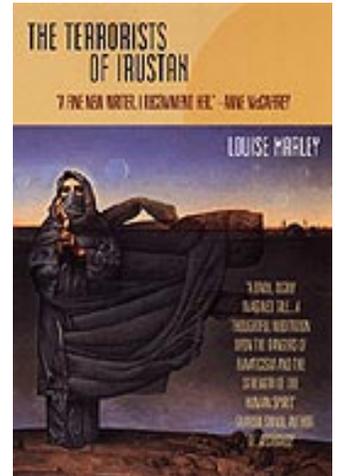


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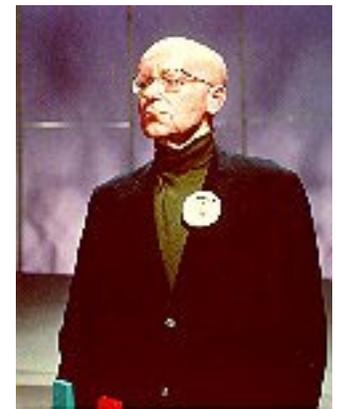
Vol. 28 Issue 1 Number 320
January 2000 \$2.50

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE WEST COAST SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION

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WCSFAACTIVITIES

F.R.E.D. - Every Friday

The weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in joining us for an evening of conversation and relaxation, with pool table option. At the Burrard Motor Inn opposite St. Paul's Hospital (Downtown Vancouver) 6 blocks south of Burrard Skytrain Station. 3 blocks west of Granville (where many buses run). #22 Knight/McDonald bus along Burrard. Begins 8:00pm. On the Friday before long weekends, FRED will be at the lounge of Bosman's Hotel. This is two blocks east and a part of a block north of the Burrard Motor Inn (actual address is 1060 Howe St.).

Contributor's Deadline - January 14th, February 18th, March 17th, April 14th, May 19th, June 16th Send, your submissions, comments, loc's to John Wong at 2041 East 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V5N 1X9 or E-Mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca.

BCSFAzine Pickup/Collation at FRED - December 3rd. Friday before the first Sunday of the month. Pick up your issue of

BCSFAzine at FRED! Pristine, mint condition copies are available at FRED. Call Steve to let him know you wish to pick up your copy.

Discount Movie Nights.

\$2.00 Tuesdays are back! When? The second Tuesday of the month (Sep. 14th) at 6:30 pm. The place being New West Cinema at #229 - 555 Sixth Street, New Westminster. Meet in front of the Box Office at the above time and we'll decide on which movie, where to do coffee and in which order.

Annual Christmas Dinner December 11th, 7:00 pm at the home of Garth Spencer. 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. (near Main & 41st Avenue). The event is a potluck, but Garth will make a list of menu categories. Please call him and ask him what you can bring and he will check the item off the menu list. Phone: 325-7314

Saturday January 15th at 7 pm. **WCSFA Special Event. Modern Feminism inspired by 50's Space Babe.** Video lecture by R. Graeme Cameron. **VCON 25** planning meeting as well. 1129 Spruce Ave., Coquitlam, B.C. V3J 2P3

Keep an eye out here for future official WCSFA sponsored events.

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\$15 Single Membership through InCon (October 15-17th, 1999.)

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LOC (LETTERS OF COMMENTS)

Last issue, due to some executive pressure, I wrote an article stating that it will be the last word on Lisa's article.

From this point on, any letter which makes commentary on Lisa's original "Fans disgust me" article will be edited out.

However, commentary on the letters which followed are still open for commentary. There have been a few items brought up in the letters which may invoke some more people to put a few thoughts on paper. The letters themselves have generated more heat than the actual original article.

I feel it is important that I keep the channels open on this subject as the sudden silencing of the letters column may lead to hidden grudges. Communication is the only way to resolve differences. If there are problems, they should be discussed openly. The last thing I want is people to feel resentment towards each other or to the zine because they felt the need to reply and were denied the opportunity. This fanzine is about spreading ideas, not smother them.

Hi John,

Your "directory update" reminded me that I haven't commented on anything in your zine for a long time. It is not that the contents didn't interest me, but after reading and thinking: "Shouldn't I write them something about this or that?" I promptly had other things to do.

German fandom is rather small compared with North American fandom. The active fans know each other at least by name if not personally. Sometimes it is like a big family.

So it surprised me a bit to read the extended discussion triggered by Lisa. We have our unpleasant persons too, I think, but I have no experience of the things she stated. Maybe the reason is that in this much closer group of fans here in Germany the "bad guys" tend to see the doors only from the outside real soon. Anyway, the fans I know try to be very tolerant. Why spoil the fun with trouble? If

someone insists to make a - what do you call them - fugghead? of himself, so let him and move to another room. OK, I don't want to continue the discussion after "the last words" have been spoken in your last issue.

Maybe you are interested to hear some more about German fandom? Tell me what you want to know and I will try and summarize the situation a bit. (Or do you have already broad contacts with German fans?)

Greetings from

Wilko. <http://apple.rz.uni-leipzig.de/asfc>

Dear Ken/John:

First of all, John, thanks for the re-send of BCSFAzine 319. Everything worked fine the second time. In exchange for your good works, here's what I hope will be a decent loc on this issue. With the new computer comes a colour inkjet printer, and now, I have a full-colour hard copy. The colour cover is beautiful, and I look forward to more full colour covers. (I must ask...what is the name of the font used to create the zine logo and headers? With a Web connection at home now, I may be able to find it in any of the free font websites out there.

I hope this issue will have some news about V-Con 25. I know of one group bidding to stage it, but haven't heard about any other bidders.

Greetings to Mairi Welman at Mainframe...some of your biggest fans are here in Toronto, in the heart of Nelvanaland. Two local fans have made a name for themselves for their Bob and Dot Matrix costumes...Martin Hunger and Christina Carr have won a few masquerades with their good work, and one or two with your good designs and ideas.

While the Pokémon movie has done some good business, it hasn't been the blockbuster their producers were expecting. The violence involving kids and the collectible

cards had gotten some schools banning the cards and associated merchandise outright, some parents banning their kids from owning the stuff or going to the movie, and many kids who are turned off by the whole situation. Also, most kids, as they get older, get fed up with the whole collecting thing, especially something that says you MUST collect 150 of these pocket monsters. This gets the collecting bug out of them sooner than it did us...could this be another reason why convention attendance is down? Just a stray thought.

