

BCSF A Zine

#420

\$3.00

May 2008



Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

BCSFazine #420 © May 2008, Volume 36, #5, is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN: 1490-6406. Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer at P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main St., Vancouver, BC CANADA V5V 3P0 (new address since 01 Jan. 2008) 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. BCSFazine is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each. (Subscription/membership rates are given towards the end of this zine.)

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This Month's Events (Inshallah)

- Sat. May 3: ca. 8 pm: The next Royal Swiss Navy Disorganizational Meeting, at Garth Spencer's place unless we move it, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC. Phone him at (778) 865-2372 for directions. (NOTE: the RSN website has been taken down; a new one is under construction.)
- Fri. May 16: BCSFazine deadline. See Garth at FRED.
- Sat. May 17: ca. 7 pm: BCSFA meeting/party at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's home, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC. This week's feature: A Night With A Dragon Lady. A Reading and Interview with Naomi Novik, recorded at Norwescon31 by Cosmic Ray Seredin. Phone (604) 277-0845 for directions.
- Thu. May 29: at 7 pm: Book Discussion at Our Town café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. Book to discuss will be "The Phoenix Exultant by John C. Wright, sequel to *The Golden Age*.
- Fri. May 30: BCSFazine production. See Garth at FRED.

Art Credits

- S. Birkhead.....masthead
- T. Wayne..... cover

There and Back Again

Why, I wonder, are so many past and present BCSFAns staying away from FRED? Or Trekkers, anime fans, costumers, filkers, gamers, and so on? The organizers have put real effort into trying to bring fans together.

Ryan Hawe, the official greeter for FRED these days, wrote on Wednesday, April 23:

Although FRED has always been more or less its own event, its history has been linked to that of BCSFA (and WCSFA -- but that's another story) until very recently. And I suspect many BCSFA folk would be surprised to hear me add the last part.

But the thing of it is, over the past few years we've seen a shift in attendance. And this is by no means a bad thing, for it has enabled FRED to become available to many new people, and reach out to what is now a fragmented fandom.

But with the recent changes in BCSFA, to say nothing of its own promotional concerns, it occurred to me to ask whether the idea of an overarching umbrella of fandom wasn't still a good idea, and whether I should make some attempt at bringing people together, not just for dinner but for something longer.

I know I'm not the only one to think along these lines, of course, but on my own front I shall do what I can.

So, this FRED is about BCSFA, what it was, what it is, and what it means. That last is a tall

order, I know... But him Garth have archives and words of yore and wisdom!

So, take a trip in the way-back machine, but first, make sure you're back at Boston Pizza! :)

Steve Forty, our former greeter and eternal FRED ambassador, responded:

FRED was for many years an umbrella group. When we were bigger we had a Star Trek club form at FRED. We had some people from many different fan groups turn up. We were at the same location for a long time and we had visitors from out of country look us up online and drop in. We had a number of authors come to FRED occasionally, we made it a variety event. I am hoping to get to the occasional FRED in coming months, but every time I think I can make it something happens.

At the risk of being merely offensive, I have to ask if Steve even got the point, much less responded to it.

The point is that we are not drawing people from other local fan groups in the first place.

Is it time to distribute FRED flyers to our fellow travelers?



Letters

Taral Wayne, April 9, 2008

Well, it's bigger, but I didn't find much I felt like reading, other than to browse through the letters. But I guess that's a matter of taste. I might have found the item on "Hobbits" more interesting if I hadn't read several more rigorous articles about them in *New Scientist*. The news about finding a sci-fi star just makes me queasy. Can't say I cared whether or not there was a Harvey Dent website as part of promoting the next Batman fiasco. In fact, I'm not sure how a 32-page fanzine can seem to have so little substance... Sorry about the bruised feelings, there, Garth. I'll give you an A for effort, anyway. And the cover was nifty.

((It's fair comment. Now, what would lend more substance to this here club newsletter?))

I'm more interested in the idea of *BCSFazine* going digital on me. Certainly I understand the need. It isn't the first to go to naughts and ones. But it presents me with a quandary. Do I want to contribute to a zine

there are no "copies" of? I've avoided this issue pretty well so far -- Guy Lillian sends me a printed copy to encourage my contributions. I've gotten physical copies of *Drunk Tank* that contained my long interview. Subsequent issues I've had to print out myself, but there were only one or two and they were short. I may let *Drunk Tank* to, though, rather than pay out of my pocket for the privilege of contributing. There's the same problem now with *BCSFazine*. Why bother, when there's nothing "real"? I suppose I could take pleasure in selflessly entertaining the members I've never met, of a club I don't belong to. And there's always the remote possibility the might vote for me on the Hugos. (Very remote, if I factor in the probability many of the members will be going to Denver this year.) But is it enough?

This is going to keep me up nights, worrying about it, you know.

Anthony Murfet, tmurfet@hotmail.com, April 12, 2008

The reason for BCSFA is self-evident. It has existed for what, thirty years? It has SF in its name. A name formulated by the founding fathers of Science Fiction. (They were all fathers, right? You'll forgive my disjointed English I'm sure. You don't get too many LOCs so you can't be all that choosy.) I have met a few of those old guys. Julius Schwartz for example. Julie gave Ray Bradbury fare to reach New York when he was hanging on street corners in LA selling newspapers. That was before *Astounding*. Julie was responsible for *Mystery in Space* and *Strange Adventures*. I worshipped him as a twelve year old and in recent years took the time and trouble to know him personally before he passed a few years ago. I even met

and talked with Irwin Donnefeld, owner of National Periodical Publications (DC Comics) before he sold it to Warner Publishing. That, if nothing else, makes me a bona fide SF fan. Not sure why I need to make that point. Proud of it I guess. I've met Forrey. I spent time with Carmine Infantino. Who's Carmine? Well he was the guy that pencilled *The Flash* in the early sixties. Anything Julie edited and Carmine drew. I have. Still. Want to see *the Planet that came to a Standstill*? I'm your man. But enough about me. What's my point? Well has anything in these few lines generated any curiosity in ye editor? Or anyone else? Well here's my point. The reason for BCSFA is for like minds to share their interests, their problems, their warts, their family problems... ...a friend in need is a bloody nuisance... it's about making friends and sharing good times. So if BCSFA isn't doing that anymore then someone needs to give it a blood transfusion. Or more simply put, attract some fresh blood! Even if it's fresh old blood.

((I have TRIED, you know.))

There are people that care about the BCSFA. Just last week the proprietor of White Dwarf Books chased me a whole block uphill from the shop waving a copy of *BCSFAZine*. I'd forgotten it and she said she couldn't catch me because of arthritis. Sad that after ten years I still don't know her name. Mind you she hasn't offered it either. Ha! That's why BCSFA is in bad shape. The best prospective new blood is mostly anti-social. Oh well.

((Oh. Well. That explains it.))

How are you going to get me to FRED? Do you really want to? Now if you could do an episode of FRED at the pub near White Dwarf I'd attend. What's her

name? Next time I could walk in the shop and greet her by name.

BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 67.418 Friday 25 May 2008 BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, Canada, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

Hello, Garth. Sorry this LOC is two months late. I do read *BCSFAzine* and appreciate you editing it. Another LOC, on *BCSFAzine* #419, will follow this one.

Cover - A forbidden cover that was too hot for public display in one of our sponsors' establishments!

((Any point in my printing copies of BCSFAzine anymore, then?))

Why the Great Wars of Europe Had to Be - I wonder whether J. Blackmore's familiar with the concept of a small club newsletter. Do we "get the current zine scene"? What does that mean? And is it even *BCSFAzine's* job?

((That's the bottom line. What is the job here?))

If we can think of anything to put in *BCSFAzine* to broaden its appeal, great, but one has to criticize things for what they are.

If I recall correctly, it was originally someone else who was "easily confused" by the "ordinary magazine practice" of continuing an article on another page. I don't find it confusing, but I do find it wearying.

((That was Barb Dryer, just being Barb.))

