



BCSFazine



The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#485

\$3.00/Issue

October 2013



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RICHMOND, 4 October 2013,

40 ISSUES OF BCSFazine No. 485,

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WHEREOF CAPTAIN Felicity Walker IS MISTRESS,

AND BOUND FOR VCON 38.

BCSFazine © October 2013, Volume 41, #10, Issue #485 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN 1490-6406.

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.

BCSFazine is distributed monthly at White Dwarf Books, 3715 West 10th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V6R 2G5; telephone 604-228-8223; e-mail whitedwarf@deadwrite.com. Single copies C\$3.00/US\$2.00 each. *Cheques should be made payable to "West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA)."*

This and Next Month in BCSFA

Friday 18 October:	Submission deadline for November <i>BCSFazine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 20 October @ 7 PM:	October BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 25 October:	November <i>BCSFazine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 15 November:	Submission deadline for December <i>BCSFazine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 17 November @ 7 PM:	November BCSFA meeting.
Friday 29 November:	December <i>BCSFazine</i> production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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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/bcscifi_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.

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Monday 9 September 2013

Hi Felicity,

Apparently the silly season is upon us. Either that or people are trying to outdo each other again.

A recent study found that people exposed to Thomas Kinkade paintings liked his work less and less the more often they saw it.—Maggie



In addition, how do you know you are not being simulated by a transcended Japanese toilet seat wanting to determine if you properly flushed its pre-sentient brethren? Or any other conceivable alternative scenario? Again: stop worrying and live your life as if this is the only real reality. Really!

Talk of a technologically supercharged humanity rings hollow when 2.6 billion human beings lack toilets.

Liberia's education minister says she finds it hard to believe that not a single candidate passed this year's university admission exam. Nearly 25,000 school-leavers failed the test for admission to the University of Liberia, one of two state-run universities.

The infamous War Plan Red—America planned for a potential war with Britain. Little is said of contemporary British war plans, which stated that France was its only viable potential European threat and which was to dictate the positioning of the RAF's airfields in the 1920s and early 1930s.

Man's Body Found in Jilted Girlfriend's Freezer

<http://suvudu.com/2013/08/monument-to-azathoth-god-of-chaos-appears-in-front-of-oklahoma-restaurant.html>

We lost Ann Crispin and Frederik Pohl.

“You can't really predict the future. All you can do is invent it.”—Frederik Pohl

“A witty, sincerely nice guy. I've seen him get overloaded by a concom that should have known a writer needs, like, time to eat—and never a complaint. He'd do it. He was genuinely a fan as well as a heck of a writer and thinker.”—Quoted from CJ Cherryh about Frederick Pohl

<http://io9.com/these-sea-creatures-are-clearly-from-outer-space-758780231>

The sourtoe cocktail was legendary at the Downtown Hotel in Dawson City. Over 52,000 people have drunk cocktails garnished with toes at the bar, and were on notice that they faced a \$500 fine if they swallowed the toe. But two weeks ago, a mysterious stranger stepped into the bar, ordered the sourtoe, drank it down, toe and all, plunked \$500 on the bar, and walked out into the night.

[*And the legend was born!*]

So many Japanese are falling off rail platforms or bumping into things while staring at smartphones that it's sparked safety campaigns.

“The Children of Hood are an underground network of pagan and occult activists who act in defiance of corporate, government and military abuses of power. Each member works alone and in secret, never meeting with the others. In recent years governments and corporations have started eroding the freedoms of the people to suit their aims; manipulating the masses via the media and other events. Peaceful protest, dissent, activism and alternative views are all being curbed and eliminated, making the population largely powerless to their ‘masters’—‘masters’ who often ironically preach freedom and democracy whilst inventing new legislation to the contrary. Those who wish to protect their society, individual freedoms, resources, the environment and the planet from this menace are deliberately being made unable to resist by conventional means; the Children of Hood do not use conventional means. We are a collective of pagans, occultists, witches, magicians, sorcerers, vodouists, wiccans, alchemists, druids, shaman—and anyone else who uses magic, spellcraft or ritual to effect change. Each member is anonymous, most likely unique, yet united to, and strengthened by, the entire network and our unified aims.”

[Cool!]

I’m finished with the playtest of *Struggle for the Galactic Empire*. Now I can start playing it for fun.

The next playtest is a solitaire comp game of *D-Day at Omaha Beach*. This one is for those who want history served up raw. If I recall correctly the designer was one of the old hands at Avalon Hill. Steve Jackson Games has a huge space rented for the *Ogre* Kickstarter party in Austin in October. As a number of Kickstarter projects have turned into messes it will be nice to see a success.

WorldCon—Spokane in 2015 will be good for the West Coast Science Fiction community, at least closer than most big conventions.

Charlie Stross had some interesting things to say about generation gaps and worldviews. This was in reference to the “spooks” and their organizations. He doesn’t think organizational loyalties mean the same thing to current young people as they did to elders. He didn’t even get far enough back to include me...*grin*.

I think it is more a case of their being more aware of what is really going on. I happen to think that’s good. In the old days the media could drum up a nice phoney excuse allowing USA to pull a drive-by on Syria. It would then take months for the news that we were doing it to help Al-Queda, who has been armed by the Saudis recently. Now that information is out before the strike is a fiat accompli and nobody wants it to happen. Classic science fiction in which the technology affects the way people do things, in this case a case of Kafka thrown in to give everybody a pie in the face too.

A recent ebook on Gutenberg is about Egyptian myths. Has an interesting mix of illustrations. The more recent were probably considered pornographic by Victorian standards but I’m sure scholars are immune to such bestial impulses.

<http://topologiccoceans.wordpress.com/2013/09/05/wonderous-stories/>

That link is to something of interest. Far too much time has been wasted on beginnings of animals and far too little on the things that made them possible.

For one of the nuttiest things seen this week, hop over to Boing Boing and check out General Alexander’s “bridge of the *Enterprise*” office at NSA.

Warm regards,

Dave Haren

Hey there BCSFAns! And hi to all you VCON attendees, too! Welcome to VCON, welcome to Richmond, welcome to Canada where appropriate. Hope you are all having your particular flavour of a really great time!



