

BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#486

\$3.00/Issue

November 2013



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BCSFAzine © November 2013, Volume 41, #11, Issue #486 is the monthly club newsletter published by the British Columbia Science Fiction Association, a social organization. ISSN 1490-6406.

Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or #209-3851 Francis Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V7C 1J6. *BCSFAzine* solicits electronic submissions and black-and-white line illustrations in JPG, GIF, BMP, PNG, or PSD format, and offers printed contributors' copies as long as the club budget allows.

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

This and Next Month in BCSFA

Sunday 17 November @ 7 PM:	November BCSFA meeting—at Ray Sere-din's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 22 November:	Submission deadline for December <i>BCSFA-zine</i> (ideally).
Friday 29 November:	December <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 20 December:	Submission deadline for January <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 27 December:	January <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
TBD:	December BCSFA meeting/Christmas party.

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_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 4 October 2013



Hi Felicity,

I love following links.

Here in Canada, notoriously “The Land of Two Solitudes,” French and English are the official languages. This doesn’t mean, by the way, that it is mandatory a citizen speak both (thank Ghu or I’d be in prison)...

You can snip stuff like this and think “If the clan catches ye speaking the southron tongue they’ll cut off your haggis supply.” At least the French were sporadic allies.

I follow a couple of wargaming females on the web. One of them gave me a pointer to *Girls und Panzer*, one of the nuttier Japanese anime cartoons. That in turn led me to *Railgun S*, apparently by the same group. Both are SF. The trouble with getting started on Web anime is that there’s far too much to get interested in. If you’re the grimmer type, *Ghost in the Shell*¹ will suit your taste for action/violence.

[*In the 1980s you could only see anime if a show was translated and shown on North American TV (for example, Speed Racer or Battle of the Planets), or if you knew someone who could get you bootleg tapes. Then, in the early-to-mid-1990s, the availability of anime spiked. There was more of it on TV (Sailor Moon, Pokemon, Dragon Ball), and you could rent anime movies at video stores. However, this didn’t give me choice overload, because the art style had changed and I didn’t like it as much.*]

For the fluffier types check out Jane Fancher’s version of Apollo with training wheels.

I collect bad movies, the latest being *Asphalt*,² a German epic which has to be seen to understand (it’s a silent).

If you’re an Adobe Acrobat user you might want to go to SourceForge and get Sumatra PDF to use until Adobe gets their security breach under control. Or at least stop any automatic updates. Somebody snagged their sourcecode. That enables any hacker to make an official looking update to patch you in a way you won’t appreciate.

[*Apparently use [this program](#).*³]

As usual the C-space wars go on invisible to the majority of the Net.

[*Fun fact: the University of British Columbia Science Fiction Society used to have a clubzine called C-Space.*]



It’s a silent film, with no words, and somehow it’s still in a foreign language.

1 (1995).

2 (1929).

3 This is the first time I’ve checked.



If you have nothing to hide, show us, take off your clothes. You might have a weapon under those clothes!!!

I lived in a country where the national costume was designed by the colonizers to be see-thru for exactly that purpose. It was truly hard to wear so when it was adopted as formal wear they had to embroider airholes in it. Before you fall for the government story about protecting you by spying on you do a few calculations regarding the so-called enemies they are waving about.

Of course since the leaders here have given up on the whole enterprise, maybe it's time for your planned invasion using a couple of busloads disguised as hockey teams.

[*We just need to arrange another "hockey strike" as cover.*]

Shameless snippings:

"MuckRock News reports that Freedom of Information Act requests faxed to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) started coming back as undeliverable a couple weeks ago. The OSD confirms their fax machine is down, possibly for another few months, because there's no money in their tens-of-billions-of-dollars-a-year budget for a new one, and they can't switch to e-mail as a request method. 'The office that oversees the most powerful military in history (not to mention the best-funded) is unable to project when its single fax machine will once again be operational.' "

" 'I believe it is in the best interest of the United States, and the global community as a whole, to move forward with the deployment of all U.S. congressional leaders to Syria immediately,' respondent Carol Abare, 50, said in the nationwide telephone survey, echoing the thoughts of an estimated 9 in 10 Americans who said they strongly support any plan of action that involves putting the U.S. House and Senate on the ground in the war-torn Middle Eastern state. With violence intensifying every day, now is absolutely the right moment, the perfect moment, really, for the United States to send our legislators to the region. "

"1. As a general concept, freedom of speech includes the right to decide how and when to speak, and to whom.

"2. This freedom of speech also includes the right to choose not to speak, and not to speak to whomever, including to you.

"3. No one is obliged to have a conversation with you.

"4. If they are having a conversation with you, they are not obliged to give you the conversation you wanted or expected to have.

"5. If you challenge someone to a 'debate,' they are not obliged to have a debate with you.

"6. If they do not debate you, this does not mean you win. You can't win a debate the other party has not agreed to.

"7. Not all engagement is useful or fruitful, either for the participants or for the observers. Sometimes the best course of action is not to engage.

"8. If people do not engage you, it is not necessarily because they are afraid to engage you. Maybe they don't have the time, or interest. Maybe they think you're too ignorant to engage, either on the specific topic or in matters of rhetoric. Maybe they don't want to either implicitly or explicitly let you share in their credibility.

Maybe they think you're an asshole, and want nothing to do with you. Maybe it's combination of some or all of the above. They may or may not tell you why.

"9. Communication is not always confrontation. Confrontation is not always communication. If you see communication as an opportunity to fight, you may find yourself without opponents. No, this doesn't mean you 'win,' either.

"10. People will communicate as they will. Outside of your own spaces, you have no power to control or compel them. Attempts to dictate the terms of their communication may be ignored. Attempts to demand they comply to your terms for communication will make you look like a child, stamping a foot."—shamelessly snipped from John Scalzi

"Because half of the world's vanilla crop is grown in Madagascar, the whole island smells like vanilla ice cream."

"*The Televisionary Oracle* is a book so weird it might drive you stark raving sane."—Robert Anton Wilson

"One of Japan's most accomplished archaeologists, Shinichi Fujimura, was recently caught on film planting relics in the pre-dawn hours. A lot of cherished Japanese archaeological dogma now must be reevaluated.

"More recently, the University of Frankfurt's Professor Reiner Protsch von Zieten got caught making up his data on the age of Neanderthal skulls. 'Anthropology is going to have to completely revise its picture of modern man between 40,000 and 10,000 years ago,' said Thomas Terberger, the archaeologist who discovered the hoax."

"I can't resist including one classic figure caption: in his 1987 monograph, Okamura presented lots of data on the activities of the 5-millimeter humans, *Homo sapiens miniorientalis*, that peopled the globe in the Silurian. He shows a photograph of an *unidentifiable blob* in a limestone thin section and captions it: 'In this photo, two totally-naked homos, facing each other, are moving their hands and feet harmoniously on good terms. We can think of no other scene than dancing in a present-day style.' Wow, the Silurian was a fun time to be alive..."

