

BCSFA Zine

The newsletter of the B.C. Science Fiction Association

#429

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(see hardcopy policy inside)

February 2009



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

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Graeme has reminded me that people receiving printed *BCSFazines* should be paying for them month by month.

This Month in BCSFA

Thursday, Feb. 12 @ 7 pm: **February book discussion** will now be held at The Grind Gallery & Café, 4124 Main St., Vancouver, starting at 7 pm. Book to be discussed will be *Lord Valentine's Castle* by Robert Silverberg.

Friday, Feb. 13 from 8 pm: **BCSFazine deadline** - see Garth at FRED (at Boston Pizza, Broadway near Granville, Vancouver, BC).

Saturday, Feb. 14 @ 7 pm: **BCSFA meeting/party** - at Garth's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver. Call 604-325-7314 for directions. (It's a dog's-leg or knight's move from Main Street and 41st Avenue.)

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

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead..... Masthead
Brad Foster..... cover
Felicity Walker..... p. 27

Graeme's Editorial

In January Graeme reminded me of something important, which I had completely forgotten:

... a question. Why is the club still paying for *BCSFazine*?

The people getting the paper copies are supposed to fork over cash each and every time you hand them a paper copy, so that your expenses are covered and the club pays nothing.

That's the whole point of switching to free membership and putting *BCSFazine* on-line. The purpose, of course, is to attract more members willing to be active members. But the only way we can afford to do this is the AGREED UPON POLICY to reduce costs to zero, or near zero as possible.

This means:

- No trades.
- No subscriptions.
- As few 'extra' copies as possible.
- As few paper copies distributed as possible.
- People demanding paper copies MUST PAY for each issue at the time they receive it.

That way the majority of your production costs are covered as soon as you distribute the few paper copies, and the club picks up what is supposed to be the small percentage of cost not covered.

We don't take subscriptions anymore. As far as I know we haven't processed any subscription in more than a year. That means EVERYBODY'S subscription has run out and NOBODY gets a 'freebie', except maybe once to any newbie to encourage them to 'join'.

That's why you should remove the 'subscription' reference in the *BCSFazine* colophon. We don't take subscriptions. Our policy for paper zines is PAY AS YOU GO ISSUE BY ISSUE.

That's what WE AGREED ON when we made the switch to free membership & making *BCSFazine* free on-line.

In fact, ideally we shouldn't be printing any paper copies at all. We made an exception ONLY for the case of people who have no access to the Internet. NOT for people who simply prefer a paper copy. If they want a paper copy let them download and print it themselves.

Why? Because at the rate we're going the club (having no source of income) will eventually be flat broke and unable to cover any costs whatsoever.

Whereas if we can reduce club expenses (i.e. paper copies) to an absolute minimum, the money in the bank account will last much, much longer, and any eventual shortfall can hopefully be covered by donation (and/or upping the price of each issue).

Have you been following this policy? Only in part?

The MOST IMPORTANT PART of our policy is the PAY FOR EACH PAPER COPY WHEN YOU GET IT part. Have you been enforcing this?

If not, then the policy is utterly pointless, and the financial future of the club totally fucked.

Then what? We'd be forced to institute a no paper zine AT ALL policy. Period. The only possible exception would be to demand money IN ADVANCE for them as demands a paper copy. Otherwise the editor could wind up printing too many and be stuck for the expense. At least with pay in advance the editor would know how many to print.

I would rather the club enforce the policy now and operate with some money in the bank to cover unexpected costs or needs, as opposed to running the account dry and operating without any money at all.

So if you have not been charging people money every time you give them an issue, please start doing so now. Work out the cost per issue (including cost of freebies, bearing in mind if you lower the number of freebies the cost per issue goes down) and demand the money upfront when you hand them a zine. That's what is supposed to happen. We agreed on this. It's our policy.

Garth's Editorial

Evidently I have a talent for getting *half* of a message; I didn't get the part about hardcopy recipients paying for *BCSFazine* copy by copy, until this January.

But evidently the Treasurer also hadn't gotten that part. In fact for some time Doug Finnerty, and then Kathleen Moore-Freeman, were bankrolling *BCSFazine* themselves. Now that isn't necessary, but I guess the Treasurer hadn't told our President about the term deposit account, so *he* didn't get that message.

This is typical of our communications.

Our December 2008 issue featured quite a lot of writers' news, and our January 2009 issue featured a survey on contemporary varieties of fandom. What does that leave?

I decided in January to make a clean break, and to hand over *BCSFazine* editorship to Felicity this spring. If you have specific requests for changes or new features in *BCSFazines*, email her at felicity4711@hotmail.com. Until otherwise arranged, the postal address remains the same.

The release of the 2009 Aurora Award nomination ballot is a good reason for me to email you all copies of the e-zines we receive, as one of my correspondents has suggested. Would you be interested in seeing our trades?

Letters

Felicity Walker, December 26, 2008

Well, I was surprised my LOC and other submissions weren't in it. Did I miss the deadline? Were they just not relevant to the theme of "other fandoms"? Should I bother sending any more?
((Oops. Can't think how I missed your letter. Here we go:))

BCSFAZINEzine, Volume 1, Number 76.427 - Wednesday 17 December 2008

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

Editorial: *"I'm going to ask again what kind of news you find interesting and important."* These days, most new books, movies, and TV series don't speak to me; all that's left is comics. The latest piece of good news: for a two-part mini-series for Dark Horse – *BPRD¹: War on Frogs* – John Severin² was the artist. The art was great, and a refreshing change from the cartoony style normally seen in BPRD.

"So, who wants to be a genre correspondent for BCSFAzine?" I can't promise comprehensive comics news, but I can report on the comics news I care about, plus what does appeal to me in books, TV, and film.

1. "Bureau of Paranormal Research and Defense."

2. I know him from *Cracked* magazine, where he was their answer to *Mad's* Mort Drucker, but he was hired for BPRD:WOF because of his war-comics experience.

Letters - Lloyd Penney: *"((Let's start a continent-wide boycott of Wal-Mart.))"* There isn't one near me, so I hardly ever go there as it is. They're a good place to go for wigs (around Halloween) and cloth (for sewing). Their DVDs are cheap but unreliable.

Calendar - ConComCon: Would there be much of interest for someone who's not interested in conrunning?

((No, unless you have agenda items about convention departments to discuss.))

News - Spark FX: Awright! *Tron!*

Lloyd Penney's 'Tales from the Convention': *"I'd like it to appear in as many publications as possible."* I'd be happy to run it in the next *Ish*.

Book View Café - Authors Join in Internet Experiment: I doubt I will overcome other distractions and find the energy to get around to visiting bookviewcafe.com, but this sounds like a nice idea.

Fanhistory: Fanac.org wiki: also a good idea.

((I should be clearer. Fanac.org is one site, with a fanhistory section; Wikispace accounts are something else.))

Sheryl Birkhead, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, USA, December 23, 2008

Hmm ... I see an issue from (*horrors*) March '08 and (whew, this is at least a bit more timely) September. Hopefully I won't find another few issues lurking in the recesses of the tote bag just waiting to pop out as soon as I think I am getting close to catching up.

