

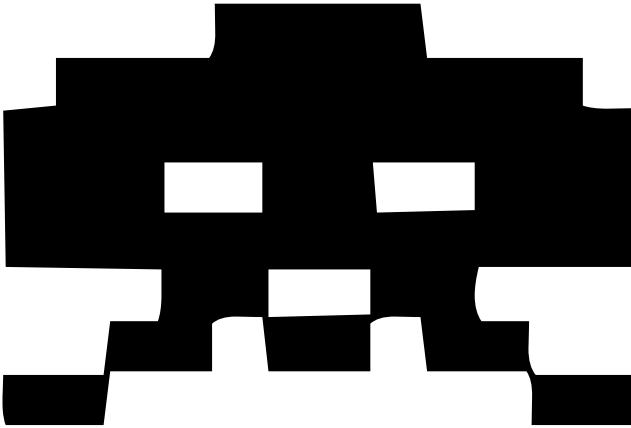
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#442

\$3.00/Issue

March 2010



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

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This Month in BCSFA

- Thursday 11 March @ 7 PM: **March book discussion** at the Grind Gallery & Café, 4124 Main Street and King Edward Avenue, Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *Necroville* by Ian MacDonald (AKA *Terminal Café*).
- Friday 12 March: **'BCSFazine' deadline**—see Felicity's contact information in the indicia above.
- Sunday 21 March @ 7 PM: **BCSFA meeting**—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton (Recreation Room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions.
- Friday 26 March: **'BCSFazine' production**.

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
Font•a•licious Fonts.....	Cover
Blue Vinyl Fonts.....	Pages 3, 4
RONALD at Studio Sans-1.....	Page 17
David Martin.....	Page 19
Clip Art.....	Pages 25, 28

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net>. The BCSFA e-mail lists are BC SciFi Assc (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assc/) and BCSFAnet (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcsfanet/>).

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

From: **Dave Haren**
tyrbolo@comcast.net

5 February 2010

Hi Felicity,

First, [Project Gutenberg](#) has passed the 31000 mark for free ebooks. A lot of good SF showing up there these days. A special favorite of mine, [number two in the Jason dinAlt *Deathworld* sagas](#), was a recent addition.

[Closed Circle](#) is selling ebooks and is a good point to start in the Amazon ebook flap. Everybody has an opinion on this one and some pretty good insights into the publishing business past and future.

[I haven't heard about the Amazon ebook flap. What's going on?]

[RSNG #20](#):

I would cheerfully burn my SF book collection to see Wisconsin under the North Pole in 2012. That's the American Indian part of me speaking. It is in no danger though; I'm far too old and have seen far too many kneejerk episodes to let anyone stampede me with a doomsday idea.

My generation was promised glorious death on a thermonuclear battlefield or on the odd chance of survival we could do live action role play in Ellison's "Boy and His Dog," scrounging for canned goods in a blasted radioactive wasteland.

The buzz at that time was the coming ice age. Then it was the "Nuclear Winter." *Voyager* showed us the solar system we were appallingly ignorant about and Venus made some people nervous. Now the mass politics wants to start jerking on the control levers of a barely understood eco-system by turning it over to the lawyers. Forgive me for being skeptical but anytime I hear a human say "Everybody knows," I'm positive they are so full of it their eyes are brown.

May you survive the live action replay of Paranoia RPG that seems to be the radical view of your Olympic trials.

Warm regards,

Dave

From: **Michael John Bertrand**
fruvousfox@gmail.com

16 February 2010

Re.: Lloyd's letter:

"As I write, today is Isaac Asimov's birthday, and there some who propose to make this day National Science Fiction Month..."

Making a day into a month? Either that's a typo or I am terribly, terribly confused.

[Introducing new shorter months!]

Re.: Calendar:

Hey, my mother has the same birthday as Brent Spiner! Cool.

That calendar is pretty long. It fills most of the zine. I think we know what goes first if there's every a space crunch in *BCSFazine*. Not the whole thing, obviously. But, say, the second half.

[There has been a space crunch. The last few issues have been too heavy to get the lowest postal rate, and that's even after reducing the font size from 10-point to 9½-point in January and then again to 9-point in February. Until Lloyd's letter last month and yours this month, I had received no response to the SF-related birthdays and anniversaries, so I was planning to cut them to save space. Now, though, I may truncate the events that are more than a month ahead instead.]

Re.: News:

Glad to see Colin Upton is finally online. Now if we could only stop him from printing his comics via hand-burned oaken woodcuts because he fears that "bedevil'd Gutenberg engyne." :-P

Re.: Avatar review:

Wow, what a hilarious and informative review. :-P

Seriously though, always makes me happy to see my words in print. Thanks so much for printing them! I hope people enjoyed the review.

[Thanks for contributing it!]

From: **Lloyd Penney**
1706–24 Eva Rd.,
Etobicoke, ON
M9C 2B2
penneys@allstream.net

19 February 2010

Dear Felicity:

Thank you for *BCSFazine* 441. I've been thinking about how Vancouver fandom has been surviving the current Olympic madness, and as a Toronto resident, I want to take some notes...the Pan American Games come here in 2015, and Vancouver knows only too well that those intervening years can go very quickly. More comments to come...

[I've avoided going into downtown Vancouver, or near the Olympic Oval here in Richmond, and as I write this on the closing night of the games, I have not been too badly inconvenienced over the last few weeks. Traffic has been slower in downtown Richmond and one major street has been closed, and I've ended up deciding not to eat at a couple of restaurants because they had TVs blaring with coverage of the games, but in general it's gone by pretty smoothly.]

My loc...I spoke too soon when it comes to Creation Conventions not doing business in Ontario. Creation is bringing its Twilight Tour to Ontario later

this year. It was to be in Toronto, but because of the G20 summit in Toronto, the Twilight Tour event has been moved to Ottawa. I have friends here who will be horrified to learn they'll have a lot further to go to get to the convention. Is anyone at BCSFA planning to go to the Vancouver Twilight Convention in May?

[With its hefty three-figure membership fee, I suspect not.]

The Aurora ballots will soon be out! And, I have heard through the fan-nish grapevine that names on the ballot will be...R. Graeme Cameron, Jeff Boman, Robert J. Sawyer, and...me.

[Congratulations!]

With luck, the ballot will see light of day sometime in March.

February 6—birthday of voice actor Thurl Ravenscroft, who did indeed provide the voice of Tony the Tiger...he passed away about four years ago now, I think.

[True. He lives on through my childhood television memories and his awesome name.]

If the review of *Avatar* was unnecessary, is reading it necessary? Is seeing the movie necessary? Okay, I won't read the review, because I haven't seen the movie, just like that issue of *The Fortnightly Fix* says. I don't really intend to go and see it; it just doesn't catch my interest.

[I recommend reading Michael Bertrand's review, if only for its own entertainment value, regardless of the movie. Also, I like reviews of popular movies that I don't plan to see; they give me the gist of the movies without having to go see them—though I did end up seeing Avatar.]

Maybe I am slowly morphing into a cranky old man. I'd read that the movie's script was the same as Disney's *Pocahontas*, with a few names changed.

[As Michael Bertrand's review says, Avatar has a formulaic, derivative story. I'm sure both Pocahontas and it are rehashing the same ancient archetype. Avatar has also been facetiously dubbed "Dances with Smurfs."]

I haven't seen an issue of *The Voyageur* in many years, and they're in Toronto, too. Maybe I will check it out on the website, and see what it's like.

