

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#444

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May 2010



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFazine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

Thursday 13 May @ 7 PM:

May Book Discussion at the Grind Gallery & Café, 4124 Main Street and King Edward Avenue, Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *The Fifth Sacred Thing* by Starhawk.—[Doug Finnerty](#)

Friday 14 May:

'BCSFazine' deadline—see Felicity's contact information in the indicia above.

Sunday 16 May @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton (Recreation Room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions.

Friday 28 May:

'BCSFazine' production.

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
Brad Foster.....	Cover
Mike Sullivan.....	Page 2
Mark Gruenwald/Greg Capullo/Harry Candelario/Janice Chiang.....	Page 3
Clip art.....	Pages 4, 5, 7, 8 (top), 9, 12, 13, 14, 18, 20, 22, 37
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Alan Moore/Dave Gibbons.....	Page 33

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

From: **Lloyd Penney**
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12 April 2010

Dear Felicity:

Thank you for issue 443 of *BCSFAzine*. Life has turned upside down for the better, and I couldn't be happier. At Easter, just last weekend, I finally was able to tell everyone that I had been nominated for a Hugo Award in the category of Best Fan Writer.

[*Congratulations!*]

Myself, I'd been told two weeks earlier, and it was really tough to not tell anyone for that length of time. We shall all find out my fate when the Hugos are awarded this coming September. This ties in with my Aurora nomination, and we'll find that out in May. So, while life goes mildly insane for the next few months, I shall stick to what I know, and write a loc.

Ad Astra 2010 finished up just yesterday, and it was a great time. Good attendance, lots of pros, lots of special events and old friends. Yvonne and I made the decision that after 29 years of being on the committee (mostly on, once or twice off), we have retired. There may be other conrunning opportunities later on, but we have decided to say goodbye to the Ad Astra committee. 29 years is a long time, and any convention will change over the years, as have we. Time to seek out other challenges...Yvonne is attending school to become a law clerk (never too late for a career change), and I find I must spend more time on jobhunting in order to stay employed.

John Purcell's loc...the Olympics were great, and a source of national pride that is still there for many. The US men's hockey team almost got us, but we fought back for gold. We also had a good time beating Norway for curling gold, and that carried on this past weekend for the men's world curling championships. What happened to all the giant inflatable beavers from the closing ceremonies, anyway? I am still shaking my head over that Michael Bublé number. John Hertz won DUFF, so he will represent us in Australia.

I see the theme to VCon 35 will be steampunk. So many cons are taking a shot at steampunk, and specialty conventions for steampunk are springing up everywhere...everywhere but here, it seems. CanCon is being revived this coming August in Ottawa, and its focus will be steampunk, too. Even Disneyland will be converting part of the park to what it calls the Mechanical Kingdom, and the release has an illustration of all the main Disney characters in steampunk attire. Does this mean corporate acceptance and recognition of steampunk, or does it mean it is now officially dead?

[It means that they should produce an animated short titled Steampunk Mickey!]

At the end of my letter, I said that that letter (and this one, too) would go off to you, and to my LJ. I have been archiving my locs on my LJ for close to three years now, but some on the Trufen list have just now noticed, and have flamed me for daring

to “publish” my locs before the fanned they are intended for can do so. Having other comments on the loc via LJ before its fanzine publication makes the situation worse, in their opinion. All I intended to do is archive my letters, and I thought that comments on my LJ-archived letters created a whole new level of fanac. Does this practice bother or offend you? If it does, please let me know. I’m not doing this to irritate anyone, but to simply archive my letters.

[To quote SCTV, “It don’t bother me none!”]

I have downloaded the VCon 35 PR1, and more than ever, I wish I could come out and join you. We’re having some fun out here with steampunk Facebook groups in Hamilton and Toronto, and we are looking into the idea of a steampunk convention here.

[We need to start LYFF, the Lloyd & Yvonne Fan Fund, so you can come to VCONs.]

I will save comments on Dr. Guess-It-All’s explorations of dubious science for the first issue of *Corruscating Conundrums*. Looks like it’s been a lot of fun, and science may never look the same again.

To Danielle Stephens, thank you for the clarification on bidding for any large rotational convention. I had even heard something about a Vancouver Worldcon bid some time ago, but that may have been wishful thinking and hoping for a busier future. Any project takes a lot of effort, a lot of like-minded people and a lot of money. I know Toronto doesn’t have that right now, so I doubt there will ever again be a Worldcon bid out of this city. That may change, but not in my time.

I think this will be it...again, let me know if archiving my locs online is okay with you, and see you next issue.

[It’s OK with me. :-)]

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

From: **Sheryl Birkhead**
125509 Jonnie Court,
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
USA

16 April 2010



Okay...okay...I know late is one thing, but this is ridiculous. I cart around zines that need a reply and (eventually) get to them. I kept postponing *BCSFazine* because all I see in the stack are January (ulp!) and April. I kept hoping the other issues would show up. Now, I’d better do something and deal with other issues as they show up.

Still and ever two more covers by the ever present Brad Foster—always pleasures to see.

I requested the supporting package again from Anticipation. They kindly sent it (said they had sent one right after the con—never got it)—nothing beyond the basics—I was hoping for some goodies beyond the program book but hey—I'll take what I can get.



The digital converters still continue to do creative interfacing with the VCRs. For a few months things went fairly well. *Then*—after the current outage that fried my desktop computer, the programming looked fine—but the programs actually taped seem to be random!!! I am over 36 tapes behind and only now realize I have a *lot* of unused programs to scan. Yesterday I simply re-did *all* the programming to see if that solves the problem—*um...er*—now how long will it take for me to remember to check a current tape and see...?

Congratulations to all the Hugo nominees.

The new computer has compatibility issues with (ahem) *all* my hardware *and* software. I am *still* trying to get things sorted out. Each day brings more surprises (*never* good) and more things I need to *buy*. Given enough

time either I'll figure out/buy solutions, or Mac will come up with patches, but it appears to be a long and bumpy *road*—so *scrawl* it is.

Which way is progress?? Right now I don't *know*!

Sheryl

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

BIONIC SIX
THE POOCH POLE
THE NEW MONKEES
BUBBLE TAPE COMMERCIALS
THE INCREDIBLE CRASH DUMMIES
FULL MOON VIDEO ZONE
RAPPING MCNUGGETS
KNIGHT RIDER 2000
THEXDER

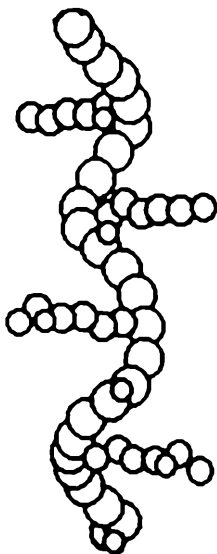
Calendar

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated URL. Links included in the PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/>.

May 2010

May is Creative Beginnings Month, Get Caught Reading Month, Jewish American Heritage Month, National Photo Month, National Barbecue Month, and National Hamburger Month.

1 May 2010: Free Comic Book Day at participating comic book shops. Free Comic Book Day is the first Saturday in May each year when participating comic book shops give away comic books absolutely free to anyone who comes into their stores. Unclear what stores are participating because FCBD website apparently only lists stores that have paid an extra fee to be listed. If a comic store isn't listed below, phone them and ask if they are participating. Participating local stores listed on FCBD site: Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond, (604) 273-4427; The Connection Games & Accessories, 8283 Granville Street, Vancouver, (604) 261-4588; Comic Land, 3845 Rupert Street, Vancouver, (604) 437-4545; The Comicshop, 2089 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver, (604) 738-8122; RX Comics, 2418 Main Street, Vancouver, (604) 454-5099; Elfsar Comics & Toys, 1007 Hamilton Street, Vancouver, (604) 688-5922; Tazmanian Comic Connection, 4702 East Hastings Street, Burnaby, (604) 298-6208; Gotham Collectibles, 4853 Imperial Street, Burnaby, (604) 434-4684 (GOTH); Central City Comics Co., 10221 King George Highway, Surrey; Cyber Comics and Toys, 14473 19A Avenue, Surrey, (604) 617-6399; Grey Haven Hobbies, 1289-A Johnston Road, White Rock, (604) 535-5051; Haney Books, 22330 Dewdney Trunk Road, Maple Ridge, (604) 467-4913; Toy Traders, 19888 Langley Bypass, Langley, (604) 532-9516. The local *Star Wars* costume group "501st Legion, Outerrim Squad, Badlands Garrison" is planning on participating at local comic shops: The Comicshop, 12 PM–2 PM; Golden Age Collectibles, 852 Granville Street, Vancouver, 3 PM–5 PM. * Elfsar Comics & Toys: 5 comics/person, 10 or more with donation to the Vancouver Food Bank. Guests: Camilla D'Errico 2–5 PM, Diana Greenhalgh 2–4 PM, Steve Rolston 12–2 PM, Toren Atkinson 4–6 PM. Publisher: Jeff Ellis—Cloudscape Comics, Kevin Lesson—Critical Hit Comics. Costumed attractions: Adam Harlow—Deadpool, Brian Milne—Gambit, Brianna Equality Lake—Ariel, David Ingram—Superman, Fiona Glendinning—Dark Phoenix, Heath Horejda—Batman, Lee Mckeown—Black Widow, Melissa Franklin—Jubilee, Reva Dawn—Jean Grey as Marvel Girl, Ryan Doell—Cyclops or Iron Fist. Raffle prizes/donations: 1× *Iron Man* movie theater display with poster, 2× Octopus Girl



prints, 1× *Star Wars* power FX Darth Vader lightsaber, 1× T2 T-800 endoskeleton die cast figure silver version, 2× tickets to see the advance screening of *Iron Man 2* on May 5th. * Cloudscape Comics: giving away free copies of *Funday Sunnies* at select locations and selling copies of *Exploded View* at Taz, RX, Elfsar, Comic Central, and Central City Comics. * BC Browncoats (*Firefly*/*Serenity* fans) are planning a Comic Book Crawl. Free Comic Book Day 2010 Comic List: *Archies Summer Splash* #1, *Artifacts: First Look*, *Atomic Robo*, *Bongo: Free-for-All*, *DC Kids Mega-Sampler*, *Del Rey Showcase*, *Doctor Solar/Magnus*, *Fearless Dawn*, *Fractured Fables*, *Freedom Formula: Speed Metal*, *GI Joe* #155½, *Green Hornet* #1, *Iron Man: Supernova*, *Iron Man/Thor*, *Irredeemable* #1, *John Stanley Library*, *Lan-yards*, *Library of American Comics* #0, *Love & Capes* #13, *Mouse Guard/Fraggle Rock*, *Oni Press: Free-for-All*, *Overstreet Guide*, *Owly & Friends*, *Radical: Bigger Books*, *S.E. Hinton/Fame*, *Shrek & the Penguins*, *Sixth Gun* #1, *Sonic the Hedgehog*, *Stuff of Legend/Mortal Instruments Preview*, *Tick* #1, *Toy Story*, *War of the Supermen* #0, *Weathercraft*, *Worlds of Aspen*. Marvel HeroClix: War Machine Figure.—Keith Lim, Julian Castle



1 May 2010: Beltane. May Day. International Workers' Day. Lei Day. Birthday of Canadian writer E. Mayne Hull, UFO investigator Dr. J. Allen Hynek, *Star Trek* (TOS) writer/director John Meredyth Lucas, Canadian comics artist Win Mortimer, actor Dan O'Herlihy, comics artist Alex Niño, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Stephen Macht, *Doctor Who* actress Joanna Lumley, writer/director/producer John Woo, musician Ray Parker, Jr., Canadian author Joel Rosenberg, cartoonist Phil Foglio, comics artist Tim Sale, and director/writer Wes Anderson.

