

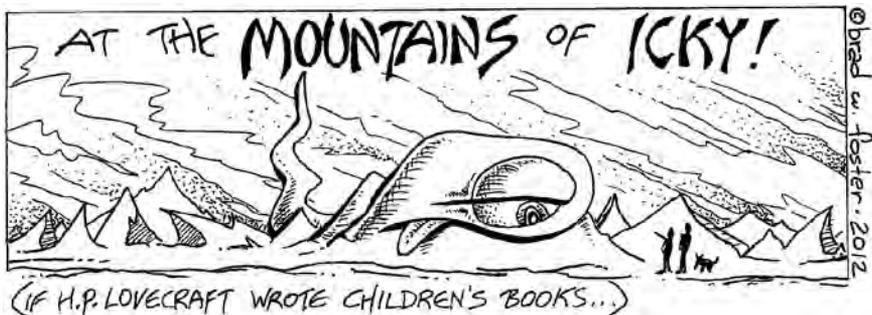
# BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#475

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December 2012



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at [felicity4711@gmail.com](mailto: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 December @ 7 PM:      **BCSFA meeting/Christmas party**—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. [*January meeting is Sunday 27 January 2013, same location. Note that this is one week later than usual.*]

Friday 28 December:              **'BCSFAzine' production** (theoretically).

## About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

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

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

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster Garth Spencer). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_scifi\\_assc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/)). 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.*]

**Sheryl Birkhead**  
25509 Jonnie Court,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
USA

Saturday 3 November 2012

Dear *BCSFAers*,

Whew, one never knows what will turn up when you finally get around to poking through the stacks of papers/zines hiding around here. Of course I had to figure out the software that I have now had for two years which has just now started doing bizarre things to text at the most unpredictable times (such as the *very* last save before printing—zap, all text gone). So, we shall see. I am trying not to make anything even a bit more complicated than simple lines and see if I can make it work. You have been warned. The last LOC I typed took well over a week and all the golden words of prose disappeared not once, but *twice*. I gave up on the third typing and just made it very short and...well, if not sweet at least not...

[*If by simple lines you mean the artwork, I like the clear-line style you used (see illo at right).*]

Now...um, the first envelope (please don't hit!) says the ish is from October 2009 (since some of the other envelopes are also questionable, I also checked the contents and—yup, the date (unfortunately) seems right—sorry). The squared jaw illo on the cover could easily be a precursor to a *Superman* strip. Everything else I might say about the ish would be sadly out of date (not that what I have to say about the other issues won't be—just that *they* won't be quite so old...). So, I have groveled and done my fannish duty in acknowledging my inadequacies—so I'll move on...



#466 looks a lot more like what I am used to (but one heck of a lot less like the issue after this—you'll see...). Back to *Brad Foster's* creations. This one reminds me of some of the e currently coming out of the US political commentary—all of us down here are just fed up with it—thank heavens it will be over soon. Anyhow—the image looks a bit like a dejected *Big Bird*. I very sincerely hope this is not a portent of things to come!

[*As you know by now, the candidate who said he wouldn't "borrow money from China" to subsidize PBS lost, so Big Bird is safe for another four years.*]

Now this nextish is the interesting date...April 1982, so (since nothing inside matches that) I am guessing this is an April Fool's Day prank (well, that is my story and I'm sticking to it).

[*You were right.* ☺]

Once upon a time I was asked to do some book reviews. I politely declined—citing my inability to...well...criticize. So, the faned had another go at it and asked

me to write appreciations. Since this was for a series I liked, *that* I could do...and did.

Moving right along—in case anyone remembers the letter I was supposed to send the neighbor about the tree—the incoming hurricane (*Sandy*) reminded me that if it came down and I could not prove they knew the tree was dead—even though it is blatantly obvious in the front yard—any repairs to my fence/garage/house/car would come out of my pocket as insurance would call it an act of God and would not cover it. I mailed the certified [*letter*] (return receipt requested) on October 25<sup>th</sup>—and since it was only going to my neighbor, they said it would be delivered on the 26<sup>th</sup>. I avoided the house on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Finally, today I checked the USPS website to see if they had it delivered even if I did not have the receipt. My insurance agent had warned me that the neighbor might refuse delivery (which would leave me without any objective proof that they have been told to have the tree checked—making it their responsibility)—so far they have. The website says they will continue to try to deliver it for two weeks, then return it to me. Then I have to call the insurance agent and see what he suggests. While I do *not* want to get anyone else involved and I do *not* want to confront them, the next option seems to be that I need to ask “someone” to go with me as a witness so there is another person that can swear the neighbor was informed there is some concern about the tree. Luckily the tree did not come down during the storm—but I did spend an hour moving all the dead and rotten branches that came down.

*Brad's* creation on the front of #468 looks as if it might be either resisting the storm or revving up for take-off. I think Courier also pretty much mimics the old typers...

Brad—there is a font that mimics the old typer—here it is called American Typewriter—IF I can move it from one application to another.

