

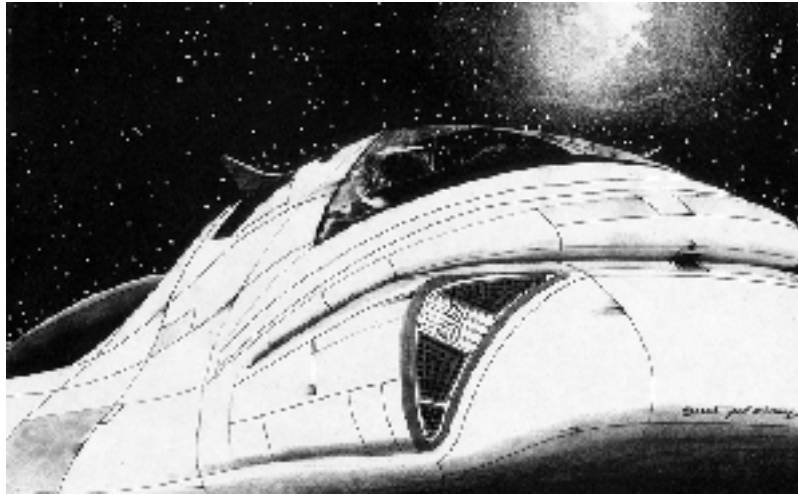
# BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#403

\$3.00

December 2006



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## Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

BCSFAzine © December 2006, Volume 34, #12, Issue #403 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.

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## This Month in BCSFA

- Friday, Dec. 15: **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, Dec. 16: **BCSFA Christmas dinner** at 6 pm at The Old Spaghetti Factory at New Westminster Station.
- Thursday, Dec. 21: **December book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *Warchild* by Karen Lowachee.
- Friday, Dec. 29: **BCSFAzine production** - distribution starts at FRED
- Saturday, Dec. 30 @ 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

## Art Credits

|                                 |                          |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Sheryl Birkhead.....            | Masthead                 |
| Joe Devoy.....                  | p. 15                    |
| David Malinski a la Eldred..... | p. 2                     |
| Jose Sanchez.....               | pp. 7, 8, 14, 22, 27, 37 |
| Clip art.....                   | p. 30                    |

## Some Simple Questions for You

I'm feeling fed up with BCSFA these days, and I haven't enjoyed VCon in a while either. How about you?

For years I've heard some fans muttering about oldpharts trying to keep BCSFA what it was years ago, but they aren't more specific than that. Other fans have also been muttering for years something about VCon not responding to what congoers demand, but they haven't been specific about that, either. That means *you*, Ashton, and that means *you*, Alyx, and I might as well name all the anime and comics and furry and gaming fans.

I think it's past time the specific complaints got read into the record and published, here and on our email lists, just so there's no excuse for BCSFA executives and VCon organizers not getting the message. But BCSFA executives and VCon organizers don't talk with most Vancouver fans, do they? So they probably *still* won't get the message. That means *you*, Graeme, and that means *you*, Kathleen, and I might as well name Clint and Donna and everybody on the VCon 32 committee.

Personally I came looking for people who play with ideas, people with active minds, people who come up with original ideas, people who follow through a line of speculation. Instead I found BCSFA.

I have to thank Fran Skene for introducing me to BCSFA, if not Vancouver fandom as a whole. I can only blame myself for mistaking this group for my kind of group. I can only blame myself, again, for hanging in here and behaving as if making my contribution, as long as possible, was going to give me the community I need. I think I should have stayed at the university. Let me ask you something: what kind of club do *you* want? Or do you have any concept of *making* your own entertainment, at all?

Editing *BCSFAzine* has been getting me down, because I keep expecting more of you to *participate*, at least to respond to the news and the letters and the bios I make up in the birthday section, when I don't know how else to get a real bio out of members. Most of you obviously don't care what I put in. **Most of you, I suspect, don't even read.** I used to ask you: what do you want in *BCSFAzine*? Now I ask the silent majority: do you want *BCSFAzine* at all?

I went to the last VCon with the faint hope of meeting, talking, spending extended time with friends I hadn't seen before, and maybe with new friends; maybe seeing some interesting panels and having good times. Well, it sort of half-worked. I might be better served just to hold an annual party myself, and invite my geographically-dispersed community.

VCon has tried to be all things to all fans, and I'm not so sure that has worked. Let me ask you something more: what kind of convention do you want to see?

Now let's see if you actually respond, either here or online.



## Letters

---

John Bartley, johnbartley@gmail.com, 28 October 2006

You noted in *BCSFAzine* 402.04:

*I have read mixed reviews of the newly enhanced ST-TOS episodes...some think the basis of their childhood has been tinkered with, and they feel lost. Others say the enhanced effects add to the series, and correct mistakes and create SFX impossible to produce in the late 60s. Has anyone seen these new episodes, and what do they think?*

*((That wasn't me.))*

I must preface my remarks by noting that I didn't encounter *Trek* until college, as Thursday nights (when *TOS* was originally broadcast) were also the nights I spent at my local airport, absorbed in Civil Air Patrol, the US equivalent of the RCAC, when I was enthralled by working on earning my wings and pilot's license. So, I didn't encounter the series until I was already on my own, and then rather distracted by alcohol, babes and college.

To me, the changes are rather minor. Lea and I have just installed a THX/Dolby 5.1 sound system, earned by volunteering at a local IEEE convention on Electro Magnetic Compatibility. When I watch the remastered *ST:TOS*, I can hear the difference right away, and the improved movement of the ship models in the opening credits also was easily perceived.

However, it's still the same plot, acting, California exteriors and styrofoam boulders, so it makes little difference in my enjoyment of the series. At least they didn't take away Lt. Uhuru's microskirts, and I am very glad the remastering did not extend to Political Correctness.

*((Star Trek was just average Golden-Age science fiction, going on thirty or forty years after the same sort of thing was published in pulp magazines – the same way Star Wars, and Indiana Jones, and a couple of other movies were revived Saturday-matinee serials, thirty or forty years after Flash Gordon first appeared onscreen. I only watched Star Trek for the same reason I watched Outer Limits and Twilight Zone and Lost in Space: there was nothing better on the tube.*

*((I'm confused by your reference: which political subculture is Politically Correct this decade?))*

---

BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 51.402, Tuesday 21 November 2006

The images seemed lower-resolution than usual this issue.

*((Well, they were low-res. My fault, I reduced them without controlling their resolution.))*

*"Can You Read This Editorial?" - "Can we make BCSFAzine a team effort?" I'd like to do more to help.*

*((We really must work out a way to open up the production process. For all the varied input you see, I've been processing material exclusively on my own, in my shambolic room, on my ill-organized computer; I am not sure how to make the composition a group effort.))*

*"Convention Calendar" - I went to the 5 November Comicon. I bought three black-and-white comics in the 5½×8½-inch zine format. Mask of the Gargoyle was a Shadow-like retro-pulp series. The art by creator/penciller Dario Carrasco was competent but a little too pointy in style. The lettering was the Dave Gibbons font from Comcraft, which is a good font. Pitt #3 was a preview of the Image-era superhero comic by Dale Keown. I detect a John Byrne influence in Keown's art. "I Hate You, You Perverted Fuck, and Everything That You Stand For!" – A Family Suck-Ass Collection detoured "Family Circus" by replacing the captions. Also included was the same technique applied to "Marmaduke." I also picked up some regular comics. Ambush Bug #2 ("Quantis – The Koala Who Walks Like a Man!") and Son of Ambush Bug #6 were drawn by Keith Giffen after his*

two-year sabbatical and overhaul of his drawing style so that it was much better than it had been on Legion of Super-Heroes. Garth, I think you'd enjoy the Ambush Bug titles. In GI Joe #94, "Snake-Eyes Gets a New Face!" however briefly. Mark D. Bright pencils. Bram Stoker's Dracula #2-4 were from the four-part adaptation of the movie, with appropriately shadowy art by Mike Mignola. Freedom Fighters is about a group of patriotic superheroes who are the underground resistance in the Nazi-controlled alternate America of Earth-X; this issue, #10, features the enjoyably silly Cat-Man. Superman #300 asks "What if Kal-El's rocket had landed in the 1970s and his superhero career didn't start until the far-future year of 2001?" Long-time Superman artist Curt Swan pencils, as he also did for Action Comics #556. Wonder Woman #279 guest-stars Etrigan the Demon and has good, solid, pleasing art by the underappreciated José Delbo.

