BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#501 \$3.00/Issue February 2015



Leonard Nimoy (1931–2015)

In This Issue:

This and Next Month in BCSFA	C
About BCSFA	C
Letters of Comment	1
Calendar	7
News-Like Matter	16
VancouFur 2015 Report Part 1 (Michael Bertrand)	20
Art Credits	22

BCSFAzine © February 2015, Volume 43, #2, Issue #501 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 Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5 (new address).

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

Sunday 15 February at 7 PM: February BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's,

707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New

Westminster.

Friday 20 February: Submission deadline for March BCSFAzine

(ideally).

Friday 27 February: March *BCSFAzine* production (theoretically).

Sunday 15 March at 7 PM: March BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's.

Friday 20 March: Submission deadline for April BCSFAzine

(ideally).

Friday 27 March: April *BCSFAzine* production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

WCSFA Social Committee Chairman/Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBD

Treasurer/Supporting BCSFAzine Production Donor: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-447-3931 (*new number*) 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_scifi_assc/). See http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_assc/). See http://bcsfa.net/events.html). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Dave Haren tyrbolo@comcast.net

Sunday 15 March 2015

Hi Felicity,

That was worth the wait. A tour de force coverage of BCSFA. [*Thanks!*]



I assume by now everyone has heard of Sir Terry bailing out on us. I run into people all over who knew him from cons, from business, from hanging out with him. Quite a record of accomplishment to have left a good impression on so many over the years. He was a writer for people who love to read who never disappointed his fans. I will miss him terribly and I only read his books over and over again.

http://www.gnuterrypratchett.com/ [♣]

The Internet finds it own uses for things! In this case a bizarre kind of immortality akin to spinning a Tibetan prayer wheel.

Eclectic notations:

http://boingboing.net/2015/02/06/andy-offutt-insanely-prolific.html

AJ Offut AKA John Cleve. [①]

I have a bunch of the *Spaceways* books. Didn't know Offut was involved. I think it was Playboy Press who published these.

[Impressive workrate! I sometimes write, and therefore sometimes follow the rule that "writers write," but I don't know enough craft to be the kind of writer who could handle any assignment thrown at them. I admire that kind of writer, though. The pulp fiction and B-movie industries thrive on that kind of writer.]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pQcQrvqoK88

Star Odyssey.¹[û]

[That looks quite bad. I'll bookmark it for our bad movie nights at the apartment. Interestingly it steals from Star Wars (1977) but anticipates V (1983).]

http://edge.org/conversation/neil_gershenfeld-digital-reality

[I almost understood most of that. He skips a lot of steps. Maybe he's making assumptions about the reader's background knowledge. I guess the article wasn't written for the layperson like me. I don't qualify as one of his MIT types—I may not function well in normal society, but I'm also not a coder or a maker.



1 (1979).

[When there's technology to increase our intelligence, I'll go for it. I hope we all go there together, so there aren't two separate cultures, one with superintelligence and one without. The superintelligent might develop their own dense new language, like psychohistorians, then be reluctant to slow down and translate it back into traditional text. That translation might be where us verbal types, who still have a sentimental attachment to the old language, fit in.]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HcmCl5esI78

*Wizards of the Demon Sword.*² [û]

This one is for the bad movie fans. You will have to search long and hard to beat this epic tale.

[On the one hand, stellar cast—Lyle Waggoner, Russ Tamblyn, Lawrence Tierney, Michael Berryman, and Ken Mitchroney! On the other hand, Medieval setting.] https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHc PMk5aEE

Žižek in full flight. [む]

[He's right that capitalism has become like a religion. This explains why the poor are treated like sinners.]

http://reason.com/archives/2015/03/03/the-robotic-world-of-philip-k-dick

[I'm not sure what this article's point is.]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G0R09YzyuCI

Somebody to disagree with. [①]

[Scary! And his idea of what I'll call "Peak Science" is depressing. What are your disagreements with his lecture?]



Reptoid Jeffrey Tambor, or a glazed ham?

This post first appeared on Daily Kos.³ [♣]

"The letter by 47 Senators and members of Congress trying to undermine negotiations between Iran, the United States and the 5+1 group is a pretty clear violation of the Logan Act:

"'Any citizen of the United States, wherever he may be, who, without authority of the United States, directly or indirectly commences or carries on any correspondence or intercourse with any foreign government or any officer or agent thereof, with intent to influence the measures or con-

duct of any foreign government or of any officer or agent thereof, in relation to any disputes or controversies with the United States, or to defeat the measures of the United States, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than three years, or both.'

"Why isn't anyone asking about this and pushing for answers as to how this is not a violation of the law?"

Do you need some ideas for a dystopian scenario?

"The key to my prediction is the best way to interact with the brain is from the inside, from the bloodstream. Because if you inject tiny robots into the bloodstream they can get very close to all the cells and nerves and things in your brain, really close. So if you want to input information or read information, you do it through the

^{2 (1991).}

³ Link.

bloodstream. [So] in theory you could load Shakespeare into your bloodstream and as the little robots get to the various parts of the brain they deposit little pieces of Shakespeare or the little pieces of French if you want to learn how to speak French. So in theory you can ingest information."—Nicholas Negroponte⁴

I've been catching up on movies on You-Tube. Lots of fairly good stuff but it takes some digging to locate. For some reason the title is clipped off so it's a pain if you want to buy them later. However *Predestination*⁵ is a good take on "'—All You Zombies—'" by RAH and *A Sound of Thunder*⁶ is pretty good. One I did find quite interesting had the TV Hercules as captain and a girly superheroine who spent most of the movie running up and down the slickrock and sandstone of my misspent youth (northern Arizona and southern Utah) around Kanab/Fredonia. The scenery made a great alien Planet View for anyone else.



Don't step on any butterflies. You might create a timeline where we use "'s" to pluralise words.

[Was it Survivor (AKA Star Warrior—Survivor) (2014)?]

Unlike the SF movies of old, some of this new stuff makes sense, and the new special effects are getting better all the time.

