

# WCSFAzine

---

The Fannish E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association  
Dedicated to Promoting the West Coast Science Fiction Community

#2

Oct 2007



## **IMPORTANT STUFF YOU CAN SAFELY IGNORE**

WCSFAzine Issue # 2, Oct 2007, Volume 1, Number 2, Whole number 2, is the monthly E-zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association ( founded 1993 ), a registered society with the general mandate of promoting Science Fiction and the specific focus of sponsoring the annual VCON Science Fiction Convention ( founded 1971 ).

Anyone who attends VCON is automatically a member of WCSFA, as is anyone who belongs to the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization ( founded 1970 ) which is the proud owner of the VCON trademark. Said memberships involve voting privileges at WCSFA meetings.

Current Executive of WCSFA:

President: Palle Hoffstein.  
Vice-President/VCON Hotel Liaison: Keith Lim.  
Treasurer: Tatina Osokin.  
Secretary, & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron.  
Member-At-Large: Danielle Stephens (VCON 32 Chair ).  
Member-At-Large: Deej Barens.  
Member-At-Large: Christina Carr.

Since WCSFAzine is *NOT* the official organ of WCSFA, the act of reading WCSFAzine does not constitute membership in WCSFA or grant voting privileges in WCSFA. Therefore you don't have to worry about WCSFA policies, debates, finances, decisions, etc. Unless you want to. Active volunteers always welcome. WCSFA Website: < <http://www.user.dccnet.com/clintbudd/WCSFA/> >

## **IMPORTANT STUFF THAT IS VERY COOL**

Your membership fee: Nothing!  
Send your subscription fee to: Nobody!  
Your responsibilities: None!  
Your obligations: None!  
Membership requirements: None!  
Got something better to do: No problem!

WCSFAzine *IS* a fannish E-zine publication sponsored by WCSFA to promote and celebrate every and all aspects of the Science Fiction Community on the West Coast of Canada.

You can download the latest issue ( and past issues ) from < <http://efanzines.com> > or contact the Editor at: < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) > and ask me to email you a PDF version of each issue as soon as it is ready.

WCSFAzine is not intended to be an information newswire service, or an industry promotional outlet, but rather an eclectic ongoing anthology of bits and pieces of nifty rumours and misinformation as viewed through a fannish lens. You can expect the focus to be on the West Coast, but with a peripheral vision including the entire world of fandom. Anticipate info on upcoming books, fannish events, local clubs and conventions, film reviews, short essays, weird cover art, spin doctor publicity announcements, peculiar speculations and astounding bits of trivia to put you in touch with your fannish heritage.

WCSFAzine is not intended to be the perzine of the editor, though I will filter everything through my alleged wry sense of ~~imbecility~~ humour.

You, and I mean YOU (!) are invited to submit short ( VERY short – say 2 to 3 paragraph ) articles, mini-essays, letters of comment, art fillers ( small pieces of art ) and/or cover art to the Editor at:

R.G. Cameron, Apt 72G – 13315 104<sup>th</sup> Ave, Surrey, B.C., V3T 1V5.

Or submissions in both electronic text and B & W line drawing in jpg form to: < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) >

Particularly interested in personal experience/view/opinion/review articles, preferably light in tone. Also any interesting news.

No pay, but plenty of egoboo. Cheers all! The Graeme

## CONTENTS:

- 01..... Cover art: 1930s spaceship over Marine building in Vancouver, from cover of VANATIONS #1, June 1952.
- 02..... Important Stuff.
- 03..... Editorial.
- 04..... WCSFAzine's Last VCON 32 Announcement, Hidden History of VCON 1 Part 2.
- 05..... 2007 CUFF Winner to Attend VCON 32.
- 06..... The First Canadian Science Fiction Fanzine.
- 07..... 2008 TAFF Race Begins ( Finally )!
- 08..... Retro Fanzine Review: 'Stage One' ( 1970 ).
- 09..... Excerpts from a Short History of F.R.E.D.
- 10..... Another Retro Fanzine Review: 'Vanations #1' (1952 ).
- 11..... Strange Voyages Fannish CD, Fancyclopedia 2.
- 12..... Canadian Fancyclopedia Updates, Efanazines.com updates, Spider Robinson – Pod Caster!
- 13..... Review of Spider's Podcasts, Author Happenings of Local Interest.
- 14..... Retro Film Review: Bride of the Monster ( 1956 ), Bride of the Monster Passes Away.
- 15..... Retro Classics Trivia: Will the Future be as Weird as the Past?, Local Clubs & Events of Interest.
- 16..... Upcoming Conventions.
- 17..... Ook Ook, Slobber Drool! ( Letters of Comment ): Susan Walsh.
- 18..... Ook Ook continued: Paul Carpentier, Clint Budd, John Purcell, Spider Robinson, Jeanne Robinson.
- 19..... Ook Ook continued: Lloyd Penney, James Bacon.
- 20..... Adverts, Afterwords.

## EDITORIAL

It's traditional when completing an issue of one's zine to sit back and read it from cover to cover gloating all the while, admiring its particular magnificence, laughing at one's splendid wit, noting with glee the profound and subtle concepts, etc., etc., yada, yada, and so on. Then reality sets in. Typos jump screaming into your consciousness. Idiomatic mistakes go Nova in your mind. Glaring errors reveal that your ignorance is as vast as the universe is infinite, and so on.

I'd say the initial glow lasts 30 minutes or so. The consequences of committing your words to print last for ever. Hence the usual disclaimer: "All typos, errors, faults, philosophical delusions, lapses of morality and ethics, thought crimes, etc', etc., are the problem of the editor which he has to admit since there's no way to convincingly avoid responsibility." It is to sigh.... Long sigh.... I can't believe I left off the 's' half the time I gave the address for Efanazines.com...

But then I always did have trouble proof reading from the screen. The spell checker catches many errors, but there are so many insidious mistakes beyond the logic of such programs which creep in regardless. You'd think when carefully eye-tracking the screen I would spot obvious glaring errors, but I don't. I wonder if there's some sort of positive denial at work on the subconscious level; something along the lines of "Gee, this is so great there can't possibly be any problems..."

This sort of subject is the kind of thing I haven't thought about for a very long while. I mean, what sane person would? But plunging back into the world of fanzine publishing has reawakened all the angst and self-flagellation that goes with being a fan-ed. And you know what? It's all part of the fun. I'm having a blast being a fan-ed again!

Mind you, both this issue and the first issue are 'proof of concept' issues being rushed online as quickly as possible, in part to get the advertising for VCON 32 out 'there' soonest. As a result many of the fannish history articles are items selected from my Canadian Fancyclopedia and maybe updated a little. I don't feel too guilty about this, since there are many who may have the time to read one of these issues, but not to peruse my Canfancyclopedia. Though perhaps, having noted the standard of my 'scholarship' ( which really is based on the works of fannish legends like Harry Warner Jr. and so not much to do with me at all ) they'll give my Cyclopedia a look. In any case I'm operating on the assumption that, ultimately, a good many people checking out this zine will be newbies just trying to find out info about current and past events re the Canadian West Coast Sci-Fi community, and so I'll have to put things in context and explain the obvious ( as it would appear to a veteran fan ). I'm trying to attract fresh blood into fandom! Into fanzine fandom! ( As well as being a skill for WCSFA, VCON, BCSFA, and so on. I mean, someone has to be, and I love doing it. )

And just to digress even more ( which is what editorials are all about... stream of consciousness are us... ), what's with my using the loathsome 'Sci-Fi' all the time instead of the more fannish 'SF'. Simple, I've always liked 'Sci-Fi', like the sound of it, and besides, it's instantly recognizable to newbies. Friendlier sounding too. More welcoming. My theory.

I should have the next issue finished by November 1st. Many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanazines.com> > for hosting. Please send me feedback! < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) > Cheers! Ghod-Editor The Graeme

## WCSFAZINE'S LAST VCON 32 ANNOUNCEMENT!

Oct. 19-21: **VCon 32/Convention 27** at the Radisson President Hotel, 8181 Cambie at #3 Road, Richmond, B.C., Canada.

**GUESTS OF HONOUR:** author - **Peter S. Beagle**, artist - **Martin Springett**, Gaming - **Lisa Smedman**, Convention – **Matt Hughes**, filking – **vixy & Tony** ( Michelle Dockrey & Tony Fabris ), Toast Master - **Michael Walsh**, & special media guest – TV's new Flash Gordon – **Eric Johnson!**

Memberships are free to children 6 and under, 50% of adult rate for children 7-12, 75% of adult rate for students with ID, after Oct 1 at-the-door price of \$60 for adults. 1-day memberships available.

See < [www.vcon.ca](http://www.vcon.ca) > for updated details and info on how to book a room. Note: When booking, ask for the special rate for VCON, and be sure to mention that VCON is being hosted by The West Coast Science Fiction Association. Both bits of info required by hotel staff to ensure booking.

Mail: VCON 32 c/o Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, B.C., V5N 5W1.

Questions? Phone 778-230-1605.

We're talking Fan Films, Art Demos, Mask Ball, Panel Discussions, Aurora Awards & Banquet, Elron Awards, Music & Art Workshops, Costume Competition, Art Show & Auction, Author Readings, Gaming Room, Space Science, Filk Singing, 501<sup>st</sup> Legion, Dealers Room, Partying, Hospitality suite, Partying... and did I mention Partying?

Some of the specific program items tentatively scheduled ( barring last minute changes ) in five tracks of programming include:

**FRIDAY:** 'From Serial to the Small Screen – Flash Gordon', 'Furry 101'. 'RPGs – The Search for the Perfect System', Artist Trading Cards', 'Killing Off Characters', 'Mask-Making Workshop', 'Concert', etc., etc.

**SATURDAY:** 'Harry Potter in the Whedonverse: Writing Fan Fiction', 'Electricity & Weapon Realism', 'Altered Books Workshop', 'Kinderfilk', 'Hobbit Country Dancing', 'Buffy Sing-along', 'Convention Business Meeting', 'Flash Gordon Returns', 'Pictionary', 'Canada in Space', 'Academie Duello', 'Be Renaissance Festival', 'Klingon 101', 'The Okal Rel Universe', 'Elvish Pickup Lines', 'Masked Ball', 'Camarilla', etc., etc.

**SUNDAY:** 'Seattle in 2011: Worldcon Bid Seminar', 'Where the Heck is my Hovercraft?', 'Convention Banquet & Prix Aurora Awards', 'Daleks & ED-209: Why Build Robots that can't Climb Stairs?', 'Class Based Societies in SF&S', 'Modern Day Troubadours: Fandom & Participatory Culture', 'SF&F's Weakest Link Game Show', 'Cuff: What is it and Why Have it?', 'Art Show Auction', Closing Ceremonies', 'Elron Awards', 'Dead Dog Party', etc., etc.