1–2 May 2010: 5th Annual Boardgaming for Diabetes, Saturday 10 AM–Sunday 6 PM, Royal City Curling Club, 75 East 6th Avenue, New Westminster. Tickets: \$30 weekend, \$20 Saturday, \$15 Sunday, family/couple weekend \$50. Available at local game stores. <http://www.facebook.com/DiabetesGaming>.—Keith Lim

2 May 2010: Hug a Trans-Person Day.—Emily Sors

2 May 2010: “Celebrate Richmond’s Literary Arts and Support Local Writers!” Performance, 1:30–4:00 PM, Richmond City Hall, Council Chambers. “Show your support for local writers and poets! We are presenting a literary event with the City’s annual Doors Open festival on Sunday, May 2nd, from 1:30 to 4 PM in the beautiful Council Chambers! Free public performances by award-winning writers, poets, and playwrights, featuring: Joanne Arnott, Bill Marles, Laurel Beauprie, Devina Bahadoorsingh, Alan Hill, Jamie Reid, and Wil George. Snacks and chapbooks available.”—Devina Bahadoorsingh

2 May 2010: *Doctor Who*: “Flesh and Stone” and Classic *Who* at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. Meetup at La Fontana to view some classics

of *Doctor Who* and also the next episode of season 5: “Flesh and Stone.”—[Keith Lim](#)

2 May 2010: Birthday of author E.E. “Doc” Smith, comics/animation artist Doug Wildey, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Theodore Bikel, actor Roscoe Lee Browne, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor John Neville, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Lance LeGault, writer/actor/musician/producer Lorenzo Music, *Doctor Who* actor Paul Darrow, cartoonist Howard Cruse, actress Christine Baranski, cartoonist Jerry Scott, Canadian animation director/producer Alan Best, comics artist Debbie David, *Star Trek (TOS)/The Next Generation* actor Brian Tochi, comics artist Ryan Brown, wrestler Ray (Big Bossman) Traylor, wrestler/*Star Trek: Voyager* actor Dwayne (The Rock) Johnson, and comics writer Glenn Herdling.



3 May 2010: Discoflux. World Press Freedom Day. Lumpy Rug Day. 32nd anniversary of first spam e-mail (from Gary Thuerk to every ARPANET address). Birthday of comics artist John Cullen Murphy, cartoonist Mel Lazarus, comics writer/editor Dennis O’Neil, Canadian magician Doug Henning, actor Chris Mulkey, comics writer/artist Bill Sienkiewicz, author/comedian Ben Elton, cartoonist/writer/ animator Joe Murray, comics writer Chris Ulm, and comics/animation artist Harrison Fong.



4 May 2010: *Star Wars* Day #1 (“May the fourth be with you”). Renewal Day. Birthday of comics artist Nestor Redondo, wrestler Harry (Mr. Fuji) Fujiwara, comics artist Wayne Reid, voice actor Sean Barrett, novelist Robin Cook, comics artist John Ridgway, cartoonist Doug Cushman, artist Keith Haring, comics artist Damon Willis, cartoonist Tom Richmond, writer/comedian/actor/musician Julian Barratt, Canadian actor Will Arnett, and webcomics writer/artist Shaenon K. Garrity.

5 May 2010: “[Robert J. Sawyer reading and book launch](#) for *Watch*, book two of the WWW trilogy that started with *Wake*. Held at the Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia St., in the Alma VanDusen room on the lower level. Bookseller is White Dwarf Books. From 7:30–9:00 PM.”—[Carolyn Clink](#)

5 May 2010: [First annual Canadian Videogame and Digital Arts Awards](#) at Vancouver Convention Centre, Ballroom D, 1055 Canada Place, Vancouver, BC. Reception at 7 PM. Awards at 8 PM. “Tickets probably expensive (availability unknown). The show will also be broadcast across the country on G4 Canada.” Musical talent VideoGames Live!—[Julian Castle](#), [Keith Lim](#)

5 May 2010: VSteam: Lords and Ladies Masquerade Ball, 7–11 PM, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. Vancouver Steampunks (VSteam) is hosting a steampunk masquerade ball as a benefit for the BC Ride to Conquer Cancer. All of the proceeds from this charity ball will be donated to the BC Cancer foundation through the Ride to Conquer. DJ Spaz, live musical guest: Corset, prize auctions. \$15 through VSteam, \$20 at door.—Keith Lim

5 May 2010: Cloudscape Workshop, 7:30 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim



5 May 2010: National Hoagie Day. Birthday of *Star Trek: The Next Generation* writer Joseph Stefano, comics writer Greg, comics artist Stan Goldberg, *Doctor Who* composer Delia Derbyshire, *Doctor Who* actor Ian McCulloch, actor Lance Henriksen, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine* actor Marc Alaimo, writer/actor/comedian Michael Palin, *Star Trek: Voyager* actor John Rhys-Davies, actor Roger Rees, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Kahn* actor Nicholas Guest, *Doctor Who* actor Richard E. Grant, writer Josh Weinstein, comics artist Adam Hughes, and Canadian voice actor Noam Zylberman.

6 May 2010: Guy Gavriel Kay at White Dwarf Books, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, 7 PM.

6 May 2010: Video Games Live, 7:30 PM, Queen Elizabeth Theatre, 600 Block Hamilton Street, Vancouver. Video Games Live is a multimedia concert experience featuring the best music and exclusive synchronized video clips from the most popular games from the beginning of video gaming to the present, performed by top orchestras and choirs. \$27.50 to \$69.50. [Ticketmaster/Facebook](#).—Keith Lim

6 May 2010: *Iron Man 2*—Midnight Premiere with FanFairFest, 11:55 PM at Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver. Join FanFairFest for the special midnight showing of *Iron Man 2*. Be among the first to see the film, and get a chance to win FanFairFest weekend passes. Tickets: adults \$10, students \$8, children/seniors \$7.—Keith Lim

6 May 2010: International No Diet Day. Beverage Day. Birthday of typographer Stanley Morison, director/writer/*Transformers* actor Orson Welles, comics writer David Michelinie, producer/musician/actor Ross Bagdasarian, Jr., comics artist Dennis Jensen, and actress Dana Hill.

6–7 May 2010: Game Developers Conference Canada at Vancouver Convention Centre, Vancouver, BC. Passes \$149–895.—Julian Castle

7 May 2010: Premiere of film *Iron Man 2* (superhero/comics). International Space Day. Paste Up Day. Birthday of *Doctor Who* actor Valentine Dyall, director Ishirō

Honda, actor Darren McGavin, director/producer Albert Band, writer Gene Wolfe, cartoonist Tony Auth, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine/Voyager/Enterprise* actor John Fleck, comics writer/artist Michael T. Gilbert, comics artist Vince Musacchia, cartoonist Philippe Geluck, actor Ned Bellamy, *Doctor Who* writer/fan Craig Hinton, wrestler Owen Hart, and author Elf Sternberg.

8 May 2010: SCBWI Canada West (Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators, Western Canada Chapter) announces its second annual conference, West-CWIC 2010 (Western Canada Children's Writers & Illustrators Conference), 9:00 AM to 6:00 PM at the Holiday Inn Express in Metrotown in Burnaby. Guest speakers include Meg Tilly (*Gemma*), David J. Smith (*If the World Were a Village*), and Nan Gregory (*How Smudge Came*); editors Jared Hunt and Crystal Stranaghan (Gumboot Books), R. David Stephans (Tradewind Books), and Valerie Wyatt (Kids Can Press); agent Sally Harding (The Cooke Agency); and illustrator Scot Ritchie (*Follow That Map*). Pitch sessions with Sally Harding and manuscript consultations with the editors are available. Details available at <http://www.scbwicanada.org/west/> or contact Ken Kilback, Regional Advisor, at rawest@scbwicanada.org.—*Burnaby Writers Society Newsletter*

8 May 2010: Sin City Heroes and Villains Fetish Night at Club 23 West, 9:00 PM–3:00 AM, 23 West Cordova, Vancouver. Photo booth by Atratus of gothic.bc.ca. DJs are R-Lex, Minion Manos & Micky Moniker. A themed outfit isn't necessary, but highly encouraged. Strict fetish dress code: absolutely no street or casual wear.—Aaron Harrison

8 May 2010: Iris Day. Birthday of voice actor Arthur Q. Bryan, animator/producer/director/puppeteer Bob Clampett, artist Touko (Tom of Finland) Laaksonen, *Doctor Who* actor John Bennett, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine* actress Salome Jens, novelist Thomas Pynchon, comics artist Jean (Moebius) Giraud, artist/author Ron Miller, actor Stephen Furst, and Canadian actor Jeff Wincott.



9 May 2010: Mother's Day. Lost Sock Memorial Day. National Train Day. 55th anniversary of first televised Muppet. Birthday of comics writer/psychologist William Moulton Marston, novelist Richard Adams, author William Tenn, cartoonist/writer/artist Barbara Slate, comics writer/editor Murray R. Ward, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Benjamin W.S. Lum, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Kevin Peter Hall, Canadian actress Wendy Crewson, Canadian comics writer/artist Ty Templeton, and Canadian actor Chris Diamantopoulos.

10 May 2010: Clean Up Your Room Day. 57th birthday of comics character John Constantine. Birthday of author Olaf Stapledon, cartoonist V.T. Hamlin, comics artist Alex Schomburg, *Doctor Who* writer Terrance Dicks, voice actor/broadcaster Gary Owens, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actress Meg Foster, video game creator Yu Suzuki, author/journalist/filmmaker Jon Ronson, author John Scalzi, and actor/comedian Kenan Thompson.



11 May 2010: Eat What You Want Day. Twilight Zone Day. Birthday of Canadian comics artist Ed Furness, broadcaster/*Transformers* actor Terence McGovern, comics writer/publisher Mike Curtis, minicomics writer/artist Matt Feazell, comics writer/artist Nick Burns, Canadian comics artist Sandy Carruthers, and wrestler Billy Kidman.

12 May 2010: Valinor, A Vancouver J.R.R. Tolkien Monthly Meetup, 7 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group.] Meet several of the organizers of Valinor to learn about continuing events (such as the Reading Group and RPG) and events to come in the future. \$2.—Keith Lim

12 May 2010: Cloudscape Workshop, 7:30 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

12 May 2010: International Nurses Day. Limerick Day. Receptionist Day. Birthday of author/screenwriter Leslie Charteris, comics artist/ animator Tony Strobl, *Doctor Who* voice actor Royce Mills, writer/editor Catherine Yronwode, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Voyager/Enterprise* actor Richard Riehle, cartoonist Tom Armstrong, writer/actor Bruce Boxleitner, comics artist Neil Vokes, comics historian/writer Scott Deschaine, and Canadian voice actor Robert Tinkler.

13 May 2010: Book Launch: *Second Childhood*, by Donna McMahon, 4–6 PM, Lifestyles Restaurant, City Square Shopping Centre, 555 West 12th Avenue, Vancouver. Book launch for Donna McMahon's *Second Childhood*, the sequel to *Dance of Knives*. Food and drink available at the bar.—Keith Lim

13 May 2010: Leprechaun Day. Birthday of writer Roger Zelazny, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Sam Anderson, comics/TV/*Transformers* writer Marv Wolfman, novelist Stephen R. Donaldson, writer/director/voice actor Kirk Thornton, actor/comedian/writer/host/satirist Stephen Colbert, and comics artist Andrew Pepoy.

14 May 2010: Trumpeter Games Night, Bonsor Recreation Complex (by Metro-town), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

14 May 2010: Premiere of film *Robin Hood* (folklore). Dance Like a Chicken Day. Birthday of *Doctor Who* voice actress Ysanne Churchman, writer Herbert W. Franke, voice actor Michael Chevalier, producer/director/writer George Lucas, writer/director/producer/musician/artist David Byrne, writer/director/producer Robert Zemeckis, comics writer Bob Wayne, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actress Faith Minton, and wrestler Steve (Dr. Death) Williams.

