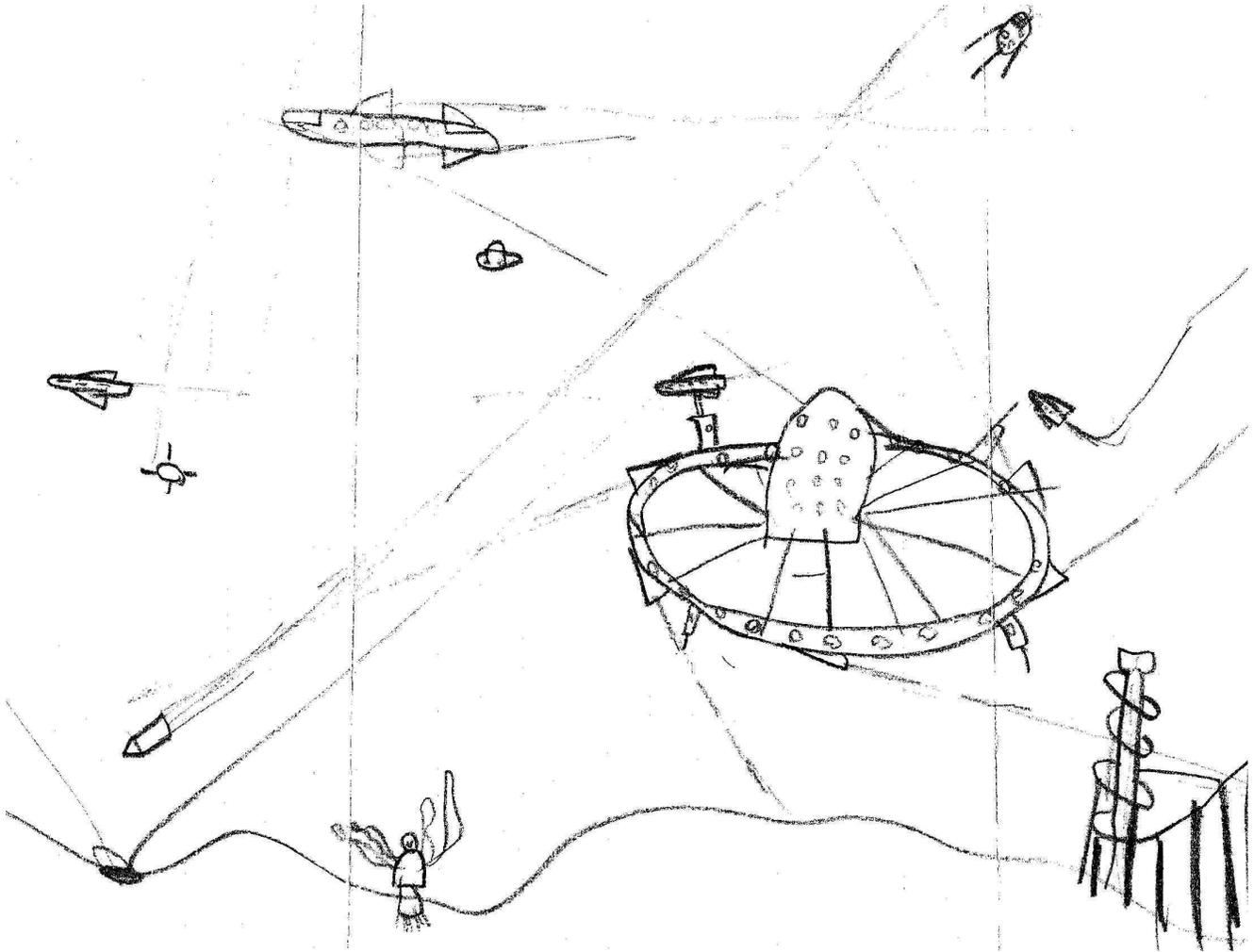


WCSFAzine

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

#3

Nov 2007



Genuine 1950s Science Fiction Art! Unique! Rare! Pathetic!

Actually, not bad for a six or seven year old kid with no artistic talent whatsoever. The futuristic tower on the lower right was based on the weird agitator in my mother's washing machine. The satellite in the upper right corner bears a resemblance to the original Sputnik (which I saw with my naked eye as it orbited past Ottawa in October of 1957 – though not in such detail of course). The generic space station is routine, though unusual for being only a few hundred feet above the Earth's surface. As for the 'giant' alien... it is rather creepy the more I look at it. All in all a lively scene with some sense of composition created about half a century ago.

IMPORTANT STUFF YOU CAN SAFELY IGNORE

WCSFAzine Issue # 3, Nov 2007, Volume 1, Number 3, Whole number 3, 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.dcnnet.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 > 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 104th Ave, Surrey, B.C., V3T 1V5.

Or submissions in both electronic text and B & W line drawing in jpg form to: < 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:
- 02..... Important Stuff.
- 03..... Contents & Editorial.
- 04..... Hidden History of VCON 1, Convention 27 Business Meeting Minutes.
- 05..... Convention 27 Business Meeting Minutes continued, More Info on 2009 Montreal Worldcon.
- 06..... Canada and Ireland: Transatlantic Fan Fund Anomalies by James Bacon.
- 07..... Strange Voyages: A Fannish CD, FRED Founder Speaks!
- 08..... Former Keeper of the FRED Revelation, Mad Prof Unleashed Again, Taral Wayne Shocker!
- 09..... Finally Fanzines Are Worth, Efanazines.com update, Zinephobia Reviews (Alexiad).
- 10..... Zinephobia Reviews continued (BCSFAzine, Impulse, Opuntia).
- 11..... Zinephobia Reviews continued (Prolapse, Warp).
- 12..... 2007 Prix Aurora Awards.
- 13..... 2007 Prix Aurora Awards continued.
- 14..... 2007 Prix Aurora Awards continued, 2007 Elron Awards.
- 15..... 2007 Elron Awards continued.
- 16..... 2007 Elron Awards continued, Retro 1971 Elron Awards, Author Happenings of Local Interest.
- 17..... Author Happenings of Local Interest continued, Don DeBrandt Hard At Work on Sci-Fi Trilogy.
- 18..... Another Stardance Project Update, Film Reviews 'Beginning of the End' & 'Death Note 1 & 2'.
- 19..... Film Reviews 'Death Note' & 'Death Note: Last Name' continued, Will The Future Be As Weird?
- 20..... Will The Future be as Weird continued, WCSFAzine Cover A Lie!, & Local Clubs.
- 21..... Local Clubs Continued, Events of Interest, Upcoming Conventions.
- 22..... Upcoming Conventions continued, Ook Ook Slobber Drool Letter Column (Taral Wayne).
- 23..... Ook Ook Slobber Drool Letter Column continued (Desmond Emery).
- 24..... Ook Ook Slobber Drool Letter Column continued (Dave Haren).
- 25..... Ook Ook Slobber Drool Letter Column continued (Lloyd Penney).
- 26..... Ook Ook Slobber Drool Letter Column continued (John Purcell), & Adverts.

Note: All uncredited articles are by the Ghod-Editor.

EDITORIAL

It's been a rush in more ways than one preparing this issue of WCSFAzine. For one thing, preparations for and duties at VCON 32 took up much of my time. This issue touches on events at VCON 32 but my con report will not appear till next issue.

I can report that VCON 32 went well despite some last minute difficulties. It looks like, pending the Treasurer's report, that we at least broke even. All hotel function space and services has already been paid in full. The rooms reserved for the Guests of Honour have been paid. The art auction did well, every participating artist sold at least one piece. Fran Skene's Turkey readings raised \$600 for the Canadian Unity Fan Fund (though all of it going to cover Peter Jarvis's trip expenses I understand. He starts his year as administrator from scratch, with the next Convention only 6 months away. CUFF activity in terms of fundraising and election is going to be fast & furious).

The unofficial word is that membership reached 503, with about 50 of those being comps, so about 450 paid memberships, or something close to that. VCON 32, I've heard, had about 450 memberships, of which only 350 were paid memberships! So VCON's financial picture this year should be about a 100 paying membership improvement! At any rate, the final financial report is being number crunched even as I write, and should be available to report on next issue. We're all assuming we at least broke even.

Further good news, I was told at least 85 pre-registration memberships for VCON 33 were sold at VCON 32! That is a very healthy sign of continued fannish support for VCON.

VCON 33 will probably be in October next year. A hotel has not yet been selected, but it has been confirmed that the Author Guest of Honour will be Patrick Rothfuss < <http://www.patrickrothfuss.com> > Author of 'The Name of the Wind', and the artist Guest of Honour will be Lisa Snellings-Clark, noted for her modern fantasy sculptural pieces in mixed media. See < <http://www.lisasnellings.com> > for a glimpse of her remarkable work.

So far the response to WCSFAzine is encouraging. In the registration bags given to every member at VCON was a full page promotion for WCSFAzine and hopefully that will expand the readership. Am counting on word of mouth to let local fans know that WCSFAzine exists, but am also promoting it whichever way I can think of. After all, the mandate of WCSFAzine is to serve the West Coast Science Fiction Community! So far so good!

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

CONVENTION STUFF

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF VCON 1: Part Three

THE VANCOUVER SF CONVENTION - APRIL 9-10, 1971:

By RGC

FRIDAY, 9TH APRIL, 1971:

The convention (retroactively known as V-Con I) began at 1:00 PM in the convention suite (room 1208) on the 12th floor of the Hotel Georgia (room 1208 -- the convention was confined to this one suite until Saturday, when programming began in the York banquet hall). I arrived promptly and set up my 8mm projector in the bedroom, laying out a number of the infamous edited-down 12-minute-long versions of film classics like: 'BRIDE OF FRANKENSTEIN', 'DRACULA', 'IT CAME FROM OUTER SPACE' and '20 MILLION MILES TO EARTH' available via mail order from FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND. Throughout the course of the two day convention, people wandered into the darkened bedroom and threaded the projector themselves if they wanted to see the films. The projector ran continuously, or as the Program Book put it: *"Selected short films will be shown throughout the day."*

At first I was a little disappointed, as there were only about ten people present. Then some Seattle people arrived, including (I think) Frank Denton, and the conversation became more interesting. Too shy to participate, I sat on the edge of the couch and listened. All present agreed that Philip K. Dick was the best SF writer on Earth, for instance. Then Vancouver Sun reporter Jacques Khouri, accompanied by Sun photog Ray Allan, showed up, much to the displeasure of the con organizers present. (It seems that LeGuin had specified that no reporters interview her, and above all, no photos be taken.) Khouri questioned those present in an effort to understand modern SF but seemed hung up on BEMs (Bug-Eyed Monsters).

Circa 5:00 PM Ursula K. LeGuin walked into the suite. She was momentarily nonplussed by the presence of the reporters, but quickly and graciously consented to an interview. The photo which accompanied the article in the paper the next day was flattering, even striking, so she was well served. Khouri's headline ran: *"SCIENCE FICTION FANS RAP ON AUTHORS. BEMS SCARCE AT HIBITED GET TOGETHER!"* (Must have been some old timers present. The 'Hibited Men' was the name of an SF club run by Norman G. Browne here in Vancouver back in the 1950's.) His article stated:

"Who should glide in but Ursula herself...direct from Portland, Ore. Minds were zapped instantly. Did she come by astral travel? Or was it molecular retransformation? A time-space pill? Magic carpet ride, even? 'She drove up here from Oregon," whispered one fan. He was quickly silenced... As soon as she sat down she was immediately drawn into the Sun interview... 'People still have an awful faith in science,' the 41-year old mother of three began. 'Almost like religious faith.' ... 'The years between now and the turn of the century will be critical ones for mankind,' Mrs. LeGuin said.... 'Part of the trouble is that we've felt we could control the future,' she went on.... 'Trying to run things is bad. There's no way anybody can understand all the effects any action can lead to.'"

Later in the article there appears the following:

"Said Robert Scott, president of the UBC Science Fiction Society, 'We're getting better sci-fi writers today than we ever had in the past. They are now dealing with deep philosophical themes rather than simple space exploration.'"

In my diary I recorded my own perception of LeGuin: *"Hugo award winner, sci-fi writer and a nice human being. Gentle sophisticate, beer drinker, obviously intelligent."* Yep, Ursula K. LeGuin encapsulated. Right.

When the interview was complete I ran to my apartment for a quick supper, then returned to the convention suite in time for the 7:30 pm panel 'SF LOVES AND HATES' featuring UBC's John Park and Brent Maclean, and SFU's Bill Dodds. This was great fun as they 'attacked' such prominent SF icons as Isaac Asimov and Robert Heinlein. The response from the assembled fans, more than 30 people swarming everywhere, on chairs, the couch, the floor, under the table, perched on windowsills, was terrific. Everyone joined in the dismemberment of 'serious' writers like Roger Zelazny, Kurt Vonnegut and Philip K. Dick. Some of the more prominent fans present were Lawrence Ehman from Calgary (a member of the Alberta SF Association), Regina's Leland Sapiro (editor of The Riverside Quarterly), and Seattle fan Frank Denton (one of five directors of The National Fantasy Fan Federation). It was hard to tear myself away from all the excitement, but it was getting late and I wanted to be fresh for the morning.

