

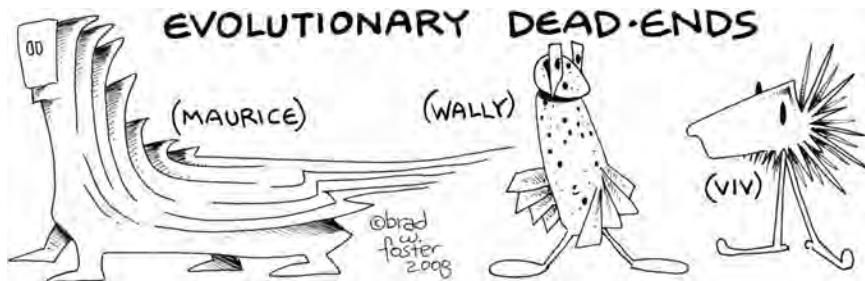
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#472

\$3.00/Issue

September 2012



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BCSFAzine © September 2012, Volume 40, #9, Issue #472 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN 1490-6406.

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

BCSFAzine is distributed monthly at White Dwarf Books, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5; telephone 604-228-8223; e-mail white dwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each.

This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 16 September @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. [October meeting is Sunday 21 October 2012.]

Friday 28 September:

'BCSFAzine' production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 778-895-2371

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

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster Garth Spencer). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assoc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assoc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Brent Francis

b-francis@sympatico.ca

Friday 7 September 2012

Once again, thanks for the zine. As always, awestruck at the work you put into it.

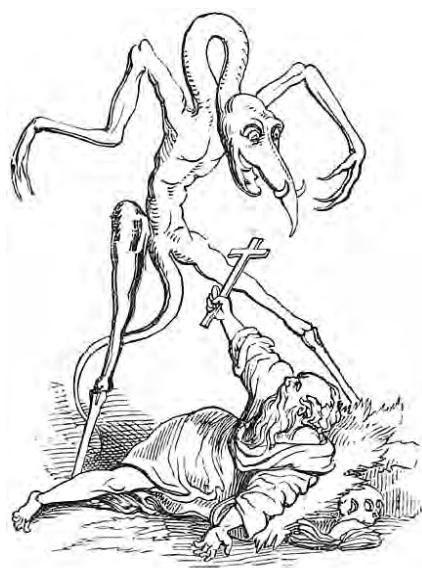
(PS Re—*Total Recall* “unnecessary” remake. It was shot in Toronto. Of course we needed it—this *is* the centre of the universe, right????!!)

Ow! That hurts! Stop it!

Dave Haren

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Saturday 8 September 2012



Project Gutenberg is getting a few more SF offerings in the self publishing area. One of them is supposed to be steampunk, but I haven't read it yet. Their ebook #40686 is a treasure trove of clip art for those with a taste for the strange.

I've attached a couple of samples.

Closed Circle authors have been circling the fish pond driving off eagle attacks and had to open a fish hospital on the side. You can get details at Wave Without a Shore.

Conspiracy theory buffs should check out Scribd. I hear that Oglesby's *Yankee and Cowboy War* is there. If you like Rand's fiction you'll love the real thing but you have to get past the epic mistakes that made America the evil Empire without a Vader to provide comic relief.

For the more technically inclined there is a Nick Bostrom paper on WBE theory. Whole Brain Emulator is an interesting crossover between AI, neurochemistry, computer science and the epistemological cartoonery that seems to characterize modern philosophy.

Somebody did a documentary on Slavoj Žižek (available on YouTube). Highly entertaining since he is the world's favorite fuzzy headed communist after Marx. Anybody who can write a thousand pages on Hegel can't be all bad.

I just finished Rudy Rucker's *Wares* saga. Highly entertaining and well worth a read. Four interconnected novels with lots of strange stuff interwoven in an epic saga.

Gamer rumours: You are supposed to be able to get a \$2.95 remake copy of the original *Ogre* microgame from Steve Jackson Games in the near future. Decision Games is going to re-do *Battlefleet Mars* in 2014. If it is done as well as the original it will be worth having, assuming you're not afraid of 3D tactical combats.

I don't do obituary stuff, but having lost a lot of authors as I get older it always pains me to hear of more departing.

[*Ditto.*]

Back to playtesting.

Warm regards,

Dave Haren



Lloyd Penney

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Etobicoke, On.

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penneys@bell.net

Sunday 9 September 2012

Dear Felicity:

Many thanks for *BCSFAzine* 471. Looks like I am some time past the deadline; save it for next issue if you like.

[*Not to worry; I'm very late.*]

I will plough onwards with a letter, and let's see how I do.

Welcome back, Fruvous! Miss one issue, you get dropped off the list? I'll take that as a warning. ☺ I've never been a filker, but I've had extensive exposure to it via working for the local filkcon, FilKONtario. A lot of it is parody, some of it is original composition, both music and lyrics, and it has proved to me (sorry, folks) that while all singers can filk... You can fill in the rest.

My LOC...nope, didn't get that job I referred to, nor any of the others I interviewed for. Makes me wonder if age is a factor. I am quite comfortable at interviews, and I've read that may be a disadvantage.

[*Surprising!*]

Hello, Spider...hope you are well, and even we hope to see you in person again some time, I believe we do understand why we can't. Our best to you.

Coming up soon in Toronto is the 10th Annual Toronto Zombie Walk, founded by Thea Munster. It's been held in parks in the past, but this year, it will be at Toronto City Hall in Nathan Phillips Square. Should be a very big event this year.

VCON 37 is not far away on the calendar; I hope everyone has the best time, and you've got the numbers you need to make VCON 38 a certainty. One of these days, we've got to return.

Next weekend, Yvonne and I host a Victorian high tea at an Etobicoke tea room. We got 20 last time, but only 12 this time...still, should be a fine time, and some steampunk fun. We will have to decide what to do the next time should our numbers continue to dwindle. November will be our busy time, with SFContario 3 here, in various positions, including liaisons to FanGOH Chris Garcia, and then Loscon 3 in Los Angeles, as FanGOHs ourselves. Should be a lot of fun.

All done, signing off. See you with the next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Monday 17 September 2012

Hi there BCSFAns, and an especially big howdy to all you lucky, lucky people who picked up a copy of this august periodical at VCON! Welcome to the mag. Tell your neighbors, tell your friends, be the first on your block to own them all!

But fair warning, there is 472 of the darn things, so it might take a while.

Glad to hear you are making use of Project Gutenberg, Lloyd! For those who don't know, it is a site where dedicated volunteers take books that are out of print and/or out of copyright and type them in to the computer so that anyone can download and read them from the site. They have over 40,000 free eBooks and the numbers are growing constantly.