14–15 May 2010: UFOFest, 11th Annual UFO Festival, in McMinnville, OR at McMenamins Hotel Oregon. UFO speakers (James Clarkson, Colin Andrews, Travis Walton, Budd Hopkins, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, Stanton T. Friedman, Peter Robbins, Dr. Roger Leir, Peter Davenport, Dr. Jesse Marcel, Jr., Dr. David M. Jacobs, Terry Halstead, Richard Dolan, Robert Nichol, Linda Moulton Howe, Kathleen Marden), costume parade, live music, childrens' programming. [Ticket info.](#)—[Garth Spencer](#)

14–16 May 2010: Twilight Convention, Sheraton Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver. "Creation Entertainment's official Twilight Convention 2010 features guest stars from the film, programming, panels and events, themed parties, autographs and photo ops, live musical performances and more. Guests: Catherine Hardwicke, Kellan Lutz, Bronson Pelletier, Kiowa Gordon, Charlie Bewley. Gold weekend package \$269."—[Keith Lim](#)

15 May 2010: Saturday Morning Cartoon Party VII. 11:10 AM–3:10 PM, VIVO Media Arts Centre, 1965 Main Street, Vancouver. "For kids of all ages. Yes, there are bean bags! Remember being a kid, getting up early on Saturday with a bowl of Cookie Crisp and watching *Smurfs*, *Transformers*, and *Battle of the Planets*? Second Level Wizards is proud to announce the return of the Saturday Morning Cartoon Party, in which you can relive those memories. Starting at 11:10 on Saturday May 15 at VIVO Media Arts Centre on Main St. (@ 4th Ave.) we'll be showing classic TV fare from the '70s, '80s, and elsewhere along with bowls of Frankenberry, Cap'n Crunch, Trix, and all your other cartoon-mascotted cereals. After a healthy dose of nostalgic toons, we'll be screening a classic feature-length animated film: *Transformers: The Movie* (1986). What cartoons will we be showing? You'll have to show up to find out, but previous guests know that we've shown *Scooby Doo*, *Popeye*, *Bugs Bunny*, 1940s *Superman*, NFB's *Log Driver's Waltz*, and many many others. Plus we'll have contemporary commercials and PSAs. Don't drown your food! Cereal is not included with admission. Bring your own bowl to get \$1 off cereal, otherwise it's \$4/bowl. As always we'll supply organic vegan lactose-free options." [Second Level Wizards/VIVO.](#)—Toren Atkinson/[Keith Lim](#)

15 May 2010: National Chocolate Chip Day. National Sea Monkey Day. Birthday of author L. Frank Baum, broadcaster/*Transformers* actor Regis Cordic, cartoonist Ralph Steadman, comics artist John Fantucchio, actress/musician Lainie Kazan, actor Nicholas Hammond, comics artist/publisher Gary Leach, microcomics artist Paul Curtis, wrestler Ron (Faarooq) Simmons, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* director/voice actor Rob Bowman, and RPG artist/designer Jeff Dee.

16 May 2010: 17th anniversary of premiere of *Wild Palms*. Birthday of actor George Gaynes, *Star Trek* (TOS) actress Yvonne Craig, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Bill Smitrovich, 3D comics author/artist Ray Zone, cartoonist Chris Browne, *James Bond* actor Pierce Brosnan, comics writer Henry Vogel, Canadian comics writer/artist Chester Brown, comics letterist/inker Chuck Maly, and wrestler Charles (Papa Shango/The Godfather) Wright.

17 May 2010: International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia. Pack Rat Day. Birthday of *Doctor Who* actor Tenniel Evans, comics writer/editor George Kashdan, author F. Paul Wilson, comics writer/artist/publisher Dave Sim, comics writer/artist Chris Ecker, musician Enya, comics writer/fan Malcolm Bourne, wrestler Alex (Berlyn) Wright, and comics artist Steve Geiger.

18 May 2010: **Jade Honeywill's** birthday. International Museum Day. 113th anniversary of publication of *Dracula*. Birthday of comics writer/artist Bill Everett, *Doctor Who* actor John Abineri, author Fred Saberhagen, cartoonist Don Martin, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Enterprise* actor Andreas Katsulas, composer/musician/artist Mark Mothersbaugh, author Diane Duane, comics artist Arthur Suydam, comics artist James W. Fry, comics inker James L. Sanders III, writer/comedian/actress Tina Fey, and comics artist Alan Kupperberg.

AVENGERS DAY

19 May 2010: Avengers Day—Earth's Mightiest Retailers Assemble! Participating retailers (TBA) will celebrate the dawn of the Heroic Age with promotional items, including a variant of *Avengers* #1 (by Brian Michael Bendis and John Romita, Jr.) with a blank cover so you can be the cover artist.

19 May 2010: **Michael Bertrand's** birthday. Birthday of actor Peter Mayhew, wrestler André (The Giant) Roussimoff, *James Bond* actress/musician/model Grace Jones, comics writer/artist Frank Albanese, comics writer/artist Reggie Byers, wrestler Dionicio (Psicosis) Torres, and Canadian voice actress Kelly Sheridan.

20 May 2010: 35th anniversary of *Star Trek* (TAS) winning a Daytime Emmy Award. Birthday of comics writer Gardner Fox, *Doctor Who* writer John Lucarotti, *James Bond* actor David Hedison, *James Bond/Star Trek: Insurrection* actor Anthony Zerbe, author/fan Roy Tackett, comics letterist Gail Beckett, Canadian writer/comedian/actor/director Dave Thomas, actor Bronson Pinchot, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Matt McCoy, fan/musician/*Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* actress Jane Wiedlin, *Star Trek: Enterprise* actor John Billingsley, musician/cartoonist Alan D. Oldman/Oldham, and comics artist Al Bigley.

21 May 2010: IPMS Vancouver (A Club for the Scale Modeler) meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM, Bonsor Recreation Complex, second floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.

21 May 2010: Premiere of films *Shrek Forever After* (animated/fantasy/comedy) and *MAcGruber [sic]* (parody/adventure). National Waiters and Waitresses Day. National Memo Day. Birthday of writer Manly Wade Wellman, cartoonist Don Trachte, comics artist Frank Bellamy, New Westminsterite actor Raymond Burr, comics artist Lee Elias, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Richard Libertini, senator/comedian/writer/actor/broadcaster Al Franken, actor/wrestler Laurence (Mr. T) Tureaud, producer/musician/actress Janice Karman, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Ben Lemon, comics writer/editor/publisher Gary Reed, Canadian wrestler Chris Benoit, actress Fairuza Balk, and comics letterist/colorist Nansi Hoolahan.



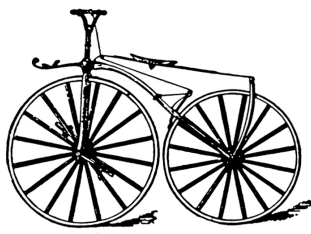
21–24 May 2010: Keycon 26/Convention in Winnipeg, MB at Radisson Inn Downtown. Memberships currently \$40. GOH: Convention Julie Czerneda; media Andee Frizzell; author S.M. Stirling; artist Kari Ann Anderson. MCs: Liana & Steven Kerzner (AKA Ed & Red). Guests: musicians The Great Luke Ski, Worm Quartet, Devo Spice; authors Nalo Hopkinson, Hayden Trenholm, Robert J. Sawyer, Edward Willett; editor Sheila Gilbert; fans René Walling, Robbie Bourget.—Garth Spencer

21–23 May 2010: Otafest. University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 1N4, special-events@otafest.com. “Experience the wild side of Asia! Chopsticks not included.” Guests: voice actor/writer/director Todd Haberkorn, voice actress Michelle Ruff, *VGCats* artist Scott Ramsomair, improv comedy groups The 404s and Synaptic Chaos Theatre, percussionists Midnight Taiko, iaido performers Dave Rathnow & Shin Ken Kai Nobara, video game nostalgia rock band THWOMP, and anime cover band Pinku Polkadotsu (FKA Over 9000). Now accepting entries for AMV contest.—Garth Spencer

‘Doctor Who’ Episodes We’ve Watched Recently

“The Twin Dilemma”
“Attack of the Cybermen”
“Vengeance on Varos”

22 May 2010: International Day for Biological Diversity. Buy a Musical Instrument Day. 30th anniversary of release of arcade game *Pac-Man*. Birthday of comics writer/artist Hergé, producer Quinn Martin, *Star Trek* (TAS) animation artist/designer Carol Lundberg, director/producer/actor Richard Benjamin, *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*/*Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Paul Winfield, Canadian *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Michael Sarrazin, comics artist Carlos Garzón, musician Morrissey, and wrestler Brian Pillman.



THE "BONESHAKER,"

22–23 May 2010: Victoria Steam Exposition, Fairmont Empress, Victoria. “‘Being a Celebration and Exhibition of Steampunk Art & Culture.’ Guest of Honour: Cherie Priest (*Boneshaker*), Musical Guest: Unwoman, Film Guest: Ryan Copple (*Riese*). Steampunk film festival including *Whisps of Steam*, short film contest, art exhibit, costume contests & prizes. Weekend pass: \$40, children 13 & under free with paying adult.”—Keith Lim

23 May 2010: *Lost* series finale party, 6 PM, La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. Come together for one last night to see how the six-year *Lost* journey will end...and get even more lost? Tentative ideas: costume awards, decorations, themed food and drinks, and some to-go prizes. Battlestar Galactica Fan Club/Star Trek Vancouver.—Keith Lim

23 May 2010: World Turtle Day. Lucky Penny Day. 22nd anniversary of release of single “Doctorin’ the TARDIS” by the Timelords. Birthday of musician/*Transformers* actor Scatman Crothers, *Star Trek* author James Blish, writer/*Star Trek* (TOS) actress Joan Collins, electronic music pioneer Robert Moog, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* actor Alex Henteloff, comics artist John Bolton, and comedian/actor H. Jon Benjamin.

24 May 2010: Victoria Day. Birthday of cartoonist Irwin Caplan, comics artist/editor Carmine Infantino, typographer Adrian Frutiger, *Doctor Who* actress Fiona Walker, *Doctor Who* actor Jim Broadbent, author Michael Chabon, comics writer/publisher Everette Hartsoe, *Ladnerite Doctor Who* actor Will Sasso, writer/journalist/game author/critic Ben “Yahtzee” Croshaw, and writer/editor/producer of comics/zines/video games Evan Skolnick.

25 May 2010: “All together now: ‘I Am a BC Browncoat!’,” 7 PM, La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. “Browncoats: Redemption has issued a challenge: ‘Are you a Browncoat? Let your voice be heard.’ Recording a group video for uploading.” Meetup/Facebook.—Keith Lim

25 May 2010: “Celebrate ‘Towel Day’ with your peeps,” 7:15 PM, La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. “Towel Day is celebrated every May 25 as a tribute by fans of the late, famous, science fiction author Douglas Adams. Watching *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy* (2005).” [Meetup/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

25 May 2010: Towel Day. Geek Pride Day. *Star Wars* Day #2 (anniversary of release of original *Star Wars* film). Birthday of Canadian novelist Phyllis Gotlieb, photographer/minicomics publisher Clay Geerdes, actor Ian McKellen, director/puppeteer/actor Frank Oz, writer Bob Gale, comics writer/artist/letterist Stan Sakai, comics artist Sal Velluto, cartoonist Marc Hempel, comics publisher Terry Nantier, comedian/writer/actor Julian Clary, Canadian writer/comedian/actor/producer Mike Myers, cartoonist/editor Bud Rogers, author Poppy Z. Brite, actor/comedian/rapper Jamie Kennedy, and Canadian author Nicole Luiken.

26 May 2010: Birthday of *Doctor Who* actor Peter Cushing, writer/fan Howard DeVore, comics artist E. Silas Smith, writer/animatoer/producer David H. DePatie, comics artist/writer Herb Trimpe, actor/comedian Joe Alaskey, comics colorist Marcus David, comics colorist Rachelle Menashe, comics writer/artist James Kochalka, and cartoonist Raina Telgemeier.



27 May 2010: Sunscreen Protection Day. Birthday of actor Vincent Price, actor Christopher Lee, *Doctor Who* writer Peter Ling, comics writer/artist Manfred Sommer, *Star Trek* (TOS) writer Harlan Ellison, Canadian comics artist George Freeman, storyboard artist Louis Scarborough, Jr., comics writer/artist/editor/publisher Mark Wheatley, wrestling promoter Eric Bischoff, comics writer Charles Santino, musician Siouxsie Sioux, actress/scream queen/producer Linnea Quigley, and comics letterist Carrie Spiegle.

