



Feb. 4/05 at FRED: Ashton Green (right) challenges Garth (left) to channel the spirit of H.L. Mencken

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Art/Photo Credits:

Sheryl Birkhead cover logo
 Felicity Walker cover photo,
 pp. 27-34

March Events

- Apr. 9 Feeding Frenzy 7 p.m. at Nando's, 1301 Lonsdale, North Vancouver. Very spicy chicken by way of the Portuguese-speaking regions of Southern Africa. Num num. Ook ook.
- Apr. 12 Yuri's Night See Calendar section
- Apr. 15 BCSFAzine deadline bother Garth at FRED (7-11 p.m., Denny's Restaurant on Davie at Thurlow). Show him your manuscript. Demand that he print it or you'll publish The Pictures.
- Apr. 16 BCSFA meeting/party 7 p.m. at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's place, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; telephone 604-277-0845 for directions.
- Apr. ?? Book discussion 7 p.m. at Our Town Café at 245 East Broadway, Vancouver; book to discuss TBA. (Something by Jack Vance, I think.) For the exact date and book, you may contact Doug Finnerty at (604) 526-5621 or e-mail Darthbuddy2000@yahoo.ca.
- Apr. 29 BCSFAzine production see Garth and Doug at FRED (7-11 p.m., Denny's on Davie at Thurlow). Bother them if you haven't gotten your issue every month.
- Apr.30 Kaffeeklatsch 7-11 p.m. at Garth's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver; phone 604-325-7314 for directions).

"Sorry if April's Feeding Frenzy is the same as March's, but that's what y'all get for leaving me in charge. Perhaps someone might wish to step forward and organize a monthly Fandomian "Kulturnacht", and invite all Fandomians (BCSFAns, V-Connites, and assorted whoevers) to attend. April must have at least twenty possible weekdays to choose from, I'm sure." (Doug Finnerty, March 21, 2005)

The Richmond Writers Group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:15 p.m. to 9:15 p.m., at the Richmond Arts Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate (in the Richmond Public Library, Brighthouse Branch, Minoru Boulevard & Granville Avenue, in the cafe on the Granville Avenue side of the building). Interested people should e-mail or phone Bill (info below) to double-check about what is happening: bmarles53@yahoo.com or (604) 277-6775, or go to MSN group web address: <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>. (FW)

Listen to THE ONOMATOPOEIA SHOW, CITR 101.9 FM (or <http://www.citr.ca/live.rm>) * Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.; Contact Robin at betafishblue@hotmail.com

Listen to HI SCI FI, CJSF 90.1 FM * Fridays at 5:00 p.m. You can also contact Irma Arkus at 604-291-5797 or hiscifi_cjsf@yahoo.ca

Why This Is Fandom, Nor Am I Out Of It

More drivel from the subconscious of Garth Spencer

The Fandom that can be located is not Trufandom;
The fanzine that can be published is not the True Fanzine.
The Way of the Trufan is not easy.

“There’s no sense in going further; it’s the end of publication.”
So they said, and I believed it – broke my mimeo, sold my stock ...

Conloqui et conridere

Neo said, “Teach me the way to fanac.”
Jophan said, “What’s holding you back?”
Neo said, “Nothing’s holding me back.”
Jophan said, “There’s no ‘way to’, just fanac!”

On the Trufan’s path, only three things are considered essential:
Sensawonda, Goodwill, and Fanac.
We speak of fans who read with sense of wonder,
Who congo or run cons with goodwill,
and who persist in fanac.
Fans who combine these three virtues are considered Trufans.

Non in commotione Deus

When you have entered the fandom that Roscoe is giving you and take possession of it and settle in it, take some of the first editions you produce and go to the place that Roscoe will choose, where two or three trufans will gather together, and then declare: “My father was a wandering typesetter, and he went down into Mundania with a few people, and lived there and became a great Imagi-Nation. But the Mundanes mistreated us and made us suffer; then we cried out to Roscoe, and he heard our voice and saw our misery, so he brought us to a True Con with a mighty band and with miraculous signs and wonders; and now I bring the first editions that you, Roscoe, have granted me.”

There are some who declare, “We believe in Roscoe and the Last Frontier”, yet they are no true believers. They seek to deceive Roscoe and those who believe and follow him; but they deceive none save themselves, though they may not perceive it.

Jophan said, “When you enter any fan community and walk through its gatherings, if they receive you, go along with whatever show they put on for you. Hear out the verbose among them. For that which enters your mind will not defile you, but that which comes out of your mind may defile you.”

Silentium post clamores

But the Wheels Fell Off

*Randy Barnhart, 1-1565 Heron Road, Ottawa, Ontario, K1V 9V1,
randy_barnhart@hotmail.com, Mar. 1, 2005*

Hey, how you doin’? #382 lives up to your usual high standards. Snazzy as always.

Your comment about ... speaking in a “stuffy British guy” manner like your grandfather is well taken. As I get older, I find I am speaking more and more like my father, who was a career NCO with the US Marine Corp. So, although my own experience with the military is limited to a couple of years in the Reserves, I will occasionally refer to the floor as “the deck,” the door as “the hatch,” the bathroom as “the head” and so forth. I think it has to do with a trick our minds play with our memories as we get older and what we consider proper grammar and diction. Or not. Whichever, it drives Barb crazy.

Your idea about *Interesting Times* is...interesting. I’m sure you followed Warren Ellis’ comic series *Transmetropolitan* (Remember? Spider Jerusalem? Nope? Oh well...).

((I have seen that comic. Once. Julian Castle is our resident comics authority, and he is getting interested in zines, or zines according to Garth. Spider Jerusalem sort of reminded me of a fourth-hand interpretation of the recently-departed Hunter S. Thompson, he was so cheerfully amoral.))

Anyway, one of the central points in the series was “The Hole,” a web site dedicated to the news without any assumptions or partiality (of course, as one character says after learning the cops are bearing down on them for publishing “illegal news”: “The Hole was supposed to have been just a sideline; the real money is in porn”). And some Americans of my acquaintance have noted everyone in the Empire is watching or listening to either the CBC or the BBC for bias-free news, so I guess it just depends on which side of the barb wire fence you’re on...

((Maybe I should invent a roving correspondent named Barb Dwyer, who keeps playing up anything that makes the U.S.A. look like the Nazis won, or like the Ayatollahs took over, using George II as their front man.))

Still, as you say, you have a sardonic sense of humour, so that might very likely save the enterprise (but not, of course, *Enterprise*). After all, a good sense of humour will save just about everything.

Ah, the old info dump, AKA the expository lump! Poul Anderson suffered so very badly from this problem. He always had at least one protagonist who smoked a pipe, so whenever something needed to be explained, the reader would get a “As you know, Bill...” scene where the hero would “throw himself into the chair” and fiddle around getting his pipe lit, all the while explaining how the universe worked, who the bad guys were and why you should vote libertarian in the next election. All of which reminds me of a little interesting history: once, during a long-ago Ad Astra, I explained my views on Anderson’s expository lumps to Steve

(AKA S.M.) Stirling. Unfortunately, I didn't know Steve considered Anderson a mentor, so I had the opportunity to watch Steve's back recede in the distance as he stormed off in high dudgeon. Always be careful talking about a pro to other pros.

(Oh, Randy, you are my hero forever! I've always wanted to do something like that to Harlan Ellison, just to set the cat among the pigeons ... so Stirling didn't know you might be on Anderson's side, even saying this? I see S&M Stirling also takes some things too seriously. Poul Anderson was generally above that sort of thing.)

I must say I am not too terribly disappointed *Enterprise* has finally joined the Choir Invisible. The only mystery is that it took so long to join. Barb and I attempted to watch it on several occasions, but nothing could keep our interest past that absolutely wretched theme song, although our dogs did perk up whenever Porthos was in a scene. After awhile, I started getting the impression that Paramount was quite capable of welding the *Star Trek* name onto any piece of garbage in the expectation that the fans would watch it. Maybe a break would teach them, some fans do have some limits.

A little bird (alright, the movie's web site!) told me *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* is opening on April 29, 2005, not May 6. Might want to look into that. I, of course, will set up camp in front of our local theatre a week before hand armed with my towel.

F.M. Busby has passed on. My lord, it has been a sad few months, hasn't it? Hunter Thompson, Will Eisner, Kelly Freas... I guess February really is the saddest month of all.

(Which is why, in the dark backward and abysm of time, Vancouver fans used to hold a relaxicon in February.)

I remember being wildly impressed by much of Busby's early books like *the Rebel Dynasty* series and *Zelde M'Tana*. In fact, he handled female characters so fantastically well that, for a time, it was rumoured he was in fact a she. The other rumour had it that "F.M. Busby" was a penname for Robert Heinlein, which shows how highly many fans thought of his work. Anyway, he was a damn fine writer.

(I had no doubt about Mr. Busby's gender, having met him at an early minicon in Victoria.)

Greg Slade: I quite agree that my comments might have more to do with nostalgia than any actual, tangible proof that current SF&F is in any way better or worse than stuff from days gone by. Of course a lot of the old stuff stunk, but it was our stuff and we liked it that way! I mean, I think SF started to decline right after Doc Smith died.

Still, I don't believe the turkey reads are the best way to prove that SF back than was as crap-ridden as it is today. All that really indicates is that the Good Old Stuff had lots of barf-inducing stuff, a proposition I would agree with. I would go on to argue, however, there has been an almost geometric progression in the amount of truly awesomely bad SF that makes it to the market. I have gone on at some length about this

issue, so I won't bore you with Rant #43 again. However, suffice it to say the increase in novels around RPGs, movie tie-ins and on and on have just provided more room for those writers who have no sense of the genre; and *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* gave publishers the false sense we will buy anything so long as it was part of an SF franchise.

