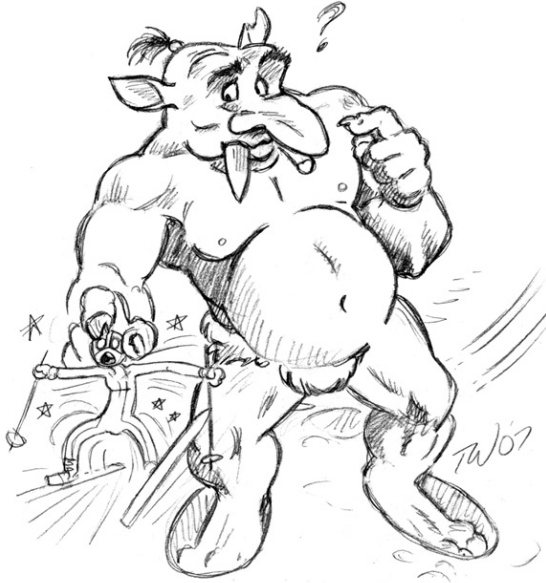


BCSF A Zine

#417

\$3.00

February 2008



Why we don't hire sasquatches at Whistler

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Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper

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This Month's Events (Inshallah)

- Fri. Feb. 15: *BCSFazine* deadline. See Garth at FRED.
- Sat. Feb. 16, ca. 7 pm BCSFA meeting/party at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's home, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC. Phone (604) 277-0845 for directions.
- Thu. Feb. 21 @ 7 pm Book Discussion at Our Town café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. Book to discuss will be *Sphere*, by Michael Crichton.
- Sat. Feb. 23, ca 8 pm The next Royal Swiss Navy Disorganizational Meeting, at Garth Spencer's place unless we move it, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC. Phone him at (778) 865-2372 for directions. (NOTE: the RSN website has been taken down; a new one is under construction.)
- Fri. Feb. 29: *BCSFazine* production. See Garth at FRED.

Editorial

Send congratulations to Tila Pelletier and Dan Hebert: their child, Pepper-Anne, came into the world on January 19.

Since the beginning of this year I have quietly moved the address of *BCSFazine*; too quietly, as our trade zines haven't yet registered the fact.

After I left the last BCSFA party/meeting, I am told, other people talked about the desirability of having a BCSFA Annual General Meeting. For one thing, the club has to make some decisions (for a change); e.g., if *BCSFazine* is the only thing we spend money on, and most of us are online, why not move the newsletter entirely to email distribution? Also, who is *BCSFazine* for? Readers? Mediafans? Anime, comics, filk, costuming or gaming fans? Should we do a massive advertising campaign, including soft-porn glossy issues of *BCSFazine*? Might we be best served to fold BCSFA into WCSA, conclude *BCSFazine*, and rely on Graeme's *WCSFazine*? To get a better idea of this, we need to bring out the general membership. Should we all meet at Garth's place, instead of him holding a Royal Swiss Navy meeting? Or will so many of us show up, we have to book a room at a library or a community centre?

Most of you think of February as the month for Valentine's Day. Me, I think of Paula Johanson's birthday, which she also shares with her twins. I also think of Emperor Norton Day, which for some forgotten reason I decided was February 8th.

If the Work Less Party can organize neat dance parties and a political campaign, why can't we organize an Emperor Norton Day parade, or April Fool's Day pranks and campaigns?

One of the reasons I joke that Americans must put speed in their water supplies, rather than fluoride – and Canadians must put Prozac or something in ours – is the limp inertia that fan groups display, sooner or later.

I think we're all suffering from some kind of personal energy crisis. Maybe we all need a juice fast or a liver cleanse or something.

Of course for that matter grownups also need to spend an hour or two on civic homework every day, just reading public-

issues news, and doing research on the Internet. I don't suppose we're going to do that, either.

Locs

BCSFAZINEzine Volume 1, Number 64.415, Saturday 5 January 2008

Editorial - "How do I solve the Garth Spencer Energy Crisis?"
Set smaller goals, then let yourself get pulled into working on them past the time you've scheduled for them.

((Uh ... that sounds like how I got into my situation, not how to do something different.))

