

BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#506

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July 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 19 July at 7 PM:	July BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 24 July:	Submission deadline for August <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 31 July:	August <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 21 August:	Submission deadline for September <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 28 August:	September <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 30 August at 7 PM:	August BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's.

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/bcscifi_assoc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

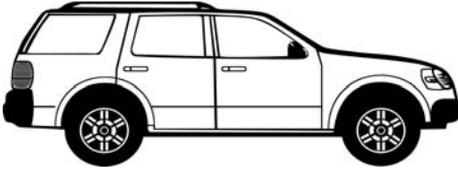
Letters of Comment

[*Editor's responses in brackets.*]

John Purcell

askance73@gmail.com

Tuesday 21 July 2015



And the hits just keep on coming...

Wow. Sheryl Birkhead certainly has been hit with one calamity after another. Her car repairs reminds me that one of our vehicles—the 1999 Lincoln Navigator—needs a tune-up, but that’s requiring lots and lots of \$\$\$.

We have to break that into one item at a time. First up, the radiator and cooling system flush and refill. There goes a couple hundred right there. *(sigh)* Thankfully our mechanics have coupons with decent savings, so it won’t hurt as much, plus I’m glad I have a relatively decent paying job. Even so, gotta watch the budget.

Sheryl also mentions fannish history, which I so enjoy reading and learning from, and collating parties. How well I remember performing collation on disties of *Minneapa* and issues of *Rune* back when I lived in Minneapolis and was active in Minn-StF. Not anymore. Ah, yes, those were the days.

Say, page 5 sure got muddied up with over-printing or smushed layout on the screen. Sometimes that happens thanks to document formats getting overlapped. It was only a paragraph, but I thought I’d point that out.

[*Believe it or not, that was a screenshot of what happened when I tried to view an .epub format file! I should have added “(See below)” to the paragraph above it.*]

And thank you for the clarification on those mysterious letter writers. Stuff like this makes fanzine production a lot of fun.

With that, a brief LOC is done, and I hope you Vancouverites have a pleasant summer and enjoy each other’s company. I know I’d like to enjoy your company some year, such as at a VCON. We shall see.

[*Thanks!*]

All the best,

John Purcell

Dave Haren

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 14 August 2015

Hi Felicity,

I’ll send you a detailed method to find some of the linkages separately.

I have resolved to stop picking on Graeme since he is being serious.

Some person with far too much time on their hands has located a humanoid in one of NASA’s Mars pics. Then someone reported a roller skate axle and wheels in another (Boing Boing). I just got a load of zines from eFanzines. *Fornax* #4¹ has an

1 <http://efanzines.com/Fornax/Fornax-04.pdf>.

article about D&D. Apparently Wisconsin retards won't play with those they think are retarded. *Lake Geneva* #5² purports to be the last issue, worth a read for the diatribe over the Hugofuss.

The idea that fandom has never been divided over an issue is hilarious. Pre WW 2 the big debate was over whether fascism was a good idea. The acrimony over the Viet Nam war reached epic proportions of division. The appropriate quote from *Braveheart*³ covers it nicely, "They canna agree on the colour of shite!" The whole idea is to get division started, egg the unwary into choosing sides and watch the turkey feathers fly.

I just finished watching *The Men Who Stare at Goats*.⁴ It would lead you to the conclusion that sanity is not humanity's long suit. There is a reason for the secrecy business and it is to keep ordinary people from finding out what goes on behind those closed doors. Fortunately they can use their Jedi mind control to fend off inquiries. "These are not the nutty guys you are looking for."

[I remember watching that movie but not much else about it. Maybe I got depressed partway through and gave up. I wondered whether Kevin Spacey's character was based on Ed Dames.]



One of the best items at this year's Black Hat⁵ was something called Sinkhole. It exposes a nice vulnerability in Intel-type chips that is invisible to all of the cleverly elaborated security built up over the years by bypassing it all. It apparently works on all of them so not only are they insecure it is impossible to see if they are compromised. Since everybody migrated that way a few years ago all of the eggs are in one basket. Since this is in the CPU chipset nothing built on it can be considered safe. Couple it with Ang Cui's Funtenna hack and you get a computer that broadcasts everything it knows over the radio.

[Disturbing.]

Felicity is correct. The conscious mind is floating on top of the self. The danger is assuming they are somehow inseparable and merged. Zen can show you it isn't true or the Tao also. The whole house of cards of the western mind is built on the premise that the superficial reporter is in control.

