

BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#426

\$3.00

November 2008



When Garth is off his meds ...

Contents

Editorial.....	1
Letters	2
Ads	4
Calendar	6
News.....	12
Answers to Last Month's Crossword	21

BCSFazine (c) November 2008, Volume 36, #11, Issue #426 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization.

Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer (the Editor), at garthspencer@shaw.ca or Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main St., Vancouver, BC, CANADA V5V 3P0. BCSFazine solicits electronic submissions, and black and white line illustrations in JPG or GIF format, and offers contributor's copies.

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

BCSFazine is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each.

This Month in BCSFA

Saturday, Nov. 8 @ 7 pm: **BCSFA party/meeting** at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, near Main Street & 41st Avenue intersection (two major bus routes). Phone 604-325-7314 for directions.

Thursday, Nov. 13 @ 7 pm: **November book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *A Case of Conscience* by James Blish.

Friday, Nov. 14 from 8 pm: **BCSFazine deadline** - see Garth at FRED (at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville)

Friday, Nov. 28 from 8 pm: **BCSFazine production** - distribution starts at FRED

Art Credits

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

Editorial

Are we making a permanent standing outreach effort for our general-interest club and convention?

In mid-October Greg Slade sent me a link to an article
("Reproduce or Die",

URL <http://www.theendoftheuniverse.ca/node/1202>),
the gist of which was David Brin's plea at Con*cept for fandom to
do outreach and attract young adults to fandom. Mr. Brin made
the interesting assumption that fandom *needs* a concerted effort
to keep up its numbers, due to a high socially-
awkward/nonbreeding quotient.

There are other ways to look at this. David "Murdock"
Malinski, now on the Island, was impressed by a demographic
book called *Boom, Bust and Echo*, which advanced some
predictions about the future of our society and our economy,
based purely on population figures. You've heard of the Baby
Boomers; this disproportionately huge generation is aging, is not
immediately followed by as large a cohort entering the market, I
mean population ... which incidentally meant that a lot of
conventions would see declining attendances, as the Boomers
acquired more commitments and priorities than fandom. But a
smaller surge would presently follow, as another generation,
children of the Boomers, entered their twenties and presumably
their peak spending – and congoing – period.

Onward. For a majority of contemporary fans, "fandom"
means whichever hobby group – subfandom, in my terms – they
happened to join: *Babylon 5*, *Stargate*, *Supernatural*, *Fringe*,
some venerable *Buffy* and *X-files* and *Star Wars* and *Battlestar
Galactica* groups, to say nothing of gamers, furrries, anime
groups, medieval recreationists, costumers, and filkfans. There
are a lot of them. Very populous these groups are, too, and
growing. I just don't perceive the issue that Mr. Brin perceived.

Now compare this with the situation of general-interest clubs
and conventions. *For a general-interest convention like Vcon, or a
general-interest club like BCSFA, a constant outreach effort is
necessary, online as much as by hardcopy or meatspace
communication.*

Only a few fans bother to do outreach, in any given decade:
official greeters, people persons like Steve Forty. Leaving aside
our personal disputes, we have to acknowledge the span of time
and magnitude of effort that someone like Steve has put into
meeting-and-greeting. At present, I believe, only Doug Finnerty is
doing anything remotely similar, and his efforts have been
focused on advertising the book discussion group. I believe he is

also responsible for placing newspaper ads for Vcon, at least in the *Georgia Straight*.

There are other such fans in other communities – often older fans now, more or less retired from activity – and in their communities also, meeting-and-greeting and orienting new fans to their community has usually been their personal, individual initiative.

From a certain perspective (mine), there are some jobs that a hobby group – or a community – needs to be done, which only get done if an interested individual happens by. And that does not always happen. Just because Canadian fan groups have a practical need for a national newszine, or newsgroup, or fan-oriented website doesn't mean someone creates it. Similarly, a fan group needs outreach doesn't mean it's a felt need.

Are we making a permanent standing outreach effort for our general-interest club and convention?

Letters

Lloyd Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2, October 4, 2008

As VCon carries on amidst sound of merriment, you're all quite busy, and what better time to get caught up? Here are some comments on *BCSFazine* 425.

Fannish fandom seems to be international, but not necessarily Canadian. It is hard to define, not only in what it does, but who is involved, and where do you find them. I appreciate the variety of activities available at a literary gencon like VCon, or any other of the litcons across the country. I admit there's a lot of SF activities I do not take part in, they just don't appeal to me. However, the ones I do, I've thrown myself into, like fanzines and conventions. Fandom are (*sic*) the conservatives, very conservative for those who read such a liberal genre of literature.

*((I'd like to know just when the **hell** we had to specify that conventions were actually about written material? And why we have to misuse the word "literary" for the purpose?))*

How to promote your convention? Always a problem because most conventions don't have anyone who is willing to shell out a lot of time to get the word out about the con. I figure you still need flyer distribution to get the word out to stores, but you also need to have visibility at other similar events through fan tables. Then, there needs to be presence at other non-fannish, non-SF events. Difficult to do.

((Eh? Any sensible convention committee has a group of people doing flyer distribution, placing ads in like Asimov's and Analog, and mounting and updating websites, presumably doing blogs and newsfeeds and I don't know what-all.

