

BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#503

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April 1986



Thunder! Thunder! ThunderScan!

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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

Friday 17 April:	Submission deadline for April BCSFazine (ideally).
Sunday 19 April at 7 PM:	March BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 25 April:	May BCSFazine production (theoretically).
Friday 15 May:	Submission deadline for June BCSFazine (ideally).
Sunday 17 May at 7 PM:	April BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's.
Friday 29 May:	June BCSFazine production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

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BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster [Garth Spencer](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Ass. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_ass/). 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 15 May 2015



Hi Felicity,

First: Hobson is the New Zealander who writes "Wot I Read on My Hols" about his adventures and what he's reading. I found him via "The Healing Power of Obnoxiousness" that Paul Riddell used to do on the Net. "HPO" might be still around via the Wayback machine. Both far enough off the beaten path to cause a good time for the reader.

I have seen **The Core** and was appropriately dazzled by the sheer 1920s level of the entire episode. I was afraid to critique the math at any point in this epic. Likewise after all the hoopla about how protective the unobtainium shell was, they went outside!!! Apparently they blew the budget on CGI and had nothing left for a fact checker from grade school or a geologist to examine any of the premises. "The Rat" is the reason hackers are feared by the average dumbass

whose only contact with them is the movies. One thing that gets glossed over is that the DESTINY¹ project caused the problems and the whole core trip was a CYA boondoggle coverup. This is a must see for friends with critical intelligence to do an **MST3000** job on.

My daughter told me I needed a BluRay so I can see the zits and nose hairs of the actors. I found the idea appalling as big screen movie stars of the '50s were picked for perfection and then carefully made up to make sure you saw no blemishes. It's been all downhill since then.

<http://www.grahamhancock.com/forum/MurareskuB1.php>

LOL.

Hippies founded Western civ. [↑]

[Fascinating article! Gives me hope.]

"Christoph Martin Wieland's satire **Die Geschichte der Abderiten**² suggests that small-minded ancient Greek frog-worshippers had much in common with provincial Germans."³

Poet with a sense of humour. [↑]

<http://drfaustusau.deviantart.com/>

Call of Cthulhu for the kiddies. [↑]

<http://www.gamesalute.com/AlienFrontiers>

Via "Paint It Pink" (female wargamer). [↑]

1 Deep Earth Seismic Trigger Initiative.

2 "The Story of the Abderites."

3 [Link](#).

Looks like a lot of fun for the gaming crowd who want something less taxing than **Godsfire** or **Stellar Conquest**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmh29gwEy7Y>

William Gibson. [↑]

Car Wars has been re-issued (N scale⁴ vehicles work perfectly for this).

[I have a lot of 1:64 cars, but no N scale cars.]

GURPS has been enhanced by a **Mars Attacks** addition.

Steve Jackson Games. [↑]

<http://capstone-engine.org>

New dis-assembler version. A few X86 fixes. [↑]

<http://www.rawillumination.net/2015/05/i-was-harlan-ellison-for-about-three.html>

Prometheus awards⁵ and con pics. [↑]

Tor⁶ and Tails⁷ have new versions out, and the cryptowars continue in the background of the Net. USA judge says bulk collection is unconstitutional and the BND⁸ is on the hook for their problematic actions. The Germanic justice system grinds slow but exceedingly fine so this may be a good sign.

On the international front the Swedes' "Gay Since 1944" submarine billboard may frighten away the awful Russian menace of sneaky invisible subs.

[They did give us ABBA.]

Moscow's WW2 parade⁹ was fun to watch on YouTube, but watch the 2009 Chinese celebration of their 1949 victory¹⁰ next.

Project Gutenberg has been doing some of the WW2 Marine island-hopping campaign monographs. I had some friends who were involved in these. Tough way to make a living but that's why they call Navy an adventure on the recruiting posters.

Numbers are 48807, 48808, 48810, 48811, 48836, 48898, 48899, 48936.

They are about to pass the 49000 mark. Another recent addition was the two-volume **de Maupin**¹¹ of the female swordmaster with pictures.¹² If you like florid prose this is your book.

One of the pictures this time is a polar orbit satellite detected in 1954. Any PKD fan will immediately ID it as VALIS.¹³



4 1:160.

5 Libertarians.

6 The Onion Router.

7 The Amnesic Incognito Live System.

8 Bundesnachrichtendienst ("Federal Intelligence Service").

9 2015 Moscow Victory Day Parade (Saturday 9 May 2015).

10 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China (Thursday 1 October 2009).

11 **Mademoiselle de Maupin** (1835) by Theophile Gautier.

12 [Link](#).

13 Vast Active Living Intelligence System [from **VALIS** (1981) by Philip K. Dick.]

[[The Secret Sun](#) has drawn a connection between VALIS and other orbiting machine intelligences such as Brother Eye.¹⁴]

The battlesuit is a model painted to look like a pencil drawing from a site I'm far too lazy to translate but worth looking at these pictures anyway.

[Extremely cool! [I've seen this via the Vanpla Facebook group.](#) ☺]

Martian sunset from the rover.

The rest are Kozakh faery pics.

Warm regards,

Dave Haren

The Pen Pal Collective

4222 Clinton Way,

Space

Saturday 31 May 1986

Um, have any of your readers seen a weird looking probe type thing around here? Kind of a long cylinder made of rough hewn stone? We sent it to this planet ages ago to talk to some really cool sea creatures (I think you call them . . . whales?), and it just occurred to us that we forgot to program it to automatically turn off if it doesn't get a reply.

Our bad! Hope that didn't end up causing you any trouble. Our message beams can be pretty powerful and I can't imagine what would happen if just, like, **stayed on**.

