

B.C.S.F.azine

The Newsletter of the
British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#467

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April 1982

DUE TO THE WEIGHT
OF THEIR
IMMENSE
EYE-LASHES,
THE PEOPLE OF PLUTO
ARE ALWAYS
STUDYING THE
GROUND...
THEY HAVE MORE
GEOLOGISTS PER
CAPITA THAN ANY
OTHER CIVILIZATION.



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, B.C., Canada, V7C 1J6. BCSFAZINE solicits electronic submissions and high-resolution images in .JPG, .GIF, .BMP, .PNG, or .PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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The secret unofficial theme of the last issue was CLOWNS AND SHAPES. Themes! Who are we, CHALLENGER?

THIS MONTH IN B.C.S.F.A.

Sunday 22 April @ 7 P.M.: B.C.S.F.A. MEETING--at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions.

Friday 27 April: BCSFAZINE PRODUCTION (theoretically).

ABOUT B.C.S.F.A.

The incumbent B.C.S.F.A. Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562
Vice President: T.B.A.
Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845
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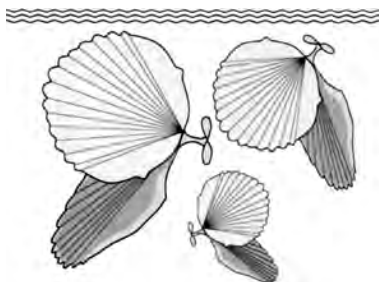
B.C.S.F.A.'s website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (webmaster: Garth Spencer). The B.C.S.F.A. e-mail list is B.C. Sci-Fi Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events.

LETTERS OF COMMENT

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

SHERYL BIRKHEAD
25509 Jonnie Court,
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
U.S.A.

Friday 9 March 2012



Dear BSCFAERS,

Okay, another Leap Day (Leap Year Day?) into the history books. Somehow I did not feel as if I had just received an extra 24 hours.

[Probably because we also sprang forward soon after!]

I DO love all the FOSTER covers--keep them coming!

[Will do!]

Agh--still have not gotten my Hugo nomination in yet--I WILL get to it, but it better be soon.

DAVE (HAREN)--personally, instead of hoping I will not be needing sleep, I keep hoping for the 36 hour day--but neither of these options seem to be viable. Ah well, I can still hope.

I hadn't seen ANNE MCCAFFREY in many years. Just knowing that there is now no chance of seeing her at some nebulous future convention...sad.

For SPIDER--are there cons around that have such Skyping capabilities so that anyone can participate (or at least watch/listen) in any/all of the panels--etc.? I see how it is a less stressful mechanism for the G.O.H., just wondered if one can be a virtual attendee?

Best wishes to DEAD WRITE BOOKS on their new location.

TARAL--along with drawing on heads of pins you can add the drawing on plates...or so I am told.

Just watched HUGO from the NETFLIX list and I had mixed feelings about it. Good, but not what I would call GHOOD. HUGO and SIR BEN put in performances I enjoyed. It was an interesting watch, but I won't be going for a second go-round any time soon.

In re--goal for DALE SPEIRS' fanac--I THOUGHT the goal of the piece was to showcase and present his fanac--and found the editorial comments a bonus, but not the goal of the piece. Perhaps I misunderstood.

[Now I see. The goal of "Zines Received" is to REVIEW the zines, but I don't know how to do that, so I comment on the specific things for which I have a reaction, and the rest of the articles I list.]

Oops--went back and looked again at RED DWARF on the NETFLIX list and see only the discs--so chose the first one and moved it close to the top of my list. I wonder if it is a cultural thing since it is not rated that highly (just above three stars). Then again...most of their DOCTOR WHO offerings are up at about four stars--so who knows.

[WHO!]

BRAD FOSTER'S Cubosaur reminds me I have, in the collection, an armadillo made of wooden letters that actually spell out the name, and another one that is kinda skeletal looking, interlocking pieces that fit together to give the "idea" of armadillo-ness without being the totally fleshed out model.

Re R. GRAEME CAMERON'S hernia--always interesting when an owner comes in with unusual veterinary diagnoses--such as "an umBIBLICAL hernia." But, no matter, such things as hernias are to be taken seriously. An episode of A GIFTED MAN describes his hernia as stragulated and I was hoping anyone on my S.P.C.A. vet (all volunteers) crew was watching so they knew I was not kidding when I talked to foster families about the various hernias and how we would deal with it. See, I DO know what I am talking about (well, every now and then).



[Thanks to "Weird Al" Yankovic, I know that the common types of hernias that you can get are incomplete, epigastric, bladder, strangulated, lumbar hernia, Richter's hernia, obstructed, inguinal, and direct!]

Thanks--
'Bye,
Sheryl



Hi Felicity,

First things first.

My recommendation for a nice taste of McKenna would be "History Ends in Green." It can be found at archive.org. Use the search string "psychedelia."

[Thanks!]

Once found you can use their player to listen or download things for later listening. There are a lot of snippets up on YouTube with music and pictures, usually too short to do more than provide soundbites.

One thing he talked about a lot was the idea that an optimistic view of the future makes more sense than just hysterically pointing out all of the signposts which show grim portents like the toxic media fear-mongers do. Precisely because there are signposts of bright hope right next to them. The future looks like a bumpy roller coaster but that doesn't mean it has to end in an uncontrollable disaster.

[Remote viewer Major Ed Dames was on COAST TO COAST A.M. earlier tonight, talking about disasters ahead, how he plans to save himself and his loved ones, and what he recommends the rest of us do. He sees natural disasters that will shut down civilization, leading to deaths from malnutrition and dehydration. When it starts, he says, you'll have 15 minutes to get to an A.T.M. and withdraw all your money if you haven't already, and to flush your toilet for the last time. Interestingly, he's doing something that would seem so obvious you'd wonder why remote viewers don't do it all the time: he's using his powers to find lost gold. He says we have until 2013 to get our affairs in order. The bumpy roller coaster may not end in disaster, but how many of us will survive it?]

Climate change is a prime example of the way media/politics conspire to keep everyone afraid. The climate has changed before and humans survived it; we don't need to turn into Chicken Little and run around screaming that the sky is falling. Leave that to the same clowns who were predicting an ice age coming a generation ago.

If humans are supposed to solve the problem, you might want to look at past solutions before you let them start jerking on the levers they select for salvation. A lot of the past solutions are great for sight-seeing

tourists these days but hardly seem to be rationally justified now.

I think Bertrand has set the bar far too high for the average modern writer. Trapped in an environment of limited artificiality they rarely encounter any other lifeforms or attempt to unravel the motivations of wild-life they do see. So crying that the writer should have a completed understanding of an unrelated species hardly seems reasonable.

[In fairness to Michael, if a writer has created a species, it's reasonable to expect the writer to be familiar with it.]

Carolyn Cherryh has written about real aliens, but they are intelligent versions of Terran animals in the majority of cases. That makes them difficult to wrap your mind around unless you have experience with the Terran versions.