((Notice that there is a shift in the channels of communication. I notice that other clubs in the Pacific Northwest – the Portland and Seattle general-interest clubs, that is – have given up producing a regular clubzine/newsletter, and have maintained websites, newsfeeds and blogs. I also notice that BCSFA and the Aurora Awards and CUFF people have not maintained and updated their websites. Not in a while, not yet, anyway.))

In Toronto, there are Ad Astra, Polaris, Anime North, FilKONtario, a new gaming convention to be coming up shortly, and a couple of small Transformers/action figure conventions, and all seem to be at least aware of each other. FilKONtario doesn't really advertise itself to the local community because they draw almost exclusively on the international filk community, and Anime North gets about 15,000 people a year now, so why do they have to try to get more?

((Which sort of demonstrates the point of my editorial: specific fandoms already have some pretty large conventions going on.

Greg, I may try to do another list, but it is a lot of research. If this is something you'd like to try out, contact me directly, and I will send you my list of websites that list conventions. Conventions also seem to be listed on the Canadian Conrunners list, and there is now a Science Fiction Conventions in Canada Facebook page. Garth's listings here are pretty extant (*sic*), and I'd use his list as a starting point.

There seem to be so many online SF magazines, and I haven't heard of any of them. I guess my attentions have been elsewhere. I had to wonder at one point if they were doing this in a vacuum, or I was doing what I'm doing in a vacuum.

The latest: The beginning of September, I got myself a full-time job at Southern Graphic Systems in Etobicoke as a packaging proofreader. Excellent money, and I do like it there. I hope they plan to keep me at the end of the 12 weeks.

((Good news!))

I am still at *The Globe and Mail*, so I am putting in 55-hour weeks for both jobs. Very tiring, and as a result, I am sick at home after a couple of sick days. Ick.

In a couple of week, though, we will be off to Montréal for Con*cept, with a side trip to the Palais de Congres to see where we'll be in August 2009.

Ads (Arising out of Vcon 33)

Greg Slade challenged me to mention in BCSFAzine every organization that advertised at VCon 33. Much of this material appears in this issue's "Ads" section, but here are some newslike items:

501st Legion – Vader's First, or Badlands Garrison, and The Rebel Legion Canadian Base, are conceivably Star Wars fans. Check out (respectively) www.501st.com and www.rebellegion.com. Alternatively, see www.outerrimsquad.net and www.badlands.ca.

The Apex Book Company will release *Courting Morpheus* in December 2008, a horror anthology of 15 stories in a shared universe. See apexbookcompany.com for more details.

Brain Bumpers are cards with unexpected questions, and equally unexpected answers. E.g.: Why is dirt brown? What is "fear of clowns"? To collect Brain Bumpers online, see: www.yesmag.ca/cards

Broad Universe is an organization of readers, writers, editors and reviewers, whose mission is to celebrate and help promote the work of women who are selling their science fiction, fantasy and horror works, to assist such writers in their careers, and to nurture new writers seeking to sell their work. They collaborate with Sisters in Crime (mystery writers) and Women Writing the West (Western writers). Memberships are \$15 USD per year, to Broad Universe, c/o Grace O'Malley (Treasurer), 1121 E. Vienna Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212, USA. Some prominent, award-winning authors include Suzy McKee Charnas, Ursula LeGuin, Eileen Kernaghan and Suzette Haden Elgin. See www.broaduniverse.org

The Canadian Children's Book Centre promotes children's reading programs and gets a bunch of corporate sponsors. They also left bookmarks and flyers at VCon 33. Membership fees range from \$30 (seniors) to \$500 (corporate). Contact 40 Orchard View Blvd., Suite 101, Toronto, ON M4R 1B9; Tel. (416) 975-0010; info@bookcentre.ca; www.bookcentre.ca

Carol's Costume Corner is at 152 E. 2nd Street, North Vancouver, BC V7L 1C3, tel. (604) 986-4880, email theshop@carolscostumecorner.com, or see carolscostumecorner.com.

Central City Comix offered a VCon special on the first weekend in October 2008. Their venue is at 10221 King George Highway, Surrey, BC V3T 2W6, tel. (604) 584-2664.

Edge, Tesseract Books and *Dragon Moon Press* will feature several authors at the upcoming World Fantasy Con in Calgary. www.edgewebsite.com

Engage Books, a recent appearance on the SF publishing scene, is offering reprints of classic “scientific romances” from Frankenstein through The War of the Worlds, and is currently accepting submissions of SF stories for their imprint, Engage SF. While they will consider all submissions of a speculative nature, preference will be given to stories with compelling characters, ideas and events that keep the staff turning your pages. Submit full-length novels (60 – 80,000 words) or short stories (5,000 – 7,500 words) with self-addressed stamped envelope or email address to: A.R. Roumanis, PO Box 4608, Main Station Terminal, 349 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC V6B 4A1. For queries, contact submissions@engagethebook.com. For more information, see www.engagethebook.com

Inventive Solutions, offering affordable patent and research services, is basically our old friend Brian Dubberley in disguise. For more information, phone (604) 944-2588, email brian@inventive-solutions.ca, or see www.inventive-solutions.ca.

