

BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#413

\$3.00

October 2007



Elegance (Taral Wayne)

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Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

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Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer at P.O. Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, BC CANADA V6B 5B1. Or submissions in both electronic text and B & W line drawing in JPG form to: < garthspencer @ shaw.ca > and, if a non-member, receive a complimentary copy in return.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Friday, Oct. 12: ***BCSFAzine* deadline** – see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #414
- Thursday, Oct. 17: **North Vancouver** book discussion at WAVES Coffee House, 107 West First Street, North Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.
- Thursday, Oct. 18: **Vancouver** book discussion at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *Dracula* by Bram Stoker.
- Saturday, Oct. 20: **BCSFA party/meeting** this month will be at 7 pm at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's VCON room; call her at 604-771-0845 after 7 pm on Thursday, when she will know which hotel.
- Friday, Oct. 26: ***BCSFAzine* production** – distribution starts at FRED
- Saturday, Oct. 27: **Fifth Royal Swiss Navy Disorganization Meeting** at 7 or 8 or whenever people show up, at Fort Dead Parrot (Garth's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver); see Mapquest or call 604-325-7314 for directions.

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead..... Masthead
Tara Wayne, "Enchante"..... cover

Frong Baroo Gnortz

Since civilization ended I have been trying to figure out what kind of society and culture I want to belong to. This activity is indistinguishable from designing a fantasy world to escape into.

After mulling over the pros and cons of different cultural elements, it dawned on me that what we really needed was an artificial, *elective* ethnic group, something that anyone can join when we're sick and tired of the culture we're given.

Take your time and think this through.

For reasons best known to themselves, our elected servants decided that Multiculturalism was a Good Thing, meaning paying lip service to respecting different cultures, while ignoring Paki-bashing and fag-baiting and the number of blacks and Indians, sorry, First Nations Canadians set on fire each year, or dragged behind cars as land anchors. They also talk about "culture" without defining it, in accordance with a rather stupid custom in the English language.

I propose that there is a definite meaning to the word "culture": a set of interactive social behaviours, customs shared and practiced daily by members of a community. I also propose that some cultures work better than others. Traditional cultures, for instance, have the advantage over deracinated secular culture of having firm rules of public courtesy, of hospitality, and definite and overt rites of passage.

At least one tribe in Africa is pretty much an elective tribe – anyone can join up. It isn't an ethnic thing.

Some of us in modern secular culture have no distinct identity in their family, and some of us in fandom can describe distinctly dysfunctional ethnic families they escaped from. All this suggests that some of us are looking for something that works better.

A lot of us are going around, somewhat aimlessly, looking for a value system that just isn't out there. Some people have taken the metaphysical risk, and boldly created their own value system. Some of these creations work better than others; I am frankly surprised at the endurance, and even growth, of Wicca and Norse heathenism and Discordianism. Maybe we could stand to found a value system ourselves, based on fostering the growth potential in human beings, discovering the purpose or mission in human lives, battling evil on the stock exchanges of the world, and a fanatical devotion to the Emperor of Ice Cream, wherever he may be.

Given the number of system analysts on our mailing lists, perhaps we should put our noggins together and work out some customs that work rather better than the ones we're used to. Old-fashioned courtesy on buses and in elevators, for instance. A new *lingua franca* combining the ten or twelve most-used languages in Vancouver. A few style guidelines we can share on dress and interior design. Maybe we could found a new art style, combining Pacific Northwest and Norse/Celtic motifs. (I have this daydream about a home in Original Japanese décor,

with Haida prints on some walls and kimonos, and runic lettering on the beams and shoji. Just a thought.)

This is how I've been playing vaguely with the idea of THE FRONG, an elective ethnic group of the fans, by the fans, and for the fans; but like a number of ideas, it would benefit from a collaborative treatment. Maybe I should put up a Wiki page.

It would be great to live in a society that actually *worked*, for a change. What say?

LoCs

Lloyd Penney [ppenneys@allstream.net], 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2 August 24, 2007 (in response to BCSFAzine 411)

Thank you for the 411 on all of Vancouver fandom, namely *BCSFAzine* 411. Some slightly less smartass comments follow...

I've seen that Tim Hammell cover before. Might even have been on the cover of a *Doctor Who* fanzine cover, who knows. The date on the artwork, 1979, might bear out that shaky remembrance.

Many years ago, I got fed up with having to remember so many things in life because they often were forgotten, and I took to carrying a memo pad and pen with me at all times. Then, we could afford Palm PDAs, and we purchased their bottom-of-the-line m100. Now, we have Palm Tungsten E3s, and they are true tools of production. They allow you to spend less time and mental effort trying to remember things, and more time getting them done. They are the memory I don't have. If there were only some way to plug directly into the leetle grey cells, we'd have it made.

Hi, Felicity...yes, that's the same Joyce Katz from video games. Joyce and Arnie are the leading lights in Las Vegas fandom, and in April next year, we'll be going to visit with them as they stage another fanzine fan convention, Corflu Silver. Arnie is very well known, not just through fanzines and fanwriting, but also video games and wrestling fandoms.

