

# BCSFA Zine

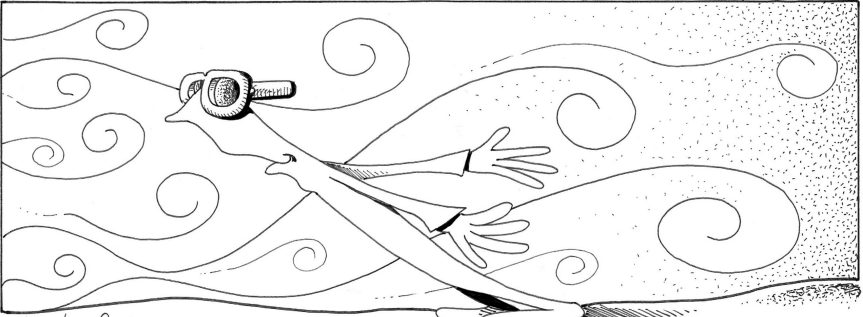
The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#458

\$3.00/Issue

July 2011

MYRON DOESN'T FIGHT the WINDS of CHANGE...



©brad w. fester. 2011

... BUT NOR DOES HE SURRENDER TO THEM.

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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 17 July @ 7 PM:

**BCSFA meeting**—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. Call 604-521-0254 for directions. (*August meeting* is Sunday 21 August 2011, same hours, same location.)

Thursday 21 July @ 7 PM:

**July Book Discussion** at the Grind gallery & café, 4124 Main Street (near the corner of Main and King Edward), Vancouver. Book to be discussed will be *Burning Chrome* by William Gibson. (*August discussion* is Thursday 18 August 2011, same hours, same location.)—[Doug Finnerty](#)

Friday 29 July:

**'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, 604-448-8714

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

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/>. The BCSFA e-mail lists are BC SciFi Assc ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_scifi\\_assc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/)) and BCSFAnet (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcsfanet/>).

## Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

**Sheryl Birkhead**  
25509 Jonnie Ct.,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
USA

Friday 11 February 2011



Hi—

Um—I *know* other issues are hiding around here *somewhere* but I have #448 and #451 in the stack so they (for the moment) win.

[I sent #456 recently and #457 will be on its way in a day or two.]

Once again, in awe of Brad Foster's output!!—keep those illos coming—lovely.

Lloyd—I listen to a *lot* of audio books and must admit that often the reader makes or breaks its success. Recently I've been listening to crime novels (Deaver)—and have heard two different readers. Hands down, one reader is terrific—the other is “adequate.” Ghodd luck with the voice work.

Fingers crossed that any of your readers who are members of Renovation will have nominated for the Hugos—or intend to before the March deadline. At least if we participate in the process we did our part, regardless of the results.

—Hey—just found this [LOC] in the “*pile*” about June 10<sup>th</sup>.

—Aha—just read the comment about *Torchwood*. Whatever the story, hope to see the series when it re-surfaces.

—Terry Jeeves—RIP—he will be missed.

Well, I remembered to download the Hugo nomination packet. The big problem now is to actually *read* things in time to vote in an educated manner. Sigh. If else all fails, I'll have reading material for a while.

Lloyd—hope you *do* make it to *Reno*—if you do—have a great time.

Ray's rec room ceiling—ah—Chicken Little had it right—the sky *is* falling.

I'm nowhere *near* to being current on the SF(ish?) film scene—just watched the “latest” *Harry Potter* film. Guess that means I'm only about a year behind.

Oh yeah—implied but not stated—so I'll *state* it—thank you for the Brad Foster continuing cover “string”—*love* 'em.

I ~~continue~~ (agh—*continue*) to faunch after a MacBook—yeah, now have to pay for serious car repairs (can we all say—wont brakes??), roof repairs, and the ubiquitous dental work. Yeah—when all those are paid off, I'll get back to laptop hunting (well—wishing...).

A friend said the new *X-Men* movie is good (also on my Netflix list).

Ah yes—the TAFF 20% rule. Now *that* issue took a lot of us by surprise. It will be interesting to see if anything changes to circumvent this issue in the future.

Since it has “been a while” since *Avatar* was released, I need to go hunt for a used DVD. Having seen it *once*, I need to go for a repeat performance and see what I missed.

Thanks—especially since I am so ridiculously slow/late in responding!

Sheryl

*[No problem. I'm late too. Thanks for the letter. ☺ I'm not sure if I transcribed some of the words correctly. Let me know if you have any corrections.]*

**Colbert Super PAC**  
[info@colbertsuperpac.com](mailto:info@colbertsuperpac.com)

Friday 1 July 2011

Dear {VALUE=FIRSTNAME} {VALUE=LASTNAME},

I wanted to take a moment to personally express my {VALUE=ADJECTIVE} thanks for signing up for Colbert Super PAC. With your help, we'll make sure that America steers a course into a more American future.

A lot of people have been asking me why I started Colbert Super PAC. A lot of those people are lawyers. I'll tell you what I tell them: “I'm doing this for my country. And if you're going to bill me for the full hour, you may as well make yourself useful and stuff some envelopes.”

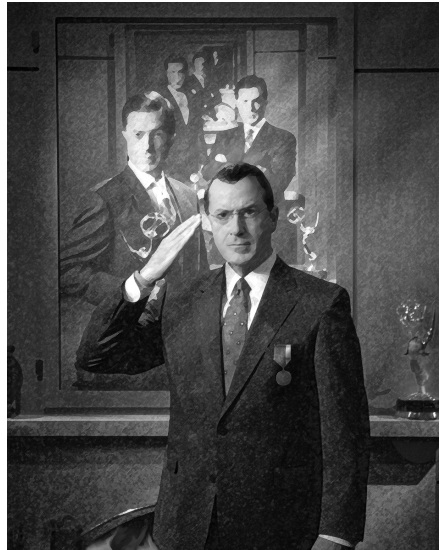
A few months ago I looked up and saw our country at a crossroads. Down one road lay moral and financial ruin. Down another road lay the fulfillment of the American dream. Down a third lay Cincinnati. There was another one, but I think it was some sort of service road, it had a big locked gate on it. The point is: We must steer America down the right road (the second one).

Of course, I cannot do this alone.

Actually, I probably could, but it would seem a little flashy. By signing up at Colbert Super PAC, you've shown you have just what it takes to make a difference—an email address and a willingness to receive lots of spam.

In the coming months Colbert Super PAC will shape the political debate by forcing candidates to focus on issues that matter to you—probably by attaching those issues to something shiny and dangling near the candidates' face. We'll produce and air ads in support of key players in important races, whether they want us to or not. And we'll do all this while enjoying the tax-free status afforded to us by the federal government.

