

BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#502

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March 2015



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Please send comments, suggestions, and/or submissions to Felicity Walker (the editor), at felicity4711@gmail.com or Apartment 601, Manhattan Tower, 6611 Cooney Road, Richmond, BC, Canada, V6Y 4C5 (*new address*).

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This and Next Month in BCSFA

Sunday 15 March at 7 PM:	March BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 20 March:	Submission deadline for April <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 27 March:	April <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 17 April:	Submission deadline for May <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 19 April at 7 PM:	April BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s.
Friday 25 April:	May <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: TBD

Treasurer/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845
Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-447-3931 (*new number*)

Keeper of FRED Book: Ryan Hawe, 778-895-2371

VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

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

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 17 April 2015

Hi Felicity,

It's all downhill to issue 1000 from here. It all gets easier once you pass the halfway mark.



[I hope so!]

As far as Tainter in the video,¹ he suffers from Academia. They love to talk at length about human societies of the past, of different lifeways and are usually completely wrong.

It is because if you narrow your focus and rely on the work of previous Academics, you cannot make it very far in real understanding of other cultures. His example of the 1942 landings is a case in point. Practice of amphibious assault is an artform the military learned the hard way. If you want it to work right you have to do your own loading. The ships were loaded by civilians who wanted extra pay instead of becoming part of the military and the antipathy generated still exists today between the merchant marine and the regular military.

Hunter gatherers do everything, so saying they don't have as many separate specialists as our collection of distinct feather merchants is ridiculous.

He's trapped in a typical cultural set of assumptions I consider to be integrated falsifications used to underpin an agenda and may even not be aware of them himself. His job is to push those as gospel onto students but nobody else has to believe them.

Cory Doctorow is so upset by the Hugofuss he managed to lapse into a nice burst of incoherence on Boingboing.² He's usually a lot more comprehensible. All it accomplishes is to convince me both sides (all sides) need to take a time out for a deep breath and a chance for the brain to re-engage.

If you have a diverse group (fandom), you are going to have some who others consider the scum of the earth. This is a human problem not limited to fandom. If you think you are going to change this by some divine ability you should read a few history books. The real basis of cooperation is intolerance. You don't want to change your ways and you don't want others to impose their ways on



1 [Link](#).

2 [Link](#).

you. The result is a truce in which no one gets to be in charge. The other way to do it is incessant warfare until both sides are chewed away or become tired of the waste involved. Igniting a holy war is a really bad idea.

Gernsback was interested in a better future. Squabbling over books is called a failure to see his vision through.

From the entertainment view the exchange of scurrilous characterizations and name-calling going on has the typical peanut gallery enthralled.

Links of note:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NaLAMxOHv-k>

Bitter Lake.³ [↑]

[“*This video has been removed by the user.*”]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb6R74rjrMg>

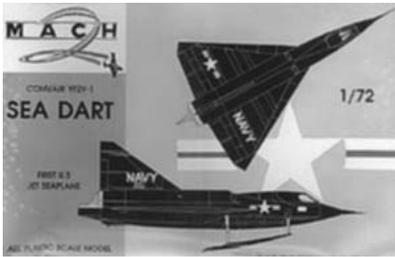
Four-hour French epic.⁴ [↑]

<http://advances.sciencemag.org/content/advances/1/3/e1500022.full.pdf>

Hobson is pensioned off now. He’s really on the way to senior status now. Soon he’ll be as grouchy as the rest of us olde Pharts.

[*Who’s Hobson?*]

Jane has pictures of the Pompeii exhibit up for those who want to see a slice of a previous civ frozen by vulcanism. That’s Fancher.⁵



CJ Cherryh has almost finished her latest book. Charlie Stross has an interesting debate going over Fermi Paradox filters.⁶

I have decided the Fermi paradox is because the previous civilizations have moved into dark matter via technology and now appear to be gone.