[This is a compromise between aliens that are too human and aliens that are too alien, and an easy short-cut for creating natural-seeming aliens. "They're sentient cats!"]

Given the modern fetish of whale-watching you'd have to expect some great insight into the cetaceans would have occurred by now using Bertrand's logic. What we get instead is the revelation now and then of behaviors that were not in our original tales about them.

[You can see in Michael's short story in #465, "One Average Meeting in Space," that he used the technique of writing aliens that were sentient versions of Earth animals; and from his L.O.C. in #466, that he had learned about those animals before writing the story.]

It is difficult to say "I don't know." It is also the beginning of the exploring that leads to knowledge and wisdom.

<http://www.erbzine.com/> is an interesting place to explore. Some of it is not particularly Disneyesque. That is a warning for the faint-hearted.

I am still waiting for the new movie [JOHN CARTER] on D.V.D. Like [GREYSTOKE: THE LEGEND OF] TARZAN, I want to be able to wear it out at home. I have always been a fan of the Warlord of Barsoom. So you know E.R.B. was to blame for my strangeness...GRIN.

Kaor,
Dave Haren

[👋 👋]

JOHN BARTLEY
john@503bartley.com
via shelfari.com

Monday 19 March 2012

Do we like the same books?

I just joined Shelfari to connect with other book lovers. Come see the books I love and see if we have any in common. Then pick my next book so I can keep on reading.

Join me on Shelfari!
<http://www.shelfari.com/>
John

Shelfari is a free site that lets you share book ratings and reviews with friends and meet people who have similar tastes in books. It also lets you build an on-line bookshelf, join book clubs, and get good book recommendations from friends.

You have received this email because John (john@503bartley.com) directly invited you to join his or her community on Shelfari.

Shelfari.com,
410 Terry Avenue North,
Seattle, WA 98109-5210

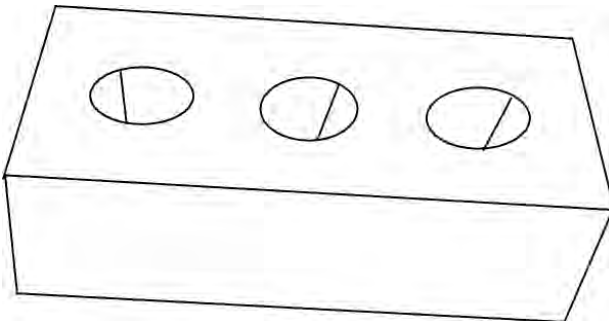
[As long as it isn't buggy like Goodreads!]

MIKE FALLOPIAN
Yoyodyne, Inc.,
Galactronics Division,
San Narciso, CA 91711
U.S.A.

Wednesday 21 March 2012

Dear Felicity,

How are you? Just thought I'd drop you a note. How's your zine coming? Guess that's all for now. See you at the Scope.



LLOYD PENNEY
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Thursday 22 March 2012

Dear Felicity:

Thank you again for a BCSFAZINE, issue 466. Your third anniversary...that's 36 issues. I hope producing these are still fun.

[So far, so good!]

Comments hereby follow...

Dave Haren, what kind of e-reader did you get? As much as I love those old, musty-smelling books, I am considering an e-reader. I'm thinking of a Kobo, but only if it's flexible enough to read most if not all formats, and it has an S.D. slot for many more books. A tablet would combine the best of an e-reader and a laptop, wouldn't it?

Furrycons seem to be launching everywhere...the third Furnal Equinox was at the Toronto airport strip this past weekend, and there are new conventions entering their second years in London, Ontario and Montréal.

Even with no central club, Toronto fandom is lucky to have two pubnights for local general S.F. fandom, plus specialty pubnights for the local Wiccans/Goths, DOCTOR WHO fans and steampunks. Our main pubnight, the First Thursday, had at one point 50+ people each month at a large restaurant downtown. Now, we're lucky to get 20, but we do have 120+ people on our general mailing list, and we relay convention info, special interest meeting info, book launches, events, etc., vital information for everyone, including those for whom interest in going to a pubnight has waned.

[Speaking of which: I first went to F.R.E.D. in 1992, but only started going regularly in early 2002 when I was looking for somewhere to go on weekends besides the goth scene. According to my vague memories, the 1992 F.R.E.D. had normal attendance, and its venue was a not-too-loud, not-too-crowded bar. (It's hard to know if I can trust those memories, because I was 20 years younger and probably had a higher threshold for noise and crowds.) The 2002 F.R.E.D. was in a quiet, almost empty bar, with only three people attending. It was good for quiet conversation. But then F.R.E.D. had to move to a new place, which started out O.K. but became increasingly loud, crowded, expensive, and hostile.

What I've recently started to wonder is this: I tried for a few years to find a home for F.R.E.D. where we could have conversations without having to yell...but if the 2002 F.R.E.D. had been loud and crowded, and I'd immediately left, and it had kept on being for fans who wanted to get drunk in loud bars, would that have been better? And if so, then where's the event with peace, quiet, and conversation? I want to go there.]

Are aliens and alien civilizations we concoct B.S.? Of course. We can only create these things based on what we know or can imagine. A good writer can take these ideas and make them interesting, but in the long run, the civilization and those beings within it are going to act and sound human, no matter what we do. If the aliens are truly incomprehensible and super-advanced to us foolish mortal humans, we'd probably never know about them. If they do exist, they've probably already been and gone, and we'd never suspect their presence, or absence.

We've had weird but welcome weather...even though winter has finished its last days on the calendar and spring has started up, we've had summery temperatures around 20 to 25°C. The ice cream trucks are out, and the golfers are hacking away on long-time snow-free courses. It can't last, but it's been great to have this sneak preview of summer. Bring it on!



[As long as it doesn't get hot!]

Coming up on a month at the advertising agency...I was asked which one, so I can say it's Schawk!/Anthem!, a large U.S.-based agency with a large office in Mississauga. I think I'm doing some good work for them, but of course, I'll never really know. As long as they continue to sign the paycheques...

I am done for the moment. Good to see Graeme is up and about, and hope you are the same. Take care, see you next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

MICHAEL BERTRAND
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Saturday 24 March 2012

Hello again, BCSFAziners. Welcome to Spring. As I write this, I am looking out my window at a bright and shiny spring day in Richmond. It's warm enough that I

can have the window open a crack and still be comfortable shirtless. Flocks of migrating birds sweep the skies. It's quite lovely.

[As long as it doesn't get hot!]

Re: David Haren saying "This will let my grandson off the hook of being cheated at Munchkin by the treacherous ancient."

Well, they say youth and vigor are no match for old age and treachery.

When I was young, that saying bothered me. But somehow, now I find it comforting. Funny that.

[I used to hope science would discover how to stop the aging process. Now I hope it reverses it.]

Glad you have found some work proofing food packaging, Lloyd!

