

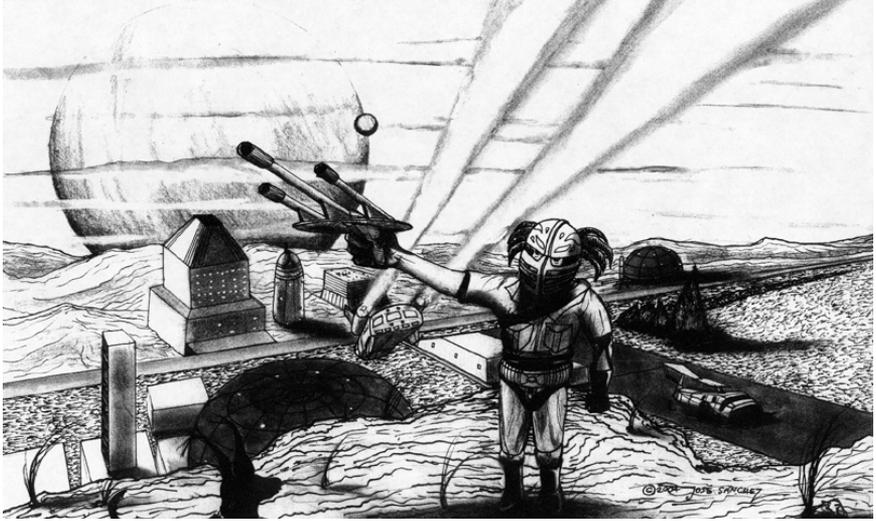
BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#410

\$3.00

July 2007



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Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

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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.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Friday, July 13: ***BCSFAzine* deadline** – see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #411
- Thursday, July 19: **July** book discussion at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *Someone Comes to Town, Someone Leaves Town* by Cory Doctorow.
- Saturday, July 21: **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, July 27: ***BCSFAzine* production** – distribution starts at FRED
- Saturday, July 28: **Third Royal Swiss Navy Disorganization Meeting**, at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, @ 7 p.m. See Mapquest, Call 604-325-7314 or email garthspencer@shaw.ca for directions

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead..... Masthead
Jose Sanchez..... cover

EDITORIAL

With this issue I'm trying a somewhat different arrangement: presenting fannish news **I** think is important in alphabetical order by topic, as if this were some sort of fandom guide.

LOCS

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, June 27, 2007

I am late off the mark in responding, but what else is new these days, hm? At least there seems to be a lull in fannish production and reception, so I can take some time to catch up. Here's some comments on *BCSFazine* 409.

When I first got myself a cell phone, the whole idea behind it was to keep it for emergency use in the car only. Eventually, I kept it on hand all the time, and I have had several reasons to say thank you for keeping it on hand. A couple of jobs have come up and I was able to take them immediately because I had the phone on hand. One thing we do have with Bell...if you try to call me at home, and I'm elsewhere, the call automatically rings forth to my cell. As a result, I get all my calls.

How urgent is it to adapt to the future? I think it wise to look carefully at all the new technologies available to you, and to choose only those that can make your life easier and more efficient, and not simply take it on because it is new and neat. You must be a smart e-consumer. As a result, I know what an iPod can do, but do not need one. Awareness is one thing, but ownership is another.

My loc...the transportation expo is long gone, and while we self-baste in the heat here, around 33° to 35° Celsius, fannish activities seem to have waned as we wilt. I am not sure just how much the Canadian Conrunners Yahoo! list is actually doing, but it is still early on. I think there is the chance to do a lot here, but I find that my own experience is old, and I don't feel all that qualified to make any commentary.

Hi, Joyce Katz! Good to see the clubs trade back and forth. Such are the connections that make fandom what it is, and what it should be. Networking makes it the subculture it is.

Another great convention and event list. It is interesting to see two events happening one weekend after the other in Anchorage, Alaska. I think other groups and interests are seeing how effective the three-day convention model is, and they are adopting it, and adapting it to their own needs.

Yes, we were CUFF delegates once. I think one fan fund is more than enough, thank you. The politics was bad enough the first time around. At least we got a trip report done, and did what we had to do.