BCSFA is still figuring out what BCSFA is for. It's not just you.

For what it's worth, I like getting *BCSFAzine* (the paper edition especially). I like going to VCON. I like Kathleen's and your monthly gatherings. I'm looking forward to Ish #3. That's what BCSFA currently does for me.

Locs - Lloyd Penney: *BCSFAzine* would reflect its subscribers' interests automatically if we all overcame our shyness and began submitting things based on our interests at the moment. I'll try to un-censor myself and do this soon.

No one is taught how to research current events, or how to sort through the reams of information and find the useful material. Even just to follow municipal issues for my suburb would require energy I don't currently have. It might not be a job for the individual. Maybe you should start a news collection and analysis club. Even if it doesn't work, weird things might happen that we can document.

((That's one of the things I wanted the Royal Swiss Navy to do: encourage people to compile information on our public and private institutions, and our elected officials, and connect some dots that the professional press doesn't connect.))

I have always maintained that FaceBook is reasonable as long as you ignore the applications.

I wish I had the competence to LOC every zine I receive quickly. In the time I've been writing my LOC on the first *Peregrine Nations* I received, the zine has arrived in my mail three more times and been cancelled; now I feel like it was my fault.

((What competence does it take? Just type, and the words leak out of your brain!))

Sheryl Birkhead: If only the education system were results-oriented enough to "flunk people." Instead, people graduate from high school and university without knowing the difference between "its" and "it's" or "than" and "then," because it's easier to herd the students on to the next grade than to keep teaching them until they can read.

((Forty years ago I reflected that the BC educational system was about processing pupils, not about educating them. So you're telling me it hasn't changed??))

Conventions

May 2008

May 3: Free Comic Book Day at the Soho, now at 1283 Hamilton St., Vancouver. The local Browncoats, Gaters, 13th Colonists and Wholigans, along with us loyal BIFFizens, invite other fans to celebrate Free Comic Book Day with us. After a hard time deciding how many free comics books you can afford to pick up at your local comic book store, swing by Soho Cafe & Billiards for a Cosmic Comic. Coffee Event and a visit with fellow flans. Feel free to bring your purplebelly friends providin' they can behave, and Cylons are cautiously welcome if they're unarmed, but beware of the Daleks. Potterphiles may not carry concealed wands. Biff Tannen is definitely not invited. a number of local comic dealers are taking part, but should you choose to patronise Elfsar Comics & Toys at 1007 Hamilton Street, please take an item for the Food Bank. You will be helping people in need, and in return, you get to take even more comics.

May 23-25: Crypticon Horror Convention at the Doubletree Inn & Conference Center, 18740 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188. Randon Acts Seattle is pleased to announce Crypticon Seattle 2008. **THREE DAYS OF MUSIC, MONSTERS AND MAYHEM!** The Doubletree Ballroom will be packed with plenty of opportunities to sell and buy horror toys, t-shirts, books, movies, masks, art, autographs and much, much more. Come checkout the exhibits, meet your favourite horror personalities, get their autographs. Friday night features our Independent Film Festival and on Saturday night we are having a major concert featuring some amazing National talent. There will be movies running all weekend featuring some new and some classic horror films and in some cases hosted by a member or members of the cast. With our major line-up of great guests, this show is shaping up to be a 'Don't Miss event'! See <http://www.crypticonseattle.com/>

May 25 (11am to 5pm): Vancouver Comicon at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (corner of Main and 15th Ave); Special Guests: Francis Manapul (*Legion of Super-Heroes*, *Witchblade*, *Necromancer*); Marcus To (*Heroes*, *Fathom*, *Soullfire: Chaos Reign*); Agnes Garbowska Camilla d'Errico (*Avril Lavigne's Make 5 Wishes*, *Nightmares and Fairytales*); Rusty Beach (*Outnumbered*); Robin Bougie (*Cinema Sewer*); Jordyn Bochon (*Radar Friends*); Ken Boesem (*The Village*); Jonathon Dalton Kelly Everaert (*Trilogy of Terror*); Maxine Frank (*Maximum Superexcitement*); Mary Kim Donald King Critty Riphick Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell*, *Hemp Island*); Beth Wagner Critical

Hit Comics Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: Free!
Dealer Tables: \$60/wall; \$50/centre

June 2008

June 13-15: ConComCon at Summit Inn At Snoqualmie Pass, (425) 434-0095, 12 Guy Peak Ln, Snoqualmie, WA 98065, USA. "C-Cubed" is the long-established nickname for ConComCon. See the URL <http://swoc.org/ccubed>. C-Cubed even has a mascot, "Cubey, the Sea Cucumber of C-Cubed" (<http://swoc.org/ccubed/cubey.gif>), drawn by the talented Julie McGalliard. C-Cubed is also commonly abbreviated as "C^3". C-Cubed 16 will (very likely) be held in Vancouver in 2009. (Alex von Thorn)

June 27-29: Writers Weekend in Seattle, WA. (Writers' workshop.)

July 2008

July 3-6: Westercon 61: Burning Fan in Las Vegas, NV.

July 6 - Vancouver Comicon. For more info about show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412

August 2008

Aug. 1-3: Fandemonium in Nampa, ID. (General, but with gaming, anime and comics emphases.)

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

Aug 3: Zuiichi in Vancouver, Washington. "Dreamland Japan announces Zuiichi one-day event Dreamland Japan is pleased to announce Zuiichi- the ultimate treat in random fandom, a new experience in fan run events. Zuiichi provides four star food, modern theater-style viewing rooms with leather seating, sake and wine tasting, and a staff trained to personally cater to the attendees' needs, all included in the ticket price. The programming is fans for fans, though special consideration is taken on adult-age fans, giving a balanced approach to fandom activities. Fans will be able to take pleasure in a mixed palate of viewings and events. Those attending may sip tea at the Ouran Host Club tea party, view the latest Lolita fashion, and see *Serenity* on the big screen at this unique celebration of high-end fandom. Furthermore, Zuiichi offers a new twist on food: all meals are included. Rather than depending on a diet of ramen and pocky, fans will be able to feast on roast beef, salads, pastries, and pastas from a custom gourmet catered four-star menu. These dining experience will also include local wines and a specialized selection of sake. The food, viewing, tasting, guests, and world-class service are all part of the experience. Dreamland Japan events emphasize indulging in the very best. www.zuiichi-event.com

Aug. 6-10: Worldcon 66/Denvention 33 in Denver, CO. \$175 reg, \$45 child, \$40 supporting; site selection voters \$135 (child/supp free). _New rates from 1 Jan to 10 Jul:_ \$200 reg, \$50 child or supp. Contact Denvention, PO Box 1349, Denver, CO 80201, USA.

Aug. 24: Comix & Stories. - involved with the Vancouver Art Gallery's KRAZY! show.

(http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/the_exhibitions/exhibit_krazy.html) Sunday, August 24th, 2008 11am to 5pm Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC Special Guests: Kim Deitch Derek Kirk Kim Jesse Hamm Creator tables: \$25 by June 30; \$35 after June 30 Publisher tables: \$50 by June 30; \$65 after June 30 For more information about either show, or to be removed from this list, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412 -- Leonard S Wong lswong@uniserve.com <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

Aug. 29-31 (tentative): ValhallaCon 2008 in Bellingham, Washington. ValhallaCon is the successor to VikingCon, Bellingham's premier SF/F convention. Our website is at <http://valhallacon.com/>.

September 2008

September 7 - Vancouver Comicon. For more info about show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412

Sept. 26-28: Foolscap X in Bellevue, WA. (General.)

