the UK. I think he might mean Orange Mike Lowrey of California, or perhaps another Mike in UK fandom.

(How many Mike Loureys are there? Unlikely as it sounds, I googled my own name and found several other Garth Spencers listed online, ranging from a deceased philanthropist to a physicist to a Republican party organizer in the northeast US.)

My loc...I was in error when I said that the people who staged The Pirate Festival here were the same folks who wanted to revive a Renaissance Faire here. They are not. However, I heard good things about The Pirate Festival, and the new faire project is still on the go, just like Christina and Martin's planned faire in the lower mainland.

As I write, it's just a couple of weeks away from VCon 31. There's nothing I'd like more than to return. You were great hosts to us for VCon 25, and to Yvonne as the impromptu Science GoH at VCon 29. Enjoy VCon 31, folks, and I'd like to read several con reports.

SCIENCE and Its Counterfeits

CANADIANS IN SPACE

The July-August 2006 edition of *Apogee*, the Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on-line newsletter, is now available. *Apogee* can be accessed directly through the CSA Web site at:

<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/default.asp> or through our list server at:

<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/subscribe.asp>

Apogee is published by the CSA to provide information on the Canadian Space Program achievements and to foster the exchange of information within the space science and technology communities and among all the Canadian Space Program stakeholders. Our goal is to serve and inspire Canadians by showcasing excellence in the space sector.

<<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/about.asp>>
<<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/editions.asp>>

“Canadian astronaut Steve MacLean flies into space again”: Canadian Space Agency astronaut Steve MacLean will embark on his second space voyage during mission STS-115 on Space Shuttle Atlantis destined for the International Space Station and scheduled for launch August 27, 2006. More...
<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/2006/08_sts-115.asp>

Return to Flight 2: Mission STS-121 successfully completed Canadian Space Agency contributes to new Space Odyssey exhibition; Carbon bath for a baby solar system Space Awareness and Events of Interest . Space Shuttle *Discovery* with its seven-member crew visited the International Space Station July 4 to 17, 2006. Canada played a critical role by providing an extended inspection boom and a 3-D laser camera which were used to examine the outer surfaces and tiles of the space shuttle. More...
<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/2006/08_sts-121.asp>

To learn about space history from a Canadian point of view, space fans, aficionados and novices alike will be attending the new space exhibition Space Odyssey: The Canadian Adventure. The exhibit runs June 2006 till February 2007 at the historical museum La Pulperie in Chicoutimi, Quebec. More...
<http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/2006/08_odyssey.asp>

Great quantities of carbon gas around a distant star named Beta Pictoris were recently discovered by scientists using NASA's Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) to which Canada contributed sensor instruments. More... <http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/2006/08_solarsystem.asp>

More... <http://www.space.gc.ca/asc/eng/apogee/2006/08_events.asp>

Greg Slade, August 14, 2006

ONLINE ASTRONOMY HOAX

As Alyx Shaw observed about August 25th, someone passed around a gag on the Internet claiming that Mars was going to look like a second moon in the night sky on August 27th. This didn't work out as described.

As R. Graeme Cameron pointed out:

Alas, this is an Internet hoax. In August of 2003 Mars did make its closest approach in 60,000 years, coming within 35 million miles of Earth and appearing 6 times bigger & 85 times brighter than 'average', outshining everything except Venus & the Moon, but even so to the naked eye it was just a slightly reddish bright dot in the sky, not at all visible as anything other than a point of light unless you trained a telescope on it.

Quick question, how do you tell with the naked eye which points of light in the night sky are planets?

Answer, stars are so far away their visible area is just a point of light such that the slightest movement of air in the atmosphere causes them to 'twinkle'. Whereas the closest planets (as seen in even low power telescopes) have a visible disc shape and so override transient air movement to some extent, thus appearing to shine steadily.

Interestingly, the original hoax said Mars would appear as big as the full moon IF YOU LOOKED AT IT THRU A 75 POWER TELESCOPE, but that last bit has been lost in the retelling over the years (the hoax has been around a long time, just the dates keep changing). If Mars ever did appear that big to us with the naked eye it would be so close its gravity would be changing our orbit and creating enormous chaotic tides. End of the world and all that. Even seeing Mars "as big as the full moon" with a 75 power magnification telescope is pure fantasy. Mars doesn't even look that big to the Hubble Space Telescope!

R. Graeme Cameron, August 26, 2006

Science Websites to Look Up:

British Columbia Rocketry Association, www.bcrc.ca
Canadian Museum of Flight, www.canadianflight.org
Fort Langley National Historic Site, www.pc.gc.ca/lhn-nhs/bc/langley/index_e.asp
Granville Island Model Ships Museum, www.modelshipsmuseum.ca
Granville Island Model Trains Museum, www.modeltrainsmuseum.ca
H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, www.hrmacmillanspacecentre.com
Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, www.pcis.com/rascvan/
Science World, www.scienceworld.bc.ca
Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre, www.vanaqua.org
Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association, www.veva.bc.ca

“Since I have arrived here in BC I have wanted a local 'Renfest'. These give unique performers and artisans an opportunity to build a community in order to eventually provide seasonal employment for those who truly deserve and need it. I have not given up on that. It has been a slower than expected development but we are now advancing quickly.

“We have reached the point of needing to educate the interested masses as well as bring on board producer minded and Command/Admin group individuals and be ready for the 'BIG ONE'. In August we had a meet and greet and it worked out very well for introducing people to the project and discovering previously undiscovered talents. In November we plan on having another.

“We're hoping to, once more, get the opportunity to talk to people who fit the descriptions of performers, possible vendors, administration, etc. and so forth.

“If you would like an idea of what we are aiming to accomplish please see the mainpage at:

<http://www.bcrenfest.com>

“If you would like to be added to the 'interested in the next meet and greet' list please send an email to: meet@bcrenfest.com And/Or join the newsletter at: newsletter@bcrenfest.com

Christina Carr, August 29, 2006

BC Renaissance Festival / newsletter@bcrenfest.com / BCRF@shaw.ca / <http://www.bcrenfest.com>
BC Renfest ... BCRF@yahoogroups.ca; BCRF-subscribe ... <http://ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/BCRF/>

Even Yet More Websites

Canadian Fancyclopedia (an initiative of our man R. Graeme Cameron):
<http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html>

Canadian Speculative Fiction Forum, www.pippin.ca/cgi-bin/YaBB/SF/

Commander's Log (imagine if a Starfleet tug solved all problems with laundry technology?),
modena.intergate.ca/personal/epic/cl

Fancouver (where hot nerds meet cool nerdettes), scifi.meetup.com/278/

Fandom.ca (an initiative of local fan Andrew Murdoch), www.fandom.ca

Made in Canada: The Homepage for Canadian Science Fiction (an initiative of Don Bassie in Ontario)
www.geocities.com/canadian_sf/

Royal Swiss Navy (some inexpensive therapy for Garth Spencer), now at www.vcn.bc.ca/rsn (NOTE the URL change!). There is also an RSN discussion group at royalsswissnavy@yahoogroups.com .

SF Northwest Resources (a resource set up by Jack Beslanwitch in Seattle), www.sfnorthwest.org

Spacecast Community (for Space: The Imagination Station), community.spacecast.com/cgi-bin/ultimatebb.cgi

Vancouver Firefly/Serenity Meetup Group: firefly.meetup.com/12/

WCP Vancouver (what is this??), www.wcp-vancouver.com

GARTH NOT UNDERSTAND

Some news on the BCSFA email list is a little hard to make out, though it *seems* to be about satirical online trailers, mix-ups between two (or more) movies. Try and work out for yourself what the following means:

> From: James Manning <spiff@vcn.bc.ca>
> Date: September 2, 2006 11:41:07 AM PDT
> To: f skene <fskene@shaw.ca>
> Subject: Good for a laugh
>
> This was well done...quite funny. Check it out
>

GateWorld source has confirmed. The news regrettably follows the airing of the show's milestone two-hundredth episode on Friday.

"*Stargate Atlantis*, meanwhile, has been renewed for a fourth season, with the network hoping to see that the spin-off series can stand alone, according to a source.

"*SG-1* has struggled in the ratings all summer, with the record-breaking tenth season premiering with a 1.4 household rating – down more than 20 percent from last season's average. After a brief climb to a 1.6 in its second week, the show fell to a 1.3 in week four.

"Viewers and production personnel alike have blamed a number of factors for the show's dramatically lower ratings, from SCI FI and Sony's lack of promotion to the removal of anchor show *Battlestar Galactica* from the Friday night line-up, to new competition from such shows as USA's hit *Monk*.

"Though also down significantly in the ratings this summer, *Atlantis* has consistently scored better than *SG-1*.

"Studio executives are working to identify an alternative outlet for *Stargate SG-1*," Multichannel News said, citing sources close to the production.

"*Stargate SG-1* premiered on Showtime in the United States in July, 1997, where it aired for five years before the pay cable network cancelled it. In 2002 MGM brokered a deal to continue production and move the show to SCI FI Channel, where it became the cable channel's biggest hit and aired ten times per week in reruns.

"In addition to holding the record for the longest-running science fiction series ever produced in North America, the series is largely responsible for making SCI FI a Top 10 cable network. Though the writers intended to end the show several times, its larger, newfound audience on basic cable rejuvenated the series, extending its life far beyond the average science fiction series. ..."

Copied to us by Ray Seredin, August 22, 2006

STAR TREK TOS TO BE RE-SYNDICATED...NEWLY DIGITALLY ENHANCED.

"*TV Guide Insider* reports CBS Paramount Domestic Television is observing the 40th anniversary of Star Trek by re-releasing the series to syndication beginning September 16, with enhanced digital effects, similar to what George Lucas did with the original Star Wars trilogy. Trek originally premiered on September 8, 1966.

"We're taking great pains to respect the integrity and style of the original," says Michael Okuda, who spent 18 years as a scenic-art supervisor on Star Trek films and spin-offs. "Our goal is to always ask ourselves: What would Roddenberry have done with today's technology?" Okuda's teammates on the two-year project are his wife, Denise Okuda, with whom he's authored several Trek reference books, and 14-year Trek production vet David Rossi.

"The upgraded episodes – to be shown out of order and one per week – will kick off with Balance of Terror, a big fan favorite "that gives us a chance to really show off the 'new' Enterprise," says Okuda. "The exterior of the ship now has depth and detail, and it will fly more dynamically." Painted backdrops will also be brought to life: Once-empty star bases will have CGI people milling about, while static alien landscapes have been given slow-moving clouds and shimmering water. Okuda notes that a view of Earth in the 1966 episode *Miri* has been "replaced with a more accurate image, now that we've gone into deep space and looked back at ourselves." ...