These are local to Vancouver. [↕]

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/myadultcoloringbook/legendary-landscapes-adult-coloring-book>

Support your local artiste. [↑]

[I liked the pages with buildings.]

2 <http://efanzines.com/LakeGeneva/LakeGeneva-05.pdf>.

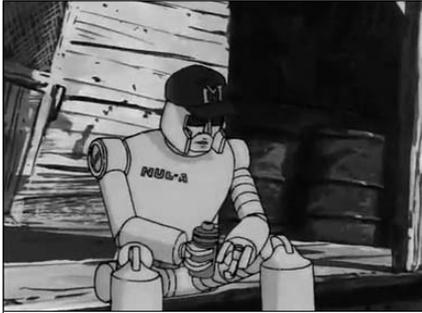
3 (1995).

4 (2009).

5 Computer security convention, bringing together governments, corporations, and hackers to compare notes.

<https://fipa.bc.ca/connected-car-download/>

If you drive you need to read this one. [↑]



Ā in The Transformers (1984–1988).

“The Western World has been brain-washed by Aristotle for the last 2,500 years. The unconscious, not quite articulate, belief of most Occidentals is that there is one map which adequately represents reality. By sheer good luck, every Occidental thinks he or she has the map that fits. Guerrilla ontology, to me, involves shaking up that certainty. I use what in modern physics is called the ‘multi-model’ approach, which is the idea that there is more than one model to cover

a given set of facts. As I’ve said, novel writing involves learning to think like other people. My novels are written so as to force the reader to see things through different reality grids rather than through a single grid. It’s important to abolish the unconscious dogmatism that makes people think their way of looking at reality is the only sane way of viewing the world. My goal is to try to get people into a state of generalized agnosticism, not agnosticism about God alone, but agnosticism about everything. If one can only see things according to one’s own belief system, one is destined to become virtually deaf, dumb, and blind. It’s only possible to see people when one is able to see the world as others see it. That’s what guerrilla ontology is—breaking down this one-model view and giving people a multi-model perspective.”

RAW⁶ quote. [↑]

<http://boingboing.net/2015/07/28/music.html>

[*Scary premise! Sort of a “Melancholy Elephants” modern follow-up.*]

<https://archive.org/details/voodoojazz>

A drone dropped a package of marijuana, heroin, and tobacco into the recreation yard at Ohio’s Mansfield Correctional Institution igniting a big brawl over the contraband.

This could be the new reality TV. Just film the inmate fights with streaming video.

[*Depressing thought.*]

<https://inkscape.org/en/>

For the aspiring artiste. This is an open source vector drawing suite. [↑]

You can companion this one with GIMP and have a nice set of pro tools free. The free part is hard to understand for some. Some people do like to cooperate to improve the world, an idea which flies in the face of the rhetoric from the other side of the fence. Because you can get the source code too it is how most good programmers learn their trade. Otherwise your comp remains a black box that can’t even be examined to see how it works.

“After I wrote ‘Sex, Satanism, and Sodomized Dogs,’ the new witch-hysteria continued to escalate all over the country, and in a few foreign countries as well. It finally seemed to reach the point where those of us that the ‘experts’ could not in-

6 Robert Anton Wilson.

duce to ‘remember’ Satanic molestations and cannibalistic rituals, UFO abductions, or at least run-of-the-mill incest seemed an increasing small part of the population.

“Many ‘experts’ explained, lamely, that we few unmolested people simply suffer from a collective amnesia brought on by horrors too awful for the mind to recall. This total forgetting of alleged years of hellish terror even has a ‘scientific’ (or ‘pseudo-scientific’?) name now: ‘robust repression.’

“Curiously, in the case of the best-documented case of the 20th century—the Holocaust—not one recorded victim has suffered from ‘robust repression.’ The survivors all remember very well every horror they saw, and none of them ever needs hypnosis or psychology to help them ‘remember’ (much to the annoyance and inconvenience of Holocaust revisionists).”



RAW quote. [↑]

<http://theantimedia.org/until-recently-there-was-no-such-thing-as-government-in-most-of-the-world/>

Suspicious confirmed department. [↑]

[*John Vibes reminds me of a gnu.*]

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/994700393/nuclear-war-card-game-50th-anniversary-edition>

Rick Loomis at Flying Buffalo. [↑]

Fun with nukes.

[*I don't like [the new cover art](#) as much as [the 1981 cover art](#) or [the 1965 cover art](#).]*

Man beaten with garden gnome (Boing Boing).