It sounds as if the expected convention behaviour actually frowns on what *used* to be the norm. How many fen can fill up a vehicle and make the trip sharing costs? How many can be shoehorned into a hotel room? The only thing I recall differently would be filling up on food by grazing on the food in the Hospitality suite.

((I seem to be missing those back issues!

((Sharing a ride and sharing a room both seem normal fan practices to me, but living off the Hospitality refreshments does not. I have known people to truck food into their rooms, as if they were camping in the hotel, rather than have restaurant meals; but that was as cheap as they would get.))

I got a jolt, recently, when I saw how high the full Worldcon membership fee has climbed – yeouch. Even if I hoped to make it to a Worldcon, with those prices, airfare, hotel (etc.) prices, and some actual spending money, I'd be in the red for years. The budget just doesn't have any built-in elastic, so it is just as well that I have no intention of attending. With prices like those, I can see that the working convention budget, these days, is substantial.

((Worldcons are one thing, the vast majority of conventions are something else. I think we should make the distinction. Granted, I got the idea in the mid-80s that "normal" conventions were held annually in the same town, and ran to 500 or 600 members. In comparison, Norwescons in Seattle generally run as high as 3,000 members. Media or anime conventions can run to higher memberships, for example Anime Evolution in Burnaby.

((Personally I think there are fans who can just barely manage to attend conventions – call us Paupers – and people who take it for granted they can fly to conventions and book top-price hotel rooms and drop a few thousand on drinks and meals – call them Princes. The recently-revised Trufan Advisor seems to define Core Fandom in terms of Princes, rather than Paupers.))

It's been a ghoud year for Taral – may the good fortune continue.

Wow, what a terrific list of events – looks as if the fannish social calendar is jam packed full!

It appears that the fannish scene is alive and well in Vancouver.

((Credit Jack Beslanwitch of Seattle, and his contributors, for the list I basically copied from sfnorthwest.org, although I added to it a bit. What definition of “fannish” are you using? A year or two ago I was corresponding with Jennifer Ennis, of Winnipeg fandom, and she was mystified by the term “fannish fandom”. That unawareness should be inexcusable, but it’s normal.))

Not only am I not in the mainstream of fannish activity ... if there is such a thing as a fannish backwater, that is smack dab on my doorstep. I keep looking at my Netflix list and trying to stay up to date on the future releases. Of course this all means that I see movies about a year after everyone else – but at least that is in the budget. I just saw *Iron Man* – really like the humour ... enjoyed the film – and the Indiana Jones film – enjoyed but, if this makes any sense, more of a passive enjoyment based on a known history coming back to life. I am looking for a *Wall-E* DVD, but so far have not seen any lowering of the prices. I have yet to see the movie, but based on what everyone seems to be saying, it will be one I want to have in my short stack of DVDs. (With all the economic woes, I thought prices would go down, but what I see instead is simply a lower number of items – with prices that, so far, are staying put.)

((You’re talking about films, I see. Others would define their fanac in terms of books, like Johan Anglemark who is looking to complete his collection of novels by James Branch Cabell. Satires of medieval fantasy/romances chivalry, that is.))

AHA! I just found the December issue sitting here before I feel so ridiculous over missing the issue waiting for me – okay, let me take a look ...

Nice Foster cover illo! Again, another great listing of events.

((You don’t think the list is a little bare, do you? I thought maybe I should be listing at least a short paragraph about each convention.))

Hmm – I have watched *Torchwood* via Netflix and lost track of the last DVD available there. How long has it been? Seeing the mention that production has been resumed ... just wonder how long it has been since the last episodes (knowing it will be quite a long time before the aforementioned DVDs will be available through Netflix).

Cosmic Ray Seredin, cosmic-ray@live.ca, December 9, 2009

Just a note on V-Con 33 – Sorry, I’m unable to make a full report on V-Con 33. I’m going through some hard times since my mother died on June 26, 2008 (though she did enjoy spending the whole VCon 33 weekend in Hospitality). Only thing I’m going to say is that a good time was had by all (though Billie, Melissa, Trevor, and myself had to stay in a motel a \$7.65 taxi ride away from the con hotel) and the person running the Masquerade quit the day before the con (Boo!). Still, even with that setback, V-Con 33 broke the 500-member mark for the first time since V-

Con 27 back in 2002. Surrey's Compass Point Inn wants us back for more and, since they are planning to expand into a 400- to 700-room hotel with around 3900 square meters of convention space, by about 2013 we could return to the 800/900-member V-Cons of the good old UBC days, or make a bid on Westercon in the future (can you say Westercon 67, Vancouver BC, July 1, 2, 3, and 4, 2014, boys and girls?).

((Ray, were you even at the same Westercon I was, in 1991??))

That's all for now. Be seeing you at Norwescon 32, Anticipation (WorldCon 67), V-Con 34, and hopefully at Westercon 68.

*Lloyd Penney, 1706 – 24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2,
penneys@allstresam.net, January 10, 2009*

Another *BCSFazine* presents itself for commentary, issue 428. I rush to obey, and see what I can do while half-asleep. And, this is what happens when it's too cold to go out on a Saturday night. (Party at your place? Woo-hoo!)

There's more to fandom than we imagine or can imagine. There are groups and clubs and interests we've never heard of or suspected. As soon as you think you've listed them all, someone informs you about another group in another interest.

An idea...the clubs in Vancouver, Ottawa and Montréal all have their own identity and history and independence, but should finances not help out, I wonder if it might be time to make these clubs chapters of an overall club, a Canadian national club that then might extend itself into other cities as well. As the numbers of people who care to do something drops, perhaps all we'd need is someone to do up the central e-clubzine, and someone to set up the regular meetings at each chapter.

I hope you're right about the feeling of community as what Arnie Katz truly means about Core Fandom. It's been easy to misunderstand the concept based on what's been written and commented on. ...

((I've actually read his revised Trufan Advisor now, and have some comments in this issue's editorial.))

I know very little about the clubs in Toronto, except that I do not belong to any of them. IDIC/U.S.S. Hudson's Bay still exists to the best of my knowledge, but any more modern clubs, like Browncoats or anything like that, couldn't tell you. I will say that DWIN, the Doctor Who Information Network, is still going strong, and that with the new series and new interest in the Doctor (and a new Doctor, for that matter), Who Party 14 is an occasional local Whocon that this year is taking place in Toronto sometime in the spring.

We're spending part of this weekend getting nominations ready for the Auroras, Hugos and FAAns. It's the beginning of the year, so it must be award season for 2008. In the meantime, stay warm and dry (can't believe the weather's you've gotten, reminds me of Toronto weather), and see you with issue 429.

BCSFAZINEzine, Volume 1, Number 77.428, Tuesday 20 January 2009
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond,
British Columbia, Canada, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

The Menyeloothic Megoofey - Lloyd Penney: “((And I guess that’s the real definition of what Arnie Katz has designated Core Fandom: those who maintain the sense of fandom as a geographically-distributed village; which, let’s face it, is an old-fashioned grey-haired minority interest, now.))” I blame the Internet. The less contact I had with other fans, the more I assumed that they were people like me who liked the kinds of things I liked. Then the Internet showed me that a lot of them are jerks, and a lot of them hate the things I like and like the things I hate. Presumably that was true long before the Internet, but when I try to imagine Core Fandom and can’t, that’s the first explanation that comes to mind.