So, once again, {VALUE=FIRSTNAME} I want to thank you for joining Colbert Super PAC. Together, we will speak with one voice—mine. Together, we will stand against those who wish to unite us. Together, we will rent a private jet to take me to rallies, where together we will cheer me on.



Together, we'll be Making a Better Tomorrow—Tomorrow.  
Sincerely yours,  
Stephen Colbert  
SuperFounder, Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow  
To unsubscribe, click here. It won't work, but hey, click away.  
Paid for by Americans for a Better Tomorrow, Tomorrow  
Not authorized by any candidate or candidate's committee.  
[www.colbertsuperpac.com](http://www.colbertsuperpac.com)  
*[I was promised a form letter with my name in it! You lied, Colbert!]*

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

Saturday 2 July 2011

Hi Felicity,

I recently found a very cynical dictionary on Project Gutenberg: ebook #36566. Highly recommended. It is similar to Ambrose Bierce's *Devil's Dictionary*.

*[I'm currently reading Egg on Your Interface by Tom Scrivenor, a book I bought from Garth when he was selling his books. I'd describe it as a Devil's Dictionary of middle-management jargon.]*

In addition I found a listing there of their science fiction which exceeds 750 items. A treasure trove of stuff from the sense of wonder days. In addition there are orphaned works by more modern authors.

I was surprised to note some of the items had been downloaded less than 20 times. Apparently my tireless propaganda campaign needs bigger posters or more dazzle.

I shuddered at the thought of looting the contents of the modern fundamentalists' treasures after the rapture...GRIN.

Fancher has slide shows up of the attempts to bridge their yard with commentary about rubber mallet carpentry.

Cory Doctorow has *Return to Pleasure Island* up on [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org) as well. It's Creative Commons copyrighted and has a nice article explaining the idea behind giving away your work for free and thereby making more money off sales. Neil Gaiman has a talk up on YouTube with similar sentiments and results.

e-commerce is a weird wormcan, highly counter-intuitive to those with a shop-front experience in sales and business.

Warmest regards,  
Dave Haren

**Michael Bertrand**  
[fruvousfox@gmail.com](mailto:fruvousfox@gmail.com)

Thursday 7 July 2011

Hi there BCSFans! Your friendly correspondent here, with another monthly missive.

*BCSFAzine* started in 1973? Wow, that means it's the same age as me. (And you too, of course, dear Felicity. )

*[Hey, that's right; my zine and I are both th—twenty-eight. (Cough.)]*

I am sad to hear that your tastes have grown to the point to the point where nothing of television science fiction seems to please you, John Purcell. I have always

had an uneasy relationship with the refinement of tastes. On the one hand, it is inevitable. We are programmed to hone in on what gives us the most pleasure from the options presented. More options means more choice and hence a narrowing of focus relative to the option load. Over many choices, the narrowing reinforces itself.



But the child in me always wonders “What good is it to become fussier when it means there is actually *less* stuff you like in the world?” Wouldn’t it be better to have your tastes stay the same, and have there just be more stuff you like in the world?

That’s not really an option, though. Luckily, I have found that if you put in the effort to stay open to new things despite disappointments, the rewards of increasing sophistication become evident: when you find something you like, you really appreciate it. And you appreciate it on more levels, with greater depth.

Oh my, Dave Haren. Sounds like you had a truly harrowing ordeal. I am glad you are on the mend. Strength, health, and happiness in the future!

I have to say, Lloyd Penney, that I truly envy your convention-hopping lifestyle. I have thought for a while that if I ever get my bizness together and become a science fiction author, I would live like that, for travel and conventions.

I would even get business cards printed with my job title listed as International Itinerant Intellectual.

Has a nice ring to it, doesn’t it?  
See you next month, folks!

**Lloyd Penney**  
1706–24 Eva Rd.,  
Etobicoke, On.  
M9C 2B2  
[penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net)

Tuesday 12 July 2011

Dear Felicity:

Thanks for issue 457 of *BCSFAzine*...I noticed too late that I am way off the deadline, so I will make this quick, and get it to you as soon as I can.

John Purcell should know that I’ve been receiving *BCSFAzine* for a long time. We’re in the mid-400s now, but I think I’ve been getting it since the high-100s. That’s a lot of issues and editors. Seeing it’s been some time since a television series has truly caught my eye (*Babylon 5*), I feel a little out of it when it comes to current shows...I know the titles, but don’t know the episodes or plot lines or actors or anything. I will admit that one show I am watching as regularly as I can is *Murdoch Mysteries*.

Not much new right now...this coming weekend is Polaris 25, and we have a couple of dealer’s tables there. This is the convention that Yvonne started as Toronto Trek Celebration all those years ago. Not sure if there’s anything they have planned to mark the occasion...they did something for her at Toronto Trek 20 (they changed the name the next year), so we will see what happens.

Toronto had its own Mini Maker Faire in May, if I recall. It was great fun, and it was a popular show, even with little publicity outside what I saw on Facebook. I’d

like to hear more about how the Vancouver version went, and what public response was. I have the same sentiment for the upcoming BC Renaissance Festival...I hope Captain Rackham and crew have a fine time, as will all who come to see them. Hugs and good luck to Chris and Martin.

[*Speaking of things you wanted to know more about: a new show called Fanboy Confidential debuted on Space earlier this week. According to TV Week, its second episode was about steampunk and covered the Vancouver scene. I missed both showings of it but it'll repeat on Wednesday 3 August 2011.*]

I enjoyed *The Outer Limits*, at least those I was able to see. Global Television showed it here, but thought nothing of moving it to the middle of the night to fill space, or move it to make room for a football game, or something similar. I am sure it's on DVD, but all the places where I could find DVD sets have closed down. I guess I'll have to look for it online.

[*A year or two ago, a local station—KVOS-TV out of Bellingham, probably—was showing the original 1960s Outer Limits on Friday nights. I'd never seen it before. Showcase still plays the 1990s Outer Limits regularly, presumably because it's Can-con.*]

Not a long letter, but it might fill a gap in the upcoming issue, if it made it for that. Take care, stay cool, and see you next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

**We Also Heard From:** Garth Spencer.

## 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

### July 2011

July is International Zine Month.

1 July 2011: Canada Day. Premiere of film *Transformers: Dark of the Moon* (SF/action/raping my childhood; Shia LaBeouf, Hugo Weaving, Frances McDormand, Patrick Dempsey, John Malkovich, Leonard Nimoy, John Turturro, Alan Tudyk, Peter Cullen, Frank Welker, Tom Kenny, James Avery, Glenn Morshower, Kevin Dunn, Charles Adler, Jess Harnell).

