

# BCSF A Zine

#385

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June 2005



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Clip art .....	21
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Felicity Walker (media illos) .....	4, 37, 39, 42, 59

## June Events

- June 9 Book discussion 7 p.m. at Our Town Café at 245 East Broadway, Vancouver; book to discuss is *The Colour of Magic*, by Terry Pratchett.
- June 10 BCSFAzine deadline Send me stuff by this deadline, and it goes in the next issue. (Note: for the next two or three months I will be very late, if I show up at FRED at all. -GS)
- June 11 Feeding Frenzy 7 p.m. at Sambo's Brazilian Steakhouse, 1122 Alberni Street, Vancouver. Features Rio-style all-you-can-eat BBQ buffet (plus veggies and salad bar). Live Vegas-style dancers, too.
- June 18 BCSFA meeting/party 7 p.m. at Kathleen Moore-Freeman's place, 7064 No. 1 Road, Richmond; telephone 604-277-0845 for directions.
- June 24 BCSFAzine production Doug should present *BCSFAzines* at FRED (7-11 p.m., Denny's on Davie at Thurlow).
- June 25 Kaffeeklatsch 7-11 p.m. at Garth's place, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver; phone 604-325-7314 for directions).

The Richmond Writers Group meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month, 7:00 p.m. (new time) to 9:15 p.m., at the Richmond Arts Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate (in the Richmond Public Library, Brighthouse Branch, Minoru Boulevard & Granville Avenue, in the cafe on the Granville Avenue side of the building). Interested people should e-mail or phone Bill (info below) to double-check about what is happening: [bmarles53@yahoo.com](mailto:bmarles53@yahoo.com) or (604) 277-6775, or go to MSN group web address: <http://groups.msn.com/richmondwriters/>. (FW)

Listen to THE ONOMATOPOEIA SHOW, CITR 101.9 FM (or <http://www.citr.ca/live.rm>) \* Thursdays at 2:00 p.m.; Contact Robin at [betafishblue@hotmail.com](mailto:betafishblue@hotmail.com)

Listen to HI SCI FI, CJSF 90.1 FM \* Fridays at 5:00 p.m. You can also contact Irma Arkus at 604-291-5797 or [hiscifi\\_cjsf@yahoo.ca](mailto:hiscifi_cjsf@yahoo.ca)

Read the G33K column by Chris Eng, in Terminal City (weekly newspaper): see also <http://www.theg33k.com/>

## Hey Kids, Let's Put Up an All-Clubs Message Board!

Somebody told me I come across too negative and critical, so I thought I would make a *positive* suggestion: Could we benefit by having a sort of all-fandom online personals board, so fans can find other fans in Vancouver with similar interests?

I think I've given a fair amount of exposure to the Lower Mainland's anime groups, comics conventions, SF bookstores and gaming stores, and some writers' groups. We keep hearing occasionally of a model-builder's club. But this leaves out a lot. Vancouver does not have, at present, any organized comics club that I have heard of. Cindy Turner may have a filk-singing group going as well as costuming, but I'm out of the loop (*could you fill me in?*). The last time I checked out Andrew Murdoch's website I found that he had discovered a number of Pern clubs, which were news to me. Conceivably we could even have amateur astronomers and aspiring inventors, even loopy Tesla-coil enthusiasts or UFO spotters.

How many of us are mainly into science news, like the April 29<sup>th</sup> announcement of robots that replicate themselves; or the more recent announcement that a Washington company plans to produce the carbon nanotube fibres that constructing a "beanstalk" – an elevator to geosynchronous orbit, basically – will require?

Personally, I am interested in finding out what the newest, most original ideas are in the sciences, and in science fiction; what turns *my* crank is playing mix'n'match with words and ideas, rather the way a child plays with Lego or Meccano; starting with a novel proposition, reasoning out its consequences (*not* free-associating), and coming to unexpected, amazing conclusions. This is not a very common interest, though, and I apologize if I kept finding BCSFA wanting for not catering to this interest. I keep expecting things from fandom that contemporary fandom is simply not about.

Doug Finnerty suggested, after reading an editorial by Orson Scott Card putting down *Star Trek*, that we nominate him for an Elron Award.

One of the fun things we do at VCon is to present awards for really bad contributions in the field of science fiction and fantasy. Allegedly Mr. Card's editorial descended to the lowest level of which right-wing Republicans in the States are capable. (The Vancouver *Sun* of May 16<sup>th</sup> apparently just reprinted the opinion/editorial piece from the Los Angeles *Times*, but the practices of newspapers are not our deal.) Paul Carpentier commented that at least it generated reaction from Bellingham fans, all negative.

Should I also be nominated for an Elron – for relentlessly playing Jewish Mother to fan groups?

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“Agent Darling had spent the day at the Sisters of the Suffering Lady Church and Keno Palace. He came away with a newly saved soul and an extra three hundred bucks.”

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## We Threatened Its Life with a Railway Share

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Greg Slade <grga@lynx.net>, 06 May 2005

We Await Silent Tristero's Empire: Randy Barnhart suggested a "bad movie festival" at VCon. As it happens, I have long been suggesting a second video room, featuring non-stop turkeys. (Actually, I had a notion of a "Turkey Viewing" fund raiser, something like the ever-popular "Turkey Readings." In my idea, we'd gather a big crowd in the ballroom, and put on some truly horrifyingly bad flicks, like *The Angry Red Planet*, *Battle Beyond the Stars*, or *Thunderbirds*, and then charge people money to leave the room. I think it could be a big money-spinner, but for some reason, the rest of the concom seemed to have a problem with that idea.) In any case, I have obtained a copy of *H.G. Wells' The Shape of Things to Come*, and, assuming that Fran and the rest of the Ministry of Education are cool with the idea, hope to have a "hosted video night" at the con, complete with a suave, dignified emcee who can introduce this overlooked marvel of Canadian culture with all the gravitas it deserves.

*((We could also ask Karl Johanson or other Victorians if we could screen Dawn of the Living Socks, or ask the Montreal and Ottawa fans where we could get a copy of Beavra! ))*

Calendar of Northwest Events: Apparently, the news that Robert Silverberg has accepted the Imperial mantle for this year came as a bit of a "stop press" item for you. I trust that he will make it into the calendar entry in time for next month.

*((Remember, I am no longer on the VCon newsgroup list.))*

Also, please note that I am no longer the dealer liaison (or, for that matter, the webmaster) for VCon. It has become clear to me that one of the side-effects of bereavement is that my productivity has gone down the tubes, and even though I was putting in as much time on the website as I did just before the con last year, I was not able to keep up with the changes people wanted me to make on the site, even this far in advance of the con. Fortunately, Clayton and Tammie Hamacher have agreed to take on the job, which is doubly fitting: partly because, as WCSFA Secretary/Treasurer, Tammie is responsible for the WCSFA website anyway, and partly because a good chunk of the graphics on the site were stolen from Clayton & Tammie's VCon photos website (<http://www.kelora.org/VCon/>). Fortunately, they were very gracious about granting permission to use their images after that fact. (I should probably also say, in my parting shot as former webmaster, that I have appreciated the tremendous effort which Graeme Cameron, the WCSFA archivist, put

in digging through the archives to find and scan old program book covers, posters, and photos for use in the "VCons Past" section of the website – which, by my calculations, looks 237.4% better now than it did before he provided all those images.)

*((Background: Greg's father died recently. Condolences are appropriate.))*

Girls Just Wanna Have Lunch: Even though I am a fairly recent immigrant to North Vancouver, I have to take exception to Jo's depiction of public transit in North Vancouver. As it happens the stretch of Lonsdale around 13th, where Nando's is located, is an extremely well-connected part of town, with no less than three bus routes (#229 and #230 from Lonsdale Quay, and #232 from Phibbs Exchange) running right by the restaurant, and three more (#240 and #241 from Stadium Station via the Lions Gate Bridge, and #255 from West Vancouver) only two (level) blocks away at 15th. I do agree with her assessment of the food, though: it's very good, ranging from entirely spiceless to ... shall we say ... not for the faint of heart. As it happens, I bumped into a Nando's in Cambridge last year. Not exactly the kind of place I expected to see there, but certainly a welcome sight.

VCon 30 Flyer: I should probably have let you know, when I sent you the flyer, that Prototype (the font used in the flyers and the website) is available as a free download from the developer's site, at: <http://www.mickeyavenue.com/fonts/index.shtml>. I looked long and hard for a font which was both futuristic-looking and readable, and this seemed like a good compromise. (There are funkier-looking, but difficult-to-read fonts, and clear but boring fonts, so I was pretty happy when I found this one.) If you choose to print the flyer again, perhaps you could put it in Prototype, so people can see how the flyer is really supposed to look. (I grant that including a font as a bitmap does make the PDF file larger.)

In almost, but not entirely unrelated news, I finally got my hands on a copy of Lisa Smedman's *Apparition Trail*, which is lots of fun. I knew it was going to be fun when the protagonist talked about the strange effect he has on watches and clocks (and ... well ... I won't spoil that little surprise), because among *my* superpowers are the ability to stop mechanical watches, unless I use one of those wide leather straps which were briefly trendy in the 70s; spontaneously reset digital watches during thunderstorms; and charge up watch batteries, simply by wearing that watch. I can also knock mercury vapour lamps out of commission at a range of up to 50 metres! (Shocking, isn't it? I have been thinking of dressing up for VCon as "What Zapping Dude." I'm probably the only guy you know who could be tracked from orbit with the naked eye – at least at night.) Almost all of the characters are based on real people from Western Canadian history, so it might well prompt people to read up more on what *really* happened.

*((You should talk with Sydney Trim, who has the same effects on computers. All I can do is teach cats to bark. Sniffle))*

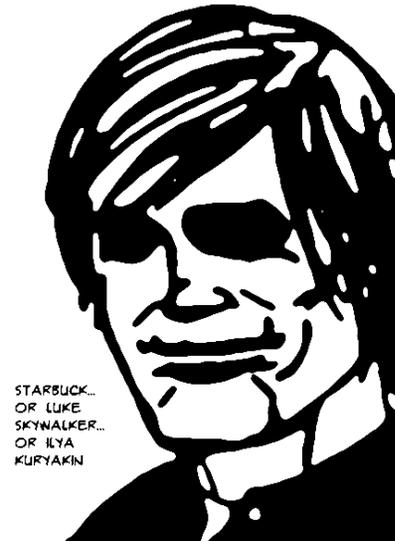
*Al Betz, May 6, 2005*

First of all I would like to thank everyone who expressed concern about my heart problems. And I would like to thank everyone who came to visit me at either Surrey Memorial or St. Paul's. I'd like to specially note the repeated visits by Allan Kelley, Brian Dubberly and Howard Cherniak. They were very welcome.

In the middle of March I had a "small" heart attack, and did the right thing by calling 911 and going to SMH by ambulance. I was there for three weeks and then was transferred to St. Paul's in Vancouver for open-heart surgery. After about a week I had my aortic valve replaced, along with at least four bypasses. I am now part cow and have a serial number. Almost immediately after surgery I realized that I was feeling much better, except for the artefacts of the surgery itself.

The cardiac surgeon had told me that without the surgery I had perhaps two months left, with more deterioration. The risk of dying on the table he estimated at 25%. I had nothing of value to lose, so of course I agreed to the surgery. That took place 3 1/2 weeks ago, and, so far, is one of the best decisions I've ever made. He said that the new valve would probably last 10 to 15 years. So you are stuck with me for some time yet!

All the best to everyone, Alan.



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Lloyd&Yvonne Penney, 1706-24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2,  
<penneys@allstream.net>, 11 May 2005

My bad, my bad...I've fallen behind, and I couldn't get caught up, not until now. I'm on a sick day from work, so there is time to write a letter of comment on *BCSFazine*, issues 383 and 384.

383...

Gotta tell you about the Yuri's Night held in Toronto. It was organized by Kevin Shortt, who works with Yvonne at Optech, an aerospace company near York University. Kevin found what he *thought* was the ideal place to hold it, the NASA Lounge on Queen St. W. just west of the downtown core. It was actually a dance club, and the DJ was pumping out the beats, and no one was dancing. The place was decorated in chrome, looking very spacey and 60s-ish, and someone thought it would be neat to show the movie *Tron* on the monitors. There were various electronics on the wall, including an old display we think may have been, *\*ahem\**, "liberated" from the Ontario Science Centre. The evening was a bust, but there were about 40 of us standing around and chatting, at least, trying to while the DJ was pumping out those beats. If there's a Yuri's Night next year, I think it will be in a semi-private area in a pub. That's more our speed.

You have grasped the way of the Trufan, Grasshoppah... The fanac part, we got. The goodwill part, some of us are working on it. The Sensawunda part...well, it gets harder to get it every year. I think we'll qualify if we have fond memories of it. It might be an idea to find some articles on fannish ghods, and run them by the membership, in case they're wondering who the heck Roscoe and Ghu are.

Randy Barnhart's loc...*Enterprise* had some serious problems the fan couldn't forgive. One was a rewriting or retelling of the Federation "history". Some episodes of *Enterprise* contradicted some episodes of the original series. Whom do you believe? For those with long memories, you believe the original. Also, the Archer character was just a little *too* intrepid, and had no foil to bounce off. The chemistry of characters reacting to one another was missing, and that's what gave the original *Trek* its near-perfect demographic. I think it's time to take a break, bring in some fresh people with some fresh imaginations, and let them take a whack at it. J. Michael Straczinski has expressed interest in a new *Trek* incarnation as well. Let him try, too. But, let's take a break for a few years, at least. Orson Scott Card recently took a sideswipe at the *Trek* franchise in the pages of the *NY Times*, but I think he's dead wrong about it. The themes in the original *Trek* were supplied by the era's top SF writers. Let's do that again, and let those who write SF today try their hand at making *Trek* the best in SF television.

(I got the impression, a good twenty years ago, that there were a whole lot of contradictory *Trek* stories showing up, between the series, and the movies,

and the novelizations, and the wealth of Trekkers' fanfiction stories. And as I wrote elsewhere, this vaguely resembled my impression of very early, apocryphal Christian gospels – the Gnostic gospels especially recast some of the familiar New Testament figures in very unfamiliar roles. So I'm only mildly surprised that the Paramount execs. didn't insist they had the one, the only, unalterable canonical *Trek* history.))

I think this very week, as I write, Dennis Mullin may be placing the final ballot onto his Aurora website. Let's hope we've all made good choices.

Okay, Ray Seredin, what do you think of the new *Doctor Who*? The members of DWIN in Toronto seem to love it. I work nights, and my VCR crapped out, so I haven't seen any of the episodes yet. I may be able to catch up this coming weekend.

I found out from Christina Carr that her husband Martin Hunger is working on props for both *Stargate* series. She is also looking around at the idea of creating a Renaissance Faire somewhere in the Lower Mainland. I wish her luck; we both know how expensive this endeavour could be. The Ontario Renaissance Faire recently closed its doors, just shy of its 10th season, but there is an organization called the RenFest Group that is trying to revive it in its old location in Milton, Ontario, just west of its border with Mississauga. I wish them luck, too.

J. Michael Straczinski was a special guest at a comics convention earlier this month in Toronto. Didn't attend it, so don't know what he said, but the organizers did tell me the fans were ecstatic to see him, and B5 uniforms seemed to blossom here and there.

