

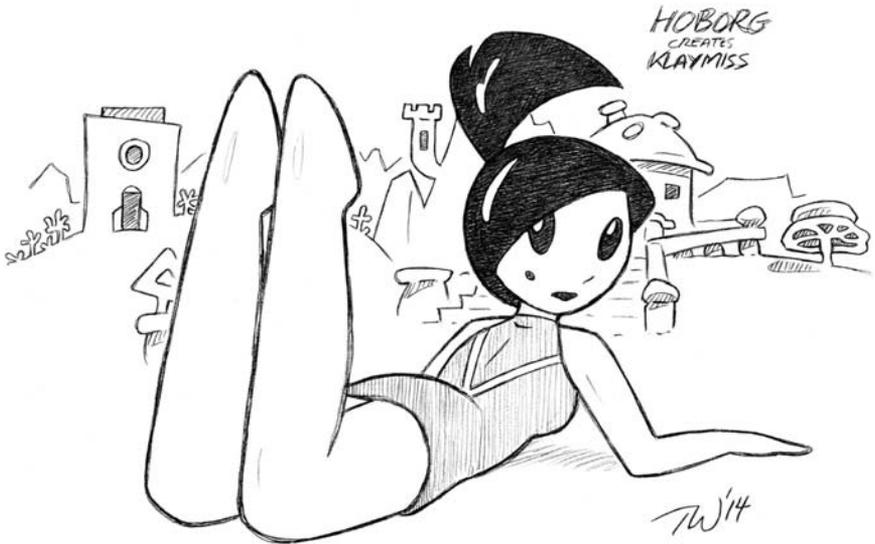
BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#504

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May 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 17 May at 7 PM:	May BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 22 May:	Submission deadline for June <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 29 May:	June <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 19 June:	Submission deadline for July <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 21 June at 7 PM:	June BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s.
Friday 26 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: 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.

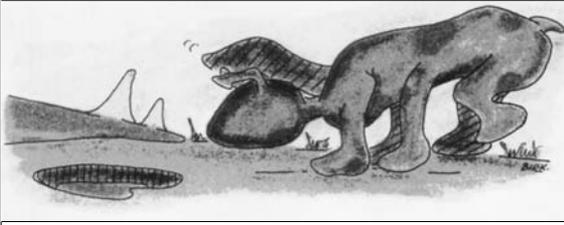
Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

Sheryl Birkhead

25509 Jonnie Court,
Gaithersburg, MD 20882
USA

“All I’ll admit to is
that this was *finished*
Wednesday 17 June 2015”



“New Yorker-style caption needed here.”

Hi all!

Well, here I sit at the car service area. A bit less than two weeks ago I was here as an emergency (driving—lost power steering, brake light on, battery light on—in the midst of every-

one *else* heading out of town for the long *Memorial Day* weekend). I had enough of the repairs suggested done to get the car moving and promised to come back as soon as I could locate the \$ for the rest. Well, I found a way to borrow the money so the first installment starts today. *This* time I am prepared with stuff to do while I sit and wait! Okay—on to #499 and #500!

On #499, seeing the *Brad Foster* cover reminds me that they must be getting ready for the Worldcon—hope they have a terrific time!

Lloyd—I was multitasking—watching one of the *Netflix* discs of the short-lived TV show of *The Dresden Files*—since it does not require much to follow. I glanced down to see which journals I still needed to read. Abruptly I looked back up—I *know that voice!* Lo and behold *Murdoch* (well, you know who I mean) was making an appearance! Since then I took some shows I really like—such as *Forever* (could *not* believe that was cancelled!) and then tracked down other guest appearances of the star—interesting.



Glad to hear (even if I am about six months behind—refuse to check out anything in #500—as red when it arrayed but now I need to do something!) the employment front is being maintained.

John (Purcell)—once upon a time I taught for a few years—seventh and eighth graders—I know the concept of the job never being done. About now (June) I am fairly certain that semester is over (unsure what system you’re on and I know there are several!)—and don’t know if you are tacking over the summer. Regardless, hope everything is continuing to go well!

#500—a nice healthy fat ish!

Wow—the *BCSFA archives* bear a striking resemblance to my um...er...collection (?) of zines. (Thank you for the look at cover art from issues past!) I am side-tracked—just looking at the visions of covers past! I'll try to get back on track in a “minute.”

