



# *Fast Forward*

The Voice Of The Fredericton Science Fiction Society  
*Spring & Summer of Two Thousand and Three*

## Our Club and its Future

You are probably going to get sick of this statement, this is not my personal publication! As the new title states, “The Voice of The FREDERICTON SCIENCE FICTION SOCIETY”. I assumed the task of organizing and editing our newsletter, this does not mean producing all of the content. I will do my best but HELP ME PLEASE. A newsletter is a great way to share your interests and showcase short stories and art. If you find an interesting Website, Please send the url and a small or large review of it to me. There will be a contact box inside the front cover. Submissions would be appreciated in electronic form because I am the worlds worst typist. Hand written submissions will be processed when time allows and I will take no responsibility for mistakes. I will enjoy doing my best but suggestions will always be appreciated.

As always, the FSFS nor the editor (Me) take no responsibility for submissions copyright origin or content. I personally will decide if the content is suitable, if a conflict arises it will be decided by the board and membership. Be careful !! I am hoping we can have the current and past issues posted to our website.

Now I look forward to a spectacular run with more content than I can publish.

:)LLaP (Live Long and Prosper)

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*President's Ramblings Lynn Stapleton*

Hello, this is your benevolent dictator...I mean FSFS President. I thought I'd just write up a note for the new newsletter. Thank you, Kevin, for taking over this 'daunting' task. It has been a while since our last – and thank you, Monique for trying to keep the newsletter going when there was not much submission input coming from members. Much appreciated.

Part of this renewed interest in getting the club newsletter and for that matter trying to rejuvenate the FSFS as a whole, is defining who we are, what we're about, things to do, and get some events going for club members and the public involved in.

A big thank-you goes to Brian McGee & Heather Fowler for reinstating Communicon (previously running in Wolfville, Nova Scotia), and to Andrew Crisp for having the initiative to come up with some non-gaming panel ideas (which didn't have a big turnout *this* year, but hopefully will improve on next year). And thank you to the volunteers that made this event run successfully. There was plenty of interest in making Communicon an annual event.

Another spark in club events was the Communicon/FSFS Movie Night at Empire Theatres that *ran Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark*. This also came off successfully for a first run event for club members and the public – enough so that there will be another Movie Night October 30<sup>th</sup> – *The Crow*. It's too bad that I was unable to make it to the first one – work schedules and all – but hopefully, I will be able to arrange for the time off on the 31<sup>st</sup> so I could make it.

Hopefully I will get the chance to contribute more to the newsletter, and you'll definitely see something from me in the next issue as we will have the post- MediaWest Con in Lansing, Michigan submissions. I'm hoping (as I think Patricia, Rainey and Heather possibly will be doing as well) to keep a travel journal for our MWC Adventure. J

That's enough rambling for now. Lynn – xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

NEWS TIDBITS

\*\*As of April 13, 2003 per telephone conversation with Treasurer Jo Craig-Henry. We currently have 18 paid members. I am not listing names here as of this time.

\*\*As of April 1, 2003 all submissions for Fast Forward can be sent to Kevin and Colleen Boone, XX XXXXX XXXX, Fredericton New Brunswick, XXX XXX, XXX-XXX-XXXX, xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx Any attachments should be under 5 meg. Please wait for a confirmation of receipt before you send the next big attachment. I am able to do a small amount of formatting and graphic work.

\*\*In an apparent bid to improve their dismal ratings cable channel Oxygen will soon begin airing a TV series aimed at a heretofore-neglected home viewer demographic... cats! That's right, you read right: Meow TV is about to hit the scene. Cloyingly described by creator Richard Kirshenbaum as "the first ever television show for cats and the people they tolerate," the series will include segments such as *The Squirrel Alert*, in which squirrels run up and down trees, creating the kind of flashing colours designed to make the synapses in our feline friends' brains go absolutely wild! The show is hosted by shameless actress Annabelle Gurwitch, and her cat Stinky, and it will probably be pretty fun to watch.

*Submitted by Mary Ruth via Email*

Submission Guidelines: I would appreciate them in electronic format. Pictures are preferred in JPEG format and sent as email attachments . I use MS Word and assemble the newsletter in MS Publisher 2000. Any printed submissions are welcome. I have a digital camera and will take photos for anyone for the newsletter.

Handwritten submissions may be typed or scanned and printed at my discretion.

ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE COPYRIGHT OF THE PERSONS SUBMITTING THEM. THE FSFS TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY. No submissions will be published without proper contact information. As editor I will decide if a submission is suitable. All disputes will be settled by the Board of the FSFS and it's membership. This newsletter is for members of the FSFS, other submissions must be approved by at least two (2) board

## World Wide Wonders— Weird and Fun Sites

Stop clapping, this is serious—Tom Lehrer-Submitted By Monique, Check it out. A statement of how far gone the world of today really is. I enjoyed this one KB

<http://www.smh.com.au/articles/2003/02/28/1046407753895.html>

C.Y.B.O.R.G. Name Generator-Debbie Robinson-Vincent originally sent this one to me. It is a great Laugh. *Kevin* is changed to *Kinetic Electronic Violence and Infiltration Neohuman*.

<http://www.brunching.com/cgi/toy-cyborger.cgi>

Liberty Meadows, Submitted by Monique MacNaughton without comment. I checked it out and found it very amusing. KB <http://www.libertymeadows.com>

The Geek Test, Submitted by Heather Fowler, I tried this test and found that it was fun and brought back Memories. Try it yourself. KB <http://www.innergeek.us/geek.html>

## CHOCOLATE EXHIBIT OPENS AT NEW YORK MUSEUM

Submitted by Mary Ruth McGee

An exhibit exploring the legends, history, economics and enduring allure of chocolate is to open June 14 at the American Museum of Natural History. The delicious story of chocolate spans more than 2,000 years and began in the tropical rain forests of Central and South America where cacao trees, the seeds of which are made into chocolate, first grew. Among the more than 200 objects on view at the "Chocolate" exhibition in New York will be pre-Columbian ceramics and ritual objects, European silver and porcelain chocolate services, 19th- and 20th-century cocoa tins and advertisements, holiday and festival candy molds, botanical specimens and agricultural tools. Exhibit highlights include an interactive Aztec marketplace, demonstrating the purchasing power of a handful of cacao beans; a running ticker showing nearly real-time prices from the Coffee, Sugar and Cocoa Exchange at the New York Board of Trade; and lavishly designed Mayan vessels for serving chocolate drinks as part of religious and cultural ceremonies, the museum says. A fully bilingual exhibition, "Chocolate" and its national tour were developed by The Field Museum, Chicago, and is supported in part by the National Science Foundation.

