

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 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 1)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, January 18

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

CLUB ELECTIONS: MonSFFEn select their Executive for the coming year (see lead item, right, for details).

1:15PM

GIVING GOOD PANEL: A few of MonSFFFA's most experienced panelists offer pointers on presenting a topic and moderating a discussion panel.

3:00PM

LANDING THE PHOENIX: Meet the pair of Montrealers who built a full-scale replica of NASA's Phoenix Lander for the Canadian Space Agency, a partner in the recently completed Phoenix Mars Mission, and hear the story of how they landed the job, plus the details of construction.

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting

FEBRUARY 22

- Apollo 11 Moon Landing
- Sci-Fi's Hottest Hunks

2009 Club Elections

The first order of business as the club kicks off 2009 will be the selection of MonSFFFA's Executive Committee for the coming year. We will do so at our first event of this new year, January 18's club meeting. All MonSFFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

MonSFFFA 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.

Our sitting Executive members are: Berny Reischl, president; Keith Braithwaite, vice-president; and Sylvain St-Pierre, treasurer.

Any MonSFFFA 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 MonSFFFA 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, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO.

Club's 2008 Christmas Dinner/Party

MonSFFFA closed 2008 with its traditional Christmas Dinner/Party, held on the evening of December 6.

We began with dinner at the Nickels Bar and Grill Restaurant in Alexis Nihon Plaza before repairing to our familiar seasonal watering hole, the downtown Park Place Bar, where we enjoyed an evening of music, lively conversation, libations and, as always, pool. The bar's backroom pool table welcomed a succession of MonSFFEn over the course of the evening who played with varying degrees of skill, a few finding that a couple of beers actually *improved* their game!

Several genre DVDs, books and other nifty prize items were put up for raffle to raise a sack of lucre for both the club's general operating fund and our planned Anticipation

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BOIES, Marquise
METHE, Ann

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
January, from the
following club members:**

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Annual membership fees will become due next month, February, from the following club members:

KRIMP, Nick
LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie

Please renew your MonSFFFA membership in timely fashion. Annual dues for a regular membership are \$25. Fill out the application form, below, include payment (cheque or money order made out to MonSFFFA), and mail to:

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

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MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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room party later this year. The group also collected a healthy stack of toys and non-perishable food items for donation to Sun Youth's annual Christmas Basket Drive.

A good time was had by all and we trust that MonSFFA's members, friends, and their families delighted in a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

We'd like to thank, in particular, club president Berny Reischl and vice-president Keith Braithwaite, who between them arranged for the dinner, set up the Park Place party, provided the evening's music, and saw to our collection for charity. Thanks, as well, to those MonSFFen who helped with the raffle. And finally, thanks to the staff of the Park Place, our most welcoming and long-time party hosts.

World's Most Famous Sci-Fi Fan Passes Away; Catwoman Actress Dies

The most famous sci-fi fan in the world, Forrest J Ackerman, who is said to have coined the very term "sci-fi," died of heart failure at his home in Los Angeles last month. He was 92.

4SJ, or Forry, was possessed of an insatiable appetite for all things science fiction and horror. His legacy includes an unparalleled memorabilia collection accumulated over a lifetime—more than 300,000 books, magazines, posters, costumes, models and film props once housed in a former home dubbed the Ackermansion, to which thousands of SF fans have made the pilgrimage.

Ackerman served as literary agent to a great many genre writers over the years, including such notables as Ray Bradbury, H.P. Lovecraft, and controversial Scientology founder L. Ron Hubbard. Ackerman himself wrote some 50 short stories and appeared as an extra in countless sci-fi films. He created the comic book character Vampirella and his definitive fan magazine, *Famous Monsters of Filmland*, which he wrote and edited from the late 1950s to the early 1980s, ignited the imaginations a younger generation of science fiction and horror fans that included such future genre stars as Stephen King, Steven Spielberg, and George Lucas.

Also dead, at age 81, is sensuous singer and actress Eartha Kitt, one of three women who played Catwoman on the campy 1960s-era *Batman* TV show. Kitt, whose sultry rendition of the Christmas number "Santa Baby" is among the classic holiday tunes heard every December, succumbed to cancer on Christmas day.

MonSFFA's 2009 Meetings and Events Schedule

Details of MonSFFA's 2009 meetings and events schedule, as worked out at the BoA meeting of November 16, are as follows:

January 18

- Club Elections
- Giving Good Panel
- Landing the Phoenix

February 22

- Fly Me To The Moon: this summer will mark the 40th anniversary of the first manned moon landing. We offer an historical overview of the Apollo 11 mission, plus a look at moon mythology and some of the many lunar adventures in sci-fi cinema and television.
- Saviours of the Universe—Sci-Fi's Hottest Hunks: MonSFFA's women flip through the SF/F equivalent of the annual fireman's calendar while exploring the manly attributes of the genre's most handsome heroes.

March 22

- It's a Small World After All: we explore the Lilliputian worlds of SF/F in such examples as *Gulliver's Travels* and *Land of the Giants*.
- Game—Magnification Factor 3: players are challenged to identify iconic sci-fi images that have been greatly magnified.

April 19

- What's Cooking?—The Cuisine of SF/F: a presentation on food in SF/F.
- Easter Egg-Decorating Contest: in conjunction with the above presentation, we are holding an Easter egg-decorating contest. Prior to the meeting, MonSFFen are encouraged to apply an SF/F theme to their creative decoration of an Easter egg and bring the finished result in to the meeting for all to see. Entries will be judged by the group and a prize awarded for the most popular. Decorators may work with a real or artificial egg.
- DVD Easter Eggs: we'll reveal some of the more interesting so-called "Easter eggs" (special hidden extras) to be found on sci-fi DVDs.

May 24

In lieu of a regular meeting this month, we plan to attend as a group a Sunday-afternoon screening of the new *Star Trek* movie, scheduled to open at this time.

June 14

- Role-Playing Games in the 21st Century: we outline the fun to be had playing sci-fi role-playing games and examine the many changes that have been introduced to the RPG universe in recent years.
- Scooby-Doo, How Old Are You?: we'll snack

on the popular cartoon adventures of Scooby-Doo and his mystery-solving pals, who embarked on their first of many SF/F-ish cases 40 years ago.

July 26

MonSFFA's Annual Summer Barbecue this year will be held, as is our custom, in Parc Angrignon. Should inclement weather prevail, we have scheduled the following Sunday, August 2, as an alternate date.

August 6-10

Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, will unfold here in Montreal over this extended weekend. MonSFFA will, of course, be present; we plan to host a room party and on the convention floor, mount a display offering an historical overview of MonSFFA and Montreal fandom.

August 23

Programming to be announced.

September 20

- Best Sci-Fi Movies Never Made: we explore a selection of potentially great genre films proposed but, ultimately, never produced, as well as a few endlessly stuck, it seems, "in development." We'll also make a list of genre films we'd like to see produced.
- Next on This Channel...: we explore some of the proposed sci-fi television series that failed to make it past a pilot, or were quickly cancelled after but a handful of episodes.

October 25

- Afternoon of the Living Dead: we dissect the zombie story in genre literature and film.
- Fund-Raising Auction/Garage Sale: MonSFFA's annual fund-raiser; support your club by purchasing SF/F books, comics, toys and other cool collectibles. Bargain prices!

November 22

- The Write Stuff: a discussion of trends in SF/F writing. What's hot, what's not, both in professional circles and in online fanfic? We'll highlight the most original and exciting new fiction.
- Game—The Word is Given: players must identify the SF/F book, film, or television show attached to a randomly selected character, place name, or term.

December 5

MonSFFA's Annual Christmas Dinner/Party. Details to announced.

Note that all programming is subject to change. We'll update members on any changes to this schedule in *Impulse* and on the club's Web site.

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February / Février 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 2)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, February 22

11:45AM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:45AM

MARE TRANQUILLITATIS: Screening of the episode of the television mini-series *From the Earth to the Moon* recounting the Apollo 11 mission.

1:00PM

FLY ME TO THE MOON: In the summer of 1969, man first set foot on the moon. As we approach the 40th anniversary of that great undertaking, we offer an historical overview of the event, plus a look at moon mythology and some of the many lunar adventures in sci-fi cinema and television.

3:00PM

**SAVIORS OF THE UNIVERSE—
SCI-FI'S HOTTEST HUNKS:** Our MonSFFemmes flip through the sci-fi equivalent of the annual fireman's calendar while exploring with the group the manly attributes of the genre's most handsome heroes.

Next Month's Meeting

March 22

- Lilliputian Worlds
- Game: Magnification Factor 3

Second VP Added to 2009 Executive

The club has returned last year's Executive to office for another term, and added a co-, or second, vice-president. Acting as MonSFFA's Chief Returning Officer, Cathy Palmer-Lister, a former club president, officiated over the selection of this year's Executive at the club's January 18 meeting.

Berny Reischl, Keith Braithwaite, and Sylvain St-Pierre were returned to office as, respectively, president, vice-president, and treasurer. Joining them is Lindsay Brown, who was elected as an additional VP to help with an expected increase in organizational chores during this, Montreal fandom's Worldcon year.

We congratulate our 2009 Executive and, with all confidence, entrust steering of the club to them.

Last Year on the Job for MonSFFA's President, ConCept's Chair

Both MonSFFA's president and ConCept's chair have recently announced that 2009 will be their last year of service as leaders of their respective organizations.

At MonSFFA's January 18 meeting, long-serving club president Berny Reischl took the occasion of his election to another term as the club's chief executive (see lead item) to announce that he will step down at the end of this year. Berny is MonSFFA's fifth and longest-serving president, having held the position for twice the time of any of his predecessors. It's been a good, long run but it's just time for a change at the top, says Berny, who feels that remaining too long on the job risks burn-out, which would hardly benefit the club.

Cathy Palmer-Lister cited fatigue and a dearth of free time to devote to ConCept as her reasons for

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LUPIEN, Denise
LUPIEN, Leslie**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, March, from the following club members:

**D'ORTUN-BOYER, Lynda
HAMMOCK, Christopher
SIMARD, Phil
THIBODEAU, Claude**

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departing the post she has held since the convention was rebooted in 2001 under MonSFFA. Cathy also believes that ConCept, indeed any organization, should regularly refresh its leadership in order to capitalize on new ideas and methods, and remain vital.

While we can fully understand Berny and Cathy's reasoning, we will nevertheless surely miss their dedication and guidance come next year.

January MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA opened its 2009 schedule with a meeting on January 18 featuring, right off the top, guest speakers David Shuman and Paul Simard, two local space buffs who found themselves contracted by the Canadian Space Agency to build a replica of NASA's Phoenix Lander. The CSA was a partner in the recently completed Phoenix Mars Mission, an unmanned exploration of Mars' polar terrain.

David and Paul were tasked with building a full-scale replica of the mission's lander that could be used for publicity and exhibition purposes. Their finished model was on display at the downtown Planetarium for a time last year, and more recently, at the Old Port.

Offering a slideshow illustrating their progress as they pieced together what in the end proved a most impressive mock-up of the lander, the two detailed the construction of their scratchbuilt model and spoke of the problems they encountered and overcame. They described the materials applied to the job, largely wood, metal, plastic and assorted workshop scraps, but at times, unique finds like the legs of a large telescope's tripod, which were employed to fashion the vehicle's landing struts. With access to his father's garage, Paul focused on large components, like the body of the lander, while David worked in his apartment studio on the smaller details, like the equipment packages mounted topside.

The pair had access to the actual

blueprints for parts of the lander, but much of their effort relied on photographs of the prototype and educated guesswork. The end result is all the more remarkable in that their replica lander was completed in only three weeks! CSA officials were so pleased with the model that David and Paul may well expect to be contracted for other such projects in future.

Raffle prizes won during the mid-meeting break included a lavishly illustrated coffee-table book on Mars.

Following the break, Cathy Palmer-Lister, acting as Chief Returning Officer, oversaw the election of the club's Executive for the coming year (see also lead item). Returned to office for another term were President Berny Reischl, Vice-President Keith Braithwaite, and Treasurer Sylvain St-Pierre. Added to the Executive this year was a second VP, Lindsay Brown.

The assembled membership offered the 2009 Executive Committee congratulations and best wishes regarding the job ahead.

Berny then took a quick few minutes to screen for the group the video time capsule he had shot and edited at the end of last year, in which MonSFFen made on-camera predictions as to things five years hence. The DVD he produced will be tucked away and screened again only in 2013, a date in accordance with the end of the world, if the Mayan calendar is to be believed.

A panel on the art of giving a panel capped the afternoon. Keith, Cathy, and Maureen Whitelaw sat at the head table and opened a discussion of the "do"s and "don't"s of giving good panel.

Advice offered included: keep things concise; avoid an endless list of examples in illustration of a point when one or two will suffice; and, know your material and be prepared to explain and defend your positions in a debate. It was suggested that preparing a little more material than you expect to use is a good idea, just in case you find yourself running fast.

Invite audience participation in a debate. Control of the discussion must be maintained, however. Do so by establishing a speaking order, encouraging audience members to keep their questions and comments brief, and when necessary, refocusing the group should the discussion wander too far off topic.

Augment your presentation with visuals. Audiences like to see as well as hear what you are talking about. Offering a Powerpoint presentation or screening various video clips in support of your subject makes it all far more interesting for the audience. But don't fret if you are not equipped to do so. Even simply holding up a copy of the book you're discussing, or a series of photographs, provides an element of the visual.

For taking part in our January 18 meeting, we thank very much our guest speakers and panelists. Thanks, also, to those members who helped to plan and run this meeting.

Briefly:

- The October 25 date MonSFFA submitted to the Days Hotel as that month's meeting booking is unavailable. The Executive is considering alternate dates; stay tuned for further information.
- Reminder to MonSFFen attending Anticipation: Hugo and Aurora nomination deadlines are fast approaching. For details see Anticipation's Progress Report 3 or surf to: www.anticipationsf.ca
- Several MonSFFen recently enjoyed the Montreal premieres of *Underworld: Rise of the Lycans* and the comedy *Pink Panther 2* courtesy our good friends at Promo Avenue. As a regular co-sponsor of local film premieres, MonSFFA often receives a certain number of complimentary passes, which are distributed to club members.
- We extend sincere condolences to long-time club member Maureen Whitelaw, whose dear mother recently passed away. Our thoughts are with Maureen and her family.

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March / Mars 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 3)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS COMING SOON

Sunday, March 15

11:00AM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING 11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS: MonSFFA's Board of Advisors (BoA) meets to discuss club business and plan activities. All members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

1:00PM

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL:

We explore the Lilliputian worlds of SF/F in such examples as *Gulliver's Travels*, *Land of the Giants*, *Fantastic Voyage*, and *Honey, I Shrunk the Kids*.

3:00PM

MAGNIFICATION FACTOR 3:

Game in which players are challenged to identify iconic sci-fi images that have been greatly magnified.

Next Month's Meeting April 19

- The Cuisine of SF/F
- DVD Easter Eggs
- Easter Egg Decorating Contest

Attention! Date Change, March MonSFFA Meeting

Club members please note that the date of our March MonSFFA meeting has been *changed*. Originally set to take place on Sunday afternoon, March 22, the meeting will now unfold one week earlier, on Sunday afternoon, March 15. The Days Hotel locale and scheduled programming are unchanged. Added to the day's activities is a pre-meeting Board of Advisors conclave, beginning at 11:00AM.

This date change was necessitated in order to avoid conflicting with Montreal's annual St. Patrick's Day parade, which, contrary to expectations, has been scheduled for March 22 this year, in the wake of St. Patrick's Day rather than on the weekend prior.

We apologize for this last-minute change to our events calendar and trust that our members have not been too greatly inconvenienced.

Date Change, October MonSFFA Meeting

We advise our membership, as well, of a date change re October's MonSFFA meeting. Having been informed by the Days Hotel that October 25, the date we had originally requested, is unavailable, we have instead booked October 18.

The October meeting's planned exploration of zombie stories remains in place. Please note, however, that our annual fund-raising auction, initially slated for the latter half of the October meeting, will likely be rescheduled in order to avoid competing with a similar auction sponsored by ConCept and set to take place at the con earlier that month. Watch this space for further news.

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THIBODEAU, Claude**

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DODDS, Georges
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba

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February MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's February meeting was held on the 22nd. The room was full for first, a retrospective of the Apollo 11 moon landing, and then, a slideshow on the tastiest hunks in sci-fi cinema and television.

In advance of the scheduled 1:00PM start of the meeting, an episode of the superb television miniseries *From the Earth to the Moon* was screened. Dramatizing the events surrounding the Apollo 11 mission of July 1969, this episode warmed the group up for a detailed presentation on NASA's historic first manned lunar landing.

Keith Braithwaite and Theresa Penalba gave the presentation, beginning with commentary on how the events of that astounding summer 40 years ago galvanized a generation of children born at the dawn of the space age. For many, astronaut Neil Armstrong's "giant leap for mankind" proved a catalyst, sparking a lifelong interest in space. And in science fiction! Apollo 11 was the actualization of all those fictional adventures about rocketships flying to and exploring the moon that science fiction fans had, for years, been reading in paperback and watching in movie theatres. An undertaking unparalleled in human history, the Apollo 11 moon landing was, momentarily and quite literally, science fiction become science fact.

That *men* walked on the moon, it was emphasized, setting foot on another world for the first time, having travelled farther from home than anyone ever had, was a significant part of what excited people about the Apollo program. It was our pioneering spirit, inquisitive nature, human urge to explore new domains that electrified interest in Apollo 11 all around the globe, from scientists and engineers to everyday folk. The space program has not since been as exhilarating.

Keith and Theresa continued with an outline of the event that opened the space age in late 1957, the Soviet Union's

orbiting of the first manmade satellite, *Sputnik 1*, which resulted in a "space race" between the Russians and the Americans. While the Russians initially led, the Americans soon caught up and with the Apollo program, surpassed their rivals. Apollo 11 was the realization of the goal President John F. Kennedy had set for his nation of "landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to Earth."

Our two panelists profiled Apollo 11's crew and gave details of the launch, flight to the moon, powered descent to and landing on the lunar surface, and the historic EVA. An excerpt from the documentary film *In the Shadow of the Moon* was screened, featuring both black and white TV and colour film clips of the touch-down and moon walk.

Cathy Palmer-Lister was invited to speak for a moment on moon mythology before the group was treated to authentic NASA footage of the Lunar Module's descent and landing, unfolding in real time and culminating in Armstrong's confirmation that the *Eagle* had landed.

A few plastic scale models of the Apollo spacecraft were on display for folk to inspect, courtesy Wayne Glover, along with various souvenirs of the event, including vintage copies of local

newspapers trumpeting the news.

Following the mid-meeting break, Josée Bellemare and Alice Novo stepped up to present their slideshow on sci-fi's hottest heartthrobs. As images of handsome actors flashed across the screen, discussion of the characters each played on a sci-fi television series or in a movie focused on what made them so very attractive to female fans, aside from their square-jawed, broad-shouldered physical attributes.

The girls, it seems, fantasize about these heroic characters coming to their rescue, and then falling for them. In the case of those heroes on some sort of quest, the ladies' hope is that it is they who are the object of said quest. Another take involves the military or quasi-military man—don't ya just *love* a fella in uniform?—arriving to protect the women from some otherworldly threat and finding a feisty female who can take care of herself just fine, thank you very much, and fight off the nasty aliens or monsters or demons alongside her beau!

The TV shows *Smallville* and *Stargate SG-1* were singled out as particularly plentiful in pretty boys.

Thanks to our February-meeting panellists, as well as those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run the meeting.

In that "anecdotal evidence suggests that in a game of Rock/Paper/Scissors, players familiar with each other will tie 75 to 80 percent of the time due to the limited number of outcomes," the following is suggested:

Rock/Paper/Scissors/Lizard/Spock

Scissors cuts paper.
Paper covers rock.
Rock crushes lizard.
Lizard poisons Spock.
Spock smashes scissors.
Scissors decapitate lizard.
Lizard eats paper.
Paper disproves Spock.
Spock vapourizes rock.
And as it always has, rock crushes scissors.

Briefly:

- ConCept will take place a little earlier in October this year than it has in recent years. The 2009 edition of the con is scheduled to run over the October 2-4 weekend.
- The late Heath Ledger was recently awarded an Oscar for his inspired portrayal of the Joker in last year's Batman film, *The Dark Knight*. This marks only the second time the Academy has bestowed an Oscar posthumously. On Oscar night, members of Ledger's family accepted the award on his behalf. It's interesting to note that in addition to the box office success now commonplace, genre cinema is increasingly gaining critical respect.