Well, it was much more than a moment, but I eyetracked (again) down the images of covers! Nice. Two issues specifically caught my eye—pages 21 and 26—I had to look at the back page to see if they really were (yes) by *Linda Michaels*. At least several times in the intervening years I have tried to see if she is still active... still doing artwork...but can't find anything. A g'heart talent—sorry not to see her work anymore.

When I get a chance I'll try out the suggested phonebook site. As I said before, there *must* be one out there that is simply the free version of the phone book I have available. I just need to locate it.



I'll see if I can remember to use (on the envelope) an ink stamp I had made from one of my pieces. If I have thought ahead, I would use it with the same art on a letterhead—but that is much too much organization.

There certainly have been a broad spectrum of covers over the years. I hope someone will archive images of the covers as well as the complete issues!

I enjoyed traveling down the fannish (and related) history path—hope someone collects it all as it is written, so it is not lost.

Ah yes, the final words mention *collating parties*. From this perspective it is easy to say ow wonderful they were—forgetting the hours, work, and everything else involved. Each advance in pebbling has taken the final product one step further from the personal product—for better *or* worse.

As always, thank you!

'Bye,

Sheryl

Dave Haren
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Saturday 20 June 2015

Hi Felicity,

I've been saving up the usual snippets of interesting (to me) stuff. A lot is going on.

First I need to parse what I was trying to say about hunter gatherers.¹ Our type of society uses the conception of supply chains. Each person in the chain does a specific part of the entire task making him/her a specialist at that. For the survival of the group no primitive can be less than a jack of all trades able to do every task that any other tribal member can do. The reason is that their educational system is based on

1 Readers: See Michael Bertrand's LOC in [BCSFazine #503](#) for context.

being with competent adults and learning by doing the tasks. The Prussian system adopted by all modern societies takes the children away and remolds them into cannon fodder for the new conscript armies because the nation states fear what people might learn from their own relatives. I think it was Dewey who said the most dangerous people were those who had learned to think for themselves.

[I already knew about John Dewey and agreed with his belief that education should create citizens who can inform themselves and think critically about their world. What I didn't know until I looked it up just now is that he's not the same Dewey from the Dewey Decimal System. It turns out that was Melvil Dewey, several decades earlier.]

I am going to sorely miss Tanith Lee. I re-read her with alarming regularity.

Ornette Coleman is dead too.

[He and Howard Shore provided a great soundtrack for David Cronenberg's Naked Lunch (1991). The free jazz score was just the right amount of disorienting and disturbing, while also beautiful and oddly soothing.]

And on the same page they said Christopher Lee is too. He was a Tolkein fanboy so he had his chance to do it right.

However Anne Rice has dumped the RC² again and they are talking about making the whole Vampire Chronicles into a series of movies. I haven't seen the Rampling movie³ because of the cast but thought it was a great book until the end when they went off hand in hand to a small cottage to live happily ever after.

[I saw the movie when it came out. Although Rosie O'Donnell is unlikable in it, I have to give the movie credit for being ahead of its time in its positive portrayal of the fetish community.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XiCVkC5tJM0>

[It says "This video has been removed as a violation of YouTube's policy against spam, scams, and commercially deceptive content. Sorry about that."]

Blender based CGI makes up for all its faults with the enthusiasm of the people involved.

[There's [a person on YouTube](#) using Blender to make Battletech animation.]

<http://www.steamshovel.press/2015/06/07/et-go-home-lets-retire-the-extra-terrestrial-hypothesis/>

My kind of website. [↑]

[Cool! Looks like I've found a new time trap.⁴]



2 Roman Catholic Church.

3 *Exit to Eden* (1994), starring Dana Delaney, Rosie O'Donnell, Dan Aykroyd, Hector Elizondo, and Iman, based on the BDSM romance novel which Rice wrote under the pen name "Anne Rampling."

4 Or maybe not. There are only a few articles available.—Future Felicity

If you like computer comics Charlie Stross' blog has a whole lot of recommends in the comment section.

Some of this is not particularly safe...grin.

[Comics about computers, comics made on computers, or webcomics? I like Shatter, a cyberpunk comic made in the 1980s on the then-new Macintosh.]

