

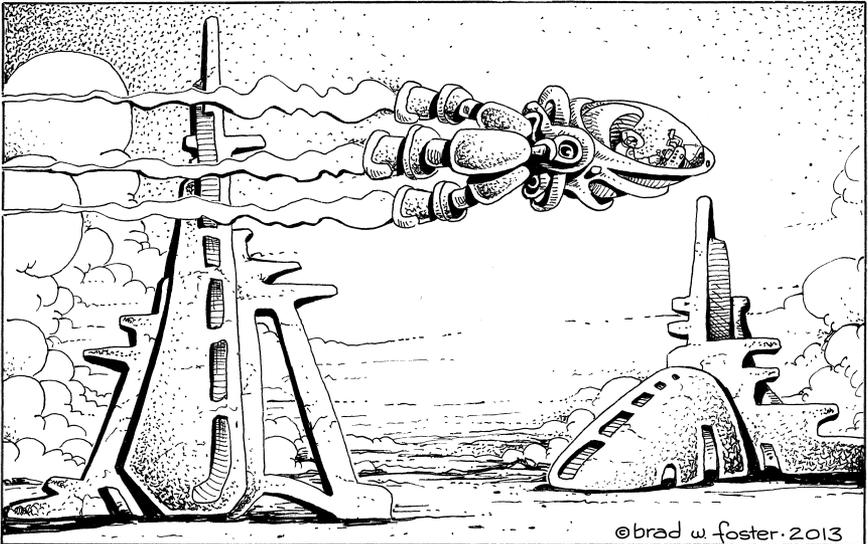
# BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#487

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December 2013



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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 15 December at 6 PM:	December BCSFA meeting/Christmas party— at ABC Country Restaurant, 3580 Number Three Road, Richmond.
Friday 20 December:	Submission deadline for January <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 27 December:	January <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 17 January:	January BCSFA meeting.
Friday 24 January:	Submission deadline for February <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 31 January:	February <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

## **About BCSFA**

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

President & Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBA

Treasurer: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 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.*]

**Sheryl Birkhead**  
25509 Jonnie Court,  
Gaithersburg, MD 20882  
USA

Saturday 2 November 2013  
“Finished November 4 2, 2013  
(with any luck at all!)—  
well, I almost made it...”

Dear *Felicity* and other *BCSFers*,

Well, no point in even trying to explain the time lag (ah, but it *is* a ghooed one) since not only am I still trying to figure out the problems with the laptop, I now realize I have never sorted out this software...the most recent one I have. Guess I'll just never catch up.

Just as I thought I had a shot at clearing out the stacks of zines calling for LOCs...

Let me see, here I have issues from April (1984), June, July, and August. Thought I had written more recently than that, but what the heck...

Without explaining, as long as I save often, the laptop would not function as long as I keep it plugged in (*i.e. no battery use*) and don't move at all to dislodge the magnetic connector, things should go fairly well.

The April (Fool) issue reminds us all how difficult it really was to read the old printer fonts—how soon we get used to legible images! Sorry, while the April ish was a nice substantial one, I really had problems reading it—my fault, not yours!

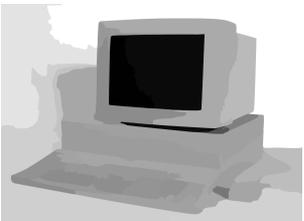
[*Not your fault. The text for that issue came out a lot lighter on paper than on screen. The font I use for the next retro issue should be easier on your eyes—it has serifs. I'll also be sure to tell the printers to go extra-dark on that issue.*]

The next three ishes have cover illos from *to-be-(fan)artist-GOH-at-Sasquan Brad Foster*—as always, keep them coming!

[*Done!*]

That also reminds me I need to find some way to save up the supporting membership for that Worldcon—yeah, right...

I see the comment to me about image editing software such as *Photoshop*. Okay, time to 'fess up. Two *Macs* ago I bought an old copy of *Photoshop*. I figured that if I could get it to do what I wanted done, I would invest in a newer version. Well, that didn't work. I have the dubious distinction of only knowing how to do one thing in *Photoshop* (please note this does *not* even include how to open a new document



unless I accidentally stumble over it)—I know how to use the eraser once I fumble into an image. So much for that idea. I then got my next *Mac* and the *Apple* tech told me not to waste money on *Photoshop*—but just get the baby brother *Photoshop Elements* at a small portion of the price but most of the capability. Okay. I then spend the extra money on *Photoshop Elements Classroom* which the ads said would...well, forget what they said since they did not. So, I have software and not a snowball's

chance in the nether regions of figuring out how to do anything. I mean that in all sincerity—I am a hopeless dunce at it. But, in reply to the comment—I have that software, just, after four years, still no idea how to use it. The scanner, ironically, has made the transition through many operating systems, but that cannot mask the basic fact that the unit is an old one with few capabilities beyond—hey—scanning. I take what I can get!

Just seeing *Lloyd's* name reminds me I ought to look and see if I can locate *Murdoch Mysteries* beyond the seasons available on *Netflix*. It has been a while since I looked and I do enjoy them—low key and an easy watch.

(Okay, looks as if no more *trick-or-treaters* are going to show up tonight and I will have candy to give away tomorrow.)

Just found the first part of the first episode of *Dweebs* on YouTube and watched it—*Mr. Peabody* get out the *Wayback machine*—even I knew more...mild chuckles. How far we have come so quickly!

[I looked up "*Wayback machine*" to see how to capitalize it, and discovered that it is also sometimes spelled "*WABAC*," which (like *MULTIVAC*) was a reference to *UNIVAC*. I also discovered there's a movie coming out: *Mr. Peabody & Sherman (2014)*. Both personal computers and video stores began in my lifetime, but one killed the other.]



I found the concept of an all-female miniature army intriguing. I also find it interesting that the miniatures are bringing in so much income *so rapidly*. Yes—beware success unless you have thought it through (the concept is ghreat, the actuality may be a bit less so). I was not quite so interested in the female image shown—in the same way that I am not interested in the images of female body-builders. To be fair, individual preferences are what make (I think I am mixing metaphors here) a *horse race*!

*Dale Speirs* had a very nice write-up of the flooding that took place in Calgary. He was (at the last *Opuntia*) doing fine. While I am above the floodplain, I am downhill from the rest of this small development—so my basement floods every time there is rain if the sump pumps are not doing their job. Mother Nature will prevail—we can just hope that human activities will change before her response is more...um...widespread violent activity.

Nice to know that *John Purcell* is still putting out the paper copies of his zine—hadn't gotten an ish from him in quite a long time, so I wasn't sure.

Just to let you catch up—I found out why the laptop was such a crazy idiotic machine. Unfortunately, in the process of finding out the cause (the battery) I have rendered it incapable of using a battery at all. So, while I sit here (sitting very still), it is working great—but as soon as I move the laptop the magnetic connection of the adapter drops off and—oops, there goes anything not saved. I am trying to save more often. It is a complicated fix—and economically it makes more cents to get a newer one, but since I cannot afford that—and can't afford the (at least \$250) repair to get the battery function working again—I will be spending a lot of time sitting very still while I type. I contemplate the repair on a daily basis since all the steps are set out online—but at about 110 steps and the comment *difficult* I can't help but

wonder if I really can make it worse by trying. So, for the moment, the laptop is behaving (as well as it can in its current state).

