

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#452

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January 2011



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

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This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 16 January @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Kathleen Moore's, basement suite at side/back of 8311 Number One Road, Richmond. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. No parking in rear driveway; use street in front. Call 604-771-0845 for directions.

Thursday 20 January @ 7 PM:

January Book Discussion at the Grind gallery & café, 4124 Main Street (near the corner of Main and King Edward), Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *Blast Easter* by James Blish.—[Doug Finnerty](#)

Friday 28 January:

'BCSFAzine' production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 604-448-8714

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

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

Erratum

The newspaper clipping about the Rally to Restore Sanity in last month's "Letters of Comment" was submitted by alert reader *Joseph Devoy*.

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Dave Haren

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Monday 6 December 2010

Hi Felicity,

What a world of wonder we live in. All you need is a sense of humour to do it real justice.

As the international police forces rush around hunting for a man who committed the heinous offense of breaking a condom, the governments of the world wish to be taken seriously.

The Cherokee have adopted Julian and given him his Indian name of Broken Rubber, a proud addition to our tribal history.

Movies (as always available free at archive.org):

Revenge of the Virgins

An enormous slice of ham and cheese, this is the *Plan 9* of westerns. The rest of the cast play such dreadful villains that the Indians had to win to satisfy the decency code. (The Indians are all girls too poor to afford a shirt.)

Captain Marvel serial

The Phantom serial

These are venerable matinee potboilers cribbed from the comics of early times.

Voicebooks:

Fanny Hill: Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure

World That Couldn't Be by Clifford Simak

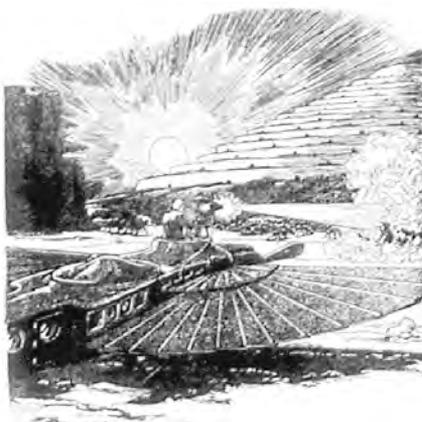
Both are available as Librivox M4B files.

Gamers:

Counterstrike (Fiery Dragon) has linkable *Freikorps* and *Konarmiya* by Brian Train.

This allows a look at the squabbles of the 1920s Germany/Poland/Russia during a very unrestful time.

Strategy and Tactics magazine has another hilarious article this issue. This time it is the tale of the bears and the supersonic ejection tests. Attempts to use the same



bear again failed because they were so uncooperative they had to be sedated to the point their biometrics were impaired.

A previous issue examined the career of junior officer L. Ron Hubbard in his chase after invisible submarines and his attack upon Mexico (one of the Allies) during WW2.

Documentary materials:

Adam Curtis multipart documentaries are available on archive.org.

Wonder how the world got you here? These have a lot of the answers as he threads the materials linking finance, economic theories, politics, and governments.

Books:

Makers [by Cory Doctorow] is up on gutenberg.org, and so is *The Ego and His Own* by Max Stirner.

I'm reading *Alizant* by Jane Fancher. Surprising how after months away from the world she has made it is so easy to fall right back into it with no effort.

I also read a zine by some guy and spotted Ignatz Mouse in the corner of the cover. It appears to have something to do with chili ingredients. Good stuff, but you already knew that.

My prediction for next year is that ebook reader prices are going to fall below \$100 and stay there and [if] enough people get good sense about it the pricing of ebooks will also lower.

[We should do annual predictions in BCSFAzine like they do on Coast to Coast AM every New Year's Eve. "Ebook reader prices fall below \$100" is hereby recorded as prediction #001 for the year 2011! We'll check back on that in one year's time. Who wants to go next? ☺]

The publishing houses have bungled it so far and the predatory behaviors of Amazon are about to be challenged by Google. Google itself has committed a wide range of mayhem on public domain works which leads me to suspect they will not be improving things much.

Thanks to all who made useful comments in return.

Warm regards,

Dave Haren

[Dave also bought me an ebook copy of Jane Fancher's Nights of the Blood Red Moon. Thanks, Dave!]

Ken Wong
slidermanmoi@hotmail.com

Wednesday 8 December 2010

Why nothing on Chuck Davis obit and his contribution to the revival of the off campus BCSFA in 1973?

[Apologies—I hadn't heard! If anyone would like to submit an obituary, I would be happy to print it in the next issue.]

Dear Felicity,

Merry early Christmas greetings!

Got the November **and** December *BCSFAzines* to White Dwarf; they coexist on the shelf there now.

I'm sorry if I offended by impugning most of Vancouver fandom in my personalzine—the fact is that apart from you, very few people show a love of playing with ideas creatively. My ideas of “creative” include not only putting odd and incongruous items together, but writing in original story universes rather than adopting one from film or television.

[Thanks for clarifying that.]

I may also have offended everyone at Nerdvana by calling off the Royal Swiss Navy gatherings. What I wanted to do was to attract new people, and start discussions that stuck to one idea and worked out all the consequences, as some good SF stories do.

[Sticking to one idea is not easy for a group (or some individuals). The best thing might be to state the premise, let everyone write down extrapolations separately from each other, then have a moderator (you) collect them and integrate the usable ones. Repeat until done.]

