

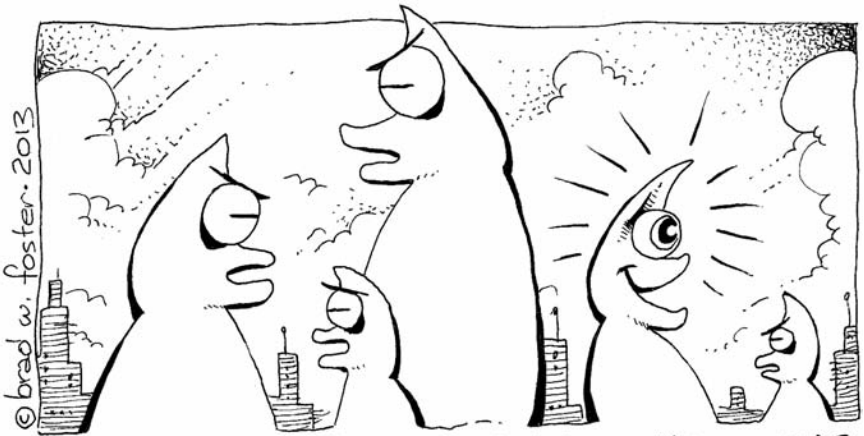
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#489

\$3.00/Issue

February 2014



OF ALL the SQUINTIANS, ONLY MAXINE WAS HAPPY, for HER EYE WAS OPEN!

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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.

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This and Next Month in BCSFA

Sunday 2 February at 2 PM:	<u>VCON 39 concom meeting</u> —Brandywine Bartending [<i>School</i>], 241 Union Street, Vancouver.
Sunday 16 February at 7 PM:	February BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 21 February:	Submission deadline for March <i>BCSFazine</i> .
Sunday 23 February at 2 PM:	WCSFA AGM—Brandywine Bartending School (<u>map</u>), 241 Union Street, Vancouver. (Doors open at 1:30 PM.)
Friday 28 February:	March <i>BCSFazine</i> production.
Sunday 15 March at 7 PM:	March BCSFA meeting.

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBA

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

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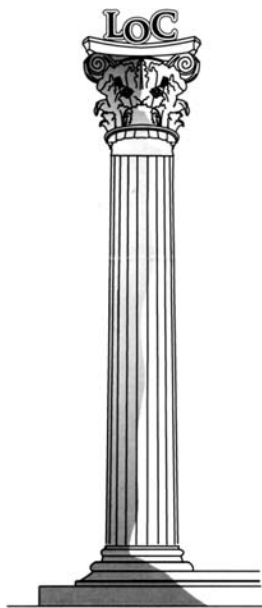
BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster Garth Spencer). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assoc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifi_assoc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFazine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

Sheryl Birkhead
25509 Jonnie Court,
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
USA

Friday 3 January 2014



Dear *BCSFA fen*,
Happy New Year.

Well, I still have not figured out the software issue—the illo that I hope is on this page, is from *FreeHand* and cannot be brought directly into the software I use for loccing. So I *can* convert the image to a PDF (etc.) and bring that in, but for some reason all the detail is fuzzy. So, I type the text separately and then try to fit it onto the *FreeHand* page (the page that will be lost to me once I am forced to move on operating-system-wise). So, I am trying to use it while I can and while I try to find a workaround. That's an explanation—now on with the nuts and bolts (and hoping it works out!) (Well—it did not work quite the way I pictured it, but I think it is legible!—hm, on the monitor text typed in *FH* looks different—oh well can't sort that out now.)

Interesting...um...er...stamp (?) on the October ish. *On the good ship Lollip*...but you get the idea. As always, a pleasure to see *Foster* illos on the cover(s)!

[*The stamp was to go with the pirate/nautical theme of VCON 38.*]

For *John Purcell*—the snow is snowing and the wind is...yeah right season and all that.

Lloyd, keep searching the good search—with aspiration toward finding the *perfect* job!

The *Helsinki* bid piqued my interest. While things cyber are not technologically my forte, I tried to watch the video available online about the bid...and found the warning was correct—the audio was so bhad I couldn't get anything out of it. Ah, but I had high hopes and hope they will give it another go!

Now that *Dale (Speirs)* is retired, I sincerely hope there is a list of his books in the future. Reading *Opuntia* is always a treat. His explanations of various topics are understandable and interesting, his interests are widespread and I really hope his research and writings can coalesce into a “series of books”—granted over a tremendous range of topics, but interesting nonetheless!

Well, this does not seem to be very long, but since calendars take up a lot of the two issues I can easily locate, I feel a little better about such a poor response. I still, vainly, am looking for the 36–48 hour day. The stack o pencil sketches continues to

grow as the time I can find to work on any one of them decreases—frustrating—very frustrating!

Now that this year's *Hugo* nomination season has opened, I expect to see a lot more comments about *LonCon*. There is not any chance that I could make the trip, but it is entertaining to read about the preparations so many others are making to get across the Pond. (Reminds me—all those who are *Worldcon* members—nominate! Fill in as many of the blanks as you can and spread the egoboo for other fen whose "work" you have enjoyed this past year. If you do and you still don't like the results, at least your did *your* part!)

Well, think I am as caught up as I can be without a ish-hunt—so I will start the year off in a more-or-less timely fashion!

Sheryl ☞

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Sunday 9 January 2013

Hello again BCSFAns! I think I wished you all a Happy Valentine's day last time, so...I guess this time it's Happy Saint Patrick's Day? Never did like that one. Anything that encourages people to be loud and drunk in public is major negativo in my books.

I mean, with the fireworks you can just not go to the beach. On Green Beer Day, they are everywhere.

Re: Google's mysterious yellow tagged scanners. Do they at least give people a decent reason *why* they can't talk to them? Because if not, they are going to give out a serious "evil cult" vibe that just begs people to hatch wild conspiracy theories.

Secrets brew suspicion. And powerful organizations always turn evil when they no longer have the eyes of the world upon them.

I find the idea of small neighborhood fibre optic networks interesting, but I confess I am not nearly paranoid enough to find them practical. Cable modem and WiFi are fine by me. There is a lot of scary talk going around about spybots and whatnot, but the reality rarely lives up to the fear.

I do think that privacy as we have known it, total control over your informational footprint, is dying, both for the big and for the small.

We will all live in glass houses in the future, even the high and mighty. What will protect our information will be a kind of beneficial mutual fear. If I use your information against you, then you might use mine against me.

It's like a nudist colony. Everything is visible, but nobody looks.

Welcome to the Panopticon, folks. See you next month!

Sent from Samsung tablet



RANDOM NOSTALGIA

NIGHTCAT
URKEL-O'S

Brent Francis
b-francis@sympatico.ca

Friday 14 February 2014

Who says there's no romance in the world?

http://www.malaysia-chronicle.com/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=225752:woman-possessed-by-evil-demons-with-teeth--claws-marries-her-exorcist&Itemid=4#axzz2t7K5uMRA

[Article at link: "Woman Possessed by 'Evil Demons with Teeth & Claws' Marries Her Exorcist—A mother-of-two says she finally found peace after years of being tormented by evil spirits after marrying her exorcist."]