Well, the application has started monkeying around with text. I don't seem to be able to get the text to fill up the space—and that is something new—no reason why. Okay—I am going to copy and set up another box and see...this is *really* irritating!

Nope even that won't help and now the font has reverted, but it appears it is back to filling the text space--I GIVE UP. It has a mind of its own. Even copying and cut and pasted didn't work—now it seems to have decided—but it is too late, I am not going to make nice now...I haven't wasted time just trying to get this to print at all—I quit!! Oh yeah—and it won't spell check either—another warning has been made!

*Whee--I LOVE technology...*

*Sheryl*

**Dave Haren**  
[tyrbolo@comcast.net](mailto:tyrbolo@comcast.net)

Tuesday 18 December 2012

Hi Felicity,

Sounds like you have a busy schedule. With the world winding up to cross over the Singularity point soon, we should slow down and ponder the loss of the olde ways. People have come out of the woodwork to try and poopoo what they didn't understand about the coming event.

Terence McKenna at the legendary Megatripolis Club in London during the Summer of 1994. He is introduced to a somewhat raucous crowd by the proprietor of the club, Fraser Clark. In this wide-ranging talk, McKenna begins by saying, “The smart people who are straight are involved in simply the media management of what has turned into a slow apocalypse, spreading starvation, exacerbated class differences, toxified agriculture, so forth and so on. I don’t believe the Establishment thinks there are solutions. Their policy is basically the management of panic, which is hardly a forward moving approach to the adventure of human civilization.”

[It sounds like the conspiracy in Ben Elton’s novel, Stark.]



The end of the world that was does not mean the physical planet coming to an end because the Mayans could see the future. There was a recent event which is all it takes to push the existing world into a new configuration.

The way to make transistors that switch at speeds 10,000 times faster than the current high speed electronics.

The same week it was announced that a solar cell could be made on existing fabrication lines, using less matter and 56% more efficient. In addition it was announced that the chips to replace copper wiring in electronics with fiber optical cables can be made on current fabrication equipment, and those low speed copper cables can be sold to pay for the newer high speed methodology.

If anyone has contemplated a life of crime, we have the path to amazing success in the shining example of HSBC. You can find details at Taibbi’s blog on *Rolling Stone*. The corporate media is going to be dragging dead babies back and forth so they won’t be able to cover the embarrassing response of a lopsided criminal justice system to this.

[I read [the article](#), and...holy cow.]

On a lighter note [QB-10](#) is out, and Jinnie Cracknell needs LOCs on the points she thinks are relevant for commentary.

[(Quantum Bollocks #10, [available at eFanzines](#).)]

If you’re looking for a new OS, Debian 6.0.6 is available. All it takes is 53 CDs for the initial load, 13 CDs for the updates, and 4 CDs for the odd items that may be useful. You can find the manuals on-line as well. They want this to be the operating system of everybody in the future but it’s going to be a tough sell. The advantages are immense, but the learning curve is still pretty steep.

[That’s always the catch with Linux. However, Ubuntu has been quite user-friendly lately.]

But I am going to miss the whole idea of the Rapture, when all the fundies float into outer space without their clothes because the Mayan calendar has come to an end...grin.

[Or maybe the Singularity will be the nerd Rapture, after all.]

Warm regards,  
Dave Haren

Wow, so much cool stuff to respond to in this ish! Hope I don't end up hogging the paper bandwidth.

First of all, Merry Christmas, BCSFAns! I know it will be past Xmas by the time you get this, but it's three days before Xmas as I write this, and I am downright soggy with the Xmas spirit and I just have to share some of it with you.

In personal news, I finished my National Novel Writing Month book, and am now editing it at a rate slightly above a chapter a day. It would be faster but I really hate editing. Writing is so much more fun. So a chapter or two a day is about all I can handle.

When I am done editing, I will send it to a publisher or two. Odds of getting into print form when it is only my second book are low, but what the hell, rejection is progress too!



I will also be putting my first book up on Smashwords some time early in the New Year. Hopefully I will have the link in my next LOC.

Now, on to the actual C part of my LOC.

Re: Brent Francis' bit of scuttlebutt about how shooting *The Hobbit* in 48 frames per second actually made it look *worse*: Ell Oh Ell. LOL, in other words. I get the feeling that this will go down as one of those little amusing footnotes to the history of technology. Clearly they used 24 FPS methods to make a 48 FPS movie, and it shows. Just like, as Felicity our beloved editrix pointed out, people first got HD TVs and all anyone could notice on the screen was the actors' pores. I am sure the rest of the filmmaking techniques will catch up.

I am enchanted by this "buy and burn" idea Dave Haren talks about in his LOC, where Occupy organizations buy debts and just forgive them. It is a brilliant idea. Institutions routinely sell debts for pennies on the dollar, figuring it is better to get some money up front and let the buyer worry about collecting a dubious debt.

That is how those thugs who call themselves professional debt collectors work, and I love the idea of this being used as a technique to free people instead of the method via which they are enchained. I would love to start my own group of Debt Destroyers who prowl around looking for cheap debts and buy them up and then forgive them outright, or forgive them for the exact amount paid for them.