Time travelers to the Silurian need to place their feet carefully.

<http://vimeo.com/59759365>

What ye hip are watching these dayes.

<http://www.theverge.com/2013/8/27/4664722/researchers-control-a-subjects-body-with-another-persons-brain>



Wait 'til the thought police get hold of this tech.

Bill Gates has described the decision to use Ctrl+Alt+Del as the command needed to log on to a PC as a mistake.

[*To log on to a PC?*]

What is more embarrassing is that's not what the command is for. It is actually to do a "warm boot," restarting the system without turning off the power.

[*Or to bring up the task manager to kill unresponsive programs. (Can't you just picture that last sentence being literalized in the Tron (1982) universe?)*]

And on a happier note:

Jesse Ventura and Howard Stern are running for Pres and VP in 2016. [*They*] couldn't be any worse.

Out of curiosity, I have to ask why you review fanzines that are more than a year-and-a-half old? Since issue number one, reviewed this month, there have been 20 more issues of *Broken Toys*. Unless I'm mistaken, I think *BCSFazine* has even reviewed one or two of them before this. Perhaps you have a verrrrrrrry slow internet connection?

No...that's just a throw-away line. Obviously, a slow connection doesn't deliver e-zines out of order. Maybe it is that you've just caught up with your e-zines and I'm wrong about your having mentioned *Broken Toys* before. In that case, I have much to look forward to.

[I'm a year or two behind on e-zines, but I'm reading and reviewing them more or less in order (subject to editorial whim).]



While looking at the obituaries for the many fans who have died over the last couple of years, a morbid thought occurred to me. Those of us who survive from the old days will nevertheless take our last bow sometime in the next 20, or at most 30 years. We will be an invisible minority by then, a splinter group so small that most of fandom will likely be entirely unaware of us, thinking that fandom began with Facebook or Amazon. Who will mourn *our* passing?

*[I've been thinking about that, too. Some of the older fans who passed away were before my time—i.e. I had little or no experience of them. I'll be better able to eulogize the fans who are only ten or twenty years older than me.]*⁶

Who will still be running eFanzines.com or the *File 770* blog to publish the obituaries? I'm certain that some form of corporately-owned SF media will be around to commemorate the lives of John Scalzi or Robert J. Sawyer when the time comes...but will they note the absence of a Mike Glycer, Brad Foster or Felicity Walker, who have had little influence on professional publishing, the Worldcon or a successful television mini-series? Not that I expect this to be foremost on my mind when *my* time comes...dying probably focuses the mind marvelously as it simultaneously dissolves.

Just being able to read that the papers had nothing to say about me the next day would be reward enough, I think.

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

"ZIPPERFACE"
"GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE"
BRAUN "SON OF A GUN" HAIR DRYERS
GRILLED CHICKEN ARCH DELUXES
VIDEO STORES

6 Though I hope nothing happens to them. Maybe I'll go before they do—a lot of my fannish elders are healthier and younger-looking than me. But let's root for medical science to stay ahead of all of us.

John Bartley K7AAY
john@503bartley.com

Sunday 6 October 2013

Something Whovian...

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/tv/tv-news/106-doctor-who-episodes-uncovered-2343474>
[Cool! I think Ray Seredin mentioned this at a BCSFA meeting.]

—73s/Best regards de John Bartley K7AAY CN85qj •|||||||• Tel. 503-BAR-TLEY/503-343-9399 “For a successful technology, reality must take precedence over public relations, for nature cannot be fooled.”—RP Feynman

Lloyd Penney
1706–24 Eva Road,
Etobicoke, Ontario
M9C 2B2
penneys@bell.net

Tuesday 22 October 2013

Dear BCSFAns:

Many thanks for *BCSFAzine* 485...new logo for Hallowe'en? Hope you've got plans; for once, we do, a steampunk Hallowe'en party in Hamilton. While we count down the hours, here's a LOC.

Any reports on what happened at VCON 38? I haven't seen any reports elsewhere, so here I am at the source, looking. (I just haven't gotten past the second page yet...)

[There should be two reports this time! Michael Bertrand has already written one on his blog, and I took my own notes at the convention. I even made it to a few panels this year!]

I have to agree with Dave Haren re silly seasons, and the things those crazy people do. We only get one reality; how you perceive it is your only spin on it. Remember there was something online called Second Life? Is that still around? I figure those people who were spending lots of time on Second Life were neglecting their first life.



A number of people who were expecting Helsinki, Finland to win the 2015 Worldcon must have been shocked to see Spokane, Washington pull it off. This gives Vancouver fandom just less than two years to save for Worldcon and go have a great time. Club project?

[Steve Forty suggested VCON/BCSFA plan a promotional room party at the 2015 Worldcon. There's also the 2014 Convention (which you mention below).]

John Purcell reminds us of losing friends...between starting this letter and now, I learned via Facebook of the passing of veteran Toronto bookseller and local SF fandom supporter Al Navis. This old friend would buy dealer's tables from me, and as health wouldn't allow him to continue with a bookstore, he took to online anti-quarian vending. Al will be missed by many who still treasure books.

As I scan through the calendar, I did hear that VCON 39 will also be the 2014 Convention. Congratulations, Vancouver, and I hope all of Vanfandom can participate in the convention.

For the moment, I am done. I was expecting a phone call today about potential employment, and if not today (wasn't to be today), I might get that call tomorrow. Wish me luck; getting some work is an imperative, or financial disaster awaits.

[*Good luck!* ☺]

Take care, and see you with the next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Monday 4 November 2013

Heya BCSFans! Wow, it's November already. Seems like only thirty days since it was last month.



Hope you all enjoyed VCON as much as I did. Did having the Elrons in such a tiny space suck, or what? Clearly someone vastly underestimated their appeal. For me, they are one of the best things at the con, rivaled only by the Turkey Readings, which went smashingly well this year, or so I hear.

[*I didn't get to see the Elrons because they were full (left). You didn't go to the Turkey Readings?*]

Re: David Haren's remarks about people liking Thomas Kinkade's work less the more they saw of it: well of course. Repeated exposure to any one thing dulls one's appreciation for it, and Kinkade is strictly single flavour. If you have seen one, you've seen them all, and so seeing a bunch of them is like eating the same meal over and over. Even if it started out as your favorite meal ever, you are going to get sick of it.

[*I didn't even like it on first viewing.*]

Reminds me of when you hear a song with an amazingly good, fresh sound, so you look up the rest of their work, and it all sounds *exactly* like the first song. And you kind of wish you had never looked them up in the first place.

[*That's better than finding out that song is their one good song, and the rest are filler. That was why I stopped buying albums.*]

Not surprised about the Japanese getting into danger while staring at their smartphones. We have successfully invented a handheld Internet and the thing about the Internet is that it is very, very interesting. No matter what you like, it's there, in whatever quantity you want, and that makes it a very fascinating distraction.

