

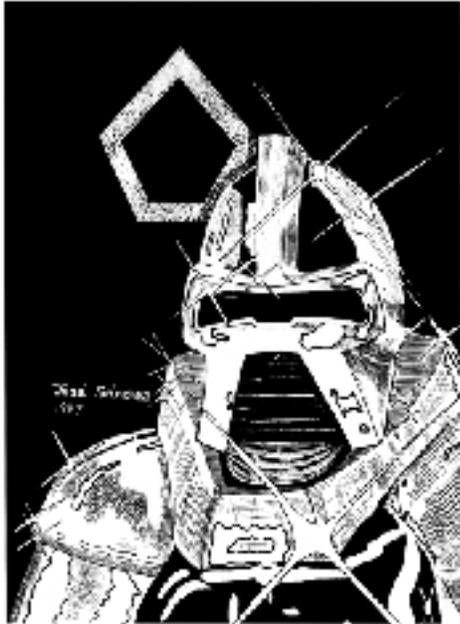
BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#405

\$3.00

February 2007



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Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

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This Month in BCSFA

- Saturday, Feb. 10 @ 7 p.m.: **Feeding Frenzy** at Memphis Blues Barbecue House, 1465 West Broadway, Vancouver
- Thursday, Feb. 15: **December book discussion** at "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *Brave New World*, by Aldous Huxley.
- Friday, Feb. 16: **BCSFAzine deadline** - see Garth at FRED (from 8 pm on at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville) if you want to submit to issue #405
- Saturday, Feb. 17: **BCSFA party/meeting** at 7 pm at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6
- Friday, Feb. 23: **BCSFAzine production** - distribution starts at FRED
- Saturday, Feb. 24 @ 7 p.m.: **Kaffeeklatsch**, our group exercise in hard-headed imagination, at Garth Spencer's place, 82 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver; call 604-325-7314 or email garthspencer@shaw.ca for directions

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead..... Masthead
Jose Sanchez..... cover, p. 1
Felicity Walker..... p. 12

Why Garth Here

If Garth diss BCSFA, and Garth diss VCon, maybe you ask what Garth expect? What fans say fandom be?

Way back when, like before 1980s, many fans think fandom be community. You savvy community? Whole buncha people have something in common. Even in 1980s, Garth not only fan who think fandom be community. Yes, this look stupid now. Garth not only smart fan think stupid thing.

What community do? People blong community do lots of things together. What fandom do? People blong fandom do lots of things, not do things together. Not always. Not all fans.

Way back when, fans say fandom be literate gang, intelligent gang, original and creative gang. This why Garth came here. This not what Garth find. Where those fans go?

Fans out of town do some good stuff together. Ottawa fans still do APAs. You savvy APAs? Garth explain APAs sometime. Ottawa and Montreal fans do theme meetings, have guest speakers, do movie previews. What we do?

Fans in town do some good stuff sometime. Maybeso fans not tell Garth. Why for fans not tell Garth what happening? Maybeso Garth talk wrong, dress wrong, smell bad? What? Maybeso fans here be cliquy. Still could *talk* to Garth. Least they could do. Garth too old for high school crap.

Maybeso you wonder why Garth write like Tarzan? Because when Garth talk to you all like normal person, very few listen.



LoCs

Alison Barton, albarton_27 @ optusnet.com.au, Dec. 29/06

Alison here from the Melbourne Science Fiction Club (MSFC). Thanks for the latest issue of *BCSFAzine*. I just wanted to respond to your most recent editorial in issue 403. I'm not sure why things are the way they are, but I can tell you that you're not alone. We get the same problem here quite often, oldphart fans complaining about how things aren't the way they used to be, whilst it seemingly becomes more and more difficult to entice new people out of their homes and away from their computers to meet other live people in public or otherwise become involved. Of course, the price of fuel hasn't helped much recently either by making even a simple outing that little bit more expensive. We even tried doing a survey, and got very little response, so it's terribly difficult to give the people what they want if the message isn't loud and clear. I also keep thinking that by the time the younger generation (such as ourselves) are in some of the more prominently visual and decision making positions within wider fandom, by then we **will** be old pharts ourselves and the next generation will be complaining about us :-)

So, I'm sorry that I cannot help you as I don't have the magic cure all answer (wish I did), but I wish you luck as we both continue (no doubt) our quest for bigger and better SF fandom.

Sheryl Birkhead, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, USA, Nov. 30, 2006

Somehow it seems fitting that I should start out the New Year with grovelling and apologizing for simply not having responded to the zines that have, so kindly, come fluttering over the transom. (I exaggerate – the farmhouse actually **did** have a transom – painted shut over the years and, hence, non-functional, but there – this house does not have one.) That is a pretty poor thank-you for all the work that has gone into a long list of fine publications. So – thank you, and please excuse my poor manners! I thought I had responded, but cannot find any notations to that effect – so I must presume I am just a very slow reader – again, thank you for your work.

((You loc good! Garth want stir up local members.))

You are finding out what is true of most (all?) volunteer groups. Usually one or two people (or at most a handful) do all the work, and everyone appreciates it, but never gets out of the starting blocks to help. It is sort of similar to someone belonging to a group and being willing to accept kudos to the **group** for a job well done, while knowing all the while that only one (or that nebulous handful) person did all the work. I would suspect that this is even more insidious for a clubzine, since the list of those involved . . . well. Does being a club member actually constitute involvement? That remains to be determined. But most are willing to take any and all compliments, regardless of their actual work donation. So: it has to remain your decision as to how much satisfaction you get from the job well done, and how frustrated you get. When the latter far outweighs the former, then things tend to change. (e.g., “**I quit!**”)

Perhaps you could get involved in the 2009 bid. At least, I think there are many fen working on a bid, so the work gets spread around; but I seriously doubt that

feelings of appreciation are any more prevalent!