((Actually fandom was fragmented into far more than fannish fandom, decades before the Internet arose. The sheer numbers of fans, after 1971, sort of forced fandom to break up.

((I’m beginning to realize that Core Fandom is a barely-updated rebranding of fanzine fandom, rather than fannish fandom. Arnie Katz tries to acknowledge the rise of the Internet and the marginalization of fannish fandom, but he still uses this term “Core”.))

Calendar - Anime Evolution: “...at the Vancouver Convention and Exhibition Centre.” I don’t know where that is, but it sounds closer than SFU.

((It’s near the downtown Vancouver Waterfront.))

WAHF: M.C. Parrott, the same individual if not the same person as Cecilia Griffith; Taral Wayne

Calendar

February 2009

Feb. 6: premiere of *Push* (telekinetic spies at war).

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

[February 6 - 9, 2009 - GottaCon - Victoria, British Columbia, Canada](#) (Gaming)
GottaCon 2009 is a gaming convention featuring around-the-clock gaming for the entire weekend. It has something for everyone, including tournaments in collectible/non-collectible miniatures, collectible trading cards, role-playing games, board games, and electronic games as well as special guests, demonstrations, contests, information sessions, workshops, a variety of vendors and sponsors. GottaCon will take place at Pearkes Recreation Centre in Victoria. (I have to say that these guys are really serious about wanting to attract visitors from off-island. There’s a deal for groups who come from the Mainland and book rooms in the con hotel.) – Greg Slade

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

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

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

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

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

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

March 2009

The **March book discussion** will cover *The Shadow of the Torturer* by Gene Wolfe.

March 6: premieres of *Watchmen*.

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

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

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

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

April 2009

The April book discussion will cover *Snow Crash* by Neil Stephenson.

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

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

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

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

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

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

May 2009

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

June 2009

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

June 5-7: **ConComCon 16** somewhere in Vancouver, BC. Hotel TBA. (ConComCon is a convention-type gathering of the conrunning community.) Memberships \$35. Oddly, the contact addresses, both mail and online, are in Seattle and Toronto, not in Vancouver (but we know that Danielle Stephens is their Lower Mainland representative). ConComCon is organized under the auspices of the Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC).

"We are presently reviewing a contract proposal from the Compass Point Inn in Surrey, BC for the weekend of June 5-7. We have contracts in hand. The contracts are not yet signed. Please do not make hotel or travel reservations quite yet, though we hope to have that settled in the next few days." (Alex von Thorn, Jan. 28, 2009)

Write the co-chairs Alex von Thorn (Seattle) or Marah Searle-Kovacevic (Toronto) c/o either: ConComCon 16, c/o SWOC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, USA, or ConComCon 16, 151 Gamma Street, Toronto, ON M8W 4G3, or email concomcon16@worldhouse.com.

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

July 2009

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

tel. (480) 945-6890 (24-hour home office), email info@fiestacon.org, or see www.fiestacon.org.

July 17th - 19th: **BC RenFest 2009**, probably at Aldor Acres. Keep watching bcrenfest.com.

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

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

August 2009

Aug. 6-10: **Anticipation (67th Worldcon)**, Palais des congrès de Montreal, Montreal, Canada. GoH Neil Gaiman, Elisabeth Vonarburg, Taral Wayne, David Hartwell, Tom Doherty. Contact C.P. 105, Succursale NDG, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, H4A 3P4. Author Julie Czerneda will be Master of Ceremonies. Artist GoH announced: Ralph Bakshi. Memberships now Can55/\$US55/£30/€35 supp; discounts for site selection voters, presupporters, etc. See <http://www.anticipationsf.ca/>, email: media@anticipationsf.ca or write to: Anticipation The 67th World Science Fiction Convention, P.O. Box 105, Station NDG Montréal, QC H4A 3P4.

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

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

September 2009

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

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

October 2009

Oct 2-4: **VCon 34** at the Compass Point Inn, Surrey, BC. GoHs: Author Tanya Huff, ArtGoH Miles Tweet (SF and fantasy film illustrator Hotel: Compass Point Inn, 9850 King George Highway, Surrey, BC V3T 4Y3, www.compasspointinn.com. Reservations: +1-800-663-0660. Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1; Phone: (778) 230-1605; Website: www.vcon.ca

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

November 2009

[November 27 - 29, 2009 - Orycon 31 - Portland, Oregon](#) (General SF and the quintessential SF convention in Oregon)

Fan News

MAJEL RODDENBERRY (dec. Dec. 18, 2008)

Majel Barrett Roddenberry passed on December 18, 2008. She not only played an auxiliary character on the original *Star Trek* (Nurse Chapel), and Luwaxanna Troi on *ST:TNG* and *DS9*; she was the voice of the USS Enterprise computer in *TOS*, *TNG*, and any other Federation ship, and any Federation computer in all series except for *Enterprise*. Doing business as Lincoln Enterprises, she sold licensed items from *Star Trek* and several other science fiction shows.

SFNorthwest.org, NWConLeague, Dec. 19, 2008

MORE BIFFNESS

“Three loyal BIFFsters showed up on December 19th, and then one more popped in for a couple of minutes, so I’m going to call it three-and-a-half. In the end, we let the video slide (I’ll have to watch it myself) in favour of conversation. Topics discussed included body piercings, eyeglasses, Wal-Mart, Army & Navy, a comparative review of the local grocery stores, VCON (and especially the breakfast buffet), different subfandoms (readers vs. media fans), the bailout of the U.S. Auto Industry, Smart cars, hybrids, electric cars, Wendy’s new haircut, and Almond Rocha.

“So, did you get something fabulously fannish for Christmas? Come on out to BIFF this week, and show it off! We’ll all go “ooh” and “aaah”, so you can get the gratification of being envied for your ultimate geeky possession, even if your mundane family and friends just went “Huh?” when you first opened it. Let the envying begin! (And, oh, yes, we’re going to be putting together a basket of appreciation for the staff at the Eighties, so please bring something along to put in the basket, whether it’s something edible and shareable, or a video to be passed around, or whatever.) ...

“I counted 39 heads at the joint 13th Colony/BIFF event to watch the first of the last episodes of *Battlestar Galactica*. Attendees included a long time BIFFer whom we haven’t seen in way too long, Spacegirl BIFF, and a BIFFette who has been following BIFFnews from the beginning, but had never actually made it out to an event before. As for the show itself, well, if they keep doing surprise reveals at every ad break like that for the rest of the season, I predict that BSG fans will all have to check into rehab once the season is over, because they’ll all be suffering from mental whiplash.

“Five BIFFliophiles showed up for the book swap night, despite the temptation of the roller coaster across town. Since a good number of the

books on offer were not snapped up, we're just going to leave them on the swag table until they're gone. There's hard SF, there's space opera, there's steampunk, there's fantasy... you name it, we'll read it. The imagination displayed at BIFF knows no bounds.

"At BIFF, we love to play around, but it's been way too long since we were serious about playing around, so it's high time for us to hold our traditional gaming night. Please bring out any games you like: card games, board games, role-playing games, or whatever. Preferably, we should have games with some kind of sci-fi, fantasy, or comic book tie in, but anything that's fun and playable within 2-3 hours is fair game, so to speak.