28 May 2010: Premiere of film *Prince of Persia: The Sands of Time* (fantasy/video game). Birthday of *James Bond* author Ian Fleming, Canadian writer/comedian/actor Johnny Wayne, *Doctor Who/Rocky Horror Picture Show* actress Patricia Quinn, Canadian cartoonist Lynn Johnston, *Transformers* voice actor Townsend Coleman, author Geoffrey A. Landis, comics writer Charles Marshall, comics artist Chad Hunt, voice actor Liam O’Brien, comics writer Geoffrey White, and wrestling announcer Jeremy Borash.



Peek-a-Boo



28–29 May 2010: Write On, Vancouver: The Mini-Conference for Fiction Writers. Presented by Romance Writers of America®, Greater Vancouver Chapter. Kwantlen Polytechnic University, Richmond Campus, 8771 Lansdowne Road, Richmond, BC. Special Guest Keynote Speaker Laura Resnick, award-winning fantasy, romance, and short fiction author, past president of Novelists, Inc., a popular columnist and public speaker, and author of the highly acclaimed: *Rejection, Romance, & Royalties: The Wacky World of a Working Writer*. Workshops: Laura Resnick—Story Development and 20 Questions, An Interactive Industry Q&A; Eileen Cook—

Pitch Perfect; Terri Smolar—Building Your Brand: What Every Writer Should Know About Developing a Media Presence; Nancy Warren—The Conflict's in the Character...and the Character's in the Conflict. Industry Panel and Editor Appointments: Martin Biro—Kensington Publishing; Johanna Raisanen—Harlequin/Silhouette; Leanne Salter—Cobblestone Press. Registration Information: regular bookings from April 1: members \$130; non members \$160. For all registration information and bookings please contact Sally Collins at sallycollins@shaw.ca. Promo Opportunity: We welcome promo items from authors. For more information, contact sallycollins@shaw.ca.—*Burnaby Writers Society Newsletter*

28–31 May 2010: Miscon 24 in Missoula, MT at Ruby's Inn. MisCon, P.O. Box 7721, Missoula, MT 59807, (406) 544-7083. GOH: author Harry Turtledove, artist Sarah Clemens, filker Eben Brooks.—Garth Spencer

29 May 2010: International Jazz Day. Birthday of author T.H. White, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Kevin Conway, Canadian actor Nick Mancuso, comics writer/artist Larry Marder, composer/musician Danny Elfman, comics writer/editor Jim Salicrup, actor Adrian Paul, and wrestler Dylan (Hornswoggle) Postl.

30 May 2010: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM–5 PM, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver. Special Guests: David Lloyd (*V for Vendetta*), James Lloyd (*The Simpsons/Futurama Crossover Crisis*), Ken Boesem (*The Village*), Jesse Davidge (*Mathemagick & Mystipysics*), Kelly Everaert (*Jungle Tales, Trilogy of Terror*), Matthew Ocasio (*The Matter*), Andrew Salmon (*Sherlock Holmes, Secret Agent X*), Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell, Hemp Island*), Donald King, Carrie McKay, Beth Wagner, Critical Hit Comics, New Reliable Press, Sketcherspective, Monster Attack Team Canada. Admission: \$4.00; kids under 14: free. Dealer tables: \$60/centre; \$70/wall. Hourly door prizes. For more info: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/604-322-6412>.—Leonard S. Wong

30 May 2010: Birthday of voice actor Mel Blanc, comics artist Mort Meskin, writer Hal Clement, *Transformers* animation producer/editor Lee Gunther, *Star Trek* (TOS) actor Michael J. Pollard, typographer Erik Spiekermann, *Star Trek: The Next Gener-*

ation/*Deep Space Nine/Voyager* writer/producer/co-creator Michael Piller, writer/director/actor Stephen Tobolowsky, writer Mike W. Barr, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine* actor Colm Meaney, wrestler Jake (The Snake) Roberts, comics writer Peter Quinones, actor/patron saint of shark-jumping Ted McGinley, writer/comedian/director/actor Harry Enfield, comics artist/editor/publisher Kevin Eastman, *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier* actress Cynthia Gouw, and Canadian author Kelley Armstrong.

31 May 2010: Deadline for Burnaby Writers Society's Writing Contest 2010: one page on the theme of water. \$5 fee per entry (or \$10 for three entries); cash prizes of \$200, \$100, and \$50 for first, second, and third place winners. Send entries to BWS Contest Committee, 6584 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby BC, Canada, V5G 3T7. More information about rules at <http://www.bws.bc.ca/>.—*Burnaby Writers Society Newsletter*

31 May 2010: Syaday. Birthday of cartoonist W. Heath Robinson, director/producer Joe Sedelmaier, comics artist Gilbert Shelton, comics colourist Andy Yanchus, Canadian *Doctor Who* actress Lynda Bellingham, comics writer/publisher/critic David Anthony Kraft, musician/artist/comedian Wesley Willis, comics writer/artist/cartoonist Dean Haspiel, Canadian wrestler Ian (Vampiro) Hodgkinson, and comics writer/artist/cartoonist Adrian Tomine.

June 2010

4–6 June 2010: ConComCon 17—ConComCon, or “C-Cubed,” is a conference for convention organizers held each June in the Pacific Northwest. Registration: US\$40 all year. Please send your name, address, phone number, e-mail, and a check for US \$40 (made out to “SWOC”) to: ConComCon 17, % SWOC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. Hotel: Marriott Seattle Airport, 3201 S. 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98188. Rooms are \$115.00 a night.—Garth Spencer

5 June 2010: “Robot Army marches at Hats Off Day Parade, 8 AM. La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. Hats Off Day Festival happens 9 AM to 2 PM along Hastings Street between Boundary Road and Gamma Avenue.” Hats Off Day/Vancouver Battlestar Galactica Fan Club/BC Browncoats.—Keith Lim

9 June 2010: Valinor, A Vancouver J.R.R. Tolkien Monthly Meetup, 7 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group.] Meet several of the organizers of Valinor to learn about continuing events (such as the Reading Group and RPG) and events to come in the future. \$2.—Keith Lim

12 June 2010: Pop Culture Collectibles Fair, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. New & vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVDs, manga, anime, books, video games, magazines, *Star Wars*, Hot Wheels, wrestling, Canucks. Free parking. Door prizes. \$3.—Keith Lim

12 June 2010: Sin City Rocky Horror Fetish Night at Club 23 West, 9:00 PM–3:00 AM, 23 West Cordova, Vancouver. The first official Sin City Rocky Horror Fetish Night. They will be playing the movie. Atratus of Gothic BC will take photos (and can print them out) in the photo booth. DJs are Kain3 D3lay, Manos, & Dave Dirk. A themed outfit isn't necessary, but highly encouraged. Prizes for best themed costume. Strict fetish dress code: absolutely no street or casual wear.—Aaron Harris-on

12 June–25 July 2010: Northwest Renaissance Festival in Spokane, WA. Memberships \$9.50 per day or \$50 for all six weekends. Auditions, rehearsals, Pirate Revel, Creepy Hallow, historical roleplaying, live music, jousting, weddings. Contact: Northwest Renaissance Festival (NWRF), 6493 Hwy 291, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026, (509) 276-7728.—Garth Spencer

21 June 2010: World Wide Party #17, 21h00 your local time. Toast your fellow zinesters in the Papernet.—Dale Speirs

25–27 June 2010: Star Trek Convention. “Creation Entertainment returns to Vancouver with a weekend of *Star Trek* entertainment headlined by Leonard Nimoy at the Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver. Guest [Barbara March, Gwynyth Walsh, Connor Trinneer] schedule and ticket info: <http://www.creationent.com/cal/stvan.htm>. Gold weekend package \$359.” [Programming: Leonard Nimoy Photography Seminar; Costume Parade; Centerpiece Contest]—Keith Lim

26 June 2010: Can't Stop the Serenity, 7 PM, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver. Charity showing of *Serenity*. Silent auction, costume contest and evil laugh contest. \$15 in person, \$16 through PayPal. Blogspot/BC Browncoats.—Keith Lim

News-Like Matter

Book View Café Releases ‘International Kittens of Mystery,’ by Chris Dolley

In an uncertain world there is one organisation that stands head and small furry shoulders above the rest. Whenever the planet is in danger—be it from giant balls of wool or bands of renegade squirrels—only one group is guaranteed to answer the call: The International Kittens of Mystery!

If your cat is a secret world ruler, this is the book for you. It's the book the iPad was designed for—ask Steve Jobs' cat.

<http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/Chris-Dolley-Bookshelf/Picture-Books/>

Sue Lange
Tuesday 6 April 2010

Local

SFU students lay claim to 'robot' record

SFU students claim to have set the new world record for the most people doing the "robot" dance in one place with 289 dancers, one at left, beating the record set in 2007 by the University of Kent of 276 dancers. The University of Melbourne had 318, but failed to submit the necessary documentation to the Guinness Book of World Records. METRO VANCOUVER

SFU Breaks World Robot Record

As reported in *BCSFazine* #443's "Calendar," the SFU Faculty of Applied Science Student Societies met Thursday 8 April 2010 to break the Guinness world record for most people doing "The Robot." According to the local edition of the newspaper *Metro*, they succeeded! See [Robot Rock](#) on Facebook or search YouTube and Flickr for videos and photos.

Felicity Walker

Friday 9 April 2010

VCON 35 Progress Report #1 Reminder

Garth Spencer sent a message to the members of VCON 35:

"Dear Guys,

"Has everyone had a chance to see the first VCON 35 progress report, which is posted at <http://bcsfa.net/>? Would any of you like to receive it by email?

"The website at <http://www.vcon.ca/> has been revamped, and will be supplied with all the new information shortly.

"Yours,

"Garth Spencer (VCON 35 Publications)"

Garth Spencer

Monday 12 April 2010

Book View Café Releases Deborah J. Ross' Ebook

On April 13, Book View Café (BVC) proudly presents the ebook release of *Jaydium*, the debut novel of Deborah J. Ross (originally published under her former name, Deborah Wheeler). Hungry for "a wild and woolly journey through time and space," some really cool aliens, and a touch of romance? Get your copy of *Jaydium*: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/Deborah-J.-Ross/Deborah-J.-Ross-Novels/>.

"A wild and woolly journey through time and space that contains enough imagination and plotting for an entire shelf of books."—Don D'Amassa in *Science Fiction Chronicle*

To celebrate the release of *Jaydium*, BVC will be holding one of their famous Twitter fic contests from April 13 through April 15 at <http://twitter.com/bookviewcafe>. Details at <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/BVC-Twitter-Fic-Contest-12-Deborah-J.-Ross-Jaydium>.

Sue Lange
Media Relations
Book View Café
<http://www.bookviewcafe.com>

Sue Lange
Tuesday 13 April 2010

Book View Café to Partner with Kobo Inc.

(National)—Book View Café, the Internet's largest professional authors' cooperative, has announced a new partnership to distribute its growing ebook catalogue. Book View Press titles will now be carried by international ebook powerhouse Kobo Inc.

"Kobo is taking a truly dynamic approach to ebooks," said Book View Café Project Manager Sarah Zettel. "From the beginning, BVC has promised readers the books they want, when they want them. Kobo's commitment to keeping pace in the rapidly changing ebook world will help us keep that promise."

A unique online venture, composed entirely of professional authors, Book View Café will make the majority of their current ebooks available through Kobo's online stores. This will include titles by award-winning and bestselling authors such as Judith Tarr, Sarah Zettel, Steven Harper, Vonda N. McIntyre, Amy Sterling Casil, Deborah J. Ross, and Patricia Rice.

"It's our distinct pleasure to be working with a similarly minded ebook centric publishing house," says Michael Tamblyn, vice-president of Content, Merchandising, & Marketing at Kobo Inc. "Books anytime, anywhere is the great strength of digital—BVC shares that vision."

To celebrate the new partnership, Book View Café will be making four new titles available from Kobo: *A Wind in Cairo* by Judith Tarr—along with new omnibus editions of *The Starfarers Quartet* by Vonda N. McIntyre, *The Silent Empire Saga* by Steven Harper and *The Complete Paths to Camelot* by Sarah Zettel—will be released through Kobo for a special thirty day exclusive period.

"Kobo's world-wide reach and suite of convenient reading tools made an exclusive release a natural step," said Zettel.

