

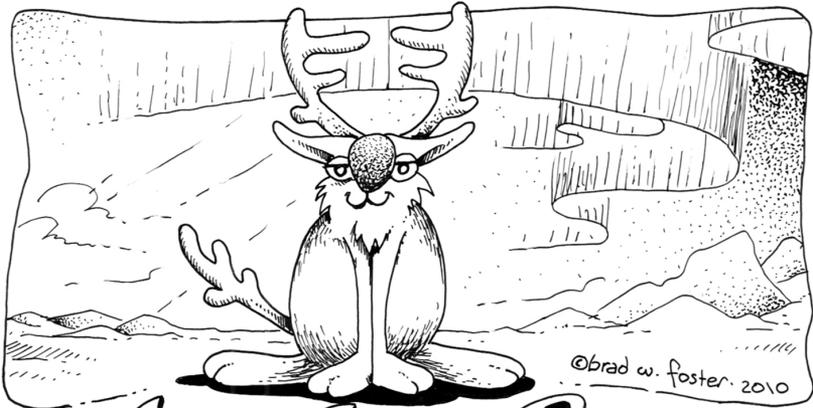
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#441

\$3.00/Issue

February 2010



ARCTIC CARIBOU BUNNY

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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFazine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, or PSD format, and offers printed contributor's copies as long as the club budget allows.

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This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 7 February @ 7 PM:

Discordian Meetup Group / Royal Swiss Navy Meeting at Garth's, 82 East 40th Street, Vancouver (near Main Street and 41st Avenue). Call 778-865-2372 for directions.—**Garth Spencer**

Thursday 11 February @ 7 PM:

February book discussion at the Grind Gallery & Café, 4124 Main Street and King Edward Avenue, Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *A Canticle for Liebowitz* by Walter M. Miller Jr.

Friday 12 February:

'BCSFazine' deadline—see Felicity's contact information in the indicia above.

Sunday 21 February @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Kathleen Moore's, 8311 Number One Road, Richmond. Basement suite, around side/back. No parking in rear driveway; use street in front. Call 604-771-0845 for directions.

Friday 26 February:

'BCSFazine' production.

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
Brad Foster.....	Cover
John Byrne/Al Milgrom.....	Page 1
Tim Eldred.....	Page 2
Alcorn; Burnett/Provenson; Reiss/Feinberg.....	Page 3
Clip Art.....	Pages 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, 12, 18, 21
Danny Antonucci.....	Page 5
Colin Upton.....	Page 14
Howard Chaykin.....	Page 15
Blambot's Nate Piekos.....	Page 19

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

From: **Lloyd Penney**
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Etobicoke, ON
M9C 2B2
penneys@allstream.net

2 January 2010



Dear Felicity:

I'll start the year off by getting the date right, always a challenge early in the year, wish you and BCSFA a Happy New Year, hope all your end-of-year celebrations were great parties, and get an early start to things by offering some comments on *BCSFAzine* 440.

Taral's letter...Dan Steffan is an excellent choice for the 2009 Rotsler Award. For every club that gets zines in exchange, there are probably many Steffan cartoons in the zines that they receive, paper, e- or otherwise. Steve Green's letter...I looked up the French word "goujon" online and in French-English dictionaries we have here at home. A goujon is a small, thin fish, like a smelt, which in turn may have gotten it from an older definition, a stud or nail. How it became synonymous for a tiny chunk of chicken, I don't know. The French for "ripoff" or "cheat" is "une tricherie," just so you know, courtesy of Yvonne.

As I write, today is Isaac Asimov's birthday, and there are some who propose to make this day National Science Fiction Month in the US and elsewhere, I presume. It would certainly be an honour for the Asimov estate and his descendents, and while it seems to have become that on Facebook, I haven't seen it anywhere else. Given that Tolkien's birthday is tomorrow, January 3, perhaps this week could be SF Week?

I hope that someone will check on the status of Creation Entertainment with the BC Ministry that deals with taxation. Creation no longer stages shows in Ontario because it was discovered that they were not paying their taxes to do business in this province. When the Ontario government demanded income taxes based on the fees paid to the actors for appearances at shows, Creation stopped having shows here. (I gather this is the same reason Creation no longer does shows in Manitoba and England.) I'd be willing to bet that they are doing business as usual, and not paying their taxes in BC. Please, someone check.

One thing I have noticed is that many ren faires are now including associated groups like pirates and steampunk groups as additional attractions. I don't think Chris and Martin do that with the BC Ren Faire, but I have heard of faires that are more creatively anachronistic than SCA.

Good to see a selection of possible choices for the Auroras. Yvonne and I attended the Aurora banquet in Montréal, and had a great time. I wish I could join everyone at the Winnipeg Convention. It is nomination time; I hope there can be as wide a selection of nominees as there were in 2009.

Just made the page, and I am now done. Now that it is the new year, there are awards to be handed out, like the Auroras, Hugos and FAAn Awards for fanzines. Keeping everything straight, and mailing or e-mailing to the correct addresses will be tricky; let's hope for some interesting results. Take care, all, and see you next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Calendar

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

February 2010

February is Library Lovers' Month.

1 February 2010: Chapter 3 of Tim Eldred's *Star Blazers* web-comic *The Bolar Wars Extended* appears on starblazers.com. Birthday of director/producer/ animator George Pál, *Monty Python's Flying Circus* writer/actor Terry Jones, *Doctor Who* companion Elisabeth Sladen, actor/musician Bill Mummy, voice actor Ryō Horikawa, musician/comics creator Yuri Landman, and voice actress Makiko Ōmoto. Imbolc/Serpent Day.



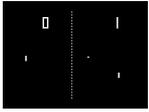
2 February 2010: Birthday of *Tick* voice actor and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* guest-star Tony Jay, *Star Trek: TNG* star Brent Spiner, and director/voice actor D.C. Douglas.

3 February 2010: Cordova Ice Worm Day (have an ice worm cocktail). Birthday of voice actor and *Star Trek* (TOS) guest-star John Fiedler, Canadian actor and *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* guest-star Stephen McHattie, comedy writer/actor Tim Heidecker, and Marvel Comics superheroine She-Hulk.

4 February 2010: Create a Vacuum Day. Thank a Mailman Day. Birthday of Canadian actor Bonar Bain, filmmaker David Newman, director/screenwriter/producer George A. Romero, and musician/actor Alice Cooper. Across the Universe Day.

5–7 February 2010: [Gottacon 2010](http://Gottacon2010.com). Victoria's Gaming Convention! Pearkes Arena, 3100 Tillicum Rd., Victoria, BC. "Doors open at 5 PM Friday and don't close until 7 PM Sunday for around the clock gaming! Trading card games, role-playing games, board games, video games, minis, workshops & panels. Over 20,000 sq. feet of gaming! Large vendor area central to all gaming. Demonstrations of new and existing products. Workshops and discussion panels. Tournaments and events in a wide variety of game centres. Prize draws and gamers' auction. Ticket prices: full weekend, door registration—\$40; Friday or Sunday only admission—\$15; Saturday only admission—\$20; family day/weekend admission—\$50/\$100 (maximum four people per family, max. two adults 18+); children eight and under get in FREE (maximum two free children admissions per adult). When you wanna con, you GottaCon!"—[Garth Spencer](#) "The vision of GottaCon is to host something for everyone, including tournaments in collectable miniatures, collectable trading cards, role playing games, board games, and video games, as well

demonstrations, contests, information sessions, a variety of vendors, and whatever else the community wants.”—[Keith Lim](#)



5 February 2010: Birthday of author William S. Burroughs, artist H.R. Giger, TV producer/writer Stephen J. Cannell, video game creator Nolan Bushnell, director/writer/actor/musician Christopher Guest, and astrologer Russell Grant.

