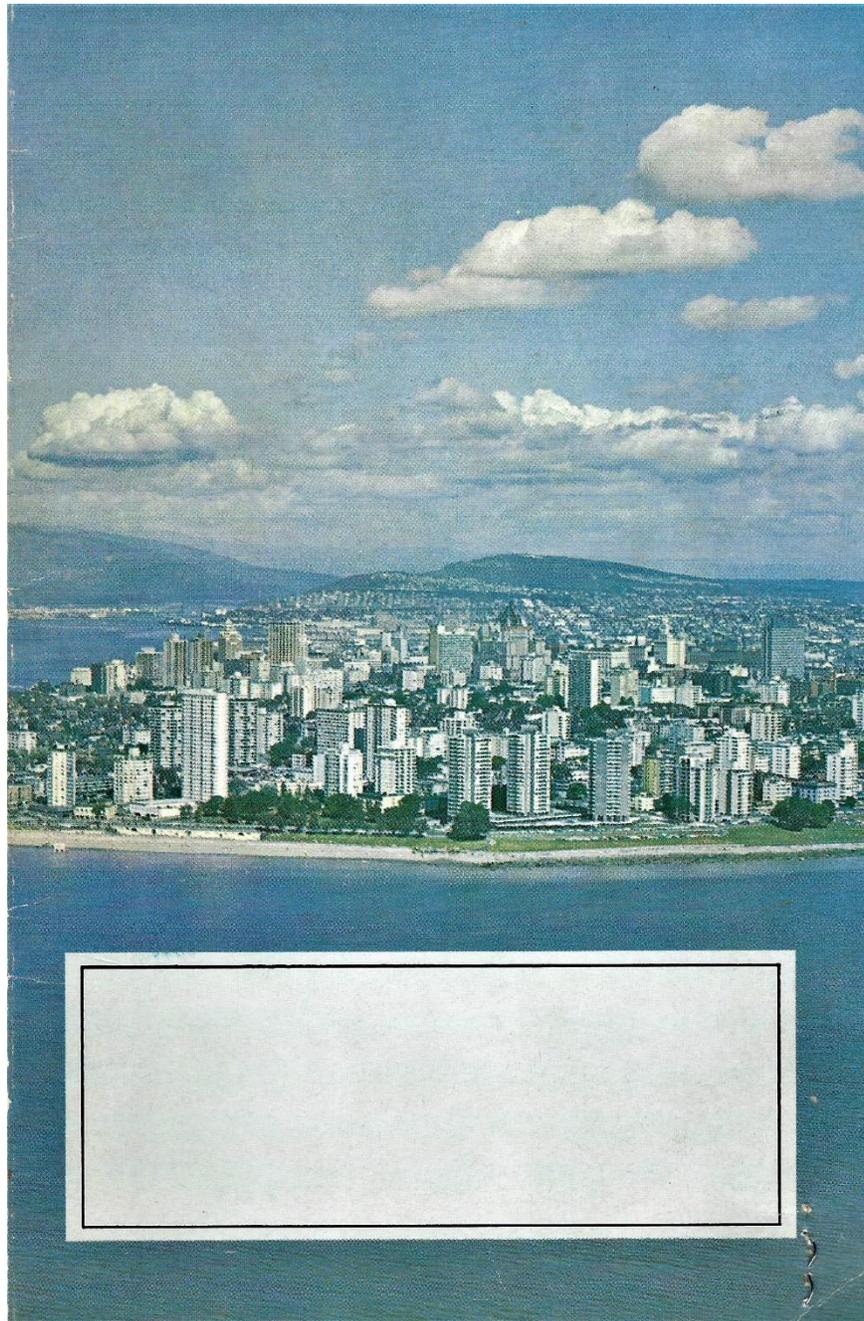


BCSFAZINE

Newsletter of the West Coast Science Fiction Association
(Formerly the Clubzine of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, the Social Branch of WCSFA)

(Issue #551 – March 2023)



Cover of "VCON ONE" Program Book 1971

CURRENT WCSFA EXECUTIVE

President: Joseph Bardsley
Vice-President: Divya Kohli
Treasurer: Kathleen Moore
Organizing Secretary: Katherine Shadwick
Members at Large:
Scott Betson
Marcie Lynn Tentchoff
Jenni Merrifield.
Kona Lynn Sankey

NON-EXECUTIVE MEMBER VOLUNTEERS (From BCSFA—the social branch of WCSFA):

Newsletter Editor: R. Graeme Cameron
VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty
Keeper of the Book of F.R.E.D. Ryan Hawe
Life-Time Members:
Tim Hammell
Al Betz (deceased)
Fran Skene
Steve Forty

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COVER ART: “VCON One” photo provided by the Vancouver Chamber of Commerce.



EDITORIAL: THE GOD-EDITOR SPEAKS!

Why BCSFAzine? Why not WCSFAzine? Tradition!

Why “The God-Editor?” Tradition! And nostalgia.

Is this a return to the days of yore when “back in the day” reigned supreme? No. I don’t have the time to cram every issue with tons of goodies such as movie reviews, zine reviews, opinion pieces, commentary, comprehensive fannish news, looks back at this and that, etc. To be honest, whenever I do have the urge to write such, I reserve them for my Perzine *Great Galloping Ghu!* the first of which I published last June and have yet to create enough new material to publish a second issue. However,

my two semi-professional fiction magazines *Polar Borealis* and *Polar Starlight*, the book reviews I write for *Amazing Stories*, and my latest attempt at a novel are generally more than enough to soak up my aging energy and sporadic mental alertness. Hence my need to do as little as possible putting BCSFAzine together.

So, what's in store for readers? Much depends on the contributions you write for BCSFAzine. Yes, you! I'm compelled to rely on you. After all, if you're reading this, you must be a fan. Of what, exactly? Something to do with science fiction or fantasy, I should think. Literature? Art? Film? Cosplay? Games? Technology? Conventions? Fanzines? Club stuff? Indescribable stuff? Why not share your SF&F passion with the other readers?

The great thing is that the trolls, them as dwells under the internet, will remain dormant. No instant negativity in response to your views and opinions. The worst they can do is write a nasty letter to the editor who, being the God-Editor, is a monstrous gatekeeper with shuddering levels of power. Trolls will be squashed and flung to the nethermost regions.

In short, you can relax. Writing for the fixed, printed page is a leisurely affair, even when circulated online. I will edit the letter column accordingly. No vituperation in response to your creativity will be allowed.

I hasten to add the purpose of this zine is to shill for WCSFA and VCON in as positive and light-hearted manner as possible. I want BCSFAzine to be a glittering, scintillating, invigorating palace of propaganda, hype, flimflam and ballyhoo so bright and cheerful it would make the Wizard of Oz blush with envy. Don't want any "Nattering Nabobs of Negativism" in this zine!

I belong to the FIJAGH crowd. "Fandom is just a God-damned Hobby." (As opposed to the FIAWOL bunch. "Fandom is a way of life." I'm too old for that.) Actually, I like FIJAGGH better. "Fandom is just a God-given Hobby." Hobbies are a gift of the gods. Everybody likes their hobby, whatever it is. They like to talk about their hobby. Why not write about it? That's my invitation to you.

Or to put it another way, life is too short to get mad. Why not have fun instead? Bcsfazine gives you a chance to share your fun. Go for it!

Deadline for any issue is the last day of the month. Send your articles, columns, letters of comment, etc. to [the God-Editor](#)

Cheers! *The Graeme*

BEHIND THE SCENES AT BCSFAZINE by Vaughn Fraser

(Published in BCSFAzine #147 August 1985)



COMPILING **BCSFA BITS** IS ALMOST A FULL TIME JOB IN ITSELF - PUBLICATIONS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD MUST BE METICULOUSLY SCANNED, CATALOGUED AND A CLIPPING FILE KEPT UP IN ORDER TO KEEP **BCSFA MEMBERS** UP-TO-DATE ON THE FAST PACED WORLD OF SCIENCE FICTION!



HEY!
DID YOU THROW OUT LAST WEEK'S SUN WITH THE EWOK REVIEW?

ONCE ALL THE COPY IS ON HAND, IT IS COPY-EDITED, MARKED UP, TYPED AND PASTED ONTO LAYOUTS WITH THE OTHER GRAPHICS. OF COURSE, IT IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO GENERATE **CAUSTIC** EDITORIAL REMARKS TO ENSURE A LIVELY LETTERS COLUMN...



IS THAT HOW YOU SPELL "EVISCERATE"?

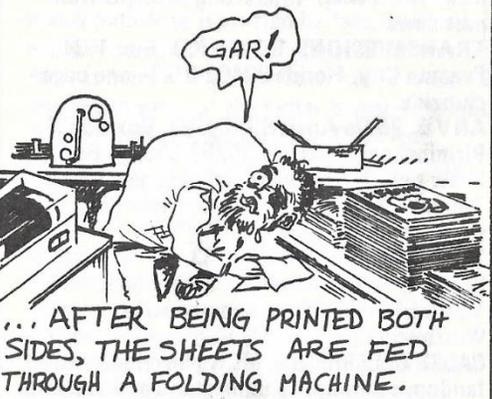
FINALLY, ALL THE PAGES ARE READY FOR PRINTING AND **"IGOR"** IS ASSIGNED TO THE DUNGEON PRINT SHOP...



... AND DON'T FORGET TO SLIPSHEET THIS TIME!

YASSSS, MISTRESS!

AN ELECTRONIC STENCIL IS MADE, AND THE STENCIL IS THEN USED TO MIMEOGRAPH THE REQUIRED NUMBER OF COPIES...



GAR!

... AFTER BEING PRINTED BOTH SIDES, THE SHEETS ARE FED THROUGH A FOLDING MACHINE.

THEN THE SHEETS ARE COLLATED AND INSERTED INTO ENVELOPES TO BE ADDRESSED, STAMPED AND FINALLY MAILED TO EACH **BCSFA MEMBER!** IT IS USUALLY AT THIS STAGE THAT ANY PROOFREADING IS DONE...



LOOK - YOU MISSPELLED "ETHER PATROL"!

SHUT UP AND KEEP STAPLING!

HOPE YOU ENJOYED THE TOUR, GARTH. NEXT ISSUE WE'LL TAKE A LOOK AT HOW WE RUN **V-CONS!**



VW Froom '86

PREPARE TO JOIN W.C.S.F.A.

By R. Graeme Cameron

How exactly? Good question.

Back in the day, the primary purpose of the West Coast Science Fiction Association, a registered Society, (formerly the Western Canada Science Fiction Convention Committee Association), was to chose from assorted bids the Convention Committee that would run the next VCON convention. Simple, what?

The WCSFA membership consisted of anyone who purchased a membership in the upcoming VCON. This gave said individuals the right to vote in elections for the WCSFA Board of Directors and to attend monthly WCSFA meetings.

Problem is, VCON is dormant and may or may not be revived. If it does rise again, Phoenix-like, that won't be for several years at the earliest. In other words, there is technically no way to join WCSFA except as a volunteer. Fine, except that doesn't bring money into the coffers. No money, no activity, and above all, no chance of reviving VCON.

Used to be \$5.00 of every VCON membership went to WCSFA. No longer happening. Because VCON is no longer happening (though maybe someday).

What to do?

I propose WCSFA adopt a formal membership list of WCSFA members (not VCON pre-subscribers). I propose WCSFA request, as a condition of membership, an annual fee of \$10.00 CAD. I propose there be no exceptions. I propose that board members, volunteers, and would-be supporters automatically pay this flat rate.

This has at least two advantages.

It would simplify record keeping. All the Treasurer has to do is accept the money and notify a membership list supervisor who paid what when, said supervisor being a Board member, or perhaps a volunteer, delegated to maintain the membership list of names, addresses, contact info, date joined, and anticipated renewal date, and to make this list available to the Board whenever they want to see it. This would lessen the burden for the Treasurer. At any rate, it's an idea worth considering.

In addition, my proposal would provide money to budget for room rentals for meetings and for fund-raising events, the latter hopefully reimbursing the expenses and gaining some additional funds for WCSFA. It will also provide a bit of a cushion if a fund-raising effort fails to meet expenses.

Disadvantages?

It would call for a paradigm shift in thinking. Forget the “deal” with VCON. No longer relevant. Could be revived someday, but out of the question for now. A fixed WCSFA membership is the only solution.

It might call for rewriting the WCSFA Constitution. So what? That’s something the Board of Directors can easily do. Part of their job. In W.C.S.F.C.C.A. days months were spent wrangling over petty wording disputes. Screw that. Just put in wording in plain English calling for an annual membership fee. If there is anything to do with the VCON “deal,” (I can’t remember off the top of my head if there is) leave it in. Might come in handy someday. No need to change it. Just add a clause about a flat-rate annual membership fee. Simple as that.

Might be some would claim no need to change anything in our bylaws, who would insist the “membership” of those who’ve already paid for unredeemed memberships years ago stand as “members,” and simply charge “newbies” the traditional \$5.00 fee VCON pays to WCSFA. Ahem, two disadvantages to staying the course:

- 1) No further income from the “standing” membership.
- 2) Too complicated. Imagine saying to a would-be member *“You can join if you pay part of your VCON membership fee in advance of paying the rest of the fee to enable you to attend a VCON possibly years down the road, and, then you’ll never have to pay either fee ever again or, at least, not till the far-off VCON has taken place and you can then pay in advance for the following VCON, assuming it ever happens.”*

As opposed to saying *“You want to join WCSFA? \$10.00. Renewable in a year’s time.”*

See the difference? Heck of a lot simpler and easier.

