

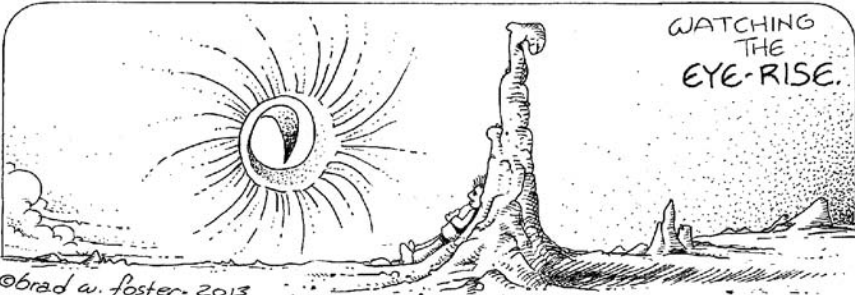
BCSFA Zine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#492

\$3.00/Issue

May 2014



In This Issue:

This and Next Month in BCSFA.....	0
About BCSFA.....	0
Letters of Comment.....	1
Calendar.....	8
News-Like Matter.....	19
Anything for a Buck (Taral Wayne).....	28
Art Credits.....	30

BCSFAzine © May 2014, Volume 42, #5, Issue #492 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 18 May at 7 PM:	May BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 23 May:	Submission deadline for June <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 30 May:	June <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 15 June at 7 PM:	June BCSFA meeting.
Friday 20 June:	Submission deadline for July <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 27 June:	July <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

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
Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973
Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-448-8814
Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 778-895-2371
VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster [Garth Spencer](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assoc/). 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 28 March 2014—
Friday 4 April 2014



Dear *BCSFAers* (*Hi Felicity!*),

Sigh, looks as if I am doomed to always be playing *catch up!* So be it—but I wish I would only have an ish or two (not ~~four~~ five) to deal with. Ish #5 just suddenly surfaced (*Thar she blows!*)—how did that happen?

It is moving into the backstretch on the nominations for this year's (well, you know what I mean) *Hugos*. I have let it go far too long and need to go electronic—something I have been steadfastly trying to avoid. I will valiantly try to get the ballot filled out as best I can and send it. I have no idea if there will be an electronic acknowledgement or not...since I finally just got *LonCon 3* to actually mail hard copies.

As always, nice to see the *Brad Foster* cover illo—ghood luck to *Brad* and *Cindy* in their *TAFF* bid. Nice when ghood things come to nice people!

Fried egg cover illo—sunny side up? Agh, back to last summer just as (I hope) the last snow of a verry long cold winter is slowly melting away. I am told that a *spring* (when is that?) storm is coming in soon, but at least that will be rain. I am just not sure how much better a deluge is when compared to a blizzard?!

Mr. Peabody & Sherman was released about three weeks ago and is on my *Netflix* list. Hey, I just saw *Gravity* from the *Netflix* list—so I have now seen a few of the films I'd consider...(see above note about the Hugo nominations).

Just got my tax refund and getting this laptop repaired is at the top of the list (well, to be fair, the things that need doing are *so far* beyond the refund that I might as well just go ahead and do what I *want* rather than what I actually *need*). I am not at all enamored of the drive to get it to the repair place, but I'll get to it *RSN*.

Agh—now a *Foster* illo that can cause headaches with its optical...um...illusion?

I actually got a cold last year, I think it was. It did what a good little cold should do and was gone in a week. However, what it *did* do was to let me know whatever-it-was that I have had twice in the past five or six years (and lasted more than a month or two each!) were *not* colds.

Hope *Lloyd* has located an employer for a source of funding for *LonCon 3*—at least I really hope they can make it!

[*See his LOC below.*]

Stop the presses—well, you know what I mean...April 3—today is the day I took this laptop in to be repaired. I had to go into the historic part of Frederick. This is an old town that has managed to avoid being dragged into modern traffic. I don't

go there very often, for obvious reasons. The roads are narrow, have parking on both sides, and arbitrarily (without any warning I can find) go from two direction traffic to one way. I can find no rhyme or reason for the numerous one way streets that abound. On top of that, street names can be East South Street...West North Street and so on. I tried to make turns based on what *seemed* reasonable to get me back to where I had, obviously, made a wrong turn but that didn't work and I was confronted with more one way streets the wrong way. I had called the computer place ahead of time and asked what the parking meters took in the way of change—and had a pocket full of quarters. This would have been perfect if I had found any vacant spots. I got soooooo lost so many times. On the first go round I saw a sign for parking. At that point my main goal was to get back to the sign and then walk whatever the distance was to the repairplace. Fast forward (heart racing, and fearing for my life—expecting to get creamed in an auto crash while heading the wrong way...) I made it back to the sign and pulled into the parking structure. Then I had to ask if they took credit cards since all I had was...quarters. I headed down to the pay kiosk and asked a patron who was trying to pay his bill if you paid before leaving (on foot) or when ready to drive out. Ironically, he mumbled something and, taking a chance, I asked in French if one paid on departure—he assured me yes, obviously pleased he did not have to figure out the English response! Okay—carrying the laptop, the package that had arrived that day with the OEM replacement battery (which started this whole mess) and a used lower case for the repairman to replace. *Apple* would not do the repair—saying this is a vintage machine and they cannot get parts—I offered to buy them used and...So, I lugged everything in and the guy just signaled me to come on back to the work bay to explain what I needed. As soon as I got to the part about replacing the lower case he just asked—*why*. I explained I wanted the laptop to actually be portable and buying a newer one just was not going to happen since I needed access to an older operating system. He accepted that, then mentioned that the tiny part that had broken and made all this necessary had absolutely no function other than to help hold the battery inside the case—which I already knew. He said they could not get a new battery—so I hauled out the new one I had just received that morning. Okay—what next? He took a look at the used lower case and apologized—saying he would not feel comfortable installing it since it actually was a knock-off and not an actual *Mac* part. *But*, out came something that looked like a blunt stylus. He took the broken part out (called a coin slot since no one knows what the real name is) by simply peeling off the tape I had over it. Next he slid the new battery into place and began turning the innards of the slot using the stylus—engaging the prongs that connected to the battery. He put the tape back on and gave the laptop a really really tough shake then hit the power button. *Eureka!* He went on to boot up and said this battery ought to last me three years or so and by that time I will no longer be able to even buy a replacement battery. He also went on to explain there is a, rather unsatisfactory, workaround for my old software. At some point it will be necessary to use a system that simply will not open or edit any/all my *FreeHand* files—including ones like the colored images on these pages. Bottom line—he told me no charge, that I had already paid enough in having to deal with the traffic flow.



Addendum—I wanted to go to one organic (etc.) shop, know where it is, but had no idea how to get there from here. After trying for yet another 45 minutes and stopping for directions four times (I *really hate* “You can’t miss it”), I gave up and came home to just get the battery charged.



[*There might be shareware out there to convert files from obsolete formats, so you at least won't lose all your old work.*]

So, on with the show now that I shouldn't lose everything when the charger connection gets lost!

I went back just before the nominating period ended (*Hugos*) and filled in a few more blanks before hitting submit again. There is still no acknowledgement of receipt, so I really have no idea if it did what it is supposed to do or not. I have the personal satisfaction that I *tried*. I hope all your readers who are qualified did likewise (well, not exactly, but nominated).

Cosmos has gone on my list of TV shows to be taped. There is now a pile of over 60 tapes on the desk—I am only a bit over two months behind! Things really snowballed when *WETA-UK* started broadcasting—too many shows and too little time!

I have to admit that I don't understand the brouhaha over the *Hugo* presenter for *LonCon 3*—but I appreciate that the choice really upset a lot of people.

Well, for the first time in about two years I did not lose text once the battery was installed. How little it can take to keep me happy!

Thanks!

'Bye,
Sheryl

Kathleen Moore
manxkat@sphericalcows.net

Monday 14 April 2014

Good evening, Felicity.

I did a fast read of the text-only April *BCSFazine*. What fun! I look forward to getting the paper copy, too. The cover illos are always great.