My niece and her family live in Las Vegas. I have not been out to visit. She says there are two “cities”—one the rest of us see and one that is actually a family-oriented city. They seem to be doing well, so I presume it meets the family’s needs. My sister (Utah) has been there often to visit and says they have a lovely (*big*) home in a very nice neighborhood—with a big support network of friends. I have no first-hand thoughts on *Las Vegas* as a family-friendly town.

*Lloyd*—I had forgotten *Gordon Ramsey!* Forgotten because I tried watching his shows for almost two years and got tired of cringing.

Hope the *Murdoch* happening was fun. I checked my *Netflix* history and I have watched through the end of season 5—that is all that is available there. Need to go look elsewhere for more episodes. Aha—found it on *Project Free TV*—through season 7—now no excuse not (to try) to catch up!

Well, time has moved forward and I missed the deadline I thought I’d make. But, hey, at least the laptop is behaving and I only made the magnetic connection break twice!

I intend to get this into a mailbox that picks up fairly late on Saturdays—won’t go out until Monday, but will be in the system and ready to launch!

Thanks,  
Sheryl

**Brent Francis**  
[b-francis@sympatico.ca](mailto:b-francis@sympatico.ca)

Sunday 10 November 2013

Hi. Thanks again for another wonderful issue.

I just *knew* that someday tax-shelter movies would come back in vogue! Probably the most maligned period in Canadian film history. (At the Cannes Film Festival one year, the slogan was “Canada Can and Does.” Somebody wrote “Canada Does & Shouldn’t,” and a notorious producer allegedly wrote “Beat me, #S%^ me, make me write bad cheques” in a washroom stall). In my experience, most of them were just awful. (Ever see *Death Bite*—Al Waxman melts when he’s bitten by a giant snake? Or *Hog Wild*,<sup>1</sup> where a guy eats a mashed Tarantula?) Try the Canuxploitation website. It’s got even funnier ones.



*King of Toronto Harbour.*

[I love the Canuxploitation website! I discovered it in 2001 and read every review. I like using the phrase “Canadian ‘balls’ comedy,” coined by the webmaster to describe Canadian comedy films with titles that end in “balls.” There’s enough of them to constitute a subgenre. As Canuxploitation points out, almost all the Canadian “balls” comedies were made in Canada, with two exceptions—*Beachballs* (1988) and *Spaceballs* (1987)—and two Canadian stars in it. *Mr. Canuxploitation* also has a much higher threshold for bad Canadian content than I do. He even gave a rave review to *Big Meat Eater* (1982)! I had to hunt for

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1 (1980).

Death Bite, and finally found it as Spasms (1983). I'll watch it with the roommates sometime soon.]

The only thing funnier than that were the comments by the film critic in your script, because that's *exactly* how my film studies teachers described tax-shelter movies. When I told one of them I was going try and work in on one, his response was “#\$\$%^ your American rip-offs.”

Somehow I managed to make a career out of it...

But he got the Order of Canada. Go figure.

Cheers.

**Jason Burnett**  
[jason.burnett@starfleet.com](mailto:jason.burnett@starfleet.com)

Monday 11 November 2013

Hi Felicity,

Greatly enjoyed both of these and look forward to reading more.

Re Dave Haren's LOC in #483: I think SF is “literature of escape from reality,” just not in the way its detractors mean the phrase. So much of reality today is so mind-numbing that an escape into a universe that places value—any amount of value—on thinking can be a wonderful thing. Even in the lowest common denominator of science fiction, people are much more prone to think than the people one encounters in the day to day world. I'd rather keep up with the Cardassians than the Kardashians any day.

*[Escapism is important in art. Ironically, the Kardashians look Bajoran.]*

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

Saturday 16 November 2013

Hi Felicity,

Another Sauin has come and gone. Not a spooky child to challenge for tricks or to get treats. The Wild Hunt may have scared them inside like the gud olde dayes. If you doubt that the Rus are tough try to match this stunt. An artist nailed his testicles to Red Square as a protest. All you need is a hammer and two nails to claim equality.

*[And test sickles. ♫ ]*



I read a blog called the Overweening Generalist. Currently the hot topic is investigating the state of the workforce matched to the rise of robotics, comp AIs, automation and expert systems. The numbers are making it pretty clear that the workforce is steadily shrinking as more machines come online. We need solutions which are not just the rehashed wishful thinking of the past and we do need this to be a topic of discussion at all levels of society.

The bankrupt political systems aren't going to fix this one since their main thrust is to maintain the status quo. I'm not particularly worried about whether my fellow man has enough to collect luxuries and toys, but I do feel that the most productive period in human history has an obligation to make sure everyone has the basics for life, water, food and shelter.



Jimmy Cauty has built an HO scale model (1/87<sup>th</sup>) of a near future of ruined buildings where the only people are emergency service workers—police, fire, etc. That’s the greyfaced government’s wonderful dream of stability.

[*It reminds me of Yes, Minister’s Sir Humphrey Appleby saying that “Government doesn’t stop just because the whole country’s been destroyed.”*]

On the other hand Tacloban<sup>2</sup> has effectively disappeared leaving the survivors in something that looks worse than an atomic weapon strike. There is some family there (or was). Until they get some infrastructure rebuilt, roads, powerlines, telephone systems, etc. we can’t even find out if they are still alive.

I’m sure Graeme recognized his deathless prose from *Amazing* in the last LOC even though I need serious work on attributions and more punctuation. Don’t miss his article there on the *Classics Illustrated* comics.

[*Readers: Graeme’s Amazing Stories articles are collected at <http://amazingstoriesmag.com/author/r-graeme-cameron/>.*]

The Elrons were mentioned in a Robert Anton Wilson fan site but no mention of VCON or that they are still occurring. This was in reference to a new book on Hubbard.

I’m always amazed that no one has done the archeology (if that’s the right word) of how the idea of Dianetics went from an interesting way to do psychological reprogramming, started to make some money, was taxed heavily, and in a brilliant flash transformed into an institution exempt from taxes called Scientology. This is probably just a coincidence since most revelations are of a similar nature in my humble opinion.

[*I wasn’t very familiar with Dianetics, L. Ron Hubbard, or Scientology until I encountered the Operation Clambake website (<http://www.xenu.net/>) about 15 years ago. They were way ahead of the curve on Scientology, predating South Park and Anonymous by about a decade, and they cover the subject very thoroughly. It makes for interesting, eye-opening, and sometimes disturbing reading.*]

Having read Vilfredo Pareto I’m not too surprised at most human ways of doing things. It’s those who expect rational logical behaviors who will be disappointed.

Anime has ruined me. I created an Anglerfish logo for my paper Tiger model.<sup>3</sup> I also found some *One Piece* porn on-line, and a couple of models of the pirates’ ships for a bit too much money. Maybe after I watch 600 more episodes of *One Piece*.



[*Suggested title for the porn version: Cod Piece.*]

Canadian politics seems to be as interesting as our local variety. Who is the fool who decided to drive the movie industry elsewhere? Why is the Mayor of Toronto world famous for all the wrong reasons? Why do Canadian scientists have some little gov’t weasel tagging along with them to press conferences?