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 14 February 2014

Hi Felicity,

I ran into some interesting lit on a site. Seems they want to try to promote new authors by offering a massive download.

<http://stupefyingstories.blogspot.co.uk/2014/01/announcing-2014-campbellian-anthology.html>

For the more activist types Tor.com is also a mirror site for this. I always liked John W. Campbell. He was a good writer and it made him a better editor. He was also an innovator as well as a mover and shaker of society. One of the earliest texts of Project Gutenberg was made by him and he was an amateur radio type as well. If there was a single person responsible for inspiring those who participated in the moon landings it had to have been Campbell.



I'll grant that the literature of *Astounding/Analog* suffered from the ordinary prejudices of the time but the heroics of the main characters stands in stark contrast to the pallid brown-nosing so common in today's popular versions of SF.

Struggle for the Galactic Empire (comp version) is now for sale at Decision Games. It was a struggle to playtest and it isn't for those with pre-conceived notions. It's hard to beat but it was a lot tougher without the added optional rules.

The long slog up Omaha Beach is still continuing but it's coming closer to completion. I'm hoping Decision is getting closer to redoing *Battlefleet Mars* which has been on the back burner for a long time.

Bitcoin is in the news again. Apparently if you understand the workings of its scheme, it is vulnerable to being hacked and as it is high-priced that makes it more attractive to such occurrences. Part of a simple explanation is that the software is math-based. Math problems are always simpler if you use easy-to-solve examples and the recent revelations of governments deliberately conspiring to force the use of more easily solved crypto places everything secured that way at risk.

Catch-22 is that you have to trust those systems, or transactions cease, but now all of them have to be examined and in some cases redone to remove government-

introduced vulnerabilities. Removing your front door to make it easy for the government to see you have nothing to hide opens you to a lot of unwanted access by people who are not your friends.

On a brighter note CJ and Jane are having a get-together for people who hang out on their blogs in September, sort of a minicon for a small slice of fandom.

Libraries across Canada are opening makerspaces. This may be a portent of great things to come as the patents for 3D printing are starting to lapse. Having been in on the earlier comp wave I know that it is going to be fun to get involved in. I haven't been keeping up with wot i red on my hols this year but highly recommended if you haven't been aware of him.

Now I need to find you a few pictures.

Warm regards,

Dave Haren

Lloyd Penney
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Thursday 20 February 2014

Dear BCSFAns:

Many thanks for issue 488 of *BCSFazine*, and this letter is written as the warmer weather comes in, and gives Toronto a decent Vancouver fog. Time for comments to relay ASAP.

The Cameron Effect does indeed ripple through Canadian fandom, such as it is. I admit that while I do care, it may be getting more difficult to keep caring to the same extent. We may be simply deciding that while fandom may still be fun, continuing on with our usual expectations may be futile. We either overhaul those expectations, or we retire from the field, with our achievements intact, allowing newer fans to take over and run the show.

My LOC...Rob Ford's brother Doug, a councillor for the north end of Etobicoke, and about as bad as his brother the Mayor, has announced that he will not be running for councillor next election, and will not run provincially, either. He will be his brother's campaign manager, and the two Fords will continue to produce their YouTube show *Ford Nation*, where in their newest episode, they name ten fellow councillors who they will campaign against. The whole political process in this city is disgusting, moreso since the Fords arrived and were elected. Ick.

[*At first I thought you meant that Ford was providing the nation with a figurative YouTube show, but I checked and he really has one: <http://www.youtube.com/user/officialfordnation/videos>! I watched a few episodes, and it's pretty sad.*]

The VCON 39 Organizational Kickoff...how did that go? The idea of having this kind of launch as an open event is something most other conventions could learn from. Most conventions are closed shops at first glance, and many positions are filled by friends who are somehow induced to come and help out.

Hope everyone is supporting the BC Ren Festival folks as they raise more money to make the next Festival happen. Wish I could get to one of their steampunk

events, but there's an awful lot of geography in the way. Way to go, Chris and Martin!

There's someone to have as a GOH at the upcoming VCON...Charlie McKee. He could talk about his early years with Bakka Books, and best of all, he's doing business in New Westminster these days. I remember Bakka on Queen St. W. well, especially with John Rose as the owner. I haven't been in the new Bakka very often.

Well, I think it's time to go. Zine is done, and the page is almost done, too. Gold for both women's hockey and curling today! Hope the men can do the same. See you with the next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney



*Sweep! Hard! Hurry!
Easy! Off! Never! Die!*

We Also Heard From: George W. Harper, Taral Wayne (COA: taral@bell.net).

Errata

I accidentally omitted "Mythbusting Bakka" by Taral Wayne from the front cover table of contents in the last issue.

Calendar

Note to print readers: underlined events have an associated URL. Links are included in the PDF version at <http://www.efanzines.com/BCSFA/>.—Julian Castle

Already in Progress

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

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

9 January, 13 February, 13 March, 10 April, and 8 May 2014: Teen Manga Advisory Group, 4–5 PM at Morris J. Wosk Board Room, Level 7, Vancouver Public Library, Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. For teens aged 13–18. “Do you love manga?...Come tell us what the library should have on our shelves and meet other manga enthusiasts!” For more info call Children’s Library: 604-331-3663. Free.—Julian Castle

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

30 January–15 February 2014: UGH! A Prehistoric Art Show, Opening reception Friday 31 January from 7–11 PM with special guest Rory Crowley, child star of *Clan of the Cave Bear*. A group art show featuring paintings, drawings, photographs and more inspired by prehistoric life: neanderthals, cavemen, dinosaurs...not a historically accurate art show!”—Julian Castle

February 2014

February is Library Lovers’ Month.

1 February 2014: Hourly Comic Day. Worldwide event. People make a journal comic every hour they are awake and then show the comics to other people on the internet. Alternate URL.—Julian Castle

1 February 2014: Magic: The Gathering: Born of the Gods Pre-Release, 10 AM–9 PM at the Richmond Rod and Gun Club, 7891 Cambie Road, Richmond. “This pre-release will be hosted at the Richmond Rod and Gun Club to make room for up to 100 players! Pre-registrations is already open and the cost is \$32. For more information please contact Stephanie here at the store. Contact: Stephanie.”