Makes me think of that scene at the end of *Fight Club* where they plan to blow up the credit card company. *Freedom!*

I am rather intrigued by this Comic Creator Connection idea. It is like speed dating for comic writers and artists. One little detail: when and where is it? ☺

Lastly, re: Joseph Bardsley's view of fandom. It is true that mass market fandom floods the media sphere. That is, ironically, a product of fandom's mainstream success. Our cozy little backwater of nerd life is now awash in cash and glamour, and for the largely introverted and cranky long time residents of the Kingdom of Fandom, it is like living in a sleepy little town of intellectuals that is suddenly awash in tourists.

As always, when the mainstream flows in, us happy hermits have to grumpily find higher ground. Sure, the crowds make finding the company of like-minded individuals harder.

But they also make it more likely!

Phew! That's it for me this month. Seeya next time, fans, and Happy New Year!

**We Also Heard From:** Joseph Bardsley, R. Graeme Cameron, Christina Carr, Purple Crow, Garry Erwin, Brent Francis, Nalini Haynes, Neil Jamieson-Williams, Garth Spencer, and Taral Wayne.

## Calendar

# Live and work in "ManCountry"

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

### December 2012

1–2 December 2012: Arlen & Madeleine's moving sale, 8 AM–6 PM at 7064 Number One Road, Richmond. Books, furniture (folding table, shelves), music (tapes & CDs), games, toys (including dollhouse), knick-knacks, kitchen gear, videos (VHS & DVD), clothing (mostly Philip's), a cedar-lined trunk. Books are 10¢ per centimeter thickness!—Kathleen Moore

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2012 *and* 5, 12, 19, *and* 26 January 2013: Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. "Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby"—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2012 *and* 6, 13, 20, *and* 27 January 2013: Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. "Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy's large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. 'games that take eight players,' 'games that don't involve math,' 'games about farming') and I'll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!"—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 2012 *and* 7, 14, 21, *and* 28 January 2013: Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. "Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and some-

times even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even learn a thing or two about the craft, nay artform, that is miniatures painting. There are some paints available to use, and brushes, as well as primer. Warmachine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—[Keith Lim](#)

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 2012 *and* 7, 14, 21, and 28 January 2013: [Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for description.*]—[Keith Lim](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2012 *and* 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January 2013: [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](#)

4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, and 27 December 2012 *and* 1, 3, 8, 10, 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, and 31 January 2013: [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](#)

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](#)

5 December 2012: Day of the Ninja.

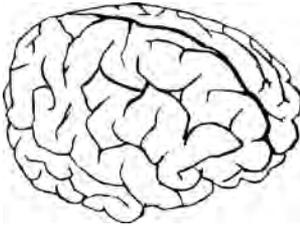
5 and 19 December 2012 *and* 2 and 16 January 2013: [Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!](#), 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-

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](#)

5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2012 *and* 2, 9, 16, 23, *and* 30 January 2013: Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meetup, 7:30–9:30 PM at the Grind & Gallery Coffee Bar, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Cloudscape Comics Society is a community of comic creators in Vancouver, BC who together publish and distribute quality graphic novel anthologies, as well as host comic workshops and other related events. Here enterprising comic artists come together to network, develop their ideas, and help each other perfect their craft. Everyone is welcome to the weekly evening meet-ups on Wednesdays, starting at 7:30 PM in the back room of the Grind and Gallery Coffee Bar.”—[Keith Lim](#)

5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2012 *and* 2, 9, 16, 23, *and* 30 January 2013: [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 December 2012: Letter Writing Day.



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, 14, 21, and 28 December 2012 *and* 4, 11, 18, *and* 25 January 2013: [Fontana Friday—BC Browncoats](#), 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby.—[Keith Lim](#)

7 December 2012 *and* 4 January 2013: [Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic](#), 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkston 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](#)

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

7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2012 and 4, 11, 18, and 25 January 2013: [Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games](#), 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4<sup>th</sup> 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](#)

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](#)

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](http://www.funpromo.ca), 604-521-6304, or [funpromo@shaw.ca](mailto: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](#)].”

11 December 2012 and 8 January 2013: 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

13 and 27 December 2012 and 10 and 24 January 2013: “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](mailto:lowson@dccnet.com) for details.”—Allan Lowson (on [Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group](#))

13 December 2012 and 10 January 2013: 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



13 December 2012 and 10 January 2013: Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Meetings held second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM from September to June (July & August have no meetings—summer break).”—Keith Lim

13–14 December 2012: Geminid meteor shower.

14 December 2012: **Danielle Stephens’s** birthday. 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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

15 December 2012 and 19 January 2013: 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

16 December 2012 and 20 January 2013: 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

17 December 2012: **Neil G. O’Brien’s** birthday.



18 December 2012: **Fran Skene's** birthday.

18 December 2012: *Ghosts with Shit Jobs*, 7 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver. Tickets: \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door.

18 December 2012: Seattle Retro Gaming Expo: The Question Block—Videogame Pub Quiz, 7 PM at Wilde Rover Irish Pub & Restaurant, 111 Central Way, Kirkland, Washington. “The Question Block is a multimedia trivia event focusing on classic and modern video games! Six rounds plus a half-time bonus round focus on video game trivia, minutiae, and general knowledge.

