

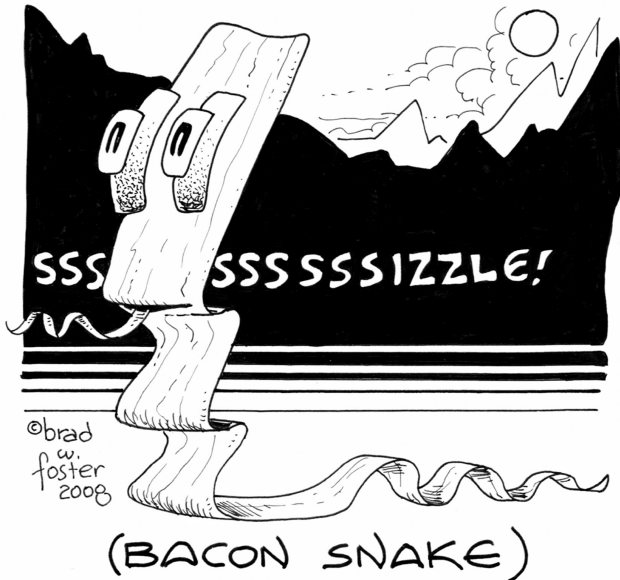
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#430

\$3.00/Issue

March 2009



In This Issue:

Editorial

LOCs

Calendar

News-Like Matter

Göbekli Tepe: World's First Temple

Media File

Voices in My Head

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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@hotmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, or PSD format, and offers contributor's copies as long as the budget allows (see editorial).

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This Month in BCSFA

- Thursday 12 March @ 7 p.m.: **March book discussion** will now be held at the Grind Gallery & Café, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, starting at 7 p.m. Book to be discussed will be *The Shadow of the Torturer* by Gene Wolf.
- Friday 13 March: **BCSFAzine deadline**—see Felicity's contact information in the indicia above.
- Saturday 14 March @ 7 p.m.: **BCSFA meeting/party**—at Felicity, Joe, Fru, Ryan, and Jen's place—#209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond. Call 604-448-8814 for directions. (It's behind the Safeway at the corner of Number One Road and Francis Road.)
- Friday 27 March: **BCSFAzine production.**

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....Masthead
Brad Foster.....Cover

Advertisement

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By Famous Authors

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Saturday, May 2, 2009

9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

Delbrook Community Centre

North Building

600 West Queens Road

North Vancouver

[Serious Collectors Call 604 985-6672]

Editorial

See the last paragraph of this editorial for the new policy on paper copies of *BCSFazine*.

BCSFA held its monthly meeting at the home of *BCSFazine* editor Garth Spencer on Saturday 14 February 2009. Garth passed the position of editor to me. BCSFA president R. Graeme Cameron and treasurer Kathleen Moore also attended, because the club had other decisions to make about *BCSFazine*. Here's what I remember; if I have it wrong, Garth, Graeme, Kathleen, or another member should write in.

As Graeme reminded us in his editorial last month, a long time ago BCSFA decided to eliminate membership dues and switch *BCSFazine* to an electronic-only format. As I remember it, even back then, we knew that there would still be people who would want a paper copy—digest-sized, double-sided, and stapled along the spine; not just telling the reader to print the PDF—so to keep that option available, the compromise was that the electronic copy was free and the paper copy was not.

Apparently we skipped the specifics: how and when to collect the money, and whether anyone still qualified for a free paper copy. According to our original policy, contributors, advertisers, trade zines, and pros all qualified, and since this policy was never changed, we've been firing off free copies for the last several months—and, according to Graeme, tearing through the club's savings.

Some of us are still not willing to give up on paper copies. On the other hand, if readers have to mail us money each and every time a new issue comes out, and only when we receive the money do we mail them a paper copy, there's going to be a lag. To get regular paper copies on time, the readers would have to mail us the money for several issue in advance—in other words, subscriptions.

At the February meeting, we agreed to go back to subscriptions, and to keep a closer eye on the list of subscribers. Because we got rid of membership dues a while ago, no-one has a paid subscription now, as far as we know. Therefore, we're starting over.

Here's what I understand the new system to be. For a monthly subscription to the paper zine, send us \$36 now. The \$36 includes the printing and mailing costs for a year (twelve issues). For individual issues, send us \$3. Individual copies will experience the lag; when we receive the money, that's when we'll mail the paper copy. The free copies for contributors, trades, and pros depend on the budget. Fortunately, Kathleen, Garth, and Graeme spontaneously donated \$66.30 at the meeting. To our trades: if possible, we'd prefer to trade our electronic copy for your electronic copy from now on (Garth has already taken the trouble of asking most of you for me). Electronic copies are, of course, still free.

Finally, the paper version will also be abridged to fit on five sheets to save postage, whereas the PDF will be unabridged.

LOCs

Editors' responses in [brackets] (Felicity) and ((double parentheses)) (Garth).

Stephen Samuel (samnospam@gmail.com), 2 February 2009

In response to Graeme's editorial, I would like to note that forcing people to pay for *BCSFazine* one at a time is just plain silly.

For people who are remote, having to lick a stamp and send cash (or cheque) once a month will raise the cost of the 'zine from \$3 to \$3 + postage + bank fees. Not to mention the inconvenience of having to remember to send the thing every month.

It also induces a huge level of uncertainty into the budget process for *BC-SFazine* because you'll never have any idea as to who's gonna get a copy.

Then there's the question of asynchronicity; *i.e.*, do we send copies to remote recipients and hope that they get it, or do they send the money and wait 3–6 weeks for delivery?

Not to mention the fact that trades are a way to make sure that people elsewhere are aware of us.

