

IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
OF THE MONTREAL
SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

LE BULLETIN
D'INFORMATION
DE L'ASSOCIATION
MONTRÉLAISE DE
SCIENCE-FICTION ET
DE FANTASTIQUE

January / Janvier 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 1)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, January 21

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

ELECTION OF 2007 EXECUTIVE:

Election of MonSFFA's Executive
Committee for the coming year.

1:15PM

FAN FICTION, PART I: We devote
the afternoon to an exploration of fan
fiction, or "fanfic," first covering the
genre's history and terminology, impact
on SF/F fan- and prodom, and the
legal issues surrounding the practise.

2:45PM

BREAK: A mid-meeting pause
for refreshments, announcements of
interest to club members, and our
fund-raising raffle.

3:00PM

FAN FICTION, PART II: We'll hear
from both creators and consumers of
fanfic, and take the opportunity to
hold a quick writing workshop dealing
with the requested submissions of
club members (see sidebar, next
page, for details).

Next MonSFFA Meeting:

FEBRUARY 18

Crime and Punishment

2006 Christmas Dinner and Party

MonSFFA's final event of 2006 was the club's
Christmas dinner/party, held on the evening of
December 9. Some 25 or so club members and friends
began their festive celebrations with dinner at Guido &
Angelina's Restaurant in the AMC Forum, downtown.
The group then moved a few blocks east to party at the
familiar Park Place Bar on Mackay street, which has
received MonSFFA's seasonal revellers, now, for more
than a decade. There ensued an evening of music,
conversation, drinks and, as always, *pool*. The bar's
backroom pool table was quickly appropriated and
remained in use until closing time as between beers, a
succession of MonSFFA members queued up to poke their balls
with a long stick.

Meanwhile, movie passes and other prize items
were raffled off to raise a few dollars for the club. A
couple of these items were deemed worthy of auction
and were put on the block, adding a generous portion
to the raffle revenue.

Keith Braithwaite saw to the collection for charity
of non-perishable food items and a number of toys, and
was pleased to report that club members' beneficence
filled the trunk of his car. Keith later delivered the
haul to Sun Youth as MonSFFA's contribution to that
organization's annual Christmas basket drive.

Our thanks to MonSFFA president Berny Reischl,
who organized the dinner at Guido & Angelina's; Keith,
who in addition to overseeing our collection for charity,
also set up the Park Place party and provided the
evening's musical soundtrack; and Debbie and Heather,
our wonderfully welcoming Park Place hostesses. We
appreciate, as well, the donations of raffle/auction items
for the party.

We trust all MonSFFA members, their families and
friends, enjoyed a Merry Christmas and a Happy New
Year.

DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP FEES ARE DUE.

The annual membership fees
of the following MonSFFA
members are overdue:

BLAIS, Annie
GAUDET, Jacques
KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie
RUIZ-DIAZ, Karina

Annual membership fees are due this month (January) from the following MonSFFA members:

BROWN, Lindsay
MINEAU, Sebastien
NOËL, Kim
SMITH, Garry

Annual membership fees
will become due next month
(February) from the following
MonSFFA members:

SIMARD, Phil
HAMMOCK, Christopher
KENNEY, Daniel

Please renew your MonSFFA
membership in timely fashion.
Annual dues are \$25. Fill out
the membership application
form, bottom of page, include
cheque or money order, made
out to MonSFFA, and mail to:

MonSFFA
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec
H2X 4A7

If you have already done so,
ignore this notice. We thank you
for renewing your membership
in MonSFFA, Montreal's
premiere SF/F fan club.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____
No. & STREET / NO ET RUE APT. / APP.

CITY / VILLE _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL _____

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Tel. / Tél.: () _____ () _____
HOME / MAISON WORK / TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

2007 MonSFFA Meeting Dates Confirmed

MonSFFA's 2007 meeting dates have been confirmed. MonSFFA meets once a month, except in July and December, on a Sunday afternoon from 1:00-5:00PM, typically in the St-François room of the downtown Days Hotel, 1005 Guy Street. Some of our meetings include a morning session, usually scheduled from 10:30 or 11:00AM to about 12:30PM, during which special projects are undertaken or other such activities take place. An informal dinner at a nearby restaurant often follows each meeting.

Our 2007 meeting schedule is as follows: January 21, February 18, March 25, April 22, May 27, June 10, August 19, September 23, October 21, November 18.

The club's annual Parc Angrignon barbecue will be held on Sunday, July 29, this year. The following Sunday, August 5, has been slated as the alternate date should inclement weather prevail on the 29th.

Finally, our traditional Christmas party will be combined this year with the club's 20th anniversary celebrations, scheduled for Saturday, December 8. Planning for this event is currently underway and details will follow in subsequent issues of *Impulse*.

2007 Club Elections

The first order of business at the club's January 21 meeting is the selection of MonSFFA's 2007 Executive Committee. All full club members are encouraged to participate in this process.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

Any full MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the Executive posts.

Candidates may nominate themselves or accept nomination from another full member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on election day.

All full MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is *not* permitted.

FanFic Topic of this Month's MonSFFA Meeting

The principal topic at the club's first meeting of 2007 (January 21) will be fan fiction. Customarily shortened to "fanfic," or simply "fic," fan fiction is that particular brand of unauthorized amateur writing based on a published work, or a television series or movie franchise. Some may expand the definition to include amateur-level original fiction as well as authorized publications rooted in an original work. The general understanding, however, is that a fanfic story is one set in the universe of an original work employing characters created by the original's author.

We will allow the wider definition of fanfic at our meeting so as to include amateur works of original fiction. MonSFFA members are welcome to actively participate in the meeting as detailed in the sidebar, this page.

It is interesting to note that much of fanfic centers on romantic and/or sexual relationships between characters. These are sometimes extrapolations of relationships found in the original work or, often, pairings not intended by the original's author. Some such stories depart entirely from the canon of established characters, portraying them as homosexual, for example, or perhaps as practitioners of BDSM.

Fanfic authors may also pen "crossovers," in which characters from two or more original works are brought together.

Scholarly studies have recognized

Original and Fan Fiction Wanted for this Month's MonSFFA Meeting

We invite and *encourage* any MonSFFA member who has penned or is currently writing a work of either original or fan fiction to bring in to our January 21 club meeting a single-page outline or excerpt to share with the group. Feedback may be offered and perhaps we can provide constructive suggestions on working out a particularly vexing scene, tackling a plot device, or drafting potent dialogue.

Further, we challenge MonSFFA's fan fiction enthusiasts to write the first draft of a short fanfic tale based on one of the following established works:

Encounters of the Very Close Kind
Beavra
MooseMan
The Simpletons' Life

or, an original SF, fantasy, or horror story of no more than 500 words under one of the following titles:

Remembrance of Things Past
Though This be Madness
The Instruments of Darkness
A Better World Than This

an element of wish-fulfillment in fanfic. Authors regularly insert themselves or a thinly veiled representation of themselves into their stories, often in the form of a protagonist exceedingly idealized to the point of cliché. Such a character typically dominates the story, saves the day, wins the respect and admiration of the original work's characters, and the heart of one in particular, the fanfic author's favourite.

Fan fiction has been described as the present-day version of the oral tradition of shared stories, in which a popular legend or fairy tale may be retold from a different perspective, enhanced, or substantially changed. When corporations own what amount to contemporary myths, fan fiction provides an outlet for ordinary folk to contribute to their own culture.

The advent of the Internet has allowed fanfic writers an inexpensive means of widespread distribution; one of the most popular Web sites dedicated to fan fiction is: FanFiction.net

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February / Février 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 2)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, February 18

1:00PM-5:00PM

Gatineau Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

LAW AND ORDER:

We examine the cops and robbers of science fiction, the crimes and punishments imagined by SF writers, and the legal systems of strange new worlds.

3:00PM

THE FACE BEHIND THE MASK:

We play a game in which players are challenged to identify which of the unadorned faces shown on screen is that of the actor or actress under the make-up or behind the mask of an SF/F movie or TV series character.

