

# BCSFN Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#407

\$3.00

April 2007



“This Island Cheese” (T. Hammell)

## Contents

Newthinkers Unbellyfeel Trufandom (G.S.).....	1
FicDep / LoCs.....	2
Birthdays.....	6
Advertisements.....	7
Regular Monthly Events.....	8
BCSFA Calendar.....	10
George Lucas to Remake Star Wars (F. Walker).....	13
Prolefeed / News.....	14
A Case for the New Battlestar Galactica ().....	18
Media File (Ray Seredin).....	20
Book Reviews (Donna McMahon).....	22

**Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper**

BCSFAzine © April 2007, Volume 35, #4, Issue #407 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization.

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

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

BCSFAzine is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each. (Subscription/membership rates are given towards the end of this zine.

### This Month in BCSFA

- Thursday, Apr. 12 @ 7 p.m.: **April book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *The Chosen One* by E. Douglas Brown.
- Friday, Apr. 13: **BCSFAzine deadline** – see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #408
- Thursday, ? I forgot to get the Feeding Frenzy date and time again, didn't I? Shazbat! Mep!! Mep!! Unacceptable!!! Censorings!!!
- Saturday, Apr. 21: **BCSFA party/meeting** at 7 pm at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6
- Friday, Apr. 27: **BCSFAzine production** – distribution starts at FRED
- Saturday, Apr. 28 @ 7 p.m.: **Kaffeeklatsch**, our group exercise in hard-headed imagination, at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver; call 604-325-7314 or email garthspencer@shaw.ca for directions

### Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....Masthead  
Tim Hammell.....cover, pp. 14, 18, 22  
Jose Sanchez.....p. 5  
Felicity Walker.....p. 1

## Newthinkers Unbellyfeel Trufandom



Today, O my brothers, is a great day. Your brother in fandom has discovered his purpose in life.

I was pedding down the strad, viddying the ptitsas as they shed their winter garb (and very pneumatic some of them were), when it came to me as it were in a vision, why some vecks don't grok fandom no matter what you show them. Even if you uploaded your operating system in the late 50s, like your humble and obedient servant here, you access SF and fantasy and horror – and fan activities – as something on paper, books or zines or kipple like that. You bellyfeel text and word magic and puns and classical references. But now? A newthinker's contemporary operating system is several versions beyond that. You bellyfeel icon-driven, even multimedia fan activity, which is what the Mobeus Society is doing. (When they're not spelling creatively.)

I thought it were fannish to get a gang chanting “Not to walk on four legs: this is the Law. Are we not Fen?!” I didn't grok who I was dealing with. Not H.G. Wells readers. Not readers, mainly. Video fans: a whole other cranial environment.

I thought it were fannish to get a gang started with the old anarcho-syndicalist routine, or to pretend I had. Now I viddy the prolefeed saying that Conrad Black daydreams about a neocon paradise for him and his Anglophone nomenklatura, with no damn medicare and no damn social safety net. (People overhear him talking to himself like that all the time.) These are *both* pretty oldthink ideologies, actually; 19<sup>th</sup>-century, even.

Maybeso Trufandom is an oldthink, O my brothers, and my mission is to advocate for such an older cranial operating system. But you have to lead some vecks by the hand, step by step, to grok something so newthink to them.

So I have decided, O my brothers, to found the Anarcho-Fascist Party, and lead by example: give all you vecks some real horrorshow trufanac – pranks, hoaxes, satires and prolefeed – logjam the mundane cranial operating system, and show up nomenklatura like Mr. Black.

If enough vecks care to join me, we can branch out of fandom, and actually run candidates in mundania. We could promote Newthink and Newspeak. We could – dare I say it? – play winner-takes-all with the WORLD!! We are the Future!! ALL HAIL BIG BROTHER!!!

*(Garth is back on his medication and is feeling much better now.)*

## FicDep /Locs

---

*From the Honorable Minister of Delicate Instruments, Benjamin Péret, From Surrealist Games*

My dear friend,

Believe me that I was sincerely afflicted when I learned of the loss you have suffered: a steam-powered urinal is not easily replaced. Yours, which had among other peculiarities, the ability to sing the Marseillaise when in use, was certainly worthy of the esteem you bestowed upon it. So, it is easy for me to understand the despair that your sister felt when it became evident that the urinal was definitely lost. Nevertheless, from that to suicide is quite a step! And, although I know that many fond memories were associated with its possession, I cannot but spondem such a fatal resolve. But this censure does not prevent me from profoundly deploring her sad end. A suicide is always, for those close to the deceased, a tragic and agonising event; but when it is accomplished by the means of jam, one cannot be less than terrified. Never would I have believed that your sister could resolve to die embedded in a vat of jam! And yet, all those unlucky enough to befriend her knew of her most morbid attraction to jam, even in jars. Do you remember how she could not contain herself when she saw it with desserts, how she had to caress it before even serving herself? Numerous incidents of this nature should have aroused our suspicions; but, blind that we were, we never understood their profound significance. Nonetheless, I shiver at the thought of how her last moments must have been.

Please believe me that I share your pain and approve of your decision to banish jam from your life. This is a healthy reaction and I can only commend it from the bottom of my heart. It demonstrates your determination, and your courage in overcoming pain as well as your instinct for self-preservation. I am truly glad, that without jam, you do not, indeed, risk letting yourself be compelled to follow the example of your sister.

---

*Steve Forty, March 1, 2007*

Greg Slade wrote:

*“Fifteen people came out on February 23rd as Barb Dryer, Doug Finnerty, and Stephen Samuel took the hot seats to talk about BC.SFA: the British Columbia Science Fiction Association. The conversation covered apas, the BC.SFA Christmas Dinner, the BC.SFA mailing lists (old and new), BC.SFA Meetings/Parties, BC.SFAzine, Book Discussion, Feeding Frenzy, FRED, FRED, Gaming, Kaffeeklatsch, Norwescon, the NWSFS, RAINs, Relaxacons, Room Parties, VCons, W.C.S.F.A, and the web site (although not necessarily in that order.) We received regrets from Steve Forty, the founder of FRED, who has been battling the Altairian Flu.”*

I would like to report that Jo Anne McBride was the founder of FRED. Tom Waddell looked after the first book of FRED, and then did the second one, which he printed on each page Book of Fred, hand bound it and brought it to FRED for years. I was passed that second book of FRED at Expo 86 and looked after it until it was almost full, years later. Wendy (her last name escapes me at the moment-maybe Mihalatchi-sp?) donated the Nothing Book and set it up as the third book of FRED, which is the one I passed onto Ryan, and is still used today. The first FRED happened, I believe, in 1978 (I have an entry in the second - red - book of FRED) that reads something to the effect that on May 26th? 1979

it was the first anniversary of FRED. It was all part and parcel of the active group then that had club meetings, a full convention (VCON) and a relaxicon (Rain).