[*Thanks!*]

I did spot a little error in the upcoming events calendar: the April dates for Friday night boardgaming at Drexoll are actually *Saturday* dates. The May dates are OK. Don't have the foggiest idea how that happened.

[*Well-spotted! I've fixed it for the print edition.*]

As for your poor correspondent trapped in the Gestetner machine—what colour of Gestetner paper does (s)he want most? I have multiple full packets of pink, blue, buff, and canary gracing my modest coffee table, plus smaller quantities of green, teal, white, yellow and cherry-red.

Regards,

Yer straight-line Treasurer,
Kathleen

P.S. Nice to see so much material from Fruvous' other cousin, Bert. What is he doing these days, besides wildly exceeding minac?

[This would be a good time to go through the credits for last issue's material. This year, all spurious letters of comment are by Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand, with names and addresses provided by me. I composed the WAHF list. Facetious calendar events attributed to "Bert M. Rand" are by Fruvous and the unattributed ones are by me. The excellent parody meeting notes were written by Fruvous with anagrammatic pseudonyms added by me. I wrote the image captions. Typography acknowledgement: the premise of the last two years' April issues would have not been possible without the fonts of John H. Isles (QXZ) of FontStruct.]

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Tuesday 15 April 2014

Hi Felicity,

May be a bit disconnected.

"...as a man he was brave, generous, frank and good, and that the paradox which is the total effect of his work is not to be understood in solely personal terms, but in terms of the pressures of a whole situation. I would certainly insist that his conclusions have no general validity, but the fact is, in contemporary society, that good men are driven again and again to this kind of paradox, and that denunciation of them 'He...runs shrieking into the arms of the capitalist publishers with a couple of horror comics which bring him fame and fortune' is arrogant and crass. We have, rather, to try to understand, in the detail of experience, how the instincts of humanity can break down under pressure into an inhuman paradox; how a great and humane tradition can seem at times, to all of us, to disintegrate into a caustic dust."

That was all written about someone¹ else of a previous generation. It seems appropriate to the Alan Moore/Grant Morrison feud no matter which side you are on. I propose they settle it with a wizards' duel since both have some pretensions to occult powers. The winner can display the loser on a leash as his new pet froggie.

[He did horror comics?! The Moore/Morrison feud is decade-spanning and convoluted. Fun conspiracy theory: what if it's all a work?]

I found a site that claims to have all issues of the *Purple Claw* comic. I remember that one fondly from the EC days before some looney decided comics would ruin young people's minds. I attribute my own ruin at the time to Churchill's history of WW 2. An adult said I couldn't read it, so I read some aloud to him. This led to adults falling silent at my approach. The Claw was from a giant spider and gave its wearer powers.



I was amazed at the change in the pictures from colour to B/W. That really worked. I have to restrain myself from flooding you with such things. I spent far too much over the years on such useless material because it was fun to do. I know I have let down the human race by failing to be serious.

1 George Orwell.—Dave Haren

We finally got the right Republican candidate, thanks to Charlie Stross who was inspired at the pub.

I hope the Ukrainian SF people still have a sense of humour as NATO joins the Nazis for a mini repeat of WW 2. The US loons have decided to back Al Quaida in Syria. I think Ed Wood is writing the history scripts these days.

[*He's all about the future. It is, after all, where we are going to spend the rest of our lives.*]



"Don't change bears in midstream."

The current buzz amongst comp security types is suspicion that BND was the instigators of the broken SSL code causing Heartbleed to give attackers invisible system access through what was supposed to make you safer. It is going to be a long time before this one gets fixed in any satisfactory manner. Turns out there is a lot of it loose in embedded things like the routers.

CJ Cherryh is building a fence. As with most of their projects, it isn't quite as smooth as it sounds. If they survive (Jane Fancher is the other part of they) you can hit the upcoming con in Spokane, Washington to see them in person.

Our Comrade the Electron: https://static.pinboard.in/webstock_2014.htm

Make sure you read all the way down to the punch line.

[*AOL's digital prophet may not predict well, but he has great hair. The cat playing the theremin is cute.*]

Since I'm confessing to youthful enthusiasms, L. Frank Baum did the *Wizard of Oz* books. I thought they were great when I found them in the public library. I returned as a teen to discover they were all wordplay and puns. Gutenberg #45347 is one of his I hadn't seen before: *An Electrical Fairy Tale*. It's on my stack to read now.

Chycho blog has pictures and videos from Vancouver's Diplomacy Championship. The game is easy. The bad blood and desire for revenge it generates is absolutely amazing. Nobody who plays is ever doing it for the game which is current. They are playing to get even for a previous real or imagined slight. I highly recommend the game.

[*Sounds like Paranoia!*]

Warm regards,

Dave Haren

[*Attached illos (in the order used in this column) are*] Aphid SF army (with 1:72 human for size), our candidate on the charge, fishmen with various armaments.

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Thursday 1 May 2013

Hey there BCSFans! Here I am with another wacky LOC. What can I say, I just love seeing my words in print!

Speaking of which, I hope you folks enjoyed the various bits of April Fool's silliness I wrote for the April issue. I am my own harshest critic and so I never know whether what I write is any good until I get feedback.

And that's ten straight miles of neurosis all by itself.

Re: John Purcell's comments about literary black holes: I know how you feel. It is truly a strange age where it has never been harder to keep abreast of science fiction as a whole, and at the same time, it has never been easier to find other people who have read the exact same thing you just finished reading. There is a profound chemical process of atomization and reformulation going on in the world today. We are forming newer and stranger molecules than ever before.

And who know where all that will lead?

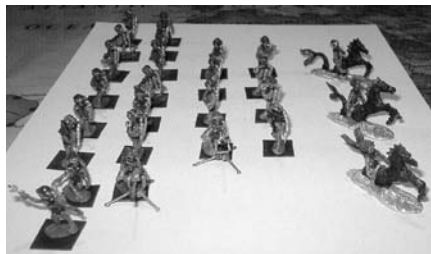
Re: Brent Francis' tales of *Carry On Sergeant's* woes: as a creative type myself, I read the story of all that went wrong with that movie with both horror and amusement. The actions of people who have no idea what they are doing never cease to amaze me. These people are going on gut instinct and raw emotion alone, and usually, that results in hilarious ways to spectacularly fail.

Novel, too. Trying to make a movie by improvising as you go. What a unique idea!

Well, that's enough falderol (ask your doctor if Falderol is right for you) for this month. Have a nice May, everyone!

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Wednesday 7 May 2014



Hi Felicity,

Cherryh and Fancher are going to marry.

The attachment² is of something I found.

The game might even work...*grin*.

Do a search for Vox Day and don't believe anyone in the latest Loncon dust-up over the Hugos.

This is why Graeme loves fandom. They can be so serious about things that aren't any of their business.

Warm regards,
Dave

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

Monday 12 May 2014

Dear Felicity:

Thank you kindly for the latest *BCSFazine*, issue 491, and my thanks to Kathleen Moore for continuing to finance the paper version of the zine, a true rarity in this e-age. Time for some comments.

2 E-zine *Printed Poison*.

There's Commander Rick on the cover! Has anyone sent Rick Green a copy of this zine? I am not sure *MST3K* could take shots at it, but the good commander sometimes took shots at some of the show's topics. At last, he did get a semi-sidekick in the form of NANCY.

[His Nano-Cybernetic Computer 3000. We know how he eats and breathes! They never said how he goes to the bathroom.]

Justin Bieber is not coming home any time soon, but perhaps we can come to a compromise. He seems to be in Toronto a lot facing charges of one kind or another, so perhaps we can find him a nice, clean cell somewhere where he can seek long-term or even permanent shelter, and the world can forget this extremely spoiled little boy.

An update to the Ford saga in this city...it's just been revealed there is evidence of both Ford brothers influence peddling as soon as they were first elected. This story has got real legs, and I can hardly wait for the police investigations into their activities to result in charges.



When I lived out west on Vancouver Island, I found that some didn't like me because I was from Toronto. That was the greatest complaint, Toronto was the centre of the universe. And, I found out a long time ago that for those who complained about this, they were the easiest to piss off if you used an example of what things were like back in Toronto. Canada's national sport is hating Toronto, and Toronto's favorite sport is pissing off the rest of the country...it seems so easy to do.