Copied to us by Ray Seredin, August 31, 2006

For those who don't cringe at the foregoing story, the remastered episodes will be on Channel 11, normally airing Saturdays at 6pm.

Keith J to sfnorthwest, September 7, 2006

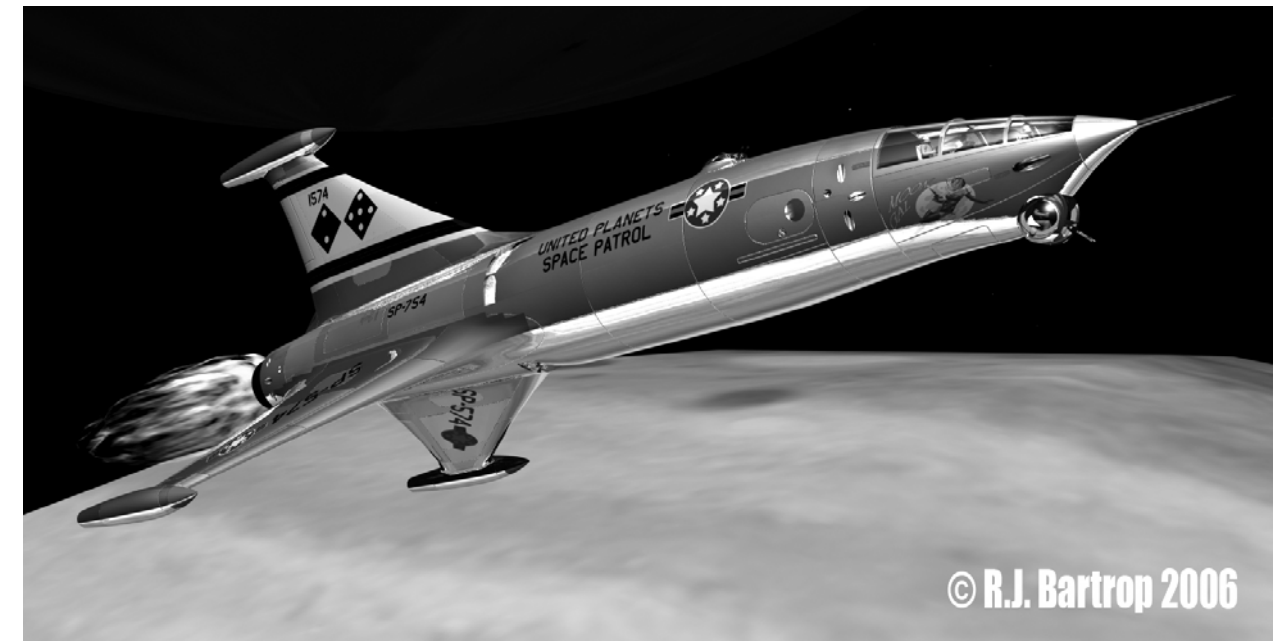


RenFaire

PLANNERS HOLDING MEET-AND-GREET SESSIONS

Since moving to Vancouver from Toronto, Christina Carr and Martin Hunger have wanted to hold a Renaissance Faire in BC. They write:

Vancouver Maritime Museum, www.vancouvermaritimemuseum.com



WRITERS' NEWS

Awards

AURORA AWARDS

The Aurora Awards, honouring Canadian science fiction, fantasy and fan achievements in both English and French, are fan-voted awards presented annually at the Convention, the travelling national convention. These awards have bopped back and forth between different SF conventions in this country since 1980. More details about Vcon's experiences as an occasional host are detailed under the "Convention" heading. It may be appropriate to detail last year's winners.

Toronto Trek 20 presented the 2006 Aurora Awards on Saturday, July 8, 2006. The winners are:

Best Long-Form Work in English / Meilleur livre en anglais: *Cagebird*, Karin Lowachee (Warner Aspect, Apr/2005)

Meilleur livre en français / Best Long-Form Work in French: <<Alégracia et le Serpent d'Argent>>, Dominic Bellavance (Les Six Brumes)

Best Short-Form Work in English / Meilleure nouvelle en anglais: "Transubstantiation", Derwin Mak (*Northwest Passages: A Cascadian Anthology*, Windstorm Creative)

Meilleure nouvelle en français / Best Short-Form Work in French: Montréal: trois uchronies, Alain Ducharme (*Solaris* 155)

Best Work in English (Other) / Meilleur ouvrage en anglais (Autre): *Tesseract Nine: New Canadian Speculative Fiction*, Nalo Hopkinson and Geoff Ryman, editors (Edge Publishing, July/2005)

Meilleur ouvrage en français (Autre) / Best Work in French (Other): *Solaris*, réd. Joël Champetier (www.revue-solaris.com)

Artistic Achievement / Accomplissement artistique: Lar deSouza [www.lartist.com]

Fan Achievement (Publication) / Accomplissement fanique (Publication): *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*, Garth Spencer, ed. (www.eFanzines.com/RSNG)

Fan Achievement (Organizational) / Accomplissement fanique (Organisation): Barbara Schofield (TT Masquerade)

Fan Achievement (Other) / Accomplissement fanique (autre): Urban Tapestry, filksinging [www.urbantapestry.org]

The nomination statistics, given on the Aurora Awards website, are:

286 Total nomination forms received (duplicates not counted)

268 Valid nomination forms
 18 invalid forms (improperly filled out, etc)
 Over twice as many people voted in 2006 as in 2005 (128 nominations last year).
 Dennis Mullin to Garth Spencer, July 9, 2006
www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/, July 16, 2006
 (from BCSFAzine 399)

ELRON AWARDS

One of the unique features of Vcon is the Elron Awards, a series of totally undemocratic, totally arbitrary awards for the year's *worst* contributions to science fiction and fandom. Previous winners include a variety of well-known authors, about half the BCSFA membership, and – every year – John Norman, whose Gor novels traditionally form the base of the bronzed-lemon award.



Bob Wilson, Tom Doherty and Teresa Neilsen Hayden, with Bob's Hugo
 (Tara Wayne photo)

HUGO AWARDS

NOVEL Robert Charles Wilson, *Spin* (wild rejoicing at Tor Books).
 NOVELLA Connie Willis, 'Inside Job' (*Asimov's* 1/05).
 NOVELETTE Peter S. Beagle, 'Two Hearts' (*F&SF* 10/05).
 SHORT David D. Levine, 'Tk'tk'tk' (*Asimov's* 3/05).
 RELATED BOOK Kate Wilhelm, *Storyteller: Writing Lessons and More from 27 Years of the Clarion Writers' Workshop*.
 DRAMATIC, LONG *Serenity*.
 DRAMATIC, SHORT *Doctor Who*: 'The Empty Child' & 'The Doctor Dances'.
 PRO EDITOR David G. Hartwell (ecstasy at Tor).
 PRO ARTIST Donato Giancola.
 SEMIPROZINE *Locus*.
 FANZINE *Plokta*.
 FAN WRITER Dave Langford (blush).
 FAN ARTIST Frank Wu.
 JOHN W. CAMPBELL AWARD John Scalzi.

"Special awards went to Betty Ballantine for life achievement, and to Harlan Ellison for 50 years of publishing fiction. It was revealed that Neil Gaiman's *Anansi Boys* would have been shortlisted as best

OUR ADVERTISERS

The following advertisers offer a 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members:

MICHAEL'S BOOKS

Michael Elmer, Owner
 109 Grand
 Bellingham, WA 98225
 USA
 Tel. (206) 733-6272
 Books in all fields "We pay cash for hardback & paperback."

IMPERIAL HOBBIES

5451 No. 3 Road
 Richmond, BC, V6X 2C7
 (Across from Lansdowne Mall)
 Tel. 604-273-4427, fax 273-2916
 Role-playing games, tabletop games, models, comics, supplies, and much more!
 (Discount applies to selected items)

WRIGLEY-CROSS BOOKS

PMB 455
 2870 NE Hogan Road, Suite E
 Gresham OR 97030
 Phone (503) 667-0807
 Toll Free (877) 694-1467
<http://www.wrigleycrossbooks.com>
books@wrigleycrossbooks.com

DRAGONFLY MUSIC

106 Harrison Village Mall
 196 Esplanade (Box 118)
 Harrison Hot Springs, BC, VOM 1K0 Tel. 604-796-9289

And the following do not:

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

Need skills and experience your business just doesn't have? Consult **CAPRICORN MULTITECH**.
 Contact Chris Sturges, either by email or by phone (604) 762-0059.

Kate Smith's catalog

of books for sale
 is now available at
Kate.smith@shaw.ca

Garth Spencer's catalog

of his books for sale
 will soon be available at
garthspencer@shaw.ca

Media

* "WB Animation is remaking the *Thundercats* [...] animated TV series. The animation style is whimsical, Americanized anime, along the lines of *Teen Titans*. The setting is modern-day Earth, in a major city (possibly LA). The Thundercats are all teenagers. Their leader is Snarf (!) who is now a mystic with a 'third' eye. Each of the Thundercats has a weapon with an 'Eye of Thunderra' and transformative powers (not just Lion-O). When they aren't fighting evil, the Thundercats play together as a rock band. That's not a typo, or a joke. They are rockin' cats in their present form. Mumm-Ra now has wings. [...] Developing..." <http://www.aintitcool.com/display.cgi?id=24232>

* Trey Parker and Matt Stone of *South Park* fame are going to make a man-in-suit kaiju movie called *Giant Monsters Attack Japan*, according to Ain't It Cool News.
<http://www.aintitcool.com/display.cgi?id=24246>

copied to us by Felicity Walker, August 22, 2006

STARGATE SG-1 CANCELLED, ATLANTIS RENEWED

(Monday - August 21, 2006 | by Darren Sumner): "The future of *Stargate* is in question today, as SCI FI Channel has cancelled the long-running *Stargate SG-1*, Multichannel News reported today and a

EVELYN BEHESHTI HILDEBRANDT – 1962 to 13 Mar 1995.

Joining BCSFA in 1977, she served as Secretary in 1981, worked on the concoms of VCONS 12, 13, & 17, and was one of the founders of the SF radio show THE ETHER PATROL in May of 1984. She married fellow BCSFAn and well known author Don H. DeBrandt in 1990.