I'll fold it up; it's just too hot to do any more. Take care, all, stay cool, and see you next time. I hope there will be lots of pictures and reports on Chris and Martin's Ren Faire.

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CALENDAR

July 2007

July 4: release of **Transformers** (the movie).

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 ... well, you'll find out. Westercon 60/Gnomeward Bound, PO Box 60817, Sunnyvale, CA 94088-0817, U.S.A.

July 13: release of **Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix**. (Bet you can't spell that.)

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 Hotel 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 21: book release: ***Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows***. Last in the series.

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; 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

August 2007

August 3: release of ***Underdog*** (dog gains superpowers).

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

August 10: release of ***Stardust*** (starring Michelle Pfeifer and Robert DeNiro); a fantasy based on Neil Gaiman's novel.

August 10 – 12 : **Animethon 14** in either Edmonton or Calgary, Alberta (Anime). I'm trying to correct and complete this information.

August 17: release of ***Fanboys***, a road trip with Star Wars fans, and ***The Invasion*** (starring Nicole Kidman and Daniel Craig), revolving around an epidemic the heroine discovers to be extraterrestrial.

August 17-19: **Con-Version 23** at the Radisson Hotel Calgary Airport in Calgary, AB. GoH: Jack McDevitt. Science GoH: *. Room rates: about \$129 per night; write to hotel at 2120 16th Ave. NE, Calgary, AB T2E 1L4. Con-Version features the Robyn Herrington memorial short story contest. ARTSHOW AND MASQUERADE REQUIRE SOME PEOPLE TO VOLUNTEER TO RUN THEM by the end of July 2007. Dealers' room rates will be determined and a membership form will be posted shortly. Memberships will be \$35 to non-CSFFS members. For registration, email registration @ con-version.org. For more information, email the chair at kirstin.morrell@csffs.org, or see www.csffs.org.

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 price \$35; Pre-registration closes 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 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: Sakyo Komatsu, David Brin, Takumi Shibano, Yoshitaka Amano, Michael Whelan. Membership rates ranged from US\$35 (supporting) up to \$220 (attending) up to June 30, 2007, more thereafter. North American agent: Peggy Rae Sapienza, Nippon2007, PO Box 314, Annapolis Junction, MD 20701-0314, www.nippon2007.us

September 2007

September 9: **Vancouver Comicon**: For more information about this show, please email 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

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. TM: Michael Walsh (also Convention liaison). Memberships: free to children 6 and under, \$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

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.

NEWS A LA GARTH

NEWS ACTUALITIES

“GREG BEAR and other sf authors – Arlan Andrews, Larry Niven, Jerry Pournelle and Sage Walker – were asked to a US Homeland Security conference to provide anti-terrorism advice as ‘deviant thinkers’. According to Andrews, they ‘need people to think of crazy ideas.’ (*USA Today*, May) Once again SF proves eerily prophetic: wasn’t there just such an ego-boosting think tank in the Niven/Pournelle *Footfall*?”

Ansible 239

“GREGORY BENFORD has an interesting mention in science historian James R. Fleming’s report on the NASA climate control conference last November: ‘Astronomer J. Roger Angel suggested placing a huge fleet of mirrors in orbit to divert incoming solar radiation, at a cost of “only” several trillion dollars. Atmospheric scientist John Latham and engineer Stephen Salter hawked their idea of making marine clouds thicker and more reflective by whipping ocean water into a froth with giant pumps and eggbeaters. Most frightening was the science-fiction writer and astrophysicist Gregory Benford’s announcement that he wanted to “cut through red tape and demonstrate what could be done” by finding private sponsors for his plan to inject diatomaceous earth – the chalk-like substance used in filtration systems and cat-litter – into the Arctic stratosphere. He, like his fellow geoengineers, was largely silent on the possible unintended consequences of his plan.’ (‘The Climate Engineers’ in *The Wilson Quarterly*, Spring 2007). [TW]”

Ansible 239

THE AURORA PROBLEM SOLVED!

