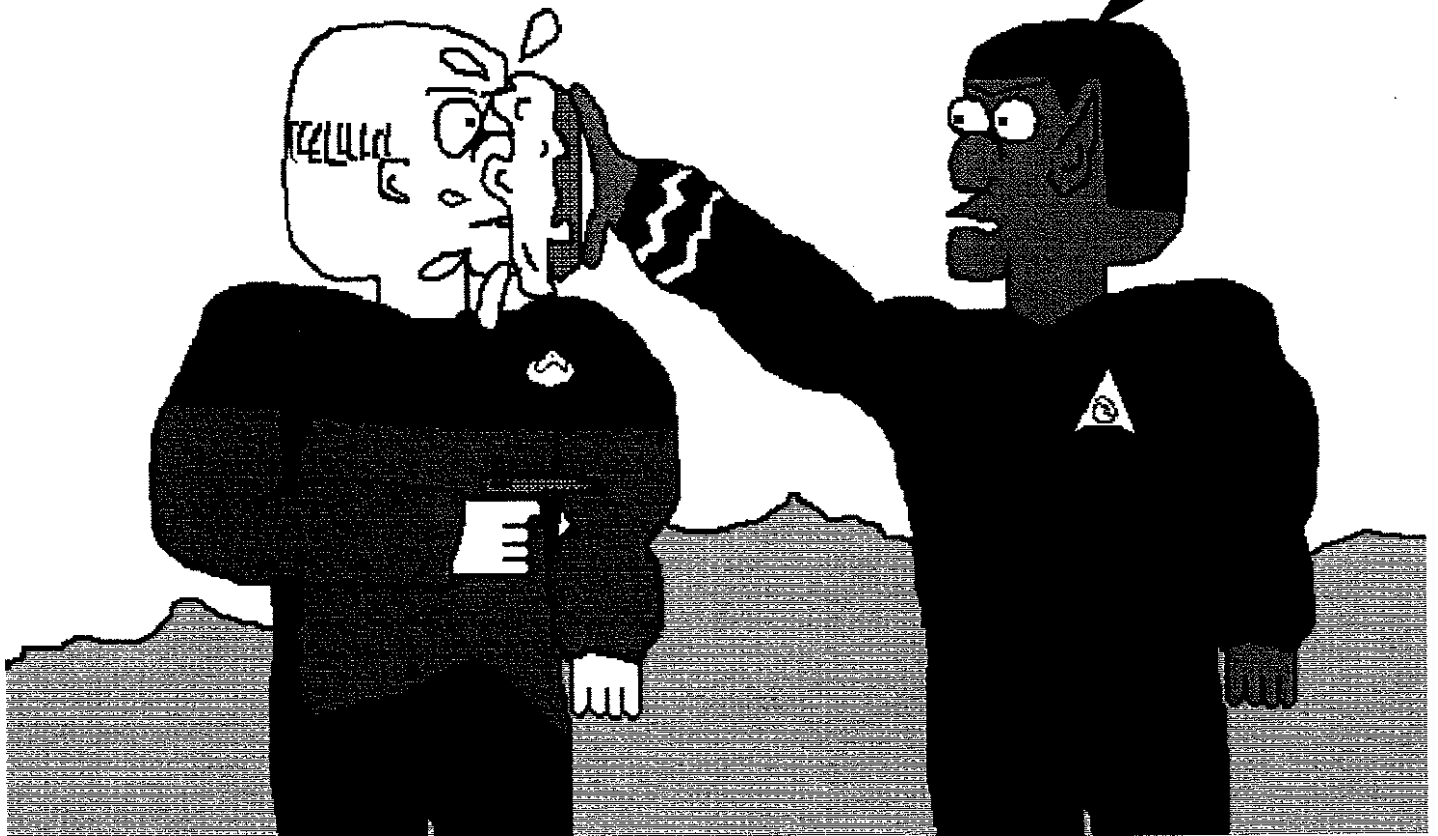


# UNDER THE OZONE HOLE

# #14

I FIND IT  
UNFORTUNATE THAT  
SUBTLETY IS  
BECOMING A LOST  
ART.



# UNDER THE OZONE HOLE

## NUMBER FOURTEEN - JUNE 1996

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(So there, nyah.)

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All uncredited material is by the Editors (blame them).  
Opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors, not  
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### WHY YOU GOT THIS ZINE:

- ☐ Editorial whim.
- ☐ You're an Oilers fan and we feel sorry for you.
- ☐ We like you.
- ☐ We don't like you.
- ☐ WILMA, I'M HOME!!!!!!
- ☐ Your name is not Merv Griffin.
- ☐ You have secret fantasies about Barney.
- ☐ The devil made us do it.
- ☐ You can remember the band Paul McCartney was in  
*before Wings*.
- ☐ John doesn't have to pay you to laugh at his jokes.
- ☐ You ran the Dealers' Room at V-Con.
- ☐ Spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam, spam
- ☐ SPOON!
- ☐ You picked the Florida Panthers to go to the Stanley Cup  
finals.
- ☐ Mouse.
- ☐ You know every Monty Python routine by heart.
- ☐ We need to hear from you, or this is your last ish. Send  
money, a LoC, an article, something!

### Contents

The Editor's Opinion	by Karl Johanson.....	3
The Editor's Opinion	by John Willcox Herbert.....	3
V-Con De-Registration Kit	by Cath Jackel, Michelle Wilson and Roy Fisher.....	5
Just a Little Story/Essay I Couldn't Help Writing Tonight	by Thomas W. Phinney.....	7
Star Trek Writers's Construction Kit for Windows 95.....		8
Burning Cheroal	by Karl Johanson.....	9
Leers and Frothing on the Campaign Trail '96		
Part Two: The Second Part	by John Willcox Herbert.....	10
Fly Your Name To Saturn.....		11
The Database.....		12
Science Fiction News.....		13
Horoscopes.....		16
Canadian News.....		17
A Question of Art	by Stephanie Ann Johanson.....	18
<b>REVIEWS</b>		
Canadian Bacon.....		19
The First Time, Vols. 1 and 2.....		19
Jihad vs. McWorld.....		19
Mr. Spock's Music From Outer Space.....		19
The Transformed Man.....		19
The NitPicker's Guide for Next Generation Trekkers.....		19
The Power of Place.....		20
Star Trek: The Return.....		20
Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire.....		20
Babylon 5 #4: Clarke's Law.....		20
Silicon Snake Oil.....		20
Letters of Comment.....		21
Clam Shoot '96 Pix.....		22

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### Art

All art by Stephanie Ann Johanson.

### About The Cover

Karl Johanson displays his subtle yet stylish humour in this tasteful  
and sublime cartoon, a cartoon which works brilliantly on many  
levels; a brash satire that belies the inner hidden truth of the human  
condition, offset by his brilliant use of form to convey the utter  
futility of mundanity, and yet, still present, hope rises from the dirty  
ashes of despair. And someone gets a pie in the face.

# THE EDITOR'S OPINION

## by Karl Johanson

### To Touch A Comet

I saw comet Hyakutake a number of times as it passed by the Earth. The first time, I had taken the dogs out in the backyard to do the dog thing. I looked up near the big dipper (sorry, but it just doesn't look like a bear to me) and saw a star which happened to be behind a translucent circular cloud which was about the size of the moon. I remember thinking something stupid like, "Gee, wunner if that's it." Stephanie didn't mind being woken up to come and see the comet, and I took a couple of hopelessly underexposed photos of it. Later, we got a good view of the comet and its tail at a particularly dark patch of road on the way back from Sooke.

The Dominion Astrophysical Observatory is about ten minutes'

drive from our place. The big scope, once the biggest reflector in the world, wasn't trained on the comet, but some amateurs had a decent scope set up in the parking lot. They let the people who happened by use it to look at the comet and answered questions. Among the questions answered was, "How close will the comet get?" The answer, nine million kilometres, set me to thinking. Light travels at close enough to 300,000 kilometres per second, putting the comet roughly 30 light seconds away at its closest approach.

When we got home from the observatory I took the dogs out in the yard. I looked up and saw Hyakutake again. I aimed my flashlight at the comet and turned it on. I held it aimed for a good 45 seconds. With my continuous beam of light, hundreds of thousands of kilometres long, I reached out and touched the comet.

# THE EDITOR'S OPINION

## by John Willcox Herbert

*"Now [Canadians] say it's all right—they're going to entice Castro to get out. That is precisely what Neville Chamberlain said about Hitler. He went over there, you know, and he came back and he said we can do business with these folks. We can get along. Peace in our time. Well, Neville Chamberlain was wrong and Winston Churchill said he was wrong and Winston Churchill was right. If they want to get into a debate about morality, let me say to our friends in Canada: you become what you condone and by their advocacy in this matter and by their opposition to this bill, they are condoning Fidel Castro. Furthermore, I suggest that they be ashamed of themselves."*

— Senator Jesse Helms, North Carolina (Republican)

*"We happen to believe you can [promote human rights in Cuba] best by engagement, whereas Senator Helms thinks you can do it better by isolation. Well, his system hasn't worked. Fidel Castro is still there, if he hasn't noticed."*

— Canadian Trade Minister Art Eggleton

You can tell it's an election year in the good ol' U.S. of A. The rhetoric is so thick, you need a phaser set on "kill" to make a dent in it. With the words above, Senator Helms, no stranger to bombastic bluster, has once again proven that his IQ is less than his shoe size. With a few short bursts of fundamentalist right-wing clap-trap, he proudly displays his ignorance like the emperor's new clothes.

Pssst! Jesse, you're starkers.

I hope Senator Helms will remember his words to us, his friends in

Canada. Clearly it is the United States that holds the world's moral high ground. After all, his is a country which has supported the likes of the Shah, Saddam Hussein, Marcos and Noriega for years; a country that embargoes Cuba yet trades with China, Indonesia and Argentina, countries not known for their sterling human rights records; a country which is trying to bankrupt the United Nations by being years, and billions, in arrears in payments; a country that sold weapons and information to *both* sides in the Iran/Iraq war; a country which wastes and squanders the world's meagre resources like no other and shows no sign of guilt or remorse. We as Canadians should feel ashamed. I guess Senator Helms has no shame left.

Of course during this election-year orgy of political ego-stroking, in order to prove yourself strong you must demonstrate that someone else is weak. (Sort of like how when you have a distinct society, the society that it is distinct from is *also* a distinct society. But I digress.) Since the U.S. doesn't pick on ~~wealthy~~ powerful countries these days, it must pick on somebody. So it chooses a small, communist country. Is Castro a Commie? Yep. Is he a tin pot dictator? Sure. Is he a nuisance? You bet. Is he a *threat*? A *bigger* threat than Communist China? It's hard to believe that's the case. Maybe the Mafia just wants all their casinos back. Or maybe Cuba is picked on, and China ignored, simply because Cuba is a smaller market.

Now let's be clear: the Castro government's action in shooting down two unarmed civilian aircraft is reprehensible. Yet, one wonders the response if two Cuban civilian aircraft were to spend the day buzzing Miami. And lest we forget to old proverb of he who is without sin casting

the first stone: there is that matter of the U.S. Navy shooting down that fully loaded passenger jet....

"[Y]ou become what you condone," says Helms. Maybe it's time for the United States to condone tolerance.

Of course, I'm probably just being paranoid. It's just pre-election talk, that's all. It's not as if the American government passed a law in November, 1995 claiming that American ships had free passage through the West Coast Inside Passage, a clearly Canadian territorial waterway, and which suggested U.S. Coast Guard "escort ships" be used to ensure safe American excursions.

Hmmm. Maybe now is the time to go rent Canadian Bacon.

*"I think if we need it, and [Canadians] won't give it to us, we should just take it."*

— U.S. National Guardsman, 1977

\*\*\*\*\*

I recently went to Vancouver for a Canucks game, and thought I'd kill some time in the afternoon with a quick trip down to Bellingham in Washington State. I bought a few items: some Star Trek figures, some Tick figures and a video (Bride of the Monster). This collection of goodies put me over the top for the duty limit, so I was advised by the border guard I would need to take my receipts inside and pay some duty. During my fifteen minutes of bureaucratic hell, I spoke to four different border attendants before I was on my way. I paid a total of 32¢ duty. (I have the receipt to prove it.) Your tax dollars at work.

\*\*\*\*\*

Will someone please tell Brian Mulroney that he cannot sue for *definition of character*?

\*\*\*\*\*

Here comes the V-Chip, an electronic cure for all our social ills. Networks and cable companies will be required to rate all of their programs, and when installed on your TV, the V-Chip will block programs that contain violence, sex or foul language in excess of the limits set by the viewer (or it might become just like clocks on VCRs, something that most people either can't figure out, or just ignore).

But if it works, this could be the start of an entertainment revolution. As well as the V-Chip, we could install any number of chips. For instance: the C-Chip would block commercials; the P-Chip would block government propaganda; and the R-Chip would block any program making reference to either Roseanne or Rush Limbaugh (the technology that can differentiate between the two does not yet exist). Women would love an H-Chip (block hockey), and men would love an O-Chip (block Oprah). We would both welcome a T-Chip (block tabloid news shows). We could block informercials either singly (A-Chip would block the Ab Flex ad) or as a whole (AI-Chip would block all informercials). Chips could prevent you from accidentally seeing a show you really hate: the L-Chip would block The Love Boat. Maybe there's a personality you can't stand watching. This could be avoided with a Personality Chip; for example: a Pat Buchanan Chip, a Brian Mulroney Chip, a Sheila Copps Chip, a Reform Party Chip, a Madonna Chip or a Mr. T Chip.

But what about the next step? What about an "anti V-Chip" that inserts, instead of re-

moves, violence, sex and foul language? If the show needs something more, the Chip could insert it into the program for you. Watching a Vancouver Canucks game and they're getting blown out again? Just turn on your Defence Chip and suddenly the game becomes more interesting. The latest episode of Star Trek: Deep Space Nine putting you to sleep? Turn on your SpaceBattle Chip and watch the fireworks.

I'm sure the government would love this technology. The Québec government could use the E-Chip and block English. What if there's a scandal-plagued week for politicians? (Could it actually happen?) No problem. The Anti-Scandal Chip removes all hints of trouble from the media and the ©-Chip lets everyone know the world is a big, happy place. Local nuclear reactor melts down? News of this will be blocked by the Fission Chip. Happy happy joy joy. (Wait until they get hold of the News Black Out Chip.)

But seriously, the V-Chip heralds the continuing encroachment of Big Brother. Some anonymous person somewhere is deciding which programs are too "offensive" for me to see. And besides, I always thought it was the parents' responsibility to monitor, approve of, and discuss what their children see on television.