It's at <http://www.gutenberg.org/> if you are interested, and in my opinion, it is super freaking neat.



To update Dave Haren's mention of the Mars Curiosity Rover: it landed safely, the NASA people survived the Seven Minutes of Terror during which they had no idea if the Rover had landed safely or gone splat, and we now have a car-sized chemistry lab tooling around Mars looking for answers. Keen.

Finally, as always, it was great to see my words in print. And as always, I have almost completely forgotten the article by the time it makes it into *BCSFazine*, so I find I am read-

ing it with fresh eyes. Luckily, I am usually saying “Wow, this guy’s not half bad. And he always writes about things I’m interested in!” ☺

That’s it for me this month! See ya next month, *BCSFAziners*, and to all you VCON people (and yes, I mean you!), have a great con.

We Also Heard From: Purple Crow (COA), Library and Archives Canada, Mail Delivery Subsystem, Spider Robinson, and Garth Spencer (COA).

Calendar

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

Already in Progress

1–30 June, 1–29 July, 1–31 August, and 1–2, 5–9, 12–16, 19–23, and 26–30 September and 3–7 and 10–15 October 2012: The History of Video Games in BC, 12–5 PM at New Westminster Museum and Archives, 302 Royal Avenue, New Westminster. “Take part in this all-ages exhibition highlighting the history of video games, from *Pong* to more recent titles created for devices like the iPhone. Admission by donation.”—Keith Lim

7 July–1 September 2012: Mansions of the Sun, 7:30 PM Saturdays at H.R. MacMillan Space Centre [*no address given on website*], (604) 738-7827, info@spacecentre.ca, <http://www.spacecentre.ca>. “Are you truly a Scorpio? Discover what astronomers see when they look at the 13 zodiacal constellations...and how those constellations differ from your astrological sign. (Age: 12+.)”

18 August–3 September 2012: Star Trek™: The Exhibition, at the Fair at the Pacific National Exhibition [*no address given in print ad or on website*]. Walk-through bridge; original costumes, masks and ship models; photo opportunities in Captain Kirk’s chair, on transporter pad, or with your favourite character (via green-screen); *Star Trek* store. No cameras or videotaping allowed inside the exhibit.

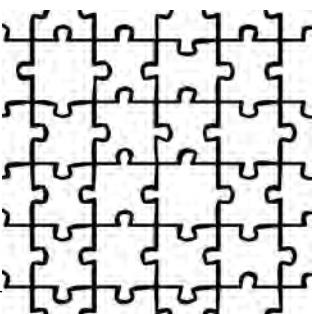
September 2012

September is Be Kind to Editors and Writers Month and Library Card Sign-Up Month.

1 September 2012: Geeks After Dark: It’s Time to Play the Music, 6–10 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. “We heard that there was some video-game convention a few towns over that sold out. That means some Vancouver geeks may be missing out on fun that weekend. Well we can’t have that! After all what screams ‘We love video games’ better than a *puppet burlesque show*? All right so a lot of stuff does, but still it’s time to play the music! It’s time to dress up right! It’s time to meet some freaks because it’s *Geeks After Dark that night!* We’re taking

this special time to celebrate the magic and wonder that certain felt-and-stuffing-filled creatures brought into our lives (and we're not just talking about David Bowie's bulge). From Swedish Chefs to goblins and ghouls there's a bit of Henson love in all of us and we want to get our grown up fun out of it! Come see the amazing bits of our performers such as: *Trixie Hobbitses!* *Lace Cadet!* *Precious Metal!* *Sherry Hymen!* *Donna Jazz!* Stage kitty duties by: *Tawdry Audrey!* Also don't forget to put on your finest outfits for our costume contests and brush up on your puppet knowledge for the return of the *Geeks After Dark* *Sudden Death Incredibly Unfair and Random Trivia Contest*. Prizes to be provided by *Gamedeals and Golden Age Collectables!* Tickets are just 10 dollars in costume or 12 dollars if you want to be in 'normal' people clothes. This event is 19+ so get ready to get your grown-up geek on. See you at the Cellar nightclub just a short walk-a-wakka-wakka from Granville Station.”—Cameron H. Russell

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 September and 6, 13, 20, and 27 October 2012: Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—Keith Lim



2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 September and 7, 14, 21, and 28 October 2012: Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy’s large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. ‘games that take eight players,’ ‘games that don’t involve math,’ ‘games about farming’) and I’ll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!”—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, and 24 September and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October 2012: Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and sometimes even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even learn a thing or two about the craft, nay artform, that is miniatures painting. There are some paints available to use, and brushes, as well as primer. Warmachine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, and 24 September and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October 2012: Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. [See *Vancouver Hack Space Open House* for description.]—Keith Lim

4 September 2012: **Lezli Robyn**’s birthday.

4, 11, 18, and 25 September and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October 2012: Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for playing, or feel free to bring your own. Parking out front is a buck thirty-five an hour (free after 6 PM), or there is a parkade a block away (buck an hour), across Columbia and down by the river. We are located two blocks northeast of the New Westminster Skytrain Station, at Columbia and Begbie. There is a Waves coffee shop in the same building. Go up-hill on Begbie to Clarkson, and the store is to the right. Tuesday is also the Buck a Slice special feature at Fresh Slice Pizza just down the street. Have a good day.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, and 27 September and 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, and 30 October 2012: Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. “Vancouver Hack Space provides a physical space where every creative type can gather to share ideas, equipment, and opinions. We aim to create a 24/7 brain gym where members can show up and work on personal projects, consult with friends, and learn new tricks. More than just a studio space with tools, we focus on sharing all sorts of knowledge within a friendly and collaborative atmosphere. At this point most of our members are hardware and software engineers, many of whom share an interest in microcontrollers, robotics, electronic music, and art. We welcome anyone with skills to share or an interest in learning. Come to our open nights and check it out!”—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 September and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October 2012: Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meetup, 7:30–9:30 PM at the Grind & Gallery Coffee Bar, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Cloudscape Comics Society is a community of comic creators in Vancouver, BC who together publish and distribute quality graphic novel anthologies, as well as host comic workshops and other related events. Here enterprising comic artists come together to network, develop their ideas, and help each other perfect their craft. Everyone is welcome to the weekly evening meet-ups on Wednesdays, starting at 7:30 PM in the back room of the Grind and Gallery Coffee Bar.”—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 September and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October 2012: Vancouver Hack Space Kaizen Night AKA Hack the Space, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. [See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for description.]—Keith Lim

6 September 2012: Read a Book Day.

7 September 2012: Premiere of film [*REC*]³ *Génesis* (horror), *Branded* (SF; Leelee Sobieski, Jeffrey Tambor, Max von Sydow), and *Toys in the Attic 2012* (animation/fantasy; Forrest Whitaker, Joan Cusack, Cary Elwes, Vivian Schilling).