Or, for RSN proposals, actually get actual people actually doing things. Evidently I could have advertised on campuses, found more motivating ideas, or simply made my intentions clearer.

[The gap is between idea energy requirement and participant energy level. Advertising on campi might have attracted people with more energy; alternately, suggest easier ideas. No bathtub races, no backyard rockets, no long marches. Take things people like to do already, and add onto them slightly. Once the process gets started it might provide its own energy. Sometimes it's easier to keep going than to stop.]

This month, as has happened before, I got thoroughly sick of myself and the way I live and decided to make a fresh start. Hence the theme of *One Swell Foop* #1. I have relapses into depressed brooding on the past; it's hard to let go of the past, and of old habits. But I do intend to start a mock-serious Imperial Anarcho-Fascist Party. (More incongruity humour.) Will this interest old friends and new, do you think?

[I think so. See caveat above.]

Garth

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

GLASS BRICKS
FAHRVERGNUGEN
THE BLACK-AND-WHITE COMICS BOOM
LICORICE WRAPPERS TYPESET IN PEIGNOT
ISAAC ASIMOV'S "ROBOT CITY"
"FOUR ON THE FLOOR"

Lloyd Penney
1706–24 Eva Rd.,
Etobicoke, On.
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Wednesday 22 December 2010

Dear Felicity:

Thank you for *BCSFazine* 451, both .pdf and paperzine. Always welcome and appreciated. The Christmas shopping is done, the tree is up, and the presents are wrapped, and there is a bit of time here to write a quick loc for the next issue.

So far, folks, you've had a real Toronto winter...cold, with some snow here and there. We had a spare, we thought we'd give it to you, no need to return it...

[In Metro Vancouver it hasn't been that bad so far. We had a few days of snow and then things went back to normal. One month down, two to go...]

The first year I lived in Victoria was 1977, and as if to welcome us and make us feel at home, there was close to a foot of snow on the streets of Victoria, and the city had nothing with which to clear it away, because it had sold all its snow-clearing equipment to Vancouver the year before. Murphy works in mysterious ways. Victoria was impassable for about a week. Sounds just like Heathrow airport...I hope Steve Green's been warm and safe. I know we can joke about it, but Heathrow isn't used to getting the weather we get regularly.

We watch BBC World News on our local cable on a regular basis, and I find that like the CBC, it is relatively objective and neutral because it doesn't need to worry about ratings, and both broadcasters are, IMHO, agenda-free, which, of course, bothers some politicians. This is why I cannot trust most American-based broadcasters, for they all seem to follow some left- or right- agenda, or cater to the left or right on the American political spectrum.

Nothing like a paper zine. To me, this is truly published, and while it's what I prefer, I understand the need to publish, and the financial need to do it cheaply. I collect the paper zines I get, and the .pdfed zines or Word-document zines, too. That's why I appreciate getting both the .pdf and the paper zine, but it the finances continue to tighten, don't send me the paper version. I see a dollar's worth of postage on the envelope, plus the zine itself...that could be upwards of \$2 total, and I'm not a member. Whoever finances my copy, I very much appreciate it, but don't let it hurt your own pocket.

Saw the *Narnia* movie...wonderful tale, and I got more out of it because I'd read all the *Narnia* books, and knew what to expect. And, I saw it in 2D, too. We might go to see it in 3D, but there is always the extra charge for 3D glasses, which we must purchase, even if we kept them from previous movies. We also want to see *TRON*, but reviews are mixed. I suspect the movie and the original will be in a boxed set very soon.

[I'm a big fan of the original Tron. It doesn't look like Legacy kept the aesthetics of the original, so I'm not likely to pay to see it, but I'm a little curious about the fate of the returning characters.]

Michael Bertrand's letter...steampunk is still fairly big, even though it's been partially co-opted by popular culture. For club meetings, I'd invite the folks with VSteam to come and discuss steampunk, and what it is. I think it's come about be-

cause we are living in the future, and don't seem to have enough imagination to see what the SF of our own future will be like. So, we've set the clock back to Victorian times, a time of wonder and adventure and discovery and invention, with a future full of amazement for us. We seem to need that these days, the sensawunda older fans would say we all needed (they're right), so steampunk goes back to that time, a time and setting yet fictional, to enjoy that wonder and have some expectation of an amazing future.

The review of *Opuntia 70*...I first floated the idea of a national newszine in the tradition of *Canadian Fandom*, *New Canadian Fandom* and *Maple Leaf Rag* more than a decade ago, and got the response I wrote about. Now, I don't think there is enough community between Canada's fannish cities for people in Ottawa to care about what's going on in Regina, for instance. I'd like to hope I'm wrong. Also, any news-gathering service would be better served by a regularly updated website, instead of a fanzine that I might get around to publishing...this is what's happened with *File 770*, Mike Glycer's Hugo-winning fanzine which is now largely supplemented by a website updated most days.



Tomorrow is Festivus for the rest of us? Well, a Merry Christmas to all BC-SFAns, plus a happy Kwanzaa and a Happy New Year, hope your had a pleasant Solstice and Chanukkah.

[*And Mele Kalikimaka and L'Shanah Tovah to you and Yvonne!*]

That's the reason people say Happy Holidays; there's so many to keep in mind. Yvonne and I wish for all of you, hope, happiness and health, and full employment wouldn't be bad, either. Thank you for this zine, Felicity, and see you in the SFnal year of 2011.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Christina Carr, Jane Fancher, Brad Foster, Guy Lillian, and Fran Skene.