Once more, I am reporting from the trenches of my own output obsession. For those of you who don't know, I write a 1000-ish-word blog entry day at michaeljohnbertrand.com, and lately, I have taken to making a video of some sort every day too.

So far, neither has exactly made me an Internet superstar, or even enough money for lunch at McDonald's, but it keeps me busy and helps me deal with the clinical depression that I struggle with every day by giving me something to focus on.



Re: David Haren's LOC. I have seen stuff about Elon Musk's big high speed tube travel thing and it strikes me as insanely impractical, highly theoretical, and extremely unlikely to be done given California already being massively in debt and not exactly in a good position to fund mega-projects.

Hell, even Elon Musk himself doesn't seem all that enthusiastic about it!

Re: Lloyd Penney talking about learning from fiction. I am of the opinion that good fiction gives you a kind of ersatz life experience that gives you a small fraction of the benefit of actual life experience. It leads you to imagine yourself as the main character and thus experience the plot.

[To paraphrase Brian O'Blivion, the written word is part of the structure of the human brain; therefore, whatever appears on the page emerges as raw experience for those who read it. I hope this doesn't validate media watchdog moral guardians.]

It's low in effectiveness...there is truly nothing like the real thing. But fiction compensates by being readily available and relatively risk free.

That's all from me for this issue, folks! Enjoy VCON...I will see you next month!

John Purcell
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Wednesday 18 September 2013

Hello, Felicity!

I am starting to get back into the swing of writing letters of comment again, but it's taken a bit of time since WorldCon two weeks ago. Now I'm starting to feel a bit more capable of writing coherent commentary. We shall see.

This will be a quick one, but I'm sure you won't complain. First off, Lloyd Penney says that summer is not over yet, and that is so definitely true down here in Texas. In fact, I would go so far as to say that summer in our part of Texas—SouthCentralEastern region, by my geographical designation—summer lasts from Easter to Thanksgiving. That is eight months, give or take a week or two. From April through the end of September, 90 degree Fahrenheit temperatures are the

norm, with triple digit highs expected for the months of June through early September. Heck, today the forecast is for 97 °F, which is admittedly above normal, but when the “normal” temperature is 91 °F, what difference does another six degrees make? Not a whole bunch. So I don’t want to hear you Canadians complaining about the heat. Then again, you folks get vicious winters—which I experienced while growing up in Minnesota—so we’re talking one extreme compared to another.

[*Well, don't get mad, but here in Vancouver we don't get vicious winters, either. At worst, there's a foot or two of snow and we can't get out of the driveway.*]

Given the choice, I'll take the heat.

[*I would always rather be cold than hot. If you're cold you can turn on the heat, wear more layers, or just go to bed and hide under the blankets. If you're hot, it's hopeless. All you can do is strip down to your underwear and try not to move.*]

I can't stand driving on ice, scraping snow, ice, sleet off car windows, prying car doors open, and so on. No, I'll take our Texas winters over that any



day. When the lows are maybe sub-freezing, that's considered cold here. Remind me sometime to write a fan article about driving to Minn-StF meetings/holiday parties in the dead of winter. Some of those excursions were true adventures.

Lloyd also mentioned that having friends around helps to ease the burden and pain of grieving the loss of a friend or loved one. Total agreement. Fandom has lost so many wonderful people in recent years—just yesterday I learned of Delphyne Joan Woods (AKA Joan-Hanke Woods), who drew artwork for my fanzine and tons of others back in the '70s and '80s—that fandom has become a huge support group. So I have learned just how much my friends in fandom mean to me and I truly appreciate their companionship. These are Good People, and I cherish them.

[*Life is scary and depressing, and we have to be there for each other.*]

Anyway, I think I shall stop there and get to class. Time to give a test! So until next time, thanks for pubbing, and take care of yourself.

All the best,
John Purcell

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Thursday 19 September 2013

Dear BCSFAns:

The paper issue of *BCSFazine* 484 has arrived, and many thanks, Felicity. There's never enough time in the month to get everything done, so here's an attempt at some comments for the next issue.

Dave Haren, I actually watch very little television. News, documentaries, *Canadian Pickers* and *Murdoch Mysteries*. Nothing else has attracted my interest, and that gives me plenty of time to go job hunting, and write letters like this one. Unfortunately, it doesn't pay anything, and the exchange rate of egoboo to Canadian \$\$\$ is pretty low.

A great calendar...wish we had something similar here. I do keep a list of conventions and other events, and attach it to Yvonne's monthly pubnights reminder, but we don't have the connections with the gamers and modellers we used to have. Wish I could rejoin you at VCON.



[*So do I!*]

Probably wrote this before, but I was living on Vancouver Island when Mount St. Helens exploded. I was living in Qualicum Beach May 18, 1980, and I remember following the story on the various Seattle television stations we could get. I also remember hearing CHPQ, the local radio station, and getting tips on how to safely get volcanic ash off your car without ruining the paint job.

The Aurora voting period is done...fingers crossed. Yvonne and I can't go to the Convention in Ottawa next month, so we're hoping that in the off chance that I might win the pointy trophy this year, Rob Sawyer might pick it up for me. I've asked him to be my proxy, and who knows, there's a slim chance for me.

Anyway, I am done, and will be sending this out shortly. Must get back to the hunt. Many thanks, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

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

11 July, 8 August, 12 September, 10 October, 14 November and 12 December 2013: Teen Manga Advisory Group, 4–5 PM at Teen Library, 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. Alternate URL.—Julian Castle

26 September–11 October 2013: VIFF (Vancouver International Film Festival) at various locations in Vancouver, BC. The Congress, 122 mins. (animation/action/sci-fi); Halley, 83 mins. (zombie); The Unity of All Things, 97 mins. (“multilingual, queer science-fiction satire on Otherness”); and other films. Single tickets: \$13 regular. \$11 weekday matinee before 6 PM (not valid holidays). \$11 student (18+) or senior (65+). Ticket packs: \$50 for student/senior 5-ticket pack. \$60 for 5-ticket pack (limit 1 ticket per screening). \$144 for 12-ticket pack (limit 2 tickets per screening). \$220 for 20-ticket pack (limit 2 tickets per screening). \$300 for 30-ticket pack (limit 2 tickets per screening). Passes: \$100 for dragons & tigers pass. \$175 weekday matinee pass. Plus other passes.—Julian Castle

October 2013

October is Stamp Collection Month and Starman Month.