There will also be one non-video game related trivia round for your friends who may not be the huge nerd you are! The Question Block is a great time for everyone. The game is a 21+ event. Teams of up to six can participate. The cost is \$5 per team of up to six players (no cover for the bar). There will be a cash prize for the winning team.”—Julian Castle

19 December 2012: **Terry Wyatt's** birthday.

21 December 2012: End of Mayan Calendar. Premiere of films *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).

21 December 2012: End of the World Party, 6 PM at EXP Restaurant + Bar, 309 West Pender Street, Vancouver. “It’s the supposed ‘end of the world’ so why not celebrate it Vault Boy style? We will have a ‘Choose Your Own Adventure’ menu card on each table along with the regular menu, so you can make whatever you like for your final meal at EXP. Epic drink specials to accompany that of course, to really celebrate the final hour! Join us at Vault 101, and get ready to go out with a bang! ☺”

21 December 2012 and 18 January 2013: 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

26 December 2012: Final issue of *The Amazing Spider-Man* (#700).

26 December 2012: Boxing Day Sale at Dave’s Pop Culture, 4962 Bridge Street, Delta. “Hey stop on in...20% off everything in the store! And hey on Thursday and Friday I will go get more stuff so get your orders in!”—Dave Strutt

26 December 2012: Boxing Day Party, 4–10 PM at 39 Ruskin Avenue, Toronto. “Egg nog, sausage rolls, mulled wine snacks and treats, kids welcome!”—Adam Charlesworth

29 December 2012: Final repeat of *Almost Live!*, 1:05–2:05 AM (technically, early Sunday 30 December) on KING-TV?

26–31 December 2012: Boxing Week Sale at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “We welcome you to join us December 26<sup>th</sup> to the 31<sup>st</sup> for our Boxing Week Sale! 25% off store-wide and tons of super specials including items up to 90% off. So come on in and join us in the fun! Got some holiday cash burning a hole in your pocket? Have you been thinking about starting up a new project or getting into a new game? Then have we ever got the solution for you: we are hosting a [six]-day-long Boxing Day Sale! One day just wasn’t enough, so we crammed in an additional five days of savings! [...] Hundreds of items will be reduced to below-cost prices, many as low as \$1!”—Chris

29 December 2012 and 26 January 2013: 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

29 December 2012: Supervaudevillains’ Enchantment Under the Sea Dance, 7:30 PM–1:30 AM at Geekenders, 2205 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. “Geeks of Vancouver...our density has brought us to you. Last night, Darth Vader came down from planet Vulcan and told us that if we didn’t invite all of you to the Enchantment Under the Sea Dance, he’d melt our brains. There’s a rhythmic ceremonial ritual coming up. Geekender’s monthly variety show and party, Supervaudevillains, is throwing a pre-New Year’s prom! Dress up in your best cosplay, formal wear, or formal cosplay, enjoy two costume contests (prom costumes and general costumes), Supervaudevillains trivia, and performances by: *Dr. T! Tawdry Audrey! Lace Cadet! Sherry Hymen! Vesper Sephony! Nathan Fillyouin! Misty Meanor! Sweet Sashay!* Enjoy the Supervaudevillains prom photo booth, vote for king and queen of the prom (seriously, there are tiaras at stake here), dance the night away to the musical stylings of DJ Navi, and drink real alcohol! Request the music you want to dance to in the comments. The only requirement is that you can actually dance to it; we’ll be testing out all the requests in our headquarters. See you there; this is gonna be heavy. Doors at 7:30, show at 8:15; dancing directly afterward. 19+. \$10.00 cover in or out of costume. Magical and wonderful sponsors: Admiral Snackbar, Golden Age Collectables, Gamedeals and the Connection Games and Comics!”

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

31 December 2012: Post-Apocalyptic New Year’s Eve Party, 6 PM at the Storm Crow Tavern, 1305 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. “So we survived the Mayan Apocalypse...what comes after? Only those mobile enough to scavenge, brutal enough to pillage will survive. Come on down to the Storm Crow for a taste of this white line nightmare on New Year’s Eve! Featuring our own DJ Humungus playing the best albums of 2012, and possibly also featuring: Flaming Postapocalyptos for your beverating pleasure; postapocalyptic snacking; potentially postapocalyptic gogo girls; savage boardgaming thrills; two men enter, one man leaves! Wait, are we licensed for that? And best of all, there’s no cover charge! Come on down to this blighted place and learn to live again...”—Storm Crow Tavern via Alyssa Foote

## January 2013

1 January 2013: **Jens Haeusser** and **Marlon Richmond**’s birthdays.

5 January 2013: **Garth Spencer**’s birthday. Series premiere of *The [206]*, a new Seattle-based sketch comedy starring *Almost Live!*’s John Keister, Pat Cashman, and Chris Cashman, on KING-TV, immediately following *Saturday Night Live* (i.e. 1:05 AM, early Sunday 6 December).