We will have to learn how to deal with that. Reminds me of the hubbub around the Walkman when it first came out. People were getting hurt all over the place because the music not only cut them off from the sounds of danger, it created a potentially dangerous sense of distance between the wearer and their environment.

Somehow we all survived it, though, and I am sure we will survive this new fascinating gizmo too.

There's just a societal learning curve.

Re: John Purcell's eight month Texas summer: I lived in Silicon Valley for a while, and it's almost as bad. It's so extreme. For seven months of the year, it just plain does not rain, period, ever. Then in the winter, it does nothing *but* rain.

There is no Spring or Fall.

Well, that's my space for this month. Oh, one last thing: any comic with Zabu, Ms. Lion (!), and Lockheed the dragon (!!) is something I gotta see.

Seeya next month, all you wonderful wacky people!

We Also Heard From: Brad Foster, Rick Hoggarth, Spider Robinson, Lynda Williams.

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

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

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

November 2013

November is National Model Railroad Month, National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), National Lifewriting Month, and Movember.

1 November 2013: Premiere of films *Ender’s Game* (SF/action; Harrison Ford, Ben Kingsley), *About Time* (SF/romance; Bill Nighy), and *Free Birds* (computer anima-

tion; Woody Harrelson, Amy Poehler, Owen Wilson, Keith David, Colm Meaney, George Takei, Carlos Alazraqui).

1 November 2013: Andrew Brechin Celebration of Life, 6:30–10:00 PM at Maritime Labour Centre, 1880 Triumph Street, Vancouver. “On August 14th, 2013, we lost Andrew Brechin, father, partner, fool, Game Master, artist, percussionist, and a great friend. We are gathering to mourn together, and celebrate his life. We will gather for light refreshments, some speakers, and then celebrate Andrew with a belly-dance percussion jam, followed by the Carnival Band. We will have paper up on the walls so people can draw or write out a favorite memory or story. There will be a cash bar. We are asking the community to help make this happen. Please visit <http://breklormemorial.weebly.com/> and donate if you can. We are hoping to raise the money for the hall rental, catering, bar, etc. so that his family doesn’t have to worry about the cost. If you want to volunteer, have questions, or need a hand finding a place to stay if you’re from out of town, please PM Estrellada King.”—Karen New via Barbara Scutt

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 November and 6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2013 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue (½ block west of MacDonald Street), Vancouver. “In our stores, it’s *open gaming* any time we’re open, so stop in with a friend and try a game! Both of our locations have 7–8 tables and plenty of seating. Space may be limited during tournaments—scheduled events take precedence over open gaming tables. We have about 100 open board games for playing in the store. Playing is *free* except for some tournaments.”—Keith Lim

1–2 November 2013: Howloween 2013 (furmeet) at Executive Hotel & Conference Center, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby. Theme is “alien abduction.” Friday: bad movie night tentatively starting at 8 PM. Saturday: Howloween. Hotel reservations: 604-298-2010 option 1. Fax: 604-298-1123. Say that you are attending the Howloween event & event code 16905 and you will get the discounted rate (\$109 Canadian + tax per night) on November 1 and/or 2. Maximum of 4 people per room. Admission: \$20 at the door (Canadian \$ preferred).—Julian Castle

2 November 2013: Book Lovers’ Day.

2 November 2013: NerdFest: A Night of Epic Fantasy, 7 PM at Rickshaw, 254 East Hastings Street, Vancouver. Tickets: \$15. “Reverend Heathen Strangefellow and the Vaudeville Vagabonds. Burlesque performances by Precious Metal. Harlequin hypnosis show. Other featured performances by: the Whiskeydicks, Tasty Animals, Academie Duelo, Mahafsoun, Vesper Sephyony.”

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 November and 7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2013 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

3 November 2013: **Dale Speirs'** birthday. Daylight Saving Time begins at 2 AM: turn your clocks back one hour.

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2013 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy’s large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. ‘games that take eight players,’ ‘games that don’t involve math,’ ‘games about farming’) and I’ll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!”—Keith Lim

4 November 2013: Ink Club: What Will You Create?, 5:45–8:30 PM at La Fontana Caffè, 101–3701 Hastings Street, Burnaby. The idea behind Ink Club meetings is to give creative people “the peer pressure nudge to sit down and actually be productive. We’ll combine focused creative time with breaks for socializing with the goal of making progress on our creative projects. If you can’t make it until after creative time has begun, no problem! Just come in, get settled and we’ll say hello to you at the first break. Format: 5:45–6:15 PM socialize. 6:15–7:15 PM creative time. 7:15–7:30 PM break (or feel free to continue working). 7:30–8:30 PM creative time. 8:30 PM perhaps share what we’ve been working on and say our good-byes until next time.[”] Ink Club has a Face[book] group for info & events.—Julian Castle

4, 11, 18, and 25 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2013 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and sometimes even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even learn a thing or two about the craft, nay artform, that is miniatures painting. There are some paints available to use, and brushes, as well as primer. Warma-chine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 November 2013 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. 2 October, 7:30–11:20 PM: Craft Night: Shoebox Loom-Making. 9 October, 7:30–11 PM: The Craft Element. 16 and 23 October, 7:30–11:30 PM: Craft Night: Halloween Costume Making Night Parts 1 & 2. [*See Vancouver Hack Space Open House for more VHS details.*]—Julian Castle

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

5, 12, 19, and 26 November and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 December 2013 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to

about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for playing, or feel free to bring your own. Parking out front is a buck thirty-five an hour (free after 6 PM), or there is a parkade a block away (buck an hour), across Columbia and down by the river. We are located two blocks northeast of the New Westminster SkyTrain Station, at Columbia and Begbie. There is a Waves coffee shop in the same building. Go uphill on Begbie to Clarkson, and the store is to the right. Tuesday is also the Buck a Slice special feature at Fresh Slice Pizza just down the street. Have a good day.—Kirby”—[Keith Lim](#)

5, 12, 19, and 26 November 2013 (Tuesdays): [Vancouver Hack Space Open House](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue (new location as of May 2013), Vancouver. Phone: 778-330-1234. “Bring your ideas, projects, kits, art, music, robots, etc. down for some good times with good people.” VHS mission is “to provide a common workspace where its members, hackers, makers, crafters and otherwise (technically) creative people could work on projects and find like-minded people, in sharing knowledge and ideas.” “There are stairs down to the space from the back alley and a wheelchair-accessible level loading bay entrance from the street, although someone has to have opened the space through the stairs before the loading bay is available.” Parking is available outside the space. Bikes can be brought inside the front door. No membership required. Admission is by donation.—[Julian Castle](#)