<http://archive.org/details/GodIsATattooedPhilippenoLesbianDwarfWithAClitRing>

[It says "The item you have requested had an error—item cannot be found—which prevents us from displaying this page. If you would like to report this problem as an error report, you may do so here."]

Exercise your tear ducts.

March 1938: The Italian elementary particle physicist Ettore Majorana boarded a post ship in Naples, heading for Palermo. But he either never arrives there—or he leaves the city straight away. Ever since that day there has been no trace of the exceptional scientist and until today his mysterious disappearance remains unresolved. Since then, Majorana, a pupil of the Nobel Prize winner Enrico Fermi, has more or less been forgotten. What the scientific world does remember though is a theory about nuclear forces, which he developed, and a very particular elementary particle.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1BH3UdHlbn0&start=90>

[The Strange Case of Señor Computer (2000). ⬆]

http://9-11themotherofallblackoperations.blogspot.com/2007/04/use-of-squids-superconducting-quantum_19.html

For the paranoid. [⬆]

[I like the phrase "synthetic telepathy." I could see positive applications. If I were the one who held computer control over my own mind, I could be braver, happier, and healthier.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jh8supIUj6c#t=19m42s>

Two good ones back to back. [⬆]

[That was really interesting, even if I did get distracted every time he mispronounced "simulation." When I'm not on a deadline I'm going to watch it from the beginning.]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7emBbh0NYj8>

Passable interpretation of the *Nibelungenlied*.⁵ [⬆]

<http://taff.org.uk/ebooks.php>

Fan info worth a look. [⬆]

[Including things from the 1980s! But Okular is having a hard time with the epub format.]

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Source: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/19984/19984-h/19984-h.htm> by L.
Walters. All rights reserved. A reproduction of this work in any form or by any means without the prior written permission of the author is prohibited. You may enjoy reading it, exclusively to the public domain.

<http://boingboing.net/2015/06/04/japan-closes-famous-hot-spring.html>

News. [⬆]

<http://icv2.com/articles/news/view/31717/stafford-petersen-back-chaosium>

5 "The Song of the Nibelungs."

[“Greg Stafford has returned to Chaosium, the company he founded in 1975, as President and CEO. Sandy Petersen, who designed the company’s biggest hit, the Call of Cthulhu RPG, has also returned to Chaosium. ‘I’m puttin’ the band back together,’ Stafford said.”]



<http://www.underhanded-c.org/>

Hackers are nothing to fear...

<http://knitmeapony.tumblr.com/post/113439203459/things-i-learned-from-sir-terry-pratchett-and-his>

[I like A, B, C, and F.]

<http://www.antipope.org/charlie/blog-static/2015/06/a-product-review-and-some-musi.html#more>



...but you better fear your electronic Junque (see comments).

The Hugofuss continues apace. You can’t find a better summation of it than Eric Flint gives it. Understand that it’s the logical explanation. The emotional scars being handed around are going to be hard to heal. Nothing new about it. SF writers split over the Vietnam War and were quite as obnoxious about it. Since I was a fan when SF was “mind rotting trash” with lurid covers printed on the cheapest paper they could find I think that the literary pretensions of the genre are hilarious now. Lovecraft is discussed in hushed tones and examined for his deepest psychological underpinnings. I probably won’t be around when Harlan Ellison gets to be psychoanalyzed and his writings dissected for links to his vertical-challenge-driven behaviors. What that kind of thing deserves is a donkey bray of amusement.

I am quite enthused about some of the newer movies, particularly the new young-people-made ones. The acting may be awkward but the storylines are solid and the comp and CGI work is superb. I haven’t seen it yet but they made Farmer’s *Riverworld*.⁶ Also *Radio Free Albemuth*⁷ is out on DVD. Tor Browser is up to version 4.5.2. Gutenberg⁸ has passed 49,000 books.

[That makes two Philip K. Dick movies that end with the hero as a prisoner working in a field but with hope for the future.]

One thing you might notice about spellcheckers, they won’t tell you if a word is wrong if it is spelled correctly. So using *jet* for *get* is not going to be caught by the checker.

I found a great story over on archive.org.⁹ Published at UBC originally. It is about the Arrow fighter. It also looks suspiciously like a current Eurofighter without

6 (2010).