6 January 2013: **Bobbie DuFault** and **Eileen Kernaghan**’s birthdays.

8 January 2013: **Ursula Hitler**’s birthday.

8 January 2013: West Coast Geeks Versus Nerds—Episode 5: The Good, the Bad, and the Elderly, 7–9 PM at Electric Owl Social Club, 928 Main Street, Vancouver. “Our first show of 2013, and we’re kicking off the New Year with a new venue! From now on, we’ll be taking roost at Electric Owl Social Club—conveniently located right by the Main Street Skytrain Station. This month’s show pits two genre

heavyweights against one another in an epic showdown of strength, resolve, and cunning to see which mystical mentor best embodies his own teachings: Is it JRR Tolkien’s wise old wizard, *Gandalf*? Or is it George Lucas’ gentle Jedi master, *Yoda*? But first, we see who makes the most compelling crazy cult leader: Marvel’s mighty mutant, *Magneto*? Or JK Rowling’s sadistic sorcerer, *Voldemort*? Come down on January 8<sup>th</sup> and help us decide! *Plus*: stick around for the ultimate karaoke showdown immediately following our show! West Coast Geeks Versus Nerds is a monthly, live, comedy debate-style show where we pit pop culture icons against each other in the ultimate showdown of trivia, gadgets, and witty banter. Tickets: \$10 at the door or online. (That’s better than a movie!) Show is 19+ only (sorry, younglings!). Costumes & fun T-shirts encouraged. (And potentially rewarded!) Door prizes courtesy of our sponsors: Gamedeals Video Games, Connection Games & Comics, Geek Sweets, StormCrow Tavern, Metropolis Comics and Collectibles, and Golden Age Collectibles. Get advance tickets.”—Cameron H. Russell

9 January 2013: **Steve Fahnstalk**’s birthday.

11 January 2013: Premiere of film *A Haunted House* (supernatural comedy; Marlon Wayans, David Koechner, Cedric the Entertainer).



13 January 2013: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 AM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue), Vancouver. “Guests: Shaun Knowler (*The Reign of Starscream*, *Transformers Spotlight: Jazz*), Donald King, MJ Hur, Seol-Ah Park, and others! Hourly door prizes! Follow us on Twitter at [twitter.com/vancomiccon/](http://twitter.com/vancomiccon/). For more information: [www.vancouvercomiccon.com](http://www.vancouvercomiccon.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

18 January 2013: Premiere of film *Mama* (horror).

19 January 2013: **Stewart Smyth**’s birthday.

19 January 2013: Our Own Party! With Blackjack! And Hookers!, 6–10 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. “Welcome to the *world of tomorrow*! Join Rear Brigadier Zapp Branigan and Turanga Leela on an intergalactic journey of awkward sexual tension. Grab a glass of cham-pag-an and watch your favorite characters from Matt Groening’s crowning achievement in television entertain you with comedy, burlesque, and more! And good news, everyone! There will be trivia and costume contests and door prizes! So grab your lower horn and head down to the cellar nightclub for our own party! With blackjack! And hookers! (Blackjack

and hookers not included.) With *Haylee Bee! Dezi Raider! Chesty LaRue! Some other people!*”—Cameron H. Russell

20 January 2013: **Nancy Kress**’s birthday.

21 January 2013: **Emily Sors**’s birthday.

23 January 2013: National Handwriting Day.

25 January 2013: **Ryan Hawe** and **Isaac Terpstra**’s birthdays. Premiere of film *Hansel and Gretel Witch Hunters* (action/fantasy/horror; Jeremy Renner, Famke Janssen, Peter Stormare).

26 January 2013: **Paul Carpentier**’s birthday.

26 January 2013: MasterGeeks Overanalyze: *Batman Begins!*, 9 PM–12 AM at OneStopShop Cards and Games, 1055–88 West Pender Street, Vancouver. “Welcome to a brand new year with some brand new events! Come celebrate it with us at OneStopShop Games with your favorite growly, randomly-exploding Nolan-helmed reboot, *Batman Begins!* Wear your holiday pajamas (we know your grandma bought you some), bring a pillow, blankets or sleeping bag and settle in with Liz, Cam, and some special guests for a cuddly winter movie snuggle. Watching movies alone is way, way too overrated, so we’ll be having some folks on hand to over-analyze, make fun of, and provide some expert (and not so expert) commentary on the film trilogy that kept interest in DC Comics going while Marvel was out making all of the money in the world. Why do we fall? So we can get back up, get down to OneStopShop, and settle in for some fun!”—Cameron H. Russell

30 January–3 February 2013: SPARK FX ’13, Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver. Conference: 1–2 February 2013. Festival: 30 January–3 February 2013. “SPARK FX ’13 will bring together leading talents and minds of the visual effects industry to meet, mingle and share.”—Julian Castle

## News-Like Matter

### As Others See Us? VI

“[...] The average life span lasts about 29,000 days. [...]

“So why would you spend a single one at a *Star Trek* convention?