6 February 2010: Birthday of philosopher Adam Weishaupt, voice actor Thurl Ravenscroft, voice actor Walker Edmiston, voice actor Bernard Erhard, director/writer/comedian/actor Robert Townsend, voice-actor/screenwriter David Hayter, and seiyu Mamiko Noto.



7 February 2010: [Stargate: Olympic Trials](#), 3 PM, La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings Street (at Boundary Road), Burnaby. “Watching a sport or contest-related episode and discuss, having a late lunch or early dinner, and getting our *Stargate* fix before the Olympics. [Babylon 5](#): ‘Signs and Portents,’ final episodes. Potluck at a member’s home. Ep. 20: ‘Babylon Squared’ ’til end of season.”—[Keith Lim](#)

7 February 2010: Birthday of computer inventor An Wang, voice actor Wayne Allwine, actor/comics writer Miguel Ferrer, and comedian/actor Emo Phillips.

8 February 2010: 155th anniversary of the Devil’s Footprints incident in Devon. Birthday of author Jules Verne, animator Ivan Ivanov-Vano, composer/conductor John Williams, animator/producer Bruce Timm, and voice-actor/producer Seth Green.



9 February 2010: Birthday of illustrator Frank Frazetta, comics writer/editor Jo Duffy, cyberneticist/transhumanist Kevin Warwick, actor Jm J. Bullock, and voice actor Crispin Freeman.

10 February 2010: [J.R.R. Tolkien: Grey Havens Meetup](#). “Meet several of the organizers to the Grey Havens Fan Club to learn about continuing events (such as the Reading Group and RPG) and events to come in the future.”—[Keith Lim](#)

10 February 2010: Birthday of composer Jerry Goldsmith, voice actor Doug Young, novelist Vernor Vinge, and animator Armand Serrano.

11 February 2010: 2760th anniversary of the foundation of Japan. 72nd anniversary of first SF TV program, *R.U.R.* on BBC. Birthday of author Daniel F. Galouye and conspiracy theorist Alex Jones.

11–13 February 2011: [Life, the Universe, and Everything 28](#), The Marion K. “Doc” Smith Symposium on Science Fiction and Fantasy, at Brigham Young University in Provo, UT. “LTUE is a three-day symposium with panels, workshops, presentations and papers on writing, art, literature, media, science on aspects of speculative fiction. Attendance is FREE. Guests of Honor: Brandon Sanderson (author of the Mistborn Trilogy and the Alcatraz books); Marty Brenneis (special effects wizard), formerly of ILM, now with Kerner Studios. Special guests: Howard Tayler, Schlock Mercenary; James Dashner, 13th Reality; Dave Wolverton (David Farland), Runelords; L.E. Modesitt, Jr., Recluse. Parti-

icipating guests: David Glenn Anderson, RFFUtah, teac; Aleta Clegg, author, teacher; Robert J. Defendi, winner of Writers of the Future, author of many RPG handbooks and scenarios; Newton Ewell, artist; I-Sci-Fi; Lesli Muir Lytle, author; Joshua Keele; Kevin Keele, artist; Steve Keele, artist; Lynn Kurland, author of *Star of the Morning* and *To Kiss in the Shadows*; Eric James Stone, author, winner of Writers of the Future; Eric Swedin, author of *The Killing of Greybird: A Novel* and professor at WSU; Howard Tayler, creator of the *Schlock Mercenary* webcomic; Dan Willis, author of *Wizard's Return* and *The Survivors*; Kathleen Dalton-Woodbury, author; Julie Wright, author of *To Catch a Falling Star*.”—Garth Spencer

12 February 2010: Warning: Winter Olympics begin. Premiere of films *The Wolfman* and *Percy Jackson & the Olympians: The Lightning Thief*. Birthday of actor/musician Cliff DeYoung, futurist Raymond Kurzweil, Canadian actor Michael Ironside, actor Arsenio Hall, actor John Michael Higgins, comics writer/artist Judd Winick, and Canadian voice actress Tara Strong. Darwin Day (birthday of Charles Darwin). Freedom to Marry Day.

13 February 2010: Get a Different Name Day.

14 February 2010: Birthday of TG writer M.C. Brennan, His Imperial Majesty Emperor Joshua Norton I, *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* actor Andrew Robinson, and writer/director/actor Simon Pegg. Valentine's Day.

15 February 2010: 5th anniversary of YouTube. Birthday of author Sax Rohmer, actor Cesar Romero, comics writer/artist Art Spiegelman, director Tsui Hark, cartoonist Matt Groening, and animator/writer/actor/composer Brendon Small. Flag Day (Canada).



16 February 2010: Birthday of tarot card designer Pamela Colman Smith, actor Jeremy Bulloch, computer game designer Roberta Williams, author Iain (“M.”) Banks, screenwriter/director Vincent Ward, *Star Trek: The Next Generation* actor LeVar Burton, screenwriter/director Eric Red, and comics writer Warren Ellis.

17 February 2010: Birthday of author Andre Norton, writer/director/animator Ivo Caprino, and writer/actor/comedian Barry Humphries.

18 February 2010: Birthday of cartoonist Gahan Wilson, cartoonist Johnny Hart, and director John Hughes.

19–21 February 2010: Tsukino-Con. “Victoria’s Anime and Japanese sub-culture convention. Engineering and Computer Science (ECS) building, University of Victoria, Victoria. Events include a cosplay contest, Lolita fashion show, anime viewings, artists’ alley, and a lot more. Full weekend: adult \$20, student \$15. One-day rates available. <http://www.tsukinocon.com/>.”—Keith Lim

19 February 2010: Birthday of TG game designer/programmer Danielle Bunten, comics writer William Messner-Loebs, and voice actor Miyu Irino. Chaoflux in Discordian calendar.

20 February 2010: Birthday of author Richard Matheson, voice actor Charlie Adler, and voice actress Kath Soucie.

21 February 2010: **Crystal Remedios**'s birthday. 63rd anniversary of first flight of first successful flying car, the Waterman Aerobile. Birthday of *Star Trek* (TOS) actor Gary Lockwood.

22 February 2010: Birthday of actor James Hong, actor Kyle MacLachlan, and *Star Trek: Voyager* actress Jeri Ryan.

23 February 2010: Birthday of comics writer Doug Moench, voice actor/writer Tom Bodett, and musician Howard Jones. Rodriguez Day in *Legend of Dragoon* fandom.

Searchlights and Anti-aircraft Guns Comb Sky During Alarm

24 February 2010: National Tortilla Chip Day. 68th anniversary of the Battle of Los Angeles UFO incident. Birthday of writer August Derleth, actor Abe Vigoda, Canadian actor John Vernon, comedian Bill Bailey, and comedian Mitch Hedberg.

25 February 2010: Jonathan Coulton with Paul & Storm. "The Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial Drive), Vancouver. Concert by singer-songwriter Jonathan Coulton ('Still Alive,' 'Code Monkey,' 'Skullcrusher Mountain,' etc.). \$25."—Keith Lim

26 February 2010: Birthday of psychologist Émile Coué, cartoonist Tex Avery, writer Theodore Sturgeon, actor Tony Randall, comics editor Karen Berger, composer Hitoshi Sakimoto, and professional gamer Johnathan Wendel.



27 February 2010: Birthday of Canadian animator Danny Antonucci.

28 February 2010: Public Sleeping Day. 71st anniversary of discovery of lexicographic error "Dord" in *Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition*. Birthday of comics artist Milton Caniff, Canadian voice actor Don Francks, and Canadian director Guy Maddin.

March 2010

5–7 March 2010: Imperial Hobbies clearance sale, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond, 604-273-4427, <http://www.imperialhobbies.ca>.