Good conclusive article on the behaviour of some fans in fandom, but I would disagree when you say that if fandom looks away every time some fan behaves badly, there is no incentive for other fans to change. This bad behaviour is an appeal for attention, and when none is given and that fan is shunned, to me, that would be incentive to change behaviour. If they were shunned in other social circles before, they might learn something when the fannish social circle does the same to them. They may change, or they'll go away.

A short letter this time, but it all balances out. One last question I will ask...of the membership, who is going to the Chicago Worldcon? The vote is nine short months away, and we are already starting to make plans for parties, bid tables, etc. It's not too late... support the Toronto in 2003 Worldcon bid (check out www.torcon3.on.ca) and think about helping us in Chicago. Any Worldcon that will let you spend your own money instead of having to convert it into US\$ can't be a bad idea, hm?

Take care all, and see you next issue.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

Dear John:

Many thanks for the just-arrived November issue of BCSFAzine. The cover is particularly spectacular this time, although it might



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It is easy to change your subscription to this format. Go to the Adobe web site and download the free Acrobat Reader for you computer's operating system. (Make sure you get version 3 or higher).

Then e-mail me at woolf@vcn.bc.ca and let me know that you want to switch your subscription over. You will then receive the next zine in your e-mail.

A sample copy of the Acrobat BCSFAzine is available on our website.

<http://www3.bc.sympatico.ca/dh2/bcsfa>

look even better without the intrusions of lettering and little pictures.

A late flash in reference to the loc from me in this issue: At least two residents of Burkittsville yielded to circumstances and began catering to Blair Witch tourists at Hallowe'en time. They hand crafted some small objects and sold them for souvenir purposes. Maybe by next year they'll change the town's name to Blairville during the last two weeks in October.

I felt properly happy and sad by turns as I read the different kinds of news about prospects for more Dr. Who adventures. I don't get HBO, which requires more payment to the cable company, so I'd hope that something on a channel in the basic package will come into reality. One thing worries me about the idea of refurbishing

the Tardis with Victorian items. I know there is plenty of space in the interior of the Tardis for even the largest Victorian pieces of furniture, but I am not sure that it would be possible to squeeze it through the rather narrow front doors.

Maybe some of the information by Teemu Lesti will be affected by the new government decision that Microsoft is a monopoly. I was amused by the fact that one industry consortium in the communications field is known as Bluetooth. The only place I have ever encountered that word was the old radio series, Vic and Sade, whose son had a classmate named Bluetooth Johnson. I hope someone in the industry liked that series as much as I did and managed to get Bluetooth immortalized in this manner.

It's a good thing the birthday surprise

for Mr. Science was carried out without a mundane seeing what was going on and jumping to the wrong conclusion. There was a convention not long ago that got into a lot of trouble when authorities saw an empty container with RADIOACTIVE or something similar painted on it in the vicinity of the hotel and thought it was the real thing.

The Graeme sounds very energetic about his new duties. I hope his energy will rub off on other club members and lead to a good new year for your organization. And much as I hate to shut myself up after only one page, I believe this constitutes as much as I can find to comment on in this good issue.

Yrs., &c.,

Harry Warner, Jr.

40 WINKS

The BCSFA directory should come out in the first week of January. If BCSFAzine comes out before then you won't get your directory until the February zine is out (there is not going to be a FRED collation or FRED on Christmas Eve or New Year's Eve) unless you pick it up at FRED where it will be available January 7th and there after. Those of you who get BCSFAzine by e-mail NOTIFY JOHN that you want one MAILED, as you will receive an e-mail version, but I find that it is easier to look in a booklet than crank up a computer everytime you want to look up an address-better yet come to FRED and I will personally hand you one.

Come to the January 14th FRED and help us celebrate long time BCSFAN Ed Hutchings 70th birthday. It is at the Burrard Motor Inn across the street from St. Paul's Hospital on Burrard street, bring a birthday card and enjoy the usual-starts around 8pm. Since it is after January 1st it will be a non smoking location (as will bars and pubs across BC).

We have programming going again, come out and support it. There

will be a humorous look at Modern Feminism Inspired by the 50's Space Babe, a video lecture by Graeme, along with VCON stuff. Date January 15, time 7pm, location my place (1129 Spruce Ave., Coquitlam, BC phone 936-4754 for directions to get there). BYOB-BYOPops, and if you get the chance something munchable to share.

Happy 2000 to you all and now we have a year to celebrate until the new Millennium, so for now let's celebrate the end of the 19's and the beginning of the 20's.

I never got a chance to give my impressions of Empirecon/Westercon in Spokane, so here it is.

I remember the first sun I had seen in weeks happened as I drove towards Ellensburg. It was sunny all the rest of the way to Spokane.

When I got there I lucked out and got a ticket to go to Lake Coer D'alene for a two hour tour (Gilligan's jokes aside on the school bus ride from Spokane to Coer D'Alene). I lucked out on the boat and wound up on the upper deck out front with CJ Cherryh, Jane Fancher,

and Lori White. I mostly talked with them over the two hours as the sun sank into the west on the lake surrounded by beautiful mountains-it was a perfect opening to the con (the boat was licensed so we could have a drink or two as we sailed, driving not a worry as the school bus took us back). Partying started then and didn't end until the dead dog. I went to a number of panels during the day and partied the night away.

I have seen slightly better organized Westercons, but I haven't seen many with as much enthusiasm and all around fun as this one. It was put on by three or four different groups (Spokane, Moscow, Tri Cities, I think Montana, with some other help such as Larry Baker and the late Rich-

ard Wright) and glitches were minimal. I had only one real complaint, and that was that the pocket program book was unreadable. The fonts ran together and it was very hard to read what was there. I hope any future Westercon thinks about the attendees, and that many of them need glasses or close to it. A larger clear font is essential.

I saw many people I hadn't seen in years, met new fans, and toured the city. I enjoyed the fireworks, especially after I went outside and followed Palle around the back of the hotel and wound up standing almost directly underneath them for the best view of all. The weather, though much sunnier than here, was very cool for the July 4th long weekend - you had

to bundle up to go outside in the early evening (I had to wear a coat on the boat ride, it was sunny, but cool). Two thumbs up for this con.