((Garth not big happy about big hairy travelling cons, allasame like Worldcon. Even Westercon make for Bad Crazy. Garth tell our Bad Crazy stories last issue.))

I don't know if this would work, but successful zines seem to have a stable of contributors; maybe you could write to those whose work you like, and see if they would contribute. Movie/TV show/book reviews seem to be subjects that might net some takers. Of course, I understand that maybe you want to keep it in the family, but if you can't locate members who are willing to help out, then maybe you have to range further afield. Just a thought.

((Garth been doing that. Like getting illos blong youfela. Last few years, BCSFAzine end up mostly work of "Garth Spencer personality cult". That my joke.))

Maybe, if I can catch *Red Dwarf* when it starts out at the beginning again, I will try to watch the series again. My previous watching was just way too sporadic for me to be able to follow **anything**.

Do you have any club members who are heading east for *Nippon*? Just curious. If so, you might want to start asking now, so conreports will have the whole experience from starting out through getting back. Now those reports ought to be intriguing, since there is such a large ethnic variation and so many aspects can be fodder for print – from food to bedding! I figure that if you start asking now, then maybe prospective writers will start thinking about all the angles that might make good reading. Just a suggestion.

((You mean Worldcon in Japan. Maybeso friend blong Garth himfela go Japan. Garth not know.))

I cannot speak of too much going on, in the way of movies/TV, except to say that I enjoy *Heroes* and am looking forward to seeing *Children of Men*, but the premise is nothing new to SF; wonder if the mundane community will really find it so unique? We'll see. *Jericho* seems to have gotten a pretty good reception, but since I am so far behind in TV shows (I tape them and then try to catch up; I am now about two weeks behind), I don't know if that feeling has continued, and for that matter, if it was taken up for the whole season. Sorry, but that is the sum total of anything I might have to pass along, media-wise. (I have been watching some Canadian series that are being shown on regular, i.e. non-cable stations, but they are all crime/mystery-related, so they are no help.)

*Felicity Walker, BCSFAZINEzine I:53.404, 16 January 2007
#209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6,
felicity4711@hotmail.com*

Art Credits: I did not take the cover photo.

((Ryan not take photo either, but camera blong him did.))

Are You Guys Serious?: "Finally...every time someone describes VCon as a 'literary' convention, I want to laugh. Or throw up. Read a bloody dictionary, why

don't you?" Since this has come up before and will probably come up again, please tell us your definition of "literary" for future reference. I think that, for example, people who call any SF books "literary SF" are using the definition "of or relating to books" rather than the definition "of, relating to, or having the characteristics of humane learning; well-read."

((Science fiction be just Writing. If writer pretend writing be like Shakespeare or Milton or Hardy or Chaucer or something, writing be Literature. You think SF writers pretend? Garth not think so!))

Letters:

Richard Graeme Cameron - I've also found that most of the popular culture I like comes from 1977-1994 (with some wonderful exceptions) and that I get more enjoyment of exploring that period further than I do from present-day popular culture.

"I *always* equate lack of feedback with lack of interest. [...] I don't merely feel ignored, or unappreciated, but *as if I don't really exist*." It sounds like both you and I suffer from what Adam Charlesworth called "reverse solipsism."

Lloyd Penney - "Felicity Walker, you were interested a while ago...are you still?" Yes. (Although it's going very slowly, since I only see Garth once a month at *die Kaffeeklatsche*, he is sharing more of the process of editing *BCSF Azine*. There was a collation session at the last Kaffeeklatsch.)

I was unwell on VCon weekend too.

Felicity Walker - "*(I had hoped to force people to send me their real bios.))*" Writing bios is hard!

((Not really. Just say one thing, why you not same like other Average Consumer Units.))

Let's Get Fannish!:

Proposition A [a Silly Party]: I like it.

Proposition B [a Silly Cult]: I like it.

Proposition C [a satirical sports team]: Maybe.

Proposition D [Royal Swiss Navy parade]: I like it, but I need to lose weight before I can fit into such clothes.

Proposition E [RSN a cappella chorus]: Maybe.

Proposition F [Mad Scientist presentations]: Not my forté.

Proposition G [original brainstorming]: I like it.

Proposition H [stirring up shit]: I like it, though I don't know how good I'd be at it.

"Have you any other propositions?" I should introduce you to a friend of mine who also believes in making his own entertainment.

*Lloyd Penney [penneys@allstream.net], 1706-24 Eva Rd. Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2 18
January 2007*

It's past the deadline, but I want to get writing anyway. Life has been, shall we say, interesting, and time has not been my own. Here's some comments on *BCSF Azine* 404.

404...I suppose someone has already said that it was a good issue, but it wasn't available when they tried to read it?

When I lived in Victoria in the late '70s, the only clubs I knew of were the Science Fiction Association of Victoria (SFAV), the University of Victoria SF Association (UVicSFA) and my first club, the United Federation of Canadian Star Trekkers (UFCST). Was SFAV intended to be a branch of BCSFA back then? Are there any clubs like that in Victoria now?

((Only SFAV founders thought maybe so make BCSFA branch. All the clubs you knew were all clubs in Victoria then. Gamers hold a con in Victoria now. Garth not savvy more.))

Attending a convention is a lot of fun, and running one can be some fun, too. However, it has to be recognized that it must be run like a business there are laws to follow or else, and that satisfaction can come from a successful business project, namely a good con, financially and experientially. One person's half-assed, fumble-fingered job can bring the whole project down. Everyone has to try their best, so the process of running it has to be as enjoyable as possible.

