

BCSFA Zine

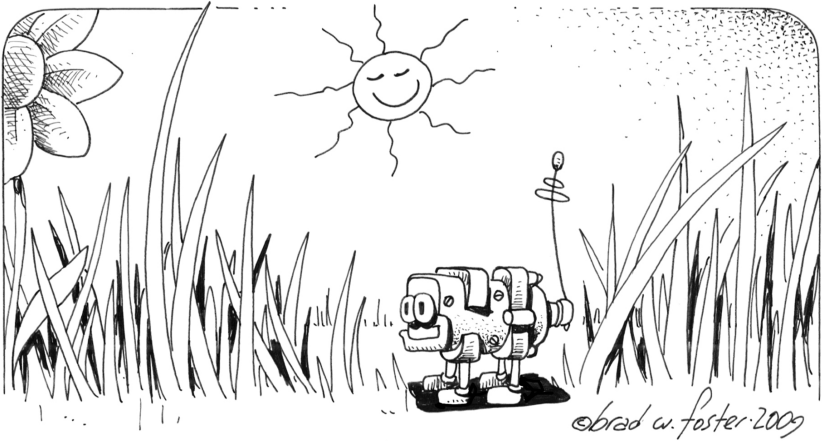
The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#439

\$3.00/Issue

December 2009

NAMU, the LITTLEST NANOBOT, IS OFF for ADVENTURE!



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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 contributor's copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Sunday 6 December @ 7 p.m.: **Discordian Meetup Group / Royal Swiss Navy / Garth Spencer's Evil Mad Scientist Conspiracy Meeting** at the Grind Gallery and Café, 4124 Main Street and King Edward Avenue, Vancouver.
- Thursday 10 December @ 7 p.m.: **December book discussion** at the Grind Gallery & Café. Book to be discussed will be *Pride and Prejudice and Zombies* by Seth Graeme-Smith.—Doug Finnerty
- Friday 11 December: **'BCSFazine' deadline**—see Felicity's contact information in the indicia above.
- Sunday 13 December @ 6 p.m.: **BCSFA Christmas dinner / meeting**—at the Old Spaghetti Factory, 50 Eighth Street, New Westminster (right next to New Westminster SkyTrain Station). Reservations tentatively made for 15 people.
- Friday 25 December: **'BCSFazine' production.**

Art & Photo Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
Brad Foster.....	Cover
Clip Art.....	Pages 1-11, 14
Felicity Walker.....	Pages 2, 13, 15, 17
Joe Devoy.....	Page 12
Paul Azaceta.....	Pages 16-17

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

From: **Lloyd Penney**
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Thursday 5 November 2009

Dear Felicity:

Thanks for another great issue of *BCSFazine*, issue 438, and the usual great Brad Foster cover. Time to get busy here...

Anything about how this year's VCon was would be appreciated. I do worry about current conventions, and how some fans seem to be abandoning the convention as an event, and simply going to the WWW for all their SF needs. The Bazaar of the Bizarre was an enjoyable outing, but I found nothing I'd buy myself. However, there was lots of neat things to buy, and we might see if some of them would be willing to sell their wares at Ad Astra. Anyone go to Steamcon? I believe that LeAmber Kensley is not only the CUFF administrator, but is also the chairman of Keycon.



Mario Mario (Captain Lou Albano) meets Inspector Gadget (Maurice LaMarche) on The Super Mario Bros. Super Show!

This coming weekend is Astronomicon 2009; we leave tomorrow late morning. It's in Rochester, New York, and it isn't that far away. There hasn't been a con in Rochester in a few years, so it's good to see its return, and we plan to support it. It should also have some steampunk content to it, so we will see what the weekend is like.

I hope that Seattle gets the Westercon it wants...seeing what kind of luck it's had with Worldcon bidding,

some kind of major convention should be a consolation prize. I still wish we had an equivalent regional convention here. The Eastercon name is already taken...

The folks at *BC Book World* know, as do most of us, what kind of bloodbath the publishing industry is going through. I check the Quill & Quire website regularly...layoffs, fund cuts, outsourcing, firings, you name it, publishing is going through it. *Time Magazine* is laying off hundreds, *The Globe and*

Mail is outsourcing work, as is *The Toronto Star*, and the *Star* is planning massive layoffs. I hope I can find something soon.

The chill sets in, the last scraps of Hallowe'en are disappearing, the stores are Christmassy already. We have to deal with Christmas cards and Christmas lists, and hope that the season is affordable. That's all for now...take care, all, and my best to the membership.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Calendar

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

December 2009

December is Read a New Book Month and National Tie Month.

1 December 2009: Birthday of mystery writer Rex Stout, comics artist/writer/editor Joe Quesada, and comics writer Matt Fraction.