Anyhow, if you find it, just hum the theme to

A-Team at it. That will turn it off.

Hope you catch it in time!

Your friend,

The Pen Pal Collective



John Purcell

askance73@gmail.com

Saturday 6 June 2015

A quick letter of comment to you since this is the March issue that just arrived at the end of May. Two months past the publication date? That's not too many . . .

Dave Haren mentioned the movie **Ed Wood** in his loc, and I have to admit that's a fine movie that earned Martin Landau the Best Supporting Actor Oscar for 1995. In my mind, this is not a bad movie, but a good movie about a bad director. As such, it is entertaining and interesting. Tim Burton did a very good job with this one, and solidified himself as a rising star as a movie director. Also in Dave's loc, I really enjoyed seeing all those model planes; they brought back memories of all the Revell airplanes I assembled in my childhood. Sometimes it feels as if the glue is still on my fingertips.

I would like Michael Bertrand to write an article about that stand-up comedy class he and you attended. How did it go? Any gigs yet? Or is writing for fanzines funny enough for you?

14 From **OMAC—One Man Army Corps** (1974) by Jack Kirby.



The mysterious
"Black Knight" satellite, or
an inflatable Batmobile?

[There's been some drama.¹⁵ I've promised not to talk about it. We've only taken three classes so far, and are now on a break until January, so no gigs yet.]

It was interesting to read a furry convention report in this issue, too. I guess I am not surprised that VancourFur 2015 (nice pun, there, for the con's name) sounds pretty much like any other SF convention, just very specific about what it's all about. Like many fans—furry or not—I was upset about that chlorine gas incident at Midwest FurFest. I am still a bit unsure if it was a deliberate "attack" on the furries, and lean more towards the disruptive prank that it was intended to be. The location of where that canister was found tells me that somebody just wanted to do something that would mess up the entire hotel. I don't know. Maybe it was

aimed at FurFest. No matter what, it was someone's sick idea of "fun." Has anybody ever been arrested for this? Does anyone here know?

End of comments. Keep active, Felicity, and the rest of you Vancouverites. Enjoy your summer. May it be a lot cooler than what it's like in Texas. Yeesh, it gets viciously hot down here!

All the best,
John Purcell

Obama Thripswinger Strasberg

Sunday 8 June 2015

Apartment 3D,
344 Clinton Street,
The Fourth Dimension

Hello science fans! I am what you linears call a "time traveler" and I need your help in securing some things for me. These are all things which are common in your "era," but which as desperately needed in the "future" in order to ensure the survival of the whole "human race"!

The future desperately needs:

☞ One and a half litres of sea turtle tears. Oh, you think just because they spend most of their time underwater, they don't cry? Trust me, they cry plenty. In fact, they are crying **all the time**.

☞ A tri-lithium double-coppered trandimensional tea set. Preferably in the Eton style, but Chinese Traditional and Hooblak Invasion styles are also acceptable.

☞ An unopened bottle of Crystal Pepsi. You would not believe what we can do with that stuff in the future.

☞ A boxcar full of semi-charred hyena hides. Do I even have to explain why?

☞ A signed copy of the second edition of **The Habits of Songbirds** by Louis Cameron Strasberg. The book has become a rather important religious icon in the future, and the loss of it threatens to plunge the future into bloody sectarian war.

☞ A signed photo of Charles Barkley. Same reason.

☞ Ten Canadian one dollar bills and a thousand Canadian pennies.

15 Or dramedy.

And finally, and most importantly:

☞ Exactly three arm hairs from the creature known to you as “David Hasselhoff.” If you get nothing else, you **must get these**. But be cautious . . . this creature is not what it seems.

Well, that’s it. I hope your readers can be of some assistance in this matter. Rest assured, you will be amply compensated in whatever it is you people think is currency.

Your Future Friend,
Obama Thripswinger Strasberg

Lloyd Penney

Tuesday 9 June 2015

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

Dear BCSFen:

Many thanks for **BCSFazine** 502, with comments on the news, sports and business reports. At least, the first one . . .

In the past, I might have been as upset as Cory Doctorow over Hugofuss/Puppygate/choose your own name for this disgrace. For us Worldcons are things of the past, so I just think this is another case of left wing/right wing thinking, and it’s a shame the Hugos got dragged into it, no more than that. Time might solve this problem, so I will watch from the sidelines.



I think Norman Spinrad’s behaviour at that VCON might have been that of the past. A couple of years ago, he was a guest at a local mediacon, believe it or not, and I brought all my Spinrad books with me. I got autographs and a pleasant chat, and he got my thanks for such enjoyable reading over the years. I didn’t mention **The Iron Dream**, or anything to do with **Star Trek**.

A zine gene? It might just be the fact that we’re older, and therefore like the idea of a linear publication in paper or .PDF format, and like it better than a website that may not be linear.

My LOC . . . as you have already seen, both Yvonne and I are on the Aurora ballot as nominees in fan categories. We are hoping to win this time . . . the last time either of us won an Aurora is 1997. It’s good to feel like a part of things with such a nomination, even after all this time.

Off it goes, many thanks, see you with the next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

Hey there BCSFans! Hope you are enjoying the sunny summer days. Myself, I enjoy them just fine as long as I hydrate, like, constantly. Otherwise, my predisposition towards heat stroke and heat sickness kicks in, and I get quite ill. And yet, I really love the sunshine and blue skies.



Northwest Fan Fest, New Westminster,
Saturday 30 May 2015 (evening).

So you could say my relationship with summer is . . . complicated.