7 (2010).

8 [Project Gutenberg](#).

9 [The Internet Archive](#).

the front flippers. It also confirms the shaggy dog stories the intelligence community has been telling to scare people into overfunding their clown act. In part this was the results of absorbing the NSDAP espionage apparatus in Russia. Those people were Tsarist religious nuts who wanted the Communists over-thrown by any means. They fed the western IC with tall tales of hordes of Russian bombers but no one bothered to check if the stories were true. So a bombed out country populated with hordes of widows was painted as a bloodthirsty expansionist empire coiled ready to strike at any moment. You see the same kind of tripe being peddled today as gospel. The Rus are like any other nation. As long as no one is stepping on their toes they are unlikely to launch a sneak attack on anyone.

I think I just got sidetracked. If this keeps up I will be boring everybody with Chaitin's¹⁰ views on the crisis in mathematical foundations next.

Tell the Graeme he should be glad to be a Wilson because Gibson made them famous...*grin*.

I find it hard to believe anyone has managed to avoid reading at least one of the 41 Discworld books or at least watched one on YouTube. Do it now as a tribute to Christopher Lee who did the voice of Death.

[*If I recall correctly I read Mort when I was university.*]

The usual bunch of pics (note the coyote on the first jetpack helm). The Arrow fighter article and Chaitin paper are for the idle amusement of the usual suspects.

Onward to issue 1000.

Warm regards,

Dave



Brent Francis
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Sunday 21 June 2015



Hi Felicity. Thanks for running my article on Ad Astra in your last column. I was rather amused to see the picture of the Muslim girl in a headscarf. Actually she was bareheaded with a punkish spiky haircut & pants (kinda like the host of the old *QueerTV* show on CityTV, remember her?).

[*I didn't see that show, but according to the Internet that was Irshad Manji.*]

Nope, not every Muslim girl looks the same. But responses to them appear to be getting depressingly similar. (She told me when she came to Canada, she was stopped at the border over her paperwork. She had signed approvals from the govts. of Canada and Pakistan plus all the necessary paperwork. She was told she did not have a *hand*-signed note & was immediately locked in a room for several hours with no explanation. When she was released, she was sent through im-

10 Gregory Chaitin.

migration immediately. She asked about the hand-signed thing. It was *never* required & they couldn't tell her why they had held her.

Way to win hearts & minds folks...

Oh and a coupla other things re—

—John Travolta's makeup in the movie *Devil's Rain*: "He looks like he fell into a pizza" (Roger Ebert).

—Book censorship in Canada: I have a third edition of *Fanny Hill* published in Toronto, 1964. The spine has no title, just the author's name, so you can put it on the bookshelf & not be called a perv.

"Oh my scrofulous French novel,
in grey paper with blunt type,
take one look at it and grovel,
hand & foot in Belial's gripe"
(Algernon Swinburne).

Cheers!

[*I didn't realize "scrofulous" was a real word! The only other place I've heard it was in the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (1987) episode "The Old Switcheroo." I thought Shredder made it up! Michael Reaves wrote it; I should have known better!*]



Lloyd Penney
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Friday 26 June 2015

Dear BCSFen:

Many thanks for issue 503 of *BCSFazine*, another retro issue! Gotta love 'em, this kind of nostalgia didn't happen that long ago. Looking very Mac-ish.

[*Thanks! TrueType versions of the original, authentic 1980s Geneva and New York fonts don't exist, so I had to make the fonts from text samples that took a long and winding journey from screenshots on Jax Coldwolf's old Macintosh PowerBook (which had the original city fonts installed) to a 3½-inch floppy disk to Joe Devoy's 1990s Macintosh (which could read and write both Macintosh and PC floppy disk formats) to a PC-formatted floppy disk to an old Windows computer with Adobe Photoshop and High-Logic Font Creator!*

[*With the 1980s Macintosh era, I've come to the end of my four-year-long retro issue April Fool's joke. Laser-printed 1990s zines look pretty much the same as today's zines.*]

I must go to Project Gutenberg to see what free SF downloads they have. I haven't been on that site since I downloaded several hundred MBs of old SF for my Palm Tungsten.