Letters - Lloyd Penney: FaceBook is not a waste of time only because FaceBook is where everyone is now. If you want to connect with people, that's where they'll be. It's the new MySpace, which was the new Friendster, which was the new LiveJournal (in social networking terms, not features). I'm glad MySpace is passé; I could never get it to run properly on my computer anyway. FaceBook won't waste your time or clutter your life as long as you don't keep adding unnecessary applications to it.

((Oh. Is that what's been going on. I am so out of it.))

((Esperanto! God, that takes me back...)) After looking up *ktp*, Joe and I watched *Incubus*, an Esperanto movie starring a young, unknown William Shatner.

Random News - Contrary Views: Dr. William Gray sounds like an asshole. He may be right about global warming, but he still sounds like an asshole.

((We know the world's weather is changing. We're not entirely sure why. There is some evidence this is a natural process, perhaps because the whole Solar System is orbiting into a galactic region rich in interstellar dust, and does so cyclically. And it doesn't really matter why – we have to deal with the consequences, and modify them if we can.))

BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

Lloyd & Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9C 2B2, January 13, 2008

Two issues behind again. This is getting to be a bad habit of mine, but life is still chaotic right now. Explanations to come. I have here issues 415 and 416 of *BCSFAzine*, so here goes with the comment thing.

415...I won't refer to "teh kittes" on the front. Neat graphic, but I've been on I Can Has Cheezburger online, and it is addictive.

It's good to see there are conventions in Edmonton again. I had thought that the city had been SFcon-free since the last Noncon. I'm dating myself there...

This issue has been set so when it is printed out and folded, the pages will be consecutive. But as a .pdf, the pages are everywhere. I will attempt to scan through the pages in order, and see if my letter follows suit.

((Oh.))

Hi, Sheryl...dealing with fanzines is exactly how I got through my last bout of jury duty. While most people waited bored in the jury room, some brought DVD players or deck of cards or games...I brought my PDA and lots of .pdfed fanzines, and I locked zines for four days. Very cool, and I really did get caught up.

((You told'em, you told'em, you told'em! Now the secret to your letterhacking is revealed!))

Taral, I hope that we can sell some more *Energumen* CDs at Corflu Silver in April in Las Vegas. Perhaps we can take a handful of CDs down to Vegas and flog them to the couple of hundred people who will be there.

My loc...unfortunately, the wonderful job at the CNIB, the one I worked hard to keep so they'd want to keep me, has gone away. I have been told that many non-profit corporations have a nasty habit of hiring folks, and letting them go just shy of their three months there, as I was. I am not sure if I did something wrong; they never told me, but they did say that financial considerations were part of my dismissal. The day after my dismissal, the job appeared on Workopolis, with a reduced rate of pay. I've had to put them behind me; I am now working a three-month assignment at Panasonic Canada. The résumés continue to flow out.

The idea of giving Dennis Mullin an Aurora...I was told that this very idea was discussed at the Convention/Aurora Business Meeting, and was unanimously passed. Dennis will be presented with a pointy trophy at the next Convention in Winnipeg. I may know how he'll get there to receive it first-hand.

I also look forward to Peter Jarvis' CUFF report. I have not had the chance to comment online about the current CUFF set of problems, but I hope some resolution can come soon, plus some fresh ideas.

(More like a current set of solutions for CUFF. The only question is, why is Brian Davis still out of contact?)

The DUFF race is on right now, with Murray Moore of Mississauga going up against Kentucky fans Steve and Sue Francis. If you'd like to participate in the DUFF voting selection, go to www.fanac.org/DUFF2008.pdf for the ballot.

416...No naughty bits? I want my money back! And here's a much easier-to-read issue. Did you actually move, or is the address a new postal point for you? No letters? I feel guilty. I hope this will make up for it.

The convention listings make me crazy sometimes...so many neat places to go, cons to attend, places to see, people to do...and I can't get to them. I'm sure we're all in the same boat.

