

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

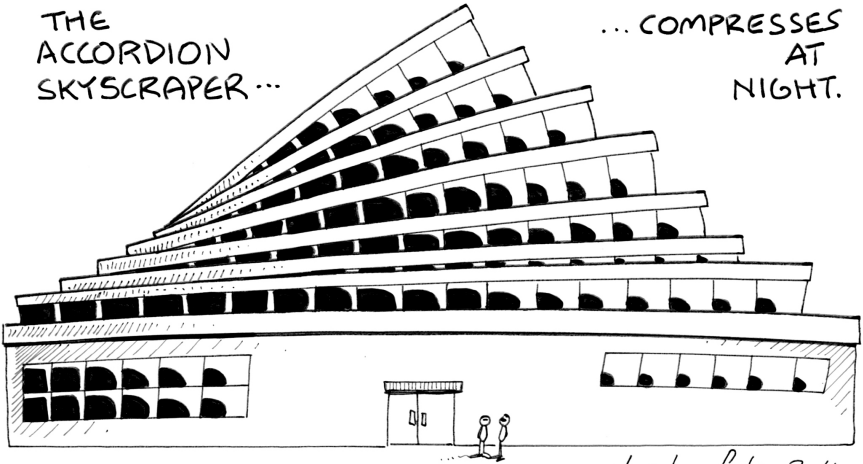
#464

\$3.00/Issue

January 2012

THE
ACCORDION
SKYSCRAPER ...

... COMPRESSES
AT
NIGHT.



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

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This Month in BCSFA

Sunday 22 January @ 7 PM:

BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. Note: normally the meeting is on the third Sunday of the month, but this month it's on the fourth Sunday. *February meeting: Sunday 19 February 2012.*

Friday 27 January:

'BCSFAzine' production (theoretically).

Sunday 29 January @ 2 PM:

WCSFA AGM—at Michael & Susan Walsh's, 2965 West 11th Avenue, Vancouver. Contacts: Jenni Merrifield (WCSFA President) 604-512-7734 or Michael Walsh (WCSFA Vice President) 604-732-5188. See "News-Like Matter" for more information.

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/> (webmaster: Garth Spencer). The BCSFA e-mail lists are BC Sci-Fi Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assc/) and BCSFAnet (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcsfanet/>). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (webmaster: Bill Burns).

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Spider Robinson
spiderweb@shaw.ca

Saturday 31 December 2011

Dear Felicity,

I have a suggestion for BCSFA to consider for future V-Cons. It could bring in GoHs you might not otherwise be able to get.

I quit traveling to conventions when Jeanne was diagnosed with biliary cancer; since her death in May of 2010 I have remained reluctant to leave the house. But I have attended 5 cons since her diagnosis—by Skype. To my own initial surprise, the practice has been a huge success.

Consider it from a con's perspective. I no longer cost the con a hotel bill, meals, or airfare. Nobody has to shlep out to the airport, twice, for me. All the con needs is a good Wi-Fi-equipped laptop and a large monitor with decent speakers (which nowadays can be any flatscreen TV). I've attended opening and closing ceremonies, appeared on panels, and given live concerts—I can do just about everything I could do in person, except sign autographs.

And I've even come up with a workaround that a lot of fans have told me they appreciate even *more* than an autograph: a Skype-equipped laptop with Wi-Fi is set up in the autographing area, and fans take turns sitting down in front of it and chatting with me for a few minutes. As they



do, a con volunteer presses the key-combination that takes a screenshot, and sends it to a printer. The fan leaves with a colour photo of the two of us in conversation, smiling at each other and clearly getting along famously.

What else is an autograph but proof that you once met the person and they found you reasonably pleasant? But a pictograph (as I've taken to calling them) is a lot more compact, easier to store and shelve, than a hardcover or paperback—and it's a lot easier to frame and display. The only disadvantage I can perceive is to *me*: I lose the book sales I might otherwise have made.

But the *advantage* to me is, I don't have to pack and unpack twice; I don't have to pay airport longterm parking for a whole weekend; I don't have to fold myself into an airline torture-seat for hours; I don't have to go through Customs to visit other countries; I can attend the entire con from the comfort of my favorite chair—in my underwear, if it suits me; and I don't catch the cold I used to almost invariably pick up when I traveled.

As I say, it's something BCSFA might want to consider. Virtual attendance would seem a natural development for both science fiction writers and fans—and the technology is now good enough to support it.

[Thanks for the suggestion! I'll relay this to the West Coast Science Fiction Association President and the VCON 37 Chair.]

—Spider

www.spiderrobinson.com

“It's amazing how much mature wisdom resembles being too tired.”

—Robert A. Heinlein

Jim McPherson

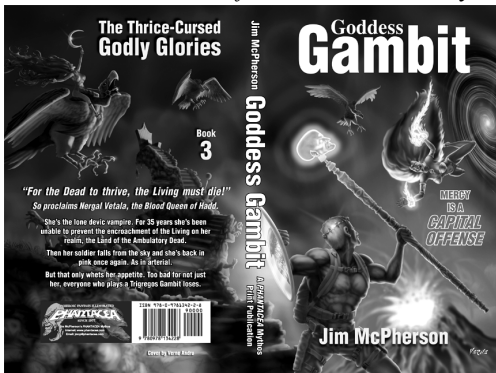
jmcp@phantacea.com

Tuesday 10 January 2012

Greetings anew, Felicity.

Took awhile myself. Late 2011 has become early 2012. Still, it's almost here.

[Readers: I sent the last issue out on Saturday 31 December 2012 with the comment “Just in the nick of time! I was almost a year late!” and Jim is replying to that.]



