

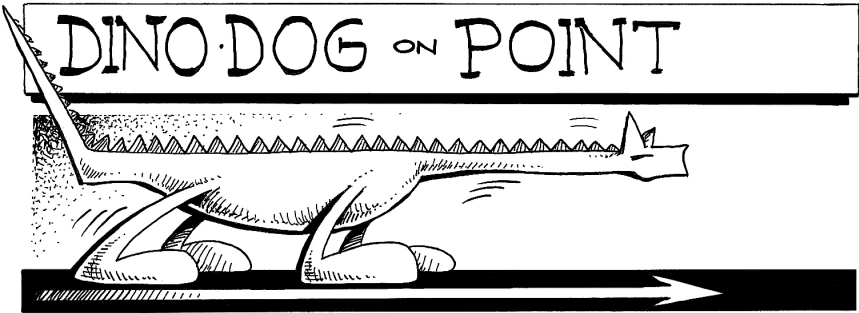
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#480

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May 2013



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In This Issue:

This and Next Month in BCSFA.....	0
About BCSFA.....	0
Errata.....	1
Letters of Comment.....	1
Calendar.....	6
News-Like Matter.....	15
Vancoufur 2013 Con Report: Part 2 (M. Bertrand).....	23
Zines Received.....	25
E-Zines Received.....	25
Art Credits.....	26

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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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Special thanks: Susan Kare; QXZ.

This and Next Month in BCSFA

Sunday 19 May @ 7 PM:	May BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 24 May:	Submission deadline for June <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 31 May :	June <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 16 June @ 7 PM:	June BCSFA meeting.
Friday 21 June:	Submission deadline for July <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 28 June:	July <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

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BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster Garth Spencer). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Errata

First, despite multiple proofreadings, I missed that the indicia for the last issue says “March 2013.” This would not normally be so bad, but last month I playfully changed the cover date to “April 1984.” My apologies to archivists, librarians, and future collectors who are trying figure out if I meant “April 2013” in the indicia.

Second, I listed the May meeting as being on “Friday 19 May 2013.” Of course, it is *Sunday* 19 May 2013. Third, I listed the June *BCSFazine* production as “Friday 31 April 2013,” which would be impressive if true (however, I meant Friday 31 *May* 2013).

Letters of Comment

[*Editor’s responses in brackets.*]

Brent Francis
b-francis@sympatico.ca

Tuesday 2 April 2013

Love it, love it, love it. The funniest one so far & really good to see all sorts of topics going in all sorts of directions.

One comment re—film mags becoming websites. In the summer of 2011, I subscribed to *Lunchmeat Magazine* out of Philadelphia (<http://www.lunchmeatvhs.com/>), dedicated to VHS-period trash, including a number of films I worked on.

I was promised four issues.

Then the website started.

So far, I’ve gotten one.

(Mind you, I got a Videovore Club membership card, button & sticker. Just no actual magazine...)

[*I checked out the website but found it cluttered and confusing. It looks like it speaks to some of my interests, though, so I should bookmark it and try again when I’m feeling better.*]

Lloyd Penney
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Tuesday 2 April 2013

Dear Felicity:

Two issues have arrived very quickly, so I will try my best to get caught up. Issue 478’s been here a little while, and I was about to get to it when 479 arrived. Here goes for both!

478...I still find that the public thinks that SF writers are trying to predict the future. If there are predictions made, they are made to set up the story line of their fiction, and nothing more. If something they predict actually comes true, well, that’s a bonus.

Hope you have the Hugo nominations...let me know if you don't, but it's available just about anywhere online. Not much Cancon if any, I can't tell...Gotta get with putting in my Aurora nominations! Every year, I become less knowledgeable about what's new in Canadian SF because I haven't bought any new books in years. I just can't keep up.

[I managed to get in my nominations in the nick of time. (See <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/> for nominees.)]

My unemployment...*The Globe and Mail* allowed me to take money in lieu of notice, so my last day there was actually March 13. Looks like EI will be my friend. I have many agencies looking for me, and several people at *The G&M* asked for my resume, so who knows?, there might be the opportunity to return.

Fruvous...I don't think Sun News will get their coveted slot on basic cable because they come awfully close to spewing hate. I do want to see what coming Conservative legislation will hamstring the CBC's ability to report on the news. The Cons don't seem to see that their policies are starting to infringe on rights guaranteed under the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, and if they do see this, they don't care.

We've wanted to go and see *Oz the Great and Powerful*, but both times, we've gotten ready, and something else has come up, or either of us isn't feeling well.

Happy birthday to Colin Upton...Rob Sawyer's nationwide tour went through Toronto, but we weren't able to get there...seems to be quite successful and popular. I hope everyone enjoys Rob Sawyer's appearance at the Central Branch of the VPL.

[I had to work that evening. I hope other local fans were able to go. Local author Joseph Picard, who did attend, suggested I use his blog entry on the event as a report. That should be in an upcoming BCSFAzine.]

Tara's article on Worldcon loot...I have one of those cocktail shakers, too. My only Hugo nomination came that year, and Hope Leibowitz got my shaker to me. I'm not a drinker of any sort, so it sits on my trophy shelf alongside my Auroras.

479...Oooo, looks like a nine-pin printer! Welcome to 1984 indeed. Flying saucers are real, but hubcaps are imaginary. Yes, by all means, give the cat a contributor's copy, but impress upon him that he will have to contribute to the next issue. These e-copies don't grow on trees, y'know...

[My current cat, Nero, is a lot more skittish than my previous cat, Butterscotch, who wrote a column for my short-lived webzine, Hero of the Beach. I don't think I could convince Nero to walk on the keyboard again. Maybe I could put my camera under his paws and get him to take a photo?]

Pirate cookies? Nothing to do with Cap'n Rackham and her scurvy crew, hm? Tell them about it, might be a good marketing campaign for the ren faire.

We do have a number of steampunk events in the Toronto area, but I wouldn't mind a kaffeeklatch at a coffee shoppe. We've got enough of them, but few have the seats we might need to reserve for such an event. Yvonne and I have staged a couple of high teas, and we are thinking about more this year.

Does anyone feel that BCSFA becoming a standing committee of WCSFA means it's not really a club any more? I understand where Ray Seredin is coming



from...I guess Asimov and Clarke and Heinlein would be saurian characters to many newer fans. I feel a little saurian myself in that I am finding less and less to appeal to my own interests these days, and I have little in common with newer interests and newer fans. I am trying, but I don't know if I am succeeding. I expect at some point, I won't recognize fandom at all. I agree with Graeme about fanzine fandom being unwelcoming. The only new faces sometimes are old faces from the '60s or '70s or '80s.

[Reprints are helpful in making an old book seem current to young readers. When I was between 10 and 12 years old, I read the 1980s Del Rey reprints of *I, Robot* and the *Foundation* series by Isaac Asimov, without realizing that they'd been written decades before. The typography and cover art were modern, and they were set in a high-tech future, so there was a limit to how "old" they could feel.]

Perhaps the greatest tribute to an actor is when you fail to connect some of the characters they play with the actor himself. Such it is for me with Richard Griffiths. I enjoyed his leading role as Henry Crabbe in the British police series *Pie in the Sky*, and of course, everyone liked hating Uncle Vernon Dursley in the *Harry Potter* movies, but I honestly didn't realize these great roles were played by the same actor.

All done, both issues. Sorry to fall behind, but this is what happens with my new employment status (I got really used to leaving to go to *The G&M* each evening), and the fact more than a dozen zines have arrived in my IN box via eFanzines.com or just plain attachments in e-mail. As always, I am busy. Take care, many thanks, see you in 480, I hope.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Kathleen Moore
manxkat@sphericalcows.net

Tuesday 2 April 2013

Thank-you for getting out a very timely issue of *BCSFazine*!