Monica Hughes, 1925-2003.

Submitted by Andrew Crisp via Email

I've read a number of science fiction stories since I was in grade school, and two names stick out in my mind when I think back to the first such stories: Madeline L'Engle and Monica Hughes. Of the two, I preferred Monica's Canadian blend of science fiction. Even today, at the age of 29, I still remember fondly her works such as "*Earthdark*" or "*Ring-Rise, Ring-Set*". Her book "*Space Trap*" was perhaps the one book of hers that I took out of the library the most, and it was also the first book I recommended to my youngest brother to get him interested in SF in particular and reading in general.

Which is why I was saddened to hear that Monica Hughes had died on Friday of a stroke. She was 77 years old.

Her stories were set mostly in Canada or in distinctly Canadian-derived settings, and covered a variety of subjects, from an ice-age locked future Canada in "*Ring-Rise, Ring-Set*", to a Lunar colony recently granted independence in "*Earthdark*", and a submarine colony in its predecessor book "*Crisis on Conshelf Ter*", to a distant alien zoo in "*Space Trap*", and an even more distant planet in the Isis trilogy.

Her heroes were almost always female and in their teens, and quite human in both their strengths and weaknesses as they faced obstacles ranging from an overprotective supercomputer, to a desperate group of dying natives, to an oppressive and bigoted alien bureaucracy. Monica's books taught a respect for the environment and for others, as well as the folly of judging someone by their appearance. Because of all of this Monica will hold a special place in my heart and on my bookshelf.

# The Klingon Project - the Start



This is Brian and his Head

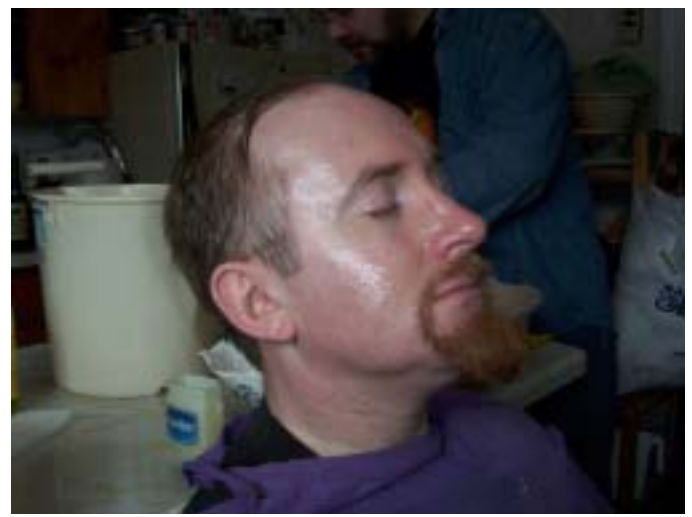


These are the Casts drying

On the first day of our project, Brian McGee, Vaughn McPhail and myself, Kevin Boone, got together at my place to make plaster impressions of our faces. Brian has a cast of his head already. March 16, 2003



Having Vaseline Applied—Kevin



I think Vaughn enjoyed this to much

We started by applying Vaseline to our faces. This is to stop the plaster from sticking to our faces. This was a little bit uncomfortable but did its job. We then cut plaster bandage into strips wet them and applied them to our faces. At this point I must say that Brian did most of the work because he has done it before. After a good layer of bandage was applied we used a hair blow dryer to aid the drying process. This stage is to get a rough impression of the face.



# The Clinton Project-Pg 2



This stage uses Dental Alginate, not cheap, to get the details of our faces. This stuff sets very very quickly so you do not mix it until just before application. You must wash all the plaster from your face before reapplying the Vaseline. We waited for the first plaster impression to dry and helped with the dryer. When the first cast was ready we mixed the Alginate, poured it into the cast and put the cast on the face. The Alginate must have cold water to slow down the setting speed. This makes this a cold experience, I did not find this to uncomfortable. The cast has to stay on your face for about ten minutes. The removal was different. We found that you should peel it off from the bottom SLOWLY. Be careful not to break the cast when you remove it.



Now we mixed the Dental Stone, like plaster only much harder. We poured it into the casts and moved it around to cover the entire cast. This sounds easy but we had to be very careful at this stage. The casts got surprisingly hot when it was drying. It takes a day or two for the stone to dry properly.

Trial and error applies to this entire project but our experience will benefit anyone else who would like to try this. If you have any problems with claustrophobia this could be a very uncomfortable experience.

I have taken digital pictures of some of the process and am including them. If you want to see the pictures in colour just ask Brian or myself.



*Fredericton Science Fiction Society Operating Directives* submitted for changes

This document contains the Operating Directives of the Fredericton Science Fiction Society (UNB). They are set forth to inform the Membership as to the nature of the Society and its operations. They also serve as a guide to ensure the safety of all members of the Fredericton Science Fiction Society during Society events. All Members are asked required to abide by these directives.