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IMPULSE

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NEWS BULLETIN
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MONTRÉLAISE DE
SCIENCE-FICTION ET
DE FANTASTIQUE

April-May / Avril-Mai 2009 (Vol. 13, No./N° 4)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS COMING SOON

Sunday, April 19

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

**WHAT'S COOKING?—THE CUISINE OF
SF/F:** Presentation on food in SF/F.

3:00PM

DVD EASTER EGGS: We'll unveil
some of the more interesting so-
called "Easter eggs" (special hidden
extras) to be found on sci-fi DVDs.

EASTER EGG-DECORATING

CONTEST: In conjunction with the
above, we are holding an Easter egg-
decorating contest. In advance of the
meeting, MonSFFen are encouraged
to apply an SF/F theme to their
creative decoration of a real or
artificial egg and bring the result in
to the meeting for all to see.
Multiple entries permitted. Eggs will
be judged by the group and prizes
awarded. (See also lead item, right.)

Next Month's Event:

**GROUP OUTING TO SEE
NEW STAR TREK MOVIE**

May 10

Downtown Theatre, Matinée Show

Theatre and show time to be
announced on club Web site
shortly before May 10.

Easter Egg Decorating Contest at April Meeting

We remind MonSFFA members of the Easter egg
decorating contest we've planned for the April 19 meeting.
Folks are asked to decorate a real or artificial egg in an
SF/F theme and bring it in to the meeting for all to see.
Exercise your creativity and have fun with it!

Members may enter as many eggs as they wish.
Entries will be judged and prizes awarded. (See also Events
column, left.)

Attention! Date Change, May Movie Outing

MonSFFen please note that we have moved up the date
of our planned group outing to see the new *Star Trek* movie
in May (see also Events column, left). We had scheduled
May 24 originally, but have reconsidered; we'll now get
together to catch the flick on May 10, the Sunday of the
film's opening weekend. Please update your calendars
accordingly.

Theatre and show time cannot be determined until a
few days before the movie opens, but we will select a
downtown theatre and early afternoon screening. These
details will be e-mailed to everyone and posted on the
club's Web site shortly before May 10th.

Bring a friend!

Update: MonSFFA Meeting Programming

In addition to the above movie outing date-change, we
advise our membership of the following modifications to
MonSFFA's 2009 meeting programming.

Confirmed is the shuffling of our Sci-Fi Garage
Sale/Auction/Bake Sale fund-raiser from October's meeting
to August's. The October meeting, now set for the 18th (as
reported last issue), will feature in the fund-raiser's former
slot what we expect will be a most amusing game: "Who's
Who" will defy MonSFFen to identify their fellow club
members from childhood photographs.

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FEES ARE DUE.**

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

HAMMOCK, Christopher
THIBODEAU, Claude

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fees are due this month,
April, from the following
club members:**

**DODDS, Georges
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba**

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will become due next month,
May, from the following club
members:

BROWN, Lindsay
BURAKOFF, Mark
SICHEL, Danny
WHITELAW, Maureen

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Annual dues for a regular
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Please print legibly. Cut out form and mail as per directions.

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

Address / Adresse: _____

NO. & STREET / N° 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: _____

October's planned exploration of zombie stories remains in place off the top of the meeting.

Our August meeting, scheduled for the 23rd and to date unprogrammed, now features the club's above-mentioned Sci-Fi Garage Sale/Auction/Bake Sale fund-raiser. Help support your club by purchasing SF/F books, comics, magazines, VHS tapes and DVDs, posters, toys and other cool collectibles. Bargain prices! Donations of items to this fund-raiser are most welcome; just bring 'em in to a club meeting or event in advance of August. The bake sale portion of our fund-raiser will offer a menu of tasty SF/F-themed snacks.

And, we'll open the August meeting with a lively game of Sci-Fi Pictionary, in which players must identify an SF/F character, vehicle, title, or phrase based solely on the quick sketches made on an easel by a teammate. No words allowed!

MonSFFen Get Small at March Meeting

MonSFFA's March meeting was held on the 15th and drew a healthy crowd for an exploration of Lilliputian worlds in SF, followed by a challenging visual game. Space is at a premium this issue, so we'll keep this meeting report necessarily brief.

Keith Braithwaite and Danny Sichel led off with their presentation on and discussion of science fiction stories involving microcosmic adventures, including Jonathan Swift's seminal *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), from which we derive the term Lilliputian to describe the very small. The tiny worlds of such stories, or the miniature protagonists adventuring in a relatively giant world, are often simply fantastical devices employed by an author to satirize or otherwise comment on social or political issues.

The idea of human miniaturization, though fraught with problems of scientific logic, nevertheless remains fascinating to genre writers and filmmakers, serving to explore things from a decidedly different perspective. Stories like *Adventures of a Micro-Man* (Edwin Pallander, 1902) or *Lost Men in the Grass* (Donald Suddaby, 1940) are vehicles for the observation of the small-scale wonders of the natural world, often accompanied by moralizing on the part of the author. Adventures like Richard Matheson's *The Shrinking Man* (1956), from which was derived the classic sci-fi film *The Incredible Shrinking Man* (1957), are

principally tales of survival featuring suddenly monstrous insects and other perils. And the similarity of our solar system to the model of the atom prompted the idea of worlds within worlds. This theme is explored in stories like *The Microcosmic Buccaneers* (Harl Vincent, 1929), "A Matter of Size" (Harry Bates, 1934), *Surface Tension* (James Blish, 1952), and of course, the Dr. Seuss children's classic *Horton Hears a Who!* (1954).

The presentation touched on such mythological micro-creatures and staples of fantasy literature as fairies and gnomes, as well as the child-sized dwarves and hobbits of *Lord of the Rings*. Also, clips from such movies as *Dr. Cyclops* (1940) and *Fantastic Voyage* (1966) were screened.

Following the mid-meeting break, Berny Reischl ran a game in which a variety of images were shown, greatly magnified, and folk challenged to identify the SF/F film or TV series from which they were lifted. Lots of fun!

Thanks to Keith, Danny, and Berny, for the afternoon's programming, as well as to those MonSFFen who helped to plan and run this meeting.

A Board of Advisors meeting was held during the morning slot; updates to 2009 meeting programming were finalized and new initiatives discussed.

Briefly:

- In order to help finance the club's activities at this summer's Worldcon, a "Super Fund-Raising Raffle" has been initiated, offering as prizes several premium collectibles valued at between \$25 and \$100. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at club events until the winning stubs are drawn at Polaris 23 in Toronto on July 12. Participants are eligible to win one or more of the prizes; winners may collect their prizes either at Polaris on the 12th or at MonSFFA's barbecue in Montreal on July 26. Prizes may alternately be shipped at the expense of the winner.

- MonSFFA has decided on a room party as our major promotional event during Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon, in August. ConCept will co-host the event with us. We plan to hold the party the Friday evening of the con. Various fund-raising operations are currently underway to help offset the hefty costs involved. Our theme is hockey and the club is asking members for loans of hockey equipment and paraphernalia with which to

decorate the room. We're looking in particular for a portable goal net and a tabletop hockey game. We're also looking for volunteers to help set up and run the party; one need not be attending the convention to serve as a party volunteer. More details to follow; watch this space.

- In addition to our room party, MonSFFA has been asked by Anticipation to mount a static display at the Worldcon outlining the history of the club and Montreal fandom in general. We'll be displaying back issues of *Warp* and other items from the club's archives. To augment this material, we are asking members to loan us old photos, fanzines, promotional flyers and such relating to MonSTA, MonSFFA, ConCept, or Montreal fandom in general. Please bring your contributions to our historical display in to a MonSFFA meeting soon. Please also identify as yours the items you lend; they will be returned to you with much thanks after the Worldcon.

- MonSFFA is introducing a rewards program for members who help with the planning and running of club activities. Coupons will be awarded to said members throughout the remainder of the year and at the club's Christmas party, these coupons can be converted into tickets for a special "rewards raffle." Full details to follow; watch this space.

- We are pleased to report that Keith Braithwaite has been nominated for an Aurora Award for his efforts as *Impulse's* editor. The Auroras are Canada's awards for achievements in the SF/F field. Voting is underway online and by standard post; the voting deadline is July 15, 2009. The Auroras this year will be handed out at Anticipation. We encourage MonSFFen to support one of our own. Surf to the Aurora Web site for more details: www.prixaurorawards.ca

No Impulse Next Month

Finally, we advise MonSFFen that because the club has no meeting booked next month, and because the movie outing we've organized in place of a May meeting is scheduled early in the month, *Impulse* will not publish a May 2009 issue. This edition has thus been designated our April-May 2009 issue. *Impulse* returns in June.

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DE FANTASTIQUE

June / Juin 2009 (Vol. 13, No./N° 5)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, June 14

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

ROLE-PLAYING GAMES IN THE 21ST

CENTURY: We outline the fun to be had playing sci-fi role-playing games and examine the many changes that have been introduced to the RPG universe in recent years.

2:15PM

SCI-FI FUND-RAISING FAIR:

We're trying something new! This hour will serve as a test of the concept. Come try your hand at fun, skill-testing games and win prizes!

3:30PM

SCOOPY-DOO, HOW OLD ARE YOU?:

We'll snack on the popular cartoon adventures of Scooby-Doo and his pals, who embarked on their first of many SF/F-ish cases 40 years ago this year.

Next Month's Event:

MONSFFA'S ANNUAL SUMMER BBQ

July 26

Parc Angrignon, Lasalle

(Full details next issue. In case of inclement weather, event will take place following Sunday, August 2.)

MonSFFen Boldly Trek to New Flick

Sans a regular club meeting last month, a large contingent of MonSFFen instead made their way to the downtown Cinema Banque Scotia for a matinée screening of the much anticipated new *Star Trek* film.

Known for his TV successes *Lost* and more recently, *Fringe*, director J. J. Abrams helmed the rebooted *Star Trek*. And if the post-screening comments of our ardent group of Trekkers are any barometer, he has succeeded in resuscitating a once-stellar sci-fi franchise that had become, in recent years, moribund. Abrams' idea of returning to the roots of *Star Trek* proved to be the right call. After all, Kirk, Spock, McCoy, and the others were always rather more engaging characters than any of their successors. And Abrams even managed to technically maintain the original show's canon, jealously guarded by die-hard fans.

