

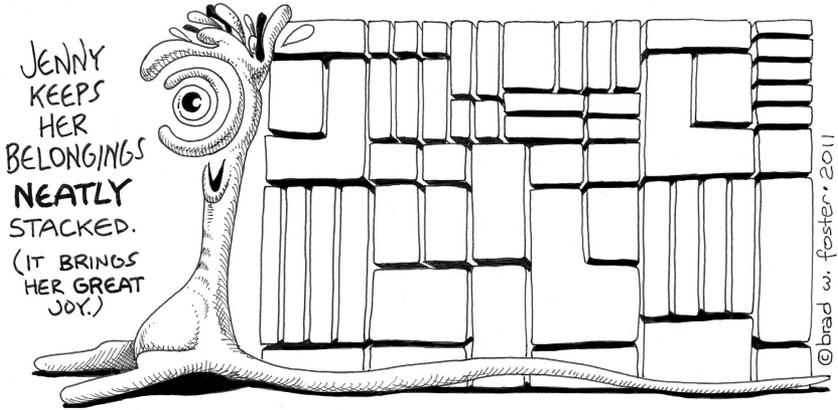
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#453

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February 2011



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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, PNG, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

- Sunday 20 February @ 7 PM: **BCSFA meeting**—at Kathleen Moore's, basement suite at side/back of 8311 Number One Road, Richmond. Call 604-771-0845 for directions. No parking in rear driveway; use street in front.
- Thursday 24 February @ 7 PM: **February Book Discussion** at the Grind gallery & café, 4124 Main Street (near the corner of Main and King Edward), Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *The Stories of Ibis* by Hiroshi Yamamoto.—[Doug Finnerty](#)
- Friday 25 February: **'BCSFAzine' production** (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 604-448-8714

VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

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

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Dave Haren

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Saturday 15 January 2011



(Printed flyer from Egyptian revolution.)

Hi Felicity,

I was thrilled to see Coulton is going to show up in Vancouver. I first encountered his music thanks to the Right Reverend Ivan Stang and his tireless efforts to bring hope and cheer to mutants and other unspeakables on the fringes of seriousness.

Another long term associate, Steve Jackson, has announced that Steve Jackson Games is going to re-issue one of the classics.

The Awful Green Things from Outer Space will come out in April and allow the retirement of tattered old copies or the acquisition of a shiny new one if you've never played it.

The Zombies are coming to Munchkin as well; since the pesky things are in everything else it was only a matter of time before this happened.

I heard from a friend in Australia: his good news is he's OK but his house is gone, and the bad news is he says there is a cyclone coming.

I just hope the members of the band Monster Zoku Onsomb are OK since it would be a tragedy to lose their contributions to the annals of the musical tradition. But if any band can rise from a sea of mud and make the audience participate vicariously they can.

CJ Cherryh has finished another Bren Cameron book so once the vagaries of modern publishing go through their cycle of production you'll see it on the shelves.

We shall prevail because we are fans, we need no other reason.

Warm regards,

Dave Haren

Michael Bertrand

fruvousfox@gmail.com

Tuesday 18 January 2011

I could tell by the sudden rise in weeping, wailing, and teeth gnashing that I had neglected [to write], despite many promptings by our wonderful editrix Felicity, and so conscience dictates that I get this LOC in good and early.

In my defense, I've been distracted. Between finishing my crazy challenge to write a million words in a year (I screwed up, and finished a month early...results can be found at <http://millionwordyear.com/megaword2010/>), starting my brand new blog (creatively and daringly named after myself...<http://michaeljohnbertrand.com/MJB/>), and most importantly, the ability of the Christmas season to completely para-

lyze the tiny part of my brain that remembers to do stuff, I have, by my own itty bitty standards, been busy.

Also, the revelatory and life-changing steps of first discovering that our Wii could use the Internet via our wireless router, and then discovering the magic of Netflix.ca, where eight bucks a month gets you access to thousands of highly tempting video options, has kind of taken up a chunk of my time.

In response to Garth's LOC, I'm one of those people who has a lot of problems sticking to one topic. My mind just does not work that way. To me, one idea flows so naturally into another that I am not usually aware when I have left one topic and entered another. You only have to read my rambling blog entries to see all the proof you need. And to me, it's all part of my lifelong goal to Understand Absolutely Everything, so it's all for the good.

But with sufficient warning and gentle prodding, I am sure I could stick to a given topic. I miss our highly stimulating Klatch meetings. Intellectual discussion is manna for my soul, and something I can never get enough of. I'll play by the rules if it gets the meetings back!

Well, that's enough of my jibber-jabber for this month (thanks for the reminder, Mr. T). See all you nice people next month! Honest!

Lloyd Penney
1706-24 Eva Rd.,
Etobicoke, On.
M9C 2B2
penneys@allstream.net

Friday 21 January 2010

Dear Felicity:

I've got the .pdfed version of *BCSFazine* 452 here, and a little bit of time. Let's see if I can create more than a little bit of a letter of comment.

Dave Haren, in his comments about needing a sense of humour to understand this insane world, probably got lots of laughs about how easy it is to find a gun in the USA, but you can't import Kinder eggs because the contents are small and plastic, and could be dangerous. I would consider an e-book reader if I could be certain that there's a model that would read all, or at least most, of the various formats of e-books out there. I used to do this on my old Palm Tungsten PDA, and I read a lot of e-books and short stories on it, but I still prefer a paper book, old coot that I am.

My letter...finally, we did get snow, not a lot, but enough to call it winter. We've had temperatures that range from a high of -5°C to a low of -20°C. The bears have got it right...they hibernate for the winter, they get caught up on their sleep, and when they awake, they are substantially lighter and slimmer. Now this is a diet I can get into.

I think we'll be seeing *TRON: Legacy* this weekend, and possibly *Narnia* again. We tried to see the original *TRON* on YTV, but the broadcast had far too many sound drop-outs for us to enjoy. We'd also like to see the latest *Harry Potter* movie again, plus *The King's Speech* again.

I had some feedback on the idea of a national newszine, and many of us have come to the conclusion that there isn't enough of a national network of fandom left to merit a newszine or newsletter. Also, with the immediacy of news, a fanzine

format would be too slow; probably need to set up a blog. Mike Glycer has File770.com, and it changes most days to give his audience the immediacy they want when it comes to fannish news. The fanzine he eventually produces isn't so much a newszine but now a yearbook, unfortunately. Mike, each issue is still much appreciated.

(And my in-print greetings to Christina Carr, and virtual hugs.)

I like the illustration on page 7, a comic book Isaac Asimov giving an "As you know, Bob..." lecture to move the story line along. I got to meet the good Dr. A. a couple of times a long time ago, once at a *Trek* con in Manhattan, and again at a Worldcon in Baltimore. Late '70s, early '80s.

I am about to vote on TAFF...I guess I'd better, being one of the nominators. There may soon be a candidate for CUFF, the grapevine tells me...

A parting word...with two conventions coming up (Ad Astra 2011 and Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition), we'll be running the green room for both, and I suspect that we will be doing some serious shopping soon. Hurray for a Costco card...Take care, many thanks, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Garth Spencer, Taral Wayne.

Calendar

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

February 2011

February is Library Lovers' Month.