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

MADAME WOE
ASTRO MAGNUM
"THE TRAVELLERS' DIGEST"
"THE NEW LEAVE IT TO BEAVER"
KSTW "ELEVEN GOLD"
PJ JANIS MACKAY

Calendar

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

January 2011

January is National Book Blitz Month and National Hobby Month.

2 January 2011: Creative Geeks: Happy *Who* Year!, 1 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “It’s a new year. What’ll we resolve to do? How about finish some of those projects? Come down to the Fountain with your current project, or start something new! Come when you can, stay as long as you like—work (or not) on whatever you want. If you want to learn a new craft, chances are this is the place to find a teacher.”—Keith Lim

4 January 2011: Season premiere of *V* on ABC (guest-starring Jane Badler!).

4 January and 1 February 2011: Greater Vancouver Boardgames Meetup Group Monthly Meetup, 7 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group.] The games played depend on what everyone brings. If there is a game that you would like to play let it be known and we’ll see if someone can bring it. Also if you have a great game to share we’re always excited to try it out. \$1.—Keith Lim

5 January 2011: **Garth Spencer**’s birthday.

7 January 2011: Fontana Friday: Return to *V*, 6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “This week’s episode of *V* is ‘Red Rain.’ We will start with the final episode of last season, ‘Red Sky,’ just to remind us of where we left off.”—Keith Lim

7 January 2011: Premiere of film *Season of the Witch* (fantasy; Nicolas Cage, Ron Perlman, Christopher Lee).

8 January 2011: **Ursula Hitler**’s birthday.

9 January 2011: Creative Geeks: GeekCraft Continues, 1 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “We’ll continue with our wonderful Sunday afternoon sessions—knitting, crocheting and telling yarns and enjoying each other’s company!”—Keith Lim

9 January 2011: BC Browncoats: Thrilling Dance Rehearsal #1, 4–5 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Rehearsal for Thrill the World 2011 (Saturday 29 October 2011). “We will spend one hour and learn lessons 1 & 2, covering clips #1–12 of the instructional videos. (The first five clips are introductory.) We’ll meet again on February 6th, March 6th, April 3rd, May

1st and May 29th to continue learning the dance, so mark your calendars.”—[Keith Lim](#)

9 January 2011: [Summer Glau](#) in *The Cape* series premiere, 6 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “We’ll watch this after the ‘thrilling’ dance rehearsal at 4 PM. The series premiere is two hours long and airs at 9 PM on the west coast, but since John gets the east coast feed, we can start watching at 6 PM, or whenever the *Zombie/Reaver Dancers* have had a chance to catch their breath.”—[Keith Lim](#)

9 January 2011: Premiere of *Bob’s Burgers*, 8:30 PM on Fox. New series created by Loren Bouchard (*Dr. Katz, Home Movies*) stars H. Jon Benjamin, Eugene Mirman, Andy Kindler, and Kristen Schaal.—*TV Week*

10 January 2011: [Brian Eno: An Illustrated Talk](#), 8 PM at the Vogue Theatre, 918 Granville Street, Vancouver. Tickets: \$50–\$55 plus service charges from [vogue theatre.com](#) or 604-569-1144. Lecture by composer/futurologist.—*TV Week*

12 January and 9 February 2011: [Valinor, A Vancouver J.R.R. Tolkien Monthly Meetup](#), 7 PM. [Location shown only to members of the Meetup group]. Meet several of the organizers of Valinor to learn about continuing events (such as the Reading Group and RPG) and events to come in the future. \$2.—[Keith Lim](#)



13 January and 10 February 2011: [Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup](#), 7:30 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre (downstairs auditorium), 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting, shared with the general public at no charge.—[Keith Lim](#)

but we’re going to watch it on Friday, along with *V*. It’ll be a double dose of Big Damn Hero-y goodness!!”—[Keith Lim](#)

14 January 2011: [Fontana Friday: V and The Cape](#), 6:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “If you’ve got a cape, wear it, because Summer (River Tam) Glau is also in a new TV show that we’re very excited about. The two-hour premiere of *The Cape* was on Sunday,

14 January 2011: Premiere of film *The Green Hornet* (masked crimefighter; Seth Rogen, Edward Furlong).

16 January 2011: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM to 5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. Featured artists: Ken Boesem (*The Village*), Kelly Everaert (*Trilogy of Terror*), Robin Thompson (*Champions of Hell, Hemp Island*), Wai Khan Au, Jenna Sokalski, Carrie McKay, Molly Nemecek, Gurukitty Studios, Sketcherspective, and others! Dealer tables: \$45/centre; \$55/wall. Hourly door prizes! Admission: \$4.00; kids under 14: free. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. Follow us on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/vancomicon>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>, or call 604-322-6412.—Leonard Wong



16 January 2011: Creative Geeks: GeekCraft meets Guild Craft, 1 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6.

16 January 2011: The Guild Marathon, 4 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “*The Guild* season 4 DVD was released Dec. 21st, so let’s get together and marathon it. *The Guild* is a independent sitcom web series about a group of online gamers, written by and starring fellow BC Browncoat Felicia Day (Penny in *Dr. Horrible’s Sing-Along Blog*, Mag in *Dollhouse* and Vi in *BTVS*). The show started in the late summer of 2007, and for the first season was financed solely by Paypal donations from loyal fans (many of whom are members of this very group!). Since season 2, *The Guild* has been distributed by Xbox Live and Microsoft and sponsored by Sprint. Episodes vary from 3–8 minutes in length, and follow the Guild members’ lives online and offline. Season 4 features many appearances by the lovely and talented Wil Wheaton.”—Keith Lim