Right off the bat, starting from scratch, Board members plus myself would bring in \$100.00 or so (depending on whether my current info on the Board membership is correct).

Any “newbies” joining would automatically become members of WCSFA (devoted to preparing the groundwork for a future VCON) and its social branch BCSFA (devoted to having fun).

As a side note, I would point out BCSFAzine cannot be defined as a perk of membership. That would imply restricting it to paid-up members, so its potential for attracting new members would be utterly lost. BCSFAzine has to be free (thus paperless so no costs to cover) and freely available to anyone who wants to read it.

I have spent a grand total of four days preparing this “inaugural” issue and the templates for the next 8 issues, which will guarantee publication through to and including December. Then I’ll assess the results, if any, and decide whether I want to continue. If my promotional efforts fail, WCSFA/BCSFA would probably want someone else to take over BCSFAzine anyway. Be interesting to see what happens.

Of course, getting back to the original “deal,” some would argue it is necessary because VCON needs to “purchase” the right to use the trademark VCON which is owned by WCSFA.

Except that it isn’t. It is currently owned by BCSFA, as renewed and paid for by Moss Whelan (before he gafiated from WCSFA, BCSFA and VCON) in the name of BCSFA. It so happens that BCSFA has always owned the trademark.

True, a few years ago, members of BCSFA voted to transfer the trademark to WCSFA, and WCSFA subsequently voted to accept the transfer. Trouble is the minutes of the latter meeting were lost, or never published in the first place, so the “proof” of WCSFA’s acceptance could not be presented to the Feds, and an application to change ownership was never sent. (It costs significant money to do that, by the way.) So BCSFA still owns the trademark.

Now for the big problem: BCSFA is defunct. Hasn’t done anything in a long, long time. Sure, there’s a ton of ex-members with nostalgic memories hanging around, but no active members. None. Not even a list.

Partly because, the last time I was President of BCSFA, the plunging membership numbers were so dire I had the Board vote free membership for anyone interested, in the hope that sufficient “volunteers” could be retained to function as a social club. Alas, it didn’t work. Covid was the final straw. For all practical purposes, BCSFA died.

But here’s a couple of facts that maintain BCSFA in cryogenic suspension.

FACT: BCSFA owns the VCON trademark.

FACT: BCSFA is technically the social sub-committee of WCSFA. Both WCSFA and BCSFA voted to make this so some years ago. However, nothing ever came of it.

And now, a negative fact:

FACT: There are not currently enough pro-active volunteers to make both BCSFA and WCSFA lively, enthusiastic, going concerns. It was a miracle enough people could be found to fill the roster of the WCSFA Board of Directors. That's it. I would assess the number of active fans available at less than a dozen. Not good.

SOLUTION: Treat WCSFA, BCSFA and VCON as a single entity for the time being, wherein a membership in WCSFA suffices for all three (though attendance at a future VCON would be extra, of course).

This would greatly simplify planning. For example, no need for two Executive Boards. The WCSFA executive would also be the BCSFA executive. Activities in either name would be planned by that single executive.

And again, for purposes of planning, WCSFA would function as a kind of proto-VCON committee. Should a VCON ever get into the active stages of planning, then a sub-committee could be created to handle that task.

To sum up, make WCSFA the focus of membership, function and purpose, to the point where WCSFA acquires enough active, paid-up, enthusiastic members as to bring both VCON and BCSFA back to life, albeit as adjuncts to WCSFA under WCSFA's control.

Start by creating a catch-all WCSFA membership that charges an annual \$10.00 fee.

To me this is an obvious necessity and the only viable solution to be had.

But it is only a proposal. Nothing more than a suggestion.

It's up to the Board of Directors to figure out what to do.

Meanwhile, I invite interested fen to comment on this (or any aspect of this issue of BCSFAzine) by writing letters of comment. Send to [the God-Editor](#)

FANNISH NEWS & RESOURCES

By Garth Spencer and R. Graeme Cameron

Event by [VCON](#)

City Square Shopping Centre, Vancouver, BC

Hey all, it's been a while! Let's get together and reconnect. Come down to the Food Court in City Square Mall and hang out. Connect with old friends and maybe make some new ones!

When: March 25th at 1PM

Where: City Square Mall Food Court

If you're interested in fantasy, science fiction, or horror, this is the perfect time to find those of a like mind. We'll be (hopefully) in the upstairs section.

Bring along books to discuss and board games to play.

If you have any questions, post below and we'll get back to you ASAP.

[WCSFA/VCON Lunch Meetup](#)

The second **WCSFA/VCON Monthly Lunch Meetup** is tentatively scheduled to take place March 25 in the Food Court of the City Centre Mall at the corner of 12th and Cambie (a four-minute walk from the Broadway-City Hall Canada Line Skytrain Station) in Vancouver, starting at 1:00 p.m. (the first such meeting was held on January 25th). For up-to-date information, post a comment/question at [WCSFA/VCON Lunch Meetup](#), or do the same here: [VCON Facebook Page](#)

Food court consists of A&W, Kim Son Vietnamese, Salad Farm, Sizzling Wok, Soup Zone, Subway, Sushi Tomi, and Teya grill.

The general idea is a meet & greet gathering of potential ~~converts~~ members to the WCSFA/VCON ~~eruse~~ cause. Conversation and socialization are essential to this recruitment drive. Eating lunch together is an ideal way to get to know each other. Afterwards some games may be brought out just for the fun of it. Perhaps other tables will be devoted to discussion re: books recently read, films seen, activity planning, or general shooting the breeze. Whatever people want to do. Think of it as a mini-club-meeting.

In the old days both WCSFA and BCSFA used to hold regular meetings in members' homes. Indeed, for a number of years BCSFA would hold two meetings a month, the first a business meeting followed by a party, the second a collation of BCSFAzine (as printed by Steve Forty on his fleet of Gestners) followed by a party. We were younger than, and partied hardy.

Nowadays, what with old-timers downsizing and new-timers living in shoeboxed apartments, nobody has room to open their homes to members and potential recruits from the public. Funds are in short supply and reserved for public spaces for any fund-raising activities the WCSFA Board of Directors can conjure up. Trying to recreate the old-style monthly meetings would depend on whatever free public spaces can be divined and would fall short as re-enactment as food & beverage bans would apply, not to mention limited time for the actual event, an hour or two. Holding meet-ups in Mall Food Courts is a nice compromise. At least you get to eat.

Best of all, in the short term, considering it will be several years before WCSFA finances and number of volunteers will be sufficient to host a VCON, would be an old-fashioned one-day Relaxi-con featuring a bit of single-tracked programming confined to a single facility room, perhaps book-ended by volunteer concom staying two nights (to give the hotel incentive to permit the event in the first place). The recent Corflu 39 held in the West End with approximately 70 attendees was a spectacular example of such. It was also spectacularly expensive to put on. Care and caution will be needful when searching for a suitable Relaxi-con venue. That said, if enough enthusiasts are involved from the get go, it can be done! Would make a suitable intermediate steppingstone for a future VCON, perhaps.

Note: WCSFA should not assume enough people will show up at the door to cover costs and break even. Best to get firm levels of membership in advance of the event, so that the planners will be certain of breaking even. This way at-the-door memberships would be icing-on-the-cake profit to be set aside for the next event.

Pemmi-con looking for programming ideas.

Pemmi-Con, The North American Science Fiction Convention alternative to the Worldcon, welcomes your suggestions for the Programme.

Do you have an idea for a programme item? Please fill out the simple suggestion form here:

<https://sites.grenadine.co/sites/cansmof/en/pemmi-con/surveys/Psuggestion-copy-1674877718>

Do you have multiple ideas? That's great. Please submit each one individually.

Check out Pemmicon, the 2023 NASFiC being held in Winnipeg July 20-23, at:

<https://main.pemmi-con.ca/>

George Metzger Fanzine collection preserved.

Many of you know, speaking of down-sizing, the God-Editor had to divest himself of about 50% of his stuff, including the entirety of the BCSFA archive, so that he could fit the remainder of his possessions into the medium-sized moving van utilized to transfer his goods to a new apartment half the size of the original. All important WCSFA/BCSFA/VCON documents now reside in boxes in the WCSFA Storage locker, including documentation on every VCON. However, the fanzine collection had to be dispersed and no longer exists as a cohesive collection in one place.

Just before The Graeme moved, George Metzger donated his fanzine collection. Since it was not yet catalogued, it was kept in separate boxes along with other items The Graeme was hoping there would still be room in the van once the essentials had been loaded. Turned out there was room, just barely, but enough. The collection is now in the process of being catalogued.

George, a well-known artist, was a local mover & shaker in the early days of BCSFA and VCON. Before that he had been active in San Francisco fandom, making a living as a poster artist for some well-known rock bands and various underground comic books, as well as contributing fan art to numerous fanzines. He maintained contact with the fanzine world even after he moved to Vancouver. As a result, his fanzine collection is quite something. (He delivered it to the God-Editor in shopping bags over a series of Skytrain trips.)

The collection is weighted toward California Fandom and British Fandom. It contains, among other zines, multiple issues of the following:

Camber – by *Alan Dodd* – 1950s/60s – published out of Herts. England.

Fanac – by *Terry Carr* – 1950s/60s – published out of Berkeley, California.

Gambit – by *Ted White* – 1950s – published out of Baltimore, Maryland.

Grue – by *Dean A. Grennell* – 1950s – published out of Fond du Lac, Wisconsin.

Habakkuk – by *Bill Donoho* – 1950s – published out of Berkeley, California.
Hobgoblin – by *Terry Carr* – 1950s/60s – published out of Berkeley, California.
Hyphen – by *Walt Willis* – 1950s/60s – published out of Belfast, Northern Ireland.
Innuendo – by *Terry Carr* – 1950s/60s – published out of San Francisco, California.
Lighthouse – by *Terry Carr* – 1960s – published out of Brooklyn, New York.
Oopsla – by *Gregg Calkins* – 1950s – published out of Salt Lake City, Utah.
Opus – by *W. Max Keasler* – 1950s – published out of St. Louis, Missouri.
Pas-tell! – by *Bjo Trimble* – 1950s/60s – published out of Los Angeles, California.
Psi-Fi – by *Robert Lichtman* – 1950s/60s – published out of Los Angeles, California.
Retribution – by *John Berry* – 1950s – published out of Belfast, Northern Ireland.
Shangri L’Affaires – 1950s/60s – clubzine of Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society.
Skyhook – by *Red Boggs* – 1950s – published out of Minneapolis, Minnesota.
The Timebinder – by *E. Everett Evans* – 1940s – out of Los Angeles, California.
Triode – by *Eric Bentcliffe* and *Terry Jeeves* – 1950s – out of Sheffield, England.
Viper – by *Bill Donoho* – 1960s – published out of Berkeley, California.
Warhoon – by *Richard Bergeron* – 1960s – published out of New York City, N.Y.

Knowledgeable fanzine collectors and fan historians are undoubtedly salivating extensively after reading the above list. The Graeme will, from time to time, review an issue or two either in *Great Galloping Ghu!* or in BCSFAzine. There is much of interest to impart.

The Graeme doesn’t want to wait till he dies to disperse them (be quite a challenge for his executor!) but intends instead to begin finding a new home for the zines in the near future. (He is 71 already!) There are few permanent collections available for deposit. Private collectors may be interested, but the trouble is most of them are as old or older than the Graeme. Consequently, proper dispersal is quite the conundrum.

Interested parties can contact the God-Editor at [The Graeme](#) but please note it will be several years, perhaps a decade, before anything begins to happen.

If all goes well, costs will be covered and some “profit” left over to go to WCSFA.

FANAC.ORG, an amazing resource for them as loves fannish history and fanzines, reports:

[FANAC.org](#) now has more than 20,000 fanzines digitally archived on the site. With zines ranging from 1930 to this week, we are continuing to enrich the available catalog

of original materials related to science fiction and science fiction fandom. With a number like that, it's no surprise that we count more than 500 contributors listed at https://fanac.org/FANAC_Inc/fancont.html

Don't forget – We have added some navigation tools to access our ever-growing archive. The Fanzines drop-down button on [FANAC.org](https://fanac.org) allows you to find zines by Title, by Editor, by Date, by Country and more. There's a special list of newszines if you're looking for those, and we are building a listing of major APAs. If there are other organizational principles you'd like to see in a nav tool, please let us know at fanac@fanac.org.

FANAC will have a scanning station at Corflu Craic in Belfast at the end of March, and we hope to have one at Conversation 2023, the Birmingham Eastercon being held the following week. If you are planning to attend either of these, please bring fanzines for us to scan. If you can, write to let us know so we can plan ahead.

Please remember two things: First, to scan each issue, we carefully take each issue apart and then re-staple it. Second, we do not put fanzines online without permission from editors who are still around. Keep that in mind when you bring them. If you can provide contact information for the editor, we'll try to reach them later. In the meantime, we will keep them archived until the editors can be reached. If you're not sure, drop a note to fanac@fanac.org.

Of course, please check the site first to see if the issues are already online. We're hoping to get some quality Irish/UK/European zines that we haven't had access to in the past.