Attached is lo-res JPEG of colour cover for *Goddess Gambit* as well as a B/W GIF. This cover is by Verne Andru, 2012, he of Okee fame as well as *Feeling Theocidal* notoriety, unless it's the other way around.

I'll send you a press release once I'm satisfied with the proof and have it listed for sale online.

BTW, both Verne and I are planning to attend FanExpo in Vancouver come mid-April.

[Cool! I'll add that to the calendar listing of [Fan Expo Vancouver](#) in the April and May issues.]

Jim McPherson

Creator/Writer/Publisher

The PHANTACEA Mythos

Lloyd Penney

1706–24 Eva Rd.,

Etobicoke, On.

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penneys@bell.net

Wednesday 11 January 2012

Dear BCSFAns:

It's the new year, much like the old year, the usual stuff. Writing letters helps me keep my minds off things, so here is a letter on *BCSFazine* 463.

I'd like to read these stories that Garth Spencer proposes, as long as he is careful not to directly name the guilty parties the stories are about. I expect that most cit-

ies' fandoms would write about their own versions of these people. Put them all together into a zine of some sort, and let people wonder. If the guilty parties read it, and they very well might do so, you've got to cover yourself.

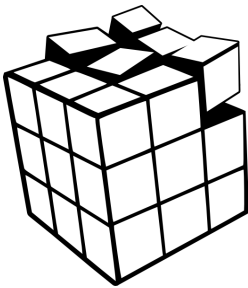
Dave Haren's loc...we still don't know what's going to happen here re the Canadian Air & Space Museum. All I can say is that there are too many short-sighted politicians who'd rather either get rid of the museum, or do nothing until it goes away by itself. My own MP is a do-nothing; he eventually responded to my letter asking about this, but seeing that our PM vets just about any correspondence, the letter was long, and said basically nothing. If there are any other news items coming about, I'll pass them on.

[*New drag name: Avril Errol.*]

A new act in Congress would allow the US government to pull the citizenship of any American citizen without process of law. Once again, freedom and rights are being sold away in the name of liberty. This is the kind of thing the US used to criticize the Soviet Union and East Germany for doing...

I did see the movie *Hugo*...just loved it. The story line is a diversion to pay tribute to the life of Georges Méliès, the French pioneer film maker. I want to get the movie when it comes out on DVD. Yvonne got me the original novel/graphic novel by Brian Selznick, and the movie companion book, also by Selznick.

I think those of us with archives of zines, or collections of anything science-fictional, are thinking of who or where we could leave our collections to. We've done some cleaning out for the last few years, but I now have about 20 Bankers' Boxes of zines, plus other collected items. In the future should we be forced to move, keeping our collectibles down to a minimum would be a good thing, especially if we have a minimum of storage space.



[*As a 1980s preservationist, I'd be more than willing to give Graeme's 1980s zines a loving home if no-one else can. Your raise a good point about moveability.*]

Off it goes to you, Felicity...I hope I got it to you in time.

[*Not to worry; I've gotten way behind again. Thanks for the fast response, though!*]

Best to all, and see you next time.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Thursday 12 January 2012

Three LOCs back to back! I would call it a "three-peat" if that was, indeed, a real word and not some awful abuse of portmanteau privileges concocted by sportswriters.

I like all of Garth's story ideas, although none of them particularly leap out at me and make me want to write them. For one thing, in most cases, I actually do not know the actual facts upon which to spin the tale. But I would love to see Garth write them, and I surely could help him do so.

Re: David Haren's LOC, what struck me most about the whole thing was how compulsively, reflexively, even spasmodically the Powers That Be reacted to quash it, despite its general total harmlessness and high level of public support. It was like they just could not help themselves. Occupy obviously hit them in a very sore and vulnerable spot. It hurt them so bad, they could not help but crack down on it, and the fact that it took them as long as it did to find an excuse is a tribute to the Occupy kids' unique combination of earnestness, peacefulness, and careful and studied lack of a single message for the opinion machines to tear apart.

I fear for the future, though. Remember, the hippies of the sixties started out putting flowers into the barrels of soldiers' guns, and it was only after repeated brutal crackdowns by the Establishment that they became firebomb-throwing radicals who fought cops and threatened to bring all of civilization down with them if they didn't get what they wanted.

The next iteration of this movement might not seem so friendly, more's the pity.

[*And that's where the new laws come in. The 1960s radical was given a lawyer and a trial, and served his prison time in his own country. Today's protestor could lose his citizenship and be detained indefinitely (and tortured) in an international "black site."*]



Oh, and great news about *De Re Metallica* being up on Project Gutenberg's site. That was one of the first bestsellers of all time, in that heady early era of printing, when buying the right book (like *De Re Metallica*, an omnibus guide to mining) could make a person incredibly rich. All the knowledge of the ages, once zealously guarded by guilds, could be yours just for the price of the book.

[*Or, as your friend in high school would have called it, De Re 'Tallica.*]

Unsurprisingly, then, these books were also the first books ever subjected to book-burnings. Guilds would try, by hook or crook, to find and destroy every copy they could get their hands on. But it was the dawning of the Age of Information, and the days of ruling by the asymmetry of knowledge were over.

On the personal front, I haven't a huge amount going on, although I have at least been sending some of my short stories around to get rejected by pay markets. I even got an extremely polite and gentle rejection from my dream market, *Asimov's Science Fiction Magazine*. Yay me!

[*Yay!*]

Hope you got the job, Lloyd!

Kathleen Moore

manxkat@sphericalcows.net

Wednesday 18 January 2012

Good afternoon, Felicity.

I have now done my usual rapid read of the December *BCSFazine*. So many interesting events that I missed!