((“Business”. That old chestnut. Run convention on budget, sure; but maybe so not for profit. Convention be social event first. Or not have reason.))

When I chaired Ad Astra 13, I followed the example of past chairs, we got our meetings done ASAP, and got much more work done over good deli at a nearby restaurant. We also had a couple of con parties and social events, and that made working together fun for some and bearable for the rest. I really think this is what has to be done in order to run a good convention and gain a good reputation, which will attract more people.

Greetings to Graeme...I understand your schedule. After Yvonne and I announced our retirement from running cons, we found that our free time was gobbled up by our remaining interests. I work evenings (got home at 1:30am last night), so I have not seen any television SF in about two years now. That's fine with me...very little if anything on television these days attracts me. In the daytime, I do a few things at home, do my job hunt, send out a few resumes, write some locs for other fanzines...my schedule is time-shifted, and tiring. Given that I now have some health concerns to look after, like my eye problems (had a serious operation on December 5 to reattach the retina in my right eye, and may have to have the same thing done in my left eye), I'm glad I gave up conrunning. I'd do a terrible job with what my life is like right now.

My loc...more and more, Montreal's Worldcon bid is getting popular support. It's possible we might have another Canadian Worldcon for 2009. I will not be held responsible for Steve Stirling. Blame Mr. & Mrs. Stirling for that one. I don't see Tanya as often as I'd like, but now, she lives in the country in eastern Ontario, and leads the author's life.

Yvonne is reconsidering her membership in the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada. Nothing's wrong with the RASC, we just haven't had the time to participate. Should the time arise (ha, ha), we'll rejoin.

Good to see there's good news on the BC RenFaire front. Good for Chris and Martin to keep going with this project until it bears some fruit.

And, I must go. This weekend is a space conference for students held at Ryerson University in Toronto, my old alma mater, and we will be in attendance. A

little news... Toronto Trek, in time for its 21st year, has decided to change its name to Polaris. The reasons are many, but it is a marketing move, removing the word Trek from its title. Nothing much more, except that I'll find out how my eye is healing and whether I need more attention on the 31st, and I might have jury duty to worry about in February. Oh, great, more excitement. See you next issue.

Birthdays

Feb. 9: **Paula Johanson** and her twins: friends blong Garth. Paul writer. Co-edited a Tesseract anthology.

Feb. 13: **Lisa Girling** know how make VCon, but Lisa go away.

Feb. 14: **Donna McMahon** writer. Sometime write book review for *BCSFAzine*.

Feb. 15: **Chris Bell**: secret identity – AREA MAN.

Feb. 17: **Grandee Engelhart**: Garth not know any evil talk blong disfela.

Feb. 24: **Jason Harris**: man who make and fix spitzenparken.

Feb. 28: **Rajiv Witherspoon-Li**: secret identity – DEMOLISHED FAN.

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<http://www.cafepress.com/royalswissnavy> (no dot between royalswiss and navy)

Regular Monthly Events

Weekly Events

Monday

Astronomy Café is an informal weekly gathering of people interested in Astronomy. Every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Bruno Quenneville, the Vice President of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Victoria Centre.
<http://victoria.rasc.ca/events/AstroCafe/Default.htm>

Tuesday

Kamloops Anime Club (<http://www.geocities.com/kamloopsanimeclub/>) holds casual meetings on Tuesdays from 6:30 to 10:00 p.m. at Boston Pizza in downtown Kamloops. (Note that the meeting times and locations are occasionally different, so check the schedule on the Kamloops Anime Club web site if you are planning to attend.)

Thursdays

Ink Studs (comix radio show) from 2 pm to 3 pm on CiTR (101.9 FM or <http://citr.ca/live.rm>); <http://inkstuds.livejournal.com/>

Fridays

5pm to 6pm: **Hi-Sci-Fi** (science-fiction radio show) on 90.1 FM and <http://www.cjsf.ca/listen/listen.m3u> . Info and archived shows at <http://www.hiscifi.com/index.php?cat=Show> .

6:30 p.m.: **BIFF** (formerly F.A.N.S.) - Watch videos, and generally hang out every Friday night until closing at: Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th Street, North Vancouver. See biff.digitaldoodles.com for more details.

8:00 p.m.: **OR COME TO FRED!** every Friday til whenever, usually at Boston Pizza on Broadway near Granville, Vancouver, BC – a casual drop-in gathering of fans for conversation. (Still looking at new venues for the long term)

Saturday

Kamloops Anime Club (<http://www.geocities.com/kamloopsanimeclub/>) holds its main meetings on Saturdays from 12:00 noon to 4:00 p.m. downstairs at High Octane Comics & Collectibles, 250 3rd Avenue, Kamloops.

Fortnightly Events

Every Second Monday

Perpetual-Motion Inventors & Gadgeteers Meet: 7 to 9 pm at Ariel Café, 73 Kingsway x Broadway, Vancouver, BC.

Second Tuesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Okanagan Centre (<http://www.ocrasc.ca/>) meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 in the Science Building at Okanagan College on KLO Road, Kelowna. (Note that the Vernon and Kelowna meetings are occasionally combined, so check the schedule on the RASC: Okanagan Centre web site if you are planning to attend.)

Second Wednesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Victoria Centre (<http://victoria.rasc.ca/>) meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m., in the Elliott Lecture Theatre, Room 060, University of Victoria. (Note that the meeting times and locations are occasionally different, so check the schedule on the RASC: Victoria Centre web site if you are planning to attend.)

