

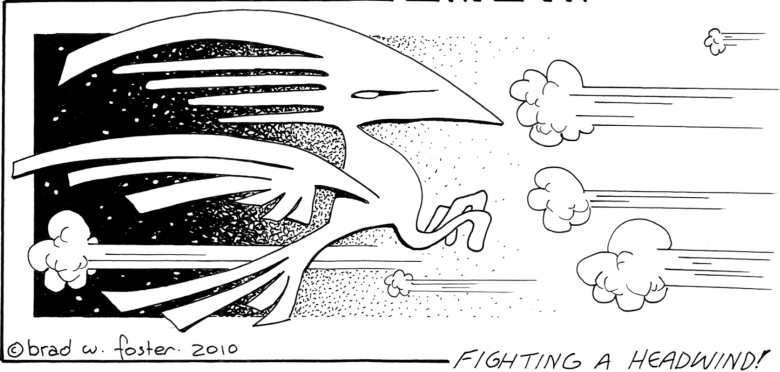
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#445

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June 2010



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. BCSFAzine solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows. There will be no submission deadline until I get back on schedule myself; submissions are accepted up until production.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Thursday 17 June @ 7 PM: **June Book Discussion** at the Grind Gallery & Café, 4124 Main Street and King Edward Avenue, Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *The Name of the Wind* by Patrick Rothfuss.—Doug Finnerty
- Sunday 20 June @ 7 PM: **BCSFA meeting**—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton (Recreation Room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions.
- Friday 25 June: **'BCSFAzine' production.**

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
Brad Foster.....	Cover
Taral Wayne.....	Page 30
Jack Kirby/D. Bruce Berry.....	Page 32
Jerry Ordway/Curt Swan/John Byrne/John Costanza.....	Page 39

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Dave Haren
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20 April 2010

Hi Felicity,
Nice issue.

[Thanks! By the way, Dave's LOC is responding to BCSFAZine #443, but I hadn't checked my Hotmail account in a long time, so his LOC is seeing print this month. The fastest way to reach me these days is my Gmail address.]

Project Gutenberg has a couple of Robert Sheckley short stories up: #32040 and #32041. He was one of the better humorists of the "golden" age of SF magazines.

Dr. Peter Wells, the Canadian SF author, has tangled with the US Border people. See attached file and Boing Boing for further details.

I just finished Jane Fancher's ebook *Netwalkers* trilogy—*Groundties*, *Uplink*, and *Harmonies of the Net*—and she is going to have the prequel to *Groundties* up on Closed Circle in the near future.

It is pretty wild stuff and I'm still not sure what it all means; lots of things going on at once. I'll leave it for a literati type to unravel the hidden meanings.

Stephen Goldin is hanging out on Wave Without a Shore now. He has a bunch of ebook sales methods he's using to solve the current author problem.

Apparently publishers are not keeping authors' work available to readers, so they are exploring new avenues to get their work out to people who want to read.

Apple, Google, and Amazon are doing various schemes to position themselves in the ebook market. I'm sure they have our best interests at heart. My own bet is that authors who realize the benefit of direct connection to fans will carry the day. A savvy business type might be able to do print on demand services for authors and their customers and make a reasonable living at it.

I'm not a merchant, so check it out with one before you try this scheme.

If you like dystopia, Internet Archive has a documentary titled *Orwell Rolls in His Grave*, highly informative about what passes for news these days.

Just type *Orwell* into the search bar there. You'll also find the BBC version of *1984* starring Peter Cushing and Donald Pleasance to watch as a warmup.

Decision Games says *Struggle for the Galactic Empire* is selling well, which is good for SF gamers, since they may push the remake of *Battlefleet Mars* up in the queue for re-issue.

Remember, these are from the days when real gamers pushed cardboard squares around on paper maps without the benefit of demon electricity.

Hope everyone is doing well.

Dave Haren

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13 May 2010

Dear Felicity:

Many thanks for *BCSFazine* 444, and I know I am shaving the deadline very finely. Time for a letter, and hope it makes it in to 445.

[I can hardly hold contributors to the original submission deadline when publication was ten days late! In fact, I'm debating whether to get rid of the submission deadline altogether.]

Do you know if anyone is going to the Victoria Steampunk Exposition in Victoria on the 22nd and 23rd? Believe me, it was very tempting to go and see what they had to offer, and it would be in the Empress Hotel, but money never allows for this kind of field trip. I hope there will be a report in a future issue.

[Unfortunately, I don't know anyone attending the Steampunk Exposition.

[Back in the 1980s, my mother used to take me to Victoria on holiday, and sometimes we would have high tea at the Empress.]

The deadline for Aurora voting by post has passed, but it is still possible to vote for the Auroras online. The website at www.prix-aurora-awards.ca has all the information, and all the nominees.

[I'm glad you mentioned that; it reminded me to vote.]

On-line deadline is May 22, and the Auroras will be handed out at Keycon, this year's CanVention, in Winnipeg. Liana and Steven Kerzner should have a good time there, and they've just announced two new shows they are hosting.

My LOC...I like the idea of a *Steampunk Mickey* cartoon, and also the Lloyd & Yvonne fan fund. Can't see anyone sinking money into that one, but I do hope one of these days to come out to a VCon again. There is a little more talk about a steampunk convention here, even if it is a mini-con. It may be all we can manage. (I see VSteam staged a steampunk masquerade ball on May 5...around Toronto, anything labelled steampunk seems to be a rave of some kind.)

I remember *The Incredible Crash Dummies*...badly drawn cartoons, but with 150% of the daily requirement of violence children seem to need each day...

[It's nice how nostalgia accumulates with time passing. When The Incredible Crash Dummies first came out it was too new and different; now the thought of it takes me back to a simpler, more innocent time.]

The calendar...Yvonne and I celebrate our 27th wedding anniversary on May 28, and on June 2, you will be able to chop me down, and count 51 rings.

To Cosmic Ray...Yvonne's family also thinks it very odd to spend any amount of money on our strange conventions, and for many years, conventions just happened to take place on family events suddenly arranged, and they couldn't understand why we'd go to conventions we'd already paid for rather than just ditch it all to spend a partial day with the family. Hope he enjoyed the steampunk panel there...I gather it was MCed by Seattle fan Jerry Kaufman.

I will have to remind Grant Duff about the OSFS *Statement*...I haven't seen it in a few months, and I hope I can get it again.

All done for the moment. I found there's a lot of zines I have on hand that need a contribution by a certain deadline, so that's one of my big need-to-dos today. Take care, and see you next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney.

John Purcell
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17 May 2010

So I have been attempting to pronounce your zine's title, Felicity, and came up with BICKS-fah-zine. I have no idea if that is what the group intended, but it works. Are there any other possibilities other than each letter being pronounced independently?

[*BCSFA pronounces its name "biss-fa," so BCSFAzine is pronounced "biss-fa-zine."*]

I like the way you lead off the issue with letters—all two of them. Lloyd Penney addresses me regarding the recent Vancouver Olympics, which my family greatly enjoyed watching. Sad to say that John Hertz won this year's DUFF race, and congratulations go to him. The funny thing is that Lloyd and his wife Yvonne split their nominations between the two of us: Lloyd nominated me while Yvonne's name went in support of John Hertz. It figures. The woman is always right. But John will be a fine DUFF representative, and I look forward to his always detailed trip report, probably to appear in *File 770*. If he wishes, I will be happy to pub part of it in my zine later this year. But that's Mr. Hertz's decision. Have a good time in Oz, John!

There really isn't much else for me to say here except that you have a lot of information in this issue, Felicity, and that is really good. The calendar listing alone is worth the price of admission, and I hope you and the other BCSFA folks don't burn out. It sounds like a busy schedule is ahead for all y'all—that's Texan for addressing a group of people—and everybody has a good time.

[*Thank you for praising the calendar. Many times I feel guilty about how long it's gotten, and I think about cutting it.*]

One final comment to make is that I really like all the fillo art you've scattered thither and yon thish. Fun stuph, and keep up the good work. Let me know if you ever wish to write a review or some type of article that would fit right into *Askance*; I am always receptive to seeing what folks have to say.

In the meantime, thank you for the zine, and keep them coming.
All the best,
John Purcell

Michael Bertrand
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29 May 2010

I forgot to send in a LOC for the previous *BSCFAzine* as well, so this LOC will have to cover two zines.

So, from #443:

I'm glad John Purcell liked my snarky "Time Travel Sucks" article. If you liked that, wait till you read my take on *Star Trek*.

And I am thrilled to find there is more Mister Guess-It-All coming in the future! It's hilarious.

[*I'm a big fan of Upcoming Nifty Film Projects.*]

I'd like to try the Saturday Morning Cartoon event from the Second Level Wizards one of these days. It sounds silly and fun. I'll likely give the sugary cereals a miss, but I'll love the cartoons, as long as I am allowed to make the occasional snarky comment.

[*The Saturday Morning Cartoon Party sound like my kind of event too, except for (a) trying to find parking in Vancouver, and (b) getting up that early.*]

And of course, lovely to see "Life of a Slave" in Felicity's marvelously well formatted print. It makes me feel like a Real Honest to Goodness Writer!

Re: Taral's "Aging Fandom" article, I really like this line:

"We are no longer Rome and have become France, Spain, Italy, Britain and other nations."

Indeed we have. I've learned that, despite the wishes we all have as young outcasts of finding our tribe, someplace we fit in and are accepted, the basic unit of fandom will always be the group of friends. You might meet these friends through fan-finish circles but that is only the starting point, and when the dynamics change and the more formal groupings grow, become too large, schism, lose identity, and die, it will be the friends you make who endure.

And now, on to #444:

Good luck getting that Fan Writer Hugo, Lloyd! I continue to be astounded by the sheer volume of intelligent, interesting, and erudite prose you produce in your prodigious inter-LOC-ution. How can one person produce all that writing?

Oh right. I do that too.

[*He is LOCutus of Borg!*]

LOL at your "Steampunk Mickey" joke, Felicity. Very good. :-)

Didn't know I shared a birthday with André the Giant. His fight against Jake "The Snake" was an all-time favorite of mine when I was a WWF fan. And Grace Jones? The butchest woman in the universe? Wow. She was so hot in *A View to a Kill* that I may have experienced a brief moment of quasi-heterosexuality.

Pixar in Vancouver? *Awesome*. I have mad respect for them. Suppose they need a very weird writer? :-)

Well, that's it for my commentary. Hope I'm not hogging the column-inches. :-)
See you next month!

Calendar

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

Already in Progress

30 April–20 June 2010: The Society of Temporal Investigations exhibition—Keith Langergraber, Tuesday to Saturday, 12–5 PM at Western Front Society, 303 East 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5T 1S1. Keith Langergraber's The Society of Temporal

Investigations examines fan culture through multiple practices. A series of Langeraber's own drawings based on the television show *Battlestar Galactica* conflate geographic with fictive space...A collection of readymade zines and other found and hand drawn imagery are also integrated to develop the themes of resistance, environmental degradation and corporate and government domination that run through the genre.—[Keith Lim](#)

22 May–28 August 2010: [Pirates! Blocks 'n' Buccaneers](#), Tuesday–Friday 9:30 AM–5:30 PM, Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, at Surrey Museum, 17710 56A Avenue, Surrey, BC. Set sail for a swashbuckling adventure of villainy, plunder, buried treasure and swabbing the deck. LEGO creations built by the Vancouver LEGO Club showcase the world of pirates, from their ships, treasures, famous battles and weapons to their dress, possessions, grub and legends. Adults \$5, seniors/students \$3.75, child/youth \$2.50, 5 & under free.—[Keith Lim](#)

June 2010

June is Candy Month, Gay Pride Month, National Accordion Awareness Month, National Adopt a Cat Month, Turkey Lovers Month, National Bathroom Reading Month, International Men's Month, Rebuild Your Life Month, Skyscraper Month, and National Steakhouse Month.

1 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Arduino Hardware Night, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS's RoboHack Month (June 2010). Learn about the Arduino hardware—different models, connecting sensors. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

1 June 2010: Fei Fei Day. International Day Against Homophobia. 26th anniversary of *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*. Birthday of actor/musician Edward Woodward, cartoonist/illustrator Gerald Scarfe, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor René Auberjonois, actor Brian Cox, *Doctor Who* actor Jonathan Pryce, and cartoonist Alonzo Washington.

2 June 2010: [Cloudscape Workshop](#), 7:30 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6.—[Keith Lim](#)

2 June 2010: **Lloyd Penney's** birthday. Birthday of occultist Count Alessandro di Cagliostro, author/editor Lester del Rey, voice actor Walter Tetley, Canadian comics artist/creator Ruth Atkinson, writer/editor/agent Virginia Kidd, *Transformers* voice director/actor Wally Burr, writer/cartoonist W. Watts Biggers, actor Stacy Keach, composer/voice actor Jeff Winkless, comics colourist/letterist/penciller/editor Barry Grossman, comics writer/editor/teacher and TV/film producer Michael Uslan, writer/editor Dwight Jon Zimmerman, actor/writer/comedian Dana Carvey, wrestler Lawrence (Lex Luger) Pfohl, comics artist Scott Rosema, and wrestler Allen (A.J. Styles) Jones.

3 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Arduino Software Night, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS's RoboHack Month (June 2010). Learn about the software side of the Arduino—UI, command line. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

3 June 2010: **Karl Johanson's** birthday. Birthday of comics artist/letterist Tom Gill, author Marion Zimmer Bradley, author John Norman, *Star Trek: The Motion Picture* special effects artist John Dykstra, writer/director/composer/producer Shuki Levy, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Voyager/Enterprise* actress Suzie Plakson, comics artist Gavin Wilson, Canadian *Daily Show* correspondent Jason Jones, writer/*Daily Show* correspondent John Hodgman, and writer/fan Ken Mennell, Jr.