And wow, issue #503 . . . it already seems like the pre-#500 issues were from another era. A simpler, more innocent time, when the world seemed fresh and new and we just knew all our dreams would come true, every one of us.

Ah, the halcyon days of youth.

I am with Dave Haren on the narrow focus of academia. It's why I had to stop taking English classes in university. The theories and inter-

pretations were patently absurd and clearly the product of people who had completely forgotten that authors are people, not all-seeing omnipotent word gods capable of supporting all kinds of theories about their "intention."

Odds are, the author didn't intend any of what you think they did, they just wrote a story in a way that seemed right to them.

I don't understand this passage, though, Dave:

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

It seems to me like you basically said A is B, so to say that A is B is ridiculous. The word I would use is "accurate." Possibly obvious, but accurate.

As for the personal update, the comedy class I mentioned last time has . . . not gone well. I am not at liberty to go any further into that at the time of writing, so I will just observe, for no particular reason, that there is no place on Earth where you are safe from bullying and ostracization.

Even in places which go on and on about being safe places.

And on that happy note, I bid you adieu for this ish.

I will talk to you nice people again next issue.

Oh, and don't forget to check out my blog at [http://www.michaeljohnbertrand.com/!](http://www.michaeljohnbertrand.com/)

We Also Heard From: Spider Robinson, Eileen Kernaghan, Robert Eggleton, Lois McMaster University, the Northern Wealth Anarchy Centre, Bonnie Carlson, Louis Ciccone, Jim Dial, Brad Emory, Vernon Fenwick, Harriet Horn, Marty Minkler, Whitney Morgan, Les Nessman, April O'Neil, Hector Ramirez, Jose Riviera, Vic Sage, Cecilia Santiago, Diane Simmons, Brick Tamland, Charlene Welles, and Dave Barry.¹⁶

16 I am making this up.

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

5, 12, 19, and 26 April and 3, 10, 17, and 24 May 2015 (Sundays): [Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays](#), 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 April and 4, 11, 18, and 25 May 2015 (Mondays): [Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures](#), 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—[Keith Lim](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 April and 4, 11, 18, and 25 May 2015 (Mondays): [Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—[Julian Castle](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 April and 5, 12, 19, and 26 May 2015 (Tuesdays): [Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming](#), 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—[Keith Lim](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 April and 5, 12, 19, and 26 May 2015 (Tuesdays): [Vancouver Hack Space Open House](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—[Julian Castle](#)

7, 14, 21, and 28 April and 5, 12, 19, and 26 May 2015 (Tuesdays): [Hot Improv Tuesdays at Cafe Deux Soleils!](#), 8 PM at Cafe Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—[The Fictionals Comedy Co.](#)

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April and 6, 13, 20, and 27 May 2015 (Wednesdays): [Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting](#), 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of [Memorial South Park's field-house](#), located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41st Avenue), Vancouver.—[Keith Lim/Julian Castle](#)

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 April and 7, 14, 21, and 28 May 2015 (Thursdays): [Thursday Hobby Build Nights](#), 6–9 PM at [Ages Three and Up Gundam](#), 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—[A3U Gundam](#)

3, 10, 17, and 24 April and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May 2015 (Fridays): [Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games](#), 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

3, 10, 17, and 24 April and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May 2015 (Fridays): [Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic](#), 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—[Keith Lim](#)

3, 10, 17, and 24 April and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May 2015 (Fridays): [Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games](#), 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—[Keith Lim](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 April and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May 2015 (Saturdays): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 April and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May 2015 (Saturdays): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

2 April and 7 May 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.

9 April and 12 May 2015 (second Tuesday): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

9 April and 12 May 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

8 and 22 April and 6 and 20 May 2015 (alternate Wednesdays): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

9 and 23 April and 7 and 21 May 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 Lawson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

9 April and 14 May 2015 (second Thursday): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

9 April and 14 May 2015 (second Thursday): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [No location given.]—Keith Lim

11 April and 9 May 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

19 April and 17 May 2015 (third Sunday): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

15 April and 20 May 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

17 April and 15 May 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

18 April and 16 May 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

25 April and 30 May 2015 (last Saturday): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

April 2015

April is Card and Letter Writing Month, National Humour Month, Stupid Banana Raincoat Wearing Month, William Shatner's TekMonth, and Dimension Spider Month.

1 April 2015: Premiere of film **Doctor Tongue's 3D House of Commons** (horror/Canadian politics; Count Floyd, Dr. Tongue, Woody Tobias Jr., Brian Mulroney, John Turner, Skip Bittman, Gerry Todd, The Queen-Haters).



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

2–5 April 2015: Norwescon 38 at DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, SeaTac, Washington. “Norwescon is the Pacific Northwest’s premiere science fiction and fantasy convention and one of the largest regional science fiction and fantasy conventions in the United States. While maintaining a primarily literary focus, Norwescon is large enough to provide a venue for many of the other aspects of science fiction and fantasy and the interests of its fans such as anime, costuming, art, gaming, and much, much more.” Contact person: Josh Keegan. For more info, contact: Norwescon, 100 Andover Park West, Suite 150-165, Tukwila, WA 98188-2828.—Steve Jackson’s gaming convention listing via Garth Spencer

3 April 2015: Funny Aftertaste Day.

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 and Garth Spencer

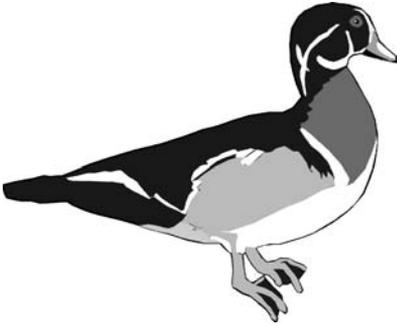
3–5 April 2015: Sakura-Con 2015 (anime), Washington State Convention Center, Seattle, Washington.—Ansible Facebook group via Garth Spencer

3–9 April 2015: What We Do in the Shadows (2014) at Cineplex Odeon, third floor, International Village, 88 West Pender Street, Vancouver. Vampire comedy.—Julian Castle

4 April 2015: School Librarian Day.

4–5 April 2015: HavenCon in Austin, Texas. LGBTQIA geek con. Twitter.—Julian Castle

5 April 2015: **Quantum Coconuts** at Club Mutagen. New wave sketch comedy show by former members of Carbon Blonde. Doors 9 PM, show 8 PM.