3 December 2009: International Day of Disabled Persons. Birthday of director Jean-Luc Godard, musician/actor Ozzy Osbourne, animator Andrew Stanton, and nerdcore rapper MC Frontalot.



4 December 2009: 137th anniversary of *Mary Celeste* ghost ship mystery. Birthday of actor/comedian Ronnie Corbett. Coincidence?

5 December 2009: Pop Culture Collectibles Fair, 10:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m., Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver (corner of Commercial & E. 16th Ave.). New & vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVDs, novelties, action figures, books, Disney, magazines, *Star Wars*, Hot Wheels, wrestling, Canucks. Free admission. Free parking! Contact info: www.funpromo.ca or www.alwrestlingvideos.com or funpromo@shaw.ca.



5 December 2009: Day of the Ninja. Bathtub Party Day. 64th anniversary of Flight 19 Bermuda Triangle mystery. Birthday of director Fritz Lang and animation producer Walt Disney.

6 December 2009: National Gazpacho Day. Birthday of comics artist Frank Springer and animator Nick Park.

7 December 2009: Letter Writing Day (hint, hint). Birthday of actor Ted Knight. He'll get nothing and like it.



8 December 2009: Afflux in the Discordian calendar. Birthday of actress Mary Woronov, make-up artist Rick Baker, and voice actress Kotono Mitsuishi.

9 December 2009: 44th anniversary of Kecksburg UFO incident. Birthday of director/actor John Cassavetes, writer/director/producer/actor Buck Henry, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Michael Dorn, and voice actor/writer Toby Huss.

10 December 2009: 54th anniversary of debut of *Mighty Mouse Playhouse*. Birthday of *Star Trek* (TOS) theme composer Alexander Courage and Canadian *Star Trek* (TOS) actor John Colicos. Nobel Prize presentation ceremony.



11 December 2009: Birthday of cartoonist Marge and comics artist John Buscema.

12 December 2009: Video Game Awards, televised on Spike network. Birthday of cartoonist Dan DeCarlo.

13 December 2009: Birthday of visual kei musician Hide.



**Bad Monkey
MonkeyDay.com**

14 December 2009: Monkey Day. Birthday of astrologer Nostradamus and *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* actress Thuy Trang.

15 December 2009: Zamenhof Day (birthday of creator of Esperanto). Birthday of comics artist Kurt Schaffenberger, actor Thaa Penghlis, and *Star Trek: Voyager* actor Garrett Wang.

16 December 2009: Birthday of writer Arthur C. Clarke, writer Philip K. Dick, *Doctor Who* actor Nicholas Courtney, and G.I. Joe member William "The Refrigerator" Perry.

17 December 2009: International Talk with a Fake British Accent Day. 40th anniversary of closing of



Project Blue Book. Birthday of *Omni* publisher Bob Guccione and Canadian writer/actor/director/producer/musician Eugene Levy.

18 December 2009: Birthday of author Alfred Bester, author Michael Moorcock, Canadian actor Harvey Atkin, director/producer Steven Spielberg, and wrestler/comedian Masaki “Hard Gay” Sumitani.

19 December 2009: Birthday of composer/arranger/pianist Walter Murphy, *Doctor Who* actor Matthew Waterhouse, and Canadian actress Jessica Steen.

20 December 2009: Birthday of *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actress Nicole de Boer and comics artist Tony Moore.

21 December 2009: Three more years until the end of the Mayan calendar. Birthday of comics artist John Severin and producer Jeffrey Katzenberg.

22 December 2009: Birthday of broadcaster/science historian James Burke.

23 December 2009: HumanLight. Festivus. Birthday of writer/actor Harry Shearer.

Helvetica

24 December 2009: Birthday of writer Fritz Leiber, typeface designer Max Miedinger, Canadian writer/actor Steve Smith, *Doctor Who* actor John Levene, musician/actor Lemmy, comics writer Mark Millar, and author Stephenie Meyer.

25 December 2009: Birthday of writer/presenter Rod Serling, writer Carlos Castaneda, actor Dick Miller, and producer Rick Berman.

26 December 2009: Birthday of *Star Trek* (TOS) actor Elisha Cook, Jr. and animation director Koji Morimoto.

27 December 2009: Birthday of comics writer/editor Stan Lee.

28 December 2009: Birthday of cartoonist Chris Ware.

29 December 2009: Birthday of actor Jon Polito and director Andy Wachowski.

30 December 2009: Birthday of director/producer Lloyd Kaufman and author Lewis Shiner.



31 December 2009: Birthday of voice actor Neil Ross, editor Ellen Datlow, *V* (TOS) actress Jane Badler, comics artist Steve Rude, and Canadian cartoonist Julie Doucet.