Concerning Brent Francis' interesting news bit concerning SEX AND ZEN 3D: EXTREME ECSTASY and its potential sequel, 4D SEX AND ZEN: SLAYER OF A THOUSAND FROM THE MYSTERIOUS EAST...I am kind of curious as to what exactly is being "slain" in that second title. Seems awfully violent for a porno. Perhaps it refers to "le petit mort"?

[Maybe the "S" in "SLAYER" is a typo.]

Also, I never knew that the fourth dimension was sex. All this time, I thought it was time. Maybe they are the same thing?

Again, thanks for publishing me. I wrote that "Advanced Alien Races Are Bullshit" piece so long ago, it almost feels like another person wrote it.

And that guy is pretty entertaining!

See you next month, BCSFAziners!

BERT M. RAND
bertmranda@hinterlandreach.com

Saturday 24 March 2712

Hello again, fellow BCSFAziners! I know you haven't heard from me since I finally joined the twenty-EIGHTH century and transcended the flesh to become a collection of organized custom electrons in the HumaNet, but you know how it is. Once you go digital, suddenly you have like a million PhaseBook friends; people you barely even remember from the Genebank where you were decanted are suddenly all "Hey buddy, remember me? Say, can you score me some digital weed?"; and you end up spending the next million C.P.U. cycles just wading through all the spam that shows up in your subconscious mind.

But when my DNAbot informed me that the next thought-stream from my beloved BCSFAZINE would be issue #10,000, I just had to cancel all my digital orgy invitations and mentally dictate my L.O.C. right away!



First, love the new format. Call me old fashioned, but I will always prefer the feel and physicality of ingesting a thought tablet and feeling it dissolve into my simulated bloodstream before passing through the blood-brain barrier to this modern trend of just having the thought stream loaded directly into your digital brain. I grew up eating my books, and I will probably keep doing so until the day I...well, obviously

not die. 'Til the day I can't get them that way, I guess.

[It's certainly easier than the old suppository format.]

Sorry, I guess I still think like I have a body sometimes.

Oh, and thank you so much for your article on the cartoons of the 2880s. Man, that takes me back to a simpler and more innocent time, when me and my clone twins would gather in the HoloChamber of our clone creche and just zone out to the color injections and induced seizures of a good old fashioned children's drug trip.

Well, time for me to go. In the fifteen nanoseconds it has taken me to write this, I have turned into a twelve-toed tree frog and given birth to a Martian.

Isn't this an amazing time we live in?

[My cat was just saying the same thing.]

Oh, and great, as always, to hear from Lloyd Penney.

[Maybe I'll finally get to meet him at VCON 737!]

See you all after I mitose!

[I have to split too.]

WE ALSO HEARD FROM: The Right Honourable James George ("Jim") Hacker, Baron Hacker of Islington, Knight Companion of the Order of the Garter, Lord of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, Bachelor of Science (London School of Economics), Honorary Doctor of Civil Laws (Universitas Oxoniensis); Rip Steakface.

CALENDAR

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated U.R.L. Links included in the .PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/--Julian Castle>

["Hey, I know! Let's not put our address or membership price on the flyer! Let's make people really work to find them! No one ever resents that, right?"]

ALREADY IN PROGRESS

21 March-7 April 2012: Black Holes III at Spectral Theatre Studio, 350 East Powell Street, Vancouver, B.C.; March 21-24, 28-31, April 4-7; doors 7:30 P.M., show 8 P.M. Three original sci-fi scripts (theatrical plays), including M. FINIS (written by W.T. Gibson and directed by Gibson and Simon C. Hussey), DEATH CLOCK (written and directed by Kurtis Maguire), and TEA FOR TIPLER (written by Simon C. Hussey and directed by Justin Chow). Phone: 604-569-2013. Tickets \$12 in advance or \$16 at the door. Wednesdays and Thursdays are two for one. (Brief post about the event at I.R.L. Events. Some text from THE GEORGIA STRAIGHT.--Julian Castle

30 March-1 April 2012: Trumpeter Salute 2012 Tabletop Miniatures Gaming Convention, Bonsor Community Centre, Burnaby (next to Metrotown). "Three days of gaming! A sampling of games: Warhammer 40K, W.W.I air combat, Napoleonic battles, sci-fi land & naval, American Civil War...and a lot more! Everyone can come and play! For more info: gamesmaster@trumpetersociety.com or [http://www.trumpetersalute.com/.](http://www.trumpetersalute.com/)"

30 March-1 April 2012: Emerald City Comicon, Washington State Convention Center, Seattle. [NO ADDRESS GIVEN on flyer or on Convention Center's website.--Felicity] "The Northwest's premier comic book & pop culture convention. Comics & culture, games & toys, artists & writers, and much more! For tickets and additional info, visit: [http://www.emeraldcitycomicon.com/.](http://www.emeraldcitycomicon.com/) Celebrity guests: George Takei (STAR TREK), Tia Carrere (WAREHOUSE 13), Eddie McClintock (WAREHOUSE 13), Tom Felton (HARRY POTTER), Adam Baldwin (CHUCK), Christopher Judge (STARGATE S.G.-1), Summer Glau (TERMINATOR [THE SARAH CONNOR CHRONICLES--Felicity]), Christopher Lloyd

(BACK TO THE FUTURE), Katee Sackhoff (BATTLESTAR GALACTICA), Jon Bernthal [and] Laurie Holden (THE WALKING DEAD), plus these popular voice actors: John DiMaggio [sic] (FUTURAMA), Billy West (FUTURAMA), Rob Paulsen [and] Maurice LaMarche (PINKY AND THE BRAIN), Tara Strong (MY LITTLE PONY), [and] Jess Harnell (ANIMANIACS). Also featuring the top talent in comics today: Marc Silvestri, Bill Sienkiewicz, Tony Moore, Francis Manapul, Adi Granov, Greg Capullo, Terry Dodson, Ed Brubaker, Robert Kirkman, Greg Rucka, Dan Slott, Bruce Timm, and over a hundred more!" [NO MEMBERSHIP PRICE GIVEN on flyer.--Felicity]

30 March-1 April 2012: Coalition of Scary Homeless People to have its annual trade convention. Events to include the Delusional Games (Jesuses versus Napoleans! F.D.R.s versus J.F.K.s! And for the first time ever, DUBYAS versus CheneyS!), a seminar entitled Staring and Stumbling Your Way to Wealth and Fame, and of course, Creepy the Clown will be there to makes us all laugh and/or recoil in horror and suck our thumbs with his obscene balloon animals.--John, the Barnacled Hermit