Also coming to Kobo will be original offerings from the newly formed Book View Press, including *Rocket Boy and the Geek Girls*, an anthology of rare and classic science fiction stories, and *The Shadow Conspiracy*, an all-new steampunk collection. A fantasy anthology, *Dragon Lords and Warrior Women*, with contributions from Sherwood Smith, Ursula K. Le Guin, and Deborah Wheeler, and a book on writing and the publishing industry are being planned for this year.

Although Kobo offers digital rights management (DRM) for their e-book publishers, all BVC content will be made available DRM-free at their site (bookviewcafe.com) as well as at kobobooks.com.

Sue Lange
Media Relations
Book View Café
(<http://www.bookviewcafe.com>)

Sue Lange
Tuesday 20 April 2010

Notes from April BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Ray Seredin (host), R. Graeme Cameron (president), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Barb Dryer (secretary), Felicity Walker (editor), Keith Lim (VCON 36 chair), and William Graham.

Guy Gavriel Kay is coming to Vancouver. On Wednesday 5 May 2010 at 6:30 PM, Kay will be on CBC Radio One's *Studio One Book Club*. On Thursday 6 May 2010 at 7:00 PM, he'll be at White Dwarf Books (see indicia for address).

Also on Thursday 6 May 2010, *IMAX: Hubble 3D* allegedly opens in Vancouver. The specific venues and showtimes are still unavailable.

We talked about *The Men Who Stare at Goats*, which was about the US Army investigating psychic phenomena for possible military applications. I said that it reminded me of frequent *Coast to Coast AM* guest Major Edward "Ed" Dames, who did "remote viewing" sessions for the Army (initially working for Ingo Swann, then running the project—codenamed "Stargate"—himself). He and his students were only given target co-ordinates, with no hint of what to expect. They got the right answer most of the time (Dames says 80%, but there are no records). After the Army cancelled Stargate, Dames began offering public courses and videos. Graeme wondered if the project got cut because a less-than-complete success rate was not useful. I said that police departments apparently still ask for help from psychics, even though that's not guaranteed to work. This reminded Graeme of a psychic who has gone to many police departments and demanded honorary badges; she now has a huge collection of badges which in turn she uses to "prove" her legitimacy.



Whether or not Dames is for real, he makes a good talk show guest. A boring guest is less listenable than a guest whose statements have to be taken with a grain of salt. Barb agrees, and brought up another example of this: Richard Hoagland, an author whose NASA conspiracy theories and belief in a lost alien civilization on Mars have also made him a *Coast to Coast AM* friend-of-the-show (his title is "Science Advisor"). Barb said that re-

cently Hoagland told *Coast* weekend host Ian Punnett that although NASA has no plans to land on Mars, they do plan to go to its moon Phobos.

Although NASA is retiring the Space Shuttle, some senators want to extend its use because the program that was to replace it has also been cut (thanks to the recession and the cost of the war in Iraq). Cargo resupply for the International Space Station is now privatized, and Obama may expect private enterprise to also take over space exploration and development. Will the private sector be able to bring itself to conform to the absolute safety standards previously required by NASA (which were the reason even small, simple parts were so expensive—they had to be absolutely guaranteed not to fail), or will they take the same profit-maximizing approach as the auto and airline industries and only fix safety flaws when it becomes too expensive to do nothing?

Apparently the X Prize is neither annual nor regular, and there are several categories, not just space travel.

There is also talk of manned missions to the outer planets, like Jupiter. Graeme pointed out that one problem with that idea is the recent discovery of a large radiation belt (similar to Earth's Van Allen belt) around Jupiter. Can spacecraft be hardened against radiation enough to protect a human crew?

The mystery of the missing *BCSFAzine* from last month has been solved: it made its way into Kathleen's bag.

The WCSFA website, formerly maintained by Clint Budd, is now maintained by Jenni Merrifield and Jason Lee.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 18 April 2010

Pixar Opens Studio in Vancouver

Pixar officially opened its Vancouver animation studio Tuesday 20 April 2010. Premier Gordon Campbell and Vancouver Mayor Gregor Robertson attended. Pixar showed a video of its characters visiting local landmarks, such as WALL-E rolling past the Gastown Steam Clock. There are job openings at Pixar Canada.

Felicity Walker

Tuesday 20 April 2010

MyMavra.com Has Moved...

Just wanted to let everyone know that MyMavra has moved to <http://www.wewillrise.net/>. We'll continue to have movie and book reviews, comics, news, original fiction, and forums. We'll also have new features such as live chat and a community wall similar to Facebook. Check it out.

Pimp it your way at <http://www.wewillrise.net/>.

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

rpurcell100@yahoo.com

Wednesday 21 April 2010

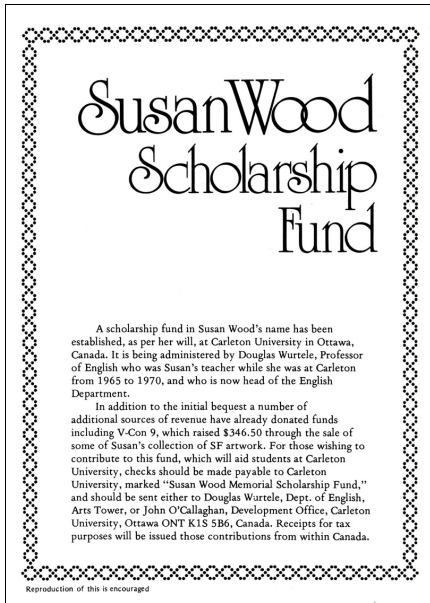
Bill Marles' Play to Be Read at Richmond's Doors Open Festival

My play, *The Days of Cora Brown*, is going to be read at Richmond City Hall, Sunday, May 2 at 1:30 PM. It's about living in 1950s Richmond when that city was still a farm community.

Bill Marles
Saturday 24 April 2010

A Room of Her Own

Taral Wayne



[This article was previously published in The Drink Tank #233 (December 2009, edited by Chris Garcia).]

The Best of Susan Wood, edited by Jerry Kaufman

Aspidistra & Amor de Cosmos, edited by Susan Wood

(Available for download from eFanzines, <http://www.efanzines.com/SusanWood/index.htm>.)

Foreword by Taral Wayne

Everyone has their favourite fanwriters, and no one can be blamed for who those favourites are. One of mine was Susan Wood. When I first began reading fanzines in the early '70s, Susan was at her

peak of creative writing, and I saw a lot of it. One piece in particular inspired me to begin collecting an obscure popular writer of the '30s, and that in its turn had an influence on more than one thing I wrote and drew in the next few years.

But over time, I found other favourite writers, and Susan slipped unnoticed from the list. From the beginning, Susan had a serious side as well as a lighter side. From the charming, humorous little pieces she once wrote for *Energumen* and other zines such as *Kratophany* and *Outworlds*, Susan's interests led her to more earnest and serious writing of a sort that held less appeal for me.

The five issues of *Aspidistra* that she published in 1971 and 1973 (while co-editor of *Energumen* with Mike Glicksohn) were the political children of their times. Ecology was forefront, along with counter-cultural items such as healthy recipes, free verse poetry and pop art fillos. Unlike *Nerg*, *Asp* was printed on suitably green paper.

Susan's feminist advocacy was also heard early in her fannish career. Susan may not have actually founded *A Woman's Apa* (it is perhaps forgotten that Janet Small and Victoria Vayne did), but Susan inspired it. She was an honorary member from the start. Most of her fannish energy in this period seems to gone into *AWA* and a personalzine called *Amor de Cosmos*.

The word "femsymp" floats up from some murky well of memory. There were actual feminists in fandom in the '70s—Susan was one of the foremost. As well, there were guys who were feminist sympathizers, or "femsymp." I don't think it was, as you might think, a put-down, but rather a self-caricature.

By mid-decade, Susan was a professional academic who had moved to Saskatchewan to take a job teaching with the University of Saskatchewan in Regina. Later, almost as though she were trying to put still more distance between herself and her old life, she moved from Regina to Vancouver, and held a position there with the University of British Columbia. She had moved some distance from fandom as well. Her oldest friends were collected around her, but academia and her feminist pursuits formed the core of her life on the West Coast.

Amor appeared almost immediately after Susan arrived to take up her new job in Regina. It was preceded by a letter substitute, but the official issue-number-one is dated October 1973, and its full title is *The Amor de Cosmos People's Memorial Quiet-Revolutionary Susanzine: A Personalzine*. Most loccers preferred *Amor de Cosmos*, or just *Amor*. It was produced in small numbers for a select circle, and wasn't available for trade. The last issue is numbered 18, but it says right on the first page that there were 20 issues. It wasn't a typo. The answer seems to be that Susan counted *two* letter subs between regular issues. Perhaps *Amor* should be the subject of another fit of scanning, since Robert Lichtman has recently provided me with an adequate PDF file of the one issue missing from my collection.

Professionally, Susan was blossoming. She became editor for Canadian book reviews for *The Pacific Northwest Review of Books*, and in 1979 edited a book of Ursula K. Le Guin's non-fiction writing, *The Language of the Night*, published originally by Putnam. As a special distinction, Susan edited the science fiction and fantasy issue of the Canadian feminist literary journal, *Room of One's Own*.

Quite unexpectedly, Susan Wood died in November 1980.

There is no need to go into the details of Susan's death. What matters is that the news spread fast, and much of fandom was plunged into mourning. Even fans who had entered fandom after Susan's move into academia, and had never known her, mourned her passing as well. I knew Susan rather poorly myself, despite living in the same city and belonging to the same local club. We shared few interests, and then, before I had really learned the ropes in fandom, she was Out West. One didn't have to know Susan Wood well to miss her, though. Her reputation preceded her everywhere, and even a casual brush with her was rewarding.

Following Susan's death, a scholarship fund was established in her name. It was to be administered by the Department of English, at Carleton University in Ottawa, where Susan first studied.

There had been talk of a collection of Susan's fannish writing for some years before her death. In fandom, a few years is hardly time enough to decide upon a title for a new fanzine. Unfortunately, *The Best of Susan Wood* had to be published posthumously. Jerry Kaufman was editor, and chose about a dozen columns and art-

icles from *Energumen*, *Amor*, *Kratophany*, *Genre Plat*, and other zines Susan contributed to. It is not remotely long enough, but it's nonetheless a handsome volume, illustrated by talented fanartists...and of course it's long out of print.

Because it was out of print, Gary Farber planned to make *The Best of Susan Wood* available once again, in a form anyone could download from Joe Siclari's fan-ac.org and Bill Burns' wonderfully useful site, *eFanzines*. Finding a copy to scan was a problem at first, and it only came about by accident that I volunteered mine, and volunteered to do the scanning as well. I also had a complete set of Susan's *Aspidistra*. Since I was in for a penny, I decided I might as well be in for a pound.

Obviously, more needs to be done about Susan Wood's writing, but I leave this to Gary and (perhaps) others to work out. My part was unexpected and is finished.

I'm more than content with the digital facsimiles of the actual printed fanzines. A more professional appearance cannot dignify the words more, nor in any way improve the fine quality of Susan's writing.

Susan earned one other distinction in fandom. She is the only Canadian fan to win more than one Hugo. One she shared with Mike Glicksohn for co-editing *Energumen*. The second was all her own, won as Best Fanwriter of 1974. And the third she shared with Richard E. Geis in 1977. Other years that Susan Wood was nominated were 1972, 1973, 1975, 1976, and 1978.

Not a bad performance for less than ten years in fandom. And a Canajan too, eh?

Taral Wayne

Sunday 7 March 2010

Ask Mr. Guess-It-All!

(As submitted by R. Graeme Cameron, official spin-doctor for Mr. Guess-It-All, a well-known acolyte of Mr. Science, his mentor.)

Mr. T.Y. of Bad Orb, Germany, asks: **Did the Trojan War really happen as described by Homer?**

Mr. Guess-It-All: Pretty much, though he left out a lot of significant information. Historians commonly assume, for example, that the primary purpose of the war was to break Trojan control of the shipping lanes into the Black Sea, or shatter their monopoly on horse breeding, or maybe just because Agamemnon happened to be a first class jerk. Historians guess a lot.