“The original *Star Trek*’s Capt. Kirk, William Shatner, had a lucid moment a few years back when he wondered the same thing.

“‘I didn’t want anything to do with a group of obsessives who paid to get together to talk incessantly about a TV show that had been cancelled. It wasn’t logical.’ [...]

“He made the trek to London, England this past weekend in order to revel in the adoration of the obsessives.

“How obsessive are they? They’re so obsessive that the big event of the two-day fest, which ended Sunday, consisted of setting the record for the largest gathering of people dressed in *Star-Trek*-themed costume. The previous record of 1,040 nerds in a room was beat, as 1,083 Klingons, Vulcans and Ferengi came together. [...]

“Not only did trekkers (the politically correct version of ‘trekkie’) waste two of their 29,000 to pine for a program that want out of production on May 13, 2005, they spent as much as 3,000 British pounds on a ticket. [...]

“Full disclosure: I used to be a fan, but bailed when the show jumped the shark somewhere between *Deep Space Nine* and *Voyager*. But I’d like to think I never thought of Scott Bakula (*Star Trek* captain No. 1) as ‘legendary’ or the kiss between Capt. Kirk and Lt. Uhura as a milestone in U.S. race relations.”—Paul Sullivan, “Just Sayin’ ”: “A Destination Wedding Where No Man Has Gone Before,” *Calgary Metro*, Wednesday 24 October 2012

Felicity Walker

clipping forwarded by Dale Speirs  
Sunday 11 November 2012

### Notes from November 2012 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, Julian Castle, William Graham, and Stewart Smyth.

Fruvous announced that space has a smell! They know this because things that have been in space have the same smell: burnt meat. These things pick up hydrocarbon molecules left over from cooling nebulae. The other place these molecules are found: microwave ovens!

Ray said something about TNT supermarkets.

Fruvous talked about Hostess Brands, Inc., which has filed for bankruptcy and gone out of business. Not surprisingly, the CEOs did just fine, taking raises of 80% and seven-figure “compensation packages” while the union workers took wage and benefit cuts (and blame). Ray added that in Washington State, when the big chains like Safeway moved in, the small businesses couldn’t compete.

Ray said that Barb couldn’t eat non-organic pork. Kathleen replied, “I wouldn’t want to eat inorganic pork.” “Me neither,” said Fruvous.

I gave Kathleen an old envelope addressed to her that I found among the fanzines I bought at Garth’s moving sale. The envelope contained a *Royal Swiss Navy Gazette* (Garth’s zine), a *Far Side*-esque greeting card, *Progress Report* #1 from Ditto 16 (October 2003), and a flyer/membership form from VCON 28.

Fruvous relayed the news that Ryan and Jennifer Hawe’s first child has been born. It is a girl, named Evelyn Marguerite. Someone mentioned that Evelyn used to be a boy’s name. I said that so did Vivian and Beverly, someone said Hilary, and Stewart added Dana. I knew a Dana in high school and he was kind of a dick once. It turned out that so were the Danas that Fruvous and Stewart knew in high school. (I’m sure the Danas who didn’t go to high school with us are nice people, though.)



“Control...do you smell charred animal flesh?”



I showed Kathleen a Russian hat I bought at Value Village. Kathleen said that it looked like it was made of rabbit fur, dyed black; it was old, was tearing, and needed mending; and its label was in Cyrillic, indicating it might actually be from Russia. Stewart said that he has a Russian LiveJournal friend, the name of whose journal ("Слабый Голос Собаки") translates from Russian to "Weak Voice of a Dog." We wondered what this meant.

Stewart said "It loses something in the translation," which I misheard as "Uses chains on a seesaw." This led to a discussion of misheard lyrics. I like to pretend the Headpins are saying "Donuts make you feel like dancing. Donuts make you feel all right." Yes they do!

Ray said, "Get ready for more reality shows." I had assumed as much. Fruvous doesn't mind the more documentary-style ones influenced by *Deadliest Catch*. Ray said he knows the "section man" from *The Hill* (a show about locomotives).

Ray also mentioned that he applied for a job with BC Ferries. As part of the job interview, there was a simulated altercation in the next room. He knew that there was a rule that in that situation, you should call the bridge, not go into the room, but apparently the interviewer didn't know that, and so Ray didn't get the job.

Ray's hair continued to look good long. It reminded me of the Seventh Doctor at the end of the original *Doctor Who* (1987–1989). Ray said that his supervisor at the Red Kettle Society likes it too, and says it looks "rustic."

Julian reported that ABC Book & Comic Emporium, which is closing down, has received an extension and can stay open until December.

Stewart talked about a supermarket customer in Florida who got thrown out for abusing a mentally challenged bag-boy *and* another customer (a regular). When I had a summer job at 7-Eleven, I had throw out a customer once for similar reasons.

Ray remembered having "fermented Ribena parties" in Powell River. (Fruvous explained that teenagers get bored in small towns.)

Stewart misses original Wheat Chex. I miss Nuts About Raisins. Fruvous misses Crispix.