And those are just a few of the items scheduled! ( All items subject to change of time and/or date and/or topic depending on last minute whatever... ) See pocket program insert in program book for finalized program.

We're in a new venue which is perfect for an expanded, growing VCON. Be a part of that growth! Help VCON leap into the future. We NEED you! We WANT you! We FAUNCH for you!

**SEE YOU AT VCON!**

## CONVENTION STUFF

### THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF VCON 1: Part Two

Last issue described the abortive but highly ambitious UBC club proposal for a Sci-Fi convention to be held at UBC. This issue shows the club then contemplated an off-campus convention site.

#### **FEBRUARY 1971**

Mike Bailey and Daniel Say pushed ahead with plans for a much more modest convention. On February 11th, 1971 Daniel say wrote the following to Usula K. LeGuin:

*"We would very much like to have you as Guest of Honour at the Vancouver Science Fiction Convention held on April 9-11, 1971 at the Hotel Georgia 801 West Georgia Street."*

*"The first evening will be a socializing and getting together."*

*"The convention will start in earnest on the Saturday with an introduction of the more prominent members and then a panel discussion which we hope you would take part in. I would hope that you would also give a short talk in the afternoon on one of these suggested topics: Fantasy; My life as a mother and SF writer; What it feels like to win a Hugo and a Nebula; Sex and gender in SF; or you may suggest one yourself, whatever you wish. There will be a fan panel and a proposed multi-media presentation at other times in the day."*

*"A short film and slide show will be going on between major events. At the banquet that evening there will be several after-dinner speakers and perhaps you might want to add to their diverse ramblings. Parties will continue in the evening and this will be the end of the formal convention."*

*"We shall pay your expenses and if you want get you a babysitting for your children. The convention will be a relaxed affair and you may participate at any event you wish, but please come as our star."*

*"Please come! We want you as our first Guest of Honour at the first Vancouver Convention. Ever since the interview in November, we have had literally hundreds of people want to meet you, and now everyone seizes on your stories."*

*"Please come! A splendid time is guaranteed for all!"*

LeGuin wrote back quickly, on February 17th, 1971, confirming that she would come, along with her husband and children, providing that a prior commitment to a SFWA meeting whose date was not yet set did not stand in the way. (It didn't.) She also made it clear that her family would not attend the convention but would go sightseeing. She, on the other hand, would be willing to be on a panel, and would bring a short speech "*which if forced I will deliver. Call it Style and Fantasy, tentatively. Style in Fantasy? But not after dinner!!!*" This would become "THE CRAB NEBULA, THE PARAMECIUM, AND TOLSTOY."

As for the "interview in November" Say referred to, this must have been one of many interviews with SF authors that he conducted for his SF3 NEWSLETTER over the years. (For example, he conducted an interview with Frank Herbert at the LA Worldcon in 1972, and distributed it at V-Con 3 in 1974 when Herbert was Guest of Honour.) In other words, he and LeGuin had already met, and this contact, plus her desire to see Vancouver, not to mention the thrill of being Guest of Honour for the first time anywhere, induced her to accept.

A poster was quickly drawn up for publicity purposes. The heading read: "*Where the mountains meet the sea in a kiss..... VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada.*" A bit sappy, but why not? A drawing of North America with a dot to mark Vancouver's location may have been of some limited use (I'm sure most of the people around town who saw the poster already possessed some notion of where they lived....). Of particular interest to me is the notice at the bottom of the poster: "*Sponsored by UBC SFFEN, SF3, and BCSFA.*" Confirming once again, contrary to some garbled fannish legends still current, that the BC SF Association already existed prior to the convention and was in fact one of its sponsors.

TO BE CONTINUED.

### **2007 C.U.F.F. WINNER TO ATTEND VCON 32**

Peter Jarvis of Hamilton, being the only candidate nominated, has been acclaimed 2007 CUFF winner by an ad hoc committee of 11 former CUFF winners. Peter, who chaired the TORCON 3 Worldcon in 2003 and worked on many other Canadian conventions, most notably numerous SF cons in Wolfville, Nova Scotia, will act as an ambassador for Eastern fandom and CUFF

'C.U.F.F.' stands for 'Canadian Unity Fan Fund'. CUFF was created in 1981 by Toronto fan Bob Webber, inspired by the American/British TAFF, or 'Trans Atlantic Fan Fund' which was founded in 1953. TAFF was designed to foster personal communication between British and American fandom. CUFF aimed to overcome geographical barriers to a unified Canadian fandom by bringing a Western fan to an Eastern convention, and -- in alternating years -- an Eastern fan to a Western convention. Since 1988 that has usually been 'Convention' where the Auroras (formerly Caspers) are handed out. The East/West boundary is defined by the Ontario/Manitoba border.

Winners are expected to publish a -- preferably humorous -- trip report afterwards, and to serve as Administrator for a year, their task: to generate publicity, raise funds through voting fees and mail auctions of fannish goodies like rare fanzines, liaise with the target convention, encourage nominations, and conduct the actual mail-in election to determine the next winner.

Note: It is tentatively planned that Peter Jarvis will take part in a CUFF panel with former winners Garth Spencer, R. Graeme Cameron, Murray Moore & possibly others. The history of CUFF will be touched on ( possibly noting the humour-ridden snafus, scandals & upsets that make CUFF history so entertaining ), the current status of CUFF ( desperate ), the future of CUFF ( dubious ), the financial status of CUFF ( hilarious ), and above all, the all-around good times, good humour of the fannish phenomenon of CUFF and the wonderful trip report literature it has spawned.

### **PREVIOUS CUFF WINNERS:**

1981 - **Michael Hall** of Edmonton - attended Torque 2 in Toronto.  
1988 - **Taral Wayne** of Toronto - attended Keycon 5 / Convention 8 in Winnipeg.  
1989 - **Robert Runte** of Edmonton - attended Pinecone 2 / Convention 9 in Ottawa.  
1990 - **Paul Valcour** of Nepean - attended Conversion 7 / Convention 10 in Calgary.  
1992 - **Linda Ross-Mansfield** of Winnipeg - attended Wilfcon / Convention 12 in Kitchener.  
1996 - **Rene Walling** of Montreal - attended Conversion 13 / Convention 16 in Calgary.  
1997 - **R. Graeme Cameron** of Vancouver - attended Primedia / Convention 17 in Toronto.  
1998 - **Lloyd & Yvonne Penney** of Toronto - attended Con\*cept98 / Convention 18 in Montreal.  
1999 - **Garth Spencer** of Vancouver - attended InCONsequential II / Convention 19 in Fredericton.  
2000 - **Sherry Neufeld** of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan - attended Toronto Trek 2000 / Convention 20 in Toronto.  
2001 - **Murray Moore** of Mississauga - attended VCON 26 / Convention 21 in Vancouver.  
2002 - **Colin Hinz** of Toronto - attended Con-version 19 / Convention 22 in Calgary.  
2003 - **Lyndie S. Bright** of Winnipeg - attended Torcon 3 / Convention 23 in Toronto.  
2005 - **Brian A. Davis** of Fredericton - attended Westercon 58/Convention 25 in Calgary.

## FANATICAL FANAC FABLES

### THE FIRST CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FANZINE

This was pubbed out of Vancouver, B.C. in 1936. Of extreme importance because it was the first science fiction fanzine ever published in Canada.

This zine used to be considered a sort of myth. Sam Moskowitz, in the first serialized version of his history of fandom in the 1930s ( titled: THE IMMORTAL STORM ), more specifically in the chapter published in the 11th issue ( Summer 1946 ) of A.Langely Searles' THE FANTASY COMMENTATOR, had recorded that Donald Wollheim ( legendary fan and later even more legendary as an editor & publisher ) once referred to a zine titled: **THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN**, ( & to quote SM quoting DW ): "...produced 'by a chap in Vancouver, B.C., where we least expected a fan to live! A fair little magazine.'" To which Moskowitz added: "This constitutes the first and last mention of what appears to have been the first Canadian fan magazine, published in early 1936."

It has always been strongly believed by many Canadian fans that Wollheim was actually misremembering Nils Helmer Frome's genzine SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES, pubbed out of Fraser Mills (a short drive from Vancouver), the first issue of which appeared in Oct 1936. I had always assumed Moskowitz had heard this from Wollheim in the mid 1940s when he was gathering material for the IMMORTAL STORM, and thus I continued to believe that Frome's zine was Canada's first.

But then I got to thinking. Wollheim was often considered the leading fan of his day. He was noted for his intelligence, and for his near-fanaticism concerning fandom. Frome's SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES made quite an impact when it first appeared. I can't see Wollheim misremembering SS to the point of screwing up the title so badly.

And then there's Moskowitz's statement: "This constitutes the first and last mention of what appears to have been the first Canadian fan magazine, published in early 1936." When he wrote this he had already been corresponding with Frome for some 8 or 9 years, and was acting as his agent. Further, he possessed multiple copies of the two issue run of SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES. Yet there's not a hint he suspected Wollheim of misremembering Frome's zine. His statement indicates he accepted at face value the implication there had been a Canadian SF fanzine predating Frome's. Wollheim was no idiot. Moskowitz was no idiot. So what gives?

When I acquired a copy of THE IMMORTAL STORM from NESFA Press I immediately turned to the appropriate page. The quote (as above) which I had seen and heard references to so often was there in all its obscurity. But the context! The context blew me away!

Moskowitz was discussing the history of THE SCIENCE-FICTION REVIEW, an obscure zine pubbed out of Owensboro, Kentucky by one R.M. Holland Jr. Moskowitz described it as "juvenile in almost every respect -- the format, method of duplication and type of material varying with each issue." He goes on to say that Holland published 6 issues of THE SCIENCE-FICTION REVIEW and then, for a variety of reasons "ceded all rights... to Wollheim."

Moskowitz then adds that Wollheim "turned out a single carbon-copied number" (#7, the last issue of THE SCIENCE-FICTION REVIEW) "which is of interest only because it referred to THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN, produced 'by a chap in Vancouver...' etc., etc.

Okay, okay. So what's the big deal? .... The date...

I checked my copy of the Pavlat/Evans FANZINE INDEX (which Michael Waite so generously gave me) and discovered that issue #7 of THE SCIENCE-FICTION REVIEW was published in JUNE of 1936!

Four months BEFORE the first issue of SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES came out!

Wollheim couldn't possibly have misremembered SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES. He wrote his review/mention of THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN before SUPRAMUNDANE STORIES even existed!

Ergo, there WAS a Canadian SF fanzine that came out before Frome's. It was called THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN, just like Wollheim wrote. It came out in early 1936, just like Moskowitz stated (sometime before June anyway). And it was the first Canadian fanzine. Like Moskowitz said. Face value all around. Amazing.