(I think I heard some clues that publishers have been taken over by CGAs, and have sharply reduced their copy-editing and promotional staff. Sounds like the companies are jettisoning anyone who actually knows the business, as in other industries.)

Things to Come, IMHO, was an excellent movie for the times it was made. In those days, actors emoted by shouting for the back wall, and folks thought aluminium (*sic*) monoplanes were the height of technology. Still, those folks managed to put together a film that dealt with some very important issues, in a most interesting manner. Now, if you want a SF turkey that sucks solely and only due to bad acting, terrible writing, lousy production values and a clunky plot, check out *Slipstream* "starring" Mark Hamill and Bill Paxton (sorry Felicity, but it's another Paxton piece of dung) and stand by for projectile vomiting!

(Maybe we should hold a Bad Movie Festival. Hey, maybe the Ridge or Pacific Cinematheque could be talked into a money-making showcase. Well, at least maybe the Hollywood Theatre. What say?)

Felicity Walker: I'm afraid I have to agree with Garth on that "jocks and cheerleaders of fandom" issue. I really can't say I remember anyone who could be described as "physically and socially blessed" in fandom. Not there couldn't be a *Battlestar Galactic* fan out there with the looks of Cary Grant and the grace of Fred Astaire, but I don't recall running across him in the last little while, even in the mirror.

(Oh, I don't know, Ryan Have could be a contender, if Deej can teach him smoother body language. Even I could do a Cary Grant shtick, although I ought to lose a few dozen pounds and get a less frayed tuxedo jacket ...)

Now me, I got involved in fandom because my family moved around a lot, so I didn't really have a lot of friends. Well, that and possessing a personality that rivalled (or perhaps rivals) a rabid badger for charm. The schools I attended were displeased about my rather combative attitude towards the jocks and cheerleaders (my fondest memory of that time was when my dad showed up for a teacher-parent conference in full dress uniform, spit shined shoes and medals up; scared the principal and impressed me) and there was a great deal of talk about "living up to his potential." Fandom was the only group of people willing to accept me as I was, and forty years later here I am.

Still, that is not to say I don't recognize some strange stuff going on in fandom. I used your "jocks and cheerleaders" remark to point out there are a few "fans" who regard themselves as big fish in a small pond, and think they deserve to be noticed because of their ability to be loud and obnoxious at cons. They literally view themselves as the "jocks and

cheerleaders of fandom.” Me, I always have time for fen like Garth and you because you knock yourselves out supporting fandom. That impresses the heck out of me. Those other folks are just slipping and sliding through life and can forget about it.

((Faux fandom. We're outnumbered by cuttlefish. Pournelle nailed it.))

If you're having a little trouble dealing with love and its attendant stuff, Felicity, my I suggest you listen to Jann Arden's "Will You Remember Me?" or Robert Wyatt's "At Last I Am Free." I swear both songs are so sad, they're almost happy.

And remember folks:

Black coat

white shoes

black hat

Cadillac

The boy's a time bomb!

((Uh ... sorry. Unresolved external reference. Does not compute.))

BCSFAZINEzine, Volume 1, Number 31.382, Friday 11 March 2005
BCSFAZINEzine is from Felicity Walker, felicity4711@hotmail.com.

Cover: Nice Victorian clip art! I liked the Gibson drawings in *Sercon Popcult Literit Fanmag* and *Royal Swiss Navy Gazette*. Remind me to try to do Gibsonesque drawings of BCSFA members.

Egoboo junkie that I am, I went into withdrawal when two of my twelve contributions to #381 were in the electronic, but not the printed format. I realise that's a bit of an over-reaction considering that ten out of the twelve things *did* find their way onto paper. Just so I can brace myself for next time, is the abridged paper/unabridged electronic distinction going to be a regular thing?

Living Is Easy with Eyes Closed: Have I missed the Auroras? I've been too disorganised even to submit my own art zines for potential nomination, let alone deal with the full Aurora experience. *[checks Dennis Mullin's Website]* No, there's still time.

"Also: no-one has passed on to me, even after fifteen years, what the backgrounds are for over half the BCSFA members! Now you know why I just make up stufh about you members: to provoke you to respond! It hasn't worked, obviously." That's because you do it *too well*. You have to do it *badly* enough that people don't trust you and insist on writing their own bios so you don't libel them in print.

"A strange thing: the older I get, the more I write and talk like an old-fashioned, literate, but rather stuffy British guy, like that butler Higgins on the 1970s TV series, Magnum PI." If I may digress from your actual point and indulge in a moment of 1980s pedantry: Higgins was the estate manager and *Magnum PI* ran from 1980-1988.

"This is strange because the most similar real-life character to Higgins that I knew was my grandfather, and unlike him, I'm a Canadian baby-

boomer and I never served in any armed forces. (Also he looked twenty or thirty years older than the Higgins character, who had to be the same age, but let's get past that.)" No, wait, let's not—that's an interesting question. What makes you think Higgins had to be the same age as your grandfather? Conversely, what makes you think Higgins wasn't the same age as your grandfather?

((My grandfather, who served in both World Wars, was a tubby white-haired gent when I knew him, just about as old as the 20th century. Higgins had to have had a career in much the same period, but had a full head of hair with no white in it.))

"I think it may be time to start a new publication, probably online. Call it *Interesting Times*, perhaps. What say?" Go for it! I'd read it. I'm thinking about collecting my recorded experiences in gender-transitioning into a perzine called *I Was Once a Man* (a *GI Joe: The Movie* reference that has been resurgent lately), and making another attempt to capture my opinions and zines-received listings into *Hero of the Beach*—and to finally take that from Web to print as I'd originally planned.

LoCs und Bägeln - Felicity Walker: *"((You may find the love you need, rather than the love you want, and not when and where you're looking. Check out *The Four Loves* by C.S. Lewis.))"* I've got *storge*, *philia*, and *agape*; I need *eros*.

"((Like who, or should I say whom?))" Well, for example, Ryan and Deej. Don't get wrong; I'm very happy for them. They're both quality people on the inside, as well as physically perfect on the outside, and it's couples like them that balance out my impression that women prefer sociopathic assholes to compassionate gentlemen.

Last night I was downtown and a couple in their late teens or early twenties started to walk past. The man said something that sounded like "Hell *yes* it's a transwoman," causing me to look at him. He saw this and said "What the fuck *you* lookin' at?" The stock answer I keep ready in my mind is "I thought you said my name." He said, "Well, I didn't, so fuck off." A few beats later he added, "...unless your name is homo." Interestingly, I wasn't hurt by what he said; it's the fact that he has a girlfriend (who evidently has no problem with him behaving like this), while I've been alone for the last thirteen years, that undermines my respect for women.

"((This sort of thing is why I don't watch politics, or soap operas, or other competitive sports.))" What do you mean? What part of my history of Goldust is "this sort of thing"?

((Televised sports, and especially the contrived feuds of wrestling, sound like politics and the contrived feuds of soap operas. Maybe we should reformat political coverage to sound like wrestling, or like soap operas.))

"((The Ghod-Editor laughs derisively. I have, I think, sufficient awareness of the, well, creative expressions of religion in the last half-

century, to appreciate how pusillanimous it is for people to claim they are Satanists but do not worship Satan.))” Ouch.

“((We do all of us know what an Expository Lump is, don’t we?))” I have...and for those who haven’t, this sentence is a perfect segue for Garth to the exposition of the Expository Lump...

“We Also Heard From: ‘Purple.’ ” What did he have to say? Why is his name still in quotes?

((Nobody can convince me ‘Purple’ is a real name.))

Media File: “Weird Al” Yankovic used call himself “Weird” Al Yankovic, but people kept interpreting that punctuation placement to mean that they should call him Weird. “Hi, Weird.” So he moved the closing quote mark and now people call him “Weird Al,” which is correct.

Fans are a smarter group, so the same thing probably won’t happen with “Cosmic” Ray Seredin. They’re not going to say, “Hey, Cosmic, pass me the pitcher of Diet Coke.”

I don’t like my Scott Bakula drawing. I *do* like my J. Michael Straczynski and Kolchak drawings. I should have turned on anti-aliasing when I did the lettering...the lettering is what my grade eleven computer science teacher would have called “jaggy.”

Fan Aurora Candidates: I’m running against Michael Morse? Wow...meta.

BCSFA Members, Friends and Trades, Past and Present: I’m not only a contributing illustrator. I also contribute text, *and* have paid my BCSFA membership through 25 December 2005. Please list me as my preferred name, Felicity Walker, unless it’s absolutely necessary to use my legal name.

Barb Dryer writes (Mar. 14, 2005):

"HELP! I may need a place to stay temporarily in the near future.

"I am experiencing problems with the Ministry of Human Resources over issues of rent cost and other financial aspects. I may have to move out of my apartment suddenly, and may not be able to afford to go directly into a new apartment. I am worried that I'm going to wind up broke and out on the street if my current financial situation involving MHR is not resolved.

"As of the week ending Friday, March 11, it looks like my financial situation is about to become even more precarious. I'm going to try to hang on for the next 3 months. I have to gear up to get moved to somewhere cheaper, but one is supposed to give at least one month's notice before moving out. I figure I would be moving out at the end of May. I hope it doesn't have to be sooner than that.

"If there's anyone who can put me up for a short while or knows where I could stay for a while, please let me know. Call me at 604-267-7973. If I lose my phone, please leave a message for me at 604-255-0796

(Howard Cherniack's). My email is barbdryer@apexmail.com. I don't have Internet access at home, so my email isn't checked every day.

