

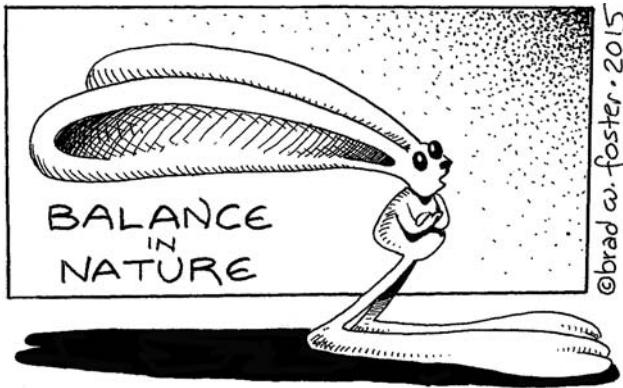
BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#516

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May 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

Sunday 15 May at 7 PM:	May BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster.
Friday 22 May:	Submission deadline for June <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Friday 27 May:	June <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).
Friday 17 June:	Submission deadline for July <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).
Sunday 19 June at 7 PM:	June BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin’s.
Friday 24 June:	July <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).

About BCSFA

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

WCSFA Social Committee Chairman/Archivist: R. Graeme Cameron, 604-584-7562

Vice President: TBD

Treasurer/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Kathleen Moore, 604-771-0845

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor/Supporting *BCSFAzine* Production Donor: Felicity Walker, 604-447-3931 (*new number*)

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

FRED Organizer: Michael Bertrand, 604-447-3931

VCON Ambassador for Life: Steve Forty, 604-936-4754

BCSFA’s website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmasters [Garth Spencer](#) and [R. Graeme Cameron](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is “BC Sci-Fi Assc.” (http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bc_sci_fi_assc/). See <http://bcsfa.net/events.html> for more events. Low-resolution back issues of *BCSFAzine* are also archived at <http://efanzines.com/BCSFA/index.htm> (thank you to webmaster Bill Burns). Contact Felicity for high-resolution copies.

Letters of Comment

[Editor's responses in brackets.]

John Purcell

3744 Marielene Circle,
College Station, TX 77845
USA

askance73@gmail.com

Sunday 3 July 2016

It is time to keep the string going by writing a brief missive. I wonder how long I can keep this up? Until my interest wanes, most likely.

Brad Foster's little illo on the cover is cute. That whale looks rather happy to be time traveling. In *Star Trek IV: The Voyage Home* two of these buggers got sucked up—along with a *lot* of sea water—and did the time warp in another fashion. It seems to me that having an underwater time warp is much more practical. What do you think?

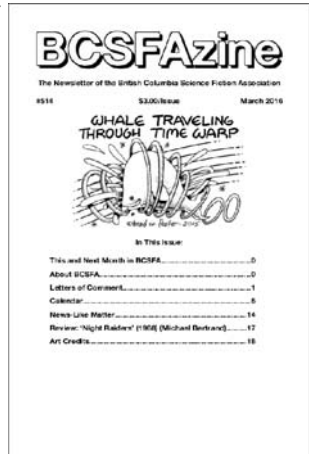
[It reminds me of the episode of the Adventures of the Galaxy Rangers (1986) episode "Stargate," where there was an underwater stargate.]

In advance of the upcoming USA presidential election I have begun researching teaching opportunities in Canada and elsewhere. Right now Cape Breton University over in Nova Scotia has some openings for which I qualify, and Montreal has a couple ESL tutoring possibilities, but I'm looking for a full time college teaching position. Based on how things are going politically here in the States, this may be a moot point: latest polls show the orange puffin with the bad hair weave has been falling behind in the polls, so that's good. Unfortunately, polls can be vastly different from what happens on election day. Still, I am hoping that cooler and more reasonable heads shall prevail. I really won't start worrying until after both major parties have their national conventions later this month. Don't hold your breath, either; it's gonna be one helluva show, I am sure.

Hey, Lloyd! We're pulling for your job opportunities down here. In the meantime, here's to you and Yvonne having a splendid time in England.

With that, it's off to one more letter of comment, then on to trying to finish off *Askance* 37.

All the best,
John Purcell



Warning: may contain chaos gods.