I haven't heard much more about the chlorine gas released at a furrycon, except that there's plenty of people out there who will commit that kind of mischief at a hotel with the funny-looking people there, but this is a new low in what these idiots might do to our groups. Usually, one group might be in the hotel alongside of us, and

if there is any damage to hotel property, we often get blamed for it, no matter who did it.



Never did see *Tomorrowland*,¹¹ but I am sure I will at some point. Even the movies I do want to see really don't excite me that much.

[*Amos Iu told me about it. It sounds preachy.*]

1950s nostalgia fading? I fear you're right. These days, when you hear about an oldies show on the radio, they don't usually go before the '60s. The original rock from the '50s is too old for the oldies show...I guess I am truly old.

Ad Astra 2015 report...Ad Astra is my home convention, you might say. I've been to every one of them except the first, and Yvonne's been to them all. The first Ad Astra was in 1980, so it's only a few years younger than VCON. The only reason the convention is taking place in Richmond Hill is that it is literally unaffordable to hold the convention in Toronto itself. Where cons of all kinds were held, on the airport strip, only Anime North can afford to be there, and their revenue stream is in the seven figures. Brent, if you are wondering where I was, I spent the con in the dealers' room at our table, and honestly didn't see much more of the con.

Time to go, want to get this to you before the weekend, not sure when. Pubnight tonight with a special guest from Beijing. Yes, that Beijing. See you with the next issue.

Yours,
Lloyd Penney

John Purcell
askance73@gmail.com

Friday 3 July 2015

Once again with feeling, I find myself composing a brief missive on the latest edition of *BCSFazine*, the zine that grew with the great Northwest.

You have some interesting correspondents: The Pen Pal Collective, Obama Thripswinger Strasburg, Lloyd Penney...Wait, how'd he get in here?

[*This would be a good time to give credit for last issue's fictional content. LOCs were by Michael Bertrand and WAHF was by me. Calendar items were by Michael Bertrand (if credited to "John the Barnacled Hermit") or me (if no credit). Meeting notes were by Michael Bertrand.*)]

Dave Haren as usual provides some interesting errata with assorted links. I am not sure what to make of some of them, but it's an intriguing collection of stufh. I didn't have the opportunity to meet Norman Spinrad at LSC3—the WorldCon in San Antonio, TX—a couple years ago, so I have no idea if his behavior at VCON is typical of him or not. That fan must have caught him in an off mood, or after a long day, and he is no spring chicken any more, although still writing sharp, brilliant

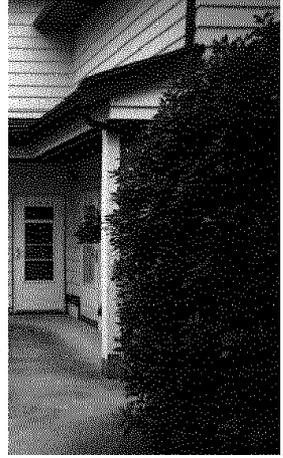
11 (2015).

work. If I ever get the chance I'd like to get his autograph on the Spinrad books I have in my collection.

Say, I got a kick out of the old-time photos you interspersed throughout this issue with all the modern dates. That was fun. Do it again!

[*It didn't quite come out the way I thought it would. A few years ago I accidentally created a much more ThunderScan-like effect in Photoshop (at right), but when editing the last issue I couldn't remember how I did it and couldn't reproduce it.*]

The "Notes from the March 2015 BCSFA Meeting" was fun to read, too. You folks covered a lot of ground, and then you employed the time machine to report on a BCSFA meeting from 1986! Interesting to compare names to see who is still knocking about in the club. If you have any more old meeting notes to share like this, I know I'd appreciate it. Very interesting to see who and what has changed over the years in the group.



Ad Astra 2015 sounds like it had some interesting events. I have known about this convention for many years, thanks to Lloyd Penney's mentioning it in his letters, and I am glad Brent Francis mentioned the comments raised by that Pakistani woman. She is right, too. Quite frankly, Americans—not so much Canadians, in my mind—need to get their ears clipped once in a while. It would be healthy for us to hear firsthand what people from other countries think of us. Good for her!

With that, this is done. Many thanks for yet another issue, and I look forward to seeing the next one.