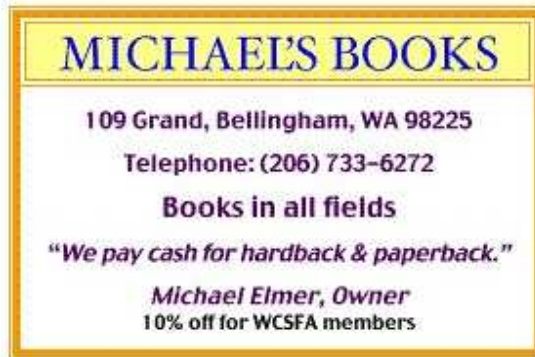
October 2008

Oct. 3-5: VCon 33 will be held at the Compass Point Inn, formerly known as the Days Inn Surrey. (Same hotel, same people, different sign above the door.) 9850 King George Highway. The confirmed Guests of Honour are Author Patrick Rothfuss, Artist Lisa Snellings-Clark, and Gamer James Ernest." (Danielle Stephens, chair)

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. World Fantasy is a literary focused convention that is in a different city every year. This is only the third time it has been in Canada and the first time it has been west of Ottawa. The convention is aimed at authors, developing writers, readers and artists. Attendance is limited to 850 attendees. The convention theme in 2008 is "Mystery in Fantasy and Horror". During the day there will be two streams of discussion panels and two streams of author readings. Major events are the Friday night autograph session and the Sunday afternoon World Fantasy Awards banquet. More details coming on www.worldfantasy2008.org

November 2008

November 16 - Vancouver Comicon. For more info about show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412



News

Authors

Kathy Tyers wrote to Greg Slade:

It's finished! At least, it's as finished as it's going to get before I turn it in as my arts thesis, and I'm going to be presenting a reading from /Wind and Shadow /at Regent College on May 23 (Friday evening) at 7:00 PM in the gorgeous new library downstairs. If you or any of the other good BIFF people would like to hear a bit of what I've been writing, please come! After hours, it's OK (and free) to park in the Regent lot. I hope that the .pdf that Regent's communications office made for an invitation comes through on this forward. It's a stock image, but I like it. Having a picture to go with the story somehow makes it feel "real" to me.

Greg Slade (April 23, 2008)

Robert Sawyer announces *Identity Theft* book-launch events

MONTREAL, QUEBEC: Reading from IDENTITY THEFT at the Blue Metropolis Literary Festival Saturday, May 3, 2008, at 8:30 p.m.:
<http://sfwriter.com/2008/04/sawyer-in-montreal-in-may.html>

TORONTO, ONTARIO: IDENTITY THEFT launch party Saturday, May 10, 2008, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Bakka-Phoenix Books 697 Queen Street West (just west of Bathurst in Downtown Toronto)

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA: Launch party at science-fiction convention Keycon on Friday night, May 16, 2008 *and* Readings and signing on Saturday, May

17, 2008, at 2:00 p.m. by Robert J. Sawyer, Nick DiChario, and Hayden Trenholm at McNally Robinson Grant Park

ROCHESTER, NEW YORK: Launch party for *Identity Theft* and Nick DiChario's new novel *Valley Of Day-Glo* (which I edited), plus Nancy Kress's *Nano Comes To Clifford Falls*: Saturday, June 21, 2008, 7:00 p.m. Barnes and Noble, 3349 Monroe Avenue, Pittsford (Rochester), NY

Robert Sawyer adds,

I'm thrilled that my novel *Rollback* -- now out in mass-market paperback from Tor -- is one of five finalists for this year's HUGO AWARD (the top honor in the science-fiction field) for Best Novel of the Year.

<http://sfwriter.com/exrb.htm>

For those who are interested in how the Hugos work: to vote, you need a "Supporting Membership" in the current year's World Science Fiction Convention. (If you also wish to attend the convention, which this year is in Denver August 6-10, you'll need a "Full Attending Membership." I'll be there, of course; World SF Conventions are wonderful!):

<https://www.denvention3.org/membership.php>

The online Hugo ballot, with the list of nominees in all categories, is here:

<https://www.denvention3.org/wcdb/08hugostart.php>

And the printable ballot is here:

<http://www.denvention.org/hugos/finalhugo08.pdf>

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FREE ELECTRONIC COPY OF ROLLBACK FOR HUGO VOTERS

If you are, or become, a member of this year's World Science Fiction Convention, you can get FREE electronic copies of *Rollback*, plus three other Best Novel nominees (Ian McDonald's *BRASYL*, John Scalzi's *The Last Colony*, and Charles Stross's *Halting State*):

<http://scalzi.com/whatever/?p=576>

(Many thanks to John Scalzi for organizing this!)

In addition to its Hugo nomination, ROLLBACK is also a finalist for this year's Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Awards ("the Auroras").

Any Canadian may vote for the Auroras; the voting fee -- which helps defray the cost of manufacturing the lovely trophies -- is \$5:

<http://prix-aurora-awards.ca/English/AwardProcess/voting.html>

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AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

To my delight, the America Library Association has named *Rollback* one of the year's ten best SF novels:

<http://sfwriter.com/2008/01/rollback-nominated-for-alas-best-adult.html>

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AUDIBLE.COM

AUDIBLE.COM -- the world's largest provider of audio books -- has just released an unabridged recording of my Nebula Award-winning *The Terminal Experiment* -- with more to come!

Over the next few months, they'll also be releasing *CALCULATING GOD*, *HOMINIDS*, *HUMANS*, and *HYBRIDS*. This link will always take you to the full list of RJS titles at Audible.com:

<http://tinyurl.com/6humba>

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ROLLBACK REVIEWS:

"Thoroughly entertaining; one of those books you can't put down. Truly engrossing human drama -- characters that are totally realistic. It's got mainstream appeal but is also a great read for fans of thought-provoking science fiction." Five stars [out of 5]" --SF SIGNAL

"A story that is so poignant I found myself in tears. *Rollback* has become one of my favourite science fiction novels; Sawyer has written another classic." --*The Davis Enterprise*, Davis, California

"ROLLBACK is a story about love and commitment, about humanity at its most basic -- a novel to be savored by science-fiction and mainstream readers alike." --*The Globe And Mail*

"A dynamite science fiction novel; a wholly satisfying story." --*January Magazine*

"Above all, the author's characters bear their human strengths and weaknesses with dignity and poise. An elegantly told story for all libraries; highly recommended." --*Library Journal* (starred review, denoting a work of exceptional merit)

"*Rollback* gets my vote as SF novel of the year. A joy to read." --JACK McDEVITT, author of *Odyssey*

"A brilliant premise; a riveting book. Highly emotional and original -- a complex story with sympathetic and believable characters." --*Romantic Times Book Review*

"A reminder of why Sawyer is one of our most highly regarded writers of speculative fiction, able to handle the demands of the heart and the cosmos with equal skill." --QUILL & QUIRE

"I highly recommend Robert J. Sawyer's ROLLBACK. It's a shoo-in to be short-listed for next year's major awards." --SciFi DIMENSIONS

"Sawyer, who has won Hugo and Nebula awards, may well win another major SF award with this superior effort." --PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (starred review, denoting a work of exceptional merit)

I've finished writing *Wake*, the first volume of my upcoming WWW trilogy about the World Wide Web gaining consciousness. The book will be published in hardcover in March or April of 2009 by Ace Science Fiction in the US and Penguin in Canada.

Prior to that, the full text will be serialized in *Analog Science Fiction And Fact*, the world's #1 best-selling English-language SF magazine, starting in the "November 2008" issue (which goes on sale in early September):

<http://sfwriter.com/2008/03/analog-to-serialize-wake.html>

April 20, 2008

Books

Prairie Books Now, a Western Canada magazine dedicated to book announcements, interviews, author happenings, recently had a half page mention of EDGE books!