[*I still don’t understand the idea (mentioned in [the Wikipedia article](#) about the Fermi paradox) of a civilisation living inside a black hole. The article does not clarify, and my search abilities were not good enough.*]

I stopped by a hobby shop in Bezerkley, the home of the ’60s counter-cultural revolution. Found a Mach (French model company) XF 92. A few hours later and a lot of swearing I now have a second of the Federation swallowtail starfighter. It was on sale for half price and unless you need something specific, I can’t recommend their kits. However they are the only company who makes a jetpowered ski fighter. Jet seaplanes had a nasty habit of exploding engines when they sucked some seawater so they were only in vogue for a short time.

I also have a couple of rebuilds I inherited from a friend. Those only require building a few parts. One is an SF-looking thing. A DO-335 trainer, one of the more bizarre looking twin-engine fighters made in WW2. The other one is a BF-110 Zer-störer.

[“*Zerstörer*” sounds like it could be the name of a 1970s anime giant robot.]

3 (2015).

4 *La Catin* (“The Harlot”) (2010).

5 [Link](#).

6 [Link](#).

I also picked up a copy of the new *Space Hulk* game. It has sliding doors and a bunch of Genestealer models. I got it for 50 USD off so I have a lot of stuff to paint now.

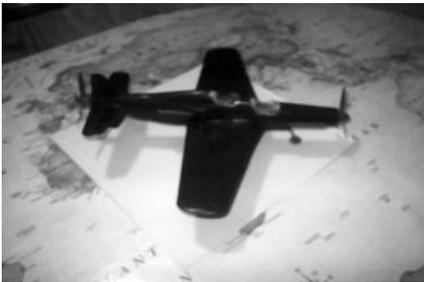
I'm not sure if it qualifies as a bad movie, but I found a copy of *Ed Wood*.⁷ Depp as Wood, Landau as Lugosi, and a bunch of other Hollywood types as Criswell, Vampira, and Tor Johnson. I liked it but your mileage may vary. It's a pity they couldn't get Special Agent Cooper to play Wood. I swear Wood is Kyle MacLachlan's daddy.

[I can see the resemblance! I wonder what Kyle MacLachlan looks like in drag. I liked Ed Wood too. I have it in my DVD collection, though, oddly, the version I taped off late-night TV has better audio.]



IRL the crypto wars continue, with each government pronouncement getting more ridiculous than the last. Since Spandam Alexander⁸ left NSA we now have Mr. Rodgers⁹ trying to sell the latest mad proposal, a front door to everything. If someone told you to remove the locks on your house you'd think they had lost their mind. Removing any semblance of restriction on your bank acct. and medical records is supposed to be OK if it keeps Ahmed from plotting against civilization. You need to remember this is the same bunch of clowns who are bombing both sides in the Middle East because they want all Moslems to die since that's Israel's policy.

Once the politicians notice they want this to detect criminals it will get quietly shoved under the table.



I detect the hand of the Goddess in all of this and the Apple she is holding is for you.

[I guess that means she thinks I'm pretty. That's nice to know.]

Just remember if you are in fandom long enough you'll get to be all grown up like Graeme. I doubt your gene theory of zinedom but I actually don't care what other people read.

The idea you need credentials to prove something is all the rage these days. Like the concept of a passport invented by the Tsarists to control their serfs (land-slaves), it was immediately a wonderful idea implemented by all governments. We must see your papers.

Steve Stiles has a great zine up at eFanzines.¹⁰

Warmest regards,

Dave Haren

7 (1994).

8 General Keith Alexander, sixteenth Director of the National Security Agency. (Spandam is a character in *One Piece*.)

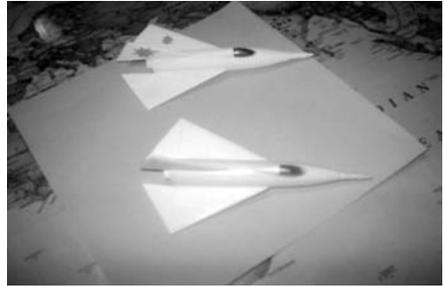
9 Admiral Michael Rogers, seventeenth and current Director of the NSA.

10 [Link](#).