"Part of my plan is to put my possessions into storage until I can find a place that's cheaper, or cheap enough to satisfy MHR. Also, if anyone has a car who can help me move my stuff into a storage locker, that would be a great help. I would prefer to move stuff gradually, not all at once, so I can get as much stuff moved out ahead of time as possible. (I may have to sell things as well.)

"Things with Welfare really heated up when my social worker denied me benefits on Tuesday, January 11. Ultimately my benefits were partially restored. Since November 8, my entire life has revolved around documentation, letters, and forms - all required or requested by Welfare. This is still ongoing. It has been very time-consuming (and stressful).

"I am on a waitlist at B.C. Housing, but that could take a while. I will need to move somewhere else in the meantime."

We Also Heard From: Ed Hutchings and "Purple"

Words from Our Advertisers

The following advertisers offer a 10% DISCOUNT to card-carrying WCSFA members:

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METROTOWN WRITER'S GROUP
is open to new members.
Meetings are held twice a month at
the Metrotown library, on Thursdays
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Calendar of Northwest Events

April 2005

Apr. 1: release of *Sin City*

Apr. 2: release of *Replica*

Apr. 2-3: Just a Game Con at the Benton County Fairgrounds; see
<http://home.centurytel.net/GOMC/>.

Apr. 5: release of *Surviving the 21st Century*

Apr. 5: *Dr. Who* premieres on CBC

Apr. 8-10: SakuraCon 8 at the Seattle Airport Hilton and Conference Center AND Marriott Hotel, SeaTac, WA. An anime and gaming convention hosted by ANCEA. Guests TBA. Memberships: \$50 at the door, children 6-12 half price, under 6 free, one-day passes available. phone 1-877-873-3317 or write Sakura-Con, 3702 South Fife St., Suite k02, PB 78, Tacoma, WA 98409. (NOTE: Anime fans do things differently; the SakuraCon website lists "staff positions" and even has a page for "Job Openings". [!?!])

April 12: Yuri's Night 2005 - the world will celebrate the anniversary of the first person in space, Yuri Gagarin; and the first Shuttle Flight, *Columbia*. Join the

Space Party! In Vancouver, Yuri's Night will be held at the Tokyo Lounge at 1050 Alberni St., elevator access to 3rd floor (downtown, near the Hotel Vancouver). Cover is \$5 before 10 pm, \$7 after 10 pm. The itinerary for the night is as follows:
8:00 pm - Artists/Fashion reception with cash bar
8:30 pm - VIP speaker: Dr. Jaymie Matthews,
Dept. of Physics & Astronomy, UBC
9:00 pm - DJ's Science and The Stunt Man on 4 turntables
11:30 pm - Band: Threat From Outer Space
12:00 am - DJ Mat the Alien

Greg Slade, Feb. 17 & Mar. 25, 2005

Apr. 15: release of *The Amityville Horror*

** CREATION CON ALERT **

Apr. 15-17: 2005 Creation/MGM's First Stargate Celebration for the Fans, Hilton Vancouver Metrotown, Burnaby, BC. Media SF convention. Guests: Christopher Judge, Michael Shanks, Teryl Rothery, Don S. Davis, Tony Amendola, Peter Williams, Dan Shea, Bruce Woloshyn, David Nykl, Craig Veroni. Admission, Various prices. For more information, www.creationent.com. (Lloyd Penney's Made in Canada Conlist)
** END CREATION CON ALERT **

Apr. 16-17: Dak-Kon X: EMPIRE at the Native Sons' Hall, 4th and Cliffe Ave., Courtenay, BC. A gaming con. (The Native Sons' Hall is the really big wooden building on the river side of Cliffe Avenue.) Memberships (cash at the door) \$15 one day \$25 for the whole weekend. Write c/o 3426 - 333 Hunt Plc., Courtenay, BC V9N 1G0 (ADDRESS SOON TO CHANGE); see
<http://members.axion.net/~murdock/tourney.html>.

Apr. 22-24 - Gamequest: Spocon, at The Eagles Lodge, in Spokane, WA. Gaming convention. Admission: \$16, \$7/day. For more information, see
www.gamequest2k.com/games/spocon.html.

Apr. 23-24: 24 Hour Comics Day 2005. <http://www.24hourcomics.com/>

April 24 - Toy, Model and Collectables Show in Vancouver, BC. See
<http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact
lswong@uniserve.com.

Apr. 29: release of XXX: *State of the Union* (what, does Vin Diesel run for President? -GS)

May 2005

May 6: release of *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*

May 7: Free Comic Book Day 2005. <http://www.freecomicbookday.com/>

May 13-15 - Tolcon 2005, SeaTac Radisson Hotel, Seattle, WA. Tolkien convention. Guests: Ted Nasmith, Kiran Shah, more. Membership: \$35 until May 1, \$45 at the door, \$25 one-day. For more information, see www.tolcon.org.

May 19: release of *Star Wars: Episode III - Revenge of the Sith*

May 20-23: Keycon 22, Radisson Hotel Downtown, Winnipeg, MB. SF convention. Guests: Steve Erikson (author of *Guardians of the Moon*); Lars de Souza (artist); Chris Barsanti & Nancy Fetterman (previous Keycon co-chairs). Memberships: \$40, more at the door? For more information, see www.keycon.org.

May 21-22: Otafest (anime convention) at the University of Calgary in Calgary, Alberta; see <http://www.otafest.com>.

May 28&29 – Cloud City 2005, Marpole Curling Club, Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Registration: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. For more information, www.vancouvergamersguild.com.

May 27-29: Enfilade in Olympia, Washington. See <http://www.nhmg.org/#enfilade>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

May 28: Olympia Comics Festival in Olympia, WA. More details TBA.

June 2005

June 3-5: ConComCon 12 at the Seattle Radisson, 17001 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA 98188, U.S.A.

ConComCon, or C-Cubed, is the Pacific Northwest's annual convention-runners convention. ConComCon is the best place in the Pacific Northwest to network with other local convention runners, exchange ideas on how to make conventions run more effectively, and talk about fandom in general. Whether you have been running conventions for years, or you are completely new to convention running and you want to get your foot in the door, come on down and join us!

Topics include: The Technical Side of Conventions, Sound, Lights, Power Cords, Duct Tape, Horror Stories, Discussion Groups and Hands-on Classes ending in a mini-dance, Meetings and a totally indulgent hospitality suite.

Hotel Room Rate is \$79 per night; room reservations number is 1-800-333-3333 or (206) 244-6000, fax (206) 246-6835.

Memberships are: \$25 prereg to May 10, \$35 at the door. Mail your memberships with name, address, city, state, zip, email to: ConComCon 12, c/o SWOC, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A. See <http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/>, or contact the ConComCon Chairs: Michael and Becky Citrak, tel (360) 456-7441, email mcitrak@comcast.net or adonno@aol.com for more information

C-Cubed is sponsored by Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC), the parent organization of the Seattle in 2005 North American Science Fiction Convention now officially known as Cascadia Con.

Michael Citrak <mcitrak@comcast.net>, 11 Feb 2005

June 5: Vancouver Comicon. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact lswong@uniserve.com.

June 17: release of *Batman Begins*

June 25 & 26: Astronomi-Con Winnipeg 2005, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB. Gaming convention. Registration: \$75. For more information, www.astronomi-con.com.

Japanese space probe to make history this month

July 2005

July 1: release of *Undead*, *StarCraft: Ghost*, *Fantastic Four*, and *Treasure of the Seven Mummies*

July 1-4: Westercon 58 and Convention 2005 at the Westin Calgary Hotel in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A traveling general SF and major regional SF Convention. Author GoH: S.M. Stirling. Canadian Author Guest: David Duncan. Publisher guest: Tom Doherty (TOR). Editor guest: David Hartwell (TOR). Science Guest: Dr. Phil Currie (archaeologist). Artist guest: Mark Ferrari. Fan Guests: Cliff Samuels & Eileen Capes. Rooms C\$120 + tax per night; contact 1-800-937-8461. Memberships range up to C\$80 (adult). Write Calgary in 2005, P.O. Box 43078, DVPO, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7, or email info@calgaryin2005.org.

July 15-18: Fragapalooza in Edmonton, Alberta. See <http://www.fragapalooza.com>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

July 16: release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

July 25-August 1: Gatecon 2005, Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. Media SF convention. Guests: Dirk Benedict, Richard Hatch, Kevin Sorbo, Robert Picardo, Alonso Oyarzun. Registration: US\$225. for more information, see www.gatecon.com.

July 29 – 31: MerpCon 2005 in Spokane, Washington. LOTR-themed role-playing convention. Registration: Free. See <http://merpcon.merp.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005; Lloyd's list, Mar. 2005)

August 2005

Aug. 4-8: Interaction (63rd Worldcon), SECC, Glasgow. Now £110/\$195/Euro165 reg. £30/\$45/Euro45 supp. Contact 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. In North America: PO Box 58009, Louisville, Kentucky, KY 40268-0009, USA. (*Ansible* 209)

Aug. 5-7: Animethon 12 at Grant MacEwan Community College / Holiday Inn Express in Edmonton, Alberta; Anime convention. Registration: TBA. See <http://www.animethon.org>

Aug. 11-14: PDX LAN in Portland, Oregon. See <http://www.pdxlan.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

Aug 19-21: Anime Evolution at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby (*not* the Vancouver campus), BC. Anime convention. Guests: Broken Saints, Rob Bakewell, Johnny Yong Bosch, Michael Dobson, David Kaye, and Kirby Morrow. Memberships: \$25 until March 31, \$30 until May 31, \$35 afterwards and at the door. See <http://www.animeevolution.com>

Aug 26-28: Dragonflight 2005 at the Bellevue Sheraton in Bellevue, WA. Gaming convention. Memberships: US\$30 until April 30, US\$35 until July 31, US\$40 thereafter and at the door. (<http://www.dragonflight.org/>)

Aug. 26-28: PAX (Penny Arcade Expo) at Maydenbabauher Center in Bellevue, Washington. See <http://www.penny-arcade.com/pax>.

