

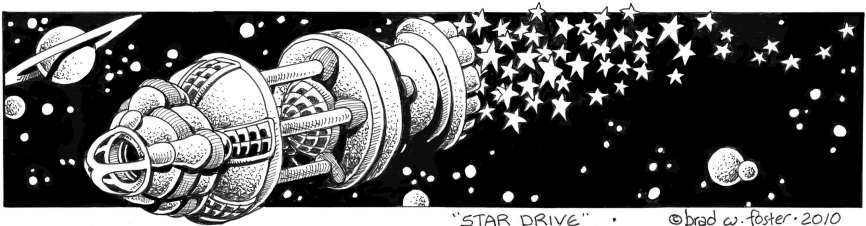
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#457

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June 2011



"STAR DRIVE" ©brad w. foster 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, 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 19 June @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. (*July meeting* is Sunday 17 July 2011, same hours, same location.)

Thursday 16 June @ 7 PM:

June 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 *Leviathans of Jupiter* by Ben Bova. (*July discussion* is *Burning Chrome* by William Gibson, Thursday 21 July 2011, same hours, same location.)—**Doug Finnerty**

Friday 24 June:

'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 Assc (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/) and BCSFAnet (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcsfanet/>).

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

B. Francis
b-francis@sympatico.ca

Monday 13 June 2011

Anybody watch...

Beauty Day at the Mayfair or *Cell 213* out in Kanata? Curious because I worked on them. *Beauty Day* is highly recommended—documentary about this genial lunatic named Captain Video who had a cable show in the '90s. He set his face on fire, snorted raw eggs up his nose, tried to ski down a clothesline (the pole fell on him) and jump into a pool (hit the concrete, broke his neck). Yet somehow he lived and this charming movie shows a gentle, thoughtful man who's done the best with the trials life has given him. A slight movie about a slight subject, but very honest & human. (Warning—he does show the egg thing onscreen—yeeech.)

Cell 213 is a ghost story about a hot-shot lawyer who gets sent to the same pen he sent many another cons. The only problem is—his cell's haunted. Unremittingly grey and grim, it does boast some very cool gross-out effects & a very effective industrial soundtrack. The director's spent two years getting this one distributed, but it's actually rather good for fans of the J-horror thing (now why is it playing out in the boonies?)

Happy viewing.

John Purcell
j_purcell54@yahoo.com

Wednesday 15 June 2011

Hello, Felicity!

Sometimes I wonder how long certain clubzines have been published. Whenever I see an issue numbered in the high hundreds—like this one—it croggles me a bit. When did *BCSFAzine* begin? If I do the math correctly, provided this fanzine is pubbed once a month, that equals out to 38 years of continuous monthly publication. If that is true, then what an incredible run for a zine! I just thought I'd mention this out of the gate.

[*Your math is right! I asked our president/archivist, R. Graeme Cameron, and he confirmed that BCSFAzine started in 1973!*]

In your response to Lloyd Penney's loc you mentioned that you tried watching the new *Dr. Who* and said that it didn't grab you. I have to agree. My wife and I have tried watching it and didn't like it. As for *Fringe*, *V*, and *The Event*, I haven't liked the first two and have yet to see the last one. The problem for me as an SF fan watching television sci-fi, which deserves to be labeled as such, is that I believe my tastes have become more sophisticated and mature over the years. I guess that makes sense. Case in point: at first, I liked *Stargate Universe* when it first debuted—great premise and special effects—but it quickly lost its appeal because it fell into a repetitive rut of the same storyline episode after episode. The acting also came across as very stereotyped and wooden, which killed it even more. Even having John Scalzi

working on the show in an advisory role couldn't save it. But that's how the medium works. What the Powers That Be think science fiction should be for the home theater, those of us who really care about the genre differ quite differently in view. And never the twain shall meet. Oh, well. I still try to keep abreast of shows on television—including cable channels—in order to stay informed, but my tastes have become much more discerning.

Lots of stuff going on in your calendar listing. Wish my area was as active as yours, but that's okay. My wife and I are gearing up for a few cons in this neck of the woods: Apollocon (Houston, TX) is a week and a half way now, with Armadillocon over in Austin, Texas is in late August, followed by our definite biggie, Fencon/DeepSouthCon in Dallas at the end of September. Valerie (my wife) is getting more of her wearable art ready for the art show there. She did very well at Aggiecon (March 25–27 of this year) and has already reserved display space for her wares. We shall see how things go there.

With that, I shall sign off for now. Take care, and thank you for posting this to efazines. I definitely appreciate it.

All the best,

John Purcell

“I have great faith in fools; self-confidence my friends call it.”

Edgar Allan Poe

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Wednesday 15 June 2011

Here we are again in *BCSFazine* land! It's the magic issue number #456 that I am commenting on this time. It's like an issue number from *Sesame Street*!

Glad David Haren is not as dead as dying would lead one to believe. I had no idea we had a feline correspondent. I guess it's true, on the Internet nobody knows you're a Manx Cat.

Re: Lloyd Penney's comments about my thoughts about fandom (this is getting meta): I tend to view cons as a sort of solo activity in that I don't plan what events I am going to attend with my friends. But I am always happy to see people I know there. And to me, the meat of the convention is the discussion panels. I have a nearly inexhaustible appetite for stimulating conversation with interesting people, and so to me, a good science fiction convention is like a marvelous intellectual buffet.

If it was just about the dealer's room and the art show, well, I just wouldn't go.

Love the calendar entry for “post Rapture looting” on May 21. When you think about it, the guilt-free disappearance of millions of people at the same time would certainly create some economic opportunities. It would be like the Black Death, but without the corpses and the dying and the creepy nursery rhymes.

I am currently plowing through Series 8 of *Red Dwarf*. It's sad how the show's budget kept going up as the quality of the comedy kept going down. Leaves a bad taste in the mouth. So I am not exactly thrilled to find out they are going to make still more *Red Dwarf*. The trend is not a positive one.

And a Seth MacFarlane reboot of *The Flintstones*? He's not going to be happy until he squeezes out all other animation on Sunday night, is he?

Watch your back, *Bob's Burgers* and *The Simpsons*!

That's it for me this month...see you next month, all you wonderful people!

Dave Haren

Thursday 16 June 2011

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Hi Felicity.

Here's the short version of my gafiation...GRIN.

4/3: Into the hospital emergency. They say it is a heart attack and a stroke. Transferred to another hospital. Angioplasty (the minimally invasive working through the femoral artery finds bad news and gives me classic heart attack symptoms).

4/12: Five-way bypass done (this is the dead part since they stop your heart to do it). Also got a carotid artery cleaned out. Recuperation with lots of tubes and needling usually right when able to nap.

Out of the hospital (stroke symptoms are fading into a bad memory). Blood pressure drug works to increase instead of decrease.

Off to hospital again. Three more days in stroke unit this time.

Home for four hours. Test blood pressure after taking drug to lower it. Get a 200+ reading.

Off to emergency where it peaks at 234 for the high. In hospital again while they try different drugs for two days.

Back home again. Blood thinner causes internal bleeding. GRIN (this is the second beastly drug reaction).

