

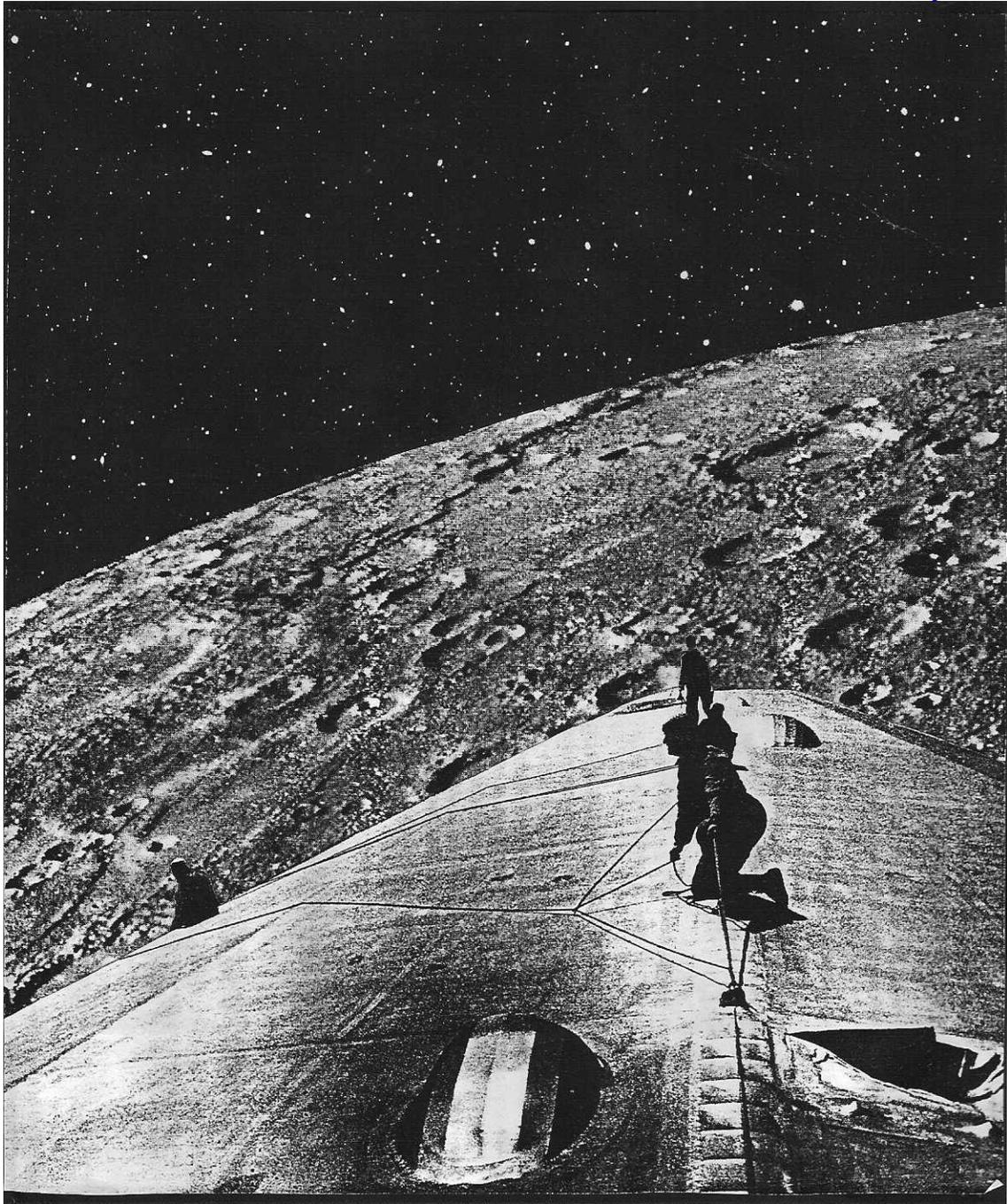
# WCSFAzine

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

#1

Sept 2007



Ether Ship Approaching Mercury

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

WCSFAzine Issue # 1, Oct 2007, Volume 1, Number 1, Whole number 1, 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 Barends.  
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](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) > and ask me to email you a PDF version of each issue as soon as it is ready.

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

WCSFAzine is not intended to be the perzine ( fannish slang for personal fanzine ) of the editor, though I will filter everything through my alleged wry sense of ~~imbecility~~ humour.

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

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

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

No pay, but plenty of egoboo ( fannish slang for 'boost to the ego' ). Cheers all! The Graeme

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## EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first issue of WCSFAzine, a monthly E-zine intended to promote the West Coast SF Association, VCON, Sci-Fi fandom, West Coast clubs, authors and happenings, and whatever else seems appropriate to and for the West Coast Sci-Fi community..

Why the Graeme as editor? I have credentials: an Aurora award for fan achievement; 3 or 4 Aurora nominations for my 11 issues of the ‘Space Cadet Gazette’; 77 consecutive issues of BCSFAzine under my belt as ‘Ghod-editor’; chaired VCON 25; created the ‘Canadian Fancyclopedia’; am the President of BCSFA, the Secretary of WCSFA, and the Archivist of both organizations; and mainly, because I’m the one who came up with the idea and am willing to do the work as long as my sanity lasts.