How do you fight gafiation? Keep your interests fresh. Look around to see what others are doing. Don't let yourself burn out, and do this by every so often making a list of all your activities. If you feel stressed, and if something just doesn't have the fun it used to, make that hard decision. Budget your fanac. Don't be afraid to stand back every so often, and look at what you do from a distance. Don't stomp off when things don't work for you. Stand back, and regroup, and find something else you can devote yourself to. Be in contact with others to see what fandom is like in other cities. Maybe they're doing something you like, and you can steal their ideas to make fandom in your city a little different. We need something different every so often, to keep our minds active. I've been in fandom coming up on 30 years, and this has worked fairly well for me.

384...

No TV Week? Every week has become No TV Week for me. I rarely find anything I want to watch, outside of the news.

I try not to eat at Denny's...most of the Denny's around Toronto have evaporated. Earlier in April, Yvonne and I went to the annual Eeriecon held in Niagara Falls, NY, and in the base of the hotel is, you guessed it, a Denny's. Only problem is that NFNy shuts down during the weekend, leaving NFOnt to boost the light pollution coming from its tourist zone. Denny's is about the only place to go. I find Denny's is...too salty, too sweet, too starchy and too much. One Slam will do me for two meals, let alone one.

(Mention of Canadians needing a passport to get into the US in a few years...I bring one anyway. The more ID you have on you, the less paranoia you have to stand from US Customs. This year, I had my birth certificate, my SIN card, my passport, and a flyer from the convention so I could prove this is where I'm going. We were through Customs in about 15 seconds.)

A Bad Film Festival? Go for it! Google up "New Orleans Worst Film Festival", and see what it says. Yvonne has a t-shirt from that event. If NOWFF can do it, so can you.

I've got an Aurora of each kind; one is the usual Veg-O-Matic attachment that slices and dices, and make those Julienne fries we all like, and the other was designed by local fan Ed Charpentier, which we've nicknamed the Desk Organizer. (Ed got an Aurora nomination the next year for his design.) That was the year local con PriMedia (dead and gone) was the CanVention, and they couldn't get the regular Aurora creator to produce the needed trophies. So, Ed designed and created them at his workplace, the Ontario College of Art and Design, and they were duly given out to ooohs and aaaahs.

Hey! On the 19th, Sith happens! (Good thing I'm way out here, hm?)

*((Took me a couple of readings to see your pun. Delivery is everything, I guess.))*

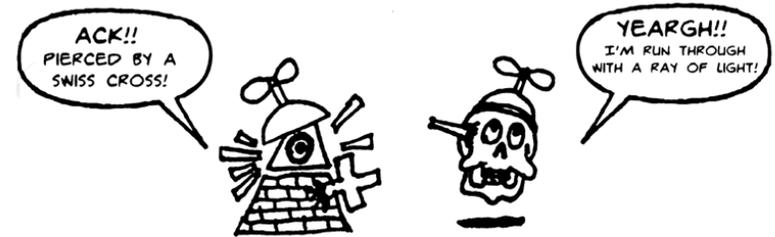
Good piece on how to treat GoHs. Some GoHs are better known than others, and some convention GoH liaisons are a little resentful that they didn't get put in charge of The Big Name. And sometimes... One Maplecon, a beer-laden con suite was put out for GoH Barry Longyear - who, the committee didn't know, was a recovering alcoholic. One Ad Astra, GoH R.A. MacAvoy was simply forgotten, and not placed on any panels. It happens to us all, and too many people slough it off because it's all volunteer. Well, I know it is possible to *fire* a volunteer, it's happened to me, and I've had to do it myself. One goof-off affects the entire convention, but one honest mistake can be rectified. If you are on a convention committee, bring the business acumen you bring to your job to the con, and everyone will have a better time, including you.

*((I left out the fact that Guests of Honour also owe some courtesy to the concom and members, partly because I wasn't sure what I could legally say*

*about some pros, and partly to leave something for people to write in response.))*

Yup, got a FAAn Award this year! In fact, the certificates were ready, and Murray Moore brought mine back for me, and presented it to me at the monthly First Thursday pubnight the week after. The FAAn Awards are given out at CorFlu, and next year, Colin Hinz and Catherine Crockett will be hosting it in Toronto. I've heard so many good things about CorFlu, so finally I'll have the chance to go to one, and see if they're all the stories say they are.

And I am caught up. I get a break from conventions until the massive Toronto Trek 19 comes along in July. Work on Ad Astra 25 starts up soon, and because it is number 25, we plan some amazing things; and if things work out, and the right people say yes, we will have an astonishing guest list. Stay tuned for details as they are announced. Take care, and see you nextish.



*BCSFAZINEzine 1:33.384, 14 May 2005, from Felicity Walker, #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, British Columbia, V7C 1J6, felicity4711@hotmail.com*

Art Credits - Correction: The illustration on page 8 is by me.

"Nor Dashed a Thousand Kim" - I liked the background information on DR. GERONIMO®.

*((I'm glad somebody did. I thought I outdid myself, and nobody else has commented.))*

"How many of us participated in No TV Week?" I object to the idea of No TV Week. "Or read the science news last month?" I vaguely remember reading a *Scientific American*. "Did anybody notice the Aurora nominations deadline whizzing by?" I saw it whiz by, but couldn't summon the energy to catch it. "Why don't we do regular outreach programs, like to the students at SFU and UBC clubs?" Those clubs are only open on weekdays, when most of us are working and

therefore unable to physically visit. For those of us with free time during the weekdays (for example, me on Fridays), both universities are still multiple buses away. If I recall correctly, *BCSFazine* has been sent to other clubs, and there has been no response. In the case of the UBC (AMS) SFS, we can't e-mail them to invite them to FRED or other events because they don't manage their YAHOO! Group or answer their e-mail.

*(Typical.)*

"We Await Silent Tristero's Empire" – Randy Barnhart: "Nice shot, Felicity." Thanks.

"Hey, wait a minute: am I wrong or was FRED actually held at a...\*gasp\* Denny's?" FRED has been held at Denny's for several months now. We made the move when our previous location, the Jolly Alderman Sports Bar & Grill, became too crowded, expensive, and loud. The move was controversial. Some FREDgoers didn't want to leave the Alderman. Others couldn't stand it any longer. There was a sense that respect should be paid to Steve Forty by consulting him first, but he deferred to the will of the majority. I decided the way to take action, without presuming too much control, was to start going to Denny's with my closest friends, without trying to move FRED. Other people tried going to Denny's with us, and enough people preferred it that it became the *de facto* new FRED location.

*(Typical. Nobody wants to be fixed or firm or definite about anything.)*

For a while everything was fine – better food in larger portions at the same price; bottomless soft drinks; no TV; no sports fans screaming and roaring about the games on TV; no ear-splitting jukebox; no crowding; more centrally located on public transportation; free parking. In the last few months one of those things has changed: the jukebox at Denny's has been way too loud. The problem is that it's set to an audible, medium level when it's playing its own random choices, but when someone puts money in the volume increases sharply. Every week we politely ask the staff to turn it down to a level that doesn't physically hurt our heads and that doesn't make it impossible to converse with someone sitting right next to you, and every week they grudgingly turn it down very slightly, while reminding us that the later it gets, the more the jukebox has to be loud to satisfy people on their way to or from nightclubs. I took the initiative last night of sitting down at the table where the manager was eating dinner and very gently telling him that the jukebox volume was making us so miserable that we were considering going somewhere else. The manager offered to try to change the jukebox's settings so that the volume didn't increase every time someone put money in.

I hope that that solves the problem, because there's nowhere else to go that would be any different. All bars will be as sports-oriented as the Alderman and all restaurants will have loud music like Denny's (or inferior prices, space, location, parking, or selection). We'll have to have FRED at

someone's house or cancel it altogether (or at least not cancel it but accept that people who don't like the noise will stop going to Denny's). There are no other places that don't charge money for space, are quiet, and serve food and drink, so FRED is dying.

*(I believe somebody once suggested we meet at a café, instead of a bar. I would support that. In fact the first time I tried holding a Kaffeeklatsch group, I was trying to hold it at a coffeeshop. I for one can live without social drinking, and I can think of only one older BCSFA member who seemed to insist we meet at a liquor-licensed establishment.)*

"...*Sin City* was flat out 'Yeah, we're from a comic book – make something out of it!'" Oh, the mundane critics did try. *Entertainment Weekly* critic Lisa Schwarzbaum was the most shamelessly anti-fannish (and misandrist), saying [bold emphases mine]:

Faithfulness, a virtue in personal relationships, is overrated when it comes to movie adaptations of comic books. (Let the foaming from fanboys begin.) The devotee who is betrothed to the pages of a particular, ardently loved graphic novel – sequential print-art event, multipage transportable visual diversion, whatever – is the devotee advised to reread that book, through sickness and health, for guaranteed fidelity of experience. To look for the same in a movie is to arrive at the obsessive literal-mindedness and diminished emotional returns of *Sin City* or, as the promotional materials emphasize, *Frank Miller's Sin City* – as if, in certain controversial scholarly circles, Francis Bacon has been credited with the authorship.

This uncontestedly jazzy-looking screen translation of various stories from the pages of the *Sin City* comic books begun by Miller in 1991 is first and foremost the cinematic work of impish pop-culture vulture Robert Rodriguez, who has swung in his colorful career from *El Mariachi* to *Spy Kids*. But with insistence that the work is produced and directed by Rodriguez and Frank Miller, from text by Frank Miller, with an appearance by Frank Miller as a low-down priest, I've got to wonder how much truer to the pulp-fiction spirit of the books (and thus how much more persuasive an introduction for the uninitiated) the movie might have been had its production team not been stuck in such fawning thrall to the source material. Miller is famed, in inky circles, for his two issues of Marvel's *Spectacular Spider-Man*, and for his work on the comics *Daredevil* and *The Dark Knight Returns*. Call me an insensitive non-fangirl, but if the sacred works of Jane Austen can stand up to freewheeling reinterpretation, then so, too, can heavy-breathing pages about trussed-

up little girls and a vile-smelling cartoon pervert known as Yellow Bastard.

Miller's neighborhood of vice, lust, perversity, and loneliness (the burg's full name is Basin City, as in the pits of humanity) is one of brutish, rock-jawed men, dangerous and impossibly curvaceous women, crooked cops, and arch-villain types familiar and even comforting to any hormonally trip-wired teenager who has ever held a racy comic book with one hand. Rodriguez/Miller's screen version, fleshed out by eager-to-play-along stars including Bruce Willis (as a crusty cop), Jessica Alba (as an untainted exotic dancer), Clive Owen (as a tough ex-photojournalist), Rosario Dawson (as your average hottie prostitute), and Elijah Wood (as the kind of flesh-eating serial killer who lurks inside every adolescent boy) warps those characters into alienating – or worse, laughable – avatars of violence and sexual humiliation. Miller's carefully styled, hard-boiled dialogue and narrative connections ("The night is hot as hell. Everything sticks. It's a lousy room in a lousy part of a lousy town") lose punch – or worse, sound like Guy Noir parodies from Garrison Keillor – when spoken out loud with broad sneers rather than read, nestled on the page amid the crackle and pop of the illustrations.

Consider the story of the vulnerable bruiser Marv, Miller's coolest antihero, played like he was born for the gig by Mickey Rourke in the movie's best star turn. Marv's mangled profile is a cross between Dudley Do-Right and Ron Perlman on *Beauty and the Beast*, and he's got the ugly-puss resignation to go with it. And when he gets into a brawl, which is constantly, he covers his scrapes with adhesive bandages that glow white, like stars, on the blackness of the page or screen. Rodriguez gets Marv's look down just right – the visual elegance of *Sin City* may be its own reward for certain tech-minded connoisseurs – and in Rourke's melancholy interpretation, a soul leaks out that the movie doesn't know what to do with. And so a grand love-and-death story that might have carried the whole picture – about the homely loner's all-city search for the killer of a beautiful woman who showed Marv love in one night of sticky bliss – gets shuffled between other, less "human" stories that apparently must be told.

Such undifferentiated enthusiasm culminates in a long, stupidly extreme story of torture and revenge involving Benicio Del Toro as a stinkin' cop who gets into a spot of trouble: He's tortured, and double-killed, and triple-hacked until his head – severed from his body – becomes a negotiation point and/or soccer ball all its own, with competing Sinners out to collect it. The moderate amusement of seeing Del Toro in segments (and FYI, he's not the only star who goes to pieces in Rodriguez and Miller's town) soon wears off, though, replaced by a kind of restless overstimulation. Glued tightly from page to screen, *Sin City* is so seduced by the visual possibilities of sin that style becomes its own vice.

...because God forbid a movie shouldn't revolve around a formulaic love story. Anything else is cold and impersonal and only for pathetic losers

who're married to their comic books. From this review we learn that: people who like faithful adaptations are apt to foam at the mouth with very little invitation, and are obsessive and literal-minded and emotionally deficient (is she trying to imply an autistic connection?); that comics can't be literature, no matter how beautiful or intelligent or moving they are; that comics are porn; that boys are perverted serial killers (*every single one*); and that movies should never be made to express a unique vision, but only to reach the widest possible audience.

*I nominate Lisa Schwarzbaum for the Rebecca Eckler Stupid Bitch Elron.*

I recommend the URL <http://comics.ign.com/articles/600/600908p4.html> for an even better reaction to Schwarzbaum than mine.

*(Typical. It's hard to emphasize enough, some people's opinions are simply not important, when they venture outside their field of knowledge.)*

*"Sin City was also the first decent acting job I've seen from Bruce Willis in some little time..."* Remember when Bruce Willis could make faces other than the one where he's sucking a lemon?

*"Also, Jessica Alba appears in the movie, and I will leave it at that."* I haven't forgiven Jessica Alba for the misandry of *Dark Angel*. *((Sometime, you really must expand on the subject of misandry in broadcast media fictions.))*

*"...Someone called Ice Cube (some sort of musician, I believe)..."*  
\**(laugh)\**

*"Felicity: Good luck on the Auroras!"* I never did get around to entering, sadly. Maybe next year, if my life is less chaotic.

*((Actually you don't put up your own name for an Aurora, other people nominate you, and/or vote for you whether or not your name is on the voting ballot.))*

Point taken, about that woman not wanting to stand up to her boyfriend and get slapped around for it. Felicity Walker/BCSFAZINEzine – I notice that between composition and publication my apostrophes and quote marks become non-directed and my em-dashes become hyphens – what can I do to fix this?

*((Not much; it is my job, and I don't always register that there's something to be done.))*

*"Mainstream wrestling broke kayfabe (?? – GS)..."* In the carnival days of wrestling, *kayfabe* was the then-insider knowledge that

wrestling was, for lack of a clearer term, “fake.” (Etymologists speculate that the word *kayfabe* is the word *fake* in a kind of pig Latin.) Now that everyone knows that wrestling is “fake,” wrestling fans use *kayfabe* for when the actors break the imaginary “fourth wall” and do something so obviously not part of the show that it’s impossible to suspend disbelief. (I suppose, if one were tasteless, one could say that Owen Hart’s 1999 death – falling 90 feet from the rafters into the ring – broke kayfabe. It’s hard to think of a better example, because it’s often part of the show when wrestlers come into the ring and appear to be acting unpredictably and not following the script.)