5–9 March 2010: Potlatch 19 at Hotel Deca, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98105; phone 1-800-899-0251. "An all-volunteer, non-profit, literary event for the readers and writers of speculative fiction. At Potlatch, people talk to each other and participate in panel discussions about reading and writing speculative fiction. You'll find conversations at the program events, in Nanoprograms (spontaneous member-generated programming), in writers' workshops, in the consuite, in the halls, and in elevators. Proceeds from Potlatch benefit Clarion West—an intensive six-week workshop for writers who are

preparing for professional careers in science fiction and fantasy.” Book of Honour: *Lord of Light* by Roger Zelazny. Memberships: \$65 now, more at the door; register through [web-site](#) or by mail: Potlatch 19, % Suzanne Tompkins, P.O. Box 25075, Seattle, WA 98165.—[Garth Spencer](#)

12–14 March 2010: [Trumpeter Salute 2010](#) [Trumpeter Tabletop Gaming Society]. “Bonsor Complex Banquet Hall, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. Many types of miniature gaming and board games. \$20 for the weekend, \$6 Friday, \$15 Saturday, \$8 Sunday.”—[Keith Lim](#)

April 2010

1–4 April 2010: [Norwescon 33](#) in SeaTac, WA. “Norwescon is one of the largest regional science fiction and fantasy conventions in the United States. While maintaining a primarily literary focus, Norwescon is large enough to provide a venue for many of the other aspects of science fiction and fantasy and the interests of its fans such as anime, costuming, art, gaming, and much, much more. Norwescon is the host convention for the prestigious Philip K. Dick Award, given to a distinguished original science fiction paperback published for the first time during the award year in the U.S.A.” DoubleTree Hotel, 18740 International Boulevard, SeaTac, Washington, 1-206-246-8600. Convention room rates: \$114 per night for up to four people. GOH: Writer—Vernor Vinge; Artist—John Jude Palencar; Special—Cory Doctorow; Publisher—Tor Books. Memberships: \$50 through 31 December 2009; register through [website](#) or by mail: Norwescon 33 Pre-Registration, P.O. Box 68547, Seattle, WA 98168-0547 (instructions on website).—[Garth Spencer](#)

2–4 April 2010: [Sakura-Con 2010](#) in Seattle, WA. Washington State Convention and Trade Center, 800 Convention Pl., Seattle, WA 98101, (206) 694-5000. GOH: actors Brina Palencia, Luci Christian, Richard Epcar (*Lupin III*, *Gundam*, *Robotech*, *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers*, *Transformers: Robots in Disguise*), Chris Patton (*Aura Battler Dunbine*); musical guest Dazzle Vision. Panels, gaming, dances, contests.—[Garth Spencer](#)

3–4 April 2010: [Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza](#). 1 PM (Saturday)–12 midnight (Sunday); location TBA. “[Second Level Wizards](#) present a Cthulhu film showcase, live performance by The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets and more. The first Cthulhupalooza included a *Rock Band* contest, a screening of the HPLHS’ *The Call of Cthulhu* film, and a live performance by The Darkest of the Hillside Thickets. This year we will have more films, more diversity, and another live show by The Thickets. If you have a film you’d like to submit or an idea for a performance or activity at this year’s Cthulhupalooza, please contact the Second Level Wizards (info@secondlevelwizards.com)!”—[Keith Lim](#)

15–18 April 2010: [Stargate SG-1/Atlantis Convention](#). “Creation Entertainment returns to Vancouver with a weekend of *Stargate* entertainment at the Hilton Metrotown [6083 McKay Ave.], Burnaby. Guest [Michael Shanks, Joe Flanigan, Jason Momoa, David Hewlett, Colin Cunningham, James Bamford, Brian J. Smith, Rachel Luttrell, Christopher Heyerdahl, N. John Smith] schedule and ticket info: <http://www.creationent.com/cal/sgvan.htm>. Gold weekend package \$579.” [Programming: Celebrity Cabaret; *Star-*

gate Location Bus Tours; Set Tours; Norco Studios Tour; Stunt Workshop; Music Video Competition; Karaoke Party; Centerpiece Contest; Costume Competition]—[Keith Lim](#)

24–25 April 2010: [Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo \(CCEE\)](#). Calgary, Alberta, Canada—Round Up Centre. “Join 10,000+ fans and meet your favourite pop culture celebrities and creators! Experience Western Canada’s largest pop culture convention! Come join over 10,000 fans of comics, sci-fi, television, anime, gaming, horror, toys, animation and more! Meet your favorite creators and celebrities, enjoy special panels, photo ops, charity auction, costume context and an exclusive artbook, just to name a few! Interested in becoming an exhibitor or volunteer? Visit our website for more info, sign up for our newsletter or join our Facebook group!”—[Garth Spencer](#)

May 2010

14–16 May 2010: [Twilight Convention](#), Sheraton Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver. “Creation Entertainment’s official Twilight Convention 2010 features guest stars from the film, programming, panels and events, themed parties, autographs and photo ops, live musical performances and more. Guests: Catherine Hardwicke, Kellan Lutz, Bronson Pelletier, Kiowa Gordon, Charlie Bewley. Gold weekend package \$269.”—[Keith Lim](#)

14–15 May 2010: [UFOFest](#), 11th Annual UFO Festival, in McMinnville, OR at McMenamins Hotel Oregon. UFO speakers, costume parade, live music, childrens’ programming.—[Garth Spencer](#)

21–24 May 2010: [Keycon 26](#) in Winnipeg, MB at Radisson Inn Downtown. Memberships currently \$40.—[Garth Spencer](#)

21–23 May 2010: [Otafest](#). University of Calgary, 2500 University Drive N.W., Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2N 1N4, special-events@otafest.com. “Experience the wild side of Asia! Chopsticks not included.” Now accepting entries for [AMV contest](#).—[Garth Spencer](#)

22–23 May 2010: [Victoria Steam Exposition](#), Fairmont Empress, Victoria. “‘Being a Celebration and Exhibition of Steampunk Art & Culture.’ Guest of Honour: Cherie Priest (*Boneshaker*), Musical Guest: Unwoman, Film Guest: Ryan Copple (*Riese*). Steampunk film festival including *Whisps of Steam*, short film contest, art exhibit, costume contests & prizes. Weekend pass: \$40, children 13 & under free with paying adult.”—[Keith Lim](#)



THE “BONESHAKER.”

28–31 May 2010: [Miscon 24](#) in Missoula, MT at Ruby’s Inn. MisCon, P.O. Box 7721, Missoula, MT 59807, (406) 544-7083. GOH: author Harry Turtledove, artist Sarah Clemens, filker Eben Brooks.—[Garth Spencer](#)

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, % SWOC, Box 1066, Seattle, WA 98111. Hotel: Marriott Seattle Airport, 3201 S. 176th Street, Seattle, WA 98188. Rooms are \$115.00 a night.—Garth Spencer

5 June 2010: “Robot Army marches at Hats Off Day Parade, 8 AM. La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby. Hats Off Day Festival happens 9 AM to 2 PM along Hastings Street between Boundary Road and Gamma Avenue.”—Keith Lim

12 June–25 July 2010: Northwest Renaissance Festival in Spokane, WA. Memberships \$9.50 per day or \$50 for all six weekends. Auditions, rehearsals, Pirate Revel, Creepy Hallow, historical roleplaying, live music, jousting, weddings. Contact: Northwest Renaissance Festival (NWRP), 6493 Hwy 291, Nine Mile Falls, WA 99026, (509) 276-7728.—Garth Spencer