Steve Forty
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Friday 17 April 2015

I thought I would reply right away before the wrong information got out there permanently. I never wanted or asked Norman Spinrad to come to VCON. I saw him go ballistic at a fairly young female fan when she politely asked him to autograph a book of his she had just bought in the dealers' room. The telling off happened in the dealers' room I might add. He could have said he didn't do



autographs or come to a specific place and time for autographs, but no he told her off nastily and made her very embarrassed, I would never recommend someone so rude come to VCON. I talked with AJ Budrys later about Norman's outburst at Spider as well as his outburst at the banquet and a poor server lady when she ran out of what he wanted to eat, and he agreed that was not the way to treat people who bought and read Norman's books and were fans of his. "Don't bite the hand that feeds you" comes to mind.

The big house is starting to go up where my old place stood. It is hard to see 37 years (plus two I rented) go down so quickly. Many of the plants I planted are now gone, and the yard will be quite a bit smaller. No VCON meetings will fit in that back yard anymore. I sure don't like the total destruction of neighborhoods and then re-building giant edifices with little green to the whole area.

Steve 40

John Purcell
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Sunday 26 April 2015

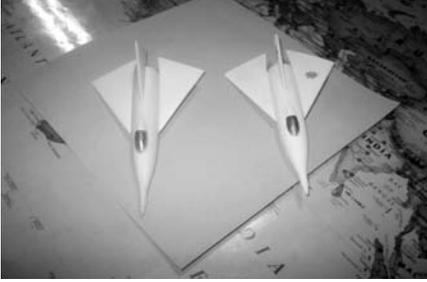
Ah, so now begins the long march through the next 500 issues of *BCSFazine*. If I didn't say it before, allow me to do so now: congratulations on reaching a milestone in fanzine publishing. To echo Lloyd Penney, bet there aren't many of you in your organization who ever dreamed of seeing 500 issues, let alone still being involved in the group. How many original members of BCSFA remain active? If there are a fair number of you still mucking about, that says good things about the club. In any event, congratulations are in order. Have a beer there, hey?

[Thanks!]

It was sad to hear of Sir Terry Pratchett's passing. Like so many other people, I enjoy the Discworld stories: they are a lot of fun. And Dave Haren is right: the best legacy about Sir Terry are the tributes and remembrances that have been written and shared. I wish I had met Pratchett in person; from what everyone tells me, he was a delightful man. To his memory I raise my coffee cup.

Hey, Felicity, I think you might have something there. In a comment to Lloyd you say, "Maybe there's a zine gene, and if you have it, it's harder for you to not read a zine than to read it, and if you don't have it, it's hopeless." That could explain

everything. Another reason is that there could also be fanzine vampires: those who need to drink of fanzines on a regular basis otherwise their lives shrivel up and become meaningless. There are times when I feel that way. Of course, it all could boil down to the simple fact that most fanzine fans do a lot of actual reading of books—the physical kind, not just those books available on e-readers or computers—so the tangible act of reading means more to fanzine fans than we realize. Yeah, that could be: fanzines are an addiction. Gotta get my daily fix of zines! That could easily be the explanation, too. Who knows, anyway?



I think that is a good place to stop. Many thanks for posting the issue to eFanzines. In a month or so the next *Askew* will be done, so I will make sure to get one off to you. I received the 11th issue addressed to you back, with a note stating it needs air mail international postage, which fact I have never run into before. Usually between the USA and Canada first class mail is good enough.

Huh. Somebody at the border postal patrol must have too much time on their hands. Screw the bastards, I shall resend it.

[*It has arrived! Thanks!*]

All the best,
John Purcell

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Tuesday 5 May 2015

Dear BCSFen:

The numbers keep rolling...and now it's time for the second set of 500 of *BCSFAzines*. We start with number 501...

Over the years, I have received, I think, six Spocked five-dollar bills. I think some people see one in their change, and they slip it to me in my change.

Dave Haren is right, issue 500 was great coverage of the history of BCSFA. If it is possible, having paper copies of *BCSFAzine* 500 would serve as a great intro to the club for new members. Don't know how many copies you'll need, but then, I don't know how many new members the club gets any given month.

