

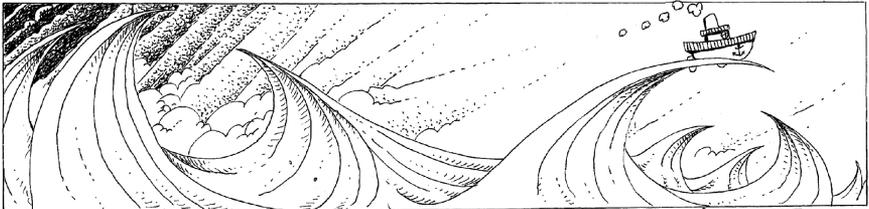
# BCSFAzine

The Newsletter of the British Columbia Science Fiction Association

#510

\$3.00/Issue

November 2015



*RIDING A SEA OF TROUBLES!*

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## **This and Next Month in BCSFA**

- |                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Sunday 15 November at 7 PM: | November BCSFA meeting—at Ray Seredin's, 707 Hamilton Street (recreation room), New Westminster. |
| Friday 20 November:         | Submission deadline for December <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).                                     |
| Friday 27 November:         | December <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).  |
| Friday 18 December:         | Submission deadline for January <i>BCSFAzine</i> (ideally).                                      |
| Sunday 20 December at 6 PM: | December BCSFA meeting/dinner—at ABC Country Restaurant, 3580 Number Three Road, Richmond.       |
| Friday 25 December:         | January <i>BCSFAzine</i> production (theoretically).   |

## **About BCSFA**

The incumbent BCSFA Executive members are:

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

Vice President: TBD

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

Secretary: Barb Dryer, 604-267-7973

Editor: Felicity Walker, 604-447-3931 (*new number*)

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

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

BCSFA's website is at <http://www.bcsfa.net/> (thank you to webmaster [Garth Spencer](#)). The BCSFA e-mail list is BC Sci-Fi Assc. ([http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bcscifi\\_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.*]

**Dave Haren**  
[tyrbolo@comcast.net](mailto:tyrbolo@comcast.net)

Wednesday 7 October 2015

Hi Felicity,

Lots of links for your bemusement.

Dalai Lama reincarnation.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi57r\\_JByNE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi57r_JByNE)

[*Slavoj Žižek: "Ecology—A New Opium for the Masses."*]

Need more brain and less depression?

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi57r\\_JByNE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fi57r_JByNE)

Brave New World.

[*Same link?*]

<http://www.startribune.com/u-owes-mistreated-psychiatric-subjects-an-apology/>

[331165371/](http://www.startribune.com/u-owes-mistreated-psychiatric-subjects-an-apology/)

[*"U Owes Mistreated Psychiatric Subjects an Apology." I mistook that headline for LOLcat-speak until I read the article.*]

<http://www.darkgarden.com/>

[*"Corsetry and couture."*]

Good points about how it all works in practice.

<http://blog.slaks.net/2015-10-13/web-authentication-arms-race-a-tale-of-two-security-experts/>

Insightful documentaries.

<https://thoughtmaybe.com/the-yes-men/>

Four-year-old AI.

<http://arxiv.org/abs/1509.03390><sup>1</sup>

[*"Measuring an Artificial Intelligence System's Performance on a Verbal IQ Test for Young Children." They're careful to mention that though the AI scored as a four-year-old would on the verbal IQ test, this does not mean that the AI has the verbal IQ of a four-year-old. OK...*]

Public domain wars continue.

<https://boingboing.net/2015/10/16/buck-rogers-and-the-copyright.html>

[*It's nice to know Flint Dille is still out there. I love his 1980s animation writing in such series as The Transformers, GI Joe, Inhumanoids, and Visionaries.*]

Religious news.

<http://www.concordmonitor.com/readerservices/politicsnewsletterxml/19034542-95/sword-fighting-libertarian-church-appears-before-supreme-court-for-tax-exemption-case>

[*Opponent Silas Little makes a good point that individualist anarchism is anti-religion. Even that wouldn't matter if not for the fact that the law includes a common-sense protection (that the beliefs must be sincerely held) against people creating tax-exempt joke religions just to prove a point.*]

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1 "X" = "χ." (Are you excited about the return of *The Chi-Files*?)

This one is from the Judith Tarr thread on Charlie Stross blog.

“I’m not so sure you’re right; it’s subtle, but the majority of the characters in *Starship Troopers* are actually from Latin America.”

Apparently the commenter doesn’t own a map. The last time I looked the Philippines was in Asia. It’s easy to get confused if you don’t know much about geography and think that ethnics will have the decency to stay put so they can be neatly characterized in the future.

*[In the book Rico is Filipino. In the film, the characters come from Buenos Aires. In the anime there’s a New Buenos Aires!]*

For conspiracy buffs.

