

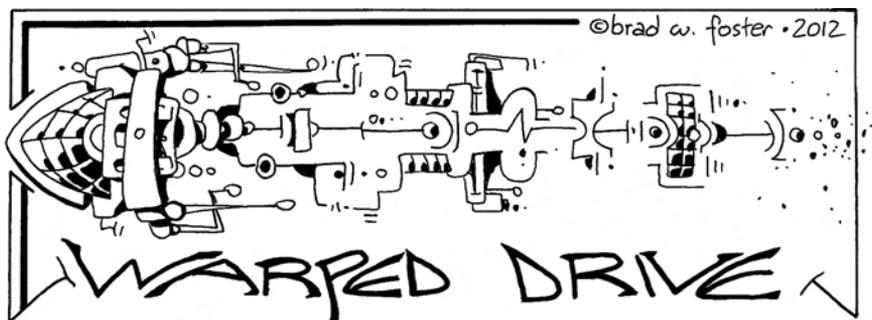
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#474

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November 2012



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This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 18 November @ 7 PM: **BCSFA meeting**—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. [*December meeting is Sunday 16 December 2012, same location, and is Christmas party.*]

Friday 30 November: **'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

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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 Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_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

Friday 24 August 2012

b-francis@sympatico.ca

Anybody heard about this? (From the Film Tech website):

“Peter Jackson’s adaptation of *The Hobbit* is a Big Deal for a few different reasons. It’s his return to Middle-Earth, and to the stories that established him as one of the biggest directors working today. It is now the beginning of a trilogy, rather than a mere two-film cycle. And, for exhibitors, the most important aspect is that it is the first mainstream film shot with what we’ll refer to as HFR (high frame rate).

“*The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* was shot at 48 frames per second, rather than the film industry standard 24 fps. The first public presentation of footage, at CinemaCon this past spring, didn’t go so well, with audiences finding that the increased detail seen in the HFR footage made the film look cheap, rather than more impressive.”

Cheap as in bad handi-cam cheap, apparently:

“It looked like an old *Doctor Who* episode, or a videotaped BBC TV production. It was as shocking as when *The Twilight Zone* made the boneheaded decision to switch from film to tape one season, and where perfectly good stories were ruined by that aesthetic.” “It looked like when you turn your LCD television to the 120 hertz up-conversion setting. It looked uncompromisingly real—so much so that it looked fake.”

It gets better—

April—“Vendors claim that a large amount of the digital projectors already in theaters will be easily upgradable to 48 fps through a software update.”

Now—“The HFR version will get a very limited release this December. In part, that’s because no theaters are currently HFR-ready.”

However, “the picture (now re-outputed on 48 fps) looks vastly better than the test footage shown this April at CinemaCon, which had not yet undergone post-production polishing.”

What was Warners thinking, tying an untested technology to the biggest film of the year? Or was Mr. Peter “Don’t listen to the studios, I’m the resident genius here” Jackson involved?

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

"BORIS THE BEAR"
APPLE IMAGEWRITER II
FORD GALAXIE TAIL LIGHTS
SUPER NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM
MICHAEL IRONSIDE AS GENERAL KATANA
"UNICORN VARIATIONS"
PIZZA HOT DOGS

Hi Felicity,

For all the SF readers out there, try Christina Engela. She is fairly exotic. Apparently thought the army was a good idea at some point in her life. Her fiction seems to be a cross between Trekkie



fanfic and golden age *Analog* stories. This is a good thing in my opinion. I've never been a fan of the postmortem society style of defeatist wallow encouraged by the contemporary behavioral sink...*grin*. It's probably caused by bad genetics in my case, or an overdose of ERB and EE Smith.

I happened to stumble on a treasure trove for exotic music fans on archive.org. It's the podcasts of WIDR Kalamazoo *Reggae Revolution* show. Covers from 2008–2012 with a few gaps. Worth a listen if you like the stuff, safe to ignore if you don't.

Another treasure (your taste may vary on this one): Eben Moglen has a couple of pages of video/audio/etc. Anyone who is on the Net/Web should at least watch his 2009 speech to the Non-Profit Technology Conference. If you're a geek you already know who rms (St. iGNUcius) is. Eben is his lawyer. Under the surface of the placid humdrum of day to day there are titanic struggles being fought over the very nature of what it means to be human. Nobody is immune, so you might as well get informed and actively choose a side. Being herded into a zombie horde by fairly invisible forces as a cash cow, isn't what I think of as a fan. That propellor beanie should stick out above the mass, and your stentorian bray is designed strike fear into the hearts of any mass movement.

Another entertaining character if you haven't found him yet is Slavoj Žižek. His lectures at EGS (European Graduate School) are available on YouTube. He has many endearing qualities—swearing, devotion to a defunct political viewpoint, very annoying nervous tics, talks too much and says things that make a lot of sense. Apparently he's the Socrates of this age.

There is one interesting idea that germinated out of Occupy. Debts are routinely bought and sold for miniscule amounts behind the backs of those who owe. Occupiers are now buying debts of this nature at the low prices and burning them, instant forgiveness of the debt. For those who have lost everything in the worldwide financial mess this is a needed ray of light in the darkness.

You might send a well wishing to CJ Cherryh. She has a minor eye problem and a nasty side effect from the drugs treating it.

You can tell Graeme that he's going to fall so far behind Katz and Garcia in the publishing race that he'll have to overwork to catch up.

If you're feeling winter gloomy check out Holly Beck on YouTube. Nothing like chicks in bikinis surfing and having fun in the sun to chase away the greyness.

Warmest regards,
Dave Haren

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Saturday 24 November 2012

Hi there BCSFAns! The nights are getting longer and colder, so it must be winter, or at least, the local variant. I have been beavering away at my 1667+ words a day for NaNoWriMo, AKA the National Novel Writing Month, and thus have been paying even less attention to that pesky “reality” thing than usual, but I vaguely recall that when it rains somewhat more than usual and the rain is just that little bit colder, they call it “winter” around here, so I am willing to make the call.