"HIV-positive for more than eight years Ev worked selflessly and tirelessly for groups such as B.C. People With AIDS, Oak Tree Clinic, and The Positive Women's Network... personally touring BC schools to spread AIDS awareness... Hundreds attended her memorial; some sixty of them ended up at my house, telling each other Evelyn stories till dawn... She was simply one of the kindest, sweetest, most loving people I have ever known." – Spider Robinson, BCSFAzine #264.

WARREN ODDSSON – Mar 1958 to 14 Aug 2001.

A BCSFAn for over 20 years, Warren was a prolific fan artist noted for his remarkable stippling technique (inspired by Virgil Findlay's work), contributing numerous covers and fillos to BCSFAzine, VCON program books, and fanzines devoted to *Sentinel*, *Highlander*, *Star Trek*, *Red Dwarf*, *James Bond*, *Voyager*, and myriad other shows and films. He was Artist Guest of Honour at VCON 19/WESTERCON 44 (he did the 23 concom portraits in the program book, which he called 'Soul Cages'). He also did professional work for the *Sun* newspaper, a T-Shirt company, and a Canadian Astronaut whose mission logo he designed. Warren was renowned for his dry, 'wicked' sense of humour.

Obits Abroad:

rich brown (1942-2006), US sf fan active since the 1950s, died on 6 July aged 64. His many fanzines included the 1960s and 70s *Focal Point* (edited with Mike McInerney and then Arnie Katz) and the solo *Beardmutterings* (1970s and 80s); in 1988, again with Arnie Katz, he published the notable memorial fanzine *The Incomplete Terry Carr*. More recently his fanwriting appeared in online forums, including Trufen.net.

David Gemmell (1948-2006), UK author of 30 popular heroic fantasy novels beginning with *Legend* (1984), died at his word processor on 28 July. He was 57 and had seemed to be making a good recovery from his quadruple heart bypass two weeks before. John Clute wrote in the *Encyclopedia of Fantasy*: 'He is one of the central entertainers of the genre.' James Barclay adds: 'David was a giant in the fantasy genre as we all know and appreciate. But he was so much more than a great author. To me, he was a true friend and he was a mentor without peer. He helped me through very difficult times in my writing at the beginning of 2006. His support and advice, his friendship and selflessness were unstinting. David always found time to call or email. I spent long hours sitting with him in his house talking and sorting out the "authorly" problems we faced. It was a pleasure always. David was an immensely amusing man as any of us who heard his stories and anecdotes will testify. His strength of character and belief shone through in everything he said and in everything he wrote. David Gemmell is a very sad loss. I will miss him terribly.' Mako (1933-2006), Japanese-born US actor whose genre credits included the 1982 and 1984 Conan films, died on 21 July. He was 72. [GW]

Ansible 229, August 2006



novel had it not been withdrawn by Neil. Geri Sullivan enthuses: 'It's a beautiful Hugo base. 1920s art deco movie theatre theme. Supposedly sturdy, though one broke pretty much as soon as the winner arrived at the post-ceremony Hugo Nominees Reception hosted by Nippon 2007.' The Best Editor rules change was agreed, splitting this Hugo into categories Long (books) and Short (magazines, anthologies). A change to Best Artist, requiring 3 or more specific items of artwork to be cited for each nominee, awaits ratification in 2007."

Ansible 230, September 2006

MYTHOPOEIC AWARDS

ADULT Neil Gaiman, *Anansi Boys*.

CHILDREN Jonathan Stroud, 'The Bartimaeus Trilogy' (*The Amulet of Samarkand*, *The Golem's Eye*, *Ptolemy's Gate*).

SCHOLARSHIP: INKLINGS Wayne G. Hammond and Christina Scull, *The Lord of the Rings: A Reader's Companion*.

SCHOLARSHIP: GENERAL Jennifer Schacker, *National Dreams: The Remaking of Fairy Tales in Nineteenth-Century England*.

Ansible 230, September 2006

BRITISH FANTASY AWARDS

Novel shortlist: Ramsey Campbell, *Secret Stories*; Mark Chadbourn, *The Hounds Of Avalon*; Hal Duncan, *Vellum: The Book Of All Hours 1*; Neil Gaiman, *Anansi Boys*; George R.R. Martin, *A Feast For Crows*; Mark Morris, *Nowhere Near an Angel*.

Ansible 230, September 2006

Meanwhile, Back in This City ...

The Vancouver International Writers Festival will be held October 17th to 22nd on Granville Island in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada (premiere literary events, held annually over 6 days in late October. It was inaugurated in 1988 as the brainchild of founding Artistic Director Alma Lee). For more information see www.writersfest.bc.ca.

Northwest SF Resources website

The Surrey International Writers Conference will take place October 20th to 22nd in Surrey. Among other authors attending will be Robert Sawyer (famous the Nebula and Hugo SF writer) and Carol Berg (fantasy award-winning novelist). For more information see <http://siwc.ca>.

Burnaby Writers Society newsletter, Sept-Oct 06

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT LOCAL WRITERS

Mary Choo's poem "The Ragged Man (from Grannie's Garden)," appeared in the 20th anniversary issue of *Dreams and Nightmares*, and provided the inspiration for the cover art. Another poem, "Keepers (from Grannie's Garden)," which was published in issue # 24 of *ChiZine*, was nominated for this year's SFPA Rhysling Award in the short poem category, and appeared in The 2006 Rhysling Anthology. She will also have poetry in the October 2006 issue of *ChiZine*.

Dave Duncan will be a Guest of Honour at the World Fantasy Con in Austin, Texas, November 2-5th. Dave's new fantasy novel *Children of Chaos* was released by Tor in hardcover in June 2006, and received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*, which called it a "superb fantasy" and a "captivating, adventure-filled story". The mass-market paperback will follow in February, 2007. *Mother of Lies*, the second and final volume, is scheduled for May 2007. March 2007 will see publication by Ace Books of *The Alchemist's Apprentice*, an historical fantasy set in Venice around 1600 and featuring Nostradamus. Dave is currently working on the first of two contracted sequels. As well, a new fantasy series tentatively entitled "The Starfolk" has sold to Tor. Twenty-two of Dave's current and backlist titles are now available as e-books.

Matthew Hughes' new novel *Majestrum* will be published October 2006 by Night Shade Books, in both hardcover and limited collectors' editions. It's the first in a series starring Old Earth's foremost discriminator, Henghis Hapthorn. Meanwhile, Matt's *The Gist Hunter & Other Stories* from Night Shade Books made the *Locus* recommended reading list, along with three of his novelettes. Matt's "The Gist Hunter" novelette will be included in both Jonathan Strahan's *Best Short Novels of 2005* (SFBC) and Rich Horton's *Year's Best Fantasy* (Prime/Wildside). The Commons, the Guth Bandar novel that has been appearing in episodes in *F&SF*, will be published in June 2007 by Robert J. Sawyer's imprint at Fitzhenry & Whiteside. As well, Matt has sold a new stand-alone Archonate novel, *Template*, to PS Publishing for fall

2007; and has turned in *Wolverine: Lifeblood*, a novel about Marvel's Canadian X-Man, to Pocket Books. A short story, "Go Tell the Phoenicians", will appear in *Tesseracts 10*.

Eileen Kernaghan's historical fantasy *The Alchemist's Daughter* (Thistle-down Press) made the young adult list in the 2006 edition of *Our Choice: Annual Guide to Canada's Best New Children's Books*, from the Canadian Children's Book Centre.

Rhea Rose's short story "Summer Silk" has been accepted for *Tesseracts 10*, the latest in the long-running Canadian SF and fantasy anthology series. Rhea's poem "Mermaid" appeared in the Aurora Award winning *Tesseracts 9* anthology, and her short story "Squatch" appeared in the anthology *Northwest Passages: A Cascadian Anthology* published by Windstorm Press.

Contributed by Aurora-winning writer Eileen Kernaghan, August 29, 2006

MATT HUGHES' NEW NOVEL

"I have given permission to Night Shade Books to make the entire text of *Majestrum*, the first Henghis Hapthorn novel, available as a free download under a Creative Commons licence. It should be available in time for the October release of the hardcover and limited editions.

"Experience, notably Cory Doctorow's, indicates that offering novels for free download in this manner actually increases sales of the trade editions. We'll see.

"In the meantime, I have posted the first 15,000 words on my web site at <http://www.archonate.com/majestrum>"

Matt Hughes to SF Canada (relayed by Donna McMahon), Sept. 3, 2006

NOT SO LOCAL

Lynda Williams reviews SF books on her "Lynda Reads" website blog (www.okalrel.org/lynda_reads/). Lynda is both a BCSFA member and Burnaby Writers Society member, and the author of the recently-published "Okal Rel" SF series.

Burnaby Writers Society newsletter, Sept-Oct 06

Short Story Contests

Dec. 31: deadline for **The National Fantasy Fan Federation 2006 amateur short story contest**. Stories must be original SF, fantasy, paranormal, and related genres. Submit in standard competition format plus \$4 fee, cash or cheque payable to Jeff Redmond (contest manager), 1335 Beechwood NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49505-3830 or email to redmondjeff@hotmail.com for more information. Prizes are \$50 (first place), \$30 (second place), \$20 (third place), etc. All rights remain with author. For more information about the N3F, see www.nff.org and www.scififan.org.
(Repeated from last issue)

New Market

DARK RECESSES PRESS – Box 2184, 100 Mile House, BC Canada V0K 2E0. Publisher: Bailey Hunter. Quarterly. PDF magazine.

General guidelines: "We are looking for horror/dark fiction pieces between 500-5000 words. Longer works are a tough sell, but may be considered if they knock us off our seats. Common sense when submitting, please. We do not accept stories that involve the sexual abuse/exploitation of minors. We are not looking for pure shock value. All components of your story should have merit. Gore for gore's sake is not what we are looking for. We want to give nightmares that happen during the waking hours. All stories will be accompanied by illustrations."

Payment: "We have raised our pay rate to 3¢/word with a \$150 cap beginning with issue #5. All payments are made in US funds. With this raise in our rates, it is important to note that works up around our maximum word limit will be harder to place as we will be accepting no more than two of those per issue. Total number of stories selected per issue will be 7-8, depending upon length."

Submission period: "We accept submissions year-round, with an expected response time of up to sixteen weeks. This way we are able to accommodate all the submissions we receive. If you have not heard back from us after sixteen weeks, please feel free to send us an update query."

Submissions: "All submissions must be sent via E-mail to [address below] as an attached Word document or .RTF file with the word 'Submission' in the subject line."

"VERY IMPORTANT: Stories embedded in the body of an E-mail will go unread."

