

# BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

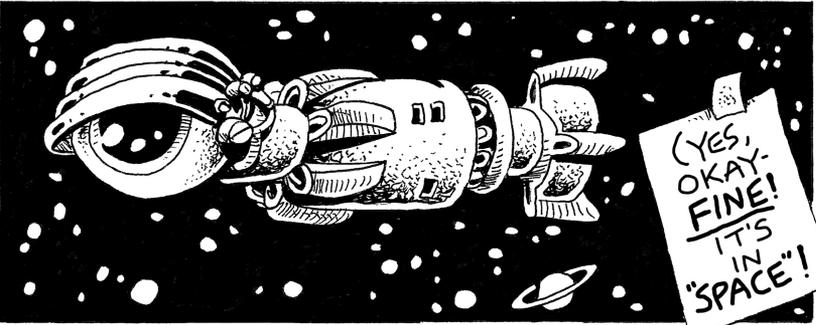
#490

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March 2014

## THE FAMOUS EYE IN THE SKY!

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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 and Next Month in BCSFA

Sunday 16 March at 7 PM:	March BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 21 March:	Submission deadline for April <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 28 March:	April <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 18 April:	Submission deadline for May <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 20 April at 7 PM:	April BCSFA meeting.
Friday 25 April:	May <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

## About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

WCSFA Social Committee Chairman/Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562  
Vice President: TBA  
Treasurer/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845  
Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973  
Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814  
Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 778-895-2371  
VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster [Garth Spencer](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc\\_sci\\_fi\\_assoc/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assoc/)). 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.

## Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

**Dave Haren**  
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Tuesday 4 March 2014

Hi Felicity,

News of note: apparently there was a fuss over the Hugo presenter choice, something about a comedian whose jokes have been cruel to women. Charlie Stross' blog has more details. Graeme just did a piece on fannish angsty eruptions over odd stuff so it seems timely.

[*Readers: the controversial choice was Jonathan Ross, who has since stepped down as host. I capsule-reviewed the comic-book mini-series Ross wrote, Turf (2010), in "Collected News of 2010" in BCSFAzine #452.*]

Aaron Allston has died. He was a leading light at Steve Jackson Games when *Car Wars* first came out. Armed vehicles duelling for supremacy on the roads, it's every commuter's dream game. We used N-scale vehicles for a little more 3D realism. It may get a redo once Steve recovers from the *Ogre* big box episode.

[*Car Wars (1980) was an awesome premise for a game. I don't think I'd enjoy it as a tabletop game unless there was a lot of roleplaying, story, and exploration of the game universe, and only occasional car combat. Non-stop car combat would make a good video game, though. I see that there was a Car Wars video game—AutoDuel (1985). The closest thing I've played was the first two Twisted Metal games (1995–1996) on PlayStation, which offered driving and shooting without forcing the player to first design the car (the part I don't like). Someday I'd like to read the Dark Future (1988) magazines and novels.*]



The Ukraine looks like our monkey species plans to re-enact WW1 version 2.0 over a local dispute which may become a civil war. If the big name agitators will shut up for a minute, I'm sure the Ukrainians can sort out the mess. The Rus have clear interests in the Crimea but are not shooting anyone. NATO is probably too much of a tax sink to want to get their shiny equipment dirty in something as nasty as a war. If you don't read history this all looks like new material. European economy goes down the toilet to bank scams. Every marginalized political group starts to swell their ranks with disgruntled unemployed youth. Various agitators from outside start to subvert what should be localized unrest. It's all been done before and they didn't learn anything from it.

[*It'd be ironic if the Russian advance was stopped by a German winter.*]

In a more exciting move some privatizing has dumped the entire database of English NHS onto a Google server for easy access. I'm re-reading *Stand on Zanzibar* just to recall a better world.

[*The National Health Service? I've only read Stand on Zanzibar (1968)'s sequel The Sheep Look Up (1972) and part of The Shockwave Rider (1975).*]

John Carter failed to get an Oscar for best picture because Disney had too many clothes on the Martian egglayers.

Some wag at MIT discovered that a piece of 1" tubing, a hose clamp, and a chunk of white pine branch will make an anti bacterial water filter. This is a handy trick if you are a survivor type. Apparently Mother Nature has been doing nanotech for a few years.



If you want some controversy:

<http://www.locusmag.com/Perspectives/2014/03/cory-doctorow-cold-equations-and-moral-hazard/>

Doctorow has missed the point with this rant. "Cold Equations" was written in 1954. The purpose of SF is to make you think about things you'd rather not have to be involved in. I like Bob Heinlein but don't think *Farnham's Freehold* is his best work. Having recently examined the history of Liberia, it seems that in what I found most egregious about it, it might be quite possible. In my humble opinion all of the American adults were totally bonkers in 1954. Two forces made them that way, the trauma of WW2 and Korea (which still haunts the world with its unfinished war), and the propaganda machinery which loved to have a boogeyman looming over their cringefest.

[*Doctorow does seem to miss that the point of "The Cold Equations" is to enjoy the cognitive dissonance of the right thing to do being the thing that feels wrong. His first point, that the authors deliberately set up the situations a certain way so as to have a certain moral, is a valid criticism for other stories. Sometimes in order to reject an invalid moral to a story you have to first reject the author's assumptions about the story's universe. His second point, that elites benefit from crisis situations that don't afford us ethics, is also valid.*]

I shamelessly swiped the Traveller scout ship from Nyrath. He's Winchell Chung, the artist who did the *Godsfire* game cover and the original *Ogre* game art. I've been a fan of his for years after he did the *Space Gamer* magazine art for *Stellar Quest*.



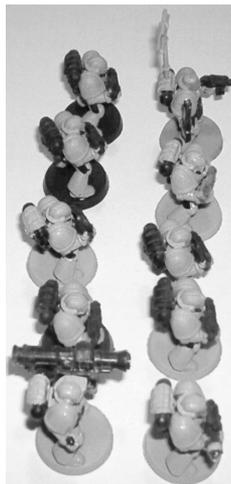
<http://www.projectrho.com/>

[*In the mid-1980s I liked reading The Traveller's Digest, even though I never played the game. I still have Traveller's Digest #7 and re-read it occasionally. I wished I'd saved the others I had.*]

Here is the way to review a movie:

<http://digitaldigging.net/prometheus-an-archaeological-perspective/>

[*Great comedic review.*]



I found an interesting silent film called *Vampyr* done in 1930s Germany. It's worth a look.