Next MonSFFA Meeting: MARCH 18

- *The FAB Worlds of Gerry Anderson*
- *MonSFFA's First Annual (?) Sci-Fi Bake Sale*

Members are asked to prepare a sampling of fannish finger food or out-of-this-world dessert snacks to bring to the meeting to share with the group.

MonSFFA's 2007 Executive Selected

MonSFFA has returned last year's Executive Committee to office for another year. At the beginning of the club's January 21 meeting, Chief Returning Officer Cathy Palmer-Lister officiated over the investiture by club members present of Berny Reischl, Keith Braithwaite, and Sylvain St-Pierre as, respectively, president, vice-president, and treasurer for 2007.

We are confident of another stellar year for the club as MonSFFA has never before seen an executive with so much fannish organizational experience. Berny is the club's longest serving chief and a former Con•Cept concom member. He was recipient of an Aurora Award for his governance of KAG/Kanada as Admiral. Keith is a former MonSFFA president who also served for many years as *Warp* editor and headed a variety of departments during his lengthy tenure on Con•Cept's concom. He is currently editor of this news bulletin and the principal architect of MonSFFA's award-winning fan film productions. And organizational wizard Sylvain has been counting MonSFFA's beans, now, for well over a decade. He has also contributed greatly to the success of Con•Cept over the years, having served variously and notably as masquerade director, art show manager, and treasurer. All three have been MonSFFA members since the club's earliest days and have contributed much since that time to the programming of our monthly meetings and other MonSFFA projects.

We applaud their return to office as our executive and wish them well as they prepare to shepherd the club through another year.

January MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA kicked off 2007 with a well-attended meeting on January 21. The afternoon's programming was devoted to the topic of fan fiction.

Before the discussion of "fanfic" began, however, the club took about 15 minutes to attend to constitutional business, namely the selection of its three-person Executive Committee for the coming year (see lead item).

Keith Braithwaite then opened the discussion of fan

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NOËL, Kim
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members:**

**HAMMOCK, Christopher
KENNEY, Daniel
SIMARD, Phil**

Annual membership fees will become due next month (March) from the following MonSFFA members:

THIBODEAU, Claude

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E-mail / Courriel: _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

fiction, first offering a delineation of the genre by stating that which is the generally accepted definition: fan fiction is a particular brand of unauthorized amateur writing based on a published work, or a television series or movie franchise. Fan fiction stories are set in the universe of an original work and employ characters created by the original's author. Fanfic writers rework, embellish, or explore anew the source material, or "canon," upon which their stories are based, introducing to the universe in which they are writing their own characters, called in fanfic lingo "OC"'s, or "original characters." Keith noted that some definitions of fanfic include amateur-level original fiction as well as authorized publications rooted in an original work.

While examples of what we might today term fan fiction date back centuries, it was the explosion of *Star Trek*-inspired, fan-penned stories which began appearing in *Trek* fanzines in the late 1960s and early '70s that got modern fan fiction started. Many of these early fanfic pieces revolved around rather adolescent romantic and/or sexual relationships between characters. Keith pointed out that an examination conducted of 1960s fan fiction culture revealed that some 83 percent of *Star Trek* fanzine editors and fan fiction authors were teenaged girls, no doubt the reason behind the preponderance of puerile romantic fantasies constituting much of fanfic at the time.

A controversial subdivision of the fan fiction genre, dubbed "slash," arose in the mid-1970s, depicting established canon characters as homosexual lovers often engaged in explicit sex, the most popular such pairing at the outset being that of Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock.

So-called "crossovers" followed, in which characters from two or more canons were brought together—Mulder and Scully might open an X-file on one Buffy Summers, for instance.

The arrival of the Internet saw fan fiction move away from fanzines as a means of distribution to Usenet and the like, and later, the World Wide Web. Today, literally *millions* of fanfic stories are archived on such Web sites as FanFiction.net.

The unique terminology of fan fiction was explored and Keith also touched on fanfic formats, from quick shorts of a few hundred words or less to multi-chaptered epics approaching novel length. Further, he outlined

modern copyright law and some of the legal issues involved in publishing fanfic.

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFA members and fanfic authors Barbara Silverman and Josée Bellemare each read from one of their stories, spoke of their motivations in writing the tales, and of the feedback they'd received. Barbara's *Star Trek: Voyager* story builds upon the relationship established in the television series between Janeway and Chakotay and she was encouraged by the positive online response her work has generated to date. Josée's short *Doctor Who* piece was one of several Christmas-themed tales she had submitted for publication in *Warp*. In a stroke of perfect timing, MonSFFen were able to read these in issue 66 of the club's fanzine, which, as it happened, had just been distributed to members present at this very meeting. In keeping with the afternoon's topic, the issue also included a Christmas-themed fanfic by Fernando "Fern" Novo, a crossover—*Buffy the Vampire Slayer/Charmed*—by Josée again, and Mireille Dion's informative article on fan fiction.

The meeting closed with an informal writer's workshop, during which various outlines or excerpts of works-in-progress were read aloud and the authors offered advice on story development. Leslie Lupien received the input of his fellow MonSFFen on a first-contact scenario he was having trouble bringing to a conclusion. Fern, meanwhile, presented an outline of the fanfic piece he had begun using one of the suggested titles we ran in our request for fan fiction in last month's *Impulse*. Fern's work-in-progress is entitled "The Instruments of Darkness." The group also enjoyed Keith's reading of a short *Beavra* fanfic, penned by his 10-year old son, Scott, in which our famous monster beaver battles a giant lobster named Lobstera. Finally, Wayne Glover introduced folks to a *Battlestar Galactica/Babylon 5* epic he has been enjoying, among other fanfic downloaded from FanFiction.net.

The usual thanks to the crew who put this meeting together with a special nod to all of our programming participants.

Local Theatre Company Explores Sci-Fi Funny Bone

We don't often see SF reflected in live theatre and so MonSFFA passes along the

following interesting tidbit of information to members: Montreal-based theatre company Two by Four is currently presenting a "hilarious new play," *Space Jail*, running Wednesday through Saturday evenings until February 24th at the downtown Theatre Ste-Catherine, 264 Ste-Catherine Street East.

The Etan Muskat/Brent Skagford-penned script was developed, we are told, in tandem with the cast and promises audiences a "side-splitting" evening of entertainment, "part theatre, part improv, and all comedy!" Riotous antics result when an innocent man living in a "dystopian future ruled by a brutal tyrant" is incarcerated for a crime he did not commit. He finds himself in "Space Jail," reads the press release received by MonSFFA, "an orbital penal colony filled with the galaxy's most dangerous criminals," and soon realizes that he may represent the only hope of foiling his captors' plans before they imprison the entire universe!

Tickets are \$15, \$12 for students and seniors. Surf to: www.spacejailtheplay.com; call 514-284-3939 for ticket information.

Briefly:

- MonSFFA recently co-sponsored the local premieres of the *The Messengers* and *Ghost Rider*.
- Con•Cept has scheduled a preliminary "meet, greet, and eat" concomm meeting for March 18, 10:00AM, at the Days Hotel's restaurant (1005 Guy Street, downtown Montreal). The convention is looking for dedicated persons interested in joining the 2007 organizing committee. Long-time Con•Cept chief Cathy Palmer-Lister has had a change of heart, reversed her decision of last year to step down and will again chair the event.
- Toronto Trek has changed its name to Polaris.
- MonSFFAn Nick Krimp informs us of his involvement in a new e-book publishing venture currently seeking "new and established authors." The company will handle the publishing and selling of e-books of all genres, says Nick. Illustrators are sought as well to produce cover art for the books. Interested MonSFFen may contact Nick for more information at: nkrimp@hotmail.com
- Club members are reminded to inform us of any changes to their mailing addresses.

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March / Mars 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 3)

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(April) from the following
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BENNETT, Paul
BURAKOFF, Mark
DODDS, Georges
METHE, Ann
NOVO, Fernando
WADSWORTH, Beulah
WALLING, Réne

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Sunday, March 25

11:00AM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING:

MonSFFen are encouraged to take
part as we examine fresh revenue-
generating ideas in light of recent
increases to the club's operating
expenses (see lead item, right, for
details).