A small correction about ESFACAS titles-selling: the reserved title was not "Goddess of the Galaxy" (there are plenty of those) but "God-Empress of the

Galaxy.” Let me guess—you had to abbreviate things in your note-taking, and missed a bit when you unzipped them?

[*Evidently so.* ☺]

Regards,

Yer insidious Treasurer

Kathleen

We Also Heard From: Joseph Bardsley, Brad Foster, Dave Haren.

Calendar

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

January 2012

January is National Hobby Month.

1 January 2012: **Jens Haeusser** and **Marlon Richmond**'s birthdays.

5 January 2012: **Garth Spencer**'s birthday.

5 and 19 January 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 Lawson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

6 January 2012: **Eileen Kernaghan**'s birthday. Premiere of film *The Devil Inside* (horror/thriller).

13 January 2012: Friday the 13th. Premiere of films *Beauty and the Beast* (fantasy/3D rerelease; Robby Benson, Jerry Orbach, David Ogden Stiers, Angela Lansbury, Jo Anne Worley, Mary Kay Bergman, Brian Cummings, Tony Jay, Kimmy Robertson, Kath Soucie, Frank Welker, Jack Angel, Philip L. Clarke, Jennifer Darling), *The Divide* (SF/thriller; Michael Biehn, Rosanna Arquette, Courtney B. Vance), and *Don't Go in the Woods* (horror/musical; Eric Bogosian).

13 January 2012: Trumpeter Tabletop Games Society Game Night at Bonsor Community Centre, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby, BC, east side of MetroTown Shopping Centre. Drop-ins welcome!

14 January 2012: Housefilk, 3 PM–whenever at Casa del Libro (Walsh residence), Kitsilano, Vancouver. For address contact Shaddy.— Shaddy to BC Sci-Fi Assc.

14 January 2012: Richmond Writers' Network fun evening gathering, 7 PM at the Foggy Dew Irish Pub, 7311 Westminster Highway, Richmond.—Bill Marles to Richmond Writers' Network Facebook Group

15 January 2012: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM [at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver]. Featured artists: Ed Brisson (*Murder Book*, *Acts of Violence*), Peter Chiykowski (*Rock, Paper, Cynic*), Albert Art, Laura Bifano, Beth Wagner, Gurukitty Studios, Monster Attack Team Canada, and others! Dealer tables: \$40/centre; \$50/wall. Hourly door prizes! Admission: \$4.00; kids under 14: free. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. Follow us on Twitter at: twitter.com/vancomiccon. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/> or call 604-322-6412.—Leonard S. Wong

15 January 2012: Naked Girls Reading Farce, 7:30–8:30 PM at the Backstage Lounge, 1585 Johnston Street, Vancouver. “It’s the Canadian Bare Farce! Join Trixie Hobbittses, Bunny Meugens, Sherry Hymen and Diamond Minx for a night of earnestly being earnest, noises *on* stage, and general tartuffery! Pythons named Monty quite welcome. Special guest burlesque performance by April O’Peel! All the usual bits: doors 7:30, show 8:00. Front row advance tix—\$20, regular advance tickets—\$15 (\$5 more at the door). No unauthorized photography. *Tickets*: <http://ngrvanfarce.eventbrite.ca/>.”—Naked Girls Reading Vancouver/Diamond Minx via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

19 January 2012: **Stewart Smyth’s** birthday.

20 January 2012: Premiere of film *Underworld Awakening* (fantasy/horror/action; Kate Beckinsale, Charles Dance, Stephen Rea).

20–22 January 2012: Rustycon 29 at SeaTac Marriott. Author GOH: Eric Flint. Artist GOH: Brent Chumley. Costumer GOH: Joanne Kirley. Merchants room, art show, masquerade, paneling, discussion groups, demos, filk, dances, parties, gaming, movies, music, casino & adult late night enter[*tainment*].



21 January 2012: **Emily Sors’s** birthday.

22 January 2012: National Answer Your Cat’s Question Day.

23 January 2012: William Gibson discusses and signs *Distrust That Particular Flavor*, his collection of non-fiction articles, essays, reviews, and speeches, 7 PM at Bolen Books, Hillside Centre, Victoria.—R. Wiersema

25 January 2012: **Ryan Hawe’s** birthday.

25 January 2012: William Gibson presents *Distrust That Particular Flavor*, 9 PM at Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, 604-681-6330. Free.—Vancouver Sun/The Province

26 January 2012: **Paul Carpentier**'s birthday.

27 January 2012: **Stephanie Gray**'s birthday.

27 January 2012: Geeks After Dark: Bigger on the Inside, 6–10 PM at the Cellar Nightclub, 1006 Granville Street, Vancouver. Entrance is \$10 with costume, \$12 without. Trivia, costume contests, dancing and nerdlesque.—Fairlith Harvey via Cormorant Hadoken Russball [See “*News-Like Matter*” for more.—*Felicity*]

27 January 2012: Rocky Horror Picture-Less Show—Soundtrack Shadow Cast at Midnight!, 11:30 PM–2:30 AM at Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway (at Commercial Drive), Vancouver. \$10. “*Rocky Horror is back by overwhelming popular demand!!!* The *Rio Theatre* recently acquired a liquor license (for use during live concerts & shows). *However* provincial liquor regulations prevent motion pictures from being shown in venues with a liquor licence, even if liquor...is not being served at that motion picture event. *Therefore*, we at the *Rio Theatre* have modified our upcoming shadow cast presentation of *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* to fit provincial requirements. The *Rio Theatre* & *Black Dog Video* present a Friday *mid-night* presentation of *The Rocky Horror Picture-Less Show*. Our *shadow cast* will perform *live onstage* to the film's *soundtrack!!!* Audience participation is encouraged (as always)!!! [...] Come out and learn more on how *you* can get the outdated ban on movies at the *Rio Theatre* lifted!!! [...] \$2 prop bags will be sold in our lobby (BYO squirt guns/noisemakers!). Admission is \$10. *All ages* (non-licensed event). [...]” Vancouver RHPS Cast on Facebook.—Alex Chisholm via Cormorant Hadoken Russball

February 2012

3 February 2012: Premiere of films *The Woman in Black* (horror; Daniel Radcliffe, Ciarán Hinds), *Chronicle* (horror/SF), and *The Innkeepers* (horror; Kelly McGillis).