1 October 2013: **Dave Strutt**'s birthday.

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October and 5, 12, 19, and 26 November 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

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 October 2013 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st 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

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 October and 6, 13, 20, and 27 November 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

3 October 2013: SD Galleria Presents—Mind Games—An Aether Avenue Production, 7 PM at Simply Delicious Restaurant AKA SD Galleria + Sushi Lounge, 4316 Main Street, Vancouver. “Big announcement! Spread the word! We packed the house at Falconetti’s, so Aether Avenue has moved to a bigger venue! Simply Delicious Restaurant AKA SD Galleria + Sushi Lounge will be the new home for Thrilling Thursday Theatre. Unfortunately because of the venue change, it means that we had to move Mind Games to October. So October 3rd sees the relaunch of Mind

Games!” “Doors open at 6:30 PM. Show starts at 7:30 PM. Aether Avenue is proud to present the first Thrilling Thursday Theatre production: *Mind Games*. In the dangerous and deceptive world of high-stakes knowledge gambling, players bet not with money but their own knowledge and memories for a chance at winning the ultimate secret. One young gambler will risk not just his future but the key to his own past, in his pursuit of the big win. Thrilling Thursday Theatre is an homage to *The Twilight Zone* in which Aether Avenue tells fun, quirky stories, using elements of the supernatural with an ironic twist. Aether Avenue uses an interactive format, performing amongst the audience instead of on the stage. *Mind Games* will be performed at Falconetti’s East Side Grill. Show dates will be August 29th, as well as September 5th, 12th, 19th, and 26th. Reserved tickets are \$10. Shows are intimate with limited seating, so don’t hesitate on reserving tickets; shows are selling out fast. Directed by Zac Fudge. Written by Stephanie Gray.”—Stephanie Gray

3, 17, and 31 October and 14 and 28 November 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 Lawson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

4 October 2013: **Barbara Scutt**’s birthday. Premiere of film *Gravity* (SF/thriller; Sandra Bullock, George Clooney).

4 October 2013: UBC Anime Club: Showing #2: Season Preview and Karaoke Night, 5–10 PM at BUCH¹ A104, 1866 Main Mall, UBC, Vancouver. UBC Anime Club event. Probably involves watching anime with members voting on future date which series to continue watching.—Julian Castle

4, 11, 18, and 25 October and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November 2013 (*Fridays*): Fontana Friday—BC Browncoats, 6:30–7:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 October and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November 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

4–6 October 2013: **VCON 38** at the Delta Vancouver Airport Hotel, 3500 Cessna Drive, Richmond. “VCON is Vancouver BC’s premiere science fiction and fantasy convention. Come join us for three days of fannish fun and multi-track programming

1 Buchanan Building.—Felicity

including: art show & auction • vendors hall • author readings • 24-hour games rooms • multi-author book launch • writers workshops • demos • Academie Duello • artists alley • Frankenstuffs • fan groups • costuming • panels • hospitality suite • dance • Elrons • Turkey Readings • workshops.” “VCON 38 Theme: Pirates and Piracy: Sea, Space & Web. Arrrrrr Matey! Swashbuckling rogues, desperate space battles, the future of intellectual property rights, grizzled old seamen following ancient treasure maps, the basics of Ferengi business practices, peer to peer file sharing, and maybe even a little Captain Morgan...there’s a lot to think about, and we’re sure you’ll have plenty of ideas to keep you busy over the next year! Welcome!” “VCON 38 Guests of Honour: Author Guest of Honour—Mur Lafferty (also a podcaster and a voice actor); Author Guest of Honour—Dan Wells (also a podcaster); Artist Guest of Honour—John Kovalic (also a webcomic author and game creator); Special Guest Artist—Thyrza Segal (also a costumer).”

4–6 October 2013: Can-Con 2013—The Conference on Canadian Content in Speculative Arts and Literature, Minto Suite Hotel, 185 Lyon Street North, Ottawa, Ontario. Host of Canvention 33—Aurora Awards.

5 October 2013: **Jim Naguib**’s birthday.

5 October 2013: A Celebration for Bobbie, 3 PM at 14616 Ley Road, Gold Bar, WA. “We would like to invite you all to come celebrate the woman that meant so much to so many. This is a potluck, so please bring a dish! There will be places for people to set up tents if you plan to stay the night. Chairs aren’t a bad idea, either. The memorial service will be here on the property and starting at 3 PM. You are welcome to come before then, but you will ‘be put to work’ says Jerry. We expect people to be showing up all day. * Please park on the street below the bridge or carpool. You can also park up at Wallace Falls Park, but will need a Discovery Pass. Parking on the property is very limited and is reserved for those that reside there and those that have limited mobility. If you need closer parking please contact Jenny Nelson or Sarah Steever. Those that need special parking will be accepted on a case by case basis, and will be emailed a pass to get through the gate and will have a reserved part in the yard. There is very limited space. If you are unable to get a close space there will be people able to give rides up to the gate if needed. ** If there are any volunteers willing to come help over the next few weeks (you will be getting dirty) or to help set up the day before and of, please also contact Jenny or Sarah.”—Bobbie DuFault

5, 12, 19, and 26 October and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November 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

5–6 October 2013: Whale of a Book Sale! Saturday 9 AM–5 PM; Sunday 9 AM–3 PM at Thompson Community Centre, 5151 Granville Avenue, Richmond (Lynas Lane at Granville Avenue, between Number Two Road and Railway Avenue). “Over

20,000 books—paperback and hardcover—fiction and non-fiction—all categories—Chinese and other languages—children’s picture books and young readers—gift books in excellent condition for every occasion. Please bring your own boxes or bags. Sponsored by Friends of the Richmond Library. All proceeds benefit Richmond libraries.”