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

July 2010

1–4 July 2010: Westercon 63/Confirmation in Pasadena, CA at the Pasadena Hilton Hotel, 168 S. Los Robles Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101, (626) 584-3112. Memberships \$60 until 31 May 2010. Register through the website or by mail: Westercon 63, 15931 Kalisher St., Granada Hills, CA 91344. GOH: Pro—Rudy Rucker, Fan—John D. Berry, Artist—Marc Schirmeister.—Garth Spencer

8–11 July 2010: Gatecon 10 in Vancouver, BC at the Sheraton Wall Centre. Guests include Beau Bridges, Lou Diamond Phillips, Corin Nemec, Vanessa Angel, Erin Gray, and John de Lancie. Memberships US\$249. “Legendary Gathering” (US\$45) takes place 7 July 2010, same venue.—Garth Spencer

16–18 July 2010: BC Renaissance Festival. “9 AM–9 PM each day. M&M Connemaras Farm, 24680 80th Avenue, Langley. Fourth annual BC Renfest. ‘Live the Revelry.’ Auditions open. One-day: adult \$15, child/senior \$10; three-day: adult \$35, child/senior \$27.”—Keith Lim

August 2010

7–8, 14–15 and 21–22 August 2010: Washington RenFaire in Buckley, WA. “Feel the ground tremble to the pounding hooves of great war horses charging down the list, carrying armored knights jousting for king, queen, country, or the hand of a fair maiden. Hear

the ring of clashing steel shatter the tranquility of our 16th century village. Be a part of the magic at the Washington Renaissance Fantasy Faire in Buckley, Washington at the Maris Farms...just a short drive from Seattle, Tacoma, Bremerton, Olympia and other communities around the Puget Sound area. Enjoy jousting and equestrian events, sword fighting, gypsy dancing, Celtic dancing, wandering minstrels, and story telling. There will be children's games, medieval musical performances, magicians, puppet shows, caber toss and much more! Also, The First Knight Academy will teach the art of sword fighting to all who wish to learn! Additional entertainment to include face painting, costume rental for all ages, Highland dancers, bag pipers, live chess competition, jesters, audience interaction—and you!” Maris Farms at 24713 Sumner-Buckley Highway, Buckley, WA 98321. For additional information, please call 1-800-587-0172 or info@washingtonrenfaire.com.—Garth Spencer



13–15 August 2010: [Anime Evolution](#) at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, BC. “Vancouver’s premiere Asian popular cultural event where audiences and industry interact directly in an informal setting. The three-day convention brings together art, animation (anime),

comic books (manga), video games, film and music in a celebration of Asian popular culture and multimedia. Convention attendees can attend Q&As and workshops with voice actors, directors, artists, animators, comic books publishers and game developers. Video screenings, video game rooms, a cultural festival and live performances by DJs, bands and improv actors are sure to keep guests thoroughly entertained.”—[Garth Spencer](#) “Anime Evolution is the premier event for anime, manga, gaming, and every kind of related fandom in Vancouver. Three-day passes: \$40 ’til 2 April, \$45 till 30 June, \$55 at the door. One-day & gold passes available. Guests: Lee Tockar, Nina Masumoto, Anthony Kresky, Martin Billany, TeamFourStar.”—[Keith Lim](#)

27–29 August 2010: [Salute to Supernatural Convention](#), Sheraton Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver. “Creation Entertainment returns with its second Vancouver Salute to Supernatural convention, with on-stage appearances, special events, parties, musical performances, autographs, photo ops, costumes, auctions, trivia, and panels. Preferred weekend package \$439. Guests: Jensen Ackles, Jared Padalecki, Misha Collins, Samantha Smith, Richard Speight, Jr.”—[Keith Lim](#)

September 2010

4–5 September 2010: [Fanfair Fest \(F3\)](#), Rocky Mountaineer Station, 1755 Cottrell Street, Vancouver. “F3 is an new convention covering comics, anime, games, toys, video games and sci-fi & fantasy—a showcase of everything that is geek. ‘We are where geek is chic.’ Two-day pass: \$30 ’til 31 July, \$40 at the door. One-day passes \$20. Guests: Michael Coleman, [Tony Harris], Camilla d’Errico, Matthew Leutwyler, Miranda Bailey, Mike Royer, Dr. Uwe Boll, Adrian Petriw, Gabriel Koerner.”—[Keith Lim](#)

October 2010

1–3 October 2010: [VCON 35](#). [Venue TBA.] “Vancouver’s Science Fiction & Fantasy Convention. VCON returns on the first weekend of October with VCON 35, with Artist

Guest of Honour James Beveridge and Music Guest of Honour Heather Dale. Full weekend membership: \$45 until 15 September 2010, \$60 at the door. One-day memberships available.”—[Keith Lim](#)

November 2010

19–21 November 2010: SFContario. Ramada Plaza Toronto, 300 Jarvis Street, Toronto, Ontario, M5B 2C5, (416) 977-4823. Author GOH: Michael Swanwick. Editor GsOH: Patrick and Teresa Neilsen Hayden. Fan GOH: Geri Sullivan. Filk GOH: Karen Linsley. “SFContario celebrates the best of science fiction, fantasy, and speculation, and will please fans with a program full of books, authors, media, panels, filking, gaming, and costuming.” Contact: SF Contario, 151 Gamma Street, Toronto, Ontario, M8W 4G3, www.sfcontario.ca, con2010@sfcontario.ca. Attending membership rate \$45. Charter membership (may vote on directors and by-laws before the convention) rate \$60. Make cheques payable to SFContario or visit the website to use PayPal.—*The Voyageur*

News-Like Matter

BCSFazine Address Reminder for Trade Zines and Letters of Comment

BCSFazine,
% Felicity Walker,
#209–3851 Francis Road,
Richmond, British Columbia,
Canada
V7C 1J6
felicity4711@gmail.com

**MAIL
TODAY**

BookViewCafé.com Welcomes Lori Devoti

On Wednesday, January 6, Lori Devoti will be joining the Book View Café team. Devoti had worked for three different newspapers in two different states before deciding to stay home with her children and begin writing fiction. The author of urban fantasy, contemporary romance and paranormal romance, Lori has been a finalist for many awards including the *Romantic Times* Reviewers Choice Award for her books, *Unbound* and *Wild Hunt*. She lives near Madison, Wisconsin with her husband, children and Siberian Husky.

For her debut, Devoti will be offering her short story “Lost,” a BVC exclusive!

Visit Devoti’s bookshelf at BookViewCafé.com: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/The-Lori-Devoti-Bookshelf/>

Watch for future offerings from Devoti on Wednesdays at <http://www.bookviewcafe.com>.

Sue Lange

Wednesday 6 January 2010

Change of Address for Garth Spencer

Dear Guys,

Here it is mid-January and I'm still finishing up the December *Gazette*. And I have a change of address to announce: I have closed the P.O. Box, and mail will be forwarded to my home address—

82 East 40th Avenue
Vancouver, BC
CANADA V5W 1L4
Yours,
Garth

Garth Spencer

Tuesday 12 January 2010

Chris Dolley Twitter Fic Contest at BookViewCafé.com

To celebrate Book View Café's release of his ebook, *Magical Crimes*, BVC is holding a TwitterFic contest January 12–14.

Because of the unusual nature of the book (it's a fun CSI with magic and "a little something else" story; the little something else being two foot long and lurking in the hero's trousers), the contest is a little different. Instead of a story in a tweet, contestants are asked to write a one-tweet blurb for *Magical Crimes*.

Details and rules are at the BVC website: <http://bit.ly/7zyk93> (or <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/News/BVC-Twitter-Fic-Contest-10-Chris-Dolley-Magica>).

First place winner will receive a copy of *Magical Crimes* plus a copy of Dolley's ebook *The Shift* and the winner's name appearing in Dolley's next story.