[*Readers: e-mail Michael if you would like to read his second novel.*]

Speaking of November, boy am I glad that our colorful but unstable neighbors to the south opted for Barack “Hope for/and Change” Obama over Mitt “The Mitten” Romney. It proves what I have been saying for a long time, which is that it doesn’t matter which candidate has more money if the people fundamentally are not buying what they are selling.

And what do you know, old Mitt got exactly 47 percent of the vote. Gee, that number sounds familiar. I guess Mitt and his math-hating friends got their numbers off by a tad. Well, his lot never liked democracy anyhow. I bet they like it even less now.

Still, it is sobering to think that the line between madness and sanity in the USA is a bare 6 percent. It is bad enough to be the mouse sleeping with the elephant. It would be a lot worse if the elephant went crazy.

Glad to hear you found work, Lloyd! They are lucky to have you.

Dave Haren mentioned the tar sands pipeline ruckus. I honestly do not know what to think about it. The screeches from the left are so loud that it is tempting to write them off as simply being hysterical. On the other hand, I would much rather we refined the oil here in Canada, rather than building a long pipeline to Texas so they can make more oil money. I am tired of Canada being the cheap resource base for other country’s profiteering. We have got to stop being such rubes.

Well, that’s it for me. See you later, folks!

Lloyd Penney
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Tuesday 4 December 2012

Dear BCSFAns:

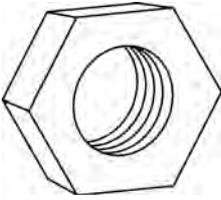
Greetings! I am *so* far behind in just about everything! The two jobs keep me very busy, and things are starting to pile up. Never happy, am I? Anyway, I know I am long past deadline, but here are comments on *BCSFAzine* 473.

[*That’s OK; I am long past deadline too!*]

Never did see *Cloud Atlas*, and it didn’t last long in the theatres. But, coming up shortly...*The Hobbit*, or at least, the first of the three *Hobbit* movies. I will happily make a return visit to Middle-Earth, anytime.

Congrats to Michael Bertrand for his CanFan Award from Graeme Cameron. We all do this to have fun and participate, but a little recognition from time to time

goes a long way. In interviews, I am usually calm and collected, for I've been doing this kind of thing for so long. I quieted down for my interviews with Lombardi, and I got the job. My three-month probationary period ends January 4, so let's see what they do with me. Turn-over here is a little high.



Do you have a Mini Maker Faire in Vancouver? Keep supporting it...I went looking to see if there was any information about the promised 2013 Toronto Mini Maker Faire, and the event was outright cancelled back in October. I hope someone will pick it up and make it happen. The venue for the 2011 event, the Toronto Brickworks, was ideal, but I gather it was hideously expensive, right down to the parking.

[That's the main thing that keeps me from going to events.]

I imagine 474 is on the way, and I will try to respond to it a little sooner than this. Many thanks!

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Bill Burns, Garth Spencer, Mail Delivery Subsystem, and Taral Wayne.

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

12 [?]-13 and 20-22 October and 1 November [?] 2012: *The Zombie Syndrome*, all day event on the streets of Vancouver. “The Virtual Stage presents a site-specific, interactive, roving Halloween theatre adventure: *The Zombie Syndrome!* Written and directed by the Virtual Stage’s Andy Thompson, *The Zombie Syndrome* takes its audience on a high-stakes mission to save the world from a deadly zombie invasion. This may be the only theatre event where phones are not only allowed, but encouraged! The highly interactive theatrical scavenger-hunt features technical elements requiring each audience group to use their smartphones to navigate through the show and find clues leading to a renegade scientist’s secret mobile laboratory. Use your phone’s GPS to elude zombies and locate the next scene right on the streets of Vancouver, while racing to uncover the cure to a pandemic that threatens the entire human race! *The Zombie Syndrome* runs October 13 [?] to 31 [?] with five shows a day beginning in a secret location in downtown Vancouver. Don’t have a smartphone? Don’t worry! Only one smartphone per audience group is required for everyone to enjoy the show! One in three adults in Canada now has a smartphone and each audience group is up to thirteen people, so you’ll be fine! Trust us. Tickets can be purchased online only: by clicking [here!](#)”—Keith Lim

27–28 and 30–31 October *and 1 November* [?] 2012: The House of Forsaken Gods, 6:30–9:30 PM; location revealed upon purchase of tickets. “Pandora is dead. Her demons live on. Journey through a haunted house like no other where you’ll experience the torrid and terrifying lives of the gods and goddesses, heroes and heroines, monsters and demons of Greek mythology. From the lofty peak of Mt. Olympus to the dreary depths of the Underworld, fear and enchantment, horror and charm, beauty and dread lie in wait for you. During the hour-long performance, breathtaking visual artistry and stunning live performances including aerial circus, prop manipulation, theatre, puppetry, physical comedy and music will make your heart pound with fear, excitement and wonder. The macabre and the outrageous, the evil and the hilarious, heart-wrenching beauty and soul-stirring madness will all come together for an evening of unavoidable mirth. Date[s]: 27, 28, 30, 31 October 2012. Time: First tour starts at 6:30 and leaves on the half hour (each tour is an hour long and overlap). [...] Tickets: \$35 adults/\$30 students (please note: show is rated a mature 14A!) You *must* pre-pay and pre-register for the show. If you don’t like using Paypal, please email info@inthehousefestival.com to arrange an alternative method of payment. <http://www.inthehousefestival.com/index.php?articleID=7>. [...] For more info on performers, go to [Co-Productions](#).”—[Keith Lim](#)

November 2012

November is National Model Railroad Month and National Novel Writing Month.