[*That's a good idea! I still have some extra copies.*]

I do have a cellphone. It's a bottom-of-the-line LG model. It has a camera, and it can send texts, and that's it, and that's all I need. A smartphone or tablet can be hella expensive, and it's a way to get you to spend more money on the software you'd like to have. In some ways, it would be great to have one, but I am happy with a flipphone.

My LOC...the warm weather has finally made it here. We're looking forward to heat waves and air conditioning. We are still working, and still looking. Soon, we

will find out about this year's Aurora nominees, and our fingers are crossed. The Convention host this year is SFContario 6, so I hope there is good news soon. The path to success is anything but a straight line.

My hair was brown as a child, and now? It's brown and grey, and some of it is just plain absent. Good thing that doesn't happen to children. Who sees Alfred Bester as a science fiction writer, and who sees him as a *Babylon 5* character?

[I was aware of him as a real person before I was aware of his fictional namesake, but my mental picture of the real person is the namesake!]

I am going to fold, and say thank you for this current issue. Looking forward to seeing a new issue soon. Enjoy the summer!

Yours,

Lloyd Penney



Michael Bertrand
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Thursday 7 May 2015



Heya BCSFans! Another ish, another LOC!

Re: Dave Haren:

Yes, I have heard about Terry Pratchett taking that walk across the desert with Death. It hit me pretty hard. I have read a lot of Discworld books, and his warm, witty, zany, gentle style really touched me. He was like two of my favorite authors combined: Douglas Adams, and James Harriot. And that's the kind of writing that doesn't just help you pass the time. It touches you, affects you, becomes a part of you.

It's the kind of writing that feels like talking to a friend.

And so when I heard he had died, I felt like I had taken a shotgun blast to the torso. Like part of me had been blown away, and I would never be quite the same.

Re: enhanced intelligence:

I most definitely would not go for an intelligence increase. I feel like I have way more than I can handle already. If I added more I would probably go completely insane. It would have to come with an emotional stability increase for me to even consider it.

Re: ingestible information:

That, on the other hand, I would go for in a heartbeat. I've always had an insatiable appetite for knowledge. The ability to literally devour it (or in-



ject it, or whatever) would be irresistible. I am curious about how it would integrate into your psyche, however. The only precedent for knowledge suddenly appearing in the mind without learning it is certain forms of extreme intuition, like religious visions. So maybe the knowledge would come to us in some transcendental vision that would act as an interface.

On the personal front, Felicity and I will be attending a course on standup comedy by next week, and I am super excited about it.

Well that's enough of my palaver for the month. See you next ish, BCSFAns!

Calendar

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

Recurring

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 March and 5, 12, 19, and 26 April 2015 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 March and 6, 13, 20, and 27 April 2015 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 March and 6, 13, 20, and 27 April 2015 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March and 7, 14, 21, and 28 April 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March and 7, 14, 21, and 28 April 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March and 7, 14, 21, and 28 April 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

4, 11, 18, and 25 March and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April 2015 (*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.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

5, 12, 19, and 26 March and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 April 2015 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

5 March and 2 April 2015 (*first Thursday*): Drop-In Drawing for Adults: Pick Up a Pencil, 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond.

6, 13, 20, and 27 March and 3, 10, 17, and 24 April 2015 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

6, 13, 20, and 27 March and 3, 10, 17, and 24 April 2015 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

6, 13, 20, and 27 March and 3, 10, 17, and 24 April 2015 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 March and 4, 11, 18, and 25 April 2015 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 March and 4, 11, 18, and 25 April 2015 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

10 March and 9 April 2015 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

10 March and 9 April 2015 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—Large Private Room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver.—Keith Lim

11 and 25 March and 8 and 22 April 2015 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

12 and 26 March and 9 and 23 April 2015 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

12 March and 9 April 2015 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

12 March and 9 April 2015 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

14 March 2015 (*second Saturday*): Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Free. (No date listed for April.)—Julian Castle

15 March and 19 April 2015 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

18 March and 15 April 2015 (*third Wednesday*): Richmond Writes Out Loud Open Mic Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, #8200–11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.—Richmond Writes Out Loud

19 March and 17 April 2015 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, Second Floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

