

Hot list

Oct 2 – Oct 15

1) **Raine Maida and Chantal Kreviazuk** for benefiting the lives of children, and being strong supporters and promoters of Canadian music.

2) **Mia Kirshner** for gearing up for a new season of lipstick lesbians in *The L Word*. What's hotter than that?

3) **Caroline Dhavernas** The Montreal actress costars with Adrien Brody, Ben Affleck and Diane Lane in *Hollywoodland*, the story of a detective examining the mysterious death of George Reeves, TV's Superman.

4) **Lukas Rossi** This Torontonian stud has more than enough moxie to front *Supernova*.

5) **Jessica Lucas** for her work in *The Covenant* – a tale of supernatural teens trying to destroy each other at an elite boarding school.

Do it!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

- 6 to 14 **Kitchener-Waterloo Oktoberfest** oktoberfest.ca
 13 to 16 **Toronto International Art Fair** tiafair.com
 14 **Port Credit Comedy Festival** portcredit.com
 14 to 15 **Guelph Arts Festival** (519) 827-1046
 18 to 22 **Accented Cinema Film Festival** (416) 573-1780
 18 to 23 **ImagineNative Film & Media Arts Festival** (416) 585-2333
 18 to 28 **International Festival of Authors** reading.org
 20 to 23 **15th Annual Orillia Jazz Festival** (705) 326-4424
 25 to 28 **Stratford Book Festival** (800) 461-8500
 27 to 29 **Port Hope Vintage Film Festival** vintagefilmfestival.ca



"We've taken the concept of a pillow fight and applied a set of rules to it from boxing and martial arts," Case says.

-Photo by Laura Gallella

This ain't no sleepover

Forget everything you know about pillow fights

Jenny Yuen

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In this ring, there are no PJs, no giggling and no wimpy throws to the head. Seriously hardcore girls, relentlessly swinging and smothering their opponents with a pillow, have replaced all that. Welcome to the Pillow Fight League (PFL).

Stacey Case, the commissioner behind PFL's Toronto chapter, came up with the unusual concept nearly two-and-a-half years ago, while on tour with his punk-rock band, Tijuana Bibles.

Case's main love is Mexican wrestling, and he has devoted a whole comicbook series to the genre titled *Arriba! The*

Parkdale Wrestler.

But Case says every sport has been done before, except pillow fighting.

"When you hear 'pillow fight,' you think of teenage girls jumping on a bed – or if you're trying to exploit the concept of a pillow fight – strippers in negligees jumping around on a bed with feathers flying around everywhere," he says.

"We've taken the concept of a pillow fight and applied a set of rules to it from boxing and martial arts."

The rules are simple: Girls only. Five minutes a fight. Punching, leg drops, clotheslines, submission holds and other moves are allowed, as long as a pillow is used to execute the attack.



- Laura Gallella photo

Torontonian Stacey Case came up with the Pillow Fight League concept nearly two-and-a-half years ago, while on tour with his punk-rock band, Tijuana Bibles.

STORY, VIDEO: icononline.ca

Even as a kid, Stewart wanted to be a comic book illustrator. But he had to work his way up.



- Laura Gallella photo

Purr-fect comic art

The world's largest comic convention, in San Diego, was packed this year with more than 125,000 fans dressed as characters such as Wonder Woman, Batman and Green Lantern. But those fans didn't stand out as much as regulars like Cameron Stewart, in a simple shirt and jeans.

Setting Stewart apart from the crowd is the fact he is one of eight illustrators honoured this year with an Eisner Award – the comic book equivalent of an Oscar – for his work on *Manhattan Guardian*, part of DC Comic's *Seven Soldiers* series. A Toronto comic illustrator, Stewart has worked on comic characters such as Scooby-Doo, Catwoman and Seaguy.

But he had to work his way up. During his days off from his job at Toronto comic store Silver Snail, Stewart kept working on his portfolio.

It paid off seven years ago. He took his work to the San Diego convention and was hired on the spot by DC Comics. The *Mystery Machine* adventures were his first job.

Even as a kid, Stewart wanted to be a comic-book illustrator. When he was 13 he lined up to meet his favourite writer, Grant Morrison, and 17 years later he collaborated with Morrison on the *Manhattan Guardian* story, as well as Seaguy, the character Stewart is proudest of.

