

# B C S F A Zine

*The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association*

#408

\$3.00

May 2007



**NOTE: Are you a current member?  
Check out our list inside!**

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## ***Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper***

BCSFAzine © May 2007, Volume 35, #5, Issue #408 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](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca) or Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC, CANADA V6B 5B1. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions, and black and white line illustrations in JPG or GIF format, and offers contributor's copies.

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### ***This Month in BCSFA***

- Friday, May 11: **BCSFAzine deadline** – see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #409
- Thursday, May 17: **May book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *The War of the Worlds*, by H.G. Wells. One more thing. Those of you still possessing a copy of *The Chosen One* (the book handed out by Mr. Brown at March's meeting), are more than welcome to bring it along. It seems that Mr. Brown missed this month's meeting.
- Saturday, May 19: **BCSFA party/meeting** at 7 pm at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6. See Mapquest or call Kathleen at 604-277-0845 for directions.
- Friday, May 25: **BCSFAzine production** – distribution starts at FRED
- Saturday, May 26: **First Royal Swiss Navy Disorganization Meeting**, at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver, @ 7 p.m. See Mapquest, Call 604-325-7314 or email [garthspencer@shaw.ca](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca) for directions

### ***Art Credits***

Sheryl Birkhead.....Masthead  
"Eldred" .....cover

## The Current Members

Kathleen Moore-Freeman and I have finally determined who all our current members are! Please read the following list, and if your name isn't on it, *resubscribe!* (Unless you're a pro writer or a lifetime member, that is.)

BETZ, Al (lifetime member)  
BOSSHARDT, Robert (to August 2007)  
BURROWS, Jo (lifetime member)  
CAMERON, R. Graeme (lifetime member)  
CASTLE, Julian (to July 2007)  
CIASCHINI, Lynda (to July 2007)  
DEBRANDT, Don (lifetime member)  
DEVOY, Joe (to March 2008)  
EARL, Linda (to March 2008)  
FORTY, Steve (lifetime member)  
FREEMANS (family – to October 2007)  
GRAHAM, William (to March 2008)  
HALASZ, Peter (to August 2007)  
HAMMELL, Tim (lifetime member)  
HARRIS, Penelope (to July 2007)  
HUTCHINGS, Ed (to September 2007)  
JOHANSON, Paula (complimentary pro membership)  
KACERIK, Andrew (to October 2007)  
KERNAGHAN, Eileen (complimentary pro membership)  
KO, Randy & Tanya (to June 2007)  
McMAHON, Donna (lifetime member)  
MOORE, Murray (to November 2007)  
POWELL, Ted & Diana (to August 2007)  
ROBINSON, Spider & Jeanne (complimentary pro membership)  
SAWYER, Robert (complimentary pro membership)  
SEREDIN, Ray (to August 2007)  
SKENE, Fran (lifetime member)  
SKINNER, Frank (to March 2008)  
SMEDMAN, Lisa (lifetime member)  
SMYTH, James Stewart (to July 2007)  
SUTCLIFFE, Richard (I put your expiry date somewhere ...)  
WILLIAMS, Lynda (to October 2007)

Note: this means BCSFA's secretary and editor both have to renew!

Another thing Kathleen and I discussed was how much *BCSFazine* we can afford. Not only should I cut down on circulation – sorry – but on postage; this means enslimming *BCSFazine* to a maximum 20 pages (5 sheets). Sorry again.

## Letters

---

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

... 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.

*((The meaning is the mouse.))*

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...

*((Against ignorance the gods themselves struggle in vain.))*

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.

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*Forwarded by Michael Bertrand, April 6, 2007*

I must object in the second-strongest possible language to the naked Jellist propaganda you thoughtlessly (or deliberately?) printed in your latest "magazine." I'm sure the foul and impotent forces of the Jellist so-called "conspiracy" who fed you such effluvia are rubbing their pasty, anaemic fingers together in unholy glee at the damage done to the fine, noble, beatific name of the only true spread, Jam. These insipid cowards, unable in their feckless, manless, jellied state to face the product of the fruit, the whole fruit, and nothing but the fruit, are only too happy to spread their filthy, seedless lies, so that their false and lumpless confection can spread over the world like jam over a hot, buttered biscuit. But to think a magazine such as yours would be co-opted into their unspeakable agenda fills my gullet with both colours of bile.