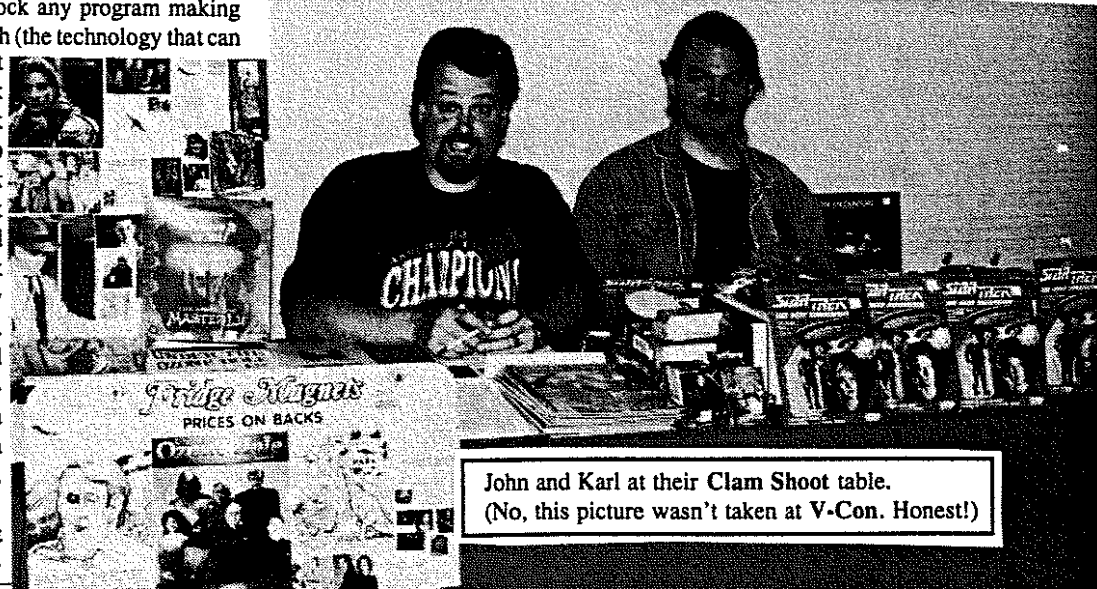
Interesting times are ahead. Let the Chips fall where they may.

\*\*\*\*\*

V-Con 21 was held in Vancouver in May and a splendid time was had by all. Highlights included: the panel Karl and I shared with R. Graeme Cameron on fanzine pubbing, and a later visit to his room for a tour of the BCSFA fanzine collection; the V-Con De-Registration Kit provided by the Edmonton Enclave (Michelle Wilson, Roy Fisher and God-Empress of the Universe Cath Jackel) of The Spuzzum Institute™ (reprinted on the next two pages); the madness and mayhem at our Dealers' Room Table; Robert Runté handling the tofu at dinner; the Rent-a-Cops hired to watch the con-goers; and the chicken melt at O'Donal's. But seriously, another darn fine V-Con. Our hats are off to the Dave New Crew. I particularly want to thank Charlotte Nickerson who did a terrific job running the Dealers' Room. Take a pat on the back out of petty cash. ©

\*\*\*\*\*

Once again, Under the Ozone Hole has been honoured with a nomination for the Prix Aurora Award for Fan Achievement Fanzine. It truly is a distinction to be included in such company as BCSFazine, From Beyond the Öort Cloud, Warp and Warp Factor. You should (hopefully!) find a ballot included with this issue. So don't forget to vote: if you don't use it, you'll lose it!



John and Karl at their Clam Shoot table.  
(No, this picture wasn't taken at V-Con. Honest!)

# YCon 21 De-Programming

THE YCON TIMES

May 20, 1996

Mars Loses!

"We kicked their butts."  
-H.G. Wells

"But wasn't that a party?"  
-Dave New & 'Palle Hoffstein

"them coaters never knew  
what hit them!"  
-H. Waldrop

## Table of Contents

TABLE OF CONTENTS	1
DE-REGISTRATION	2
TO OUR SPONSORS	2
WORDS FOR THE CONCOM	2
THANKS TO THE GOHS	2
DE-PROGRAMMING	3
Health Care & Family Life	3
Clothing & The Real World	3
Technology & the Workplace	3
VIRTUAL VIDEO	3
HOW TO LEAVE THE CON	4
By Car	4
By Plane	4
By Bus	4

## How to Leave the Con

### By Car:

To Vancouver - Leave the parking lot via the driveway you came in on Friday. (We know it's asking a lot to remember dig out your PRs, you can do it!) Turn right onto St. Edwards St. At the lights/intersection with Bridgeport Rd, turn left. Keep on Bridgeport. It will turn left, but being that that's the only direction for you to go as well, just stay on it. Turn left at the Mohawk gas station you turned right at on the way in. Get onto the Oak St. Bridge. Take the Oak St. exit, heading north.

To Seattle or anywhere south of Vancouver-- Driveway and St. Edwards St. as above. At the lights/intersection with Bridgeport Rd, turn left. Take the Highway 99 North exit. Follow the signs to the Peace Arch Border Crossing. (If there aren't any signs, don't blame us; we don't live south of Vancouver. Geesh.)

To Victoria and Vancouver Island - Driveway stuff/Vancouver directions above. Get to Tsawwassen, and head onto Nanaimo or to Swartz Bay as pertinent.

### By Plane:

There will be a variety of buses pulling up to the hotel at all times. Get on the large white one that says The Delta Pacific Resort & Conference Center and The Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel And Marina. Be sure to tell the driver you are getting off at the airport, and not at another hotel. There is a two dollar charge to ride the bus. Call the airport for pick up times.

### By Bus:

To the US - Take the Quick Shuttle Express. Call QSE directly for pick up times (604-244-3744), specify you need to be picked up from the Delta Pacific Hotel.

To Victoria or Nanaimo - Take Pacific Coach Lines from the Delta Pacific Resort to Tsawwassen. BC Transit buses also go from the hotel to the lower mainland. Call PCI (604-662-8074) or BC Transit (604-261-5100) for best routes, locations, times and prices.

## The Spuzzum Institute™

has

## What Every Fan Needs

Uncertain about which sock to put on first, left or right? Is it fasten then zip or zip then fasten? You can once again master these and the countless other activities which make up everyday life outside of conventions --with the help of The Spuzzum Institute™.

Experienced on site staff include renowned leaders in the field of De-Programming and founding members of TSI: Karl Johanson; Stephanie Johanson; John Wilcox Herbert; and Monica Herbert.

The Spuzzum Institute™ is here to help!

This De-Program Book is a creation of Looking Glass Press. "We're all mad here."

©1996 Looking Glass Press  
All rights reserved to contributors. Glad to read "em. We don't want 'em.

## De-Programming

Three tracks of de-programming are on offer throughout the evening. Choose those panels which apply to areas in which you feel you have suffered the most over the duration of the convention.

### Health Care & Family Life

#### A Bed? What's a Bed?

Easy-to-learn stretching exercises for the dedicated (and broke) fan who spent the weekend sleeping on the floor. Tips on how to sleep in a bed will be offered, for those who have forgotten. Additional footcare tips may be offered for the overenthusiastic dancers.

#### Resetting Your Internal Clock

Sleep? What's sleep? Leading experts in this area of readjustment offer advice on how to get up at 7 am instead of going to bed at 7 am. Cath Jackel, God-Empress of the Universe and many-year fan, suggests: "Stay up through the dead dog party then go to work the next day without sleeping."

#### The Neurobiological Effects of Cons on the Brain

Field experts discuss common chemical imbalances caused by con participation, and what you can do to remedy them. Several substances recommended here will be available at De-registration.

#### Family Etiquette

Answers to those burning questions: "What to do if your spouse greets you at the door with 'Who are you?'" "Do you shake hands with your pet?" "Siblings: are they a food or a family member?"

### Clothing & The Real World

#### How to Tie a Tie/Gel those Nylons Back On

We know, we know. Ties and nylons were originally invented as instruments of torture. Still, they make up an important part of the average work day—for many people. Those of you wishing to get back into the swing of it all should participate in this hands-on panel where you can get practical experience.

#### Wreck Beach Contingent

Clothing is good. We like clothing. Clothedness is next to godliness—or at least not-being-arrestedness.

#### Delabelling: Buttons, Funny T's, and Tattoos

As conference call panelist Adam J. K. Charlesworth says, "Remember, don't wear your shirt which reads 'The bitch took my eyes' to your campaign press conference."

### Technology & the Workplace

#### Office Uses for Computers

Things not to do back in the office: shout "Dirty scum" when booting up your computer.

#### Ergonomics of Office Chairs

Remember: do not spin around in an attempt to achieve the speed of light.

#### Milly/Word Problems

These practical exercises should assist in preparing you for the irrationality and illogicity of the mundane world. Study it well, there will be a test at the end of the evening.

E. G. You spent all your next month's food budget on a 1:1 model of the Enterprise. How many boxes of macaroni and cheese will you consume until next payday?

### Virtual Video

As an alternative to the regular de-programming, we will be showing the entire series run of "Cosmos Commanders" for your viewing enjoyment.

## De-Registration

Don't forget to stop by the De-Registration table to get your expiry stamp and pick up your money. A plethora of substances will also be available at De-Registration to assist the return to the outside world, including: anti-delusional medication; reality affixer; pleasant haze defogger; sex aid (we're not saying *how* it'll aid your sex life); sobriety powder; mind & mood modifiers; intelligence enhancers; and of course a wide variety of neuroses—always handy to have for living in the outside world.

Don't miss out on the d'art show (objects no object!) and the de-aler's table, our combined detox centre and a place to leave stuff.

### To Our Sponsors

VCon 21 De-Programming extends sincere thanks to our sponsor, **The Spuzzum Institute™**. Their innovative ideas and dedication to the realm of de-programming have inspired us all. ISI's first project was Worldcon at Miles' House. "I'll never let those offers into my house again." —Miles

### Words for the ConCom

Wasn't VCon just a wonderful time? Innovative, mindwarping (hey, it was a con!), creative. Weren't the con chairs just wonderful? Didn't they do a wonderful job?

Yo Treasurer: put away those Hawaii guidebooks!

Good luck to Ops in putting back all the bits of tech that were scrounged for this weekend.

And to Hospitality: Hi!™ How are you today?

Lastly to all you gophers, words of advice, encouragement and support: Stop. Lie Down. Go to sleep. Now.

### Thanks to the GoHs

We extend many thanks to our special guests:

Dr. Robert Ruité, Voyer Guest of Honour. "I'm a sociologist. I'm here to watch you."

Preston Manning, Mundane Guest of Honour. And you thought *cons* were wacky.

**We are taking bids for next year's de-programming. What will you pay us to have your name not appear in this space next year?**

# Just a Little Story/Essay I Couldn't Help Writing Tonight

by Thomas W. Phinney

Doing some reading over the last couple of days has made me increasingly aware of how networked computer technology is about to undergo some dramatic changes. All the Internet mania of the last year is just the beginning. There are two developments that will totally change Internet activities for everyone from consumers to power users.

A trivial development technologically, but one that will profoundly affect the experience of on-line interaction, is the use of user-customized visual personae to represent people who are interacting on-line. For now, it's just the commercial networks: America On-line, which has had this in primitive form for a while; CompuServe and the Microsoft Network will have animated personae with more possibilities. What used to be SF is now here in the first half of '96, and within a year I'm sure some implementation of this will happen for Internet Relay Chat, too.

Cable modems will have more far-reaching effects. These are just modems that use the cable lines instead of phone lines—at speeds around a thousand times current maximum modem speeds. They are somewhat limited in that the cable companies don't have sophisticated switching set-ups like the phone companies. But they can provide a high-speed access point to other networks—including the Internet. The big cable companies are making alliances with Internet service providers and other commercial networks all over the place, so content will be there to access, have no fear.

(Speaking of content, Microsoft is not ignoring this issue for their Microsoft Network. They've got an exclusive deal with NBC, and it's rumoured that Gates is thinking of buying Viking/Penguin.)

One problem with cable modems is that right now, most cable systems are one-way. Only 8% of the USA is currently wired with two-way cable, with projections being 16% for a year from now (I don't know about other countries).

However, there are possibilities even in the short term. One company is going to have a cable modem card that does full cable speed for downloads, and uses a regular dial-up phone line to communicate in the other direction. It's going to be out in March for \$300; that makes it 50% more expensive than the average 28.8K modem, with 1,000 times the download speed.

Not too shabby. I sincerely believe that multiplying current bandwidth by 1,000 will completely change the scope of what happens on-line. Sound and even video interaction will now be possible in the near future. Between this and new advances like Apple's QuickTime Vr, on-line 3-D virtual environments are closer than I had imagined a year ago.

The other big development is Java. No, not the island, nor coffee—this is a new scripting language for Internet interaction, developed by Sun Microsystems, makers of high-end workstations. Essentially, it allows people who create Web pages to program additional functions, either in their own right or by calling on other programs on the host computer. The person viewing the page with a Web browser can access these additional functions, and if necessary can retrieve portions of the Java script which can be executed by their own Web browsing software. This allows some of the intelligence of the interaction to be put on each end, dramatically reducing the amount of data that need flow back and forth. Because it's a scripting language, it's independent of the computer being used by the browser; a Web browser for any computer could be created which would support Java.

Essentially, this allows fully interactive operation of software across the Web. It will change everything. Sure, it will take a while before serious Java stuff is widespread, and only the minority of sites will go to

the effort of exploiting its potential. But that's enough.

Why am I so sure? First, Java has been adopted by Netscape, the company whose Web browsers are used for 70% of all Web access. Their new version 2.0 software is due out quite soon—supporting Java, Adobe Acrobat, and other key enabling technologies.

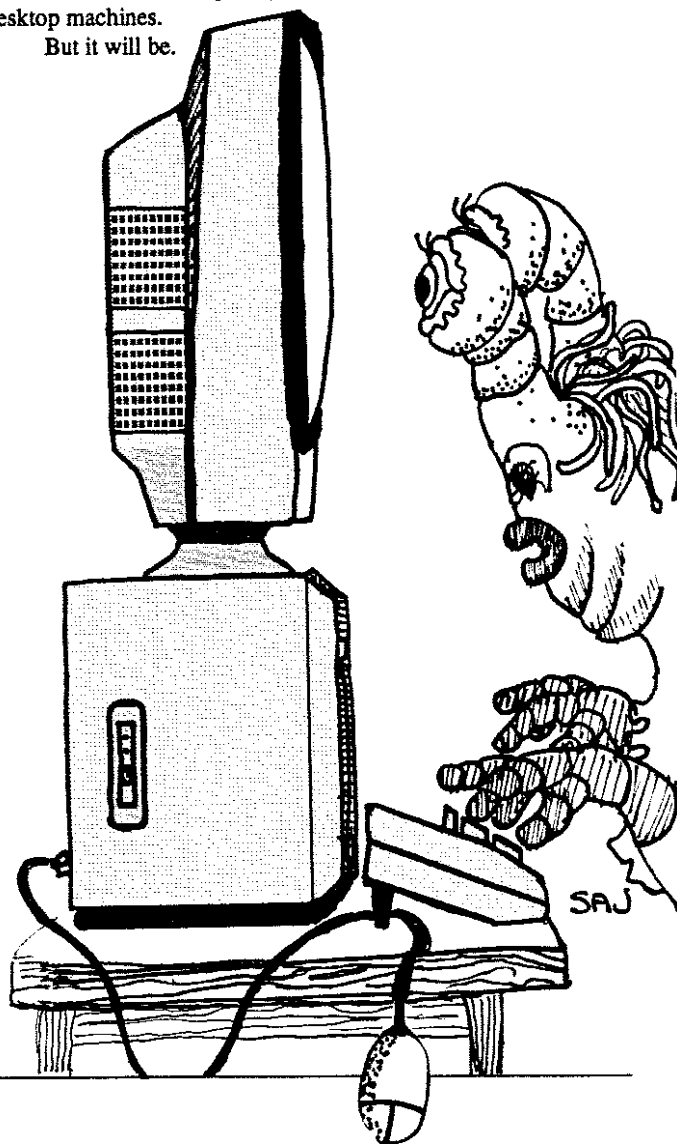
Second, Microsoft was expected to announce its counterstrike technologies to Java today in a Web strategy announcement. Instead, they announced that they were licensing it. This, from the company that only buys or beats competing technologies.