31 March 2012: Deadline for Aurora Award nominations.--R. Graeme Cameron

31 March 2012: Video Game Burlesque: Pew! Pew!, 6:30-10:00 P.M. at Red Room Ultra Bar (Vancouver), 398 Richards, Vancouver. Due to popular demand, the VanDolls present Video Game Burlesque: Pew! Pew! for the second and last time in Vancouver. Last time, this show sold out a week before the event so get tickets now here: <http://www.clubzone.com/events/512301/vancouver/red-room-ultra-bar/video-game-burlesque-pew-pew>. This burlesque event takes your favorite video games and turns them into sexy/funny/amazeball burlesque routines. Scarlet Delirium in FALLOUT 3, Malvina MasVino in PORTAL, Rufflesilkskin in DANCE, DANCE REVOLUTION, Kitty Kitty Bang Bang in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, Sweet Sashay in TOMB RAIDER, Bunny Meugens in METROID, What's Her Name in SPYRO, Velvet Von Doff in TRON, Sherry Hymen in ZELDA, the VanDolls as TETRIS, PAC MAN and SUPER MARIO, with D.J. Colin Hargreaves and Poli Morph, Manda Rose, Riannaconda and Ruby Rapture as stage nerds (A.K.A.

pick-up artists). There will be door prizes, a costume contest, live video games and more!--The VanDolls Burlesque via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

APRIL 2012

1 April 2012: DEAN MCGEE's birthday.

2 April 2012: COLIN UPTON's birthday.

3 April 2012: AVENGERS VS. X-MEN "Round 1" launch party, 8 P.M. at your participating retail store. "The Avengers and the X-Men--the two most popular franchises in comics history--go to war! And when friends become bitter enemies, what future implications could be in store for the Marvel Universe? Is your retailer an Avengers store or an X-Men store? Find out at your participating retail store's AVENGERS VS. X-MEN launch party and get AVX #1 a day early! To find a comic shop near you visit <http://www.comicshoplocator.com/>. #AVX. <http://avx.marvel.com/>."

4 April 2012: Annual Talk Like Donald Pleasence Day.--John, the Barnacled Hermit



5 April 2012: New movie, TRANSFORMERS: CLANG BOOM DURR debuts.--John, the Barnacled Hermit

6 April 2012: Premiere of film A.T.M. (horror).

7 April 2012: I.P.M.S. Seattle Presents Spring Show 2012 Scale Model Contest & Exhibition, 9:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. at Renton Community Center, 1715 Maple Valley Highway, Renton, WA 98057. "Categories, model registration forms available online at: <http://www.ipms-seattle.org/springshow>. Model entries for prizes! Special awards sponsored by local merchants, local organizations, and individuals! Seminars & tutorials during the day! Huge raffle! Vendor tables! Every junior entry wins an award! Adult entries (unlimited entries): \$10. Junior entries (unlimited entries): \$5. Spectators: \$5. Seminars (includes all seminars): \$5. 15,000 sq. ft. of models, seminars, & speakers! From I-405, take exit #4, Renton-Enumclaw exit. At Maple Valley Highway drive east to the second light and turn

right into R.C.C. For additional information contact: Jon Fincher @ 206-588-5663, jfincher42@hotmail.com or Andrew Birkbeck @ 206-276-3113 (C.), 206-522-3539 (H.), acbirkbeck@comcast.net."



7 April 2012: Computer Swap Meet & Pop Culture Collectible Fair, 11:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M. at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, South Vancouver (short walk from the Marpole loop at Hudson and Marine). "Computer items including new & used monitors, printers, hardware, software, parts, games, cameras, electronics, cell phones, and lots more! New & vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, C.D.s, V.H.S., D.V.D.s, movie memorabilia, video games, jewelry, STAR WARS, die-cast, art, Beanie Babies, Canucks. Admission: adults \$3; kids under 12 free; family rate \$9 (four members). For table reservations and more info: <http://www.funpromo.ca>; 604-521-6304; funpromo@shaw.ca."

8 April 2012: Annual "Don't Laugh at Our Town Name" faire in Spuzzum.--John, the Barnacled Hermit

9 April 2012: Preston Manning signs his new book, HEY, REMEMBER ME?--John, the Barnacled Hermit

10 April 2012: DAVID LANGFORD's birthday.

10, 12, 13 and 14 April 2012 (start dates): Cartooning Level 1--Children courses in Surrey. * Cloverdale Recreation Centre: Saturdays 14 April to 16 June for 9-12 years old. * Fleetwood Community Centre: Tuesdays 10 April to 15 May. Fridays 13 April to 18 May. Both for 6-12 years old. * North Surrey Recreation Centre: Thursdays 12 April to 3 May for 6-12 years old. * South Surrey Recreation Centre: two courses Thursdays 12 April to 14 June. 3:30-4:30 P.M. for 6-9 years old. 4:30-5:30 PM for 9-12 years old. For more info phone 604-501-5100 or go to City of Surrey website and type "cartooning" into search box.--Julian Castle

11 April 2012: JENNIFER HAWE and JOHN HERBERT's birthdays.

12 April 2012: ROBERT J. SAWYER launch for his new S.F. novel TRIGGERS, 7:30 P.M. at W2 Media Café, 111 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. (In conjunction with BUT NOT AT White Dwarf Books.) Doors open at 7 P.M.--Carolyn Clink

12 and 26 April and 10 and 24 May 2012: Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group meets alternate Thursdays 7-9 P.M. at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.--Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

13 April 2012: Premiere of films THE CABIN IN THE WOODS (horror; Bradley Whitford) and MOVIE 43 (sketch comedy; Chloë Grace Moretz, Emma Stone, Gerard Butler, Hugh Jackman, Anna Faris, Kate Winslet, Naomi Watts, Liev Schreiber, Justin Long, Richard Gere, Uma Thurman, Patrick Warburton, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Johnny Knoxville, Tony Shalhoub, Jack McBrayer, Stephen Merchant, Aasif Mandvi, John Hodgman).

14 April 2012: Dorks in the Dark will be meeting in the vault of an abandoned bank at midnight to listen to the latest episode of MYTHBUSTERS. We have it on good authority that some of us will be girls and some of them will be naked this time.--John, the Barnacled Hermit

15 April 2012: Deadline for Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest entries.--Kathleen Moore

16 April 2012: The Basement Dwelling Nerd Anti-Defamation League will be meeting at Brad's place from 7 P.M. until Brad's mom gets home from work.--John, the Barnacled Hermit

17 April 2012: CAROLYN CLINK's birthday.

18 April-13 June 2012, Wednesdays, 7:30-9 P.M.: Art of the Graphic Novel & Manga course for youth 12-15 years old at Surrey Arts Centre, 13750 88 Avenue, Surrey. "...you'll learn to design your own cast of stylised characters, plot and lay out your scenes...and share your story in an inventive and engaging way." \$60. Information and registration at 604-501-5100 or online via City of Surrey website--Julian Castle

18 April 2012: Free Garlic Ball day at the downtown location of Taco Pita Land!--John, the Barnacled Hermit

19 April 2012: STEPHANIE ANN JOHANSON's birthday.

20 April 2012: Premiere of films LOCKOUT (S.F./action; Guy Pearce, Peter Stormare) and THE MOTH DIARIES (horror; Scott Speedman).