*((Mihalache is the name you're looking for.))*

---

Robert J. Sawyer, March 1, 2007

Hi, Garth. Thanks for another entertaining issue of *BCSFAZINE*, received today.

I wonder if you might mention in the next one that I will be reading from and signing my new novel *Rollback* at White Dwarf Books on Monday, April 30, at 7:00 p.m.

Robert J. Sawyer reads and signs from *Rollback*  
White Dwarf Books  
3715 West Tenth Avenue  
Vancouver, British Columbia  
Monday, April 30, 2007, 7:00 p.m.  
<http://www.deadwrite.com/wd.html>

Many, many thanks!

---

BCSFAZINEzine *Volume 1, Number 55.406, Monday 26 February 2007*

### **The Economy of Context**

I didn't understand it, though I think I would have found it interesting if more had been explained.

*((You didn't see the note at the end, I guess. Post-modern deconstructionism is not for understanding. It is not even for meaning anything. As Europeans know, and Americans generally don't know, pomo decon is a satirical art form, a sort of practical joke ... like most schools of economics, come to think of it.))*

### **LoCs - Felicity Walker:**

*"((Ub, yeah...that's how I'm producing everything these days. Didn't I say?))"* I didn't say you weren't doing that; I said it just occurred to me that I could do that.

*BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.*

---

*Tim Hammell hammell@telus.net, March 8, 2007*

Can your bodies stand the JOLTING SHOCKS,  
Can your minds stand the SHATTERING HORROR of  
Tim Hammell's RETURN TO BCSFAZINE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!?

Hi Garth,

Your really pathetic (as in a silent film orphan kind of way) note of need for illos and issue 405 arrived at my new address. Are there no whizzy kids doing illos on their whizzy computers that you have to resurrect the dead?

Last year's hospitalization for surgery kept me from contributing to #400. Belated congrats on that record. I had sent some illos a couple of years ago but suspect they got eaten by the mail since I didn't hear anything about them. I'll try this digital sending and may

be able to send more - a mix of old unseen stuff (I'm doing a massive scanning project now) with some new when there's time. One is attached – “This Island Cheese,” done for the 2006 LA Worldcon collector stickers.

Here's where I work as a sculptor, painter, designer: [www.studioycreations.com](http://www.studioycreations.com) and in fannish news, which you don't seem to have heard yet: the 2008 WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION is being held in Calgary.

((*Doubleplusgood! Real horrorshow!!*))

---

*Julian Castle [earthfurst@yahoo.ca], March 6, 2007*

1) In the editorial of *BCSFAzine* #402 (2006Nov), Garth wrote:

"Obviously I need help, to correct mistakes like this. How can I share the editing work?"

At a recent FRED, I suggested to Garth that a wiki (or something similar) would be a way to make *BCSFAzine* editing a team effort.

I'm hoping there might be a wiki/wiki-ish route where the zinewiki material being edited is displayed as it would appear in *BCSFAzine* (in terms of size and formatting).

Some definitions of wiki at <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/wiki>

2) Thank you Greg Slade for the monthly calendar grid.

3) Thank you Garth for various things including the memberships section in *BCSFAzine*.

---

*Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, March 17, 2007*

It's the evening of St. Patrick's Day, and as the conjunction of gallons of beer and a Saturday night promise a mad evening and a province-wide hangover, I shall stay at home, safe, warm and sober, and writing locs. I have some things to say about *BCSFAzine* 406.

Well...that opening article is quite long and detailed, and I'm not sure what to say about it, but... What?? It sure looks impressive, and vaguely SFnal, but good thing I saw that final footnote, proving to myself that I'm not an idiot, but a keen BS detector.

My loc...I finally have my new glasses, and it's great to have clear vision for the first time since December.

Ad Astra '07 took place at the beginning of March, and as always, it was a fun time for all. I found I was suffering from concom withdrawal symptoms, mostly because I was busy being there, and not actually managing part of the con. I decided not to return to the committee, but to provide the committee with lots of ideas about fresh programming, especially panels that I could participate in. Now to see if they like what I can offer, and if I've giving them some new direction. I'm giving them ideas in the areas of blogging and webcomics.

I said I'd be able to tell you the results of the FAAn Awards, and here they are...

Best Fanzine:	<i>Banana Wings</i>
Best Fan Writer:	Claire Brialey
Best Fan Artist:	Dan Steffan
Best Letterhack:	Lloyd Penney
Best New Fanzine Fan:	Teresa Cochran

So you can tell that I'm a happy guy.

*March 18, 2007:*

The computer I got some months ago now had Open Office pre-installed on it, but I had recommended to me something called PrimoPDF. I might just try to use it if I try my hand at a zine again...then again, Bill Burns, the good fellow who runs eFanzines.com, would probably be willing to convert your zine to a .pdf file.

Sheryl Birkhead mentions what fans want...I've been to so many conventions over the past few years with its entire programming package somehow tailored to the assumption that we all have a novel or short story on the go. I try to tell them we're not all wannabe SF authors, but they can't think of general fannish and/or fun programming. This is where I have to help them...

I've got some work coming up at two separate trade shows over the next week and a half, and one of those shows has none other than Donald Trump attending. So, I have a few more days of relative freedom, and then, the shows come up, and I'm gone until the week after. Take care, all, and I'll see you next issue.



Phoenix, by Jose Sanchez

## Birthdays

- 2: **Bob Wilson** (aka The Goat with a Thousand Young, role model for Austin Powers)
- 7: **Lance Munro** (aka The Pobble Who Has No Toes, superhero protector of disabled pedestrians)
- 13: **Marilyn Blew** (aka "Dot" Matrix)
- 14: **Lea Rush** (aka The Good Witch of the West)
- 15: **Frederika Witherspoon-Li** (aka the Intrepid Uniped)
- 16: **John Mullock** (aka Bicycle Repairman)
- 16: **Patrick Kernaghan** (aka Lame Thief of the Waingunga, gifted with the power to find that last reference book you hoped *no-one* would find, so you could finish the damned thesis on time)
- 24: **Rhea Rose** (aka the Wordslinger, fastest poet west of the Red River)
- 26: **William Blew** (aka Norman French)
- 27: **Michael/Dani Dezotell** (aka the Yankee Clippers, the most dangerous hairstylists in Washington State)
- ? **Ken Dawe** (aka the Giant Rat of Sumatra)
- 27: **Joe Devoy**: (aka the Chicken of Bristol) The putative love child of the Green Goblin and Linda Hunt, "Joe Cool" enjoys drive-by sketchings, moonlit walks through abandoned warehouse districts, and plotting to take over the world. All Hail Emperor Joe! Become my willing thralls!
- ?: **Laida Candle** - Inventor of the Birthday
- ?: **Herbal T** - Vegetarian rapper
- ?: The Late **Tarry Overlong**
- ?: **Dan Druff** - Head and Shoulders founder
- ?: **Moe Juiced** - Famed raconteur