7 or 14 [?] September and 12 October 2012: Trumpeter Tabletop Games Society Game Night, 7–8 PM at Bonsor Community Centre, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby (beside Metrotown Centre). \$4 for members; \$6 for non-members.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 September and 5, 12, 19, and 26 October 2012: Fontana Friday—BC Browncoats, 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 September and 5, 12, 19, and 26 October 2012: Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue (½ block west of MacDonald Street), Vancouver. “In our stores, it’s *open gaming* any time we’re open, so stop in with a friend and try a game! Both of our locations have 7–8 tables and plenty of seating. Space may be limited during tournaments—scheduled events take precedence over open gaming tables. We have about 100 open board games for playing in the store. Playing is *free* except for some tournaments.”—Keith Lim

9 September 2012: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. “Special guests: Riley Rossmo (*Debris, Wild Children, Green Wake, Daken: Dark Wolverine, Cowboy Ninja Viking, Proof*), Kurtis J. Wiebe (*Debris, Peter Panzerfaust, Grim Leaper, Intrepids, Green Wake*), Douglas Wheatley (*Star Wars: Dark Times*), Ed Brisson (*Murder Book, Acts of Violence*), Jason Copland (*Murder Book, Kill All Monsters!*), Angela Bueckert, Gurukitty Studios, and others! Admission: \$4 (kids under 14: free). Dealer tables: \$55/center; \$65/wall. 604-322-6412. Follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/vancomicon>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools.”—Leonard Wong

11 September and 9 October 2012: Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steampunks. Whether you’re new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods.”—Keith Lim

12 September 2012: National Video Games Day.

12, 19, and 26 September and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 October or 12 September–31 October [?] 2012: Emily Carr: CEGN 160—F001: The Contemporary Comic, 11 AM–12 PM or 6:30 PM–9:30 PM [?] at Emily Carr University of Art + Design, 1399 Johnston Street, Granville Island, Vancouver. “Comics bring together the arts of storytelling and illustration. In this course, you will learn about building stories through illustration, dialogue, and character development. Body language, passage of time, flow, perspective, composition, and personal style will also be addressed. Through exercises, projects, and critiques, you will learn to develop your own ideas from concept to final product. Prerequisites: None. Comments: Please bring the following supplies to class: one Staedtler Mars plastic eraser*, one Col-Erase blue pencil (light blue; *not* non-repro)*, one Staedtler graphite pencil (2B)*, one aluminum pencil sharpener*, one 9”×12” sketchbook*, one 1-oz. bottle FW black acrylic ink, three 11”×17” Staedtler Mars vellum, two Opus 101 Sablite brush #2, one 14”×17” Strathmore bristol pad, one 8-gr. glue stick, one 15-ml tube white gouache, two Pigma Micron pens (03 + 08), variety of ‘nibs’/calligraphy pens, one ruler. Estimated cost: \$76.00. Note: Bring items marked with a “*” to your first class. Note: Printer/copy cards can be purchased at the vending machine outside the Emily Carr cafeteria. *Present this ECUAD Registration Statement at Opus Framing & Art Supplies to qualify for a student discount. In order to minimize disruption, students are expected to arrive at class a minimum of 5 minutes prior to the designated start time. If possible, please notify your instructor ahead of time if you expect to be late or absent.* Cost: \$230.00. Days: W. Room: 113. Building: NB.”—Keith Lim

12 and 26 September and 10 and 24 October 2012: Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-other-week, weeknight games to Wednesdays, so that I can actually attend! Also popular opinion (i.e. I asked a couple of people) seems to agree—Wednesdays are superior. Some come on down to Cuppa Joy, grab a pint and a samosa, and play some board games! Wednesday Wednesday Wednesday!!”—Keith Lim

13 and 20 September 2012: “Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers’ Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.”—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

13 September and 11 October 2012: Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Meetings held second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM from September to June (July & August have no meetings—summer break).”—Keith Lim

13 September and 11 October 2012: Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [No location given.] “Second Thursday of every month. This is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting and is shared with the general public at no charge. Please be advised that RASC Vancouver’s monthly lectures will be held at different locations throughout 2012. The location of each

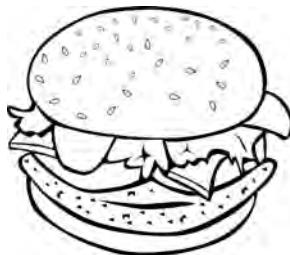
meeting will be posted in advance, along with details of the speaker and topic. We meet at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month, with astro-coffee, cookies, and juice served after the presentation. Please join us for interesting and informative lectures on all aspects of astronomy and space-science, along with stimulating conversations!”—Keith Lim

14 September 2012: Premiere of films *Resident Evil: Retribution* (horror/SF; Milla Jovovich, Oded Fehr, Ali Larter) and *Finding Nemo [3D]* (computer animation; Albert Brooks, Ellen DeGeneres, Willem Dafoe, Brad Garrett, Austin Pendleton, Stephen Root, Vicki Lewis, Geoffrey Rush, Elizabeth Perkins, Barry Humphries, Eric Bana, John Ratzenberger).

14 September and 12 October 2012: Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. Open gaming; 7–8 tables. “For Friday Night Magic we will be running a limited Draft FNM. Cost is three booster packs plus \$2, starting at 6:30 PM. Also feel free to come by for some casual Magic: The Gathering from 6–9 PM. Feel free to use the house decks if you just want to try out the game. Don’t forget to check out our Facebook page.”—Keith Lim

15 September 2012: **Mike Jackson’s** birthday.

15 September 2012: Foodhammer at GameStars, 19860 Langley Bypass, Langley. [*No times given on flyer or websites.*] “Tabletop gaming in aid of the Langley Food Bank. Malifaux. For more details see: <http://foodhammer.blogspot.ca/> or <http://www.facebook.com/Foodhammer>. Follow us on Twitter @Foodhammer or e-mail foodhammer@shaw.ca.”