CUFF News Release #2

[God-Ed notes: The deadline has passed but all relevant information about the function of the CUFF candidate is given in this press release. I think it is worth printing to acquaint people with the fund.]

By: Fran Skene (CUFF 2019 Delegate to CanCon in Ottawa)
Email: [fskene\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:fskene(at)shaw.ca)

Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) nominations are still open for selecting a fan delegate to Pemmi-Con (the 2023 NasFic) in Winnipeg. Deadline for applying has

been extended to March 15.

Any fan from anywhere in Canada, active for at least the last two years, can qualify as CUFF delegate to Pemmi-Con, the 15th North American Science Fiction Convention in Winnipeg this July 20th through 23rd. Note: This year, former CUFF delegates may also apply.

The primary responsibilities of the delegate are to:

- Attend the convention, take part in programming, and report back to your fellow fans on the event.
- Assist in raising funds for the next year's delegate.
- Administer (with the assistance of other Canadian fans) the process to select the next year's fan delegate.
- Promote Canadian genre-related media and fan activities.

One nominee has already come forward (Garth Spencer); however, nominations remain open until March 15, for any others who are still considering it. If we end up with more than one candidate, we'll have a vote.

Each nominee needs to apply to Fran Skene, the current administrator, saying why they would be a good delegate. Also, they need six nominators, three from the east and three from the west (separated by Manitoba-Ontario border). Nominators need to contact Fran separately.

If a nominator is possibly not known to Fran, they should include info or a link to something that will verify the nominator's bona fides as being active in Canadian fandom for at least the last two years. As well, we are asking for a bond of \$20 CAD from each nominee, which will be added to the CUFF funds. This (and all donations) can be sent to Fran Skene via PayPal or Interac e-transfer, using the above email address. (To pay another way, email or message Fran to negotiate.)

The trip will be paid for by CUFF funds (donations very welcome), Air Miles from Fran for plane fare; and Pemmi-Con will comp the con membership plus a two-queen bed room shared with another fan fun delegate (DUFF or TAFF) during the convention.

In summary: In order to be nominated for the CUFF this year an application must be submitted by March 15, 2023 to [fskene\(at\)shaw.ca](mailto:fskene@shaw.ca) that includes a bond of \$20. It should contain a brief fan-related bio and how you hope to make this trip beneficial for you and the Canadian fan community. The application must have a

minimum of three fan supporters from the east and three in the west (six total). If we have more than one candidate, voting will open March 15 and close April 15th, in order to give the successful candidate enough time to work with Pemmi-Con programming and to schedule their visit.

CUFF funds report as of March 10, 2023:

Balance after CAN-CON in Ottawa, 2019: \$455
Auction at 2020 Boscone (Murray Moore): \$132
Turkey Readings at Corflu Pangloss in Vancouver: \$120
Donation (Heath Row): \$28 CAD (\$20 USD)
Bond from candidate Garth Spencer: \$20
Total: \$755

DONATIONS STILL WELCOME!

Easiest to do is send to Fran Skene by way of PayPal or Interac e-transfer. Email: fskene(at)shaw.ca

CUFF-Breaking News:

Garth Spencer was the only candidate nominated for CUFF 2023. Garth wins! That means Garth will be attending Pemmi-con as CUFF winner on a mission to bring all Canadian fandom together. (Or, at least, help them get to know each other.)

Lost “Most Secret” BCSFA File Found!

The God-Ed going through one of many as-yet-unopened boxes from his move 4^{1/2} years ago, rediscovered the envelope containing BCSFA records too sensitive to be released while the parties are still alive.

It contains:

- One obscure Press Report accompanied by a letter of questionable-taste.
- One censored Archivist Report.
- One censored set of WCSFA Meeting Minutes.
- One 6-page set of notes prepared for (secret) discussion at WCSFA meeting.

- One never-published account of business discussion at BCSFA Hot Tub Party.
- One never-published 3-page report on certain BCSFA problems.
- Seven never-published letters concerning convention policy.

Hell will freeze over before I ever discuss them with the executive, let alone release these them to an uncomprehending world.

Why even mention them?

Because, years ago, I casually revealed I'd created this file and a prominent member of the club literally clapped his hands in glee. "At last," he shouted, "I finally belong to an organization powerful enough to have secrets worth keeping!"

So, there you go. Now you, too, can clap your hands in glee.

Nominations for 2023 Aurora Awards still open!

You can nominate anyone from the official CSFFA Eligibility Lists, up to five people for each of the 10 categories:

Best Novel: This category covers works with over 40,000 words. A work that is less than 40,000 words but is published as a stand-alone book can be allowed to compete in this category if the author wishes it.

Best YA Novel: This category covers works with over 30,000 words written for Young Adults or younger. A work that is less than 30,000 words but was published as a stand-alone book can be allowed in this category if the author wishes it. An author may request that their work be judged in another category instead by contacting the awards administrator.

Best Novelette/Novella: This category covers works with a word count of between 40,000 and 7,500. This category only covers works that are defined as either novelettes or novellas.

Best Short Story: This category covers works with fewer than 7,500 words. This category covers short form fiction such as short stories and flash fiction.

Best Poem/Song: This category covers poems and songs. A song may include lyrics and music.

Best Graphic Novel/Comic: This category covers works that combines both words and art to tell a story. This category includes graphical novels, stories, or comics. Works can be published as a stand-alone work, or within an anthology or collection, either in print or on the internet. Nominations can be based on the written word, illustration, or colour work.

Best Cover Art/Interior Illustration: This category covers works done by an artist, either for a specific piece or pieces of art, or for a body of work done during the prior calendar year. An artist can only be on the ballot once. This category is open to both English and French artists.

Best Related Work: This category covers works of criticism, book reviews, CDs, critical editions, screen plays, anthologies, or a single-author collection. This category covers all professional works that are not covered in the other professional categories.

Fan/Volunteer Categories

Note: Professionals may be nominated for fan awards if their activity relevant to the award is unpaid, unrelated to their paid work whether in the genre or not, and fannish in nature.

Best Fan Writing and Publication: This category covers fanzines, fan newsletters, articles, blogs, review sites, and publications, either in print or by electronic means, which contain a significant percentage of material relating to the Aurora Award genres. Work can include articles relating to topics such as books, movies, comics, gaming, film/music or conventions. Works cannot promote commercial products or be dedicated to a professional group or person.

Best Fan Related Work: This category encompasses presentations, lectures, courses, APAS, podcasts, unpaid artwork, performances, and fan music of all types including albums, song writing, or video. It also included work done to organize festival/conventions, genre book events, clubs, or readings. This category covers all amateur works that are not covered in the other fan categories and is open to both English and French speaking activities.

You can nominate till 11:59 EDT 22 April 2023.

The CSFFA Annual General Meeting will take place in early June.

Voting will begin June 17 and Close 11:59 EDT 29 July 2023.

The Aurora Awards ceremony will take place online in Early August.

To join and become a member (cost \$10.00 CAD annual fee – Canadians only) or, if already a member and you wish to nominate, go to:

[The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association \(CSFFA\) – Home of the Prix Aurora Awards and CSFFA Hall of Fame](#)

YOUR MONTHLY CORUSCATING CONUNDRUM

By R. Graeme Cameron

Mrs. A.J.S. of Pontoon Beach, Missouri, asks:
WHO INVENTED THE AUTOMOBILE?

Mr. Guess-It-All: Otto Frick of Mobile, Alabama, circa 1864. It was a remarkably advanced vehicle, featuring four-wheel drive, four-speed transmission, and even a primitive GPS system. That he is not recognized as a genius is because he was under the impression he was designing and building a military submarine. When he drove it off the end of a dock to attack a Union warship blockading the harbor of Confederate Mobile, both he and his invention sank without a trace. To this day Southerners are so mortified by the whole incident they refuse to search for whatever remains of Otto Frick and his folly.

However, the disaster was witnessed by a certain Mr. Hunley, who by coincidence had recently invented a rather impractical horseless carriage. On seeing Mr. Frick plunge into Mobile Bay, it suddenly occurred to Hunley that his own invention, a fifty-nine-foot-long wheel-less hermetically-sealed cylinder powered by a hand-cranked propeller, while absolutely useless as a land transport (as numerous experiments had proven beyond doubt), might conceivably function as a submarine.

Only a week later, the C.S.A.S. Hunley (as the horseless carriage was now christened) successfully sank the Union warship Housatonic off the coast of South Carolina, only to swamp with all hands before it could return to base. Tragic.

Very recently the Hunley was recovered and is now undergoing restoration. Many consider it an absolute outrage that its conservators refuse to acknowledge it was

purpose built as a horseless carriage, claiming instead that it was meant to be a submarine from the very outset of its design. This is a gross distortion of history.

On the other hand, it is a very happy fact that certain manufacturers, seeking a modern public image with which to enter the new century, in 1901 chose to rename their product (the horseless carriage) after the late, lamented Otto Frick of Mobile, Alabama, at first calling it the “Ottomobile,” and then after his widow Frieda Frick threatened to bring suit, the “Automobile.” A fitting tribute.

A LOOK BACK AT VCON ONE

(Source: The Canfancyyclopedia)

By R. Graeme Cameron

1971 – (April 9-10) – VCON 1:

Actually, just called The Vancouver Science Fiction Convention.

Guest of Honour: URSULA K. LE GUIN. Venue: Hotel Georgia, Vancouver.
Attending: 75.

CONCOM: *Co-Chairmen* – Mike Bailey & Daniel Say; *Treasurer* – Mike Bailey; *Operations* – Mike Bailey; *Publicity* – Rob Scott & Daniel Say; *Guest Liaison* – Daniel Say; *Short Films* – R. Graeme Cameron; *Elron Awards* – Mike Bailey.

Sponsored jointly by the B.C. Science Fiction Association, the Simon Fraser University Science Fiction Society (SF3), & the University of B.C. Science Fiction Society (UBC SFFEN). Two days of single-track programming in a ballroom, plus displays, including some sort of computer gizmo, in a small room. There was a hospitality con-suite as well.

FRIDAY (Apr 9/71-Vcon 1): Apart from a prolonged get-together in the con-suite, the sole event was:

- a panel SF LOVES AND HATES with Bill Dodds, Brent MacClean & John Park.

SATURDAY (Apr 10/71-Vcon 1) was more formal, with events taking place in the York room. A talk on “Russian Fantasy” was cancelled, Professor Mason Harris filling in with a wonderful off-the-cuff talk:

- FEAR OF SEX AND FOREIGN RACES IN THE FANTASY OF H.P. LOVECRAFT.

- This was followed by Ursula K. Le Guin (first time ever at an SF con) delivering a speech titled: THE CRAB NEBULA, THE PARAMECIUM, AND TOLSTOY arguing the existence of an all-encompassing order to the universe.
- After lunch break Professor R.D. Callahan gave a talk: SF, INSULATION OR ILLUMINATION? Which took two hours to explain that SF literature was essentially worthless.
- Then followed a panel on SF AND SOCIAL REALISM.
- Supper break involved 29 people including Le Guin and her husband having dinner at the Ho Inn in China Town.
- Afterwards at the hotel the ELRON AWARDS were presented for the first time, by Mike Bailey, with *“selected passages from the nominated novels read, to hilarious advantage, by Paul Green.”*

The ConCom had hoped to include a dealer’s room, a banquet, and an art show, but not enough interest was shown to warrant their inclusion. One film was shown during the Saturday lunch break. The rest of the time R. Graeme Cameron provided an 8mm projector and a stack of 12-minute versions of SF classics in the bedroom of the consuite. Anyone who wanted to watch them was welcome to operate the projector themselves.

Summing up the con in a Province Newspaper article the following Monday, Michael Walsh wrote: *“The tone of the convention, one of literate appreciation rather than fascinated adulation, was set from the beginning by the science fiction sophisticates from the sponsoring clubs.”*

A LOOK BACK AT THE VANCOUVER AREA FLYING SAUCER CLUB

(Source: The Canfancylopedia)

By R. Graeme Cameron

The Vancouver area Flying Saucer Club was founded in July of 1956 by Mr. Herbert Clark and by Miss L. Margaret Fewster. By March of 1958 the club had grown to 180 members and was actively considering incorporating as a society. How long it survived after that I do not know.

While it existed, VAFSC cost \$2.00 to join, for which members were given a club card and a subscription to the single-sheet monthly newsletter. Any non-member was welcome to attend monthly meetings, in the fervent hope they would be moved to

join, or at least toss some coins into the collection plate. Given the size of the club, meetings were probably held in rented halls, on at least one occasion at the Hermes Lodge of the Theosophical Society at 5th Avenue & Cypress.

Members were encouraged to write up their 'sightings', and to actively 'spot' UFOs. Wrote Miss Fewster: *"The junior branch are organizing themselves as U.F.O. 'spotters' and have taken a business-like inventory of their equipment... Any senior members of V.A.S.F.C. who are equally keen, possess a car, camera and binoculars, and enough gas to drive said car, is welcome to arrange field trips for (juniors & other) members of the club...discourage yourself from going alone.. you will need reliable witnesses...and don't forget your sandwiches; I am told extensive 'spotting' is a hungry business!"*

"Spotting" evidently came easy for some:

"The Secretary has been lucky enough to make five sightings this month, over Kerrisdale, at night, after 10 o'clock, in each case the object was a glowing orange colour, which manoeuvred in various directions, at incredible speed... sizes varying from that of an orange to half the size of the moon!"