Next month I will try and get a review of Orycon. I am the Vancouver Representative of Westercon in Portland in a year and a half. If you need information please e-mail me or hit me up at FRED. When I get the information on rates etc. real soon now I will be able to sell you Westercon memberships at FRED etc, at the going rate. I will have flyers etc. soon as well. Join early it costs less. I will also be able to sell BCSFA/WCSFA and VCON memberships as well at FRED. All best to you all in the new year.

Steve 40



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THE CUFF 1999 TRIP REPORT

Prologue:

In 1980, some fans in Nova Scotia founded the Canadian SF and Fantasy Award. In 1981, some fans in Toronto founded the Canadian Unity Fan Fund. The fund languished, and the awards went through several ... um ... adventures, until the chair of Ad Astra 7 (1987) took the initiative to revive CUFF and tie it in to the Convention, meaning whichever convention hosted the awards. It was also decided that Conventions would alternate, year by year, between eastern and Western Canadian cons, meaning that CUFF nominees would be accepted from the opposite side of the country.

In 1998, to skip over some history documented elsewhere, inCONsequential II (Fredericton, 1999) bid for and won the Convention for 1999. By mid-1999 the incumbent CUFF administrators, Lloyd and Yvonne Penney, had declared the CUFF race open to all nominees across Canada, not just fans west of Ontario. In August, I volunteered to run. I conducted a last-minute online campaign, and obtained more than enough nominations, from both East and West, in less than two weeks.

Nominators from the West included Randy Barnhart, Graeme Cameron, David Malinski, Andrew Murdoch, Doug Finnerty, and Clint Budd. Nominators in the East included Murray Moore, Simon Parkinson, Brian Davis, and Will Straw. I have a history, not just in B.C. fandom, but in Canadian fan issues generally. I started up a national fan newszine in 1983 partly because I hadn't heard from the preceding national newszine in a while, and partly because I wanted to know what the score was with CSFFA and CUFF, and I wasn't getting any answers. It took about five years - no kidding - and a lot of collateral fanhistory-gathering, to track down part of the story. In 1987 I gave that up, and moved from Victoria to Vancouver.

As a result, I have some outspoken opinions: about regional fandoms like the Maritimes, about CUFF, and indeed about the Aurora awards presented at Conventions. It was curiously difficult to get the word on Maritimes fanactivity, or indeed to get word to them, for years at a go. Equally, for all the efforts that previous CSFFA and CUFF administrators have made, I still perceive them as low-profile, barely visible to the vast majority of fans, not to mention SF professionals and science-fiction readers generally. In short, there are hurdles to overcome and not a little work to do.

October 14, 1999:

In a way it was inconvenient that I could only book a flight as far as Halifax, and that on Thursday; the room reservation I obtained at inCONsequential's venue began on Friday. In a way, though, it was just as well - a flight across the whole continent, and four time

zones, takes six or seven hours, and then I faced another six-hour bus ride to Fredericton.

So I got a room for Thursday night at Keddy's Halifax hotel.

Amusingly enough, inCONsequential's venue, the Lord Beaverbrook, is also a Keddy's hotel.

October 15-17, 1999: Convention 19/inCONsequential II at the Lord Beaverbrook Hotel, Fredericton, New Brunswick. Guest of Honour: Tanya Huff. Master of Ceremonies: Robert Sawyer. Also featuring Donna Barr (author of drawn books), Mary Ann Bramstrup (New Brunswick SF & F writer), Beverly Richardson (Gothic historian), K.V. Johansen (New Brunswick fantasy writer), and Garth Spencer (CUFF winner). That Sensitive Fannish Face: Almost as soon as I went looking for registration I ran into one of the potential consultants on Maritimes fanhistory, John Mackenzie from Halifax.

Shortly I met some more fans from Halifax, Fredericton, and the inCONsequential committee. By the time the first panel was running that I wanted to see, I had handed out cards and fanhistory drafts to John Mackenzie, Mary Ruth on the committee, Brian Davis (the chair), Andre Lieven of Ottawa, and famous writer types like GoHs Tanya Huff and Robert Sawyer. (Sawyer immediately spotted an error in one year's list of Aurora awards. Good, this is the sort of feedback I'm asking for.) Robert Sawyer also immediately enlightened me about some SF writers, and an SF market update - Transversions, for one thing, is now edited by Marcel Gagné and Sally Tomasevic. Jean-Louis Trudel, representing the National SF & Fantasy Society at the Convention, updated me on the Quebec milieu: one of the SF revues, imagine ..., ceased publication last year.

Opening Ceremonies: The usual welcoming remarks and introduction of Guests of Honour. I knew Robert Sawyer and Tanya Huff were listed, I had met Jean-Louis Trudel before, but I was surprised to meet artist Donna Barr again I didn't recognize her in her new long-haired look, or in this East Coast context.

Fanhistory panel: My concern in hosting this panel was to ask questions. Does any contemporary fan, chosen at random, know something about the history of fandom, or even care? Does any such representative fan realize there are some interesting, amusing or even practical things to get out of fanhistory? Or would he or she reflect that history is what we're doing right now?

About a dozen people showed up. We rambled, as panels often do, but I think it was established that there is a history in fandom, it bears on what we do right now in clubs and cons, and I even stayed away from my tendency to focus on the negative. It may have helped that I started by setting up chairs in an oval, and offered some printouts of my Convention and Maritimes fanhistory materials.

Evening events were pretty much limited to the consuite; there were rumours that somebody might host a Toronto in 2003 bid party, but this didn't materialize. As it happened there were no room parties at inCONsequential II.

It is of interest to note that inCONsequential's consuite is a "dry" consuite. Apparently, this is a general policy for Maritime conventions, ever since Halcon 10. (The story I got is that Maritime fandom experienced a phase when university students discovered their cons, and perceived them as a cheap place to get drunk and weird. Also, Maritime fans are generally concerned to present their fandom as a safe place to bring kids.) I commented that other cons in North America have similarly found reason not to serve alcohol.

October 16, 1999

Saturday morning I wandered outside and found a sort of farmer's market, a few blocks away, and had



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something for breakfast. My impressions of Fredericton were limited to the downtown area where the Lord Beaverbrook is situated. I was strongly reminded of Victoria, particularly the James Bay suburb around the provincial government buildings.

Back at the con I sampled the Robots East and World Building panels, but found them very modestly attended. There was also supposed to be a presentation on the Kingcon SF society on Saturday afternoon, but no-one showed up.