4 June 2010: [Sci-Fi Friday at La Fontana](#), 6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. 7 PM: *Stargate Universe*.—[Keith Lim](#)

4 June 2010: [Doctor Who Meetup: Cold Blood](#), 8 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Watch the next new episode of *Doctor Who* at 8:30 PM after *Stargate Universe* at 7 PM. If you would like to come watch *Stargate Universe* everyone is definitely welcome to show up at 6:30 PM; otherwise please respect the folks who are there to view it and come in at 8 PM after the show is done.—[Keith Lim](#)

4 June 2010: [King Kong & Godzilla](#), 11:59 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver, BC. Midnight double bill. Live hosts and pre-show entertainment. \$10/\$8 in costume.—[Keith Lim](#)

4 June 2010: **Andrew Brechin's** birthday. Hug Your Cat Day and National Doughnut Day. Premiere of films *Marmaduke* (comic strip adaptation) and *Splice* (genetically-engineered monsters). 28th anniversary of *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*. Birthday of actor Geoffrey Palmer, wrestler/announcer Robert (Gorilla Monsoon) Marella, *Coast to Coast AM* broadcaster/writer George Noory, Canadian *Star Trek: Voyager* actor Derek McGrath, comics writer/artist/publisher Wendy Pini, actor/rapper Keith David, writer Michal Jacot, comics artist Josef Rubinstein, writer Kristine Kathryn Rusch, actor Sean Pertwee, actor Scott Wolf, actor/comedian Horatio Sanz, and wrestler James (Mikey Whipwreck) Watson.

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.” [Hats Off Day/Vancouver Battlestar Galactica Fan Club/BC Browncoats](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

5 June 2010: Hats Off Day at the Caffè, 11 AM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Post-Hats Off Day Parade meetup. If you aren't dusting off your robot outfit and marching, come on down to the Caffè to hang out and enjoy the day. Hats Off Day Festival happens 9 AM to 2 PM along Hastings Street between Boundary Road and Gamma Avenue. [BC Browncoats/Hats Off Day](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

5 June 2010: Superhero (Bike) Ride, 3–6 PM at Science World (Gazebo), 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2R6. Calling all superheroes. It's time to patrol our city and strike fear into the hearts of evil-doers! Dress up as your favourite existing superhero (or heck, supervillain) and Bif! Bam! Pow! your way around town. No fee. [Velopalooza/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

5 June 2010: Vancouver Steampunks Swordfight Photoshoot 2, 11:30 AM–4 PM at Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC. VSteam photographer Darian “Bad Wolf” Syde will be taking pictures once again at Stanley Park. Bring your swords for a gentlemanly duel and try not to mind the flash. [Vancouver Steampunks/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

5 June 2010: **Alyssa Foote's** birthday. Birthday of comics artist Wayne Boring, *Doctor Who* actor Laurence Payne, author/illustrator Richard Scarry, *Doctor Who* director Bill Sellars, *Star Trek* (TOS) actor Robert Lansing, animator/director Jimmy Murakami, comics artist Frank Chiaramonte, voice actress/fan Mary Kay Bergman, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* writer Adam Belanoff, Canadian author PJ Haarsma, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* comics letterist Dave Lanphear, actor/rapper/producer Mark Wahlberg, and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor Chad Allen.

6 June 2010: 26th anniversary of *Tetris* (Тетрис). Birthday of author V.C. Andrews, cartoonist Tom K. Ryan, actor Robert Englund, writer/actor Harvey Fierstein, comics artist Greg Adams, comics writer/artist/journalist Arlen Schumer, actress Amanda Pays, actor/comedian/writer Colin Quinn, *Star Trek* (TOS) actress Lisabeth Shatner, actor Paul Giamatti, and wrestler Anthony (Ahmed Johnson) Norris.

7 June 2010: Birthday of comics artist Graham Ingels, *Star Trek* comics artist Frank Bolle, comics writer/artist Barb Rausch, comics writer/artist/editor/creator and actor/musician Larry Hama, actor *Star Trek: Voyager* actor Gary Graham, comics/animation artist Rick Hoberg, actor Liam Neeson, actor William Forsythe, comics writer/artist/creator Mark Schultz, *Star Trek: Voyager* writer Bill Prady, wrestler/actor/author/comedian Mick (Mankind/Dude Love/Cactus Jack) Foley, actor/comedian/writer/producer Bill Hader, and Canadian actor Michael Cera.

8 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Arduino + Motors Night, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS's RoboHack Month (June 2010). Controlling motors with an Arduino—stepper, DC, servos. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

8 June 2010: Birthday of comics writer/editor Michael Higgins, comics artist/creator C.C. Beck, editor/publisher/writer John W. Campbell, writer Kate Wilhelm, *Star Trek* (TOS) director James Goldstone, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor/musician James Darren, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Bernie Casey, *Doctor Who* actress Carole Anne Ford, *Doctor Who* writer/director Peter Grimwade, British-Canadian *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Voyager* actor Alan Scarfe, cartoonist/author Scott Adams, comics writer/editor/teacher David Seidman, actor/comedian/director/writer Keenen Ivory Wayans, and Canadian actress Lexa Doig.

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

9 June 2010: [Cloudscape Workshop](#), 7:30 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6.—[Keith Lim](#)

9 June 2010: Donald Duck Day. 21st anniversary of *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier*. Birthday of *Star Trek* (TOS) director Gerd Oswald, author Keith Laumer, comics writer/artist/letterist Bob Bolling, author Lin Carter, *Doctor Who* actor Colin Baker, *Transformers/Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* voice actor Peter Renaday, author Joe Haldeman, comics writer/artist Chris Kalnick, comics writer/artist George Pérez, Canadian actor/author Michael J. Fox, actor/writer/director/producer/musician Johnny Depp, and comics writer/artist/letterist Tim Eldred.

10 June 2010: Iced Tea Day. Birthday of British-Canadian actor/author Barry Morse, actor Paul Marco, writer/artist Maurice Sendak, actor/musician Mickey Jones, artist Charles Vess, actor/comedian/writer Rich Hall, comics artist Howard Simpson, comics writer/artist/theorist Scott McCloud, and comics writer/artist/letterist Bill Anderson.

11 June 2010: VSteam's 2nd High Tea, 3–5 PM at Sutton Place Hotel, 845 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. Vancouver Steampunks (VSteam) is hosting yet another high tea at the beautiful Sutton Place Hotel. Astounding tea, decadent snacks, and amazing service in a white, brass, and crystal private room. Dress code: proper. \$28/person, cash at the event. [Vancouver Steampunks/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

11 June 2010: [Sci-Fi Friday at La Fontana](#), 6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. 7 PM: *StarGate Universe* (season finale).—[Keith Lim](#)

11 June 2010: [Back to the Future & Back to the Future II](#), 11:59 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver, BC. Midnight double bill. Live hosts and pre show entertainment. \$10/\$8 in costume.—[Keith Lim](#)

11 June 2010: **Ray Seredin** and **Kathleen Moore**'s birthdays. Premiere of film *The A-Team* (remake). Birthday of *Doctor Who* actor Richard Todd, *Star Trek* (TAS)

actor Ed Bishop, writer/filmmaker Iain Sinclair, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine/Batman* (TAS) actress Adrienne Barbeau, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine* director Paul Lynch, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine/Voyager* actor Howard Sherman/Sherman Howard, comics writer Rich Margopoulos, wrestler Terry (Magnum T.A.) Allen, actor/writer/comedian/musician Hugh Laurie, artist Susan Van Camp, comics writer/artist/creator Kevin Paul Shaw Broden, comics writer Terry Collins, and Vancouverite actor Joshua Jackson.

11–13 June 2010: [Vancouver Draw Down 2010](#). “Join the Roundhouse, the Vancouver Art Gallery, the Museum of Anthropology, Moberly Arts Centre, and community centres across Vancouver in the first Vancouver Draw Down. Get drawn in to art projects of all shapes, sizes, and media—including a city-wide public chalk drawing. Visit [vancouverdrawdown.com](#) for activities and locations. Programs at the Roundhouse are *free* thanks to funding from the VancouverParks Board of Parks and Recreation.”—[Vancouver Comicon Blog](#)

12 June 2010: Drawers & Dancers on the Turntable/Draw Down Comic Jam, 1–4 PM at the Roundhouse. Drawers & Dancers on the Turntable: Join artist Melissa Waddell in a collaborative sketch as dancers move together and inspire one another in a series of short poses. Draw Down Comic Jam: Join the Roundhouse Comic Jam to draw with some of Vancouver’s finest comic book artists of Vancouver ComiCon fame. Stake out your frames on a wall-sized grid to create a gigantic, collaborative comic.—[Vancouver Comicon Blog](#)

12 June 2010: Random Acts of Chalk, city-wide from 10 AM–2 PM. Come draw all over Vancouver! Join artists Ian Forbes and Vjejko Sager on the Sea Wall between Marinaside Cres. and David Lam Park. Visit [vancouverdrawdown.com](#) for other locations.—[Vancouver Comicon Blog](#)

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

12 June 2010: [Miniatures Games Day: Flames of War & Wings of War](#), 1–5 PM at Strategies Games and Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd Avenue), Vancouver, BC, V5V 3N9. Bring down your fully painted Flames of War forces to battle, or bring down your Wings of War models and rules for a massive aerial dogfight.—[Keith Lim](#)

12 June 2010: [Battlestar Galactica: Classified Cardboard Mission: Viper MK II](#), 2 PM at Yves’ Base Camp, 80–1036 Premier Street, North Vancouver, BC, V7G 0A1. The goal is to build a six foot long Colonial Viper Mark 2 out of cardboard that will hopefully be running on a dolly for the Vancouver Fandom entry during the North Shore Canada Day Parade.—[Keith Lim](#)

12 June 2010: Vancouver Roleplayers' Collective: Every Saga Has a Beginning, 3 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6. This introductory meeting is intended for RPer's to meet each other face to face, get some conversations going about the future role of the group and their expectations, talk about the kinds of events people would like to see, talk about their common interests and share stories. The back room of the Grind has been reserved for this meeting.—Keith Lim

12 June 2010: Vancouver Comic Jam: June Edition, 8 PM at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. A meeting of comic artists to draw and share. No admission fee. Bring your own pencils/pens. Paper is provided. If you're drawing with markers that bleed through paper, be sure to either bring a drawing surface or place extra sheets of paper under the paper you're drawing on.—Keith Lim

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

12 June 2010: Birthday of producer/writer/director Irwin Allen, producer Samuel Z. Arkoff, cartoonist Dave Berg, actor/writer/broadcaster Peter Jones, comics writer/editor/creator Len Wein, Canadian musician/*Forever Knight* actor Gary Farmer, *Mazes and Monsters* novelist Rona Jaffe, scientist/writer/editor/publisher/comics indexer George Olshevsky, cartoonist/comics colourist Scott Roberts, Canadian *Star Trek: Voyager* actor/comedian Scott Thompson, wrestler Jerry Lynn, Canadian actor/writer/director/producer Gordon Michael Woolvett, wrestler Mark (Sexual Chocolate) Henry, and wrestler/writer/editor/publisher Brian Alvarez.

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

13 June 2010: Drawing Wheels on the Turntable/Drawing Dancers Dancing and Drawing, 1–4 PM at the Roundhouse. Drawing Wheels on the Turntable: Ride your trike, skateboard, scooter or bike through paint and on to paper to add your mark to our giant wheel drawing on the Roundhouse turntable. Drawing Dancers Dancing and Drawing: Join dancers Vanessa Goodman, Kevin Bergsma, the Roundhouse Community Dancers and artist Thomas Anfield to explore mark making and drawing through dance.

13 June 2010: Miniatures Campaign: Warmachine/Hordes, 1–5 PM at Strategies Games and Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd Avenue), Vancouver, BC, V5V 3N9. Play in the Shattered Ground Blasted Heath campaign. Campaign will be played for

the next three Sundays. Show up for some or all the game days; it's up to you. Needed: rule book, dice & cards, a painted force 15–35 pts.—[Keith Lim](#)

13 June 2010: Birthday of occultist/writer Gerald Gardner, campaigner Mary Whitehouse, actor/comedian Paul Lynde, comics artist/letterist/colourist Jon D'Agostino, *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* artist Ralph McQuarrie, *Star Trek: Generations* actor Malcolm McDowell, writer/contactee Whitley Strieber, producer/director Joe Roth, and *Transformers* voice actor David Mendenhall.

14 June 2010: [Jacqueline Carey reading of *Naamah's Curse*](#), 7:30 PM at Vancouver Public Library, 350 West Georgia, Vancouver. “Far from the land of her birth, Moir-in sets out across Tatar territory to find Bao, the proud and virile Ch'in fighter who holds the missing half of her ‘diadh-anam,’ the divine soul-spark of her mother’s people. After a long ordeal, she not only succeeds, but surrenders to a passion the likes of which she’s never known. But the lovers’ happiness is short lived, for Bao is entangled in a complication that soon leads to their betrayal.”—[Keith Lim](#)

14 June 2010: 72nd anniversary of *Action Comics* #1. Birthday of animator Arthur Davis, actor/director Sam Wanamaker, voice actress Marilyn Schreffler, novelist Harry Turtledove, comics writer/editor Paul Kupperberg, comics artist Bill Webb, artist/author James Gurney, comics writer/artist Mark Heike, musician/author Boy George, artist Den Beauvais, comics writer/artist Mike Bannon, comics writer/artist Zölasträya, voice actor Kyle Hebert, cartoonist Chris Onstad, and *Star Trek* visual effects artist/fan Gabriel Köerner.

15 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Blue Robot Night, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS’s RoboHack Month (June 2010). Learn about VHS’s (donated) Blue Robots—a basic chassis. Challenge teams will get their robot to hack with. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

15 June 2010: **Jay Demetrick**’s birthday. Birthday of cartoonist Saul Steinberg, cartoonist Hilda Terry, comics artist/editor Ross Andru, comics writer/artist Hugo Pratt, *Transformers/Batman* (TAS) voice actor Aron Kincaid, comics writer Don McGregor, comics artist Rick Stasi, comics artist Brent Anderson, *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock/Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home/Star Trek: The Next Generation* actress Robin Curtis, actor/writer/director/producer Willie Aames, and actor/director/magician Neil Patrick Harris.

16 June 2010: [Cloudscape Workshop](#), 7:30 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6.—[Keith Lim](#)

16 June 2010: Birthday of writer Murray Leinster, *Star Trek* (TOS) director Robert Gist, comics writer/artist Frank Thorne, writer/voice actor/director Tom Wyner, *Twin Peaks* actor Ian Buchanan, wrestler/motivational speaker/comics writer James (Ultimate Warrior) Hellwig, actor Willard E. Pugh, wrestler Jim (The Sandman,

Hak) Fullington, comics artist Gary Thomas Washington, comics artist Myke Maldonado, comics writer/artist Arnold Pander, and comics artist Aaron Brassea.