Hi Felicity,

I'm not sure how to proceed. Lots of accumulated pictures odd net links and eager beaver projects to talk about.

Bertrand's review fits my own narrative for pretentious art snobbling by folk who would be more productive picking up random trash on the streets. King's works are quite insightful because he sees the horrors in normal folk and their behaviors. I read his work not for the supernatural but for the descriptions of people around us every day. Kubrick tries to stay close to the narrative arc of the authors while generating visuals to carry their vision. Is the Overlook a genocidal Nazi moonlanding fake in the addled brains of an art snobbler? Quite possibly but it isn't of any relevance to the ordinary folk.

The "Christian Rosenkrantz" was an off handed swipe at the Rosicrucians who were started via a trove of fake documents during the alchemical revolt that triggered the Thirty Years' War. What started as a punitive act to punish Prague triggered a major clash between the major powers who all used the excuse of religion to get a leg up on each other, with disastrous results for all. They and Technocracy used to advertise in the back of pulp SF. Dianetics moved from there into religious tax avoidance as Scientology. If you were seeking something odd to believe you look in the back of the pulps not into the florid extravagances of the interior tales of the hollow Earth.



The latest *Swill* is worth a look. He is probably too kind to both of the extrusions of republicracy in its mad rush to carry us over the looming cliff in the path.



Thought Maybe¹ has a documentary up about factory fish farming with the disquieting look into the feed they use. It turns out the chemical that keeps the fish food from spoiling can pass the blood brain barrier in humans. Few chemicals can achieve that trick. They also note that the fish farms of the Mekong are exposed to US warfare chemicals every time it rains. So if your fish tastes funny spit it out.

[*Water cooties!* ☹️]

Random link stuff:

<https://nplusonemag.com/online-only/online-only/never-a-hippie-always-a-freak/>

The iconic American musician.²

[*I like the way he looks on the cover of Broadway the Hard Way (1988).*]

1 <https://thoughtmaybe.com/>

2 Frank Zappa.

<https://miniatyrmannen.blogspot.se/2016/05/a-trip-to-arsenalen-swedish-tank-museum.html>

Quite a collection for the armour modeller to gaze upon.

[Neat!]

https://www.edge.org/conversation/neil_gershenfeld-digital-reality

Science and the future with implications.

[Requires subscription/login.]

<http://online.sfsu.edu/repstein/GEssays/Klebsiellaplanticola.html>

In case you thought GMOs are no big deal.

<http://disinfo.com/2016/07/bernie-sanders-sold-surprised-gonzo-conjure-16/>

Gonzo on a roll.

[Huh. There's some useful information in there, but the hostile tone kind of spoils it.]

<http://www.zerohedge.com/news/2016-07-13/spoofing-trader-who-outsmarted-citadel-and-hfts-gets-3-year-jail-sentence>

Law and Order saves us again from nefarious Wall Street plotters!!!

[♪ Chung chung! ♪]

“Man cannot live by incompetence alone.”—Charlotte Whitton (1896–1975)

[Indeed. When you suck at life as much as I do, you need a lot of support.]

Shamelessly stolen from Bob Jennings' *Fadeaway* #50 email.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGvZil0qWPg>

Curious about what is going on in the world?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x2VUFjSWN2w>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3FPmu2_J_0

Mark Blyth links to explain the economics of the world.

[He reminds me of a Scottish Harland Williams. I'm surprised there aren't more revolutions. I like the lines “The Hamptons are not a defensible position” and “You can't explain variation with a constant.”]

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

Varoufakis exposes the internals of the EU economy.

[The intro was so long that I'm almost too tired to listen to the actual speakers!]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vKaPeWoS7PQ>

Science fiction is about the future and how it gets here.

http://solomonsmusic.net/FM_CrystalRadio.html

Just suppose you live in the big city and want to become a steampunk. Here's a peach from the golden age with a modern twist. The original crystal radios were for AM not FM, but this is the 21st century. You should notice there's no power supply for these. They are powered by the radio waves and when you build one you are following in the bold steps of Tesla who wanted everything to work that way.

[Now if we could just make an air conditioner powered by excess heat.]

Your local Maker space will help you build one if you're not a tech.

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2016/07/cia-torture-bush-chenev-waterboarding-interrogation/>

A glimpse into the darkness of the secret state.