Fly, The (2004)
Get Smart (2007)
Jetsons, The (2009)
Greatest American Hero, The (2007)
Blob, The (2007)

Taken from Classic Remakeville:
<http://www.themovieinsider.com/previews/upcoming-movie-remakes.php>
Felicity Walker, September 2, 2006

History

THE ETERNAL RETURN

"Phillip K. Dick was GoH at VCON 2, in 1972, and stayed on in Vancouver afterward for about a month before going back to California. Later on, some of his work was made into movies and a lot of people outside of sf circles became interested in him. There are two major biopics in the works.

I got a call from someone in Argentina, where a company called Claxson is making a documentary about Dick's life for South American television. (www.claxson.com) He'd like to hear from others in Vancouver who knew Phil while he was here, and he'd especially like copies of photos, and sound recordings. If you have some, and want to help him, his contact info is dario.schwarzstein@gmail.com

Susan Walsh to vcon-members@yahoogroups.com, September 8, 2006

HONOURED BCSFANS GREATLY MISSED

By R. Graeme Cameron

SUSAN WOOD -- 27 Aug 1948 to 12 Nov 1980.

Susan was a genuine BNF who won the best fanzine Hugo in 1973 (along with then husband Mike Glicksohn) for the Canadian fanzine *Energumen*. She also won twice for Best Fanwriter. From 1975 on she was Assistant Professor of English at UBC where she taught, among others, William Gibson. She was well known across North America for promoting feminist panels at SF cons, including Westercon XXX. She also devoted much time and effort to VCON, BCSFA, and people she knew in BSCFA. She collapsed from a fatal medicine interaction while on her way to class. Her family donated much of her fanzine collection to BCSFA where it forms the basis of the current archive. Susan was a rising star sorely missed by all her friends.

HELENE 'HEN' FLANDERS – 12 July 1944 to 13 Aug 1982.

A popular BCSFAn who joined the club in 1977, she served as *BCSFazine* Editor from issue 57 (Mar 1978) to issue 71 (May 1979). She also served on many VCON committees. She was renowned for her striking costumes at both VCONs and club events. Lively, beautiful, and outgoing, it was a terrible shock to everyone who knew her when she was found murdered in her ground floor apartment, a terrible crime that remains unsolved to this very day.

PAUL HOWARD 'S'MOKEY' SIMMS – 11 Jan 1942 to 23 Aug 1991.

Immensely popular BCSFAn, larger than life, active in the club since 1977, who often hosted VCON committee meetings, he was a horrific creator of puns, author of the hilarious 'Smokey's Den' contributions to VANAPA, founder and Dictator For Life of BCSFA NORTH (first in Prince Rupert, then in Campbell River), and host of the legendary S'MOKEY CON ONE. He was especially famed for his gregarious nature and wonderful sense of humour. He passed away after a long, courageous fight against cancer.

SARA 'PEREGRIN' BREARLEY – 1969 to 14 Dec 1994.

Born with cystic fibrosis, Sara didn't let this prevent her from earning a B.Sc. in Computer Science at UBC and from enrolling in the Emily Carr College of Art. I can still picture her at numerous FREDs leaning over a table in close consultation with fellow BCSFAn artist/friends like Amy Morgan, Yolanda Goodwin and Warren Oddsson, doodling, sketching, creating art on the ever present notepad, an artist at work in an artist's jam session. She also participated in the 'Barr Wars' with American Artist Donna Barr, and contributed five covers for *BCSFazine*. In April 1993 a double lung transplant gave her more than a year of healthy life before, tragically, she succumbed to rejection. She was our fierce little falcon. Hard to believe she's gone.

Arcadian Guild Crier (gaming club newsletter from David "Murdock" Malinski)
Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter, 6584 Deer Lake Ave., Burnaby, BC V5G 3T7
DASFAX, DASFA, C/o Annette Stroud, 2580 S. York Street #201, Denver, CO 80210, USA
De Profundis, c/o Los Angeles SF Society, 11513 Burbank Blvd., North Hollywood, CA 91601, USA
Ethel the Aardvark, Melbourne SF Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vict. 3005, Australia
Impulse and WARP, MonSFFA, PO Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, QC H2X 4A7
Ottawa SF Statement, Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 456 Gladstone Ave., Ottawa, ON K1R 5N8
Voyageur c/o IDIC, C/o Lynda Ciaschini, 7050 Weston Rd., Ste. 301, Woodbridge, ON L4L 8G7
Westwind, Northwest SF Society, PO Box 24207, Seattle, WA 98124, USA

Apart from club publications, BCSFA trades for two other fanzines:
Ansible (From DAVE LANGFORD, 94 London Road, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 5AU. Web [ansible.co.uk](http://www.ansible.co.uk). Fax 0705 080 1534. ISSN 0265-9816 (print) 1740-942X (online). Available for SAE or data on the Worp reaction. See <http://news.ansible.co.uk/a229.html> for the nice HTML version.)
File 770 (c/o Mike Glycer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia, CA 91016, USA) is a general newszine for American fandom, with some wider coverage of English-speaking fandom, but it comes out far less frequently now than it used to: just about annually, in fact.
Opuntia (c/o Dale Speirs, P.O. Box 6830, Calgary, AB T2P 2E7) is an idiosyncratic product of the only discoverable fanzine fan in Calgary.

Recently added BCSFAzine trades:
Broken Pencil (PO Box 203, Station P, Toronto ON M5S 2S7): It may seem strange to add a newsstand magazine to BCSFAzine's mailing list, but Broken Pencil did start showing up in our mailbox, and I started sending them BCSFAzine as a matter of conscience. Like *Factsheet Five* of fond memory, Broken Pencil in Toronto receives and reviews a wide range of contemporary zines (not just music, poetry and politics zines). The new editor, Lindsay Gibb, says the theme for the next issue will be horror.
SF San Francisco, c/o Christopher Garcia ... I know I put his address *somewhere* around here ...
Vegas Fandom Weekly (the Vegrants), c/o Arnie Katz, 909 Eugene Cernan St., Las Vegas, NV 89145, USA
Fanzines sometimes produced by BCSFA members include:
Covert Communications from Zeta Corvi (from Andrew Murdoch), in suspension for a while now
The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette (from Garth Spencer), recent winner of an Aurora Award; write P.O. Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC CANADA V6B 5B1, email garthspencer@shaw.ca, or see archived editions at <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/sig/rsn> and at [efanzines.com](http://www.efanzines.com)
The Old-Fashioned Time Waster and Space Cadet Gazette (shortened title: Space Cadet Gazette, from R. Graeme Cameron), in suspension for a while now.

One of the many websites serving as archives for fanzines includes www.efanzines.com. To join the email list efanzines@yahoo.com, see <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/efanzines/>.

Film Releases

Coming Up:

Boys from Brazil, The (2008)
Clash of the Titans (2008)
20,000 Leagues Under the Sea (2009)
Wolf Man, The (2008)
Man Who Fell to Earth, The (2006)
Creature from the Black Lagoon (2007)
Piranha (2007)
All of Me (2006)
When Worlds Collide (2007)
Death Race 3000 (2007)
Phantasm (2006)
Tron 2.0 (2006)
Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea (2006)
Logan's Run (2008)
Bride of Frankenstein (2006)

"All submissions should be left justified, 12 pt Arial or Times New Roman font, single spaced with NO extra returns between paragraphs and no indents."

"No reprints - No simultaneous submissions - No multiple submissions. Please wait to hear back from us before you send another piece."

"Authors whose work is selected will receive a contract upon notification of acceptance."

Artwork: "We offer a \$50 US payment for cover art. For story illustrations, however, we can only offer exposure along with a \$5 token payment at this time. Artists whose work appears in Dark Recesses Press will have their name and title of the piece listed in the TOC as well as their contact E-mail link embedded into the artwork itself."

"If you are interested in having your artwork showcased in Dark Recesses Press, please send an E-mail to the [second address below] with a link to some work for our art director to look at. We will respond to every query. If you have sent a query and did not receive a response within four weeks, please send a follow-up mail."

"Each issue will contain 7-8 stories that will require accompanying artwork and we are open to all forms and mediums of dark art. We require that all artwork be electronically available and saved at 200 dpi in RGB format, preferably saved as a .JPG file."

"If you have questions that have not been answered here, you may contact me at query@darkrecesses.com. Please ensure to put 'Art Query' in your subject line."

"Looking forward to taking over the world with some of the finest emerging authors and artists."

[E-mail: Submissions: submissions@darkrecesses.com; info: query@darkrecesses.com; <http://www.darkrecesses.com>].

Gila Queen #139, August 15, 2006

New Releases

To carry on from last issue, here are some upcoming book releases:

December 2006

Anonymous, ed., *St. James Guide to Fantasy Writers* (St. James Press, nf, hc)
Bear, Elizabeth, *Carnival* (Bantam Spectra)
Burke, Kealan Patrick, ed., *Night Visions 12* (Subterranean Press, anth, hc)
Butcher, Jim, *Cursor's Fury* (Ace, hc)
Canavan, Trudi, *Voice of the Gods* (HarperCollins/Eos)
Dann, Jack, *Promised Land* (PS Publishing, cln, hc)
Doyle, Debra, & James D. Macdonald, *Land of Mist and Snow* (HarperCollins/Eos)
Grimsley, Jim, *The Last Green Tree* (Tor, hc)
Hamilton, Laurel K., *Mistral's Kiss* (Ballantine, hc)
Hendrix, Howard V., *The Spears of God* (Ballantine Del Rey, tpb)
Hughes, Matthew, *The Commons* (Red Deer Press/Robert J. Sawyer Books, tpb)
Kearney, Paul, *This Forsaken Earth* (Bantam Spectra, tpb)
Koontz, Dean, *Brother Odd* (Bantam, hc)
Kurtz, Katherine, *Childe Morgan* (Ace, hc)
Merril, Judith, *Not Only a Woman* (NESFA Press, hc)
Palencar, John Jude, *Origins: The Art of John Jude Palencar*, (Underwood Books, art, hc)
Rucker, Rudy, *Mathematicians in Love* (Tor, hc)
Stross, Charles, *Missile Gap* (Subterranean Press, nva, hc)
Williams, Conrad, *The Scalding Rooms* (PS Publishing, hc)
Williams, Tad, *Rite* (Subterranean Press, cln, hc)
Wilson, Robert Charles, *Julian* (PS Publishing, nva, hc)
Zivkovic, Zoran, *Twelve Collections and the Teashop* (PS Publishing, nva, hc)
(taken from www.locusmag.com at August 2006)

FANDOM: News and Background

Anime

One of my particular areas of ignorance is regional anime fandom. If you are a fan of Japanese animation, you're probably already in one of these local clubs, but if you aren't, here are the URLs where you can contact them:

UBC Anime Club, ubcanimeclub.skydium.net

Vancouver "Sleep is for Wimps" Anime Team, users.uniserve.com/~ryanm6/vswat.htm

Vancouver Anime Meetup Group, anime.meetup.com/145/

There is already a rapidly-growing summer anime convention being held by university students at Simon Fraser University. For more information about Anime Evolution, see www.animeevolution.com.