This issue is a quickie trial issue to demonstrate my vision of what WCSFAzine should be. I should have the next issue finished by October, featuring more emphasis on local clubs. Many thanks to Bill Burns at < <http://www.efanzone.com> > for hosting. Please send me feedback! < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) > Cheers!

## VCON 32 ANNOUNCEMENT EXTREME!

Well, it is important to use the word ‘extreme’ in a title these days isn’t it? But I’m old-fashioned and believe content is infinitely more important than appearance, so here goes:

### **VCON 32 IS NIGH! A SPLENDIFEROUS CELEBRATION OF SCIENCE FICTION FANTASY!**

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

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

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

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

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

Questions? Phone 778-230-1605.

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

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

( ‘Faunch’ is fannish slang for intense desire to acquire & absorb amoeba-style )

SEE YOU AT VCON!

## CONVENTION STUFF

### THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF VCON 1: Part One by RGC

#### **OCTOBER 1970 - ORIGINS:**

John Mansfield ( who later chaired Canadian, the Winnipeg Worldcon in 1994 ), already one of the legendary BNFs of Canadian fandom even then ( *'BNF' is fannish slang for 'Big Name Fan', meant as a compliment and expression of awe* ), sent word that he would be passing through Vancouver. University of British Columbia Science Fiction Fen, or UBC SFFEN, ( *'Fen' being fannish slang for 'Science Fiction Fans'* ) club members, including Daniel Say and Vice-Chairman Robert Scott, went to meet Mansfield in the Hotel Vancouver. There he treated them to a slide show depicting several Sci-Fi conventions ( *Sci-Fi is fannish slang for 'Science Fiction', invented by Forrest J. Ackerman in 1955* ). Inspired by this, within two months, or before the end of 1970, Daniel Say announced the club would put on their own SF convention early in the coming year.

#### **JANUARY 1971:**

The following document was presented by UBC SFFEN to the University of British Columbia Special Events Committee on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January, 1971:

#### **PLANS FOR A SCIENCE FICTION FESTIVAL:**

( Read this proposal very carefully and see if it doesn't take your breath away. Ambitious doesn't even begin to describe it!.)

#### **"FILM FESTIVAL:"**

"Continuous films in the SUB auditorium with series and individual tickets being sold. The theatre would be cleared between showings. Because of problems with the distributors of these films they would rent for about \$100 each and to this must be added the cost of projectionist facilities. Experimental and short science fiction films will be shown also. These would be shown in the old auditorium. If Ed Emshwiller comes he will bring many of these including his own."

#### **"TALKS BY AUTHORS:"**

"Topic: Science Fiction; what was it, what is it, and what will it be. Speakers to be experts in the history of SF as well as being authors. Suggested speakers are Judith Merril and Harlan Ellison."

"Round table discussion on the present state of Science Fiction and what the trends in it are. Suggested participants; Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, and Poul Anderson as well as any others willing to participate."

"Fritz Leiber and Jack Vance talk on the Sword and Sorcery side of modern Fantasy. Poul Anderson stages one of his world famous jousts."

"Local Paul Green gives a talk on Cycles in SF with some readings of SF prose and poetry."

"John W. Campbell Jr. talks on the History of Astounding and its effect on the market."

"Robert A. Heinlein and Harlan Ellison give illustrated talks on prediction and the future of SF."

"Keynote address by Ursula K. LeGuin and Frank Herbert on SF and today's society."

"Dinner, (with recipes from the SCIENCE FICTION COOKBOOK edited by Ann McCaffrey) with short statements from all guests."

#### **"OTHER FEATURES:"**

"Display of SF art. Artists will be present to answer questions and to sell their work."

"Special showing of 2001 with a discussion with Stanley Kubrick following."

"Auction Bloch. The fans bid for exclusive time with an author and the money going to charity."

"Displays from NASA on the main mall."

"The main library to display their extensive collection of SF magazines."

Wow! What a lineup! If I interpret the above correctly, their projected Guest of Honour list included: Ed Emshwiller, Judith Merril, Harlan Ellison, Robert Heinlein, Isaac Asimov, Poul Anderson, Fritz Leiber, John W. Campbell Jr., Ursula K. LeGuin, Frank Herbert, Stanley Kubrick and Robert Bloch! And, as the following selection makes clear, Ted White, Frederik Pohl and Philip Jose Farmer! And who was to fund this gathering of giants? The university of course. In terms of fees and plane fares whoever drew up this document figured the above guests could be brought in for about \$3,400. In 1971 dollars. That's a lot of money.

Somewhat understandably, the author of this proposal took the trouble to explain why the authors were worth it:

### **"SF AUTHORS:"**

"We have phoned many of these and they all seem to say the same thing: they need two months notice and will come if all expenses are paid. They often want an amount of money as well as expenses and they definitely must get part in advance. They all belong to a union SFWA Science Fiction Writers of America which is cracking down on the authors who will come for next to nothing, in an attempt to upgrade the profession and stop groups getting a writer for exploitation purposes. These authors may have some arguments with each other or dislike a certain person. Care must be taken that they do not come into conflict."

**"ISAAC ASIMOV:** Anybody's first choice. Fantastic personality in his own right. Prolific writer, over 100 books.... Devised a whole series of books around the three laws of robotics.... The classic trilogy of the Galactic Empires end and attempts to save it. Is a warm, humane man with a good sense of humour.... Get him at any price.... Get him here a week early and you will have a self-made publicity machine...."