I can't help but wonder who this first faned was. The fact that he titled his zine THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN strongly suggests he believed himself to be the ONLY Canadian SF fan. He probably read about zinedom ( & Wollheim in particular ) in some contemporary promag column, then pubbed his ish in an attempt to break into the exciting world of fandom ( originally created by just such isolated fans as himself ). Though Wollheim seemed to approve of his efforts, the response he received ( if any ) from fandom in general ( assuming he sent copies to other prominent fans & not just to Wollheim ) does not appear to have inspired him to further effort. Pity.

Somehow, it is stereotypically Canadian to know OF a 'founding hero' figure but not know WHOM. If only Wollheim had named him!

I propose a project to unite all Canadian fandom! Let us build a monument to the unknown faned of THE CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION FAN! ( You bring the bbeer, I'll bring the lego blocks -- any excuse for a party, what? ) In fact, let us imitate the famous, fannish Bbeer Tower to the Moon! Let us build a Bbeer Pyramid to Mars out of Bbeer cans! After all, the original pyramid-builders were given free beer in their rations, so it makes sense that the modern masters of fandom would construct the 8<sup>th</sup> wonder of the world out of Bbeer cans! Let us honour the memory of good old what's-his-name, the Ur-CanFanEd! **Let's build a pyramid monument TO THE UNKNOWN FANED!**....You can start by buying me beer...

## **2008 TAFF RACE BEGINS ( FINALLY )**

( Sources: Arnie Katz, Bridget Bradshaw & Dave Langford. )

**What is TAFF?** The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 for the purpose of providing funds to bring well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the ocean across the Atlantic. Since that time TAFF has regularly brought North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. TAFF exists solely through the support of fandom. Interested fans all over the world vote on the candidates, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of not less than \$3 or £2. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, are what make TAFF possible.

**Who may vote?** Voting in the 2008 race is open to anyone who was active in fandom prior to April 2006, and who contributes at least \$3 or £2 to the Fund. Larger contributions will be gratefully accepted. Voting is by secret ballot: only one vote per person, and you must sign your ballot. You may change your vote any time prior to the deadline.

**Deadline:** Votes in this race must reach the administrators by **Midnight, PST, Saturday 17 November 2007. This is 8 AM, GMT, Sunday 18 November 2007.**

Send Cheques or money orders to:

**North America** - Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165 USA.

Checks payable to: Suzanne Tompkins. Email < [suzlet@aol.com](mailto:suzlet@aol.com) > with questions/comments.

**Europe** -- TAFF c/o Claire Brialey, 59 Shirley Road, Croydon, Surrey, CR0 7ES UK throughout the voting period, or Bridget Bradshaw, 39 (1F2) Viewforth, Edinburgh, EH10 4JE UK after 10 Sep 2007.

Cheques payable to: TAFF. E-mail < [bugshaw@cix.co.uk](mailto:bugshaw@cix.co.uk) > with any questions, or if you would like to use PayPal.

For more information on TAFF, visit: <http://taff.org.uk>

For a long time Chris Garcia appeared to be the only fan in the running for the 2008 TAFF trip. Now Susanne Tompkins and Bridget Bradshaw have announced three other people have been nominated, namely Christian McGuire, Chris Barkley and Linda Deneroff. The winner will be sent from North America to the 2008 Eastercon in the UK.

The ballot form, with more details, is available on Dave Langford's [TAFF web site](#), and ballots will be circulated at several fannish events between now and the close of voting at Midnight, PST, Saturday 17 November 2007/8am, GMT, Sunday 18 November 2007. Voting is open to people who have been active in fandom for at least two years. The ballot form contains more information. **Download the ballot form from** < <http://taff.org.uk/ballots/taff2008.html> >

Here are the nominees:

### **CHRIS BARKLEY**

“In many world cultures, the pilgrimage is seen as a serious undertaking; a sacred journey to a place of personal or spiritual importance. When I first entered fandom in the 1970's one of the first (and most exotic) things I learned about was the TransAtlantic Fan Fund, where sf fans were exchanged from the far-flung corners of the United Kingdom and North America. TAFF is not only our annual pilgrimage; it is one of our most important cultural traditions. It would be an exquisite honor to visit the land that gave us such icons as Olaf Stapledon and Doctor Who.”

Nominators: Johnny Carruthers (US), Colin Harris (UK), Marcia Kelly Illingworth (UK), Michael Jordan (US), Laurie Mann (US)

### **LINDA DENEROFF**

“For over 35 years I've had my fingers and toes in many fannish pursuits, ranging from convention running to Star Trek and Star Wars fanzines. I've worked on many conventions including Worldcons and Worldcon bids on both the left and right coasts, in capacities ranging from volunteer to treasurer to chair, starting with Lunacon in the early 1970s, (1980 chair, James White GoH!). Today I live in Seattle, where I help produce Foolscap, a small literary-and-art oriented convention. I love reading, traveling, and attending conventions. I'm thrilled to be nominated, and I hope you'll vote for me.”

Nominators: Margaret Austin (UK), Hank Graham (US), Tim Illingworth (UK), Margaret Organ-Kean (US), Kevin Standlee (US)

### **CHRIS GARCIA**

“ Stop me if you think that you've heard this one before. Chris Garcia is a fan. He's from Northern California. He writes zines like The Drink Tank, Claims Department and Science Fiction San Francisco. He's been a member of ANZAPA, FAPA and a few other APAs. In general he writes as often as he breathes. Chris does game shows at cons, likes fried food, enjoys a good bourbon, plays a mean game of poker, likes cons with Fanzine Lounges that turn into parties, and will talk and talk and talk. He also once fell down a mountain. Ask him about it.”

Nominators: James Bacon (UK), Arnie Katz (US), Mark Plummer (UK), John Purcell (US), Ted White (US)

### **CHRISTIAN MCGUIRE**

“I'm a reader, conventioneer, and club fan. I was a regular contributor/first O.E. of The Gallifreyan Home Companion (a Dr. Who APA), and written for other fine fanzines. I've met many British and European fans over the years without getting to know them. My theory of conventions is that everything serves the opportunity for great conversation. If chosen for TAFF, I'd sit down to as many parts of the conversation as possible to meet new people and get to know those I've only briefly encountered before. I'd take a ton of notes, some photos, and write a great trip report!”

Nominators: Chaz Boston Baden (US), Vincent Docherty (EU), Mike Glycer (US), Milt Stevens (US), Robbie Bourget & John Harold (UK)

## RETRO FANZINE REVIEW: 'STAGE ONE'

'STAGE ONE', which came out in Late March, 1970, was a University of British Columbia Sci-Fi club ( UBC SFFEN ) publication edited by Robert Bells. At 50 pages, it can be considered quite an ambitious effort. The primary motivation behind its creation?

*"This magazine has been published to prove to ourselves that we can produce just as professional a fanzine as the February 1970 GALAXY"*

'GALAXY' was a digest-sized SF mag at that time edited by Ejler Jakobsson who had revamped the format and given it the subtitle "The Best in Pertinent Science Fiction" in an effort to make it more appealing to fans. He even ran 'SUNPOT' comics by Vaughn Bode! 'GALAXY' eventually folded in 1980. All the same, I suspect UBC SFFEN did not succeed in their goal.

The STAGE ONE's pages were printed by purple ditto, and were stapled between two stiff buff-coloured pieces of cardboard. The cover depicted a blocky yet somehow streamlined spaceship drawn by Ted McPherson.

Some 12 poems were present, not all of them SF, with titles like "DIRECTIONS TO THE DEAD END," and "LET US PREY." The budding poets were Ted McPherson, Ken Stairs, Paul Green and John Patrick Hewson.

Ken Stairs and Robert Bells contributed a couple of very short stories, but 17 pages are taken up by the "novel(ette)" 'ONE BRIGHT DAY IN THE MORNING', written by Mike Bailey and illustrated (4 illos) by Ted MacPherson. It is the tale of the youthful barbarian Graimon, who having robbed the wizard Haemon, and mercifully ravaged the fair Praeskillia, is pursued by the Glem, a jewel with the power of a Thral, and.... well, you get the idea. The story was introduced with the comment: *"Mike Bailey is the club historian"* but not, as you can perhaps guess, world-renowned Fantasy writer. Still, a worthy effort (and possibly a spoof? Not sure.)

Ed Beauregard contributed an essay titled 'HEINLEIN IS A HARSH MASTER' in which he argued there is no contrast between 'STARSHIP TROOPERS' and 'STRANGERS IN A STRANGE LAND', that in fact:

*"...all of Heinlein's novels (at least within the last 15 years) are the result of one political philosophy, and that he has not contradicted himself, or proposed opposite types of societies. Within the framework of 'What-if?', all his stories are consistent."*

The article was prefaced, *"Note: The opinions expressed in this essay are those of the author only and quite possibly no one else in the world."*

Stan Talarczyk provided an article about a board game he'd invented and was planning to copyright, called 'SPATIAL WAR -- A GAME OF STRATEGY', essentially a space battle concept employing the use of travel through hyperspace to give it a kind of 3-D feel. Robert Bells and Ron MacFarlane contributed some art as well.

But it is not for all of the above that 'STAGE ONE' has a notorious Fan reputation. It was the inclusion of the story 'GONAD THE CONQUEROR: THE GREATEST SWORDSMAN' ( by 'Anonymous' ) that led to controversy and infamy. Ed Beauregard seized the entire print run and hid it in a locker, refusing to release it till the ( possibly offensive ) pages had been removed. A compromise was reached. Brown paper sheets were inserted to set the story apart, with the following warning written on the first sheet:

*"RESTRICTED. For mature eyes only. Strong stomachs only."*

Gonad was a most precocious lad. I quote the following excerpts for your edification, but ask you to bear in mind the above warning:

*"To maintain the tremendous blood pressure required to expand his organ to its maximum length (14 feet) he has a second heart in his lower abdomen. The heart has 12 chambers so the pressure can undergo gradual increase, thus reducing the damage to his other (normal) circulatory system."*

*"The majority of his head is an enormous blood sinus to supply blood for his erection. This explains why most of Gonad's movements are spastic, spasmodic, and instinctive. It also helps to explain why Gonad is not excessively bright."*

*"Gonad's death we have determined from probability studies as being one of the following three. Gonad, as he always wished to, died in bed. But as he never wished to, he died in bed, alone."*

*"1) Gonad laid on his face, had an erection, and fell from a great height, smashing his blood sinus."*

*"2) Gonad laid on his face, had an erection, and drove himself through the concrete ceiling."*

*"3) Gonad laid on his face, had a wet dream, and drowned."*

Hmmm, not great literature, but it does maintain reader interest.