18 January 2011: *The Walking Dead* (zombie TV show) season one encores on AMC (TV channel). DVD/Blu-Ray release on 8 March 2011.—Julian Castle

19 January 2011: **Stewart Smythe’s** birthday.

21 January 2011: Season premiere of *Fringe* on Fox.

22 January 2011: Browncoats’ Got Game—Serenity RPG, 2 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “We had such a great time at the last *Serenity* RPG, that we decided to do another one. Everyone is welcome, whether you came to the last one or not. Sign up if you are interested in playing or just watching the adventure unfold. The kind of scenario Jenni chooses will depend on how many sign up. Expect the game to take about four hours. If you want to play, please arrive on time.”—Keith Lim

22 January 2011: Babylon 5: Shadow War: **cancelled**.—Keith Lim

22 January 2011: Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza, **moved** to 18 February.

22 January 2011: Browncoats RPG, 2 PM. [Venue to be announced.] “Second RPG session will be posted soon, but save the date!”—Keith Lim

25 January 2011: **Ryan Hawe**’s birthday.

26 January 2011: **Paul Carpentier**’s birthday.

28 January 2011: Premiere of film *The Rite* (horror; Anthony Hopkins, Rutger Hauer, Franco Nero).

30 January and 27 February 2011: Vancouver Roleplayers’ Collective Monthly Social Gathering, 3 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6. The purpose of the recurring meetings on the last Saturday of every month is to meet and greet and chill, to share a drink or two with fellow gamers, talk about your common interests and maybe even find yourself a gaming group.—Keith Lim



February 2011

2 February 2011: BC Browncoats: Groundhog Day at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “How should we celebrate Groundhog Day? Go down to La Fontana and watch the movie, of course!”—Keith Lim

4–6 February 2011: GottaCon 2011 at Pearkes Arena, 3100 Tillicum Road, Victoria. Victoria’s Gaming Convention. 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

6 February 2011: BC Browncoats: Thrilling Dance Rehearsal 2, 4–5 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. Rehearsal for Thrill the World 2011 (Oct. 29th, 2011). “Our last rehearsal was on Jan. 9th and we covered lessons 1 & 2, up to #12 of the instructional videos. This time we will spend one hour and learn lesson 3, which is #13–16 of the instructional videos. We’ll meet again on Mar. 6th, Apr. 3rd, May 1st, and May 29th to continue learning the dance, so mark your calendars.”—Keith Lim

11–13 February 2011: Vancouver International Swordplay Symposium. “A World-wide Gathering of Western Martial Arts Practitioners & Enthusiasts.” Instructors, workshops, intensives, lectures, and public events.—Keith Lim

12 February 2011: Browncoat Bleeding Hearts, 9 AM at Oak Street Blood Donor Clinic, 4750 Oak Street, Vancouver, BC, V6H 2N9. Celebrate Valentine’s Day by making an appointment to donate blood. The Oak Street clinic is usually open on Saturdays from 9 AM to 1:30 PM. Call to make an appointment: 1-888-2-DONATE. If this is your first time and you are not sure you are ready to donate, or if you don’t want to or can’t donate for whatever reason, come hang out with your Browncoat peeps while they donate and show your support.—Keith Lim

12 February 2011: [Ottawa International Animation Festival’s] Best of Ottawa Tour at Emily Carr University of Art + Design. [*No exact time or address given on either website.*]—Julian Castle

13 February 2011: Sugar-Fest at the Fountain, 7 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6.—Keith Lim



18 February 2011: Cthulhupalooza II: Son of Cthulhupalooza, 6:30 PM–12 AM at Rickshaw Theatre, 254 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, BC. “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 + Scythia folk metal; many Lovecraftian short films from all around the world; the worldwide release of the new Thickets video for “20 Minutes of Oxygen” by Mike Jackson of Steam-Powered Films; live sacrifice to Cthulhu of burlesque dancer Little Miss Risk; Cthulhu Cake Competition with prizes from our sponsors; the announcement and screening of the winner for Thickets’ fan-made video contest; vendors & other guests of a Cthulhuesque nature. 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)!”—Toren Atkinson/Keith Lim

18 February 2011: Jonathan Coulton performance, 7:30 PM at Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial), Vancouver, BC, V5N 1W1. “Jonathan Coulton (born December 1, 1970) is an American singer-songwriter, famous for his songs containing themes of geek culture as well as his rise to popularity through the use of the Internet. Among his most popular songs are ‘Re: Your Brains’ and ‘Still Alive,’

the latter of which played over the end credits of the video game *Portal* (though he did not sing it). A former computer programmer and self-described geek, Coulton tends to write quirky, witty lyrics about a variety of topics such as science fiction and technology: a man who thinks in simian terms, a mad scientist who falls in love with one of his captives, and the dangers of bacteria.” Tickets: \$25 + fees, on sale Mon. 13 Dec. 2010, 10 AM.—[Keith Lim](#)

25–27 February 2011: [Tsukino-Con: Victoria’s Anime and Japanese Cultural Convention](#) at University of Victoria, 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 5C2.—[Keith Lim](#)

26 February 2011: [Serendipity: Graphic Novel Extravaganza](#), 8:30 AM–3:30 PM. [Venue not given.] “Spend the day with renowned graphic novelists Gene Yang (author of *American Born Chinese*), Matt Holm (author of *Baby Mouse*), Raina Telgemeier (author of *Smile*), and others!” Organizer: Vancouver children’s literature roundtable. Early bird fees (before January 31): members \$125, students \$50, non-members \$140. Regular fees (february 1): members \$150, students \$75, non-members \$165.—[Keith Lim](#)

News-Like Matter

Member Passages

As mentioned in “Letters of Comment,” Chuck Davis has passed on. (A formal obituary will hopefully appear in the next issue.)