Hey, Canadian athletes are getting the gold, so I'd say these Games are good ones. Besides, VANOC wasn't going to run the opening ceremonies and say afterwards, "That was a great rehearsal, folks, come back tomorrow, and we'll do it for real." Not going to happen. Survive, all of you, and see you when sanity returns to your fair town.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney



From: **Clint Budd**
clintbudd@dccnet.com

19 February 2010

Felicity,

I am happy to inform you that you have been short listed for this year's Aurora Award for your clubzine *BCSFAzine*.

[*Thank you!*]

Keycon will be hosting Convention this year in Winnipeg on the weekend of May 21–24, 2010. For full details about the convention go to their website at www.keycon.org. The awards banquet will be held on the Sunday evening.

[*I will try to save the money to attend.*]

Yours,
Clint Budd, Chair
Aurora Awards Committee

From: **Doug Finnerty**
darthbuddy2000@yahoo.ca

1 March 2010

Dear Felicity:

After a long absence, I've decided to revive the Feeding Frenzies.

[*Awesome!*]

Here's an update for the next *BCSFAzine* issue. It was a tough call for worthy locations. My second choice was "A Kettle of Fish" in downtown Vancouver. With Burrard Bridge's eastern sidewalk now dedicated to bikes only (yay!), turning right on Pacific is now *verboten*. And with certain yuppity Vanidiots threatening not to shop certain stores or eat at certain restaurants (like Kettle of Fish) if they can't make that right turn...

Okay, that was my second choice.

Next Feeding Frenzy takes place Tuesday April 13 @ 7 PM, the venue being "Olympia Restaurant" at 998 Denman Street, Vancouver. This is my pick because these guys were threatened by those five-ring circus clowns at VANOC and the IOC when it really wasn't necessary.

I hope to have a Feeding Frenzy article ready for a future *BCSFAzine*.

[*Thanks, Doug!*]

Sincerely,
Doug Finnerty



Calendar

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

March 2010

March is Music in Our Schools Month, National Craft Month, and National Irish American Heritage Month.

1 March 2010: Peanut Butter Lovers' Day. Beer Day. 318th anniversary of the Salem witch trials. 137th anniversary of production of first Remington typewriter. 54th anniversary of the international radiotelephony spelling alphabet. 20th anniversary of United States Secret Service raid on Steve Jackson Games. Birthday of *Doctor Who* actor Roger Delgado, publisher William Gaines, actor Dirk Benedict, director Ron Howard, musician Nik Kershaw, actor Mark-Paul Gosse-laar, comics letterist Tom Orzechowski, comics writer Joyce Brabner, and anthologist/writer Martin H. Greenberg.

2 March 2010: 77th anniversary of premiere of film *King Kong*. Birthday of animator Willis O'Brien, author Theodor Seuss "Dr. Seuss" Geisel, Canadian actor Al Waxman, film producer Peter Guber, author Peter Straub, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actress Gates McFadden, and writer Mark Evanier.

3 March 2010: If Pets Had Thumbs Day. Birthday of Canadian *Star Trek* actor James Doohan, cartoonist Ronald Searle, film director George Miller, writer/actor/producer Tim Kazurinsky, rapper/actor Tone Lōc, and writer Max Allan Collins.

4 March 2010: Birthday of comics artist Milt Gross, animator Ward Kimball, cartoonist/Kustom car designer Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, musician Dieter Meier, author Patricia Kennealy-Morrison, actress Kay Lenz, Canadian writer/actress Catherine O'Hara, writer/actor Ron Fassler, comics artist Simon Bisley, actor Daniel Roebuck, author Dan Wells, and comics writer/editor Randy Stradley.

5 March 2010: [VSteam at the Roedde House Museum](#), 2 PM, Roedde House Museum, 1415 Barclay Street, Vancouver. "Vancouver Steampunks (VSteam) meetup: museum tour crossed with a photoshoot. Organizer has received clearance [to] bring our equipment and take photos posing in a period accurate house. \$5."—[Keith Lim](#)

5 March 2010: Premiere of films *Alice in Wonderland* (Tim Burton's) and *The Secret of Kells* (fantasy). 35th anniversary of the first meeting of the Homebrew Computer Club. Birthday of *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock* actor James B.

Sikking, actor Dean Stockwell, author Mike Resnick, magician/comedian/actor Penn Jillette, screenwriter/producer David Fury, *Daily Show* correspondent Aasif Mandvi, and *Star Trek: Enterprise* actress Jolene Blalock.

5–7 March 2010: Imperial Hobbies clearance sale, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond, 604-273-4427, <http://www.imperialhobbies.ca>.

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

6 March 2010: *Exploded View* Launch Party, 7–11 PM, Ayden Gallery, International Village (Tinseltown), 2nd floor, 88 West Pender Street, Vancouver. “Cloudscape Comics launches its fourth publication, *Exploded View*: a science fiction anthology featuring twenty-five artists, all current or former residents of Vancouver, Canada. Most of the artists will be in attendance to sign autographs.”—Keith Lim

6 March 2010: Birthday of comics writer/artist Will Eisner, actor/comedian Frankie Howerd, paranormal investigator Maurice Grosse, writer/director/producer/actor Rob Reiner, actor Eddie Deezen, comics artist Al Milgrom, and comics artist Kieron Dwyer.

7 March 2010: Geeks Go for the Gold, 3 PM, La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. “Nestled between the athletes’ Olympics and the Paralympics, ‘The Geek Olympics,’ a Multi-Denominational Geek-Fest Trivia Night. Clubs challenged to a Multi-Denominational Geek-Fest Trivia Shindig. Entry by donation. BC Browncoats, Dr. Who Meetup, Vancouver Stargate Fan Club, Star Trek Vancouver.”—Keith Lim

7 March 2010: 1st Annual Hollywood North Entertainment Expo, National Nikkei Museum & Heritage Centre, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby, BC, V5E 4M7, www.hollywoodnorthexpo.com. 11:00 AM–6:00 PM. Admission: \$10 adults, \$5 ages 5–12. “Vancouver’s premiere event for: anime • comics • gaming • sci-fi. Over 10,000 square feet! Small press tables available—please

enquire hnxpo@gmail.com.” GOHs: Alex Milne (artist for *Transformers*), Pia Guerra (*Y the Last Man*), Ian Boothby (*Simpsons Comics*), Camilla d’Errico (*Avril Lavigne Comics*), plus other guests to be announced. Sponsored by Anime Evolution.

7 March 2010: J.R.R. Tolkien: Resumption of MERP—A Middle Earth Role Playing Game, 1 PM. “[Contact organizer through Meetup group.] A Resumption of the Quest for the Blue Wizards, based on the MERP RPG system. Currently looking for new members (at least two) and anyone interested is free to come and check out the game. Contact [Meetup group organizer] Teri through the Meetup site to get further information.”—Keith Lim

7 March 2010: Canada’s Top Ten Shorts 2009—Program 1, 7 PM, Pacific Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe (near Helmcken), Vancouver, BC. “Five shorts: (1) *The Cave*—a science-fiction fantasy, based on a traditional Tsilhqot’in tale—is set in 1961 where a hunter discovers a secret portal to the spirit world. (11 minutes.) (2) *Runaway*—animation by Cordell Barker (*The Cat Came Back*). (3) *Vive la Rose*—stop-motion animation. (4) *La Vie Commence*—drama. (5) *The Armoire*—eerie tale. Tickets probably usual Cinémathèque price (adults: \$9.50 single-bill, \$11.50 double-bill; seniors & students: \$8 single-bill, \$10 double-bill. Cinémathèque phone: 604-688-8202.”—Julian Castle

7 March 2010: Birthday of comics artist Gray Morrow and author Stanley Schmidt.

8 March 2010: 32nd anniversary of first radio transmission of *The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy*. Birthday of type designer Frederic Goudy, Canadian actor John Kapelos, musician Gary Numan, and cartoonist Ellen Forney.