5–6 October 2013: Vancouver Hack Space Fifth Anniversary + SHHH 29 + Open House at Vancouver Hack Space, 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. Open house 12–5 PM. Super Happy Hacker House 9 PM–2 AM. Lightning talks 11 PM. To celebrate its five-year anniversary VHS will be open to the general public with an open house, a special Super Happy Hacking House (SHHH 29), and Lightning Talks. “Super Happy Hacking House (or SHHH) is a social night where members and non-members are welcome to gather for conversation, beverages, lightning talks, and super happy hacking.” A “lightning talk is a short presentation on any subject that you want... (two minutes or less)... by different speakers. Challenge coins will given out to the people doing talks. Remember to *bring your own cup!*” [Facebook](#). [See *Vancouver Hack Space Open House for more VHS details.*]—[Julian Castle](#)

5 October–29 December 2013: Keith Langergraber: Theatre of the Exploding Sun at 1315 Water Street, Kelowna. “Focus on the three-part film, *Time Traveller Trilogy*, also includes sculptural elements and two suites of drawings/works on paper exploring sci-fi culture.” Hours: Tuesday–Saturday 10 AM–5 PM, Thursday 10 AM–9 PM, Sunday 1–4 PM. Admission: individual \$5, students & seniors \$4, family \$10, group (ten or more) \$40, *free* for members, *free* for everyone on Thursdays 3–9 PM. Telephone: 250-762-2226. Fax: 250-762-9875.”—[Julian Castle](#)

6 October 2013: **Arthur D. Hlavaty’s** birthday.

6 October 2013: South Arm Swap Meet, 10 AM–1 PM at South Arm Community Centre, 8880 Williams Road, Richmond. “*Free admission.* 604-718-8060.”

6 October 2013: Cherry Bomb Toys: Ultimate Toy and Hobby Fair, Pearkes Arena, 3100 Tillicum Road, Saanich. [No other information given.]

6, 13, 20, and 27 October and 3, 10, 17, and 24 November 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](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 October and 4, 11, 18, and 25 November 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

2, 9, 16, and 23 October 2013 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st 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

8 October and 12 November 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

9 October–16 November 2013: Bio/Graphic: Autobiography in Comics, 10 AM–5 PM at Seymour Art Gallery, 4360 Gallant Avenue (around Deep Cove), North Vancouver. The “craft of telling personal stories through comics by showcasing the work of six Metro Vancouver artists...Sean Karemaker, Sarah Leavitt, Miriam Libicki, Megan Speers, Jason Turner and Colin Upton.” Sunday 20 October, 2–3 PM: panel discussion with Sarah Leavitt, Jason Turner, and Colin Upton; 3–4:30 PM: reception. Phone: 604-924-1378. Presumably admission is free.—Julian Castle

9 and 23 October and 6 and 20 November 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

10 October and 14 November 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

10 October and 14 November 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

11 October 2013: **Ivy Blais**’s birthday. Premiere of film *Carrie* (horror/“reimagining”); Chloë Grace Moretz, Julianne Moore, Judy Greer).

11 October 2013: UBC Anime Club: Showing #3: Season Previews, Cosplay Workshop and Board Games, 5–10 PM at BUCH A104, 1866 Main Mall, UBC, Vancouver. UBC Anime Club event. Probably involves watching anime and members deciding which series to continue watching. Workshop probably run by cosplayers with advice for cosplay.—Julian Castle

11 October and 8 November² 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

12 October 2013: The 5th Annual Bellingham Comicon, 10 AM–5 PM at Ferndale Events Center, 5715 Barrett Road, Ferndale, Washington (Exit 262 off I-5, just 10 minutes north of Bellingham and 15 minutes from the Canadian border). “Northwest Washington’s largest selection of comics from the Golden Age to Modern, toys, action figures, and more. With special guests including professional comic book artists and writers plus local creators: Randy Emberlin (*Spider-Man*, *Ghost*), Michel Gagne (*Story of Rex*, *Iron Giant*), Kat Richardson (*Greywalker*), Bob Smith (*Archie*, *Batman*), James Taylor (*The Victorian*, *Decoy*), Doug Wheatley (*Star Wars*, *Aliens*). Door prizes. Costume contest. Admission \$7.00 (kids 7 & under free). Tickets available at the door or at Brown Paper Tickets. Contact Eric Burris at info@bellinghamcomicon.com.”

2 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

12 October and 15 November 2013: 2013 IPMS Vancouver Fall Model Show, 9 AM–4:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “43rd Annual IPMS Vancouver Fall Show and Swap Meet. A scale model show and display. Our show attracts scale modellers from around the Pacific Northwest, Western Canada, and Europe. Past competitions have had up to 450 scale models on display. This year’s theme: the Korean War. Admission is \$5.00 for anyone 17 years and older and *free* for 16 and younger. Parking is also free and we are very close to Metrotown Skytrain station. Door prizes donated by local hobby shops and industry suppliers will be given out all day long, and awards will be handed out at the end of the day for the winning models. Our famous vendors room will be open as well for those looking for some modelling bargains. For more information please go to <http://www.ipmsvancouver.ca/>.”

12 October 2013: 2013 IPMS Gunpla Show Case Dorama/2013 IPMS Vancouver Fall Show Gunpla Contest, all day/9 AM–12 PM, Bonsor Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.