Second and third place winners will receive copies of *Magical Crimes* and *The Shift*.

Judges: Chris Dolley, Katharine Eliska Kimbriel, and Pati Nagle.

Contest site: <http://twitter.com/bookviewcafe>.

Sue Lange

Tuesday 12 January 2010

Organizers Wanted for Second Level Wizards

Congratulations (?) to our organizers who have been promoted in their careers. Unfortunately that means for all intents and purposes the Supreme Council of Organizers has lost four of its active members over the past six months. We need more organizers (or "morganizers") and hope you have the time, interest, and skillz. Please contact us (Toren). Thanks!

Toren Atkinson

thickets@uniserve.com

<http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=37018764443>

<http://www.secondlevelwizards.com/>

Friday 15 January 2010

Book View Café Partners with Smashwords

(National)—Book View Café, a digital publishing cooperative for professional authors, today announced it has partnered with Smashwords to distribute Book View's growing

ebook catalog, including titles by from such well known authors as Ursula K. LeGuin, Vonda N. McIntyre, Sarah Smith, Seanan McGuire and Laura Anne Gilman.

“Smashwords is taking a truly dynamic approach to ebooks,” said Book View Café Project Manager Sarah Zettel. “From the beginning, BVC has promised readers the books they want, when they want them. Smashwords’ commitment to delivering multi-format ebooks to a wide variety of major retail outlets and mobile smart phone platforms will help us keep that promise.”

A unique online venture, the authors of Book View Café are all veterans of the publishing world, having worked with some of the most famous print publishers including Penguin Books, St. Martin’s Press, Tor Books, and Simon and Schuster. Book View Café will make the majority of their current ebooks available through Smashwords’ bookstore, affiliates, and retail distribution partners. This will include titles by award-winning and bestselling authors such as Sarah Zettel, Sylvia Kelso, Steven Harper, Pati Nagle, and Chris Dolley.

Smashwords currently publishes and distributes over 6,500 original ebooks from 3,000 independent authors and 100 small independent publishers. The service launched in May 2008 with a focus on self-published authors, and then in May 2009 expanded its offerings to support publishers as well. Smashwords distribution relationships with Amazon, Barnes & Noble, Sony, and Kobo (formerly ShortCovers) will ensure BVC titles are available for online reading to a worldwide audience, across both dedicated ebook reading devices and mobile smart phones.

“We’re pleased to work with Book View Café to help connect their authors with the rapidly expanding audience of ebook readers,” said Mark Coker, founder of Smashwords. “Book View authors join a growing roster of professionally published Smashwords authors who are leveraging the power of ebooks to publish and distribute their out-of-print, reverted rights and unpublished works as ebooks.”

In addition to its authors’ personal offerings, Book View Café will contribute their newly formed Book View Press titles, *Rocket Boy and the Geek Girls*, an anthology of rare and classic science fiction stories and *The Shadow Conspiracy*, an all-new steampunk collection, to the Smashwords catalog. A fantasy anthology, *Dragon Lords and Warrior Women*, and a book on writing and the publishing industry are being planned for release in early 2010, and will be made available through Smashwords.

All Book View Café content is DRM-free at the Book View Café web site <http://bookviewcafe.com> as well as at Smashwords (<http://smashwords.com>).

About Smashwords, Inc.: Launched in 2008, Smashwords operates an ebook publishing and distribution platform serving authors, publishers, readers and retailers. Smashwords makes it free and easy for any author or publisher, anywhere in the world, to instantly publish and distribute a multi-format ebook. Smashwords puts authors and publishers in full control over the pricing, sampling and distribution of their works. Authors and publishers receive up to 85 percent of the net proceeds from sales of their works. Smashwords has distribution relationships with leading online retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Sony, and leading mobile e-reading apps such as Stanza, Kobo,



Ereader, Aldiko and Word-Player, spanning all major mobile platforms including Android and iPhone. Smashwords is based in Los Gatos, California, and can be reached on the web at <http://www.smashwords.com/>. Visit the official Smashwords blog at <http://blog.smashwords.com/>. For frequent Smashwords updates, follow Smashwords’ founder, Mark Coker, on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/markcoker>.

About Book View Café: Book View Café came together in 2008 around a group of authors with a simple aim: to use the Internet to bring their work directly to their readers. It was already clear that a revolution was coming to the publishing industry and these authors wanted to help shape its course.

Drawing on a collective century's worth of experience in the publishing industry, the authors created an online space where readers can browse and discover new authors and titles alongside current favorites. Aware that the Internet demands variety, the site features fresh fiction every day on the front page, a feat made possible by the extensive list of material available to over thirty professional authors.

Since its launch, Book View Café has experienced a steady growth in readers and in author-members. The Café now receives over 700,000 hits every month. The author blog has also seen increasing popularity since its launch, drawing a further eight to nine thousand hits per month. You can visit the website at www.bookviewcafe.com.

Sue Lange

Tuesday 19 January 2010

Book Giveaway by Canadian Author Matthew Hughes

Canadian author Matthew Hughes is giving away free books, with entry open to anyone. Mr. Hughes was in Vancouver in 2007 as the Convention Guest of Honour at VCON 32/Convention 27.

Matthew Hughes: "To promote the release of my new Henghis Hapthorn novel, *Hespira*, the Fantasy Book Critic blog is hosting a contest giving away two complete sets of the Hapthorn books. There's also a special grand prize for correctly answering a question—the answer can be found among the samples on my web site—which will include a \$500 package of collectible books including slipcased editions of *Songs of the Dying Earth*, my novel *Template*, and a *Postscripts* quarterly anthology.

"Details are on the FBC site at: <http://fantasybookcritic.blogspot.com/2010/01/giveaway-win-set-of-matthew-hughes.html>.

"I would be grateful to any colleagues who put the word out.

"Matt"

Keith Lim

Saturday 23 January 2010

BookViewCafé.com Welcomes Sherwood Smith

On Thursday, January 28, Sherwood Smith will be joining the Book View Café team. Smith began her publishing career in 1986, writing mostly for young adults and children. To date she's published over thirty books. The latest was *Treason's Shore*, last of the four-book Inda series, with *Banner of the Damned* coming out next year. She also writes for young adults, her most popular book being *Crown Duel*, from Firebirds. She's also written short fiction, published in various venues. Sherwood Smith has collaborated with several authors, including the Grand Master Andre Norton. One of her books was an Anne Lindbergh Honor Book; she's twice been a finalist for the Mythopoeic Fantasy Award and once a Nebula finalist. Some of her stories have been reprinted in "best of" anthologies, and her work has been translated into numerous languages.

For her debut, Smith will be offering her science fiction novelette, *Being Real*.

Visit Smith's bookshelf at BookViewCafé.com: <http://www.bookviewcafe.com/index.php/The-Sherwood-Smith-Bookshelf/>.

Watch for chapters of Smith's romantic fantasy, *Crown Duel*, on Thursdays at <http://www.bookviewcafe.com>.

Also coming soon from BVC, Smith's YA adventure, *A Stranger to Command*.

Sue Lange

Thursday 28 January 2010

Colin Upton On-Line

Press Release—January 31st, 2010—After years of floundering in the shadows in a desperate move to reach some sort of audience, Colin Upton Comics is going online. In what Colin is calling his “page a day” project, he is posting a page from his extensive backlog of mini-comic art every day until he runs out...Considering Colin has produced over a thousand pages of mini-comic art alone and is still putting out new mini-comics, this will keep him going for a while yet. Most of the comics are 8–16 pages. So far Colin has put up the *F-Word* trilogy; next will be the series *Diabetes Funnies* and later *Self-Indulgent Comics*, which starts way back in 1985. Colin is posting on his LiveJournal & Facebook and the Colin Upton Comics Facebook Fan page he created; he also plans to put the comics, as they come out, on his web site...which will happen as soon as a “technically challenged” Colin figures out how...The web site needs a major overhaul.