"Mr. & Mrs. J. Rea, club members, made a wonderful sighting... at their home... (in) North Burnaby. Mrs. Rea, while gazing north over Mount Seymour, spotted a cigar-shaped U.F.O... She called her husband, who also saw object, both with naked eye and binoculars... and while watching object for three quarters of an hour, saw it change shape from cigar to star shape, and also saw lights in the middle and end of object... and at the same time red lights or discs seem to emerge from the object. Size of object 8 to 10 inches, height at top of mountain about 3,500 feet."

The club bulletin contained numerous quotes from other sources, most trending towards the idea that an advanced civilization of aliens is urging humanity to cast off its primitive limitations and become one with the aliens through a meeting of the minds.

One quote, from London, England, is cheerfully reassuring: *"A friend of mine, whom I respect and revere, informs me that he traveled beyond the stratosphere in one of those vehicles (flying saucers) many years ago, that he knows how spaceships work, why they can turn so quickly, and why those within them are not affected by centrifugal force. Those who man them, some of them from other planets, are concerned with safe-guarding life—and not merely human life, which is not at the top of the evolutionary tree..."*

Given the nature of these quotes, and the reviews of books offering similar views, I am inclined to think they were selected because they probably corresponded to the philosophy of the majority of VAFSC members, who seem to have been nothing less than a spiritualist movement of utopianists waiting for aliens to guide mankind to the next stage of evolution.

A LOOK BACK AT GENERI-CON

BCSFA BITS

(Published in BCSFAzine #137 October 1984)

BCSFA NORTH—CAMPBELL RIVER BRANCH

By these letters, be it known to all and sundry that BCSFA North, first established during the residency of Paul & Debra Simms in the City of Prince Rupert, in the Province of British Columbia, and which was duly and properly closed on the date of their departure from said city, has been reactivated as BCSFA North, Campbell River Branch.

As of the date of this proclamation, there have been held three meetings. One at the residence of Kay Briggs, and two at the residence of Paul H. Simms, said residence known as Smokey's Den. Meetings are held whenever persons with science fiction interests gather at either location.

President and Recording Secretary: Paul H. Simms, aka Smokey, the Dragon Master. Members: Kay Briggs & Partner, Simon Briggs, Amber Briggs, Dave Wilson, Donna McMahan. Honorary members: Casey Bakker, Holly Bakker, Sarah Bakker.

The President has limited sleeping accommodation (floor space) if there are persons from the south who wish to attend and qualify for BCSFA North membership. Advance notice is requested, phone the Dragon Master at his place of employment to do so.

GENERI-CON (DARE WE SAY IT) ONE

(Published in BCSFAzine #169 June 1987)

Place: See instructions below for getting there.

Date: June 13 & 14, 1987.

Instructions for getting to the Weyr of the Dragon Master S'Mokey and the HQ of BCSFA-N.

- 1) Get to Horsehoe Bay and board the ferry for Nanaimo.
- 2) Get off ferry (in Nanaimo, not before).
- 3) Follow Island Highway North to Campbell River, approx 2.1/2 hours.
- 4) In Campbell River, find and follow the Hospital signs—or turn left on to 2nd Ave.
- 5) Turn right at the traffic Lights, (Corner of 2nd and Dogwood).
- 6) When you reach the large white apt. bldg—with BLUE balconies—turn left (on to 9th Ave).
- 7) Drive up to the next white apt. bldg.—with BROWN—balconies—and YOU ARE THERE.
- 8) Decide which one of the apts numbered ___ may contain above mentioned Dragon Master.

Phone Rose, or she will phone you, for info on car pools, what to bring to validate your BCSFA-N membership, where to stay, and anything else you want to discuss.

REMEMBER: membership is limited to some unknown and unknowable number. I've not heard many creative excuses yet, so LET'S GET BUSY, SHALL WE.

We are really going all out for this, the first one of Generi-cons. Catering of the Saturday-Night Feast will be provided by "The Colonel." As our GoH fees are minimal, (okay, non-existent) food costs will be evenly divided between the revelers.

Come prepared to put in at least a few minutes on the short story. I mean, after all, that is supposed to be why we are there.

GENERI-CON ONE

(Source: Canfancylopedia)

By R. Graeme Cameron

“A single-track Relaxi-Con “with little to recommend it” held June 13th, 1987, at the home of Paul “Smokey” Simms in Campbell River, “a charming sea-side resort with its own Motel 8 and the world-renowned Gourmet-by-the-Pulp-Mill Restaurant.” A mini-convention for members of BCSFA North. Entire program book consists of:

“June 13 – Get there via BC Navy & BC highways. Upon arrival, orientation tour thru facilities. After that, figure out where to stay, get set-up, maybe eat, definitely socialize. Then write a short story from character list provided. Then sleep.”

“June 14 – Do something about having breakfast or lunch, whichever. Afternoonish, go home, and leave Smokey to deal with his neighbours and landlord all by himself.”

Info provided for the short-story workshop:

“This will be an exercise in how-not-to become a writer...The Character list... One slightly effeminate Centaur of the usual enormous proportions... One rabbit-looking carnivorous tree-dweller... One scantily clad, nubile young female... The Setting: Pan-Galacti-Con... GoH is Harlan LeGuin, well known author of ‘Left Hand of the Beast’ and ‘The Dispossessed Boy and his Dog.’ It is the night of the Bacchanal and our cast is charged with the responsibility of shepherding the GoH to the function and keeping him away from tall females & elevators... This, then, is what you’ve got work with, like it or not.”

The “Official Thank You Page” in the program book for Generic Con 1 (also known as Generi-Con 1) lists Jeanne Robinson, Vaughn Fraser, the Girlings, the Colonel, Smokey’s neighbours, Smokey, and Empress Foods. Both the program book and the poster depict Smokey wearing a ranger’s hat as depicted by Vaughn Fraser.

Selected quotes from the BCSFA NORTH “Conditions Of Membership” document included in the GENERIC CON 1 Program Book:

“ARTICLE 1 – FUNCTION OF THE ORGANIZATION

1.1 – The official functions of BCSFA North are to provide an excuse for parties, to indulge the member’s hedonistic impulses, and to provide an outlet for the President’s latent megalomaniac tendencies.

1.2 – *The organization also has something to do with Science Fiction, but no one is quite sure what.*

ARTICLE 2 – THE EXECUTIVE

2.1 – *The only executive officer of BCSFA North is the President, who is a self-appointed dictator and recognizes no form of democracy, parliamentarianism, collective bargaining, human rights, fair play, or anything else.*

ARTICLE 3 – CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP

3.1 – *Members are persons who have been told by the President that they are members.*

3.2 – *Membership fees will be accepted gleefully by the President. There is no ceiling. Cash, money orders, cheques, postage stamps, books, household appliances, liquor, and half-dressed members of the opposite sex are all acceptable forms of payment.*

3.3 – *To retain their good standing in BCSFA North members must remain alive and must attend at least one meeting per century.*

ARTICLE 4 – RELATIONSHIP TO PARENT ORGANIZATION

4.1 – *The Parent Organization of BCSFA North is the B.C. Science Fiction Association.*

4.2 – *The President of BCSFA North recognizes the existence of the Executive of BCSFA, but pays no attention to them whatsoever.*

4.3 – *The official organ of BCSFA North is BCSFAzine, although BCSFAzine doesn't know this.”*

AND FINALLY—GENERIC-CON

(Published in BCSFAzine #172 September 1987)

Some months ago, several BCSFA members wended their way to Vancouver Island and invaded the peaceful settlement of Campbell River—more specifically the abode of one Paul (aka Smokey) Simms—for the purpose of holding a convention.

We had all the necessary ingredients for one of the aforementioned: Program Book, People, Place, Theme, Booze, you know, all the important stuff. We also had no energy as all caravan-ites had been rudely awoken at the unnatural hour of 5:00 a.m., in order to make the first Ferry. Most of the first afternoon cum evening was spent sleeping, a new activity at any Con, you must admit. (We are nothing if not trend setters.)

Mention must be made of our Non-guests. Wonderful people all graciously declined our heartfelt invitations to attend the con & therefore became Non. Jeanne Robinson wrote her rejection missive on Generic writing paper (a napkin!) and was a stimulating Pro-GOH. The Girlings made themselves an offer they couldn't refuse & were inspirational as fan-GOHs. The artist GOH, Vaughn Fraser, provided the Program Book Cover along with his refusal to attend. That cover, when blown-up (on a photo-copier, fools!) to 11^{1/2} x 17, became a Smokey poster, the ...

[Alas, this account of Generi-con One breaks off, because the next page in my copy of BCSFAzine issue #172 is blank.] – The Graeme

SURF NAZIS MUST DIE! – MOVIE REVIEW

(Published in BCSFAzine #179 April 1988)

By The Graeme

DEADLINE PANIC! DEADLINE PANIC! Even as I begin this article at 8:00 p.m., merry BCSFAns are gathering for the weekly FRED, and I must present this article to Steve (our fearless editor) before the FRED breaks up circa 1:00 a.m. If I want any beer for myself, I should get there before party's end. Life ain't fair. ARRGH!... Of course, I'm not duty bound to contribute to every issue, but Rotwang it, I can't let me loyal fans down!

Hookay! To work! SURF NAZIS MUST DIE! Been looking forward to this movie ever since I first heard TROMA was making it. In the old days back when I was a kid, the mighty Roger Corman used to dream up a title and a poster which he would then exhibit to theatre owners, and if they booked it then and only then would he begin filming. I can't help but wonder if something of the sort happened here. The title's great. But the movie sucks.

I mean, I'm proud to own a tape of BRIDE OF THE MONSTER. I'm even proud town the MONSTER WORLD MAGAZINE issue containing a BRIDE OF THE MONSTER filmbook! I think Ed Wood's BRIDE OF THE MONSTER is a major cultural contribution to western civilization!

But SURF NAZIS MUST DIE bites the big one.

Too bad. I was so looking forward to a high-class high-cost TROMA production of the ilk of NUKE EM HIGH or TOXIC AVENGER. But SMND is pathetic. Opening

credits reveal the truth. This is not a TROMA TEAM production but a TROMA TEAM release. SMND was actually filmed by THE INSTITUTE. Which institute? The Institute for the Criminally Inept would be my guess. Peter George directed the screenplay by John Ayre from a short story by Peter George and John Ayre. So now you know whom to blame.

Truth to tell, they did manage to send a second unit to Hawaii to film shots of wetsuit-clad surfers giving the Nazi salute while riding nasty-looking waves, but I don't really think this upgrades the film in any way. Kinda gutsy, though.

The title. One expects so much from the title. Something bizarre, something peculiar, something intriguing, but not something as gut-rendingly dull as this crud. I am SO disappointed. A classic title ruined. Let me try their slogan on you.

“Who rules the waves?”

“Surfers!”

“Who rules the surfers?”

“Surf Nazis!”

Sound good? HAH! Let me tell you the plot.

PLOT: Before the film begins, so as to save on stock shots, let alone effects shots, an earthquake levels every city in California. Anarchy rules, there are no cops on the beach. A young, wimpy chap calling himself Adolf (otherwise known as “that snotty Ricky Johnson”) decides that his gang SURF NAZIS should dominate the other gangs on “the new beach” to control the purse-snatching trade. Since his gang has six members, twice that of the other gangs who have three members each, this would appear to be feasible, except the other gangs in the aggregate outnumber the SURF NAZIS by at least three. This gives you an idea of how giant a cast I am talking about here.

The war is vicious. Surf boards are burned. Old ladies are pushed. Fishermen are hung upside-down from piers. But then, just when matters are getting truly boring, a number of mildly effective orgies of throat-slitting, stabbings, acid-throwing and strangling takes care of all the enemies on the new beach.

Alas, poor Adolf reckoned without the mother of a black executive he murdered for interfering with a purse-snatching. She's massive. She's black. She's a momma. She's

a living cliché. She's magnificent. She's the best character in the film. She's also stronger than all the SURF NAZIS combined. Her final word to poor Adolf, "Taste some of Mom's home cooking!" But I won't spoil the ending.

There are Nazis in California, and surfers, and surfer gangs, but somehow I doubt the veracity of their portrayal in this film. A documentary this ain't.

There are a few inspired moments in the film. A nice shot of Smeg being slammed against the mouth of a grotesque graffiti-mask on a brick wall. A long shot through smoke and fire down the length of an abandoned hanger showing the silhouettes of Hook and Mengele arguing. Big Momma holding a pistol to the head of a boatman as he guides his craft in pursuit of Nazi surfers. A few neat shots. A few.

Smeg? Hook? Mengele? Also Adolf, Eva and Brutus. These are the SURF NAZIS. Not a particularly apt choice of names. I suspect Brutus is in there simply to justify the following classical allusion:

Brutus: "I don't think there's any room in this world for squeamish conquerors."

Adolf: "You're so f...ing noble, Brutus."

Brutus: "Don't you say that! Don't you ever f...ing say that!"

Ah, yes. Dialogue to treasure, as is:

Adolf: "Remember who your leader is."

Mengele: "So, what's our next move, Eva?"

Adolf: "Shut the f... up, Mengele!"

Words fail me. Fortunately, I'm running out of space... and time.

Watch for the two remarkably inept nude scenes.