"It's just a really fun book to do and it's a creative challenge every step of the way," he says. "Not only was it something that I'd never drawn before, but something that no one had ever drawn before."

-Jenny Yuen

STORY, VIDEO: icononline.ca

Frag central

Murtz Jaffer

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It's the year 2362.

It is time for war, a tournament like no other. It will embarrass fights and battles of the past and introduce new levels of combat and conflict. The finest gladiators ever assembled are ready to fight to the death.

One of the characters has a particularly menacing presence; he has a considerable biogenetic upgrade, thanks to Axon Research.

His face strikes fear into the hearts of men, women and children. He is Gorge. The juggernaut. And he was created in ... Ontario?

The London-based studio Digital Extremes, founded in 1993 by president James Schmalz, is best known for its collaboration with Epic Games on the Unreal franchise, which sold an estimated nine-million copies worldwide.

Currently, Digital Extremes is working on *Dark Sector*. Gaming geeks are salivating over the impending fall 2007 release of this highly anticipated game.

The game stars Hayden Tenno, a cross between Jack Bauer with a biological experiment on his arm, a new-age Batman and Wolverine.

The tagline on *Dark Sector's* website (darksector.com) reads, "Everything you know about *Dark Sector* is probably wrong."

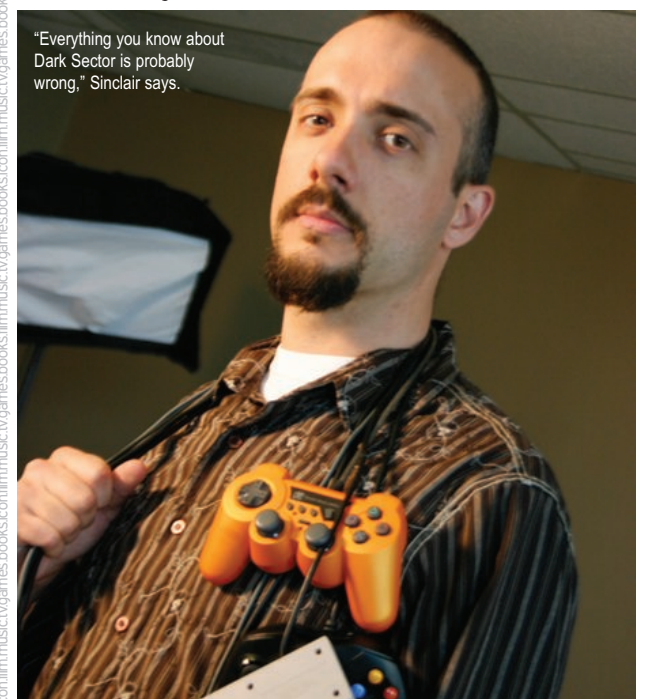
"The Extreme Engine is making *Dark Sector* into an incredible experience."

- Steve Sinclair

Game designer and *Dark Sector* project lead, Steve Sinclair, says the tagline isn't just a tease.

"The truth is the first concept of the game was to be science-fiction," he says. "Over the past year it evolved to a modern-day setting, making everything people know about it wrong. There's really not a lot of spin there."

STORY, VIDEO: icononline.ca



- Michael Banovsky photo

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Them's fighting words

Hunky Toronto-born author Craig Davidson launches his new book, *The Fighter*, in Toronto this month with ... a fight.

The writer/fighter offered to engage in fisticuffs on his blog:

"If you are a good man with a noble heart, I will fight you.

"If you are here to kick ass and chew bubblegum (and you're all out of bubblegum), I will fight you.

"If you are known by one of the following nicknames – The Hammer, The Mangler, The Wizard – then yes, by all means, I will fight you."

Many wannabe fighters responded, some of them

women. But no, that's not PC.

"There were plenty of challengers," Davidson writes in the blog, "but Steve (his publicist at Penguin) whittled it down to one – a man who matches up pretty evenly ... He happens to be a damn fine fellow and a heck of a writer, as well."

The plucky pugilist squaring off with Davidson on Oct. 5 is a Toronto poet – Michael Knox. His boxing moniker is Mike (The Coffin Nail) Knox.

For more details on *The Fighter* (both man and book), go to www.thefighter.ca.

- Alexandra Innes

FULL STORY: icononline.ca



- Brian Harder Photographer



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