Books mentioned:

As Fate Decrees by Denysé Bridger

Clan of the Dung-Sniffers by Lee Danielle Hubbard

The Complete Guide to Writing Science Fiction, Vol. 1: First Contact

— edited by Dave A. Law and Darin Park

Darkness of the God by Amber Hayward

Darwin's Paradox by Nina Munteanu

JEMMA7729 by Phoebe Wray

Keeper's Child by Leslie Davis

Lachlei by M. H. Bonham
The Longevity Thesis by Jennifer Rahn
Operation: Save the Innocent by Tony Ruggiero
Sword Masters by Selina Rosen
Tesseract Eleven edited by Cory Doctorow and Holly Phillips

Virtual Evil by Jana G. Oliver

Justyn Perry, April 22, 2008

Marketing Manager, (www.edgewebsite.com)
Box 1714, Calgary, AB, T2P 2L7, Canada
403-254-0160 (voice) / 403-254-0456 (fax)

2008 Releases (Spring):

JEMMA 7729 by Phoebe Wray (February 2008)
Sword Master by Selina Rosen (February 2008)
Lachli by Margaret Bonham (March 2008)
Clan of the Dung-Sniffers by Lee Danielle Hubbard
(April 2008)
Operation Immortal Servitude: Save the Innocent
(Book 2) by Tony Ruggiero (April 2008)
The Hounds of Ash and other Tales of Fool Wolf by
Greg Keyes (May 2008)
Firestorm of Dragons edited by Michelle Acker and
Kirk Dougal (May 2008)

Awards

Auroras

We're coming down to the wire and, after all my struggles to set up a effectively-working on-line voting mechanism, it left me little time to do advertising. Would you post this on as many sites as you can:

The on-line voting ballots are out and available
<www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/AwardProcess/onlineVotingBallot.php>A mail-in ballot is available as a .pdf at
<www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/AwardProcess/votingballot2008PrixAuroraAwards.pdf>

A LITTLE BIT ABOUT THE AURORA AWARDS: Any Canadian citizen or resident can nominate or vote for the Canadian SF and Fantasy (Aurora) Awards. These awards are the closest thing Canada has to the Hugos, which are voted on by fans and presented at Worldcon. However, although the Auroras are hosted by CanVention (which is hosted by a different Canadian city each year), it is not necessary to buy a CanVention membership to vote, only to pay the \$5 voting fee which funds the awards.

This year, for the first time, voting is available on-line at <<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/>>. The online voting fee can be paid through PayPal, or voters can mail a printed ballot along with a cheque. This year's Auroras will be presented at Keycon25 in Winnipeg May 16-19 <<http://www.keycon.org/index.php>>. Voting closes on <when?>.

The Canadian SF and Fantasy Association started in 1980. At present there are 6 professional awards (3 English and 3 French), 3 fan awards, and an artistic achievement award (open to both pros & fans). For more information about the Auroras, visit <<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/>>.

Clint Budd, April 11, 2008
Chair, Aurora Awards Committee
clintbudd@dccnet.com

There will also be on-site voting at both **Boréal in Montreal** and **KeyCon in Winnipeg**. Clint is seeking volunteers to help staff a table at Boréal.

The on-line voting ballots are out and available < www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/AwardProcess/onlineVotingBallot.php > A mail-in ballot is available as a .pdf at < www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/AwardProcess/votingballot2008PrixAuroraAwards.pdf

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These awards are the closest thing Canada has to the Hugos, which are voted on by fans and presented at Worldcon. However, although the Auroras are hosted by CanVention (which is hosted by a different Canadian city each year), it is not necessary to buy a CanVention membership to vote, only to pay the \$5 voting fee which funds the awards.

This year, for the first time, voting is available on-line at < <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/> >. The online voting fee can be paid through PayPal, or voters can mail a printed ballot along with a cheque. This year's Auroras will be presented at Keycon25 in Winnipeg May 16-19 < <http://www.keycon.org/index.php> >.

The Canadian SF and Fantasy Association started in 1980. At present there are 6 professional awards (3 English and 3 French), 3 fan awards, and an artistic achievement award (open to both pros & fans).

For more information about the Auroras, visit < <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/> >.

Clint Budd

Chair, Aurora Awards Committee
clintbudd@dccnet.com

Locus Awards

The LOCUS AWARDS Science Fiction Awards Weekend will be June 21, 2008. Tickets should be available; See <https://secure.locusmag.com/About/2008LocusAwardsAd.html>. There is some question as to where the awards are being held.
SFNorthwest, April 10, 2008

BC Renfest

We have now submitted for our participation in a selection of parades.

Victoria Day is special for us this year. We will be participating in this year's Fort Langley May Day Parade BUT the folks at The Victoria Pirate Festival have invited us to join them in the Vancouver Island Victoria Day Parade. If all goes well The Crew Of The Jade Dragon will be on the Island while our nobles and villagers will remain on the mainland.

*The Fort Langley May Day Parade will be on May 19 In Fort Langley. Information:
<http://www.fortlangley.com/mayday08.html>

*Vancouver Island Victoria Day Parade information is not confirmed yet but you can visit them at:
http://www.victoria.ca/residents/artscl_artfest.shtml#apr_vicday

*Lynn Valley Day Parade on May 31 on The North Shore. They start at: 10am at Kirkstone rd and Lynn Valley to the 'event' at Mountain Hwy and Lynn Valley

in North Vancouver

*Pitt Meadows Day Parade on June 7 in Pitt Meadows.
<http://www.pittmeadows.bc.ca/EN/topnav/events/39.html>

*Langley Community Day Parade on June 21 in Langley.
http://www.city.langley.bc.ca/images/08_parade_poster.jpg

*Last but not least Canada Day (July 1) in Steveston with The Steveston Canada Day Parade and Salmon Festival.
<http://www.stevestonsalmonfest.ca/>

Please come out to one of these and cheer us on!! We are looking for people who are also willing to walk with us, take photos/video and/or be side line runners (a person or two, with backpacks with water and snacks) in these parades. If you are interested please contact us via: ccmh@bcrenfest.com And we'll add you to the evite for that parade. Make sure you let us know what you would like to do.

Hope to see all of you at one of these parades.
Christina Carr, Apr. 10, 2008

BIFF

(March 28th)

BIFF welcomed some of the members of the Vancouver Movie Meetup Group, as Marina the Announcement Lady introduced us to *The King of Kong: A Fistful of Quarters*, a documentary about two players competing to get the world record high score in

Donkey Kong. Cheer the plucky hero as he tries to get his achievement recognised! Boo the evil villain and his Machiavellian schemes! Heckle the evil villain's stooges, who do his dirty work for him! Pity the referee, who really thinks that all of this is actually important! Of course, all of this didn't prevent us from having some discussion before and afterwards. Among other things, we discussed a movie review web site which actually recommends *Doomsday* as worth watching... Total attendance was eight BIFFizens and seven Movie Meetup Group members, for a total of twelve fans, because of the overlap in membership between the two groups.

On the fourth day of the fourth month, the fourth season of *Battlestar Galactica* will start at the Eighties Restaurant, cheered on by loyal BIFFarinos and 13th Colonists, not just because so many BIFFites are 13th Colonists, but because this BSG Season 4 Premiere Party will be a joint meeting of BIFF and The 13th Colony.

Because the show starts at 7:00, we will be moving the usual start time for the meeting up to 6:00, to give people a chance to order and eat before the show starts. (Anybody who makes enough noise to disturb the group during the show will be thrown out the airlock.) I should also note that 13th Colonists have been signing up in droves, to the point where we're in serious danger of setting a new attendance record for BIFF. In fact, we're coming perilously close to the seating capacity of "the green room", where we meet. Therefore, if you're a BIFFene, but not a 13th Colonist, and you're planning on coming out this week, you should probably drop me a line so I can add you as a guest to my RSVP, so we can know when to cut off the invitation. Or, if you are a 13th Colonist, make sure

you RSVP, or you might find yourself exiled to the other side of the restaurant. (Imagine that: having to make a reservation to come to BIFF!)

Looking ahead, I've been thinking that it's time for another writing challenge, and at the same time, I've been wondering how BIFF is going to go as a group in the future. So, I thought of asking you to write a story set in 2030, telling us how BIFF is going (or whether people even remember it) 25 years after we first met. But, to be honest, that challenge struck even me as kind of lame. And then, it hit me: instead of asking you to prognosticate about BIFF, the group, what I want to hear from you is how things are going to go for... Baby BIFF. Yes, let's go under the assumption that the baby will be named "Biff." ("But wait!" I hear you cry, "what if the baby is a girl?" That is if the baby's a girl!)