21-22 April 2012: Fan Expo Vancouver at the Vancouver Convention Centre. [NO ADDRESS GIVEN in brochure, but it's 1055 Canada Place, Vancouver.--Felicity] "Meet your favourite artists, writers and celebrities! Kevin Sorbo (HERCULES), Kristen Bauer (TRUE BLOOD), Jeremy Bulloch (STAR WARS), Nicholas Brendon (BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER), Lou Ferrigno (THE INCREDIBLE HULK), Tony Amendola (STARGATE SG-1), [and] Alan Ruck (FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF)." "Celebrating the 25th anniversary of STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION: Marina Sirtis (Deanna Troi), Michael Dorn (Worf), John DeLancie [sic] (Q)." "Anime voice stars: Colleen Clinkenbeard (FULL METAL ALCHEMIST and RIN), Veronica Taylor (POKEMON), Richard Cox (INU YASHA), Trevor Devall (MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM), Mike McFarland (DRAGONBALL Z), Sam Vincent (MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM), Brian Dobson (DEATH NOTE), [and] Brian Proud (JIMMY TWO SHOES)." [From BATMAN (1966)]: "Adam West (BATMAN), Burt Ward (ROBIN), plus the original Batmobile." "Special comic guests: rare appearance by Tony Daniel (DETECTIVE COMICS), Kaare Andrews (Ultimate comics), Tim Bradstreet (acclaimed illustrator), Mike Choi (DC/Marvel artist), Georges Jeanty (BUFFY: T.V.S.), Leonard Kirk (AVENGERS and X-FACTOR), Yanick Paquette (SWAMP THING), Whilce Portacio (HULK), Esad Ribic (THE ULTIMATES), Matt Wagner (legendary creator), Len Wein (creator of Wolverine)." "Comic artists: Ian Boothby, Robin Bougie, Ed Brisson, Emily Carroll, Jason Copland, Rebecca Dart, Camilla d'Errico, John Delaney, Nathan Fairbairn, Brandon Graham, Pia Guerra, James Lloyd, Nina Mastumoto, Troy Nixey, Steve Rolston, Shane Rooks, Stephen Sadowski, Dan Schoening, James Stokoe, Marley Zarcone, 'and many more...' " "Attractions: autograph sessions, celebrity photo sessions, celebrity Q&As, workshops & seminars, artist alley, sketching duels, portfolio reviews, "how to" workshops, web series for grownups, costumes! Costumes!, huge shopping area, anime game shows, hall cosplay, voice acting 101, [and] 501st Legion photo session." "2012 Canadian Videogame [sic] Awards: enjoy a

great, fun, fast paced [sic] night featuring Canadian hosts, presenters, and musical talent as we celebrate Canada's spot on the world stage as a leader in interactive entertainment. Saturday, April 21st, 2012. V.I.P. Reception--7:00 P.M. Awards commence--7:45 P.M. <http://canadianvideogameawards.com/>." "The REBOOT Reunion with Gavin Blair--Co-Creator, Shirley Millner--Hexadecimal, [and] Garry Chalk--Slash & Turbo." "Show info: expo hours: Saturday 10 A.M. to 7 P.M., Sunday 10 A.M. to 5 P.M.; airlines & hotels: special discounts and promo codes; ticket info: to order online, visit <http://fanexpovancouver.com/>." [NO MEMBERSHIP PRICE GIVEN in brochure, but it sounds like a large media convention, so perhaps in the three figures.--Felicity]

22 April 2012: Earth Day.

22 April 2012: ExoUniversity Forum Lectures begin with "An Introduction to Time Travel with an Emphasis on Teleportation" with Andrew D. Basiago & Alfred Lambremont Webre, 1-6 P.M. at the Roundhouse, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver. "ExoUniversity faculty member Andrew D. Basiago, a former U.S. chrononaut with D.A.R.P.A.'s Project Pegasus, will discuss the people, places, technologies, and experiences associated with time travel with an emphasis on teleportation at the time of its emergence in the U.S. defense-technical community of the early 1970s." EventBrite--U.F.O. Digest [NO TUITION PRICE GIVEN on website.--Felicity]



23 April 2012: GREG CAIRNS' birthday.

25 April 2012: STEVE GREEN's birthday.

26 April 2012: BRAD FOSTER's birthday.

27 April 2012: JOE DEVOY's birthday. Premiere of film SOUND OF MY VOICE (drama/S.F.?).

29 April 2012: ROBERT J. SAWYER and TREVOR HOFFERT's birthdays.

MAY 2012

18 May 2012: GEEKS AFTER DARK: FALLING WITH STYLE!, 6:00-10:00 P.M. at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. "We're ready to show you a whole new world...shining, shimmering, SEXY! We're back with more of what you adore and we're adding a sprinkling of magic inspired by some favorite animated features to boot! Come BE OUR GUEST and join our handsome hosts and perky performers for a night of nerdlesque, contests, dancing, and prizes! We're kicking things up a notch this time by introducing a change to our usual trivia contest with the official Geeks After Dark 'SINISTER SUDDEN-DEATH TRIVIA GAUNTLET!' Looking for costume contests? We're running TWO! GO THE DISTANCE dressed in your most Dandy Disney Duds or just any Freaky Geeky Chic that you like for a chance to join in and win! Be PART OF OUR WORLD as we play the best in geeky music favourites, retro hits, and as always, audience requests (just leave them in the comments!). Experience nerdlesque from the likes of: CHAI TEA & SPARKLE PLENTY, SEX LUTHOR, MADELINE MASQUERADE, DOLLIE NOX, LACE CADET, [and] newcomers THE ROYAL PROVOCATEURS! Stage Kitty duties carried out by SWEET SASHAY! We couldn't do it without our sponsors, who have taken us from ZERO TO HERO! Prizes come from: Gamedeals, Golden Age Collectibles, [and] Gotham Collectibles. So come down to the Cellar, because it's RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG! Invite all your friends, because we know WE HAVE A FRIEND IN YOU! Fun is JUST AROUND THE RIVERBEND for everyone at Geeks After Dark, so we'll see you then! Doors at 6 P.M. Show starts at 6:30 P.M. Dance Party at 7:30 P.M. As always, \$10 in Costume, \$12 without!"--Geeks After Dark via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

18-19 May 2012: Northwest Animation Festival in Portland, Oregon. [NO ADDRESS GIVEN on website.--Felicity] "We want Portland, Oregon to host the biggest animation festival west of the Mississippi. Instead of a dozen or so films, our goal is an abundant feast of 100+ each year. [...]" For submitting a film the earlybird and regular deadlines have passed, but there is still time to submit a film by the final deadline (April 1): standard fee \$25 or student fee \$15. IRL Events.--Julian Castle