Print versions of Colin Upton Comics may still be purchased from Colin, including several collections that are a real deal!

Vancouverite Colin Upton has been doing comics for 25 years, starting with *Newave* mini-comics in the 1980s, indie comics in the 1990s and back to mini-comics in the new century. A lack of interest on the part of publishers, readers, and editors has not extinguished his passion for the comics art form or the need to express himself long after sensible people would have walked away. He now enjoys the dubious distinction of being a senior statesman of the Vancouver comics scene. On the way, he has drawn comic books, comic strips, editorial and advertising cartoons, web comics, cartoons for a play, a series of films, and for art gallery walls. Colin has been a performance artist, Lowbrow artist, drummer, radio broadcaster, lecturer, interviewer, reviewer, wargamer, miniaturist, flauer, animist/iconoclast, illustrator, and on one occasion a historical expert.

Send inquiries to:

cupton@planeteer.com

604-327-1544

And check out the albeit out of date and damaged web site!

<http://www.colinupton.com/>

Facebook fan page, Colin Upton Comics:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Colin-Upton-Comics/257449422123>

LiveJournal:

<http://www.livejournal.com/users/cupton/>

cupton@livejournal.com

Colin Upton

Forwarded by Garth Spencer

Sunday 31 January 2010

Aurora Awards Nominations Reminder

Reminder: Aurora Nominations close February 15th (for on-line nominations: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/AwardProcess/nominationVoting.htm>). The Prix Aurora Awards are the annual Canadian Science Fiction & Fantasy Association Awards.

Mail-in nominations must be postmarked February 5th to make it in time.

Partial eligibility lists for both professional and fan awards are at: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/home.htm> and then pick the sub-menu item from the “Eligibility” menu tab.

OR

Go to: Canadian SF Works Database (<http://www.canadiansf.com/>) for a far more extensive list (in the Professional categories). If you can't find your favourite book, short story, etc. in any of these lists, just nominate it anyway—in the format (Author LastName), (Author FirstName). (Title). (Publisher) (Date).

The Auroras now have their own Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Prix-Aurora-Awards/259496546602>.

There's a new list of the eligibility rules on the home page of the Aurora site: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/English/home.htm>.

Clint Budd to VCon-Members e-mail list
Forwarded by [Keith Lim](#) and [Garth Spencer](#)

SFSignal and Book View Café Giveaway

SFSignal.com is giving away two copies of *Rocket Boy and the Geek Girls*, a Book View Press anthology edited by Phyllis Irene Radford. The ebook consists of classic and favorite science fiction stories by Book View Café authors, never before gathered in a single collection. Contributors include: Vonda N. McIntyre, Brenda W. Clough, Katharine Kerr, Judith Tarr, P.R. Frost, Pati Nagle, Madeleine Robins, Nancy Jane Moore, Sarah Zettel, Amy Sterling Casil, Maya Kaathryn Bohnhoff, Jennifer Stevenson, and Sylvia Kelso.

The book is ready to read on the Kindle, Sony eReader, B&N Nook, iPhone and most ebook readers and cell phone apps. Available formats include PDF, EPUB, MOBI, .prc, .lit, [and] .lrf.

For a chance to win a free copy, visit the SFSignal contest page: <http://www.sfsignal.com/archives/2010/02/giveaway-rocket-boy-and-the-geek-girls/>.

Note: contest ends Sunday, February 7th, 2010 (11:59 PM U.S. Central time).

[Sue Lange](#)

Wednesday 3 February 2010



New Howard Chaykin Comic Stars Vinnie Jones

Comics writer/artist Howard Chaykin (*American Flagg!*, *Black Kiss*, and most recently, a new *Dominic Fortune* mini-series) will be writing and drawing *Noble*, a comic created for English footballer/actor Vinnie Jones (*Lock, Stock and Two Smoking Barrels* and *X-Men: The Last Stand*). The main character, modelled on Jones, is Jake Noble, a James-Bond-esque international super-spy who is teamed up with his two daughters. Elevate Entertainment and Prodigy Pictures are also developing *Noble* as a TV series; it is hoped that it will be a vehicle to launch Jones' TV career.

A Completely Unnecessary Review of 'Avatar'

Michael Bertrand

I'm calling this an unnecessary review because, basically, it seems like every man, woman, child, and ambulatory (or portable) sentience is hell bent on seeing the thing as soon as possible and absolutely nothing I say will make the slightest difference one way or another. I could say in this review that not only is it absolutely the worst movie possible on this plane of existence, but it has been conclusively shown to cause a horrible disease called "leaping leprosy," and it wouldn't stem the tide or Cameron's profits one iota.

Nevertheless, I went to some trouble to go see the darn thing, including waiting in line and being herded about like preschoolers on a field trip, so I figure I'd better get some wordage out of it on this, the inaugural day of my latest insane experiment in induced productivity.

So here's my impressions of this magnum opus, in point form, vaguely in the spirit of answering questions those five or six Kalahari bushmen who haven't seen the thing yet might have about the film.

The groovy funky 3D effect. It was, in all honestly, pretty kickass. The exhortation at the beginning to recycle the 3D glasses afterward alone had a recycling symbol that seemed to hover about two feet directly in front of my head. There are plenty of moments in the movie where the third dimension of the visuals will impress you, whether it's something simple like the jungle foliage seeming to pass around you as they travel through it, or something quite startling like a great huge dinosaurian alien popping out of said foliage and scaring the bejesus out of you. The whole movie is a visual feast, from excellent visual design (all the aliens and monsters seemed alien without being completely incomprehensible) to great compositional shots to, of course, eye-popping 3D mischief. By the end of the film, I felt as though my eyes had been through a long but highly pleasant workout. Fantastic. Well worth the price of admission, in my opinion. Which is good, because...

The actual movie. The actual movie does not have a single original bone in its body. None. Absolutely every single plot element, bit of characterization, and catering choice is something you've seen a million times before in countless other American movies. I'm guessing even James Cameron, the King of the World himself, had to make some concessions to the studio in order to get the \$300 million in order to make the thing, and so the script is composed of very well-worn and time-honored clichés and tropes. In its defense, the movie does use an awful lot them, and being as it's almost three hours long, it's virtually guaranteed that nobody has used this exact combination of them before, but still, don't go to this movie expecting to be surprised. Unless you're one of the aforementioned bushmen, you will not be surprised at all.

So it's not original. But is it any good? Wow, what a great question. Yes, actually, it is. 3D magic aside, it's a highly enjoyable film. The plot might not surprise you, but it's still a very fun and entertaining sci-fi action romp, with fierce battles, terrible dangers, breathtaking alien vistas, and the obligatory heartwarming story of tragedy, redemption, and good ol' fashioned kicking evil in the nards. The acting is superb, doubly so because the vast majority of it was done without the actors being able to see anything they were interacting with and wearing some sort of high tech ping pong ball suit. Our hero Jake (it's always Jack, Jake, or Zack) is extremely likable and surprisingly complex for a straight-from-the-can American jarhead action hero, and that's mostly due to a great performance by Sam Worthington. Sigourney Weaver doesn't exactly step outside her

usual “Ripley” role, but it’s exactly what is called for in the movie, and it still works quite well, so why should she? And Stephen Lang does a stellar job of being a villain you really, really hate, thus making his eventual comeuppance all the sweeter. God, I hated that guy.