12 October 2013: Rocky Horror Fetish Ball by Sin City, 9 PM–2 AM at Imperial Vancouver, 319 Main Street, Vancouver. “[...] Bringing together all our celluloid, kinky cult & cinema fans, all our deviant burlesque vixens, all our fabulous drag queen divas and of course all our *sexy sexy sinners* for a night dedicated to *absolute pleasure*. Everything about this event will *scream Rocky Horror*, the ultimate fusion of *camp + kink* with an extra serving of *glam + halloween* on the side! Note however that this is a *club event* and not a cinema screening of the movie! [...] On-line tickets [here](#). We are expecting a *sold out house* for this event. [...] Stage shows by Vancouver’s Queen of Burlesque *Burgundy Brixx!* Drag performances & Davie Street realness served by *Raye Sunshine!* [...] *Prizes* for best costumes of the night! Bring us your men in women’s lingerie! Your transsexual Transylvanians! Your burlesque & cabaret kinksters! Androids fighting Brad & Janet! We know you’ve secretly always wanted to let out your inner Frank N. Furter, Rocky, Riff Raff, Magenta, or Columbia...now’s the time to do it! *Drag it up baby!* Sin City loves drag queens and tonight’s the night to showcase your best Transylvanian drag! *Rocky Horror* themed outfits aren’t mandatory but they are highly encouraged. Sin City *loves* all things kinky so non-Rocky fetish outfits are just fine too! However, please remember that [...] there is a *fetish dress code* in effect at all times! This means absolutely no street or casual wear! [...] Dungeon area on site, complete with bondage furniture options, flogging crosses & suspension frames...give yourself over to absolute pleasure on our sturdy, cushioned play pieces! [...] Stage dancing, cage dancing, and downright dirty dancefloor action with Sin City resident DJs Pandemonium and R-Lex. You better believe that loads of songs from *Rocky Horror* will be getting played over the course of the night! *Hosted by Evilyn13*, who will also be playing a very special and insanely fun guest DJ set! [...] *Rocky Horror themed photo booth* hosted by Atratus of Gothic BC! [...] For more information, please visit [Sin City’s website](#).”

15 October 2013: **Verne Siebert’s** birthday.

16 October 2013: **Duncan McGregor's** birthday.

18 October 2013: UBC Anime Club: Showing #4: Gaming Night, 5–10 PM at BUCH A104, 1866 Main Mall, UBC, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

18 October 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

19 October 2013: **Cathy Palmer-Lister** and **Gareth von Kallenbach's** birthdays.

19 October and 16 November 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

20 October 2013: **Richard Walters's** birthday.

20 October 2013: Vancouver Robotics Club, 10–11:50 AM at Vancouver Hack Space, 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. “The Vancouver Robotics Club is a meeting place for people who like building robots.” “The beginning of each meeting we do a show-and-tell for everyone to give a short talk or demonstrate their current robot or electronics project.” No membership required. “Dan Royer is sponsoring this event for VHS, and is opening VHS that day for anyone who wants to visit.” [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for more VHS details.*]—Julian Castle

20 October and 17 November 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

20 October 2013: *Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein* (1948 film), 1 PM at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. A Cinema Sunday event: all ages welcome. Box office opens 30 minutes before first film of day. Tickets: \$6 youth under 18 years; \$9 adult. No membership required.—Julian Castle

21 October 2013: **Christopher J. Garcia**'s birthday.

25 October 2013: Punk for a Day Day and Frankenstein Friday.

25–27 October 2013: Kippers Melee at “Ramada, 315 Rosehill Drive, Nanaimo (for Friday night Magic and early registration) and Royal Canadian Legion #256, 1630 Wellington Drive, Nanaimo (for all events³).” “Includes: Warhammer Fantasy, Warhammer 40K, Malifaux, Warmachine/Hordes, Magic, Bloodbowl, X-Wing, open gaming. For registration, schedule, and details please visit <http://www.kippersmelee.ca/> or contact kippersmelee@gmail.com. Register with payment before September 1st for early bird rates.”



26 October and 30 November 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. 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 & Critty”—Keith Lim

26 October 2013: 2013 October [Vanpla] Meeting, 1–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “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! This meeting will be held at Imperial Hobbies. Customers are normally asked to check in be-long[ing]s at front counter. But they make an exception for us for meeting related items. So please minimize the bags you bring in as space is tight. Also, you may need a parking pass if you park your vehicle for more than one hour. Please ask Imperial staff for details.”

26–27 October 2013: VIMACS IV—Vancouver Island’s Most Amazing Comic Show! at Parkes Field House, 3100 Tillicum Road, Victoria. With featured guests:

3 Except Friday night Magic, presumably.

Ron Randall, Ken Stacy. Special guests: Glen Mullaly, Janine Johnston, Nelson Dewey, Nevin Arnold. Admission: \$4 at 10 AM; children with adults free; early birds \$20 at 8:30 on Saturday. For further information call 250-361-5909 or e-mail acecola@shaw.ca.

26, 29, and 30 October 2013: *Wings of Desire* (1987 fantasy/romance), at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. October 26 & 29, 6:30 PM. October 30, 8:40 PM. An angel “decides to renounce his immortality to return to Earth as a human.” Directed by Wim Wenders. Box office opens 30 minutes before first film of day. Adult tickets: \$11 single-bill; \$14 double-bill; \$108 ten double-bill passes. Senior/student tickets: \$9 single-bill; \$12 double-bill; \$88 ten double-bill passes. Annual \$3 Cinémathèque membership required.—[Julian Castle](#)

27 October 2013: **Peter Tupper’s** birthday.

27 October 2013: [Vancouver Hack Space QGM](#), 3–5:50 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. “All voting members welcome. Process is: choose a chairperson; choose a secretary; reports from directors; old business; new business. Please have your actionable QGM proposals clearly worded at least one week prior to QGM so everyone has time to consider and discuss them.” [See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for more VHS details.]—[Julian Castle](#)

28 October 2013: Plush Animal Lovers’ Day.

29 October 2013: **Tamara Gerbrandt’s** birthday.

30 October 2013: **Kirstin Morrell’s** birthday.

31 October 2013: Halloween. Increase Your Psychic Powers Day.

31 October 2013: *Nosferatu* (1922 horror film), 6:30 PM at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. Box office opens 30 minutes before first film of day. Adult tickets: \$11 single-bill; \$14 double-bill; \$108 ten double-bill passes. Senior/student tickets: \$9 single-bill; \$12 double-bill; \$88 ten double-bill passes. Annual \$3 Cinémathèque membership required.—[Julian Castle](#)

November 2013

1 November 2013: Premiere of films *Ender’s Game* (SF/action; Harrison Ford, Ben Kingsley), *About Time* (SF/romance; Bill Nighy), and *Free Birds* (computer animation; Woody Harrelson, Amy Poehler, Owen Wilson, Keith David, Colm Meaney, George Takei, Carlos Alazraqui).