Kidsbooks, a children’s bookstore, has three outlets in the Lower Mainland: 3083 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC V6K 2G9, tel. (604) 738-5335, general@kidsbooks.ca; 3040 Edgemont Blvd., North Vancouver, BC V7R 2N4, tel. (604) 986-6190, edgemont@kidsbooks.ca; and 15033 – 32nd Avenue, Surrey, BC V4P 0A2, tel. (604) 541-9939, surrey@kidsbooks.ca.

Lachesis Publishing is releasing the Black Act, a horror/fantasy epic by Louise Bohmer, in April 2009. Contact Lachesis Publishing, 1787 Cartier Court, RR 1, Kingston, NS B0P 1R0; Carole Spencer, Publisher; Louise Bohmer, Editor-in-Chief; louise@louisebohmer.com; Lachesispublishing.com

MENSA (remember Mensa?) distributed bookmarks at VCon 33. See www.mensacanada.org

Monster Attack Team Canada, the club for science fiction and fantasy model builders, toy collectors, movie collectors and urban vinyl art, offers a club online contact for their Vancouver events (<http://groups.yahoo.com/MonsterAttackTeamCanada/>),

a world info club
(<http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterFighters/>), or
you can simply contact Stan Hyde (stanhyde@telus.net).

Paizo Publishing distributed its summer 2008 catalog at VCon 33, specializing in “Pathfinder” universe tabletop board games. Write Paizo Publishing LLC, 2700 Richards Road, Suite 201, Bellevue, WA 98005-4200, USA

Sabledrake Enterprises distributed its spring 2007 (?) catalog of books and games at VCon 33. Sabledrake Enterprises, PO Box 30751, Seattle, WA 98113; tel (425) 317-9241; sabledrake@sabledrake.com.

Schlockbuster Alternative Flicks offers the North Shore’s best selection and most unique video store. (Yeah, I thought that was oddly phrased myself.) Go to 228 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7M 2G1, tel. (604) 929-4567, or email schlockbuster@hotmail.com.

Starlit Citadel distributed cards at VCon 33, offering up to 50% off board games. Phone 1-888-805-1737 or email games@starlitcitadel.com.

Vibrant Publishing is out there. www.vibrantpublishing.ca

Calendar

October 2008

Oct. 30 – Nov. 2: **World Fantasy Convention 34** at the Calgary Hyatt Regency Hotel in Calgary, Alberta. Toastmaster: Tad Williams. Editor Guest: Tom Doherty. Author Guests: David Morrell & Barbara Hambly. Artist Guest: Todd Lockwood. Since it’s too late to get a room or membership, I’ll just list where you can obtain more documentation: www.worldfantasy2008.org

November 2008

[GIRAF 4: November 5th-8th, 2008 - Calgary, Alberta Canada](#)
(animation festival)

[November 6 - 9, 2008 - AmberCon Northwest - Portland, Oregon](#)
(Amber LRP)

[November 7 - 9, 2008 - Aki Con 2008 - Everett, Washington](#)
(Anime)

Nov. 8: **Sixth Annual Fall Event** of the Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators--Western Canada, at the Accent Inn in Burnaby, BC. Admission and contact information listed in News section.

[November 9th, 2008 - Portland Comic Book Show - Portland, Oregon](#) (Comics)

Nov. 14: premiere of *Quantum of Solace*.

Nov. 15: **Vancouver Civic Election**, a participatory-theatre experience featuring character actors such as the Marijuana Party and the Work Less Party. Performing *ONE DAY ONLY* at polling stations near you!

[November 14 - 15, 2008 - 2D OR NOT 2D Animation Festival - Seattle, Washington](#) (Animation festival taking place at the Seattle Science Center IMAX theatre)

[November 15, 2008 - Emerald City GameFest - Seattle, Washington](#) (gaming event that free and family-oriented)

Nov. 16: **Vancouver Comicon** at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: [Al Feldstein](#) (Mad Magazine, Tales From the Crypt); [David Boswell](#) (Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman); [Ken Boesem](#) (The Village); [Kelly Everaert](#) (Jungle Tales, Trilogy of Terror); Forg (Birth of Jazz); James Lloyd (James Lloyd's Other Stuff); Owen Plummer (Flip Flop Prophets, Kittenclaps); Robin Thompson (Champions of Hell, Hemp Island); Peter Severinson & Henry Lee (The Young Offenders); Jordyn Bochon & Tim Carpenter; [Gabriel Frizzera](#); Donald King; Carrie McKay; [Fiona Meng](#); Citty Riphick; [Jeff Simpson](#); Beth Wagner; [New Reliable Press](#). Admission: \$4.00; Kids under 14: Free. Dealer Tables: \$50/centre; \$60/wall. Free EC Comic with paid admission (while supplies last). For more information about this show, please email ls Wong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412

[November 16, 2008 - Victoria Toy Show - Victoria, BC Canada](#)
(Toy show that takes place twice a year)

Nov. 21: premieres of *Twilight* and *Bolt*.