*"Nylons, Cylons, and Pylons" - For VCON 30 and 31, the hotel was very close to our apartment, so I thought I didn't need to rent a room. However, this year, I was impressed by how nice it was to visit the hotel room rented by Joe and Ryan. If they do so again next year, I think I'll join them.*

*"Into a Red Hole" - Like Taral Wayne, I'd felt the show had changed too much by the last season of Red Dwarf, but I'd say the trend began with the sixth season. In the first five seasons, the crew didn't have much to do besides kill time and have adventures while waiting to get back to Earth. Placing them in constant jeopardy and giving them an urgent mission removed the laid-back, party-atmosphere vibe that I enjoyed in the first five seasons. The third season was probably my favourite. I didn't mind Holly's sex change, and the effects were still analog and runchable despite the higher budget. "Timeslides" is my favourite episode of the series, though, like most time-travel stories, it has holes in its logic. (When Rimmer changed the past in such a way that he never died and became a hologram, shouldn't his memories have changed too, so he wouldn't know he'd ever been dead? The wealthy Lister who patented the tension sheet didn't remember his original timeline, after all.) But Red Dwarf never really took continuity and internal consistency seriously, and I can accept that as long as the show doesn't then try to get me to worry about whether the characters are going to be OK.*

---

*Brian Eugene James [eugenius@uniserove.com], November 22, 2006*

Been having a problem with my e-mail but I think it is probably solved this time. So likely you didn't get my last attempt at a message.

My new e-mail address is eugenius@uniserve.com and my snail mail address is 1368 Galerno Road, Campbell River B.C., V9W 1J9... Phone number (office) is (250) 926-0734.



### ***Memberships***

Renewed in November:  
Andrew Kacerik  
Murray Moore  
Lynda Williams

### ***Members' Birthdays***

Dec. 8: **Mohammed Witherspoon-Li** has suggested we start a subversive underground vigilante group, hunt down and

abduct drug dealers and Hell's Angels and yakuza and the Tong, and disappear them. I told him about the Heilige Vehmgericht in medieval Germany. He went away brokenhearted that he wasn't being original.

- Dec. 11: **Kay Briggs** has suggested we start a subversive underground vigilante group, hunt down and abduct plutocrats, and disappear them. I told her I was daydreaming about Royal Swiss Navy campaigns like that. She went away brokenhearted that she was infringing on my copyright.
- Dec. 16/18?: **Steve Forty** wants to return to the days of yesteryear, when everybody in Vancouver fandom turned up at FRED, and everyone knew their name.
- Dec. 17: **Allan Kelly** is the one who knows where all past years are.
- Dec. 17: **Debbie Miyashita** collects Japanese candy.
- Dec. 18: I told **Fran Skene** that I wanted to start a subversive underground vigilante group, identify and document plutocrats and career bureaucrats, and expose them to public ridicule; but she pointed out to me that political humorists have been doing this for decades. Centuries, even. I went away brokenhearted that I can't think of anything original.
- Dec. 20: **Barb Dryer** is a finalist in the all-Canada Allergy Playoffs. So is Sidney Trim.
- Dec. 20: **Colleen Harris** has a surname in common with Jason Harris, and nothing else as far as I know.
- Dec. 21: **Stan Evans** moved to Idaho for love and then disappeared. There have been rumours, of course, but ...
- Dec. 22: **Jonathan Rose** founded and owned the SF bookstore that was a hub in Toronto SF fandom, spawned the Bunch of Seven writers' group, and now I can't remember what it was called.



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of books for sale  
is now available at  
[Kate.smith@shaw.ca](mailto:Kate.smith@shaw.ca)

**Garth Spencer's catalogue**  
of *his* books for sale  
will soon be available at  
[garthspencer@shaw.ca](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca)

**ROYAL SWISS NAVY T - SHIRTS** and other paraphernalia may be viewed at:  
<http://www.cafepress.com/royalswissnavy> (no dot between royalswiss and navy)



### **Regular Monthly Events**

#### **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](http://biff.digitaldoodles.com) for more details.

8:00 p.m.: **OR COME TO FRED!** every Friday til whenever, usually 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)

### 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.

## *Fortnightly Events*

### Every Second Monday

**Perpetual-Motion Inventors & Gadgeteers Meet:** 7 to 9 pm at Ariel Café, 73 Kingsway x Broadway, Vancouver, BC.

### 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.)

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

### 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.

**METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP** is open to new members. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For information call Ken, 604- 876- 5751 email ktran@vcn.bc.ca  
Need skills and experience your business just doesn't have? Consult

#### 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 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.

### **Conventions**

#### **January 2007**

Jan. 12-14: **Rustycon 24** in Seattle, WA. Memberships \$25. See [www.rustycon.com](http://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](http://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 OSFCL, Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703; tel. (503) 283-0802; email [potlatch16@gmail.com](mailto:potlatch16@gmail.com); URL [www.spiritone.com/~jlorentz/potlatch](http://www.spiritone.com/~jlorentz/potlatch)

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

Mar. 24: **Nishikaze III** - Lethbridge, Alberta (anime); see [www.nishikaze.org](http://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](mailto:Amanda@whc2007.org); URL [www.whc2007.org](http://www.whc2007.org).

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

Mar. 31 - April 1: **Fifth Annual Emerald City ComicCon** - Seattle, Washington (Comics); see [www.emeraldcitycomiccon.com](http://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](http://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](http://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.eugenecomicon.com](http://www.eugenecomicon.com)

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

### August 2007

30 Aug - 3 Sep 07 **NIPPON 2007** (65th Worldcon), Yokohama, Japan. Sterling rates: £115 reg/£27 supp, £87/£20 age 13-19; £42 7-12. Contact (UK) 68 Crichton Avenue, York, YO30 6EE; 07815 767273.

### September 2007

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

### October 2007

Oct 19-21: **VCon 32 / Canvention 2007 in or around Vancouver, BC** - all details TBA - keep watching [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca)



## A Story

By Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand

*A fanatic is one who can't change his mind and won't change the subject.*  
– Winston Churchill

*... which goes well with...*

*A fanatic is someone who redoubles their efforts while losing sight of their goals*  
– George Santayana

"Oh great Prophet! Lead us! Tell us which way to go to reach the Promised Land!" cried the people, gnashing their teeth in anguish.

The Prophet looked at the anxious faces of his tortured peoples, and said "To get to the Promised Land... we must go... NORTH!"

"North!" cried the Followers.

"North!" wept the women.

"North!" roared the men.

"North!" sang the children.

And so the word went out... the Prophet had declared that North was the Way to the Promised Land!

So it was North that they went. Finally, their lives had a direction!

Truly, the Prophet was a holy man, to provide such guidance!

So it was that the People headed North! North! North, the Holy!

North, the Sacred! North, the One True Direction! so Sayeth the Prophet!

Valiantly Northward headed the People. They vied amongst themselves as to who was the most North, goading all the People to go faster... faster!

And lo, even then, even amongst the People, there were wicked vipers of doubt, destruction, and evil!

There were the evil Southists, who proclaimed the Prophet a liar and South the true direction. Their evil lies even extended to such an outrage as proclaiming that, because the World was a Sphere, so to North was to go South and vice versa!

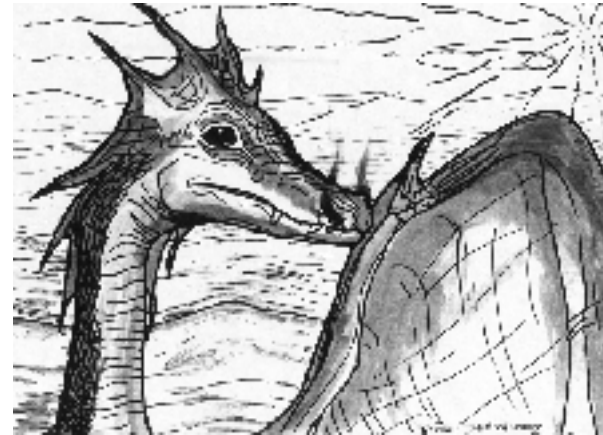
Such heretics earned their violent deaths, crushed under the wheels of the increasingly heavy vehicles of the people going in the RIGHT direction.