1, 8, 15, and 22 February and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 March 2014 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Feel free to come in anytime on Saturday afternoon until 7 PM and play any of the many open games there are here at the store.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

1 February 2014: Galaxion—’80s/New Wave/Retro Gamer & Dancefloor Party, 9 PM–2 AM at BLVD 22, B105A–750 Pacific Boulevard, Vancouver. “*Vancouver’s most awesome ’80s party is going on hiatus!* Come [...] party with us for the last time for several months before the *Fan Expo* after-party in summer! As well, come and say goodbye to BLVD 22, as this will very likely be our last party at one of our

favourite venues, who have been very good to us. They're closing shortly for renos before re-opening and likely going in a different direction! *Drink. Dance. Game. Massive '80s dance party. Video game lover's paradise. Check out our insanely rad promo video...a super fun two minutes of the party in action! Pics from the Fan Expo afterparty thanks to Suger Meg. Check out pics of the event courtesy of ShotgunGamer.com.* [...] In addition to turning every screen in the venue into a video game station with nearly every system from Sega Master System to Xbox 360 (thanks to the fine people at [Gamedeals](#)), Galaxion takes it even further, bring in extra HD TVs with games and a mini-arcade of actual retro full-size stand up classic arcade cabinets. *Cover: \$6 early bird rate before 10 PM; \$9 afterwards.*"

1–2 February 2014: [Wargaming Without Borders](#), 12–after 8 PM at [the Eagles Club](#), 170 3rd Street West, North Vancouver. "A charity event supporting relief funds for natural disasters. Warhammer, Warhammer 40K, and Warmachine/Hordes all different days." [*No address or time listed on flyer or website but [Julian Castle](#) found them.*]

2 February 2014: [Magic: The Gathering: Born of the Gods Two-Headed Giant](#), 12–5 PM [*at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond?*]. "This is the last event for the pre-release of Born of the Gods, the new expansion for Magic: The Gathering. For more information please contact Stephanie here at the store. Contact: [Stephanie](#)."

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

2, 9, 16, and 23 February and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 March 2014 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Sunday afternoons: they are made for relaxing, cups of warming beverage, and most especially board games. Thus, *Sunday board games!* Cuppa Joy’s large tables, usually unoccupied space and laid-back attitude suits this purpose perfectly. Bring board games, friends, and of course your lovely selves! If anyone has any board game requests, feel free to post them in the comments and I will try to accommodate. You can also post less specific requests (e.g. ‘games that take eight players,’ ‘games that don’t involve math,’ ‘games about farming’) and I’ll see what I can do. Happy Sunday!”—Keith Lim

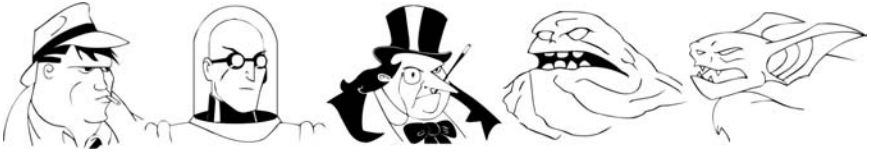
3, 10, 17, and 24 February and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March 2014 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Hello. Painting miniatures can be fun, challenging, and sometimes even outrageous. Feel free to come by the store to paint, share tips, or maybe even learn a thing or two about the craft, nay artform, that is miniatures painting. There are some paints available to use, and brushes, as well as primer. Warmachine figures will likely be the name of the game for most, but anything is welcome.”—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, and 24 February and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March 2014 (*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

4, 11, 18, and 25 February and 4, 11, 18, and 25 March 2014 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. “Feel free to come by anytime from 5 PM to about 10 PM to play a game or two. There are hundreds of open games for playing, or feel free to bring your own. Parking out front is a buck thirty-five an hour (free after 6 PM), or there is a parkade a block away (buck an hour), across Columbia and down by the river. We are located two blocks northeast of the New Westminster SkyTrain Station, at Columbia and Begbie. There is a Waves coffee shop in the same building. Go uphill on Begbie to Clarkson, and the store is to the right. Tuesday is also the Buck a Slice special feature at Fresh Slice Pizza just down the street. Have a good day.—Kirby”—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 February and 4, 11, 18, and 25 March 2014 (*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



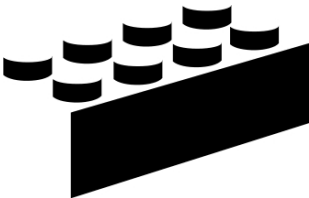
5 February 2014: Michael Uslan/Batman Screening in Vancouver, 7 PM at SPARK[FWD], Vancity Theatre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver. “Michael Uslan, executive producer of the *Batman* films, will be in town for a talk and screening of the first Tim Burton *Batman* movie, as part of the SPARK[FWD] conference. Tickets for the keynote talk and movie screening are \$25, and more details can be found at this link: <http://sparkfx.ca/enews/20140121/>.”—Leonard S. Wong

5, 12, 19, and 26 February and 5, 12, 19, and 26 March 2014 (*Wednesdays*): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of Memorial South Park’s fieldhouse, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 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

5–9 February 2014: SPARK [FWD] 2014 (festival, conference, and job fair), at Vancouver International Film Centre, 1181 Seymour Street, Vancouver. Festival: 5–9 February. Conference: 6–8 February. Job fair: 7–8 February. “Vancouver’s premier event on advanced imaging and visual effects.” “SPARK FX and 3D [FWD] are merging into SPARK [FWD] 2014.”—Julian Castle

6 February 2014: **Bill Marles** and **Lyn Aylward**’s birthdays.

6 and 20 February and 6 and 20 March 2014 (*alternate Thursdays*): “Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers’ Group meets alternate Thursdays 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library (program room) or Connections lounge. Open to new members, mainly sci-fi/fantasy or what have you. Contact Allan @ (604) 946-2427 or email lowson@dccnet.com for details.”—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)



7 February 2014: Premiere of film *The Lego Movie* (computer animation; Channing Tatum, Will Ferrell, Jonah Hill, Liam Neeson, Morgan Freeman, Charlie Day, Will Arnett).

7 February 2014: Magic: The Gathering: Standard Draft Night, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “This is a standard draft night at Imperial Hobbies with buy in and prizes. Contact: Stephanie.”

7 February 2014: February Monthly Gaming Night, 7 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. “Regular monthly gaming night.”

7, 14, 21, and 28 February and 7, 14, 21, and 28 March 2014 (*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

7–9 February 2014: GottaCon 2014, Victoria, BC.—Julian Castle

8 February 2014: Heroclix: Avengers vs. X-Men: Month 2, 12–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. Contact: Manny.

8 February 2014: All-Star Wrestling, 7:30–9:30 PM at Fraserview Church Gym (FRIDGE), 11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond. *Cancelled!*

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

9 February 2014: TV series *The Walking Dead* and *Talking Dead* resume on AMC.—Julian Castle

9 February 2014: Bolt Action Demo Day!, 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Come on in and try out Bolt Action, the 28 mm WWII miniatures tabletop game from Warlord Games. Play in a one on one classroom style event with our very own Warlord Games representative. Contact: Chris.”