I am hopeful that the Aurora final ballot will be available soon. Having voting onsite is a double-edged sword...it allows those who are relatively new to find out about the awards and participate. However, it also allows a few who are more experienced to plot to stuff the ballot box. I know we are still having discussions about the relevance of the Auroras; the Hugos are the subject of many similar discussions. A vocal few would like the Hugos done away with entirely.

Any reports about the Aldergrove RenFest? I've been in e-touch with Christina, and she worked her fingers to the bone, but no reports yet as to how people enjoyed the event.'

Dinner nights, like FRED, BIFF and the Feeding Frenzy...Toronto's two pubnights have gotten large and small over the months. The last Third Monday got exactly four people, but it was a comfortable and fun evening. Third Mondays can get as many as 20 fans crowded into a small

area. First Thursdays have attracted about 50 in the past, but now, we get 20 to 25, and that's good, too. I think many just like to know that this kind of thing is happening; we have 110 names on the pubnights e-mailing list built up over the past 11 years. Also, pubnights found Tommy Ferguson will be heading to Toronto to share a vacation with his wife Leslie, and visit with old friends in Toronto fandom next month, and we will have a special pubnights evening planned.

Congratulations to Alyx on selling her book! Seeing that it's an e-book, I hope you'll be able to tell us where to find it. I have found many free e-books that I have downloaded to my Palm, including the Peter Watts book that now on the Hugo ballot, but I guess that I see books only if they're on the bookshelf. It's tough to find just about anything on the Web, so any direction for pay e-books is appreciated.

Today is the first day of Fan eXpo, the former SFX, at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. I worked the show that was moving out as Fan eXpo was moving in...this event advertises many actors, but it is really just a big dealers' room, with extra costs for just about anything else that might attract you. I attended it twice to work the Toronto in 2003 Worldcon bid tables, and never again afterwards. Just not my cuppa.

Tara Wayne, September 2, 2007

Well, ye've done yer duty, mite.

The *Nerg* disk has been advertised in three consecutive issues and proved beyond a shadow of a doubt that absolutely no-one on the BCSFA mailing list gives fig about an old fanzine just because it was Canada's leading title for several years and won a Hugo.

Response from the rest of fandom hasn't been much more brisk in fact. Five sales.... count'em, five. I suspect that to sell the *Energumen* disk it'll have to be taken to cons and flogged in person. Catch 22 - I don't go to cons.

((What was that rather suggestive illustration about, the one I put in front of the letters column last issue?))

Lloyd Penney [lpenneys@allstream.net], 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9C 2B2, September 5, 2007

I see I have finally gotten around to locating this fine clubzine before the deadline date... always a good thing to do. As a result, here are some timely comments on *BCSFazine* 412.

The breaking news, of course, is that Canadian fans have another chance to run a good Worldcon. Anticipation is the 2009 Worldcon, to the surprise of many, and congratulations to the successful bidders, and to the guests, especially Julie Czerneda and Tara Wayne. Our decision is to see what we could do for the convention, or do we just want to attend, or do we even want to go. This decision must be made soon...

I think we're all humans, more or less, but it's the society around us that's increasingly alien. It's becoming harder and harder to understand,

get around in and live in. Have our expectations of society as a whole gone up, or has the lowest common denominator gone down even further?

((See my editorial. One of my long-term projects is a Remedial Life Handbook, explicitly describing the stuff that autistics and foreigners and disguised aliens don't automatically know, and critiquing the stuff we go along with that doesn't really work.))

If Peter Jarvis is to be a CUFF candidate, he'd better get campaigning soon. It would be nice to have a vote this time around, especially seeing it would raise some money. Maybe we should vote anyway...the choices would be Peter Jarvis or Hold Over Funds. I had never heard of Pure Speculation in Edmonton...in fact, I didn't know that SF conventions had returned to Edmonton. Welcome back!

((The breaking news is that Peter Jarvis – titular head of Torcon 3, I believe - is in fact declared CUFF 2007 delegate, he will in fact attend VCon, and email discussions between the various past CUFF delegates continue to work out what to do when Life Happens to CUFF administrators.))

And, as I write, VCon 32 is about six weeks off. It is hard to believe that Yvonne and I guested at VCon 25, seven years ago. We'd love to come back, but there's too much geography in the way. Our convention plans for the future include Ad Astra and Corflu Silver in Las Vegas in the spring. Depending on our decisions for Anticipation, we might be going to Con*Cept this year to attend what will probably be the first Anticipation committee meeting.

I am certain that Clint Budd and Rob Sawyer aren't making Dennis Mullin feel that he's being ushered out as Aurora administrator. I hadn't heard that Dennis had been ill until now. I am sure they will make this change in management, if it happens, Dennis' decision. He has done yeoman service for the Canadian science fiction community, and in my opinion, if anyone deserves one of those pointy trophies, it's him. As I type, the final ballot for this year is not yet on the website; I am hoping it will appear soon.