<https://archive.org/details/Vampyr1932>

<http://historiadiscordia.com/week-2-illuminatus-group-reading-joseph-malik/>

Supergee had a pointer up to this reading group on his LiveJournal page. It's ten pages a week of the trilogy.

The standard useful disclaimer:

The Bavarian Illuminati do not exist. If we existed we would tell you that we exist. I also find it strange that you are not a member when all of your friends are members.

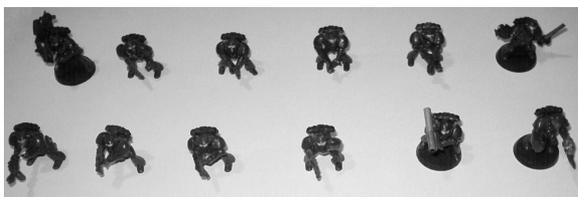
Project Gutenberg has passed the 45,000-texts-online-for-free mark.

Weather is soggy, fruit trees are blooming and the world gets a little more nutty every day. SF on the other hand seems to be alive and well and has new tentacles spouting in all directions.

The miniature pics are my original 40K unit and the later second generation Space Marines.

[Which Chapter?]

Warm regards,  
Dave Haren



**Lloyd Penney**  
1706-24 Eva Road,  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 2B2  
[penneys@bell.net](mailto:penneys@bell.net)

Sunday 9 March 2014

Dear BCSFans:

Thank you for *BCSFAzine* 489. It's Sunday night, which is rapidly becoming my writing night, seeing how busy I am in the day time. I have had a little luck as far as leads go, so I hope to have some good news soon. Some things to say...

The local...there are times when I am told that the letter column is the heart of any fanzine. I've heard that or read that dozens of times. Yet, I sometimes find that some zines lose my letters awfully easily. I have to wonder occasionally about the real value of what I do. Maybe that's the reason why I keep track of how many I write.

[I value your letters.]

Hello, Sheryl...the search for a decent job does indeed continue, but as far as the perfect job goes, well, I don't think that exists, and I can't keep looking that long.

Event listings...I had no idea that *Magic: The Gathering* was still a going concern. I truly am out of the loop, but then, I've never been a gamer.

The monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch...Adam Smith runs a monthly steampunk pubday as well. For us, it's too far away and too expensive, but in case anyone comes out for a visit, it's there, and we can tell you about it. I think Phoenix Black makes it there regularly.



Seeing the day I am writing this, tonight is the night of the premiere of *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, starring Neil deGrasse Tyson. Hard to believe that Seth MacFarlane is involved in this, and even more that it will be shown on Fox (and Global). It's on at 9 PM Eastern, and we will be watching.

Toronto-hating? No, that's just the rest of the country. Being hated because I was from Toronto almost prevented me from doing my job properly when I lived in Qualicum Beach in the late '80s.

[*What happened at Qualicum Beach? We shouldn't hate Torontonians, just the "national" media's Torontocentrism.*]

PC Chocolate Cola...yes, we had to try that, too. They could say it tasted like PC Decadents all they liked, we tried it once, said meh, and never bought it again. We even find the Decadents are getting expensive, so we've cut those out, too.

We have a very rare evening of TV watching planned...*Tudor Monastery Farm* on TVOntario, and at 9 PM *Cosmos* on Global, so I will wind it up, and...Fire! See you with the next issue.

[*Speaking of TVOntario, we've been rewatching Prisoners of Gravity (1989-1994) at the apartment.*]

Yours,  
Lloyd Penney

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

Tuesday 11 March 2013

A happy hello to all my BCSFA friends! It is I, your award winning interLOCutor, arriving on the scene like a sex machine once more.

In local news, I went to Vancoufur (Vancouver's only furry convention) fairly recently, and had a great time. We furies are really an adorable and harmless bunch, and it was great to hang out with them and rub fuzzy elbows.

I took notes for a con report, which I will write...soonish...and will eventually grace these very pages. Well, not the same pages, that would get messy. Fresh, new pages collated and stapled into becoming a future issue of *BCSFazine*.

You get the idea.

Re: Dave Haren's remark about the "pallid brown-nosing so common in today's popular version of SF."

I would really like you to elaborate on that, Dave, because it seems to reveal a lot about how SF has changed over the years. I personally love the hyper-competent Heinleinian heroes of yesterday precisely because of how they contrast with a more "realistic" but less fun kind of heroes that came after them.

[I want to hear more about that too. As I see it, the problem isn't weak heroes; it's that for the last 50 years pop culture has been trapped in an escalating fetish for anti-heroes.]



I mean, I understand why that old heroic model had to be deconstructed and replaced with something that allowed for human frailty, but from my point of view as a product of the cynical Generation X, the heroic model looks pretty good.

Gives us all something to strive towards, instead of just giving up.

Well that's my two cent's worth for this month. See you in April, folks!

**We Also Heard From:** Sarah Trick, Lynda Williams.

## Errata

The date for the next BCSFA meeting is Sunday 16 March 2014, not Sunday 15 March 2014. Thank-you to Kathleen Moore for catching this in time.