9 March 2010: Birthday of writer Mickey Spillane, comedy writer/actor/teacher Del Close, actor Raúl Juliá, Canadian voice actor Colin Murdock, and actor Brian Bosworth.

10 March 2010: J.R.R. Tolkien: The Grey Havens March Meetup, 7 PM, [location shown to members of the Meetup group]. “Meet several of the organizers to learn about continuing events (such as the Reading Group and RPG) and events to come in the future.”—Keith Lim

10 March 2010: Birthday of animator Mike Hollands, Canadian writer/producer/director Paul Haggis, and actor/writer Robert Llewellyn.

11 March 2010: **Cameron Russell**’s birthday. Birthday of director Jerry Zucker, writer Douglas Adams, voice actor Rob Paulsen, drag queen Lady Chablis, Canadian actor Elias Koteas, actor Wallace Langham, and actor John Barrowman.

12 March 2010: Alfred Hitchcock Day. Birthday of author Harry Harrison, voice actor Frank Welker, and comics artist Graham Nolan.

12–14 March 2010: Trumpeter Salute 2010 [Trumpeter Tabletop Gaming Society]. “Bonsor Complex Banquet Hall, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. Many types of miniature gaming and board games. \$20 for the weekend, \$6 Friday, \$15 Saturday, \$8 Sunday.”—Keith Lim

13 March 2010: BC Browncoats: Dollhouse Redux—Grrr Arrrgh!, 6 PM, La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. “Watching episodes ‘Epitaph One’ and ‘Epitaph Two’ in sequence.”—Keith Lim

13 March 2010: 229th anniversary of discovery of Uranus. Birthday of animator Dan Gordon, author L. Ron Hubbard, cartoonist Al Jaffe, actor William H. Macy, and animator Joe Ranft.

14 March 2010: True Blood Hits Canadian TV—We Prepare, 2 PM, La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. “Space Channel debuts HBO’s fangtastic *True Blood* on Sunday March 14th at 7 PM. Meet and greet, gear up for *True Blood*. Vampire cake, fang trivia. No biting please.”—Keith Lim

14 March 2010: National Potato Chip Day. Pi Day (3.14). Birthday of cartoonist Hank Ketcham, screenwriter Kevin Williamson, comics artist Steve Bissette, cartoonist Tom Batiuk, and comics artist Mike DeCarlo.

15 March 2010: Ides of March. Birthday of actor Walter Gotell, Canadian film director/writer/actor David Cronenberg, animator David Silverman, director/producer Renny Harlin, animator Chris Sanders, and comics/animation writer/artist Bob Budiansky.

16 March 2010: Birthday of actor Leo McKern, actor Erik Estrada, comics writer Kate Worley, and comics writer/artist Todd McFarlane.

17 March 2010: St. Patrick’s Day. Birthday of American-Canadian author William Gibson, actor Kurt Russell, and underground comics publisher/famous Marvel secretary Flo Steinberg.

18 March 2010: Birthday of psychic Edgar Cayce, actor Edward Everett Horton, actor Peter Graves, screenwriter/actor/comedian Carl Gottlieb, actor Brad Dourif, screenwriter/filmmaker/comedian J. David Shapiro, voice actress Luci Christian, and comics artist Bill Reinhold.

19 March 2010: IMPS Vancouver meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM, Bonsor Recreation Complex, 2nd Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. www.ipmsvancouver.ca. “A club for the scale modeler.”

19 March 2010: Premiere of films *Repo Men* (organ-jacking) and *IMAX: Hubble 3D* (documentary). Mojoday. Birthday of British-Canadian actor Eric Christmas, comedian/magician Tommy Cooper, actor/writer/director Patrick McGoohan, *Star Trek: Enterprise* actor Connor Trinneer, and comics letterist Willie Schubert.

20 March 2010: Vernal Equinox. Earth Day. Extraterrestrial Abductions Day. World Storytelling Day. Birthday of author/wargamer Donald Featherstone, writer/director/comedian/actor Carl Reiner, TV host Fred Rogers, actor Hal Linden, Canadian author/TV host Jay Ingram, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine/Voyager* actor John de Lancie, animator Chris Wedge, wrestler Sting, and comics letterist Diana Albers.

21 March 2010: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM–5 PM, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Douglas Wheatley (*Star Wars: Dark Times*), Steve Rolston (*Ghost Projekt, Emiko Superstar, Queen and Country*), Ken Boesem (*The Village*), Robin Bougie (*Cinema Sewer*), Kelly Everaert (*Jungle Tales, Trilogy of Terror*), Miriam Libicki (*Jobnik!*), Mike Myhre (*Space Jet*), Andrew Salmon (*Sherlock Holmes, Secret Agent X*), Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell, Hemp Island*), Wai Khan Au, Chloe Chan, Beth Wagner, New Reliable Press, Sketchrospective, Monster Attack Team Canada. Dealer tables: \$50/centre; \$60/wall. Hourly door prizes! Admission: \$4.00; kids under 14 free. For more information, please call 604-322-6412.—Leonard S. Wong, ls Wong@uniserve.com, <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>.

21 March 2010: Babylon 5: The Coming of Shadows—Part 1, 5 PM, [venue TBA]. “A get-together at a member’s home to have a potluck dinner and watch episodes from the second season.”—Keith Lim

21 March 2010: Ostara. Birthday of writer/director Russ Meyer, actor James Coco, actor Timothy Dalton, video game composer Nobuo Uematsu, comics writer Mark Waid, comics artist Al Williamson, and writer/artist/Toonopedia creator Don Markstein.

22 March 2010: World Water Day. Birthday of actor Werner Klemperer, Canadian *Star Trek* actor/director/writer William Shatner, composer Angelo Badalamenti, screenwriter Eric Roth, comics artist Bernie Krigstein, and voice actor Tony Pope.

23 March 2010: World Meteorological Day. Birthday of illustrator J.C. Leyendecker, author H. Beam Piper, author Kim Stanley Robinson, actor Richard Grieco, and Canadian voice actor Miklos Perlus.

24 March 2010: Birthday of psychiatrist Wilhelm Reich, animator/cartoonist Ub Iwerks, animator/cartoonist Joseph Barbera, wrestler The Undertaker, and writer/editor/fan Andrew I. Porter.

25 March 2010: International Waffle Day (Våffeldagen). Birthday of *Doctor Who* actor Patrick Troughton, actress Lark Voorhies, and comics artist Angel Medina.

26 March 2010: Premiere of films *How to Train Your Dragon* (fantasy) and *Hot Tub Time Machine* (time-travel comedy). Purple Day (wear purple or lavender). Birthday of author/mythologist Joseph Campbell, animator T. Hee, mathematician Paul Erdős, *Star Trek* actor/director Leonard Nimoy, Canadian actor/comedian Martin Short, composer Alan Silvestri, comics artist José Luis Garcia-Lopez, comics artist Brian Bolland, and writer Mark Verheiden.

27 March 2010: National Joe Day. Earth Hour (8:30–9:30 PM). Birthday of comics artist Carl Barks, actor Julian Glover, actor Michael York, writer/director/producer Quentin Tarantino, actor Kevin Corrigan, actress/writer Pauley Perrette, and comics artist Mike Chen.