[November 21 - 23, 2008 - Orycon 30 - Portland, Oregon](#) (General SF and the quintessential SF convention in Oregon)

[November 28 - 30, 2008 - Tomodachi Fest - Boise, Idaho](#) (anime)

December 2008

Dec 30/08 - Jan. 1/09: **M.E.W. Convention** at the Red Lion at the Quay at Vancouver, Washington. M.E.W. is a New Year's cross genre celebration offering a diverse programming line-up of anime, costuming, fantasy, gaming, manga, science fiction, and much, much, more. M.E.W. is pleased to welcome The Slants (Chinatown Dance Rock synth rock band) and A-Key-Kyo (J-Pop) as our honoured guests. The sponsor, Manga and Exotic Worlds LLC, is an independent business based in Beaverton, Oregon whose mission is to promote creativity and imagination through all forms and mediums of art and literacy. Fans, writers and artists alike are encouraged to have fun, connect and exchange ideas through events, forums, web content and meetings. For more information, visit www.mewcon.com.

January 2009

[January 9 - 11, 2009 - Rustycon 26 - Seatac, Washington](#)
(General SF)

Jan. 15: Deadline for speculative literature submissions to *Room of One's Own*, PO Box 46160 Station D, Vancouver, BC Canada V6J 5G5.

[January 16 - 18, 2009 - Conquest NW - Bellevue, Washington](#)
(Gaming)

[January 30 - February 1, 2009 - - Confilkt - Seattle, Washington](#)
(local northwest filking convention)

[January 30 - February 1, 2009 - Eugene Games Gala - Eugene, Oregon](#) (Gaming)

February 2009

[February 6 - 8, 2009 - BeyondCon - Gig Harbor, Washington](#) (a costuming relaxicon that is fast becoming a costuming staple in our convention listing)

[February 6 - 9, 2009 - GottaCon - Victoria, British Columbia, Canada](#) (Gaming)

[February 7th, 2009 - Science Fiction + Fantasy Short Film Festival - Seattle, WA](#) (Film - may need to hunt around a bit on the Science Fiction Museum site to find the information)

[February 7th-8th, 2009 - Game Design Expo -Vancouver, BC Canada](#) (Gaming with emphasis on game design)

[February 13 - 15, 2009 - Radcon 5a - Pasco, Washington](#)
(General SF with a gaming and relaxicon emphasis)

[February 19 - 21, 2009 - Life, the Universe & Everything 26 - Provo, Utah](#) (Academic symposium on science fiction and fantasy with an emphasis on writing.

[February 27 - March 1, 2009 - Potlatch 18 - San Francisco Bay Area, California](#) exact location TBD (General SF with a writer emphasis - and rotates between California, Oregon and Seattle)

[February 28 - March 2, 2009 - Dak-Kon XIV - Courtenay, BC Canada](#) (Vancouver Island gaming event)

March 2009

March 6: premieres of *Watchmen* and *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*.

[March 12 - 15, 2009 - Anime Oasis EVO - Boise, Idaho](#) (anime)

March 13 – 15: **Corflu Zed**, Seattle, WA. (Corflu is a convention-type gathering of the fanzine fan community.) *AmaZed and CorfluZed*, the first progress report by Randy Byers, is now posted at efanzines.com See <http://corflu.org> for more information.

[March 14th, 2009 - The Joy of Modeling: Vancouver, Washington](#)
(Modeling)

[March 26 - 29, 2009 - GameStorm - Portland, Oregon](#) (Gaming)

April 2009

[April 2 - 4, 2009 - Stargate SG-1 and Atlantis Convention in Vancouver - Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada](#) (Creation Entertainment for profit media convention)

[April 4 - 5, 2009 - Emerald City ComiCon - Seattle, Washington](#)
(Comics)

[April 9 - 12, 2009 - Norwescon 32 - Seatac, Washington](#) (major regional science fiction convention)

[April 10 - 12, 2009 - SakuraCon 2007 - Seattle, Washington](#) (Sakura-Con is the premier Pacific Northwest Anime Convention devoted to East Asian Culture, with a particular focus on Japanese animation (anime), Japanese Comics (manga), and video gaming)

[April 25 - 26, 2009 - Calgary Comics & Entertainment Expo - Calgary, Alberta, Canada](#) (Comics)

[April 30 - May 3, 2009 - World Horror Con 2009 - Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada](#) (Premier horror convention)

May 2009

[May 15 - 16, 2009 - 10th Annual UFO Festival - UFOFest - McMinnville, Oregon](#) (well, as you might guess - a UFO enthusiast event taking place in the Pacific Northwest)

[May 15-17th, 2009 - Zompire - Portland, Oregon](#) (Undead film festival)

[May 22 - 25, 2009 - MisCon 23 - Missoula, Montana](#) (General SF)

[May 22 - 24, 2009 - CONduit XIX - Salt Lake City](#) (General SF)

[May 30, 2009 - Spokane Comicon - Spokane, Washington](#) (Comics)

June 2009

June 5-7 (*now we know!*): **ConComCon 16** somewhere in Vancouver, BC. Hotel TBA. (ConComCon is a convention-type gathering of the conrunning community.) Memberships \$30 to October 15, 2008, thereafter \$35. Oddly, the contact addresses, both mail and online, are in Seattle and Toronto, not in Vancouver (but we know that Danielle Stephens is their Lower Mainland representative). ConComCon is organized under the auspices of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC). Write the co-chairs Alex von Thorn (Seattle) or Marah Searle-Kovacevic (Toronto) c/o either: ConComCon 16, c/o SWOC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, USA, or ConComCon 16,

151 Gamma Street, Toronto, ON M8W 4G3. email concomcon16@worldhouse.com.

[June 12 - 14, 2009 - Anime Evolution - Vancouver, BC, Canada](#)
Vancouver's Japanese Animation Convention and Asian Popular Culture Festival; at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre, Vancouver, BC.

