

# BCSF A Zine

#418

\$3.00

March 2008



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## ***Masthead/Colophon/and other Wallpaper***

BCSFAzine #418 © March 2008, Volume 36, #3, is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN: 1490-6406. Please send comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions to Garth Spencer at **P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, 4101 Main St., Vancouver, BC CANADA V5V 3P0 (new address since 01 Jan. 2008)** or submissions in both electronic text and B & W line drawing in JPG form to: < garthspencer @ shaw.ca > and, if a non-member, receive a complimentary copy in return. *BCSFAzine* is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each. (Subscription/membership rates are given towards the end of this zine.)

### ***This Month's Events (Inshallah)***

- Sat. March 8, ca. 8 pm      The next **Royal Swiss Navy Disorganizational Meeting**, at Garth Spencer's place unless we move it, 82 East 40<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC. Phone him at (778) 865-2372 for directions. (NOTE: the RSN website has been taken down; a new one is under construction.)
- Fri. March 14:              **BCSFAzine** deadline. See Garth at FRED.
- Sat. March 15, ca. 7 pm    **BCSFA meeting**/party at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's home, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond, BC. Phone (604) 277-0845 for directions.
- Thu. March 27 @ 7 pm    **Book Discussion** at Our Town café, 245 East Broadway, Vancouver. Book to discuss will be *Stranger in a Strange Land*, by Robert Heinlein.
- Fri. March 28:              **BCSFAzine** production. See Garth at FRED.

### ***Art Credits***

Sheryl Birkhead ..... masthead  
Tara Wayne ..... cover

## ***Why the Great Wars of Europe Had to Be***

Some months ago, *Broken Pencil* used to trade with *BCSFazine*. At least they started sending us copies, so obligingly I started sending them copies, and then they stopped. Just before wrapping up this issue I picked up a newsstand copy of *Broken Pencil*, and lo and behold, they had a short review of *BCSFazine*.

They weren't impressed.

I can understand why. J. Blackmore's review in *Broken Pencil* #38 finds this just an average, kind of high-schoolish newsletter, with mostly internal references and little to interest an outsider, particularly someone deeply into the independent-publishing scene. He is saying that he doesn't get why we are asking money for this, and implying that we don't get the current zine scene. Both claims are right.

Of course a few claims rankle me. The fact that our content is now limited is a matter of economics. The fact that I don't do exciting and imaginative things with layout has more to do with my lack of time than lack of imagination; I wanted to go back to the graphic ads we used to use in *BCSFazine* (and couldn't find them). The reason any article tamely follows its heading without interruption, and I don't chop up articles with "continued on/from p. (x)", has to do with at least one *BCSFazine* reader being easily confused by this ordinary magazine practice. I had to bow to necessity. But this is all making excuses.

Jennifer Ennis, who is handling a retrospective book for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Keycon, asked me in November for an article on Winnipeg fandom before Keycon. Once or twice I used the term "fannish fandom" and I simply could not give her an explanation that satisfied her. And this is something I thought any fan should know. Jennifer imagined anything fans are doing – anime, gaming, filking, costuming, etc. – was fannish.

She didn't get what I was on about, and I don't get what sort of fandom she inhabits. And neither of us is in the wrong, it's just ... parts of fandom have gone that far apart; there's no common basis of experience anymore, if there ever was.

One of my dirty little secrets is that I really didn't get classic fanzine fandom, after all; I only realized how out of step I was when I actually attended a Potlatch in Seattle. In all honesty I will admit that I don't get current indie zinedom, either. And now I confess, **I don't get what BCSFA is for.**

I *have* asked you, you know. I have asked people in these pages, and in person when I thought of it, what they wanted in

these pages, or for that matter what they wanted BCSFA to be. But asking in print somehow doesn't work – maybe you're shy? – and asking people to think about their assumptions doesn't work, either. Took me long enough to understand that.

So, is there anything *you* don't get? Like, why all the foregoing is even an issue?

Well, the reason we were charging for this newsletter was to keep it afloat. We can obviate that, somewhat, by going almost entirely online; except some members can't get *BCSFazine* online. The reason for BCSFA's existence is less clear. Graeme and Kathleen and I have been trying to come to grips with this, and I think the plain fact is that the needs that were served by a general-interest club – or convention – are now being met by special-interest groups, more in tune with contemporary SF fans: fans of anime, or gaming, or fantasy costuming, or medieval recreation, or filking, or ... you get the idea. Maybe with one or two interests, but not an interest in all fandom. Let alone all SF and fantasy.

You see what I'm getting at. For a while now we have needed a reason for BCSFA, some attraction or function that our club offers and others may not; and we have refused to supply one, or even define one.