6 April 2015: Annual Talk Like a Duck and Give Ray Bob Johnston Money Day.—John, the Barnacled Hermit

10 April 2015: Premiere of films **Ex Machina** (SF) and **Lost River** (fantasy; Eva Mendes, Barbara Steele). Premiere of **Daredevil** on Netflix (Netflix's first original Marvel Comics series).—Julian Castle

11 April 2005: Seventh annual Carded!, 7–11 PM at Hot Art Wet City, 2206 Main Street, Vancouver. One-night show of art on trading cards. “Buy, collect, and trade the art of fifty artists reproduced on trading cards.” Cards are displayed on the gallery wall and “sold in mixed packs of five random cards for \$5. Want a specific card? Trade with the other people at the party.”—Julian Castle

12 April 2015: Russian Cosmonaut Day.

13 April 2015: Circuit Queen for a Day Day.

14 April 2015: The Forks and Spoons Club AGM. Note: due to a recent court decision, knives must be admitted, but they will be restricted to the mezzanine.—John, the Barnacled Hermit

16 April 2015: National Librarian Day.

17 April 2015: Premiere of films **Unfriended** (horror) and **Monsters: Dark Conflict** (SF). Canadian premiere of film **Monsters: Dark Continent** (sci-fi/thriller).—Julian Castle

18 April 2015: Vancouver Retro Gaming Expo at the Columbia, 530 Columbia Street, New Westminster. “Quality nerd entertainment. Vendors, gaming, artists, live music. All tickets \$20.”



19 April 2015: Talk Like a Mime Day.

20 April 2015: Monthly Peacegaming Meeting, 4 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. Admission is free and everyone is welcome, whether it's to participate in the pulse pounding trade deal negotiation action or just to watch the sweep and majesty of the occasional election!—John, the Barnacled Hermit



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.

25 April 2015: IPMS Seattle annual spring show. Seattle chapter of International Plastic Modelers Society.—Julian Castle

25–26 April 2015: CthulhuCon at Crowne Plaza Hotel, 1441 Northeast 2nd Avenue, Portland, Oregon.—Garth Spencer

26 April 2015: Operation Apricot Battalion, 4 PM at Vampire Republic, 819 Peripheral Plaza. Beigepunk movement begins here.

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

27–28 April 2015: Stumptown Comics Fest, 12th annual, Portland, Oregon.—Chris Sturges via Garth Spencer

28 April 2015: International Astronomy Day.

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

30 April 2015: Monthly Steampunk Society Meeting. **Note:** Due to a typographical error, this event was erroneously identified as a meeting of the “Teamspunk Society” in some publications. Trust us, that is something almost entirely different.—John, the Barnacled Hermit

31 April 2015: **Clive Clemmons'** birthday. Premiere of film **Noir Gravy!** (nerdlesque; Alexis Nexis, Paris Toltec, Miss Issauaga, Beryl Creighton).

Random Nostalgia

The Captain's Bargain Store
Nintendo 64

May 2015

1 May 2015: Space Day. Premiere of film **Avengers: Age of Ultron** (superhero; Robert Downey Jr., Chris Hemsworth, Mark Ruffalo, Chris Evans, Scarlett Johansson, Jeremy Renner, James Spader, Samuel L. Jackson, Don Cheadle, Idris Elba, Linda Cardellini, Stellan Skarsgard, Andy Serkis, Stan Lee, Josh Brolin).



2 May 2015: Free Comic Book Day.

"Free Comic Book Day is the perfect opportunity to introduce family and friends to the coolness of comics. From super-heroes and science fiction to action/adventure and manga, FCBD offers something for everyone!" [Comics include **Bongo Free-for-All!** and **Bob's Burgers**.]

2 May 2015: Taz Free Comic Book Day 2015!, 11 AM–6 PM at Tazmanian Comics, 3618 East Hastings Street.—Christina Carr

4 May 2015: **Star Wars** Day.

8 May 2015: Premiere of films **Maggie** (horror; Abigail Breslin, Arnold Schwarzenegger, Joely Richardson) and **I Am Big Bird: The Carroll Spinney Story** (documentary/biography; Carroll Spinney, Jim Henson, Frank Oz, Kevin Clash).

8–10 May 2015: Northern Fancon at CN Centre, Prince George [no address given on con website—2187 Ospika Boulevard South]. Guests: Peter Chao, Giancarlo Esposito, John de Lancie, Tia Carrere, William Shatner.—Garth Spencer

9 May 2015: Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.—Verne Siebert

11 May 2015: **Twilight Zone** Day.

15 May 2015: Premiere of film **Mad Max: Fury Road** (post-apocalypse; Tom Hardy, Charlize Theron, Iota, Richard Norton).

