

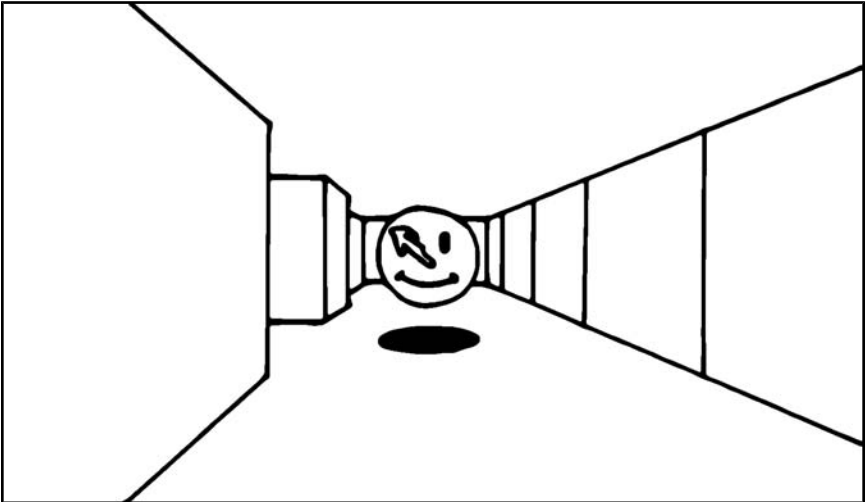
BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#515

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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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The producers of *Wit Gen Stein's Money* would like to remind you that "money" may not mean the same thing to you as it does to other people.

This and Next Month in BCSFA

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Friday 22 April: | Submission deadline for May <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally). |
| Sunday 17 April at 7 PM: | April BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. |
| Friday 29 April: | May <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically). |
| Sunday 15 May at 7 PM: | May BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's. |
| Friday 22 May: | Submission deadline for June <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally). |
| Friday 27 May: | June <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

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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_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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College Station, TX 77845
USA
askance73@gmail.com

Sunday 22 May 2016

Greetings and felicitations, Felicity!

Dave Haren's opening LOC illustrates a problem that all erstwhile fanzine editors face: lost letters of comment. Even worse, sometimes submitted articles and artwork get misplaced, which is everybody's nightmare. After experiencing a few instances of all these scenarios, I started using a back-up file process that seems to work very well. When a letter of comment comes in, it gets read, briefly responded to (acknowledging receipt of said LOC), and then sorted into the appropriate fanzine file, which I have set up on my Gmail inbox. So far, so good. Since I started doing this a couple years ago nothing significant has wandered astray—unless mail gets sorted into the wrong file, but that's not a big deal: just move it to the correct file and all is right in the fannish world.

[*In this case, the LOC never got as far as my Gmail. We still don't know why.*]

Dave also moves into the American political primary season, which has done nothing short of piss off millions of American voters. Even the Democratic party—the so-called liberators of sanity—has reached levels of infighting it hasn't seen since 1968 and 1972. *(sigh)* The only good thing coming out of all this is that the presidential platform that will come out the Democratic National Convention in late July in Philadelphia will include the key talking points of Senator Sanders' campaign: movement to dismantle Super PACs, limiting deep pocket contributors, reign in Wall Street investing in politics, and so forth. I won't even bother mentioning what the Republican party has settled on; I think by now even slugs living under rocks know that their king slug Donald Trump is that party's presumptive nominee. I surely hope and pray that saner heads will prevail and get to the polls and vote against Trump. Even though I'm not fond at all of the Clinton Machine and its massive bankroll, I would much rather have a former US Senator and Secretary of State living in the White House than that bombastic blowhard with the poor hair implants. It is almost enough to make me want to vote for Dr. Jill Stein (the Green Party candidate).



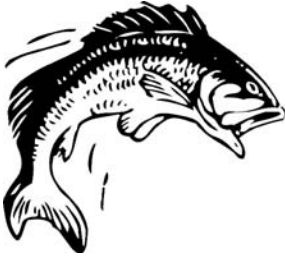
The Donald Trump of 2016 in a Superboy comic from 1992!

At any rate, I thank you again for sending the latest *BCSFazine* my way. It is always appreciated. Now it's time to check our garden and harvest what is ready, which is usually radishes. They grow fast.

All the best,
John Purcell

Sam Piscarian
chum@fish.net

Wednesday 1 June 2016



To the members of BCSFA:

I feel compelled to respond to your letter from "Ponds of Evil" in last month's letter column. For your information, there is no such thing as "water cooties." You are the victim of lies perpetrated by Big Fishstick. I'll have you know, the salmon I farm is so safe that it's virtually indistinguishable from the kind you get at the store, which it *totally isn't*. Sell your lies somewhere else!

Signed,
Sam "Farm Fresh Is Best" Piscarian
President Emeritus, BCSFA
The British Columbia Salmon Farmers Association

Dave Haren
tyrbolo@comcast.net

Sunday 19 June 2016

Hi Felicity,

I recently read one of Graeme's columns in *Amazing*. He has consistently been an advocate for zine fandom and a cheerleader for the same. I did find a note of incongruity in the last one though. I remember reading Shaver when he first appeared. I was still young enough to realize we don't know everything but it didn't make me assume that Shaver was automatically right or wrong. I don't want to burst any bubbles but no one in their right mind would go to the newsstand searching for something to believe in and pick up the latest in pulp trash with BEMs on the cover as the repository of a shiny new belief system. That assumes than folks who read haven't discarded their ability to discern shit from Shinola in their mad search for entertainment.

[*Someday I hope to have the opportunity to use the phrase "shit from Shinobi," which I coined.*]

Not that the various types did not try to sell a pig in a poke to what they viewed as gullible fandom. Some of them are still around—the sons of Dianetics, the Venus Project, the 30 years war scam of Christian Rosenkrantz, etc.

[*I had to look some of that up, and it wasn't easy to find anything. There are a lot of websites about the Venus Project, but nothing about what it actually is, or what it does.*¹ *To find that out, I had to brace myself for right-wing sarcasm and*

1 In the words of Marge Simpson, "Whatever it does, it's doing it now."

read the RationalWiki article about it. Wikipedia's Venus Project article redirects to its entry on founder Jacque Fresco, with no details about the Venus Project. The closest it gets is when it mentions that he started off in Technocracy and that in 1969 he and Ken Keyes Jr. coauthored Looking Forward. "The authors picture an ideal 'cybernetic society in which want has been banished and work and personal possessions no longer exist; individual gratification is the total concern.' " So I don't get to keep my comic book collection?]

[My Google fu is not up to figuring out what "the 30 years war scam of Christian Rosenkrantz" is. Reading about the Thirty Years' War and Frederik Christian Rosenkrantz has not solved the mystery.]

Nothing new about it. I have a lovely tome by Donneley that traces Atlantis in its remnants in societies. I seem to recall Horbiger peddled the NSDAP leaders a hollow Earth theory but they didn't get it from Ray Palmer.

The maddest thing of all is that Plato's description of Atlantis is a perfect match for Santorini, its eruption took down mediterranean civilization as the tsunami clobbered everyone in the basin. It even created the tales of Moses by its effects on Egyptian civilization. Generations have scoured the Atlantic looking for something right under their noses.

Maybe I'm giving my fellow humans too much credit but the idea someone would deliberately seek a belief system in the SF pulps was too weird to buy into.

I found out Starguard is in its 42nd year. My paper starships are starting to fall apart from age, so I bought replacements to build and a few new ones. The newer ones have better colours, the 37? (might be older)-year-old ones were printed on coloured paper to get the paint jobs. Starguard was always about the pageantry of miniatures with background buildings and vehicles to fight over with the treacherous alien foes.