On the anime front I'm watching *Kaze No Stigma*⁷ which is hard to describe as magic user clans battle evil spirits and each other with a lot of internal squabbles. I'm also about to cycle through *One Piece*⁸ again as I finally caught up with episode 684 on animefreaktv.com. They seem to be on a two week schedule now, probably because of the character density as everybody and his dog crashes into Doflamingo and family. That's just a guess.



You are all aware of C51⁹ and need to raise hell about it. These issues need to be mainstreamed before they finally get the televisor units installed in the bathroom for your own safety, otherwise you might have a moment of privacy.

I like to entertain obscure ideas but rarely endorse them whole heartedly because I read what Vilfredo Pareto had to say and from the historical record nothing has turned out to be completely right by a

long stretch. Humans do have a nasty habit of spinning up whole cloth from a few tattered scraps, then trying to sell it as truth (for some value of *truth*).

⁴ Link.

^{5 (2014).}

^{6 (2005).} Finally!

^{7 &}quot;Stigma of the Wind" (2007).

^{8 (1998).}

⁹ The Anti-Terrorism Act 2015.

As far as a cellphone for Lloyd Penney there are a lot of people working on getting him a decent one. Modular, extendable, and capable of fending off the nosey who think they should monitor everybody all the time. Not yet but the prototypes already exist. The media likes to "view with alarum" the idea that anything like that might be used by bad people (for some value of *bad*).

Silly as humans are they are perfectly OK with others hurtling past in metal shells weighing over a ton on bad roads. Most of that is a result of really bad educational systems. The advantage the SF community has is that they are capable of entertaining possibilities that others are incapable of. Are they better? The answer is yes in some ways, but we haven't made a utopia yet.



The PTerry picture was snagged from a Discordian website, likewise the picture of Mike Johnson (Overweening Generalist) with RAW. I also found out they made a hardcover of the *Principia Discordia* red cover with gold lettering and claimed the CIA did it.

The rest are faery pics of some note.

Garth did a nice job on the history.

However 500 issues is a hel of a start in the right direction. I'm looking forward to 500 more.

Warmest regards, Dave Haren

Lloyd Penney

1706–24 Eva Road, Etobicoke, Ontario M9C 2B2 penneys@bell.net Thursday 26 January 2015



Dear Felicity, and all members of BCSFA:

Thank you all, for issue 500 of *BCSFAzine*. Now, that should say it all. Did any of you older members ever think to see a 500th issue? Here it is, and many thanks to Felicity for putting it together. (The paper version of 500 arrived today!) And here comes a LOC that I hope will go into 501...

Disconnected oddity...that could be a button at a con. It's gotten warmer here, but not like Vancouver and Calgary has! We've still got winter temperatures, while you are most of the way to summer. I still hope to make it out there to visit with you all one fine year. However,

our big saving is for a trip to London, UK in 2016. We are going, but still have a lot of plans to make.

Comments on Ted Cruz, the one export Calgary will never brag about...he's not worth the fuss. He is only the first clown out of the clown car, and there will be plenty more, all as ridiculous as Cruz, and some will be more popular and danger-

ous. He's the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Science and Space? I am sure he's entertained belief in a flat Earth...

Nope, Yvonne and I are still fully employed! However, we have learned that you should always be looking, no matter what, to stay aware of the market you are in. I recently found an interesting job I could have applied to...but I didn't, for it was offering half of what I am making now. Still, the hunt does continue, but for heaven's sake, hurry up, 6/49!

I would need to have a look, but I cannot think of the earliest issue of *BCSFAzine* that I have. Possibly around 200 or so. Great covers throughout, I seem to recall the cover to 208.

I would think that most people who have run a club or a convention over the decades learn that people want a lot for a little, they want to see, do and buy something interesting and new, and want the op-



portunity to party with their friends. They also learn that over time, the general demands from a convention stay the same, but the specifics do tend to change here and there. I find that people want less to participate, and more to be entertained as they sit; more passive than active.

Some great names from the past... *The Ether Patrol*! The Leather Goddesses of Phobos! Sentient Zucchinis! Cluart Stupor! So many good memories. I hope we're all making good memories today, and not just relying on foggy brains.

When our family moved from Orillia, Ontario to Victoria in 1977, I did find the club United Federation of Canadian Star Trekkers, and not long after its founding, in 1978, it planned to have its members go to VCON, 8 that year, I think. I was interested, not having gone to a convention at that time, but it required money, money I didn't have, and my parents were not inclined to given me a dime. Further along the article, Ad Astra was indeed the host of the CanVention and the Auroras in 1987, and to the best of my knowledge, never went after the national convention again.

A lot of local friends know about my interest in fanzines, but few share it. Newer friends, I haven't even approached them about it. They have their own fandom, and I have mine. I also have some newer interests to keep me occupied, so fanzines have to share my available time. I have a lot of newer friends, and perhaps I don't feel so old now.

[It can be hard to get people to read a zine, especially since fewer people read now, or don't read on paper. Maybe there's a zine gene, and if you have it, it's harder for you to not read a zine than to read it, and if you don't have it, it's hopeless.]

This has been a great issue, with some great retrospectives within it. A time capsule like this is good for older members, and perhaps a curiosity for those who are younger. They must understand somehow that these were heady times for us when we were as young as they are, and we satisfied ourselves with our achievements, and marked our time and activities. I don't know who will mark those achievements of ours in the future, so if none will recognize us, we must recognize ourselves.

I could wax poetic for another paragraph or two, but I won't. Congratulations to all of you for your achievement of club and social arena, and publications to keep communication, the true heart of fandom, going and beating. I look forward to issue 501, and I will see you then.

[Thanks!]
Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Michael Bertrand

Monday 30 March 2014

fruvousfox@gmail.com

Wow, five hundred issues! I feel honored and privileged to be around for such a momentous issue.



All hail our faithful editrix, Felicity! And all those editors who came before her. There are not many things in this world that has lasted as long as *BCSFAzine*.