Faster and faster went the People, and sang of their Glory, becoming more North every day. Their leaders declared themselves the Northmost,

and thus, only they were fit to guide the People on the Narrow Northeast Path, according to the will of the Prophet.

The Prophet, however, was hundreds of miles behind them in the Promised Land. It was true that he had been tossed from a Great Vehicle a long time ago as a heretic when he had suggested that they were at the Promised Land and it was time to stop going North. But still, he loved his People, and wondered what had become of them.

"Perhaps..." said the Prophet to his Wife, "I Should Have Been More Specific."



## Mad Science News

### MAD SCIENTIST HOUR

"I looked at the feature video  
(<http://www.eepybird.com/dcm1.html> ,  
3 minutes of 2 guys with  
101 bottle of diet coke and 523 Mentos)  
and thought "I wonder if this qualifies as mad science?"  
And then I saw they describe themselves as  
"the mad scientists at EepyBird.com."

"And hey, they recently teamed up with Blue Man Group  
<http://www.eepybird.com/news.html#blueman>

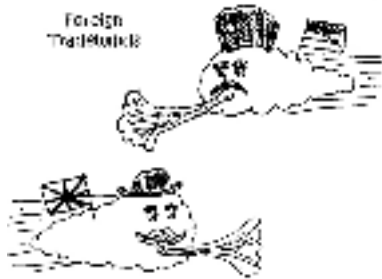
Julian Castle, Oct. 23, 2006

## TESLA COILS

"I think <http://www.electricstuff.co.uk/> includes a decent amount of mad science. (including <http://www.electricstuff.co.uk/cdzap.html>)

"(Link below probably NOT safe for work. Electronic hardware having fun at <http://www.electricstuff.co.uk/electrofun.html>"

Julian Castle, Nov. 19, 2006

**By-For-About Writers:****SOME AURORA 2007 ELIGIBLE WORKS**

"After some discussion with interested fans it was decided to start collecting and listing eligibility information as it becomes available. So if you spot (or have) work that you think should be on these lists or have corrections send the information to [prix.aurora.awards@gmail.com](mailto:prix.aurora.awards@gmail.com) or to [dmullin@sentex.net](mailto:dmullin@sentex.net) (remove blanks before mailing). " (Dennis Mullin)

A preliminary list of eligible works:

**Best Long-Form Work in English / Meilleur livre en anglais**

For the best work of SF or Fantasy in a published novel or fiction collection by a Canadian writer, released in Canada in 2006.

*The Thousandfold Thought* (The Prince of Nothing #3), R. Scott Bakker (Penguin, Jan/2006)

*The Cassandra Virus*, K.V. Johansen (Orca Books, Apr/2006)

*Torrie and the Firebird*, K.V. Johansen (Annick Press, Jan/2006)

**Meilleur livre en français / Best Long-Form Work in French**

*Dans la catégorie du meilleur roman ou recueil de fiction publié, écrit par*

*un(e) écrivain(e) canadien(ne) et sorti au Canada en 2006, qui relève de la science-fiction ou du fantastique.*

*Reine de Mémoire 3. Le Dragon fou*, Élisabeth Vonarburg (Alire, Mar/2006)

*Une bonne partie de l'information dans cette catégorie nous à été gracieusement fournie par Claude Janelle et de l'Année de la science-fiction et du fantastique québécois.*

**Best Short-Form Work in English / Meilleure nouvelle en anglais**

For a Science Fiction or Fantasy novella, novelette, short story or poem by a Canadian writer, in English, released in Canada in 2006.

"The Ghost of Watson's Mill Is Online", Daniel Archambault (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Only the Dead Flower", A.M. Arruin (*On Spec* 64, Spring/2006)

"Nothing and its Starboard Healing", A.M. Arruin (*On Spec* 64, Spring/2006) (poem) \*

"Walking With Wolves", Alison Baird (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Blues In the Shadows", Bruce Barber (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005)

"Metis", Leah Bobet (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005)

"The Universal Soldier", Charles de Lint (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Inquire Within", Jude Dillon (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005) (poem)

"Playing Games", Susan Forest (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005)

"All the Cool Monsters at Once", James Alan Gardner (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"After November", Roben Goodfellow (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"After School Specials", Tanya Huff (*Children of Magic*, DAW)

"Under Summons", Tanya Huff (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Over Lunar White", Lorne Kates (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"The Lady of Land's End", Genevieve Kierans (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Mirror, Mirror", Genevieve Kierans (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Windigo", Mark Ladouceur (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"This Is the Ice Age", Claude Lalumière (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Following Darkness Like A Dream", Lesley D. Livingston (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005)

"This Ink Feels Like Sorrow", Karin Lowachee (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

"Hell-Train", Nicole Luiken (*On Spec* 64, Spring/2006)  
 "Venera Redux", Paul Marlowe (*Continuum Science Fiction* #5, Apr/2006) \*  
 "Night of Sevens", Paul Marlowe (*Oceans of the Mind* #20, June/2006) \*  
 "Over the Darkened Landscape", Derryl Murphy (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)  
 "Shades of Truth", Jana Paniccia (*Children of Magic*, DAW)  
 "Family Trees", Fiona Patton (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)  
 "The Trade", Fiona Patton (*Children of Magic*, DAW)  
 "Ticker Hounds", Shawn Peters (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005)  
 "The Girl With the Half-Moon Eyes", Robert Burke Richardson (*On Spec* 64, Spring/2006)  
 "Dust to Dust", Scott Sakatch (*On Spec* 64, Spring/2006)  
 "The Smell of the Earth", Joan Savage (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005)  
 "Soul Hungry", Rebecca M. Senese (*On Spec* 64, Spring/2006)  
 "Memories of the Dead Man", Douglas Smith (*On Spec* 63, Winter/2005)  
 "The Rustle of Wings", Ruth Stuart (*Children of Magic*, DAW)  
 "An End to All Things", Karina Sumner-Smith (*Children of Magic*, DAW)  
 "Safe Passage", Karina Sumner-Smith (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)  
 "Shahira", Michelle West (*Children of Magic*, DAW)  
 "The Harpy", Lynda Williams (*Mythspring*, Red Deer Press)

Meilleure nouvelle en français / Best Short-Form Work in French

*Dans la catégorie de la meilleure nouvelle ou du meilleur poème écrit et publié par un(e) écrivain(e) canadien(ne) et sorti au Canada en 2006, qui relève de la science-fiction ou du fantastique.*

...

Best Other Work in English / Meilleur ouvrage en anglais (Autre)

For Science Fiction or Fantasy activity, in English, by a Canadian, in 2006, not encompassed by the previous categories. For example: critical writing, media presentation, anthologies, magazines, translator. Note: If nominating a TV show, please nominate individual episodes or story arcs.

*Mythspring*, Julie E. Czerneda and Genevieve Kierans (Red Deer Press) [anthology]

"Writing the Fantastic", Susan MacGregor (*On Spec* 64) [editorial] (\*)

...

Meilleur ouvrage en français / Best Other Work in French

*Dans la catégorie du meilleur travail relevant de la science-fiction ou du fantastique canadiens en 2006, qui n'est pas compris dans les deux catégories précédentes. Par exemple: anthologie ou collectif, revue, activité médiatique, critique littéraire, édition ou direction littéraire, traducteur.*

Artistic Achievement / Accomplissement artistique

For a work or body of work produced by a Canadian artist during 2006. This category is open to both professional and non-professional artists. Examples of the artist's work are indicated in brackets after the artist's name. This is not a complete list. Please feel free to nominate people not on this list. / *Pour une oeuvre ou pour la production artistique d'un(e) Canadien(ne) en 2006. Cette catégorie est ouverte à tous les artistes, professionnels ou non. Des exemples de la production de l'artiste sont cités entre parenthèses à la suite du nom de l'artiste. Ceci est une liste préliminaire. N'hésitez pas à suggérer des noms qui ne figurent pas sur cette liste.*

Jim Beveridge (www.jamesbeveridge.com) (*On Spec* 64)

Kenn Brown + Chris Wren (www.mondolithic.com) (*Mythspring*)

Christine Delezene (*Torrie and the Firebird*)

Fan Achievement (Publication) / Accomplissement fanique (publication)

For a Canadian fanzine, fannish newsletter or amateur publication relating to SF and Fantasy fandom published at least once in 2006. Publications may be either hard copy or electronic. Club publications are not eligible. If you nominate a publication not on the list, please include the address of the publication and the editor's name. / *Pour un fanzine, une publication amateur ou un bulletin fanique canadien, qui traite du milieu de la science-fiction ou du fantastique, publié au moins une fois en 2006. Les publications peuvent être en format tangible ou électronique.*

*Les publications de clubs ne sont pas éligibles. Si vous proposez une publication qui n'est pas mentionnée, veuillez inclure l'adresse de la publication et le nom de l'éditeur.*

...