[Sometimes it doesn't feel like all the parts of Canada are in the same country. When Bruce Campbell made an appearance here 15 years ago on a book tour, he made fun of Jim Carrey, then apologized because Carrey was Canadian. Someone in the audience yelled "No, he's from Toronto!" Then he joked about William Shatner, then apologized again, and they yelled "He's from Montreal!" I wonder what Campbell made of it all. (I also wish I'd asked him to come with me to S-Mart on Davie Street and pose for a photo. That S-Mart is gone now.)

[I've been on another pro-wrestling kick lately, and I was recently remembering the time in 1998 when the WWF did a house show here in Vancouver. The Canadian wrestlers in that show were booked as faces, even though they were heels in the WWF at the time. Chris Jericho made his entrance waving the Canadian flag and the crowd popped. Of course, Jericho is billed as being from Western Canada, where he started his wrestling career, but hopefully we would also have cheered for a Torontonian like Edge, or a Montrealer like the Mountie.

[There's nothing wrong with being from Toronto, nor even using an example of what things are like in Toronto. It's a little impolite when someone from Toronto talks about how much better everything is in Toronto, and how much they'd rather be there than here. I used to have a friend that did that. I think he eventually moved back to Toronto! I'm sure he's happier there.

[Font trivia: Toronto was also the name of one of Susan Kare's "city" fonts for the 1980s Apple Macintosh. It was a slab serif that looked like this.³ I think of it every time I see the word "Toronto." (And that 1980s rock band.)]

3 [TrueType version by Rebecca Bettencourt.](#)

My LOC...time to make it all official. Yvonne and I have decided that we simply cannot afford to go to the London Worldcon, so we have cancelled our hotel room, and we are on the brink of selling our memberships.

And there I am on page 12. Mighod...that's from close to 25 years ago. The interview I did with Rick Green all those years ago was spread out through three episodes, all titled "Star Trek: The Old Generation." Find the episode called "Awards," Part III, and you will see that this was the year that *POG* won an Aurora Award, Yvonne accepted it for them, and she was mentioned at the end of that episode.

[We saw that episode at the apartment too!]

Thanks for the contact with TedDog3000 on YouTube, he's got all of *POG*'s first season. (I still have my *POG* t-shirt.)

[Cool!]

The WAHF list is the best ever!

[That makes two people who have read it!⁴ For those of you that haven't made it all the way through, try doing it in stages, or out loud, with a friend.]

And, there's probably someone out there who is saying that everyone who fits in those categories are going straight to hell. Well, I should hope so...it's warmer there. And, there we are listed as our anniversary happening on May 28. It will be 31 years for us.

Folding up, saving to the right folder, getting ready to e-mail...it's all in the process. Many thanks for this issue, and see you with the next.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

We Also Heard From: Spider Robinson, Patricia King.

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 2013–31 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

4 The other person was alert reader Julian Castle. Kudos, Julian!

meet other manga enthusiasts!” For more info call Children’s Library: 604-331-3663. Free.—[Julian Castle](#)

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](#)

3–7, 9–13, 17–21, 23–28, and 30 April and 2 May: [From Within: The Films of David Cronenberg](#) (film retrospective) at the Cinémathèque, 1131 Howe Street, Vancouver. 3 April: refreshments and intro: 6:30 PM doors, 7:30 PM *Videodrome* screening introduced by Ernest Mathijs (author of *The Cinema of David Cronenberg*). Films (sorted by year of feature):



Side effects may include ventral VCR.

Stereo (1969 sci-fi; Cronenberg’s first feature) preceded by *Transfer* (1966, 7 mins.; David’s first film), *Crimes of the Future* (1970; post-apocalyptic) preceded by *From the Drain* (1967, 13 mins.; David’s second short), *Shivers* AKA *They Came from Within* (1975 horror/SF; debated in parliament and “the first profitable CFDC-financed feature”), *Rabid* (1977 horror/SF), *The Brood* (1979 horror/SF) preceded by *Camera* (2000, 6 mins.), *Scanners* (1981 sci-fi/horror), *Videodrome* (1983 sci-fi/horror), *The Dead Zone* (1983 horror/SF), *The Fly* (1986 sci-fi/horror) preceded by *At the Suicide of the Last Jew in the World at [or in] the Last Cinema in the World* (2007, 4 mins.), *Naked Lunch* (1991 fantasy/drama), *Existenz* (1999 sci-fi/thriller) and nine other films. \$3 annual Cinémathèque membership required. Adult tickets:

\$11 single-bill; \$14 double-bill; \$108 ten double-bill passes. Senior/student tickets: \$9 single-bill; \$12 double-bill; \$88 ten double-bill passes.—[Julian Castle](#)

May 2014

May is Get Caught Reading Month.

1, 15, and 29 May and 12 and 26 June 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](#))

2 May 2014: **Martin Hunger’s** birthday. Space Day. Premiere of film *The Amazing Spider-Man 2* (superhero; Emma Stone, Jamie Foxx, Colm Feore, Paul Giamatti, Sally Field, Martin Sheen, Denis Leary, Stan Lee, Chris Cooper).

2–4 May 2014: [Gaylaxicon 21/Outlantacon 2014](#), in Atlanta, Georgia, USA. Annual sci-fi, fantasy & horror convention with focus on LGBT topics.—[Julian Castle](#)

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May and 6, 13, 20, and 27 June 2014: *Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games*, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Tonight is the night for *Magic: The Gathering* here at Imperial Hobbies! Drop by and play in a casual open setting with a group of great people, or learn one on one how to play with one of our staff. Contact: [Stephanie](#).”

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May and 6, 13, 20, and 27 June 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](#)

3 May 2014: [Free Comic Book Day](#). Sponsored by your friendly neighbourhood comic shop. Comics: *Archie Comic Digest* (Archie Comics), *Avatar/Itty Bitty Hellboy/Juice Squeezers* (Dark Horse Comics), *Bongo Comics Free-for-All!* (Bongo Comics), *DC Comics—The New 52: Future’s End* (DC Comics), *Guardians of the Galaxy* (Marvel), *Hello Kitty: Surprise!* (Perfect Square), *Kaboom! Summer Blast 2014 FCBD Edition* (Boom! Studios), *Mighty Morphin Power Rangers* (Papercutz), *Rise of the Magi #0* (Image), *Spongebob Freestyle Funnies* (United Plankton Pictures), *Transformers vs. G.I. Joe* (IDW Publishing), *Uncle Scrooge: A Matter of Some Gravity* (Fantagraphics Books).

3 May 2014: Dave Con, 10 AM–5:30 PM at Dave’s Pop Culture, 4962 Bridge Street, Delta. “Free Comic Day *and* lots and lots of good deals at Dave’s!!!! I mean lots of great deals!!!!”—Dave Strutt

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May and 7, 14, 21, and 28 June 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

4 May 2014: Star Wars Day/Talk Like Yoda Day. Cinco de Cuatro.

4, 11, 18, and 25 May and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 June 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

5, 12, 19, and 26 May and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June 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

5, 12, 19, and 26 May and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June (*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

6, 13, 20, and 27 May and 3, 10, 17, and 24 June (*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

6, 13, 20, and 27 May and 3, 10, 17, and 24 June 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

7 May 2014: **Chad Bryant**’s birthday.

7 and 21 May and 4 and 18 June 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

7, 14, 21, and 28 May and 4, 11, 18, and 25 June 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

8 May and 12 June 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

8 May and 12 June 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](#)

8–11, 13–18, 20–25, and 27–31 May and 1, 3–8, 10–15, 17–22, 24–29 June 2014 (Tuesdays–Sundays): [Monty Python’s Spamalot](#) (musical comedy) at Stanley Industrial Alliance Stage, 2750 Granville Street (at 12th Avenue), Vancouver. Tuesdays 7:30 PM. Wednesdays & Saturdays 2 PM & 8 PM. Thursdays & Fridays 8 PM. Sundays 2 PM. 18 May, 2 PM: Sunday Coffee Talk. 21 May, 2 PM: Wednesday High Tea. 27 May, 7:30 PM: Talk Back Tuesday. 1 June, 2 PM: VocalEye Performance (for blind or visually-impaired). Tickets: zone A \$70, zone B \$50, zone C \$29. Student matinees: \$25 (on 14, 21, and 29 May and 4, 11, 18, and 25 June).—[Julian Castle](#)

11 May 2014: Twilight Zone Day.

11 May 2014: [BA Campaign: Scenario 5](#), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “*The Road to War—Bolt Action Escalation Series*. Starting mid-March, Imperial Hobbies will be hosting an escalation league for the *Bolt Action* 28 mm wargame. Starting at 500 Pts for the month of March, each month will feature an increase of 250 Pts to bring players up to the tournament standard (1000 Pts) in May. Each event date will feature one of the possible scenarios from the rule book. Finally, on May 25th there will be a 1000-point tournament featuring the scenarios used during each of the event Sundays. Contact: [Chris](#).”