You can still get off a LOC to Taral for inclusion in his 50th *Broken Toys*.

Must read of the week is #52309 from Gutenberg: *22 Goblins* translated from the Sanskrit. Only a few pages for each epic philosophical conundrum.

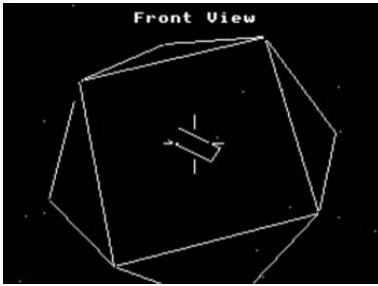
Kill Six Billion Demons is coming out in a comic book issue. This is a must grab if you see it. There aren't many who can achieve artistic work like this one. The intricacy of the artwork alone would make it worth having a copy.

On to another topic. Check out *Oolite*. There was a Mac game called *Elite* and it morphed into an open source SF game called *Oolite*. Free for the download and with an enormous batch of mods to add-on. Here's your chance to wreck your starship, be set upon by pirates while just trying to travel and make a few credits. It shares a lot with the defunct *Privateer*. *Privateer* was in the *Wing Commander* universe but its port to newer systems has stalled out. *Oolite* is still a work in progress. So if you've wanted to be a trader or asteroid miner or space pirate now you know where to go to start your new career.

[In the 1980s there was a video game called Elite that became legendary for its 3D graphics and open world, which were impressive at the time. Is it related?]



One other thing about *Oolite*. You can find the papermodels available to print out and glue together in case you want your own spaceship fleet. All that and fan fiction too. Other than the sleeplessness it's a winner for the active fan gamer.



“Most games have some sort of paddling-pool-and-water-wings beginning to ease you in: *Oolite* takes the rather more Darwinian approach of heaving you straight into the ocean, often with a brick or two in your pockets for luck.”—Disembodied

Here's a nice quote from Straub:

“A political film must remind people that we don't live in ‘the best of all possible worlds’...and that the present time, stolen

from us in the name of progress, is going by and is irreplaceable...that they are ransacking human feelings like they ransack the planet...We should make people feel that the price is too high, that the only thing worth defending is precisely the passing moment, that they should by no circumstances take flight into the future.”

Riots on campus:

“Yiannopoulos, a British writer for Breitbart News, has been visiting colleges across the US on his ‘Dangerous Faggot Tour’ (Yiannopoulos is a rather flamboyant homosexual). Yiannopoulos’ often-provocative rhetoric has provoked outrage at many of the campuses he has visited, and DePaul was no exception.”

[*That reminds me of an activist from my generation, Luke Montgomery, who (temporarily) changed his name to “Luke Sissyfag” in 1993.*]

And the usual bunch of odd linkages:

http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B005MR3IVO/ref=as_li_ss_tl?ie=UTF8&tag=boingboing06-20&linkCode=as2&camp=1789&creative=390957&creativeASIN=B005MR3IVO

Some would say that we are living under a democracy, but this is observably not true. Rather, it appears we are somewhere between (4) and (5), even though the aristocracy is not readily apparent.

[*The link goes to a keg of lube. What were (4) and (5)?*]

In reality, the theory probably needs to be updated, but regardless, the observable fact is that the transnational cognitive elite has no regard for the common masses, and more importantly, no longer requires them in order to maintain its standard of living. The logical conclusion is that the increased irrelevance of the competent white middle and working classes is why the former is entirely willing to replace them with an even more irrelevant, and less intelligent population who can be much more easily subdued and eliminated in time.

This parallels nicely with the anomalous drop in criminal activity in the developed world back in the 1990s. A confusion of the usual suspects claimed responsibility for this crime-fighting miracle: police, politicians, legalised abortion, alien green reptiles from outer space; they all got thanked for the drop. One Jessica Reyes finally nailed it by statistically linking the phase-out of lead in gasoline to the drop in violent crime later; the results being especially strong because different parts of the USA banned leaded gasoline at different times, and this difference could be seen in the crime figures.

<http://disinfo.com/2016/04/has-the-library-outlived-its-usefulness-in-the-age-of-internet-you-d-be-surprised/>

So the library is busier than ever in an age of electronical gee whizz.

[“[...] *Academic libraries have been actively reinventing themselves to meet the needs of today’s students. Academic library square footage is increasingly being converted from space to house printed books to space for students to study, collaborate, learn and, yes, socialize.” I like the idea of the library as a place of comfort and intellectual activity, although I still wish we hadn’t killed print.*]

<http://www.alternet.org/tea-party-and-right/our-awful-elites-gutted-america-now-they-dare-ring-alarms-about-trump-sanders>

Best thing I’ve seen lately on the corrupt Republicrats of the one party American system.

[*Yeah!*]

<http://www.drewwagar.com/books/oolitesaga/>

This one is a link to an SF game related series of downloadable books set in a game universe. The game is *Oolite*. Bears a passing similarity to the venerable *Privateer* which allowed you to play in the *Wing Commander* universe.

Remarkably open ended, free, and done as a labour of love with an enormous number of mods and add-ons. Eminently hackable up to the point of building your own gaming universe on their engine. All that and multiplatform as well.

Unlike a couple of others I have found in open source this one seems to have a reasonable footprint and doesn’t expect a cutting edge gaming comp from you.

Cory has released another book under creative commons. It starts out pretty violently so you know he has a message embedded that you need to hear.

<https://imgur.com/gallery/FAAWz>

Here’s what happens when you make a secret gamer rich from his movies.

During WW II, Lt. JG (Lieutenant Junior Grade) Harada participated in the attack on Pearl Harbor, Wake Island, the Battle of Midway, Guadalcanal and many others. He is credited with nine kills and ten shared aerial victories. Like the Vietnam generation, the Japanese servicemen were blamed by the very people they fought for, for the war itself. What indignity!



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jj1Wm2oF040>

Bored gamers have odd hobbies.

<http://disinfo.com/2016/06/propaganda-bill-in-congress-could-give-america-its-very-own-ministry-of-truth/>

The main objective is to hurry and attack RT News before Chris Hedges gets on the air (June 11, 2016). Chris speaks in Canada at times but can’t be heard in the “land of the Free.”

<http://www.antipope.org/charlie/blog-static/2016/06/cytological-utopia-and-the-rap.html>

This is the must read and later argue about pick of the week.

Akin to the multi universe conception of Schrödinger wave theory. The problem is simply the energy requirements. If we don’t understand energy well enough to determine how you get the multiples from each event bifurcation then none of our cur-

rent science makes any sense. I'll buy that we have a lot to learn but am not prepared to discard everything and start from scratch again.

Warm regards,

Dave "the unspellable" H...n

[*"The unspellable"?*]

Pictures are of the fighter pilot, a desktop cyclotron which has a 31 Tesla magnetic field generator, comic coming, and some pulp SF.

Bob Johnson

Saturday 1 July 2016

131001001 SKU Street,

Halfway Along Highway 91,

Richmond/New Westminster/Delta, BC



To the Humans of Earth Year 2016:

I have a fun mental experiment for your readers to grind up in their meat brains. If you were a silicon-based time traveling alien from the future stuck on a primitive mudball filled with poop squirting monkey people and you had to find a way to avoid going insane from the reeking smell of carbon dioxide and the sounds of wet and sloppy goo beings digesting themselves, what cable package would you choose? And is this a normal question from a person who is definitely

human and not the aforementioned being made of pure, beautiful, incorruptible silicon instead of various forms of slime?