## 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

October 2013–11 April 2014: *Call for submissions* for sixth annual [Carded!](#) (a one-night show of art on trading cards). Art deadline Monday 7 April at noon. “We are open to all styles of art, photography and design. You can submit art created digitally, provide us with a photo of your work, or give us an original piece to scan (no larger than 8½”×11”).” “We only accept one submission per artist.” More details at <http://hotartcard.com/how-to-submit/>.—[Julian Castle](#)

October 2013–31 May 2014: *Call for submissions* for [Revenge of the Art Show](#): art inspired by movies from 1984. Paintings, illustration, sculpture...any art or design work inspired by films made in 1984 (such as *Dune*, *Ghostbusters*, *Gremlins*, *Revenge of the Nerds*, *Splash*, *Star Trek III: The Search for Spock*, *The Terminator*, 2010, etc). Submit a JPG of your submission for consideration (in-progress or final art) to [info@hotartwetcity.com](mailto:info@hotartwetcity.com)...! Deadline is Saturday May 31 at 4 PM.—[Julian Castle](#)

9 January, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, and 8 May 2014: [Teen Manga Advisory Group](#), 4–5 PM at Morris J. Wosk Board Room, Level 7, Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. For teens aged 13–18. “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](#)

11 January, 1 February, 1 March, and 12 April 2014: [Reader’s Choice Speculative Fiction Book Club](#), 3–4:30 PM at Morris J. Wosk Board Room, Level 7, Vancouver Public Library—Central Library, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. 11 January: classics. 1 February: steampunk. 1 March: high fantasy. 12 April: hard science-fiction. “Join us [for] the worlds of fantasy and science fiction. Bring your favorite speculative fiction from within these sub-genres to discuss. Learn about some good books, enjoy lively discussions, and tell others about the books that interest you.” Free (registration required). Register at 604-331-3603.—[Julian Castle](#)

2 February, 16 March, 13 April, 4 May, 1 June, 6 July, 10 August, and 7 September 2014: [VCON Convention Committee \(ConCom\) Monthly Meetings](#), 2–4 PM at Brandywine Bartending [*School*], 241 Union Street, Vancouver. “If you are on our concom, or interested in becoming involved with VCON 39, we invite you to attend our monthly planning meetings! VCON is Vancouver’s premier fantasy and science fiction convention since 1971 and everyone who works to make VCON happen is a volunteer. We are completely non-profit and fan run. Lots of people volunteer a little of their time, usually at or just before and after the event, but some volunteers—the convention committee (concom)—are involved all year long and do the major lifting of planning and organizing the event. It’s these people that are the heart and soul of the VCON experience. So if you like sci-fi/fantasy art, writing, craft, film, costuming, or gaming, etc. and want to meet some new fellow geeklings, let us know and come on out! We’d love to have you in on the inner workings of our convention and be front row for the newest happenings in the world of the geektastic! *Note*: The location is all-ages appropriate as it is a bartending *school* with no alcohol on site. Meeting schedule for 2014: Sunday 2 February • Sunday 16 March • Sunday 13 April • Sunday 4 May • Sunday 1 June • Sunday 6 July • Sunday 10 August • Sunday 7 September—last regular meeting before the convention • Sunday 28 September—bag stuffing (time and location to be determined) • Thursday 2 October—evening Guest of Honour/concom reception (exact time and location to be determined) • Friday 3 October—morning Guest of Honour/concom breakfast (exact time and location to be determined) • 3–5 October: VCON! • Sunday 2 November—VCON 39 debrief.”—[VCON](#) via [Jenni Merrifield](#)

8 February–6 April 2014: [Keith Langergraber: Theatre of the Exploding Sun](#) at Richmond Art Gallery, in Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond. “Focuses on a three-part film, *Time Traveller Trilogy*,” plus sculptures & drawings. “The work is situated in sci fi culture.” Hours: Monday–Wednesday & Friday 10 AM–6 PM, Thursdays 10 AM–9 PM, weekends 10 AM–5 PM. Closed stat holidays. Free admission. Telephone: Phone: 604-247-8300.”—[Julian Castle](#)

## RANDOM NOSTALGIA

"TIME TRAX"  
ROSS REBAGLIATI



27 February–2 March 2014: VancouFur 3 (furry convention)<sup>1</sup> at Executive Hotel & Conference Center Burnaby, 4201 Lougheed Highway (west of Brentwood Town Centre SkyTrain station), Burnaby. Room block at main hotel sold out. Overflow hotel is Accent Inn Burnaby. Pre-reg closed 15 February. At-door: cash only. Memberships: regular \$40; sponsor \$80 (with T-shirt & ice cream social ticket); patron \$160 (sponsor benefits + GOH dinner ticket & other goodies); non-attending \$15; under 10 years free. Attendees under age of 16 need to print minor consent form & have parent/guardian sign it and have a copy of parent/guardian's valid ID.—Julian Castle

## March 2014

1–2, 8–9, 15–16, 18–23, and 25–30 March 2014: Busytown at Waterfront Theatre on Granville Island, Vancouver. 10 AM & 2 PM on 1–2, 8–9, 15–16, 18–23, and 25–29 March. 2 PM only on 30 March. All-ages performances 2, 9, 16, and 23 March at 10 AM. “Lights will be kept at a low level...and sound levels will be adjusted to create a gentle environment...” 9 March, 2 PM: VocalEye audio description (for blind or visually-impaired). For children ages three and up. All people under the age of 14 must be accompanied by an adult. Adult: \$29. Adult-teen Shakespeare: \$28. Student (with college or university ID): \$25. Senior (65+): \$25. Aged 17 years or less: \$15. (Wikipedia: “Busytown is a fictional town inhabited by an assortment of anthropomorphic animals, as depicted in various books by the children’s author Richard Scarry.”)—Julian Castle

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 March and 5, 12, 19, and 26 April 2014 (*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

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 March and 6, 13, 20, and 27 April 2014 (*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

2 March 2014: This Is Steampunk (costume dance), 9 PM–2 AM at Red Room Ultrabar, 398 Richards Street, Vancouver. Live performance by Captain Jess Lawren-

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1 Main website currently down. WikiFur link: [http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/VancouFur\\_2014](http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/VancouFur_2014).—Julian Castle

son. Music by DJs Enigma Machine. “Get out your goggles and rayguns...Come out for a night of retro future, dancing, drinking,” a live performance and DJs. “You can commemorate the night...in our photo booth by Porno for Necros Photography... There’ll be a mystery door prize from Vikings Dragons and Fairies.” Presented by Hostile Makeover. Admission \$15 (\$10 if in costume).—Julian Castle

3 March 2014: If Pets Had Thumbs Day.

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March and 7, 14, 21, and 28 April 2014 (*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