1–2 November 2013: [Howloween 2013](#) (furmeet) at Executive Hotel & Conference Center, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby. Theme is “alien abduction.” Friday: bad movie night tentatively starting at 8 PM. Saturday: Howloween. Hotel reservations: 604-298-2010 option 1. Fax: 604-298-1123. Say that you are attending the

Howloween event & event code 16905 and you will get the discounted rate (\$109 Canadian + tax per night) on November 1 and/or 2. Maximum of 4 people per room. Admission: \$20 at the door (Canadian \$ preferred).—Julian Castle

2 November 2013: Book Lovers' Day.

3 November 2013: **Dale Speirs'** birthday.

5 November 2013: Guy Fawkes Day. Hello Kitty's birthday.

6 November 2013: **Stan Hyde'**s birthday.

7 November 2013: **Tim Maruyama'**s birthday.

8 November 2013: Premiere of film *Thor: The Dark World* (fantasy/comics adaptation; Natalie Portman, Anthony Hopkins, Benicio Del Toro, Stellan Skarsgård, Stan Lee, Rene Russo).



8–10 November 2013: North Shore Wargaming Society Presents BottosCon 2013 at Sheraton Vancouver Guildford Hotel, 15269 104th Avenue, Surrey. “A Mere Matter of Gaming. Weekend pass \$40; day pass \$25. Featured events: ASL West Coast Rumble, Up Front Tournament, Wings of Glory, X-Wing, Canadian Crucible. All war games & board games welcome. Introductory games and demos all weekend. Rob Bottos: scouterrob@telus.net.”

9 November 2013: Collectibles Fair and Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Admission: \$3; kids under 12: free. Monitors, printers, hardware, software, parts, games, cameras, printer refills, vintage comics, toys & collectibles, records, CDs, VHS, DVDs, manga, Warhammer, books, magazines, Star Wars, Hot Wheels, wrestling, Canucks memorabilia, jewellery...and lots more all at great prices! Dealers: 8' tables \$40 each, or two for \$70! 604-521-6304. funpromo@shaw.ca. <http://www.funpromo.ca/>.”

10 November 2013: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. 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/vancouvercomiccon/>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>. 604-322-6412.—Leonard Wong

16 November 2013: Button Day.

18 November 2013: **Ken Kato'**s birthday. Occult Day.

20 November 2013: **Bogglerat**'s birthday.

20 November 2013: Toymageddon—Toy Hacking Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at Vancouver Hack Space, 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for more VHS details.*]—Julian Castle

22 November 2013: Premiere of film *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (SF/action; Woody Harrelson, Stanley Tucci, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Donald Sutherland, Jeffrey Wright, Lenny Kravitz, Amanda Plummer, Daniel Bernhardt).

24 November 2013: **Spider Robinson**'s birthday.

28 November 2013: Red Planet Day.

29 November 2013: Premiere of film *Frozen* (computer animation).

News-Like Matter

Faned Award Voting Complete

Voting for the 2013 Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards (“Faneds”) is now complete. Winners will be announced at VCON 38 October 4–6. Here are some stats concerning the awards:

19 voters (almost twice as many as I anticipated) which equals 151 votes awarded 294 points to 25 nominee positions based on 18 actual nominees (some nominees being up for more than one category). Some voters chose fewer nominees than the maximum number they were entitled to vote for, presumably because these were the only choices they were familiar with.

Each voter was allowed three votes in each category (except for one category where there were only two nominees) in order of preference, for a maximum of 11 votes per voter. Points were awarded on the basis of vote preference: first choice = 3 points, second choice = 2 points, and third choice = 1 point.

Maximum number of votes a nominee could receive = 57. Most votes any winner received = 40. Least votes any nominee received = none.

Great and wonderful things about the voting include:

(a) There is no evidence of block voting. Voters were evenly distributed across the country: nine from British Columbia, six from Ontario, and four from Quebec.

(b) The vote, meagre as it is (but then, so is the scope and scale of Canadian Fanzine Fanac), is truly a peer sponsored award, in that—as far as I am aware—almost all the voters were or are active in Canadian fanzine fandom: 8 = current, active Faneds; 5 = Faneds active in the past; 3 = current contributors to zines; 3 = readers.

My thanks to them as voted: Keith Braithwaite, Lindsay Brown, R. Graeme Cameron, Paula Johanson, Cathy Palmer-Lister, Steve Fahnstalk, Keith Lim, Jenni Merrifield, Murray Moore, Andrew C. Murdoch, Lloyd Penney, Yvonne Penny,

Lester Rainsford, Garth Spencer, Sylvain St-Pierre, Felicity Walker, Taral Wayne, Neil Williams, Rose Wilson.

I note that three well-known Faneds of the past declined to vote on the grounds they were not aware of the contemporary zine scene. Fair enough.

Considering that the first Faned Awards (2011) were awarded on the basis of my personal fiat, and the second (2012) on the basis of scattered suggestions, this first actual vote is a major if incremental step forward. All things considered, I am very pleased.

R. Graeme Cameron

on Facebook

Wednesday 11 September 2013

Notes from September 2013 BCSFA Meeting



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

Ray showed us his *Doctor Who*-esque long jacket—striped (brown, white, pink, maroon, and purple). Barb brought Nongshim onion ring chips, which were good.

Barb had been to a local fabric and costume supply store and found the service unhelpful and hostile. Not only did the employees not know the answers to her questions, but they seemed angry with her for asking. She suspects that in the old days the employees were hobbyists themselves and knew a lot about the subject, whereas the current employees are not into crafts and it’s just a job to them. Fruvous speculated that they hate it when customers ask questions because it makes them feel stupid. I said that when I was in university, I had a summer job at 7-Eleven, and I had the opposite experience: I didn’t mind being asked questions, but found that customers would explode with rage if I didn’t know the answer, even if it wasn’t a 7-Eleven-related question.