1 February and 1 March 2011: Greater Vancouver Boardgames Meetup Group Monthly Meetup, 7 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group.] The games played depend on what everyone brings. If there is a game that you would like to play let it be known and we'll see if someone can bring it. Also if you have a great game to share we're always excited to try it out. \$1.—Keith Lim



2 February 2011: BC Browncoats: Groundhog Day at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. "How should we celebrate Groundhog Day? Go down to La Fontana and watch the movie, of course!"—Keith Lim

3 February 2011: Kartoons with Kurtis, 7–9 PM at Ridge Theatre, 3131 Arbutus Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3Z3. Join host Kurtis Findley in an exploration of classic cartoon favourites from the '30s to '60s presented on the big screen. February's Theme—History of the Fleischer Studios, Part Two. These days the only place you can see Betty Boop is on high-end designer purses, and Popeye on bottles of nutritional supplements. And the average person has never even heard of Ko Ko the Clown, Bimbo the Dog and Grampy! Even though the Fleischer Studios has fallen into obscurity, their place in animation history remains as vital as ever. Join us as we discover who created these cartoons and why they are so important. Cartoons screened during this event will include Fleischer classics from their Talkartoons, Betty Boop, Screen Songs, Popeye the Sailor and Out of the Inkwell series. \$5.—Keith Lim

4 February 2011: Thank a Mailman Day.

4–6 February 2011: GottaCon 2011 at Pearkes Arena, 3100 Tillicum Road, Victoria. Victoria's Gaming Convention. The vision of GottaCon is to host something for everyone including tournaments in collectable miniatures, collectable trading cards, role playing games, board games, and video games as well demonstrations, contests, information sessions, a variety of vendors and whatever else the community wants.—Keith Lim

5 February 2011: An Afternoon with Paul Baillargeon, composer for *Star Trek*, 2–5 PM at Roy Barnett Recital Hall, UBC School of Music, 6361 Memorial Road, Vancouver, BC. SPACQ, SOCAN Foundation, SCGC and the UBC School of Music are pleased to present “An Afternoon with Paul Baillargeon.” Paul is a prolific composer who has written music for the television series *Star Trek Voyager*, *Star Trek Deep Space Nine* and *Star Trek Enterprise*, among many others. He will be presenting an afternoon of his music, techniques and insights featuring his experience working for IMAX, as well as the music of *Star Trek* complete with his scores, Digital Performer sessions and picture. The event will be hosted by Mathieu Lavoie, a noted composer of video games, radio host, author and educator. For more information about Paul Baillargeon: <http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0047574/> Free and open to the public! No RSVP required. Via <http://www.calendar.events.ubc.ca/>—Julian Castle

6 February 2011: **Bill Marles'** birthday.

6 February 2011: BC Browncoats: Thrilling Dance Rehearsal 2, 4–5 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Rehearsal for Thrill the World 2011 (Oct. 29th, 2011). “Our last rehearsal was on Jan. 9th and we covered lessons 1 & 2, up to #12 of the instructional videos. This time we will spend one hour and learn lesson 3, which is #13–16 of the instructional videos. We'll meet again on Mar. 6th, Apr. 3rd, May 1st, and May 29th to continue learning the dance, so mark your calendars.”—Keith Lim



9 February and 9 March 2011: [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](#)

10 February and 10 March 2011: [Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup](#), 7:30 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre (downstairs auditorium), 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting, shared with the general public at no charge.—[Keith Lim](#)

11 February 2011: Premiere of films *Gnomeo & Juliet* (animation; Michael Caine, Matt Lucas, Jim Cummings, Maggie Smith, Jason Statham, Ozzy Osbourne, Stephen Merchant, Patrick Stewart, Hulk Hogan, Dolly Parton) and *Cedar Rapids* (convention comedy; Ed Helms, John C. Reilly, Anne Heche, Stephen Root, Kurtwood Smith, Alia Shawkat, Rob Corddry, Sigourney Weaver, Mike Birbiglia).

11–13 February 2011: [Vancouver International Swordplay Symposium](#) at Academie Duello, 412 West Hastings, Vancouver, BC. “A Worldwide Gathering of Western Martial Arts Practitioners & Enthusiasts.” Instructors, workshops, intensives, lectures, and public events. Thursday night—informal meet and greet. Friday night—meet and greet/rank examination. Saturday night—performance gala.—[Keith Lim](#)

12 February 2011: [Browncoat Bleeding Hearts](#), 9 AM at Oak Street Blood Donor Clinic, 4750 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC, V6H 2N9. Celebrate Valentine’s Day by making an appointment to [donate blood](#). The Oak Street clinic is usually open on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. Call to make an appointment: 1-888-2-DONATE. If this is your first time and you are not sure you are ready to donate, or if you don’t want to or can’t donate for whatever reason, come hang out with your Browncoat peeps while they donate and show your support.—[Keith Lim](#)

12 February 2011: [Klingon Language Group: targh wambogh tlhIngan](#), 6:30 PM at Robyn’s place, near 33rd and Knight, Vancouver, BC. “This is a meeting for experienced or especially keen speakers of the Klingon language. The starting topic will be stories that Charles and Qov will have written, about a hunter and a targh. If you’re in the especially keen category and would like to join us, please take out your Klingon dictionary and write at least one sentence on the theme of targh hunting. Don’t worry about grammar, just try your best, and we’ll help you perfect and pronounce it! Charles will schedule a session for casual beginners later in the month, depending on venue availability.”—[Keith Lim](#)

12 February 2011: [Ottawa International Animation Festival's] Best of Ottawa Tour at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. [*No exact time or address given on either website.*] “The Best of Ottawa programmes showcase many audience favorites and films awarded top honours from the OIAF Official Competition. The 2010 Canadian and International touring programmes include such extraordinary films as: David O’Reilly’s grand prize-winning *The External World*; the pulsating metamorphic madness of Andreas Hykade’s *Love & Theft*; Dustin Grella’s deeply moving and brilliantly executed award-winning film *Prayers for Peace*; the mesmerizing crowd-favourite *Sinna Mann (Angry Man)* by Anita Killi; the snap crackling goodness of Masaki Okuda’s *Kuchao (A Gum Boy)*; and Joseph Pierce’s twisted narrative short, *A Family Portrait*.”—Julian Castle/Keith Lim

13 February 2011: Sugar-Fest at the Fountain, 7 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6.—Keith Lim

13 February 2011: Doctor Who: Idea for VCON Panel, 7 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. The Eleven Faces of *Doctor Who*. *Doctor Who* is the longest running sci-fi series in the history of television. So what make these adventures of a renegade Time Lord, his human companion and his time/space-traveling Type 40 TARDIS, so special to its millions of fans around the world? This panel will cover the history of the series, the eleven actors to whom played the Doctor, the companions the many evil-doers they face and its three spin-off series. From people who just heard of it to super-fans who seen most of the over 200 adventures, this panel is a celebration of the *Doctor Who* universe. Would you like to be on it?—Keith Lim

18 February 2011: Premiere of films *I Am Number Four* (SF; Timothy Olyphant, Judith Hoag; from the novel by James Frey) and *Vanishing on 7th Street* (horror; Hayden Christensen, Thandie Newton, John Leguizamo).