Some of you are aware that the Aurora Awards were originally conceived to raise awareness of Canadian fantasy and science fiction. Some of you are also aware we’ve never raised enough public awareness of the Aurora Awards, or of works we can nominate for them. Well, Robert Sawyer and Marcel Gagné “have set up a new Wiki database to compile a list of Canadian f & sf: <http://www.canadiansf.com/>

“It links to the websites of these awards: Aurora Awards, Les Prix Boréal, Constellation Awards, Grand Prix de la Science-Fiction et du Fantastique Québécois, Joe Shuster Award, Sunburst Award.

“They are working to build up a comprehensive list of Canadian works eligible for these various awards. Not all authors are wiki-savvy. Those of you with the smarts and the time might want to make sure that our Western Canadian authors, artists, etc. are listed.

“The Aurora nominations deadline was the 15th of June, and VCON is host to Convention this year, where the Aurora Awards are presented.”

Robert J. Sawyer and Marcel Gagné
to several email lists, ca. June 6, 2007

AUTHOR! AUTHOR!:

Robert Sawyer wrote [On June 2nd]: “I had one of the greatest thrills of my life: I received an HONORARY DOCTORATE from Laurentian University in Sudbury, Ontario. You can read all about it here:

<http://tinyurl.com/34mh6e>

“And watch the actual ceremony here (I’m introduced starting at 27 minutes 30 seconds into the video): <http://tinyurl.com/2hr5xf>

“Also, I was recently the cover boy on *Quill & Quire*, the Canadian publishing trade journal. Check it out: <http://tinyurl.com/3an9qr>

“Meanwhile, my 17th novel *Rollback* continues to do well. More about *Rollback*: <http://sfwriter.com/exrb.htm>”

Robert Sawyer, June 2, 2007

AWARDS GENERALLY:

Finalists For Seventh Annual Sunburst Award Announced

Toronto (June 5, 2007): “The shortlisted works for the 2007

Sunburst Award are

Mark Frutkin, *Fabrizio's Return*

Martine Leavitt, *Keturah and Lord Death*

Carrie Mac, *The Droughtlanders*

Peter Watts, *Blindsight*

Robert Wiersema, *Before I Wake*

“The winner will be announced in the fall of 2007.

“The Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic is a prized and juried award that is presented annually. Named after the debut novel by Phyllis Gotlieb, one of the first published authors of contemporary Canadian speculative fiction, the award consists of a cash prize of \$1,000 and a hand-crafted medallion which incorporates the “Sunburst” logo, designed by Marcel Gagné. It is based on excellence of writing; the jury selects five short-listed works and one winner, representing the finest of Canadian fantastic literature published during the 2006 calendar year.

The jurors for the 2007 award are Steven Erikson, James Alan Gardner, Tom Henighan, Emily Pohl-Weary and Caitlin Sweet.

“For further information about the Sunburst Award, including information about past nominees, winners, and jurors, please visit www.sunburstaward.org”

Sunburst Award, June 4, 2007

BC RENFEST:

“We have confirmed ATMs on our site (provided by CABM Inc.).

Do remember that we are a cash site (admission and BCRF related items) so there will now be ATMs on site for your convenience. Vendors handle their own dealings and may or may not be cash only.

Christina Carr, June 8, 2007

BCSFA:

A new feature has just gone live on the BCSFA web site: "There is now a "Fan-Friendly Vendor Directory" under the new Resources page (which also points to the Canadian Fancyclopedia site, since a simple entry from the Links sections wasn't doing justice to such a huge effort.) You can find it at:

<http://www.bcsfa.net/directory/index.html>

"Basically, what I've done is track down those businesses which have advertised in the VCON program book, dealt at the con, or helped to publicise the con, over the past couple of years. I'm hoping to borrow older program books, so I can identify more businesses which have similarly supported VCON and/or BCSFA."

Greg Slade, May 22, 2007

BCSFA MEMBERS BACK:

Welcome back:

Julian Castle

Howard Cherniack

Lynda Ciaschini

Barb Dryer

and **Ken Wong**

BIFFness:

[May 18?] "Ten scholars turned out for the first Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship International Seminar About Short Motivational and Orientation Films. Unfortunately, the DVD player went on strike, so we could not review the relevant case studies. However, we did have a scholarly discussion on developments in the field, and Alan will attempt to render the case studies into a form somewhat more palatable to the DVD player, which have proven to be somewhat finicky in the past.