Second Thursday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Vancouver Centre (<http://www.pcis.com/rascvan/>) meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m., downstairs in the auditorium of the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver. Each meeting usually has a program which is a blend of current astronomical research and local amateur activities. The meeting is followed by an informal gathering at the Gordon MacMillan Southam Observatory for coffee, cookies and conversation. Visitors are welcome to attend most meetings, which are free.

METROTOWN WRITERS GROUP is open to new members. Meetings are held twice a month at the Metrotown library, on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. For

information call Ken, 604-582-5751 email ktranz83@vcn.bc.ca
(corrected by courtesy of Robert Bosshardt)

Third Wednesday

The Vancouver Electric Vehicle Association (<http://www.veva.bc.ca/>) meets on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August) from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the cafeteria of the Electrical SE1 Building at BCIT.

Last Wednesday

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Okanagan Centre (<http://www.ocrasc.ca/>) meets on the last Wednesday of the month at 7:15 p.m. at the Okanagan Science Centre, 2704 Highway 6, Vernon. (Note that the Vernon and Kelowna meetings are occasionally combined, so check the schedule on the RASC: Okanagan Centre web site if you are planning to attend.)

Royal Astronomical Society of Canada: Prince George Centre (<http://www.vts.bc.ca/pgrasc/>) meets on the last Wednesday of the month from August to November and January to May from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the Prince George Astronomical Observatory (20 km South West of Prince George near West Lake on Tedford Road.) Topics of discussion include astronomy viewing tips, constellations, star charts, photography and much more. The meetings are informal and visitors are welcome.

Calendar

February 2007

Feb. 8: **Emperor Norton Day:** The ancient commemoration of an unsuccessful San Francisco commodities trader who announced he was Joshua Norton I, by grace of God and the National Will, Emperor of the United States and Protector of Mexico. Emperor Norton became a celebrity and a fixture of 19th-century San Francisco, and a hero to Discordians everywhere. Look him up. Live like him. Campaign to make this another civic holiday.

Feb. 14: **St. Valentine's Day:** an evil sinister mind-control plot to boost Hallmark Cards sales.

March 2007

Mar. 9-11: **Potlatch 16** at the Red Lion Hotel Portland Convention Center, Portland, OR. Memberships TBA. Information: Potlatch 16, c/o OSFCI, Box 5703, Portland, OR 97228-5703; tel. (503) 283-0802; email potlatch16@gmail.com; URL www.spiritone.com/~jlorenz/potlatch

Mar. 16 – 18: **Anime Oasis V** - Boise, Idaho (anime); see www.animeoasis.org

Mar. 17: **St. Patrick's Day:** An Irish pagan celebration in commemoration of a fabulous hero, who is now rechristened St. Patrick and honoured by Catholics for driving snakes out of an island.

Mar. 18: **Vancouver Comicon:** For more information about this show, please email ls Wong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412 Leonard S Wong <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

Mar. 24: **Nishikaze III** - Lethbridge, Alberta (anime); see www.nishikaze.org

Mar. 29 – Apr. 1: **World Horror Convention 2007** at the Toronto Marriott Downtown Eaton Centre, Toronto, ON. GoHs: Michael Marshall Smith, Nancy Kilpatrick. ArtGoH: John Picacio. MC: Sephera Giron. Publisher GoH: Peter Crowther. Editor GoH: Don Hutchison. Email Amanda@whc2007.org; URL www.whc2007.org.

Mar. 30 - April 1: **Gamestorm** - Portland, Oregon (gaming); see www.gamestorm.org

Mar. 31 - April 1: **Fifth Annual Emerald City ComicCon** - Seattle, Washington (Comics); see www.emeraldcitycomiccon.com and look at the samurai rabbit!

April 2007

Apr. 1: **April Fool's Day:** An ancient pagan celebration in which modern urbanites pull pranks and otherwise act like idiots. Rarely observed now.

April 9: **Easter (Monday):** An ancient pagan celebration named for a forgotten fertility goddess, observed by commercial interests in terms of eggs and rabbits for some reason. A strained relationship is alleged to a first-century Near Eastern stump preacher and mystic.

April 22: **Vancouver Comicon:** For more information about this show, please email ls Wong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412 Leonard S Wong <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~ls Wong/Comicon.html>

May 2007

May 21: **Victoria Day:** An ancient pagan celebration of a dead British monarch, known for her stuffiness.

May 28? **Memorial Day:** A remembrance of those who died valiantly on the orders of safe and secure general military officers, in order to advance the interests of career bureaucrats and American plutocrats, while believing they were defending the freedom and security of the United States.

June 2007

June 3: **Vancouver Comicon:** For more information about this show, please email ls Wong@uniserve.com or call Leonard S Wong at 604-322-6412

News

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT.

“BBC website coverage of the NASA moonbase plan led to a reader comment grounded in the legendary scientific tradition of *Space 1999*: ‘I feel space exploration is great, as is our amazing progress in science and technology, but erecting a facility on the moon is quite simply mad. It is playing with fire. Consider the incredible dependence of life on earth on the moon. The moon is responsible for the stability of this amazing planet. Suppose there is some accident on this facility or perhaps a mistake during construction that results in damaging the fragile satellite. That could destroy the stability of our planet. As if the American government isn't doing enough to contribute to our potential doom with their militarism, nuclear weapons and horrible record on climate, now they want to mess around with the moon. What is wrong with these people?’ [PB]

Ansible 234, January 2007

WHO SOLD WHAT

Nancy Kilpatrick sold her story, "The Age of Sorrow," to *PostScripts Magazine*, which will be available for sale at WHC 07. She also sold a story to *Monsters Noir*, edited by **Steven Savile**, which will be launched at WHC 07.