1:00PM

THE FAB WORLDS OF GERRY ANDERSON:

We explore the wonderfully
futuristic vehicle and aircraft
designs populating the amazing
worlds of Gerry Anderson's studio
in the 1960s and '70s, focusing par-
ticularly on the TV series *UFO*.

3:00PM

SCI-FI BAKE SALE AND SWAP MEET:

Enjoy delicious snacks and trade
collectibles with fellow MonSFFen
(see second and third items, right
and next page, for details).

Next MonSFFA Meeting:
APRIL 22
Stargate

Club's Operating Expenses Rise

MonSFFA faces hikes in operating costs this year to
the tune of a few hundred dollars, largely related to the
rental of function space for the club's monthly meetings.
President Berny Reischl has scheduled a Board of Advisors
(BoA) council the morning of MonSFFA's March 25 meet-
ing to discuss the situation and consider strategies to deal
with these cost increases. Said BoA meeting will unfold
beginning at 11:00AM in our meeting room. The input of
MonSFFA members is imperative and all MonSFFen are
encouraged to take part.

We will entertain ideas from the group as to how to
offset the elevated costs of operation now confronting the
club. Fund-raising solutions have been suggested already,
including the sci-fi bake sale slotted for March 25th's club
meeting (see next item for details). And while the club
wishes to avoid boosting its \$25 annual membership tariff,
alternate fee levels are under consideration, including a
slightly more expensive premium charge that, like
Con•Cept's "Friends of the Con" rate, would add value to
our standard membership.

Another round of cost cutting is likely. We will
probably scale back on the somewhat expensive printing of
some of our promotional material. *Impulse* may drop a
couple issues, too, publishing 10 rather than the current 12
editions per year, thus saving on printing and mailing
costs.

MonSFFA's March Assembly Features Bake Sale Fund-Raiser

The club is introducing an SF/F-themed bake sale to
members and guests this month. The March 25 MonSFFA
meeting's snack table will be augmented with a selection
of "sci-fi snacks" concocted by club members. This first
MonSFFA bake sale has been put together as a humble
fund-raiser for the club in response to recent hikes in the
club's operating expenses (see lead item). Members are

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E-mail/Courriel: _____

Interests/Intérêts: _____

encouraged to participate in two ways:

1) Supply one or two science fiction or fantasy-themed snack or dessert items. These may be homemade delicacies such as cupcakes decorated to resemble flying saucers, for example, or gingerbread men fashioned as robots. Or, simply, store-bought treats, like cookies, modified with decorative icing or such to create a menu item in theme. Be creative! Modest quantities should suffice as we hope to have a wide selection on offer. Please prepare your food items in manageable portions, packaged for the convenience of the consumer. A cake, for instance, should be divided into portions with party plates and forks provided. Homemade cookies might be individually wrapped, or an offering of several cookies bagged. We ask that members provide a list of ingredients so that folk enjoying the goodies may avoid any food-allergy issues.

2) Purchase some of the snacks we have on our menu! This is, after all, a fund-raiser for the club.

We encourage all MonSFFen to participate and should our bake sale prove a success, we expect to hold another. Perhaps the affair might become an annual event, like the club's summer barbecue.

Swap Meet at March MonSFFA Meeting

In addition to the above-detailed sci-fi bake sale, the club's March 25 meeting will also provide members with the opportunity to trade skiffy collectibles with each other. Members are invited to bring with them to the meeting any SF/F collectible items—books, posters, card sets, action figures and toys, videos or DVDs, figurines or model kits—that they wish to trade for other collectibles.

Trades will take place following the mid-meeting break. Members may exchange treasure for treasure or simply purchase an item for an agreed-upon price, cash only please. Note that MonSFFA will not in any way be involved in the trading or sale of items, and will not facilitate any specific trades or sales. Arrangements made are to be between or among those involved in each transaction. Note as well that MonSFFA will not require from members a piece of the

action in the form of a percentage of sales or other kind of fee. The club is simply and *only* providing the opportunity for members to exchange cool stuff amongst themselves. Govern yourselves accordingly.

That said, MonSFFA is prepared to accept any donations of items from generous members. Any such items will be offered for raffle or auction at a future date, and monies derived directed towards the club's operating budget. We thank in advance any members who opt to donate items to the cause.

February MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's February 18 meeting offered first a quick game challenging members to identify from portrait photos projected on screen the actor or actress appearing in a sci-fi film or television series and shown in full alien character make-up in an accompanying picture. Fernando "Fern" Novo ran the game, with an assist from Berny Reischl.

Following the mid-meeting break, MonSFFA business was briefly discussed, notably recent unavoidable increases in the cost of operating the club. As there is much to talk about, here, the club opted to convene a BoA meeting on March 25 to further consider these recent budgetary developments and implement measures to address the situation (see lead item).

The afternoon's closing topic was dubbed "Law and Order." Danny Sichel led this discussion of crime and punishment in SF/F. He entertainingly introduced his topic in the style of the *Law and Order* television show's opening narration, complete with trademark musical punctuation (provided by the audience): SF/F literature is composed of two separate but equally important parts, the authors who create the plots and the characters who live them out for the enjoyment of readers.

Danny, joined at the dais by Keith Braithwaite, had a lot of ground to cover with his chosen topic and the conversation thus jumped around some as panelists and audience strove to touch on as much as they could.

Such characters as *Star Wars*' Han Solo and Harry Harrison's Slippery Jim DiGriz—the Stainless Steel Rat—were highlighted

as roguish heroes, among several popular tropes of the genre. The concept of a galactic police force, it was noted, dates back to E. E. "Doc" Smith's Lensman stories, which also featured an interstellar criminal cartel known as Boskone.

Fantasy tales, meanwhile, often portray thieves and assassins as accepted members of their imagined societies. Professional organizations—guilds—govern their conduct and the laws of the land include rules to regulate their activities. Danny recommended the Lord D'Arcy books, featuring a detective who brings something of a forensic approach to solving crimes committed in an alternate world of magic.

SF writers often explore crime and detective work from a scientific angle, detailing how a crime might be committed in the future, and how speculative science might be employed to solve that crime.

Punishment, it was observed, often involves the death penalty or some other distasteful sentence, in some cases for relatively innocuous crimes. The SF universe, it would seem, is a much harsher place than the real world, or at least our Western world, it was opined.

Our thanks to Fern, Berny, Danny, and Keith for providing this meeting's programming. And thanks, also, to the usual suspects who helped to plan and run this, our February 2007 meeting.

Briefly

- Recent movie premieres co-sponsored by MonSFFA include the testosterone-fuelled *300* and the time-bending *Premonition*.
- We offer our congratulations to MonSFFAns Debra Aubin and Tim Murphy on the recent birth of their daughter, Ainsley, and to club member Mark Shainblum and his wife, Andrea, on the birth of their daughter, Maya Gabriella, who came into the world earlier this month. We are please to report that everyone is doing fine.

Erratum: last month's *Impulse* incorrectly listed MonSFFA's March meeting as scheduled for the 18th. It is, in fact, slated for this coming Sunday, March 25. We regret the error.

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:

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IMPULSE

MonSFFA • A MonSFF

NEWS BULLETIN
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SCIENCE FICTION
AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

LE BULLETIN
D'INFORMATION
DE L'ASSOCIATION
MONTREALAISE DE
SCIENCE-FICTION ET
DE FANTASTIQUE

April / Avril 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 4)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, April 22

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

STARGATE SG-1 RETROSPECTIVE:

We look back fondly at the longest running American sci-fi series in history, the popular *Stargate SG-1*.

3:00PM

THROUGH THE GATE:

An examination of the *Stargate* mythology and its underpinnings in the ancient world.