Note 1: Due to changes in the constitution at Canvention 22 (2002), club publications are no longer eligible.

Fan Achievement (Organizational) / Accomplissement fanique

(Organisation) For individual contributions to Canadian SF convention or club activities during 2006. Please feel free to nominate people not on this list.

*Pour des contributions à des congrès ou des activités de clubs canadiens en 2006. N'hésitez pas à suggérer des noms qui ne figurent pas sur cette liste.*

...

Fan Achievement (Other) / Accomplissement fanique (autre)

For Canadian fan activity in 2006 not encompassed by the previous two categories. For example: multi-media presentation, music, APAS, fan-writing, etc. Note: Please feel free to nominate people not on this list.

*Pour des activités faniques canadiennes en 2006 qui ne sont pas comprises dans les deux catégories précédentes. Par exemple: musique, présentations multimédia, écriture fanique, etc. N'hésitez pas à suggérer des noms qui ne figurent pas sur cette liste.*

...

From [www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/](http://www.sentex.net/~dmullin/aurora/)

"TESSERACTS TEN" - NOW AVAILABLE ACROSS CANADA!

(Calgary) EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing proudly announces the release of *Tesseract Ten*, edited by award winning authors Robert Charles Wilson and Edo van Belkom.

*Tesseract Ten* is our ten-year anniversary celebration issue and the latest anthology of Canadian Science Fiction, Fantasy and Speculative Literature. It's now available at major bookstores\* and local independent resellers of SF&F across Canada (\* by special order if it's not on the shelf).

Here's what we've said on the back cover (not a spoiler)...

"*Tesseract Ten* features the latest in innovative and futuristic fiction and poetry and contains works from both leaders and exciting new emerging voices in Canadian speculative fiction - including Sheryl Curtis' English language translations of works by French-Canadian authors."

The editors for *Tesseract Ten* are Robert Charles Wilson and Edo van Belkom.

Robert Charles Wilson is the author of many short stories and twelve novels. His work has appeared in such publications as *Realms of Fantasy, F & SF*, and *Tesseract* 3, 4 & 6, and his short story "The Inner, Inner City" was a World Fantasy Award finalist. His latest novel, *Spin*, now in paperback, won the 2006 Hugo Award. He has also received the John W. Campbell Award, three Aurora Awards, and the Philip K. Dick Award.

Edo van Belkom has won both the Bram Stoker and Silver Birch Awards and is a three-time winner of the Aurora Award, Canada's top prize for speculative writing. Among his novels are "Scream Queen", "Blood Road", "Martyrs" and "Teeth". In addition to *Tesseract* 10, Edo is the editor of four other anthologies including "Be Afraid!" and "Be Very Afraid!" His most recent work is a series of novels for young readers, "Wolf Pack", "Lone Wolf", and "Cry Wolf".

"We are delighted with the quality and great diversity of Canadian writing shown in the stories selected by our editors!" says Brian Hades, publisher of EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing." There are a wide range of writing styles, and some definite surprises!"

*Tesseract Ten* contains works by:

Sandra Kasturi, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime, Wendy Waring, Allen Moore, Sarah Totton, Greg Bechtel, Jason Christie, Michèle Laframbois, Matthew Johnson, Matthew Hughes, Victoria Fisher, Nancy Bennett, Scott Mackay, Lisa Smedman, Susan Forest, Yvonne Pronovost, René Beaulieu, Mark Dachuk, and Rhea Rose.

Edge Publishing, Nov. 21, 2006

TESSERACTS 11 is calling for submissions to the 2007 volume; deadline is December 10, 2007. Editors are Cory Doctorow and Holly Phillips.

*Tesseract* is open to submissions in English or French from Canadians, landed immigrants, long-time residents and expatriates, preferably 5500 words or less in standard manuscript format, in the genres of magic realism, SF, fantasy, horror and la fantastique. Electronic submissions will be accepted at [tess11@edgewebsite.com](mailto:tess11@edgewebsite.com), but must be followed by a hard copy. Do not send originals; submissions will not be returned. Mail to *Tesseract Eleven*, Attention: Series Editor, c/o *Tesseract Eleven* Submissions, P.O. Box 1714, Calgary, AB T2P 2L7. See [www.edgewebsite.com/index.html](http://www.edgewebsite.com/index.html) for more details.

Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter, Nov-Dec 06

WORLD FANTASY AWARDS

"Presented on 4 November: NOVEL Haruki Murakami, *Kafka on the Shore*. NOVELLA Joe Hill, *Voluntary Committal*. SHORT George Saunders, 'CommComm' (*New Yorker* 8/05) ANTHOLOGY Marvin Kaye, ed., *The Fair Folk*. COLLECTION Bruce Holland Rogers, *The Keyhole Opera*. ARTIST James Jean. SPECIAL/PROFESSIONAL Sean Wallace, Prime Books. SPECIAL/NON-PROFESSIONAL David Howe & Stephen Walker, Telos Books. LIFE ACHIEVEMENT John Crowley, Stephen Fabian."

*Ansible* 232, November 2006

**INTERNATIONAL HORROR GUILD AWARDS**

"NOVEL Brett Easton Ellis, *Lunar Park*. SHORT FICTION Rick Bowes, 'There's a Hole in the City' (*Sci Fiction*). MID-LENGTH Caitlin Kiernan, 'La Peau Verte' (*To Charles Fort, with Love*). LONG Gary Braunbeck, 'Kiss of the Mudman' (*Home Before Dark*). COLLECTION Joe Hill, *20th Century Ghosts*. PERIODICAL Postscripts. ILLUSTRATED Enki Bilal, *Memories*. NONFICTION S.T. Joshi & Stefan Dziemianowicz, eds, *Supernatural Literature of the World: An Encyclopedia*. ART Clive Barker exhibition: 'Visions of Heaven and Hell (and Then Some)'. LIVING LEGEND Chelsea Quinn Yarbro. All presented 2 November at [World Fantasy Con]."

*Ansible* 232 November 2006

**REVIEW OF EDWARD WILLETT'S LOST IN TRANSLATION ONLINE**

There's a new review of the paperback edition of Edward Willett's SF novel *Lost in Translation* online at the McNally Robinson Booksellers site.  
SF Canada, Tuesday, October 17, 2006

**CM MAGAZINE'S REVIEW OF SIMON ROSE'S LATEST NOW ONLINE**

*CM Magazine's* review of *The Emerald Curse*, Simon Rose's fourth novel for young readers, is now online .

SF Canada, Tuesday, October 17, 2006

**NEW WEBSITE FOR LESLIE CARMICHAEL**

Parts of it are still under construction, but Leslie Carmichael now has a website.

SF Canada, Tuesday, October 17, 2006

**HOLLY PHILLIPS SELLS STORY TO ASIMOV'S**

Holly Phillips has sold her literary SF story "Three Days of Rain" to Isaac Asimov's *Science Fiction Magazine*.

SF Canada, Tuesday, October 17, 2006

**MICHÈLE LAFRAMBOISE LAUNCHING NEW COMIC BOOK**

Michèle Laframboise is launching her new comic book, *Séances de signatures* (*Signing sessions*) at the 7e Rendez-vous International de la BD de Gatineau, at the Civilisation Museum, this Thursday, October 19. *Séances de signatures* "explores the absurd world of the non-star writers as they strive for public acceptance in the shadow of a happy few hyper-mediatized authors."

SF Canada, Tuesday, October 17, 2006

**NEW ANTHOLOGY**

*Science Fiction Trails* is a new anthology calling for submissions. Prairie Dog Press, formerly Stray Dog Press, calls for stories up to 8,000 words; no minimum length, but the editor is not fond of "flash fiction". The theme is the Wild West, with some science fiction aspect in the stories; they must take place entirely on Earth, somewhere in the western US between the Pacific and the Rocky Mountain region, or in northern New Mexico, or BC, or the Yukon, between 1850 and 1900 AD. Submissions must be received by December 31, 2006 at David B. Riely, Editor, P.O. Box 8181, Abvton, CO 81620, U.S.A.

Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter, Nov-Dec 06

**SMALL PRESS**

*The Hub* is a new, bimonthly UK sf/f/horror print magazine (~80pp colour glossy) edited by Lee Harris and launching in early December 2006. Contact: [www.hub-mag.co.uk](http://www.hub-mag.co.uk) or *Hub Magazine*, 3 Cobble Court Mews, York, YO24 1BB. Payment for fiction is Pounds25/thou, but they have a full list and are not yet accepting submissions.

*Ansible* 232, November 2006



## ***By-For-About Fans:***

### *ANTICIPATION: WORLDCON 2009 IN MONTREAL*

For those who didn't get an Anticipation bid flyer at VCon 31, here are the facts.

Montreal fans are bidding to hold Worldcon 2009 in their city. The proposed venue is the Palais des congrès, a convention centre offering 198,820 square feet of exhibit space, 65 meeting rooms, and a location in the middle of downtown Montreal, directly connected to the Montreal Metro, restaurants, stores, and attractions. Over 1600 hotel rooms are available within one kilometre, and 2500 more within 2 kilometres.

Committee members include Robbie Bourget, Brian Davis, Bruce Farr, Terry Fong, Eugene Heller, Peter Jarvis, John Mansfield and Linda Ross-Mansfield, Michael McConnell, Nicholas Schectman, Marie-Astrid and Rene Walling.

Current rates are: pre-supporting, \$25 Cdn, \$20 US, or equivalent; pre-opposing, \$30 Cdn, \$25 US, or equivalent; and "bon ami", \$125 Cdn, \$100 US, or equivalent.

The bid addresses are: C.P. 505, succursale NDG, Montreal, Quebec H4A 3P8; John Harold, 8 Warren Close, Langley, Slough, Berks. SL3 7UA, UK; and Eric Lesueur, Appt. 3, 95 bld. Aristide Briand, 9310 Montreuil, France (anticipation2009@colexia.com).

Email address is info@anticipationsf.ca; URL is www.anticipationf.ca.

### *CON-VERSION REINVENTED?*

Con-Version, the Calgary convention, may be replaced. A general meeting scheduled for the weekend of November 17/18 was to consider a motion to change the convention to Nexus, a media convention.

*Opuntia* 62.3, October 2006  
Con-Version SF Society, Nov. 2006 email

### *XERPS IN 2010*

Someone at the last Worldcon promoted a bid for Xerps to host the Worldcon in 2010. The proposed venue is the Capital City Convention Centre (of course); the Guest of Honour, Rayle Ammerxr, is author of *The Cold Sleep* duodecalogy, and winner of the Singularity Award for Best Series; the Guest Artist, Chromyzziv B18.4, is illustration of *The Cold Sleep* series and winner of the Singularity Award for Best Artist; the Fan Guest of Honour, Zaphod Beeblebrox, is a former Galactic President and

technical consultant to *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* movie; the Media Guest of Honour, Xullyard, Drof, has featured in the Earth movies *Signs*, *Ole Three Fingers*, and *Dreamcatcher*. Accommodations and transportation are offered courtesy of Deep Freeze Travel.

(from the flyer)

### *CUSTOM T-SHIRTS, ANYONE?*

"I see that CafePress is talking about opening up a CafePress.ca site, which, presumably, means that we won't get punished so much on the shipping once it goes live. At that point, I'm thinking that there are all kinds of BCSFA products which could be made available online. I've been doing a little tinkering today (<http://www.cafepress.com/realityfree>), and there are a fair number of different types of products available. (Unfortunately, a couple of the products which I'd really like to be able to make aren't available. At least, not yet. For instance, I'm not a coffee drinker, and would be much more interested in glasses than mugs. Then too, I figure "Suspect" or "Innocent Bystander" would be much cooler on a windbreaker."

Greg Slade to BCSFA, Nov. 7, 2006

### *FANFUNDERY*

#### The 2007/8 TAFF Saga

"As warned in *Ansible* 230, the 2007 Eastercon" (a major United Kingdom convention) "needed a hefty membership boost and had committed itself to getting further assurances about Adelphi Hotel security in order to continue. One or both failed to materialize, and the cancellation was announced on 31 October. The Convoy bid was assembled late in the day when no one else was prepared to bid for the 2007 event. Now, though, plans for a last-minute replacement -- to be held over Easter, though probably on a smaller scale than Eastercon -- are being energetically discussed."

*Ansible* 232, November 2006

One result of the foregoing, after much online discussion, is that the TAFF administrators decided to postpone the 2007 TAFF race to 2008. A TAFF Web page announcement has been posted at <http://taff.org.uk/news/ann0611.html>.

Dave Langford & Suzanne Tompkins, Nov. 10, 2006

"What we now have, after a well attended Saturday panel about the future of UK conventions, is a provisional Eastercon called Contemplation\* which is co-chaired by Fran Dowd and Chris O'Shea.

Contemplation was approved by a hefty Novacon audience, has Convoy's blessing, took a lot of memberships at £45, and has a scratch website at ... <http://contemplation.conventions.org.uk> ... but not yet a hotel. Keep watching the skies."

Dave Langford, FanFundAdmin, 13 Nov. 2006

DUFF administrator Norman Cates writes:

"... I've been entirely too quiet lately. Largely due to work I'm afraid. But we've delivered our big project this year so now I can breathe again. "But the upshot is that I have been too lax on DUFF stuff... As it were. "So I've updated my DUFF pages and put up some material that people can use...

"Which is where I'm hoping that those on this list can help give a boost.

"The material I have is here: <http://sffanz.sf.org.nz/duff/index.shtml> . The page deals with DUFF for next year. It also has a few downloads that people can use as advertising in zines.

"I would be VERY grateful if those of us in Australasia could mail your contacts with this information. I hope that I have provided a few starting points to make it easier for people to incorporate this information in print or on the web.

"And of course it's not just limited to Australasia... Any publications that would get to relevant and interested people would be welcome to use this information.

"Thanks all. And I apologise again for being slack with this."

Norman Cates to FanFundAdmin, Nov. 17, 2006

TAFF: with Eastercon 2007 cancelled, Chris Garcia and Mary Kay Kare are racing to ... where?

IEIS, the one-off Europe to Nippon 2007 fund, has two known candidates: Liam Proven and Robert Sneddon. Nominations close[d] 13 Nov.

*Bellissimo!* is a fine showcase of Harry Bell's fan art, compiled by Rob Jackson (Chinthay, Nightingale Ln, Hambrook, nr Chichester, PO18 8UH) and available from him or US agent Rich Coad (124 Cottage Ave, Richmond, CA 94801) at Pounds8/\$14 post paid. A4; 122pp inc card covers. Proceeds to the Get Harry fund (Bell to Corflu 2007); any surplus to TAFF, GUFF, etc.

*Ansible* 232, November 2006

### *THE ROSWELL DIG*

In 2002, the Sci-Fi Channel sponsored a dig in Roswell, New Mexico, at the site of a reported UFO crash. Archaeologists were searching for any debris that may have been left behind, hoping to find some answers to the 1947 mystery. A documentary came out of the project called "The Roswell Crash: Startling New Evidence," which was hosted by Bryant Gumbel. The film and others like it are the subject of parody in "The Top Secret UFO Project," filmmaker R. J. Thomas' spoof of UFO documentaries.

"The Roswell legend will never die," Mr. Thomas said. "People will keep digging and researching and studying it forever."

"Carl Brandon" to Trufen.net, Oct. 24, 2006

### *DUNGEONS & DRAGONS PLAYER TRIED FOR MURDER AFTER KILLING CO-WORKER WITH HOMEMADE SWORD*

*By Matt Pordum Court TV*

DETROIT--On Oct. 27, 2004, James Flemons walked into work with a homemade samurai sword and slashed his co-worker to death.

Prosecutors say Flemons, then 30, was angry because of constant bullying by the victim, Anthony Williams, and other co-workers at Peerless Metal Powders & Abrasive.

But Flemons' lawyer says he is schizophrenic with a psychotic obsession with fantasy role-playing games, including Dungeons & Dragons.

Opening statements in Flemons' murder trial are expected Wednesday.