Al Betz (Corresponding Secretary for Mr. Science) is ailing. Ed Beauregard writes that Al has kidney failure and is on dialysis three times a week. If you would like to visit him, he is in Surrey Memorial Hospital, 13750 96th Avenue, in the renal unit in 5 West (AKA East 52), Room 18.

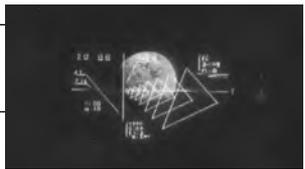
Ed Beauregard also writes that he has been enjoying his retirement from Telus.

[Felicity Walker](#)
January 2011

Transformers Bang, Zoom to the Moon in New Michael Bay Film



Alert reader [Ryan H](#)
[Hawe](#) relays a [You-Tube](#) video of the trailer for [Transformers: Dark of the Moon](#) and



“Dark of the Moon”? Really?

adds: “Wonder what

Buzz Aldrin’s reaction will be to this? Well, it looks like the zeitgeist is tipping further along—even Michael ‘I Can Get the US Air Force to Be Extras in My Movies’ Bay, a filmmaker not known for deep introspection or investigation in his quest for AWESOME, is jumping on the ‘Apollo 11 secrets!!!’ bandwagon. In his

The Transformers visit the moon in the original series episode “Blaster Blues.”

own unique style, of course, as seen here. ‘Not a Hoax, Not a Dream...Just an Announcement Trailer.’ ”

Felicity Walker

Thursday 16 December 2010

2011 TAFF Race: Candidates Announced

The administrators of the TransAtlantic Fan Fund have great pleasure in announcing there are no fewer than four candidates for the 2011 westward TAFF journey, a trip which will include the 69th World Science Fiction Convention in Reno, Nevada, 17–21 August 2011.

The official ballot form will be posted here very shortly; additional distribution is encouraged, provided the text is reproduced verbatim. The race itself will run until 12 March 2011.

The candidates are:

- Graham Charnock: “Vote for me. If you know me, you know why you should. If you don’t know me visit my website www.cartiledgeworld.co.uk for biographical details and access to other craziness, which should persuade you. If I am elected I promise I will cut a swathe across North America like a rabid shrew released from a trap. I will party until my balls drop off and then glue them back on and party some more, and I will then report home in full widescreen hi-def detail. That is my solemn promise. Hey, it’s what you want and it’s what I do.” [Nominated by Harry Bell, Sandra Bond, Rich Coad, Mike Meara, Robert Lichtman]

- John Coxon: “My name is John Coxon, and I got into fandom through being secretary of ZZ9 before editing a fanzine (*Procrastinations*). As well as winning “Best New Fan” FAAn Award, I edited Eastercon LX’s newsletter, and my experience and enthusiasm will translate into my report and administration. Additionally, I’d like to experiment with other methods of reporting on my adventure. I’d love to show North America what makes British fandom brilliant and I think I’m the right person for the job! (As a bonus, I also promise to staple (hard copies of) my trip report, if someone will lend me a stapler.)” [Nominated by James Bacon, Claire Brialey, Chris Garcia, Dave Langford, Steve Stiles]

- Liam Proven: “I’m Liam—no badge name. I’ve been an active fan since Conspiracy ’87. I’m not partisan; I’m not a gamer, but I’ve been known to play. Not a fanzine fan, but pubbed a couple of ishes. Not a costumer, but dress up sometimes. Get on with almost everyone. Do the odd panel, moderate ’em even, and volunteer at cons. I write for a living, so I promise an entertaining and prompt conrep. Finally, since I’m self-employed in a hostile financial climate, this is the only way I’ll ever get to an American con—but I can take a long vacation!” [Nominated by Bridget Bradshaw, Lilian Edwards, Nic Farey, Lloyd Penney, James Shields]

- Paul Treadaway: “I’m probably best known in fandom as a conrunner, due to my work with the two Glasgow Worldcons. The pattern was probably set at my first



convention, Conspiracy, where I walked through the door and was instantly recruited to sell raffle tickets for Fans Across the World. In fact, if elected, this will be the first Worldcon since then where I haven't either been on a Worldcon committee or helping to sell a Worldcon bid! I look forward to the chance to meet a wide range of fans, and of course renew my acquaintance with the friends I've already made.” [Nominated by Vincent Docherty, Fran Dowd, Mike Glyer, Tim Illingworth, Maurice Kincaid Speller]

For the record, this is the largest number of candidates fielded for a westward TAFF race since 1993, and we are delighted that, nearly sixty years after the first race was held, the Fund still generates such interest and enthusiasm.