Next Month's
MonSFFA Meeting

MAY 27

Sci-Fi Advertising

Game: Sci-Fi
Win, Lose or Draw

Plans for 20th Anniversary Party Advance

Among matters on the agenda at recent BoA's and club meetings has been the club's 20th anniversary/Christmas party, set for December 8. The consensus emerging from discussion of the event is that the party will take place at the familiar Days Hotel and include a buffet dinner. The party will welcome current and past members and, indeed, all friends of the club. A cash bar will be set up and a DJ will spin discs. Door prizes will be handed out and a raffle will be held during the course of the evening. Some kind of souvenir of the event is under consideration.

Hotel rooms will be available for those wishing to spend the night, a good idea, to be sure, for anyone driving in who expects to drink some. MonSFFA has arranged for a special price of \$70 for a room, booking details to follow. Sharing a room with friends thus becomes quite economical.

A price of \$35 per person has been set to cover the meal and party. Tickets are to be produced and sold in the coming weeks and months.

We will publish further details pertaining to this event as they become available.

March-Meeting Bake Sale Nets Club North of \$100!

The club's March 25 meeting featured a successful bake sale fund-raiser while facilitating a swap meet at which MonSFFA traded or purchased SF/F collectibles from each other. Keith Braithwaite and Fernando "Fern" Novo provided the afternoon's programming, offering a slideshow showcasing the super-cool aircraft, vehicles, props, and costumes designed for the many

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FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are overdue:

KENNEY, Daniel
MINEAU, Sebastien
NOËL, Kim
SMITH, Garry

**Annual membership
fees are due this month
(April) from the
following MonSFFA
members:**

BENNETT, Paul
BURAKOFF, Mark
METHE, Ann
WADSWORTH, Beulah
WALLING, Réne

Annual membership fees will become due next month (May) from the following MonSFFA members:

DION, Mireille
MORROW, Gordon
SICHEL, Danny
SYSAVANE, Khoba
WHITELAW, Maureen

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues are \$25. Fill out the membership application form, bottom of page, include cheque or money order, made out to MonSFFA, and mail to:

MonSFFA
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc
Montreal, Québec
H2X 4A7

If you have already done so, ignore this notice. We thank you for renewing your membership.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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Address / Adresse: _____

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WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

televised sci-fi adventures produced by Gerry Anderson in the 1960s and '70s.

Alice Novo and Lindsay Brown set up and oversaw our bake sale table, which opened for business at the outset of the meeting and ran throughout. There were numerous sinfully delicious snacks on offer, including a plate of colourful and tasty “starbugs” (candy treats) and some “soylent brown” (fudge). Folk were quick to load up on the many goodies. We are pleased to report that the bake sale added \$111.25 to the club’s coffers, more than four times that typically raised at our usual snack table during a meeting.

Presently, Keith and Fern introduced their topic. The real stars of such iconic Gerry Anderson series as *Thunderbirds*, *Captain Scarlet*, and *UFO* were not the Tracy’s or Captain Scarlet or Colonel Straker, but the many sleek airplanes and rockets, robust transport craft, and speedy multi-wheeled cars and trucks racing about in Anderson’s fab future. Slides of pre-production sketches and stills of the wonderfully detailed models employed by the Anderson studio were screened and it was noted that often, design touches were borrowed from the real-world craft of the nascent space program of the time. That said, most of the designs were decidedly more cool looking than realistically functional. And this is what appealed most to the young, enthusiastic fans of Anderson’s shows, who embraced the future imagined by Anderson and his team of designers precisely because that future was just so penultimately cool looking! After all, who wouldn’t want to ride around in an SPV?

Future fashion as envisioned by the Anderson team was also examined; costume design on the shows was at the same time “futuristic” and a reflection of the mod London scene of the day. The shiny purple wigs and silver jumpsuits worn by the female Moonbase operatives in the *UFO* series were a signature look, as were the fishnet T-shirts sported by both male and female crewmembers



**Super-Cool FAB Future:
Design Sketch of Futuristic Airliner from
Gerry Anderson Studio**

aboard the ocean-going *Skydiver*. Memorable, too, were the brightly coloured jackets of Spectrum’s personnel in the *Captain Scarlet* show. Each operative donned clothing coloured to match his code name—Captain Scarlet wore a bright red uniform, Captain Blue a sky blue vest, and so on.

After the mid-meeting break, members were free to circulate, nosh some more at the bake sale table, and peruse the display of sci-fi collectibles some had brought in to trade or sell.

We begin our thank-you’s re our March meeting with a nod to Alice and Lindsay for overseeing our first MonSFFA bake sale. We thank, too, all those MonSFFen who kindly contributed items to the bake sale, as well as those who partook of the snacks. Thanks, also, to Keith and Fern for providing this meeting’s programming, and finally, our usual thanks to the usual suspects who regularly help to plan and run our events.

New MonSFFA Membership Fee Levels to be Introduced

After discussions with members, MonSFFA’s executive is planning the introduction of several new membership fee levels with an eye toward increasing revenues.

First of all, take note that the standard \$25 yearly membership fee will remain available. Nothing changes, here.

Our existing “piggyback” membership, so-called, will be replaced with a family membership at \$40 per year. Up to four people living at the same address will be able to join as a family. Each member of the household will receive an individual membership card and will be considered a full member of the club, entitled to vote on club matters and enjoy all associated privileges. The household as a single unit will receive the regular mailings of *Warp* and *Impulse*, each issue to be shared among the family members. This is pretty much the arrangement now in place re piggyback memberships, except that piggyback members do not enjoy voting rights and some other privileges of full membership.

Soon to become available, a six-month membership designed to accommodate newcomers who wish to give the club a try. This six-month membership will cost \$15.

Finally, a platinum membership will be introduced at \$35 per year. Similar to Con•Cept’s “Friends of the Con” option, this platinum membership will add value to our standard membership. Details of exactly what extras will be included are under consideration as of this writing. Watch this space for further developments.

The timeline for the introduction of MonSFFA’s new membership fee schedule is also under consideration.

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May-June / Mai-Juin 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 5)

NEXT MonSFFA EVENT IS THIS WEEKEND

Club Field Trip to:

DISNEY: ONCE UPON A TIME

An exhibition of works of art
that served as inspiration for
the Disney Studios

Saturday, May 26

Meet at 11:45AM *sharp* (don't be late!)
in front of Montreal Museum of Fine
Arts, 1380 Sherbrooke St. W. (corner
Crescent St.), downtown Montreal

Cost (cash only, please):

- \$15 per person
- \$7.50, students and seniors
- Free for children under 12
accompanied by an adult

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting:

Sunday, June 10

1:00PM-5:00PM
St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING:

MONSFFILMS WORKSHOP:

We continue planning and work on
both *Timeline* and *Beavra Las Vegas*,
our current video-film projects,
including recording the vocal tracks
for "Beavra Las Vegas," a filk song
for the *Beavra* sequel's soundtrack.

ATTENTION: May Meeting Cancelled in Favour of Club Field Trip

Please take note: the club's May 27 meeting has
been *cancelled* in favour of a group outing, to take
place on Saturday, May 26. We will visit the Montreal
Museum of Fine Arts to take in an exhibition of some
of the works of art that served as inspiration for the
Disney Studios while creating some of their
masterpieces of animation.

We want to take the opportunity to see this
wonderful exhibition before it closes next month, as
well as step out of our usual meeting schedule for a
change. Treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre notes, too, that the
club will save the cost of renting our meeting room this
month, which can only help our bottom line.

Unfortunately, the just-announced transit strike
almost certain to be in full swing this weekend threw
something of a monkey wrench into our plans, but
nevertheless, we hope that enough of you will manage
to join the group on Saturday, despite the strike. If we
manage a group of 20 or more, the cost of admission will
be less than the listed \$15 per person, so bring a friend!

See the "events" column, left, for details of the
field trip. Please be on time (11:45AM sharp!) as we
must pay admission and enter as a group. We *will not*
wait for late-comers! Some members, in attendance at
our April meeting, have paid in advance; for those who
have not, cash only, please.

You may rent an "audio guide" unit for the exhibition
from the museum at a cost of \$5, should you wish.