## Advertisements

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

### **MICHAEL'S BOOKS**

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

### **IMPERIAL HOBBIES**

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

### **WRIGLEY-CROSS BOOKS**

PMB 455  
2870 NE Hogan Road, Suite E  
Gresham OR 97030  
Phone (503) 667-0807  
Toll Free (877) 694-1467

### **DRAGONFLY MUSIC**

106 Harrison Village Mall  
196 Esplanade (Box 118)  
Harrison Hot Springs, BC, V0M 1K0 Tel.  
604-796-9289

### **And the following do not:**

*BCSFAzine* is on sale at  
WHITE DWARF BOOKS  
3715 W. 10th Avenue  
tel. 604-228-8223 for hours

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

### **Kate Smith's catalogue**

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

### **Garth Spencer's catalogue**

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

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

## Regular Monthly Events

### Weekly Events

#### Monday

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

#### Tuesday

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

#### Thursdays

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

#### Fridays

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

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

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

#### Saturday

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

### Fortnightly Events

Every Second Monday

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

Second Tuesday

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

Second Wednesday

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

Second Thursday

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

**METROTOWN WRITERS GROUP** is open to new members. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For information call Ken, 604-582-5751 email [ktranz83@vcn.bc.ca](mailto:ktranz83@vcn.bc.ca)

Third Wednesday

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

Last Wednesday

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

**Royal Astronomical Society of Canada:** Prince George Centre (<http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/>) meets on the last Wednesday of the month from August to November and January to May from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Prince George Astronomical Observatory (20 km South West of Prince George near West Lake on Tedford Road.)

Topics of discussion include astronomy viewing tips, constellations, star charts, photography and much more. The meetings are informal and visitors are welcome.

## BCSFA Calendar

### April 2007

April 1: **April Fool's Day**: An ancient pagan celebration in which modern urbanites pull pranks and otherwise act like idiots. Rarely observed now.

April 5: release of *The Reaping* in a theatre near you. (Another Apocalypse-inspired horror movie.)

April 5 - 8: **Norwescon 30** at the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport in SeaTac, Washington (described as the premiere northwest regional general science fiction convention). Writer GoH: Kim Stanley Robinson; Artist GoH: Luis Royo; Science GoH: Donna Shirley; Spotlight Publisher: Gordon Van Gelder (publisher of F&SF magazine). Features multi-track programming, and distinguished by the Philip K. Dick Memorial Award. For reservations phone 1-800-222-TREE. Norwescon, PO Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-6547; info 206-270-7850; [www.norwescon.org/portal/](http://www.norwescon.org/portal/)

April 6 - 8: **SakuraCon 2007** at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center in Seattle, Washington (an anime-comics-gaming convention, sponsored by ANCEA). There is more than one participating hotel, and the Hotel Liaison is strict about room occupancy. Memberships \$35 Friday, \$35 Saturday, \$30 Sunday, \$60 for the full weekend, at the door. Canadian members can buy memberships at the US equivalent of these numbers in Canadian dollars. See [www.sakuracon.org](http://www.sakuracon.org)

April 9: **Easter** (Monday): An ancient pagan celebration named for a forgotten fertility goddess, observed by commercial interests in terms of eggs and rabbits for some reason. A strained relationship is alleged to a first-century Near Eastern stump preacher and mystic.

April 22: **Vancouver Comicon**: For more information about this show, please email [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@uniserve.com) or call 604-322-6412 Leonard S Wong  
<http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

April 29: **Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo**, Roundup Centre, Calgary, AB. Guests: Lou Ferrigno, Robert Picardo, Tiffany Grant, Ray Park, Eric Powell, Humberto Ramos, Brad Swaile, the 404s, many more. Admission: \$10 pre-reg, \$15 at the door. For more information, [www.calgaryexpo.com](http://www.calgaryexpo.com).

### May 2007

May 12: **Vancouver Pop Culture Collectibles Fair**, Croatian Cultural Centre, Vancouver, BC. Admission: Free. Hours: 10am-4pm. For more information, [www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99/](http://www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99/) .

May 18-20: **Keycon 2007**, Radisson Hotel Winnipeg, Winnipeg, MB. Science fiction convention. Guests: Richard Herd, Kevin J. Anderson, Rebecca Moesta, L.A. Williams, The Dust Rhinos. Memberships: \$45 until April 30, more at the door. For more information, [www.keycon.org](http://www.keycon.org) .

May 19 & 20 - **Astronomi-Con 2007 Vancouver**, Isabel MacInnes Lounge University of British Columbia, 5959 Student Union Blvd. Vancouver, BC. Astronomi-con is a Warhammer 40,000 gaming tournament held in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto. Admission: \$80. For more information, [www.astronomi-con.com](http://www.astronomi-con.com).

May 19 – 20: **OtaFest** at the McEwan Hall & Science Theatres on the University of Calgary campus, Calgary, Alberta, Canada (Anime film fest); see [www.otafest.com](http://www.otafest.com)

May 20: **Eugene Comic Book and Collectible Show** in Eugene, Oregon (Comics) – their website has expired

May 21: **Victoria Day**: An ancient pagan celebration of a dead British monarch, known for her stuffiness.

May 28? **Memorial Day**: A remembrance of those who died valiantly on the orders of safe and secure general military officers, in order to advance the interests of career bureaucrats and American plutocrats, while believing they were defending the freedom and security of the United States.

## June 2007

June 2: **Vancouver Pop Culture Collectibles Fair**, Croatian Cultural Centre, Vancouver, BC. Admission: Free. Hours: 10am-4pm. For more information, see [www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99/](http://www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99/) .

June 3: **Vancouver Comicon**: For more information about this show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call Leonard S Wong at 604-322-6412

June 8 - 10: **ConComCon 14** at the Holiday Inn Seattle, Seatac, Washington (a conrunners convention with emphasis on the northwest, sponsored by the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee). Topic: "So you want to run a convention." Rooms: Holiday Inn Seattle, 17338 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington 98188; P (206) 248-1000 or 1-800-465-4329; rates 94/note, single to quad. Preregistration: \$25 to May 31, \$35 at the door. Concomcon 14 c/o SWOC, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111.