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March 2014 and 7, 14, 21, and 28 April (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. 2 October, 7:30–11:20 PM: Craft Night: Shoebox Loom-Making. 9 October, 7:30–11 PM: The Craft Element. 16 and 23 October, 7:30–11:30 PM: Craft Night: Halloween Costume Making Night Parts 1 & 2. [See *Vancouver Hack Space Open House* for more VHS details.]—Julian Castle

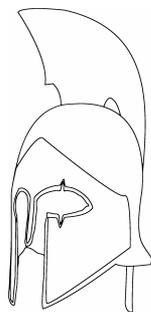
4, 11, 18, and 25 March and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April 2014 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for 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

4, 11, 18, and 25 March and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April 2014 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue (new location as of May 2013), Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. “Bring your ideas, projects, kits, art, music, robots, etc. down for some good times with good people.” VHS mission is “to provide a common workspace where its members, hackers, makers, crafters and otherwise (technically) creative people could work on projects and find like-minded people, in sharing knowledge and ideas.” “There are stairs down to the space from the back alley and a wheelchair-accessible level loading bay entrance from the street, although someone has to have opened the space through the stairs before the loading bay is available.” Parking is available outside the space. Bikes can be brought inside the front door. No membership required. Admission is by donation.—Julian Castle

5, 12, 19, and 26 March and 3, 10, 17, and 24 April 2014 (*Wednesdays*): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of Memorial South Park’s fieldhouse, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue), 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 attend” the weekly meeting on Wednesdays.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

6 and 20 March and 3 and 17 April 2014 (*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](mailto:lowson@dccnet.com) for details.”—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

7 March 2014: Premiere of films *300: Rise of an Empire* (action/comic-related) and *Mr. Peabody and Sherman* (computer animation; Stanley Tucci, Patrick Warburton, Mel Brooks, Stephen Colbert, Stephen Tobolowsky).



7–9 March 2014: Imperial Hobbies Year End Sale! at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. Friday: 11 AM–9 PM. Saturday: 10 AM–5:30 PM. Sunday: 12–5 PM.

7, 14, 21, and 28 March and 4, 11, 18, and 25 April 2014: Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Tonight is the night for *Magic: The Gathering* here at Imperial Hobbies! Drop by and play in a casual open setting with a group of great people, or learn one on one how to play with one of our staff. Contact: Stephanie.”

7, 14, 21, and 28 March and 5, 12, 19, and 26 April 2014 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4<sup>th</sup> 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

8 March 2014: HeroClix Unrestricted: Avengers vs. X-Men Month 3, 12–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “There will be a \$40 participation fee for all four AVX events. This \$40 will be used to cover the high costs of the op kits for this event. When a player buys in, they will receive all participation elements for the event including the Phoenix resource, all participation figures and

both team bases whether or not they attend the events or otherwise. They will also receive one random LE prize from the series. [...] Contact: Manny.”



8 March 2014: Mini-Comics Day (world-wide event). Event in Vancouver: 12–10 PM at 5955 Ross Street (inside Memorial Park South), Vancouver. Bring preferred paper & something to draw with. Free *Colin Upton: How to Draw Mini-Comics* mini-comic for each participant. Contact is Colin Upton: [colinupton@telus.net](mailto:colinupton@telus.net).—Julian Castle

9 March 2014: A musical screening of *Oliver & Company* at the Junction, 1138 Davie Street, Vancouver. Doors open at 7 PM. \$5 suggested donation (benefiting Northwest Puppy Contest & Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence).—Julian Castle

9 March 2014: Daylight Saving Time. At 2 AM set your clocks forward one hour to 3 AM.

9 March 2014: Premiere of *Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey*, 9 PM on Fox. “Thrilling new 13-part series from EP/writer Ann Druyan and EP Seth MacFarlane.” [*Neil de-Grasse Tyson seems to be the host, judging by the promo.*]—Michael Bertrand

11 March 2014: **Cameron Russell** and **Jett Black**’s birthdays.

11 March and 8 April 2014 (*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

12 March 2014: Publication of *Sex Criminals Volume 1* TPB (Diamond item code JAN14 0558), written by Matt Fraction. Genre: sci-fi/crime.—Julian Castle

12 and 26 March and 9 and 23 April 2014 (*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

13 March and 10 April 2014 (*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

13 March and 10 April 2014 (*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. 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

14 March 2014: Pi Day.

15 March 2014: **Jenni Merrifield**’s birthday.

15 March 2014: Heroclix: Avengers vs. X-Men Month 3, 12–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. [*See description for 8 March 2014 Heroclix.*]

15 March and 19 April 2014 (*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

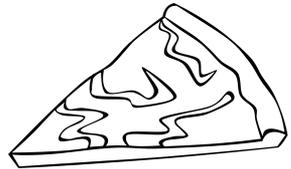
16 March 2014: BA Campaign Day: Scenario 1 (Game Demo), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “*The Road to War—Bolt Action Escalation Series*. Starting mid-March, Imperial Hobbies will be hosting an escalaton league for the *Bolt Action* 28 mm wargame. Starting at 500 Pts for the month of March, each month will feature an increase of 250 Pts to bring players up to the tournament standard (1000 Pts) in May. Each event date will feature one of the possible scenarios from the rule book. Finally, on May 25<sup>th</sup> there will be a 1000-point tournament featuring the scenarios used during each of the event Sundays. Contact: Chris.”

16 March 2014: Vanpla March 2014 Meeting, 1–5 PM at A3U Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “Every month, Vanpla members get together for a build and socialize meeting. Usual activities include: kits building (bring your own kits and tools), show your proud completed work, technique coaching (feel free to ask), demos, airbrushing (depending on venue, spray booth may be available, bring your own airbrush/paint/thinner etc.), access to Gunpla graveyard (salvage parts for your project free), group build/event discussion, watching anime, meet new people, chill, and enjoy. We invite everyone to join. See you guys there!”

16 March and 20 April 2014 (*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

17 March 2014: Saint Patrick’s Day.

17 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 4–6 PM at Newton Library, 13795 70<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey. “Want something to do during spring break? Do you love to play board games? Are you between 12 and 19 years old? Then come to the library for a fun night of gaming and free pizza. Pizza and games compliments of Imperial Hobbies. Registration is required. Contact: Chris.”