Therefore, it is with heavy hand that I type these words: Please cancel my imaginary subscription.

Signed, in a sense, Brigadier General of the Foundation for the Conservation of Consternation,  
Inventor of Mint Jam for True Rack of Lamb Lovers,  
Judge Harry Uppenwaite Junior

*((So she went into the garden to cut a cabbage-leaf to make an apple-pie; and at the same time a great she-bear, coming down the street, pops its head into the shop. "What! no soap?" So he died, and she very imprudently married the Barber: and there were present the Picinnies, and the Joblillies, and the Garyulies, and the great Panjandrum himself, with the little round button at top; and they all fell to playing the game of catch-as-catch-can, till the gunpowder ran out at the heels of their boots.))*

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BCSFAZINEzine, Volume 1, Number 56.407, Tuesday 10 April 2007

Thanks for *BCSFazine* #407.

**Cover:** The problem with the version of Garamond that comes with Microsoft Windows is that it has bold and italic faces, but not bold italic. "The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association" is an algorithmically-shifted oblique.

*(I've got a toothbrush in Lethbridge.)*

**FicDep/Locs** - Felicity Walker: *(("You didn't see the note at the end, I guess.")* I thought there might be a note at the end, so I read the whole thing, but I didn't see one. I must have missed it. I'll check again.

**A Case for the New 'Battlestar Galactica':** Actually, I don't watch the new one because I like the old one.

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

## Advertisements

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

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

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WHITE DWARF BOOKS  
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**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)

## Our Convention Calendar

### May 2007

May 19 & 20: **Astronomi-Con** at the University of British Columbia, Isabel MacInnes Lounge, 5959 Student Union Blvd., Vancouver. Astronomi-con is a Warhammer 40,000 tournament held in Vancouver, Winnipeg, and Toronto. (*Address hard to find*)

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

### June 2007

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 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 [ls Wong@uniserve.com](mailto:ls Wong@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

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

July 14 (10 a.m. on): **The Cybertronian Conference of 2007**, the Pacific Northwest's own Unofficial Transformers Collectors Convention. You can call it CYBCON 2007 for short. CYBCON 2007 will take place at the King Oscar Motel and Convention Center Tacoma at 8820 and 8726 South Hosmer, Tacoma, Washington 98444. CybCon 2007 will cover a 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 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). A long list of media guests; “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** in either Edmonton or Calgary, Alberta (Anime). I’m trying to correct and complete this information.

August 24-26: **RainFurrest** at the Holiday Inn SeaTac, a new anthropomorphic con in the Pacific Northwest. RainFurrest hopes to be the most fun and exciting furry convention in the region. The hotel is located at 17338 International Blvd, SeaTac, WA 98188. Rooms are \$99 per night plus taxes; call 1-800-860-7715 and book your room under the RainFurrest room block. This should get you the \$99 a night rate. Pre-registration prices are \$30 for attending until March 31st at which time the price will increase to \$35. Pre-registration will close July 31st. Children 10 and under are free when accompanied by an attendee. You may register online by going to <http://www.rainfurrest.org/reg.php> and following the instructions. Payment can be made online with credit card or Paypal, as well as mailing in a check or money order made out to RainFurrest. Sorry, Paypal and credit card payment will not be available at the convention. What do YOU want to see at a furry convention? For these ideas, please contact us through the website using this link:  
<http://rainfurrest.com/contact.php?contact=Events>

August 26 – **Comix & Stories**: For more information about this show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call Leonard S Wong at 604-322-6412

August 30 - September 3: **Nippon7/Worldcon 65** at the Pacifico Yokohama Convention Center in Yokohama, Japan. GoHs: Sakyō Komatsu, David Brin, Takumi Shibano, Yoshitaka Amano, Michael Whelan. Membership rates range from US\$35 (supporting) up to \$220 (attending) until June 30, 2007. North American agent: Peggy Rae Sapienza, Nippon2007, PO Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0314, [www.nippon2007.us](http://www.nippon2007.us)

### September 2007

September 9: **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

September 22: **Aurora-Con** at the William A. Egan Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage, Alaska (anime). Membership rates: \$10 for 7 to 21s, \$20 for older children, up to September 1, 2007; \$25 at the door. Write Aurora-Con Registration, PO Box 210050, Anchorage, AK 99521-0050