"We also discussed parades, and whether BIFF should have its own entry in the North Shore Canada Day Parade, since VCon will be putting an entry in the Steveston Salmon Festival Parade on Canada Day. However, of the people who were there, not one will be available on Canada Day, so we'll have to think about whether we want to have a BIFF entry in next year's parade.

[May 25] "Twenty-six Star Warriors turned out on Friday for BIFF's *Star Wars* 30th Anniversary Bash. We heard Kathy Tyers read a climactic passage from her book *Balance Point*. (If you missed it, and want to know what happened, you'll just have to read the book, because I'm not telling.) We were also serenaded by Cindy Turner, who found three *Star Wars* filks for the occasion. Val, the Minister of Bling, shared the results of her *Star Wars* fan survey, and incidentally outed herself as the biggest *Star Wars* geek in the crowd. It was also Val who baked and decorated the Artoo Detoo and Chewbacca cakes for the occasion. Dale and Marina

were busy recording snippets for their podcast, a number of people brought out cool *Star Wars* memorabilia for show and tell, among them Susan, who actually has a *Star Wars* picture book published even before the film was first released.

“On Friday, June 1st, Marina hosted the first BIFF International Seminar About Short Motivational and Orientation Films. We examined short films from around the world, and had a learned discussion about their use of science fiction and fantasy tropes. Or not.

[June 8] “Agendas? We don' need no steenking agendas! Yes, fourteen fans just hung out, ate, talked, and had fun on Friday night. Topics included a detailed analysis of the career of the Muppets (was Pepe's first appearance on *Muppets Tonight*, or was he in a movie before that?), *Babylon 5*, the *Turkish Star Wars*, the appropriate light sabre noises to make with your mouth while doing yoga, how to abuse your boss and get away with it, the one Bruce Campbell movie Colleen didn't like, and many more hits.

[June 15] “[A]s part of our "Fannish World Tour" series, Grga will introduce us to *Les Visiteurs* ("The Visitors"), a French time-travelling fantasy starring Jean Reno and Christian Clavier, which he originally saw in Hong Kong. (Go figure.) (And, yes, the Americans did remake it as "Just Visiting" with Christina Applegate, and no, the American version isn't as bad as such remakes usually are, but no, we're not going to watch the remake, but the original.)

“BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens every Friday from 6:30 p.m. until closing time (officially 9:00) at the Eighties Restaurant (www.80srestaurant.com), 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver. To keep in touch with any changes, please check the BIFF web site at: <http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/>

“You can also subscribe to BIFFnews on the web site. Or, if you prefer to read the news through your RSS aggregator, point it to: <http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/taxonomy/term/13/0/feed>

Greg Slade, June 6, 2007

BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS:

An online book launch for *Righteous Anger*, one of the novels by BCSFA member Lynda Williams, took place June 14th at 5 pm, streaming from radio station CJTR (www.cjtr.ca).

“About the book: *Righteous Anger* is about Horth Nersal — the child of a marriage between enemies undertaken to end a war. The fighting did stop but the war of ideology continued with sometimes lethal results for loved ones on both sides.

“Horth, a gifted warrior in space and on the challenge floor, where his culture settles differences among themselves, struggles against a language impairment to navigate the moral and martial currents of his upbringing. At the crucial hour, he will make a painful choice – the results of which the future of nations will depend.”

Justyn, June 12, 2007

TESSERACTS TEN

“**The most recent addition to the "Tesseract" series is "*Tesseracts Ten*".**

“It contains diverse and distinctive short stories and poetry ranging from futuristic hard core science fiction to alternative history. All were hand picked by award winning editors Robert Charles Wilson and Edo van Belkom and include powerful works by established and genre breaking Canadian speculative fiction writers. In fact, many of the selected authors are award winners for their short fiction work.