Ed Beauregard later described 'STAGE ONE' as *"a truly amateurish effort"* but it was probably, judging by the contents, a lot of fun to produce. Last I heard, circa January of 1992, the UBC Science Fiction Society ( the successor to UBC SFFEN ) still had about 20 copies of 'STAGE ONE' hidden in its SUB office. The WCSFA/BCSFA Archive has one copy in its files.

**EXCERPTS FROM 'A SHORT HISTORY OF F.R.E.D.'**

**F.R.E.D. = "F\*\*\* Reality, Everybody Drink".**

*By Tom Waddell*

Which first appeared in BCSFAzine #100, circa May 1982.

*( F.R.E.D. is a weekly gathering of Sci-Fi fans. For time and location see below. )*

The first FRED was held at the Sunset Inn Oub in the Blue Horizon Hotel on Thursday, May 3, 1979, after a 1984 Worldcon bid meeting at Jo-Anne McBride's. It was attended by Jo-Anne, Thom Wescott, Ken Wong and myself, Tom Waddell. It was decided at this FRED that we should have similar future gatherings, and the next one would be on Tuesday, May 15 at the Blue Horizon. This one was attended by the four above-mentioned persons, plus Hen Flanders. It was at this FRED that the name 'F.R.E.D.' was coined. It was also decided to try and find FRED a permanent home, and so we decided to start having the FREDs in various hotels downtown until we found a 'home'....

This continued until September 4, 1979 when we decided that every second week wasn't enough to get together, so henceforth we would hold FRED weekly...

The next memorable meeting at FRED was on January 14, 1980 when we held an election of officers. The results were as follows:

President: Tom Waddell.  
President in Charge of Vice: Gay Maddin.  
Secretary: Donna Markbride.  
Token Treasurer: Jerry Gallant.  
Charge d'Affaires: Fran Skene.  
Reel Head: Ed Hutchings.  
Entertaining Choir: Steve Boswell.  
FRED Narcoleptic: Ken Wong.  
Publicist: Jo-Anne McBride.  
Rumour Control Officer.

It was decided that FRED would run a slate of candidates for BCSFA. It consisted of:

Jo-Anne McBride for President,  
Ed Hutchings for Vice President,  
Stuart Cooper for Secretary, and  
Fran Skene for Information Officer.

*( Historical note: Since the previous executive – President Ed Beauregard, Vice President Steve Forty, Treasurer Norma Beauregard, Secretary Daniel Say & Information Officer Becky Bennett – decided to step down, the above four plotters swept into power uncontested in May of 1980, and thus FRED's fiendish plot to overthrow and subvert the BCSFA ( B.C. SF Association ) succeeded! Only the position of Treasurer was contested, and the unwitting dupe of the FREDites, Jim Welch, was voted in. )*

FRED continued as per normal until a very important relocation to the Gryphon's Aerie for a party for A. Bertram Chandler ( author of the Rim World series of novels). Unfortunately the Book of FRED was not yet born, although the idea was.

The first anniversary of FRED was held during May 1980 with the largest number of attendees ever, 20 in number as follows:

Mike King, Jo-Anne McBride, Stuart Cooper, Steve Boswell, Terry Lee, Mike c/w Jo, Jim Pook, Gay Maddin, Tom Waddell, Donna McMahon, Barbara Przeklasa, Vaughn Fraser, Jim Welch, Marg Galbraith-Hamilton, Ken Wong, Colleen Harris, Fran Skene, Ed Hutchings, Donna Markbride and Jerry Gallant.

*( Local fans can reveal their fannish credentials by how many of the above they know and remember. Currently, only Jo-Anne still frequents FRED, but Donna McMahon was active in both WCSFA & VCON till a couple of weeks ago, and at least 7 or 8 of the above continue to show up at VCONs. )*

FRED continued to be well attended until the Beer strike of '80. We missed two weeks during September ( Ghod will get them )....

We moved to the Gun & Boot in the Invermay Hotel, where we continued with moderate success until pressure from other groups ( Surrey ) led me to try a more centralized hotel where everyone could attend. One suggestion was the Cariboo Hotel. I went there first to check it out – continuous disco music at 500 db's. Forget it! So I settled on the quietest Hotel, the Astor.

The Astor continued to be poorly attended, so I now decided that FRED should swing ( weekly ), hence Fred now moves from the Astor to the Gun & Boot to a pub in Surrey to the pub of the month.

FRED continues to meet every Tuesday, and it still maintains its one and only rule: "You drink what you pay for."

Donna's Corollary: "Unless you can get Tom to pay for it."

Mike Glyer's objection: "Cadging fries is OK."

Regarding the Book of FRED, you are welcome to read it at any FRED. It is signed by many BNF's (*fannish slang for 'Big Name Fans'*) and has many mementos of important Vancouver happenings.

COME TO FRED – ALL ARE WELCOME.

( **F.R.E.D. MEETINGS** – *Currently every Friday @ 8:00 PM held at Boston Pizza, 1333 West Broadway @ Hemlock ( 2 blocks East of Granville ), Vancouver.* < <http://www.facebook.com/group.php> > or contact Ryan Hawe, Keeper of the FRED, at < [luxdoprime@yahoo.com](mailto:luxdoprime@yahoo.com) > )

### ANOTHER RETRO FANZINE REVIEW: 'VANATIONS #1'

-- Faned: Norman G. Browne. Per/genzine ( "VANATIONS: The fanzine for tendrillless fans" ) pubbed out of Edmonton, Alberta, circa 1952/1953. An EGOBOOB publication, affiliated with FAN VARIETY ENTERPRISES, there were six issues in all, with a print run of 500. Because Browne founded the Vancouver SF Society in Dec of 1951, I thought VANATIONS was its clubzine. Turns out Browne had moved to Edmonton by summer of 1952 and, with the exception of #1, the entire run of VANATIONS was produced in that city. In #1 Browne thanks "The Vancouver SF Society for showing me the truth in the statement; 'Blood, sweat, toil and tears go into bringing out a fanzine.'" #1 was prepared in Vancouver, at least its cover was printed there, but mailed from Edmonton with an Edmonton return address. So it seems Browne moved from Vancouver to Edmonton midway through producing the first issue of VANATIONS.

Ted White describes it "as a good fanzine of its times." Harry Warner Jr. called it "one of the few bulky Canadian fanzines of this era." And in CANADIAN FANDOM #33a ( Feb 1957 ), William D. Grant commented: "Another fanzine appeared from the West called VANATIONS in 1952, showing remarkable promise, but after a few issues it vanished."

**1952 - ( #1 – Jun )** - This has a very striking cover: a photograph collage showing the original Flash Gordon-style spaceship sculpture which used to be on display at the Vancouver Airport ( till discarded in a city dump -- a 1986 duplicate made for expo 86 now stands on a pedestal at the south end of Cambie bridge ) 'flying' over the Vancouver skyline above the Marine building, harbour and North Shore mountains in the background. Beautiful. Both photos were taken by Frank Stephens, and the cover printed at "the extension dept of the University of B.C. All I did was rough out the format, pick the ripple-tone cover stock and lend them the negative."

On the inside cover is a poem 'About The Cover' by Alfred W. Purdy, a member of the Vancouver SF Society, and in later life one of Canada's most famous poets. Worth quoting in full:

Nobody saw it come or go, and that was the peculiar thing.  
Bells started to ring  
In everyone's ears at once; and all looked up  
Into the inverted cup  
Of Blue sky. It filled a quarter of sky with a dull shine,  
The centre of a single line  
Of light that filled the head, took over the brain.  
A thought of high disdain,  
And heads popped out of the Marine building like pips  
From portholes of ships  
In the harbour men started upward, subtly held  
In a stiff invisible weld.  
Streetcars stopped on Granville St., and motorcars  
Stood like stars;  
And expensive women in fur coats stared out  
For the space of a shout.  
And when it was gone -- like a face leaning over a wall --  
No one remembered it at all.

As Browne explained in #2: "The inside (cover) poem was written with no connection in mind and originally titled 'Mirage'. I saw a very noticable tie-up between the poem and the cover and used it in that connection." In #2 Doug Mitchell of Winnipeg commented: "Cover fair to good. Rocket ship a bit Buck Rogerish tho."

Browne states: "This issue is not free or a complimentary copy." Instead he offers his PAR scheme, or 'Pay After Reading'. In other words, send in what you think the zine is worth. Perhaps this is why it lasted but 6 issues?

Among 3 zines reviewed, V1#1 of the DIANETICS NEWSLETTER. "A little more publicity and this fanzine will really go places." But as Browne revealed in #2, this was a spoof article, the zines reviewed did not exist.

Graham Stone writes about 'Crud', a "word rather new to fannish language" and goes on to describe derivations like "crudistically" and "intercrudable". Oddly, he comes up with nearly 40 crud terms, yet 'crudzine' is not one of them.

Predates the term?... A number of spoof articles deal with writing, titles like: "The Big Idea", "Types of Fan Letters" & "Rejected Manuscripts."

Under the heading "Recommended reading" Browne contributes some doggerel couplets of his own:

Want some complicated plots?  
Read about the Weapon Shops.  
Think my choices are all wet?  
What about Space Cadet?  
For a story that will make you drool  
Read the Moon Pool.  
And for a story about a dame  
Try The Black Flame. (etc.)

The best article is "Fantasy Censorship In Canada" by Alastair Cameron. He explains how the Minister of National Revenue, Dr. McCann is accountable to no one for his decisions. He does not even have to give a reason for banning a book! Talk about absolute power! Typical of the era.

At 500 copies, #1 cost \$54.77 to produce, a huge sum in 1952! Walt Willis asked him: "What are you doing with those 500 copies?" And Browne responded in #4: "I keep about 25 for later requests...and distribute the rest in fandom. As a matter of fact, my distribution list looks like a directory of fandom. All BNFs get it, many pros get Vn, most members of NFFF, BSAW & FAPA get Vn. Besides this, about 50 are distributed in Canada and another 100 are sent to miscellaneous fen in the States, England, and Australia." Even today this is impressive! And, considering modern printing & mailing costs, impossible!

Responses to #1 printed in #2 included: G.M. Carr - "The mimeography and reproduction was excellent, so was the artwork. A fine looking job all around." / Chester D Cuthbert - "I think you did a tremendous amount of work, but that aside from Alastair Cameron's article which I considered to be excellent, your work was wasted." / Gerald Steward - "I think that the art in this zine is the best fanzine art I have ever seen." / Orville Mosher - "I think your zine beats QUANDRY & SLANT by a mile." / (Personally, I think Steward & Mosher were putting him on.)

### **'STRANGE VOYAGES': A FANNISH CD**

#### **AN OPPORTUNITY TO OWN A MAGNIFICENT ARCHIVE OF CANADIAN FANZINE HERITAGE!**

For the first time, the complete runs of Mike Glicksohn's Hugo Award winning ENERGIUM issues 1 ( Feb 1970 ) to 16 ( Sept 1981 ), and XENIUM issues 1 ( Jan 1973 ) to 15 ( Jan 1990 ) are available in a single CD-Rom Collection. Special features include Mike's Aussiecon GoH trip report THE HAT GOES HOME, his only professionally published short story 'DISSENTING', an exclusive interview SPEAKING THRU HIS HAT, and more!