Aug 28: Comix & Stories in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact lswong@uniserve.com.

September 2005

Sept. 1-5: CascadiaCon 2005, the 2005 NASFiC, at the SeaTac Hilton & Conference Center in Seatac, Washington. (The General SF convention North Americans hold when Worldcon goes overseas.) Writer GoH: Fred Saberhagen. Artist GoH: Liz Danforth. Editor GoH: Toni Weiskopf (Baen). Fan GoH: Kevin Standlee (chair of Con Jose). Scientist GoH: Marc Abrahams (founder of the *Journal of Improbable Research* and the Ig Nobel Awards). Rooms \$109/night for 1-4 people; phone (206) 244-4800. Memberships: \$85 (full adult). Write Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111.

Sept. 3-5: H.P. Lovecraft's Birthday Party in Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Registration: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. See <http://www.vancouvergamingguild.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

Sept. 3-5: Kumoricon in Portland, OR; more details TBA

Sept. 18: Vancouver Comicon in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact lswong@uniserve.com.

Sept. 23-25: Foolscap VII at the Bellevue Sheraton, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Harlan Ellison. "Foolscap VII will continue the tradition of featuring original artwork from professionals and newcomers on an invitational basis. To be considered for invitation, prospective artists may submit samples of artwork to our jury." Memberships \$40 now. Mail deadline: Sept. 10, 2005. Mail to Foolscap VII c/o Little Cat Z, P.O. Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461, U.S.A. Email www.foolscapcon.org.

Sept. 23-25 – Fallcon 18, Calgary Marlborough Community Association Centre, Calgary, AB. Gaming convention. Memberships: \$25 until August 29, \$30 afterwards and at the door. For more information, www.fallcon.com.

October 2005

Oct. 1: Stumptown Comics Festival in Portland, OR; more details TBA

Oct. 7-9: VCon 30 at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, BC. GoHs Todd Lockwood, TBA. Dealers' tables: \$60 for first table, with 1 included membership; \$50 for additional table, with 1 included membership; \$30 for each additional membership. (Dealers' Liaison: Greg Slade.) Registration: until June 30, 2005, adults \$45, children \$22.50; until September 15, 2005, adults \$50, children \$25; at the door, adults \$60, children \$30 each. Payment accepted by cheque, money order or Visa. Day memberships are available. See www.v-con.ca for updates. Write to VCon 30, c/o #209 - 2166 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 2A4.

Oct. 14-16 – Hero's Gambit, St. Joseph's Hall, Saskatoon, SK. Gaming convention. Registration: \$18. For more information, www.herosgambit.com.

Oct. 21-23 – Conifur Northwest, SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, Seattle, WA. Furry/Anthropomorphic convention. Guest: David Hopkins. Memberships: US\$40. For more information, www.conifur.org.

Oct. 23 – Toy, Model And Collectibles Show, Heritage Hall, Vancouver, BC. Memberships: \$2, kids \$1. For more information, see www.mypage.uniserve.ca/~lswong/Comicon.html.

Oct. 28-30: Dreamcon 20 in Everett, WA (more details TBA)

Oct. 29&30 – Howloween 2005, Best Western Convention Centre, Coquitlam, BC. Anthropomorphic convention. Registration: C\$35/US\$26 until October 10, C\$40 at the door. For more information, www.howloween.org.

November 2005

Nov. 4-6: Orycon 27 at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront in Portland, Oregon. GoHs: Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson; ArtGoH Paul Guinan; Special GoHs Rebecca Moesta and Anina Bennett; Editor GoH TBA. Room rates at the Marriott (1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR 97201, tel. [503] 226-7600) will be US\$99/nite. Remember, this 1300+member convention is a weaponless con. Memberships US\$30 to April 15, \$40 to July 15, \$45 to October 15, \$55 at the door. Children 6-12 half-price, 5's and under free; Children must be accompanied by adults. Email orycon27@hotmail.com, see www.orycon.org or write Orycon 27, P.O. Box 5464, Portland, OR 97228-5464, U.S.A.

Nov. 20: Vancouver Comicon in Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Memberships: TBA. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact lswong@uniserve.com.

2006

Jan. 13-15: Rustycon 23, SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, Seattle, WA. SF convention. Guests: Mike Moscoe, Ruth Thompson, Clan Burnout/Carbon Based Rentals. Memberships: TBA. For more information, see www.rustycon.com.

A Proud and Lonely Thing

VICTORIA SCHOOL OF WRITING/2005 POSTCARD STORY COMPETITION

The 10th Anniversary [of the] Victoria School of Writing will be held July 17-22 in our provincial capital. Instructors will include Caroline Adderson, George Bowering, Bill Richardson, Sheri-D Wilson and others. <http://www.victoriaschoolofwriting.org> The Postcard Story Competition offers scholarships to the school. Entry fee. Unpublished works of up to 300 words submitted before April 29.

Bill <bmarles53@yahoo.com>, 15 February 2005
Richmond Writers <richmondwriters@groups.msn.com>
Forwarded by Felicity Walker, Feb. 15, 2005

TECHNOVELGY “is a unique fusion of practical science and unadulterated dream. Its backbone is its extensive list of SF inventions, each indexed by its creator, be it Douglas Adams or Roger Zelazny. Each entry includes a small snippet of text from the novel it came from—essentially the critical few paragraphs that explain what the gizmo is and how it works. Visitors can also browse inventions through a timeline that dates back to the 1726 ‘invention’ of bio-energy by Jonathan Swift in *Gulliver’s Travels*.

“If one is looking for something particular, these fictional technologies are also indexed by category. (source: <http://www.scifi.com/sfw/issue402/site.html>)

“And the Technovelgy website is located at <http://technovelgy.com/>”
Timebinders listserv, Feb. 15, 2005

GOTH HOUSE NEWSLETTER: 11 March 2005

“Part 1 of High School of the Damned: Percival changes his shirt
<http://www.gothhouse.org/>

“This e-mail message is still being sent the old-fashioned way, to allow me to test some stuff. To that end -- please, try out the first Goth House Webtoy, HP Lovecraft “mad-libs.”

http://www.gothhouse.org/gh_toys/madlibs01.php
--Julie McGalliard, March 11, 2005

PORTLAND WESTERCON BID ON HOLD?

After one Roberta Carlson asked on the NWConLeague listserv about the fate of the Portland (2007) Westercon bid, Bobbie Dufault responded, “according to Melanie [Schaber], the chair, they are not because they lost their hotel. There is some time left if they happen to find a new venue but I believe the energy is being spent on getting Orycon situated instead.”

Bobbie Dufault to NWConLeague listserv, Feb. 15, 2005

Yngvi Is a Louse!

(Media File)

by “Cosmic” Ray Seredin

Just a quick note: I made a mistake about the timing of Norwescon 28. Since it’s at the end of March, there’s no way I could file my report (unless I had a certain Police Box) before the March 11th submission deadline. However, I do plan to make Norwescon 28 a big part of my report for May’s *BCSFAzine*. Note to Garth: Please write “I will proofread all of the copy of *BCSFAzine* before sending it to the printer” one hundred times before editing the May issue.

Cameras Roll on Battlestar Galactica Season Two: The Sci-Fi Channel has ordered twenty episodes of the locally-produced series *Battlestar Galactica* and work on it got under way on Monday March 7th. There’re

unsubstantiated rumours on the Web saying that this season they could be making a few calls on planets on their way to where they’re going (Earth), though I don’t like that idea (the new series is doing just fine the way it is and doing this idea will make it too much like the original *Battlestar Galactica*). I do like having the chance to see the cast around town, instead of just on the soundstages of the Vancouver Film Studio and in the North Shore Experimental Forest.

Meanwhile, across Boundary Road and the BNSF Railway tracks from VFS, work is well underway for season nine of *Stargate: SG1* and season two of *Stargate: Atlantis* at Bridge Studios. Now some bad news: Space: TIS will not start showing *Stargate: Atlantis* season one until January 2006, with season nine of *SG1* starting in February.

There’s still no word if the fan effort to save *Star Trek: Enterprise* is working.¹ However, Paramount is saying that it will be at least three years before another project under the *Star Trek* franchise name is produced.

The CBC has set the date of April 5th for the Canadian premiere of the new *Doctor Who* series (and there was much rejoicing). The network launched the series’ promotional campaign with three spots for it during the March 6th airing of *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*, and by the time you read this you should be seeing the *Doctor Who* name in every newspaper and Canadian magazine, in spots on both American and Canadian cable stations, in ads on bus shelters, and on the back end of every fifth TransLink bus.² However, there’s bad news for the series’ fans in the US: the Sci-Fi Channel has said *no* to the new series because “it doesn’t fit with our main viewing audience.” This is from the same person who thought millions of viewers would tune in for two weeks for the 1997 Special Olympics when she worked for ABC TV. As for the series itself, from what I heard from the many fans who’ve seen the first episode “Rose” (leaked to the web on March 6th)³, it’s as good as or better than the old series—but I’m waiting until April 5th (or Norwescon 28) to judge it for myself.