<http://www.smh.com.au/entertainment/jack-the-ripper-nailed-has-bruce-robinson-solved-crimes-greatest-mystery-20151009-gk511h.html>



*Johnny Rico ay maka-kakuha ng mga balita.*

*[“Jack the Ripper ‘Nailed’: Has Bruce Robinson Solved Crime’s Greatest Mystery?” From Hell (1989) also incorporates Stephen Knight’s theory from his book Jack the Ripper: The Final Solution (1976) of a Masonic conspiracy. The Secrets & Mysteries (1988) episode “Jack the Ripper” does not mention the Masons but does interview Knight’s co-researcher Wendy Sturgess, who shares the belief that Jack the Ripper was more than one person. I like the word “Ripperology”!]*

I found this in Graeme on *Amazing*.<sup>2</sup>

“Another disappointment for Moomaw,<sup>3</sup> he had originally been scheduled to participate in a panel with Greg<sup>4</sup> but it was cancelled at the last moment because a Navy man had arrived with a couple of short films to show. As Moomaw put it [...]



This tipped me off to the parody aspects of Benford. I have had occasion to view some short films a Navy man brought along. Trust me, they weren’t safe for the faint-hearted. Even though fandom prides itself on being forgiving now, they were pretty stodgy in public in the 1950s. NSFC was around long before NSFW existed.

According to the profile you can get a Purple Claw T-shirt.

<http://atocom.blogspot.com/2014/05/best-of-reading-room-strange-galaxy.html>

*[I like that neat Argentinian comic art style.]*

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2 <http://amazingstoriesmag.com/2015/10/clubhouse-fanzine-reviews-left-convention-room-utter-disgust/>

3 Kent Moomaw.

4 Gregory Benford.

Here's a bit of Zappology.

<https://archive.org/details/FrankZappa-guitar-1988-Vinyl24-bit>

Frank was a premier rock guitarist, but it tended to get buried in the band's pyrotechnics.

<http://godsandradiicals.org/2015/10/28/capitalism-is-a-death-cult-and-science-is-a-whore/>



“Reactive forces, as the words suggest, only have their existence through an opposition to another force which it rejects. Reactive forces, Nietzsche says, are always...no-saying. It might be better to understand this relation in terms of [a] political or social model; that is to say in terms of the relation between groups. A re-

active group is a group in which only obtains a feeling of power through hating another group and who only gains its values through this negation. Everything that we do is good, whereas what they do is bad. Active forces, on the contrary, are self-affirming; they have their values from the beginning, and do not obtain them through hatred of those that are different from them.”

[*Is that why they used to say “reactionary”?*]

What was that old Crowley line? “Science is always discovering odd scraps of magical wisdom and making a tremendous fuss about its cleverness.”

Here's a must view if you want to stay healthy.

<https://thoughtmaybe.com/fillet-oh-fish/>

[*Life is so scary.*]

“In support of their *Atomic Garage* CD, the Droogs were a late invite to the granddaddy of all Euro-fests, Roskilde '97, a four-day annual event outside Copenhagen, Denmark. Flown in Thursday for their Sunday show opening for Phish and Isaac Hayes, the band were given full access to the multi-staged venue with the provision they were on call as a standby act. Returning Saturday afternoon from record shopping, the band was informed that headliners Wu-Tang Clan were a no-show. The 2 AM slot in the Green Tent was all theirs. Danish radio quickly negotiated to tape and broadcast that very performance. The next morning national newspaper headlines read: ‘Droogs Bombarded by New Rain of Bottles.’ Reporter Erik Jensen wrote: ‘Despite dangerous conditions the Droogs played a tight, well-organized program to the end. When garage rock is done so effectively in a primitive atmosphere, you give in. This audience did as well with calls for encores.’ For the Droogs, best gig ever.”

<https://archive.org/details/TheDroogs1997-06-29.TheDroogs1997-06-29>

At least it wasn't an old rain of bottles... ☺

“Metaphors apart, to look upon society, State, and humanity as an actually living being is a primitive piece of innocence worthy of the village wiseacre who explains the northern lights as the train of sparks rising from the anvil, on which the axle of the Earth is being repaired by the smith; or of the naughty schoolboy who plays at being a sea-captain.”—Max Nordau

[*What a prig! ☹ I like the idea of the superorganism or metaman, but I suppose it's emergent, not top-down.*]

Voice of the 1960s.

<https://archive.org/details/SamCooke-01-70>

Aaron Schwartz last project.

<https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/261957173/from-deaddrop-to-securedrop>

From a jaded male star of X-rated epics:

“Pornography was the equivalent of pop music—culturally omnipotent and void of all significance. It was visual mediocrity compounded by such widespread financial collapse that there might never again exist the capitalist incentive for novelty or spectacle.”

[*Scary horror story. The interesting part, and what gives it its verisimilitude, is the chronicling of the disappearance of creative careers in the Internet era.*]

Comics in the public domain.

<http://comicbookplus.com/>

[*With zines!*]

It has been a busy time for interesting linkages. The modelling and painting has gone well enough that you may receive a few pictures this time around. Project Gutenberg has coughed up a few of the old Ace Double stories in the last few days. I was hoping to see the Elron results this time but must be patient. I haven't seen any cries of horror about Canadian politics for a change, though they might be drowned by cries of horror over American clown politics.