#### **OVER 1200 PAGES OF TRUE FANNISH READING PLEASURE!**

Available from Taral Wayne, 245 Dunn Ave, Apt. 2111, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1S6. US/Cdn \$15.00 – shipping and handling included. ( \$12 no S&H ) \$1 from every CD will be donated to TAFF in Mike's name.

### **FANCYCLOPEDIA #2**

Fancylopedia II was written, edited and published by Dick Enay of Operation Crifanac (*fannish slang for critical fan activity*), Alexandria, Virginia. First edition 1959, Price \$1.25, 430 copies, of which 78 were ordered prior to publication.

I can do no better than quote from his introductions to the two editions ( 1959 print & 1998 Internet ).

"The purpose of the Fancylopedia II, not fully realized, is to revise and bring up to date the original Fancylopedia of Jack Speer... ( which ) ... was a tour de force by an exceptional scholar at almost the last moment when the entirety of fandom could be apprehended by a single individual. By the time I took on Fancylopedia II it was no longer possible."

"I had to do as extensive polling as I could among all the current and past fans I could reach.... What began as a card file written on discarded library cards after three or four years of collection had expanded to a couple of yard-long filing cases of cards, many with references to separate sheets, folders, or booklets. Nearly a year of mechanical production followed, involving discovering a new method of binding, finding out that mimeo paper in bulk was handled as railway freight, and picking up graphic skills in a manner more logically than aesthetically pleasing..."

"Eventually Fancylopedia II went on sale at the 1960 Worldcon in Pittsburgh. Though only just – on the way my car's motor burned out and Bob Pavlat had to come and rescue our party. I remember J&D Young and I sitting in my hotel room putting the finished booklet together with Acco fasteners. Mirabile dictum, people did buy this Special Convention Fanzine; enough of them, anyway, to pay for our hotel bill and most of the gas."

The print version included a number of classic fanartist & fanned illustrations such as Charles Well's 'Foof', Archie Mercer's 'Trufin', Dean Grennel's 'Blorck-man', Harlan Ellison's 'Max J Runnerbean', Ray Nelson's 'Globlee', Rotsler's 'Phallic Symbol Man', Jean Young's 'Poo and Yobber', and most likely to be faunched for, an insert diagram of the Tucker Hotel! (*A popular fannish proposal: an idealized, perfect' hotel specifically designed for the sole purpose of hosting Sci-Fi Cons. Fans used to send bricks in the mail to Tucker so that he could get on with building it.*)

Fancylopedia II included many of the listings described in Fancylopedia L, but it also contained many newly-coined concepts which, unlike a lot of the material in Speer's version, remain an active part of the fannish lexicon of today. Things like 'BLOG' for instance. Consequently, reading the first Fancylopedia is like delving deep into the archaic archives of a long dead civilization, whereas reading the Fancylopedia II is more like studying the early history of the contemporary world; easier to relate to.

Best of all, Fancylopedia #2 is readily accessible. Just go to the wonderful Fanac History Project website at <[http://fanac.org/Fannish\\_Reference\\_Works/Fancylopedia/](http://fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/Fancylopedia/)> and get access to all three Fancylopedias. Read and/or download. Anyone and everyone interested in the history of fandom needs to read these!

TO BE CONTINUED WITH DESCRIPTION OF FANCYCLOPEDIA #3.

### LATEST CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA UPDATES

The Canadian Fancylopedia is the Graeme's ongoing attempt to put together a 'Fancylopedia III' but one with an emphasis on the history of 20<sup>th</sup> century Canadian Sci-Fi Fandom. Check it out at:

**28th Sept 2007** - Updated/Filled entries:

**Under A:** A Bas. **Under B:** Barbarian Invasions. **Under F:** Fancylopedia II.

See <<http://www.members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html>> to check these out.

### LATEST ZINES ADDED TO EFANZINES.COM ARCHIVE

'*The Concatenation Autumn Newscast*', The Graeme's 'WCSFAzine #1', Bruce Gillespie's 'Scratch Pad #66 & 67', Arnie Katz's 'Vegas Fandom Weekly #100', Christopher J. Garcia's 'The Drink Tank #143', Jean Martin & Chris Garcia's 'Science Fiction / San Francisco #51', & The Graeme's 'WCSFAzine #2'.

## FILTHY PRO NEWS

### SPIDER ROBINSON -- POD CASTER!

This is *NOT* Spider doing a fannish version of the Scottish habit of tossing the caber -- only instead of the usual telephone pole-like thingies using seed pods such as were found in the movie 'Invasion of the Body Snatchers' -- no, it is in fact Spider reporting:

*"And my first bit of news for you is that I'm too busy to send you much news.....on account of I just this week began casting pods. At both my website <<http://www.spiderrobinson.com/podcast.html>> and the iTunes Store one can now subscribe (for free) to my Spider On The Web podcast. Don't ask me how this happened; I looked up and found I was a podcaster."*

*"The first two months there will be 2 episodes a week: one of the essays about space and space travel that I wrote for the MacMillan Space Centre while Writer In Residence there.....and one sample chapter from the Blackstone Audiobooks edition of VARIABLE STAR to hype the release of Tor's paperback edition at the end of November."*

*"When those 8 essays and 8 chapters are used up, I'll shift to what is intended to be my final format: 4 podcasts a month, on the first 4 Fridays of each month."*

*"First Friday: **Spider's Futures:** I read my original short science fiction stories aloud. (I was a finalist for this year's Audie Award for my debut audiobook)."*

*"Second Friday, **Spider's Pasts:** I read aloud and discusse/update one or more of the Crazy Years columns I wrote for the Globe and Mail, and have collected in THE CRAZY YEARS [BenBella Books]."*

*"Third Friday, **Spider's Songs:** original music, live and studio, with and without celebrity guests.... I already have permission to play music by David Crosby, his son James Raymond, Spider John Koerner, and Dave Snaker Ray (thanks to his widow MJ Mueller)."*

*"Fourth Friday, **Spider's Present:** spirited discussion of whatever has particularly enraged or excited me that month, again with possible celebrity guests."*

And Jeanne Robinson adds: *"In the last few days, because of an announcement on BoingBoing <<http://www.boingboing.net/2007/09/16/spider-robinson-star.html>>, over 5500 folks have already subscribed."*

So, let's go, fen! Check it out, or better yet subscribe for free, at <<http://www.spiderrobinson.com/podcast.html>> I did!

## SPIDER'S POD CAST: A REVIEW

I checked out Spider's first two podcasts: 1) the first chapter of 'Variable Star' & 2) his essay: "Let's start wasting money in space".

I had forgotten what a magnificent reading voice Spider has. It's not the thundering bass of a radio announcer plumbing the depths of his vocal chords but rather the hypnotic, vision-casting tones of a bard sitting by the flames of a camp fire below a dark, star-strewn sky. And his singing voice is wonderfully clear too, with lots of edge and bite to it

As for 'Variable Star', his posthumous collaboration with Robert Heinlein, I'll just mention a conversation I had with my wife:

Alyx enters the room, "What are you listening to?"

"Spider reading from one of his books".

"Oh, I know its Spider, but...." Pause while we she'll listens for several minutes. "But it's very odd."

"How so?"

"It's Spider talking, but it *sounds* like something Heinlein wrote....."

.... And the essay is very good at regenerating old visions of just how much *fun* space could be... all we need to do is exploit rich tourists, then the infrastructure will appear. Forget tax dollars, use profits! And that will open space to all. Written/said with Spider's always reliable ability to come up with interesting and/or amusing turns of phrase. Delightful listening & great fun, just like the best of the old radio days.

## AUTHOR HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

**DAVE DUNCAN** < <http://www.daveduncan.com> > Dave, who lives in Victoria, B.C., will be attending VCON 32. His latest books: '*The Alchemist's Apprentice*', & '*Children of Chaos*' ( the latter nominated for a 'Best Long-Form Work in English' Aurora Award at the upcoming Convention/VCON 32). Coming in August 2008 '*Ill Met in the Arena*'.

**WILLIAM GIBSON** < <http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com> > Bill will appear at the Vancouver International Writers Festival held on Granville Island at Waterfront Theatre on Thursday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 PM on 'The Purpose of Fiction', and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Performance Works Friday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 PM for a 'Literary Cabaret'. See < <http://www.writersfest.bc.ca/> > for info. His latest book: '*Spook Country*'.

**MATT HUGHES** < <http://www.archonate.com/> > Matt lives on Vancouver Island. I believe he will be attending VCON 32. His latest book: '*The Spiral Labyrinth*'.

**EILEEN KERNAGHAN** < <http://www.lonelycry.ca/ek/> > No local appearances currently scheduled, but check out her latest books: '*Winter on the Plain of Ghosts: a Novel of Mohenjo-daro*', '*The Alchemist's Daughter*', & '*The Sarsen Witch*' ( reissue in October ). Her latest Young Adult Novel '*Wild Talent, A Novel of the Supernatural*' is scheduled for 2008 publishing by ThistleDown Press.

**CRAWFORD KILIAN** < <http://crofsblogs.typepad.com/> > Continues to teach at Capilano College in North Vancouver. His latest books: '*Writing Science Fiction and Fantasy*' ( 1998 ), & '*Writing for the Web*' ( 1999 ). See E-address above for his blog. He is currently working on another novel. Both of the books mentioned above are available from Self Counsel Press; < <http://www.self-counsel.com/ca/> >

**DONNA MCMAHON** < <http://www.donna-mcmahon.com/> > lives in Gibsons on the Sunshine Coast. She won a 2001 Aurora Award for her book reviews published in Tomorrow SF, BCSFAzine & other publications. Check out her novel '*Dance of Knives*' which is set in Vancouver in the year 2108. The sequel '*Second Childhood*' is pending publication.

**SPIDER ROBINSON** < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/index2.html> > Spider is scheduled to read from '*Variable Star*' at the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors Association (CAA) on Wednesday, November 14th, at 7pm at Alliance for Arts and Culture, Suite 100, 938 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC. His latest book: '*Variable Star*', (Tor). The first 8 chapters are posted on the site <http://www.variablestarbook.com/>, and the paperback hits the stands on November 27th. Around the same time, Baen Books is publishing the hardcover, '*The Lifehouse Trilogy*', a reissue of '*Mindkiller*', '*Time Pressure*' and '*Lifehouse*': < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/books.html> > And check out his podcasts at: < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/podcast.html> >

**ROBERT J. SAWYER** < <http://www.sfwriter.com/> > who lives in Mississauga, will be a program participant at VCON 32. His short story '*Biding Time*' is up for a 'Best English Language Short Story' Aurora – '*Biding Time*' was in the anthology '*Slipstreams*', and has just been released in the '*Penguin Book of Crime Stories*' edited by Peter Robinson ). Check out Robert's latest book: '*Rollback*'.