15 May 2015: Vanpla May 2015 Workshop, 1–5 PM at 木 Ki Tea House Cafe, #105–6888 Royal Oak Avenue, Burnaby. "Every month, Vanpla members get together for a build and socialize workshop meetup. Usual activities include: kits building (bring your own kits and tools), show your proud completed work, technique coaching (feel free to ask), demos and workshops, airbrushing (depending on venue, spray booth may be available, bring your own airbrush/paint/thinner/etc.), access to gunpla graveyard (salvage parts for your project free), group build/event discussion, watching anime, meet new people, chill, and enjoy. We invite everyone to join. See you guys there!"—Vanpla Facebook Group

15–17 May 2015: Keycon 32. The Radisson Hotel Downtown Winnipeg, 288 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba. Guests: Liana K, Elizabeth Moon, David Weber.—An-
sible via Garth Spencer

16 May 2015: Bellingham ComiCon Presents the Brick & Toy Fair, 10 AM–6 PM at Ferndale Events Center, 5715 Barrett Road, Ferndale, Washington. LEGO, games, toys. Northwest Washington's largest selection of new and out of production LEGO bricks, board games, card, games, RPG, new and vintage toys. Meet the experts—fun for all ages! Admission \$8—kids 7 and under free.

18 May 2015: **William Honeywill's** birthday.

19 May 2015: **Michael Bertrand's** birthday.

20 May 2015: **Julian Castle's** birthday.



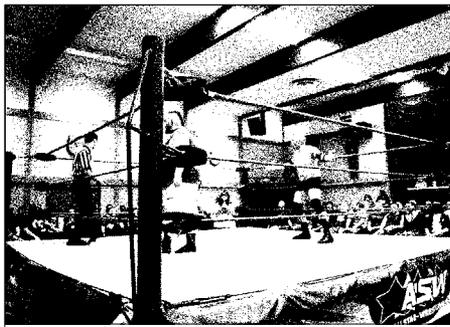
20 May 2015: Richmond BC Writers Club Open Mic Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, Unit 8200, 11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.

21 May 2015: **Gina Lynn Post's** birthday.

22 May 2015: Premiere of films **Tomorrowland** (SF; George Clooney, Hugh Laurie, Tim McGraw, Keegan-Michael Key, Judy Greer, Garry Chalk, Lochlyn Munro, Tomorrowland), **Poltergeist** (horror/remake; Sam Rockwell, Jared Harris), and **When Marnie Was There** (anime; Kathy Bates, Ellen Burstyn, Geena Davis, Catherine O'Hara, John C. Reilly, Vanessa Williams).

22 May 2015: All Star Wrestling: It's Midget Time!, 8 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. "Doors open at 7 PM; bell time at 8 PM. [. . .] * **Midget Time**—Short Sleeve Sampson vs. Little Prince Akeem—The biggest match of the night will be fought between two of the best in the world. It just so happens they are midgets. Little Prince Akeem has asked for the best competition that ASW has to offer. Well Short Sleeve Sampson answered the call. Short Sleeve is a former WWE/TNA star and is ready to go toe to toe. Vancouver are you ready to see this epic battle of the two biggest warriors in ASW?! **It's midget time!** * Hurricane Adam Ryder vs. Loose Cannon Kenny Lush—Adam Ryder is on a whirlwind of a winning streak as of late. He has currently become the Cruiser Weight Champion but doesn't consider himself just a cruiser weight. Ryder considers himself to be the best in ASW simply put. Answering the call was former ASW heavy weight champion Kenny Lush. Lush has fought all over the world and said he will gladly beat this punk in the squared circle and prove that Ryder is just a cruiser weight! Hurricane vs. Loose Cannon: **who will make the biggest impact?!** * **ASW Tag Team Titles**—League of Legacy vs. The Breakers—Former ASW Tag Champions the Break-

ers will be bringing their wacky in-ring behaviour to Vancouver as they face the current and defending Tag Team Champions League of Legacy (LOL). League of Legacy beat Gamma Jr. and Jinder Mahal to become the new champions. While that may be in the past it still proves that they are the best tag team in these parts. League has youth, speed and attitude while the Breakers have wisdom, gas and toughness. Can the Breakers regain what was once theirs or will the League be an unbeatable force? * **ASW Ladies Title**—Bambi Hall (Champion) vs. Jaida—Bambi Hall the new ASW Women's Champion has issued an open challenge. She just recently won the title in the first female ladder match in the Pacific northwest. Bambi wants to be challenged to better her craft. Bambi asked for a challenge and she received it from a bomb shell who has been turning heads and making the fans want more. Her name is Jaida and she will be the biggest challenge the Bambi has faced. Will there be a new champion? I know this much I know that these **girls gone wrestling** will make vancouver chant **We want more!!!** * Azeem the Dream vs. Don Ciever... Team USA vs. Former Team USA member. Don Ciever has heard enough from Azeem and wants to see him one on one in the middle of the ring. No other Team USA members will be with Azeem so this battle will be an even fight right down the middle. Don is still fairly new to ASW and wants to prove that he belongs. Azeem is a seasoned fighter who is the current Firestorm Champion. Although Azeem's matches end in controversy and are usually not settled, Azeem seems to secure victory after victory. Don Ciever might just be the means to an end for Azeem and make him humble in front of the ASW fans. * Plus Moondog Manson will defend the ASW Trans Canada Title against the radical Toga Boy! Fan favourite Toga Boy will finally get his much deserved title shot here in ASW as he faces the current and newly crowned champion Moondog Manson. Toga Boy has been a staple in ASW for many years with his mantra of **party every night and the power of 1000 guitars**. With the fans by his side he has overcome many odds. Moondog Manson just defeated former WWE superstar Gangrel in a steel cage match and is now ready to prove that he is the best Champion that ASW has ever seen. Can the Moondog retain the gold or will the party go on strong and will we have a New ASW Champion? Ladies and gentlemen are you ready for a night you will never forget? * Tickets: \$20 front row and \$15 general admission. <http://allstarwrestling.com/> for more info or call 604-710-0872."