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2 Philippine city hit by Typhoon Haiyan.

3 From *Girls und Panzer* (see Dave’s LOC in *BCSFazine* #486).



*The Ogre box and the 1977  
version on a full size couch.—  
Dave Haren*

I got my giant *Ogre* box. Here's a good link for more details. <http://geekdad.com/2013/11/ogre-designers-edition-launch-party/>

Mayor Ford has now shown up on French TV. He's getting a lot more than fifteen minutes of fame. If it wasn't for Lloyd and Taral there wouldn't be much good news from Toronto, which is really sad.

[Yayahan.com](http://Yayahan.com) finally has the site up for those who like the cosplay costuming, pretty girls or interesting notes on making your own.

Arnie Katz has done a nice mis-interpretation of Graeme. My own experience tells me that Graeme badly underestimates his own influence and reach.

Warm regards,  
Dave Haren

**Jason Burnett**  
[jason.burnett@starfleet.com](mailto:jason.burnett@starfleet.com)

Sunday 17 November 2013

Hi Felicity,

Re the magic going away when fandom gets too large (in your review of Dale Speirs' *Opuntia* #255), for quite some time I've seen specialization as being the solution for this: you've got your gamers over here, your fanzine fans over there, your furies, anime fans, litfans, Trekkies, Browncoats, etc. And it's worked fairly well, even if it sometimes means that one finds oneself with severely largely disjointed sets of friends. But now, thanks to the continued growth of fandom and the ease of online communication, even specialization is not enough. We've moved into the era of hyperspecialization. Even in a fairly compact fandom, you find subfandoms that not only approach fanac in different ways, they sometimes don't even recognize each other as part of the same fandom. This not only enables one to have fandoms that are small enough to have that "magic" feeling, it also opens the door for a new type of fan, one who follows a variety of different fandoms and works as a sort of conduit/interpreter among them. (Taral Wayne would be an example of someone I see filling this role.)

Take care,  
Jason Burnett

*[I'd enjoy reading a zine that reports on different fandoms and explains them to each other.]*

**Lloyd Penney**  
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Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 2B2  
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Thursday 21 November 2013

Dear BCSFAns:

Many thanks for issue 486 of *BCSFAzine*, and bits of time present themselves to allow me to respond. I have a lot less free time to write letters...and that is a very

good thing. The new job keeps me quite busy, has given me a Christmas, and has kept us away from financial disaster.

[Yay! ☺]

In the industry I am in, most companies who produce large amounts of copy in both official languages may have had proofreaders for each language, and will eventually trim down to a bilingual proofreader, or no proofreaders at all. Where I am now, I am exceedingly lucky. They seem to like me, and what I can do, and I expect to get some employment out of it. I am, however, not resting on any laurels; I am still job hunting as in places to apply to once the current contract is done.

Perhaps I should explain what the new job is...I started on October 28 with a two-week trial at an advertising agency with offices literally south from where we live, a few kilometres. The two-week trial was successful, and has been extended to Christmas Eve, and will likely be extended well into the first quarter of 2014. I am proofreading the packaging of a new line of pharmacy merchandise, everything from ASA and ibuprofen to antacids to rubber gloves and toilet paper, about 800 product lines. I already know more about stocking a drug store than I really wanted to know. Hurray for this job coming along when it did; we can now have some Christmas, and look forward to 2014 with some money in the bank.

When I read zines like *File 770* and *Ansible*, there are often huge obituary lists, which shows just how fast fandom, and the people who create the SF and related stuff we are fans of, are dying off. It's depressing, but it is the nature of time.

*[The nature of time, the ailing or dying of loved ones, friends, pets, and acquaintances, and "the fragility of human existence" (as my psychiatrist aptly put it), has been weighing heavily on my mind lately. It's been about twenty years since I was completely healthy. When depressed, I've always been able escape into a simpler, more innocent time with entertainment from my youth, but lately, I can't do that without thinking about the creators/performers that have been consumed by the ravages of time. It wouldn't be so bad if we all got exactly 75 years of perfect health and then died peacefully in our sleep, but no, we slowly fade over the final 50 years, accumulating flaws like any machine left running indefinitely. It scares me.]*

My LOC...we had a great time at the steampunk Hallowe'en party in Hamilton...check my photos on my FB page for one with Yvonne and I myself in our hosts' dining room. In the WAHF file is Spider Robinson...you're missed, and as I write, it's three days until your birthday. Hope it's a happy one.

The elimination of the BC film tax credit may mean a lot of film work may be coming to Toronto, but I suspect that that work will be spread about to other locations across the country. There are some fairly extensive studio and soundstage complexes in Toronto, but there are also places to shoot in Alberta and Saskatchewan. Toronto's not the only place to do this outside of Vancouver.

*[From 1980 to 1982, SCTV was made in Edmonton!]*

Done for the time being, and sorry if this is a little late. Take care, everybody, and stay warm and dry.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

Konichiwa, BCSFans. Another LOC already? Time flies when you're writing a novel.

Yes folks, yours truly is once more participating in National Novel Writing Month. As of the writing of this LOC, I am 45706 words (of 50K) through my third novel, working title *The Scrambled Man*, a pulse-pounding tale of murder, teleportation, and shawarma.

After I am through with the first draft, I will begin the much more arduous task of editing the damn thing. Wish me luck with *that*.

Re John Scalzi's ten rules of debate/free speech—boy, I wish I had read those when I was a brash and mouthy college aged youth. I don't know if it would have made me any less opinionated, but it might have slowed me down a little at least.

*[Recently I've been trying to resist coming to the conclusion that, in our youth, fans have the same aggression and need to battle as the more physical types do, but instead of going to bars and trying to start a fight with someone, we get very negative, look for arguments, and are generally hard to be around.]*

Glad Brent Francis liked my little "worst movie ever" script. Hope he likes part two as well! I wrote it so long ago that I had nearly forgotten it. Turns out, I'm a funny guy!

That's all from me for this month, folks! Merry Xmas, Happy Hanukah, Kwazy Kwanzaa, Rambunctious Ramadan (when we all worship Ramada inns), and a very positive whatever the heck it is that the rest of you celebrate.

Have a happy!

**We Also Heard From:** Brad Foster, Kathleen Moore, John Purcell, Speedy Copy.

## 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](#)

October 2013–11 April 2014: *Call for submissions* for sixth annual [Carded!](#) (a one-night show of art on trading cards). Art deadline Friday 11 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](#)

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](#)

16, 23, and 30 November and 1 and 7 December 2013: Foodhammer 3/Foodhammer 2013 at [GameStars](#), 19860 Langley Bypass, Langley. "Tabletop wargaming events benefitting local food banks since 2011. Warhammer 40,000: 1500 Pts. Warhammer: 2000 Pts. Warmahordes: 50 Pts, two lists. Malifaux: second edition, single faction, 35 SS.<sup>4</sup> Star Wars X-Wing Miniatures Game: 100 Pts." \* 16 November (Saturday): Star Wars X-Wing Miniatures Game, 12–5 PM (check-in noon, round 1 start at 12:20 PM). \* 23 November (Saturday): Warmachine, 9 AM–7 PM (registration 9 AM, game 1 start at 9:30 AM). \* 30 November (Saturday): Warhammer 40K, 9:15 AM to after 8:30 PM (registration 9:15–10 AM). \* 1 December (Sunday): Warhammer Fantasy, 9:15 AM to after 6 PM (registration 9:15–10 AM). \* 7 December (Saturday): Malifaux, 9:15 AM to after 7:15 PM (registration 9:15–10 AM). Tournaments registration: Warhammer 40K & Warhammer Fantasy are \$30 each or \$50 for both. Warmachine, X-Wing, & Malifaux are \$20 each.—[Julian Castle](#)

## December 2013

December is Write a Friend Month.