<http://groupnameforgrapejuice.blogspot.com/2015/08/meereschal-macmuhun-moon-child-me-1.html>

This is for those who don't mind long reads full of ideas, Mad Canadian scholars, and poetic insights.

[*It was interesting. I suppose I lean more towards the perfectibility of man, the essay's "fallen angel" who can be restored through natural means, than towards McLuhan's belief that life is already perfect and has been since Jesus Christ incarnated. Life is scary and depressing, and I was created badly flawed. On the other hand, I wouldn't say no to help from above.*]

Now I need to proofread this mess [and] find you some pictures or take some of my latest painting figures results.

The Stone is the Urim. If you have the Thummim you to can read ancient Egyptian. Or so they told me... ☺

Shatner's new motorcycle, a couple of Grey faery book illos, *King Kongs* and Cthulhus are the pics.

Warm regards,

Dave



Hi Felicity,

Movies are either on YouTube or at archive.org. Both of these sites have a separate search bar up on top.

So if you go to YouTube, type in *Cybergirl*. You'll soon find the referenced movie in the results.

[Assuming it's not the Playboy results, it must be the Australian teen series.⁷]

Zappology is published in community audio at archive.org. archive.org has its own search facilities because of the size of the site and the kitchen sink nature of its collections.

I always forget not everyone has the same type of background so I'm not trying to be obscure.

Somewhere I ran into a monstrous tome on how to use a search engine which bored me immensely but it was full of good advice for others.

On a much lighter note or more serious note, try thoughtmaybe.com: *Crazy Rulers of the World*⁸ three-part documentary.

[I see that it's by Jon Ronson, author of *The Men Who Stare at Goats*. Ronson also directed *The New Klan* (1999), which I saw as an episode of documentary TV series *Witness* (1993). Some material from that also ended up in his book *Them: Adventures with Extremists* (2001).]

Hope this helps.

Dave

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Saturday 22 August 2015

Hey there BCSFAns! Home your summer is going well.

Myself, I am emotionally gearing up for going back to college, in my case Kwantlen here in Richmond. I will be taking a full course load of five courses, consisting of two Intro to Psychology courses, an Intro to Journalism class, Creative Writing 101, and a poli sci course called Ideology and Politics.

They all count toward my degree in Creative Writing, of course, even though only one of them actually *is* Creative Writing. Odd.

Re: The New Eleusis:

I agree, Felicity. Life is too much like a game where you don't know the rules already. That's why language learning software like *Rosetta Stone*, where they give you exercises without explanations in order to "activate the language learning center of the brain," are useless to me. I need to understand the principles before I can

7 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKnJl6biOjI>.

8 (2004).

tackle the examples, and I learn extremely well that way. But I can't work it the other way. I have to go from general to specific.

Re: IT with faked degrees:

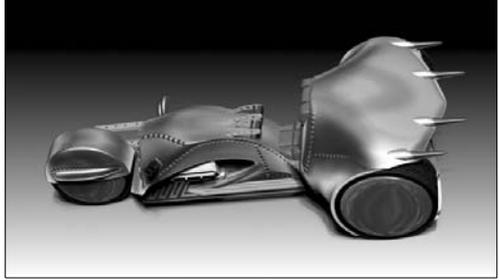
IT is one of the rare fields where fake credentials don't actually matter that much. In general, IT people learn their skills by playing with computers and seeing what they can make them do. In other words, they are self-taught. This means they may be able to do jobs very well without having any of the traditional qualifications.

Note that there was no mention of him doing a poor job. His only crime (and it is a crime, morally speaking) was lying to get a job he knew he could do.

Well, that's enough of me for this month! I will talk to all of you nice people again next month.

Rick Hoggarth
rhoggarth@telus.net

Tuesday 25 August 2015



Paranoia runs deep. ☺

<https://www.muckrock.com/news/archives/2015/aug/24/ray-bradbury-fbi-file/>

[*That is some weird, wild stuff. Good for Bradbury. It makes up for his reaction to Michael Moore's Fahrenheit 9/11 (2004).*]

Cheers,
Rick

Calendar

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

Recurring

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 July and 6, 13, 20, and 27 August 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

1, 15, and 29 July and 13 and 20 August 2015 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

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

2, 16, and 30 July and 13 and 27 August 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)

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 July and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 August 2015 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond.