Signed,

Bob "The Human" Johnson v. 7.208

Lloyd Penney

Sunday 2 July 2016

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Etobicoke, Ontario

M9C 2B2

penneys@bell.net

Dear BCSFen:

Thank you for another *BCSFazine*, № 514. Happy Canada Day to all, and here we are going into the second half of the year, already. Where does the time go? Time flies when you're not looking. Here goes...

The local...I hope *Polar Borealis* works, too. Any extra paying markets are a good thing, but there are so many starving writers out there. Please buy my book! They do need all the help they can get. Very welcome, John, hope you're enjoying *Murdoch*. Based on what I've read, it's become one of the most lucrative Canadian broadcast exports around the world, if not the most popular.

Congrats to Michael Bertrand on getting into VFS. I know none other than Order-of-Canada inductee Robert J. Sawyer is doing some retraining as a scriptwriter. Michael, are you thinking the same?

My loc...well, the US elections just get worse, and make the news, mostly through the huge differences between the candidates. We are getting ready for another vending event next weekend...after years of trying, we were finally accepted into a three-times-a year craft show called the Bazaar of the Bizarre. We hope to have some good sales. I think the only reason we were accepted was that on the same day, there will be a big horror con in Hamilton. Still, we will take what we can get. Our sales with Ad Astra were very good, and Anime North's sales were great. AN is always has our biggest sales of the year.

The Aurora Award package is ready...Yvonne and I need to decide if we are knowledgeable enough to even nominate this year. We are out of the loop, and the distance between we and the loop gets bigger and bigger. Ah, I see we are past the deadline, anyway. I haven't felt competent enough to nominate or vote for a while, anyway. Yvonne is on the Hall of Fame committee this year, and some decisions have to be made there, too.

[*Light now leaving the loop may not reach me for many millions of years!*]

In about 45 days as I type, we will be off to England for the kind of adventure we haven't had in many years, two weeks to tour London, see the Harry Potter exhibits, and go to the Asylum in Lincoln. We've wanted to do this for some time, and soon, we will. Still lots of preps to take care of!

Well, I hope the postal strike is short, if it happens at all. In this e-mail era, a postal strike just doesn't have the impact it used to have. However, it is important to have the post office. There's a campaign to let Canada Post do what many post offices do around the world, and that's get into banking. Anything would be good to keep the PO afloat.

Enjoy your summer, everyone, and see you next time.

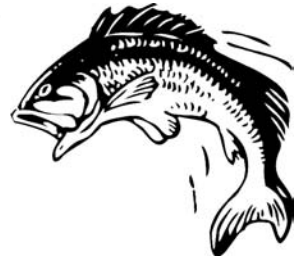
Yours,

Lloyd Penney

Norm Realperson

Nominal Systems, Inc.,
#3-12345 Median Road,
Normal, Illinois 61790,
USA

Tuesday 5 July 2016



To the members of BCSFA:

I have to reply, in the strongest possible terms, to the letter from Mister "Farm Fresh Is Best." Everyone knows that all farmed fish is full of water cooties, as well as mercury, old cigarette butts, hair clippings, and petrified hairballs! The whole decent, wholesome, Christian fish is ripped out of the ocean by giant ecology-destroying factory ships...as nature intended! If I was someone employed by the traditional, time-tested fishing industry to discredit fish farming, *which I totally am not*, I would be pointing out that farmed fish are twice as likely to commit serious crimes and their upkeep costs taxpayers a billion bazillion dollars a day!

Signed,

Norm "The Average" Realperson



Hey there BCFans! It's your intrepid reporter from the trenches of education entertainment here to give you the skinny (so to speak) on my adventures at VFS!

I'm in my second term now. The terms are two months long and are more or less like semesters, in that the courses are one term long. This means I have passed my first major milestone on the way to a stellar career in the television industry, or at least a slightly better than minimum wage income.

But nobody goes into television for the money. Well, not in Canada, anyhow.

So far Term 2 has meant more work and fewer classes. That suits me fine. I am loving my time at VFS, but I would have to say that I love class time the least. I would rather be home, writing. And I have it on good authority that this trend continues throughout the program, meaning eventually I will be writing almost all the time and coming into school only to pass in assignments and get new ones.

Fantastic. I am looking forward to the challenge. And not having to get up at 7 AM to leave at 8 AM to be at school by 9 AM.

So things are going pretty good for me at VFS. I am even learning to relax in social situations, which for me is *huge*.

That's it from me for this ish! Seeya next time, sports fans!

We Also Heard From: Garth Spencer, Elvis Presley, RJ "Mac" MacReady, SD Bob "Snake" Plissken, Jack Burton, Gabriel Cash, Jonathan "Jack" O'Neil, Todd 3465, Irma Langenstein, Vernon Fenwick, Burne Thompson, April O'Neil, Constructicons, Stunticons, Aerialbots, Combaticons, Protectobots, Predacons, Terrorcons, Technobots.

Calendar

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

Recurring

5, 12, 19, and 26 April and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

5, 12, 19, and 26 April and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May 2016 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

5, 12, 19, and 26 April and 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May 2016 (*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 April and 4, 11, 18, and 25 May 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

7 April and 5 May 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

7 and 21 April and 5 and 19 May 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)

7 April and 5 May 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.

7, 14, 21, and 28 April and 5, 12, 19, and 26 May 2016 (*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 April and 6, 13, 20, and 27 May 2016 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 April and 6, 13, 20, and 27 May 2016 (*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 April and 6, 13, 20, and 27 May 2016 (*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 April and 7, 14, 21, and 28 May 2016 (*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 April and 7, 14, 21, and 28 May 2016 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

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

4, 11, 18, and 25 April and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May 2016 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

4, 11, 18, and 25 April and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May 2016 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

12 April and 10 May 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

12 April and 10 May 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

13 and 27 April and 11 and 25 May 2016 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

14 April and 12 May 2016 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

14 April and 12 May 2016 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

9 April and 14 May 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

18 April and 18 May 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

20 April and 20 May 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

16 April and 21 May 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

17 April and 15 May 2016 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–12 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

30 April and 28 May 2016 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

April 2016

April is National Humour Month, Antici Month, Delayed Zine Month, Cats and Dogs Living Together Month, Pac-Month, Future Endeavours Month, Sharpie Appreciation Month, Stupid Banana Raincoat Wearing Month, Spelling “Amerika” with a “K” Month, Psygnosis Awareness Month, Heavy Burtation Month, the Other White Month, That Crazy Buck Rogers Month, and Pation Month.—Wiry Catlike Elf

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

1 April 2016: International Long Distance Twister Competition. Get ready to put your left foot on red and your right hand on green, because this year’s Twist-Off will have people twisting their way from Kelowna to Downtown Vancouver! Bring your spinner, your mats, and a crowbar just in case, and get ready to Get Twisted!—John the Barnacled Hermit

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

3 April 2016: Design Your Own Weird Pizza Contest, 12 PM at Weird Pizza, #103–10151 Number Three Road, Richmond. Contact: sakioroku1987@weirdpizza.com.—Wiry Catlike Elf

4 April 2016: School Librarian Day.

4 April 2016: Bobo, Flopsy, and the Turtle are convinced that you will find them as hilarious as they do, and that’s why they are inviting you down to a live recording of their podcast, *Games and Movies and Whatever*. Come listen to the three friends ramble on and on for over three hours without ever saying anything even vaguely interesting or relevant. And remember, this show is unrehearsed, unscripted, and most of all unedited, because Bobo and the gang want to remain true to the moment and not because they just can’t be bothered.—John the Barnacled Hermit