[*I hope to see the Elron results too! Graeme...? So far our new PM is working out pretty well. I'm worried about the future of the United States.*]

I usually read all the comments on blogs that I feel are interesting. That may not be a good idea but if you can stand it as entertainment it works. Catalina Diamond, who spices up Charlie Stross' blog, is worth the effort.

I sincerely wish PTerry was still around to do a book about Syria disguised as a *Discworld* segment. Jane Fancher Cherryh had a birthday recently. I've been reading a set of free wargaming zines (*Warning Orders*). Lots of them have pictures of miniatures battles from various historical period.

[*Cool!*]

Like I told Garth, I got nosey about Murray Bookchin after he was mentioned by Adam Curtis in one of the BBC's Middle East documentaries as being a major influence on the Kurds' PKK. After reading Bookchin, who also does a major take-down of the leading lights of post-moderns, I can see why the Turks are not thrilled with them. By Turks I mean the government. Other than the usual ethnic antipathy I doubt the average Turk cares at all. You'll be glad to know someone said the US government owes more than the total GDP of the planet. Since liars can figure I have serious doubts about it. The bill for an Afghan gas station (\$43,000,000) which should have been \$150,000 might be part of the problem.

Meanwhile the latest speculation about what appears to be a Dyson swarm is still going on.<sup>5</sup> I wonder what the impact of deciding it really is one would be. Most



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5 KIC 8462852, AKA Tabby's Star or WTF Star.

folks identify every light in the sky as a UFO now. Confirming that there are aliens might set them off even worse.

I'm hoping the disciple of Eris who stampeded a Paris crowd during one of their feel-bad clusters has sense enough to not be caught by the authorities. Once the first one ran in panic it was lemmings all the way to escape. I expect a ban on fire-crackers to be the authorities' way of reacting. I can remember when courage was a virtue to be sought after.

If I don't shut up and get this off to you then I'll clutter your insightful zine with too much irrelevance.



Having had a large doggie hand me a tennis ball coated with saliva, I know the form the revenge takes. The art of consequences.

Warmest regards,

Dave Haren

[Pictures:] Pfeil (Arrow) fighter, USN F7 Cutlass, PT-17 Stearman, Space Marines from *Space Hulk*<sup>6</sup> game.

**Lloyd Penney**  
1706-24 Eva Road,  
Etobicoke, Ontario  
M9C 2B2

Tuesday 1 December 2015

Dear BCSFen:

I have *BCSFazine* 509 with me here, and beside it, a big pile of e-zines. I have got to get caught up, so here goes with this zine, and probably another one or two after that.

I must ask how VCON 40 went...I haven't heard any reports, but any con with 40 incarnations must be doing something right. VCON is the longest running SF convention in Canada, and second is Ad Astra. Next year, they are billing themselves as Ad Astra 2016, but announce that this will be the 35<sup>th</sup> Ad Astra.

[I should run Michael Bertrand's con report this issue!]

Modern politics...just last night, the Liberals swept the Conservatives out of Newfoundland and Labrador, which means there is no party in power in Canada with the name "Conservative" in it. The Saskatchewan Party, and the Liberal Party in BC, are considered conservative, though. I hope conservatism is dead. It's done enough damage for one generation.

My LOC...well, the good job I had for 13 months is no more. I think I was conveniently disposed of in order to save money on salaries, and to save money for renovations in the building I was in. They let me go without a stated cause, so EI and the Ministry of Labour will be asking some questions of them. I must call soon to see what is happening. And, we were hoping something good would happen, and it

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6 *Warhammer 40,000*.

did, with the defeat of Stephen Harper's Conservatives, and the bringing into power of Justin Trudeau's Liberals. Was Justin ready? From all the news reports, yes, he was, he is, and he's doing very well on the world stage.

I did win a Faned Award for Best Letterhack, at least I know that from VCON. Yvonne and I attended the Aurora brunch at SFContario a couple of weeks ago, and if you need a full list of winners, let me know. We saw the voting breakdown, and we didn't do well, but at least we were nominated.

This aging stuff is ridiculous. I am 56, and I am feeling it. I wish we all had a reset button. Dial in the age you wish you were, and press the reset button. If you knew then what you know now...

[*I think I'd choose age 19.*]

Good to see information about VCON 41, and again wish we could join you, but there's a lot of geography in the way. Maybe if 6/49 provides...

I am toast right now; it is dinner-time, and Yvonne will be home soon, so I've got to make something. I will see you with the next issue.

Yours,

Lloyd Penney

**Taral Wayne**  
[taral@bell.net](mailto:taral@bell.net)

Monday 21 December 2015



I was going to write a LOC...three or four issues ago. Then I was going to write a LOC two or three issues ago...You can see where this is going.

I was going to write a LOC on the current issue, #509...or is it 15,109? I don't know what on. Something would have reared its ugly head if I had persisted. But I never seem to be free of my other obligations! You know the sort of thing...gossiping about other fans in private cor-

respondence, arguing on Facebook, using links to interesting on-line articles, watching YouTube, downloading music you just discovered, phoning up some old friend because you're too lazy to pound the keyboard for another hour, have dinner, and finally catch some sleep. Most of my days are rather like that.