31 December 2009–2 January 2010: M.E.W. (Manga and Exotic Worlds) Convention 2 in Vancouver, WA at Red Lion Hotel at the Quay, 100 Columbia Street, Vancouver WA 98660. “M.E.W. Convention is a New Year’s cross genre celebration two days and nights long. From manga and anime to the realms of sci-fi and fantasy, no fandom is left behind as we celebrate all of the exotic worlds imagination has to offer. Dancing, music, black light karaoke, costume and cosplay contests, panels, artist and writers workshops, RP (role playing), board games, CCGs (collectible card games), PC and video gaming, are just a few of the things that you will find held within the walls of M.E.W. Con.” Memberships \$35 before 6 December; after and at the door \$40 (single-day memberships \$15 Friday/Sunday and \$20 Saturday). Register through the website or by mail: M.E.W. Convention, 4570 SW Mueller Dr. H305, Beaverton, OR 97007. GOH: “M.E.W. Convention is proud to present A-Key-Kyo, Nambie Pambies, and Sachibelle live in concert, [and] returning guests of honor Robert Axelrod and Michael Hopcroft.”—Garth Spencer

January 2010

15–17 January 2010: Rustycon 27. A science fiction & fantasy convention. Seattle Airport Marriott. Author GOH: James P. Blaylock. Artist GOH: Theresa Mather. Fan GOH: David-Glenn Anderson. Multi-track programming on: science fiction and fantasy, literature, art, and science; author signings and readings; dealers’ room, art show and auction; costuming; 24 hour gaming; dances, 24 hour video and in-room channel. Memberships: \$45 until 11/29/2009. Contact: membership-exec@rustycon.com or Rustycon 27, P.O. Box 27075, Seattle, WA, 98165-1475.—Garth Spencer

15–17 January 2010: The Official Twilight Convention in Seattle, WA. Presented by Creation Entertainment. Location: The Westin Seattle, 1900 Fifth Ave.; phone (206) 728-1000. Guests: actors Peter Facinelli, Chaske Spencer, Alex Meraz, Bronson Pelletier, and Kiowa Gordon; founders of Twilight Lexicon (website). Programming: photo ops, autograph sessions, Q&A, costume contest, vampire ball, vampire makeovers, concert, centerpiece contest, celebrity brunch/charity auction, and trivia games. Prices: range from \$69–\$269 for the weekend and \$20–\$40 for single days. Photo ops, autographs extra (\$20–\$65). Convention block hotel rooms \$129 per night.—Garth Spencer

29–31 January 2010: Conflikt/Confilkt 3 in Seattle, WA. “Guest of Honor: Tom Smith. Interfilk Guest: October Country. Toastmaster: Andrew Ross. Special

Event: Saturday morning brunch with the guests. Get to know our GOHs a little better! *and* get a unique bonus CD. Plus the usual weekend of music and mayhem: concert spots, one-shots, workshops and panels, Dealers Room with plenty of filkish things for you to buy, bardic and chaos circles/ovals/rectangles, Smoked Salmon Filk, Interfilk Auction, and more! Interfilk Auction: Secret Wenches, doing their very best wenching to part you from your money. Their very best is very good! Hotel: Holiday Inn Seattle-Renton, One South Grady Way, Renton, WA 98057; (425) 226-7700. Rates for Conflikt convention members: \$100.00 plus tax for single-quad occupancy. You must call the hotel directly at (425) 226-7700 (not the Holiday Inn 800 number) to get the group rates. When you make your reservation you must state that you are with Conflikt to get the group rate! Membership rates: Pre-Reg membership (through November 29, 2009): \$50.00; children 12 and under: free; supporting (non-attending) membership (includes songbook/CD): \$25.00; brunch ticket (includes CD): \$30.00; child brunch ticket (12 and under, *no* CD): \$20.00.”—Garth Spencer

February 2010

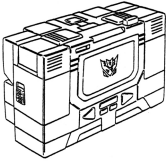
5–7 February 2010: Gottacon 2010. Victoria’s Gaming Convention! Pearkes Arena, 3100 Tillicum Rd., Victoria, BC. “Doors open at 5 p.m. Friday and don’t close until 7 p.m. Sunday for around the clock gaming! Trading card games, role-playing games, board games, video games, minis, workshops & panels. Over 20,000 sq. feet of gaming! Large vendor area central to all gaming. Demonstrations of new and existing products. Workshops and discussion panels. Tournaments and events in a wide variety of game centres. Prize draws and gamers’ auction. Ticket prices: full weekend, pre-registration—\$30; full weekend, door registration—\$40; Friday or Sunday only admission—\$15; Saturday only admission—\$20; family day/weekend admission—\$50/\$100 (maximum four people per family, max. two adults 18+); children eight and under get in FREE (maximum two free children admissions per adult). When you wanna con, you GottaCon!”—Garth Spencer