TO BE CONTINUED

2007 CONVENTION 27 BUSINESS MEETING HELD AT VCON 32

2007 Convention 27 Business Meeting Minutes

Convention 27 / VCON 32 – Oct 21st, 2007.

Unofficial version as recorded by audience member R. Graeme Cameron.

Present at meeting:

Non-voting: Michael Walsh – Chair, Fiona ??? – Acting Secretary.

Voting: Robert J. Sawyer, Clint Budd, Peter Jarvis, Murray Moore, Jean-Louis Trudel, Fran Skene, David Strang, Christian Sauve, R. Graeme Cameron, Randy McCharles & at least 2 or 3 others whose names I didn't catch.

Under New Business: Steps toward improving the Aurora procedures (procedural, rather than constitutional motions) do not require two years to take effect.

1) Amended motion to adopt the domain names < www.prixaurorawards.ca > and a not-yet-registered proposed domain name for the Convention website.

(Motion passed)

2) Amended motion to enlarge the permanent standing committee (of 3 people) to include up to 5 new members from coast to coast and to appoint the webmaster of the Prix Aurora Awards web site (one of the permanent standing committee) as Chair of the Convention committee.

(Motion passed unanimously)

3) Motion to include on-line nominations & voting, and on-site voting, in addition to the mail-in ballot (on a trial basis).

(Motion passed)

4) Motion to adopt the following list as the Committee's duties:

a) managing the CSFFA website; keeping notices up to date; setting the dates for the beginning and end of nominations, of the voting period, and posting reports in a timely manner; coordinating the creation of an eligibility list for the awards.

b) widely publicizing the available means of nominating and voting so as to reach the widest membership possible.

c) keeping all documents and items of information relevant to the new Convention Coordinator available on the website and being readily available for advice.

d) in the event that that a bid is not available for that year's business meeting, the CSFFA administrator shall strike a committee of interested members (taken from that year and other year's business meetings attendance and volunteers) who will hold 'meetings' by email and/or chatroom to choose a bid.

(Motion passed)

5) Motion to accept Keycon 25 as host convention for Convention 28 / Aurora awards, as presented by Keycon 25 Co-chair David Strang, to take place May 16-19, 2008.

(Motion passed unanimously)

Note: Convention business meeting was informed that the 2009 Worldcon convention committee has declared their intent to put forward at Convention 28 a bid to host Convention 29 / Aurora awards at Anticipation, the 67th annual World Science Fiction Convention in Montreal in 2009.

Meeting adjourned.

MORE INFO ON 2009 MONTREAL WORLDCON

(Excerpted from IMPULSE Vol 11, #7m Sept 2007. Monthly Newsletter of the Montreal SF&F Association.)

"As most *Impulse* readers know, the Montreal Worldcon was dubbed Anticipation, a name that works in both English and French, and further, references the common tag given science fiction books in French language bookshops."

"News of the successful Anticipation bid came out of Yokohama, Japan—site of Nippon 2007, the 65th Worldcon—over the Labour-Day weekend. Montreal beat out friendly rival Kansas City by a convincing margin of votes: 507 to 341. Apparently, it was the on-site voters who put Montreal over the top as the mail-in tally had Kansas City trailing by just a half dozen votes. Montreal rather spontaneously entered the competition a couple of years ago as something of a dark horse and it is a tribute to the Anticipation bid committee that the venture succeeded in this, our city's first attempt at securing a Worldcon."

"MonSFFA's own René Walling, who chaired the bid, will co-chair Anticipation with Robbie Bourget, a long-time fan and con-runner, once of Montreal and now residing in the UK. The depth of Worldcon committee experience attached to Anticipation is significant; other committee members include Bruce Farr, Brian Davis, John Mansfield, Linda-Ross Mansfield, Peter Jarvis, Terry Fong, and Eugene Heller."

"Early reaction to Montreal's successful bid has been largely positive, with many Internet postings noting our city's reputation for good times, fine food, and the many first-rate festivals and events scheduled during the summer months. If initial feedback is any indication, fans overwhelmingly approve of Anticipation's list of announced guests: Neil Gaiman (Guest of Honour), Elisabeth Vonarburg (Invitée d'honneur), Taral Wayne (Fan Guest of Honour), David Hartwell (Editor Guest of Honour), and Tom Doherty (Publisher Guest of Honour.)"

“Anticipation will mark the fifth time a Canadian city has hosted the Worldcon. Torcons 1, 2, and 3 were held in Toronto in 1948, 1973, and 2003, respectively. Winnipeg hosted ConAdian in 1994.”

“There *have* been a few concerns aired south of the border regarding passport issues, Québec’s French-only signage, and the perceived difficulty and cost for dealers and artists of clearing inventories through Canadian customs. Having anticipated (no pun intended) such worries, the committee is reportedly, for instance, already working with the appropriate authorities to smooth as much as possible entry into Canada.”

“Another fear expressed was that Anticipation might very well repeat some of the organizational errors that plagued Torcon 3, regarded by many to have been one of the worst run Worldcons in decades. It seems, however, that the Montreal crew is alert to the kinds of mistakes made in Toronto and is undertaking to keep on top of things.”

“Anticipation will take place August 6-10, 2009 at the Palais de congrès. The Delta Montreal has been designated the official convention hotel; room rates are quoted at \$169.00 per night, single/double occupancy.”

FANATICAL FANAC FABLES

CANADA AND IRELAND: TRANSATLANTIC FAN FUND ANOMALIES.

By James Bacon

James Bacon, an Irishman, the first from the Republic to win TAFF, did so in 2004. He is Co-Chair of the UK National Convention in 2009. Currently living in Croydon, England, he writes for British, American and now Canadian fanzines. He received help from Mark Plummer and Dave Langford in researching this piece.

Note: Ireland has been visited by many TAFF winners, but could never hold an Eastercon as it is not part of Great Britain.

Boston, 2004: “*You are from England are you?*”

San Diego, 2004: “*English yes?*”

L.A. 2006: “*Where in England are you from buddy?*”

Answer: “*Non, mon ami, je viens d'Irlande.*”

As Canadians, I am sure you can recognize the assumption, never in malice of course, just in error and always forgivable and the error maker, bashful. But you know what I mean, I reckon.

The Transatlantic Fan Fund exists to send European fans to Northern America, and Northern American fans to Europe. It started after a Northern Irish fan, Walt Willis, was funded by donations to travel to Chicon, the Chicago Worldcon in 1952. Since then, with a race occurring most years, the tradition of fans going one side to the other is well known and well contested, with hundreds of people voting and hundreds more involved with supporting the fund.

Currently there are four Yankees running to get to the national convention in London, next year’s Eastercon: namely Chris Barkley, Linda Deneroff, Chris Garcia and Christian McGuire.

Unfortunately TAFF has occasionally been misconstrued as a US/England type of thing and quite wrongly, as TAFF is anything but. West bound contenders have been from all over Europe, including Scandinavia. Winners included fans from Germany, Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England and even an Italian fan living in Germany. East bound destinations included Heidelberg, Den Hag, and Glasgow, with some of the trip winners going on to tour all over Europe visiting fans.

No Canadian has ever won TAFF, and Canadian Worldcons have yet to host a winner, even though Canadian connections with TAFF are strong. Tommy Ferguson (2000), Bob Shaw (1969) and James White (1954), all 3 failed West bound winners from Northern Ireland, lived in Canada at differing times. Canadians Boyd Raeburn (1957), Taral Wayne (1983), Mike Glicksohn (1987), and Colin Hinz (2005) all stood for the East bound race, but sadly again luck is against us and no winners.

To be honest, this does seem like an under-representation on the part of Canada, especially when one looks at the variety of European countries represented.

And in terms of European TAFF winners coming to Canada, all the Canadian Worldcons had the bad luck to fall on the wrong date. Torcon I in 1948 was pre-TAFF. Torcon II was held in 1973 when the TAFF race, won by the Moffatts, was East bound. In 1994, when Conadian in Winnipeg took place, there was no TAFF race at all. (There had been a West bound race in 1993, won by Abi Frost, but the administrators decided that since that would mean an East bound race in 1994 and then a West bound race in 1995 when the Worldcon was in Glasgow, they'd skip '94 so there could be an East bound race in 1995. If they hadn't skipped, the race would have been to Europe in any event.) And again, during the 2003 Torcon III Worldcon, the TAFF race was to Europe. It was won by Randy Byers from Seattle (which is near enough, isn't it? – Humour switches on, lads!). He went to Hinkley in the middle of England.

Aside from that, TAFF winner Tobes Valois detoured to Canada on his US trip in 2002, Toronto to be precise, meeting up with many fans, and Lillian Edwards and Christina Lake also visited Canada (Vancouver, B.C.) during their US TAFF trip in 1988. Other TAFF winners may have done so as well.

Anticipation, in Montreal, will be the first Canadian Worldcon to welcome a TAFF winner. I hope that the increase in

profile TAFF will no doubt gain, and the attendance of the West bound winner, someone we wanted to send and you wished to meet, will make Canadian fans think about nominating a fellow Canadian for the East Bound TAFF race the following year; someone who is an active fan, active in conventions, perhaps fanzine publishing, it doesn't matter, as long as they are willing to represent Canadian fandom and are keen on strengthening trans-Atlantic links. I sincerely hope that a Canadian fan will stand for the East bound race in 2009, or that at the very least someone reading this will nominate a Canadian candidate. Then maybe, depending on the voting results, at long last Canadian fandom will produce their first TAFF winner!

Links <http://taff.org.uk> , <http://www.orbital2008.org/> , <http://www.anticipationsf.ca/>

Personal note to Canadian fans who might consider running. Don't let anyone dissuade you, just because they believe you are 'unworthy'. Once, I heard of a *very* suitable candidate who was considering running but was talked out of it by 'friends'. This is rubbish!

If your *true* friends and peers feel you deserve to be nominated, then ignore the nay-sayers and doom-talkers and go right ahead and accept their support. After all it is the voters who will make the final decision. It's not *your* fault if you get elected! ☺

Besides, all the candidates get to have fun promoting themselves (Look at Chris Garcia's current activity. He's having a *great* time! Oh, and I do mean 'look'! Check out his Drink Tank publications at < <http://www.efanzines.com> >) and in so doing, publicize TAFF and raise the fund's profile. Win or lose, it's all about enjoying yourself helping a worthy fannish cause. So have fun and good luck to your campaign!

'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 ENERGUMEN 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.

At VCON 32 Murray Moore approached me in the hall and held up a copy of the 'Strange Voyages' CD.

"Taral Wayne appointed me his agent." he said. "I have six of these to sell. Know of anyone who might want to buy one?"

"Yes", I replied, reaching for my wallet. "Me! Right now!"

"Wow! I guess I'm a better salesman than I thought. Anyone else?"

"Try Garth Spencer, I think he's in the hospitality suite." (And it turns out, Garth's reaction was similar to mine, he bought one on the spot.) "And try _____" (Ah, the shame, the horror, this prominent fan did NOT buy the CD. But then, fans at conventions are notoriously on a strict budget, so maybe he couldn't afford it. Pity. No doubt he'll save his money and send for it later.)

I will review this CD in next month's issue.

FRED FOUNDER SPEAKS!

Ken Wong, one of the four original founders of FRED, having read the 'A Short History of FRED' article last issue, has these points to add:

Article - "It was also decided to try and find FRED a permanent home...this continued until September 4, 1979... henceforth we would hold FRED weekly..."

KEN - The first weekly FRED home was the Sheraton Landmark on Tuesday nights. The fondest memory at the Landmark was the beer battered fish and chips from the kitchen.

Article - "...election of officers... FRED Narcoleptic: Ken Wong."

KEN - I was named that since I fell asleep so easily.

FORMER KEEPER OF THE FRED REVELATION!

Steve Forty, Keeper of the FRED for many years – before handing over the ~~burden~~ joyous task to Ryan Hawe – came happily up to me in the hall at VCON 32 and showed me a paperback copy of CSI MIAMI HARM FOR THE HOLIDAYS:HEART ATTACK by Don Cortez (Don de Brandt) and in particular, the dedication:

“To Steve Forty, Keeper of the FRED and Friend of Wreck Beach.”

Very cool egoboo indeed! For those not in the know, Wreck Beach is Vancouver’s dedicated nude beach located below the bluffs at the University of British Columbia. A touristic opportunity on occasion to see not-quite-under-cover Royal Canadian Mounted Police Officers on patrol (albeit on foot. No horses on the beach). Vancouver’s University is a separate entity from Vancouver, so Vancouver police have no jurisdiction there. Instead UBC, and Wreck Beach, fall under the protection of Canada’s federal police, the RCMP.