Third, the support from other companies is strong. They like Java, and are using it as an enabling technology for other Web-based products.

It's no coincidence that computer companies are looking at selling \$500 computers with minimal storage and program-running capacity of their own, that mainly act as Internet terminals. If you can actually run software and do things across the net, at serious speeds, it almost makes sense.

But I don't expect these desktop computers *cum* terminals to take off when it first comes on the market this spring. People don't want to give up the control of a regular computer for an intelligent terminal, and the infrastructure isn't in place yet to give these the functionality of current desktop machines.

But it will be.









# Burning Chercoal

## by Karl Johanson

It seems strange to be responding to an article in my own zine. However, the late Dr. Grayson E. Meade mentioned that we shouldn't replace coal plants with nuclear plants because the problem of nuclear waste has not been solved (*"Global Warming or Global Cooling"* UTOH #12). Most people who know me well realize that that pushes what is very close to the biggest button I have. The 'problem' of nuclear waste is a political one, not a technological one.

Let's assume we have a 4,000 megawatt nuclear power plant (about the power level of the Chernobyl facility before its accident). Every year this plant would produce less than 200 tonnes of spent nuclear fuel (a cube just over 2 metres on a side). The vast majority of this spent fuel is uranium, no more toxic than the trillions of tonnes of naturally occurring uranium. The rest of the spent fuel is fission products and transuranics produced by neutron capture. Most of the fission products and all of the transuranics are radioactive. The  $U_{235}$ ,  $U_{238}$  and fissionable transuranics (which account for close to 99% of the spent fuel) can be separated and recycled for reactor fuel.

The spent fuel is stored in pools of water, which is an excellent absorber of radiation. Even gamma rays, which some of the radioactives emit, cannot penetrate much more than a metre of water. After five years the spent fuel's specific level of radiation will have decreased to less than 1% of what it was. After this point the material is suitable for permanent disposal (that is if we decide not separate out and use the useful isotopes). In Canada and the U.S., the spent fuel stays in the pools and is not permanently disposed of. This isn't because there aren't any viable disposal methods known, but because the governments at this point don't allow permanent disposal of spent fuel.

The plan for long term disposal in Canada involves glassifying the spent fuel. Glassification renders the material considerably less water soluble. (Not that much of the spent fuel is that soluble to start with. Plutonium oxide, for example, is less soluble than sand.) The glassified material is to be transported in containers designed to withstand the direct impact of a rocket-propelled locomotive travelling more than 200 kilometres per hour. (Don't ya hate it when that happens?) The material is then to be placed in concrete and metal lined containers. The containers are to be buried deep in shafts cut into solid rock, in areas of the Canadian shield which have been geologically stable for nearly 2 billion years. The tested ground water speeds are measured in centimetres per century. After the material is stored the shafts are to be filled in.

Is the preceding plan enough? Could the waste get out of the storage

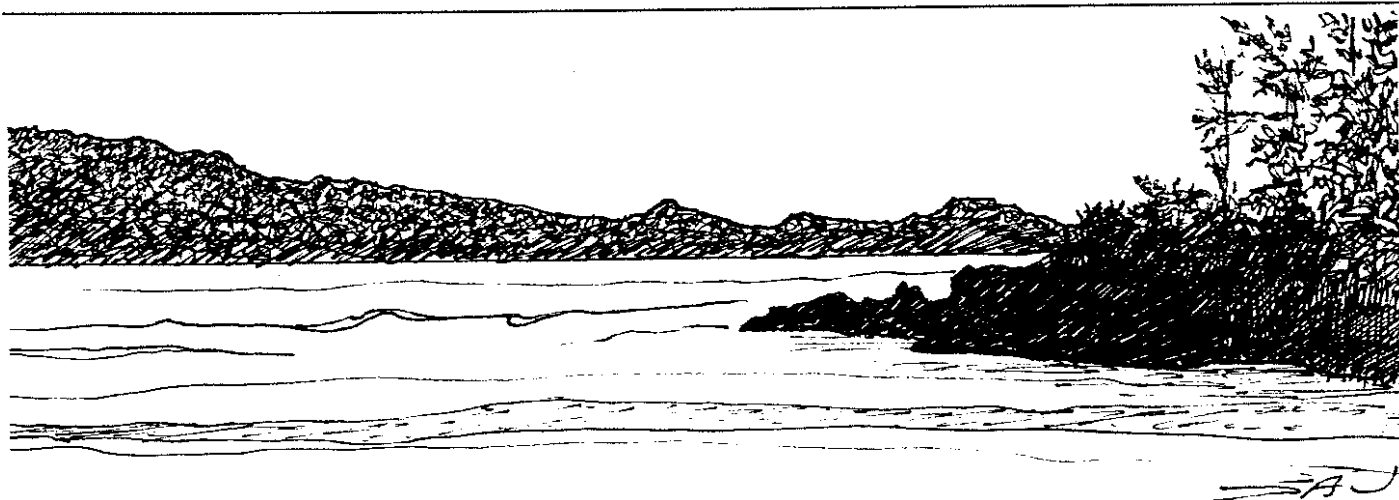
facility and to the surface? What if there's an uncharacteristic force 14 earthquake which breaks up the rock, the metal containers and the glassified spent fuel into sand and creates a new underground river running right through the stored waste? Then what? As I said before, the spent fuel isn't particularly soluble. As well, most of the waste is denser than the surrounding rock, so if it were to go anywhere my first guess is that it would likely go down, not up. The waste isn't likely to even do that, though, as it has a chemical affinity for the type of rock it is to be buried in.

I've heard it said that the fact that we've never tried burying spent nuclear fuel for thousands of years means we have no way of knowing what will happen to it. However, in Gabon, Africa, a natural nuclear reactor went critical 1.9 billion years ago (the percentage of  $U_{235}$  in natural uranium was close to 3% then). The fission products and transuranics from this natural reactor didn't dissolve out of the materials they were formed in and enter the biosphere. They stayed in the rocks where they were formed (as evidenced by the position of the stable decay products).

One final point about spent nuclear fuel: in 100 to 600 years (depending on such factors as fuel enrichment and total neutron irradiation) it is less radioactive than the ore it was mined from.

Now let's assume we have a 4,000 megawatt coal fired power plant. First of all we need 2 1/2 times as much land as we did for the nuclear plant, and 15 times the land area for mining the coal as compared to mining the uranium (assuming we don't recycle spent nuclear fuel which would reduce the land area needed for uranium mining several more times). This coal plant will kill an estimated 240 to 280 people every year it is in operation, and thousands more if the smoke gets concentrated as in the London smogs of the 1950s.

What about the waste from a coal plant? There isn't much of a disposal problem there. Pretty well all of it is disposed of in the air, although some plants capture some of the toxic ash and sulphur and stuff it in open land fills. Every year the coal plant will emit close to 30 tons of uranium (not including its daughter elements), 140 tons of thorium (not including its daughter elements), and several hundred tons of radioactive potassium as well as several other radioactives. The plant also produces roughly 3,000,000 tons of heavy metal-laden toxic ash, 80,000 tons of nitrogen oxides, 480,000 tons of sulphur dioxide, several thousand tons of carbon monoxide and 28,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide. While there is some controversy as to whether or not the enhanced greenhouse effect from the carbon dioxide is worthy of concern, I think the rest of the coal plant's emissions speak adequately for themselves.



# Leers and Frothing on the Campaign Trail '96

## Part Two: The Second Part

### by John Willcox Herbert

The story so far: Adam Charlesworth, Aurora Award winning radio personality with great hair, has convinced your chronicler to be his campaign manager as he prepares to run for the Green Party in the upcoming provincial election. I, sensing the chance to do a series of humorous articles for **UTOH**, agree immediately. Meanwhile, the ruling NDP government has found itself on the ropes battling a decade-old party scandal that has blown up in their faces. It is against this backdrop that we rejoin our heroes, about to thrust themselves deeply into the political muck. But first, some exposition....

The bursting boil that spoiled the NDP's chance at re-election is a scandal only now reaching the light of day. It is not uncommon for many political parties in B.C. to raise funds by holding charity events (e.g. bingo) wherein the charity and the party split the proceeds. Back in the mid-1980s, a group of NDP bigwigs in Nanaimo formed a holding company (Nanaimo Commonwealth Holdings) to administer such events, as well as to invest the NDP's portion of the take. But for a time in the 1980s, the charities did not receive their cut. These facts became public knowledge during the reign of Premier Mike Harcourt, who, like many members of his government, had no knowledge of the events, and whose involvement with the party at the time consisted of membership in it only.

The scandal forced Harcourt to resign, not because of any involvement (he *wasn't* involved, after all), but for his inept way of handling the crisis. (After months of Harcourt's waffling, Minister Joan Smallwood offered her resignation, saying that although she wasn't involved, *someone* had to take the fall for this. Harcourt refused her resignation. When she leaked word of her attempted resignation a couple of days later, he fired her. Ain't politics grand?)

It was Adam on the phone. Again. "I think I've got our slogan," he said.

"Uh, huh. What is it?"

"Not Left, Not Right, but Forward.' Whatta ya think?"

Adam's behaviour was starting to concern me. He was taking all this far too seriously. This was but another example. Whereas I thought that "Adam. He'll Nationalize the Hair Club," was a damn fine piece of electioneering, he was thinking up *real* slogans.

"You're *serious* about this," I said in shocked realization. "I mean, you're really running."

"Of course I am!"

"But why? You can't really think you're going to be elected."

"I hope not. But the key is awareness. If we can run a full slate of 75 candidates, that makes us all the more credible. And credibility is what the Greens have always lacked. But if we get a full slate, then maybe, *maybe*, we get on the leaders' TV debate. And you know what a good showing on the debate can do."

I did, indeed. In the last election five years ago, Liberal Leader Gordon Wilson, whose party had no seats in the house but was running a full slate, finagled his way into the debate and turned in a bravura performance. He took his party from the political nether-world to being firmly entrenched as the second party in the house after the election. (And today, as the Liberals stand ready to form the next government, where is Gordon Wilson? He and fellow Liberal MLA Judy Tyabji were caught

performing public adultery and eventually thrown out of the party Wilson had restored to credibility. Now ~~Punch~~ Gord and Judy are the only members of the PDA (no, it doesn't stand for Publicly Damned Adulterers), a party sure to be obliterated come the election. Ain't B.C. politics grand?)

With Harcourt gone, one would think that NDP leadership hopefuls would be coming out of the woodwork. But, no. One by one, all the party power brokers took themselves out of the race. (For a time it truly looked like "None of the Above" might actually become premier.) One by one, the mighty fell by the wayside until only cabinet minister Glen Clark remained. Oh sure, there were a couple of other people running (a mortician from Port Alberni and a tree hugger named Corky. This is B.C., after all.), but Clark was a shoe-in, winning by a landslide. Things looked rosy for a day, even two, until B.C. Hydro-gate arose from nowhere to dominate the headlines.

So this was Adam's plan all along. If the Greens could run a full slate, they could use the Liberal Party's 1991 precedent and perhaps wangle their way onto the Leader's Debate. But would their message be heard? The debate was sure to be acrimonious between Clark and new Liberal leader Gordon Campbell. Campbell, a Vancouver backroom doublevested money boy, was currently running a series of ads in which he appeared in a lumberjack shirt to cultivate that "one of the boys" appeal but instead was earning scorn and ridicule. (His spin doctors should be sued for malpractice.) Clark, attempting to buy votes by freezing tuition fees, auto insurance rates and taxes, is slowly watching his slim chance for victory disappear as the RCMP continue more investigations into the bingo business. And now, the B.C. Hydro scandal — well, not much of a scandal really, but a scandal that the Liberal Party kept the lid on until it was politically advantageous to release it, namely Clark's swearing in day. How was the Green Party going to get heard through that?

"Adam, you guys are the fringe! You're in the Political Hinterland's Who's Who between the Christian Heritage Party and the Marxist-Leninists! People are more likely to vote for the Rhinoceros Party than you!"

"But we've got some big names backing us up. David Suzuki is endorsing us."

"I!" I said. "The David Suzuki?" From what I knew about Adam's past (the motorcycle gangs, Vancouver airport security, the atomic reactor he was forced to work in as a child, his night as prom queen, public radio, his unswerving belief that the Edmonton Oilers will again win the Stanley Cup in his lifetime), I considered that he might be delusional. But he sounded almost as sane as he ever was.

"Yes, yes, yes! David Suzuki! He endorsed us!"

"He did? I didn't hear about it."

"That's because no one did! The press release went out yesterday morning, and only CBC radio went with it. Twice. No other media outlet touched it."

Ah, a media conspiracy of silence. We said nothing of it.

And then came Premier Clark's so-called Sixty Days of Decision, wherein every day heralded a new attempt by the premier to bribe the electorate with its own money. Each day brought about a happy announcement from an exceedingly pleased Cabinet Minister. Hydro rates, tuition fees, and insurance rates were all frozen, taxes were dropped, and money was given away like the Apocalypse was Thursday. In six short weeks, Premier Clark made campaign promises totalling nearly a billion dollars.

"You gotta give Clark credit," I said to Adam. "It takes balls to stand up there, give away all this money, and then say you're not electioneering."

"Oh, I know," he agreed. "Clark is an excellent politician. He's not campaigning — he's seducing. It's like he's sneaking up behind you and cops a feel. At first you're outraged, but then he starts talking, and then it's '...Mr. Clark, what are you doing back there? Oooh, Mr. Clark, please, I shouldn't vote for you but, well, okay but... hey, you loosened my belt. Mr. Clark, I'm not sure what you want... You'll promise me anything?"

Oooh, yes, all right. Hey, my pants fell down. Hmmm? Sure, I'll bend over—' Only at this point do you suddenly realize you're getting screwed up the ass."

"Well, he's not the only one sniffing at that particular piece of your anatomy. Look at the Liberals. They're promising a three billion dollar cut in spending, taxes cut by 15%, but they're going to increase health care funding by a billion dollars. Explain that one to me."

"Simple. A politician said it."