Revised and Approved: October, 2002

1. The Fredericton Science Fiction Society [FSFS] is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide a forum for its Members to discuss and celebrate all aspects of the Science Fiction [SF] genre. Members are encouraged to participate in as many FSFS functions as possible.
2. The FSFS Operating/membership Year shall be from October 1 to September 30 of each year.
3. The FSFS Executive Committee [Executive] shall consist of the following elected positions: President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter Editor, Audio Visual Coordinator and Anime Liaison. The Executive elections shall be held at the first monthly General Meeting of the new operating year [October]. A candidate for any elected Executive position must have a minimum of two [2] nominations. The election of officers to the positions of the Executive will be decided by a majority vote of the assembled members constituting a Quorum at the General Meeting.
4. The Executive are responsible for all decisions regarding the direction of the FSFS. Modifications, additions and/or deletions to these Operating Directives may only be made by a majority vote of the FSFS Membership.
5. Membership dues are set at \$10.00 [Canadian funds] per twelve-month period for FSFS Members residing in Canada. Dues are set at \$10.00 [U.S. funds] per twelve month for FSFS Members residing outside Canada. Mail Charges are not included in dues. These rates may be changed following a majority vote of the Executive.
6. A portion of membership dues may be donated to a worthwhile cause by a majority vote of the FSFS membership.
7. All information collected through the FSFS Membership Form will be held in strict confidence. The information will be used for administrative purposes only and will not be distributed outside of the FSFS.
8. Members of the FSFS are expected and required to conduct themselves with a level of decorum pursuant to contemporary community standards, at all FSFS functions. New Brunswick Beach Legal Standards for clothing Apply!!
9. All Members shall respect the rights of Members speaking at meetings or events, and are to abide by the rules of common courtesy.
10. Under no circumstances during FSFS events - public or otherwise - is a Member to use or be under the influence of alcohol or non-prescription drugs.
11. No single Member may represent the FSFS at any pre-planned public function, event, etc., on their own accord. They may do so, if needed, with the prior authorization of the Executive.

12. Members who do not conform to the policies of the FSFS may have their membership revoked by the unanimous vote of the Executive. The Member in question may appeal the Executive's decision by requesting a vote of the FSFS Membership. If the membership of a Member is revoked for any reason, the balance of their membership dues pro-rated shall be returned to them upon request.
13. The Executive may refuse to accept the renewal dues of any individual based on that individual's past membership history, if the Executive feels it is necessary. A unanimous vote of the Executive is required for this action to take place. The Member in question may appeal the Executive's decision by requesting a vote of the FSFS Membership. Individuals who have had their membership revoked, or whose renewal dues have not been accepted, may not attend FSFS meetings, events, or functions as a guest of any Member without prior consent of the Executive. The Individual in question may appeal the Executive's decision by requesting a vote of the FSFS Membership. The FSFS reserves the right to accept or reject any membership application.
14. The FSFS is not responsible for lost or stolen items and/or injuries incurred while partaking of FSFS regular or special events.
15. Members under the legal age of 18 years old must have a parental/guardian consent form signed and on file in order to be allowed to participate in functions of the FSFS.
16. ALL NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS ARE COPYRIGHT OF THE PERSONS SUBMITTING THEM. THE FSFS TAKES NO RESPONSIBILITY. No submissions will be published without proper contact information. The EDITOR will decide if a submission is suitable. All disputes will be settled by the Executive of the FSFS and it's membership. This newsletter is for members of the FSFS; other submissions must be approved by at least two (2) Executive members. Advertising must also be approved by two (2) Executive members. Compensation for advertising, if any will be decided by the Executive members, membership and the advertisers. Submissions would be appreciated in electronic form. Hand written submissions will be processed when time allows and the EDITOR will take no responsibility for mistakes. Handwritten submissions may be typed or scanned and printed at the EDITORS discretion. The FSFS nor the editor take no responsibility for submissions copyright origin or content. The EDITOR will decide if the content is suitable, if a conflict arises it will be decided by the Executive and membership of the FSFS.

V:9410rev

*Suggested changes should be in Bold and Italics directly following the part in question. Changes can be submitted using submission guidelines on page 2.*



# RETURNING TO SPACE:

Soyuz TMA debuts by performing first post-Shuttle space station docking. Since the tragic loss of the Columbia spacecraft in February, human space flight has been at a standstill. The space shuttle "fleet" - now once more at 3 ships - has been grounded and the future of the most ambitious construction project of the last century was in jeopardy.

That changed on April 26 when the Russian Space Agency launched the Soyuz TMA-2 spacecraft from the Baikonur Cosmodrome. Its two-man crew and members of Expedition 7, Russian Yuri Malenchenko and American Edward Lu, replaced the Expedition 6 which returned in the Soyuz TMA-1 spacecraft that served as the station's "lifeboat" on May 5.

For tech-buffs the Soyuz TMA is the latest variant of the long-running Soyuz design, which has brought cosmonauts from several nations since the late 1960s. April's launch is the first time an American has flown aboard a Soyuz spacecraft.

Until the Americans regain crewed space flight capacity the Russians will be the only nation capable of sending people to the station. The Russians have good reason for the confidence they showed when taking on this burden: they've had over 40 years of experience in space flight and space station engineering. Still, those who are hoping for a human future in space will breathe easier when more nations develop the ability to launch their own spacecraft. Here's hoping the Chinese with their *Shenzhou* prototype spacecraft can start sending people into orbit before too long. And, here's hoping that when the Americans do return to space en masse, they'll relegate the Shuttles to the Smithsonian in favor of newer and better vessels. *Submitted by Andrew Crisp*

## ROBOT TO RUMBLE... Robots East, 2003

Those of you familiar with the TV show Robot Wars might not expect that a robot competition not based on pure cybernetic carnage would last long. Yet, Robots East, the annual competition of mechanics and mischief between high schools from across the Atlantic Provinces, is now in its seventh year. And, if the cheering crowds were any indication, it is as popular as any mechanized gladiator-fest.

Each school must build and pilot a robot capable of gathering the balls of its team colour and depositing them in the goal, while contesting with three other robots trying to do the same thing. The field they play on - a five meter square zone - changes each year, presenting new challenges to the robot builders. This year, the robots had to content with a raised portion in the center of the field, and a large "puck" - a round block of wood set on casters - which if deposited in a team's goal results in a whopping - 5 points for the unlucky team. Earlier years used soccer balls - this year, tennis balls were employed.

Twenty teams from across New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island, found several interesting ways to overcome these problems, and the world got to see their solutions at the Dalplex in Dalhousie University on April 5. Two rounds of 16 heats each separated the chaff from the wheat, and six of the 20 robots made it to the semifinal round:

*"Katatronic" (FHS),*

*"Pacman" (Pugwash District High School, of Pugwash)*

*"Superscooper" (Ecole Louis J. Robichaud, of Shediac),*

*"Kramer" (Charles P. Allen High School, of Bedford),*

*"Leviathan" (Belleisle Regional High School, of Springfield)*

*and "Predateur" (Ecole Cite des Juenes, of Edmunston)*

Leviathan and Kramer were eliminated in the semi-final round, leaving four finalists who vied for the top spot. Three intensive heats for the final round led to a most spectacular tie between Pugwash's Pacman and Edmunston's Predateur.