3, 10, 17, 24 and 31 July and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 August 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, 24 and 31 July and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 August 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 July and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 August 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 July and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 August 2015 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

5, 12, 19, and 26 July and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 August 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 July and 4, 11, 18, and 25 August 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 July and 4, 11, 18, and 25 August 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 July and 5, 12, 19, and 26 August 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 July and 5, 12, 19, and 26 August 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 July and 5, 12, 19, and 26 August 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

9 July and 13 August 2015 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [No location given.]—Keith Lim

9 July and 13 August 2015 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

11 July and 8 August 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

14 July and 11 August 2015 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

14 July and 11 August 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

15 July and 19 August 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.

17 July and 21 August 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 July and 15 August 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

19 July and 16 August 2015 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

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

6 August 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. (No Drop-In Drawing in July.)

July 2015

July is National Anti-Boredom Month, International Blondie and Deborah Harry Month, and International Zine Month!



Urim.

2 July 2015: **Arnie Katz**'s birthday. World UFO Day.

3 July 2015: Premiere of film *Terminator: Genesys* (SF; Arnold Schwarzenegger, JK Simmons, Courtney B. Vance, Robert "Big Sarge" Deon).

5 July 2015: Vancouver Comicon, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver. "Special guests: Cary Nord (*Conan, X-O Manowar, Eternal Warrior*), Douglas Wheatley (*Star Wars: Dark Times, King Tiger*), James Stevenson (*WriteLightning*), Alexis Sugden, Beth Wagner. Admission: \$4; kids under 14: free."

8 July 2015: **Aaron Harrison**'s birthday. Video Games Day.

10 July 2015: Premiere of films *Minions* (computer animation; Sandra Bullock, Jon Hamm, Michael Keaton, Allison Janney, Steve Coogan, Jennifer Saunders, Geoffrey Rush, Steve Carell, Carlos Alazraqui, Jess Harnell, John Kassir, Danny Mann, Laraine Newman, Mindy Sterling, Tara Strong, Jim Ward, Peter Serafinowicz), *The Gallows* (horror), and *Self/Less* (SF; Ryan Reynolds, Ben Kingsley).

11 July 2015: Vanpla July 2015 Meeting, 1–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. "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!"

11–12 July 2015: Videomatica and Zulu Records Sale at Khatahano Street Party, 1974 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver. "Local Vancouver peeps, you're not going to want to miss this one: [*Saturday and Sunday*] is the Khatahano Street Party, and they're shutting down the street to traffic in front of Videomatica and Zulu Records. There will be bands playing, and food vendors, and we're having one of our biggest sales ever, with *boxes and boxes* of DVDs being blown out at three for \$4.99!! Piles

of TV season boxsets for that price too! Also, 25% off all new stock, and two for one on all used DVDs over \$4.99.”—[Robin Bougie](#)

13 July 2015: Embrace Your Geekness Day.

16 July 2015: **Dennis Kristos**’s birthday.

17 July 2015: Premiere of film *Ant Man* (superhero; Paul Rudd, Michael Douglas, Evangeline Lilly, Judy Greer, John Slattery, Garrett Morris, Stan Lee, Tom Kenny).

17–19 July 2015: [Anime Evolution](#) at New Student Union Building, University of British Columbia. “Vancouver’s premier anime convention since 2003 is back next summer in teh brand new Student Union Building!”

17–19 July 2015: Hello Kitty’s Supercute Friendship Festival at Pacific National Exhibition.

20 July 2015: **Julie McGilliard**’s birthday. Moon Day.

22 July 2015: **Evahn Thorsen**’s birthday.

23 July 2015: **Spencer Wilson**’s birthday. Batman Day. Hot Dog Day.

24 July 2015: Premiere of films *Pixels* (SF; Adam Sandler, Kevin James, Peter Dinklage, Josh Gad, Brian Cox, Sean Bean, Dan Aykroyd, Lainie Kazan, Dennis Akiyama, Tim Herlihy, Serena Williams, Robert Smigel, Darryl Hall, John Oates, Matt Frewer) and *The Vatican Tapes* (horror; Djimon Hounsou, Michael Paré, Daniel Bernhardt, Pope Francis, Pope John Paul II).

25 July 2015: **Graeme Cameron**’s birthday.

26 July 2015: [Bolt Action: Barbarossa 1941 Game Demo](#), 12–5 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. “Successful in defeating the French and British armies in the west, the might of the German armies turns its eye upon the Russian armies of the east! Multiplayer battle-royale! Bring a 750-point army selected from any theatre 1941 or earlier, and join in to this huge Axis vs. Allies multiplayer battle! German and Russian armies selected entirely from the Operation: Barbarossa era theatre selector (1941) gain an additional 250 points to their army list total. Sign up required, eight players maximum. Contact: [Sean Briault](#).”