Ray mentioned *Doctor Who*.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 18 November 2012

### From the Film Tech 'Rant on Stupid Customers Page'

"We got this three times since we opened the movie: 'What is *Lincoln* about?' And last night, we refunded a couple because Mr. Lincoln was *not* slaying vampires."

Brent Francis

Thursday 29 November 2012



## Van Vogt Award Winner Announced

The first winner of the A.E. van Vogt Award has been announced.

*Alphanauts* by Brian J. Clarke (Edge) has won the the inaugural A.E. van Vogt Award.

The award includes a \$1200 honorarium (the largest in Canadian science fiction writing) and a certificate.

The other finalists were *Lady of Mazes* by Karl Schroeder (Tor) and *The Other* by Matthew Hughes (Underland Press).

The award is sponsored by the Winnipeg Science Fiction Association.

The award is for a book that must be a first-edition full length science fiction novel or full-length science fiction short story anthology, written by an author linked to Western Canada by birth or residency.

A web site dealing with the award, celebrating A.E. van Vogt's contributions to Canadian writing, and Brian J. Clarke's win, will be announced ASAP. It will provide details as how one may enter for the 2013 award.

Press release  
via [Cathy Palmer-Lister](#)  
to [Fan-Eds Facebook Group](#)  
Saturday 5 January 2012

## Fiction: One Day in Mordor

Michael Bertrand

**[Warning:** *The following item contains coarse language and mature themes that are not suitable for everyone. Reader discretion is advised.—Felicity]*



One day in Mordor, two Orcs are busy working a vile furnace and happen to overhear Sarumon talking to himself about his plans.

“Wait, what did he just say?” said Grihurkhal.

“Who? And keep pumping that bellows!” said his horrible wife, Shrkahllip.

“Right dear. But I was asking a question. What did the Boss just say?”

“I don’t know, I wasn’t listening, I was too busy wondering why my fire had gone out.”

“I think he said ‘Together, we will rule this Middle Earth.’ ”

“Makes sense. I mean, that’s the plan, right? Take over, kick those queer Elves out, and rule?”

“Of course, that I part I understand. But where’s this Middle Earth?”

“What do you mean? It’s right here, you’re standing in it.”

“What, this place? He already rules this, that’s how come we work for him!”

“No, you idiot. And pump faster. Not just here. Everywhere. Mordor, Rohan, the Shire...everything!”

“What, like everything everywhere ever? That’s called Middle Earth?”

“Of course! What did you think it was called?”

“Dunno. Guess I never thought about it before. Middle of what?”

“What? And you’re slowing down again, my fire’s down to red hot and I need white.”

“Sorry. Middle of what? If it’s all called Middle Earth, it must be in the middle of something, right?”

A few moments silence save for the whooshing of bellows and the clanking of hammer on hot steel.

“Dunno. It’s just a name,” said Shrkahllip, like nothing had happened.

“Can’t be just a name, doesn’t make sense. Someone smart and powerful like the Boss isn’t going to call it all Middle Earth without it meaning anything.”

“Why not? Look, if that fire goes down one more time, I’m pulling your balls on this anvil and smashing them to see if you’re paying bloody attention.”

“Hah, fancy you explaining to my Mum how come she’s not getting grandkids. She’d kick your cunt up between your ears then nail it in place there.”

“Look, just keep the fire hot, all right? We’re falling behind.”

“All right, all right. Seriously though...middle of what? How can the whole world be only the middle of something? Doesn’t make sense.”

“Look, I didn’t name it, OK? Just concentrate on your work.”



Another long and thoughtful silence.

“And why’d he say ‘we’? Him and who else?” said Grihurkhul.

“Well, him and us, obviously. All of us. We’re all in this together.”

“Really? First I’ve heard of it. I thought he told us what to do and we did it or he killed us.”

“Well yeah, but...oh, wait, he was probably talking to...you know...the Big Guy.”

“Who, Gunjamujnkyl? He’s not even here today.”

“No, you idiot...you know...him. The Big Guy. The Big Eye.”

“What, that eye-shaped thing up on that tall pole?”

“Not so loud! It’ll hear you!”

“How? It’s an eye, not an ear. Besides, I always thought that was just some weird lighthouse or something.”

“A lighthouse? It’s not a bloody lighthouse, it’s the real boss, Sauron.”

“What, the Boss? He’s not an eye, he’s a human in a fancy robe.”

“No, not Sarumon, you imbecile, Sauron.”

“Those aren’t the same thing?”

“No! The Boss is Sarumon, and he works for that big eye, Sauron. Got it?”

“Wait, so we’re all working for a big stupid eye on a pole?”

“Yes! Well no. The eye is just what we see of Sauron here on this plane.”

“This what now?”

“This plane! Of existence! Most of him is in another dimension, but his eye is here and we all work for him!”



“So let me get this straight. We orcs all work for the Boss, Sarumon, and he works for that big eye thing, which is all we can see of his boss, Sauron, here on this dimension, called Middle Earth?”

“Yes! That’s it, you’ve got it. Now can we just work quietly for a while?”

A long silence, heavy with tension.

“How can a whole dimension be the middle of anything?”