Another wrestling term that has undergone a similar change in meaning is *mark*. In wrestling terms (as opposed to general con artistry terms), a *mark* was anyone who believed wrestling was “real.” Today, *mark* means an enthusiastic fan that voluntarily suspends disbelief for fun.

*(Originally, a mark was a rube that a grifter skinned by showing him the glim.)*

I put “real” and “fake” in quote marks out of sensitivity to the fact that, though the show may be scripted, all wrestlers do perform real, skilled physical actions. (Ones that result in all-too-real injuries. The show must go on even if they’re in pain, and the damage is often permanent.) It’s difficult to explain to that meaning of *real* to people who prefer to believe that wrestling is fake (and stupid). You can’t reason with those people.

Barb Dryer: I’d like to go to Fruvous’s *Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge of the Sith* birthday event.

“Even Yet More Kaffeeklatsch”: *“I concluded that either we need a better person for taking notes, or someone has to moderate these discussions better, so they actually lead somewhere and accomplish something.”* I don’t object to your half-serious suggestion at the last Kaffeeklatsch of recording audio for transcription. You seem frustrated by the results of the Kaffeeklatsches (Kaffeeklatschen?). I could moderate, but I’d need more hints about what you mean by “lead somewhere” and “accomplish something.”

*(I have this dream. I dream of a fandom, or at least a community of friends, who like creative and imaginative extrapolation: following the logical consequences of an idea, as from here-and-now reality, to absurd or fantastic outcomes. As it is, though, we just jabber in all directions, mentioning all sorts of barely-related, tangential things by free association. This is not reasoning. It’s a step or two short of my dream.)*

Why You Got This Zine – “You beat Vera’s meat. (??)” Depending on what you route you take to get to FRED, you may pass a restaurant on Davie called Vera’s Burgers. The motto on the sign is “You can’t beat Vera’s meat.”

VCon 30 – I’m ready to start distributing flyers, if it’s not too early. Ray says that the public libraries no longer allow convention flyers on their bulletin boards. Would it dishonour the convention if I slipped one, folded neatly, into each SF book at the Richmond Public Library?

---

*Randy Barnhart, 1-1565 Heron Road, Ottawa, ON, K1V 9V1,  
[randy\\_barnhart@hotmail.com](mailto:randy_barnhart@hotmail.com), 20 May 2005*

Hey Garth! How you doin’? *BCSFazine* #384 was a grand as always. I particularly liked Cosmic Ray’s report on Norwescon 28. For some reason that escapes me at the moment, I never had an opportunity to attend Norwescon, but Ray makes it sound most enticing. Thank you, Ray.

Hey, remember a few years back when the Natural Law Party ran in just about every election? “Guided” by the precepts of the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi’s Transcendental Meditation movement, their main point was to teach everyone to levitate, thus eliminating the need for highways, planes, buses, civil defence (they actually ran a CGI video during a campaign meeting about squads of levitating yogi-soldiers duking it out with Russky bombers). This one time, I actually saw a Natural Lawyer do something he claimed was levitation, but looked more to me like hopping from a squatting position – which is why Ryan Hawe’s picture on the front cover reminded me of that impossibly dull memory.

Dr. Geronimo: “Nakedly Philistine” is it? Dr. Geronimo fandom has already won! Next time you take the Skytrain, listen closely: tenses all mixed up, slang owing more to profanity than witticism, dangling participles... I could go on, but I must laugh at your futile attempt to warn the unknowing. Mwahaha!

And in your hate-filled anti-Doc screed, I noted you missed mentioning Vida, who often accompanied Dr. Geronimo on his conflicted, yet exciting adventures. Statuesque, dressed head to toe in a latex catsuit, her raven hair gathered in a pert bun...My god, she helped more than one fanboy (and not a few fangirls) over that difficult line into puberty! Indeed, the striking similarities between Vida and Trinity would have already generated a lawsuit, were it not for the fact *Matrix Revultion* was such an unmitigated piece of crap.

Long live Dr. Geronimo and Vida!

Ahem.

Denny’s: is a marginally acceptable choice for fans, especially given the price and the fact the food is so bland, one needn’t worry about food allergies. My beef with Denny’s is the whole insipidness of the ambiance. Denny’s tries to do this featureless Middle America

thing, and thus I have little trust for everything they do. Have you considered IHOP?

Here in the Mysterious East we are blessed with something called Cora's, a fine little restaurant chain. Originally founded by a single mom desperate to get off social assistance, it serves inexpensive but huge breakfasts and lunches (but no dinner; it closes at 15:00). They load up the plates with fruit in addition to you order, so my last order of pancakes included sliced bananas, sliced oranges, slice melon and sliced apple. Needless to say, I didn't need to eat again until dinner. And, of course, in Toronto there's the Scifi Café.

Crap SF: Garth, you really should take a crack at writing some of this stuff. Really. A friend of mine who is a very good non-genre writer (check out "Battered Soles" by Paul Nicholas Mason; I'm in it!) made some nice cash writing Harlequin romances while in university. Not something you want to include on your bibliography, but you have an opportunity to hone your skills and develop contacts.

Sin City: Nothing convinced me more of the huge and growing gap between fans and mundanes that the reaction of film critics to *Sin City*. Almost all of the criticism has nothing to do with the film itself (was it good, bad or indifferent? Why?). Rather, most of the filmies seem genuinely upset that a brilliant film used a *comic book* as the source material!! "It can't be true," they say, "comics are for socially-challenged dweebs with no class! They do not belong in our classy, thoughtful and tasteful little world of film studies." They seem more obsessed with ensuring their readers understand the deep contempt with which they hold fandom than dealing with the film or its progenitors.

Need proof? I'm sure most of you have heard about Lisa Schwarzbaum's review of *Sin City* in the entirely too-estimable *Entertainment Weekly*. According to her, faithfulness to a "racy comic book" as source material is nothing more than "fawning thrall" and "obsessive literal-mindedness." Indeed, she goes so far as to suggest that it would have been a better film if the director, Robert Rodriguez, had just forgotten all that comic book stuff and did a straight love story. Of course, had that happened, the film would not have been *Sin City*.

*(Already quoted, earlier in this letter column.)*

Schwarzbaum's grating disdain goes further than just the comic medium. She genuinely abhors fans with a passion that knows no limits. Apparently the only reason *Sin City* is so popular is that we are "hormonally trip-wired teenagers" who are sexually, emotionally and socially immature; else why would we be reading comic books? I haven't read anything this despicable and disgusting since the bad old days of Dr. Wertham.

And that gap seems to be growing. Society as a whole seems to be racing towards an almost fixated conformity, rather like the Fifties. Is it an effect of the War on Terrorism, with those outside the mundane replacing the

Combies as targets of hatred and suspicion? I don't know, but anti-gay violence is on the rise, anti-Semitism is up, and just general unpleasantness towards anyone outside a tightly monitored circle of conformity is really getting up a head of steam. Maybe it's time to reconsider Leslie Fish's old idea of a "homeland for fans." Of course, YMMV.

*((Oh. I am so out of it.))*

Felicity: I certainly understand your feelings of dislike for Spider Jerusalem. As Warren Ellis said about his *Transmetropolitan* (the comic Spider appeared in): "*Transmetropolitan* follows Spider as he harasses people with the ugly, painful truth until they are practically driven insane, fill their pants up with defecation wrought of abject terror, or simply kick his ass. Then he writes articles about them." Spider was created to be thoroughly unlikeable in his search for the truth. He is, I think, an object lesson to those of us who want our heroes to be clean cut, flawless types. Heroes need not be admirable or even nice, simply heroic.

On the other hand, it could just be a case like your thinking Bill Paxton is the cat's pyjamas while I...do not.

My favourite TV program these days (i.e., while *Battlestar Galactica* is on summer holiday), is *House, MD* (Global). For those who haven't seen this tiny perfect gem: Gregory House is the head of the Diagnostics Department at a huge teaching hospital and one of the leading diagnosticians in the world. Several years ago, he almost lost a leg to tissue death brought on by an embolism. Hence, he limps quite badly and constantly in severe pain. He pops painkillers like they were candy (he freely admits to being an addict). He is coarse, rude, almost pathologically cruel to his students, hates all patients and is not afraid to say so and he dresses like a bum (he is the first real atheist character on TV and freely holds forth how there is no God). He is also absolutely relentless in his search for the truth. In that sense then, and despite his thoroughly appalling personality, House is a hero.

*((We have functionally different definitions of "hero".))*

Possibly the reason F.M. Busby sounds like a female name is because so many female writers, like J.K. Rawlings and the late and very lamented Andre Norton, had to stop using gender-significant names in order to be taken seriously by publishers. This, of course, really bites.

*((And here I thought that was, like, so fifty years ago.))*

Oh yes, wrestling is contrived. This was made clear in law a few years ago during a trial over the then-WWF's tax status in the Great

State of New Jersey. It seems NJ taxes sports teams and organizations at a higher rate than arts and entertainment groups. Thus, Mr. MacMahon filed an affidavit to the effect that wrestling was not or ever would be a sport (hence the change to “sports entertainment”), the outcome of matches were decided in advance and EVERYTHING is faked. There was some tittering in the sports press after that, but true wrestling geeks didn’t mind. After all, where else can you watch an outrageously dressed and flawless good guy battle an outrageously dressed and evil bad guy to the death over the fate of the earth. Except, you know, *Star Wars*.

While you are probably correct that Noam Chomsky would view fandom with the same jaundiced eye with which he views sport, I’ll give that to Dr. Chomsky because I worship the soil upon which he treads. His books have helped me form my view on the media and the world at large. I consider him one of the most erudite humans on earth. I once watched a minor league reporter with delusions of grandeur attempt to debate Chomsky about the Recent Unpleasantness in Iraq. Chomsky quite casually crushed with a few well-chosen words. When you go after the Big Dog, you gotta bring the big guns.

Your idea about sending cash back in time sounds like an old Mack Reynolds short story, called (I believe) “Compound Interest”. A guy shows up in Renaissance Venice just as modern banking is getting under way. He drops off a few silver coins and asks nothing except they be invested. Over the centuries, the gold coins grow into a monumental fortune. Wars are fought over control of the fortune (the American Civil War was really about whether to invest in the industrial North or the agricultural South). Finally the by-now mythical Investor shows up in 2013 and wants to liquidate the fortune. This of course will cause a massive financial panic and destroy the world economy. Why? Because he needs the money to build a time machine, so he can take a few gold coins back in time...

*((Stories like that bother me; there’s something missing in the way of motivation, or logic, or something like that.))*

The Robert Wyatt song is on his 1982 album “Nothing Can Stop Us Now” (re-issued 1998). You might also give a listen to Joe Jackson’s “Stepping Out”, on his *Day and Night* album. If that doesn’t perk you up, I recommend heavy drinking.

Well, I’ve been invited to the Next VCon as a guest, and have given a tentative OK, so I guess we’ll see you there!

Take care!

---

“The submarine takeovers are televised, with commercial breaks, and the alligators in the sewers have been supplanted by giant mutant sharks.”

---

## *Of Thirty Years Have I Twice Twenty Been Enragéd*

2: Lloyd Penney has participated in Victoria fandom, Toronto fandom, several Ad Astras and other conventions; he is a well-known letterhack, and winner of several Aurora Awards; and Lloyd and Yvonne were delegates of the 2000 Canadian Unity Fan Fund. Today, he collects convention listings for the “Made in Canada” website, and still writes letters to fanzines. There is no truth to the rumour that he hacks the White House intranet and writes the occasional scrambled-English comments for which the current US President is famous. It doesn’t work that way.

3: Karl Johanson has been a fixture of Victoria fandom for quite a few years, and now edits *Neo-Opis*, a recently-launched Canadian SF periodical. There is no truth to the rumour that he played with some databases online and set up the Canadian federal Liberal party for its recent embarrassing revelations; it doesn’t work that way. But he does make fun of anything and anyone.

11: Kathleen Moore-Freeman still hosts BCSFA monthly meeting/parties and produces occasional issues of *Why You Got This Zine*.

11: Ray Seredin is not the Stuart pretender to the British throne, and has no claim to inherit the Holy Roman Empire, but he continues to write for *BCSFAzine*.

19: Michael Martin is still, as far as I know, licensed to preach and baptize and conduct marriages and funerals, and is still, as far as I know, somewhere in the Lower Mainland. And that’s all I know.

25: Ed Beauregard, at last report, was doing some kind of work for the Telus corporation in Korea, and learning interesting things about Korean management philosophy.

26: Art Mueller was still, at last report, living on Barnston Island with Dixie Mueller.

27: Rose Martell is another member or former member of BCSFA about whom I know practically nothing.

28: Randy Reichardt is or was an out-of-town BCSFAn living in Alberta and doing librarian stuff, if in fact there is any demand for libraries in Alberta.

28: Gavrilko Witherspoon-Li is still studying English.

29: Brenda Thompson is another member or former member of BCSFA about whom I know practically nothing.

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A sort of an ad from:

*Chris Sturges, April 26*

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## *The Heathen Tumultuously Assemble*

June 2005

June 3-5: ConComCon 12 at the Seattle Radisson, 17001 Pacific Highway South, Seattle, WA 98188, U.S.A.

ConComCon, or C-Cubed, is the Pacific Northwest's annual convention-runners convention. ConComCon is the best place in the Pacific Northwest to network with other local convention runners, exchange ideas on how to make conventions run more effectively, and talk about fandom in general. Whether you have been running conventions for years, or you are completely new to convention running and you want to get your foot in the door, come on down and join us!

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Hotel Room Rate is \$79 per night; room reservations number is 1-800-333-3333 or (206) 244-6000, fax (206) 246-6835.

Memberships are: \$35 at the door. Mail your memberships with name, address, city, state, zip, email to: ConComCon 12, c/o SWOC, PO Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111, U.S.A. See <http://www.swoc.org/ccubed/>, or contact the ConComCon Chairs: Michael and Becky Citrak, tel (360) 456-7441, email [mcitrak@Comcast.net](mailto:mcitrak@Comcast.net) or [adonno@aol.com](mailto:adonno@aol.com) for more information

C-Cubed is sponsored by Seattle Westercon Organizing Committee (SWOC), the parent organization of the Seattle in 2005 North American Science Fiction Convention now officially known as Cascadia Con.

Michael Citrak <[mcitrak@comcast.net](mailto:mcitrak@comcast.net)>, 11 Feb 2005

June 5, 11 am - 5 pm: Vancouver Comicon at the Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15th Ave.), Vancouver, BC. Special Guests: Matt Haley, cover artist of *Firestorm*; artist of *Jack Hunter: G. I. Spy, Birds of Prey, The Order*; Corey "Rey" Lewis, creator of *Sharkknife*; artist of *Street Fighter*; Steve Rolston, creator of *One Bad Day*, artist of *Queen and Country, Pounded, Mek*; Verne Andru, artist of *Captain Canuck, Phantacea, Rock n Rule*, Charlton Comics; Ken Boesem, creator of Barking Raven Press; Kelly Everaert, creator of *Trilogy of Terror*; Robin Thompson, creator of *Champions of Hell*; Robin Bougie, creator of *Cinema Sewer*. Free Comics! Hourly door prizes for *War of the Worlds* t-shirts, baseball caps and posters! (*War Of The Worlds* opens in theatres June 29th) Admission: \$3.00; Kids under 14: Free; Dealers' Tables: \$45/centre; \$50/wall. For information about this show, please call 604-322-6412 or e-mail [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com). See also <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html>.