*To quote Teddy Rubskin,
“Keep it weird.”*



5 April 2016: International “Sit Around Making William Shatner Faces” Day.—Wiry Catlike Elf



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



7 April 2016: Telethon to Save the Pay Phone.—[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)

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: The Scrototiller: Manscaping Freemium, 9 PM at 247365 Charticle Beach, Port Manteau. Free scrotometer to first 50 visitors.—[Wiry Catlike Elf](#)

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](#)

9 April 2016: Premiere of film *This Is Spāñiel Tap*, the documentary—the, if you will, "dogumentary"—about the all-barking-dogs Spīñal Tap cover-band.—[Wiry Catlike Elf](#)

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

10 April 2016: Bob Odenkirk Appreciation Day.—[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)

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

12 April 2016: Russian Cosmonaut Day.

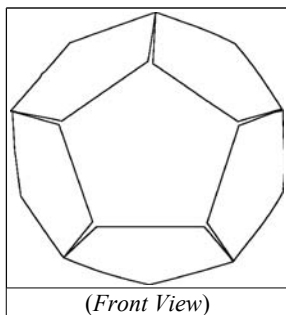
13 April 2016: **David Thayer** and **Marilyn Blew**'s birthdays. *Corner Gas* Day.

14 April 2016: International "That Guy in Your Office Who Does That Thing" Day.—[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)



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: On the 1d20 + 1d10th of 1d12 (consult table), the Chaos Society will holds its n^{th} meeting at a place and a time to be determined via a series of coin flips. Something may be served. Note: If more than three people show up, the whole thing will be called off. —[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)

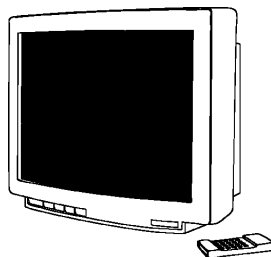
16 April 2016: [Get Out of Your House and Build!](#), 1–5 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4800 Kingsway, Burnaby. “It’s time for you to climb out of the basement, let the monsters out of the dungeons, and bring them into the light of day. Let’s build, paint, create in front of people and share the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

17 April 2016: Bat Appreciation Day.

18 April 2016: Bring Your Work to Your Daughter Day. —[Wiry Catlike Elf](#)

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

19 April 2016: The “Remember...?” series’ latest nostalgia meeting, entitled “Remember Television?”, will take place on whatever date and time suits Felicity. People will be encouraged to reminisce about the good old days of having to scour *TV Guide* in order to find out what was on, fiddling with antennae in order to get better reception, and all those “programming your VCR” jokes. Next week’s theme: “Remember Video Stores?” —[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)



Driving in his car, living like a star, ice on his fingers and his toes and he’s a Taurus.

20 April 2016: Krang Syndrome Awareness Day. **Kuato**’s birthday. —[Wiry Catlike Elf](#)

21 April 2016: Premiere of animated series *The Shmups*, about a cute team of jet fighter craft shooting large numbers of enemies and learning warm values. —[Wiry Catlike Elf](#)

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: Slam Philosophy is back, and the competition is fiercer than ever! See mental heavyweights go toe to toe in the ultimate contest of mind on mind combat! Tonight's main card event: Keith the Krazy Kantian versus Delta Bloom the Doom of Hume! Be there or be unaware of the precarious position being a subjective human in an objective universe places on the individual!—[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)



22 April 2016: [Galaxion: Game Over: '80s Dance & Gamer Party](#), 9 PM–3 AM at Hindenburg, 23 West Cordova, Vancouver. “*Hey youuuuuuuu 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.

24 April 2016: National **10 PRINT “HELLO”** Day.

25 April 2016: Note: The *Yes On Brexit* Society's meetings have been canceled indefinitely due to sudden lack of membership.—[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)

26 April 2016: National **20 GOTO 10** Day.



27 April 2016: [Joe Devoy's](#) birthday.

28 April 2016: International Astronomy Day.

28 April 2016: International Eat Like Nobody Will Ever See You Naked Day.—[John the Barnacled Hermit](#)

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 Hoffert**'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,² 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,³ 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



31 April 2016: Stir-Fry Cooking and *Terminator* Movie Marathon, 5 PM–1 AM at Nice Night for a Wok, #120–8260 Granville Avenue, Richmond.—Wiry Catlike Elf

May 2016

4 May 2016: *Star Wars* Day. Cinco de Quatro.

6 May 2016: Space Day. Premiere of films *Captain America: Civil War* (superhero; Chris Evans, Robert Downey Jr., Scarlett Johansson, Don Cheadle, Jeremy Renner, Paul Rudd, William Hurt, Martin Freeman, Marisa Tomei, Alfre Woodard, Stan Lee) and *Elstree 1976* (documentary; Jeremy Bulloch, David Prowse).

6–8 May 2016: Creative Ink.—Graeme Cameron

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

11 May 2016: *Twilight Zone* Day.

2 (Paulina Gillis.)

3 (Science World.)

13 May 2016: Premiere of films *The Darkness* (horror; Kevin Bacon, Ming-Na Wen, Paul Reiser, Christopher Darga), *The Lobster* (SF/comedy/romance; Colin Farrell, John C. Reilly, Rachel Weisz), and *What We Become* (horror/zombie).

18 May 2016: **William Honeywill**'s birthday.

19 May 2016: **Michael Bertrand**'s birthday.

20 May 2016: **Julian Castle**'s birthday. Premiere of films *The Angry Birds Movie* (computer animation; Jason Sudeikis, Josh Gad, Danny McBride, Maya Rudolph, Bill Hader, Peter Dinklage, Sean Penn, Keegan-Michael Key, Kate McKinnon, Tony Hale, Hannibal Buress, Ike Barinholtz, Blake Shelton, Charli XCX, Alex Borstein, Fred Tatasciore, Judah Friedlander) and *Welcome to Happiness* (fantasy; Nick Offerman, Keegan-Michael Key, Paget Brewster).

21 May 2016: **Gina Lynn Post**'s birthday.

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

22 May 2016: World Goth Day.

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."

25 May 2016: Towel Day.

27 May 2016: Premiere of films *X-Men: Apocalypse* (superhero; Michael Fassbender, Jennifer Lawrence, Rose Byrne, Olivia Munn, Ally Sheedy, Stan Lee, Tauntaun, Zeljko Ivanek, Hugh Jackman) and *Alice Through the Looking Glass* (fantasy; Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Anne Hathaway, Sacha Baron Cohen, Rhys Ifans, Matt Lucas, Alan Rickman, Timothy Spall, Stephen Fry, Wally Wingert, Mohammed Ali).

Random Nostalgia

Defensor

"Watchmen" (1986–1987)

Mr. Sport Pizza & Steak House

"Speed Racer" (1967–1968; 1993–1994)

Datalife floppy disks by Verbatim

answering machines

"Windows/286"

News-Like Matter

Notes from March 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, Stewart Smyth, and Teresa Spanics.



I hear he started out in grape futures.

There were gluten-free potato chips. Julian asked “Is there *normally* gluten in potato chips?” Joe added “Is there normally gluten in *potatoes*?” William said that gluten is only in grains. I imagined the product “Graisins,” a portmanteau of “grapes” and “raisins.” Joe thought that it could be grapes that are only halfway dehydrated.

I wondered if Michael McKean, Christopher Guest, and Harry Shearer secretly resent the fact that people want more Spiñal Tap and not more Folksmen. William suggested that they could do a shared record. Julian added that they could do a split-screen video. William said that Spiñal Tap could do covers of Folksmen songs.