28 July 2015: **Robin Bougie**’s birthday.

31 July 2015: **Felicity Walker**’s birthday. Premiere of film *A LEGO Brickumentary* (documentary; Jason Bateman).

August 2015

1 August 2015: Vanpla Summer BBQ Fireworks Night 2015, 12–11 PM at Kitsilano Beach, Vancouver. “Welcome to the fourth annual Vanpla Summer BBQ Fireworks event! Just like last year’s, we will be meeting at the west of Hadden Park, at Kits Beach where the picnic tables are located. There is paid parking in front of the Museum of Vancouver/HR Macmillian Space Centre. [...] Rico Lo and I will be at the table area at 11 AM to secure it. [...] Feel free to bring friends, family, or whoever you think would enjoy a BBQ/fireworks. If you have any questions and concerns please contact me at: (778) 927-9797 or Rico Lo at: (778) 829-4651. [...]”

5 August 2015: **Scott Tycholaz** and **Élisabeth Vonarburg**’s birthdays.

6 August 2015: **Christina Carr**’s birthday.

7 August 2015: Premiere of films *Fantastic Four*⁹ (superhero/comics adaptation; Dan Castellana, Tim Heidecker, Han Soto, Robert “Bigg Sarge” Deon), *Shaun the Sheep Movie* (computer animation; Nick Park), and *Dragon Ball Z: Resurrection “F”* (anime).

9 August 2015: Book Lovers’ Day.

9 August 2015: Dude Chilling Picnic Birthday Party and Cinema Sewer Book Launch, 3:30 PM at Dude Chilling Park, 2390 Brunswick Street, Vancouver.—Robin Bougie

12 August 2015: **Lynda Ciaschini**’s birthday.

14 August 2015: Premiere of films *The Man from UNCLE* (action/comedy/remake; Henry Cavill, Hugh Grant, Jared Harris, David Beckham) and *People Places Things* (drama; Jermaine Clement, Jessica Williams).

14–16 August 2015: Anime Revolution & Vanpla Build Contest, 10 AM Friday–3 PM Sunday at Vancouver Convention Centre East, Vancouver. [*No address given.*] “Presented by Vanpla and Anime Revolution! Hey guys, guess what? It’s build contest time! And if you haven’t guessed from the title, yes it will be happening at Anime Revolution this year! We got lots of prizes and give-aways this year, so everyone is a winner (but not everyone can win)! There will also be raffled prizes to make it even more interesting! [...] Enter your gunpla to the Vanpla Gunpla Building Contest to win prizes! Two categories open for entry. Open Category: All right this is for you experts, who like to do the details, or just like to take your time on a kit. This category is open to any gunpla, either previously built at home, or a snap fit built at the con. [...] Three winners will be determined through a judging session. Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: build quality, paint skill, builder creativity. Snap Fit Category: Now here is the fun stuff! Fun for the newbie

9 AKA “*Fant4stic*” (pronounced “fant four stick”).

and experienced alike. It's all about efficiency! How fast and well can you put together your kit? Are you up for the challenge? Remember, you can only enter a kit you have purchased at the event! [...] Three winners will be determined through a judging session. Entries will be judged based on the following criteria: build quality and cleanliness, panel line and paint quality, sticker application. Judging will be conducted by senior Vanpla members. Winners will be announced on Sunday and prizes will be distributed at the Vanpla booth. Entry deadlines for both categories will be Sunday noon! Prize announcements will take place on Sunday [at] 3PM. [...]"

14–20 August 2015: Imperial Hobbies' Moving Sale at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. "Regular store hours. Telephone: (604) 273-4427. orders@imperialhobbies.ca."