Let's take today as an example. I did all of the above *except* phone Hope Leibowitz. After phoning her one night after she had just gone to bed, I got a wholly unexpected surly response, so have been a little wary of phoning back. I have second drafted a short story set in Fraggie Rock, and submitted it to my proofreader. It'll be the main part of my Christmas issue of *Broken Toys*, due hopefully before the New Year. I wrote the entire three page editorial as well. And I'm about half way through the concluding article for *Broken Toys* 45. Now, if I don't spend too much time not writing this LOC, I'll put up my miniature Christmas tree. Normally, I would mop the floor or do some laundry instead. Finally, food and bed. *Reboot*.

Lloyd Penney raises old memories about TAFF that I had almost successfully suppressed. Reading his capsule summary, though, opens an interesting question.

Avedon administered the fund the year that Rob Hansen won, but what if Avedon hadn't won TAFF the year before and someone *else* had been the administrator that year? Would the issue of fixing the race for Rob have ever come up? Doubtful. Guess who that someone else might have been...yes, I might have been that someone else, because that was the year that I ran against Avedon and lost—along with Larry Carmody and Grant Canfield. But if *I* had won TAFF that year, there would have been no Topic A next year, and fandom would not have been devastated by a massive fan feud! I told everyone at the time that voting for me was a good idea. But does anyone *ever* listen to me? Of course not!

So that's the LOC I haven't time to write.

[*You don't have to write it, as long as you submit it.* ☺]

**Michael Bertrand**  
[fruvousfox@gmail.com](mailto:fruvousfox@gmail.com)

Monday 21 December 2015

Hey there BCSFAns! Hope you've all had a good Xmas. For me, it hasn't happened yet. I can hardly wait.

In other big news, I have now officially completed my first semester at Kwan-tlen. There was some financial difficulty, but luckily my sister Anne swept in like an angel and straightened things out. Ironically, I still haven't received my student loan for the semester I just completed. Should be within the next two weeks, maybe three because of Xmas.

My marks are pretty good. I got a 91 percent in Intro to Journalism, which is pretty rad. Got 84 percent in Intro to Psych: Basic Processes, and 80 in Intro to Psych: Areas and Applications. I got an 80 percent in Creative Writing: New Forms and Media, and a 68 percent in Ideology and Politics, but the class average was 58 percent, so...still pretty good.



Don't get me started on that course.

Crunch the numbers, and that leaves me with an average of 80.6 percent. Not bad. Slightly under my usual average of 83–88 percent, but I made some mistakes I am pretty sure I will not make again, so I should do better next time.

And yes, I am bragging a little by sharing my marks. I'm *smarti!*

Next semester I decided to lay off the science stuff, mostly because I really hate doing those research papers. I'll be taking two Philosophies, Introduction to Ethics and Philosophy Culture and Identity, an Intro to Linguistics class, Creative Writing 101, and a History called "Canada Since 1867."

After doing two Psychology courses, the science side of me is tired and my arts side is looking forward to being on safer ground.

Well I guess that's the update. Seeya next ish, all you wonderful fellow nerds!

**We Also Heard From:** Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, Garth Spencer, and Mail Delivery Subsystem.

## 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 November and 3 December 2015 (*first Thursday*): Drop-In Drawing for Adults: Pick Up a Pencil, 6–9 PM at Richmond Art Gallery, Richmond Cultural Centre, 7700 Minoru Gate, Richmond.

5, 12, 19, and 26 November and 3, 10, 17, and 24 December 2015 (*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 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2015 (*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 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2015 (*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 November and 4, 11, 18, and 25 December 2015 (*Fridays*): Friday Board Game Night—Drexoll Games, 7–11 PM at Drexoll Games, 2880 West 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

7, 14, 21, and 28 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2015 (*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 November and 5, 12, 19, and 26 December 2015 (*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 November and 6, 13, 20, and 27 December 2015 (*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 November and 7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2015 (*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 November and 7, 14, 21, and 28 December 2015 (*Mondays*): Vancouver Hack Space Craft Night, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Board Gamers: Tuesday Night Board Gaming, 5–10 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2015 (*Tuesdays*): Vancouver Hack Space Open House, 7:30–10:30 PM at 270 East 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver.—Julian Castle

3, 10, 17, and 24 November and 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 December 2015 (*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 November and 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 December 2015 (*Wednesdays*): Cloudscape Comics Weekly Meeting, 7:30–11:30 PM at top floor of Memorial South Park's Fieldhouse, located inside the park at 5955 Ross Street (at 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue), Vancouver.—Keith Lim/Julian Castle

5 and 19 November and 3, 17, and 31 December 2015 (*alternate Thursdays*): Burnaby Sci-Fi Writers' Group, 7–9 PM at Metrotown Public Library, 6100 Willingdon Avenue, Burnaby, in Program Room or Connections Lounge.—Allan Lowson (on Richmond Writers Network Facebook Group)