21 March and 18 April 2015 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

28 March and 25 April 2015 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

Already in Progress

9, 16, and 23 February and 2, 9, and 16 March 2015: Ascension (SF/alt-history) six-part mini-series on CBC.—Julian Castle

22 October 2014–30 March 2015: Call for submissions for seventh annual Carded! (one-night show of art on trading cards). Art deadline Monday 30 March at noon. “We are open to all styles of art, photography and design. You can submit art created digitally, provide us with a photo of your work, or give us an original piece to scan (no larger than 8.5”x11”)...We only accept one submission per artist...If you’re one of the 50 artists chosen, you’ll receive 20 copies of your trading card.” More details at <http://hotartcard.com/how-to-submit/>.—Julian Castle

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

March 2015

March is National Craft Month, Expanding Girls' Horizons in Science and Engineering Month, Humorists Are Artists Month, International Ideas Month, National March into Literacy Month, and Small Press Month.

3 March 2015: If Pets Had Thumbs Day.

5–8 March 2015: VancouFur 2015 Film Noir Presents Gangsters & Gumshoes at the Executive Inn and Conference Centre, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby.—Garth Spencer

6 March 2015: Premiere of film *Chappie* (SF; Sharlto Copley, Dev Patel, Ninja, Hugh Jackman, Sigourney Weaver, Anderson Cooper).

6–8 March 2015: Imperial Hobbies Year End Sale! at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

7 March 2015: J-Fest, 10 AM–6 PM at Nikkei Museum and Cultural Centre, 6688 Southoaks Crescent, Burnaby.

11 March 2015: **Cameron Russell**'s birthday.

13 March 2015: Premiere of films *Cinderella* (fantasy; Cate Blanchett, Helena Bonham Carter, Stellan Skarsgård, Derek Jacobi) and *It Follows* (horror).

14 March 2015: Vanpla Build Night, 6–9 PM at Sakura Media, 4700 Kingsway (Metropolis at Metrotown), Burnaby.

15 March 2015: **Jenni Merrifield**'s Birthday.

19–22 March 2015: Gamestorm 17 at the Vancouver Hilton, 301 West 6th Street, Vancouver, Washington.—Chris Sturgers via Garth Spencer

20 March 2015: Extraterrestrial Abductions Day. Premiere of films *Insurgent* (SF; Kate Winslet, Mekhi Phifer, Tony Goldwyn, Ashley Judd, Naomi Watts, Daniel Dae Kim) and *Spring* (SF/horror; Some Other Guy).

20 March 2015: Magic: The Gathering: Dragons of Tarkir Midnight Pre-Release, 12 PM–4 AM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

21 March 2015: 2015 Auto Modelrama Model Car Show, Contest, & Swap, 9 AM–3 PM at the Cameron Community Centre, 9523 Cameron Street, Burnaby.

21 March 2015: Teen Pizza & Games Day, 12 PM–2 PM at Newton Library, 13795 70th Avenue, Surrey.

22 March 2015: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver (at 15th Avenue).

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

27–29 March 2015: Trumpeter Salute Tabletop Miniatures Gaming Convention at Bonsor Community Centre, 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby (next to Metrotown).

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

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

28 March 2015: Collectibles Fair and Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.

28 March 2015: All Star Wrestling March Madness, 8 PM at Cloverdale Fair Grounds, Alice McKay Building, 6050A 176 Street, Surrey.—Verne Siebert

29 March 2015: Spring Record Convention, 11 AM–5 PM at the Croatian Cultural Centre, 3250 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.