Gila Queen 141, Dec 06

J.K. ROWLING confounded all the fans who'd placed their bets on the unconvincingly rumoured *Harry Potter and the Mystic Kettle of Nackledirk*, and announced that (as widely predicted by no one at all) book seven would in fact be *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. The bookies are accepting bets on which character (s) will die....

Ansible 234, January 2007



ROBERT ANTON WILSON R.I.P.

Robert Anton Wilson died January 11, 2007.
News report follows: Last Updated: 12:01am GMT 13/01/2007 [Telegraph.co.uk]

“Robert Anton Wilson, who died on Thursday aged 74, was co-author of the *Illuminatus!* trilogy and an influential gadfly of the counterculture.

“Scarcely any alternative school of thought popularized since the 1960s escaped his attention as a promoter (or debunker, and often both) of conspiracy theories, theology, philosophy, psychology, occultism, chaos theory, neurolinguistic programming and quantum mechanics, or in his stints as an essayist, lecturer, novelist, playwright, filmmaker, punk musician, associate editor of Playboy and write-in candidate for governor of California, representing the Guns and Dope party? which also advocated equal rights for ostriches.

...

“By the mid-1960s he was working as an editor at Playboy alongside Shea, and they began to write *Illuminatus!* after asking themselves "What if every conspiracy theory was true?" Its freewheeling combination of jokes, thriller and preposterous theories was wildly popular, particularly with rock musicians and writers associated with the hippy movement; recently, some critics have argued for it as an inspiration for *The Da Vinci Code*.

“Wilson then published incessantly and on every conceivable subject, arguing that the brain was a filtering system which disguised the true nature of existence: he wrote a screenplay called “Reality Is What You Can Get Away With”.

“Among his many other publications were *Sex and Drugs* (1973); *Cosmic Trigger* (1977, followed by two sequels); *Prometheus Rising* (1983); *Coincidence* (1988); *Everything is Under Control* (1998); *TSOG: The Thing that Ate the Constitution* (2002) and an article entitled “Whoever Controls Princess Diana, Controls the World.”

Forwarded by Andrew Porter to Timebinders list, Jan. 12/07

EDGE RELEASE REVELATIONS

[Calgary, AB, December 22, 2006]: In an article released today on CNN.com (<http://edition.cnn.com/2006/TECH/ptech/12/21/robot.freedom.ap/index.html>) a British Government study revealed that robots might gain sentience and, as a result, demand their rights.

Has this future already been predicted by poetry?

i-ROBOT Poetry by Jason Christie details a not-too-distant future where anything robotic has sentience. The revolutionary poet suggests that common everyday robots around us will desire autonomy and individuality - and the pursuit of independence.

According to CNN, a new British Government report not only suggests that robots might gain sentience and, as a result demand their rights, but also suggests that this could happen as soon as 20 years from now.

Christie agrees.

According to Christie, *i-ROBOT Poetry by Jason Christie* foretells a time when the line between man and machine disappears, revealing the true dreams and desires of those common everyday appliances like telephones, and garburators, and those robots around us that we have taken for granted for so long.

These not-so-future robots not only have dreams of finding their own identities and destinies - they may even get the blues...

"Why do I have to be one of millions? Why can't I just be a lonely little one in search of a zero to call my own?..."

i-ROBOT Poetry by Jason Christie is a collection of highly intelligent "ROBOTICA" poetry and is a stunning analysis of the world of robots, their inner emotions and what they perceive of the men and machines around them.

The release of the new British Government study reflects Jason Christie's intuitive forecasting of the future.

Whether you read the book or ponder the study, one thing is for sure: You will never look at your toaster or hair dryer the same way again.

K. A. BEDFORD, Winner of last year's Australian Aurealis Award for Best Science Fiction Novel, is once again a FINALIST for this year's Aurealis Award. [Calgary, AB, January 1, 2007]

EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing recently announced that *Hydrogen Steel*, by K. A. Bedford, has been short listed for an Aurealis Award - Australia's premier award for science fiction literature. This is Bedford's 3rd time as a finalist for the coveted Australian literary award - once for each of his three novels. He won the 2006 Aurealis award for "Best SF Novel" for his SF/Suspense novel *Eclipse*. His first book, *Orbital Burn*, was a finalist in 2004.

Canadian Publisher Brian Hades stated, "We are extremely proud of Adrian. *Hydrogen Steel* is a unique blend of Bedford's writing abilities - from sardonic humour to sit-at-the-edge-of-your-seat suspense. His new novel, *Hydrogen Steel*, introduces some new and completely different character complexities in plot twists. I'm delighted that EDGE is able to bring the works of this fine Australian author to the world."

About *Hydrogen Steel*: *Hydrogen Steel* is a powerfully intricate SF mystery within a mystery - the case of a former android who has been accused of killing his wife and kids, being investigated by a retired police officer, Zette McGee, who learns she is actually an android created to look as if she is human; and Gideon Smith, an elusive elderly former secret agent who seems to have never ending tricks up his sleeve. The lines between what is "alive" and "not alive", and "truth" and "illusion" seem to grow paper thin, as Bedford takes us on a journey into the darkness of space, and into the depths of the murderous and corrupt artificial consciousness of a firemind named Hydrogen Steel - the nearly omniscient entity that stops at nothing to prevent Smith and McGee from solving the case, and uncovering the secret of an even bigger mystery - what REALLY happened when Earth was destroyed...

About K. A. Bedford: K. A. Bedford was born in Fremantle, Australia in 1963. He attended Murdoch and Curtin Universities and studied Writing, Theatre, and Philosophy, before becoming involved in the Australian SF community. *Orbital Burn*, his first novel, was followed by the Aurealis Award winner *Eclipse*. *Hydrogen Steel* is his third novel. Adrian Bedford lives with his wife, Michelle, near Perth, Australia.