16 August 2015: **Thomas Phinney's** birthday.

17 August 2015: National Black Cat Awareness Day.

21 August 2015: Premiere of film *Sinister 2* (horror; Ethan Hawke).

21 August 2015: Chic Machine at the Bennett (Formerly the Tudor), 8 PM–12 AM at the Bennett Craft and Kitchen, 187 176th Street, Surrey. "We are playing at the Bennett Craft and Kitchen, formerly known as the Tudor Ale House, this Friday and Saturday nights. Come on down and listen to a wide variety of music! Cheers!"—Greg Cairns

24 August 2015: **Karen New** and **Crotch Thunder's** birthdays.

26 August 2015: **Sarah Stierch's** birthday.

28 August 2015: Premiere of film *Z for Zachariah* (SF; Chris Pine, Chiwetel Ejiofor).

29 August 2015: Warmachine Tournament, 10:30 AM–5:30 PM at Imperial Hobbies, 5451 Number Three Road, Richmond. "Entrance fee \$10.00 for prize support. Eight spots open so pre-register. Money will not be accepted on the 29th unless all spots haven't been filled. The tournament will consist of three rounds. Bring two lists of 50 Ps. Divide and Conquer. SR15 rules. 60 minute Death Clock. For any questions please contact Chris here at the store."

29 August 2015: Vanpla August 2015 Meeting, 1–5 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby.

RANDOM NOSTALGIA

**COUNT FLOYD
NWA TNA WRESTLING**

News-Like Matter

Notes from June 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, and Stewart Smyth.

Graeme brought a print copy of Fruvous’s novel *The Scrambled Man* and gave it to him along with a printout of *OBIR Magazine*¹⁰ #1 which contained a review of his book.

We talked about recent events in Stand-Up for Mental Health.

Fruvous said he learned about sex by reading the encyclopedia. I replied that Oscar Wilde learned about sex by reading the medical textbooks of his father, a doctor.¹¹ Stew said that when he was growing up the Winston Dictionary for Canadian Schools had the recipe for gunpowder!



June, 1988: not yet a sarcastic suggestion.

JOURNEY
TO THE
CENTER
OF THE
ANTS

Graeme announced that he made a deal with underground comix artist George Metzger. He will get Metzger’s fanzine collection. It has lots of 1950s zines from famous faneds and future pros, and the beginnings of many fannish traditions. John Berry’s *The Goon Defective Agency* zines were inspired by *The Goon Show* (1951) and they inspired a trend. The 1950s were the peak of satirical zine humour.

Graeme relayed an amusing thing that happened to Metzger. He was staying at a cabin in Canada, and was out walking when he heard a noise exactly like the giant ant noise from *Them!* (1954). Terrifying! Metzger’s thoughts were (1) Why are there no bears?, (2) I’m going back to the cabin, and (3) Giant ants aren’t real...are they? The noise was coming from over the hill. The next day he heard it again. Instead of a sudden loud noise, it started quiet and then gradually got louder, then faded away—like the

10 “The Occasional Biased & Ignorant Review Magazine of Canadian Speculative Fiction Dedicated to Promoting the Absurd Personal Literary Taste of R. Graeme Cameron.”

11 A factoid I learned from *my* father. I think there’s a character in *A Chorus Line* (1975) with a similar backstory.—Future Felicity

giant ants in the movie. (You hear them before you see them.) On the third day he realised it was a truck with a loose fan belt.

Ray phoned Melissa Tookey (in Powell River), who be in Vancouver next week.

Ray said that the VCON picnic will be 11 July 2015, which Kathleen said was the anniversary of the moon landing.

Ray reported that the Conservatives are changing the CRTC¹² rules—Can-con¹³ will be 35% all the time instead of higher in some time blocks.

Kathleen handed me a note that said “ ‘Caesar, thou art dust’ + ‘You’re all wet’ = ‘Your name is mud.’ ”

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron

Sunday 21 June 2015

Yvonne Craig (1937–2015)

American dancer and actress: died 17 August, aged 78. Best known for playing Bat-girl in the final season of *Batman* (1967–8) and an Orion mental patient in the original *Star Trek* (“Whom Gods Destroy,” 1969). Other genre appearances included *Mars Needs Women* (1966), plus roles in *The Man From UNCLE*, *The Ghost and Mrs. Muir*, *Land of the Giants*, and *The Six Million Dollar Man*.

Steve Green

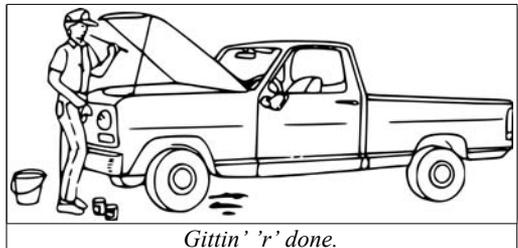
Wednesday 19 August 2015

Always Kick the Tires! Review of ‘Cars 2’

Taral Wayne

[*This article was previously published in Alexiad #60 (December 2011, edited by Lisa & Joseph Major).*]

I watched *Cars 2* the other night. To tell the truth, I was prepared for an inferior sequel. Nothing I had seen in the trailer suggested that it would be anything but “full of sound and fury, signifying nothing.” But I was not, I repeat *not*, prepared for how truly dreadful it was.