Though a few MonSFFen expressed minor quibbles with the film—no one much liked what the set designers had done with Engineering—by and large, the group was impressed. Plenty of action, lots of cool visuals, a cameo by Leonard Nimoy, but most importantly, a terrific new cast channeling uncannily in some cases the actors who first embodied the familiar characters of the original series. Our group really appreciated the many knowing nods to the original and those familiar and favourite characters.

After the show, some of the gang sat down for coffee and further discussion of the movie. A most enjoyable afternoon was had by all.

Our thanks to Berny Reischl for organizing the outing.

Warp Moves Online

Our move to put *Warp* online appears to have dodged any major glitches. A few initial minor technical problems were quickly addressed and everything seems to now be running smoothly. The idea is to deliver *Warp* to members as a .pdf, accessible by password from the club's Web site (MonSFFA.com).

An issue-specific password is to be supplied to all members in good standing with each edition of *Warp* released, allowing online access to the 'zine. Printed copies will remain available by request for those who prefer the

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BURAKOFF, Mark
HAMMOCK, Christopher
NADEAU, Marc
NOVO, Fernando
SYSAVANE, Khoba
SICHEL, Danny
THIBODEAU, Claude

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
June, from the following
club members:**

**BELLEMARE, Josée
DION, Mireille
SILVERMAN, Barbara**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, July, from the following club members:

MORROW, Gordon
PEATMAN, Sean

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Tel. / Tél.: () _____ () _____

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Address / Adresse: _____

E-mail / Courriel: _____

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

Interests / Intérêts: _____

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

traditional magazine format, and will be delivered at a meeting or club event closely following the online release. In other words, all members get the online version and may, in addition, order a printed copy, which will be delivered to them either by hand at the next available opportunity, or, if necessary, via standard post.

We expect many MonSFFen will be entirely satisfied with the electronic version of *Warp* and thus we hope to reduce production costs by printing only the exact number of paper copies requested, and mailing costs by delivering said copies by hand.

Back issues of the 'zine will be available on the club's site, as well.

Sci-Fi Food and Easter Eggs on Menu at April Club Meeting

MonSFFA's April 19 meeting began with Sylvain St-Pierre's exhaustively researched presentation on food in science fiction and fantasy, from futuristic farming techniques and genetically modified crops to exotic alien cuisine and synthetic meals. The production and consumption of food in SF/F runs the gamut, envisioned by such diverse authors as Jules Verne, Harry Harrison, Isaac Asimov, Douglas Adams, Terry Pratchett, and cartoonist Matt Groening. Strange alien diets include the many dishes introduced in the *Star Trek* oeuvre, for example, while the *Dan Dare* comic strips featured food pills and Charlton Heston discovered to his chagrin the secret ingredient in Soylent Green. Clifford D. Simak's wood-eating aliens in *The Visitors* seem not so far fetched when compared to Matter-Eating Lad, a DC Comics superhero hailing from a planet the inhabitants of which can eat anything! Or Kevin O'Donnell, Jr.'s Actuni, a creature that feeds fruit growing out of itself to an organism living inside of it.

Sylvain also included a look at the various miracle kitchens of tomorrow promoted by the appliance manufacturers of the 1940s and '50s, as well as such real-world futuristic foodstuff as the consumables that fly aboard NASA spacecraft. Some fruits and nectars enjoyed in the ancient world are said to have magical properties, according to Greek, Roman, and other mythologies, the audience learned.

Sylvain capped his presentation with a quick look at, essentially, toilets of the future. Waste disposal and recycling systems, both

real and imagined, after all, are a by-product of food consumption. The modern Japanese toilet sports a control panel that looks like it belongs on the bridge of the starship *Enterprise*, where as famously noted by fans of the TV show, there appear to be no facilities.

The mid-meeting break saw our previously announced Easter egg decorating contest judged. Weeks prior to the April meeting, folk had been challenged to decorate an Easter egg in an SF/F theme and bring the result in to the meeting for all to see. There were well over a dozen wonderfully colourful, imaginative entries on display. Cathy Palmer-Lister and Keith Braithwaite ended up tied for first place after the votes were tallied while young Erin Braithwaite received a craftsmanship award for her *Star Wars*-themed "Easter on Endor" diorama.

Then it was on to Easter eggs of a different kind. Berny Reischl was up to finish the afternoon's programming with a sampling of some of the more interesting and amusing so-called "Easter eggs" to be found imbedded in movie and television-series DVDs. These are hidden extras included as unlisted bonus material. Often comedic in nature, they include rehearsal footage, bloopers, on-set practical jokes, and brief interviews with cast and crew members.

Berny screened a number of Easter eggs for the group, including the cast breaking up on camera at the sudden arrival of Spider-Man during the filming of an action sequence for *X-Men*, and the low-tech sock-puppet version of the movie included with the deluxe edition of *The Incredibles!*

We thank Sylvain, Berny, and all who helped to plan and run the April meeting.

Help Needed with MonSFFA Activities at Anticipation

We remind our members that MonSFFA is putting together a room party as our major promotional event during Anticipation, the 2009 Worldcon in August. ConConcept will co-host the event with us and help with expenses. Various fund-raising operations are currently underway to help offset the hefty costs involved, including a "Super Fund-Raising Raffle," of which we will speak in a moment.

We plan to hold the party the Friday evening of the con. Our theme is hockey and the club is asking members for loans of hockey equipment and paraphernalia with which to decorate the room. We're looking in

particular for a street-hockey goal net and a tabletop hockey game. We're also looking for volunteers to help set up and run the party. One need not be attending the convention to serve as a party volunteer. At our June 14 club meeting, ask the Executive how *you* can help!

In addition to our room party, MonSFFA has been asked by Anticipation to mount a static display at the Worldcon outlining the history of the club and Montreal fandom in general. We'll be displaying back issues of *Warp* and other items from the club's archives. To augment this material, we are asking members to loan us old photos, fanzines, promotional flyers and such relating to this club or Montreal fandom in general.

But we haven't received a whole lot of stuff to date, folks!

So please root through your old storage boxes one more time and select a few interesting items to contribute to our historical display. Please also identify as yours the items you lend and bring these in to our June 14 meeting. Your items will be returned to you with much thanks after the Worldcon. We further remind our membership that in order to help finance the club's activities at this summer's Worldcon, the "Super Fund-Raising Raffle" mentioned above was initiated, offering as prizes several premium collectibles valued at between \$25 and \$100. Tickets are \$5 each and may be purchased at club events until the winning stubs are drawn at Polaris 23 in Toronto on July 12. Participants are eligible to win one or more of the prizes; winners may collect their prizes either at Polaris on the 12th or at MonSFFA's barbecue in Montreal on July 26. Prizes may alternately be shipped at the expense of the winner.

Impulse Editor Up For Aurora

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July / Juillet 2009 (Vol. 13, No./N° 6)

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MORROW, Gordon

Annual membership fees will become due next month, August, from the following club members:

CIASCHINI, Lynda
JAMES, David
NOVO, Alice

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MonSFFA BBQ IS THIS WEEKEND

SUNDAY, JULY 26

10:30AM-4:00PM

Parc Angrignon, Lasalle



MonSFFA members, their families and friends invited!

Bring your own chairs or picnic blankets, food and drink; the club will supply a cooking grill.

If rained out, event rescheduled for following Sunday, August 2, same time and place.

Anticipation, the 67th Worldcon: August 6-10, Palais des congrès

Next MonSFFA Meeting: August 23 (Sci-Fi Fair)

Anticipation Builds for Montreal Worldcon

We are but a couple of weeks from the opening ceremonies of Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, and very much looking forward to the fun. The event is to unfold right here in Montreal, marking only the 5th instance of a Canadian city playing host to the Worldcon, and the first time our city has rolled out the red carpet for worldwide SF fandom.

Organizing and running a Worldcon is no easy task, to be sure, requiring countless hours of work on the part of a battalion of volunteers drawn from sources local, national, and international. MonSFFen are among those volunteers who have undertaken to bring Anticipation to life from August 6-10 and the club takes this opportunity to salute the efforts of all involved. We wish co-chairs René Walling and Robbie Bourget, and their team, a good con!

The convention will take place at the downtown Palais des congrès de Montréal. Ancillary activities will occur at the Delta Centre-Ville, designated the convention's "party and headquarters hotel". It is here that MonSFFA will host a "Welcome to Montreal" room party Friday evening, August 7 (see item "Room Party at Anticipation").

For complete information on Anticipation, visit the con's Web site: www.anticipationsf.ca

Super Fund-Raising Raffle Winners

MonSFFA's Super Fund-Raising Raffle was set up a few months ago to raise cash specifically for the club's planned activities at Anticipation. 56 tickets were sold at \$5 each, netting the club a total of \$280.

Four winning tickets were drawn at Polaris 23 in Toronto on Sunday, July 12. The winners are: Sylvain St-Pierre, who won autographed photos of both William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy; Mark Burakoff, who snared a finely detailed showpiece figure of one of *Battlestar Galactica*'s Cylons; Theresa Penalba, who received a tabletop model of the Doctor's TARDIS; and Richard

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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Address / Adresse: _____
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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: _____

Astley, who picked up a couple of SF movies on Blu-Ray. Congratulations to our winners and thanks to all those who purchased tickets in support of the cause. Thanks, as well, to those who donated these premium prizes.

In all, fund-raising operations aimed at helping to finance MonSFFA's Anticipation activities have brought in \$440. As our "Welcome to Montreal" room party is to be the club's main event and the most costly, we have decided to devote all of the money raised to this soirée. We are thus good for roughly a third of projected expenses. The balance of the funds needed are to come from party co-sponsor ConCept and other sources.

MonSFFA, ConCept to Welcome TAFF Winner

UK fan Steve Green has been selected as this year's TAFF winner. TAFF is short for Transatlantic Fan Fund, by which a European fan's trip to a North American convention, and vice versa, is covered in part by the fund, similar to Canada's own CUFF, or Canadian Unity Fan Fund, facilitating exchanges between Eastern and Western Canadian fans. Steve will be attending Anticipation and arriving in Montreal shortly before the convention begins.