June 17: release of *Batman Begins*

June 18, 12 to 5 pm: Digra 2005 Video Games Tournament & Gamer's Marketplace at the Renaissance Hotel, 1133 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC. An event featuring Halo 2, Dance Dance Revolution, and PC Case Modding competitions; Cash and iPod Shuffle prizes! General Admission: \$5.00; Competition Admission: \$10; Dealers' Tables: \$35. For information about this show, please call 604-291-3275. To book a dealers' table, please call 604-322-6412 or email [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com).

June 25 & 26: Astronomi-Con Winnipeg 2005, Winnipeg Convention Centre, Winnipeg, MB. Gaming convention. Registration: \$75. For more information, [www.astronomi-con.com](http://www.astronomi-con.com).

July 2005

July 1: release of *Undead, StarCraft: Ghost, Fantastic Four*, and *Treasure of the Seven Mummies*

July 1-4: Westercon 58 and Convention 2005 at the Westin Calgary Hotel in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. A traveling general SF and major regional SF Convention. Author GoH: S.M. Stirling, Canadian Author Guest: David Duncan. Publisher guest: Tom Doherty (TOR). Editor guest: David Hartwell (TOR). Science Guest: Dr. Phil Currie (archaeologist). Artist guest: Mark Ferrari. Fan Guests: Cliff Samuels & Eileen Capes. Rooms C\$120 + tax per night; contact 1-800-937-8461. Memberships range up to C\$80 (adult). Write

Calgary in 2005, P.O. Box 43078, DVPO, Calgary, AB T2J 7A7, or email [info@calgaryin2005.org](mailto:info@calgaryin2005.org).

July 15-18: Fragapalooza in Edmonton, Alberta. See <http://www.fragapalooza.com>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

July 16: release of *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

July 25-August 1: Gatecon 2005, Best Western Richmond Inn, Richmond, BC. Media SF convention. Guests: Dirk Benedict, Richard Hatch, Kevin Sorbo, Robert Picardo, Alonso Oyarzun. Registration: US\$225. for more information, see [www.gatecon.com](http://www.gatecon.com).

July 29 – 31: MerpCon 2005 in Spokane, Washington. LOTR-themed role-playing convention. Registration: Free. See <http://merpcon.merp.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005; Lloyd's list, Mar. 2005)

August 2005

Aug. 4-8: Interaction (63rd Worldcon), SECC, Glasgow. Now £110/\$195/€165 reg. £30/\$45/€45 supp. Contact 379 Myrtle Road, Sheffield, S2 3HQ. In North America: PO Box 58009, Louisville, Kentucky, KY 40268-0009, USA. (*Ansible* 209)

Aug. 5-7: Animethon 12 at Grant MacEwan Community College / Holiday Inn Express in Edmonton, Alberta; Anime convention. Registration: TBA. See <http://www.animethon.org>

Aug. 11-14: PDX LAN in Portland, Oregon. See <http://www.pdxlan.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

Aug 19-21: Anime Evolution at Simon Fraser University in Burnaby (*not* the Vancouver campus), BC. Anime convention. Guests: Broken Saints, Rob Bakewell, Johnny Yong Bosch, Michael Dobson, David Kaye, and Kirby Morrow. Memberships: \$35 at the door. See <http://www.animeevolution.com>

Aug 26-28: Dragonflight 2005 at the Bellevue Sheraton in Bellevue, WA. Gaming convention. Memberships: US\$35 until July 31, US\$40 thereafter and at the door. (<http://www.dragonflight.org/>)

Aug. 26-28: PAX (Penny Arcade Expo) at Maydenbabauher Center in Bellevue, Washington. See <http://www.penny-arcade.com/pax>.

Aug 28: Comix & Stories in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com).

September 2005

Sept. 1-5: CascadiaCon 2005, the 2005 NASFiC, at the SeaTac Hilton & Conference Center in Seatac, Washington. (The General SF convention North Americans hold when Worldcon goes overseas.) Writer GoH: Fred Saberhagen. Artist GoH: Liz Danforth. Editor GoH: Toni Weisskopf (Baen). Fan GoH: Kevin Standlee (chair of Con Jose).

Scientist GoH: Marc Abrahams (founder of the *Journal of Improbable Research* and the Ig Nobel Awards). Rooms \$109/night for 1-4 people; phone (206) 244-4800. Memberships: \$85 (full adult). Write Seattle NASFiC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111.

Sept. 3-5: H.P. Lovecraft's Birthday Party in Vancouver, BC. Gaming convention. Registration: \$10 pre-registration, \$15 at the door. See <http://www.vancouvergamingguild.com/>. (Isaac Alexander, Feb. 6, 2005)

Sept. 3-5: Kumoricon in Portland, OR; more details TBA

Sept. 18: Vancouver Comicon in Vancouver, BC. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com).

Sept. 23-25: Foolsap VII at the Bellevue Sheraton, Bellevue, WA. GoH: Harlan Ellison. "Foolsap VII will continue the tradition of featuring original artwork from professionals and newcomers on an invitational basis. To be considered for invitation, prospective artists may submit samples of artwork to our jury." Memberships \$40 now. Mail deadline: Sept. 10, 2005. Mail to Foolsap VII c/o Little Cat Z, P.O. Box 2461, Seattle, WA 98111-2461, U.S.A. Email [www.foolsapcon.org](http://www.foolsapcon.org).

Sept. 23-25 – Fallcon 18, Calgary Marlborough Community Association Centre, Calgary, AB. Gaming convention. Memberships: \$25 until August 29, \$30 afterwards and at the door. For more information, [www.fallcon.com](http://www.fallcon.com).

October 2005

Oct. 7-9: VCon 30 at the Executive Inn Airport Plaza Hotel in Richmond, BC. Writer GoH Robert Silverberg, ArtGoH Todd Lockwood. Dealers' tables: \$60 for first table, with 1 included membership; \$50 for additional table, with 1 included membership; \$30 for each additional membership. (Dealers' Liaison: Greg Slade.) Registration until September 15, 2005, adults \$50, children \$25; at the door, adults \$60, children \$30 each. Payment accepted by cheque, money order or Visa. Day memberships are available. See [www.v-con.ca](http://www.v-con.ca) for updates. Write to VCon 30, c/o #209 - 2166 West 8th Avenue, Vancouver, BC V6K 2A4.

Oct. 14-16 – Hero's Gambit, St. Joseph's Hall, Saskatoon, SK. Gaming convention. Registration: \$18. For more information, [www.herosgambit.com](http://www.herosgambit.com).

Oct. 21-23: NerdCon 2005, Noon Friday to 7 PM Sunday at the Clackamas Banquet Facility (Denny's), Clackamas, Oregon. See <http://www.kermanenterprises.com/cavenerds/nerdcon.html>  
Isaac Alexander, April 22, 2005

Oct. 21-23 – Conifur Northwest, SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, Seattle, WA. Furry/Anthropomorphic convention. Guest: David Hopkins. Memberships: US\$40. For more information, [www.conifur.org](http://www.conifur.org).

Oct. 23 – Toy, Model And Collectibles Show, Heritage Hall, Vancouver, BC.  
Memberships: \$2, kids \$1. For more information, see  
[www.mypage.uniserve.ca/~lswong/Comicon.html](http://www.mypage.uniserve.ca/~lswong/Comicon.html).

Oct. 28-30: Dreamcon 20 in Everett, WA (more details TBA)

Oct. 29&30 – Howloween 2005, Best Western Convention Centre, Coquitlam, BC.  
Anthropomorphic convention. Registration: C\$35/US\$26 until October 10, C\$40 at the door. For more information, [www.howloween.org](http://www.howloween.org).

November 2005

Nov. 4-6: Orycon 27 at the Portland Marriott Downtown Waterfront in Portland, Oregon. GoHs: Brian Herbert and Kevin J. Anderson; ArtGoH Paul Guinan; Special GoHs Rebecca Moesta and Anina Bennett; Editor GoH TBA. Room rates at the Marriott (1401 SW Naito Parkway, Portland, OR 97201, tel. [503] 226-7600) Fax: 1-503-221-1789 email <http://marriott.com/property/propertypage.mi?marshaCode=PDXOR> ) will be US\$99/nite. Remember, this 1300+member convention is a weaponless con. Memberships \$40 to July 15, \$45 to October 15, \$55 at the door. Children 6-12 half-price, 5's and under free; Children must be accompanied by adults. Email [orycon27@hotmail.com](mailto:orycon27@hotmail.com), see [www.orycon.org](http://www.orycon.org) or write Orycon 27, P.O. Box 5464, Portland, OR 97228-5464, U.S.A.

Nov. 20: Vancouver Comicon in Vancouver, BC. Comics convention. Memberships: TBA. See <http://mypages.uniserve.com/~lswong/Comicon.html> or contact [lswong@uniserve.com](mailto:lswong@uniserve.com) .

2006

Jan. 13-15: Rustycon 23, SeaTac Radisson Airport Hotel, Seattle, WA. SF convention. Guests: Mike Moscoe, Ruth Thompson, Clan Burnout/Carbon Based Rentals. Memberships: TBA. For more information, see [www.rustycon.com](http://www.rustycon.com).

May 2006

#### SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WORLD HORROR CONVENTION

"is announced for May 11-14, 2006 in San Francisco, CA: GoH Kim Newman, TM Peter Straub. Co-chairs: Chad Savage, Darren Mckeeman, and Jeremy Lassen.  
<http://www.whc2006.org>"

DarkEcho, April 29, 2005

"The earliest Latin document anywhere that is known to be in a female hand ... is a Roman letter from about 100 A.D. ... inviting the recipient to a birthday party."

## ASK DR. KNOW

(A communal identity composed of any participating BCSFA members and BCSFAzine readers)

Q: What is the interface between fandom and the 'danes, and how can we *gracefully* represent fandom to 'danes, without sacrificing that which is Fandom?

(John Bartley, Feb. 13, 2005)

A: Depending on your experience, you may perceive the interface was *obscured* between fandom and "Mundania" – the realm of very mundane people – by the successful marketing of *Star Trek*, *Star Wars*, and other media "franchises". (Other people have directly contrary experiences, as witness Randy Barnhardt's letter in this issue. I have no idea how to resolve this contradiction.)

We already *lost* the essential thing to represent about Fandom, about the mid-1970s. The essential thing in Fandom, or so I was led to believe by several sources, was a community of friends with active minds, which was small enough that most were in contact with most of the others, and who knew many of the same stories and ideas; and who were enough education to apply skepticism, disciplined reason, and yet imagination to SF and to the present world alike.

The essential thing in Mundania, or at least in the most mundane people, is a refusal to recognize the repeated innovations and changes in their world, since some arbitrary point in the past. Maybe some contemporary mainstream novels include some new things, such as HIV and Kreutzfeld-Jacob disease, electronic communication and privacy issues, advances in prosthetic and diagnostic technology, nuclear and genetic technologies, or environmental degradation; but not terribly long ago, any remotely similar stories would automatically be classified as science fiction.

However, "science fiction" has been transmogrified, largely by entertainment media, into "sci fi". I think the difference is the difference between stories about *new* ideas – as were many stories by Asimov, Anderson, Blish, de Camp, Gibson, Heinlein, Pohl, Simak, Sturgeon, Verne, Wells, Williams, when they were first published – and *formulaic* movie and television stories. The trappings, and the outward, visible signs of these series, are now *familiar* to many; they are popular knowledge, even clichés. And they're *not original*.

"Fandom" itself has been transmogrified into several groups, each with a different focus to their interests; the groups mostly *don't* know each other, nor the same stories and ideas; in fact the "interface" or chasm between any two fan groups may be greater important than the interface between fans and mundanes.

There are still very mundane people who won't concede that life *changes*, in important essentials; more to the point, people who just *won't* try out novel, original ideas, even in conversation. There are a lot more people who are familiar with the trappings of science fiction but who don't seek it out, and who *won't* follow a bit of reasoned speculation.

There is no graceful way to cross this barrier.

In this respect, I should say that most fan groups *are now mundane*; that is why I maintain that the interface between fans and mundanes is obscured.

Of course you could always respond that you were only asking about the difference between people who go to SF conventions, and people who ask what they're about.

Garth Spencer

## DEAR FAN SLANDERS

(questions and answers by a random collection of BCSFAns)

Dear Fan Slanders:

Who is this putative "Philip Freeman" that is said to be married to Kathleen Moore-Freeman, and why is he NEVER THERE when we show up for BCSFA meetings? – *The Suspicious Few*

Dear Suspicious:

Mr. Freeman is an unfortunate soul who only exists on weekdays, except when there is lab. work marking to be done. When the marking is tidied out of the way for BCSFA, he temporarily ceases to exist. Haul the labs out, and he will show up. – *F.S.*

Dear Fan Slanders:

I hope you have heard of wiki (example, "wikipedia"). Do you know of a wiki-zine? – *Hrothgar Weems*

Dear Hrothgar:

Yes. It's the coming thing in badly-spelled mispronounced Latin. – *F.S.*

*(Editor writes: I think Fan Slanders just hadn't heard of Wikipedia, the "open-source" online encyclopedia that everyone can expand, correct and update. The word "wiki" comes from Hawaiian, meaning something like "quick" or "hurry". I'm not sure myself if there is a wiki-zine – perhaps every website or blog qualifies. –GS)*

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"I like these people. They throw soft things."

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## Report from Probability Eh?

R.I.P. BILL BOWERS (1943-2005)

Bill Bowers, a "major US fan and fanzine publisher for several decades, died on 18 April after years of failing health. He was 61. In the 1960s he co-edited *Double:Bill* with Bill Mallardi, and since the 1970s published seventy issues of the impressive *Outworlds*, with #71 still in progress; both these fanzines collected multiple Hugo nominations. He tied as winner of the TransAtlantic Fan Fund in 1976. Bill will be very much missed."

David Langford, *Ansible* 214, May 2005

A CLINIC CALLED BORIS:

*Robert Sheckley on Artificial Respiration in Ukrainian Hospital*

"Famous U.S. science-fiction writer Robert Sheckley is still in a Kiev hospital suffering respiratory failure after a week of treatment, the Ekho Moskvu Web site reported Thursday.

"The 76-year-old writer was taken to hospital with a cold during his visit to the Ukrainian Sci-Fi Computer Week, an international event for science fiction writers, *Itar Tass* reports. His condition has deteriorated since.

"Sheckley is now in one of Kiev's private medical institutions, a clinic called Boris. He has also been examined by specialists from the Ukrainian State Pulmonology Institute and the National Medical University.

"The writer is currently on artificial respiration and doctors describe his condition as grave, *Ekho Moskvu* adds.

"Robert Sheckley is a star of the Golden Age of science fiction and one of the major creators of the genre itself.

"Born in Brooklyn and raised in New Jersey Sheckley began writing stories in the 1940s, soon becoming popular. He moved to the Spanish island of Ibiza in the 1970s and returned to the United States ten years later as fiction editor of *OMNI* magazine.

"Sheckley has written over sixty books to date, including twenty novels and nine collections of short stories. His major works include *Immortality Inc* and *Status Civilization* as well as several books written in collaboration with Roger Zelazny.

"He won the Jupiter Award for the best science fiction story of 1974. In 1991, he received the Daniel F. Gallun award for contributions to the genre of science fiction.