12 November and 10 December 2015 (*second Thursday*): Vancouver Astronomy Monthly Meetup, 7:30–8:30 PM. [*No location given.*]—Keith Lim

12 November and 10 December 2015 (*second Thursday*): Fraser Valley Model Club Monthly Meeting, 7:30–9:30 PM at Kariton House Gallery, 2387 Ware Street, Abbotsford.—Keith Lim

14 November and 12 December 2015 (*second Saturday*): Teen Manga and Anime Group (former name Teen Manga Advisory Group), 3:30–5:30 PM at Harvey Southam Room, Lower Level, Vancouver Public Library Central Branch, 350 West Georgia Street, Vancouver. Free.—Julian Castle

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

10 November and 9 December 2015 (*second Tuesday*): Monthly Steampunk Coffee Klatch, 7:30–9 PM at Waves Coffee House—large private room, #100–900 Howe Street (@ Smithe), Vancouver.—Keith Lim

11 and 25 November and 9 and 23 December 2015 (*alternate Wednesdays*): Kitsilano Board Games: Wednesday Is the New Monday!, 7–8 PM at Cuppa Joy, 2083 Alma Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

20 November and 18 December 2015 (*third Friday*): IPMS Vancouver Monthly Meeting, 7–9:30 PM at Bonsor Recreation Complex, second floor “Arts Room,” 6550 Bonsor Avenue, Burnaby.—Keith Lim

21 November and 19 December 2015 (*third Saturday*): Vancouver Comic Jam, 8 PM–late (sometimes ends when Wallflower closes at 1 AM) at the Wallflower Modern Diner, 2420 Main Street, Vancouver.—Keith Lim

15 November and 20 December 2015 (*third Sunday*): Board Game Swap Meetup, 11 AM–1 PM at Board Game Warriors, 708 Clarkson Street, New Westminster.—Keith Lim

28 November and 26 December 2015 (*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**

30 October–1 November 2015: Aki Con [*at DoubleTree Hotel Seatac Airport, 18740 International Boulevard, Seattle, Washington*].—Garth Spencer

### **November 2015**

November is National Novel Writing Month and National Model Railroad Month.

November 2015–21 March 2016: Call for submissions for eighth annual Carded! (one-night show of art on trading cards). Art deadline 21 March at noon. “We are open to all styles of art, photography and design. You can submit art created digitally, provide us with a photo of your work, or give us an original piece to scan (no larger than 8.5”×11”)...We only accept one submission per artist...If you’re one of the 50 artists chosen, you’ll receive 20 copies of your trading card...” Twitter hashtag #hotartcard. More details at <http://hotartcard.com/how-to-submit/>.—Julian Castle

3 November 2015: **Dale Speirs**’ birthday.

5 November 2015: Hello Kitty’s birthday. Premiere of TV series *Angel from Hell* (Jane Lynch, Kevin Pollak).

6 November 2015: **Stan Hyde**’s birthday. Premiere of films *Spectre* (James Bond; Daniel Craig, Dave Bautista, Ralph Fiennes, Christoph Waltz) and *The Peanuts Movie* (computer animation).

6–8 November 2015: Imperial Hobbies Mini Grand Opening Sale! at Imperial Hobbies, #115–6080 Russ Baker Way, Richmond, BC.

7 November 2015: **Tim Maruyama**’s birthday. Book Lovers’ Day.

7 November 2015: Pop Culture Collectibles Fair & Computer Swap Meet, 11 AM–4 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.—Verne Siebert

8 November 2015: Vancouver Comic Con, 11 AM–5 PM at Heritage Hall, 3102 Main Street (at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue), Vancouver. “Special guests: James Stokoe (*Orc Stain*, *Godzilla*), Marley Zarcone (*Effigy*), Joe Keatinge (*Shutter*, *Glory*), Ed Brisson (*Mantle*, *Cluster*, *Sheltered*), James Lloyd (*Futurama*, *Other Stuff*), Mel Levrault (Phobiasoft), Michelle Zhu, USNA. Admission: \$4; kids under 14 free.”

10 November 2015: Young Readers’ Day.

12 November 2015: **Toulouse LeTrek**’s birthday.

12–15 November 2015: BurlyCon [*no address given on website*], Seattle, Washington.—Garth Spencer

13 November 2015: Premiere of film *Rings* (horror; Johnny Galecki).

13 November 2015: All Star Wrestling, 8 PM at Scottish Cultural Centre, 8886 Hudson Street, Vancouver.

14 November 2015: Get Out of Your Basement and Build in Public, 1–4 PM at Metropolis Comics and Toys, 4735 Kingsway, Burnaby. “It’s another chance to proudly put your model building obsession on display and take your skills out to the street—or at least to the toy store. Monster Attack Team members, Vanpla members, and all other interested parties are invited and encouraged to get working on a kit. (It’s never too early to start working on next year’s IPMS entry!) Join us!!!”—Stan Hyde

14 November 2015: NerdFest V—A Night of Epic Fantasy, 7 PM at Rickshaw, 254 East Hastings Street. Tickets: \$18.

16 November 2015: Button Day.

18 November 2015: **Ken Kato**’s birthday. Occult Day.

20 November 2015: **Bogglerat**’s birthday. Premiere of film *The Hunger Games: Mockingjay—Part 2* (SF; Jennifer Lawrence, Elizabeth Banks, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman, Woody Harrelson, Stanley Tucci, Michelle Forbes, Donald Sutherland, Jeffrey Wright).