In actual fact, the Greeks (or Achaians as then known) wanted to break the monopoly the Trojans had on the manufacture of condoms, which were marketed under the brand name "Trojan," appropriately enough. Other brands were manufactured elsewhere, such as the Hittite "Etewokleweios" condoms produced in Valivanda, but like all condoms apart from the "Trojans," they didn't work.

Now why, you may ask, would the Wanax (High King) Agamemnon of Achaiwia (Greece) be so keen on capturing the industrial technology underlying the manufacture of genuinely effective condoms? After all, it wasn't as if the Achaians (Greeks) didn't want their women pregnant. Wives were constantly pregnant. Like-

wise, and maybe especially, female slaves. The generations of young warriors had to come from somewhere after all.

But there was another practice which, if only for the sake of preventing the spread of disease, required condoms. A practice Achaians often resorted to in their cups when women were not readily available. To put it delicately, let me subtly hint at its nature by quoting a deadly insult which, if memory serves, can be found in one of the comedies of Aristophanes (admittedly from later classical times, but historical continuity was in play): "*May you be buried as deeply as you bugger.*" Enough said.

As for the legendary "Trojan Horse," it was not a gigantic wooden horse, but a gigantic wooden phallus which the Trojans eagerly dragged into their city under the impression it would be a great marketing gimmick. Homer changed the story so as to not offend his more delicate listeners. He also changed two well known sayings which were originally:

"Beware of Achaians bearing tumescent gifts."

and

"Watch out for the Wanax!"

Remarkably, the "Trojan" brand name continues unto this day, though ownership has changed many times in the intervening centuries.

Mr. K.D. of Vestal, New York, asks: **Was the lack of snow at the 2010 Winter Olympics brought about by global warming?**

Mr. Guess-It-All: Not at all! Evidently you have forgotten your high school biology.

Snow flakes are living beings otherwise known as "Ice Sprites" or "Snow Fairies." In the general scheme of things, February, being the height of their mating season, should have produced abundant offspring in veritable blizzard proportions.

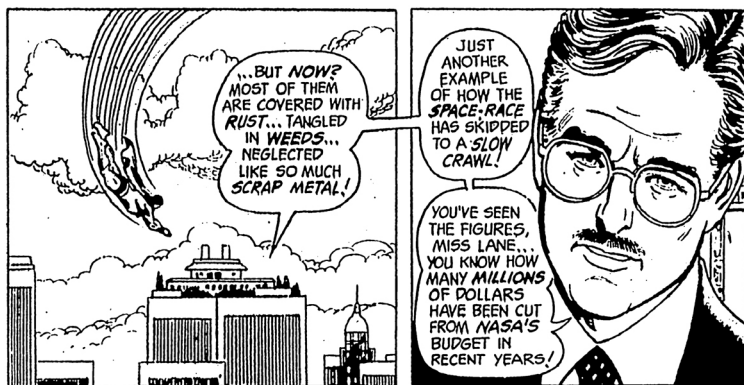
But in February 2010 an evil Ice Fairy succeeded in cloning himself, not once, but billions of times, producing billions of identical snow flakes. Because they were identical, he was able to direct them as they fell to interlock into a gigantic spaceship. He then instructed several million of his minions to suicide into hydrogen and oxygen which was used to fuel the spaceship. Seems he had in mind to invade and conquer the Ice Sprites of Europa.

Fortunately for interplanetary peace, when the engines ignited the entire spaceship flash-melted and deluged Cypress Mountain with dead clones, i.e. rainfall. Rather understandably the "normal" Ice Sprites remained in hiding for several days until they became convinced the evil one was dead and would threaten them (and the rest of the universe) no longer. Subsequently they delightedly came out of hiding and merrily reproduced, resulting in the picturesque snowfall blanketing the cross country ski race witnessed by TV viewers world-wide.

So you see, once again Nature has a way of correcting itself, and as usual, through the medium of sexual reproduction. Mother Nature is, after all, a hedonist.

Mr. Guess-It-All via R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 11 April 2010



Review: 'Hot Tub Time Machine'

Michael Bertrand

The one-sentence review: "More fun than funny, but a lot of fun."

The plot: A group of three friends, plus a twenty-year-old nephew, go to re-visit their '80s stomping grounds in the rockin' ski resort town of Kodiak Lake. A crazy accident with a can of energy drink from Chernobyl turns their hot tub into a time machine (hey, that's a great name for a movie) and transports them back into the year 1986 and into their bodies as they were back then. They alternately try to avoid changing the timeline and just have fun before figuring out how to get back to their present-day selves.

Now, first, the nostalgia angle: I'm a kid of the '80s. To me, the '80s were ages 7–17 and that covers the bulk of my childhood and teen years. So already, this movie is going to be up my alley. And they did *not* skimp on the '80s periodicity. It's more '80s than the '80s in most of this movie. The soundtrack is absolutely loaded with music from my teen years, the fashions are amazingly perfect, and there's fun little bits like a guy using a Sportman Walkman and another using a giant cell phone.

So I enjoyed that, despite the occasional reminder of my depressing childhood, and so if you're a fan of the '80s, the movie is worth going to see simply for that.

In the larger picture, that is, as a comedy, this movie is, in my opinion, only mildly successful. I laughed here and there but it was not as relentlessly funny as something like *Knocked Up*. There's a lot of gross-out humour and other juvenile hijinks, and relatively little in terms of wit and substance, although there were flashes of it here and there.

Still, the movie as a whole was quite fun. The plot keeps moving along briskly, and due to the time-travel angle, actually ends up being fairly complex, with a lot more layers than you'd expect from a fairly lowbrow movie like this one.

Also, the acting is superb. Rob Corddry as the "wild man" of the trio of friends is extremely believable and credible, managing to make you both love and

hate the guy. John Cusack is great as the relatively calm and in-control leader of the group, although we're told that he's a self-centred, self-absorbed asshole repeatedly in the movie but never really shown it. And Craig Robinson as the former lead singer of Chocolate Lipstick and current dog groomer and devoted husband managed to put a great deal of real emotion into his character's conflicts over issues pertaining to his marriage.

So the basic bottom line: is this a movie worth seeing? The answer is: yes. I had a great time watching this movie and I'd recommend it to anyone who wants to see a fun and goofy movie with a lot of heart and so much '80s in it you can smell the hair spray and cocaine.

Michael Bertrand

<http://millionwordyear.com/megaword2010/>

Monday 12 April 2010

Norwescon 33 Report, Part One

Cosmic Ray Seredin

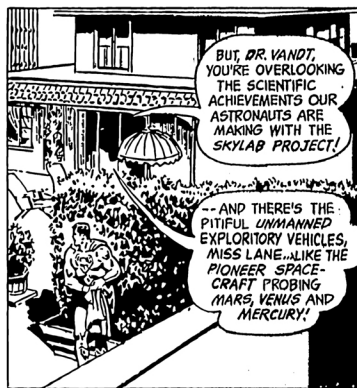
Pre-Con Entry

OK, it's Thursday, March 25, 2010, and I'm once again looking forward to another Norwescon.

Already I've heard some good news: that our hotel will be almost mundane-free (the "almost" being the airline crews with whom we've shared the site since 1994), because the con now has Maxi's Lounge at its disposal exclusively. I recall that last year there were two rather drunk mundane gentlemen who had a considerable brawl (which likely started over either one's favourite NCAA basketball team being bounced from the Final Four) that started in Maxi's, continued on the elevator, and ended in the hotel's main convention hall beside a very shocked Klingon. Luckily the Klingon got hotel security, who called the Sea-Tac police, who escorted them to a jail cell until things cooled down a bit. So, after something like that happening, no wonder the hotel is turning Maxi's over to fandom and letting the mundanes battle it out with the strangely-dressed people hanging around the hotel's ground-floor bar.

The other thing I've already got this year is money for Norwescon, although not that much will be left in the bank and I hope my 2009 taxes will be filed so I have the refund cash sitting in the bank before I go.

Understandably, some of my family members and my mundane friends think it's odd for a person to spend \$1,170 for a weekend-long sci-fi convention, and that it should be spent on a seaside resort vacation in Mexico or someplace. Yet I never heard of a resort having interesting panels such as "Building Your



Own Bimbo” (unless it’s hosting a sci-fi convention). Plus, I’ve heard that the bars in these resorts are filled with the most boring people on the planet, which are luckily drowned out by the loud music, but at Norwescon I can meet all kind of interesting folks in the bar or at room parties [that I will remember meeting the next morning because I no longer drink alcohol (and this time I mean it)]. Should I spend a night dancing to some local people’s band at a resort and be totally bored, while at a con I could be spending the night taking pictures of fandom members dressed in costumes dancing the night away? What’s more, how many mundane resorts have something called a zombie walk? Likewise, why should I spend my hard-earned money on souvenirs of a seaside resort that will quickly be placed in my already over-crammed storage locker, when I can spend it on cool stuff in the dealer’s room that would make my place look more like a nerd lives there?

But enough of this. Forward. Let’s head to Norwescon 33.

Thursday, April 1st, 2010

OK, besides having to catch the first bus and SkyTrain of the day, and my train being held at Blaine for 40 minutes for the drug-sniffing dog, my trip down to Sea-Tac is just fine. I meet my roommate (whose train was also late) at the train station in Tukwila in order to share the taxi to the hotel, and it turns out that she is one of the handful of people in Portland who don’t like *The Simpsons*, although we both like cats, so that was something we agreed on. This year, for some unknown reason, we were in the 5B wing, the farthest wing of the Double-Tree Seattle Airport and the place where all the loud parties take place. Still, I go to cons to enjoy myself and not to sleep more than six hours a night.

I walk over to registration and meet another member of Vancouver fandom while I wait, and as always there’s a problem with the software that delays the line a little. Then I have a quick read of the pocket program and see that my first panel is a few hours away, so I go to volunteer and end up at Maxi’s Lounge helping to set up a standing display for *Hot Tub Time Machine* with two other volunteers. As always when setting things up at a con, what you think will take half an hour ends up taking two and a half hours. Still, I make it to my first panel with a little time to spare.

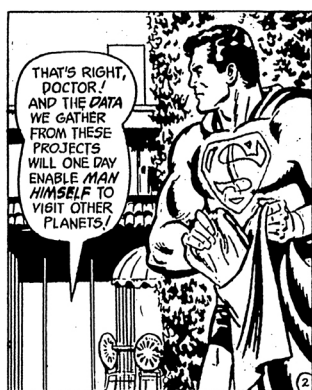
After that I go to the hotel’s pub—I mean bar—and have a little dinner before heading off to the always-wacky Norwescon opening ceremonies, asking myself the question, “How on Earth will Norwescon 33’s con-com outdo Norwescon 32’s con-com (reading from Dr. Seuss’s books) on the wackiness scale?” Well, they do it by combining two things that I thought could never be mixed: the reality show *American Idol* and con-com members, and what they do has a few of us rolling on the floor. Then the guests of honour are introduced and interestingly, I’ve read an article on the Science GOH, Dr. John G. Cramer—a fellow passenger on the train brought it to my attention while heading down there. All the guests play their parts in the wackiness of the opening ceremonies, which makes it memorable to all who attend.

After an hour, split between chatting with people in hospitality and with my friend Melissa from up in Powell River, it’s time for one of the many highlights of this con, the first-ever Norwescon Zombie Walk. A good number of the undead gather in one of the ballrooms and then start to roam the hotel’s halls looking for brains (or grains, if you are a vegetarian zombie). I’m right in the middle of the ac-

tion with a camera rolling in video mode (I will likely have posted it to YouTube by the time you read this) and get tons of zombie action before they all head to the Thursday dance to do the Thriller. I then return to fill Melissa in on the walk, before I head to the dance to get some video; then I go to a few parties before my spring allergies get the best of me and I call it a night.

Friday April 2nd, 2010

Thanks to my allergies I have a restless night, filled with nightmares, including the last one that has William Shatner in it (Note: I am not kidding). I see that my roommate is already up since she's helping out the "Let's Make a Movie" panel. I look at the clock and see it's already 9:10 in the morning. I run to the bathroom to take a shower but cannot for the life of me work out how to run it, so I take a sponge bath instead, then head to the hotel's restaurant for breakfast.