18 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5:30–8:30 PM at Langley Library, 20399 Douglas Crescent, Langley. [*See description for 17 March 2014 Teen Pizza & Games Night.*]

20 March 2014: Extraterrestrial Abductions Day.

20 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 6–8 PM at City Center Library, 10350 University Drive, Surrey. [*See description for 17 March 2014 Teen Pizza & Games Night.*]

21 March 2014: Premiere of films *Muppets Most Wanted* (Muppets; Salma Hayek, Christoph Waltz, Stanley Tucci, Danny Trejo, Tina Fey, Lady Gaga, Ray Liotta, Zach Galifianakis, Frank Langella, Ricky Gervais, Peter Serafinowicz, Céline Dion) and *Divergent* (SF; Kate Winslet, Ashley Judd, Tony Goldwyn, Mekhi Phifer).

21 March and 18 April 2014 (*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

22 March 2014: 2014 Auto Modelrama, 9 AM–3 PM at Cameron Community Centre, 9523 Cameron Street, Burnaby (near Lougheed Mall). “Celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> annual model car contest & swap meet. Celebrating 50 years of the Mustang. Mustang theme categories: 1964½–1973 (the original pony), 1974–1978 (the dark ages), 1979–1993 (fox bodies), 1994–2004 (SN95 new edge), 2005–present (modern muscle). Entry fees: \$5 (up to five models), \$1 each additional model; \$3 youth (13 to 18) (unlimited models); \$2 junior (12 and under) (unlimited models). Admission: adults \$3; children under 12 with an adult *free*; vendor tables \$30. Entry deadline 11:30 AM. Awards presentation 2 PM. For more information: [chevaliergerry@gmail.com](mailto:chevaliergerry@gmail.com).

22 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Day, 1:30–3:30 PM at Walnut Grove Library, [*Walnut Grove Community Centre, 8889 Walnut Grove Drive, Langley*]. “Imperial Hobbies in Richmond is bringing some of their popular and crazy cool games to the Walnut Grove Library. Come out during the day to play *Cloud 9*, *Dominion*, *Carcassonne*, *Ultimate Werewolf* and other new and exciting games. Free pizza and refreshments will be provided. This program is for teens 12 to 18 years. Contact: Chris.”

23 March 2014: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue), Vancouver. “Special guests: Andy Belanger (*Kill Shakespeare*, *Swamp Thing*, *Black Church*), Donald King, Jenna Sokalski, USNA, and others! Admission: \$4; kids under 14 free. Dealer tables: \$65 center; \$75 wall. 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. Hourly door prizes! Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/vancomiccon/>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>. 604-322-6412.—Leonard Wong

23 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 2–4 PM at Guildford Library, 15105 105<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey. [*See description for 17 March 2014 Teen Pizza & Games Night*.]

24 March 2014: Mini-Comics Day?—Julian Castle

24 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5:30–7:30 PM at Fleetwood Library, 15996 84 Avenue, Surrey. [*See description for 17 March 2014 Teen Pizza & Games Night*.]

25 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5–7 PM at George Mackie Library, 8440 112<sup>th</sup> Street, Delta. [*See description for 22 March 2014 Teen Pizza & Games Night*.]

26 March 2014: Publication of *CBLDF Presents Liberty* hardcover (Diamond item code JAN14 0547). Anthology benefiting the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund, collecting *Liberty Annual* 2008–2012.—Julian Castle

26 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 4:30–6:30 PM at Ocean Park Library, 12854 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Surrey. [See description for 17 March 2014 Teen Pizza & Games Night.]

27 March 2014: National Joe Day.

27 March 2014: Teen Pizza & Games Night: Ladner Pioneer Library, 5:30–8:30 PM at Ladner Pioneer Library, 4683 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Delta. [See description for 17 March 2014 Teen Pizza & Games Night.]



28 March 2014: Premiere of film *Noah* (fantasy; Jennifer Connelly, Russell Crowe, Anthony Hopkins, Frank Langella, Nick Nolte).

28 March and 25 April 2014<sup>2</sup>: 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

28–30 March 2014: Emerald City Comic Con, Washington State Convention Center,<sup>3</sup> Seattle, Washington. Guests include Mike & Laura Allred, Paul Azaceta, Mike Baron, Brom, Kurt Busiek, Peter David, José Delbo, Matt Fraction, Klaus Janson, Erik Larsen, Bob Layton, Rick Remender, Joe Rubinstein, Tim Sale, Richard Starkings, Michael Walsh,<sup>4</sup> Adam Warren, Nancy Cartwright, Cree Summer.

29 March and 26 April 2014 (*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. Besides 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 & Citty”—Keith Lim

30 March 2014: BA Campaign Day: Scenario 2 (Game Demo), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. [See description for 16 March 2014 BA Campaign Day.]

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2 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

3 No address given on website.

4 The comic artist, not the journalist/VCONgoer.

## April 2014

1 April 2014: **Dean McGee** and Actual Food's birthdays.

2 April 2014: **Colin Upton**'s birthday.

4 April 2014: Premiere of film *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* (superhero; Scarlett Johansson, Samuel L. Jackson, Robert Redford, Stan Lee, Jenny Agutter, Garry Shandling).

5 April 2014: Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet, 10 AM–3 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Our first event of this year [...] Affordable and fun [...] A great selection of [...] electronics, computer items, printers, monitors, cell phones, memory, and more! [...] Also [...] rare toys, memorabilia, new cards, current and vintage comics (early DC & Marvel), coins, action figures, crafts, Transformers, *Star Wars* collectibles, wrestling, boxing, Hot Wheels, eight-track tapes, die-cast models, art, jewelry, movies, video games, records, CDs, DVDs, and all kinds of collectibles! Lots of great deals! Free *Star Wars* comic book to the first 100 guests. Turn your extra items into cash \$. Eight-foot dealer tables \$40 each or two for \$70. Admission: \$3. Children 12 & under free. Free parking. For more info, please visit <http://www.fun-promo.com/>.”—Verne Siebert

5 April 2014: 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 (open noon–7 PM every day), 407 Columbia Street, New Westminster. Tickets: \$20 each; kids under 8 are free with adult ticket. Group rate for 10+ people (e-mail for info).—Julian Castle

6 April 2014: **April Clarke**'s birthday.

6 April 2014: BA Campaign Day: Scenario 3 (Game Demo), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. [*See description for 16 March 2014 BA Campaign Day.*]

8 April 2014: **Frobisher Cat**'s birthday.

10 April 2014: **David Langford**'s birthday.

11 April 2014: **Jennifer Hawe**, **John Herbert**, and **Emily Norris**'s birthdays. Premiere of film *Rio 2* (computer animation; Anne Hathaway, Jesse Eisenberg, Jamie Foxx, John Leguizamo, Andy Garcia, Bruno Mars, George Lopez, Tracy Morgan, Will I Am, Janelle Monáe).