I must remember to vote for TAFF this year...we've given Chris Garcia plenty of exposure, perhaps it's time to actually vote.

For the local Whofen, read recently that the BBC plans a full year's hiatus for *Doctor Who*. There are specials planned for 2009 and another full season planned for 2010.

Toronto fandom continues on with its usual pubnights, and at the end of September, there will be a special pubnight. Tommy Ferguson, Irish fan extraordinaire, started up the pubnights, very much a British tradition, when he lived in Toronto about 12 years ago, and he will be returning with his bridge of five years, Leslie, to see some of the city, and to meet many of Tommy's Canadian relatives. So, we plan to party hearty with Mr. Ferguson, and relive old memories.

BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 61.412, Tuesday 18 September 2007
(BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road,
Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.)

Condominiums with Aluminum Siding: Maybe I'm gradually turning into an alien. I seem to have progressively less ability to cope with humans. Parts of your theory sound like Scientology.
(*WHAT?! Pistols and coffee at dawn, suh!*)

We Will LoC You - John Bartley: I should try Morning Coffee.

Felicity Walker: "(*Funny, I don't remember you being mentioned at all.*)" Funny, there's history and context of which you're unaware.

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Calendar

October 2007

Oct. 13-14: **Pure Speculation III: The Search for Spec** at Hazeldean Community Hall in Edmonton, AB; "Weekend pass" \$25 to Oct. 5, \$30 up to and at the door. Buy passes by PayPal or by money order to Pure Speculation at 8410 104 street, Edmonton AB, T6E4G2. www.purespec.org

Oct. 19-21: **VCon 32/Convention 27** at the Radisson President Hotel, 8181 Cambie Road, Richmond, BC. Writer GoH: Peter S. Beagle. Artist GoH: Martin Springett. Gaming GoH: Lisa Smedman. TM: Michael Walsh (also Convention liaison). Memberships: free to children 6 and under, \$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

Sunday, October 21st 11am to 5pm: **Toy, Model & Collectables Show**/Of Horrors and Heroes; Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC; Just confirmed as Special Guests:; Mr Shusuke Kaneko, director of DEATH NOTE, DEATH NOTE: THE LAST NAME, the GAMERA trilogy, GODZILLA, MOTHRA, KING GHIDORAH: GIANT MONSTERS ALL-OUT ATTACK, and ULTRAMAN Norman England, director of iDOL; Mr Kaneko will be signing autographs at the show. Signatures are free, but there will be limits on the number of items per person.; Dealer Tables: \$60 General Admission: \$5.00 Kids under 14: \$2.50; More information on this show's model competition and panel discussions, as well as a special event on Saturday, October 20 will be announced soon.

November 2008

Sunday, November 9th 11am to 5pm: **Vancouver Comicon** ; Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC ; Special Guests: Derek Kirk Kim (Good As Lily, Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall, Lowbright, Same Difference and Other Stories) James Lloyd (Other Stuff, Futurama Comics, Simpsons Comics) Steve Rolston (Degrassi: Extra Credit, One Bad Day, the Escapists, Queen and Country) Camilla D'Errico (Avril Lavigne's Make 5 Wishes, Nightmares & Fairytales) Fred Grisolim (Hate Song) Ralph Alfonso (Ralph) Darren G. Davis (Bluewater Productions) Kelly Everaert (Jungle Tales, Eyes of the Zombie) Laura Eveleigh (Little Illustrated Books) Critical Hit Comics (Outnumbered) Donald King Beth Wagner Carrie McKay Steve Lecoulliard Tarol Hunt ; Dealer Tables: \$45/centre; \$55/wall General Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: Free ; For more information about either show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412 ; <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

March 2008

Feb. 29-March 2: **Potlatch 17** at the Hotel Deca, Seattle, Washington. Definition: "a small, discussion-oriented, literary SF convention held regularly in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Portland, following a rigorously irregular rotation." Book of Honor: *The Parable of the Sower* by the late Octavia E. Butler. Potlatch was originally founded in part to help support Clarion West, the six-week intensive SF writing workshop in Seattle. The 2008 Potlatch will be the kick-off event for Clarion West's year-long 25th anniversary celebration, so we'll feature a track of Clarion West alumni readings, along with at least one panel on workshops. Reservations: \$119.00/single or double occupancy; \$134.00/triple; and \$149.00/quad, plus tax. *Rates include parking and continental breakfast daily.* HOTEL DECA, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington 98105; Phone: 206-634-2000; Fax: 206-545-2103; Toll Free Reservations: 800-899-0251; reservations@hoteldeca.com. To Register

on-line, go to the Hotel Deca reservations page ("Book a Room") and enter the dates you are booking and our Group/Event Code: 00034491.

(<http://www.hoteldeca.com/>). General memberships: \$50 (through December 31, 2007); Student memberships: \$35 (with valid student ID at the door); Ages 6-18: \$20; Supporting: \$20. Potlatch 17, c/o Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165.