July 2009

July 2-5: **FiestaCon / Westercon 62** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. Guests of Honour: Artist Todd Lockwood; Author Alan Dean Foster; Editor Stanley Schmidt; Fans Jim & Doreen Webbert; TMs Patrick and Teresa Nielsen Hayden. Rooms (1-800-547-8705, booking code 2T80CO) range from \$119/nite S/D to \$139 Queen. Memberships range from \$30 supporting to \$70 full attending. Write: FiestaCon c/o Leprecon, Inc., PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285, tel. (480) 945-6890 (24-hour home office), email info@fiestacon.org, or see www.fiestacon.org.

July 17th - 19th: **BC RenFest 2009** at a location yet to be determined. Keep watching bcrenfest.com.

[July 31st - August 2nd, 2009 - SpoCon - Spokane, Washington](#)
(General SF)

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. Author Julie Czerneda will be Master of Ceremonies. Artist GoH announced: Ralph Bakshi. Memberships now Can55/\$US55/£30/€35 supp; discounts for site selection voters, presupporters, etc. See <http://www.anticipationsf.ca/> , email: media@anticipationsf.ca or write to: Anticipation The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, P.O. Box 105, Station NDG Montréal, QC H4A 3P4.

[August 7th-9th, 2009 - Fandemonium - Boise, Idaho](#) (General SF, media and more)

September 2009

Sept. 4-7: **The North American Discworld Convention** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona; a celebration of Terry Pratchett's series. GoH: Terry Pratchett, with Diane Duane, Peter Morwood, and Esther Friesner; more guests TBA. Rooms 1-800-547-8705, booking code 2TC4Y9) range from \$119/nite S/D to \$139 Queen. Memberships range from \$30 supporting to \$80 full attending; pay online with PayPal. Write North American Discworld Convention 2009, c/o Leprecon, Inc., PO Box 26665, Tempe, AZ 85285, tel. (480) 945-6890 (24-hour home office), or email info@nadwcon.org. For more information see www.nadwcon.org.

Sept. ? : **Ditto**, another convention-type gathering of the fanzine fan community. Don't know where, don't know when.

October 2009

Oct. 23-25: **Steamcon** at the SeaTac Marriott in Seattle, WA. A convention celebrating "steampunk" (DIY technology-tweaking, but set in the Victorian mechanical age). Writer GoH: Tim Powers (e.g. *The Anubis Gates*, *The Stress of Her Regard*, *On Stranger Tides*). For more information see www.steam-con.com

December 2009

Dec. ? : **SMOFCon**. (SMOFCon is a convention-type gathering of the conrunning community.)

News

Our Lisa Gets Published Again

Vancouver - Stories of a City, a volume by Lisa Smedman now available from the *Vancouver Courier* (\$44.95), "expands upon a 12-part series of cover stories published in the *Vancouver Courier* newspaper in 2006 and 2007. In this award-winning series, journalist Lisa Smedman explored the history of our city, neighbourhood by neighbourhood. More than 300 pages long and packed with historic photos, maps and illustrations, *Vancouver—Stories of a City* tells the tales of the Royal Engineers sent from England to police the gold rush, the real estate barons who made backroom deals to bring the CPR railway terminus to Vancouver, and the immigrants from Europe and Asia who came by steamship, stage coach and CPR train. The lively and often

poignant sagas contained in *Vancouver—Stories of a City* tell the tales of rich and poor, speculator and settler alike—covering the gamut of the early pioneers who wound up calling this city home.”

Vancouver *Courier* website

(Note: If you look up Lisa Smedman's website online, you will discover the vast variety of her other writing credits, including Sfnal and fantastic mass-market novels often based on role-playing games, and writing for game design. If you've been in Vancouver and area for long enough, you know that Lisa has been an active member of BCSFA and chaired two Vcons. -GS)

Children's Book Writers & Illustrators Event

“The Society of Children's Book Writers & Illustrators--Western Canada is holding its Sixth Annual Fall Event on Saturday, November 8, 2008 at the Accent Inn in Burnaby (3777 Henning Drive, near Boundary Road and Lougheed Highway). Featured guest speakers are kc dyer (author of *Seeds of Time*, *Secret of Light*, *Shades of Red*, and *Ms. Zephyr's Notebook*) and Deborah Hodge (author of *Lily and the Mixed-Up Letters*, *Kids Book of Canada's Railway*, *Kids Book of Canadian Immigration*, Science and Nature series, Wildlife Series, and *Who Lives Here?* series). The cost is \$50 for SCBWI members and \$60 for non-members (lunch NOT included) ... Contact Ken Kilback at kenkilback@shaw.ca for more details.”