11-13 February 2011: Life, the Universe, and Everything 28, The Marion K. “Doc” Smith Symposium on Science Fiction and Fantasy, at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. “LTUE is a three-day symposium with panels, workshops, presentations and papers on writing, art, literature, media, science on aspects of speculative fiction. Attendance is FREE. Guests of Honor: Brandon Sanderson (author of the Mistborn Trilogy and the Alcatraz books); Marty Brenneis (special effects wizard), formerly of ILM, now with Kerner Studios. Special guests: Howard Taylor, Schlock Mercenary; James Dashner, 13th Reality; Dave Wolverton (David Farland), Runelords; L.E. Modesitt, Jr., Recluse. Participating guests: David Glenn Anderson, RFFUtah, teac; Aleta Clegg, author, teacher; Robert J. Defendi, winner of Writers of the Future, author of many RPG hand-

books and scenarios; Newton Ewell, artist; I-Sci-Fi; Lesli Muir Lytle, author; Joshua Keele; Kevin Keele, artist; Steve Keele, artist; Lynn Kurland, author of *Star of the Morning* and *To Kiss in the Shadows*; Eric James Stone, author, winner of Writers of the Future; Eric Swedin, author of *The Killing of Greybird: A Novel* and professor at WSU; Howard Tayler, creator of the *Schlock Mercenary* webcomic; Dan Willis, author of *Wizard's Return* and *The Survivors*; Kathleen Dalton-Woodbury, author; Julie Wright, author of *To Catch a Falling Star*.”—Garth Spencer

March 2010



5–9 March 2010: Potlatch 19 at Hotel Deca, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105; phone 1-800-899-0251. “An all-volunteer, non-profit, literary event for the readers and writers of speculative fiction. At Potlatch, people talk to each other and participate in panel discussions about reading

and writing speculative fiction. You’ll find conversations at the program events, in Nanoprograms (spontaneous member-generated programming), in writers’ workshops, in the consuite, in the halls, and in elevators. Proceeds from Potlatch benefit Clarion West—an intensive six-week workshop for writers who are preparing for professional careers in science fiction and fantasy.” Book of Honour: *Lord of Light* by Roger Zelazny. Memberships: \$65 now, more at the door; register through web-site or by mail: Potlatch 19, % Suzanne Tompkins, P.O. Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165.—Garth Spencer

April 2010

1–4 April 2010: Norwescon 33 in SeaTac, WA. “Norwescon is one of the largest regional science fiction and fantasy conventions in the United States. While maintaining a primarily literary focus, Norwescon is large enough to provide a venue for many of the other aspects of science fiction and fantasy and the interests of its fans such as anime, costuming, art, gaming, and much, much more. Norwescon is the host convention for the prestigious Philip K. Dick Award, given to a distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time during the award year in the U.S.A.” DoubleTree Hotel, 18740 International Boulevard, SeaTac, Washington, 1-206-246-8600. Convention room rates: \$114 per night for up to four people. GOH: Writer—Vernor Vinge; Artist—John Jude Palencar; Special—Cory Doctorow; Publisher—Tor Books. Memberships: \$50 through 31 December 2009; register through website or by mail: Norwescon 33 Pre-Registration, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547 (instructions on website).—Garth Spencer

2–4 April 2010: Sakura-Con 2010 in Seattle, WA. Washington State Convention and Trade Center, 800 Convention Pl., Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 694-5000.

GOH: actors Brina Palencia, Luci Christian, Richard Epcar (*Lupin III*, *Gundam*, *Robotech*, *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*, *Transformers: Robots in Disguise*), Chris Patton (*Aura Battler Dunbine*); musical guest Dazzle Vision. Panels, gaming, dances, contests.—Garth Spencer

3–4 April 2010: Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza. 1 p.m. (Saturday)–12 midnight (Sunday); location TBA. “Second Level Wizards present a Cthulhu film showcase, live performance by The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets and more. The first Cthulhupalooza included a *Rock Band* contest, a screening of the HPLHS’ *The Call of Cthulhu* film, and a live performance by The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets. This year we will have more films, more diversity, and another live show by The Thickets. If you have a film you’d like to submit or an idea for a performance or activity at this year’s Cthulhupalooza, please contact the Second Level Wizards (info@secondlevelwizards.com)!”—Keith Lim



24–25 April 2010: Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo (CCEE). Calgary, Alberta, Canada—Round Up Centre. “Join 10,000+ fans and meet your favourite pop culture celebrities and creators! Experience Western Canada’s largest pop culture convention! Come join over 10,000 fans of comics, sci-fi, television, anime, gaming, horror, toys, animation and more! Meet your favorite creators and celebrities, enjoy special panels, photo ops, charity auction, costume contest and an exclusive artbook, just to name a few! Interested in becoming an exhibitor or volunteer? Visit our website for more info, sign up for our newsletter or join our Facebook group!”—Garth Spencer