26-27 May 2012: Vancouver Comic Arts Festival at 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver. "The Vancouver Comic Arts Festival is a weekend-long celebration of comics slated to enjoy its launch in May 2012. This festival of local cartoonists will feature galleries, readings, panels, and workshops, culminating in a two-day convention for cartoonists from across the country and down the coast to connect with their readers and peddle their wares. The goal of VanCAF is to appeal to everyone, whether they're already die-hard comics fans or simply experimenting. For this reason, admission to all events will be free, and table costs for exhibitors will be as low as possible. We're not so much concerned with making a profit as we are transforming Vancouver into a city of story-telling and comics. Although we take inspiration from other great Canadian shows, such as the Calgary Comic Expo and Toronto Comic Arts Festival, we are not affiliated with either event. Check back soon for updates on events and exhibitors. The Vancouver Comic Arts Festival is managed and organized by the Vancouver Comic Arts Association, a non-profit organization dedicated to connecting local cartoonists with the community."--Keith Lim

NEWS-LIKE MATTER

COLIN UPTON WINS SMALL-PRESS COMICS AWARD

Hi. I've won first prize in the SPACE 2011 small press comics award for my print on demand (lulu.com) book THE COLLECTED DIABETES FUNNIES, edited by D. Blake Werts. The book collects the 13 issues of the DIABETES FUNNIES mini-comic series. Sweet...

<http://backporchcomics.com/space.htm>

Colin Upton

Monday 12 March 2012

HOW THEY INTEND TO CHEMICALLY REENGINEER YOUR BRAIN FOR SUBMISSION

Garth,

"They got a solution for us, it's the pharmacological enhancement of empathy and altruism."--Paul Watson

Be prepared for the conversation in this video to jump around a little bit, there are so many different issues tied to this subject it becomes a complex of interrelated things.

The rabbit hole becomes a catacomb, if you will.

The conversation ranges from globalist celebrities pushing the phoney KONY 2012 propaganda for military intervention, to pharmacologically induced meat intolerance, to breeding humans to be smaller in size.

As bizarre as it gets it's all happening right out in the open.

I do my best to include articles and links to supplement the videos I send you, for those of you that wish to look further.

Just remember where you heard it...

Video:

<http://www.brasschecktv.com/page/9818.html>

Goodman Green

Brasscheck T.V.

2380 California St.

San Francisco, CA 94115

Brasscheck T.V.

Forwarded by Garth Spencer

Wednesday 14 March 2012

NOTES FROM MARCH 2012 B.C.S.F.A. MEETING

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (president), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael Bertrand, Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, and William Graham.

When I arrived, Kathleen was leading the group in making plans for upcoming meetings.

The April meeting will be on the 22nd, the FOURTH Sunday of April, instead of the 15th (which would be the usual THIRD Sunday of the month), because on the 15th there's a W.C.S.F.A./VCON meeting (both Graeme and Kathleen will be there). At the April meeting, after we take care of club business, we will play card game Apples to Apples.

The May meeting will be on the 20th (which is the usual third Sunday of the month).

Kathleen said that the June meeting will be an author discussion meeting: we'll be discussing the works of Connie Willis, the Author Guest of Honour at VCON 37, so we'll already be familiar with her work when we go to the convention. Relatedly, Barb suggested reviving the monthly book discussion group.

Graeme said that March 31st is the deadline for Aurora Award nominations. Graeme added: to make nominations, "go to www.prixaurorawards.com and click on 'Vot-

ing, etc.,' then on the new page click on button reading 'Register/Nominate/Vote.' This takes you to the login page. If you are already a member, enter your member number. If you have not yet registered (you must be a registered member in order to nominate--this costs \$10 and also entitles you to vote your choice of winners once the list of final nominees is posted), click on 'register' and fill in the appropriate info, including credit card or PayPal payment info. You will receive via email your member number. Go back to the login page, enter your member page, and nominate!" A nominee must receive at least three nominations in a category to be placed on the ballot; if no nominee receives the minimum three nominations, there will be no award for that category. You can nominate up to three persons for each category. Graeme said that he'd already nominated me for Best Fan Publication and Michael Bertrand for his fan-writing under Best Fan Achievement (Other). Thanks, Graeme!

I can't clearly remember, but I think I tried to register and make nominations earlier this year, but found that the site's PayPal wouldn't accept my pre-paid credit card. [Update: I've voted, using a friend's credit card and repaying him in cash.--Future Felicity]

Speaking of awards, Kathleen said that April 15th is the entry deadline for the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest, where the challenge is to write the WORST POSSIBLE opening sentence for a bad novel. Someone mentioned "The Eye of Argon."

Graeme brought a few more books from Al Betz's storage. I snagged SCIENCE FICTION: WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT by Sam J. Lundwall (1971) and I AM NOT SPOCK by Leonard Nimoy (1975). The former is a study of multiple aspects of S.F., including books, magazines, comics, fans, and fandom. Barb snared THE PANIC BROADCAST by Howard Koch (1970), which is about Orson Welles's 1938 WAR OF THE WORLDS broadcast and its consequences. Fruvous took THE BLAL AND OTHER SCIENCE FICTION MONSTERS by A.E. van Vogt (1976) and VENUS ON THE HALF-SHELL [Turtle Power] by Philip José Farmer posing as Kilgore Trout, a fictional author who is mentioned in all of Kurt Vonnegut's stories. As Graeme recalled, Farmer did not double-check that he had Vonnegut's permission, and Vonnegut was not amused that everyone assumed Vonnegut had written it.

Graeme said that van Vogt was a prolific writer and had a formula for writing, which he used for all his stories. This came from his general philosophy, which

was that everything should be organized, disciplined, and scheduled. Many years ago, van Vogt was a guest at VCON, and during a pause in their panel discussion he turned to Stan Hyde and said, "You know, I've learned ONE thing in all my years of writing." Stan waited, then said "Yes...?" "WOMEN...are different from MEN." Graeme noted that Van Vogt's wife was with him and was presumably relieved to hear this.

At the last meeting we had talked about the viability of B.C.S.F.A. Since then, I'd been re-reading my back issues of Dale Speirs's zine OPUNTIA, and in issue #23 (1994) I found the article "The Life Cycle of the S.F. Club: A Case Study of Activity Patterns in Avocational Subcultures" by Robert Runté. It seemed relevant to our situation, so I made a copy and brought it to the meeting. Barb agreed that it was relevant to us, and asked to borrow the copy. The thing Kathleen took away from it was that we need to reach out to all the campus S.F. clubs--U.B.C., S.F.U., the community colleges (Douglas College is close to where we hold our meetings). (I'd also realized this after reading the article, but then forgot it entirely.)

Graeme added that Robert had told him that the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards ("Faneds" for short) almost made him want to get back into fandom. High praise!

This reminded me that I'd been meaning to give Graeme my feedback on the design of the award statue in person, since I wasn't sure if he'd read it in BCSFAZINE. But by now I'd forgotten what I'd said! [Later, I looked it up and e-mailed it to Graeme.--Future Felicity]

Graeme said that so far, only one person had submitted a design for the statue, and so far, only one person was willing to make it. Eric Chu of Monster Attack Team Canada designed the Faned, and Lawrence Prime (also of M.A.T.C.) sculpted the definitive master copy. The problem now is how to replicate it for the individual winners. There's an artist in the U.S. willing to design it on his computer and then 3D-print it, but Graeme was concerned that the customs agents at the border might charge excessive customs duties.