However, I still live.

If you're planning to be away from fandom, I do not recommend this method.

I have tossed the walker, given away the cane, and have some very impressive duelling scars to show off.

Jane Fancher in the meantime has found a new way to turn green. She used internal bleeding and needed a transfusion. I recommended body paint next time. There is a limit to sacrifice for your art.

She is posting cute kitten pictures and bridge building which indicates a recovery.

Wave Without a Shore has CJ Cherryh's account of the oil taxes that flow from a writer's pen, in case you thought the bureaucrats have become smarter.

Warmest regards,

Dave Haren (Zombie Great Grandpa)

[I wish you a rapid and comfortable recovery!]

Ms. Kathleen Moore

Sunday 19 June 2011

Chèr Felicity,

There is a small error in footnote 2 to the "News-Like Matter" (page 8) of the May *BCSFazine*.

The GST was introduced in December 1990, not January 1991.

KRM (Bookkeeper of Law & Chaos)

(I remember...and hate it still...)

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

Saturday 25 June 2010



Dear Felicity:

On a quiet and hot Saturday afternoon, I've had one voicework audition today, and it has been a tiring day. Time to relax a little and get caught up on other things, like fanzines. Here's a quick letter of comment on *BCSFAzine* 456.

Feeling that the world is coming apart at the seams is a function of society winding down, IMHO, but also a function of getting older, as society becomes less recognizable. Yup, suffering from oldfartitis. The whole world is nuts, sez I.

Still have to vote for the Reno Worldcon Hugos, but there is yet time. With some luck, we can start voting for the Auroras, too. We did go to this year's Anime North, but only for the Saturday, and it was a madhouse, with estimated 20,000 in attendance. With no offence to those who run the convention, we might find something smaller next year...there's a steampunk convention in the Detroit area, and we may go to that.

The April BCSFA meeting minutes...I was amused to see that you needed footnotes to explain to non-BCians what some of the terms used were. I guess no more having to explain what Ickybicky and Brick shares are or were, hm? I've been away too long...

[I guessed that "Ickybicky" is ICBC, but had to look up "Brick shares." I thought it meant the furniture chain.]

A reboot of the Flintstones? I don't know...I guess there would have to be a Bedrock version of Lady Gaga and Justin Bieber, and most of the other highly visible people in today's pop culture.

At the end of April/beginning of May, we attended the Canadian National Steampunk Exhibition in Markham, just outside of Toronto. The event was a lot of fun, and I gather it was financially successful, but it looks like it will be a one-shot. A shame, but there may be other activities soon coming up.

Our next convention is Polaris 25, where we have two dealers' tables, and then the Reno Worldcon (yes, we are going! Finally finalized it!), and then the CanVenCon in SFContario 2 in Toronto. With that, I am done, and the news is coming on. Take care, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Spider Robinson.

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

June 2011

June is National Adopt a Cat Month and Bathroom Reading Month.

2 June 2011: **Lloyd Penney's** birthday.

3 June 2011: **Karl Johanson's** birthday. Premiere of film *X-Men: First Class* (superhero; January Jones, Kevin Bacon, Oliver Platt, Ray Wise).

4 June 2011: **Andrew Brechin's** birthday. Hug Your Cat Day.

5 June 2011: **Alyssa Foote's** birthday.

7 June and 5 July 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

9 June 2011: *Jurassic Park*—Curse Your Sudden But Inevitable Betrayal, 6:30 PM at Denman Place Cinemas, 1779 Comox (at Denman), Vancouver, BC. Jurassic Park. Big screen. That's it. Actually, the reason why Jurassic Park is making a come back to the big screen this time is to raise funds for the Ride to Conquer Cancer! Tickets are \$12 including a regular popcorn and pop! (Cash at the door only.) There will be 50/50 (and additional prizes if you purchase 50/50 tickets), dinosaurs, and tons of fun.—Keith Lim

9 June 2011: Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

9 June and 14 July 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

10 June 2011: Premiere of films *Super 8* (SF/mystery/thriller; written/directed by J.J. Abrams) and *Trollhunter* (supernatural/action).

10–12 June 2011: The Official *Star Trek* Convention: The Celebration of the 45th Anniversary at Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. “Join celebrity guests and fellow fans in honoring Gene Roddenberry’s enduring legacy of a positive future for mankind[.]” Special guests: Brent Spiner, Nichelle Nichols, J.G. Hertzler, Gwynyth Walsh, Robert O’Reilly, Barbara March, Rene Auberjonois, Alan Scarfe, Connor Trinneer, Dominic Keating. With Richard Arnold, Sunday Morning Klingon Breakfast, trivia challenge, cocktail party & centerpiece contest, costume parade, music video contest. [*Tickets from \$20 (general admission single days) to \$249 (gold weekend admission package).*]—Keith Lim

11 June 2011: **Kathleen Moore** and **Ray Seredin**’s birthdays.

11 June 2011: Yarn Bomb and Prosper, 1 PM at Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. Improving the urban landscape, one stitch at a time. June 11th is the first International Yarn Bombing Day. Meet in Metropolis: the *Star Trek* Convention is at the Sheraton Wall Centre, so I think that’s where Geeks should gather to knit/crochet and yarnbomb. Could be we knit *Tribbles!*—Keith Lim

11 June 2011: Charity Frag-Fest and BBQ, 4 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. To provide fire support for Laura’s part in the Ride to Conquer Cancer, we will be holding a fun gaming tournament for all ages and skill levels. You are invited to take the fight to the foe using the weapons of the 26th Century, in *Halo: Reach*. An epic series of battles will be played out on *two* large screens, *eight* Spartans at a time. In addition to playing to beat cancer, and the chance to claim the glory of the victor’s laurels, there will be a bonus in the form of “phat lewt” to be unlocked. That is to say: sweet swag. The awards will include several *Halo*-themed collectibles, such as a deluxe Hunter figure valued at \$100 (approx). *But wait—there’s more!* Yes, there will be a BBQ happening on the patio, including veggie options. There will also be a raffle draw and *Halo* board-game session with prize, for those who prefer dice to joysticks. GeekCraft/Dr. Who Meet-up/Vancouver RPer/BC Browncoats.—Keith Lim

12 June 2011: Finishing *Toradora*, 12 PM at Joyce Skytrain Station, Joyce Street at Vanness Avenue, Burnaby, BC. We are back again for more tiger palm action!! This meetup is a followup to the Valentines Romcom meetup we had about two months ago. We are continuing where we left and are hoping to finish the series. I called upon the help of Sniffum to help host as she did for the prior meetup. We are hoping that hosting at her place will allow the people who came last time to attend again as they’ll already know where to go. Thanks to her again for her help. © And of course we will be calling upon the twins [*to*] provide the series to us so we can watch it. We’ll make this a potluck event again. Please mention in you RSVP what you intend to bring so we can have a good variety so food and snacks.—Keith Lim

12 June 2011: Tweed Ride and Tweed Picnic, 12–1:30 PM at Second Beach, Stanley Park, Vancouver, BC. A leisurely ride in Victorian, Edwardian, steampunk and flapper era retro fashions, ending in a picnic. Moustaches (real or fake) welcome. Genderbending appreciated. Retro bikes are nice too. Start at Second Beach in Stan-

ley Park, riding along the Seawall East to Carrall Street, then North on Carrall to the Gassy Jack's statue in Gastown to hang out for a bit and take pictures with old architecture, then back South on Carrall ending with a BYOF picnic in Andy Livingstone park in Chinatown (Taylor and Keefer). Bring your own picnic food and drink or buy something at T&T or the mall.—[Keith Lim](#)

12 June 2011: [Doctor Who Episode 7](#), and anything else Whovian, 5 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Some more New *Who!* And some classic if people would like to watch as well. Episode 7 only for the new stuff as the BBC will be airing the rest of the series in September.—[Keith Lim](#)

17 June 2011: Premiere of film *Green Lantern* (superhero; Ryan Reynolds, Blake Lively, Peter Sarsgaard, Temuera Morrison, Geoffrey Rush, Michael Clarke Duncan, Tim Robbins, Angela Bassett).