Before VCON Robert will also appear at WordFest: The Banff-Calgary International Writers Festival, Calgary, Alberta October 11-13, 2007 < <http://wordfest.com/> > for two events:

'WIRED WORDS' - Thursday Oct 11 2 - 3 pm, Mount Royal College, Jenkins Theatre. FREE admission! "This session examines how the wired era of information technology ¶ has changed our relationship with the written word. With Robert J. Sawyer, futurist and dean of Canadian SF; Hal Niedzviecki, pop culture guru and WordFest's first official blogger; and acclaimed novelist Michael Winter.

'THIS SIDE OF INFINITY' - Saturday Oct 13 10:30 - 11:30 AM. Vertigo Theatre Centre, Playhouse. \$14 Admission fee. Modern myth and fabulous fantasy! Charles de Lint revisits his famous imaginary city of Newford in '*Little (Grrl) Los't*', Tom Wayman speculates on the future of human vanity in '*A Vain Thing*' and Robert J. Sawyer explores the quest for eternal youth in his novel '*Rollback*'.

**ALYX J. SHAW** < web site pending > will be attending VCON 32. Her novel '*A Strange Place in Time*' is available by mail order from Doppleganger Press. < <http://dopplegangerpress.com> > It will soon be available in E-book form as of March 2008 from Torquere Press: < [http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main\\_page=index](http://torquerebooks.com/zencart/index.php?main_page=index) >

**LISA SMEDMAN** < <http://www.lisamedman/topcities.com/> > who lives in the Vancouver area, will be Gaming Guest of Honour at VCON 32! Her latest novels (on the 'Lady Penitent Trilogy': Book 1 '*Sacrifice of the Widow*', and Book 2 '*Storm of the Dead*', plus upcoming later this fall, Book 3 '*Ascendancy of the Last*'.

**NOTE:** Most of these novels are available at **White Dwarf Books**, 3715 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2G5. Phone (604) 228 – 8223. E-address: < [whitedwarf@deadwrite.com](mailto:whitedwarf@deadwrite.com) > Web site < <http://www.deadwrite.com/wd.html> >

## **MEDIA MADNESS**

### **RETRO FILM REVIEW: BRIDE OF THE MONSTER ( 1956 )**

You should watch this film:

Because if you thought the scenes recreated in Johnny Depp's ED WOOD were hilarious, wait till you see the original!

Because it is the only film in which a photo enlarger is presented as an atomic ray people enlarger ( actually, there is a certain amount of Ed Woodian logic to that ).

Because the Police Captain is played by Harvey Dunn ( who also appeared in TEENAGERS FROM OUTER SPACE, a film that was *NOT* filmed by Ed Wood, yet could have been... ), a professional clown who earned his living at children's parties, which explains why a trained parakeet is seen bopping about his person throughout the film; it was part of his act.

Because it was Bela Lugosi's last speaking role ( he was mute in the last two films of his career THE BLACK SLEEP and PLAN NINE FROM OUTER SPACE ).

Because you get to see Lugosi wrestle with a non-functioning prop octopus originally used in the 1948 film WAKE OF THE RED WITCH which starred John Wayne & Edward G. Robinson. Seems Ed Wood and his partners in crime 'borrowed' the octopus from a studio warehouse ( which made for one of the funniest sequences in the Depp film ).

Because the heroine was originally supposed to be played by Ed Wood's girlfriend Dolores Fuller ( who later went on to write several hit songs for Elvis ) but was replaced by Loretta King, an actress wannabe Wood mistakenly thought was willing to fund the film. Fear not, Dolores did retain a bit part as 'Marge'.

Because you get to see the immense monster Lobo – played by the immense monster Tor Johnson – fondle a patch of angora rabbit fur for no particular reason except that he found it calming and soothing.

Because the actor George Becwar, who played Lugosi's nemesis Prof. Vladimir Strowski, was so outraged at the non-union non-permit status of the production he ratted to the city authorities and got it shutdown till the heat was off.

Because it was co-scripted by Ed Wood and Alex Gordon, and entirely produced and directed by Ed Wood. What more could you possibly ask for?

And mainly, because watching it is a real hoot!

### **BRIDE OF THE MONSTER PASSES AWAY**

*by Bob McArthur and Armand Vaquer.*

Loretta King, the actress best known for her role as Janet Lawton in the 1955 Ed Wood cult film "Bride of the Monster," died of natural causes Sept. 10 at her home in Century City, her nephew Norman Funk said. She was 90.

In "Bride of the Monster" Loretta played the hot-headed (and top-heavy) Daily Globe reporter Janet Lawton who tries in vain to convince the police that a monster is responsible for the disappearances in Marsh Lake. She decides to investigate herself and nearly ends up becoming evil Dr. Vornoff's (Bela Lugosi) "Bride of the Atom."

Among those she tries to convince is her policeman boyfriend Lt. Dick Craig, played by (obviously) non-actor Tony McCoy, the son of the film's producer Don McCoy. Many film buffs believe that dad financed the film under the condition

that his prodigy be cast as the romantic lead.

On a personal note: There has been a longstanding myth, somewhat perpetuated by Tim Burton's film, that Loretta King was offered her part in exchange for financing at least part of the film. According to the story she didn't have any money after all, forcing Ed to go to Don McCoy for financing, with the results as described above. She denied it -- and, looking at her career, it is extremely doubtful that she was in any financial shape to make such an offer. Unless she had some secret riches hidden, I'm more than willing to believe that she was simply a better and prettier actress than Ed's regular leading lady Dolores Fuller, and a stronger choice in the lead position.

We will never know as Ed took this secret, along with all his others, to the grave.

## **ODD BITS**

### **RETRO CLASSICS TRIVIA: WILL THE FUTURE BE AS WEIRD AS THE PAST?**

Did you know that one of the great tragedies in history is the fall of the Aztec Empire at the hands of Cortez and the Conquistadors? Modern Mexicans look upon the disaster with as much reverence as many US southerners view the struggle of the Confederacy against the industrialized North. 'Romantic' is the word applied to this sort of nostalgic historical vision.

In fact the Aztecs were great poets & artisans, and loved to cover the flat tops of their stone houses and palaces with rooftop gardens filled with flowers, but the reality of their concept of 'Flowery War' was infinitely more grim; a reign of terror over their subject peoples that Hitler and Stalin could only dream of aspiring to. This was why the Aztec capital, Tenochtitlan ( now covered over by the modern Mexico city ) fell to Cortez. It wasn't the Conquistadors, but the tens of thousands of warriors from city states rebelling against Aztec rule and fighting alongside the Conquistadors as allies that brought the empire down.

Tenochtitlan was dominated by a great stepped pyramid 100 feet high at the top of which were two shrines dedicated to Huitzilopochtli ( the Blue Hummingbird War God ), the city's patron deity, and Tlaloc, a water and fertility God. Also on the summit of the pyramid, just in front of the shrines, was an open air space 143 feet wide where rituals including human sacrifice were performed in full view of crowds of Aztec citizens assembled in the great square below.

To convey a sense of what it was like to visit these two shrines, here is an eyewitness description from Bernal Diaz, one of the Conquistadors:

*"Montezuma said we might enter a small tower, an apartment like a sort of hall, in which there were two altars with very rich wooden carvings over the roof. On each altar was a giant figure, very tall and very fat. They said that the one on the right was Huichilobos, their war-god. He had a very broad face and huge, terrible eyes. And there were so many precious stones, so much gold, so many pearls and seed-pearls stuck to him in a paste which the natives made from a sort of root, that his whole body and head were covered with them. He was girdled with huge snakes made of gold and precious stones, and in one hand he held a bow, in the other some arrows..."*

*"There were some smoking braziers of their incense, which they call copal, in which they were burning the hearts of those whom they had sacrificed that day; and all the walls of that shrine were so splashed and caked with blood that they and the floor too were black. Indeed, the whole place stank abominably."*

*"We then looked to the left and saw another great image of the same height as Huichilobos, with a face like a bear and eyes that glittered, being made of their mirror-glass, which they call Tezcat. Its body, like that of Huichilobos, was encrusted with precious stones, for they said that the two were brothers.... They had offered that idol five hearts from the day's sacrifices."*

I'm in favour of freedom of religion, but I think we can all agree that a revival of the Aztec state religion is not something we want to see... or experience...

Yet Ernest Hogan, in his 1992 novel HIGH AZTEC did just that. Interestingly, he didn't do the usual thing and postulate an alternate history where the Aztecs defeated the Conquistadores; rather he envisioned a future history in which the United States declines after a major war and the power gap is filled by an aggressive Mexico using a revived form of the Aztec state religion to generate extreme nationalism ( not as far fetched as it sounds, there are still about a million Aztec descendants in Mexico, many still speaking Nahuatl, the language of the Aztecs, some speaking *only* Nahuatl).

So you get inane Aztec TV talk show hosts discussing when human sacrifice is or is not appropriate, stainless steel pyramids, the rich and powerful wearing clothing revealing the scars on their chests where their hearts had been torn out ( it being considered a great honour to be sacrificed; of course, only the rich can afford to instantly be placed on life support and their heart replaced, the poor are not so lucky ), and very credibly, a modern solution to a required sacred act:

*"...picking up the taco, looking at it. You couldn't tell by the way it looked that it was grown from synthesized human DNA... finally working up the courage to take a bite of taco, remembering that since it didn't come from an actual human being, it wasn't cannibalism, but since it was genetically the same, it was like participating in a time-honored Aztec ritual."*

Hogan succeeds in combing the insensitivity and cruelty of the magnificent, monstrous Aztec civilization with the insensitivity and cruelty of the less magnificent and even more monstrous modern world. Full marks for imaginative

extrapolation! Definitely worth reading.

## **LOCAL CLUBS & EVENTS OF INTEREST:**

### **BCSFA – THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION:**

Founded 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1970. Currently offers for its \$26 membership fee: a monthly social gathering at the home of the Treasurer, a 'Feeding Frenzy' get together at a different restaurant every month, a book discussion held on a monthly basis at the 'Our Town Café', a monthly 'Kaffeeklatsch' at the home of BCFazine editor Garth Spencer where random topics are picked out of a hat and hotly debated, and of course, 12 issues of BCSFAzine. For more details, such as time & locations, check out the BCSFA Club website listed below.

**NOTE: BCSFA BOOK DISCUSSION: Thursday October 18 @ 7pm** at the "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver This month, we're discussing "Dracula" by Bram Stoker.