4 February 2012: World Poetry Festival, 2:30–4:30 PM at Richmond Cultural Centre, Arts and Fabrics Room, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. Poets, musicians, open mike, refreshments, World Poetry Youth Team reading, poet profiles. \$2 donation for room rental. For more information: Ariadne Sawyer, Alan Hill.—Bill Marles/Joanne Arnott to Richmond Writers' Network Facebook Group

6 February 2012: **Lyn Aylward** and **Bill Marles**'s birthdays.

6 February 2012: Writing Comics (*free* event presented by webcomic creator), 7–8:30 PM at Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level. “Angela Melick, creator of the popular webcomic *Wasted Talent*, presents an audiovisual look at the basics of writing for comics: what genres work

best; comic styles; designing settings and characters; pacing; how to get published and more. Program ID 29170.”—[EarthFurst](#) to [BC Sci-Fi Assc.](#)

10 February 2012: **Kevin King**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Journey 2: The Mysterious Island* (fantasy/SF; Dwayne Johnson, Michael Caine, Luis Guzmán), *Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace* (3D rerelease/SF/travesty; Liam Neeson, Ewan McGregor, Natalie Portman, Ian McDiarmid, Anthony Daniels, Kenny Baker, Frank Oz, Terrence Stamp, Brian Blessed, Warwick Davis, Samuel L. Jackson, Sofia Coppola, Greg Proops, Peter Serafinowicz, Rick McCallum), and *Perfect Sense* (fantasy/romance; Ewan McGregor).



15 February 2012: **Liana K.**'s birthday.

17 February 2012: Premiere of films *Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance* (superhero; Nicolas Cage, Ciarán Hinds, Christopher Lambert, Anthony Head) and *The Secret World of Arriety* (fantasy; Will Arnett, Carol Burnett, Peter Jason, Amy Poehler).

17–19 February 2012: [Tsukino-Con](#). Anime and Japanese cultural convention at University of Victoria, 3800 Finnerty Road, Victoria, BC, Engineering and Computer Science building. Anime Club, UVic Students' Society, University of Victoria, PO Box 3035 STN CSC, Victoria, BC V8W 3P3. UVic students get in free. (Pre-registration appears to be online-only.)—[Julian Castle](#)

19, 22, and 23 February 2012: *Sita Sings the Blues*, 1 PM on 19 February and 8:30 PM on 22–23 February at [Pacific Cinémathèque](#), 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC. Wikipedia says *SSTB* is “a 2008 animated feature film...by American artist Nina Paley...It intersperses events from the Ramayana, illustrated conversation between Indian shadow puppets, musical interludes voiced with tracks by Annette Hanshaw and scenes from the artist's own life....Roger Ebert...enthused, “I am enchanted....To get any film made is a miracle. To conceive of a film like this is a greater miracle.” Cinematheque website says “Sita may be the first animated feature released under a Creative Commons license, which permits free usage—a move necessitated by complicated copyright issues that arouse over its use of old songs Paley believed were in the public domain.”—[Julian Castle](#)

21 February 2012: **Crystal Remedios**'s birthday.

22–23 February 2012: Ottawa International Animation Festival's [Best of Ottawa Tour](#), 7 PM at [Pacific Cinémathèque](#), 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver, BC. “The Best of Ottawa programme showcases many audience favorites and award winners from the OIAF Official Competition. This year's highlights include Pjotr Sapegin's heart-warming *The Last Norwegian Troll*...and the hilarious crowd-favourite *The Goat and the Well*.”—[Julian Castle](#)

25 February 2012: **Alyx Dellamonica**'s birthday.

News-Like Matter

Notes from December 2012 BCSFA Meeting

Location was gourmet hamburger restaurant Burger Heaven, 77 10th Street, New Westminster. In attendance were Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Felicity Walker (editor), Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, Keith Lim, Ray Seredin, and Stewart Smyth. I didn't take any notes because there were several conversations going on at once and I was also busy eating dinner. I had a Hawaiian burger. It was OK.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 18 December 2011

West Coast Science Fiction Association Annual General Meeting

To all members of the West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA):

This notice is to advise you of the date, time and place for the WCSFA Annual General Meeting.

All WCSFA members in good standing* are welcome to attend.

Tea and coffee will be provided—please feel free to bring snacks to share with the other attendees.

Date: Sunday, January 29, 2012

Time: arrivals at 1 PM for a 2 PM start

Place: 2965 W. 11th Ave., Vancouver, BC (home of Michael & Susan Walsh)

Map: <http://bit.ly/ucatwM>

Contact Numbers:

Jenni Merrifield (WCSFA President)—604-512-7734

Michael Walsh (WCSFA Vice President)—604-732-5188

Agenda:

- Adoption of the rules of order
- Consideration of the financial statements
- Report of the directors
- Election of directors for 2012 (President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Archivist, Member at Large × 2)
- Election of the VCON 38 Convention Committee Chair

Yours,

Jenni Merrifield

WCSFA President

* You are a WCSFA member in good standing if you had a membership to VCON 36, have purchased a membership for VCON 37 or have paid for a stand-alone WCSFA membership fee at any time during 2011. If you are not already a member in good standing, please arrive prior to the 2 PM start where you will be given the opportunity to purchase a membership to VCON 37 (\$45 for adults, discounts apply for students, seniors and youth from 7 to 18) or purchase a stand-alone WCSFA membership for 2012 (\$5).