10 February 2014: **Kevin King**’s birthday.

11 February and 11 March 2014 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steam-

punks. Whether you're new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods.”—[Keith Lim](#)

12 and 26 February and 12 and 26 March 2014 (*alternate Wednesdays*): [Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!](#), 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver. “Wednesday is the new Monday! And by that I mean, we’re switching our every-other-week, weeknight games to Wednesdays, so that I can actually attend! Also popular opinion (i.e. I asked a couple of people) seems to agree—Wednesdays are superior. Some come on down to Cuppa Joy, grab a pint and a samosa, and play some *board games!* *Wednesday Wednesday Wednesday!*!”—[Keith Lim](#)

13 February and 13 March 2014 (*second Thursday*): [Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting](#), 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford. “Meetings held second Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM from September to June (July & August have no meetings—summer break).”—[Keith Lim](#)

13 February and 13 March 2014 (*second Thursday*): [Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup](#), 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*] “Second Thursday of every month. This is the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada—Vancouver monthly meeting and is shared with the general public at no charge. Please be advised that RASC Vancouver’s monthly lectures will be held at different locations. The location of each meeting will be posted in advance, along with details of the speaker and topic. We meet at 7:30 PM on the second Thursday of each month, with astro-coffee, cookies, and juice served after the presentation. Please join us for interesting and informative lectures on all aspects of astronomy and space-science, along with stimulating conversations!”—[Keith Lim](#)

13–16 February 2014: [Tsukino-Con 5](#) (anime & Japanese pop culture convention) in Victoria, BC. Dance party: 13 February, 8:45 PM–2 AM at the Sunset Room, 401 Herald Street. Convention: 14–16 February at University of Victoria’s Engineering & Computer Science (ECS) building, Elliot & Clearihue buildings. Successor of Kei-Kon (2003–2009). Hosted in association with UVic Anime Club, UVic Students’ Society, University of Victoria, PO Box 3035 STN CSC, Victoria, BC, V8W 3P3. Attendees 14 & under must have a parent or legal guardian sign their parental consent form & be accompanied by an adult at the time of check-in. Children 10 & under can register for free, but must be registered



by a parent or legal guardian and must be accompanied by an adult during the convention. UVic students get in *free*.—[Julian Castle](#)

14 February 2014: **Potlatch Convention's** birthday. Premiere of films *RoboCop* (SF/unnecessary remake; Gary Oldman, Michael Keaton, Jackie Earle Haley, Samuel L. Jackson, Miguel Ferrer), *Vampire Academy* (horror/comedy; Gabriel Byrne), and *A New York Winter's Tale* (fantasy/romance; Jennifer Connelly, Will Smith, Colin Farrell, Russell Crowe, William Hurt, Kevin Corrigan, Graham Greene).

14 February 2014: [Magic: The Gathering](#), 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “This is a booster draft night for Magic: The Gathering. Contact: [Stephanie](#).”

14 February 2014: [Meaty Fontana Live Valentine's Day Pajama Party](#), 8 PM at Tugboat Annie's Pub, 6911 Graybar Road, Richmond. “Come on out to dance and win prizes for the best pajamas!”—[Greg Cairns](#)

15 February 2014: **Liana K's** birthday.

15 February 2014: [Vanpla February 2014 Meeting](#), 1–5 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby. “Every month, Vanpla members get together for a build and socialize meeting. Usual activities include: kits building (bring your own kits and tools), show your proud completed work, technique coaching (feel free to ask), demos, airbrushing (depending on venue, spray booth may be available, bring your own airbrush/paint/thinner etc.), access to Gunpla graveyard (salvage parts for your project free), group build/event discussion, watching anime, meet new people, chill, and enjoy. We invite everyone to join. See you guys there!”

15 February 2014: [Graphic Thrills/Cinema Sewer Launch Party](#), 6–9 PM at Pulp Fiction Books, 2422 Main Street, Vancouver. “It's the day after Valentines, and you're almost *loved out*—but wait—save a little luv for the Bougieman! Join Robin Bougie as he launches the two newest issues of his movie magazine series *Cinema Sewer*, his filthy comic *Sleazy Slice*, and a limited edition, signed and numbered hardcover poster book about vintage adult movie posters—*Graphic Thrills!* There will be drinkiepoos, snacks and even a book reading. Heck, maybe some free door-prizes given out via some trivia questions as well. It might be altogether too much fun, so maybe bring some rubber underwear. That was a joke. Don't bring rubber underwear. Be there!”—[Robin Bougie](#)

15 February and 15 March 2014 (*third Saturday*): [Vancouver Comic Jam](#), 8–9 PM at the [Wallflower Modern Diner](#), 2404 Main Street, Vancouver. “The Vancouver Comic Jam is generally held the third Saturday of the month. In cases of long weekends or other conflicting dates, the jam may move to the second or third Saturday. For up to date information, [join the VCJ Facebook group](#) or [follow us on Twitter](#). *Who can come?*: Anyone who is of legal drinking age is invited. *How much?*: No admission fee. There is a \$5 minimum purchase per person required by the Wallflower. They

provide their full menu to order from and alcohol galore: beer, wine, highballs and shots. *There will be a gratuity of 18–20% added to all bills because we are a large group.* Bring your own pencils/pens. Paper is provided. If you're drawing with markers that bleed through paper, be sure to either bring a drawing surface or place extra sheets of paper under the paper you're drawing on."—[Keith Lim](#)

16 February and 16 March 2014 (*third Sunday*): [Board Game Swap Meetup](#), 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. "Every third Sunday of the month a swap meet will be held where gamers can sell or trade any board games they would like to get rid of. RSVP for the event and you can list what you are looking to sell, or what you would like in trade. Use the message board to propose trades or list items for sale. Board Game Warriors can be a neutral site for meeting and doing transactions during store hours."—[Keith Lim](#)



18 February 2014: Battery Day.

21 February 2014: **Crystal Remedios's** birthday. Premiere of film *The Wind Rises* (anime/biography; Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Elijah Wood, Stanley Tucci, Mandy Patinkin, Jennifer Grey, Martin Short, William H. Macy, Werner Herzog).

21 February 2014: [Magic: The Gathering: Friday Night Magic](#), 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. "This is a standard draft night at Imperial Hobbies with buy in and prizes. Contact: [Stephanic](#)."