1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, and 29 November *and 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, and 27 December* 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](#)

1, 15, and 29 November *and 13 and 27 December* 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](#))

2 November 2012: Premiere of films *Wreck-It Ralph* (computer animation/comedy/SF; John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Jack McBrayer, Jane Lynch, Alan Tudyk, Ed O’Neill, Edie McClurg, Jess Harnell, Adam Carolla, Horatio Sanz, Maurice LaMarche, John Di Maggio, Jim Cummings, Jennifer Hale, Scott Menville, Laraine Newman, Kath Soucie, Fred Tatasciore, Skrillex), *Jack and Diane* (lesbian werewolves; Kylie Minogue), and *Vamps* (comedy/horror/romance; Alicia Silverstone,

Richard Lewis, Sigourney Weaver, Wallace Shawn, Malcolm McDowell, Marilu Henner, Scott Thomson, Todd Barry, Kristen Johnson, Larry Wilmore).

2 November and 7 December 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

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November and 7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2012: Fontana Friday—BC Browncoats, 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November and 7, 14, 21, and 28 December 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

3 November 2012: Book Lovers’ Day.

3 November 2012: Foodhammer: Tabletop Gaming in Aid of the Langley Food Bank at GameStars—*Warmachine*, 19860 Langley Bypass, Langley. “Proceeds from the event benefit the Langley Food Bank. For more details see: <http://foodhammer.blogspot.ca/>, <http://www.facebook.com/Foodhammer>, <https://twitter.com/Foodhammer>, or e-mail foodhammer@shaw.ca.

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 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

3–4 November 2012: Anime Evolution Akimatsuri [*Autumn Festival*], Simon Fraser University. “Anime Evolution returns with a special fall convention! Featured guests, panels, contests, AMVs, 24 hour video rooms, 24 hour gaming. Presented by the Vancouver Anime Convention Society. Visit www.animeevolution.com for more details.”



4 November 2012: Daylight Saving Time: at 2 AM, set your clock back one hour to 1 AM.

4 November 2012: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 AM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. Guests: “Kurtis J. Wiebe (*Debris*, *Peter Panzerfaust*, *Grim Leaper*, *Intrepids*, *Green Wake*), James Lloyd (*Simpsons*)

Comics, Futurama, James Lloyd's Other Stuff), Ed Brisson (*Murder Book, Acts of Violence*), Todd Ireland (*Redacted, Acts of Violence, Outnumbered*), Brett Williams (*Laura Knows Best*), Spookhaus & Rob Macabre (*Satan Claws*), Albert Art, Beth Wagner, and others! Hourly door prizes! Follow us on Twitter at twitter.com/vancouvercomicon/. For more information: www.vancouvercomicon.com. 604-322-6412. 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. Admission: \$4; kids under 14: free. Dealer tables: \$55/center; \$65/wall.”—[Leonard Wong](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 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](#)

5 November 2012: Hello Kitty’s birthday.

5, 12, 19, and 26 November and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 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](#)

5, 12, 19, and 26 November and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 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](#)

6 November 2012: **Stan Hyde**’s birthday. Election Day (US).

6 November 2012: [Video Games Live](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at Orpheum Theatre, 884 Granville Street, Vancouver. “Video Games Live™ is an immersive concert event featuring music from the most popular video games of all time. Top orchestras & choirs perform along with exclusive video footage and music arrangements, synchronized lighting, solo performers, electronic percussionists, live action and unique interactive segments to create an explosive entertainment experience! This is a concert event put on by the video game industry to help encourage and support the culture and art that video games have become. Video Games Live™ bridges a gap for



entertainment by exposing new generations of music lovers and fans to the symphonic orchestral experience while also providing a completely new and unique experience for families and/or non-gamers. The show is heralded and enjoyed by the entire family. It's the power & emotion of a symphony orchestra mixed with the excitement and energy of a rock concert and the

technology and interactivity of a video game all completely synchronized to amazing cutting edge video screen visuals, state-of-the-art lighting and special on-stage interactive segments with the audience. If you or someone you know is into video games you won't want to miss this highly acclaimed one-of-a-kind concert experience. Or maybe you are looking for something cultural and exciting that the whole family will enjoy? Video Games Live™ is not just a concert, but a celebration of the entire video game industry that people of all ages will adore. Video Games Live™ is created and produced by industry veteran and world famous video game composer Tommy Tallarico. Video Games Live™ features the best music and exclusive synchronized video clips from the most popular games from the beginning of video gaming to the present. Game franchises include: *Mario™*, *Zelda™*, *Halo®*, *Final Fantasy®*, *Warcraft®*, *StarCraft®*, *Diablo®*, *Sonic™*, *Metal Gear Solid®*, *Kingdom Hearts*, *Chrono Trigger™*, *Chrono Cross™*, *Mega Man™*, *Myst®*, *Tron*, *Castlevania®*, *Metroid®*, *Interactive Frogger*, *Interactive Space Invaders*, *Interactive Guitar Hero™*, *Interactive Donkey Kong™*, *Medal of Honor™*, *God of War™*, *BioShock™*, *Civilization IV*, *Tomb Raider®*, *Beyond Good & Evil™*, *Advent Rising*, *EverQuest® II*, *Mass Effect™*, *Shadow of the Colossus*, *Silent Hill™*, *Crysis®*, *Monkey Island*, *Earthworm Jim*, *End of Nations™*, *Afrika™*, *Assassin's Creed™ II*, *Uncharted™ II*, *Portal™*, *Lair*, *Conan*, *Command & Conquer: Red Alert*, *Headhunter*, *Splinter Cell®*, *Ghost Recon™*, *Rainbow Six®*, *Jade Empire*, *Contra*, *OutRun*, *Gears of War*, *Need for Speed®: Undercover*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix™*. Classic arcade medley featuring over 20+ games from *Pong®* to *Donkey Kong®* including such classics as *Dragon's Lair*, *Tetris*, *Duck Hunt*, *Ghosts 'n' Goblins*, *Gauntlet*, *Punch-Out*, *OutRun* and *many more!* Whether it's the power and passion of the more recent blockbusters or the excitement of remembering the sentimental classics you played growing up, Video Games Live™ will truly be a special night to remember. Meet and bond with new friends as you help to celebrate a pastime which has truly evolved into our culture. Even if you have never played a video game you've never heard or seen an orchestral performance quite like this. Show includes synchronized performances of the music, video and specially designed special FX & light sequences showcasing over 60 different games in a wide variety of styles. [...] Come early! As part of the experience, special festival events surround the show for those who want to come early where guests will enjoy interactive game demos, a costume contest, prize give-a-ways, game competitions and the very popular meet-and-greet with top game composers and designers. Music: Hear your favorite video game music played live for the first time ever right in front of your ears by a full orchestra and choir. Video: See exclusive footage of your favorite games synchronized perfectly to the music and lights on giant interactive screens. Theatrical Stage Show: Certain performances and segments will include live action, stage performers, special FX and a fully designed synchronized light show.