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

6 November 2013: [An Evening with Joe Sacco](#), 7–9 PM at Djava Mowafaghian Cinema, SFU Woodwards, 149 West Hastings Street, Vancouver. Sacco is creator of comic journalism books such as *Palestine* (1996), *Safe Area Gorazde* (2000), and *Footnotes in Gaza* (2009). Tickets: \$20 [online](#).—[Julian Castle](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2013 (*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 41st Avenue), Vancouver. “The Cloudscape Comics Society is a community of comic creators in Vancouver, BC who together publish and distribute quality graphic novel anthologies, as well as host comic workshops and other related events. Here enterprising comic artists come together to network, develop their ideas, and help each other perfect their craft.” “Everyone is welcome to attend” the weekly meeting on Wednesdays.—[Keith Lim/Julian Castle](#)

6 and 20 November and 4 and 18 December 2013 (*alternate Wednesdays*): [Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!](#), 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-other-week, weeknight games to Wednesdays, so that I can actually attend! Also popular opinion (i.e. I asked a couple of people) seems to agree—Wednesdays are superior. Some come on down to Cuppa Joy, grab a pint and a samosa, and play some *board games! Wednesday Wednesday Wednesday!*”—[Keith Lim](#)

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

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

8, 15, 22, and 29 November and 6 and 13 December 2013: Magic: The Gathering Friday Night, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

8 November and 6 December⁷ 2013: Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. Open gaming; seven to eight tables. “For Friday Night Magic we will be running a limited Draft FNM. Cost is three booster packs plus \$2, starting at 6:30 PM. Also feel free to come by for some casual Magic: The Gathering from 6–9 PM. Feel free to use the house decks if you just want to try out the game. Don’t forget to check out our Facebook page.”—Keith Lim



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

9 November 2013: Block Party!, 10 AM at Fresh Slice Pizza, Sands Plaza, #160–11060 Number Five Road, Richmond.

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

10 November 2013: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. Special guests: Joe Keatinge (*Morbius the Living Vampire, Glory, Hell Yeah!*), Ed Brisson (*Sheltered, Comeback, Secret Avengers*), Johnnie Christmas (*Sheltered*), Jason Copland (*Kill All Monsters*), Miss Kim Glennie (*Manos de Lava, Girls Room*), Derek DeLand (*Swell™, Copyright Infringers*), Mel LeVrault (*Phobiasoft*), and others! Admission: \$4; kids under 14 free. Dealer tables: \$65 center; \$75 wall. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-

7 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

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.vancouver-comiccon.com/>. 604-322-6412.—Leonard Wong

12 November and 10 December 2013 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steampunks. Whether you’re new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods.”—Keith Lim

14 and 28 November and 12 and 26 December 2013 (*alternate Thursdays*): “Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers’ Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.”—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

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

14 November and 12 December 2013 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*] “Second Thursday of every month. This is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting and is shared with the general public at no charge. Please be advised that RASC Vancouver’s monthly lectures will be held at different locations throughout 2012. The location of each meeting will be posted in advance, along with details of the speaker and topic. We meet at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month, with astro-coffee, cookies, and juice served after the presentation. Please join us for interesting and informative lectures on all aspects of astronomy and space-science, along with stimulating conversations!”—Keith Lim

15 November and 20 December 2013: 2013 IMPS Vancouver Fall Model Show, 9 AM–4:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “43rd Annual IPMS Vancouver Fall Show and Swap Meet. A scale model show and display. Our show attracts scale modellers from around the Pacific Northwest, Western Canada, and Europe. Past competitions have had up to 450 scale models on dis-

play. This year's theme: the Korean War. Admission is \$5.00 for anyone 17 years and older and *free* for 16 and younger. Parking is also free and we are very close to Metrotown SkyTrain station. Door prizes donated by local hobby shops and industry suppliers will be given out all day long, and awards will be handed out at the end of the day for the winning models. Our famous vendors room will be open as well for those looking for some modelling bargains. For more information please go to <http://www.ipmsvancouver.ca/>.”

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

16 November 2013: Button Day.

16–17 November 2013: Imaginarium Fantasticus 3 (indoor pan-fantasy market fair), 12–8 PM on main floor of International Village Mall, 88 West Pender Street, Vancouver. Live entertainment at center stage 12–4 PM: 34-player live chess game (medieval zombies vs. steampunks) at noon. Visual art exhibits 4–8 PM. Vendors: BC-Chain, Celtic Daughters, Hetoreyn (orchestral composer), Professor Whovianart, etc. Buskers & wandering entertainers. Academie Duello, anime puppet show, Society of Creative Anachronism, Steampunk Fashion Exhibit, etc. Costume prizes. Accepting donations of good non-perishable food for Vancouver Food Bank. Get a mini rune-reading from the Wizard of Runes (Richard Hanson with 11-foot tower) for \$5 with proceeds to Vancouver Food Bank. Admission & two-hour parking is *free*.—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.⁸ 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

16 November and 21 December 2013 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8–9 PM at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2404 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Van-

8 Soulstones.—Felicity

couver 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](#)

17 November and 15 December 2013 (*third Sunday*): [Board Game Swap Meetup](#), 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. "Every third Sunday of the month a swap meet will be held where gamers can sell or trade any board games they would like to get rid of. RSVP for the event and you can list what you are looking to sell, or what you would like in trade. Use the message board to propose trades or list items for sale. Board Game Warriors can be a neutral site for meeting and doing transactions during store hours."—[Keith Lim](#)

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

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

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

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

22–24 November 2013: [VALT 2013](#): Vancouver Alternative Fashion Week[*end*] at the CDM⁹ Hangar, 577 Great Northern Way, Vancouver. "Calling all: culture jammers, avant garde-ists, fashionistas, bloggerati, sponsors, media, and more! Three futuristic nights of utopia, dystopia, and techtopia. A celebration of emerging and unique fringe fashion, music, art, and culture. VALT provides Vancouver's wildly explosive alt-fashion scene with a unique departure from more traditional runway shows. This multi-day event boasts over 50 jury-selected artists, musicians, performers, and fashion designers, in a celebration and promotion of unbridled creativity. VALT 2013 blends music, art, technology, culture, and fashion into a fully interactive and immersive experience over three nights of futuristically-themed revelry. Vancouver *is* alternative."

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

9 The Centre for Digital Media.—Felicity

26 November 2013: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5–7 PM at George Mackie Library, 8440 112th Street, Delta. “Imperial Hobbies in Richmond is bringing some of their popular and crazy cool games to the George Mackie Library. Come out during the evening to play Cloud 9, Dominion, Carcassonne, Ultimate Werewolf and other new and exciting games. Free pizza and refreshments will be provided. This program is for teens 12 to 18 years.”

28 November 2013: Red Planet Day.

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

30 November and 28 December 2013 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come by anytime on Saturday from noon until midnight and play any of the many open games there are here at the store. The event is perfect for any of those more epic games we have at the store that you’ve been wanting to try or for any you might own but can rarely find the time/space/players to accommodate. Besides a couple of local coffee joints, there are a bevy of nearby eating establishments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critty”—Keith Lim

December 2013

5 December 2013: Day of the Ninja.

7 December 2013: Letter Writing Day.

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

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

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.