“Edited by two of Canada's finest speculative fiction writers: Robert Charles Wilson, recent winner of the Hugo Award for best novel "*Spin*", and Edo van Belkom, past winner of the Bram Stoker award for horror, reviewed, sorted and carefully selected a remarkable collection of works for "*Tesseracts Ten*" (see contents list below).

“** It was recently announced that Professor Mike Johnstone, University of Toronto Department of English, adopted *Tesseracts Ten* for his Science Fiction summer and winter courses. This is a giant step forward for the "Tesseract" series as the academic recognition validates the hundreds of Canadian speculative fiction authors who have contributed to the series.”

We hope you agree.

Tesseracts Ten

ISBN-10: 1-894063-36-8

ISBN-13: 978-1-894063-36-4

5.5" X 8.5"

Trade Paperback

\$20.95

320 Pages

Justyn, May 24, 2007

EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing 2007 Releases (USA):

Hydrogen Steel by K. A. Bedford (March 2007)

i-Robot Poetry by Jason Christie by Jason Christie (April 2007)

Tesseracts Ten edited by Edo van Belkom and Robert Charles Wilson (May 2007)

Righteous Anger by Lynda Williams (June 2007)

As Fate Decreases by Denysé Bridger (August 2007)

Petrified World by Piotr Brnyczka (September 2007)

Keeper's Child by Leslie Davis (September 2007)

Darkness of the God by Amber Hayward (October 2007)

Tesseracts Eleven ed. by Cory Doctorow & Holly Phillips (November 2007)

Janice Hades, May 22, 2007

CHARITABLE EFFORT:

Joanne McBride Wilson writes,

“On August 17-19, 2007 I'll be participating in a very special event called The Weekend to End Breast Cancer.

“I'll walk 60 kilometres over the course of one weekend with thousands of other women and men. The net proceeds will support breast cancer research, treatment, and services through the BC Cancer Foundation.

“Many of the longtime BCSFANs will remember my Mom, Donna McInnes, and it is for her that I've become active in fighting cancer. Mom is currently living with liver cancer. Her story is hers to tell, but helping her through this so far has brought us together with many other people, and it has been a journey of unbelievable strength.

“I've agreed to raise at least \$2,000, so I need your help. Would you please consider making a donation of \$50? Use the link at the bottom of this email, and go visit my site – and please take the time to support me. Please keep in mind how far I'm walking – and how hard I'll have to train.

“According to the National Cancer Institute of Canada, approximately 20,500 Canadian women will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year, and about 5,400 will die from the disease. That's why I'm walking so far. To do something bold about breast cancer. I hope that you'll share this incredible adventure with me – by supporting me in my fundraising efforts.

“Thank you in advance for your generosity!”

Jo-Anne McBride Wilson – FRED's Momma, Gafiated Fan,
but willing to be brought back! May 22, 2007

COBWEBSITES:

Greg Slade wrote to Garth:

“I went to change the entry in the BCSFA calendar for June 30th from Kaffeeklatsch to RSN, and then went hunting for the RSN web site, which is no longer at <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/sig/rsn/> Now it's at <http://www.vcn.bc.ca/rsn/> but the links to subsidiary pages that I tried (Links and Intelligence) gave me 404 errors, so whoever moved the site seems to have broken it.

“Also, this is the second month in a row that you've announced RSN instead of Kaffeeklatsch. So is Kaffeeklatsch kaput now, or just on hiatus?”

(Greg Slade, June 5, 2007)

(I confess. The deal with the RSN website is, I haven't updated my websites in far too long. Entirely my fault.

(Since I can't yet root out the spam virus that colonized my Vancouver CommunityNet accounts, I have phoned them about closing down the “rsn” and “hrothgar” accounts. Even the websites.

(As far as the Kaffeeklatsch is concerned, I've renamed the event the “RSN (Dis)Organizational Meeting” because it's quite clear I can't induce people to follow a line of reasoning to all its implications, people only think by free association. -GS))

COMICS/CONVENTIONS:

A Vancouver comics fan, Mark Blancaflor, wrote to the CanadianConrunners Yahoo! group:

"Hello to all of the members of the con-runners group! I apologize in advance, as this message is pretty long. My name is Mark Blancaflor and I am from Vancouver, BC. My colleagues and I would like to start our very first comic book convention here over on the west coast of Canada. We feel that Vancouver has gone far too long without a 'big' show that they can look forward to every year. With Calgary getting their convention going, and having immense success, there was no excuse not to start one up.