13 May 2014: [Monty Python’s Spamalot](#)—movie musicals (*free* talk), 7–8:30 PM at Vancouver Public Library—Central Library, Alice MacKay Room, Lower Level, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. What distinguishes musicals made for the stage from those made for the cinema? For more info phone VPL at 604-331-3603.—[Julian Castle](#)

13 May 2014: [The Little Mermaid Singalong Fundraiser](#), 7–11 PM at the Junction, 1138 Davie Street, Vancouver. Doors open at 7 PM. Pre-show at 7:30 PM. Movie at 8 PM. Sing & dance through *The Little Mermaid* for [BC Superfriends](#)’s (“queer geeks and their allies in Greater Vancouver”) annual Pride fundraiser. Best costume contest. Disney cosplay highly encouraged. “162 people are going” (Facebook numbers on May 11). Suggested donation \$5 at the door.—[Julian Castle](#)

13 May and 10 June 2014 (*second Tuesday*): [Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch](#), 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver. “Second Tuesday of every month. In the Victorian tradition of conversation in coffee houses, this casual monthly event is open to everyone who wants to just get together and meet up with other local steampunks. Whether you’re new to steampunk or well-seasoned, young or old, silly or serious, please feel free to drop by. We can discuss whatever folks want, plan nefarious plots, or just relax, hang out, and get to chat with one another. Costumes welcome but not required—dress as you feel comfortable! I will be at least steamily accessorized, since I have to

work immediately beforehand. The only requirement for us to have this space is that everyone should purchase something at the coffee house. They offer teas, coffee, hot chocolate, and various cold beverages, as well as some baked goods.”—[Keith Lim](#)

15, 22, and 29 May and 5, 12, 19, and 26 June 2014: [Thursday Hobby Build Nights](#), 6–9 PM at [A3U Gundam](#), 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “Is your backlog looking rather full? Are un-built kits starting to stack up in your room? Bring your kits, tools and Gundam knowledge and come on down for three hours of quality build time. Share what you’re working on, ask for some help or just argue about if Kamille is a really a girl’s name (it is). Hobby nights are informal and fun ways to network and learn more about the gunplay community!”—[A3U Gundam](#)

16 May 2014: Premiere of film *Godzilla* (SF/action/kaiju; Bryan Cranston, Juliette Binoche, Ken Watanabe, David Strathairn, Garry Chalk).

16 May and 20 June 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](#)

17 May and 21 June 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](#)

18 May 2014: **William Honeywill**’s birthday.

18 May and 15 June 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](#)

19 May 2014: **Michael Bertrand**’s birthday.

19 May 2014: 2nd 3rd! Annual World Rapture Day: Rapture 2: The Raptoring, 6–9 PM, Earth.

20 May 2014: **Julian Castle**'s birthday.

21 May 2014: **Gina Lynn Post**'s birthday.

21 May 2014: Publication of *The Movement Volume 1: Class Warfare* TPB (Diamond item code FEB14 0255) written by Gail Simone. Comic book of superheroes & anonymous activist hackers partially based on various recent social movements.—Julian Castle

21 May 2014: There Is No Easy Mode—A Night of Video Game Trivia, 7–9 PM at EXP Restaurant, 309 West Pender Street, Vancouver. Hosted by West Coast Geeks Versus Nerds and EXP. Assemble a team of up to five people & see if you can best the quiz-masters. “Normal Mode” starts at 7 PM and “Hard Mode” starts at 8 PM. Prizes will be awarded to the top three teams from each mode. Prizes courtesy of sponsors: EXP, GameDeals, the Fictionals, the Connection, Metropolis Comics, Victory Square Games, Krang Games, Klei Entertainment, and Ninja Robot Dinosaur. Facebook link. No cover charge.—Julian Castle

22 May 2014: World Goth Day.

23 May 2014: Premiere of film *X-Men: Days of Future Past* (comic adaptation; Jennifer Lawrence, Michael Fassbender, Peter Dinklage, Hugh Jackman, Ellen Page, Anna Paquin, Ian McKellen, Halle Berry, Patrick Stewart).

23 May and 20 June 2014⁵: 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

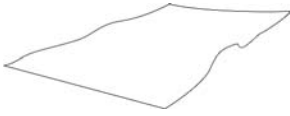
23–25 May 2014: Second Furlandia (furry convention) in Portland, Oregon.—Julian Castle

24 May 2014: Magic: The Gathering: Journey Into Nyx Game Day, 10 AM–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Join us for a game day celebration with the newest magic the gathering set. For more info please contact Stephanie.”

24–25 May 2014: Third Vancouver Comic Arts Festival (VanCAF), 10 AM–6 PM (Saturday) & 11 AM–5 PM (Sunday) at the Roundhouse, 181 Roundhouse Mews,

5 Every Friday night, according to Board Game Warriors.

Vancouver. “Weekend-long celebration of comics...admission to all events is completely free.”—[Julian Castle](#)



25 May 2014: Towel Day.

25 May 2014: [Vancouver Comic Con](#), 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15th Avenue), Vancouver. “Special guests: David Lasky (*The Carter Family: Don’t Forget This Song, Boom Boom*), 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-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](#)

25 May 2014: [Bolt Action Campaign Tournament](#), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. [See 11 May 2014 *BA* campaign description plus [event link](#) for rules.]

28 May 2014: **Lloyd and Yvonne Penney’s** anniversary.

30 May 2014: Premiere of film *Maleficent* (fantasy; Angelina Jolie, Elle Fanning, Sharlto Copley, Peter Capaldi, Miranda Richardson, Imelda Staunton).

31 May 2014: [Beginner Gunpla Class](#), 1–5 PM at [A3U Gundam](#), 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “This month is another beginner class [...]. The class is \$20 and includes the unique HGUC Guntank! Part tank, part Gundam, the Guntank is a formidable fighting machine straight out of *0079 Mobile Suit Gundam*! In this class, builders will learn the basics of plastic quality, different construction techniques, and some tips and tricks on improving the finished quality. *Spots available: 10.*”—[A3U Gundam](#)

31 May–1 June 2014: [Terminal City Tabletop Convention](#), 10 AM–12 AM (Saturday) & 10 AM–6 PM (Sunday) at Firefighters’ Banquet & Conference Centre (close to Metrotown Skytrain), 6515 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby. Early bird tickets prices end May 1, available via website. Full weekend: at door \$40, early bird \$35 + \$1.87 fee. Saturday only: at door \$25, early bird \$20 + \$1.49 fee. Sunday only: at door \$20, early bird \$15 + \$1.37 fee. Kids 10 & under get in free (must be accompanied by an adult, provide proof of age if asked, maximum two free child admissions per adult). [[Facebook link](#).]—[Julian Castle](#)

31 May and 28 June 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. Be-

sides 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

June 2014

1 June 2014: Retro and Relevant 2—Vancouver’s Retro and Modern Toy Show!, 11 AM–3:30 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. “Transformers, Star Wars, GI Joe, Lego, Gundam, Masters of the Universe, Ninja Turtles, Spawn, DC, Marvel, My Little Pony, Anime, Power Rangers, 1/6 figures, Mego, special guests, charity raffle, and much more! Toy raffle in support of BC Children’s Hospital Foundation. Early bird: 11 AM—\$10. General admission: 12 PM—\$4. Children 10 and under free!—Julian Castle



2 June 2014: **Lloyd Penney**’s birthday.

3 June 2014: **Karl Johanson**’s birthday.

4 June 2014: Hug Your Cat Day.

5 June 2014: **Alyssa Foote**’s birthday.

6 June 2014: Premiere of film *Edge of Tomorrow* (SF/action; Tom Cruise, Bill Paxton, Jeremy Piven).

6–8 June 2014: Northwest Pinball & Arcade Show in Tacoma, Washington.—Julian Castle

7 June 2014: Vancouver Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Admission: \$3; kids under 12 free. Free comic to the first 100 guests!⁶ Board games, cameras, Canucks memorabilia, CDs, DVDs, hardware, Hot Wheels, jewelry, magazines, manga, monitors, parts, printer refills, printers, records, software, *Star Wars*, toys & collectibles, VHS, video games, vintage comics, wrestling...and lots more at great prices! Dealer information: eight-foot tables \$40 each, or two for \$70! 604-521-6304. funpromo@shaw.ca. <http://www.fun-promo.com/>.”