MAD PROF UNLEASHED AGAIN!

Howard Cherniak reports:

Simon Fraser University runs a program of courses for, er, the more mature among us (well, older, anyway--55 years or more: "They can make me age, but they can't make me grow up!") These typically run eight weekly two-hour sessions, are non-credit (although a Certificate is available for extra work), and are often taught by local retired university faculty. For details, see < www.sfu.ca/seniors >

Starting 2008 January 15, going on for eight Tuesdays (9:30am-11:20am) at the Harbour Centre campus in downtown Vancouver, and costing \$100, is SCFC 396: The Rise of the Detective Novel, taught by Mason Harris.

In addition to being a long-time Friend of VCon (I will never forget his panel performance as Doctor Moreau, brandishing a red-paint-spattered putty knife, a wild gleam in his eyes, and ranting excitedly about "the extreme limit of plasticity in a living shape") and sf fan and expert, Mason is an all-around neat guy. I would run to take *any* course from him. Registration for next semester's courses starts on November 19 at 10:00am.

As of this writing, the full course descriptions aren't available, but we've been promised them soon. Sorry, no kids under 55.

((Ghod-Ed: I well remember Mason’s famous off-the-cuff extraneous talk on H.P. Lovecraft at VCON 1, followed by a more polished version at VCON 3, plus his deadpan performance as Lovecraft at one, possibly two, VCON Dead Author panels. And once, long, long ago, as President of the Lower Mainland Branch of the Canadian Authors Association, I arranged for him to give a talk about his experiences lecturing prison inmates on the history of horror films. I recall he stated that any film with violence produced no response whatsoever as they regarded film violence as hopelessly inaccurate, fake, and a pale imitation of the real thing. On the other hand, many inmates heavily identified with Boris Karloff as ‘The Frankenstein Monster’, evidently because their self-image was that of a poor, misunderstood ‘monster’ condemned by everyone for no good reason. Not necessarily a true or accurate self-image, of course, but an interesting insight into their psychology and personal rationalizations. Quite a gutsy Prof is Mason Harris. A local treasure. We should try to get him back for VCON some time for another demented and wildly entertaining lecture or two. A suggestion to the ConCom for VCON 33.))

TARAL WAYNE SHOCKER! HIDDEN FACET REVEALED!

Yes, just when you think you know a fan’s reputation and nature, along comes a stunning revelation that blows every preconception out of the water. **Taral collects Roman coins!** There, I’ve said it. And why not? He admitted it in a two page article buried near the end of Arnie Katz’s VEGAS FANDOM WEEKLY #100. A full two pages in which he faunches for a Gold Aureus but has to settle for a Solidus instead, one struck around the year 400 by the Emperor Honorius who let his German general Stilicho do most of the commanding and ruling. Then Honorius got worried and sacked Stilicho, whereupon Alaric the Visigoth stopped worrying, invaded Italy and sacked Rome. There’s a lesson in there somewhere.

Do faneds think alike? I too have a Roman coin collection, seven paltry low denomination coins (I don’t know what kind, they vary in size and seem to be made out of bronze), but they all feature imperial portraits, namely Trajan, Hadrian, Marcus Aurelius, Diocletian, Claudius Gothicus, Constantius I (?) and Constantine the Great. While I perused the coins offered by the Mayfair Coin Company at 117 street London, England that summer of 1970 I almost bought the large gold coin of Nero (I guess it was an Aureus), a most beautiful portrait, complete with pouty expression and bull neck, but at 60 pounds (roughly \$180) I just couldn’t afford it. Pity.

To hold an actual Roman coin in your hands and consider that nearly 2000 years ago someone else held it and thought, “By Iupitor Optimus Maximus, I have just enough for one more cup of wine! Make that Falernian!” is to be one with the centuries, or centurions, or something... Point is, I’ve long believed that an interest in Sci-Fi and an interest in history go hand in hand, and I’m delighted to have Taral hand me ~~ammunition~~ evidence to back up my theory. My respect for Taral leaps up another notch to giddy heights indeed.

FINALLY FANZINES ARE WORTH WHAT THEY ARE WORTH! (UNFORTUNATELY)

Those interested in prices paid for old fanzines might want to know that 6 issues of Walt Willis' SLANT (1-4, 6 and 7) were sold during the Eurocon auction in Copenhagen last Saturday (Sept 22). The price paid was 3,100 Danish crowns, or roughly US\$560. The buyer was Anders Bellis, from Sweden, whose oft-repeated claims of being just a long since gaffiate hanger-on must now be seriously doubted.

John-Henri Holmberg – Sept 27, 2007

The first issue of SLANT is *extremely* rare, which would certainly add to the overall cost of all but one of the complete run. And interesting that Bellis crawled out of the woodwork to get 'em.

Robert Lichtman - Sept 29, 2007

FANCYCLOPEDIA #3

Fancylopedia III review put off till next issue due to time restraints imposed by VCON 32 activity.

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 20th century Canadian Sci-Fi Fandom. See< <http://www.members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >
No updates due to frantic VCON 32 preparations. Hope to have some by next issue.

LATEST ZINES ADDED TO EFANZINES.COM ARCHIVE

Chris Garcia's 'The Drink Tank #144', Peter Weston's 'Prolapse #8', Earl Kemp's 'el #34', 'e-APA # 42' (not password protected. Sample copy. Seeking new members.), Chris Garcia's 'The Drink Tank #145', Johan Anglemark & Anna Davour's 'The 2007 Guff Loser's Fanzine'. Arnie Katz's 'Vegas Fandom Weekly #101', Jean Martin & Chris Garcia's 'Science Fiction/San Francisco #52', Garcia's 'The Drink Tank #146', Michael Hailstone's 'Busswarble #85', Bob Sabella's 'Visions of Paradise #119, 120, 121', Bill Mills' 'The Voice of Fandom Podcast #10', Mary Reed & Eric Mayer's 'The Orphan Scrivener', Garcia's 'The Drink Tank #147', Tommy Ferguson, Mark McCann & James McKee's 'Gotterdammerung Redux', Ann Davour's 'Physicality of Words on Paper', Jean Martin & Chris Garcia's 'Science Fiction/San Francisco #53', Felicity Walker's 'Ish #3', & Chris Garcia's 'The Drink Tank #148'.

ZINEPHOBIA

(I was going to title this zine review column 'ZINE SPLEEN SERENE' but my wife talked me out of it.)

ALEXIAD Vol 6 #4, August 2007. c/o Lisa & Joseph Major, 1409 Christy Avenue, Louisville, KY 40204-2040 USA < jtmajor@iglou.com > Available for the Usual (LoC, trade, contribution) in paper, email text, or PDF.

Shades of FOSFAX! This is the first issue of Alexiad I've seen, and I feel comfortable right away. Unlike FOSFAX this issue at least is solidly devoted to book reviews and locs, enlivened by witty fillos by Alexis A. Gilliland, Sheryl Birkhead & others, with a few digressions like Candy Bar reviews and the latest monarchist news, such as the death of Mohammed Zahir Shah, "late King of the Allah-granted Kingdom of Afghanistan". Kicked out of power by a relative I believe, to whom Kissinger sent a telegram saying "Congratulations, you have moved your nation from the 16th century into the 17th century." Quite the kiddier, was Kissinger.

'Garden on the Moon' by Jed Mercurio sounds like an interesting alternate Soviet space program novel. Joseph affirms that "Mercurio has done his homework". But Joseph's review of 'My Tank is Fight! Deranged Inventions of WWII.' by Zack Parsons intrigues me the most. I've heard of the Maus, the giant German tank, seen pictures even of one preserved in a Russian museum, but the Ratte? At 2,000 tons and sporting two 280 mm guns, doesn't sound feasible to me. The Germans almost, but not quite, held a monopoly on crazy ideas during the war. Joseph states "It's my belief that these superweapons were mostly drawn up by research staffs kept together through the need for the leaders to keep together a large, active-looking staff." Any design bureau failing to keep its designers busy probably risked losing them to the Russian front. What is particularly nifty is that each section on a particular type of weapon, aircraft, subs, etc, is followed by a brief bit of fiction describing the weapons in action. Cool! "Fun to read" says Joseph.

'Working IX to V: Orgy Planners, Funeral Clowns, and Other Prized Professions of the Ancient World' by Vicki Leon sounds like a hoot. Joseph sums it up: "While reading this uncovers so many jobs that still exist today, in one form or another, there are others that remind the reader that the past is a different world. The prospective writer, and the better reader, should see the infrastructure of jobs that sustains a society; the traditional fantasy society of castles, convents, and wizards' dens, with nothing else between, doesn't make it." That has always been one of my problems with the poorer sort of fantasy writing, what the heck is the economy based on? Who's doing all the work?

Taral Wayne reviews a book by a former employer of his, Walter J. Wentz, who has published a limited edition booklet (only 32 pages) titled 'Moonchild and Others: Rare Early Cartoons by Nicola Cuti', an artist I can't recall but whose work I may have seen at the time. As Taral puts it: "Moonchild and Others may not perhaps be a "must" acquisition for everyone. But any fan whose roots go back to the early days of Odd, Trumpet, Outworlds and other zines of the 60 's — especially if that fan had one foot in comics fandom of the time — would likely find this a kindly reminder of the Bell Bottoms era. And those who are merely curious about the ambiance of fandom forty years ago will also find this worth a leisurely look."

The Locs column, along with the book reviews, are the two pillars of strength for this zine. Reads like a who's who list of contemporary zinedom: E. B. Frohvet, Chris J. Garcia, John Hertz, Lloyd Penney, John Purcell, Robert M. Sabella, Henry L. Welch, to name just a few. Joy V. Smith makes the cryptic comment "Interesting history on Canada's hidden Arrow." The Avro Arrow? One lone survivor long rumoured to be hidden away despite the government order to destroy each and every prototype? Was there an article on this rumour in the previous Alexiad? Desperate Canadians want to know! (I do know that sections of the Arrow's wing panels were leaning against the wall of the National Aviation museum in Ottawa when I visited a few years back...recognized the day glo orange paint...).... Lloyd Penny mentions the exciting news that "Apogee Books has reprinted the Garrett Serviss book 'Edison's Conquest of Mars'. They've taken on the task of bringing some classics (or un-classics) back to light, and the response to this programme has been largely positive." Hot dang! That's good news! I'm all in favour of reprinting the earliest proto-SF so modern readers can see the origins of the genre.

This zine is for them as likes to read. The book reviews are plentiful and well thought out, the locs extensive, detailed, and read very much like APA comments in the sense of an ongoing discussion of myriad fascinating topics. Best enjoyed in a comfy chair by the fire with your feet up and a glass of your favourite sherry. If you have the PDF version, I hope your comfy chair is equipped with a swing tray to support your laptop!

BCSFAzine #413, October 2007. Faned: Garth Spencer., P.O. Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, B.C., Canada V6B 5B1. Available, at the editor's discretion, for the usual, or \$3 Cdn per copy, or free with annual BCSFA membership of \$26 Cdn. Canada's longest running clubzine.

Editor Garth Spencer, a two-time Aurora winner, as per usual contributes a highly distinctive editorial, this one titled 'Frong Baroo Gnortz' in which he suggests the failure of modern society to *be* a society requires the creation of "an artificial, elective ethnic group, something that anyone can join when we're sick and tired of the culture we're given." Kind of a fun concept. He goes on to suggest that here on the West coast what might work best would involve: "...old fashioned courtesy on buses and elevators, for instance. A new lingua-franca combining the ten or twelve most-used languages in Vancouver.... Maybe we could found a new art style, combining Pacific Northwest and Norse/Celtic motifs... This is how I've been playing vaguely with the idea of THE FRONG, an elective ethnic group of the fans, by the fans, and for the fans..." Any society, be it ethnic or fannish, constantly evolves, constantly changes, has the fluidity of a river in torrent. Try to pin it down like a butterfly and it will quickly begin to fade. Still, nice to dream.

Locs from such as Lloyd Penney and Taral Wayne (the latter a frequent cover art contributor) are always fun to read.... Ray Seredin contributes more of the latest news and rumours re Dr. Who, and invites Bill Gates to buy him an 1860s Sea Fort off Portsmouth, site of a 6-part John Pertwee Dr. Who episode 'The Sea Devils', so Ray can hold a Dr. Who convention there. Only \$20,000,000 Cdn asking price. Hey, you never know, Gates might be bored and willing to shell out his pocket change on something new. Full marks Ray! It never hurts to ask.... And I contribute a review of the Japanese films 'Deathnote' and 'Deathnote:The Last Name', which are wonderful great fun. Particularly enjoyed the hovering 'Death Gods'. These two films constitute an intelligent, satirical battle of wits. Well worth watching.