Next Issue: Leers and Frothing — The Final Chapter (unless Adam really does get elected): Adam on the Campaign Trail; Beers and Debauchery in Esquimalt; More Lies and Made-Up Facts; How To Run Hospitality at V-Con in Vancouver When You're Running For Public Office in Victoria.

## PUBLIC INVITED TO "FLY YOUR NAME TO SATURN"

A high-tech equivalent of a message in a bottle will carry the signatures of thousands of vicarious space explorers when it is launched aboard the *Cassini* mission to Saturn in 1997.

Volunteer members of The Planetary Society, Pasadena, CA, will help scan the signatures into digital form. The digital data will later be loaded onto a CD-ROM or other digital media, and will then be mounted onto the *Cassini* spacecraft during its final assembly at NASA's Kennedy Space Center, Florida.

Earlier NASA spacecraft such as Viking, Magellan and Galileo also carried thousands of signatures on other media, but *Cassini* will be the first to utilize modern digital storage technology. The disc is expected to hold about a million names and should survive well beyond the duration of *Cassini*'s 11-year mission.

"The people who have already sent in signatures think this is a wonderful idea," said Suzanne Barber, administration manager of the *Cassini* Program. "School teachers love it — it just seems to capture their students' imaginations, and it offers them a feeling of immortality to be able to send their names into space."

To participate, signatures should be sent on a plain postcard. Multiple signatures per postcard are acceptable. Names will be accepted until January 1, 1997, or until the CD-ROM is full. Postcards should be sent to:

Suzanne Barber  
MS 264-441  
Jet Propulsion Laboratory  
4800 Oak Grove Drive  
Pasadena, CA 91109

Electronic mail transmittals cannot be accepted, and confirmation will be provided only to those who enclose a self-ad-

ressed, stamped envelope.

*Cassini*, scheduled for launch on October 6, 1997, is a joint mission of NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and the Italian Space Agency (ASI). It will send an atmospheric probe called Huygens to the surface of Saturn's moon, Titan. The *Cassini* spacecraft will orbit Saturn for four years, gathering data on Saturn, its rings, its magnetic environment and its moons.

The *Cassini* home page on the Internet offers a wide variety of information about the mission and the planet Saturn. It can be accessed at:

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/cassini/>

Clam Shooters and their postcard.



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#### V-CON 21

May 17 - 19  
Delta Pacific Resort  
Richmond, BC  
GoH: Kim Stanley Robinson; Toastmaster:  
R. Graeme Cameron.  
V-Con, c/o #110 1855 West 2nd Ave,  
Vancouver, BC, V6J 1J1.  
<http://www://mindlink.net/a7657/v-con21.html>

#### CLAM SHOOT '96

May 20 - 23  
Long Beach, BC  
GoHs: Captain Tuttle, Kilgore Trout, a hippo  
named Spike, Cordwainer Bird, Bob Johnson;  
Main Course: Robert Gunderson.  
Clam Shoot, c/o You Know Who @ You  
Know Where.

#### CANCON '96

May 18 - 19  
National Museum of Science and Technology  
Ottawa, ON  
GoHs: Robert Charles Wilson, Charles de  
Lint; Special GoHs: Robert J. Sawyer, Hal  
Clemet.  
Cancon, c/o James Botte, Box 5272,  
Merivale, ON, K2C 3M1.  
[cancon@achilles.net](mailto:cancon@achilles.net)  
<http://www.achilles.net/cancon>

#### 2nd ANNUAL ACADEMIC CONFERENCE ON CANADIAN CONTENT IN SPECULATIVE ARTS AND LITERATURE

May 18  
National Museum of Science and Technology  
Ottawa, ON  
Held in conjunction with CanCon '96

#### KEYCON 13

May 17 - 19  
Winnipeg, MB  
GoHs: Larry Niven, Tanya Huff; FanGoH:  
Sunshine Katz; Toastmaster: Dave Hayward.  
WinSFA, Box 3178, Winnipeg, MB, R3C  
4E6.  
<http://www.mcs.net/~star/html/keycon>

#### WOLFCON 7

May 17 - 20  
Old Orchard Inn  
Wolfville, Nova Scotia  
GoHs: C.J. Cherryh, Wolf Raimi.  
Wolfcon, c/o Wendy Duff, Site 13, RR#3,  
Armdale, NS, B3L 4J3.

#### AD ASTRA 16

June 7 - 9  
Holiday Inn,  
Yorkdale, ON  
GoHs: Connie Willis, Neil Gaiman; EdGoH:  
David Hartwell.  
Ad Astra 16, Box 7276, Station A,  
Toronto, ON, M5W 1X9.  
<http://www.maple.eolists.ca/users/white/adastra.html>

#### CON-VERSION XIII CANVENTION 16

July 19 - 21  
Coast Plaza Hotel  
Calgary, AB  
GoH: C.J. Cherryh, Élisabeth Vonarburg;  
Toastmaster: Mel Gilden.  
Con-version, Box 1088, Stn. M., Calgary,  
AB, T2P 2K9  
[www.tjproductions.com/conver](http://www.tjproductions.com/conver)

#### VULCON 4

July 20  
100F Hall  
Vulcan, AB  
GoHs: Betty and David Bigelow.  
VAST, General Delivery,  
Vulcan, AB, T0L 2B0.

#### TORONTO TREK 10

August 2 - 4  
Regal Constellation Hotel  
Toronto, Ontario  
Actor GoHs: Robert Picardo, Jerry Doyle;  
Technical GoH: Dave Rossi; Toastmaster:  
Ricky Dick.  
TT10, Suite 0116, Box 187, 65 Front Street  
West, Toronto, ON, M5J 1E6.  
[kcozens@io.org](mailto:kcozens@io.org)  
[www.io.org/~kcozens/trek/tt10/index.html](http://www.io.org/~kcozens/trek/tt10/index.html)

#### L.A. CON III

54th WORLD SF CONVENTION  
August 29 - September 2  
Convention Center, Hilton Hotel & Towers,  
Marriott Hotel, Anaheim, California  
GoH: James White; Media GoH: Roger

Corman; FanGoH: Takumi and Sachiko  
Shibano; Toastmaster: Connie Willis.  
L.A.Con III, c/o SCIFI, Box 8442, Van Nuys,  
CA, USA, 91409.  
[lacon3info@netcom.com](mailto:lacon3info@netcom.com)

#### FALCON 1996

September 14  
Lord Nelson Hotel  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
GoH: Robert J. Sawyer; ArtGoHs: Peter  
Francis, Luisa Nadalini; FanGoH: Michael  
Galland.  
Falcon, Box 36132, Halifax, NS, B3J 3S9.

#### OURCON

September 28 - 29  
Assiniboine Inn on the Park  
Winnipeg, MB  
Ourcon, PO Box 67001, RPO Maples,  
Winnipeg, MB, R2P 2T3.

#### NORTHSTAR 1

October 24 - 27  
Harrison Hot Springs Hotel  
Harrison, BC  
GoH: S.M. Stirling; FanGoH: R. Graeme  
Cameron.  
NorthStar 1, c/o PO Box 61007, 571 West  
57th Ave., Vancouver, BC, V6P 6S5.  
[mimick@kefron.portal.ca](mailto:mimick@kefron.portal.ca)  
<http://www.seanet.com>

#### CONCINNITY 96

October 25 - 27  
Comfort Inn  
Kanata, ON  
GoH: Larry Stewart.  
Concinnity, 26076 - 72 Robertson Road,  
Nepean, ON, K2H 5Y8.  
[bw306@freenet.carleton.ca](mailto:bw306@freenet.carleton.ca)

### 1997

#### EARTHSTATION

March 21 - 23  
Edmonton, AB  
Venue and guests: TBA.  
Earthstation, PO Box 771, MPO,  
Edmonton, AB, T5J 2L4.

#### V-CON 22

May 25 - 27  
Vancouver, BC  
Venue and Guests: TBA.  
V-Con, c/o #110 1855 West 2nd Ave.

**LONESTARCON 2****55th WORLD SF CONVENTION**

August 28 - September 1

Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center  
Marriott Rivercenter and Marriott Riverwalk  
San Antonio, Texas

GoHs: Algis Budrys and Michael Moorcock;

ArtGoH: Don Maitz; Fan GoH: Roy Tackett;

Toastmaster: Neal Barrett, Jr.

LoneStarCon 2, P.O. Box 27277, Austin, TX,  
U.S.A., 78755-2277.

lsc2@io.com

**1998****BUCCONEER****56th WORLD SF CONVENTION**

August 5 - 9

Baltimore, MD

GoHs: C.J. Cherryh, Milton A. Rothman, Stanley  
Schmidt, Michael Whelan; Toastmaster: Charles  
Sheffield.Bucconeer, Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD,  
U.S.A., 20701.

baltimore98@access.digex.net

http://www.access.digex.net/~balt98

**INCONSEQUENTIAL**

September 25 - 27

Fredericton, NB

Guests and venue: TBA.

briand@firstclass.unb.ca.

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# SCIENCE FICTION NEWS

## 1995 Nebula Awards

Best Novel: *The Terminal Experiment*, by Robert J. Sawyer;

Best Novella: "Last Summer at Mars Hill," by Elizabeth Hand;

Best Novelette: "Solitude," by Ursula K. LeGuin;

Best Short Story: "Death and the Librarian," by Esther Frierer;

Grand Master: A. E. van Vogt.

## 1995 Philip K. Dick Award

*Headcrash*, by Bruce Bethke.

## Sci-Fi Universe Readers' Choice Awards

Best Supporting Actor: Ernie Hudson (*Congo*);

Best Supporting Actress: Mili Avital (*Stargate*);

Best Multi-Media: *Star Wars: Dark Forces*;

Best Score: *Batman Forever*, composed by Elliot Goldenthal;

Best Special Effects: *Stargate*;

Best Make-Up: *Species*;

Best Supporting Actor in a Genre TV Series: Andreas Katsulas (*Babylon 5*);

Best Supporting Actress in a Genre TV Series: Nana Visitor (*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*);

Best Writing for a Genre TV Series: Glen Morgan and James Wong (*The X-Files*: "Die Hand, Die Verletzt");

Best Directing for a Genre TV Series: Chris Carter (*The X-Files*: "Duane Barry");

Best Screenplay for a Genre Motion Picture: *Star Trek Generations* (Rick Berman, Ronald D. Moore and Brannon Braga);

Best Director for a Genre Motion Picture: Danny Cannon (*Judge Dredd*);

Best Actress in a Genre TV Series: Gillian Anderson (*The X-Files*);

Best Actor in a Genre TV Series: (tie) Bruce Boxleitner (*Babylon 5*) and David Duchovny (*The X-Files*);

Best Horror Film: *Interview With the Vampire*;

Best Fantasy Film: *Batman Forever*;

Best Genre TV Show: *The X-Files*;

Best Science Fiction Film: *Stargate*;

Lifetime Achievement Award (Readers): George Lucas;

Gene L. Coon Award for Excellence in Science Fiction Writing: Michael Piller;

Editor's Choice Award for Lifetime Achievement: Leonard Nimoy.

Harlan Ellison is home and doing well after undergoing quadruple bypass surgery in April. He suffered what appears to have been a heart attack on April 10, was operated on on April 14 ("cracked my chest like a walnut shell," he said), and released April 19.

The good news is that the seventh season of *Red Dwarf* is filming as we speak. The bad news is that Chris Barrie, who plays Rimmer, will leave the show after two episodes. The new episodes will debut in England in early 1997.... Bob Zemeckis will direct Jodie Foster and Ralph Fiennes in *Contact*, based on Carl Sagan's novel.... *The Lost World*, the sequel to *Jurassic Park*, will go before the camera this fall. Steven Spielberg will direct.... John Travolta is trying to develop L. Ron Hubbard's *Battlefield Earth*. (Run away! Run away! Run away!).... George Miller, who directed the *Mad Max* movies, will produce the weekly syndicated series *Mad Max: The Road Warrior*. Look for it in 1997. A new *Mad Max* movie (sans Mel Gibson) is also in the works for 1998.... \$\$\$\$\$\$ are being waved in front of Sigourney Weaver to entice her back for *Alien 4*. Winona Ryder is also being wooed to join the project which may start shooting next summer.... Stanley Kubrick is shooting *Eyes Wide Shut*, a thriller starring Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman, but he hopes to start filming *AI*, inspired by the Brian Aldiss short story, "Super-Toys Last All Summer Long," sometime in 1997.... A sequel to *Species* is in the works.... Tim Burton's next film, *Mars Attacks!*, stars everyone in Hollywood (Jack Nicholson, Pierce Brosnan and Sarah Jessica Parker, among many others) and will cost about \$100,000,000. Look for it this Christmas.... The director-producer team of Roland Emmerich and Dean Devlin, who brought you *Stargate* and will bring you the upcoming *Independence Day*, have taken over the *Godzilla* project.... Patrick McGeehan will write and produce the new *Prisoner* movie.... Neil Patrick Harris (tv's *Doogie Howser, M.D.*) has signed on for Paul Verhoeven's adaptation of Heinlein's *Starship Troopers*.... Jonathan Frakes directs *Star Trek: First Contact*.... Joe Dante will direct the film version of *My Favorite Martian*....

*Hercules: The Legendary Journeys* is now the highest-rated hour-long syndicated series on television. The former kings of syndication, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* and *Star Trek: Voyager* have seen dramatic rating drops this season: *DS9* has fallen from an average 10.9 million viewers an episode last season to 9.3 million, while *Voyager* has plummeted from 11.1 million to 7.5

million, a drop of almost 25%. Rick Berman, executive producer of both *ST: DS9* and *ST: V'GER*, attributes the ratings decline to reruns of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* and the original *Star Trek*.

*Babylon 5* will be back this fall, along with *Sliders*. *Space: Above and Beyond* will not be renewed.

Arthur C. Clarke is finally writing *3001: The Final Odyssey*. Look for it in 1997 from Del Rey.... Jane M. Lindskold will finish *Donnerjack* and *Lord Demon*, the late Roger Zelazny's last novels. Ironically, Zelazny was also completing a novel left unfinished by Alfred Bester. No word on the fate of this project.... Terry Bisson will complete the late Walter M. Miller, Jr.'s *Leibowitz and the Wild Horse Woman* for Bantam.... Bruce Sterling has two novels coming soon from Bantam: *Holy Fire* and *Distractions*.... Orson Scott Card has sold books five and six in his "Alvin Maker" series to Tor.... Pat Murphy sold *Madya* to Tor.... Norman Spinrad's latest is *He Walks Among Us*, from Bantam.... Anne McCaffrey has turned in *Red Star Rising*, a new Pern novel, to Del Rey.... Robert Silverberg has finished *Sorcerers of Majipoor* for Bantam.... Ray Bradbury has sold three collections to Avon. The first, *Quicker Than the Eye*, will appear this December.... Frederik Pohl has turned in *At the Other End of Time*, the first book of a trilogy, to Tor.... K.W. Jeter has turned in *Bladerunner: Replicant Night* to Bantam.... Maureen F. McHugh's next two books, *The Mission Child* and *Nekropolis*, were sold to Avon.... Greg Bear sold *Dinosaur Summer* to Warner.... And finally, the rumours are true. John Norman is writing a new *Gor* novel....