A TAFF winner is required to write a trip report recounting his or her experiences visiting overseas and Steve informs us that he is eager to sample the flavour of Montreal fandom. Ann Methe and Cathy Palmer-Lister have proposed that we give him not only a taste of Montreal fandom, but of Montreal. Literally! Representatives of MonSFFA and ConCept have decided to treat our new friend to that savory delicacy singularly associated with this town, smoked meat. We'll get acquainted over an afternoon nosh on the Main, either at Schwartz's or across the street at the Main Deli should the former prove too tiny or crowded to comfortably accommodate our party. All MonSFFA members are welcome to join us, as are any and all members of local and area fandom. The plan is to meet on the sidewalk outside Schwartz's at 1:45PM, Sunday, August 2, and sit down to eat at 2:00. Schwartz's address is 3895 St-Laurent Boulevard—that's above Pine; take the 55

bus from the St-Laurent Metro.

Steve, meanwhile, has posted his itinerary online at:

<http://community.livejournal.com/taff2009/>

Room Party at Anticipation

As club members are aware, MonSFFA is organizing a "Welcome to Montreal" room party as the club's major function during Anticipation. ConCept has thrown in with us as co-host of the affair and will help with expenses. We wish to welcome worldwide fandom to our city and at the same time showcase both MonSFFA and ConCept.

The party is scheduled for Friday evening, August 7, at the Delta Centre-Ville, Anticipation's designated party hotel, where MonSFFA has booked a suite for the occasion. We expect to open our doors at about 8:30PM. Note that MonSFFA need not be attending Anticipation in order to attend our party and we encourage all to drop by. We also ask those members who can spare a few hours prior to the party to help us set up the room. If you are available to do so, please contact club president Berny Resichl (president@monsffa.com) and let him know.

June MonSFFA Meeting

MonSFFA's June meeting was held on the 14th, drawing a goodly crowd for a primer on gaming and a 40th anniversary retrospective of the Saturday-morning cartoon adventures of Scooby Doo.

Christopher Hammock opened the meeting with a brief history of the gaming industry, from the arrival of the fantasy role-playing game Dungeons and Dragons and its many imitators in the 1970s through the introduction of the collectible card games of the 1990s. Chris touched on those not always successful games built around licensed entertainment franchises like *Star Trek* and *Star Wars*, and covered the .pdf and POD—Print on Demand—publishing common in the industry today. In the 1980s, conservative religious groups denounced game manufacturers, MonSFFA learned, objecting to the wizards, demons, and other supernatural denizens populating so many fantasy RPGs. Chris fielded questions from his audience as he outlined the various gaming systems developed over the years

and highlighted some of the most popular of contemporary games, like the Lovecraft-based Call of Cthulhu, science fictional Traveller, and Star Wars Saga Edition. It was noted that Dungeons and Dragons, now in its fourth edition, remains one of the most popular games around.

Following the mid-meeting break, Theresa Penalba and Josée Bellemare took the floor for a fond look back at 40 years of Scooby Doo. Interestingly, the goofy Great Dane might have been a sheepdog and was originally conceived as a sidekick rather than the star of the show. Further, until shortly before the series premiered, his name was "Too Much". TV executive Fred Silverman, who had planted the idea for the series in the minds of William Hanna and Joseph Barbera, made the last minute name change after listening to Frank Sinatra crooning "Doobie doobie doo" on his hit record Strangers in the Night.

The cartoon dog and his four human companions first chased across TV screens in September of 1969, their sci-fi and horror-tinged mystery-solving exploits proving a hit for CBS. The show's robust audience share during its first season has never been equaled by any other Saturday-morning series. Scooby Doo ran for many years in various incarnations and our panellists detailed the many new characters, co-stars, and guest stars introduced along the way. Direct-to-video movies have come more recently, the latest of these released last April. 40 years after their first appearance, the adventures of Scooby, Shaggy, Fred, Daphne, and Velma continue to entertain millions in over 50 countries.

The June meeting was to have included a trial run for a new fund-raising concept the club is developing. For a couple dollars a throw, MonSFFA could try their luck at a series of SF/F-themed games of skill and chance and accumulate points towards a number of select prizes. But two of the four coordinators of this "Sci-Fi Fair", so dubbed, were unavoidably absent the meeting and the try-out was postponed until the club's August 23 get-together.

We thank Chris, Theresa, and Josée for the afternoon's programming, and acknowledge, as well, those folk who helped to plan and run the meeting.

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MonSFFA c/o
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- E-mail: bigewok@total.net
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IMPULSE

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NEWS BULLETIN
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AND FANTASY
ASSOCIATION

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

August / Août 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 7)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, August 23

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING 1:00PM

WORLDCON WRAP-UP: A brief discussion of the just-wrapped Montreal Worldcon with the aim of providing feedback on the event to organizers.

1:45PM

MONSFFILMS: A quick update on the club's latest film project, including an outline of pre-production tasks and a proposed production schedule.

2:45PM

SCI-FI FUND-RAISING FAIR: We're trying something new regarding our fund-raising. This afternoon will serve as a test of the concept. Bring your loonies and twonies and come try your hand at fun, skill-testing games. Win cool prizes!

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting: September 30

- Best Sci-Fi Movies Never Made
- Failed Sci-Fi TV Series

REMAINING 2009 MEETINGS:
October 25, November 22

Montreal Worldcon Garners Positive Reviews

Post-event buzz on Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, has been largely positive. While there were a few glitches, Montreal's first Worldcon seems to have unfolded without any major problems arising.

Of a reported total of 4401 who purchased memberships, just over 3500 attended the convention, including a couple of hundred or so single-day visitors.

Anticipation presented attendees with an engaging diversity of programming, offering a few unique experiences like homegrown rock star Melissa Auf der Maur's presentation of her new multimedia project, *Out of Our Minds*. Gaming enthusiasts were invited to play Ningen-Senkan (Sensuikan), or Human Battleship, a war game similar to live chess popular at Japanese SF/F conventions. The thought-provoking conversation between Hugo Award-winning science fiction writer Charles Stross and renowned economist Paul Krugman was of particular note, as were pretty much any of the events featuring Guest of Honour Neil Gaiman. Well received was the busy agenda aimed at young children and teens, featuring discussions, demonstrations, workshops, and arts and crafts sessions.

For the most part, programming got good grades, although more than a few folk complained of too many changes to the schedule and found the pocket programme guide and daily pink-sheet updates inadequate.

The Worldcon's centerpiece Hugo Awards were handed out Sunday evening, August 9, at which time people got a first look at the exquisite trophy Seattle-based artist Dave Howell had designed for Anticipation. His granite base orbited by a curved metal name plate and inlaid with a Canadian maple-leaf motif atop of which sits the traditional silver rocket forms one of the most striking Hugo trophies in years.

Anticipation's programme included other awards ceremonies, as well: Canada's Auroras, Quebec's Prix Boréal, the Association of Science Fiction and Fantasy Artist's Chesley Awards, the Sidewise Award for Alternate History, the Golden Duck Award for Children's and Young Adult Science Fiction, the Prometheus Awards, and the First Fandom Awards. Indeed, a special programming event shone

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GLOVER, Wayne
MORROW, Gordon
THIBODEAU, Claude

**Annual membership
fees are due this month,
August, from the following
club members:**

CIASCHINI, Lynda
JAMES, David
NOVO, Alice

Annual membership fees will become due next month, September, from the following club members:

ASPLER, Joseph
BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DUROCHER, Dominique
DUROCHER, Marc
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L.E.

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. The annual fee for a standard membership is \$25. Fill out the application form, below, 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.

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the spotlight on many of the world's SF awards, from Poland's Janusz A. Zajdel and Israel's Geffen honours to Japan's Seiun and Australia's Ditmar prizes.

The art show and masquerade were perhaps small by Worldcon standards but of high quality. The dealers' area catered primarily to readers, with table after table stacked high with novels. On the last day of the con, one vendor loudly proclaimed as he thanked all within earshot that he had sold every last one of his books.

The sprawling exhibits area featured a variety of interesting displays, many devoted to fannish history. MonSFFA's showcase, put together for the occasion by Keith Braithwaite, provided a quick and colourful overview of club activities. Fan Guest of Honour Taral Wayne's apartment, meanwhile, had been recreated full-scale by means of a series of photographic blow-ups, providing an approximation of his living room and bedroom, complete with shelves full of fanzines and collectibles, and his award-winning art hanging on the walls.

Back issues of *Warp* and *Impulse* were among the sampling of publications available for perusal and purchase in the adjacent fanzine lounge. A working Gestetner was on hand, too, which several faned's employed to produce a 'zine on site the old-fashioned way.

The room parties, not the least of which was our own MonSFFA/ConCept-sponsored "Welcome to Montreal/Bienvenue à Montréal" reception (see next item), were a highlight of the convention for many, and the con suite kept everyone well fed and watered, serving up daily a wonderfully appetizing spread.

Comments posted to date suggest that many folk thoroughly enjoyed not only the Montreal Worldcon, but the city itself.

To co-chairs René Walling and Robbie Bourget, and the many volunteers, local, national, and international, who put together and ran Anticipation, MonSFFA offers congratulations on a job well done.

MonSFFA, ConCept Make a Big Splash with Worldcon Room Party

MonSFFA and ConCept pooled resources to host a room party at Anticipation on Friday evening, August 7, welcoming worldwide fandom to Montreal. Our party was tremendously well

received by the many revellers who paid us repeated visits on the busiest party night of the convention. Exuberantly welcomed to the affair by greeter Lindsay Brown, an estimated 250 people from near and far relished the delicious smoked meat sandwiches and fresh Montreal-style bagels our kitchen crew were serving pretty much non-stop all evening. A variety of cold beers complemented the good eats.

Table hockey sets placed around the two-storey party suite as part of our sports-themed decoration drew the attention of some folk, who sat down to play a few games. Other of our guests enjoyed the club's fan films, which were playing on a television wired for that purpose. Several of our stock of MonSFFilms DVDs had been sold by evening's end.

Our room party succeeded beyond expectations and both MonSFFA and ConCept made a big splash at Anticipation as a result. We would be remiss if we were not to mention the Herculean labour put in by our party team setting up and running the event.

The weekend before the affair, Berny Reischl, Julia Sinclair, Lindsay Brown, and Mark Burakoff shopped for most of consumables and supplies required. Keith Braithwaite picked up the beer. Drivers Julia, Lindsay, Keith, Cathy Palmer-Lister, and Sean Peatman shared transportation tasks. Theresa Penalba, meanwhile, fashioned a Stanley Cup replica as a decorative centerpiece and everyone provided sports-related items with which to dress up the suite. A variety of food preparation utensils, hot plates, pots, coolers, and such were also volunteered by team members. Cathy saw to ConCept's contributions. Finally, Berny produced signage for the party and posters advertising the event, as well as souvenir stickers that would be affixed to the convention badges of our guests.