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December and 2013 and 5, 12, 19, and 26 January 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

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4 Soulstones.—Felicity

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, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2013 and 6, 13, 20, and 27 January 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. Warma-chine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2013 and 6, 13, 20, and 27 January 2014 (*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

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 2013 and 7, 14, 21, and 28 January 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

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 2013 and 7, 14, 21, and 28 January 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

4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2013 and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 January 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> Aven-

ue), 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](#)

4 and 18 December 2013 and 1, 15, and 29 January 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](#)

5 December 2013: Day of the Ninja.

5–21 December 2013: [Toys](#) at Hot Art Wet City, 2206 Main Street, Vancouver. Opening reception Thursday 5 December from 7–11 PM. Wednesday–Saturday 12–5 PM. Toys by various artists. “Classic and modern wooden toys, knit, crochet and sewn creatures, cool stuff for all ages! Purchases will be available for pickup after opening night...so if you want to see the complete show, join us on December 5.”—[Julian Castle](#)

6 and 13 December 2013 (*Fridays except during Christmas season*): [Magic: The Gathering Friday Night](#), 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

6 December 2013 and 3 January 2014<sup>5</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](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2013 and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 January 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](#)

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5 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

7 December 2013: Letter Writing Day.

7 December 2013: Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Don’t miss our Pop Culture Collectibles Fair and Computer Swap Meet. [...] It is an affordable and fun day for the entire family. There will be a great selection of dealers carrying electronics, computer items, printers, monitors, cell phones, memory, and more! You will also be able to find Christmas gift ideas, rare toys, rock posters, new cards, current & vintage comics (early DC & Marvel), coins, action figures, crafts, Transformers, all kinds of cards, Hot Wheels, eight-track tapes, die-cast models, art, jewelry, Star Wars, movies, video games, records, CDs, DVDs, and all kinds of collectibles! Lots of great deals! Tickets: \$3. Children 12 & under free. Free parking. Dealer eight-foot tables are \$40 each or two for \$70. For more info, please visit <http://www.fun-promo.com/>.”—Verne Siebert

7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2013 and 4, 11, 18, and 25 January 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

8 December 2013: **Phil Rose**’s birthday.

10 December 2013: **Graham D. Mitchell**’s birthday.

10 December 2013 and 14 January 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 and 26 December 2013 and 9 and 23 January 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)

12 December 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

12 December 2013 and 9 January 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

13 December 2013: Premiere of film *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug* (fantasy; Benedict Cumberbatch, Cate Blanchett, Orlando Bloom, Martin Freeman, Ian McKellen, Hugo Weaving, Christopher Lee, Andy Serkis, Billy Connolly, Stephen Fry, Ian Holm, Sylvester McCoy).

14 December 2013: **Danielle Stephens**’s birthday.

15 December 2013 and 19 January 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 December 2013: **Neil O’Brien**’s birthday.

18 December 2013: **Fran Skene** and **Elaine Barrick**’s birthdays.

18 December 2013: Publication of *The Massive Volume 2: Subcontinental TPB*, written by Brian Wood. Comic book about Earth after environmental crash with a small group of environmentalists searching for their sister ship. (Publisher and VPL have it listed as science-fiction.)—Julian Castle

19 December 2013: **Terry Wyatt**’s birthday.

19 December 2013: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5:30–8:30 PM at Ladner Pioneer Library, 4683 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Delta. “Want something to do during winter? 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. Food and games compliments of Imperial Hobbies. Registration is required.” “Game demonstrations: learn the basics of

a game you've never tried in an open, informative session. Everything necessary to play will be provided by the store or the game host."

20 December 2013: Premiere of films *Anchorman 2: The Legend Continues* (comedy; Will Ferrell, Harrison Ford, Paul Rudd, Liam Neeson, Kirsten Dunst, Nicole Kidman, Kristen Wiig, Steve Carell, Tina Fey, Vince Vaughn, James Marsden, Sacha Baron Cohen, Christina Applegate, Amy Poehler, John C. Reilly, Luke Wilson, Greg Kinnear, Kanye West, David Koechner, Bill Kurtis) and *Her* (romance/comedy/SF; Scarlett Johansson, Joaquin Phoenix).

20 December 2013 and 17 January 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

21 December 2013 and 18 January 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

22 December 2013: **Tony Isabella** and **Bam Tastic**'s birthdays.

26 December 2013: **Chris Sturges**'s birthday.

27 December 2013: **Hikari Ishii**'s birthday. Premiere of films *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* (fantasy/comedy; Kristen Wiig, Ben Stiller, Sean Penn, Patton Oswalt, Shirley MacLaine, Joey Slotnick) and *47 Ronin* (action/fantasy?; Keanu Reeves, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa).

28 December 2013 and 25 January 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 es-

tablishments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critty”—Keith Lim

## January 2014

1 January 2014: **Jens Haeusser** and **Marlon Richmond**'s birthdays.

3 January 2014: Premiere of film *Paranormal Activity: The Marked Ones* (horror).

4 January 2014: Trivia Day.

5 January 2014: **Garth Spencer**'s birthday.

6 January 2014: **Eileen Kernaghan**'s birthday.

8 January 2014: **Ursula Hitler**'s birthday.

9 January 2014: **Steve Fahnestalk**'s birthday.

9–25 January 2014: “Typo—typography-as-art featuring Bennett Slater, Scott Sueme and Frazer Adams. Opening reception Friday January 10 from 7 PM. Beyond the utilitarian use of letterforms, typography can be beautiful art. This show features typographic-based works from Bennett Slater, Scott Sueme, and Frazer Adams, plus guest artists Ben Knight, James Knight, Erin Gibbs, Brandon Cotter, Ali Bruce, and more TBA.”—Julian Castle

12 January 2014: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15<sup>th</sup> 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/vancomicon/>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>. 604-322-6412.—Leonard Wong

14 January 2014: Steampunk Fundraiser Murder Mystery Thank You Party, 7–8 PM in Langley. *Note: date has changed from date on Facebook page.* “In support of the BC Renaissance Festival the actors of Times Past have agreed to run a few thank-you-for-your-donation parties. With the free use of a small guesthouse in Langley, we are able to create a mini version of our Steampunk Murder Mystery for 10 donors. These are private invite parties as a thank you for a financial donation made to the BCRF GoFundMe Campaign. [...] The space is in Langley. [...] We will be having no more than 5 actors/hosts and 10 guests. The murder mystery will be played out, tea and biscuits (or a treat of some sort) will be served and at the end, the murderer will be revealed after everyone gets a turn at guessing. The winning guess gets a prize. [...] The actual location (address etc.) and fine details will be given to you directly in a personal invitation. These are invite-only parties and therefore additional guests and gate crashers will not be allowed. There is a chance at wine

sampling as well, so you *must be* over 19 years old and have a piece of ID on you in case any of our volunteers need to check. You may dress up or just show in your civvies. [...] How do you become one of the 10 guests? Go to: <http://www.gofundme.com/bcrenfest> and chose the \$25 reward level. Make sure we have your email address (the GoFundMe system should allow you to be able to do that) so we can send you your invitation. Each donation is *one* invitation to *one* person. [...] GoFundMe does take a fee for processing each reward. [...]”—Times Past Entertainment via Christina Carr

17 January 2014: Premiere of films *Devil's Due* (horror; Sam Anderson) and *The Nut Job* (computer animation; Will Arnett, Brendan Fraser, Liam Neeson, Stephen Lang, Maya Rudolph, Jeff Dunham, Gabriel Iglesias).