So here's the challenge: in 2000 words or less, tell us about some event in the first 22 years of Biff's life. You can talk about her proud parents, or the group that is her namesake, or how she was the first person to land on asteroid 20050708, or you can mention her younger brothers, Pow and Socko, and/or her baby sister Ker-thump. But Biff is a girl, and will be born shortly after you tell us her story, on the night of April 11th. Tell us her story, and win fame and, well, fame. (April 4th) With the presence of twenty 13th Colonists who have never been out to BIFF before, we set a new attendance record when Gayle walked in (and then Chad and Serena put us over the top) for the joint BIFF/13th Colony meeting to watch the season premiere of *Battlestar Galactica*. (The record is now 34 people, which is going to be pretty hard to top.)

No doubt due to the threat of being tossed out the airlock for disturbing the group, we all sat in rapt

silence, eager to find out what happens next to our heroes. Afterwards, Marina the Announcement Lady went over upcoming fannish events (like the charity screening of *Serenity*, which will be out at UBC this year), and we voted on the best argument for who will end up being the final Cylon and why (Colleen won that.) Then, the conversation wandered on to other topics. (In one conversation, we debated the relative merits of the various incarnations of *Star Trek*, which of course led naturally to discussing Gerry Anderson shows like *Space 1999*.)

And, for the first time in months, a handful of stragglers headed up to Blenz for BIFF Part II, where, among other things, we riffed on the possibility that the network might drag out the final half-season of *Battlestar Galactica* until the week before the opening ceremonies for the 2010 Olympics, which in turn led to a discussion of fannish equivalents to the Olympic mascots. (Think Pokemon crossed with a baby seal...)

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(April 18) Five faithful BIFFionados turned out for the South Korean stop on our Fannish World Tour, and watched Dong-Kun Jang and Toru Nakamura play a team of supercops and best friends torn apart by historical forces and loyalty to those they love. Stylish, dramatic, touching, challenging, thought-provoking, and pretty darn long, 2009: Lost Memories is an amazing piece of work, and if you weren't there to see it yourself, you're going to have to find your own copy, because I'm not letting mine out of my hot little hands.

BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens Fridays (except long weekends and VCON weekend) 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.realityfree.ca/>

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.realityfree.ca/taxonomy/term/13/0/feed>

Greg Slade, April 2008

Blogs

let everyone know about the NWSFS News Blogs on LiveJournal, MySpace, and Blogspot. These blogs are viewable to the public, so you don't need to be a member of the site (or NWSFS) to view them.

NWSFS LiveJournal Blog (Community) :

<http://community.livejournal.com/nwsfs/>

MySpace Blog: <http://blog.myspace.com/nwsfs>

Blogspot Blog: <http://nwsfsnews.blogspot.com/>

Because of issues with MySpace "security" measures, most content that would be posted on the MySpace blog is now being posted on the Blogspot blog.

There is a NWSFS Group on MySpace:

<http://groups.myspace.com/nwsfs> Feel

free to join if you are on MySpace.

Jim Cox, April 10, 2008

Comic Art

Colin Upton writes:

Hi. My article, Comix and the Lowbrow, has been published in full on Action Yes, a online quarterly magazine of arts and culture. I went to the contents page, looks like a lot of poetry and stuff ... I am told this is quite a prestigious publication...

<http://www.actionyes.org/issue7/upton/upton1.html>

Colin Upton, April 5, 2008

Hi. I just wanted to get this out of the way, perhaps you've already heard (there's rumours floating around the web, apparently) but if not I'm sorry to say that a couple of weeks ago I have been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. I'm feeling fairly bitter about it, I don't smoke, drink or do drugs. In the last few years I went from a size 56 to a size 50 waist mostly from walking, yoga and Tia Chi. I'm not required to take insulin, my liver is in good shape but I am taking a mess of pills though I seem to be covered by Pharamacare for the considerable cost, after a lot of bureaucratic bungling. With the pills and the diet I've been forced to adopt the first week was hard, lots of testing, stomach pain, loss of appetiete, constant dizzyness. Anyone who wants to follow the details can check my blog:

cupton.livejournal.com

Where I've been posting fairly frequently. I'm feeling better now and I am going back to work, slowly. In two weeks I'll be seeing my "diabetes team" at the clinic and hopefully find out more about what food I can and cannot eat, get back to an exercise routine. Rest assured that I am taking this seriously, I usually do what I'm told.

Colin Upton, 28 March 2008

Got House

Little Goth House cartoon that I found while cleaning out my kitchen:
<http://www.gothhouse.org/index.php> Plus, in the parlour a couple of essays sure to please zombie fans and displese video game fans... but what about fans of *zombie video games*? Oh dear! I'm so confused!

And, because New Orleans is my muse and St. Expedite and I have this weird thing going on and because Paul really wanted to go back to Jazzfest... we are going back to the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival this year. Second weekend. Some of you are already going to meet us there -- whoop! But if you are going to be there and we don't know it, drop a line. Er, you know, drop a line if you *want* to get together. If you want to avoid us, I'm sure that will be possible too.

Julie McGalliard, April 11, 2008

I have a page at Deviant Art now, that's more suitable to SF fandom, if you can find an appropriate way of mentioning it. the main difficulty wasn't in creating it, but will be in getting people to know its there. People need not belong to DA, just click on the button near the top saying "gallery". They can see featured items there, or open any of the other folders containg, "zine covers", "comic", "pro" etc.

<http://taralwayne.deviantart.com/>

Taral Wayne, April 14, 2008

Convention News

Steam-con

Minutes of the April 6th meeting of the Steam-Con committee were released to the NWConLeague listerv at April 22, 2008. It appears this convention will be held on the second or third weekend of October 2009, depending on the venue; the committee would prefer the Seatac Marriott to the Seatac Doubletree. (GS)

World Fantasy Con

Membership rates go up at the end of April. Current rates are \$125 US and will be going up to \$150 US as

of May 1st. There is a membership cap and if we reach it, we will NOT be selling any at the door, so purchase now.

Check our membership list on line. We want to make sure your name is spelled correctly or you weren't accidentally missed altogether. Human error does happen.

Remember to book your hotel as soon as possible. See our website for hotel booking info.

We are putting PR 3 together and it should go out and on line about this time next month.

The Judges for the World Fantasy awards have been chosen. Please visit <http://www.worldfantasy.org/awards/judges.html> to see who they are as well as details on how to submit your work for consideration.

As mentioned in the past, our hotel is filling fast. While there is still lots of room for the Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights we have made "overflow" arrangements with the International hotel for those wishing to come in earlier or stay later. This hotel is about three blocks from the Hyatt (our convention hotel) and the room rate is \$165 per night, plus taxes. Please visit the "details" section of our website for more booking information.

The Dealers' Room has put a layout of the room on the website. We do have to do a slight retraction. On our last News and Notes we said the dealers' tables would be 6' but it turn out they will be 8' after all.

As we get closer to the convention, the Podcast committee will be putting out a call for people willing to record panels and readings (with authors' permission, of course). If you have your own recording device (such as an i-River or Zoom) even better. Pop us a note at info@worldfantasy2008.org if you will be ready, willing and able. (Thanks to Summer Brooks of The Dragon Page Cover to Cover (<http://www.dragonpage.com/>) for bringing this to our attention)

Also, just a brief reminder membership rates are going up at the end April so, if you haven't purchased your membership already, we are encouraging you to do so.

Don't forget to listen to our podcast. Right now we feature an interview with author George R.R. Martin.