Feedback on the February meeting footnotes (published in the March issue), on the matter of rebutting Von Daniken's *Chariots of the Gods?*: I've never previously heard of Mr. Story's critical analysis. The rebuttal book on my shelves (as I think I mentioned at the meeting) is the exquisitely-titled paperback *Crash Go the Chariots*. It was written & published in 1972 by one Clifford Wilson (M.A., B.D., Ph.D.). By way of relevant credentials, Dr. Wilson was (and perhaps still is) an archeologist, Bible scholar, and Professor of Education at the University of South Carolina. His criticism of Herr Von Daniken's book comes out to 116 pages of "F-" thesis paper grading, plus bibliography, acknowledgement, and index. (The blurb-laden cover on *Crash Go the Chariots* is pretty much the publisher's fault, as is the matching lurid colour scheme.)

I think it was also Professor Wilson who wrote a follow-up volume, *The Chariots Still Crash*, which I recall reading with enjoyment but do not currently own. Apparently Herr Von Daniken's essay-writing quality, not to mention his grasp of scientific rigour, did not improve with further examination.

Kathleen

Hi Felicity,

CJ Cherryh has stirred up some hopes with the announcement that the movies are talking about doing her Morgaine books as a movie. You can get more details from *Wave Without a Shore*. If you have read the books and want to see Vanye and Morgaine on the big screen maybe you'll have a chance.

I always hoped she would write the backstory of when the gates on Earth were closed. That is something you might have to rely on your imagination for since CJ has a lot more projects with more pressing urgency.



Jane Fancher has fallen into another hobby. I know how this works so hope she'll do some writing in between playing with cute dolls.

Lee Camp, a favorite comic of mine, has a kick-starter up. He's been on RT with Abby Martin. She's a local from around here (Oakland, Cal.). If you want some totally non-PC comedy check out Amy Schumer. The way the world is these days a good hard laugh is a good thing for everybody.

I've been doing 15 years of catch up on the CSW wargamers site. One surprise is the amount of Canadians who have been and still are leading lights in the industry. I have bought quite a few games without realizing that was the case. It was a pleasant surprise. I usually look for the same person's work. The same thing goes for SF. If I find a good read I'll go out of my way to buy the same author again.

Notice that I am now outed as a reader. I was quite dismayed to hear you couldn't be a reader of SF if you were part of the fanzine elite bunch. Of course I am one of the inner circle of RAW who know about BS and have sent quite a few to Stang for adjustment of their humour module.

Steve Jackson has bought a Tesla S. with his ill-gotten gains from Munchkin, but I am still waiting for the super duper version of Ogre. I asked him to reprint it but had a more modest effort in mind. The good news is they are going to reprint the original in the same size again and sell it for the same price, USD 2.95. I have worn out many copies over the years so highly recommend it. The USD 100.00 version is just a giant version for the fanatical SF gamer.

I've been collecting internet material on Triplanetary, trying to get a handle on how it works. The defunct GDW who also did Imperium (boardgame) and Traveller RPG did this one but I never saw it when it was new and it's hard to find now. Winchell Chung seems to think Triplanetary has the one true method of 2D hexmap of interplanetary shipmoves. As usual this leads to all sorts of interesting diversions, Advanced Stellar Conquest rules changes, Chung's graphics for sale, Kerry Anderson's counter cutting services for various games. Microgame Design Co-Op may be getting resurrected also.

I have found out why there are so few SF games these days. The market shrunk so much that the publishers are only in touch with the hardcore Panzer pusher types, and most of them are indifferent or hostile to SF. This means any proposal for an SF game gets a minimal interest level. Designers who have to eat get pretty discouraged by this even if they have great SF designs ready to be published.

Steve Jackson has the rights to *Triplanetary*, but he's not going to publish it unless people let him know they are interested. He is an SF type, goes to conventions, and has never been an aloof type.

You can now get a copy of the *Principia* from Warehouse 23. If you don't know what this means you won't be able to see Steve's car because of the FNORD license plate either.

Warm regards,
Dave Haren

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Monday 11 March 2013

Heya howya, BCSFARinos! Glad to see that this august mag made it through the yearly chrono-synclastic infundibulum relatively unscathed. Hail Scarab!

My therapist has added Wellbutrin to my mental diet, so along with my trusty Paxil, I have been forging new paths towards mental wellness, and may even get within a parabolic cannon's shot of actual sanity.

I know...it scares me too.

Sad to imagine there is even such a thing as a "female John Norman." Not surprising, mind you. Just...sad. I like to think of women as having better taste than that. Perhaps that is old-fashioned and sexist of me.

For the record, I would be proud to get an Elron. Not only is it an award with a long and storied history of taste and discernment, at this point in my career as a writer, I would honestly welcome any kind of recognition.

And hey, negative attention is still attention!

But oh, Dave Haren, why did you have to remind me of that product of excess dietary fiber, the *I, Robot* movie. The moment I saw the first trailer for that I was filled with inchoate rage. To see its marvelous intellectual puzzles turned into an atrocious Will Smith action flick was like a stab in the heart.

[I, *Robot* was my first SF book too. My father gave it to me to introduce me to SF.]

I, Robot is the book that got me into science fiction. All other authors came after that. I only ended up getting into Bradbury because I had read all the Asimov that my elementary school library contained and there was Bradbury on the shelf below.

Thank goodness for alphabetical by author's last name! I saw something called "R is for Rockets" and I thought "That sounds neat!", and the rest is love and history.

Eventually, I watched the damned *I, Robot* movie purely for closure. My anger at it was getting out of control and I figured it was time to lance that boil and get it over with.

But it's still something I wish never happened, and I don't like thinking about it.

Well that's enough blither blather from me for one month. Seeya later BC-SFAns!

And like my pappy always said, "Come on son, put down that gun. You're scaring your mother!"

We Also Heard From: Taral Wayne.

Calendar

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

Already in Progress

16 February–9 June 2013: Co-Mix: A Retrospective of Comics, Graphics and Scraps. The first retrospective exhibition of Art Spiegelman (creator of *Maus*). Vancouver Art Gallery, 750 Hornby Street, Vancouver. Daily 10 AM–5 PM, and Tuesdays until 9 PM. Tuesdays 5–9 PM admission by donation. Regular adult \$17.50 (and other prices listed at website). Gallery info: 604-662-4719.—Julian Castle

February–4 May 2013: Call for art submissions for May LaForge Be With You. “The only real requirement: your work must directly reference *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, or be a mash-up of both.” E-mail a JPG of your piece (finished or in-progress) to info@hotartwetcity.com or drop off your art when the gallery is open (Wednesday–Saturday 12–5 PM) at 2206 Main Street, Vancouver. If you need to mail your work, e-mail first. Submission deadline: May 4 at 4 PM.”—Julian Castle

May 2013

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May and 5, 12, 19, and 26 June 2013 (Wednesdays): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meetup, 7:30–9:30 PM at the Grind & Gallery Coffee Bar, 4124 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Cloudscape Comics Society is a community of comic creators in Vancouver, BC who together publish and distribute quality graphic novel anthologies, as well as host comic workshops and other related events. Here enterprising comic artists come together to network, develop their ideas, and help each other perfect their craft. Everyone is welcome to the weekly evening meet-ups on Wednesdays, starting at 7:30 PM in the back room of the Grind and Gallery Coffee Bar.”—Keith Lim



1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May and 5, 12, 19, and 26 June 2013 (Wednesdays): Vancouver Hack Space Kaizen Night AKA Hack the Space, 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. [See *Vancouver Hack Space Open House* for description.]—Keith Lim

2 May 2013: **Martin Hunger**’s birthday.

2, 6, and 13 May and 13 and 27 June 2013 (alternate Thursdays): “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 Lowson](#) (on [Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group](#))

2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, and 30 May and 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, and 27 June 2013: [Vancouver Hack Space Open House](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. “Vancouver Hack Space provides a physical space where every creative type can gather to share ideas, equipment, and opinions. We aim to create a 24/7 brain gym where members can show up and work on personal projects, consult with friends, and learn new tricks. More than just a studio space with tools, we focus on sharing all sorts of knowledge within a friendly and collaborative atmosphere. At this point most of our members are hardware and software engineers, many of whom share an interest in microcontrollers, robotics, electronic music, and art. We welcome anyone with skills to share or an interest in learning. Come to our open nights and check it out!”—[Keith Lim](#)

2–3 May 2013: [Beauty Is Embarrassing](#), 8:30 PM (May 2) and 6:30 PM (May 3) at VanCity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver. Documentary about Wayne White, artist & puppeteer (*Pee-Wee’s Playhouse*, *Beakman’s World*, *The Weird Al Show*). Attendees must be at least 19 years old and be a member of the theatre. Basic membership \$12: includes 1 free ticket. Cinephile membership \$16: receive \$2 off adult tickets for regular screenings. Tickets: \$11 for an adult; \$9 for a cinephile member; \$9 for a senior (65+ ID required) or student (post sec ID required). Website: <http://www.beautyisembarrassing.com/>.—[Julian Castle](#)

3 May 2013: Space Day and World Press Freedom Day. Premiere of film *Iron Man 3* [superhero; Robert Downey Jr., Guy Pearce, Gwyneth Paltrow, Ben Kingsley, Don Cheadle, Jon Favreau, William Sadler, Stan Lee (rumoured)].