It came down to one final winner-take-all heat between the two tiny titanium titans. But in the end, Predateur lived up to its name, winning Edmunston first place for this year.



# BUFFY LIVES, SPIKE SAVES THE WORLD

Millions watched Buffy and her pals save the world for the last time on the series finale of "Buffy the Vampire Slayer." The critically acclaimed drama, which had a rabid cult following and was adored by academics for its intelligent writing, character development and use of mythology, went out with a bang -- literally -- after seven seasons Tuesday night. Reformed vengeance demon Anya (Emma Caulfield) died in battle; Willow (Alyson Hannigan) became a goddess; Buffy (Sarah Michelle Gellar) not only lived, but got what she always dreamed of -- the chance to live a normal life; and vampire Spike (James Marsters) -- God bless his recently installed soul -- sacrificed his own life to save them all after Buffy finally admitted she loved him. Their hometown of Sunnydale, however, was swallowed up shortly after the rest of them escaped. Although the finale tied up a lot of loose endings, it also left open many possibilities for the main characters to return in a spin-off. The decision to end the show came after Gellar announced she would hang up her stakes to focus on her new marriage to Freddie Prinze Jr.

*Now that the TV series Buffy the Vampire Slayer has been cancelled, James Marsters, who played Spike is spending his off-time with his band, Ghost of the Robot. He had a crowd very excited, but like Keanu Reeves, girls only were interested in him, not his music and kept begging him to take off his clothes.....*

The rule of thumb for the accuracy of what you read on the 'net is that 90% is garbage. Looking for information about the latest in science is even more of a minefield, as there are a lot of sites with the latest "theories"; the establishes science magazines have sites, but many are subscriber-only for articles.

The New Scientist site, however, is almost as good as reading the real thing (a weekly magazine covering a wide variety of current science since 1956). It's generally UK-centered in its perspective, though getting more worldwide; it delivers up science with an attitude. It's accurate, crisp, and funny.

The website ([www.newscientist.com](http://www.newscientist.com)) has the cover article, a selection of the latest news and collections of articles on particular "hot topics" being followed, and most of the best additional features: book reviews, letters, the hilarious Feedback, and the fascinating Last Word. Feedback is a collection of the bizarre things people have seen in print, mostly things that have been stated in quite the wrong way. The Last Word is a question-and-answer column from the back page of the magazine; readers write in with questions about the "why" of various things they've seen or heard of, and other readers respond.

The variety of questions and expertise is amazing, and very interesting. The only thing lacking from the web version is the "Enigma" puzzle column, which is a shame, but I suppose they need to make money somehow.

For those more interested in science fiction, Arthur C. Clarke is a subscriber, and occasionally writes in, particularly to the Last Word. *Submitted by Patricia Evans*

# MediaWest Special Section

Compliments of Lynn, Patricia, Rainey, and Heather (Our Brave Travellers)

## MEDIAWEST TABLE OF CONTENTS:

Road Trip Diary  
Photo Gallery

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*MediaWest\*Con 23 Road Trip Notes*

### Day 1: May 22nd

*Lynn:* They congregated at my place at 5:30am - stuffed bags and things were put in the trunk of the car. We left at 6 and headed to Tim Horton's to get caffeine source and light food fare to munch on. Got on the highway and turned on the tunes. I got first driving duty. Lovely scenery on the trip. Short stop north of Edmunston for a bathroom break. Missed the Irving restaurant around Riviere-du-Loup so we drove on to St. Phillipe. Stopped for 'second breakfast' and a gas refill for the car. Heather took over driving then while I napped on and off. Mixture of her tunes & Rainey's played on the mp3 player. Patricia provided direction as Heather drove. Patricia then took over driving a little after Cornwall, Ontario where we'd stopped for a late lunch/early dinner. We by-passed Toronto this time around. Got into Cambridge about 9:30 (ADT). Long day! Chatted with Heather's aunt and uncle for a while, then time to hit the sack to be ready for day 2.

*Rainey:* I discovered a remarkable similarity between Lynn and my cat. They are both relatively small creatures, but they can take up an astonishing amount of space when they're sleeping. Lynn, you're a seat-hog!

### Day 2: May 23<sup>d</sup>

*Lynn:* Still the prettiest...Ooops. Wrong diary.

We thanked Heather's aunt & uncle very much. After breakfast and a gas re-fill we were on our way. Since it was only about a four-hour drive, I took the drive (also given that half way through we had to stop at the border). Easy crossing given that three days earlier the US increased their security alert level. Stopped at Port Huron for snacks & food – and a stop at the bank – then back on the road again. We arrived in Lansing a little after 1pm. Registered at our hotel (Days Inn), then gathered whatever belongings we wanted/needed and headed over to the con hotel (we walked since it wasn't that far – just up the road a little and across the street).

We got our con registration done and got the program booklet then headed into the Dealer's Room. Wow! Lots of neat stuff. Rainey tried on a dress but didn't buy it. It looked really nice on her – and it was rather expensive. I went to a couple panels today. There was a Buffy one in which we discussed an overview of Season 7. Good discussion. Oh I had my femslash panel at 3pm. There were a couple other panel guests and a good few folks at the panel discussion. Went quite well. I enjoyed the discussion. There was no one there for my Birds of Prey panel later on – but I wasn't that surprised. Seemed to have a small audience (given that the WB kept moving it around, but I digress – more discussion later on). Instead, Heather and I went room hunting upstairs for different things. Found a room with a cat and some cat stuff, too, so had to go find Rainey & Patricia. I went to a couple CSI panels today. First one was more dialogue and attendance but I thought both were pretty good. Stopped into a beading panel for a while then off to the fanvid room. Met a few of my Sunnydale Slayers/NatPack crew – Jennie, Amy, Betsy, Sharon & Maureen. Will hopefully see others in the next couple of days. Having fun so far!