21 February and 21 March 2014 (*third Friday*): [IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting](#), 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor "Arts Room," 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. "Club meetings are held on the third Friday of every month (with very few exceptions such as if the third Friday falls on Good Friday or is too close to Christmas—check schedule). Doors open at 7 PM. Meetings officially run from 7:30–9:30 PM."—[Keith Lim](#)

21–23 February 2014: [Fifth Galiano Literary Festival](#) at [Galiano Oceanfront Inn & Spa](#), 134 Madrona Drive, Galiano Island. Register for festival via website or phone Galiano Island Books at (250) 539-3340. Single sessions \$20, half-day \$40, full-day \$80, full festival pass (not including Friday workshops) \$150. Friday one-hour workshops \$40. Friday four-hour workshop \$80.—[Julian Castle](#)

22 February 2014: Ragnarök.—[Amos Iu](#)

22 February and 29 March 2014 (*last Saturday*): [Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming](#), 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster. "Hello. Feel free to come by anytime on Saturday from noon until midnight and play any of the many open games there are here at the store. The event is perfect for any of those more epic games we have at the store that you've been wanting to try or for any you might own but can rarely find the time/space/players to accommodate. Besides a couple of local coffee joints, there are a bevy of nearby eating establish-

ments, and we will probably order some supper at around 6 PM. Hope to see you there.—Kirby & Critty”—[Keith Lim](#)

23 February 2014: [Bolt Action Bring and Battle!](#), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Come on down and use your 500 point Bolt Action army against your fellows in a bring and battle games day! Running from noon until closing, throw down and prove you’re the best general! Contact: [Chris](#).”

23 February 2014: West Coast Science Fiction Association Annual General Meeting, 1:10 PM *sharp*. Location to be determined—probably Mount Pleasant Community Centre, 1 Kingsway, Vancouver, but this is subject to update.—[Graeme Cameron](#)

25 February 2014: [Alyx Dellamonica](#)’s birthday.

27 February 2014: [Sharkbyte LePirate](#)’s birthday.

27 February 2014: “[Free Film Screening: Solaris](#), 6:30–9:00 PM, Richmond Cultural Centre [7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond], Performance Hall. Free admission. Ages 14+. The Gallery, in collaboration with Cinevolution Media Arts Society, will host the 1972 sci-fi cult-classic by Russian filmmaker Andre Tarkovsky. The film will be introduced by Keith Langergraber, who will discuss how the film has influenced his artworks in the Gallery exhibition.”—[Julian Castle](#)

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

28 February 2014: [Swill VileFen Press](#)’s birthday. Premiere of film *Welcome to Yesterday* (SF).

28 February and 28 March 2014²: [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 Face-book page](#).”—[Keith Lim](#)

1 Main website currently down. WikiFur link: http://en.wikifur.com/wiki/VancouFur_2014.

2 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

March 2014

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

2 March 2014: This Is Steampunk (costume dance), 9 PM–2 AM at Red Room Ultrabar, 398 Richards Street, Vancouver. Live performance by Captain Jess Lawrenson. Music by DJs Enigma Machine. “Get out your goggles and rayguns...Come out for a night of retro future, dancing, drinking,” a live performance and DJs. “You can commemorate the night...in our photo booth by Porno by Necros Photography... There’ll be a mystery door prize from Vikings Dragons and Fairies.” Presented by Hostile Makeover. Admission \$15 (\$10 if in costume).—Julian Castle

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

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

8 March 2014: HeroClix Unrestricted: Avengers vs. X-Men Month 3, 12–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. Contact: Manny.

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



11 March 2014: **Cameron Russell**’s birthday.

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

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

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

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

23 March 2014: [Vancouver Comic Con](#), 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. [...] Admission: \$4; kids under 14 free. Dealer tables: \$65 center; \$75 wall. Comics for Classrooms: Donate a new or gently-used school-appropriate graphic novel for free admission to this show. Books collected will be donated to Vancouver schools. Hourly door prizes! Follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/vancomicon/>. For more information: <http://www.vancouvercomiccon.com/>. 604-322-6412.—[Leonard Wong](#)

24 March 2014: Mini-Comics Day.—[Julian Castle](#)

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

27 March 2014: [Teen Pizza & Games Night: Ladner Pioneer Library](#), 5:30–8:30 PM at Ladner Pioneer Library, 4683 51st Street, Delta. “Do you love to play board games? Are you between 12 and 19 years old? Then come to the library for a fun night of gaming and free pizza. Food and games compliments of Imperial Hobbies. Registration is required. Contact: [Chris](#).”

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

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



News-Like Matter

Roger Lloyd-Pack (1944–2014)

English actor, died 15 January, aged 69. His genre appearances include *Figures in a Landscape* (1970), *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1984), *U.F.O.* (1993), *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire* (2005), *Interview with the Vampire* (2004), *Doctor Who* (two episodes, 2005), plus two episodes apiece in both *Survivors* (1976) and its 2010 reboot. Having made his screen debut in *The Avengers* in 1965, he filmed scenes for the 1998 movie spin-off, but they were cut. His father was the actor Charles Lloyd-Pack (1902–83) and his children include the actress Emily Lloyd (b. 1970).

[Steve Green](#)

Thursday 16 January 2014

Crowd-Funding Projects: Hardcover:

‘Comic Book People: Photographs from the 1970s and 1980s’

New Projects: Books/Print: *Comic Book People: Photographs from the 1970s and 1980s* ([*crowd-funding*] ends Saturday 22 February 2014)

<http://kck.st/KNu5zH> →

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/1472315988/comic-book-people-photographs-from-the-1970s-and-1?ref=discovery>

“*Comic Book People* will be a hardcover high-quality coffee-table book of some 600 candid photos of comics creators and related folk, taken in the 1970s and 1980s [by Jackie Estrada of San Diego]. Most of the photos are black and white, but there will be a 16-page color section.”

Jackie does various things including being co-publisher of Exhibit A Press (publisher of *Wolff and Byrd*, *Counselors of the Macabre* later renamed *Supernatural Law*).

Cheapest pledge level to get a book appears to be \$45.

“357 backers

“\$23,560 pledged of \$18,000 goal

“5 days to go.”

[Julian Castle](#)

to [BC Sci-Fi Assc. Yahoo! Group](#)

Sunday 16 February 2014

3 No address given on website.

4 The comic artist, not the journalist/VCONgoer.

Notes from January 2014 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (president), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, and Sidney Trim.

Barb said that the apartment building management is now charging us \$25 per meeting for the use of rec room, instead of the previous \$10. Kathleen and Barb pored over the building bylaws to see what our options were. Barb gave me strata council meeting minutes from “March 21, 2913” [*sic*] to keep on file. We all donated our own cash to pay for the room this month, but instead a WCSFA cheque was written and the cash was donated to the *BCSFAzine* finances envelope. Kathleen said that her treasurer’s opinion was that if the price of the room goes above \$15 we should move.

Graeme reports that there is a \$5/year membership fee for WCSFA (BCSFA is now part of WCSFA) but that if you paid to attend the last VCON you are automatically a member of WCSFA for the next year and have already paid for your membership, and if you join BCSFA without having been to VCON (or purchasing a membership for the next VCON) you become a member of WCSFA anyway, but without voting privileges at WCSFA meetings, so no money is owed WCSFA. BCSFA and WCSFA’s bank accounts will be combined under WCSFA’s name but will be kept as separate accounts. WCSFA has offered to pay for *BCSFAzine* (on receipt of formal request). Graeme said that he should be listed as Chair of the Social Committee of WCSFA rather than President of BCSFA to avoid confusion with the President of WCSFA. Kathleen would like to be listed as “Supporting Donor for *BCSFAzine* Production.”