20–22 November 2015: OryCon 37 at Waterfront Portland Marriott Hotel, [*1401 Southwest Naito Parkway*], Portland, Oregon.—Garth Spencer

24 November 2015: **Spider Robinson**’s birthday. Evolution Day.

27 November 2015: Black Friday and Buy Nothing Day. Premiere of films *The Good Dinosaur* (computer animation; Jeffrey Wright, Steve Zahn, Anna Paquin,

Sam Elliott, Frances McDormand, Alan Tudyk) and *Victor Frankenstein* (horror/SF; Daniel Radcliffe, Charles Dance).

27 November 2015: All Star Wrestling November Nightmare, 7:30 PM at Cloverdale Fairgrounds, 6050 176 Street, Surrey.

28 November 2015: Red Planet Day.

## December 2015

3 December 2015: **Donald Simpson**'s birthday.

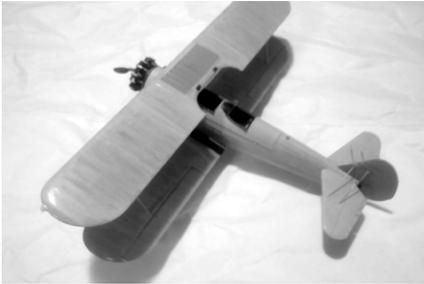
4 December 2015: Premiere of film *Krampus* (comedy/horror/fantasy; David Koecner) and *The World of Kanako* (horror/mystery).

5 December 2015: Day of the Ninja.

8 December 2015: **Phil Rose**'s birthday.

8 December 2015: *Star Wars Holiday Special* Special Edition Radio Spectacular, 7 PM at Rio Theatre, 1660 East Broadway, Vancouver.—Ray Seredin

10 December 2015: **Graham Mitchell**'s birthday.



14 December 2015: **Danielle Stephens**'s birthday.

17 December 2015: **Neil O'Brien**'s birthday.

18 December 2015: **Fran Skene**'s birthday. Premiere of film *Star Wars: The Force Awakens* (SF; Harrison Ford, Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Andy Serkis, Anthony Daniels, Max von Sydow, Peter Mayhew, Simon Pegg, Warwick Davis, Judah Friedlander, Bill Hader, Kenny Baker, Daniel Craig, Alec Guinness, Ewan McGregor, Frank Oz) and *Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Road Chip* (computer animation; Jason Lee, Justin Long, Tony Hale, Christina Applegate, Kaley Cuoco, Anna Faris, Jennifer Coolidge, John Waters).

19 December 2015: **Yvonne Penney** and **Terry Wyatt**'s birthdays.

19 December 2015: Get Out of Your Basement and Build at Akimatsuri (Fan Favorite One-Day Anime Convention), 10 AM–5 PM at UBC Robson Square, 800 Robson Street, Vancouver. “We’ll have tables for demos and would love to have folks come out and help us by simply building their models in front of people. Let Stan know by PM that you want to come so we know how many.”—Stan Hyde

26 December 2015: **Chris Sturges**'s birthday.

26–31 December 2015: Boxing Week Sale at Dave's Pop Culture, 4962 Bridge Street, Delta.—Dave Strutt

27 December 2015: **Hikari Ishii**'s birthday.

## News-Like Matter

### Notes from October 2015 BCSFA Meeting

In attendance were Graeme Cameron (chairman/archivist), Barb Dryer (secretary), Kathleen Moore (treasurer), Ray Seredin (host), Felicity Walker (editor), Michael “Fruvous” Bertrand, Julian Castle, Joe Devoy, and Stewart Smyth.

Topics included: people who are banned from cons; religious/cult figures being debunked (including James Randi vs. Uri Geller and Peter Popoff on Johnny Carson's *Tonight Show*; Rael; and California cults); *Playboy*; the Comics Code; a guy nicknamed “Crotch”;

*Red Dwarf* (and the Committee for the Liberation and Integration of Terrifying Organisms and Their Rehabilitation Into Society); Lincoln Rockwell, the KKK, the AKKK, and Tony Gamble, a KKK leader who raped a 13-year-old girl; the fictional B-movie *Mant!* [from *Matinee* (1993)] and *The Living Shopping Cart*; and trains.

Felicity Walker

Sunday 25 October 2015

### Dennis Eichhorn 1945–2015

Dennis P. Eichhorn...was an award-winning American writer, best known for his adult-oriented autobiographical comic book series *Real Stuff*. His stories...have been compared to those of Jack Kerouac, Ken Kesey, and Charles Bukowski.” (Source: Wikipedia.)