May 2010

May 2010: Otafest. “Experience the wild side of Asia! Chopsticks not included.” Website currently “coming soon.”—Garth Spencer

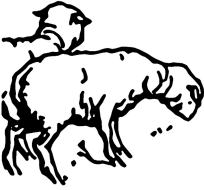
14–15 May 2010: UFOFest, 11th Annual UFO Festival, in McMinnville, OR at McMenamins Hotel Oregon. UFO speakers, costume parade, live music, childrens’ programming.—Garth Spencer

21–24 May 2010: Keycon 26 in Winnipeg, MB at Radisson Inn Downtown. Memberships currently \$40.—Garth Spencer

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

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



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 (NWRP), 6493 Hwy 291, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026, (509) 276-7728.—Garth Spencer

July 2010

1–4 July 2010: Westercon 63/Confirmation in Pasadena, CA at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel, 168 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101, (626) 584-3112. Memberships \$60 until 31 May 2010. Register through the website or by mail: Westercon 63, 15931 Kalisher St., Granada Hills, CA 91344. GOH: Pro—Rudy Rucker, Fan—John D. Berry, Artist—Marc Schirmeister.—Garth Spencer

8–11 July 2010: Gatecon 10 in Vancouver, BC at the Sheraton Wall Centre. Guests include Beau Bridges, Lou Diamond Phillips, Corin Nemec, Vanessa Angel, Erin Gray, and John de Lancie. Memberships US\$249. “Legendary Gathering” (US\$45) takes place 7 July 2010, same venue.—Garth Spencer

August 2010

7–8, 14–15 and 21–22 August 2010: Washington RenFaire in Buckley, WA. “Feel the ground tremble to the pounding hooves of great war horses charging down the list, carrying armored knights jousting for king, queen, country, or the hand of a fair maiden. Hear the ring of clashing steel shatter the tranquility of our 16th century village. Be a part of the magic at the Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire in Buckley, Washington at the Maris Farms...just a short drive from Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton, Olympia and other communities around the Puget Sound area. Enjoy jousting and equestrian events, sword fighting, gypsy dancing, Celtic dancing, wandering minstrels, and story telling. There will be children’s games, medieval musical performances, magicians, puppet shows, caber toss and much more! Also, The First Knight Academy will teach the art of sword fighting to all who wish to learn! Additional entertainment to include face

painting, costume rental for all ages, Highland dancers, bag pipers, live chess competition, jesters, audience interaction—and you!” Maris Farms at 24713 Sumner-Buckley Highway, Buckley, WA 98321. For additional information, please call 1-800-587-0172 or info@washingtonrenfaire.com.—Garth Spencer

13–15 August 2010: Anime Evolution at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. “Vancouver’s premiere Asian popular cultural event where audiences and industry interact directly in an informal setting. The three-day convention brings together art, animation (anime), comic books (manga), video games, film and music in a celebration of Asian popular culture and multimedia. Convention attendees can attend Q&As and workshops with voice actors, directors, artists, animators, comic books publishers and game developers.

Video screenings, video game rooms, a cultural festival and live performances by DJs, bands and improv actors are sure to keep guests thoroughly entertained.”—Garth Spencer



News-Like Matter

Authors’ Co-Operative Goes Direct to Kindle

Book View Café Launches New Press and ‘Rocket Boy and the Geek Girls’

(National)—Traditional publishing, new media, ebooks, and now “vooks”—the publishing world is gripped by unprecedented upheaval. In the middle of industry revolution, what’s a working author to do?

For the authors of Book View Café, the answer is band together and take charge. This group of twenty-six award-winning and best-selling authors have elected to bypass traditional publishing and bring out their latest work directly on Amazon’s Kindle and Sony’s eReader.

All professionally published, and many currently under contract with traditional New York firms such as Random House, Tor Books and Simon & Schuster, the Book View Café authors first came together in 2008 to create bookviewcafe.com, a destination website for online fiction. Armed with a century’s worth of experience in all aspects of publishing, members include multiple-award-winning authors like Ursula K. Le Guin and Vonda N. McIntyre, bestsellers like Sarah Smith and Laura Anne Gilman, and new talents like Seanan McGuire.

Once the main site was established, the authors formed Book View Press to take their titles out onto the wider Internet world.

“The e-publishing infrastructure is now firmly in place,” says Project Manager Sarah Zettel. “BVC authors have both content and the experience to take full advantage of it.”

Book View Press titles will be created and edited by the BVC’s members, and made available through the Kindle and Sony eReader stores, as well as at bookviewcafe.com. No outside publishing house will be involved and the profits go directly to the authors.