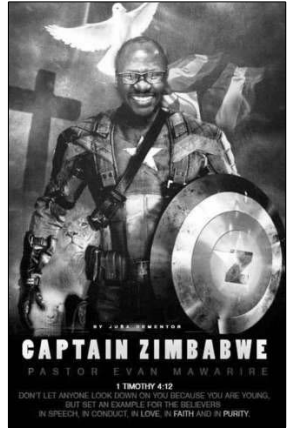
<http://disinfo.com/2016/08/praise-bob-favorite-robert-anton-wilson-concepts/>

Thad is usually a waste of time but this made some sense.

Shamelessly stolen from Hobson:³

“*White Heat* by Dominic Sandbrook is subtitled *A History of Britain in the Swinging Sixties*. It explores two main narrative threads. One, of course, is the over-familiar social revolution of the sixties. That has been chronicled so many times by so many people that there are few, if any, insights remaining to be explored. Certainly all that Sandbrook does is haul out all the old clichés all over again: Jean Shrimpton, Twiggy, Mary Quant, the Beatles, the Stones, David Bailey.

“Much more interesting, from my point of view, is Sandbrook’s analysis of the nature of Harold Wilson’s Labour government which dominated that decade. Almost all the members of that government are now safely dead and can no longer sue for libel. So Sandbrook pulls no punches, and the insights are both fascinating and scary. The anti-hero of the book is definitely George Brown. Initially he was Wilson’s secretary for economic affairs. Later he became foreign secretary. He was a notorious drunkard and lecher who committed a seemingly never ending series of gin-fuelled diplomatic gaffes which were all swept under the carpet and referred to only indirectly in the popular press. How such an inept, ignorant, shallow and dangerous man continued to wield the reins of power so disastrously and for such a long time remains a mystery. Perhaps he knew where the bodies were buried. While he was alive, the newspapers were not allowed to call him a drunken incompetent, so *Private Eye* famously coined the phrase ‘tired and emotional’ to describe him. It proved to be such an effective phrase that it has entered the language.



[I remember it well from an episode of *Yes, Minister* (1980). Jim Hacker has been over-served champagne at a party at the French embassy, falls down in the gutter, and is described by the press as “tired and emotional” and “overwrought.”⁴]

“Brown was not the only scary incompetent in Wilson’s government. All too often the wheelers and dealers proved [be] to wearing ideological blinders that hid the real world from their sight. Anthony Crosland famously declared that he would ‘...destroy every fucking grammar school in England. And Wales. And Northern Ireland.’ He largely succeeded in his aim. Unfortunately he didn’t have very much of an idea about what to replace them with and secondary education in the UK descended into chaos. Barbara Castle was appointed Minister of Transport. Famously, she couldn’t even drive a car. Nevertheless, she pontificated endlessly about the habits of Britain’s motorists.

“Probably the only thing that held this bunch of incompetent idiots together was Harold Wilson’s charismatic personality. But even he was consumed by paranoid

3 <http://triffid.x10.mx/wotired/holidays216.htm>

4 “Overwrought as a newt, actually.”

conspiracy theories. His supreme achievement was keeping Britain out of the Vietnam war, but he made a complete mess of negotiating with Ian Smith over Rhodesia's unilateral declaration of independence. He based his governmental philosophy on 'the white heat of technology,' but he didn't understand it and had no idea how to implement the technologies that he saw as the saviour of Britain. He presided over a decade of mess and muddle.

"Sandbrook's analysis of the Wilson years is fascinating. The politics of the time have seldom been so well presented."

That was of interest to me because the Brits Intelligence community decided that Wilson was a communist "Manchurian candidate" and toppled his government.

[*That reminds me of George Berenson (Anton Rodgers) in the film The Fourth Protocol (1987).*]

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YD_k0ipRf3E

Pilger on the continuing farce.

<http://wfhs.com/PDFFILES/wo43.pdf>

Link to the latest *Warning Order*. Lead off article is about SF gaming.

Elvira has decided to let it all hang down, no more cosplaying for Cassandra Peterson.

[*Aw!*]

The "Clownclub" pic is (4) and (5) (answering your question).



Starguard pictures come in second message.

Keep on churning out the material.