IMPULSE Vol 11, #7, Sept 2007. Faned: Keith Braithwaite. Monthly newsletter of the Montreal Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (MonSFFA) available for download from < <http://www.monsffa.com/monsffahtml/impulse.html> >

Packs a lot into two pages. In addition to info re 2009 Montreal Worldcon (excerpted earlier), it contains an account of their club's summer barbecue, PO Box woes, and a spectacular August Club Meeting with multiple workshops on Model making, scrapbooking, desktop publishing, computer graphics, video-game play and even belly-dancing! I strongly suspect MonSFFA has a *very* healthy membership base!

The MonSFFA website < <http://www.monsffa.com> > is well worth checking out, not least for the downloadable fan films BEAVRA, MOOSE MAN, and THE SIMPLETON'S LIFE. In 2006 at VCON 31 I presented MonSFFA an ELRON award for BEAVRA, a 'documentary' that revealed not only where the Avro Arrow had been hidden, but also what it had originally been designed for: not to intercept Soviet Bear Bombers over the Arctic ocean, but to defeat BEAVRA!

OPUNTIA (Various issues) Faned: Dale Speirs , Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Available for the usual. (*Fannish terminology for "in exchange for your zine or a letter of comment or a piece of art."*)

I used to trade my SPACE CADET for OPUNTIA, so I was both pleased and surprised when a package of 15 issues of OPUNTIA came in the mail. Surprised, because Dale is a self-confessed Luddite who, while owning a laptop, refuses to connect to the internet, consequently I'm not sure how he heard I was back to fanpubbing. Even more extraordinary than refusing to 'connect', he has never owned a TV set! As he puts it:

“People always laugh when I tell them this, which saddens me because they have been duped into believing television is essential. It is not; it is just opiate for the masses. Try an experiment and go without television for one evening and see how much work you can get done or how many zines you can read. I do all my zine work in the evenings when I am not at club meetings or otherwise socially engaged.”

In reference to the ongoing and ever increasing difficulty of attracting young people to zinedom, he writes: “The Bowling Alone syndrome is affecting all hobbies... The Calgary Aquarium Society for several decades had a very intense youth programme; not one of those hundreds of kids have taken up the hobby as an adult... I stopped worrying about the future of any hobby or nation when I realized that ultimately all protons will decay, and entropy will be victorious in the universe.”

But what I particularly like about *Opuntia* is Dale’s widespread knowledge of all manner of obscure things, such as this bit of historical trivia: “During the Dirty Thirties when the Canadian prairies were shriveling up in drought, well-meaning Maritimers sent dried codfish out west. Farmers never saw them before and used them as roof shingles.”

Dale won the fanzine *Aurora* in 2005, but sadly, wasn’t even nominated this year. What gives? Has Canadian fanzine fandom disappeared that quickly? The fact that he produces *only* a paperzine may mean that he has dropped below the radar.

PROLAPSE #8, Aug 2007. Faned: Peter Weston. Available for the usual. Write: 53 Wyvern Road, Sutton Coldfield, UK, B74 2PS or email < pr.weston@btinternet.com >. This is a ‘paper first zine’ but Peter will send a PDF if asked. Or you can download from < <http://www.efanzines.com> >.

This zine is so wonderful it nearly brought tears to my eyes. In part because its cover features an old Giles cartoon, and my family used to get the Giles annual every Christmas; still have about 20 of them in my closet, but mainly because “Prolapse is a Time-Traveling Fanzine, covering the many and varied aspects of British SF fan-history.” They don’t call me ‘Retro-man’ for nothing! I *love* fannish history...

Issue 8 is devoted to Irish Fandom Day, specifically Aug 26th, 1947, when Belfast fan James White replied to a letter from another Belfast fan, Walt Willis, and organized fandom in Ireland sprang into being. Both were soon joined by Bob Shaw, and thus the BELFAST TRIANGLE was born, a quick referential term for these guys who achieved a worldwide renown and popularity in zinedom as soon as the mid-1950s. Willis & Shaw co-wrote THE ENCHANTED DUPLICATOR, the greatest fanlit saga, and both Shaw and White went on to become professional SF writers, and Willis arguably the greatest fanzine writer. This issue includes James Bacon’s article on that fateful day, two hilarious articles by Shaw on *his* first meeting with Willis, plus rare fan photos. Not to mention a plug for WARHOON #28, the works of Willis collected by Dick Bergeron and published as a 600 page hardbound book. Still available through NESFA Press! Go immediately to < <http://www.nesfa.org/press/> > and order a copy now! You’ll never regret it.

Also included, an old article by Wally Weber on “James White, Super Villain”, a *very* fannish article by Wally on ‘Psnearonics – A New Science of the Mind’ invented by James White and Robert Silverberg (a photo demonstrates that Mal Ashworth probably had the most devastating psneer of all), and an affectionate fannish biography: titled: ‘Forgotten Fans #2 – Eric Jones, Gentleman of Fandom’ by Keith Freeman.

Especially interesting to me were a collection of locs re an article on John Brunner which appeared in *Prolapse* #7. I knew Brunner had great difficulty getting published in his later years, but I always thought it was because publishers no longer considered him saleable. Turns out they plain didn’t like him. He seems to have been a largely unlikable mass of contradictions who easily got on people’s nerves. Apparently he was his own worst enemy. Sad. To this day his early potboiler TO CONQUER CHAOS (1964), which is about a never-ending stream of alien monsters – each one unique – emerging from the Barrenland to attack the last remnants of humanity on Earth, remains one of my mostly fondly remembered sensawonda introductions to Sci-Fi lit. And his DRAMATURGES OF YAN (1972) centred on one of my favourite Sci-Fi themes: ‘desperate attempts to understand the purpose of massive alien artifacts’, and had a big impact on me. And of course, STAND ON ZANZIBAR (1968) and THE SHEEP LOOK UP (1972) remain classics, if not entirely original it seems. Not to mention SHOCKWAVE RIDER (1975) acclaimed as the first proto-psyberpunk novel and one which paved the way for William Gibson. Jon Brunner was a man of no mean accomplishments, but apparently at times a mean man. Well, I don’t care if he was a bit of a bastard. I like his stuff.

I also like *Prolapse* very much. Fully intend to plow through all the posted back issues. Great zine.

WARP #68, Summer 2007. Faned: Cathy Palmer-Lister. Quarterly genzine of the Montreal SF & F Association, write MonSFFA, PO Box 1186, Place du Parc, Montreal, QC, H2X 4A7. Available in PDF form, password protected (unlike their monthly newsletter IMPULSE), for members only or in trade at discretion of editor, at < <http://www.monsffa.com> >

Cover by Jean Pierre Normand, depicting Godzilla stomping through some prominent quarter of Montreal. The perspective is perfect, it really conveys the massive size of the thing. A shot such as someone fleeing might take if they momentarily stopped and held up their cell phone to snap and transmit a quick pic (and you just know hundreds would). It’s a great cover, a wonderful cover, by an artist who has won at 6 *Aurora* awards to date.

And now a digression, in which I quote from my CUFF (Canadian Unity Fan Fund) trip report (published in SPACE CADET #10, OCT 1998) wherein I describe meeting Jean-Pierre at Primedia in Toronto, Oct of 97:

“Jean-Pierre greets me as I enter his room. It is very crowded...With a beard as black and curly as his hair he rather resembles Zeus...he hauls out his portfolio from underneath the bed. He does the kind of hard-edged, photo-realist art that

I especially like... he does more than just spacecraft, as I pour through the covers he's done for SOLARIS and ON SPEC as well as assorted novels, I find his attention to detail with old sailing ships and aircraft (albeit posed in fantasy or SF situations) to be nothing short of fantastic..."

"Inspired by my interest, Jean-Pierre pulls out his photo collection showing his many SF models. Hordes of them. Shelf after shelf after shelf of assorted monsters and spaceships. I am impressed that he has so many. He is impressed that I recognize most of them. We get along hugely well..." One of my fondest memories from my CUFF trip.

WARP opens with a brief loc column starring the ubiquitous Lloyd Penney, and Georges T. Dodds, the latter describing a 19th century fantasy writer by name of William Murray Graydon, "...arguably the first successful writer for the pulp magazines..."

THE SOUND OF THUNDER is an essay by Barbara Silverman on the role of elephants in Hindu mythology: *"According to legend, at one time elephants were able to fly, that is until they displeased Indra. Then as punishment he cut off their wings and turned many of them into the Himalayas, where they will remain for all eternity."*

The bulk of the issue is given over to two fan fictions, A MOMENT'S INSIGHT by Leslie Lupien, and part of an ongoing story THE LAST MAGE: THE DRAGON'S MOUTH by Nikolai Krimp. The first is a sci-fi psychological study set aboard the 'Cosmic Destiny', mankind's first interstellar vessel about to depart on its mission, and the second is about a biohazard lab worker who wakes up in the body of an elf living in a world filled with Elves, Hobbits, Orcs & such. Both well written, just not my particular cup of tea, but then I seldom read short fiction any more. Needs to be read by enthusiasts to get a competent judgment. All I did was a quick peruse. I do note that THE LAST MAGE reminded me of Burroughs Barsoom series for some reason, possibly to do with the style of description, especially concerning critters, somehow matter of fact yet exciting. At least, that's how it struck me.

Sylvain St-Pierre contributes 2 pieces on PREPARING FOR NIPPON, on his elaborate and comprehensive search of the web to plan his trip itinerary re the now-passed Worldcon in Japan in such a manner as to reduce the chances of disaster and catastrophe to zero. Quite fascinating, actually. Can't wait to find out how it went for him.

Book reviews, film reviews, & convention reviews (including a rather sad and/or frightening photo of costumed Furies, each one standing in isolation – which of course was done to display each costume fully – it nevertheless creeped me out, they look so forlorn for some reason. They also look like they're waiting for the next human to happen along, in order to....?) round out the issue. A sad article by the editor on the rise and fall of the C-ACE convention in Ottawa 2002 to 2007, which was meant from the very beginning to be a combined Anthro (Furry) & Cartooning (Anime) con very strongly implies (at least as I see it) that duo-themed cons are a very strong recipe for fannish politics and disaster. Recommended reading for all con-runners.

"Keith pointed out that an examination conducted of 1960s fan fiction culture revealed that some 83 percent of Star Trek fanzine editors and fan fiction authors were teenaged girls, no doubt the reason behind the preponderance of puerile romantic fantasies constituting much of fanfic at the time" is just one of the fascinating quotes to be mined from the lengthy digest of meetings held between WARP issues. MonSFFA appears to be the healthiest, liveliest Sci-Fi club in Canada!

As a last note, a most alarming note, this issue of WARP confirms that a sequel to BEAVRA is in its planning stages, indeed, the music track has already been performed and recorded... we're talking about BEAVRA LAS VEGAS!... can't wait...

AWARDS

2007 PRIX AURORA AWARDS

2007 Aurora award Winners (in order of presentation)

Convention 27 / VCON 32 – Oct 21st, 2007.

Unofficial results as recorded by audience member R. Graeme Cameron.

Overall MC – Nine time Aurora-winner Robert J. Sawyer.

1) Artistic Achievement / Accomplissement Artistique.

Nominees:

Kenn Brown, Lar deSouza, Janet Hetherington, Jean-Pierre Normand, Martin Springett, & Ronn Sutton.

Aurora presented by Vixy & Tony:

Winner -- Martin Springett.

2) Meilleure Nouvelle en Francais / Best Short Form Work in French.

Nominees:

-- 'Le vol de l'abeille', Michele Lafromboise, (Solaris 159).

-- ' Stiletto', Julie Martel (Solaris 160).

-- 'Le Regard du trilobite', Mario Tessier (Solaris #159).

Aurora presented by Jean-Louis Trudel:

Winner -- 'Le Regard du trilobite', Mario Tessier (Solaris #159).

3) Fan Achievement (Other) / Accomplissement fanique (autre).

Nominees:

- 'Fractale-Frambois', Eric Gauthier, Christian Sauve, Laurine Spehner (blogue/blog) fractale-Framboise.
- Judith Hayman (filking).
- Lloyd Penney (fan writing / ecriture fanique).
- Martin Springett (filking).
- Larry Stewart (entertainer / personnalite: amuseur).
- Peggi Warner-Lalonde (filking).

Aurora presented by Fran Skene:

Winner -- 'Fractale-Frambois', Eric Gauthier, Christian Sauve, Laurine Spehner (blogue/blog) fractale-Framboise.

4) Best Work In English (Other) / Meilleur ouvrage en anglais (autre).