The artshow and dealers' room were limited to rather small rooms, but the level of artwork seemed to compare favourably to artshows at other North American conventions.

Buffet dinner and Aurora Awards presentation: For whatever reason, we presented the Aurora awards this year in reverse order. Robert Sawyer served as MC; Jean-Louis Trudel, Paul Valcour, Donna Barr and I took turns presenting the awards; I had agreed to present two of the fan awards, so to my dismay I was up first. I pray I didn't butcher the French translation too badly. Everybody but Donna Barr and myself accepted awards for winners who could not be in attendance.

- Fan achievement (other) went to Janet L. Hetherington, co-curator of the 60 Years of Superman exhibit at the Nepean Museum.
- Fan achievement (organizational) went to Ann Methe of Montreal, for chairing **Con*cept 98**
- Fan achievement (fanzine) went to Warp, edited by Lynda Pelley for **MonSFFA**
- Artistic achievement went to Jean-Pierre Normand Best other French work went to *L'entreprise de Frankenstein* by JohnDupuis (in Solaris 126)
- Best French-language (short form) went to *La Demoiselle sous la lune* by Guy Sirois (Fantasy, Fleuve Noire)
- Best French-language (long form) went to *Corps-machines et rêves d'anges*, by Alain Bergeron (Vents d'Ouest, 1997)
- Best other English work went to *Arrowdreams: An Anthology of Alternative Canadas*, by Mark Shainblum & John Dupuis, editors (Nuage Editions)
- Best English-language (short form) went to "Hockey's Night in Canada", by Edo van Belkom (in Arrowdreams)
- Best English-language (long form) went to *Darwinia*, by Robert Charles Wilson (Tor, June 1998)

Costume contest (9 pm Sat): Mary Ruth recruited Donna Barr and myself and the representative of the Tanya Huff fan club to judge the costume masquerade contest. I think I was pretty useless at this exercise, partly because I can't distinctly remember the costumes or how they were judged, and partly because I didn't learn to judge costumes. I need some remedial education or something.

There was a dance, but at that point I was wilting. I don't remember anything more from Saturday.

October 17, 1999

CUFF presentation (10 am Sun): After more than half an hour, perhaps a dozen people showed up, which tends to support my conviction that it's pretty useless to schedule anything before 11 a.m. at a convention. To my dismay I found all the historical CSFFA/Convention/CUFF chapbooks had gone, so I extemporized on fannish fanzine fandom, fan funds, the history of the Canadian Unity Fan Fund, and the topic of GettingThe Word Out. At least one fan was interested to know, well, how do you apply to be nominated?, which I answered in a long-winded and roundabout fashion. I think I needed more coffee that morning. Perhaps I should have set up the panel room today the way I did for the fanhistory panel, as no-one made offers for the sample CUFF sale items I displayed.

CSFFA Business Meeting (noon Sun): A number of items were raised, discussed and settled at this meeting, with Paul Valcour chairing the meeting and Dennis Mullin serving as secretary. Two hours were budgeted for this business meeting, but it actually went on for three. Things kind of dragged after thirty to forty-five minutes, or maybe the panel room was a little close and crowded for the number of people there. Robert Sawyer later said it was a good, productive meeting; but I got fed up after nearly two hours and left, because I thought it was getting bogged down. It was decided, though, that TT2000 (formerly Toronto Trek) will host Convention 20. This year's chairs are Katherine Cheng and Kimberly Nash. There was also supposed to be a slave auction on Saturday, but practically no-one showed up.

Closing Ceremonies (3 pm Sun): All the guests expressed their appreciation of Fredericton, and of the hospitality they received at inCONsequential II. Brian Davis mentioned that inCONsequential I had been a good con, inCONsequential II had been even better. I was asked to say a few words, stood up and said "A few words!" and sat down to equal applause. (Hey, it worked for Robert Runte in Victoria.)

Dead Dog: this was mostly fun, and intimate, since perhaps two or three dozen people were left out of 78 or 79 attendees. I'm not real proud of my exhibition of temper at Robert Sawyer; I was really appalled at the CSFFA meeting, and kept saying so, heatedly.

But Sawyer, and Tanya Huff, and Patricia Evans all assured me that meetings usually are slow, and inefficient, even in professional associations and conferences. I guess it's just as well, for me and for you, that CUFF is not run by a committee.

October 18, 1999

Preliminary CUFF 1999 statement (as at October 31/99)

Income:

From Lloyd Penney:	\$1,000.00
Donations:	
from Faith Magwood:	100.00
from Robert Runte:	30.00
Total income:	\$1,130.00

Expenses:

Air fare:	\$528.59
Accommodations:	258.75
General (food, camera, other purchases):	150.00
Total expenses:	\$937.34
Balance on account: (Canadian funds)	\$172.66

Some other expenses I covered out of my own funds, such as taxis, a night's stay in Halifax, and the bus fare to and from Fredericton.

Garth Spencer

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VCON 25 ALIVE AND WELL!

Yes! There will be a VCON 25 in the last weekend of May, 2000 (Friday May 26th to Sunday May 28th. It will be held once again at the Day's Hotel in Surrey. Confirmed GoH's are Robert Sawyer and Spider & Jeanne Robinson. Fan GoH's are Lloyd & Yvonne Penney of Toronto (Winners of three Aurora awards for their Fannish activities). Toastmaster is Mr. Science!

VCon 25 is intended to be a 'full-featured' convention, with multi-track programming including panels, lectures, writer's workshops, dealer's room, art show, hospitality suite, fanzine lounge, kidcon, gaming room, dance, performance bacchanal, theatre sports, videos, filk singing and, of course, the Elrons. There will be extra goodies, such as a Beatle's music jam session led by Spider (musicians, bring your guitars!) and a guest appearance by Moog the Magnificent

(reputed to be the worst stand-up comic in the solar system).

Preparations have slowed during this rushed and busy Christmas season, but will pick up full blast after the new year. January especially is a make or break month as we need to get hordes of pre-reg a.s.a.p. to build up seed money to pay for things like mass mail-outs, hotel down payment, GoH air fares, etc.

Thus I offer a SPECIAL DEAL: For BCSFA members. The Jan/Feb 3-day membership rate is \$35, but BCSFA members have until January 31st to purchase theirs for only \$25! So don't put off buying your memberships. Remember, at the door will be \$45, so it makes plenty of sense to get yours now for just \$25!