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.

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).

22 December 2013: **Tony Isabella**'s birthday.

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

27 December 2013: 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).

News-Like Matter

2013 Aurora Awards Results

This year's Aurora award winner for Best English Novel went to *The Silvered* by Tanya Huff, published by DAW books. This is her first win in this category. In 1998 she won an Aurora for her short story, "And Who Is Joah." Ms. Huff is well known for her Blood Books series which were made into a TV series. Along with the trophy, Ms. Huff was presented with a cheque for \$1000 from SFCanada, Canada's science fiction and fantasy writers association.

In its inaugural year, the Best English Young Adult Novel award was given out to Ottawa's Charles de Lint for the first book in his Wildlings Series: *Under My Skin*, published by Razorbill Canada. This is de Lint's eleventh Aurora nomination and second win.

Robert J. Sawyer was presented with a special Lifetime Achievement award for his dedication to the promotion of science, science fiction and mentoring new and aspiring writers. This award was last given to an author 30 years ago.

For over 30 years the Aurora awards have been given out for Canadian literary and fan works that members of the Canadian Science Fiction and Fantasy Association (CSFFA) feel are exceptional. This year the awards ceremony was held in Ottawa in conjunction with Can-Con. A total of eleven awards were given out.

This year Alberta and Ontario split the eleven awards that were given out. Toronto's Douglas Smith won his third Aurora award for his short story, "The Walker of the Shifting Borderland." David Clink won his first Aurora for his poem "A Sea Monster Tells His Story." Ottawa publisher and editor Hayden Trenholm won for editing the anthology *Blood and Water*, published by Bundoran Press.

Best Graphic Novel went to Edmonton's Alina Pete for her webcomic, *Weregeek*. Randy McCharles, chair of Calgary's When Words Collide, a festival for

readers and writers, took home the award for Best Fan Organization. Ron Friedman, also of Calgary, won for his conception and delivery of the Aurora award voter package.

For a more details about the CSFFA, the Auroras, or this year's nominees please go to our website at: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/>. CSFFA is open to all Canadians and landed immigrants.

The following is the full list of winners:

Best Novel—English: *The Silvered* by Tanya Huff, DAW Books, Inc.

Best YA Novel—English: *Under My Skin: Wildlings Series (Book 1)* by Charles de Lint, Razorbill Canada

Best Short Fiction—English: “The Walker of the Shifting Borderland” by Douglas Smith, *On Spec* #90, Fall

Best Poem/Song—English: “A Sea Monster Tells His Story” by David Clink, *The Literary Review of Canada*, July/August

Best Graphic Novel—English: *Weregeek* by Alina Pete, webcomic

Best Related Work—English: *Blood and Water* edited by Hayden Trenholm, Bundoran Press

Best Artist: Erik Mohr, cover art for ChiZine Publications

Best Fan Publication: Speculating Canada blog, edited by Derek Newman-Stille

Best Fan Filk: Kari Maaren, Body of Work

Best Fan Organizational: Randy McCharles, Chair and Programming, When Words Collide, Calgary

Best Fan Related Work: Ron Friedman, conception and delivery of the Aurora Awards voter package

Clifford Samuels

Aurora Awards Administrator

Sunday 6 October 2013

2013 Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards (“Faneds”) Results

Results of the Faned Awards (as determined by a Canada-wide vote and announced at VCON 38):

HALL OF FAME: Leslie A. Crouch (for 1940s/1950s fanac, and zine *Light*)

BEST FAN ARTIST: Taral Wayne

BEST LETTER OF COMMENT WRITER: Lloyd Penney

BEST FAN WRITER: R. Graeme Cameron

BEST FANZINE: *Space Cadet* by R. Graeme Cameron

I warned earlier the results were hilarious. Why? Because no one in a million years will believe I didn't rig the results.

Yes, the first 2011 awards were by personal fiat.

Yes, the 2012 awards were the result of my sifting thru suggestions by fen.

But the 2013 awards were the result of an actual vote. I didn't even vote for myself, for Gu's sake, and I still won! So there.

Space Cadet was also up for an Aurora this last weekend, but I missed out there, again. Something of a tradition. But at least it's *my* tradition, and proud of it.

Still utterly exhausted and punchy from VCON. More details tomorrow once I've rested.

R. Graeme Cameron
on Facebook
Monday 7 October 2013

CUFF Monies from Turkey Readings

Hi, I've sent \$400 to CUFF administrator Debra Yeung. That will help pay the expenses of whichever fan in the Eastern Zone of Canada becomes the delegate to VCON/Canvention next year. The actual take is \$388.15 which I rounded up. It comes from the readings and art. New this year: art from Pencils at High Noon was auctioned with the art from the readings. It's a record total.

Many thanks to everyone who took part!!! And we had a good time to boot.

If anyone in this group can get this into the VCON announce list, I'm sure there are people there who would like to know.

Cheers,
Fran

Fran Skene
to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Saturday 12 October 2013

Notes from October 2013 BCSFA Meeting

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

Fruvous asked how much money the Turkey Readings had raised at VCON. Graeme replied "about \$380,¹⁰ rounded up to \$400 by Fran [*Skene*], all donated to CUFF."¹¹ Each CUFF winner becomes the next year's CUFF administrator. Debra Yeung won the last time, in 2012. Debra received plenty of advice from old fans on how to administrate CUFF. Graeme said that he agreed with the fans who thought she was being given too *much* advice.



There was no winner in 2013 (no-one ran), so the money raised will be saved until the next trip. Fruvous said if no-one else runs, he will. He said that ideally he would get to go to a convention in the Maritimes so he could visit his relatives. Graeme pointed out next year the CUFF winner will come from the East to attend VCON. So Fruvous would have to wait 'til 2015 when a Western fan goes east, most prob-

10 See previous news-like item for exact amount.—Future Felicity

11 The Canadian Unity Fan Fund.

ably to a convention in Ontario. Only once has a CUFF winner, namely Garth Spencer, gone to a Maritimes convention.

Graeme heard an announcement on the SkyTrain saying that the Kanye West concert for Vancouver had been cancelled and asked who Kanye West was. The group answered and with all the crazy things Kanye West has done, it wasn't long before we came to an incident that made Graeme remember him, namely the interruption of Taylor Swift's acceptance speech at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards.

Kathleen said that VCON will not be in the same hotel next year, as it will be the Convention, so we'll need more space.

I'd like to think we're a clean group normally, but this month we were extra-careful to leave the bathrooms cleaner than we found them. I always clean a toilet after I use it, whether at home or as a guest. Before the meeting Joe cleaned the bathrooms, and after the meeting Barb cleaned them again. There was a dog pee puddle on the carpet in the hallway, but it was like that when we got there. (At least, we assume it was dog. Graeme said the elevators at certain SkyTrain stations are routinely used as urinals by drunks, especially on weekends. The decision *not* to have public washrooms at SkyTrain stations not entirely a good idea it seems.)