Nominees:

- 'The Hidden Path', Heather Dale [music CD].
- 'Jousting with Jesters: An ABC for the Younger Dragon', Martin Springett (Orca Book Publishers) [children's alphabet book].
- 'Mythspring: From the Lyrics and Legends of Canada', Julie E. Czerneda and Genevieve, editors (Red Deer Press) [anthology].
- 'Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine', Karl Johanson, editor Neo-opsis [sf magazine].
- 'Tesseract Ten: A Celebration of New Canadian Speculative Fiction', Edo Van Belkom & Robert Charles Wilson, editors (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing) [anthology].

Aurora presented by Matthew Hughes:

Winner -- 'Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine', Karl Johanson, editor Neo-opsis [sf magazine].

5) Fan Achievement (Publication) / Accomplissement fanique (Publication). Nominees:

- 'Brins d'Eternite', red, Guillaume Voisine.
- 'Mensuhell', red. direction: Francois Hervieux.
- 'Nocturne', editeurs: Jonathan Reynolds, Guillaume Houle et Fred Proulx.

Aurora presented by Jean-Louis Trudel:

Winner -- 'Brins d'Eternite, red, Guillaume Voisine.

6) Meilleur ouvrage en francais (autre) / Best Work In French (Other).

Nominees:

- 'La Decennie charniere', Claude Janelle (dir), (Alire).
- 'Solaris', red. Joel Champetier (Solaris).
- 'Les Carnets du Futurable', Mario Tessier (Solaris 157-160).
- 'Aux origins des petits homes vertes', Jean-Louis Trudel (Solaris #160).

Aurora presented by Christian Sauve:

Winner -- 'Aux origins des petits homes vertes', Jean-Louis Trudel (Solaris #160).

7) Fan Achievement (Organizational) / Accomplissement fanique (Organization). Nominees:

- Debbie Hodgins (Avenging Dragon Squadron, Klingon Assault Group [K.A.G.])
- Roy Miles (Infinite Diversity International Corp [I.D.I.C.]).
- Cathy Palmer-Lister (Con*Cept).
- Joan Sherman [I.D.I.C.].
- Geoffrey Toop (Dr. Who Information Network [D.W.I.N.]).

Aurora presented by Randy Mcharles:

Winner -- Cathy Palmer-Lister (Con*Cept).

8) Best Short-Form Work In English / Meilleure Nouvelle en anglais.

Nominees:

- 'All the Cool Monsters at Once', James Alan Gardner (Mythspring, Red Deer Press).
- 'This Ink Feels Like Sorrow', Karin Lowachee (Mythspring, Red Deer Press).
- 'Marked Men', John Mierau (Slipstreams, DAW).
- 'Biding Time', Robert J. Sawyer, (Slipstreams, DAW).
- 'Lumen Essence', Hayden Trenholm (Neo-opsis SF Magazine 9).

Aurora presented by Martin Springett:

Winner -- 'Biding Time', Robert J. Sawyer, (Slipstreams, DAW).

9) Meilleur livre en francais / Best Long-Form Work in French.

Nominees:

- 'Samuel de la chasse-galerie', Michel J. Levesque (Mediaspaul).
- 'Les iles du Zodiaque 3. Le maitre des bourrasques', Laurent McAllister (Mediaspaul).
- 'Reine de Memoire 3, Le Dragon fou', Elisabeth Vonarburg (Alire).
- 'Reine de Memoire 4. La Princesse de Vengeance', Elisabeth Vonarburg (Alire).

Aurora presented by Christian Sauve:

Winner – 'Reine de Memoire 4. La Princesse de Vengeance', Elisabeth Vonarburg (Alire).

10) Best Long-Form Work in English / Meilleur livre en anglais.

Nominees:

- 'Regeneration: Species Imperative 3'. Julie E. Czerneda (DAW Books).
- 'Children of Chaos', Dave Duncan (Tor Books).
- 'Smoke and Ashes', Tanya Huff (DAW Books).
- 'Sun of Suns: Book One of Virga', Karl Schroeder (Tor Books).
- 'Blindsight', Peter Watts (Tor Books).
- 'Righteous Anger: Part Two of the Okal Rel Saga', Lynda Williams (EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing).

Aurora presented by Peter S. Beagle:

Winner – 'Children of Chaos', Dave Duncan (Tor Books).

2007 Aurora Nomination stats:

186 Total nomination forms received
175 Valid nomination forms
11 invalid forms (improperly filled out, etc)

of nominators per category:

2007	2006	2005	
78	178	90	English - Long
148	146	101	English - Short
90	113	82	English - Other
10	40	9	French - Long
12	17	7	French - Short
7	12	5	French - Other
65	125	54	Artist
14	98	48	Fan - publication
63	99	59	Fan - organizational
52	87	46	Fan - other
====	====	====	
175	268	128	Total valid nominations

2007 ELRON AWARDS

As written and presented at the closing ceremonies of VCON 32 by R. Graeme Cameron, with 'help' from 'Roving Reporter' Michael Walsh (abridged version).

The Elron Awards are Fandom's longest running spoof awards, predating the HOGUS by one year and the BLACKHOLES by two. First presented in 1971 at VCON 1 in Vancouver, B.C., the awards are presented annually by The British Columbia Science Fiction Association. The actual award is usually a plastic lemon painted bronze, but often with an addition to help illustrate the theme. For example the Elron awarded Mr. Science which had a foot-wide model space station atop the lemon.

A point concerning the evolution of the Elrons: the founding concept (revealed by David George at VCON 3) was "If we honour the best, should we not also recognize the least?" Consequently the Elrons were originally simply awarded to the 'worst' of anything, be it the worst novel, worst editor, worst ktp.

For instance, Robert A. Heinlein won WORST NOVEL ELRON in 1971 for his I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, selected excerpts being read out "to hilarious advantage". But as time went on the mandate of the Elrons expanded to include gentle

japes, with less and less emphasis on outright condemnation and more and more emphasis on satirical analysis of the bizarre tendency of reality to be far weirder than Sci-Fi.

And finally, if you were a local fan, it was eventually considered a great honour to win an Elron.

The 2007 Elron winners are:

1) THE SIGMA GROUP, a collection of Sci-Fi writers (including Greg Bear, Jerry Pournelle & Larry Niven) who recently delivered a day-long seminar on the topic of “How to Combat Terrorism” to the (American) Homeland Security Department, because I think the common sense and the practicality of these writers can be relied on to bring the wild and paranoid imaginings of Homeland security back down to Earth and the real world.

To THE SIGMA GROUP goes ‘The Special “Keeping Homeland Security Sane” Elron Award’ (a plastic raygun painted bronze).

2) THE US AIRFORCE WRIGHT LABORATORY who, in 1994 as revealed in recently declassified documents, proposed to develop “chemicals that effect human behaviour so that discipline and morale in enemy units is adversely effected..... One distasteful but completely non-lethal example would be strong aphrodisiacs..... Especially if the chemical also caused homosexual behaviour...” The so-called “Gay Bomb” (as dubbed by the Press).

To THE US AIRFORCE WRIGHT LABORATORY goes ‘The Special “Kiss Me Now And I Mean Now!” Elron Award’ (plastic lemon painted pink).

3) THE RUSSIAN MILITARY LAB that invented the so-called ‘Green Bomb’, an environmentally sensitive bomb which “does not contaminate the environment, in contrast to a nuclear one... it merely evaporates every living thing...”

To THE RUSSIAN MILITARY LAB goes ‘The Special “Not Only Green But Tidy Too!” Elron Award’ (plastic lemon painted green).

4) THE BROOKS AGNEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION to search for the “Arctic Hole” leading into the hollow Earth, the entrance evidently located within 400 kilometres of Canada’s Ellsmere Island. This expedition, to sail next year on a Russian icebreaker out of Murmansk, will include experts in “meditation, mythology and UFOlogy” to establish credibility with the world scientific community and public.

To THE BROOKS AGNEW ARCTIC EXPEDITION goes ‘The Special “Why Don’t You Sail Into The Hollow Earth And Stay There” Elron Award’ (plastic lemon painted blue and green (like a globe of the Earth) with white (ice) surrounding the missing cap (arctic hole) on top).

5) FRANK MILLER’S FILM ‘300’ and it’s curious inversion of historical reality with ‘manly’ skimpy briefs (as opposed to the ‘unmanly’ armour they wore in battle?), ‘straight’ Spartan Warriors (yeah, right, Spartan brides wore false beards on their wedding night to make their hubbies feel comfortable), ‘evil Persians’ (whose regime was far more liberal and prosperous than Athens ever was, never mind the Spartans), and worst of all, ‘democratically-minded’ Spartans (who ran an absolute totalitarian state perpetually crushing the Helots – the majority of the population -- with terror and violence).

To FRANK MILLER’S FILM ‘300’ goes ‘The Special “Persian War Rhino For Historical Accuracy” Elron Award’ (a plastic Triceratops, the accuracy of the award in keeping with the accuracy of the film).

6) THE ETERNAL IMAGE ‘FUNERAL ACCESSORIES’ COMPANY for introducing a line of Star Trek Urns, Caskets, Monuments and Vaults for the discerning dead Trekker.

To THE ETERNAL IMAGE ‘FUNERAL ACCESSORIES’ COMPANY goes ‘The Special “Fascinating, The Exploitation Continues” Elron Award’ (painted porcelain liquor bust of Spock which makes a damn sight better urn than the shiny bowling ball Eternal Image is offering).

7) THE BRITISH PR COMPANY PROMOTING ‘THE SIMPSONS’ MOVIE for painting a giant white outline figure of Homer holding a doughnut on a hillside next to the centuries old chalk figure called ‘The Cerne Abbas Giant’, thus reducing an ancient historical religious symbol and monument, still of spiritual significance to many moderns, to the level of an advertising gimmick. (But at least they used biodegradable water-based paint the first rain will wash away.)

To THE BRITISH PR COMPANY PROMOTING ‘THE SIMPSONS’ MOVIE goes ‘The Special “Anything For A Cheap Laugh Ain’t Necessarily Funny” Elron Award’ (standard bronze-painted plastic lemon).

8) AUSTRALIAN CONCEPT ARTIST STELARC who had a human ear grafted on to his forearm on the grounds that “augmentation of the body’s form is the purest, most personal form of art”. He plans to implant a mini-microphone in the ear so that patrons of his modern concept art can listen to what his ear ‘hears’.

To THE AUSTRALIAN CONCEPT ARTIST STELARC goes ‘The Special “I Have Three Ears And No Brain” Elron Award’ (bronze-painted plastic lemon with tiny hand emerging from the cap – representing Stelarc’s eternal grasping for publicity).

9) DARK HORSE COMICS for ‘secretly’ reprinting all 26 of John Norman’s infamous ‘Gor’ novel series in cheap omnibus editions without any mention in their press releases or ‘upcoming books’ list on their website.

To DARK HORSE COMICS goes ‘The Special “John Norman, We’re So Proud Of You We’re Keeping You In The Dark” Elron Award’ (not shown to audience, since Dark Horse doesn’t want anyone to see it).

RETRO 1971 ELRON AWARDS

Presented at VCON 1 by Mike Bailey.

- 1) Special Award For The Elron Hall Of Fame: Lin Carter.
- 2) Least Promising New Author: Robert Moore Williams.
- 3) Worst Melodramatic Presentation: ‘Beneath The Planet Of The Apes’.
- 4) Worst Novel: ‘I Will Fear No Evil’ by Robert Heinlein.

Note on #1: Circa 1971 Lin Carter was an editor for that branch of Ballantine books devoted to adult fantasy novels. However this Elron was probably awarded for his own fantasy writing, namely the ‘Thongor’ fantasy series: ‘*The Wizard of Lemuria*’ (1963), ‘*Thongor of Lemuria*’ (1966), ‘*Thongor Against The Gods*’ (1967), ‘*Thongor In The City Of Magicians*’ (1968), ‘*Thongor At The End Of Time*’ (1968), & ‘*Thongor Fights The Pirates Of Tarakus*’ (1970). These works are not considered a major contribution to the genre.

Note on #2: Robert Moore Williams began selling SF&F stories as far back as the 1930s, so the “Least Promising New Author” title of the Elron can be taken as a satiric comment. This Elron was probably awarded for his ‘Jongor’ fantasy series, first published in the 1940s and reissued in 1970: ‘*Jongor Of Lost Land*’, ‘*The Return of Jongor*’, and ‘*Jongor Fights Back*’.

Hmm, I guess the two authors never got together and wrote a ‘*Thongor Meets Jongor*’ novel. Pity.

Note on #3: In this, the first of four sequels to the film ‘Planet of the Apes’, there was a wonderful scene where mutant humans sing a hymn of praise to the Nuclear Doomsday Bomb they worship in their ‘church’. I thought that was pretty cool, but maybe them as chose the Elron recipients thought the film silly and ‘pulpish’, and therefore deserving of an Elron. I quite enjoyed it myself.