15 September 2012: Free Comic Book Day 2, 12–8 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway (across from Metrotown), Burnaby. “Everybody loves FCBD! Too bad it only comes around once a year! Well not this year, baby! We got 3000 comics that we’re giving away on September 15th and we’ll be having our big ‘Back to School Sale’ to coincide with it! We’ll be having a bunch of activities and guests as well, to be announced. Please keep in mind that events like these are only as good as the turn-out we get. So please share this event with friends, bring friends to the event, link it, link it, link it and make sure to ‘like’ it! No other stores are doing this, so we really need your help to make this an amazing day! Thanks to everybody who came out in may to make FCBD 1 such a success. It is for you all that we’re trying to create more awesome free comic-y goodliness! ☺ Stay tuned for more updates and details.”—Keith Lim

15 September and 20 October 2012: Vancouver Comic Jam, 8–9 PM at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2404 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Vancouver Comic Jam is generally held the third Saturday of the month. In cases of long weekends or other conflicting dates, the jam may move to the second or third Saturday. For up to date

information, join the VCJ Facebook group or follow us on Twitter. *Who can come?*: Anyone who is of legal drinking age is invited. *How much?*: No admission fee. There is a \$5 minimum purchase per person required by the Wallflower. They provide their full menu to order from and alcohol galore: beer, wine, highballs and shots. *There will be a gratuity of 18–20% added to all bills because we are a large group.* Bring your own pencils/pens. Paper is provided. If you're drawing with markers that bleed through paper, be sure to either bring a drawing surface or place extra sheets of paper under the paper you're drawing on.”—Keith Lim

15 September 2012: Rascal's [?]: Steampunk, 8 PM–12 AM [?] at WISE Hall, 1882 Adanac Street, Vancouver. “Rascals [?] is an event geared towards the serious player with the opportunity for newcomers to the lifestyle to see and experience BDSM in all its forms. Since 2002, Rascals [?] Pansexual Play Parties have been held on the third Saturday of each month until the recent First Annual Pre-New Year Black Leash event on December 30th. Rascal's [?] features a fully-equipped, large dungeon with 12 play stations in the main dungeon area. Four more play stations can be found on the stage where it is more intimate for those who wish to play with some privacy—over 2500 square feet of *fun!* Rascals [?] has, without doubt, the best play equipment in the city with custom-designed spanking benches with stocks, suspension frames, whipping posts and tables, double crosses, and A-frames. You will find Rascal's [?] Play Parties to have a friendly, welcoming atmosphere with a large social area and refreshment bar (licensed). *All* are welcome as Rascal's [?] Play Parties which are truly pansexual events for hetero, gay, bi, lesbian and trans-gendered kinksters. Parties begin at 8 PM and go to 1 PM.”—Keith Lim

15, 16, 22, and 23 September 2012: Renoviction Moving Sale, 2–6 PM at 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver (near 40th & Ontario intersection, also near Main Street and 41st Avenue). “Items for sale include a bed, bedding, small wooden desk, small metal desk, two office chairs, computer peripherals and cables, a variety of office supplies and equipment; carpentry hand tools; camping supplies; bookshelves in assorted sizes; hardback, trade paperback and mass-market paperbacks on a wide variety of subjects—bookkeeping and accounting, HTML coding and website design, logic, life skills and practical/domestic skills, self-improvement, the occult, how-to-write guides, science fiction and fantasy. *Everything must go by September 28. Email Garth Spencer or call 778-865-2372.—Garth Spencer*

16 September 2012: **Melissa Tookey**'s birthday.

16 September and 21 October 2012: **Board Game Swap Meetup**, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Every third Sunday of the month a swap meet will be held where gamers can sell or trade any board games they would like to get rid of. RSVP for the event and you can list what you are looking to sell, or what you would like in trade. Use the message board to propose trades or list items for sale. Board Game Warriors can be a neutral site for meeting and doing transactions during store hours.”—Keith Lim



19 September 2012: **Randy Byers**'s birthday. International Talk Like a Pirate Day.

21 September 2012: Premiere of film *Dredd 3D* (SF).

21 September and 19 October 2012: IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “Club meetings are held on the third Friday of every month (with very few exceptions such as if the third Friday falls on Good Friday or is too close to Christmas—check schedule). Doors open at 7 PM. Meetings officially run from 7:30–9:30 PM.”—Keith Lim

22 September 2012: Galaxion Origins: 40 Years of Atari, originally scheduled for this date at Club 23 West, has been moved to 6 October 2012 at the Red Room Ultabar, 398 Richards Street, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

22–23 September 2012: Vancouver Book Fair, 10 AM–5 PM at UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street, Vancouver. Admission: \$5 (good for both days). “Americana, antique maps & prints, art books, author signed copies, books about books, Canadiana, children’s books, detective fiction, ephemera, fine bindings, fine press, First Nations, history, literature, military, modern first editions, nature, photography, science & technology, science fiction/fantasy, transportation, travel & exploration. Over 20 of BC’s top booksellers. Patron: Yosef Wosk. Presented by the Alcuin Society. Sponsored by AbeBooks.com.”

23 September 2012: Nocturnal Nerd-Missions: BYO Fan Fiction, 7:15–10:30 PM at Gamedeals Video Games, 407 Columbia Street, New Westminster. “The Internet is a marvelous series of tubes first birthed into the world by the dark prophet Al Gore. ^[citation needed] However there is a curse laid upon the Web’s head...and that curse is *erotic fan-fiction!* Help us find the best of the worst as you come on down to this first Nerd@Night event and print out some favorites for your hosts to read out to a crowd full of maniacs. Print out (or bring *[on]* a digital device you don’t mind the fellas borrowing) 3–5 pages of the dirtiest smut you can google or be daring and write it yourself! Each reading segment will be auctioned off so you control this very nerdy night. Don’t have one in mind? Don’t worry. We’ll have plenty of horrors on hand for you all to vote on. Our hosts will be reading things out in a variety of horrifying cartoon and celebrity voices, with the added ability to bribe them to make the show so much worse...or better? Tickets are 10 bucks...but if you wear fetish (rubber, latex, lingerie, or just plain skimpy) or nerdy (full on character costume or absolute madness) it’s *half that!* Five bucks for a night of madness! There will be prizes for naughtiest fetish-wear and for nerdiest costume...*who dares to try and win both at once?* See you there and *please* make sure to ‘Like’ our main page to see more shows whenever we fever dream them up.”—Nocturnal Nerd-Missions via Cameron H. Russell