### RANDOM NOSTALGIA

AIR RAIDERS

DR. NIGODATU

SPIDER-MAN AND HIS AMAZING FRIENDS

NINTENDO ENTERTAINMENT SYSTEM

SILVER SPOONS



2 July 2011: World UFO Day.

2 July 2011: Let's Meet a Stargate Actor!, 5 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. [“]Tom O’Brien, an actor who has had speaking roles on *Stargate SG-1*, *Supernatural*, *Smallville*, *CSI*, *X-Files*, and more has agreed to attend one of our meetups and chat with us. Let’s watch his episode of *SG-1*, ‘Covenant,’ together and welcome Tom.[”]—Keith Lim

2 July 2011: Klingon Pictionary, 7 PM at La Fontana Caffe, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. This is of course a skill that preliterate Klingons had to perfect in order to communicate during the hunt without startling their prey through sound or gestures. We’ll follow their tradition in order to foster thinking in Klingon, and to find out who among us has the most hilarious art skills. One person has a Klingon word or phrase and then has to get the others to guess it only by drawing pictures: no words or gestures allowed. In this version the guessers may only guess in Klingon. Dictionaries can be permitted for those who require them. We’ll [need] something like a whiteboard or paper easel, if anyone has one, and John’s excellent raktajno and panini will be called for. We may also play a couple of rounds of bIngo’, so review your numbers, please.—Keith Lim

2–3 July 2011: NCIX UBC StarCraft Cup, qualification phase, 11 AM–6 PM at Room 260 & 261, Irving K. Barber Learning Centre, UBC. Check-in: 11–11:45 AM. Wrap-up: 6 PM. Registration fee: \$10 for UBC *StarCraft* Club members; \$15 for non-members. Bring your own computer. E-mail [ubcstarcraft@hotmail.com](mailto:ubcstarcraft@hotmail.com). See “News-Like Matter” for more details.—Julian Castle

5 July 2011: BC Browncoats: See the Surreal, 6:30 PM at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2H7. The most comprehensive exhibition of Surrealist art ever to be shown in this country is on display at the Vancouver Art Gallery. The Colour of My Dreams: The Surrealist Revolution in Art features 350 works by leading Surrealist artists, including [André] Breton, Salvador [Dali], Max Ernst, [René] Magritte, Joan [Miró], Alberto Giacometti, Leonora Carrington, [Brassaï], [André] Masson, Man Ray, Edith Rimmington, Wifredo Lam and many others. How to find us: gallery’s coffee shop/restaurant at 6:30 and gallery at 7:00.—Keith Lim



5 July and 2 August 2011: Greater Vancouver Boardgames Meetup Group Monthly Meetup, 7 PM [location shown only to members of the Meetup group]. The games played depend on what everyone brings. If there is a game that you would like to play let it be known and we'll see if someone can bring it. Also if you have a great game to share we're always excited to try it out. \$1.—Keith Lim

6 July 2011: Take Your Webmaster to Lunch Day.

6 July 2011: Premiere of TV series *Falling Skies* (alien invasion). Steven Spielberg is one of the executive producers.—Julian Castle

7 and 21 July and 4 and 18 August 2011: 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)

8 July 2011: **Aaron Harrison's** birthday. Video Games Day. Premiere of films *Zookeeper* (talking animals; Kevin James, Rosario Dawson, Donnie Wahlberg, Joe Rogan, Nicholas Turturro, Nick Nolte, Adam Sandler, Sylvester Stallone, Cher, Judd Apatow, Jon Favreau, Maya Rudolph, Don Rickles, Jim Breuer), *Project Nim* (science documentary), and *The Ward* (supernatural/horror).

8 July 2011: NCIX UBC StarCraft Cup, final event, 6–9 PM at Room 101 & 110, Hugh Dempster Pavilion, UBC. Registration fee: \$10 for UBC *StarCraft* Club members; \$15 for non-members. Bring your own computer. E-mail [ubcstarcraft@hotmail.com](mailto:ubcstarcraft@hotmail.com). See “News-Like Matter” for more details.—Julian Castle

8–10 July 2011: WorldFuture 2011 [*World Future Society's annual convention*] at Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre Hotel, Vancouver, BC, Canada. “Approximately 1000 futurists from around the world will converge at WorldFuture 2011: Moving from Vision to Action. Preconference courses on Thursday and Friday, July 7 and 8, and Professional Members' Forum on Monday, July 11. The WorldFuture 2011 program will feature big-picture thinking and practical visions from a diverse array of participants in a variety of disciplines. Topics: technology, education, health, business issues, families, communities, work trends, social change, the environment and resources, globalization, education, governance, futures methodologies, and much more. Special events: preconference courses, tours, meet-the-author sessions, career counseling, tabletop exhibits, and more activities are planned. Networking opportunities: a complimentary welcoming reception, two keynote luncheons, group business meetings, reserved networking areas throughout the meeting, and more.”

9 July 2011: High Tea with Colin Upton, a Book Launch for *The Collected Diabetes Funnies*, 4–6 PM at Lucky's Comics & Art Gallery, 3972 Main Street, Vancouver. *Diabetes Funnies* is an auto-bio about Colin dealing with having diabetes. “Tea and comics with cartoonist, painter, miniaturist, 3D artist, writer, lecturer, wargamer, radio broadcaster, animist/iconoclast, illustrator, flauer, your host, Colin Upton!”

Facebook/article about Colin and the series/collection selling at Lulu. “Also included is an epilogue not available in any other form.”—Julian Castle

**VANCOUVER COMIC CON**  
Heritage Hall  
3102 Main St. (Main & 15th Ave.)  
Vancouver, BC

**Sunday, July 10th, 2011  
11am to 5pm**

**Featured Artists:**  
Ed Brisson (*Murder Book, Acts of Violence*)  
Ken Boesem (*The Village*)  
Derek DeLand (*Copyright Infringers*)  
Kim Glennie (*Emily & Zola*)  
Sarah Herman (*Play*)  
Albert Art  
Mary Karraplis  
Carrie McKay  
Beth Wagner

**Gurukitty Studios**  
Monster Attack Team Canada  
and other!

Follow us on Twitter at:  
[twitter.com/vancouvercomiccon](http://twitter.com/vancouvercomiccon)

For more information:  
[www.vancouvercomiccon.com](http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com)

**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: \$4.00  
Kids under 14: Free

Dealer Tables: \$40/centre, \$50/wall  
604-322-6412

10 July 2011: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM to 5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue). Featuring: Ed Brisson (*Murder Book, Acts of Violence*), Ken Boesem (*The Village*), Derek DeLand (*Copyright Infringers*), Kim Glennie (*Emily & Zola*), Sarah Herman (*Play*), Albert Art, Mary Karraplis, Carrie McKay, 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: <http://twitter.com/vancouvercomiccon>.