### **BCSFA SPONSORED WEB SITES:**

BCSFA CLUB WEB SITE: < <http://www.bcsfa.net> >

BCSFA YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP: < [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_scifi\\_assoc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assoc/) >

CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA: < <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

**BIFF MEETINGS – Every Friday @ 6:30 PM.** A weekly social meeting for SF fans, founded June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Held at The Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14<sup>th</sup> Street in North Vancouver. < <http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/index.html> >

**F.R.E.D. MEETINGS – Every Friday @ 8:00 PM.** F.R.E.D. stands for "F\*\*\* Reality, Everybody Drink", a weekly social meeting for SF fans, founded May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1979. Currently held at Boston Pizza, 1333 West Broadway @ Hemlock ( 2 blocks East of Granville ), Vancouver. < <http://www.facebook.com/group.php> > or contact Ryan Hawe, Keeper of the FRED, at < [luxdoprime@yahoo.com](mailto:luxdoprime@yahoo.com) >

### **MONSTER ATTACK TEAM CANADA**

This group is mostly for members to keep up with the latest events and happening for the club. MONSTER ATTACK is situated in British Columbia's Lower Mainland, and while anyone is welcome to join to stay up with club events, the primary interest will be to members and those thinking of coming to a Monster Attack - Canada event in Vancouver B.C. or the Lower Mainland. At the same time, we want to answer as many questions as we can for people interested in SF, FANTASY, ANIME, and MONSTER modeling - and encourage people to use the site to pose questions about kit building. Think of this as an online clubhouse as well as an info site - and PLEASE ASK AWAY!  
< <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterAttackTeamCanada/?yguid=8788> >

### **MONSTER FIGHTERS ONLINE CLUB ( of Monster Attack Team Canada )**

This Group is for anyone who wants to talk Science fiction and Fantasy films, Figure Garage kits, Monster toys, DVDs, up-coming films, and just plain cool stuff! PLEASE: this is a place to have FUN!!! It's about the love of the hobby, not about flaming someone who feels differently than you do. Please try to express your opinions in a way that is respectful of others' opinions. Let's talk monsters! < <http://movies.groups.yahoo.com/group/MonsterFighters> >

This section to be expanded as time and research permits.

## **UPCOMING CONVENTIONS**

Source < <http://www.locusmag.com/Conventions.html> >

**CON\*CEPT 2007 -- ( Oct 12 - 14 )** Montreal, Quebec, Canada. GoHs: David Weber, Tanya Huff, Jean-Louis Trudel, Jeremy Bulloch. Membership rates: \$45 before September 15, \$50 at the door. Website: <http://www.conceptsf.ca/>; E-mail: [conceptsf@conceptsf.ca](mailto:conceptsf@conceptsf.ca); Snail: Con-Cept SFF, Box 196, Ste-Julie, QC, J3E 1X6.

**PURE SPECULATION III: THE SEARCH FOR SPEC -- ( Oct 13 - 14 )** Edmonton Masonic Hall, Edmonton AB, Canada. GoH: Peter Watts. Special Guests: Barb Galler Smith and Ann Marston. Featuring Comic Talks and SF events run by Diane Walton of *On Spec* magazine. Memb: \$25 to 08/31/07, \$35 at door. Info: 8410 104 street, Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6E4G2; email: [pure.speculation@gmail.com](mailto:pure.speculation@gmail.com); website: <http://www.purespec.org/>.

**VCON 32 -- ( Oct 19 - 21. 2007 )** Radisson President Hotel, Richmond, BC, Canada. Vancouver's annual gencon. GoHs Peter S. Beagle (author), Martin Springett (art) and Lisa Smedman (gaming). Adults \$50 Cdn July 3-Oct. 1, \$60 Cdn at the door. See page 3 for details. Also website: <http://www.vcon.ca>.

**DITTO / ARTCON – ( October 26-28, 2007 )** Held in honour of Art Widner's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in Gualala, California. Memberships will be \$30 before September 30th and \$40 at the door. Checks should be made out to Alan Rosenthal and sent to P.O. Box 75684, Seattle, WA 98175-0684. We can also accept payment via PayPal; please contact me directly for more information. Supporting memberships are available for \$10. Hotels are the Breakers Inn, the Sea Cliff Motel, and the Surf Motel. The main hotel (and the location of the hospitality suite) is the Breakers Inn. The Sea Cliff Motel is four miles up the road from the convention (and just down the hill from Art's house). Contact Alan Rosenthal at < [jophan@msn.com](mailto:jophan@msn.com) > for additional information. To read more about the Breakers Inn, please visit their Web site at < <http://www.breakersinn.com/> > . To read more about the Sea Cliff Motel, please visit their Web site at < <http://www.seacliffmotel.com/> > . "When making a reservation, please mention "Art Widner's Birthday Party" as the name of our group."

**WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2007 -- ( Nov 1 – 4, 2007 )** Saratoga City Center and the Saratoga Hotel and Conference Center, Saratoga Springs NY. GoHs: Carol Emshwiller, Kim Newman, Lisa Tuttle. SGoHs: Barbara & Christopher Roden, George Scithers. MC: Guy Gavriel Kay. Info: website: [www.worldfantasy.org](http://www.worldfantasy.org)

**ORYCON 29: PIRATES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE -- ( Nov 16 – 18, 2007 )** Portland, Oregon, Portland Marriott Waterfront, Portland, OR. WriterGOH: Robert Charles Wilson. EditorGOH: Liz Scheier. ArtistGOH: Molly Harrison. MediaGOHs: Vic and Kelly Bonilla. FanGOH: Jonas Saunders. \$45 to Oct. 31, more later. Info: OryCon 29, P.O. Box 5464, Portland, OR 97228-5464; email: [orycon29@gmail.com](mailto:orycon29@gmail.com); website: <http://www.orycon.org/orycon29>.

**LOSCON 34 -- ( Nov 23 – 25, 2007 )** LAX Marriott, Los Angeles, CA. GoHs: Robert J. Sawyer, writer; Theresa Mather, artist; Capt. David West Reynolds, fan; Dr. James Robinson, music. Memberships \$40 until Aug 31, \$45 until Oct 31, \$50 at the door. Website: [loscon.org/34/index.html](http://loscon.org/34/index.html)

**POTLATCH 17 – ( Feb 29 – Mar 2, 2008 )** 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. Reservations: \$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](mailto: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](mailto:chair@potlatch-sf.org)

**CORFLU SILVER / CORFLU 25 – ( April 25-28, 2008 )** Plaza Hotel, One Main Street, Las Vegas NV 89101. Membership Rates: \$60 US / £35 UK attending. Hotel info: < <http://plazahotelcasino.com> > Make checks payable to Joyce Katz and mail them to Joyce Katz 909 Eugene Cernan St. Las Vegas, NV, 89145, USA You can also register through [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) by sending the appropriate amount to < [JoyceWorley1@cox.net](mailto:JoyceWorley1@cox.net) > please follow up with an email to confirm. More info at < <http://www.corflu.org> >

**DENVENTION / WORLDCON 66 -- ( Aug 6 – 10, 2008 )** Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. Guests: Lois McMaster Bujold, Rick Sternbach, Tom Whitmore; TM Wil McCarthy. Rates, accommodations, etc: see website -- <http://www.denvention3.org/>.

**WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2008 -- ( Oct 30 - Nov 3, 2008 )** Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Info: website: [www.worldfantasy.org](http://www.worldfantasy.org)

## **OOK, OOK, SLOBBER, DROOL!**

Which is fanspeak for a 'sedate, civilized, literary exchange of expostulations'. I previously used this title for my letters of comment section in SPACE CADET.

Note: because of privacy laws and concerns I've decided to adopt the policy of not printing loccer's snailmail addresses, phone numbers or e-mail addresses. This goes against fannish tradition – fans first found each other through addresses printed in the letters columns of professional magazines back in the 1930s – but, oh well...changing times...sigh...

**From: Susan Walsh, Sept 13, 2007.**

I am humbled and in awe of your dedication and enthusiasm.

Would you accept VCON psas? (public service announcements)

*(( Absolutely! Bearing in mind WCSFAzine will come out circa the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month. Promoting VCON is all part of WCSFA's mandate to promote Sci-Fi. ))*

**From: Paul Carpentier**, Sept 19, 2007.

Good job! I haven't read it word-for-word yet, but I downloaded a copy for later reading. I like the cover.

**From: Clint Budd**, Sept 19, 2007.

I -am- on the VCON concom list and did get the first copy of WCSFAzine. A GREAT job.

**From: John Purcell**, Sept 21, 2007.

Welcome, welcome, Graeme and company, to the wide world of fanzine fun! You join a long tradition of sharing the information of your endeavours with those of everybody else, and I for one am happy to see this zine.

This is a mighty fine first effort. I really liked that montage cover. It had the look of an old pulp cover. Have you been involved with zines before, Graeme? The layout and general feel of the debut ish of *WCSFAzine* gives me the impression that you have done this before. It makes me wonder if you've contributed with Garth Spencer and maybe some other Canadian faneditors. Just curious here. Maybe in your second issue you can clue us in on your background and fannish pedigree.

*(( Whoops! I guess your eyetracks took a running jump across my editorial where, in my usual humble manner I had mentioned winning an Aurora Award for Fannish Achievement ( chairing VCON 25 ), getting nominated for the Aurora at least four times for my perzine SPACE CADET, being 'Ghod-Editor' of the monthly newsletter of the BC SF Association for 77 issues, creating the CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA online, being archivist for both WCSFA and BCSFA ( the archives contain about 6,000 fanzines going back to the 1970s ); not to mention the stuff I forgot to mention, like attending my first SF convention, the Toronto Triple Fan Fair, in 1968, pubbing my first ish, a one-shot called ENTROPY BLUES, in 1986, and being C.U.F.F. winner in 1997.*

*However, I am fully aware of the gleeful fannish tradition, upon discovering a NEW fanzine ( a rare event ), to skip the mundane stuff like mastheads and editorials and cut to the chase immediately, perusing the articles quickly to sniff out the overall 'tone' of the zine. So I'm very pleased you like what you see. Alas, I cannot claim the 'miracle' of being a gifted newbie ( it's more like the barely adequate work of a jaded old-timer ), but after a dormant period of 7 years I have rediscovered the joy of fanpubbing and am eager to share my reborn enthusiasm with others.*

*As for the cover, I agree it has an exuberant 'pulp' feel. I originally created it for issue #258 of BCFazine ( Nov 1994 ) and used it again in Oct 1998 for the 10<sup>th</sup> issue of SPACE CADET. To me it represents the way the future should have been. I am very fond of it. ))*

For example, I think that initial installment of V-Con's Hidden History was an enlightening little piece. Yeah, I have to agree that their initial expectations of who they could bring to the first V-Con were a little, shall we say, unrealistic? Still, one has to admire the chutzpah and sheer ignorance of the facts to make such a proposal to the University. One can always dream, you know.

