

A Fan is Not an Island



I don't know how crazy they are likely to be about it, but I'd like to show some photos of my friends as well.

1 – Bob & Shary Wilson on Laputa

One of my favourite photographs, of some of my favourite people, posing with a prop from one of my favourite animated films. Sharry & Bob Wilson attended Nippon and visited Studio Ghibli. This broken down robot is from the Miyazaki film, "Castle in the Sky" (or "Laputa"). The photo was not as detailed as I'd like until I put a couple of hours of work with Photoshop into it.

2 – Robert Charles Wilson

Bob Wilson during a book tour with Robert Sawyer a couple of years ago. I'm not sure how many in fandom are aware that the Bob Wilson of Toronto fandom

in the 70's is the same Robert C. Wilson of "Darwinia", the Axis trilogy, and newly released "Julian".



3 – Sharry Wilson

While I've known Bob since late 1971, I only met his present wife Sharry a little before their marriage a few years ago. This photo was taken during a trip to Colorado, not far from Denver, at a place called Red Rock. Bob and Shary also included NORAD headquarters in their itinerary.



4 – Marc Schirmeister

Schirm is one of my oldest friends in fandom. We met for the first time in 1978, at Iggy. In 1984 I took my first trip to California and spend seven weeks there, mostly crashing at Schirm's place. We traveled by car around the state, taking in Death Valley, Yosemite, gold rush country, San Simeon, and Mt. Whitney, while I took copious notes. Pity I never used them for anything, but someday you never know... Beside being a great fanartist, Schirm has also worked in the animation industry.



5 – Victoria Vayne

The elusive Victoria Vayne, who hated being photographed. This is one of the few exceptions. I think the photographer got away with it only because Victoria thought they were photographing *me*. (To left, cropped from this file.) This would have been taken sometime in the early 1980's I believe. Apart from adding about ten pounds to the photo, there isn't much difference between this and the present-day Victoria.



6 – Janet & Paul Wilson

Janet and Paul Wilson, photographed this April during a visit by Alan Rosenthal. I regret that the flash has rather washed Janet out. This looks like a job for... PHOTOSHOP! Janet is Bob Wilson's ex, and Paul is first son.

7 – Alan Rosenthal

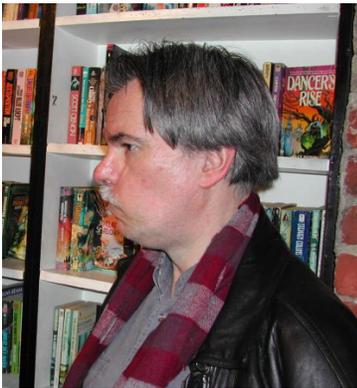
Alan Rosenthal in my apartment, taken this April. Although resident in Seattle, Alan is a native Torontonionian.





8 – Hope Leibowitz

Hope Leibowitz. Although resident in Toronto, Hope's colourful pronunciation of word's like "warter" reveal her as originally from New York. I have noticed the Brooklyn accent has been slowly fading so that it's almost "wahter" these days. Hope's main fanac is probably First Thursdays and Serial Diners.



9 – Bob (Hadji) Knowlton

Known to fandom as Bob Hadji, he answers more often to Robert S. Knowlton these days. Once one of the "Bakka Boys" and briefly the editor of a dark fantasy magazine, Hadji is little seen these days, preferring the quiet company of his thousands of first editions.



10 – Colin Hinz

Colin Hinz, half of the partnership that includes Catharine Crockett. For some reason I find I have no photos of Catharine.



11 – Murray Moore

Murray Moore is a venerable member of Toronto fandom who I can proudly point to and say, "he's been around even longer than me, thank gawd." Sometime in the 70's he drifted out of the fannish scene, and then drifted back around 2000. He's working with Anticipation in a number of capacities. The one I'm familiar with is as my overall liaison with the con.



12 – D.S. (Steven) Black

The mysterious D.S. "Steven" Black. Once a denizen of Toronto fandom, but for a long time transplantee to San Francisco. Steven took this typically elusive photo of himself.



13 – Ken Fletcher

There aren't many practicing fan artists I have to give up my seat to in a crowded bus, but Ken Fletcher is one of them. He was contributing to fanzines a good three or four years before I ever saw one. We shared a couple of weeks one time,

crashing at Schirm's place and driving around the desert. And I spend a night one time at his place while driving through Minneapolis, years ago. Unfortunately, though we're old friends, that's just about the only times we've actually met.



14 – Mike Glicksohn

One hardly recognizes Mike Glicksohn with his hair this short (not to mention the lack of grey). But this was taken at Victoria Vayne's apartment as long ago as 1975. Either Bob Wilson or I had cooked dinner, and Mike agreed to wash up as his part.



15 – Mike Glycer

Probably everyone knows Mike Glycer, though this is a few years old. I thought I'd throw it in because we've been dealing together in the fanzine trade for so long that I think he deserves to be included.



16 Ken Rosser, with “Gir”

Ken Rosser. Actually, it is, but I don't seem to have any with his face in it. Most of his photos seem to be of skunks, such as this one. Its name is really Ghirkin, I believe, but even Ken tends to call him just Grrr. He isn't really green and

doesn't have cartoon eyes, but I couldn't resist Photoshopping the critter to look more like the nitwit "dog" (a robot in a canine suit) from Invader Zim. It's name is Gir, which is close enough to Grrr to pass as a gag.



17 – Tom Turrington Behind Furry Table at Torcon III

A fine fellow named Tom Turrington who I was just getting to know well when he moved from Toronto to Winnipeg. He has the peculiar distinction of being almost the only known furry fan with a clean mind. Too clean, if you ask me. We already *have* a genre of kiddy's animal stories.