Pulphouse Publishing has closed its doors for good. In nine years Pulphouse produced over 200 books and magazines, but never fully recovered from a financial crisis three years ago. Publisher Dean Wesley Smith plans to concentrate on his writing (he has sold 14 novels) and may return to the professional golf circuit.

Warner Aspect is having a First Novel Contest. Send a full synopsis plus the first few chapters (up to sixty pages) to: Warner Aspect First Novel Contest, Editorial Department, 1721 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY, 10020, U.S.A.

The British Psychological Society has found the majority of *Star Trek* fans to be sane. Using the responses to questionnaires distrib-

uted at two 1995 conventions, a study found that most fans were motivated by "entertainment, fun and social contact." However, up to 15% of the studied group displayed what the researchers call some "signs of addiction": the use of *Star Trek* to alter moods, the need for increased amounts of *Star Trek* to produce such effects, and withdrawal symptoms. Sound like anyone we know?

### 1995 Top Ten Grossing Movies

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1) <i>Batman Forever</i>                 | \$184,035,000 |
| 2) <i>Apollo 13</i>                      | \$172,000,000 |
| 3) <i>Toy Story</i>                      | \$153,750,000 |
| 4) <i>Pocahontas</i>                     | \$141,600,000 |
| 5) <i>Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls</i> | \$102,900,000 |
| 6) <i>Casper</i>                         | \$100,300,000 |
| 7) <i>Die Hard With a Vengeance</i>      | \$100,000,000 |
| 8) <i>Goldeneye</i>                      | \$94,200,000  |
| 9) <i>Crimson Tide</i>                   | \$91,400,000  |
| 10) <i>Waterworld</i>                    | \$88,250,000  |

### 1995 Top Twenty Genre Films

- |  |               |
|--|---------------|
| 1) <i>Batman Forever</i>                 | \$184,035,000 |
| 2) <i>Toy Story</i>                      | \$153,750,000 |
| 3) <i>Pocahontas</i>                     | \$141,600,000 |
| 4) <i>Casper</i>                         | \$100,300,000 |
| 5) <i>Waterworld</i>                     | \$88,250,000  |
| 6) <i>Congo</i>                          | \$81,000,000  |
| 7) <i>Mortal Kombat</i>                  | \$70,400,000  |
| 8) <i>Jumanji</i>                        | \$60,900,000  |
| 9) <i>Species</i>                        | \$59,750,000  |
| 10) <i>Babe</i>                          | \$56,250,000  |
| 11) <i>Mighty Morphin Power Rangers</i>  |               |
| - <i>The Movie</i>                       | \$37,790,000  |
| 12) <i>The Indian in the Cupboard</i>    | \$35,600,000  |
| 13) <i>A Goofy Movie</i>                 | \$35,337,000  |
| 14) <i>Judge Dredd</i>                   | \$34,670,000  |
| 15) <i>Powder</i>                        | \$28,500,000  |
| 16) <i>Virtuosity</i>                    | \$23,500,000  |
| 17) <i>Tales From the Crypt Presents</i> |               |
| <i>Demon Knight</i>                      | \$21,000,000  |
| 18) <i>Johnny Mnemonic</i>               | \$19,000,000  |
| 19) <i>A Vampire in Brooklyn</i>         | \$19,000,000  |
| 20) <i>The Prophecy</i>                  | \$16,063,000  |

### And If You're Curious....

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <i>Highlander: The Final Dimension</i> | \$13,720,000 |
| <i>Strange Days</i>                    | \$7,920,000  |
| <i>Tank Girl</i>                       | \$3,950,000  |

## Obituaries

### Whit Bissell

Character actor Whit Bissell was born in New York City in 1919. He moved to Hollywood in the 1940s where he made more than 200 movies and appeared in scores of television shows. He appeared in such films as *The Caine Muntiny*, *Gunfight at the O.K. Corral*, *The Defiant Ones*, *Birdman of Alcatraz*, *The Manchurian Candidate* and *Airport*. Genre fans will recall his work in *Creature From the Black Lagoon*, *Invasion of the Body Snatchers* (1954), *The Time Machine*, *I Was a Teenage Werewolf*, *I Was a Teenage Frankenstein* and *Soylent Green*. He also starred in the tv series *Time Tunnel*, and played Mr. Lurry in the *Star Trek* episode, "The Trouble with Tribbles." He died in March, 1996. He was 76.

### George Burns

Legendary entertainer George Burns was born Nathan Birnbaum in New York City on January 20, 1896, and began his showbiz career at age seven in 1903. It wasn't until he teamed with his future wife Gracie Allen that his vaudeville career took off. Burns and Allen took vaudeville, then radio, and finally television, by storm. Their partnership lasted almost forty years until Gracie retired in 1958 (she died in 1964). Burns continued as a solo comedian and in 1975 revitalized his career with his Oscar-winning performance, at age 80, in *The Sunshine Boys*. He continued performing on stage, in movies, and on records until ill health forced him to stop in 1994. Genre fans will recall his work in the films *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*, *18 Again*, and as the title character in *Oh, God*, *Oh, God Book II*, and *Oh, God, You Devil*. He died of natural causes on March 9, 1996. He was 100 years young.

### Brian Daley

Author Brian Daley began his career in 1977 with his first novel, *The Doomfarers of Coramonde*. Other novels included *A Tapestry of Magic and Requiem for a Ruler of Worlds*. He dabbled in the *Star Wars* universe, writing three *Han Solo* novels, as well as NPR adaptations of *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back*, and wrote the novelization of *Tron*. Starting in 1987, Daley and James Luceno wrote *Robotech* novelizations under the name "Jack McKinney." Daley died after a long battle with cancer on February 18, 1996. He was 48.

### H.L. Gold

Horace Leonard Gold was born on April 26, 1914, in Montréal, Québec. When he was 13, after his family had moved to the U.S., he discovered *Amazing Stories*. He began writing, making his first sale, "Inflexible," in 1934. He would continue to write and also work as an associate editor for *Standard Magazines*. A stint in the service during WWII derailed his career, but in 1950 he was asked to edit a brand new sf magazine. He called it *Galaxy*, and it became the

premiere sf magazine of the 1950s, winning the Best Professional Magazine Hugo in 1953. He retired after a serious car accident in the early 1960s, and had recurrent health problems through the 1980s. (*Galaxy* itself would disappear and reappear through the years.) He died February 21, 1996 of arteriosclerosis. He was 81.

### Derek Meddings

Special effects wizard Derek Meddings provided SFX for such films as *Superman*, *Superman II*, *Thunderbird 6*, *Santa Claus: The Movie* and a number of James Bond films. He died September 10, 1995. He was 64.

### Walter M. Miller, Jr.

Walter M. Miller, Jr. was born in Florida on January 23, 1922, and began to write SF while recovering from a serious auto accident. He sold his first stories in 1951, and was prolific during the fifties. He won the first Hugo presented for a novella, "*Darfsteller*" in 1951 but his most famous work was his only novel, the stunning 1961 Hugo-winning *A Canticle for Leibowitz*. It was the last piece of fiction he ever finished. Miller, however, had been working on a sequel, *Leibowitz and the Wild Horse Woman*, until his failing health forced him to stop in 1995. (Author Terry Bisson will finish the project.) Miller's wife of 50 years had recently passed away, and he was found in early January, 1996, dead from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was 73.

### Jon Pertwee

John Devon Roland Pertwee was born July 7, 1919. As a young man he was thrown out of drama school and told he had no future in acting, but by the late 1930s, his prolific career in television, stage, radio and films had begun. He appeared in more than 120 films, including some *Carry On* films, but he will be best remembered for his role as *Doctor Who*. Pertwee, the third actor to play the role on television, took over the part in 1970 and played it for five seasons through 1974. Pertwee portrayed the Doctor as a swirling cloaked, ruffle shirted flamboyant dandy, racing into action in Bessie, the Whomobile, and many feel that his was finest interpretation of the Doctor. He died May 20, 1996, of a heart attack while on vacation in the United States. He was 76.

### Bob Shaw

Bob Shaw was born December 31, 1931 in Belfast, Northern Ireland. He began his sf career as a fan in the 40s and 50s and won two Hugos for Best Fan Writer in 1979 and 1980. He also became known for his fiction; his 1966 story "Light of Other Days" was nominated for a Nebula. Other of his works include *Orbitsville*, *The Ragged Astronauts*, *The Wooden Space-ships* and *A Wreath of Stars*. He died February 11 from heart failure and other medical complications. He was 64.



**Lyle Talbot**

Lyle Talbot was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to theatrical parents, and started acting on the stage at an early age. He went to Hollywood just as the motion picture industry was moving from silents to talkies, making his screen debut in 1932 in Love Is a Racket. Other films include Three on a Match, 20,000 Years in Sing Sing and There's No Business Like Show Business. Although best remembered for his tv role

as Joe Randolph in the 1952-1966 tv series The Adventures of Ozzie and Harriet, genre fans will recall him as Lex Luthor in the 1950 serial Atom Man vs. Superman, and will fondly remember his body of work for writer-director Edward D. Wood, Jr.: Jailbait, Crossroad Avenger, Glen or Glenda and Plan 9 From Outer Space. He died March 4, 1996 of natural causes. He was 94.

**Elsie Wollheim**

Born Elsie Balter on June 26, 1910, Elsie Wollheim was introduced through a friend to the most famous group of sf fan/professionals, The Futurians. She eventually married Donald A. Wollheim in 1943. When Donald left Ace Books in 1971, he and Elsie formed DAW Books. Donald died in 1990, and Elsie died on February 9, 1996, after a lengthy battle with cancer. She was 85.

## Horoscopes

**Cyberpunk:** Static rules your airwaves like an itch you can't scratch. All your interfaces should be hardwired. Jack in, jack out, jack off.

**Gallifreyan:** It is a good day to regenerate. Don't pick up strangers, but always remember that time is on your side.

**Jedi:** The Force is strong today. Do; there is no "try." But beware the power of the Dark Side.

**KlIngon:** To understand life,

endure pain. If you cannot be shamed, you cannot be honoured. Only a fool fights in a burning house.

**Kryptonian:** Don't invest in real estate; your property will blow up in your face. Instead, now would be a good time for that long, long vacation, or even a permanent move.

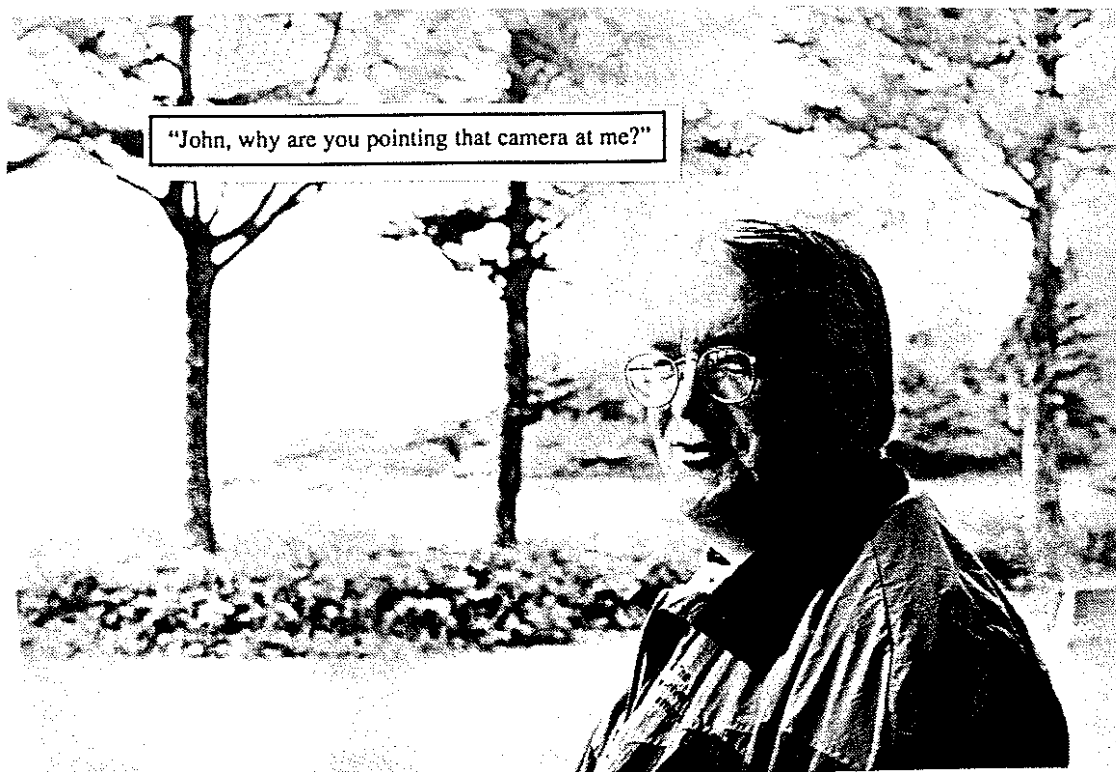
**Puppeteers:** Don't face your troubles head on; turn and run away from them instead. No problem is so difficult that you can

not run away from it.

**Shrike Cult:** The search for revelation can be painful, but if you persist you will eventually get the point(s).

**Vulcan:** It would not be logical for you to engage in mercantile activities with a stranger. Another Vulcan will figure prominently in your life. A night out with humans may prove ... fascinating.

**Vorlon:** You have always been here. The circle is complete.



# CANADIAN NEWS

## 1996 PRIX AURORA AWARDS Nominees

The 1996 Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards will be presented at **Convention 16**, held in conjunction with **Con-Version XIII**, July 19-21 in Calgary, Alberta.

The members on this year's Aurora Awards subcommittee are: Dennis Mullin (dmullin@inforamp.net) [subcommittee chair], Ruth Stuart (rstuart@mach1.wlu.ca), Paul Valcour (paul\_valcour@cyberus.ca), Gary Frei (garyf@nucleus.com).

### Best Long-Form Work in English (1994-95)

*The Cursed*, Dave Duncan;  
*The Lions of Al-Rassan*, Guy Gavriel Kay;  
*Starwind*, Spider & Jeanne Robinson;  
*The Terminal Experiment*, Robert J. Sawyer;  
*Resurrection Man*, Sean Stewart;  
*Mysterium*, Robert Charles Wilson.

### Best Long-Form Work in French (1994-95)

*Les Voyages thanatologiques de Yan Malter*, Jean-Pierre April;  
*L'Oiseau de feu (2-C)*, Jacques Brossard;  
*La Rose du désert*, Yves Meynard;  
*Lame*, Esther Rochon;  
*Manuscrit trouvé dans un secrétaire*, Daniel Semine;  
*Les Voyageurs malgré eux*, Élisabeth Vonarburg.

### Best Short-Form Work in English

*"The Dead Go Shopping"*, Stephanie Bedwell-Grime;

*"Tea and Hamsters"*, Michael Coney;  
*"The Summer Worms"*, David Nickle;  
*"Lost in the Mail"*, Robert J. Sawyer;  
*"The Perseids"*, Robert Charles Wilson.