24 [?]–29 September 2012: Comix Workshop at Emily Carr Concourse Gallery + Room 245, Emily Carr University, 1399 Johnston Street, Vancouver. Con, exhibition, industry day. “Emily Con! As part of our fall Comix Workshop, meet and greet visiting local and international comic book artists displaying and selling work in the Emily Carr Concourse Gallery. Guest exhibitors include Ken Boessem, Ed Brisson, Rebecca Dart, Jeff Ellis, Kelly Evereart, Don King, Jacqueline Klobucar, Dave McCaig, Doug Savage, Robin Thompson, Jason Turner, and Colin Upton. [...] Special events include: *Inkstud*s Live Radio Show Recording (1 PM, Room 245—live interviews with Vancouver’s top comic creators hosted by Robin McConnell, guests TBA); Make Your Own Damn Comic (2 PM, Room 245—panel discussions on how Vancouver’s top independent creators publish their own material, featuring Ed Brisson, Rebecca Dart, and Doug Savage); Canada’s Golden Age of Comics—lecture by Ken Boesem (3 PM, Room 245—a discussion on how Canada’s Golden Age happened, featuring Canada’s first three superheroes); What’s Happening in Vancouver—lecture by Robin Thompson (4 PM, Room 245—information session about special Vancouver events, exhibits, and educational programs pertaining to the world of comics); Comic Jam! (11 AM–5 PM, Foundation Hallway—participate in a wall-sized, hands-on, collaborative comic jam, facilitated by students in Emily Carr’s Illustration and Teens programs). All events are free and open to the public. Presented in conjunction with Culture Days and the Comeback.” (The Comeback is a two-day Emily Carr alumni event on 28 and 29 September.) Checked paper Emily Carr catalog and Emily Con is part of “The Comix Workshop.” (1) Comix exhibition: 25–29 September. (2) Industry day: 28 September. (Haven’t checked Emily Carr website for URLs for exhibition and industry day).—Julian Castle

25 September 2012: National Comic Book Day.

28 September 2012: Premiere of films *Looper* (SF; Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Bruce Willis, Piper Perabo, Jeff Daniels), *Hotel Transylvania* (computer animation; Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Kevin James, Fran Drescher, Steve Buscemi, Molly Shannon, David Spade, CeeLo Green, Jon Lovitz, Chris Parnell, Robert Smigel, Rob Riggie, Paul Brittain, Brian McCann, Corey Burton, Cam Clarke, Allen Covert, Tom Kenny, Scott Menville), and *Solomon Kane* (fantasy; Max von Sydow, Pete Postlethwaite, Alice Krige).



28–30 September 2012: VCON 37: Post Apocalypse at Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel, 15269 104th Avenue, Surrey. “Guests of Honour: Connie Willis (2011 Hugo- & Nebula-winning author), Dr. Gregory Benford (science guest), James Ng (artist guest). Mayans, zombies, aliens, Mother Nature, giant asteroid, chthonic horrors, nuclear blowup or meltdown, computational singularity...seems like life as we know it is doomed. So let’s party like it’s 2012! Join us for three days of fannish fun! We have multi-track programming, including: art show & auction, vendors’ hall, author readings, 24-hour games room, multi-author book launch, writers’ workshops, demos, Academie Duello, artists’ alley, Frankenstuffies, 501st Legion, costuming panels, dance, Elrons, Turkey Readings, Uncle Victor’s video room. Three-

day adult membership: \$45 to Sep. 15; \$60 at the door. Discounts: youth under 18: 50%; students & seniors: 25% off. Daypasses available at the door only. VCON hotel rate \$99 (1–4 people); includes parking and Internet. Book by August 29.” [Article at [VanCity Buzz](#).]

28–30 September 2012: JemCon, St. Louis, Missouri. “An annual convention which celebrates the Jem™ animated series and line of fashion dolls from Hasbro©!”—Joseph Bardsley

28–30 September 2012: Geeks After Dark: Lost in Time, 7:30 AM 28 September to 10:30 PM 30 September at Barkerville Historic Town, Barkerville. “Geeks After Dark. The final frontier town. This is the voyage of the Geeks After Dark crew, nerds of every type, and some totally hot burlesque dancers. Our three-day mis-



sion: to explore Barkerville Historic Town, to seek out new ways to party and new friends, and to boldly go where no geeks have gone before. Geeks After Dark, Vancouver’s only purveyors of nerdy nightlife, are back with a brand-new party convention for everybody who ever just wanted to put on a costume and be awesome for 72 hours. Partnering with Barkerville Historic Town, Geeks After Dark is proud to announce ‘Geeks After Dark: Lost In Time,’ an action-packed party convention for everyone with a little bit of geekery in their soul, and that means *you’re invited!* Join hosts ranging from the Tenth Doctor (*Doctor Who*) to Jayne Cobb (*Firefly*), the Riddler and Ra’s Al Ghul (*Batman*), to Obi-Wan Kenobi (*Star Wars*) and of course Sheriff Kirk and Deputy Spock for the party of the (19th) century! Take the Geeks After Dark time-traveling party bus back in time to Barkerville in 1868 for a relaxing weekend of afternoon teas, stagecoach rides, and gold panning. But things are a little wacky, as fandoms collide and holes are ripped in the space-time continuum; is that a TARDIS in the distance? Combining Geeks After Dark’s trademark theatricality with a cast of dozens of historical interpreters and Barkerville magic, Geeks After Dark: Lost in Time promises to combine events you’ve never seen before at cons (after dark-historical town-cosplay-capture the flag, anyone?) with screenings, panels, and our trademark mix of costume contests, trivia, burlesque, and epic parties and thousands of dollars worth of prizes from our generous sponsors: Golden Age Collectables, Gamedeals Video Games, and Admiral Snackbar Chocolate and Confectioneries. For the itinerary, ticketing information, and general information about Barkerville Historic Town, please visit our page at the Barkerville website, [here](#).”—Geeks After Dark via Zac Fudge

29 September and 27 October 2012: Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come by anytime on Saturday from noon until midnight and play any of the many open games there are here at the store. The event is perfect for any of those more epic games we have at the store that you’ve been wanting to try or for any you

might own but can rarely find the time/space/players to accommodate. Besides a couple of local coffee joints, there are a bevy of nearby eating establishments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critty”—Keith Lim

October 2012

1 October 2012: **Dave Strutt**'s birthday.

2 October 2012: One Year for Dave's Pop Culture. “One-year celebration *all* week long. Come on in and see me and get some great deals!”—Dave Strutt

4 October 2012: **Barbara Scutt**'s birthday.

5 October 2012: Premiere of films *Frankenweenie* (animation/remake; Martin Landau, Christopher Lee, Catherine O'Hara, Winona Ryder, Dee Bradley Baker, Tom Kenny, Frank Welker) and *V/H/S* (horror).