BCSFA

As stated elsewhere, BCSFA has been around since 1969, at first in the form of a SF club at the University of British Columbia. BCSFA members founded a convention, which shortly became Vcon; started a newsletter, which we soon titled *BCSFAzine*; founded at least one writers' workshop, and the apas BCAPA and VANAPA; and started the radio show "The Ether Patrol", which is now suspended.

The current BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-526-7522

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore-Freeman, 604-277-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314

Keeper of FRED Book, VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's old website is at <http://bcsfa.bcgreen.com>, maintained by Steve Samuel, but Greg Slade has worked up something new at www.bcsfa.net.

The current BCSFA email list is Bc_scifi_assc@yahoogroups.com, archived at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifiassc/>

BCSFA membership/subscription rates are:

e-mail (PDF or TXT format) C\$15.00/US\$13.65 per year

new members C\$26.00/US\$23.50 per year

renewals C\$25.00/US\$22.50 per year

New Family members* C\$32.00/US\$29.00 per year

*(including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings)

Please send membership renewals to the Treasurer at 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6. These prices include subscription to *BCSFAzine*. Make cheques and money orders payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association).

(NOTE: The West Coast Science Fiction Association is a separate, officially registered society. In effect, BCSFA is a committee of WCSFA.)

BCSFA Events

- Friday, Oct. 13: **BCSFAzine deadline** – see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #402
- Saturday, Oct. 14 @ 7 pm: **BCSFA meeting/party** at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's place, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; phone 604-277-0845 for directions.
- Some Thursday in October: **October book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be
- Some Saturday in October: **October Feeding Frenzy** at 7 pm at Memphis Blues Barbecue House, 1465 West Broadway, Vancouver.
- Friday, Oct. 27: **BCSFAzine production** – distribution starts at FRED

who is a martinet, demanding orders be obeyed by the book or else no food or rest. He invents the Holly Hop Drive, which is supposed to teleport *Red Dwarf* instantly back to Earth, but only pops them into an alternate dimension populated by their opposites, where Lister becomes pregnant by himself! Indeed Holly has grown "a little peculiar".

In the first series of six episodes beginning with "The End", the crew of *Red Dwarf* sees random scenes of its own future while approaching the speed of light, Lister takes a video training course that will make him a chef outranking Rimmer, a derelict pod is discovered adrift in deep space that Rimmer is convinced contains the remains of an alien warrior that resembles exactly the 3,000,000 year old leftovers of a broiled chicken, Lister contracts a virus that materializes his fever driven hallucinations, creating a rain of herring as well as twin aspects of his own character, (Confidence and Paranoia), and Rimmer duplicates a twin holo of himself, only to discover not even he can stand his own toxic personality.

The second series of episodes pick up from the first. On an icy moon they discover a service mechanoid named Kryten. Owing much to James Barrie's "Admirable Crichton", he has devotedly served the needs of a trio of beautiful astronettes – stone dead for nearly three thousand millennia. "They're dead? My God. Why, I was only away for two minutes. Are you a doctor? You're that sure they're dead?" The *Red Dwarf* crew tries a new virtual reality game called "Better Than Life", only to discover that, even in fantasy, Rimmer's "diseased imagination" won't permit him or anyone else to have a good time. Lister transfers the memory of one of his love affairs to Rimmer while he's asleep, confusing the strait-laced hologram with memories of behaviour completely opposite of his own. A leak in time allows the crew to step back into the past, where they confront only alternate possibilities of the past, and Rimmer nearly drives his real self insane with visions of his dead self from the future. Cat discovers that the invert of himself is an uncoordinated oafish hillbilly Dog, and it's revealed that Holly has an IQ of 6,000, but nonetheless cribs his scientific knowledge from a children's book of astronomy.

These are the seasons I think I love most. The plots are drawn mainly from the basic fact that they'd adrift in infinity, alone, and eking out a purposeless existence. The humour arises through the interaction of fundamentally incompatible personalities in pointless conflict.

(to be continued)



No 44: Read All About It!

Fanzines

The version of fandom I entered, fanzine fandom, is not very prominent today; but a lot of fannish institutions date back to a time when fanzines set the tone of the whole subculture, which partly explains the emphasis on unpaid, volunteer organization.

Recent fanzine news includes the announcement that *Emerald City* will cease publication this fall. *Emerald City* is a fiction review zine produced by Cheryl Morgan, and largely distributed online, but since she commutes back and forth across the Pacific on different consultation contracts, it is becoming impossible to maintain the zine.

Current *BCSFAzine* trades include:

proceed to the drive room for a de-briefing.” Lister saunters casually along the empty corridors of the ship, through the mess area, idly wondering where everyone is, and seating himself in one of the technician’s chairs in the drive room before asking Holly the obvious question. Why isn’t anyone there?

“They’re dead Dave.”

“Captain Holister?”

“Everybody Dave.”

“Peterson isn’t, is he?”

“Everybody’s dead, Dave, everybody’s dead.”

“Are you trying to tell me everybody’s dead?”

“Yes Dave! Everybody is dead, Dave, everybody’s dead!”

A drive plate had been improperly fastened and a burst of radiation wiped out all 169 of the crew, excepting only Lister who was safely in stasis. “How long have I been in stasis?” is naturally his next question. A subtle thinker, David Lister.

“Three million years,” answers Holly, as though a million years were only very little longer than a week. It had taken that long for the level of background radiation to die down enough that Lister could be released from stasis without danger. Though Holly has, by his own admission, gone a “bit peculiar” from being alone all that time, he continued to supervise the ship’s functioning until then. All the while, Red Dwarf has been on full drive, out of control for three million years, and the crew is only 168 piles of chalky dust on the floor and chairs. For all Holly knows, Lister is the last man alive.

Well, more or less. “Is Rimmer dead too, then?”

“Technically speaking...”

“Technically speaking?” At that moment Rimmer walks in, immaculate in his uniform but wearing a large block letter H on his forehead. Oh yes, he’s dead alright, “dead as a can of Spam” in his own words.

Still, Lister is alone as the only living being.

He would be, that is, except for the Cat. Three million years ago, Lister had hidden his black cat Frankenstein in the hold, before he was frozen in stasis. While Lister existed in no-time Frankenstein gave birth to kittens, who lived out their lives, reproduced, and evolved into a race of vain, selfish, fashion mad cat-people. A religiously inspired exodus to discover the whereabouts of their creator (who happens to be Lister) left behind only the dumbest of their race. Cat. (A role only Danny John-Jules could fill.)

So then... apart from a hologram of the one person in the universe Lister hated most, Rimmer, chosen by a 6th generation holographic artificial intelligence solely on the basis of shared accumulated conversation of some fourteen million words (half of which were “smeghead”), and the evolutionary end product of three million years of feline evolution... Lister is completely alone. At least the next best thing to it.

For the first two seasons, the episodes of *Red Dwarf* deal mainly with the significance of this. What do you do with the rest of your life when you’re the last man alive, and have nothing to do? All your needs are provided for by dispensing stations throughout the ship, which are replenished by virtually inexhaustible supplies. A high-order, if slightly deranged, artificial intelligence runs the ship, from recycling solid wastes, to avoidance of random space junk on a closing trajectory, to directing the small robot “scutters” to repaint the hall trim, with no supervision from you. In fact, Lister is little more than just one of thousands of sub-systems in Holly’s care... as is Rimmer.

Rimmer is not even himself, but merely a holographic visual projection and a program running his last personality recording. Holly can support one holographic entity, and one only, and has chosen Rimmer from among the entire crew as the one best known to Lister, and most likely to keep him sane. It was a mistake only a computer long past its warranty could make. To Rimmer being recalled from the dead is no rebirth. It is a crushing burden of personal frustration to the hologram that thinks of itself as Rimmer, that his real self was such a total and complete flop in his actual life. But now as a hologram, that can neither touch nor feel real objects, nor hold a woman (for the first time), he is all too keenly aware that he has only an infinitely protracted future of greater failure to look forward to.

The uncomplicated Cat, at least, is perfectly content with the situation. “I’m looking guh-ud! My hair looks guhd. My suit looks guhd. I look guhd.” What could be missing from a life as centred on itself as that? Only fish for dinner, and Cat soon learns how to make the dispensing machines give him all the fish he wants. From his perspective, life couldn’t be better unless there were female Cats to admire his flashily coloured, extravagantly styled and sequined, sartorial exuberance.

Holly, after three million years, finally has a purpose. There is the sound of shuffling of un-shined shoes and un-tied laces in his corridors again, a plan to slow *Red Dwarf* down to a velocity where it can be turned around and return to Earth, a holographic program to run, and for the first time in millennia someone to practise his rusty sense of humour on. To while away those humdrum nanoseconds between calculations of near-lightspeed navigation, Holly plays with Rimmer’s image, giving him the arm of a Swedish oaf named Peterson, or the left breast of navigator Christine Kochanski. For an April Fool’s joke (month’s late or early) he convinces Lister and the others that he’s been replaced by an emergency backup

Saturday, Oct 28 @ 7pm:

Kaffeeklatsch, our group exercise in hard-headed imagination, at Garth Spencer’s place, 82 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver; call 604-325-7314 or email garthspencer@shaw.ca for directions

Birthdays

3: **Cecilia Griffith** is now Cecilia Parrot (or is it the other way around?), and has founded the Static Mundane Society, in order to have street brawls with us Weird Chaotic types.

4: **Darryl Huber** may or may not be at his last known address and email. This mysterious figure is rumoured to be under investigation by intelligence branches. Or not.

7: **Philip Freeman** is the lovely and talented spouse of Kathleen Moore-Freeman.

7: **Murray Moore** is one of our out-of-town members, a former CUFF delegate, editor of regular apazines and irregular fanzines with varying titles, and remotely resembles Ben Stein in certain lights.

10: **Doug Finnerty** is a mild-mannered post office employee by day, but when darkness falls and the moon rises, he dons his masked crimefighter outfit ... no, I used that routine. How would you describe yourself, Doug? Founder of Feeding Frenzy (our dinner club) and the monthly SF book discussion? 37th independent inventor of mocha tea? Nearly fought the giant Chicken of Bristol?