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

"BIFF, or "Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship" happens Fridays (except long weekends and VCON weekend) from 6:30 p.m. until closing time (officially 9:00) at the Eighties Restaurant (www.80srestaurant.com), 110 West 14th Street (at Lonsdale) in North Vancouver. To keep in touch with any changes, please check the BIFF web site (which has links to more details about the events listed here) at:

["http://biff.realityfree.ca/](http://biff.realityfree.ca/)

"You can also subscribe to BIFFnews on the web site. Or, if you prefer to read the news through your RSS reader, point it to:

["http://biff.realityfree.ca/taxonomy/term/13/0/feed](http://biff.realityfree.ca/taxonomy/term/13/0/feed)

"Please join the discussion forum for BIFF at:

["http://arowlf.ning.com/group/biff](http://arowlf.ning.com/group/biff)

"If you're on Facebook, you can find a BIFF group at:

["http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8682038569 "](http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8682038569)

Greg Slade, December 7, 2008

<p><i>Studies show that 93.4% of statistics used to support arguments online are made up on the spot.</i></p>

STARFLEET NEWS

Joe Fuller writes: "We are still looking for members for a new chapter in the greater Vancouver, BC area. If you are interested please reply to this e-mail and we will start the New Year right! All it takes to get started are five interested friends and I KNOW we can certainly make this happen in 2009."

Joe Fuller jofuller2@comcast.net, December 26, 2008

SCUTTLEBUTT

"PS: hot off the scuttlebutt... new major con for Vancouver Jun-ish..."

2009 AURORA AWARDS NOMINATION FORM ON-LINE NOW!

“Go to the Aurora Awards site at <http://www.prix-aurora-awards.ca/>

“Click on ‘English’ to get English language home screen.

“Click on ‘Nominating’ to get the on-line form. (You can also get to a PDF version if you prefer to email in your nomination.)

“And remember, nominating costs nothing! Just fill in and press ‘submit’.

“The rules are simple:

- To nominate, you must be a Canadian Citizen (not necessarily living in Canada), or a permanent resident.
- The person you nominate must be a Canadian: defined as a citizen, (not necessarily living in Canada), or a permanent resident.
- You may select up to three nominees in each category. All selections will be given equal weight. There is no fee to nominate.

Categories include:

Professional:

- Best Long-Form Work in English – 2007/2008
- Best Long-Form Work in French – 2007/2008
- Best Short-Form Work in English – 2007/2008
- Best Short-Form Work in French – 2007/2008
- Best Work (Other) in English – 2007/2008
- Best Work in French (Other) – 2007/2008
- Artistic Achievement – 2007/2008

For a fairly comprehensive listing of eligible professional nominees check out:

The Canadian SF Works Database at www.canadiansf.com

<http://www.facebook.com/1.php?u=http://sfwriter.com%2Flabels%2FAwards%25202009.html>

<http://www.facebook.com/1.php?u=http://www.bundoranpress.com%2Findex.html>

Fannish:

- Fan Achievement (Fanzine) – 2007/2008
- Fan Achievement (Organizational) – 2007/2008
- Fan Achievement (Other) – 2007/2008

“(Actually, the Fan Categories are only listed for the year 2007, but that must be a mistake. I assume they are for the same period as the professional awards, & list above accordingly.)

“As far as I know, there is NO database for fan categories. (The Canadian SF Works Database seems to be strictly a professional listing.) So in a splendid spirit of altruism and Canadian fannish unity I’m going

to suggest myself in every category I can think of and then, oh yeah, there must be a few other fans around, maybe suggest some of them too. So here goes. I'm doing this on short notice, so it will be woefully incomplete, but it's a start. Remember! Nominating costs nothing! So let's get a respectable showing of nominees for the final ballot!

- *Ish*, Felicity's annual perzine/genzine out of Richmond, B.C.
- *Opuntia*, Dale Speirs' frequent perzine out of Calgary.
- *The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*, Garth Spencer's perzine out of Vancouver.
- *Space Cadet*, R. Graeme Cameron's newly revived quarterly perzine.

(See <http://efanzines.com> for latest issues of *Ish*, *Royal Swiss Navy* & *Space Cadet*)

- Fan Achievement (Organizational) – 2007/2008

“Note: this can be any type of fanzine as described above, but produced on behalf of an organization, a ‘clubzine’ in other words. The category also covers any kind of organizational activity, be it convention organizing, club organizing, special event organizing, or any other organizational effort you can think of involving F&F.

- Paul Bobbit, for *The Voyageur*, publication of the U.S.S. Hudson's Bay/ I.D.I.C.
- Keith Braithwaite, for *Impulse*, monthly publication of the Montreal SF&F Association.
- R. Graeme Cameron, for *WCSFAzine*, monthly publication of the West Coast SF Association.
- Ryan G. Hawe, for F.R.E.D. (Forget Reality, Everybody Drink) in Vancouver B.C.
- Palle Hoffstein, for years of service on behalf of the West Coast SF Association.
- Stan G. Hyde, for years of service on behalf of Monster Attack Team Canada.
- Sandi McLaughlin, for *The OSFS Statement*, monthly publication of the Ottawa SF Society.
- Greg Slade, for B.I.F.F. (Burrard Inlet Fan Fellowship) in North Vancouver, B.C.
- Garth Spencer, for *BCSFAzine*, the monthly publication of the B.C. SF Association.
- Danielle Stephens, Chair of VCon 32 & 33.
- Faned? for *Warp*, quarterly publication of the Montreal SF&F Association.

- Fan Achievement (Other) – 2007/2008

“Note: this is a catch-all category for anything related to fannish F&F activity not covered by the above two categories. Probably the most important is fannish art appearing in fanzines or on-line. The Best fanwriter concept probably belongs here, as does Best Letter Hack (writer of letters of comment), Best fan Essayist, Best convention Master of Ceremonies, Most Humorous Performer at Conventions, & so on.

- R. Graeme Cameron, an avalanche of essays on fanhistory, zinedom history, B movies, etc.
- R. Graeme Cameron, editor of The Canadian Fancyclopedia, online at: <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html>
- Lloyd Penney, Canada’s best known and most prolific Letter Hack.
- Garth Spencer, for numerous editorials & essays in *BCSFAzine & The Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*.
- Michael Walsh, for years of service as Master of Ceremonies at VCon conventions.
- Taral Wayne, contributor of art to innumerable zines, including *Space Cadet & WCSFAzine*.
- Taral Wayne, for numerous articles on fannish history.
- Taral Wayne, for his website display of his art over the years, zine covers, illos, etc., at: <http://taralwayne.deviantart.com/gallery/>

“All of the above [are] suggestions off the top of my head as *WCSFAzine 17* goes to print. Research would produce more suggestions, but I’ve run out of time. At the very least, I hope I have suggested (using mostly local examples) the variety of possibilities open to you to put forward. Select from the above, or come up with your own, but please nominate!”

R. Graeme Cameron, *WCSFAzine* #17, January 2009

2009 FAAN AWARDS BALLOT

The 2009 FAAn Awards Ballot is now on the Corflu Zed page at <http://efanzines.com/Corflu26/index.htm>. Voting deadlines are:

By postal mail: Thursday, 26 February 2009

By email: midnight. Thursday, 5 March 2009

The winners of the 2009 Fanzine Activity Achievement (FAAn) Awards will be announced during the Brunch at Corflu Zed in Seattle, WA, on March 15, 2009. <http://www.corflu.org>

Please note that there will be no on-site voting during Corflu this year. You are not required to submit the ballot, just your choices.