Kathleen said that before March we need to discuss the huge postal rate hike. Ray and Fruvous added that Canada Post is ending home delivery! Fru added, “Because Steven Harper doesn’t understand that services are supposed to be there whether they make a profit or not.” Kathleen said that the dirty secret of the post office is that if they charged more for junk mail, they could get the needed money—and to determine what is “junk mail,” all they would have to do is add a surcharge on any mail without a postal code.

I’d e-mailed the December meeting notes to Graeme and Kathleen last night but also printed them out and brought them tonight in case they hadn’t had time to look at the e-mail version yet. Graeme said that he’d read the e-mail but had decided to tell me in person that the notes looked OK. I joked “Why waste a stamp!” Graeme remembered an urban legend that the government would make people buy “virtual stamps” to send e-mails.



*“911 is now
\$2.99 the first
minute, 99¢ each
additional minute.
Kids, get your
parents’ permission
before calling.”*

Graeme had been reading about North Korea. They sustain themselves with drug trading.⁵ Their embassies have no budget—they have to pay for themselves by smuggling drugs in diplomatic bags. Back at home, the citizens appear to carry cell phones, but they can only be used for local calls.⁶ They do have computers, but no access to the world Internet. Instead they use a government controlled national net service. Surprisingly, every North Korean can quote *Gone with the Wind* because it was Kim Jong Il’s favourite and therefore required reading. (I had also encountered this factoid in *National Geographic*.) Graeme said weird, peculiar dictatorships fascinate him. Another odd fact Graeme related is that the majority of refugees who have escaped North Korea have only done so for economic reasons, and still love their Leader and don’t blame him for anything. This shows the extent of their indoctrination, another example of which is that the the North Korean history books make no mention of the fact that South Korea would have defeated them if not for the intervention of China.



“Frankly, my dear,
나는 망할주지 않는다.”

I remembered reading a Destroyer (Remo Williams) paperback which went to great lengths to show that Chiun was a master martial artist by explaining that even the North Korean government and military are afraid of him, and that they’ve left his village of Sinanju alone even though it lies within their borders. Graeme replied that in real life the North Korean military is itself very dedicated to the martial arts, and has a division of 15,000 soldiers specializing in it.

Graeme added that in North Korea, foreign journalists are not told where they’re going and are all taken in separate vehicles. Ray said the Canadian government did the same thing during the Cold War when taking CBC journalists to the situation room just outside Ottawa.⁷ It cost \$300 million, and Ray thought it could still be used today so the money wouldn’t go to waste, except that (as Graeme pointed out) by now everyone knows where it is and how thick the the walls are (and so how much force to use to penetrate them).

Ray said something about Toronto-hating.⁸ I joked that it was a popular Canadian tradition. Graeme said that now it’s becoming popular *in* Toronto! (They can’t let us have anything!)

Graeme told the story about his RCAF dad and fellow pilot buddies (in the midst of a wild, drunken party) plotting to hijack an American battleship and sail it up the Ottawa River to shell their own headquarters. It was clear that whatever image they might project in public, they were a wild and crazy group and had little use for authority. Ray remembered another prank in the military in which a new guy on

5 Since they’re famously starving themselves to pay for their military, you may have been wondering.

6 Not so much a Samsung Galaxy as a Samsung Solar System.

7 The Central Emergency Government Headquarters, or “Diefenbunker,” in Carp, Ontario.

8 Or if you prefer, “regional alienation.”

an incoming plane was shown a boat in the water below and left to assume it was an invasion, and he should report it. He did, and got in big trouble. Another (?) guy had to shower later than the rest of the group, and so they told the female personnel to assemble outside the shower at the time the guy would be showering, and they pulled the fire alarm.

That reminded me of an interview with Burt Ward I'd recently seen on YouTube.⁹ Ward claimed that while making *Batman* (1966) Adam West was jealous of Robin's popularity with the younger fans and would always look for opportunities to upstage Ward or otherwise remind him who was playing the title character. According to Ward, West would never explain his sabotage of Ward's screen time except to shrug and say "Sorry, Burt, I had to do it." So, once when Ward and West had two dates with two sets of girls in two hotel rooms (across the hall from each other), Ward locked West out of the room and left him in the hallway naked, saying "Sorry, Adam, I had to do it."¹⁰ West remembers it differently, and Graeme also had his doubts as to who was the real jerk, based on Ward's behaviour at Fan Expo a few years back, where he ignored the line of fans waiting for his autograph and texted on his cell phone, while West was happy to meet his fans.

Graeme reiterated that he hates pranks, as a rule. Some are harmless and some will humiliate the victim for life. This reminded me of the advice in *How to Win Friends and Influence People* (1936) about scoring coolness points by making fun of someone: the people you impress with your zinger will forget about it immediately, but your victim will remember it forever and find a way to get back at you.



My notes say that Graeme replied "Now I'm in charge of the big red button!" Graeme added that Russia is another place where it's not just that the system is corrupt; the corruption *is* the system (and it's even worse than we thought). Which explains why Putin's private worth is estimated at \$5.9 billion!

So far IKEA is the only business to refuse to pay the standard bribes—for example, the safety inspectors might say that you need 300 permits to build your store, and the permits cost \$1 million each. The Russian authorities also insisted that IKEA spend their own money to build the bridges and roads in Moscow that their shopping centre needed. As this does not fall under IKEA's firm policy of not paying bribes, they built the bridges and roads.¹¹ I'd read in *National Geographic* and elsewhere that in parts of the world, bribes are a standard part of business. (This was also the plot of the *Yes, Minister* episode "The Moral Dimension"—obtaining export contracts by bribery is "not government policy; just government practice.")

Someone asked, "What else bugs Vladimir Putin?" and I replied "Shirts?" Graeme said that President Putin (and Russian culture in general) is 1950s-macho. I

9 I think this was it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZl3fRvFRCQ>.—Future Felicity

10 Ward also tells this story in his autobiography, *Boy Wonder: My Life in Tights* (1995).—Future Felicity

11 But now the Russians say IKEA owes taxes on their construction spending!—Future Felicity

wondered if that was why Putin was anti-gay—as per Fruvous’s theory that if you go far enough into macho, it starts to seem gay. As examples of Putin’s homophobia, Graeme remembered Putin saying “those Islamic terrorists were all gay” and that gays should “leave the children alone.” Graeme added that Putin has started a youth movement of thugs numbering 100,000 that he buses in to break up protests. I said it sounded like a modern-day *Sturmabteilung*.¹² Graeme said that Putin also has a more legitimate youth movement that does boy-scout stuff (which would presumably be the *Hitlerjugend* in the analogy).