### Best Short-Form Work in French

*«La Cité de Penlocke»*, Natasha Beaulieu;  
*«Équinoxe»*, Yves Meynard;  
*«Adieu aux armes pour une fourmi-soldat»*, Claude-Michel Prevost;  
*«L'Attrait du bleu»*, Esther Rochon;  
*«Le peuple de Protée»*, Jean-Louis Trudel.

### Best Other Work in English

*Northern Frights 3*, Don Hutchison, ed.;  
*On Spec: The First Five Years*, The On Spec Editorial Collective, ed.;

### ReBoot:

Hugh Spencer & Allan Weiss, for the National Library exhibit: "Out Of This World";  
**TransVersions.**

### Best Other Work in French

*«Casanegra»*, Denis Vaillancourt et Thierry Vincent;  
*imagine...*, Marc Lemaire, réd.;  
*«Le modèle de Pickman»*, Daniel Canty;  
*Solaris*, Joël Champetier, réd.;  
Jean-Louis Trudel, critiques (*Solaris* 113, 114);  
Élisabeth Vonarburg, critiques (*Solaris* 112-114), interventions (SRC-Radio «*Demain la veille*»).

### Artistic Achievement

Steve Fahnestalk;  
Jean-Pierre Normand;  
Robert Pasternak;  
Dale L. Sproule;  
Henry Van Der Linde.

### Fan Achievement (Fanzine)

*BCSFazine*, R. Graeme Cameron / John C.H. Wong;  
*From Beyond the Öort Cloud*, Aaron Yorgason;  
*Under the Ozone Hole*, John Willcox Herbert and Karl Johanson;  
*Warp*, Keith Braithwaite;  
*Warp Factor*, Chris Chartier.

### Fan Achievement (Organizational)

Chris Chartier (*Warp 9*);  
Judith Hayman (*FilkOntario*);  
Lynda Pelley (*MonSFFA*);  
Capucine Plourde (*KIDC*);  
Rebecca Senese (*Space Time Continuum*);  
Jean-Louis Trudel (*SFSF Boréal*, *Prix Boréal*);  
Monica Winkler (*Toronto Trek*).

### Fan Achievement (Other)

Stephanie Bedwell-Grime (filk-singing);  
Adam Charlesworth (*Ether Patrol* reviews);  
Lou Israel (entertainer);  
Lloyd Penney (fan-writing);  
Larry Stewart (entertainer).

In other award news, Canadians did well at the Nebula Awards. Robert J. Sawyer's *The Terminal Experiment* won the Best Novel Nebula (it's also up for a Best Novel Hugo), and A. E. Van Vogt was presented with the Grand Master Award. Michael Coney was up in the Best Novelette Nebula category for *"Tea and Hamsters."* Robert Charles Wilson was nominated for a Best Novella Nebula for *"The Perseids,"* but withdrew the story from consideration because of arguments over its length. (It was listed by SFWA as a novella, but it is in fact a novellette.) Wilson said he was "deeply honoured by the acknowledgement," but "feels it would be inappropriate to remain on the ballot in the wrong category." John Clute was nominated for a Best Non-fiction Hugo for *Science Fiction: The*

*Illustrated Encyclopedia*, Élisabeth Vonarburg was nominated for the 1995 Philip K. Dick Award for *Reluctant Voyagers*, and Edo van Belkom's *Wyrms Wolf* was nominated for the Bram Stoker award for Best First Novel.

ConAdian, the 1994 Worldcon, has passed on nearly \$53,000 to the 1995, 1996 and 1997 Worldcons.

The folks at CHUM/City in Toronto sent us some info about their proposal for SPACE, a Canadian SF tv channel. (Unfortunately, it arrived after the deadline for CRTC submissions. Oh, well.) If the CRTC approves the license application, SPACE the Imagination Station will be a 24 hour, seven day a week

Science Fiction, Science Fact, Speculation and Fantasy specialty channel. The channel will start with 25% Canadian programming and increase this to 50% by year seven. Original productions will include *The Dark Zone* (a series of four sf tv movies, already in production in Halifax), *Spacebase* (a daily news magazine), and *Enigma* (a look at "real life X-files").

The other application for a Canadian SF channel is from the folks at Allarcom Pay TV Ltd., the people behind Superchannel and MovieMax.

H.L. Gold, the Canadian-born founding editor of *Galaxy* magazine, has died. (See obituary.)

Dave Duncan sold *The King's Blade*, and two other novels, to Avon.

John Mansfield laments CUFF frustrations in the latest *ConTract*. Apparently, neither nominee received the required six sponsors. Mansfield proposes that voters decide to choose one of the nominees to go to *Convention* in Calgary, OR vote to fold the fund. (Funds will then be distributed between currently existing general SF conventions.)

The nominees are: Brian Davies of Fredericton, NB and Rene Walling of Montréal.

Send your ballots to Linda Ross-Mansfield, 333 Lipton Street, Winnipeg, MB, R3G 2H2, or email at j.mansfield4@genie.com.

William Shatner™ has sold three books to HarperPrism.

Tesseract Books is taking submissions for *Tesseract 6*, which will be edited by Carolyn Clink and Robert J. Sawyer. Send you submissions to: Tesseract 6, Tesseract Books, 214 - 21 10405 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5J 3S2. Deadline is August 15, 1996.

*Tesseract 5*, edited by Robert Runté and Yves Meynard, will be out this fall.

Sean Stewart sold *Mockingbird* and another novel to Ace.

Robert J. Sawyer sold *Frameshift* to Tor, and *Illegal Alien* to Ace.

Candas Jane Dorsey's novel *The Book of Essa* will be out next spring from Tor.

# A QUESTION OF ART

by Stephanie Ann Johanson

My neck aches, my fingers are stiff. How long have I been carving? My wristwatch is covered in soapstone dust. Ah, it's two in the afternoon. Time to do something else for a bit.

It's been a while since I've spouted my opinion within the pages of *Under the Ozone Hole*. The reason is that I've gotten very good at changing the subject when John or Karl ask about my column.

There has been some talk that we should run convention art shows more like the rest of the art world. Juried art shows have been suggested. The problems with juried art shows are many, but one is most important. A juried show means a lot more work for the person or persons who volunteer to run the show. They have to contact

the artists to present the rules. If you are jurying the artists, you ask for examples of their work. (The artists must be informed early so they can create pieces with the theme of the convention.)

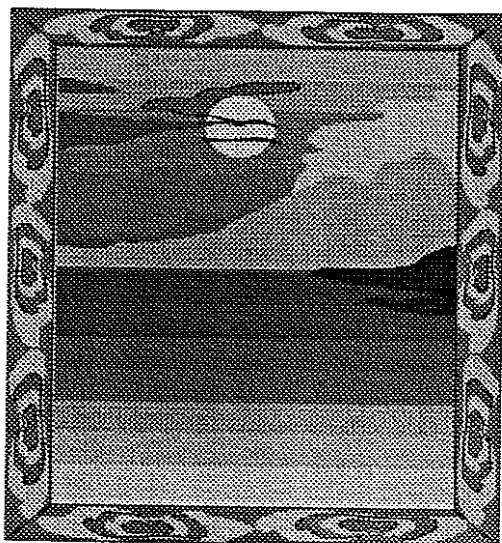
Once you have sent out your rules to every artist (and replied to every artist who didn't quite understand what you wanted), you will (hopefully) start getting examples of work from several artists. Now you have to go through a mess of papers and slides and decide whose stuff you like and how they might be arranged within the display room. Don't forget about returning the examples, and contacting the artists whose work you want, and everything else that has to be done to run a show.

V-Con 13, in 1985, was the first SF Art Show that displayed my works. I paid \$10 for a four foot by four foot panel. I sold one piece,

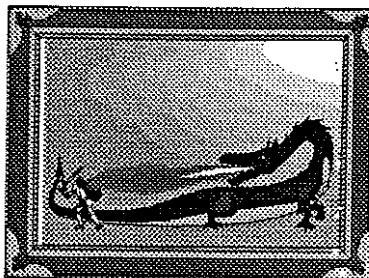
*Dragon and Missile* (acrylic painting), for \$26. I sold nothing at the next two cons I had work at, but it was fun. Since that first SF Art Show, I have displayed at many conventions. I experimented with all kinds of mediums: stuffed creatures, T-shirts, embroidery, jewellery and wire sculpture. No one ever said, "You can't put that up." SF Art Shows have been a wonderful place to see artistic development from beginner to master.

I have displayed my art in non-SF Art Shows, but prefer the SF con atmosphere.

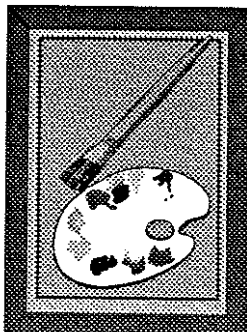
SF Art Shows are becoming more popular as more of the non-SF community find out about them. Should we really change our style to match the non-SF way of doing things? I don't think it will improve our Art Shows, and it will limit our artists.



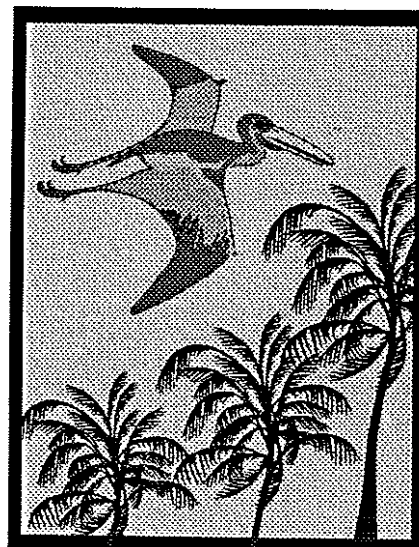
'Sunset Waters'  
Stephanie  
Johanson  
\$225.00



'Dragon Fire'  
Stephanie Ann  
Johanson  
\$10.00



'Art form'  
Stephanie  
Johanson  
\$405.00



'Prehistoric'  
Instant Artist  
\$250.00

# REVIEWS

## Canadian Bacon

In his first foray into motion pictures, gonzo documentarist/journalist Michael Moore presents a far-too-plausible satire of American foreign policy. With the Cold War Soviet threat gone, the American military-industrial complex needs a new scapegoat enemy, and the President (played to ineffectual perfection by Alan Alda) needs a ratings boost in the polls. The powers that be turn their thoughts to their friendly neighbour to the north, and turn on the rhetorical heat. When a gung-ho American county sherriff (John Candy in one of his final roles) takes it upon himself to actually invade, a *real* diplomatic incident ensues. Moore, best known for his brilliant documentary *Roger and Me* and his news show *TV Nation* (sort of *60 Minutes* with attitude), seems quite comfortable with taking vicious pot shots at his home and native land; Americans do not come off well in this movie. It almost seems as though he made it for Canadians, as the film is full of Canadian in-jokes. Also sprinkled in are cameos by Stephen Wright as an extra polite Mountie, and canuck Dan Akroyd as an OPP Officer who insists that the anti-Canadian graffiti on the side of Candy's invasion vehicle must be in both English and French. ("Mange mes shorts.") Moments of brilliance and moments of mediocrity; still, it's pretty good, eh?

— J.W.H.

## *The First Time: True Stories, Volumes 1 and 2*

edited by Charles Montpetit  
Orca Book Publishers  
mass-market paperback \$7.95 each  
Vol. 1, 147 pp. ISBN 1-55143-037-1  
Vol. 2, 128 pp. ISBN 1-55143-039-8

Orca Book Publishers took a chance adding children's books to their line five years ago. Now they're taking a chance with a new and different series, which may turn out even better. *The First Time* collects true stories of real first sexual encounters. Move over, R.L. Stine, these are real goosebumps!

Here in two volumes are sixteen stories of funny, tender, or regretted first times. Not all the stories are auto-biographical, even the ones written in the first person, but the consistent honesty makes for good reading. This isn't merely erotica for curious teens or nostalgic older romantics. Real people feel like this, talk like this with their friends, and remember stories like these. Morals and responsibilities are not

forgotten.

Editor Charles Montpetit chose stories from Canadian authors for young people such as Julie Lawson, Martin Godfrey and SF Canada's own Lyle Weis; he also included stories by new writers, writers from other genres and a terrific cartoon by Leeane Franson, whose story is not the only one to laugh at "all that panic, and then it felt so natural!" This could be a natural lead to conversation with your teens. Or you could find out what a science fiction writer like Lyle Weis does with a true story.

— Paula Johanson

## *Jihad vs. McWorld*

by Benjamin R. Barber  
Times Books; 1995; \$35.00

According to Benjamin Barber, there are two forces at work in the world today, alternately pulling the planet apart and bringing together. *McWorld* is the stunning control of the world by business and commercialism. Progress equals growth equals business. The problem is that while many countries separate church and state, none separate big business and state, and what is good for business by default becomes what is good for the state, or good for *all* states in this modern free-trade era. *Jihad* is the worldwide uprising of fundamentalism and fractionalization (witness the Reform Party and Québec separatism). The danger is that neither force readily tolerates democracy and both forces are colliding in the most absurd ways: the Chinese government, one of the most totalitarian on the planet, bends over backwards to put a McDonalds restaurant in downtown Beijing; Islamic fundamentalists berate the West, democracy and modern technology -- on the Internet. (Sidebar: Worldwide, McDonalds daily serves the equivalent of the population of Canada -- 25,000,000 people.) Barber's book is a warning that we had better heed.

— J.W.H.

## *Mr. Spock's Music From Outer Space*

by Leonard Nimoy  
*The Transformed Man*  
by William Shatner

These legendary albums, both recorded during the filming of the original *Star Trek* in the late 1960s, have been recently reissued on CD by Varese Sarabande Records. (Please don't send them hate mail. They put out some good stuff,

too.) It goes without saying that Shatner's versions of "*Lucy in the Sky with Diamonds*" and "*Mr. Tambourine Man*" are the stuff that ~~nightmares~~ legends are made of (if John Lennon weren't already dead, listening to this would probably kill him), but when one actually listens to all of *The Transformed Man*, one gets the sense that Shatner is at least trying to make a statement of some kind. It's a shame that no one, probably including Shatner, knows just what the hell it is. Shatner recites some poetry and text pieces (including three Shakespeare pieces) against orchestral backdrops, which mysteriously segue into spoken-word versions of 1960s pop songs. Some of the text pieces are nearly effective, and the liner notes claim that they are thematically linked. Yeah, right. But at least give Shatner credit for trying something different, and for not attempting to actually sing.

Nimoy, on the other hand, does sing, and the results are even more excruciating than Shatner smarming his way through "*It Was a Very Good Year*." Shatner's album is at least funny (in the Ed Wood sense), whereas Nimoy's album is just painful (in the Irwin Allen sense). His album consists of lame instrumentals, terrible readings, and actual *singing* (only in the strict definition). While both albums are examples of commercialism at its most crass, Nimoy goes a step further than Shatner by prostituting the Spock character by performing some truly hideous Spockian soliloquies. If you, like me, are a fan of "it's so bad, it's good" stuff, then the Shatner CD is a must. Nimoy's is just painful.