(I was surprised the first time I read a fan lamenting she couldn't go everywhere and see everything at once, at her first convention. I understood from the outset that it was a smorgasbord, where you pick and choose what to see. So is a whole calendar of conventions. But I slowly realized that I was starting to go around and around conventions, always looking for a good time that I kept on missing. I think I'm too out of shape to go to cons for a while.)

I must assume that the registered letter sent to Brian Davis was signed for or at least picked up by Brian, or someone assisting him. As much as I would want to give Brian the benefit of the doubt, I think we should just move on with CUFF and hope that some of the fund money will come later on.



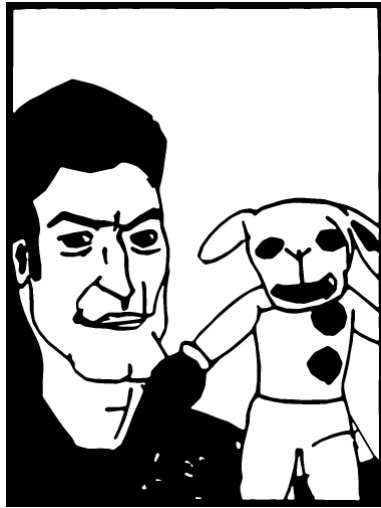
Jeanne and Kathleen in Zero-G

I hope Jeanne Robinson will write up her experiences. I would guess that she's been up on the zero-G 727, and has had her wonderful ride. I wonder if excerpts from the Stardance blog could appear here?

Fannish activities for us this weekend include me trying to write as many letters of comment as possible to as many fanzines as I can, and Yvonne is getting ready for her space and science track at Ad Astra 2008, coming up in about 2.5 months. We'll be doing something fanzine-special at Eeriecon with old-time fanzine fans Joe Fillinger and Ken Krieger at Eeriecon 10 in Niagara Falls in April, and then we are off to Las Vegas for Corflu Silver, probably the only out-of-town fanzine con I'll ever get to. Another reason for the trip to Vegas...it will be our 25th wedding anniversary in May, so we will celebrate a little early with friends.

((Felicitations!))

Time to fold up and fire it off. Happy February to you all, and may the groundhog arise on a sunny day for all of us.



Richard Lewis and Lambchop (FW)

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Robin Bougie and Rebecca Dart (FW)

Calendar

February 2008

Feb 2-4, 6-7: Films! *The Hidden Fortress* and *Seven Samurai*, directed by Akira Kurosawa, at Pacific Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street (North of Davie), Vancouver, BC. George Lucas has cited "*The Hidden Fortress*" and "*Seven Samurai*" as chief inspirations for his *Star Wars* cycle. Feb. 2 (Sat), 7pm: *The Hidden Fortress*; Feb. 3 (Sun), 4 (Mon), 6 (Wed), 7:15 pm: *Seven Samurai*; Feb. 7 (Thur), 9:20pm: "The Hidden Fortress" Double-bill price for *Seven Samurai*. Adult tickets: \$9.50 (single bill), \$11.50 (double bill). <http://www.cinematheque.bc.ca/>

Feb. 9-10: BeyondCon in Gig Harbor, WA. (Costuming.)

Feb. 9 (Sat), 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm: Sonic Boom 2008 : Reading Sessions (performance) at Central Library of Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC. Alice MacKay Room, lower level. Music reading sessions for Sonic Boom, a festival of new music/cutting-edge music. FREE. All-ages. For more info, please contact VPL - Fine Arts & History at 604-331-3716.

Feb. 13 (Wed), at 12 pm: The Crossroads of Evolution: Are We Ready? (lecture) at Central Library of Vancouver Public Library, Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level. Lecture by Deborah Blacklock. FREE. A program for adults. For more info, please contact Langara College. (<http://www.langara.bc.ca/>)

Feb. 15-17: Radcon 5 at the Pasco Red Lion in Pasco, Washington. GoHs: Science – Dragon Dronet; Editor – John Helfers; Fan – Friar Michelob; Writer – Harry Turtledove; Artist – Todd Lockwood; TM – Jay Lake; etc. Hotel: Pasco Red Lion, 2525 N. 20th Ave., Pasco, WA 99301, tel. 1-800-325-4000. Rooms \$89.95/night, plus \$50 for room parties. Overflow hotel is the Best Western, tel. (509) 543-7722; single or double rooms are \$99/night, suites \$102/night. Memberships: apparently only available through <http://memberships.radcon.org>, \$35 at the door. (Membership cutoff is February 2nd.)