"However, there are a few problems. Essentially I have become the main organizer and I am so wet behind the ears its like I'm living in the water. There are a lot of factors that I've yet to tackle effectively and I could use any help that I can get from people who have prior experience.

"If you all don't mind, I have a few questions that I would like to ask. Such as:

"Location? Where is the best place to hold a 1st year convention? For anyone who is familiar with the Vancouver area, our first choice was to hold it at the Croatian Cultural Centre (<http://www.croatiancentre.com/halls.htm>). The area is not too big, but not too small either. However, two people have run separate shows there before, which in the end were not too successful. Now there is this stigma over the location, that any show that is put on there is more than likely not worth going. We've tried looking at various hotels around the downtown area, but they seem to be giving us the run around or wanting us to fill enough rooms in their hotel to make it worth their while. Then there is the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, which we now feel is the right place to go. (<http://www.vcec.ca>) They're able to section off their Exhibition Hall on the main floor, and the one we have great interest in is approximately 30,000 square feet in size. Is this too big, too little? Does anyone know how big Calgary's first show was?

"What do we show at our show? First and foremost our show would be based on Comic Books and its neighbouring areas. We intend to have industry guests for our show, as well as vendors and an artist alley area. We're also looking into having a smallish (smallish for now anyway) section for Anime as well as Sci-Fi Fantasy and possibly Gaming. But is this enough? I would have to actually see the above-mentioned conspace (An appointment to view the actual area is in the works) to effectively judge. Our goal is to put on a convention that is very much similar to Emerald City Con, or to Calgary Con.

"Funding? As of right now we have enough money to get the ball rolling on the convention, but extra money will always help. I saw a topic about government grants, and wondered if anyone could give a little more insight on this?

"I think those are my three main concerns for now. Thank you to Isaac for pointing me towards this message board, and thank you to the

creators of the yahoo group for giving me a place to get the help I need for starting the con.

“Looking forward to hearing from you all ...”

Mark Blancaflor, dangerx2@gmail.com, May 24, 2007

CUFF:

Is there anybody in Canada ready to run for CUFF?

On May 27/07, I wrote to Rene Walling c/o the CanadianConrunners group:

“Dear Rene, This is tangential to conrunning issues, but ...

“Brian Davis has put up a website documenting the Canadian Unity Fan Fund (far better designed than my old, provisional CUFF site), but he might benefit from some additional information and links.”

Rene Walling replied:

“Yes, I've seen the site (for everyone else, the URL is:
<http://cuff.cometdust.ca/>)

“BTW, if you know someone who's interested in being a delegate, TELL US!!!”

Rene Walling, May 27, 2007

FEEDING FRENZIES:

“Since Doug has announced that he won't be doing the planning for any more Feeding Frenzies until September, I thought I had better share some ideas I've been noodling on with the group:

“The news story about a Thai restaurant (Best Thai Restaurant, at 2549 Cambie Street) being flooded out during a rainstorm, in part due to construction on the Canada Line, has prompted me to think that it might be a good idea to have Feeding Frenzy "Dine The Line", eating at restaurants along the Canada Line, and especially those directly affected by construction, as a way of expressing both solidarity with the businesses which are currently suffering, and our support for rapid transit in particular, and green science in general. (Tom Swift uses technology to save the world, and all that.)

“I also thought it would be cool to start downtown, at the North end of the Canada Line (or as close as we can get to it), and eat our way out to Richmond, maybe even finishing up with a special edition of Feeding Frenzy in the con hotel restaurant on the Saturday night during VCON.

“I've been downtown running errands quite a bit recently, and have taken the opportunity to do some location scouting. The closest real restaurant to the North end of the Canada Line is Kimono Japanese Restaurant, at 433 Granville Street. Unfortunately, they're not open on Saturdays, so we could only meet there on a weeknight.