19 January 2014: **Stewart Smyth**'s birthday.

20 January 2014: **Rain Rat** and **Nancy Kress**'s birthday.

21 January 2014: **Emily Sors**'s birthday.

23 January 2014: National Handwriting Day.

24 January 2014: Premiere of film *I, Frankenstein* (SF/fantasy/action; Bill Nighy, Aaron Eckhart, )

25 January 2014: **Isaac Terpstra** and **Ryan Hawe**'s birthdays.

26 January 2014: **Paul Carpentier**'s birthday.

## News-Like Matter

### Questions for You All

Dear guys,

It's time to pose a few questions that have been on my mind...

- When can I meet up with the Treasurer to hand over monies accrued from consignment sales of *BCSFAzine* at White Dwarf?

- If I die or disappear or get abducted by aliens or have to win self-determination for the South Moldavian people, who is going to update the BCSFA.net website?

- Did you know that BCSFA had a website? Much less a page of upcoming events?

- Did you know that BCSFA has some upcoming events?

- What upcoming events would people attend if they knew about them?

- Why are BCSFA meetings so boring and brain-dead?

- What did I miss at the VCON bouquets & brickbats panel? Or was it called roses & onions? Was there even such a panel?

- You do know what I'm talking about, do you?
- Was any gross misbehaviour reported, or is anybody blacklisted from next year's VCON? (I don't remember much from Friday and Saturday night.)
- You do know what I mean by "blacklist," don't you?
- How many of us are contributing to Jenni Merrifield's travel fund to visit SMOFCon?
- Was this news to you?
- You do know what SMOFCon is, don't you?

Garth Spencer  
 Saturday 2 November 2013  
 to BC\_Sci-Fi\_Assc. Yahoo! Group

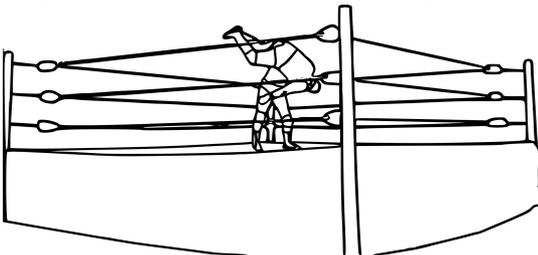
### Notes from November 2013 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (president), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Joe Devoy, Keith Lim, and Stewart Smyth.

*The December meeting/Christmas party will be at ABC Country Restaurant, 3580 Number Three Road, Richmond at 6 PM (earlier than our usual meeting time because ABC closes at 9 PM on Sunday).*

There were some topics discussed before I arrived, recorded by Keith Lim, below:

“Sending animals (dogs, chimpanzees) into space were for propaganda purposes. The real fate of (I think it was) Laika the dog (death via overheating) was not revealed until much later (because, as mentioned before, propaganda). Stewart mentioned a related folk song by Leslie Fish, identified from lyrics of ‘Beep beep, boop boop, hello there’ by Kathleen as the song titled ‘Surprise!’<sup>6</sup>



“Wrestling being removed as an Olympic event. The distinction between ‘fake’ and ‘staged’ in sports-entertainment wrestling was made—the physical, athletic actions, including blading, are all very real, but they are rehearsed, staged, like a

theatre performance. Reporter John Stossel was once slapped by a wrestler (David Schultz) for Stossel saying to Schultz's face that wrestling was fake.”<sup>7</sup>

Thanks, Keith!

Graeme asked if I'd seen Earl Kemp's review of *BCSFazine* #486.<sup>8</sup> I'd only seen the review of #485, and made a mental note to look up the new one. In the #485

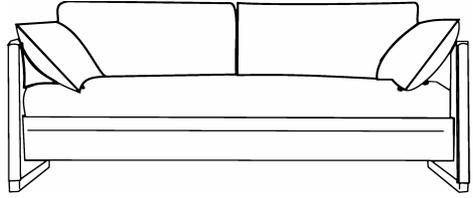
6 Lyrics: <http://tekst-pesni-tut.ru/song/show/2164178/leslie-fish/tekst-pesni-i-perevod-surprise/>. Audio: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EQdJwPIAqHU>.—Future Keith

7 Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zrX9Ca7LSyQ>. Longer coverage: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg\\_gnvhQkaI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lg_gnvhQkaI).—Future Keith

8 At *Amazing Stories*.—Future Felicity

review Earl had said that *BCSFazine* was worth reading for “The Worst Movie Ever Made, Act 1” by Michael Bertrand and that “Act 2” was to follow, which was why I placed “Act 2” in #486, ahead of schedule.

Graeme joked that he expects to be in trouble when the next issue of *Space Cadet* comes out<sup>9</sup> because he wrote a rant “that will blow the lid off the furniture industry, in the words of *The Dick Van Dyke Show*,” about the backlash against the Auroras from so-called trufen—the type of fans who’d say that Betty Bigelow is not and *could* not be a fan because she’s into *Star Trek*, costumes, and filk. I wondered what they *do* allow people to like, and Graeme said: fandom, fanzines, and fannish lore. I asked if they knew that the originators of that lore were readers and fans of SF and Graeme replied that they consider that a quaint artifact. Graeme has seen them boast that there was no mention of SF in their zines. Graeme met someone at VCON who had been at a Worldcon where a trufan sat them down, handed them a zine, *turned the pages for them*, and instructed them in how to read it, how to react to it, and what order to read the articles in. As a result this person said they will never have anything to do with traditional fandom again.



Graeme outlined three steps to stop turning off potential new fans of traditional fandom. The article in *Space Cadet* will do this more thoroughly, but in my notes the steps are: (1) recognize that we’re a niche fandom, part of larger fandom; (2) stop calling fans “non-fans” just because their interests are different from ours; and (3) just call ourselves “traditional fans,” rather than “trufen.” Keith wondered if, from a strategic standpoint, we should embrace or abandon the word “fandom.” Joe thought of the term “orthodox fans” and remembered when fans of literary SF or hard SF looked down on fans of media SF or soft SF. He said, “No one owns the copyright on fandom.” This reminded me of when Fandom, Inc. tried to trademark the word “fandom.” Graeme said he’s still rooting for the guy trying to copyright the word “the.”