He died on 8 October 2015 at the age of 70.

The *Real Stuff* series was originally published by Fantagraphics, but “he sabotaged his relationship with then-publisher Fantagraphics in the mid-'90s over a petty and ultimately meaningless editorial decision.” (Source: Obit at *The Stranger*.)

In August, publisher/distributor Last Gasp released *Extra Good Stuff*, a book of comics written by Dennis of mostly new comics.

At Facebook, Colin Upton reported and asked:

“*Dennis Eichhorn Memorial*

“There is going to be a get-together to celebrate the late Dennis Eichhorn on December 5<sup>th</sup> in Bremerton, Washington (there’s a ferry from downtown Seattle that goes there). I have a two-part plea:

“A. Is anyone from Vancouver, BC, going to the event by car I can get a ride with?

“B. Is there anyone in Seattle I crash with overnight?

“Thanks.

“Colin”

Other obits include:

\* Boing Boing

\* The Comics Journal

Julian Castle

Tuesday 10 November 2015

## VCON 41 Memberships Available



If you go to the VCON 41 website (still under construction, but see below) you have until January to buy a full weekend membership for only \$40 Canadian. Come January it will go up to \$50, then \$60, and ultimately \$70 at the door. So take advantage of the lower rate while you can!

VCON 41, to be held Vancouver, BC region September 30 to October 2, 2016, features Robert J. Sawyer as Author Guest of Honour, Jamie Anderson (son of Gerry Anderson) as Supermarionation GOH, Eric Chu (*Battlestar Galactica*) as Film Design GOH, Karl Johanson (*Neo-Opis Magazine*) as Editor GOH, Stan Hyde as Godzilla Fan GOH, and Spider Robinson as Master of Ceremonies. Artist GoH TBA.

Going to be a heck of a convention folks! I know, because I’m the Chair and am determined that every attendee and Guest have a great time. It’s all about celebrating the genre we love.

<http://www.vcon.ca/>

R. Graeme Cameron

Facebook: Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom

Friday 20 November 2015

## 2015 Aurora Award Results

In case you haven’t seen the results, here are the Aurora winners:

Best English Novel: *A Play of Shadow* by Julie E. Czerneda, DAW Books

Best English YA Novel: Tie: *Lockstep* by Karl Schroeder, Tor Books; *Out of This World* by Charles de Lint, Razorbill Canada

Best English Short Fiction: "Crimson Sky" by Eric Choi, *Analog*, July/August

Best English Poem/Song: "A Hex, With Bees" by Tony Pi, *Wrestling with Gods: Tesseracts Eighteen*, Edge

Best English Graphic Novel: *It Never Rains* by Kari Maaren, Webcomic

Best English Related Work: *On Spec* published by the Copper Pig Writers' Society

Best Artist: Dan O'Driscoll, covers for Bundoran Press and *On Spec* magazine

Best Fan Publication: *Speculating Canada* edited by Derek Newman-Stille

Best Fan Music: Kari Maaren, YouTube channel

Best Fan Organizational: Sandra Kasturi, Chair, Chiaroscuro Reading Series: Toronto

Best Fan-Related Work: Derek Newman-Stille, *Speculating Canada* on Trent Radio 92.7 FM

Congrats to all who won!

Cheers!



R. Graeme Cameron

Facebook: Society for the Perpetuation of Fannish Fandom

Monday 23 November 2015

## **Update Regarding Dennis**

"A celebration of life among friends and family is planned for early December."  
(According to *Kitsap Sun*.)

(Not a public memorial, darn.)

(Re-checked Colin's post at Facebook and doesn't look like anyone has offered him a ride down or place to sleep for that night.)

Julian Castle

Wednesday 23 December 2015

## **New FRED Facebook Group: FRED Part 2: The Freddening**

Garth Spencer suggested reviving FRED. Michael Bertrand started a Facebook group and has kicked off discussions and polls about location, day of the week, and type of venue.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/454182438109154/>

Felicity Walker

Friday 25 December 2015

## **RANDOM NOSTALGIA**

**BAD NEWS ("THE COMIC STRIP")**  
**ABDUL FAKKADI ("THE TRANSFORMERS")**  
**JOHN CONSTANTINE ("HELLBLAZER")**

**New Garth Spencer Facebook Group:  
Friends Who Like World Government of Spuzzum**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/799881013467913/>

Garth Spencer  
Tuesday 29 December 2015

## VCON 40 Con Report (Part 1)

Michael Bertrand

**Friday 2 October 2015**



Due to a number of factors beyond my control (like having class until 4 PM then needing to reg and eat), I wasn't able to attend any panels this day. I was, however, able to spend a few pleasant hours in Hospitality, grazing on munchies and chatting with fen, and an even pleasanter couple of hours sampling the various gin type products at the Montreal room party.