18 February 2011: Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza, 6:30 PM–12 AM at Rickshaw Theatre, 254 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC. “Second Level Wizards present a Cthulhu film showcase, live performance by the Darkest of the Hillside Thickets and more. The first Cthulhupalooza included a *Rock Band* contest, a screening of the HPLHS’ *The Call of Cthulhu* film, and a live performance by the Darkest of the Hillside Thickets. This year we will have more films, more diversity, and another live show by the Thickets + Scythia folk metal; many Lovecraftian short films from all around the world; the worldwide release of the new Thickets video for “20 Minutes of Oxygen” by Mike Jackson of Steam-Powered Films; live sacrifice to Cthulhu of burlesque dancer Little Miss Risk; Cthulhu Cake Competition with prizes from our sponsors; the announcement and screening of the winner for Thickets’ fan-made video contest; vendors & other guests of a Cthulhuesque nature. If you have a film you’d like to submit or an idea for a performance or activity at this year’s Cthulhupalooza, please contact the Second Level Wizards (info@secondlevelwizards.com)!”—Toren Atkinson/Keith Lim

18 February 2011: Jonathan Coulton Performance, 7:30 PM at Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver, BC, V5N 1W1. “Jonathan Coulton (born December 1, 1970) is an American singer-songwriter, famous for his songs containing themes of geek culture as well as his rise to popularity through the use of the Internet. Among his most popular songs are ‘Re: Your Brains’ and ‘Still Alive,’ the latter of which played over the end credits of the video game *Portal* (though he did not sing it). A former computer programmer and self-described geek, Coulton tends to write quirky, witty lyrics about a variety of topics such as science fiction and technology: a man who thinks in simian terms, a mad scientist who falls in love with one of his captives, and the dangers of bacteria.” Tickets: \$25 + fees, on sale Mon. 13 Dec. 2010, 10 AM.—Keith Lim

19 February 2011: BSG Board Game Rematch, 11 AM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Back by popular demand...*BSG* Board Game! So many of the *Serenity* RPGers wanted to play, but by the time the game got out there just wasn't time. So...let's do it again! Just like the series, the game takes you through crisis after crisis. Unlike the series, you don't know how it will end.



We'll include the *Pegasus* Expansion this time, so watch out, one of the *Pegasus* characters is Helena Cain! If you enjoyed the show, you're sure to enjoy the game! Who are the Cylons?—Keith Lim

19 February 2011: Klingon Language Group: Errand of Mercy, 6:30 PM at Robyn's place—near 33rd and Knight, Vancouver, BC. Klingons don't grant mercy, but we will, as we watch the original series episode “Errand of Mercy” and translate the Klingon lines into...the original Klingon. We'll approach this as if the Klingons were speaking in tlhIngan Hol all along, but the transcript we have is from the Universal Translator. As the translation is in idiomatic English, using English metaphors and expressions, we may have a challenge to figure out what Kor and his soldiers really said. There's no one right answer, but we'll learn Klingon vocabulary and grammar as we work on the project.—Keith Lim

20 February 2011: SteamPunk Goggle Session, 1 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “What every good steampunk costume needs is goggles, and Phoenix Black is going to show us how to make our own. We will post a list of materials and some links to get you thinking about what you can do shortly.”—Keith Lim

21 February 2011: **Crystal Remedios's** birthday.

25 February 2011: Premiere of films *Drive Angry 3D* (fantasy; Nicolas Cage, William Fichtner, David Morse) and *Shelter* (horror; Julianne Moore, Nathan Correddy).

25–27 February 2011: Tsukino-Con: Victoria’s Anime and Japanese Cultural Convention at University of Victoria, 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 5C2.—Keith Lim

26 February 2011: Serendipity: Graphic Novel Extravaganza, 8:30 AM–3:30 PM. [Venue not given.] “Spend the day with renowned graphic novelists Gene Yang (author of *American Born Chinese*), Matt Holm (author of *Baby Mouse*), Raina Telgemeier (author of *Smile*), and others!” Organizer: Vancouver children’s literature roundtable. Early bird fees (before January 31): members \$125, students \$50, non-members \$140. Regular fees (february 1): members \$150, students \$75, non-members \$165.—Keith Lim, Julian Castle

27 February 2011: West Coast Science Fiction Association Annual General Meeting, 2 PM at 12–1140 Cecile Drive, Port Moody, BC. See “News-Like Matter” for more details.

27 February 2011: Vancouver Roleplayers’ Collective Monthly Social Gathering, 3 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6. The purpose of the recurring meetings on the last Saturday of every month is to meet and greet and chill, to share a drink or two with fellow gamers, talk about your common interests and maybe even find yourself a gaming group.—Keith Lim

27 February and 27 March 2011: BC Browncoats: Saint Jayne’s Day, 5 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. It’s Adam Baldwin’s birthday, and in honour the Hero of Canton, we’re going to watch one of his movies. He’s been in a ridiculous number of movies, not to mention tons of TV shows.—Keith Lim

March 2011

4 March 2011: Premiere of films *Rango* (animation; Johnny Depp, Timothy Olyphant, Bill Nighy, Alfred Molina, Ned Beatty, Harry Dean Stanton, Stephen Root, Ian Abercrombie), *The Adjustment Bureau* (SF; Matt Damon, Terrence Stamp; from the short story by Philip K. Dick) and *Beastly* (fantasy; Neil Patrick Harris, Mary-Kate Olsen, Lisa Gay Hamilton).

4–6 March 2011: Year-End Sale at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond, 604-273-4427, <http://www.imperialhobbies.ca/>.—Julian Castle

6 March 2011: BC Browncoats: Thrilling Dance Rehearsal 3, 4–5 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Rehearsal for Thrill the World 2011 (Sat. 29 Oct. 2011). “This is our third rehearsal. So far we’ve learned lessons 1 to 3, up to #16 of the instructional videos. This time we will spend one hour and learn lesson 4, which is #17–20 of the instructional videos. If you have not been able to come to our previous rehearsals, check out the video clips online to

get caught up and join in now! We'll meet again on Apr. 3, May 1 and May 29 to continue learning the dance, so mark your calendars.”—[Keith Lim](#)

8 March 2011: *The Walking Dead* season one released on DVD and Blu-Ray.—[Julian Castle](#)

11 March 2011: Premiere of film *Battle: Los Angeles* (SF/action; Aaron Eckhardt), *Red Riding Hood* (fantasy; Gary Oldman, Virginia Madsen), and *Mars Needs Moms* (animation; Seth Green, Joan Cusack, Breckin Meyer, Billy Dee Williams; Mindy Sterling; from the book by Berkeley Breathed).

14 March 2011: Pi Day—watch *Waitress* at La Fontana, 6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. [Details to be announced.]—[Keith Lim](#)

18 March 2011: Premiere of films *Limitless* (thriller; Robert De Niro, Bradley Cooper, Robert John Burke) and *Paul* (SF/comedy; Simon Pegg, Nick Frost, Seth Rogen, Jane Lynch, Kristen Wiig, Jason Bateman, Sigourney Weaver, Blythe Danner, Bill Hader, Jeffrey Tambor, David Koechner).

20 March 2011: Vancouver Comicon.

25 March 2011: Premiere of film *Sucker Punch* (fantasy; Carla Gugino, Jon Hamm).

News-Like Matter

Doctor Who Nesting Dolls (Fan Made)

Doctor Who nesting dolls.

[Image.](#)

[Tweet announcing the dolls.](#)

“[\[4\] I'm certain that the Doctor/TARDIS likenesses are copyrighted somewhere, and I don't know if Fair Use will cover my butt if I sell them.](#)”

[Julian Castle](#)

Saturday 5 February 2011

Fredericton Science Fiction Society Has New Facebook Account

Hi everyone,

As some of you know, the FSFS has undergone some interesting changes lately. We are hoping it is for the better; less paperwork anyway.

One of these changes is that we are getting our own Facebook page (Twitter soon); so please hunt down “FreddySFSF” and join our page, if you are interested in joining with us...

[I wasn't able to find "FreddySFSF" but I did find "Frederiction Science Fiction Society" on Facebook at: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=5386219518>.—
Felicity]

This is where announcements and interesting articles will be posted. Best of all you can all post on it. The trick is that if I find things "non-related" to sci-fi, or spam etc., it will get deleted. This is your only warning...