An Interactive Video Game: A handful of lucky audience members will be selected to come up on stage and actually play a video game while the orchestra plays interactively with them for a chance to win valuable prizes! Pre-Show Festival: Each show features meet and greets with top composers and game designers in select cities as well as a costume event, gaming competitions and more! Unlike other concerts, the entire pre and post show festival is completely *free of charge* and open to *any* ticket holder.”—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December 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 uphill 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](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December: [Karaoke Tuesdays at Ocean Beach](#), 9:30 PM–1:30 AM at Ocean Beach Lounge, 14995 Marine Drive, White Rock. “Come out to karaoke Tuesdays at the Ocean Beach Lounge. Have dinner from their extensive menu, and stay after to sing a few songs. Even if you don’t sing, host, Greg Cairns will sing all of your favourites for you while you relax with a special coffee, or a down a frosty pint. See you there!”—[Greg Cairns](#)

7 November 2012: **Tim Maruyama’s** birthday.

7, 14, 21, and 28 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 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](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 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](#)

7 and 21 November and 5 and 19 December 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](#)

8 November and 13 December 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](#)

8 November and 13 December 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](#)

9 November 2012: Premiere of film *Skyfall* (James Bond; Daniel Craig, Judi Dench, Javier Bardem, Ralph Fiennes, Albert Finney, Wolf Blitzer).

9 November and 7 December 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](#)

10 November and 8 December 2012: [Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet](#), 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Admission: \$3; kids under 12: free. For table reservations and more info: www.funpromo.ca, 604-521-6304, or funpromo@shaw.ca. Computer items including new & used monitors, printers, hardware, software, parts, games, cameras, electronics, cell phones, and lots more! All at great prices! New & vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVDs, movie memorabilia, video games, jewelry, Star Wars, die cast, art, Beanie Babies, Canucks, [*wrestling*].”



10 November 2012: [Galaxion Presents: Cyberdelia 2012](#), 10 PM at BLVD 22, B105A–750 Pacific Boulevard, Vancouver. “Hot on the heels of our awesome Atari 40th anniversary party, Galaxion, Vancouver’s premier video game dance party, proudly presents Cyberdelia 2012, a ’90s rave! Remember that movie *Hackers*. Now

stop thinking about Angelina Jolie/Johnny Lee Miller/Fisher Stevens and remember that amazing rave they all went to in the first 15 mins. of the movie. It was called Cyberdelia and the Galaxion crew looooooves that party. So, since we can't go back in time, travel to Magic Movie Land, and take you all with us, we're doing the next best thing. We're throwing that party. We'll be taking over BLVD 22 and spinning the best of '90s rave, electronica, and the music it spawned and showcasing the best '90s videogames (including *Wipeout* on a 200-in. projection screen) and Amiga demoscene visuals. DJs: ManØs, Bad Robot. Music: '90s rave, UK big beat, electro, electronica, techno, acid, chiptune...the Prodigy, Photek, Chemical Brothers, Future Sound of London, Underworld, Kraftwerk, Moby, 808 State, Chanel X, Anthony Rother, Robotini, Orbital, Carl Craig, Alden Tyrell, Aphex Twin, Squarepusher, Atari Teenage Riot, Black Stobe, Crookers...*Cover*: \$15 cover before midnight; \$10 in rad '90s rave/cyber/inspired outfit, or game costume."—Seth Townsend

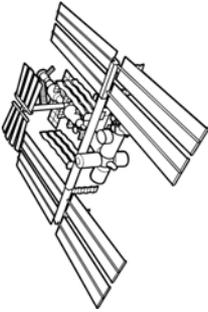
10–11 November 2012: Vancouver Gaming Expo 2012 at Columbia Theatre, 530 Columbia Street, New Westminster. "Come and enjoy our panels. Play in some great tournaments. Enjoy our one of a kind shows. Buy from top quality dealers. Snag some fantastic local art. Featuring burlesque by Van Dolls. Logistic management by IRL Events. Console Crossover Pit. All of this will be there and more! \$30 (weekend pass); \$20 (single day)—HST included. Pre-sale tickets are available online at <http://www.vancouvergamingexpo.com/>. Or buy them in person at Gamedeals Video Games, 407 Columbia Street, New Westminster or EXP, 309 West Pender Street, Vancouver.

13 November 2012: West Coast Geeks Versus Nerds—Episode 3: Globe Trotting and Planet Hopping, 7 PM at Yuk Yuk's Vancouver, 2837 Cambie Street, Vancouver. "This November, WC GVN salutes that big blue dot we call our home, planet Earth, with two rousing debates. One about those who have gone to extremes to explore and travel our planet, and one about those that visit beyond the stars to protect our world. First up, we ask the question, 'Who is the greatest globe trotting adventurer?' Is it the Nazi-punching all-American action archaeologist, Indiana Jones? Or the Belgian, boy-faced, ace investigative reporter, Tintin? Then we have a heavy-hitting match of epic proportion from two all powerful aliens who now call Earth their home. It's Superman vs. Goku: 'Which adopted alien is worthy to protect our world?' Tickets \$10. 19+. Costumes and fun T-shirts are encouraged (and potentially rewarded). Door prizes to be provided by our sponsors: Gamedeals Video Games, Connection Games & Comics, Geek Sweets, Golden Age Collectables, and Karmavore Vegan Shop. Website. Facebook. Twitter."—West Coast Geeks Versus Nerds