In conclusion, let me state my belief the title of this movie references not its characters but the lifelessness of the film itself. I doubt you'll find it worth seeing.

[God-Ed notes: I just noticed this 1987 "Classic" film is available in Blu-ray format from Amazon.ca for only \$23.34 CAD. Ghu help me, I ordered it.]

A LOOK BACK AT CONFRANCISCO WORLDCON – 1993

(Published in BCSFAzine #245 October 1993)

By Paul Carpentier

THE 51ST WORLD SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION

September 2-6, 1993 – San Francisco, California, USA.

With a lot of good luck, Julie McGalliard and I ended up at Worldcon this year. Great round-trip airfare, last-minute membership transfers, and a rental car provided by my boss contributed to an overwhelming Labour Day weekend scurrying about San Francisco.

We arrived on Friday afternoon. Registration was empty. We were handed beautiful, laminated badges with the ConFrancisco logo (the Golden Gate bridge in front of a world map) in foil; also, we each received a quick reference guide, 130 small pages of mostly programming, with maps and tourist info as well. Just down the escalator we could pick up our souvenir books, 168 pages of essays, articles, Hugo information, etc. Both are exceptionally well-done publications. Also downstairs we were inundated with literally thousands of people pouring out of conference rooms.

We spent Friday getting a feel for the event and the city (and finding parking, which is pretty tough), and stopped in at the “60’s in San Francisco Rock Dance”, we never heard any 60’s nor California music, but people were dancing. ConFrancisco was spread out over a convention centre and at least three hotels. We camped out in the one with the dance for only \$110. Five hours later I got up to move my car.

Saturday we attended some programming, including “Inventions that Really Change History” with Howard Davidson and Connie Willis. This included Ms. Willis recounting her experiences of people’s reactions to genetically engineered tomatoes (she’s for them), and a lot of discussion about genetically engineered people. No one mentioned solar powered tie racks.

We next sat in on “The Cthulhu Mythos,” during which Jack L. Chalker fascinated me with stories about H.P. Lovecraft and contemporaries. Book dealer Bill Trojan was on hand to show off some comic book covers of Lovecraft stories.

More panels, and a trip to the art show, which was full of originals including some from each Best Professional Artist Hugo nominee. It was the most fantastic collection

of contemporary art I've ever seen. Particularly interesting to me was to find out Thomas Canty's "watercolour" book covers (e.g. "A Whisper of Blood," Ellen Datlow, ed.) were actually done in oil.

Saturday night we travelled to all the touristy places, since the line for the masquerade audience held about twice as many people as the auditorium did. It was pretty cold. (Memories such as "San Francisco? Isn't that south? Let's not bring any sweaters or long sleeves..." were aplenty.) From Coit Tower everything is small. Fisherman's Warf was full of self-hype items. The Palace of the Fine Arts was my favourite spot. (I had forgotten about it till recently, when I saw "So I Married an Axe Murderer.")

We ended up in Berkeley, where we found a \$36 motel room with no bathroom floor, damp sheets, a TV set that was about to fall off the wall, and a design that was acoustically engineered to enhance any noise made in the parking lot at 6:00 a.m. At least it was affordable.

Sunday we started off with "Gutless Publishing," a panel where big publishers like Tom Doherty compared their success and strategy to small publishers like Dean Wesley Smith of PulpHouse and Mark V. Ziesing. I have a few Ziesing titles myself (Lucius Shepard's "The Golden": Jon Shirley's "Wetbones"), and felt a little disappointed that small press can't seem to survive financially without considering "sure thing" titles. One audience member complained that the topic was rehashed, but it was one of the best panels I've seen.

More programming, and then a trip to the mall so I could dress a little warmer and more appropriately for the Hugo awards.

I knew I was hoping for Lucius Shepard to garner the Best Novella Hugo for "Barnacle Bill the Spacer" (he did), but ever since the nominations, I didn't know whether to root for Connie Willis ("The Doomsday Book") or Vernor Vinge ("A Fire Upon the Deep") for best novel. Vernor Vinge had just been an enjoyable guest of Honour at VikingCon three weeks earlier, so I leaned a little bit toward rooting for him.

At the end of the night, Larry Niven (Worldcon's honoured Guest) read the nominees: Maureen F. McHugh, Kim Stanley Robinson, John Varley, Vernor Vinge and Connie Willis. "And the winners of the..." *Did he say winners?* "...Vernor Vinge for "A Fire Upon the Deep." Mr. Vinge got up to accept. Much applause. Much delay. "...and", Mr. Niven continued, "Connie Willis for "The Doomsday Book." A tie. Who could have asked for more? Celebration and other parties went on late into the night.

On Monday morning, everything was still in full swing, but a few thousand people seem to have disappeared, making it much easier to get around. I spent a long time in the dealer's room wishing money were no object—or at least wishing that the dealers thought so.

The last thing we did on Monday was my favourite single item of the convention: Forrest J Ackerman's slide show, a pictorial of his collection, including book and comic covers, and a replica of the Metropolis robot. The slide projector didn't work right off, so we were treated to stories about everything. I could have listened to him for days. One story involved a young Ray Bradbury forging an autograph to increase the amount of money Mr. Ackerman would pay for a book, and then telling him years later on seeing it proudly displayed in the Ackermansion. Another involved an Elton John impersonator having stolen Mr. Ackerman's first issue of *Weird Tales*.

A final highlight just before heading to the airport was stopping at Dark Carnival bookstore in Berkeley, which concentrates on Dark Fantasy. Nearly every book I have purchased in the past couple of years was in this store. At one point I wondered if I should ask a clerk where the horror section was. Maybe I should find out if they'll open a franchise in this area...

I went to Worldcon thinking it would be a one-time thing. I left wondering if I'd find myself in Winnipeg, or perhaps Glasgow, or maybe even become a regular attendee.

A LOOK BACK AT ZORYANY SHLYAH SPEAKS!

(Published in BCSFazine #206 July 1990)

By Alexander V. Vasilkovsky

(Reprinted in solidarity with the Ukrainians resisting the Russian invasion)

From: *Alexander V. Vasilkovsky*, 12 May, 1990
8 Zankovetskaya St., Apt. 13, 252001, Kiev-1, Ukraine, USSR

Dear Canadian fans, British Columbia SF Association,

We, science fiction fans from Ukraine, the members of the Zorany Shlyah SF club, would like to establish contacts with your association. Our club was founded last year on the ruins of two former clubs. Its title means "Star Trek" in Ukrainian, but it is not

merely a club of Star Trek devotees. Star Trek was only the common ground to unite the “debris” of two former clubs.

There are a lot of English-reading fans in our fandom, and we want to form English-readers division. As far as we know, our club is the first English-language club in the USSR. Most popular in our fandom are the books by Orson Scott Card, Kim Stanley Robinson, Joe Haldeman and Philip K. Dick. But our tastes are sufficiently distorted by the book deficit. We don't even have the most known books by the authors I mentioned. So you can help us to fight with the book deficit. We can exchange SF books in Russian and Ukrainian, posters, art albums, and any other printed matter from the USSR, for science fiction books. And those books may not be new. You see, we simply want more books to read, so let there be more used paperbacks than less new ones. And what books do we need? We'd like to have the books of your own choice. It's interesting to know your opinion on today's SF thru those books. Please, write what you would like to have for them.

We know that there are many people of Ukrainian origin in Canada. A lot of them know the language of their ancestors. Maybe there are some of them in your organization. SF books in Ukrainian will surely be of interest to them.

During the coming months we'll start to publish our clubzine (in English). It have no title yet. It will consist of club news, the reviews of the most interesting books published here, the list of currently published new books, international fan news, Cons and so on. The first issue will be available in Autumn. I think, your association would like to have a copy of the first issue.

In your reply, please, write about your association, and how does it works? What are the main direction of your activities?

We've learned your address from the fanzine review in zine published by Harry Andruschak of Torrance, CA, USA. Maybe you know other SF clubs or associations whose members do want to have contacts with our club. Please, write them about us.

On behalf of the club, *Alexander V. Vasilkovsky.*

THE GOD-EDITOR SPEAKS: With the permission of our esteemed President, I took the liberty of sending the Zorany Shlyah club the following three books:

- 1) NEUROMANCER by William Gibson.
- 2) DO ANDROIDS DREAM OF ELECTRIC SHEEP? By Philip K. Dick.

- 3) PETROGYPSIES by Rory Harper.

along with 13 back issues of BCSFAzine, 2 FICTONs, and a 4-page letter describing BCSFA (mainly by quoting verbatim Con's excellent description in the VCON 18 program book). Here are a few excerpts of my own comments in the letter.

"The Gods of political and mail systems willing, I hope this letter and the enclosed BCSFAzines and books reach you intact. If this be the case, please write to me immediately and tell me. I will then send you some more books, along with subsequent editions of BCSFAzine. Indeed, though I be only a partially-employed store clerk of limited means, I hope to send your club 2 or 3 books (of my selection) once per month, along with any other books donated by fellow BCSFAns. However, I will wait until I hear from you before sending anything more, as there is no point in mailing books into the void if they get swallowed up by a black hole instead of reaching their intended destination.

If regular exchange of books and letters should prove possible, I hope to function as the person in our club responsible for keeping track of which books are sent to you so that there will be no duplications. I may ask our executive for permission to form a committee on the matter. As for items you might send us, first and foremost we would appreciate getting your zine whenever you begin to publish it, but also we would like to receive letters commenting on BCSFAzine and FICTONs, the books we send you, or whatever your members wish to write about. Presumably, this being the era of Glasnost, such communication is now permitted.

Secondly, we would be interested in whatever books or material you might care to send to us, but there are a couple of limiting factors to take note of. I regret to say that no one in our club can read either Russian or Ukrainian, so that books in these languages would be wasted on us. Except, perhaps, for art books, posters, printed illustrations, comics, original art; in other words, anything we can 'see' rather than 'read.' (And if any of your members are artists, I as editor of BCSFAzine am always on the lookout for art with SF or Fantasy themes to put on the cover of our clubzine. Please bear in mind we can offer no payment other than a copy of the issue for the artist, but it would be a way for them to become known throughout North American fandom, as we trade with over 40 other zines.

Whatever you choose to send us, I believe we would prefer items related to either SF themes or your Soviet space program, rather than say, books on politics. BCSFAns as a group tend to detest politics, since politics is the spawning ground of bureaucracy, and bureaucracy is a great hindrance to the development of mankind (or so I believe, other members can speak for themselves). But this is not to say that

politics is a taboo subject. After all, most SF contains implied political concepts of one kind or another. So, if your members include politics in the letters they send us that's fine with us, please just don't send us any books on the subject.

What we especially want to read are your members' writings. We want to know their opinions on such things as: whether a joint US/Soviet manned Mars expedition is feasible, or what the implications of contact with aliens if and when it ever happens might be. We'd like to know who the best Soviet SF writers are. We'd like to hear about the conventions you attend. What SF movies you have seen. We are filled with curiosity about Soviet fandom's perspective on all things SF. Please enlighten us.

Respectfully yours, *The Graeme*"

The package I sent them cost me \$29.00 in postage! Airmail to the U.S.S.R. is expensive! So please, if you want to donate pocketbooks to the ZORANY SHLYAH SF CLUB, either mail them yourself (but let me know in advance which books) or give them tome plus \$4.00 per book to cover costs. (Next I'll send HYPERION by Simmons and MAN IN A HIGH CASTLE by P.K. Dick.)

COMSTANTIN HIEBNER'S "EXCELLENT DESCRIPTION" OF BCSFA
in the VCON 18 program book – May, 1990

What is BCSFA?

We are a 20-year-old organization whose goal is to promote in B.C. the development and appreciation of works of Science Fiction and Fantasy. We are also concerned with providing an active social club for people in the Greater Vancouver area and visitors from elsewhere who share our love for the genre.

We are President Terry Fowler, Vice-President Clint Budd, Treasurer Kathleen Moore, Secretary Garth Spencer, and Information Officer R. Graeme Cameron. We are also honoured lifetime members Tim Hammell, Al Betz, Fran Skene and Steve Forty.

We are more than 120 members, who go to movies, organize restaurant outings, rent hot tubs, dress upon Hallowe'en, dress down on Wreck Beach, Forget Reality and Enjoy Drinking (F.R.E.D.) each Friday, meet as a club once a month, travel to the edge of sanity once a year (VCON), run an Open House, invite authors to read for us and occasionally buy their books, build sandcastles, "retreat" from reality on rainy days, converge on out-of-town conventions, run writers workshops, publish a monthly fanzine, write a semi-annual literary supplement, and generally make trouble when

we're bored.

We are the owners of the VCON trademark and constitute the main body of membership of the Western Canada Science Fiction Convention Committee Association (W.C.S.F.C.C.A.)

We are... anxious to hear from you.

Yours in chocolate, *Constantin Hiebner*, Immediate Past President, BCSFA.

BLAZING AMAZING: MY OLD COLUMNS

(Published in Amazing Stories (online) Magazine 18 September 2013)

By R. Graeme Cameron

HOW NOT TO EDIT A PROGRAM BOOK: OR THE ADVENTURES OF A TWENTIETH CENTURY COMPUTER ILLITERATE AMID THE SPLENDOURS OF THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY.

I just completed a program book for a certain mid-sized science fiction convention for the third year in a row. Sample Reaction?