All the best,
John Purcell

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Thursday 16 July 2015



Hello again BCSFAns! Hope you're all enjoying the summer as much as I'm not. Hot weather is not kind to we nutritional overachievers (it's a square-cube thing, as well as metabolic), and while sunshine makes me happy, the heat makes me nauseous and headache-y due to heat stroke.

So it's kind of a wash. Who am I kidding, it sucks. So until I can finally afford AC, or I move further north, summer is more to be endured than enjoyed.

It was so much better when I was a kid. Summer meant the beach, and my mother (the teacher) being home, and my siblings being around more. It meant tossing the Frisbee back and forth with my brother, and steak fresh from the barbeque every Sunday night. And of course, it meant *no school*.

But summers, much like birthdays, becoming a lot less fun when you are a grownup. And I am practically one now!

Re: Dave Haren's remarks about a bad movie called *The Core*.¹²

I have given a lot of thought to the whole "What the hell were they *thinking?*" question, and I think the answer must lie in how difficult it is to see the big picture (so to speak) when you are involved in something as enormous and complex as making a movie. From the inside, making a bad movie looks the same as making a good one to most of the people involved. Everybody does their job, gets paid, and goes home.

Then the producer, director, and editor get together to make the whole mess into a *movie*. Nobody else is there with them. And only they decide what goes in and what get cut out.

So sure, someone should have done some fact-checking. But who? Some pimple faced kid with no clout whom nobody will listen to? Or the producer and director, whose main concern is making a product the distributors will accept?

Viewed that way, it almost seems like the only way a good movie can be made is either by accident or by auteur.

And there's not a lot of true auteurs in the world.

That's it from me for this month, folks. I will talk to you nice people again next ish! Bye bye!

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

3, 10, 17, and 24 May and 7, 14, 21, and 28 June 2015 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 May and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 June 2015 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 May and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 June 2015 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

5, 12, 19, and 26 May and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

12 (2003).

5, 12, 19, and 26 May and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

5, 12, 19, and 26 May and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

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

7, 14, 21, and 28 May and 4, 11, 18, and 25 June 2015 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May and 5, 12, 19, and 26 June 2015 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May and 5, 12, 19, and 26 June 2015 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May and 5, 12, 19, and 26 June 2015 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May and 6, 13, 20, and 27 June 2015 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May and 6, 13, 20, and 27 June 2015 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

7 May and 4 June 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.

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

12 May and 9 June 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

6 and 20 May and 3 and 17 June 2015 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

7 and 21 May and 4 and 18 June 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)

14 May and 11 June 2015 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

14 May and 11 June 2015 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [No location given.]—Keith Lim

9 May and 13 June 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

17 May and 21 June 2015 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

20 May and 17 June 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

15 May and 19 June 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

16 May and 20 June 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

21 May and 17 June 2015 (*third Wednesday*): Richmond BC Writers' Club Open Mic Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, Unit 8200, 11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.

30 May and 27 June 2015 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

May 2015

May is Creative Beginnings Month and Get Caught Reading Month.

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: **Martin Hunger**'s birthday. Free Comic Book Day.

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].—Garth Spencer

9 May 2015: **Ty Templeton**'s birthday.

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.—Vanpla Facebook Group

15–17 May 2015: Keycon 32, The Radisson Hotel Downtown Winnipeg, 288 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba.—Ansible 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.

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.

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.—Garth Spencer

25 May 2015: Towel Day.

29–31 May 2015: Northwest Fan Fest at Anvil Centre, New Westminster.

31 May 2015: Reaper Miniature Paint & Take, 1–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

June 2015

2 June 2015: **Lloyd Penney**'s birthday.

3 June 2015: **Karl Johanson**'s birthday.

4 June 2015: Hug Your Cat Day.

5 June 2015: **Alyssa Foote**'s birthday. Premiere of film *Insidious: Chapter 3* (horror; Dermot Mulroney, Owen the Golden Retriever).

8 June 2015: **Ian Boothby**'s birthday.

11 June 2015: **Ray Seredin** and **Kathleen Moore**'s birthdays.

12 June 2015: Premiere of film *Jurassic World* (SF; Vincent D'Onofrio, BD Wong, Judy Greer, Jimmy Fallon, Brad Bird, Divine Prince Ty Emmecca).

