



Writers Strike, On Yer Bike!

by staff writers

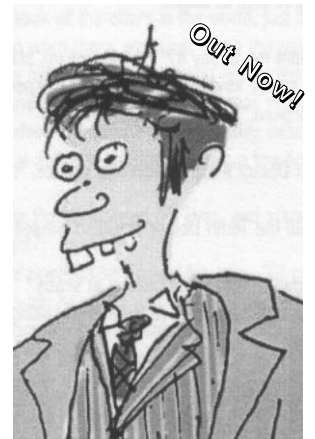
Will audiences even notice it's the same tat over again?



Eisner: Insane.

Former Disney CEO Michael Eisner described it as "Insanity", but he wouldn't be. The first writers strike in 20 years has hit American television production in the cerebellum, which is probably it's least vulnerable place.

By subtle recycling of scripts, changing who gets which lines of dialogue and betting on the stupidity of the audience Hollywood producers anticipate production outliving the current writers and their offspring. But only of shows you'd never want to watch.



Chameleon Factor # 80



SFSA magazine # 21/22

"Sydney, 10 years in the future."

by staff writers

K9 takes a turn to the 'Stralyian.

As reported last issue, Network TEN has bought *The K9 Adventures* (now being referred to as *K9*), joining Disney affiliate Jetix, London based distributor Park Entertainment, Brisbane production company Stewart and Wall, the Australian Federal government's Film Finance Corporation, the Queensland government's Pacific Film and Television Commission and Bob Baker's company K9 Films as stakeholders in the production.



Andrew Nicholls, a writer who was attached to the project prior to the Australian involvement says the style of the new production is described as looking like "Sydney, 10 years in the future". This is a radical departure from his script which involved a space based setting.

☐ Continued Page 2



Audio saved for posterity, embarrassment, page 2.

The Devil Owns the Digits, page 4.



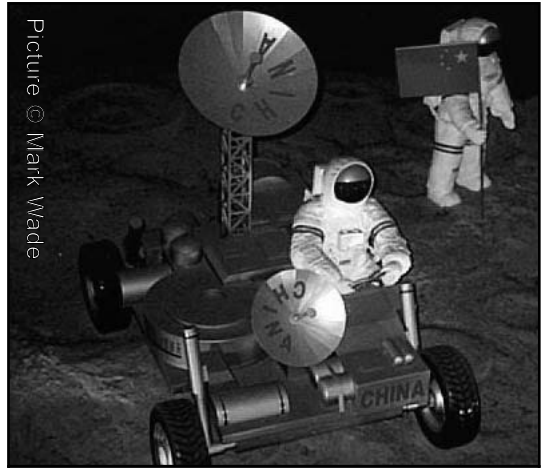


"Sydney, 10 years in the future"

□ from Page 1

Nicholls says he and writing partner Darrell Vickers became involved in 2004 when they were given a Baker script to rewrite. They wrote two half hour scripts which were then picked up by an executive at Jetix Europe. After he left the company the project stalled until the Australian connection brought welcome government funding. With this change in direction the production has moved away from the Los Angeles based writers, and will probably resemble more closely other Australian science fiction themed children's television productions. Full interview available in SFSA 23.

TEN has made science fiction one of its objectives in beginning high definition digital broadcasting, with *Torchwood* and *Battlestar Galactica* two programs which will be moved onto the new service. A TEN spokesperson said the schedule for the new channel was not available at time of writing, and could not comment on the claim that some HD content would not be available otherwise. As noted in their Annual Report for 2007, the HD channel will break from standard TEN programming in December, and the standard definition digital service will do so in 2009. It is not known which channels K9 will be available on, but a July 2008 debut has been suggested.



Picture © Mark Wade

Model of Chinese moon base.

Sky Watch

China shoots for moon

AFTER A DELAY from the planned April launch, Chang'e 1 blasted off on October 24 and was placed in lunar orbit on November 5. The Chinese probe is the first in a lunar exploration program with the stated objective of surveying rare elements such as helium-3 for mining. Chang'e 2 is planned to land on the surface in 2012, and Chang'e 3 is expected to be a soil return mission in 2017.

China surprised the world with a model moon base display at the Hannover Expo in 2000. Despite widespread scepticism about their commitment to such a project they have followed through in a credible fashion. They become the fourth nation to place a satellite in lunar orbit, following the US, Russia and Japan. China has completed two manned space missions and sought admission to the International Space Station program. After the US refused they have been seeking other partners.