I said I would try to get in touch with the modellers at Imperial Hobbies, some of whom offer a service making small figures for gaming.

Julian said that Womyn's Ware, a feminist sex shop on Commercial Drive, makes custom moulds for sex toys, which in theory could also be used to make a mould for reproducing the award.

William said that Vancouver Hack Space has a 3D printer, for which Matthew "Loial" Peters has the software on his laptop.

Ray said something about trains.



Graeme talked about the unusual rules of archaeology in some countries. In Japan, the tombs of old emperors and warlords are still sacred and no-one is allowed to enter. If one collapses naturally, the archaeologists may get a brief look at it before it gets rebuilt. In Saudi Arabia, pre-Islam, the country was mostly Jewish and Christian. Occasionally Saudi archaeologists find an old synagogue or church buried under the sand. They are allowed to photograph and study it, but then they must re-bury it and send their documentation to a central repository of knowledge. The public is never informed of the find.

I brought some things BCSFAZINE had received: a trade issue of Guy Lillian's zine CHALLENGER, a L.O.C. from Sheryl Birkhead, and a novel, PROGRAMMED by James Carter, submitted for review. I was worried that I wouldn't like the book because the attached letter from the author made the book sound post-apocalyptic and stern (preaching about the environment and consumerism). The book itself looked more inviting: the first third of it is set in the 1950s, partly in Area 51, and the back cover does not mention environmental or economic collapse, but describes the other half of the premise, which is that aliens leave behind symbols that program the human mind to understand the aliens' message.

Of course, I'll want to read it fully so that I can give it a review that does it justice, but at the meeting, we each took a quick glance at it and had different reactions: mine I've mentioned; Kathleen thought that in the scene where a character draws a complicated series of geometric shapes to prompt himself to remember the symbols, the character was fooling himself with Euclidean gibberish, and she also objected to a will (testament) that did not use realistic wording; the style of the novel reminded Barb of a T.V.-movie screenplay.

William commented on my reply to Dave Haren's L.O.C. in the last issue in which I said that I liked hexagons but was disappointed that there were no polyhedrons made exclusively of hexagons. He told me about hyper-shapes

in more than three dimensions, duals, and how a flat field of hexagons of infinite size would qualify as a sort of two-dimensional polyhedron made of hexagons.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 18 March 2012



DARTH VADER IN A KILT ON
A UNICYCLE PLAYING BAGPIPES

The name says it all.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m8rzkcCkFIus!>

Elvishrat

to B.C. Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group

Thursday 15 March 2012

'LUST IN SPACE' FETISH BALL ANNOUNCED

THIS JUST IN! Here's the news of our one and only full-scale Restricted Entertainment fetish fashion show party this year...LUST IN SPACE! FETISH FASHION SHOW & LONG WEEKEND GALA--SUNDAY JULY 1--CELEBRITIES NIGHTCLUB. R.S.V.P. & click on "attending" here: <http://www.facebook.com/events/318645431523441/>. Restricted Entertainment is Vancouver's premiere presenter of alternative events in Vancouver, including Sin City Fetish Night, Sanctuary, Galaxion, Rock & Roll High School, Glamour Trash, and more...and each year we only do one or two of our massive full-scale fetish fashion long-weekend parties. Following in the footsteps of our previous Wild Kingdom, Candyland, and Under the Sea fetish fashion show events comes the next installment: LUST IN SPACE! Anything and everything science-fiction, with a fun, sexy twist! Make sure and click on "attending" as this is quite simply a DO NOT MISS EVENT. ;-) * Please note that this is NOT a fetish-only event! Fetish-oriented outfits are highly encouraged, definitely welcome, and will be highly appreciated by our amazing crowd, but fetish outfits are NOT mandatory and any and all are invited to attend. As well, cameras are most welcome as highlighting the amazing fashions of the evening from both the stage show and the attendees is a big part of this party, so dress to excess and show yourself off!

Isaac Terpstra

to Sin City: Ultra Fetish Ball Facebook Group

Wednesday 21 March 2012

THE ANARCHO-SURREALIST MANIFESTO

Garth Spencer

I want to propose that people give up on their old political parties, and start new ones that actually represent our interests and talk about current public issues. Since reality has ended and common sense has disappeared, and the regular daily news now resembles April Fool's Day jokes, maybe we could name the real parties after artistic or scientific movements. Can you imagine the battles between the Post-Impressionist Party and the Structural-Functionalist Party? Since we can't seem to agree on what a government should be doing, or how much it should be doing, or how much its services have to cost, or how much we can pay for, perhaps our city or region or nation could do without a government at all? It may not be an improvement, but it would be alternative, and would teach us how our world actually works.



For all these reasons and more, I announce the founding of the SECOND REFORMED ANARCHO-SURREALIST PARTY WITH A HOT TUB IN THE BACK YARD SOCIETY INC., or the Anarcho-Surrealist Party for short.

Some of the objections I anticipate are that no political party could expect serious support if they offer patently absurd proposals, such as equal status for Sasquatches, or allowing Bible-thumpers to pontificate on issues of economic policy or private lives. But there is evidence that this situation is already the status quo.

Of course, such a regime will require individuals, families and corporations to provide for their own security, health services, education and unemployment relief, at cost. If we don't take certain steps, the "have-nots" who can't afford to provide their own essential services will quickly become dependent clients of the "haves"--unless they have plenty of warning, and enough chance to prepare for themselves, perhaps by collective actions. There are some indications that this situation is already the status quo.

Other proposals of the Anarcho-Surrealist Party include:

- Providing incentives for disadvantaged people to settle the underpopulated North;

- Exploring Canada's options for colonizing Antarctica after 2042;
- Promoting an easy-to-learn second language for our polyglot urban populations, combining the best-known vocabularies in English, Cantonese and Punjabi;
- Negotiating the admission of Washington and Oregon into the anarchate, and making a fair bid on Idaho and Alberta;
- Launching anti-trust investigations of Dominionist conspiracies such as the Conservative and Republican parties, funded by Belgian bankers;
- Declaring Sasquatches to be full citizens of Canada, in advance of establishing their existence;
- Instituting a search for the heirs of Joshua Norton, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico;
- Launching class-action suits against whoever damages cereal crops to create crop circles, and whoever traumatizes people with alien-abduction hallucinations;
- Launching an anti-trust investigation against the Evil Monsanto Empire and all its works, financed by Belgian bankers;
- And whatever other Neat Ideas you care to contribute. This isn't a closed list.

ON CITIES OF REFUGE

One of the most creative notions in the Old Testament--at least, it looks creative to a contemporary mind--is the notion of "cities of refuge," places to which a criminal (or accused suspect) could flee, and be safe from harm.