Williams arrived at his job the day of the killing armed with a homemade 38-inch samurai sword. Witnesses told police that Flemons appeared to hand Williams a piece of metal in a chivalrous manner, as if challenging him to a duel, before chasing him and stabbing him to death.

The medical examiner ruled that Williams died as a result of "multiple chop wounds to the neck."

Witnesses told police that, after the killing, Flemons bought a beer and cigar at a nearby convenience store. He then returned to the scene and positioned Williams' body as if on a cross. Then he opened the beer and lit the cigar as he waited for the police to arrive, his colleagues said.

In a voluntary statement to police, Flemons admitted attacking Williams in response to constant bullying about his fantasy game obsession.

Less than a month after Williams' death, Flemons was found not competent to stand trial and was sent to the State Center for Forensic Psychiatry in Ypsilanti for further evaluation.

To be declared competent to stand trial, an individual must understand the nature of the proceedings and be able to assist counsel in defending their case.

Under Michigan law, the state has 15 months in which to medicate and treat individuals deemed not competent to stand trial. If the person is still found not competent at the end of that period, prosecutors can file to have him committed to a mental institution.

Flemons' lawyer, David Roby, said his client was deemed competent to stand trial only two weeks before the 15-month deadline was reached.

"The doctors said that even though he's hearing voices out of the television that are directing aspects of his life and he's suffering from other mood-altering delusions... 'he's made such progress we think he's competent,'" Roby said.

Roby said Flemons was obsessed with magic, fantasy, the occult, voodoo, Santeria, telekinesis and spirits.

"He played Dungeons & Dragons and was obsessive with games of fantasy, anything that helped him get away from people and hide from them in his own little cocoon," Roby said. ...

Felicity Walker, Nov. 2006

#### OLD STYLE FANAC

"MICHAEL SWANWICK writes: 'I was on a panel at Capclave this past weekend, where -- at last! -- Patrick Nielsen Hayden explained reading for the *Wired* Generation: 'The book is the source code, the brain is the compiler, and the experience produced in the reader is the executable.'"

Ansible 232, November 2006



## CANZINE WEST 2006

A Julian Castle Adventure

Canzine West 2006 was in Vancouver, on 2006 Oct 22 (Sunday), 1 PM to 7 PM.

### Phase 1: pre-convention

I looked at the Canzine website and didn't see any Canzine West events listed, so I assumed there were none. It turns out the site did list events, but no start times were given. (I didn't see the events because the Web page was too large.)

Canzine 2006 was at Cambrian Hall at 215 East 17th Avenue in Vancouver. After trying to use the Translink website I deemed it to be fubar, and tried Translink hotline instead. The Translink hotline's automated service seems unable to give directions FROM an intersection TO an address. I switched to a Translink operator and she gave me directions with no problem.

### Phase 2: arrival

When I arrive at Main and 17th, I am disappointed there was no Canzine presence (example: sandwich board or chalk writing on sidewalk) at the intersection to get passers-by to check out Canzine.

I assumed I'd be walking a few blocks to get to Canzine, but it turns out Cambrian Hall is a few feet away Main Street.

### Phase 3: entrance

I enter Cambrian at around 3pm. Admission was \$5 and included a copy of the latest issue of *Broken Pencil*.

I'm happy to pay admission, but: (A) I am surprised there isn't a way to pick up my subscription copy of *Broken Pencil*. My subscription copy arrives via snail-mail almost a month later; (B) I am disappointed admission doesn't include a list of those who booked tables. I asked the admission volunteers, and they said a published list was planned, but there was an organizational failure. (One exhibitor said some people applied for tables, but their applications got lost.)

### Phase 3: Canzine proper

I wander around Canzine for about 2 hours, and the place is mostly packed. Canzine West is divided into 3 main areas: 1) zine fair; 2) event stage (which I ignored) - Canzine website says they were food events; 3) balcony (which I also ignored), where people could do some art (collage?).

My best Canzine experiences were with Colin Upton. I happily bought some new Colin Upton comics and later on in the day laughed out



loud at some of the one-panel comedy comics Colin had drawn (including one that wondered if raw-food cookbooks existed).

I was disappointed that most of the tables didn't have any affordables. An example of an affordable would be a mini-comic for \$1.

#### F: Freebies I picked up

\*f1\* flyer for Vancouver D.I.Y. Website [www.vancouverdiy.com](http://www.vancouverdiy.com) Their mission: "to run a website and other projects that promote and support the DIY ethos and its associated growing community in Vancouver. (..)"

\*f2\* flyer for Vegetarian Resource Centre, 2250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. Phone: 604-628-7864. Open Fridays to Sundays, noon-6PM. Website [www.VancouverVeg.com](http://www.VancouverVeg.com).

\*f3\* *ODmagazine* #12 (20 page zine dated 2006 Summer) Website [www.ODmagazine.vze.com](http://www.ODmagazine.vze.com)

\*f4\* artistic and funny flyer for Inkstuds radio show Website [www.crowncommission.com/inkstuds](http://www.crowncommission.com/inkstuds)

\*f5\* "These Hidden Moments" on a one-sided sheet of paper by [www.myspace.com/nomagazine](http://www.myspace.com/nomagazine).

\*f6\* Alarming Press biz card. Website [www.alarmingpress.net](http://www.alarmingpress.net)

\*f7\* Sarah Haxby biz card. Website [www.peargirl.com](http://www.peargirl.com)

\*f8 to f14\* some other stuff

#### C: Things I bought by Colin Upton (Website [www.ColinUpton.com](http://www.ColinUpton.com))

\*c1\* 9-11[:] *The Half-decade*, a minicomic about Colin's 2006 September 11. Price 75 cents.

\*c2\* *Bookworm*, a minicomic about Colin's love of info in books. Price 50 cents.

\*c3\* *Colin Upton Comics* #3 and #4. Minicomics collecting single panel comedy pieces. Price 50 cents each.

\*c4\* *The Littlest Gunne*, minicomic. Battle featuring anthropomorphic walking cannons including a young cannon. Price 50 cents.

\*c5\* *Self-indulgent Comics* #15, a minicomic where a Vancouver cop searches for the villain who poisoned 3 trees. Price 50 cents.

\*c6\* *Shitman! The Man Made Of Shit*, a minicomic which probably was created because Colin is (apparently) single (and frustrated about being single). Price 50 cents.

\*c7\* *Colin's Comics* volume 3 and 4. Price \$5 or \$6 each

#### B: Things I bought by people who were not Colin Upton

\*b25\* for 25 cents. *Naked Thoughts*, a minicomic by Peargirl.

\*B?\* price unknown

\*b?-1\* 1984 *Revisited*, minicomic by Lydia Fu. Price \$1 ??

\*b?-2\* *Things Not To Do If You Perchance To Meet A Large Bear*, a cute minicomic by Colleen T. MacIssac. Price \$1 ??

\*b?-3\* *Jobgoblin* #1, COLOUR minicomic by Brian Fukushima. Price \$5 ?? Brian's website [www.bottomlesspop.com](http://www.bottomlesspop.com).

\*b?-4\* Passport-shaped creation titled "Selections from: VGML" "Subtitle[:] Recipes For The Geographical Vegan" by Claire Heslop & Five Seventeen. Price \$3 ??

I decide to buy a Jason Turner comic, so I went to Jason Turner's table and bought a *Hate Song* #1 because I assumed it was by Jason and I assumed it is a rock-music romance. But when I read the comic on the way home I discover both my assumptions were wrong.



### **“Into a Red Hole”**

(part 3)

By Taral Wayne

(reprinted from *Banana Wings* 27, ed. Mark Plummer & Claire Brialey, August 06)

As had happened before, the eighth season ended on a cliffhanger. Red Dwarf, newly reconstituted with all 1,169 (or perhaps 169) personnel was on the verge of total destruction, while Rimmer desperately sought a remedy in another dimension... Unfortunately that was the end not of the season, but the series.

The franchise undertook a separate lifeline as a short number of novels by the creators. Together as “Grant Naylor”, Rob Grant and Doug Naylor co-wrote *Infinity Welcomes Careful Drivers* (originally just *Red Dwarf*) in 1989. The sequel *Better Than Life* followed in 1990. In 1996 Rob Grant went it alone to write the third book, *Backwards*. Doug Naylor’s solo “*Last Human*” completes the four-book cycle. While highly amusing, it seems to me that the main value of the books is to illuminate the difference

between television and literature. What's cleverly written when acted in front of a camera comes across far less convincing as plain typeset prose. The comedic contributions of Charles, Barrie, John-Jules and Llewellyn are self-evidently crucial to the show.