Or to put an executive summary on it: If I were to design a policy that would quietly kill *BCSFazine*, this would be a pretty good one.

I strongly suggest that this policy be revisited.

M.C. Parrott (maureenparrott@yahoo.ca), 2 February 2009, 3:34 p.m.

This sort of jumped out at me, from "This Month in BCSFA": Do we have a Boxing Day in February?

"Friday, Feb. 27 from 8 pm: *BCSFazine* production—distribution starts at FRED, unless we don't hold it on Boxing Day."

((Garth: *Oops. My fault for cutting and pasting from previous issues without checking the text thoroughly.*))

I appreciate clickable links in the e-zine. Is it possible for all URLs to be clickable? Or do they all already appear that way on newer computers with the latest version of Acrobat?

((Garth: *Yes, the links can be clickable.*))

The article about writer-in-residence at the synchrotron was fun, and I also enjoyed Lloyd Penney's story. Nice to see you used my piece after all.

In "What Goes into Fanzines?" reporting on Steven Silver's *Argentus*, misplaced quote marks break several article titles into fragments. By the way, notes

clarifying the article titles, as in the next section about *Picofarad*, add a lot to the 'zine reports. *Argentus* article titles seemed even more cryptic without such notes.

((Garth: *I don't quite understand what you're saying about quotation marks. I thought the zine titles were transparent, or even more fannish if they were obscure and intriguing. Argentus comes from the Latin word for "silver," and Silver is the editor's last name. Picofarad is a technical term in electrical engineering, hence vaguely appropriate for an SF fanzine.*))

Wow, \$3 seems a lot. That's the cost just to print and staple 16 sheets? Or does it help defray a few extra copies or other zine-related costs?

((Garth: *Envelopes, postage, and the copies I send to trades.*))

Warren Buff (warrenbuff@gmail.com), 3 February 2009

Thanks for another issue of *BCSFazine* (#429). I've been reading it fairly regularly, though I don't LOC much. Here's another stab at fixing that habit.

Re.: Sheryl Birkhead's LOC—There's only a mild frowning on packing "fans stacked like cordwood" into a room, mostly on the hotel relations front. Hotels, after all, don't care much for this egregious violation of fire code. Personally, I find that in lean months, I want a room packed, but when things are good, I'd rather have just one roommate. As for living off the fat of the consuite, that depends on where the con is. In the South, it's usual practice to serve crock-pot meals all day, so plenty of fen can get by on that. I don't encourage it (and besides, I like to eat out a few times over the course of the weekend), but I do recognize it as an option for the determined fan with liquidity issues.

As for Worldcon, the problem seems to be that the cities with enough fen to host a Worldcon are also the cities with outrageous convention centre costs. If the Worldcon could be brought back into a location with a hotel including such space, rather than needing the separate facility, the cost could come down again some. This means, unfortunately, that A-list cities like Boston, New York, Chicago, and LA will have to be beaten by smaller places, which just happen to be ideal locations no one's familiar with. I've only been in a few hotels that could actually handle a Worldcon, and one of them is in Atlanta, which is a little untenable these days. Another issue is the practice of giving voters such a huge break on membership costs—the WSFS constitution still limits the conversion fee to twice the cost of the voting fee, meaning that, with a \$45 voting fee (and thus a \$45 Supporting Membership, minimum), the voters can get their memberships for \$135, maximum, and it's almost always a bit lower, to give them a slight break. Since the average needs to be up around \$180 (what with space rental, decorator fees, A/V rentals, membership reimbursements for program participants and staff, etc.), this means that non-voters will tend to get saddled with \$200+ membership fees. It'll take a long, hard fight through several busi-

ness meetings to get this changed. There's some support for it already, but it'll take a lot more.

((Garth: *More people enjoy huge events than manageable ones. The original purpose of the Worldcon was precisely the Hugo Awards, and if subsidizing the award voters has become a problem for the budget, then maybe the size of the Worldcons has to be questioned, not just the bells and whistles.*))

I certainly didn't get the impression that Core Fandom is about fans who have the money to throw around—after all, Arnie does almost all of his publishing online, and doesn't really attend many conventions.

((Garth: *I do not identify Core Fandom and jet-set fandom. Arnie Katz seems to.*))

I'm learning a lot this year about how hard it is to attend a lot of cons on the cheap, but I'm finding that it can be done. Worldcon, and to a similar degree, any other big event (ComicCon, Dragon*Con, GenCon, Otakon) will be limited to folks who can afford several hundred dollars (my trip to Denvention 3, thanks to bumming my flight, cost me somewhere in the neighbourhood of \$600, though this was accomplished through a lot of luck and penny pinching, and the true minimum that can be expected is probably around \$1000; Dragon*Con cost me around \$400).

What's wrong with not knowing about "fannish fandom"? Does it make someone less of a fan to not be concerned with fanhistory and obscure traditions?

((Garth: *Yes. And they shouldn't be obscure.*))

I don't believe so. The 19-year-old fresh-faced kid in the Browncoat costume talking about Harry Turtledove in the consuite is every bit as much a fan as the APAn cranking a mimeograph and pondering the right and wrong of the Breen-doggle.

((Garth: *In my experience, the kids and the Browncoats don't read, or hear of names like Turtledove. You must have a different experience.*

((*The Breendoggle is an unresolved external reference around here. Mostly local fans are aware of much more local and recent kafuffles.*))

I'm also not convinced that fandom is broken up. The only time I see divisions arise is when one fan is convinced that his particular brand of fanac is what other fans should be doing, and lets them know it. I've long known that gamers, readers, SCAdians, anime fans, and *Star Wars* costumers can all get together at a con, meet each other, listen to each other's stories, have a good time, knock back a few bheers, and consider themselves to all be a part of fandom. We won't always know every little detail the others are referencing, but we can all get along as part of one community. I don't believe that this diversity means a marginalization of fannish fandom—hell, I never would have discovered it otherwise.