[Thanks!]

Not including people, of course. After all, Felicity and I are pretty close to exactly the same age it is! (Sorry, people whom that makes feel old!)

As for myself, I gave applying to the VFS Writing for Television and Film course an-

other try, but they are still stuck on that whole "no recent job or educational history" thing. Apparently talent and drive don't mean anything without some piece of paper that says I took some community college writing class.

Yeah, cause that will *totally* prove I am ready for an intensive one year course writing for TV.

Oh well, getting mad about it doesn't get me anywhere. Instead, I am planning to get an associate degree in creative writing from Kwantlen. The Richmond campus is pretty close to where I live, and it will only take around eight months (and \$3000) to get it, so it should be doable.

The path of life often comes with detours!

That's enough from me this month. See you next month, true believers!

Howard Cherniak

Thursday 9 April 2015

cherns@compuserve.com

Of possible interest: "George RR Martin Says Rightwing Lobby Has 'Broken' Hugo Awards"—*The Guardian*

I don't think that I completely understand the issue, and I'm not sure how long this link will last, but FWIW...

http://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/apr/09/george-rr-martin-right-wing-broken-hugo-awards

[Martin seems to have summed it up very well.]

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

Recurring

- 1, 8, 15, and 22 February and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 March 2015 (*Sundays*): <u>Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays</u>, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—<u>Keith Lim</u>
- 2, 9, 16, and 23 February and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 March 2015 (*Mondays*): <u>Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures</u>, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim
- 2, 9, 16, and 23 February and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 March 2015 (*Mondays*): <u>Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night</u>, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. —<u>Julian Castle</u>
- 3, 10, 17, and 24 February and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March 2015 (*Tuesdays*): <u>Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming</u>, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—<u>Keith Lim</u>
- 3, 10, 17, and 24 February and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March 2015 (*Tuesdays*): <u>Vancouver Hack Space Open House</u>, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. —<u>Julian Castle</u>
- 3, 10, 17, and 24 February 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March 2015 (*Tuesdays*): <u>Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!</u>, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—<u>The Fictionals Comedy Co.</u>
- 4, 11, 18, and 25 February and 4, 11, 18, and 25 March 2015 (*Wednesdays*): <u>Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting</u>, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of <u>Memorial South Park's fieldhouse</u>, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41st Avenue), Vancouver.—<u>Keith Lim/Julian Castle</u>
- 5, 12, 19, and 26 February and 5, 12, 19, and 26 March 2015 (*Thursdays*): <u>Thursday Hobby Build Nights</u>, 6–9 PM at <u>Ages Three and Up Gundam</u>, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam
- 5 February and 5 March 2015 (*first Thursday*): <u>Drop-In Drawing for Adults: Pick Up a Pencil</u>, 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond.

- 6, 13, 20, and 27 February and 6, 13, 20, and 27 March 2015 (*Fridays*): <u>Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games</u>, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.
- 6, 13, 20, and 27 February and 6, 13, 20, and 27 March 2015 (*Fridays*): <u>Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic</u>, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—<u>Keith Lim</u>
- 6, 13, 20, and 27 February and 6, 13, 20, and 27 March 2015 (*Fridays*): <u>Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games</u>, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—<u>Keith Lim</u>
- 7, 14, 21, and 28 February and 7, 14, 21, and 28 February 2015 (*Saturdays*): <u>Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming</u>, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—<u>Keith Lim</u>
- 7, 14, 21, and 28 February and 7, 14, 21, and 28 March 2015 (*Saturdays*): <u>Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub</u>, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—<u>Greg Cairns</u>
- 10 February and 10 March 2015 (second Tuesday): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.
- 10 February and 10 March 2015 (second Tuesday): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver.—Keith Lim
- 11 and 25 February and 11 and 25 March 2015 (alternate Wednesdays): <u>Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!</u>, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—<u>Keith Lim</u>
- 12 and 26 February and 12 and 26 March 2015 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—<u>Allan Lowson</u> (on <u>Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group</u>)
- 12 February and 12 March 2015 (second Thursday): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim
- 12 February and 12 March 2015 (*second Thursday*): <u>Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup</u>, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given*.]—<u>Keith Lim</u>
- 14 February and 14 March 2015 (*second Saturday*): Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Free.—Julian Castle

15 February and 15 March 2015 (*third Sunday*): <u>Board Game Swap Meetup</u>, 11 AM-1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

18 February and 18 March 2015 (*third Wednesday*): Richmond Writes Out Loud Open Mic Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, #8200–11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.—Richmond Writes Out Loud

19 February and 19 March 2015 (*third Friday*): <u>IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting</u>, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor "Arts Room," 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—<u>Keith Lim</u>

21 February and 21 March 2015 (*third Saturday*): <u>Vancouver Comic Jam</u>, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the <u>Wallflower Modern Diner</u>, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver.—<u>Keith Lim</u>

28 February and 28 March 2015 (*last Saturday*): <u>Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming</u>, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—<u>Keith Lim</u>

Already in Progress

22 October 2014–30 March 2015: Call for submissions for seventh annual <u>Carded!</u> (one-night show of art on trading cards). Art deadline Monday 30 March 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 8.5"x11")...We only accept one submission per artist...If you're one of the 50 artists chosen, you'll receive 20 copies of your trading card." More details at http://hotartcard.com/how-to-submit/.—Julian Castle



30 January–1 February 2015: <u>Conflikt 8</u> (filk convention) at <u>Hilton—SeaTac International Airport</u>, 17620 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington.—<u>Julian Castle</u>

30 January–1 February 2015: <u>Foolscap</u>, Redmond Marriott Town Center, 7401 164th Avenue Northeast, Redmond, Washington, USA.—*Ansible & Locus Online* via <u>Garth Spencer</u>

30 January–5 February 2015: <u>Great Digital Film Festival</u> at Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver (900 Burrard Street), Colossus Langley (#20090 91A Avenue), SilverCity Victoria (3130 Tillicum Road) and other Cineplex cinemas in Canada.—<u>Julian Castle</u>

27 February–1 March 2015: <u>GottaCon</u> at Victoria Conference Centre, 720 Douglas Street, Victoria.—<u>Julian Castle</u>

February 2015

February is Library Lovers' Month.