Book View Press’s first project is an anthology of science fiction titles, *Rocket Boy and the Geek Girls* (<http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/BVC-eBookstore/>), which will include work by SF mega-star Vonda N. McIntyre, best-seller Katharine Kerr, and a host of other notables including Amy Sterling Casil, Irene Radford, Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff, and C.L. Anderson.

The next project from Book View Press is more ambitious. An entirely original anthology of linked short stories titled *The Shadow Conspiracy*. With a release date of December 15, 2009, *Shadow Conspiracy* is set in an alternate Victorian age filled with airships, and automata where a human’s soul can be stolen and a machine’s soul can be born. As with *Rocket Boy*, the project will go straight to the Kindle, the eReader and the iPhone.

“Ebooks give us a fantastic opportunity to bring our best work straight to the readers,” says Zettel. “It’s truly an exciting time to be an author.”

Sue Lange

Book View Café

media_relations@bookviewcafe.com

<http://www.bookviewcafe.com>

Monday 2 November 2009



BCSFA News from November Meeting

Garth Spencer has volunteered for publications duty for VCon 35. He would like to do regular progress reports, mostly e-mail, a few printed. The convention did not budget funds for this, so Garth will try to raise them. Garth also needs an up-to-date VCon mailing list; he should talk to Palle Hoffstein.

Ray Seredin is still moving to his new apartment at 707 Hamilton Street, New Westminster. He has gotten permission from his building to hold BCSFA video nights in the rec room, probably starting in January. The rec room is surrounded on all sides by other non-residential rooms, except for the one directly above it, which fortunately belongs to Ray.

Baroness of Lionsgate and Viscountess of Westmoreland Amanda Kendall turns 70 sometime in December. Kathleen Moore and BCSFA wish her a happy birthday!

The BCSFA Christmas Dinner location, date, and time has been settled. See “This Month in BCSFA” on our inside front cover.

“This Is Not a Motto”



Royal Swiss Navy

Buy a Commission in the Royal Swiss Navy and Support VCon 35 Publications!

The Royal Swiss Navy, famed in story and song, now offers ranks and commissions for sale! Just pick a title you'd like, write a note about it with your name, address, and left shoe size, wrap it around a cheque to Garth Spencer for \$10 (Canadian or U.S.), and you can help produce our progress reports!! Write today to

Garth Spencer,
P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park,
4101 Main Street,
Vancouver, B.C.
Canada
V5V 3P0

Garth Spencer
Sunday 15 November 2009

Zines Received

‘**Why You Got This Zine**’ #5 (2009)—“ ‘Edited’ by Kathleen Moore and ‘published’ by Polyhedral Mice,” Basement, 8311 Number One Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1V1. “Produced on BLUE paper, with rosewater and Trodat rubberstamping, to be distributed in time for Anticipation.” A zine consisting entirely of humorous reasons why you got it (my favourite: “You are currently listing slightly to sherry”). Kathleen, what *were* the 11½ counts on which someone qualified for a copy of the June 2009 *BCSFAzine*? This “Zines Received” entry is one month late: for the record, I originally received *WYGTZ* #5 in early October at VCon 34.

‘**Opuntia**’ #68.1C (November 2009)—Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Reviewzine issue.

“Making the World Round Again”: Reviews *Why Your World Is About to Get a Whole Lot Smaller* by Jeff Rubin. The title alludes to *The World Is Flat* by Thomas Friedman. Globalization was made possible by cheap oil. Now that oil is harder to find, it’s more expensive to send goods around the world. The good news is that this reverses outsourcing, since the savings in cheap labour are outweighed by the cost of shipping. Unless a new cheap, abundant energy source is found and its infrastructure installed, your country will start making things again. All the manufacturing jobs that went away in the 20th century will come back. The bad news is that everything imported, from any distance, will get more expensive and there will be less variety. Also, we’ll have to take mass transit. Will the transit corporations will use the profits from the boom in ridership to run more buses and have more spacious interiors, or will they continue to cut routes and raise fares while shoving passengers together so hard they fuse into a writhing blob like Senator McComb?



“The Gold Bug Variations”: Reviews *The Goldwatcher* by John Katz and Frank Holmes. Gold continues to be a truer currency than cash. Interesting point: “Inflation is good for debtors, who can repay debts in depreciated money, but bad for creditors.” Also for savings, unless the bank pays interest that matches inflation—though banks don’t even pay enough interest to offset their own service charges. The only solution is to convert the cash into a form that doesn’t depreciate, like physical gold. Pedants may argue that gold, like cash, is only worth something because people say it is; however, the bottom line is that you can’t print more gold, so gold doesn’t lose its value with inflation, and is therefore safer.