Feb. 23 (Sat), at 2 pm: Dennis Foon: Possible Worlds (workshop). at Central Library of Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC. Alma VanDusen & Peter Kaye Rooms, lower level. In this workshop, award-winning author and playwright Dennis Foon will examine the demands of speculative fiction and fantasy writing, offering tips on how a seed of an idea can evolve into a fully realized world. FREE. A program for adults. For more info, please contact VPL at 604-331-3603.

Feb. 26 (Tue) at 7pm: My Virtual World: Gaming - Distraction or a New Way of Learning? (panel) at Central Library of Vancouver Public Library (VPL), 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC. Alice MacKay Room, lower level. Part of the Speak Up series (bringing “together many .. perspectives .. an opportunity for public dialogue.”). This year’s series explores the role of technology in our lives. Panelists are: Suzanne DeCastell, Associate Dean of Education, Simon Fraser University; Katherine Monk, film critic, CanWest; Dave Warfield, Head of Game Design, Vancouver Film School. FREE. A program for adults. For more info, please contact VPL at 604-331-3603.

Feb. 29-March 2: Potlatch 17 at the Hotel Deca, Seattle, Washington. Definition: “a small, discussion-oriented, literary SF convention held regularly in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Portland, following a rigorously irregular rotation.” Book of Honor: *The Parable of the Sower* by the late Octavia E. Butler. Potlatch was originally founded in part to help support Clarion West, the six-week intensive SF writing workshop in Seattle. The 2008 Potlatch will be the kick-off event for Clarion West’s year-long 25th anniversary celebration, so we’ll feature a track of Clarion West alumni readings, along with at least one panel on workshops. ROOM RESERVATIONS DEADLINE IS JANUARY 16. Rates: \$119.00/single or double occupancy; \$134.00/triple; and \$149.00/quad, plus tax. Rates include parking and

continental breakfast daily. HOTEL DECA, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington 98105; Phone: 206-634-2000; Fax: 206-545-2103; Toll Free Reservations: 800-899-0251; reservations@hoteldeca.com. To register on-line, go to the Hotel Deca reservations page ("Book a Room") and enter the dates you are booking and our Group/Event Code: 00034491. (<http://www.hoteldeca.com/>). General memberships: \$50 (through December 31, 2007); Student memberships: \$35 (with valid student ID at the door); Ages 6-18: \$20; Supporting: \$20. Potlatch 17, c/o Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165. Website: <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/>
Kate Schaefer, chair@potlatch-sf.org

March 2008

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

March 16-18: 2008 Northwest Festivals & Events Conference, presented by Washington Festivals & Events and the Oregon Festivals & Events Association at the Salem Convention Center and Phoenix Grand Hotel

(<http://www.salemconferencecenter.org>) in Salem Oregon. There will be a program of 25 workshops, keynote speeches, the special events industry tradeshow, showcase performances and many networking opportunities. If you missed the 2007 conference, here is the brochure for your information: http://www.wfea.org/pdf-download/2007_ConfBroch.pdf
Also, take a look at some scenes from last year's conference. <http://www.wfea.org/calendar-association/gallery.cfm>

(Isaac Alexander)

March 20-23: Norwescon 31 in SeaTac, WA. Theme: Bell, Book and ... something or other.