1 February 2015: <u>Hourly Comic Day</u>. Worldwide event. People make a journal comic every hour they are awake and then show the comics to other people on the Internet. <u>Alternate URL</u>.—<u>Julian Castle</u>



3 February 2015: **Alan Girling**'s birthday.

4 February 2015: Thank a Mailman Day.

5 February 2015: <u>James Bond Live!</u>, 7–11 PM at the Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver.—<u>Ian Boothby</u>

6 February 2015: **Lyn Aylward** and **Bill Marles**'s birthdays. Premiere of films *Jupiter Ascending* (SF; Channing Tatum, Mila Kunis, Sean Bean, Terry Gilliam), *Seventh Son* (fantasy; Julianne Moore, Jeff Bridges, Djimon Hounsou, Jason Scott Lee, Loyd Catlett), and *The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of*

Water (computer animation; Antonio Banderas, Seth Green, Clancy Brown, Thomas F. Wilson, Tom Kenny, Bill Fagerbakke, Slash, Rodger Bumpass).

6–8 February 2015: <u>Howl Con</u> at Kiggins Theatre, 1011 Main Street, Vancouver, Washington, and Red Lion Hotel Vancouver at the Quay, 100 Columbia Street, Vancouver, Washington.—*The Columbian*

6–8, 12–15 and 19–21 February 2015: <u>The Addams Family: A New Musical</u> at the Michael J. Fox Theatre, 7373 MacPherson Avenue, Burnaby. Thursday–Saturday: 8 PM. Saturday & Sunday: 2 PM matinees.—<u>Julian Castle</u>

6–8 February 2015: <u>Potlatch 24</u>, Hotel Deca, 4507 Brooklyn Avenue Northeast, Seattle, Washington, USA.—*Ansible & Locus Online* via <u>Garth Spencer</u>

6–8, 10–12, 14, 21 February 2015: <u>The Oscar-Nominated Animation Shorts</u> (animation, 82 minutes) at VanCity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver.—<u>Julian Castle</u>

6–9 and 14 February 2015: <u>Song of the Sea</u> at VanCity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver.—<u>Julian Castle</u>

7 February 2015: **Charlotte Young**'s birthday. Season two premiere of <u>Bitten</u> (werewolves) on Space.—<u>Julian Castle</u>

- 7 February–26 April 2015: <u>Discover the Nuts and Bolts of Animation</u> at Science World, 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver. "Explore how art, math, science, and technology come together in...animation."—<u>Julian Castle</u>
- 8 February 2015: TV series *The Walking Dead & Talking Dead* resume on AMC. *Last Week Tonight with John Oliver* (news comedy) resumes on HBO.—Julian Castle
- 9, 16, and 23 February and 2, 9, and 16 March 2015: <u>Ascension</u> (SF/alt-history) sixpart mini-series on CBC.—<u>Julian Castle</u>
- 10 February 2015: **Kevin King**'s birthday.
- 11 February 2015: <u>Animated Films of Sun Xun</u>, 7 PM at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver.—<u>Julian Castle</u>
- 13 February 2015: Premiere of films *Kingsman: The Secret Service* (comic adaptation; Colin Firth, Samuel L. Jackson, Mark Hamill, Michael Caine) and *What We Do in the Shadows* (horror/comedy; Adolf Hitler).
- 13–15 February 2015: <u>RadCon</u>, Red Lion Inn, 2525 North 20th Avenue, Pasco, Washington, USA.—*Ansible* via <u>Garth Spencer</u>
- 13–15 February 2015: <u>Tsukino-Con 2015</u>, at the ECS (Engineering and Computer Science) building at the University of Victoria, Victoria.—Chris Sturges via <u>Garth Spencer</u>
- 14 February 2015: **Potlatch Convention**'s birthday.
- 14 February 2015: <u>Valentine's Day Maid Cafe</u>, 11 AM-7 PM at 木: Ki Tea House Cafe, #105-6888 Royal Oak Avenue, Burnaby.—<u>Vanpla Facebook Group</u>
- 15 February 2015: Liana Kerzner's birthday.
- 15 February 2015: <u>Vancouver Comic Show Valentine's Hangover Extravaganzal</u>, 11 AM–5 PM at Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.
- 15 February 2015: Heathen Geeks, 2 PM at Caffè Artigiano, 4010 Main Street, Vancouver.—Garth Spencer
- 20 February 2015: Premiere of film *Hot Tub Time Machine 2* (comedy/SF; Chevy Chase, Craig Robinson, Rob Corddry, Jason Jones).
- 20–21 February 2015: <u>A Taste of Animethon 2015</u> at Ramada Edmonton Hotel & Conference Centre, 11834 Kingsway Avenue Northwest, Edmonton, Alberta.—*Ansible* via <u>Garth Spencer</u>

- 20–22 February 2015: <u>Mythicworlds: Seattle 2015</u> at the Seattle Doubletree Hilton, 18740 International Boulevard, Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, Washington. —Facebook group and convention website via <u>Garth Spencer</u>
- 20–22 February 2015: <u>The last official *Xena* convention</u> in Los Angeles, California. A Creation Entertainment event.—<u>Julian Castle</u>
- 22 February 2015: <u>Vanpla Workshop</u>, 1–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.—<u>Vanpla Facebook Group</u>
- 21 February 2015: Crystal Remedios's birthday.
- 21 February 2015: <u>Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet</u>, 11 AM—4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.—<u>Verne Siebert</u>
- 24 February 2015: Michael McKenny's birthday.
- 25 February 2015: Alvx Dellamonica's birthday.
- 27 February 2015: **Sharkbyte LePirate**'s birthday. Premiere of film *The Lazarus Effect* (SF/thriller).
- 28 February 2015: Swill VileFen Press's birthday.