6 October 2012: **Arthur Hlavaty**'s birthday.

6 October 2012: IPMS Vancouver 42nd Fall Show & Swap Meet, 9 AM–4:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “This year’s special theme, ‘Operation Barbarossa,’ [?] [*is*] open to armour, aircraft, figures, dioramas, etc. The main show room is closed to everyone but judges between 3 and 4 PM for final judging and ribbon placement. The event is not limited to IPMS members. Anyone can come and view the show. Additionally, anyone can enter a kit to be judged. The objective is for the best kit in a category to win, not the best kit built by an IPMS member. This is the event of the year for modelers in the greater Vancouver area. The show attracts modelers from Western Canada and the Pacific Northwest. Recent Shows have had around 470 kits entered in dozens of trophy or ribbon categories. Several other modeling clubs are involved, sponsoring trophies, door prizes, and volunteering to judge or just helping out. Most of the hobby shops in the lower mainland contribute to the show, sponsoring trophies or donating door prizes. Several manufacturers and suppliers also contribute. There is a vendor room with tables set up in flea market fashion. Door prizes, largely donated by hobby shops and suppliers to the industry, are given out during the day. At the end of the day, awards and special prizes are handed out and the winning models are photographed for the club’s archives. This year’s theme—War in the Pacific. [?] Entry registration closes at 12 noon. *Admission:* \$5 Cdn. (17 and older); *free* (16 and under). Vendor tables: \$40 Cdn. Registration: from 9 AM to 12 noon; \$7 Cdn. (17 and older); \$2 Cdn. (16 and under).”—Keith Lim

6 October 2012: Remembering Kitty—A Memorial, 4:00 PM at Lynnwood Eagles Hall, 19223 Highway 99, Lynnwood, Washington, USA. “Sending this message on behalf of Judy Suryan. Please join us in remembering Kitty Canterbury. A gathering of family and friends. 4:00–5:00 PM gathering, followed by dinner, memorial, dessert, and fun. RSVP to: rememberkitty@aol.com. Kitty Canterbury passed away

early morning September 9th ending a short battle with ovarian cancer. She continued to be good-natured and gentle and was visited daily by family and dear friends. Kitty founded the local *Star Trek* fan group called the Puget Sound Star Trekkers (PSST) and served as the Commodore of the group from the mid-1970s through the early 1980s. She was honored as Fan Guest of Honor at Norwescon 19. Many local fans consider Kitty the mother of organized northwest fandom. Email photos from Kitty's activities with the Puget Sound Star Trekkers, life at the various Starbases, and other fannish activities to Judy at rememberkitty@aol.com. What we're providing: we will serve Kitty's favorite meal of pork and tater tots followed by chocolate cake. We will provide coffee, cocoa (a Kitty favorite), tea, Crystal Light lemonade, and ice water. We will also provide plates, napkins, cups, and flatware. You bring: your preferred soft drink and a potluck dish to share: main dishes, salads, side dishes, and desserts (Kit loved chocolate chip cookies—hint). Please include serving utensils needed for your dish. Please bring a crock pot or hot plate or other appropriate appliance if your food must be kept warm. Location information: the hall is on the north-bound (east) side of Highway 99. It is located between Central Welding Supply (south side) and Furniture World (north side). The Costco Business Center is just north of Furniture World. All are on the east side of Highway 99. There is a cash bar at the hall. No alcoholic drinks can be brought in by us. You must purchase alcoholic drinks from the hall.”—Jeanine Swanson via [Michael Citrak](#)



6 October 2012: Galaxion Origins: 40 Years of Atari, 9 PM–3 AM at the Red Room UltraBar, 398 Richards Street, Vancouver. “*Drink. Dance. Game.* The core Galaxion concept: we turn the club into a retro arcade dance party complete with vintage arcade machines and classic console gaming on all screens. At this party we celebrate

the 40-year history and legacy of Atari, with giant wall projection retro games and showcasing the evolution of what they started in '72 from the *phenomenal* collection at GameDeals.ca. Take a break from the dancefloor and get your nerd on at over a dozen large screen gaming stations inside the club! After the absolutely *insane* response we had for our last event, I Heart Tetris, we’re taking it *another* step farther and can’t wait to show you what we’re cooking up! *Galaxion*: games, DJs & dancing! *Main room*: best of the '80s/pop/new wave/punk/retro electro/old school/8-bit/chiptune/'80s inspired favourites with DJs Pandemonium, Manos, & Vortex. *Human Centipede competition*: basically, duelling '80s conga lines! Silly, yes, and fun! *Cover*: \$8 early bird (9–10 PM). \$10 afterwards in rad '80s-inspired outfit, or retro-game costume. \$12 otherwise.”—Isaac Terpstra

6–7 October 2012: Vancouver Mega Comic-Con, 10 AM–6 PM at Hyatt Regency Vancouver, 655 Burrard Street, Vancouver. Admission: [tickets online](#) (no mention of at-door price on website). Guests: Honky Tonk Man, Dustin Diamond, Randy Emberlin, James Lloyd, Ken Steacy.—[Facebook](#)

7 October 2012: [Knit a Knocker for Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#), 3–5 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby. “October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and chances are you’ve all known someone who has been affected by breast cancer. I’m issuing a challenge to the...” [End of information.]—Creative Geeks Society via [Keith Lim](#)

9 October 2012: [West Coast Geeks vs. Nerds—Episode 2: The Monster Mash](#), 7 PM at Yuk Yuk’s Vancouver, 2837 Cambie Street, Vancouver. “Something wicked this way comes...wickedly awesome that is! The good folks at WC GVN are bringing Halloween to Vancouver early this year with two spooktacular debates! First up, it’s truly not easy being green, as we present Frankenstein’s Monster vs. The Wicked Witch of the West: ‘Who is the most misunderstood green monster?’ And ending the night we have two heavy hitters to the world of nocturnal baddies. We ask the question ‘Who is the greatest vampire slayer?’ Blade or Buffy? West Coast Geeks Versus Nerds: defining pop culture, one debate at a time. We take two pop culture icons, debate them on our stage, and you—the audience—decide the winners! Laughs will be had, threats will be made, prizes will be given, and your fandom will be tested before the night is over. Come on out and meet your tribe! A ticket to the show is only \$10 @ Yuk Yuk’s Vancouver. The event is 19+ (sorry, younglings, but swears and silly juice = an ID required event). Costumes and fun T-shirts are encouraged (and potentially rewarded *hint hint!*). Door prizes to be provided by our sponsors: GameDeals Video Games, Connection Games & Comics, Geek Sweets, and Karmavore Vegan Shop. Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/WcGeeksVersusNerds>. Twitter: https://twitter.com/WC_GeeksVSNerds.”—[Cameron H. Russell](#)

12 October 2012: Premiere of film *Sinister* (horror; Ethan Hawke, Vincent D’Onofrio, Fred Dalton Thompson).

17 October 2012: Parade of Lost Souls Festival, all-day event. [No location given.] “Workshops will be 17–26 October at Britannia Community Centre (exact dates, times, and info to follow).”—[Keith Lim](#)

16 October 2012: **Duncan McGregor**’s birthday.

18–20 October 2012: [Vancouver New Music Festival 2012](#), 8–10 PM at Scotiabank Dance Centre, 677 Davie Street, Vancouver, BC. “Tickets \$20 regular, \$15 students/seniors; three-day passes \$50/\$35. Available at <http://www.brownpapertickets.com/> or 1-800-838-3006, and at the door. Circuit Cabaret, the 2012 VNM Festival, explores the world of hacked and homemade electronics and DIY glitch. Circuit Cabaret features international, national, and local artists who transform consumer electronics and toys to create new instruments and unique sounds. Featuring: Peter Blasser (US), Frederick Brummer (Vancouver), Merlyn Chipman (Vancouver), Nicolas Collins (US), Cracked Ray Tube (US), Julie Gendron + Emma Hendrix + Rob Symmers (Vancouver), Matt Rogalsky (Kingston), Andrew Scott (Vancouver), Ryan Smith (Vancouver), and Vincent van Haaff (Vancouver).”—[Keith Lim](#)

19 October 2012: **Gareth von Kallenbach** and **Cathy Palmer-Lister**'s birthdays.
Premiere of film *Paranormal Activity 4* (horror).