Graeme asked “Felicity, will you be looking forward to March 31st?” CNN is showing its documentary series *The 1980s* starting then, and it promises to have more archive footage and less interviews. I said I would record it.⁴

Ray suggested that VCON 42’s theme should be comedy in SF, a broader version of the theme *The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* (because of the number 42). I realised that if there’s a talent show, I could do all the stand-up material that I wrote but that turned out to be too nerdy for Stand-Up for Mental Health.⁵ Ray could also SF-related stand-up.

My notes say: “‘Bo Knows’ ads, especially Bo Diddley saying ‘Bo...you don’t know diddly.’”

Topic: electronic music. Via cell phone text, Jax Coldwolf contributed notes about jazz/experimental composer Raymond Scott, best known for his “Powerhouse” theme (familiar as the “factory” music in old cartoons). Regarding Graeme’s story about his first computer (see *BC-SFAzine* #513), Jax mentioned that “if you want to read about strange Canadian computers, look up the Unisys ICON.” I did, and according to Wikipedia, it was designed by committee and was also known as “the



4 And I have! I haven’t watched it yet, though.—Future Felicity

5 For example: “Britain’s leaving the EU. That way they don’t have to deal with General Thrawn, Prince Xixor, etc.”—Future Felicity

bionic beaver.” I’ve never seen one, but apparently Canadians from the generation just after mine have fond memories of playing an educational game called *Cross Country Canada* (1991), a trucking simulator. What’s potash?



Topic: New World cities named after Old World cities, but pronounced more phonetically. For example, Stew said that Al Jardine (of the Beach Boys) is from Lima, Ohio (pronounced “Lyma”). Jardine was a fan of the Kingston Trio.⁶ I thought that explained some of the Beach Boys’s outfits—sometimes they dressed like the Kingston Trio. Stew replied that that was their dad’s idea. Also, Stew said that the

scene in the 1989 TV movie⁷ where they fire their dad is accurate—Stew has heard the studio out-take. In the middle of “I Get Around”: “Dad, you’re fired.”

At the apartment, Joe, Fruvous, Julian, and I had recently seen the “Everything Is Terrible” clip “*The X-Tinct Files*,” a Creationist *X-Files* parody. It said that the Bible’s mention of dragons was proof that dinosaurs lived at the same time as humans. Confusingly, Agent Scully also appears to be a humanoid dinosaur.

This reminded Graeme of the web video series *Ask Lovecraft*. Lovecraft declared “I wrote fiction, not religion. I’m a scientific materialist.” Whereupon the interviewer asked “Isn’t the fact that we’re interviewing you now proof of life after death?” Irritated, Lovecraft replied “Shut up. When you get your own ‘Ask Kessler’ show you can do what you want.” Then the actor playing Lovecraft laughs at the name “Kessler.” (Leeman Kessler plays Lovecraft in the series.)



Fru said “Catzilla!”

Stew reported that coyotes are interbreeding with wolves. There’s a nest of coyotes between two apartment buildings at 14th Avenue and Kingsway (Burnaby). They’re everywhere. Fru said that they’re smart and adaptable. He saw a documentary in which a coyote acted like a dog to blend in with stray/wild dogs, who had it pretty good in the city.

Graeme was shopping for ramen for his wife and saw that Safeway is experimenting with Korean food. He saw a product called “Kum Poo.” Fru said “The worst martial art.”

This reminded Stew of the time Don de Brandt and his pal made a stop motion film of a crashing UFO—five seconds of animation took so long that they lost the light and so a spotlight suddenly comes on. Graeme added that he and his friend

6 “The Klingston Trio” would be a great name for a filk band.—Future Felicity

7 *Summer Dreams: Story of the Beach Boys* (starring Bruce Greenwood, Greg Kean, and Arlen Dean Snyder).—Future Felicity



used to make stop-motion films, and just a shot of HO-scale tanks moving from left to right could take 24 hours. Graeme still has some of these films—although the deal he had with his friend was that they’d experiment on one film and Graeme would keep that film, and then they’d use the perfected technique on the next film and his friend would keep that one. This reminded Fruvous of a documentary about Aardman Films. It said that they’d keep perfecting their studio—making it sound-proof, then light-proof—as they got more successful. I replied “And then for some reason they made *Angry Kid*.”⁸ Someone asked what that was and I said that I vaguely remembered that it was foam puppet animation, like *The PJs* (1999). Graeme said “I don’t think I’ve seen any Aardman.” I asked if he had seen *Wallace and Gromit* (1990) or the Chevron ads with the smiling cars. Stew mentioned Will Vinton (of Claymation fame) and the Mark Twain story where he “was born at the time of the comet and will leave the world with the comet” and an airship flies up to the comet.

Fru mentioned that on Tuesday 15 March 2016, Anonymous released “hacked” information about Trump. Actually, it was all info freely available online but Trump took the bait and talked about how he was hacked and it was probably a Bernie Sanders supporter. My notes say: “Look up what ‘Geddy’ is short for in ‘Geddy Lee’ of Rush.” I hoped it was “Gederick.”⁹

Kathleen said “A closed mouth gathers no feet.”

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron and Kathleen Moore

Sunday 20 March 2016

Kobo Canada Sponsors Prize for Aurora Award Voters

We would like to announce that CSFFA and the Aurora awards have a special new sponsor. We are pleased to announce that Kobo Canada is now sponsoring a prize of a free Kobo e-reader for a 2016 CSFFA member who votes for this year’s awards.

We would like to thank Mark Lefebvre, Director, Self-Publishing & Author Relations with Kobo Canada (Mark Leslie for his readers) who has arranged for this wonderful prize. Mark will draw the winning name at When Words Collide in Calgary at the Guest of Honour Keynote speeches, Friday night, August 12th at 7 PM. When Words Collide/Convention 36, <http://www.whenwordscollide.org/>.

No, you don’t have to be there. We will mail it to you if you are not there. All members of CSFFA who vote for this year’s awards will be automatically entered into the draw. If you do not wish to be included in the draw please email us.

8 (1999).

9 It wasn’t. It’s a variation of his birth name “Gary,” similar to Gedde Watanabe.—
Future Felicity

Voting for this year's awards is currently open until July 23rd at the end of day, Midnight EST. Don't forget to download the voter package so you can read all of the nominated works.

This message is being sent out to CSFFA account holders who currently do not have a paid membership for 2016. There is plenty of time to participate in this year's awards. Log into your account at <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/> to purchase your membership for just \$10. This will allow you access to this year's voters package and the right to vote for the 2016 awards.

Aurora Awards Admin
Tuesday 5 July 2016

Robert J. Sawyer Awarded Membership in Order of Canada!

On July 1, Robert J. Sawyer of Toronto was named a Member of the Order of Canada "for his accomplishments as a science-fiction writer and mentor and for his contributions as a futurist."