“That’s it, I’m taking your balls and your mother can go frig herself with all ten Rings on.”

Fade to black over the sounds of Orcish foreplay.

The End

Michael Bertrand

Tuesday 13 April 2010

The Million Word Year

## Grabbers Go Bragh!

Doug Finnerty



Ever see those televised commercials for Jameson’s Irish Whiskey? These are the ones where some wee giant beastie or act of god tries to separate founder John Jameson from his beloved whiskey. Here’s the commercial I’d like to see. It’s where the events depicted in the H.G. Wells novel, *War of the Worlds*, are nothing

more than a clever diversion on the part of the Martians. All they really want is the whiskey. I don’t care if the “early years of the twentieth century” are a long way away from the 1780s. The story could still be made to work. Somehow.

Anyway, this was supposed to be a review of this other SF film I saw at the Vancouver International Film Festival. An Irish effort called *Grabbers*. It starts off when this rookie gung-ho cop (Ruth Bradley) from Dublin gets posted to a remote (and fictional) Irish island, to cover someone else’s vacation leave. The only other police officer on the island (Richard Coyle) is an embittered veteran with a small drinking problem. About this time, an alien species shows up, with the purpose of going forth, multiplying and sustaining itself on lotsa human blood. It’s then up to the cops to gather the islanders into the local pub for one last stand. Yes, alcohol does have a vital role in this clash of species.

Actually, this is a buddy cop flick with alien monster thrown in. A film that’s worth seeing anyway. So track this one down before the inevitable American remake is unleashed on the unsuspecting public. Okay, there are worse things than American remakes of decent foreign films. Such as Canadian remakes and/or American remakes shot in Canada (with Canada standing in for someplace else). Good for

Canada's film industry, perhaps. But sometimes the price paid is just too much. The horror!

After I wrote the first draft of this review, I went back online and found a certain Jameson's Whiskey ad. In it, an alien fighting machine is terrorizing the urban landscape. It was part of a Jameson's sponsorship of someone else's film festival. Thought you'd like to know.



Doug Finnerty

Monday 22 October 2012

## Zines Received



**'Opuntia' #248** (April 2012). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

"What Happened to Issues #72 to 247?" It's the end of an era. Dale changed the issue-numbering system for *Opuntia* because of changes in his writing priorities and lifestyle. He says that the old decimal-point system, which categorized each issue by contents (sercon, review, index, APA, or personal), is not needed.<sup>1</sup>

I'm going to miss the old system. I liked listing the category with the contact information above.

"The State of Zinedom as at 2011-12-31": Dale keeps count of the zines he receives and has a chart showing 1998–2011. Canada has gone from 31 (1998) to 33 (2011) with its peak at 72 (2003). The world total has steadily declined from its peak at 639 (1999) to 279 (2011). In conclusion, he writes, "Those who are going to abandon the Papernet have already done so. The brave few survivors keep going." How many new people join the Papernet? I know that the cost of publishing is one barrier; if a fan editor didn't imprint on paper zines in his formative years, he will not be willing to spend the money on print. How many young fans *have* imprinted on paper zines? How can we help them to do so?

"Comments on FAPA #298": "*Something for FAPA*": "Charity shops are being deluged with donations of video tapes that no one wants or needs." "[...] I'm trying to thin out my book collection by donating them to charities, so my heirs won't just

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1 He jokes that collectors will go crazy trying to locate #72–#247. I took a nine-month break from this column, and when I went to write this review, I remembered that the numbering system had changed, but I misremembered the first issue under the new system as being #247, not #248. So, I ended up being fooled after all. 😊

dump them in the recycle bin. What we think is important, our heirs consider so much junk.” And what our decedents thought was so much junk, we might have considered important. Keep an eye on what your elders dump in the recycle bin.

“*Science Fiction Adventure Magazine*”: Dale wonders why alternative outcomes to the Vietnam War are not common in the alternative history genre. There’s a nice line in the graphic novel *Watchmen* (which takes place in an alternative 1985 where the US did win the Vietnam War) in which a character wonders about the effects on America’s national character if they had lost. Our universe would be that character’s AH setting.

Also: “The European Currency Crisis Explained”; “Letters to the Editor”; “What Is FAPA?”; “Zine Listings”; “World Wide Party #19.”



## Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead, Page 1
<u>Brad Foster</u> .....	Cover
Clip art (via Dave Haren).....	Page 3
Clip art ( <a href="http://Ckler.com">Ckler.com</a> ).....	Pages 4, 7, 9, 11, 16–18
Clip art.....	Page 5
Clip art [ <i>The [206]</i> (2013) screenshot].....	Page 13
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Clip art [ <i>Malibu U</i> (1967) screenshot].....	Page 20 (top)
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## RANDOM NOSTALGIA

MODE 13H

"ROBO FORCE"

NEW YORK SELTZER

BRITISH KNIGHTS SHOES

"ZEN AND THE ART OF THE MACINTOSH"

"THE GREAT SPACE COASTER"

"RAISE THE TITANIC!"

PAC-MAN CEREAL

FUZZY DICE