Apart from a certain flatness of affect in the four novels, their more leisurely pace permits Grant & Naylor to inject vastly more detail about life in the late 22<sup>nd</sup>. century. For instance, we learn that before signing on with the Jupiter Mining Corporation, Lister was a cabby. While interesting up to a point, the extraneous detail adds little that matters. I found that by burdening the plot with humour for humour's sake, the story lost its crucial solemnity. Without that, I was unable to put myself in Lister's place, and share his predicament. As one book follows after another, the plots follow the television episodes for a pace, but finally veer into sheer invention, adding on non-canonical adventures and incidents. None of these, frankly, felt at all "right" to me. Perhaps because they had no precedent in the televised series, or maybe because by that time Grant and Naylor were writing their own versions, and neither separately was the same "author" they were together.

The last episode of *Red Dwarf* aired on BBC on April 5<sup>th</sup>. 1999. It seemed to be the last we were meant to see. However, a few years before the final episode, *Red Dwarf* took a very curious excursion into a parallel dimension – Hollywood. In 1991, Universal Studios and NBC became interested in producing *Red Dwarf* for American TV. Two pilots were made. Of the entire British cast, unwisely only Robert Llewellyn as Kryten was carried over from the BBC series. All other main parts were played by American actors with so little ability that with one notable exception I don't think any have been heard from since. Chris Eigeman was cast as Rimmer in the first pilot, Anthony Fuscle as Rimmer in the second. Craig Bierko played Lister, Jane Leeves played a female Holly, and Hinton Battle was the Cat in pilot-one. Eigeman as the first Rimmer was so ineffectual he was replaced for a second test episode. Hinton too, made an exceptionally poor Cat, and the part was given to a female actor! Most people would know Terri Farrell better in the role as Dax, from *Deep Space Nine*. While intriguing in a performance that owed more to the Catwoman from the 1960's TV *Batman*, Terri was just no substitute for the real thing.

Nothing could fix these lamentable failures though. They were excruciating, even where the actors delivered exactly the same lines and same jokes. Not even the impeccable comedian Robert Llewellyn was able to be funny in his own role. Mercifully, everyone was paid for their time and no contracts were signed. Fans of *Red Dwarf* were spared a castrated and Americanized version of their favourite science fiction show.

What everyone hoped for, once it was obvious there was not going to be a ninth season in the foreseeable future, was a film.

When news of it began to trickle out to the public is hard to say. I found the first definite information on the official web site. (<http://www.reddwarf.co.uk/>) Back in 2001 it was revealed that a script had been written. All the original cast was on-board and had rehearsed the first draft. Storyboards were produced and pre-production at the Shepperton Studios was set to start November 2002. Robert Llewellyn was cast in plaster to make a new Kryten suit... A year later the news had changed. Shepperton had no studio space. Funding was proving to be a problem, but Production was looking at Australia. The last information available was posted to the web site in April 2003, and claimed shooting would begin in September that year. Two more years passed by. From a now lost source I picked up news that the shooting would start in May 2005, for a 2005 release! Naturally by this time I was sceptical of *any* information. Ungrounded rumours abounded. Madonna would appear in a cameo. Jackie Chan would make a guest appearance. Patrick Stewart would have a minor role!

The last isn't so strange as it might seem. The actor who played Captain Jean Luc Picard on *Star Trek the Next Generation* does in fact have a comfortable relationship with *Red Dwarf*. He appears in the BBC special, "Red Dwarf A to Z", and tells the charming story about his first encounter with a different species of television SF. While channel surfing, Stewart discovered a program he thought at first was a perfect case of plagiarism. Reaching for the phone to call his lawyer, he hesitated. He watched a little more, began to chuckle, watched a longer while and laughed, and realized that *Red Dwarf* was the funniest parody of stuffed shirt science fiction (like *Star Trek*) that he'd ever seen. It doesn't seem at all far-fetched that he might happily appear in a cameo role in a *Red Dwarf* movie.

Problems about the expected movie emerged. It was no secret that arguably the most important character of *Red Dwarf* was Lister, and the actor who played him had begun to draw a regular pay check from another British television production. Craig Charles had a new role, a minor character who was a taxi driver on *Coronation Street*! Believe it. I have seen it with my own eyes. (And incidentally, he wears no dread locks, and his Scouse has turned down from 11 to about 4 on the dial.) Still, the biggest problem potentially was one of nature's making, not the BBC's. The actors were getting older. Their aging was imperceptible from season to season, but if you have the series on tape or DVD you can easily go back to compare earlier with later episodes, and plainly see how the

years have changed everyone. Kryten is thin, Lister is boyish, Holly was never young but at least he wasn't grey then.

The irony is, that if a movie is finally made, the crew will be middle aged, and altogether too much like their older doubles from fifteen years in the future, met in "Out of Time".

According to Grant Naylor, however, the script doesn't pick up from where the cliffhanger ending of the final episode leaves off. In fact it starts some time before the *first* episode, and supposedly goes in a direction all of its own. The movie is to be a story that stands by itself. In April 2002, Winchester Films released a promotional teaser with a summary of the plot that may or may not be accurate.

*"Red Dwarf the Movie is set in the distant future where Homo Sapienoids, a fearsome combination of flesh and machine, and the next stage of human evolution, have taken over the solar system and almost wiped out the human race. The only survivors are the crews of long-haul space freighters that left Earth before the conflict began. The Sapienoids send forth fleets of Death Ships to hunt them down. One by one the human ships fall, until only one remains. It's name - Red Dwarf..."*

Was that the Same Red Dwarf its loyal fans watched all those years? It certainly doesn't sound like it. The official web site warns that the questionable text may be a nearly total fabrication of promotional department thinking, without any clue to what Red Dwarf is about. Yes, perhaps that's so... but what if it isn't? It's hard to be optimistic.

Remember what was done to *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*?

A good adaptation of Red Dwarf to the Big Screen is surely possible. (Doug Naylor swears it will be so.) What I *don't* want to see in the film is bigger and better special effects, a story that is neither true to the original nor develops in any way from it, and especially I don't want to see concessions to an audience that never cared to watch Red Dwarf in the first place. I have my own notion about how to make this movie. Never mind Grant and Naylor, whose novelizations show a weakened grip on the virtues of the original in any case. Let's get back to basics.

Fanfare. Begin 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.

Lost in it this immensity is Lister, the last man in the universe. His only companions a neurotic compulsive hologram of his worst enemy Rimmer, a daft artificial intelligence named Holly, a fashion conscious Cat, and a mechanoid with an over-developed desire to please. Let's not crowd the lonely universe with Gelfs, Polymorphs, Simulants, Intelligent Viruses, Holo-ships, and Wax-Droids. Especially let us not re-create Red Dwarf as it was, busy with 169 or 1,169 crew who haven't a clue they were dead for 3,000,000 years and are now alive again.

By now the actors are all nearly twenty years older than they were when the reactor cover blew on the Dwarf's main drive. Let them *be* twenty years older in the movie. Lister, Rimmer and the others have been drifting with total lack of purpose and rare intervals of danger for two decades, and have nothing to look forward but more decades of the same. We have to have a plot though. We must have a story worth telling. At the age of 3,000,020 Holly is far past his manufacturer's warranty, and we've seen many worrisome signs of a disturbance in his thought analogs already. Could Holly be breaking down? If he does, who will continue to run the hundreds of integrated subsystems that make up the totality of a functioning space ship? Will oxygen still be regenerated? Will food be dispensed? Will the halls of Red Dwarf cool until they approximate the absolute zero of empty space? Can Rimmer still vex Lister, or will his hologram vanish like political credibility after a force five hurricane, if Holly malfunctions? ("You see, the situation isn't as bad as it seems," will say Cat.)

Here's where Kryten comes in. After his revolt in the first season episode by the same name, Kryten was found damaged in the wreckage of his space bike. He was salvaged and repaired. We never saw the story as it happened; it was merely recapped at the beginning of the third season. Could Holly's mental decay be the reason Kryten was rebuilt? Might he have been intended as a replacement? As spare parts? Subsequent episodes make it clear matters didn't work out that way. What really did happen, then?