Bill Burns, January 13, 2009

CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA IN RECONSTRUCTION

“My Imac finally died and with it my Canadian Fancyclopedia. I was

trying to upload new material at the time and the resulting computer death convulsions blanked out the site's home page. Doesn't matter, with my IMac died Pagemill, thus I cannot add to or change the original site anymore anyway.

“So I deleted the original site and made use of Shaw's free webspace to create a new site for my Canfancyyclopedia. It doesn't let you load html, only text, or create sub-pages, but it's free and idiot-proof, which is what I need right now. Plus it includes free blog space. And offers ‘virtually unlimited text.’ (I certainly hope so, given the size of my ‘cyclopedia.)

“Fortunately I had text backup, so it's just a matter of pouring text into place. Will take quite a while to put up everything I had done to date, but I'll get there.

“The Shaw webspace is nice and simple. If you are already a Shaw customer, I recommend it. Costs nothing (already included in your bill) and offers free blogging to boot.

“The new site location is:

<http://canadianfancyyclopedia.shawwebspace.ca/>

Cheers! The Graeme – January 20, 2009

MEDIA NEWS

From WCSFAzine 17:

UPCOMING NIFT FILM PROJECTS:

Reigo: The Deep-Sea Monster vs The Battleship Yamato may finally be available in North America soon. This Japanese ‘suitamation’ film features a monster that appears to be a cousin of Godzilla, though sporting shiny red wrist-claws.

The Forbidden Planet re-make may actually turn into a trilogy, with #1 about the spaceship *Bellerophon's* expedition to Altair 4, the 2nd about Morbius' discovery of the dead Krell civilization, and the 3rd an actual re-make of the original. I'm looking forward to these James Cameron films.

Antichrist is the latest film from Danish filmmaker Lars von Trier. All about the nature of evil revealed in a small cabin in a forest setting. Said to be incredibly poetic and incredibly gruesome. Still being edited. Sounds horrible, actually.

Robocop is going to be remade by Darren Aronofsky, whose previous credits include something called *The Wrestler*. Insiders state the new Robocop will have “steel balls.” One hopes not in the literal sense.

Imago Mortis is an Italian film directed by Stefano Bessonni in which a hapless university student discovers his professors belongs to a bizarre death cult (killing students with boredom is my guess).

Lesbian Vampire Killers is about a Welsh town whose women have been enslaved by lesbian vampires, so 2 guys are forced out onto the moors as a sacrifice. A spoof in the vein of *Shaun of the Dead*. Could be good. Or at least funny. One can hope.

Mutants is another zombie picture, this one focused on a pair of young lovers, the heroine unable to prevent her boyfriend from ever-so-slowly zombie-fying. Sounds angst-ridden, but I hope not. Directed by David Morely.

Metropia is a dark Swedish computer animation film about an energy-starved Europe whose population barely survives underground in a vast web of interconnected cities. The hero prefers the dying industrial wasteland above. The few clips I've seen indicate a limited animation style.

Monsters vs Aliens is literally about an alien invasion with the Earth defended by a bunch of 1950's B movie monsters. Sounds wonderful! A Dreamworks animated film. Hopefully great fun.

SAWYER GOES HDTV

* ABC filming pilot based on *Flash Forward*

ABC, the most-watched television network in the United States, begins filming a one-hour TV series pilot based on Rob's novel *Flash Forward* in Los Angeles on February 21, 2009.

The pilot script was written by David S. Goyer (*Batman Begins*) and Brannon Braga (*Star Trek, 24*), and David is directing. Rob is serving as consultant, and will be writing one of the first-season episodes.

<http://sfwriter.com/labels/Flashforward.html>

Writers' News

BOOK VIEW CAFE

"We are incredibly excited to announce that the members of Book View Cafe have been invited to speak at the Library of Congress.

"The Library of Congress, the repository of the United State's literary heritage is extremely interested in new methods of publication and distribution of literature. Book View Cafe's innovative combination of author professionalism, cooperative creativity and Internet outreach have sparked the Library's attention.

"This is a tremendous honor,' says Project Manager Sarah Zettel. 'We couldn't be more thrilled.'

"Select Book View Cafe authors will be making their presentation at the Library of Congress the week of May 18, 2009. A firm date will be set after the Inauguration.

"Please let us know by reply if you would like to be removed from the BookViewCafe emailing list."

Sue Lange, December 19, 2008

MR. SAWYER GOES TO THE SYNCHROTRON

A leading light in science fiction is heading to Saskatoon's light source synchrotron.

Acclaimed Canadian sci-fi author Robert J. Sawyer will be the first ever writer-in-residence at the massive scientific facility.

Sawyer, who has written 20 novels and won the coveted Hugo and Nebula awards, told CBC News he is excited about what he calls a "once in a lifetime" opportunity to hang out with working scientists.

"I spent a lot of time visiting science labs over the years, but it's always the VIP tour," he said in an interview Wednesday.

"You are in and you are out in a couple of hours, and everyone has shown you all the things they want you to see but none of the day-to-day grind of the work as well. I want to get the flavour of that."

Several of Sawyer's stories are set at Canadian science facilities, such as TRIUMF, SNOLab and the Royal Ontario Museum.

With the synchrotron, he'll have a fresh source of inspiration.



Scientists from all over the world work at the Canadian Light Source synchrotron. (CBC)The multi-million-dollar, 2.9-gigaelectron-volt facility, officially called the Canadian Light Source, whips up particles with giant magnets to create a highly pure and powerful form of light.

The light is piped down a variety of "beamlines" to let scientists examine matter at the sub-atomic level.

As part of his residency, Sawyer will make himself available to the public as a resource and mentor.

Budding writers will be able to book one-hour consultations with the sci-fi legend. Sawyer begins the two-month residency in June.

Forwarded by Greg Slade from CBC.ca, January 8, 2009

Rob's 18th novel *Wake* comes out in April 2009. The US release date is April 7 from Ace Science Fiction. The Canadian release is April 14 from Penguin Canada.<http://sfwriter.com/exw1.htm>

Rob will be touring coast-to-coast in Canada to promote the release of *WAKE*. There will be a launch party in Toronto, of course, and Rob will be doing readings and signings in these other Canadian cities:

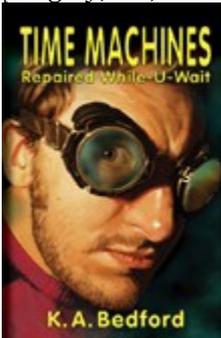
- * Monday, April 20: Vancouver
- * Tuesday, April 21: Calgary
- * Thursday, April 23: Edmonton
- * Saturday, April 25: Moncton
- * Tuesday, April 28: Montreal
- * Wednesday, April 29: Ottawa
- * May (date to be set): Waterloo
- * Saturday, May 16: Winnipeg
- * Monday, May 25: Sudbury
- * Thursday, June 4: Saskatoon
- * June (date to be set): Regina

Once we have the venues in place, the tour schedule will be added to Rob's appearance calendar: <http://sfwriter.com/lnappear.htm>

Finally, for those nominating for this year's Hugo and Aurora Awards, I have some suggestions here:
<http://sfwriter.com/labels/Awards%202009.html>

DOUBLE TROUBLE: CANADIAN BOOK BY AUSTRALIAN AUTHOR SHORT LISTED FOR TWO TOP BOOK AWARDS

[Calgary, AB, January 13, 2009]



Canadian Publisher, EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, is proud to announce that *Time Machines Repaired While-U-Wait*, by Australian author K. A. Bedford, has been short listed for both the AUREALIS (Australia's premier award for science fiction literature) and the P. K. DICK AWARDS (for distinguished original science fiction).

