

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#437 \$3.00/Issue October 2009



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at <a href="mailto:relative-relat

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This Month in BCSFA

Saturday 3 October: Royal Swiss Navy room party in Garth

Spencer's hotel room at <u>VCon</u>, 8:00 p.m.–??? Check con message board for room number. (This is in place of the usual

RSN/Discordian meetup.)

Thursday 8 October @ 7 p.m.: October book discussion at the Grind Gal-

lery & Café. Book to be discussed will be

City and the City by China Mieville.

Friday 16 October: **'BCSFAzine' deadline**—see Felicity's con-

tact information in the indicia above.

Saturday 17 October @ 7 p.m.: BCSFA meeting/party—?

Friday 30 October: **'BCSFAzine' production**.

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead	
Howard Chaykin	Cover
Floro Dery	Pages 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11
Felicity Walker	Page 10
Joe Devoy	Page 12
Clip Art	Pages 3, 5, 6, 10, 11, 13

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

From: Lloyd Penney Sunday 13 September 2009

1706–24 Eva Rd., Etobicoke, ON M9C 2B2

penneys@allstream.net

Dear Felicity:

I am a little late for the deadline; hope it's not too late to be included.

[No problem!]

Yesterday was an SF/anime flea market at the main reference library downtown; we had a table of good stuff to sell, and we all did well. And now, time for a LOC on *BCSFAzine* 436.

Hello, Sheryl! Many thanks for belated birthday wishes...I am finding that my 50^{th} year is not much different than my 49^{th} or 48^{th} , so as we've all said before, it's only a number. A shame about your not getting anyone at Anticipation to respond to you...I am finding in the weeks after the convention that it was not as well organized as I had thought, but the convention was still wonderful and fun. We did finally see Up, at a second-run theatre. The Kingsway theatre is not far from home, a single screen theatre, and Up was great. Squirrel! Only Canadian fans or fans of Canadian birth can run, nominate and vote for CUFF.

My LOC...LJ is still busy, but already, I hear complaints about Twitter having no real content, in spite of some attempts to make it otherwise. Facebook seems to be responding to the challenge of Twitter with Facebook Lite, which eliminates all the games and other applications in favour of messages back and forth, with no 140 character limit.

In a few weeks, VCon 34 arrives, and best of luck to the whole committee in staging another fine con. Yvonne and I have still have fond memories of being guests at VCon 25, and hard to believe it was nine years ago.

Confirmation to Ray Seredin; *Doctor Horrible's Singalong Blog* is great, and certainly deserves its Hugo. Seeing the Foglios win a rocket for their



Girl Genius strip was well-received, too, as was another award for WALL-E. The Pixar directors were honoured for their body of work at the Venice Film Festival, so John Lasseter, Andrew Stanton, Pete Docter and crew must be getting swamped with awards, and deservedly so.

I must tell local costumer Dawn McKechnie about *Death Kappa* if she doesn't know about it already...some of

her costumes are monster suits, and her online name is Kaijugal. Guy in monster suits stomping on miniature cities...ah, nostalgia...

I saw mention of the Vancouver International Film Festival in the local papers...right now, people are screaming at celebrities at the Toronto International Film Festival, and that should be done in a week or so, to the relief of the rest of us. There's an Ad Astra committee meeting this afternoon, and later on this month are two costuming events, a vintage clothing and textiles gathering and a costumers swap meet. We really wanted to go to Con*cept in Montréal in October, but no money for that, and we have some commitments at Astronomicon in Rochester, NY in November. Good thing we have a desk calendar on the wall; otherwise, we'd never know what we've got coming up.

That's it for now, the day is about to get busy, see you next issue, and enjoy the upcoming autumn.

Yours, Lloyd Penney

From: **Dave Haren**

Wednesday 16 September 2009

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Hi Felicity,

A bunch of good stuff happening.

<u>Battle for Westnoth</u> version 1.6.5 (last maintenance release) is up on Sourceforge.

<u>Project Gutenberg</u> has just put up its 30,000th free ebook, an epic monster about birds. So many bird pictures in it that a reader will be amazed just looking at the pictures.