Note: if you decide to skip our field trip but still
want to see the show, admission to the museum is free
the next day, Sunday, the 27th, which just happens to be
the date of Montreal's "free museums" day this year.
However, we must caution you that the crowds on these
days are typically monstrous and the line-ups long. We

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The annual membership fees
of the following MonSFFA
members are overdue:

KENNEY, Daniel
METHE, Ann
NOËL, Kim
SMITH, Garry
WADSWORTH, Beulah

**Annual membership
fees are due this and next
month (May and June)
from the following MonSFFA
members:**

MAY

MORROW, Gordon
SICHEL, Danny
SYSAVANE, Khoba

JUNE

BELLEMARE, Josée
DUROCHER, Dominique
EASTMAN, Justin
GLOVER, Wayne
JAMES, David
MOHAPEL, Charles
PELLEY, Lynda
PENALBA, Theresa
SILVERMAN, Barbara

Annual membership fees
will become due in July from the
following MonSFFA members:

AUBIN, Debra
BRODEUR, Chantal
MURPHY, Tim
PETERS, Ernst-Udo

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Interests / Intérêts: _____

opted to avoid that scenario so that we may fully appreciate and enjoy the exhibition.

We apologize for any inconvenience this last-minute re-jigging of the club's events calendar may have caused members. Circumstances conspired to prevent more timely notification.

April MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's well-attended April 22 meeting was devoted to *Stargate SG-1*, the longest running American sci-fi television series in history. Panelists Phil Simard, Theresa Penalba, and Wayne Glover hosted an appreciation and discussion of the popular show, which was based on the 1996 film *Stargate*.

Our panelists described the series as top-notch sci-fi entertainment and it was put forth that the show's central deceit, that of a gateway through which one could travel instantaneously to distant worlds, provided the show's writers with countless opportunities for engaging stories. This, offered the panel, was one of the strengths of *Stargate SG-1*—the show compares favourably to the original *Star Trek* in this respect—resulting in many excellent episodes over the 10-season life of the series. *SG-1* deserves to be ranked among the best sci-fi series ever broadcast.

An animated audience quickly joined in the conversation, commenting on the remarks of the panelists, tossing in their own opinions, and listing favourite *SG-1* episodes and moments. The show appeals to many tastes, it was opined, offering stories of exploration and discovery, space opera, military adventure, tales of intrigue, humanity, and more.

The panel cited other pluses, including the show's strongly defined and well-written main protagonists, a sardonic sense of humour, a solid group of supporting characters, and a great cast.

Barbara Silverman was up following the mid-meeting break with a brief presentation on the ancient mythologies

and historical locales from which *Stargate*'s creators drew.

Most obvious is ancient Egyptian culture, the motifs of which were extensively tapped for both the *Stargate* film and subsequent TV series. Some of the character names and locales in the *Stargate* universe were culled from the ancients. Apophis, for instance, the lead villain of *SG-1*, derives his moniker from the Greek name for Apep, an evil demon in Egyptian mythology. And his Goa'uld queen, Amonet, was named for the Egyptian goddess Amunet (sometimes spelled "Amonet").

Naqahdah, which the show's fans will recognize as the fictional material from which the stargate was constructed, is in history the name of an ancient Egyptian town and a pre-dynastic Egyptian culture (spelled "Naqada" in both cases), explained Barbara.

The planet Abydos, meanwhile, home of *SG-1* team member Daniel Jackson's wife, Sha're, was no doubt named after the ancient Egyptian town situated along the river Nile. Perhaps, speculated Barbara, when weaving the sad story of Jackson and Sha're—she becomes human host to the Goa'uld, Amonet—*Stargate*'s writers were partly inspired by the tragic tale of Greek mythology's doomed lovers Hero and Leander, the latter hailing from another town called Abydos in what is today Turkey.

Augmenting the afternoon's programming was a display of *Stargate SG-1* collectibles, including DVDs, books, photographs, scale model kits, and detailed replicas of some of the props used on the show.

Our *SG-1* presentations and discussion were bookended by screenings of a couple of episodes of the new *Doctor Who* spin-off, *Torchwood*.

A nod of thanks to our panelists, Phil Simard, Theresa Penalba, Wayne Glover, and Barbara Silverman. And, our thanks, as always, to the usual suspects who regularly help to plan and run our events.

June MonSFFA Meeting Scheduled *Just Two Weeks* After May Field Trip; No *Impulse* Next Month

Note that June's MonSFFA meeting will take place only two weeks after our May 26 field trip. Normally, there is about a month between MonSFFA gatherings and so, because of the shortened time between our May and June events, and because the production schedule of this news bulletin generally requires a tad more than two weeks, *Impulse* will not publish next month. The issue you are now reading has been designated our May/June 2007 issue. *Impulse* returns in July, in time to announce details of our annual summer barbecue.

Cost-Saving Measures re *Impulse*

In keeping with the club's most recent cost-saving measures, we have decided to drop the June issue of *Impulse* not only this year (see previous item), but in future years, as well. We expect, also, to permanently drop at least one more issue from the schedule, probably December's. Our goal is to trim by two or three the number of issues of *Impulse* published annually. This will save the club money in terms of both the news bulletin's printing and mailing costs while having a minimum impact on services to members.

Further, we will encourage members, whenever possible, to opt for the electronic (.pdf) version of *Impulse* rather than the paper issue so as to save on printing and mailing costs, the latter in particular representing a sizable portion of *Impulse*'s annual budget.

Currently, about 25 percent of club members receive *Impulse* via the Internet rather than as a paper publication delivered by postal mail. We hope to double that figure by year's end and eventually, count in the 90 percent range the number of MonSFFen receiving our e-*Impulse*.

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July / Juillet 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 6)

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LE BULLETIN
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MonSFFA BBQ IS THIS WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 29

10:30AM-4:00PM

Parc Angrignon, Lasalle



**MonSFFA members,
their families and
friends invited!**

**Bring your own chairs
or picnic blankets, food and
drink—we will supply a
cooking grill.**

**If rained out, event
rescheduled for following
Sunday, August 5,
same time, place.**

**MonSFFA MEETING SCHEDULE
RESUMES AUGUST 19**

HANDS-ON FAN CRAFT WORKSHOPS:
*Sci-Fi Costuming,
Model-Building, and More!*

Summertime and the Livin' is Easy

We trust that MonSFFA's members and friends are enjoying the summer break—a few long weekends, vacations, Montreal's many festivals. Those of us charged with running the club are, of course, no less inclined to take it easy during the summer and for this reason, please understand that things move at a more relaxed pace than usual over the summer months. The club's Web page is not as regularly updated during the summer season, for example, and applications for membership or membership renewals received at our P.O. box may take a little longer than usual to process. But rest assured that our team of volunteer-organizers will attend to these and other club-related duties just as quickly as their summer schedules permit.

MonSFFen and Company Invited to Enjoy Relaxing Day at Park

As has become our mid-summer tradition, the club will host a barbecue open to all MonSFFA members and their families and friends. Our barbecue is scheduled, this year, for Sunday, July 29. Should the weather forecast call for rain on that day, the event will be postponed one week, until the following Sunday, August 5.

We expect to occupy our familiar spot at Parc Angrignon in Lasalle. Look for us on the picnic grounds just behind the Angrignon Metro station, a few hundred feet from the parking lot next to the park's petting zoo. We plan to secure a few picnic tables and set up around 10:30AM. Bring along a Frisbee, ball, or any games that you may wish to enjoy, plus your own food and drink—the club will supply a cooking grill. And don't forget your sunscreen!

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PELLEY, Lynda
PENALBA, Theresa
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SYSAVANE, Khoba

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members:**

**AUBIN, Debra
BRODEUR, Chantal
MURPHY, Tim
PETERS, Ernst-Udo**

Annual membership fees
will become due in August from the
following MonSFFA members:

CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
ETTINGER, Sheila
NOVO, Alice
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain

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Thank you for renewing your
membership in MonSFFA,
Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

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Disney Exhibit Field Trip

In lieu of a regular meeting in May, the club opted for a field trip to the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts to take in "Once Upon a Time: Walt Disney," a collection of artwork assembled from the archives of the renowned Disney Studios. This remarkable showcase of art focused on the "sources of inspiration for the Disney Studios" and included, among the many Disney works, examples of some of the works of art that inspired the studio's celebrated artists and animators. The outing took place on Saturday, May 26; some dozen of our group were in attendance.