13 June 2015: **Bobbi Schneider**'s birthday.

15 June 2015: **Jay Demetrick**'s birthday.

19 June 2015: Premiere of film *Inside Out* (computer animation; Amy Poehler, Richard Kind, Bill Hader, Lewis Black, Diane Lane, Kyle MacLachlan, Paula Poundstone, Bobby Moynihan, Paula Pell, Frank Oz, Flea, John Ratzenberger, Carlos Alazraqui, Laraine Newman, Jess Harnell).

21 June 2015: Worldwide Party. Toast your fellow zinesters at 21:00.—Dale Speirs

23 June 2015: **Amos Iu**'s birthday.

25 June 2015: **Ed Beauregard**'s birthday.

26 June 2015: **Todd Bussey**'s birthday. Premiere of film *Batkid Begins* (documentary; Miles Scott, Hans Zimmer).

28 June 2015: **Toren Atkinson**'s birthday.

29 June 2015: **Leonard Wong**'s birthday.

30 June 2015: Meteor Watch Day.

News-Like Matter

Notes from April 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.

My father was recently trying to remember the title of a Gordon R. Dickson short story. He read the first part of it in a magazine such as *Analog* but never got to find out how it ended. I relayed his description of it to the group.¹³ Graeme said he would look it up when he got a chance.

13 I'll restate it here in case any readers can identify it. A fifth-generation assassin from an ancient feud between two Italian clans is trying to kill the last surviving member of the enemy clan. The target is boarding a colony spaceship in first class, so the assassin mugs another first-class colonist for his ID and takes his place. The wealthiest of the first-class colonists are the board of directors. There are also a lot of poor colonists in steerage who can't afford a seat on the board and so have no vote and no rights, but they pool together enough of their money to buy one first-class passenger a seat on the board to represent their interests. This representative might be the target, and the target might be a woman with whom the assassin falls in love.—Future Felicity



Ray said that Disney has the rebroadcast rights to *Doctor Who*. Graeme asked “Have they ever tried to do an American *Doctor Who*?” Sid replied “The 1996 TV movie.” I said that it was aired on an American network, but filmed in Vancouver, and was part of the British *Doctor Who* series (1963–1989). I wondered what it would have been like to have a fully American reboot of *Doctor Who*—the Doctor is American, everyone on Gallifrey speaks with an American accent, etc. Joe replied that *Community* (2009) did something like that with their fictional show *Inspector Spacetime* (1962). An American version was developed starring

Luke Perry as the Inspector and Jenny Garth as the companion, but was ruined by focus-group suggestions from Pierce (Chevy Chase) who said “Couldn’t the companion be a blonde tennis player? And set it 1960s San Francisco, the swingiest time ever.”

This reminded Stew of an interview with the Beach Boys in which the interviewer kept mentioning their TV shows and movies...they finally realized he thought they were the Monkees. Easy mistake to make in the late 1960s if you were square. The Beach Boys did do one or two C-grade beach movies.¹⁴

This led to the topic of Beatniks, the media stereotype rather than the Beat Generation. Graeme remembered a “Hire a Beatnik” service in New York City where two students dressed as Beatniks would come to rich people’s parties and recite obscure poetry and play bongos. Also the guests would dress as their approximation of Beatniks—black berets, ill-fitting leotards. Besides memorized or improvised bad poetry—the key was to have a profound, far-off look—they’d do a rant against the rich that the partygoers ate up! And the students were getting paid for it. The partiers could have gone down to the Village and met the genuine article, but preferred the fake version.

Stew said that he got to go to the prom one year early because there were not enough boys in the graduating class, so they invited boys from the younger grades. I’ve never been clear on what a “prom” is. Sometimes it seems like it’s a graduation dinner/dance, but on TV schools seem to have several proms per year. Stew sarcastically replied “It’s short for *graduation promenade*. Figure it out.” I replied that I already knew what the word was short for; what I didn’t understand was whether it’s only a graduation party, or a more regular dance that happens several times a year, as on TV. Fru agreed. Joe speculated that there are regular promenades and graduation promenades. The group shared tales of their grad parties.