Steve Green, European administrator

Anne & Brian Gray, North American administrators

Steve Green

Saturday 18 December 2010

Pete Postlethwaite OBE (1946–2011)

Prolific British actor, died 2 January in hospital, aged 64. Genre roles: *Split Second* and *Alien 3* (1992), *James and the Giant Peach* and *DragonHeart* (1996), *The Lost World: Jurassic Park* (1997), *Animal Farm* and *Alice in Wonderland* (1999), *Rat* (2000), *The Selfish Giant* (short, 2003), *Aeon Flux* and *Dark Water* (2005), *The Omen* (2006), *Ghost Son* (2007), *Solomon Kane* (2009), *Clash of the Titans* and *Inception* (2010). Steven Spielberg once described him as “the best actor in the world.”

Steve Green

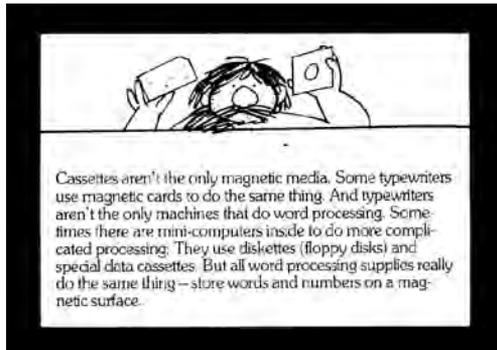
Monday 3 January 2011

Anne Francis (1930–2011)

American actress, died 2 January, aged 80; her most famous role was “Altaira” in *Forbidden Planet* (1956). Other genre appearances: *Portrait of Jennie* (1948), *The Rocket Man* (1954), *The Twilight Zone* (1960, 1963; the first of these was the classic episode “The After-Hours”), *Wonder Woman* (TV, 1976), *Conan* (TV, 1997).

Steve Green

Monday 3 January 2011



Made in Canada

During the recent eclipse of the sun, definite proof was provided by NASA that the sun was manufactured in Canada. Notice the Canadian flag in the upper left corner of the solar disk.



Tara Wayne

Wednesday 5 January 2011

Collected News of 2010

These items have accumulated in my “Add to *BCSFazine*” file over the year. I might as well use them up now before it gets any later.

Old-school anime fandom was rocked on 1 January 2010 by the trailer for a live-action version of *Space Battleship Yamato* (AKA *Star Blazers*). Toho Company Ltd. premiered the film on 1 December 2010. [Credit: Monster Fighters Yahoo! Group]

The Black Panther (right) made his animated debut on 16 January 2010 in a motion comic called *The Black Panther: Who Is the Black Panther?* The six-episode mini-series used the Reginald Hudlin/John Romita Jr. comic as source material and starred Djimon Hounsou (as T'Challa), Alfre Woodard, Phil LaMarr, Phil Morris, Kevin Michael Richardson, and Stan Lee!



Who indeed?



gal, heiress of a Scots-Irish clan, who died and came back to life with the power to kill with her voice.

April 2010 also saw the debut of *Turf*, a wild comic about vampires, aliens, and gangsters in Prohibition-era New York, written by British broadcaster Jonathan Ross and drawn by Tommy Lee Edwards (illustrator of Marvel's 1985 mini-series), with lettering by the great



Variety reported on 24 March 2010 that Angela Bassett had been cast as government agent Dr. Amanda "The Wall" Waller (left) in the upcoming *Green Lantern* film. To the best of my knowledge she has never appeared in the pages of *Green Lantern*, but as a recurring character in the DC universe, she certainly *could* have met him.

Award-winning comics inker/editor Dick Giordano passed away on 27 March 2010.

On 2 April 2010, the Silver Banshee (right), a supervillainess created by John Byrne in 1987, appeared on the locally-filmed TV series *Smallville*, though her costume and makeup changed from the black-and-white skeleton suit to fur and mummy wrappings. Silver Banshee was originally Siobhan McDougal,



John Workman. *Kick-Ass* director/producer/screenwriter Matthew Vaughn wants to adapt *Turf* to the big screen. In my humble opinion, either Jeffrey Dean Morgan or Craig Bierko would make a good Eddie Falco (left), the lead human character and the most intelligent of the gangsters.

Felicity Walker
January 2011

VCON 35 Report (Part 3)

Joseph Picard

[See [BCSFAzine #450](#) for Part 1 and [BCSFAzine #451](#) for Part 2.—Felicity]

Saturday, Part 3—SFCanada Party and VCON Dance Party

After getting some directions, I found my way to the SFCanada party that I was now nearly a year and half an hour late for. It was held in someone's private room, and it was pretty packed. I got in far enough to get an all-right look around; to see what was going on, and that was about it. The ages were varied, but at 34, I was the kid in the room. No biggie, I know how to talk to growned-ups.

Topics wandered all over, but I had a really deep talk with...oh frig, I forget her name now. Her son had taken his life in the last year, and I told the tale of Cheryl N., to whom *Watching Yute* was dedicated. At one point she told me that I reminded her of her son's friend, by my way of talking and my facial expressions. That entire talk was the most memorable part of the party for me.

Second place went to a singing performance by an actor/writer who had been in a stage production of...*Beauty and the Beast*? Erk...probably not. It was a humorously sexist wedding proposal song. The whole room was impressed and amused. He had used a version of the song to propose many a year ago, and this night's performance was (if I heard right) and anniversary demand from his wife.

A lady I'd not met before (Sandra Wickham) was modeling her new bustier nearby, talking about how she could manage to work it into an everyday outfit. It was plenty sharp. I jumped in (not into her bustier, you pervs) and gave my two cents.