This e-mail was sent to those who indicated they would be interested in receiving updates from World Fantasy 2008. If you received this message in error or would like to be removed from our list, please let us know at info@worldfantasy2008.org

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions feel free to contact us:

- e-mail us at info@worldfantasy2008.org
- Visit forums www.worldfantasy2008.org and follow links
- MySpace www.myspace.com/worldfantasy2008
- Voice mail 206-350-1932

March 20, 2008

Club Meetings Out of Town

Toronto:

The next USS Hudson Bay Open Meeting is on Saturday April 12, 2008 from 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM in the Auditorium of the Main Branch of the North York Public Library located at the City of North York Subway Stop. Heather Dale will be giving a concert and then there will be a Reception afterwards. We will have Aurora Ballots at the meeting for anyone who is interested in voting, so bring your chequebook.

After the meeting, anyone who is interested, is welcome to go to a movie and dinner.

If you need further information please call Vivian or Lillian or Lynda Ciaschini at Home: (416) 221-6291 or if not there, at Business: (905) 850-6080. We keep irregular hours so please try both numbers. You can call the Home Number up to 11:00 PM at night and after 9:00 AM in the morning.

If anyone is changing their e-mail address, please e-mail Robert Eveleigh at maillist-idic@eveleigh.ca

Robert Eveleigh, April 5, 2008

Seattle:

The Seattle Tun, a Second Sunday collation of fans with beers, is an open pubmeet for Seattle Area science fiction fans who like to socialize, talk, argue, gossip, and drink beer with like-minded fen. If you expect to be in Seattle and would enjoy a bit of beer-lubricated conversation on a wide range of topics, only some of which include Sinus Friction (Never call it Si Fri!), please feel free to join in.

Where: The Pub @ Third Place, Ravenna 6504 20th Ave. NE, Seattle, WA 98115 Pub: (206) 523-0217

When: Sunday, April 13 4:30 pm - 6:30 pm or later

The Pub is open 3-10pm on Sundays; NB that the bookstore upstairs closes at 7:00 pm so if you need to service your Jones for books, or want to exit by the bookstore door, you need to do it before 7:00.

Otherwise it's just a quick nip 'round the block from the pub door to the bookstore parking lot.

Ulrika O'Brien, April 7, 2008

Fan Funds

TAFF: Chris Garcia writes, "I've managed to complete my TAFF report (all 50k words of it) and am ready to start sending it out to collect the bounties.

Only thing is, I don't know who to send them to.

I know that SCIFI has their offer, and I seem to remember someone saying the FANAC did as well.

Anyone got contacts so I can start getting these out?"

Chris Garcia, April 9, 2008

Suzanne Tompkins responded:

"I've responded to Chris offlist as I had a few other items for him that needn't go to the whole list.

I am assuming that he is officially on this listserv as he was able to post. If not, please do add him. (I'd been waiting to hear directly from him before posting here to do this.)

FYI -- My own trip report is also almost ready! I'll let the usual suspects know when it's available as well."

Suzanne Tompkins, April 9, 2008

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Book, Bell, Dragon & Fun (Norwescon 31)

By Cosmic Ray Seredin

What happens when over 3,033 members of fandom get together at a hotel in SeaTac, Washington on a four-day weekend? The answer is Norwescon 31, one of the best-attended regional science fantasy conventions and the most successful offspring of Vancouver's very own VCon—though this year, thanks to the SeaTac DoubleTree's insurance company trying to turn Norwescon into a no-fun zone, Norwescon 31 came of age by still remaining fun without the loud parties. (Heck, we had the La Quinta across the boulevard for that.)

Let's start at the very beginning of Norwescon 31, the Wednesday morning move-in. (By the way, I had an uneventful train ride down the night before, where I think we broke a record for clearing the border at Blaine.) Don't ask why I didn't make a beeline for the Sci-Fi Museum and Hall of Fame. I guess I just wanted to see how they set this monster up. It took

about twenty of us (many with much better jobs than myself) and a large rent-a-truck to get the stuff from the two large self-storage units (which, put together, would come out to the same space as the ground floor of the Freemans' residence) to the hotel. I did only one round trip (a drive of less than five minutes) with five others, and it took us over an hour just to load the truck up, then about a half-hour to unload it, then another two hours to take it all to where it should go. Luckily, unlike in the past, we didn't have to deal with another major event being in the hotel during the set-up, so according to many of the others, the move-in was done in record time.

After spending the rest of Wednesday looking around Seattle and taking a ferry ride to Bremerton and back (also seeing the locomotive used in the 1984 movie *Red Dawn* still going strong, switching a covered hopper freight car at a local bakery), I returned to the con to see that they had already opened pre-reg in the con's office, so I got my badge (which this year was numbered 798, for those keeping track) long before a major line-up started. Even though their costumes were still in their trunks, there were a good number of fans already there at the hotel with most of their sci-fi attire safely stored in their rooms, so I looked for one of those legendary Norwescon elevator parties. However, I think the hotel's insurance company had other ideas, because I couldn't find one. Yet with that many people there on a Wednesday night, I knew this was going to be a very large convention.

On Thursday, after being stopped by a dragon made mostly out of spoons sitting in the lobby, I started the day with a Lumberjack Breakfast at the Denny's across the boulevard before returning for more volunteering. After seeing a ton of members

lining up at pre-reg and picking up my goody bag, I asked where I could help. They first sent me to Kidcon where they needed tons and tons of old newspapers to make dragon's eggs. After filling two boxes of that stuff, I found they needed me in the art room, so for the next fifteen to twenty minutes I was laying pipe and helped save the day, because the artists came in as soon as we finished.

It was getting close to noon and for the first time since I began going to cons way back in 1988, they had reg opening just before noon, rather than way after noon. The halls were filled with even more fans, even some with their own pet dragons, better known as reptiles. I went to the volunteers' lounge where they already had some free food and tons of dragon-related prizes to get people interested in volunteering. Having a food-handling ticket, I signed up for three hours of volunteering in hospitality from 8 to 11 p.m.

I returned to my hotel room for a while to read the pocket program book. Norwescon is now only printing the programming schedules in the pocket programming book, so this year's edition was quite thick, but it contained all the information you need to enjoy the con in one place.

By 2 p.m. it was time for me to hit the halls with my digital camera, because I thought that by that time, the members of fandom should be wearing some of their interesting attire. I was wrong, but I still got a few pictures.

At 3 p.m. it was time for my first panel, on the topic of returning to the moon to get that very special Helium 3 that (maybe) can make cold fusion a reality. Even though my knowledge of real science is limited to what I learn from either PBS or the Discovery Channel, it was very interesting, because it dealt with

engineering, and in the end I even got some pictures of the interesting attire of members of the panel's audience.

After the panel, I was walking down the hallway when this woman with the biggest spoon you've ever seen passed me, so I asked her to pose for a picture. A few seconds later I thought I'd run into a dragon, but it turned out to be a seven-tailed fox that was quite pissed off at me for mistaking her for a dragon.

Though I wanted to go to a panel at 5 p.m., I ended up missing it, since I was quite busy standing in line for the opening of the dealers' room, where I went to sacrifice all the hard-earned money I've made at McDonald's since VCon 32. Besides buying a Dalek (a must for any *Doctor Who* admirer), a few presents for my friend in Powell River, and the next booster pack to Killer Bunnies (Reminder to self: Please bring to the next BCSFA meeting so I can finally play it), I also met a *Battlestar Galactica* fan in uniform, who for some reason was being mistaken for a member of con security.

7 p.m. was the start of the Opening Ceremonies, with all of Norwescon 31's Guests of Honor—Writer Guest Dan Simmons, Artist Guest Ciuelo, and Science—no, I mean Special Guest Naomi Novik (the author that got me back into reading), and the usual silliness that is a Norwescon Opening Ceremonies. This was the very first con for Naomi, whose stories of Temeraire the Celestial Dragon played a big part in the whole weekend. She took to it like a duck to water, which was very good news to her readers.

I turned up for my three hours working in hospitality a little before eight, and as it turns out I'd be the only person running hospitality while the others prepared things for eating in a prep-room and all of us

ran things back and forth. Even though I was doing twice as much work as I do at McDonald's (and not getting paid for it, besides the free food), I was enjoying myself, and every time I had my hands free I took pictures of people in their costumes. I soon found a person with very much the same interests as myself; she has one parent who is Hungarian, she has Asperger's Syndrome, and she goes to Norwescon every year. The only thing that could come between us (besides her never having seen an episode of *Doctor Who*) is that she lives in Portland, Oregon and (as you know) I live in Vancouver, BC. Still, who knows?