About the Awards: The Aurealis Awards are now in their eleventh year as Australia's premier awards for speculative fiction. They will be presented on January 27th, 2007 in Brisbane, Australia.

<http://www.fantasticqueensland.com/~aurealisawards/home.html> *Hydrogen Steel* is available at major bookstores and local independent resellers who support Science Fiction and Fantasy readers like you and can be ordered online at amazon.ca

For further information or to book an interview with the author, please contact: Janice Lynn Shoultz Marketing Director - Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing Box 1714 Calgary, AB, T2P 2L7, Canada 403.254.0160 janice@hadespublications.com <http://www.edgewebsite.com> Publisher's web site: <http://www.edgewebsite.com/index.html>

Edge Publishing, Dec. 31/06

HUGO HOUSE

Who Likes Short Shorts? We Like Short Shorts!

Less is more. This workshop will concentrate on the short-short (fewer than 1500 words) as a formal structure, in which the maximum effect is achieved with a

minimum of words. Special attention will be paid to the release of information through dialogue alone-the development of character, setting and plot without description or attribution ("he said, she said"). Student works as well as classic examples of the form will be analyzed, praised, trashed, cut and imitated. Workshop participants should come prepared with an eraser and a razor blade. Even long-winded writers may benefit from this one-day exercise in economy and control.

Instructor: Terry Bisson

Meets: Sunday, March 25, 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.

Please bring a lunch.

Min .10 Max. 16

Cost: \$100, \$90 for Hugo House members

REGISTER TODAY!! (206) 322-7030

<http://www.hugohouse.org/programs/inquiry.html> About Terry Bisson:

Terry Bisson is the author of a dozen critically acclaimed novels and several works of non-fiction. He is perhaps best known for his short stories, having swept every honour in the SF field as well as France's Grand Prix de l'Imaginaire. "They're Made out of Meat" has been made into a prize-winning film. He is presently working with comics legend Stan Lee on a top-secret project that will alter the very structure of the Universe, hopefully for the better.

Brian McGuigan Registrar and Development Assistant Richard Hugo House 1634 11th Ave Seattle WA 98122 P: (206) 322-7030

Email to: registrar@hugohouse.org

W: <<http://www.hugohouse.org/>, www.hugohouse.org

Brian McGuigan to SFNorthwest email list, Dec 14/06

TCON → POLARIS

* TCON Promotional Society (<http://www.tcon.ca>) is pleased to announce the new name for our twenty-first annual Science Fiction, Fantasy and Beyond convention: "Polaris."

Polaris 21 will be held July 6-7-8, 2007 at the Doubletree International Plaza Hotel at 655 Dixon Road, Toronto.

* Polaris 21 is pleased to announce our first guest: TORRI HIGGINSON (Dr. Elizabeth Weir, *Stargate Atlantis*). (Friday and Saturday ONLY)

* Announcing: THE CONSTELLATION AWARDS *and* a Contest To Kick Them Off!

As 2006 comes to a close, do you find yourself trying to decide what the best science fiction movie you saw this year was? What about your favourite science fiction actor or actress? Favourite new science fiction TV series? Favourite *Canadian* science fiction production? Wouldn't it be great if you could nominate these favourites for an award, and then vote for them to win?

Great news: Soon, you'll be able to do exactly that! The TCON Promotional Society, the folks behind the event now known as "Polaris", are pleased to announce the coming of: "The Constellation Awards" - The science fiction TV and movie awards with a Canadian twist where YOU get to nominate and vote for the shows, movies, and actors that YOU loved this year!

Right now, our Awards Committee is hard at work planning the categories and details on how you'll get to nominate and vote for your favourites, and of course also planning the awards ceremonies (to be held at Polaris 21). But meanwhile... we need your input already!

The Academy Awards have their Oscar. The Hugo Awards have their rocket. And now, we're looking for a design for the prize to be given to the winners of the Constellation Awards. And so, we're having a contest! We're looking for designs for an award trophy, medallion, plaque, or whatever else you can think of, to be given or sent to the award winners.

Contest details including rules and prizes can be found on our website:

<http://constellations.tcon.ca>

Keep watching that website and reading TCON-NEWS for more info on the awards, including how to make your nominations and cast your votes!

TT21 P.O. Box 7097, Station A Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1X7

Tcon News, Dec. 15/06

THIS EXPLAINS EVERYTHING!!

[10 January 2007]

Congressman David Wu (D-Oregon) said: "This president *has* listened to *some* people, the so-called Vulcans in the White House, the ideologues, but you know, unlike the Vulcans of *Star Trek* who made decisions based on logic and fact, these guys make it on ideology. These aren't Vulcans. There are Klingons in the White House. But unlike the real Klingons of *Star Trek*, these Klingons have never fought a battle of their own. /Don't let faux Klingons send real Americans to war. It's wrong./"

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tb8jy2bEt-M>

forwarded by Felicity Walker, Jan. 14/07

Comment: "I can't wait until someone in Congress brings up the Ferengi on Wall Street."

Jim Cox to SFNorthwest elist, Jan. 14/07

THE BIFF CHRONICLES

Ten people turned out on Friday [Dec. 8/06] to learn whether or not Sally Marshall is an alien. Now, we're all sworn to secrecy, so we can't tell you. The group on Friday included Craig Bowsby, who came by with the original "Mug of Bravery" used in filming the pilot of Commander's Log, and answered some questions about the public showing at the H.R. MacMillan Space Centre coming up on Sunday. We also had the first mail ever sent to BIFF: a postcard from Jo, the Ambassador Plenipotentiary for the Export of Coal, and Ruthie, the Ambassador Plenipotentiary for the Procurement of Haggis.