The Aurealis Awards are in their fourteenth year as Australia's premier awards for speculative fiction.

The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust for distinguished science fiction.

EDGE publisher Brian Hades stated in an interview today, "We are extremely proud of Adrian. This is his fourth novel, and he is proving to be the new voice in science fiction we've all been waiting for."

Author Bedford comment on his back-to-back listings by simply stating, "I'm gobsmacked!"

Bedford recently completed a North American promotional book tour for *Time Machines Repaired While-U-Wait* stopping in Denver Colorado to attend the World Science Fiction Convention and Calgary, Alberta, where he was the author Guest of Honor.

ABOUT THE NOVEL:

In the future, Aloysius "Spider" Webb will journey to the End of Time. For now, Spider must be content with repairing broken time machines, rebuilding his life and avoiding the lunatic antics of his boss, Dickhead McMahon.

Spider's life is status quo until he discovers, inside a broken second-hand time machine, the corpse of a brutally murdered woman from the future. The Department of Time and Space steps in to manage the situation — leaving Spider asking a lot of questions that only lead to more questions; unsettling evidence, brewing trouble, and the knowledge that Spider himself might be involved in an epic battle for control of time itself.

Will his knowing the future be a curse or a blessing? Will Spider Webb find out how things turn out before they happen? And, with his newfound knowledge, who will Spider trust?

It will all happen before the End of Time!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

K. A. Bedford was born in Fremantle, Australia in 1963. He attended Murdoch University, in Perth and studied Writing, Theatre, and Philosophy, before becoming actively involved in the Australian SF community. "Time Machines Repaired While-U-Wait" is his fourth novel. He lives with his wife, Michelle, near Perth, Australia.

PRESENTATION OF THE AWARDS:

The Aurealis Award will be presented at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Brisbane, Australia on Saturday 24 January 2009.

The Philip K. Dick Award will be presented on Friday, April 10, 2009 at Norwescon 32 at the Doubletree Seattle Airport Hotel, SeaTac, Washington.

ABOUT THE AUREALIS AWARDS:

The Aurealis Awards were established in 1995 by Chimaera Publications, the publishers of Aurealis Magazine, to recognize the achievements of Australian science fiction, fantasy and horror writers.

The Aurealis Awards have a significant history behind them now. Since the Awards' first ceremony, both the field of literature and the

vibrancy of the Australian speculative fiction community have grown substantially. The extensive list of past winners and finalists is not only a great guide to a basic bookshelf selection of the best Australian works; it is also a useful survey of more than a decade's worth of significant topics and themes, a who's who of the genre locally and the growth of the Australian publishing industry's commitment to the genre. Winners will be announced at the Aurealis Awards ceremony at the Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts in Brisbane on Saturday 24 January 2009.

For more information on the Aurealis Awards, please visit their website: <http://www.aurealisawards.com/>

ABOUT THE P. K. DICK AWARD:

The Philip K. Dick Award is presented annually with the support of the Philip K. Dick Trust for distinguished science fiction published in paperback original form in the United States. The award is sponsored by the Philadelphia Science Fiction Society and the Philip K. Dick Trust and the award ceremony is sponsored by the NorthWest Science Fiction Society.

For more information on the P. K. Dick Award contact: David G. Hartwell (914) 769-5545 or Gordon Van Gelder (201) 876-2551

For more information about the Philip K. Dick Trust:

www.philipkdick.com

MORE INFORMATION ON THE BOOK:

For further information on *Time Machines Repaired While-U-Wait* please visit our web page:

<http://www.edgewebsite.com/books/timemachinesrepaired/tmr-catalog.php>

For further information or to book an interview with the author, please contact: Justyn Perry, Marketing Director - EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing, 403-254-0160

Justyn Perry, January 13, 2009

CANADIAN SF MARKETS I HAVE FOUND

Bundoran Press Publishing House

Address: 4378 1st Avenue, Prince George, BC V2M 1C9

Website: bundoranpress.com

Email: [virginia \(at\) bundoranpress.com](mailto:virginia@bundoranpress.com)

Guidelines: we view ourselves as generalists. We have eclectic interests and encourage you to excite us with your great stories and captivating writing in a wide variety of genres.

At this time, we are accepting electronic submissions only. Please include the following: Cover letter with a short biography, story genre, total word count and your contact information; Synopsis, up to three pages; First three chapters of your manuscript. Rich Text Format (rtf) email attachments only. Please format your text with the Times or Times NewRoman font, at 12pt size. If this manuscript is part of a series, please include a short synopsis for each of the remaining books. Email your attached rtf document to [virginia \(at\) bundoranpress.com](mailto:virginia@bundoranpress.com).

Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing

Address: P.O. Box 1714, Calgary, AB T2P 2L7

Website: www.edgewebsite.com

Guidelines: Edge Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing now includes Tesseract Books. We are *currently seeking* high-quality novel-length *science fiction* and *fantasy* submissions of all types. We are *not interested* in young adult, horror, erotica, religious fiction, short stories, dark/gruesome fantasy, or poetry. Manuscripts should be written in good taste and be aimed at an older (aged 20 and up), well-read, mature audience. *We prefer* novels of between *75,000 and 100,000 words*, although we occasionally accept longer works. We work with new and established authors. We particularly like stories with: * depth and insight * great writing * original ideas * interesting characters who have believable behaviours, motives, and relationships * believable dialogue * strong plots * solid science or magic systems * unique settings * well designed, innovative alien life forms and environments, and * richly detailed and original cultures. Please be sure that you send us the *best version* of your work.

Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine

Address: 4129 Carey Road, Victoria, BC V8Z 4G5

Website: www.neoopsis.ca

Email: neoopsis@shaw.ca

Guidelines: Story: *Neo-opsis* will consider material submitted by any writer, professional or amateur. It is our intention to not set down a lot of ground rules for these stories. We don't want to miss something that we would really like just because it doesn't fit our rules, but we are more likely to publish stories that are less than 6000 words and fit a science fiction or fantasy theme.

Article: *Neo-opsis* will consider articles relating to science, science fiction, fantasy, movies, books, and other topics relating to science fiction magazines. We will not consider political, race, or religious articles that might be considered in bad taste. Articles are submitted to the *Neo-opsis* selection process. *Neo-opsis* does not commission articles.

On Spec

Address: P.O. Box 4727, Edmonton, AB T6E 5G6

Website: www.onspec.ca

Email:

Guidelines: looking for original, unpublished speculative fiction (SF) and poetry – fantasy, horror, ghost stories, fairy stories, magic realism, etc. Our mandate is to give our readers the best SF we can find, regardless of the author's nationality, and we have published authors from Canada, the U.S., Britain, New Zealand, South America, and more. In order to qualify for grants, we do have to maintain 80% Canadian content, which means it may take longer (an issue or two) for a non-Canadian work to appear in the magazine than a Canadian work bought at the same time.