At about 10 p.m. came two bits of news: first, as of registration closing at 9 p.m., Norwecon 31 had over 2,000 members, and second, they needed three volunteers to be door checkers at the Thursday night "Dragon Bazaar" dance, with the duties starting at 11. With no hesitation I volunteered for it.

Once again I took my digital camera and camcorder (which was stored in the cloakroom for most of the day) and took more pictures while working as a checker at the dance. For some unknown reason certain members of fandom don't like their pictures being taken (Note to self: Remember Rule 13 from the Con Guidelines from now on, Ray) even though they're wearing a costume that "draws attention to oneself." I later went up to one of the same members of fandom and asked if I could take her picture and she still said "No." Now why would a person who spent hours and hours making this costume that "draws attention to oneself" still not want their picture taken? This remains one the great con questions of the ages.

I got off duty 12:30 a.m., but still hung on 'til one. Still not being that sleepy, I knocked on the door of the con office and asked for something to do. Despite there

being over 2,000 members all around the hotel, there were no jobs for me to do at that late hour, so after taking some interesting pictures of some questionably-dressed female con members, then popping in once again to the dance for more video and photos, I called it a night.

Friday morning, after another breakfast at Denny's, I was drafted into working with peace bonding for about an hour while one of the regulars was getting something to eat. This turned out to be other great opportunity to take pictures of people in interesting attire and meet the people that have been doing this important service of peace-bonding at Norwescon (don't forget, the US has very few gun control laws when compared to Canada, so anyone drawing even a very fake-looking sword could get shot and turn the fun of a convention like Norwescon into a funeral), so it was my great pleasure to work with Patrick Nash and the great people running this important service.

11 a.m. was the start time for the one-on-one interview with the Special Guest of Honor: Naomi Novik. She told us that when she was a teenager back in the late 1980s she started watching *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, and by the early 1990s she was writing fan-fiction. Then, after trying her hands at computer software (in marvellous Edmonton, Alberta) she went to see...Heck, why am I telling you this, since today I got a new DVDR and can show you the interview at an upcoming BCSFA meeting sometime in the near future? Just look for the announcement here or on-line. I may even go as far as posting it on YouTube if I can.

After killing an hour taking more interesting pictures, getting something to eat in the volunteers' lounge while signing up for another four hours in

hospitality that night, and popping into the dealers' room to pick up a few more goodies for myself and my friend in Powell River, it was time for a panel on air-brushing. It wasn't as interesting as I first thought, so I left early.

On my way to find something to do I saw Naomi Novik popping into the green room, so I followed and asked her if she could sign two copies of her books for me and my friend, since I would miss her Saturday autograph session because it's the same time as the *Girl Genius Radio Show*. I was pleasantly surprised when she said yes, and I ran upstairs to my room and brought down the two copies which she quickly signed, adding a little of her own artwork of a flying Celestial Dragon, while an artist showed her his drawing of her novel's characters. Now is that cool or what? (OK, I admit, if a certain 1950s London police call box appeared here in Vancouver, carrying a certain Time Lord and his beautiful, forward-thinking Victorian companion Peggy, that would be the only thing cooler than this.) (You may stick a "Get a life, Ray" joke here if you want to, Garth.)

Now what could be cooler than this (besides the thing I just said about the TARDIS)? Female members of fandom dressed in Victorian fashion. Oh yes, you may not know this, but because of something I won't go into (outside BIFF, FRED, or a BCSFA meeting) that happened during the time I should have been learning about S-E-X, I have a fetish for any women in Victorian dress (though I do draw the line at those 70-something-year-old ladies over in Victoria), meaning that I will likely die of embarrassment if I ended up on the Langdale-Horseshoe Bay ferry with Melissa Gilbert on board, and the Royal Hudson 2860 is anywhere steaming up or down the shores of Howe Sound.

That's why next year I want to become the Victorian Purity Inspector, just to see if they are wearing authentic Victorian knickers. (Yes, Dara and the rest of you who read Sunday's *Stomp* con newsletter, I got it right this time.)

After seeing previews of all the cool new genre films coming out in the next year or so, I was once again taking cool pictures when I ran into my good friend Khaos (and her daughter Mandy), who was "ghosting" this year since she'd just purchased a good second-hand van and spent all her Norwescon money on that. We just walked around the con for a while and tried to avoid con security at all costs and somehow ended up in hospitality. Besides getting herself the van, she also got diabetes and so needs to eat at certain times, so being in hospitality was a great help. I tried to have a little talk here and there, but she is quite popular with Norwescon fandom and she spent a great part of the early evening talking to them.

Before I knew it, it was time for my shift running hospitality, so with Khaos still around I started my duties 'til she left for work as a volunteer sex counsellor. I took more pictures of the willing and talked to my fellow Norwescon members, including that young lady from Portland, who has a friend in Seattle who is getting into the new series of *Doctor Who*, so there is hope. Though I was the only person running hospitality again at a con with 2,724 fans at the time, those four hours were sometimes like going to heck in a bucket, but I was actually enjoying the ride.

I got off at 11 p.m. and went to the hot tub to see what was happening. The pool and hot-tub area had a new deck this year—that's a huge improvement; the old deck was stuck in the mid-1960s—but with Khaos

and Mandy not there it wasn't the same. I headed to Wing 5 (or "the party wing") to see how much damage the DoubleTree's insurance company could do to the Norwescon experience.

As it turns out, it may be a good thing that the loud parties that Norwescon has been known for in the past have moved over to the La Quinta. At the two parties I went to, you could actually hear over the music and know what people were talking about. There are still checkers to see if you are over 21 (the legal drinking age in Washington) and you had to donate for both food and drinks. I found it very enjoyable for a change. I hope that future Norwescons will try to downplay the loud party reputation that Norwescons have gotten over the last 31 years, because Northwest fandom, like Norwescon itself, is getting older and the days of the wild parties will be soon behind us.

I will now prove this for you. As many of you recall, I was quite a party animal a few years back, until I made a fool of myself back in 2003 by re-enacting a *Road Runner* cartoon, with a man who lost his leg in the 1989 Bay Area Earthquake being the poor coyote. Now, this would have been a story for the ages of fandom if I was 21 or so, but I was 37 at the time, and when I learned what happened (a few months after the event) I almost died of embarrassment. So from then on I cut out most of the drinking at cons (though I think I had a few too many at Norwescon 30 where Spock and McCoy had to guide me back to my room). I did have one drink, a large version of something called Rocket Fuel Extra Lite (that's 80% Coke and 20% vodka) and the next thing I knew I was reading something about this new gaming system the people hosting the party just brought out, then taking some more pictures in the main hallway of a certain

cardboard object, before I called it a night. Let's face it, I can't handle alcohol anymore, and I'm only about to turn 42.

It's 9:30 a.m. Saturday morning at Norwescon 31, and it's true, I just can't handle alcohol anymore, because I'm now convinced that I have only 30 minutes to get to the *Girl Genius Radio Show*. However, when I get on the elevator and read my pocket program again, it turns out to be an hour and 30 minutes, so I head over to Denny's for breakfast. I found the place filled with people in interesting costumes who easily outnumbered the mundanes in the restaurant, who all gave us weird looks. I returned to the hotel in time to get a few more interesting pictures before the start of the radio show.

As always, the *Girl Genius Radio Show* was a riot. This time Phil Foglio wasn't playing my favorite Agatha Heterodyne universe character, Krops the First, the Emperor of All Cats. Still, the person that replaced him did a great job in her own right. As with the Naomi Novik interview, I plan to show you the *Girl Genius Radio Show* sometime in the near future at a BCSFA meeting. However, I will tell you that it ended with the great news that Phil was nominated for Best Professional Artist in the 2008 Hugo Awards, adding to the two he won back in the 1970s for Best Fan Artist, and tons of free Studio Foglio buttons were made available to all who enjoyed the show.