August 2008

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

Aug. 24: Comix & Stories. For more info about show, please email lswong@uniserve.com or call 604-322-6412

Aug. 29-31: ValhallaCon, the successor to VikingCon, the Bellingham SF/F convention. Like its predecessor, ValhallaCon will take place in Bellingham, Washington. The current con chair is Mike Kinsella. Please watch this space and the Valhallacon LiveJournal Community for updates and announcements. You can now purchase a pre-supporting membership for ValhallaCon! \$25 through February 29th, 2008, and it converts to a full membership at no extra cost. Check out the pre-support flyer for details. For info mail concom@valhallacon.com

October 2008

Oct. 30 - Nov. 2: World Fantasy Convention 2008 in Calgary, Alberta. Theme: "Mystery in Fantasy and Horror." GoHs: David Morrell, Barbara Hambly, Tom Doherty; ArtGoH: Todd Lockwood; TM: Tad Williams. World Fantasy is a literary focused convention that is in a different city every year. This is only the third time it has been in Canada and the first time it has been west of Ottawa. The convention is aimed at authors, developing writers, readers and artists. Attendance is limited to 850 attendees. The convention theme in 2008 is "Mystery in Fantasy and Horror". During the day there will be two streams of discussion panels and two streams of author readings. Major events are the Friday night autograph session and the Sunday afternoon World Fantasy Awards banquet. More details coming on www.worldfantasy2008.org

August 2009

Aug. 6-10: Anticipation (67th Worldcon), Palais des congrès de Montreal, Montreal, Canada. GoH Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Taral Wayne, David Hartwell, Tom Doherty. Contact C.P. 105, Succursale NDG, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H4A 3P4.

News

HERE WE GO AGAIN

"Please bookmark the new official Aurora website:
<www.prixaurorawards.ca> OR <www.prix-aurora-awards.ca>.

"Go to this page for either on-line nomination form or the printable nomination form:

<<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/AwardProcess/nominating.html>>.

"I'll also be trying to get out printed copies of the Nomination forms to the usual suspects ASAP."

Clint Budd, 02 January 2008

ELIGIBLE NOMINEES

The USS Hudson Bay is sending out copies or excerpts of works eligible for the 2008 Auroras. Some of the nominees are:

- David Clink's poem "Falling"

- Julie Czerneda's 2007 novel *Reap the Wild Wind*

(USS Hudson Bay)

RENFEST UPDATE

"'Tis the time folks! Even though this year's Renfest isn't until the last weekend of August we audition nice and early so that you can not only become familiar and comfortable with your characters but to also be able to call upon characters for promos ops like parades and special events.

"SO!! Want to know what we're after? You or someone you know can make it and want to be part of the continuing adventure that is Steller's Grove? Then go to: <http://www.bcrenfest.com/audition.html> for Audition and Casting information, and follow the little links to what interests you. Any questions and bookings can go to Jess at: casting@bcrenfest.com."

Christina Carr, 14 January 2008

THE ELLISON EXPERIENCE

by Felicity Walker

(spoiler warning) For a while now there have been rumours that the eleventh *Star Trek* movie, to be directed by JJ Abrams, will take place in James T. Kirk's Starfleet Academy days and will involve time travel. A new rumour, reported last November by Robert Sanchez at IESB.net (www.iesb.net), is that in *Trek XI* a *Next Generation*-era Spock must use the Guardian of Forever, the time portal from the episode "City on the Edge of Forever," to travel back in time to foil a Romulan assassination attempt on young Kirk.

The (rumoured) use of the Guardian, which Harlan Ellison created when he wrote "City," has upset Ellison. On his site (harlanellison.com), Ellison wrote:

"[...] 'City' and all its elements except specific *Star Trek* characters, belong to Harlan Ellison--author of that much-lauded episode--by terms of the Separation of Rights clause of the Writers Guild's Minimum Basic Agreement (MBA), and if Mr. Abrams--with whom I'm currently on strike--or anyone else, at Paramount or elsewhere, thinks they're going to use my creations--whether the City, the Guardians, Sister Edith

Keeler, or any other elements created by Harlan Ellison...they had damned well better lose the unilateral arrogance, get in touch with me, or my agent, Marty Shapiro, and be prepared to pay for the privilege of mining the lode I own."

Unfortunately for Ellison, other writers have been using the Guardian in new *Trek* material for four decades (for example, the animated series episode "Yesteryear," written by D.C. Fontana), which could indicate that he and Shapiro don't have a case.