September 27 - 30: **Bouchercon 2007** at the Anchorage Hilton Hotel in Anchorage, Alaska (Mystery related but also with some SF influence on occasion). This year's theme: "Bearly Alive." GoH: Thomas Perry (*The Butcher's Boy*); Special GoH: Diana Gabaldon (*Outlander* novels); FanGoH: Barbara Peters (Poison Pen bookstore, Arizona). A lifetime achievement award will be presented to James Sallis (Drive). Write Bouchercon 2007, PO Box 241083, Anchorage, AK 99524, or see [www.bouchercon.com](http://www.bouchercon.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)

Oct. 30 – Nov. 2: **World Fantasy Convention 2008** in Calgary, Alberta. Theme: "Mystery in Fantasy and Horror." GoHs: David Morrell, Barbara Hambly, Tom Doherty; ArtGoH: Todd Lockwood; TM: Tad Williams. More details coming on [www.worldfantasy2008.org](http://www.worldfantasy2008.org). We've also changed the look of our website. Check it out at [www.worldfantasy2008.org](http://www.worldfantasy2008.org)

## News

### CONRUNNER RESOURCE WEBSITE

"Anyone use this site for helping organize events?  
<http://www.conrunner.net/>"

Isaac Alexander to NWConLeague, March 22, 2007

### DO IT YOURSELF TV COMEDY

"Check it out.... some friends of mine and I are making this silly comedy series, and this is the first episode. It features two movie critics exploring the works of the bizarre and controversial Mobeus Society."

See <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oMZhCneHMVI>

Michael Bertrand, March 26, 2007

### OTTAWA 07 ISSUES CALL FOR ENTRIES

The Ottawa International Animation Festival (OIAF) announced its worldwide call for entries for the 2007 Festival taking place Sept. 19-23, 2007, in Canada's capital.

"It's that time again," says Chris Robinson, the festival's artistic director. "This year we're putting some emphasis on reaching out to the gaming, mobile, wireless and interactive world. With more and more animation being made for non-traditional distribution platforms, it's important that the OIAF celebrate the work being done in these new forms, so we've expanded our New Media Competition to include mobile content and interactive educational and gaming animation as well as shorts made for the internet."

Animators are invited to submit their recent work in six major categories including Independent Short films, Feature films, New Media, Commissioned films, Student films and Films made for children.

"The tools might change," adds Robinson, "but at the end of the day, the OIAF is about celebrating all forms of animation and, most importantly, bringing people together." For 5 days every September the OIAF welcomes thousands of animation fans and artists for a non-stop showcase of cutting edge animation, workshops, trade events and parties.

The OIAF 07 entry deadline is June 1, 2007 and preview DVDs must be received by June 15. Entry forms are available on the Festival's website at [www.animationfestival.ca](http://www.animationfestival.ca).

In addition to the Official Competitions, OIAF 07 will present a wealth of special screenings and retrospectives. This year's highlight is *The Genius of UPA*, a spectacular four-part tribute to one of the most innovative and influential animation studios in

history. Featuring *Gerald McBoing-Boing*, *r. Magoo* and many other classic cartoons, this will be the most complete UPA retrospective ever assembled.

Felicity Walker, from Animation World Network, March 28, 2007

#### CORY DOCTOROW WINS ELECTRONIC FRONTIER FOUNDATION PIONEER AWARD

“Since 1991, the EFF Pioneer Awards have recognized individuals and organizations that have made significant and influential contributions to the development of computer-mediated communications and to the empowerment of individuals in using computers and the Internet. Past winners include World Wide Web inventor Tim Berners-Lee, Linux creator Linus Torvalds, science fiction writer Bruce Sterling, and Wikipedia founder Jimmy Wales, among many others.

Here's the details on this year's winners:

Professor Yochai Benkler of Yale Law School researches the effects of laws on information, knowledge, and culture in the digital world. Benkler's important contributions include a theoretical explanation of how the Internet has allowed decentralized groups to produce things like technologies and bodies of knowledge more efficiently than any centrally organized corporation or trade-based marketplace could. After the publication of Benkler's most recent book, *The Wealth of Networks*, Lawrence Lessig called him "the leading intellectual of the information age."