After a rather large breakfast (so I can skip lunch) I head to my first panel of the day with about 15 minutes to spare, which turns out to be quite great since there's already a quite good-sized line for it. The panel—"The History of Underwear"—is just what I need, since I am working on a steampunk costume (and because the late-1970s/early 1980s BC sex education program/the Powell River–Texada Island store owners wouldn't let anyone under the age of 19 read a porno magazine, thus getting me hooked on the Victorian ladies of the Eadweard Muybridge locomotion project). This is one great panel, with a few pieces of authentic or replica ancient underwear being passed around the room and a great team of panelists to fill us in on their use. And at last I find out what those odd-looking pieces of wood were that I used to see at garage sales in Vancouver when I was a young kid and that my dad told me were used to whack bad little boys. Turns out that they were used in the early 19th century to fit ladies' corsets.

The panel ends at 1:00 PM and luckily the next panel is right next door. It's called "Tomorrow's World" and it fills me in on cool new stuff that will be hitting the store shelves in the next few years but that five to ten years ago were just ideas from the world of science fiction. I already know that the 3D printer is on its way to stores as I sit there, but now it's going cost less than \$250 within the next two years, meaning that I could put the blueprint of any building plan, from anytime between the height of the "Golden Age of Steam Railways" to today, into my computer, and it will turn it into a 1/87.1-scale 3D model, then print it out; then I'll put it together and place it on my model railway. Cool: two of my favorite hobbies, science fiction and model trains, will be coming together just before I turn fifty.

It's 2:00 PM and time for two hours of movie previews. There are many great-looking sci-fi movies in the works over the next few years and quite a few turkeys as well. I feel a bit like *The Daily Show*'s host Jon Stewart with my feelings on a possible *Smurfs* movie; I only once watched that piece of crap cartoon series of theirs and it was when one Seattle TV station had on college football, while the other had a

boring Mormon conference, the Bellingham station had *Tom and Jerry* cartoons that I'd already seen ten million times, and the Canadian stations were airing golf, Jerry Falwell, Ernest Angley, and something ten times worse than the little blue fellows and the rest put together: the show with the title *The Polka-Dot Door*. Hey, what about a *Tioga the Giant Man* movie? I know it's long been considered one of the worst TV shows ever made and any studio who would dare to make it would be burned to the ground within the hour by livid members of the NAACP, but it's not the f*cking *Smurfs* for crying out loud. The other piece of news that's discussed at the panel is the recent purchase of Marvel Comics by Disney, with the panel's host guaranteeing that it will not turn into a Mickey Mouse operation.

At 4:00 PM I go to a panel on the last *Back to the Future* movies, but about two-thirds through it I'm feeling a little hungry—but hospitality is closed 'til six. So I just go around taking some pictures of members in interesting costumes, before I head to another panel on the times to come: some really cool materials that the minds behind the classic *Star Trek* didn't even dream of in the 1960s, which could have been used in their 23rd century, but have or will become reality in the real 21st century.

At last it's six so I head to hospitality only to find out that Norwescon 33 is already on Fandom Standard Time, meaning that hospitality will be open sometime before the end of the weekend. After I stand in a line-up for about 10 minutes, hunger wins out and I make my way to the volunteers' lounge for a bite. I ask if I can help out with the running of hospitality because I have a BC FOODSAFE certificate, and it turns out that despite a record-setting attendance to this con, they're having a hard time staffing the convention services with volunteers. This means hospitality's opening a little off-schedule and closing two hours earlier this year because of the lack of volunteers, so I look at my pocket program to see if I can help out for those two hours those nights. However, there's *no way* on Earth I'm going to miss the "Victorian Sex" panel that starts at 11:00 PM (unless I'm also allowed to kill *Smurfs*). Nevertheless, I do offer to work Saturday's dinner-time shift in hospitality.

Just before seven I'm on my way to yet another panel when I notice that the area that was a rather large fandom clothing store across from registration has turned into a place where photos of interestingly-dressed members of fandom can be taken. So I forget about the panel and start to take pictures. Unfortunately, not too many people know about this place being open on Friday evening, since it's usually set up only for Saturday for the masquerade. Still, I hope this will continue in the future. After that I make up my mind that I should spend the evening walking the halls taking pictures of people in their costumes (after asking them first, that is), and show myself around the hotel, stopping in hospitality to top off my tummy (Note: the con or presidential suite this year was for pros only, so I could not go there until the dead dog on Sunday) and get some video of the Star Dance. It's not as good as last year's, since me and quite a few others think the music this year is a bit too techno and because this one starts to form a dragon (Note: fandom's answer to a conga line).

Soon it's 11:00 PM and I go to the "Victorian Sex" panel and find one of the last seats, since it's overflowing with steampunks. It turns out to be one of the best panels that I've been to since I started going to cons way back in 1987. The two hosts really show us that these "Victorians" were quite perverted, though for some reason put up with lesbians and not homosexual men (who knows; maybe Queen

Victoria herself was bisexual or something). I pass around a book containing Victorian pornographic writing and I finally work out why Victorian European trains had compartments even in coach (so couples could join the 65 Mile-Per-Hour Club and no one would be the wiser). Lastly there are pictures; they bring all-new meaning to “Oh my God, they did that?” (the ones involving acts of bestiality were done with stuffed dead animals, since the live ones moved too fast for the cameras of the time to capture). By the way, there were also high-priced courtesans for the gentlemen and clock-work vibrators for any ladies that enjoyed the female O-word too much but didn’t want to have more children. This brings up an interesting question: if we’re ever able to view the past, how long before “Victorian-Era Sex” gets its own series on FOX late-night?

The panel ends at midnight, so I pop over to hospitality to see if they’ve found someone to run it, but find it closed. So I head to the party wing and call on a number of great parties that end a little down the hall from my suite, that have topless strip poker games and fandom members in various stages of drunkenness trying to play *Rock Band*. The party ends at about 2:30 AM when a nicely-built dealer is threatening to charge overtime. So I return to my suite and call it a night.

To Be Continued

Coming up in June’s *BCSFAZine*: one thousand meatballs, a proposal, and a cat with a hygiene issue.

Ray Seredin

Thursday 15 April 2010

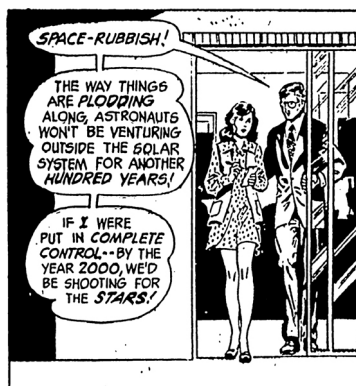
VCON 34 Debt

There was a formal motion by Ray Seredin that BCSFA donate \$500 to paying off uncleared debts for VCON 34. Seconded by Barb Dryer. Of the members present (William Graham, Barb Dryer, Ray Seredin, Kathleen Moore, Graeme Cameron, Keith Lim, and Felicity Walker) five were in favour and two abstained. If you have any objections, please vote by contacting the editor and attending at the next meeting. (To put this in context, BCSFA’s bank account is currently at \$1,220, and goes down by about \$50 per month to pay for printing and mailing *BCSFAZine*.)

To donate your own money to get VCON 34 out of debt, contact chair Danielle Stephens at vconchair@gmail.com (or, if you have other questions, ask any BCSFA executive whose contact information you see listed in “About BCSFA”).

Felicity Walker

Sunday 18 April 2010



Upcoming Nifty Film Projects

R. Graeme Cameron

Mega Piranha: They can bite off half your finger, then half your leg, half your body, your helicopter, your battleship...you get the idea. They can't stop growing! Good cheesy fun from the Asylum, makers of fine direct-to-DVD schlock. Stars Tiffany.

Birdemic the Shock and Terror: Said to give Ed Wood Jr.'s *Plan Nine* stiff competition for worst film of all time. A "romantic thriller" by James Gnuyen featuring lamest acting and effects (evil eagles) you can imagine. Well worth watching.

The Dark Lurking: Great title, but maybe not so great film judging by the trailer, which is so dark it's unwatchable. Scientists in underground facility must fight their way to the surface up "13 levels of terror." Possibly 13 kinds of monsters. Video game fodder.

Squid: The Movie: Not a typo, that's the title. Australian film about a man who borrowed millions from a giant squid living in the Brisbane River and now the squid wants its money back. I don't make this stuff up. Definitely an off-the-wall comedy.

The Human Centipede: Dutch cult film hit about a mad scientist who joins three people head to bum in order to give the "creature" a single digestive tract. Sounds disgusting but apparently the actors make the film. Don't think I want to see this one.

The Invention of Hugo Cabret: is a kid's film to be directed by Martin Scorsese! In 3-D no less! Apparently something to do with a boy and his robot in a 1930s Paris train station. Won't be out till December 2011. Could be a lot of fun.

I Am Number Four: has Steven Spielberg as one of the producers. Nine aliens flee their dying world to live on Earth disguised as teenagers attending high school. Sure. Why not? I suspect it will be a "cute" comedy, alas, but maybe something better.

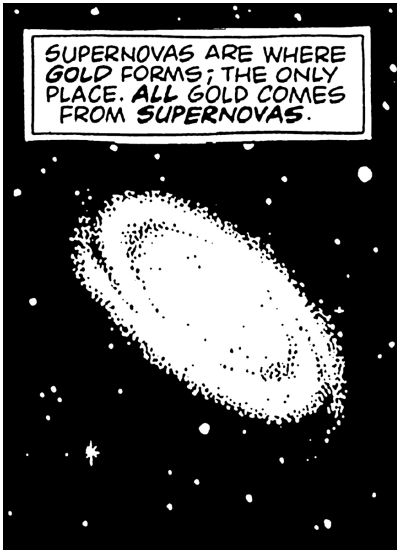
The Darkest Hour: sounds interesting. About a group of teens trying to survive in Russia after it's been conquered by aliens. Emile Hirsch will play one of the kids, and Chris Gorak will direct. Has all kinds of potential, especially if filmed in Russia.

Avatar 2: will, in the words of James Cameron: "...be focusing on the ocean on Pandora, which will be equally rich and diverse and crazy and imaginative..." An ocean full of alien life sounds über cool to me. And apparently there will be an *Avatar 3* too.

Big Tits Zombie: is as classy as it sounds, in 3-D! Directed by Takao Nakano, and based on the manga *Kyonyo Dragon*, it features strippers vs. samurai zombies, geisha zombies, sushi zombies, etc. Stars porn star Sola Aoi. Not quite a classic I suspect.

R. Graeme Cameron
Saturday 24 April 2010

Zines Received



'Opuntia' #69 (April 2010). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Sercon issue.

"The Origin of Gold": Gold comes from the deaths of stars. Only explosive nucleosynthesis is forceful enough to create elements as heavy as gold; supernovas and neutron star collisions launch these elements out into space, where they can end up in the dust clouds that form planets. I enjoyed Dale's concise summary of the process from hydrogen at the beginning of the universe to helium to iron to supernovas to the Earth forming.

"An 1880 Nova Scotia APA": At CALTAPEX (see *BCSFazine* #442) Dale found a meeting invitation from the Nova Scotia Amateur Press & Puzzlers Association.

"The State of Zinedom in 2009": Dale examines the statistical trends in zine publishing over the last decade, beginning with a table breaking down by origin the 5,074 zines he received from 1998–2009. He says, "The data continue to show a long-tail distribution." I understand the concept of the long tail at an extremely rudimentary level, but I don't know it means here. Although the chart is necessarily subjective, it shows a general decline in the number of paper zines over the last decade, and Dale considers his collection a reasonably representative sample. Surprisingly, electronic APAs do not have a higher page count than paper APAs, even though in an e-APA the editors are not limited by the cost of printing and mailing. In fact, going by Dale's second table, it looks as if e-APAs are about half the length of their dead-tree counterparts! Dale comes to the discouraging conclusion that "the decline in paper zines is not matched by any rise in electronic zines" because "e-zines have been co-opted by blogs and social network Websites."