A few hours before festivities were scheduled to begin, Berny and Julia picked up our order of smoked meat, some 40 pounds of the stuff. We then moved the supplies into our suite and while Berny supervised the set-up of a makeshift kitchen, Keith and Sean saw to the decorations and signage. Sean also managed to hook up the room's television to his portable DVD player, saving us the need to pull out the TV we had brought for the purpose of screening our MonSFFilms. Keith and Lindsay made the rounds of the hotel's party floors, putting up the posters Berny had produced

trumpeting our event.

We opened our doors at about 8:30PM and Lindsay spent much of her evening as our greeter, assisted periodically by Keith and Sean. Berny prepared the smoked meat while Cathy made and served the sandwiches. Julia offered our guests bagels and Mark tended bar. Keith, Sean, and Phil Simard circulated during the party, helping where needed, refilling chip bowls, or running ice up to the bathtub, which served as our beverage cooler.

After the last guest had departed, everyone pitched in to clean up and break it all down, including John Matthias, a former MonSFFAn now living in central Ontario, who was attending the convention and catching up with old friends.

The party was a success because of the concerted effort of the above-mentioned volunteers on behalf of both MonSFFA and ConCept. A big thank-you to all of them!

MonSFFA, ConCept Welcome TAFF Delegate to Montreal

As a gesture of friendship, UK fan Steve Green, this year's TAFF delegate, was treated to a platter of Montreal's famous smoked meat by representatives of both MonSFFA and ConCept earlier this month at the Dunn's restaurant on Metcalfe.

TAFF is short for Transatlantic Fan Fund, which sponsors a European fan's trip to a North American convention, and vice versa, similar to our own trans-Canadian CUFF, or Canadian Unity Fan Fund.

Over the savory meal and several pints of ale, the genial Steve, in Montreal for Anticipation, this year's Worldcon, entertained with tales of British fandom. He stayed with MonSFFen Ann Methe and Jean-Pierre Normand for the few days prior to his checking in at the Delta for the convention. Cathy Palmer-Lister organized the dinner and led the contingent of local fans who welcomed Steve and a few other out-of-towners to the city for the Worldcon.

We all look forward to reading Steve's trip report, the publication of which is customary for any beneficiary of the TAFF.

2009 Barbecue Rained Out

For the first time since the event's inception, MonSFFA's annual summer barbecue was rained out, on both the July 26 scheduled date and the August 2 back-up date. Sacrifices to the weather gods were apparently wanting.

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HUGO AWARDS

Anticipation, the 67th World Science Fiction Convention, Montreal, Canada, August 9, 2009

Best Novel

The Graveyard Book, by Neil Gaiman
(HarperCollins; Bloomsbury UK)

Best Novella

“The Erdmann Nexus”, by Nancy Kress
(*Asimov's*, October-November 2008)

Best Novelette

“Shoggoths in Bloom”, by Elizabeth Bear
(*Asimov's*, March 2008)

Best Short Story

“Exhalation”, by Ted Chiang (*Eclipse Two*)

Best Related Book

*Your Hate Mail Will Be Graded: A Decade of Whatever,
1998-2008*, by John Scalzi (Subterranean Press)

Best Graphic Story

*Genius, Volume 8: Agatha Heterodyne and the Chapel of
Bones*, written by Kaja and Phil Foglio; art by Phil Foglio;
colour by Cheyenne Wright (Airship Entertainment)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Long Form

WALL-E, story by Andrew Stanton and Pete Docter; screenplay
by Andrew Stanton and Jim Reardon;
directed by Andrew Stanton (Pixar/Walt Disney)

Best Dramatic Presentation, Short Form

Doctor Horrible's Sing-Along Blog, written by Joss Whedon,
Zack Whedon, Jed Whedon and Maurissa Tancharoen;
directed by Joss Whedon (Mutant Enemy)

Best Editor, Short Form

Ellen Datlow

Best Editor, Long Form

David G. Hartwell

Best Professional Artist

Donato Giancola

Best Semiprozine

Weird Tales, edited by Ann VanderMeer and Stephen H. Segal

Best Fanzine

Electric Velocipede, edited by John Klima

Best Fan Writer

Cheryl Morgan

Best Fan Artist

Frank Wu

John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer

David Anthony Durham

PRIX AURORA AWARDS

Anticipation (Convention 29), Montreal/Montréal, Canada, August 7/ le 7 Août, 2009

Best Long-Form Work in English

Marseguro, by Edward Willett (DAW Books)

Meilleur livre en français

Les vents de Tammerlan, Michèle Laframboise (Éditions
Médiaspaul, coll. Jeunesse-Plus)

Best Short-Form Work in English

“Ringing in the Changes in Okotoks, Alberta”, by Randy
McCharles (Tesseract Twelve, Edge Science Fiction)

Meilleur nouvelle en français

« Le Dôme de Saint-Macaire », Jean-Louis Trudel
(*Solaris* 167)

Best Work in English (Other)

Neo-opsis magazine, Karl Johanson, editor

Meilleur ouvrage en français (Autre)

Solaris, Joël Champetier, édition et direction littéraire

Artistic Achievement

Looking for Group (online comic), by Lar deSouza

Fan Achievement (Fanzine)

The Original Universe, Jeff Bowman, editor

Fan Achievement (Organizational)

World Fantasy 2008, Randy McCharles, chair

Fan Achievement (Other)

Heather Dale Concert, Joan Sherman, organizer

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DE FANTASTIQUE

September / Septembre 2009 (Vol. 13, No./N° 8)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, September 20

1:00PM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

1:00PM

BEST SCI-FI MOVIES NEVER MADE:

We explore a selection of potentially great genre films proposed but, ultimately, never produced, as well as a few endlessly stuck, it seems, "in development." We'll also make a list of genre films we'd like to see produced.

2:30PM

MONSFFILMS PROJECT: Following on last month's meeting, a quick 15-minute update on the progress of the club's latest fan film project.

3:00PM

NEXT ON THIS CHANNEL...: We explore some of the proposed sci-fi television series that failed to make it past a pilot, or were quickly cancelled after but a handful of episodes. We'll also look at series that were prematurely canned, leaving viewers hanging.

Next Month's MonSFFA Meeting:

October 25

Zombies!

ConCept 2009 to Mark Convention's 20th Anniversary

This year's installment of ConCept is but weeks away; the long-running convention is set to unfold over the October 2-4 weekend. 2009 marks ConCept's 20th anniversary year. *Impulse* readers will know that MonSFFA founded ConCept in 1989, establishing Montreal's first annual fan-run science fiction and fantasy convention. ConCept's philosophy then, and now, was to explore the domains of science fiction and fantasy by providing area and visiting fans with a variety of entertaining things to do over the course of the event, anchored by a series of informative presentations and spirited panel discussions.

This year's roster of headlining guests is all Canadian!

Actress Karen Cliche is a former Montrealer who has starred in, among other productions, genre TV's *Vampire High*, *Mutant X*, and *Flash Gordon*. Her most recent movie appearance is in *Saw VI*, the latest chapter of the popular horror franchise.

Ontario-based author Kelley Armstrong has populated her Otherworld series with witches, werewolves, demons, vampires, and other supernatural races. This collection of paranormal suspense novels features a number of engaging female characters like the werewolf Elena Michaels, witch Paige Winterbourne, and half-demon Hope Adams. Titles include *Bitten*, *Dime Store Magic*, *Haunted*, *Living With the Dead*, and her latest, *Frostbitten*. She also penned the Darkest Powers trilogy, a young adult urban fantasy centered on a teenaged girl who can see ghosts and raise the dead.

And Olivier Xavier is a local make-up artist and special effects expert whose credits include *The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne*, *Grande Ourse*, *Witchboard III: The Possession*, *Journey to the Centre of the Earth*, *Supernatural*, and the Montreal production of *Dracula, the Opera*.

Over the years, ConCept has consistently drawn praise for offering fans a fun and friendly sci-fi party and we look forward to this year's merriment.

One last thing: ConCept can always use a hand and welcomes volunteer help setting up, running, and taking down the convention. Contact event chair Cathy Palmer-Lister to offer your services: cathypl@sympatico.ca

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GLOVER, Wayne
JAMES, David
MORROW, Gordon

Annual membership fees are due this month, September, from the following club members:

**BOIES, Marquise
BRAITHWAITE, Erin
BRAITHWAITE, Keith
BRAITHWAITE, Scott
DUROCHER, Marc
MOIR, Dorothy
MOIR, L.E.**

Annual membership fees will become due next month, October, from the following club members:

BLOOM, Hendrik
KENNEY, Daniel P.
McCULLOUGH, Brian
McCULLOUGH, Megan
McCULLOUGH, Philip
PELLEY, Lynda
PETTIT, William S.
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain
WADSWORTH, Beulah

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August MonSFFA Meeting

August 23 saw the club hold a dry run of its new “Sci-Fi Fair” fund-raising concept, but not before hosting a quick feedback panel on the recently wrapped Montreal Worldcon, Anticipation, and talking over plans for the production of the club’s next fan film.

A poll of the room found that all but a few of the 30 or so present had attended Anticipation. As folk offered opinion on the Worldcon, club VP Keith Braithwaite took notes (see sidebar), these to be passed along to Anticipation.

Programming content was rated top-notch by many. The con suite and masquerade scored particularly well, and the number and quality of the room parties was applauded, including the MonSFFA/ConCept effort Friday evening, which, by all accounts, proved one of the most popular. A few areas drew criticism but generally, the event was praised, with people remarking that overall, they enjoyed the experience.

The meeting immediately moved to a discussion of the club’s next video project. Keith outlined a story pitting stranded motorists against a werewolf, the favoured of several proposals considered by the MonSFFilms special interest group in previous meetings held over the summer. The requirements of the production were listed, logistics discussed, and various pre-production tasks assigned. A good number of folk signed on and the crew will meet again soon for an update and to further the project along.

To inspire the club’s filmmakers, Berny Reischl treated the assembly to an early short film by the director of this summer’s sci-fi sensation, *District 9*.