Something someone said reminded me of the anti-trufan article in an issue of Neil Jamieson-William's zine *Swill*. Graeme said that there are fans, self-appointed trufen, who don't believe anyone in the present day is worthy of an Aurora or a Faned, who claim fandom is dying and blame everyone for it—an attitude which motivates many neos to refuse to join traditional fandom when Graeme promotes it in personal conversation, because they've already been poisoned against it by the elitist negativity of certain "trufen." Fruvous said that similarly, he no longer identifies as an atheist because of the way angry atheists have behaved. Graeme said that he is an atheist but has nothing against theists.

Graeme said that it was almost a tradition for English authors to get more religious as they got older and closer to death, going from Anglicanism to Catholicism. This somehow led to Gandhi and his quips; then Graeme, since Ancient Rome is his a passionate interest of his, brought up Cicero, who couldn't resist a joke, even at the expense of people powerful enough to punish him for it. Eventually, someone did: Mark Anthony, who had Cicero killed and his tongue and hands nailed to the speaking platform in the Forum. (Seems Anthony couldn't forgive Cicero for constantly reminding citizens of Anthony's drunken bad habits, like his vomiting on to the crowd while attempting to give a speech from the speaking platform.)



Someone said that the reason the idle rich are a little crazy is that they grew up being told that they shouldn't work. I replied that it's not natural for people to have no purpose, but that "purpose" does not have to mean "work." Your hobby can be your purpose, or you can have a cause. I remembered an argument I had with my father twenty years ago, in which my position was that if people were freed from

work they would find time to better themselves, and his reply was that they would sit around eating Cheetos and watching soap operas.

Ray said that there was a ferry captain who hated his job and couldn't wait to retire, but after he retired he was always showing up on the bridge of the ship. Graeme said that in the second century AD a chap by the name of Herodes Atticus found a huge amount of treasure beneath a house he was renovating. As required by law he went to Rome and reported his find to the Roman Emperor Nerva, who was entitled to fifty percent. Nerva was surprisingly not pleased, because he knew such a vast sum would cause inflation, so he told Herodes to keep the treasure to himself. "But I'll just spend it stupidly," protested Herodes. And Nerva replied "Fine. Spend it stupidly." So Herodes Atticus spent the rest of his life dispersing funds at whim on assorted public projects, like replacing the wooden seating for 50,000 people at the stadium in Athens with marble seating. This sort of thing made him very popular. Consequently, Graeme concluded, discovering a gigantic treasure beneath your house is a superb introduction to retirement. Not an option for most retirees, alas.



Ray said that the BC government has gotten rid of the tax credit for film production, so film work will be moving from Vancouver to Toronto now. This reminded me of the Canadian/American B-movies made during the tax shelter era (mid-1970s to late 1980s), many of which were surprisingly watchable. This was probably because the Canadian content regulations only dealt with a film production's employees, not its story or style. Thus, tax shelter films were allowed to have commercial appeal, exploitable elements, modern urban settings, coherent narratives, and satisfying endings. Somebody added that with the Capital Cost Allowance set to 100% even if the film lost money it could be written off. Joe pointed out that at the apartment we'd recently watched a tax shelter era film, *Murder by Phone* (1982), starring Richard Chamberlain and a Canadian supporting cast including Sara Botsford, Robin Gammell, Alan Scarfe, Ken Pogue, Colin Fox, Luba Goy, and Lenore Zann!¹² The premise was that a disgruntled phone company employee had worked out how to kill people just by calling them and playing a specific tone. Graeme thought that was a good low-budget premise, needing only a sound effect and acting. I agreed but added that at least two of the deaths were spectacular effects, one involving a man and his swivel chair being blown across his office and through a glass window, followed by a long drop to the street and a landing on the hood of a station wagon.

Graeme remembered a Canadian B-movie with a group of teens trapped in a cabin in the woods, being threatened by an alien menace. When the movie finally showed the aliens, they were just road flares illuminating clouds of smoke, about as cheap a special effect as you can get.

¹² Plus too many others to list, but we've seen them all in various things.

Someone (Fruvous?) said that John Diefenbaker¹³ spoke French so badly that he was popular in Quebec, at least as entertainment. His televised speeches always got the highest ratings in Quebec. In the 1980s I noticed that Arnold Schwarzenegger's accent was thicker in his movies than in his interviews, and wondered if he were deliberately coarsening it for the movies—someone said, “Doing an impression of himself.” On that note, Graeme said that his father once got into a conversation with the guy seated next to him on an airplane and after a while had to ask “Have we met before? You seem familiar.” The man smiled and replied “Maybe if I talked like this” and proceeded to talk in his trademark “movie” voice. It was Peter Lorre! Someone said that Lorre didn't do that voice for his good-guy roles; commenting that that would be weird.



I'd recently settled on the phrase “The Cliff De Young List” for a list of actors who should be cast more often as heroic characters, both because there's no suspense over who the secret villain is when one of these actors is in the movie, and because I feel sorry for actors who always play uncool or bad characters.¹⁴ Naming the list for actor Cliff De Young¹⁵ is my latest addition, but credit for inspiration goes to the now-sadly-vanished¹⁶ website “Rob Is Worried,” whose author forbade Hollywood from casting certain people as villains after one too many movies where it turned out John Heard was secretly the bad guy, and no-one was surprised.

My notes say something about the TV news editorial show *The Young Turks*, and how a guest, Marcus Epstein, could not bring himself to admit that there was even another possible point of view to the issue being discussed (in this case, an unintentionally racist illustration), even when reassured that this did not mean he was admitting he was wrong. Then my notes say “the ‘No Mubark’ cat.” I don't know what this was about.¹⁷

13 Prime Minister of Canada (1957–1963).

14 This is probably just an odd quirk of mine, like apologizing to inanimate objects after I criticize them, but occasionally it's a real-world problem, as when people kept yelling “Dickless” at William Atherton in public even years after *Ghostbusters* (1984). No doubt similar roles in *Real Genius* (1985) and *Die Hard* (1988) didn't help things any.

15 Who, for example, in *The Substitute* (1993), played the fibre-eating businessman who hires mercenary Tom Berenger, then repeatedly shits his pants.

16 So totally vanished that I can't find any trace of it on the Web, in spite of the fact that I remember specific phrases such as “circling the bowl,” “listen to John Stossel for eternity,” and “not enough scenes of women trying on different comical outfits.”

17 It was a protestor in Tahir Square holding a cat wearing a sign saying “No Mubark” (below), but I forget why we were talking about it.