For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>.—Leonard S. Wong

10 July 2011: Creative Geeks: Harry Potter Friendship Bracelets, 1 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. “Most of us have finished our Hogwarts House scarves, but we probably won’t be wearing them to the release of the second part of *Harry Potter & The Deathly Hallows*, which opens in theatres on July 15, 2011. This time, to get us psyched up and ready for the movie, Priya is going to show us how to make friendship bracelets in Hogwarts House colours.”—Keith Lim

13 July 2011: Embrace Your Geekness Day.

14 July 2011: Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30 PM at HR MacMillan Space Centre (downstairs auditorium), 1100 Chestnut Street, Vancouver, BC, V6J 3J9. Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting, shared with the general public at no charge.—Keith Lim

15 July 2011: Premiere of films *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2* (fantasy; Gary Oldman, Daniel Radcliffe, Ralph Fiennes, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman, Michael Gambon, Maggie Smith, John Hurt, David Thewlis, Robbie Coltrane, Miranda Richardson, Timothy Spall, Jim Broadbent, Warwick Davis) and *Winnie the Pooh* (animation/furry; Craig Ferguson, John Cleese, Jim Cummings, Tom Kenny).

16 July 2011: Emily Con, 11 AM–4 PM at Emily Carr Concourse Gallery. “Free and open to the public.” “As part of the Art of Comics, our summer Graphic Novel Institute, Continuing Studies at Emily Carr is hosting Emily Con, a...comic book convention. The Con will have many local guests in attendance showcasing their comics, zines, and artwork...The Emily Carr Library will be hosting a graphic novel reading room in the Concourse Gallery, as well as a series of short discussions and

demonstrations.” Free public lectures + demonstrations in the Library. Comic Colour Theory—12:30–1:30 PM—lecture by Dave McCaig, professional comic book colourist. Make Your Own Damn Comic!—1:30–2:30 PM—panel by Ed Brisson, Kevin Leeson, Todd Ireland, and Colin Upton, independent comic book publishers. The Illustrated Language of Comics (Demo)—2:30–3:30 PM—demonstration by Robin Thompson, graphic novelist and educator.—[Julian Castle](#)

16 July 2011: [Summer Festival](#), presented by ARC, 2 PM—late at Simon Fraser University, 8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, V5A 1S6. The Altered Reality Club, SFU’s gaming and anime club, is proud to present “The Summer Festival” at Simon Fraser University. With participation from IRL Events, we’ll be bringing you a full day of food, entertainment, activities, and prizes on Saturday, July 16! The outdoor festivities will begin at 2 PM in SFU’s Convocation Mall, where there will be food stalls, craft booths, tons of carnival style games where you can win raffle tickets, and a market area featuring a variety of artists and vendors. [SFU ARC/GeekCraft](#).—[Keith Lim](#)

17 July 2011: [Crafty Geeks go see \*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 2\*](#), 3 PM at SilverCity at Metrotown Metropolis, 4700 Kingsway, Burnaby, BC. On Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup>. A matinee performance? Maybe at Metrotown?—[Keith Lim](#)

20 July 2011: **Julie McGalliard**’s birthday. Moon Day.

22 July 2011: Premiere of films *Captain America: The First Avenger* (superhero; Hugo Weaving, Stanley Tucci, Tommy Lee Jones, Neal McDonough, Samuel L. Jackson) and *Another Earth* (drama/SF?).

22–24 July 2011: [LML Group Presents LANcouver 2011](#) at Great Northern Way Campus. “Vancouver’s original gaming event. PC gaming—console—TCG—tabletop.”

23 July 2011: [MiniComi](#), 10 AM at UBC: University of British Columbia (Student Union Building Ballroom), Student Union Boulevard, BC. 10 AM–5 PM (market), 7–8:30 PM (concert). MiniComi is a one-day artists’ market inspired by those in Japan (eg. Comiket), held on Saturday July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 in the Ballroom of the Student Union Building at the University of British Columbia. Artists will bring a wide variety of items for sale. This may include self-published comics, doujinshi (fan comics), doujinSoft (we’re hoping), prints, pins, jewellery, plushies and many other creative things that only artists and crafts people (crafty people?) can think of. Like Comiket in Japan, Cosplay is most welcomed! Final aNix will be playing the after concert at MiniComi, details to follow. [MiniComi/GeekCraft](#).—[Julian Castle/Keith Lim](#)

25 July 2011: **R. Graeme Cameron**’s birthday.

28 July 2011: **Adam Charlesworth** and **Robin Bougie**’s birthdays.

29 July 2011: Premiere of films *Cowboys and Aliens* (action/SF; Daniel Craig, Harrison Ford, Sam Rockwell, Clancy Brown, Adam Beach, Toby Huss), *The Smurfs* (computer animation; Neil Patrick Harris, Hank Azaria, Jonathan Winters, Katy Perry, Alan Cumming, George Lopez, Paul Reubens, Kenan Thompson, Jeff Foxworthy, Wolfgang Puck, Fred Armisen, Anton Yelchin, John Oliver, Tim Gunn), *Attack the Block* (SF/comedy/action—see “Upcoming Nifty Film Projects”); Nick Frost), and *The Future* (drama/SF?).



29 July–1 August 2011: BC Renaissance Festival, Thunderbird Show Park, 24550 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, Langley, BC. 5th Annual BC Renfest. The BC Renaissance Festival is a group of dedicated performers, entertainers, actors, artisans, volunteers and vendors with the dream of establishing a permanent site Renaissance Festival here in British Columbia. Friday 29 July (½ day 12–6 PM): \$8 adults, \$6 child/senior; Saturday 30 July–Monday 1 August (full day 9 AM–9 PM): \$15 adults, \$10 child/senior.—Keith Lim

31 July 2011: **Felicity Walker**’s birthday.

31 July 2011: Vancouver Roleplayers’ Collective Monthly Social Gathering, 3 PM at the Grind Gallery and Coffee House, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver, BC, V5V 3P6. The purpose of the recurring meetings on the last Saturday of every month is to meet and greet and chill, to share a drink or two with fellow gamers, talk about your common interests and maybe even find yourself a gaming group.—Keith Lim

## August 2011

5 August 2011: **Scott Tycholaz**’s birthday. Premiere of films *Rise of the Planet of the Apes* (SF/action; James Franco, Andy Serkis, Brian Cox, John Lithgow, Tyler Labine, David Hewlett) and *The Change-Up* (comedy/fantasy; Ryan Reynolds, Jason Bateman, Alan Arkin).