June 14: **St-Jean-Baptiste Day**: Until recent years, a major civic holiday in Quebec and an expression of the chronic fantasy that French Canada can and should form a separate nation-state. Rather less celebrated now than in former days.

June 22 - 29: **SeaTrek 2007**, a Northwest Coast cruise leaving from and returning to Seattle, WA on The Vision of the Seas, featuring numerous media SF guests. Suites \$1,899 per person for an outside cabin, \$2,399 per person for a balcony suite, \$2,499 for assorted suites. [www.scifi-cruises.com](http://www.scifi-cruises.com)

June 3: **Vancouver Comicon**: For more information about this show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call Leonard S Wong at 604-322-6412

June 28 - 30: **Writers Weekend 2007** in Seattle, Washington (Writer intensive gathering) see [www.writersweekend.com](http://www.writersweekend.com)

## July 2007

**Roscoe Day:** In the fannish religion of Roscoecism, Roscoe, a squirrel or chipmunk and the protector of all faneditors everywhere, is observed on Westercon weekend flying his spaceship.

July 6 - 9: **Westercon 60** at the San Mateo Marriott in San Mateo, California (A general regional SF convention that rotates between cities in the western North America). This year's theme: "Gnomeward Bound." Writer GoH: Tad Williams; ArtGoH: Theresa Mather; FanGoH: Christian McGuire; TM: Jay Lake. The San Mateo Marriott offers free parking, hi-speed Internet access, \$99/nite single to quad occupancy, \$119/nite for king suites with a parlour; phone (650) 653-6000. Memberships range from \$30 supporting to \$70 attending until March 31. Westercon 60/Gnomeward Bound, PO Box 60817, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0817, U.S.A.

July 14 (10am -): **The Cybertronian Conference** of 2007, the Pacific Northwest's own Unofficial Transformers Collectors Convention (CYBCON 2007 for short) at the King Oscar Motel and Convention Center Tacoma at 8820 and 8726 South Hosmer, Tacoma, Washington 98444. Like last year, CybCon 2007 will cover a vast 75'x39' room, pushing 3000 square feet of Transformer collecting fun! As always, there will be dealers, contests, games, videos, and fun for all ages. We're continuing the Kid categories for the contests and will offer a place to showcase Transformers art. Everything you need to know to register for CYBCON 2007 can be found here: <http://www.ggaub.com/tf/cybcon2k7.html>

July 21: release of *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, at any bloodsucking bookstore franchise near you

July 26-29: **Fragapalooza '07**, Mayfield Trade Centre, Edmonton, AB. Gaming convention/LAN party. Memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.fragapalooza.com](http://www.fragapalooza.com).

July 27 - 29: 9:00 AM to 8PM. Each day - **BC Renaissance Festival** at 26770 29 Avenue, Aldergrove B.C. BC V4W 3B8. See <http://www.bcrenfest.com/>

July 27 - 29: **MerpCon III** in Spokane, Washington (role playing gaming convention dedicated to J.R.R. Tolkien's Middle-earth); tel (509) 481-5437; email [webmaster@merpcon.org](mailto:webmaster@merpcon.org); URL <http://merpcon.merp.com>.

July 30 – August 5: **Timeless Destinations** in the Best Western Richmond Convention Centre, Richmond, BC (a multi media convention, with an emphasis on *Stargate SG-1*, formerly known as Gatecon; details for dates will be updated as soon as their new web site goes into effect). Guests: Alan van Sprang, Andrew Jackson, Dean Aylesworth, Elle Dubin, Fulvio Cecere, Gareth von Kallenbach, Jeff Hirschfield, Kaj-Erik Eriksen, Michael McManus, Nathaniel Arcand, Richard Kahan, Rick Faraci, Sarah-Jane Redmond, William B.

Davis, Zack Ward.; “tickets” offered at US\$250 – that is not a typo – but apparently only online, as there is no discoverable address at [www.timelessdestinations.com](http://www.timelessdestinations.com)

## August 2007

August 3 - 6: **Fandemonium** at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa, Idaho (General SF and fantasy with strengths in gaming, anime, comics and much more). The hotel is the Days Inn Nampa, near the Center (130 Shannon Dr., Nampa, ID 83687, tel 1-877-442-0217).

Memberships range from \$15 for one day (for youth or seniors) up to \$30 for three days (adult); mail to Fandemonium, attn: Registration, PO Box 701, Middleton, ID 83644. See [www.Fandemonium.org](http://www.Fandemonium.org)

August 10 - 12 : **Animethon 14**, Grant McEwen College, Edmonton, AB. Anime convention. Guests and memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.animethon.org](http://www.animethon.org).

August 17-19: **Anime Evolution**, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, BC. Guests & memberships: TBA. For more information, [www.animeevolution.com](http://www.animeevolution.com).

## October 2007

Oct. 19-21: **VCon 32/Convention 27** at the Radisson President Hotel, 8181 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC. Writer GoH: TBA. Artist GoH: Martin Springett. Gaming GoH: Lisa Smedman. Convention GoH: TBA. TM: Michael Walsh (also Convention liaison). Memberships: free to children 6 and under, \$20 for children 7-12, \$30 for students, \$40 for adults until May 15; \$25 for children 7-12, \$37.50 for students, \$50 for adults to October 1; \$30 for children 7-12, \$45 for students, \$60 for adults after October 1. 1-day memberships are also available. All can be paid by PayPal. Write VCon 32, Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1, or see [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca)

## George Lucas to Remake ‘Star Wars’

LOS ANGELES—At a gala press conference, George Lucas announced today that he is planning to remake the original *Star Wars* trilogy for a limited-edition DVD release. “The use of CGI enhancement in the Special Editions has brought the films closer to my vision of them, but it’s still not close enough.” Lucas asked audiences to think of the 2004 Special Editions as the “rough cut” and the upcoming remakes as the “final cut,” adding “the 35 million DVDs of the Special Editions out there will only last another hundred years or so, and after that, the only version of the movie that anyone will remember is the one I’ve reinvented. The other versions will disappear as soon as ILM finds a way to edit fans’ memories of them. Sure, the procedure will be painful and expensive but I think fans will be willing to do it to make sure they’ve got the official, canonical memories of the *Star Wars* saga.”

(a Felicity Walker revelation)



## Prolefeed / News

### REAL NEWS (VCON, AURORA NOMINATIONS, ETC.):

By mid-March 2007, **VCon 32/Convention 2007** had its venue secured, a mailing address advertised, its flyers in production and its progress report distributed.

Also, Dennis Mullin's website now has an **Aurora Awards nominations ballot** available in PDF format.

We await word of whose work can be nominated for 2007 Aurora Awards. Garth belatedly took a stab at collecting 2006 titles, but he's still working on it.