**"JUDITH MERRIL:** The den mother of SF. Burst on SF scene like a nova with a fantastic story. Never looked back.... Knows almost every good author in SF. Reads everything with the slightest bit of SF in it. Lived in Rochedale College for a time. New Canadian. Public library created a special SF branch to house her collection of 8,000 books which she donated...."

**"TED WHITE:** Author, editor. Will talk at the drop of a hat. Fastest rising young magazine editor in the world. Is attracting writers to his magazine like flies to honey. Well respected by many authors. Will come for plane fare and a lot of flattery."

**"JOHN W. CAMPBELL JR:** Editor. Was author. Started the modern branch of SF. Offensive or controversial in his philosophies. Many dislike him as a person...."

**"FRANK HERBERT:** Author of the award-winning and monumental DUNE. Proposed arctic submarine tanker in 1957. Strong mystical streak, ecologically minded, university affairs reporter...."

**"FRED POHL:** Author editor. Part of a famous SF team. Is nowadays trying to introduce SF to non-readers. Good editor and talker. Has done a lot of hotline shows...."

**"PHILIP JOSE FARMER:** Brought sex into SF. Used to write porno. Very funny novelist but has a deep concern for the world and its problems, supporter of Triple Revolution...."

Since this magnificent convention never took place, I can only conclude that the University of B.C. Special Events Committee turned down the proposal. Pity.

I particularly like the pithy capsule descriptions of the various authors; I find them quite charming. Whoever wrote them evidently had no idea he (or she) was making themselves and the authors to be a right lot of loonies that nobody in their right mind would ever fund to speak on campus. But full marks for trying. It was a grand vision.

TO BE CONTINUED.

### **2009 WORLDCON SITE SELECTED!**

Montréal defeated Kansas City by a clear majority, 507 votes to 341., winning the right to host the 2009 Worldcon, which will be called Anticipation. This is the first time Montreal has won a Worldcon.

Previous Canadian Worldcons were Torcon 1 in 1948, Torcon 2 in 1973, Canadian in Winnipeg in 1994, and Torcon 3 in 2003.

**Guest of Honour** -- Neil Gaiman

**Invitee d'honneur** -- Elisabeth Vonarburg

**Fan Guest of Honour** -- Taral Wayne

**Editor Guest of Honour** -- David Hartwell

**Publisher Guest of Honour** -- Tom Doherty

**Master of Ceremonies** -- Julie Czerneda

### **LOCAL BID FOR 2009 CONCOMCON ANNOUNCED!**

Canadian fans Marah Searle-Kovacevic and Alex von Thom are bidding to host ConComCon 16 in Vancouver in 2009. The traditional weekend is the second weekend in June.

"ConComCon is an annual gathering of convention organizers, mainly from the Pacific Northwest but also from across North America, bringing together a diverse range of people to share best practices and problems in running conventions. It is organized under the auspices of SWOC (the Seattle Westercon

Organizing Committee, parent corporation for three Westercons, a NASFiC, and the Seattle in 2011 Worldcon bid).”

Apparently a previous ConComCon was held in Vancouver ( or somewhere in the Lower Mainland ) but I have no info on this. I would be interested in a loc (*fannish short form of 'letter of comment'*) from anyone who attended that one, or any ConComCon for that matter, so readers can get an idea of what these cons are like.

The 2009 site will be selected during the 2008 ConComCon to be held in Seattle in June. Support from the Vancouver SF community has already been expressed , and by other Western Canada fans as well, so momentum has begun to build. Be sure to attend the 2008 ConComCon and vote for the Vancouver bid!

No previous Convention Committee experience is required. ConComCon is open to any fan interested in what con-running is all about. Currently membership for ConComCon 15 ( 2008 ) is \$25 US. Send your name, address, phone number, email and a cheque for \$25 US ( made out to 'ComConCom 15' ) to:

ComConCom 15, c/o SWOC. Box 1066, Seattle, WA, USA 98111

For more info when updated, check out their website at < <http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/> > and also the SWOC website at < <http://www.swoc.org/> >

### **FLASH GORDON TO APPEAR AT VCON 32!**

Yep, it's true! TV's new Flash Gordon ( series to be filmed here in Vancouver ) will be a special guest at VCON 32! Flash will appear in the guise of Edmonton-born actor Eric Johnson, previously well-known for his character 'Whitney Fordman' in Smallville ( also filmed here ). Johnson is stepping into the shoes of Olympic Swimming champion Buster Crabbe who played the Original Flash Gordon in three serials: FLASH GORDON ( 1936 ), FLASH GORDON'S TRIP TO MARS ( 1938 ) & FLASH GORDON CONQUERS THE UNIVERSE ( 1940 ). Not to mention Steve Holland who played Flash in the 1951 Dumont network TV series, and footballer Sam J. Jones of the 1980 De Laurentiis production. We look forward to learning about Johnson's interpretation of this iconic character from the early days of Sci-Fi.