Following the mid-meeting break, Keith, Berny, Mark Burakoff, and Lindsay Brown introduced their notion of having an amusing time while raising funds for the club. Their “Sci-Fi Fair”, patterned after the kind of fund-raiser often held by church or community groups, was designed to get away from the raffle/auction model the club has employed for too many years in favour of something fresh and fun. Thus were set up a number of games of skill and chance, like the bean-bag throws and fish ponds of so many of the church-basement fairs enjoyed in our collective youth. But for MonSFFA’s purposes, the games were dressed up in a sci-fi theme.

Keith turned a simple fish pond into the Black Lagoon, with the fish becoming the Creature, and various other aquatic denizens of sci-fi. The bean-bag throw he converted into a

game in which “Rebel pilots” fired at the Death Star’s infamous thermal exhaust port.

Berny, meanwhile, put together a *Star Trek*-based game that had blindfolded “starfleet doctors” opening Medusan ambassador Kollos’ containment unit, racing against the clock to locate and remove a damaged organ in order to save his life. Be sure to extract the right organ, however, lest the ambassador die on your operating table! The cardboard box Berny had painted to represent the ambassador’s holding bin was filled with styrofoam packing peanuts, small balloons, and other squishy, weird-feeling objects representing the Medusan’s innards.

Mark and Lindsay set up a pair of target games, his a Nerf rifle range with various movie monsters and aliens in the crosshairs, hers a bowling alley with the plastic pins painted as evil alien invaders that had to be knocked down in order to save the Earth.

With the game stations set up and the rules explained, tickets were sold and folk circulated as at a carnival midway, trying their hand at the different challenges. Small coloured beads were awarded participants for each try and more for every point scored. At

the end of the afternoon, the player having collected the most beads got first pick of a number of premium prizes, the second most, second choice, and so on.

Following the fun, members provided constructive feedback on the whole affair, suggesting a few tweaks here and there for next time. This trial of our new Sci-Fi Fair proved successful, bringing in just over \$70 for the club’s coffers. A full-blown fair is planned in future, perhaps to be combined with a bake sale.

We thank all those club members who planned and ran this meeting.

Briefly

- Correction: the date of MonSFFA’s September meeting was erroneously given as the 30th last issue; the correct date is September 20, as listed in this issue.
- MonSFFA offers condolences to Cathy Palmer-Lister, who recently lost her dear mother, and Danny Sichel, who mourns his cherished Marina “Rie” De Schutter, departed, sadly, far too soon. Our thoughts are with our two friends.

Feedback on Anticipation, the Montreal Worldcon

At MonSFFA’s August 23 club meeting, feedback was given on Anticipation by some of the MonSFFen who attended the convention. Following are notes recorded at that meeting, for the attention of Anticipation’s organizers and consideration of future Worldcon committees.

- Many thanks and kudos to the Anticipation team, who put on a memorable Worldcon.
- Guest line-up outstanding—too bad that Ralph Bakshi had to back out.
- Communication was rather lax leading up to the con; requested information was not provided.
- Registration went smoothly, quickly; no long line-ups.
- Wonderful badge holders.
- Information was sometimes difficult to locate for those unfamiliar with Worldcons. A brief directory of some kind

could have perhaps pointed people in the right direction.

- Programming content was solid, but many changes to schedule caused frustration. Special events like the Stross/Krugman discussion and Melissa Auf der Maur multimedia presentation were highlights.
- Fanzine lounge was great; working Gestetner very cool.
- Knitting group could have used more space.
- Programme guide was helpful re panel details but too large to carry easily while pocket programme provided inadequate information; the daily updates were not helpful.
- Con suite was superb—splendid food. Even Dead Dog served up a great spread, not just left-overs.
- Crowd/seating control prior to show spotty but masquerade well received; good, clear sound, despite a few glitches; giant screens tremendously helpful in viewing the show

- for those seated further back; co-hosts very entertaining.
- Dealers’ area short on variety, overabundance of book dealers compared to vendors selling other types of wares. The more and greater the variety, the busier the dealers’ area will be, which should translate into more sales—win, win. Consider staff passes, which might be included with dealers’ tables so that personnel only working the dealers’ area and not taking in the rest of the convention need not also buy a costly full membership. Do not be afraid to adapt, modernize, regarding price structures, memberships, and passes.
- Greater participation in the art show might similarly be encouraged.
- Innovation regarding the attraction of fresh blood strongly encouraged; avoid slavish adherence to outdated practices, traditions.

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DE FANTASTIQUE

November / Novembre 2009 (Vol. 13, No./Nº 9)

NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

Sunday, November 22

11:00AM-5:00PM

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

SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

11:00AM

BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING: We begin planning next year's activities; all club members are welcome and encouraged to participate.

1:00PM

THE WRITE STUFF: We convene a panel of published genre writers for a discussion of recent trends in SF/F literature. Our special guest speakers will offer opinion on what's hot and what's not, and highlight the most exciting original new fiction on bookshelves as Christmas approaches.

3:00PM

THE WORD IS GIVEN: Game for all in which players must identify the SF/F book, film, or television show attached to a randomly selected character name, place name, or term describing a thing or concept. A handsome prize will be awarded the winner!

Next Month: MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

Saturday Evening, December 5
(Details to be Announced)

MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party Hits Snag

The club's traditional Christmas Dinner and Party is scheduled for Saturday evening, December 5 this year, but planning has hit a snag. We have discovered that our familiar seasonal watering hole, the Park Place Bar, is out of business! Thus are we scrambling to find another suitable establishment in the downtown area that can accommodate us on short notice. We also have to select a restaurant for our festive dinner, preferably within easy walking distance of the bar we choose.

With the input of our membership, we hope to work everything out at and soon after the BoA meeting to be held at this month's club meeting on the 22nd. Details of the dinner/party will follow in short order, online and in the December issue of *Impulse*. Be advised that it's all going to come together rather quickly and confirmation of our plans will probably go out last-minute. So keep that Saturday night open and stay tuned for further information.

ConCept Attendance Down

Outgoing ConCept chair Cathy Palmer-Lister estimates that the 2009 edition of the con drew about half the people it had the previous year, perhaps as few as 125 or so paying attendees. Final accounting has yet to be completed as we go to press but it's a safe bet that ConCept 2009 lost money. Surpluses realized in prior years should offset this year's losses but as a result, ConCept 2010 will have to start from square one financially.

With ConCept 2009 coming so soon—first weekend of October—after the Montreal Worldcon in August, it is not unreasonable to speculate that some folk who might normally have attended skipped the local con this year, having exhausted their budgets at the Worldcon. This is not unusual, we are given to understand, and many North American cons either scale back or take the year off when the Worldcon comes to their town. But ConCept was celebrating its 20th anniversary and the con hoped to benefit from good word of mouth at the Worldcon. In hindsight, the con would have been better off skipping 2009.

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TO KNOW IF YOUR ANNUAL
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FEES ARE DUE.**

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

BOIES, Marquise
DUROCHER, Marc
JAMES, David
MORROW, Gordon

Annual membership fees became due from the following club members last month, October:

**BOOM, Hendrik
KENNEY, Daniel P.
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain
WADSWORTH, Beulah**

Annual membership fees are due from the following club members this month, November:

Ø

Annual membership fees will become due from the following club members next month, December:

RUFIANGE, Yolande

Please renew your MonSFFA membership in timely fashion. The annual fee for a standard membership is \$25. Fill out the application form, below, 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 your membership renewal.

MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: _____ Age / Âge: _____

AMonSFF FORMULAIRE D'INSCRIPTION

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

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

Address / Adresse: _____

E-mail / Courriel: _____

NO. & STREET / N° ET RUE APT./APP.

Interests / Intérêts: _____

CITY/VILLE PROVINCE POSTAL CODE / CODE POSTAL

ConCept's perennial problem of understaffing is at least equally to blame for this year's poor attendance, however, in that promotion and advertising suffered from particular neglect this year. With too few volunteers to properly attend to all the organizational details leading up to the event, things don't get done on time, if at all. Important things, like promotion and advertising. Nobody's fault, really, but a detriment all the same. It is a tribute to the determination of the overworked ConCept team that the affair manages, year after year, to take place at all! And to consistently earn the praise of attendees, who enjoy and appreciate the inviting and lively ambience that has come to define the convention.

ConCept's guest line-up is testament to the broad range of interests the con explores and invited guests, too, often comment positively on Montreal's annual sci-fi party. This year's smiling roster included actress Karen Cliche, a former Montrealer who starred in the recently released horror film *Saw VI* and genre TV's *Flash Gordon*. Also from the film and television milieu was local special effects make-up expert Olivier Xavier, whose credits include *The Secret Adventures of Jules Verne*, *Grande Ourse*, and *Supernatural*. The Author Guests of Honour were Kelley Armstrong, who penned the popular Otherworld paranormal suspense series, and Natasha Beaulieu, who wrote the dark fantasy *Cités intérieures* books. Filling out the bill were Chandra X-Ray Observatory scientist and educator Donna Young, award-winning fantasy-flavoured portrait artist Sybiline, Celtic folk singer and recording artist Heather Dale, and accomplished filker Phil Mills.

ConCept's driving force for almost a decade, chair Cathy Palmer-Lister, had earlier in the year announced that she intended to resign after ConCept 2009 and at closing ceremonies received heartfelt applause for her many years of dedication to the con. We are encouraged by the number of people, a few enthusiastic newcomers among them, who stepped up as Cathy stepped down, including a prospective new chair. And Cathy seems amenable to continuing to serve, probably in some advisory role.

Long live ConCept! So say we all!

September and October MonSFFA Meetings

MonSFFA's September meeting took place on the 20th, October's on the 18th.

Keith Braithwaite and Leslie Lupien opened September's gathering with the fascinating stories of how a number of Hollywood science fiction movies were planned, developed, but never, ultimately, filmed.

These included a collaboration between acclaimed director Stanley Kubrick and SF giant Arthur C. Clarke on an adaptation of Clarke's novel *Childhood's End*, the premise of which—man the result of god-like aliens having seeded Earth eons ago and destined to become a higher being himself—was considered too controversial at the time. And it was feared that the Overlords featured in the book, Satan-like in their appearance and the basis for man's devil mythologies, would not play well in middle America. In the end, Kubrick and Clarke abandoned the project and instead, adapted one of Clarke's short stories. *2001: A Space Odyssey* was the result.

Keith and Leslie also revealed that movies like *Dune*, *Aliens vs. Predator*, and other turkeys would have differed for the better had earlier visions prevailed.