6 August 2011: **Christina Carr**’s birthday.

7–11 August 2011: SIGGRAPH 2011: The 38<sup>th</sup> International Conference and Exhibition on Computer Graphics and Interactive Techniques. [Venue to be announced.] Conference: 7–11 August. Exhibition: 9–11 August. Online registration will be available at <http://www.siggraph.org/s2011/> in March. “The registration fees for SIGGRAPH 2011 have not yet been determined, but they will not be substantially different from the SIGGRAPH 2010 fees.”—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

12 August 2011: Premiere of film *Final Destination 5* (horror; David Koechner, Tony Todd, Courtney B. Vance).

19 August 2011: Premiere of films *Fright Night* (horror/comedy/unnecessary remake; Colin Farrell, David Tennant, Anton Yelchin) and *Conan the Barbarian* (fantasy/unnecessary remake; Stephen Lang, Rose McGowan, Ron Perlman).

20 August 2011: Vancouver Zombiewalk 2011, 4–7 PM at Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2H7.—Keith Lim

24 August 2011: **Karen New**'s birthday.

26 August 2011: Premiere of film *Don't Be Afraid of the Dark* (horror; Katie Holmes, Guy Pearce).

26–28 August 2011: Creation Entertainment's Salute to Supernatural at Sheraton Vancouver Wall Centre, 1088 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC. Special guests: Jensen Ackles & Jared Padalecki, Misha Collins.—Keith Lim

28 August 2011: Comix & Stories, 11 AM to 5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (Main & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue).

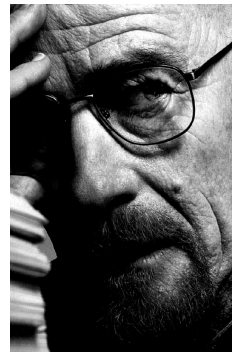
28 August 2011: Creative Geeks: Magnetic Bookmarks, 7 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings (at Boundary), Burnaby, BC, V5C 2H6. We read! We need bookmarks! Bianca has volunteered to show us how to make magnetic bookmarks. I've had one and they are the greatest bookmarks ever. I'll confirm the date and time with Bianca and John closer to the event, but chime in if you are interested in learning.—Keith Lim

## News-Like Matter

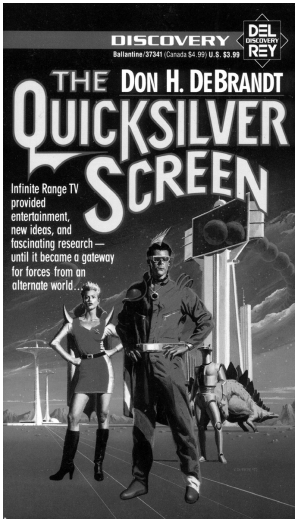
### Notes from June BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Ray Seredin (host), Graeme Cameron (president), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Barb Dryer (secretary), Felicity Walker (editor), Julian Castle, and Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand.

Graeme inherited the late Al Betz's electronic archives, including reel-to-reel audio recordings of every panel at VCONs 3 to 20, electronics (such as vacuum tubes—some still in their original boxes—and scientific instruments), the purple lab coat (the glass buttons of which need repair), a 1975 *Georgia Straight* with two pages of coverage of VCON (with a quote from Stan Hyde, and a mention of Bubbles Robson and her husband entering the masquerade wearing antlers and a real snake).



*Bryan Cranston does his impression of pre-retirement Graeme.*



“The Don H. DeBrandt  
*Quicksilver Screen*”?

I had just read *The Quicksilver Screen* by Don DeBrandt and noticed a mention of BCSFA Writers’ Workshop in the acknowledgements. Graeme said that this was Don’s first novel, and that it was based on his short story published in the BCSFA Writers’ Workshop’s zine, *Fictions Free-for-All*. The novel has a nice painted cover by Vincent Di Fate. Graeme remembered that Don was concerned the stegosaurus in the painting would be misleading, because in the novel, a stegosaurus only appears briefly on a TV screen.

Ray remembered when Don threw all-night parties. Ray would bus all the way down from Powell River.

Graeme talked about the mistake in the premise of the B-movie *Curse of the Faceless Man* (1958), in which a victim of Mount Vesuvius comes back to life. The creature looks like a crusted-over body. In fact, however, this image comes from the plaster statues created by filling the holes in the ash, after Pompeii was rediscovered. The actual bodies themselves had disintegrated over the centuries.

Graeme said that this movie was filmed in Hollywood, with Griffith Observatory standing in for an Italian scientific institute. The filmmakers had the characters drive tiny foreign cars to help give the impression of an Italian setting. Conversely, *Caltiki* (1959) was an Italian-made movie set in the USA, with big American cars!

Continuing the topic of settings, Graeme said that *The Astounding She-Monster* (1957) was filmed in one location—a cabin in the woods—but its selling point was the alien female. She was played by a stripper (a friend of the producer) wearing a glittery skin-tight lamé jumpsuit. Because the alien was radioactive, you couldn’t see her clearly; she instead gave the impression of the outline of a nude woman. This reminds me of the end of *Altered States* (1980).

Ray mentioned *Little House on the Prairie* again.

Graeme had one more bit of information about *The Lost Missile* (1958) [see “Notes from May BCSFA Meeting,” *BCSFazine* #457]. (To briefly recap, it was about a missile from space flying inside the atmosphere and melting everything in its path, including Ottawa.) The filmmakers did go to Ottawa to film street scenes—buses, people—and Graeme noticed French-Canadians arguing in French and smoking frantically.

Graeme told us about *Just Imagine* (1930), a science fiction musical comedy film. The stage version was apparently pretty clever, and on the strength of it, a film adaptation was made. It starred El Brendel, a vaudeville comedian best-known for his Swedish immigrant characters (“yumping yiminy”). He got the part because a studio executive owed him his life: he was struck by lightning while golfing and Brendel revived him.

The film is set in the far-off future of 1980, where the main character, a 1930s man, has just arrived. People have numbers for names. Food is in pill form. Marriages are assigned by the state and babies are made artificially, without sex (“Give me the good old days!” says the hero). There are flying cars, all with Jewish brand

names (“Somebody got his revenge on Ford!”). The sets and special effects were very good for the time, but Brendel’s execution of the comedy was not so sharp (at least compared to the theatrical cast). There’s a good musical number about flies making love, sung by the main character who is trying to explain the appeal of sex. Graeme’s DVD of the film is flawed—the last track won’t play. His previous copy was on VHS, taped off channel 12, and is poor quality—but then, so is the DVD.

Graeme has a lot of old black-and-white B-movies on VHS which he would like to give away to a good home now that he has better copies on DVD. Contact him if you have a VCR and are into classic B-movies.