Ray showed us a newspaper clipping about a frog that was hurled into the air by the NASA rocket launch of the Lunar Atmosphere and Dust Environment Explorer, or LADEE.⁴ (Ray thought this would make a good Elron topic.) NASA still-photo cameras captured the moment by chance. The frog looks giant because it’s closer to the lens than it seems. This made me think of a Walter Simonson *Thor* comic from the 1980s where Loki turned Thor into an ordinary frog, but when Thor used his hammer, he became a giant, upright, talking



4 With the atmosphere and the dust and the freunleven.

Frog of Thunder.⁵ Julian mentioned that the Thunder Frog returned in *Lockjaw and the Pet Avengers*, a recent comic featuring various animal superheroes (including Lockjaw, the Inhumans’ teleporting dog).⁶ In this comic, Julian said, it was Puddleg-lup, one of the frogs Thor met during his time as a frog, who was the Frog of Thunder, rather than Thor. Ray added that the French were offended by a train-track component known as a “frog.”



Then there was too many conversations going on at once, and I had to take off my glasses and close my eyes for a while. I think one group of people was talking about religion. When I came back in, the subject was traffic. Some intersections are more complicated than the usual four-way traffic-light type. I mentioned the one at Garden City and Granville Avenue in Richmond; Ray talked about a similar intersection in Powell River. When driving, we all do the polite thing and give cyclists a wide margin when passing them, but sometimes cyclists try to pass us on the right, and this can be dangerous: in the mid-1990s, I was yelled at by a cyclist because she tried to pass me on the right while I was *turning* right. Fruvous said that when he lived in Portland and read the free newspapers there, he discovered via the letter column that there was a bitter war ongoing between cyclists and motorists.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 15 September 2013

R. Graeme Cameron in ‘Amazing Stories’!

“My first article for *Amazing Stories Magazine* is now posted online!

“Titled ‘How Not to Edit a Program Book, or: The Adventures of a Twentieth Century Computer Illiterate Amid the Splendours of the Twenty-First Century,’ it blows the lid off the convention program book industry.

“I will be doing a weekly column for the ‘Fannish Friday’ section of the online *Amazing Stories*. Second column already submitted. Third being written. Ideas for twenty more lurking in my brain. Great fun, at least for me. Not sure about my readers...

“Check it out at: <http://amazingstoriesmag.com/>.”

R. Graeme Cameron

on Facebook

Friday 20 September 2013

⁵ *Thor* #364–366.—Future Felicity

⁶ Also Zabu (Ka-Zar’s sabre-toothed tiger), Ms. Lion (the Spider-Friends’ dog from *Spider-Man and His Amazing Friends*), Redwing (the Falcon’s falcon), and Lockheed (the X-Men’s dragon).—Future Felicity

The Worst Movie Ever Made, Act 1: The Post-Screening Meeting

Michael Bertrand

[**Warning:** *The following item contains coarse language and mature themes that are not suitable for everyone. Reader discretion is advised.—Felicity*]

ACT 1--THE POST-SCREENING MEETING

FADE IN:

A typical upscale CONFERENCE ROOM, which is empty when the scene begins but immediately, three middle-aged executives, PHIL, TED, and NATHAN, file into the room and take seats around the TABLE, looking like they just saw a horrible car accident. There is a long pause before anyone speaks.

PHIL

That was...

NATHAN

...bad. The word you're looking for is "bad."

PHIL

No...I don't think so...doesn't seem strong enough a word.

TED

But it was definitely bad...right? Really, really, really bad?

NATHAN

Oh yeah. I mean, I've worked for this studio for twenty years, and we've made some movies which were...well, not that GOOD. But this one...this...thing we've done...it's just so, so, so...

TED

...bad? Right? Bad?



PHIL

Oh, it's bad all right. It's worse than bad...that was a nightmare made real...a crime against the very concept of art...

(begins to become agitated)

...it was a sin against the eyes of man...a violation of the spirit of all humanity...gentlemen, that movie, a movie made by us, by our studio, through our financing and at our behest...

(gets up and starts to gesticulate wildly)

...is the WORST THING EVER DONE BY THE...

(calms himself with a great visible effort and sits)

I'm sorry, I'm sorry, it's just that...it's just that bad.

TED

That movie...was a waste of Paulie Shore.

There is a brief pause, then PHIL and NATHAN nod in agreement.

NATHAN

What did you guys think of...the monkey?

TED

Oh god...the monkey...that god DAMNED monkey...

PHIL

You want to know what I think of that monkey? I'll tell you what I think. You see this monkey pin? I got it for my work...with monkeys. It's not an easy pin to get. In order to earn this pin, you have to volunteer at the Monkey House for over one thousand hours. I got this pin two years ago. I still volunteer every weekend. That's how much I love monkeys. Except now, thanks to this movie...I HATE monkeys. Hate them. Fucking...MONKEYS.

NATHAN

It's OK, Phil. I hate monkeys too now.

TED

We all do. But gentlemen, we have a more serious problem than monkeys. Because you know what happens next? OTHER PEOPLE are going to see this movie.

PHIL

Oh god, you're right! Can...can we stop that from happening?

NATHAN

Not without defaulting on about a dozen distribution and merchandising contracts, losing every penny of our substantial fortunes, and putting this whole studio out of business, not to mention possibly even ending up in jail.

TED

Oh my god, jail! We're all going to jail!

PHIL

Nathan! Can we go to jail for making this movie?

Nathan thinks this over intensely for a few seconds.

NATHAN

No...no, I don't think so. Nothing about the movie is illegal per se. Not technically.

PHIL

Are you sure? Not even the thing with the, uh...

NATHAN

Not in this state, no.

PHIL

Oh. Well...that's good, then. I guess.

TED

You know the worst part? The absolute worst part? We've even got to PROMOTE this stinker! No way around it! I mean, what are we supposed to put on the posters? "Come see the worst movie ever made, guaranteed"?

Ted and Nathan share a not entirely sane laugh over this, but Phil is silent.

TED

Did you hear that, Phil? "Come see the worst..."

Phil stands up suddenly.

PHIL

Ted, you're a genius. That's EXACTLY what we'll do.

TED

What? You can't be serious...

PHIL

I've never been more serious in my life! We'll promote this stinker as the worst movie the world has ever known! People will go to see it just to see if it's as bad as everyone says!

NATHAN

Listen, a joke's a joke, Phil, but what you're talking about...it's monstrous, it's insane!