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May and 7, 14, 21, and 28 June 2013 (Fridays): [Fontana Friday—BC Browncoats](#), 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby.—[Keith Lim](#)

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May and 7, 14, 21, and 28 June 2013 (Fridays): [Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games](#), 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue (½ block west of MacDonald Street), Vancouver. “In our stores, it’s *open gaming* any time we’re open, so stop in with a friend and try a game! Both of our locations have 7–8 tables and plenty of seating. Space may be limited during tournaments—scheduled events take precedence over open gaming tables. We have about 100 open board games for playing in the store. Playing is *free* except for some tournaments.”—[Keith Lim](#)

3–5 May 2013: [Gaylaxicon 20](#) in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Annual sci-fi, fantasy & horror convention for LGBT people & friends.—[Julian Castle](#)

4 May 2013: Star Wars Day (“May the fourth be with you”).

4 May 2013: Free Comic Book Day, all day at your local comic shop. “Free Comic Book Day is a single day—the first Saturday in May each year—when participating comic book shops across North America and around the world give away comic books absolutely *free* (check with your local shop for their participation and rules) to anyone who comes into their stores.”—[Keith Lim](#)

4 May 2013: [Dave Con](#), 10 AM–5 PM at Dave’s Pop Culture, 4962 Bridge Street, Delta. “Sale and other fun. Come on down for 25% off everything in store. *Lots* of great deals on older stock stock and back issues!”—[Dave Strutt](#)

4 May 2013: [May the Fourth Be With You](#), 5 PM at [EXP Restaurant](#), 309 West Pender Street, Vancouver. Celebrating [Star Wars Day](#). Playable games, Episodes IV, V, & VI, music remixed and inspired by everything Star Wars: Episodes IV, V, VI, playable games and music (remixed & inspired by). [?] No end time given, but EXP apparently closes at midnight every day.—[Julian Castle](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 May and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 June 2013 (Saturdays): [Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming](#), 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—[Keith Lim](#)

5 May 2013: [V6A in V6Y + Rice Paper Magazine: Aboriginal & Asian Canadian Writers](#), 12–4 PM at Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. “As part of Asian Heritage Month we invite you to an afternoon with a double reading from *V6A: Writing in Vancouver’s Downtown Eastside* (Arsenal Pulp Press: 2012) + *Rice Paper Special Aboriginal and Asian Canadian Writers Issue Winter 2012*.”—[Bill Marles](#) to [Richmond Writers’ Network Facebook Group](#)



5, 12, 19, and 26 May and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June 2013 (Sundays): [Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays](#), 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy’s large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. ‘games that take eight players,’ ‘games that don’t involve math,’ ‘games about farming’) and I’ll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!”—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 May and 3, 10, 17, and 24 June 2013 (Mondays): [Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures](#), 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and sometimes even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even

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

6, 13, 20, and 27 May and 3, 10, 17, and 24 June 2013 (Mondays): [Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 45 West Hastings—Back Alley Entrance, Vancouver. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for description.*]—[Keith Lim](#)

7 May 2013: **Chad Bryant**’s birthday.

7, 14, 21, and 28 May and 4, 11, 18, and 25 June 2013 (Tuesdays): [Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming](#), 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for playing, or feel free to bring your own. Parking out front is a buck thirty-five an hour (free after 6 PM), or there is a parkade a block away (buck an hour), across Columbia and down by the river. We are located two blocks northeast of the New Westminster Skytrain Station, at Columbia and Begbie. There is a Waves coffee shop in the same building. Go uphill on Begbie to Clarkson, and the store is to the right. Tuesday is also the Buck a Slice special feature at Fresh Slice Pizza just down the street. Have a good day.—Kirby”—[Keith Lim](#)

8 and 22 May and 5 and 19 June 2013 (alternate Wednesdays): [Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!](#), 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-other-week, weeknight games to Wednesdays, so that I can actually attend! Also popular opinion (i.e. I asked a couple of people) seems to agree—Wednesdays are superior. Some come on down to Cuppa Joy, grab a pint and a samosa, and play some *board games!* *Wednesday Wednesday Wednesday!*”—[Keith Lim](#)

9 May 2013: **Ty Templeton**’s birthday.

9 May–1 June 2013: [May LaForge Be With You](#), Wednesday–Saturday 12–5 PM (opening reception 10 May, 7–11 PM) at Hot Art Wet City, 2206 Main Street, Vancouver. Group art show tribute to Star Wars & Star Trek.—[Julian Castle](#)

9 May and 13 June 2013: [Teen Manga Advisory Group](#), 4–5 PM at Youth Department, Level 2, Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. For teens aged 12–18. “Do you love manga? Come tell us what the library should have on our shelves and meet other manga enthusiasts.” For more info call Children’s Library 604-331-3663. Free.—[Julian Castle](#)

9 May and 13 June 2013 (second Thursday): [Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup](#), 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*] “Second Thursday of every month. This is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting and is shared with the general public at no charge. Please be advised that RASC Vancouver’s monthly lectures will be held at different locations throughout 2012.

The location of each meeting will be posted in advance, along with details of the speaker and topic. We meet at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month, with astro-coffee, cookies, and juice served after the presentation. Please join us for interesting and informative lectures on all aspects of astronomy and space-science, along with stimulating conversations!”—[Keith Lim](#)

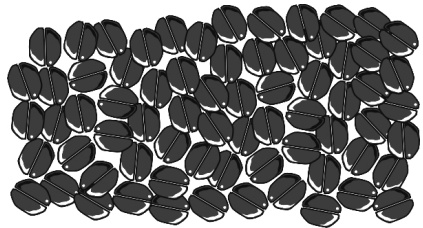
9 May and 13 June 2013 (second Thursday): [Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting](#), 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Meetings held second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM from September to June (July & August have no meetings—summer break).”—[Keith Lim](#)

11 May 2013: Twilight Zone Day.

11 May 2013: [[Meaty Fontana](#)] Live at Tugboat Annie’s Pub, 7:30–11:30 PM at Tugboat Annie’s Pub, 6911 Graybar Road, Richmond. “Meaty Fontana and Chick Machine with special guest, Jomama, are playing at Tugboat Annie’s Pub on May 11th at 7:30. There will be two bands playing before us in the afternoon, so come on down for a pint and a tune! Cheers!”—[Greg Cairns](#)

13 May 2013: [Monster Hunter 3 Ultimate](#) Hunter’s Lodge Meetup, 6 PM at [EXP Restaurant](#), 309 West Pender Street, Vancouver. For gaming or just talking strategy. “Show up with your 3DS and copy of *Monster Hunter 3 Ultimate*...” “Try to get your Hunter Rank to at least 3 or higher before the event, but don’t worry if you’re behind.”—[Julian Castle](#)

14 May and 11 June 2013 (second Tuesday): [Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch](#), 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steampunks. Whether you’re new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods.”—[Keith Lim](#)



17 May 2013: Premiere of film *Star Trek into Darkness* (action/SF/unnecessary re-imagining; Benedict Cumberbatch, Anton Yelchin, Zoe Saldana, Simon Pegg, John Cho, Bruce Greenwood, Peter Weller, Heather Langenkamp, Christopher Doohan, Beau Billingslea).