*Patricia:* We're finally here - after quite a quick voyage, considering - and my basic reaction is wow. Massive dealer's room. I must budget, plus posters everywhere trumpeting 'zines and get-togethers and merchants in rooms. Panels are good, mostly great. I hit it off with some people at my 3pm comics panel, liked the Buffy one, though a couple of others that Rainey and I checked out later were poorly run (one [LoTR] was too organized, and one [filk] far too disorganized - depends on the topic). Food and fanvids rounded out a great day. Tomorrow looks like more great stuff, though with everything going on we need to remember to eat before we're starving. And I really must check out the 'zines available, and start

soon since I'm so spoilt for choice. And the best thing by far is meeting new people who feel like they should be old friends - everyone's very warm & open. That started even before we got there with Heather's Cambridge relatives - great people everywhere.

*Rainey:* We got checked into the hotel okay. I was greatly relieved, as I had booked the rooms and was paranoid that the hotel would be a dive or the reservations would be 'lost' ... the price seemed too good to be true.

First day of the con was fun. Went to a panel on crocheting. Patricia had tried to teach me before but I found it much easier to learn from another dexter. Next was a Buffy panel with tons of audience participation. I've discovered that I love southern US accents. The next two very ick and I walked out on both - one on Lord of the Rings where one of the panellists wanted to give a speech and a filk one that was very irritating - can only imagine how Patricia felt.

The "informal" aspects were a great deal of fun - fell in love in the Dealer's room. Turns out that the whole hotel is a dealer's area, though. Met two cats and fell for one. Watched some great fanvids and slept like a log.

*Heather:* The car trip was comfortable if long. For my first con, I have to say that I'm enjoying myself immensely. I have hooked up with some Dr. Who fans, exchanged e-mails and quite a few fellow Canadians and spent way too much money. The panels have been interesting - so nice to discuss topics and listen to people who 'talk the same language' and know as much or more. To find out little nits of trivia, find memorabilia - it's been great!! And that's only the first day. Whew!

### Day 3 - Saturday, May 24<sup>th</sup>

*Lynn:* Still v. good. Not queen yet. But neither is Aragorn. Legolas could easily pass for queen. Drat - Gotta find the other diary.

Did quite a bit today. Bought a fair bit, too. Woke up too damned early but mostly because found it hard to breathe - the room was too stuffy. So I got up, ironed some clothes, then showered and dressed. Wore my Stargate SG-1 outfit. We went to Denny's for breakfast.

Started off at the dealer's room once I got a few things including a toy for Maggie. I attended a few panels today that I found interesting. Started at the Stargate SG-1 panel on season 7 speculation. Confirmed a few spoilers I'd heard about at <http://gateworld.net>. Not looking forward to the two part "Hero" episodes. Rainey & Heather were also at this panel. After that we stayed in the same room for a panel on Lost Shows - ones that you want on DVD. Try <http://tvshowsondvd.com/> for more details. You can vote on shows you want to see on DVD. Apparently some of the studios do check out the site to see if there's enough interest in producing their series onto DVD.

Went to the Stargate SG-1 party - pretty much a 'Welcome Back, Daniel' party. Then I went to one or two of the room dealers. At 3pm we drove over to East Lansing to see some used bookstores. Patricia, Rainey and Heather all found some interesting things to purchase. I got some cute cat postcards. We came back and went to dinner at a Chinese & Korean restaurant (conveniently located close to the hotel). In the evening we were back to the hotel for Patricia's Birds of Prey panel (what worked & what didn't & why we liked it anyway). After that, we went to the 'Holy Mother Grammatica' panel and howled laughing. Some wonderful examples of bad writing, and got some good tips on improving grammar for story writing. This is a journal - grammar doesn't always count <G>. Patricia and I (I think it was she and I) went to the Art Show to see some of the pieces. Some very good stuff and some very graphic male slash art (which I knew about having gone to MWC twice before). Went to see some more fanvids - these ones by Vidweasel. No Apocalypse West vids this MWC - some of the SunS had mentioned that they (the AW Horsechicks) were gearing up for VividCon in Chicago this summer. Too bad, I would have like to see them again. Last thing I did at the con tonight was go to a "Tribble-a-thon" (well at least the ST: TOS and ST: DS9 eps - I didn't stay for the animated series tribble ep).

*Patricia:* Con definitely in full swing, with more stuff in the dealer's room/upstairs rooms. Some more art and panels from the sublime to the sublimely ridiculous. I started out with a 'Vampires in Literature' panel - very interesting, plus lots of pointers on great stuff to look for that I'd never even vaguely heard of. Then onto lost shows. Turns out I'm after shows that are much more obscure than everyone else - except the guy looking for a show where only the pilot was released - but I got some info on how to encourage release of shows, and there was much to discussion on multi-region DVD players. We also

checked out some more fanvids after seeing Cali-Crew's latest last night (alas, no Horsechicks). After browsing the dealer's room, I finally started buying stuff, starting with a couple of great shirts. I'll go back for pictures tomorrow. Many of the people in hotel rooms upstairs are selling things from fans selling old 'zines to whole stores worth(!). There's even a heat-printing operation.

I bought some old zines - and then a bag in which to carry them, mine being too full - and met some people who have Colditz episodes on tape, from much older copies! I'm very excited about this since they may have the two episodes that the History channel never aired, and are probably truly lost. They warned me that the quality isn't good but I want them anyway. And I now have contact info to get them (yay!). Then we went over to East Lansing in search of a highly recommended used bookstore, where I picked up a few books by the author of the book I'm reading now (Mythago Wood by Robert Holdstock) which I love but must give up as it's a *Bookcrossing* book. Then back to the con for more panels: a BoP one I was on, in which there was much discussion of how they should have developed and marketed it; followed by the second hysterical hour of 'Holy Mother Grammatica'. I don't think I have ever laughed so hard before. Laughed until I cried and couldn't stop laughing for a while (especially the bit written with two people but the way it was written made it seem like there were eleven people in the scene!). I also bid on a piece at the Art Show - beer & dragon - and then a few more fanvids. Finally, Rainey and I watched The Masquerade, hosted by Andrei (from Ottawa) who I met at InCON II. He's not as funny as he thinks he is, but he's okay as an MC, and some of the costumes were very imaginative. Yes, Kevin, I took some pictures, hope they turn out well. Then some plans for tomorrow and sleep, sleep, sleep.