The Internet Archive has just passed 200,000 movies in their archive.

The same maniacs who made Star Wreck are working on Iron Sky.

Lovecraft movie fans will be able to see Dean Stockwell, who played Wilbur Whately [in the 1970 film The Dunwich Horror], playing Prof. Armitage in the 2009 remake.

If you knowwe this nott, read "The Dunwich Horror."

I hear steampunk fashion is coming to Vancouver soon.

<u>Closed Circle</u> promises to have ebooks up for sale real soon now. That will let Cherryh fans get all the out of print stuff to round out their collections.



Project Gutenberg has been putting up 1950s and 1930s science fiction stories which are public domain at the rate of two stories a day.

Some of these are from magazines I never saw before even though I was an avid reader at the time they were published. Probably because I lived way out from civilization at the time On the "appropriate labelling" front, a text supposed to be about screws (threaded fasteners) turned out to be about lawyers. So at least one scanner of books has a sense of humor.

Regards, Dave Haren

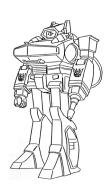
Calendar

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

October 2009

October is National Book Fair Month and National Stamp Collecting Month.

2–4 October 2009: **VCon 34** at the Marriott Pinnacle in downtown Vancouver. GOHs: Author GOH Tanya Huff, Artist GOH Miles Teves (SF and fantasy film illustrator), Media GOH Christine Willes, Comic GOHs Ryan Sohmer & Lar DeSouza. Special Guests: Geeks On! Podcasters Aaron Hendricks, Matt Yang King, Donald Marshall, & Peter Robinson. And featuring: discussion panels, author readings, art show, artists alley, dealers, gaming, filk music, comics, fan film, masquerade, costuming, dance, kidcon, and more! Hotel: <u>Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown</u>, 1128 West Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6E 4R5, telephone: +1-604-684-1128, toll free: +1-800-207-4150, fax:



+1-604-298-1128. Contact information for VCon: Box 78069, Grandview RPO, Vancouver, BC V5N 5W1; phone: 778-230-1605; website: http://www.vcon.ca. Three-day weekend membership: \$60 at the door. One-day, student, and child rates available.

2 October 2009: Birthday of actors Avery Brooks and Persis Khambatta.

3 October 2009: 24 Hour Comics Day (24HCD). An annual event that started in 1990 "where cartoonists around the world each try to create 24 pages of comics in 24 hours...To help these cartoonists, some [organiza-



tions] will host special 24 Hour Comics Day events."—Julian Castle [No BC] locations are listed on the official 24HCD website. However, Elfsar Comics & Toys is participating. They are located at 1007 Hamilton Street, Vancouver (Yaletown), V6B 5T4; phone (604) 688-5922, e-mail elfsar@shaw.ca. Starts 12:00 p.m. Saturday 3 October 2009; finishes 12:00 p.m. Sunday 4 October

- 2009. Registration deadline has passed, but "Anyone can drop in and check out the progress. We will be accepting donations during the complete 24 hours on behalf of the Vancouver Food Bank. Artists and writers, both professional and amateurs, are welcome to swing by and check out the event."]
- 3 October 2009: Birthday of cartoonist/editor Harvey Kurtzman, writer/futurist Alvin Toffler, and comics writer/artist Rob Liefeld.
- 4 October 2009: Birthday of media mogul Sir Run Run Shaw and author Anne Rice.
- 5 October 2009: 40th anniversary of premiere of *Monty Python's Flying Circus*. Birthday of author Clive Barker.
- 6 October 2009: Birthday of author David Brin.
- 8 October 2009: Birthday of writer Harvey Pekar.
- 10 October 2009: Birthday of filmmaker Ed Wood and comics artist Rumiko Takahashi.
- 11 October 2009: Birthday of actress Nicola Bryant and writer/actor Michael J. Nelson.
- 12 October 2009: Birthday of occultist/author Aleister Crowley and pulp author Lester Dent.
- 13 October 2009: Birthday of producer/writer Chris Carter (of course).
- 14 October 2009: Birthday of actress Katy Manning and musician Thomas Dolby.
- 15 October 2009: Birthday of actor Mark Lenard and media mogul Haim Saban.