Jenni Merrifield

to VCON Announcement List

Monday 26 December 2011

Fanzine Editor Needs Academic Recommendation Letters

Nalini Haynes, editor of *Dark Matter*, has applied for entry to the Master of Creative Writing, Publishing and Editing program at the University of Melbourne.

Nalini has a Master's degree in Social Science, and has already taken some courses in her goal area, but the university has rejected her application. However, they will review it if she receives letters of support.

For more information or to offer help, contact Nalini Haynes by e-mail at darkmatterfanzine@gmail.com. *She is not asking for money.*

Felicity Walker

Sunday 8 January 2012

As Others See Us? IV

“He'd like people to think he's anything but a typical writer of science fiction. William Gibson's truest admirers don't even go there. To them, the American-born, Canadian novelist is a specialist in speculative fiction, a kind of futurist savant whose stock in trade are layers of elegant and sustainable hypotheses, balanced constructs of 'what ifs' built on advanced technological, social, ethical and scientific foundations.”—Greg Quill, “[William Gibson's New Book 'Distrust That Particular Flavor' Reveals the Sci-Fi Guru's Human Side,](#)” *Toronto Star*

Felicity Walker

Sunday 15 January 2012

'Seattle Geekly' Podcast Has Ended; Website Going Down

“There is no easy way to do this, so here it is; we have reached the point where we are going to have to lower the curtain on *Seattle Geekly*. The demands of producing the show have exceeded our available resources, both financially and in terms of time. This is a heart rending decision for us and one that we did not come to easily.”—<http://www.seattle-geekly.com/2011/04/an-important-announcement/>

“We went through a list of changes we could make in order to keep *Seattle Geekly* going but what it came down to was the fact that if we scaled it back to the point where it would be sustainable it would no longer be the show we wanted it to be and it wouldn't be something we could be proud of producing.”—<http://www.seattle-geekly.com/2011/04/an-important-announcement/>

“The wonderful thing about new media, though, is that if you decide that there is a geeky podcast/blog shaped hole in your world you can start one! We haven't done anything here that anyone else couldn't do at least as well, if not better.”—<http://www.seattle-geekly.com/2011/04/an-important-announcement/>

“The website will be going down in December, so if you'd like, please archive the MP3s that you enjoyed. Our email seattlegeekly@gmail.com will still be up, if you need to contact us.”—<http://www.seattle-geekly.com/2011/09/archive/>

I'm guessing the podcasts will still be available via iTunes at <http://itunes.apple.com/podcast/seattle-geekly/id304822172>.

Julian Castle

Monday 16 January 2012

ABNA Entries Accepted as of 1/23

The Amazon Breakthrough Novel Award (ABNA) brings together talented writers, reviewers, and publishing experts to find and develop new voices in fiction and it's quickly approaching! The 2012 international contest will award two grand prizes: one for General Fiction and one for Young Adult Fiction. Each winner will receive a publishing contract with Penguin, which includes a \$15,000 advance.

Open submissions for manuscripts will begin on January 23, 2012 and run through February 5, 2012. If you're an author with an unpublished or previously self-published novel waiting to be discovered, visit CreateSpace to sign up for regular contest updates. See the official contest rules, or read details on how to enter.

Bill Marles
to Richmond Writers' Network Facebook Group
Thursday 19 January 2012

SF/Fantasy Screenwriters Wanted

From Craigslist (<http://vancouver.en.craigslist.ca/van/wri/2808488648.html>): "A small production company in Vancouver is looking for writers for science fiction and fantasy short film projects and film scenes. If you have been on a similar project in the past or are interested in projects with these themes please send a message. Thank you."

"Location: Greater Vancouver. Compensation: to be negotiated. Telecommuting is OK. This is a part-time job. This is a contract job."

Felicity Walker
Saturday 21 January 2012

Dead Write Books Moving: Consolidating with White Dwarf Books

From <http://www.deadwrite.com/dw.html>:

"Dead Write Books is moving. As of February 1st we will be consolidated with White Dwarf Books at 3715 W. 10th Ave. in Vancouver."

The website didn't give the year of the move, so I phoned Dead Write and person who answered phone said the move was happening this year.

Julian Castle
Sunday 22 January 2012



Facebook Introduces Catbook

"Miles," the "Main Cat" from Catbook writes:

"We love cats. [...] But cats are not great with computers. And that's why we created Catbook. [...] <https://apps.facebook.com/catbook>."

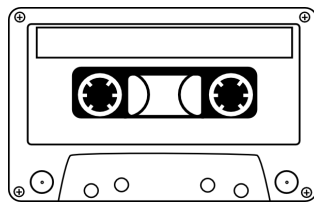
Felicity Walker
Monday 23 January 2012

On the Head of a Pin

Taral Wayne

[This article was previously published in The Drink Tank #299 (Chris Garcia, editor).]

Long ago, when comic book shops ruled the land and motion pictures were recorded on tape, the world was a simpler place. Commodore and Tandy were names with clout in the home computing market. Bill Gates was quoted as saying that 128 and 256k of RAM memory were quite enough, and nobody would *ever* need an entire *meg* for home computing. In many ways, we were a happier tribe of fans in those days.