I had just seen *Looper* (2012), and was annoyed by its bad time travel logic. It's made worse by the fact that the movie even brings up the plot hole, tries to handwave it, then grudgingly provides a dumb explanation. Young Joe, played by Joseph Gordon-Levitt, asks old Joe, played by Bruce Willis, why old Joe doesn't remember what young Joe eventually decides to do, and old Joe bangs the table and shouts "It doesn't matter!!!" then adds that he can't remember it until young Joe decides it. At that point I lost all respect for the movie.

There's also a scene earlier in the movie in which the young, present-day version of a character is scarred and amputated, to which his old self reacts with surprise and horror, as though it had just happened, but that's less egregious than telling the audience not to think about the plot holes.¹⁸

Joe remembered that the last episode of *War of the Worlds* (the series) (1988–1990) we'd watched at the apartment, "Time to Reap" (at right), also involved time travel and that in it the main character visited his childhood self and gave himself an object, thereby causing a paradox.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by Graeme Cameron

Sunday 20 October 2013



Artist & Writer Call for Submissions: Queer Sci-Fi/Fantasy Comic Anthology

Full details at <http://beyondanthology.com/Submissions>.

"*Beyond: A Queer Sci-Fi/Fantasy Comic Anthology*," "coming in 2014."

"*Submissions for Beyond will be open from October 15, 2013 through December 15, 2013.*"

"*Fine print:*

"*Deadlines*

"...Contributors will be notified by January 10, 2014; and finished stories will be due April 10, 2014, with prior incremental deadlines TBD."

"*Payment*

"Beyond will pay \$50/completed page as an advance on royalties (pending funding); plus 5 softcover comp copies of the anthology and the right to purchase additional copies for ½ cover price..."

"*Content guidelines:*

"What we want:

¹⁸ I was surprised to find that critical reaction to the movie was positive (even from Roger Ebert, who usually knew better), though I notice that the critics praised the acting, special effects, and costumes, *not* the narrative.—Future Felicity

“Original science fiction and fantasy comics exploring, expressing, or including queer, trans*, and genderqueer themes and characters...”

Julian Castle
to BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group
Monday 4 November 2013

The Worst Movie Ever Made, Act II: Welcome to Brunch TV

Michael Bertrand

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

ACT 2--WELCOME TO BRUNCH TV

FADE IN:

INT. TV STUDIO--DAY

The SET of a “Breakfast Television” type morning program. The male host, TOM, and the female host, TANITA, are CHUCK-LING as though they’ve just heard something amusing.

TOM

Thanks, Paul! I can’t wait to see if that can help even MY tomatoes!

TANITA

Look out, aphids! And now, it’s our favorite time here on Brunch Television, the time when we turn to everybody’s favorite maverick movie maven and all around one heckuva nice guy, Smiley Schmidt, with today’s Great Movie!

CUT TO:

A brief intro MONTAGE of a cheerful and upbeat fellow interviewing MOVIE STARS and talking animatedly in front of GRAPHICS of various MOVIE POSTERS, accompanied by LIGHT, UP-TEMPO MUSIC. Ends on a STILL PICTURE of SMILEY SCHMIDT with a big SMILE on his face giving an enthusiastic THUMBS-UP, which shrinks into the upper left of the screen, revealing a very HAGGARD and DEPRESSED-LOOKING Schmidt.

TOM

(obliviously)

So, what’s today’s Great Movie, Smiley?

TANITA

Schmidt...are you okay?

Schmidt NODS ROBOTICALLY and CLEARS HIS THROAT, then ATTEMPTS TO BEGIN SPEAKING a few times but his voice is too CHOKED WITH EMOTION. He CLEARS HIS THROAT a few more times, then takes out a HIP FLASK and takes a few BIG SLUGS of BROWN LIQUOR, STARES at the camera for a few moments, then LOOKS at camera with a look of GRIM DETERMINATION and speaks with QUIET CALM AND CONVICTION.

SCHMIDT

This movie...is the Antichrist.

TOM

(in disbelief)

What?

SCHMIDT

No, let me talk! Let me talk! The world has to know the truth about this...only the truth can make them ready. This movie is the Antichrist. It is the end of all civilization. It is the sign from above that we have sinned against this world and have to pay for all we have done. A Great Reckoning is at hand, and all we can do is get our affairs in order and pray for forgiveness!

TANITA

Dear God...please Schmidt, calm down...

SCHMIDT

(standing)

NO, you have to LISTEN! This isn't just the worst movie ever made...it's the worst anything, ever! This movie could destroy nations! This movie could put an end to progress! This movie could destroy life as we know it! We have to stop it before it KILLS AGAIN!

With a final BROAD GESTICULATION, Schmidt LURCHES off-camera. There are a few moments' SILENCE.

TOM

Well. Smiley Schmidt, everybody, with this week's...I'm gonna go out on a limb here, and say Not-So-Great Movie...

Schmidt LURCHES back into frame, now inches from the lens.

SCHMIDT

Hey...hey out there. You know me, right? I'm your old pal Smiley Schmidt...yeah, old Schmitty himself, that's right...and you know I'd never steer you wrong, right? You and me, we've been to a lot of great movies together, right? So trust me when I say...don't see this movie. Please, please. For the love of God. Do not go see this movie. I know you're probably thinking "Wow, this movie can't possibly be as bad as he says. I have to go see this thing and find out for myself." Just...don't. Don't do it. It's not worth it. Nothing...nothing is worth this. Just trust your old buddy Schmitty on this one. Don't go see it. Don't even read about it or hear about it on the radio. Don't have anything to do it. That's the only way you can be safe...the only way to keep it from hurting you like it did me...tell you what, I'll tell you when it's safe, OK? Don't watch any other television but this show and I'll tell you when it's safe...when the bad movie has gone away and can't hurt anybody any more...it hurts, Tanita...it hurts so bad...why did the bad movie hurt me, Tanita? Can you tell me? The things that...

Schmidt PASSES OUT and SLIDES down off frame.

TANITA

SCHMITTY! Oh god, somebody help him!

There is a PAUSE and some NOISES indicating a certain amount of DISORGANIZED ACTIVITY off-screen. Schmidt is PROPELLED back into frame, back behind the DESK, and SITS DOWN and just STARES into the camera with a look of blank uncomprehending HORROR.

TOM

Well...Smiley Schmidt, everybody, our very own movie reviewer.



SCHMIDT

(mumbling)

Movie reviewer? I'm not a movie reviewer. I don't even like movies. You must be thinking of somebody else. I teach air conditioner maintenance at a local...

(trails off into incomprehensibility then falls silent)

TOM

Next up, the Fashion File with our very own Tanita Papadopolous. Tanita?

TANITA

No. No. I can't do this.

TOM

I beg your pardon?

TANITA

I can't go on with this charade. I've just seen a good man shattered, utterly destroyed, right before my eyes and I'm telling you, I'm fed up.

TOM

I don't think this is the time or place, Tanita...