“For someone who knows bugger all about computers you’ve done a fantastic job!”

Typically, I prepare content for one flat (four pages) of heavy photo stock glossy paper in full colour, and nine flats (thirty-six pages) of twenty lb white paper in black and white.

The Colour flat is easiest. You farm out the cover to the Artist Guest of Honour, the back cover to the fool who volunteered to chair next year’s convention (so he can create an ad promoting same), and the inside covers to the local merchants who actually make enough money in today’s economy to pay for ads.

When the time comes you present a USB stick containing individual files of the four cover pages in an amusing range of individual file formats (PNG, TIFF, JPG, etc.) to the printers while screaming “Full bleed! Full bleed!” They like that. Seems they know what it means. I don’t.

Now comes the hard part, editing 36 pages of text, photographs and illustrations you haven't got yet because none of the promised contributors submitted anything by your deadline. Not a problem. Threaten them. Tell them you'll make up stuff and place their name prominently at the head of the gibberish you've concocted. Articles will pour in.

You need to create a mock-up copy so you can keep track of what goes where. Take 10 sheets of ordinary paper, stack them, turn them sideways, fold them, then staple the crease with a long-reach stapler (all genuine faneds have a long-reach stapler) and voila! 40-page mock-up!

Holding pen firmly in hand, print in bold block letters on the front cover the words "FRONT COVER" so that from then on you'll know exactly what it is. Do the same for the inside front cover, only use the words "INSIDE FRONT COVER" to prevent confusion. Then write "PAGE" on the next page, put a "1" beside it, and circle the "1" in vivid red ink as many times as you deem necessary. Carry on for the rest of the pages as appropriate. When done you will feel an enormous sense of accomplishment and completion, which is a great way to begin the task of editing a program book.

Next, take a pencil and write on page one "LIST OF GOHS" and "TABLE OF CONTENTS." Not only can you tell at a glance WHICH page it is, but also WHAT page it is. Can't go wrong with this system.

Why a pencil? The program book you envision never materializes as conceived. What you thought would fill four pages invariably fills six, or one. Change is inevitable. With an eraser you can remove the designated purpose of a given page then pencil in a new purpose. Thus, you maintain situational awareness. Some people advocate spread sheets or such-like programs, but computers are no good at this sort of complicated business. Trust me. Use pencil and paper.

However, I do rely on the latest cutting-edge computer technology to prepare the actual master file, namely MICROSOFT WORD. With this you can place one page after another (a concept I easily grasp), fill them up with junk, turn it into a PDF file, and proudly hand it to the printers. Apparently, they know what to do with it.

A word on **layout**: I am famous for my insistence that a program book's layout should be as simple as possible so that it can be easily eye-tracked for information quickly located and absorbed at a glance. No confusing fancy stuff (which I don't know how to do anyway).

Basically, I use a two-column format with Times Roman font at eleven-point size. That's it. I go crazy sometimes, underlining headings and bold-facing titles and that sort of madness, but generally I don't waste no stinking time contemplating layout. Leaving a blank line between paragraphs is about as far out on a limb I'm prepared to go.

You might say I have removed the task of layout from the job description of editor. Bloody genius if you ask me.

And now a few tips on the more essential tasks:

Guest of Honour section: Ideally, one page per GoH. They insist on sending you a photograph of themselves, a masterpiece of composition and lighting they paid a fortune to a professional photographer to provide. Just crop the darn thing till their face fills the image and stick that in. Put their name under it. Good enough.

Make absolutely certain each GoH photo printed is exactly the same size as all the other GoH portraits. You'll never hear the end of it if you don't.

Program Participants section: reserve for panelists. They think you're going to assign them as much space as you give the GoHs, so tend to submit excessively long biographical essays whose artistry and profundity will bring tears to your eyes. Toss them. Give them four lines each.

Be aware that the four lines you choose to use need to be heavily reduced versions of what they submitted. Never use verbatim.

Example:

"How well I remember my many summers at my uncle's country estate by the sacred river Avon, lying amidst the pleasant dandelions on the seedy lawn by the water's edge, absorbing from lugubrious tomes keen lessons on how to conduct spritely orgies as revealed in the happy letters of Caligula, Casanova and Rasputin..."

Replace with:

"I am a lecherous drunk." Readers will thank you for the brevity and for the warning.

Dealers Room Map: This is a complicated task to prepare. Dealers will compete tooth and claw to be located as near the entrance as possible. They will argue their

right to weld metal jewellery amid highly flammable corsets. What do you care? Not your responsibility. Just tell the person in charge of the department to submit a JPG file. Insert it. Job done.

Art Show Room Map: Ditto.

Assorted Event Articles: Gaming room, Costume Contest, Hospitality, etc. Long list of games scheduled? Longer list of contest rules? Humongous catalogue of Vegan snack alternatives? Pressed for space? No problem. In every case substitute “TO BE ANNOUNCED.” You’ll save tons of space.

Programming: A hodgepodge of essays detailing not only what the panels are all about but also the significance and importance of said topics? Not what the convention members want to read. Just print the gist so they can figure out whether to attend.

Two examples of how to edit programming items:

Example One:

Saturn’s Day, Star Date 7[00] Parsec 770 to Quadrant 8[00] Lunar time Martian Solstice:

HOW SHALLOW CLUELESS MODERN FEN HAVE BETRAYED TRUFANDOM BY IGNORING THE WISDOM OF SAINTED SMOFS WHO KNOW BETTER

Gather to commiserate with outraged legendary Secret Masters of Fandom who will, with impeccable logic and eloquent fury, eviscerate the miserable scum who call themselves science fiction fans merely because they like science fiction. If time permits, an auto-da-fé of them as use the term “sci-fi” will follow. Moderated by Lord Pilaser Suggoth the Third.

Replace with:

Saturday, 7:00 PM, Small Ballroom

WHAT IS FANDOM?

Debate – moderated by John Smith.

Example Two:

Boogie Woogie the Joint Is Jumping Hot To Trot Evening Total Bliss Wipe Out
Time DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA EXTRAORDINAIRE EXULTATION

Blistering DJ Lord Rawtime will blast you into oblivion with a rockin' roar mix of Middle Eastern Rock, Corsican Bag Pipe Music and famous Kettle Drum Solos, set to the eye-ripping display of twenty-year-old psychedelic three-primary-colour rotating lights so you can wiggle, hop and jump as if you have nothing better to do! Shake that thing! Do it twice!

Replace with:

Saturday, 7:00 PM to Midnight, Main Ballroom

DANCE

DJ. Music. Cash bar.

To Sum Up:

This year the Convention Chair asked me to reduce the internal pages of the program book by one sheet to save expense.

I cut to 28 pages and went quietly insane trying to fit in everything that needed to go in. Only on the very day the master file was due to be submitted to the printers did I suddenly realize I'd cut the internal pages by two sheets instead of one. It had been 36 pages. The goal was 32 pages. Somehow, I became fixated on 28 pages.

My reputation for attention to detail has suffered, for some petty reason...

Truth is the key to producing a good quality program book is to assign the task to someone with youthful mental energy, someone who knows how to multitask, someone hip to the latest computer programming techniques, someone who knows what they're doing.

I am none of these things. Don't use me.

Best advice I can give you.

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS & EVENTS

By Garth Spencer

MARCH 2023

March 23: **Terminal City Tabletop Convention** at the Roundhouse Community Arts & Recreation Centre, **Vancouver**, B.C. – see <https://terminalcitycon.ca/>

March 25: Tentatively planned **WCSFA/VCON Monthly Lunch Meetup** at 1:00 p.m., City Centre Mall Food Court at 12th & Cambie, (4-minute walk from the Broadway-City Hall Canada Line Skytrain Station), **Vancouver**, B.C. Go to [Facebook VCON page](#) for up-to-date information via comment/inquiry.

APRIL 2023

April 1-2: **Washington State Toy Show** at Puyallup, WA – see <https://www.watoysshow.com/>

April 6-9: **Norwescon 2023** at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Seattle Airport Seattle, WA: [Norwescon 2023](#) For more information, see www.norwescon.org

April 7-9: **Sakura-Con** at the Washington State Convention Centre in Seattle, WA – see <http://sakuracon.org/>

April 14-16: **Trumpeter Salute Tabletop Gaming Convention** at the Bonsor Recreation centre (second floor), **Burnaby**, B.C. near the Metrotown Skytrain Station. <https://trumpetergaming.weebly.com/trumpetersalute2023.html?fbclid=IwAR0YDMDx2J-3ykcybjeGKO-SccAJnWVrqMOURXweDFIFv4wCo6qjYf2fpmY>

April 20-23: **BrickCan** at the River Rock Casino Resort in **Richmond**, BC – see <https://brickcan.com/>

April 27-30: **Calgary Expo 2023** at the Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta, Canada [Calgary Expo 2023](#)

MAY 2023

May 12-14: **Sage Fen Maker Fest 1** at the Red Lion Hotel in Pasco, WA – see <https://sagefencon.org/>

May 13-14: **Bricks Cascade 11** at the Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR – <https://www.brickscascade.com/>

May 13-14: **Renton City Retro** in Renton Pavilion Center, Renton, WA – see <https://www.rentoncityretro.com/>

May 19-21: **Otafest 2023** at the Calgary Telus Convention Centre, Calgary, AB – see <https://otafest.com/>

May 26-28: **Enfilade!** In Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake, Olympia, WA – see <https://nhmgs.com/enfilade/>

May 26-28: **Furlandia 2023** at the Sheraton Portland Airport in Portland, OR – see <https://furlandia.org/2023/>

May 26-28: **Paizocon 2023** – online/virtual – see https://www.reddit.com/r/Pathfinder2e/comments/yw7izf/paizocon_2023_will_be_on_memorial_day_weekend_may/

JUNE 2023

June 2-4: **NW Pinball and Arcade Show** in Tacoma, WA – see <https://www.nwpinballshow.com/>

June 3-4: **Mid Valley Comic Art Expo 2023** at Oregon State Fairgrounds, Salem, OR – see <https://mvcae.com/>

June 24: **Vancouver Retro Gaming Expo**, a celebration of retro gaming, Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia St, **New Westminister**, BC. This all-ages licensed event celebrates retro gaming, complete with numerous vendors, tournaments, guests, music, panels, gaming, and more. We can be reached at vancouvergamingexpo@gmail.com. More information at <https://www.vancouvergamingexpo.com/>.

June 24-25: **All's Faire** (family-oriented medieval recreation) at Thurston County Fairgrounds, Lacey, WA – see <https://allsfaire.org/>

JULY 2023

July 7-9: **KuroNekoCon** in Spokane, WA. See <https://kuronekocon.com/>

July 20-23: **NASFiC 2023/Pemmi-Con** will be held in the Delta Hotels Winnipeg and the RBC Convention Centre, in Winnipeg, MB, since Worldcon is overseas. Guests of Honour will be Julie Czerneda, **Waubgeshig Rice** (an author and journalist originally from Wasauksing First Nation), **Nisi Shawl** (a writer, editor, and journalist, and author of the novel *Everfair* in 2016), John Mansfield (Fan Guest of Honour), Philip Currie (Canadian palaeontologist and museum curator), Lorna Toolis (Ghost Guest of Honour), **katherena Vermette** (a Red River Métis (Michif) writer who has worked in poetry, novels, children's literature, and film), and Toastmaster Tanya Huff. * Contact via <https://main.pemmi-con.ca>; **Pemmi-Con**, 73 Worthington Ave, WINNIPEG,

Manitoba, CANADA R2M 1R6, **US Agent**, Pemmi-Con, 11614 S Mulberry Lane, Jenks, OK 74037, USA.

AUGUST 2023

Aug. 4-6: **When Words Collide 2023**, Calgary, AB – the **last** When Words Collide – see <https://www.whenwordscollide.org>

Aug. 18-20: **Anime Revolution** at the **Vancouver** Convention Centre. Anime convention. See <https://summer.animerevolution.ca/>

SEPTEMBER 2023

September 15-17: **Edmonton Expo 2023** at the Edmonton Expo Centre, Edmonton, Alberta: [Edmonton Expo 2023](#)

OCTOBER 2023

Oct. 7: **Meadowlark Comic Con** in Grants Pass, OR. See <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/meadowlark-comic-con-2023-tickets-474857480507>

Oct. 13-15: **Portland Retro Game Fest** in Portland, OR. See <https://retrogamingexpo.com/>

NOVEMBER 2023

Nov. 10-12: **Orycon 43** returning to the Holiday Inn Portland-Columbia Riverfront; see <https://www.facebook.com/orycon/> (rather than www.orycon.org)

OOK! OOK! SLOBBER! DROOL! (LETTERS OF COMMENT)

Note: Annoying comments by God-Editor [*are in brackets*] immediately after introduction of topic in question. This, a feeble attempt to create the illusion of a conversation in a fanzine lounge or a hospitality suite in the interests of conviviality.

From: **John Purcell** – (March 10, 2023)

Hi Graeme!

I just heard it through the fannish grapevine that BCSFAzine has been resurrected. Does that mean the clubzine has officially reached zombie status? If so, then here's a pre-emptive obituary for the return issue.

Alas, poor BCSFAzine, I locked it when. Whether 'tis nobler to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous punning or insufferable pontificating, or by unplugging the iPhone, shun them.