*(( And out of their dream grew 37 years of conventions and organizations flourishing in Vancouver and its Lower Mainland environs. Some of the same people are still active local fans! ))*

Other than these few comments, all I can say to you folks is you have made an excellent start, and I look forward to seeing more issues posted to efanzines. Keep the faith and keep them coming.

*(( Thanks John! Good to hear from an old pro like yourself. For those who do not know, John was very active back in the 70s & 80s, publishing zines such as THIS HOUSE ( 15 issues 1976-1989 ), ENNUI ( 3 issues 1982 – 1985 ), and BANGWEULU ( 6 issues 1983 – 1989 ). Of interest to note, the BCSFA/WCSFA archive possesses issues #2 & #3 of BANGWEULU and issues #10 & #12 of THIS HOUSE. Check out < <http://www.efanzines.com> > for his latest zines IN A PRIOR LIFETIME and ASKANCE. ))*

**From: Spider Robinson**, Sept 21, 2007.

Your PDF came through five by five. And is splendid. No surprise considering the source.

I cannot believe the synchronicity. Jeanne and I just bought a machine for converting VHS to DVDs, and tonight I preserved one labeled "V-Con 20, raw footage," and when it opened I found myself looking at your face for the first time in a decade or two, and smiled. An hour later you send us an email... [cue *Twilight Zone* theme]

The WCSFAzine looks just terrific.

*(( Thank you, Spider. And thank you for your info about your podcasts. I encourage everyone to subscribe. < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/podcast.html> > . ))*

**From: Jeanne Robinson**, Sept 21, 2007.

Great news, Graeme. Congratulations! It looks fabulous. I've got it bookmarked for next month.

Thanks for posting the Stardance news. Did you see that I'll be taking a free ride along with my dancer on a Zero Gravity Corp flight < <http://www.gozerog.com/> > on Dec 30th out of Las Vegas? I'm beyond excited.

BTW, I updated the URL to < <http://www.stardanceproject.com/> >.

Good luck with your new zine. Warm smiles.

*(( Thanks Jeanne! And I can't wait to hear how your 'space flight' goes. I understand they'll fly the curve several times during your flight so that you and your dancer will put in at least 15 minutes of weightlessness. What a fantastic opportunity! ))*

**From: Lloyd Penney**, Sept 22, 2007.

Dear Ghod-Editor Graeme:

It's great to see you getting involved in this fanzine game again, and welcome back.

*(( Thank you. Great to be receiving locs from you again. ))*

Good to see Christina Carr listed here... I miss her a lot here. She's become one of the busiest fans in Vancouver, I see, and she's doing a lot of things she wasn't able to do here, and good for her.

*(( She and Martin Hunger started up the BC Renaissance Festival, which is building from strength to strength, as are their careers in glorious, rain-drenched 'Hollywood North'. ))*

Put me on your e-mailing list when the next issue is ready. It's always good to get it quickly so it can sit a good long time in my desktop file of Zines To Loc. I have a system, it's just not very good...

I would like nothing better than to join you at VCon 32 and party down, but I don't have enough transporter credits left, and there's so much geography in the way. We had a fine time at VCon 25, and Yvonne was your impromptu science GoH a couple of years ago. I wish we had a way to return to Vancouver for a visit.

*(( Alyx says "Hi!" and "We miss you!"... a lot of us local fans would love to see you both return... hmmm... just an idea.... you and Yvonne set a precedent by becoming the first joint CUFF winners back in 1998 ( I enjoyed your 'PENNEYS UP THE RIVER and other CUFF Stories' trip report by the way ).... Maybe you could set another precedent by becoming the first CUFF winners to win twice? Don't think the rules specifically forbid this... course, don't know when Convention will return to VCON after this year, but maybe a few years down the road?... hmmm... worth thinking about. ))*

Because Yvonne and I decided that LAcon IV in 2006 was our last Worldcon, we did not support Montréal in their bid, but we did wish them well. We knew some of the Kansas City bidders, and we knew that KC had run several bids in the past, and they were due. I didn't think Montréal couldn't do it, but I thought that people would have bad memories of Torcon 3, and I did hear some say that they'd never vote for a Canadian Worldcon again. Not being a Montréal pre-supporter, we did not see how effective their bid was, and they must have overcome the Torcon factor in order to win. We regret not supporting them, but there are other ways to show support... we do plan to attend, and we have volunteered our services as committee. Our retirement from con running is on hold again.

*(( Why did Torcon 3 get a bad rep? I recall hearing they brushed aside attempts to get fanzine fandom into the programming, but apart from that I know nothing. I hear rumours of politics and infighting, but that's par for the course at any con.... ))*

*(( At any rate Montreal is full of old time, experienced and organized fans, not to mention being the centre of Quebecois French-language Sci-Fi zine and book publishing, so there's a chance they can easily provide enough people to run a Worldcon successfully. ))*

I, too, hope that there will be a fanzine flavour to Anticipation... I am sure Taral can do it, and perhaps I can lend a hand there, too.

*(( I'm counting on it! You and Taral are the vanguard of a mighty horde of fanzine fans who will overwhelm the Worldcon with your presence, determination and fanaticism, take it over and return it to its fannish roots by dint of enforced decrees such as "all fans WILL participate in creating a one-shot publication before they can leave the building!" and "all fans WILL e-loc a zine chosen at random from the slush pile or else be denied washroom access!" ... Well, I can dream... ))*

*(( Seriously though, I confidently expect that you, the acknowledged successor to Harry Warner Jr. ( supreme loc writer of all time ) will do a splendid job representing fanzine fandom. You and Yvonne and Taral will make a great team! ))*

I did see on the Aurora ballot this year not a single English-language nominee. With no disrespect meant to the three French-language nominees, this may be an indication of how few fannish publications the English-language population puts out these days. Dale Speirs won that Aurora last year, and he didn't even make the ballot this year.

*(( This is double-plus worrisome. If even the few zines which still exist can't get nominated... and I can't even hope to contribute with WCSFAzine, since it's technically a clubzine, or well, an organization zine, and thus doesn't qualify.... We've got to kick start the renaissance of zinedom NOW! ))*

*(( To the best of my knowledge both BRINS D'ETERNITE and NOCTURNE are semi-pro fiction zines with some essays and articles, and MENSUHELL is a wildly eclectic genzine which, at 94 monthly issues, is certainly venerable. It also has the most fannish covers, the art on the other two being more polished and professional. I think MENSUHELL comes closest to the traditional concept of a Sci-Fi fanzine. How that will translate in Aurora votes, I have no idea. It's a great pity there are no zines from the rest of Canada competing with these three...))*

On the Upcoming Conventions list, alas, the only one we'll be going to is Con\*cept in Montréal next month. It is good to see that Edmonton is staging conventions again, although this is the first time I've heard about them. After Con\*cept, our own convention schedule won't start up again until the spring, where we intend to go to Ad Astra 2008 in Toronto, Eeriecon Ten in Niagara Falls, NY, and Corflu Silver, the fanzine fan's convention, this time in Las Vegas.

*(( Proof you are both trufen, arranging your vacations to suit the convention circuit. Wish I could afford Corflu. Sigh. ))*

And, I'm done...I've got a new job to go to at the CNIB in Toronto starting Monday, and all well's with the world.  
Looking forward to issue 2.

*(( Congratulations on getting fulltime employment! And I look forward to another loc from you. ))*

**From: James Bacon**, Sept 22, 2007.

Hi Graeme,

Loved issue 1 of WCSF.

My name is James Bacon, I am an Irish Fan, living in Croydon, UK.

Liked your zine, prompted me to offer some writings from over here.

*(( Excellent! ))*

I am doing some research about TAFF candidates from Canada, and winners who went to Canada.

*((I'm ashamed to admit. despite all my research activity, that I was totally unaware there were Canadian winners of TAFF. Always assumed either from the UK or the States. So yes, would definitely be interested in a short article (page or less) on the subject. ))*

Also have a piece trying to explain why I think TAFF is important and why people should vote for Chris Garcia, who is a west coaster too, but much further south.

*((Yes, he's very active and very good. A worthy candidate. A short piece, perhaps with humour? ))*

I'll try and get Canadian stuff of interest, as your a Canadian zine, like tie the TAFF thing together, time is of essence, as the TAFF deadline is in November, so sorry for late solicitation (or whatever it is, when I offer an article)

*(( Any Canadian focus would be very cool, especially if the UK view of things Canadian is expressed. ))*

If its not of interest, do let me know, ASAP, no problems!

*(( Send me what you like. I'll let you know if it doesn't quite fit my needs. I'll also let you know if I think it's great! ))*

## **ADVERTS FOR THEM AS WE LIKE**

### **WHITE DWARF BOOKS**

is entirely devoted to fantasy & SF books,  
and offers a mail order service to out-of-towners,  
ideal for those living in isolated places.

Web site < <http://www.deadwrite.com/wd.html> >

3715 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2G5,

Telephone (604) 228 – 8223.

Email: < [whitedwarf@deadwrite.com](mailto:whitedwarf@deadwrite.com) >

**ROYAL SWISS NAVY T – SHIRTS** and other paraphernalia may be viewed at:  
< <http://www.cafepress.com/royalsswissnavy> > ( note: no dot between royalsswiss and navy )

## **ISSUE #3 WILL BE POSTED AT EFANZINES.COM SOMETIME AROUND NOVEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup>**

### **AFTERWORDS**

This is where I indulge in verbal diarrhea as filler even worse than I did in the editorial. Too tired to search through the BCSFA/WCSFA archives for any left over unused art to plug in. Which reminds me, these first two issues were rushed and as far as art is concerned all I worried about was the cover art. In future issues I hope to break up the text with the occasional fillers, so if any fan artists out there would care to send me some I'll certainly use them.

Must admit I am particularly interested in Cover art. My personal preference is for 'classical' Sci-Fi art, the pulpier the better. I love: alien landscapes, alien ruins, views of spaceships & strange planets, robots, flying saucers ( especially of the Wally Wood variety ), dinosaurs, bumbly steam punk flying machines, anything that conveys that old sensawonder... but I also appreciate beautiful fantasy art, humorous pieces, anything striking and cool. I am open to all...

Another thing that occurs to me; I may be a bit of an old timer in some ways; I know some fannish history, have met or corresponded with people like Lloyd Penney and Taral Wayne, but in many respects I haven't got a clue. Had no idea who Chris Garcia or James Bacon were for instance, until I began perusing the contents of Efanazines.com. So please bear with me if I don't seem to know who's active and who isn't, it's because I *don't* know and am learning the ropes ( re my peers ) all over again. But this is all part of the fun. I look forward to receiving your locs.

And now I think I've made enough mistakes and errors. Time to put this beastie on line so others can see them!