"More here: <http://www.itar-tass.com/eng/level2.html?NewsID=2002737&PageNum=0>

From MosNews:

Forwarded from Timebinders digest, May 4-5, 2005

*PORTLAND SMOFCON TAKING SHAPE*

Patty Wells writes:

"I have to share with you that when I asked to do another Smofcon program, I was envisioning something kind of quiet and maybe even a shade academic. I completed a second master's degree in adult ed in the last couple of years and figured I could use some of those ideas.

"Then all Hell broke loose in Portland. The hotel we'd held Orycon in for 17 years was sold. This wasn't a problem, it's been sold before, multiple times. This time they announced its closure fairly abruptly in the papers over the weekend, leaving no weekend staff able to answer any questions posed by people like me. At that point the Columbia River was half the site for a Westercon bid, and housed Orycon and our 600 person gaming con, GameStorm.

"But that wasn't the half of the insanity that broke around the same time. Suddenly our relatively young chair (a woman of great strength and character) had no hotel, no art show panels, and a startling lack of several other things.

"As we began picking up pieces, I made notes for a Smofcon program. I think it's important to take one's intensely painful learning experiences and do something useful with them. The theme will be Expecting the Unexpected and will feature discussions of these sorts of topics - hotel re-siting, controlling mailing lists when rumors abound, breaking bad news, what documents you should have multiple copies of, developing a team when you have tough decisions to make, and the importance of fannish networking. This is not to say we've done any of these things well, you understand. We just have some fresh insights on the issues involved, and decided to see if we've learned anything useful to share in a Smofcon.

"I ended up taking point on finding the new Orycon hotel. Following this search, a couple of my favorite maniacs and I are developing an exercise to take you through the decision making process we faced, when nothing seems good after so many years in the same place. For those of you who know me, you might guess that the names and attributes of the hotels might change just a little to add some fun to it. But I barely have to stretch the truth to do this; one of those hotels really does look a lot like Alcatraz. (But we decided on the hotel modelled on Lovecraft's "Dreams of the Witch House".)

"We intend to have the usual Smofcon panels. However, I'd like to see the idea of *how a group can be prepared to turn on a dime when situations change suddenly* be something we consciously look at this year. (*my emphasis - GS*)

"Please feel free to throw in ideas and let me know what especially merits discussion this year. Finances have kept me from the past couple of Smofcons, so I would love to see some discussion on things that haven't been emphasized enough recently.

"I will happily collect articles to make a Smofcon book. They can follow the theme or be more general. If I were to say anything about articles, it would be that if you haven't ventured to write about what you do, you should

give it a try. Too few of us write down what we know, considering what a knowledgeable group of people this is. So, this is your first request for articles as well."

Patty Wells online, April 2005

*BRAVE NEW WORLD DEPT.*

"TRADE YOUR CELL FOR A CELL: Sheriff's deputies in Rogersville, Tenn., say that as Jason Anthony Arnold, 29, and James Keith Benton, 38, planned out a burglary, a snitch was relaying every word to police dispatchers. The snitch: Arnold's cell phone. 'Apparently with this type of phone if you hold down the number nine it automatically dials 911,' Detective Eve Jackson explained. It was in Arnold's pocket. At some point the phone dialed the emergency number 'and Central dispatch heard everything they said.' Deputies did a stakeout on the target car dealership and swooped in once the late-night burglary started. 'You can imagine their surprise,' Jackson said. (Kingsport *Times-News*) ...It likely wasn't any more of a surprise than any other criminal feels when busted. Don't they all figure they'll get away with it?"

This Is True, May 6, 2005

*NW GAMING FILM?*

The Gamers: Dorkness Rising, is either a group of fan filmmakers or a fan-made film, out of Tacoma, WA; see <http://www.the-gamers.com/>

Isaac Alexander, April 22, 2005

*AWARD NOMINATIONS, RELEASES AND NATIONAL RADIO BROADCAST*

(Calgary) Canada's largest genre publisher, EDGE Science Fiction and Fantasy Publishing prepares for a very busy month, with Alberta Book Award nomination of Marie Jakober; two forthcoming releases, *Tesseract Nine* and *The Courtesan Prince* which are now available for review; and with Nalo Hopkinson, co-editor of the new release *Tesseract Nine* hitting the airwaves for the CBC Radio series, "Six Impossible Things".

*Even The Stones Announced as Finalist for Alberta Book Awards (May 14th, 2005)*

When Marie Jakober was growing up, books were everything to her. They still are.

Now recognized throughout the world as one of Canada's most influential fantasy writers, Jakober is being honoured on May 14th as a finalist for the George Bugnet Awards celebrating excellence in Alberta Writing and Publishing.

Jakober's book *Even the Stones* is the second of her novels to be considered for this award. The first, "Sandanista", won the George Bugnet award in 1995.

Here is what author Ursula LeGuin has to say about *Even The Stones*:

"At the heart and soul of this fine novel is a complex perception of the roles men and women are forced to play by the rules of gender and a desperately keen sense of the cost of trying to change the roles or the rules. It is a fantasy without wishful thinking, both ruthless and tender, not to be forgotten." – *Ursula K. LeGuin* –

This is the second book award nomination for *Even the Stones* so far this year. The book has also been nominated for the ForeWord Magazine Book of the Year award.



#### *Tesseracts Nine* Now Available for Review (May 15th, 2005)

Each year Tesseract Books chooses a team of editors from amongst the best of Canada's writers, publishers and critics to select innovative and futuristic fiction and poetry from the leaders and emerging voices in Canadian speculative fiction. The editors this year are Sunburst and World Fantasy Award winning authors Nalo Hopkinson and Geoff Ryman.

Book Nine in the series, *Tesseracts Nine* expands the dimensions of speculative fiction experientially, with startling visions of the future by new and established Canadian authors.

After reviewing hundreds of submissions, Hopkinson and Ryman selected twenty-three stories and poems by: Timothy J. Anderson, Sylvie

Bérard, René Beaulieu, E. L. Chen, Candace Jane Dorsey, Pat Forde, Marg Gilks, Sandra Kasturi, Nancy Kilpatrick, Claude Lalumière, Anthony MacDonald, Jason Mehmel, Yves Meynard, Derryl Murphy, Rhea Rose, Dan Rubin, Daniel Sernine, Steve Stanton, Jerome Stueart, Sarah Totton, Élisabeth Vonarburg, Peter Watts, Allan Weiss, Alette J. Willis and Casey June Wolf.

#### *The Courtesan Prince* by Lynda Williams Book One in the Okal Rel Universe Saga

When Earth's first attempt to conquer the far reaches of space was thwarted by the failure of a faster than light transportation system, the colonists were abandoned. The next colony succeeded through the use of bioengineered humans, who later sided with renegade scientists to sever their contact with Earth and establish their own unique empire.

Now, thousands of years in the future, these scattered descendants of humanity have evolved into two very different societies: the technologically regulated Reetions of Rire, who rely on advanced computer technology to monitor and control every aspect of their lives, and the genetically enhanced and feudalistic Sevolites of Gelion, whose lives are based on birthrights, class structure, and a code of honor. Two radically different cultures, now poised on the brink of war.

*The Courtesan Prince* is the first novel of Lynda Williams' intricate OKAL REL Universe Saga. In this first book of the series the author weaves together the tales of two Sevolites and two Reetions (a Reetion pilot, Ann; a brilliant anthropologist, Ranar; the courtesan prince, Von; and the proud Highlord of Gelion, DiMon) – four unlikely ambassadors who, by logic, should never meet, yet, by destiny, do!

Publisher's web site: <http://www.edgewebsite.com>

Janice Shoultz, Edge Publishing, May 6, 2005

#### NAMES IN THE NEWS

*Monday Magazine*, from Victoria, profiled Karl Johanson, editor of *Neo-Opis*. "If you want to see Karl online in a *Monday Magazine* article, check out: <http://web.bcnewsgroup.com/portals-code/list.cgi?paper=117&cat=47&id=412474&more>"

Stephanie Ann Johanson, April 21, 2005

#### GUFF RESULTS

"As you may know, Damien Warman & Juliette Wood won the 2005 GUFF trip."

Eric Lindsay, May 7, 2005

*MILITARY ROBOTS – IT IS TO LAUGH*

[comments from the WSFA list:]

“One of the few interesting folks here is [a] fairly young guy who built the motorcycle entry for the DARPA Desert Challenge [for which automated vehicles were challenged to run a 142-mile course. The best one did 8 miles...]

“The NIST presenter was saying that computers need to get an order of magnitude faster for the decision software to work on real vehicles.

“So the AI cycle guy says, ‘how about running them through parallel processors?’ (which he does.)

“That’s special purpose stuff, we’d rather just wait for the hardware.’

“But what about the parallel work already done in video cards?’

“Oh, that’s gaming technology. We don’t have their budget.”

Forwarded by Dick Eney  
to TIMEBINDERS Digest – 18 Apr 2005 to 19 Apr 2005

*THE TAXMAN COMETH:*

“The Canada Revenue Agency announced a fine of C\$16,232 (US\$13,150) against Winnipeg, Man., bookkeeper Audrey Shuster after she was convicted of embezzling more than C\$73,000 from her employer over a period of two years. At the time, she was on probation for taking C\$129,000 from a local charity. She was sentenced to 2.5 years in prison for the second theft, but the tax agency tacked on the fine because she failed to pay income tax on her ill-gotten gains. As long as the fine goes unpaid, interest and penalties will accumulate. ‘The Income Tax Act doesn’t distinguish between illegal and legal activities,’ explained CRA spokeswoman Emilia Kotris. ‘It’s all earned income.’ (Winnipeg *Sun*) ...Or, as the case may be, unearned income.”

*This Is True*, April 24, 2005

*HORROR WRITERS ASSOCIATION LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD*

“[The] winner is the legendary MICHAEL MOORCOCK. Nominees for the Bram Stoke Award also announced. The HWA Annual Conference and Bram Stoker Awards banquet will be held June 24-26 at the Hilton Burbank Hotel and Convention Center in Burbank, California.” See <http://www.horror.org>

*DarkEcho*, April 29, 2005

*PAGING RUBE GOLDBERG:*

“Tim Brender was getting ready to move and ‘knew he needed to start getting things organized,’ said his wife, Lani. The Madison, Wisc. man went to the basement of his rented townhouse to start packing. He moved a table, which knocked over a can of spray paint, which landed on a hammer on the floor. The can was punctured, and it started to spray wildly, shooting paint into the water heater. The paint fumes were ignited by the pilot light, which ignited a cushion, which spread to stored gunpowder. The ensuing inferno destroyed everything in the home. ‘You couldn’t set up this scenario to

happen,’ Lani said. (Madison *Capital Times*) ...Fire investigators believed that, since the couple wasn’t insured.”

*This Is True* April 24, 2005

*SCRIPT SECRETS/NAKED WRITING SEMINAR*

Hollywood screenwriter gives class in Vancouver  
September 17 and 18th

“On the weekend of September 17 and the 18th, Bill Martell brings his acclaimed seminar to Robson Square in Vancouver. This extraordinary class, which up until now has only been offered in Los Angeles and London, can benefit beginning, intermediate and advanced screenwriters alike.

“Unlike some gurus, Bill has had some 18 scripts produced. So he has much practical experience. One previous participant says that Martell’s class is ‘better than Robert McKee’s class (and much less expensive – more information and less pontification.’

“Bill says he will provide hundreds of techniques to improve your writing, focusing on theme, character, creativity, ideas and pacing. Participants get a 120-page workbook with exercises, assignments (homework), forms and additional materials. Martell presents a course stripped of theoretical nonsense.

“Early registrants can sign on for only \$189 Canadian. Regular registrations cost \$249. Check out Bill Martell’s website at <http://www.scriptsecrets.net/lecture/vancouver1.htm> or you can contact the local organizers for more information at ayf @ telus.net or bmarles @ shaw.ca”.

From: Bill <bmarles53 @ yahoo.com>

Date: Thursday 28 April 2005, 2:26 p.m.

To: Richmond Writers <richmondwriters @ groups.msn.com>

Forwarded by Felicity Walker, May 1, 2005

*THAT COMICS GUY AGAIN*

“I now have a blog! It’s like a daily news update from me. You can click on <http://fun-ideas.blogspot.com> to see the latest entry.

“New daily comic strips have been added to Mark’s Rare Comics at <http://rarecomics.home.att.net>: *Dexter*, *Drabble*, *Girly*, *Goats*, *Unfit* and *Alien Loves Predator*. We now have hundreds of daily comics for you to enjoy. Check back every day to view your favorite!

“Speaking of comic strips, don’t forget to check out the latest *Protecto* episode at <http://funideas.home.att.net>.

“New Comic Book Database Version 2.3 now available on Mark’s Rare Comics at <http://rarecomics.home.att.net>. “Volume” field added.

"Now you can listen to an excerpt from *Bozo and his Rocket Ship* on *The Harveyville Fun Times!* at <http://thft.home.att.net> and Mark's Rare Comics at <http://rarecomics.home.att.net>.

"You can exercise your cartoonist talents by giving an extreme makeover to Casper on *The Harveyville Fun Times!* at <http://thft.home.att.net>.

"Check back regularly for more new things!"

Mark Arnold, April 30, 2005

#### GARTH SELL BOOKS

Garth Spencer, Ye Ed, is planning to go online with a catalogue of his library; books for sale, that is. Quaint and curious volumes. Some science, some political science, some recent topical nonfiction, some esoterica, some unclassifiable and mere reference stuff, even some science fiction and fantasy. In the meantime, call 604-325-7314 evenings or email [garthspencer@shaw.ca](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca) and we can negotiate.

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"It is sometimes hard to imagine how J.G. Ballard could exist without Joseph Conrad."

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#### More Great Stuff at eFanzines.com

Since our last exciting issue, the following new titles have been added to the premier online fanzine archive:

*Back Numbers* 15 (last issue), Warren Harris  
*Catchpenny Gazette* 7 & 8, David Burton  
*eI* 19, Earl Kemp  
*File 770* 132 – 144, Mike Glyer  
*Final to Land* 1, Antony J. Shepherd  
*Flipper* 1, John Wesley Hardin  
*Fringe* 1, Ulrika O'Brien  
*Hard Science Tales* 4, Joyce Worley Katz  
*Nice Distinctions* 9, Arthur Hlavaty  
*Scratch Pad* 55 – 59, Bruce Gillespie  
*Some Fantastic* 3, Matthew Appleton  
*Taboo Opinions* 44 – 46, Dick Geis  
*The Drink Tank* 15 – 21, Christopher J. Garcia  
*The Infinite Matrix*, Eileen Gunn  
*Time Enough for Nothing*, Dick Geis  
*Vegas Fandom Weekly* 20 – 22, Arnie Katz

#### CALLS FOR SF/F SHORT STORY SUBMISSIONS

The e-zine *Lost Pages* will feature a special edition, edited by Claude Lalumière and Matthew Cheney, who are looking for one story in each of

three categories – science fiction, fantasy, and slipstream/crossgenre. Submissions will be accepted by email only, by October 15, 2005, and payment is between \$20 to \$25 for first world rights. More details and format information is at <http://lostpages.net/lostpagesguidelinstemp.html>.