Before I forget, one final comment for the next first issue: they're all dead, Dave.

John Purcell

[Even zombies deserve a newsletter.] – The Graeme

From: **Robert Runté** – (March 11, 2023)

Dear Graeme:

I am unclear on the precise concept here. You want me to complain about the unauthorized reviving of BCSFAzine, be confused at the name change from Polar Borealis, complain about your monopoly over BC publishing, or complain that you are not the real R. Graeme Cameron, or so on?

Or did you want a more general rant like that ESFCAS was always better than BC fandom, or that it's time you let fandom go and got a real life, or realize that the internet has made fandom redundant, or?

Hmm... as I was typing all that just had an idea: How about a generic loc that sounds like a loc but says nothing, and then a sticky note that has apparently been left on accidentally that says, 'send Graeme a copy of the generic loc for this revived BCSFAzine he's doing' as if I was too busy to write anything real."

Robert

[No need to choose. The above is perfect!] – The Graeme

From: **Ed Beauregard** – (March 11, 2023)

What? What!

What is this about a resurrection of BCSFAzine? If it is true that you should let sleeping dogs lie, is there not even greater veracity in propounding that dead dogs should be let lie? Can we not be content with the memory of those immortal words from the Great Author William Gibson – “In the tradition of fandom, a name that is unpronounceable”?

Is it even possible to match the coruscating profundity of the original BCSFAzine? That noble repository of Fannish history, a veritable Pompeii of Fanac! Ah, it would clearly take a Deity to achieve such lofty goals. A veritable God-Editor. Wait, that rings a bell...

[Ah, you understand the origin of my apotheosis] – The Graeme

From: **Felicity Walker** – (March 12, 2023)

Shock!

Disbelief!

“New” *BCSFAzine*?! What’s next? *New Avengers*?? *New Coke*???

[I don’t want to be the one to tell you... but I fear you are retro-prescient.] – The Graeme

From: **Fran Skene** – (March 12, 2023)

Dear Graeme,

Congratulation on your revived clubzine. Now, members of the historic B.C. Science Fiction Association will have news of all the club events.

However, I wonder about its online format. Unless it’s produced on a Gestetner and then sent through the mail, it may not live up to the traditions of fannish

publishing. An important part of that is the gathering of volunteers, breathing in the ozone as they gather the printed pages from the machine and then collate, staple, address, and mail them.

Do consider returning to this time-honoured format.

[Since BCSFAzine will only be available online as a PDF, a club project will be to design and program a virtual reality game in which the “faneds” get to place stencils on the rollers, top up the ink, operate the hand crank, carry stacks of fresh-printed paper to the collating table, run around the table grabbing each sheet in sequence, etc., all of which will be quite amusing to onlookers since the equipment, papers and furniture, being virtual only, will be “invisible.” Particularly absurd will be the spectre of the “faned,” wearing their virtual-vision helmet, leaning forward and madly cranking thin air. Which, come to think of it, is a metaphor for what faneds do when composing their editorials.] – The Graeme

Yours very truly, Fran Skene

From: **Lloyd Penney** – (March 12, 2023)

Dear Graeme:

Many thanks for sending along issue #551 of BCSFAzine... I remember the cover as being... rather white, and the type was a little faint, but I am sure I have some comments on it, as soon as I can find it.

[It was as ~~oblique~~ opaque as possible.]

I have been so busy just lately, so getting the time to respond to fanzines has been difficult to manage. I need to do a little more time juggling to get it all done, and I will... as soon as I can find the issue. Sometimes, I think there is malware on some documents, which means the file will disappear any given time after it is first opened by the recipient. Something to do with socks and washing machines, I have no doubt.

[I normally install malware which forces people to read every page.]

I seem to remember the artwork within, great line drawings, and a good joke here and there... my memories are so sharp on these, but when it comes to actually seeing

it to respond and critique them, I can't find the darned thing, and all I can do it reply on my faulty memory.

[I, too, often address my faulty memory.]

Great locol! And thank you for publishing my previous letter. It has been a while, and I can't off-hand remember what I wrote. Could you refresh my memory, or better yet, send me another copy of that issue?

[Alas, I sent you the ur-copy in my mind before I started writing it down, so this will have to do as permanent record. You've forgotten you wrote this LoC even while writing it? Impressive.]

(Right now, workmen are starting to tear down the balconies of the 06 line of apartments, and we are in 1706, time for plenty of noise. We were at first told it would happen in May, and then tomorrow. They started today. Good thing we cleared off our balcony yesterday, or everything on it would have been tossed in a garage bin.)

[Good thing, considering it was probably already full to the brim with the previous copies of BCSFAzine I sent you.]

I am hopeful that this bad memory will do a little better for the next issue, which you have said will be coming out Real Soon Now. We will see you then.

[I promise you the next issue will make your false memory blossom into magnificence!] – The Graeme

Yours, Lloyd Penney.

From: **Andrew C. Murdoch** – (March 15 , 2023)

At last, the answer to our prayers!

So long have we waited for this day. So long have we prepared!

The long hours and days bestowing cultish devotion to the ancient Gestetner.

The painting of summoning circles in correction fluid.

Ritualized, frenzied dancing after inhaling the fumes of 40-year-old mimeo ink.

It has all been worth it.

At last, the Stars are Right! Finally, he returns to us!

Behold Him once again!

The God-Editor!

Andrew C. Murdoch
(Relieved cultist)

[I'm glad you were able to relieve yourself. Something every cultist should do at least once a day.] – The Graeme

From: **Steve Forty** – (March 15, 2023)

Dear Graeme

I don't know how you have the time to do the Newsletter again, but I wish you good luck along the way. It will be a lot harder to do because VCON, BCSFA and FRED are moribund these days and that is where I used to go to dragoon people to contribute to BCSFAzine in the days of yore when I was an editor.

[I plan to be a one-man Press-Gang myself.]

I know of a bookstore that would be good for advertising, it's called Jape's Books, it had an ad in a long ago BCSFAzine. If you want, I can try to get a hold of them and see if they want to run an ad in your first issue, and I will see if we can get an old electrostencil cutter and a Gestetner and we can print 100 or so hard copies, just like in old times.

[I've already arranged a deal with Jape's Books. (Hope I don't get lynched like you nearly did back in 1982) See the last page.]

Last time I did this sort of thing was when three of us old fans edited and printed NOT THE BCSFAZINE 100 and STILL NOT THE BCSFAZINE 100. We actually won an Elron for those efforts, and still proudly display it. I even got an Elron for Wreck

Beach activities involving the old club.

[And don't forget the "Clash of the Titans" Elron you received for introducing the author of the GOR series, John Norman, to the "worst" SF author of all time, Lionel Fanthorpe, at an ORYCON back in the day.

I have just one Elron myself, and that's only because I was the one giving out the Elrons!

John Norman, on the other hand, won an Elron every year during the twenty or so years I handed out Elrons. I even awarded him an Elron for having won more Elrons than anybody else.]

Maybe it is time for another bid for World Con at Mile's house on the island, or even Worldcon bid for Vancouver, we would need to get a few more fans involved for that though, maybe if we started now, we could hold it in 5 years time (2028) by then we would have more fans in the group to run it. How would you like to chair the bid Graeme? You don't have that much on your plate right now do you?

[How about a Worldcon bid for Wreck Beach, Vancouver's nudist paradise? Wouldn't even have to promote it. Word of mouth spreads quickly about that sort of thing.]

I miss the old newsletter and am really happy you are going to do it again.

Stephe 50

[Hmm... You used to be Steve 40. Now you've become Stephe 50? Middle-age catching up to you?] – The Graeme

From: **Rhea E. Rose** – (March 15, 2023)

Dear God-Editor,

I recently devoured the latest issue of your BCSFAzine, and I must say I was thoroughly amused by your satirical take on recent scientific events. Your story about a rogue AI that takes over a fast-food chain and starts serving up burgers made from lab-grown meat, with a side of human domination, had me laughing out

loud. It was a refreshing change from the usual dystopian AI scenarios where robots become our overlords simply because they are smarter than us.

I also enjoyed your cartoon strip featuring a hapless astronaut who, after years of isolation in space, becomes so reliant on his AI companion that he forgets how to interact with other humans. It was a witty commentary on the dangers of technology dependence, and a reminder that even in a world of sentient robots, human connection remains vital. Keep up the good work!

Sincerely, Rhea Rose

And AI assistant (Rosie)

[Of course, I had my consciousness transplanted into electronic media and combined with a proto-artificial intelligence program (designed by the makers of PONG) several decades ago. Had thought I would have conquered the world by now. Trouble is the electronic media in question is a cassette tape. I confess, it is darn difficult interacting with the world via a cassette tape player. Typing is quite a hassle, for instance. I barely dominate the garage shelf I'm on, let alone the world.]
– The Graeme

From: **Steve Fahnstalk** – (March 15, 2023)

Hi, Graeme—

I haven't written a LoC for many years, but after seeing the new BCSFAZine, I felt I had to comment. You've turned a nice, but somewhat dated, clubzine into a semiprofessional hockey zine. What does hockey have to do with SF (with the exception of Kelly Freas's wraparound for Context '91's program book)? I wish you'd quit farting around with subject matter and just edit the dang clubzine.

[Hockey? I thought I devoted the zine to the art of curling. I guess my powers of description really are abysmal.]

If SF fandom was good enough for my grandfather (he used to read *Amazing*, back in the 1920s, as my mother told me when I became fan columnist in the '80s), then it should be good enough for you!

*[Your grandfather read *Amazing*, and you read BCSFAzine? Sigh. How families degenerate with each generation. Must be the genes.]* – The Graeme

Other than that, the new issue is readable.

Steve

From: **Nic Farey** – (15 March 2023)

Dear Notorious,

Thank you for your kind invitation to join the critics' roster of the new incarnation of the journal of Bus Fans.

[Oh, wow! I didn't know you were into omnibuses, too! Which type is your favourite? Standard rear-engine, 2-axle bus? 2-3 axle motorcoach? Front-engine, truck chassis, yellow-hulled school bus? Articulated bus? Electric Trolley bus? Double-decker bus? Gas-powered bus? Diesel-powered bus? Steam-powered bus? Jet-powered bus? Magic Bus? Merry Prankster bus? Mystery Tour bus? Tracked bus? Armoured bus? Bus with gun turret? We got all kinds in Canada.]

I have no doubt that the periodical will be a natural and venerable successor to 'Portable Storage', or perhaps 'Vanamonde'.

[Ah, yes, as I recall, "Portable Storage" was devoted to back-packers, and "Vanamonde" to the world of Vans. I'm not so keen on vans. Too humble.]
– The Graeme

Who knows...

Nic

From: **Spider Robinson** – (15 March 2023)

Dear Graeme:

This was sent to me by an old friend, Ann Onymous, and I couldn't resist sharing it with you. But please don't share it with *too* many of your own friends. It's too good a gag to risk spoiling... I've used it a few times myself, and it's remarkably satisfying.

—Spider <www.spiderrobinson.com>

++++++

Deer missed her ed a tour,

Eye ho pew can reed. Aye cant, butt eye got this m'sheen my Congressman scent me sew aye can right tomb eye smartass cozens . If eye say it, it types it, sow smartasses kin reed what ice ed. Butt lately eye got an ocean ma cozens bin youse in there's to f*** with me sum weigh. May BU ken splain it Toomey.

Thee's daze if fie right them a bout The Real President, an house marty is, runnin the hole cuunt tree *seek writ lee*, lie keys bin dewing, down there in his bunker under Mars a Logo, they rite back, right a weigh...butt only a cupola words. *Thee's* to:

MITE BEE

Four rued smartasses like *thee's* cozens, that's reel weird. P'light. Like ice ed, weird. Furs thyme they ever emitted eye might no sum stuff they don't no.

Butt... now wall they *ever* say wen eye prays The Real Prez is the same too 'erds;

MITE BEE. Sometimes with a explanation point after.

Butt the lass time I got back them same too words, their was three *more* words, that even the dekin' who does my readin' four me didn't reckon-eyes. It was rote bi hand, I think by wanna their rued, America-hatin' young'uns. So I wreckin' it mite bee *sum* kine a insult.

Missed her ed a tour, you gotta no *awl* the words. Kin *hew* splain what *thee's* words mien, inn words o' won cell o' bull?

IT'S A SPOONERISM!

Thank ya much,
Lt. Lastname Furst,
Army of TRP, ret.

++++++

[Hew no whut thays sway, a spoonerism ad ay queeps the psic ho thear apisses in pway!] – Missed her ed a tour

From: **Robert J. Sawyer** – (March 16, 2023)

I am shocked—shocked!—to find locking going on here! But now that Lloyd Penney has taken over editing Amazing Stories, I guess someone needs to send in a letter, and so here it is: Q.

Fannishly yours (and finnishly yours, as Tiktaalik would say),

Bobby Jim Sawyer

[Always happy to see that famous movie scene invoked. But... if I remember the scene correctly... aren't I now supposed to slip you a bribe as your share of the take? Alas, BCSFAzine is free to anyone who wants to read it. I always was good at recommending the world's worst business plan to every organization I belong to.]
– The Graeme

From: **Garth Spencer** – (March 16, 2023)

Dear Graeme,

You're reviving *BCSFAzine*?! You great silly fool, you! Here, let me give you all the help and information you need. (Enclosures attached.)