And a SPECIAL DEAL for non-members reading this article. You have until January

15th to purchase your membership for only \$30 (\$5 saving).

Send cheques or money orders payable to VCON to this address: VCON 25, Box #274 - 1857 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1M4

I have most of the department heads I need, but I still require people to run the following departments: On-Site Registration, Program Book, Publicity, Performance Bacchanal, Dance, & Web Site. Plus, I need hordes of volunteers to back up all departments. If you want to actively get involved, please get in touch with me! Remember, VCON will only be as good as we can make it be. The more people involved, the more we can do!

Cheers!

The Graeme (VCON 25 Chair)



GoH: Robert Sawyer!

Winner of five Aurora awards, including three for Best Novel, Sawyer is the author of 'Far-Seer', 'Fossil Hunter', 'Foreigner' (An intelligent Dinosaurs trilogy), 'End Of An Era' (also Dinosaurs), plus 'Golden Fleece', 'The Terminal Experiment', 'Starplex', 'Frameshift', 'Factoring Humanity', 'Flash Forward', & 'Illegal Alien'. Sawyer will launch of his latest novel 'Calculating God' at VCon. He will be accompanied to VCon by his wife Carolyn Clink.

Fan GoH's:

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney!

Well known long-time Toronto Fans and 1998 C.U.F.F. (Canadian Unity Fan Fund) Winners. Lloyd and Yvonne have won three Aurora awards for their Fannish activities.



GoH'S:

Spider and Jeanne Robinson!

Spider is the Hugo Award winning author of 'Time Pressure', 'Mind Killer', 'Life House', 'Night of Power', 'User Friendly', of the Callahan's series including 'Time Travelers Strictly Cash', 'Callahan's Crosstime Saloon', 'Lady Slings The Booze', 'Callahan's Secret', etc., and with his wife Jeanne, of 'Stardance', 'Starseed', and 'Starmind'.

Toastmaster: Mr. Science!

His 'Corresponding Secretary' Al Betz won the 1991 Fan Achievement Aurora, and is the holder of a special Elron award as well. It is rumoured Mr. Science will perform a diabolical experiment at the con.

VCON 25

MAMMALS BEWARE

Hotel: Day's Hotel Surrey City Centre

9850 King George Hwy, Surrey, B.C., V3T 4Y3, Canada. (Location is 1/2 block from King George Skytrain Station) Tel: (604) 588-9511, Fax: (604) 588-7949, Toll free phone: 1-800-663-0660, Email: res@surreyinn.com Web Site: SurreyInn.com

Special Convention room rates: single/double: \$75 Cdn. (Approx \$50 US) Quad: \$85 Cdn. (Approx \$57 US). Children under 18 stay free!

Confirmed Dates:

Friday, May 26, 2000 — Saturday, May 27, 2000 — Sunday, May 28 2000. (The U.S. Memorial Day weekend.)

For More Info:

Write: VCon 25, Box # 274—1857 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6J 1M4 Canada.

E-Mail: rgraeme@home.com

Phone: (604) 731-7553

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Month	Cdn	US
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March/April	\$40	\$27
May	\$45	\$30

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SPECIAL DEAL FOR NON-MEMBERS! If your payment is postmarked no later than January 15th, you pay just the December rate of only \$30!



By **Palle Hoffstein**

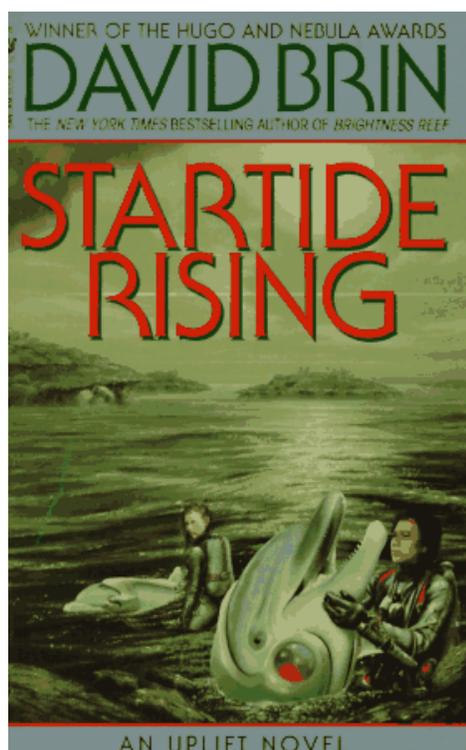
I was supposed to do something called, “The Year In Movies,” but I just haven’t yet seen all of this year’s movies that I intend to see, so I will try for January instead.

Someone asked me about the rumoured film adaptation of the classic TV series, **The Prisoner**. Here’s what I’ve found out. In 1996 **Patrick McGoohan**, the co-creator and star of the original TV series for **ITC Entertainment**, submitted a film script to **Propaganda Films**, who had ownership of the rights. Propaganda decided they were interested, but that the script needed some work, and they called in veterans **Lawrence Konner** and **Mark Rosenthal** (who together co-wrote *Star Trek – The Undiscovered Country* and *Mercury Rising*) for a re-write. However, Propaganda is a subsidiary of **Polygram Films**, who were bought out by **USA Films**, a production company owned by one **Barry Diller**. USA Films has **Universal Studios** as their distributors/co-financiers, so they have money behind them and Diller named *The Prisoner Movie* as one of the Polygram projects that he wanted to keep in production. Just last month **Simon West** (*Con Air*) was named as the film’s director and McGoohan has been named as executive producer. West, a self-proclaimed fan of the original series who visited the location village of Portmeirion many times as a child, has promised the movie will be every bit as strange and innovative as the TV series. (Here’s hoping they do a better job of living up to their promises than the makers of the *Avengers* movie did last year. Blech!) Who will play Number 6? So far we only have rumours, with names such as Mel Gibson, Kenneth Branagh, Ewan McGregor, Max Beesley, and Harrison Ford being bandied about. Worth noting: Gibson has worked with both West and McGoohan in the past and is friends with both. There has been mention of McGoohan himself playing Number 2, which I would love to see.