14: **yuki witherspoon-li** is another figment of my deranged mind.

17: **Alan R. Betz** is the retired secretary of MR SCIENCE, who won an Aurora Award for his “creative” answers to frequently-asked science questions. He is also one of BCSFA’s lifetime members.

21: **Vicki Oates** is no longer a member, but in the dim backward and abysm of time she was a founding member of THE LEATHER GODDESSES OF PHOBOS, Amazon femmefans who terrorized and delighted conventions across the Northwest. (I have surmised that most fan communities produce a similar group at some point.) She also ran a faux-advice column in *BCSFAzine* for a long time.

25: **Jim Miyashita** is the lovely and talented spouse of Debbie Miyashita.

Calendar

Weekly Events

Monday

Astronomy Café is an informal weekly gathering of people interested in Astronomy. Every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Bruno Quenneville, the Vice President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Victoria Centre. (<http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/AstroCafe/Default.htm>)

Tuesday

Kamloops Anime Club (<http://www.geocities.com/kamloopsanimeclub/>) holds casual meetings on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Boston Pizza in downtown Kamloops. (Note that the meeting times and locations are occasionally different, so check the schedule on the Kamloops Anime Club web site if you are planning to attend.)

Thursdays

Ink Studs (comix radio show) from 2 pm to 3 pm on CiTR (101.9 FM or <http://citr.ca/live.rm>); <http://inkstuds.livejournal.com/>

Fridays

5pm to 6pm: Hi-Sci-Fi (science-fiction radio show) on 90.1 FM and <http://www.cjsf.ca/listen/listen.m3u> . Info and archived shows at <http://www.hiscifi.com/index.php?cat=Show> .

6:30 p.m.: BIFF (formerly F.A.N.S.) - Watch videos, and generally hang out every Friday night until closing at: Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th Street, North Vancouver. See biff.digitaldoodles.com for more details.

8:00 p.m.: COME TO FRED! every Friday til whenever, now at Boston Pizza on Broadway near Granville, Vancouver, BC – a casual drop-in gathering of fans for conversation. (Still looking at new venues for the long term)

NOTE: BIFF and FRED are combining forces at the Foggy Dew pub, within the hotel hosting this year's Vcon, on the evening of October 6th.

Saturday

Kamloops Anime Club (<http://www.geocities.com/kamloopsanimeclub/>) holds its main meetings on Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. downstairs at High Octane Comics & Collectibles, 250 3rd Avenue, Kamloops.

Monthly Events

Second Tuesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Okanagan Centre (<http://www.ocrasc.ca/>) meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Science Building at Okanagan College on KLO Road, Kelowna. (Note that the Vernon and Kelowna meetings are occasionally combined, so check the schedule on the RASC: Okanagan Centre web site if you are planning to attend.)

Second Wednesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Victoria Centre (<http://victoria.rasc.ca/>) meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the Elliott Lecture Theatre, Room 060, University of Victoria. (Note that the meeting times and locations are occasionally different, so check the schedule on the RASC: Victoria Centre web site if you are planning to attend.)

Second Thursday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Vancouver Centre (<http://www.pcis.com/rascvan/>) meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., downstairs in the auditorium of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver. Each meeting usually has a program which is a blend of current astronomical research and local amateur activities. The meeting is followed by an informal gathering at the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory for coffee, cookies and conversation. Visitors are welcome to attend most meetings, which are free.

Third Wednesday

The Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (<http://www.veva.bc.ca/>) meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the cafeteria of the Electrical SE1 Building at BCIT.

Last Wednesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Okanagan Centre (<http://www.ocrasc.ca/>) meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:15 p.m. at the Okanagan Science Centre, 2704 Highway 6, Vernon. (Note that the Vernon and Kelowna meetings are occasionally combined, so check the schedule on the RASC: Okanagan Centre web site if you are planning to attend.)

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Prince George Centre (<http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/>) meets on the last Wednesday of the month from August to November and January to May from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the



*A familiar room party
(reprinted from a recent edition of Banana Wings)*

Fanwriting

“Into a Red Hole”

By Taral Wayne

(also reprinted from a recent edition of Banana Wings)

Reflections on the Unending Voyage of the Last Man Alive... and Last Cat, Last Holo, Last Android, Last A.I. and Sundry Other Cast, Adrift Aboard the Jupiter Mining Corporation's Derelict Starship, Red Dwarf

It begins with a stubby figure in a space suit, swabbing a rusty tone of red over metal plate, and as the camera backs off it can be seen that the red paint forms a stroke of a gigantic letter “F”. Still backing away, the word “Dwarf” comes into view, and then “Red Dwarf”. The man in the space suit dwindles away to a mere speck. Our perspective is still too narrow though. The painted words themselves dwindle in size as the entirety of the Jupiter Mining Corporation’s gigantic asteroid processing ship fills the screen. Then finally space itself squeezes into the screen around the bulwarks of the ship, and compresses Red Dwarf into a tighter and tighter compass, until it too is a speck. Space is all there is.

Everywhere, everything is space. Forever.

Lost in it this immensity is the last man in the universe. And his cat. And his worst enemy. And the artificial intelligence that landed him in this pickle.

Three million years ago, more or less, David Lister (Craig Charles) was an ordinary slob, trying hard to avoid work in his capacity as the lowest ranking of 169 crewmen on a city-sized, space-going ore processing plant. Of the one hundred and sixty nine crew on board, Lister is the laziest, most slovenly, and lowest ranking -- but his real misfortune is that the 168th. ranker on *Red Dwarf*, and thus his immediate superior, is Arnold J. Rimmer. (Chris Barrie.) Rimmer is a smeghead. His own superior officers (all 167 of them), as well as his entire command (Lister), have common cause in detesting Rimmer’s petty attention to detail, his pointless devotion to the rulebook, and his all-encompassing lack of personal integrity. On the eve of one of Rimmer’s perennial attempts to pass an engineering exam for promotion, Lister is caught with a contraband cat he brought on board (strictly against quarantine regulations). As punishment he’s given the choice of going into time-stasis for the duration of the journey, forfeiting eighteen month’s of pay, or handing over the cat. Lister chooses to save the cat, but go into stasis.

We last see him in the port of the stasis locker, frozen in the gesture of fingers waving goodbye.

Cut to next scene. Lister’s fingers wriggle again.

He shoves open the hatch, but nobody is there. Instead, he hears the voice of the A.I. that runs the operations of the ship. Holly, as he’s known, speaks in a working class London accent, and appears on vision screens as a balding, middle aged, homely face with chipped teeth and a crooked nose. (Played brilliantly by Norman Lovett.) “Good morning Dave. It’s safe for you now to emerge from stasis. Please

There may be some apas carrying on in eastern Canada – APAPlexy in Ottawa, and CRAPA in the Maritimes, perhaps – but nothing, to my knowledge, currently operates in western Canada. This is a great change from the early 1980s, when fanzines and apas were all the rage in Vancouver and Edmonton. (Garth is a member of e-APA, an online apa.)

Canadian SF & Fantasy Awards

As described elsewhere this issue, the Canadian SF & Fantasy Awards – the Auroras – have been held since 1980 at one or another Canadian SF convention, to recognize published English-language science fiction, French-language science fiction, and fan activities each year. “Convention” is the title held by the Canadian convention which bids for and wins the role of hosting the awards. Vcon has served as Convention several times, since its first turn in 1981. Regional authors and fans have several times appeared as nominees and award winners.

Managing the nomination and voting process can lead to certain ironies, as Vcon 14 found in 1986. The ballot distributor discovered that he qualified as a prominent nominee, so he had to step down from distributing the voting ballots, and then won the first fan activity award.

A short chronology of our involvement with these institutions:

On May 22-24, 1981, *V-Con 9 / Convention 2* was held in Vancouver. At the time, neither Convention selection nor award selection was voted on, and there was only one CSFFA category. A well-known fan and emerging editor had just died, so the selection was easy. Susan Wood won a posthumous award for lifetime contributions to the field, particularly as critic & editor (Ursula LeGuin’s nonfiction anthology, *Language of the Night*).

In 1985, local author Eileen Kernaghan won the CSFFA award for her fantasy novel *Songs from the Drowned Land*.

In 1986, at VCon 14 / Convention 6 (May 23-25), the number of awards were increased from 1 to 3 (English, French & Fan). Judith Merrill was honoured for her lifetime achievement in editing; the first French CSFFA was awarded to «Yadjine et la mort», by Daniel Sernine; and Garth Spencer won the first Fan CSFFA for his editing of *The Maple Leaf Rag* newzine, and his “dedication to Canadian fandom.” At Vcon 14 Michael Wallis, the chair of the following year’s Convention, announced he was reviving the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, which had previously been given only once, in 1981. To my recollection this was also the year when the nickname for the award was changed from “Caspers” to “Auroras”.

In 1989, the famous (and local) William Gibson won an Aurora for his novel *Mona Lisa Overdrive*. This was also the year that Aurora categories were expanded up to *nine*.

In 1990 Eileen Kernaghan won another Aurora for her story “Carpe Diem.”

In 1991, lifetime BCSFA member Al Betz’ “Ask Mr Science” column was honoured with a fan category Aurora.

In 1992 local fan David W. New was honoured for his editing of *Horizons SF* (the twice-yearly UBCSFS fiction magazine).

The 1993 Convention bestowed Auroras on Lynne Taylor Fahnestalk, for her art; on the fanzine *Under the Ozone Hole*, from Karl Johanson & John Herbert in Victoria; and on Adam Charlesworth, for chairing Noncon 15 (the only Alberta regional convention held in Vancouver). *Under the Ozone Hole* also won fan activity Auroras for the next three years. It was that funny.

In 1995, Aurora Awards went to William Gibson again, for *Virtual Light*, and to author Catherine Donahue Girczyc, for her work as an “Ether Patrol” radio show host.

In 2001, VCon 26 / Convention 21 bestowed Auroras on *The Snow Queen*, by Eileen Kernaghan (Thistle-down Press); on R. Graeme Cameron, for his activity as BCSFA president & V-Con 25 chair; and on author Donna McMahon, for her SF book reviews.

Canadian Unity Fan Fund

As described elsewhere this issue, the Canadian Unity Fan Fund assists fans from one side of the country to visit the Convention in the other half of the country, each year.

A short chronology of local fans’ involvement:

The 1997 CUFF delegate was R. Graeme Cameron of Vancouver, who attended Primedia 4 / Convention 17 in Markham, Ontario.