17 October 2009: Birthday of comics artist Jerry Siegel and animator/filmmaker/actor Mike Judge.

19 October 2009: Birthday of animator/actor Trey Parker and psychic John Edward.

20 October 2009: 42nd anniversary of the filming of Bigfoot.

21 October 2009: Birthday of author Ursula K. Le Guin.



23–25 October 2009: Steamcon at the SeaTac Marriott in Seattle, WA. A convention celebrating "steam-punk" (DIY technology-tweaking, but set in the Victorian mechanical age). Writer GOH: Tim Powers (e.g. *The Anubis Gates, The Stress of Her Regard, On Stranger Tides*). For more information see http://www.steam-con.com.

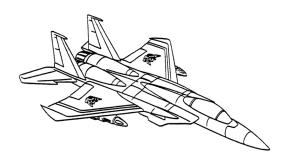
23 October 2009: 51st anniversary of the first *Smurfs* comic. Birthday of musician "Weird Al" Yankovic.

24 October 2009: $83^{\rm rd}$ anniversary of Harry Houdini's last performance. Birthday of comics artist Bob Kane.

25 October 2009: Punk for a Day Day.

26 October 2009: Birthday of animator/writer/actor Seth MacFarlane.

27 October 2009: Birthday of writer/actor John Cleese, actor Robert Picardo, and comics artist Jan Duursema.



28 October 2009: Plush Animal Lovers' Day.

29 October 2009: Birthday of animator Ralph Bakshi.

30 October–1 November 2009: Victoria Comic Convention at Harbour Towers Hotel. GOHs: Richard Hatch, Erin Gray, Robert Picardo, Ethan Phillips, Chase Masterson, William Katt, Lloyd Kaufman, Rick Wharton, Colin Upton, and others. Comics, film, artist alley, anime, movies, gaming, careers, workshops, zombie walk, zombie feast, and lots more. Ticket prices: day pass—\$20 advance (see website for participating stores) or \$24 at the door; weekend: \$30; VIP (with access to exclusive celeb lounge) \$100. Friday night reception with the stars: \$50. Saturday night Halloween evening with the stars: \$125. Website: http://www.victoriacomicconvention.com/.

30 October–1 November 2009: Central Canada Comic Con (C⁴). Winnipeg Convention Centre, 375 York Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba. GOH Adam West. Julie Newmar, Dirk Benedict, Peter Mayhew, Marv Wolfman, Ivan Brandon, Ken Steacy, Marcus To, and Gordon Purcell. Batmobile photo ops, 60,000 sq. ft. of exhibitors, video rooms, anime rooms, 15,000 sq. ft. of gaming, costume contests, programming, workshops, and over 75 art and comic guests. Weekend pass \$20, Saturday only \$12, Sunday only \$10. For more updates see cccomic con.com.

30 October 2009: 71st anniversary of Orson Welles' War of the Worlds broadcast.

31 October 2009: National Magic Day (anniversary of the death of Harry Houdini); Increase Your Psychic Powers Day. Birthday of actor Norman Lovett, author Neal Stephenson, and director Peter Jackson.

November 2009

November is National Novel Writing Month (AKA NaNoWriMo).

19 November 2009: Ashton Green's birthday.

20 November 2009: BoggleRat's birthday.

27–29 November 2009: Orycon 31—Portland, Oregon (general SF and the quintessential SF convention in Oregon).