*Rainey:* Saturday morning, I went to a few more panels (Sherlock Holmes, SG-1, and lost shows) and spent way too much time in the Dealer's Room. I was delighted to find a Demon Under Glass DVD ... It's never been commercially released, and I was dying to see Jason Carter as a vampire ☺

In the afternoon, we hit some used bookstores. Fun, fun, fun! I've decided that it's necessary to schedule meal breaks ... we don't stop much and I get quite cranky when I'm not fed <lol>

In the evening, I went to the Holy Mother Grammatica panel. Who would've thought that a panel on grammar would have people on the floor laughing? The fannish examples were what made the panel. (Check out Holy Mother Grammatica's Guide to Good Writing at <http://www.skeeter63.org/~silvablu/HMG/00-Introduction.htm>.) Later, Patricia & I went to the Masquerade. My personal favourite was Ring-wraith Barbie, although the Hobbit of the Shire was much more authentic.

*Heather:* Saturday was fun. Went to more panels and walked around the dealer's room. Volunteered for the video room - everyone (of the videos) is always short and got to see 'Spirited Away' on a large screen, as well as play movie trailers. Went to a Dr. Who party in the evening before going to the video room again. I have made some contacts and exchanged e-mails so we can meet up in Toronto in August. Getting very tired - up early and staying out late. Spent some time talking with Scott Rosera (sp?) a comic book artist who also sat down and gave me perspective lessons. We chatted for over an hour. Made some plans for next year.

Day 4: Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>

Lynn: This is actually starting from the end of the day, then going back to the beginning of the day.

Art Auction - Oh My Goddess! There was lots of artwork up for auction - some 181 pieces. These people seem to have more money than they know what to do with. Pieces of artwork going for \$300+. One piece - a Clark & Lex print from Smallville went for \$650. We were laughing a lot at the different auctioneer's comments. A gorgeous Lord of the Rings drawn print of Boromir went for \$400. The one of Aragorn I think went for \$700. I talked with Maureen Wynn (one of the Sunnydale Slayers) a bit during the Art Auction. In the Art Show there was a wonderful glass etching of Yancy Butler as Sara Pezzini (Withchblade) done on a mirror.

Earlier in the day there were several panels I went to. Come to think of it, I went to more panels this time than any other MWC I have been to (1997 & 2001). Though I suspect that may be because a good portion of the SunS (The Horsechicks in particular), weren't there. This time, I saw Amy, Maureen, Betsy, Sharon, Jennie and Leslie. I think there were a couple others but I didn't recognize them (by name anyway). Let's see - the panels I went to today. (i) 'Amelia Peabody: Another Shirt Ruined' - Patricia was on this panel. She and Rainey have read the books and have talked about them enough so I had an idea of

who the characters were along with some of the storyline. (ii) 'Lists with Gen & Slash: Mixed Lists or Mixed Nuts' – this was particularly interesting. A discussion of what constitutes GenFic (fiction of a general rating – at most PG-13, and does not include relationships beyond that of friendships); Hetfic (eg. Relationships between male & female – generally PG-13 to NC-17); Slashfic (eg. Relationships between individuals of the same sex [M/M or F/F]). There was also a discussion of warnings in the headers of fic stories, such as including warnings of stories that have rape scenarios in there, or graphic sex warnings, or death of major character warnings. Also some include relationship pairings in the header (particularly with shows that may have more than one relationship pairing). (iii) No one showed up for my Birds of Prey panel in the afternoon, so I went over to the West Wing panel discussion. Very good discussion about what happened this season, and how they can resolve the season finale in the beginning of next season. (iv) 'Buffy vs. Angel: Dueling Apocalypses' – exciting panel. I'm going to have to go back and rewatch some of the episodes of both series. (v) 'Cats in Literature' panel: started out okay but got a bit boring. Got some good ideas of stories with cats in them. (vi) Final panel of the day was a Stargate SG-1 one, about what our favourite slash pairings are. An interesting panel that discussed the different possible pairings (at least the M/M ones. The F/F is very limited to Sam/Janet) and ones which pairings are more plausible. I liked it muchly. Good discussion. Then more dealer's room and we went to dinner (at the hotel). Unfortunately they were short-staffed and things were slow and/or missing.

*Patricia:* Day 4 for me started with a couple of wonderful blueberry buttermilk pancakes as Lynn and I had breakfast at the con-hotel pre-panel. I didn't go to many panels today - just one, which I was on devoted to Elizabeth Peters's Amelia Peabody mysteries. Good turnout, good discussion and some good new information about the upcoming Amelia's Egypt Compendium (which I didn't know about, and had everyone excited). After that, Rainey and I went shopping in the dealer's room a bit and especially up in the rooms at the con hotel. I bought some more zines and pictures, then we went for lunch at Denny's (at a normal lunchtime for once so we wouldn't cave in later). Then I went back to the dealer's room and looking in on 'Cats in Literature' near its end (big disappointment - no cats in the room and no interesting info so I left). Rainey and I headed up to the rooms again, and finally the t-shirt place in 402 (Pegasus Publishing) was open. Fabulous shirts - the only way I moderated my spending was by thinking about the different colours I could get through online ordering, as I already have many black shirts. Many rare geek and SF-type shirts available including some I'd only seen previously at the Los Almos Lab bookstore.

After that we watched most of the rest of the new fanvids - some very good and funny ones - and we went for dinner at the hotel - which was excruciatingly slow as they were very short of wait staff and running out of things, but still good. The art auction started late anyway, so we had plenty of time to observe its sanity. Now, certainly the art that sold strongly showed a lot of skill and talent, and looked very nice, but most of it was done from photo references that could be had for \$5 (the art was selling for several hundred). After a while I started crocheting coasters while continuing to laugh at the outrageousness of the bidders and the auctioneers' comments. The piece I bid on was coming up for auction late, but I wouldn't pay more than the minimum bid for it anyway so I left (though I did also bid on an Aeryn figure for the fan-fund silent auction to end at midnight). Strangely, the best piece didn't do best - a lot depended on the fandom (with extra points for slash interest). I did have some nice short discussions with other amused bystanders.

*Rainey:* I started the day with bad coffee, but it got better. Heather and I went to a panel on SF/fantasy elements in romance novels and got a slew of recommendations. Then I sat in on Patricia's panel on Amelia Peabody. One of the other panellists had news about a compendium coming out in November called Amelia Peabody's Egypt. Much joy in Whoville ... I know what I want for Christmas!