We can't afford to avoid the issue anymore.

## **Locs**

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*Lloyd Penney [penneys@allstream.net], 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON, M9C 2B2, February 10, 2008*

It's a week to the deadline for *BCSFazine* 418, so here comes some comments on issue 417 to flesh out the new issue a little.

I see you have moved on one of the ideas discussed at that BCSFA party you were at...to set up a *BCSFazine* area on eFanzines.com. The focus of a club may stay static, but the interests of the club members may change. Either the club must change to suit its members, or the members will move to another organization that will better reflect their interests. It's a hard decision to make. A question about putting the clubzine on eFanzines...will members get access to the zine as it is produced, and people on eFanzines will see back issues only? This is a part of making sure that members feel they're getting something of value for their money, like getting the first glance at the newest *BCSFazine*.

If grown-ups must take an hour or two to read news about their community, could it be that our society is now too complicated for dumbed-down adults to comprehend and maintain? When I see the current crop of teenagers (oldphart alert), will I see anarchy in my dotage? Is our high-minded civilization too difficult to handle?

*((There's nothing high-minded about what we laughingly call civilization, not since the neoconservatives came to our lands. There's nothing very demanding about ordinary citizens ordinarily spending a little time examining the news, from various sources, to ask what the issues are and how they are being spun, before going to the polls. It's just more effort and concentration than we're used to. And that, right there, was my entire point.))*

I am trimming down my FaceBook page to hold only the basics. The myriad applications you can add are what wastes the time. I am still pleased that I have found some old friends and schoolmates through the FaceBook page, but I may yet shut it down. As far as LiveJournal goes, it's still fairly busy, so it can't be too passé. I am still storing my locs there.

My loc...no secret as to my letterhacking. It's just being creative with time management. It's the only way I've held down two jobs and still written 200 to 150 locs a year. DUFF was won by the Francises, so once again, Canadian candidates are passed by. Better luck to Murray on future fan funds. The vote was substantial, so there's some serious funds in the DUFF account.

Montréal Worldcon news...Yvonne is now working with Farah Mendelsohn and David Clement on space and science programming for Anticipation, and she maybe working finance. As for me, John Mansfield has confirmed that I will be running their fanzine lounge. Now to see what budget and space I will have to work with, and I will be trying my best to keep fanzine fandom informed of what I'd like to do. One question I need answered...who's running the fanzine lounge for Denver? I haven't heard anything.

Hey, Cosmic Ray, we might see you on the train to Montréal. Depending on how much stuff we have to bring up to Anticipation, we may drive or take the train.

Finally...Panasonic has decided to shorten my assignment, due to lack of work coming from Japan, so I'll be gone from there either February 22 or 29. I had been hoping to be there until the end of March. I can't buy a break, and I sure can't seem to win 6/49.

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BCSFAZINEzine, Volume 1, Number 66.417, Friday 6 February 2008

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

**Editorial:** “I think we’re all suffering from some kind of personal energy crisis.” Yes.

“Of course for that matter grownups also need to spend an hour or two on civic homework every day, just reading public issues news, and doing research on the Internet. I don’t suppose we’re going to do that, either.” We’d need more energy. And training.

**Locs - Lloyd & Yvonne Penney:** “I was surprised the first time I read a fan lamenting she couldn’t go everywhere and see everything at once, at her first convention. I understood from the outset that it was a smorgasbord, where you pick and choose what to see.” She must have wanted to see everything! I’ve had days like that at cons.

“I slowly realized that I was starting to go around and around conventions, always looking for a good time that I kept on missing. I think I’m too out of shape to go to cons for a while.” It varies from year to year. Some years I have that experience, but the next year it’s the opposite, and as far as I know it isn’t a difference in con quality.

“Felicitations!” Garthations right back at you! ☺

**Art Credits - Richard Lewis & Lamb Chop:** The writer of that gag was Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand.

**Advertisements:** I’ve been going to Imperial Hobbies a lot lately; I really need to get some kind of BCSFA membership card to show them.

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Sheryl Birkhead, 25509 Jonnie Court, Gaithersburg, MD 20882, USA, Feb. 14, 2008

There is absolutely no excuse for not having written before this, so I offer none and intend to get on with it! I see nos. 414, 416, and 417 sitting right here.

On #414: the cover pencil (my guess) sketch is a nice touch. I would think (but don’t quote me on this!) that readers might just like to see news and such – after all, not all of us have access to “zines” such as *Locus* and *Ansible*. We take information when and where we can get it – and that means information both local and global ... at least to me.