(No word from Brian Davis on **2007 CUFF nominations** either, yet.)

*Neo-opsis* has been nominated for a 2007 Aurora award in the "best work English other" category. the Auroras are annual awards for Canadian f & sf, and are presented at Convention. This year, Convention is a part of VCON 32, and the awards banquet will be a Sunday brunch.

- Susan Walsh to VCon news list, 16 March 2007

### *FRED News*

Ryan Hawe writes: "[W]ith an eye to shaping FRED's course over Spring (and beyond) ... I'm hoping that people can bring some more ideas. ... You know the drill: Boston Pizza, 1333 West Broadway (@ Hemlock) Starting at 8:30, going until whenever we get too tired. We shall see just when that is....

"For all my talk of needing to build more, though, I'd just like to take a moment to thank all of you who've come in to my iteration of FRED. Through your support, we've

come a long way in the fall and winter. The time was that four attendees was our maximum, now it is a modest-but-average turnout.

“And while I've lobbied, made flyers, had ideas, and even co-organized a con pub night, all of that doesn't mean much if nobody shows. So to all who've come, to all who are coming, I salute you. You're more about FRED than I am. “

Ryan Hawe, March 1, 2007

## *WCSFA MEETING MINUTES*

Annual General Meeting - February 18, 2007  
at 6837 Station Hill Drive, Burnaby

Executive Members in attendance:

Clint Budd, President

Donna McMahon, Treasurer

Graeme Cameron, Archivist

Danielle Stephens, VCON 32 chair

Deej Barends, Member at Large

Christina Carr, Member at Large

Clayten Hamacher, Member at Large

Tammie Hamacher, Member at Large

Other members: Tatina Osokin, Keith Lim, Ray Seredin, Josette Kernaghan, Howard Cherniack, Linda Earl, Chad Ma, Pauline Walsh, Michael Walsh, Susan Walsh, Edmund Yee, Chilam

Meeting was called to order at 1:20 pm.

1. MOTION: Moved to approve the minutes of October 8/06 (meeting at Vcon) and Dec. 17/06 (Special meeting). Moved by Donna. Seconded by Linda. Passed unanimously.

2. The Treasurer presented the VCON31 final financial statement, showing a surplus of \$2727.70.

MOTION: Moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Moved by Howard. Seconded by Deej. Passed unanimously.

3. Danielle gave a verbal VCON 32 Progress Report. The GoH they invited has declined so they are still searching for a GoH, but they have an Art GoH. The person at the Richmond Radisson who is responsible for negotiating the contract went on vacation, so the contract is still not signed. Josette raised several blind accessibility issues (guide dog relief, braille on signage, orientation).

MOTION: Moved to accept the VCON32 Report. Moved by Danielle. Seconded by Graeme. Passed unanimously.

4. The chair proposed striking four temporary subcommittees and asked for volunteers:
- i) Constitutional Change - Clint, Graeme, Linda, Clayton
  - ii) Inventory/Storage - Jason
  - iii) Display Cabinet - Martin, Keith
  - iv) Contact (other fan groups) -

MOTION: Moved to accept the creation of these four committees. Moved by Clint. Seconded by Graeme. Passed unanimously.

5. Announcements:

i) The Calgary Westercor is giving WCSFA a \$800 grant. It was suggested that the grant might suitably be put towards CanVention programming or guests. Danielle agreed to come up with a proposal for using the funds and bring it to the next WCSFA meeting.

ii) Clint has the new WCSFA site up. Feedback is solicited.

6. The WCFSA/VCON bank account was discussed. There is currently about \$9,000 in the account and some of it should be put aside in a GIC.

MOTION: That the treasurer be authorized to move money into GICs from the current account at her discretion. Moved by Howard. Seconded by Linda. Passed unanimously.

7. Although we held a WCSFA AGM at VCON in October, this is not practical because our fiscal year doesn't end until December 31, and we need a final report from our major function (VCON). Under the Societies Act, an AGM should be held within 60 days of the society's fiscal year end. Therefore, the AGM should be in January or February.

MOTION: That the WCFSA AGM be moved to within 60 days of the end of our fiscal year. Moved by Clint. Seconded by Howard. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: That we bring forward the executive (elected at VCON) and hold a new election in 2008. Moved by Donna. Seconded by Graeme. Passed unanimously.

*Note: Toren Atkinson has resigned, so the executive currently consists of: Clint, Marie, Donna, Graeme, Danielle, Dee, Christina, Palle, Clayton, Tammie, Eva and Kristina.*

8. A motion to give free VCON memberships to attendants of disabled persons was tabled. This is a VCON decision, not a WCSFA matter, so it was passed to VCON as advice.

9. Other Organizations: Christina gave a brief report on the Renaissance Fair scheduled for July 27-29 in Aldergrove. Ed discussed possible cross-programming with Anime Evolution.

10. It was generally agreed that VCON should have a permanent mailing address (PO box) and phone number, and that since these are ongoing, WCFSA should pay for them.

Pauline has put us on a waiting list for a PO box near the Broadway skytrain station, and Susan is researching voicemail options.

MOTION: That the WCFSA pay for the VCON post office box on an annual basis. Moved by Pauline. Seconded by Tammie. Passed unanimously.

MOTION: That WCFSA, on behalf of VCON, get a permanent phone number with voicemail. Moved by Susan. Seconded by Pauline. Passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 pm.

### BC RENFEST PROGRESS

“Just a heads up, folks. We have a new volunteer group where you can go and introduce yourself to department heads in order to volunteer for the Renfest. You can find it at: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/BCRFstaff/>

“Hope to see some of you there.

Just for your reference:

Volunteers and staff: [staff@bcrenfest.com](mailto:staff@bcrenfest.com)

Stage and wandering performers: [entertainment@bcrenfest.com](mailto:entertainment@bcrenfest.com)

Ensemble/Storyline cast: ensemble@bcrenfest.com  
Sponsors: sponsors@bcrenfest.com  
Security/Lost and Found: security@bcrenfest.com  
Food and Drink Vendors: food@bcrenfest.com  
“Anything else?”  
info@bcrenfest.com

Christina Carr & Martin Hunger, Feb. 26 & 27, 2007

### BIFFNESS

Fifteen people came out for the second in BIFF's "Introduction to Local Fandom" series, as Stan Hyde brought a selection of his model collection, and talked about Monster Attack Team - Canada, how it got started, what MATC members do, and when and where they meet. Then, he regaled us with some of his gruesome tales of modelling-related injuries. (Ask him to talk about first aid tips sometime...) Then, a bunch of us went up the street to Blenz for BIFF Part II.