June 2010

4–6 June 2010: ConComCon 17—ConComCon, or "C-Cubed," is a conference for convention organizers held each June in the Pacific Northwest. Registration: US\$40 all year. Please send your name, address, phone number, e-mail, and a check for US\$40 (made out to "SWOC") to: ConComCon 17, c/o SWOC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. Hotel: Marriott Seattle Airport, 3201 S. 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98188. Rooms are \$115.00 a night.—Garth Spencer

News-Like Matter

Fanzines and Fun Funds

Lloyd Penney here, and the daytime fanzine lounge at Anticipation is done, and it seems to have been a success. I brought a big box of zines home, and I'd like to get rid of them, preferably by sending them to you. I have a list of zines I have at home, including a limited number of



WOOF 2009, assembled at Anticipation. If you are interested in finding out what zines I have, contact me at penneys@allstream.net, and I'll send it to you. If you ask for any zines from the list, I will send them along, but I will ask that you send some cash along to your favorite fan fund, like TAFF, DUFF, CUFF or the Corflu 50 fund. There's also NAFF, GUFF, not sure if FFANZ is still around...

Lloyd Penney Monday 31 August 2009

2010 TAFF Race: Nominations Open

The 2010 TAFF race (eastward: North America to Europe) is now open for nominations. The winning delegate will attend the 2010 Eastercon, Odyssey, in London over the Easter weekend, 2–5 April, 2010. (Odyssey's website is http://www.odyssey2010.org/.)

To stand as a candidate, you must provide:

- * Five nominations from known fans, three of whom must be resident in North America and two resident in Europe. All of these should send a signed nomination via postal mail—or, if sending the nomination by email, include a phone number for verification
- * A written platform, not exceeding 101 words
- * A \$20 bond (US or Canadian dollars)
- * A pledge you will take the trip if you win

All nominations, platforms, pledges and/or bonds must arrive with either the North American or European administrator (see below) by midnight GMT on Sunday, 4 October, 2009. Provided at least two candidates meet these requirements, the distribution of ballots will begin immediately thereafter. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the administrators. If you plan to run, please alert them as soon as possible.

Chris Garcia (TAFF Administrator, North America)

garcia [at] computerhistory [dot] org

962 West Weddell Dr. #15

Sunnyvale

CA 94089

USA

Steve Green (TAFF Administrator, Europe)

stevegreen [at] livejournal [dot] com

33 Scott Road

Solihull

B92 7LQ

UK

WHAT IS TAFF? The Trans-Atlantic Fan Fund was created in 1953 to underwrite cultural exchanges for well-known and popular fans familiar to those on both sides of the Big Pond. Since then, TAFF has sent North American fans to European conventions and European fans to North American conventions. It exists solely through the support of fandom. Delegates are selected by interested fans from all over the world, and each vote is accompanied by a donation of at least US \$3 or UK £2. These votes, and the continued generosity of fandom, make TAFF possible.

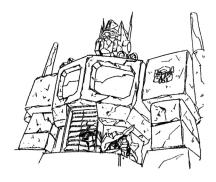
More information about TAFF's history, customs, and practices may be found at the unofficial site maintained by Dave Langford at http://taff.org.uk/.

Steve

Thursday 3 September 09

McIntyre Releasing Novel at BookViewCafé.com

Hugo- and Nebula-award-winning author Vonda N. McIntyre has just released her previously published novel, *Superluminal*, as an ebook at Book-ViewCafé.com. The novel is available in serial form, one chapter per week, or in its entirety as a downloadable ebook. *Superluminal* was first published as a print book in 1983 by



Houghton Mifflin and is now available in several e-formats at BookViewCafé. com.

Other titles from McIntyre available at BookViewCafé.com include the award-winning *Dreamsnake* and *The Moon and the Sun*, as well as a number of her short stories.

To download *Superluminal* or her other works, visit: http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/Vonda-N.-McIntyre/Novels/.

Sunday 13 September 2009

Famous Monsters of WWW-Land

Famous Monsters of Filmland, the legendary magazine created by the late Forrest Ackerman, has returned as a website: http://www.famousmonstersoffilmland.com/.

Credit: Glenn Folkvord, Monster Fighters YAHOO! Group Wednesday 23 September 2009



BookViewCafé.com Welcomes Katherine Kerr



On Friday, September 25, historical fantasy author Katherine Kerr joins the BookViewCafé.com team. Kerr spent her childhood in a Great Lakes industrial city and her adolescence in Southern California, from whence she fled to the Bay Area just in time to join a number of the Revolutions then in progress. After fleeing those in turn, she became a professional storyteller and an amateur skeptic, who regards all True Believers with a jaundiced eye. An inveterate loafer and rock and roll fan, she begrudgingly spares some time to write novels.