13 November *and* 11 December 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](#)

14 November 2012: [Annual Vagon Poetry Slam and Vog-Off—A Program for Adults](#), 6:30–8:30 PM at Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street. “Free. Are you the best Vagon poet in Vancouver? Does your poetic prose melt paint off walls or cause spontaneous vomiting? Do your sonnets make even the most hardened criminals beg for mercy? Prove it and you can win Canadian Earth Dollars!” More info at [VPL](#), including “first prize—\$100; second prize—\$85; third prize—\$50.”—[Julian Castle](#)



15 November 2012: [Sara Seager: Exoplanets and the Search for Habitable Worlds](#), 3:30–5 PM at SFU Burnaby Campus, SWH 10081, Saywell Hall. “*Time* magazine just named her one of the top 25 people working in space research.”—[Gladys We](#) via [Garth Spencer](#)

16 November 2012: Premiere of film *The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 2* (fantasy/romance).

16 November *and* 21 December 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](#)

16 November 2012: [Sara Seager: Exoplanets and the Search for Habitable Worlds](#), 7:30–8:45 PM at SFU Vancouver Campus, Cinema 3200, Goldcorp Centre for the Arts (former Woodward building), 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver.—[Gladys We](#) via [Garth Spencer](#)

17 November 2012: [Canzine West: Festival of Zines and Independent Culture](#), 1–7 PM at W2 Community Media Arts, 111 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. “With a focus on zines and independent publishing, Canzine West is an opportunity for creators and admirers of indie culture to meet, swap stories, and share their wares. The heart of Canzine West will be a giant zine fair that runs throughout the day and features zines, comics, small press books, and so much more! Over one hundred titles on display! Presented by Broken Pencil.” “\$5 admission comes with the new issue of *Broken Pencil* magazine. Cross-posted to [IRL Events](#).”—[EarthFurst](#)

17 November 2012: [It’s Super Effective](#), 6:30–10 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. “Are you a boy? Or are you a girl? Either? Both? Choose your starter and head to *Mastergeek Theatre Presents: It’s Super Effective!*

[...] Take the Magnet Train or ride your bicycle down to Granville and Nelson if you want to be the very best. Costumes are *highly* encouraged, whether it be Misty-style, your favorite Team Rocket disguise, or anything else you may have plucked from your Pokemon DreamWorld. Join your hosts Jesse (Liz Oh) and James (Cameron H. Russell) as they take you on a journey from Pallet Town to Victory Road. Geeky burlesque will stimulate your Pocket Monsters, the trivia contest will challenge you more than the Elite Four, and the prizes are better than anything you can get in the Celadon Game Corner! Costume contests for the ones who come dressed up like no one ever was! Performers include *Samantha Hawkins! Chesty LaRue* with music and burlesquery! *Dezi Desire* dancing up a storm! *Hayley Bee* popping out with balloon animals! *Scott Hurr* doing some thing I'm still not quite sure the details on but I am assured is entertaining! *And more!* Stage Mew *Miss Kitty Galore!* Sponsored by *The Connection Games! OneStopShop Cards and Games! EXP Restaurant and Bar!* Tickets are \$10 in costume, \$12 in street clothes, and you can get them at the door.”—Cameron H. Russell

17 November *and* 15 December 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

17–30 November 2012: A Second Home on Facebook. [*Christina Carr has moved to a new Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MsChristinaCarr>. See also <https://www.facebook.com/BCRenfest> and <https://www.facebook.com/JadeDragonPirates>.]—Christina Carr*

18 November 2012: **Ken Kato**'s birthday. Occult Day.

18 November *and* 16 December 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

20 November 2012: **Chris Stubbs**' birthday.

20 November 2012: Burnaby Writers' Society/Spoken INK, 8 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 101–3701 East Hastings Street, Burnaby. “Spoken INK is a reading series presented by the Burnaby Writers' Society on the third Tuesday of each month (except July and August). For more information, visit: <http://www.burnabywritersnews.blogspot.ca/> or contact bwscafe@gmail.com.” “Spoken INK welcomes author Linda Svendsen. [...] Open mic sign-up is 7:30 PM. This month's theme is *satire*. Linda Svendsen's recent novel, *Sussex Drive* (2012), is a startlingly funny and deeply satisfying satirical novel that makes the Canadian political scene accessible from the female perspective, behind the scenes at the top of the hill. (Read the *National Post* review of *Sussex Drive*.) Svendsen's linked collection, *Marine Life*, was published in Canada, the United States, and Germany and her work has appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Saturday Night*, *O. Henry Prize Stories*, *Best Canadian Stories*, and *The Norton Anthology of Short Fiction*. *Marine Life* was nominated for the *LA Times* First Book Award and released as a feature film. Svendsen's TV writing credits include adaptations of *The Diviners* [and] *At the End of the Day: The Sue Rodriguez Story*, and she co-produced and co-wrote the miniseries *Human Cargo*, which garnered seven Gemini Awards and a George Foster Peabody Award. She received the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship in 2006. Svendsen is a professor in the Creative Writing Program at the University of British Columbia. She was born in the riding of Mount Pleasant and raised in Coquitlam-Moody.”—[Burnaby Writers' Coffeehouse Team](#)

23 November 2012: Premiere of film *Rise of the Guardians* (computer animation/fantasy; Chris Pine, Alec Baldwin, Hugh Jackman, Jude Law).

23 November 2012: [Nerd Fest II 2012](#), 6 PM–2 PM at the Biltmore Cabaret, 2755 Prince Edward Street, Vancouver. “Aesir Promotions presents: ‘Nerd Fest: A Night of Medieval Fantasy.’ Tickets: \$15. This event will be a fun filled night of medieval fantasy with some of the best Vancouver has to offer. A variety show consisting of stage performers, live music, magic, sword fighting, short films, and even a costume contest. Vendors of all types will be setting up booths selling their goods and services that will bring out the nerd in us all. This is an annual event and something not to be missed! Acts featured in 2012: Scythia, the Whiskeydicks, Mahafsoun, Precious Metals, Carnival Band, Vesper Sephony, Academie Duello.”