Keith reported that he’d been to Canzine West, the Vancouver edition of the Canadian zine and indie publishing event, on Saturday 2 November 2013, at the Ukrainian Hall on Pender Street, and zine and indie publishing is alive and well today. Keith said that if many of the current publishers and readers don’t know or don’t care about its historical roots, the attitude of the traditional fans (zine fans) must share some of the responsibility for that, if that attitude towards newer fans is disdain, or even open contempt. Keith wanted to know if we could call fanzine fandom “zine fandom.” Graeme thought that would drive trufen bonkers because a lot of modern zine fans are not fannish; ergo not fanzines according to trufen.

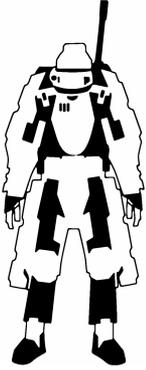
I was sorry I’d missed Canzine West and asked Keith when and where it had been. When he added that the previous year’s was at Storyeum, I remembered why I hadn’t gone to that one: no free parking downtown. Keith said that if there’s another Canzine West next year (and like many small events, it’s no sure thing), it can reasonably be expected to be around the same time, so the end-October or beginning-

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9 It’s out now and can be downloaded from [eFanzines](#).—Future Felicity

November period. Keith thought that it's an obvious event to promote traditional zines or self-published works at—but hasn't been done so far.



Ray remembered when the Supreme Court of Canada refused to ban war toys. He said that before that decision, people in Victoria had to go to Nanaimo to buy wargames. Graeme argued that war toys teach you important lessons about war: how easy it is to die, how futile war can be, and that you can't respawn in real life. That reminded me of what the writer of the comic book series *The 'Nam* said in an interview—that he wanted to tell the story from the point of view of the average grunt, who isn't told the larger objectives, or the sense of what he's doing, leading to a "kaleidoscopic" experience.

Ray wanted to know if Ryan still had the Book of FRED (see *indicia* above). Ray thought that if FRED is no longer happening, he could give the Book to the Storm Crow Tavern (a fan bar on Commercial Drive) and they could host FRED. This led to reminiscences of old places that had hosted FRED and had kicked us out or otherwise not appreciated us. Graeme said that the bottom line for most bars is that they'd rather have heavy drinkers come in, spend all their money on getting drunk, and then leave to make room for the next batch. People who sit and talk for a few hours, sometimes nursing one drink the whole time, are not welcome.

I remembered that when I first started going to FRED, my friends and I were poor and spent very little, but less than a year later we had more disposable income and would each order multiple drinks plus food, and we always tipped well—and *still* the venues didn't appreciate us. When FRED first moved to Denny's, we were a group of at least ten who came in every week at a time when the restaurant was empty, spent \$20–\$30 each, tipped 15% minimum, and were nice to the staff, and yet they too turned against us after a while—charging us for free refills and free parking, refusing to turn down the music, and giving bad service.

Graeme thought that maybe it was like radio—when you get to #1 in the ratings, they fire you so they can build someone else up. This reminded Stew of *How Green Was My Valley* (1941)—when you get to the top of a pay scale at the mine, they discharge you—which in turn reminded Stew of an episode of *Frasier* in which a person goes into a big chain video store and sees dozens of copies of the latest action blockbusters but only one copy of *How Green Was My Valley*, which is out. He asks the clerk if there are any other copies and the clerk says, "Yeah, right. They're in our *How Green Was My Valley* annex across the street."

Stew put forth an intriguing alternate explanation for the hostility we got for bringing business into under-populated bars and restaurants. When Spider Robinson played music at a local branch of a coffee house chain, they kicked him out, ostensibly for using a swear word in a song, but really because the staff hated having to work that hard on what was usually a slow night. They wanted to stand around and chat with their friends and listen



to their own music, not serve a busy restaurant packed with customers. I said that on the one hand, I can see how it wouldn't make any difference to a server's hourly

wage if business is slow; on the other hand, we used to tip well at FRED, so you'd think that would have compensated for the extra work we were creating.

We got into fond remembrances of vanished dive restaurants such as Bino's and Mr. Mike's (which was a cafeteria-style restaurant when Stew went there). Stew remembered a long-GAFIA'd fan saying, back in those days, that just on his video store clerk salary, he could afford every Friday to take a twenty-dollar bill out of the ATM (and *one* \$20 bill was all he needed) and go to the Keg, where he could have a steak meal with potatoes, a glass of beer, and the all-you-can-eat salad bar.



Graeme said that Clint Budd used to push for BCSFA getting its own clubhouse, but how would we have afforded that? Graeme remembered a weird old man who had a small store (not much bigger than the carpet in our meeting room) in a strip mall, where he used to display his souvenirs from his travels: postcards covered the walls, and a plastic alligator hung from the ceiling. He'd hide behind a curtain and when someone came in he'd run out and tell them all about his wonderful travels. Graeme wondered if at any time in BCSFA's history we could have afforded to rent a small retail space like that. Keith mentioned Cloudscape Comics, a local comics co-op who have published seven anthologies so far.<sup>10</sup> In 2012, Cloudscape was granted use of a Parks Board building as their studio space. It is also their *de facto* clubhouse: they hold meetings, host events, keep a library, and have parties there too.<sup>11</sup> Keith opined that it was (or should be) something of an embarrassment for old school fandom that they couldn't figure out how to get a clubhouse, while a newer group (founded only in 2007) managed it in just five years—an example of how newer fandoms are running rings around older ones and leaving them in their dust.

Graeme said that BCSFA used to have parties at someone's house with lots of alcohol and a huge attendance. Someone once joked about the "drunk of the month club," but this was a good thing because people were having a good time socializing. FRED may have led to smaller BCSFA meetings because some people thought if they saw the same people every week at FRED they didn't need to see them at the meeting too.

Graeme just saw *Mohammad* (1976) starring Anthony Quinn as Mohammad's uncle Hamza. The movie got around the problem of not depicting Mohammed by having scenes containing Mohammed shot from Mohammed's point of view.

Graeme mentioned that he usually doesn't like practical jokes, but there was an amusing anecdote from 1910 about a group that managed to get a tour of the *HMS Dreadnought* by pretending to be the Emperor of Abyssinia and his court. They wore blackface and spoke a made-up language. The Navy knew that the Emperor of

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10 Link: <http://www.cloudscapecomics.com> (main page).—Future Keith

11 Link: <http://www.cloudscapecomics.com/about/> (contains info about their studio space: South Memorial Park Field House).—Future Keith

Abyssinia was in town, and decided to give the tour just in case. Kathleen said that Virginia Woolf was part of this group.<sup>12</sup>

Ray reported that political correctness has even reached Europe.<sup>13</sup> Black Pete, companion of Saint Nicholas in Dutch folklore, may be banned as a racist caricature. Traditionally the role is played by white actors made up as Moors in afro wigs, blackface, and bright red lipstick, so you can see how there might be a case. I primarily know Black Pete from *Sprockets*, the fictional German talk show from *Saturday Night Live*, where (fortunately)



the role of Black Pete was played by an actual black person: the actor who is the star of the hit Austrian TV show *Black American with a Gun* (who was in turn played by Chris Rock). Keith mentioned that blackface minstrel shows were on television as late as the 1970s! The programme he had in mind was *The Black and White Minstrel Show*, which ran on the BBC until 1978. Graeme asked about its format; Keith said it was a fairly traditional variety show, with singing and dancing in costumes—and blackface.<sup>14</sup>