17 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Mini-Challenge Night, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS's RoboHack Month (June 2010). Participate in a mini-challenge to build a robot to accomplish some task. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

17 June 2010: Birthday of artist M.C. Escher, *Star Trek* (TOS) composer Jerry Fielding, comics artist/writer/publisher Wally Wood, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine/Voyager* writer Bill Dial, actor Frank Ashmore, composer/musician George S. Clinton, cartoonist/musician Chance Browne, cartoonist Dana J. Summers, comics writer/artist Hilary Barta, *Joysticks* actor Jon Gries, comics writer/artist Jim Somerville, comics artist Richard Maurizio, actor/comedian/writer Will Forte, and writer/producer/director Matthew Senreich.

18 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Arduino Code Libraries, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS's RoboHack Month (June 2010). Share your best tips on the best code libraries for the Arduino. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

18 June 2010: [IPMS \(International Plastic Modellers Society\) Vancouver meeting](#), 7:30–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, “Arts Room” (second floor), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC. Door prize draw. Non-members: first meeting free, \$2 drop-in fee thereafter.—[Keith Lim](#)

18 June 2010: [The Rocky Horror Picture Show & Shock Treatment](#), 11:59 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver, BC. Midnight double bill. Live hosts and pre-show entertainment. \$10/\$8 in costume.—[Keith Lim](#)

18 June 2010: [Trumpeter Games Night](#) at Bonsor Recreation Complex (by Metro-town), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—[Keith Lim](#)

18 June 2010: Autistic Pride Day. Premiere of films *Toy Story 3* (computer animation) and *Jonah Hex* (comics adaptation). Birthday of comics artist/editor Brian C. Boerner, *Star Trek* (TOS)/*Jem* actor Keye Luke, actor Paul Eddington, manga writer/artist Mitsuteru Yokoyama, *Doctor Who* actor Michael Sheard, film critic/writer Roger Ebert, comics letterist/colourist Linda Lessman, comics writer/editor/fan Mark Gruenwald, comics editor/publisher Dean Mullaney, *Transformers* comics artist Alan Davis, musician Alison Moyet, and wrestler Vito (Big Vito) LoGrasso.

19 June 2010: Strategies Games & Hobbies: Free Role-Playing Game Day, 10 AM–6 PM at Strategies Games and Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd Avenue), Vancouver, BC, V5V 3N9. Strategies Games and Hobbies is hosting a free role-playing game (RPG) day where they will be giving away free product samples and organizing some roleplaying sessions. New quick-start rules & modules from a variety of role-playing game publishers, including AEG, Amarrillo Design Bureau, Blue Pan-

ther, Chessex, Columbia Games, Exile Game Studio, Fantasy Flight Games, Goodman Games, Guild of Blades Publishing, Paizo Publishing, Q-Workshop, Troll Lord Games, White Wolf Games, and Wizards of the Coast. Game events hosted. [Strategies Games/Vancouver RPer](#)s.—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2010: [VSteam at the Burnaby Village Museum](#), 12–4 PM at Burnaby Village Museum, 6501 Deer Lake Avenue, Burnaby, BC. Vancouver Steampunks (VSteam) takes a stroll down memory lane and explores bits of local heritage. Adults: \$11.70, under 19: \$8.81. Group discount for more than 10 people. Carousel rides: \$1.95. [Vancouver Steampunks/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2010: [Stargate: Welcome, Young and Old!](#), 2 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. A *Stargate* Meetup just to welcome new members and chat with each other—a relaxed Saturday afternoon get together, with coffee, mochas, other tasty snacks, and to talk about *Stargate* and where people see the franchise going. “Hope to see some new faces.”—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2010: The Society of Temporal Investigations: Artist Talk and Screenings, 7 PM at Western Front Society, 303 East 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5T 1S1. Keith Langergraber and the Western Front present an artist talk and special screening of two fan-films: *Star Trek: Chains of Betrayal* and *Finger Puppet Star Trek*. *Chains of Betrayal* is a *Star Trek: Next Generation* fan-film written and directed by Derek Howard and Racan Souiedan. Filmed in Vancouver, *Chains of Betrayal* epitomizes the independent fan spirit explored in Langergraber’s exhibition. The film will be preceded by another *Star Trek* fan-film, *Finger Puppet Star Trek*, made by Earl J. Woods and the University of Alberta *Star Trek* fan club. Keith Langergraber will introduce the films and moderate a discussion with the filmmakers following the screenings. Free. [Western Front/Western Front/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2010: [Cloudscape: Vancouver Comic Jam](#), 8 PM–1 AM at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street (near Broadway), Vancouver, BC. A meeting of comic artists to draw and share.—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2010: [The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets Live in Chilliwack](#), 10–11:55 PM at the Echo Room, 9282 Main Street, Chilliwack, BC. The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets are an H.P. Lovecraft inspired hard rock band that sings about math, marine biology, insects, superheroes and of course Cthulhu.—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2010: World Sauntering Day. Birthday of typographer/artist William Addison Dwiggins, comics/SF editor/writer/agent/fan Julius Schwartz, *Transformers* composer Johnny Douglas, actor/*James Bond* villain Louis Jourdan, *Star Trek* conrunner/author/fan Joan Wilson, comics writer/artist Dan Fraga, and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor/voice actor Bumper Robinson.

20 June 2010: [The Secret of NIMH \(1982 film\)](#), 1 PM at Pacific Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC. Tickets: adults \$8, youth under 18 years \$5. “Cinema Sunday is an afternoon film program for children and their families.” I phoned the

theatre and employee said people attending without a child can also get in.—[Julian Castle](#) “A classic, much-loved but oft-overlooked children’s film from 1982, *The Secret of NIMH* was directed and produced by celebrated animator Don Bluth, who had a much-publicized exit from the Walt Disney Company prior to its making... This first film by ‘The Disney Defectors,’ as they were dubbed, combined a series of technical advances with a return to the traditional, expensive and visually superior animation techniques Disney was in the process of abandoning. Adults: \$8; under 18: \$5.”—[Keith Lim](#)

20 June 2010: Father’s Day. Birthday of writer/fan/publisher Lloyd Arthur Eshbach, actor Martin Landau, actor James Tolkan, actor John Mahoney, comics artist Ivo Milazzo, comics letterist/writer/artist/editor/designer John Workman, voice actress Tress MacNeille, actor John Goodman, wrestler James (Birdman, Koko B. Ware) Ware, wrestling announcer/pitchman Don West, writer/actor/comedian Jon Glaser, director/writer/producer/musician Robert Rodriguez, and video game critic/industry analyst Bruce Woodcock.

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

21 June 2010: National Aboriginal Day. Summer Solstice. 19th anniversary of film *Suburban Commando*. Birthday of comics editor Leonard (John) Clark, caricaturist Al Hirschfeld, American-Canadian writer/actor/comedian Joe Flaherty, Canadian actor Lyman Ward, actor Michael Gross, author/artist/*Star Trek: Deep Space Nine/Voyager* actor Leigh McCloskey, cartoonist/author/director Berkeley Breathed, comics writer/editor/publisher Gary Carlson, typographer Luc(as) de Groot, and writer/director/producer Lana Wachowski.

22 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Robo Challenge Night, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS’s RoboHack Month (June 2010). Get the contest rules and start building your robot for the challenge. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

22 June 2010: National Chocolate Eclair Day. Birthday of comics artist/editor Eric Reynolds, writer Henry Rider Haggard, voice actor/writer Paul Frees, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* writer Ward Botsford, actor Michael Lerner, director/actor/teacher/*James Bond* villain Klaus Maria Brandauer, writer Octavia E. Butler, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Twin Peaks/Batman* (TAS) actor David L. Lander, Canadian actor Graham Greene (1952), comics writer/artist Al Gordon, *Star Trek/Doctor Who* author/comics writer/agent Jean-Marc Lofficier, cartoonist Kevin Fagan, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine/Voyager/Generations/Spaceballs* actor Tim Russ, comics writer Paul Simone, actor/writer/director/producer Bruce Campbell, comics artist Armando Gil, Canadian *Forever Knight/X-Men* actress Catherine Disher, comics artist Bill Jaaska, musician Jimmy Somerville, writer/director/actor/musician Stephen Chow, Surreyite wrestler John (Earthquake, Avalanche) Tenta, author/musician Dan Brown, German-Canadian director/writer/producer Uwe Boll, *Star Trek: Voyager* writer Mike Sussman, and cartoonist David Rees.

22–23 June 2010: *Star Wars in Concert*, 7:30 PM at General Motors Place, 800 Griffiths Way, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6G1. *Star Wars* in Concert, by the *Star Wars* Symphony Orchestra. Narrated live by Anthony Daniels (C-3PO). \$39.50–\$95.—Keith Lim

23 June 2010: Cloudscape Workshop, 7:30 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6.—Keith Lim

23 June 2010: **Amos Iu**'s birthday. National Columnists Day and National Pink Day. Birthday of Internet pioneer Vint Cerf, actor/writer Bryan Brown, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Jim Metzler, video game composer/programmer Tatsuya Uemura, comics artist Zoran Janjetov, *Star Trek: New Voyages* producer/star/fan James Cawley, Port Moodyite actor Fred Ewanuick, and comics writer/artist Becky Cloonan.

24 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Robo Challenge Hack Night, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS's RoboHack Month (June 2010). VHS: Meet with your teams and hack towards the challenge. VHS site/VHS calendar.—Keith Lim

24 June 2010: National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism. 23rd anniversary of film *Spaceballs*. Birthday of comics artist Jesse Santos, actor Peter Weller, writer/producer Alan Zelenetz, author/filker Mercedes Lackey, cartoonist/comics historian Russ Maheras, actor/wrestler Tommy “Tiny” Lister, Jr., Canadian comics artist Denis Rodier, comics artist/writer Mike Wieringo, and filmmaker/comics artist/writer Kevin VanHook.

25 June 2010: *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*, 7–9 PM at Granville 7 Cinemas, 855 Granville Street (between Robson & Smythe), Vancouver, BC. Empire Theatres' June Fan Favourite event. Advanced tickets available online and at the door. Fan Favourite Combo of admission + popcorn + drink for \$9.99 available in theatre only.—Keith Lim

25 June 2010: Fontana Friday—*Slither*, 8 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. The BC *Firefly/Serenity* Meetup Group is screening *Slither* (2006), starring Nathan Fillion.—Keith Lim

25 June 2010: *The Room & One Million Years B.C.*, 11:59 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver, BC. Midnight double bill. Live hosts and pre-show entertainment. \$10/\$8 in costume.—Keith Lim

25 June 2010: Rainbow Flag Day. Birthday of writer George Orwell, actor/*James Bond* villain Peter Lorre, novelist/comics writer William Woolfolk, comics writer/artist Peyo, comics/animation artist Alex Toth, *Star Trek V: The Final Frontier/The Next Generation* actor George Murdock, author Charles Sheffield, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine/Voyager* director Mike Vejar, actor/comedian

Jimmy Walker, comics artist Jerry Bingham, and actor/comedian/writer/director Ricky Gervais.

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

26 June 2010: Can’t Stop the *Serenity*, 11 AM, H.R. MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver. Charity showing of *Serenity*. Silent auction, costume contest and evil laugh contest. \$15 in person, \$16 through PayPal. Blogspot/BC Browncoats.—Keith Lim

26 June 2010: Miniatures Games Day: Firestorm Armada, 1–5 PM at Strategies Games and Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd Avenue), Vancouver, BC, V5V 3N9. Bring down your painted fleet to play some Firestorm Armada space ship combat games. A great time to meet new opponents or field your fleet for the first time.—Keith Lim

26 June 2010: *New Moon/True Blood*, 6 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. 7 PM: *New Moon* (second movie in the *Twilight* saga). 9 PM: *True Blood*, season 3 episode 1.—Keith Lim

26 June 2010: Birthday of comics writer/artist/creator Warren Kremer, comics scholar/editor/archivist/fan/critic Jerry Bails, cartoonist Bob Weber, wrestling manager James (J.J. Dillon) Morrison, comics writer/editor Tom DeFalco, actor/writer/director/*James Bond* villain Robert Davi, comics artist Terry Tidwell, actor Gedde Watanabe, *Twin Peaks* actor/musician Chris Isaak, Canadian actor/writer/comedian Mark McKinney, cartoonist/conrunner Gerry Giovinco, game designer Richard Garfield, wrestler Matthew (Matt Striker) Kaye, and comics writer/artist Tite Kubo.

27 June 2010: Canadian Multiculturalism Day. Birthday of caricaturist Kate Carew, cartoonist Paul Conrad, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Kenneth Marshall, comics writer/artist/creator Dan Jurgens, comics artist Willie Peppers, comics artist Jackson Guice, Canadian comics writer/artist Bernie Mireault, comics artist Barry Kraus, *Star Trek/Fringe* producer/director/writer/actor/composer J.J. Abrams, comics artist Andrew Walls, comics cataloguer Peter Bickford, and wrestler Mike (Ace Darling) Maraldo.

28 June 2010: **Toren Atkinson’s** birthday. Birthday of director/writer/composer/actor/comedian/producer Mel Brooks, actor/pantomime dame John Inman, actor/comedian/impressionist John Byner, comics artist Mike Royer, comics artist/creator Philippe Druillet, author/fan Robert Asprin, comics artist/creator Tom Floyd, illustrator/*Doctor Who* actress Lalla Ward, *Star Trek: First Contact/Voyager* actress

Alice Krige, actor/comedian/writer Sanjeev Bhaskar, wrestler John (Road Warrior Heidenreich) Heidenreich, and Canadian *Transformers* comics artist/publisher Pat Lee.

29 June 2010: Vancouver Hack Space: Robo Challenge Smackdown, 7 PM at 45 West Hastings Street (at Abbott)—entrance through back alley, Vancouver, BC. VHS's RoboHack Month (June 2010). Bring your robot and compete in the challenge. [VHS site/VHS calendar](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

29 June 2010: Camera Day. Birthday of *Star Trek* author/illustrator Franz Jozeph, typographer/artist Aldo Novarese, *Transformers/G.I. Joe/Jem* voice actor Ed Gilbert, special effects artist/ animator Ray Harryhausen, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine* director Cory Allen, *Doctor Who* actress Maureen O'Brien, author Brian Herbert, comics writer/artist Bobby London, comics writer/publisher Mike Richardson, artist Michael Whelan, comics writer/artist Don Rosa, comics writer/artist Bo Hampton, *Star Trek* illustrator David Mattingly, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine/First Contact* voice actor Jeff Coopwood, and actress/teacher Judith Hoag.