Moondog Manson vs. Toga Boy.

22–24 May 2015: Furlandia at Sheraton Hotel at the Portland Airport, 8235 Northeast Airport Way, Portland, Oregon.—Christ Sturges via Garth Spencer

23–24 May 2015: Vancouver Comic Arts Festival (VanCAF), 181 Roundhouse Mews, Vancouver. Guests: Ian Boothby, Pia Guerra, James Lloyd, Ken Steacy, Robin Bougie, Miriam Libicki, Mike Myhre, Alex Steacy, Robin Thompson, Colin Upton.—Garth Spencer



Dalek remains
found in bathroom.

25 May 2015: Towel Day.

29–31 May 2015: Northwest Fan Fest at Anvil Centre, New Westminster. “[...] Three full days of pure fandom! Costume contest: \$1000 cash grand prize. Featuring the return of: The Gauntlet, The Walkoff, Lolita Fashion Show, Improv Against Humanity, Maid Cafe. Also featuring: console gaming and tournaments, tabletop gaming (RPGs, CCGs, board games, and miniatures), panels and workshops, **Quiver: The Green Arrow Podcast**, **Star Wars: The Rebel Podcast**, **Caustic Soda Podcast**, brain teasers 19+ after party, 19+ guest meet and greet (VIP passes), cosplay photo walk with Wii box [...] Guests: [...] The Doubleclicks [...] Westcoast Geeks vs. Nerds, The Fictionals Comedy Co., Gentlemen Hecklers, Geekenders, Ghostbusters of BC. [...]]”

31 May 2015: Reaper Miniature Paint & Take, 1–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Come join us for a miniature painting seminar. Set in a small classroom style and hosted by Beth, our resident miniature painting expert. Receive one on one painting tips and techniques. All supplies are provided including a free miniature to take home! Spaces are limited so please pre-register with us. Contact: Chris.”

News-Like Matter

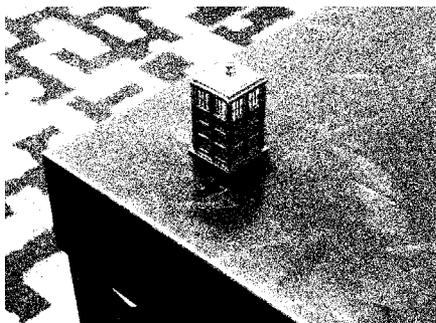
Notes from March 2015 BCSFA Meeting

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, and William Graham.

Today Ray looked like Kim Jong-Il (hair, clothes, glasses). He also had a model-train-scale TARDIS (1:87, known as HO scale¹⁷).

I gave Graeme a copy of the issue of **The Province** with his comments (at-

tributed to “R. Graeme Wilson”) about Leonard Nimoy’s death. Graeme said that a woman from the CBC had called him for comment regarding Terry Pratchett’s death. Graeme hadn’t read Pratchett, and suggested Robert J. Sawyer, who it turned out also hadn’t read Pratchett! Next they tried calling Spider Robinson, who said he had always meant to read Pratchett but never had because he didn’t want to be influ-



17 Short for “half zero”—i.e. half as big as 0 on the 1900s Marklin scale (0, 1, 2, and 3).—Future Felicity

enced in his own writing by Pratchett's style of humour. Spider in turn suggested Tanya Huff, who apparently was willing, but as it turned out the time slot wound up being filled with breaking news about the Vancouver School Board!

R. Graeme Wilson, president of the B.C. Science Fiction Association, said Nimoy will be "missed, no question" by his fans and the sci-fi community.

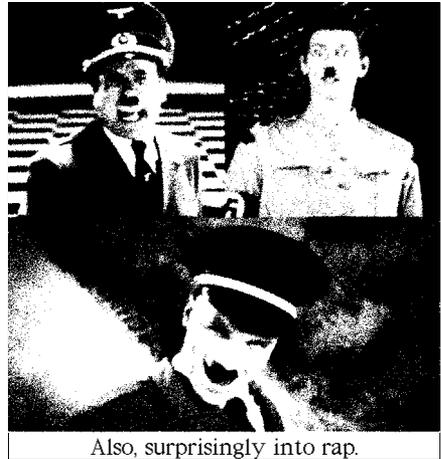
"Even minus the Star Trek, he was a first-class person," Wilson said. "He was very articulate in spreading a very civilized viewpoint of what people should be like. And it's not just Trek fans who loved him but, just speaking for the genre, science fiction fans had tremendous respect for him as well. There was something universal in his appeal."

Graeme saw the photo of himself in BCSFazine #500 and said "I don't look like my father... maybe my grandfather... except not dead! Well, I'll resemble that too, someday!"

Graeme said that Ronald Reagan was once asked what he thought of Boris Karloff. Reagan diplomatically replied, "He's a fine gentleman and an esteemed colleague." In fact they often battled over actors' union policies. Reagan thought the studios knew best and that the union should dutifully follow their advice, whereas Karloff's position was that unless the union was in charge, the actors were toast. (Reagan almost deregulated **himself!**)

Graeme and Fruvous talked about Friedrich Nietzsche. Graeme said Nietzsche suspected reincarnation was inevitable and killed himself to avoid living his life over again. Given his suspicions this makes no sense, but he was insane at the time after all. Fruvous said that Nietzsche's work was bastardised by his sister Elisabeth, who became curator and editor of his work after his death. Elisabeth edited out the anti-Nazi stuff and the pro-Jewish stuff. Nietzsche hated anti-semitism.