Note on #4: In the view of some critics ‘I will Fear No Evil’ marks the final and permanent transformation of Robert Heinlein, brilliant SF writer, into Robert Heinlein, interminable monologist with multiple torches to bear at the expense of drama & characterization. I confess I love his early stuff, and find his later books boring, fascinating though they are as an insight into the opinions & viewpoint of the author. I suspect them as awarded this Elron felt the same way.

It is interesting to note that in some circles, notably Charles Brown in LOCUS (or so I’ve been told), these Elrons were viewed as ‘mean-spirited’. Consequently the concept was abandoned and no Elrons were awarded at VCON 2. Then, undoubtedly, some local fans complained of their absence, and the Elron Awards were reinstated for VCON 3 (to be described next issue).

FILTHY PRO NEWS

AUTHOR HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST

DON DEBRANDT < <http://www.sfwaweb.org/members/DeBrandt/index.html> > For his ‘Cyberjunk’ website, which has not been updated in several years. He promised me at VCON 32 he will update soon. But see his website under the name ‘Donn Cortez’ < <http://www.donncortez.com> > for a complete listing of books, stories, articles & comics under both names. Don lives in the Lower Mainland area and was (as always) in enthusiastic attendance at VCON 32. His latest books include the mystery ‘The Man Burns Tonight’ and the CSI MIAMI series volume titled ‘Harm For The Holidays: Heart Attack’. Currently he is returning to his roots by working on a Sci-Fi trilogy, of which see article below.

DAVE DUNCAN < <http://www.daveduncan.com> > Dave lives in Victoria, B.C. His latest books: ‘*The Alchemist’s Apprentice*’, & ‘*Children of Chaos*’ (the latter winning the ‘Best Long-Form Work in English’ Aurora Award at

Convention 27/VCON 32 which he was happy to accept in person from presenter Peter S. Beagle). Coming in August 2008 'Ill Met in the Arena'.

WILLIAM GIBSON < <http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com> > Bill lives in Vancouver. Check out his web site for his Q&A interview 'Across the Border to Spook Country'. His latest book: 'Spook Country'.

MATT HUGHES < <http://www.archonate.com/> > Matt lives on Vancouver Island. He was one of the presenters at the VCON 32 Aurora Awards ceremony. His latest book: 'The Spiral Labyrinth'.

EILEEN KERNAGHAN < <http://www.lonelycry.ca/ek/> > Eileen lives in the Lower Mainland area and attended VCON 32. 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 and attended VCON 32. 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.

NINA MUNTEANU < <http://www.ninamunteanu.com> > lives and teaches in Victoria, B.C. You can pre-order her Sci-Fi novel 'Darwin's Paradox' by Dragon Moon Press from Amazon.ca (release date November 15, 2007), and her short story 'Virtually Yours' is to be found in 'The Best of Neo-opsis Science Fiction Magazine' anthology published by Bundoran Press and unveiled at VCON 32. Check out her website for her other publications and activities.

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, was a program participant at VCON 32, as well as MC for the Aurora Awards. His short story 'Biding Time' won for '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'.

ALYX J. SHAW < web site pending > lives in Surrey. Her novel 'A Strange Place in Time' is available by mail order from Doppelganger 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 >

LISA SMEDMAN < <http://www.lisamedman/topcities.com/> > lives in the Vancouver area and attended VCON 32 as the Gaming GoH. 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 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2G5. Phone (604) 228 – 8223. E-address: < whitedwarf@deadwrite.com > Web site < <http://www.deadwrite.com/wd.html> >

DON DEBRANDT HARD AT WORK ON SCI-FI TRILOGY!

Don DeBrandt gave a reading at VCON 32 of four 1,000 word short stories set in the same world as his upcoming hardcover mystery/sci-fi novel 'Lucidity', which is about two 'Ectectives' (emotive detectives) in the near future where emotions can be read, implanted, bought, sold, and stolen. As Don put it, "I am always searching for a new pantheon" and for the purposes of this trilogy "took a hard Sci-Fi approach to New Age Mythology". As a result certain 'soft' sciences like sociology and sexology are now shifted into the realm of 'hard' science, and certain 'fringe' sciences like Telepathy and

UFOlogy become 'soft' sciences. Sound like fun? The four shorts, set at a time prior to the first novel, offered both intriguing concepts and ready wit to much applause from the audience. Don's writing deadline is late next year, and the first volume 'Lucidity' will be published in 2009. From all indications to date the trilogy will be wonderfully fun to read!

ANOTHER STARDANCE PROJECT UPDATE

Hello Stardance friends,

I want to let you know that my new producer James Sposto is officially launching our new site and a release with our latest news. Check it out at < <http://www.stardancemovie.com> >. Warm smiles, Jeanne

"The Stardance Experience is slated to be produced and presented in the 70/15 "Large Format" pioneered by the IMAX® corporation. The film will push the boundaries of the medium, combining live action and digital FX to create an emotional and visceral connection with the audience."

Story and Background

"The Stardance Experience proposes that there is more to space travel than orbital mechanics, payloads and turbopumps, more stories to be told in the setting of space than "ray-guns and rocket ships."

"Loosely based on the Spider and Jeanne Robinson's series of novels, *Stardance* (Dial Press 1979), *Starseed* (Ace Books 1991) and *Starwind* (Ace Books 1995). The story follows the story of astronaut Treya Anderson, a full time maintenance worker on a space station orbiting earth in the not too distant future. Both a dancer and an engineer, she chose science and space over a career in dance, but now, circumstances and opportunity will combine to allow her to merge her two passions into transcendent art with cosmic consequences."

For more information on those involved with the project, how you can become a sponsor, Jeanne's upcoming zero gravity flight, and the latest press releases, check out the above e-address.

MEDIA MADNESS

RETRO FILM REVIEW: BEGINNING OF THE END (1957)

You should watch this film:

Because it was advertised as "The screen's first full length science fiction thriller with real live creatures." I assume this is in reference to the grasshoppers in the film, as opposed to the actors...

Because it was produced and directed by Bert I Gordon, well known for his extensive use of shoddy special effects, in this case over exposed mattes, and shots of grasshoppers standing around on photos of buildings.

Because it begins with a genuinely scary concept, a reporter discovering an entire town wiped off the map overnight, then descends rapidly into the ludicrous: Should we save Chicago by blowing it up with an atomic bomb, or cleverly use the creature's sex drive to lure them to their doom? Which would anger the taxpayers more? Hmm... Which to do... hmmm...

Because the picture began production with 200 male grasshoppers (each individually 'sexed' by Government scientists, *twice* no less, for some obscure importing across state border bylaw type reason) but by the time Gordon was ready to film the 'mass attack' scenes, there were only twenty grasshoppers left, twenty satiated, full-bellied grasshoppers, having eaten the other 180 captives!

Because it stars Peter Graves (of Mission Impossible fame) who plays his unconvincing character – a mildly mad scientist who accidentally produces giant grasshoppers while attempting to grow giant tomatoes – in as convincing a manner as possible. Quite the trouper, is Peter Graves.

Because Holl, a reviewer for VARIETY wrote: "The production unit was organized because of the claim made by the theatre chain, and echoed by other exhibitors, that the major film companies are not supplying a sufficient amount of product. However, if BEGINNING OF THE END is the answer to the product shortage, the motion picture industry might as well shut its doors this very moment."

Because, despite being on a double bill with a John Carradine film THE UNEARTHLY (made by the same outfit: AB-PT Pictures Corp. Remember them?), it actually earned profits, thus inspiring American International Pictures to hire Bert Gordon to work for them. He went to make THE AMAZING COLOSSAL MAN for AIP, among other pictures.

And mainly, if you approach this film with the mind of a ten year old, you'll find it kinda scary and kinda fun. Plus, always a treat to watch 1950s street scenes...

FILM REVIEW: DEATH NOTE & DEATH NOTE: LAST NAME

I recently watched DEATH NOTE and DEATH NOTE: LAST NAME, both directed by Kaneko Shuusuke.

The premise is very Japanese. A Death God drops a notebook in front of Raito 'Light' (played by Fujiwara Tatsuya), the teenage son of a Tokyo Police Chief. Turns out that if you write the name of someone you know, and you know what they look like, they die, and in the manner you write down. Raito is miffed at how unfairly soft the Japanese legal system is,

so suddenly Japanese criminals start dropping off like flies, usually from heart attacks. The phenomenon spreads worldwide. Raito begins claiming credit under the name 'Kira', and promptly becomes an acclaimed hero. The police form a special task force to catch him, led by a reclusive teenage genius named 'L' (played by Matsuyama Ken'ichi). Complications ensue.

Sound lame? It's not, it's wonderful. The battle of wits between Raito and L has a ton of clever twists and turns, which make the two films together a very superior whodunit. Then there's the pleasure of watching Raito slowly becoming corrupted and drunk with power while the media exploits his activity for the sake of ratings. The fact that the Death God Ryuk, whom only Raito can see and talk to, continues to hover about Raito offering a running commentary (but withholding relevant advice) is a hoot. And then there are the other Death Gods, and note books, to complicate matters. Not to mention the insufferably cute yet egomaniacal preteen-like TV star Miso (played by Toda Erika), a hysterical satire on the Japanese cultural tendency to view innocent school girls in short dress uniforms as infinitely cute, (reflected in much anime I believe). L, whose diet seems to consist entirely of sugary confections, is eating something horribly sweet in every scene he's in, and part of the fun is guessing what he'll be eating next. (I note that when he's depressed or frustrated he goes right to the hard stuff and chows down on sugar cubes.) To sum up, though slow-paced and mostly devoid of action, both films are a treat to watch.

The films are derived from a Manga series (will be locally available in stores specializing in Japanese media, Volume one as of November 20th, Volume two beginning December 18th), and then evolved into an anime TV series which, according to Monster Attack Team Canada, is now showing on YTV Friday nights at 10:00 PM (following 'Gundam Seed: Destiny' as of October 26th. Haven't seen it yet, but if it's anything like the movies it is well worth watching.

"Finally, for those of you who didn't make it out to UBC Sub theatre screenings this past weekend, the live action movie of "Death Note" will be shown - 9:30 pm at Tinseltown Cinemas Friday, November 2 as part of the 11th annual Asian Film Festival." (Source, Dennis N. Kristos of MATC)

ODD BITS

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

Did you know that gigantism in ship-building for the sake of prestige and profit is not strictly a modern phenomenon? The standard ancient Greek and Roman merchant ships were capable of carrying 200 to 300 tons of cargo (about the size of the St. Roch, the first ship to go both ways through the North West passage, which is preserved in the Vancouver Maritime museum), but the Alexandrian grain shippers were huge, the obelisk carriers even larger, and then there was *this* behemoth, the *Syracusa*, designed and built by the Greek Naval Architect Archias for King Hiero II of Syracuse circa 250 B.C.

Quoting from the book ANCIENT INVENTIONS by James & Thorpe: "It took a year to construct... consuming enough timber to build 60 ships. With twenty banks of oars and three masts, it was a curious mixture of armoured luxury liner and superfreighter (for exporting wheat) and could carry a cargo of up to 1,800 tons..."

"Few ships can ever been as lavishly equipped as the *Syracusa*, described in glorious detail by Athenaeus. Its freshwater tank held twenty thousand gallons, next to which was seawater tank to keep fresh fish. There were twenty stalls for horses, huge kitchen area provided with flour mills and ovens, and numerous storerooms for wood, food, animal fodder, tools and weapons. The officer's decks had a bathroom with three bronze tubs, a gymnasium, a shrine to the goddess Aphrodite with a floor of semiprecious stones and doors made of made of ivory and cedar, walkways with grapevines and flowerbeds and even a library with couches and walls inlaid with boxwood. The floors, walls, ceilings and furniture of the main gangways and 'first class' accommodation were decorated with elaborate mosaics and carvings illustrating the entire story of Homer's epic poem of the Trojan war, the Iliad."

"The dimensions of this monstrous liner are not actually given by Athenaeus, but it was so enormous that only one of the harbours of Hiero's trading partners throughout the Mediterranean was actually equipped to receive it. Hiero is said to have realized this only after the ship's completion. As it happened, his superliner made only one voyage – from Sicily straight to Alexandria, where, filled with grain, it was given as a present to King Ptolemy, who immediately grounded it."

I'm guessing Ptolemy was very annoyed with his 'gift', what with it taking up so much space and liable to being a terrible fire hazard and all. Besides, shipping wheat to Alexandria is like shipping coal to Newcastle. Ptolemy was probably *very* insulted. Probably he turned the grounded ship into a tourist trap, charging admission to awestruck rubes from Rome and other backward places, or converted it into a hostel, or a summer palace, or a warehouse, or.. ? Eventually, no doubt, it was broken up and sold to local woodworkers.