23–24 November 2012: [Inkstuds—Horror Hangover Art Show](#), 7–11 PM Saturday and 12–6 PM Sunday at [Hot Wet Art City Pop-Up Gallery](#), #116–350 East 2nd Avenue, Vancouver. “‘A Horror Hangover’ looks at what happens after a horrific event. Do things get better or is it all going horribly wrong? Curated by Robin McConnell from *Inkstuds*, the radio show about comics. Featured artists include: Josh Bayer, Jordyn Bochon, Max Clotfelter, Al Columbia, Rebecca Dart, Robert Dayton, Michael Deforge, Sean Esty, Aidan Fitzgerald, Sean Ford, Brian Fukushima, Ben Horak, K. Thor Jensen, Keith Jones, Aidan Koch, Sloane Leong, Jason T. Miles, Roman Muradov, Marc Palm, Joel Rich, Jim Rugg, James Stranton Kaz Strzepek, Tom

Van Deusen, Jen Vaughn, Charmaine Verhagen, Malachi Ward, Lale Westvind, White Swallows, Tracey Widdess and much more to be announced.”

24 November 2012: **Spider Robinson**’s birthday.

24 November 2012: Ginger Boxers Presents: Tasty Teaser Burlesque Cabaret, 8–11 PM at the WISE Hall & Lounge, 1882 Adanac Street, Vancouver. “We are ready to take our clothes off...or are we? As a ‘teaser’ cabaret, we’ll leave you hanging off of every breath—will we bare it all? Come on down and check out some amazing talent as we jiggle and dance our way into your hearts and pants! \$15 online/\$20 door. Buy tickets here...<http://tasty.brownpapertickets.com/> Featuring performances from: Bruce Wang, Chai Tea, Dezi Desire, Jemma Riot, Johnny Bottomsworth, Lil Miss Glambam, Matt Hazard, Pocket Venus, River Wilde, Tesla Coil, Tranny Zukko, Trixie Hobbitses.”—Johnny Bottomsworth via Cameron H. Russell

24 November and 29 December 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

28 November 2012: Red Planet Day.

December 2012

5 December 2012: Day of the Ninja.

7 December 2012: Christof Koch: The Biology of Consciousness, 3:30–5 PM at SFU Theatre, Convocation Mall, Simon Fraser University (Burnaby Campus). “At the beginning of the third millennium, scientists seek to understand how subjective, phenomenal conscious sensation[s] emerge from highly organized brain matter. I will summarize what is known about the anatomy and physiology of consciousness, outline the limits to our knowledge, and describe ongoing experiments in humans, monkeys, and mice that seek to characterize the neuronal correlates of consciousness. I will describe the most promising theoretical approach, grounded in circuit complexity and information theory, and what it implies about consciousness in natural and synthetic systems.”—Lecture Abstract “His work is all about the underpinnings of consciousness—biological and synthetic. It’s groundbreaking research tied to the possible Singularity.”—Gladys We via Garth Spencer

7 and 10 December 2012: *Above and Beyond This Galaxy*, 7 PM (Friday 7 December) and 2 PM (Monday 10 December) at Kerrisdale Community Centre Auditorium. “A family comedy play, written and directed by Angel Drummond. About 45 to

60 minutes long, this is the story of a crew from Earth on a Christmas mission to save our planet and its people. The *SS Lifesaver*, with its Captain, Enduring Hope and Commander Divine Joy, land on an unknown planet, encounter the Queen and aliens there, meet a God and return to Earth, plus a whole lot more in-between. Do they succeed in their mission?" "Tickets on sale at the Kerrisdale Community Centre. In advance: \$11 for 7 December show and \$10 for 10 December show; day of shows: \$14 for 7 December and \$13 for 10 December. All tickets include Christmas sweets."—[Angel Drummond](#) via [Garth Spencer](#)

7–9, 12–17, 22–23, and 26–30 December 2012 and 2–3 January 2013 [[Cinémathèque](#)] and 14 December 2012–3 January 2013 [[VIFF](#)]: "The Cinémathèque and the Vancity Theatre are pleased to co-host a major retrospective of the films of Studio Ghibli. All Ghibli films presented at the Vancity Theatre will be screened in 35 mm in the English-language versions. (All films at the Cinémathèque will screen in Japanese language prints with subtitles.)" Fourteen showing at Cinema and apparently 12 showing at Vancity. Both showing *The Cat Returns*, *Pom Poko*, *Porco Rosso* etc. *Ponyo* apparently only at Vancity. "The Vancity Theatre offers a special rate of \$7 for youth under 19."—[Julian Castle](#)

14 December 2012: Premiere of film *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey* (fantasy; Martin Freeman, Hugo Weaving, Ian McKellen, Billy Connolly, Elijah Wood, Cate Blanchett, Christopher Lee, Andy Serkis, Ian Holm, Sylvester McCoy, Barry Humphries).

14 December 2012: [International Turn Off the News Day](#). "In order to protest the news media's practice of giving fame and sensationalization to the perpetrators of horrific crimes, I think we should mark December 14th on our calendars and respect the victims in the Connecticut shooting and other similar tragedies around the world by shutting off the news on that day."—[Todd Bussey](#)



15 December 2012: [The Chamber of Hotness](#), 6–10 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. "Greetings, muggles and magic folk alike! Come and join Mastergeek Theatre as we present the *Chamber of Hotness!* Put on your formal dress robes and head down for a truly magical night! All houses will compete in trivia and costume contests, for honour as well as the House Cup itself! Rod Peter Jr. will *astound* you with his *amazing* magic show! Vesper Sephony will *delight* you with her mastery of fire spells. Chesty LaRue will *amaze* you with her magical melodies. Professor Justin Saint will *educate* you in the way he knows best—and it's a weird, weird way.