I knew she was going for an everyday usage, but told her that a character I was working on might wear such a thing as a phony Gypsy fortune teller. I went on to describe the tall neckline collar as I gestured to her neck, then down to her legs as I went on about a long, flowing, layered, latticed skirt. She said she could model for some illustrations some time. Haha. Ha?

Conversation wandered into the pets department, someone had a little dog with them, and while I'm happy to gibber on about pets...well, I was getting worn down in general. I excused myself, saying I was going to peek in on the nearby dance before heading to bed.

I got into the hallway, and could hear the faint pounding of the music. Heh.

Yeah, I gotta go have a peek. At the doorway, I saw a mixture of 50/50 wallflower types, and dancers.

Dang. Now I felt old. I mean, even before I was in the wheelchair, I wasn't into clubbing and such, citing that I liked to be able to hold a conversation, but the energy was infectious. Fine. I rolled in, and wandered around a bit. Who was on the far end of the dance floor, but Professor Whovianart. And he was *ripping it up*.

He wasn't one of the kiddies dancing, he had no partner, probably as he would put any partner to shame, or into the hospital. He slowed down for a moment, and I thought he was tired. No, he was just following the music. There wasn't any playing at that moment, and after he wiped sweat out of his eyes and the music started to catch up to him, he was speeding up again. He later told me that he was only dancing at a "5," due to bits of his costume/outfit he was still wearing. Otherwise, he would be going at "8." "10" was for days gone by when he was a "mascot" of sorts for a band that called him the blur. He was a machine, interesting enough to watch that I didn't do any girlwatching, for which there was ample opportunity on the dance floor.

But not interesting enough to hold me so long that the call of bed didn't drag me away. I got out the door, still kind of hooked by the music. To be honest, it wasn't that amazing, but an OK bass line is an OK bass line.

I lingered by a fellow who I think was a casual sort of security presence, and his gorgeous husky, Jade. How gorgeous was Jade? Gorgeous enough that within five minutes, two other people passing by stopped to say that she was gorgeous. No one complained when a well-endowed lady with a low-cut top bent over to give Jade some attention. When *she* left, I think I heard someone recovering from a slight aneurysm.

Cleavage and huskies aside, I was headed to bed.

Wait, no, here's Sandra Wickham coming my way with her husband in tow, and a bottle of wine in hand. She asked me if I was going in.

"No, actually, I was headed to b..." Ugh...know what? I went to the effort of getting a room for this VCON *specifically* so I could spend extra time at non-vendor events. This time last year, I was suffering on a bus. Suck it up, go hand out by the amp.

I refused a glass of wine, but a song came on that got to me. I think it was "Fire-starter."

No, no, no. Not that one. The Prodigy one.





Thank you. And yes, it's an old, overplayed song, but it hasn't been played recently, and not with that much bass. Head a-bobbin', I nudged Sandra, and nodded at the wine bottle. She raised an eyebrow, and I silently mouthed (as words would be lost to the music) "I think I'm ready. Half though."

With the lack of food and sleep since yesterday morning, and me operating on taurine, she may as well have unscrewed my skull and poured the wine directly on my brain. I was a certain degree of drunk very, very quickly.



No, no, no, no. Not as bad as that guy. But I wasn't feeling any pain anymore. For all the pain-killers available out there, a wee touch of alcohol has always proven to be the most effective. I'm a lightweight to begin with, I don't drink often. When I do (my official drinking day is my friends' Halloween party), I do it *right*. That said...I don't plan to have much at this year's party. Meh.

Mrs. Sandra Wickham mentioned modeling again...hm. I didn't think much of it.

Eventually, the music stopped, and people were disassembling the dance floor, stacking the pieces on a couple racks. Frig, what time was it? I think it was a hint to piss off! On the way out, the good Professor joined the conversation.

Lemme tell ya bout him. His persona is inspired by Dr. Who and a number of other sources, and in a way, is rather manufactured...but at the same time, so natural. It's hard to tell where the character ends, and ***** begins. Yes, I know his real name, but I dare not utter it, lest he evaporate into smoke!

I made the journey back to my hotel (stopping to chat with the DJ and some of his ilk outside) with my shoulder spikes on still. The night before, I'd left them in the vendor room. I got another bag of chips and a chocolate bar, having last ate in the morning. I wasn't hungry, but I feared my body going into revolt. Thankfully, my room was neither hot, nor cold. I gave my worry-wart mother a single ring on her phone, did what else needed to be done, and passed out.

In the bed. Not like the picture above. For the record, that was just a pic I got from Google. No one at VCON was that wasted. As far as I knew.

Next post: dealer room finale, and the fulfilling of the prophecy of Gabe!

Sunday—Endgame

This was the shortest day in the vendor room. It was busier than Friday, but after Saturday, it felt darn near serene. As I predicted, several “Orbiters” finally made a purchase, and I had to part with the promised poster of Alisia.

I actually parted with most of my posters during the weekend, but hey...it gives me an excuse to restock. I later even sold my two fancy display banners. Go figure.

And along came Gabe. He had come for his prize, his destiny...he slapped down \$7.26. The UN had not stepped forward, so I let the world’s first combat spatula go to Gabe...!



All hail the hero!

I gave him \$1.26 back, because I was trying to go the whole weekend without dealing with coins. I would have just let him have it free, but I didn't want to set a precedent of giving away my kitchen ware.