28 March 2010: [V Refresher](#), 4 PM, La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. “Watching the four episodes of *V* that aired in November, back-to-back-to-back-to-back.”—[Keith Lim](#)

28 March 2010: [VSteam fourth official meetup](#), 6–9 PM, Steamworks Pub—Wine Room, 375 Water Street, Vancouver. “Vancouver Steampunks (VSteam) meet up to discuss further events and just get together and have a good time. Steampunk movie showing with dinner. Group minimum spend \$800. Limit 36 people. RSVP via Facebook.”—[Keith Lim](#)

28 March 2010: Birthday of actor Chris Barrie, director Brett Ratner, actor/screenwriter Nick Frost, actor Paul Eiding, and author A. Bertram Chandler.

29 March 2010: Birthday of writer/actor/composer Eric Idle, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actress Marina Sirtis, actor Christopher Lambert, cartoonist Mort Drucker, comics artist Val Mayerik, and comics artist/publisher Marc Silvestri.

30 March 2010: Birthday of animator Marc Davis, actor John Astin, Canadian voice actor Maurice LaMarche, entertainer Rolf Harris, cartoonist Tex Blaisdell, and Mystery Science Theater 3000 writer/actor Bill Corbett.

31 March 2010: Bunsen Burner Day (birthday of Robert Wilhelm Eberhard von Bunsen). Birthday of voice actress Lucille Bliss, actor William Daniels, actor Richard Chamberlain, actor Christopher Walken, comics writer Steven T. Seagle, and animator Craig McCracken.

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 April 2010: Friday at Fontana: *Stargate Universe & V*, 7 PM, La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. “7 PM: *Stargate Universe*. 8:30 PM: *V*.”—Keith Lim

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

13 April 2010: Feeding Frenzy at 7 PM at Olympia Restaurant, 998 Denman Street, Vancouver.—Doug Finnerty

15–18 April 2010: *Stargate SG-1/Atlantis Convention*. “Creation Entertainment returns to Vancouver with a weekend of *Stargate* entertainment at the Hilton Metrotown [6083 McKay Ave.], Burnaby. Guest [Michael Shanks, Joe Flanigan, Jason Momoa, David Hewlett, Colin Cunningham, James Bamford, Brian J.

Smith, Rachel Luttrell, Christopher Heyerdahl, N. John Smith, Andee Frizzell] schedule and ticket info: <http://www.creationent.com/cal/sgvan.htm>. Gold weekend package \$579.” [Programming: Celebrity Cabaret; *Stargate* Location Bus Tours; Set Tours; Norco Studios Tour; Stunt Workshop; Music Video Competition; Karaoke Party; Centerpiece Contest; Costume Competition]—[Keith Lim](#)

16 April 2010: [SFU Spring Concert—Simon Fraser University Choir](#), 7–9 PM, Images Theatre, Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby. “‘[T]he awesomest, geekiest concert of all time.’ World premier of a new choral arrangement of *Dr. Horrible’s Sing Along Blog*, plus ‘Double Trouble’ from *Harry Potter*, ‘Duel of the Fates’ from *Star Wars Episode I*, *Spider-Man* theme, [and] ‘John Williams Is the Man’ by MooseButter.”—[Keith Lim](#)

17 April 2010: [The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets](#), live at Thor CD Release Party, 10 PM–2 AM, The Railway Club, 579 Dunsmuir Street, Vancouver. “Thor is releasing a new album; The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets are opening. The Thickets are an H.P. Lovecraft-inspired hard-rock band that sings about math, marine biology, insects, superheroes and of course Cthulhu. Two other bands. \$10 at door.”—[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 context 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

2 May 2010: [Hug a Trans-Person Day](#).—Emily Sors

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

14–16 May 2010: [Twilight Convention](#), Sheraton Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver. “Creation Entertainment’s official Twilight Convention 2010 features guest stars from the film, programming, panels and events, themed parties, autographs and photo ops, live musical performances and more. Guests:

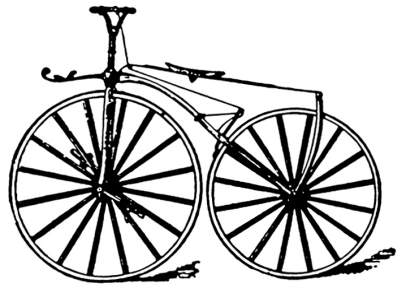
Catherine Hardwicke, Kellan Lutz, Bronson Pelletier, Kiowa Gordon, Charlie Bewley. Gold weekend package \$269.”—[Keith Lim](#)

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/Convention](#) in Winnipeg, MB at Radisson Inn Downtown. Memberships currently \$40.—[Garth Spencer](#)

21–23 May 2010: [Otafest](#). University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 1N4, special-events@otafest.com. “Experience the wild side of Asia! Chopsticks not included.” Now accepting entries for [AMV contest](#).—[Garth Spencer](#)

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



THE “BONESHAKER.”

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](#)

5 June 2010: “[Robot Army marches at Hats Off Day Parade](#), 8 AM. La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. Hats Off Day Festival happens

9 AM to 2 PM along Hastings Street between Boundary Road and Gamma Avenue.”—Keith Lim

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

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

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

16–18 July 2010: BC Renaissance Festival. “9 AM–9 PM each day. M&M Con-nemaras Farm, 24680 80th Avenue, Langley. Fourth annual BC Renfest. ‘Live the Revelry.’ Auditions open. One-day: adult \$15, child/senior \$10; three-day: adult \$35, child/senior \$27.”—Keith Lim

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 “Anime Evolution is the premier event for anime, manga, gaming, and every kind of related fandom in Vancouver. Three-day passes: \$40 ’til 2 April, \$45 till 30 June, \$55 at the door. One-day & gold passes available. Guests: Lee Tockar, Nina Masumoto, Anthony Kresky, Martin Billany, Team-FourStar.”—Keith Lim

27–29 August 2010: Salute to Supernatural Convention, Sheraton Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver. “Creation Entertainment returns with its second Vancouver Salute to Supernatural convention, with on-stage appearances, special events, parties, musical performances, autographs, photo ops, costumes, auctions, trivia, and panels. Preferred weekend package \$439. Guests: Jensen Ackles, Jared Padalecki, Misha Collins, Samantha Smith, Richard Speight, Jr.”—Keith Lim

September 2010

4–5 September 2010: Fanfair Fest (F3), Rocky Mountaineer Station, 1755 Cottrell Street, Vancouver. “F3 is an new convention covering comics, anime, games, toys, video games and sci-fi & fantasy—a showcase of everything that is geek. ‘We are where geek is chic.’ Two-day pass: \$30 ’til 31 July, \$40 at the door. One-day passes \$20. Guests: Michael Coleman, [Tony Harris], Camilla d’Errico, Matthew Leutwyler, Miranda Bailey, Mike Royer, Dr. Uwe Boll, Adrian Petriw, Gabriel Koerner.”—Keith Lim

October 2010

1–3 October 2010: VCON 35. [Venue TBA.] “Vancouver’s Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention. VCON returns on the first weekend of October with VCON 35, with Artist Guest of Honour James Beveridge and Music Guest of Honour Heather Dale. Full weekend membership: \$45 until 15 September 2010, \$60 at the door. One-day memberships available.”—Keith Lim

November 2010

19–21 November 2010: SFContario. Ramada Plaza Toronto, 300 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 2C5, (416) 977-4823. Author GOH: Michael Swanwick. Editor GsOH: Patrick and Teresa Neilsen Hayden. Fan GOH: Geri Sullivan. Filk GOH: Karen Linsley. “SFContario celebrates the best of science fiction, fantasy, and speculation, and will please fans with a program full of books, authors, media, panels, filking, gaming, and costuming.” Contact: SF Contario, 151 Gamma Street, Toronto, Ontario, M8W 4G3, www.sfcontario.ca, con2010@sfcontario.ca. Attending membership rate \$45. Charter membership (may vote on directors and by-laws before the convention) rate \$60. Make cheques payable to SF-Contario or visit the website to use PayPal.—*The Voyageur*

December 2010

4 December 2010: Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza. 1 PM; 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/Toren Atkinson

News-Like Matter

BookViewCafe.com Welcomes Patricia Rice

On Friday, February 12, Patricia Rice will be joining the Book View Café team. With several million books in print and *New York Times* and *USA Today*’s best-seller lists under her belt, former CPA Patricia Rice is one of romance’s hottest authors. Her emotionally-charged contemporary and historical romances have won numerous awards, including the *Romantic Times* Reviewers Choice and Career Achievement Awards; she is currently nominated for two *Romantic Times* BookReviews 2008 awards. In addition to receiving the Bookrak Best-

selling Paperback award, her books have also been honored as Romance Writers of America RITA® finalists in the historical, regency and contemporary categories.