“The next best bet would be the Cafe Crepe Express, at 796 Granville Street, which is right in the middle of the second "hole" in Granville. It's pretty small, but there's a room with several tables in the back, which isn't immediately obvious from the street.

“Another place I’ve been to, which is obviously suffering due to the construction, is the Flamingo House (www.flamingorestaurant.com), at 7510 Cambie Street, at 59th Avenue.

“Possible dates for this month (in other words, dates with no other fannish event booked) include ... the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 8th, 11th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, and 26th.”

Resources:

<http://www.shopgranville.ca/>

<http://www.downtownvancouver.net/>

<http://www.cambievillage.com/>

Greg Slade, June 5, 2007

FRED:

“Well, in spite of my best efforts to cover the bases after a nastier-than-usual work schedule, it seems there wasn’t anyone able to watch FRED between 8 and 9:30. This caused us to lose a couple of confused folk, and for that I’m sorry. Once I arrived at Jesters, though, I parked and held, so I managed to snag Garth shortly thereafter and get a nucleus going. It was an interesting night at an interesting place, and if naught else, there were some important issues brought up.

“Suggestions as to what it all means will probably appear on my Livejournal or another forum at a future date.

“For now, though, I want to reassure people that we’ll be back in the groove for this Friday night. We’ve returned to Boston Pizza, and you relatively scheduled hanging out.

“Also – we now have a web presence on Facebook! Already 9 members since its inception at the beginning of this month. It looks like June is the month that marks some genuine progress in getting the word out. We even have a (placeholder) image for promotion!

“Anyway. Come on down!

“Returning to Boston Pizza, 1333 West Broadway (@Hemlock), Friday from 8 PM until late; Now on Facebook! Join us, join us....”

Ryan Hawe, June 5, 2007

MARKETS FOR WRITERS:

Thrilling Wonder Stories, which closed down in 1955, is to be relaunched in July under a new editor/publisher, Winston Engle: ‘It’s not a pastiche or nostalgia exercise as much as modern SF with the entertainment, inspirational value, and excitement of the golden age.’ [JJ] Contents include old SF reprints but also new articles and new fiction (25,000 words max). Payment up to 10 cents/word.

Nature: the ‘Futures’ series of short-short hard(ish) sf stories, currently running in *Nature Physics*, also returns to *Nature* in September. Submissions for both can be sent to Futures at Nature dot com: 850-950w Word attachment, with 30-word bio and contact details.
[HG]

Ansible 239

STORIES:

Raven Looks Down

Raven looks down. Something glitters.

It is smaller than Raven's beak. No-one is watching. Raven swoops.

"Hey," a human shouts, "that Raven is flying off with my tunes!"

Raven pecks at the shiny thing's hard shell. A tiny voice sings from the ends of a dangling cord. "Ook?" says Raven, and chortles. When Raven pecks, the music stops, plays, or changes. What fun!

Something else glitters. Raven looks down. No-one is watching. Raven swoops.

"Hey, that Raven has my cellphone!"

Up in a tree, Raven struts. "Look at my treasures. How clever I am! Now I am rich. How happy I will be always."

The phone rings. Raven looks at it, one eye at a time, then gives it a peck. A little voice starts to talk.

Raven cocks a head. "Ook?" says Raven. The voice stops, then asks a question.

"Craa!" shouts Raven. The voice gives a little shriek, and stops. The phone's lights turn off.

"Ha!" says Raven. "Why don't we all have these? We could all talk by phone together."

Suddenly something is coming very fast. A hawk! Fly, Raven! But a cord goes around Raven's wing. A strap goes around Raven's leg. Raven cannot fly.

Hawk says, "You are lucky I have already eaten. Tomorrow I will be hungry again. See you later, Raven."

Raven leaves the shiny things in the tree. "Those are for people who don't look for their food, people who don't watch what happens around them."

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This was written for a CBC contest this January. I intended to offer BCSFAzine the chance to use it afterward, but the contest entry fine print which one had to accept in order to enter, yielded copyright without specifying "if your entry is chosen." I recently contacted CBC and I've only just (today) heard back from them confirming that I still have copyright. I grant permission for BCSFAzine to publish it. I will try to write some more intermittent bits if you like this piece.