Considering the tax burden represented by prisons in modern states, and the overcrowding endured in existing prisons, instituting cities of refuge sounds like an attractive alternative.

Of course, existing municipalities would take a dim view of being declared cities of refuge. If Flin Flon or The Pas were declared to be refuges by Parliamentary fiat, they might quickly see the kind of crime rates and street violence attributed to American cities on television.

The alternative might be to equip consenting convicts with the means and the territory to develop their own municipalities. Between the heavily-settled southern fringe of Canada and the uncultivable far North, there

are lands which can still be settled, inhabited and developed, by those with the will and the means.

Of course, argument and proof may be available to show this is an idea whose time is past. And there is the persistent suggestion that in the U.S., at least, the prison system operates as a source of underpaid slave labour.

Well, there's always Antarctica.

ON ANTARCTIC COLONIZATION

In the 2040s, the international treaty which protects Antarctica from industrial exploitation comes to an end. By the 2040s, the climate changes vulgarly called "global warming" will have extended the temperate climate zone for viable settlement and cultivation into parts of Antarctica, as well as the tundra and taiga zones of Canada and Siberia.



A decent respect for our national interest requires an aggressive policy of Canadian settlement, not only in the Arctic but in the Antarctic. There's no point in putting all our eggs in one basket, after all.

The first stages of Antarctic colonization can be usefully adapted from the speculative plans for Martian exploration and settlement, e.g. enclosed pressure domes, not only for climate-controlled living areas, but for greenhouses, manufacturing centres and mineheads.

THE FRONG SOCIETY

One of the famous, or infamous, features of the 20th century was the endurance of the "racial purity" idea--the notion that human beings not only fall into broad categories of physical type, called "races," but that some people are "pure" representatives of African, Asian, Nordic or other breeds. Quite aside from this folk belief is another phenomenon: more and more people are crossbreeds, with increasingly varied forebears.

The question before us is not whether we seek out people unlike us as mates. This has been proven repeatedly over the centuries. The question is whether we do so more for aesthetic or eugenic reasons. It could be argued that the healthiest, hardiest and most intelligent citizens have the most ethnic variety in their family trees. (Personally I think the aesthetic re-

sponse to exotic beauties is the largest part of this phenomenon, but that's just me.)



Now may be the time to propose the founding of a new, consciously-founded ethnic group, THE FRONG: people who promote and celebrate miscegenation as the highest goal of their clans.

Other questions have yet to be settled, such as how you define a new ethnic group apart from physique--by religion, language, dress, cuisine, eccentric customs and politics, or a combination of the above--and whether a new ethnic group should be administered under a provincial Society Act, or by the federal Indian Act.

Comments?

THE LIBERAL SECULAR RATIONAL HUMANIST CULT

It may be time for rationalists to descend to the level on which fundamentalists want to pick a fight. Shall we found a Liberal Secular Rational Humanist Cult? (Or have the Unitarians already occupied that market segment?)

Premises of the cult--rather than articles of faith--may include the following:

- Human beings, their growth and potential, comprise the ultimate value. Any practices which help anyone to live, to learn, to grow in ability and understanding and character, can be ethical and virtuous and far-out and groovy and right-on. Any practices which kill, cripple, disfigure, wound, traumatize, confine, impoverish, defraud, infect, demean, degrade, disenfranchise, cheat, swindle, libel, impugn, humiliate or embarrass any human being are unethical, vicious, grody and not cool.

- Human beings are various. We must expect them to display differing responses to circumstance, different personalities and temperaments, differing gifts and limitations, and differing developmental phases, however arrested.

- Any society necessarily treats human beings as standard elements, to be processed in the same way in similar situations.

- The culture a society practices is a Standard Received Meat Grinder.

- Every human society includes a belief system and practices that must be called religious. Conceivably this is a sign of some universal human need, perhaps

mainly for experiences of reverence and worship, or for deeply comforting rituals.

- Some societies include institutions of scientific research.

- The sciences are studies of fact--classically, descriptions of physical phenomena.

- Religions are practices of ritual and worship, and secondarily bodies of belief. Major religions typically prescribe value systems and designs for conduct and codes for living, in general principle and in particulars.

- DESCRIPTIONS AND PRESCRIPTIONS, STUDIES OF FACT AND SYSTEMS OF CONDUCT, ARE NOT THE SAME SUBJECT. In fact you can't GET from statements of fact to statements of value, until and unless you introduce the fact that human beings exist, and some behaviours are good and groovy and right-on, and others are evil and grody and not cool.

- If God has anything to do with this, he can speak for himself; I'M not going to speak for him. There are too damn many people putting words in his mouth as it is, and you know, most scripture sounds like other people putting words in his mouth.

- (Although I kind of suspect that scriptures like the Bible originated from something like alien-abduction experiences: that is, from time to time some human was struck with an out-of-context experience, rather like being drugged and hypnotized and indoctrinated in a cell with a P.A. system loudspeaker--while several different guys wrestled with the microphone, claiming to be God, and each trying to imprint the victim with a different agenda.)

- Given the amount of sense and the amount of non-sense scattered through different scriptures, we are all in a position to construct our own Bibles, starting with a loose-leaf binder and a determination to gather what makes sense to us.

From this vantage point, traditional religions and new religions and cults alike are elaborate systems of make-believe, variously delusional and internally inconsistent; and it is questionable which ones, if any, address our spiritual crises here and now. I mean, honestly, how much of religious scripture sounds like magical thinking, or making up an impossible ideal to worship? And where does anyone get off presuming any new acquaintance must be morally inadequate to start with, let alone a sinner or unenlightened or karmically

burdened? This is not good salesmanship, to say nothing of manners.

So, what can a rationalist believe, and revere, and worship?

I'm open to suggestions.

CANADIAN MAGICIANS ASSOCIATION

Between the established frauds that keep police bunco squads busy, and the real unsolved mysteries of scientific anomalies, there is an ill-defined middle ground. This is where a Canadian Magicians Association may set standards of professional training and conduct.



It has yet to be established--at least, for a public, socially-agreed consensus--whether there are "paranormal" forces and processes, and whether there can be professional practitioners operating such processes. It has yet to be established whether there can be such professionals, distinct from con artists and grifters, or adults with defective mental equipment.

Do you know any candidates we can consult?

Garth Spencer

Sunday 25 March 2012

ART CREDITS

Felicity Walker.....Masthead
Brad Foster (© 2011).....Cover
 Sheryl Birkhead.....Pages 1, 2 (right)
 Clip art (screenshots)...Pages 2 (left), 12, 23
 Clip art (Clker.com).....Pages 5, 7, 9, 11, 13,
16, 22, 24, 26, 27, 29
 Clip art.....
 (NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC, September 1955).....30

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

TurboGrafx-16
 Kodak Instamatic 15F
 The Print Shop (Brøderbund Software)
 Video Games & Computer Entertainment
 Frank Bartles & Ed Jaymes
 VTech Laser 128

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