30 June 2010: Meteor Day. Birthday of writer/historian/critic/fan/conrunner Sam Moskowitz, *Star Trek: The Next Generation/Deep Space Nine/Voyager* writer/producer/co-creator Jeri Taylor, wrestler Terrence (Terry Funk) Funk, comics artist Phil Lord, comics artist Shawn McManus, comics writer/editor Christopher Priest, comics artist Steve Firchow, comics writer Tonne Forquer, and comics writer/paranormal investigator Dave Galvan.

July 2010

1 July 2010: Robot Army marches at Canada Day North Vancouver Parade, 8 AM. North Shore Canada Day Parade, 13th Street and Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver. [Canada Day North Vancouver Parade/Vancouver Battlestar Galactica Fan Club](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

1 July 2010: Vancouver Fandom marches at North Shore Canada Day Parade, 8 AM at North Shore Canada Day Parade, 13th Street and Grand Boulevard, North Vancouver, BC. Vancouver Fandom marches at Canada Day Parade in North Vancouver to spread the word that geeks are loud, proud, and having fun. Any science fiction-inspired costume welcome, or fandom T-shirts to hand out club info. No vehicle, but hopefully a large cardboard Viper on wheels. [Vancouver Battlestar Galactica Fan Club/Star Trek Vancouver/Doctor Who Meetup/BC Browncoats/Facebook/North Shore Canada Day Parade](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

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](#)

2 July 2010: Premiere of films *The Twilight Saga: Eclipse* (romance/vampires/were-wolves) and *The Last Airbender* (fantasy/cartoon adaptation).

3 July 2010: Fourth annual International Free Hugs Day.—Julian Castle

4 July 2010: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM–5 PM, Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver.—Keith Lim

5 July 2010: Vampire Writing Group, 7 PM at Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver, BC, V6B 6B1. Want to share your writing with fellow vampire lit writers? Want someone to just nag you to finish the story you've already started? Meet outside the main (indoor) entrance of the Library at 7 PM sharp; the group will then go in and try to snag one of the Gallery rooms to talk about writing. Organizer (Val) will be holding a Meetup sign.—Keith Lim

8 July 2010: X-Men Day: Marvel Comics celebrates the release of a new *X-Men* #1 with a blank-cover variant and other commemorative items.

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, John de Lancie, Erick Avari, Paul McGillion, Cliff Simon, JR Bourne, Colin Cunningham, Tony Amendola, Bruce Woloshyn, Jerry Rector, Simon Ager, Steve Bacic, Andee Frizzell, Musetta Vander, Dan Payne, Alex Zahara, Dylan Neal, Barry Campbell, Dan Shea, David Nykl, Sabine Bauer, and Martin Wood. Memberships US\$249. “Legendary Gathering” (US\$45) takes place 7 July 2010, same venue. Banquet \$70.—Garth Spencer, Keith Lim

9 July 2010: Release Party: Warhammer Fantasy Battle 8th Edition, 5 PM–12 AM at Strategies Games and Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd Avenue), Vancouver, BC, V5V 3N9. Bring down your painted Warhammer army to play the new edition of Warhammer Fantasy Battle 8th Edition. Store will be selling the new Warhammer Hardcover book at 12 midnight.—Keith Lim

9 July 2010: Premiere of films *Despicable Me* (computer animation) and *Predators* (*Predator* sequel).

9–11 July 2010: ConQuest BC, Compass Point Inn, 9850 King George Highway, Surrey. “BeCause We Love to Game.” Esteemed Guest of Honor: Chris Pramas (Green Ronin Publishing). Game rooms: The Pit, The War Room, The Hall of Role Playing. ConQuest GT BC Annihilation Grand Tournament qualifier. 'Til 15 June: \$50 Honorary Founders Pass, \$90 Conquest GT membership. <http://www.conquestbc.com/>.—Keith Lim

10 July 2010: VSteam: The One-Day Steampunk Mini-Con, 10 AM–5 PM at Barclay Manor, 1447 Barclay Street, Vancouver, BC. Vancouver Steampunks (VSteam) has rented out a Victorian mansion and filled it with a continuous stream

of exhibits, lectures, classes, games, activities, and, most importantly, tiny little sandwiches, cupcakes, and tea. Everything from etiquette lessons to classes on leather working, Victorian sword fighting to Victorian dancing, steampunk movies to steampunk music, and card games to croquet. Free. [Vancouver Steampunks/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

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

16 July 2010: [IPMS \(International Plastic Modellers Society\) Vancouver meeting](#), 7:30–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, “Arts Room” (second floor), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC. Armour Big Mouth Contest—¼ ton Willys Jeep—WW2 era. Door prize draw. Non-members: first meeting free, \$2 drop-in fee thereafter.—[Keith Lim](#)

16 July 2010: [Trumpeter Games Night](#) at Bonsor Recreation Complex (by Metro-town), 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—[Keith Lim](#)

16 July 2010: Premiere of films *The Sorcerer’s Apprentice* (fantasy) and *Inception* (dream telepathy).

16–18 July 2010: [BC Renaissance Festival](#). “9 AM–9 PM each day. VENUE CHANGE: Thunderbird Show Park, 24550 72 Avenue, Langley, BC, V1M 3W8, (604) 888-4585. 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](#)/Christina Carr

17 July 2010: Saturday Morning Cartoon Party VIII, 11:10 AM–3 PM at VIVO Media Arts Centre, 1965 Main Street, Vancouver, BC. Second Level Wizards’ eighth Saturday Morning Cartoon Party. Classic TV fare from the ’70s, ’80s and elsewhere along with bowls of Frankenberry, Cap’n Crunch, Trix and all your other cartoon-mascotted cereals. Now with coffee. \$5 with 2LW membership (\$3). Cereal \$4/bowl (\$3 with own bowl). [Second Level Wizards/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

17 July 2010: [Miniatures Games Day: Flames of War & Wings of War](#), 1–5 PM at Strategies Games and Hobbies, 3878 Main Street (at 23rd Avenue), Vancouver, BC, V5V 3N9. Bring down your fully painted Flames of War forces to battle, or bring down your Wings of War models and rules for a massive aerial dogfight.—[Keith Lim](#)

17 July 2010: Vancouver Steampunks Gastown Photoshoot, 1 PM at the Gastown Steam Clock, Cambie and Water Streets, Vancouver. VSteam, in collaboration with Amateur Pixel Photography, will be having a photo session in Gastown. If you want photos taken, have an awesome costume to show off, need practice for make-up, or want to take photos in a great setting, then this will be the event for you. Bring your

own cameras, costumes, and make-up. Free. [Vancouver Steampunks/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

23 July 2010: [Geeks After Dark](#), 8:50 PM–12 AM at Wise Hall, 1882 Adanac Street (at Victoria), Vancouver. FanFairFest pre-party event, a night of dancing, live entertainment, vendors, and drinks, all with a nerdy twist. Nerd trivia contest, preview of Boom!Headshot (F3's nerdlesque event), costume contest, nerd-prov (nerd themed improv). 19+. Tickets at door: \$10 in costume, \$15 not in costume.—[Keith Lim](#)

30 July 2010: *The Adjustment Bureau* (romance/SF), *Beastly* (romance/fantasy), and *Cats & Dogs: The Revenge of Kitty Galore* (sentient animals/comedy).

News-Like Matter

Keith Lim Elected VCON 36 Chair

Hi all,

Just going to say for now that I (Keith Lim) have been voted in as the Chair of VCON 36 (in 2011). (Suddenly, I feel a huge burden on my shoulders.) Tired after the meeting, so that's all for now. I'm sure I'll have more to write later. Hope to be able to work with many of the people here, with all the interest and enthusiasm I've seen in the last couple of weeks. (But first, VCON 35 this year.)

[Keith Lim](#)

Wednesday 31 March 2010

Notes from May BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Ray Seredin (host), R. Graeme Cameron (president), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Barb Dryer (secretary), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, Joe Devoy, and Julian Castle.

We continued discussing the idea of donating money to help VCON 34. The vote on whether to donate \$500 was extended to members who had not voted at the last meeting, two of whom voted no, while two abstained. Felicity felt that donating over a third of our savings was risky, and suggested donating a less significant percentage of our balance, while making up the difference with fundraising. As an example, a party or series of parties that received a \$20 donation from each guest would raise \$200 with only ten guests. Kathleen said that a donation of \$10 from twenty guests would raise the same money and result in a better party. Kathleen also suggested holding Turkey Readings (pending Fran Skene's approval) or even Turkey Video Nights, with B-movies cued up to the worst scenes and money bid to stop the film or keep it playing.

Barb said that Rod Serling was recently inducted into the Science Fiction Hall of Fame, decades after his death. Graeme added that critics liked *The Twilight Zone* in and of itself, but were disappointed in Serling, who until then had created more upmarket fare.

Graeme liked Taral Wayne's Susan Wood article and Ray's convention report in *BCSFazine* #444. Kathleen and Fruvovs liked the Calendar.

Fruvovs said that large parts of Prince Edward Island are uncharted woods where no human has gone since the railway track was laid there. Graeme asked if those woods have any legendary paranormal creatures living in them. Fruvovs said yes.

"Screech" is a traditional maritime liquor made from sugar, rum, and grain alcohol.

Julian asked if VCON had ever rented a table to promote itself at the local Comicon. The answer was no.

Graeme worked in customs at the time of the 1986 World Exposition (AKA Expo 86). Customs wanted to charge the British owners of a working replica of Sir Francis Drake's *Golden Hind* a vast amount of cash on the grounds that the ship should be classified as a work of art. Fortunately for the owners, customs eventually relented. Meanwhile, the Russians wanted to ship out more containers of Expo display stuff than they had originally shipped in. Suspecting they had stocked up on "forbidden" American technology here, customs held them up a while—perhaps so they could honestly tell the Americans they'd tried to do something—before letting them through. The deliberate delay caused bad feelings with the Russians and at meetings held at customs, there was a lot of shouting. One of Graeme's duties was to stamp every third page of huge multipage Custom Broker documents. Why every third? Kathleen's theory was that that would make it hard to take pages out or sneak extra pages in after the document had been stamped.

Graeme told the story of the time Tor Johnson was at one of Ed Wood's parties, and Tor got so drunk that he passed out in the doorway. He was so big that no one could move him, so no one could leave until he woke up...so the party continued.

Finally, we toasted artist Frank Frazetta (who passed away 10 May 2010) at the request of Butch, an American fan and old friend of the club, who gave Barb a bottle of Fentiman's Full-Bodied Shandy from Newcastle and asked her to take it to a meeting for that purpose.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 16 May 2010

Now Appearing: Book View Café

Book View Café will be attending two major SF Cons this Memorial Day weekend. Lori Devoti, Nancy Jane Moore, Madeleine Robins, and Jennifer Stevenson will be present at Wiscon, held in Madison Wisconsin Friday, May 28 through Monday, May 31. Panels include: "My Big Fat Paranormal Wedding," "Internet Publishing: The Graduate Seminar," "A Path to Ending Women's Fear of Men," "The Colonialization of (Middle Class) Children," "Research: ur doin it rong," "Let's Create an Online Business Model That Works," and "Does Media SF Get a Free Pass for Scientific Illiteracy?" In addition to the panels, BVC members will be reading from their work at the all-BVC reading as well as signing books on Monday's big Sign Out. Details and schedule at: <http://tinyurl.com/2d66fcz>.

Also this weekend, Maya Bohnhoff will be at Baycon, Friday, May 28 through Monday, May 31 at the Hyatt Regency in Santa Clara, CA. She will be holding a

writers' workshop on Saturday. On Sunday she'll be reading and signing her books as well as performing music. On Monday she will be on the Media Tie-in Fiction panel. Information on Baycon: <http://baycon.org/2010/whatisbaycon.html>.

Sue Lange

Book View Café Media Relations

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Sue Lange

Tuesday 25 May 2010

'Evolve' on McNally Robinson Bestseller List for Second Week in a Row

Janice wrote:

"Could you please help pass the word along?"

Janice had forwarded:

"Hi,

"See attachment.

"*Evolve* is on the McNally Robinson best sellers list for the second week in a row. USA release scheduled for August 2010.

"Brian Hades"

[*Attached was a PDF with the file name "McNally Robinson Bestsellers May 23" and the interior title "Winnipeg Bestsellers for the Week of May 23rd," containing two top-five lists. The second top-five list's number two entry, completely hidden under opaque yellow highlighting unless selected with the cursor, was "Evolve: Vampire Stories of the New Undead."*]

Forwarded by Garth Spencer

Saturday 29 May 2010

Jeanne Robinson

Hugo-winning American-Canadian writer/dancer/choreographer/teacher Jeanne Robinson passed away Sunday 30 May 2010. Her husband of 35 years and Stardance trilogy co-author, Spider Robinson, sent out the following announcement, forwarded to *BCSFazine* by Garth Spencer:

"*Buchi Eiheï in Pacem*

"Jeanne Robinson left this life at about 4:45 Sunday afternoon, a gentle smile on her face. Her departure was quite peaceful and she was in no pain at all. (*Buchi Eiheï* means 'dancing wisdom, eternal peace.' It's the name Jeanne's Soto Zen instructor bestowed on her.)

"Because her Palliative Care doctor, Paul Sugar, was able to forecast her passing almost to the hour, her daughter Terri, son-in-law Heron and granddaughter Marisa flew back from NYC just in time, and were with me at her side when Jeanne died; and her mother Dorothy and sister Laurie arrived from Massachusetts only a couple of hours later, after Terri had had time to expertly make Jeanne look better than she had for days. Zen priests Michael and Kate Newton were also present per Jeanne's wishes, as were our oldest friends in this part of the world, Greg McKinnon, Anya Coveney-Hughes and Stevie McDowell. Over the next few hours more

sangha buddies arrived, and chanting of the Prajna Paramita Heart Sutra was done. Her body was then bathed and dressed in her hand-sewn rakasu as per Zen tradition.

“In accordance with her wishes she will be cremated. Half her ashes will be scattered off this coast, and half will be taken back to her childhood home, Cape Cod, so that her East Coast family will have a place to go and visit her.”