## **FANATICAL FANAC FABLES**

### **TARAL WAYNE AT 2009 WORLDCON**

It's really cool that Taral Wayne has been selected for Fan Guest of Honour. He is one of the last still actively fannish faneds ( *'faned' is fannish slang for 'fanzine editor'* ) from the explosion of Canadian fanzines in the 1970/80s, perhaps most famous for his *DNQ* zine which ran for 34 issues from April 1978 to 1982. Plus, he is a superb fan artist whose work has often graced the pages of BCSFAzine and other fanzines. It is greatly to be hoped that his role at Anticipation will inject a revived interest in Canadian SF fanzine publication and the rich heritage of same. At the very least, it should provide a splendid last hurrah for traditional fanzine fandom. Taral has been quoted as saying "Welcome to the post-fanzine world." Say it ain't so! Say it loud!

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

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

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

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

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

### **WHAT THE HECK IS A FANCYCLOPEDIA?**

A Fancyclopedia is nothing less than an encyclopedia of Fannish lore, legend and history. There have been two Fancyclopedias published, a third is underway, and I am currently hard at work ( sporadically ) on the CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA, a Fancyclopedia concentrating on Canadian fannish history.

### **FANCYCLOPEDIA #1**

Was compiled by American fan John A. Bristol 'Jack' Speer'. His intention was to create an "Encyclopedic Dictionary of Fandom" and to "define all expressions...which have an esoteric meaning in fantasy fandom." He certainly succeeded, beginning with the letter 'A' (shortest title for a fanzine) and ending with 'ZWEIG, ALLEN' (a pen name of Donald Wollheim). More than that, he wanted to put everything into context: "to supply other information, such as that on Esperanto, which may be needed to understand what fans say, write, and do."

On the other hand, he had to draw the line somewhere: "Certain fields have been excluded...because they are well taken care of elsewhere.... biographies have been left to the various Who's Whos of fandom, and fanzines in detail to Dr. Swisher's excellent S-F Checklist."

Harry Warner Jr. wrote: "The Fancyclopedia was... the biggest single publication that fandom had yet known when its 100-page first edition was published in 1944. Jack Speer worked for four years on the writing of it, the NFFF (National Fantasy Fan Federation) provided financial assistance, and LASFS (Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society) members did the actual production work. This first big compilation in dictionary form of fandom's traditions, slang, and big events was an enormous success...Bob Bloch ( author of 'Psycho' ) called it 'probably the most important step ever undertaken in the history of fandom,' and said that it made fandom 'permanent as a social phenomenon.'"

Best of all, Fancyclopedia #1 is readily accessible. Just go to the wonderful Fanac History Project website at < [http://fanac.org/Fannish Reference Works/Fancyclopedia/](http://fanac.org/Fannish_Reference_Works/Fancyclopedia/) > and get access to all three Fancyclopedias. Read and/or download. Anyone and everyone interested in the history of fandom needs to read these!

TO BE CONTINUED WITH DESCRIPTION OF FANCYCLOPEDIA #2.

### **THE CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA**

Perhaps the best way of explaining my reasons for creating the Canadian Fancyclopedia is to quote from my introduction to same:

"Since Canadian organized fandom ( clubs & conventions ) AND Canadian Fanzine production appears to be on the decline, predictions of the 'death' of Canadian traditional SF fandom are once again being sounded. In my own small way, I want to acquaint contemporary Canadian fandom with its 60 or 70 year heritage in the hope this will lead fans into greater fanac, yea, even unto being moved to pub their ish, by Ghu."

"Say what? Fandom has its own terminology, mostly American in origin, much of it now obsolete, and quite obviously pointless and silly to outsiders, but to those in the fold, an expression of the fannish COMMUNITY. For the first fans were fanzine fans, loners in their own neighbourhood may haps, but reaching out to each other via fanzines exchanged by mail and in the process developing their own culture, their own shared mental environment where everyone instantly related through the basic concepts they all held in common. Out of this shared vision sprang wonderful things, like clubs and conventions, and more fanzines."

"It's hard for a newcomer to understand traditional SF fandom, hard to grasp that it DOES have a tradition, that it IS a shared vision of complexity and depth infinitely more elaborate than the shallow, superficial nature of fans as perceived by outsiders. It is even harder to explain fandom in a coherent, to the point, concise manner without making it sound like a load of shallow, superficial (albeit complicated) nonsense."

“You have to grow into fandom, get used to it, increase your participation, immerse yourself slowly into it like some great wallowing hot-tubber until finally you are relaxed and comfortable in the fannish environment. Unfortunately there are fewer and fewer venues available for this process to occur.”

“But as you browse through the Canadian Fancyclopedia website, dipping a toe here, testing the water temperature there, I am confident you will gradually begin to gain a sense of what it was like to be a fan in the twentieth century. I include enough information to illustrate what SF fandom in general was like, but with particular emphasis on anything pertaining to Canadian fandom and, as far as fanzines are concerned, exclusively Canadian fanzines. Thus you will, if only by osmosis, slowly become aware of what it means to be a traditional fan, a Canadian traditional fan.”

“And if you should be so moved as to want to get involved with other fans, or even start your own fanzine, I will have accomplished my goal.”

Access my Canadian Fancyclopedia at: < <http://members.shaw.ca/rgraeme/home.html> >

### **LATEST CANADIAN FANCYCLOPEDIA UPDATES**

I'm doing this because it will force me to update my site at least once a month ( before the WCSFAzine deadline! ). Ok, I haven't updated lately, but I'll get back into the habit soonest!