Warm regards,

Dave (difficult to spell last name) Haren

Brent Francis

Sunday 21 August 2016

b-francis@sympatico.ca

Hi Felicity. Thanks again or the excellent zine.

Coupla thoughts—

My candidate for worst martial art might not be "Kung Poo," but "Eecky Thump" from the old comedy show *The Goodies*.⁵ You creep up behind someone & hit them over the head with a blood pudding (& there's a eecky thump, presumably).

Here's a clip *but be warned*—someone actually, literally, died from watching this (heart attack caused by too much laughter).

(*Plus* offensively non-PC racism (it's 1975—who knew?).)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SuP1eycaA6c>

[*I thought I had braced myself enough and then I saw the boxer!*]

And I have to mention Will Vinton's claymation masterpiece *Rip Van Winkle*.⁶

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ni9CTdhAE50>

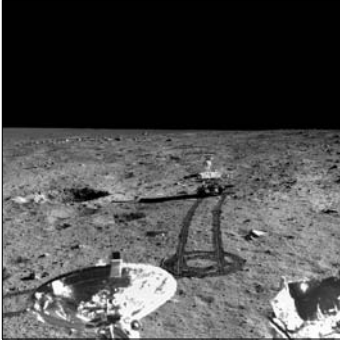
5 (1970).

6 (1978).

Saw this at the 1978 Ottawa Animation Festival. A 3000 seat sold out house including professional animators gave him a standing ovation.
Cheers & thanks again.

Michael Bertrand
fruvousfox@gmail.com

Saturday 27 August 2016



Heya there LOCovores! It's your faithful correspondent from the world of entertainment oriented education, Michael "Fruvous" Bertrand.

Bio update is short and sweet: just finished my second (two-month) term at VFS, starting my third on Monday, and now I have to write a movie and a TV spec script.

In other words, this thing's getting *real*, dawg.
On to the LOCing!

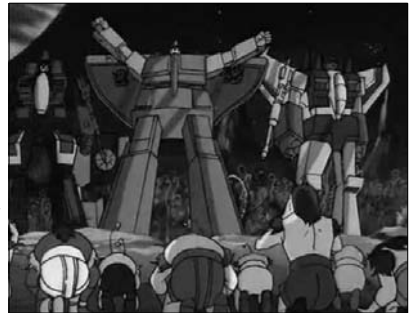
Re: John Purcell's Trump worries:

Luckily, here in the end of August, we can see that Trump is slipping. It's a wonderful thing to watch. His poll numbers are dropping and he's now resorting to a truly desperate tactic: reasoned policies. He's walked back the whole "wall between USA and Mexico" idea and is now spouting the same "path to citizenship" line that the mainstream Republicans have been pushing since the dark days of Dubya. Someone must have told him that he can't win an election with only his supporters voting for him, so he is heading for the middle.

And the greatest thing about that is that by doing so, he will lose all his current supporters. 'Tis a glorious thing.

Re: Dave Haren versus science fiction religion:

It's true that nobody would go to science fiction in search of a belief system. But that's not the point. A lot of people *in need* of a belief system read science fiction and it provides them with one. It can be as simple as mentally joining Starfleet or as big of a life change as joining a UFO cult and moving to Montana. Science fiction fans are no more immune to the allure of religious faith than anyone else, and when the right beliefs in the right package come along, some of us go for it.



I mean, people started an actual religion based on the one Valentine Michael Smith created in *Stranger in a Strange Land*, for crying out loud.

Nice to see my rant about the inanity of the documentary *Room 237* in print, even though reading it made me mad all over again about the stupid thing. Grr! But it's nice to see that I am a pretty articulate guy when I am angry.

Maybe I should rant for a living.

Nah. See you next month, BCSFAns!

We Also Heard From: Spider Robinson.

COA: Brad Foster is now at jabberwocky2000@hotmail.com.