17 May and 21 June 2013 (third Friday): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “Club meetings are held on the third Friday of every month (with very few exceptions such as if the third Friday falls on Good Friday or is too close to Christmas—check schedule). Doors open at 7 PM. Meetings officially run from 7:30–9:30 PM.”—Keith Lim

18 May 2013: Steampunk: A Journey in Time, 12–4 PM at Trethewey House, 2313 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Trot out your best clockwork couture, warm up your steam engines...and journey...back to a time that never was.” With a bartitsu (martial-art) demo from Academie Duello, croquet, bodypainting artist Magna Goerke of catzfaces.com, Venetian-style mask-maker & textile artist Ann Grundy, jewelry-makers, Whovianart, and others.—Julian Castle

18 May 2013: **Jade Honeywill**’s birthday.

18 May and 15 June 2013 (third Saturday): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8–9 PM at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2404 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Vancouver Comic Jam is generally held the third Saturday of the month. In cases of long weekends or other conflicting dates, the jam may move to the second or third Saturday. For up to date information, join the VCJ Facebook group or follow us on Twitter. *Who can come?*: Anyone who is of legal drinking age is invited. *How much?*: No admission fee. There is a \$5 minimum purchase per person required by the Wallflower. They provide their full menu to order from and alcohol galore: beer, wine, highballs and shots. *There will be a gratuity of 18–20% added to all bills because we are a large group*. Bring your own pencils/pens. Paper is provided. If you’re drawing with markers that bleed through paper, be sure to either bring a drawing surface or place extra sheets of paper under the paper you’re drawing on.”—Keith Lim

19 May 2013: **Michael Bertrand**’s birthday.

19 May and 16 June 2013 (third Sunday): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Every third Sunday of the month a swap meet will be held where gamers can sell or trade any board games they would like to get rid of. RSVP for the event and you can list what you are looking to sell, or what you would like in trade. Use the message board to propose trades or list items for sale. Board Game Warriors can be a neutral site for meeting and doing transactions during store hours.”—Keith Lim

19 May 2013: 2nd 3rd Annual World Rapture Day, 6–9 PM on Earth. “After the successful Rapture 2011, why not make this an annual event! Get planning on your Rapture Party for next year now! Building on the successful 2011 meme, next year’s theme will be the Raptocalypse. I am hereby predicting, that starting at 6 PM, May 19, 2012 (in your local timezone) a wave of zombie velociraptors will rise out of their hibernation in their underground graves and will carry away to heaven all those who are faithful to the Flying Spaghetti Monster. They will be the awesome ‘raptors

from *Jurassic Park*, not the weakarse ones from real life. ‘But the Rapture was on the 21st, annual events should be on the day!’; I hear you say. The FSM is benevolent and wise and knows that his children want their Rapture parties to happen on a Saturday, so the annual Rapture will take place on the closest Saturday to the 21st of May. Spread the word! Tell your friends! *The end is nigh!* (ish) PS: Pirate Ninjas. OK, so I was wrong. I forgot to carry a 1. Honestly! This is happening next year! Hamster pants.”—[Anth Ology](#)

20 May 2013: **Julian Castle**’s birthday.

22–26 May and 28 May–2 June: [Mump & Smoot in *Something*](#) (a theatre play), 8 PM at The Cultch, 1895 Venables Street, Vancouver. Post-show Q&A session with the artists on May 23 & 28. “Mump and Smoot are a Canadian clown duo” and “also referred to as clowns of horror, inhabit a parallel universe called Ummo, worship a god named Ummo, and speak their own brand of gibberish, Ummonian.” Three ways to get tickets: online, in person (1895 Venables) or by phone 604-251-1363. Box office: Monday–Friday 12–6 PM; Saturday 12–4 PM; closed on Sundays. Also open one hour prior to every performance. Ticket price varies depending on day and seat location: Sunday, Tuesday, Wednesday (May 22, 26, 28–29 & June 2): \$43.81, \$28.57, \$16.19; Thursday–Saturday (May 23–25 & May 30–June 1): \$53.33, \$38.10, \$15.18. Youth (“19 & under”) with photo ID can buy [rush tickets](#) for \$5, but only two youth rush tickets reserved per performance and are available one hour before showtime. Box office employee suggested people 12 years or younger might not enjoy the show.—[Julian Castle](#)

24 May 2013: Premiere of film *Epic* (computer animation; Jason Sudeikis, Steven Tyler, Beyoncé Knowles, Judah Friedlander, Colin Farrell, Aziz Ansari, Christoph Waltz).

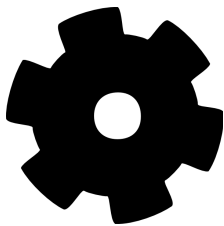
24 May and 21 June¹ 2013: [Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic](#), 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. Open gaming; seven to eight tables. “For Friday Night Magic we will be running a limited Draft FNM. Cost is three booster packs plus \$2, starting at 6:30 PM. Also feel free to come by for some casual Magic: The Gathering from 6–9 PM. Feel free to use the house decks if you just want to try out the game. Don’t forget to check out [our Facebook page](#).”—[Keith Lim](#)

25–26 May 2013: [Vancouver Comic Arts Festival](#), 10 AM Saturday–6 PM Sunday at 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver. A “weekend-long celebration of comics...admission to all events is completely free.”—[Julian Castle](#)

25 May and 29 June 2013 (last Saturday): [Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming](#), 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come by anytime on Saturday from noon until midnight and play any of the many open games there are here at the store. The event is perfect for any of those more epic games we have at the store that you’ve been wanting to try or for any you might own but can rarely find the time/space/players to accommodate. Be-

1 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

sides a couple of local coffee joints, there are a bevy of nearby eating establishments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critty”—[Keith Lim](#)



31 May–2 June 2013: [Victoria Steam Exposition IV](#), Victoria. A “celebration of steampunk art & culture.” 8 PM Friday night reception at [Bard & Banker](#), 1022 Government Street. Saturday & Sunday at [Victoria Event Centre](#), 1415 Broad Street. Featured guests: author & artist Kaja Foglio (*Girl Genius*), raconteur Chris Adams, artist Randie Feil, author Jordan Stratford, *Vintage Tomorrows* authors James Carrot & Brian David Johnson, bartitsu instructor David McCormick, steampunk burlesque diva Lola Frost, musicians Bucan Bucan, and others. Weekend passes only for Saturday & Sunday. Tickets: \$8 Friday reception; \$30 adult weekend pass; \$20 youth weekend pass; \$10 Saturday or Sunday only. Suggested hotel: [The Carlton Plaza Hotel](#), 642 Johnson Street, but Steam Expo room rate only for those who booked before April 30. Hotel: 800-663-7241 or 250-388-5513.”—[Julian Castle](#)

June 2013

2 June 2013: **Lloyd Penney**’s birthday.

3 June 2013: **Karl Johanson**’s birthday.

4 June 2013: **Andrew Brechin**’s birthday.

5 June 2013: **Alyssa Foote**’s birthday.

7 June 2013: Premiere of film *After Earth* (SF/action; Will Smith, Glenn Morshower).

8 June 2013: **Ian Boothby**’s birthday.

8–9 June 2013: [Vancouver Retro Gaming Expo](#) at the Columbia, 530 Columbia Street, New Westminster. Pre-reg (1) from VRGE website or (2) in person from [Gamedeals Video Games](#) 407 Columbia Street, New Westminster. Weekend pass: \$30 (pre-reg only). One-day pass \$20. Group rates on weekend passes for 10+ people (email for info).—[Julian Castle](#)

11 June 2013: **Ray Seredin**’s birthday.

14 June 2013: Premiere of films *Man of Steel* (superhero/adaptation; Russell Crowe, Henry Cavill, Christopher Meloni, Kevin Costner, Laurence Fishburne) and *This Is the End* (apocalypse/comedy; James Franco, Emma Watson, Paul Rudd, Seth Rogen, Jonah Hill, Jason Segel, Jay Baruchel, Michael Cera, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, Rihanna, Aziz Ansari, Craig Robinson).