Meanwhile Russia has signed a long term moon research and exploitation agreement with India. They propose landing a Russian Lunokhod rover on the surface in 2011 using Indian rockets and launching facilities. This will be followed by seismic stations with the goal of exploring the moon's mineral potential and polar ice deposits.

The US Constellation program seeks to return humans to the moon by 2018. The ESA and Japan both have manned lunar missions planned for the 2020s, and the Lunar X Prize offers \$US 20 million to the first private citizen or consortium to drive a rover 500 meters on the moon's surface.

Preservation Issues

Old tapes home and internet radio

by staff writers

A SEATTLE, WASHINGTON couple say they want to make their audio collection "the Smithsonian of found sound". Amber Kai Morgan and Garrett Kelly's unusual hobby is achieved by purchasing old cassettes through second hand shops, and for the last two years they have been collecting used audio tapes and answering machine microcassettes.

Their collection features mixed musical selections, a recording of an '80s church meeting where the congregation are complaining about the pastor's daughter's behaviour, and unusual answering machine messages.

This dovetails with their internet radio station, Hollow Earth Radio. Their library of tape, 8-tracks and 600,000 vinyl records is claimed to be the "largest record collection on the west coast" of the United States.

Hollow Earth Radio site: <http://www.hollowearthradio.com/>.

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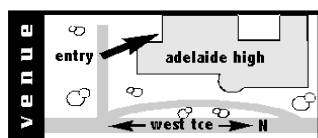
meetings

sfsa: a general science fiction club,
incorporating the **SA Doctor Who Fan Club Inc.**

1ST MEETING FOR NEW AND PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS FREE!

time: 3pm - 10pm **dates:** 3rd Saturday of every month **17/11, 19/1/08, 16/2**
cost: entry fees (to cover room hire): **\$3.00** (members) **\$4.00** (non-members)

General Meetings take place on the 3rd Saturday of every month at **Adelaide High School, West Tce, Adelaide** (except for a special December meeting). We view videos, play games and enjoy the company of others who share the same interests. **Monthly "Pub" Meetings** and **regular movie outings** are also frequently held. For info, please contact the club or check out our website on www.sfsa.org.au.



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Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the contents of the newsletter is accurate at the time of printing, SFSA cannot accept any liability for inaccuracies that may appear. Meeting details are subject to change at short notice.



Club

Publications

Chameleon Factor # 81

Theme: Our Doctor Who year book.

SFSA # 23

Theme: Things we have rejected until now!

Membership

Annual membership rates are \$15.

This entitles you to one year's subscription to the club's publications: bimonthly *The Wall of Lies* and SFSA magazine, and the *Doctor Who* themed yearbook *Chameleon Factor*. Also included are discounted entry fees to SFSA meetings, and discounts at various stores around Adelaide.

Discounts

Pulp Fiction

10% off comics and graphic novels

Known Space Books

10% off *Who* merchandise

Events

November 3 Pub meeting 5.00pm

Venue: The Buckingham Arms

November 17 General meeting 3 to 10pm

Venue: Adelaide High School

Cost: \$3 members/\$4 others

December 1 Pub meeting 5.00pm

Venue: The Buckingham Arms

December 16 Annual Picnic 11am to 4pm

Venue: Botanic Gardens Park near Dequetteville Terrace

January 5 Pub meeting 5.00pm

Venue: The Buckingham Arms

January 19 General meeting 3 to 10pm

Venue: Adelaide High School

Cost: \$3 members/\$4 others

February 2 Pub meeting 5.00pm

Venue: The Buckingham Arms

February 16 General meeting 3 to 10pm

Venue: Adelaide High School

Cost: \$3 members/\$4 others

Archive

1997--1998 SADWFC INC COMMITTEE PROFILES

Name: Blake Spearman

Committee Position: Treasurer

Age: 20

Occupation: Biomedical Engineering

Student (Flinders University)

(Chief Architect of the Cybermen's 5th column here on Earth)

Attributes: Big Fan of Nicholas Tesla (AKA GOD.)

Occasionally weird with a capital 3 (but very, very carefully).

Fav. Doctors: Sylvester McCoy and Peter Davison

Interests: Sci-fi stuff, *Doctor Who*, *Babylon 5*, *Blake's 7* (not biased, honest!), *The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, building own interstellar space craft (pedal powered to preserve environment).