Come play in our sandbox; it is nice and friendly,
MRMc

Frederiction Science Fiction Society

Forwarded by Garth Spencer

Friday 7 January 2011

Peter Yates (1929–2010)

Peter Yates, British-born film director who worked mostly in Hollywood, died Sunday, aged 81. Movies included the 1983 science fantasy *Krull*.

Steve Green

Tuesday 11 January 2011

Calling Local Writers

Do you have a memory, impression, observation, historical anecdote or personal experience that you'd like to share about your life in Richmond?

Join members of the Richmond Writers Group who will also share their thoughts about the city and its people at a city-sponsored cultural event forming part of Richmond's Winterfest celebration. It will take place on March 11, 7–9 PM at the Richmond Cultural Centre.

If your entry is selected, you may read it aloud for an audience and/or have it displayed on a poster map of Richmond. Entries should be 200 words or less and include full name, contact information (phone number & e-mail) and indication of willingness to read your story for an audience.

Email submissions to: richmondwritersgroup2011@gmail.com. The deadline is February 14, 2011.

Bill Marles

Wednesday 12 January 2011

Aurora Adds New Awards

Hi folks,

On the subject of Filk...

Just a reminder that this year there are three new Aurora Awards:

- * Best Fan Filk
- * Best Graphic Novel
- * Best Poetry/Song

Definitions of each of these (and of all the rest of the usual suspects) are here:

http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/wordpress/?page_id=305.

And the page from which you can both register and nominate is here:
<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/Membership/>.

All the best,
Clint

Clint Budd
Thursday 13 January 2011

More Aurora News: Nominations, Prizes

The Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association is proud to announce: the 2011 Prix Aurora Award Nominations open Saturday 8 January 2011. Final nominations must be received no later than midnight PST Saturday 30 April 2011.

SF Canada supports Aurora Awards with \$500 prize for winning novels: SF Canada, Canada's association of professional speculative fiction writers, and the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA) are pleased to announce the SF Canada Award, a \$500 prize that will be awarded to winners of the Best Novel categories of the Aurora Award [English] and Prix Aurora-Boréal (French), voted on annually by Canadian fans of speculative fiction to acknowledge the best of Canadian professional and fan activity in both official languages.

The first SF Canada Award will be awarded to the winner of the Prix Aurora-Boréal, for best fantasy and/or science fiction novel published first in French in 2010 by a Canadian author, at the 28th Congrès Boréal in Montréal, Friday 13 May 2011.

The second award, for the winner of the Aurora Award for best fantasy and/or science fiction novel published in English in 2010 by a Canadian author, will be presented at SFContario 2, Friday 18–Sunday 20 November 2011, in Toronto.

Since 1981, the Prix Aurora Awards have been nominated and voted on each year by the members of CSFFA, a federally incorporated non-profit society which exists to promote quality Canadian speculative fiction and the fan activity that surrounds it. Membership in the CSFFA is free, and open to any admirer of genre fiction who is a Canadian citizen or permanent resident.

SF Canada was founded in 1989 as Canada's National Association for Speculative Fiction Professionals in order to foster a sense of community among Canadian writers of speculative fiction, to improve communication, to foster the growth of quality writing, to lobby on behalf of Canadian writers and to encourage the translation of Canadian speculative fiction.

For more information on the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA), or to schedule an interview, please contact Kent Pollard at: csffa_publicity@gmail.com.

Clint Budd
Sunday 16 January 2011

Notes from January BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Kathleen Moore (hostess/treasurer), Felicity Walker (editor), Julian Castle, and Ray Seredin.

Ray reported that there's still trouble with the rec room in his building. The original plan to spray new insulation onto the existing ceiling failed because the ceiling rejected it, and it's falling off in pieces. They'll have to remove the ceiling and put in a new one with insulation. This will cost \$9700. Strata fees would go up \$15 per year. This would pay for a dropped ceiling with a new lighting system (they had to change the lighting anyway). There's a residents' meeting on Thursday 3 February 2011 to decide what to do. If they decide right away, it could be done in ten days and be available for the March BCSFA meeting. The February meeting will be at Kathleen's, on Sunday 20 February 2011.

The VCON website says the location of the next VCON is TBA; the Vancouver Fandom list says it's at the Sheraton in Richmond. [See "*General Announcement: VCON Has a Hotel!*" later in "*News-Like Matter.*"—Felicity]

Ray reported that VCONgoer Melissa Tookey has found work as a trainee librarian at Head Injury Centre in Powell River. Congratulations, Melissa!

According to a rumour Ray heard, all the old *Royal Canadian Air Farce* radio shows will soon be available on the internet.

Things Ray remembers from living in Victoria: 1. In the 1980s neo-nazis used to hang out at the Hillside Mall, trying to recruit teenage boys and girls. 2. War toys were banned in Victoria's Capital Regional District in 1991. This reminded me that in early 1994, Canadian broadcasts of *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* were edited to remove violence. Julian remembered that similarly, in Britain, *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* was known as *Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles*.

Ray just bought the *Doctor Who* episode "Meglos" (the one where the sentient cactus impersonates the Fourth Doctor) on DVD.

Kathleen came up with the Ministry of Cultural Offendedness, funded by the Sudbury Nickel (the actual object) after I mentioned that Quebec renamed Hull to Gatineau to get rid of an English place name. Ray said that Ottawa (which is right beside Hull) is now bigger than Edmonton. Edmonton still has Red Bull Flugtag (German for "Flying Day"), which involves pushing flying machines off high places. Ray said that we held it here in Vancouver in 2006, but it didn't work very well—our bridges aren't high enough. Edmonton, on the other hand, has the Great Divide Waterfall, which is perfect for Flugtag; Kathleen said that the Canadian comic strip "Bub Slug" (now titled "Betty") was about a waterfall maintenance engineer—which is possible in Edmonton!

Julian wanted to mention Temple Grandin and *Anthropologist on Mars*. Kathleen said that because Grandin had to figure out how humans think, she also developed the ability to learn how animals think.

Kathleen was offered the book *Mirabilis*, but turned it down once she read the back cover and saw: "*Mirabilis* is both historically accurate and emotionally modern."

Felicity Walker
Sunday 16 January 2011

Ed Hutchings in Hospital

Greetings all.

This was forwarded to me from Susan Walsh by Clint Budd. It concerns Ed Hutchings, a long time fan who has been with BCSFA and VCON from the very beginning.

“You saw Ed at our Jan. 2 open house; he was not looking well. He has leukemia. He’s now in VGH, in room 11440 of the Pattison pavilion, waiting for a space in Hospice. Debbie Miyashita will be in town this week, and we’ll be sorting through the stuff in his apartment, which he’ll have to vacate to be able to afford hospice.

“Sidney Trim has been in to see him, and Ed’s asked after Steve Forty and Al Betz. If you’d like to get in touch with Ed, or can think of people who’d like to know of his situation, his phone number is 604-875-5400, Ext. 60514.”

R. Graeme Cameron via BC_SciFi_Assc Yahoo! Group
Tuesday 25 January 2011

Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund Deadline Extended

Following assurances that the Renovation fan programme can still integrate this year’s TAFF delegate into its schedule with a shorter lead-in time, and the agreement of all four candidates, the fund’s administrators have decided to extend the deadline for the current race until Tuesday, 26 April. This will enable ballot forms to be handed in at Illustrious, this year’s UK Eastercon, and also gives online voters using our PayPal facility an extra six weeks to cast their digital ballot.

With four fans vying for the honour of representing European fandom—Graham Charnock, John Coxon, Liam Proven and Paul Treadaway—this was always going to be an exciting race. Why not keep the fun going a little longer?