*((In several years I have never gotten a straight answer as to what news BCSFAns consider important to them, or at least interesting.*

*((Locus appears and is sold as a glossy newsstand magazine, and whether Ansible deserves to stay in the fanzine category has been a long-running argument, at least in Hugo-award circles. Whether BCSFAzine is a zine depends on whether you include newsletters.*

*((I have tried to demonstrate to people where zines are available, both online and by regular mail. I have no idea whether anyone was taking note.))*

It is nice to know that Chester Cuthbert's collection will be taken care of. Compared to most fen, my collection is not that large. I actually have a handful of file cabinets in the basement and one upstairs. The one upstairs is jam-packed full of what I have chosen to call classics – and stored in no particular order – just in an attempt to keep them safe, and away from the elements.

*((You may yet wish to make a plan for the delegation and the conservation of books or zines that could well go to an archive, or repository.))*

My congrats to the TAFF and DUFF winners. It would appear that the fannish feeling is alive and well and masquerading as fannish funders.

*((Looks more like some people are still into fan funds, enough to sustain them. Some people get the idea, anyway.))*

Ah, a “real” stardance. I hope you can run notes on the happening. If I read the information correctly, the ride took place on December 30 ... so maybe it is hiding in one of the next issues and I'll locate it before I am through here. I agree that zero-gravity dancing in IMAX would be a pretty intense experience.

Ah, you mention civic homework. I know we all have nightmares – one of mine revolves around Civics. When I was in high school, Civics was a required course for graduation. My ninth grade year was spent in Geneva, Switzerland, while the family was there, and when we came back, there was simply no way the Civics would fit into my class schedule. It never did, and I have dreams that someone finds out and rescinds my High School diploma, and in a house of collapsing cards, all my subsequent degrees are “cancelled”. If I haven't awakened yet, I go on to dream of being back in High School taking Civics – not pleasant.

*((If we had educational systems, instead of indoctrination systems more inclined to flunk people than to teach them*

*anything, then maybe Civics would mean something. My point in mentioning active, participatory citizenship was rather different than tackling the educational end of it.))*

Aha – there is a photo of Jeanne and Kathleen in zero G in this – so let me read on for a bit ...

The Hollywood writers' strike is officially over. Now it will be a race to see who can be the first to get new shows (or at least new episodes) into production. I do not have cable, and have never seen *Dexter*. Somehow I cannot see how serial murder (the act, not necessarily the actions surrounding it) fits into a comedic venue ... at least, that's the venue I am told it is in. I guess I'll get a chance to find out in a week or so when it comes to regular TV.

I am not quite sure how the writers work ... no, no – I understand that part. I am presuming they are unionized. Are they employees, or independent contractors? I am guessing that when the strike happened, everyone was without any means of income, and not qualified for unemployment.

*((Are the writers in question freelancers, or salaried, contracted employees? Does strike action mean you get no income, either as a matter of State/Federal law, or as a matter of studio contract provisions? I think those are the questions at hand.))*

I am just now (nothing like being years late) watching *The Dresden Files*, *Eureka*, and a batch of other SF-leaning series that appeared on cable. ... I forget who mentioned, in some zine, the series *Doctor Doctor*; I went in search of it, but apparently it is not available on DVD.

*((The first two series you name are showing up now, on Canada's answer to the Sci-Fi Channel.))*

Of course my next big undertaking will be to figure out HDTV – and what I can to make the transition without buying new sets – and hoping that the VCRs will tape as set up, if I splice in the converter – just not sure where.

In the meantime, I have more computer woes to keep me occupied. This time it is not actually the computer itself, but the zip disc I have been using for almost 8 years to store all the data to do with my business. Just when it could cause the most trouble, the most recent files for tax purposes refused to open. Some panic calls gleaned that the disc itself is corrupted. The data is there, but there is simply no way to get at it. I finally had to call a Mac store. They had me bring in the tower, the zip drive and the disc. Long story short: he managed to salvage all but three files. I lost all my year-end totals and analyses, but just about everything else is there. I cannot make myself even

contemplate running Turbo Tax to see if I can cobble together the taxes and call it a wrap! I am now backing up to hard drive, zip disc, floppy, and thumb drive – my philosophy being that at least one of those storage devices ought to be reliable at any given time. Of course I am actually remembering to back up more frequently. So, not really a computer problem ... just a computing one. Ah, such fun.

*((This is why we do non-electronic backups. They are what we technically call “printouts”))*

I hope all readers who are qualified to nominate for the Hugos have done so – if this is seen before March 1 – then there is still time for those who have yet to do their fannish duty!