I quickly ran upstairs to my room and grabbed my friend's copy of *Girl Genius Vol. 1* for Phil and Kaja to sign. Because I am going to use this copy to get back my copies of *Vol. 5* and *6*, the Foglios wrote this nice little reminder to my friend: "To _____, Enjoy—Phil + Kaja. Please return Ray's copies!" Now is that great service or what?

After that I went to the art show. Now this was the only time at Norwescon 31 I wished I had a better job than cleaner at McDonald's, since I wanted to purchase some of the more amusing artwork for my apartment. Well, there's always next year's Norwescon to save up for.

After an hour or so of taking more interesting pictures (including cat-people nurses from *Doctor Who* and a mini-Darth Vader), I went to Naomi Novik's author reading, which was very good, and yes, I will bring the video of it to a near-future BCSFA meeting.

I spent the rest of the afternoon taking you-know-whats and at 6 p.m. went to hospitality to find a line-up from heck outside it. This turned out to be a good thing, because as I was walking over to the Jack in the Box across the boulevard, I ran into the Joker and the Riddler standing outside, so I took their picture. A few moments later, as I was sitting down for my dinner, I saw one of the most bizarre events in the history of International Boulevard. Both the Joker and Two-Face were joined by a number of other Batman universe super-villains and they performed a little parade while crossing the street. They even had a member whamming away on a huge drum that read "Take Back Gotham City—Vote Harvey Dent" and from the faces of the mundanes that I could make out stuck behind it, they were likely saying to themselves "Oh, my God! SeaTac is now in the Twilight Zone." (Luckily the DoubleTree is installing a huge new sign outside the hotel to give the mundanes a warning.) As I later found out, this was only part of the evening's happening, because before I saw them they were doing their thing at the Denny's and for some reason the manager didn't kick them out. (I guess being next to Norwescon for the last 14 years helped a lot.)

As with everything that happens with me, something bad always seems to happen. This time it was my digital camera's flash not working right during the post-masquerade photo shoot. Though the other Norwescon 31 members and staff tried their best to assist me, nothing worked and only about two-thirds of the pictures I took of the event were any good. I feel quite sad that after nearly 5000 pictures, it was now that my little-over-a-year-old digital camera chose to fail me, because it was one great masquerade and I was really, really upset when I missed the two Victorian ladies showing their knickers. However, the participants that drew one of the biggest reactions were the "Vote Harvey Dent" crew that showed up at the shoot minus the drum (I was later told that con security back-up by two of King County's finest told them that the drum could block the fire escape route and it wasn't to be used in the hotel).

An hour or so after the last person from the masquerade posed, I and a large group others (all over 18 years old) went up to the top of the hotel's tower to the partly-closed Maxi's Ballroom for the first ever Norwescon Burlesque Show. As you may have heard, Biohazard has been doing a number of events where attractive females (both members of fandom and about the same number that were paid) take off their clothes and do very arousing things like Jell-O wrestling. However, with them now hanging out at the La Quinta, it was time for Norwescon to bring some dignity to the members of fandom who like to take off their clothes. We had five brave souls show up for this event (three girls and two guys) and one of the guys was Richard, the guy who's done the bubble dance at Norwescon dances for a good while now, who was still in a little pain after falling over a wheelbarrow at work a few

days before. It turned out to be a great event that I hope will become a Norwescon tradition, and I hope next year that some lady steam-punk will do a re-enactment of the film *The Night They Raided Minsky's* (I know it's not a science-fantasy film and it's set in a 1925 big-city burlesque house, but an Amish girl accidentally showing her breasts is close enough to Victorian for me). Sorry; because of the subject matter, there are no pictures.

The rest of the night my camera decided to behave itself. I took more pictures and hung with that young lady from Portland, her friend from Seattle, another lady and her pet lion (it was really a furry in costume), and a male friend of Khaos. It was just after 2 a.m., when the lady from Portland and Khaos's male friend went over to Denny's, that we called it a night. For the first time in many years I enjoyed myself at a con without going to any loud parties.

Sunday is always a hard day for me at a convention, because my happy little holiday is coming to an end for yet another year. This year Sunday started off for me with a ladybug walking on my neck. After letting the little thing fly away home, I turned on my TV and watched a bit of *Doctor Who*, "Voyage of the Damned," before heading off to Denny's for breakfast.

One panel that I go to at each Norwescon is NWC Fannish Memorial. This event remembers and honors each member of fandom and members of the science-fantasy field that died during the past year. This year was especially moving with the death of Sir Arthur C. Clarke happening the Tuesday before, but most there wanted talk about the passing of Betty Claar and Mary Hamburger (yes, that was her real name), both long-time members of Northwest fandom who helped build the Norwescon we have today.

After the Memorial I went to the first hour of the Fandance Film Festival, which featured the world debut of *31*, Norwescon 31's Let's Make a Movie workshop's video, as well as many other great fan-made films from around North America. However, I couldn't stay for the rest of it since I had the volunteers' party starting at 2 p.m.

As with most things at cons, the volunteers' party started a little late, and I wished I'd stayed at the Fandance Film Fest and seen more fan films. Once the party got going it was much more fun. We all got two chances to win something that you could choose from the volunteers' donations table. I got a dragon key-chain for my friend and a Steve Jackson game titled *Strange Synergy* that would be great fun to play at a BCSFA meeting someday. While doing this we ate cake and drank a Coke or two. The volunteers' lounge had to close at 4 p.m. for teardown and many of us headed to the Onions & Roses panel in the main part of the hotel.

On my way to Onions & Roses I heard the familiar voices of Khaos and Mandy, and for the next few hours I sat in the hotel's lounge listening to them sing filk while Dara (the person that puts together the con's daily newsletter, *The Stomp*) accompanied them on her mandolin, with Mandy joining in here and there on her guitar. Between seeing an interesting ad for a retirement community in Florida called The Village and thinking how funny it would be if Patrick McGoohan ever showed up there, and taking just a few more interesting pictures, I didn't notice that over three hours had passed, so when one of Khaos' three boyfriends showed up to take her home, I was quite hungry.

OK, some of you are asking “Where was that young lady from Portland, Ray?” Don’t worry; she had to catch the mid-afternoon train from King Street station back home to Portland. However, we said our good-byes the night before.

After Khaos and crew left I went across the boulevard to find something to eat, yet the place I wanted was closed and I ended up having dinner at Denny’s. After that I went to the Bar Con (or Norwescon’s dead dog party) up in the tower, where I talked to a guy named Bart about a recent victory by Canada’s newly-formed Marine Commando Regiment over the US Navy SEALs Task Unit in a training exercise, and I found out the only thing that can stop the Canadian military (don’t ask me; I’m not going to tell you). It was now getting late and since I had to get up at 5 p.m. to catch my train, I hit the hay.

The next morning, after yet another breakfast at Denny’s, a limousine that cost me the same as the taxi I took to get there on Tuesday drove me to King Street station in Seattle. I happened to be sitting next to a nice grade six teacher from San Diego named Todd, who for some reason could read an oddball gang graffiti tag code just outside the Vancouver train station and found my hat. After going through customs, I took the Skytrain and a bus home, ending my Norwescon 31 odyssey.

On a scale of 1 to 10, I give Norwescon 31 a 9.5, because even though Khaos was not there this year, I still found it to be an excellent convention, mostly through my 17.5 hours of volunteering. In fact, I asked Danielle if I can run VCon 33’s hospitality.

I will return for Norwescon 32 next year. I just got my passport renewed and as soon as it comes in the mail, I’ll order a membership.

Reference Information

Aurora website: <www.prixaurorawards.ca> OR
<www.prix-aurora-awards.ca>

BC Renfest website: www.bcrenfest.com

Convention / Keycon 25: www.keycon.org

CUFF – c/o Aurora Website

Vcon 33: www.vcon.ca

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