Kathleen brought up the Society for Indecency to Naked Animals, a satirical organization in the late 1950s that pretended to be outraged at the nudity of animals and wanted to clothe them.<sup>15</sup> Surprisingly, some people thought it was a real group, tried to donate money to it, and demanded that both presidential candidates endorse it at their next debate. (Graeme said he would have paid to see that, as no matter which position the candidates took, pro or con, it would be hilarious.) Kathleen said that Alan Abel had founded SINA, and Stew said that Stan Freberg portrayed the society's president, G. Clifford Prout. Someone said that SINA had appeared on the Steve Allen *Tonight Show*.<sup>16</sup>

Someone (Ray?) had just noticed that half of Metrotown is gone and asked what will happen to the space. I said apartment buildings, adding that what we thought of as “Metrotown” was really two different malls, Metrotown and Station Square; I think Station Square is the half that's gone now. I'll miss the Red Robin that used to be there, as well as the comic strip about Metrotown's own superhero, *Metroman*, which appeared in the Sunday newspaper comics circa 1989 or 1990 to promote awareness of Metrotown.

12 Link: <http://viriniawoolfblog.com/virginia-woolf-dreadnought-hoax/>.—Future Keith

13 If you can imagine.

14 Link: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Black\\_and\\_White\\_Minstrel\\_Show](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Black_and_White_Minstrel_Show).—Future Keith

15 Slogan: “A nude horse is a rude horse.”

16 According to the Internet, Alan Abel created it, with Buck Henry playing the role of Prout. SINA not only appeared on *The Tonight Show*, but also *The Today Show*, and even *The CBS Evening News* with Walter Cronkite, in a campaign that lasted five years (1958–1963). Abel went on to pull another thirty media pranks over the following five decades (some brilliant, some hurtful). Garth could be the next this guy.—Future Felicity

This reminded Stew of when Eaton’s opened its new tower at Granville and Georgia Streets, and the Bay countered with something about Bayman vs. Super-Eaton. Stew said that the Bay also had a radio ad in which they offered to lend Eaton’s all of their panhandlers, religious cults, and candle salesmen for one day—this was when that neighbourhood was full of them. Ray said there was one guy there who stood in the bus-only lane and kept it open for buses. Graeme remembered the time that he heard a police order on the radio to stay out of Granville & Georgia. It was repeated every five minutes. The reason turned to be that there was a riot—a fight between the Hare Krishnas and street people. In those days (we guessed it must have been the 1970s) there were enough Krishnas to form a line going around the block. Surprisingly, said Graeme, there was nothing about the riot in the news afterwards.



Graeme remembered one guy who claimed to be Jesus and would run around in traffic demanding to be run over so he could prove he was immortal. Ray knew of a similar “Jesus” who later moved to Texada and became a night watchman for BC Ferries.

Someone said that the new Eaton’s building was called “the reverse urinal” because that’s what it looked like,<sup>17</sup> and that similarly, BC Place was “the marshmallow in bondage.” When BC Place’s roof was replaced, one comment was that the city’s protector giant jellyfish was being replaced by a giant spider. Pyrotechnics during the performance of “Live and Let Die” at a Paul McCartney concert at BC Place in 2012 hit the ceiling, leaving scorch marks. Fortunately, they did not set the roof on fire—it could have been a huge disaster and tragedy, worse than other concert fires that have occurred.<sup>18</sup>

Someone said that some Vancouver streets were originally named by sailors. Bidwell Street was formerly named “Bedwell Street.” The Lions (mountain peaks) were formerly named “Sheba’s Tits.” (Future Keith adds: “I cannot find supporting evidence for either of these two claims.”)

Ray remembered that his dad hated the Beatles when they were current, but loves them now. Joe replied that, amazingly, James Bond put down the Beatles in *Goldfinger* (saying something was “as bad as listening to the Beatles without earmuffs”). Stew remembered that teenagers in movie theatres booed that line! Graeme said that his dad liked Elvis until he realized that teenagers liked Elvis. Graeme’s dad didn’t like teenagers, or rather the idea of teenagers, in the sense of teens being a new demographic; it meant that hip, swinging adults like himself weren’t cool anymore.

Stew and Graeme discussed why Elvis had joined the army. Was he drafted, or was it Colonel Tom Parker’s idea that he join? Either way, Elvis could have gone into the entertainment wing of the forces, but insisted on being an ordinary soldier. I wondered if Colonel Parker was a real colonel, and Stew said no, and that surpris-

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17 Presumably, like an inside-out urinal, and not a place to reverse-urinate.

18 Video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9onnTH1r0J8>.—Future Keith

ingly, Parker also wasn't an American citizen. His name was something Dutch,<sup>19</sup> "Colonel" was an honorary rank,<sup>20</sup> and he couldn't leave the country except to go to Canada and Hawaii because he wouldn't have been allowed back in! Joe said that he'd heard on the CBC radio show *Vinyl Tap* with Randy Bachman<sup>21</sup> that Cliff Richard got the benefit of that, as Elvis-starved British teenagers needed someone to fill the void. I thought that, conversely, Cliff Richard was virtually unknown here—I only knew of him because *The Young Ones* kept referencing him—but Stew countered that his sister collected his records.

Elvis played three concerts in Canada: Toronto, Montreal, and Vancouver. Similarly, the Beatles played three concerts in Canada in the same cities. I was glad Vancouver was in there somewhere; in a list of three cities, we're usually overlooked, even though we're the third-largest city. It's as if the rest of the country has decided everything west of the Rockies is some kind of nonexistent Shambhala.

*Vancouver:* Stew said his sister went to this Beatles concert.

*Toronto:* Graeme was at this Beatles concert, and remembered (1) that the band managed to get out two audible notes, and then the screaming started; (2) a river of discarded flash bulbs flowing down the stairs as people took photos and chucked the dead bulbs in the aisle; and (3) guys sitting with their arms crossed, glaring at their ecstatic girlfriends.<sup>22</sup>

*Montreal:* Ray said that the RCMP got a notice of a death threat against Ringo Starr because the would-be assassin thought Ringo looked Jewish. My notes also say "Jerry something."<sup>23</sup>

Kathleen said that Jenni Merrifield is chair of VCON 39, and added that no-one should bring chips to a BCSFA meeting until at least February, because we have plenty. Keith told me a useful rule of thumb to figure out which VCON was held in a given year: subtract five from the last digit of the year. For example, if the year was 2004, it was VCON 29. (This only works for the last fifteen or so VCONs; before that, there were gaps.)



Cliff!!!

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by Graeme Cameron and Keith Lim

Sunday 17 November 2013

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19 Andreas Cornelis van Kuijk.—Future Felicity

20 According to [Wikipedia](#), Parker served in the US Army for two years, then went AWOL and deserted. Later the governor of Louisiana gave Parker the rank of colonel in the Louisiana State Militia. Parker liked to be called "the Colonel" but downplayed his Army record.—Future Felicity

21 Famous Canadian rocker from the Guess Who and Bachman–Turner Overdrive (with Fred Turner and Chad Overdrive).

22 Could they have harnessed the ambient sexual energy to get to second base? If only we could go back and find out. Many relationships might have been saved.