**29th July 2007** - Updated/Filled entries: **Under B:** Assorted Apazines. **Under F:** Fan Films ( Canadian ), The Followers of Rassilon. **Under O:** Omega. **Under V:** VCONS 10 to 13 in detail.

**14<sup>th</sup> July 2007** – Updated/filled entries: **Under A:** Assorted Apazines. **Under F:** Fan Films ( American ). **Under V:** VCONS 1 to 9 in detail.

See e-address above to check these out.

### **EFANZINE.COM A FANNISH PARADISE**

If you are reading this chances are you've downloaded from Efanzone.com. Surely you've explored the site? But maybe you didn't have the time, or maybe you've got this from me directly. Either way, you're missing something wonderful.

Not only does Efanzone.com contain current and backlog issues of 92 different fanzines, it has links to another 55 fanzine sites, including local fan Garth Spencer's 'Royal Swiss Navy Gazette' site. This makes it entirely possible to read most of the outstanding fanzines currently being published. You can read them, locate them, then see your locs 'in print' with the next edition posted, and thus become an active participant in the fascinating universe of contemporary fanzine fandom, and all without spending a penny on postage or printing costs!

And if you be so moved as to pub your own ish ( *fannish slang for 'publish your own issue'* ), chances are Bill Burns, the host of the site, will be willing to add your zine! This is the shortest route to zinedom!

Other Canadian zines hosted are Rodney Leighton's 'Bits of my Boring Life' & 'The Mail Carrier Brought It', Mike Glicksohn's classic Hugo-winning 'Energumen', Felicity Walker's 'Ish', & Andrew C. Murdoch's 'Covert Communications From Zeti Corvi'. Let's add more! Let's add YOUR zine!

Exploring the site further, you'll discover such fannish treats as 'The Enchanted Duplicator' by famed Irish fans Walt Willis and Bob Shaw, other faan fiction like 'The Golden Halls of Mirth', 'Meadows of Fantasy' and 'The Science Fiction League of Extraordinary Fuggheads', links to resource sites like the 'Pavlat & Evans Fanzine Index' & 'The Science Fiction and Fantasy Research Database', links to collections of fan photos, to sites devoted to artists like George Barr, Frank R. Paul & William Rotsler, links to fan funds, etc., etc. The list goes on and on.

Don't pass up the opportunity to immerse yourself in both the history and the on-streaming lifeblood of fanzine fandom. It's like attending an online university devoted to fanzine fandom, what it is and how to do it. Give yourself a Doctorate of Fanology! Educate yourself!

Access the site at: < <http://efanzines.com/> >

### **LATEST ZINES ADDED TO EFANZINE.COM ARCHIVE**

John Purcell's *Askance #4*, C.J. Garcia's *PrintZine New Series #2*, Jean Martin & C. Garcia's *Science Fiction / San Francisco #50*, Bruce Gillespie & Jan Stinson's *Steam Engine Time #7*, Chuck Connor's *Phlizz #2*, Henry Welch's *The Knarley Knews #125*, John Coxon's *Procastinations Four* & Chris Garcia's *The Drink Tank #141*, Chris J. Garcia's *PrintZine New Series #3*, & his *Drink Tank #142*, John Thiel's *Surprising Stories #15*, Janine Stinson's *Ribbons #3*. Check out the site at the E-address above.

## **FILTHY PRO NEWS**

( 'Filthy Pro' is fannish slang for a professional in the field, originally applied only to prominent fans who started to earn money from their Sci-Fi activities, but now taken as a term for any professional SF author, editor, actor, filmmaker, etc. )

**THE STARDANCE PROJECT: UPDATE** < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/stardance/index.html> >

To Quote Jeanne Robinson from her speech at the Robert H. Heinlein Centennial Gala Presentation last July: "Dancing in zero-G has been a life-long dream of mine – a dream I almost reached. In the early '80's I was short-listed for a seat on the space shuttle to create dance in zero gravity as part of NASA's Civilian in Space program. The Challenger explosion ended that dream in my lifetime. On that day I promised myself that I would find a way to keep that dream alive."

Thus Jeanne conceived of creating a short CGI film illustrating her concept of zero gravity dancing. She put together "a very powerful production team" including Director Michael Lennick ( of the ROCKET SCIENCE series for Discovery Channel ), Hugo-winning visual effects designer/artist Ron Miller, Graphics designer/writer Jack Senett, film score composer James Raymond, and very recently, producer James Sposto, who wants to turn the Stardance Project into a \$5M Imax film! Very cool!

Even more cool, as a result of her speech at the RAH celebration Jeanne and a dancer *will* experience weightlessness, aboard a Zero Gravity Corporation parabolic flight courtesy of that company's Founder and CEO, Dr. Peter Diamandis! Fantastic!

Meanwhile, the project continues to need funding to progress further. If you are intrigued and would like to support or contribute to the Stardance project financially, see the above E-address for further details.

## **ROBERT SAWYER WINS CHINA'S 'GALAXY' AWARD**

Robert J. Sawyer won China's top science-fiction award, the Galaxy Award, in the category "Most Popular Foreign Author of the Year." The award was voted on by Chinese readers attending the Chengdu International Science Fiction And Fantasy Festival, < <http://www.chengdu2007.com/> > the largest science-fiction conference ever held in China.