— J.W.H.

## *The Nitpicker's Guide for Next Generation Trekkers*

by Phil Farrand  
Dell Books  
922 pp., \$15.95

This is truly a book for only the dedicated fan. It includes quizzes for which even the author, Phil Farrand, admits a score of higher than eleven out of forty-eight indicates "you watch way too much television." For these nitpickers, he has started a twelve-step recovery program (send \$3,000 a month to the address in the back of the book).

Even if he doesn't get many people to sign up for the recovery program, Farrand has clearly grabbed a bucket (as in 'grab a bucket, it's raining money!') and followed the *Star Trek* trend. If nothing else, the fact that this book is actually in

print from a major publisher probably saved Farrand's marriage, after all the detailed re-playing of home-recorded episodes to nitpick. Only six seasons are covered here, so look for a sequel, nitpickers! (Hmmm. If Dell published this last year, I should dust off my old novel MS and send it in...)

— Paula Johanson

{{ Eds. Note: You called it, Paula. The NitPicker's Guide for Next Generation Trekkers Volume II was released last Christmas.}}

*The Power of Place: How Our Surroundings Shape Our Thoughts, Emotions and Actions*  
by Winnifred Gallagher  
HarperPerennial  
228 pp., \$16 paperback

For anyone who goes into a blue funk every winter or truly relaxes only on vacation, *The Power of Place* will hold no surprises. Winnifred Gallagher takes her theme — How Our Surroundings Shape Our Thoughts, Emotions, and Actions — and makes it clear with examples and commentary that as we choose our surroundings we ourselves are affected. These changes can work to the good, particularly if we make conscious choices.

"Environmentally minded scientists... suspect that the fact that most of us are no longer wakened by the dawn, drawn outdoors for much of the day by our way of life and lulled to sleep by darkness helps explain why up to a third of us suffer from sleep or mood problems or both. What is startling... is not the idea that light has to do with mental and physical health, which was accepted a hundred years ago, but that science forgot about it."

There are anecdotes, reading lists, and an index of items as diverse as epilepsy and privacy space. Gallagher describes no quick fixes, just trends and examples: like the man for whom the discovery of books on tape made long commutes his own time again, instead of a ball and chain. Read this book. Think. Then talk.

— Paula Johanson

*Star Trek: The Return*

by William Shatner™

Pocket Books; April 1996; \$30.00

*Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire*

by Steve Perry

Bantam; May 1996; \$27.95

*Babylon 5 #4: Clarke's Law*

by Jim Mortimore

Dell; April 1996; \$7.99

William Shatner, in collaboration with fellow Canadians Judith and Garfield Reeves-Stevens, has taken his rejected story idea for *Star Trek VIII* and turned it into a half-decent novel, *Star Trek: The Return*. James Kirk, dead at the end of *Star Trek: Generations*, has been resurrected by members of a Borg/Romulan alliance

and brainwashed into a killing weapon whose target is Jean-Luc Picard. The first half of the book plods along as the unholy alliance of Federation enemies sets their machinations in motion, but picks up steam in the second half. The authors have perfectly captured the characterizations of the intrepid *Enterprise's* crew — or crews, in this case — and, not surprisingly, Kirk heroically saves the universe. A light, but fun, read.

*Star Wars: Shadows of the Empire* is the new official novel/comic/action figure line/video game/computer game/soundtrack album/stop gap from Lucasfilm; it's everything but a movie. However, with the story set between *The Empire Strikes Back* and *Return of the Jedi*, there's not a lot of suspense here since we know what happens immediately before and after this novel. Still, Perry's tale of a crimelord's quest to usurp Darth Vader as the Emperor's right hand man is mildly entertaining.

The first three novels based on *Babylon 5* were pretty lame. (They're required reading for B5 fans, however, as the show's producers oversee the novels so that they tie-in with the series and, unlike *Star Trek* novels, are considered canonical.) Mortimore (who has written some *Doctor Who* novels) tells a fast-paced, exciting story while dropping some tantalizing hints and clues concerning the tv series' story arc. The best of the bunch.

— J.W.H.

*Silicon Snake Oil*

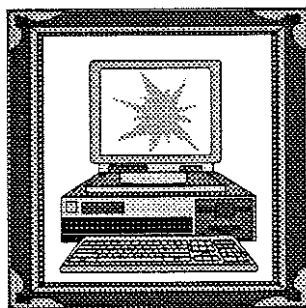
by Clifford Stoll

Anchor Books; April 1996, \$19.95

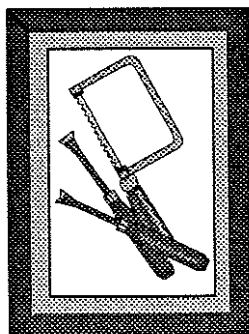
Clifford Stoll, whose excellent first book *The Cuckoo's Egg* recounts his accidental discovery of an international hacker spy ring, turns

his attention in his second book to the Internet itself. Subtitled *Second Thoughts on the Information Highway*, Stoll questions the generally accepted notion that the Internet will change our lives, our businesses and the world. Stoll recounts many examples where schools and businesses have invested millions of dollars to access the Internet with questionable results. Instead of investing millions in computers for schools, Stoll asks, why not invest millions in teachers? (Stoll even uses a local example. School districts on Vancouver Island are considering hooking up elementary schools to the Internet where, one consultant says, students "can learn about preserving our island's rain forests by linking electronically with a class in Louisiana studying wetlands. Each learns from the other's land use issues. This is technology happening now." Stoll instead suggests renting a bus and driving the students up the island to Clayoquot Sound.) Stoll's main concern is that the virtual world will supplant the real world, despite the fact that the real world is more colourful, vibrant and, well, real. Sure, I can call up a van Gogh painting on my computer screen, but is it as satisfactory as looking at the real thing or even a high quality art book? Stoll is saddened by the lack of courtesy and intelligence in many newsgroups and is concerned that students will become more interested in facts than in the pursuit of the facts. Even though often amusing and droll, it is a downhearted and sobering commentary on what perhaps should be called the Misinformation Highway.

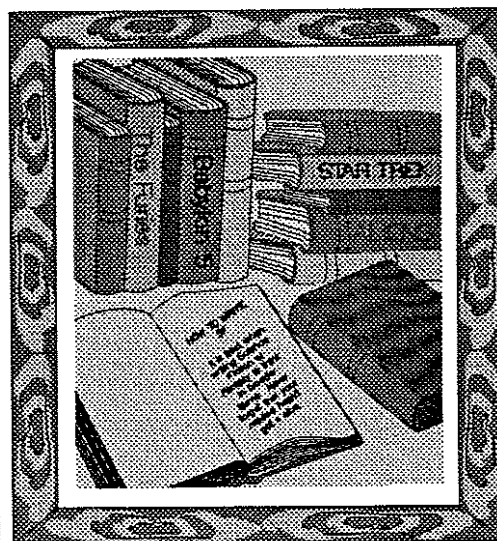
— J.W.H.



'Computer'  
Clip Art from  
Instant Artist



'Tools'  
by Stephanie  
Johanson



'Books'  
Done with  
Instant Artist

# LETTERS AND COMMENTS

Michael McAleese  
mmcaleese@direct.ca

Just wanted to drop you a note thanking you for sending me **UTOH 12/13**. I loved the Cosmos Commanders stuff - I laughed out loud! I know it's affected my brain, because I actually tried to explain the humour to people at work. Ever try that with someone, then realize you have to explain what a newsgroup is, what a troll is, what Usenet is, what posts are, ad infinitum? Somewhere in there was a funny story, really! You just have to know all this stuff first, y'see? Ummm... well....

I'll rev up my new 3D software and make you some Cosmos Commanders screen shots if you like. Heck, get a camcorder and make a trailer for the show. Play it at cons and see if you can make this legend grow.

{A legend that will last a lunchtime.  
— J.W.H.}}

Harry Cameron Andruschak  
PO Box 5309  
Torrance, CA  
USA  
90510-5309

Received the combined **UTOH 12/13** a while ago. I was on vacation in Italy last month (14 days) and the mail sort of piled up. Things won't get better in April when I attend my 15th Post Office school in Norman, Oklahoma. Of course, if I didn't waste so much time playing computer games like SimTower and SimFarm, maybe I would be doing a better job of correspondence.

Great Lies of Fandom #11: When I get more free time, I'll get all caught up on my fanac.

By the way, the BBS I was using for e-mail/Internet access went down permanently on 1 December, and I have not got around to a replacement. The main problem is the appalling signal to noise ratio of most of the Usenet. That, plus the problem of the anonymous-remailers. I lack motivation to find a new provider.

My last Norwescon was in 1993. I sometimes can get the needed days off from the Post Office to attend the convention, although my main motivation for travel to Seattle is to visit my mother and sister's family. I still have Thursdays and Fridays off from the Post Office, so I work weekends, and it is hard to arrange time

off to attend conventions. The last con of any type that I attended was the 1993 Corflu.

Unlike Canada, Southern California has seen little in the way of bad weather. In fact, technically, we have entered a drought year. Few people are much worried since the reservoirs are quite full from last year's damaging floods. Cannot see much else to comment about, I am in good health and good cheer, and hope you are the same.

Yours Aye...

Dale Speirs  
Box 6830  
Calgary, AB  
T2P 2E7

**UTOH #12** — Grayson Meade's essay on interglacials has my agreement. I've never agreed with the idea that the Pleistocene is over and we are now living in the holocene. Our era is still the Pleistocene, and Canada is ultimately doomed. Read Wilson Tucker's novel *Iron and Ice* for an interesting account of what happens when the ice sheets return.

The reprint of the Trek troubles with copyright violation demonstrated an awareness of moral wrong that was offset by the concluding paragraphs that Paramount was only harming itself by dumping on Trek zines. What Trekkies and all other media fans have got to get through their thick skulls is that under trademark law, the owner of a trademark or copyrighted item can lose that trademark if not enforced when violations are noted. Witness the history of "aspirin," which may or may not be a trademark depending on what country you are in. Some SF authors who allow their fans to sharecrop their worlds in zines are on dangerous legal ground if they know it and let it go. Personally, I'm on Paramount's side. They have found a subculture of consumerists and have every right to exploit them for every last penny.

On a more philosophical side, if I were a pro author, I would stomp on any zinester who tried to publish fanfiction based on one of my characters or worlds. Let them create their own worlds, not barge into mine like an unwanted house guest. My characters would only say or do what I want them to, not what someone else wants them to. Hey you, get off my cloud!

Herbert's selection of campaign slogans in **UTOH #13** for Charlesworth reminds me of a municipal election in Calgary a few years ago.

One candidate for mayor was an ex-con who made no secret of the fact. He campaigned on the slogan, "Vote for Jimmy the Con. You know he'll be an honest mayor because he's too old to do any more hard time."

{*"Xerox" is also in danger of becoming a generic word for photocopying, in much the same that Aspirin has become a generic word for ASA, and Xerox takes great pains to point this out to any publication that uses it in a generic way.*

*What's the difference between the Rolling Stones and a Scotsman? Well, the Rolling Stones say, "Hey you, get off my cloud!" whereas a Scotsman says, "Hey McCloud, get off my ewe!"*

— J.W.H.}}

Harry Warner, Jr.  
423 Summit Avenue  
Hagerstown, Maryland  
21740  
U.S.A.

Many thanks for the luxury-sized copies of **UTOH 12/13**. This is as close as I'll ever come to enjoying a 47-inch television screen for easy viewing, no doubt.

E.B. Klassen was fascinating in his account of the fossil expedition. It's staggering to realize that a person who uncovers a fossil is the first person to see it in the several million years since its creator inadvertently left himself of herself in such an unhappy position. But it's strange, how most of the big fossil fields are in such desolate, often ugly landscapes. It would be comforting to think that these creatures had spent their last hours and minutes in a lovely paradise-like area. Yes, I know that the climate and topography and plant life and everything else must have changed dozens of times in the course of the ages since they departed and we came. But I still have that wistful thought that it's a bad way to go.

Dr. Meade doesn't persuade me that the nations of the world shouldn't bother to do anything about the global warming threat. The obvious benefit of an international program to cope with the situation would be its inclusion of a reduction in the



burning of fossil fuels. Even if global warming turned out to be a false alarm, this would lengthen somewhat the amount of time we have before fossil fuels are used up. The last I heard, only about 75 years remain until the petroleum reserves that can be tapped without expending more energy than the tapping will provide are all gone. Then there's the consideration that longterm changes in average temperatures and rainfall didn't matter as much before civilization as they do today. Primitive man and his even more primitive ancestors needed only to move toward the Equator and to higher land to continue to live pretty much the same kind of lives when Ice Ages arrived. That won't work as well under present conditions if the major farming areas become parched beyond all growing potential and oceans inundate seacoast cities whose tens of millions of residents must find new living places in already crowded continents.

I feel as John does in his afterword to Alistair Craig's description of the *Star Trek* crackdown. Too many unauthorized uses of the television characters could result in the same loss of rights for the creators as certain commercial products have suffered in the transition to public use for "cellophane" and "refrigerator." John doesn't mention one difference between science fiction fandom and *Star Trek* subfandom: in the latter, fanzines are almost always commercial ventures in the sense that they're sold, not given away as in our fandom, and the conventions are more apt to be money-making affairs.

I think I might enjoy and profit from a writers' workshop like the one Paula Johanson writes about. I've always suspected that the tough ones like Clarion workshops can destroy as many potential writers as they nourish because so many people just can't endure the harsher varieties of criticism.

Unlike Karl, I can't fall asleep deliberately under any circumstance. However, if I must get some sleep immediately, and I'm in my own home, I can do it by lying down on the sofa in the living room. Three minutes on that sofa and I'm asleep, even if I'm listening to a favourite record or watching an exciting television program. The sofa isn't long enough for me to stretch out in full comfort, and until I had it reupholstered a couple of years ago it was hideously lumpy and saggy, but it has had this hypnotic effect on me for several decades. Meanwhile, I'm suffering from occasional unwanted sleep attacks while reading or watching television or listening to recordings, which for some reason last only about seven minutes, a sleep span I can verify by checking back to the last thing I remember on a video tape or record. I live in constant fear that this might happen while I'm driving but I've never even felt drowsy at the wheel; apparently the small motions of the hands and feet required by motor vehicle operations are enough to prevent the syndrome that overwhelms me when I'm virtually motionless.

I hope publication of the *L. Robot* script does inspire someone in Hollywood to use it for a production. Just think what a sensation such a movie would create. For about two-thirds of the entire nation's population, it would be the first intimation that there is more to science fiction than spaceships getting involved in shooting matches and encountering impossible alien lifeforms and being transported back in time to 20th century United States.

Dale Speirs' LoC makes me wonder about the nonclementure system for weather conditions. If the National Weather Service refers to a cold air mass as the Alberta Express, and Canadians call it an Arctic polar front, what do the hardy souls who live in the Arctic call it? And when that cold air mass moves onward past this area and cools off Cuba, does Castro permit his citizens to refer to it as a Florida Freeze?