I don't think it would be very much trouble to develop an entire plot for a hundred-and-twenty minute movie from that point.

Here, in fact, are two plot ideas I sketched out two years ago. The first seems the obvious follow up to the beginning I just outlined. It would take a little adaptation here and there, but in theory that's what scriptwriters are paid for, and I'd be glad to take Naylor's check.

#### PLOT ONE

The Dwarf picks up some sort of space trash that turns out to be a bit of an unknown, blown-up spaceship. Holly looks it over, then discards it

as useless. Shortly after that, Rimmer starts talking in a German accent. Everyone thinks he's just being an ass, as usual, but they inexplicably he grows a little toothbrush style mustache, and his hair falls over his eye in a bang. About the same time that it's obvious that Rimmer has morphed into his favourite dictator, Adolph Hitler, Holly's image also starts to change. He grows a wildly unkempt mane of white hair, and a bushy white mustache. He's turning into Albert Einstein. Neither Holly nor Rimmer understands there's something wrong. They think they are Hitler and Einstein. Like the real Hitler and Einstein, they have fallings out over "Jewish science" and anti-Semitism. The best Lister, Cat, and Kryten can convince them is that logically they can't be who they think they are, since they're adrift on a derelict spaceship, millions of years in the future. Things look bad. Rimmer is not noticeably more obnoxious than usual, but for all Einstein's brilliance, he has no idea how to operate the Dwarf. Then Kryten begins to act oddly... One minute he's behaving like Lister! But then a little later he obviously has the mannerisms of Queen Victoria. Later still, he momentarily thinks he's Ace Rimmer. Questioned about his variable behavior, he says, "Oh, I don't know Mr. Lister sir. I'm so confused. They're all humans I've admired at one time or another, but I never could decide which to choose as a role model."

"Role model! That's it. You've got it Kryten. Role. Models! Holly. Rim-mair. You. You've all reverted to your rowl models, but in your case you can't make up yair mi-ind."

"Yah, ov cour-arse," he replies in his best Arnie Schwarzenegger accent, "but dat does not expla-ain vhat cawzes it, dummy."

That bit of space trash is responsible, naturally. It was badly damaged electronics, and contaminated with the same computer virus that caused the original ship to explode. The trick now, is to purge Red Dwarf of it before it self-destructs.

One way this might be worked into the movie plot is if the "bit of space trash" might have been Kryten's own wreckage. Perhaps initially there was no attempt to reconstruct the mechanoid. His artificial intelligence might have been salvaged only to repair or replace Holly's in a desperate attempt to stave off a massive ship-wide malfunction. While the experiment couldn't have gone very well - Holly is as daft as ever - it's possible at least to put Kryten back together more or less the way he was. Only, by then Kryten has infected Holly with the computer responsible for his own "rebellion" earlier... Whichever desperate measures finally succeed in ridding Holly of the virus could well restore him to his usual semi-competency.

I don't claim the second plot I sketched will fit in anywhere, or that any effort should be made in an attempt. But if the first movie is

successful, then the studio bean counters will demand there be a sequel!

## PLOT TWO

Idea for a second Red Dwarf plot -- suppose the real Rimmer doesn't get killed when it's his turn to pose as Ace? Suppose he works out in his mind that he makes a lousy hero. Our Rimmer finds his replacement early, before he buys the farm, and tries to go back to Red Dwarf. He could meet his own living self. Of course, they've done that in a way before, when Lister inadvertently brought a second holo of Rimmer back, and the two of them hated each other. (One of their most consistently brilliant episodes I think.) But one being alive and the other hating him for it might add an interesting twist.

The point of all this is not just to show off my fertile imagination. (That's never yet done me the least bit of good.) The case I hope I've made is that, despite the apparent abandonment by the creators of Red Dwarf's fundamental equations, is that there are still an infinite number of stories to be written about a man, a holograph, a cat, and a mechanoid adrift in space in an empty factory ship. It was that story about isolation and futility that compelled me to watch Red Dwarf from the moment I first clued in. It was not just another sit-com premise, a sort of Odd Couple in Orbit, but one that sparked powerful emotions in me, and drew me back to view the early episodes again and again. If only I could pull on some sloppy clothes, sit down to a chicken vindaloo, and fantasize about the sexual availability of animated characters on 3,000,000-year-old videotapes... not that much would have changed, really. I could be completely at home on Red Dwarf. That akin to Lister. All I need do is re-wind and play my life over and over in a nobler and somehow more meaningful kind of existential void.

In reality of course, I'm just an obscure drawer and occasional writer sitting in a small apartment trying to make sense of all this to you. I have a cat, but if it has a taste for velour I haven't noticed. I talk to the TV but unlike Holly it doesn't talk back. If I have a relationship with anyone who isn't really there and no one else sees, I'm not going to explain myself here... I'm just talking about a television show I happen to really like, and think you might appreciate too.

At this point it's likely that all VIII seasons of Red Dwarf can be bought on DVD. If you've never seen the series, start with the first two, three, or four and let it grow on you. But if you start questioning the basis for your existence and talking with imaginary people, don't blame me.

Appendix:

**Cast for Red Dwarf Movie, from Official Web Site.**

**Arnold Rimmer**, Chris Barrie  
**Dave Lister**, Craig Charles  
**Cat**, Danny John-Jules  
**Kryten**, Robert Llewellyn  
**Holly**, Norman Lovett  
**Kristine Kochanski**, Chloë Annett  
**Captain Hollister**, Mac McDonald  
**Writer/Director**, Doug Naylor  
**Executive Producer**, Charles Armitage  
**Producer**, Joseph D'Morais  
**Editor**, Mark Wybourn  
**Production Designer**, Michael Rumpf  
**Costume Designer**, Howard Burden  
**Visual Effects Supervisor**, Mike Seymour  
**Casting Director**, Linda Glover



**Media File**

Ray Seredin

Bad news for Canadian *Doctor Who* viewers over the holiday season. The CBC will pre-empt the series from December 4<sup>th</sup> to January 15<sup>th</sup> in order to show holiday programming. Series fans are upset with this decision, since it will fall right in the middle of a two-part story, “The Impossible Planet”/“The Satan Pit.” Nor did the CBC even set an air-date for the series’ Christmas special or the spin-off series *Torchwood*. Rumours say *Torchwood* could air during

next year’s *CBC Summer Festival* on a yet-undetermined date and in *The Hour*’s 11PM-12AM timeslot, while Canadian viewers may have to wait ’til next Christmas to see this year’s Christmas specials.

I feel that that the CBC’s TV license is coming up for renewal by the CRTC this June, and with the network having a snowball’s chance in heck of keeping NHL hockey after the 2007-2008 playoffs and the \$500,000,000 in earnings that it brings in annually, they are trying to put their best foot forward and air programming that will draw a broader audience in the holiday season.

*Torchwood* is *not Doctor Who*; it’s intended for an adult audience, and with all the Canadian-produced series filling up its timeslots, it may be in its best interests for it to be in a late-night time-slot next summer. Fans who are on-line can probably watch the *Doctor Who* Christmas special on YouTube (or other sites of that kind) in the days and weeks after its Christmas day airing in the UK. Those who don’t see it on-line can probably see a copy of it at either BIFF or at VCON 32. I also feel that the CBC will air it as the opener to season three, which will hit the air next October 8<sup>th</sup>.

As for the five-week gap between “The Impossible Planet” and “The Satan Pit”: if I ran the CBC, I would have aired “The Satan Pit” on December 11<sup>th</sup> and started the holiday programming on the 12<sup>th</sup> or air it on January 8<sup>th</sup>, because five weeks is a just a bit too much to wait.

I watched season two (or 28, if you are a long-time fan like myself) of *Doctor Who* on YouTube. The CBC has wrecked one of the best *Doctor Who* stories ever by putting a commercial break right in the middle of a scene in “Girl in the Fireplace.” Who cares about changing BC’s labour code? Well, I do, but place your ad on at another time or on a station that somebody in power in Victoria actually watches. If you do that again, I’m going to watch *Prison Break* and just wait for the DVD of *Doctor Who*.

One note to add before signing off: the release date for the *Doctor Who* season two DVD in Canada has been moved back to February 22<sup>nd</sup>, but the release date in the US remains January 16<sup>th</sup>. Is anyone heading to either Bellingham or Seattle in mid-to-late January?

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