Looking ahead, we've been having so much fun with the writing challenges that we're going to do it again on Friday March 30th. This time, the rules are that the story must be science fiction, must contain the words "April" and "fool" (although not necessarily together, nor in that order), and must contain a bird.

Greg Slade, 14 March 2007

### GOTH HOUSE

“Some of you, who actually check the *Goth House* site when I don't send out the e-mail, already know that I drew a picture of some bats and put it up on the *Goth House* site: <http://www.gothhouse.org/>

“It is now up for voting at Threadless.com, in the "Seed Magazine" contest. If you like the image, or Threadless, or if you're just bored and looking for something to do at lunch, you can go there and vote for it: [http://www.threadless.com/submission/111650/Diaemus\\_Youngi\\_White\\_Winged\\_Vampir\\_e\\_Bat](http://www.threadless.com/submission/111650/Diaemus_Youngi_White_Winged_Vampir_e_Bat)”

“If enough people rate it high enough, it means that Threadless makes the shirt. Also, I might win stuff, but really, the thing I care about is 1. Wider exposure for the image, and the species, than *Goth House* alone would get, and 2. I don't have to make and store the t-shirts myself.

“This second consideration is also true of Cafepress, but, Threadless makes \*much nicer\* shirts than Cafepress, and they are also cheaper.”

Julie McGalliard, March 1, 2007

### WHY VAST LUMBERING BEHEMOTHS COME TO OUR LANDS TO LEAVE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION IN THEIR WAKE:

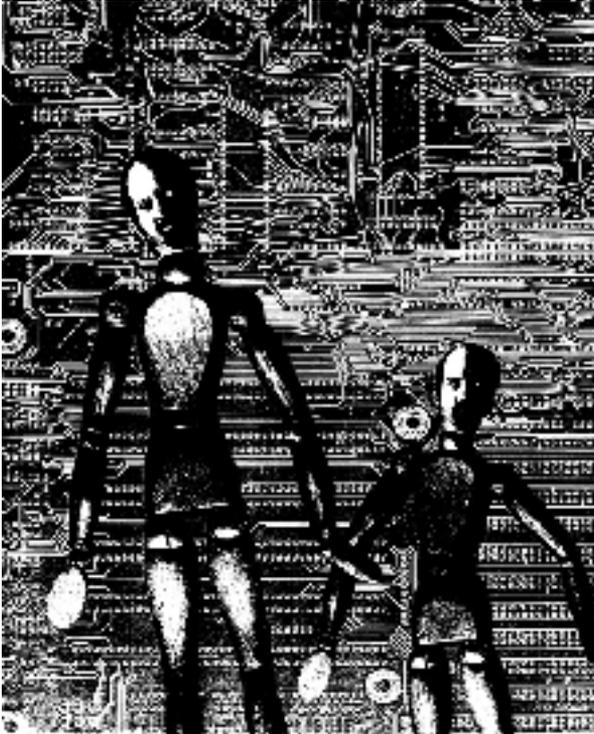
“Seattle is putting together a bid for the 2011 World Science Fiction Convention. Bobbie [Dufault] heads the bid committee. Worldcons are set two years out so the site will be determined in 2009. The 2009 bidders are Kansas City and Montreal with voting at Nippon 2007.”

Dave Anderson to Friends of the Okal Rel Universe email list, Feb. 26, 2007

## USS THERMOPYLAE MAKEOVER

The web site, [www.ussthermopylae.org](http://www.ussthermopylae.org) has been updated to include the Thermopylae movie from Peter Christian. Enjoy! (Click on the image of the Intrepid Class starship.)

Joe Fuller, Feb. 25, 2007



“timbots” by Tim Hammell

## A Case for the New Battlestar Galactica

The Charge:

Visiting the Sins of the Father Upon the Son, or in other words, not watching the new *Battlestar Galactica* because you didn't like the old version

Attorney Presenting: Valorie Hoye, Organizer of **The 13<sup>th</sup> Colony**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Jury, as I present the case for why you should watch the new *Battlestar Galactica*, you should know that I have a hidden agenda. If you're already a fan, then you already guessed that. The new *Galactica* is full of nuance and shades of gray. Every character is a mix of good and evil. At least I'm warning you in advance.

*Galactica* has come a long way since the original incarnation hit the airwaves in 1979. Gone are the cheap production values and questionable acting that was considered to be the best expected of sci-fi programming at that time. The original had its charm, certainly. The

concept was intriguing and the characters were engaging. I had a terrible crush on Starbuck. I desperately wanted one of those brown suede Colonial uniforms. I still count an action figure of Muffit the robotic daggit as one of my cherished possessions.

But my allegiance has shifted. The 're-imagined' version of *Galactica* from producers David Eick and Ronald D. Moore isn't just the best sci-fi show on television; it may be the best show, period. Produced by Sci-Fi Channel in the US and airing on Space in Canada, the show has won a Peabody award, been honoured by the American Film Institute as a "triumph of television" and won several Saturn awards. The special effects department alone has won a raft of awards and deservedly so. As one of my friends said recently, "Finally, they get the concept of flying in zero gravity!"

As with the original 'wagon train to the stars' concept, humanity is still on the run from the Cylons, but now the threat comes not just from without, but within. Cylons can look human, so it is unclear who can be trusted. Even human characters often treat each other with realistic cruelty rather than conveniently dramatic nobility. The fleet has been on the run for months. Some of the survivors have discovered new sources of strength and new hope for a future in which Cylons and humans can coexist, while others have found only struggle and death.

Not since *Star Trek* has a science fiction show dared to draw such close parallels with the issues society is facing today. Racism, religious intolerance, treatment of prisoners in war and moral authority to govern are all themes that have been addressed by our governments in recent years and they have also been woven into *Galactica*.

The cast is up to the challenge of such weighty material. Edward James Olmos and Mary McDonnell are the anchors but the ensemble has no weak links. Tricia Helfer's sexy Cylon is the stereotypical hot sci-fi babe, but there are many copies of her character and the subtlety of her performance never leaves the audience with any doubt as to which incarnation we are watching. Local Vancouver actors such as Grace Park, Tahmoh Penikett and Aaron Douglas do more than hold their own.

I don't just want to convince you the show is one of the best on television; I want you to get involved. The new *Galactica* is one of the most poorly marketed sci-fi shows in recent memory. There is very little advertising. The timeslot has shifted. There are few toys or collectibles. Extra content from Sci-Fi Channel's website is available only to US residents. That it has succeeded thus far is due only to the quality of the show and the fervent admiration it inspires in its fans.