TANITA

Shut up, Tom. Schmittty and I have known each other since college. We've been friends ever since we were both wet behind the ears correspondents back in Albany. And since we've been working together on this show, we've been more than friends. We've been lovers!

TOM

Oh, good gravy...

TANITA

And he was a good man...a kind man...a decent man, which anyone can tell you is hard to find in this stinking business. So I have just one thing to say today: FUCK YOU, HOLLYWOOD. FUCK YOU.

(MORE)

TANITA (CONT'D)

You took a hardworking, decent man who loved movies more than anyone I've ever seen and turned him into this...this drunken shambling WRECK! So FUCK YOU, you bloodless hacks! May you rot forever in a burning lake of fire in the pits of Hell for what you've done. FUCK YOU! FUCK YOU! FUCK YOU! FUCK YOU!

Tanita continues to SCREAM "FUCK YOU" over and over as SECURITY GUARDS drag her off the set, leaving Tom alone on set.

TOM

Well.

(shuffles some PAPERS in front of him)

You uh...right. Next up...Chef Steve will show us ten surprising things you can do with watercress! All that, and Andy Rooney, after these messages from our remaining sponsors.

FADE TO BLACK

Michael Bertrand
The Million Word Year
Saturday 1 May 2010

Zines Received

'Opuntia' #257 (January 2013). Published by Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. 8½ × 5½ inches (landscape).

"On the Cutting Edge of Technology: The Tape Recorder" (old-time radio episode reviews); "What Is FAPA?"; "Comments on FAPA #301"; "Transit Fanning in Calgary: Part 2: The West Leg" (photos); "Book Reviews"; "Letters to the Editor."

'One Swell Foop' #9 (May 2013). Published by Garth Spencer, 7250 Gladstone Street, Vancouver, BC, V4P 4G6, gsgarthspencer720@gmail.com. eFanzines.com. 8½ × 11 inches (portrait).



"Letters": Lloyd Penney: Lloyd says "I had thought to give away my fanzine collection"; Garth replies that "maybe we should start a Craigslist/Meetup/Facebook group for swapping stuff like this?" Good idea.

Lloyd writes "When Target sets up stores in Canada [...]" The Sears at the Richmond Centre mall (left) is closing down, while a Target is opening up at the other mall, Lansdowne Centre.

I'll miss the Sears, which is ironic, because I remember that when that Sears moved into Richmond Centre, I felt that things were changing too fast.

"The Critique of Impure Conventions":

Garth says that some people jump into con-running without learning about it first, probably because they want to do their own thing their own way. For what it's worth, as a neo I was talked into volunteering on a concom; I was intimidated enough by the challenge that I went willingly to older fans to learn how to do the job. (I failed, but now I can forgive myself a little, knowing that I sought advice.)



Garth adds that Taral Wayne said that if Garth or Graeme wants to revive Ditto in Vancouver they have Taral's blessing. I would attend a Vancouver Ditto.

"Lockheedless" (Taral Wayne): Good, interesting article about rival defense contractors and their fighter plane projects such as the Boeing X-32 (above).

Also: "Wanderings and Maunderings"/"Random Thots" (editorials); "The Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom"; "Who Wants to Be a Mad Scientist?"

E-Zines Received

'**Space Cadet**' #17 (January 2012). Published by R. Graeme Cameron, 13315 104th Avenue, Apartment 72G, Surrey, BC, V3T 1V5, rgraeme@shaw.ca, eFanzines.com. "(Or: The Aging Old Fhart Nostalgic Time Waster Gazette)."

Cover: Skilled cover art by Mike Jackson.

"Trumpets of Jericho": Graeme attends and reports from a Trumpeter Wargaming Society meeting. Good article. Enjoyed.

"Infamous Monsters of Filmland?": Another good article.

"Letters of Comment: Ook, Ook, Slobber Drool!": Graeme writes, "I used to keep a list of all the books I'd read [...] But then I caught myself thinking I had better hurry up my reading or else I won't be listing as many as I did the year before. This struck me as so obsessive I threw the list out. I read for my own enjoyment, not to serve some stupid list." I've enjoyed adding to [my list of watched movies on my Facebook profile](#) so much that I've actually started watching movies I might otherwise have skipped¹⁹ just so I can add them to the list. I think this is broadening my horizons and helping me stay current.

"Space Filler!"/"A Look Back at *Space Cadet* #1!": I wonder what computer, software, and font Graeme used. *Space Cadet* #1 is available on eFanzines.com, but

19 Reasons for skipping the movies include: the movie is too new, the movie is too old, the premise doesn't grab me, or there's too much hype surrounding the movie. As an added incentive, I've given myself permission to add the movie to the list even if it fails the "fifteen-minute test." So far, none have, though Brian De Palma's *Obsession* (1976) came close. I'm still slogging through it, mostly to see if John Lithgow's character is so sinister and oily because he's secretly the villain (see meeting notes above), or if it's just a coincidence. The law of conservation of characters says he's the villain, but who knows, maybe they won't go for the most obvious twist.

the e-version has been retyped by Graeme for greater legibility. Tantalizingly, the “E Version Afterwords” even mentions the font (the original paper version was printed in a small point size that Harry Warner, Jr. complained about), but nothing else.

Happy belated 17th anniversary, *Space Cadet!*

Also: “*Not Loin Ripping Time*”; “*Miniatures from Hell*”; “*A Pocket Full of Histories: Coin Notes*” (Taral Wayne); “*Colophon*.”

‘**The Fanactical Fanactivist**’ #8 (January 2012). Published by R. Graeme Cameron, 13315 104th Avenue, Apartment 72G, Surrey, BC, V3T 1V5, rgraeme@shaw.ca. eFanzines.com. “The Fannish E-Zine of the Canadian Fanzine Fanac Awards Society Dedicated to Promoting Canadian Fanzine Fandom.”



Cover/“Cover Considerations”: Great cover art by Taral Wayne.

“Letters of Comment”: Good, active letter column with discussion of zines: the hobby, the format, the experience.

Also: “The Faned: How to Mould?”; “To Sum Up”; “Colophon.”

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Pages 1 (left), 2
Clip art [<i>Asphalt</i> (1929) screenshot].....	Page 1 (right)
Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 3, 5, 19 (left), 20, 29
Clip art (<u>Cthulhu Wars</u> screenshot/vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u>)...	Page 4 (right)
Font (<u>Letters from the Claw</u>).....	Page 4 (left)
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photos/vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 6–7, 30
Clip art (flyer).....	Page 12
Clip art (via Garth Spencer?).....	Page 19 (right)
Clip art [<i>Murder by Phone</i> (1982) screenshots].....	Pages 21–22
Clip art.....	Page 23 (left)
Clip art [<i>War of the Worlds</i> (1988–1990) screenshot/ vectorized by <u>Clker.com</u>].....	Page 23 (right)
Font (Charles Bigelow/Kris Holmes).....	Page 26
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photo).....	Page 28