Burnaby Writers' Society website

New Sale for Matt Hughes

“Matthew Hughes has sold another Luff Imbry tale, ‘Another Day in Fibbery’, to PS Publishing's *Postscripts Magazine* in an issue that will come out next year.”

SF Canada website

From Nimbus:

“*The Magic of Christmas* is always felt strongly in the Maritimes. This collection of yuletide stories is a mixture of true seasonal remembrances and fictional imaginings of the holiday season. Contributions are from over 20 Maritime writers, and touch on all the things that make Christmas so special: traditions, reunions with family and friends, the humour, and sometimes, the hardships. Some of the collection's contributions are familiar, many are heart-warming, but every story shares the same spirit of the season. This yuletide collection includes many well-known writers such as Harry Thurston, Steve Vernon, David Goss, Chris Mills, Heidi Jardine Stoddart, David Divine, and more.

SF Canada website

Dave Duncan's out-of-print books now available

“Eight of Dave Duncan's out-of-print titles have now been made available as Print-on-Demand through E-reads, and can now be ordered through Amazon or other booksellers:

- "A Handful of Men" series: *The Cutting Edge, Upland Outlaws, The Stricken Field, The Living God*
- "The Seventh Sword" series: *The Reluctant Swordsman, The Coming of Wisdom, The Destiny of the Sword*
- Standalone novel: *The Cursed*

SF Canada website

Lynda Williams's *Pretenders* featured at LIS Wire

“An article about Part 3 of Lynda Williams's Okal Rel Saga, *Pretenders*, has been posted on LIS Wire, a librarians' wire service.”

SF Canada website

Rick Sutcliffe interviewed at Reader's Eden

“An interview with Rick Sutcliffe is online at Reader's Eden.”

SF Canada website

Sandra Kasturi, Brett Alexander Savory establish new fund for writers of SF

“Sandra Kasturi and Brett Alexander Savory have announced the establishment of the Vaike and Erich Rannu Fund for Writers of Speculative Literature in honour of the 30th wedding anniversary of Sandra's mother and stepfather, and their contributions to the arts and education both in Canada and Estonia.

“The Fund offers two awards per year of \$500 CDN each, one for fiction, one for poetry, granted to two writers of speculative literature (i.e., science fiction, fantasy, horror, magic realism, surrealism, etc.), of any nationality/place of residence, at any stage of their career.

“The first submissions for this new award will be accepted between October 1, 2008 and December 31, 2008. The winners will be announced March 1, 2009.”

SF Canada website

Maggie L. Wood sells short story to *Coyote Wild*

“Maggie L. Wood has sold her first short story, "Fallen," to online magazine *Coyote Wild* for a special YA fantasy edition that was guest edited by Sherwood Smith and a panel of teen judges.”

SF Canada website

Holly Phillips sells novella to *Asimov's*, gets good reviews for novel

"Holly Phillips has sold a novella, "The Long, Cold Goodbye" to Sheila Williams at *Asimov's*.

"Her debut novel *The Engine's Child* (Del Rey) continues to garner excellent advance reviews as the clock ticks down to its release on November 25."

SF Canada website

Who?

Michael Ehart is having his book *The Servant of the Manthycore* (*sic*) released by Double-Edged Publishing sometime in the immediate future. I couldn't tell from the handbill, but found the following additional information online. The promotional puff reads, "A gripping tale of the ancient Middle East! "Behold a warrior woman as ruthless, bloody, and honorable as the ancient world in which she walks, spanning more than forty lifetimes, while Ur and Babylon seethe with a thousand gods..."

Double-Edged Publishing's site:

www.doubleedgedpublishing.com

Available through Amazon.com for \$11.89

M. Ehart's blog: mehart.blogspot.com

(it came in my mail)

Taral Wins 2008 Rotsler Award

Toronto-area artist Taral Wayne has won the Rotsler Award, given annually for long-time artistic achievement in amateur publications of the science fiction community. Established in 1998, it carries an honorarium of US\$300.

The award will be formally announced on Saturday, November 29, 2008, at the Los Angeles local science fiction convention "Loscon", held every year over the U.S. Thanksgiving Day weekend.

Taral's work is by turns serious, sexy, and satirical, with a fluent line and strong composition. At home with space equipment and strange creatures, he was also drawing anthropomorphic animals long before most in North America had heard of anime or manga.

The Rotsler Award is sponsored by the Southern California Institute for Fan Interests, a non-profit corporation, which in 2006 hosted the 63rd World Science Fiction Convention. The award is named for the late Bill Rotsler, a talented and prolific artist over many years. Current judges are Mike Glycer, John Hertz, and Claire Brialey.

The 2008 Loscon [www.loscon.org] will be the 35th. An exhibit honoring Taral's work will be in the Art Show.

For more about the Rotsler Award, visit:
<http://www.scifiincat.org/rotsler/>

Tara Wayne, October 29, 2008

The B.C. Renaissance Festival was held rather successfully on the last weekend in August 2008 at Aldor Acres. We anticipate another successful event next year; BC RenFest 2009 is scheduled for July 17th, 18th, 19th 2009 at a location yet to be determined.