8 June 2014: **Ian Boothby**’s birthday.

8 June 2014: Advance Gunpla Class, 1–5 PM at A3U Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby. “The advance class has finally returned! Featuring the HGAC Turn A Gundam, the first Gundam fitted with a manly combat moustache, unique among even classic collections, the Turn A will be an exciting class to learn advance techniques! *Sign up and pay at the store*: the class will cost \$40 and will require you to pick up and build the kit before attending the class. Some of the techniques our in-

6 Free comic may vary.

structor will go over include: paint chipping, battle damage, back painting, detail painting, panel lines with pin washes, oil filters, and posing theory. [...] *Spots available: 5.*”—[A3U Gundam](#)

11 June 2014: **Kathleen Moore** and **Ray Seredin**'s birthdays.

13 June 2014: Friday the 13th. Premiere of film *How to Train Your Dragon 2* (computer animation; Gerard Butler, Kristen Wiig, Jonah Hill, Cate Blanchett, Christopher Mintz-Plasse, America Ferrera, Djimon Hounsou, Craig Ferguson).

15 June 2014: **Jay Demetrick**'s birthday.

21 June 2014: Worldwide Party.—Dale Speirs

21 June 2014: [Eighth Annual Free RPG Day](#). A worldwide event to go to participating shops to play new games and get free stuff. “Established in 2007, Free RPG Day works with participating hobby game retailers and RPG publishers to bring new and exclusive RPG quickstart rules and adventure modules into the hands of gamers. Consumers *worldwide* will be able to grab brand new material for a variety of RPGs—no overstock, retail-priced or dead product here. The goal of Free RPG Day is to inspire gamers to play a new RPG, which will in turn, create sales through local game stores. Use the [retailer locator](#) to find a participating store near you!” Only BC shop in FRD shop locator (checked 27 April) is Drexoll Games, 103–2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver. Imperial Hobbies in Richmond said they are participating.—[Julian Castle](#)

23 June 2014: **Amos Iu**'s birthday.

25 June 2014: **Ed Beauregard**'s birthday.

25 June 2014: Publication of *The Massive Volume 3: Longship* 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](#)

26 June 2014: **Todd Bussey**'s birthday.

27 June 2014: Premiere of film *Transformers: Age of Extinction* (SF/action; Mark Wahlberg, Stanley Tucci, Kelsey Grammer, Peter Cullen).

27–29 June 2014: [Northwest Fanfest](#) (combination of three cons: Cos & Effect, Anime Evolution, Vancouver Gaming Expo) at University of British Columbia [*no address on flyer*]. “17,000 ft² of gaming. Massive 200-person LAN area: *League of Legends*, *DOTA 2*, *Starcraft 2*, [*and*] *Nidhogg* tournaments. *Dance Dance Revolution*—free play. Analog gaming: scheduled tabletop RPG gaming and freeplay, CCG tournaments (*Magic*, *Pokemon*, and more), *Friday Night Magic*, mahjong, board games, [*and*] demos. Next-gen and retro console systems: *Super Smash Bros.*, *Super*

Street Fighter IV AE, *Ultimate Marvel vs. Capcom 3*, [and] *Tetris* tournaments. Special programming: performance by ‘Missingno’ (jazz-style renditions of video-game music), ‘There Is No Easy Mode’ (video-game trivia with ‘WC Geeks vs. Nerds’), [and] ‘Minus World Improv’ (video-game-inspired comedy show with ‘The Fictionals’). We’re more than just gaming! Check out: the walkoff, costume contest, lolita fashion show, dances, special guests (*Sailor Moon* voice actors, Kieran Strange, and more), panels and workshops, vendors and artists, *Reboot 20th* anniversary party, [and] AMV contest! Back for 2014! The Gauntlet: Vancouver’s multi-genre gaming tournament, featuring *Cards Against Humanity* qualifier round, three competitive rounds, each a different genre of gaming, [and] a secret final round on the main stage. Get your passes online at northwestfanfest.com[.] Prereg before May 16th to save 20% on a three-day pass.

28 June 2014: **Toren Atkinson**’s birthday.

28–29 June 2014: Seattle Retro Gaming Expo.—Julian Castle

29 June 2014: **Leonard Wong**’s birthday.

30 June 2014: Meteor Day.

News-Like Matter

Notes from March 2014 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, William Graham, Stewart Smyth, and Sidney Trim.

Kathleen motioned to remove Doug Finnerty (former BCSFA vice president—resigned) and add Rose Wilson (WCSFA president) and Gregory Milne (WCSFA treasurer) for bank signing authority. Graeme seconded. All in favour.

Graeme was reading Golden Amazon stories and encountered a four-to-five-page lecture on something. I said, “Infodump Publications Presents.”

Ray announced his forthcoming stand-up comedy debut⁷ on Sunday 27 April 2014 at Lafflines Comedy Club (formerly Raymond Burr Theatre),⁸ 530 Columbia Street, New Westminster, on the same block as Army & Navy.

Stew asked something about the Ackermansion. Graeme said that in Forrest Ackerman’s garage were stories submitted by Ed Wood to Ackerman in hopes of Ackerman becoming his agent. Erotic stories involving women stripped down to their underwear and tied up in something. I guessed angora.



7 Ray did great!—Future Felicity

8 Skreconk.

Ray told stories about people who passed out at conventions. Graeme told the story of Tor Johnson at Ed Wood's party, passing out in the only exit to the room, with the result that no-one could leave until he woke up.

Ray said that he was in the movie *Survivors* (1984), which is about teen suicide. It was filmed the same weekend as *Constellation*. Ray was on the bus stuck behind the funeral procession, trying to get to the convention. In the movie Ray can be seen arguing with the driver, saying "Pass the procession."



William was wearing a down vest and camo pants, which together with his beard made him look like: a survivalist (according to me), or a guy from *Duck Dynasty* (according to Kathleen).

Someone said something about Scotland and the Edinburgh accent versus the Glasgow accent. Graeme said that he likes Craig Ferguson. I thought Ferguson's talk show had too much padding—time wasted mugging and going off on tangents. Joe said his parents say the same thing about Jimmy Fallon. Graeme said that that's the style now, and added that Seth Myers' monologues are oddly detached, and the jokes don't connect. I thought that could be a habit left over from his days on *Saturday Night Live*'s "Weekend Update."

Graeme asked if anyone in was suspense over the North Korean election (Glorious Leader the only candidate), and added that there was a vote in Crimea: join Russia or be an independent country. The Tartars, who wanted neither outcome, abstained. Graeme hoped the Zorany Shlyah guys—two fans in Ukraine who corresponded with *BCSFazine* in the 1990s—are still safe. I took out a copy of *BCSFazine* #258 to show an example of a their column. Graeme (who edited that issue) pointed out that the cover "Ether Ship Approaching Mercury" was a photocollage he made from actual photos of a man repairing a panel on the *Graf Zeppelin*, the planet Mercury, and a starfield. It was so well-assembled that no-one noticed!