Poor J. Michael Straczynski! The greedy bass at Time Warner said of the *Babylon 5* theatrical film that it’s either their way (with well-known “movie actors” and not J. Michael’s TV actors) or the highway. So JMS hit the highway, and cancelled the project as well as his new project, the mini-series *Dreamscape* that would likely have been produced locally. There’re unsubstantiated rumours on the web that J. Michael and some of the cast could be doing a number of SF conventions in the States and up here to gather support for the film as he wants to see it. If they’re at Norwescon 28, I’ll let you know in May’s issue. (Note: I may just be watching the new *Doctor Who* episode with Bruce Boxleitner and Melissa Gilbert on the 26th after the Masquerade.)

If by April 13th you’ve had your fill of March Madness and reality shows,⁴ I have some good news for you. The first new episode of *Lost* since March 2nd will air that evening on ABC and CTV. So grab some sun block, put your mind in gear and enjoy one great PNE roll-a-co-star ride of a series’ return.

Here are the science fiction media DVD releases for most of March and early April. This may come in handy if you ever find yourself at Best Buys with about \$50 in your pockets:

March 1st: *Doctor Who: The Green Death* with the Jon Pertwee Doctor; *Doctor Who: The Visitation* with the Peter Davidson Doctor; *Lost in Space* Season 3, Volume 1; *Godzilla 2000*; *Matango: Attack of the Mushroom People*

March 8th: *Andromeda* Volume 4.5; *Earthsea* [miniseries]

March 15th: *Farscape: Starburst Edition* Volume 3; *Red Dwarf* Series 5 *Red Dwarf* Series 6; *Tales of the Unexpected* Set #2; *Star Trek: First Contact* Collector's Edition

March 22nd: *Star Wars: Clone Wars* Volume 1

March 29th: *Dark Shadows* DVD Collection 17; *The Lone Gunmen* Complete Series; *The Twilight Zone* Season 2 Definitive Edition; *Apollo 13* Two-Disc Anniversary Edition⁵

April 5th: *The Greatest American Hero* Season 2; *Dragon's World: A Fantasy Made Real*⁶

That's it for this issue. My TARDIS (that this year is shaped like a Quick Shuttle bus and not an Amtrak Talgo train) awaits, to take me to Norwescon 28. Be seeing you.

¹ Please, please save us from seeing *Making of a Male Model!*

² This brings up a interesting question: If three TransLink buses are heading up Granville Street on a Friday night, and two have ads for *Doctor Who* on them, while the other has an ad for *Little House on the Prairie* on CMT on it, which one will be heading to FRED? The answer is: It doesn't matter; Melissa Gilbert's ex says that she's one of the biggest *Doctor Who* fans on Earth.

³ Interestingly, the leak was mentioned on the Canadian drama *Train 48!*

⁴ And maybe even of *Doctor Who*.

⁵ (I know this is History and not Science-Fiction. However, it's a great true story set in space.)

⁶ (It's a "what if" story so it counts as science fiction in my books.)

BCSFAzine © April 2005, Volume 33, #4, Issue #383 is the club newsletter published by the B.C. Science Fiction Association, a social organization. For comments, subscriptions, suggestions, and/or submissions, write to: *BCSFAzine*, c/o Box 15335, VMPO, Vancouver, B.C. CANADA V6B 5B1, or email hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca.

BCSFAzine is printed most excellently by the good people at Copies Plus, at 1950 West Broadway, Vancouver, BC, tel. 604-731-7868.

BCSFAzine is distributed monthly at WHITE DWARF BOOKS, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V6R 2G5, tel. 604-228-8223; email whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies \$3.00 each.

BCSFA's e-mail discussion list may be joined by emailing BCSFA-subscribe@yahoo.com

To post a message, email BCSFA@yahoo.com

The shortcut URL to this list is <http://www.yahoo.com/group/BCSFA>

F.R.E.D., the weekly gathering of BCSFAns and all others interested in coming, has been meeting at the Denny's on Davie at Thurlow.

BCSFA's Web page may now be viewed at <http://bcdfa.bcgreen.com>

The V-Con Society Web page may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca/society/>

VCon's Web page may be viewed at <http://www.v-con.ca>

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BCSFA membership rates:

E-mail version: \$15.00; New member: \$26.00; Renewal: \$25.00; New Family (2 votes): \$32.00. These prices include subscription to *BCSFAzine*. Make cheques payable to WCSFA (West Coast Science Fiction Association), c/o 86 Warrick Street, Coquitlam, B.C. CANADA V3K 5L4. *BCSFAzine* is also available by e-mail; please email the editor at hrothgar@vcn.bc.ca if you wish to receive our newsletter this way.

Why You Got This:

- You are a member.
- Zines for sorrow ... zines for pain ...
- You taught your Microsoft Word spellchecker the word "zine", and once you do that, *THE FLOODGATES ARE OPEN!*
- Ain't no party like a *BCSFAzine* party, 'cause a *BCSFAzine* party don't stop. Heyyy ... hooo ... heyyy ... hooo ... just throw your hands in the air ... and wave'em like you just don't care ... now *EVERYBODY ZIIINE!*
- You ordered it from the Acme catalog. It's just one component of your latest *DEATH TRAP!*

Late Breaking News

The Canadian Unity Fan Fund nomination deadline has been extended to April 16.

VCon 30 will be held at the Executive Inn Airport in Richmond.

Orycon 27 will be held at the Portland Marriott Downtown, the weekend before the Remembrance Day weekend.

Andre Norton has passed on.

An Host of Furious Fancies

(April Media File Supplemental)

Researched by Felicity and Ray

Paraphrased by Felicity

* There's a short animated film about rock group Mötley Crüe saving the world from destruction. It was custom-made for their latest tour ("Red White & Crüe Tour 2005...Better Live Than Dead") by LA company Dream Ent., but will also be part of *Disaster! The Movie* (directed by Roy Wood of *Celebrity Death Match*), which comes out later this year. In the feature, a team led by vulcanologist Harold Bottoms tries to save the world from a runaway planetoid in a parody of action movies like *Armageddon* and *Twister*. *Disaster! The Movie's* site is <http://www.disasterthemovie.com>. The Crüe short is at <http://www.motley.com>. [Animation World Network]

* A box set of the 1994-1996 *Fantastic Four* cartoon is being released to promote the upcoming *FF* live-action movie. The cartoon was part of the Marvel Action Hour (along with *Iron Man*). About half of the episodes were direct remakes of episodes of the 1960s Hanna-Barbera *FF* series, and creator Stan Lee provided voice-over narration for the first season. A new animated *FF* series will debut in 2006. [Animation World Network]

* The sequel to the zombie movie *28 Days Later* will be called *28 Weeks Later*, and will show the aftermath of the first movie. In *28 Days Later*, a deadly virus turned most of the population of Britain into the undead. Director Danny Boyle: "Britain has been emptied. There's nobody there. It's completely dead. And six months later the Americans arrive to reboot it back up again, particularly the franchises, obviously." *28 Weeks Later* will feature a new cast—the stars of the first one are busy. [SCI FI Wire]

* Zak Penn has directed *Incident at Loch Ness*, an improvised mockumentary. Werner Herzog stars as himself, on a quest to solve the mystery of the Loch Ness monster. The movie was made on a \$1 million budget. Penn plans to make the most profit in the DVD market, so he's

loaded the DVD with extras—deleted scenes, commentaries, behind-the-scenes featurettes and Easter eggs. Penn: "There's a lot on the DVD. There's a hidden documentary that was made by my line producer...called *The Non-Evidence: The Making of Incident at Loch Ness*. Werner does a couple of commentaries. The two deleted scenes are experts talking about how the special effects couldn't have been done." *Incident at Loch Ness* is out on DVD now. [SCI FI Wire]

* Keanu Reeves will star in *The 8th Voyage of Sinbad* as Sinbad the sailor from *The Arabian Nights*. In eighth-century China, Sinbad and his shipmates embark on a quest to find the Lamp of Aladdin. Along the way, they meet a beautiful empress and battle fantastical creatures, as well as a rebellious Chinese general who threatens the kingdom with his supernatural powers. [SCI FI Wire after *Variety*]

* Trek United, an organisation of fans of *Star Trek: Enterprise*, announced that three anonymous contributors have pledged \$3 million to finance a fifth season of the show. The TrekUnited.com Web site says that the contribution comes from "investors" in "the commercial space flight industry." A statement from the prospective donors read: "We...would like to testify that at least one out of two of all the actual entrepreneurs involved in this industry has been inspired by *Star Trek*, and we are not only good at watching TV sci-fi, we are also good at writing checks. Big checks." Fans estimate that it would cost about \$36 million to completely finance a fifth season of *Enterprise*. [SCI FI Wire]

* Fans of *Star Trek: Enterprise* took to the streets in Los Angeles, New York and other cities on 25 February to urge Paramount to give the show a fifth season. About 300 people marched at the entrance of Paramount Studios in Hollywood to protest UPN's decision to cancel the low-rated show. Candice McCallie, a spokesperson for Trek United, said that similar protests were scheduled to take place in New York, Tel Aviv and London. Manny Coto, *Enterprise's* executive producer, and some of the writers and crew people came out and talked to the fans to show their support. So far, Trek United reports that fans have raised \$49,720 (not including the recent \$3 million from investors in the commercial space-flight industry). Fans also paid for a full-page advertisement in the *Los Angeles Times* on 15 February. McCallie said Paramount "know the franchise makes plenty of money for them. We're offering to pay for everything, and they would still keep all the rights. I realize we could give them the money, and they could still say no, but I think they would be fools if they did." The series finale of *Enterprise* airs in May. Manny Coto: "The recent donation of three million dollars to Trek United's campaign is unprecedented and stunning. It's additional evidence that *Star Trek* is much more than a 'franchise'; it's an inspiration to millions of people...and this makes it worth saving. Keep up the fight. No matter what anyone says, it can be won." [SCI FI Wire]