March 2015

- 3 March 2015: If Pets Had Thumbs Day.
- 5–8 March 2015: <u>VancouFur 2015 Film Noir Presents Gangsters & Gumshoes</u> at the Executive Inn and Conference Centre, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby. (Furry convention.) Convention registration at the door: \$45/person. Kids under 10 years old get in free! Single day prices: Thursday: \$15; Friday: \$20; Saturday: \$30; Sunday: \$15. Contact via http://www.vancoufur.ca/ (convention website).—Garth Spencer



- 6 March 2015: Premiere of film *Chappie* (SF; Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Ninja, Hugh Jackman, Sigourney Weaver, Anderson Cooper).
- 6–8 March 2015: <u>Imperial Hobbies Year End Sale!</u> at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. Friday: 11 AM–9 PM. Saturday: 10 AM–5:30 PM. Sunday: 12–5 PM.
- 7 March 2015: <u>J-Fest</u>, 10 AM-6 PM at Nikkei Museum and Cultural Centre, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby. "Our spring Japanese cultural event returns once

again to the Nikkei Museum and Cultural Centre in Burnaby, BC! Presented by Vancouver Anime Convention Society. Visit http://www.animeevolution.com/ for more details. Admission \$15."

- 11 March 2015: Cameron Russell's birthday.
- 13 March 2015: Premiere of films *Cinderella* (fantasy; Cate Blanchett, Helena Bonham Carter, Stellan Skarsgård, Derek Jacobi) and *It Follows* (horror).
- 14 March 2015: <u>Vanpla Build Night</u>, 6–9 PM at Sakura Media, 4700 Kingsway (Metropolis at Metrotown), Burnaby. "Join us for a gunpla evening at Vanpla Build Night. Whether you are new to the hobby or veteran modeler, drop by and build in a casual open setting with a group of fun people."
- 15 March 2015: Jenni Merrifield's Birthday.
- 19–22 March 2015: <u>Gamestorm 17</u> at the Vancouver Hilton, 301 West 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington.—Chris Sturgers via <u>Garth Spencer</u>
- 20 March 2015: Extraterrestrial Abductions Day. Premiere of films *Insurgent* (SF; Kate Winslet, Mekhi Phifer, Tony Goldwyn, Ashley Judd, Naomi Watts, Daniel Dae Kim) and *Spring* (SF/horror; Some Other Guy).
- 20 March 2015: <u>Magic: The Gathering: Dragons of Tarkir Midnight Pre-Release</u>, 12 PM-4 AM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. "This is the midnight event for the pre-release of the Fate Reforged expansion of Magic: The Gathering. For more info please contact Steph here at the store. Contact: <u>Stephanie</u>."
- 21 March 2015: 2015 Auto Modelrama Model Car Show, Contest, & Swap, 9 AM-3 PM at the Cameron Community Centre, 9523 Cameron Street, Burnaby. "Entry fees: \$5 per entry, up to five models; \$1 each additional. \$3 youth (13 to 18 years), unlimited models. \$2 junior (12 and under), unlimited models. \$30 vendor tables. Entry deadline: 11:30 AM on show day. Awards presentation: 2 PM on show day. Specialty awards: Best in Show/Best Engine/Best Interior/Best Detail/Best Paint/Best Replica (photographs must be provided)/People's Choice Award. General admission to the show: adults \$3/children under 12 with an adult free. For more information contact Ron Martin at 604-526-5320 or Ron Coutts at ron@wolverton.ca."
- 21 March 2015: <u>Teen Pizza & Games Day</u>, 12 PM–2 PM at Newton Library, 13795 70th Avenue, Surrey. "Want something to do during Spring Break? Do you love to play board games? Are you between 12 and 19 years old? Then come to the library for a fun night of gaming and free pizza. Pizza and games compliments of Imperial Hobbies. Registration is required. Contact: <u>Chris.</u>"
- 22 March 2015: <u>Vancouver Comic Con</u>, 11 AM-5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver (at 15th Avenue). "Hourly door prizes! 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. (Sorry, no manga can be accepted.) Follow us on twitter at: https://twitter.com/vancomicon. For more information: https://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/. Admission: \$4; kids under 14: free. Dealer tables: \$45 center: \$55 wall. 604-322-6412."

27 March 2015: National "Joe" Day. Premiere of film *Home* (computer animation/SF; Jim Parsons, Rihanna, Steve Martin, Jennifer Lopez).

27–29 March 2015: Trumpeter Salute Tabletop Miniatures Gaming Convention at Bonsor Community Centre, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby (next to Metrotown). "Just a few of the many types of miniatures and board games presented: Warhammer 40K, ancient land & sea combat, WW I & WW II air, land, & sea combat, Napoleonic & American Civil War, SF and fantasy space & land combat, SF and fantasy role playing games...and a lot more! For more information: gamemaster@trumpetersalute.com, president@trumpetersalute.com. http://www.trumpetersociety.com/."

27–29 March 2015: <u>Emerald City Comicon</u>, Washington State Convention Center, 800 Convention Place, Seattle, Washington.—<u>SFNW</u> via <u>Garth Spencer</u>

27–29 March 2015: <u>Corflu 32</u> (SF fanzine convention), Newcastle Upon Tyne, UK. —Julian Castle

28 March 2015: Collectibles Fair and Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. "Admission \$3; kids under 12 free. Free *Star Wars* cards to the first 100 guests! Board games, cameras, Canucks memorabilia, CDs, DVDs, hardware, Hot Wheels, jewellery, magazines, manga, monitors, parts, printer refills, printers, records, software, *Star Wars*, toys & collectibles, VHS, video games, vintage comics, wrestling...and lots more at great prices! 604-521-6304. funpromo@shaw.ca. http://www.funpromo.ca/."