*((I was unaware that we were obliged to vote for the Hugo Awards.))*

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*(Now I mean it – I've been making a list and checking it twice)*

## **Calendar**

### **March 2008**

March 8 (1 – 4 pm): **Global Warming Café** at the Fireside Room, St. Philips Church, 3737 West 27<sup>th</sup> (1 block west of Dunbar St.), Vancouver, BC. Conversations that lead to tangible action! Listen to and learn from each other about climate change! Includes workshops on food issues: Jill Weiss (Zero Mile Diet), Philip Be'er (Shifting from Knowing to Doing), Grant Watson (Buying Locally: Cool Options. To register call (604) 731-8464 or email info @ communityclimatechange.ca. See www communityclimatechange.ca.

March 16 (11am to 5pm): **Vancouver Comicon** at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (corner of Main and 15th Ave). Special Guests: Kaare Andrews (*Spider-Man: Reign, Wolverine*; cover artist for *The Twelve, Immortal Iron Fist*); Steve Rolston (*The Escapists, Degrassi: Extra Credit, One Bad Day, Queen and Country*); Jordyn Bochon (*The Radar Friends*); Philip Barrett (*Matter*); Stephanie Blakey (*Comics by Steph*); Ken Boesem (*The Village*); Laura Eveleigh (Little Illustrated Books); Kelly Everaert (*Trilogy of Terror*); Mary Kim; Donald King; Carrie McKay; Mike Myhre (Space Jet Comics); Citty Riphick; Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell, Hemp Island*); Critical Hit Comics Admission: \$3.00 Kids under 14: Free! Dealer Tables: \$50/wall; \$40/centre. For more information about this

show, please email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) or call 604-322-6412; Leonard S Wong [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com), or see <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>

March 16-18: **2008 Northwest Festivals & Events Conference**, presented by Washington Festivals & Events and the Oregon Festivals & Events Association at the Salem Convention Center and Phoenix Grand Hotel (<http://www.salemconferencecenter.org>) in Salem Oregon. There will be a program of 25 workshops, keynotes speeches, the special events industry tradeshow, showcase performances and many networking opportunities. If you missed the 2007 conference, here is the brochure for your information:

[http://www.wfea.org/pdf-download/2007\\_ConfBroch.pdf](http://www.wfea.org/pdf-download/2007_ConfBroch.pdf)

Also, take a look at some scenes from last year's conference.

<http://www.wfea.org/calendar-association/gallery.cfm>

### **March 17: deadline for Aurora nomination ballots.**

### **May 2008**

May 23-25: **Crypticon Horror Convention** at the Doubletree Inn & Conference Center, 18740 International Blvd., Seattle, WA 98188. Randon Acts Seattle is pleased to announce Crypticon Seattle 2008. THREE DAYS OF MUSIC, MONSTERS AND MAYHEM! The Doubletree Ballroom will be packed with plenty of opportunities to sell and buy horror toys, t-shirts, books, movies, masks, art, autographs and much, much more. Come checkout the exhibits, meet your favourite horror personalities, get their autographs. Friday night features our Independent Film Festival and on Saturday night we are having a major concert featuring some amazing National talent. There will movies running all weekend featuring some new and some classic horror films and in some cases hosted by a member or members of the cast. With our major line-up of great guests, this show is shaping up to be a 'Don't Miss event!' See <http://www.crypticonseattle.com/>

## **News**

GOTH HOUSE: Julie McGalliard discovered she last provided an update in October, and now tells us there is a new post at her website, "kind of an intro to the St. Valentine's Day Massacre":

<http://www.gothhouse.org/index.php>

Also: the website has been subtly redesigned, and Julie is appearing at Radcon.

FAN FUNDS: As published earlier, the Trans Atlantic Fan Fund delegate for 2008 is Chris Garcia of California. He will be attending the Eastercon in Britain. His fanzine *The Drink Tank* (#161) contains further information.

THE AURORA AWARDS NOMINATION BALLOT DEADLINE is set for March 17<sup>th</sup>. That's this month, folks!

NOMINATABLE WORKS FOR THE 2008 AURORAS include:

*Axis* by Robert Charles Wilson;

*Queen of Candescence* by Karl Schroeder;

*Cry Wolf* (juvenile) by Edo van Belkom; and

*The New Moon's Arms* by Nalo Hopkinson.

We know about this because the USS Hudson's Bay (an SF club in Toronto) has been circulating excerpts of these novels online.

ZOMBIEWALK: Ashton Green announces the next organized Zombiewalk is scheduled for August 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m., starting from the Vancouver Art Gallery. See details at [www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=10582758355](http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=10582758355).

### ***About BCSFA***

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\*(including 2 votes in WCSFA meetings)

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