The idea was put forth again [see “Notes from October BCSFA Meeting,” *BC-SFAzine #450*] of BCSFA having Bad Movie Night. I said that—as my preferred era is the mid-1970s to mid-1990s—it would be an important and necessary enhancement to the 1930s-to-1950s B-movies to have Graeme introduce them first and share his interesting lore about them.

For example: *The Creeping Terror* (1964). A spaceship crashes in California and out comes a giant alien monster, described by Graeme as “a scaly, furry Gumby.” It was puppeted by three or four men under a framework covered by a blanket with a long skirt to hide the men’s legs. There was a pseudopod at the front. It moved at a shuffling pace and its victims would helpfully freeze in terror so it could run them over and suck them into its maw, while they desperately tried to kick their way out. Victims included mini-skirted women and couples parked at lovers’ lane, where the only surviving witness is a lurking pervert, who smokes his pipe while the monster engulfs several cars, *then* says “Oh my god!” *and then keeps watching* for a while before calmly leaving. Near the climax, a group of soldiers displays terrible ignorance of tactics when they advance on the monster in one tight cluster, making it easy for it to devour them all at once.

Most of the actors were amateurs, local people who were excited to be involved in making a movie in their free time. The director shot some footage and then abandoned the project. Someone else took the existing footage and put the film together. The soundtrack was lost (and dubbing is hard), so it was covered with constant narration. Someone (Fruvous?) said it sounded like one of those scams where a “producer” shows up in a town, promises all the townfolk a part in the movie if they’ll invest, and then leaves with the money—except that in this case, the town got its movie.

Graeme said that in *The Alligator People* (1959), Lon Chaney shouts “I’ll kill you, alligator man!” (I didn’t take enough notes to explain this.) He also told us that in 1929, Fritz Lang and wife Thea von Harbou made *First Woman in the Moon* [What is it with all these movies saying “in the Moon?”], an SF movie set in the post-war Germany in which it was filmed. There was lots of time spent on the industrial intrigue and ruthless capitalism surrounding the moon-shot, because (in the story) there’s gold on the dark side of the moon.

My reaction to this was that I’m glad SF can be used to comment on the real world. Fruvous’s reaction was that the advantage of SF is that you can set the rules and no one can argue as long as you don’t say how it works. I’ve heard *Star Wars* criticized for not being hard SF, although later writers came along and tried (too hard, IMHO) to explain the science of it.

This reminded Graeme of a Gersback story that parodied SF's tendency to explain the future by having a character in the present day walk around the city explaining everything to the reader: cars!—escalators!

Someone said that a member of Monster Attack Team Canada once made a fake mermaid which he named "Jenny Hanover," then sold the story to *The National Enquirer*. Sadly, the *Enquirer* changed the details—for example, from the mermaid being found in his grandfather's sea chest to being found off the coast of Oregon. Also, for years, some people wouldn't believe him when he said it was fake.

We told stories about our cats. Ray's cat once got into the ceiling and hunted mice. Graeme's cat likes to sit in Graeme's lap and knead Graeme's legs with his paws, but Graeme has learned that when the cat gets a certain look in its eye, watch out—it's going to flip out and attack his hand.

Felicity Walker  
Sunday 19 June 2011

### **BCSFA Book Discussion Group Update (July)**

Dear Felicity:

Here's notice of next month's meeting for the *BCSFAzine*. Any questions, comments or concerns, please let me know.

Sincerely,  
Doug Finnerty

Next book discussion is Thursday July 21 @ 7 PM. It's happening at "The Grind" gallery and coffee house, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. This time we are discussing *Burning Chrome* (short story anthology) by William Gibson. The book for August is *The Birthday of the World* by Ursula K. LeGuin.

Doug Finnerty  
Sunday 22 May 2011

### **Bullshit!**

Announcing the creation of *Bullshit! The Speculatively Fictitious Fanzine*.

All and sundry are invited to take part in the inaugural issue of *Bullshit!* Fan writing of all types is welcome and encouraged, with the single requirement that the main thrust of the piece may not be true. It may be a bold-faced lie, a fabrication, a tall tale, a flight of fancy, an article of spurious logic, or a fib. Anything but the truth. The Editor, however, shall reserve the right to reject material of a slanderous nature.

Fan art, too, is welcome and encouraged, with the caveat that it may not be in the creator's own distinctive style. It may be of some material outside of the artist's milieu, an imitation of a well-known artist, or a parodic work. This should be taken as an invitation to explore new territory, free from the confines of reputation.

The Editor shall be known by the name of William Housel, and will receive submissions at the electronic address of [william.housel@gmail.com](mailto:william.housel@gmail.com). The deadline





for submissions to the initial issue of *Bullshit!* shall be Wednesday, the 14<sup>th</sup> of September, 2011.

William Housel  
Thursday 14 July 2011

## Open Letter: Dear Webcomic Creators

Michael Bertrand

Dear Webcomic Creators,

First off, I love webcomics. I've loved comic strips since I was a child reading my brother's *B.C.* and *Broom Hilda* books and enjoying *Garfield* back when that was possible.

So when the Internet came along and gave me comic strips for free, I could not believe my good luck. And ever since those early days of trolling the *Dilbert* archives at 2400 baud, I've had the webcomic habit big time.

And I've gotten a great deal of pleasure from webcomics over the years. They've repaid my loyalty many times over. Some come and go, others run out of steam, but as a whole, I love them as much today as when I first discovered them so long ago.

But over the years, I've noticed a certain very specific problem that some of them develop over time, and I'd like to describe it to you and see what you think. I'm also going to suggest a few possible solutions.

The problem is, in a nutshell, runaway plot complexity. A webcomic will begin with a relatively simple, straight-ahead plotline that is easy to devour and digest in the bite-sized chunks inherent to the medium, but then over time the creator(s) begin to stretch their wings and develop plotline(s) of increasing complexity until their comic becomes nearly incomprehensible to all but the most hardcore of fans who read absolutely no other webcomics and keep their own personal Wiki in order to keep things straight.

I can understand how this happens. When you start out, you're exploring the medium, learning the basics, still not entirely sure of yourself. So you keep things simple, concentrating more on building an audience and fleshing out your characters and seeing what works and what doesn't than in plotting out intricate story arcs that take dozens of comics to unfold.

But after a while, you master the basic business of making a webcomic and you start to think bigger. You're completely familiar with the characters and setting now, production is now a fairly uniform and predictable process, and you find yourself starting to think ahead to the future of your strip and all the cool things you want to do with it in the future.

And so, over time, you get plot creep. The story gets more and more intricate and complex, and stops being the sort of thing your readers can follow. You never planned to do that; it happened naturally over a very long period of time. But at some point, you start losing us.