Website: <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/>

Kate Schaefer, chair@potlatch-sf.org

August 2008

Aug. 1-3: **SpoCon 2008** on the Gonzaga University campus. GoH: Tim Zahn. See <http://www.spocon.us/>

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.

August 2009

Aug. 6-10: **ANTICIPATION (67th Worldcon)**, Palais des congrès de Montreal, Montreal, Canada. GoH Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Taral Wayne, David Hartwell, Tom Doherty. Contact C.P. 105, Succursale NDG, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H4A 3P4. Further details awaited.

Ansible 242, September 2007

Local Motions

A special WCSFA Meeting was held on Sunday, September 9th, 2007 at 6637 Station Hill Drive, Burnaby, BC, in order to elect an interim WCSFA executive. Present were: Clint Budd, Graeme Cameron, Michael Walsh, Susan Walsh, Pauline Walsh, Chilam, Danielle Stephens, Deej Barends, Tammie Hamacher, Clayton Hamacher, Keith Lim, Paul Carpentier, Jonathan Sheps, Howard Cherniak, Casey Wolfe, Rowan Sawyer, Lynn Kruszewski, Garth Spencer, Rick Arino, Fran Skene. Clint (Chairing) called the meeting to order at 2:15 pm.

MOVED that Graeme Cameron be appointed as acting Secretary for the duration of the meeting. Moved by Clint Budd, seconded by Paul Carpentier. **Passed.**

The status of the WCSFA Board of Directors was outlined by Clint. Clint presented resignations by himself, Donna McMahon, and Marie Beesley. Tammie Hamacher and Clayton Hamacher presented their verbal resignations.

MOVED that Danielle Stephens take the Chair in his place. Moved by Clint. Seconded by Rick Arino. **Passed.**

Nominations and Elections to fill vacancies on the Board:

Elected/ confirmed
President - Palle Hoffstein
Vice-President - Keith Lim
Treasurer - Tatina Osokin
Secretary - Graeme Cameron
Danielle Stephens
Deej Barens
Christina Carr

MOVED that the signing authorities for the WCSFA Bank account be any two of: Danielle Stephens, Tatina Osokin, and Palle Hoffstein. Moved by Clint Budd, seconded by C. Chilam. **Passed.**

Motion for Adjournment 3:50 pm. Moved by Clint Budd. Passed
R. Graeme Cameron, 11 September 2007

Prodom

CANADIAN AUTHOR ON HAND FOR CEREMONY

Robert J. Sawyer Wins China's Top Science Fiction Award

CHENGDU, CHINA, 26 AUGUST 2007: Robert J. Sawyer of Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, today won China's top science-fiction award, the Galaxy Award, in the category "Most Popular Foreign Author of the Year." The award, voted on by Chinese readers, was presented at the Chengdu International Science Fiction and Fantasy Festival, the largest science-fiction conference ever held in China. (The last international SF&F conference in China was held ten years ago, in 1997.)

Chinese translations of Sawyer's novels are published by Science Fiction World, headquartered in Chengdu, and his short stories have appeared in *Science Fiction World* magazine, the world's largest-circulation SF publication; Sawyer is also a past columnist for that magazine.

In his acceptance speech Sawyer said, "I come from Toronto, which was bidding against Beijing to hold the 2008 Olympics. In fact, I was on a committee to help decide arts and cultural programs that would be held in conjunction with the Olympics, should they be awarded to Toronto. And so I have to confess that I was sad when it was announced that China was getting the 2008 Games. But I forgive you now! I don't know how many of my countrymen and countrywomen will bring home medals next year – but I feel like I've just won a Gold for Canada."

Sawyer added, "Seriously, the great thing about science fiction is that it transcends national boundaries. It's wonderful to be at a conference along with writers from the United States, England, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, New Zealand, and Canada. Science fiction really is the literature of Planet Earth."

In addition to Chinese, Sawyer's work is published in Bulgarian, Czech, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, and Spanish. He has previously won the top SF

awards in Spain (a record-setting three times), Japan (three times), and France. ...

The Galaxy Award honours Sawyer's entire oeuvre, rather than a specific book. The award was presented at a gala ceremony at the Chengdu Museum of Science and Technology.

Sawyer, 47, and his wife, poet Carolyn Clink, were on hand in Chengdu – the capital of Sichuan province – for the ceremony. Science-fiction writers David Brin, David Hill, Nancy Kress, and Michael Swanwick from the US and fantasy novelist Neil Gaiman from the UK also attended the conference. ...

Robert Sawyer, August 26, 2007

Fandom Classic

ANOTHER CANADIAN WORLDCON COMING UP

“The 2009 World Science Fiction convention will be held in Montreal, PQ, Canada.

“Those interested in helping should think of attending Concept 2007.

“Those wishing for me to upgrade their memberships to attending should let me know soonest.”

John Mansfield, September 1, 2007

TARAL WAYNE: FanGoH AT ANTICIPATION

[You Heard it Here First](#) - (Posted on my journal on FurAffinity, 3 Sep)

“Just a few hours ago, while it was still Sunday, I got the news.