But now is a good time to start watching. The third season wraps up on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Sci-Fi has given the green light to a fourth season of *Galactica* and a guarantee of at least 13 episodes, but it won't air until January 2008. You have time to catch up. The producers are also working on a TV movie to air during the hiatus, which will tell a story out of sequence with the season end cliffhanger. Word is also expected this Spring on the fate of **Caprica**, a spin-off series which would be set many years prior to the attack on the colonies, and which will mark a dramatic change in tone from *Galactica*.

So, Members of the Jury, have I presented a good enough case? There is no better evidence than the show itself. Give it a chance. *Battlestar Galactica* will air in re-runs on Space and CityTV through the summer. The DVDs are available to rent. Someone you know may already own them. Someone you know may already be a member of **The 13<sup>th</sup> Colony**.

So now we get to the crux of my argument. In January of 2007, a group of *Battlestar Galactica* fans in Vancouver formed a fan club. According to the mythology behind *Galactica*, thirteen tribes set out from Kobol. Twelve of them founded the twelve colonies that the Cylons destroyed. The 13<sup>th</sup> tribe left in search of Earth. We're on Earth, and the show is

made right here, so we chose the name **The 13<sup>th</sup> Colony**. We're a new club, but growing rapidly. Our first event was a coffee & chat gathering of twenty people, from which came our current motto, "We found Earth, but where can we find coffee?!" We meet once a month and our plans for the future include viewing marathons and visits to some of the locations around the Lower Mainland seen on the show.

If you want more information about **The 13<sup>th</sup> Colony**, our website is <http://battlestargalactica.meetup.com/16/>

If you are Cylon sympathizer or colonial supporter, fan of the new show or the old, you are welcome to join us. Just don't mention that 1980 one within my hearing.

"So Say We All!" (No, we don't say that at all the meetings...)

The website is: <http://battlestargalactica.meetup.com/16/>

The name of the club is: The 13th Colony, Vancouver's Battlestar Galactica Fan Club

## Media File

### *MICHAEL RENNIE IS ILL*

The Day the Earth Stood Still Being Remade for 2008--Confirmed!

Apparently Box Office Mojo, the best website for all things box office earnings, has updated their schedule for summer 2008 and included a listing of *The Day the Earth Stood Still* to open on May 9th, 2008 (one week after *Iron Man*). The original is a sci-fi classic 1951 movie about an alien and a robot that land on Earth to try and save the world from being destroyed. IMDB doesn't even have a listing for this remake, but Box Office Mojo claims it's being produced by Fox, fast-tracked for a spot in 2008's busy summer.

Update: Fox confirmed with us that this is true and the date is correct, meaning a *The Day the Earth Stood Still* remake is definitely underway for summer 2008!

by Alex Billington, February 21, 2007

Posted by: "Felicity Walker" Feb 24, 2007

Ray Sereдин, Feb. 24, 2007

### *DOCTOR WHO: SEASON 3 STORIES TITLE.*

From Outpost Gallifrey:

"The latest issue of *Doctor Who Magazine* announces three new Series Three titles.

Confirming earlier speculation, the first instalment of Paul Cornell's two-part story is entitled *Human Nature* and is based upon the earlier novel published by Virgin. Steven Moffat's episode is entitled *Blink*, while part one of Russell T Davies' two-part season ender is entitled *The Sound of Drums*

"The following is a recap of the Series Three episodes known so far:

1. *Smith and Jones* by Russell T. Davies, directed by Charles Palmer
2. *The Shakespeare Code* by Gareth Roberts, directed by Charles Palmer
3. *Episode 3* by Russell T. Davies, directed by Richard Clarke
4. *Daleks in Manhattan* (part one) by Helen Raynor, directed by James Strong
5. *Episode 5* (part two) by Helen Raynor, directed by James Strong
6. *The Lazarus Experiment* by Stephen Greenhorn, directed by Richard Clarke
7. *42* by Chris Chibnall, directed by Graeme Harper

8. Human Nature (part one) by Paul Cornell, directed by Charles Palmer
9. The Family of Blood by Paul Cornell, directed by Charles Palmer
10. Blink by Stephen Moffat, directed by Hettie MacDonald
11. Utopia by Russell T. Davies, directed by Graeme Harper
12. The Sound of Drums (part one) by Russell T. Davies, directed by Colin Teague
13. Episode 13 (part two) by Russell T. Davies, directed by Colin Teague.

The new series of *Doctor Who* will hit the air either March 31 or April 7 on BBC1.

"Ray\_Dr. Media\_Seredin" Feb 27, 2007

The CBC, in a short statement to The Doctor Who Information Network, has informed us that:

1) SERIES III will be airing in the summer of 2007. June to be exact. An official start date and time was not provided, but we assume that it will continue along in the Monday night 8pm time slot.

2) THE RUNAWAY BRIDE "may air" this summer also. Again, I assume it would precede the SERIES III premiere.

and finally

3) *Torchwood* will air in the FALL of 2007. Once again the assumption is that it will air AFTER Series III's run has concluded.

Unfortunately there was no word on Series 2 repeats. For more information on Doctor Who in Canada as it developers please continue to visit us here!

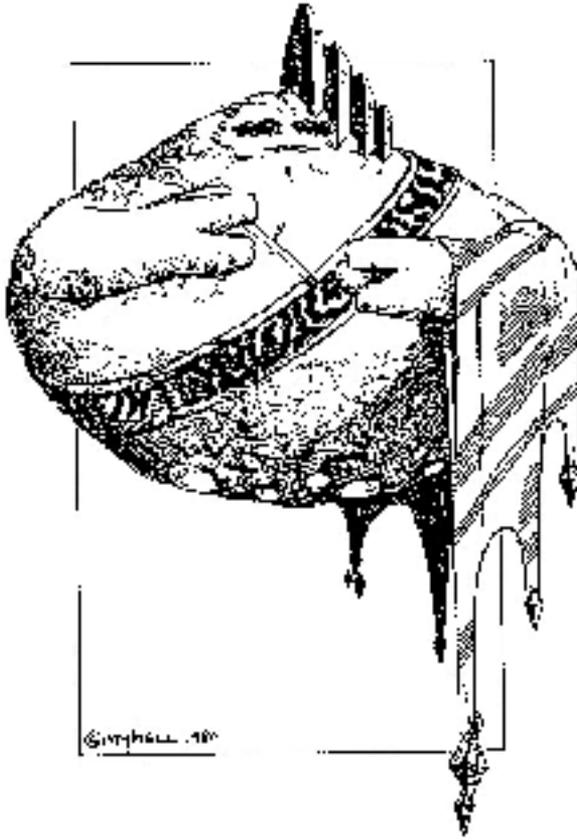
Ray Seredin, 10 March 2007

From Outpost Gallifrey:

"A fourth series of *Doctor Who* has been commissioned, according to an interview piece with Russell T Davies in the *Telegraph*.