Now I don't know about other fans, but I read around 20 webcomics on a regular basis and around a dozen more on a more "every now and then" schedule. Some

of these comics come out seven days a week, others five or three, still others two or one. On any given day, I might have a dozen strips to read.

That's my choice, of course. But it means that if I have to go back and forth in the archive in order to make sense of the latest strip, I'm a lot more likely to give up and stop reading that particular strip than invest all that effort every single time I try to read the thing.

Now, I can hear you saying something like "Well, then you're obviously too stupid for my webcomic" or something along those lines. And that's your choice to make. As with any artist, you have to decide whether you want the biggest audience or the "best" audience. It's not for me to say where you should be.

But if you noticed your readership dropping off and are wondering why, I suggest that plot complexity might just be a problem. Other webcomics retain easy readability while still developing multi-strip plots and overarching plot arcs. It's certainly possible. You just need to know how.

The basic problem is one of seeing the comic from the point of view of the reader. Sure, it's easy for you to see the intricate wheels of your masterful plot because it's all inside your head, all at once, as a single thing. But to us your potential readers, we're only getting it a slice at a time, with a time period of at least one day and sometimes an entire week (or more!) between the slices. The intricate continuity that is so magnificently clear to you as the creator is quite murky and disconnected to we the readers.



Luckily, there's a few basic solutions to this problem:

1. Write less complex plots. That's the simplest (though not necessarily the easiest) solution, but also the least attractive. It's cutting off the arm to cure the hangnail. Effective, but drastic.

2. Keep a short text describing the current plot available, no more than a tweet or so long, that gives people the ability to get the picture quickly. This also works, and requires relatively little effort on your part, but it's still a bit ungainly and inefficient.

3. Write with the episodic nature of your medium in mind. This is the hardest method because it requires a deep modification of storytelling technique and a great deal of consideration given to each strip, at least until it becomes second nature to you. But in the long term, it's the one your readers will enjoy the most and will make for smooth and effective storytelling that goes down easy and therefore draws the reader deep into your fascinating plotline without them even noticing and makes them a lifelong reader.

You do this by making sure each strip stands on its own. Ask yourself "If this was the first strip of someone else's webcomic I ever saw, would it make sense? Would it entice me to explore the archive and maybe add this comic to my RSS feed? Or would it baffle me before I even got a chance to like it, and present me with the choice of either digging deep into the archive of a webcomic I don't even know if I like yet or

just moving on to something more easily comprehended?” How do you think the average reader will choose?

Don't be afraid to spend a panel reminding the reader of the basics of what is going on. As the creator, you might feel that this is insulting people's intelligence, but if you do it right, it will seem natural to your regular readers and people reading through the archive will not mind.

Obviously, this only applies to the sort of webcomic where this might be a problem. If you're doing a typical three panel single gag strip of the type you get in newspapers, there's no need to worry about it. Chances are, your plots are simple enough to follow and what isn't obvious you can cover with just a short bit of "narration" text. Scott Adams, *Dilbert*'s creator, is a master of this. Most strips don't require a lot of explanation, but when they do, he gets it all done in a few words in the narrator's box, like "Dilbert Dreams He's in Space" or "Dogbert's Management for Idiots Course."

But if you're doing a webcomic that more resembles pages from a graphic novel, with a deep and intricate plot and a lot of different factors in play at once, consider spending a panel or two in each strip bringing us poor readers up to speed each time. When it comes time to turn it into a real graphic novel, you can always edit those panels out or replace them with something more befitting.

If you take the time to factor this in, your readers will love you for it and new readers will be able to get into your brilliant work with a minimum of fuss and effort, and are more likely to become fans and read you regularly. And needless to say, these are the very people mostly likely to buy your graphic novel when it comes out, and that's what you really want. That's where you might just make enough money to do this sort of thing for a living.

If you don't make allowances for this factor, then don't be surprised when some of your previously quite loyal readers abandon your strip in search of others than don't try to make them work so hard. (I'm looking at you, *Jack* and *Doctor Mc-Ninja!*)

I hope you'll take my suggestions into consideration. I'm offering them not as a criticism but as the heartfelt desires of a webcomic fan who really does want to love your comic.

I'm only asking you to meet me halfway. OK?

Michael Bertrand  
The Million Word Year  
Tuesday 27 April 2011

## **New Indian Act? Or New Canadians?**

Taral Wayne

I think that the model for the sort of autonomy sought by native Canadians has been in place since the beginning, and we have simply withheld it from them. Instead, we've insisted on some sort of special status for Indians—an Act for their governance that is different from how the rest of us govern ourselves. It really is time for that to end. Ironically, native autonomy is best achieved by becoming Canadians ex-

actly like the rest of us—by forming municipal or county governments of their own. Imagine if North York in Toronto or Burnaby in BC or Rosemont in Montreal were arbitrarily a responsibility of the Federal government, were funded entirely by grants and subject to a board of “elders” who were authorized by Ottawa but unelected? Would the citizens of that city put up with it? I should certainly hope not. Similarly, the legal framework already exists for almost every Indian band to create a municipality, township or regional level of government that is comparable to Brampton, or Peel County. Such levels of self-government have the important powers that the Indian Act has always held back from native Canadians—fully elected and accountable government is but one of them. Another is the power to raise tax revenues of their own, exactly as Toronto or Winnipeg does, as well as the power to use that money exactly as Toronto or Winnipeg does, without Ottawa’s consent. Native municipalities would fund their own courts and legal enforcement, within the same limits as does Calgary. They would enjoy the same federal support for health care and highways that all Canadian cities, towns and townships do. Like any Canadian municipality, they should expect the same limitations as well...As Regina cannot by itself decriminalize heroin, or abolish federal taxes on tobacco, neither will any native municipality.

The hidden agenda behind any plan to replace the current Indian Act with another, is that it will keep native Canadians separate...and therefore unequal. Do we segregate Polish or Chinese Canadians that way? Roman Catholic or black Canadians? Do we allow some Canadians to enforce Shariah law on their communities, or enforce kashrut? No. The essential legal framework, based on our values and the concept of democratic self-government, are what make us Canadians. As long as a person resides in Canada, they are part of and subject to our jurisdiction—and must be if we are to be a country. When we begin to allow groups to opt out of the system on ethnic, racial, economic, linguistic or cultural grounds, we will end up with a nation resembling a piece of Swiss cheese, where you may have your rights as a citizen here, but cross the street and you may suddenly become subject to foreign laws. Maybe you will be able to evade your taxes or legally buy handguns, but you also have no vote, might be barred from owning property, and might be under an obligation to regularly attend church or mosque. Such autonomous enclaves would be literally outside Canada and we should not stand by while they are created. Allowing Canada’s native population to segregated into something like South African-style “national homelands” is not the answer. Far from becoming free to be themselves, they will more likely become captive to institutions from which they have no right of appeal. If we allow native “national homelands,” then why not Islamic, Sikh, Chinese, Francophone, gay or green “national homelands”? Either we are one country, however diverse at our roots, or we turn into 100 countries, divided top to bottom.