R. Graeme Cameron submitted:

“Jeanne was a warm and inspiring creative presence. She had the wonderful ability, no matter how long since you’d last met her, to make you feel totally at ease as if the interruption in conversation had been but minutes rather than weeks or months.

“Not many people know it, but she had been on the shortlist for civilians to be flown into space aboard the Space Shuttle (in her case to give her the chance to experiment with zero gravity dance) before the *Challenger* explosion put an end to the civilian ‘artist’ flight program. I like to think she is now free to dance among the stars at long last, reveling in the glorious beauty of all the light and energy which is our universe.

“Our hearts and thoughts to Spider.”

Garth Spencer, R. Graeme Cameron

Monday 31 May 2010–Tuesday 8 June 2010

Steampunk Story from Book View Café Nominated for Sidewise

For Immediate Release—Zettel and *The Shadow Conspiracy* Nominated for Sidewise: Book View Café author Sarah Zettel has been nominated for the 2009 Sidewise Award for her novella, “The Persistence of Souls,” from the collection *The Shadow Conspiracy, Tales of the Steam Age, Vol. I*, edited by Phyllis Irene Radford and Laura Anne Gilman.

“I am delighted, and stunned,” says author Sarah Zettel, who, under the name CL Anderson, was the winner of this year’s Philip K. Dick award for her science fiction novel *Bitter Angels*. “I loved writing ‘Persistence,’ and being involved in the creation of *The Shadow Conspiracy*. It’s fantastic to see the collection gaining critical notice.”

The Shadow Conspiracy is an anthology of new fiction released in 2009 from Book View Press, the publishing arm of Book View Café, which is the Internet’s largest professional authors cooperative. All the stories are set in a steampunk universe where the inventions of Ada Lovelace and Charles Babbage changed the world and Mary Shelly’s tales of creating life were far more than a ghost story. Available exclusively as an ebook from Book View Press, the collection is part of the ongoing drive of Book View Café’s professional authors to bring their work directly to the rapidly growing numbers of online and on screen readers.

Following on the heels of the success of the first volume, Book View Café will be releasing a second volume later this year: *The Shadow Conspiracy, Vol. II*. “I am very proud to be associated with such a fine project and I think every author involved deserves this kind of recognition,” says editor Phyllis Irene Radford.

The Shadow Conspiracy can be purchased from the Book View Café bookstore: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/eBoostore-Reorg/>.

The Sidewise Awards for Alternate History were conceived in late 1995 to honor the best allohistorical genre publications of the year. The first awards were announced in summer 1996 and honored works from 1995. The award takes its name from Murray Leinster's 1934 short story "Sidewise in Time," in which a strange storm causes portions of Earth to swap places with their analogs from other timelines.

To be considered, a work must have either first English-language publication or first American publication in the calendar year prior to the year in which the award is to be presented. Two awards are usually given each year.

For more information on the Sidewise Awards, visit the Sidewise website: <http://www.uchronia.net/sidewise/about.html>.

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Sue Lange

Monday 7 June 2010

Book View Café to Hold Moon and Sun Caption Contest

In celebration of the ebook edition release of Vonda N. McIntyre's Nebula-winning novel, *The Moon and the Sun*, BVC is hosting a Beaded Sea Creature caption contest. Beaded sea creatures are creations of McIntyre with designs based on hyperbolic and fractal surfaces. Sherzad, the sea monster, one of the main characters in *The Moon and the Sun*, would be familiar with creatures very like these: coral reefs, sea anemones, nudibranchs, marine flatworms.

McIntyre's creatures have been exhibited in conjunction with the Institute for Figuring's (<http://theiff.org/>) Hyperbolic Coral Reef (<http://crochetcoralreef.org/>), at installations in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Dublin, etc. The next installation will be at the Smithsonian, in Washington, D.C., USA, in the fall of 2010.

BVC is currently in need of appropriate captions for photos of the creatures displayed on their site. Asking fans to submit ideas in exchange for a chance to win a copy of *The Moon and the Sun* as well as one of McIntyre's sea creatures is the perfect solution.

The contest for captions is running until Saturday, 1 AM (CDT). Announcement of winners will be at the BVC site on Sunday, June 20, 2010. Instructions for entering the contest as well as photos of the creatures can be found at: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/News/Moon-and-the-Sun-caption-contest>.

Judges for the contest will be McIntyre and Deborah J. Ross.

Sue Lange

Tuesday 15 June 2010

A Barbaric Ceremony

Michael Bertrand

Ferfnd oozed thickly around his working prism. His substance rippled with impatience. The very attributes of assertion and energy that made him an excellent research and leadership asset for his Combination often left him tense and irritable in the inevitable downtime between cases. He sloshed back and forth against the thick plastic sides of his work prism so hard it almost toppled over. He forced himself to calm down. Wouldn't that just be lovely, knock over his work prism like a budling and have one of his Adjuncts find him spilled all over the floor of his office trying desperately to coagulate. That would be sure to impress the Overbody's little auditors.

It was in the midst of these dark musings that Kthhnd bubbled into the office, a meticulously neat data globule suspended in his midsubstance. Sensing his superior's mood by the angular shadows rippling through Ferfnd's nucleus, he waited with patient quiescence for his superior to recognize and acknowledge him.

"Kthhnd!" Ferfnd exclaimed suddenly, causing Kthhnd to squish slightly in surprise at his superior's usual explosively vivid tone. "Just the fellow I was hoping to see. I take it that is for me?"

"Yes, sir," replied Kthhnd in quieter, more carefully modulated shades. He disgorged the data globule into one of Ferfnd's nearest pseudopods. "It is the latest field report from our primary operative on world BlueGreen 77, sir."

Ferfnd's pseudopod paused above the data globule. "Nitrogen/oxygen atmosphere, carbon-based ecosystem, single high sentient species of bipedal tissue-contained protoplasmics?"

"Yes sir, that's the one," replied Kthhnd, once more impressed by the apparently effortless manner in which his boss commanded facts that Kthhnd himself, a trained researcher, always had to look up beforehand. "Operative Ghu submitted his report early, but I think you'll find his reasoning salient, as he has finally managed to capture a colorstream of these strange bipeds' cleansing ritual."

"We have ample footage," said Ferfnd as he carefully softened the data globule's mucous covering in preparation for digestion, "of their surface-cleansing and waste-disgorgement practices, Kthhnd."

"My apologies, sir. This is another ritual, considerably more intricate and involving many individuals and complex contrivances, which has been extremely difficult to observe until now due to the many levels of superstition surrounding the practice." Kthhnd paused, then added conscientiously, "I think, sir, that Operative Ghu deserves special notice for his ingenuity and resourcefulness in acquiring this data."

"Indeed! If he keeps us this level of work, he'll be Super-Operative Ghub or Ghut in no time." Ferfnd, satisfied that the data globule would digest and display smoothly, moved it into the current location of his digestive array, and relaxed the restraining membrane. The information began radiating into his mentation cortex, and as a courtesy, he projected it onto a nearby wall so that Kthhnd could experience it as well.

The image flickered once then settled into that of Operative Ghu. “Forgive my intrusion into the colorstream, Overbody superiors, but I must in good conscience warn you that what you are about to witness may shock you to the very fringes of your substance. My medical adjunct humbly suggests that absorption of Calm Blue Three in medium quantity may aid in the smooth digestion of this information.”

“Hmph. What under-digested effluvia,” radiated Ferfnd. “I made it through the detailed analysis of their digestive cycle without precious Calm Blue Three, and this can’t be much worse than that.”

“Yes sir,” replied Kthhnd. *Oh flush*, he thought. *What barbarian monstrosity am I to endure now? I’d love some Calm Blue Three, but of course, he’d never think of that.*

The image of Operative Ghu dissolved, to be replaced by that of what seemed to be a small room in which one of the bipeds seemed to have been laid down on some sort of table, covered by a sheet of an unusual shade, while other bipeds moved purposefully around it, attaching various things to it.

“Extraordinary,” said Ferfnd. “I’ve never seen these creatures perform a ceremony this elaborate.”

Another biped approached the one on the table, and the others immediately settled into positions around the table and assumed an attitude of readiness. The new arrival appeared to survey the room for a moment, then was handed a small, shiny object. The image helpfully zoomed in on this object.

Ferfnd paused the projection, and said “Is that not...one of their cutting implements, Kthhnd?”

“It appears to be, sir,” replied Kthhnd. Big flushes, he thought. This can’t be good.

“This...this isn’t going to be one of their violence exchanges, is it?” said Ferfnd, trying to keep the trepidation out of his vocal colors and failing.

“Operative Ghu assures me it is not, sir. He claims there is no indication of conflict throughout the entire ritual and the entire thing appears entirely voluntary.”

“Remarkable. Well...I suppose we’d better let it continue, then.”

As the projection continued, the biped with the cutting implement contemplated the one on the table for a moment, then with a swift and precise motion, cut a long deep straight wound into the one on the table.

Violent floods of clashing colors rippled through Ferfnd and Kthhnd as they sloshed and gurgled in extreme agitation.

Ferfnd, for one, was extremely glad for the structure afforded by his work prism, without which he would undoubtedly have puddled like a budling and tried to ooze into the cracks in the floor.

Kthhnd, on the other hand, bubbled and shimmered in a state of near panic without the aid of a work prism, and thought bitterly venomous thoughts about superiors with misplaced bravado. *Can’t be much worse, eh? Bet you wish you’d opted for that Calm Blue Three now, eh? His cortex needs a flush.*

Ferfnd slowly managed to gather himself back together and said to Kthhnd, “Let us be abundantly clear...that...is not a violence exchange?”

Kthhnd summoned up all his shattered willpower and forced himself into shape. “It...it is...Operative Ghu was most clear that it was...was not. He believes this to be a, a, religious ceremony of great secrecy and solemnity.”

“A religious ceremony? To what possible end? I’ve never seen anything so...so barbaric! And yet look at these creatures. They seem quite calm about this. It’s clear that this room’s designed expressly to accommodate this atavistic insanity, so they must do this all the time. And all to appease some group of mythological beings, no doubt. Appalling.” Ferfnd gurgled in consternation.

“Perhaps the purpose will become more clear when we watch the rest of the col-orstream, sir,” offered Kthhnd weakly.

“There’s *more*? I mean...ahem.” He glanced at the projection. It had frozen with that hideous wound dead center in the image. “Yes, I suppose...ah...I suppose it is our duty to the Combination to watch this...ceremony...in its entirety.” Ferfnd lapsed into an intense thoughtful silence for a few moments, then added “About that Calm Blue Three...”

“Yes, sir?” replied Kthhnd hopefully.

“Perhaps it would be wise to procure some from the supply bucket before we continue.”

“Yes sir!” said Kthhnd. In truth, half his substance had been out the door before his superior had finished the sentence. In only a matter of moments, he returned with two small vividly colored globules, and disgorged one to his superior before absorbing the other greedily. Ferfnd paused a moment to gaze disapprovingly at his adjunct’s lack of decorum before following suit.

Their bulks now suffused with a potent pharmaceutical pigment and their air of professional detachment and devotion to duty thus restored, the two beings resumed viewing the report. The biped with the cutting tool continued to carve into the flesh of his victim.

“Why in the mercy of the Great Globule does the creature not fight back or at least cry out in pain? It lies there calmly as though nothing was happening to it!” asked Ferfnd. “Wait a moment...could the creature already be dead? Perhaps this is a burial ritual.”

Kthhnd peered at the image through the blue ripples that now suffused his being. “I think not, sir. See how that center section continues to move? That would seem to indicate that the creature continues to cycle gases into and out of its circulating pool. And see how the attendants to the one with the cutting tool continue to use that device to remove fluid from the wound? Obviously, the pool continues to circulate.”

“Ah yes, I see. Well done, Kthhnd. Then what keeps the creature from resisting?”

“Religious devotion.” *Who said that?* thought Kthhnd. *Flush me, I did. This Calm Blue Three stuff is amazing.* “It’s quite possible that the biped’s belief in this ritual is so strong that they enter into a sort of hypnogogic trance when it is to be performed on them, and thereafter feel nothing.”

“An astonishing theory, Kthhnd. Yet it fits the facts. And observe the purposeful nature of the one with the cutting tool’s actions. This is no random assault. This creature and its adjuncts clearly have a goal in mind.”

“Indeed sir. Presumably...ah!”

The creature with the cutting tool had interrupted Kthhnd by suddenly removing a section of flesh from the subject of his ministrations and holding it up for all to see for a moment.

“No doubt this er...section of the creature was the target of this ceremony. See how they all seem to have relaxed now that it is removed?” said Ferfnd.

“Indeed, sir. No doubt they have some quaint folk belief in such sections of flesh becoming infested with demons or somesuch. See how thoroughly they cleanse the wound? Obviously a purification ritual.”

“I agree, Kthhnd! And...my, how clever. They have repaired the wound with some sort of string. Great Glob, I think Operative Ghu was right. Far from being an assault, this was some sort of religious ritual meant to free this poor fellow from a demon or ghost that was plaguing him. No doubt this is their primitive attempts at a form of...well, medicine, for the lack of a better term.”

“Medicine, sir? This barbaric ceremony?”

“Yes. Medicine. I’m sure of it now. Great Glob, this truly is a phenomenal finding. Our Combination will surely advance in Rating for this...possibly a whole degree! Medicine...in primitives!” Ferfnd chuckled with amusement and delight. This was the true reward of a job like his...discovery.

“I hope you’re correct, sir. And if that’s true, then surely Operative Ghu...?”

“Operative Ghu indeed! If the whole Combination is due for an increase in Rating, surely the being who not only risked his substance and coherence to get this information to us but correctly interpreted it deserves to advance as well. Ahem. Are you prepared for instruction, Kthhnd?”

“Of course, sir.” Kthhnd rotated a fresh data globule from his back-mass into the active position.

“Then record! Tallient Combination officially announces that it is exercising one of its remaining Prerogatives and elevating the esteemed being formerly known as Operative Ghu into its Circle as ‘Ghub.’ ”

“Don’t you mean ‘Operative Ghub,’ sir?”

“I do not. His correct analysis clearly marks him for full Encirclement. He is to be advanced in rank *and* status for this. And arrange for him to meet me once he returns from the field.”

“Yes *sir*,” replied Kthhnd. *Rank and status at the same time?* If he hadn’t been drugged, he would have been trembling with excitement at the sheer magnitude of it all.