Perhaps inspired by this and other gigantic ships of the Hellenistic era, Robert J. Sawyer in his wonderful novel FAR-SEER, comes up with a very interesting concept:

Given that the characters in his novel are essentially highly evolved dinosaurs who nevertheless retain enormously powerful territorial instincts such that their acceptable personal space is very large and the close proximity of others is intolerable and provokes violence, long-distance voyaging can only be accomplished in ships of *this* nature:

"The Dasheter was a long-voyage vessel. Even though meant to carry only thirty people, it was huge. Afsan looked down its twin hulls: two vast diamonds joined by a short connecting piece. *Everywhere, space was maximized.* True, a

Quintaglio would feel uncomfortable penned in any place that was not clearly his or her own territory, but the four decks of the Dasheter afforded as many spare paces per person as possible. Intellectually one would always know that others were nearby but if tricked physiologically into feeling alone, instinct should be kept at bay."

How cool is that? I *love* this kind of extrapolation. I highly recommend FAR-SEER and its sequels FOSSIL HUNTER and FOREIGNER as great, great fun to read.

WCSFAZINE COVER A LIE!

(Turns out, as revealed by AP wire service on October 4th, the 50th anniversary of the launch of the first artificial satellite into orbit, I didn't see Sputnik after all. So what was the faint white dot drifting eerily across the night sky? Read the following abridged excerpts from the article, which also grant insight into the frantic nature of the Soviet's desire to beat the Americans – who already had a satellite program underway, a fact frequently overlooked today.)

And that winking light that crowds around the globe gathered to watch in the night sky? Not Sputnik at all, as it turns out, but just the second stage of its booster rocket, according to Boris Chertok, one of the founders of the Soviet space program.

The towering R-7's high thrust and payload capacity, unmatched at the time, just happened to make it the perfect vehicle to launch an object into orbit - something never done before.

Korolyov, both visionary scientist and iron-willed manager, pressed the Kremlin to let him launch a satellite. The U.S. was already planning such a move in 1958, he pointed out, as part of the International Geophysical Year.

The Soviet Union already had a full-fledged scientific satellite in development, but it would take too long to complete, Korolyov knew. So he ordered his team to quickly sketch a primitive orbiter. It was called PS-1, for "Prosteishiy Sputnik" – the Simplest Satellite.

Grechko, who calculated the trajectory for the first satellite's launch, said he and other young engineers tried to persuade Korolyov to pack Sputnik with some scientific instruments. Korolyov refused, saying there was no time.

"If Korolyov had listened to us and started putting more equipment on board, the Americans could have opened the space era," Grechko said.

The satellite, weighing just 184 pounds, was built in less than three months. Soviet designers built a pressurized sphere of polished aluminum alloy with two radio transmitters and four antennas. An earlier satellite project envisaged a cone shape, but Korolyov preferred the sphere.

"The Earth is a sphere, and its first satellite also must have a spherical shape," Chertok, a longtime deputy of Korolyov, recalled him saying.

Sputnik's surface was polished to perfection to better deflect the sun's rays and avoid overheating.

The launch was first scheduled for Oct. 6. But Korolyov suspected that the U.S. might be planning a launch a day earlier. The KGB was asked to check, and reported turning up nothing.

Korolyov was taking no chances. He immediately canceled some last-minute tests and moved up the launch by two days, to Oct. 4, 1957.

"Better than anyone else Korolyov understood how important it was to open the space era," Grechko said. "The Earth had just one moon for a billion years and suddenly it would have another, artificial moon!"

The first official Soviet report of Sputnik's launch was brief and buried deep in Pravda, the Communist Party daily. Only two days later did it offer a banner headline, quoting the avalanche of foreign praise.

Pravda also published a description of Sputnik's orbit to help people watch it pass. The article failed to mention that the light seen moving across the sky was the spent booster rocket's second stage, which was in roughly same orbit, Chertok said.

The tiny orbiter was invisible to the naked eye.

The first Sputnik beeped for three weeks and spent about three months in orbit before burning up in the atmosphere. It circled Earth more than 1,400 times, at just under 100 minutes an orbit.

LOCAL CLUBS:

BCSFA – THE BRITISH COLUMBIA SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION:

Founded 29th 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 (currently on hold till the new year), 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 BCFAzine. For more details, such as time & locations, check out the BCSFA Club website listed below.

NOTE: BCSFA BOOK DISCUSSION: Thursday November 22 @ 7pm at the "Our Town" café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. This month, we're discussing "Kafka on the Shore" by Haruki Murakami.

BCSFA SPONSORED WEB SITES:

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

BCSFA YAHOO DISCUSSION GROUP: < http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/ >

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 11th, 2005. Held at The Eighties Restaurant, 110 West 14th Street in North Vancouver. < <http://biff.digitaldoodles.com/index.html> >

FANCOUVER: VANCOUVER SCIENCE FICTION AND FANTASY MEETUP – Vancouver, B.C. Founded Sept 21, 2005. 118 Members. “Meet fellow Sci-fi/Fantasy Fans near you! Come to a local Sci-fi/Fantasy Meetup to have fun talking science fiction and fantasy in literature, media, gaming and art. Who knows, maybe we'll hit a convention too!” < <http://scifi.meetup.com/278/> >

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 3rd, 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 >

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.

EVENTS OF INTEREST:

PULP CULTURE COLECTABLES FAIR -- (Nov 3, 2007) Saturday, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM, Vancouver, B.C. Free Admission. Dealers tables offering items & memorabilia re “New & Vintage Comics, Toys & Collectibles, Records - CD's - VHS - DVD's, Manga - Anime – Books, Jewelry - Magazines - Star Wars, Hot Wheels - Wrestling – Canucks”. At the Croation Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver, B.C. For info: < http://www.geocities.com/turnbuckle99/croatian_toys.htm >

VANCOUVER COMICON -- (Nov 4, 2007) Sunday, all day, Vancouver, B.C. “For over a decade, Vancouver Comicon events have taken place at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. Throughout the year, we put on a series of one-day comic book conventions, card shows, and toy and collectable shows.”

UPCOMING CONVENTIONS

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

ORYCON 29: PIRATES PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE -- (Nov 16 – 18, 2007) Portland, Oregon, Portland Marriott Waterfront, Portland, OR. Writer GoH: Robert Charles Wilson. Editor GoH: Liz Scheier. Artist GoH: Molly Harrison. Media GoHs: 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; 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

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. 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

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 > 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/>.

ANIME EVOLUTION -- (Aug 22-24, 2008) at Simon Fraser University, Burnaby B.C. "Vancouver's Japanese Animation Convention And Asian Cultural festival" with amv room & contest, cosplay & cosplay contest, industry guests, industry panels, live concerts, video rooms, art gallery, karaoke, video games, dealers room, charity auction, game tournaments, and more! For info: < www.animeevolution.com >

VCON 33 -- (Oct ? 2008) Vancouver, BC. Author GoH: Patrick Rothfuss (author of 'Name of the Wind'), Artist GoH: Lisa Snellings-Clark. Memberships: 85 pre-registered so far. Details re hotel, rates, dates, more GoHs, etc to be announced. If you'd like to help put on VCON 33 write: < vconchair@gmail.com > For updated info: < www.vcon.ca >

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

ANTICIPATION / WORLDCON 67 -- (Aug 6-10, 2009) Hotel: Palais des congres de Montreal. GoH: Neil Gaiman. Invitee d'honneur: Elisabeth Vonarburg. Fan GoH: Taral Wayne. Editor GoH: David Hartwell. Publisher GoH: Tom Doherty. MC: Julie Czerneda. Contact address: Anticipation, C.P. 105, Succursale NDG, Montreal, QC, Canada H4A 3P4. For info: < info@anticipationsf.ca > or < www.anticipationsf.ca >

OOK, OOK, SLOBBER, DROOL!

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: TARAL WAYNE, Sept 29th, 2007

((In the latest BCSFAzine you mention no one in BCSFA giving a fig for your Mike Glicksohn disc. Well, no one in BCSFA (plug in excuse of choice) but I do! I want that disc. I faunch for it. – Ed))

I made about 25 extras, which aren't going exactly like pancakes... Besides, I can cut more at will, so there's no such thing as running out. If impatient you can download the Energumens from my disk from < <http://efanzines.com> > But the Xeniums and one-shots and other material haven't been uploaded and can only be read from the disk.

((.....fan GoH status at the Worldcon in Montreal. Perhaps fanzine fandom's last chance to garner significant amounts of fresh blood. I know the Penny's will be there to help. Wishing you all the luck in reviving popular interest.))

I don't know how much can be done to recruit fresh blood anymore. The sort of recruit fandom used to rely on may not exist in a world where SF means the Toyota commercial on TV, or a video game. And how do you interest someone in fanpubbing when there's Facebook and websites and blogs, (oh my!).

((Well, paper fanpubbing, probably not. But producing a zine as if it were going to be printed, and then posting it as a PDF on a web site instead, might be sufficiently electronic and ephemeral to capture their interest, especially if stress is laid on the nifty craftsmanship of the layout, the cool use of digital photos, etc. And if that doesn't work, how about the snob appeal of doing something virtually no one else does? (There's a pun in there somewhere.) Or the flatout appeal of going retro? Fighting the machine, man. Fighting the Man! Be a rebel! Use paper!... Then again, don't use my half-century old slang, that would probably turn them off completely.... All I can say is, sift the mundanes, sift the mundanes, sooner or

later you'll find a nugget which can be fashioned into a faned... Emphasize the sheer fun and sense of accomplishment, the unique, personal aspects, the last bastion of individualism... might work?))

((And congrats once again on becoming Fan GoH at Anticipation!))

It was a much needed shot in the arm, believe me.

From: DESMOND EMERY, Oct 3rd, 2007

Re: The Canadian Fancyclopedia.

Ran across your site by chance. Talk about a Labour of Love! Graeme, you must be one of the last of the actifans still alive!

((Thank you! I do feel rather isolated at times, but there are still actifans out there somewhere. A good source to check out is < <http://www.efanzines.com> > which has an excellent selection of contemporary (and some old) fanzines for free download. Quite amazing what some people are up to. Fandom not quite dead yet.))

I was one once upon a time, too. I started in stf in the late 1940s, having been weaned upon Edgar Rice Burroughs' Tarzan, John Carter of Mars, and so on, with previous readings of the OZ books, At the Back of the North Wind, Jules Verne, The Time Machine, Dr. Doolittle, and anything that stretched my imagination in that direction.

Once I found the magazines Thrilling Wonder Stories and Startling Stories I was definitely hooked and began expanding the area of my interest to Amazing, Astounding, The Magazine of S-F and Fantasy, and on and on.

((Sounds like you experienced the classic Sci-Fi self-education!))

Along the way I found fanzines and kept the Post Office in business ordering and writing to them holus-bolus. With a few other fen, including Gina Ellis, I participated in trying to get a fanzine published a few times before ennui set in, coupled with a lack of talent on my part.

((Did you and Gina actually get one published?))

Then I got married and other things gained pre-eminence over stf and I gafiated for years. The year that Star Wars came to town I was asked to join a new fanclub operated by a used book-store owner and a reporter from the local newspaper, formed to rent stf movies and run them in the book-store Saturday nights after closing. The group was mainly teens and highschool seniors, and a few older guys. It lasted that fall, over the winter, and folded in the spring.

((Would one of the two guys mentioned above be Brad Haiste?))

My memory sometimes fades in and out, and right now it's out. We called the club, The Cosmic ----- (which I'll remember later and send another email) and we had a fanzine named the same.

((Would the club and zine be named 'The Cosmic Cinema'?))

((In which case I wonder about the dates. Star Wars came out in 1977. According to Garth Spencer Brad Haiste ran (or belonged to) a SF film club in St Thomas called 'The Cosmic Cinema' which published a zine of the same name, 8 issues in all, circa 1981/1982. Sound about right?))

Years later, I gave my copies of the zine and a few other zines I still had from earlier days, along with some books and a few pulps to the Toronto Library's stf collection named for Judith Merrill, through Lorna Toolis.

((Excellent! Always in favour of zines being preserved.))

Email me any time if you want other info. I'll do my best.

((Thank you! Is the Cosmic Cinema the club in question? Can you add any more details?))

((May I include your info in my fancyclopedia entry? It's very brief so far, consisting of a short contemporary review Garth Spencer wrote in his zine 'The Maple Leaf Rag'.))

((Also, may I quote from your letters in WCSFAzine, the zine I publish online on behalf of the West Coast SF association? I so rarely get comments on my cyclopedia. But also, part of the mandate of WCSFAzine is to promote Cdn Fandom heritage and your past activities definitely qualify as being worthy of being brought to contemporary fandom's attention!))

From: DESMOND EMERY, Oct 16th, 2007

You're pretty psychic, you know. COSMIC CINEMA was the name of our little club and the magazine too. Brad Haiste was the one whose energy kept the club afloat. He was then a reporter for the St. Thomas Times-Journal. Brad went to a great deal of trouble to set up the bookstore where the club met to get seating for all and to work on the proper distance from the projector to the screen, not to speak of the movies involved. One of the first movies shown was that masterpiece of ironic humour, "Bambi vs. Godzilla." Brad rented that and other shorts to complement the regular screenings of movies we held to go along with conversations and general discussion.