15 June 2013: **Jay Demetrick**’s birthday.

21 June 2013: Premiere of films *Monsters University* (computer animation; Steve Buscemi, John Goodman, Helen Mirren, Billy Crystal, Charlie Day, Alfred Molina, Dave Foley, Frank Oz, Sean Hayes, Julia Sweeney) and *World War Z* (zombies; Brad Pitt, Matthew Fox, David Morse).

21 June 2013: Worldwide Party #20, 9 PM (21h00) at your location. Raise a glass and toast your fellow zinesters in the Papernet.—Dale Speirs

23 June 2013: **Amos Iu**'s birthday.

25 June 2013: **Ed Beauregard**'s birthday.

25 June 2013: The 3rd Annual Vogon Poetry Slam & Vog-Off, 1 PM at Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, Alice McKay Room, Vancouver. “Oh yes, hoopy froods, it...is...*on!* VPL's horribly hilarious Vogon Poetry Slam is back and we are looking for the absolutely worst poems in the universe to be presented at VPL's third annual Vog-Off on Saturday, May 25, 2013. Does your poetry sound like the wheezing grunt of a gastro-intestinally challenged Pekinese? Does your poetic prose cause unnatural queasiness or spontaneous vomiting? If so, the Library wants you! This year, we are celebrating Towel Day, a worldwide celebration of science fiction author Douglas Adams, where fans around the universe proudly carry a towel and/or wear a bathrobe in his honour. Prizes galore! Costumes welcome! BYOT (Bring Your Own Towel). The event is absolutely *free!* All are welcome! How to enter: Prove that you are the best of the worst Vogon poets in Vancouver and you will win many saporous Canadian Earth Dollars! If selected, you will present your work in the most outlandishly horrible fashion possible to gain the favour of five randomly selected judges. First prize—\$100. Second prize—\$75. Third prize—\$42. To enter, email two of your worst Vogon poems to l2programs@vpl.ca by Monday, May 13. For contest rules and more information about Vogon poetry, please see [[link above](#)]. Finalists will be notified by Friday, May 17, and will perform their entries at the Library's Annual Vogon Poetry Slam & Vog-Off. Towels, costumes, props and generally dramatic readings are encouraged. For more information, please call 604-331-3691.”—[Sheila Maier](#) via [Fran Skene](#) to [BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group](#)

25–30 June 2013: The Addams Family Musical. The USA tour's event that is closest to BC is in Oregon (at [Keller Auditorium](#), 222 SW Clay, Portland, Oregon). Musical was in Toronto in November 2011, so maybe they will be in Canada again. Tour isn't with original Broadway cast (including Nathan Lane), but original Broadway cast recording was released in 2010. Their online store is selling *The Addams Family: An Evilitation* book and Addams Family musical souvenirs such as umbrellas, bibs, clothing, etc. [Tour website](#).—[Julian Castle](#)

26 June 2013: **Todd Bussey**'s birthday.

28 June 2013: **Toren Atkinson**'s birthday. Premiere of film *Byzantium* (vampires; Jonny Lee Miller).

28–30 June 2013: Anime Evolution at UBC (University of British Columbia) in Vancouver. Event “for anime, manga, gaming, and every kind of related fandom.” Guests: Team Fourstar (*Dragon Ball Z: Abridged*), Dante Basco, etc. Three-day passes: \$40 ’til 31 May, \$50 at the door. One-day passes at door: Friday \$30, Saturday \$30, Sunday \$20. Gold passes: \$150 online before 31 May. Pre-reg: (1) online, (2) in person at an AE general meeting or (3) send registration form to Vancouver Anime Convention Society, 410–2105 West 42nd Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6M 2B7. Minors (17 or younger) required to have the parental/guardian consent section of registration form complete. Anyone 12 or younger must be accompanied by an adult. Children six or younger are free.—Julian Castle

29 June 2013: **Leonard Wong**’s birthday.

News-Like Matter

Nick Pollotta (1954–2013)

Just an FYI if you’re interested—

From the *Locus* website—

“Writer Nick Pollotta, 58, died on April 13, 2013 in Chicago of cancer. Born in New Jersey in August 26, 1954, Pollotta was a prolific author of science fiction, fantasy, and action/adventure novels, including *Illegal Aliens* (1989, with Phil Foglio), *Savage* (2013, with Bill Dunbar), *Belle, Book and Candle* (2012), *Damned Nation* (2010), *That Darn Squid God* (2004, with James Clay), as well as many others, including a large number written under the pen names James Axler, Jack Hopkins, and Don Pendleton.”

The Don Pendleton books were for the *Mack Bolan Executioner* series (remember them?). He wrote 17 of them—and 32 as James Axler for the post-nuke *Deathlands* series!

Truly—a hero of the pulps!



Brent Francis

Tuesday 16 April 2013

Surrey International Writers’ Conference 2013 News

From conference coordinator Kathy:

“Hello!

“Time to sharpen your pencils, fill your fountain pens, and fire up your computers. Our writing contest is now open to entries!

“With four categories—storytellers, writing for young people, poetry, and non-fiction—there’s something for everyone. Each category offers a \$1000 top prize, a \$150 honourable mention, and publication in our annual anthology for winners. You can check out all the details on our website at <http://www.siw.ca/>. Whether you’re a contest regular or have never taken the leap, make this your year!

“Plans for SIWC 2013 are well underway. This year’s conference runs October 25–27 with master classes on the 24th. In the coming weeks, we’ll be adding conference details to our brand new website (yes, you read that right. So exciting for us to have a new site!), so check back often.

“If you’re planning to stay at the conference hotel, you can now book using our SIWC group rate. Rooms include in-room internet, usually an additional charge. As in past years, the conference will be held at the Sheraton Guildford Hotel in Surrey, BC. Book early. Our group rooms sell out every year.

“Over the coming months, we’ll send out a handful of these newsletters to keep you in the loop. There are lots of other ways to stay in the know, too. You can also keep up on all the developments on our website at <http://www.siwc.ca/>, follow us on Twitter [@siwctweets](#) (we’re using [#SIWC13](#) for this year’s conference tweets and [#thisdaywewrite](#) for our ongoing writing community), read our blog, and check us out on [Facebook](#). And, as always, if you have questions you can’t find the answers to, I’m available at kathychung@siwc.ca.

“Happy writing!

“Kathy Chung

“SIWC Conference Coordinator

“The Surrey International Writers’ Conference, held every October in British Columbia, is the most comprehensive conference of its kind in Canada. SIWC offers writers in all genres—from beginners to experts—the opportunity both to hone their craft and to expose their work to the international literary marketplace. For more information please visit <http://www.siwc.ca/>.”

Bill Marles

to Richmond Writers’ Network Facebook Group

Tuesday 16 April 2013

As Others See Us? VIII²

“You meet all kinds at a Fan Expo, where science fiction, fantasy, horror and comic fans get up close to their favourite stars from TV and movies. Just ask actor Tia Carrere. [...] ‘I’ve had a number of young ladies come up to me and say, “I became an archaeologist because of *Relic Hunter*,”’ Carrere said. ‘That kind of thing is really cool. I met a few geologists, too, that made me feel really good. They watched the show as girls and now they’re grown-ups and working in the field.’ Carrere’s male fans, on the other hand, are the *Wayne’s World* crew, still rocking the metal-fan look 21 years after the première of the first *Wayne’s World* movie. Carrere says fan conventions can be intense. ‘The weirdest thing that ever happened to me [at a convention] was, a guy came and he was like, “Would you sign my arm for me?” I signed his arm, and he came back the next day with it tattooed on his arm.’”—Glen Schaefer, “[Fan Conventions Can Get Intense, Says *Relic Hunter*’s Tia Carrere Ahead of Fan Expo Vancouver](#),” *The Province*

Felicity Walker

Thursday 18 April 2013

2 (I accidentally used “VI” twice.)