On a related note, I watched the pilot episode of *Terminator: The Sarah Connor Chronicles* last night, and didn't see Ellison's name in the credits. My understanding was that in the 1980s he established in court that James Cameron stole the idea for *The Terminator* from the Ellison story "Soldier," and therefore Ellison was to be credited in all subsequent *Terminator* broadcasts or publications. Perhaps that only applies to the original *Terminator* film. (For what it's worth, one of the characters in *T:TSCC* is named "James Ellison"--perhaps a combination of "James Cameron" and "Harlan Ellison"?)

--by Felicity Walker; sources: Josh Tyler, www.cinemablend.com;
Leto II, theforce.net
14 January 2008



The Okal Rel Universe

by Lynda Williams

The Okal Rel Universe, or ORU for short, is a ten-novel SF saga published by Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing. Book two, *Righteous Anger*, was a runner-up for the Aurora Award for best novel in 2007, thanks to the support of readers and members of the First Expansion.

Starting to sound weird now, isn't it? That's because the ORU is also a place I and my friend Alison Sinclair talked about

and wrote about for years before the publication of book #4 in the series, called *Throne Price*, co-authored with Alison.

Just a minute you say? Didn't I just say book #2 came out in 2007? Yes, book #4 came out first, but it's all right! By this fall books 1,2 and 3 will be available and with luck people won't notice the 4,1,2,3 sequence quite so much anymore.

Now for the even more complicated stuff. You see, even before I met Alison, the ORU (in an earlier incarnation) was a play-space I shared with special friends, and I continue to honour its roots in the role of integrity editor and ringmaster for special projects. In short, people get involved. Gary Renshaw, for example, is currently producing a serialized video on youtube featuring Amel, the focal character of the series (although he is not always a main character in every book). In the youtube project, Gary and I are looking for fan art to illustrate stories and are rewarding contributors with an honorarium. Search for "flight cycle" or "okal rel" on youtube or e-mail gary@okalrel.org for more about the project if you know an artist who might be interested. We're seeking them out via personal contacts and word of mouth.

Other ORU projects include: sets of buttons with ORU sayings on them, donated by supporter Kathy Plett; two anthologies of stories set in the Okal Rel Universe by people other than myself; and roles for special friends who act in my place to give away books to deserving people at events they attend, or even to read for me in the case of Bobbie Dufault, or to advise me on technical aspects of fencing, like Craig Bowsbury.

The people who enjoy the series enough to play creative and supportive roles in its development belong to what I call "The First Expansion". There is an invitation-only mailing list associated with the "First Expansion" which also includes a few people who have been invited to observe, but the really and truly "First Expansion" members are those who promote, create and generally share the experience with me.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the whole thing should - of course! - buy a book. :-) But there are also many Okal Rel Universe materials online, including reference materials, stories in various online magazines, and bios of First Expansion members. The Tiddly Wiki called the Okal Rel Universe Concordance is the active site for new reference material, by the way, and the majority of the website is static now except for the blog, Reality Skimming .

The ORU is meant to be explored. Try googling "Okal Rel" or "Reality Skimming" for a start. To sum up, the ORU is a traditionally published science fiction saga, and a parallel series of projects for which I am integrity editor in one form or another.

And thanks again, Garth, for giving me the opportunity to explain.)

*It's a bird! It's a plane! It's ...
Cosmic Ray Seregin
And his cat, Spot!*

Guess what? Those nuts at the New Westminster Safeway thought I was moving back to Powell River (I went there for Christmas and that was it), so they sent my medication prescription up there. (Note to Safeway: I'll be living in the Metro Vancouver area for a good time to come so don't fuck with me again.) Because of this I can't sleep and it's now 5:32 a.m. Thursday morning. I already phoned work to say that I won't be in today (though I'll be in tomorrow because it's a great job).

Now you ask, "What's Ray been up to since V-Con 32?" Well, I've been working at the McDonald's at 8th Ave. and McBride Ave. since September 3rd. I mostly do cleaning; still, it's quite a bit harder than you think. Fridays are our second-busiest day of the week at our location, so I won't make it to either FRED or BIFF any time soon. Still, if you plan something that I particularly like (hint: Convention Night, *Doctor Who* Night or Bring a Game and We May Play It Night), please post it at least two weeks ahead so I can arrange for that Friday off.