“We are already planning for next year so if you'd like to join the team please feel free to send an email to: info@bcrenfest.com with your interests and information. Many of our Command team this year had a number of jobs in order to decide what is their strongest and the one job they would enjoy volunteering for. They have decided. This leaves jobs like volunteer coordinator, games and rider manager, food services, entertainment coordinator, villagers director and others open for new additions to the team. For a complete list of possible posts simply send an email to the info address.

“Also, keep your eyes on our cafePress store for the 2008 calendar and for your BCRF merchandise. It will be coming out soon.

“We would also like to send a special thanks to Vince Simonetta and Tom Zeeman, courtesy of Falcon Equipment, who on very short notice were able to make repairs to Captain Charity's sword.

“We are already getting a FLOOD of positive responses from our 2008 attendance and we are grateful for it. Please feel free to sign the guest book, join the Yahoo Group, Join our MySpace friend's list, subscribe or join as a friend on our youtube, and/or sign up for the newsletter.

“The most common questions are answered on a short FAQ. If you would like to send us a message please contact the correct department by clicking on The Contact Button and we'll get back to you ASAP.”

Keep watching bcrenfest.com for future announcements.

(BCRenFest.com website)

Upcoming BIFF events

- Saturday, November 1st: The 13th Colony is holding its Hallowe'en Party on Caprica this year. In order to fit in with the locals, it's best to dress like somebody from the Battlestar Galactica Universe.
- Saturday, November 8th: The Pop Culture Collectibles Fair will be held at the Croatian Cultural Centre in Vancouver.

- Saturday, November 8th: The British Columbia Science Fiction Association's monthly meeting/party will be held at Garth Spencer's place in Vancouver.
- Thursday, November 13th: Join with members of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association and other fans to discuss the science fiction book of the month at Our Town in Vancouver. This month's book is A Case of Conscience, by James Blish.
- Saturday, November 15th: The Vancouver Comic Jam will be held at The Clubhouse Japanese Restaurant, Vancouver.
- Sunday, November 16th: Vancouver Comicon at Heritage Hall, Vancouver. See dozens of dealers, and meet comic book writers and artists. [

"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 (which has links to more details about the events listed here) at: <http://biff.realityfree.ca/>

From the BIFF website

FRED

Ryan and friends have been trying out a number of alternative venues over the last few weeks. The last time they tried a new venue (Davie Village), the place was closed and locked when they had been told it would be open. FRED was not held on Hallowe'en night.

The Aurora Awards

The Anticipation committee said:

"NOMINATIONS: We plan to mail out Nomination ballots along with the Anticipation PR3 to all members who are Canadian residents (and to those few we know are Canadian citizens but reside out of the country). This should get done in late December 2008, early January 2009. The online Nomination form on this site will become active at the same time.

VOTING: We plan to mail out Voting ballots along with the Anticipation PR4 to all members who are Canadian residents (and to those few we know are Canadian citizens but reside out of the country). This should get done in the Spring of 2009. The online Voting form on this site will become active at the same time. (This year's form, with its payment provision through PayPal, will be both simplified and strengthened.)"

Aurora website

CUFF

Lance Sibley, the current Canadian Unity Fan Fund administrator, writes:

"I'm planning to start contacting western con chairs, clubs, and other organizations that I can find contacts for to request nominations. I will also be posting to the Canadian Conrunners list, plus some other fannish email lists that I'm on.

"I got an email from Peter Jarvis this week regarding the Turkey Readings he did at VCON. That actually sounds like something I'd like to try at the upcoming cons I'll be attending - Ad Astra may be a good venue, or possibly even Polaris if I can find some bad fanfic. ;) I'll just have to ask Peter about how he did it, since I've never attended one before - I've only read about them being done at other cons. (I'm just a bit concerned about a perception of conflict of interest at Polaris, since I'm a department head in Programming, and serve on both the Exec of the con and the board of the corporation.)

"Another item I'm thinking about doing to raise some funds is to write some authors I know and ask if they'd be willing to donate Tuckerisms, signed copies of books (or ARCs, or scripts), and possibly do a silent auction. (The advantage of having Programming at Polaris deal with the author guests is that I have a lot of contacts. :))

"Most of my travelling of late has been Anticipation-related, with the exception of Dragon*Con and Gaylaxicon, which I attend every year anyway - and since I was bidding for the 2010 Gaylaxicon for Montreal, I sort of had to go. ;) That's part of why I didn't come out to VCON - my Mastercard is about to burst into flames. :((And I recently started a long-distance relationship with someone I met at Dragon*Con, so I need to pay the card down a bit so that I can visit him.)

"If there's anything else you'd like to know, feel free to ask for specific items."

Lance Sibley, lance_sibley@yahoo.com,
Thursday, October 23, 2008

Vcon 33 Fallout

Fran writes: "this year's Turkey Readings took in \$150 which I'm sending to the CUFF administrator. Congrats go to all who participated, including talented artist Felicity!"

Fran Skene, Oct 18 2008

The individual (but not the same person) as Aristotle Jones writes:

"[D]oes anyone know how to contact Clayten about sending me a copy of the pix he took of Basho the Cyborg? (can anyone

send me his number, I've tried emails, and just get the generic "my droid recognizes your droid, but if you want a human, you need the special email" message)

"If he's working on sorting the VCon pix and they will be available eventually, can someone please let me know this fact, as I have no indication whether he knows that I'm trying to get these pix."