Nikkei Doll Fundraiser Includes Nerd-Interest Dolls

Nikkei National Museum is holding a fundraiser.

Making this post because I think some of the items being auctioned are of nerd-interest.

The Kokeshi Project

“The Nikkei National Museum’s fifth annual BLOOM art auction fundraiser. Bid on 100 artist designed custom kokeshi—traditional wooden dolls first developed in...Japan in the 1700s.”

(1) Astro Boy [by] David Nguyen. “Based on Osamu Tezuka’s Astro Boy.”

(2) Black Jack [by] Toni Zhang. “Based on Osamu Tezuka’s Black Jack.”

(3) Ninja: Sasha the Kokeshi Ninjette [by] Craig Galentine/ Temple7e.

(4) Cats: Bouken Neko [by] Clem Chen. “Anime-style cat in a diving helmet with air tanks and a utility belt.” Hello Anarkitty [by] Gayle Koyanagi. “White kitten with balaclava.”

(5) Dog: VshusD [by] Gayle Koyanagi. “Black vicious dog with red mohawk.”



Julian Castle
to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Friday 19 April 2013

Engage in Science T-Shirt: Bill Nye, Carl Sagan & Neil deGrasse Tyson

Saw a cafe employee wearing “Engage in Science” tshirt, which caught my eye because it included Bill Nye (and the font was *Star Trek*-ish).

Seems to be out-of-print from official sources: TeeFury, RedBubble.

(ahem)

In completely unrelated news:

From Bang-On FAQ:

“If I sent you my own design, could you put it on a shirt?”

“Custom designs or photo transfers are only available through our retail locations. All you need to do is take a physical copy of the image *exactly* how you want it to look on the tee and the store can put it on a shirt in no time! The image can be no larger than 8½×11 inches. Please refer to our store locations to see which stores offer the photo transfer service.”

Bang-On stores in BC with photo-trans service:

- (1) Bang-On Vancouver/Robson,
- (2) Cherry Bomb Vancouver/Granville,
- (3) Bang-On Burnaby/Metrotown,
- (4) Bang-On Kelowna.

[*If you have an image you want turned into a T-shirt, you can also send it to Mi-chael “Fruvous” Bertrand and he can use his Cafe Press store, MoxyTs.—Felicity]*

Julian Castle
to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Saturday 20 April 2013

Notes from April 2013 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (president), Ray Seredin (host), Garth Spencer (webmaster), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, William Graham, and Stewart Smyth.

Part of the purpose of this meeting was to vote on two issues. We discussed each issue before voting. The discussion and results are below.

First motion: that we transfer ownership of the VCON trademark to WCSFA. William asked why it didn’t already belong to WCSFA. Graeme replied that originally BCSFAn Mike Bailey took out the trademark as Chair of VCON but in his own name. When Mike stepped down he transferred the trademark to BCSFA. Later, when WCSFA was formed, BCSFA was so closely involved, with so many people belonging to both organizations, that there was no perceived need to transfer the trademark to WCSFA. Now that BCSFA and WCSFA have grown apart, with largely separate memberships, and given that WCSFA is the sole governing body of VCON, both the VCON Convention Committee and the WCSFA Board of Directors feel it makes more sense if WCSFA itself becomes the sole owner of the VCON trademark.

Graeme moved that we transfer the VCON trademark to WCSFA. Fruvous seconded. All voted yes [including four members, Kathleen Moore (Treasurer), Barb Dryer (Secretary), Joe Devoy, and Julian Castle, who were absent, but had relayed their votes by proxy].

Second motion: that we merge with WCSFA and become their standing social subcommittee (to simplify explanations to outsiders about why we use the name “WCSFA,” such as on our bank account; to offer fans in WCSFA membership in BCSFA; and, as a non-profit, to be allowed free meeting space in places like libraries). I asked how this would affect our authority to decide how to spend the money in our bank account, thinking in particular of whether it was likely that we would be told to stop publishing *BCSFazine*. Graeme replied that the bank account would still belong to the subcommittee and that we would be free to continue publishing *BCSFazine*. If there are problems in the future, we can always change our minds and go back to being independent of WCSFA.

Graeme moved that we merge with WCSFA. William seconded. All voted yes.

This prompted a third motion: that we change the titles “President” and “Vice President” to “Chair” and “Vice Chair” to avoid confusion with the presidency of WCSFA. Moved by Graeme. Seconded by Fruvous. All voted yes.

The executive members signed a document for the trademark transfer.

[*The rest of this article is our usual casual discussion.*]



Garth thought that BCSFA should act as a dating service after realizing that that was what gave 1980s Edmonton fandom its energy. They had two meetings a month and lots of fannish projects.

Garth’s wallet went missing. He thought it might have been a pickpocket. Stewart said Garth should rent *Harry in Your Pocket* (1973) starring Walter Pidgeon.

Graeme had read a travel guide about (modern) Rome that said that the #57 bus route was the best place to watch pickpockets. Ray said that BC Transit almost had a #57 bus route but changed it to #54 to avoid the similarity to Rome's.

This reminded Stewart of the time he had to explain to a Finnish friend why there was no 13th floor in our buildings. Someone asked which number it was that was the equivalent in Chinese culture, and I said four. Stewart said that that was because our Arabic numeral "4" looks like the Chinese character for "death." I countered that I had heard it was because the Chinese word for "four"—*shi*—sounds like the word for death. William agreed.

Someone said that *Starlog* magazine had a bad habit of not checking articles before printing them. He said something about a writer slipping a joke past the editor about "Jig O'Watt, the Irish gremlin."

This reminded me of the Sokal affair, a low point in relations between the Two Cultures in which a physics professor wrote a nonsense article and got a postmodern academic journal to publish it. Someone said that Alan Sokal had used the Postmodernism Generator, which Garth applauded.

Stewart said that Vancouver history includes a Passover Seder where Jack Benny met his wife Mary Livingston. Mel Blanc and four of the Marx brothers were also there. Stewart wished that Jack Benny had been the oldest and that Harpo had been the youngest so that Harpo would have to ask the questions and Jack would have to answer them, with Groucho translating with sound effects. "Seders That Might Have Been" would be a good theme for an anthology.

Fruvous said that the answer to the four questions is essentially "We make ourselves miserable one night a year so we appreciate how much better off we are now." I sometimes do something similar in that I drive past my old apartments or workplaces and feel good knowing that I'm not there anymore.

I added that I was surprised to see kosher marshmallows at Safeway. I was not aware that regular marshmallows weren't kosher. I looked it up when I got home and found out that regular marshmallows may be made with pork gelatin. Stewart replied that there's also kosher Coca-Cola, which is made with cane sugar and not high-fructose corn syrup (grain sugar), and that Mexican Coke is kosher because it's made with cane sugar. Graeme added that he believes the original Coke formula used cane sugar, and the modern "Classic Coke" which uses corn syrup is not at all "classic."

Graeme had heard about self-driving cars and wondered how far we were from self-crashing cars. Fruvous replied that the state of Nevada granted Google's self-driving car a driver's license. Someone said something. Fruvous replied that aspects of self-driving cars have been accumulating slowly this whole time—automatic transmission, cruise control, automatic braking, automatic parallel parking—and now it's all coming together. Graeme worried that partially self-driving cars would lull drivers into completely not paying attention to the road, because the car seems like it's driving itself.

Stewart had been thinking of going to FanExpo to meet Stan Lee, but remembered Graeme's experience at the previous one—it was so crowded that no-one could move unless everyone moved. Graeme and Stewart remembered which actors were nice at previous media conventions (Adam West, Lou Ferrigno, and Bruce Campbell, who stayed until everyone had gotten an autograph)—and which ones

were rude (Burt Ward, who talked on the cell phone and ignored the fans much of the time, which meant that his line of autograph seekers seldom moved).