For her debut, Rice will be offering the first chapter of her romance novel, *Merely Magic*.

Visit Rice's bookshelf at BookViewCafe.com: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/Patricia-Rice/>

Watch for chapters of Rice's *Merely Magic* on Fridays at <http://www.bookviewcafe.com>.

Sue Lange

Friday 12 February 2010

Constellation Awards

Andrew Gurudata: "Nominations for the Constellation Awards are currently open (<http://constellations.tcon.ca>). Deadline for nominations is March 31st."

Forwarded by Garth Spencer

Tuesday 16 February 2010

'Shadow Conspiracy' in SFSignal Giveaway

SFSignal.com is giving away two copies of the e-book *The Shadow Conspiracy*, a steampunk anthology from Book View Press. *The Shadow Conspiracy* is a collection of stories set on alternative Earth, a place powered by steam and magic. This world of dreamers, experimenters and engineers, soulless humans and ensouled machines was born of most unlikely parents: four poets who gathered one cold summer on the shores of Lake Geneva in 1816.

All-new and never-before-seen, these stories explore the unfolding consequences of that gathering—and how it changed everything we thought we knew about science and ourselves. Contributors include Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff, Sarah Zettel, Steven Harper, Pati Nagle, Jennifer Stevenson, Nancy Jane Moore, Brenda Clough, Judith Tarr, and Irene Radford. Editors are Phyllis Irene Radford and Laura Anne Gilman.

Available formats include PDF, EPUB, Mobi, .prc, .lrf, and .lit.

For a chance to win a free copy, visit the SFSignal contest page: <http://www.sfsignal.com/archives/2010/02/ebook-giveaway-shadow-conspiracy/>

Contest ends Wednesday, February 24, 11 PM, US Central Time.

Sue Lange

Thursday 18 February 2010



288 Hour Graphic Novel Challenge

Thought some of you would be interested in this.

Blog post (in comic-strip format)—<http://www.powells.com/blog/?p=5949>—by cartoonist Kevin Cannon about his attempt at the 288 Hour Graphic Novel Challenge.

In the post Kevin says his graphic novel *Far Arden* is “the first graphic novel to be spawned from the yearly 24 Hour Comics Day Event”—a 24-hour comic being a 24-page comic written, drawn, and finished in 24 hours.

“My friend Steve Stwalley had a wild thought: ‘Why don’t you do one of these things a month, for a whole year, and then you’ll have a graphic novel... a 288 page graphic novel!’ ”

In the blog post Kevin says that while he completed *Far Arden*, he failed to comply with two rules of the challenge:

(1) “I did break a 24HCD rule, though—I came in with a pre-formed idea. But in my defense, it was only a thin plot skeleton for the whole book...”

(2) Only the first four chapters were results of 24-hour marathons; the rest were done at a pace of 24 pages a month after work and on weekends.

Julian Castle

Sunday 21 February 2010

Notes from February BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Kathleen Moore (hostess), Ray Seredin, Joe Devoy, Julian Castle, and Felicity Walker.

Ray attended Stephen Colbert’s taping of Olympic-related segments for *The Colbert Report* at Creekside Park, near Science World. Ray was able to take some photos, including one of Colbert with his artificial moose.

Kathleen Moore displayed her recent knitting art, including *Progressive Developments in Fruitlooper* and *Don’t Bite the Sun*.

The deadline for the Bulwer-Lytton Fiction Contest is Thursday 15 April 2010.

Ray’s building’s rec room, the location for the March BCSFA meeting (see This Month in BCSFA), has a pool table but no TV. Food will be pot-luck.

Kathleen suggested that when the location of the meeting after the next meeting is known, it should also be listed in *BCSFazine*.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 21 February 2010

BookViewCafe.com Welcomes Steven Popkes

On Monday, February 22, Book View Café welcomes Steven Popkes as its newest member. Popkes is best known for his short stories. “The Color Winter” was a finalist for the Nebula Award. His most recent story, “The Secret Lives of

Fairy Tales,” is in the January/February issue of *Fantasy and Science Fiction*. He has also published two novels: *Caliban Landing* (Congdon and Weed, 1988) and *Slow Lightning* (Tor, 1991). Both deal with the complexities of alien contact.

For his debut, Popkes is offering his ghost story, “Tom Kelley’s Ghost.”

Visit Popkes’ bookshelf at BookViewCafe.com: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/The-Steven-Popkes-Bookshelf/>

Watch for Steven Popkes’ stories at <http://www.bookviewcafe.com>.

Sue Lange

Monday 22 February 2010

New Date for Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza

Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza is now Saturday, December 4 at 1:00 PM.

More details: <http://www.facebook.com/n/?event.php&eid=136562234276&mid=1efc697G1f460260G428b222G30>.

Toren Atkinson

Wednesday 24 February 2010

One Week Only Ebook Sale on Slipstream Title

In celebration of Sue Lange’s upcoming appearance at the Author and a Movie event in Lansdowne, PA (Philly area), her ebook collection of previously published slipstream stories, *Uncategorized*, is on sale for \$.99 at Smashwords. Sale ends Sunday midnight. Formats available include: pdf, mobi, epub, javascript, html, etc. Purchase the book here: <https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/7776> (use coupon code XG49C for the discount).

For the Author and a Movie event: honoring the grand tradition of “Opening Attractions,” independent movie house Cinema 16:9 (35 N. Lansdowne Ave., Lansdowne, PA) moviegoers will be treated to a one-time-only performance of a musical reading by local author Sue Lange. The material will be taken from her brilliant collection of critically praised sci-fi and slipstream short stories titled *Uncategorized* (BookViewCafe.com; 2009).

Multi-talented and accomplished musician Gary M. Celima will be providing guitar and vocal music before and after the reading, and even at some points during the reading.



The event will include a screening of the two-time Cannes award-winning *Police, Adjective*: “One of the most critically-acclaimed films of the year and a double prize winner at Cannes, *Police, Adjective* is the new whip-smart, dryly funny comedy from Corneliu Porumboiu (*12:08 East of Bucharest*).”

Tickets for this event are \$10 if reserved ahead of time (484-461-7676); \$20 at the door.

Sue Lange

Wednesday 24 February 2010

Why Time Travel Sucks

Michael Bertrand

Time travel. From the dawn of science fiction with H.G. Wells’ *The Time Machine*, through such legendary authors as Ray Bradbury (“A Sound of Thunder”) and Isaac Asimov (“The Ugly Little Boy”), on to the sci-fi adventures of *Star Trek* (“City on the Edge of Forever”) and *Stargate: SG1* (“Continuum”), time travel has been a popular theme in science fiction for well over a century.

And all that time, it has sucked.

Here are the reasons why.