Kerr will be launching at Book View Café with her story, "The Bargain," set in the fantasy world, Annwn, of her Deverry series.

Visit Katherine Kerr's bookshelf at BookViewCafé.com: http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/The-Katherine-Kerr-Bookshelf/Katherine-Kerr-Short-Stories/.

Watch for future offerings from Kerr on Fridays at http://www.bookviewcafe.com.

Sue Lange Friday 25 September 2009

'Mercury Falls' by Rob Kroese

The world is ending. Again.

Years of covering the antics of End Times cults for *The Banner*, a religious news magazine, have left Christine Temetri not only jaded but seriously questioning her career choice.



That is, until she meets Mercury, an anti-establishment angel who's frittering his time away whipping up batches of Rice Krispy Treats and perfecting his ping-pong backhand instead of doing his job: helping to orchestrate Armageddon. With the end near and angels and demons debating the finer political points of the Apocalypse, Christine and Mercury accidentally foil an attempt to assassinate one Karl Grissom, a thirty-seven-year-old film school dropout about to make his big break as the Antichrist.

Now, to save the world, she must negotiate the byzantine bureaucracies of Heaven and Hell and convince the apathetic Mercury to take a stand, all the while putting up with the obnoxious mouth-breathing Antichrist.

What is *Mercury Falls*?

Mercury Falls is a humorous novel in the vein of The Hitchiker's Guide to the Galaxy and Terry Pratchett's Discworld series, centering on the adventures of a rogue angel (Mercury) at the brink of the apocalypse.

Imagine a ping-pong match pitting Douglas Adams and Neil Gaiman against C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton. And when you get bored with that, imagine a really funny, well-written book.

Rob Kroese http://mercuryfalls.net/ September 2009



WHERE WILL YOU BE WHEN THE EIGHTH DIMENSION SQUID MONSTERS COME FOR YOUR PANGREAS... AND THE PANGREAS OF EVERYONE YOU LOVE?

FAN FILM PANEL FRIDAY AT 9:00 P.M. KITSILANO ROOM

O.D.I.N. Recruitment Video

A Special Announcement to Readers of 'BCSFAzine' #437 at VCon 34

The Mobeus Society has done it again! Their latest short film, *O.D.I.N. Recruitment Video*, will be shown at the Fan Film Panel right here at VCon, Friday at 9:00 p.m. in the Kitsilano Room. Watch and learn why *you* should enlist in the fight to protect humanity from supernatural horrors, and meet the intrepid cast and crew for Q&A! Ask them how they got those amazing effects, what those cool fonts were, who the heck Marvin Crackbaby is, and why the blond guy is naked! That's this Friday at 9:00 p.m. on TCN: The Crackbaby Network! Be there!

Media File

'Doctor Who': Four Weddings and a Certain 'Time And Relative Dimensions In Space' Craft

One of the minds behind 1994's Academy-Award-nominated film *Four Weddings and a Funeral* is writing a script for series five (or 31) of the world's longest-running sci-fi series, *Doctor Who*.

The film's writer, Richard Curtis, who also worked on such British series as *Blackadder* and *The Vicar of Dibley* (where he won a few BAFTA awards and Primetime Emmys along the way) has been asked by head writer Steven Moffat to write an episode for the upcoming series.

This story has been confirmed by both the BBC and Curtis' agent.

According to the London tabloid *The Sun*, the story will feature (SPOILER ALERT) "a famous historical character battling against a monster alongside the Doctor and his companion." I don't know who or what monster (please be a new one, please be a new one, please be a new one) they'll be battling. I guess we have to wait 'til next April at least to find out.