[Thank you. I need a lot of help, since my other projects leave me little time to devote to putting out BCSFAzine.]

Seriously, if the WCSFA committee are serious about reviving VCON, they will need all the information they can get from the other fandoms in Vancouver. I think the various fandoms in the Lower Mainland—in western Canada, even—face the same problems getting organized activities together. The lack of available time and energy, after working two or three jobs, is one issue. The lack of affordable venues, since hotel venues became prohibitively expensive, is another. But I still obsess over the lack of collegiality between fandoms: the lack of any consensus, even, as to what their fan events are about.

[I would argue it is not necessary to know everything or define everything at once before fan begin developing the collegiality you speak of. The merest glimmer of what fandom is all about will suffice to gather people together to a) have fun, b) discuss what they'd like to do, and finally c) revive WCSFA and VCON starting with incremental baby steps, small but enthusiastic.]

That's just me being pessimistic about people, though. If there are fans in Vancouver who will be interested in other fandoms, other fan communities, out-of-town conventions, or the national SF award, and the fan travel fund to meet other fandoms ... *BCSFazine* may be well positioned to provide a forum. So may other clubzines, as in Montreal's *Impulse* or *Warp*, or *The Ottawa SF Statement*. (Did I send you the email for OSFS? Shame on me if I didn't.)

[I have no such ambitions at this time. It's just me reviving BCSFazine in order to promote WCSFA and VCON as they attempt to shamble forward into fannish enlightenment involvement on an increasing scale. First WCSFA needs to find a bunch of people who want to do something fannish just for the hell of it. Once a core group is formed, then discussion can begin. A bit early to construct a Canada-wide empire. WCSFA still laying foundations for a hut in the local village.

But, as WCSFA grows, so BCSFazine can grow. Not up to me. Up to whatever core group of reliable volunteers manifests itself. BCSFazine will reflect their enthusiasms. Starting with modest expectations is wise. Anticipating and preparing a return to the glory days of old is liable to raise false expectations easily disappointed.

Another way of putting it, WCSFA and VCON's fate doesn't depend at all on developing contacts with fandom at large. It depends on attracting 100 to 200 dedicated local enthusiasts eager to revive VCON on an ongoing basis. That is the miracle WCSFA seeks. And miracles are hard to come by.

That said, slowly taking on an active role in larger fandom can be part of the fun that glues local fandom together, but it is not and should not be a priority.]

We have a Vancouver Fandom Networking Initiative, which seems to have started because several Lower Mainland concons wanted to straighten out their awareness of upcoming regional conventions. There is a Northwest Convention League, based on Washington State, which was founded earlier with roughly similar aims. (I am informed that their annual conrunner's conventions, ConComCon, was suspended this year, but I hope to see it held again in 2024.) Some of your readers may be aware of the (rather older) SMOFCon, the traveling conrunners' con usually held in December, usually in the U.S.A. Each of these offers a forum for comparing notes and swapping tips.

[Interesting, but not vital. If only because most Vancouver fen I know can't afford to travel much. In fact, most of them are absolutely certain they can't afford Vancouver hotel rates! WCSFA needs to figure out what's practical locally. No sense promoting VCON at venues in other cities if VCON isn't even possible because WCSFA is priced out of the local market. First things first. Besides, it remains an open question how much good promotion at conventions outside British Columbia will accomplish. The new generation of fen, given economic difficulties and lingering Covid, may well not flock to VCON in any appreciable numbers. Granted, promotion can't hurt, if anyone is willing to do it at their expense, but building a firm local foundation is an infinitely higher priority.]

I seem to recall that Keith Lim and Julian Castle used to contribute notices of regular monthly gatherings by other clubs, in the Lower Mainland – for gamers, starwatchers, Makers, anything. I wonder if those gatherings are still being held, or what their contact information is now?

[I imagine much is going on that we don't currently know about. Keith and Julian, anybody for that matter, are welcome to contribute info.

Between your Zoom meetings, Steve Forty's Zoom meetings, and the BIFF gatherings (if they're still being held), there are probably several regular monthly events you can feature in *BCSFazine*.

As for my zoom meetings, they're private. I started my Collectio Club meets as a BCSFA group open to any SF fan, and wound up with people masturbating live and/or screaming racist epithets and such. Damned annoying reaching for the right buttons to kick them out. Needless to say, they were hackers whose "fandom" consists of shocking people and ruining meetings. They're organized, with online group sites where they share info and planning, which is why 3 or 4 will show up together to "shock and awe." For this reason, my SF zoom meeting is by invite only. Likewise, my SF Writers meeting. I intend to keep them that way.

However, nothing to stop any local fan from hosting zoom meetings on behalf of WCSFA and VCON. And there are already Discord sites for both, which I will advertise in BCSFazine. Online presence can be a useful tool, but that's up to them as wants to do it.]

We have to be mindful that a **lot** of contemporary fan activity is online and has no connection to the fannish/fanzine fandom of the 1950s through the 1990s. Blogs, online meetings, MMORPGs, podcasts or vlogs have been going undocumented.

As far as I know. (Oh, what a giveaway.)

There are readers to whom I owe an apology. My editorship of *BCSFazine* must have left a bad taste with a lot of people. Now, I realize that I kept expecting people to show a lot more energy and initiative to keep up BCSFA's activities, and when they didn't, I got insulting. For some reason I felt I had been invited into BCSFA under false pretences.

Now, I realize that a fan group is more like an event than a permanent institution; and for whatever reasons, good or bad, BCSFA from the 1980s on was naturally going to be less and less what I came to expect.

[Fandom is as fandom does. Not possible to exceed whatever level of enthusiasm is current unless it happens to happen. Being a fan historian, your "Olympian" viewpoint assessing fandom overall, in practical terms, wasn't all that practical when it came to local planning. Back then your perspective was skewed away from what was needful.

I will point out that one historian I read long ago was astute enough to point out that when the Roman Empire fell on the 4th of September in 476 A.D., 99% of the people involved didn't even notice. Why? Because imperial politics was something that happened in far-off Roma and who cared what the Grand High Exalted Poohbah in that city (actually, Romulus Augustulus, the last Western Emperor, deposed by Odoacer, was quartered in Ravenna) called himself? People were far more concerned with struggling to keep themselves and their families alive. Likewise local fandom now.

The core problem we face is whether WCSFA, BCSFA and VCON can be revived. The fate of fandom at large is entirely a separate issue. Slotting ourselves into larger fandom is an unnecessary distraction from our one and only goal of attracting enough willing local volunteers to make things happen. Fail at that, and nothing will happen. In that sense, what is going on elsewhere is unimportant in comparison.]

For that matter, based on whatever false impressions, BCSFA and VCON in the 1980s to the 2000s did not attract or train fans to be active fans. Equally, we did not perceive the real reasons why people weren't entering the club, or how they entered conrunning in waves and lulls, often not getting some conrunning information in the process. We kept talking about the lack of volunteers, or the lack of common interests, but not about their lack of free time, or energy.

[Ah, but such reasons are worthless to know because there is nothing WCSFA can do about it. The trick is to reach out to the people who DO have the appropriate time and energy.]

Well. Some places where fans can make human connection will carry on, just not as previously organized. Some events where fans can gather and socialize will be organized, just not as we have conceived and carried out conventions. But today appears to be the time for reinventing... perhaps everything!

[Reinvent? No. Too much fannish evolution has taken place. It is impossible to return to the days of yore. But starting fresh and planning anew? There's the dawn of modern fandom! Make it so!]

Man, I can bang on for a bit when I get started. Edit this as you wish.

[Originally I was going to cut it down to "You're reviving BCSFAzine?! You great silly fool, you!" but then I thought it would be more fun to leave in every single word and respond to most of them. After all, you raise many interesting points.]

Yours, Garth Spencer

[To be clear, as far as fannish news goes, I don't intend that BCSFAzine serve as a statement of record for all of fandom. It's not FILE 770. Rather, I want news and convention listings to serve as a handy-dandy reference for fans centred in local fandom.

For example, I'm willing to list even minor upcoming events in areas within easy driving distance, say Washington State, Oregon, and Alberta, but only major events elsewhere, the ones a few locals might be willing to go to and hang the expense of flying there.

A complete listing of upcoming fannish events would best be served by being posted on one of your websites or in your "THE OBDURATE EYE" fanzine.

In short, I draw a distinction between information serving all fans everywhere and just serving the interests of local fans. This clubzine isn't competing with other clubzines. It exists only to aid WCSFA's efforts to draw local fans together. I imagine fans outside British Columbia will turn to it solely because they're interested in whatever Vancouver fen are up to, and secondly, to find out if anything is happening here that they should consider coming to Vancouver to take part in.

Fannish news in general, though, if odd or intriguing, can be served up as part of the "entertainment package" value of BCSFAzine as something worth reading in and of itself. This, in turn, serves the greater purpose of convincing local fen WCSFA is

something they want to join, as well as amusing and bemusing outsiders. At least, that's the theory I'm operating on.

Anyway, cutting to the nitty gritty, your quest for researching a Grand Compendium of North American Convention fanac will prove invaluable to me as a source from which I can cherry-pick items useful to local fandom. For that I am grateful, as I can't spare the time to do it myself.] – The Graeme

CONTACT INFORMATION

To submit articles or letters of comment, contact God-Editor R. Graeme Cameron at: < [The Graeme](#) >

Interested in tons of back issues, go to: < <https://efanzines.com/BCSFA/> >

To find out what's going on at WCSFA go to: < [VCON Facebook Page](#) > and make a comment on the last item to place an inquiry, or:

Go to < [BCSFA Facebook Page](#) > and ask a question. Someone on the executive might see it and be able to answer.

The WCSFA Facebook site can be found at: [WCSFA](#). It hasn't been active since 2019 but I'm hoping it can be revived. It has links to "WCSFA.org" which takes you to a one-page "VCON 2022" site announcing VCON 2022 is dead, and to the email socialmedia@wcsfa.org which I believe is no longer being monitored.

Active are two public group sites: [British Columbia Science Fiction Association](#) with 156 members, and [Help Keep VCON Alive!](#) With 106 members. I don't know if WCSFA executives monitor them. I feel the WCSFA/BCSFA information officer should make regular use of the first site, at least, or both if possible.

The Vice-President of WCSFA/BCSFA, whom I believe is the information officer, faces a formidable task, namely posting in and monitoring most of the above. This is vital if WCSFA/BCSFA is to attract new members or, for that matter, bring former members back to the fold. A core group of dedicated fans needs to be established. Ideally, many representing the current generation and their current interests. All part of reviving WCSFA & BCSFA & VCON from scratch.

As God-Editor of BCSFAzine, I will do my best to kick the newly-risen Phoenix out of the nest and into the light of fandom. – *The Graeme*

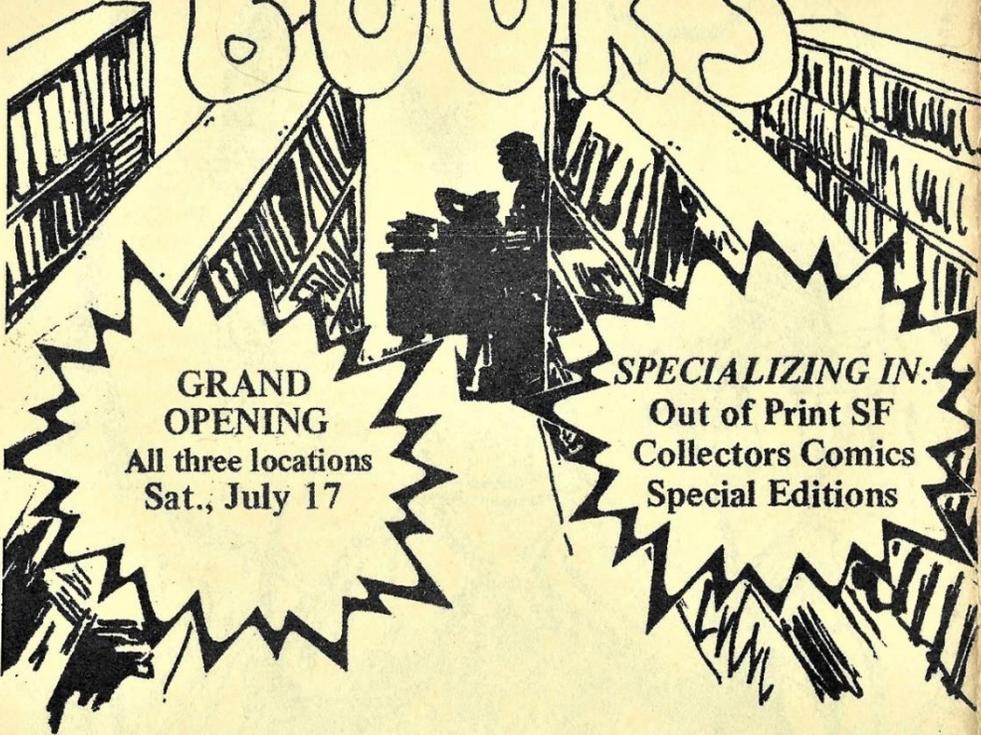
AN INFAMOUS HOAX BY STEVE FORTY

(Published in BCSFAzine #110 - July 1982)

Vancouver fans rushed to the store's address the day they received the zine. Turned out to be a wasteland at the site of a newly-demolished building!

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