‘Right’ Version of History

A great deal of time travel fiction makes the extraordinarily arrogant and provincial assumption that there is one true, right, and proper version of history, and all other versions are “wrong” and must be fixed right away. Usually, the “right” version just happens to be the version we all learned in school, and in the blinkered mindset of the narrative, it’s perfectly justified to meddle all you want with the timeline of the universe as long as it keeps you from having to take high school history class all over again.

You Can Only Make Things Worse

In order to enforce this highly bigoted opinion, many modern time-travel stories take it one step further and make the clear statement that, no matter how clear it seems, by going back in time and trying to change history to something other than what we already know, you can only make things much worse. Whether you’re killing Hitler, saving the Library at Alexandria, or preventing the untimely death of dear old Dad, it will lead to things being far, indeed often absurdly worse than before, and inevitably lead to having to go prevent yourself from meddling, and lo and behold, we’re back at the previous point again. Turns out, history as we know it really is the best possible history, so don’t even bother trying to fix anything.

This is clearly absurd. Any change might well make things a lot worse because of consequences we can't possibly predict, but by the same token, it might make things a heck of a lot better because of consequences we can't possibly predict. Or we might break even. We can't possibly know.

Furthermore, even those of us who never travel in time have no idea what the long-term consequences of our actions might be. We all know about the idea of the flapping of a butterfly's wings possibly causing a hurricane in a far-off land. Like that butterfly, any of our actions might have vast and unpredictable consequences, good or ill. Knowing this, all we can do is do what seems best at the time given what we know and what we can reasonably predict based on that knowledge, and then live with any unforeseen consequences.

So how is that any different for someone who travels backwards in time?

History Enforcement Via Time Cops

But that's not nearly enough for some stories. Some stories are so paranoid about anyone changing the timeline that they have to posit the existence of a trans-temporal police force whose only job is to keep anyone from changing anything at all. Of course, in the universe of the story, their jobs are justified because of course, "our version of history is the right one" and "you can only make things worse," anyhow.

History Enforcement Via Armageddon

And even that is not enough for some stories. Many a science fiction narrative has come to the conclusion that if an irreparable causality paradox is created (the classic example being going back in time and shooting your own grandfather before he begat your father), the universe will conveniently end so that none of us have to deal with a universe that fails our sense of logic.

A close variant on this (for the less apocalypse-minded) is the idea that if one tries to do that sort of thing, the universe will stop you. The gun will jam, Grandpa will duck, inter-dimensional paradox dragons will show up and eat your face, or something equally convenient will happen, and the paradox will be averted.

This is clearly some seriously magical thinking. There's nothing to actually suggest that either of these mechanisms would exist purely out of the necessity to keep things making sense to our limited human minds. Our cognitive dissonance does not translate directly into laws of the universe. It's quite possible, indeed likely, that if one could travel back in time and off Gramps, absolutely nothing would change, and you'd live to a ripe old age wondering how the hell you're still around.

Nearly Impossible to Make Work as Plot

But all that pales in comparison to my main objection to time travel: it's nearly impossible to make it truly work as a plotline. It almost always leaves tons of unanswered questions, broken causality links, logical clusterfucks, and other wonderful things that make it impossible for any reasonably thoughtful person to maintain the necessary suspension of disbelief to stay in the story at all. I suppose the authors of such stories hope we won't notice, or didn't notice themselves. But in my books, a story that falls apart if you think about it too much is a bad, bad story.

Way Too Tempting to Wipe Out Everything That Just Happened

AKA Reach for That Reset Button. Because so many time travel stories revolve around putting things back the way they were (how do you even remember how they "were"?), a lot of them negate themselves entirely. The characters restore the timeline to its "proper" state, and neatly render the entire plotline pointless. None of that really happened? Oh super, thanks for wasting my time.

You'll Never Know the Difference

Another problem with time travel stories is the problem that even if you change history, you'll never know, because the instant you change it, it becomes historical fact and it will be how things have always been. Change? What change? Who's Hitler? Whatever. Pass the algae cookies. Just like Mom used to congeal.

Bad writers often try to get around this via having a character remember "how things were." But that doesn't work because *they never were that way*. That's the whole point!

All the Time in the World

Another bug in the system revolves around a central contradiction between time travel and good storytelling, namely that good storytelling requires tension, and time travel gives people the unlimited ability to go back and try things over, thereby killing the tension for a lot of potential plotlines.

Most stories involving time travel solve this by completely ignoring it, leaving us fans to say "But couldn't they just go back and tell themselves not to do that?" or somesuch. Of course they could, is the reply, but that would make sense and solve the plot too quickly. Don't worry your pretty little head about it.

Well screw that. I inherently reject any kind of storytelling that punishes me for thinking about it.

So there you have just some of the reasons why I hate time travel stories. Of course, there's exceptions to every rule, and I'm sure it's quite possible to write

a good story that doesn't involve any of the above crimes and would make for excellent reading even for those of us who think too much about everything. In fact, some of the stories I've listed in the intro to this article qualify big-time.

But after reading this far, I'm sure you get a pretty good idea of why, when watching or reading something new, I'm quite likely to be heard muttering "Oh crap, time travel."

Now if only I could go back in time and stop H.G. Wells from writing that first major time travel story...

Michael Bertrand

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

Saturday 2 January 2010

Media File

Ray Seredin

The first release of the five-inch action figure of the Eleventh or Matt Smith Doctor has sold out in Great Britain. This is highly unusual since the first full episode of *Doctor Who* with the new Doctor is still months away from airing on BBC1.

Great news for fans of the Third and Fourth Doctors: the BBC and Time-Warner will bring out the DVDs of the Jon Pertwee Doctor stories "Frontier in Space" and "Planet of the Daleks" on March 2nd, 2010, as a box set titled *The Dalek War*. Two more Third-Doctor stories, "The Curse of Peladon" and "The Monster of Peladon," on two disks this time, come out on May 4th, 2010. Fans of the Tom Baker Doctor should also note down May 4th, 2010, as the Fourth-Doctor story "The Masque of Mandragora" is also being released that day.

Many long-time viewers of *Doctor Who* will know "Frontier in Space" as the very last story with the first Master on the long-running series, as the actor playing the evil Time Lord, Roger Delgado, was killed in a car crash in Turkey a few months after it first aired on the BBC in February of 1973. "The Masque of Mandragora" was (so far) the only *Doctor Who* filmed in Portmeirion, Wales, which many of us will recall was used as "The Village" on the original *Prisoner* in the late 1960s.

Returning to the new series: this does mean the newest of the new, as this story has to do with a well-known British science-fiction and fantasy writer penning an episode for new series six (or 32, for us long-time fans). I'm talking about the one, the only, the only one, Neil Gaiman (and there's much rejoicing).

To quote Gaiman himself, "Over the years *SFX* [a well known sci-fi magazine in Britain], and its readers and their votes in the polls, have always been very kind to me. I thought I'd return the favour with what used to be called, in journalistic circles when I was a boy, a scoop. As anyone who's read my blog knows, I'm a big fan of a certain long-running British SF TV series. One that I started watching—from behind the sofa—when I was three. And while I know

it's cruel to make you wait for things, in about 14 months from now, which is to say, *not* in the upcoming season but early in the one after that, it's quite possible that I might have written an episode. And if I had, it would originally have been called 'The House of Nothing.' But it definitely isn't called that anymore."

OK, I hope that somehow that Danielle Stephens gets to read this article and (if she and the rest of the good people who run V-Con win the rights to hold an event that I'm about to mention) please, please, please make Neil Gaiman the Author Guest of Honor at WesterCon 67, Vancouver BC, 2014.

OK, that's it for this month since they are about to spray my apartment for bedbugs, so be seeing you in April.