28 March 2015: All Star Wrestling March Madness, 8 PM at Cloverdale Fair Grounds, Alice McKay Building, 6050A 176 Street, Surrey. "Doors open 7 PM, bell 8 PM. ASW Tag Team Titles—Triple Threat Match—Jinder Mahal & Gama Singh Jr. (Champions) AKA Sikh & Destroy vs. Team USA vs. Travis Sionys &



TKO Cody Smith AKA League of Legacy—Trying to beat the best is never easy. Team USA has stated they look the part. TKO and Travis Sionys say they walk the the part. Jinder Mahal and Gama Singh Jr. just want those two teams to shut their mouths and bring their A game. Three teams enter the ring but only one team leaves victorious. Which team has what it takes to be the ASW Tag-Team Champions!

Dream vs. Disco Fury—Over the last six months Azeem the Dream has become the most hated man in All Star Wrestling. Last year he threw a fireball at both Disco Fury and Nasty Nate Daniels. This sidelined both Disco and Nate for months. In January Azeem the Dream tasted victory by retiring Gorgeous Michelle Starr. He even managed to win the Adam Firestorm Memorial Title in Vancouver after beating Mr. India. Now Disco Fury finally gets his chance at Azeem one on one in Cloverdale. The fans want justice and Disco really wants to get even. # ASW Ladies' Title—Riea Von Slasher (Champion) vs. Bambi Hall—Bambi Hall has beat all comers since losing the ASW Women's Championship last October. Bambi has had wins over Washington State Star, Sunni Daze, and up and comer Vixxen. Since then Riea Von Slasher has been in Las Vegas, Oregon, and throughout BC enjoying the traveling and wrestling life as a champion. Riea Von Slasher has dismantled all opposition since winning the title but now these two ladies finally get to settle the score on who wants it more! # ASW Cruiserweight Title Triple Threat— Matt XStatic (Champion) vs. Adam Ryder vs. The Great Kasaki—You can fly through the air with the greatest of ease. It's only the landing that's painful. Three cruiserweights at the top of their game but there can only be one winner. Folks you just have to see this live as you will be electrified! # Cougar Meat Collin Cutler vs. Jorel Nelson—Returning Cougar Meat Kid will be facing the new fan favourite Jorel Nelson. This will be a fast paced hard hitting battle and the winner of this match will elevate himself to the next level! ## Tickets available: Central City Comix, 10221 King George Highway, Surrey, 604-584-2664; Comic Scene, Evergreen Mall, 8912 152nd Street, Surrey, 604-582-2877; or online! \$20 front row and \$15 general admission. http://allstar-wrestling.com/. For more information please call 604-710-0872."—Verne Siebert

29 March 2015: Spring Record Convention, 11 AM-5 PM at the Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver. "Admission \$3. LPs, 45s, CDs, posters, memorabilia. For more info contact Neptoon Records, 604-324-1229, ben@neptoon.com."

30 March 2015: Write Club! A Battle of Lit and Wit, 7:30 PM at Little Mountain Gallery, 195 East 26th Avenue, Vancouver. "Ian Boothby hosts as Brad MacNeil, Lauren McGibbon, Allen Morrison, Briana Rayner and Taz VanRassel perform hilarious new stories from the greatest writers of all time. If you just want to watch, that's great. Come on down, pay \$5, enjoy the show, wear loose clothing that allows for laughter. But...if you come dressed as your favourite writer (from the world of books/comics/TV/film/sex advice columns...anything where words are put together) you'll get in *free* plus get a chance to control the comedians and win a very valuable* prize. Doors open at 7:30 PM. Show starts at 8 PM sharp. * Value is subjective." [Update: Event is cancelled.]—Ian Boothby

31 March 2015: Bunsen Burner Day.















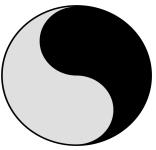
News-Like Matter

Notes from January 2015 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (chairman/archivist), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, William Graham, Stewart Smyth, and Sidney Trim.

We talked about hair colour darkening with age. Stew was blond as a child and now has brown hair, I was platinum blonde as a child and now have ash-blonde or light-brown hair, and Fru said his hair was "Ronald McDonald red" as a child and is now dark blond. Graeme said his hair was blond for about a year and then turned black.

Graeme will be reviewing Ray Bradbury's zine *Future Fantasia* in his next *Amazing Stories* column.¹⁰ Early in his career Bradbury was briefly in favour of the Technocracy movement. I remembered reading a long time ago about the local Technocracy party—something about the leader being very proud of staying slim enough to fit into his uniform. Graeme remembered them too and said that their building, which used to be near the Telus building, is gone now. Sid added "About ten or fifteen years ago."



Comedy class update: I didn't make it into this year's Stand-Up for Mental Health class. I applied too late and the class was full. 11 Ray said that the classes are 15 people each, and he's in the alumni class which has 12 people. They're making jokes about something called "rising toilets," which surprises him. 12



Ray watched "The Lion in the Living Room," a *Nature of Things* episode about domesticated cats. Are cats intelligent? Fru said, "We have a hard enough time proving human intelligence, and humans can talk!"

Ray said that there are now transgender bathrooms on BC Ferries. Stew said that local humaninterest reporter Mike McCardle (which I misheard as "Picardo") is starting to look like comic book editor Julius Schwartz.

Stew noted that people are bringing scooters that are as big as motorcycles onto SkyTrain.

Also, on the Burrard Street Bridge a guy was riding a (motorized) dirt bike down the sidewalk and Stew's friend, who was carrying bicycles, had to move! Stew said there's never a cop when you want one, but when he makes a U-turn in the middle of the night with no other traffic around, the cops appear out of nowhere to catch him.

¹⁰ http://amazingstoriesmag.com/2015/01/clubhouse-fanzine-reviews-sf-fandom-matters/.—Future Felicity

¹¹ Good news: I've just made it into the May class.—Future Felicity

¹² Urilift urinals?—Future Felicity



"Like Bill Cosby says, they come out of your trunk," Stew added. Graeme replied, "Of course, you can't put much stock in what Cosby says these days." Stew asked, "Does that invalidate the good

work he used to do?" adding that he couldn't pick up a Norman Spinrad book for a few years after his tantrum at Norwescon 9 (March 1986). It was the year of the Halley's Comet washout—while Spider Robinson was doing a Lord Buckley-style eulogy for Theodore Sturgeon, Spinrad was having an outburst about the panel being one fish dinner short. Steve Forty had met Spinrad earlier and had extended an invitation to VCON, but nothing ever came of it.