The second part of the meeting focused on unsold sci-fi television series pilots, Keith providing a number of unintentionally hilarious video clips from such proposed series as *Wishman*, circa early 1980s and starring a pre-*Terminator* Linda Hamilton, and *Baffled*, featuring a post-*Star Trek* Leonard Nimoy as a race car driver who crashes and awakes with psychic powers. Many of the concepts were over-the-top ridiculous, even for sci-fi TV, and it's no surprise they were rejected by networks.

Other potential shows might have been pretty cool, like *Aquaman*, a proposed *Smallville* spin-off, and *Robinsons*, a *Lost in Space* update.

Marquise Boies joined Keith at the dais to recount her own experiences in local television trying to get an animated series made built around characters she had created. Through numerous producers and many reworkings a frustrated Marquise found it increasingly difficult to hold on to her original concept. Her characters never made it to screen and she walked away from the experience a little wiser in the wacky ways of television production.

October's meeting saw Keith and Danny Sichel give a presentation on zombies, citing the seminal films of George A. Romero as the definitive take on zombies. Keith screened a

variety of clips from Romero's films and others, illustrating the evolving behaviour of zombies in cinema and, of course, the blood-splattering gore that is characteristic of these movies. Featured in film, genre literature, comics, and even video games, zombies are often employed as a metaphor for the darker side of our consumer culture, for instance, or the anxieties we experience in modern society.

Following the mid-meeting break, several MonSFFen stepped up to talk for a few minutes each on a favourite SF/F film, television series, novel or short story, comic book, or CD that they felt their fellow club members might value as an under-appreciated masterpiece, a forgotten classic, or simply a worthy rarity.

We thank our program participants and those club members who planned and ran these two meetings.

Steve Green Sends Thanks for Hospitality

We are in receipt of an e-mail from UK fan Steve Green, who attended Anticipation as the TAFF—Transatlantic Fan Fund—delegate. MonSFFen Jean-Pierre Normand and Ann Methe were pleased to put Steve up for a few days while he was in Montreal and MonSFFA and ConCept treated him to a smoked meat dinner and a few pints of ale as welcome on the eve of the Worldcon. Steve writes:

Finally catching up with my reading after returning from New York exactly one month ago (the final stage of my TAFF trip) and just read *Impulse* (volume 13, number 7). As was probably very apparent, I had a tremendous time in Montreal in the lead-up to Anticipation, and the hospitality MonSFFA members extended meant I could both relax after the trip over from the UK (my first journey outside Europe) and gear myself up for the next three weeks. Please do reiterate to everyone how grateful I am for their friendship and generosity; I hope some day very soon that European fandom can do the same for a Canadian TAFF delegate.

Kindest Regards,
Steve

We are glad that our new friend enjoyed his time in Montreal and we look forward to reading his TAFF trip report.

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December / Decembre 2009 (Vol. 13, No./No 10)

MonSFFA's Members and Friends Invited to Club's 2009 Christmas Dinner and Party

**SATURDAY EVENING
DECEMBER 5**

DINNER at 6:00PM
SCORES RESTAURANT
DOWNTOWN WEST
1432 Ste-Catherine Street West
downtown Montreal
(Guy-Concordia Metro)

Reservations under name:
MonSFFA/Bernard Reischl

PARTY at 8:00PM
"NOT SO PRIVATEER" BAR
(formerly the Park Place Bar)
1244 Mackay Street
(downtown Montreal, between
Ste-Catherine and René-Lévesque)

**Rewards Raffle draw for all
member-volunteers! Don't forget to
bring your "Participation Coupons".**

*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.*

NEXT MONSFFA MEETING

Sunday, January 17, 2010
(Date to be Confirmed; Stay Tuned)

- Club Elections
- Bulwer-Lytton Bad Prose Competition

2009 MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party

All details having been ironed out, MonSFFA's 2009 Christmas Dinner and Party is on track, scheduled for Saturday evening, December 5.

We were a little behind the planning last month regarding the selection of a restaurant. In the days just prior to our November club meeting, an eatery had, in fact, been selected. We will gather at the Scores restaurant on Ste-Catherine near Guy at 6:00PM. Following a festive dinner there, we will make our way to the "Not So Privateer" bar, just a short walk from the restaurant. (See events column, left, for details.)

The "Not So Privateer" is our traditional Park Place Bar watering hole under a new name. It seems we were working from inaccurate information last month when we reported that the Park Place had gone out of business. Not so, as it turns out. MonSFFA's familiar seasonal saloon is still a going concern. Confusion stemmed from a name change as part of a business expansion. The Park Place has changed its name to the "Not So Privateer", affiliated with the larger Privateer club just a few doors down. And so, our Christmas party will take place at the same locale as always. The bar is simply operating under a new name.

As is our custom at this time of year, we'll be collecting toys and non-perishable food items at the party for donation to Sun Youth's Christmas Basket Drive. And in addition to our usual Christmas raffle, we'll also be holding our "Rewards Raffle" (see next item).

We hope to see all of our members and friends at the club's 2009 Christmas Dinner and Party, and to everyone, we extend our wishes for a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rewards Raffle Draw at Christmas Party

We will be holding what we've dubbed our "Rewards Raffle" during the club's Christmas party, set to begin at 8:00PM at the "Not So Privateer" bar (formerly, the Park Place Bar, MonSFFA's familiar seasonal watering hole).

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FEES ARE DUE.**

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DUROCHER, Marc
JAMES, David
MORROW, Gordon

**Annual membership fees
became due from the following
club members in October:**

**BOOM, Hendrik
KENNEY, Daniel P.
McCULLOGH, Brian
McCULLOGH, Megan
McCULLOGH, Philip
ST-PIERRE, Sylvain
WADSWORTH, Beulah**

**Annual membership fees became
due from the following club
members last month, November:**

Ø

**Annual membership fees are
due from the following club
members this month, December:**

Ø

Annual membership fees will
become due from the following
club members next month, January:

PALMER-LISTER, Cathy

Please renew your MonSFFA
membership in timely fashion.
The annual fee for a standard
membership is \$25. Fill out the
application form, below, 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**

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: _____

This Rewards Raffle is a means of thanking for their participation those club members who ran programming at our meetings this year, or pitched in to help with special events.

For each volunteer action performed in 2009, a club member received a bright pink "Participation Coupon". These coupons will serve as raffle tickets in this exclusive draw so a member having collected coupons throughout the year should be sure to bring them to the party and write his or her name on each in the space provided. The coupons will be tossed into a hat and winners drawn, several premium items being the prizes humbly offered by the club as tokens of thanks.

The nature of a raffle, of course, dictates that not every coupon holder will win. But all will have a chance at one of the prizes and the club takes this opportunity to thank for their efforts each and every MonSFFAn who ran programming in 2009 or helped with special events. This club runs on the involvement of its members and your having taken part is greatly appreciated.

Membership Renewals

Because *Impulse* did not publish in October, and because of the short couple of weeks between the release of the November and December issues, not to mention a touch of flu within the club's membership office, we find ourselves a little behind on paperwork. We are therefore allowing some leeway regarding annual fees due. Members whose fees became due in October and November will be treated as current, as so highlighted in the reminders column to the right of the *Impulse* masthead this issue. In other words, the annual membership fees of these members will be treated as now due, not yet as past due.

You may, as always, renew your membership by standard post. Note that there is a time lag between a member's mailing of a membership renewal and our reception and processing of same. If you have already mailed us your cheque, ignore the reminder.

November MonSFFA Meeting Welcomes Guest Speakers

We are rather short on space this issue so our report on MonSFFA's well-attended November 22 meeting will, by necessity, be a brief one.

Leslie Lupien, acting as moderator,

opened proceedings by welcoming guest speakers Mark Shainblum, Claude Lalumière, and Jean-Louis Trudel—published authors all—to the dais for a discussion of recent trends in SF/F literature. In a wide-ranging discussion peppered with numerous questions and comments from the audience, the common observation of our guests was that science fiction is in decline. Perhaps because the pace of technological progress is such that it often outpaces the fiction, or perhaps because the science of today is harder for the layman to grasp—a damning comment on our public education system, some opined—the most noticeable trend in science fiction publishing is that fewer SF books are to be found on bookshelves. Fantasy is faring better, particularly that of the paranormal romance variety, which seems to be the trendy thing at the moment.

Our guests made clear that they write about that which interests them first and foremost, and not necessarily about what they think might be the next big thing. The classification of stories into this or that genre for marketing purposes, it was put forth, probably does more harm than good. There are plenty of mainstream books that are, by any definition of the term, science fiction! But these are not sold as science fiction.

The discussion also touched on movements within the SF writing community that strictly promote one or the other approaches to the science employed in science fiction. Our guests dismissed the notion that SF writers are supposed to predict the future. History shows that they often fail dramatically to do so.

The second half of the meeting saw Keith Braithwaite run a brief game that challenged members' knowledge of the characters, settings, and notable things associated with a selection of SF/F novels, films, and TV shows. Club president Berny Reischl bested his fellow MonSFFen and won the complete *Time Tunnel* television series on DVD as a prize.

We thank our guest speakers, along with Leslie and Keith, and those club members who helped plan and run this meeting.

Club's 2010 Meeting Schedule

MonSFFen selected dates for the club's 2010 meetings at the recent November 22 Board of Advisors parley. Dates remain to be confirmed, are as follows: January 17, February 21, March 28, April 18, May 16, June 13, August 15, September 19,

October 17, November 21.

The club's annual barbecue is set for July 25, with August 1 designated the rain date. 2010's MonSFFA Christmas Dinner and Party will take place on Saturday evening, December 4.

2010 Club Elections

The first order of business as the club kicks off the new year will be the selection of MonSFFA's Executive Committee for 2010. This will take place at our January 17 gathering (date to be confirmed; watch this space). All MonSFFA members in good standing are encouraged to participate.

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. Cathy Palmer-Lister is currently our chief returning officer.

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, except under special circumstances and by approval of the CRO.

Briefly

- *Impulse* did not publish in October, as originally scheduled. Job and family obligations combined to place additional demands on editor Keith Braithwaite's time, preventing him from completing an issue that month. A brief note of explanation and accompanying meeting notice was distributed to members in place of the news bulletin. Items originally to have run in October were abridged and included in the November and this December issue.
- We are appreciative of a gift made to the club by the folks at Anticipation. A box full of stationery supplies left over after the successful Montreal Worldcon was recently delivered to MonSFFA.

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