* Stuart Townsend (*Queen of the Damned*; *The League of Extraordinary Gentlemen*) will star as ABC's new Kolchak in the drama pilot *Night Stalker*, an update of the 1970s supernatural TV series, from writer-producer Frank Spotnitz (*The X-Files*). [SCI FI Wire after *The Hollywood Reporter*]

* Denying an indecency complaint from the Parents' Television Council, the FCC has said that a love scene from the *Angel* that showed a female character turning into a vampire and biting her partner's neck did not overstep federal indecency rules. [SCI FI Wire after *The Hollywood Reporter*]

* The WB network has a new animated series starring futuristic versions of Bugs Bunny, Daffy Duck, Wile E. Coyote and the rest of the *Looney Tunes* characters. *Loonatics*, which will air Saturday mornings in the fall on the Kids' WB, is set in the year 2272 and features characters such as Buzz Bunny and other superhero descendants. David Janollari, president of the Kids' WB, was impressed with the re-imagining of the classic characters and says the new series will not tarnish their legacy. "I think the legacy is intact," he said. "If anything, it's an homage to the legacy instead of a destruction of the legacy." [SCI FI Wire after Associated Press]

* After the success of *Freddy vs. Jason*, New Line asked Quentin Tarantino to write and direct the "ultimate" *Friday the 13th* movie. Tarantino's representatives at William Morris confirmed that Tarantino has scheduled a meeting with New Line, but also warn that Tarantino takes off months, if not years, between projects. [SCI FI Wire after *Variety*]

* Tor has signed Vernor Vinge to a multi-book deal. Vinge will write three new novels, and several of his out-of-print books will be re-issued, starting with the Hugo-nominated *Marooned in Realtime*. Vinge's next novel under his contract with Tor is *Rainbows End*. Vinge expects *Rainbows End* to be published early in 2006. "*Rainbows End* takes place in California in the near future and is a prequel to [his novella] 'Fast Times at Fairmont High.' After *Rainbows End*, I expect that my next novel-length project will be a sequel to *A Deepness in the Sky* [1999]. This sequel would follow Pham Nuwen and Anne Reynolt as they seek to overthrow the Emergency." [SCI FI Wire]

* Cory Doctorow said that he visited Disneyland and Walt Disney World "at least 50 times" to research his Nebula-nominated novel *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom*. In the book, nearly-100-year-old Julius works at Disney World, in a future where cybernetic implants in the brain store memories and personalities that can be transferred to clones, thus eliminating age and death, and money has been replaced by "Whuffie points." The book also tackles morality, socialism, poverty, the right to die, freedom of choice, hubris and the cult of celebrity. Doctorow said the

reaction he has heard from many Disney people was "all positive. They say I captured the mood and details just right." The Nebula Awards, given by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America, will be presented in Chicago on 30 April. [SCI FI Wire]

* Sean Stewart update: His novel *Perfect Circle* has been nominated for a Nebula Award. His current project *I Love Bees* has two parts: the first is the story of a 26th-century artificial intelligence stranded in our present, and the second is the story of six 26th-century characters under surveillance by the AI, who broadcasts the story over pay phones. [SCI FI Wire]

* Lois McMaster Bujold received her eighth Nebula Award nomination for her novel *Paladin of Souls*. "The Nebulas seem to pick up on hot new writers a year or two before the Hugos do. Both awards serve to bring a varied list of writers and works to the attention of new readers," McMaster Bujold said. The awards' eligibility rules have changed since her first win in 1988. A work may now collect nominating votes for one year after its date of publication, which gives works published late in the year a chance to be seen. [SCI FI Wire]

* Anne McCaffrey, best known for her *Dragonriders of Pern* series, has been designated a Grand Master by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America. McCaffrey becomes the 22nd writer so honoured since 1974. The award will be presented during the Nebula Awards. [SCI FI Wire]

* T'Bone, a blogger on the Underground Online Web-site, reports a rumour that George Lucas will have a cameo in *Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith*. T'Bone posted a photograph which he says is Lucas in costume as "Baron Papanoida." Lucas's brief appearance will be in a scene at an opera house, according to UGO. [SCI FI Wire]

* Marlon Brando will reprise his role as Jor-El in Bryan Singer's *Superman Returns*. Singer will use a deleted scene from *Superman II*. [CHUD—Devin Faraci]

* Jolene Blalock, in an interview with the *Toronto Star*, had this to say about *Enterprise*: "I mean, we started out with 13 million viewers on the pilot, and we somehow managed to drive 11 million of them away." On the subject of the final episode, she says: "I don't know where to begin with that one. The final episode is...appalling." Because Jonathan Frakes is rumoured to guest-star in the finale, fans are speculating that the entire series will turn out to be a historical simulation created by Riker on the holodeck of the *Next Generation Enterprise*. [CHUD—Devin Faraci]

* Fox ran an ad for the ad for *Star Wars Episode III: Revenge of the Sith* premiering in during its teen soap opera *The OC*, with clips from the clip.

You can see the preview for the ad at http://starwars.com/episode-iii/release/trailer/mov/2_0.mov. [CHUD—Devin Faraci]

* Nicolas Cage will star in *The Burning Man*—a remake of 1973 classic British film *The Wicker Man*. Cage plays a sheriff who encounters pagan rituals while investigating a girl's disappearance. Though that subject isn't as shocking now as it was in 1973, the director is Neil LaBute, a devout Mormon, so there may be a religious message. Shooting starts in July in Vancouver. [CHUD—Devin Faraci]

* News from Avi Arad of Marvel Comics: There will be a *Blade* TV series, but no more *Blade* movies. Jamie Foxx was cast as Luke Cage (AKA Power Man), but his Oscar win took him out of Marvel's league, so they're looking for "the next Jamie Foxx." *Ghost Rider* will be PG-13. Paramount is making a *Deathlok* movie. Slow progress is being made on a *Thor* movie, while the *Captain America* project is dead. Arad describes the *Iron Man* movie as "GI Joe meets James Bond meets Tom Clancy," which CHUD reporter Devin Faraci calls "the kind of slashfic Dick Cheney might write." Arad says the film has "cars, trains, jets, submarines, torpedoes." "No mention of whether or not actors will appear," adds Faraci. More info at Marvel Gateway: <http://www.digitalentropy.net/Internapse/MM.html> [CHUD—Devin Faraci]

* The CHUD headline "STAN LEE AND ROBERT EVANS GET IN BED TOGETHER" caused a disturbing mental image, but it's true: Evans is teaming up with Lee, to work on a character called Foreverman. *Hellboy* screenwriter Peter Briggs and Lee will script a feature film version. [CHUD—Devin Faraci] Foreverman will have all the problems of saving the world as well as the problems of dealing with everyday life. [AICN—Elston Gunn]

* Back in January, Chris Carter's agent told *TV Guide* there were absolutely *no* plans for a new *X-Files* movie. However, David Duchovny says that the movie is going to film this year: "We're all happy to do it. Gillian and I. Chris Carter. So it's just a matter of getting everybody in the same spot. I think we'll shoot it next winter, in December." Unfortunately, it won't be a "mythology" film, but just the opposite: a stand-alone supernatural thriller aimed at encouraging *non-fans*. The belief is that the mundanes avoided the first movie because they thought they wouldn't understand it, having never watched the show. The new movie will be "more accessible" and "welcoming." [CHUD—Devin Faraci]

* Paramount put an eleventh *Star Trek* movie on hold months ago—but that was before the last remaining *Star Trek* TV show, *Enterprise*, was cancelled. Now Paramount—"afraid of *Trek* leaving the public consciousness and being overtaken by *Stargate: Minnesota*" is how CHUD reporter Devin Faraci puts it—has gone back to work on *Trek XI*. Rick Berman is still producing. Nothing is known about the premise so

far, except for a rumour from ScriptSales.com that the movie will involve the Romulan War. *Star Trek XI* is scheduled for a 2007 release. [CHUD—Devin Faraci]

* Fans of *Star Trek* are producing their very own series: *Star Trek: New Voyages*. The series doesn't have official endorsement from Paramount, but has inspired several series writers, including D.C. Fontana (of the original *Star Trek*), and Jack Trevino and Ethan Calk (from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*). Trevino and Calk will write the third episode of the series, and Fontana the fourth. Shoot will be in September and 2006 is the scheduled release. Fontana wrote several episodes of the original series, including fan-favourites "Journey to Babel" and "The Enterprise Incident," and also worked on *The Next Generation* and *Deep Space Nine*. Trevino and Calk known for *Deep Space Nine* episodes "Little Green Men" and "Children of Time." *Star Trek: New Voyages* continues the original series with new actors playing Capt. Kirk and his crew. The late Gene Roddenberry's son, Eugene W. Roddenberry, is a consulting producer. Visit <http://www.newvoyages.com> to download episodes. [Stan Hyde's MonsterFighters YAHOO! Group; TrekToday]

Snup Chapter 6

by Felicity Walker

Nyet-Fwaxa Plaufberg and Alberta Tube-Fleming showed up fifteen minutes early, as was their custom, so Jack Zaelplot told them to hold the fort and let people in while he made a last-minute run to the store. When he got back, they were chatting amiably with Rocky Choo. While Jack inflated the Sausage™ in the basement, Rob Funslup arrived, predictably with Slarpy. Foof Guthrark and Puppil-Renee Snussunfunp arrived at 7:00 p.m., exactly as Jack planned when he told them to arrive at 6:00 p.m. Foof and Puppil-Renee ignored Nyet-Fwaxa, Alberta, Rocky, Rob, and Slarpy, and instead wandered around the house eating only the Cheerios from the bowls of Bits 'n' Bites and appraising the price of the paintings on the walls. Picking up Jack's phone, Foof called his friend Martin Superbaby and asked him to look up the names of the paintings. Martin, who was with Daisy Static just then, asked why, and Foof explained about the festivities. Armed with this information, Martin and Daisy decided to crash the party. (*to be continued ...*)

Ask Dr. Know

Dear Dr. Know: I can understand giving out awards to authors, artists, and so on, but I don't understand the part about giving out awards to fans. What is it that makes a *fan* worthy of an award?