Basho Kusinage (Oct 18 2008)

Garth, the BCSFAzine distribution list, the BCSFA Directory, the BCSFA Handbook, and Call for Illustrations

Recent I wrote online:

"Recently I asked people to help me reconstruct my email list for *BCSFazine* distribution. I am happy to report that I now have email addresses for all of the people who were on my distribution list. One reason for this broadcast email is to test and verify the addresses to see if I have the correct spelling for the lot.

"While preparing for the next *BCSFazine* distribution, some other thoughts occurred to me. When we next produce a BCSFA membership list, do you personally want your contact information listed? Things have changed since the introduction of the Internet, and I appreciate that some of you will have privacy concerns. Even before the Internet, I learned that it was a courtesy not to give out writers' addresses, as they tended to get deluged with crank mail. Also I tend to list birthdays, and make up comedic stuff about people when I don't know what their claim to fame is, and nobody ever responded by protesting or giving me the straight poop. What would you prefer?

(Feedback indicates I should list people's phone numbers and emails but not addresses. Consensus is not clear about my listing their birthdays, masked crimefighter identities, or mutant/alien superpowers or secret sacred origins.)

"At the last BCSFA meeting (where I obtained most of the remaining @dresses I needed), I broached the idea of maybe preparing a BCSFA member's handbook. Seems to me that people keep on missing bits of background information that would be really helpful if they want to find out more of what BCSFA does, let alone what other clubs are doing, and what other Lower Mainland conventions to attend, and even what to find out of town. But I really need other people to contribute short descriptions of anime, blogging, SF broadcast shows by fans, comics, costuming, filking, gaming, podcast, streaming video, and websites - just anything I haven't already documented in *BCSFazine*.

"Like *BCSFazine*, any other BCSFA publications - even if they only appear online, not in print - will need both cover

illustrations, and cartoons to break up the text. I am nearly out of original illos in JPG or GIF format.”

October 19, 2008

Corflu Zed (in Seattle) Progress Report

Randy Byers sends *AmaZed and CorfluZed*, the first progress report for the fanzine fans' 26th convention: Corflu Zed, Seattle, 13 - 15 March, 2009. Now available at <http://efanzines.com>; See also <http://corflu.org>. Randy sez:: "We're attempting something fanzine-like in our progress reports, so this one features an exhortation by John Hertz and a reprint of a 1960 piece by Wally Weber, along with the usual brass-tacks convention-related information. If we get any LOCs, we'll have a lettercol in the next issue."

The Seattle in 2001 Worldcon bid is a project of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC), a Washington not-for-profit corporation (one of those 501(c)(3) things we hear about from time to time). The first issue of their newsletter, *The Emerald City Steam Gazette*, was released at the 2008 Worldcon in Denver (August 2008). The vote will be held at Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, in Montreal in 2009. For more information about Seattle's bid, see www.seattlein2011.org. SWOC's address is Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, USA.

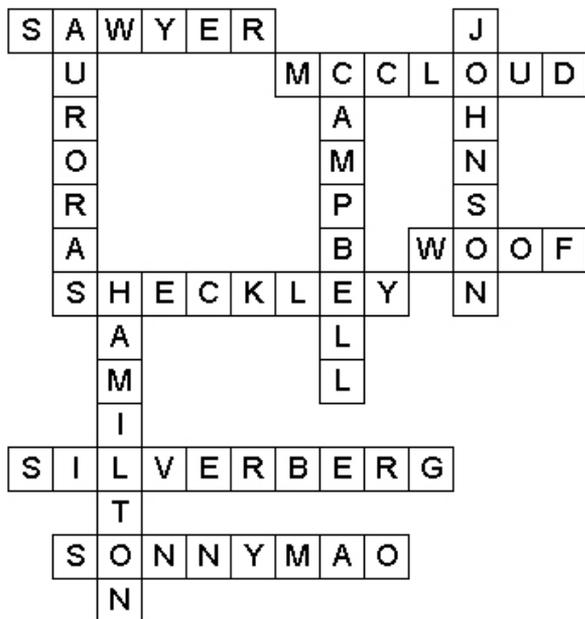
Stargate Atlantis fans are organizing to protest the cancellation of the series. Current actions involve email and letters to MGM, NBC Universal, and the SciFi Channel. (The handbill/leaflet gives addresses of these network offices, but not an address for the local Stargate/Atlantis fan club; but your humble editor has put his name down for the email list.)

Some Fanzines We Received in Trade

COMMLink,

Ish 1:5, October 2008, c/o Felicity Walker, 209 - 3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1J6, or felicity4711@hotmail.com
Ottawa SF Statement, Sept-Oct 2008, now in PDF format via email from Sandi-Marie McLaughlin

Answers to last issue's Crossword



About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore-Freeman, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314

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

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

BCSFA's website is at www.bcsfa.net.

The BCSFA email list is bc_scifi_assc@yahoo.com,
archived at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/

Why You Got This

- ___ You are a member.
- ___ I thought you were a member.
- ___ You trade with us.
- ___ You carry sample copies of *BCSFAzine* to advertise us.