((Garth: *Your experience is different than mine, obviously. Which is all I was saying about Arnie Katz, and his Core Fandom. My usual experience here is that I can't communicate about my fannish references, I can't even interest local fans in my interests. It's like being a ham radio operator or something.))*

Lloyd Penney (lloyd.penney@sgsintl.com),
1706-24 Eva Road, Etobicoke, Ontario, M9C 2B2, 5 February 2009

Thank you for *BCSFazine* 429. I knew there was a good reason to get this as a .pdf...\$3 is a fair price for a fan-based paper publication. I hope that will help to further finance the club in these tough financial times. Let's all blame Wall Street. In the meantime, it's my turn to help build up the next issue...

When I first read that you were handing the editorship over to Felicity Walker in the spring, I had to wonder if you took my advice. You didn't seem to be enjoying editing this clubzine, but would enjoy yourself much more if you created a zine with the fannish articles you wanted to publish, or further concentrate on *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*. Felicity, if you are up to the challenge of the zine, I promise regular letters, the same way I've done for Garth and Graeme, and Steve Forty...

[Felicity: *Thanks, Lloyd!*]

How long have I been writing letters of comment to this zine? Since sometime in the early 200s, I think.

Wal*Mart's DVD are cheap, unreliable, and edited to their specifications. So, if you want the whole movie, and not something sliced to ribbons to fundamentalist standards, don't buy it at Wal*Mart. Felicity, let me know when you're doing another *Ish*, and I will send me one of my "Tales from the Convention"!

Going to conventions...we've been burned in the past by roommates. We ask them to be ready for a certain time, and most times, they fail. Then, once they are ready, usually a couple of hours later, they ask if we could stop by a store to pick something up, and they offered more space to a couple of other people...We ask them to follow our own schedule, and we wind up following theirs, and having to put up with people we didn't offer space to. Once, we wound up on the floor, and it was our room! We are now at an age where we can't sleep on the floor, we need a decent bed. We can't pull all-nighters any more; we need at least some sleep to be ready for the next day. Some roomies take over the room, too. We have some people we share rooms with, and they are fine roomies, but there are times we just want our own room, and be done with it. Expensive, but sometimes, it's worth it.

Ray Seredin is bidding Vancouver for the 2014 Westercon? Quick, everyone, throw money at him before he can back away...or should we all just back

away? Fannish memories are notoriously short for the good things, and notoriously long for the bad.

((Garth: *He cannot have said that. Ray is no more able to put up a bid for anything than I am; we're both indigent. Back away. Back away.*))

Convention listing...For ConComCon 16, strange that Alex von Thorn is listed under Seattle. While he is working for the Seattle in 2011 Worldcon bid, Alex lives in Toronto.

((Garth: *I still think it's strange they don't have a local mailing address. Or maybe they figured that using the same Seattle PO Box they've always had will save confusion.*))

A shame about Majel Roddenberry passing. I met her twice at local mediacons. A very nice lady, and she knew all about marketing the gigantic *Trek* cash cow. When Yvonne ran a short-lived business called Ferenghi Fashions, Majel approved. (*Ferenghi* is a Farsi word for foreigner or stranger. It's how the Persians pronounced "Frenchie." *Trek*: TNG took the "h" out, and made lots of acting opportunities for short men. Before anyone gets offended, I am 5'4".)

A new major convention for Vancouver in June? If this is coming from Creation Conventions, please inform the provincial taxation offices. Creation no longer does business in Ontario because they were caught not paying taxes on the salaries they were paying their actor guests. Call the taxation offices anyway, and Creation will probably beat a hasty retreat back to California.

((Garth: *I began to suspect that Chris Sturges heard of Concomcon and mistook it for a big con. I don't think there have ever been as many as 100 people at C-Cubed.*))

A *Forbidden Planet* trilogy? It does sound intriguing, but making three movies out of one original does sound like desperate studios trying to separate you from more and more of your money, rather than trying to produce something of value. I have seen short clips of *Monsters vs. Aliens* on "Cartoon Brew"...looks like it could be a lot of fun, especially for the B-movie fans.

We are getting ourselves ready for Ad Astra 2009, at the end of next month, when we might lose a little snow and gain a few degrees. We will actually be doing a little costuming; the steampunk genre offers some interesting costuming ideas, and we might be taking a dealer's table. We had the idea of a steampunk high tea, but that doesn't look like it will happen this year. Nevertheless, we are looking forward to a very good time.

With what issue does Felicity take over? We'll need a warning. Take care, stay warm, and see you next issue.

[*Warning: it's this issue!*]

WAHF: Me (*BCSFAZINEzine*)!

Calendar

March 2009

6 March 2009: Premiere of *Watchmen*, the film adaptation of the 1987 Alan Moore–Dave Gibbons graphic novel.

[12–15 March 2009: Anime Oasis EVO—Boise, Idaho](#) (anime).

13–15 March 2009: **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 <http://www.efanzines.com>. See <http://corflu.org> for more information.