Ballot forms can be downloaded at [taff.org.uk].

Steve Green

Anne & Brian Gray
Saturday 29 January 2011

John Barry (1933–2011)

John Barry, composer, died 30 January aged 77. Most famous for his *James Bond* movie scores, his genre work includes *King Kong* (1976), *Starcrash* (1978), *The Black Hole* (1979), and *Somewhere in Time* (1980).

Steve Green

Sunday 30 January 2011

BC Renaissance Festival Facebook Contest

We would love to know what you are looking forward to at the 2011 BC Renfest.

If you have come in the past let us know your top three favourite things you’d like to see again.

If you haven't come yet, look at our videos and pictures and tell us one to three things you are looking forward to seeing.

Answer [here](#), in reply to this post, in the BCRF Discussions board, and Feb. 13th, at midnight, we'll put everyone's name in a hat and pick one person who will receive two one-day passes to the BC Renfest 2011.

We plan on doing a different question in March so keep checking back.
[Contest rules at link above.—Felicity]

Christina Carr
Monday 31 January 2011

Book Discussion Update

Next meeting of our book discussion group is Thursday February 24 @ 7 PM. It's happening at "The Grind" gallery and coffee house, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. This time we're discussing *The Stories of Ibis* by Hiroshi Yamamoto. In March, we're discussing *Boneshaker* by Cherie Priest. April's book is *The Windup Girl* by Paolo Bacigalupi.

[Doug Finnerty](#)
Wednesday 2 February 2011

Countdown to the Great Clearing Off

Cthulhupalooza II is just two weeks (and one day) away, and we want to make sure you know about all the awesome stuff going on:

The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets are playing live with Scythia folk metal, and Cthulhupalooza II serves as their video release party for the amazing sci-fi epic *20 Minutes of Oxygen*. Plus we'll be screening the winner of the Thickets fan video contest.

Little Miss Risk is performing *two* Lovecraftian-themed burlesques!

The Miskatonic Middle School Bake Sale needs your Lovecraftian cakes & cookies to raise money for BC Children's Hospital. Contestants get free admission to Cthulhupalooza and a handsome prize package courtesy of our sponsors (too numerous to mention but including Drexoll Games, Hothead Games, and Elfsar). There's still a few spots left in the contest so fill out your registration form at <http://www.facebook.com/1/4fb3bEFoWFP7Iby72S09UEYSdXg:cthulhupalooza.com>.

There will also be a bevy of Lovecraft short films, trailers, and general videorama to nudge you to the teetering precipice of *madness!*

All for a scant 15 of your Earth dollars.

When: Friday 18 February @ 6:30 PM

Where: The Rickshaw, 254 East Hastings Street, Vancouver

Web: <http://www.cthulhupalooza.com>

Facebook event: <http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=136562234276>

Toren Atkinson
Thursday 3 February 2011

Michael Tolan (1925/27–2011)

Michael Tolan, stage & TV actor, died Monday, aged 83 or 85 (depending whether you believe the *New York Times* or IMDb). Genre appearances comprise *Inner Sanctum* (1954), *The Invaders* and *Journey to the Unknown* (both 1968; his episode of the latter formed half of a fix-up for the US market, *Journey Into Darkness*), [and] *Ghost Story* (1972).

Steve Green

Friday 4 February 2011

General Announcement: VCON Has a Hotel!

Hello everyone:

VCON 36 is gearing up! This year VCON is going to be bigger and better. This year is going to be super-sized with double the space we had last year! More art, more dealers, more games, more programming! Every function will have more space, bigger rooms! No keycards in the elevators, no awkward doors you have to buzz through! Three separate towers, cut-rate deals, free parking for anyone staying at the hotel!

This year's convention will take place entirely at the Sheraton Vancouver Airport Hotel, 7551 Westminster Highway, in Richmond. This is the same hotel that held last year's gaming & dealers rooms.

See our website for more information! <http://vcon.ca/where/venue>

Book online now, or book by phone! Online reservations here: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/booking/reservation?id=1102029803&key=807B9>

Room prices will be \$117.00 nightly for single or double bed rooms, and junior "executive" suites will be available at \$147.00 a night. These values include free parking, which normally costs 17.60 a day with tax. VCON attendees not getting a hotel room can park for \$6.00.

There will be a party floor directly across from hospitality, and quiet rooms available. Book right away—there are a limited number of rooms available and if you don't book early you may not get one! The Junior Executive Suites will go very fast, there are less than 12 available!

If you book by phone [(604) 273-7878 · Toll-Free: 1-800-325-3535] then *make sure* to mention you're with VCON in order to get the VCON rates!

Don't hesitate to contact us if you cannot get a room booked! <http://vcon.ca/contact>

Hotel features:

- * Heated outdoor swimming pool & hot tub
- * Decent restaurant (there are no plans as of yet for a VCON pyjama breakfast this year)
- * First class health centre (really: it was very impressive; every station has a built in television)
- * Multiple alcoves and dozens of lounging chairs in various nooks and crannies
- * No keycards required to get anywhere!

The block will be held until the 7th of September and more details will be posted to the website soon: <http://vcon.ca/where/venue>

Food choices are abundant in the area. There are two malls within easy walking distance, a liquor store, a pharmacy, and Imperial Hobbies gaming shop is just around the corner.

VCON Hotel Liason
Wednesday 9 February 2011

Vogel Award Nominations Are Open

Garth Spencer reports that the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand's Sir Julius Vogel Award nominations are open.

Nominations may be emailed to: sjv_awards@sffanz.sf.org.nz.

The nomination guidelines would be too long to print here. However, they are no longer available on the SFFANZ website, as the SFFANZ website has become a domain name placeholder website containing links that seem to link to the SFFANZ website but really link back to the same placeholder website. Instead, visit Google's cache of the page.

Felicity Walker
Friday 11 February 2011

West Coast Science Fiction Association Annual General Meeting 2011

Hello West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA) members,

(If you bought a VCON membership in 2010, you became a member of its parent organisation, WCSFA.)

This is a notice to inform the Membership that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of WCSFA will take place at:

Date: Sunday 27 February 2011

Time: 2 PM

Venue: 12-1140 Cecile Drive, Port Moody, BC

All WCSFA members are welcome and have voting rights. Both VCON and WCSFA memberships will be available for sale at the meeting.

Agenda items include:

- Call to order
- Minutes of previous AGM
- Reports from officers
- Report from VCON 35 (2010)
- Progress Report of VCON 36 (2011)
- Presentations of candidates for VCON 37 (2012) Chair
- Election of VCON 37 Chair
- Elections of WCSFA Board of Director elections
- Motion authorizing WCSFA to invite Guests of Honour for VCONs
- Motion to change of bank account signing officers
- Other business
- Announcements
- Adjournment

Additional Agenda items may be added. Please contact the WCSFA President, Keith Lim, at chair@vcon.ca.

Job descriptions:

President of WCSFA leads WCSFA, calls meetings and sets agendas, and is the Chair of VCON.

Vice-President of WCSFA is expected to review the VCON hotel contract and sign on behalf of the society. Familiarity with contract language is recommended. The Vice-President should not be a member of the current VCON committee.

Secretary of WCSFA records minutes at meetings, provides the Archivist with a copy, and distributes copies to the membership.

Treasurer of WCSFA is responsible for the society's financial record-keeping. Familiarity with basic accounting is recommended.

Archivist of WCSFA keeps records of WCSFA publications and other documents relating to WCSFA.