Cecilia Maureen Parrott Griffith, 12 June 2007

VCON:

The VCon committee rather sensibly circulated an online survey about July 7th, looking for feedback from members of previous VCons about the features they want to see. However, this occasioned some comments observing that all the questions were about things the committee was directly involved with. That could be very sensible; the survey still omits many features – the artshow and auction, the dealers'

room, the video room, the dance mix, the room parties, the hotel, its level of service – which bear on the convention experience, and which are a bigger draw for some people than the guests or programming.

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT:

Some of us are familiar with “Purple”, a fellow who sometimes showed up at FRED, and who is more well-known in the BDSM community. After a difference of opinion occurred about whether he should be working where he works, a court case developed. Purple writes:

“Our primary court date is set for October 23 and 24th 2007 at the main courthouse in Vancouver BC Canada in defence of BDSM lifestylers having the RIGHT to a safe occupation without fear of harassment from others, whether that be their own boss, other staff, customers, or local police interference. Bring your support and show up to watch history being made across Canada! – Expert witness testimony is required for our human rights tribunal case. No matter what your career choice, contact Reptoid and Judith Doulis (C.L.A.S.) and take part in helping to represent and defend your fellow BDSM lifestylers across Canada in this groundbreaking national case. If you are a professional in the field of doctor, lawyer, military, or any similar position who deals with the subject of BDSM in any way, contact us today – we need your expert witness testimony for our case. Contact our community at once and make a difference across the ENTIRE COUNTRY. Your Karma will reward you greatly for your bravery, courage and honour.

“Contact: Reptoid (at) Hotmail.com – and – Judith Doulis of the Community Legal Assistance Society”

Purple Reptoid, May 29, 2007

NEWS FROM AWAY:

“Some of you may have seen the two Radio Rustycon podcasts that have been posted. Well I am looking for some more help with both Rustycon and now Seattle in 2011 podcasts.

“I need creative thinkers who are passable writers. Experience in video production a plus but not required. Also looking for someone with animation skills.

“If you are interested in helping out, please e-mail me with ‘Convention Podcasts’ somewhere in the subject. You can help out with Rustycon, Seattle in 2011 or both. Thanks!

“P.S. If you haven't seen the Rustycon webcasts, you should check them out. Let me know what you think.
<http://www.rustycon.com/radio/>

Jim Granger to NWConLeague, June 13, 2007

MEDIA FILE

"Battlestar" gets grounded by Sci Fi

The upcoming fourth season of Sci Fi Channel's *Battlestar Galactica* will be its final one after all.

After months of speculation, the show's producers are set to make the announcement at a press conference Friday.

Ending *Battlestar* with the upcoming 22-episode fourth season was a creative decision made by the hit show's executive producers Ronald Moore and David Eick.

"This show was always meant to have a beginning, a middle and, finally, an end," Eick and Moore said in a statement Thursday. "Over the course of the last year, the story and the characters have been moving strongly toward that end, and we've decided to listen to those internal voices and conclude the show on our own terms. And while we know our fans will be saddened to know the end is coming, they should brace themselves for a wild ride getting there – we're going out with a bang."

The fourth and final season of *Galactica* will kick off in November with "Razor," an extended two-hour episode, with the rest of the season slated to run beginning in early 2008. ...

By Nellie Andreeva, Fri Jun 1, 4:27 AM ET

Forwarded on behalf of Ray Seredin to BCSFA list, June 2, 2007

About BCSFA

The current BCSFA Executive members are:

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

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.

The current BCSFA email list is 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

- You are a member!
- Got this you did!
- Whys matter not.
- We's out of toasters.
- Once you start down the fannish path, forever will it dominate your destiny.
- You know of "The Continuing Adventures of God."
- check out <http://furry.wikia.com>.
- You brought the Batlube.
- The list of wikis is at www.wikiindex.org.
- The Canadian postal codesystem is not entirely typo-proof.
- Chocolate frosted sugar bombs rule OK!
- Your transmogrifier needs a tune-up.
- You have to renew!
- No more training do you require.
- Got or do not; there is no why.
- There was always an eye there.