Calendar

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

Recurring

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May and 7, 14, 21, and 28 June 2016 (*Tuesdays*): [Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming](#), 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—[Keith Lim](#)

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May and 7, 14, 21, and 28 June 2016 (*Tuesdays*): [Vancouver Hack Space Open House](#), 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—[Julian Castle](#)

3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 May and 7, 14, 21, and 28 June 2016 (*Tuesdays*): [Hot Improv Tuesdays at Café Deux Soleils!](#), 8 PM at Café Deux Soleils, 2096 Commercial Drive, Vancouver.—[The Fictionals Comedy Co.](#)

4, 11, 18, and 25 May and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 June 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](#)

5 May and 2 June 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](#)

5 and 19 May and 2, 16, and 30 June 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 Lawson](#) (on [Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group](#))

5 May and 2 June 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.

5, 12, 19, and 26 May and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 June 2016 (*Thursdays*): [Thursday Hobby Build Nights](#), 6–9 PM at [Ages Three and Up Gundam](#), 226–9855 Austin Road, Burnaby.—[A3U Gundam](#)

6, 13, 20, and 27 May and 3, 10, 17, and 24 June 2016 (*Fridays*): Magic: The Gathering Friday Night Games, 5:30–9 PM at Imperial Hobbies, Unit #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond.

6, 13, 20, and 27 May and 3, 10, 17, and 24 June 2016 (*Fridays*): Board Gamers: Friday Night Magic, 6:30–9:30 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

6, 13, 20, and 27 May and 3, 10, 17, and 24 June 2016 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4th Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 May and 4, 11, 18, and 25 June 2016 (*Saturdays*): Board Gamers: Saturday Afternoon Gaming, 12–7 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 May and 4, 11, 18, and 25 June 2016 (*Saturdays*): Saturday Jam at the Brownsville Pub, 5:30–9:30 PM at the Brownsville Pub, 11940 Old Yale Road, Surrey.—Greg Cairns

1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 May and 5, 12, 19, and 26 June 2016 (*Sundays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Lazy Sundays, 2–3 PM at Cuppa Joy, #295–2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May and 6, 13, 20, and 27 June 2016 (*Mondays*): Board Gamers: Painting Miniatures, 5–9 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 May and 6, 13, 20, and 27 June 2016 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1st Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

10 May and 14 June 2016 (*second Tuesday*): Meeting of Automotive Model Builders Vancouver, 7 PM at Burnaby Lions Club, 7420 Mulberry Place, Burnaby.

10 May and 14 June 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

11 and 25 May and 8 and 22 June 2016 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

12 May and 9 June 2016 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [No location given.].—Keith Lim

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

14 May and 11 June 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 May and 22 June 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 May and 17 June 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

21 May and 18 June 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

15 May and 19 June 2016 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

28 May and 25 June 2016 (*last Saturday*): Board Gamers: 12 Hours of Gaming, 12 PM–12 AM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

Already in Progress



29 April–1 May 2016: Table-Top Game Sale at Dave's Pop Culture, 4962 Bridge Street, Delta. “Everything 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,⁷ 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

7 (Science World.)

May 2016

May is National Get Caught Reading Month.

2 May 2016: **Martin Hunger**'s birthday.

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

9 May 2016: **Ty Templeton**'s birthday.

11 May 2016: *Twilight Zone* Day.

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).

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

28 May 2016: Vancouver Retro Gaming Expo 2016 at the Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia Street, New Westminster.—Jax Coldwolf

28 May 2016, All Star Wrestling, 8 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver. “Featuring Tommy Dreamer.”

June 2016

2 June 2016: **Lloyd Penney**’s birthday.

3 June 2016: **Karl Johanson**’s birthday. Premiere of films *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Out of the Shadows* (SF/unnecessary update; Will Arnett, Laura Linney, Tyler Perry, Tony Shalhoub, Brad Garrett, Kevin Eastman, Shanel Felicissimo) and *The Wailing* (fantasy/horror).

3 June 2016: All Star Wrestling, 7:30 PM at Tzeachten Hall, Tzeachten Community Centre, 45855 Promontory Road, Chilliwack. “Wrestling in the ‘Wack!”

4 June 2016: Hug Your Cat Day.

5 June 2016: **Alyssa Foote**’s birthday.

8 June 2016: **Ian Boothby**'s birthday.

10 June 2016: Premiere of films *The Conjuring 2* (horror; Patrick Wilson, Gone Thursday) and *Warcraft* (fantasy; Paula Patton, Dominic Cooper, Clancy Brown, Callum Keith Rennie, Eugene Lipinski, One Take Charlie, Glenn Close).