But seriously. Three frigging hours? Come on. Well, I won’t claim that those three hours fly by completely, but overall, there’s surprisingly little padding and the time does pass by without much feeling of drag. A lot of that, of course, is due to the marvelous 3D effects, but the film also keeps the pacing brisk and contains enough variety of modes (character, action, exploration, etc.) to keep things from getting stale. I was a little tired by the last act of the movie, but most of that was probably eyestrain from all the 3D goodies.

Will I have to wear those dorky paper 3D glasses from the ’50s? Thankfully no. You will be wearing, instead, what appears to be a perfectly normal pair of cheap but fairly tasteful plastic sunglasses. They’re no Ray-Bans but they are not overtly hideous in shape or design, so you will not be committing a serious fashion crime if you try to see this film in its intended mode.

So was it worth it? Always a good question to ask about any movie. You can talk about the pros and the cons all you like, but all in all, was it worth doing? It’s an especially pertinent question for this movie at this time, because it bears the added burden of extra logistical annoyances due to extremely high demand. So was it worth it? Am I glad I went, or do I wish I’d stayed home and watched the ball drop? Hmmm?

Well, if you absolutely *must* know, yes, it was completely worth it. The movie was an enormous amount of fun, and as long as you’re not looking for a lot of depth and originality from a flashy sci-fi action flick, you’ll enjoy the ride. I completely recommend this movie to all who haven’t seen it yet.

Yes, even grumpy old M’tumbe. He’s the third bushman from the left. Even you, you old nut you!

Michael Bertrand

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

Friday 1 January 2010

Media File

Ray Seredin

‘The End of Time’: An Excellent Departure Story for the Tenth Doctor

OK, first the Tenth Doctor fools around with a so-called “set event” in future history only to have it explode in his face in “The Waters of Mars.” (Note: If you haven’t seen it, watch it. I’m not giving anything away.) Now, after a little holiday to get his mind off what happened in “The Waters of Mars,” he travels to the planet of the Od to find out that he and time itself will be ending, with its origin originating from his favourite planet in the time-space continuum, Earth. The next thing you know, the Master (Note: He brings new meaning to the words “Master Race”) has taken the place over, the Time Lords have returned, they’re now evil, and only the Doctor and Donna’s grandfather Wilfred can save both Time and the Universe. And this was only Part One of this two-part story marking the end of the David Tennant or Tenth Doctor Era on the world’s longest running sci-fi series, *Doctor Who*. (Note: If you haven’t watched it or part two yet, I’m not going to give anything more away.)

OK, sorry to anyone who thinks that I was serious when I **HE'S COMING YOUR WAY!** said the Matt Smith Doctor's costume made him look like Les Nessman of time and space. The Eleventh Doctor, from what I've seen of him, will be as cool as the ten who came before him and I just can't wait 'til the start of April when series five hits the air in Britain. This is a Doctor of action, much like the Jon Pertwee Doctor of the early 1970s, and his companion Amy Pond is right from the almost "Doctor-less" decade of the 1990s, making her a bit out of touch in today's world of iPods, iPhones and Facebook pages. Besides, three monsters from the series' near and distant past will be returning to make us want to hide behind the sofa once again: the Daleks, the Weeping Angels, and the Silurians.

OK, this is to the few people that think that *Doctor Who* is not becoming popular on this side of the big pond, as this \$800 question (answer) came up on the January 5th edition of the long-running American game show *Jeopardy!*: "Matt Smith is the latest actor to be this sci-fi doctor, previously played by Peter Davison and Tom Baker." It seemed like all three contestants knew the answer (question), it being "Doctor Who," with likely all of them being series viewers or having watched "The End of Time" with the other 1.45 million Americans on BBC America a few nights before.

Funny thing: *Jeopardy!* airs in Canada on the CBC, the same network that dropped *Doctor Who* (which got an average of 900,000 viewers a showing) and replaced it with *Peter Mansbridge Interviews E-List Canadian Actors Portraying Famous Dead People* (which gets an average of about 50 viewers a showing). Still, it was free advertising for *Doctor Who*, which now airs on CTV-owned cable station Space.

Sorry, that's all the news this time (besides the Vancouver area being closed to movie, TV series, or TV pilot production work for the next two and a half months thanks to the you-know-what) so be seeing you next month.

Cosmic Ray Seredin
Wednesday 6 January 2010

Zines Received

'Ethel the Aardvark' #144 (October–November 2009)—Published by the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vic., Australia, VIC 8005, ethelaardvark@yahoo.com.au. MSFC club zine.

Cover: A good-looking computer-graphic illustration by Dick "Ditmar" Jennsen. The cyborg anthropomorphic animal's armour is a pleasant reminder of the Tekunin from *Mortal Kombat 3*.

"*Man from Earth*": Albert Hudson, Peter Ryan, and Ed McArdle give three reviews of the film, which sounds interesting. Apparently no relation to the story by Gordon R. Dickson.

"Master and Commander—UK TV SF": Simon Bailey discusses *Survivors*, *Merlin*, *Demons*, and *Sanctuary*.

"Space Opera": Interview with Simon Spanton, editorial director, about Gollancz UK imprints Masterworks (out-of-print classics) and Space Opera (new space opera).

"*The New Space Opera 2*": Peter Ryan discusses the short-story collection.

"More Space Opera—*Ilium* by Dan Simmons": Bill Wright reviews the novel.

"Origins—Ethel the Aardvark": Peter Ryan settles the true origin of the phrase "Ethel the Aardvark": *At Last the 1948 Show*, rather than *Monty Python's Flying Circus* (where it also appeared, except a few years later).

“*The Magician’s Apprentice*”: Nalini Haynes and Sam Rooney give two reviews of the novel by Trudi Canavan.

“Batman Reruns”: Ed McArdle reviews the six Batman movies that appeared between 1989 and 2008. (I saw *Batman & Robin* again on TV last night. My tastes have changed since I saw it in theatres thirteen years ago. This time around, George Clooney was a much better Batman/Bruce Wayne than I remembered, while Arnold Schwarzenegger and Uma Thurman gave terrible performances that I somehow overlooked until now. The clunky dialogue didn’t help, but some actors—such as the dashing John Glover, in a brief supporting role as a mad scientist—prevailed nevertheless.)

Book reviews: Eva Stein reviews *Sex, Lies and Vampires* by Katie MacAlister; Fiona Park reviews *The Digital Plague* by Jeff Somers, *The Painted Man* by Peter V. Brett, *The Kingdom Beyond the Waves* by Stephen Hunt, and *Heroes of the Valley* by Jonathan Stroud; and Murray MacLachlan reviews *Which Witch* by Eva Ibbotson and *Transition* by Iain (“M.”) Banks.

Also “Presidential”; “2009 Hugos”; “Letters”; “The Way the Future Was—Recent Events at the MSFC”; “Club Calendar” (a teller at my bank saw this issue of *Ethel* in my hand and was very pleased to see Diana Gabaldon featured prominently on the back cover).

ABCDEFGHIJKLM

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

ABCDEFGHIJKLM

NOPQRSTUVWXYZ

I love the aardvark silhouette symbols in the letter column.

Font criticism: *Ethel’s* headlines are in a comics-lettering font called A.C.M.E. Secret Agent (above left). A.C.M.E. Explosive (at left) is a similar but (in my opinion) better-looking font.

‘**The Voyageur**’ #195 (December 2009)—Published by and received from the Infinite Diversity International Corporation, % Lynda L. Ciaschini, 7050 Weston Road, Suite 301, Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 8G7. Edited by Paul Bobbitt, 2104–50 Alexander Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 1B6, pauld.bobbitt@rogers.com. Official newsletter of the *USS Hudson Bay*. PDF available at www.voyageur.idic.ca.

“Spoilers for *Star Trek 2?*”: Rumours about the sequel to the latest *Star Trek* film, assembled from comments made in the press by director J.J. Abrams, producer/writer Damon Lindelof, writer Roberto Orci, and writer Alex Kurtzman. Also, a review of the last *Star Trek* film’s DVD.