“Oh, and one last thing before we both go home for a well-deserved soak in the nutrient pool and a good long dissolve. Put in a request for more of this Calm Blue stuff. It’s amazing. We could never have finished our task here without it. Another thing Ghub was right about!”

“Yes sir! See you tomorrow, sir.” And with that, Kthhnd oozed off to complete his tasks.

This ends our story. A few notes: Ferfnd is pronounced by human vocalizers as fur-fuh-nid, and Kthhnd is pronounced kith-huh-nid. The fact that the final syllable of their names is the same means that they both got their extra phonemes from the same place, their Combination.

And in case any of you have not figured it out yet, they were watching human surgeons performing an operation. But that was perfectly obvious, right?

Michael Bertrand

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

Saturday 6 February 2010

Camp Sights

Taral Wayne

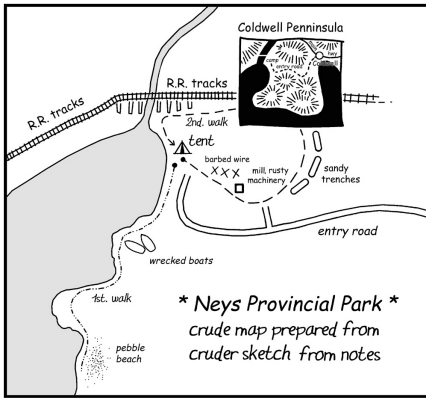
[*This article was previously published in Royal Swiss Navy Gazette #19 (September 2009, edited by Garth Spencer).*]

Preamble: *I've been along a part of the Skyline Drive in Shenandoah National Park, so I have a nodding acquaintance with the land. Victoria Vayne, Bob Wilson, and I were driving back from some con or were just traveling for its own sake... We entered Swift Run Gap, Highway 33, and left by Thornton Gap, Highway 211. Of the several campgrounds available, I believe we put our tent up in Beg Meadows, near a lodge with a spectacular view of the Valley. I remember a number of details. Having a doe nearly walk into the tent in search of scraps. Bear-proof garbage cans. And untrustworthy looking trails. I never ventured along any of them. There seemed too many trails, crossing every hundred yards or so, and all blazed with the same colour plastic ties as if, somehow, the reassurance that this was an "official" trail was enough by itself. Well, according to the map I bought there was nothing to see within a mile of the camp but swamp. And we weren't staying but the night, and leaving next morning. So our stay in Shenandoah National Park was pretty much the usual tourist thing. However...*

Not all my traveling has been tame. One time Bob Wilson and I drove north, along the shore of Lake Superior, looking for a number of interesting landmarks along the way. It was the same trip on which we climbed to the top of Agawa Rock, and on which I found a quarter on a beach miles from the highway, and untracked by human footprints. But these were events along the east shore.

Another hundred miles north and west, the Nippigon shore juts out into the lake a couple of miles and was given the name Coldwell Peninsula sometime in the 19th century. The tiny hamlet of Coldwell lies a bit east, not actually on the peninsula for some reason. If it weren't so dirty and rundown, the wharfs and fishing gear would make another Peggy's Cove of it, but tourists didn't expect picturesque fishing villages on Lake Superior, so the inhabitants let nature take its course.

The Coldwell was the inspiration of many of the paintings by various Group of Seven artists. It is a long extinct volcanic extrusion with a complicated metamorphic history that delighted the eyes of Canada's paramount painters. It was a tight grouping of dumpling hills clinging together like survivors on a raft, surrounded by the moody waters of Gitcheegoomie. In Autumn, the colours must run riot, as the cliché has it, but Bob and I were too early in the season for that. The hills and the plain that was the neck of the peninsula were green. A sandy beach ran along the west side of the neck, from the mouth of the Little Pick River, where there were campsites.



Two other peculiarities marked the Coldwell. One was the unexpected development of sand dunes in the middle of the peninsular neck. Vegetation only held the soil loosely, and drifting had denuded the sand in spots. The other peculiarity was that the Colwell peninsula was used during WWII as the site of a prison camp for German officers. Besides hiking the trail around the peninsula, Bob had especially hoped to find this old camp when he drew up the travel plans.

As it happened, hiking the trail proved to be a bust. Bob, after a week of driving and other excursions, didn't feel up to it. We got about two miles through the woods and along the lobate granite beaches when he said he was too tired to go on. I have to admit, it had been arduous and we hadn't made enough progress so far that circumnavigating the entire peninsula was remotely feasible in one day. It hadn't been a total loss, since we were well out of sight of any human despoliation. Moreover, we'd gotten as far as two of the minor landmarks mentioned in the park guide—a pebble beach high up on the shore, left behind by the ancient lake, and a pair of abandoned boats that had been bleaching in the sun for about fifty years, reduced to wreckage.

Finding the officers' camp, however, turned out to be fairly easy. According to the map, it was almost due east of the beach, and the woods weren't thick. There was little underbrush, and the trees tended to be pine. If there were any abandoned buildings, or remnant enclosures, they should be easy to find, we reasoned. But there didn't seem to be anything at all. We were puzzled, until one of us tripped yet again over one of the many tangled vines among the brush. Upon examination, it was obvious why the vines had been such a hazard to footing. It was barbed wire, overgrown. After that we kept our eyes to the ground, and quickly found a mound of moldering shingles and boards that could have been anything—a guard tower perhaps, but more likely a tool shed, or even an outhouse. The remains were disappointing. We were resigned to nothing more when we came to an open space with a built-up embankment of dirt, grown over with grass, and mounted on it several pieces of ruined machinery. We had found the saw mill, or its foundation at least. Rough, squared off timbers, holding back the embankment, had turned black with age. A bit of concrete floor was visible under the sand. Bolted to the broken platform were the skeletal remains of the mill, stripped of all its moving parts after the camp closed. The empty frames and jigs looked more like rock than metal, crusted with layers of rust that had grown over thirty-five years of exposure to the damp and cold so near the arctic watershed.

We trekked further east without finding much more. A new road, in the process of being bulldozed, crossed our path, coming up from the paved park entry road a few hundred yards south. We crossed it, and found a series of shallow, sand filled trenches that looked more like sand bunkers on a golf course than anything else we

could think of. The sandy depressions were strung in a line, like sausages, leading north toward the mainland in a discontinuous by-way.

The brush on either side was littered by the rusty shells of old cans, broken glass, and what looked like shreds of an old boot. Possibly the pits marked the sites of old barracks, although I couldn't see how old wooden shells would collapse into a depression. And it was odd they stretched in a single line half a mile long. This would be implausible for reasons of security. In fact, there was no compelling evidence that the sandy pits were connected with the prison camp at all. In the end, we reached no conclusions.

The "sand traps" stopped nowhere in particular, and we found no more sign of human occupation, not even barbed wire. We hiked west again, along the line of the railroad tracks, until we came to the Little Pic. Our side of the river was relatively low, and lumpy, with the mainland rising in sheer granite walls to five or six hundred feet. The rails jumped the water on breathtaking wooden trestles, and ran away into the northern wilderness, clinging to the skirts of mountains worn down by a billion years. We could go no farther that way, and turned south toward camp. We were soon reminded that we had never been far from human influence. Long before we sighted our tent we came across a number of used condoms in the bushes.

Afterword: *Strangely, when Mike Shoemaker published this as a "letter" in his fanzine, he edited out the final detail. Condoms were too distasteful for mention in his well bred fanzine, I believe he said later.*

Taral Wayne

Sunday 7 March 2010

Norwescon 33 Report, Part Two

Cosmic Ray Seredin

The story so far: Once again Cosmic Ray is at another Norwescon in Sea-Tac, Washington and is enjoying it a lot so far. In the last two days he's enjoyed a train ride, shared a room with a person who doesn't like *South Park* or *The Simpsons*, but likes British comedy, helped set up a stand-up poster, took part in the zombie walk, learned about the history of underwear, learned about some fantastic things that'll be in stores in the next few years, found out there is going to be a *Smurfs* movie ("Oh, my God!"), took many pictures, learned about sex in the Victorian era, and went to a room party with a topless card dealer (female that is).

Now find out what cool things happen to him over the next three day as Ray's Norwescon 33 odyssey continues.

Saturday, April 3rd, 2010

After a much better sleep than the night before I'm awoken by my roommate, who quickly fills me in on how to use the shower in our bathroom before heading off to help on the "Let's Make a Movie" panel. I turn to the room's TV for the first time that weekend and soon find an episode of *The Sarah Jane Adventures* with a cool red alien in it, so I wait 'til the end before hitting the shower. When I return the episode

with the David Tennant Doctor in it is airing and I watch it as I prepare for the day, only to find out it was a two-part story and since I want to have breakfast before my first panel, I have to miss the rest of it.

One thing I like about the Doubletree Hotel Seattle Airport is the all you can eat breakfast for \$16.95 (plus a \$3.00 tip) so I fill myself up with tons of OJ, pancakes, sausages, bacon, and hash-browns so I can skip lunch. I stay at a table that has a great view of the rain prowling down on fans racing from their cars to the main doors of the hotel at about 10:30 when I head to my panel, but first I make a quick call to the shop in the lobby to pick up something for my allergies.

The first panel is the world premiere of *Star Trek: Phoenix*, a Seattle-based fan production of a series set in the original *Trek* universe 45 years after the events in *ST: Nemesis*. I thought coming a full half hour before the panel would put me someplace near the head of the line-up, but when I get there the line-up is already down the halls, past the door to the main the art room. Still it's worth the wait and I do find a seat in the packed ballroom to see the episode. I can best describe *ST: Phoenix* as "classic *Trek* meets *Babylon 5*," a bit of *ST:TNG*, some cool new Starfleet uniforms, and for once a planet on *Trek* that doesn't look like southern California, but the good old Pacific Northwest, filled with a brand new type of creature to the universe (and yes, they do kill a "red shirt"). I enjoy it and if you want to see it yourself just log onto <http://www.stphoenix.com/> and go from there. The first of two Q and A's with the cast and production crew follow the showing that I also enjoyed.

The panel ends at 1:00 PM and I then make my way to the dealers' rooms to raid the place for more goodies (and yes I did pay for them). After about an hour and an half of deciding what cool nerd stuff would be heading off to my place without getting Canada customs on my back, I make a dash back to my room (which you recall is way over in the 5B wing of the hotel complex) to drop the stuff off and by accident come across Darth Vader and crew at the 501st's charity event, so I got few pictures of that.

The next panel I go to is on sci-fi and fantasy TV shows. It fills me in on the happenings on the other SF&F series on the tube these days, and a with a little sneak peek at what could be coming up for the 2010–2011 TV season. The good news: *Fringe*, *Bones*, and *Stargate Universe* are coming back. The not-so-good news: *Chuck*, *Flash Forward*, and *V* are on the bubble. The bad news: *Dollhouse*, *Heroes*, and *Lost* are going or gone.

OK, I don't know why I did what I'm about to tell you I did, but I enjoy volunteering around hospitality too much to know better.

At four I go to the volunteers who sent me down to one of the two set-up rooms for the hospitality operation, washing my hands before reporting to the person in charge. My mission (which I accept) is to trawl out a dozen bags of CostCo meatballs before 6 PM (Fandom Daylight Time), so they can be served as part of dinner



in hospitality. The process is to get 2/5 of a bag of meatballs into a large microwave-safe bowl, place it in the microwave for four minutes, take out the bowl, turn around the meatballs, place it back into the microwave for another four minutes, take out the bowl again, turn around meatballs, place once into the microwave for another four minutes, take out the bowl, and place the now-trawled meatballs into a large stainless steel warming pan, then start all over again. I look around the room and see three large microwave-safe bowls so my chef training says that can be done before this Norwescon's legendary masquerade.

I was soon joined by a few other volunteers, and we make the spaghetti, cut the garlic bread, and steam the vegetables, and the place is humming along nicely as I turn on the TV to watch some classic Bugs Bunny cartoons (that I last saw as a kid) to entertain us while we work. Many of my co-workers were not even born when these gems were last seen with their good old-fashioned mostly harmless scenes of toon violence still intact, but most of us over-35-year-olds are trying not to laugh our heads off. In the end I say "Didn't anyone see *Who Framed Roger Rabbit?* You know that you can't kill a cartoon character without using turpentine." I still don't know if my explanation worked, although some of these younger volunteers started to enjoy these toons as well.

I guess these vintage cartoons, my fellow volunteers, and the second microwave becoming available (after the sauce was done) make the time fly by, and before I know it's 6:00 PM (Fandom Daylight Time). At this time most of us help move the food to the main hospitality room where a good number of fellow Norwescon members are lined up in the hallway waiting for it to open. We then have all this wonderful food on the main table, the door is opened, and the members rush to eat it. However, as a fellow volunteer dressed as a Victorian princess opens the container with the steamed vegetables, the steam sets off the smoke alarm.

OK, since we all know what caused it to go off, we continue to serve the members in the line-up, but soon con and hotel security ask us to leave, and we end up in the rear parking lot 'til the fire department shows up. I guess we're lucky since it has stopped raining for a while and it doesn't start again until the very second the fire department gives us the green light to return inside, but not to the hospitality room or its adjoining wing. So for the next half hour I'm walking around the hotel looking for a place to sit until we're given the all-clear to return and I end up beside one of the artists in their alley taking pictures of a woman with a really cool bustle. Just after this we're given permission to return to the room and I will never forget the look on the Sea-Tac fire chief's face as he lectured the woman dressed as a Victorian princess about how not to set off the smoke alarm.

After that the idea of taking any pictures of the masquerade are pushed aside because just as I enter hospitality they ask to reheat the meatballs, so I return to the operation room and start to do so, while watching the events on a TV set. However, this is all for naught, since about an hour later hotel security says they need to move the tables from under the smoke alarm so we will not set them off ever again and dinner is cancelled. Luckily I have a bite just before we put the food away so we can serve it as lunch on Sunday after the tables are moved. On top of this I have to wait for the person in charge to sign my volunteer sheet before heading out and she gives me the oddest look when she catches me talking to the feral black cat that's sitting on the balcony.

So the job I thought would take about two hours ends up taking four and an half hours and the funny thing is that I'm planning to do the same at Norwescon 34, but this time with more input on how to run it through my restaurant training.