Sid said that he was listening to NPR on the Internet and someone was describing an alternative history where, if there were no World War I, we'd be using Zeppelins (helium!) for transportation and planes only for war. Graeme said that people who rode on Zeppelins loved it—everyone did. I said, "Except that one time." Fru replied, "Even they loved it, up until the end." Joe added, "The landing."

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by Graeme Cameron

Sunday 16 March 2014

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

MACINTOSH II

"IT'S PATRICK, HE TOOK OUT LIFE INSURANCE"

"BATTLETECH" COMICS

Notes from April 2014 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, William Graham, Stewart Smyth, and Sidney Trim.

Graeme had added Steve Forty’s zine donations to the club archives and had brought some of the duplicates for me to have.

Graeme told us his theory that the people of Italy like politicians that make them laugh. This is also Fru’s theory about Newfoundland.



Schank looking a little like Meaty Fontana.

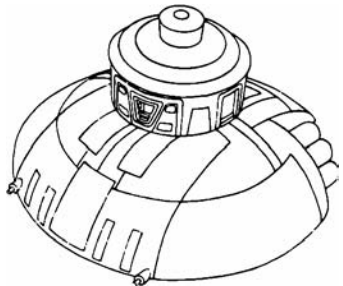
Graeme found an old record by Henry Miller, which was just Miller talking. He ended every sentence with “doncha know.” That reminded me of Mike Schank from *American Movie* (1999), the premise of which I explained. Fru said “*American Tragedy*” because Mark Borchartd did everything society tells us to do—worked hard, sacrificed everything, pursued his dreams—but still didn’t succeed. Graeme said that Ed Wood just loved making movies, even if they never got shown. I admire Borchartd and Wood.

I had asked online if Graeme had heard of the L. Ron Hubbard Awards, which I’d just encountered somewhere. Graeme had, and added that they’ve been around for 20 years or more. Algis “AJ” Budrys, who said that Hubbard cured his vision with Dianetics, occasionally served as a judge for the awards. He would not say a word against LRH, but privately said that “Scientology takes advantage of SF, but we’re taking advantage of Scientology,” presumably meaning that he used the wealth of the church to discover and promote new SF authors.

Graeme’s latest discovery at the new Surrey library was a book, published by the BC Writers’ Federation, and written by a guy who had patented a spaceship perpetual motion machine. The book does not describe the device; the book is all the letters he wrote—to NASA, to China, to various people in Europe. The closest thing to an illustration of the ship was ultraviolet photographs of pulleys. Kathleen pointed out that a perpetual motion *spaceship* would not only need enough power to run itself indefinitely but also extra power to escape Earth’s gravity well. Graeme replied that the author said the ship could do that with four of his perpetual motion machines, and then it could fly anywhere in the solar system quickly and efficiently. He also invented “the safety safety pin” (?).

Graeme talked about an early UFO hoaxer who made fake sightings with vacuum cleaners and house lights. He stopped off here in Vancouver, but the local media had done their homework, and ripped into him. He was not fazed—he just kept to his talking points—and the next day there were complaints from the public about the way the media had treated the poor guy.

Ray gave us some tickets to his stand-up comedy debut. He said that he will be working the



place name “Spuzzum” into his comedy. Spuzzum⁹ is a great comedy place-name, and Fru and I’ve used it in our sketch comedy writing. I’ve also used Crapaud¹⁰ and Pouce Coupe.¹¹ William’s mother was a telephone operator and once said “Poo Scoopy”; the operator next to her corrected her.

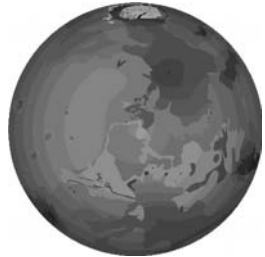


We all contributed money toward the rental fee for the rec room. This made me think of a weird moment in the *Transformers* episode “Five Faces of Darkness, Part 1”: when Cyclonus is collecting energon, he says “Give, my fellow Decepticons! *Gi-i-ive* ’til it *hu-u-urts!*” in a televangelist voice. It seemed out of character for Cyclonus. Graeme said, “Some writers can’t resist.”

Graeme mentioned that two or three of this year’s Elrons would be given at the Aurora banquet by Michael Walsh, and the remainder by Graeme at the regular Elron panel on Sunday. The Aurora Awards banquet is only open to about 100 people, so buy your ticket ahead of time. After the banquet, the doors are opened to the public for the awards. Some seating will be set aside. The four banquet Elrons may be during the closed part, but can be quickly recapped the next day if so.

I had a 1962 children’s science book to give away. Stew, Sid, Fru, and Graeme said that back then, Pluto was still a planet, Nicholas was still a saint, Venus had only recently been found hot, Mars was still guess-work (pre-Viking), and Mercury was still thought to be tidally locked with the Sun.

I mentioned the recent news story about a probe seeing a light on Mars. I had not read [the article](#) carefully enough, and thought that *NASA* was saying that this light was definitely made by intelligent life, and could not be an optical artifact. On closer examination, it wasn’t *NASA*, but the webmaster of [UFO Sightings Daily](#), who made that claim. Also, [it turned out to be a cosmic ray](#). This reminded Graeme of when he came home from work, turned on CTV news and the anchor said, “...and life discovered on Mars, after this commercial break!”, and Graeme was very excited for three minutes, until they came back and it turned out to be a possible fossil bacteria found in a meteorite from Mars, or maybe it was just a fossil mud flake. Scientists couldn’t tell. He added that talking to archaeologists is frustrating because you can’t pin them down on anything. It’s all suppositions. “Well, they *could* have been cannibals...” Fruvous said, “Or one guy was a psycho!” and then mentioned the Dunning-Kruger effect.



Graeme had just watched *Invasion USA* (1952),¹² and recognized the announcer’s voice from somewhere. There was a lot of stock footage, and the invasion was a long dream sequence. It was a big guilt trip: “Draft now! Mobilize industry!” Graeme liked the part with the senators racing into the hallway, only to be machine-

9 BC.

10 PEI.

11 BC.

12 (Not the Chuck Norris one.)

gunned by waiting Russian soldiers. It reminded me of the White House exploding in *Independence Day* (1996), Joe of “They killed Congress!” in *Mars Attacks!* (1996), and Graeme of Godzilla destroying the recently built, hideously expensive Tokyo City Hall [in *Godzilla vs. King Ghidorah* (1991)?].

Someone asked about the new *Godzilla* (2014). I said it was filmed here, and Stan Hyde has a cameo! As for *Godzilla* (1998), the American version, the one thing Graeme liked was the effect of Godzilla’s eye at the end of a tunnel. Fru said he saw that movie in a theatre in Silicon Valley, with an audience of nerds, who were *not* happy.

Someone asked who was in the new version, and I said Bryan Cranston, and speculated that he may play the Raymond Burr role.¹³ Stew said that Steve Martin should have played a reporter named “Raymond Burr” in *Godzilla* (1998).

Someone (Kathleen, Stew, or Graeme?) said that *pure* water is not a conductor, though Kathleen added that you can’t get truly pure water, with a pH of exactly 7. I said that I buy alkaline water from a shop in Steveston called Pure Water, where you can decide how alkaline you want it to be, on a numbered scale. I didn’t remember the numbers so as a random example number I said seven. Kathleen said that would be corrosive (meaning pH 14?). Graeme said it was a good omen that it was called “Pure Water,” and not “So-And-So’s Beverage and Sewage Systems, Inc.” Graeme added that recycled water is “the drink of astronauts!” Stew quoted George Carlin who said that if Tidy Bowl made a juice, no-one would buy it.



“Just butter it.”

Someone talked about rat footprints in the butter. My first cat once found a stick of butter sitting on our counter in the middle of the night. When we came downstairs the next day there were cat tongue grooves in the butter. Every night thereafter the cat went on “counter patrol” to see if butter or anything else tasty had been left out for him.

Stew mentioned British radio comedian Tony Hancock saying “Bluetits drank my milk!” Someone explained that birds need fat in the winter. This reminded someone of David Letterman wearing a suet suit.