17 June 2011: [Batman \(1989\) + Batman \(1966\)](#), 11:30 PM at Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver, BC, V5N 1W1. *Cult classic midnight movies*: the Rio Theatre & Black Dog Video present midnight movies *every Friday!!!* Your *only* chance to see these classics on the big screen!!! Admission is \$8/\$7 in costume. 35 mm prints when available. Costumes!!! Contests!!! Prizes!!! Doors open at 11:30. Show starts @ midnight sharp!!!—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2011: [Reaver Dancer Costumes & T-Shirts](#), 3 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. We know the dance, but we'll have another practice (or two) before our first actual performance (in front of people other than the Crafty Geeks—who totally applauded after our last rehearsal). Possible performances include CSTS on July 25th, the annual Vancouver ZombieWalk on August 20th, and of course the big event: Thrill the World on October 29th. I plan to register the Reaver Dance Troupe as a group. We also need to work on our reaver costumes and screen print our Troupe t-shirts.—[Keith Lim](#)

19 June 2011: [Reaver Dancers Dress Rehearsal](#), 4:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Some of us will be gathering at the Caffè at 3 PM to print our “Reaver Dancer” T-shirts and work on our dance costumes. Anyone is welcome to print a shirt—BYOS (shirt). At 4:30 PM we'll break to have another full dance rehearsal.—[Keith Lim](#)

21 June 2011: World Wide Party #18, 21h00 your local time. Toast your fellow zinesters in the Papernet.—Dale Speirs

22 June 2011: [Trigun: Badlands Rumble Bulletproof Meetup](#), 6:15 PM at SilverCity at Metrotown Metropolis, 4700 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC. It is movie time again at our favorite mall!! Metrotown!! It is a one nice only extravaganza that must not be missed by any anime fans. It is *Trigun*. A series that's been around in serial form for a long time and is now getting a movie. It mixes gun fights, humor, and silly drama

into a techy Western setting. It has been confirmed that this show will be Japanese language with English subtitles.—[Keith Lim](#)

23 June 2011: **Amos Iu**'s birthday.

24 June 2011: Premiere of film *Cars 2* (computer animation; Owen Wilson, Larry the Cable Guy, Michael Caine, Joe Mantegna, Cheech Marin, Franco Nero, John Ratzenberger, Darrell Waltrip, Jeff Gordon, John Turturro, Bruce Campbell, Tony Shalhoub, Eddie Izzard, Brent Musberger).

24–26 June 2011: [StarCon](#), a corporate convention. Tickets are \$250–270 for full admission to the convention. Guests: Michael K. Anderson, Pierre Bernard Jr., Patricia A. Beninati, Bill Butt, Barry Campbell, Frank Cassini, Mike Dopud, Aaron Douglas, Colin Ferguson, Peter Flemming, Barclay Hope, Peter Kelamis, Peter Kent, Niall Matter, Stephen E. Miller, Aleks Paunovic, Dan Payne, Ed Quinn, Jerry Rector, Dan Shea, Christopher Shyer, Cliff Simon, Craig Veroni, and Alex Zahara. It seems to take place somewhere in Richmond in three hotels, two of which are actually named but with no addresses given. Other/more specific information is presumably buried somewhere on the website.—[Felicity Walker](#) **StarCon has been postponed**. Due to a sudden medical emergency, it has become necessary to postpone StarCon 2011 to a later date. “There will be some changes to the convention since some of the actors who were available for StarCon in June, may no longer be available at the new date. However, we are talking to another convention company for possible partnership which will add more events and excitement to our convention,” said StarCon 2011 organizer Patricia Stewart-Bertrand. “As soon as we have a new date and location, we will inform everyone.” [Auroris Entertainment/Facebook](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

25 June 2011: **Ed Beauregard**'s birthday.

25 June 2011: Can't Stop the *Serenity* 2011, 11 AM–6 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre, 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. The main event will be the screening of Joss Whedon's *Serenity*. We're also going to be singing along to *Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog*, watching episodes of some local webseries, playing trivia, and maybe having a couple of surprises! [Serenity Screening Van./BC Brown-coats Meetup](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

25 June 2011: [Anime at the Roundhouse: Claymore](#), 12 PM at Roundhouse Community Centre, 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver, BC. Unfortunately I can't reserve a room as they go entirely by a drop-in basis. We may get a room right away or we'll have to wait some time for a room to become available upon which we can use it. There is three rooms that have HD TVs and DVD players in them which would suit our purposes just fine. The other room we would unfortunately need our own equipment for it. If we have to wait a while for a room or don't get a room at all there is a sushi place called “Sushi Maro” at 220 Davie Street which is a short distance away. Worst case scenario we'll end up there for some socializing and sushi. Brian will be lending us his box set of the show which we'll have at least two hours to watch. Hopefully more if we are lucky.—[Keith Lim](#)

25–26 June 2011: Vancouver Mini Maker Faire, at Great Northern Way Campus, 577 Great Northern Way, Vancouver, BC, V5T 1E1. Vancouver Mini Maker Faire is a two-day celebration of making and creating. It's an all-ages family festival promoting the ethos of DIY on a large scale. Vancouver Mini Maker Faire will take you through an inspiring, energetic and captivating range of exhibits, including workshops, performances, displays, and a speaker series. Some of the features include pyrotechnics, kinetic sculptures, interactive musical installations, and 3D printers that can print themselves. Interaction booths stationed throughout will centre around education: teaching people how to complete a circuit, spin wool, or smoke bacon!—Keith Lim

26 June 2011: Annual 13th Colony BBQ with Viper Retiring, 2 PM at Boundary Bay Regional Park, 300–498 Boundary Bay Rd., Delta, BC. How to find us: We'll be waving colonial flags. We failed to get the job done in January, so let's try again to retire our Viper in style! We're not going for the dusk burning (like in the show), because the park closes just after dusk. We'll do potluck BBQ. Please declare what you'd like to bring in your RSVP. We had a blast last year at Cates Park. Don't miss out!—Keith Lim