“Whatever Happened to Crad?”: In the 1980s and 1990s, Crad Kilodney sold his chapbooks and zines on the streets of Toronto. (Coincidentally, I just read an article about him in an early-1990s issue of *BCSFAzine* from Kathleen Moore’s collection.) Dale recently saw a classified ad in the November 2009 *Bull & Bear Financial Report*: “Funniest writer in the English language. www.cradkilodney.net or <http://cradkilodney.wordpress.com>.” The former page is collected pieces from 1999–2004, plus some dead links (anything with “jagular” in the URL). The latter is Kildoney’s newest writing. It’s not *that* funny, but it is interesting.

“Sherlockiana: Part 5”: Reviews *Sherlock Holmes Was Wrong* by Pierre Bayard, which argues that Holmes’s methods were flawed and conclusions were wrong in *The Hound of Baskervilles*.

‘**Royal Swiss Navy Gazette**’ #19 (September 2009)—Published by Garth Spencer, P.O. Box 74122, Hillcrest Park, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V5Y 3P0, garth.spencer@shaw.ca. Microsoft should release a Garamond patch that includes a bold italic face, instead of obliquing the bold.

“Garth: The Continuing Adventures”: Garth has been putting off organizing his possessions. A few weeks ago he suggested rotating organization bees, where each month we all go to one person’s home and help them sort. Garth has also been putting off starting a new zine covering mundane news. I look forward to reading this. Join the Royal Swiss Navy; Garth has ideas that need raw manpower as well as someone to ease the transition from idea (RSN Corps of Engineers, Marines, Marines Chorus, Intelligence Branch) to action.

“Arguments for Living in a Selected Fantasy World”: A brief discussion of *The Next 100 Years* by George Friedman, *Climate Wars* by Gwynne Dyer, and *The Future in Plain Sight* by Eugene Linden. Garth wonders if George Friedman is related to Milton. Or Thomas! What’s with all the depressing Friedmans? Garth says *Climate Wars* is scarier than David Brin’s *Earth*. Considering that *Earth starts* by dropping a black hole into the Earth and adds global warming, ecological disaster, overpopulation, and over-exploitation on top of that—and *Climate Wars* is non-fiction—that’s pretty scary.

“Letters of Comment”: Lloyd Penney wonders if Garth could start a satirical political party and run for office. Does it still cost money to do that? Can it be done unofficially, off the Registry of Canadian Political Parties?

“On Relaxation,” by Phil Paine: Lying on a futon, imitating a relaxed cat, hanging out in an English pub, and driving around randomly (while there’s still oil!) sound good; I’ll skip the long hikes and camping. And on that note...

“Camp Sights,” by Taral Wayne: Taral, with Bob Wilson, goes camping and searches for the ruins of a World War II prison camp.

“Active Measures”: Garth reports that the Royal Swiss Navy threw a room party at VCon, but otherwise didn’t get around to much of anything. Why is Vancouver fandom so lethargic? Garth thinks the government is putting tranquilizers in the water. There’s the crank theory he’s been looking for!

“Lest We Remember,” by Taral Wayne: A sober and realistic look at World War I and why we should observe Remembrance Day as a reminder of what’s wrong with war, and not as a validation of sending soldiers away to bleed for us. Also serves as a neat alternate-history essay on what would have happened if Germany had won the Great War.

“Postscript”: Garth didn’t have time to do a zine review column. I know how he feels. I’m going to have to put off my VCon report again.



E-Zines Received

‘Fortnightly Fix’ #1 (28 October 2009)—Published Steve Green, steve.green@livejournal.com. Available at eFanzines.com.

“Déjà Vu All Over Again”: Steve misses the days of typewriters and mimeographs and launched *The FFix* “as a deliberately retro project.” I wonder

what kind of typewriter he used to use? There are some nice old-typewriter fonts out there, like VTCorona, that would add to the retro atmosphere.

“The Horror, The Horror”: Con report on this year’s Festival of Fantastic Films. Enjoyable reading. One advantage of digital distribution is that photos like the one in this article (which I assume is of Steve and cult actress Emily Booth) are clear and colourful (unlike my failed attempt to run greyscale photos from VCon last issue—looks like it’s back to the stamp filter from now on). Steve laments the venue’s replacement of pub food with weird food, and asks, “What the heck is a ‘goujon?’” I didn’t know either, so I Googled it, and it’s “a small strip of fish or chicken, coated in breadcrumbs and deep-fried” (Free On-line Dictionary)—sounds like what he was looking for! It’s also a turn-of-the-century French automobile, a French Renaissance sculptor, or a threaded stud (Wikipedia). Steve is friends with Norman J. Warren, the director of the 1980s SF/horror movie *Inseminoid* (sitting on my shelf under the less-awesome title *Horror Planet*).



Stanley Foo at VCon 34, waiting for the screening of the Mobeus film (a line-art version of a greyscale photo from last issue).