Graeme saw *Dragon Seed* (1944), a World War II movie made in support of the Chinese. The people of a small Chinese village wonder if they should plant crops or wait to see if the Japanese invade. They can see smoke coming over the horizon from where the Japanese have taken a distant city. Katharine Hepburn and Walter Huston star as Chinese villagers! Huston's character's wife obediently walks behind her husband, taking small, dainty steps. In a scene where he's so angry that he isn't watching where he's stomping and wanders up the wrong path, she doesn't try to stop him (because that wouldn't be traditional); she just patiently waits at the fork in the path until he retraces his steps and marches up the correct path as if nothing had happened.



Katharine Hepburn playing a Chinese woman reminded me that I still have yet to see William Shatner's attempt at portraying a Burmese sailor in *Naked City* (1962). Graeme mentioned John Wayne as Genghis Khan in *The Conqueror* (1956). Graeme (I think) said that Wayne realized while reading the script that it was not that different from a Western, and decided to play Khan like a gunfighter. This reminded me that, surprisingly, Steven Seagal, who was also cast as Genghis Khan at one point, is actually part-Asian (he has a Mongolian grandfather). Also, I only just found out that John Wayne's son, Patrick Wayne, is also an actor. He was in the final episode of *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* (1989), "South by Southeast."

Graeme told us about an American scientific organization that was plagued by crackpots wanting their theories read. The organization's policy was to refuse, until a scientist they thought was a crackpot turned out to have really discovered a new crystal. They learned from that and since then, they've had a yearly conference where anyone can present his theory. The audience may only be other people waiting to speak (and holding their papers close to their chests), but it's nice to give them some acknowledgement, and you never know if one of them might be right.

We talked about the image that scientists put forth and compared Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein, and the Wright brothers. Graeme said that, contrary to popular belief, the Wright brothers weren't just two ordinary guys who ran a bicycle shop and got the airplane by tinkering—but they acted like they were because it made them more relatable to the public. In fact, however, they were also very good at math and had read all the material on aerodynamics, studied all the formulae, and even built wind tunnels.

Fruvous remarked that science, starting with relativity and peaking with quantum physics, gets further and further out of the reach of the layman. Graeme added that the analogies scientists have to use to explain it to us get more simple and abstract and harder to relate back to the actual science. He gave the example of the explanation of gravity that describes space as being like a rubber sheet, with the Earth as a ball weighing it down and making it curve. On hearing that, it's hard not to picture the universe being flat.



Illustration
from Our
Friend, Mister
Temperature,
by Stephen
Hawking.

Something about atheism.

Someone interrupted me very harshly and I left the discussion for a while. When I tuned back in, someone (Fruvous?) was saying that with the Internet, one has no excuse to be ignorant. Stewart held up a cell phone and said, “Imagine telling someone from the 1950s that we have a device the size of a pack of cigarettes that can access all human knowledge, and we use it to look at cats and argue with strangers.” This made me think of Vannevar Bush and his Memex, which we would describe today as a hypertext library of all knowledge, and which Bush thought of way back in 1945! Graeme said that as a kid he wished he could choose from every movie ever on his TV, and that today we have Netflix, which is the right idea but has practically no selection. Similarly, as a teenager in the 1980s, with disorganized TV recordings on random VHS tapes, I wished there was such a thing as a “video hard disk,” where I could move recordings around as files and sort them in any order I wanted. I pictured this as some sort of super-VCR, and wouldn’t have guessed that it would be my actual computer’s hard disk that would do it, as has happened.

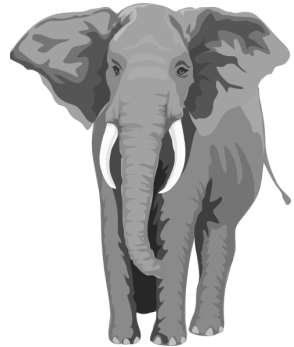
Stewart (I think) remembered when BCSFA showed 16 mm movies at meetings. Graeme said that when he started collecting movies, he could only get them as 8 mm reels! (He then provided them to VCON 1 in 1971 so they could have a film program.)

Stewart asked how BCSFA was related to the University of BC’s Science Fiction Society. Graeme replied that BCSFA was formed in 1970 by the UBC SF club (known as UBSCFFen) to hide money from the Alma Mater Society. UBSCFFen had screened *One Million Years BC* (1966) on campus to raise money to produce a oneshot clubzine and wound up with more money than they needed. The rules were that UBC clubs had to return their surplus funds to the Alma Mater Society at the end of the school year. So BCSFA was created as an off campus organization to which UBSCFFen “donated” its surplus funds. Graeme’s first contact with BCSFA was to attend their second meeting, which was held at the old library in downtown Vancouver. As for the oneshot clubzine, titled *Stage One*, when Karen New was a member of the UBC club many years later she found a few copies of the zine in their locker and obtained permission to donate one to the BCSFA archive where it resides today under the care of the current archivist, namely Graeme.

Fruvous told us his favourite recent news story: smart elephants in India have figured out that alcohol is fun, and humans make alcohol, and have been on a drunken rampage through villages looking for more alcohol. Fruvous also liked my response to the story when he told me a few days earlier: “They drink to forget.”

They also need to unwind after a hard day of vacuuming for the Flintstones. Graeme tried to watch *The Flintstones in Viva Rock Vegas* (2000) but, he said, “it was really lame.” Stewart said something about a radio station playing “Bedrock Twitch” by Rock Roll, adding that in that episode [“The Twitch” (1962)] Joe Barbera has a cameo as the limo driver.

Fruvous said that Hanna-Barbera was a huge part of his childhood, yet he only recently realized he never



*They come for the
free peanuts. They
stay for the liquor.*

knew what Hanna or Barbera looked like! Graeme said that he never liked limited animation, though he realized that it was necessary for TV animation to be affordable in those days. Fruvous replied that people his and my age came in at the end of the Hanna-Barbera era, just as full animation was coming back in style.

Ray mentioned trains and *Little House on the Prairie* (1974). He seemed concerned that it would replace *Emergency!* (1972) on MeTV (KVOS-TV, Bellingham, Washington) and then he would have to watch it.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 21 April 2013

‘WARP’ #85 Now Available

Hello fellow MonSFFen and trade editors!

WARP 85 is now available for download from the MonSFFA website. The password is <WinterBlues> written as one word, case sensitive, and without the <>.

[...]

My thanks to all the contributors!!! ☺

Cathy Palmer-Lister

Friday 26 April 2013

Cloudscape Crowd-Fundraiser for Anthology ‘Waterlogged’

“The Cloudscape Comics Society is a coalition of indie comic book artists centered in Metro Vancouver who publish yearly anthologies and foster a community where BC comic creators can network with each other.”

“We at Cloudscape Comics are releasing our annual comics anthology; this year, we are proud to present *Waterlogged—Tales from the Seventh Sea*. [...] Hardcover tome printed in blue & black and featuring over 30 different artists from British Columbia!”

“Our fundraiser has begun! To pre-purchase the book and avail yourself of numerous other Cloudscape loot, take a gander at [our Indiegogo campaign](#) (now with real video!).” [...]

“*Waterlogged* [has] explorers, kraken, pirates, mermaids, naval officers, ghosts, and more.” [...]

With “works from such [...] artists as Sam Logan (*Sam & Fuzzy*), Angela Melick (*Wasted Talent*), Nina Matsumoto (*Yokaiden*, *Simpsons*, *Futurama*), Colin Upton (*Postmodern Mini-Comics*), Gabriel Frizzera, Lucy Bellwood (*Baggy-wrinkles*), Jonathon Dalton (*A Mad Tea-Party*), Laura Bifano, Jeff Ellis (*Teach English in Japan*) and many others.”

Julian Castle

to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group

Sunday 28 April 2013

Vancoufur 2013 Con Report: Part 2

Michael Bertrand



9:00 AM: Officially awake after a sleepless night of watching TV and cursing myself for having forgotten my sleeping pills back in Richmond. See, my sleeping pills work great. They do not force you to sleep, they just make it a lot easier to get there and (the most important thing for me) they help you stay asleep even if you are a restless type like myself. But they have one little drawback: no pills, no sleep. This should make the rest of the convention fun.