The 1999 CUFF delegate was Garth Spencer, also of Vancouver, who attended inconsequential 2 / Convention in Fredericton, New Brunswick.

In 2001 [Murray Moore](#) of Mississauga, Ontario attended VCon 26 / Convention 21.

Prince George Astronomical Observatory (20 km South West of Prince George near West Lake on Tedford Road.) Topics of discussion include astronomy viewing tips, constellations, star charts, photography and much more. The meetings are informal and visitors are welcome.

Clubs

local and regional

This list is about as comprehensive and up-to-date as Greg Slade and I can compile:

Altered Reality Club, www.sfu.ca/ar-club

B.C. Browncoats (*Firefly/Serenity*), www.bcbrowncoats.com

BC_COSTUMERS List: groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_costumers

CANADIANBROWNCOATS List (*Firefly/Serenity*), movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/canadianbrowncoats/

Lord of the Rings List / MELLYNANNUI ... ca.groups.yahoo.com/group/mellynannui/

MONSTERATTACKTEAMCANADA List, groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterAttackTeamCanada/

Muggles for Magic - The Lower Mainland Harry Potter Club, harrypotter.meetup.com/450/

NW-B5 (*Babylon 5*), nw-b5.com

Outer Rim Squadron (*Star Wars* stormtroopers), members.shaw.ca/outerrim

Portland SF Society ... porsfis@yahoogroups.com

Starfleet 10th Fleet (*Star Trek*), www.10thfleet.org

UBC SF Society ... Ubc_sfs_alumni@yahoogroups.com

UBC_SFS_ALUMNI List, groups.yahoo.com/group/ubc_sfs_alumni/

Vancouver Gaming Guild, www.vancouvergamingguild.com

Comics

GOTH HOUSE WRITER-ARTIST-PUBLISHER NEWS

Julie McGalliard wrote from Bellingham in early August:

“Clarion West is done, and you finally get to see the next two pages of “Terra Goes to Hell.”

<http://www.gothhouse.org/>

“Long-term readers will notice the inclusion of a horizontal teaser in addition to the usual vertical teaser. We’ll see how this works. Let me know if you hate it, or if you love it. If you say nothing, I’ll assume you don’t care about it.

“Scroll down the main page to see Paul’s updates to the site while I was gone, in case you haven’t already.”

Julie McGalliard, August 4, 2006

VANCOUVER COMICON

Some of the regular events on the Vancouver fan scene are the semi-quarterly comic, toy and model conventions organized by Leonard S Wong, usually held in the Memorial Hall on Main Street in Vancouver. Check out the convention calendar later in these pages, or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>.

COMIC WEBSITES

Goblins: Life Through Their Eyes, thunt.comicgen.com

Into the Black, www.intotheblack.ca

Larry Leadhead, www.larryleadhead.org

User Friendly, www.userfriendly.org

Conventions

ANGLICON 18 CANCELLED

“Dear Anglicon members (past and present), friends and supporters of Anglicon:

“It is with great sadness that we announce that Anglicon 18 (Oct. 13-15, 2006) has been cancelled. We have shut down our convention-related activities at this point, cancelled our hotel contract with their blessing (Thank you Holiday Inn!), and we will be issuing refunds to our pre-registered members during the next few weeks. We ask any of you who have reserved rooms at the hotel to please cancel your room reservations. We also apologize for any trouble or inconvenience that this news may cause you.

“This was not an easy decision for us to make. Our members and the local Fannish community have been like family to us during the last 19 years, supporting us in good times and bad. Lower-than-expected pre-registration figures and number of reserved hotel rooms for this year's convention compelled us to make this fiscally responsible decision for the good of the organization and the Fannish community.

“However, this does not mean that the Anglicon organization will be going away. Our purpose for the last 19 years has always been to promote British (and Commonwealth) media and to help to raise money to support British programming on KBTC-TV public television in Tacoma, WA. This purpose has not changed and we will continue pursuing it, only our methods will change.

“Currently, we are looking at restructuring our organization and deciding how to pursue our purpose in new ways and would appreciate suggestions or ideas. If you have a suggestion, or if you would like to be involved in this process, contact us at angliconinfo@yahoo.com, or by phone 206-789-BRIT, or see our web site www.anglicon.com for upcoming meeting dates and more information. Also, look for our room party and panel at the upcoming Rustycon.

“It is said that, whenever a door closes, another door opens. A new adventure now awaits us through that door and we look forward to seeing you there.”

Gene Armstrong (Anglicon 18 – Chairman), September 7, 2006

CANVENTION

Convention is the title bestowed on the Canadian convention that hosts the Aurora Awards each year. Vcon has hosted the Aurora Awards several times, and will serve as Convention again in October 2007.

As a result, next year's Vcon committee will have a lot of correspondence to do with Dennis Mullin, who maintains the Aurora Awards website, archives lists of eligible works, and offers nomination and voting ballot templates. See www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/ for more information, or www.vcon.ca sometime in early 2007.

CONVENTION CALENDAR

(If I were better organized I would have more than minimal information on a lot of the following conventions. As it is I borrow heavily from the Northwest SF Resources website maintained by Jack Beslanwitch, the Made in Canada website maintained by Don Bassie, our trade fanzines, and my correspondents.)

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. Toastmaster: Michael Walsh. Chair: Clint Budd.

The Gaming Room will be run by the Vancouver Gaming Guild. (In fact, they are running their Cloud City Gaming Extravaganza at the con.)

Three daily themes: Master Classes in Genre Fiction Writing on Friday, Green Science on Saturday, and Media on Sunday.

BIFF and FRED are holding a combined gathering in the Foggy Dew pub, adjacent to the convention hotel.

Adult memberships at the door, \$60. Child in Tow rate: half adult; Tot in Tow, free. (A child in tow is 7-12, and a tot in tow is 6 and under.) 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 clintbudd@dccnet.com. See also www.v-con.ca.

POSTPONED: **CreperCon 2006** - Eugene, Oregon (a horror related convention with a media emphasis); see www.crepercon.com

Oct 7: **24 Hour Comics Day**. More info at <http://www.24hourcomics.com/>

A number of other conventions have appeared in southwestern BC, especially in the 2000s: Anime Evolution, for instance, the August anime convention at SFU; AKA-Kon, a short-lived anime convention conceived by an out-of-town fan (with vast ambitions and half-vast execution); Gatecon in Burnaby, originally a Stargate-inspired convention; and Kei-Con in Victoria. My impression, and you are free to correct me, is that VCon tries to be a general-interest SF convention, and other cons tend to serve an audience focused on one interest.

WCSFA

The West Coast Science Fiction Association is a registered society, the official body that carries on from year to year, provides seed money to Vcons, receives its profits (if any), sets some guidelines for Vcon's conduct – in fact, the kind of thing any conrunning community sets up, sooner or later. Until 1991 WCSFA's predecessor, the Western Canada SF Convention Committee Association, filled this role.

BCSFazine and other fanzines

Is a club publication a fanzine? Some purists think a fanzine must be an individual product; some include clubzines within the pale. *BCSFazine* has always included both the club-newsletter function and a range of general-interest articles, but the format and the range of interests has evolved a lot.

Different editors have adapted *BCSFazine* to different page sizes, thicknesses, production methods and layouts. Two decades ago the standard mode of production was mimeography, a kind of rotary silk-screen printing which required a faneditor to be a kind of craftsman, even an artist. Then came the multiplication of quick-copy centres and the emergence of affordable desktop publishing; very soon, everything was photocopied. And then came the Internet.

By 1996, John Wong was editor of *BCSFazine*. John chose a letter-size page, a highly-illustrated layout, and a range of regular columns from editorials, letters, and convention calendars to fan news (Steve Forty), film and television news (Palle Hoffstein), and book reviews (Donna McMahon). In addition, he initiated the distribution of *BCSFazine* by email, representing a cost saving to the club and to members alike.

Garth Spencer took over as editor in December 2000, with issue #331. Over time he changed *BCSFazine*'s format a lot; usually the clubzine has been a 5.5x8.5" booklet, cutting out John's more sophisticated and graphic layout and reducing the zine's kilobytes. Then he kept whining for more illos.

Several local fans have produced independent fanzines, including Jim Welch (*SFA Digest*), Andrew Murdoch (*Covert Communications from Zeta Corvi*), former *BCSFazine* editor R. Graeme Cameron (*The Old-Fashioned Time Waster and Space Cadet Gazette*), and Garth Spencer (*The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*).

The two things to remember about fanzines are: they vary as much as is possible in format and content, given that they all have some kind of connection with SF and fandom, and their editors were all hobbyists printing a zine on their own dime – and given that none of these fanzines, as a rule, features any fiction.

From about the early 1970s, fans of Star Trek and other media series outnumbered more old-fashioned fans, and redefined fanzines as fanfiction zines, offered for sale. This is like redefining “capitalism” the way we used to define “free enterprise”, or redefining “democracy” as “unregulated overseas capitalism”.

At some point in the late 1980s or early 1990s, “zine” was redefined again, largely by comic fans, punks, anarchists and anyone else with a Message. There's a fair amount of literature on the zine explosion. While there are some surviving periodical reviews of zines, such as *Broken Pencil* from Toronto, there is little or no overlap with the SF fanzine scene.

BCAPA and other apas

Before the Internet appeared, an alternative form of fan publication was the apa, short for amateur publishing association. As used by SF fans, this meant a limited group of people producing contributions up to at least so many pages on an agreed regular basis – monthly, bimonthly or quarterly – sending the required number of copies to a central mailer, and presently receiving collations of the contributions from the CM.

BCSFA members produced a number of apas, VANAPA, BCAPA (until about 1988), Canfandom (Graeme's attempt to promote on-paper fanzine publishing), and CASPERAPA (Fran Skene's attempt to get everybody involved with the Aurora Awards “on the same page”).

be working on the Web site within the next couple of weeks. It is in serious need of an update. You can find the site at:

"<<http://cuff.cometdust.ca/>>

"After you have the opportunity to look at the CUFF site, I would appreciate any constructive feedback you might care to offer.

"Although CUFF sends a Canadian fan to Convention, CUFF is not officially affiliated with Convention or the Aurora Awards. CUFF representatives have participated in Convention and the Aurora ceremonies in the past. I hope this will continue to be the case.