The place of the cure of the soul.

These days, we need many meg of memory just to store our corrected word processor mistakes and Photoshop history. Nor did the early computers deliver on their promise to be a permanent format for our intellectual property. How many users under the age of 30 would even recognize a 5¼-inch floppy disk? All those tens of thousands of words I committed to the everlasting custodianship of vinyl memory are now as lost to posterity as the scrolls in the Alexandrine Library.

One of the earlier manifestations of furry fandom was the Bulletin Board, or BBS. The first Mucks were up and running, and were about as primitive as *Pong*. They did what was needed, but their non-visual nature never appealed to me. Also, I was temperamentally un-suited to be a role-player. *I* like to make the rules and decide outcomes for *myself*—rather than abide by a consensus—so a shared environment is a poor place for me. On the other hand, a Bulletin Board was a means of communication. I had no problem with that and eagerly joined one that was created locally by a friend of mine.

Ken was calling himself “Hepzibah” in those days, celebrating his affinity with skunk-kind. In time, there would be far too many “Hepzibahs” in furry fandom, and Ken found a new alter ego, but “Kratsminsch” belongs to another era, along with Twitter, streaming, FurAffinity and other complicating developments.

When Ken announced his new Bulletin Board, I was using an older Amiga 1000 of his. It wouldn't do much, but it *would* let me log onto “The Trap Line” once I was connected to the Internet. I think I first subscribed to a free server called 3Web... which was later bought out by a larger company, that subsequently deleted 3Web from the map of the information highway. (This is called “competition” in Neoncon Speak.) From what I had seen of it, “The Trap Line” wasn't radically different from the Muck. One typed comments to people in much the same way. For that matter, “The Trap Line” wasn't altogether different from many modern “lists.” There was even a “chat mode” for real-time communication. One important difference, it seemed to me, was that I wasn't expected to keep up a pretense that I was a talking puppy or a magical fox-girl on “The Trap Line.” For someone with my aversion to appearing silly *on purpose*, this was a difference that mattered. I never lost any sleep

over appearing silly *unintentionally*. That simply happens, and all you can do about it is pretend it didn't.

Chat was one of the more charming features of "The Trap Line." It made the Bulletin Board a sort of "magic typewriter." I had been using a typewriter for many years...but they had never before talked back to me. Before familiarity set in (after all, why "chat" when there's a telephone?) Ken and I used to connect and exchange pointless questions just for the sheer joy of it. For that matter, Ken and I didn't live very far apart, and we often got together in coffee shops for serious *mano-a-mano* bullshitting.

About that time, the big issue created by the Internet was piracy. Individuals who believed that the Rapture had come began posting whatever they liked on web-sites all over the world. It's nice to know that *some* things about the Internet never change...Ken took particular exception to one pirate who—relatively speaking—operated from our backyard. Terry maintained that he was doing the artists a terrific favour by publicizing their work. Whether or not they agreed, or even knew about it, was beside the point in Terry's view. Ken saw the matter quite differently...as did I, being an artist who was often pirated. For the longest time, Ken and Terry were at each other's throats. I don't know whether they ever fought openly online, or merely conducted a guerilla war of innuendo and back-stabbing. But on our late-night walks to observe wild skunks, Ken expressed his thoughts about Terry in unmistakably fighting language. I was a particular beneficiary of Terry's "altruism" in those days, and nodded my head sagely to everything Ken said.

The odd thing is that Terry did eventually come to see things more our way. And, in time, Ken mellowed toward Terry. I found him a pleasant enough sort of person, as well, and even shared a car with him and Kevin on several long drives to furry cons along the East Coast. So, while piracy is the same problem it always was, both "The Trap Line" and Terry's "chan" were eventually relegated to the technological scrap heap—and all past injuries were forgiven.

Ken and some of the other "Trap Line" regulars held a picnic one year. I believe I missed it. I attended the picnic *next* summer, though, as well as the picnics each summer after that.

They were held in High Park, an ideal location. The park wasn't very far from where Ken and I lived in Parkdale, but it was next to a stop on the subway station, so it was almost as easy to get to from all parts of the city. The Park was huge. It had been the early 19th-century estate of the Howard family, and spread from Bloor Street all the way to Lakeshore Boulevard—a distance of about a mile and a half. It was half-a-mile wide, and within the grounds were Grenadier Pond, several smaller pools, a creek, a number of isolated little ravines and oddities of all sorts to discover. One of my favourite spots was a ring of stones in a small clearing on the side of a steep slope. The stones were originally from an ornate Edwardian fountain that had been broken up. The gargoyles and fragments of Corinthian capitols had been carted to the site for no apparent reason, and arranged in a Druid's circle. The ring could not be seen



from any of the main paths or roads through the park, only by following one particular, little-used footpath through a dense patch of woods. With so much to see, our picnics usually dissolved into expeditions of discovery after the food was eaten. If darkness had fallen, so much the spookier...

I only knew a half-dozen of the people at these shindigs, perhaps as many as eight. It could well have been at my first picnic that I met Steven Baldassarra. He was a regular attendee and one of the main benefactors. A disproportionate percentage of us in those days were usually dead broke. Too many of us are likely *still* broke. I know I am. So, it fell to the largesse of a small number of fans who had the means to bring soft drinks, or a dozen-or-two frozen hamburger patties. The park provided the grills...but unless someone fortunately remembered to bring briquettes, it would be a disappointing affair no matter how many cold burgers and hotdogs there were. Steven even brought a disposable cardboard and aluminum-foil barbecue grill, just to be sure.