26 June and 31 July 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

26 June 2011: Backstage with the Fifth Column, 6:30 PM at the Backstage Lounge on Granville Island, 1585 Johnston Street, Vancouver, BC. Talented Vancouver actor Mark Hildreth will be giving his first live concert since 2009 here in Vancouver. You know Mark as the Fifth Column sympathizer Joshua in *V*. You've also seen him on *Andromeda*, *The Dead Zone*, *Taken*, *The Collector*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, *Eureka*, *Supernatural*, and *The Tudors*, as well as countless other shows and movies, and you've heard his voice on a dozen animated TV shows. You might not know that he is an accomplished musician who taught himself to sing and play the piano at the age of 10. Mark's first album, *Complex State of Attachment*, is an instantly hummable collection of pop/R&B songs rife with heart, honesty, and groove. Mark Hildreth will be performing with Nat Jay and Greg Sczebel at the Backstage Lounge on June 26th, 2011 at 8 PM. Doors open at 7 PM. We will meet out front of the Arts Club Theatre (the venue is just on the backside) at 6:30 PM, there is a sign with benches at the edge of a small parking lot. \$10 at the door. Backstage Lounge/BC Browncoats.—Keith Lim

28 June 2011: **Toren Atkinson's** birthday.

30 June 2011: Meteor Day.

July 2011

1 July 2011: Premiere of film *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* (SF/action/raping my childhood; Shia LaBeouf, Hugo Weaving, Frances McDormand, Patrick Dempsey, John Malkovich, Leonard Nimoy, John Turturro, Alan Tudyk, Peter Cullen, Frank Welker, Tom Kenny, James Avery, Glenn Morshower, Kevin Dunn, Charles Adler, Jess Harnell).

2–3 July 2011: NCIX UBC *StarCraft* Cup, qualification phase, 11 AM–6 PM at Room 260 & 261, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC. Check-in: 11–11:45 AM. Wrap-up: 6 PM. Registration fee: \$10 for UBC *StarCraft* Club members; \$15 for non-members. Bring your own computer. E-mail ubcstarcraft@hotmail.com. See “News-Like Matter” for more details.—Julian Castle

8 July 2011: **Aaron Harrison**’s birthday. Premiere of films *Zookeeper* (talking animals; Kevin James, Rosario Dawson, Donnie Wahlberg, Joe Rogan, Nicholas Turturro, Nick Nolte, Adam Sandler, Sylvester Stallone, Cher, Judd Apatow, Jon Favreau, Maya Rudolph, Don Rickles, Jim Breuer) and *The Ward* (supernatural/horror).

8 July 2011: NCIX UBC *StarCraft* Cup, final event, 6–9 PM at Room 101 & 110, Hugh Dempster Pavilion, UBC. Registration fee: \$10 for UBC *StarCraft* Club members; \$15 for non-members. Bring your own computer. E-mail ubcstarcraft@hotmail.com. See “News-Like Matter” for more details.—Julian Castle

9 July 2011: High Tea with Colin Upton, a Book Launch for *The Collected Diabetes Funnies*, 4–6 PM at Lucky’s Comics & Art Gallery, 3972 Main Street, Vancouver. *Diabetes Funnies* is an auto-bio about Colin dealing with having diabetes. “Tea and comics with cartoonist, painter, miniaturist, 3D artist, writer, lecturer, wargamer, radio broadcaster, animist/iconoclast, illustrator, flanager, your host, Colin Upton!” Facebook/Article about Colin and the series/Collection selling at Lulu. “Also included is an epilogue not available in any other form.”—Julian Castle

10 July 2011: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM to 5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Avenue). Featuring: Ed Brisson (*Murder Book, Acts of Violence*), Ken Boesem (*The Village*), Derek DeLand (*Copyright Infringers*), Kim Glenzie (*Emily & Zola*), Sarah Herman (*Play*), Albert Art, Mary Karraplis, Carrie McKay, Beth Wagner, Gurukitty Studios, Monster Attack Team Canada, and others! Dealer tables: \$40/centre; \$50/wall. Hourly door prizes! Admission: \$4.00; kids under 14: free. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. Follow us on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/vancomicon>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>.—Leonard S. Wong

10 July 2011: Creative Geeks: *Harry Potter* Friendship Bracelets, 1 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “Most of us have finished our Hogwarts House scarves, but we probably won’t be wearing them to the release of the second part of *Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows*, which

opens in theatres on July 15, 2011. This time, to get us psyched up and ready for the movie, Priya is going to show us how to make friendship bracelets in Hogwarts House colours.”—[Keith Lim](#)

15 July 2011: Premiere of film *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* (fantasy; Gary Oldman, Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, John Hurt, David Thewlis, Robbie Coltrane, Miranda Richardson, Timothy Spall, Jim Broadbent, Warwick Davis) and *Winnie the Pooh* (animation/furry; Craig Ferguson, John Cleese, Jim Cummings, Tom Kenny).

16 July 2011: [Emily Con](#), 11 AM–4 PM at Emily Carr Concourse Gallery. “Free and open to the public.” “As part of the Art of Comics, our summer Graphic Novel Institute, Continuing Studies at Emily Carr is hosting Emily Con, a...comic book convention. The Con will have many local guests in attendance showcasing their comics, zines, and artwork...The Emily Carr Library will be hosting a graphic novel reading room in the Concourse Gallery, as well as a series of short discussions and demonstrations.” Free public lectures + demonstrations in the Library. Comic Colour Theory—12:30–1:30 PM—lecture by Dave McCaig, professional comic book colourist. Make Your Own Damn Comic!—1:30–2:30 PM—panel by Ed Brisson, Kevin Leeson, Todd Ireland, and Colin Upton, independent comic book publishers. The Illustrated Language of Comics (Demo)—2:30–3:30 PM—demonstration by Robin Thompson, graphic novelist and educator.—[Julian Castle](#)

17 July 2011: [Crafty Geeks go see Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2](#), 3 PM at SilverCity at Metrotown Metropolis, 4700 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC. On Sunday July 17th. A matinee performance? Maybe at Metrotown?—[Keith Lim](#)

20 July 2011: **Julie McGalliard**’s birthday.

22 July 2011: Premiere of films *Captain America: The First Avenger* (superhero; Hugo Weaving, Stanley Tucci, Tommy Lee Jones, Neal McDonough, Samuel L. Jackson) and *Another Earth* (drama/SF?).

23 July 2011: [MiniComi](#), 10 AM at UBC: University of British Columbia (Student Union Building Ballroom), Student Union Boulevard, BC. 10 AM–5 PM (market), 7–8:30 PM (concert). MiniComi is a one-day artists’ market inspired by those in Japan (eg. Comiket), held on Saturday July 23rd, 2011 in the Ballroom of the Student Union Building at the University of British Columbia. Artists will bring a wide variety of items for sale. This may include self-published comics, doujinshi (fan comics), doujinSoft (we’re hoping), prints, pins, jewellery, plushies and many other creative things that only artists and crafts people (crafty people?) can think of. Like Comiket in Japan, Cosplay is most welcomed! Final aNix will be playing the after concert at MiniComi, details to follow. [MiniComi/GeekCraft](#).—[Julian Castle/Keith Lim](#)

28 July 2011: **Adam Charlesworth** and **Robin Bougie**’s birthdays.

29 July 2011: Premiere of films *Cowboys and Aliens* (action/SF; Daniel Craig, Harrison Ford, Sam Rockwell, Clancy Brown, Adam Beach, Toby Huss), *The Smurfs* (computer animation; Neil Patrick Harris, Hank Azaria, Jonathan Winters, Katy Perry, Alan Cumming, George Lopez, Paul Reubens, Kenan Thompson, Jeff Foxworthy, Wolfgang Puck, Fred Armisen, Anton Yelchin, John Oliver, Tim Gunn), *Attack the Block* (SF/comedy/action; Nick Frost), and *The Future* (drama/SF?).