There has been talk of a film adaptation of David Brin’s Hugo Award winning **Startide Rising** for a few years now. There was some speculation that the failure of **The Postman**

would scare producers away from any more of Brin’s work, but the floppage of that movie is generally blamed on Kevin Costner. **Mace Neufeld** of **Paramount** has bought the film rights to all six *Startide* books, to make a film trilogy, although from which three books is not clear. According to *Variety* Brin stands to make \$100K on the first film, \$250K on the second and \$1.1M on the third, assuming the first is a hit and all three get made. Mr. Neufeld is being pretty confident here. His list of big \$\$\$ hits is pretty impressive: *Hunt For Red October*, *Clear and Present Danger*, *Lost In Space*, *The Saint*. He has publicly stated that his intentions are to make a trilogy that will rival *Star Wars*. Not having read these books myself I can’t really comment. While Brin is being listed on the project as “Consultant”, **Trevor Sands** (whose only credits I can find are indie films called *Frank Finds Out* and *Suicide Ride*) is writing the screenplay. What Sands has been doing recently is polling fans on the internet, for their ideas.

Some confusion has surfaced over ex-Python director **Terry Gilliam’s** next project.



Gilliam has been mentioned as the director for the **Don Quixote** project with **Johnny Depp**, but more recently stories have surfaced claiming that Gilliam has been signed up for the film adaptation of **Neil Gaiman** and **Terry Pratchett’s Good Omens**. Gaiman has been trying to get a film deal done with this and many other projects for some time. His **Sandman** and **Death** projects are officially sidelined for now (although the **Neverwhere** film is still a go, see below) and Mr. Gaiman is learning that just because a Hollywood producer says, “it’s gonna happen,” that doesn’t mean it’s gonna happen. (Oh, the number of times Douglas Adams has said the *Hitchhikers* film is being made!) Gilliam will be writing the screenplay for *Good Omens* with **Tony Grisoni** (who is listed as the writer of *Don Quixote* as well). It’s interesting that Gaiman isn’t writing the screenplay himself, as he had always intended, but he has stated that he can’t make the story work in a two-hour timeframe. Producers **Marc** and **Peter Samuelson** (*Arlington Road*) have bought the rights to this project and Gilliam and Pratchett may not stay very involved beyond this point. The addition of Gilliam to the project is attracting the attention of some major studios and a money deal is expected soon. The question remains of whether this then becomes Gilliam’s next picture or if he’ll do *Don Quixote* first. Myself, I’d like to see the project get off the ground for Neil Gaiman’s sake; he’s been trying to get a movie going for years. However, I’m a huge fan of the book and I cannot imagine it as a movie. The third-person narrator’s colorful and irrelevant style is such a big part of the book’s charm and humour that I can’t imagine the movie without it. (I’ve always thought that books with dry, matter-of-fact prose make the best transition to movies anyway, i.e.: *Jaws*, *Godfather*, *Blade Runner*). Tony Grisoni by the way, is making something called **Phantasmagoria** with not-so-retired-after-all-Director **John Boorman** of *Excaliber* and *Zardoz* fame. Hopefully I’ll have some news on that project soon.

Gaiman’s **Neverwhere**, a project that was first a BBC mini-series and then a novel, is

further along and looking like Gaiman's best bet for film project to get done. I think the book is wonderful and the BBC series, for all it's low-budget charm, is really not very good. This is one story that should adapt fairly well to film. **Sony Pictures** is the studio behind this project, **Denise DiNovi** (The Nightmare Before Christmas, Heathers) and **Jesse Dylan** (House of the Dead) are producing and the great **Richard Loncraine** (Brimstone and Treacle, The Missionary, Richard III, *3 of my favourites*) has been hired to direct. The official production company for Neverwhere is **Dimension Films**, a division of **Jim Henson Films**. Expect the work of the Henson crew in this work rather than computer graphics, especially if Gaiman gets his way. Given what the Henson crew pulled off with **The Dark Crystal** and **Labyrinth**, and given the gritty fairy-tale atmosphere of the book, The Henson crew could just be the best people for the job..

The news of **John Carpenter's Ghosts of Mars** project is causing a lot of discussion in genre movie fan circles, so I have to offer my own little rant here. I'm a big John Carpenter fan, even though his last few films were quite disappointing. It's just that his run of films through the 70's and 80's were so damn good. Carpenter made independent horror, SF and fantasy films that showed a love of genre,

and an ability to make solid films with low budgets that never looked low-budget. OK, **Dark Star** looked low budget, but hey, it's a student film. **Halloween** is the film that gave him his fame. It is one of the most imitated films of all time (the Scream and I Know What You Did films carrying on the tradition), and until **Blair Witch** came along it was the highest grossing independent film of all time. John Carpenter's **The Thing** makes my top ten list for best SF or horror films of all time. **Starman** was wonderful. **Army of Darkness** was highly under-rated. **Big Trouble In Little China** is still one of the funniest movies I have ever seen and it introduced me (and many other north americans) to the wonders of the Hong Kong style of action film. Then there's **Assault of Precinct 13**, **The Fog** and **Escape From New York**, all fantastic films. Even those early films that are flawed (**They Live**, **Christine**) have moments that delight me still. I'm amazed at the diversity of such a body of work, and yet each film is recognisably the work of Carpenter. While his last few offerings have been very disappointing (**Vampire\$, Memoirs of The Invisible Man**, **Village of The Damned**, **Escape From L.A.**, **In the Mouth of Madness**), his body of good work makes me sure that he still has some good films in him yet. If his films of late are the result of a tired, jaded or merely uninspired director, or

if they are the result of studio/producer interference is not clear. Should Carpenter never direct another great film his legacy will not be tarnished, such are his contributions to the field. It's hard to get your due when you make horror and SF movies, but those who study film without biases of genre understand Carpenter's importance to the history of cinema.

Ghosts Of Mars may be turn out to be terrible, or it may be a return to the calibre of his early work; either way I can't wait. Premise: It's 200 years in the future and we have colonised Mars, covering it with cities. But the ghosts of the long-dead Martians are rising, and possessing the minds of the colonists. (The titles to Carpenter films are nothing, if not direct.) Carpenter is directing, he and **Larry Sulkis** (Body Bags) wrote the screenplay and Carpenter and **Sandy King**, who has worked on many Carpenter films, are producing. **Columbia Pictures** are financing this project. Filming begins in March.

If anyone has any film projects that they would like me to investigate, please let me know. Hell, let me know if you love or hate Movie Mania, I'd love to know what people think. Email me at pale.hoffstein@gvrd.bc.ca or write a LOC to BCSFazine.



