

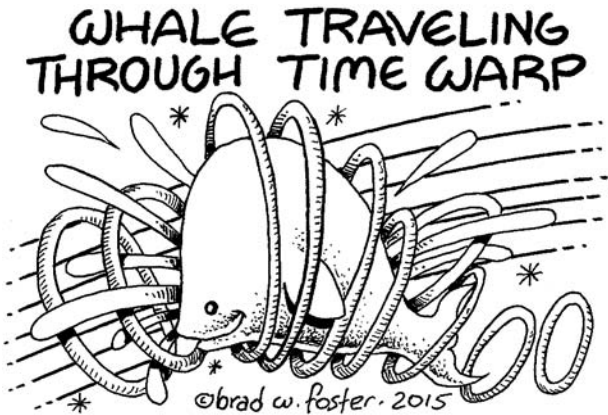
BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#514

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March 2016



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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 18 March:	Submission deadline for April <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 20 March at 7 PM:	March BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 25 March:	April <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Sunday 17 April at 7 PM:	April BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s.
Friday 22 April:	Submission deadline for May <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 29 April:	May <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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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 Assc. (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_scifi_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.*]

John Purcell

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Saturday 16 April 2016

Brad Foster has a truly warped sense of humor. And we are glad about that, no? Needless to say, what a great toon to start off the fanzine.

Taral Wayne's musings about the eventual fate of BCSFA reminds me that I need to get a new tube of Poligrip for my dentures. Just saying...As for Taral's comments about Graeme Cameron's latest magazine venture, I have to admit that he raises a very good point. Any new fiction mag, no matter the format or best intentions, is a dicey proposition. While I think *Polar Borealis* has potential, its success is in my mind doubtful. I do, though, wish Graeme the best and hope things work out, but we shall see what the future brings. Good luck, Graeme.

Oh, and I'm from Minnesota, so I understand the meaning of "cold." Down here in the wilds of SouthCentralEastern Texas, where temperatures rarely fall below the freezing mark (32 degrees Farenheit, 0 degrees Celsius) my wife and I traipse about in shorts and t-shirts while native born Texans shiver in their mukluks and parkas—when it's a mere 40 degrees F outside! Wussies...

Hey, Lloyd, thank you for the episodes of *Murdoch Mysteries* that Yvonne was in. I shall watch for her therein. Also, have a great time on your trip to the British Isles, kids! I expect a full trip report—with photos—upon your return.

Thank you for the issue, Felicity, and I look forward to the next one.

[*Thanks!*]

All the best,
John Purcell



Dave Haren

tyrbolo@comcast.net

Friday 22 April 2016

Hi Felicity,

Things get stranger by the day which makes it even more amusing when it is viewed as the way things should be. I think what saves the scraps of most folks' sanity is having a localized view coloured by their immediate surround. Now and again something happens locally that puts the self into perspective with the real. Not to worry though. Soon they lapse back into blessed and torpid ignorance. Or as one of the Taoist greats put it, worry is preposterous.



[Sometimes you can only handle so much reality at once.]

Watching the government in the internal tug of war over protecting its data while busily trying to strip the protections away from all data including their own would lead folks to believe that “there are idiots everywhere” as McKenna put it.

Nanotech developments are getting a lot stranger. I usually follow the news in that area and they are starting to do some really bizarre things on a day to day basis. What will spill over into the daily life is unpredictable. However if a few of these lab results get loose in the world it will be a major revolution. Someone figured out how to get a solar cell to harvest infrared and ultraviolet light. The day before they had a method of making one collect some energy in the dark as well. That’s a sample from the hundred things that happened this week. They also figured out how to build a lazer on silicone substrates using existing semiconductor waferfab tech.

[Coincidentally, nanotech and solar power are two things I’ve been thinking about lately. It’ll be nice when they can send a few nanites into the body to do repairs instead of the old-fashioned way of cutting it up. And I wondered whether a house roof covered with solar panels would generate enough power to make really strong air conditioning affordable. There’d be a certain poetic justice in using the power of the sun to fight the heat of the sun.]

Here’s the latest in links (straight from a William Gibson novel).

<https://boingboing.net/2016/04/22/hackers-take-81m-from-banglad.html>

And another link to a quite long read with SF elements.

<http://overweeninggeneralist.blogspot.com/>

I particularly liked his answer about eugenics. Given the spotty nature of most selection processes I haven’t met anyone lately who wouldn’t be pruned by some group if they implemented their scheme.

[His article about Hillary Clinton’s promise to find out about the aliens was interesting, if a little snarky.]