“*V*: A Primer”: An introduction to the new *V* series, currently on hiatus until after the Olympics. Interestingly, according to the article, executive producer Scott Peters may offer original series actors guest roles on the new series.

Also: “Editorial”; “Upcoming Events”; “In the News”; “Real Science.”

‘**Ethel the Aardvark**’ #145 (December 2009–January 2010)—Published by the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Centre, Melbourne, Vic., Australia, VIC 8005, ethelaardvark@yahoo.com.au. MSFC club zine.

“*The Forest of Hands & Teeth*”: Cecilia Dart-Thornton and Ed McArdle give two reviews of the novel by Carrie Ryan.

“9 the Movie”: Damian Christie, Craig Macbride, and Sam Rooney give three reviews.

“*Torchwood—Children of Earth*”: Simon Bailey reviews the first episode of the series.

“*Idiocracy*”: Albert Hudson reviews the movie.

“The Vicar Is Free!”: Author Richard Harland offers his book *The Vicar of Morbing Vyle* as a free PDF download at his website, www.richardharland.net.

Book reviews: Paul Ewins reviews *A Touch of Dead* and *Grave Secret* by Charlaire Harris; Sam Rooney reviews *Stargate SG-1: Valhalla* by Tim Waggoner; Murray MacLachlan reviews *Necrophobia* by Robert Rankin and *The Book of Rapture* by Nikki Gemmill; Peter Ryan reviews *Zima Blue* and *Other Stories* by Alastair Reynolds; Fiona Park reviews *Awakening—Book One—The Twins of Saranthium* by Lara Morgan; and Nalini Haynes reviews *The Way of Shadows* by Brent Weeks.

Also “About the Melbourne Science Fiction Club”; “About Ethel the Aardvark”; “Presidential”; “Letters”; “Life Members Ceremony 9 October 2009”; “2010 Calendar—Clubs and Conventions”; “The Way the Future Was”; “Ed’s SF Crostic”; “Club Calendar.”

‘Opuntia’ #68.3 (January 2010)—Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. APAzine issue for Fantasy Amateur Press Association.

“What Is FAPA?”: Includes an explanation of APAs (multiple editors send their zines to a central mailer, who collates them into bundles containing one of each zine, and redistributes them back to the editors; there is a minimum activity level required).

“FAPA Clearcut Award”: For most pages published in the previous mailing(s).

“Mailing Comments on FAPA #288” and “Mailing Comments on FAPA #289”: In a reversal of the usual letter column, APAzine editors have a section in their zine to reply to previous mailings’ zines. Dale includes the context for his replies so that readers outside the APA can follow the discussion.

“Seen in the Literature”: Items noticed by Dale in scientific journals: “E-Waste: An Assessment of Global Production and Environmental Impacts” (be careful where you recycle your e-waste; it may end up in poor countries where its reusable elements are reclaimed through methods bad for the health of the worker and the environment); “A Viscosity-Enhanced Mechanism for Biogenic Ocean Mixing” (swimming animals mix water); “Rooftop Runoff as a Source of Contamination: A Review” (still not safe to hoard rain water); “Evidence for Food Storage and Predomestication Granaries 11,000 Years Ago in the Jordan Valley” (new archaeological evidence shows humans cultivated and stored wild cereals 1000 years before domesticating them for crops).

“The Drunken Postmaster”: Dale finds a 1901 letter card with a curious message: “Moffatt, Postmaster Jasper, has been here for two days drunk. Is that according to rules?” With some research, he figures out who that was and makes an educated guess as to what happened after.

“Look for the Union Label”: One of Dale’s hobbies is philately, and this includes collecting booklets where (before World War II) trade union members recorded their dues payments with labels or stamps. Dale has a Journeyman Barbers’ International Union booklet from the 1900s and describes its labels and the history of its union.

RANDOM NOSTALGIA:

NEAR-LETTER-QUALITY MODE ON DOT-MATRIX PRINTERS
PHONETICALLY-SPELLED CHINESE NAMES LIKE “CHOO”
CHIP THE DOG, COOKIE CRISP CEREAL MASCOT
TELEVISION CREDITS SET IN DOM CASUAL
PLEXIGLAS

E-Zines Received

‘Royal Swiss Navy Gazette’ #20 (December 2009). Published by Garth Spencer, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V5W 1L4, garthspencer@shaw.ca. PDF available at eFanzines.com.

“Pick a Direction”: “Things We Could Be Doing”: Garth outlines recent local current events and complains that his friends aren’t active satirists, like the Upright Citizens’ Brigade. “Why aren’t we doing what they’re doing?” We need more skills and energy. “Popular Culture”: Garth’s main memory of VCon 34 is his RSN room party. Garth saw *2012*. “Making Life Over (Again?)”: Garth’s New Year’s Resolutions. Garth is about to declare bankruptcy and finds the clarity of definite failure refreshing (though I don’t think the cause of the bankruptcy was a failure on his part). He’s making a fresh start. I hope his surreal political party becomes notorious, and his study of magical paths to fortune and power bears fruit.



“Losing History”: Lyn McConchie asserts that computers are making writing paperless, and that in comparison to the hard-copy correspondence of past eras, e-mails will not survive to tell future historians what life was like. For what it’s worth, I save all my e-mails, instant messenger logs, and whatever else I get that isn’t spam, no matter how dated; the only problem is that when a computer dies before I can back up its data, correspondence stored on it is lost.

“Sugar Mountain Live’s ‘Bookstore Rap’ or, Neil Young, Stockboy”: Sharry Wilson’s very thorough history of the few weeks Neil Young worked at a Coles in Toronto.

Also: “Letters.”

Font criticism: Microsoft Garamond does not include a bold italic face, but instead obliques the bold face. Some apostrophes and quote marks are not directed.

‘The Fortnightly Fix’ #6 (4 January 2010). Published by Steve Green, steve.green@livejournal.com. PDF available at eFanzines.com.

“Milestones and Millstones”: At the pub, Steve celebrates his friend Martin Tudor’s 50th birthday and discusses how to recruit some help for Novacon’s committee.

“Moving Pictures [The Sequel]”: One last update on Steve’s project to see 75 movies in 2009 (final tally: 90 movies).

“Let’s Send a Rocket to the Moon”: Steve suggests Hugo nominators consider British SF film *Moon* for Dramatic Presentation (Long Form).

Also: “Down the Locol” (“Eddie Trenchcoat” is a cool name).

‘The Fortnightly Fix’ #7 (4 January 2010). Published by Steve Green, steve.green@livejournal.com. PDF available at eFanzines.com.

“Hello, I Must Be Going...” Due to unavoidable obligations (such as volunteering on the re-election campaign of his MP, or watching pornography), Steve worries that he won’t make his self-imposed writing quota—but it sounds like he isn’t quitting yet; just writing shorter articles. Whew!

Also: “Down the Locol” (neither Steve nor Lloyd have seen *Avatar*—maybe our review on page 16 *wasn’t* unnecessary!).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:
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Why You Got This

- ___ You are a member.
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- ___ You trade with us.
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- ___ You bought a copy in person.
- ___ You contributed.
- ___ You're a big LGM.
- ___ You give away gold.
- ___ You're an iceberg pirate.
- ___ You're a criminal gamer.
- ___ You're a wayward whiz kid.
- ___ You're a cool caveman.
- ___ You're a brilliant Berserko.
- ___ You're a half-pint hero.
- ___ You're a big bad boxoid.
- ___ You're a crook with 1000 faces.
- ___ You're on the crime convention committee.
- ___ You're a highway robber.
- ___ You're a thieving robot.