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

15 March 2009: [Vancouver Comicon](#), 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Admission: \$4.00; kids under 14: free. Special guests: [Howard Chaykin](#) (*American Flagg!*, *Wolverine*, *Punisher War Journal*, *Squadron Supreme*), [David Boswell](#) (*Reid Fleming*, *World's Toughest Milkman*), [Robin Bougie](#) (*Cinema Sewer*), [Kelly Everaert](#) (*Jungle Tales*, *Trilogy of Terror*), *Forg* (*Birth of Jazz*), [Miriam Libicki](#) (*Jobnik*), Mike Myhre (*Space Jet Comics*), Andrew Salmon (*Secret Agent X*), Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell*, *Hemp Island*), [Verne Andru](#), Rusty Beach, Jordyn Bochon & Tim Carpenter, [Laura Eveleigh](#), Donald King, Steven Snyder. For more information about this show, please e-mail lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412.

[26–29 March 2009: GameStorm—Portland, Oregon](#) (gaming).

April 2009

The April book discussion will cover *Snow Crash* by [Neal Stephenson](#). All you Clints and Brandies should 'poon to the Grind Gallery & Café, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, by 7 p.m.

[2–4 April 2009: Stargate SG-1 and Atlantis Convention in Vancouver—Burnaby, BC, Canada](#) (Creation Entertainment for-profit media convention).

[4–5 April 2009: Emerald City ComiCon—Seattle, Washington](#) (comics).

[9–12 April 2009: Norwescon 32—Seatac, Washington](#) (major regional science fiction convention).

[10–12 April 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).

[25–26 April 2009: Calgary Comics & Entertainment Expo—Calgary, Alberta, Canada](#) (comics).

27 April 2009: Joe Devoy’s birthday.

[30 April–3 May 2009: World Horror Con 2009: Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada](#) (premier horror convention).

May 2009

1 May 2009: premiere of *X-Men Origins: Wolverine*.

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

[15–17 May 2009: Zompire—Portland, Oregon](#) (undead film festival).

19 May 2009: Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand’s birthday.

[22–25 May 2009: MisCon 23—Missoula, Montana](#) (general SF).

22 May 2009: premiere of new *Terminator* series, starting with *Terminator: Salvation*.

[22–24 May 2009: CONduit XIX—Salt Lake City](#) (general SF).

[30 May 2009: Spokane Comicon—Spokane, Washington](#) (comics).

June 2009

2 June 2009: Lloyd Penney’s birthday.

5 June 2009: premiere of *Land of the Lost*.

5–7 June 2009: **ConComCon 16**—Compass Point Inn in Surrey, British Columbia. (ConComCon is a convention-type gathering of the conrunning community.) Memberships \$35. 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, Ontario, M8W 4G3, or e-mail concomcon16@worldhouse.com.

[12–14 June 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.

28 June 2009: Toren Atkinson’s birthday.

July 2009

2–5 July 2009: **FiestaCon/Westercon 62** at the Tempe Mission Palms Hotel in Tempe, Arizona. Guests of Honor: 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, telephone (480) 945-6890 (24-hour home office), e-mail info@fiestacon.org, or see <http://www.fiestacon.org>.

8 July 2009: Aaron Harrison’s birthday.

17–19 July 2009: **BC RenFest 2009**, probably at Aldor Acres. Keep watching <http://www.bcrenfest.com>.

17 July 2009: premiere of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

20 July 2009: Julie McGalliard’s birthday.

28 July 2009: Adam Charlesworth and Robin Bougie’s birthdays.

31 July 2009: Felicity Walker’s birthday.

[31 July–2 August 2009: SpoCon—Spokane, Washington](#) (general SF).

August 2009

6–10 August 2009: **Anticipation (67th Worldcon)**, Palais des congrès de Montreal, Montreal, Canada. GOH Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Taral Wayne, David Hartwell, Tom Doherty. Contact CP 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/>, e-mail: media@anticipationsf.ca or write to: Anticipation—The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, PO Box 105, Station NDG, Montréal, Québec, H4A 3P4.

[7–9 August 2009: Fandemonium—Boise, Idaho](#) (general SF, media and more).

21–23 August 2009: **Con-Version 25** in Calgary, Alberta. Hotel venue: TBA. Guests of Honour are Terry Brooks and Tanya Huff. See <http://www.con-version.org>.

September 2009

Labour Day Weekend: **3-Day Novel Contest** by Anvil Press in Vancouver.

4–7 September 2009: **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, telephone (480) 945-6890 (24-hour home office), or e-mail info@nadwcon.org. For more information see <http://www.nadwcon.org>.

October 2009

2–4 October 2009: **VCon 34** at the Compass Point Inn, Surrey, BC. GOHs: Author Tanya Huff, ArtGOH Miles Tweet (SF and fantasy film illustrator). Hotel: Compass Point Inn, 9850 King George Highway, Surrey, BC, V3T 4Y3, <http://www.compasspointinn.com>. Reservations: +1-800-663-0660. Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1; **phone:** (778) 230-1605; website: <http://www.vcon.ca>.

23–25 October 2009: **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 <http://www.steam-con.com>.

November 2009

19 November 2009: Ashton Green’s birthday.

[27–29 November 2009: Orycon 31—Portland, Oregon](#) (general SF and the quintessential SF convention in Oregon).

News-Like Matter

RustyCon

“I’ve posted a few pictures from RustyCon 26. Raw and unfiltered, but they get more interesting toward the end. <http://gallery.mac.com/fmclain#gallery>.”

Fred McLain (mclain@halcyon.com)

to snorthwest@yahoo.com,

Monday 12 January 2009

Corflu Calls for Trip Reports

Jerry Kaufman of Seattle writes:

“I’m part of the committee putting on the 2009 Corflu here in Seattle. Dates are March 13–15.

“If you have fan fund trip reports or other publications to sell to raise money for the various fan funds, and are not going to be here for the convention, I will be happy to handle sales for you. Here’s what you need to know:

“(1) Mail them to me at PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165. Allow enough time for them to arrive by Wednesday, March 11, or they may get left at the Post Office until after the con is over.