“French Hercules Statue Gets Detachable Penis for Special Events”¹

“The sculptor, Claude Bouscau, was forced to shorten the length of the phallus more than once when the statue was built in the late 1940s, as some women in the town found it to be excessive.”

“NFL Acknowledges Link Between Football and Brain Disease for the First Time.”²

“But Huxley, Orwell and Kafka didn’t take away hope, they gave it to us. They gave us the words to describe the present (not the future, though the present is the moment at which the past becomes the future, so they’re related). They gave us the cognitive tools to conduct the argument about the society we want to build, how we want our technology to serve us.”—Cory Doctorow³

1 <http://disinfo.com/2016/04/french-statue-uses-detachable-penis-as-theft-deterrent/>

2 <http://boingboing.net/2016/03/14/nfl-acknowledges-link-between.html>

3 <http://littleatoms.com/society/cory-doctorows-manifesto-hope>

[Relatedly, I like this: <http://sequart.org/magazine/21712/anxiety-optimism-in-frank-hampson-dan-dare/>.]

<http://oz-mix.blogspot.com/>

“Greenpoint Part 3.”⁴

Rob Ford obituary:

“ ‘May you have a speedy and successful recovery. Be strong,’ said one post left Monday. ‘We need you as Mayor in 2018 to save Toronto.’ ”

<https://boingboing.net/2016/03/24/noaa-scientists-find-95-year-m.html>

<http://www.teemingbrain.com/2016/03/23/short-film-2084/>

You know times are really tough when a senior officer can’t afford a hotel room and a hooker on his meager salary. Nicknaming him Golden Asset was a bit unkind though.

http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-us-canada-35903039#sa-ns_mchannel=rss&ns_source=PublicRSS20-sa

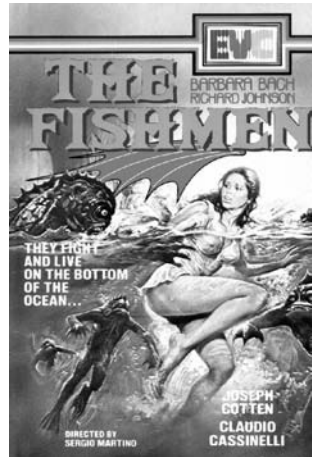
[I wonder where he’ll get the \$100,000. He didn’t take any money.]

One of the best webcomics around.

<http://existentialcomics.com/comic/34>

[Philosophy comics! Neat! Camus looks sort of like the Terminator. There are even strips with Captain Planet and Seinfeld references!]

“Who is it that gets together in mobs and hunts down, tortures and kills people who are different from them? Who is it that teaches modesty, courtesy, and generosity but lives in depravity, rudeness, and greed? Who is it that can gather together the time, energy and money to murder millions and destroy cities for the sake of a flag, deity, or economic system? Not weirdoes, not kooks or cranks or nuts. It’s the ‘normal’ people who do those things. It’s the ‘normal’ people who believe there’s only one ‘real world’ and it’s the one *they’re* living in. It’s the ‘normal’ people who kill each other over differences in that reality, and if someone can’t trick themselves into ignoring the millions of inconsistencies or can’t gloss over the gaping flaws in that reality-construct, or can’t even pretend convincingly that they believe that flimsy and self-contradictory world is *all true*, rather than have their own illusory stability undermined or accept that other ways of thinking and seeing might be valid, the ‘normal’ people imprison those ‘mentally ill,’ and experimentally destroy their personalities by use of drugs, electroconvulsion, and brain surgery.”—Nenslo⁵



Surprisingly not the IRS and the income tax intended to pay for WW1.

When Woodrow Wilson stated that he had “unwittingly ruined” his country, he was referring to the Federal Reserve...

<http://disinfo.com/2016/03/earth-v-sun-united-nations-cosmic-rays-neutrinos/>

4 <http://oz-mix.blogspot.ca/2016/03/greenpoint-part-3.html>

5 <http://boingboing.net/2016/03/28/why-normal-people-are-hideous.html>

[After the first page, I was expecting it to get into hexagons/cubes/Saturn worship, which I only recently learned is a thing.]

“Violence Erupts at Ku Klux Klan Rally in Anaheim, Home of Disneyland.”⁶

Foreign movie time.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hx7FuZRi13M7>

[I wonder if the neutrinos guy has seen it.]

Ashlee has a new camera.

<http://panther6actual.blogspot.com/>

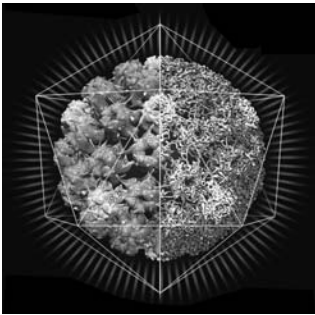
See the link for colour shots.