Cosmic Ray Seredin
Thursday 11 February 2010

Upcoming Nifty Film Projects

R. Graeme Cameron

Metropolis—"Director's cut" unveiled in Berlin Feb. 13th. Half hour of "lost" footage fleshes out secondary characters, extends scenes, renders plot more plausible. Broadcast on HD TV in Europe! Look for it in theatres this summer! NOTE: This is as close as we will ever come to the original full length version premiered in Berlin back in 1927. North American release was drastically cut down. Even Forrest J. Ackerman, the film's biggest booster, never saw the original version. If only he had lived to view the restored "director's cut." He would have been ecstatic!

Riddick—David Twohy, who wrote and directed *Pitch Black* and *The Chronicles of Riddick*, has written a third film for the series. Apparently it will be more like the first film rather than the second. Let's hope it's as eerily creepy.

The Thing—A new version begins shooting in Toronto in March. Directed by Matthijs Van Heijningen Jr., it's a prequel of sorts to the John Carpenter version, in that it will take place at the Norwegian Antarctic base where the alien shapeshifter is first discovered. I have a bad feeling about this. Hope I'm proved wrong.

Cowboys and Aliens—a graphic novel, will now be filmed with Steven Spielberg & Ron Howard among the producers! Seems a gunslinger and his gal lead a revolt against nasty alien overlords. One way to bring back the Western genre I guess.

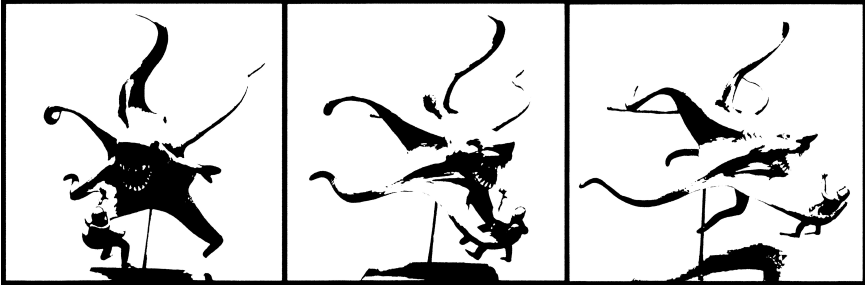
Army of Wolves—appears, judging from the trailer, to be utter crap. A squad of US infantry confront a bunch of Nazi werewolves in a church hidden in a forest. Unbelievably bad special effects, serious non-acting, terrible direction, could well be worth watching for sheer jaw-dropping entertainment value. Or maybe not.

King Crab Attack!—A French film about hordes of giant crabs emerging from the ocean to wreak havoc on mere humans. Has an exclamation point

in the title so it *must* be good. Alas, only seven minutes long. Concept deserves full length treatment.

Pumzi—is an African short film written and directed by Kenyan writer Wanuri Kahui and produced by South Africa’s Simon Hanson. People survive underground after the water wars destroyed all life on the surface, but one female research worker detects evidence of life and, against orders, returns to the surface to find it. Looks promising.

Adèle Blanc-Sec—based on a French graphic novel about an intrepid female reporter in Paris circa 1900. Trailer features a pterodactyl swooping over the rooftops. Looks to be a fun action-adventure flic. Directed by Luc Besson, who did *The Fifth Element*, so we can expect off-the-wall humour and surreal visuals.



Sharktopus—The Syfy Channel has convinced Roger Corman he should direct a film about a giant mutant shark/octopus monster. Well, why not? Who better? Current delay due to hangup on decision how many mouths the creature will have. I say one mouth between each pair of tentacles. Makes sense to me. Looking forward to this.

R. Graeme Cameron
Wednesday 24 February 2010

Ask Mr. Guess-It-All!

(As Submitted by R. Graeme Cameron,
Official Spin-Doctor for Mr. Guess-It-All)

Mr. TW, of Toronto, Ontario, asks: **Why do stars twinkle?**

Mr. Guess-It-All: God has the ability to turn stars on and off as if he were flicking a near-infinite number of cosmic light switches. He does this when he is bored. Note that he has been doing it continuously throughout recorded history. This is a bad sign. We better shape up and meet his expectations, lest he shut off the lights forever.

Mr. SF, of Burnaby, B.C., asks: **What causes those occasional impact scars on Jupiter?**

Mr. Guess-It-All: Scientists think Jupiter's intense gravity sucks in asteroids and comets that might otherwise hit Earth, and every time this happens the object plunging into Jupiter's upper atmosphere leaves an impact "scar" in the Jovian cloud tops. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The so-called "impact scars" are in fact *expulsion scars*. The Jovians want to wipe out all life on Earth and periodically launch enormous projectiles which disrupt Jupiter's cloud system in their wake. Fortunately for us, they can't see what they're aiming at because the cloud system is so incredibly thick and dense (much like the Jovians themselves in fact) that their attacks have proven unsuccessful.

Why do the Jovians want to exterminate us? Apparently they monitored our TV transmissions for decades and were particularly fond of Walter Cronkite's CBS newscasts. Seems they've never forgiven us for forcing Walter to retire. Ghod help us if the Jovians are currently monitoring CNN or FOX News, as this could lead to an increase in the launch rate. Sooner or later they're bound to get lucky and wipe us out. Blame American television.

Mr. Guess-It-All via R. Graeme Cameron
Saturday 20 February 2010

Is WesterCon 67 Coming to Vancouver in 2014?

Ray Seredin

Heck, they are about to do it again. No, Vancouver is not bidding for the 2024 Summer Olympics (although, after the fun I had at the free sites during the 2010 Winter Olympics, I say go for it; besides, Canada won 14 gold medals, an all-time record, including the most important Olympic gold medal in the universe, the one for men's hockey—way to go, Canada!!!), but the good people that ran V-Con over the last few years could be making a bid to host WesterCon 67 in 2014.

Now, I can see one long-time BCSFA member saying, "No, no, no, no, no. Please try to remember WesterCon 44 back in 1991 and how it set back Vancouver area cons for quite a few years."

I say to this person that the WesterCon 67 bid is being mostly run by people who had nothing to do with WesterCon 44, or who have parents who helped run it, or themselves helped run it and learned lessons on how not to run a larger con. I say this mainly because V-Con's con-com's fearless leader Danielle Stephens (and the person behind the would-be bid) likely got an earful by said BCSFA member (the one, the only Garth Spencer) about everything that went wrong at WesterCon 44 (along with any other con-com members who stuck it out for the eight hours he keep talking about it) at the V-Con meeting on Febru-

ary 7. So I assume that if they hadn't learned their lessons before then, Garth likely taught them one.

OK, I know that if the person that headed the WesterCon 44 con-com reads this I will likely get tons of hate mail from her, but, here I go. The person who was chair of WesterCon 44 was the closest thing I've seen to a human-sized yeast infection. She took on far too much, thinking she could do it because she was a professor at SFU who knew how to run a large college conference, but the world's second-largest science-fiction con is a totally different animal and she had no idea how to run it. To make matters worse when other members of the con-com tried to help, she shut them out and keep on doing things her way. By the end of it she'd dug a great big hole financially that took years for Vancouver-area fan-run conventions to dig out of, and by then we'd had a few Creation cons come through town, which eroded the out-of-town fan-base. Don't forget that V-Cons of a few years before WesterCon 44 had about 850–900 members annually, but it took until 2009 for V-Con to break the 750-member mark once again.