And of course, we wouldn't withhold some sexy, sexy, wizard inspired burlesque from you. Come by portkey, apparition, floo, or broomstick—a Potter party is not one to miss! Attendees are encouraged to Polyjuice themselves into specific characters or come in general Hogwarts garb. Afterwards, the dance floor will open up for top muggle hits as well as wizard rock, so all aboard the Hogwarts Express...for *hotness!* *Sponsored by: The Connection Games! OneStopShop Cards and Games!*

EXP Restaurant + Bar! Tickets at the door, \$10 in costume, \$12 without. Doors open @ 6, Show begins @ 6:30. See you there!”—Mastergeek Theatre via Cameron H. Russell

21 December 2012: Premiere of film *Monsters, Inc.* (3D rerelease; John Goodman, Billy Crystal, Steve Buscemi, James Coburn, Jennifer Tilly, John Ratzenberger, Frank Oz, Steve Susskind, Jack Angel, Rodger Bumpass, Jennifer Darling, Paul Eiding, Pat Fraley, Danny Mann, Laraine Newman, Wallace Shawn) and *Cirque du Soleil: Worlds Away* (fantasy).

29 December 2012: Sanctuary Party Monsters Ball—15 Year Anniversary Celebration, 9 PM–2 AM at the Electric Owl, 928 Main Street, Vancouver. “Theme: *party monsters ball!* We’re rolling *all* our themes from the year into one massive freak-fest! There’s prizes for best outfits in *every* category, so come dressed in your favourite Sanctuary theme, anything from: Tim Burton/creepy/kooky, zombies/gore/blood/undead, goth prom/’50s/trad goth/varsity/teachers, space madness/sci-fi/high-tech/cyber/alien/robots, Halloween/monsters, white party/glow. *Goth/freak/cyber/monster/burlesque stage shows* by: Little Miss Risk, Voracious V. *Massive dance party with the entire current Sanctuary DJ team*: Pandemonium, Contrasoma, R-Lex. *Plus Sanctuary alumni special guest DJs*: Pyxis, Vortex. *Nothing but the biggest & best dancefloor hits all night*: industrial, EBM & electro; ’80s, new wave & synthpop; ’90s, alternative & rock; 2000s, futurepop. *Stage, cage & main room dance party. Club transformation & decor* by *Restricted Entertainment*.”—Isaac Terpstra

News-Like Matter

Alternative Press Expo Convention with Comic Creator Connection (Art Collab Version of Speed Dates)

A cool idea, in my opinion.

From http://www.comic-con.org/ape/ape_comic_creator_connection.php:

“APE will once again host the Comic Creator Connection, an event that puts writers and artists together to see whether they can find their creative counterparts. Here’s how it works: in two two-hour sessions—on Saturday [...] and Sunday...—writers and artists can sit down and meet each other in a friendly environment. In five-minute sessions, you can talk one-on-one with individual prospective collaborators about their ideas and skills. At the end of each five-minute period, you will get up and move on to the next person. [...]

“Every five minutes, all the writers in the room will rotate to a new artist. Artists will remain seated. [...]

“Here’s what you should bring:



“Writers: 20 copies of a one-page writing sample [details at APE webpage]; business cards (if you have them); something to write with; a two-minute (rehearsed) version of your pitch.

“Artists: 20 copies of a one-page art sample [details at APE webpage]; your portfolio (you’ll have some room to spread out on the table); business cards (if you have them); something to write with; a two-minute (rehearsed) version of your pitch.”

Julian Castle to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Monday 3 September 2012

Michael Clarke Duncan (1957–2012)

Actor Michael Clarke Duncan died yesterday, aged 54. He was Oscar-nominated for his role in *The Green Mile* (1999), playing a Death Row convict with miraculous powers. Other genre movie appearances included *Armageddon* (1998), *The Scorpion King* (2002), *George and the Dragon* (2004), *The Last Mimzy* (2007), and *Green Lantern* (2011, as the voice of Kilowog).

Steve Green
Tuesday 4 September 2012

Notes from October 2012 BCSFA Meeting

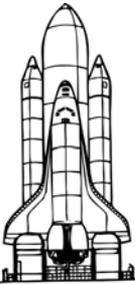
In attendance were Graeme Cameron (president), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Doug Finnerty, William Graham, and Stewart Smyth.

Graeme brought Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand’s Faned Award (AKA Canadian Fanzine Fanac Award).

Ray is updating the VCON entry on Wikipedia.

Graeme and Stewart talked about media projects filmed here and whether they tried to disguise the location.

Graeme said that “Shrieking in horror is very important in movies.”



Also, Graeme once knew a guy who thought that Genghis Khan settled his Mongol horde veterans in the New World, first passing south along the coast of BC building pyramids every step of the way (pyramids now cleverly disguised as forested hills) and then establishing the Aztec/Mayan civilization once they reached Mexico. There they built a fleet of jet fighters, of which no trace survives in the jungle, thus proving (since aircraft would corrode in centuries of rainy seasons) that they once existed. This guy actually visited Tikal in Guatemala, concluding that the partially reconstructed ruins of that ancient city were designed by Disney artists, because of the “obvious” similarities between Mayan and early Disney art. He then went to the CBC to get them to fund and film a mule expedition (to be led by an elderly ex-Nazi he’d met in the Guatemalan jungle) from the Gulf Coast to Tikal (ignoring the modern plane and road connections). For some mysterious reason the CBC executives laughed him out of their office. Years later the same fellow helped

build a full-scale wooden replica of the Space Shuttle for a sci-fi convention, proclaiming to a TV news reporter (and subsequently broadcast to the public) that the shuttle would actually fly and that he personally was going to fly it to the Moon. According to Graeme, this guy was very fond of sharing his imagination with anyone and everyone.

Graeme talked about the difference between Japanese and American SF/monster movies: in US movies, there's only one ship, one alien, one monster; in Japanese movies, whole nations could be laid waste.

Stewart asked if Lionel Fanthorpe is still with us. I said that as far as I knew, he is—I remembered him being a guest on *Coast to Coast AM* recently. Stewart added that Fanthorpe had written some terrible SF. Graeme replied that Fanthorpe was writing a novel a weekend when he was a teenage coal-miner.