SF BOOK REVIEW

THE TERRORISTS OF IRUSTAN,

Louise Marley (Ace, June 1999)

Women on the fundamentalist colony planet, Irustan, are prisoners beneath layers of veils and behind the walls of their husband's houses. Forbidden even to talk men other than close family members, they are valued only for their roles as wives and mothers. But Zahra Ibsada is a rare exception. On a world where men want nothing to do with sickness or injuries, only women are trained as "medicants," and Zahra, wife of the chief director, is the best.

Having access to education and treating a wide assortment of patients has opened Zahra's eyes to the cruelties that so many women endure in silence, and has made her bitterly aware of her own inability to help them. But when the 14-year-old daughter of a close friend is betrothed to a man who killed his last two wives, Zahra is pushed to an act of desperation which will shatter her medicant's vows, endanger her immortal soul, and send a shockwave through Irustan society.

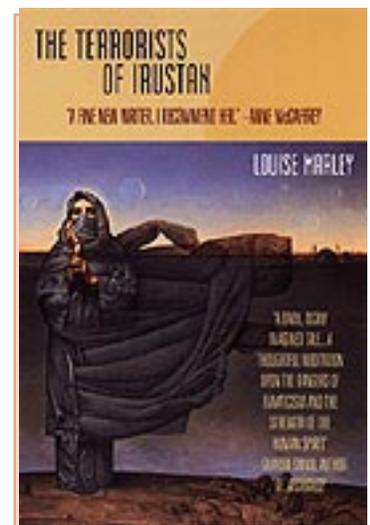
In writing *The Terrorists Of Irustan*, Louise Marley did considerable research on Islamic society and she uses the details to create a vivid and convincing city and people. In fact, it seems like a real city in the Middle East, with only the addition of a few alien animals, some medtech, and a space port instead of an oil company compound, where foreigners reside. But what the heck, Frank Herbert plundered from Arabia to create *Dune*, and Marley does a good job with Irustan, so I have no complaints.

Where I had trouble with this book was not the setting or the writing (which is very strong). My problem was Zahra, an Irustan woman who behaves like a secular liberal American who just happens to be wearing a veil. Zahra might credibly have developed radical opinions, but her gut reactions don't reflect the intense religious culture she has been immersed

in all her life. Zahra never turns a hair when seeing and doing things which should—at least initially—shock or frighten her. She does not appear to take her religion seriously. And she never defends or excuses her own culture, or indeed shows any great emotional attachment to her own family and society. (In contrast, in the novel *Halfway Human*, reviewed earlier this year, Carolyn Ives Gilman created a strikingly believable slave-owning society where everybody—even the slaves—defends their own horrible culture while simultaneously complaining about it.)

There are a few too many unexplained details, as well. Why hasn't Zahra's husband figured out that a medicant might not be getting pregnant because she is using birth control? Why don't any of Zahra's friends have more than three children at age 35, when they should have been popping them annually since age 14 or 15? And so on.

The plot of this novel is compelling, the characters are interesting, and the pace is good, so I ignored these implausible details for many pages, but the last few chapters overstrained my suspension of disbelief. Ultimately *The Terrorists Of Irustan*, although earnest and well written, failed on two levels—the plot was not credible in the context of the novel, and the portrayal of the culture lacked the complexity and contradictions of a real society.



The latest on Doctor Who.

As you know, the announcement on a **Dr. Who** feature film scheduled for November 13, 1999 didn't take place. Rumors say that *Impact Films* wanted to make it an action film with **Will Smith** as **The Doctor**, with an American director and writer. The *BBC* however wanted to keep true to the original series with a British actor (like **Patrick Stewart**) as The Doctor, along with a British director and writers. It was all down hill from there.

The *BBC* has been trying to turn **Dr. Who** into a theatrical film since late 1997, while still keeping the back door open for a possible new TV series.

More details on the failed deal with *HBO* are leaking out. *HBO* only became interested in the series and the whole **Family Time** concept after the Littleton, Colorado high school shooting. They were a part of the "put on more family friendly shows on television"



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frenzy. Rumors say that they liked **Dr. Who** much the way it is and that they could pick it up in the spring of 2002. *BBC* insiders are saying that the sponsoring corporations want to have a team of six child psychologists review each weeks script with a very fine toothed comb. As one of the insiders put it, they "would have turned **The Doctor into a time-traveling Teletubby.**"

Nevertheless, the *BBC* is very optimistic about **Dr. Who's** future. "It's no longer if **The Doctor** returns," said *BBC's* David Thompson, "but when **The Doctor** returns."

There are rumors that the *TARDIS* could emerge on A&E super station as soon as the fall of 2002 with no strings attached. That's if the new cable service The Information Channel (that will carry A&E's documentaries and news magazine series) is given the green light by the FCC. Other rumors making the rounds are that the *BBC* is now looking to Europe, where the series has recently become popular, for more international partners. This plan, however, calls for only twelve fifty-minute episodes (or six stories) per-season to be filmed in Britain and Europe. One rumor even said that the *BBC* will make some kind of announcement on a new series or feature film on New Year's Eve (and I have a certain bridge to sell you.).

As a Whofan, I feel that maybe the European deal will be the best hope for a new **Dr. Who** series. You know first hand what the Americans want to turn the series into. So maybe if the Americans are kept off the *TARDIS* (OK, an American companion is just fine, as long as he/she is played by a Canadian) the new series could turn out to be as great or better than the original.

New series or no new series, the *BBC* is planing a major **Dr. Who** blitz in America starting in the late spring with the Tom Baker episodes.

First, *BBC* America is moving the series ahead one hour to 8:00 PM ET (5:00 PM PT) on June 4th. They also hope to get a large number of PBS stations to air the series by cutting the licensing rights by up to 76%. Currently, the *BBC* charges \$500 (US) for each twenty-five minute episode. However, for stations purchasing or renewing the series' rights for broadcast after September 1st, the cost for the same episode will be \$300 (US), while a fifty minute episode (two twenty-five minute episodes put together) will be \$400 (US) and a one-hundred minute **Dr. Who** movie (or one whole story) will be \$500 (US). A station could also pick up five twenty-five minute episodes per-week for \$600 (US).