29 July–1 August 2011: BC Renaissance Festival, Thunderbird Show Park, 24550 72nd Avenue, Langley, BC. 5th Annual BC Renfest. The BC Renaissance Festival is a group of dedicated performers, entertainers, actors, artisans, volunteers and vendors with the dream of establishing a permanent site Renaissance Festival here in British Columbia. Friday 29 July (½ day 12–6 PM): \$8 adults, \$6 child/senior; Saturday 30 July–Monday 1 August (full day 9 AM–9 PM): \$15 adults, \$10 child/senior.—Keith Lim

31 July 2011: **Felicity Walker**'s birthday.

News-Like Matter

Notes from May BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Ray Seredin (host), Graeme Cameron (president), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Felicity Walker (editor), William Graham, Stew Smyth, and Garth Spencer.

Graeme hadn't received the BCSFA archives' two copies of each *BCSFAzine* since VCON (last October), so I gave him the missing issues. There was only one copy left of one issue.

Garth arrived, accepted the copies of *BCSFAzine* #455 to take to White Dwarf books, and left.

Graeme said that the French Auroras were being awarded at Boreal tonight.

There was discussion of old grudges left over from conventions decades ago, but there was too much cross-talk to follow it. Kathleen facetiously summarized it as "90% gossip and the rest impossible."

Stew reported that his cat had solved his mice problem. However, the cat and Stew are looking for a new apartment, preferably before Monday 1 August 2011. Stew found a new job as a movie extra. He reminisced about the time Dave Malinski got a job as a special business extra: because Dave was a veteran, he was asked to play a soldier firing a machine gun in *Nick Fury: Agent of Shield* (1998). I remembered the movie. It starred David Hasselhoff as Nick Fury, with local actors Garry Chalk as "Dum-Dum" Dugan and Terry David Mulligan as the President. I think that was also the movie where the villain presses a button, and all over the world, the logos of ex-Nazi corporations turn back into swastikas.

Graeme was once at a focus group where one guy demanded that *Monty Python's Flying Circus* be taken off the air because it was subversive, made fun of authorities (the church, the military, the police), and undermined civilization.

Ray is looking forward to next year's Norwescon because the Science Fiction Museum (funded by Paul Allen) will have a *Doctor Who* display. (See Ray's convention report later in this issue for more information.)

I told Graeme about Ed the Sock and Liana K.'s *This Movie Sucks*. Graeme replied "Elvira." We all agreed that Elvira still looks amazing.

I have a note, attributed to Kathleen and Graeme, that says "moose in some all-female tribe movie." I don't remember what that means. Possibly the movie *Wild Women* (1951)? The sense of it might be that they were surprised to see moose in Africa.

We were talking about *Things to Come* (1936), the film adaptation of H.G. Wells' novel *The Shape of Things to Come* (1933), and I vaguely remembered that there was another film adaptation, *The Shape of Things Come* (1979), made in Canada. Graeme hadn't encountered this version but Stew remembered it. It was hated by critics, is nothing like the novel, and I would love to see it.

Graeme described another Canadian B-movie called *The Lost Missile* (1958). A missile from outer space comes into Earth's atmosphere, moving so fast that the heat from its friction melts everything in its path, including Ottawa. At the time, this was the only disaster movie Graeme had ever seen where a Canadian city was destroyed. This reminded me of the episode of the 1980s animated series *Robotech* where the force-field of the space fortress *SDF-1* overloads and accidentally vapourizes "the Ontario Quadrant." Kathleen pointed out that there's a city called Ontario in California.

Stew brought up *The Flying Eye* (1955), a British short film about a model plane with a camera on it, something that would now be possible in real life. He originally had the impression it was a Canadian film because it shown on a Canadian children's show.

Segueing from things to people that we thought were Canadian but later found out weren't, our respective worlds were rocked when we learned that Ernie "Mr. Dressup" Coombs and Bob "The Friendly Giant" Homme (for Stew), and Andrea Martin and Joe Flaherty (for me) were American-born.

Ray told us that in "Terror of the Autons," the *Doctor Who* episode with the Master's first appearance, the actor who played Brigadier Lethbridge-Stewart (Nicholas Courtney) was sick, so his lines were given to Captain Yates (Richard Franklin).

When Graeme was in university, he took a science course (geology and astronomy) designed for artsmen who needed a science credit. He remembered a theatre student who showed up wearing a black leotard and did her interpretive dance of the life and death of a black hole.

As an alternative to showing *What Will We Tell Them?*, Ray suggested breaking into the broadcast signal of *So You Think You Can Dance* and substituting Nazi propaganda footage, supposedly coming from an alternate universe. There were several objections to this plan.

Graeme said that he'll never forgive *V* for the fact that it made TV executives decide not to adapt Arthur C. Clarke's *Childhood's End*, because they thought that the opening scene with ships hovering over cities would be perceived as an imitation of *V*.

Stew hoped that Graeme had copies of the old *Captain Marvel* serials, which Stew felt were the most successful superhero adaptation he'd ever seen. Stew also

wished that someone could remove the lame theremin music from the second season of *The Outer Limits*. Graeme said that *The Outer Limits* had a fixed budget for the year, and early in the season they'd get carried away with the effects, so as the season went on, the budget for effects dropped to zero. Thus, you had things like invisible monsters made of pure energy.

We talked about the term "pure energy"; Stew said it was as opposed to "vile, debased, immoral energy," and Graeme added, "like the light coming from a projector showing a porno film!"

Felicity Walker
Sunday 15 May 2011

As Others See Us? II

"The nonprofit Checks and Balances Project on Thursday released an analysis of the nascent oil shale industry entitled 'Oil Shale: A Century Old Science Fiction Story.' It looks at more than 84,000 articles on oil shale between 1910 and 1980, many of them portraying the energy source as being very close to commercial viability. However, the process still remains experimental and has never produced oil for commercial consumption in the United States.