Send your short stories (max. 6000 words), short short stories (under 1000 words) or poetry (max. 100 lines) to the address above. Please note: we no longer require submissions in competition format.

Robert J. Sawyer Books

(Imprint of Red Deer Press of Calgary)

Address: Robert J. Sawyer, Editor

Robert J. Sawyer Books, Fitzhenry & Whiteside

195 Allstate Parkway, Markham, ON L3R 4T8

Website:

Email:

Guidelines: strictly a science-fiction imprint: it does not publish fantasy, horror, magic realism, or anything else. It is a line of adult books: we are not interested in children's or young-adult fiction. Because some of our funding comes from Canadian federal and provincial government agencies, we must publish mostly, although not exclusively, titles by Canadian authors.

WORKSHOPS I HAVE FOUND:

Grind Writers Group. The Grind Writers Group, named after the Grind Gallery and Café in Vancouver, advertises a Freewrite Challenge: “10 – 15 minutes writing, no stopping, no going back, no editing while you write. Just write, write, write. And enjoy ... Then type it up and send it in an email (no attachments please) to wonderwords@shaw.ca”, for inclusion in their blog (address: <http://grindwriters.blogspot.com>).

WRITING WORKSHOPS OPEN TO MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS.

The Writers' Union of Canada (TWUC) is offering the Professional Development Workshop “From Desk to Bookstore: Making the Leap to Writing as a Career” in Charlottetown, Montreal, Kingston, Toronto, Orillia, Winnipeg, Calgary, Kelowna and Vancouver, in February and March 2009. Workshop leaders are **Wayne Grady**, who has written eleven books of nonfiction, published short stories, criticism and feature articles in most of Canada's major magazines, and is an award-winning translator; **Genni Gunn**, novelist, poet, translator, librettist and musician who has published with various Canadian publishers and conducted writing workshops across Canada; and **Deborah Windsor**, Executive Director of The Writers' Union of Canada. “From Desk to Bookstore: Making the Leap to Writing as a Career” is designed to enhance the careers of book writers, whether unpublished, emerging or established. The workshop answers important questions like who publishes books in Canada and how they do it? Where did all the bookstores go? Can an editor do that? What does the World Wide Web mean to the writer? How does anybody make a living at this? TWUC is asking a modest \$45.00 to cover costs, including lunch. For more information please check out <http://www.writersunion.ca/registration.pdf>. Space is limited so register

today. **KELOWNA** (Thursday, March 5, 2009) Delta Grand Okanagan Resort & Conference, Centre, 1310 Water Street, Columbia Room, second floor, North Tower. **VANCOUVER** (Friday, March 5, 2008) Simon Fraser University at Harbour Centre, 515 West Hastings Street, Room 7000, Earl & Jennie Lohn Policy Room.

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter, January-February 2009

The Talespinners Writer's Group meets at 7:30 pm, every second and fourth Thursday of the month in South Delta. Writers of fiction, non-fiction, short stories, long stories, novels in progress, or creative non-fiction are welcome. The meetings provide an opportunity to meet with other aspiring and published writers, to share work, and to obtain valuable feedback, ideas, and encouragement. We are looking for individuals of all ages with a serious urge to write. Please call 604.948.0639 for more information or email darlene.foster@telus.net.

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter, January-February 2009

Writer's Workshop: Manuscripts: For writers with a manuscript in progress, or completed manuscript, in any genre – fiction, non-fiction, poetry or plays. Share your work and receive constructive criticism in a friendly, supportive environment. Marketing and publishing are also discussed. Instructor is **Eileen Kernaghan**. Shadbolt Centre for the Arts, Monday evenings 7:30 to 10: p.m., 8 weeks, \$108.57. Begins January 19, 2009. Enrolment is limited to ten people, so register early. Web registration: www.burnaby.ca/webreg; by phone 291-6864; or in person.

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter, January-February 2009

Also at Shadbolt Centre this winter: Creative Writing: exercises to encourage the novice writer, Thursdays evenings 7:30 to 9:30 from January 22; **Poetry Studio:** every 2nd Sunday, 1:30 to 4:30 p.m., from Feb. 1, for writers with some poetry experience who wish to expand and develop their skills. **Spring Break:** All ages workshop for emerging writers. M-F, 1:15-3:15 from March 16. Instructor for these 3 classes is **Shauna Paull**. Info: 604-291-6864.

Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter, January-February 2009

Tales from the Convention



by Lloyd Penney

#7 - Look Out Below...

1986 saw the last Worldcon in Atlanta before Dragon*con took over the city for that weekend every year, but it was a great convention in a great place. The main hotel was built as an atrium from main floor to top, more than 40 stories, the vertigo sufferer's nightmare. Yvonne has vertigo, but we seemed to have switched for that weekend; I didn't want to look over the edge, while Yvonne was fascinated being able to look down. On one side of every hallway were the hotel rooms; on the other side was empty space, 40 stories tall.

The hotel kinda put their foot in it...when we checked in, front desk personnel made a point of telling us that hotel management requested that we not throw any paper airplanes of the top floors of the building. Well, thanks for the great idea, folks, we wouldn't have thought of that if you hadn't reminded us...

Yvonne decided to follow the manager's word to the letter in the true tradition of fannish pedantry, and found a nearby department store and purchased a bag of green plastic soldiers with parachutes. We made our way to the top floor of the hotel, and she started tossing the little soldiers off into space to float down to the main floor below. Within minutes, the hotel manager himself is on the floor, demanding to know what's going on.

"I told you people not to throw anything off the side of the hallways!"

"No, sir," said Yvonne dutifully. "You said not to throw any paper airplanes. These are toy soldiers with parachutes." Well, she had him there...

Yeah, the toy soldiers were talked about for years afterwards, and now you know who's responsible for that. Fast forward to 2002, and

Yvonne is telling this story at Eeriecon in Niagara Falls. One of the people listening to her perks up and says, "So that was YOU!"

Yvonne smiles, and says, "Why do you say that?"

Good thing he was smiling, too... "One of those toy soldiers landed in my lunch!"

Just another way fans make our days a little more surreal...

Raven Looks Down

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Raven looks down. Something glitters. It is smaller than Raven's beak. No one is watching. Raven swoops. "Hey," a human shouts, "that Raven is flying off with my tunes!"

Raven pecks at the shiny thing's hard shell. A tiny voice sings from the ends of a dangling cord. "Ook?" says Raven, and chortles. When Raven pecks, the music stops, plays, or changes. What fun!

Something else glitters. Raven looks down. No one is watching. Raven swoops. "Hey, that Raven has my cell phone!"

Up in a tree, Raven struts. "Look at my treasures. How clever I am! Now I am rich. How happy I will be always."

The phone rings. Raven looks at it, one eye at a time, then gives it a peck. A little voice starts to talk. Raven cocks a head. "Krok?" says Raven. The voice stops, then asks a question. "Craa!" shouts Raven. The voice gives a little shriek, and stops. The phone's lights turn off. "Ha!" says Raven. "Why don't we all have these? We could all talk by phone together."