Gittin' 'r' done.

The *Rotten Tomatoes* rating was 38%. That would be a perfectly fine rating for a Don Bluth film, even a welcome turn for the better for the overworked *Madagas-*

12 Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission.

13 Canadian content requirements.

car and *Open Season* franchises. But 38% is a good deal less than *half* what the audience should expect from Pixar. What went wrong?

One doesn't have to look much farther than Larry the Table Ham. In fact, it's rather hard to see around him, he's so resolutely on center stage. Lightning McQueen...remember him, the star of the first *Cars*? He appears in the sequel mainly to affirm that Tow Mater is perfect as he is, and need never improve on being a pig-ignorant, redneck hillbilly.



Not everyone found *Cars 1* to their liking—the leap from people to talking cars is a hard one for many viewers who are not animation fans to begin with. Still, *I* found it magical. It didn't take me long to forget that these were metal shells on wheels that you run by filling with gasoline, and to accept them as an unfamiliar sort of human being. I even wondered what sort of car *I* would be, if I lived in this movie. (I was never able to settle on anything more flattering than a 1950 Studebaker Champion.) Each of the characters was lively and interesting, if not always deep. Used sparingly, even the rundown tow truck had his moments as a believable second-string character.

Cars 2 was nothing but a multi-million-dollar Saturday morning cartoon starring Tow Mater, a character likeable only in small doses. Every other character introduced in the first movie was given a walk-on part, a line or two, and then was gone until the credits began to roll. Even McQueen was relegated to feeding his friend straight lines, while the “ugly American” ran amok in a frenzy of parochial stupidity.

Compare stories. In the first *Cars*, a conceited popular hero learns humility, and the value of life in a slower lane. In *Cars 2*, Tow Mater learns that it is okay to be stupid, intrusive and lost in one's own need for immediate gratification. Though the plot involves a sort of World Grand Prix, held in three different cities, strangely, even the race sequences recede into the background. Most of the plot is an absurd spy story that does less to add luster to the genre than *Johnny English* or *Austin Powers*. Characters that you forget are cars and not people are sacrificed to gimmicks such as rocket packs in the trunk, pop-up arsenals of automatic weaponry and paraglide wings that deploy by voice-activation. This was *Inspector-Gadget*-class espionage! At the exciting conclusion of the adventure, when the archvillain is revealed and his plot foiled, I had to ask myself, “Do I care?”

Nope. The story was far too contrived to give a damn, and the environmental lesson to be taught was much too conflicted to make any sense. So...the “green” fuel was a fake, check. The villain was plotting to discredit it, check. Then he could sell regular petroleum that he just happened to own the world's largest reserve of. Let me think about that a moment...check. And that was why “green” fuel was good...because it was faked...Uh...Isn't there a lapse in the logic here, somewhere?

The animators went all out on creating the world for *Cars 2* using the three-dimensional technology of *Coraline*, *Alice in Wonderland* and *Avatar*—so one wonders why it seemed so flat and static then. Even with spy cars swinging themselves around in the air like Doctor Octopus on a bender, and 300 KPH race cars whizzing through the streets of Tokyo and the Mediterranean coast of Italy, *Cars 2* seemed

more like a series of landscape paintings. You know the sort...they probably hung in your grandmother's house, in the hall or the kitchen. The light was always golden and the architecture clung picturesquely to rocky promontories. Like those paintings, the cities in *Cars 2* hung in front of your eye, lifelessly. Nobody lived there. Nothing was behind the lavishly detailed facades.

When Pixar made *Cars 1*, they were inspired. It was plain that the artists and animators had fallen in love with the world that created Route 66, the empire of the auto that once spread across the land and could only be found today in isolated pockets of Backwater USA...in deep decay. They resurrected that world for the first *Cars*, and their love shows in the mundane details—dust, rust spots, oily rags, traffic cones, peeling pink stucco and flickering neon signs. The story built on those details to illustrate the worth of an older world, its vanished wonder and the fabric of lives once lived.



What insight did *Cars 2* impart to the audience? That spies are exciting, and that if someone is your friend their inappropriate behavior doesn't matter.