“(2) Don’t send too many of any one item. We expect to have maybe 100 to 120 people in attendance. Expect that a number of them will probably already have copies.

“(3) Let me know if you want me to send money back to you or directly to the fund administrator. Be sure you’re clear about which fund gets the benefit and how much each item costs.

“(4) If I need to send unsold items back to you, I’ll deduct the postage cost from your sales. If you’re the current fund administrator, or if you want me to mail unsold copies to the current administrator, I’ll donate the cost to the fund in question.

“I’ll handle displaying and selling the items at Corflu.

“If you’re planning to attend (like Chris Garcia), bring the items with you. (But if carrying them will be a burden, you can still mail them to me.)

“By the way, we’re planning to do an auction at the con but its primary purpose will be to cover our costs. Andy Hooper has been soliciting material for pre-convention auctions on eBay, and will be running the on-site auction (unless some brave person leaps up to take it off his hands). Contact him if you have materials you’d like to donate, or if you have fan fund materials you’d like to work into the auction. I can’t say how much time there will be to fit stuff in—only Andy can speak to that. Contact him at fanmailaph@aol.com.”

Jerry Kaufman (jakaufman@aol.com),

17 January 2009

[Unfortunate News About the Seattle in 2011 Worldcon Bid](#)

“It is with grave regret and a deep disappointment that I must announce that the Seattle bid has to pull out of the race to host the Worldcon in 2011. This is due to an unforeseen event and our inability to reach a formal first option agreement with our preferred facilities. We had initial options on facilities, but when it came time to reduce them to formal writing, we found that our preferred facilities had groups willing to make the financial commitment ahead of us. Seattle is such a popular destination for conventions that all of the reasonable dates (early August through early September) already have groups that have firmer commitments than we do.

“After examining the options and alternatives, consulting with our respected advisors and exploring any number of other possibilities we have determined that there are just no viable alternatives, which make sense for the fannish community available to us. We do not want to host the Worldcon in a venue and situation that would prove to be less than World class. In this economy, it is refreshing to know that Seattle remains a popular destination for conventions and tourists even if it is one of the saddest things I can think of at the moment.

“I want to personally thank all of the fannish community, our supporters, my advisors, friends and family for giving so completely of yourselves over the last several years. I can personally not think of anyone I would not have wanted to produce this event with other than you—you all gave so much and went so far to make this happen. Thank you for everything!

“We will be reviewing future opportunities with our potential facilities with an eye toward bidding for a subsequent year.”

Bobbie DuFault (bobbiedu@verizon.net),

6 February 2009

[DUFF Nomination Page Has Been Updated](#)

Norman Cates of New Zealand writes:

“You can find it here: <http://sfanz.sf.org.nz/duff/>

“So if you could remind your groups that the DUFF race will be on this year, and we are accepting nominations up until March 15, 2009.

“I chose that date since it’s a month before SwanCon in Western Australia. And so ballot forms could be created and sent over.

“However, if there are other earlier conventions in North America and Australasia that it would be a good idea to be able to hit, then let me know and I can change the date before it goes too far.

“I’ve set the close of voting date as May 17, 2009. That gives about 3 months to prep for the con. I think that’s about right.

“But any concerns, please let me know...

“As it happens I have been contacted by one person already wanting to run, and they have indicated that there may be two others as well... So we seem to be already out of the starting gates...”

Norman Cates (normanc@clear.net.nz),

26 January 2009

BIFFness

“Three thrilled BIFFers turned out to match wits...er...skill...er...cards against one another, in the return of Gaming Night. This week, we played Colleen’s *Doctor Who* Top Trumps card game (I lost) and my old, old, old copy of Authors (I lost). I shared my evil plan to publish our own set of author cards, with science fiction authors, and Colleen jumped all over the idea. So when she’s a gaming tycoon, I want a cut of the royalties...

“This week, BIFF invites both the Vancouver chapter of the Urban Prankster Network and the Vancouver *Doctor Who* Meetup Group to join us. The main purpose of the meeting will be to introduce the Urban Pranksters to BIFF, but since one of the projects that the Pranksters are planning these days involves building a replica TARDIS and having some fun with it, I figured the Whovians would want a piece of that action, so they’re invited, too. So far, it looks like at least 14 people are going to turn out, which will probably be the largest turnout until *Battlestar Galactica* is finished.

“Looking ahead, we at BIFF like nothing so much as a challenge, and especially a writing challenge. For our tenth writing challenge, due at BIFF on February 20, you must include the number 9, the letter X, and the term ‘black hole.’ Please be prepared to read out your story from the infamous ‘hot seat’ (okay, okay, it’s actually at room temperature, so just use your imagination), and give me a copy of your story on paper or by e-mail, so I can post it to the web site.

“AlternaBIFF events:

“Ongoing: The CN IMAX Theatre at Canada Place is showing *Space Station 3D*. 1:00 p.m and 6:00 p.m.

“Ongoing: The CN IMAX Theatre at Canada Place is showing *The Dark Knight: The IMAX Experience*. 2:00 p.m and 8:00 p.m.”

Greg Slade,

5 February 2009

‘Cast a Cold Eye’

Derryl Murphy writes in “The Writing of Derryl Murphy” on Facebook:

“Hello to all,

“The other day I posted an excerpt from Charles de Lint’s introduction to *Cast a Cold Eye*. Today, I figure it probably makes sense to tell you about the book, in case you’re unfamiliar with the title.

“First off, it’s a novella, so not a full length novel. However, it is being published as a stand-alone book. It’s due to come out in July from PS Publishing, a British specialty press. Their books are generally only offered in signed limited editions, hardcover and trade paperback, so they tend to be a tad more than plain old books. But this is a publisher that has brought out books from Stephen King and Ray Bradbury, among others, so it’s a nice feather in the cap.