*The Future Is Queer*, an anthology from Arsenal Pulp Press edited by Richard Labonté and Lawrence Schimel, solicits "visionary short stories extrapolating actual GLBT concerns into the future, whether it be the next decade or a far-off millennium." Stories should be sent to Richard Labonté by email, preferably as an .RTF attachment, at [thefutureisqueer@hotmail.com](mailto:thefutureisqueer@hotmail.com), by October 1, 2005. Payment is an honorarium of \$50 to \$100 Cdn. Arsenal Pulp Press plans to release the anthology in fall of 2006. More writers' submission guidelines should be available at [www.arsenalpulp.com](http://www.arsenalpulp.com).

The 3-Day Novel Contest for 2005 is, as usual, scheduled for the Labour Day Weekend (September 3-5, 2005). The guidelines and other information for this 28<sup>th</sup> contest – to produce a whole novel manuscript in one 72-hour period – will be posted at [www.3daynovel.com](http://www.3daynovel.com).

Douglas Smith, an Ontario writer, compiles worldwide market information at [www.smithwriter.com](http://www.smithwriter.com).

Burnaby Writers' Society newsletter May/June 2005

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"The decline and decay of Robert Heinlein: the history of a descent from clarity to muddled thinking."

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#### Media File

From "Cosmic Ray" Seredin

*Akalehe I Ke Ka`aahi!*

Not too much news coming up from Hollywood this month. There should be more news after the major American TV networks announce their fall 2005 schedule, but since that's after the *BCSFazine* deadline, you'll have to wait 'til next month.

Still, there's three items I think you may find interesting.

First, UPN is not going to replace *Star Trek: Enterprise* with *Making of a Male Model* (and there was much rejoicing). The network is not saying why it's dropping this series concept, but I feel that most of the would-be models did not fit into what the network's brass wanted on the show. However, the network will rebroadcast yet another reality show from its Viacom sister media outlet MTV<sup>1</sup>, so it's out of the frying pan and right into the fire for all you Trekkers out there.

As for my feelings on the loss of *Star Trek: Enterprise*, it would have been nice to see a season five; however, I feel that the Trek fad has run its course. The whole face of SF media changed for the foreseeable future on 11 September 2001 and it's just too hard for the "stuck in the 1960s" Trek universe to change for a 21<sup>st</sup> century television audience. Perhaps in 2007, when Paramount re-launches the franchise with the *Star Trek XI* feature film, Trek will have changed into something that will draw a whole new audience, while keeping true to the ideals of the original series.

The second item is that the producers of HBO's fantasy series *Carnivàle* pulled the plug on the series after two seasons. The channel wanted to take the series in a new direction in the third season that did not fit into the producers' original concept. HBO entertainment president Carolyn Strauss, on the other hand, said the network "decided not to renew *Carnivàle*" because the series had come to a natural end.

It's not all bad news, as the third item out of the States shows: once again entertainment magazines are reporting that a fair number of science fiction and fantasy series pilots have been made for the 2005-2006 TV season. Most are copies of ABC's successful *Lost* that would like to be the next *Lost*, but will probably be the next *Father of the Pride* and get replaced with a reality series as fast as you can say "reality series." However there are some original ideas too.<sup>2</sup>

Over to the UK now.



As I said in May's "Media File", Scottish actor David Tennant will play the Tenth Doctor at the end of this season of *Doctor Who*. I said I hoped that Tennant would play a more eccentric Doctor than current star Christopher Eccleston; well, Tennant will be much more eccentric – at least in dress. Being a Scotsman, Tennant wants to become the first Doctor to wear a kilt. It's unknown if he will wear the tartan of the Tennant clan or a whole new Gallifreyan design from the mind of series executive producer Russell T. Davies. Either way, it will be a welcome change from Christopher Eccleston's leather jacket for many of us classic series fans.

Though the BBC is keeping tight-lipped about *Doctor Who* being shot outside Britain, its series partner, the CBC, wants to see one or two second-season episodes produced in Canada. The CBC has short-listed St. John's, Montreal, and Edmonton as possible locations for the production. Series producers want to see both Toronto and Vancouver added to this list. However, both Vancouver and Toronto are long shots since they are major media production centres and finding a film crew that's available for a nine-day or seventeen-day production window and can stick to a \$1.5 million (Canadian) budget is less likely than in the smaller centres. The best bet is Edmonton since they do have a large production studio built by CanWest/Global in the mid-1990s that has been sitting there unused for the last few years and has been recently purchased by the CBC.<sup>3</sup>

Word on the 'net is that members of the series production team will travel to Canada sometime between now and mid-June. They should announce if they do film in the Great White North between late June and early July.<sup>4</sup>

That's it for this month. Felicity will fill you in on what else is happening in SF media, with a bit of publication news too. 'Til next time, be seeing you.

Note to Felicity: *Akahele I Ke Ka`aahi* is Hawaiian for "Railway Crossing" and translates literally to "Look Out for the Fire Car."

#### Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> *Britney & Kevin: Chaotic*, starring Britney Spears and Kevin Federline.

<sup>2</sup> If ABC picks up the new *Little House on the Prairie* series I want Aristotle Jones to talk to the captain of the Langdale-Horseshoe Bay ferry about me going water-skiing behind it. Melissa Gilbert likes to ride that boat when staying on the Coast.

<sup>3</sup> Source: Terry Nation's nephew's girlfriend, who worked in that studio for Global when *Mysterious Island* was made there. She was also hairstylist on *Andromeda* and hopes to be hired for *Da Vinci's Inquest*.

<sup>4</sup> Forget about Edmonton and please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please, please choose *Vancouver!!!*

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"Thank you for pointing out to me how obscene eggs are."

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### Media File Supplemental

not entirely paraphrased by Felicity Walker

\* David Arquette and Courteney Cox are producing a live-action/animated pilot for MTV tentatively titled *Dirt Squirrel*. The Coquette Productions project features a mix of animated and live-action animal and human characters against an animated background.

Arquette, as superhero Dirt Squirrel, performs in a costume with prosthetics. Dirt Squirrel gets help from the League of Super Nuts, which includes skateboarder Merlin Ipswich (Jeff Braine) and "rebel grrrl" Jeanie Ipswich (Brittany Finamore). The pilot also features Cox, Paul Reubens and Lukas Haas as a trio of villains. [Sci-Fi Wire; *The Hollywood Reporter*]

\* The upcoming SF family film *Planet Terry* is about a science fiction enthusiast who finds out that he is actually an alien who has been placed on Earth as part of an intergalactic witness protection program. The screenplay is based on an unpublished comic book by Rob Liefeld. [Sci-Fi Wire; *The Hollywood Reporter*]

\* Broadcast networks are expected to announce their choices among the season's current pilot projects at next week's fall schedule unveilings in New York and are already hiring writers and staff for some prospective series.

Among the SF&F series currently seeking staffers: ABC's *Invasion*, a spooky drama executive-produced by Shaun Cassidy and Thomas Schlamme; NBC's *Fathom*, about mysterious creatures of the deep sea, and *The Book of Daniel*, about an unconventional priest; and The WB's *Supernatural*, about two brothers who travel the country hunting for supernatural beings. [Sci-Fi Wire; *The Hollywood Reporter*]

\* Spike TV has ordered a two-hour movie pilot for a series based on the *Blade* movies, with a premiere targeted for early next year. David S. Goyer, who wrote all three *Blade* films and directed the final instalment, *Blade: Trinity*, will serve as an executive producer of the pilot. He's not expected to write it,

however, as he's also at work on two other comic-book-based film projects: *Ghost Rider* and *The Flash*.

Wesley Snipes, who starred as the title character in the films, but who is suing New Line, Goyer and others for breach of contract in connection with the last movie, is unlikely to reprise the role in the TV film/pilot. [Sci-Fi Wire; Zap2It]

\* CBS' SF pilot *Threshold* is being produced by former *Star Trek: Enterprise* executive producer Brannon Braga, *Blade* writer David S. Goyer, *Harry Potter* producer David Heyman, Mark Rosen and Bragi Schut.

Braga says, "It's a psychological thriller science fiction show. It's contemporary sci-fi about aliens amongst us. But more emphasis on the psychological suspense and less emphasis on the effects-heavy type of genre piece."

*Threshold* begins with the discovery of an extraterrestrial spacecraft in the middle of the ocean. Molly Anne Caffrey (Carla Gugino), a physician and former NASA employee, is recruited to await the planet's first contact, along with a carefully assembled team made up of a brilliant physicist, a language and communications expert and a covert operative. Together they implement Operation: Threshold, charged with finding out the purpose of the landing and the fate of the ship's crew and preparing for the worst-case scenario of an alien invasion.

The cast includes Charles S. Dutton and *Star Trek: The Next Generation*'s Brent Spiner, as well as Robert Benedict, *House of Wax*'s Brian Van Holt and *Lost*'s William Mapother. [Sci-Fi Wire]

\* Berman: *Trek Needs A Rest* (Seredin: "You killed it!")

Rick Berman, executive-producer of *Star Trek: Enterprise*, believes the decline in ratings that led to the series' cancellation was the result of an oversaturation of the franchise. "There are a lot of people who criticized us for saying what I'm about to say, but I do believe that there was some degree of fatigue with the franchise," Berman said. "I think that we found ourselves in competition with ourselves. *Enterprise* in many markets was running against repeats – whether it be cable or syndication – of the original series, *Next Generation*, *Voyager* [or] *Deep Space Nine*. And I think that after 18 years and 624 hours of *Star Trek* the audience began to have a little bit of overkill with *Star Trek*, and I think that had a lot to do with it. And I think if you take a look at the last feature film we did, *Nemesis*, which I still believe was a fine movie, it did two-thirds the business that the previous films had done. So I think it's, again, another example of the franchise getting a little bit tired."

Berman said that he and the other custodians of the franchise plan to give it a rest for a few years, but are keeping a possible future *Trek* movie on the back burner. He also rebutted recent statements made by *Enterprise* star Scott Bakula that plans for a film based on the show were scuttled after its cancellation. "I think that perhaps when Scott first took the job as the lead on *Enterprise* four and a half years ago there was probably a sense that the show was going to run seven years, as the others had, and that it very well might become the next movie franchise, and it right now seems to not be the case. But I don't think there was ever any formal discussions dealing with an *Enterprise* feature." [Sci-Fi Wire]

\* Producer Joel Silver told the Australian Associated Press that Australia tops his list among shooting locations for his upcoming *Wonder Woman* movie. "When I make *Wonder Woman* I'll probably do it in Australia," Silver (*House of Wax*) told the AAP. "I love working in Australia. It makes great sense to me."

Silver shot all three *Matrix* films in Oz, as well as *Ghost Ship* and *Wax*.

Silver added that he has no start date or star yet for *Wonder Woman*, for which director Joss Whedon is completing the script. Whedon (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer*) is also putting finishing touches on his upcoming SF film *Serenity*. [Sci-Fi Wire; *The Age*]

\* Warner Brothers has picked up the spec script *The Dionaean House*. The story follows a married man who has grown apart from his old friends. When one of them commits a double-murder suicide, the men feel compelled to investigate, eventually stumbling upon an evil force that perpetuates itself through tract housing, the trade paper reported.

Heisserer created a Web site last fall to build the mythology of the project. The site, which ended up getting millions of hits, was filled with fictional correspondence between the man and a friend who has since disappeared, the trade paper reported. [Sci-Fi Wire; *The Hollywood Reporter*]

\* None other than Paramount television chief David Stapf was the supposed high-level executive who spoke with a fan group about reviving *Star Trek: Enterprise* – but only because he happened to answer his own phone late one night. Stapf listened politely to a pitch to move the show to Canada, as claimed by the fan group Trek United, but that no negotiations ever took place and that there never was a prospect of bringing back the show with fan money.

"[Stapf] was in his office after hours and made the mistake of picking up his own phone line," an anonymous source revealed. "If David Stapf hadn't picked up the phone, there never would've been any talks at all to speak of."

The inadvertent telephone conversation is reportedly the basis of claims made by the fund-raising group that it was in secret negotiations to bring *Enterprise* back for a fifth season. But Paramount has steadfastly denied

there were ever any such talks. Trek United has said a shadowy figure named "Al Vinci" made the pitch on its behalf; Vinci has made various claims about being a Canadian-based producer and former child actor, none of which has been independently corroborated.

"The pitch that he is making has zero chance of success," the source told Syfy Portal. "The sets are torn down. They are being kept, but they are not being kept because of Trek United...Nobody anticipates in any way, shape or form that they will ever be used for *Enterprise*. If the main sets are ever used for filming again, it would be for like a video game or something like that. Everyone's moved on." [Sci-Fi Wire; Syfy Portal]



\* DC Comics unveiled a new company logo that will appear on comic books, graphic novels and, for the first time ever, on films and television series based on DC properties. The new DC logo will make its first appearance on a DC Comics cover May 25, when the company publishes *DC Special: The Return of Donna Troy* number one and will then appear on the entire DC line the following week, the company said.

An animated version of the new DC logo premieres June 15 with the release of *Batman Begins*, the highly anticipated Warner Brothers film based on the venerable DC franchise.

DC Comics has published for more than 70 years, and 2005 marks a new era for the Time Warner company, particularly in films. In addition to *Batman Begins*, upcoming theatrical releases include *V for Vendetta*, based on the graphic novel by Alan Moore and David Lloyd, and *Superman Returns*, directed by Bryan Singer and starring Brandon Routh. [Sci-Fi Wire]

\* *Analog Science Fiction and Fact* and *Asimov's Science Fiction* announced their annual readers' choice awards, based on voting by each magazine's readers for the favourite works of the preceding year. A full list of winners follows.

*Analog* Readers Award (AnLab)

Short story: "Shed Skin" by Robert J. Sawyer  
 Novelette: "Short Line Loco" by Stephen L. Burns  
 Novella: "Layna's Mirror" by Rajnar Vajra  
 Fact: "Open Minds, Open Source" by Eric S. Raymond

*Asimov's* Readers Award

Short story: "Travels with My Cats" by Mike Resnick  
 Novelette: "The Garcia Narrows Bridge" by Allen Steele  
 Novella: "Liberation Day" by Allen Steele  
 Poem: "Heavy Weather" by Bruce Boston

[Sci-Fi Wire]

\* The 2004 Nebula Awards for best science fiction or fantasy were presented on April 30 in Chicago, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America announced. The Nebula Awards are voted on and presented by active members of the SFWA, which now has 1,500 members, including most of the leading writers of science fiction and fantasy. A list of winners follows.

- Best Novel of 2004: *Paladin of Souls* by Lois McMaster Bujold
- Best Novella of 2004: "The Green Leopard Plague" by Walter Jon Williams
- Best Novelette of 2004: "Basement Magic" by Ellen Klages
- Best Short Story of 2004: "Coming to Terms" by Eileen Gunn
- Best Script of 2004: *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*

The Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master Award was presented to Anne McCaffrey for lifetime achievement in the field. She is only the 22<sup>nd</sup> writer so honoured since 1974.

A special "Service to SFWA" award was given to Kevin O'Donnell Jr. in recognition of his 16 years of volunteer service to the organization.

[Sci-Fi Wire]

\* Czech science fiction author Josef Nesvadba died at the age of 78. Nesvadba's family made the announcement on April 26 without disclosing further details.

English translations of his work included *Captain Nemo's Last Adventure*, which was published in *View from Another Shore* and the collections *Einstein's Brain* and *Tarzan's Death*.