Almost everyone was able to afford a squirt gun. I don't know if it became *de rigueur* from the first picnic or not, but running water gun fights were in evidence from the first one I attended. I brought my own, after that. Discretion is not the better part of valour if you end up soaking wet and can't fight back. Filling up was a bit of a nuisance, though. You either had to find a drinking fountain, and patiently wait while most of the water splashed away from the tiny refill hole, or you could walk all the way to one of the maintenance buildings and see if there was a hose tap. But then you'd miss too much of the action. The smart thing to do would probably have been to bring plastic bottles for quick reloading. Perhaps it's just as well that nobody seemed to have thought of that, or they would have dampened a lot of the fun.



Although I did acquire a prodigious and impressive-looking water gun at last, I never got the chance to use it. It was easily three feet long and shipped half a gallon of water. The pump action shot a jet of aqua across a two-lane street, as prettily as a mountain spring—and just as cold, if you added ice cubes to the reservoir. But the gun was also yellow and orange plastic, with purple stickers. I felt like a damn fool carrying it on public streets, so the mother of all monster squirt guns never left my apartment.

As one consequence of being unarmed, I tended to sit out the water sports. To be sociable, I developed other social skills, such as crushing empty Coke cans and tearing them in half with my bare hands. The metal in Canadian pop cans is twice the gauge of flimsy American cans, so if your only exercise is tapping a keyboard and wrestling with a mouse, you may find this tougher than you think. All the same, once there was a small mountain of crumpled and demolished aluminum cans on the table where I sat, the entertainment value of my act fell to nil.

Sitting at another corner of the table, I noticed an artist whose name I didn't know. He was doodling on a scrap of paper rescued from starting the barbecue, and had rendered a fully detailed figure on it that was no more than an inch high. I said that I sometimes amused myself in the same fashion. When called for, in fact, a lot of my art has quite amazing amounts of detail crammed into very small spaces. We began a contest to see who could draw the smallest.

I went to bat first, and turned in a figure drawing that measured a mere half-inch from end to end.

When it was his turn, my worthy adversary drew a figure only a quarter-of-an-inch long.

Then we were down to eighths-of-an-inch.

I don't recall who won, but the contest's possibilities were limited only by the unnecessarily crude physical dimensions of the ball on a fine-tip pen. The final round of drawings were nearly microscopic, measuring only one or two millimeters in length—almost small enough to fit on the head of a pin.

In a larger sense, though, a case can be made that our contest's diminishing returns were prophetic. The picnics we held on those halcyon summer days may well have been the culmination of that generation's furry fandom in Toronto. There would be parties at the local SF con that spurred talk about a con of our own... but little would come of it. After a while, fans from the Greater Toronto Area who used to get together with us at the Hoy Ching stopped coming. The "Trap Line's" once considerable stature diminished as the Internet grew. One day, it just wasn't there anymore, and its absence was hardly noticed. Ken said he wanted to run his own server and turn the Bulletin Board into something bigger and more relevant... but somehow it never worked out. In the end, it was just easier for him to log onto the Muck.

I was never drawn into the Muck myself, for reasons I've already stated. Because I didn't, Ken and I began to grow slightly apart from the day the "Trap Line" went down. It was a small crack at first, but grew larger over time.

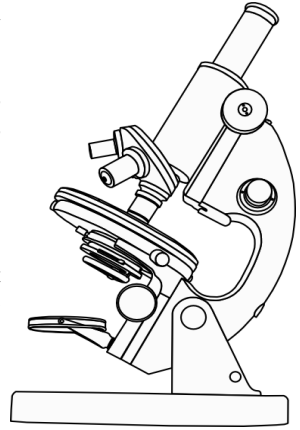
Finally, one year it was just too much trouble to organize a picnic. It was always the lot of the same people, it seemed, to get the ball rolling. When they finally said they were too busy to do the organization, no one took their place.

Ken said, "Maybe next year..." But there *never was* a next year.

Another generation of furry fans was making the rules by that time. They didn't want to run a dull, old *convention*. They wanted to run a *camp* in the woods, and named it "Feral." With no art show or dealers room, and a whopping membership rate—currently \$350 for room and board for the weekend—I never went to one. Many of the new fans seem painfully young, and they took their inspiration from animated shows that I couldn't bring myself to watch. Japanese anime was fine by me, if you meant Hayao Miyazaki, but not *Pokemon* or *Dragonball Z*. While I do belong to one or two of the local furry lists, I never log on and follow no discussions.

The local furry fandom is *today's* fandom. Mine was the fandom of those "Trap Line" picnics, "back when." Maybe those days weren't as innocent or as uncomplicated as I make out—they had conflicts and personality clashes that were no less stressful than today's.

Call it nostalgia, but I like to remember that fandom as the sunny summer days when we tried to draw on the head of a pin.



Taral Wayne

Friday 25 November 2011

Zines Received

‘Opuntia’ #71.1D (January 2012). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Reviewzine issue.

“What’s New Is Old” reviews *The Panic of 1819: Reactions and Policies* by Murray Rothbard. Dale is a good writer; what could have been a dry subject is readable and suspenseful when filtered through *Opuntia*.

“The Awl Biz” reviews film *The Rig* (2009), *Sanctuary* episode “Next Tuesday,” and books *Deep Black: Arctic Gold* by Stephen Coonts and William Keith, *Ill Wind* by Kevin J. Anderson and Doug Beason, *Athabasca* by Alistair MacLean, *Pipeline* by Peter Schechter, and *Charon’s Landing* by Jack Du Brul. From Dale’s summary, *The Rig* sounds very similar to *Deepstar Six* (1989).