It's easy to guess what the inspiration for *Cars 2* was—not Route 66, not NASCAR, not even to embellish the success of the first movie.

Someone in the head office noticed that Tow Mater appealed to the under-12 audience, and if they made a movie around a guaranteed draw, they might have another hit on their hands. Pixar pandered to the lowest common denominator—the audience that made it possible to film 12 iterations of *Land Before Time*—to go to the cash register one more time with a property that had run out of marketing potential.

Cars 2 is the first Pixar film the studio should have been ashamed to put their name on. Let's hope it's their last. The reputation the studio earned for itself in its first ten films hasn't been thrown away—yet. It is probably not even in much danger as yet. But the history of any large organization shows that, inevitably, the corporate rot sets in—the suits begin to dominate creative thinking, which shifts from originality and serious purpose to bottom lines and targeted markets. Pixar is one step closer to becoming McPixar. Their next film should tell us how quickly we can expect the studio to arrive there.

Taral Wayne

Wednesday 12 December 2012

E-Zines Received

'**The Frenetic Fanac Review**' #1 (April 2012)—Published by R. Graeme Cameron, Apartment 72G–13315 104 Avenue, Surrey, BC, V3T 1V5, rgraeme@shaw.ca. [eFanazines](#). Zine reviews. [*This is a continuation of the review in BCSFAzine #505.*]

"OSFS Statement #395": I don't remember how I got in touch with the Ottawa SFS originally. I do know I don't send them paper copies of *BCSFAzine* in trade.

Graeme, could you try asking an Ontario member, such as Lloyd Penney, Brent Francis, or Starwolf, to contact Grant Duff for you?

Also: “Nonsense Natter.”

‘**Broken Toys**’ #2 (April 2012)—Published by Taral Wayne, Apartment 2111–245 Dunn Avenue, Toronto, Ontario, M6K 1S6. taral@bell.net.¹⁴ eFanzines.



“Best of the West”: I should try to draw more.

“Left-Over Pieces: A Letter Column”: I like the font Fontdinerdotcom Sparkly. D. West’s imitations in *Lagoon* #6 were surprisingly convincing, except for the Taral Wayne imitation, which seemed flat. What’s a Rotsler “Alien Coin”?

Also: “Forgotten Glory”; “Customer Satisfaction”; “Antipodal Bride.”

‘**One Swell Foop**’ #7 (April 2012)—Published by Garth Spencer, 4240 Perry Street, Vancouver, BC, V5N 3X5. garth.van.spencer@gmail.com.¹⁵ eFanzines.

“The Anarcho-Surrealist Manifesto”: Enjoyed, not just the ideas but the writing style.

“The Frong Society”: “The question before us is not whether we seek out people unlike us as mates.” Both yes and no. The human instinct seems to be on the one hand to mate within our group, thus maintaining the numbers of people like us, but on the other hand to also mate with people unlike us, thereby making the next generation of them more like us. It’s like the selfish gene, but at the cultural scale.

Another question is whether there will need to be distinctions between ethnically Frong and culturally Frong, or secular Frong versus observant Frong.

“The Liberal Secular Rational Humanist Cult”: Again, enjoyed. Agree with most of it. Love the line: “This is not good salesmanship, to say nothing of manners.”

“So, what can a rationalist believe, and revere, and worship? I’m open to suggestions.” Compassion, camaraderie, polite discourse, and cognitive therapy.

“Canadian Magicians Association”: This would fit neatly into *Paragon*.

“Letters”: Even Google translate couldn’t translate Garth’s responses.

“Taral Wayne”: What’s wrong with wanting to listen to writers talk?

“Fanzine Reviews”: “*Opuntia*”: Dale writes “I always wondered why every libertarian I’ve ever met is a single male who usually works in a comic book shop or a warehouse loading dock and lives in a basement suite.” I’ve only met three libertarians, but two of them worked in IT, and of those two, one was successful and had a downtown apartment, while the other did live in a basement. Michael Bertrand and I were talking about Robert Heinlein last week and concluded that he was a libertari-

14 Current address.

15 Current address.

an more than a paleoconservative. The article linked in Rick Hoggarth’s LOC above says that Ray Bradbury expressed a preference for small government. Amusingly, this was too far left for the right-wing government of the time.

Also: “Digitals Anti-Defamation League”; “Miss April 2012”; “The Straight Dope About Copyrights (and Trademarks, and Other Things You’ll Run Into)—Part I”; “Fanzine Reviews.”

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<u>Taral Wayne</u>	Page 17