Members-at-Large of WCSFA are the first choice to hold a temporary position should a member of the WCSFA Executive be unable to perform their duties. Members-at-Large is also expected to serve on sub-committees, and be a model volunteer within the organisation.

Anyone who would like more information or who intends to run for a position on the WCSFA Board of Directors is asked to please contact the current WCSFA President, Keith Lim, at chair@vcon.ca.

Map to meeting venue.

Parking directions:

The venue is the end unit of one of a set of row-style townhouses. The row faces right onto Cecile and the unit is the last one on the left end. There is a "U" shaped driveway (one way, entrance to the right side of the row) that circles around behind the row of townhouses that passes three other rows—this is where the "official" visitors parking is available (along the right side of the first arm of the U and the left side of the bottom of the U). You can also park along Cecile on the other side of the street if you can find a space, and there's also parking available back on Angela Dr. which is the next four way intersection on the left when you're facing the row of townhouses.

Transit Directions:

This should work for most people from most locations.

—Take transit to the Lougheed Mall Station.

—Catch the C24 Port Moody Station "commuter" bus

—Leave the bus at the stop on Cecile Dr at Angela Dr.

Warning: Don't get off the *first* time the route passes Angela Dr. which is on Glenayre Ave.—the bus loops up and around the community so it crosses Angela twice.

—Cross the street and head right along the sidewalk.

—1140 Cecile is the next row along (just past the driveway) and #12 is the first unit on that end.

The following is if you live east of Port Moody (Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam, etc) or it's otherwise easier for you to get to Port Moody station rather than Lougheed Mall Station.

—Take transit to Port Moody Station.

- Catch the C24 Lougheed Station “commuter” bus
- Leave the bus at the stop on Cecile Dr at Cecile Place.
- Head to the right along the sidewalk.
- 1140 Cecile is the next row along (just past the driveway) and #12 is the first unit on that end.

Keith Lim (VCON Chair)
Sunday 13 February 2011

‘WARP’ 76 Is On Line!

Hello, MonSFFen!

Thanks to our tireless Emperor, *WARP 76* is on line for your reading pleasure.

Go to: <http://www.monsffa.com/monsffahtml/warp.html>

Click on the yellow bar under the cover photo. You will be asked for the password.

Password: SteampunkDandies

Please note: the password is case sensitive.

As usual, you will find many “hotlinks” to make navigation easier. Clicking on items in the Table of Contents will take you to the articles. Since this was the autumn issue, you’ll see little autumn symbols at the ends of articles. Clicking on them will return you to the Table of Contents. Do mouse around! There are links everywhere which will take you outside the newsletter to related sites.

If you prefer a traditional paper copy, a few will be available at our next meetings. If you can’t make it to a meeting in the next couple of months, please let me know and I will mail it to you.

My thanks to our contributors!

Josée Bellemare

Keith Braithwaite

François Ménard

Fernando Novo

Lloyd Penny

Sylvain St-Pierre

I’m starting on the winter issue, *WARP 77*, so please start sending in articles, art, sightings, reviews, etc.! Letters of Comment always welcome! I want to try to get it out before the snow melts, so don’t delay!

Cathy

Cathy Palmer-Lister
Friday 18 February 2011

Garth Called It: Witchcraft Now a Licensed, Taxable Profession

National Geographic Channel blogger Patrick J. Kiger writes: “In January, the Romanian government changed labor laws, officially recognizing witchcraft as a taxable profession. And now [...] the Romanian Senate has passed a bill that would threaten soothsayers with fines and even jail time if their prophecies don’t pan out as promised.

“[...] Other provisions of the proposed law would require witches to have a permit and to provide their customers with receipts.”

Garth Spencer speculated about this exact thing in person and in previous issues of *BCSFazine*.

Felicity Walker

[Credit: [National Geographic on Twitter](#)]

Wednesday 16 February 2011

Five Rounds Rapid! Nicholas Courtney 1929–2011

Nicholas Courtney, known to and beloved by *Doctor Who* fans worldwide as Brigadier Alistair Gordon Lethbridge-Stewart, one of the longest-serving co-stars of the series who appeared opposite five television Doctors, has died, aged 81.

Born in Egypt, William Nicholas Stone Courtney spent his childhood and education in a variety of places—his father serving in the diplomatic service—before entering the Webber Douglas School of Singing and Dramatic Art after completing his National Service in 1950. He then entered rep in 1952—his first job being actor/ASM in *Cromer!*—before a move to London brought him to the world of television.

His first appearance in this media was as a Warrant Officer in the 1957 series *Escape*, followed by playing King Charles II in *Looking About* and Mark Norman in an episode of *No Hiding Place*. He was then to appear throughout the 1960s in shows like *Callan* and *Sword of Honour*, as well as popular fantasy genre titles like *The Saint*, *The Champions*, *The Avengers*, and *Randall and Hopkirk (Deceased)* (alongside Master-to-be, Roger Delgado).

His first brush with *Doctor Who* was to be as Space Security Agent Bret Vyon in the First Doctor epic “The Daleks’ Master Plan.” For *Doctor Who* fans, of course, he will always be remembered as UNIT stalwart Lethbridge-Stewart. Originally slated to play Captain Knight in the Second Doctor adventure “The Web of Fear,” he was “promoted” to the role of Colonel by director Douglas Camfield when original actor David Langton pulled out, and returned a year as a newly promoted Brigadier in “The Invasion,” a role he was to become associated with for over forty years! Appearing as one of the main characters throughout the Third Doctor’s incarnation, he was then to appear with every other classic series Doctor, both during the television show’s original run and through the Big Finish audio adventures. Mentioned a number of times in the revived series of *Doctor Who*, he was to appear once more in character in 2008 as Sir Alistair in spin-off series *The Sarah Jane Adventures*.

Work continued after his departure from *Doctor Who*, appearing in shows such as *All Creatures Great and Small* and *Sink or Swim* (both alongside Fifth Doctor Peter Davison), *Shelley, Yes*, *Prime Minister* and *Only Fools and Horses*; he also played Lt. Col. Robert Witherton in 1993’s *Then Churchill Said to Me*. More recently, he appeared in popular shows like *The Bill*, *Doctors*, and *Casualty*. In 2008 he played the Archbishop of Canterbury in *Incendiary*.

In 1997, he became the Honorary President of the Doctor Who Appreciation Society, a position he was very proud to hold.

There have been two autobiographies on his life, *Five Rounds Rapid!* in 1998 and *Still Getting Away with It* in 2005; his memoirs were also released by Big Finish as *A Soldier in Time* in 2002.

He is survived by his wife Karen, his son Philip and daughter Bella.

[Submitted by] [Ray Seredin](#)

Tuesday 22 February 2011

One Fan's Gafia

Taral Wayne

One fan's gafia is another man's crifanac. It ought to be an old saying, except it's such an insult to the ear I can barely type it. I refuse to say it out loud.

But the observation is a valid one. For instance, when Arnie and I started to trade e-mail about a year ago he was under the impression that I had "returned" from gafia. My first instinct was to deny it. After all, there has not been a single year since 1972 as far as I know in which at least one loc and a little art of mine has appeared in *someone's* fanzine, even if only in the dependable *File 770*. Not one! Not only that but I had greatly stepped up the amount of time I spent on fanac beginning in 2006, well before Arnie "rediscovered" me.

I must admit, though, that the years from 1990 or so, to nearly 2006 had been very thin for me as fanac goes. I was sending off xeroxed artwork to whoever I could think of, not really expecting it to be published. More often than not it wasn't. All the snappy little fanmags wanted something else. I might write a few lines, but full letters of comment were a rarity as my connect with fandom had grown so tenuous.