20 October 2012: **Richard Walters**'s birthday.

27 October 2012: **Peter Tupper**'s birthday.

26 October 2012: Premiere of films *Cloud Atlas* (SF; Tom Hanks, Hugo Weaving, Susan Sarandon, Halle Berry, Hugh Grant, Keith David, Jim Broadbent) and *Silent Hill: Revelation 3D* (horror; Sean Bean, Carrie-Anne Moss, Malcolm McDowell).

27 October 2012: Parade of Lost Souls—Secret Souls Walk, 5–9 PM at TBA.—
Keith Lim

News-Like Matter

Singularity & Co.: Saving Sci-Fi Books from Copyright Limbo with Kickstarter Help

Wandered across a sci-fi crowd-funding project at <http://www.kickstarter.com/projects/singularityco/singularity-and-co> (includes video).

“Help us rescue unique, out-of-print sci-fi books from copyright limbo so that we can make them available online and as ebooks.

“Our supporters and followers will help us choose which books will be digitally rescued from copyright and publishing limbo via a monthly poll on our website.

“This project successfully raised its funding goal on April 2.

“1,392 backers \$52,276 pledged of \$15,000 goal.

Their website is at <http://singularityand.co/> and <http://www.sngl.co/> → <http://savethescifi.com/>.

They have apparently rescued two books so far: <http://savethescifi.com/index.php/newsfromthefuture/s-co-news/15-kaila>; <http://savethescifi.com/index.php/newsfromthefuture/s-co-news/17-book-no-2>.

Julian Castle
to BC Sci-Fi Assoc. Yahoo! Group
Saturday 11 August 2012

Movie Theatre Subtitle Glasses

Ready for this?

<http://www.film-tech.com/ubb/f16/t001214.html>

Sony now has closed captioning glasses for movie theatres.
You put 'em on and you get subtitles. With an add-on: 3-D too.

(Didn't Dick Tracy or Buck Rogers have something like this? They need x-ray vision like those specs you saw advertised in old comic books.)



Brent Francis
Friday 7 September 2012

Call for Submissions: SET's Fan Fic Festival 2013

Seattle Experimental Theater is accepting script submissions for its first ever Fan Fiction Festival to be held January 11th, 2013 at the Seattle Center Armory.

About the Fan Fic Festival: SET's Fan Fic Fest is an acknowledgement and celebration of Seattle's strong geek culture. Fan Fic Fest will be a staged reading of scripts from local writers, including the widest array of local talent possible. We're hoping for this to be a chance for different artists to work together, and have a ton of fun in a week of debauchery culminating in our January 11th performance.

Submission guidelines: The deadline for submitting a script is October 1st. Scripts should be up to 30 minutes in length: approximately 30 pages in script format. Scripts may be on any topic(s), pre-existing world(s) or characters. Scripts may be submitted in PDF or Microsoft Word format. Scripts must be submitted as an attachment via email to seattleexperimental@gmail.com.*

Recognition: Selected writers will have their work produced onstage, will receive writer credit in the program and in press releases and publicity where space allows, and will receive free admission to the Fest. There is no monetary compensation for this project.

Production details: Scripts will be selected the end of October, and directors assigned beginning of November. The scripts will be produced in a staged reading in Theater 4 (Seattle Center Armory) on January 11th, 2013.

Participation: We are limiting individuals to one role in Fan Fic Fest—so if your script is chosen, you will not be eligible to direct. If you are not submitting a script but are interested in directing, auditioning, or participating as crew, please keep an eye on this website in November for the official call for cast and crew.

* *Fine print:* Seattle Experimental Theater (SET) does not claim any copyright on the submitted works or any properties the works are based upon. By submitting a work, you are giving SET permission, if selected, to produce your work with a director and cast chosen at the discretion of SET. Selected writers will have the opportunity to collaborate with the selected director, but staging decisions are at the ultimate discretion of the director or SET as appropriate.

Seattle Experimental Theatre via Daniel Chai
Sunday 9 September 2012

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

GIL KANE
"MISTADOBALINA"
NIGHT CREEPER NINJAS
"DELUXE FORMAT" BY GLADYS WE
NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM
CIRCLE RESEARCHER RORY TATE
ADRIAN VAN VOORHEES
THE AMIGA 500
SAL PUTRID

Review: Flash Game ‘Knight Elite’ by Ninja Kiwi

Michael Bertrand



Well, I've been playing a lot of *Knight Elite* lately, so I guess I owe it a review. It's a fun little mouse-and-keyboard hack-and-slash game, mildly reminiscent of *Gauntlet* in its relative simplicity of concept, controls, and aim.

You play a lone knight defending his castle against 50 waves of increasingly powerful (and *huge*) orcs. In order to accomplish this feat, you have your standard RPG elements of XP for skill and upgrades and gold for castle and equipment upgrades, as well as being used to recruit various archers, knights, wizards, and such to aid in the defense of your castle.

There's also a very light defense game aspect as you run around repairing the half dozen or so barricades in your castle in order to keep the orcs from all rushing in at once. Personally, I think it's a pretty stupid castle that is barely the size of a living room but has six very flimsy doors in it, but hey, I didn't build the place, I just work here.

Controls are simple: arrow keys or WASD to move, and click where you want to attack.

It's a fun, mostly mindless game. The RPG and defense aspects are just enough, in my experience, to keep it interesting enough to be “mindlessly fun” as opposed to “repetitive and dull.” And the animation is done with admirable gusto, with enemies flying back from your mighty blows, exploding into a bloody mess when killed, and spewing big showers of clinking gold coins in the process. The sound effects are similarly enthusiastic, with the enemy orcs making a variety of menacing grunts, groans, and bellows, and the surprisingly subdued music track (usually, I end up turning off the music in games, or turning it way down) is suitably generic in a battle music motifs to make it a good background to bloody battle.