“I’m very lucky to have a co-author on this book, my friend William Shunn. When we started this story a few years ago Bill was living in New York and I was in Prince George. We’re much closer together now, though, since I’m Saskatoon and he’s in Chicago. *Cast a Cold Eye* is my second collaboration, after the Aurora-nominated short story ‘Mayfly,’ written with Peter Watts. Bill helped bring a terrific and unique voice to this story, and he also tempered some of my more loopy ideas. Which in this case was a very good thing.

“The story itself takes place in Nebraska just after the Spanish flu pandemic, and involves a teenage boy who lost both his parents to that illness. There’s also a spirit photographer, ghosts, spooky graveyards, and a friendly, knowing dog. It didn’t occur to me until after we’d finished it, but the story is YA friendly, so if you know of any teens or youngsters who might be interested in this sort of story, keep them in mind.

“I’ll post more information about the book when I get it, including price, cover art, and how to order.

“Cheers,

“Derryl”

Forwarded by Garth Spencer,
20 February 2009

‘Vegas Fandom Weekly’ #113

Bill Burns writes:

“After a four-year run, Arnie Katz sends the final issue of *VFW*, now available at <http://efanzines.com>.

“In this issue:

“Why I Don’t Review Fanzines”; “Farwl 2 4e”; “Up to Here”; “The Vegants Celebrate”; “A Look at ‘The Wrestler’”; “The 2nd Fannish Revolution”; “Last Hurrah.”

Forwarded by Garth Spencer,
20 February 2009

Canadian Unity Fan Fund Nominations

Lance Sibley writes in the “CanadianConrunners” YAHOO! Group:

“Hello,

“I’m writing to announce the opening of nominations for this year’s Canadian Unity Fan Fund (CUFF) delegate. CUFF provides for a Canadian SF fan to travel to the current year’s Convention, or Canadian National SF Convention. This year’s Convention coincides with Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, being held in Montreal from August 6–10.

“Since the Convention is being held in the East, this year’s CUFF delegate must be chosen from west of the Ontario–Manitoba border. As the 2008 CUFF delegate, the responsibility falls to me to select the 2009 delegate. I am therefore asking that you consider who from among your fannish circle may be a good delegate for this year. It could even be you!

“To be nominated for CUFF, the successful delegate must provide a short biography detailing their activities in fandom. As well, nominees must show that they have the support of other Canadian fans by having their nomination co-signed by three fans from the East and three fans from the West. The successful nominee must also agree to administer the fund for 2010, including selecting the 2010 delegate.

“To submit a nomination, or to ask for more information, please feel free to contact me at lance_sibley@yahoo.com. And please feel free to forward this email to others as you see fit, or publish it in your fanzine, clubzine or newsletter.

“Regards,

“Lance Sibley

“2008 CUFF Delegate”

Forwarded by Garth Spencer,
22 February 2009

Aurora and Hugo Deadlines

Hayden Trenholm wrote in “Hayden Trenholm Writing News and Views” on Facebook:

“Just a final reminder.

“The deadline for nominations for the Aurora Awards is midnight, Saturday February 28th. The Prix Aurora Awards recognize the best in Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy each year. All Canadian citizens or permanent residents are eligible to nominate for free. It only takes a couple of minutes.

“Nominations can be submitted on-line here: <http://www.facebook.com/L.php?u=http://www.prix-aurora-awards.ca%2FEnglish%2FAwardProcess%2FnominationForm.php>.

“I was fortunate to win an Aurora last year for Best Short Form in English. I have two works eligible this year which I would ask you to consider.

“Best Long Form in English

“Hayden Trenholm, *Defining Diana*, Bundoran Press, 2008

“Best Short Form in English

“Hayden Trenholm, ‘Love in Its Season,’ *On Spec*, Summer 2008

“You can read the first four chapters of *Defining Diana* for free: <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://www.bundoranpress.com%2FDefiningDianaCh1to4.pdf>.

“For other recommendations on possible nominees: <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://sfwriter.com%2Flabels%2FAwards%2520200>.

“and here: <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://www.bundoranpress.com%2F>.

“I’m supportive of all those recommendations.

“For a more complete list of eligible works in both English and French categories: <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://www.canadiansf.com%2F>.

“As it happens the deadline for the Hugo Awards nominations is also this Saturday. To nominate you have to have attended the World Science Fiction Convention in Denver last year or have a membership for the WSFC in Montreal this year. For more information: <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://www.anticipationsf.ca%2FEnglish%2FHugos>.

“I believe my works are also eligible for a Hugo. For other suggestions see: <http://www.facebook.com/l.php?u=http://sfwriter.com%2Flabels%2FAwards%2520200>.

“Thanks for your attention and support.

“Hayden”

Forwarded by Garth Spencer,
25 February 2009

BookViewCafe.com Now Offering Ebooks

Following their successful website launch, members of [bookviewcafe.com](http://www.bookviewcafe.com) (<http://www.bookviewcafe.com>) have started to release select titles of their work as ebooks. Previously most of the bookviewcafe offerings have been in the form of short stories or serialized, Internet-only novels. “We received so many requests for downloadable versions of our work, we thought we’d better offer some ebooks,” says Sue Lange, publicist for the site. “The move should prove to be pretty popular. People were purchasing ebooks as soon as we opened up the shop.”

Ebooks from Sarah Zettel and Maya Kathryn Bohnhoff were launched this week. Other BVC authors scheduled to release ebooks in the coming weeks include Brenda Clough, Laura Anne Gilman, Anne Harris, Phyllis Irene Radford, Vonda McIntyre, and Sue Lange.