31 March 2015: Bunsen Burner Day.

April 2015

2 April 2015: **Colin Upton**’s birthday.

3–5 April 2015: Fan Expo Vancouver at Vancouver Convention Centre, 1055 Canada Place, Vancouver. Guests include Carrie Fisher, William Shatner, John Barrowman + 4 anime guests + 27 comic guests + 4 authors + 9 cosplay guests + 15 other guests. “Celebrates all things comic, anime, sci-fi, horror, gaming, and more!”—Julian Castle

4 April 2015: School Librarian Day.

10 April 2015: Premiere of films *Ex Machina* (SF) and *Lost River* (fantasy; Eva Mendes, Barbara Steele).

12 April 2015: Russian Cosmonaut Day.

16 April 2015: National Librarian Day.

17 April 2015: Premiere of film *Unfriended* (horror) and *Monsters: Dark Conflict* (SF).

23 April 2015: World Laboratory Day.

24 April 2015: Premiere of film *The Age of Adaline* (romance/fantasy; Blake Lively, Harrison Ford, Ellen Burstyn, Kathy Baker).

25 April 2015: **Steve Green**'s birthday.

27 April 2015: **Joe Devoy**'s birthday.

28 April 2015: International Astronomy Day.

29 April 2015: **Robert J. Sawyer**'s birthday.

News-Like Matter

Notes from February 2015 BCSFA Meeting



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

Topic: Has local bowling alley Lois Lanes gone out of business? On the drive to the meeting I took a wrong turn and ended up in Queensborough. I noticed Lois Lanes was still there, but closed. Ray didn't know if it was still in operation either. Also, Ray got a haircut.

Topic: Curry. I like it as a flavour but it needs to come with lots of meat. I ordered Indian food delivery once and the curry had very little meat in it. Ray said that he had a curry pizza once when he was working at Little Caesar's. Relatedly, I lived next door to the Ukrainian Community Society of Ivan Franko for a few years and on some weekends they had free dinners, where they served perogies and cabbage rolls (special thanks to Mrs. Vilve Yachke for the cabbage rolls and coffee).

Graeme has just started watching *The Adventures of Superman* (1952–1958) on MeTV and has noticed how weird it is. In one episode a banker says "He's a famous gangster! He does all his banking here!" Maybe that's not so unrealistic, what with the HSBC scandal.

In some versions of Superman, Lois Lane is mean to Clark Kent. Thus, despite being the leading lady of the mythos, she's disliked by some fans and pros, including John Byrne, who wrote and drew *Man of Steel* (1986), the rebooted Superman comic. Fru said: "Tryplich: she loves Superman, who is the ultimate man, so Clark has to

be the opposite.”¹¹ I’ve also been watching *The Adventures of Superman*, and George Reeves may be my favourite live-action Clark Kent. He’s perfect.

Graeme asked where to get RiffTrax. You can buy them at <http://www.rifftrax.com/>. To get around copyright restrictions, the tracks for feature-length movies are audio only, and you have to provide the movie and synchronise the RiffTrax commentary yourself (which in my experience is very difficult). There are also public-domain shorts that come with the original video and RiffTrax commentary pre-combined. Free samples of RiffTrax are available on RiffTrax’s YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/RiffTrax/videos>. Fru added that RiffTrax is “everything you liked about *Mystery Science Theatre 3000*¹² with none of the filler!”

Sid asked if anyone had seen *Iron Sky* (2012). Graeme mentioned that the sequel is in production, and described a scene where a bad guy pretending to be the President takes an elevator to the centre of the Earth, the doors open, there’s a meadow



with a city in the distance, and Hitler comes riding up on a Tyrannosaurus rex to get the bad guy’s report. “Full marks for guts,” said Graeme of the wild premise.

Graeme also saw a bad movie on *Svengoolie*¹³: *Captive Wild Woman* (1943), which re-used footage from *The Big Cage* (1933) with Clyde Beatty as a jungle explorer cracking a whip at tigers in cages. A guy turns a female gorilla into a beautiful woman played by “the Venezuelan Volcano” Acquanetta. She gets jealous when the hero is with his fiancée, and she turns halfway back into a gorilla...later she turns fully into a gorilla to save him from other animals (she had power over the animals).



two powerful-looking claws. They are arranged in three rows of three. Next to you is a panel, containing nine buttons, arranged in the same way. The entire square is inlaid with seven hexagonal tiles. One hexagon is at the center, the other six surround it. They are so smoothly inlaid that it is nearly impossible to find any seams between them. You are standing on one of the surrounding hexagons.