(Dec 22) Well, the restaurant was crowded, since large parts of the North Shore were blacked out due to the Big Blow of 2006, but we managed to squeeze 19 BIFFarinos in to celebrate the second annual BIFF Christmas Party. We had our now-traditional "Chinese Gift Exchange", and the variety of gifts which people managed to put together under the \$5.00 limit goes to show the sheer imagination (and, in some cases, talent) which BIFFsters have demonstrated all along.

(Dec. 29) We had fourteen people out for our third writing challenge, which featured five stories which had to include the words "spaceship", "planet", "turkey", and "cinnamon", and be under 1000 words. In addition, Sam, our Ambassador Plenipotentiary to the Republic of California showed up, as she had been called home

for consultations. (Unfortunately, efforts to confiscate her passport failed, and she has left the country once again.)

(Jan. 7) Apparently, the challenge of the Gift Crossing frightened people off, because we had the smallest turnout we've had in months, as six people turned out, only one of whom brought a lame gift to exchange, so that person went home with the same lame gift, and of course the promised attractive and functional fannish figurine. I can't tell you who that person was, because my family know how to use Google.

We also presented our "thank you" card and gift basket to Wendy, the manager of the restaurant. I guess the staff aren't used to getting gifts from customers, because they seemed to be quite blown away by it all.

On February 2nd, we are going to try a "Video Crossing" night. To take part, bring a videotape, VCD, or DVD which is related to anime, comics, fantasy, gaming, or science fiction, and which you are willing to give away. It doesn't have to be bad. (In fact, this would probably work better if it's not.) Maybe somebody gave you a video as a Christmas present, when you already had a copy. Maybe you've seen it enough times to have the whole thing memorized. Maybe you have it on VHS, and have since picked up a DVD. Maybe it's so good that you buy extra copies to use to hook other people. ("Go on, give it a try. You can stop any time you like...") Then, every person who brings a video will have a chance to explain the virtues of their video, and swap it for somebody else's video.

Note: Just to avoid confusion, it would probably be best if you not bring any videos to loan on Video Crossing Night. BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens every Friday from 6:30 p.m. until closing at the Eighties Restaurant (www.eightiesrestaurant.com), 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver.

Looking ahead, we'll soon be beginning a "Fannish World Tour", featuring shows related to science fiction, fantasy, comics or gaming from as many countries as we can think of. Please be thinking of films or TV shows which are on topic, but which come from countries other than the United States. We'll pick one show per country, and keep the series running as long as we can find new countries where the shows come from. Therefore, please keep your eyes open for films or TV shows that you can suggest from any country other than (so far) the USA, the UK, Japan, Russia, or Canada.

To keep in touch with any changes, please check the BIFF web site at:
<http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/>

Greg Slade, Dec 14 /06 – Jan. 2/07

CAN SUCH THINGS BE?

Plot Summary for *Cthulhu* (2006)

A Seattle history professor, drawn back to his estranged family on the Oregon coast to execute his late mother's estate, is reacquainted with his best friend from childhood, with whom he has a long-awaited tryst. Caught in an accelerating series of events, he discovers aspects of his father's New Age cult, which take on a dangerous and apocalyptic significance.

Full Cast and Crew for *Cthulhu* (2006)

Directed by Dan Gildark

Writing credits (in alphabetical order)

Grant Cogswell

Dan Gildark

H.P. Lovecraft book

Cast (in credits order)

Jason Cottle Russ

Scott Green Mike

Cara Buono Dannie

Tori Spelling Susan

Robert Padilla Ancestor

Richard Garfield Zadok

Ian Geoghegan Ralph

Rob Hamm Jake

Dennis Kleinsmith Reverend Marsh

Amy Minderhout Julie

Tom Prince Gilbert - Bartender

Nancy Stark Aunt Josie

Hunter Stroud Teen Russ

Dennis Tracy Debuty Ben

David Kirwan Bar patron (uncredited)

Felicity Walker to BCSFA elist, Dec. 16/06

THE POLITICALLY CORRECT RESISTANCE

From

<http://www.altpr.org/modules.php?op=modload&name=Sections&file=index&req=viewarticle&artid=380&page=1>:

"In this version, the rebels do not of course blow up the *Death Star*, but instead prefer to use other tactics to slow the intergalactic march of Empire. For example, they set up programs for people on planets about to be destroyed, to produce luxury items like hemp hackysacks and gourmet coffee, for sale to inhabitants of the *Death Star*. (..) other groups of rebels will file lawsuits against the Empire, attempting to show that the Environmental Impact Statement Darth Vader was required to file failed to adequately support its decision that blowing up this planet would cause "no significant impact."

"The Lost Star Wars Script" was excerpted from Derrick Jensen's new book:

Endgame: Volume 1: The Problem of Civilization

Visit <http://www.endgamethebook.org> for more info.

Julian Castle, Jan. 1/07

THEY'RE STILL OUT THERE

ATLANTA - The Georgia Board of Education voted Thursday to uphold a local school board's decision to leave *Harry Potter* books on library shelves despite a mother's objections.

The board members voted without discussion to back the Gwinnett County school board's decision to deny Laura Mallory's request to remove the best-selling books.

Mallory, who has three children in elementary school, has worked for more than a year to ban the books from Gwinnett schools, claiming the popular fiction series is an attempt to indoctrinate children in witchcraft.