Since it's now 8:30 PM (Fandom Daylight Time) most of the masquerade is over and I don't expect to get any pictures of people in interesting costumes. Still I end up with tons of them as I walk the halls of the hotel, party-hopping. Most of the night I spend at a party being held by the Seattle area *Doctor Who* fan group, but there are a few others that I pay a call on and even run into the woman dressed as a Victorian princess again. She told me that her sister made both their costumes and the only reason she was working in hospitality was that a family member was running the joint.

Just after midnight there's word that the slave auction is under way in the party room down the hall, the same one that had the topless card dealer the night before, and next thing I know about half the party was making a bee-line for it, with me almost ripping the beautiful dress of the Victorian princess when I accidentally step on its bustled train. After a quick apology to her for the incident, I notice that the room has a line-up that I can only compare to the one outside the Horseshoe Bay ferry terminal at the start of summer long weekend. Besides I have my camera on me and that's "no-no" at that party. So I say goodbye to the her and head to the Saturday dance to get some video of it, only to get myself a lecture from the drunk husband of that corsetiere I pissed off at Norwescon 32 (an ongoing Cosmic Ray feud to be continued at Norwescon 34), who in turn has con security on my back again (I know, I know, I will ask before taking video).

After that I walk slowly back to the party wing getting a few more pictures of the willing in their costumes on the way, before dropping off my camera. I then go to the party where I saw my new lady friend, but she's gone off to bed. So after taking my nightly pills with a little bit of 7 Up, and talking to her sister and a few others, I go back to my room to hit the hay.

Sunday, April 4th, 2010

Sundays are always a bit of a downer for me and quite a few others at cons. The fantasy world is coming to a close and tomorrow you'll be back to reality. However, there are still a ton of things to do at a last day of a Norwescon and this year is no exception.

I get up a little on the late side, about 9:30, but after another nice breakfast in the restaurant, I head to the first-ever Fannish Flea Market, where I pick up a few of the hard-to-find items of cool fandom stuff that are still there (Note for Norwescon 34: get up a little earlier). I then head over to the main dealer room, yet the book I want is gone. Still I pick up few more cool things to bring back home.

As with any con the schedule in the pocket program is not the schedule the real events end up running on, as the "Fandance Film Festival" starts at noon, while the "Revenge of the Movie Previews" (or the films that sound so bad that they could be showed on a future *MST3K*), which is supposed to start at noon, starts at 2 PM, when "FFF" is supposed to start. Luckily I've seen this change in the con's daily newsletter so I'm there. I guess the highlights of it are the "Let's Make a Movie" of 2010 entitled *Blood in the Halls* (or *What Not to Do While at a Sci-Fi Convention*) and a

very funny Seattle-made fan-film on what would happen if Clark Kent lost his job and had to move in with Lex Luthor (the Fortress of Solitude is now Lex's bathroom and the fastest way to get rid of Mr. Mxyzptlk is to invite him over to play Scrabble). After that I stay for a few of the movie previews. Still, I'm getting a little hungry, so I head to the volunteers' lounge to get a bite.

Once again luck is on my side as the doors to the volunteers' lounge soon close behind me and the party of the volunteers commences. I have only six and half hours of volunteer time this year, nowhere near the hours that some others had, so by the time my name comes up for a prize, all the really cool stuff is spoken for. Yet, I do get a nice drawing of Scully and Mulder of the *X-Files*, drawn by New Westminster's own late great Warren Oddsson. With my hands full of cool fandom stuff I'm just about to head to my room, when the party fall silent and a man bends onto his knees and proposes to his long-time girlfriend. Though a good number of the Norwescon 33 concom knew this would happen, it still takes most of us volunteers by surprise. Heck, this may be the first time I've seen an event like this at a con, and this kind of thing will only bring me back for more.

I quickly return to my room to drop of all the cool fandom stuff I picked up that day and see that my roommate is already packing her bags, even though she's going to return home to Portland the next day. I ask her why and she says that she likes to get a head start when she is leaving a convention.

I return to the main part of the hotel for the last two events, the "Onions and Roses" panel, and the "Closing Ceremonies." There are a lot more roses than onions this year, and that made the concom a little red-faced with pride. Then most of the Guests of Honour (one had to leave to get a flight home) sit on stage where the con-chair asks all of them the rather provoking question "Did you meet a beautiful woman, that (OK, you know the rest)?" and they all provide us with rather provoking answers. Then all the concom take the same seats (minus the GOHs) and get a well-deserved round of applause from the membership of Norwescon 33, then a large poster for Norwescon 34 is unveiled.

Surprisingly, most of the Guests of Honour on NWC 34 poster are women and as it turns out a minimum of 50% of the guests will be female members of both the sci-fi creative and fandom community. Oh, by the way, I already have my membership for it.

The fair known as Norwescon is over for another year...well not really; after eating a quite nice steak with sweet potato for dinner in the hotel's pub...I mean bar, I head to the dead dog (or dead Sasquatch) party in the presidential suite. However, there is tons of stuff to move out of all the rooms that Norwescon 33 used into trucks in order to return it to the storage units for safe keeping until next time. So for the next hour or so I'm helping the concom and a few others load up the trucks, before it's just down to one large ballroom of stuff to run a convention, then we all head back to the presidential suite to party. There I talk to a good members core of US nonwestern fandom, have a few bites to eat, and even watch a bit of *Jurassic Park II: The Lost World* airing on the Peachtree superstation. I guess I leave just before midnight when the conversation turns to blasting things to Kingdome Come with a Glock C22 pistol (in hindsight I should have stayed, since the two guys who were having the conversation turned out to be a police officer and a member of the Wash-

ington State Nation Guard, so even here in good old Canada them using such a fire-arms would be legal). So I head to my room and sleepy time.

Monday, April 5th, 2010

The activities of my roommate wake me up just after eight. She asks me what time my train is leaving. I say 5:46 that evening, however, her train to Portland is leaving at 11:40 AM, so we say our goodbyes and she heads out. After a quick shower and me breaking a record for packing my bags, it's time for me to do the same.

I check my bags with the hotel's concierge who places them in storage until 4:30 PM when a cab shows up, and I head for breakfast, once again in the hotel's restaurant. After that I return to the ballroom which still has all the stuff they used to run Norwescon 33 and I help the conglom load it onto the trucks for about a half hour. By then most of the stuff is in a truck on its way to the storage unit, so I say my goodbyes to the very thankful conglom and head out.

OK, as many of you know, one of my second loves (after sci-fi media and few other things that could be revealed in *BCFSAzines* of the future) is rail-based mass transit and the Seattle area has just opened a new light-rail line from downtown Seattle to the Sea-Tac airport, right next to the hotel that hosts NorWesCon. So after a quick ride on the hotel's airport shuttle and me placing \$2.50 in the ticket machine, I was off on a ride downtown. This system is not like Vancouver's SkyTrain because it has an operator much like a bus and a good deal of the ride is at street level (much as the old streetcars did here before they were removed in 1955). After I get downtown I notice a another light-rail vehicle, this time the "South Lake Union Streetcar" and with another \$2.50 in its farebox I take a quite nice round trip through the downtown core of Seattle.

Then I return to the starting point of the streetcar line, I go to lunch, and I end up having a sushi with what I can only call the strongest wasabi paste known to man. I then get a little lost in the many Pacific Centre-like malls that fill downtown Seattle. However, I do find my way back to the light-rail line and after stopping to look around at the two other transit stations in the city's core, start to head back to Sea-Tac, minus another \$2.50. One thing I do like about Seattle's light-rail system is since they do have an operator on each train, it can wait a little for a large number of riders to show up at certain stations at certain times, like the one I was riding on that waited two minutes at a station near a major high school for a carload of students to show up. Nevertheless, this can't be done in Vancouver since the SkyTrain lines are fully automated.

I return to the hotel and say my goodbyes to the staff that put up with us for yet another year. However, the hotel's good heart doesn't end there, since there's a major accident on I5, so my taxi does not show up, so they get a nice guy from the service staff to drive me to the train station in his own car. For that I give him \$20 and a big thanks.

As with any train in North America it's running late, but I soon run into a couple that was on the train down with me and a good number of both freight and passenger trains go past, including one that has a formal D&D games master who's working on the southbound Amtrak train as its conductor and she waves at me as it passes (she is also an engineer and I'm surprised not to see her up in the cab of its lo-

comotive). So my train shows up and we leave Seattle on time. They have the George Clooney movie *Up in the Air* on it and I enjoy it quite a bit. The train's conductor says that we should be in Vancouver on time, but a wayward BNSF switching operation at Everett and a rather long CN container train just north of Crescent Beach get us into the station 25 minutes late.

Now it's crunch time for all the cool things I purchased at Norwescon 33 as I have to go through Canada customs. I come \$3.17 short of having to pay duty.

After that I catch a SkyTrain to Edmonds Station where I have to break out the bowler hat I bought at the con since it's starting to rain. It's a few minutes after midnight, the time all the weird people ride transit, and that's confirmed because I'm soon joined by three young punk rockers, one wearing a small banner that reads "I Love Dirty Pussy" (and no I don't think this fellow likes cats with hygiene problems, he like something we can't bring up in a nice fanzine like this one).

After about twenty minutes the 106 bus shows up and about 12 minutes after that I'm unlocking the door to my apartment. So ends my Norwescon odyssey for yet another year.

For information on Norwescon 34 please go their web site at: <http://www.norwescon.org/>.

Cosmic Ray Seredin
Friday 14 May 2010

Upcoming Nifty Film Projects

R. Graeme Cameron

The Divide: Michael Biehn and Rosanna Arquette get trapped in a bomb shelter with assorted oddballs when New York City gets nuked. Not exactly original. Let's hope they go '50s style with glowing mists...angst-ridden fisticuffs...and instant mutants?

Humanimal: features no dialogue and no computer effects, just a lot of people in extremely simple animal costumes. Plot revolves around a turtle trying to impress a cat by behaving like a human murderer? A seriously weird morality fable. Very odd.

Sound of Noise: Insane Swedish film about a music-hating cop after a criminal gang who provide their own live musical accompaniment to their assorted crimes. Example: a getaway van with a metronome on the dashboard and a cat wailing away on a complete drum-set in the back. Cool.

Rubber: No, it's not what you think. Instead, it's about a killer tire, a *psychic* killer tire, on a mission to destroy humanity. First *Killdozer* (killer bulldozer), then *Das Lift* (killer elevator), and now *Rubber*. Could be a lot of fun.

Deus: is a short film directed and animated by British independent guy Olly Reid. Seems to be about a group of alien Lovecraftian Gods meeting amid the stars and evidently up to no good. They look impressive. My expectations are high.

Rare Exports: Remember the Antarctic base in *The Thing*? The trailers for this Finnish film feature an Arctic base, but instead of an alien, they discover Santa Claus. A kid's film, yes, but a horror film too. Older Santa tradition, with the em-

phasis on going after the naughty. Said to be like *The Goonies*, fun and scary. Looks scary. Could be a really great film.

We Are What We Are: Mexican horror film about a family coping with the death of their father. Now somebody else has to bring home the bacon. Thing is, the family are cannibals and the “bacon” often resents being invited for dinner. Violent and messy learning experience for teenage misfit Alfredo, the son never taught how to “shop.”

Rise of the Apes: is said to be a 20th Century Fox remake of *Conquest of the Planet of the Apes*. Will feature CGI motion-capture apes by Weta Digital. Okay, it will certainly look good, but will it *be* any good? Man creates intelligent apes. All hell breaks loose. Who woulda thought?

Fire and Ice: Frank Frazetta passed away recently, but a deal had already been struck by Robert Rodriguez and Ralph Bakshi to film Frazetta’s vision of subhuman monsters and Pterodactyl riding barbarians. I’m worried. I remember Bakshi’s version of *Lord of the Rings*. Hope it’s not more of the same.

Ghoulishly Yours, William M. Gaines: is a biopic of the publisher of *Mad* magazine being prepared by John Landis. Could be an incredible film! Gaines ran E.C. Comics which put out all the legendary horror and SF comics killed off by threat of government censorship (which triggered creation of the Comics Code) back in the 1950s. An astounding character in himself, his battle against censorship could never be more timely. Let’s hope Landis puts this one together.

R. Graeme Cameron
Sunday 23 May 2010

2010 Aurora Awards

R. Graeme Cameron

The Prix Aurora Awards were presented on Sunday, May 23rd at Keycon in Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Best Novel in English: *Wake*, by Robert J. Sawyer, published by Penguin Canada

Meilleur Roman en Français (Best Novel in French): *Suprématie*, by Laurent McAllister, published by Bragelonne

Best Short-Form Work in English: “Pawns Dreaming of Roses,” by Eileen Bell, in *Women of the Apocalypse*, published by Absolute Xpress

Meilleure Nouvelle en Français (Best Short-Form Work in French): «Ors blancs,» by Alain Bergeron, in *Solaris 171*

Best Work in English (Other): *Women of the Apocalypse*, The Apocalyptic Four (Eileen Bell, Roxanne Felix, Billie Milholland, and Ryan McFadden)—editors, published by Absolute Xpress

Meilleur Ouvrage en Français (Autre) [Best Work in French (Other)]: *Revue (Solaris)*, by Joël Champetier—éditeur

Artistic Achievement: Dan O’Driscoll, cover of *Steel Whispers*, published by Bunderan Press

Fan Accomplishment (Fanzine): Richard Graeme Cameron, *WCFSAZine*

Fan Accomplishment (Organization): David Hayman, Filk Hall of Fame

Fan Accomplishment (Other): Ray Badgerow, astronomy lecture at USS Hudson Bay

Source Track: René Walling via Science Fiction Awards Watch Website, and Robert J. Sawyer live tweets via SFScope website. Awaiting confirmation by official Prix Aurora Awards website.

R. Graeme Cameron
Monday 24 May 2010

Ask Mr. Guess-It-All!

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

Mrs. B.A. of Apsheronsk, Russia, asks:
Does beauty truly lie in the eye of the beholder?



Mr. Guess-It-All: Absolutely! Just as cats have a nictitating membrane which slides over the eye to shut out their view of the invisible Martians which cats constantly watch with rapt attention except when they want to sleep, so we humans have an involuntary membrane which covers our eyeballs whenever we direct our lust at another person.

In our case the membrane continues to let in light, but filters it, diffusing the image, softening the focus, even separating out unwanted fragments of detail (which float about in the eye for years afterwards. Eye doctors call them “floaters,” whereas the average person calls them “damned spots in my eyes”).