12 April 2014: Heroclix: Avengers vs. X-Men Finale, 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. [*See description for 8 March 2014 Heroclix.*]

13 April 2014: **Marilyn Blew**'s birthday.

16 April 2014: Draw a Centaur Day. "Draw a Centaur Day is completely arbitrary, nonsensical, purposeless and agenda-free. No prizes will be distributed, no accolades will be given, no charities will be donated towards... This is purely for the sheer fun of drawing a goofy mythological critter."—Julian Castle

17 April 2014: **Carolyn Clink**'s birthday.

17–20 April 2014: Norwescon 37 at DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington [*next to SeaTac International Airport*]. DoubleTree sold out. Official overflow hotel Hilton Seattle Airport & Conference Center, 17620 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington, 98188-4001. Phone: 206-244-4800. Special Norwescon rate: \$123. Use group code "NOR" to book a room via website or call the reservation phone 888-235-4465. Memberships: pre-reg \$70 through 16 March; at door \$75; youth (13–17) \$50. Children 12 & under attend for free, but must have permission slip. To save time at registration, complete slip and bring to registration.—Julian Castle



18 April 2014: Premiere of films *Transcendence* (SF; Johnny Depp, Morgan Freeman, Cillian Murphy, Wallace Langham) and *A Haunted House 2* (comedy/horror; Jaime Pressly, Marlon Wayans, Cedric the Entertainer, Gabriel Iglesias, Rick Overton).

19 April 2014: **Stephanie Johanson**'s birthday.

20 April 2014: BA Campaign Day: Scenario 4 (Game Demo), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. [*See description for 16 March 2014 BA Campaign Day.*]

23 April 2014: **Greg Cairns**'s birthday.

25 April 2014: **Steve Green**'s birthday.

25 April 2014: Magic: The Gathering: Journey Into Nyx Midnight Pre-Release, 12–4 AM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. Contact: Stephanie.

26 April 2014: Magic: The Gathering: Journey Into Nyx Pre-Release, 10 AM–9 PM at Richmond Rod and Gun Club, 7891 Cambie Road, Richmond. "This pre-release will be hosted at the Richmond Rod & Gun Club to make room for up to a 100 players! For more information please contact Stephanie here at the store. Contact: Stephanie."

26 April 2014: Sixth Annual Carded!, 7–11 PM at Hot Art Wet City, 2206 Main Street, Vancouver. “Buy, collect and trade the art of fifty artists reproduced on trading cards.” Cards are displayed on the gallery wall and “sold in mixed packs of five random cards for \$5. Want a specific card? Trade with the other people at the party.”—Julian Castle

27 April 2014: **Joe Devoy**’s birthday.

29 April 2014: **Robert J. Sawyer** and **Trevor Hoffert**’s birthdays.

## News-Like Matter

### Notes from February 2014 BCSFA Meeting

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

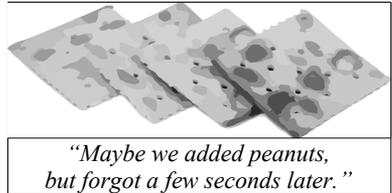
Club business:

■ At the March meeting, we’ll vote on giving bank signing authority for BC-SFA to the president and treasurer of WCSFA. Who will be the president and treasurer of WCSFA will be decided at the WCSFA AGM (Sunday 23 February 2014).

■ Barb: Ray was at a strata council meeting and they said they figured out that we were keeping the bathrooms clean, because the bathrooms were only open for us (and are clean), so the bathrooms will be re-opened for our meetings.

■ Barb: We will be paying the room rental fee by cheque from now on.

■ Barb: Someone brought Goldfish vanilla cupcake crackers to the last meeting. Barb has had problems with traces of peanut in Goldfish crackers. Barb had no reaction at the last meeting because no-one opened the box, but later Ray opened the box and she did have a reaction. So: no Goldfish products at meetings please. Barb said that Goldfish does not have a warning label about peanut traces, so she phoned the company and they claimed there were no nuts. However, according to Barb, other people have had the same problem.



*“Maybe we added peanuts,  
but forgot a few seconds later.”*

■ Graeme had an announcement on behalf of Steve Forty: he’s selling his house and moving, and he’s giving away lots of his old stuff, like reams and reams of Gestetner paper. Kathleen seemed interested taking in the paper. We discussed whether mimeo paper was suitable for other uses such as photocopying—Kathleen thought it would be too rough/absorbent. I agreed, remembering the mimeo paper from when I was in elementary school—announcements were mimeographed on soft, absorbent paper, in purple ink. Graeme said the last time he saw Gestetner technology was at the now defunct local Gestetner store where a \$10,000 Gestetner contained a mini computer compatible with other computers and if you hooked them up you could download your file and get the Gestetner to print out a massive run!

(Cool!) Steve is also giving away tons of old *BCSFazines* and convention program books, in which I immediately expressed an interest.<sup>5</sup>

Someone (Ray?) asked about the location of VCON 39. Someone else (Kathleen?) replied that it has been confirmed: the Sheraton Guildford in Surrey, same place as for VCON 37.



Barb and others offered condolences on the passing of Nero, my cat. Barb said that it's normal to keep "seeing" one's late loved ones everywhere. Graeme said that when he was a bachelor, he didn't keep pets because he couldn't bear to lose them. When he married his wife, he already knew that she took in stray and injured animals, and that's how they accumulated the many pets they now have.