Nesvadba's writing career began with translations of English-language works into Czech. He then wrote plays and, in the late 1950s, began writing short stories. He expanded into novels and radio plays later in his career. Several of his stories were made into films.

Nesvadba was born in Prague on June 19, 1926, and he received a medical degree in psychiatry in 1950. He was a practicing psychiatrist. [Sci-Fi Wire; Radio Prague; Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America]

\* Marvel Enterprises on April 28 said that it settled its suit with *Spider-Man* co-creator Stan Lee, allowing Lee a cut of the company's profits from the *Spider-Man* movies and other projects using Lee's characters, the news service reported.

Specific terms of the settlement were not disclosed. Lee filed the lawsuit in November 2002. [Sci-Fi Wire; Reuters]

\* Robert Rodriguez (*Sin City*) has been brought in to develop a new *Conan the Barbarian* film, and original *Conan* helmer John Milius has been let go by Warner Brothers. Milius had been developing his own sequel, called *King Conan*.

Rodriguez's project will also be called *King Conan*, but he won't use Milius' script. It's unknown if original *Conan* star and current California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger will be involved. [Sci-Fi Wire; TheArnoldFans.com]

\* For the upcoming third *X-Men* movie, the three new mutants will be the blue-haired Beast, the Cajun Gambit and the winged mutant Angel.

Angel will be female, unlike the character in the Marvel Comics series.

Beast will "serve the same role in these films that Morpheus did in *The Matrix*," Ain't It Cool News reported. [Sci-Fi Wire; Ain't It Cool News]

\* David Lynch hasn't retired after all. He's making *THE INLAND EMPIRE* (all caps) starring Laura Dern, Justin Theroux, Harry Dean Stanton, Jeremy Irons and others. The Inland Empire is an area of California, a suburb of Los Angeles in the middle of a desert. So, naturally, Lynch has been filming in Poland. "Making a film is a beautiful mystery," Lynch says. "You go deep into the wood, and you don't want to come out of that wood, but the time is coming very soon when I will have to."

*THE INLAND EMPIRE* is being shot on digital video, and Lynch likes the format. "I started working in DV for my Web site, and I fell in love with the medium. It's unbelievable, the freedom and the incredible different possibilities it affords, in shooting and in post-production.

"For me, there's no way back to film. I'm done with it," Lynch says. "I love abstraction. Film is a beautiful medium, but it's very

slow and you don't get a chance to try a lot of different things. With DV, you get those chances. And in post-production, if you can think it, you can do it." [Devin Faraci at CHUD; *Variety*]

\* DC Comics unveiled a new DC Comics company logo that will appear on comic books, graphic novels and, for the first time ever, on films and television series based on DC properties. The new DC logo will make its first appearance on a DC Comics cover 25 May 2005, when the company publishes *DC Special: The Return of Donna Troy #1* and will then appear on the entire DC line the following week. An animated version of the new DC logo premieres 15 June with the release of *Batman Begins*, which is directed by Christopher Nolan and stars Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Liam Neeson, Katie Holmes and Morgan Freeman.

The new logo was created by Josh Beatman of Brainchild Studios. [Animation World Network]

\* Cartoon Network is airing the new series *Krypto the Superdog*. [Animation World Network]

\* Sherman Oaks, California-based Swordplay Entertainment Inc. has begun principal production on the animated feature film *Conan: Red Nails*, based on the classic story by the best-selling fantasy author Robert E. Howard. *Conan* has previously been adapted into feature films and television, but this is the first full-length animated feature film based on Conan the Cimmerian, a character Howard created in 1932.

*Conan: Red Nails*, one of Howard's most famous stories, is both a sprawling epic and an equally engaging love story. When Conan and the pirate queen, Valeria, are betrayed in battle, they flee across harsh desert and trackless jungle only to confront the mystery and horror of a fabulous lost city. Conan becomes embroiled in a feud between the city's factions, and must triumph over dragons, demons and a host of human and magical foes to end the war and win Valeria's love.

Legendary illustrator Michael Kaluta is the key concept designer for the film.

Howard's Conan is about to celebrate his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Conan Properties Int'l. is developing a live-action *Conan* feature film with Warner Bros., most likely as a major summer tentpole for 2007. [Animation World Network]

\* *Biker Mice from Mars* revs up new series for fall 2006! The first 26 new half-hour episodes will launch in fall 2006 on GMTV in the U.K and throughout the Nordic region. Broadcast licenses have already been agreed in most European territories, and discussions are underway with North American partners.

The series will be co-produced with the Manila-based, Philippines Animation Studio (PASI), which animated the original 1990s series. PASI will also represent broadcasting, home video and all consumer products rights throughout Asia with the exception of Japan. PASI, the largest independent animation studio in the Philippines, is a full service animation studio providing character design, original development, storyboards, direction, layout, animation, backgrounds, in-betweening, special effects, clean-up, color styling, digital ink & paint and Flash animation for commercials, interactive platforms, television series & feature films. The comedic/action series pushes the boundaries by having some fun with iconic business and political figures from around the world. The planet is threatened by all new villains, including the control-seeking "Cat-atonians," who join forces with a USA-based, overweight real estate developer with a bad haircut. [Animation World Network]

\* Spike TV will adapt the successful theatrical franchise (though not successful enough to hear Wesley Snipes tell it), *Blade*, based on the cult favorite Marvel superhero, as a two-hour, action/adventure television movie in early 2006.

Half man and half vampire, Blade is immortal warrior who battles a thriving underworld of vampires seeking to decimate the human race. Blade uses his fierce powers and skills to fearlessly battle the demonic creatures of the night and carry on a blood-drenched crusade to prevent the vampires from taking over mankind. The blockbuster film starred actor Wesley Snipes and spawned two sequels that, combined, have earned more than \$400 million worldwide (*combined* being the operative word, apparently). [Animation World Network]

\* Majesco Ent. Co. and Tiger Hill Ent., an entertainment production company co-founded by director John Woo that produces both video games and feature films, announced *Demonik* – a next-generation, third-person action game franchise with acclaimed writer/director Clive Barker.

*Demonik* is set to launch in 2006 on next-generation consoles and is being developed simultaneously as a feature film by Barker, who is set to oversee the story, character designs, cinematics and voice talent for the game. Barker also has the option to write and direct the film.

Barker adds (read in a dry, Clive Barker-esque voice), "*Demonik* will be an intense gaming experience. I'm having a lot of fun enriching the game's mythology and polishing the characters till they

shine. And, of course, adding a little bit of Barker darkness. *Demonik* promises to be a game that you will play with clammy palms.”

Tiger Hill Ent. is developing the Nintendo franchise, *Metroid*, as a feature film. [Animation World Network]

\* Jim Smith, co-creator of *Ren and Stimpy*, *The Ripping Friends* and many other Spümcø cartoons has inked a deal with Asylum Press to publish a series of sketchbooks. The first – *Deadly are the Naked* – ships July 2005.

This 64-page extravaganza features rare sketches, sexy figure studies, muscle-bound barbarians and loony cartoon characters. Also featured are *Ripping Friends* storyboards, background design and celebrity caricature. A full-color section features never-before-seen concept art and a glimpse into Jim's new comic book character *Chestaclese*. This book will have a 16-page color section featuring rare concept drawings and all new comic book art. A signed sketch edition of 500 will feature an original pencil sketch done by Smith.

Previews can be seen at: <http://www.jimsmithcartoons.com> or <http://www.asylumpress.com/deadly.html>. [Animation World Network]

\* GEORGE LUCAS TO BE SALUTED BY CANNES (Felicity: “Boba Fête”) The 58th Cannes Film Festival honored George Lucas for his film career with the celebrated “Trophy of the Festival” onboard Cunard Line's *Queen Mary 2*, on 15 May 2005, to an audience of hundreds of Cannes attendees.

On that same day in Cannes, Lucas debuted the worldwide preview of *Star Wars: Episode III: Revenge of the Sith*. The film opened in theaters worldwide on 19 May. [Animation World Network]

\* MTV announced the nominees for the “2005 MTV Movie Awards.” VFX and animated films make up the host of “Best Movie” nominees. Jimmy Fallon is to host the star-studded awards show. The 14<sup>th</sup> annual awards ceremony will air on 9 June 2005, at 8:30 p.m. (ET/PT). The winners will be revealed at the “2005 MTV Movie Awards,” which will be taped on 4 June at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.

“Best Frightened Performance” and “Best Video Game Based on a Movie” are two new categories. “Best Video Game Based on a Movie” will be announced in the Pre-Show and viewers will be able to vote for this category by dialing \*MTV on their Virgin Mobile phone.

The nominees for the “2005 MTV Movie Awards” are chosen through a national poll of MTV and MTV2 viewers. The winners will be determined by MTV and MTV2 viewers, and Virgin Mobile USA customers.

Below are the nominations for the “2005 MTV Movie Awards.”

#### BEST MOVIE

*Kill Bill Vol. 2* (Miramax Films)

*Napoleon Dynamite* (Fox Searchlight)

*Spider-Man 2* (Sony Pictures)

*Ray* (Universal Pictures)

*The Incredibles* (Walt Disney Pictures)

#### BEST MALE PERFORMANCE

Jamie Foxx – *Ray* (Universal Pictures)

Will Smith – *Hitch* (Sony Pictures)

Brad Pitt – *Troy* (Warner Bros. Pictures)

Matt Damon – *The Bourne Supremacy* (Universal Pictures)

Leonardo DiCaprio – *The Aviator* (Miramax Films)

#### BEST FEMALE PERFORMANCE

Uma Thurman – *Kill Bill Vol. 2* (Miramax Films)

Lindsay Lohan – *Mean Girls* (Paramount Pictures)

Hilary Swank – *Million Dollar Baby* (Warner Bros. Pictures)

Rachel McAdams – *The Notebook* (New Line Cinema)

Natalie Portman – *Garden State* (Fox Searchlight)

#### BEST COMEDIC PERFORMANCE

Antonio Banderas – *Shrek 2* (DreamWorks SKG)

Dustin Hoffman – *Meet The Fockers* (Universal Pictures)

Will Ferrell – *Anchorman: the Legend of Ron Burgundy* (DreamWorks SKG)

Ben Stiller – *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* (20th Century Fox)

Will Smith – *Hitch* (Sony Pictures)

#### BEST ON-SCREEN TEAM

Lindsay Lohan/Rachel McAdams/Lacey Chabert/Amanda Seyfried – *Mean Girls* (Paramount Pictures)

Craig T. Nelson/Holly Hunter/Spencer Fox/Sarah Vowell – *The Incredibles* (Walt Disney Pictures)

Will Ferrell/Paul Rudd/Fred Armisen/Steve Carell – *Anchorman: The Legend Of Ron Burgundy* (DreamWorks SKG)

Vince Vaughn/Christine Taylor/Justin Long/Alan Tudyk/Stephen Root/Joel

David Moore/Chris Williams – *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* (20th Century Fox)

John Cho/Kal Penn – *Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle* (New Line Cinema)

#### BEST VILLAIN

Tom Cruise – *Collateral* (DreamWorks SKG)

Ben Stiller – *Dodgeball: A True Underdog Story* (20th Century Fox)

Rachel McAdams – *Mean Girls* (Paramount Pictures)

Jim Carrey – *Lemony Snicket's A Series Of Unfortunate Events* (Paramount Pictures)

Alfred Molina – *Spider-Man 2* (Sony Pictures)

#### BREAKTHROUGH MALE

Jon Heder – *Napoleon Dynamite* (Fox Searchlight)

Tim McGraw – *Friday Night Lights* (Universal Pictures)

Zach Braff – *Garden State* (Fox Searchlight)

Freddie Highmore – *Finding Neverland* (Miramax Films)

Tyler Perry – *Diary of a Mad Black Woman* (Lions Gate Films)

#### BREAKTHROUGH FEMALE

Rachel McAdams – *Mean Girls* (Paramount Pictures)

Ashanti – *Coach Carter* (Paramount Pictures)

Elisha Cuthbert – *The Girl Next Door* (20th Century Fox)

Bryce Dallas Howard – *The Village* (Touchstone Pictures)

Emmy Rossum – *The Day After Tomorrow* (20th Century Fox)

#### BEST KISS

Rachel McAdams & Ryan Gosling – *The Notebook* (New Line Cinema)

Natalie Portman & Zach Braff – *Garden State* (Fox Searchlight)

Gwyneth Paltrow & Jude Law – *Sky Captain and the World Of Tomorrow* (Paramount Pictures)

Jennifer Garner & Natassia Malthe – *Elektra* (20th Century Fox)

Elisha Cuthbert & Emile Hirsch – *The Girl Next Door* (20th Century Fox)

#### BEST ACTION SEQUENCE

Destruction of Los Angeles – *The Day After Tomorrow* (20th Century Fox)

The Subway Battle – *Spider-Man 2* (Sony Pictures)

Beverly Hills Plane Crash – *The Aviator* (Miramax Films)

The Moscow Car Chase – *The Bourne Supremacy* (Universal Pictures)

The Desert Terrorist Assault – *Team America: World Police* (Paramount Pictures)

#### BEST FIGHT

The Battle of the News Teams – *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (DreamWorks SKG)

Daryl Hannah vs. Uma Thurman – *Kill Bill Vol. 2* (Miramax Films)

Brad Pitt vs. Eric Bana – *Troy* (Warner Bros. Pictures)

Ziyi Zhang vs. The Emperor's Guards – *House of Flying Daggers* (Sony Pictures Classics)

#### BEST MUSICAL PERFORMANCE

Jennifer Garner & Mark Ruffalo – *13 Going On 30* (Sony Pictures) – “Thriller Dance”

Will Ferrell/Paul Rudd/Fred Armisen/Steve Carell – *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* (DreamWorks SKG) – “Afternoon Delight”

John Cho & Kal Penn – *Harold & Kumar Go To White Castle* (New Line Cinema) – “Hold On”

Jon Heder – *Napoleon Dynamite* (Fox Searchlight) – “Election Dance”

#### BEST FRIGHTENED PERFORMANCE

Cary Elwes – *Saw* (Lions Gate Films)

Sarah Michelle Gellar – *The Grudge* (Sony Pictures)

Jennifer Tilly – *Seed of Chucky* (Focus Features)

Mya – *Cursed* (Miramax Films)

Dakota Fanning – *Hide and Seek* (20th Century Fox)

#### BEST VIDEOGAME BASED ON A MOVIE (PRE-SHOW)

*Spider-Man 2* (Activision)

*Van Helsing* (Vivendi Universal Games)

*Chronicles Of Riddick: Escape From Butcher Bay* (Vivendi Universal Games)

*Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban* (EA)

*The Incredibles* (THQ)

[Animation World Network]

\* This year's nominees for the 18th Annual Harvey Awards, chosen solely by industry professionals, have been announced, with DC and Fantagraphics leading the way with the most nominations.

The new Museum of Comic and Cartoon Art, in New York City, will host the awards ceremony at the historic Puck Building on June 11, 2005, as part of the Fourth Annual MoCCA Art Festival Weekend. Jeff (Bone) Smith will be the keynote speaker.