OK, some of you are pointing out that WesterCon 44 and not having V-Cons in 1994 and 1995 are not the only thing to blame for V-Con's falling attendance numbers after 1991; there was also having it move away from UBC. OK, I know that UBC was a great place for fandom members on a budget, but the space that any convention uses at this site costs as much as some major hotels in the Vancouver area. On top of this, a con being held at UBC will have to bring all its own equipment to run the event—that's everything from the punch ladle in hospitality to the DVD player and TVs in the video room. At a major hotel most of this equipment is provided by the host, so besides setting up the art show, hospitality, and registration, the con-com can get right down to the business of running the con. Most of the members of fandom have gotten used to V-Cons using a hotel and either save up for a room, share a suite with as many as eight other members, or stay at home.

The other thing that got a few of us fans' dander up at WesterCon 44 was the fact most of the UBC cafeteria was closed when the company that ran it went into receivership a few weeks before the event. I know that the con-com or UBC had nothing to do with that, but I point it out as another reason we should not return there. Heck, it's BC, and history seems to repeat itself quite often around here.

Besides, we all enjoyed the last few V-Cons (even if some of the hotels were not that nice to us) and from what I've been hearing from people from both inside and outside the Lower Mainland, they enjoyed WesterCon 44 just as much and have been waiting for the V-Con people to do one again. I have also heard from these members of fandom that a vast majority either never heard about WesterCon 44 being a total financial disaster, or are thinking after almost 20 years that Vancouver fandom should bid on a WesterCon again (with the lessons of 44 remembered).

Also, as I was going to room parties at V-Con 34, I mentioned the con-com's hosting of WesterCon 67 to a good number of both Metro Vancouver and out-of-town fandom events. They went over the hill with that idea and are all likely to help in every which way they can to land Vancouver's bid, then work with the con-com in running it.

So, what do I say about this local bid for WesterCon 67?

I say "Go for it." It's about time that local fandom put the events of WesterCon 44 behind us and brought the world's second-largest con back to Vancouver.

So what should the V-Con con-com do to land Vancouver WesterCon 67 in 2014? From what I see, our good friends in Seattle are unopposed for the 2012 bid, so if they are serious about bringing it back to Vancouver, my suggestion is to travel down to Pasadena for WesterCon 63 this coming July and hit the ground running as soon as the host for WesterCon 65 is announced. With the success of Vancouver and the rest of Canada shaking off the image of being the world's largest tourist trap and instead becoming a real nation with large cities filled with people that happen to love hockey more than football in the eyes of most Americans, I feel that the con-com should use this recently-found fact (which was well-known in fandom since...always) to make Vancouver's bid stand out from any bid from the Lower 48. Basically "We are Canadian fandom and we are proud of it."

We will not stop there with our Canadian flag-waving (although we should hold it back a little if it starts to upset our friends from the US who are willing help run the event itself). I feel that the room party to launch the official bid for WesterCon 67 as well as all the ones leading up to the announcement of the winning bid and (if successful) all the ones leading up to the actual event be called "The Great Canadian Room Party." We will use these room parties to show the American fandom community (who haven't been up here) that us Canadian fans of science-fiction and fantasy are only slightly different than they are, and that we will host a WesterCon that will make all the members who come very welcome to our city and our nation.

Besides, us Canadians invented...I mean perfected what is now called American satire, by showing them that they can make fun of themselves and get away with it. I would like to see this concept brought into both the bid's room parties as well as the event itself. [Hint: I want to see the room (or rooms) hosting the "The Great Canadian Room Parties" look like we raided every souvenir stand from Tofino to St. John's and bought every single tacky Canadian souvenir inside them.]

I guess I am starting to bore some of you with this article, so I'm bringing it to a close. Still, if you are on the V-Con con-com and need someone with great ideas for your WesterCon 67 bid promotions, please feel free to e-mail me at lungbarrow@shaw.ca.



Oh, before I go, I would like to say that if the con-com is successful in winning, then hosting, WesterCon 67, then Vancouver fandom will be ready for the next step, hosting a WorldCon (fandom's answer to the Olympics).

Be seeing you.

Cosmic Ray Seredin
Sunday 28 February 2010

Zines Received

'Opuntia' #68.5A (February 2010). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Perzine issue.

"Bread and Circuses": Last November, Calgary hosted the centennial Grey Cup (Canadian Football League championship), played between the Calgary Stampeders and the Saskatchewan Roughriders. Dale says, "I have no interest in sports, but I enjoy a good party as much as the next person"; my mother took the same approach to the Olympics, which was probably healthiest. Dale starts with the origin of, and some background on, the Grey Cup, and adds that last October, the Calgary Philatelic Society chose the Grey Cup as the theme for the commemorative cover of their annual show, CALTAPEX. Over the next ten pages Dale writes about the weekend's celebrations and game, supplemented with over twenty photographs.

Also: "Letters to the Editor" (Lloyd Penney); "Rocky Mountain Hikes 2009" (photos).

E-Zines Received

'The Fortnightly Fix' #8 (5 February 2010). Published by Steve Green, steve.green@livejournal.com. PDF available at eFanzines.com.

"Space, the Fiscal Frontier": President Obama has given NASA more money, but not enough to go back to the moon. Steve laments the decline of manned space exploration. Like all things that have peaked, it once seemed as if it would never stop ascending; now that it has, there comes the sense of deception and abandonment by the past.

"Forward to the Past": Steve plans to produce fanzines the old-fashioned way, with his Gestetner duplicator, and has found an old Adler 131D electric typewriter. I have a typewriter font called "Adler"!

"Down the Loccol": Capsule comments and the photo for a caption contest.

'The Fortnightly Fix' #9 (17 February 2010). Published by Steve Green, steve.green@livejournal.com. PDF available at eFanzines.com.

"Before a Fall": Steve worries that fannish pride has mutated into elitism. "Core" fandom is displeased with his choice of TAFF and DUFF candidates to back. I don't have enough context or background for this to understand it; I don't know why neither Jeff Boman nor Steve are "not 'one of us.'" From the

context in the article I gather it has to do with them having discovered SF through TV and comics.

“Down the Loccol”: Letters continue the discussions of elections and the space program.

‘**Statement**’ #370 (February 2010). Newsletter of the Ottawa Science Fiction Society. Published by the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 18 Norice Street, Ottawa, ON, K2G 2X5, osfs@ncf.ca; edited by Grant Duff.

“Obama to Cut NASA’s Moon Plan”: The budget has increased, but by too little to send astronauts to the moon. The money will be spent on other things, such as making the International Space Station last until 2020. (And then what?) Other nations and the private sector will become the *de facto* leaders in human spaceflight.

“Books of Interest”: StarWolf reviews *1632* by Eric Flint (a town of 21st-century people are transported back to the 17th century) and *The Physics of the Impossible* by Michio Kaku (the doctor of physics and regular *Coast to Coast AM* guest examines the real-life feasibility and likelihood of science fiction concepts like warp drive, light sabres, telepathy, and artificial intelligence).

“Movies in Town”: Tasia Papadatos reviews *Avatar*.

“Space News”: “The Social Benefits of Space Exploration” by Tom Harris asserts that the true motivation for space exploration is social; though there are practical benefits, social scientists maintain that humans find exploration and expansion inherently rewarding.

“Science News”: Alex Binkley submits a *Discover* article by Andrew Moseman about the possibility of cloning Neanderthals.

“On a Brighter Note”: “Double-Digit Sales for LED Lights.” Raina Toomy writes that modern light-emitting diodes are brighter, faster, smaller, cooler, more efficient, and longer-lasting than the little red indicator bulbs of our childhoods, and are gaining popularity in all sorts of applications, including taking the place of incandescent light-bulbs.

“From the Membership”: Letters (including Lloyd Penney).

Also: “Editor’s Blather”; “Upcoming Events”; “Movies Coming to Town”; “Movie News”; “Net Addresses of Interest”; “Humor.”

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