What I would do if I had one million dollars: Build own pedal powered interstellar space craft (with working projected energy weapon).

Name: Jamie Stidiford

Age: 24

Committee Position: General

Fav. Doctor: The One With Hair

Fav. Companion: Ace or Leela - if combined you'd have the almost perfect woman

Hobbies: Watching...

Fav. TV Programs: *Play School*, *Sesame Street*, *Johnson and Friends*, *Red Dwarf*

Fav. Movie: *So I married an Axe Murderer*.

Fav. Who Quote: ArrrrrrrrrH!

Fav. Music The Wiggles/Slayer

What I would do if I had one million dollars: I'd spend it.



The Wall of Lies

Issue 49 December 97/January 98

RUMOURS, BARGAINS AND LIES.

Two sets of rumours about the production of *Doctor Who* have surfaced...The first was that following their successful co-production of *Invasion Earth* with the BBC, the US Sci-Fi Channel had struck a similar production deal with the BBC to make and broadcast new episodes of *Doctor Who*...The other ...was an encore of the animated series rumour...

(No production rumours between 1997 and 2003 were born out until BBC Wales announced the show's return in November of that year, to coincide with its fortieth anniversary.)

Fandom

Starship Mawson Christmas Function

Saturday - November 24

Cafe Primo

Gouger St., Adelaide

Bookings are filling with a limit being placed shortly.

Please contact us soon to book your place.

<http://www.starshipmawson.com/>



The Devil Owns the Digits

Subscription due if
a red dot appears
in this box



Colin Schmidt

One zero one zero zero one one
zero zero one zero. One zero
one zero zero one one zero zero
one zero. One zero one zero
zero one one zero ...

Jackson Tesh switched the power back to OFF. There must have been something catastrophically wrong with the BIOS chip, there was no way he was supposed to be getting readings like that.

Jack had a momentary dark vision of the chip as a sentient, malevolent little creature. He not infrequently had these lapses into an antagonistic relationship with his work environment. He took a deep breath, sighed, and then replaced the chip at quadruple cost. Life was hard.

Switching the power back on, he saw that the platform booted normally. Good. Jack booted it again, this time diverting the process to look at the set up preferences. There was garbage here; he kept finding binary notations, all for the same figure. One one zero. And again. And again.

Jackson indulged in the daydream again. If he had one single characterization for all this stuff that went wrong, it would have to be a nasty little man with a hat and a moustache. Perhaps some sort of super boss type of figure. It had to be some kind of authority, apart from his work as a network technician he knew Information Technology surrounded him and its foibles ruled his life. Take his current job, on site at Information Park.

The Education Department had bought a new super Internet Service Provider philosophy. Instead of having one network per school, each with a common ISP where possible, it had been decided to centralize this endeavor. Now there would be one central server at Information Park. This would lend itself to both security and common access issues. However the Civil Servant who had bought this hadn't likely ever been working at the coalface like Jackson was. For one thing, having such a monolithic one-way network was more fragile than the current model. And an even more devastating strike against it was that the programme chosen to maintain the user interface was easily cracked. Instead of the impervious secure network, the Government had bought a white elephant, which would eventually turn rogue.

All because Singapore was "happy" with the single network system!

Jack methodically returned all the settings to something approximating normal.

If the authorities were so willfully wrong footed in such an obvious but important detail, Jackson wondered what else they did where he couldn't see. All his confidential information could be in the same hands as the Information Park idiot -- indeed, they would be if he or she were high enough in the hierarchy. Being a network engineer showed Jack this. You might be able to stuff up one computer, but to truly foul things up altogether, you need to join up a string of them.

They acted like one entity, they might as well be one mind.

Now Jackson was testing the server software on the machine, and finding the ASCII value for fifty-four repeating endlessly in groups of three.

One one zero one one zero.

Fear consumed Jack as he read the result. What was it with these damn sixes?

Unbidden, Jack's personification of IT evil leered at him from the depths of his paranoia.

The nasty little man took off his hat to show his horns.

The screen cracked. Flame spurted from the vents. A hideous smell of burnt meat and molten plastics spread out through the air conditioner all over the Park.

One zero one zero zero one one
zero zero one zero.

But Jackson Tesh had been a bad network servant and he went to digital hell.

*The End
Originally in SFSA 7*

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