Cory Doctorow is an activist, writer, blogger, and public speaker about copyright, digital rights management, and electronic freedom. As a co-editor of the *Boing Boing* blog, he highlights critical technology issues for more than a million readers a day. Doctorow has lectured around the globe and has been nominated for Hugo and Nebula Awards for his science fiction. Doctorow is currently the Canadian Fulbright Chair at the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. He was EFF's European Affairs Coordinator until December of 2005.

Bruce Schneier is an internationally renowned security technologist acclaimed for his criticism and commentary on everything from network security to national security. His books – including the highly influential *Secrets and Lies* and *Applied Cryptography* – his monthly newsletter, and his security blog have reached hundreds of thousands of people with candid and lucid analysis of security issues. Schneier has often testified before Congress on security policy.

Donna adds: "Win a trip to the Nebulas (<http://www.abebooks.com/docs/ScienceFiction/nebula-contest.shtml>). Canadians are welcome to enter, which makes sense, since this is ABE Books."

Donna McMahon, March 21, 2007

BOOK PROMOTION: THE QLIPHOTH by PAUL A. GREEN

"Whether or not the Qliphothic Forces exist, the Universe behaves as if they do..."

LIBROS LIBERTAD, Canada's new independent publishing house, presents a long-awaited title, Paul A. Green's cult novel *The Qliphoth*. This unique fusion of occultural (*sic!* – GS) fantasy and speculative fiction evokes a subversive transmutation of everyday life, in which Qabalistic magick elides with quantum physics to create a fissile reality- a voyage into dangerous zones.

Lucas, a failing student, urgently seeks out his father Nick, psychedelic-era wreck and self-proclaimed channel for "Qabalistic knowledge", now confined to a mental hospital alongside Wolfbane, a forgotten rock & roll icon. Pauline, ultra-rationalist mother and burnt-out teacher, dreads their encounter.

Her nightmares seem realised when Nick escapes and Lucas disappears to enter a parallel world, peopled by a rogues' gallery of bohemian riff-raff and sacred harlots, whose operations - artistic, criminal or magickal - are scribed with hallucinatory intensity. He undergoes poetic and erotic initiation.

It's a story worm-holed with dark wit and satiric allusions. The manias of an imploding alternate world are only a modulation of our more familiar obsessions, here at the base levels of The Qabalistic Tree, amid the broken shells and debris the Qliphoth of our Creation.

Publishing Details: *The Qliphoth* can be purchased direct at: <http://www.libroslibertad.ca/theqliphoth.php> via Paypal, or ordered from: Libros Libertad Publishing Ltd., PO Box 45089, 12851 16th Ave., Surrey, BC V4A 9L1 (\$24.95 CDN plus shipping)

Coming Soon From Libros Libertad: *The Passage of Sono Nis* - the collected dramas of J. Michael Yates El Greco - *Dominikos Theotokopoulos* - poetry by Manolis Poodie James - a novel by Doug Ramsey

For more information visit <http://www.libroslibertad.ca/> where you can join our mailing list.

March 17/07

## PHOTO CONTEST SEEKS FUTURISTIC, FRIGHTENING AND FANTASTIC DESTINATIONS

### Announcing The 1st Annual Genre Traveler Photo Contest

Where do science fiction, fantasy and horror fans like to travel? We'll find out, as The 1st Annual Genre Traveler Photo Contest gets underway.

Organized by The Genre Traveler, the online travel resource for science fiction, fantasy and horror fans, the contest will run from March 15 through May 31, 2007. Photographers of all skill levels – from amateur to professional – are invited to enter their photographs of science fiction, fantasy and horror destinations. Three winners, one from each of the destination categories – science fiction, fantasy and horror – will win a cash prize and have their winning entries featured in the upcoming The Genre Traveler 2008 Calendar.

### Contest Benefits Charity

Even better, The Genre Traveler will donate 15% of all funds raised by the contest to one of five charities: The Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artists, Clarion West, The Nature Conservancy, The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films, and The Planetary Society. Anyone can help choose which charity will benefit by voting in a special Yahoo! Groups poll now through March 31, 2007 at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/genretraveler/>. For more information about the charities, visit <http://thegenretraveler.com/PhotoContest/CharityChoice.html>.