Chinese translations of Sawyer's novels are published by Science Fiction World, headquartered in Chengdu, and his short stories have appeared in *Science Fiction World* magazine, the world's largest-circulation SF publication.

The Galaxy Award honors Sawyer's entire oeuvre, rather than a specific book. The award was presented at a gala ceremony at the Chengdu Museum of Science and Technology on August 26<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

In his acceptance speech Sawyer said, "*The great thing about science fiction is that it transcends national boundaries. It's wonderful to be at a conference along with writers from the United States, England, China, Hong Kong, Japan, Russia, New Zealand, and Canada. Science fiction really is the literature of Planet Earth.*"

## **AUTHOR HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST**

**R. GRAEME CAMERON** < [rgraeme@shaw.ca](mailto:rgraeme@shaw.ca) > attempted to establish himself as a Sci-Fi novelist in the 1970s. Failed miserably. Favourite rejection slip comment; "We don't like your main character and don't think anyone else will either."

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

**WILLIAM GIBSON** < <http://www.williamgibsonbooks.com> > Bill will appear at the Vancouver International Writers Festival held on Granville Island. Possibly Tuesday, October 16, 4:30 PM at Performance Works ( listed on his site, not on Festival's ). But definitely at Waterfront Theatre on Thursday, Oct 18<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 PM on 'The Purpose of Fiction', and 3<sup>rd</sup> at Performance Works Friday, Oct 19<sup>th</sup>

@ 8:00 PM for a 'Literary Cabaret'. See < <http://www.writersfest.bc.ca/> > for info. His latest book: '*Spook Country*'.

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

**EILEEN KERNAGHAN** < <http://www.lonelycry.ca/ek/> > No local appearances currently scheduled, but check out her latest books: '*Winter on the Plain of Ghosts: a Novel of Mohenjo-daro*', '*The Alchemist's Daughter*', & '*The Sarsen Witch*' (reissue).

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

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

**SPIDER ROBINSON** < <http://www.spiderrobinson.com/index2.html> > Spider is scheduled to read from '*Variable Star*' at the Vancouver branch of the Canadian Authors Association (CAA) on Wednesday, November 14th, at 7pm at Alliance for Arts and Culture, Suite 100, 938 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC. His latest book: '*Variable Star*'.

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

**ROBERT J. SAWYER** < <http://www.sfwriter.com/> > who lives in Ontario, has no local appearances planned in the near future ( though I suspect he may attend VCON 32 since his short story '*Biding Time*' is up for a 'Best English Language Short Story' Aurora ), but check out his latest book: '*Rollback*'.

**NOTE:** Most of the above novels are available at White Dwarf Books, 3715 West 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C., V6R 2G5, (604) 228 – 8223, e-address: < [whitedwarf@deadwrite.com](mailto:whitedwarf@deadwrite.com) >

## **MEDIA MADNESS**

### **RETRO FILM REVIEW: THE MASK OF FU MANCHU ( 1932 ) by RGC**

You should see this film:

Because it is a fun-filled romp full of over-the-top acting by Boris Karloff, plus bizarre sets and outrageous costumes ( at one point Karloff appears to be wearing a Ming tree on his head ).

Because it is based on Sax Rohmer's series of exotic thrillers about the machinations of Fu Manchu, oriental mastermind. Apparently Sax Rohmer was in Egypt when the film was first released and never saw it, though he did opine that "*Boris Karloff would be an ideal choice for Fu Manchu.*" Hopefully he never knew that the film was quite deliberately 'camp' before that word had even been invented.

Because this was Karloff's first speaking horror role ( he had been mute in both 'FRANKENSTEIN' and 'THE OLD DARK HOUSE' ). Granted he had already spoken in numerous other films, but the critics were keen to find out if he could pull off speaking the lines of a diabolical, maniacal villain. Turns out he could, magnificently.

Because the film is saturated with Freudian innuendo, as Myrna Loy, who played Fu Manchu's daughter, once explained in a later interview: "*I carried around a pet python and whipped a young man tied to a rack and all sorts of dreadful things. Now I had been reading a little Freud around that time, so I*

called the director over one day and said, 'Say, this is obscene. This woman is a sadistic nymphomaniac.' And he said 'What does that mean?' I mean, we did it all before these kids today ever thought of it, and we didn't even know what we were doing!"

And speaking of Freud, did you know that amateur Freudian analysis was a huge fad in the 1920s and early 1930s? ( Which is probably why Myrna Loy was reading Freud during the making of the film. ) People threw cocktail parties to analyze each other and/or themselves. Sci-fi fans in the picked up the habit and maintained it into the 1940s, partly out of a persistent desire to prove fans were somehow superior to mundanes ( *fannish slang for non-fans, no negative connotation intended* ). Among fans, the practice was known as 'Autoanalyses'. Thankfully now obsolete.

And speaking of Boris Karloff, did you know he began his acting career here in British Columbia in 1911? He first appeared on stage in Kamloops as the banker Hoffman in Ferenc Molnar's play 'The Devil'. One local critic wrote that Karloff was superb as "the drunken, stumbling, stuttering Banker"! Trouble is, he wasn't supposed to be drunken, stumbling or stuttering, it's just that he was so nervous... When the curtain descended after the first performance his salary was cut in half!