“The first part arises from the Labour Day Weekend being the traditional date of the World Science Fiction Convention, (usually known as The Worldcon.) This year it was held in Tokyo. One of the routine matters at the Worldcon every year is the selection of the Worldcon site two years in future.

“This year the choice was between Kansas City in the U.S. and Montreal in Canada. Montreal seemed the dark horse. Most often, American voters will choose an American city for the convenience of not having to travel abroad. But not always, as evidenced by several U.K. and Australian Worldcons. There's been three in Canada before, and even one in Germany.

“This year, as I said, it was between Kansas City, home of steak and jazz clubs, and on the other hand Montreal. Montreal was by far the more adventurous choice, since it's an international city – its population speaks both French and English. As well there are many long-established ethnic neighbourhoods where a host of languages are spoken. It has old world architecture, a unique literary and musical scene, restaurants of every variety, a lively theatre community and a vibrant nightlife. But it's across an international border, and once again, Americans usually (though not always) prefer a domestic site.

“To my surprise, Montreal was chosen over convenience and cheap airfares. Maybe all those Japanese voters tipped the balance?

“What does this mean to me? Well... I haven't been able to go to many Worldcons of late, what with the cost. Neil Gaiman as the

announced Guest of Honour is certainly an interesting draw. (He was the writer for The Sandman comics, as well as the author of the novels *Good Omens*, *American Gods*, and *The Anansi Boy*) But that's not the real reason I'm boring you all with this.

"The real reason I'm boring you with all this is that Worldcons also have *Fan* Guest of Honours... and the 2009 Worldcon chose ME as its FanGoH!

"I'm not used to good news, so it was pretty hard at first knowing what to do in the face of the best news I've had in ages. So I reached for the phone to tell the first 500 people I could think of. Dammit though... I knew I could find a lead slug in a chest of gold coins! Almost everyone I knew was either *at* the Worldcon (and probably knew my news before I did) or had chosen the Labour Day Weekend for a bit of a holiday, and were out of town.

"I don't want to sound flippant, this still has me excited and happy. I was never able to score a Hugo. Though I came close enough to view one from afar a few times, I never had enough votes in the final ballot to rise from the bottom of a slate of four or five. But this is easily in the same league. Maybe somewhat better. Lots of people win Hugos every year, but there are only three or four GoH at each Worldcon., and only one is the *Fan*GoH. In Canada, I share the distinction with only one other (who was FGoH at the first Aussie Worldcon in 1975). So plainly I'm in a more exclusive club.

"Of course, it's also a lot more arbitrary. Kansas City could have easily won and someone else would be GoH. For *every* Worldcon there has ever been, 66 so far, there has been at least one set of Guests of Honour who were disappointed, and sometimes more than one. Likely as not, they all deserved the recognition. Unfortunately, only a few could be so lucky.

"And so for once I was lucky. Woo-hoo! I wish I could hold a party, but everyone is out of town...

"Maybe I'll order a pizza tomorrow – go crazy and order double cheese *and* double pepperoni!

Tara Wayne, September 3, 2007

THOSE HUGOS

Novel: Vernor Vinge, *Rainbows End*. Novella: Robert Reed, 'A Billion Eves' (*Asimov's*). Novelette: Ian McDonald, 'The Djinn's Wife' (*Asimov's*). Short: Tim Pratt, 'Impossible Dreams' (*Asimov's*). Related Book: Julie Phillips, *James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B. Sheldon*. Dramatic (Long): *Pan's Labyrinth*. Dramatic (Short): *Doctor Who*, 'The Girl in the Fireplace'. Pro Editor (Long): Patrick Nielsen Hayden. Pro Editor (Short): Gordon Van Gelder. Pro Artist: Donato Giancola. Semiprozine: *Locus*. Fanzine: *Science-Fiction Five-Yearly*. Fan Writer: Dave Langford (though by only one vote; sorry, Mr Scalzi). Fan Artist: Frank Wu. Campbell Award (not etc.): Naomi Novik.

Ansible 242, September 2007

NEW WEB SITE TO CELEBRATE SCIENCE FICTION AWARDS

Hugo Award - the pre-eminent science fiction award for 54 years

"The Hugo Awards, one of the highest honours in the field of science fiction and fantasy, have a new official web site at <http://www.TheHugoAwards.org>. The Hugo Awards honour the best in written and dramatized science fiction and fantasy as well as other categories. This new site serves as the definitive site for information about the Hugo Awards, including historical winner and nominee lists, pictures of past Hugo Award trophies, information on how to nominate and vote for the Awards, and an explanation of the rules and procedures for the Award. ...

"The existing main web site of the World Science Fiction Society at <http://www.wsfs.org/> remains active as a source of information about the World Science Fiction Society, its rules, and information about past and future Worldcons, while the new The Hugo Awards site will concentrate solely on the Hugo Awards. The new site was designed by a WSFS committee that was charged to undertake actions to promote and expand the visibility of the Hugo Award.