The nominees for the 18th Annual Harvey Awards are:

#### Best New Talent

Samuel Hiti / *End Times - Tiempos Finales* / La Luz Comics

Christopher Reilly / *Puphedz* / Brillig Productions

Andy Runton / *Owly* / Top Shelf

Leslie Stein / *Yeah, It Is* / Alternative Comics

Bryan Lee O'Malley / *Scott Pilgrim* / Oni Press

#### Best New Series

*Michael Chabon Presents: The Amazing Adventures Of The Escapist* / Dark Horse Comics

*Ex Machina: The First Hundred Days* / DC Comics/Wildstorm

*Or Else* / Drawn & Quarterly

*Owly* / Top Shelf

*1602* / Marvel

## Best Letterer

Daniel Clowes / *Eightball* / Fantagraphics Books  
 Todd Klein / *Wonder Woman* / DC Comics  
 Seth / *Palookaville* / Drawn & Quarterly  
 Dave Sim / *Cerebus* / Aardvark-Vanaheim  
 Richard Starking / *Conan* / Dark Horse Comics

## Best Writer

Brian Michael Bendis / *Daredevil* / Marvel  
 Daniel Clowes / *Eightball* / Fantagraphics Books  
 Alan Moore / *Promethea* / DC Comics/Wildstorm/America's Best Comics  
 Christopher Reilly / *Puphedz* / Brillig Productions  
 Judd Winick / *Green Arrow* / DC Comics

## Best Artist

Charles Burns / *Black Hole #2* / Fantagraphics Books  
 John Cassady / *Planetary* / DC Comics/Wildstorm  
 Darwyn Cooke / *DC: The New Frontier* / DC Comics  
 Juanjo Guardino / *Blacksad 2* / ibooks/Komikwerks  
 Jaime Hernandez / *Love And Rockets* / Fantagraphics Books

## Best Cartoonist

Kyle Baker / *Plastic Man* / DC Comics  
 Daniel Clowes / *Eightball* / Fantagraphics Books  
 Batton Lash / *Supernatural Law* / Exhibit A Press  
 Bryan Lee O'Malley / *Scott Pilgrim* / Oni Press  
 Jeff Smith / *BONE* / Cartoon Books

## Best Cover Artist

Charles Burns / *Black Hole* / Fantagraphics Books  
 Juanjo Guardino / *Blacksad* / ibooks/Komikwerks  
 James Jean / *Fables* / DC Comics/Vertigo  
 Scott McKowen / *1602* / Marvel  
 Humberto Ramos / *Spectacular Spider-Man* / Marvel

## Best Single Issue or Story

*Batman: Room Full of Strangers* / DC Comics  
*Black Hole #12* / Fantagraphics Books  
*Dogs and Water* / Drawn & Quarterly  
*Identity Crisis #1-4* / DC Comics  
*Eightball #23* / Fantagraphics Books  
*Puphedz* / Brillig Productions  
*Supernatural Law #101* / Exhibit A Press

## Best Domestic Reprint Project

*Krazy and Ignatz* / Fantagraphics Books  
*B. Krigstein: Comics* / Fantagraphics Books  
*The Last Heroes* / ibooks/Komikwerks  
*Marge's Little Lulu Vol. 1* / Dark Horse Comics  
*The Complete Peanuts 1950-52* / Fantagraphics Books  
*The Spirit Archives Vol. 14* / DC Comics

## Best Continuing / Limited Series

*Eightball* / Fantagraphics Books  
*Identity Crisis* / DC Comics  
*Love and Rockets* / Fantagraphics Books  
*The New Frontier* / DC Comics  
*Supernatural Law* / Exhibit A Press

## Best Inker

Charles Burns / *Black Hole* / Fantagraphics Books  
 Danny Miki / *Ultimate Fantastic Four* / Marvel  
 Andy Parks / *Green Arrow* / DC Comics  
 Seth / *Palookaville* / Drawn & Quarterly  
 Steve Leialoha / *Fables* / DC Comics/Vertigo

## Best Colorist

Daniel Clowes / *Eightball* / Fantagraphics Books  
 Laura Martin / *Astonishing X-Men* / Marvel  
 Patricia Mulvihill / *100 Bullets* / DC Comics/Vertigo  
 Stefani Renee / *Ant* / Arcana Studio  
 Dave Stewart / *DC: The New Frontier* / DC Comics

## Best Graphic Album of Previously Published Work

*American Elf: Sketchbook Diaries of James Kochalka* / Top Shelf / James Kochalka  
*Bone: One Volume Edition* / Cartoon Books / Jeff Smith  
*Clyde Fans: Book 1* / Drawn & Quarterly / Seth  
*Locas* / Fantagraphics Books / Jaime Hernandez  
*R. Crumb's Kafka* / ibooks/Komikwerks / Robert Crumb & David Zane Mairowitz

## Special Award for Humor in Comics

Kyle Baker / *Plastic Man* / DC Comics  
 Jimmy Gownley / *Amelia Rules!* / ibooks/Komikwerks  
 Roger Langridge / *Fred The Clown* / Hotel Fred  
 Christopher Reilly / *Puphedz* / Brillig Productions  
 Johnny Ryan / *Angry Youth Comix* / Fantagraphics Books

## Best Anthology

*Michael Chabon Presents: The Amazing Adventure of the Escapist* / Dark Horse Comics / Diana Schutz, Editor  
*Fight #1* / Image Comics / Kazu Kibuishi, Editor  
*Kramer's Ergot #5* / Gingko Press / Sammy Harkham, Editor  
*McSweeney's Quarterly Concern #13* / McSweeney's Books / Chris Ware, Editor  
*Nickelodeon* (Comic Book Section) / Viacom/Nickelodeon / Dave Roman, Editor

## Best Graphic Album of Original Work

*Blacksad 2* / ibooks/Komikwerks / Juajono Guardino, Juan Diaz Canales  
*Carnet de Voyage* / Top Shelf / Craig Thompson  
*Jimbo in Purgatory* / Fantagraphics Books / Gary Panter  
*Owly* / Top Shelf / Andy Runton  
*Scott Pilgrim Vol. 1* / Oni Press / Bryan Lee O'Malley

## Best Syndicated Strip or Panel

*Doonesbury* / Garry Trudeau / Universal Press Syndicate  
*Tom, The Dancing Bug* / Ruben Bolling / Universal Press Syndicate  
*Maakies* / Tony Millionaire / Self-Syndicated  
*Mutts* / Patrick McDonald / King Features Syndicate  
*Underworld* / Kaz / Self-Syndicated

## Special Award for Excellence in Presentation

*In The Shadow Of No Towers* / Pantheon  
*McSweeney's Quarterly Concern #13* / McSweeney's Books  
*Mr. X Collected* / ibooks/Komikwerks  
*The Complete Peanuts 1950-52* / Fantagraphics Books  
*Valerian: New Future Trilogy* / ibooks/Komikwerks

## Best American Edition of Foreign Material

*Blacksad 2* / ibooks/Komikwerks  
*Buddha* / Vertical Inc.  
*Metabarons* / Humanoids Publishing  
*Persepolis 2: Story of a Return* / Pantheon  
*Valerian: New Future Trilogy* / ibooks/Komikwerks

## Best Biographical, Historical, or Journalistic Presentation

*Comic Art Magazine* / M. Todd Hignite / M. Todd Hignite, Editor  
*Comic Book Artist* / Top Shelf / Jon B. Cooke, Editor  
*The Comics Journal* / Fantagraphics Books / Gary Groth and Dirk Deppey, Editors  
*Indy Magazine* / Alternative Comics / Bill Kartalopoulos, Editor  
*Men Of Tomorrow* / Basic Books / Gerard Jones, Author

[the foregoing news from Animation World Network]

\* Cartoonist Emil Samuel Zekley (AKA Zeke Zekley), 90, died 28 April 2005 at his Beverly Hills home, with his family at his side, after a long illness.

He drew *Bringing Up Father/Maggie and Jiggs, Peachy Keen, Dud Dudley, McDonaldland Magazines, The Squirrel's Club Magazine* for Glendale Federal Savings and *At Ease* magazine for the U.S. Army.

Zekley, born 11 February 1915, in Chicago, was raised in Detroit, where he started as a cartoonist under the name Zeke Zekley, before moving to Los Angeles. He went to work for Walt Disney, only to be laid off two weeks later when the studio shut down for the summer. Cartoonist George McManus's brother, Charlie, saw him drawing cartoons in McManus's style on the tablecloth of a restaurant on Sunset Boulevard. He introduced him to his brother, and George McManus hired Zekley as an assistant in 1935 to do the inking and lettering on the *Bringing Up Father* strip. In time, Zekley became more of a collaborator than assistant, doing nearly an equal share of the artwork and came up with many of the gags himself. After McManus died and Zekley was not chosen to continue on the comic, Zekley went on to create his own strip for the McNaught Syndicate, *Dud Dudley*, a takeoff on the *Blondie* comic. He also tried a few others, *Peachy Keen* and *Popsie*, which did not take.

He then devoted most of his energy to his own company, Sponsored Comics, which produced comic books for commercial and advertising purposes, according to animation writer Mark Evanier. He also handled *PS Magazine*, the Army's semi-educational book that Will Eisner had done for years. [Animation World Network]

\* Jerry Seinfeld has co-written, is producing, and will star in a computer-animated movie by DreamWorks Animation, a comedy called *Bee Movie*. It should be released in 2007. *Bee Movie* is the comedic tale of Barry B. Benson, a graduate bee fresh out of college, who is disillusioned with the prospect of having only one career choice – honey. On a chance opportunity to go outside the hive, Barry's life is saved by a woman, Vanessa, a florist in New York City. As their relationship blossoms, Barry's eyes are opened to the world of humans and he soon discovers that people partake in the mass consumption of honey. Armed with this information, Barry realizes his true calling in life and decides to sue the human race for stealing the bees' honey. As a result, the bee and human communities get involved in ways they never had before, each one of them pointing a finger at the other. Barry gets caught up in the middle and finds himself with some very unusual problems to solve.

Also starring are Alan Arkin, Kathy Bates, Robert Duvall, Eric Idle, Larry King, William H. Macy, Uma Thurman, Justin Timberlake, Patrick Warburton and Oprah Winfrey. [Animation World Network]

\* Marvel Enterprises Inc. and Paramount Pictures announced that they will make a distribute *Captain America* and *Nick Fury* movies. Marvel also announced a new, non-recourse financing facility (what does that mean?) to be provided by Merrill Lynch Commercial Finance Corp. that will allow the company to produce its own slate of feature films based on its renowned comic book characters. [Animation World Network]



\* Samuel L. Jackson will voice and produce the animated action/adventure *Afro Samurai* for Spike TV, with Japanese anime studio Gonzo and Japan's largest TV network, Fuji Television. The five-episode series will premiere on Spike TV in 2006.

*Afro Samurai* is the tale of a black samurai in futuristic, yet feudal Japan who is on a mission to avenge the wrongful death of his father. Samuel L. Jackson stars as "Afro," a warrior who travels a solitary path encountering a myriad of enemies, friends and challenges beyond imagination. The series, produced in Japanese animation, blends samurai style with hip-hop. [Animation World Network]

\* THQ Inc. (the company that made the mecha-themed side-to-side-scrolling platform video game *Thexder* back in the 1980s) has released the game *Hello Kitty Bubblegum Girlfriends* for PC and Mac. It's the latest release in THQ's Hello Kitty series of PC and Mac games, after *Hello Kitty Cutie World* and *Hello Kitty Dream Carnival*. (Hello Kitty is the flagship character of Sanrio, a Japanese company that makes stationery and fashion accessories.)

Players join Hello Kitty and her friends for a playdate in eight arcade-style games, including Bubble Gum Taxi, Pie Poppin' Dance, Crazy Cookie Race, Tea Cup Croquet, Cup Cake Trampoline, Rainbow Garden, Beach Bubble Frenzy and Sky Bubble Popper. [Animation World Network]

\* A computer manufacturer called Alienware is selling the Alienware Aurora: *Star Wars* Edition, the first-ever officially licensed *Star Wars* PC, with exclusive *Star Wars* content such as desktop skins, fan club membership and movie soundtrack samples. The systems are available in two versions, Dark Side and Light Side, with *Star Wars* artwork on the cases. [Animation World Network]

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"Hartley's Law: Never sleep with anyone crazier than yourself."

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### *Conloqui et Conridere*

Another Kaffeeklatsch idea-tossing group at Garth's place, April 30, 2005. Present: Ray Seredin, Kathleen Moore-Freeman, Joe Devoy, Julian Castle, Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, Doug Finnerty.

General conviviality and meanderings occurred until a little past 9 p.m., including signing some birthday cards for Joe.

#### 1. *Does language work?*

Kathleen opined that language *plays*.

2. *Do commercials in television teach children to wander off and take a pee / get a snack / pick a fight when the stuff they're paying attention to turns boring? (Exasperated teachers want to know!)*

Garth said "Yes". Michael discussed how TV teaches people they can go away and come back to it, which is not a good habit for most tasks requiring concentration. Discussion followed on children, and adult parents, having unreasonable responses to things like monster shows. Garth tried to pose a question about the verisimilitude of TV versus the credulity of audiences, but it seemed to be a bit recondite for the gathering. Kathleen said something about the cultural "set" of a story, as in e.g. a Chinese context; Kathleen and Felicity then went on to discuss how some Chinese viewers just didn't "get" *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*.

This reminded Garth of the time that Spider and Jeanne Robinson had to change plans to attend a Maplecon, and someone (presumably unfamiliar with English) misunderstood the phrase "change of heart" to mean a heart transplant, and thus started a heart-transplant-operation scare, which did not impress the Robinsons.

Garth also discoursed about another cultural "set", which seems to underlie classical Greek tragedies, and distinguish them sharply from anything in modern, Western fiction – that some people will be arbitrarily, inescapably destined for destruction, no matter what their actions or intentions. Kathleen contrasted the Western good-and-evil characters with the kind in Chinese stories – the hero working for lawful individual and family prosperity, and the villain taking unlawful means.

We segued from this to the poor standard of speech transcription on live TV, to the poor education of voters for public research towards voting.

Kathleen made a point about a version of bridge where different teams play the same hands of cards, and their performances are compared. She thought education presented a direct parallel. Robert Runte once pointed out that setting educational standards is like writing the Income Tax Act – you have to imagine what the effects of the plan will be.

Discussion followed about schools, universities, business, learning (or failing) to think, IQ tests versus knowledge tests, or tests of cognitive deficiencies. Again, this transmogrified into a discussion of drawing styles, and left/right handwriting.

3. *If you were in charge of forming the first world government, who would you appoint as the Ayatollah of Rock'n'Rollah? And would you consider anything other than a white goalie's mask as a badge of office?*

Julian nominated Yoko Ono. Kathleen nominated Prince. Fruvous pointed out the disjunction between the ideas of "Ayatollah" and Rock'n'Roll. Kathleen made a joke about translating the Koran into rap. Michael

discoursed about tokenism in World Beat (Paul Simon's 'stolen' pop music).

4. *The villains in the classic video game Pac Man are called "ghost monsters"; are they monsters who died? Or ghosts who became monsters?*

Felicity maintained they are neither, they are spirits in the first place; once killed they are still spirits, just ineffectual. Julian maintained it's a misnomer to call them ghost monsters. Fruvous thought the whole game was badly translated from Japanese. Now we transmogrified to a discussion of the different spiritual menageries in different cultures. There followed some jokes about Michael Jackson meeting up with a Roman vampire.

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The weeds of our sins nourished in a costly house; what then shall we eat?

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