"It's mainstreaming witchcraft in a subtle and deceptive manner, in a children-friendly format," said Mallory, who is considering a legal challenge of the board's ruling. "The kind of stuff in these books--murder and greed and violence. Why do they have to read them in school?" ... (continued at <http://news.google.ca/news?hl=en&ned=ca&ic=UTF-8&ncl=1111912658>)

By GREG BLUESTEIN, Associated Press Writer
forwarded by Felicity Walker to BCSFA elist, Dec. 16/06

"Murder, greed and violence for young readers, hmmm? One of these days, I've gotta get my hands on that "Left Behind" series, just to see what all the hype is about."

Doug Finnerty to BCSFA elist, Dec. 16/06

"Or play the *Left Behind* video game. It's been called violent due to its premise of killing unbelievers (including believers of other branches of Christianity). One article called it 'Grand Theft Christianity.'"

Felicity Walker to BCSFA elist, Dec. 17/06

FORTUNES OF OUR TRIBE

"Lloyd Penney, relentless contributor to a million fanzine letter columns, underwent eye surgery for a detached retina on 5 December; he reports that all is well."

Ansible 234, January 2007

FANZINES REVIVED?

Fearless Leader writes of his new computer:

"At first I didn't even realize WordPerfect was included. When I eventually found out I began exploring it and to my utter delight discovered it has the ability to convert documents (if written in Word Perfect mode) to PDF format! Or at least, this appears to be the case.

"So what? Well, visions of making my old *Space Cadet Gazettes* available online for one thing. And then it hit me...I could do an Ezine version online and I wouldn't have to worry about printing and mailing costs. So why not start publishing *Space Cadet* again?"

"Mind you, I'd prefer to go the old-fashioned traditional paper publication route, but I can't afford that. This new computer and its programs are the key to my degafiation, albeit purely in electronic form. Entering traditional fandom again. Suddenly, for me, fandom is exciting again."

R. Graeme Cameron, Jan. 1/07

Garth savvy now!! Might could go ahead and pub *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette* without hardcopy, just online-only from now on. Check out back issues on RSN and efanazines.com sites.

Garth Spencer, Jan. 07

THOG'S NATURAL HISTORY MASTERCLASS.

'Swallows certainly sleep all winter. A number of them conglobulate together, by flying round and round, and then all in a heap throw themselves under water and lie in the bed of the river.' (Dr Samuel Johnson, quoting received wisdom)

Ansible 234, January 2007

'SCOOBY DOO' ANIMATOR IWAO TAKAMOTO DEAD AT 81

Iwao Takamoto was (among many other things in his long career) the character designer for Hanna-Barbera's *Scooby Doo*. Though the series was also created by writers Joe Ruby and Ken Spears and the name Scooby Doo was provided by executive Fred Silverman, the visual design of the mystery-solving dog was Takamoto's. (Takamoto has said that he came up with the design by calling a friend who bred Great Danes, and getting her to describe the ideal Great Dane, while he drew the opposite.) Other genre productions on which Takamoto worked were *Superfriends*, *Gobots*, *The Three Robonic Stooges*, *Partridge Family 2200 AD*, *The Jetsons*, and *Jonny Quest*. Takamoto is survived by his wife, Barbara, his son, Michael, and his stepdaughter, Leslie.

Felicity Walker, Jan. 10/07

NOT THE MEDIA FILE

Steven Moffat's *Doctor Who* script "The Girl in the Fireplace" has been included in the Preliminary Ballot for the Nebula Awards for 2006. The awards, which have been run since 1965 by The Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America (SFWA), are due to be handed out in May. The SFWA has 1,400 members including some of the biggest names in science fiction and fantasy.

The season two *Doctor Who* script is up against the scripts for "Batman Begins", by Christopher Nolan and Steven S Goyer, and "Howl's Moving Castle", by Hayao Miyazaki, Cindy Davis Hewitt and Donald H. Hewitt.

These nominations along with a dozen others are part of the preliminary ballot going to members of the SFWA who will help chop it down to a final ballot in March.

Ray Seredin, Jan. 11/07

THOG'S MASTERCLASS.

Dept of Double Entendre. 'Sternly, he kept his hands away from her. No sense making it harder than it was.' (Sheri S. Tepper, *After Long Silence* (aka *The Enigma Score*), 1987) [PB]

Storm in a Fishbowl Dept. 'Judge Dee stretched out his hand to touch it, but the goldfish started an indignant uproar ...' (Robert van Gulik, *The Chinese Lake Murders*, 1960)

Dept of Astronomical Imagery. 'The suns tumbled up into the mauve autumn sky like rollicking kittens.' (Jack Vance, *The Anome*, 1973) [LP]

Seasonal Fun Dept. '... that binary with the involved planetary orbit that gave two winters for every summer ...' (Kenneth Bulmer, *The Earth Gods Are Coming*, 1960) [BA]

Ansible 234, January 2007

About BCSFA

The current BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-526-7522

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore-Freeman, 604-277-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314

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

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

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

The current BCSFA email list is bc_scifi_assc@yahoogroups.com, archived at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifiassc/>

Memberships/Subscriptions

e-mail (PDF or TXT format)	C\$15.00/US\$13.65 per year
new members	C\$26.00/US\$23.50 per year
renewals	C\$25.00/US\$22.50 per year
New Family members*	C\$32.00/US\$29.00 per year

*(including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings)

Please send membership money to the Treasurer at 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC V7C 1T6. These prices include subscription to *BCSFAzine*. Make cheques and money orders payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association). (NOTE: The West Coast Science Fiction Association is a separate, officially registered society. In effect, BCSFA is a committee of WCSFA.)

Why You Got This

- | | |
|---|--|
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