Then I had to stop and figure out what I *really* wanted from the Dealer's Room ... I ended up getting some filk CDs to replace albums I'd previously had on cassette. If you haven't heard Dandelion Wine's "SF Fan Fiction Blues", I recommend it highly.

After lunch, I went to a panel on cats in literature, which was good until it somehow got diverted onto people's favourite commercials. Patricia and I went roaming around the less formal dealer's rooms and found Pegasus Publishing (I have four of their bumper stickers in my office, including my favourite "User Error: Replace User and Hit Any Key to Continue"). I went crazy in there until Patricia reminded me about getting back through customs <sulk><sulk><pout>. So I just got a couple shirts and some Barrayaran



Imperial Security collar pins. Go see their stuff here: <http://www.pegasuspublishing.com/>.

Later that evening, I went to the Art Auction, and realized that even if Patricia hadn't made me sensible, there were still people at the convention who were even crazier. I had no intention of bidding on anything, but the auction was very entertaining...the auctioneers were hilarious and the bidders were insane. After seeing some of the final bids, Heather's decided she's definitely sending art to future cons <lol>.

Day 5 – Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup>

*Lynn:* Did a couple more things at the con. A few last trips to the dealer's room including getting this perfect shirt for Debbie – "These are not the breasts you are looking for. Move along." We then left and got food and gas before taking off for the highway. Very easy going through Canada Customs. On the other side of the meridian (heading into the US) there was a long line up (perhaps half to three-quarters of a kilometre worth, though there were a couple gaps. Police, too, after a while, trying to direct car/vans separate from transport trucks. Glad it wasn't us. We drove out to the Munroe Honey and Meadery about 44km from the border was the turn-off, and then another 28 minutes to the place. We picked up some bottles of mead. I got a bottle of blueberry honey wine and some buckwheat honey. We stopped in Guelph for gas and a bathroom break. I drove into Toronto – very well done for someone who's never driven in that big a city before. Everyone was safe & sound at Patricia's aunt's place. We went out to dinner at a local Greek restaurant (pretty much around the corner from her place). Very good food and wine. Thank you very much, Rainey for picking up the tab for that. She insisted and we've learned very much that when Rainey insists on something – it's pretty much a done deal. <G>

*Patricia:* Monday morning and the con is winding down. I got lucky in the silent auction for the fan fund -- I guess everyone was too busy paying outrageous prices for artwork to bother bidding on non-art without an auctioneer -- and was able to pick up the Aeryn figure for \$10. Then on to the last panel for me, a very informative panel on "Writing from Character" that discussed a variety of different writing approaches (and gave some useful pointers on how to get or invent plots). I made a final cruise through the dealer's room, and then we looked for the others (finally found in the video room, watching Michael Praed as Robin Hood -- I liked the primeval themes, but couldn't resist making fun of his 80s-style feathered hair, still perfect after nights sleeping in the woods). Then back on the road with our increased load of stuff. Re-entry was a breeze; I suppose we look harmless (which we are with respect to them). No sooner were we back in Canada than we needed to stop, so we found ourselves cruising Sarnia looking for a Tim Horton's. Strangely enough we had to ask(!) where one was -- everywhere else, you can't move at all without falling over one. A bit further along on the route back we diverted to find a meadery that we'd noted signs for on our outgoing trip. Mmm mead, sample sample sample. Some very nice cranberry-flavoured mead in particular. Then on to my aunt's place in Toronto (navigating by map, directions, and a bit of informed guesswork). Great to see her again. We had dinner at a nice Greek place around the corner, and then collapsed for the night.

Day 6 – Tuesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>

*Lynn:* Got hot chocolate and coffee (for them which drink the stuff), then went on the Subway to go shopping. Different experience but kinda fun. ☺ Plenty of bookstores & video places along Yonge St. I think we hit just about every used & new bookstore from Bloor to Dundass. We tried to go to the Merrill Collection at the Toronto Public Library on College St. but it was closed until sometime in June because they were replacing the carpets. But also got a chance to ride on the Tram's (those electric street car buses). We went to the World's Largest Bookstore, and HMV and Bakka (the sci-fi bookstore). I also went to the Glad Day Bookstore (had books, dvds/videos, magazines & art), which was conveniently located above Bakka. An expensive day but easily justified in that I could not get those books/videos in Fredericton – at all (well, maybe one of them, but I doubt it). Finally we took the subway back to Patricia's aunt's place. We had a wonderful dinner and talked most of the evening. Finally collapsing so that we could get some sleep for the long drive ahead tomorrow.

*Patricia:* Today we went shopping in downtown Toronto, mostly on Yonge Street. Ok, mostly in Bakka and in the downtown cluster of music/dvd/book stores. We went for lunch in a fabulous Italian cafe-type place almost across from Bakka -- we picked it for convenience, and really lucked out as the food was great. I bought a lot of books in Bakka, mostly since they had really good and useful reviews on little cards by highly recommended books. So I got some books I'd been looking for for ages, and some I hadn't



even heard of. I also have a list of many more to get later. We had a fruitless search for the Merrill Collection -- well, we found it, but the library branch it is in was closed unexpectedly -- but got to see a bit of College Street. Then any remaining money went into DVDs. Despite searching for and eventually finding B5 season 2, it was only available at list price (hideous) so I opted for something else. Finally we hit the "World's Biggest Bookstore", and then returned to my aunt's to collapse yet again. She made a wonderful meal of roast chicken with lemon & garlic.

*Heather:* The trip has been great. At the moment we are spending a lovely relaxing evening with Patricia's aunt. Just the thing after having worn ourselves out with shopping, talking and travelling. Almost a shame we have to travel in the car again tomorrow but it will be good to get home to see Brian and my cat Boo Kitty – maybe sleep a day to recover.