14 *The Girls on the Beach* (1965) and *The Monkey’s Uncle* (1965).—Future Felicity

The topic shifted to Italy, Ethiopia, Mussolini, and Haile Selassie. That reminded me of Graeme's article in a previous *BCSFazine* about Ethiopia's Air Force and the Black Eagle of Harlem.¹⁵

Barb said that the cookies and peanut M&Ms from tonight's meeting were provided by Susan Walsh.

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron
Sunday 19 April 2015

Garth Spencer Change of Address

Garth Spencer has moved again. His new address is 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, V5N 3X5.

Felicity Walker

Friday 26 June 2015



I've Nothing to Say, But I'll Still Say It— FA Journal 226, 7 July 2012

Taral Wayne

[*This article was previously published in The Drink Tank #231 (date unknown; edited by Chris Garcia).*]

Oh, crap. A week has gone by since I last posted. It seems more like about four days ago... That probably means that the next 20 years of my life will be over in about six weeks, and I'm *so* not ready for that.

I've been posting major epics on FurAffinity of late, and while the response has been gratifying, I recall getting a larger volume of comments back when my journals were short and furry-related. Am I doing something wrong? Should I return to pithy little remarks about *My Little Pony* and guys costumed as top-heavy vixens? Believe me, I would if I could, but I feel as though I've said it all. There's nothing left on which I need to sharpen my sense of the ridiculous.

But a week has gone by, and I *have* to say *something!*

Otherwise, there will be no comments for me in the coming week.

Should I ask what the reader's ten favourite animated films are? I've recently seen exactly that on FurAffinity. Unfortunately, I spoke my piece in comments to that artist's journal.

Perhaps I could try to talk the reader into buying or commissioning art. I know one artist over at DeviantArt who does that every single, friggin' day! I kid you not! Although I rather like his art, I'm beginning to hate *him*. Is he unaware that most of the rest of us are artists too, or does he regard himself above the need to socialize with a mere source of income? Heck...if I wanted a piece of art of his that badly, I'd just rip off his idea and do it myself.

¹⁵ Hubert Julian (1897–1983).



I could complain about the huge number of hermaphrodites, repetitive illustrations of butt-fucking, endless parades of S&M, and the astonishing amount of mind-numbingly unoriginal, imitation Japanese fanart...but judging from what I see posted to FurAffinity I'm clearly in a minority on this point. (I'm aware, of course, that *my* art sometimes touches a few sore points as well. Each to his own filth, I say.)

There are no movies I especially want to encourage you to see. Well, actually, no animated movies from the last ten years or so. You've all seen them. If you want a list of movies from a long, long time ago, when people remembered handwriting and dialing a phone number, you could do worse than rent a DVD of *Marty*, *Angels in the Outfield*, *Angel and the Badman*, *Mr. Roberts*, or *The Apartment*.

I could refer the reader to some URL where there is presumably something of interest to see. But in almost every case when I've followed such a lead, the results were hardly rewarding enough to have bothered. I have nothing I especially want to bring anyone's attention to, anyway.

Or I could puff up some other artist, and demand the reader immediately check out his gallery. Maybe another time, when I have someone specifically in mind and not the same-old-same-old that I always recommend.

The fact is, I really have nothing to say, and it's taken all my skill as a writer to put off admitting it until this point. I suspect, too, most of the readers are as stumped as I am about what to write in their journal. When was the last time I read one that wasn't a complaint about the writer's health, computer system, or lack of money?

So, dear reader, I advise you do what I've done—give up reading journals. Even mine, if next week I can't find something better to write about than *this*.

Taral Wayne
Monday 9 July 2012

Art Credits

<u>Taral Wayne</u>	Cover, Page 18
Sheryl Birkhead.....	Pages 1 (left), 2
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Pages 1 (left), 2, 3 (right), 6
Clip art (via <u>Clker.com</u>).....	Pages 1 (right), 9 (left)
Clip art (<i>Okular</i> screenshot).....	Pages 4, 17
Clip art [<i>Kung Fury</i> (2015) screenshot].....	Page 5 (right)
<u>Brent Francis</u> (photo).....	Page 7
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photo).....	Page 9 (right)
<u>David Martin</u> (font).....	Page 16 (left)
Clip art [<i>Community</i> (2009) screenshot].....	Page 16 (right)