Stew also remembered Alfred Bester not being recognized and shouting "I'm Alfred Bester, damn it!" I said that in fairness to the convention, would you be able to tell if it was really Alfred Bester? I don't know what he looks like either. Both Kathleen and I said that our mental image of Alfred Bester is Walter Koenig from *Babylon 5*.



Graeme said that Werner von Braun was the only SS officer ever to write a children's book. I said, "That we know of. Roald Dahl could have been 'Operation Paperclipped.' It would explain a lot."

Fru said "The future is like now, but more so!" and Stew added "With tailfins stuck on!"



"There's not enough Beeman's Gum in the world, my friend."

Sid said that when it comes to zero gravity, there are three types of people: they love it, they're indifferent to it, or they can't stand it for an instant. Chuck Yeager couldn't stand it for an instant—he was riding a jet in a parabolic flight and was supposed to go through 90 seconds of zero gravity, and after two seconds he grabbed the stick. The people on the ground thought, "Wow, if *Chuck Yeager* can't handle it, it must be terrible!"

Fru said it feels to those people like they're falling in all directions at once. This reminded me of

the time they brought a cat on the KC135. It kept rotating in mid-air, trying to land on its feet. Ray replied that they're going to send a cat to the ISS. Sid and several others were reminded of the Space Cat series of books, such as *Space Cat Goes to Mars*. Fru recommended the webcomic *Breaking Cat News*. It's about cats in a house that have a news network. When they're meowing at the owner, they're saying "Ma'am? Ma'am? Ma'am?" like a pack of reporters.

Felicity Walker
Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron
Sunday 18 January 2014

Steve's House

I have just watched them tear down my old house. Many from BCSFA will remember it. There were many BCSFA meetings held there, many parties there and of course my 35 BCSFAzines edited and printed there (along with many other BC-SFAzines being printed there). Many VCON meetings had been held there, the art show boards were stored there (and refurbished) VCON equipment and supplies were stored there for many years, even a few picnics were held between the house and Como Lake. Bob Shaw even stayed there for a night after VCON 17. It is sad to see that house be torn down so that a monster 5000 square foot house can be built there. The house was in fairly good condition but only had two bedrooms on the main floor so it had to go.

Steve Forty to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group Saturday 28 February 2015

Hurry, Hurry, Hurry for the Rondos!

Yes, it's that time of year again.

The 13th (gasp!) annual Rondo Hatton Classic Horror Awards!

http://www.rondoaward.com/

See the nominations!

Vote for the best horror-film! TV show! Podcast! Book! Magazine! Toy (don't *you* want a little tiny Robot Monster?) of 2014!!

Voting ends April 24th!

(And while you're at it, why not visit the Classic Horror Film Board? http://monsterkidclassichorrorforum.yuku.com/ A place for every Monster Kid!)

Boo!

Brent Francis Sunday 15 March 2015

Bradbury Tribute Comic

In 2012 prose anthology *Shadow Show* was published, collecting new stories by various writers paying tribute to the work of Ray Bradbury.

IDW Publishing took some of those stories and had them adapted into a five-issue comic book mini-series. The first *Shadow Show* comic was published in November 2014. The fifth and final comic is expected to be in shops on 1 April 2015.

(References: http://www.previewsworld.com/Archive/GetFile/1/1/71/994/112614.txt, and other websites.)

Julian Castle Saturday 28 March 2015

New Garth Spencer Facebook Group: Alien Abductees Anonymous

Do you, or does someone you know, constantly feel baffled by the things people say and do? Do you, or they, fail to understand the rebuffs of alleged family, of employers, of people you want to date? Do statutory holidays and tedious clothing items and turns of speech fail to make sense? In short, do you feel like an alien on Earth, cruelly abducted from your world and people? Alien Abductees Anonymous is a mutual aid association founded in 2015 for those who want to get to th bottom of all this, find out how to cope with a people who are still evolving intelligence, and if possible, get the hell back where we belong. If you just know anyone who needs this group, let them know that you are not alone!



Garth Spencer
Alien Abductees Anonymous Facebook Group
Monday 30 March 2015

James Best (1926-2015)

Although best-known for playing a bumbling police office in *The Dukes of Hazzard* and its various spin-offs, US actor James Best, who died yesterday aged 88, made many appearances in genre-related cinema and telefantasy. They include: *The Beast from 20,000 Fathoms* (1953); *Riders to the Stars* (1954); *Forbidden Planet* (1956); *The Killer Shrews* (1959); *Men Into Space* ("Beyond the Stars," 1960); *The Twilight Zone* ("The Grave," 1961; "The Last Rites of Jeff Myrtlebank," 1962; "Jess-Belle," 1963); *The Alfred Hitchcock Hour* ("The Jar," 1964); *The Green Hornet* ("Deadline for Death," 1966); *The Brain Machine* (1977); *Death Mask* (1998); and *Return of the Killer Shrews* (2012).

Steve Green Tuesday 7 April 2015

Aurora Award Nomination Notice



Two weeks.

For those that have already submitted your nominations, thank you. But for those that have not, there are just two weeks before we close nominations for this year's Aurora awards. This is your chance to

tell us what you liked and help it get on the ballot. This year we have created eligibility lists on our website. Check out what is eligible before you nominate.

We have also increased the number of nominations you can submit, to five (5). This means you can really tell us what was good last year.

Nominations will be open until Midnight, EDT on the 25th of April. We will be announcing the 2015 ballot at our AGM in Vancouver on the 23rd of May. Voting will begin in June.