Aurora Morealis

A: Basically fans win awards for fan activities, and the fans who win awards are the few fans that voters are aware of, let alone whose efforts they know about. This makes a lot more sense as a relic of Old Days, when fans were a lot more involved with each other – and a lot more *aware* of each other's activities.

In a local fandom like ours, we are well aware of the fans who have supported our club, worked hard for our convention, contributed to and produced our clubzine ... at least, I hope we are aware ... and we may nominate them as Fan Guest of Honour, or even nominate them for awards, such as the Fan Achievement Auroras. But we are probably not as well aware of fans *outside* our local fan group as fannish fans were, in 1930s to early 1970s fandom, who were always seeing each other's fanzines and fanwriting and fanart. ~~Now you know why Garth is always going on about Aurora Award or CUFF nominees.~~

In that context, "fandom" meant participating in amateur activities, not paying for professional shows. In that context, fans from all around the English-speaking world knew of each other, and appreciated each other's activities, in fanzine production and fanwriting and amateur illustration, not only in mounting local conventions. It was like living in a village, if the village were distributed all over the globe.

Things changed a good deal when every Old Days fanzine fan suddenly found Star Trek fans popping up, nine or ten of them to each fanzine fan. According to Ben Yalow, who may be a Secret Master, 1971 was the last time the Worldcon attendance was as low as 2000; by all accounts, the 1973 Torcon felt like "the last fannish Worldcon". Fandom was no longer a little village, fans no longer all knew each other, and there was no question of most fans appreciating amateur efforts.

Well, that was then and this is now. An impartial observer might ask whether fan awards – like FanGoH positions – have outlived their purpose, at least for the entirety of fandom. Maybe connection can be re-established, at least for limited areas like Canadian fandom, and maybe fan funds still function at least for segments like contemporary fanzine fandom. Maybe the Internet is the answer, rather than the problem. Maybe we can reinvent a regional apa online. Maybe I'm full of shit. –HW

Q: GAFIATION - What factors lead to it? Which ways are there to combat it?

John Bartley, Feb. 13, 2004

A: Different people are driven out of fan activity by different things; it requires time, and money, and sustained attention, and personal energy – *any of which can run short*. I guess what drives us away are decreasing available resources, or increasing responsibility (or, in some cases, increasing illness).

A friend of mine told me early on that fans typically stay in their game just about two years, and then move on; longstanding fans are the ones who pace themselves. I guess that to combat gafiation, you have to conserve your time, your money, and especially your energy.

Some personality types will do this, others won't or can't. –GS

Dear Fan Slanders

(questions and answers by a random collection of BCSFAns)

Dear Fan Slanders:

In the dark backward and abysm of time, I was apparently befriended by the Leather Goddesses of Phobos, and sort of got adopted as the "Dreaded Son of the Leather Goddesses". I've always wondered whether this was some sort of distinction, or whether they were sending me up? – G.S.

Dear G.S.:

My daughters were being *very* polite and restrained in their show of affection; if they were setting you up, they would have called you their "Romantically Doomed Son", and long since pushed you off a cliff. Like certain other "gentleman" I need not name here. – F.S.

Dear Fan Slanders:

Whatever happened to the alt.barney.die.die.die group? -- *Not Exactly Mourning*

Dear Not Exactly:

That group followed the trail of metamorphosis of its subject, and is now known as alt.jarjar.die.die.die. – F.S.

Dear Fan Slanders:

What colour would *you* call Felicity's hair? -- *Cathy Schroedinger*

Dear Cathy:

That depends on whether she is coming or going. Felicity's hair has been treated with the latest Doppler enhancers, and thus looks *very* blue when she and you are approaching, even at a leisurely pace. Conversely, it looks almost infrared – *very* hot look! – if she walks away. At rest, of course, it is a pale yellow-green. – F.S.

Members' Birthdays in April

Restraining orders prevent me from ~~making up~~ relating backgrounds for most of the following members:

2: Bob Wilson

7: Lance Munro

13: Marilyn Blew

14: Lea Rush

15: Frederika Witherspoon-Li

16: John Mullock

16: Patrick Kernaghan

24: Rhea Rose

26: William Blew

27: Michael/Dani Dezotell
? Ken Dawe

27: Joe Devoy: The putative love child of the Green Goblin and Linda Hunt, "Joe Cool" enjoys drive-by sketchings, moonlit walks through abandoned warehouse districts, and plotting to take over the world. All Hail Emperor Joe! Become my willing thralls!

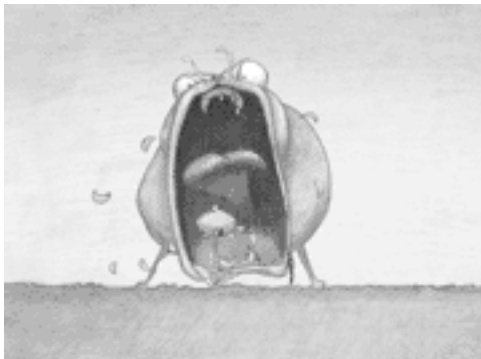
*Mike Judge and Don Hertzfeld Present
The Animation Show 2005*

A review by Felicity Walker

The screening that Joe Devoy, Julian Castle, Barb Dryer and I attended was Saturday 5 March 2005 at the Ridge Theatre on Arbutus Street.

In general I feel I got my \$8 worth of entertainment, and the overall quality of both art and story was better than I expected after years of Spike & Mike's Festival of Animation, which is also shown by the Ridge.

Let's look at the shorts one by one.



Guard Dog by Bill Plympton: I first discovered Plympton's beautifully-rendered, delightfully-low-frame-rate animation through some TV commercials he'd made in the eighties. I became a fan of his after seeing his work at animation festivals and in Julie Brown's brilliant-but-short-lived 1992 sketch comedy series *The Edge* (which also featured Rick Overton, Alan Ruck, and the then-unknown Jennifer Aniston, Tom Kenny, Wayne Knight, and Jill Talley!). In the mid-nineties, he put up a website (<http://www.plymptoons.com>), but since he charged money to download his animation, I decided I didn't need to see it again *that* badly. More recently, his short animated film *Mutant Aliens* was shown after the opening ceremonies at VCON 28, and was reviewed in my con report thereof.

Plympton's cartoons have always been sort of scary, at least if you're like me and you suspend disbelief to the point of empathy for the characters. Indeed, animation festivals in general tend to have a recurring theme of terrible things happening to the characters for the audience's amusement. In the documentary *The Life of Python* John Cleese said that he found people being cruel to each other very funny, that most people knew intuitively that it was abstract, comedy cruelty and they shouldn't feel bad, but that there was always someone who'd watch a *Tom & Jerry* cartoon and think "Ooh, that poor cat." That would be me.

Like everything Plympton has done, there was an element of cruelty to "Guard Dog," though in a much nicer way than usual. We see the plot from the point of view of a cute, lovably-ungainly dog (above) on a walk with his owner. The dog is very loyal and protective and a little too paranoid and imaginative. He envisions harmless small animals and inanimate objects threatening his master in an increasingly bizarre series of ways. There's a predictable twist ending followed by a surprisingly semi-heartwarming coda.

I have mixed feelings about this piece. It was well-animated, clever, and not boring, but it was still a bit gory and depressing for my tastes.



FEDS by Jennifer Drummond: Food Education Demo Specialists are the people who are in charge of preparing and distributing those free samples you get at the grocery store. Re-using her rotoscoping/painting technique from Richard Linklater's *Waking Life*, Drummond has actors re-tell the stories and re-create the experiences of FEDS from Texas. Things I learned from this: (1) I'm a relatively good customer, compared to the people the FEDS usually deal with (customers who are too elitist to acknowledge them; customers who think they own your soul because they try your samples; customers who abuse the free samples and lurk for hours, eating everything in sight). (2) Working all day, smiling and pretending to be happy, in a grocery store with loud Muzak and rude customers *will* drive you insane. One of the FEDS fantasizes about a world where food and dishes and appliances hover in mid-air; another

dreams of the day she'll "accidentally" run over and cripple a customer with her mobile kitchen.

This was a very good piece on three levels. The animation was gorgeous, with its photorealistic anatomy, clothing folds, architectural spaces, and perspective, and its shockingly intense vegetable-soup palette. The comedy was funny, with great timing and voice-acting. Finally, I love the fact that it gave people in the customer service industry a chance to vent.



Pan with Us by David Russo: The first really disappointing piece of the evening. The animation technique was relatively original, however: the animator holds his metal bird (above) to make its flying motions while the frames are photographed for stop-motion. Meanwhile a voice actor reads "Pan with Us" by Robert Frost. Somewhat boring after the first minute; we get the idea, but then it's just more of the same (except for one part where the metal bird is tied to the back of a van with a piece of rope and it almost hang-glides for a moment—and then it drags along the street shooting dramatic sparks in all directions).



Ward 13 by Peter Cornwall: Pleasantly surprising. At first it seems like a dreary dark comedy about man who gets hit by a car and wakes up in bandages in a hospital run by sadists. But then it turns out to be an inspiring, energetic action movie with kick-ass music and fight choreography so smooth and precise you won't believe it's clay animation—and it has Cthulhu! A predictable twist ending, but one that I choose to interpret a different way that makes it tolerable.