As the day was coming to a close, I started wrapping up my table, since it had been ransacked anyway. *But!* I had two books in an odd place...someone had paid for two books, and set them down to chat. She had a lot to carry around, and probably assumed she had the books in a bag when she left. *Thankfully*, I had signed them with her name in them...only her first name. So I was set on a quest with a first name and a general description. Long story short, about a week later, she came to my house with her hubby to pick them up, and they brought me a fancy cutting board. OK, that sounds kinda lame, but it's really awesome, made of a bunch of different wood, and I think I'd rather frame it than cut meat on it.

Anyway, while I was hunting clues, I was on the other side of the vendor room, when I see a familiar sight...my wife! And I heard a familiar sound—my little girl! The top of a little head bobbing along the other side of a row of tables, armed with instructions from my wife on how to get to me. She made it around the corner, grinned madly, and pointed. “*I found Daddy!*”

I held out my arms, expecting a hug, but no! She had to go back around the tables to report to Mommy. “*Mommy! I found Daddy!*”

Vendors around me had a laugh, and said things like “So we finally meet your little one!” I didn’t think I was talking about her throughout the weekend, but apparently I had been. By the time I got back to my table, my wife had gotten pretty far in the wrap up of my table. She was in a little bit of a rush, and on the way out, I was snagged by one Ms. Heather Dale. She wanted to swap one of her CDs for one of my books. I said yes to be polite, and was generally in a rush. Celtic style songs aren’t generally my kind of thing, but when I finally got to listen to it, it was really neat stuff to counterbalance the harder stuff I often listen to. In fact, it’s still in my CD drive.

Well, that was VCON 35.



It was a blast, and worth every minute; even the low points were worth it. Even freezing my @\$ off at the mercy of an insane air conditioner.

Next year? Yeah, I’ll be there...but I’m really serious, serious, even more serious than last time...don’t expect me to have another new book ready by then! But stay tuned to hear about what’s coming down the pipe...

PS: Google up Sandra Wickham. She didn’t need to share wine, she was smuggling a six-pack! She was definitely serious about the modeling thing...!

Joseph Picard

Ozero

Thursday 18 November 2010

Zines Received

Close Encounters Studios postcard (29–30 October 2010). Published by Close Encounters Studios Inc., 327 Forest Road, Mahopac, NY 10541, USA, <http://www.closeencountersstudios.com/>.

Front is picture of a grey alien cautiously emerging from an outhouse; back is stamped “**TOP SECRET**” and explains “At Close Encounters Studios we specialize in mysterious, slightly creepy extraterrestrial sculptures that are perfect for the conspiracy theorist in us all.”

‘Ethel the Aardvark’ #150 (October/November 2010). See “E-Zines Received” in *BCSFAzine #450* (but mentally replace “Melbourne Science Fiction Society” with “Melbourne Science Fiction Club”).

‘Opuntia’ #70.1B (Saturnalia 2010). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Reviewzine issue.

“The Eric Korn Collection of H.G. Wells”; “Way Up North” (reviews *The World in 2050* by Laurence C. Smith); “Challenger at Large” (reviews *Challenger and Company* by Arthur Conan Doyle); “Letters to the Editor”; “Seen in the Literature.” Attractive and interesting as always.

‘Ethel the Aardvark’ #151 (December 2010/January 2011). Published by the Melbourne Science Fiction Club, PO Box 212, World Trade Center, Melbourne 3005, Australia, ethelaardvark@yahoo.com.au, <http://www.msfc.sf.org.au/>.

“Armageddon 2010” (photos): the girl cosplaying Rimmer (and Mr. Flibble) from the *Red Dwarf* episode “Quarantine” looks enviably pretty. There’s also a man in a first-season *Star Trek: The Next Generation* uniform who pleasantly reminds me of Mr. Rumbold from *Are You Being Served?*

Also: “Absolute Power” (presidential); “Vice President Ian A. Chapman” (photos); “Riddle Me This/Riddle of the Sphinx” (crostic); “Book Review(s)” (*Lord Sunday* by Garth Nix, *Being of the Field* by Traci Harding, *Century Rain* by Alastair Reynolds); “Feature Film and TV Show Review(s)” (*Splice*, *Red*, *Firefly*, *Supernatural*, *The Lost Thing*); “Media Release”; “MSFC Meeting Details/2010: The Year We Make Contact.”

E-Zines Received

‘Statement’ #380 (December 2010). Published by the Ottawa Science Fiction Society, 18 Norice Street, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, K2G 2X5, osfs@ncf.ca, <http://osfs.ncf.ca/>. Edited by Grant Duff. “The President’s Say on the Year That Was” (club activities); “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows” (movie review); “Movies Coming to the Mayfair/Coming Soon to a Cineplex”; “Art News”; “Literary”; “The Rumor Mill”; “Comedian Leslie Nielsen Dead at 84”; “Binoculars for Xmas/More Stocking Stuffers.” Good read. Use of landscape orientation in PDF appreciated.

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (provided by <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Page 1
Clip art (Simon Furman/Geoff Senior/Jim Massara).....	Page 5
Clip art (Cary Bates/Curt Swan/Frank Chiamonte/Ben Oda) . . .	Page 7
Clip art (Dave Gibbons).....	Page 8
Clip art.....	Pages 9–13
Clip art (provided by <u>Taral Wayne</u>).....	Page 14
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Clip art (J. Ostrander/L. Wein/J. Byrne/K. Kesel/S. Haynie).....	Page 15 (middle)
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