Graeme went on to say that Russia is currently oil-rich, and Europe was happy to buy from them until the winter that Putin cut off the natural gas and people died. According to what Graeme had read Putin is a master of the KGB art of mingling—reflecting the views of whomever he’s talking to, to get them lower their guard. Also, when Chancellor Angela Merkel visited, her team warned Putin in advance that she had a dog phobia¹³ and there should be no dogs present, yet he deliberately led her through a door guarded by a huge mastiff.¹⁴

Graeme said that Putin thinks the US media is owned by the rich and the government,¹⁵ and wanted to bribe the *New York Times* to stop harassing him. Fruvous said that the test of a mature civilization is when someone can say something that makes you mad and you accept that you can’t do anything to punish them.

Fru added that in Kurt Vonnegut’s *The Sirens of Titan* (1959), a character creates a Martian invasion (which are just humans with rifles, trained on Mars) in order to unite Earth. This same well-intentioned false-flag gambit subsequently appeared in the *Outer Limits* episode “The Architects of Fear” (1963) which was mentioned in (and may have inspired) *Watchmen* (1986). Around the same time as *Watchmen*, and much more surprisingly, then-President Ronald Reagan said to the UN, “Maybe we need some kind of universal external threat. I sometimes think how quickly our differences worldwide would vanish if we were faced with an alien threat from outside this world”! Graeme and Fruvous said that the aliens would have to be so scary that there was no hope that one side or another could make a deal with them and screw the other side.



Sid said, “Maybe the *War of the Worlds* aliens are the *Footfall* aliens!” Graeme said that HG Wells, who was upset by recent British invasions of African nations, intended *War of the Worlds* to be a metaphor to teach England what it would be like to be invaded by a superior force; people didn’t get the message, and just thought it was a ripping good yarn.

Perhaps considering whether an external threat would get us motivated, Fruvous wondered when the commercialization of space would really begin. Sid said that space travel was an example of a technology that arrived too early to be accepted in

12 “Storm Detachment.” The “brownshirts” of Nazi Germany.

13 Cynophobia.—Future Felicity

14 And had his black Labrador sit in on their meetings.—Future Felicity

15 Rather than merely controlled by them.

its own time. He gave other examples: there have been flatscreens since the 1960s, but they weren't mass-produced until the USAF needed them in their planes; DEC had early PCs but didn't think there was a market for home computers. I said that Kodak researchers made a digital camera in 1985 but it was rejected since everyone still preferred film (or so Kodak thought). Fruvous added the internal combustion engine, which had been conceived much earlier but only came into modern use with large-scale oil production.



*I'm in the Blāk Lodge with...
Anderson... Cooper...*

Kathleen brought President's Choice chocolate. It was labelled "Decadent" so as to suggest that it would taste like their Decadent line of cookies.¹⁶ It reminded me of a YouTube video I'd recently seen of Anderson Cooper trying Coca-Cola Blāk,¹⁷ a coffee-flavoured Coke from the mid-2000s. Cooper did not like it. I wondered if it was because he had and the beverage had fundamentally opposing pigmentations. Cooper is practically bioluminescent. Fruvous said Cooper seems almost too good for this world, and I said that Cooper is like a beautiful elf version of Seth Meyers. Fruvous agreed and said that Cooper and Meyers are like Arnold Schwarzenegger and Danny DeVito in *Twins* (1988). I replied, "Or Cooper is Meyers wearing faery glamour." Fru imagined Cooper twirling around to transform and I said "360°!"

Sid said, "You guys must have been watching *Wonder Woman* (1975) reruns on KVOS, which only shows 40-year-old shows." I replied that I wished Teletoon Retro was that conscientious about what they consider "retro." Fruvous and I agreed that a show on Teletoon Retro should be *at least* 20 years old (and if it were up to me, nothing newer than 1994).

Relatedly, Graeme had been reading a book about growing up in Britain in the 1950s—as you'd expect, postwar Britain was bleak (people were lucky if they even owned a bathtub¹⁸)—but on the plus side the book also talks about TV. Sid said that some US shows did air in Britain back then, but the BBC was into social engineering: there was no rock and roll allowed, hence pirate radio stations, and you can still see pirate radio references in old British shows, such as *Thunderbirds* (1964)!

Graeme is annoyed by the editing style of current documentaries—the music is frequently too loud to hear the narration, the people talk in generalities without explaining the stock photos or footage being shown, and all too often the editing is like a flash card session which doesn't give you enough time to focus on what you're looking at. Fru said it sounds like they've found a way to get even cheaper than the documentaries that consist of stock footage, talking heads, and slowly-moving pho-

16 In a liquid form!

17 I think this was it: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9J-q-06zqdY>.—Future Felicity

18 I saw a pretentious short film at an animation festival once, in which the narrator, speaking of his bleak 1950s British upbringing, glumly intoned "My brother and I had to share the bath. One time he did a poo," causing me to snicker quietly during the closing credits, which made my friend sitting next to me laugh in huge, uncontrollable gasps, causing several other patrons turn to glare at us.

tographs. I have similar objections to modern documentaries, which too often start with the director explaining what the subject of the documentary means to him personally, as though he were the subject, and which consist far too much of present-day talking heads and not enough of content from the actual period being documented. (Even a reenactment would be an improvement over someone sitting in a chair in a black room.) Graeme, Fruvous, and I agreed that *old* documentaries are better. Fruvous said that old BBC documentaries are made for people who are interested, and they're like an educational course, but fun.

Ray said that Memory Express now sells TARDIS-shaped routers. Fruvous replied that he's seen photos of a TARDIS fridge online. Ray added that the Doctor is getting a new "Bessie" (the Third Doctor's yellow antique roadster). Someone asked if it would be able to talk. Sid added, "Like KITT." Ray said that today, a blue police box would be out of place, even in London. He said, "And if a Victorian woman were to walk out..." and I replied, "People would probably assume she was a steampunk cosplayer."

Stewart Smyth phoned to say that didn't feel well enough to attend. We all shouted "Happy birthday!" to him over the phone. Joe Devoy was also absent due to illness. Fruvous said "There's something going around," which reminded me of the Old Navy cargo pants commercial from ten years ago, where vocalists sing "Cargo Fever! You've got to boogie down!" to the tune of "Boogie Fever" by the Sylvers (1975), after which a DJ (Shemar Moore) says "I think it's going around" in a way that someone I knew back then found very smug and irritating. Fruvous said a funny article would be "The History of Pants As Seen Through Old Navy Ads." I wondered what had happened to the 1990s Old Navy spokeslady with the big eyeglasses and the dog.¹⁹



Inside every Dalek is a pair of go-go dancers.