" 'For the last century, politicians and oil industry executives have been telling the greatest science fiction story in America, that oil shale will soon save America from our energy woes,' said Matt Garrington, the Denver-based deputy director of the Checks and Balances Project. 'Oil shale amounts to 100 years of empty promises and failures. We need an honest debate on energy policy that looks at the reality and shortcomings of oil shale.' "—David O. Williams, "Obama Accused of Stalling on Colorado Oil Shale But Fast-Tracking Wyoming Coal, Tar Sands in Canada," *The Colorado Independent*

Felicity Walker
Friday 3 June 2011

Conquilt

Hi,

As you know, WorldCon was held in Australia last year. You may also know that Australians are a quirky bunch who are reknown for their creativity and thinking outside the box. A bunch of Aussie volunteers collected 92 signatures from authors and artists at WorldCon, all on cloth. Then an award winning quilter made a gorgeous quilt out of the pieces of fabric. This quilt is currently for sale on eBay at http://shop.ebay.com.au/?_from=R40&_trksid=p3907.m570.11313&_nkw=conquilt&_sacat=See-All-Categories, with a current highest bid of \$100. There are 8 days to go. For more information about the quilt including a list of all the signatures, go to <http://continuum.org.au/conquilt/> and for more photos of the quilt, including photos of some drawings on the quilt, go to <https://www.facebook.com/darkmatterfanzine#!/media/set/?set=a.210712948967498.53442.158613584177435>. These artworks include drawings by Shaun Tan and Girl Genius. The quilt is being sold by the Continuum Foundation in Melbourne, Australia, to raise money for the SF organisation that is Continuum.

It would be appreciated if you could let your clubs and SF fans everywhere know about this sale of one-off memorabilia. As I said, the auction closes in 8 days and 4 hours.

Thanks,
Nalini

Nalini Haynes
Saturday 11 June 2011

Laura Ziskin (1950–2011)

Screenwriter and producer; died yesterday, aged 61, following a seven-year battle with breast cancer. Began career in film production with the 1978 psychic thriller *Eyes of Laura Mars*, and most recently worked on the *Spider-Man* trilogy (her final project was next year's franchise reboot, *The Amazing Spider-Man*). Television work included the 2000 adaptation of nuclear thriller *Fail Safe* and the 2003 *Tarzan* series. From 1995–99, she was president of Fox 2000.

Steve Green
Monday 13 June 2011

Distribution Announcement for Two Latest PHANTACEA Mythos Mini-Novels

Greetings, Felicity,

I'm pleased to announce that Ingram and Ingram International will be distributing the two latest PHANTACEA Mythos print publications, *The Death's Head Hellion* and *Contagion Collectors*, beginning in July.

Both mini-novels have been extracted from *The Thousand Days of Disbelief*, the second book in *The Thrice-Cursed Godly Glories*. I did collages for their covers as well as for the third and final extract, *Janna Fangfingers*, which will follow probably in August.

The Trigrigos Gambit, a full-length mosaic novel concluding the Thrice-Cursed Godly Glories Trilogy, will be released in the Fall of 2011. Verne Andru, who provided the cover for *Feeling Theocidal*, the first book in this series, is currently working on *Gambit's* cover. It should be ready in time for VCON.

The three mini-novels are complete unto themselves and will contain book-specific character companions as well as the opening chapters of the follow-up publications. Like previous PHANTACEA publications, they will be published by James H. McPherson, Publisher, under the PHANTACEA imprint.

I intend to advertise in both *Locus Magazine* as well as Locus Online once the books are available for ordering online.

Jim McPherson
Creator/Writer/Publisher
The PHANTACEA Mythos

The PHANTACEA Mythos is now on Facebook. If you're a member, type in *phantacea*, any case, then pop by and become a fan.

Mini-novels extracted from *The Thousand Days of Disbelief*, the second book in *The Thrice-Cursed Godly Glories*, are now available from the publisher for \$10.00 each CAD. Entitled *The Death's Head Hellion* and *Contagion Collectors*, they fea-

ture Thrygragos Lazareme and his three Unities in their freewheeling prime. The order form is here: <http://home.istar.ca/~jmcp/phorder1.htm#table/>

Publications in Print: <http://www.phantacea.com/>

Illustrated Mini-Essays on PHANTACEA Characters and Concepts, Online Serials, Synopses, Web Publisher's Commentaries going back to 1996, and more background information than you can shake a currently non-existent search engine at: <http://www.home.istar.ca/~jmcp/>

Travels Website: <http://www.members.shaw.ca/jmcp/tmlp/>

Feeling Theocidal and *The War of the Apocalyptics*, two full length PHANTACEA Mythos mosaic novels, are still available for ordering worldwide. *Janna Fangfingers*, the final mini-novel extracted from *The Thousand Days of Disbelief*, and *The Trigregos Gambit*, a full-length mosaic novel concluding the Thrice-Cursed Godly Glories Trilogy, will both be released in 2011. Info re ordering the novels can be found via any of the lynx provided.

Help Build the Buzz!—Spread word of the PHANTACEA Mythos by attaching any of the above lynx to emails you send friends and those you reckon might be interested in ordering the novels, including librarians and booksellers. It'd be much appreciated.

Jim McPherson

Monday 20 June 2011

NCIX UBC 'StarCraft' Cup

UBC STARCRAFT Presents...

NCIX UBC STARCRAFT CUP #2

Join us on
July 2nd & 3rd (Qualification)
and on **July 8th** (Final Event)
for an epic tournament with
\$1500+ prize pool
held on **UBC campus**

All skill levels are welcome,
prizes available for every league

This event is brought to you by...

Shuttle | m (mushkin enhanced) | NCIX | Ascend | For more information:
www.istar.ca | www.ncix.com | www.ubcsc.wordpress.com | @UBCStarCraft

Full details of this tournament at [team liquid.net](http://teamliquid.net).

When: July 2 & 3 (Saturday & Sunday): qualification phase. Check-in starts at 11 AM and closes at 11:45 AM. Wrap-up ~6 PM.

July 8 (Friday): final event. Games start at 6 PM and end at ~9:00 PM.

Where: qualification is in Room 260 & 261, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC ([map](#)). Final event is held in Room 101 & 110, Hugh Dempster Pavilion, UBC ([map](#)).

Registration fee: Your lunch is included with this fee for the preliminary. \$10—UBC *StarCraft* Club members. \$15—non-members.

“Guaranteed \$1000 in prize pool.”

This is a Bring Your Own Computer event, but we will be bringing in few extra computers to share with those inconvenienced by this. But we recommend you bring your keyboard and mouse if you plan to borrow.

For questions, email us at: ubcstarcraft@hotmail.com.
Details from teamliquid.net and ubcsc.wordpress.com.

Julian Castle
Sunday 26 June 2011

BCSFA Book Discussion Group Update (June)

Dear Felicity:

Our next meeting is Thursday June 16 @ 7 PM. It's happening at "The Grind," 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. This time, we're reading *Leviathans of Jupiter* by Ben Bova. July's book is *Burning Chrome* by William Gibson. The book for August is *The Birthday of the World* by Ursula K. LeGuin.

Doug Finnerty
Sunday 22 May 2011

Norwescon 34 Top Ten List, Part 1

Ray Seredin

Note to readers: As many of you know, my body is not in the best of shape, except why on Earth did it pick the Norwescon 34 weekend to tell me? On top of this my camera battery hatch broke and my new glasses kept falling apart, but I guess that is what is called "Murphy's Law." So instead of giving you a report on what happened while I was in Seattle this past Easter, I will give you the top ten things that stood out for me.