### Celebrity Judges Choose Winners

Six genre-celebrity judges have volunteered to help choose the three grand prizewinners in the contest:

- Bob Eggleton, award-winning fantasy and science fiction artist;
- Chuck Williams, horror actor (*Dark Walker, Bubba Ho-Tep*), director and producer;
- Paula Burr, professional photographer of "dark subjects";
- Victor Ciccarelli, professional photographer specializing in fantasy images;
- Bill Shafer, owner and operator of Hyaena Gallery in Burbank, Calif.; and
- John Pelico, professional designer and illustrator, and creator of KillerPumpkins.com.

### What Is a Science Fiction, Fantasy or Horror Related Destination?

"Well, to some degree that's up to the photographers," says C.S. Pothitt, writer, editor and publisher of The Genre Traveler.

"For science fiction destinations it might be a futuristic setting or theme-park attraction; for fantasy destinations it might be a Nursery Rhyme-themed mini golf course or New Zealand landscape used in The Lord of the Rings movies; and for horror destinations it could be a haunted attraction or cemetery."

Entry is \$5 per photograph and multiple entries are welcome. All entrants should be sure to read the rules and requirements and obtain a model release for photographs involving recognizable people. For more information about the contest, visit <http://thegenretraveler.com/PhotoContest/PhotoContestHome.html>.

March 17/07

#### NEWS FROM AWAY

NEBULA AWARDS. 2007 novel shortlist: Ellen Kushner, *The Privilege of the Sword*; Jack McDevitt, *Seeker*; Jeffrey Ford, *The Girl in the Glass*; Jo Walton, *Farthing*; Richard Bowes, *From the Files of the Time Rangers*; Wil McCarthy, *To Crush the Moon*. Winner to be announced in May.

*Ansible 236*

"PETER ATTAWAY withdrew his horror story 'The Hunting Ground' from the Infinity Plus website owing to rumours in his local community that the content – vampires posing as children to entrap child molesters – showed him to be a paedophile. Therefore he is unfit to coach his son's football team: 'The club to which I belonged formally investigated the complaint against me, and came to the conclusion that there was "no case to answer", but – somewhat bizarrely – decided that I could no longer continue as a coach with the club as I had "lost the confidence of the parents".' Next, a letter from the Football Association 'stating that they "had received evidence that my conduct gave rise to a reasonable belief that I posed a risk of harm to a child", and that I was to be suspended from all football and football related activities.' In January 2007 the hapless author learned from the FA that 'I may be prosecuted for misconduct, due to the existence of "The Hunting Ground", even though the story was written *seven years* before I became a coach and therefore officially involved with children.' How to fight this madness?"

*Ansible 236*

IAIN BANKS's new book, delayed by the break-up of his marriage, is variously described. An invitation to the related 'The Herald Sunday Herald Book Series' event calls it 'his first literary novel in almost five years' – as distinct from illiterary (*sic!* – GS)

novels like *The Algebraist* (2004). [JS] *Private Eye's* phrasing is 'Banks's first "proper" novel (as opposed to the sci-fi stuff he turns out under the name of Iain M. Banks) for five years.' And Radio 4's *Saturday Review*, after acknowledging this author's habit of alternating the 'terrestrial' and the 'intergalactic', went on to say: '*The Steep Approach to Garbadale* is his first novel for five years ...' [TK]

*Ansible* 236

RANDOM FANDOM. Jyrki Kasvi, a Finnish MP seeking re-election, has a campaign website entirely in Klingon. He explains: 'Some have thought it is blasphemy to mix politics and Klingon ... Others say it is good if politicians can laugh at themselves.' [FL] How side-splitting.

*Ansible* 237

## Book Reviews

by Donna McMahon

WARRENER'S BEASTIE, William R. Trotter (Avalon, 2006)  
MOTHER OF LIES, Dave Duncan (Tor, May/07)

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*Warrener's Beastie*, William R. Trotter (Avalon, 2006)

Ever since he travelled to the remote, haunting Faeroe Islands as a young man, Allen Warrener has longed to return. He's obsessed in equal measure by the beautiful young woman he fell in love with, the failure of his own ambitious dreams, and a legendary sea monster.