Disney and animation enthusiasts stood in awe of the original design sketches, storyboards, sculptures, background plates, and animation cells on display from such Disney masterpieces as *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs* (1937), *Fantasia* (1940), *Bambi* (1942), *Cinderella* (1950), *Sleeping Beauty* (1959), and *One Hundred and One Dalmatians* (1961). The exhibition tied the works of such 19th- and early 20th-century illustrators as Gustave Doré and Beatrix Potter to the Disney works they inspired. Marianne Stokes' interpretation of Snow White, for example, coupled with her painting of the beautiful Mélisande, provided the template for Disney's Snow White while the line from John Atkinson Grimshaw's oil painting *Iris*, depicting a delicate winged woodland fairie, to Disney's Tinker Bell is clear. Franz von Stuck's dramatic oil paintings of mythological fauns and centaurs were among the works that sparked the imaginations of the Disney artists developing the "Pastoral Symphony" sequence in *Fantasia*. Walt Disney himself collected the work of Heinrich Kley and the German artist's dancing hippos and elephants directly influenced *Fantasia*'s "Dance of the Hours." Honoré Daumier's illustrations of anthropomorphized animals, too, were a source of inspiration for many of Disney's artists, who greatly admired Daumier.

Early film also inspired the Disney

artists, including the works of Charlie Chaplin and the stop-motion animation of Willis O'Brien featured in the movies *Lost World* and *King Kong*. Projectors had been set up side by side running a loop of clips from a sampling of such films next to the Disney shorts that drew inspiration from them. German expressionist cinema was of particular influence; titles such as *The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari*, *Faust*, *Nosferatu*, and seminal silent SF film *Metropolis* were of note.

Screened as part of the exhibition was a most interesting cinematic collaboration between the Disney Studios and surrealist painter Salvador Dalí, the 1946 short *Destino*. Dalí's pre-production sketches and production backgrounds were also on view.

We thank club president Berny Reischl for organizing this field trip.

"MonSFFA Idols" Sing at June Club Meeting

The club's June 10 meeting was devoted to the recording of vocal tracks for "Beavra Las Vegas," a filk song based on the tune "Viva Las Vegas," popularized by Elvis Presley. *Beavra* creator Keith Braithwaite penned lyrics for the song, which is to be featured in a short film of the same name, the planned sequel to the club's award-winning fan film, *Beavra*. Some 15 folk were on hand for the fun.

Keith began by distributing lyric sheets to the group and explaining what was required of the vocalists in terms of style. He then played a demo recording of the song he had made to illustrate approximately what he was looking for, albeit a rather more polished version. Sebastien Mineau, meanwhile, tapped as recording engineer, began setting up his equipment. Three "MonSFFA Idols" had cast aside any anxiety and stepped up, ready to take a crack at singing lead vocal. While they took a few minutes to familiarize themselves with the lyrics, Keith lent a hand to Sebastien as the makeshift recording studio was assembled

and sound tests run.

Once everything was set, the recording sessions began, with each vocalist laying down several takes. Charles Mohapel was first up, followed by Fernando Novo and Marc Durocher. All made a game effort but seemed to have trouble with the meter demanded by the karaoke track serving as the music bed for the piece. The song's bridge also proved difficult for a couple of our singers. Keith, having composed the lyrics and rehearsed the number in advance of this session in order to record the demo he'd played earlier, was comfortable enough with the song to lay down a couple of takes himself. After a few hours work, enough audio had been recorded to start putting together a viable lead vocal track.

Several of the girls in the room were then recruited to provide separate background vocal tracks.

From all of this recorded material, the final product will be stitched together. As a teaser, Sebastien was able to quickly put together a rough cut and play it back for the group before the close of the meeting.

The group also found time to discuss the club's two current fan film projects, *Timeline* and *Beavra Las Vegas*, and the various pre-production tasks these require of our MonSFFilms crew. It was decided to move the more technically ambitious and time-consuming *Timeline* project to the back burner in favour of prepping and shooting *Beavra Las Vegas*.

A big thank-you to our vocalists and recording engineer, and, as always, a nod of appreciation to the usual suspects who regularly help to plan and run our meetings and events.

Polaris 21

MonSFFA was present at Polaris—formerly Toronto Trek—21 earlier this month. The club promoted itself from behind a table (courtesy Berny Resichl and Mark Burakoff) just outside the dealers' room. We are pleased to report that we sold off the last of our stock of *Beavra* DVDs, earning the club a few more needed dollars.

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IMPULSE

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LE BULLETIN
D'INFORMATION
DE L'ASSOCIATION
MONTRÉLAISE DE
SCIENCE-FICTION ET
DE FANTASTIQUE

September / Septembre 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 7)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, September 23

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING 1:00PM

GUEST SPEAKER JO WALTON:

We welcome Welsh-born, Montreal-based fantasy and SF writer and poet Jo Walton. Active in online fandom prior to the publication of her first book, she is the award-winning author of *The King's Peace* (2000), *The King's Name* (2001), and *The Prize in the Game* (2002), a fantasy series set in an Arthurian-inspired world, and more recently the SF tale *Farthing* (2006), the first installment of an alternate history series.

3:00PM

MINI FUND-RAISING AUCTION:

MonSFFA may bid on a variety of SF/F items as we hold a small fund-raiser to benefit the club!

Con•Cept 2007

**October 12-14
Days Hotel
(1005 Guy Street)**

Montreal Wins Worldcon!

Montreal will host the 67th World Science Fiction Convention in 2009!

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

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

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

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

**DOES YOUR NAME APPEAR
BELOW? WATCH THIS SPACE
TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP
FEES ARE DUE.**

The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

AUBIN, Debra
BRODEUR, Chantal
CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
ETTINGER, Sheila
MURPHY, Tim
NOVO, Alice
PELLEY, Lynda
PETERS, Ernst-Udo
SICHEL, Danny
SYSAVANE, Khoba

Annual membership fees are due this month (September) from the following MonSFFA members:

**ASPLER, Joseph
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L. E.**

Annual membership fees will become due next month (October) from the following MonSFFA members:

NADEAU, Marc
SHAINBLUM, Mark
BLOOM, Hendrik
PETTIT, William S.

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues are \$25. Fill out the membership application form, bottom of page, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFA), and mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

Thank you for renewing your membership in MonSFFA, Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

NO. & STREET / NO ET RUE APT./APP. _____

CITY / VILLE _____ PROVINCE _____ POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

Tel./Tél.: () ()
HOME/MAISON WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

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

There *have* been a few concerns aired south of the border regarding passport issues, Québec's French-only signage, and the perceived difficulty and cost for dealers and artists of clearing inventories through Canadian customs. Having anticipated (no pun intended) such worries, the committee is reportedly, for instance, already working with the appropriate authorities to smooth as much as possible entry into Canada. Another fear expressed was that Anticipation might very well repeat some of the organizational errors that plagued Torcon 3, regarded by many to have been one of the worst run Worldcons in decades. It seems, however, that the Montreal crew is alert to the kinds of mistakes made in Toronto and is undertaking to keep on top of things.

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

We have planned a visit to a MonSFFA meeting soon from René Walling in his capacity as Anticipation co-chair, at which time further information regarding the Montreal Worldcon will be made available.

MonSFFA P.O. Box Closes, New Mailing Address Introduced

MonSFFA announces an address change.

After repeated problems with the delivery of mail to our post office box, the club has opted to close its P.O. box and take delivery of MonSFFA mail via the address of club treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre.

We have been aware that for a few years, now, periodically, mail addressed to our post office box has been returned to

sender despite letters and packages having inscribed on them the *correct* address. We have, on numerous occasions reported the trouble to Canada Post, who have assured us of a resolution to the problem. Everyone can make a mistake, of course, Canada Post included, but these delivery errors have become chronic in the past year or so and the post office seems unable to fix the problem.