Robert J. Sawyer
Thursday 7 July 2016

FRED Potentially Moving to Sundays

FRED organiser Michael Bertrand would like to move FRED from every other Saturday to every other Sunday. On 6 July 2016 he put up a poll, but, as he wrote on 10 July 2016, "Well the poll results are in and they are definitively...inconclusive. One person is unsure and the rest are ambivalent. So here is what I am going to do. I am going to leave the poll up for one more week. If, by the end of that week, nothing has changed, I am going to move FRED to Sundays. So if you don't want that to happen, vote in the poll ASAP."¹⁰



Felicity Walker
Sunday 10 July 2016

July 2016 Special General Meeting of the West Coast Science Fiction Association

Notice of West Coast Science Fiction Association Special General Meeting

Date: Saturday 23 July 2016

Start Time: 2:00 PM—doors open 1:30 PM for sign-up, sign-in, and proxy registration

End Time: 4:00 PM—clean-up volunteers may stay until 4:30 PM

Location: Bonsor Recreation Centre, Multi-Use Room #1, 6550 Bonsor Ave, Burnaby, BC (near Metrotown)—[Google map](#)

¹⁰ FRED has moved to Sundays (except for this weekend, the third weekend of August, when it will be on Saturday 20 August 2016 to avoid conflict with the BCSFA meeting).—Future Felicity

From: West Coast Science Fiction Association 2016 Board of Directors

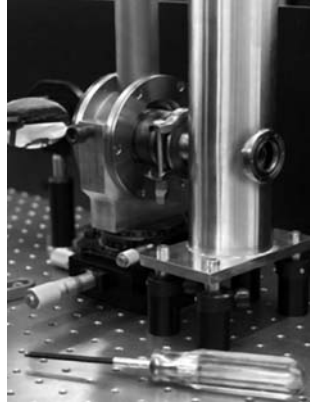
All current members in good standing of the West Coast Science Fiction Association (WCSFA) and other interested parties are invited to attend a Special General Meeting for the purpose of discussing and voting on changes to our bylaws and a call for bids from teams interested in running VCON 42 in October 2017.

Details for the date, time and location are noted above. [...] See below for details of the planned SGM agenda, proposed motions, member qualification, proxy voting requirements and contact information for further queries.

Yours,

Jenni Merrifield

2016 Secretary, West Coast Science Fiction Association



WCSFA is a non-profit organization that hosts events for fans of science fiction and fantasy throughout the Vancouver, BC metro region, most notably VCON, a three-day convention that has existed since 1971. Our mandate is to promote the importance of and to foster and encourage interest, involvement and participation in all forms of science fiction and fantasy fandom in British Columbia through the coordination and promotion of community events.

Planned Agenda

- Call to Order
- Acceptance of Proxies
- Adoption of the Rules of Order
- Discussion and Voting on Proposed Motion to Call for Bids for VCON 42
 - See the Call for Bids for VCON 42 section for details
- Discussion and Voting on Proposed Motions for Changes to Bylaws
 - See the Changes to Bylaws Section for Details
 - Motion One: Remove Vice Chair Venue Negotiation Clause
 - Motion Two: Remove Vice Chair Organizing Committee Restriction Clause
 - Motion Three: Elections to Be to the Board as a Whole
 - Motion Four: Board Seats to Be Split into Two Groups with Two Year Terms.
- Closing Remarks
- Adjournment

Call for Bids for VCON 42

The following motion proposing that WCSFA publish a formal Call for Bids for VCON 42 will be discussed and voted on at the SGM.

Proposed Motion

As no one has put forward their name as a potential VCON 42 Chair from among the currently active members of WCSFA and the VCON 41 ConCom:



“The WCSFA board to publicly distribute a formal Call for Bids for VCON 42 ConCom to all WCSFA members and through social media channels, no later than 31 July 2016, with the deadline for interested parties to put forward a bid set no later than 21 August 2016.”

If one or more bids are received by the deadline: “The WCSFA Board to schedule a Special General Meeting to be held sometime between that deadline and Sunday 4 September 2016 for the purpose of presenting and voting on the bids and such other business as may be required to be done at that time.”

If no bids are received by the deadline:

“The WCSFA Board to schedule a meeting where they will decide whether to recommend VCON 42 be delayed until 2018 with another Call for Bids going out in the New Year for consideration at the AGM, or to recommend another Call for Bids for 2017 be made immediately with a deadline of 31 October 2016, and a follow-up SGM scheduled between then and Sunday 13 November 2016.”

Purpose: At the 2016 AGM a motion was passed that, as no one had stepped forward for election as the VCON 42 chair, the WSFA Board would hold an SGM approximately three months later for the purpose of finding a candidate for the position and such other business as may be required to be done at that time. Unfortunately, the attempt to find a candidate from among currently active members of WCSFA and the VCON Concom has not been successful. The board wishes to try a ConCom Bid format, much like what was originally used by the organization, rather than the election of only a Committee Chair. The bidding process will be based on those used earlier in WCSFA’s history combined with current WCSFA board policies and modern fan convention running best practices.

A preliminary draft of the planned Call for Bids text will be made available at the meeting.

Changes to Bylaws

The following motions proposing changes to the WCSFA bylaws will be discussed and voted on at the SGM. View a copy of the current bylaws.

Proposed Motion One—Remove Vice Chair Venue Negotiation Clause

To remove the following clause from WCSFA Bylaws Part 7 (Duties of Officers), Section 41, article (2):

“The Vice President is charged with the duty of negotiating for and signing the contract for the venue(s) where a major society-sponsored event will be held.”

Purpose: To move duties currently assigned to the Vice President to the Policies and Procedures document so that it can be adapted from time to time by the WCSFA Board of Directors without requiring a Special General Meeting. In this case, the current requirement is incorrectly specified as negotiation of venue contracts are usually done by the event chair and/or hotel liaison, with overview and signing authority provided by the vice-chair.



*Proposed Motion Two—Remove
Vice Chair Organizing Committee Restriction Clause*

To remove the following clause from WCSFA Bylaws Part 7 (Duties of Officers), Section 41, article (3):

“The Vice President shall not hold a position on any active committee formed for the purpose of organizing a major society-sponsored event.”

Purpose: To move duties currently assigned to the Vice President to the Policies and Procedures document so it can be adapted from time to time by the WCSFA board of directors instead of a Special General Meeting. In this case, the restriction has been deemed onerous and should be adjusted on a case by case basis.

Proposed Motion Three—Elections to Be to the Board as a Whole

To replace WCSFA Bylaws Part 5 (Directors and Officers), Section 26, article (2):

“Separate Elections for each office to be held”

with the following:

“Future candidates will stand for election to the board as a whole and all offices shall be filled from within and by vote of the Board of Directors.”

Purpose: To allow more flexibility on filling board positions and to better support the sharing of knowledge across different board positions.

Proposed Motion Four—Board Seats to Be Split into Two Groups with Two Year Terms

Option A (language to be used if proposed Motion 3 passes):

To replace WCSFA Bylaws Part 5 (Directors and Officers), Section 26, article (1):

“The directors must retire from office at each general meeting when their successors are elected”

with

“Seats on the Board of Directors will be split into two groups, with each group to be elected for two-year terms in alternate years.

“(a) Group 1 to be a minimum of three and a maximum of five seats.

“(b) Group 2 to be a minimum of two and a maximum of four seats.”

Option B (language to be used if proposed Motion 3 fails to pass):

To replace WCSFA Bylaws Part 5 (Directors and Officers), Section 26, article (1):

“The directors must retire from office at each general meeting when their successors are elected”

with

“Seats on the Board of Directors will be split into two groups, with each group to be elected for two-year terms in alternate years.

“(a) Group 1 to be President, Treasurer, a Member at Large and up to two additional Members at Large.

“(b) Group 2 to be Vice President, Secretary, and up to two additional members at large.”

Purpose: To allow for a continuity of personnel in the board so that ongoing major events can more smoothly continue as intended.

Member Qualification

You are a WCSFA member in good standing for this Special General Meeting:

You had a membership to VCON 40

With the exception of the following types of complimentary day or weekend memberships [*]:

- volunteer
- program participant (*not* including Guests of Honor)
- fan club/organization representative
- media/press

or you have purchased a membership for VCON 41

or you have paid the \$5 WCSFA membership fee at any time after *24 July 2015*,

and

You do not currently owe any debts to WCSFA.