In other words the membrane utilizes a natural Photoshop process which “improves” the image sent to the brain. A process frequently enhanced by copious amounts of booze, incidentally.

Sadly, when we fall out of lust the process works in reverse and the former object of our affection is rendered somewhat less than desirable through exaggerated focus on revolting details such as clogged pores, hairy warts, and so forth.

Scientists are at a loss to explain how such a natural deluding process benefits natural selection. The best they can come up with is that the positive aspect accentuates bonding and the negative aspect enables individuals to weather the turmoil of rejection more easily.

To sum up, without this particular adaptation we would see people exactly as they are all the time, a disastrous state of affairs which would no doubt have a pronounced inhibitory influence on our reproductive rate. Consequently it can be said the survival of our species depends on our ability to delude ourselves. Without our lust-activated membranes we might well become extinct.

In other words, not just beauty, but the fate of the human race lies in the eye of the beholder.

Fortunately our predilection for pornography and sex in advertising provides plenty of exercise for our membranes so that, generally speaking, people see what they want when they need to. This is a good thing.

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

Monday 24 May 2010

Zines Received

‘Deranged Housewives’ (September 2005). Published by Ken Boesem, Barking Raven Press, #107–1111 Jervis Street, Vancouver, BC, V6E 2C5, barkingravenpress@hotmail.com.

In reaction to mildly misogynist mid-twentieth-century naughty cartoons, Ken has drawn fourteen extremely misandrist cartoons in which 1950s housewives kill their husbands, their children, and their pets. Recurring themes include poison and grinding up men and dogs into food. Times have changed far too much for this to be helpful; instead, it just comes across as hateful and depressing, like Lady Gaga’s “Telephone.”

For what it’s worth, the art is good, but the misandry is a deal-breaker. I liked everything of Ken’s I’d read up to this point—*How God Built Earth*, *The Village Primer*, *War Story*, *How to Tell If Your Hot New Boyfriend Is Secretly an Escort*, *How to Cure a Broken Heart in 12 Easy Steps*, and *On the Rocks* (see [BCSFAzine #443](#) for my review of *On the Rocks*)—and now I feel betrayed. I’m also left pessimistic about the future of humanity. Maybe we’re headed toward a gender-segregated society like the Zentraedi. I’m not sure where that leaves me.

‘Challenger’ #31 (Winter 2010). Published by Guy H. Lillian III, P.O. Box 163, Benton LA 71006, ghliii@yahoo.com, <http://www.challzine.net/>. 106-page genzine, which I’ve reviewed over the course of multiple *BCSFAzines*. (This is part three; see [BCSFAzine #443](#) for part one and [BCSFAzine #444](#) for part two.)

“The Chorus Lines”: Huge letter column, with LOCs responding to the previous issue’s theme of faith (and to many other subjects).

“Harrowing Years” by Michael Estabrook: Poetry.

“‘Oh When the Saints...’”: Apparently New Orleans’ football team, the Saints, won (neither the *Challenger* article nor [Wikipedia](#) are able to say exactly what they won—the Superbowl, I guess?), and it meant a lot to the people of New Orleans, who have certainly had a hard time lately and needed some good news.

‘Opuntia’ #69.1A (May 2010). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Reviewzine issue.

“Are You Ready?”: Reviews *Money Road* by Garth Turner, a former politician turned financial entrepreneur, author, and blogger ([The Greater Fool](#)). The book covers indicators, technical analysis, fundamental analysis, savings bonds, preferred shares, equity stocks, gold, real estate, index funds, exchange-traded funds, diversification, bonds, and derivatives, apparently quite belligerently.

The Panic of 2008 forced central banks all over the world, including the Bank of Canada, to lower their interest rates. In the short term this meant more people

could afford mortgage payments. This has caused a new housing bubble. In the long term, rates will go back up, the bubble will burst, and Canada will have to go through the same crisis as the United States did.

Canada's largest generation, the Baby Boomers, is starting to reach retirement age. About half of Canadians have no pension and no savings, and will spend their golden years on a fixed income (Canada Pension Plan or Old Age Supplement) that pays below the poverty line. Those with houses will all be trying to liquidate them. The next generation won't be big enough to buy all those houses—plus the young people currently fueling the boom will be facing higher rates and also trying to unload their property at the same time. Canadian mortgages are recourse loans, so even if the bank forecloses and sells a property at half what the ex-homeowners borrowed to pay for it, the bank still gets to hound the ex-homeowners for the remainder of the loan—seizing savings and any belongings, and garnishing wages.

The prices of oil and grain are still rising. The provincial and federal governments are running deficits. There won't be enough money in the system for health care. Elderly people on fixed incomes don't spend as much, so the consumer economy will be hit hard by the retirement of the Boomers. Savings aren't safe: bank deposits earn interest slower than currency loses value to inflation. Only wise investing and physical gold are safe.

When I listen to old tapes of *The Phil Hendrie Show* I recorded from the radio in March 2008, I hear ads from a company selling gold, which had just hit US\$1000 per ounce, with the argument that gold was only going to get more expensive and it would be wise to buy it now before the dollar becomes weaker. Concerned, I ordered their free DVD (which, buy the way, was *not* hosted by Pat Boone, as they claimed), and was subsequently telemarketed twice over the following year (I didn't mind; they were quite low-pressure). Today, I notice companies like Dollars for Gold and Money Mart want to *buy* gold in any form, with the argument that the seller would be much happier with extra cash to spend on a shopping spree. These offers are vaguely unsettling.

“Letters to the Editor”: Readers reply to previous issues' content about West-erns, gold, alternative history, Peak Oil, and postal service. Lloyd Penney's LOC and Dale's reply reveal that the Reserve Bank of India convinced the IMF to give them 200 tonnes of gold in exchange for several billion dollars' worth of fiat currency, and that there is not enough gold in the world for every adult North American to buy one one-ounce coin. Joseph Nicholas says global warming will turn most of the Earth into uninhabitable desert and force agriculture up into the poor soils of the far north; society will fall off a cliff, there will be a massive die-off, and within a thousand years humans will be extinct. Maybe some other species will evolve, but there will be no more fossil fuels for them to have a high-tech civilization. Dale is more optimistic. He says that the agriculture will change, not collapse, adapting to the shifting climate with ranching on dry grass and Canadians growing corn; that the population will not drop lower than one billion; and that we will colonize space and the Moon.

Just to be safe, I should probably have a quick, relatively painless means of suicide ready to go at a moment's notice.

Also: “World Wide Party #17” (reminder); “Zine Listings” (contact information and short description); “Seen in the Literature” (passages from scientific journals noticed by Dale).

E-Zines Received

‘**To Walk the Moon**’ (September 2009–April 2010). Published by Taral Wayne, 245 Dunn Ave. #2111, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1S6. “The Revised and Expanded 2009 Worldcon Report by the Anticipation Fan Guest of Honour, Taral Wayne.” <http://efanzines.com/Taral/ToWalkTheMoon.pdf>.

A long, detailed report with a lot of interesting stories. Taral says that this is the longest thing he’s ever written. Two of his other long works—“The Miscarriage of Heaven and Hell” and “The Roach Motel”—sound entertaining, judging by their premises.

Taral is the fourth Canadian to be a Worldcon Fan GOH. The first was in 1975 and the next in 1993. If these trends continue, the next Canadian Fan GOH at Worldcon will be in 2026.

The recognition, exposure, and chance to contribute that Taral got from this Worldcon were the opposite of his negative experience with the previous Canadian Worldcon in Toronto.

In order to have an exhibit of Taral’s interests at the con without having to transport the contents of his apartment to Montreal, a “virtual apartment” was created by photographing his actual apartment and then putting up life-size enlargements as the walls of a three-dimensional re-creation. Taral says that the same cat managed to get into two different photographs. Aw. :-)

This sentence, and its use of italics, reminded me of Garth: “While I was instructed on more-or-less what to do, no-one realized I had to be told basic things like *sit in the front row*, or *leave the stage* after you’ve said your piece by *exiting the wings*.”

Taral doesn’t tip because society says he has to. All right, he tips when somebody really deserves a tip. If they put forth an effort, he’ll give them something extra. But this tipping automatically, that’s for the birds. As far as he’s concerned they’re just doing their job.

Getting older is not fun, but one of the benefits of later life is the ability to reacquire all the things you collected in childhood and then foolishly threw away when you grew up. Taral was reunited with (or else just bought) some pins, a *Smurfs* book, and collectible cards (in what sense was *Mars Attacks* “revived by ’80s yuppies”?).

In Taral’s experience, SF pros are not fans. That is, they usually don’t mingle with fandom, hanging out and being fans of things. For example, you might find yourself talking with a pro at a party—however, “He’d happy to talk to you about his book. I doubt he would be quite as happy to listen to you talk about your fanzine.” Tangentially-related point: every pro to whom I’ve ever handed a copy of *BC-SFAzine* has accepted it graciously and taken it home as far as I knew; it’s only been other fans that have pretended to want a copy and then tossed it aside without even having the decency to wait until I wasn’t looking.

After reading Taral's explanation of why there is no apostrophe in "Tim Hor- tons," I realize that I am *still* offended by Bill 101.

Taral explains the title of the zine: like an astronaut who has walked on the Moon, he wonders if being a Worldcon GOH was such a great experience that everything else will seem anticlimactic.

'Corruscating Conundrums!' #2 (May 2010). Published for Mr. Guess-It-All by R. Graeme Cameron, rgraeme@shaw.ca. <http://efanzines.com/SpaceCadet/CoruscatingConundrums-02.pdf>. A compilation of "Ask Mr. Guess-It-All" columns that have previously appeared in *BCSFazine*, *WCSFAzine*, or *The Space Cadette Gazette*, or on the Ask Mr. Guess-It-All LiveJournal (<http://mr-guess-it-all.livejournal.com>). Learn the real truth about the lunar ocean, Tasmanian Devil noises, gravity waves, the earliest toilet paper, life on Mars, the origin of chewing gum, nanosatellites, the bikini, cancelled space programs, cloning Neanderthals, transporters, Mother Nature, tin-foil mind-protectors, carbonated soft drinks, the end of civilization, rising sea levels, new giant monitor lizard species, unstable isotopes, smaller salmon runs, blue skies, suppressed anger, invisibility, the quantum-computer universe, Abominable Snowmen, ancient construction workers, the universe in a wormhole, Hannibal's elephants, Eyjafjallajökull, and rocks and metal in white dwarf stars. A lot of surprising information, a lot of clever humour, and if you're not careful—you just might learn something! Also: "Comments on Issue #1": short blurbs, and a nice LOC from Lloyd Penney with his own Mr. Guess-It-All-like theories.

'Fortnightly Fix' #11 (14 May 2010). Published by Steven Green, stevegreen@livejournal.com, <http://efanzines.com/FFix/FortnightlyFix-11.pdf>.

"Rumours of This Fanzine's Demise...": As mentioned in previous issues, Steve was busy attending three conventions, publishing his APA zine, and working in elections (both as volunteer and candidate, it appears).

"Last Chance to See?": Inspired by National Novel Writing Month, which he feels should not be limited to the one nation, Steve suggests British SF fans write their own novel-length manuscripts during the month of September and submit them to the 2010 Nova Awards at Novacon. Steve felt relieved when Microsoft Word identified "Skynet" as a spelling error.

Also: "Down the Loccol."

'Fortnightly Fix' #12 (31 May 2010). Published by Steven Green, stevegreen@livejournal.com, <http://efanzines.com/FFix/FortnightlyFix-12.pdf>.

"News from Planet Me": Steve has followed local politics, been stung by a wasp, and applied for a job. Wish him well!

"Ad Ennui": As a constant cinemagoer, Steve is subjected to the same ads over and over. One such ad, a Vodafone commercial, particularly rubs him the wrong way.

"TAFF Stuff": Steve has divided the writing of his TAFF report into chapters, to be serialized in various zines, then collected on a CD with photos, art, and other media. This makes me nostalgic for when CD-ROMs were first introduced into video gaming, the vast new storage capacity allowing soundtracks, voice acting, photos, and even videos never before possible. I was so impressed when I saw *Sher-*

lock Holmes, Consulting Detective's FMVs in *Video Power's* CES coverage. (Is the word "multimedia" redundant? "Media" is already plural.)

"Down the Loccol": Replying to a comment by Lloyd Penney, Steve says "Canadian party politics, I suspect, is a very different beast to our own. Or maybe not, in this undiscovered country of Parliamentary coalitions and consensus manifestos." No, it is. Here in Canada we were very surprised when nobody won your last national election. Couldn't you just have a minority government? After a few days it emerged that no, you couldn't. We never knew that!

'Statement' #373 (May 2010). Published by the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 18 Norice Street, Ottawa, Ontario, K2G 2X5, osfs@ncf.ca, <http://osfs.ncf.ca/>. Edited by Grant Duff.

Cover: a beautiful Frank Frazetta self-portrait. It reminds me of Daniel Brenton's painted art in *Psycho*.

"Upcoming Events": *M-Theory* sounds like an interesting movie.

"Science News" by Ken Tapping: Stephen Hawking says looking for aliens is dangerous. Ken makes a cool point: we began looking for radio signals from space in an era in which we beamed high-power, unencrypted radio signals out in all directions, and we assumed aliens would do the same; today we use coded broadband signals, fibre, and cable, and don't send clear radio signals out into space anymore—so if each civilization only sends out clear radio for a few decades, and then switches to other methods, that could be why we never hear anything.

"Space News" by Ken Tapping: The sun has a surprisingly large and immediate effect on life on Earth, beyond our usual expectations of heat and light. Bad space weather toasts satellites and astronauts, sends deadly radiation through the Earth's magnetic field and into high latitudes, knocks out radio communications, GPS (the most widely-used navigation method today), and power systems, and even corrodes pipelines with electricity. With global warming opening up higher latitudes for human use, this is going to be even more of a concern than before. At the same time you've got maximum and minimum sunspot activity affecting our temperature.

Also: "Television News" (*Doctor Who*); "Literary News" (new horror comic anthologies); "Art News" (Frank Frazetta obituary); "Letters to the Editor"; "Computer Notes" (tips for Windows Vista and Windows 7).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:
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- ___ You are a member.
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- ___ You carry sample copies of *BCSFAzine* to advertise us.
- ___ You bought a copy in person.
- ___ You contributed.