## **ODD BITS**

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

Did you know that the Ancient Romans used coins for propaganda purposes?... "HALF PER CENT TAX SCRAPPED!" declared one coin put out by Caligua, without any mention, however, of the additional taxes he'd just imposed.... "IMPERIAL TRANSPORT TAX IN ITALY ABOLISHED!" and raised in the other provinces.... "SUPPORT OF THE LEGIONS" and "DISCIPLINE IN THE ARMY" appeared when an Emperor was worried about the army's loyalty.... "THE MAN WHO PUT ( pick one ) SPAIN/GAUL/AFRICA/THE WHOLE WORLD BACK ON ITS FEET" temporarily... and my favourite: "GOOD TIMES RETURN" above a depiction of a soldier dragging a barbarian captive out of a hut.

Strange lads, the Romans. (Source: 'Roman Coins and How to Collect Them' by John Fox. )

Perhaps the best science fictional use of Roman history (albeit set in Rome after the fall of the Western Roman Empire ) is the 1939 novel '*Lest Darkness Fall*' by L. Sprague De Camp in which a time-traveller trapped in 6<sup>th</sup> century Rome does his best to prevent civilization from being swallowed up by the encroaching Dark Ages. Considered one of the great classics of science fiction literature, it's a highly entertaining twist on Mark Twain's 'Connecticut Yankee in King Author's Court' and well worth reading.

### **GOOGLE SPACE MADNESS!**

The good people at Google and the X-Prize Foundation are offering \$30,000,000 to any private venture that lands a robot probe on the Moon. When I told this to my wife Alyx she got very excited. Turns out my usual mumbling got translated as "land a robot *crow* on the moon"! Hmmm, I'm rather taken with the idea.

Now, in order to win, you have to land *something* on the Moon by the end of 2012, something capable of traveling at least 500 metres, snapping photos & video footage and transmitting them back to Earth. Bonus prizes of \$5,000,000 can be earned by accomplishing additional tasks, like surviving the Lunar night and powering up again when the sun comes up.

So why *not* a robot crow? I can picture it now, hopping about the Lunar surface, head cocked to one side as it leans to examine ( and photograph ) a particularly interesting pebble, extending wings festooned with solar panels to catch the light, perhaps building a little nest to test soil cohesion....Hmmm...

I'm betting a robot crow would stir far more interest than a standard functional design ever could. Somebody should tell Google....

### **RUSSIANS UNVEIL GREEN BOMB!**

The good people at the ~~Soviet~~ Russian Industrial Military Complex have announced their latest weapon, a powerful "Vacuum Bomb", which apparently is simply a bigger version of the Fuel Air Ignition bomb the Americans first released – no pun intended – during the Vietnam War. The bomb may not be original, but give the Russian spin doctors full marks for originality, they're pushing the weapon as the first environmentally sensitive weapon. Apparently it does no lasting harm to the environment, it "*merely*

*evaporates every living thing.*" (!) This is something Emperor Ming The Merciless of Mongo would dearly love to have in his arsenal. Perhaps our new Flash Gordon can do something about this?

## AWARDS

### 2007 HUGO AWARDS

The Hugo Awards were presented at Nippon 2007, this year's Worldcon, on September 1. This year's trophy depicted Ultraman standing next to the traditional Hugo rocket, with Mount Fuji visible in the background. It looks very, very cool. The Hugos are selected by the members of the World Science Fiction Society (Worldcon). ( Source: The SF Site: News < <http://www.sfsite.com/columns/news01.htm> > )

**Best Novel:** Rainbows End by Vernor Vinge

**Best Novella:** "A Billion Eyes" by Robert Reed

**Best Novelette:** "The Djinn's Wife" by Ian McDonald

**Best Short Story:** "Impossible Dreams" by Tim Pratt

**Best Related Non-Fiction Book:** James Tiptree, Jr.: The Double Life of Alice B Sheldon by Julie Phillips

**Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form:** Pan's Labyrinth. Screenplay by Guillermo del Toro. Directed by Guillermo del Toro

**Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form:** Doctor Who - "Girl in the Fireplace." Written by Steven Moffat. Directed by Euros Lyn

**Best Editor, Long Form:** Patrick Nielsen Hayden

**Best Editor, Short Form:** Gordon Van Gelder

**Best Professional Artist:** Donato Giancola

**Best Semiprozine:** Locus ed. by Charles N. Brown, Kirsten Gong-Wong and Liza Groen Trombi

**Best Fanzine:** Science-Fiction Five-Yearly ed. by Lee Hoffman, Geri Sullivan, and Randy Byers

**Best Fan Writer:** Dave Langford

**Best Fan Artist:** Frank Wu

**Campbell Award:** Naomi Novik

### 2007 SEIUN AWARDS

The Seiun Awards were presented at closing ceremonies at Nippon 2007, the 2007 Worldcon, on September 2. The Seiun are based on the voting of the members of the Japanese National Convention, this year held in conjunction with Worldcon. ( Source: The SF Site: News. Email address above. )