((Ah yes, the infamous 'Bambi Meets Godzilla', filmed by local film student Marv Newland in 1969. Only two minutes long, considered an outstandingly hilarious animation classic.))

Since most of the members were juveniles there was no beer, no building of empty beer cans to 'reach the sky' and no doubt about the gender of attendees. (When I was first involved in fandom in the late 40' and early 50's, there was a big

kerfuffle in 'Seventh Fandom' when Lee Hoffman, a southern actifan, attended one of the conventions and turned out to be a girl!)

((One of the more famous fannish 'hoaxes', though really just a misunderstanding on the part of those who read her zine 'Quandry' and locs in other zines. She did not 'broadcast' the fact she was a girl.))

Star Wars may have been released in 1977 but the fact that it took a few years before it showed up at our local Capitol Theatre and hadn't been available on TV only goes to illustrate how "progressive" we were at the time. I remember showing up at the bookstore with many of the teen members, who looked longingly at the promos for the movie (the Capitol was right across the street from the bookstore) and, once critical mass was achieved, deserted en masse and roared across the street to the real theatre. And for the life of me I can't recall what movie we had on schedule for that night.

BTW, the bookstore was owned and operated by Ron Kowalski. To show you just how small this little corner of the world is, his father was the janitor at the elementary school my son attended

The (club) zine, COSMIC CINEMA, was small in format, about seven by eight inches and about ten or so pages long. Brad, with his connection to the newspaper, looked after reproduction and whoever wanted to could contribute whatever. There was fanfiction (some mine) and poetry, illos, arguments, discussions.

As I recall now, the earlier fanzine was called "CANFAN" and had a small logo of two ovals criss-crossed vertically and horizontally, It was edited by Fred Christoff of Kitchener, ON, but didn't really last long, sometime in the late 50s I think. Fred was the instigator, but I never got to know him well at all. Gina and I had a correspondence going for a time back then, writing about books other than SF. Boy could she ever draw! If I was going to be a big-time writer, she would have been the illustrator on whom I would rely to get my vision down on paper. But my ambitions exceeded my abilities by far and consequently I'm the prime example of the old saying, "Wishing won't make it so."

((CANFAN? By coincidence this was a widespread fannish nickname for the zine 'CANADIAN FANDOM' published in 37 issues from 1943 to 1958. I have never heard of a zine actually named 'CANFAN'. Can you remember any more details? How many issues? Type of contents? Contributors? I want to plug the info into my Canadian Fancyclopedia. Any more info would be greatly appreciated.))

My original purpose in writing to you was to see if you had an email address for Chester Cuthbert, from Winnipeg, now in Alberta I understand. Gina and I both dealt with Chester from time to time, buying books, taking advice. CBC recently ran a piece on his collection which reminded me of him again and made me want to say HI.

((It was Chester who sent me the complete set of VANATIONS for the BCSFA/WCSFA archives, as well as some other fascinating material. I don't believe he has ever hooked up to the internet, as he greatly prefers paper media. I corresponded with him for a while, but we lost contact after I stopped publishing SPACE CADET. I may have his current address on file somewhere. If I find it, I will send it to you. It should be noted that Chester was President of the nationwide (but short-lived) CANADIAN SCIENCE FICTION ASSOCIATION in the early 1950s.))

Your kindness and interest is appreciated so you can use anything you want and just let me know if there's more you need.

((Thank you! I am constantly in search of new sources of Canadian Fannish history!))

From: DAVE HAREN, October 19th, 2007

I find myself on the outskirts of the Fannish whirlpool staring towards the event horizon and its coruscating center.

((Sounds dangerous. I felt something similar standing on the edge of Niagra Falls decades ago. Something hypnotic about that mass of water smoothly folding over the edge of the cliff. Turns people into instant were-lemmings. SCI-Fi has the same effect.))

I was raised in the weeds far from civilization and read the OZ books and E R Burroughs while very young. I bought a copy of Frank Herberts Dragon in the Sea / Under Pressure in paperback and was hooked. Then I found Amazing and Astounding.

((A classic Sci-Fi education!))

I finally wound up at a convention sitting at a table with Fritz Leiber. We became friends and he visited our home.

I used to enjoy The Alien Viewpoint and through the eFanzines site got to read more of RE Geis.

The Katz clan lives in the same neighborhood as my mother, sister and brother in Las Vegas. So another strand of the web snares me closer.

((The deeper you sink into fandom the more complex the web ensnaring you.))

So here's my password to fandom:

I'm a special kind of Slan
I've got tendrils on my can
some are brown and some are tan
I'm a science fiction fan.

((This sounds like lyrics suitable for a fannish drinking song. Is this bit of 'poetry' original with you? Or exhumed from some ancient source?))

One of my cousins married a Cameron, so I'm sure this is all just co-incidence.

((Just part of the Cameron Clan's plot to take over the world. A massive breeding program involving the frequent lifting of kilts is at the core of our program....))

BTW you have the best rejection slip story I've ever seen in issue #1.

((Thank you. I must admit I am quite proud of it. Shamelessly proud of it...))

From LLOYD PENNY, October 19th, 2007

"Tis the evening of VCon, and no doubt you are at the con, enjoying yourself and taking in all the features of the convention. While all of Vancouver fandom is there having a good time, WCSFAzine 2 came up as needing responding to, so here's a loc.

By the way, wish me luck...last time I won an Aurora, it was ten years ago. Sunday may be an interesting day for me...I will be in Oakville, shooting a short film that day, but I think it may be nearly midnight Eastern time before the Auroras are handed out.

((I'm very sorry, but the people behind the blog 'Fractale-Framboise' won this time. I was pleased to be present when you won the Aurora for fan writing in 1997. I am confident you will win again!))

Let me know how good vixy and Tony are as the Filk GoHs...they will be in Mississauga next year at FilKONtario 18 as GoHs. I'm not going, but they are new to me, and all of a sudden, they are guesting at two cons.

((I was so busy with my duties at VCON 32 I'm not sure I even met them, let alone saw them perform. I do know that "Vixy's 'Girl That's Never Been' won the 2006 Pegasus award for Best Filk Song, and their recording of 'Mal's Song' can be heard on 'Done The Impossible', a documentary about the incredible achievement of 'Firefly' fandom", so that should be a good indication of their abilities.))

TAFF rears its head again, and we have voted early and often. No, wait, that's Chicago politics... Anyway, we have voted, and we hope you all will, too. Best of luck to Chris, Chris, Christian and Linda!

I can see there were reasons why I'd never seen Gonad the Conqueror mentioned in a Vancouver fanzine...until now. Amateurish? Yup. Fun? You bet. Sophomoric? Without doubt, but you could get away with that in the early 70s, and definitely not today.

Our own First Thursday has been going strong for close to 12 years now, and we've never had that level of organization the FRED's had. Yvonne has been in charge for the past 11 years, and has only been challenged for that position once. He lost miserably... We have worked hard to make sure the denizens of the First Thursday have continued to have a comfortable place to party, and we are now where we were when we started, the Foxes' Den on Bay Street in the downtown area.

((FRED organized? Maybe in the early days. It's always been an ad hoc affair, though Steve Forty did a good job running it for years, acting as amiable host at virtually every session, and his successor Ryan Hawe is doing a very good job promoting it and reviving it these days.))

I must go and see what's been happening with CanFancyCyclopedia. Haven't been there lately, and I wouldn't really have much to add to it, but it is good to know there are changes and additions.

((Well, not much lately, what with the effort of starting up WCSFAzine, and dealing with VCON 32, but should start back to work on the site shortly. For those who just want to check on the latest updates, when you open the main page click on 'Info On Updates' and it will open a page listing all recent updates by subject and date.))

Indeed, Vancouver has wrested the "Hollywood North" title away from Toronto. We've got lots of studio space here, but it's not being used, and Ontario's shoot-here perks aren't very competitive right now. I'm getting some voice work here, but it's all non-pay for right now. Just building up the resume.

Acknowledged successor to Warner? Wow, Graeme, the cheque's in the mail! If I ever need an agent in the future, you're the one I'll call. A marvelous quote from a commercial on the CBC..."Once you believe your own PR, you're dead." James Bacon was in touch with me, too, and to the best of our knowledge, there have never been any Canadian TAFF winners. A number have run for the fund, but none have won.

((Well, frankly, I think you deserve to win TAFF, should you ever have the chance to run. Your widespread correspondence should translate into fandom-wide support, I'm thinking. Something to consider for the future?))

Personal news...we are both fully employed for the first time in years. My job at the CNIB is as an editorial specialist in their e-Publications department, and Yvonne is now an Accounts Payable Team Leader for Diageo Canada. They import and market Guinness beer, Tanqueray gin, Johnny Walker and Bailey's Irish Cream. We are relieved, and Christmas should be good.

((Excellent. Hmmm, Guinness, Tanqueray, Johnny Walker AND Bailey's? Seems to me the office Christmas party should be well stocked and most pleasant indeed.))

We attended Con*cept in Montreal last weekend. We hadn't intended to go, but the first post-Japan meeting was announced, and a lot of Torontonians went to see what was up. A meeting, chaired by Rene Walling and Robbie Bourget, with John Mansfield, Bruce Farr, Terry Fong, Eugene Heller and others at the helm, took place, and was mostly to explain to others what a Worldcon was and how they could help. We have the chance to do for Anticipation what we couldn't do for Torcon 3. Looks like Yvonne will be working in finance, while I have volunteered to run the fanzine lounge as we did

in Winnipeg. I'm not the first to volunteer for that job, so we'll see what happens. We have to write up our business cases to tell the senior committee what we'd like to do, and how we'd do it.

All done for the nonce. This weekend, we go to CFB Trenton for a special aviation event, and on Sunday, I shoot that short movie I mentioned. Should be suitably silly and fun.

((Short movie? Anything fannish? Or just part of your resume building?))

Take care, my best to Alyx, and I hope VCon is a blast for all.

((Alyx says Hi, hopes you'll come out again to a VCON some day, and yes, VCON 32 was a blast!))

From: JOHN PURCELL, October 28, 2007

Good to see you folks are still at it. I realize that I risk this e-loc not making the deadline for your third issue, but that's alright; it is in the reception of locs that matters to faneds. You obviously know that from your past experiences in fandom.

((Aha! My habit of checking my email just before putting an issue to bed pays off! And yes indeed, faneds live for locs, and/or reviews. Response is what makes it all worthwhile.))

Love the cover art you feature on the zine. Very distinctive and steam-punkish in an old-fashioned stfnal fashion. I like it.

((Hmmm, can't wait to see what you think of THIS issue's 'art'....))

Your editorial musings about how completion feelings certainly strike home, especially the bits about finding typos, etc., upon second, third, and fourth readings. My solution to this problem is to let the zine sit for a day or two after it's "completed," then go back to it for proof-reading. It is much easier to spot errors when the brain is clear and unable to fill in the blanks where key words should be or self-correcting as one scans and/or re-reads. Even so, *WCSFAzine* is done quite well and I am glad you're producing it. Keep at it; you're zine is a valuable service for Northwestern North American Fandom. Your con listings and activities certainly make me drool with fannish lust. Lots of good stuff going on. Have fun!

((I'm always writing up to my deadline. But I intend to stick with my deadlines, since otherwise things might slide. Am determined to have WCSFAzine online by the first each month. All part of the fun!))

The continuing saga of the "Hidden History of V-Con 1" is good. Ursula LeGuin is one of my favorite sf authors, and her story "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas" is in the Introduction to Literature anthology my college uses in their English 1302 classes. Personally, I have never liked the story, but it does make some interesting observations about utopian visions and "perfect" societies.

((I suspect her exposure to fans at VCON 1 might fall under the category 'imperfect but enthusiastic'.))

Fanzine history is always interesting reading, and Canadian fanzine history has a distinguished and a long roster of fine fan writers and publishers. I well remember when Michael Hall and Robert Runte were madly pubbing away out in the wilds of Edmonton back in the 80s. Good stuff, too. That bheer can pyramid monument to the unknown faned sounds like an accomplishable feat. Buy you a bheer, hey? When I see you at a con, remind me. I'll be sure to head in the other direction...

((I didn't really know how extensive Canadian Fanzine History was till I began researching it about 15 years ago. A lifelong hobby now!))

At any rate, I enjoyed your zine, especially the fannish history. It is good to know where we've come from if not to appreciate where we currently are, but to avoid the idiotic mistakes of our past. I look forward to reading more of these fan-historical pieces in future issues. Take care, and keep the zines coming.

((Thank you. I appreciate the words of encouragement. So far my enthusiasm is undimmed.))

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