Religious item for these days!!

“Robert Tilton, a televangelist who mailed handprint tracings, packets of ‘holy oil’ and other mementos to his donors. He encouraged recipients to write their needs on these objects and mail them back with donations so that Tilton’s ministry could ensure their prayers are answered. ‘PrimeTime Live’ discovered the donations went directly to a bank for deposit. In the dumpster behind the bank their team found sacks of unread mail from believers desperate for help.”

For the budding artiste.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/amat/the-lucy-drawing-tool-most-versatile-camera-lucida?token=bfdc8bde>



“What we are seeing worldwide, from India to the UK to the US, is the rebellion against the inner circle of no-skin-in-the-game policymaking ‘clerks’ and journalists-insiders, that class of paternalistic semi-intellectual experts with some Ivy league, Oxford-Cambridge, or similar label-driven education who are telling the rest of us (1) what to do, (2) what to eat, (3) how to speak, (4) how to think...and (5) who to vote for.

“With psychology papers replicating less than 40%, dietary advice reversing after 30 y of fathobia, macroeconomic analysis working worse than astrology, microeconomic papers wrong 40% of the time, the appointment of Bernanke who was less than clueless of the risks, and pharmaceutical trials replicating only 1/5th of the time, people are perfectly entitled to rely on their own ancestral instinct and listen to their grandmothers with a better track record than these policymaking goons.

“Indeed one can see that these academico-bureaucrats wanting to run our lives aren’t even rigorous, whether in medical statistics or policymaking. I have shown that most of what Cass-Sunstein-Richard Thaler types call ‘rational’ or ‘irrational’ comes from misunderstanding of probability theory.”—From Nassim Taleb⁸

Book cover:

<https://boingboing.net/2016/04/04/sex-nun-of-dune.html>

6 <http://boingboing.net/2016/02/27/violence-erupts-at-ku-klux-kla.html>

7 23: *Nichts Ist So Wie Es Scheint* (1998).

8 <https://www.facebook.com/nntaleb/posts/10153658794008375>

“Basically a set of rhetorical strategies to hypnotize others into the state which Bernard Shaw called ‘barbarism’ and defined as ‘the belief that the laws of one’s own tribe are the laws of the universe.’

“The word ‘hypnotize’ is not used lightly in the above sentence.

“I shall endeavor to show, in these pages, that the Natural Law metaphysics can accurately be described as a verbal construct that, like a hypnotist’s commands, creates a trance state in which experience is edited out and the verbally-induced hypnotic reverie becomes more ‘real’ than sensory-sensual stimuli. In other words, Natural Law appears to be a map that does not correspond to any real territory, but like other Idols it becomes almost ‘real’ when the worshipper stares at it long enough with passionate adoration. Like Catholic statues of Mary, it will even seem to ‘move’ or ‘come alive.’ ”—Robert Anton Wilson



Brush up your French lessons. With dwarves.
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zTDMvyj4TFg>

Nihongi too. New series. Romance and unicorns.

<http://www.animefreak.tv/watch/mobile-suit-gundam-unicorn-re0096-episode-1-online>

Music brings us all together in pleasing harmony.

<http://disinfo.com/2016/04/blackhearts/>

Found in random readings.

“Anyway, Adam Ferguson was Deputy Chaplain to the Black Watch (and apparently fought in the line at the Battle of Fontenoy), so military service didn’t completely preclude enlightenment...”

Ah yes, engaging the Marshal de Saxe led to many a young lad’s turn to enlightenment. The battle was also where the last time an English royal put his ass in the line of fire. The later kings were more “enlightened.” Saxe almost wound up Tsar of Russia but stumbled into a watchman one dark night which ruined his rise... Edgar Saltus (*Imperial Orgy*).

Science quote of the day.

Careers attract careerists, in Feyerabend’s words: “devoid of ideas, full of fear, intent on producing some paltry result so that they can add to the flood of inane papers that now constitutes ‘scientific progress’ in many areas.”

Cool science stuff!!

<http://tabletopwhale.com/2016/04/11/virus-trading-cards.html>

One of the more venerable RPG settings, but you’re not in Kansas, Toto.

<http://www.tekumel.com/index.html>

Another not in Kansas moment!!!

<https://3dprint.com/113425/smartphone-3d-printer-resin/>

9 <http://www.antipope.org/charlie/blog-static/2016/04/some-notes-on-world-building.html#comment-1998549>

I have no idea how this would work out in practice.

[Yeah! Would it only make phone-sized objects?]