Closing the club's P.O. box in favour of receiving mail by way of Sylvain's address, we expect, should solve our problem satisfactorily. *And*, this action will save the club over \$130 per year in P.O. box rental fees, not an unsubstantial quantity of wampum given the club's current cash crunch!

And so, effective *immediately*, all mail directed to MonSFFA should be addressed as follows:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

We have arranged for any mail received at our P.O. box to be forwarded to this new address for a transition period of a few more months.

MonSFFA BBQ

Some two dozen MonSFFen and friends turned out at Parc Angrignon in Lasalle for the club's 2007 Summer Barbecue on Sunday, July 29th. The group enjoyed a tasty barbecued lunch, snacks, and drinks under warm, sunny skies. Relaxing conversation ensued with water-gun fights breaking out periodically, serving to cool off folk. A fun and frolicsome time was had by all.

Thanks are due club president Berny Reischl for organizing the event.

Workshops at August Meeting

For the second year running, the club scheduled a series of hands-on hobby and craft workshops at its August meeting. Last year's sessions proved quite popular with club members and the room was

again packed with MonFFen this year, trying their hands at scale model-making, scrapbooking, desktop publishing and computer graphics, video-game play, and belly dancing, all having an SF/F or fannish theme. Several of MonSFFA's skilled hobbyists staffed tables set up in the four corners of the meeting room and welcomed questions regarding their specialties posed by fellow club members keen to learn more about a given interest. Examples of various fancraft projects were on display, both works-in-progress and finished pieces. MonSFFen were free to circulate and give any of the hobbies a try.

We were pleased to include in our roster of hobbyists and crafters guests Miranda Feenstra (scrapbooking) and her friend, James (video gaming). MonSFFA's own Mark Burakoff, Dominique Durocher, and Wayne Glover covered scale model-making while Berny Reischl demonstrated the art of desktop publishing and computer graphics. Finally, Cathy Palmer-Lister hosted a belly dancing workshop. We thank all of our specialists for their contributions to our August hobby and fancraft workshops. And as always, a nod of appreciation to the usual suspects who regularly help to plan and run our meetings and events.

The club's BoA—Board of Advisors—convened just before the meeting to deal with several pressing issues.

Absent August 2007 Impulse

We take a moment to offer our apologies to the club's membership for our failure to produce an issue of *Impulse* last month, August, as scheduled. Editor Keith Braithwaite had suffered an unfortunate back injury that felled him for several weeks and prevented him from completing an August 2007 issue of this news bulletin. We trust that club members will understand that because of these circumstances, the planned issue was cancelled. Keith is much better, now, though still feeling some occasional lower-back discomfort. We wish him a complete recovery soon.

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October / Octobre 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 8)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, October 21

1:00PM-5:00PM

St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

ANTICIPATION: In his capacity as co-chair of the event, MonSFFA's own René Walling will be on hand to provide information on and answer questions about Anticipation, the 67th Worldcon, coming to Montreal in 2009.

2:30PM

SCI-FI APPLIED TO COMMERCIAL

ADVERTISING: We examine the use of science fiction themes and imagery in commercial advertising.

4:00PM

ANIMAL ICONS IN MYTHOLOGY:

A look at the animal motifs present in the world's mythologies.

Next Month's Meeting

November 18

**MonSFFA's 20th
Anniversary/
Christmas Party
December 8**

Reminder: MonSFFA Address Change

We remind our readers that MonSFFA has changed its mailing address. We are no longer at the Place du Parc postal box we have used for many years. Please remember to direct all mail to the club's *new* address:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

Tickets for MonSFFA's 20th Anniversary/Christmas Party On Sale Now

We encourage MonSFFA's members and friends to purchase tickets to the club's 20th Anniversary/Christmas Dinner and Party *in advance* of the event, scheduled for Saturday evening, December 8, 2007.

Tickets are \$35 each and pay for one's meal and cover charge. The at-the-door cost will be more so don't wait until the last minute!

Festivities will take place at the familiar Days Hotel (1005 Guy Street, downtown). We'll enjoy a hot buffet, cash bar, DJ, raffle prizes, and more.

Dinner/Party tickets will be on sale at this weekend's October 21st MonSFFA meeting.

MonSFFA Introduces New Membership Options

The club officially introduced its new membership options at Con•Cept 2007 this month. Here's the dope:

The regular MonSFFA membership remains available at \$25 per year. MonSFFA has established a

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The annual membership fees of the following MonSFFA members are *overdue*:

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CIASCHINI, Lynda L.
ETTINGER, Sheila
MURPHY, Tim
SYSAVANE, Khoba

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are due this month, October,
from the following MonSFFA
members:**

**BLOOM, Hendrik
NADEAU, Marc
SHAINBLUM, Mark**

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HUOT, Geneviève
RUFANGE, Yolande

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CITY / VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

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Complétez lisiblement. Découpez le coupon et postez tel qu'indiqué.

Tel. / Tél.: () ()

HOME/MAISON

WORK/TRAVAIL

E-mail / Courriel: _____

Interests / Intérêts: _____

student membership at \$15 yearly, with proof of student status. The features of both the regular and student membership are identical.

The \$35-per-year piggyback membership is discontinued, replaced with the club's new family membership at \$40 annually. This plan delivers to the household with each MonSFFA mailing a copy of *Impulse* or *Warp* to share amongst the family members while providing each with a membership card and other benefits of membership.

For an additional \$10 on the above quoted rates, members may upgrade to the club's Platinum level and enjoy a few extra benefits. Platinum members, for example, receive a special thank-you gift, may purchase raffle tickets two-for-one at MonSFFA meetings, and get first crack at any film-premiere passes the club receives.

Finally, the club has also included a 6-month trial membership at \$15. Note that the Platinum upgrade is not available on trial memberships.

September Club Meeting Welcomes Guest Speaker, Raises MonSFFunds

MonSFFA welcomed fantasy and SF writer and poet Jo Walton to our September meeting as guest speaker. Jo was first published professionally in 2000 and was soon collecting prestigious honours like the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer and the World Fantasy Award. Her novels include *Tooth and Claw* (2003), *Farthing* (2006), and its sequel, *Ha'Penny*, just released.

Perhaps the question most often posed to genre writers, Jo speculated, is "From where do you get your ideas?" She thus spoke of her own influences and sources of ideas. The germ of a story concept, for example, might have been provided by a non-genre book she had read. Jo fielded a number of audience questions on her various novels before the

mid-meeting break arrived and her talk concluded.

Following the break, the club held a fund-raising auction. Keith Braithwaite served as auctioneer, assisted by runners Berny Reischl and Mark Burakoff, while club treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre acted as cashier. The many lots on the block included SF/F books, comics, toys, DVDs and CDs, and several interesting collectibles imported from Japan by Sylvain, who had recently returned from the 65th Worldcon in Yokohama.

By the end of the afternoon, the club had added \$382 to its coffers!

Our thanks to all who donated items to the cause, as well as to those who bid on said items.

We thank, too, our guest speaker, Jo Walton, for her most entertaining colloquy. Thanks to our above-mentioned auction crew, and as always, a nod of appreciation to the usual suspects who regularly help to plan and run our meetings and events.

MonSFFA at Con•Cept 2007

The club was in attendance at this year's Con•Cept SF/F convention, which ran over the weekend of October 12-14. Many MonSFFers served the con as concom members, volunteers, or program participants.

Feedback suggests that the con was another success with fans, the guest-of-honour line-up proving particularly popular—authors David Weber, Tanya Huff, and Jean-Louis Trudel, and *Star Wars* actor Jeremy Bulloch.

We have no firm attendance numbers to report at this time but the panel rooms and hallways seemed full for much of the weekend. A well-stocked con suite kept everyone fed and watered and Saturday night's dance, coupled with the room parties running upstairs, kept things rollicking into the wee hours of Sunday morning.