Graeme asked, “Whatever happened to the *Callahan’s* computer game?”¹⁴ Fru said that it’s hard to imagine it as an action game. I wondered if it was a text adventure (or text adventure with graphics).¹⁵ Graeme said it had to be better than the *Rendezvous with Rama* game¹⁶ where you had to understand the alien math system to play—something nobody understood but Ar-

thur C. Clarke. This reminded Fru of the MERP (Middle-Earth Role-Playing) character generation system where your character sheet was 11 pages long (double-sided).

11 I’m not sure if he said “tryptich.” That’s what my notes say but (to quote Thomas Dolby) I can’t read my writing.—Future Felicity

12 (1988–1999).

13 Horror-host show (1973–present) currently on MeTV.

14 *Callahan’s Crosstime Saloon* (1997). The answer seems to be that it did get released, but it’s very rare and hard to find.—Future Felicity

15 No it is not, but it is full of wordplay, as [this YouTube clip](#) shows.—Future Felicity

16 (1984).

Ray reminisced about playing a killer happy face video game at West-con 44—which was also VCON 19, added Kathleen. Kathleen and I also recognized that he was talking about *MIDI Maze* AKA *Faceball 2000*. I'd played it on a LAN at NonCon 15. It was an early FPS and was impressively three-dimensional for its time.



Kathleen suggested that we hold the July meeting on the 12th at the same time and place as the VCON picnic at Trout Lake Park. I said that I might have to skip that one—parking and seating would be issues for me. Although this issue is being edited late (in mid-May), there's still time to discuss this, thanks to Kathleen mentioning this well in advance. Let us know what you think.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 15 February 2015

VancouFur 2015 Report Part 2

Michael Bertrand

Saturday 7 March 2015



11 AM: Turkey Readings. Yes, you read that right, VancouFur now has its own version of the Turkey Readings. I was beside myself when I read that. The Turkey Readings at VCON are the most fun thing I do all year and to have them happen at VancouFur is like having two Xmases for me.

Turnout was...not great. There was like six of us and that included the host. Compared to the 100-plus attendees at the VCON version, that's not much, but this was the debut of the event at VancouFur and I am sure it will grow with time.

And those there were very generous! Our little 45 minutes of fun raised almost \$200 for the Vancouver Orphaned Kitten Rescue Association, or VOKRA. VOKRA was this year's (and last year's) chosen charity for VancouFur and really, how can you argue with a charity like that?

Orphaned kittens, people. Sad little kittens with no homes. It doesn't get more sympathetic than that!

2:30 PM: Everyone's a Critic. Another writing-type panel that I went to without looking up the particulars. Turned out to be about what you'd expect. Dis-

cussion of the art of the critique and how to supply someone with that most vital of artistic nutrients, constructive feedback.

It was hosted by the same pair as Friday's "Writing in 3D," and had the same problems from my point of view. Slow, unfocused, and I didn't feel that the hosts really brought anything to the panel. They were both nice guys (one of them with a sexy British accent, rawr) but I would have appreciated a little more drive and a little less audience chatter.

One thing that struck me was that the idea of constructive criticism is that it should leave the person feeling encouraged to keep writing (or whatever). I had never thought of it quite that way. When I critique, I do try to phrase it in the form of "This could be better" rather than "This stinks and so do you," but I tend to be very thorough and incisive, and I suppose that might well come across as discouraging.

There goes that machine of mine again.

And to be honest, a very bitchy part of me was thinking "Oh, but some people *should* be discouraged from writing. Very, very strongly." But that is an unworthy thought. It's neither my job nor my responsibility to choose who writes and who doesn't.

And who knows, someone who seems absolutely without talent today might bloom into a great writer with a little sunshine.



Dr. Tongue's 3D House of Writing! Aaaaooooo!!

4 PM: Furries in the Media.

Always a great panel. Pleased to see that, in response to last year's incident with a very tightly packed panel in far too small a meeting space, this year's panel was held in the entire ballroom area. Plenty of space there!

Sadly, the demon of modern AV equipment sank its teeth into this event with a vengeance. It took one and a quarter hours for two extremely competent nerds in full techie communication mode (I understood about one word in three) to get the host's laptop connected to the big projection screen.