That wraps up another LOC which may contain something of interest for the usual suspects. I sliced out an interesting bit from Hees to attempt to keep it shorter. His *Quantum Field Theory* book¹⁰ being available on-line those who wish can find him there.

Keep on keepin' on,
Dave

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Saturday 23 April 2016

Hi there BSCSFAns! Sorry if this is more personal update than a LOC, but I have big news!

But first, the little news. I have now completed a year of education at Kwantlen Polytechnic. I don't have my grades yet, but I think I did quite well in everything but Linguistics, which was...not good.

But that doesn't really matter, because the big news is that I finally got into the educational institution of my dreams: Vancouver Film School! They were impressed that I had gone back to school in order to get the recent educational experience they wanted, plus the guy who pushed for me the previous two times I applied is now Director of Admissions (that probably helped), but they love my writing and so I am finally going to get to take their intensive one-year Writing for TV and Film program!

I am super excited about it. It's a little sad to be leaving Kwantlen behind—although I eventually came to the conclusion that the education I got there was not exactly great, I did invest eight months of my life there. And during those eight months, I changed so much that I barely recognize the timid, nervous, fragile, skittish creature I was when I first came to Kwantlen. So KPU will always have a place in my heart for that.

But I am super excited to be moving on. I have wanted to write for TV since the moment I realized TV has writers. It seems like the perfect job for me, and I can't wait to start learning the ropes. My classes start May 2, and it's going to involve thirty hours a week of classes plus homework and whatnot, and I could not be happier about that. I have come to realize that I am happiest when I am busy, and it sure seems like I will be hella busy very soon.

So wish me luck, BCSFA! I am taking a very big step into a very big future. Some day you might just see my name in the credits of your favorite show!

10 *Introduction to Relativistic Quantum Field Theory* by Hendrik van Hees.

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Tuesday 26 April 2016

Dear BCSFen:

BCSFAzine 513 is here, and it seems the faster I write locs, the sooner the issues come out. So, here's me doing my part for the zine. Here's what's to say...

[*Just think—if you could write LOCs before the issues come out, I could get back on schedule!* 🌟]

The American election, with apologies to American friends, is simply a disgrace. I won't say the Democrats are innocent, but the poor excuses for humanity that are running for the Republican nomination...well, they should be grateful that "None of the Above" won't be on the ballot.

I read about Graeme's disappointments when it comes to retirement benefits. Based on what he said, I shouldn't expect much, given how many times I've been unemployed. Yvonne retires in less than a year, so I must find something good and long-lasting soon.

My letter...we did go to the Toronto ComicCon to have a look at the dealers' room (interesting), and to meet up with Jason Isaacs. Yvonne got her picture taken with him, and we even had a little chat. His wife is from the Toronto area. Kitchener Comic Con was enjoyable, and sales were good, and as I write, *Ad Astra* 2016/35 starts in a few days.

Thanks to John Purcell...the resumes flood out, but there are times I think it's all lies and nonsense, and the jobs don't actually exist. We are also looking at craft shows and garden fairs as other places to see our goods. Right now, cons are all we've got, but we are looking at events in Hamilton, and in the east end of Toronto.

Earlier today, the Hugo Awards final ballot was released...already, there are people unhappy with the results. I regret not having the ability to nominate or vote, but when I see how others react, I don't feel so bad.

Right now, I am getting all our boxes of merchandise, plus boxes of support items (bags, pens, paperwork, etc.), plus interesting furnishings, ready for *Ad Astra*, and I will be checking in to the hotel in Richmond Hill Thursday night so I can get downstairs as early as possible to get set up in plenty of time. Yvonne will have a regular working day, so as soon as she can, she will come out to the convention to join me and help with sales. As soon as this convention is done, we will start preps for *Anime North* in Toronto, just a month afterwards.

Thanks for this, take care, see you the next time.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

[*Good luck with everything!*]



Calendar

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

Recurring

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 March and 5, 12, 19, and 26 April 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 March and 5, 12, 19, and 26 April 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 March and 5, 12, 19, and 26 April 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!, 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—The Fictionals Comedy Co.

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 March and 6, 13, 20, and 27 April 2016 (*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

3 March and 7 April 2016 (*first Thursday*): Wordplay: A Free Writing Prompt Group with Facilitator Alan Girling, 7–9 PM at the Network Hub, #205–810 Quay-side Drive, New Westminster.—Alan Girling

10 and 24 March and 7 and 21 April 2016 (*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 March and 7 April 2016 (*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.