Tara Wayne

Wednesday 13 July 2011



## Three Errata and an Enigma

Kathleen Moore

...as encountered in *BCSFAzine* #457 (June 2011).

#1—in my LOC:

My middle initial is not now, nor has it ever been, “R.”

#2—in the notes from the May meeting attributed to me—

To the best of my recollection, I did not refer to any old grudges as “90% gossip and the rest impossible.” However, I can think of several subjects that deserve the epithet, and am willing to raise such in a future meeting, just so I *can* use the phrase!

#3—in the notes from the May meeting attributed to me—

My exigesis on “the Ontario Quadrant” was that there is a *county*, not a *city*, named “Ontario” in California.

I leave it as an exercise for the student to determine which of the above errata was due to my bad handwriting, and which to Felicity’s typolice.

### The Enigma

Felicity usually hand-delivers my copy of *BCSFAzine* to my mailbox, and often enough I find the receipt for the latest *BCSFAzine*’s production costs tucked in the envelope. This makes sense as a way of submitting expenses to the Treasurer.

I was somewhat puzzled, however, by the receipt included with the June issue: a receipt from Imperial Hobbies for \$3.20 (plus tax) of “ZZZ-Comics.” Felicity, could you please explain how this is a *BCSFAzine* cost??

[*It must have found its way in there by accident! What are typolice?—Felicity*]

Kathleen Moore

Sunday 17 July 2011

## Upcoming Nifty Film Projects

R. Graeme Cameron

**The Reef:** is an Australian film about a small group of people trapped on a capsized boat drifting out to sea. The footage of nasty great white sharks is genuine and not CGI. Aussies know something about sharks, and the word is it shows. Sounds scary.

**Nightbeast:** is a seldom seen 1982 amateur film by Don Dohler now being released by Troma on DVD. It’s very, very bad, quite wooden, and rather mindless. In short, a must see film. The alien resembles RawHead Rex (from the film of the same name.)

**Dinocroc vs. Supergator:** is the third ScyFy channel film “presented” by Roger Corman. Unlike the previous two, this film features surprisingly good CGI, more variety in “gobble up the human” moments, something of an actual plot, and David Carradine!

**John Carter of Mars:** has a trailer offering quick glimpses of Martian flying machines and landscapes. They look nifty, but Carter & Dejah Thoris look sort of

so/so Sword & Sorcery. I have high hopes, but it can so easily be done wrong I'm worried.

**The Last Stand:** will feature Arnold Schwarzenegger as a reluctant Sheriff in a sleepy border town attempting to halt a convoy of desperate criminals racing toward Mexico at 200 MPH. Sounds loony enough to be considered fantasy. Could be fun.

**Night Stalker:** comes to the big screen with Johnny Depp playing Carl Kolchak, tabloid reporter, originally played by Darren McGavin back in the '70s, who confronts all manner of monsters up to no good. I'm really looking forward to this.

**Troll Hunter:** is a Norwegian film about a group of students out in the winter wild who discover something is preying on bears. All becomes clear when they meet up with an obsessed Troll Hunter. The Troll (Trolls?) is/are very big and very ugly. Can't wait!

**Attack the Block:** features a London street gang of Hoodies who take on some rather hungry aliens falling out of the sky in ever increasing numbers. Looks like a dark comedy, by the makers of *Shaun of the Dead*. Bound to be worth watching.

R. Graeme Cameron  
Monday 18 July 2011

## VCON Guest of Honour Change: Larry Niven

R. Graeme Cameron

*[I originally requested the following text from Graeme to supplement my incomplete notes from the July 2011 BCSFA meeting, at which Graeme talked about the change of VCON GOH. However, because of the importance of this news and the fact that I'm a month behind schedule, I thought I'd better include it in this month's issue.—Felicity]*

Gregory Benford, a longterm advisor to DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) has been asked to appear at their weekend long seminar the same weekend as VCON 36. He therefore has cancelled being our GoH.

When originally invited by VCON, he checked with DARPA to see if he'd be needed, and they said no, so he'd agreed to be our GoH. Evidently they changed their mind, and considering the importance of the event, essentially a huge think tank involving hundreds of scientists and several SF authors (including Robert J. Sawyer), all submitting ideas about the next 100 years (as I understand it) of military and geo-political evolution, it's no wonder he cancelled. Being invited to be part of the annual DARPA think tank is a signal honour indeed. Recognition of being a "Futurist" of the highest order.

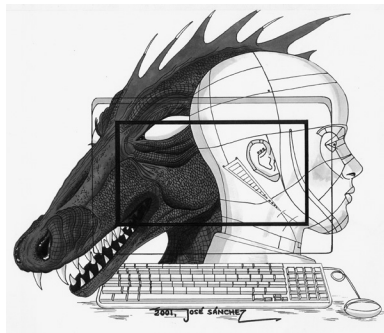
But before Benford notified us of his cancellation, he took care to arrange a substitute, namely his good friend (and co-writer of a new "Big Smart Object" two-volume novel they're working on) Larry Niven, who is an outstanding SF writer in his own right, to put it mildly. Once Niven agreed, only then did Benford contact us to let us know the bad/good news. Incredibly wonderful of him methinks. Not every author would go to so much trouble on our behalf. And equally wonderful that Niven would accept on such short notice.

Hopefully we will get Benford some time in the future. In the meantime it's quite a coup (arranged by Benford) to get Larry Niven, who last appeared as a GoH at VCON 5 in 1976. Welcome back, Larry Niven!

R. Graeme Cameron  
Monday 18 July 2011

## Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead..... Masthead; Page 1  
Brad Foster..... Cover  
Clip art (Stephen Colbert)..... Page 2  
Clip art (*Crap Hound* book provided by Julian Castle)..... Pages 4, 14  
Clip art (Harold LeDoux & Woody Wilson)..... Page 6  
Clip art (Vancouver Comicon)..... Page 8  
Font (RONALD at Studio Sans-1)..... Page 10  
Clip art (*TV Week*)..... Page 11  
Clip art (Vincent Di Fate)..... Page 12  
Clip art (Cary Bates/Curt Swan/Vince Colletta)..... Page 16  
Font (Alan Carr)..... Page 18  
Clip art (Imperial Hobbies)..... Page 19  
José Sanchez..... Page 21  
Felicity Walker (photo)..... Page 22



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