“**The Zine Dump**” #24 (October–November 2009)—Published by Guy H. Lillian III, P.O. Box 163, Benton, LA 71006 (COA), ghliiii@yahoo.com, (318) 797-1822 (home), (504) 909-7084 (cell), www.challzine.net. “GHLIII Press Publication #1055. A zine-zine (i.e., a fanzine about fanzines).” Begins with an obituary, an editorial about the need for a Best Semiprozine Hugo category since the Best Fanzine Hugo at Anticipation / WorldCon

went to a semiprozine, and a reminder to LOC *Challenger* #30. (“It’s...so big! So impossibly big!”) In *BCSFazine*’s listing, Guy says that he doesn’t see much of Howard Chaykin’s art anymore. The Chaykin cover of *BCSFazine* #437 was made possible by paying for a sketch at a convention; meanwhile, the best place to see more Chaykin art is at the comic shop, where part four of the new *Dominic Fortune* four-part mini-series just dropped. I do wish that more comics written by Chaykin were also drawn by him, though (for example, his other current series, *Die Hard: Year One*). Guy also says “Sorry I missed Cthulhupalooza!” Good news! You haven’t missed it, Guy—it was moved to April 2010!

Comics Review

‘Punisher Noir’ #1–3 (August–October 2009). Writer—Frank Tieri. Artist—Paul Azaceta. Letterer—VC’s Joe Sabino. *This review will contain spoilers.*

The Bronx, 1928 (an alternate Marvel universe): World War I veteran and widower Frank Castle Sr. is a man of rigid moral principles—which keeps his boy, Frank Jr., from joining a gang, but also gets him whacked when he violently refuses to pay protection money to Dutch Schultz.

Manhattan, 1935: Frank Jr., now a man, takes the name “Punisher” from his favourite radio serial, puts on a black hood with a white skull on it, and sets out to even the score with his father’s killers—“Jigsaw,” “Barracuda,” and “Her.”



Barracuda is Bumpy Johnson’s “club closer” in Harlem. When a rival nightclub gets too successful, Barracuda goes in and slaughters everyone inside, even the customers. Barracuda is a tough opponent; the Punisher barely beats him, and even the threat of death doesn’t scare Barracuda into giving up the names of his accomplices. The Punisher ties Barracuda to two amusement park rides and rips him in half!

Jigsaw—a recurring arch-enemy of the Punisher in the normal Marvel universe—is a hitman for Al Capone in this story. His name comes from the stitches holding his shredded face together. He beats up women who avoid looking him in the face. He actually manages to defeat the Punisher, then strips him naked, ties him up, slashes his face, carves a skull in his chest, and is about to cut his testicles off with custom-made pliers, when the Punisher reveals that he had untied himself an hour ago. It’s an awesome, mind-blowing, and badass moment. The Punisher was toughing it out long enough to trick Jigsaw into spilling the identity of Her, the third killer.



She used to be a man known as “The Russian,” who tried to kill Frank Sr. immediately after the war. During their battle Frank stuffed a grenade in the

Russian's pants, and when we next see the Russian she's living as a woman. She's this story's example of the ever-popular "killer tranny" stereotype.



Azaceta is a great artist. His slick, realistic style works well for pulp- and noir-type material, like the *Hellboy* spin-off *BPRD: 1946*, where I first encountered his work (it's too bad he wasn't brought back for *BPRD: 1947*). My one complaint is that the Punisher isn't as attractive as usual; Azaceta seems to give all his characters low, jutting cheekbones, and because this is a period piece, the Punisher doesn't have a skintight costume, but wears a baggy business suit and a loose hood, which makes him look a little flabby. Sabino's lettering is an example of good computer lettering; his font reminds me of Dave Gibbons' hand letters.

About BCSFA

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Opening and closing titles to an episode of The Screening Room that looked back at the Mobeus Society's Meat Me in the Middle, an appalling early-1980s buddy sitcom about a vegan and a cannibal. Hilarity ensued, but critics were horrified, calling it "tasteless"—though one reviewer said he'd heard it tasted a lot like chicken.

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 drive us crazy.
- ___ You turn us on.
- ___ You make us go hazy.
- ___ You are long and lean and oh so beautiful.
- ___ You're our latest lady.
- ___ You're our lady of the eighties.
- ___ You make it easy.
- ___ You make it hard.
- ___ You know how to please us.
- ___ You give us love.
- ___ You give us everything.
- ___ You're an invisible criminal.
- ___ You're a red-hot hoodlum.
- ___ You're a bad luck burglar.
- ___ You're a lost boss.
- ___ You're a lawless lady.
- ___ You're a spotless kingpin.
- ___ You're a ransomed rascal.
- ___ You're a crooked contestant.
- ___ You're a kidnapped kangaroo.
- ___ You're a high-iron hood.
- ___ You're a ready-room mutineer.