My perception of those years wasn't that I had gafiated though. True, I had diverted a lot of my time to other pursuits, notably being a mainstay through the early years of the furies, née funny animal fandom. I had limited careers at magazine illustration and as a comic artist. But my experience of the last years of the century was of fandom slowly turning its back on me. Many of the people I knew had drifted away, others simply weren't publishing, and I wasn't able to keep in touch at cons since expensive traveling was out of the question. The local fandom was not really about fanzines, and didn't hold my interest. What was there for me to do?

At times my memories about fandom grew a little morbid in these years. I used to imagine, sometimes, being hunted down by the Ghostbusters at conventions. As a mere shade of myself, condemned to overhearing offhand remarks about the fan I'd been. Never speak ill of the dead? Someone should have told fandom.

My memories weren't *all* that negative.

One of my activities in the late '80s and early '90s was the creation of a vast alternate history that only a few friends know much about, centered around a small town called Willow Run in what might be but isn't called West Virginia. I won't go into the specifics of the Napoleonic Wars and the War of 1812 that created Willow Run's world, or tell you much about it here. Why I bring it up is that I also created a science fiction fandom to go along with it.

It isn't our fandom, though it has much in common with what our fandom once was. I decided there had been no *Star Trek* or *Star Wars* and fandom had simply

gone on being a marginal literature for people drifting near the intellectual margins of society. It was also graying very badly in 1990, as ours is. Willow Run was the home of a group called the Offworlders, who had quite a long history. I'm not just saying so. I wrote it, only breaking off sometime in the 1960s when I began to lose my direction. I have even drawn a number of illustrations that incorporate bits and pieces of Offworlder history.

Most of the characters have recognizable parts of people I've known in real fandom, though none are one person in their entirety. I pictured them as people who had roughly peaked in their fanac in the late '50s and were approaching retirement age or had passed it in 1990. Some were in fact dead. I invented a couple of professional writers to be honorary members, and gave both of them life histories and bibliographies. The library of the Offworlders' clubhouse is named after A. Leader Carroll, author of *The Dark Mountain* and other early fantasy novels. I stopped a little short of actually writing *The Dark Mountain*, but I do have a plot synopsis if anyone cares...

The clubhouse is only a remodeled attic in a large house in Willow Run. The club is given its use by the university, which has a program of encouraging offbeat groups and talented individuals. By the 1990s the Offworlders did little. They were mainly older men and women, and a few younger members who dropped in whenever they felt like it. They had "meetings" once a week. The meetings would be little more than a card game or watching a movie on TV. It didn't matter. Their main reason was to give an excuse for getting together. The oldsters would re-live old triumphs, laugh at old feuds, and bond. The youngsters would explore all the club's old technology. still ready for use—spotless, well kept, and patiently waiting to be given a purpose again someday that would probably never come. The mimeo, the assortments of stencil tools, the reams of warm fuzzy paper, pregnant tubes of glistening ink in colours no one could find anymore at any price, the antique upright manual typewriter that was more for show, the cracked leather office chair whose height you adjusted by turning. And in the library the priceless books—first editions, signed editions, small press editions—and the fabulous collection of fanzines slowly turning into twiltone dust. Hell...the library was even thought to be haunted! How's that for class.

That was sort of how I wanted to remember fandom, what I wanted it to be. Make of it what you will.

And whatever fandom has become, whether or not I was gone, here I am still.

Taral Wayne

Sunday 7 March 2010

The Gentleman Who Gave Us VCon

Ed Beauregard

Noted Vancouver historian Chuck Davis passed away November 20th, 2010 at the age of 75. Many of the tributes covered his work in recording the history, trivia and anecdotes of Vancouver, and more recently, Greater Vancouver. However, for BC-SFAns, we have some very special reasons to remember him.

Chuck was one of the people who played a key role in turning the BC Science Fiction Society (as it was then) from the dummy front organization for money laundering which I had helped create in 1970 into the active SF club which we still have today. Chuck was the mature, sensible and very humorous guiding light who helped get the club going and many times provided not only a welcome meeting place but outstanding hospitality. His enjoyment of life was infectious, and he led many a discussion or group story writing effort, throwing in outrageous puns left and right.

Chuck Davis first got involved with local SF fandom in 1971, when he attended the first off-campus meeting to attract non-UBC people to the fledgling BC Science Fiction Society. He was already a well-known personality, as the UBC club newsletter of the time made specific mention of him attending that 1971 meeting. He was involved in the first two science fiction conventions in 1971 and 1972, which were not yet called VCon. In 1973, following a successful SF convention in Bellingham which attracted over 30 people from Vancouver, a number of local fans decided to start regular monthly meetings and build up BCSFA into an active fan organization. Following a number of meetings at Pat Burrows' during the summer of 1973, and with the assistance of a newsletter sent out by Mike Bailey, the October 1973 meeting at Chuck and Edna Davis' drew a record 35 people and was the first really successful meeting of BCSFA.

The planning for another SF convention in Vancouver was getting underway at this time. The conventions in 1971 and 1972 (there was none in 1973) were small affairs of around 100 people. For 1974, a much larger convention was planned. In the fall of 1973, at one of the first meeting to organize this convention, suggestions for a name were considered. Chuck came up with the name VCon, which we have used ever since.

Although Chuck's other activities took precedence and he was less and less involved in SF fandom and conventions through the mid-to-late-'80s, I still remember with admiration and fondness his kindness and patience with a lot of unruly and argumentative fans in their early-to-mid-20s, and his willingness to help create an organization that we can look back on with much pride.

Ed Beauregard

Saturday 8 January 2011

Zines Received

'Opuntia' #70.1C (January 2011). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Reviewzine issue.

"Tangibles" reviews *Commodities for Dummies* by Amine Bouchentouf, plus adds a lot of good explanation about investing. As usual, Dale's style is clear, readable, and interesting, though about a third of the concepts simply required more systematizing intelligence than I possess.

"Alternative History Reviews" reviews *Steampunk Prime*, edited by Mike Ashley, an anthology of steampunk stories from the steampunk era itself. Henry Herling's "Mr. Broadbent's Information" sounds good; I would read it. "From Pole to Pole" has a scary premise for baraphobes like me. There's a tunnel that goes through the hollow Earth from pole to pole. Some explorers drop into it in their craft, pick up

enough speed to shoot past the centre, get almost to the other side, and deploy balloons to float them the rest of the way—but when it turns out they’re still too heavy, someone has to get out.

Also: “Seen in the Literature” (passages in scientific journals noticed by Dale).

‘Opuntia’ #70.1D (February 2011). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Reviewzine issue.

“Book Reviews” reviews *Uranium: War, Energy, and the Rock That Shaped the World* by Tom Zoellner, *Fiat Money Inflation in France* by Andrew Dickson White.

“Thar She Blows!” reviews volcano movies *Dante’s Peak* (1997; the one with Pierce Brosnan), *Volcano* (1997; the one with Tommy Lee Jones), *Disaster Zone: Volcano in New York* (2006), *Krakatoa: East of Java* (1969), *Magma: Volcanic Disaster* (2006); also TV episodes “Crack of Doom” from *The Time Tunnel* and “The Cherry Blossom Affair” from *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* (I bet Veronica’s jealous.)

“The State of Zinedom” updates Dale’s zine tally for 2010. As you might expect, there are fewer paper zines every year.