"The State of Commodities in 2009": Not surprisingly, the price of oil has gone up overall in the last ten years, but with interesting peaks and troughs, particularly before and after the Panic of 2008, where it spiked and then dropped sharply. Oil production peaks, but prices fluctuate with sudden shifts in supply (unconventional recovery) and demand (consumers are forced to conserve as prices increase) and on and on (costlier unconventional recovery becomes profitable if the price of oil goes up; high prices create demand for alternatives; suppliers wait to sell until the price goes up, creating a supply shortage). Dale says "My grandfather drove a horse-and-buggy, my father drove a car, and my great-grandchildren will drive horse-and-buggys." It still sounds better than taking the bus. Meanwhile, the price of gold, a truer indicator of wealth than dollars (depreciating) or stocks (volatile), is recovering after the financial crisis, while other commodities are not. Although higher oil prices

mean higher prices on everything, the price of wheat (also of interest to Albertans such as Dale) didn't skyrocket as predicted by some, because of a good harvest.

"The State of Collectibles in 2009" and "Letters to the Editor": The price of stamps increases along with inflation, but the value of stamps does not increase with age, unless they also become more rare. Also, once the owner decides to sell, it can be a lot of work to find a collector who will pay full price: it takes shopping around, and philatelists will want to examine the stamps' condition closely. Dale has helpful advice for a reader who inherited some stamps.

Also: "Why I Do Mail Art" by Peter Netmail; "Alberta Gold" (a photo of Dale's family's oil well) and "World Wide Party #17" (reminder).

'SFWriter.com' #27 (April 2010). Published by Robert J. Sawyer, 100 City Centre Drive, P.O. Box 2065, Mississauga, Ontario, Canada, L5B 3C6, (905) 507-1346, sawyer@sfwriter.com, <http://www.sfwriter.com/>. "News from the Robert J. Sawyer Web Site."

"*WWW: Watch* in Stores Now": The second volume of the *WWW* trilogy is out. Rob is on a coast-to-coast promotional tour—see "Calendar" entry on page 5.

"*Wake* for Hugo": The first volume of the *WWW* trilogy is a Hugo Award Best Novel finalist.

"*FlashForward*": Two pieces of news about *FlashForward*, the TV series adaptation of the novel: Rob wrote the script for the Thursday 6 May 2010 episode "Course Correction," and the pilot episode is a Hugo Award Best Dramatic Presentation (Short Form) finalist.

"Back in Print": All of Rob's novels are now in print. *The Terminal Experiment*, *Illegal Alien*, and *Starplex* (cool title!) are in new editions.

"*Wake* Raves": Complimentary blurbs.

'Challenger' #31 (Winter 2010). Published by Guy H. Lillian III, P.O. Box 163, Benton LA 71006, ghliii@yahoo.com, <http://www.challzine.net/>. 106-page genzine, which I'll review over the course of multiple *BCSFAzines*. (This is part two; see *BCSFAzine* #443 for part one.)

"The Moon and Buzz" by Gregory Benford: Buzz Aldrin invited Greg to his home in the 1980s, intending to collaborate on a novel; meanwhile Greg got Buzz's perspective on the space program. (I like the Space Shuttle aesthetically, even if it is "a space ship designed by a committee of lawyers.")

"The *Challenger* Tribute: Cathy Palmer-Lister": Guy interviews Cathy, who discovered fandom in 1990 and since 2003 has been editor of the Montreal SF Association's zine, *Warp*.

"The Last Mary Jane Story" by Taral Wayne: A dark *Trek* faanfiction about a Mary Sue taking over the *Enterprise*. Great premise.

"Mr. Couch Potatohead II: Morgus the Magnificent" by Lester Boutillier: Continuing his childhood TV memoirs, Lester looks back at *Lunch with Soupy Sales*, *Flash Gordon*, and *The House of Shock*, hosted by Morgus (Sid Noel), a popular late-night horror host in Louisiana.

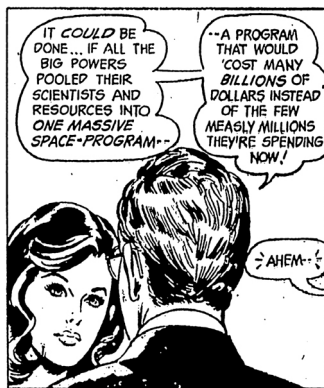
“The Food Stamp Challenge” by Richard Dengrove: A brilliant idea and a great way for people to educate themselves about welfare conditions: try to eat “on \$3 a day, the average food stamp allotment.” Several politicians have tried it and learned the hard way that it leaves you tired and hungry, and more likely to eat inexpensive, prepackaged junk food than healthy groceries. At first, reaction split along natural liberal/conservative lines: liberals supported increasing food stamp allotments; conservatives opposed it, arguing that the poor are lazy and wasteful and are choosing to eat junk, and that anyway food stamps are only supposed to be a supplement to money earned from work, not the whole food budget. Also, conservatives want to cut spending

(when it doesn’t affect their interests). However, when farmers and subsidies enter the picture, the usual right vs. left system no longer applies. Even though “farmers hate welfare,” conservative politicians find that those farmers in their base receive hefty subsidies, and enjoy the protection that tariffs give them from a global free market. Fruit and vegetable growers are happy to help promote the liberal-sounding idea that the real problem is “too much fat, salt, and high-fructose corn syrup” in America’s diet, since this clears them a path to the subsidy trough, whereas, if you grow carbs for a living, Atkins doesn’t sound so good to you. In the end, the pro-food-stamp liberals and the already-subsidized farmers got what they wanted, while the fruit and vegetable farmers’ lot improved very little, and the anti-food-stamp conservatives had to settle for renaming food stamps SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Benefits—wait, shouldn’t that be SNAB?). Richard says that the counter-intuitive alignment of vested interests—the “horse-trading”—shouldn’t have been a surprise, that politicians will always be willing to sacrifice “lesser beliefs or vested interests for greater beliefs or vested interests.” Funnily enough, this article leaves me feeling that the system works; everyone pursued their own interests, ideologies reflected constituencies, and I didn’t get the impression that it was all an incomprehensible game of three-dimensional chess for the elite that had nothing to do with regular people’s lives. For once I feel less cynical knowing the backroom dealings.

“My Gang of 42” by Mike Resnick: In the past 50 years Mike Resnick has started many careers through collaboration, and worked with friends and colleagues from all walks of life. I want to read *Alternate Kennedys*. Also, I like the idea of reading the *Riverworld* RPG manual to get a fast synopsis of the setting.

“Mr. CouchPotatoHead III: *Rocky & Bullwinkle*” by Lester Boutillier: This is first of Lester’s topics that can still be seen on TV today—currently on Teletoon Retro, which is also home to some of my 1980s childhood heroes. I had no idea that William “Cannon” Conrad was the narrator of the “Rocky & Bullwinkle” stories!

“A Tale of Two DeepSouthCons, Part One” by Guy Lillian: A retro con report for DeepSouthCon 1983. Guy got some much-overdue egoboo when he was asked to be Fan GOH. Stephen King was also a GOH that year, though the con was totally unprepared for how famous he’d become since his last convention several years earlier. Guy wanted to move back to Louisiana to go to law school; the fact that his



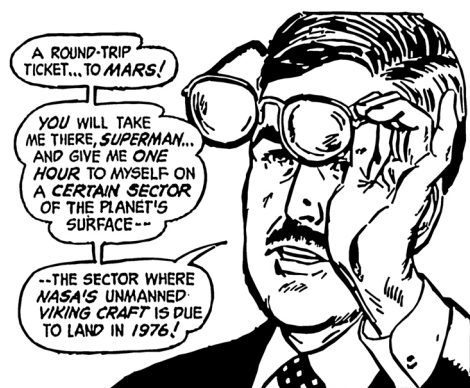
then-wife didn't want to move away from North Carolina ended up not mattering, because she was secretly preparing to leave him (and she was having an affair, if I read between the lines correctly). Chelsea Quinn Yarbro called it when she read Guy's palm and predicted "depression to come." On a happier note, Guy was elected president of the Southern Fandom Confederation.

Also: "The Future of Longevity" by Gregory Benford.

'The Zine Dump' #25 (February–April 2010). Published by Guy H. Lillian III, P.O. Box 163, Benton LA 71006, ghliii@yahoo.com, <http://www.challzine.net/>. "A zinezine (i.e., a fanzine about fanzines)." Based on the reviews therein, I think I'd be interested in reading *Alexiad* Vol. 9 #1, *Ansible* #273, *Argentus* #9, *Askance* #17, *Banana Wings* #40, *Baryon Magazine* #114, *Beam* #2, *Brooklyn!* #67, *Chunga* #15–16, *De Profundis* #444, *Fanzine Fanatique* Winter–Spring 2010, *Feline Mewsings* #39, *File 770* #157, *For the Clerisy* #78, *Head!* #9, *Home Kookin'* #13, *Inca* #5, *The Insider* #276–277, *Instant Message* #828–33/*Instant Mash-Up* #834, janeens_news@yahoo.groups.com, *Jomp, Jr.* #28, *Journey Planet* #5, *Littlebrook* #7, *Lofgeornost* #96, *More Balls* #1–5, *MT Void* #1590, *Mumblings from Munchkinland* #28, *The NASFA Shuttle* December 2009/March 2010, *The New York Review of Science Fiction* #255, *The Original Universe* #10, *Pablo Lennis* #268–269, *Pips* #IV, *Planetary Stories* #17/*Pulp Spirit* #8, *Procrastinations* #8, *The Reluctant Famulus* #73–74, *Steam Engine Time* #11–12, *This Here...* #13–14, *Time and Again* #11, *Visions of Paradise* #151, and *Westwind* #276—many of which we can read online. I love the illo on page four.

E-Zines Received

'Statement' #372 (April 2010). Published by the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 18 Norice Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2G 2X5, osfs@ncf.ca, <http://osfs.ncf.ca/>. Edited by Grant Duff.



"Science News": "Large Hadron Collider Breaks Own Record": "Physicists at the \$10-billion Large Hadron Collider (LHC) directed two proton beams into each other Tuesday as part of its ambitious bid to reveal details about theoretical particles and forces." They crossed the streams!

"Space News": "'Super-Supernova' Challenges Astronomers": Continuing the theme of supernovae (see *Opuntia* #69 above), apparently some white dwarves have broken the

known rules and "significantly exceeded" the Chandrasekhar mass limit (1.4 times the mass of our Sun) before exploding. Astrophysicist Richard Scalzo thinks that maybe these "super-Chandrasekhar" bodies come from two smaller stars merging.

Interesting: Video game developer Richard Garriott (AKA Lord British, creator of *Ultima*) actually bought the Luna 21 lander and the Lunokhod 2 rover from the Russians back in 1993. Last month the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter re-found Lunokhod, which stopped moving way back in 1973. In a 2001 interview Garriott said, "Though there are international treaties that say no government shall lay claim to geography off planet Earth, I am not a government. Summarily, I claim the Moon in the name of Lord British!" Ha ha ha! Disturbing.

Also: "President's Words"; "Editor's Blather"; "Secretary's Notes"; "Net Addresses of Interest"; "Upcoming Events"; "Movies & Events"; "Literary News"; "From Members and Others."

Layout criticism: portrait-oriented PDFs should not have multiple columns; I have to scroll back up as well as down, and when the PDF is slow to load, I lose my place or even end up on the wrong page. Two solutions: (a) only one column per page, or (b) landscape-oriented pages that fit a computer screen.

'Fortnightly Fix' #10.5 (10 March 2010). Published by Steven Green, stevegreen@livejournal.com, <http://efanzines.com/FFix/index.htm>.

"Rumours of My Demise...": Steve has been busy attending three conventions; that and technical difficulties led to us not getting our regular *Fix*. I was wondering what had happened. It feels like it's been several months, but checking "E-Zines Received" in *BCSFAzine* #442, I see that the last *Fix* was as recent as late February.

Steve liked the new Matt Smith *Doctor Who*.

Also: "Down the Loccol."



And dictation.



About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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Why You Got This

- ___ You are a member.
- ___ I thought you were a member.
- ___ You trade with us.
- ___ You carry sample copies of *BCSFAzine* to advertise us.
- ___ You bought a copy in person.
- ___ You contributed.
- ___ You're counting down to extinction.
- ___ You're plagued by Insecticons.
- ___ You fought the heavy metal war.