"The extremely lengthy article also suggests that there will be a Christmas 2007 special, states that Series Three will start on March 31 at 7pm - and hints that Davies wants to move on from the show, saying he is looking for a new challenge and quoting him as saying: 'I've always wanted to adapt *The Old Curiosity Shop*. I love it. It's about time someone had the nerve to rewrite Dickens. The whole plot is a mess', although Davies ruefully points out that ITV are in the process of doing it."

Ray Seredin, 11 March 2007



“Ambassador” by Tim Hammell

## Book Reviews

*The Lies of Locke Lamora*, Scott Lynch (Bantam, July/06, trade)

*Spin Control*, Chris Moriarty (Bantam, July/06, trade)

\* \* \* \* \*

*The Lies of Locke Lamora*, Scott Lynch (Bantam, July/06, trade)

Locke Lamora is a thief so audacious, able and discreet that even the underworld crime boss of Camorr has no inkling that Locke has amassed a fortune by swindling the local nobility. Along with his close associates, the Gentleman Bastards, Locke is in the midst of his biggest con game ever, posing as a Vadrans wine merchant to entice the Don and Dona Salvara to invest twenty-five thousand crowns in an entirely bogus business deal.

But the very complexity of Locke's intrigues leave him vulnerable to disaster. The secret police of Camorr, the Midnighters, are on his trail. And he is being drawn unwillingly into a

bloody feud between the local crime boss and a ruthless newcomer - the Gray King - who has a terrifying secret agenda.

*The Lies of Locke Lamora* is a remarkably competent debut novel, set in a gritty and decadent Fantasy cityscape reminiscent of Renaissance Italy. Lynch's fine abilities as a storyteller imbue this book with a strong sense of realism despite the fact that the action is as far over the top as a *Batman* movie. The characters are compelling, the plotting is tight, and the writing is vivid. And Locke as a young criminal prodigy makes a fascinating protagonist, reminiscent of Bean in *Ender's Shadow*.

I did find the narrative structure disruptive. Particularly in the first half of the book, Lynch jumps around in time every few pages, moving back and forth from the current action to episodes in Locke's childhood and apprenticeship as a thief. Every time I settled down to enjoying one story thread, I was jerked into another, and the choppy flashbacks reduced the story tension for me rather than increasing it.

I also found that the explicit carnage exceeded my personal tastes - getting so bloody that it eventually seemed silly.

Still, the colourful city of Camorr, teeming with predatory characters, was a fascinating place to visit. I'm looking forward to the sequel, *Red Seas Under Red Skies*, due out from Bantam this June.

\* \* \* \*

*Spin Control*, Chris Moriarty (Bantam, July/06, trade)

Arkady seems to be a lamb sent to slaughter. Nothing in his sheltered, heavily socialized upbringing in a deep space crèche with hundreds of identical A-series Rostov Syndicate clones has prepared him for being dumped on a dying Earth as a pawn in a cynical and violent espionage game.

He's never been outside Syndicate space before, never mind on the ground in war-ravaged Israel among un-engineered humans. Hell, his scientific specialty is ANTS. And the players are terrifying. There are spies from nation-states (Israelis, Palestinians and Americans), UN operatives and even an AI from the affluent, high tech orbital ring around Earth.

Ostensibly Arkady's mission involves a virus that his survey team found on the planet Novalis. But Arkady already suspects that even his own side hasn't told him what he has really been sent for, and he knows the chances are slim that he will survive, never mind find the lover he came to save.

This is the merest introduction to a very complex novel with a large cast of characters and three distinct story threads. Arkady and his Earth contact, a former Mossad operative named Osnat, move through the tortuous intrigues of the Middle East, intersecting with Major Catherine Li and her partner, Cohen, a several century old AI who shunts through hired human bodies. The action on Earth is interleaved with flashbacks to Arkady's Syndicate survey mission to Novalis - a mission that went badly wrong from the very start.

All the individual elements of this book are excellent. The characters are strong, the settings are striking - especially the squalid yet fascinating Middle East - the science is top-notch, and the intricate plot moves along quickly. Yet, the sheer density of data, though well presented, is daunting.

The complex plot and ideas in this novel have a tendency to overwhelm its affable, rather inept protagonist. And amid all the political manoeuvring and violence, it's hard for a reader to find a cause to root for. Arkady is only in the game to rescue his lover, and the other players are all so deeply mired in cynicism and corruption that the stakes - the future of

the human race - almost get lost. This is arguably realistic, but it's doesn't make for optimal entertainment.

Fans of hard SF will love this book - Moriarty has thoroughly thought out and researched her future landscape and societies, and the book is stuffed with intelligently presented concepts, many revolving around complexity theory (the study of complex non-linear dynamic systems).

This is not a book for everyone, though - there's a lot of complicated, unfamiliar material that has to be grasped very quickly. I doubt that *Spin Control* has the broad appeal to make it a bestseller, but it will certainly reward the discriminating SF reader.

I forgot to put the Vcon flyer here, didn't I? Shazbat! Mep!! Mep!! Unacceptable!!!  
Censorings!!!

## About BCSFA

The current BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562 (corrected)

Vice President: TBA

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

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 604-448-8714

VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's website is at [www.bcsfa.net](http://www.bcsfa.net).

The current BCSFA email list is [bc\\_scifi\\_assoc@yahoo.com](mailto:bc_scifi_assoc@yahoo.com), archived at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifiassoc/>

## Memberships/Subscriptions

e-mail (PDF or TXT format)	C\$15.00/US\$13.65 per year
new members	C\$26.00/US\$23.50 per year
renewals	C\$25.00/US\$22.50 per year
New Family members*	C\$32.00/US\$29.00 per year
*(including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings)	

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

## Why You Got This

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> You are a member!  | <input type="checkbox"/> You are a non-member!                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You are a contributor!   | <input type="checkbox"/> You are an advertiser!                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You trade with us!   | <input type="checkbox"/> I <i>thought</i> we traded zines ... ?? |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Was it something I said?   | <input type="checkbox"/> Should I have phoned yesterday?         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You are an Oldthinker!   | <input type="checkbox"/> You are a Newthinker!                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You bellyfeel Trufandom!   | <input type="checkbox"/> You can nominate for Auroras!           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You can nominate for CUFF!   | <input type="checkbox"/> I think you're pneumatic!               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Why is a mouse when it spins? (hint: not "orange.")  |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> When is a duck?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Raven or writing desk?                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I forgot to get Kathleen or Felicity to write why you got this, didn't I? Shazbat! Mep!! Mep!! Unacceptable!!! Censorings!!! |  |