This game is not going to bake your noodle. There's some resource allocation and of course skill selection when you level up, but for the most part, this is a game about hacking, slashing, stabbing, and smashing your way through wave after wave of enemies with as little complication as possible, and by Crom, sometimes that's just what one is looking for in a game. *Kill kill kill!* Raar!

So I recommend *Knight Elite* for anyone looking for some relaxed and enjoyable slaughter. If you're looking for something to puzzle your brain and confound your mind, this game isn't it.



But if you're just looking for some bloody cartoonish violence with which to vent your aggression and hence make it easier to cope with modern society, give *Knight Elite* a try.

Michael Bertrand
The Million Word Year
Monday 12 April 2010

Looking Back at the Future

Taral Wayne

[This article was previously published in The Drink Tank #305 (January 2012; edited by Christopher J. Garcia).]

In an ongoing attempt to clear space in my apartment, I have previously weeded out my comics collection, taken unwanted books to a used-book store, sold smaller toy cars, and thrown out unnecessary supplies I no longer use—such as mimeo ink and floppy disks.

Inevitably, it has become the turn of my old furry zines to be cropped.

At one time, collecting these early furry fanzines seemed terrifically important. Back in the 1980s, furry fandom seemed to have a future that might have followed the upward arc of other fandoms. It would grow in popularity, amateur publications would become professional, the more talented artists and writers would go on to respected careers, and the hobby would gradually be accepted by the mainstream. But furry fandom has gone off on a completely unexpected tangent, one that *has* no future in any sense I can appreciate. Instead of the growth and maturity that was envisioned in the mid-1980s, furry fandom has suffered arrested development, and will likely remain the domain of role-playing and make-believe indefinitely. It is a fandom shaped by fans who want nothing more.

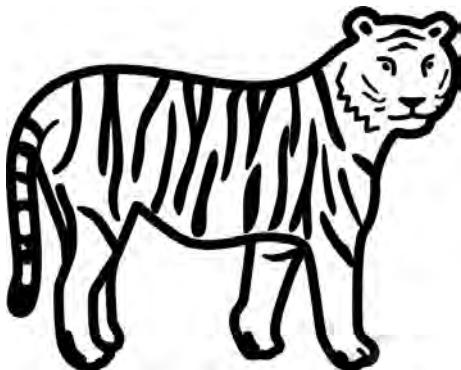
Science fiction fandom gave us professional writers and editors. *Star Trek* fandom gave us writers too, and also the producers of *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *Deep Space 9*, and *Voyager*, *Babylon 5*, and other series. Comics fandom brought us some of Marvel and DC's brightest stars. What has furry fandom given the world? Guys in floppy dog suits and padded busts.

Furry fandom *has* no future—I see now that it never did—only a permanent adolescence.

Sigh. A long time ago, however, I was lost in the illusion that this fandom mattered, and I kept all those crappy fanzines that common sense should have led me to throw out the same day I got them.

In going through several boxes of old furry zines, I've naturally kept those I think are best. Others I kept because I have some sentimental attachment to them—usually the editor is a friend. As you might expect, I also kept anything in which my own work was published. Unfortunately, that's still an awful lot of zines—not all of which I'm proud of. The collections of *Vootie* and *Rowrbazzle* I'm keeping. Also my *Galleries*. *Gallery* alone fills nearly two boxes, *Brazzle* and *Vootie* three more. The cream of the cropping adds another three. In fact, the rejected pile of fanzines

emptied only two measly boxes. No doubt the newly won space will quickly fill up with new SF zines, and eventually it will be *their* turn to be cropped. *Again.* But at least not for another year or two.



A partial list of the material can be had by requesting it in a private note.

The *last* thing I want to do is hurt the feelings of well-meaning people who sent me their zines in the first place. At the time, they *were* appreciated. But time has a way of putting old aspirations in disappointing perspective.

Postscript. Acting on good advice, I contacted "Second Ed," a dealer of mail-order comics and fanzines. I've done business with Ed Zolna on more than one occasion in the past, and should have remembered him. He agreed to buy the zines from me for a nominal sum and cover the postage. Most likely, the money will go toward a pizza and a pre-viewed movie. But, hey—that's better than when getting the zines out of the house was all I bargained for.

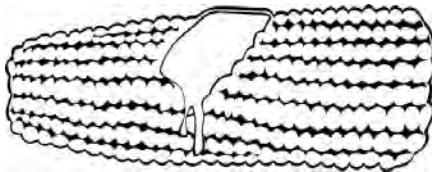
Taral Wayne
Tuesday 22 November 2011

The Scariest Vegetable

© Laurel Beauprie

I mosey into the kitchen to get something to drink quite unaware what I am about to witness. Then I see it, steam escaping from a large pot on the stove and I stop dead in my tracks. I've seen this shiny, two handled type before. For a full minute I can't move my feet and it takes me even longer to gain the courage to touch it. Finally, I lift the lid ever so slowly and wait like a sailor for the morning fog to dissipate. When the haze clears my worst fear is realized. There they are, four ears rolling slowly in the water. *Corn!*





like a spider's web and sends a shiver through me. Behind me lay the remains of the husking; broad leaves that once wrapped their bodies like mummies and a clump of fine yellow silk that looks like hair pulled from a doll's plastic head.

You must beware when passing a corn crib. The fact is, nothing good ever happens in a corn field. You never hear of alien landings or crop circles in a carrot patch. Youngsters don't get lost in the cabbage and mazes aren't designed in fields of lettuce. Even Stephen King's horror movie was named *Children of the Corn*, not *Boys of the Broccoli* or *Kids of the Kumquat*.

As I stand there listening to the pot rumble and see water being spit over the sides, I know, hands down, *corn* is the scariest vegetable!

The End

Laurel Beauprie
Friday 7 September 2012

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via Dave Haren).....	Pages 1–2
Clip art (Alan Moore/Dave Gibbons).....	Page 3
Clip art (Clker.com).....	Pages 5, 7, 9, 11, 21 (top), 22
Font (Microgetics Corporation).....	Page 12
Clip art (<i>Bachelor Who</i> screenshot).....	Page 13
Clip art (<i>ET the Extra-Terrestrial</i> screenshot).....	Page 15
Clip art (unknown) + font (Andrew C. Bulhak).....	Page 17
Clip art (<i>Gauntlet</i> screenshot; modified by Felicity).....	Page 19 (top)
Clip art (<i>Knight Elite</i> screenshot).....	Page 19 (bottom)
Clip art (<i>Aqua Teen Hunger Force</i> screenshot).....	Page 21 (bottom)