**Saturday 3 October 2015**

12 PM: *Politics of Science Fiction*. After an unusually long trip from unconsciousness to wakefulness, I made it for the second half of this panel. Thankfully, it was not about any form of Puppies. Sadly, it was mostly about the politics *in* science fiction, rather than the far more interesting topic of the politics *of* science fiction. I personally think that there is an area of surprisingly broad consensus of opinion represented in both science fiction and its fandom, and that would have been great fun to discuss. As it was, it was still a very interesting half a panel and I enjoyed discussing books like *The Dispossessed* by Ursula K. Le Guin.

1 PM: *Future Was Then*. A panel about retro futures. I love this subject because it provides such a rich bounty of perspective on how we view the world and how we look upon the future. Admittedly, we did not do the greatest job of sticking to the topic in this panel, but I have never considered that a particularly high priority. I did manage to bring up one of my well-ground axes, the one about how many very intelligent people were sure that we would all be standing in our government-allotted three feet of space by now due to overpopulation despite the fact that basic mathematics would have shown that to be total bullshit. So that made me happy. And it was a good discussion overall.

2 PM: *Free Period*. There was nothing on that I particularly liked, so I took this time to mosey on up to Hospitality and see what there was to eat. Pickings were mighty slim at 2 PM, after the lunch rush, but I was able to cobble together

something vaguely like a meal and, more importantly, talk to strangers. I had a very nice discussion with two older ladies, one of whom was named Elizabeth (damn I suck with names), and went into my next panel feeling quite good.

3 PM: *Pulp Movies*. The basic gist of the panel was the question of whether or not it would be possible to make a good movie based on the old pulp heroes of the past like Doc Savage. That was the stated purpose, anyhow. I think it was actually just an excuse for some older fen to discuss the beloved pulp heroes of their youth. But the panel was well moderated and so we kept to the topic surprisingly well. I have no skin in the game, and hence no real opinion on the issue. Certainly anything's possible, despite disasters like *John Carter* and *The Lone Ranger*.

4 PM: *Handling Stress*. I went to this panel assuming it would be about how to handle stress in your life, seeing as going back to school has put so much more of it into my life. And largely it was, but apparently, according to the con book, it was also (?) about how the characters you write about experience and deal with stress. I suggested we combine the two missions by talking about how to handle stress in your life by transferring it to your characters. That got a big laugh. And while I can't say that I gleaned any valuable stress busting tips from the panel, that big laugh did me wonders.

5 PM: *Justify the Science Flaw*. The fifth incarnation of this panel, and I have been there for every one of them, and loved every minute of it. The idea is that the moderator shares examples of flawed science from popular media and challenges his panel, made up of *actual scientists*, to come up with an explanation of how that wasn't really flawed science after all. These explanations are, of course, extremely absurd, and I always end up laughing myself silly (short trip) as all these high IQ people have a wonderful time being very silly about science. This time was no exception.

6:30 PM: *Second Free Period*. The previous panel went to 6:30 PM, and my friends' panel went till 7 PM, so I had half an hour to kill. I pondered joining my friends at their panel (about Lovecraft), but decided I would be better off going back to our room, room 124, and taking a half hour Introversion Break in order to recharge my social batteries.

7 PM: *The Quest for Food*. My friends arrive, and it is time to venture out into the world to obtain sustenance. Being native to the area (this convention took place around six blocks from where we live), we were able to guide our friends from out of town to one of Richmond's many fine eateries, and there, we feasted.

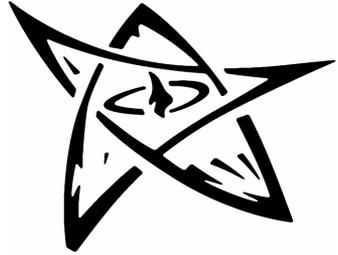
12:30 AM: Having lingered too long chatting with my friends about various and diverse topics, I missed the room party for the *HMS Calisto* and was forced to once more entrust myself to the fabulous folks at the recurring Montreal party. This time, there was more than gin around, and I was able to try Kraken brand rum, something I had been wanting to do partly because of its name but mostly because of its inky blackness. It was surprisingly complex for rum, and tasted quite good, especially



with a mixer. (What can I say, I am a cocktail drinker, not a “snap back a shot of this” drinker). I had a fairly deep snootful of the various alcoholic offerings, then floated on back to our room, took my sleeping pills, and slept well. *Damn* well.

That’s it for the con report for last Saturday. Tomorrow, I will do one for Sunday, plus add whatever general remarks about the convention I have floating around at the time.

I will talk to you nice people again tomorrow.



Michael Bertrand

The Homepage of Michael John Bertrand

Wednesday 7 October 2015

### Art Credits

Brad Foster..... Cover  
 Clip art [*The Transformers* (1984) screenshot]..... Page 2 (top)  
 Clip art [*Starship Troopers* (1988) screenshot]..... Page 2 (middle)  
 Clip art [*From Hell* (2001) screenshot]..... Page 2 (bottom)  
Dave Haren (photos)..... Pages 3–7, 12–15  
 Clip art (via Clker.com)..... Pages 16–18 (top)  
Taral Wayne..... Page 18 (bottom)