"Additional Information: Hugo Awards: <http://TheHugoAwards.org/>; World Science Fiction Society: <http://www.wsfs.org/>; 2007 World Science Fiction Convention: <http://www.nippon2007.org/>

"World Science Fiction Society", "WSFS", "World Science Fiction Convention", "Worldcon", and "Hugo Award" are service marks of the World Science Fiction Society, an unincorporated literary society."

Craig Miller, August 20, 2007

ANOTHER CONRUNNERS' CON

"The Canadian Conrunners group has an occasional conrunners' con, drawing less than 50 people usually, held in Ontario. I note that at this distance, it is unlikely to be confused with C-Cubed, the June conrunners' gathering held usually in Washington state. Andrew Gurudata organized CCC-1, with tie resulting attendance figures:

Budgeted attendance: 15 people

"Actual attendance: 36 people in attendance, plus 5 non-attending supporting memberships.

"Attending members, by convention: Anime North (Toronto) 1; C-ACE (Ottawa) 1; Con*Cept (Montreal) 4; ConCinnity (Ottawa) 1; FilKONtario (Toronto) 5; GalaxyFest (Alberta) 1; Toronto Trek (Toronto) 17; None of the above 6. (Of the "none of the aboves", 2 were from Ottawa, 3 were from Toronto, and the last was from Rochester NY.) Discussion about where to hold a second such gathering carried on throughout August."

Canadian Conrunners' group, August 2007

MAYBE WICCANS NEED A PROFESSIONAL LICENSING ASSOCIATION

ACLU of Oklahoma Files Federal Lawsuit on Behalf of Student Accused of "Hexing" a Teacher (10/26/2000)

"TULSA, OK--In a case reminiscent of the Salem Witch trials, the American Civil Liberties Union of Oklahoma today filed a federal lawsuit

charging that school officials violated 15-year-old Brandi Blackbear's rights when they accused her of casting a hex that resulted in a teacher's illness.

"These outlandish accusations have made Brandi Blackbear's life at school unbearable," said Joann Bell, Executive Director of the ACLU of Oklahoma. "I for one would like to see the so-called evidence this school has that a 15-year-old girl made a grown man sick by casting a magic spell."

"While the ACLU has defended students' religious beliefs in Wicca and other minority religions, Bell said the Oklahoma lawsuit is believed to be the first in the country involving actual accusations of witchcraft.

"In its legal complaint filed today in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Oklahoma, the ACLU said that school officials not only suspended Blackbear for 15 days in December 1999 for allegedly casting spells, but also violated her religious freedom when they told her that she could not wear or draw in school any symbols related to the Wicca religion.

"The ACLU lawsuit also accuses school officials of violating the young woman's due process rights when, in the spring of 1999, they suspended her for 19 days over the content of private writings taken from her book bag. Officials had searched her possessions based on a rumour that Blackbear was carrying a gun, although no weapon of any sort was ever found. To date, school officials have not returned Blackbear's writings to her.

"Before these incidents, the ACLU complaint said, Brandi Blackbear had no discipline problems and had a perfect attendance record. Since being accused, she has "suffered continuous ridicule and humiliation," and "become an outcast among her fellow students," according to the complaint. She has also fallen behind in her schoolwork because of the suspensions.

"It's hard for me to believe that in the year 2000 I am walking into court to defend my daughter against charges of witchcraft brought by her own school," said Timothy Blackbear. "But if that's what it takes to clear her record and get her life back to normal, that's what we'll do."

"The ACLU is seeking an undisclosed amount of punitive and financial damages on the Blackbear family's behalf, a declaration that the school violated the student's rights, an injunction preventing the school from banning the wearing of any non-Christian religious paraphernalia and an order expunging her school record.

"The actions of the school have inflicted severe emotional damage on a very sensitive young woman. This lawsuit will allow her to reclaim some of her self-esteem by vindicating the violation of her rights in a court of law," said John M. Butler, an ACLU cooperating attorney.

"The case is Blackbear v. Union Public School Independent District No. 9, et al. Defendants named in the lawsuit are Union Eighth Grade Center Principal Jack Ojala, Speech Therapist/Counselor Catherine Miller, Union High School Assistant Principal Charlie Bushyhead and Counselor Sandy Franklin.

“The Blackbear family is represented by ACLU cooperating attorneys John M. Butler and Aundrea R. Smith of Tulsa.

“Although today’s case may well be the first in which a student has been accused of actually using witchcraft against a teacher, the ACLU has defended other students who have professed interest in Wicca. In March 1999, a Michigan school settled a lawsuit brought by the state ACLU on behalf of a Wiccan student who was not allowed to wear a pentacle, a symbol of the Wicca religion.

“The Wicca religion has been recognized in United States courts and by the United States Army Chaplain’s Handbook. It stresses individual enlightenment and celebrates the seasons and the four elements: earth, wind, fire and water. Proselytizing is forbidden.