The books will be available at the Book View Cafe site as well as the upcoming online science fiction convention, Flycon 2009 (<http://community.livejournal.com/flycon2009/>). BVC will have space in the dealer's room and members will be participating in panels and author chats. Flycon 2009 is scheduled for the weekend of March 13th and is shaping up to be an innovative Internet experience. Several celebs are already signed up and more are signing on every day.

Sue Lange (suelange1@verizon.net)

26 February 2009

ConComCon 16, June 5–7, Surrey BC

Alex von Thorn writes in the C-Cubed YAHOO! Group:

“I am pleased to announce that the site for ConComCon 16 will be the Compass Point Inn in Surrey, British Columbia. The conference will be held June 5–7, 2009.

“The hotel room rate is \$90 Canadian. Please quote ‘ConComCon’ or ‘C-Cubed’ (or ‘C³’) when making a reservation (which I did today). The hotel is all non-smoking. We are the only function in the hotel that weekend (though they’ve got plenty of room, so they could still book a wedding). Surrey is an easy and pretty two-hour drive north from Seattle.

“Gene Armstrong has agreed to organize our hospitality room. E.J. Fadgen is helping us with registration. Danielle Stephens is our hotel liaison; she works with our hotel for her bigger convention, VCON. Marah Searle-Kovacevic and I are serving as co-chairs (which means she keeps a list and supervises everything and I do what she tells me). :-)

“I will update the web page and announce.”

Forwarded by Garth Spencer

26 February 2009

Göbekli Tepe: World's First Temple

Maureen Cecilia (Griffith) Parrott

Which came first: city, or civilisation? Excavations in Turkey cast a surprising light on this chicken-or-egg question. Did our elaborately structured interdependent cultures gradually develop from the needs of populations gathering at river crossings, harbours, and other centres of travel and trade, and ultimately becoming grand enough to afford temples and public works? Perhaps not. Building of temples and “wonders of the world” may have come first, driving invention of agriculture, commerce, and the arts of civilisation to handle the results of concentration of people at these sites.

An archaeological survey of Turkey in 1964 reported limestone slabs on a steep, rounded hill in southeast Turkey (known as Göbekli Tepe, navel or belly

hill, for its rotund shape) atop a ridge commanding the plains around. Mediæval cemetery, or Neolithic henge? With thousands of other sites to study, this one was all but ignored. Thirty years later, German archaeologist Klaus Schmidt, after sifting through Turkish files for possible stone age sites, climbed this windy hill. “Within a minute of first seeing it,” he says, “I knew I had two choices: go away and tell nobody, or spend the rest of my life working here.”

Before irrigation was invented, or pottery, before selective breeding, when Horse and Cow and Sheep and Pig and Goose and even the grasses and beans were all as wild as wild could be...the gatherers and hunters on the plains and foothills of the Taurus Mountains lifted up their eyes unto the hills. Rainfall was plentiful there over eleven thousand years ago, vegetation lush, wild herds plentiful, and streams and wetlands teeming with game.

On the highest place for miles around they gathered, and there they built the world’s earliest known temple. No signs of defenses are found there, and little in the way of dwellings (not enough for hundreds of workers needed to move great stones). The windswept hilltop did not provide much water or food. So they brought wild grains and vegetables, wild game, gathered and prepared with fine stone age tools. Then they carved pairs of monolithic pillars and surrounded them with stone rings (and roofs?) six or seven thousand years before people of Salisbury Plain hoisted the mightier megaliths of Stonehenge into place. They carved scorpions and snakes, birds and swine, lions, foxes, and human shapes. Generation after generation, for thousands of years, they celebrated and ornamented the sacred place.

But some time after 8000 BC, Göbekli Tepe was deliberately sealed under earth for the last time. No stonework so magnificent would be seen for thousands of years after. Beneath three to five hundred cubic metres of dirt, ancient secrets lay protected within the pregnant hill. Meanwhile, within five centuries of the earliest works at Göbekli Tepe, people of the country around built their first corrals and bred the first domestic wheat. Mankind’s great adventure had begun.

(No need to list references here: a web search for Göbekli Tepe will show you many fascinating reports from a decade of excavations there. Readers of the past have hardly scratched the surface; lifetimes of work await them on a hill where humans first built together something much greater than themselves.)

Media File

Ray Seredin

Michelle Ryan and Lindsay Duncan board while Freema Agyeman returns to the TARDIS.

Twenty-four-year-old actress Michelle Ryan is joining the long list of companions on *Doctor Who*. Ryan recently played the role of Nimueh, an evil sorceress who wants to destroy Camelot, on BBC1’s *Merlin* (note to long time

series viewers: Merlin is not played by Sylvester McCoy), though most North American fans will know her as the Bionic Woman in the short-lived 2007 re-telling of that classic 1970s series.

Ryan will play Lady Christina de Souza, a woman with a mysterious past that will have a huge impact on her relationship with the Doctor. She will debut in “The Planet of the Dead,” which will air on BBC1 on the Easter weekend and a week later on the American Sci-Fi Channel. (Sorry; no word on when it will air on the CBC, but I heard that the wait could be quite long.)

The special is about passengers (including the Doctor) stranded on a London bus that is somehow transported to another planet, where two alien monsters (both new to the series) await. It was first filmed in and around the series production center in Wales before moving to a location shoot in the United Arab Emirates on February 12.

“Planet of the Dead” marks two milestones in the series’ long history. It’s the first *Doctor Who* story to be filmed in the Middle East and the first shot in high definition.