As some of you know, Dawn French (*The Vicar of Dibley*), Rowan Atkinson ([the] *Blackadder*), and *Four Weddings and a Funeral*'s male lead, Hugh Grant (who paid £10,000 so he could be teamed up with the 10th Doctor, David Tenant, at a fund-raising golf tournament this spring), are known to be fans of the Doctor's adventures. So is it likely that Richard Curtis is also a fan of the

series? I don't know that personally, but [Curtis], having been born in 1956, then moving to Britain in 1967, would have likely watched the classic series in the Troughton or Pertwee Doctor era and could have become a fan then.

Sorry, but I just sold my mother's old house in Powell River, so I'm quite busy right now. I hope to be seeing you sometime soon.



Cosmic Ray Seredin lungbarrow@shaw.ca

Zines Received



Challenger #30 (Summer 2009)—Published by Guy H. Lillian III, 8700 Millicent Way #1501, Shreveport LA 71115, USA; e-mail ghliii@yahoo.com, web-site www.challzine.net. Huge zine with articles, art, and letters on a wide variety of subjects (this issue's themes were faith and challenge).

Ethel the Aardvark #141 (April–May 2009), #142 (June–July), #143 (August–September 2009)—Published by the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, VIC 8005, Australia; e-mail melbsfclub@yahoo.com.au, web-site www.msfc.sf.org.au. Clubzine of the MSFC. Articles, reviews (books, films, comics, TV, zines), art, letters, and club business.

File 770 #156 (July 2009)—Published by Mike Glyer, 705 Valley View Ave., Monrovia CA 91016; e-mail mikeglyer@cs.com, web-site file770.com. Large zine with news, articles, zine reviews, art, and letters.

Opuntia #68 (August 2009), #68.1A (September 2009)—Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. #68: "How Artistamps Changed My Life" by Anna Banana; "Amos of Tekoa" (the decline of society and being doomed to repeat history); "Let's Look at a Way to Visualize Inflation" (imagining you had gold and it was physically taken from you every time fiat currency lost value); "Con-Version 25" (report); "Seen in the Literature" (Dale's latest interesting finds in scientific journals); "Letters to the Editor" (one letter—from Lloyd, naturally!). #68.1A: "Oil Made Easy" (review of book Oil 101 and the history and inner workings of the oil business made interesting and easy to read); "Seen in the Literature"; "Letters to the Editor" (several this time). I love Opuntia's design, both its compact 8½×5½-inch layout and its clean, minimalist use of only one font.



Robert J. Sawyer is VERY happy to see you!

SFWriter.com #26 (September 2009)—Published by Robert J. Sawyer, 100 City Centre Drive, PO Box 2065, Mississauga, ON, Canada, L5B 3C6, (905) 507-1346, e-mail sawyer@sfwriter.com, website www.sfwriter.com. Professional-quality one-sheet reprint of news items from the web site. "FlashForward" (announcing the premiere of the TV series); "Glowing Reviews for www.sfwriter.com. Professional-quality one-sheet reprint of news items from the web site. "FlashForward" (announcing the premiere of the TV series); "Glowing Reviews for www.sfwriter.com. "Value of news items from the web site. "FlashForward" (announcing the premiere of the TV series); "Glowing Reviews for www.sfwriter.com. "Glowing

O.D.I.N. WANTS YOU

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845 Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973 Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 604-448-8714 VCon Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

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



Why You Got This

 You are a member.
 I thought you were a member.
 You trade with us.
 You carry sample copies of BCSFAzine to advertise us.
 You bought a copy in person.
 You contributed.
 You're more than meets the eye.
 You're a real American hero.
 You're truly outrageous.
 You're a knight of the magical light.
 You're a hero in a half shell.
 You're fighting crime in a future time.
 You have the power.
 You're a defender of the universe.
 You're one of Earth's most powerful soldiers.
 You're a super future family.
 In 2086, you journeyed to Earth, seeking our help.
 You're living in style; you do it right.
 You make our dreams come true.
 You're hanging with the plumbers and you're hooked on the brothers.
 From now on, like your parents were, you are the secret force.
 You're joining together to fight for what's right everywhere.
 You make the lighting crack as you ride.
 Out of the sky, your rockets ignite.
 You're colourful, magical, lovable.
You're a warrior of Symbion.