Day 7 – Wednesday, May 27th

*Lynn:* After having breakfast and stocking up on caffeine supplies, we left Toronto. Me driving again. Not bad. I could get used to driving in Toronto. Well, in and out of. Me thinks the higher speeds on the 401 suit my personality a bit ☺. I drove as far as Kingston (with a brief stop in Bellville for a bathroom break). We stopped at an Arby's for lunch. No where near Kingston's hellmouth. Of course we didn't go out searching for the Kingston Mall in particular. Then Patricia took over driving. I took a nap. Woke up just about the time we hit construction in Montreal. We went through the tunnel this time. We switched over in Drummondville, where we stopped at Wendy's for supper. Heather drove until we got past Riviere-du-Loup, almost to the New Brunswick border, when I took over as it got dark – and raining. Arrrgh. I'm possibly the most familiar with driving on two-lane highways and probably have the better night vision. A long, difficult drive made worse by being behind plenty of transport trucks with rain spray coming off them. For some parts it was very difficult to see the road markings and the edges of the highway. But we made it back to Fredericton at 12:30am. I dropped everyone off and I finally got back home at 1am. Phew! Now I need at LEAST a day to recover.

*Patricia:* In the morning we were off again after a quick breakfast. I drove through Montreal this time (on the Metropolitane due to some construction on our previous route -- might have been better to put up with the construction, though) sneezing a bit from what I'd thought was probably an allergy. We switched over a bit later and eventually made it back to Fredericton around midnight (outstanding final drive through nasty weather by Lynn). Dragged my stuff up to my place (one problem with car trips is its easy to accumulate things) and then sleep sleep sleep sleep sleep.

*Rainey:* I got home shortly before 1:00 a.m. ... It was a wonderful trip, but I was glad to be home. It was wonderful to see my Jaguar. Hey, Patricia, I caught your cold!



Rainey & Lynn outside the motel  
Day 5



Costume Contest, Ringwraith Barbie, Any Fett (looking for Han Solo), Dr Daniel Jackson  
Day 3



Starting the Trip. Packing almost everything in the trunk day.



One of the Kitty Cats @ the Con, day 3



Worlds Biggest Bookstore in Toronto Day 6



Downtown Toronto on Yonge by the Hard Rock Café Day 6



A ride on the TTC Subway, Plenty of Fun Very Accessible Day 6



Arrived Safe and Sound @ Patricia's Aunt Joyce's in Toronto Day 5





Patricia, Heather, Lynn, Rainey.  
Final Day Of Con



Lynn, Patricia, Rainey, in the Atrium of the con Hotel  
Day 5



A last look into the dealers Room  
Day 5



Costume Contest—The Entire Skirted Family - Have You Seen  
Them Day 3



Costume Contest—Mary Sue showing  
off some of her "Boys" Day 3



Costume Contest—The Amazing Mary Sue  
and some of her many "Grateful Boys"  
Day 3



Costume Contest – Any Fett with Daniel  
Jackson Day 3



A Toast From Our Host, Uncle Wayne in Cambridge  
Day 1



Rainey & Lynn Relaxing and Unwinding  
Day 1



Patricia & Aunt Karen  
Day 1



One Stop Hotel Shopping  
Day 2



Costume Contest—Professors  
McGonagal & Snape (Winners)  
Day 3



The Merrill Collection, found but closed  
Day 6





1.Man From Uncle 2.Bald Is Beautiful 3.Puppetlicious Playhouse-Naughty 4.Set Sail With Our Favorite Ships 5.Personal Favorite-Our Very Own Stargate 6.TV Daniel, All Daniel All The Time 7.Plot Bunny Orphanage 8.Best Slash Door, Jack and Daniel,OH MY 9.Dealers Room 10.Pet Attendees 11.Costumes 12.Costumes



Heathers First Subway Ride



Saying Goodbye To Toronto



Us At MediaWest



Walking The Streets Of Toronto, SARS Free



Another Pet Attendee



Rainey's Favorite Position



The Tunnel Home



Ask About Lynns New Toy



This is a VERY old submission to the newsletter in the 1980's by a friend, Charles Gregory. I got his permission and I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Kevin

## HERE BE DRAGONS!

(C)December 1985, Charles Gregory

For as long as Debra could remembers the dragons had roamed the forest. There had never been a day when their terrible roar didn't suddenly break the silence. Never a night when the light of their fires didn't move through the valley below. Even in the most horrible of winter storms there were always a few of the creatures that would brave the elements, and send their fire forth to clear away the snows from their path.

Debra often wondered what drove those great beasts forth from their den, into the bitter cold and driving snow. Judging from the way their presence was diminished during a storm, she couldn't help thinking that the dragons hated the snow as much as she did. But still a few ventured forth, perhaps in search of food.

One of the small advantages of having the dragons live so close was that Debra's people could use the dragonpaths in the winter time. The dragons' fire always left their trails clean, free of the encumbering snow that made traveling so difficult. But using these paths carried a grave danger.

While the dragons were loathe to leave their paths and trails to pursue prey, they took fiendish pleasure in pouncing upon and rending any of Debra's people, or any creature at all, that tarried on the path too long. Such was the great beasts' speed that you had very little warning of their coming, in spite of the ferocious roar they always made. It was often necessary to cross the paths in order to get from one place to another, so everyone made a habit of stopping and listening carefully before venturing out into that open and forbidding space. Few indeed were the individuals brave enough to actually use the trails for travel. Fewer still were those who lived.

Debra remembered standing at the edge of one of the dragonpaths, and watching as the great beasts rushed past. They seemed oblivious to the fact that she stood just inside the woods. Their vision covered nothing but the path before them.

One day she had dared to venture out of the woods, right to the very edge of the scorched area. The ground was pressed flat by the immense weight of the monsters, and their fire had baked the soil as hard as stone.

Engrossed as she was, she had not heard the dragon's approach. At the last second she had looked up to see it hurtling towards her. It was too late for her to do anything but stand there and wait for the great jaws to close. She stood in wonderment as the dragon rushed past, missing her by no more than a few inches. Debra turned and watched the creature as it rushed onward. She couldn't contain her amazement. Not only had the creature left her alive and unharmed, but it had spoken to her. Alien words, in an unknown language. They had been little more than peculiar sounds, barely heard above the roar of the dragon's fire. But she had no doubt that the dragon had been speaking. She had no idea what the great beast had said to her, but suddenly Debra did not feel as afraid of dragons as she once had. As long as she lived she would remember those odd sounds, which had issued from the mouth of the dragon.

"Look, Mommy! A deer!"

"Be careful, honey. It might jump out in front of the car."