“<http://www.aclu.org/religion/schools/16295prs20001026.html>
forwarded by Felicity Walker, August 27, 2007

Film Review

by R. Graeme Cameron

DEATH NOTE & LAST NAME

I recently attended an all night film showing put on by MONSTER ATTACK TEAM CANADA, and among the films shown were two Stan G. Hyde had purchased when last in Tokyo: DEATH NOTE and LAST NAME, both directed by Kaneko Shuusuke, and both, though owned by Warner Brothers, not yet available in North America.

The premise is very Japanese. A Death God drops a notebook in front of Raito ‘Light’ (played by Fujiwara Tatsuya), the teenage son of a Tokyo Police Chief. Turns out that if you write the name of someone you know, and you know what they look like, they die, and in the manner you write down. Raito is miffed at how unfairly soft the Japanese legal system is, so suddenly Japanese criminals start dropping off like flies, usually from heart attacks. The phenomenon spreads worldwide. Raito begins claiming credit under the name ‘Kira’, and promptly becomes an acclaimed hero. The police form a special task force to catch him, led by a reclusive teenage genius named ‘L’ (played by Matsuyama Ken’ichi). Complications ensue.

Sound lame? It’s not, it’s wonderful. The battle of wits between Raito and L has a ton of clever twists and turns, which make the two films together a very superior whodunit. Then there’s the pleasure of watching Raito slowly becoming corrupted and drunk with power while the media exploits his activity for the sake of ratings. The fact that the Death God Ryuk, whom only Raito can see and talk to, continues to hover about Raito offering a running commentary (but withholding relevant advice) is a hoot. And then there are the other Death Gods, and note books, to complicate matters. Not to mention the insufferably cute yet egomaniacal preteen-like sex object TV star Miso (played by Toda Erika), a hysterical satire on the Japanese cultural tendency to view innocent schoolgirls in short dress uniforms as infinitely sexy, (reflected in much anime I believe). L, whose diet seems to consist entirely of sugary confections, is

eating something horribly sweet in every scene he's in, and part of the fun is guessing what he'll be eating next. (I note that when he's depressed or frustrated he goes right to the hard stuff and chows down on sugar cubes.) To sum up, though slow-paced and mostly devoid of action, both films are a treat to watch.

The films are derived from a Manga series (locally available in stores specializing in Japanese media), and then evolved into an anime TV series which, according to Monster Attack Team Canada, is now showing on YTV Friday nights at 10:00 PM as of September 10th. Haven't seen it yet, but if it's anything like the movies it is well worth watching.

By the way, this review should put paid to the idea I only watch B movies of questionable quality. Mind you, the other films shown at the MATC meeting were:

FRANKENSTEIN CONQUERS THE WORLD (he doesn't), and it included the infamous never-used ending (insisted upon by American backers) where a giant Devil-Fish (Octopus) comes out of the Japanese forest (!) and battles the equally giant Frankenstein monster. Great fun.

THE LAST DINOSAUR, starring Richard Boone (of PALADIN fame) playing a selfish, megalomaniac hunter who hires scientists to bore into the earth and find a lost world wherein he can hunt the last dinosaur, a particularly squiggly-looking typical Japanese guy-in-a-suit T-Rex. Of course, as the opening credits song makes clear, it is the Boone character himself who is the 'last dinosaur', being the ultimate sexist pig and all.

I tell you, a film night doesn't get better than this!

Doctor Who update

As many of you know, David Tennant (aka The Doctor) has landed the title role in the Royal Shakespeare Company production of *Hamlet*. (Note: also joining the RSC next season will be Patrick Stewart, in a new production of *I, Claudius*.) To add an interesting twist to this story, Tennant will also take part in *Love's Labour's Lost*, that little Shakespeare play that caused so much trouble for The Doctor and Martha in this past season's story, "The Shakespeare Code." These productions will run from July 24th until November 15th, 2008 – or most of the production season for series 31.

So, what does this mean to us *Doctor Who* viewers? Well, the 2007 Christmas special will air on BBC 1 on December 25, and series 30 will start in early February 2008, to avoid any conflict with sporting events leading to the 2008 summer Olympic Games. Here in Canada, it's still unclear what the CBC has planned for the Christmas special and new season. However, the rumour mill is saying that the special will air on Boxing Day, with the series starting in June, and a break for the summer Olympics; so nothing will happen in 2008. (And there is much rejoicing.)

As for the 2008 *Doctor Who* Christmas special, and plans for series 31: there's some good news and bad news; then, some more good news.

- The good news: there will be a 2008 *Doctor Who* Christmas special. (And there is much rejoicing.)
- The bad news: series 31 of *Doctor Who* will not air on either BBC 1 or the CBC until 2010.
- Other good news: there will be three *Doctor Who* specials to air throughout 2009. (And once again, there is much rejoicing.) However, it is still not clear if these specials will be 45, 60 or 90 minutes in length.

Also unclear: will David Tennant still be The Doctor in series 31? The only thing I will say is that if a regeneration happens, it will happen 2 ½ years in the future, so please give it a rest.