Suddenly something is coming very fast. A hawk! Fly, Raven! But a cord goes around Raven's wing. A strap goes around Raven's leg. Raven cannot fly.

Hawk says, "You are lucky I have already eaten. Tomorrow I will be hungry again. See you later, Raven."

Raven leaves the shiny things in the tree. "I don't need them. I need to find food. I need to watch what happens around me."

What Goes Into Fanzines?

Garth Spencer

Just pointing people at fanzines isn't enough to inform them about fanzines. Apart from interesting fillos, what kind of content should you expect to find in a fanzine?

To start with, consider some of the fanzines I've received email about, just in the past month.

The latest 29-page issue of *Science Fiction San Francisco* is now available at <http://efanzines.com>. Contents include: News and Notes: Chris Garcia; Letters of Comment; an editorial by Jean Martin; “The First Lady of Trek Boldly Goes” by Jean Martin (Photos from Roddenberry Archives); “Bob Wilkins: 1932-2009” by Chris Garcia; “Christmas Victorian Style” by Jean Martin (Photos by Jean Martin and Diane Rooney); “This Old Fanzine: ODD #15 (1967)” by Chris Garcia (Art by M Rhodes); “Running with the Cosplay Kids at ALA5” by España Sheriff (Photos by Jason Schachat); BASFA Minutes; Bay Area Fannish Calendar by España Sheriff (Photo by Lucy Huntzinger); SF/SF 2008 Annual Index: Chris Garcia; Gratuitous Pie Charts by Tom Becker.



Graeme Cameron sends a new issue of *Space Cadet*, now available at <http://efanzines.com>. Graeme writes: “Here is a NEW *Space Cadet*, #12 December 2008 issue. Contains my personal reminiscences re Forrest J Ackerman's *Famous Monsters* & its influence on me, a revised article on *Tom Corbett Space Cadet*, a retro review of John Brunner's *To Conquer Chaos*, articles by Terry Jeeves & Taral Wayne, a dire warning about the evil Protists(!), plus locs & other stuff. Lots of illos.”

Steven Silver sends the latest annual issue of *Argentus*, now available at <http://efanzines.com>. The contents include: “; “From the Mine”; “Hard Right”; “TAFF Report”; “The Residence of the Wind”; “My State’s Politics”; “Why Sexy, Studly Vampires Suck”; “Notes from Film School”; “Dusting for Fingerprints: How a Determined Researcher”; “Stumbled Across the Clues that Unlocked the Creative Process”; “of Lewis, Tolkien, and the Inklings”; “An Interview with Michael Burstein”; “How Steven H Silver Helped Save the Archives of at Least 15”; “Authors for Posterity”; “My Must See List”; “Errors and Omissions”; “LaunchPad 2008: And the sky was full of stars...”; “Letters of Comment”; “Mock Section: Reviews by Blurbs”; “Local History”.

Picofarad #15 has been uploaded and is available at: <http://www.bidalaka.com/picofarad/pf15/>. This issue’s contents

include: Administrivia; The Encounter Log (mini-reviews); Scintillations (NASCAR steps on Dragon*Con, minor planet roundup, and; other news); Denver, At Various Altitudes (Denvention 3 trip report); Movie reviews: _Star Wars: The Clone Wars_ and _Death Race 2000_ (the latter by Chris French); Echoes (letters); Days of Yore (10, 100, and 1000 years ago); and a Social Calendar.

Eileen Kernaghan sent us the January-February 2009 *Burnaby Writers' Society Newsletter*, which includes who sold what recently; authors' websites; regional writers' workshops; market news, contests, and anthologies. With this issue the *BWS Newsletter* has gone to online distribution in Word format.

Media File

From Cosmic Ray Seredin

'Doctor Who' News: Who Is Matt Smith?

Actor Matt Smith has been cast as the eleventh version of the renegade Time Lord known only as "The Doctor." He will replace David Tennant, who will leave the role in the last episode of the three-part 2009 Christmas special that will air on the BBC on New Year's Day 2010.

Tennant says that he's leaving the role because he feels that continuing on would be just too much fun, and he won't stop playing the Doctor until he's an old man; then the BBC will have to beg him to leave. (Spoken like a true *Doctor Who* fan who gets to take part in the series.)

Smith was born in 1982, making him the youngest of the eleven actors to play the part (beating out the Fifth Doctor, Peter Davison, by three years); still, series five's executive producer Piers Wenger said, "It was abundantly clear that he had that 'Doctor-ness' about him. You are either the Doctor or you are not." Series head writer Steven Moffat said, "The Doctor is a very special part, and it takes a very special actor to play him. You need to be old and young at the same time, a boffin and an action hero, a cheeky schoolboy and the wise old man of the universe. As soon as Matt walked through the door, and blew us away with a bold and brand new take on the Time Lord, we knew we had our man."

As with most British lads, Smith originally wanted to be a professional footballer (soccer player); when a back injury forced him out of the game, he joined the National Youth Theatre, then attended the University of East Anglia to study Drama and Creative Writing. He is best known to American fans as Jim, the right-hand man to detective heroine Sally Lockhart in both *The Ruby in the Smoke* and *The Shadow in the North*, alongside former *Who* companion Billie Piper. He has since played Danny Foster on BBC2's *Party Animals*, was reunited with Piper as Tim on ITV's *Secret Diary of a Call Girl*, appeared as Ian Hanley on ITV/BBC1's *The Street*, and acted in a number of highly regarded works on the London stage.

Smith will get the key to the TARDIS when production on series five (or 31) starts in June. Many fans are still surprised at the choice of Smith as the Doctor, as rumours were saying that series producers wanted an older actor for the part, and there was even talk of the first-ever black Doctor. Wenger said, “We saw a dozen or so people, some of them black. There was never any resistance to the idea of a black Doctor and it would have got us all sorts of headlines and brownie points, but we set out to cast the best actor for the role irrespective of ethnicity or age, and that was Matt.”

The announcement of the new Doctor was part of a *Doctor Who Confidential* special, which drew 6.1 million viewers to BBC1 on Saturday, January 3 (with only the BBC1’s game show *Total Wipeout* beating it out as the most-watched program of the day with 6.5 million). This special was made with the same amount of secrecy as a spy mission at the height of World War II, with top-secret meetings at almost all levels of the BBC and a secret Christmas Eve photo shoot in the basement of BBC Television Centre in London, with no-one on the production team knowing what it was about. (The TARDIS was added later with Photoshop.) This kept the newspapers and the rest of the media guessing, “who will be Who” right up to the moment the announcement was made.

So, with the Eleventh Doctor decided, the next task for both Wenger and Moffat is finding a companion for him in his adventures in the space-time continuum.

That’s all for now, so be seeing you.

Apologia

One of my several attempts to involve more BCSFAns in *BCSFAzine* is to present a draft printout at a BCSFA meeting, for contributors to mark up. One of my failures to carry through is due to the chaos and weirdness in my home: last month, for example, I simply could not *find* the marked-up draft left after the January BCSFA meeting.

I can only apologize to Felicity Walker and other members, and hope the next editor will not run into the same problem.

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBA

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

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Garth Spencer, 604-325-7314

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

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

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

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

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- ___ You carry sample copies of *BCSFAzine* to advertise us.