The awards will presented at this year's Canvention host, SFContario 6, November 14–16 in Toronto (http://sfcontario.ca/).

You must be a paid CSFFA member to nominate. For full details visit our website at: http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/.

Aurora Awards Admin Saturday 11 April 2015

VancouFur 2015 Report Part 1

Michael Bertrand

Here I am, back from VancouFur 2015. I had an awesome time. Went to a ton of panels, got to do the hotel thing, saw people I know, hung out in furry town for four days, it was fab.

Tonight, I am going to give you nice people the quick and dirty version of a con report so I can put down these memories while they are (relatively) fresh.

So tonight, I will do the panels I went to. Tomorrow, more general impressions and anecdotes.

Thursday 5 March 2015



Only did one panel. Programming didn't start till 6:30. This was the "landing" day, for people to get to the hotel, get registered, unpack their stuff, and basically get ready for the mayhem.

7 PM: Writer's Meet and Greet. Very informal, just Tony GreyFox and a bunch of us writer wannabes shooting the breeze. But writers love to talk to other writers. There is a shared understanding, a mutual vibe to writers that is hard to define. Obviously, we're all super verbal

people with a strong urge to communicate, but below that, there's something else. Maybe we all share a "storyteller" gene. Who knows. Anyhow, enjoyed the heck out of it. There should be more events in life where writers get together to just hang out and talk without anything like criticism entering into it.

Friday 6 March 2015

The first full day of programming. I was revved up and eager to go.

12 PM: General Anxiety Group. Appropriately, I was 15 minutes late for this panel, and therefore had to convince myself that it was okay to arrive late and that it would not mean that everyone would stare at me and hate me when I came in. It was a great panel, with a lot of us anxious/depressed types getting a chance to tell our stories to people who totally understood. The main leader of the panel was a hyper/anxious type (as opposed to the sluggish/anxious, like me) and I found her honesty and manic energy quite refreshing. Near the end, she was beginning to obsess over whether the panel had helped anybody and whether it had been worth doing and so forth, so I made a point of stopping her panic cycle by breaking in, then asking the audience "Do you think she did a really good job today?" and they all said yes and cheered and applauded for her.

It's when I can make moments like that I feel like I might be just a little bit magic.

1 PM: Flash Fiction Panel. I was not pleased with this panel. The host showed up without pens or paper for us, which you would think would be the most basic and obvious requirements, and if there had not been someone with a pad of foolscap and a plethora of pens in the audience, we would have been doomed. Plus, it was in the cleverly titled "Secret Room," otherwise known as the hotel's garage, where it was cold, dusty, and prone to vehicles driving in and out as we tried to write.

I am totally not making that up.

As to the actual flashing of our fictions, I took a bit of a hammering on my writer's ego because I thought I was going to just blow everyone away, but I had forgotten that I am not good at being brief, and therefore not good at being *fast*. Plus I feel compelled to finish everything

brief, and therefore not good at being *fast*. Plus I feel compelled to finish everything I start, so when the timer ran out, I was compelled to cheat and keep going for a little while. And then we had to read the thing out, and that's a whole other set of variables.

Luckily, it turned out not to be a contest at all, so nobody judged my hasty work. We just read our stuff out loud and people either got it or didn't.

I did the first story on paper, but the other two or three on my tablet. I might post them here at some point.

3 PM: Writing in 3D: It's Showtime. Had no idea what this was before I went to it, but it had writing in the title, so show up I did. Turned out to be a long and somewhat tortuous discussion of the difference between "showing" and "telling" in writing. I can't say I learned much, but that has mostly to do with my being 41 and knowing all about the subject already. Plus, it kind of lacked focus and drive, and the older I get, the crankier I get about getting to the goddamned point.

4 PM: Self Publishing for Beginners. I've been to a half dozen of those kinds of panels, so it is debatable whether I am a beginner any more, but still. Picked up



some leads as to where to go should I ever start writing furry fiction. Dare I unite the two worlds I live in?

I dunno. Maybe.

After this, there was nothing I wanted to attend until...

10 PM: Bad Movie Night. Obviously I just *had* to attend this one. Every time me and my friends get together, it's Bad Movie Night! It was, unsurprisingly, mostly *MST3K/RiffTrax* content. We watched a bunch of shorts, including a fave of mine *Jimmy Goes to the Fair*, and a movie called *The Rebel Set*, which I must have seen before but didn't remember. It was actually a heist film, and a half-decent one even without the *MST3K* treatment. Had a very compelling and sexy guy as the criminal mastermind who turns out to be the villain.



We also watched a short produced by the City of Montreal in 1948 about all the playgrounds they were building for all the children of Montreal. It gave me a heavy dose of what I will call pre-nostalgia, nostalgia for a time before you were born. It was so full of optimism and benevolence and a sense of making the world a better

place for future generations! And a sense of the best kind of order, the kind that supports and protects people so they can live their lives without fear in a saner, safer, more comfortable, more affluent future.

Compared to today, when people are so shortsighted they can't even see the point of government, that 1948 seems like heaven.

Saturday and Sunday will be covered next entry.

Michael Bertrand
The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand
Wednesday 11 March 2015

Art Credits

<u>Joe Devoy</u> Cove
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>)Pages 1 (top), 4–6, 9, 22 (bottom
Clip art [Star Odyssey (1979) screenshots]Pages 1 (bottom), 2
Clip art [Ray Bradbury Theater (1989) screenshot]Page 3 (top
Clip art [The New Show (1984) screenshot]Page 3 (bottom
Clip art (via <u>Clker.com</u>)Pages 10, 12, 16 (bottom), 20–2
Felicity Walker (photos)Pages 14, 17 (top), 19 (top
Font (Woodcutter)
Clip art (<u>Tsuruya</u>)Page 16 (top
Clip art [Babylon 5 (1994) screenshot]Page 17 (middle
Clip art [Bryant Heating ad (1989) screenshot]Page 17 (bottom
Clip art [Total Recall (1990) screenshot]Page 19 (bottom
Clip art