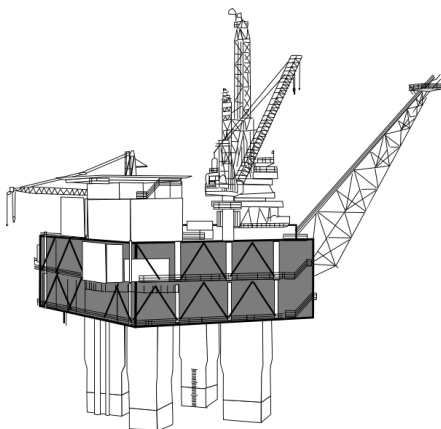
Dale writes that Calgary’s petroleum industry is “often jokingly referred to as the awl biz, after the pronunciation used by expatriate Texans and Oklahomans working here.” My ear hears the Texan pronunciation as “oh-al.”

Also: “Seen in the Literature” (excerpts from scientific journals, noticed by Dale).

‘The Voyageur’ #183 (November/December 2011). Published by Infinite Diversity International Corporation, % Lynda Ciaschini, 7050 Weston Road, Suite 301, Woodbridge, Ontario, L4L 8G7. Edited by Georgina Miles, 26 Doddington Drive, Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 1S4, ga_miles50@gmail.com. Official Newsletter of the *USS Hudson Bay*.

“Nifty News”: The third *Ghostbusters* movie is being made, and disappointingly, Bill Murray will probably not return, and the story will introduce a new generation of Ghostbusters and retire the originals. This triggers depressing memories of *Extreme Ghostbusters*.

Also: “Editorial”; “Meeting Memories”; “Birthday Wishes”; media SF coverage (*Doctor Who*, *Warehouse 13*, *Eureka*, *Haven*, *Grimm*); science news (“New Planet Found,” “Black Holes Discovered,” “Curiosity Heads to Mars,” “Talking to Dr. Chris Welch”); crossword; “Conventions and Events.”



RANDOM NOSTALGIA

ARCADES
THE BOTS MASTER
NUTS ABOUT RAISINS
MISTER MIKE'S

E-Zines Received

[I'm way behind, so I'm going to list the oldest zines first.—Felicity]

'Dark Matter' #4 (July 2011). Edited by Nalini Haynes, PO Box 144, Lynbrook, Victoria, Australia 3975, darkmatterfanzine@gmail.com, eFanzines.

"Editorial"; "News & Articles"; "Interviews"; "Letters"; "Anime/Animation"; "Book Reviews"; "Game Gambit"; "Graphic Novel Reviews"; "Movie Mayhem"; "Short Stories"; "TV Series." Good zine.

Font criticism: I recommend a maximum of three fonts for the whole document. If you're not a font fan and have no preference, you can't miss with old standbys like Times/Times New Roman (body text) and Helvetica/Arial (headlines). For body text, use a serif. (Thank you to alert reader Julian Castle for bringing to my attention the death of serif body text in mainstream publications.)

'Swill @ 30' #9 (Summer 2011). Published by VileFen Press, a division of Klatha Entertainment, an Uldune Media company, swill.uldunemedia.ca. Edited by Neil Jamieson-Williams, swill@uldunemedia.ca.

"Editorial: The Fan in the Mirror": I like Neil's working definition of "fan"—someone who not only consumes the genre but actively participates in fandom—for the same reason that I like Dale Speirs' well-worded distinction "steampunk as a *self-aware field*" (see [BCSFAzine #462](#)): it's clear, useful, and it feels true.

"Flogging a Dead Trekkie: What You Say About You": I love this kind of material: the history of popular culture, counterculture, cultural unity and disunity, and fandom and subfandoms, particularly modern (1960s–present).

Neil writes: "Fans are very good at holding grudges, e.g. those who are still angry about the content of the original *Swill* and thus have dissed *Swill @ 30* based on content that was written 30 years ago." I haven't read the original *Swill*, so I'm able to read *Swill @ 30* neutrally. This may be a good thing, just as it was when I saw *Highlander 2: The Quickening* before I saw *Highlander*. One can always form one's preconceived notions retroactively.

"Scribbling on the Bog Wall: Letters of Comment": Neil uses my mention of *Swill* in my review of Graeme's *Auroran Lights* as a "LOC." I approve of this technique, since I'm too lazy to write both a review of *and* a LOC to any given zine.

I had asked "Why is it good that *Swill* was 'rude, offensive,' 'crass, nasty, obnoxious,' and 'written for the sole purpose of generating anger'?" Neil replies "Why? Because it was *Swill!* The entire purpose of the original *Swill* was to give a 'boot to the head' to science fiction fandom—in particular those fans who took fandom far too seriously." It sounds like the original *Swill* was a cross between the punk attitude of the time and the present-day Internet trolls.

This thought occurs to me partly because in the last few days I've wondered if I should invent nerd-



Tastes like Times New Roman.

punk. It probably already exists, but not in the way I envision it. (For example, Googling “nerdpunk” results in nerdpunk.com, which is a site that sells Cialis, then several pages that juxtapose “nerd” and “punk” as separate words.) If it somehow does already exist in the way I envision it, then I’ll join it. And see if they already have a zine.

Also: “Pissing on a Pile of Old *Amazings*: What They Say About You...”; “Endnote: What I Say About You.”

Font criticism: As has been noted by other *Swill @ 30* readers, the Pudmonkey font is hard to read. However, I can go a step further and recommend a more readable font that should still achieve the desired effect: VTCorona.

Pudmonkey	VTCorona
Flogging a Dead Trekkie: What You Say About You	Flogging a Dead Trekkie: What You Say About You

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (<i>Videodrome</i> screenshot).....	Page 1
Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 3–4, 6, 11–17
Iconian Fonts.....	Page 8

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