I compromise on the philosophic question about cleaning ladies that Laura Houghton poses. My cleaning lady comes every two weeks, in theory, although in practice frequently three or four weeks elapse between her calls. But she cleans only about two-thirds of the downstairs and the upstairs, leaving untouched the rooms in which I've been storing books, records, magazines, and fanzines. This is mainly because those rooms are jammed so full that there isn't space enough for a vacuum cleaner to get past the door.

Apologies for the pallid ribbon and the bad typing. The last time I bought in Hagerstown a ribbon that fits this old manual typewriter, it jammed up the keys and mechanism something scandalous, and I haven't had opportunity to go out of town for a replacement during the severe recent weather.

*{{Kleenex, tampons, cola, band-aid and scotch tape are more examples of brand names which have become generic.*

*Will L. Robot ever get made? Probably only if the studio can pre-sell the action figure, lunchbox and novelization rights first. (Of course, this would mean a few more bucks for Alan Dean Foster.)*

*"The hardy souls who live in the Arctic" call cold winter weather "night time." And when a warm air mass comes up from down south, we just call it more American hot air.*

— J.W.H.}}

Lloyd Penny  
412-4 Lisa St.  
Brampton, ON  
L6T 4B6

Dear Kohn & Jarl,

Many thanks for the Ace Double edition of UTOH 12/13. Time to sit down and write somethin' stoopid for the local....

12: Having lived in Victoria for some time, I know that rain slows the city down, and an inch

of snow is a disaster. The many Ontarians who move out there scratch their heads while the few remaining BCers freak at the mere appearance of snow. It was always a fun time for me, watching these reactions.

Only 10 great lies of fandom?? There's dozens more. Too bad I'm busy writing this letter, or I'd think up a few....

A Big Name Fan (Or as Yvonne calls them, a Big-Nosed Fan) has done a lot in the past for (or to) fandom in various fanactivities, but now does little but bask in the adulation of the fannish masses. At least that's what he's deluded himself into thinking... Adam, I won an Aurora in Winnipeg, and we haven't had dinner or anything else together... unless you were that sexy blond in the negligee at the Sheraton Winnipeg....

The buildup of carbon dioxide is a real problem for us all, especially in fandom. We know that high concentration pockets of CO<sub>2</sub> happen in locked rooms where con committees meet to talk out their problems. In fact, any place where fans meet to chat, like those convention con suites, has a high concentration of CO<sub>2</sub> in those rooms, a real danger to the future of atmosphere. So, fandom, if you love this planet and care about the atmosphere, SHUT UP!

From the IDIC Newsletter, I see that Paramount is taking a leaf from the 20th Century Fox book, and is cracking down on fan activities. Australia may go through what we did... I know that any current ST Fan Club of Canada is dead, and that Creation Cons has departed Canada after being investigated by Revenue Canada and being told they owe several hundred thousand dollars in back taxes and income taxes. The *Star Trek* cash cow may be drying up a little, as shows like *Babylon 5* and the *X-Files* are pulling fans away. *Deep Space Nine* is dull, *Voyager* is just plain stupid, and even the hard core fans can't keep interested. The merchandise is getting insulting (TNG Power Coins?), and common sense is setting in. Roddenberry knew that the activities of fandom were publicity he couldn't buy. If George Lucas had known that, and hadn't killed off *Star Wars* fandom through the threat of lawsuits, he wouldn't be trying to reawaken the fans' interest in *SW* through the upcoming three movies. If Paramount had an ounce of sense, they'd realize that fandom are their biggest fans, and cracking down on them is simply public shooting-themselves-in-the-foot. Intellectual property is one thing, but marketing is another, and fandom markets what it likes. (Actually George Lucas is lucky that *SW* fandom never died in Australia. It's still quite active, and it will be quite visible and vocal when the first new movie shows up on the big screen.)

13: Sleep is for the weak and sickly, and for the concomm, too. Adam wrote something about BNFs in 12 so John should write about becoming a BOF. Paula would agree, write what you know....



Ah, CUFF...you know, I'd been hoping to hear about any candidates who had stepped forward to run for it. I guess that once again, no one volunteered themselves. I would ask how many eastern fans heard about the CUFF "race" being open, seeing how only cons and a few subs get *Contract*, and only a few people on the committee ever get to see that zine. Also, info on CUFF was published in only one or two fanzines, so I'm not surprised at the lack of response. Stick the CUFF funds in the bank for a year or so, and let it build interest; perhaps interest in CUFF itself will build, too. But I won't hold my breath.

My LoC, my work situation... some months after leaving Maclean-Hunter, and getting freelance work here and there, I was hired to do membership work for the Royal Conservatory of Music in downtown Toronto. Fun place to work, but the hours and pay were lousy. Then I was hired by Bowne Printers as a proof reader. The pay was great, but the hours were worse than the RCM, and the attitude was horrific. It was a modern sweat shop, and the training was non-existent. I'm now back at the Conservatory, with the same lousy pay but better hours. Gotta be content with your work, no matter the pay. However, the resumé's continue to be mailed and faxed out.

Paul Neumann continues to forget that while a good portion of fandom is on the Internet, a good portion is not. I hope his attitude is all fans should have access to or be included in his Canadian SF Guide; doesn't look like it though. Contact me, Paul. Sorry to have to put you through the use of such antique technology like the telephone or the post office, but my finances and current hardware prevent me from having Net access. Maybe we can talk at Concinnity this fall.

Anyway, time to fold. The Aurora ballots are out now, and I'm competing against Adam Charlesworth for the Fan Achievement (other) Aurora. I'll get your votes of course; BNF Charlesworth wouldn't descend to campaign for votes, or plead for a mere trophy. However, I would. Take care, guys, and I hope you were creative with your census form. Now go sort some bolts....

{(When it snows in Victoria it normally happens after a long rain, so the stuff is as slippery as... um, as slippery as wet bottomed snow.

Speaking of obscure *Star Trek* paraphernalia and your lack of computer hardware, I have a 486/66 which formerly belonged to one of the writers/producers of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. He had a good laugh when I told him I was hoping to sell it to some *Trek* fan for 5 times what I paid for it. Any offers?

I wasn't under the impression that Paul Neumann was intending to exclude any fans from his Canadian SF Guide. (Or maybe you can write him directly in addition to indirectly through a

zine he doesn't produce.)

We don't intend to exclude anyone's access to UTOH even though we are aware that there are many non-English speaking, illiterate or blind persons in Canada and the rest of the world. This is just the venue we've chosen to put our efforts into. The Victoria Freenet has access terminals at the Victoria Public library. Perhaps there is something similar in Toronto you could check out should you be interested.

Congratulations on the nomination and best of luck.

--K.J.}}

{(I'm surprised by the discussion raised by the question of *Star Trek* fandom vs. intellectual rights. I entered fandom through *Star Trek* and edited a *Trek*-zine for a couple of years so I guess I've been on both sides of the fence, if you will. I have no doubt that Paramount realizes that the interest and awareness generated by *ST* fans is publicity they could never afford in a billion years, and I'm sure they turn a blind eye to many instances of copyright infringement. (Any unsanctioned fan club is probably technically illegal.) But Paramount owns *Star Trek*, and they and only they have the right to exploit it. (And they certainly do that, don't they?) When push comes to shove, they simply must assert their legitimate rights.

The Internet is slowly developing into another class system: those logged in, and those not. Paul Neumann is simply providing a service to those who can afford it. At the moment, a friend of mine can't afford cable -- does this mean that the rest of us must be deprived (or depraved?) of cable? Some jurisdictions are considering making basic net access a right. Many homeless shelters now have terminals where the homeless can log on to local Freenets and check their email.

For more news on CUFF, see the Canadian News section.

Here's my snow story. As a young tyke of eight, my family moved to Victoria from my birthplace in Montréal. (My family decided that a place where tanks prowled through streets at night, soldiers with pointy bayonets manned street corners during the day and civil rights were revoked by the stroke of a Prime Minister's pen was probably not a good place to live. But I digress. And worse yet, I'm dating myself.) The one thing I most remember about Montréal is the snow. Every winter, Montréal would be covered in a fluffy white eiderdown that would last from November to April. (Okay, so after six months the novelty of snow was wearing off, even for me.) Winter wasn't winter without snow, and neither was Christmas. Picture postcard time, right? Chestnuts roasting on a bough of holly.

When we moved, I knew only one thing about Victoria. It doesn't snow here. I was going to experience a Green Christmas.

As Christmas approached, I had a real problem getting into the festive spirit. It just

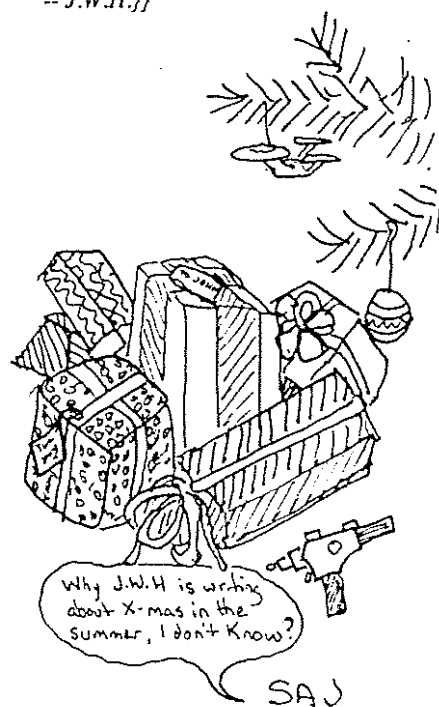
wasn't going to be Christmas without snow on the ground. Before going to bed on Christmas Eve, I took one last look out the living room window. Green. And brown. I trundled off to bed and like all eight year-old kids, spent a good ten minutes sleeping and the rest of the night wondering what Santa was going to bring us.

At about four o'clock, I could stand the anticipation no longer, and started my carefully worked-out procedure for waking up my parents. First, I started coughing (nothing wakes up a parent faster than their kid coughing in the middle of the night). Next, I went to the bathroom, being sure to feign some trouble with the toilet to plausibly explain why I flushed it five times. Returning to my bedroom, I made sure I knocked over an unbreakable but noisy object, (also good for waking up parents), and finally for good measure I "accidentally" stepped on the cat (no, not really, but it made you smile, didn't it?).

After being abused in this way for half an hour, my family finally relented, and got up. We went to the living room, and sure enough the tree was almost buried beneath Santa's gifts, but I was still a little let-down because, after all, Christmas just isn't Christmas without snow. I went to the window to take a peek anyway, and -- my eyes must have been as big as basketballs -- there was six inches of snow on the ground and we were in the middle of a blizzard!! I couldn't believe it -- a cold front had blown in unexpectedly overnight and was dumping snow on the city. I probably would have kept staring if I hadn't seen some poor stranger struggling down the street. My dad realized it was the paper boy and ran outside and gave him five bucks, which was really nice considering we didn't subscribe.

That was my best Christmas ever. And of course, a day later all the snow was gone.

-- J.W.H.}}



# CLAM SHOOT '96



A serious pose. Back row (l. -r.): Roy, Robert, Bernie, Bob, Monica, Karl and Stephanie; middle row (l. -r.): Ben, Laura, Cath, Paula, Michelle and Lila; front row: John. Not pictured: Catherine and Jon.



A bear! A real live bear! We were *this* close!



A few souls brave the elements.



Bernie -- all washed up.



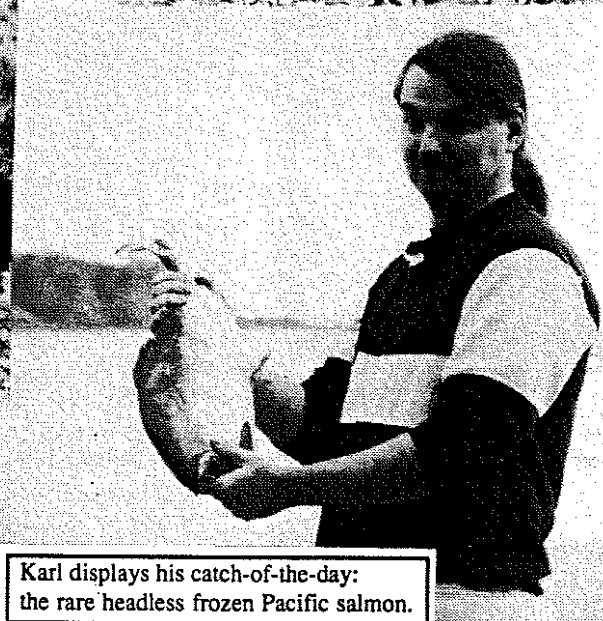
The 1996 Long Beach Invitational.



Hiking in the rainforest.



The Great God Runté prepares to receive an offering from a subject.



Karl displays his catch-of-the-day: the rare headless frozen Pacific salmon.

# UNDER THE OZONE HOLE

Three-time Winner of the Prix Aurora Award

## Number One

Features "*How I Lost My Convirginity*" by Laura Atkins, news, reviews, and fiction by F.F. "Bones" Norman. Cover features Brian Mulroney as The Terminator.

## Number Two

Quickie Interviews with Dave Panchyk, Cath Jackel and Robert Charles Wilson. LoCs, news, and Karl's Kartoon! Plus "*Touch Tone Tune Time*" and more fiction by F.F. "Bones" Norman.

## Number Three

Another Karl's Kartoon! The first chapter of "*Tale of the Young and Slothful*" by Laura Atkins. John destroys Space Rangers.

## Number Four

The first infamous all-colour Robert Runté cover! The Robert Runté Guide to Fandom Part One! Plus, a best-to-God real LoC from Brian Mulroney!

## Number Five

Special All-Pets Issue! The Robert Runté Guide to Fandom Part Two! News, and pictures of our pets!

## Number Six

Special Conspiracy Issue! The Robert Runté Guide to Fandom Part Three! Still more "*Young and Slothful*"! Proof that Brian Mulroney is related to a hamster (it says so on the cover)!

## Number Seven

A gazillion reviews! The Under The Ozone Hole Quiz! Plus reviews, reviews and reviews. The cover features the cast of Star Trek: Voyager.

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Special *Apollo 11* Anniversary Issue! News, reviews and funny stuff. (A note to collectors: there are eight different covers for this issue. Ain't photocopiers wonderful?)

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Worldcon in Winnipeg! The Robert Runté Guide to Fandom! Canadian Facts! Sean Stewart Interview! Profiles of Catherine Girczyc and Don H. DeBrandt! Plus Clam Shoot news! And Robert... *all over* the cover!

## Number Ten

Worldcon in Winnipeg Wrap-Up issue! Pictures, reviews, notes, comments, and silly stuff. "*Northwest Passage*" by

Paula Johanson, and Adam Charlesworth on his new-found belief in Western-Canadianism. Plus an interview with author Robert J. Sawyer.

## Number Eleven

Clam Shoot pix! Articles by E.B. Klassen, Paula Johanson, Robert Runté, Karl Johanson and Dr. Computo! An interview with Sally McBride! Plus, a clown on the cover!

## Number Twelve/Thirteen

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