Graeme said that he'd seen [Fru's Facebook post](#) about *War Babies* (1932), the disturbing Shirley Temple short. Graeme said it was actually a parody of typical post-Great War movies. An independent Canadian company filmed a similar yet very realistic WWI film using veterans circa 1919, but critics condemned it for the scene where a Canadian soldier cheats on his girlfriend with a French barmaid. No true Canadian would do such a thing, they claimed. The film was deemed lost, but was later found in a frozen, abandoned swimming pool in the Yukon where numerous films had been stashed by a film theatre that refused to pay the expense of shipping the films back to their distributor. Probably a short-lived film house.

Stew said something about the latest right-wing outrage—that when Whitney Houston died, President Obama flew the flag at half-mast, but when Shirley Temple Black—an actual ambassador and public servant—died, he didn't. Stew added that he still wants to check this on [Snopes.com](#), but he'd heard that Justin Bieber was born the day Kurt Cobain died.<sup>6</sup> Graeme misheard "Kurt Colbert," which might make a good mashup.

Someone said that Bieber is only 19, so he's allowed to be young and foolish. Someone asked if Elvis Presley was the same way at 19. Stew answered that no, Elvis wasn't famous at 19—he was still a truck driver—though Albert Goldman's Presley biography<sup>7</sup> did say that Elvis was wild in his youth. I'd heard of Goldman a few months ago, but as the author of a controversial John Lennon biography.<sup>8</sup> This led to discussion of the latest developments in the Woody Allen scandal. Stew had heard that Allen had published a reply to Dylan Farrow's accusations.



*"I can shake a chicken in the middle of the room!"*

Barb mentioned that Ray has enrolled in a course called Stand Up for Mental Health, taught by counselor/comic/author

5 They range from the early eighties to late nineties, and I'm enjoying reading them.—Future Felicity

6 Bieber was born 1 March 1994, and Cobain died 5 April 1994.—Future Felicity

7 *Elvis* (1981).—Future Felicity

8 *The Lives of John Lennon* (1988).—Future Felicity

David Granirer. Barb said to look for its [website](#) or [Facebook page](#). There’s weekly homework—write four jokes. It meets Tuesdays from 1–4 PM in Burnaby. You have to submit a letter and apply at the end of the year—the course starts in January. The public can attend the performances. Ray is also taking life skills classes Friday mornings and public speaking classes Friday afternoons at the Richmond Centre for Disability, #100–5671 Number Three Road (at Lansdowne Road). Ray had written some jokes about the first World Vision Canadian telethon in New Westminster, but then found out that nothing racy is allowed, so he had to scrap those jokes. Graeme said, “Try jokes about safe topics like tying your tie incorrectly.” “Or airline food,” I added. Kathleen said that jokes about airlines might offend any sponsors who are airlines, but jokes about airline *food* they won’t mind.

The chips at the meeting were called Hardbite, which sounded to me like a 1990s cartoon cyber-villain.

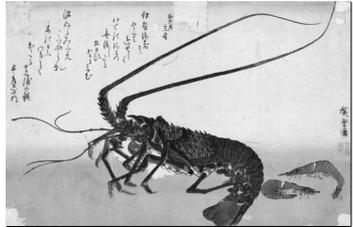


*I was almost raised a Rubik’s snake handler.*

Someone said something about snake-handling religions. Someone said that the sad thing about owning a snake is having to feed it live prey. They saw someone at the pet store selecting the baby mouse (still clinging desperately to its cage) that they wanted to feed to their snake. Someone else (me?) said, “Like choosing your lobster.” Fru said that he comes from a place where they have a lot of lobsters, but they don’t single out the live lobster they want to eat, because that would feel weird. I pointed at an imaginary lobster and said, “*You shall be the one!*” Fru added, “*This is the price of defiance!*”

Graeme said that the makers of *Night of the Lepus* (1972) were faced with the difficult task of making rabbits scary, and tried adding thundering herd noises. I said, “And slowed-down rabbit noises.” I said we’d just seen a RiffTrax sample for *Night of the Lepus* at the apartment.

The conversation turned to rats. Fru said he used to hang out by the docks in his hometown, and once saw a rat the size of a chihuahua. A stevedore told him that he’d seen one the size of a cat!



*Bring your butter gun and lemon bandolier in case we have to fight the Gargons.*

Stew said that this month marks the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of the guy who gave us Robbie the Robot<sup>9</sup> and Colossus from *Space: 1999*,<sup>10</sup> Robert Kinoshita, or would if he were still alive.<sup>11</sup>

Ray said that he and his friends hacked the school computer by guessing that the password was the principal’s birthday, which had been given in the yearbook on his 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Kathleen said, “Our school only had one computer, but this was the University of Alberta and the computer was Amdahl—a mainframe.”

9 From *Forbidden Planet* (1956) and *The Invisible Boy* (1957).—Future Felicity

10 Also Tobor from *Tobor the Great* (1954) and Robot from *Lost in Space* (1965–1968).—Future Felicity

11 [He’s still alive!](#)—Future Felicity



*Eric Wareheim as Larry Groznic.*

I'd had the theme from *What's Happening!!* (1976–1979) in my head all day. The show was before my time, so I first learned of it through an episode of *Friends* (1994–2004) in which Chandler said “Dee, the sarcastic girl from *What's Happening!!*” I suddenly realized that Chandler was a proto-hipster. Joe said (imitating Chandler), “Could I be more of a hipster?”

Joe organized the books on the bookshelf. I saw that one was by Ann Rule. I asked if that was the lesbian author, and Joe said that was *Jane* Rule. Someone told me once that when she was in college, one would carefully test the waters by asking “Do you read Jane Rule?” If the person knew who that was, then it was safe to ask her out. This made me imagine a pretty heterosexual girl at an all-woman college exasperatedly saying, “Why do people keep asking me that?!”

Kathleen's dress was a dark pink that I thought might be “pomo pink” (see meeting notes from *BCSFAzine* #471), but she said that it was not ashes of roses, it was “chocolate pink”: the colour of your milk when the chocolate syrup is too thick.

