

# 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

March / Mars 2007 (Vol. 11, No./Nº 3)

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

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

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

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

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

BENNETT, Paul  
BURAKOFF, Mark  
DODDS, Georges  
METHE, Ann  
NOVO, Fernando  
WADSWORTH, Beulah  
WALLING, Réne

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

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

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

## NEXT MonSFFA MEETING IS THIS WEEKEND

**Sunday, March 25**

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

### SCHEDULED PROGRAMMING

**11:00AM**

#### BOARD OF ADVISORS MEETING:

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

**1:00PM**

#### THE FAB WORLDS OF GERRY ANDERSON:

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

**3:00PM**

#### SCI-FI BAKE SALE AND SWAP MEET:

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

**Next MonSFFA Meeting:  
APRIL 22  
Stargate**

## Club's Operating Expenses Rise

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

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

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

## MonSFFA's March Assembly Features Bake Sale Fund-Raiser

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

### MonSFFA MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Name / Nom: \_\_\_\_\_ Age / Âge: \_\_\_\_\_

Address / Adresse: \_\_\_\_\_

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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: \_\_\_\_\_

encouraged to participate in two ways:

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

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

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

## Swap Meet at March MonSFFA Meeting

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

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

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

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

## February MonSFFA Meeting

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Briefly

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

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

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

- In person at a MonSFFA meeting
- Via the club's mailing address, to the attention of "Impulse":  
MonSFFA  
P.O. Box 1186, Place du Parc  
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- Voice mail: 450-692-8831

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

- En personne à une réunion du club
- Courriel: [bigewok@total.net](mailto:bigewok@total.net)

- Boîte vocale: 450-692-8831
- Par la poste à l'adresse du club, à l'attention de "Impulse":  
AMonSFF  
C.P. 1186, Place du Parc  
Montréal, Québec, H2X 4A7

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