**Japanese Long Fiction:** Japan Sinks, Part 2, by Sakyō Komatsu and Kōshū Tani

**Japanese Short Fiction:** "A Furoshiki and Spider's Thread," by Housuke Nojiri

**Translated Long Fiction:** Mortal Engines, by Phillip Reeve (Translated by Rei Anno)

**Translated Short Fiction:** "The Astronaut from Wyoming," by Adam-Troy Castro and Jerry Olton (Translated by Hisashi Asakura)

**Media:** The Girl Who Leapt Through Time

**Comics:** Quiet Country Cafe (Yokohama Shopping Trip), by Hitoshi Ashinano

**Artist:** Yoshitaka Amano

**Non Fiction:** Passport Into Space 3: Space Pioneers A Frontline Report, by Yuichi Sasamoto

**Special Award:** The M-V Launch System — Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency

**Special Award:** Yoshihiro Yonezawa

### 2007 CHESLEY AWARDS

The Chesley Award winners were announced at Nippon 2007. The Chesleys are presented for excellence in artwork by ASFA, the Association of Science Fiction & Fantasy Artists. The Chesleys are named after Chesley Bonestell, whose astronomy scenes were noted for their photographic realism in accord with the scientific knowledge of the day (circa 1950s ).

**Best Cover Illustration – Hardback:** River of Gods, by Stefan Martinière  
**Best Cover – Paperback:** Moon Called, by Daniel Dos Santos  
**Best Cover - Magazine:** Fantasy Magazine Summer 2006, by Renee LeCompte  
**Best Interior:** Cricket Magazines, by Omar Rayyan  
**Best Unpublished Color:** “Galadriel’s Harp,” by Stephen Hickman  
**Best Unpublished Monochrome:** “Red Sonya,” by Donato Giancola  
**Best 3-D:** “Ice Dragon,” by Laura Reynolds  
**Best Gaming Related:** “Dragons of Fearum,” by Todd Lockwood  
**Best Product:** “Pan’s Labyrinth,” production design by Eugenio Caballero & conceptual design by William Stout  
**Artistic Achievement:** John Jude Palencar  
**Best Art Direction:** Irene Gallo, Tor Books

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

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

Founded 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1970. Was one of three clubs sponsoring the first VCON ( held April 9-10, 1971 ) and quickly became the primary sponsor for many years. Indeed, to this day BCSFA owns the VCON trademark and all BCSFAns are automatically members of WCSFA in exchange for WCSFA’s use of the trademark. As far as I am aware, ‘VCON’ is short for ‘Vancouver Convention’.

The title of the BCSFA newsletter ( first issue Aug 1973 ) changed to BCSFAzine with issue #34 ( Apr 1976 ) at the suggestion of then member William Gibson “*I suggest we call it BCSFAzine, in the old fannish tradition of forcing people to roll phonetically-unlikely acronyms around in their mouths like so many marbles.*” BCSFAzine’s October issue will be #413. Canada’s longest running clubzine!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This section to be expanded as time and research permits.

## **UPCOMING CONVENTIONS**

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

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

**PURE SPECULATION III: THE SEARCH FOR SPEC -- ( Oct 13 - 14 )** Edmonton Masonic Hall, Edmonton AB, Canada. GoH: Peter Watts. Special Guests: Barb Galler Smith and Ann Marston. Featuring

Comic Talks and SF events run by Diane Walton of *On Spec* magazine. Memb: \$25 to 08/31/07, \$35 at door. Info: 8410 104 street, Edmonton, AB, Canada, T6E4G2; email: [pure.speculation@gmail.com](mailto:pure.speculation@gmail.com); website: <http://www.purespec.org/>.

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

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

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

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

**POTLATCH 17 – ( Feb 29 – Mar 2, 2008 )** at the Hotel Deca, Seattle, Washington. Definition: “a small, discussion-oriented, literary SF convention held regularly in Seattle, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Portland. Reservations: \$119.00/single or double occupancy; \$134.00/triple; and \$149.00/quad, plus tax. *Rates include parking and continental breakfast daily.* HOTEL DECA, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, Washington 98105; Phone: 206-634-2000; Fax: 206-545-2103; Toll Free Reservations: 800-899-0251; [reservations@hoteldeca.com](mailto:reservations@hoteldeca.com). To Register on-line, go to the Hotel Deca reservations page ("Book a Room") and enter the dates you are booking and our Group/Event Code: 00034491. (<http://www.hoteldeca.com/>). General memberships: \$50 (through December 31, 2007); Student memberships: \$35 (with valid student ID at the door); Ages 6-18: \$20; Supporting: \$20. Potlatch 17, c/o Suzanne Tompkins, PO Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165. Website: <http://www.potlatch-sf.org/> Kate Schaefer, [chair@potlatch-sf.org](mailto:chair@potlatch-sf.org)

**DENVENTION / WORLDCON 66 -- ( Aug 6 – 10, 2008 )** Colorado Convention Center, Denver, Colorado. Guests: Lois McMaster Bujold, Rick Sternbach, Tom Whitmore; TM Wil McCarthy. Rates, accommodations, etc: see website -- <http://www.denvention3.org/>. **WORLD FANTASY CONVENTION 2008 -- ( Oct 30 - Nov 3, 2008 )** Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Info: website: [www.worldfantasy.org](http://www.worldfantasy.org)

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

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< <http://www.cafepress.com/royalswissnavy> > ( note: no dot between royalswiss and navy )

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SOMETIME AROUND OCTOBER 1ST**