Ray continued on pirate radio (see meeting notes from *BCSFAzine* #489). Fru remembered a story about two British girls who lived near a US base and so could hear rock and roll on the American radio frequency. This reminded me of a 1978 ad for 1950s records I'd seen on YouTube, starring a young Jeff Conaway.<sup>12</sup> His character seemed angry that 1950s music had gone out of style. I'm displeased about the end of music genres from my youth too, but they don't run ads with angry 1980s people.

Stew remembered “the day [*his*] childhood died.” He was not yet a teen, but Beatlemania and James Bond were popular, and suddenly nine- and ten-year-old girls were worrying about their clothes and experiencing peer pressure.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by Graeme Cameron

Sunday 16 February 2014

## VCON 38 Con Report: Day 2

Michael Bertrand

**Saturday, October 5, 2013**

10:30 AM: Woke up too late to make it to the breakfast buffet, which mysteriously ends at 11 AM instead of the much saner hour of 1 PM like a normal place. Whatever happened to brunch? I am really more of a brunch person. We night owls love brunching. It's everything that is good about breakfast, but later.

Guess I will be dining a la Chez Hospitality today. It's a good thing I am the sort of person who is just as happy with sandwiches as I am with eggs and bacon.

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<sup>12</sup> I think this was it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G-FGEmLsYx0>.—Future Felicity

12 PM: Brunchfast turns out to be two pre-made roast beef sandwiches snagged just before the lunch rush hits. Oh, but I am a clever one. I feed the Alien Head a few bucks, and Hospitality feeds me. Boffo. Feeling almost human now.

I peruse the mendacious program book and discover there is nothing I really care to attend until 3 PM, when there is, of course, three different things. Isn't that always the way? Either nothing, or too much.

Bereft of purpose, I decide to return to home base and go back up to Chez Nous with no particular agenda. When in doubt, return to home base, I guess.

1 PM: I return to our room to find Joe is there, freshly awoken. After a few minutes chat, I get a great idea, and ask Joe if I can borrow his laptop so I can write a blog entry for the day. This turns out to be a more complicated procedure than I had anticipated, as it requires Joe to make an account for me on his computer, and so I feel a little guilty for putting him through all that trouble.

Still, mission accomplished. I log into my website and tappity type away my one thousand words for the day. I had expected to be unable to blog during the festivities, so this is a pleasant bonus. I have blogged at least a thousand words a day for years now, so it is far more than a habit and something a lot more like a need.

1:30 PM: Having done my writing for the day, I catch a little extra sleep. Conventions are like being in the Army. You learn to take sleep whenever you can.

3 PM: After much agonizing, I decide to go to the Justify the Science Flaw panel, mainly because I went to it last year and it was a hoot. The basic idea is that Karl Johnson brings a list of examples of blatantly wrong science in popular media, and he, the panel, and the rest of us nerds in the audience try to come up with explanations of why that isn't *really* a flaw.

It echoes the Marvel No-Prize, which Marvel used to award (or non-award?) to fans who came up with justifications for seeming errors in continuity, science, or whatnot in Marvel comics.

The real fun comes in the ridiculousness (not to mention flimsiness) of the justifications required to cover up some of the most egregious flaws.

And, despite back pain problems (damn this getting old thing), I have just as much fun this year.

4 PM: Ah, the Elrons, the always hilarious "awards" bestowed by the inimitable (but very imitworthy) R. Graeme Cameron every year to targets which richly deserve it, one way or another. They are a highlight of the convention every year, and extremely popular, a fact which seems to have escaped the convention planners because the room booked for it is tiny and cramped and many people, including my dear friend Felicity Walker, simply cannot get in to see them. This was a crushing blow to those who did not make it in, and I am very upset at this oversight. I really hope it never happens again.

Seriously, with his dry wit and stentorian voice, R. Graeme is like a rock star to us local fans!

5 PM: Regroup at our room, AKA Chez Nous, for the usual confab about dinner plans. Felicity has discovered that the TV in our room no longer gets Channel 30, her favorite. It got it just fine the previous evening, but now we get nothing but static. She calls down to the front desk to tell them about it, and they deny ever having had a Channel 30, or indeed to know what this "tell ee vish un" we speak of might be. Felicity manages to convince them of the existence of both, so they send up a

tech, or at least, a worried looking Asian dude in a white dress shirt. He tries the denial trick too, but we see through it. He eventually leaves while mumbling something about checking “the box” somewhere. Well, we did what we could.

5:30 PM: Dinner at ABC Country Kitchen restaurant, another of our favorite local haunts. That’s what is great about a convention that is practically in your own back yard. You already know all the good place to eat.

7:15 PM: I catch ¾ of the Video Game History panel. Learned tons of cool video game history trivia from the man, Ryan Cousineau, who curated the video game history exhibit for the VAG. He really knows his stuff!

8 PM: A panel intriguingly titled Are We Your Bitches? It is based on a comment Neil Gaiman made to a bunch of unruly fans that George R.R. Martin is “not their bitch,” and it was about the eternal question “What, exactly, does an author owe their fans?” Very interesting to me as both an enthusiastic fan and an aspiring writer.

I figure all authors owe their fans is quality product and politeness in interaction. The rest is negotiable.

10:30 PM: Felicity and I head out into the night for a supply run. We return with some McD’s, a lot of food from 7-11 that I should *not* be eating, various beauty supplies (not that she needs them), and a gassed up car.

12 AM: Felicity and I settle back and get comfy Chez Nous, and unwind from the day’s activities with our old friends, television and junk food. Hope I sleep better tonight.



Michael Bertrand  
The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand  
Sunday 13 October 2013

## Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead, Page 1
<u>Brad Foster</u> .....	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u> ).....	Pages 1–3
Clip art ( <u>Clker.com</u> ).....	Pages 4, 7, 9, 12, 16–17, 18 (right), 19–20, 22
Clip art [ <i>Vampyr</i> (1932) screenshot/vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u> ]....	Page 5
Clip art (Colin Upton flyer via <u>Julian Castle</u> ).....	Page 10
Clip art ( <i>Super 3D Noah’s Ark</i> screenshot).....	Page 14
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photo/vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u> ).....	Page 18 (left)