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 March and 7, 14, 21, and 28 April 2016 (*Thursdays*): Thursday Hobby Build Nights, 6–9 PM at Ages Three and Up Gundam, 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—A3U Gundam

4, 11, 18, and 25 March and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April 2016 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

4, 11, 18, and 25 March and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April 2016 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 March and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April 2016 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 March and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 April 2016 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 March and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 April 2016 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

6, 13, 20, and 27 March and 3, 10, 17, and 24 April 2016 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 March and 4, 11, 18, and 25 April 2016 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 March and 4, 11, 18, and 25 April 2016 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

8 March and 12 April 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

8 March and 12 April 2016 (*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

17 February and 2, 16, and 30 March and 13 and 27 April 2016 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

10 March and 14 April 2016 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

10 March and 14 April 2016 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

12 March and 9 April 2016 (*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.—Julian Castle

16 March and 18 April 2016 (*third Wednesday*): Richmond BC Writers' Club Critique Night, 7–8:30 PM at Richmond Public Library, Ironwood Branch, Unit 8200, 11688 Steveston Highway, Richmond.—Richmond BC Writers' Club

18 March and 20 April 2016 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, second floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

19 March and 16 April 2016 (*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

20 March and 17 April 2016 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

26 March and 30 April 2016 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim



March 2016

3 March 2016: If Pets Had Thumbs Day.

4 March 2016: Premiere of films *Zootopia* (computer animation/furry; Jason Bateman, Idris Elba, Bonnie Hunt, Don Lake, Tommy Chong, JK Simmons, Alan Tudyk, Shakira, Maurice LaMarche, Fuschia!, John DiMaggio, Tommy “Tiny” Lister, Kath Soucie, Peter Mansbridge, Kristen Bell) and *The Other Side of the Door* (horror).

5 March 2016: Cinema Sewer #29 Launch Party, 7–10 PM at Pulp Fiction Books 2422 Main Street, Vancouver.—Robin Bougie

11 March 2016: **Cameron Russell**'s birthday. Premiere of films *10 Cloverfield Lane* (SF/mystery; John Goodman, Bradley Cooper) and *Creative Control* (SF/drama; Reggie Watts, H. Jon Benjamin).

12 March 2016: Symetra the Boardgame Demo Day, 1–4 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

13 March 2016: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver.

14 March 2016: Pi Day.

14 March 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Day, 2–4 PM at Newton Library, 13795 70th Avenue, Surrey.

15 March 2016: **Jenni Merrifield**'s birthday.

15 March 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Day, 3–5 PM at Guildford Library, 15105 105th Avenue, Surrey.

16 March 2016: “Stone Cold” Steve Austin Day.

16 March 2016: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street, Vancouver.

16 March 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 5:30–8:30 PM at Ladner Pioneer Library, 4683 51st Street, Delta.

18 March 2016: Premiere of film *The Divergent Series: Allegiant* (SF/action; Naomi Watts, Xander Berkeley, Jeff Daniels, Conchidance, Pokey Spears) and *Midnight Special* (SF; Kirsten Dunst, Plynymmon Sanguis).

18 March 2016: All Star Wrestling Presents Sea to Sky Rumble, 7:30 PM at Totem Hall, 1380 Stawamus Road, Squamish.

20 March 2016: Extraterrestrial Abductions Day.

21 March 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Day, 2–4 PM at Ocean Park Library, 12854 17th Avenue, Surrey.

23 March 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Day, 2–4 PM at City Centre Library, 10350 University Drive, Surrey.

24 March 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Day, 1:30–3:30 PM at Cloverdale Library, 5642 176A Street, Surrey.

24 March 2016: Teen Pizza & Games Night, 6–8 PM at Fleetwood Library, 15996 84 Avenue, Surrey.

24–27 March 2016: Norwescon 39: Remembering the Future at DoubleTree by Hilton Seattle Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, SeaTac, Washington.

25 March 2016: **Steve Green**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Batman vs. Superman: Dawn of Justice* (superhero; Henry Cavill, Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Ben Affleck, Jason Momoa, Diane Lane, Jeremy Irons, Holly Hunter, Laurence Fishburne, Valiant Michael) and *The Invitation* (horror; Toby Huss).

25 March 2016: All Star Wrestling, 7:30 PM at Alice McKay Building, Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176 Street, Surrey.

26 March 2016: Yard Sale, 4364 Vipond Place, Burnaby.—Garth Spencer

April 2016

1 April 2016: **Dean McGee** and **Actual Food**'s birthdays.

2 April 2016: **Colin Upton**'s birthday.

4 April 2016: School Librarian Day.

6 April 2016: **April Clarke**'s birthday.

8 April 2016: **Frobisher Cat**'s birthday. Premiere of films *Hardcore Henry* (action/SF; Sharlto Copley, Tim Roth) and *A Space Program* (documentary/SF).