Graeme said "Don't read **Mein Kampf**. It's as turgid and boring as you'd expect, even though the English translation is actually more readable because the translation broke up the run-on sentences." Hitler wrote it in prison, so there was a lot of stuff about revenge against politicians he hated when he was down and out in Vienna. The one human touch was that there was a mouse that came in and out of his cell and he gave it food and described it as "a droll little creature." I said it was surprising that he was a good public speaker, since you'd think his speeches would be as boring as his writing. Graeme replied that "Hitler would wander around at the beginning of each speech, hesitantly checking the audience out phrase by phrase, 'til they began to respond enthusiastically, whereupon the actor in him would catch fire and he would histrionically whip up their emotions, rather than their intellect, 'til they were virtually out of control, lost in their extreme enthusiasm and totally his creature. For this reason Hitler has been referred to as 'the first great rock star.'"



Also, surprisingly into rap.

That made me think of the Isaac Asimov story "Ignition Point!" (1981) in which a psychologist teaches an amiable but dumb politician how to fire up audiences. Things get out of control when the politician starts to ignite even himself, and is therefore dangerously powerful. Relatedly, I was also reminded of the book **Silent Thunder** (1991) by Dean Ing, in which secret Nazi electronic technology called "Donnersprache" increases a speaker's charisma with hypnotic soundwaves. Hitler supposedly used it, and a few decades later, an American manages to smuggle it out of Germany, miniaturise it, install it in a microphone, and become a political king-maker.

Graeme said "Stephen Leacock once boasted to a group of professors that he could easily turn them into a lynch mob. They laughed. But he insisted, kept on insisting. This began to make them angry. He continued to provoke them further 'til finally they were on their feet, shaking their fists, and screaming insults at him, a veritable lynch mob indeed." I felt that that was cheating. Telling someone who's



Newspapers were enormous in the 1950s.

hysterical to calm down would be a more clever tactic. Someone replied "Don't disagree with this sentence."

I said that 1980s nostalgia has finally happened, but is quickly morphing into 1990s nostalgia, while 1950s nostalgia seems to be fading. I wondered if the 1950s nostalgia fading is because the people who remember the 1950s first-hand are dying off, although people my age and younger still imagine it as a happy/prosperous/safe time with tasteful fashions. This reminded Graeme of when he knew people who were nostalgic for the 1920s, who are all dead now.

Graeme's dad told him that the best time to travel had been the late 1940s and early 1950s when airlines and passenger trains vied with each other in offering superlative luxury to attract the newly prosperous masses. My notes say that someone said "Now the railway companies are trying to discourage passengers because carrying freight is more profitable." Ray added that no food is served on trains east of Winnipeg. I said "So that famous movie with the



evil conductor trying to throw the hobos off the train was not far from the truth." Graeme said I was thinking of **Emperor of the North Pole** (1973) and Ernest Borgnine who was convincingly scary as the evil conductor. I replied that Borgnine was scary but also funny as Corbis, the goat-headed Satanist in the B-movie **The Devil's Rain** (1975), starring William Shatner.¹⁸

18 And a young, unknown John Travolta as a cultist! In the movie, I mean.—Future Felicity

Graeme said that Marc Schirmeister drew large-breasted lizard women (“gone mammalian”), and is reclusive, drawing whenever he feels like it, and doing other things when he feels like it, such as building a log cabin!¹⁹



Graeme relayed a mind-blowing bit of trivia he'd just discovered: Fredric Wertham wrote a book about **zines!**²⁰ Yes, the SF kind! And he was in **favour** of them! He thought they fostered imagination and intelligence, and the risqué art was OK with him because it was artistic. Graeme wanted to read this book and found three copies on eBay . . . but the least expensive was \$200.

Graeme mentioned the crazy rumours circulating about Vladimir Putin because he hasn't been seen in a while, such as that he's dead, he's in Switzerland with his mistress, he'll reappear at Stalin's tomb with aliens, and—Graeme's favourite—that he would hand Russia over to Kim Jong-Un so that KJU could use Russia's resources to launch World War Three!

Sidney Trim phoned. Fruvous had just started to talk about his theory of the appeal of the apocalypse.

Graeme found out the truth about ISIS—Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi is insane because he was tortured for four years on and off by the CIA. He is following the word of an obscure prophet who was himself interpreting an obscure text. The

Switzerland.

My design for a new Swiss flag.



goal is to start the caliphate, take over the Holy Land, fill it with your followers—it's OK to kill any non-followers—provoke “the armies of Rome” which he takes to mean the West, let the caliphate be destroyed in that war, and when al-Baghdadi and his 5,000 followers are the last ones left, defending Jerusalem, and are just about to lose . . . Jesus (the second most important prophet in Islam) will manifest with a golden spear and stab the enemy leader. This causes the apocalypse in which the 5,000 are raptured to Heaven and everyone else who ever lived goes to Hell!

19 While checking the spelling of “Schirmeister” I noticed that he has also worked in animation.—Future Felicity

20 **The World of Fanzines: A Special Form of Communication** (1974), his final book. It got him invited to a convention, where he was heckled.—Future Felicity



Graeme added “Al-Baghdadi thinks Al-Qaeda was too weak and that Osama bin Laden made a mistake in explaining ‘The attacks will stop when the US leaves the Middle East.’ Instead, al-Baghdadi believes the whole point of a reign of terror is to be as terrifying as possible, and what better way than to commit acts of horrifying violence seemingly at random so that literally everyone under the control of ISIS has no idea whether they are next and lives in constant fear. If there’s no explanation, no justification, your apparent irrationality takes on superhuman dimensions and makes you seem more powerful and unstoppable than you actually are. Logical method in his ‘madness.’”