Members in good standing who are aged 13 and older as of the date of a General Meeting are also Voting Members and are eligible to vote on any motions made during the meeting. Members who are aged 19 and older are eligible to run for election to the Board of Directors or put forth a bid to run an event.

[*] Although these specific complimentary membership types *did not* include membership in WCSFA these valued event participants are being notified of this SGM at the request of the WCSFA 2016 President, Chris Sturges. You are not only welcome to attend the SGM as an observer but you may become a voting member by purchasing a \$5 voting membership or a weekend membership to VCON 41. These can both be done, in advance, through Eventbrite at <http://vcon41.eventbrite.ca/#tickets> or on-site at the SGM, during the “sign-in and sign-up” period between 1:30 PM and 2:00 PM.

If you are not sure whether you have a current WCSFA membership, please contact the WCSFA Secretary (secretary@wcsfa.org), before *Friday 22 July 2016* to check your status.

For members who are unable to attend in person, proxy voting is allowed.

Instructions on how to set up a proxy vote can be found in the next section.

Proxy Voting

How to Set Up a WCSFA Voting Proxy

A WCSFA member in good standing may give their proxy to any other member in good standing. A proxy is only valid for a single general meeting and may be provided as described here:

1. A proxy is given by providing written notice to the directors indicating the following:
 - a. the member in good standing to whom the proxy is being given,
 - b. the date of the general meeting at which the proxy will be valid, and
 - c. the specific motions, resolutions or elections to which the proxy is to be restricted if any.
2. Notice of proxy may be provided to the directors in the following ways:
 - a. as a paper notice, submitted personally, by mail, or by fax, that is both dated and signed by the member giving the proxy, or

b. as an electronic mail message sent to the electronic mail addresses of the President, the Vice President and the Secretary *from the registered email address of the member giving the proxy*—e.g., *the email address that this notice was emailed to*.

All notices of proxy must be received by the directors prior to or at the start of the general meeting at which the proxy is valid.

A paper note may also be given to the member who will hold the proxy and handed into the board prior to the start of the general meeting or you may make arrangements to deliver it by hand, mail or fax with any current board members.

As noted in instruction step 1.c the member must choose whether their proxy is applicable to *all* motions, resolutions and elections to be voted on at the meeting or is restricted to only some. Restrictions can be applied by, for example, naming specific, individual motion(s) or resolution(s) noted on the agenda, specifying it is only for elections of members of the WCSFA Board of Directors, etc.

Note: With a proxy, your vote will be assigned the same value as that of the person holding your proxy. That is, you may not choose to specify what your vote choice is independently of that person.

Contact Us

If you have queries about this SGM, the Call for VCON 42 ConCom Bids, WCSFA or others.

For additional information about this SGM, the Call for VCON 42 ConCom Bids, or anything else related to WCSFA, VCON or its other events, please feel free to contact any of the following:

Jenni Merrifield (2016 WCSFA Secretary)—secretary@wcsfa.org

Chris Sturges (2016 WCSFA President)—president@wcsfa.org

Secretary, West Coast Science Fiction Association

Monday 11 July 2016

Voting for the 2016 Aurora Awards Closes This Saturday Night

There is still time to get your membership to CSFFA so you can participate in the 2016 Aurora Awards and access our Voters Package. The package contains all of the nominated published works and gives you a chance to go through them to see what you liked. Go to <http://www.prixaurorawards.ca/> for full details.

Voting closes at the end of day on Saturday, July 23rd at midnight EDT. That's 9 PM for those in BC, 10 PM in Alberta and 1 AM on Sunday for those in Halifax.

As an added incentive, Kobo Canada is now sponsoring a prize of a free Kobo e-reader that will be drawn for one of our members who voted for this year's awards.

Your vote matters. Signup/download/read/vote. Check out the new Best Visual Presentation category.

Aurora Awards Admin

Tuesday 19 July 2016



Bedside Manner

Dr. Taral Wayne

[This article was previously published in E-Ditto #16 (November 2011, edited by Eric Mayer).]

The patient is Steven Baldassarra. He's not only a friend of some years' standing, he's a fount of amusing stories, and he doesn't in the least mind my stealing them. Some of my best, humorous articles have been based on his anecdotes. Yet, I can be a little slow catching on to their potential. I don't think I realized that I could profitably steal this one until I'd heard it twice, perhaps even three times.

Steven had been at the receiving end of one of *my* medical tales the other day. When it was his turn, he told me his story, and a little light came on in my head. I listened to Steven a little more closely this time, knowing that it would have to be repeated word for word for all my readers.



His story begins with a visit to the doctor's office for a physical examination. This was a new doctor. They had never seen each other before. To the physician's trained eye, it seemed obvious why the patient was there. Without even the common civility of a "Hello, have a seat, now what can I do for you?" he told Steven, "You're obese."

"I *am* overweight," Steven admitted.

"No, you're *obese*."

Truth be told, this is so. Like many of us, Steven carries a great deal more weight than he should in an ideal world. And, like many of us, he's tried to do something about it, achieved temporary success and then backslid, retaining only modest gains...Or, more to the point, only modest losses.

"I did lose a significant amount of weight a while ago and feel much better for it," Steven said, defensively. "But you know how it is. You have no time for group sessions and work-outs. Moderating your diet just isn't enough."

"Moderating *your* diet hasn't been enough."

The doctor said this in a tone that implied Steven's everyday meals included an entire roast pig, several pies and pastries and a one-litre carton of ice cream, and that Steven had "moderated" his diet only by removing the wedge of cheddar from one slice of pie. "You're still obese. There's no excuse for it."

By this point, Steven was feeling more than a little abused by the doctor's woefully defective bedside manner. But, he found the self-control to hold his tongue and bring the subject around to the business at hand—his annual exam.

The doctor wrapped a rubber cuff around Steven's arm, pumped it up until the arm was lobster red, slowly bled off the air off watched the needle on his sphygmomanometer. "Well," he said, "that seems normal enough—" Then added ominously, "for the present."

Taking an ice-cold stethoscope out of the freezer, he listened to Steven's heart. Then he looked in Steven's ears and down his throat with a speculum big enough to look up a bull's bum. He poked Steven's ribs hard enough to leave bruises. He held the patient's tongue down with a depressor until he choked. He did everything except kick Steven's tires, but refrained from it only because the patient didn't have them. Then the doctor took blood. It wouldn't have been entirely unexpected if he had used fangs instead of a syringe.



"You realize, of course," he harrumphed, "that being obese, you run a much greater risk of cardiovascular disease, hypertension, stroke, cancer, kidney and liver disorders, sleeping irregularities, mood changes, allergies, eczema, cellulite and people calling you 'Fatty'?"

If I had been Steven, I might have retorted, "It *has* crossed my mind"—but Steven wisely kept his silence.

"I'll have to have this blood sample sent to the lab to be worked up," the doctor continued, in a tone implying he was sending a note from school to the patient's parents. "The results should be in before your next scheduled appointment. I won't be at all surprised if the report shows there's excess cholesterol in your blood, an enlarged heart and that you have a galloping case of type II diabetes. Meanwhile, try to lose some *weight*, for God's sake!"

* * *

The doctor was equally civil during the second appointment. "I see you haven't lost a pound," was his greeting.

Steven shrugged. What was there to say? He hadn't exactly stuffed himself with pâté de foie gras and mince pies, but neither had he subsisted on cress and bottled spring water over the previous month.

"I don't understand this report at all," the doctor grumbled. "By all rights, you should be on death's doorstep. I expected to read that the diseased state of your pancreas was well advanced, and you were severely diabetic—but there's nothing abnormal here. Despite all odds, you seem as healthy as a horse."

Steven gave his sweetest, most cherubic smile.