It isn't until he's a middle aged, divorced professor of History that he gets his chance to go back—as part of a filmmaking expedition organized by his friend, porn millionaire Preston Valentine, and bankrolled by Eiden Poulsen, a Faeroese millionaire. Poulsen, like Warrener, is convinced that a sea monster lurks in the depths off the Faeroe Islands, and will risk almost anything to prove it.

The plot of *Warrener's Beastie* isn't much more complicated than that, but William R. Trotter manages to spin it into a 686-page doorstop of a trade paperback. It's capably written, with vivid settings, but whether you'll want to stick this book out is purely a matter of taste.

Trotter believes in background. We meet his protagonist, Allen Warrener, as a pre-schooler and follow him through each year of his life – all the way to middle age. We also get reams of background on half a dozen other characters—their families, sex

lives, divorces, etc. etc. The writing is good enough to carry us along, but I started to tire of the slow build-up well before the monster-hunting expedition was finally launched around page 250.

By far the most compelling character in this book is the Faeroe Islands themselves. Trotter's atmospheric descriptions of this harshly beautiful land and seascape are enough to get you hunting out maps and thinking of travel plans. Trotter makes it amply believable that a sea monster might lurk in these cold, remote seas even at the end of the twentieth century.

Apart from the monster, which Trotter handles well, the Fantasy elements of this novel mainly involve a sort of ESP that connects certain people to the mysterious beast. As a plot device I found it shop-worn and yawn-worthy.

What ultimately sank this book for me, however, was the protagonists – a bunch of shallow, self-absorbed Baby Boomers whose only reaction to a crisis (personal or life-threatening) is to get drunk, take a bunch of pills, and screw. With nobody in this puerile crowd to like, never mind empathize with, I soon started rooting for the monster.

If you can stomach the unremittingly male adolescent tone of this tome, you may enjoy it; I found it irritating and unrewarding.

\* \* \* \* \*

*Mother of Lies*, Dave Duncan (Tor, May/07)

In this sequel to *Children of Chaos*, the four children of the Doge of Celebre, who were taken hostage as small children by the brutal Bloodlord Stralg, have re-united as young adults and are trying to return to their home land of Florengia. It's vital they get back soon because the Werists, who successfully invaded Florengia fifteen years before, are losing their grip. Long suppressed factions in Vigaelia are rebelling against Stralg's regime, which has been steadily weakened by the effort of maintaining long supply lines over the face to Florengia.

But the true force behind Vigaelia, Stralg's sister Saltaja, remains as dangerous as ever. Death and suffering only increase her powers, since she was dedicated in childhood to the goddess of Death. As long as she can control the minds of the people around her, she is almost invincible, and if she should cross into Florengia ahead of the siblings, there may be no city of Celebre left to return to.

The setting of *Mother of Lies* can truly be described as multifaceted, since it's a dodecahedral world (with twelve 5-sided faces). The edges where the faces meet are high mountains, extremely cold and with thin air. This makes a fine backdrop for the protagonists' gruelling trek through the Nardalborg Pass to

Florenzia, complete with mammoths, were-warriors, ice bridges and magical villainy.

As always, Duncan has a deft touch for creating heroes we can cheer for and villains to hiss at. Saltaja is a particularly twisted evil-doer, from her incestuous background to her cruel habits with maidservants.

All the characters, even the bit players, are well drawn, and the action is leavened with wry friction between the newly-reunited siblings. Benard is particularly fun—a charming and somewhat feckless artist who is occasionally blessed by his goddess, Anziel, with eccentric miracles. I also enjoyed the travails of Orlad, the brother who was raised as a Werist soldier and has no idea how to handle his changed fortunes, nor how to respond to the amorous advances of his closest flank-mate, Waels.

*Mother of Lies* has a large cast, with four protagonists and all their hangers on, plus assorted villains, rebels and relatives back in Florenzia. Duncan handles this competently, but it still takes effort for the reader to keep everyone straight. In fact, *Mother* reads more like the second half of one large novel than a stand-alone book and because it had been a year since I read the prequel, I found that I'd lost momentum. Also, whereas the first book was fresh and the plot was only gradually revealed, in *Mother of Lies* the situation is already established and the goals are relatively straightforward. Despite the machinations of the evil Saltaja, I found the second book less suspenseful than the first.

Nonetheless, this is a diverting read. For maximum enjoyment, I'd recommend getting both books and reading them in immediate sequence.

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