23 Jarry Park Stadium?—Future Felicity

## **‘Phantacea’ Press Release**

Jim McPherson’s ongoing project to novelize the *Phantacea* comic book series continues with *Nuclear Dragons*.

VANCOUVER, BC: In 2009 Phantacea Publications released *The War of the Apocalypitics*, the opening entry in the *Launch 1980* story cycle. At its centre stood the same stirring saga of extraterrestrial Shining Ones and the doomed but unyielding Damnation Brigade as that related in *Phantacea Revisited 1: The Damnation Brigade*.

That 2013 graphic novel gleaned material from the pages of *Phantacea* 1–5 (1977–1980) as well as *Phantacea Phase One* (mid-1980s). Its novelizations until then untold Outer Earth sequences introduced or re-introduced a number of fascinating protagonists; ones who appeared or would have appeared in the comic book series had it continued.

With a breathtaking cover by Ian Bateson, *Nuclear Dragons* turns the spotlight back on many of them. Given what’s coming, though, if they’re on Centauri Island days after the launching of the Cosmic Express, will any of them last long enough to return for a third entry in the *Launch 1980* story cycle?

No matter. Jim McPherson’s Phantacea Mythos is as full of incredible individuals as it is of astonishing challenges for them, and/or others, to survive.

Review copies available. For more information contact:

Phantacea Publications

74689 Kitsilano RPO, 2768 West Broadway, Vancouver BC, V6K 4P4

Primary website: <http://www.phantacea.com>

Jim McPherson

Creator/Writer/Publisher

*The Phantacea Mythos*

Jim McPherson

Monday 4 November 2013

## **Book View Café Press Release**

Book View Café welcomes the Marion Zimmer Bradley Literary Works Trust as its latest member.

Fast-growing publishing cooperative to bring out ebook versions of selected Bradley works, including over twenty out-of-print novels.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—Cedar Crest, NM—November 6, 2013...Book View Café Publishing Cooperative (BVC), the professional author-run publisher, announces the addition of the Marion Zimmer Bradley Literary Works Trust to its membership. Although Bradley, who died in 1999, is best known for *The Mists of Avalon* and the Darkover series, her writing career spanned over forty years in a variety of genres, and many of her works are out of print. BVC will be bringing out ebook versions of selected works from her backlist, starting with *The Complete Lythande*, now available from BVC and major online booksellers.

“BVC is both excited and honored that the Trust has chosen us as their partner to make Marion’s works more widely available,” said Pati Nagle, president of Book View Café. “This not only confirms the flexibility of our unique, author-centric business model, but illustrates how far we’ve come in only five years. And, for many of

us, it's a poignant moment to welcome to our ranks an author who was a major influence, even mentor and friend, for us and an entire generation of science fiction and fantasy fans."

"On the business side alone, BVC offers the Trust a compelling value," said Ann Sharp, Trustee. "As a member we now have access to a wide array of publishing services and new modes of distribution, such as libraries and Audible editions, that we simply didn't have the time to pursue." Equally compelling, she notes, is the BVC business model. "There are many ways in which BVC's way of doing things is deeply aligned with Marion's approach to her writing and her worlds," says Sharp. "She was a very generous author, which makes the collegial, consensus-driven culture of BVC a marvelous fit for her legacy."

For more information:

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Book View Café

Wednesday 6 November 2013

### **Joan Fontaine 1917–2013**

Joan Fontaine, actress. Died yesterday, aged 96.

Born in Tokyo to British parents who then moved to California. She is survived by her elder sister, the actress Olivia de Havilland (1916–).

Genre roles: the original *Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea* (1961) and *The Witches* (1966).

Steve Green

Sunday 15 December 2013

### **Peter O'Toole 1932–2013**

Peter O'Toole, Irish actor raised in the UK, died Saturday, aged 81.

Genre roles include: *The Bible: In the Beginning...* (1966), *Supergirl* (1984), *The Ray Bradbury Theater* (TV) (1986), *High Spirits* (1988), *Phantoms* (1998), *Stardust* (2007) and *Highway to Hell* (2012).

Steve Green

Sunday 15 December 2013

## **RANDOM NOSTALGIA**

**"ROM" (COMICS)**

**"OPERATION: MINDCRIME"**

**"INSPECTOR GADGET" (ORIGINAL SERIES)**

**LIBBY'S DINO-GETTI AND DINO-HOLI**

**POPSICLE PETE**

## Zines Received

**‘Opuntia’ #259** (February 2013). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. 8½ × 5½ inches (landscape).

“Shaking All Over”: Reviews films *Earthquake* (1974), *Nature Unleashed: Earthquake* (2004), *10.5 Apocalypse* (2006), *2012* (2009), and *Crack in the World* (1964); and TV episodes “The Night of the Human Trigger” [*The Wild Wild West* (1965)] and “The Project Deephole Affair” [*The Man from UNCLE* (1966)] and “The Man from THRUSH Affair” [*The Man from UNCLE* (1967)]. Of these, I’ve seen *Earthquake*. As Dale says, the effects were good for the time, and there are lots of subplots to occupy its many stars. Two things that made the impressed me were George Kennedy’s rant at the police station and Marjoe Gortner’s National Guardsman. Gortner belongs on the Cliff De Young List. He almost never gets to play a good guy, though in *Earthquake*, you can understand what drives his character do the bad things he does. The other earthquake movie from my era is *The Big One: The Great Los Angeles Earthquake* (1990), starring Joanna Kerns, Brock Peters, Robert Ginty, Michael T. Weiss, Richard Herd, Richard Masur, and Ed Begley, Jr.

Also: “Human Evolution: Part 1: In the Beginning”; “Zine Statistics for the Year Ended 2012-12-31.”

## E-Zines Received

**‘One Swell Foop’ #6** (February 2012). Published by Garth Spencer, 82 East 40th Avenue, Vancouver, BC, V5W 1L4, [garthspencer@shaw.ca](mailto:garthspencer@shaw.ca). [eFanzines.com](http://eFanzines.com).

“Blithering Nonsense”: What are “‘pool’ papers”?

“Things I Write Online”: From what Garth has said over the years, it sounds like there are incomplete people looking for something to fill the void in themselves. Sometimes fandom fills the void. For Garth, it only did so at first, when he was in university and had just discovered fanzines. When it stops working, we go back to being incomplete people, searching for something.

Also: “Letters”; “Magic.”

## Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u> .....	Cover
Clip art ( <u>Clker.com</u> ).....	Pages 1, 17–23
Clip art [ <i>COPS</i> (1988) screenshot].....	Page 2
Clip art [ <i>Spasms</i> (1983) screenshot/vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u> ]...	Page 3
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u> ).....	Page 4
Clip art [ <i>Yes, Minister</i> (1980–1984) screenshot/ vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u> ].....	Page 5 (left)
Clip art [ <i>Girls und Panzer</i> (2012) screenshot/ vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u> ].....	Page 5 (right)
<u>Dave Haren</u> (photo).....	Page 6