Graeme asked, “What do you think about Colbert replacing Letterman?” Graeme thought that Colbert has cogs and gears we’ve never seen, and won’t just amalgamate past talk-show hosts (though I wanted to see Colbert take Letterman’s quickening). I said that rather than find a replacement for *The Colbert Report*, I would enjoy an hour-long *Daily Show*. Joe liked the idea because that way Jon Stewart wouldn’t have to keep saying “We’ll throw the rest of the interview on the Web.”

Stew saw on LiveJournal that the Caboodle Ranch, a free-range cat rescue/sanctuary, got raided. Fru wondered if someone who doesn’t like the owner lied to the ASPCA to get them to go out there. Kathleen said that the ASPCA takes a dim view of false reports.¹⁴

13 From *Godzilla, King of the Monsters!* (1956).

14 If the information at [this link](#) is true, the cats were hoarded and then neglected.—
Future Felicity

Stew asked “Is there a kind of arthritis that prevents you from using the shift key?” I said “EE Cummings disease,” and then explained how in the early 1980s my father used CompuServe and didn’t believe in using the shift key because when you pay by the minute, every keystroke costs money. Also, I “failed” typing class in grade nine because your grade was based on your words per minute, and I typed at 109 WPM, and the computer truncated that to “09” (foreshadowing Y2K). Stew asked how court stenographers type all the words in the transcript with only five keys. Several of us replied that it was shorthand, and Fru added, “And keys in combination.” I imagined Chinese typewriters where it would take more than one key to build a character. You type part of a character and the next key adds another mark. Kathleen saw a picture of a Chinese keyboard and it was huge and had lots of keys.¹⁵

Someone (Stew?) said the latest thing outraging old people is that schools have stopped teaching cursive. I’m sad about that and I’m not even old! I’m just a lettering fan. Fru said it’s OK with him because he never could write cursive. Someone said cursive will become like calligraphy.

I said that old people’s handwriting is beautiful. Graeme said that when he was working at the American Can Company of Canada in the early ’70s he had to go through ledger-style books of records. The handwriting was beautiful from the 1890s to 1940s, then started to decline, until by the 1970s it was illegible. Kathleen said “Remember copperplate?” I just recently re-taught myself architectural lettering. Graeme said that Cicero’s slave secretary Tiro is alleged to have invented a system of shorthand in the waning days of the Roman republic. Someone asked what it looked like. I guessed chiselled.



Kathleen and Stew asked if FRED is still happening. Someone said no. We talked about bringing it back, maybe in Richmond where Joe, Fruvous, Julian and I already go out to restaurants every week. But where to hold it? Fru said that ABC Country Restaurant (Richmond) is semi-close to a SkyTrain station. I was pleasantly surprised when Kathleen said that FRED was not meant to be someplace loud, but she added that it *is* a pub event. I asked if quiet pubs existed. Kathleen replied that a hotel lounge might work. She also considered the Storm Crow Tavern on Commercial Drive, though as with anywhere central in the city, parking is a problem.

I had a delightfully immature sketch idea, a show called *Toilet Round-Table*. The panellists would be seated on a circle of toilets while discussing serious matters and occasionally going to the bathroom. I asked whether it would be better if there were a table obscuring the lower half of the proceedings or not. It would certainly be easier to film if the toilets were implied. The people who heard the idea¹⁶ said that it would be better if there were a table. (It would probably be a very short piece, along the lines of *Almost Live!*’s “...Will Not Be Seen Tonight” cold openings.)

15 More details in next month’s letter column.—Future Felicity

16 Lucky them.

Stew mentioned *Lost in Space*. I said that one of the few episodes I'd seen and remembered had Dr. Smith wearing a pageboy wig on a planet of teenagers. Stew said that was "The Promised Planet."¹⁷ He added that there was an episode with space bikers and one was played by a young Daniel J. Travanti!¹⁸ Stew said that *Lost in Space* also had the first black actor in science fiction TV: Lamar Lundy as a cyclops in the pilot episode.¹⁹

In the early 1990s *Starlog* reported that a network executive's wife thought *Lost in Space*'s silver spacesuits were "too sexy" and that's why they were replaced with the fuzzier velour costumes. Stew countered that the spacesuits were used throughout the entire run of the show whenever the characters were flying, and thought this must be an urban legend, like Mister Rogers being an ex-sniper, Beaver dying in Vietnam, and Mikey being killed by Coke and Pop Rocks.²⁰

Stew said that his last name is actually pronounced "Smith" but his family stopped correcting people. The one time someone got it right, it was a man from Ireland.



Felicity Walker

Additional writing by Kathleen Moore and R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 13 April 2014

Salt Spring Island Board Game Restaurant Closed

Follow-up to "BC Crowd-Fundraiser: New Board Game Restaurant on Salt Spring Island" printed in *BCSFazine* #482 (July 2013). Sad news:

"5 November 2013

"The Gathering is closed.

"We appreciated everyone's support. Thank you all very much. We had a lot of challenges early on that were difficult to recover from. It was an honour to cook and care for Salt Spring Island, both locals and visitors too! We loved what we were doing.

"If you need to get in touch with either of us, the Facebook page is still up and you can leave us a message there.

"From the Gathering, Jonathan & Bryan."

<https://www.facebook.com/thegatheringSSI>

Julian Castle

Sunday 20 April 2014

17 (24 January 1968).—Future Felicity

18 "Collision of the Planets" (8 November 1967).—Future Felicity

19 "No Place to Hide" (1965) (unaired, but footage reused in a later episode, as with *Star Trek*'s "The Cage").—Future Felicity

20 For the 1986 sequel advertisement featuring a grown-up "Uncle" Mikey getting his nephew and niece to try Life cereal, I thought it would have been clever if the niece had said "I thought you were killed by Coke and Pop Rocks!" and the nephew had added "I heard you died in Vietnam!"

Queer Sci-Fi Zines at VPL Library

Wandered across two queer science-fiction zines at VPL central library's zine collection (on level three).

(1) *FAQNP's—A Queer Nerd Publication*

http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/3534747038_faqp

Branch Call Number: ZINE—SEXUALITY

and

(2) *Oblast #15*

http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/3535209038_oblast_15

Branch Call Number: ZINE—PERSONAL

Publisher: [Halifax, NS: M. Murray, 2012.]

Info on the cover that didn't make it into VPL catalog: "A Sci-Fi Punk Per-Zine."

Julian Castle to BC-Nerds Yahoo! Group

Monday 28 April 2014



"Vote for me!"

Vote for Rondo!

Hi y'all. Just a quick plug for the Rondo Awards—annual competition from the Classic Horror Film Board for best horror movies/DVDs/magazines etc. of the year (named after cult star Rondo Hatton). Anybody can vote & it's really fun. Deadline is midnight (natch) Sunday May 5.

<http://www.rondoaward.com/>

Brent Francis

Tuesday 29 April 2014

Bob Hoskins (1942–2014)

Bob Hoskins: British actor, screenwriter and director, died 29 April aged 71; he had been suffering from Parkinson's disease and was receiving hospital treatment for pneumonia. Hoskins became a household name after taking the lead in Dennis Potter's musical fantasy *Pennies from Heaven* (1978); other appearances include *Brazil* (1985), *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* (1988), *Hook* (1991), *Super Mario Bros.* (1993), a 1996 episode of *Tales from the Crypt*, *The Lost World* (2001), *Son of the Mask* (2005), *Doomsday* (2008), *A Christmas Carol* (2009) and *Snow White and the Huntsman* (2012). He reprised the role of Smee from *Hook* in the 2011 mini-series *Neverland*.

[*He also starred in Heart Condition (1990), playing a man haunted by the ghost of the donor for his heart transplant.—Felicity*]

Steve Green

Wednesday 30 April 2014

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

"WHOEVER DIES WITH THE MOST FONTS WINS"
"ACTION CATS"

2014 Aurora Awards Announcement

This notice is going out to all current and past CSFFA members.

We are proud to announce that the 2014 Aurora Award ballot has been posted on our website: www.prixaurorawards.ca. As usual it is a great list. Voting will begin this weekend but you will all need time to review the ballot, read the works and then make up your mind.

We know some of you are anxious to vote for a favourite work, and have kept up well with published works in some categories, but we recommend you wait for the voter's package before voting. That way, you can become familiar with even more of the nominated works and activities, and perhaps vote in additional categories.