11 June 2016: **Kathleen Moore**'s and **Ray Seredin**'s birthdays.



11–12 June 2016: Vancouver Mini Maker Faire at the PNE Forum, 2901 East Hastings Street, Vancouver.—Jax Coldwolf

13 June 2016: **Bobbi Schneider**'s birthday.

15 June 2016: **Jay Demetrick**'s birthday.

17 June 2016: Premiere of films *Finding Dory* (computer animation; Ellen DeGeneres, Albert Brooks, Ed O'Neill, Diane Keaton, Eugene Levy, Idris Elba, Kate McKinnon, Bill Hader, Sigourney Weaver, John Ratzenberger, Willem Dafoe, Brad Garrett, Austin Pendleton, Stephen Root, Vicki Lewis), *Raiders!: The Story of the Greatest Fan Film Ever Made* (documentary; Chris Gore, Harry Knowles, John Rhys-Davies, Eli Roth), and *Clown* (fantasy/horror; Peter Stormare, Chuck Shamata, Eli Roth).

21 June 2016: **Clare Taylor**'s birthday. Worldwide Party Day.

23 June 2016: **Amos Iu**'s birthday.

24 June 2016: Premiere of films *Independence Day: Resurgence* (SF; Liam Hemsworth, Jeff Goldblum, Bill Pullman, Sela Ward, William Fichtner, Judd Hirsch, Brent Spiner, Vivica A. Fox, Angelababy, Robert Loggia), *The Shallows* (horror; Blake Lively), *The Neon Demon* (horror; Keanu Reeves), and *Swiss Army Man* (fantasy; Daniel Radcliffe).

24 June 2016: All Star Wrestling, 7:30 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, Alice McKay Building, 6050 176 Street, Surrey. "WrestleReunion VI."

25 June 2016: **Ed Beauregard**'s birthday.

25 June 2016: All Star Wrestling, 7:30 PM at Kamloops Indian Band Pow-Wow Grounds, Southern Yellowhead Highway, Kamloops.

26 June 2016: **Todd Bussey**'s birthday.

28 June 2016: **Toren Atkinson**'s birthday.

29 June 2016: **Leonard Wong**'s birthday.

30 June 2016: Meteor Day.

News-Like Matter

Notes from April 2016 BCSFA Meeting



In attendance were 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 said “Noodle exchange program.” Fruvous replied: “Safe ingestion site.” Julian thought that that would be a good band name.

Fruvous announced that he made it into Vancouver Film School and would be starting Monday 2 May 2016.

I said that the Stand-Up for Mental Health debut show for the class I am in was coming up at the end of May.

I began “We don’t ask much of cats...” That reminded Ray that Mr. Fluffy has an enemy: a black-and-white Manx with no collar that’s allowed outside.

Ray reported that the TV series *Arrow* (2012) filmed a (fictional) riot scene at the intersection of Georgia & Seymour Streets, beside the Hotel Vancouver. This reminded Barb of the two hockey riots in Vancouver history, which reminded Ray of the 1971 Gastown riot.⁸ He said that during the riot someone cut off Gassy Jack’s head!⁹ Stewart added “Like on *The Simpsons*” (1989).

Stewart mentioned an episode of *The Spooktacular New Adventures of Casper* (1996) with the line “How would you like your own Harlan Ellison?”

Topic: Jimmy Dean—sausage king, singer, and TV star. Joe said that he also played Willard Whyte in the James Bond movie *Diamonds Are Forever* (1971).¹⁰

Stewart said that Jerry Mathers was in an unaired TV pilot called *Holmes and Watson* (1975). Robbie the Robot was programmed with the personality of Sherlock Holmes and believed that Mathers was Watson.

Barb was on the phone to Butch Day, who said “Harlan Ellison says hi.”

Felicity Walker

Additional writing by R. Graeme Cameron and Kathleen Moore
Sunday 17 April 2016

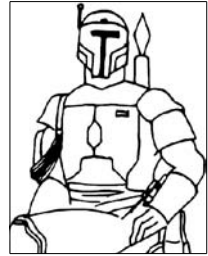
⁸ A clash between pro-marijuana activists and police.

⁹ The statue of Captain John “Gassy Jack” Deighton.