8 April 2016: Jefferson's Barbershop Rock 'n' Roll Party at Lana Lou's, 8:30 PM–1:30 AM at Lana Lou's, 362 Powell Street, Vancouver. “Those Things—songs about monsters! The Blue Nones—in the beginning...there were filthy garages, yelling and beer...old habits die hardest. Skagger—genericore/the new drum and bass! (Track coming soon!)”—Purple Crow

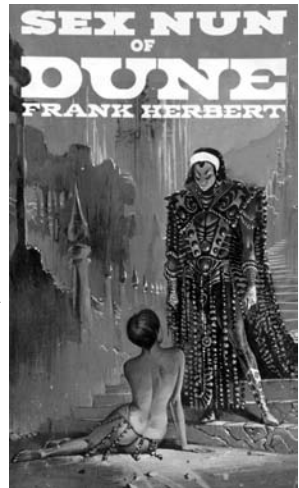
10 April 2016: **David Langford**'s birthday.

11 April 2016: **John Herbert** and **Jennifer Hawe**'s birthdays.

12 April 2016: Russian Cosmonaut Day.

13 April 2016: **David Thayer** and **Marilyn Blew**'s birthdays. *Corner Gas* Day.

15 April 2016: Premiere of films *The Jungle Book* (fantasy; Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley, Idris Elba, Scarlett Johansson, Giancarlo Esposito, Christopher Walken, Gary Shandling, Jon Favreau, Sam Raimi, Russell Peters, Dee Bradley Baker) and *Criminal* (action/SF; Kevin Costner, Gary Oldman, Tommy Lee Jones, Ryan Reynolds, Robert Davi).



16 April 2016: **Paul Patton**'s birthday. National Librarian Day.

16 April 2016: Get Out of Your House and Build!, 1–5 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4800 Kingsway, Burnaby. "It's time for you to climb out of the basement, let the monsters out of the dungeons, and bring them into the light of day. Let's build, paint, create in front of people and share the latest news! Come on! Everyone! Let's get out of the house and build!!!"—Stan Hyde

17 April 2016: Bat Appreciation Day.

19 April 2016: **Stephanie Ann Johanson**'s birthday.

22 April 2016: Premiere of films *The Huntsman: Winter's War* (fantasy; Chris Hemsworth, Charlize Theron, Jessica Chastain, Emily Blunt, Nick Frost, Fred Tatasciore, Liam Neeson) and *Tale of Tales* (fantasy/horror; Salma Hayek, John C. Reilly).

22 April 2016: Galaxion: Game Over: '80s Dance & Gamer Party, 9 PM–3 AM at Hindenburg, 23 West Cordova, Vancouver. "*Hey youuuuuuuuuu gyyyyys!* Guess what? We're *back*...but maybe just for one last ultimate party? More details coming shortly...meantime...invite everyone you know and re-share this event! *Drink. Dance. Game. Massive '80s dance party. Video game lover's paradise.* Check out our insanely rad promo video...a super fun two minutes of the party in action!"—Jennifer Hawe

23 April 2016: **Greg Cairns**'s birthday. World Laboratory Day.

23 April 2016: Times Past at Earth Day Maple Ridge, 10 AM–2 PM at Haney Place Mall, between 224 Street and 226 Street on Lougheed Highway, Maple Ridge.—Christina Carr

23 April 2016: All Star Wrestling at the Fridge Gym at Fraserview Church, 11295 Mellis Drive, Richmond.

27 April 2016: **Joe Devoy**'s birthday.

28 April 2016: International Astronomy Day.

28 April 2016: All Star Wrestling at Westview Secondary School, 20905 Wicklund Avenue, Maple Ridge. Fundraiser for Westview Wildcats Wrestling Team.

29 April 2016: **Robert J. Sawyer** and **Trevor Hoeffert**'s birthdays. Premiere of films *Ratchet & Clank* (SF/comedy/computer animation; David Kaye, Jim Ward, Ian James Corlett, Rosario Dawson, Brian Drummond, Paul Giamatti, John Goodman,

Alessandro Juliani, Armin Shimerman, Tabitha St. Germain,¹¹ Sylvester Stallone, Lee Tockar) and *A Beautiful Planet* (documentary; Jennifer Lawrence).

29 April 2016: All Star Wrestling at Alice McKay Building, Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176 Street, Surrey.