[*Graeme adds: "To be more specific, he would dictate a novel each weekend to earn a little extra money. An entire novel in two days! Done with thesaurus in hand for padding purposes. Quite enterprising if you ask me. Brilliant, even. Utter rubbish of course, but fun to read."*—*Future Felicity*]

Graeme said that the first film he ever saw in Cinerama was *Grand Prix* (1966). He was sitting too close and couldn't see the whole screen, so the effect was undermined. Ray said that the same thing had happened in a Porky Pig cartoon.

Kathleen distributed flyers for the Tempe, Arizona (phoenixin2014.org) bid for the 2014 North American Science Fiction Convention (NASFiC), which is a convention that is held when the World Science Fiction Convention (Worldcon) takes place outside North America. In 2014, Worldcon will be in London, England.

Stewart reported that he now gets all the Yiddish references in *Mad* magazine that he missed as a kid (e.g., " 'Steve Cantor' by Milton Goniff").

Kathleen brought a copy of *Neo-Opsis* #22. I agreed with editor Karl Johanssen (in his review of a book about the Batmobile) that Adam West's Batmobile was the best Batmobile ever. Graeme also agreed. Doug added that the Batmobile from the recent Christopher Nolan movies was an unused military project. This reminded me of the Batmobile's origin story in "The Mechanic," an episode of the 1992 *Batman* animated series. This in turn reminded Graeme of the story of Henry Ford's reaction to his son presenting him a concept car he'd designed as a birthday present for his father. Ford smashed it with a crowbar and said "Don't you ever do anything without checking with me again." The car's features were not incorporated for another ten years.



Graeme and Stew talked about E.E. "Doc" Smith's writing, mentioning that Smith's daughter was a GOH here once.

Something about cholera.

Kathleen said that starlings were a misguided introduction to New York. Stew added that a starling distress screech is played at Renfrew Station to drive them away.

Random quote of the night: "Barb took home the tarantulas."—Kathleen

Felicity Walker and R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 21 October 2012

Canadiana Google Logo: Ernie Coombs

Just noticed latest version of Google's logo.

Mouse-over info for image is "85th birthday of Mr. Dressup, Ernie Coombs."



Mini logo of Mr. Dressup at http://www.google.ca/logos/2012/ernie_coombes_mr_dressup_85th_birthday-960008.1-res.png.

Julian Castle to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Monday 26 November 2012

Fandom: A Personal Perspective

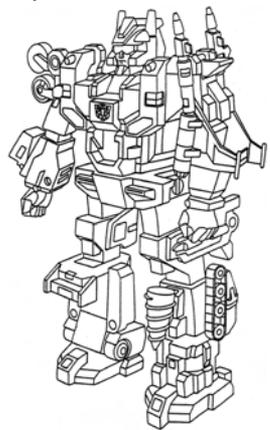
Joseph Bardsley

I have never felt entirely comfortable in this time and place. Despite perceived success on a surface and social level among those I keep at arms' length, the fact remains that I have yet to locate many others of "my kind." I make do as best I can, however, and through the nearly constant repetition of daily routines and obligations, have nearly—but not quite—numbed myself to the unshakeable and often horrifying alien-ness of it all.

Being a member of this short-sighted species trapped among these social conventions, I determined some time ago that there was a way to make the best of this situation. This resulted in a search to locate and identify "my kind"—those who emulate and reflect my values, my priorities and my idealized way of life—in whatever manner they may happen to appear, "fictional" or not. Since childhood, this search has continued.

Science fiction fandom has helped me to realize that others out there thought along my lines. By identifying characters in various fandoms that held and emulated qualities I admired and could respond to, I gained a sense of perspective and purpose. Even if no one in my current environment was on my wavelength, others were. This knowledge afforded me the courage to pursue a life on my own terms.

My primary contact with organized fandom to date has stemmed from my long-term involvement in the *Transformers* fandom. In the late 1980s, I was captivated by the the story, mythos and background of this universe—and, in particular, the courage, uncompromising integrity and grand vision of the Decepticons. In the early 1990s, I realized that this mythos had engaged others to the same degree by way of the Internet. Stumbling across alt.toys.transformers, I encountered "creators" in this fandom—individuals who weren't afraid to passionately engage one another in discussion and debate. More to the point, individuals who considered the creation of new material—fan fiction, fanzines, MUSHes, crafts and other creative works—a way of acknowledging how much of a positive influence this universe had had on their own



lives. This heady example, set for me at an impressionable age, encouraged me to take my own creative strides: working on fanzines, helping to produce annual conventions, MUSHing and producing my own fan fiction. The individuals I met during this period of time continue to serve as lifelong friends, colleagues and mentors.

It is the proactive example set by early *Transformers* fandom—as it was prior to any of the later rifts, divisiveness or factionalism—that continues to guide me as I engage others in the larger science fiction community. Alongside the inspiring examples set for me by the Decepticons, I have also found admirable individuals in the *V* and *Star Trek* universes who serve to further validate my worldview. Sadly, these individuals appear in shorter and shorter supply of late.

Like all things, the one constant in fandom is change. All too often in recent years we are “treated” to mass-marketed fan franchises, usually tied into a major motion picture or other marketing campaign with current mass appeal, designed to drive profit while encouraging complicity in groupthink and gross rationalizations. Individuals involved in these communities often seem to equate “fandom” with consumption for its own sake—as opposed to any sort of creative initiative, which seems to have sadly since fallen by the wayside. Is this new “normal”? Is creativity in fandom no longer an option?

BCSFA seems to indicate that creativity, dialogue and meaningful interactions still have a place in our community. I am grateful that this is so.

Joseph Bardsley
Friday 26 October 2012

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via Dave Haren).....	Page 2
Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 4, 10, 12, 16, 18
Font (Selphie.Org).....	Page 6
Clip art [<i>Pac-Man</i> (1984) screenshot].....	Page 8
Clip art.....	Page 14
Clip art [<i>Call Her Mom</i> (1972) screenshot].....	Page 17
Clip art [<i>Batman</i> : “The Mechanic” (1993) screenshot].....	Page 19
Clip art (Google via <u>Julian Castle</u>).....	Pages 20, 21 (top)
Clip art (Shohei Kohara/Floro Dery).....	Page 21 (bottom)