With Gap Year out of the way, let's look at the first season of *Torchwood*, airing on the CBC, the 2007 Christmas special and the upcoming series 30 of *Doctor Who*.

Season one of the adult-oriented *Doctor Who* spinoff series *Torchwood* will start airing Friday, October 5th at 9:00 p.m. on CBC. If you are attending FRED or BIFF (or VCon 32), make sure to record it. (I and many other *Doctor Who* viewers feel it goes all over the place with its storytelling; however, it's only the first season, so please keep this in mind.)

SPOILER WARNING for people reading this who picked up BCSFazine either at Boston Pizza or at the RSN Disorganizational Meeting; DON'T READ ANYTHING BELOW THIS LINE UNTIL AFER OCTOBER 1st.

The 2007 *Doctor Who* Christmas special: As you already know, the TARDIS had a little run-in with the bow of the *Titanic* at the end of the season. No, this is not the TARDIS getting hit by the doomed ship; it's the same doomed ship getting launched, but with The Doctor around, you know that very soon All Heck Will Break Loose. (It wouldn't be much of a series if heck didn't break loose, would it?) Joining him in this little adventure will be Australian (start humming "Waltzing Mathilda") pop princess Kylie Minogue, and will introduce a new monster the with the nickname Porg.

Series 30 of *Doctor Who*: The Doctor will get a somewhat new companion, Donna from the 2006 Christmas special, "The Runaway Bride." The story on this is that the first story will be set in London a year after Martha left the TARDIS, and she is now a doctor (A doctor, not The Doctor), working under Captain Jack with Torchwood in Cardiff, and can't travel there to assist him since All Heck Has Broken Loose. So, when he meets up with Donna, he gets her to assist him, And The World Is Saved; then Donna gets to go off into time and space aboard the TARDIS.

Fans of Martha need not worry; she will return to the TARDIS for the last three episodes of the season. Just this time around, she will be agent for Torchwood; that will change her relationship with The Doctor quite a lot.

As for where, when and with whom the TARDIS and her crew will be going in series 30, I can only tell you a few things:

- To the 1920s, where they meet Agatha Christie;
- To the far future, where they run into the Ood (from the season 28 story, “Impossible Planet”/”Satan’s Pit”), on their home world;
- To ancient Rome, where who-knows-what will happen. (Rumors say that Davros [Sir Ben Kingsley], Dalek Prime, and the Rani [Joan Collins] will be trying to change history by giving the Romans steam power.) This story is to be filmed on the set of the now-cancelled BBC/HBO series *Rome*, that was largely destroyed by fire in August; however, most of it will be rebuilt by the time it is needed for The Doctor’s Roman adventure. Also, since this story will be filmed at Rome’s Cinecitta studio, it will mark the first time since the TV movie that *Doctor Who* will be shot outside of the U.K.

Returning to the real world for a minute: filming of the 2007 *Doctor Who* Christmas was postponed for a few days in July after the passing of David Tennant’s mother, Helen McDonald. When hearing this said news, fans helped raise over £4,000 on Tennant’s own site (some fans went as far as selling a 2-foot-tall ceramic Dalek); the money will go to ACCORD Hospice in Paisley, Scotland, where Tennant’s mother worked as a volunteer for many years.

Actor Peter Davidson will reprise his role as The Fifth Doctor in the upcoming “Children in Need” special, all on BBC1 in late November, alongside the present Doctor. Sorry, not much else is known about this special at this time. Just keep your eyes open for it on YouTube.

The highly enjoyable Steven Moffat story “The Girl in the Fireplace” (the story that made this 40-something guy cry) won the 2006 Hugo Award for Best Dramatic Presentation Short Form. This is the second Hugo in the same category that Moffat and *Doctor Who* have won. I feel it’s very likely that *Doctor Who* could win again in 2008 in Denver, this time for Paul Cornell’s “Human Nature”/”Family of Blood” (the only other story that made this forty-something guy cry), or to Steven Moffat’s “Blink.”

Finally: what can you buy a *Doctor Who* viewer who has everything? Why not an 1860s sea fort for the coast of Portsmouth, that was used in the classic six-part Jon Pertwee story, “The Sea Devils”? Since the story was filmed there in 1971, it has been converted to a hotel and events venue that would be a great place to host a *Doctor Who* con. The cost: about \$20,000,00 (Cdn). So, if you are Bill Gates, and happen to get your hands on this *BCSFAzine*, please meet me at the McDonald’s at 8th Avenue and McBride in New Westminster. (Just phone them to see when I’m working there) ...

Ray Seredin, September 2007

About BCSFA

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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!
- You went to SMURFCon!
- My friend made me!
- You help edit a Wiki!
- You contacted us via Voltronic Galaxer!
- You know better than to use an em-dash in a monospaced font!
- People's lives take them strange places!
- You believe in the Great Pumpkin!
- My love for you is like this scar; it's ugly and it's permanent.
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