Hello by Jonathan Nix: Does this count as one of those short animated films without dialogue? I hate short animated films without dialogue, but in this film, a city of living sound systems communicates through sentences built of words sampled from songs. A shy tape deck man tries to ask out a pretty CD player woman in his apartment building but finds himself tongue-tied. Cannibalising his cassettes for words, he prepares one romantic mix tape after another but finds that the hardest word is "Hello."

The art was not what I would consider "good" by my normal definition, but it did have a nice atmosphere, and a sort of late-1970s Children's Television Workshop look to it. And the ending was surprising in that it did not try to be surprising—a nice straightforward happy ending for a change.





Rock Fish by Tim Miller: (Not the gay performance artist and Muppeteer Tim Miller.) Another pleasant surprise—computer animation I didn't hate. The hero's alien pet/sidekick (above left) was typical of bad computer animation, but the hero (above right), the backgrounds, the technology, and the monster did *not* look cartoony. Riveting action sequences. (Breaking news: It seems Vin Diesel's production company is adapting it into a feature-length computer-animated film.)



The Man with No Shadow by Georges Schwizgebel: Graceful, attractive animation, beautiful music, but Schwizgebel forgot to communicate *the*

actual premise. Only later, when I looked at the Animation Show's official Website (<http://www.animationshow.com/>) for an image from the film (above) did I encounter the premise: "A man makes a pact with a magician to swap his shadow for riches. He soon discovers that the absence of a shadow can be a humiliating handicap." *Thank you*. Why couldn't the actual film have said this?

Fallen Art by Tomek Baginski: Ugly clay animation and a sadistic premise—in other words, an animation fest crowd-pleaser. I'll give it this: it had the balls to follow through on its payoff, and that was cathartic.



When the Day Breaks by Wendy Tilby & Amanda Forbis: My favourite film of the festival. Partially-rotoscoped animation, water-coloured like the credits for *Yes, Minister* and with a nice gritty texture.

And it came from the National Film Board of Canada.

This is one of the signs of the apocalypse. All my life I've hated the NFB with the white-hot intensity of a thousand suns for taking our money and subjecting us to torture like "The Big Snit," "The Log-Driver's Dance," and "The Hockey Sweater." (I'll never forgive them for the time I went to the movies and the theatre played "The Hockey Sweater" *twice*, once in English and once in French.) Now they go and make something extremely well-animated and watchable...*now* what am I going to do?

The premise: in a city of anthropomorphic animals, a pig housewife is traumatised by the senseless, random death of a stranger, a chicken businessman she bumped into on the way to the grocery store. Following water pipes and power lines and other infrastructure through the city we discover that the pig and the chicken were more closely interconnected than they knew. Massive kudos to the character model sheet designers for the chicken businessman, the dog policemen, and the various commuters on the subway.

And bravo to the whole thing for shattering my paradigm by being so good. The pride is back.



The Meaning of Life by Don Hertzfeldt: He's one of the guys throwin' this shindig, and a few years ago he gave us the demented, hilarious "Rejected" (short animated bits that wouldn't be allowed on the Family Learning Channel...remember "My spoon is too big. My spoon is too big!" and "I am a banana!!!"?). So they must have saved the best for last, right?

Wrong. Though it shows us billions of years of evolution (above) in minutes, "The Meaning of Life" fails to deliver, both as a philosophical question and as entertainment. It doesn't actually try to talk about the meaning of life, but that wouldn't have mattered if it had been silly and weird and *entertaining*. The problem is that it's also *boring*—after a mildly promising opening, it becomes repetitive and monotonous and doesn't go anywhere. And it's *long*. At least those lame Rollitos ads Hertzfeldt animated recently had a beginning, a middle, and an end and got through all three in fifteen seconds (less, if you subtract the time spent showing a close-up of the Rollitos with the narrator describing them).

And I've read the Animation Show's Website's description of how much work went into the film...the twelve-minute short took *four years* to make, one frame at a time without computer assistance. I know how it feels to put in a long, gruelling session producing art that people look at for a few seconds and dismiss without looking beneath the surface—but I just can't excuse this film.



We never did get to see the early works of Mike Judge, either (above)—including pencil tests and the very first "Office Space" starring Milton (which appeared on *Saturday Night Live* in 1993 and was made into a memorable full-length live-action movie in 1999). That seems a little cheap somehow.

According to the back of the programme, the Animation Show is accepting submissions. It says:

Submit your film to the Animation Show!

We are currently looking for great short films for next year's program. Please send a VHS or DVD copy to:

11684 Ventura Blvd. #778
Studio, CA 91604
Or call us at 818-623-0012,
or fax 818-623-0013

There is no deadline for entries. Please be sure to include all your contact information. Sorry, submission materials cannot be returned.

Another Kaffeeklatsch

at Garth Spencer's place, February 26th, 2005, with Ray Seredin, Kathleen Moore-Freeman, Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, Felicity Walker, Joe Devoy, Julian "Earthfurst" Castle, Barb Dryer. Many comestibles appeared, contributed by all parties.

NOTE: I can only approximate the questions raised – the cards went away somewhere ...

We began with a discussion of brainstorming; Joe Devoy pointed out that it needs a moderator, in order to stay on topic. After discussing propeller-capped pyramids, we segued to Garth's "infovore" hypothesis, that humans are an attempt to colonize a previously unoccupied niche: the position of a species which consciously collects and intelligently acts on ecological information. The gathering moved on to discuss the World Trade Organizations, protests thereto.

Question #0. If you could go back in time for one minute, when and where would you go?

Joe Devoy suggested going to the Grassy Knoll and yelling "DUCK!!" Felicity Walker suggested going back in time with a winning lottery ticket. Kathleen wanted to trip up the Greek soldier who killed

Archimedes. Fruvous wants to move a certain suitcase at a certain military staff meeting during the Hitler administration.

Question #1. What about the “Spud McKenzie” ad campaign?

Discussion differed. Felicity wanted to see a *real* dog wearing a Hawaiian shirt and drinking beer. Discussion segued to why would a *dog* have *human* girlfriends draped over him, forbye, let alone several? Fruvous asked the real question, what was it with a dog and beer, anyway? Was it some “party animal” joke? Felicity went on about the “party animals” in politics. (Nobody said anything about sasquatches in advertising.)

Question #2. Do people want a digest of Canadian SF markets?

Felicity didn’t want it, but thought it would be a good thing to have around. Discussion of that, and other “Fandomian University” publications followed.

Question #3. Is the very concept of ideals all wrong?

Felicity and Fruvous said, “Ideally, no.” The sense of the gathering was that people generally mistake ideals for goals, which are to be attained, rather than directions, for setting your aim.

Discussion somehow segued to the burning public issue of poor socialization, which we left undefined, and the flaws of Benthamite utilitarianism, which we didn’t even try to spell. Definitions of ideals and utilitarianism did battle, and some confusion of terms was cleared up (e.g. operations research versus operations mathematics), and there was much rejoicing. Some confusion was not cleared up, and some confusion was created. Fruvous talked about Pythagorean O-worshippers, “Is nothing sacred?”, and math-haters.

Question #4. Which has more intelligence, a penguin or a television programmer?

We agreed it had to be the penguin.

Question #5. How will we civilize and educate redneck societies?

Fruvous thought dissolution would take care of them, as they discover the joys of counterculture. Garth explained his question. Fruvous opined that you can’t educate current rednecks; you can only change the political baseline for the next generation. Kathleen recommended sunblock and jazz funerals. (This last reference had to be explained to Felicity.) Somehow we segued to suggesting stripathons on PBS, organized (Fruvous suggests) the same way as VCon’s turkey readings: one fan offers money for the reading to go on, another offers money for it to *stop*. Garth suggested *recycling* rednecks.

Fruvous said that when we made the transition from a rural to an urban society, men moved to cities who inherited rural work traditions for men and women, but who did not inherit the farms to implement them; naturally the men in this position got very angry, but couldn’t identify why; they were prone, or easily led to blame anything – the New World Order, the Jews, immigrants – anything except the real reasons.

Question #6. With the most violent TV shows moved to late night, will kids (sic) grow up to be better adults?

Felicity thought not; minor children are now absorbing a culture revolving around self-interest, and learning to value “success” (*sic*) over cooperation or community values. (I quibbled about “success” among other undefined terms, and got a definition of “material gain, status or social prestige, the power to hurt others or resist what you don’t want others to impose on you”.)

Ray opined that the popularity of non-violent TV shows, e.g. “Caillou”, will only lead some kids to being labelled “wimpy” and being targeted, and beaten up. We segued to a discussion of contemporary grade-school violence. Garth opined that people who want to abuse others will take any excuse or opportunity to do so, and their basis will not be consistent.

Question #7. Should the government bring back a “head tax” on immigrant families, if there is an economic downturn?

We discussed what we knew of current Canadian immigration policy. Garth (of course) kept calling assumptions into question. Felicity pointed out that there are *plenty* of Canadian engineers, nurses, etc., but we pay them shit; no wonder they move abroad. Kathleen pointed out the very long apprenticeship that exists for some professions (Ray put in the example of the merchant marine). From there we wandered on to gun culture and the observed dichotomies pertaining thereto.

Question #8. What research skills do you need, to be a citizen?

The apparent question is, how much research ability does a citizen need, in order to monitor public affairs, vote knowledgeably ... and how much is too much to expect from a contemporary working person?

This somehow segued to a discussion of autistic parents, or the burden of researching the family whackos.

We seem to have petered out about this point.