¹⁰ At Fanhattan (the apartment), we just saw him the *Murder, She Wrote* (1984) episode “Ballad for a Blue Lady” (2 December 1990).

Passages: April 2016

Don Francks (28 February 1932–3 April 2016), Canadian voice actor and musician. Born in Burnaby, BC. Genre work includes *The Star Wars Holiday Special* (1978) (as Boba Fett), *Heavy Metal* (1981), *Seeing Things* (1981), *Rock & Rule* (1983), *Inspector Gadget* (1983), *Droids* (1985) (as Boba Fett), *StarCom: The US Space Force* (1987), *ALF* (TAS) (1987) and *ALF Tales* (1988), *Captain Power and the Soldiers of the Future* (1987), *The Legend of Zelda* (TAS) (1989), *X-Men* (TAS) (1992), and *Johnny Mnemonic* (1995).



David Swift (3 April 1931–8 April 2016), British actor. Best-known as anchor-man Henry Davenport on *Drop the Dead Donkey* (1990); genre work includes *Undermind* (1965), *The Avengers* (1966) and *The New Avengers* (1967), *Day of the Triffids* (1981), and *Crystal Spirit: Orwell on Jura* (1983).

Felicity Walker
Sunday 1 May 2016

Jack Davis (1924–2016)

Jack Davis, the artist and cartoonist, has died at the age of 91 on July 27. He is best known for being one of the founders of *Mad Magazine*.

The cause was complications of a stroke, his son, Jack Davis III, said.

He passed away in St. Simons Island, Georgia.

Various obits including at *Mad Magaine's* website:

<http://www.madmagazine.com/blog/2016/07/27/mad-remembers-jack-davis-artist>

Julian Castle

Saturday 27 August 2016



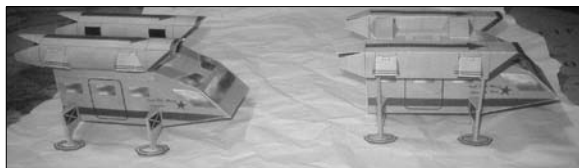
VCON 37 Thoughts, Part 1

Michael Bertrand

Had a blast at VCON 37 over the last weekend.

Joe and I got to the hotel (the Vancouver Guildford Sheraton). We got checked in¹¹ and went through registration. My badge was a very plain and functional one because I am apparently the scum of the Earth for not pre-registering. The pre-registered people got a very pretty badge. Same font tho, which is something, I guess.

¹¹ Weird fact: there appears to be no visitors' parking at the hotel at all. We had to park right outside the entrance to the hotel lobby in order to go in and check in. I stayed in the car while Joe went in and got our keycards. I guess that is to encourage people to pay seventeen bucks (!) for valet parking. Uh, not gonna happen.



Then I took a little while to rest in our room and acclimate before heading into the convention itself. Our room was fine, but not as fancy as some

we have had in previous years. I particularly missed the full kitchen that our room had last year. That was marvelous. We brought a bunch of food from home, and were able to make our own toast and such. Made it feel a lot more like home. The room we had this year did not even have a microwave, and even more shocking, didn't even have a *minibar*.

I have not seen a room without a minibar in at least a decade. Why would a hotel give up that opportunity to soak people who are too lazy to leave their room and are willing to pay \$14 for a Toblerone?

In fact, when you think of it, the minibar is just an extension of the same sort of thinking that lets hotel restaurants charge about \$4 per item more than anywhere else. Sure, you could pay less...but then you would have to leave the comfy confines of the hotel. You would have to get your outside clothes on, and venture out into an unfamiliar place, and who knows what kind of food you will end up getting?



So you pay the extra money. And presumably, the minibar was invented by some genius who thought "Wait, if they will pay that much not to leave the hotel, imagine what crazy prices they will pay to not have to leave their hotel room!"

Seems he was right! I mean, I have never taken anything out of a minibar because I am constitutionally incapable of paying that kind of markup. But a lot of people, especially those on expense accounts so it is not their money, probably clean that sucker out.

And speaking of hotel restaurants, Joe and I and a few other people had a meal there on Friday night. At first, we thought the place was way too expensive for us and that my theory that these places usually have a few reasonably priced low-end items for the likes of us would prove not to be true.