29 April–1 May 2016: Table-Top Game Sale at Dave’s Pop Culture, 4962 Bridge Street, Delta. “Everthing in the store 25% off and special deals on lots of stuff.”—Dave Strutt

30 April–1 May 2016: 30-Year Celebration: Expo 86 at Telus World of Science,¹² 1455 Quebec Street, Vancouver. Classic Expo 86 films *Rainbow War* and *A Freedom to Move* (OMNIMAX). Celebratory display by the Vancouver Lego Club. Fun, science activities, and make-and-takes inspired by the celebration.”—Jax Coldwolf

May 2016

6–8 May 2016: Creative Ink.—Graeme

7–8 May 2016: Pirate’s Haven at Albion Fairgrounds, 23448 105 Avenue, Maple Ridge.—Christina Carr

21 and 28 May 2016: Greg Cairns at Tugboat Annie’s, 6911 Graybar Road, Richmond.

24 May 2016: Nerd Nite Vancouver, 7 PM at the Vancouver Aquarium [no address given]. “The Blob—Sci-Fi or Sci-Fact? This month we’re teaming up with the Vancouver Aquarium to bring you special ‘themed’ Nerd Nite! Our talks are all about ‘The Blob,’ both in cinema and in the ocean. Our last Nerd Nite at the Vancouver Aquarium sold out quick so be sure to get your tickets ASAP! Doors @ 6:00, talks @ 7:00. Tickets: \$8 for Aquarium Members, \$10 for non-members.”

News-Like Matter

Notes from February 2016 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, Teresa Spanics, and Sidney Trim.

Barb reports that Butch Day was mistreated at a hospital and is now actually feeling worse.

11 (Paulina Gillis.)

12 (Science World.)

Graeme had a cheque for Fruvovus: Graeme used one of Fruvovus's stories in *Polar Borealis*. Fruvovus's first professional sale as a writer!

Graeme said that Alyx may have had a chicken in her lap when Ray phoned. This led to talk about chickens. Fruvovus mentioned the breed "Silkie," which make good pets because the feathers are so soft and smooth.¹³ I said, "Contrary to 'Ching Chang.'" ¹⁴ Ray mentioned trains.

I threw Graeme's copies of *BCSFazine* to him. He caught them although I should have factored in that he was holding a plate of food. Once at the warehouse a guy threw a stapler at him! It whizzed past within an inch of his head without Graeme changing expression! "Nerves of steel," the guy said.



I asked, "What were the aliens on *The Raccoons*?"¹⁵ According to the Internet, they're just pink aardvarks, not aliens. Both I and Fruvovus had the impression that they *were* aliens. I vaguely remembered a spaceship. Fruvovus thought it must have been one of the specials.¹⁶

Someone (Graeme?) asked "What if aliens pick up broadcasts of Trump?"

I liked that there are nerd-themed weddings. This reminded Fruvovus of a story about a guy who met his wife in Europe, and they didn't speak the same native language, so for the first few months they spoke to each other in Klingon! Ray mentioned BC Ferries and Powell River.

Ray's Norwescon T-shirt reminded me of a Vertigo comic cover (for example, from *The Sandman*.)

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron and Kathleen Moore

Sunday 21 February 2016

Aurora Award Voter Package Now Available

We are pleased to announce that this year's voter package files are available for members to download. If you wish to access the voter package or to vote for this

13 Additional trivia note, courtesy of the frozen meat bins at Safeway: they have blue skin.—Future Kathleen

14 *Saturday Night Live* character whose catchphrase was "Chicken make a lousy housepet." Played by Dana Carvey.

15 (1980–1992).

16 Maybe it was *The Raccoons and the Lost Star* (1983).—Future Felicity

year's awards you will need to purchase a membership: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/>.

A list of what is in this year's voter package can be found online at: <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/wp3/wp-content/uploads/2016/04/Whats-on-the-2016-Aurora-Award-voter-package.pdf>

[Voting deadline is Wednesday 15 June 2016.—Felicity]

[Aurora Awards Admin](#)
Monday 25 April 2016

'Polar Borealis' Website!

Finally! The web site for *Polar Borealis* is up and running. Contains the Table of Contents for the upcoming second issue and all the info you need to know to in order to submit your stories, poems, and art for consideration. Remember, *Polar Borealis* is a paying market SF&F fiction zine. Below SFWA standards, but nevertheless a paying market, hence its "semi-professional" status. You can also download the first issue for free if you haven't seen it yet.

[R. Graeme Cameron](#)
[Facebook](#)
Friday 13 May 2016

Important Note: *Polar Borealis Magazine* now has a website of its own.

If you want to download current or back issues for free, or submit a short story, poem, or art work for consideration for an upcoming issue, please go here: <http://www.polarborealis.ca/>.