"The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA) is the governing body for the Aurora Awards and Convention. Their Web site is:

"<<http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/>>

"You will notice I have a link to the CSFFA site on the links page of the CUFF site. I will be posting links to other relevant sites in the next two weeks."

forwarded by Julian Castle, August 30, 2006

Oct. 8: **Portland Comic Book Show** - Portland, Oregon (reportedly Oregon's largest Comic Book Convention. Held twice a year in Portland, Oregon)

Oct. 13 – 14: **SciFan** - Lynnwood, Washington (Northwest's Premier Science Fiction Fantasy Modeling Event) www.galaxyhobby.com/scifan.htm

CANCELLED: **Anglicon 18** (see above)

Oct. 22 (1 pm to 7 pm): **Canzine West** at Cambrian Hall, 215 East 17th Avenue, Vancouver, BC. (zine fair and fest of alternative culture) Admission: \$5 (includes a copy of the latest *Broken Pencil* magazine). Dealer table: \$10 (with free 1-year subscription to *Broken Pencil*); \$20 if registering for multiple Canzines. 2 ways to reserve a table: (a) register at <http://www.brokenpencil.com/canzine/> or (b) get registration form (in latest *Broken Pencil*) and send form to *Broken Pencil*, PO Box 203, Station P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S7 Canada. "If you have any questions email canzine@brokenpencil.com " More info at <http://www.brokenpencil.com/canzine/>

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, call 604-322-6412 or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

Oct. 20-22: **Con-Fusion** (Gaming) at the University of Victoria, BC, Canada; see <http://www.con-fusion.ca/>

Oct. 28-29: **Howloween**(furry party) at the Best Western Convention Center, Coquitlam, BC (near the Lougheed Skytrain station). Admission: \$20. Howloween runs all day Saturday (events start at 10:30am), with optional 'Fursuit Bowling' on Sunday morning (email info@howloween.org). Because of growth in the past few years, we've gotten some more space and have the entire top floor of the hotel's event space! Howloween room rates \$99(Canadian) for single-occupancy rooms, \$109 for double occupancy bedrooms (October 28-30). Contact Best Western Coquitlam Hotel & Convention Centre, 319 North Road, Coquitlam, BC V3K 3V8, Canada Toll-free: (800) 668-3383 Tel: (604) 931-9011 Fax: (604) 931-7298 info@bestwesterncoqinn.com <http://www.bestwesterncoqinn.com/> For more info see <http://www.howloween.org/>

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, or see www.fact.org/wfc2006/

Nov. 4 – 6: **AmberConNW** - Troutdale, Oregon (Amber related role playing convention); see www.amberconnw.org

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, 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](#) Membership rates are \$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. Mail registration to: Orycon 28 PO Box 5464 Portland, OR 97228-5464, USA. URL: www.orycon.org

December 2006

Dec 1-3: **SMOFCon 24** at the Hotel Phillips, Kansas City MO. The convention-runner's con. Info: www.smofcon.org

Fanhistory

By Garth Spencer

The past isn't dead. It isn't even past. –Anon.

BCSFA has produced commemorative issues almost every time we produce another 100th issue of *BCSFAzine*; so it might be appropriate to look back on the last eight or nine years of BCSFA's and Vancouver fandom's history, since issue #300.

When you hear the word "history", do you think "dead and gone and irrelevant"? A lot of the things you see – and do – at Vcon only make sense in terms of local history. In fact a lot of the things you see at any convention, or in this zine, will only make sense in terms of where we came from.

BCSFA

BCSFA has been around since 1969, at first in the form of a SF club at the University of British Columbia. BCSFA members founded a convention, which shortly became Vcon; started a newsletter, which we soon titled *BCSFAzine*; founded at least one writers' workshop, and the apas BCAPA and VANAPA; and started the radio show "The Ether Patrol", which is now suspended.

As described elsewhere, a variety of other clubs have grown up in the Lower Mainland, at the universities and elsewhere. My impression, and you are free to correct me, is that BCSFA tends to be a general-interest SF club, and other clubs tend to have a narrower focus, at least officially.

Vcon and other conventions

Vcon has been held almost annually since 1971, in a variety of sizes, forms, and Lower Mainland venues. (A chronology of past Vcons is online, linked to www.vcon.ca.) Until 1977, Vcon was one of rather few SF conventions at all in western North America, let alone in western Canada.

Vancouver fans have bid for and held a number of the travelling conventions originating outside BC – Westercon, which alternates between the American Southwest and the Pacific Northwest; Convention, which alternates between eastern and western Canada; once even NonCon, which properly was an *Alberta* regional convention. I have always suspected that Westercon 30, which we held in 1977, inspired a good many other convention starts in 1978 and 1979, in Alberta, Washington, Idaho and Oregon.

Westercon 44, in 1991, was rather a challenge to Vancouver fandom. In fact for financial reasons Vcon was suspended for a few years from 1992 until 1996, until we rebuilt our capital funds; and instead we held one-day symposia on specific subjects, such as "The Science of Crime". Since then we have rescheduled Vcon from the US Memorial Day weekend in May to the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend in October. Two or three "generations" of fans, so to speak, have served on our convention committees. We have been rebuilding Vcon in attendance and breadth of appeal in the last decade.

January 2007

Jan. 12-14: **Rustycon 24** in Seattle, WA. Memberships \$25. See www.rustycon.com

February 2007

Feb. 24: Noon to 9:00 p.m. ?? UAA Student Union, Anchorage, Alaska (Anime - please note that their web site is under construction, but there is a link to a forum where you can find out more: www.rei-chan.net/senshicon)

March 2007

Mar. 9-11: **Potlatch 16** at the Red Lion Hotel Portland Convention Center, Portland, OR. Memberships TBA. Information: Potlatch 16, c/o OSFCI, Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703; tel. (503) 283-0802; email potlatch16@gmail.com; URL www.spiritone.com/~jlorentz/potlatch

Mar. 16 – 18: **Anime Oasis V** - Boise, Idaho (anime); see www.animeoasis.org

Mar. 24: **Nishikaze III** - Lethbridge, Alberta (anime); see www.nishikaze.org

Mar. 29 – Apr. 1: **World Horror Convention 2007** at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, ON. GoHs: Michael Marshall Smith, Nancy Kilpatrick. ArtGoH: John Picacio. MC: Sephera Giron. Publisher GoH: Peter Crowther. Editor GoH: Don Hutchison. Email Amanda@whc2007.org; URL www.whc2007.org.

Mar. 30 - April 1: **Gamestorm** - Portland, Oregon (gaming); see www.gamestorm.org

Mar. 31 - April 1: **Fifth Annual Emerald City ComicCon** - Seattle, Washington (Comics); see www.emeraldcitycomiccon.com and look at the samurai rabbit!

April 2007

Apr. 5 - 8: **Norwescon 30** - SeaTac, Washington (The premiere northwest regional general science fiction convention) At least that's what the Northwest SF Resources site says. I'm not impressed by great big conventions, but that's just me. Check out www.norwescon.org

Apr. 6 - 8: **SakuraCon 2007** - Seattle, Washington (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). See www.sakuracon.org

May 2007

May 19 - 20: **OtaFest** - Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Anime)

May 20: **Eugene Comic Book and Collectible Show** - Eugene, Oregon (Comics) see www.eugenecomiccon.com

May 25 - 28: **Miscon 21** - Missoula, Montana (Miscon comes of age :-). Full spectrum science fiction/fantasy/horror convention) see www.miscon.org

June 2007

June 22 - 29: **SeaTrek 2007** - Starts and ends in Seattle with the middle in the Pacific Ocean (Cruise based science fiction media convention - check their web site for details on this cruise based con and others) see www.scifi-cruises.com

August 2007

30 Aug - 3 Sep 07 **NIPPON 2007** (65th Worldcon), Yokohama, Japan. _Sterling rates:_ Pounds115 reg/Pounds27 supp, Pounds87/Pounds20 age 13-19; Pounds42 7-12. Contact (UK) 68 Crichton Avenue, York, YO30 6EE; 07815 767273.

Ansible 230, September 2006

September 2007

Sept. 27 - 30: **Bouchercon 2007** - Anchorage, Alaska (Mystery-related, but also with some SF influence on occasion)

Fan Funds

For general information about fan funds, I recommend joining FanFundAdmin@yahoogroups.com.

TAFF Nominations:

"The 2007 race deadline [was] extended to 30 September 2006. Should Eastercon be cancelled (see events list `Rumbings') the TAFF trip may be delayed until later in 2007. Official release at taff.org.uk.

Two One-Off Funds:

"Harry Bell to Corflu 2007: fine t-shirts for sale, and a planned `fanarthology'. Contact Rob Jackson, Chinthay, Nightingale Ln, Hambrook, nr Chichester, PO18 8UH; acksonshambrook at tiscali co uk. USA: Rich Coad, richcoad at comcast.net.

HANA / Hertz (John Hertz) Across to Nippon: this is a one-time trip fund for sending John to Nippon 2007, the first Worldcon in Asia (Yokohama, specifically), and bringing him home. Please make donations payable to Janice Murray (P.O. Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98175, USA); this fund was started by Murray Moore at LACon IV, the 2006 Worldcon. Email is www.sjhtnippon2007@yahoo.ca. Any unspent money will be given equally to the Down Under Fan Fund (DUFF), the Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund (TAFF) and the Get Up-and-over Fan Fund (GUFF).

"sjhtn2007.livejournal.com."

Ansible 230 and John Hertz

AirMiles Account for The Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF)?

Some of you are already aware of fan funds, and of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. Some of you are also aware that Brian Davis, the administrator of CUFF since 2005, was so ill for so long that a CUFF delegate was not chosen this year, to attend this year's Convention.

Julian Castle, frequent contributor to *BCSFAzine*, corresponded to Brian Davis about setting up an AirMiles account in association with CUFF. He forwarded the following exchange.

Julian Castle wrote to Brian Davis:

"1) I suggest that CUFF get an Airmiles account.. When I shop, stores offer me airmiles but I don't have an Airmiles account. I assume that if CUFF had an Airmiles account, then I (and hundreds of other Canadian fans) could give airmiles to CUFF.

"2) Since 2a) CUFF sends fans to Convention and 2b) Prix Aurora Awards are presented at Convention I was wondering about the possibility of a website for CUFF and the Auroras (and maybe Convention)."

Brian wrote to Julian:

"Thank you for your email. I am indeed the correct person to contact regarding CUFF.

"1) Your suggestion of getting an AirMiles account is an interesting one. I am not sure what is involved in setting up an account, but I will look into the process. The more I think about it, the more I like it. When I get details, I will let you know what I find out.

"2) Earlier this year, I started a Web site for CUFF. Due to some life issues (a serious illness, an employment change, an upcoming marriage) I had to put the Web site development on hold. I will