10:00 AM: Allowed into the Dealer's Room after a brief detention by officials. Apparently when they say it opens at 10 AM, they really mean it. Not one minute earlier. Lots of fun things that I can't afford in there, including caffeinated soap. I kid you not. Soap with caffeine in it. I express doubts as to the efficacy of supercutaneous caffeine application to the vendor. He concurs, but notes that their soaps also smell very nice. And they do!

11:00 AM: I check out the Hangout Room. To my surprise and delight, it is full of video games. IRL Events are there, and they have a ton of video game consoles, old school and new, set up to play. I get to try out the Wii U, and enjoy playing *New Super Mario Bros. Wii*. The level of detail and the vividness of the colors make for a gorgeous and very rich visual experience. Plus, of course, it's quite fun.

But even better than that, I end up participating in a card game called Cards Against Humanity. It's like someone combined Apples to Apples, *Match Game*, Mad Libs, and Satan's thesaurus to make a game designed to produce and reward the most depraved and hilarious answers possible.

It's perfect for me, and I laugh like hell the whole time. What fun!

1:00 PM: Hanging out with my friend William Graham in the lobby, chatting about science and watching the fursuiters go by in the fursuit parade. (A fursuit is like an animal-themed mascot costume.) There must have been at least fifty of them. Vancouver has a very active and thriving fursuit community. I loved seeing them all.

3:00 PM: I eagerly participate in a Harlem Shake video shoot. Despite misgivings about the final product due to a cluster of snafus, it does turn out fairly well. You can find it here if you would like to check it out yourself: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oBk0F1QK0YI>. I am the very fat fellow in the suspenders and glasses with long hair, a beard, and absolutely no shame.

3:30 PM: I attend a Furry Media Relations panel hosted by my friend Carthage with (surprise!) his father as a guest commentator. Being a professional journalist, he ends up being our official representative of "the media." This is a somewhat perilous role, as we of the furry ilk tend to be pretty touchy about how the media portrays us. It always hurts to be misunderstood, and our little world is far too strange and outré for the mainstream media to possibly "get," and so on those rare occasions when we are noticed, we tend to be portrayed as nothing but a



bunch of hilariously deviant perverts with a thing for Bugs Bunny. And we are so much more than that.

Despite this tension, the panel generates a lot of really interesting discussion about how *The World Outside* portrays our World Within, and a lot of fruitful insights as to the causes of our poor image are gleaned. We discuss articles done about us in the popular press, mentions in popular culture, and a Certain Episode of *CSI That Shall Remain Nameless*. We talk about how much of our bad rep comes from the mainstream world's inability and unwillingness to understand us, how much of it we bring upon ourselves with indiscreet behaviour and poor media relations, and how much any of it really matters. After all, it's not like they are rounding us up and putting us into camps.

All in all, an excellent discussion.

5:10 PM: With nothing in particular to grab our attention, Joe, Julian and I go back to our room, Room 278, at the Accent Inn to chill a while before going out to hunt up some dinner. The room continues to be comfortable and cozy. We chat, relax, and ponder our next move.



6:30 PM: Having been thwarted by extremely long lines at both the Sushi Garden and White Spot, we are forced to retreat all the way back to our hotel again and end up eating at ABC Country Kitchen for the second night in a row. There's nothing wrong with ABC, in fact, we often eat at the one here in Richmond. But part of the fun of being away from home is eating someplace new, and so I am kind of disappointed to be back at ABC yet again. But oh well, that is what happens when you and an entire convention of hungry furies are all looking for supper at the same time. Next time I will either just plan on eating later, after the rush, or pack a lunch.

8:30 PM: Back to Chez Nous (alias our hotel room) for a little rest and relaxation before we head back to the convention for Bad Movie Night.

10:00 PM: Oops! We fell asleep. All that good ABC Country Kitchen food must have done it to us. Joe and Julian head off to the convention anyhow. I decide to stay in the room and try to catch up on the sleep that has eluded me so far.

10:45 PM: Bad idea. I am unable to get back to sleep, so instead of having fun at Bad Movie Night, I end up just listlessly watching television in our hotel room with only the rubber duck for company. (He's cute but he's no conversationalist.) I end up feeling lonely and depressed. Not one of my better calls, trying to stay back to sleep. Conventions are the opposite of sleep!

Oh well, there is always tomorrow. We all make bad decisions sometimes.

Michael Bertrand

The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand

Monday 18 March 2013

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

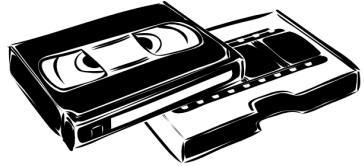
**PAIGE TURCO AS APRIL O'NEIL
ROBERT VAUGHN AS GENERAL HUNT STOCKWELL
MARK "JACKO" JACKSON AS JETTO**

Zines Received

‘Opuntia’ #252 (Late July 2012). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7.

“The Man from Montenegro: Part 1”: Nero Wolfe, of course. Reviews novels *Fer-de-Lance*, *The League of Frightened Men*, *The Silent Speaker*, *The Golden Spiders*, *Champagne for One*, *The Final Deduction*, and *Death of a Doxy*, all by Rex Stout. Joe Devoy and I used to watch *A Nero Wolfe Mystery* (2001), the A&E series starring Maury Chaykin and Timothy Hutton.

“Letters to the Editor”: Robert Jennings: Robert correctly notes that you should not cast dollar votes for bad movies; Dale gets his bad movies from bargain bins and watches them at home, then reviews them in the style of our own R. Graeme Cameron! I approve.



Also: “Depressing Matters” (reviews book *Fortune’s Before You* by Charles J. Collins); “Zine Listings”; “Seen in the Literature.”

E-Zines Received

‘The Fanactical Fanactivist’ #5 (October 2011). “The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society Dedicated to Promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom.” Published by R.G. Cameron, 13315 104th Avenue, Apartment 72G, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3T 1V5, rgraeme@shaw.ca. eFanzines.

“Cover Considerations”; “Our Model: The Nova Awards?”; “Previous Nova Winners”; “Nova Award Rules”; “Current Nova Eligibles”; “To Sum Up”; “Colophon.”

Layout criticism: PDF zines should be single-column or landscape format, so that the reader does not have to scroll up and down a page to follow an article.

‘The Space Cadet Gazette’ #15 (November 2011). “The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society Dedicated to Promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom.” Published by R.G. Cameron, 13315 104th Avenue, Apartment 72G, Surrey, BC, Canada, V3T 1V5, eFanzines.



*Mushroom People
make meals marvelous.*

“Thoughts on Retirement”: Graeme quotes Pliny the Younger, who preferred to spend his vacation reading and having intelligent conversations in peace and quiet rather than attending loud sporting events. I can relate. Then Graeme says that he used to go to nightclubs and concerts because he thought he was supposed to, but realized he could stop. It’s such a relief.

Also: “Trying Something Different”; “My Pliny-Like Retirement”; “One Man Crusade”; “Plethora of Zines”; “A Pocket Full of Histories:

Coin Notes” (Tara Wayne); “Letters of Comment: Ook Ook Slobber Drool!”; “Colophon.”

Layout criticism: PDF zines should be single-column or landscape format, so that the reader does not have to scroll up and down a page to follow an article. (Yes, I also said that about the last one.)

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Pages 2, 4, 6, 8
Clip art (<u>Clicker.com</u>).....	Pages 10, 13, 18, 21, 23 (left), 24, 25 (right)
Clip art (“SuperBolan” #3: <i>Resurrection Day</i> , via Joe Devoy)....	Page 15
Clip art (Kokeshi Project/David Nguyen).....	Page 17
Clip art [<i>Dragon Seed</i> (1944) screenshot].....	Page 20 (right)
Clip art [<u>Vancoufur Harlem Shake</u> screenshot].....	Page 23 (right)
Clip art [<i>Attack of the Mushroom People</i> (1963) screenshot]...Page 25 (left)	
<u>José Sanchez</u>	Page 26