Voting will close at midnight (end of day) on Saturday, September 6th, 2014 EDT. That's right, Eastern Daylight Time. This allows our Western support team to be able to go to bed at a reasonable hour. We stay up to make sure everyone has a chance to vote. If you live on the west coast voting will close at 9 PM. Our webpage shows you how many days and hours are left before voting closes.

Vote for what you know. We will be doing our voter's package again this year. The electronic versions of these nominated works are made available to CSFFA members through the generosity of the nominees and their publishers. The package is there to give you the ability to become more familiar with each nominated work so you can make an educated vote. The package will be available in a week or two.

On a sad note, due to a lack of nominations in the Fan Publication category there were insufficient viable nominees. We require a minimum of three nominated works with each getting at least five nominations for a category to be placed on the ballot. On a happier note, a number of our categories had ties for fifth place. Our short fiction category had a three way tie so there are seven short stories for you to read and vote on. We are especially pleased with the other Fan categories that are on the ballot this year. Check them out!

The awards will be given out in Vancouver at VCON 39 (www.vcon.ca) on the weekend of October 3–5, 2014 at a banquet on Saturday.

Thank you for your time and good luck to all the nominees.

Yours,

Clifford Samuels

Aurora Awards Committee

www.prixaurorawards.ca

Aurora Awards Admin

Thursday 1 May 2014



Anything for a Buck

Relating Events That Took Place at the Third Ditto, Held in Chicago by Dick and Leah Smith in 1990.

Taral Wayne

[This article was previously published in *State of the Art* #24 (September 1991, edited by Taral Wayne).]



Ditto. Okay, I thought. I brought something. No one cared to bid on it, but that wasn't my problem. I'd held up my end of the bargain.

More important to me, I also brought pretty damn near everything I believed had the slightest chance of selling. Art? Yes—that. Also t-shirts, several different mail order booklets, an expensive limited edition portfolio, a selection of custom nametags, black and white prints (that I also offered to colour), as well as flyers for all of the above. I hoped to sell everything but my “virtue,” and maybe sell even that—if I didn't have to pay *the buyer* too much.

I picked a nice, centrally located table in the “fanac” room. There was nothing on it. The “Canadian thing to do” would have been to pick the *second best* table, but I was in America and would do as the Americans do, and claim my right to the *choicest* spot. My t-shirts took up one entire end of the table. Laid neatly out, side by side, the coloured art made a moderately impressive display. I needed just a little more space, though, for the mail order booklets. They filled one end of the next table over. There were almost no exhibits in the rest of the room, so I thought, “Why not?” The flyers, my portfolio and other merchandise took up the end of the table on the *other* side. Again, *why not?*

Leah *told* me why not. Most of the tables would be needed for computer equipment, ditto mastering, flyers and fanzines, not to mention Delphyne-Joan-Hanke-Woods-Mori's artwork (which hadn't arrived yet).²¹

Reluctantly, I moved my whole kit and kaboodle to a single table that was half the size of the first, and necessarily made do. Leaning the art against the wall did most of the trick...

21 Joan Woods was one of those fans whose names constantly changed and grew. First she married another fan named “Hanke.” Then she added “Delphyne.” Later she began to sign her name to her art with a Japanese chop that meant “Mori.” If she followed the pattern set by many fans before her, she is probably just Joan Hanke-Woods today, or maybe even just Joan Woods. She seemed to drop from fandom's sight not long after winning her Fanartist Hugo...something else for which there is too much precedence. But, perhaps she hadn't dropped out entirely. Not long ago, the name “Delphyne Woods” popped out of a letter column or a web site somewhere.

Delphyne-Joan-Hanke-Woods-Etc. arrived shortly after. Taking an identical table next to mine, she unpacked her matted drawings, one by one. *Competition* is the American way too... But what about international goodwill, eh?

The day went well, in spite of one or two minor setbacks. The *major* setback was that I sold none of my art. I can't say that I was very surprised. Fans arrive at conventions *pre-broke*. For the most part, it costs as much as they can afford just to be there, and whatever is left over goes mainly to hysterical bidding during the auctions for copies of one another's fanzines. As well, SF fans are notorious suckers for art that has to be spelled out to them—the longer the caption under the drawing, the bigger the laugh. With or without a caption, my own art is rarely able to raise a chuckle. Still, I lucked out later that Saturday. An unexpected philanthropist by the name of Paul Stinchfield bought nearly everything that wasn't nailed down. I had more than broken even for the con.

It was most likely that same Saturday that I noticed a kid in a white t-shirt hanging around the fanac room. He was no older than 16, I was sure, and stood less than five-foot-five in his stocking feet. He seemed to be literally under my elbow whenever I turned around.

Dick Smith said later, "We think he wandered in from a bar mitzvah also being held in the hotel." As was common in those days of small SF cons, we were used to sharing facilities with everything from evangelist weddings to football teams on a bender.

There was a grubby-looking banknote in his right hand that drew my eye like a magnet draws iron filings.

It wasn't long before the kid came up to me and asked, "Got anything for a dollar?"

"Beg pardon?" I said.

"I only have a buck. Are those a dollar?" he said again, pointing to one of my mail order booklets. A price was plainly printed on the covers.

"No," I answered the kid, "they cost three dollars."

Next, the kid asked if the t-shirts cost a dollar.

"No," I said, patiently, "They cost \$15 each. See the sign taped up here, on the wall? \$15."

Next, he asked about the portfolio, the fanzines, the nametags, and I think even my half-finished can of Coca Cola. The refrain, "Is that a dollar?" began to grate on my nerves.

I patiently replied to each and every inquiry, pointing out the obvious. I wasn't prepared for the kid's final query, though. The kid wanted to know if I'd draw a picture for him.

"Is that for a *dollar*?" I asked, turning the tables.

He nodded. For a dollar. For one-hundred little copper pennies he wanted me to draw a dragon for him. Now, dragons are *not* really my forté. In fact, I haven't even liked them since little girls got it into their heads that dragons were fun to ride...not to mention a fantasy of empowerment and domination—valuable lessons for their later, married lives. On rare occasions, I had tried to draw dragons and produced nothing more successful than a scaly manicotti with legs. You either have the knack or you don't.



I cast a glance to the table next to mine. Hanke-Woods was an artist who had the knack. She drew legions of dragons, covered reams of paper with dragons, rendered the cotton-picking things with her drawing hand tied behind her back, doodled dragons in her sleep. She may have been The Competition, but clearly this was a job for *her*.

“Joan? *Delphyne*, I mean. This gentleman wants someone to draw a dragon for him, and will pay the artist one entire dollar in negotiable legal tender for it...”

My neighbor artist was a little flustered, as anyone would be when confronted with such a remunerative opportunity. Actually, from what I had seen, Joan seemed a little flustered at all times. But she took the kid aside and began sketching a dragon on the cover of one of the fanzines from the freebie table. That seemed to be the end of the matter.

Ah, but it wasn't!

Later, Joan told me that she'd been paid the dollar, as agreed...but only by wrenching it of the kid's grasp. He had a grip on it like a literary agent on his percentage. All I knew at the time, however, was that five minutes after I thought I'd washed my hands of the kid, he was back at my table.

“Is that a dollar?” he asked, pointing at one of the exact same booklets I told him cost \$3 only fifteen minutes before.

And, clenched there in his grubby mitt, was his “only” dollar bill...again.

Taral Wayne

Thursday 22 November 2012

Art Credits

Sheryl Birkhead.....	Masthead, Pages 1–3
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
<u>Dave Haren</u> (photos).....	Pages 4, 6
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Page 5
Clip art (<u>Cliker.com</u>).....	Pages 7, 16–17, 19, 20 (L), 22 (R), 24 (R), 25
Clip art.....	Pages 9, 21, 22 (L)
Graeme Cameron.....	Page 20 (R)
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photos).....	Pages 23, 24 (L)
Font (<u>Letters from the Claw</u>).....	Page 26
Font (<u>Font•a•licious Fonts</u>).....	Page 27
<u>Taral Wayne</u>	Page 28
Novelty necktie found at thrift store.....	Page 30