An interesting side story: a double-decker bus that was going to be used in the special was badly damaged while being unloaded in Dubai, when a 17-tonne container was dropped on it. The BBC did some temporary repairs to make it road-worthy and worked the damage into the story-line.

Fifty-eight-year-old actress Lindsay Duncan will then sign on to the TAR-DIS. Duncan is the sixth-largest municipality on Vancouver Island, with a population of 21,345 residents, and is best known in the fandom community as the one-time home of Spawn creator Todd McFarlane. Sorry; that’s Duncan, BC. I mean Lindsay Duncan is best known for her work on *GBH* and *Rome* and can be seen as Margaret Thatcher in the BBC Two drama *Margaret*, which airs on PBS this coming summer.

Duncan will play Adelaide, who series executive producer Russell T. Davies says will be “the Doctor’s most strong-minded companion yet.” She will also be the oldest person to become a companion. Her journey through the space-time continuum will start in the second special and she could be with the Doctor when he regenerates from David Tennant into Matt Smith in early 2010.

Freema Agyeman’s character Dr. Martha Jones will return in one of the three remaining specials.

Sorry; getting any more information on these specials is about as hard as finding a fish that can whistle “Oh Canada.” So that’s all for now; be seeing you.

Cosmic Ray Seredin
lungbarrow@shaw.ca

Voices in My Head

Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand

I appreciate your interest in becoming one of the voices in my head, but before we continue, I feel we need to set a few ground rules.

Firstly, and most importantly, *no constantly exhorting me to kill people and/or burn things*. For one thing, it won't work. I may be eccentric and my connection to the so-called “real world” might sometimes be a tad tenuous, but I am basically sane and rational, and therefore, unlikely to develop a sudden liking for antique daggers or my grandfather's World War II-era Zippo lighter just because some raspy demonic voice keeps saying “They all must pay” or “Cleanse it with the flame.”

Also, as you would learn quite quickly, anything like a career in murder or arson would require a degree of drive, organization, and follow-through that I clearly lack. Ditto stalking people. I'm far more likely to just sit around thinking about it, and be quite content with that. So if you're that kind of voice, I'm sorry, but I doubt either of us would find the relationship satisfactory. No doubt you will find some heavily abused psychotic with a strict religious upbringing to torment, and you'll both be very happy together. You'll have someone to goad and torment, and he'll have someone to invest all his negative emotions into, and hence avoid having to “own” them or accept responsibility for the no doubt heinous acts that will follow. If so, Godspeed, and good luck.

Secondly, *no pretending to be people I know and/or people from my past*. For one thing, all the voices in my head are already people I know and/or people from my past, and therefore they're not going to take kindly to some Johnny-come-lately horning in on their gig. And trust me, the last thing I want is a head full of pouty, bitchy voices having long emo arguments like a bunch of drag queens before a show in my head. Plus, I've had the same set of voices in my head for decades now (hence the Craigslist post to which you replied), and so I will immediately know if one of them sounds a bit “off,” and that will just lead to a very awkward “inner dialogue” scene that neither of us would enjoy.

Lastly, and I hate to have to bring this up, but after certain instances involving casinos, blackjack, and prostitutes, I must now insist that all the voices in my head be *licensed, registered, and bonded*. It wounds me to have to introduce such stiff formalities into what is meant to be possibly the most intimate of relationships, but past experiences with other voices have forced me to become highly cognizant of the need for very clear lines of liability in order to avoid future legal complications. I still can't get a credit card.

So now you might be thinking, *Well what can I do as a voice in your head?* That's a good question, and the answer is that your duties would mostly be the standard ones for head-inhabiting voices, including but not limited to things like:

Constant criticism, undermining of confidence, and second-guessing of my every thought, motive, and emotion. This is the main job of all the voices in my head, and while the current voices are doing a fine job of it, you can appreciate that with a job of this scale, more help is always appreciated. The current voices can quickly educate you on all the time-honored, proven weakness in my psyche, and pretty soon you'll be filling me with doubt and fear and crippling my ability to fulfill my ambitions with the rest of them.

The sudden and highly distracting insertion of bizarre, disturbing, and/or inappropriate and shameful thoughts and images into my stream of consciousness at the worst possible moments. This is a particularly popular diversion for my current crop of mental inhabitants, and while the most common source of fun is thoughts of a luridly sexual nature, much hay has been made from such things as horrifically morbid thoughts, completely tasteless yet hilarious humour, and of course, sudden fascinating psychological or philosophical insights which entirely derail my train of thought and make people wonder why I spaced out all of a sudden.

And last but not least, you will of course become *part of the many bulges, contours, and ridges of my highly warped and outré mental landscape*, and thus contribute to the strange and unwordly perspective that makes it so hard for me to truly relate to others.

As you can see, it's good, honest work, perhaps lacking in glamour and excitement, but offering good work at an honest wage, and as many of my current voices can attest, a very good chance of advancement and promotion to full-time, permanent work.

If you remain interested in the position, please fill out of the attached form and submit it no later than next Friday. You will be informed of my decision by the following Monday. A valid SIN is not required, but if you cannot provide one, you will need to provide your absolute coordinates in the inter-mind subdimension for future identification.

Good luck in your application, and who knows. Perhaps your voice will be among the ones depriving me of sleep and tormenting me with memories of past failures in the very near future!

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:
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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.
- ___ You bought a copy in person.
- ___ You contributed.
- ___ You're our 430th caller!
- ___ You speak jive.
- ___ You put doggy in the dog-house.
- ___ You put the bad in the mad-house.
- ___ You put the junk in the junk-house.
- ___ You put the fun the fun-house.
- ___ You put the boys in the club-house.
- ___ You put the cat in the cat-house.
- ___ You put whitey in the White House.