But then the waitress, with admirable diplomacy, asked us if we would prefer something "lighter" and gave us the "bar menu," where things that were merely ludicrously priced could be found.

I pulled a full *gauche* and got the burger and fries. And the burger, I must admit, was damned good. The fries were good too, but not exceptionally so. But the burger

was almost as good as Boston Pizza's very excellent prime rib burgers. So, pretty high marks.

After dinner, I took another little siesta in our hotel room, then I headed over eight doors down to a room party that the inestimable Kathleen Moore was hosting, and I was having fun so ended up staying there for the rest of the evening. That's the main reason I could never be much of a social butterfly: when I am happy, I stay put. I only explore when I grow bored or unhappy. At parties, I usually just find a comfortable spot and stay there.

Not exactly power schmoozing.

I only ended up going to one panel on Friday, but it was an awesome one. It was entitled "Thorium Reactors on Mars," and while it had very little to do with Mars, I didn't care. I want thorium reactors right here on Earth, right now!

And the talk was completely kickass. The presenter was funny and very knowledgeable about the subject, and basically gave us a light speed crash course on all the science and technology of nuclear reactors from the very first ones to the awesomeness of the liquid flouride thorium reactors¹² that are the blazing new hotness in the science of energy production today.

I really enjoyed the talk, although afterward I kind of felt like my brain was glowing red hot from all the knowledge. I am sure I did not truly absorb most of it. But it was a hell of a ride anyhow.



And I am totally stoked about the possibilities inherent in thorium reactors. The efficiency alone would be spectacular. It would be a self-regulating reaction, thorium is almost as abundant in the Earth's crust as lead, it has only one isotope so there is no isotope separation process needed like there is with traditional nuclear reactors, the process does not make the kind of fuel needed for nuclear bombs, and the energy yield is enormous.

And those are just the benefits I can list off the top of my head. Hmmm, I guess I do retain some of it. Maybe not all the nuclear physics, but at least I recall the pitch reel.

Still, I wish I had the talk recorded to video. I would love to learn it all! But what I am most interested in now that I am totally sold on the idea is just exactly how much it would take to build one of these LFTR reactors, or better yet, to set up a factory that can produce them *en masse*.

This revolution can't happen fast enough for me!

Michael Bertrand
The Blog of Michael John Bertrand
Tuesday 2 October 2012

12 Shortened to LFTR, pronounced "lifter."

Excess Resolutions for 2016, #4.2: Poetry, Yet More of, Inflicting Same

Kathleen Moore

Hi, all.

It's not quite en mauvaise forme this month, but this one really wanted to be circulated.

April: The Cruellest Truth

It is easy to be humble

In the face of greater strength.

A coward finds it easy

In his glory of white feathers.

A fool finds it easy

To be humble to survive

In the face of greater strength.

Humility is easy.

But fear and folly fail us

Where humility is hard.

Even strength and wisdom fail us

Where humility is hard.

No hurtfulness can help us

Where humility is hard.



—Kathleen (per Nienril Woodscolt bas Silverblade)

It isn't at all new (one of my old D&D characters wrote it—no, she was *not* a bard, only a tsaddik), and didn't originally have a title. Given when we are now, and how much I appreciate the works of Thomas Stearnes Eliot, there was only one obvious title to use.

Suggestions for further reading:

—A Comparative Study of the Treaty of Versaile and the Truman Doctrine (may be undertaken for credit as a second year or higher polisci course)

—“September 1, 1939”—WH Auden

Kathleen Moore

Tuesday 12 April 2016

Art Credits

Felicity Walker (font: Yann Le Coroller).....Masthead
Brad Foster..... Cover, Page 1 (R)
Felicity Walker.....Page 14 (R)
Clip art (various screenshots).....Pages 1 (L), 4 (L), 6 (R), 15 (R)
Clip art (via Dave Haren)...Pages 2 (R), 4 (R), 5, 6 (L), 9, 11, 15 (L), 16
Clip art (Clker.com).....Page 2 (left)
Dave Haren (photos).....Pages 10, 12, 13, 15 (L), 17, 18 (T/M)
Clip art (Jack Kirby).....Page 14 (L)
Clip art (Cavalieri/Swan/Rubenco/Costanza).....Page 1
Clip art (font: Letters from the Claw).....Page 18 (B)