E-Zines Received

‘Dark Matter’ #2 (January 2011). Published by Nalini Haynes, PO Box 144, Lynbrook, Victoria, Australia 3975, darkmatterfanzine@gmail.com, [Facebook](#), [eFanzines](#). “News”; “Articles”; “Letters”; “Reviews”; “Anime/Animation”; “Book Reviews”; “Game Gambit”; “Media Watch”; “Movie Mayhem”; “Club Information.” 124 pages! For a more complete list of contents, visit the link above.

‘Space Cadet’ #14 (January 2011). Published by R. Graeme Cameron, rgraeme@shaw.ca, [eFanzines](#).

“This Is Why I Retired” (cover photo)“The Ghod-Editor Speaks (Editorial): Gafiation or Retirement?” The photo is of a burnt-out, depressed Graeme, whose job was killing him. Fortunately, he can now afford to retire. I hope this means we get to see him at club meetings—and that he doesn’t have to leave early so he can wake up at 4:00 AM!

“Confessions of an SF Addict: The Long Road to Retirement”: The startling story of Graeme’s *first* job, at a dangerous adult bookstore.

“Media Maelstrom: Retro Film Review: *The Invisible Ray* (1936)”: I was planning to start doing one retro film review per month (focusing heavily on the 1980s), but I may have to come up with a new title for the column! Graeme’s review was also a recap, with the occasional dry comment. Enjoyable.

“Afterwords”: “Here’s a still of a very rare Frankenstein indeed. Can you guess who it is?” It looks like a much meatier Howard Hesseman, but that can’t be it.

Also: “Confessions of a Book Addict: *The Narrow Road to the Deep North and Other Travel Sketches* by Matsuo Bashō” (review); “Fanatical Fanniche Fables: Herbie” (Tara Wayne); “The Numbers Game: The Whole OSFiC Bibliography” [Ontario Science Fiction Club] (Tara Wayne); “Clippings from Canada” (Leslie A. Crouch); “Filthy Prodom Stuff: First Issues: Space Stories” (Terry Jeeves); “Corus-

cating Conundrums!: Ask Mr. Science!” (Mr. Science via Al Betz); “Ask Mr. Guess-It-All!” (Mr. Guess-It-All via R. Graeme Cameron); “Histrionic History Stuff: A Pocket Full of Histories: Coin Notes” (Taral Wayne); “Letters of Comment: Ook Ook, Slobber Drool!”; “Colophon.”

Layout criticism: the file properties (presumably left over from when Graeme was editor of *this* zine!) need to be changed so it doesn’t say “BCSFazine” at the top of the PDF. There are also “widowed” headlines on pages four and twenty-one (though if you think of the document as one continuous scroll, they’re not widows).

Art criticism: I like the illo on page five—very 1980s Macintosh!

‘Statement’ #381 (January 2011). Published by the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 26076–72 Robertson Road, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2H 9R6, osfs@ncf.ca, <http://osfs.ncf.ca>. Edited by Grant Duff. “Happy New Year”; “Movies Coming to the Mayfair January/Coming Soon to a Cineplex”; “Space Station Excursions for Sale in 2013”; “Literary News”; “Science News” (“Neanderthals Cooked and Ate Vegetables ”/“Astronomy” (“Habitable Planet Find Doubted by B.C. Scientist”) /“Exploding Stars”/“For Your Viewing Pleasure”; “ ‘Harry Potter’: Quidditch for Muggles”; “ ‘Doctor Who’: New Line of Action Figures, Bobble Heads, and Collectibles”; “Second Chance to Watch the Best Films from the Ottawa International Animation Festival 2010”; “ ‘Quantum Quest’ to Premiere at Star Trek Exhibition.”

‘WCSFazine’ #21 (January 2011). Published by R. Graeme Cameron, Apt. 72G–13315 104th Ave, Surrey, B.C., V3T 1V5, rgraeme@shaw.ca, [eFanzines](http://eFanzines.com). “The Fannish E-Zine of the West Coast Science Fiction Association—Dedicated to Promoting VCON, Canada’s Oldest Continuing SF Convention.”

“Convention History Articles”: “VCON 34, October 2–4, 2009, Part Two” (“THE MONSTER CRAZE!”): It’s always interesting to hear (or read) Graeme talk about B-movies and related hobbies. This article deals with all the permutations of the monster craze of the ’50s and ’60s: the movies, the magazines, the models, the horror hosts, the novelty songs, and the duelling sitcoms.

Also: Editorial; “VCON 36 News”; “Super Science Stuff” (Mr. Science & Mr. Guess-It-All); “Fandom News & Notes”; “Letters of Comment”; “Important Stuff”; “VCON 36 Complete Information.”

‘The Fortnightly Fix’ #17 (31 January 2011). Edited by Steve Green, steve.green@livejournal.com, [eFanzines](http://eFanzines.com).

“News from Planet Me”: Steve’s friend Noel Chidwick has a band called Arbelos. This makes me think of Arblus from *Transformers: The Movie*.

Also: “The Body Politic”; “Down the Loccol.”

‘Auroran Lights’/‘CSFFazine’ #1 (February 2011). Published by R. Graeme Cameron, rgraeme@shaw.ca, [eFanzines](http://eFanzines.com). “The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association—Dedicated to Promoting the Prix Aurora Awards and the History of Canadian Fandom.”

I enjoyed reading this zine and am glad that it exists. I feel pride at the fact that fan history goes back so far, and it’s good that it’s recorded.

“Fanatic Fanniche Fanactivity”: Graeme writes: “I envision *Auroran Lights* as a monthly encapsulation, a snapshot as it were, of what is happening, is about to happen, and in fact did happen long ago, in the Canadian fan community. Hopefully this is of interest to contemporary fans.” Yes!

Also: “Editorial”; “CSFFA News & Announcements”; “Fallacious Fannish History Articles”; “Fabled Fandom News & Notes”; “Frenetic Fanzine Reviews”; “Stuttering Stratospheric Static”; “Terribly Important Stuff.”

Layout criticism: the file properties need to be changed from “BCSFAzine” to “Auroran Lights.”

Font criticism: Can’t go wrong with Times New Roman, and I like the use of small capitals in headlines.

Art criticism: I like the 1980s-Macintosh-style art in *this* zine, too (page six)!

‘Ethel the Aardvark’ #152 (February/March 2011). Published by the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 23047, Docklands, Melbourne 8012, Australia, ethel-aardvark@yahoo.com.au, <http://www.msfc.sf.org.au/>. Edited by Sam Rooney.

Doctor Who

I miss this font.

“Why Superman Does Not Have Facebook”; “Upcoming Conventions”; “Absolute Power” (Presidentorial/Editorial); “Letters to Ethel”; “Fantasy Novels: A Quadrilogy in Ten Parts”; “Book Review” (*The Universal Parallel* by Traci Harding); “Riddle Me This” (crostic—I love the use of Geneva 10-point in the instructions!); “DVD Review[s]” [*A Million* (2009); *Cronos* (1993)—I’ve always regretted not watching that]; “Book Review[s]” [*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare; *Zatanna* (comic series); *Blackout* and *All Clear* by Connie Willis; *The Last Dragonslayer* by Jasper Fforde]; “MSFC Meeting Details”/“2011: The Year We Make Change” (calendars).

Layout criticism: PDF zines should be single-column or landscape format to prevent having to scroll down, up, down, up, down and up to read an article. Also, wider gutters are needed to prevent this: “This issue’s template is based endorsed by the DWCV committee to unite the science fiction upon Sonic Screwdriver, the and editors. We believe all the community and to show just how DWCV magazine; its use is fully clubs should be working together well we can do working together.”

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art.....	Pages 1, 3, 5, 7
Ed McArdle (sampled from).....	Page 25
<u>José Sanchez</u>	Page 26



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