18 – Christmas 2004 – Steven Baldassara, Me, & Todd Sutherland

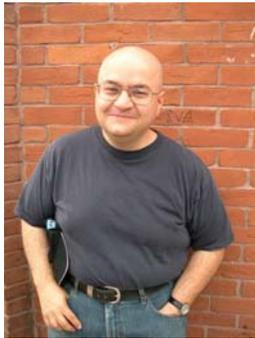
One of the better Xmas parties was the one I attended in 2004. It was held in Steven Baldassarra's basement, and was well attended by the Usual Gang of Idiots I hung out with at the time. Left to right -- Steven, myself, and Todd Sutherland.



19 – Rebecca Jansen

I've known Rebecca Jansen since long before she was Rebecca Jansen. At one time an impassioned fan of manga and independent comics, and collector of

pulp magazines, she used to ink and colour work for me. A piece she coloured hangs on the wall next to the mirror. These days I think she's more into collecting music, and her teddy bears, but we stay in touch.



20 – Steven B. Bad

Steven "B" Bad. Alias Steven Baldassarra. He lives in the Italian part of town, not too far from my neighborhood, so I suppose I seem more of Steven than other friends these days. (Phil is all the way downtown, and Bob actually north of the city line.) Not a fan really, he reads some SF and is the fannish sort. I tried to drag him to the last Ditto in Toronto, but he was too shy. My biggest disappointment is that he's not actually related to a crime family, and couldn't ask for any "favours".



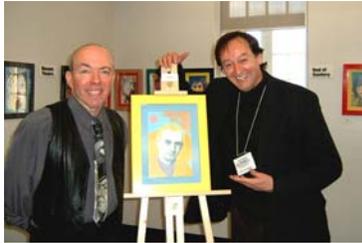
21 – Sir Steven

I couldn't resist another shot of Steven Baldassarra in a Renaissance get-up he wore once to a costumed wedding. I used another like it to accompany the article "Merchant of Hogtown". It was built up from one of Steven's wry stories -- and he himself is the "Bard of Hogtown."

22 – Ron Kasman With Joe Flaherty

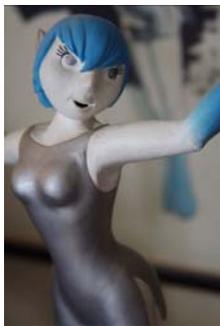
Ron Kasman on the left, and comedian Joe Flaherty on the right. Ron was a member of the local comics fandom who I got to know rather after the old comics fandom disappeared. He used to do some professional lettering, and has written some comics stories. I think his main claim to deserved fame, though, is an immense series of paintings he did of comedians of the last century. I think

there were well over a hundred. In the photo he's opening a display of some of the better portraits -- the SCTV comedian Joe Flaherty was master of ceremonies at the opening. I believe the paintings are now in permanent possession of a university.



23 – Saara mar

Saara Mar. Well... I had to throw her in any photo gallery of people who've most influenced me, even if she is imaginary. The sculpture was by an artist I knew in California. It's based on a drawing of Saara that's partially visible behind her.



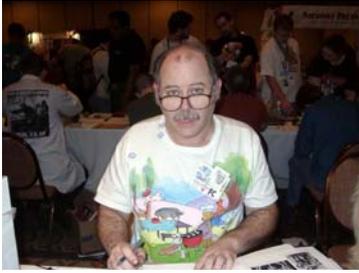
24 – Sailor Mew

Sailor Mew. My cat. What else is there to say?



25 – Steve Martin

Not the comedian Steve Martin. People do laugh at this one too, though. He's misanthropic, misogynist, reactionary, anti-social, and a furry artist... I suppose it was the later quality that explains how much time I tended to spend around Steve when at furry cons or while in LA.



26 – Steve Gallacci

Steve Gallacci was the artist and writer behind Albedo, one of the most successful black and white comics during the 80's. Not so well known is that while I drew and wrote most of the Beatrix stories, it was Steve who invented the character.



27 – Walt Wentz

During the 80's I used to illustrate articles for a magazine called Ruralite. The editor I worked with was Walt Wentz. The magazine changed policy (over Walt's protest) in the early 90's, and didn't buy illustrations anymore. Walt retired a few years later, and we renewed our acquaintance. He's familiar with fandom -- he wrote one article in the last "So It Goes." But I'd have to say he was too eclectic to be called a real fan. Thanks to Walt, who proofreads for me, I can at last submit manuscripts with a minimum of bad grammar, typos, and misplaced punctuation(



28 – E.T. Bryan

E.T. Bryan was writer/artist/publisher of a comic called "Gremlin Trouble". While not particularly slick, it was fun and had personality. I did a number of

back covers, including the one on the final issue, giving me the very last word in "Gremlin Trouble".



29 – Max “Black Rabbit” Earle & Me, the Gunsmith Clods

I had to call this one "Gunsmith Clods", after a well known series of Japanese cartoons. I don't know Max "Black Rabbit" Earle (left) well, but who could resist posting this? He was en route back to Ottawa from a con. He and another artist crashed at my place overnight, when this photo was taken. The weaponry isn't as lethal as it looks. The military shotgun and British LA-85 assault rifle are just Airsoft replicas. They only shoot small yellow pellets, with a muzzle velocity somewhat slower than my dial-up internet connection.



30 – Moshe Feder & Somebody Else’s Oscar

Finishing this gallery (for now at least) is Moshe Feder. This seems to be an Oscar he was holding for someone. I gather the winner was some Tor writer that shared the award for some TV script I know (or care) nothing about. I wonder if Moshe ever told the guy of his good luck, or if he just kept it?

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