All the while, the host, poor Carthage, had to basically improvise in lieu of the presentation he had so carefully prepared.

Luckily, we got things going eventually and got to discuss the topic. We furries are real, real sensitive about how we are seen by the world, and so this is always a hot topic for us.

This year, we of course talked about that chlorine gas attack at last year's Midwest FurFest. Briefly, someone or other threw a can of pure chlorine into a stairwell, and everyone in the hotel had to go outside in the December 2014 cold at 3 AM and four people got quite sick.

Carthage made an excellent point that, as awful as that incident was, it also functioned as a turning point for the Internet's view of furies. We of the fuzzy community have gotten used to being open to abuse by the whole Internet (everybody loves having a group they can shit freely upon) but the gas attack made us sympathetic, and a lot of people suddenly said "Hey, why are we making fun of these people?"

Sometimes tragedy forces people to grow.

5:30 PM: Youtubealoo! Took a while to get started, but once it did, it was a very interesting collection of YouTube videos of various sorts. I think the organizer/curator must have decided that there was no point in including any videos that had gone viral, because by definition, odds are we have all seen them.

An intriguing find: there are two gentlemen on fiverr.com who will perform absolutely any script for \$5. A fellow with a Jamaican accent, and one with an Australian accent.

I assume there is a time limit, but still. Any script. Five bucks.

You can bet that got the little wheels turning in my head.

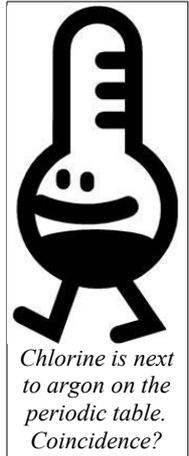


it's a story famous for its quality) and turns it into a game. The idea is that everyone sits in a circle, and when it is their turn, they read the literary magnum opus aloud for as long as they can without laughing (or until they reach the end of the page).

If (when) you laugh, you pass it on to the next person in the circle, and so on and so forth till the whole thing has been read.

This usually takes two hours (for a 17-page work) and makes everyone involved laugh themselves silly from lack of oxygen.

I was no exception.



Chlorine is next to argon on the periodic table. Coincidence?

10 pm: Eye of Argon. Where to start.

Well, *The Eye of Argon* is widely considered to be one of the worst pieces of fantasy fiction ever published. Its use of language is heavy-handed and repetitive. Its story is extremely hackneyed and predictable, the prose goes beyond being purple and becomes ultraviolet, and as the story goes on, the author starts to just plain make up words.

And that only scratches the surface of its literary crimes. Read it at your own peril.

Eye of Argon as an event takes this rare gem of suckitude (as one panel said,

Sunday 8 March 2015

4 PM: Closing Ceremonies. Not really keen on ceremonies myself, but there are so many people I know involved with the convention now that I kind of felt obligated. And it was okay. Nice to see people get recognized for the awesomeness they do, and happy to learn that there were 720 (!) attendants this year, and that we raised, in total, over \$1700 for all those poor little orphaned kittens.

And that's a lot of kitten chow!

That's all I did on Sunday, panel-wise.

I will talk to you nice people again tomorrow.



Michael Bertrand
The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand
Thursday 12 March 2015

Art Credits

<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Pages 1 (left), 2, 3 (right), 6
<u>Dave Haren</u> (photos).....	Pages 1 (right), 3 (left), 4-5, 6 (right)
Clip art (via <u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 12, 14 (left)
Clip art [<i>Iron Sky 2</i> (2016) screenshot].....	Page 13 (right)
Clip art [<i>Rendezvous with Rama</i> (1984) screenshot].....	Page 13 (left)
Clip art [<i>MIDI Maze</i> (1987) screenshot].....	Page 14 (right)
Clip art [<i>Count Floyd</i> (1982)].....	Page 15 (right)
Clip art (via Amos Iu).....	Page 15 (left)
Clip art.....	Page 16 (right)
<u>Felicity Walker</u>	Page 16 (left)
<u>Taral Wayne</u>	Page 17