I am heading down to Norwescon 31 on March 17th. I'm spending a week in Seattle so I can make a few side trips to the Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame at Seattle Center (where I also plan a visit to the Space Needle [place opening theme to *The Jetsons* here]) and the Museum of Flight at Boeing Field to see the Concord that was used in the classic *Doctor Who* story "Time Flight," the super cool M-21 Blackbird, and, if I play my cards right, one of the great planes of World War II that is still flying, a B-17F Flying Fortress. (Note: Though I'm starting to like airplanes again, I'm still riding down and back on the best way to travel, the train.) I also plan to help set up the con on Wednesday evening and help my friend Khaos WolfKat and crew run the pool patrol on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights. It's a great way to meet fellow members of fandom, I get free food for the whole weekend for three hours of volunteering, and I get to keep the sleeping airline pilots from kicking us out of the hotel for good because of too many drunks going into the pool and making more noise than a 747 taking off.

You may have heard that I got a membership to Anticipation in Montreal in August 2009. This is still some time off, but I'm planning to fly in and out of Toronto and spend a day or two with family in southwestern Ontario before hitting the rails to see

Toronto and Ottawa and heading to the con. This will cost me a good bit of change, so for the next 15 months I'll be working my butt off.

Like the rest of you who are into media fandom, I don't like the Hollywood writers' strike too much. It's already two months into it and I already have my fill of reruns, reality shows, game shows, and news specials. It's going to get worse if the studios and the Writers' Guild are still locking horns in mid-February. It's likely that the Oscars (which I watch if only for its host, *The Daily Show's* Jon Stewart) will be cancelled and that the big American networks will pool the coverage of "March Madness" (that's days on end of American college basketball games) with the private Canadian networks running World Vision Specials in prime time because no advertisers would pay money to air a commercial on a Canadian-made variety series made back in the mid-1970s.

It's about time that the private Canadian networks made their own series about Canadians. CTV has proven that Canadians will watch a Canadian-made series with *Corner Gas*. I think that the 20-something-years' battle between the CRTC and the private networks over the percentage of Canadian-produced programming in prime time will likely come to an end if the strike drags on into the summer. Besides, by that time the Americans will be so tired of reality shows, game shows, news specials, and sports coverage that some of the big American networks will likely buy some of these Canadian-produced series to air on their stations. (Note: Writers' Guild said it's legal, eh.)

There's also a good chance that a number of British series could also air on the American networks, and a lot sooner than their Canadian counterparts. A rumour says that NBC (yes, the network that cancelled classic *Star Trek*) is interested in airing the adventures of a certain Type 40 TARDIS. This could be true, since NBC/Universal owns the Sci-Fi Channel, which broadcasts *Doctor Who* on American cable, meaning that adding the Doctor to the network line-up could be done by signing a few forms with the BBC.

That's great if you live in the Lower 48 (if the rumour is true, I look forward to seeing ads for *Doctor Who* on the back end of every third or fourth bus in Seattle). However, this could be bad news for us Canadian *Doctor Who* fans. It's likely that the Americans will own the first broadcast rights for all of North America--meaning that the CBC can't air series four until it airs in the States, with NBC presumably running the first three series before airing the new one. (Note: The CBC is the co-producer of the series; however, a ton of money from NBC will make up for any losses caused by the delay of the fourth series here in Canada.)

As for the writers' strike itself, I'm with the writers. I feel that the big American studios have been greedy for far too long, and that if the writers stay the course they will win in the end.

Before I go I would like to dedicate this article to all the hard-working people in the Vancouver area film and TV industry who have lost their jobs, or soon will, because of the Hollywood writers' strike. Still, in the long run, things will be better.

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	masthead
Tara Wayne	cover
Jeanne & Kathleen in Zero-G.....	p. 5
Felicity Walker	pp. 6, 8
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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

- You are a member!
- You were born.
- You are worthy to wield the Hammer of Thor.
- You ate all of Jon's lasagna.
- You changed the gravitational constant of the universe.
- You snuck onto the gamma bomb test site on a dare.
- You recorded some AMAZING feces!
- You mined Ellison's lode.
- You have to renew!
- You made the cut.