Number 10: Riding the Rails: As most of you know, I'm a train buff, and although I love steam locomotives and early streamlined diesels pulling silver express trains, it's still nice to ride a modern passenger train. For the last dozen years Amtrak's Talgo train sets have been serving the route between Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, and Eugene, giving all the riders a glimpse into the future when these trains could be doing the run between Vancouver and Seattle in two hours even. For this and last year's Norwescons the train stopped only a ten-minute taxi/town-car ride from the Doubletree Seattle Airport (the host hotel); however, there's talk that Ottawa could start charging a large fee for customer services at Vancouver, meaning that I may not have this option for Norwescon 35.

This train is never on time, but this is my vacation, so I don't mind. However, they stopped showing movies aboard these trains, since the whole route now has free wi-fi access and Eugene, Portland, and Seattle have DVD rental stores in their stations. (OK, the next PC I'm getting will be a laptop.)

There were two other forms of rail I traveled on, because on Monday I rode to the *Star Wars* exhibition at the Pacific Science Center on Sound Transit's Light-Rail System and the Seattle Center Monorail. Although I have ridden both systems before, it was nice ride them again. Sea-Tac's light-rail station is a short elevator ride and about 150 meters away from the first stop at Sea-Tac International for the hotel's shuttle bus. To walk from the Westlake LRT station to the monorail is about the

same (although I did get lost in there for a few moments) and everything at Seattle Center is within easy walking distance from the monorail station.

I'm planning on doing the same for Norwescon 35, yes I am (if Ottawa comes to its senses), because the Experience Music Center/Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame is also at Seattle Center and if they host the first North American stop for the rumoured *Doctor Who* exhibition (that could run from February to May 2012), I'll be heading off in the TARDIS to the golden age of steam trains. (That's if the TARDIS is really bigger on the inside and there's a Doctor in there, that is.)

Number 9: My Room in Wing 7. I have no idea how I ended up with a room in Wing 7 of the Doubletree Seattle Airport; maybe it was just plain luck. If you've been to as many Norwescons as I have, you know that Wing 7 is also known as the "Olympic" Wing and houses hospitality, the volunteer lounge, the cloak-room (lost and found), the con office, con security, and the kid-con, plus a new room featuring really cool video games from the 1980s that you can play for free (please, please, please bring them back for Norwescon 35...pretty please...pretty please with sugar on...), and was about a 15-meter walk away from main area of the hotel where everything else was taking place. I was on the third floor so none of these operations disturbed me or my roommate, mostly because after 1:00 AM the only thing operating was con security and the cloak-room.

Even though I was so close to the action, I still found out how useful a convention cloak-room is. As with many cons, your schedule quickly fills up with panels, volunteering, and gobbling down food in hospitality, so unless you own a transporter and beam to your room, all that cool stuff you just purchased when you had a free half-hour to visit either the dealers' room or art show will be joining you for the day's journey. However, a cloak-room is the next best thing to a transporter, and best of all, it was open from noon on Thursday until Sunday at 4:00 PM. (Also, unlike the transporter, it actually exists outside the world of sci-fi.) So quite a few times during Norwescon 34, a few of my things were being kept safe in the cloak-room while I was doing something else.

The other thing I liked about Wing 7 (and the nearby Wing 6) was the glass elevator that had a great view of the hotel's pool area. OK, at most Norwescons I've been to, the wonderful Northwest spring weather is endless rain for the whole event; however, this time around, the first three days of Norwescon 34 were sun with light clouds, so the Norwescon band of "I'll go into the pool even in a monsoon" diehards were joined by dozens of other members. So on my little elevator ride I could enjoy members of fandom enjoying themselves in the pool. Yet, as with most Norwescons, it was raining cats and dogs on at least one day.

As for me getting so lucky with my accommodation at Norwescon 35, long-time concom and "Crime and the Forces of Evil" member Dara Korra'ti told me that Wing 7 is usually reserved for the concom members, staff, and convention guests, and she had no idea how I ended up staying there. So I guess luck was somewhat on my side this time around.

Number 8: Slinging Hash in Hospitality on Friday Evening. Sometime on Thursday I was sitting in the volunteers' lounge having a look at my pocket program and I saw I had a huge chunk of time I could volunteer on Friday afternoon and evening. So I soon talked to the person running hospitality who informed me that they really needed people between the hours of 6:00 and 8:00 PM when many of the

3,500 people there get something for dinner, and since I did have a FOODSAFE certificate I was a shoe-in.

OK, now many of you that know me know I have a Serving It Right certificate and are now asking “Gee, Ray, why didn’t they need you for the rest of the night when the alcohol started flowing?” To these folks I would like to say “Norwescons take place in Sea-Tac, Washington, United States, not in the Metro Vancouver area of British Columbia, Canada as VCONs do,” so the laws regarding serving of alcohol at a con are quite different. Because of this Norwescon runs a hospitality room, staffed by concom members and volunteers, that serves food and non-alcoholic beverages, while one of the Presidential suites in the tower is the con-suite that serves alcoholic beverages, along with food, and is staffed by hotel personnel.

OK, if you remember my report from Norwescon 33, you remember that hospitality had a major problem, which was having the food servicing area right under the smoke detectors, so when that Victorian princess opened the steaming vat of vegetables all Hell broke loose. However, this year the people running it learned from that and placed the servicing tables as near as they could safely get to the sliding doors, so even if that certain Victorian princess showed up, history wouldn’t repeat itself. Also not being repeated was the thawing out of a dozen bags of Costco meatballs before 6:00 PM (then having all Hell break loose), because Friday’s dinner was tortillas, taco chips, a great choice of Costco salsas, and tons of brand-name soft drinks to put out the fires in the mouths of the ones who made that mistake of eating the extra-hot salsa.

So on Friday, after spending a good three hours taking photos of members of fandom in very interesting costumes (which I will cover next month in part two of my report), I walked into the yet-to-be-opened hospitality to see that we had a ton of volunteers, that many of them had the Washington state version of the FOODSAFE certificate, and that I was now just going to be busing tables for the next two hours. But it was a case of the best-laid schemes of mice and men, because as the first members were sitting down to eat, one of the other volunteers was sucked into the “Twilight Zone” and was not seen again until long after everyone ate, so I ended up doing his job, which was emptying several cans of fondue cheese on a warming pan. Then we all realised that the line for food was slightly too long, so I ended up doing another job, restocking the rapidly-dispersing cans of brand-name soft drinks, then another, thawing the ground beef they were using for tortillas, and then another, running to the prep-room to get containers of salsas.

Yes, again all Hell had broken loose in Norwescon hospitality; however, we all kept our heads and in about 90 minutes we were out of food (note: we did set some aside for ourselves) and I once again felt like it was at the end of one of my Saturday shifts at McDonald’s, only the guests in hospitality were ten billion times cooler.

So will I do the same at Norwescon 35? You I bet I will, just to put a smile on the faces of all the members of fandom who want a cheap meal in hospitality.