The Anticipation crew was in attendance to promote the upcoming Montreal Worldcon—as you've no doubt heard, Montreal's bid for the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, to be held in 2009, was successful. There was a great deal of interest in the event as evidenced by the packed room Saturday afternoon for Anticipation's information session and Q&A. Con•Cept had devoted programming time to Anticipation so that organizers could explain their plans, answer questions, and recruit volunteers.

MonSFFA, meanwhile, enjoyed a fruitful weekend selling club memberships, back issues of *Warp*, and DVDs of our popular fan films. Our principal promotional team for the weekend included Keith Braithwaite, Fernando and Alex Novo, and Sylvain St-Pierre; we thank these and others for staffing the MonSFFA table. Member Mireille Dion deserves special mention for having donated all the proceeds from sales of her self-published novel, *Atlantis 2: A Question of Survival*, to the club—over \$200! Thank you, Mireille.

MonSFFA's 20th Anniversary/Christmas Dinner and Party

Saturday, December 8, 2007

Dinner: 6:00PM

Party: 8:00PM

Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street
(downtown)

Hot Buffet • Cash Bar
DJ and Dancing
Raffle Prizes

TICKETS \$35 EACH
Available at October 21
MonSFFA Meeting

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IMPULSE

November-December / Novembre-Décembre 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 9)

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Sunday, November 18

11:00AM-5:00PM
St-François Room, Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING 11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING:
The club's BoA meets to plot
next year's meeting programming.

1:00PM

TRIP REPORT, NIPPON 2007:
A review of the recent Japanese
Worldcon, with photos and video.

2:45PM

SCI-FI Pictionary: Game in
which teams compete against
each other and the clock to
correctly name SF/F book,
movie, or TV-episode titles;
clues are provided in the form
of drawings made on an easel.

NEXT MONTH:

**MonSFFA's 20th
Anniversary/
Christmas Dinner
and Party
December 8**

*See ad next page
for complete information*

No Impulse Next Month

Note that *Impulse* will not publish next month,
December. This edition, therefore, has been designated
our November-December 2007 issue. Information on our
20th Anniversary/Christmas Dinner and Party, scheduled
for Saturday evening, December 8, is published herein.

MonSFFA's 20th Anniversary/Christmas Dinner and Party Tickets Now \$35; Price to Rise After November Club Meeting

We encourage MonSFFA's members, past members,
their family members and friends, to purchase tickets to
the club's 20th Anniversary/Christmas Dinner and Party
in advance of the event, scheduled for Saturday evening,
December 8, 2007.

Tickets are currently \$35 each and pay for your
meal and cover charge. We'll have them on sale at this
price until the close of our November 18 club meeting.
Thereafter, the price rises to \$40 so don't wait until the
last minute! But should you purchase your ticket after
November 18, we ask that you please make payment in
cash at the door on the evening of the party. Also, please
let us know by no later than December 1st if you plan to
attend so that we may advise the restaurant as to expected
numbers re the buffet—e-mail club vice-president Keith
Braithwaite at: bigewok@total.net

Festivities will take place at the familiar Days Hotel
(1005 Guy Street, downtown) in the St-Laurent room,
adjoining the hotel's restaurant/bar. We'll enjoy a hot
buffet and cash bar, and later, hold a special raffle draw
and more. Con•Cept DJ Andrew Gurudata will spin the
discs for the evening.

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Annual dues for a regular
membership are \$25. Fill out the
application form, bottom of page,
include payment (cheque or money
order made out to MonSFFA), and
mail to:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

Thank you for renewing your
membership in MonSFFA,
Montreal's premiere SF/F fan club.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

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NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP. _____

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October MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's October 21 meeting featured a busy agenda, beginning with an information session on Anticipation, the recently announced Montreal Worldcon, to be held in August of 2009. A comprehensive presentation on advertising and science fiction followed, with a brief talk on animal motifs in ancient mythology capping the afternoon. We're tight on space this issue, so we'll keep it short.

Our own René Walling, co-chair of Anticipation, led off, briefly taking his audience along the road which has resulted in Montreal successfully winning its bid to host what will be the 67th Worldcon. He spoke of the plans his committee has put together for the event, and progress to date. There were many questions from the assembled MonSFFen and René dutifully fielded them all, detailing how things run at the Worldcon level, where the operating budget approaches \$1 million! As always when running an SF convention—even a Worldcon—volunteers are needed and welcome, and René explained how folk could become involved.

Sylvain St-Pierre was up next with a detailed slide and video-supported presentation on advertising in SF, and the flip side, SF in advertising. Screening numerous images illustrating the look of advertising in the imagined futures of the genre, Sylvain took MonSFFen from 19th-century SF stories featuring giant airships sporting ads on their hulls to the “blipverts” of *Max Headroom*. The other side of the coin sees advertisers using science fiction themes and imagery to promote everything from automobiles to snack foods. Sylvain had a number of examples on hand for all to see—newspaper ads, promotional calendars, etc.

Closing the meeting was Barbara Silverman's panel on animals in ancient mythology—the cat in Egyptian legend, for example. The ancients invested in their various deities the attributes of certain animals—bulls, snakes, bears—and left for archeologists many wonderful artifacts replete with animal iconography. Barbara

**MonSFFA Invites its
Members, Past Members,
and their Families
and Friends, to:**

MonSFFA's 20th Anniversary/Christmas Dinner and Party

Saturday, December 8, 2007

Dinner: 6:00PM

Party: 8:00PM

**St-Laurent Room
Days Hotel
1005 Guy Street, Montreal
(downtown)**

**Hot Buffet • Cash Bar
Raffle Prizes • DJ & Dancing**

*As is our tradition, we will
be collecting toys and items of
non-perishable food for donation
to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket
Drive. In the spirit of the season,
please give to benefit those less
fortunate in our community.*

**DINNER TICKETS
NOW \$35 EACH
Available at November 18
MonSFFA Meeting**

**At-the-Door Cost:..... \$40
Cover Charge, Party Only:.. \$5**

*Hotel sleeping rooms available
at special rate of \$70! mention
MonSFFA party when making
reservation. Call: 514-938-4611*

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!**

showed the group slides of some of these as she spoke of the different cultures and their gods.

We thank our panelists for their contributions to our October meeting and as always, offer a nod of appreciation to the usual suspects who regularly help to plan and run our meetings and events.

2008 Club Elections

As the club convenes for its first meeting of the New Year in January (date yet to be determined; watch for announcement, January *Impulse*), the first order of business will be the selection of MonSFFA's 2008 Executive Committee. All club members in good standing are encouraged to participate in this process.

MonSFFA elects annually a president, vice-president, and treasurer—who together form the Executive Committee—and charges them with the responsibility of running the club on behalf of the membership. The three executives recruit advisors and appoint officers to assist them in carrying out this responsibility.

Any MonSFFA member in good standing who is responsibly and reliably able to carry out the duties of office may run for any one of the executive posts. Candidates may nominate themselves or accept nomination from another member in good standing. Nominations are received by the chief returning officer, or CRO, usually just before the commencement of voting on election day.

All MonSFFA members in good standing are eligible to cast a ballot. Members are asked to be present at the designated place and time in order to exercise their right to vote. Proxy voting is *not* permitted.

Reminder: New Club Address

MonSFFA has recently changed its mailing address. Please remember to direct all mail to the club's *new* address:

**MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, Québec, Canada
H7R 1Y6**

Impulse is put together monthly by Keith Braithwaite on behalf of MonSFFA. An e-version is available on MonSFFA's Web site courtesy Kurt Schmidt. Contact Keith in regards to this publication by any of the following methods:

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":

MonSFFA c/o
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, QC, Canada, H7R 1Y6

- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

Impulse est préparé une fois par mois par Keith Braithwaite au nom de l'AMonSFF. Il est aussi disponible en version électronique sur le site internet du club grâce à Kurt Schmidt. Pour toutes questions concernant cette publication, contactez Keith soit:

- En personne à une réunion du club
- Courriel: bigewok@total.net

- Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831
 - Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse":
- AMonSFF a/s de
4456 Boul. Ste-Rose
Laval, QC, Canada, H7R 1Y6

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www.monsffa.com