"This is nothing to be complacent about," the doctor scolded. "No one as obese as *you* has any business being healthy! If you don't do something about this, you may go on being obese long after the day they put *me* in the grave."

I can imagine that Steven's smile grew sweeter, more cherubic than ever. Then he said, "And on that day, Doctor, I will celebrate."

The doctor's reaction is not on record.

Taral Wayne

Saturday 22 October 2011

Review: The Mystery of 'Room 237'

Michael Bertrand

A couple years ago, I heard about this documentary called *Room 237*. It was supposed to be a documentary where people discussed the work of Stanley Kubrick in general and *The Shining* in particular.

I thought that sounded great. I love media analysis of all kinds and I thought it would be really cool to hear intelligent, learned types talk about an amazing movie adapted from my second-favorite Stephen King novel. (*Carrie* comes first for sentimental reasons.) And like I have said, I have an insatiable appetite for intelligent discussion.



So I went into watching *Room 237* with my roommate Julian today with eyes wide open (not wide shut) expecting the sort of discourse I get from the podcast community.

But I should have known better. I should have remembered why I knew I could never be an English major. I should have known that Kubrick has the power to make otherwise intelligent and intelligible people lose their freaking minds.

I really should have seen it coming.

Because *Room 237* is an awful, awful movie. Instead of cogent and focused discussion of an undisputed cinematic masterpiece created by one of the most brilliant minds ever to be turned to the making of film, I got four or five pretentious windbags abandoning all common sense and contact with reality to vanish up their own novels as they irresponsibly theorized with the brakes off.

One person thought the whole movie was an allegory for the slaughter of Native Americans by European whites because of that whole Indian burial ground thing (I wonder what they thought of *Poltergeist*?). And you know, there are a lot of pictures of Indians scattered around the Overlook Hotel. The blood? Why, the angry blood of the slaughtered Indians! And it comes in from the sides in front of a closed elevator door to represent how we have tried to shut out the knowledge that white Europeans did terrible things to the noble Red Man.

I swear, I'm not making this up. I'm not capable.

Another thought it was an allegory all right, but for the Nazi extermination of the Jews. The fact that the guy was a professional historian who specialized in Nazi history was not the disqualifying factor you might think it would be, because it takes a sense of irony to say "But you know, I have seen so much Nazi stuff that I see Nazis everywhere now" and we have clearly left the land of irony far, far behind.

His proof? There are a lot of pictures of Nazis lying around the Overlook. Plus, there is one dissolve where the kid's image is replaced by a suitcase.

And we all know how much the Nazis loved sticking children in luggage, right?

Another one actually trotted out that leaky old canard about how the movie was really Kubrick's way of working out the issues he had with having been the person who faked the *Apollo 11* moon landing for Kennedy.

Because, you see, the kid is wearing an *Apollo 11* shirt. A clear confession!

It was a potent lesson in just how much I hate that kind of bloviating horse apples. That is why I could never be an English major because 99 percent of literary analysis is just like that. People reading far too much meaning into simple things and ascribing godlike powers of cultural encoding to writers who, no matter how brilliant they may be (and Kubrick had an IQ of 200) are just people trying to tell a story.



It occurs to me that the only difference between literary theory and conspiracy theory is that nobody ever got tenure by writing about the New World Order and the Bohemian Grove.

At least, nobody working at a really good school.

It also occurs to me that Kubrick must be to film majors what James Joyce is to literature majors: a major figure of enormous cultural stature considered to be brilliant and inscrutable to any mere mortal (But my theory proves I understand him! Tenure, please!) that is therefore the perfect platform for the wildest of speculation because there is absolutely no way to objectively determine which theory is true.

After all, who can tell you that Picasso's *Guernica* is not actually a complex ideogram proving Picasso was sexually abused by a milkmaid when he was three and a half years old?

Certainly not your fellow theorists, who deep down know that they dare not introduce reality to their cloistered milieu lest their own bullshit face sensible scrutiny.

And certainly not the average citizen, who does not understand what the theorists are saying but dares not say so for fear of looking stupid in front of people who seem so much smarter than them.

Even other intellectuals can be intimidated by stepping into the foreign fields of someone else's specialty.

So who does that leave to shout out that Emperor not only has no clothes but a hilariously tiny cock?

Me. It leaves me. Hey, check out the "royal scepter"!

See, I know that writers are not gods. (Not even me.) There is a hard limit to how much any human being can consciously encode into a work of fiction, and we need to remember that if we are to stay out of La La Land.

I remember when I first presented my play *What's On* to the head of the UPEI theater society, an English prof. He read the whole thing then said "It seems to be about freedom."

And I said "Does it? How interesting." I mean, what do I know. I only wrote the damned thing.

In many ways, this kind of analysis is like the parable of the Four Blind Men and the Elephant. In it, four blind men encounter an elephant for the first time in their lives, and try to figure out what it is. One gets hold of the trunk, and declares it to be a snake. Another gets hold of the tail, and declares it to be a rope. Another gets hold of a leg, and declares it to be a tree. And the last one feels the elephant's sides, and declares that they have encountered a wall. But it's not a snake, a rope, a tree, or a wall.

It's a freaking elephant. They all have drawn their conclusions from a small part of a much larger (and presumably extremely patient) animal, and they all think they have found the truth.

And the thing is, they have accurate data, more or less. Nobody can tell them that what they have observed is not there. And if the data is accurate, then the theory must be right. Right?

Wrong. All these theories have a grain of truth to them, but the conclusions drawn are completely and utterly wrong. None of them actually know what they have encountered. But they all *think* they do.

And so it is with this kind of reckless speculation. The Native American theory seems true because, well, look at all those pictures of Indians. The Nazi theory seems true because hey, that kid dissolved into a suitcase. That definitely happened! Here, I can show you the frame...



Monolith in Overlook bathroom.

And the moon hoax theory is true because just look at the rocket on that kid's shirt! But none of them are true. The truth (or at least, my own theory of it) is that the movie, like the book, is about the deepest blackest darkness within the heart of Man, and by Man I mean male human beings. (Ladies have their own darkness, but Stephen King wasn't writing about them.)

And therefore the movie *is* about Nazis. It's also about every other genocide, as well as senseless war, domestic abuse, bar fights, the sexual exploitation of children, and every other form of barbarity and inhumanity men have perpetrated.

But that's all it is. The movie is not exclusively about Nazis, Indians, the moon landing, or gay aliens.

It's a freaking elephant.

Michael Bertrand

The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand

Sunday 23 February 2014

Art Credits

| | |
|--|---|
| <u>Felicity Walker</u> (font: <u>Guillaume Séguin</u>)..... | Masthead |
| <u>Felicity Walker</u> | Cover, Page 11 (bottom) |
| Clip art (Cavalieri/Swan/Rubenco/Costanza)..... | Page 1 |
| Clip art (<u>Clker.com</u>)..... | Pages 2, 6–7, 13 (top/middle), 14 (top), 26 |
| Clip art (Miller/Gibbons)..... | Page 1 |
| Clip art (various screenshots)..... | Pages 4, 11 (top), 12–13, 15, 17, 18 |
| Clip art (via <u>Dave Haren</u>)..... | Pages 5, 8, 19–23 |
| <u>Felicity Walker</u> (clip art: <u>Clker.com</u> ; font: <u>Abracadabra</u>)... | Page 14 (bottom) |
| <u>Felicity Walker</u> (clip art: screenshot; font: <u>Jakob Fischer</u>)..... | Page 15 |
| Clip art..... | Page 27 |
| Clip art (font: <u>Woodcutter Manero</u>)..... | Pages 25, 28–30 |