PHIL

What's so bad about it? We're not lying to anybody. We're telling them, up front, how terrible the movie is. If anything, it's MORE honest than what we USUALLY do to make our movies move!

TED

Well...maybe, but come on. Nobody's going to pay many to see a movie they already know is bad.

PHIL

On the contrary, people pay money to see bad movies all the time. Bad movies are an industry all of their own. People deliberately go out to find the worst movie they can and watch it with their friends. It's totally a thing, I swear!

TED

But the critics aren't going to stand for that...

PHIL

You're right. We'll have to play this totally straight until the reviews come in. We will have to behave exactly as though this is just another great production from our studio until the critics, word of mouth, and the Internet have gotten the ball rolling, and then we hit'm with both barrels.

NATHAN

I don't think I can do it, Phil. What you're asking of us...it's inhuman.

PHIL

Look at it this way, Nathan, Ted. Do you want to lose everything? Do you want to end up poor and homeless? Ted, do you want Linda and the kids to end up on the street?

TED

Well...no.

PHIL

Nathan, are you really ready to give up that huge loft in Soho that all your art-school friends love so much?

NATHAN

I don't think so, no.

PHIL

Then gentlemen, leave it to me. By the time I'm done, everyone on the planet will be talking about this movie, and people will be packing theatres to see it.

TED

I hope you're right, Phil.

NATHAN

And may God have mercy on our souls. Amen.

FADE OUT

[To be continued in Part II.]

Michael Bertrand
The Million Word Year
Saturday 1 May 2010

Zines Received

‘**Opuntia**’ #257 (December 2012). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. 8½ × 5½ inches (landscape).



“Dark Pools in the Big Muddy Exchanges” reviews book *Dark Pools* by Scott Patterson and explains high-frequency trading, bots, dark pools, lit pools, front running, flash crashes, trailing stops, recourse loans, algo wars, wash buying, whales, abusive orders, Joshua Levine, open outcry, day traders, momentum traders, dumb money, co-loc-

ation, spoofing, layers, splash crash, data mining, technical analysis, and fundamentals, in Dale’s usual clear, readable style.

Also: “Zine Listings”; “Seen in the Literature.”

‘**One Swell Foop**’ #8 (July 2012). Published by Garth Spencer, 7250 Gladstone Street, Vancouver, BC, V4P 4G6, gsgarthspencer720@gmail.com. eFanzines.com. 5½ × 8½ inches (portrait).

“Son of the Revenge of the Return of Even Yet More Fanzine Reviews”: “*BCSFazine* (April, May, June, July 2012)—Felicity Walker produces this clubzine to much the same plan as I did. I don’t know whether that’s flattering or not.” Feel free to be flattered. I must have liked the format or else I would have changed it.

Also: “In the Boarding House I Lived In”; “Letters”; “Miss May 2012,” “Miss June 2012,” “Miss July 2012” (art by Taral Wayne); “How to Be Evil”; “Copyrights Part 2”; “My Crank Theory” (“about human behaviour”).

Font criticism: Garth uses Cambria Bold for headlines, Times New Roman for the table of contents, Palatino Linotype for body text, Courier New for the body text “How to Be Evil,” and Verdana Bold for one URL. Of these, I like Times New Roman and Courier New. I recommend a maximum of three fonts for the whole document. (Garth used Trinigan FG for the masthead, but that’s more like a logo, so I won’t count that as an extra font. Likewise for Elder Futhark,⁷ which was only used for runes in the equations in “My Crank Theory.”)

Art criticism: Well-drawn, cleanly-inked, cute cover by Steve Stiles. Well-constructed, anatomically-correct furry art⁸ by Taral Wayne.



*“I said, ‘Why is there air?
Where does dust come from?
Will there be chicken
in outer space?’ ”*

7 The name sounds like a cross between Lovecraft and Mormonism.

8 What *Saturday Night Live* called “Anatominals” (Saturday 20 April 2002).

E-Zines Received

‘The Fanaetical Fanaactivist’ #7 (December 2011). Published by R. Graeme Cameron, 13315 104th Avenue, Apartment 72G, Surrey, BC, V3T 1V5, rgraeme@shaw.ca, eFanzines.com. “The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society Dedicated to Promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom.”



“Letters of Comment”: Garth Spencer: [Garth:] “Best to ask people what they blog about [...] rather than asking people to relate to [...] producing zines on paper, which have become relatively laborious and expensive to distribute.” [Graeme:] “[...] I definitely do not advocate distributing zines by

snail-mail, this being too much trouble and expensive as you point out.” Don’t actively discourage them from publishing paper zines, though! Paper zines are great. E-zines are more practical, but just not the same experience.

Also: “The Faned Completed!”; “CFF Awards Rules”; “2011 Rotsler Award.”

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.

Font criticism: Can’t go wrong with Times New Roman!

‘Broken Toys’ #1 (January 2012). Published by Taral Wayne, 245 Dunn Avenue, Apartment 2111, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1S6, taral@teksavvy.com.

“Another New Start”: I can’t not think of Dr. Tobias Fünke’s personalized license plate when I see this article title.

“Unfinished Business”: Taral also believes that paper zines are the key to active zinedom. “What fanzines are left to me, then?” Don’t forget *BCSFazine*.

“All Good Things, Even Furry”: My furry friends should read this article and compare classic and current Toronto furry fandoms to their own furry fandoms.

Also: “Rotsler Goes West.”

Art Credits

<u>Felicity Walker</u> (fonts: Bigelow/Holmes; Kare/Bettencourt).....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover (middle)
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (fonts: SWFTE; Kim/Omega Labs).....	Cover (bottom)
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photo).....	Page 3 (top)
Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 1, 3 (bottom), 4, 18 (top), 24 (top), 26
Clip art (<i>Almost Live!</i> screenshot).....	Page 5
Clip art (flyers).....	Pages 14, 16
Clip art (NASA).....	Page 18 (bottom)
Clip art (Walter Simonson/my comic collection).....	Page 19
Clip art (font: Bigelow/Holmes).....	Page 20
Clip art (Moore/Sprouse/Klein/my comic collection)....	Page 24 (bottom)