[GoFundMe link is: <https://www.gofundme.com/jwj3dzgc>.—Felicity]

[R. Graeme Cameron](#)
[Facebook](#)
Saturday 14 May 2016

2016 Aurora Award Voting Is Open

Voting for the 2016 Aurora Awards is now open. This email is being sent out to past members of CSFFA who currently do not have a 2016 membership but have requested CSFFA updates. Memberships are still just \$10. To access your account, select the "Login" option on the left side of the CSFFA page (<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/>). Once you have logged in select the Paypal button. You can either pay through Paypal or with a credit card. Your account will be updated immediately once you let the system return you to your account page. If this does not happen contact me ASAP.

Unsure of what to vote for? Don't forget you also have access to our voters package which contains all the published works that have been nominated. Download/Read/Vote. We always say, vote for what you know and enjoyed.

Voting will be open until midnight EST on July 23rd. Once you submit your ballot it cannot be changed. If you have problems email me right away. When you submit you will automatically be emailed what you voted for.

The winners will be announced at the awards ceremony at Convention 36 in Calgary at When Words Collide (<http://www.whenwordscollide.org/>). Spread the word. Membership to CSFFA is open to all Canadians. If you know someone who enjoys Science Fiction or Fantasy forward this email to them.

One extra bit of news. The CSFFA Hall of Fame trophy is now on display in Calgary at the Fish Creek Library at 11161 Bonaventure Drive Southeast, beside Southcentre Mall. There is still time to submit nominations to the jury for their consideration. Submissions close on June 30th.

Clifford Samuels
Aurora Awards Administrator
<http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/>

Aurora Awards Admin
Wednesday 15 June 2016

Review: 'Night Raiders' (1988)

Michael Bertrand



Watched a couple of very bad movies with my dear friend, the glamorous and fascinating Felicity.

One was a movie called *Night Raiders*, or its original title, *Night of the Kickboxers*.¹⁷

There is not much kickboxing, to be honest. So right there, it's already lying.

It was a very bad movie, but luckily for us, it was the good kind of bad, the kind that makes you laugh at how in-

credibly inept and terrible it is. The movie includes some of the worst "acting" I have ever heard, with some of the most bizarre line reads that place the emphasis on entirely the wrong words, as well as some of the clunkiest and most unnatural dialogue and a villainess struggling with so much bad accent, she's nearly incomprehensible. And of course, being expected to think the Middle East and Arizona look exactly the same.

The nuggets of goodness: Adam West as a scientist whose daughter is kidnapped so the bad guys can get their hands on his big, powerful laser, and for us *Star Trek* and/or *Addams Family* fans, it also features Carel Struycken, who played both the enigmatic Mister Homm, Lwaxana Troi's ever-present,



¹⁷ <http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0095731/>

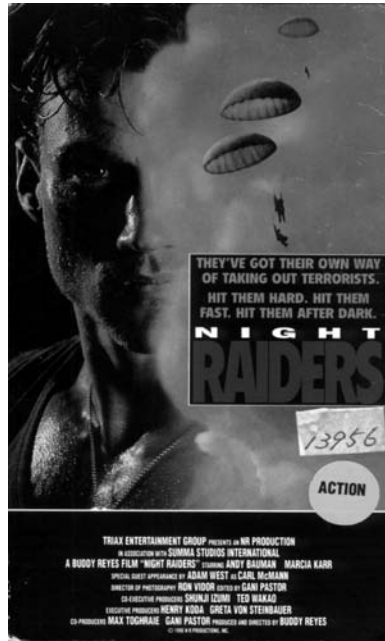
ever-silent personal assistant, on all the modern *Star Trek* series, and was also Lurch in the modern *Addams Family* movies.¹⁸

For those wondering, he does actually speak. In this movie, he quite clearly says “With pleasure!” Two whole words! I was beginning to wonder if he’s mute.

Michael Bertrand

The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand

Tuesday 13 September 2011



Art Credits

<u>Felicity Walker</u> (font: <u>Yann Le Coroller</u>).....	Masthead
<u>Brad Foster</u>	Cover
Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>).....	Pages 1–4, 7, 10, 12
Clip art [<i>Northern Darkness</i> (2007) screenshot].....	Page 5
Clip art [<i>The Transformers</i> (1984) screenshot].....	Page 6
Clip art.....	Page 14
<u>Felicity Walker</u> (photo).....	Page 15 (R)
Clip art [<i>The Raccoons and the Lost Star</i> (1983) screenshot]..	Page 15 (L)
Clip art [<i>Night Raiders</i> (1988) screenshots].....	Page 17
Clip art [<i>Night Raiders</i> (1988) VHS box scan].....	Page 18

18 He was also the Giant in *Twin Peaks* (1990)!—Felicity