"We're hoping for the best." said Thompson. "In the mid 1980's, 169 PBS stations carried **Dr. Who**. It will be nice if some of them will sign up again." (Note: There has been a 7-10 year series drought in many major US markets.)



Now some bad news. *KCTS-9* isn't picking up **Dr. Who**, even at this lower cost since it has a mostly older audience. Sister station *KBTC* in Tacoma has the broadcasting rights for the series in Western Washington and will likely keep it. However, *Who* Fans in Southwestern BC will still find the series on *Space: TIS..* I have e-mailed *Space* and they said that they are looking into moving the series and changing its broadcast format, but didn't give me any more details. It's also unclear if the lower licensing rates will apply to independent cable stations in Canada.

Still it's mostly good news for *Who* Fans in North America.

Be seeing you in a little while folks. I'm taking a 1st year university course at SFU and have very little free time over the next few months. If I find any **Dr. Who** news in the meantime I'll pass it on.

Ray "Dr. Media"

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Continued from page 2.....

Potlatch 9 February 25-27, 2000, University Plaza Hotel, Seattle, Washington
New Rates: The membership rate for Potlatch 9 is still \$30, but the rate for the combined Potlatch 9/Corflu 2000 (Corflatch) has been increased. Also, supporting memberships are available. These rates are subject to change:
Potlatch 9 Only: \$30 (£18.75)
Corflatch: \$70 (£45.00)
Supporting Membership: \$10 (£6.50)
Clarion West/Potlatch 9: Send to: P. O. Box 31848 Seattle, WA 98103-1848.

Corflu 2000 March 3-5, 2000, University Plaza Hotel, Seattle, WA
Corflu Only: \$45 (£28.50)
"Carol Root/Corflu 2000" (if buying Corflu membership alone), or Potlatch 9/Clarion West (if buying both memberships); mail checks to P.O. Box 31848 Seattle, WA 98103-1848.

LepraCon will be held March 17-19, 2000 at the Wenatchee Doubletree Hotel. Guests of Honor include: Elizabeth Ann Scarborough, Betty Bigelow, Norma (W/Edgar) Barrett-Lincoln H.G. Wells (Dead Guest)
Prices: Pre-Registration is \$10.00 until the end of Norwescon (April 4th)
\$15.00 until end of Incon (Mid-October)
\$20.00 until end of RadCon (Feb 20th)
\$25.00 at the door
More information is available from:
LepraCon 2000, PMB #353, 2527 W. Kennewick Ave., Kennewick Wa 99336 (509) 943-6873

Sakura Con 2000 Mar. 31 - April 2, 2000
Guests: Doug Smith, Guest of Honor
Tristan MacAvery, Returning Guest
Tiffany Grant, Returning Guest
Doubletree Inn at Southcenter Mall, 205 Strander Boulevard Seattle, WA 98188
800.222.TREE [Toll Free]
206.246.8220 [Telephone]
206.575.4749 [Facsimile]
Memberships
\$25.00 until July 31, 1999
\$30.00 until December 31, 1999
\$35.00 until March 1, 2000
\$40.00 at the door
If you register as a guest at the Doubletree Inn at Southcenter for Sakura-Con, your memberships to Sakura-Con paid with Canadian dollars are the same price as US dollars. This rate is only effective if you book your hotel accommodations with the Doubletree inn at Southcenter. You must show proof of Canadian citizenship and hotel registration when you go to register at the convention or to pickup

your convention badge and booklet.
Note: Hotel or other fees will not have this exchange rate.
Sakura Con, PO Box 44976, Tacoma, WA 98444

Norwescon 23 April 20-23, 2000 Seatac, Washington
Guest of Honor - David Brin
Guest of Honor - Gregory Benford
Artist Guest of Honor - Barclay Shaw
Fan Guests of Honor - John and Bjo Trimble
Norwescon 23 Pre-Registration PO Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547
\$50.00 (US) until 17 March 2000
The Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel is the site of Norwescon 23. The hotel is located at 18740 International Blvd in Seatac, Washington. Room rates are \$94.00 per night for up to 4 people. There is a \$10.00 charge for an additional person. Call (206) 246-8600 for reservations. These rates are available for up to 3 days before and after the convention.

World Horror Con 2000 May 11-14, 2000
Guests: Peter Straub, Melanie Tem, Harlan Ellison, J. Michael Straczynski, Steve Rasnic Tem, Ellen Datlow, Dan Simmons
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For a limited time, WHC2000 memberships will cost \$75.00.
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Author GOH: Charles de Lint
Artist GOH: Brian Durfee
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CONduit Organizing Committee
PO BOX 11745
Salt Lake City, UT 84147-0745
U.S. Phone Number:
SLC: (801) 294-9297
Ogden: (801) 776-0164
Hotel: Salt Lake Airport Hilton, 5151 Wiley Post Way, Salt Lake International Center Salt Lake City, UT 84116
Telephone: 801-539-1515
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Miscon 2000 May- 26-28 2000
Guests: Jesse Marcel, Jr., Steve Jackson, Tom Smith
Memberships \$15 until end of 1999
Double Tree Hotel Edgewater 100 Madison (406) 728-3100 \$79/night
Miscon P.O. Box 7721 Missoula MT 59807 - www.miscon.org

Toronto Trek (TT2000) Convention July 14-16.
Guests Eric Stilwell, Larry Stewart
Hotel: Regal Constellation Hotel 900 Dixon Rd., Toronto, ON M9W 1J7
Memberships: \$40 for adults, \$20 for children. at the door, \$50 for adults, \$25 for children.
Contact: Suite 0116, Box 187, 65 Front Street West, Toronto, ON M5J 1E6 (416) 410-TCON
tcon@icom.ca
www.comm.ca/tcon/

Con-Version 17 Science Fiction and Fantasy Convention August 11-13, 2000
Calgary, Alberta, Canada Metropolitan Centre, 333 4th Avenue SW
Guests: Mike Resnick
GoH, Candis Jane Dorsey
CdnGoH, Julia Lacquement
Artist Guest, Thor Osborn
Science Guest, Michael McAdam
Toastmaster/FanGoH, Mike Dale
Con-Version is a scifi fantasy literary convention which hosts many author panels, dealers room, art show, hospitality suite, videos, costume contest, dance and more.
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Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington.
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(Special rate for our Canadian friends. \$20 CAN) until 12/31/1999





Buffy

the vampire slayer