A few days ago Amos Iu had asked me what month/year *BCSFazine* #1 was published, so I relayed the question to Graeme. He said he didn't know off-hand, but could find out, although no-one has a copy of the first issue (which was on one sheet).²⁰

Kathleen said that the Weird Food of the Month Award goes to Goldfish Vanilla Cupcake Graham Crackers.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 19 January 2014

Philip Seymour Hoffman (1967–2014)

Philip Seymour Hoffman, actor and stage director: found dead today at his Manhattan home, aged 46, reportedly of a drugs overdose. Genre appearances include *The Invention of Lying* (2009) and *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* (2013); he was

19 Fashion editor Carrie Donovan (1928–2001), and the Magic the Dog.—Future Felicity

20 Note: Turns out *BCSFazine* #1 was published August of 1973.—Future Graeme

due to reprise the role of Plutarch Heavensbee in the two-part adaptation of *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay* (2014, 2015). His character in *The Master* (2012), Lancaster Dodd, was clearly inspired by L. Ron Hubbard.

Steve Green

Sunday 2 February 2014

Harold Ramis, 1944–2014

Harold Ramis, American director, writer and actor, died today, aged 69. Most famous for playing Dr. Egon Spengler in *Ghostbusters* (1984) and its 1989 sequel, both of which he co-wrote with Dan Ackroyd (the long-mooted third instalment is now unlikely ever to emerge from pre-production hell). His other screenplays include *Groundhog Day* (1993) and the 2000 remake of *Bedazzled*, both of which he also directed, whilst his vocal talents featured in *Heavy Metal* (1981) and *Spacehunter: Adventures in the Forbidden Zone* (1983).

Steve Green

Monday 24 February 2014

VCON 38 Con Report: Day 1

Michael Bertrand

Friday 4 October 2013

Note: This year's convention theme was "pirates."

2 PM: Jolly Joe Devoy, Ruthless Julian Castle, and I depart from our home port of Seafair on the Isle of Lulu for the nearby port of Sea Island, to partake of a three day grapple with fellow buccaneers. Our hold is laden with provisions for the trip, and we look forward to this break from the open seas, and chance to trade our doubloons for luxuries imported from distant lands.

3 PM: The trip was short and uneventful. We arrived early but the harbor-masters were kind enough to let us weigh anchor in slip 522 regardless. We stowed our gear, made ready for the grapple, and after a brief pause to catch the wind in our sails once more, proceeded to the main event.

(Piratey talk ends *here*.)

While waiting for our room, we had the pleasure of meeting Ryan Hawe, his lovely wife Jen, and their little bundle of sweetness and joy, baby Evelyn. Ryan and Jen are former roommates of ours and it was great to catch up with them and see little Evelyn.

Our room is pleasant in that detached way that the hotel industry has down to a science. I am disappointed at the lack of a microwave in the room. Seems I brought my Orville Redenbacher micro-pop for no reason.

4 PM: Having managed to locate Registration (and a lovely lady who knew where I got my nickname from), I am now a full fledged congoer, and



after a brief search and some basic detective work, I manage to locate the panel about how to make your own ebook.

However, after settling down and chatting with some very nice people in the room, I discover that this is not, in fact, the room for the panel ebook making, but the one on the subject of that miracle ingredient of all those awful tasting energy drinks, taurine.

It is at this point that I get my first hint that the program book (ha!) is a pack of lies and only the pocket program guide is to be trusted.

However, by that point I am comfortable and enjoying the company, so I decide what the hell, I will do this panel about taurine instead.

And it was very fun! Turns out taurine is a basic amino acid, but not one of the ones used to code proteins. Instead, it seems to enable other processes to do their jobs. Fun fact: nobody is sure that putting taurine in an energy drink even does anything. It's the caffeine and sugar that does the trick! All those people, drinking awful tasting overpriced drinks when they could go to Starbucks and get the same thing in a much tastier form, and for around the same price.

5 PM: The only programming on right now is the opening ceremonies, and I am really not a "ceremonies" kind of guy, so instead I ascend to the eighth floor and the Hospitality Suite. I enjoy an hour of hanging with my fellow nerds and grazing on the munchies. But only after dutifully dropping \$3 in the alien's head. Hospitality runs on donations, after all!

6 PM: Went to a panel about how to make your own audio kit on the cheap. Most of it was way over my head and hence not all that useful for a non-techie like me. I mean, they expected me to learn to solder! Not gonna happen. I would have been better off going to the panel after this one that tells you how to use the darn stuff. Still, I enjoy anything hosted by Dara Korra'ti.

7 PM: Up to our room to regroup with *le gang* (Joe, Julian, Felicity, and I) and formulate a strategy for getting dinner done. Our usual urge to chat with one another gets in the way, but eventually we formulate a plan and get our rear ends moving.

7:45 PM: We investigate the hotel restaurant and discover that it is both extremely pretentious and extremely expensive. Why do those always coincide? Thank goodness they post a menu outside the restaurant so we didn't have to find all this out after we were already seated. Time for Plan B!

8 PM: Plan B is the local Denny's, a popular hangout with *le gang* and pretty much the exact opposite of the hotel restaurant in all ways. It's relaxed, unpretentious, reasonable priced, and the people there already know us and give us a warm welcome when we show up. It pays to be not just regulars, but *nice* regulars.

Also, somewhere along the way, we pick up Chris, AKA Rain-Rat, a local furry whom I had not

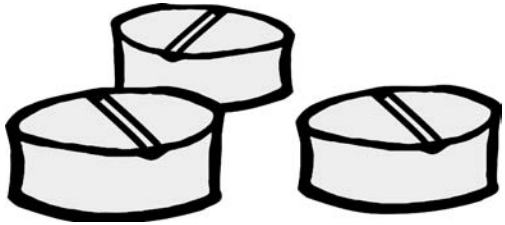


seen in ages, and our friend Amos, freshly back from a long trip traveling across the USA to fly the BDSM flag everywhere he can.

10 PM: Back to the hotel room to relax with *le gang*, hang out, snack, and watch TV, which is more or less what we always do on Friday nights. There are room parties going on, but despite how I sometimes come across, I am an introvert, and my social batteries are totally dead. So we just hang out till we get sleepy and then drift off to bed. It's sort of neat to watch television with friends in what is, for the weekend, your bedroom. I wouldn't want to do it all the time, but it's nice for a change to not even have to get up and go to the bedroom when the night's festivities are over.

1:30 AM: Time to sleep! Thank goodness I brought my sleeping pills. Surely this time, unlike my VancouFur experience when I forgot said pills, I will fall asleep easily and sleep soundly!

4 AM: Despite my sleeping pills, it takes this long for me to finally fall asleep. I guess the excitement of the day is still keeping my mind all wired up. Oh well, conventions aren't for sleeping anyway!



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

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead, Page 1
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Pages 2–3, 5
Font (<u>RONALD at Studio Sans-1</u>).....	Page 9 (top)
Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 9 (bottom), 11, 13, 18–20, 24, 26
Clip art [<u>Cosmos (2014) screenshot</u>].....	Page 15
Clip art (Simon Furman/José Delbo/Dave Hunt/Jim Massara)....	Page 17
Clip art (Alan Moore/Dave Gibbons).....	Page 21
Clip art (<u>screenshot</u>).....	Page 22
Clip art (<u>screenshot</u>).....	Page 23
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photo).....	Page 25