Number 7: Spending a Good Part of Saturday Afternoon as a Volunteer Guarding the Door to the Masquerade’s Dress Rehearsal. Things were not going for me well on Saturday. My tummy was going crazy, my skin rash was back, and I had trouble in a place on my body that I will not go into since *BCSFazine* is a family-friendly publication. I even had to leave a panel that was I enjoying, since I was in somewhat great pain, so I headed to my room, took a nap, and showered. Feeling

slightly better, I dressed and, after a short stop in the hotel's newsstand (to get something to help with that thing that I will not go into), I headed to the volunteers' lounge to find something to do that involves a lot of sitting down. It was just before 3:00 PM and just as I walked in, someone said that they needed people to sit beside the masquerade's door during their dress rehearsal. I asked if they would hold a chair for me at the masquerade's media area, so they quickly radioed the person handling it and he said he would. So from there I was off on another adventure volunteering at Norwescon 34.

The job was quite simple: let the people who should be in the ballroom for the masquerades in, and keep the 3,400 people who want a peek (wrecking it for everyone) out. There were also quite a few members who wanted to get into the event and were willing to stand in line for three hours to do so—but, knowing Norwescon's masquerades, it was well worth it. The entrance to the masquerade's ballroom was at the far end of a long hallway that was shrouded by a large courtyard, with a shorter hall leading to the dealer room and another long hallway running beside it. Sounds quite workable to anyone who's ever been to a large con—only this nice long hallway leading to the door to the masquerade started right by registration, and even if they had been willing to put up with hundreds of members standing around and blocking anyone trying to register, there was also a rather large fire door right in the middle of the hotel main area, meaning that any poor soul who happened to stand right under it would be cut right in half if a fire broke out. So they needed to move all the people standing in line to the other hallways after just five minutes into my duties. Luckily for me there were only a half-dozen or so standing there, so me and my partner moved them quite quickly into the other hallways.

The rest of the time I just chatted with my partner and fandom members standing in line. Also, because the door to the courtyard on the dealers' room side was for emergencies only, quite a few people in interesting in costumes were going in there, so I asked most of them if could get their picture and almost all said yes. I even saw my long-time con friend Julia whom I've known since my first VCON in 1988, but she had a flu and could not talk. Still, it was nice to see her again.

Now this volunteering job went quite fast. Before I knew it, two rather large members of con security showed up to replace us. It was just a little bit before 5:30 PM so the other person there headed off to find something to eat; however, since I had a large breakfast that morning, then had a good helping of food in the volunteers' lounge and brought a few lollipops from the cloak-room with me, I didn't have to eat right away. So I went to the masquerade's media area and saw that they were just setting up and soon (after helping out a little) I was sitting in a chair waiting for more interesting costumes to show up. But that is a story I will fill you in on in part two.

Number 6: The *Star Wars* Exhibition and the Pacific Science Center. If you've been paying attention to this article (and I don't see why not), you will recall that I went to the *Star Wars* exhibition and the Pacific Center the Monday after Norwescon 34. Since I already covered getting to and from there earlier in this article, I will now cut right to when I got there.

As per usual in spring in Seattle, it was raining like heck when I got off the monorail at Seattle Center; it would have been a short trip to the PSC if they hadn't been putting up the Chihuly Glass Garden right in my way, so it was slightly longer.

When I got there I found the tickets to exhibition also covered most of the rest of the Science Center (the exception was the two IMAX theatres and the Seattle laser dome that cost \$12 more each) so for \$18 I was getting good deal.

My tickets were for the 11:00 AM show and since it was only 10:30 I headed to one of the entrances to wait it out inside, out of the rain. The PSC is surrounded by a large fountain/courtyard that has around it a number of different types of water experiments for the kids (and fully grown adults who like to act like kids) to play on, and I was quite surprised to see a good number of them operating even in the rain. Because I didn't want to miss my time to get into the exhibit, I sat down in the area near the gift shop and watched these kids out of the large windows, while also watching a rather good documentary on the *Challenger* disaster (it was the O-rings darn it!!!), and before I knew it was 11:00.

As soon I walked into the *Star Wars* exhibition, I was in nerd heaven, so even though there were three Saturdays at McDonald's worth of kids in there with me, I didn't mind—because there was Luke's land-speeder (complete with the wheels of a 1962 VW Beetle!), the actual model of the *Millennium Falcon* used in the first three movies (in chronological order that is), the lightsabers props, Darth Vader's helmet, Yoda himself, tons of costumes from all the films, and many, many other things from the *Star Wars* franchise that will need a few *BCSFazines* if I keep talking about them. Besides all these cool things, the exhibit also had a good number of things in real life that were considered science fiction when the franchise first hit the screens way back in 1977, that are now in everyday use or soon will be. People also got to drive a one-person hovercraft, learn how a maglev train works, and put together parts of a robot. This place was so cool that on the way out I purchased a Chewbacca bobble head to guard my PC at the exhibit's gift shop and took pictures of Luke's X-Wing fighter before heading off to explore the rest of the PSC.

After a short stop in the PSC cafeteria for a soft drink, I ended up in one of two large rooms containing very realistic dinosaurs, including a T-Rex and an Apatosaurus (best known for being operated by Fred Flintstone at Slate Quarry on the classic cartoon series—soon to be reimaged for FOX TV via the hands of animation genius Seth MacFarlane—*The Flintstones*). I found out that I weighed 300 pounds, but my weight on the Sun would be even greater than a fully loaded Ford F450 pickup truck (you know, the ones that have six wheels). I watched the goings-on in a colony of East African naked mole-rats and saw how the tide along the Puget Sound segment of the Salish Sea works. Then I went to the body works area to find out how out of shape my body was (is there a version of *This Old House* for the human body?) and before I knew it it was 1:30 PM. So I said goodbye for now to the Pacific Science Center and went to get something to eat.

After getting $\frac{1}{4}$ of a pizza at the Center House at the Seattle Center, I headed to the monorail to start my journey home.

In all, I enjoyed my visit to Seattle Center, and will try to return there either before or after Norwescon 35 next spring—and if the Experience Music Center/Science Fiction Museum and Hall of Fame is hosting the *Doctor Who* exhibition, then this goes without saying.

OK, since other people write for *BCSFAzine* I'll stop here until next time, when I will tell you about the top five things that happened to me at Norwescon 34. So be seeing you then.

Ray Seredin
Monday 6 June 2011

Zines Received

‘Opuntia’ #70.3 (June 2011). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. APAzine issue.

“Mailing Comments on FAPA #293”: *Fandom Forever* #1: Several interesting observations. Dale notes that clubs that publish a bulletin or newsletter on paper last longer than clubs that don’t, and not just in SF fandom. He refers to the atomization of Canadian fandom temporally and geographically (and gives credit to Garth Spencer for observing the same). For declining fanac, he suggests a “transmutation of elements” metaphor as zines are replaced by blogs.

Also: “What is FAPA?”; “FAPA Clearcut Award”; “Mailing Comments on FAPA #294”; “Conventioneering in Cowtown”; “Seen in the Literature”; “Letters to the Editor” (Lloyd Penney); “World Wide Party #18” (see June “Calendar”).

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art.....	Page 4
<u>UBC StarCraft Club</u> via <u>Julian Castle</u>	Page 16

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