Someone said that the Harper government passed a law that First Nations holy ground doesn’t count because it’s not properly or formally churches, etc., and so can be sold to mining companies. My conspiracy theory response to this was that he wants to provoke a lot of different groups to revolt against him so he can crack down on them as terrorists.²¹

When Graeme was a kid, it was legal for the RCMP to come into your house and check your personal library for banned books! Things like Henry Miller’s **Tropic of Cancer**, James Joyce’s **Ulysses**, and political books . . . The Federal Minister in charge of censorship said “I won’t allow any book in Canada that is liable to harm my daughter if she reads it.” The kicker is, he had no children. Wasn’t even married.



Felicity Walker

Additional writing by Graeme Cameron

Sunday 15 March 2015

Notes from March 1986 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, and Stewart Smyth.

Ray complimented Kathleen on the snacks she bought, and said the flaming meat on swords was a nice touch. Felicity mentioned that she felt nostalgic for the Snorks, and that reminded Graeme of a fascinating story about how during World War II, the Germans spent a lot of money

sending divers down to negotiate a non-interference pact with Cthulhu. The irony is that the pact turned out to be unnecessary, because the Old One was already a big fan of Hitler’s work, and felt Hitler really “got” him. Ray told us about how Japan is



²¹ Also, so that Highlanders have fewer places to not fight.

planning to replace its bullet trains with shotgun trains that, instead of being one car going in one direction, consist of dozens of cars spreading out in all directions. He added that, while this was not as reliable as the bullet train system, it does a lot more damage at short range. Julian mentioned, with Joe's help, that there is a new comic of some sort that he is excited about. William told us that the Vancouver Hack Space just got a bio-printer, and he got to watch them try to print a meatloaf. It is still at large. And Fruvous mostly just sat there like a bearded Buddha waiting for opportunities to share one of his many, many theories.

John "Meat Rib" Chandler

Additional writing by Jeni Chamberlain-Roth
Sunday 16 March 1986

Ad Astra 2015

A "Review" by Brent Francis

Brent Francis



(**Bias alert!** Older white low-level fan who doesn't read/watch much SF anymore but likes to get his inner geek on once a year.)

Location: North end of Toronto. That is to say, nowhere. (I know, I live there.)

Comfort: At least two rooms stayed cool. (I know stuffy/hot meetings are part of the ritual, but I actually went to one lecture just so I could chill, literally and metaphorically.)

Talks: Fascinating. From "B Movies—Mentally Fattening **and** Good for You" (had a big argument over Vincent Price's acting) to "Commercial Space Flight 40% Off!" (**inflatable** space stations?) and a splendidly foul-mouthed talk on "Punk and SF" (is steampunk unintentionally colonial/racist?).

But the most provocative panel, hands down, was "The Shadow Over Lovecraft," a discussion of HP's political views & whether it's important to be aware of them when you read his work. I knew there'd been a controversy about him (see Wikipedia—World Fantasy Awards), but I've never, **ever** heard a moderator warn the speakers to behave (to the point of creating a "safe" word one could speak to make the other stop talking!)

The arguments basically went like this (paraphrasing):

* Speaker 1—Lovecraft's work stands on its own and you don't need to know his politics.

* Speaker 2—His antisemitism, racism, and promotion of eugenics to create a "healthy" race inform every aspect of his stories.

#1. Racism was endemic in 1920s culture and Lovecraft was the same as everybody else.

#2. Lovecraft was an extremist even back then.

And then it got really interesting . . .

Someone asked why and when Lovecraft went from being a minor cult writer to a media superstar. Speaker 1 said it was in the '60s, when the fear of world-wide destruction, pollution, etc. created a pessimistic atmosphere that fit his fin-de-siecle outlook. But, she joked, the world is still a lot better than we feared. "Even poor people have cellphones."

And at that point a young lady put her hand up. She was a Muslim exchange student from Pakistan. She pointed out that many poor people in Pakistan don't have cell phones, that both speakers seemed unaware that Lovecraft's attitudes are coming back post 9/11, and that to a lot of people, the real "alien" is North America!

I don't know who this feisty young lady was, but IMHO, she stole the show. Her polite but firm admonition of both speakers rocked the entire room on its heels. (And she used it on me the next day when I was whinging on about how white males are now the standard cliché bad guys in so much writing.)

So, all in all, a great time was had (by me at least) & looking forward to more!



Brent Francis
Saturday 18 April 2015

Art Credits

Felicity Walker (after Susan Kare/Rebecca Bettencourt).....Masthead
Felicity Walker (photos).....Cover, Pages 6, 12-15, 19 (bottom)
Clip art (via Dave Haren).....Pages 1-5
Clip art [**SCTV** (1976-1984) screenshot].....Page 9
Clip art (via Cliker.com).....Pages 10, 11, 17 (top), 18 (top), 19 (top/middle), 21
Clip art.....Page 16 (top), 17 (bottom)
Clip art (screenshot collage).....Page 16 (bottom)
Felicity Walker.....Page 18 (middle)
Clip art [**Almost Live!** (1984-1999) screenshot].....Page 18 (bottom)
Clip art [**The 13 Ghosts of Scooby Doo** (1985) screenshot]...Page 20
Richard Hamilton.....Page 22

